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The Beacon

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Merrimack College
Established 2001

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Power Panic!



Students use McQuade Computer Lab on a regular basis, and its loss during the outage was certainly felt.

~Photo by Courtney Cutler~

By Shannon Nickerson
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, almost all of the buildings on campus lost power in the late morning. This power outage did not have to do with the college itself; rather, the grid for parts of Andover and North Andover was out. This left households and businesses out of power as well as the college.

Though there are generators, there were still some complications with trying to keep Merrimack functioning.

As with many businesses and schools, the buildings on campus run on generators. This means that when the power is lost, the generator will turn on to keep the power running. The generators do not work like normal power does,

but they have enough energy to keep the buildings safe and accessible. Though there were a few complications experienced, every situation is different and brings different obstacles.

Some of the generators were installed more recently than others, so some buildings were not noticeably affected at all.

Continued on page 2

SGA says yes to UN, talks to Champagne

By Michael Salvucci
Editor-in-Chief

The Student Government Association (SGA) has met twice since The Beacon last reported on them, and since then they have covered a plethora of topics.

SGA continued discussion on the consideration of Model UN as a club. Members expressed concern with the amount of money the club would be requesting. Representative Jon Reveidelle pointed out that "our job is not to argue about money, that is the finance committee's job, our job is to look at initiating them into SGA".

Representative Dean Clearly attempted to explain to the E-Board that "The Model UN hosts an alumni event every year to get alumni back involved with the school, and various other campus events".

The proposition was voted on and it received 15 yays and 7 nays. This constitutes a two-thirds majority thus making the Model UN an official club of Merrimack College. There was a small hiccup in the voting process due to the ambiguous language of the SGA constitution. The constitution is being looked at by a team of selected SGA members to see where it needs revision.

SGA also voted on the exploration of the idea of having Zip Cars here on campus.

Continued on page 4

"Buck a duck" success

By Kyle Neary
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, October 15, Merrimack participated in our second annual Honor Your Breast Cancer Hero. Nichole Baldwin, a senior here on campus, set up the whole fundraiser with help from other students and faculty last year. This year, in only being the event's second year, expectations had been raised. However, the weeks preceding the event, through tireless sale of pink rubber ducks gave a donation beyond expectation. Selling over a staggering 600 pink ducks at a dollar a duck, a substantial donation was able to be made to the Avon Foundation in

memory of Monica Cooper.

Opening ceremonies were brief, with a quick speech from Nichole followed by Father Bill who said a short prayer, asking to help those people and families who suffer from Breast Cancer, and hope for a cure soon. After, the group proceeded in a silent walk across the bridge. Direction was then given to place as many ducks as possible into the water, until all the ducks were floating. This task took sev-

eral minutes, and the visual of 600+ ducks floating showed just how many pink ducks had actually been sold.



Pink (you can take our word for it) rubber ducks floating in the Mendel Pond.

~Photo by Kyle Neary~

Her inspiration stemmed from a close "hero of breast cancer" to set up the duck release. Nichole uses the term "hero" instead of using survivor, or someone who had died from breast cancer. The term signifies that anyone who has ever suffered from the disease, and has won or lost their battle, their fight should be considered heroic.

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Submissions

Friars' Friends' Forum Invites New Members

Submitted by Steve Garrity St. Augustine believed that God could be discovered best in the company of friends. *Class of '74*

In the spirit of friendship, a new faith-sharing, discussion group, the Friars' Friends' Forum, has been created on campus, and you're invited to attend and participate.

The group has met twice, and its numbers and membership are growing. Forum members consist of students, staff, and alumni. Attendance is a personal choice. Other forum members do not exert any pressure to attend; come when you like or when your schedule allows.

The idea for the group originated with Fr. George Morgan, O.S.A. Like Fr. Morgan, I attended Merrimack College a long time ago. A common link between then and now is that Merrimack College remains an Augustinian community, centered in Christ and intellectual inquiry as exemplified by St. Augustine. During my years as a student, the visibility and impact of the Augustinian Friars who lived and taught on campus were central elements to my education. They were everywhere and played a significant role not only in my intellectual growth but also in my spiritual development. Positive priestly influence was always just down the hall from my dorm room or in the classroom. The same was true for Fr. Morgan. Today, though, fewer friars live on campus and teach, and in the classroom spiritual discussion is less frequent.

Growing out of this changed circumstance is a perceived need to support that Augustinian spirit of the past. Because not as many priests are available on campus, those touched by their presence, either in the past or in the present, as members of the Merrimack community, now have a chance to share in and help build up the spiritual life on campus.

Cultivating new friendships, the forum brings together in a community of love and respect students, faculty, staff and alumni to conduct monthly discussions where the presence of God in our lives can be expressed and recognized in each other. The goal of the forum is to strive to make the experience of God's love and direction alive in our hearts, so that, to paraphrase St. Augustine, God may perfect in each one of us all that is imperfect. With such a goal, the work of the forum may go on forever.

The business of the forum is monthly reflection and fellowship. At each meeting one volunteer is asked in advance to present to the group a Scripture passage, then offer for further discussion by the group personal experience of how he or she was affected by the passage and how it influenced his or her perception of God. Open discussion follows, sparked by the personal reflection and joint sharing among those present. The Holy Spirit leads the group to unknown places where members are left to respond to God's Word and to His call in our lives, both individually and collectively. Anything can happen. The group will grow as each member invites others to attend – students extending welcome to other students, faculty to other faculty, staff to staff, and alumni to alumni.

Forum meetings are conducted on the last Monday of each month. Meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. and are held at the Student Life Conference Room on the third floor of Sakowich. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 27th. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend or anyone whom you think may be interested. Light refreshments will be served courtesy of the Merrimack Alumni Office.

The point of contact for the forum is I, alumnus, Steve Garrity, who can be reached by phone at (978) 475-0075 or by e-mail at captsteveg@hotmail.com. Hope to see you soon.

No power for hours

Continued from cover

Santagati Hall was not affected because the generator kicked in right away; some students did not even notice that the power was out right away. In other buildings, like Cushing, the generator had a few minor problems.

The generator in the Sak is probably the most important because it provides the power for Sodexo. Without power, food services are very limited. Since the generator was in place, food services didn't have to worry about the refrigerators being turned off or the food already out going bad because of lack of heat or refrigeration.

Police Services has a program that is currently being revised and worked on for situations such as a power failure. There are certain procedures and precautions that are taken to ensure that everyone is safe. The procedures and precautions are in place to help keep the college running and to disrupt the students and classes as little as possible.

In the situation on Friday, Merrimack was told that the power would be out for four hours. This allowed the college to predict how long the generators would need to be on for and what amenities would be available during that time. There were a few glitches with the genera-

tors in some of the buildings, but maintenance crews were able to fix the minor problems so that students and staff could go about their day with little interruption.

Luckily, this power failure happened during the day when the weather was still warm. These conditions helped maintenance crews repair the glitches with the generators and keep the campus running while the grid was being worked on.

One such obstacle was the fire panels in the buildings. When the power goes out and then comes back on, each panel needs to be reset. The audible alarm will not go off in each building, but the panel needs to be reset to ensure the safety of everyone in the buildings in case there was an emergency. Keeping up with the resetting can be difficult with so many buildings when the power is flickering on and off.

Another complication was the computer systems and phone lines. Many people were not aware that some phone use would be inaccessible. Now that we are aware of this, steps can be taken to improve phone access with loss of power. The power loss was frustrating to many students because without power, computers and laptops won't work. Many students were working on papers in the computer lab when all of a sudden the screens went dark. This cre-

ated a panic for those who had not recently saved their work as there was no way for them to get their work back.

A third problem was in the buildings where the generators were problematic. The elevators run on power. Since there was no power in some of the buildings for a short amount of time, the elevators were not functioning. This may have caused problems for handicapped or injured students and faculty throughout campus who rely on the elevators to get them to class in the academic buildings.

In the case of a power outage like the one on Friday, there are a few outside details to think about. One is the weather. If the power outage had been in the middle of a snowstorm and the generators didn't turn on, students would be left without power, heat, or food.

Overall, the outage on Friday, with the exception for those who lost work in the lab, was just a small inconvenience to some students and staff. Others were not really affected at all. The generators were able to keep the outage from affecting a large part of campus. Should this situation arise again, Police Services has a plan in place to help keep everyone safe and undisturbed from most daily activities.

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School News

Come out, come out, wherever you are

By Marki Conway
Staff Writer

Anyone who says that Merrimack has not strived hard enough to embrace diversity obviously did not attend last week's celebration of National Coming Out Day; Merrimack's first ever Drag Show. The event was held to support and raise awareness for the LGBT community and while it definitely served its purpose, it also provided everyone there with some brilliant and jaw-dropping entertainment.

The evening was hosted by the lovely Miss Michael who never failed to leave the audience wanting more of her sensation. After her opening, the evening was officially kicked off with the fabulous Lady Von Diva who shocked the audience with her provocative dances moves, hilarious and witty jokes, and magnificent drag rendition of Fergie's Glamorous. Following her spectacular performance we heard from hilarious comedian Amy T, who couldn't believe how many straight people showed up to give their support and also didn't believe most of them would stay hetero by the end of the night.

Also in the show was a very talented group from the Salem State Gay Straight Alliance, called Between Us Bois. These drag kings knew how to get the crowd roaring with their explicit lyrics to Spoken Word, covers by lesbian icons Tegan and Sarah, and of course, a fully choreographed dance to N'Sync's "Tearin' Up My Heart." To say they were crowd pleasers would

be an understatement, but far beyond that, their words truly did help to educate the audience on some pressing LGBT issues and enlightened them on how difficult it can be to be a victim of such prejudices just for being who you are.

As a final treat before Lady Von Diva wrapped up the evening with "Mardi Gras beads," we got to see some of Merrimack's finest studs in their best drag outfits as they competed against each other down the runway. From Jeff Doyle and John Ravenelle performing Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl," to Tim Smith serenading captive audience member Sean Curran, the audience just could not get enough of this fine entertainment. With all of the talented drag queens in the house though, judges finally settled on the beautiful James Archambault, as he called on an audience member and fellow Merrimack student as a volunteer for a very special one-on-one dance.

After all was finished, the unbelievable round of applause that followed made it quite obvious that there was not a disappointed seat in the audience. I can honestly say I have never seen anything like this at Merrimack and that is a shame. Hopefully, this will open the doors to many more events like this on campus. The evening was educational, entertaining, and showed great support for the entire LGBT community. The Friends Coalition, with special recognition to President Katelyn Souers, should be beyond proud of the event and the enlightenment it brought to the audience and the entire Merrimack community.

English Club explores the Fruitlands



The English Club is pictured left during their excursion to the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, Massachusetts. It is the home of 19th-century transcendentalist Bronson Alcott, father of Louisa May Alcott. The trip took place on Saturday, October 18. Professor Plunkett from the English department provided commentary and insight into the lives of the family and their visitors, including well-known guests such as Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

~Photo courtesy of the English Department~

Beacon Briefs

Happy Halloween! Student Activities/Campus Center is working with Residence Life, Student Life, Sodexo, and the clubs and organizations of Merrimack College to host a special Halloween party in the Sakowich Campus Center. On Thursday October 30th, all are welcome to participate in this event with games, prizes, give away items and more. Club presidents and offices are all encouraged to contact Tim Cormio in Student Activities to participate at x5438 or cormiot@merrimack.edu

Attention Ash Centre residents: Ash Hall Council has planned a Halloween door decorating contest! Use your creativity to make your door the creepiest! Judges will be going around on October 28th to pick a winner. A prize will be given to each resident of that room!

Sign Up Now! Trick or Treat for the Greater Lawrence Boy's and Girl's Club and the Bellesini School on Wednesday October 29th 4-7pm Volunteer Your Room for Kids to Trick or Treat at. Please Contact David Foreman at foremand@merrimack.edu if interested. Candy bags can be purchased at the campus bookstore for those interested in participating.

Rugby notice: Have you seen the men out playing, and wished you could too? Well, YOU CAN! Come join the Merrimack Women's Rugby Team at practice Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 on Austin Field, or contact Missy Magaw at magawm@merrimack.edu. Anybody is welcome regardless of experience!

Stay healthy: We still have flu vaccine available! Cost is \$15.00. Individuals wishing to receive the vaccine are asked to email Deborah.Marcotte@Merrimack.Edu to make arrangements to place your name on the list to receive the flu vaccine.

Employment opportunity: The Ski and Snowboard Club is looking for people to drive the vans for their trips. Anyone interested in becoming certified, please contact clarcken@merrimack.edu. You must be at least 20 years old.

Champagne reveals improvement plan

Continued from cover

The proposition was raised in the previous meeting and was explained in the last issue of *The Beacon*, however, the vote was pushed until this later meeting. The proposition passed 18-4. In the meeting this past Tuesday, President Champagne came to talk about various initiatives he wants to move forward on in this semester. Champagne has “spent the past nine weeks listening to faculty, community and groups of students.” His goal is to by April have a new mission statement and a three to five year plan for Merrimack College.

Champagne is looking to fix certain things around the campus as soon as next semester. He has called in engineers to look at fixing the ventilation system in the physical fitness center. He joked that although by looking at the administration staff in Austin you might now tell they cared about the fitness center that does not mean he is committed to provide a quality place for students to work out at. Along with fixing the ventilation in the fitness center, Champagne is looking into adding wireless internet access to at least some of the dorms and also pointed out that “the town houses have outlived their useful life”.

The president addressed the issue that the McQuade library is not exactly the quietest place on campus to study. He expressed concern that students need a place to “hoot and hollar” here on campus. He is looking into creating plans to build a

“Champagne is looking into adding wireless internet access”

lounge/pub area where students can go, hang out, watch TV and have fun.

The final issue Champagne addressed was out aging hockey facilities. They must replace the compressors for the ice bed as they are on the verge of breaking down completely. That is something that will definitely be done in the near future. On top of that Hockey East has been demanding that we upgrade our facilities for the past eight years and they are finally cracking down on their demands. There will be an article in the next issue going more in depth to what kind of demands Hockey East is

“Hockey East has been demanding that we upgrade our facilities”

placing on us and how we will go about meeting them.

When asked how Merrimack is planning to pay for all of the above Champagne was very optimistic. He pointed out that we are actually in great standing financially, perhaps more so than big schools such as BU; who recently had to shut down all of their construction projects. Our endowment is not as big as other schools but at the same time our existence is not as dependent on it as other schools are. So, when the economy goes south we are not as affected as other institutions.

At the end of the meeting Cleary used the open floor time to talk about SGA’s fiscal responsibility, or lack thereof. The E-Board granted him a short time to talk (because the club was going on their annual sketchy bowling trip). His observation came at the heels of SGA using money that could otherwise be given to clubs to buy apparel for themselves. He said that they should “stop being this ‘elitist’ type of government group and put that money towards clubs. Although it might not be a huge amount of money what’s important is the message we are sending to other clubs...”

Another member pointed out that “it’s not like we’re spending money on extravagant things, and the things that we do buy promote our club”. When asked if he wanted to put it to a vote Cleary said “I’m not going to put it to a vote because I know where it’s going to fall.”

The discussion had to come to an end because the time allotted had expired. Please continue to read the beacon for further SGA updates.



The SGA executive board reviews the minutes of last week’s meeting
~Photo by Courtney Cutler~

Evading tech support: Part 2

By Christopher Powell
Staff Writer

For last issue, I wrote the first in a series of articles detailing PC maintenance. Covered topics were defragmenting, removing junk files, and cleaning up registries. This week I’ll detail a handy trick of how to remove DRM protection from protected iTunes music files, how to schedule a virus and spyware scan, and how to change your notebook’s power saving options.

Let’s start with the iTunes DRM protection. You know how non-iTunes Plus downloads have DRM (Digital Rights Management) protection that keeps you from using your files anywhere besides iTunes and your iPod? Well, what if you’re like me, and you want to copy it to your phone, too? Or another music player, like a Zen? Or maybe just to use in Audacity so you can turn it into a ringtone? You could use a separate program to remove the protection, but those typically cost money. But there is a way to do this without any third-party programs at all.

Note that removing the DRM protection by itself is not illegal—it’s the distribution that is, so don’t worry about doing this for personal purposes. Removing DRM protection from a song is this simple: Burn it to a disc. That’s all! Once it’s on a disc that can be played just like a music album, the protection is gone. Just rip it back

into your library and you’ll have unprotected m4a files. One important note, though: I prefer mp3 format over iTunes’ default m4a because of its universality of use in programs using music files. You can change iTunes’ setting to import a music disc from m4a to mp3 by going to edit -> preferences -> general -> import settings. Change the first setting that says “Import Using” to “mp3 encoder”. Now when you import the disc all the tracks will be unprotected mp3 files. You can also turn already unprotected files into mp3’s by right-clicking the song in the list and selecting “Create mp3 version”, as long as you have the setting on to import all songs as mp3’s. Pretty cool, huh?

Okay, so the last thing I mentioned in last issue’s article was scheduling virus and spyware scans, so I’ll jump right into that. Now, instead of manually opening a program and telling it to run a scan, it’s much more convenient to schedule it to happen automatically. Although all applications have their own way of going about it, generally it follows the same line of tasks. As an antivirus I’m personally using AVG Anti-Virus Free at the school, and to schedule a scan I go into the “Computer scanner” tab on the left, and on the bottom of the new window there’s an option that says “Add scan schedule”. Enter exactly when you want the scan to happen and how often (weekly is probably a good idea) and save the

changes.

A few things to keep in mind about this: the scan will not occur even if scheduled if the computer is in standby at the time. If you want to save battery life by letting your laptop go into standby when you’re not using it, the scan won’t happen. The obvious solution is to tell Windows not to do this by altering the power saving settings. In both XP and Vista, go into the control panel and find the appropriate icon. If you’re using a power plan specific to Vista, pick one to edit, and then choose the option to disable standby/sleep. Also, if the option’s there, disable both turning off hard disks and hibernation. Even if you still want to go in standby, I’d turn off the option to turn off hard disks, anyway—having the disk(s) sleep will hurt its lifespan. And if you’re plugged in while in your dorm room, there’s really no need to have it sleep at all. Just having the screen turn off is sufficient, and constant power cycling can be bad for your notebook.

Okay, the preferred space limit was reached many lines ago. One final note: Do you have a technology question you’d like answered? Send it to me, either named or anonymously if you like, and I’ll try to answer it. Send whatever you want answered to powellc@merrimack.edu. In the meantime, premade ringtones are \$2.49 each on Cingular, so why not rebel and go make a few yourself?

Health and Fitness

The benefits of walking

By Jeff LeBlanc
Staff Writer

It seems like these days walking takes a backseat when it comes to fitness. Many people opt to go jogging, do yoga, or lift weights. However walking can be a perfect exercise to accommodate your other workout activities. In fact, a steady exercise routine that includes walking is considered to be the most important factor in getting the best results out of your fitness program. Walking for at least 30 minutes a day, 5 or more days a week, is recommended for any individual. There are many benefits of walking.

Walking Manages Your Weight: Combined with healthy eating, walking can play a key role in any plan for long-lasting weight control. Keeping your weight within healthy limits can lower your risks of type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer, sleep apnea, and osteoarthritis. Walking can also help you live a longer and healthier life.

Walking Helps You Boost "Good" Cholesterol: Cholesterol levels are something that all individuals need to be aware of at any age. Walking helps reduce low-density lipoproteins ("bad" cholesterol) in the blood, which can cause plaque buildup along the artery walls.

Walking Helps Prevent You From Getting Sick: Walking has been shown by research to reduce your risk of catching a cold. The act of walking strengthens your immune system allowing your body to fight off sickness more easily.

Walking Helps Prevent Depression: Studies have shown that walking daily helps a person's mental health. The act of walking, ideally outside, helps a person feel more lively. Which in turn would mean that they would be happy.

Walking Strengthens Muscles, Bones, and Joints: Walking has been seen to help strengthen your entire body. The moving keeps the body active and therefore can improve the muscles and bones.

Walking offers many other various benefits. Some benefits include lowering stress levels, improving sleep, better performance at work or school, lengthening one's lifespan and elevating overall mood and sense of well-being. Walking can bring much joy and many health benefits. Next time you find yourself planning your fitness regimen, remember to hit the road and stroll!

Now Ear This

By Sharon Tully
Courtesy of Student Health 101 and Hamel Health Center

As a college student, losing your hearing isn't really one of your top concerns. But according to www.youth.hear-it.org, more and more young people are developing hearing problems. While hearing loss is most often attributed to heredity or aging, concerts, listening to music on headsets at loud settings, and other noise-related factors are often to blame for hearing loss in college students.

"This age group may notice a temporary hearing threshold shift or tinnitus (ringing in the ears) after attending a loud concert or turning their MP3s up too loud," says Dr. Mary Jane Garnett, an audiologist at the Hearing Services of Antioch, California.

Krystal Burger, a senior at the University of Cincinnati, first noticed her difficulty with hearing at a meeting for her sorority when she was 19. "Normally, I would sit in the very front, and I could hear everything perfectly," Burger says. "Then, I sat about 10 feet further back from where I usually would sit, and I could barely hear a thing."

Burger, now 22, knew that this lack of hearing wasn't normal and thinks it may have been a result of her previous summer job at a concert venue, and her frequent exposure and close proximity to the speakers.

Dr. Ellen Mosher of Los Gatos Audiology and Hearing Aid Center in California advises students to take action if they suspect they may be losing their hearing: "Have a comprehensive hearing test ASAP. At least this will be a baseline and very helpful for future tests."

Students can start taking proactive measures to avoid hearing loss, such as listening to music at a lower volume, or wearing ear plugs to concerts or other loud venues. "As with many other health issues," Garnett adds, "if you don't take care now, you pay for it later."

As a student at Merrimack College, you have access to read Student Health 101, the online health and wellness magazine just for college students. Please check your email to access Student Health 101 online, share your opinions and even enter to win an iPod!

You can also access the latest issue online at
<http://issue.sh101digital.com/showmag.php?mid=wqtwfq>

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Words from Barbara Lisa

Are free weights better than machines for strength training? As a trainer, I am asked this question over and over again. My answer is simple. Both free weights and machines build strength, but there are definite differences.

Machines are best for novice, recreational athletes, seniors and rehabilitation after injuries. If you are just starting out or just coming back after a period of inactivity, machines offer more controlled motion and specifically isolate certain muscle groups. They also help to track progress; however, they are expensive to own and not as convenient and versatile as free weights.

Free weights are best for promoting quicker strength gains and require more balance than machines. Free weights recruit more muscle groups and are more versatile by allowing more variations in range of motion. Free weights require more activity of joint stabilization muscles and coordination along with balance. They are less expensive than machines, however, free weights require a spotter and there is an increase in injury due to improper form than when using machines.

The best scenario is to use a combination of both machines and free weights. Always be sure that you are comfortable when using weights; don't choose a weight that is too heavy. Both free weights and machines have positive health benefits when used properly. Basic comfort and training needs that need to be met can help you decide whether to use machines, free weights, or both. Remember to always practice safety when using weights and around the gym.

Barbara Lisa is a certified Personal Trainer in the state of Maine

Did you know?

Bones are about four times stronger than steel
and can endure 24,000 pounds of
pressure per square inch!

~Courtesy of www.families.fitness.com~

Intramural Update

Flag Football Champions: Team Rain

Team Rain will be playing the UMass Lowell Flag Football champions in early November for the Merrimack Valley Extramural Cup Championship.



Volleyball Champions: Channel 4 News Team



Dodgeball Champions

The Wood will be playing in the UMass Lowell \$1,000 Stride Gum Dodgeball Tournament this Friday.



Entertainment

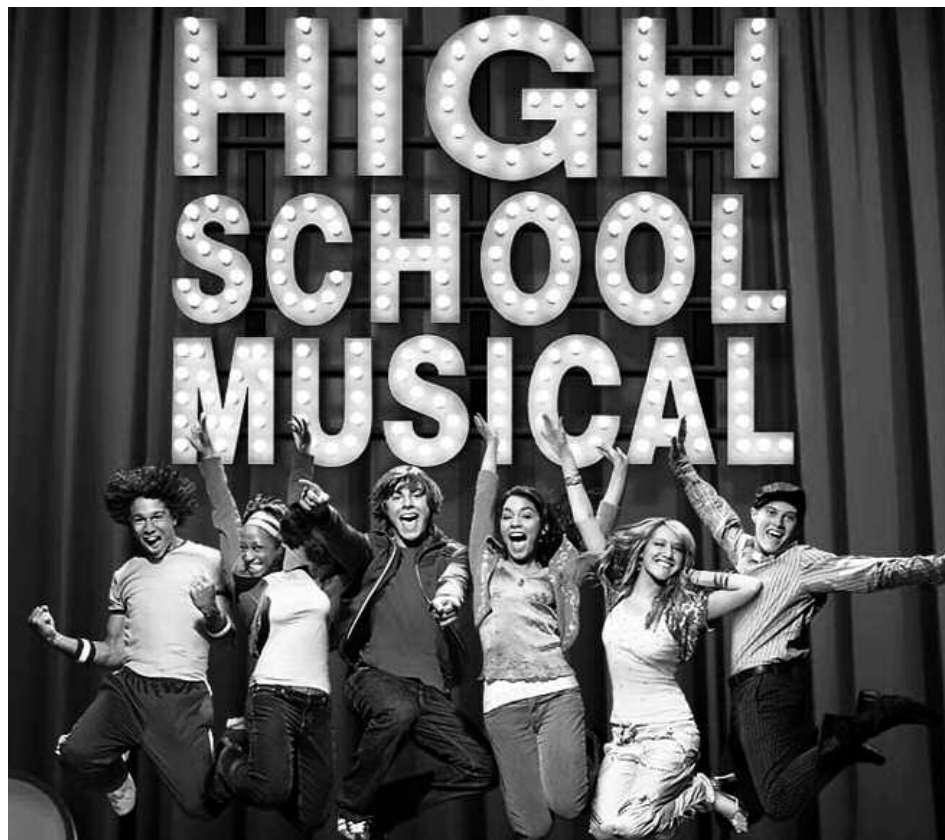
The last of the *High School Musical* phenomenon

By Alicia Cyr
Staff Writer

The Walt Disney franchise started a *High School Musical* phenomenon. *High School Musical* is a modern-day *Grease*. *High School Musical* was first aired on the Disney channel as a “Disney Channel Original Movie.” Disney channel movies are exclusively aired on the Disney channel. After the first *High School Musical* premiered on the Disney Channel, it was a hit among the youth fan base. Actually, you might be surprised to find out that the movie caught the interest of the young adult crowd, too. You may be saying to yourself that you would never watch *High School Musical* because it seems like an immature movie. But as a musical, it compares to *Hairspray* in that it is a hip, highly liked movie that has now risen to “big-screen” status. *High School Musical* has become a widely-known, widely-viewed film. It has earned outstanding reviews and for a period of time, it even took over newspaper headlines, news station reports, and landed a slot on *Good Morning America*. People have grown to love these Wildcats.

High School Musical 1, 2, and 3 are filled with nonstop singing, dancing, relationships and fun. Staying true to its character, the reoccurrence of the movie’s original cast made the characters more likeable. The cast of *High School Musical* gained stardom with the performances through their roles in the movie. Casting for the movie was put together by Matt Prokop, Justin Martin, and Jemma McKenzie-Brown. The main characters remained in all three *High School Musical* movies. The main characters were, and still are, Zac Efron as Troy Bolton, Vanessa Hudgens as Gabriella Montez, Ashley Tisdale as Sharpay Evans, Lucas Gabreel as Ryan Evans, Corbin Bleu as Chad Danforth, Monique Coleman as Taylor McKessie, and Olesya Rulin as Kelsi Nielsen. When not on screen playing the roles of high school students, the cast members range from ages nineteen to twenty-eight. The main cast of eight talented actors has managed to add spark to the movie’s plot.

High School Musical, directed by Kenny Ortega, rose from simply a Disney Channel Original Movie (*High School Musical 1 and 2*); to a major motion picture (*High School Musical 3*). *High School Musical 3* revolves around the teens during their senior year of high school. Being a stage that we have all gone through personally, we see the Wildcats are faced with the excitement, fear and apprehension of separating from their friends and



Disney’s *High School Musical* has been a huge success for the company. Not only is the cast back for a third movie, it will move from the Disney Channel to the silver screen. See *High School Musical 3: Senior Year* in theaters today, Friday 24th.

going off to college. *High School Musical 3* is just as original and fun-filled as the first two *High School Musical* film. The film premieres in theaters Friday, October 24, 2008. *High School Musical 3* is said to be the last of the Disney’s HSM phenomenon.

Where is the “M” in MTV?

By Kyle Neary
Staff Writer

On September 15, 2008, one of MTV’s longest airing shows TRL was announced to be temporarily cancelled, airing a final two hour episode on Saturday November 16, at 8 P.M. Along with other musically inclined shows being cancelled, I have one question to ask. Where is the M in MTV? Total Request Live was one of the last shows on the station that was about music. They have turned their entire station into nothing more than scripted reality show after scripted reality show. There may be some very entertaining television on MTV now, but they have severed ties with where they came from.

MTV has been on television since August 1, 1981. At 12:01 AM the first words spoken on the broadcaster were, “Ladies and gentlemen, rock ‘n’ roll.” The concept was to play music videos almost twenty-four hours a day and have different hours hosted by VJ’s, or video jockeys. It was basically a visual radio station. MTV was a stepping stone for many bands, gaining great fame and notoriety from having their videos played. Viewers use to be able to discover hundreds of bands from watching the show. However, as time progressed,



Pictured above, Rachel Bilson, Mary-Kate Olsen and Ashley Olsen being interviewed during an episode of MTV’s Total Request Live.

the Music Television channel started to veer away from such a musically inclined station.

Instead airing shows such as “Behind the Scenes” which followed around bands in between concerts and recording, they have progressively put more and more shows up which we are more familiar with such as, “Next”, “Date My Mom”, and “Parental Control”. Not that these shows aren’t entertaining, because who doesn’t want to see how desperate some people are to get on TV? Unfortunately now, MTV has become a greedy TV network, and the only way to continue to see music by this original channel, is by paying for extra channels and getting MTV2. I’m not sure about anybody else, but with how MTV sold out to sitcoms and reality shows, I don’t feel like paying for another station, when the original MTV should be playing music on regular cable.

The cancellation of TRL feels like it is the end of an era almost; even though in the past few years they tended to play the same ten artists over, and never an artist that was not already signed and well known to the public, it is still

the principle of what they use to be. There used to be an actual battle for the top ten songs, everyday you could tune in and expect to see a few similar bands as the day before, but always a new song

into the countdown.

Study Abroad Photo Contest Results

First Place



Arthur Pesatureo

Studied at:
University of St. Andrews in Scot-
land

Second Place

Clementine George

Studied at:
National University of Ireland
in Galway



Third Place



Tonia Veneziano

Studied at:
Lorenzo de Medici in Italy

Opinion

Advising: help or hindrance?

By Ashley DeRuosi
Editor-in-Chief

It is something that was brought up in discussion with both the Student Government Association and President Champagne. It is also a topic of discussion and debate among students this time of year. The issue I am referring to is advisement. All too often I have heard students vent about problems with their academic advisors. This has become more of a problem in recent semesters due to the transition to the new 4x4 curriculum. The gripes of students have been heard and new ideas are in the works, including surveys to collect data about advisement and advisor evaluations.

I must say, however, I am always surprised to hear these negative remarks and would like to give kudos to the English department. I have had two different academic advisors (due to reorganization) and they have both been fantastic. The English Department secretary does a great job helping everyone stay organized; it is an area where many students have their problems. In addition to staying organized, in my experience, my academic advisors know their stuff. Being a subject major, English is often, as it is in my case, combined with an education concentration and this has never tripped up my advisor. The two departments actually make it a point to interact and keep everyone on the same page.

These can be considered expectations of any advisor, but on top of it all, the advisors I have been fortunate enough to have have been nothing but enthusiastic. I have created a strong bond with them outside the classroom that is something I feel every student deserves. Once again, I would like to thank my own advisors and I applaud the school's initiative to make this experience more accessible to others.

Beacon Editorial

On behalf of the entire staff, we would like to thank MassWeb Printing for a great job on our first issue with them. The Beacon made a switch from our previous printer of seven years to work with MassWeb on the last, and all upcoming, issues. The company is extremely professional and we look forward to more interactions with them in the future.

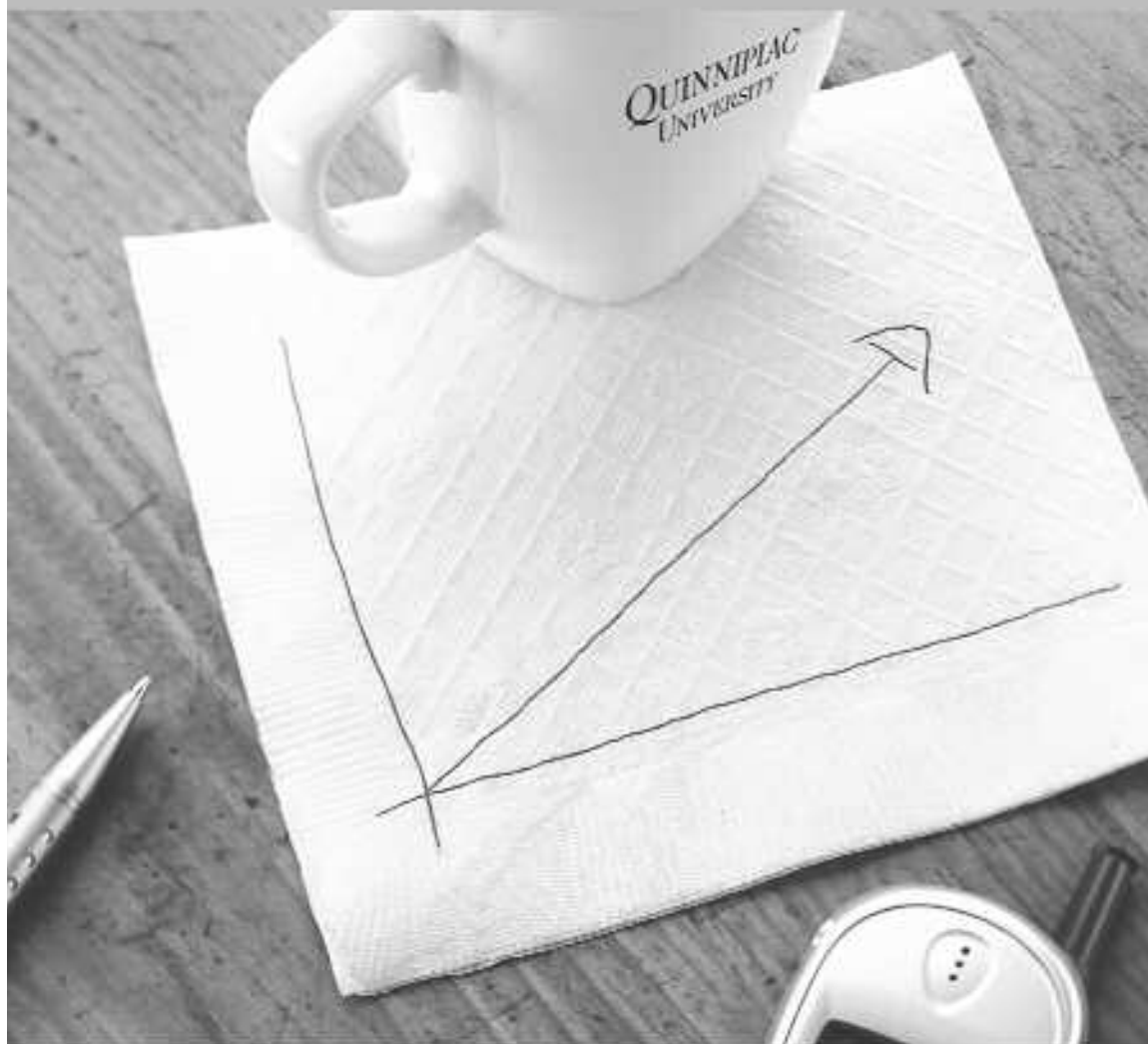
The Office of Student Activities is deserving of our gratitude, as well. The staff was more than willing to accommodate the switch and help us make the transition. They continue to be a helpful and invaluable source of support for our organization.

Additionally, we would like to apologize to our online audience for the lack of updates on our website. The issue is now resolved and the web edition of The Beacon will continue to be up-to-date with the current print edition. This task would be much easier, however, provided we had a webmaster on our staff. If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity, please contact us at newspaper@merrimack.edu.

The Beacon is always grateful for our readership and hope to continue this year as it has started, providing a voice for the campus and community.

Ashley DeRuosi and Michael Salvucci
Editors-in-Chief

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Questions on the Quad

What do you think of Republican VP candidate Sarah Palin?



I think she's great. Anyone who can hunt a moose is fine by me.

-Kelly McKeown, Class of 2010



I'm voting for her.

-Natalie Caron, Class of 2012



A little inexperienced.

-Aaron Miller, Class of 2011



I think she's really conservative.

-Curtis Richard, Class of 2012

What's your Halloween costume?



Sarah Palin

-Gina Dicenzo, Class of 2010



Jack Sparrow

-Andrew Rivenbark, Class of 2012



Optimus Prime

-Brian Prince, Class of 2010



Go-Go Girl

-Caitlin Kamide, Class of 2012

~ Compiled by Abigail Clark~
~Photos by Courtney Cutler~

Selections from the Police Log

- 10/13/2008 00:13 **NOISE COMPLAINT** Apartments
Police Services received a call by resident student stating that loud noises were coming from G tower. Officers responded. Check of all floors, everything quiet secure.
- 10/14/2008 00:15 **ASSISTANCE (Misc.Service)** Apartments
Police Services received call from resident student asking for officer to come to her room F Tower. In regards to a mouse that is caught in a trap and she doesn't know what to do. Officer responded and assisted. He was successful in getting rid of the mouse.
- 10/15/2008 20:18 **ANIMAL COMPLAINT** Haverhill TH
Officer request a call to Physical Plant in reference to a skunk inside Haverhill Town Houses... Officer arrived on scene. Animal Control was notified.
- 10/16/200 23:16 **SUSPICIOUS Odor** Ash
Police Services received a call from RA in Ash, requesting and officer for a Suspicious Odor. Officer responded to call. Officer reports he is unable to determine the room the odor is coming from.
- 10/17/2008 15:05 **TRESPASSING Person/Vehicle** Austin Hall
The Bursars office called to report possible suspicious person inside Austin Hall. Disp. notified NAPD. Units report that it is indeed said suspect who has been stealing things from inside the building. Units will be serving subject with trespass papers, and she will be leaving campus. Vehicle was also towed.
- 10/18/2008 01:46 **FIRE ALARM Malicious** H Tower
Police Services received a Fire Alarm activation for St. Ann's Apartment. Officers responded along with Andover Fire. It was found to be a pull station. On Call Electrician has been notified to fix panel issue.
- 10/19/2008 01:15 **URINATING in Public** St. Thomas
Female resident student was spoken to for urinating in lot 8A.
- 10/19/2008 23:50 **DISPERSAL** Townhouses
Officer dispersing a group of three Students hanging around the rear of the Town Houses, near the dumpster. Resident student was smashing two computer monitors that said free on them with baseball bat. Two other resident students were standing by observing. Students were advised to stop and baseball bats were confiscated.



Sports



Warriors victorious at Bentley

By Mark Lindquist
Staff Writer

The Merrimack Warriors faced rival foe Bentley Falcons and came out on top with a 27-11 win due to a strong and complete team effort. The Warrior offense brought a balanced plan of attack with both running and passing. Junior running back Richard Johnson was Coach Perry's durable workhorse as he ran the ball 25 times for 75 yards (3 yards per carry) and plowed his way into the endzone twice. Johnson has been the team's most consistent rusher this season and leads the team 487 yards on 102 carries (4.8 yards per carry) and 6 touchdowns. Despite throwing 2 interceptions freshman quarterback James Suozzo brought another solid performance with 17 completed passes for 231 yards and a touchdown. He also did a great job getting his receivers involved as he completed passes wide receivers junior Jeremiah Watts, junior Ryan DiGregorio, freshman Quivari Jackson, and his tight end sophomore Patrick Easley. Jeremiah Watts this season has established himself as the Warriors' go-to-guy and one of the NE-10 conference's most formidable threats at the wide receiver position. Watts caught 5 balls for 66 yards and another touchdown pass at Bentley and leads all Merrimack receivers in almost every receiving category. When Watts was not available, Suozzo connected with tight end Patrick Easley and did so 4 times for 34 yards. Quavari Jackson had a solid day with 3 catches for 86 yards, including a long 50 yard run that brought the Warrior offense into the red zone. Junior kicker Sean Garvey helped the team's offensive cause with 2 successful field goal attempts. A balanced attack of rushing and passing is the philosophy that consistently has the ability to put points on the board.

The Warrior defense never allowed Bentley to get any rhythm into their offense all game. Bentley was only able to muster a dismal 30 yards rushing the ball against the Warrior front

7. Senior inside linebacker J.D. Wild led the team in tackles against Bentley with 11. Senior Safety Jordan Rankine was once again a tackling force as he brought down the ball carrier 9 times and caught his first interception of the season. Senior linebacker Shane Brown brought his contribution with 7 tackles. Wild, Rankine, and Brown each have more than 60 tackles on the year and lead the team in that category by more than 20 tackles. The next player down is senior cornerback Andrew Jackson who has 38. Jackson at Bentley had 4 tackles and caught his 3rd interception of the year. Senior Safety Mike O'Brien caught 2 interceptions and now leads the team with 4 on the season. Senior linebacker Rich O'Donnell made his presence felt with 6 tackles including 1 for a yardage loss. Also defensive ends senior Joe Jolicoeur and freshman Tony Johnson each acquired a sack. Johnson leads the team in sacks with 5. The Warrior defense held together all game long and as a result Bentley only scored 11 points the entire game.

Coach John Perry's 2008-2009 Merrimack Warriors are now currently 4-3 with a 3-2 record in conference play. They are tied for 3rd in the



Junior Richard Johnson charges into the endzone for a touchdown

~Photo by Michael Salvucci~

NE-10 standings with Pace University behind Southern Connecticut and American International. Merrimack's next game is on the road at 2-5 Stonehill College. Over the course of the season after each win there has been a loss, but after each loss there has been a win. After a loss, the Warriors have been to recover and come out firing on all cylinders in the following game. The Merrimack Warriors are a very dangerous team because they have the mental toughness needed to rebound constantly after a loss.

Warriors lose to BU, shutout Army

By Lauren DelloRusso
Staff Writer

This past weekend was a very eventful one for Merrimack's Hockey East team. The Warriors lost against BU on Friday evening, yet their spirits lifted on Saturday night after the 1-0 victory over Army.

In Boston, the Warriors lost with a final score of 5-2 to the fifth ranked team, Boston University. The Terriers were unstoppable from the get-go, shooting two goals within the first 7:07 of the game. Merrimack's Chris Barton of Calgary, Alberta, scored the two goals 2:31 apart in the second period of the game. Barton sunk the first goal by grabbing a rebound shot by Pat Bowen of Marshfield, MA, and fired a shot leaving the Terriers in awe as the puck flew over the goalkeepers glove and directly into the net. The other assist was made by freshman Elliot Sheen of Lethbridge, Alberta and scored him his first collegiate point. The second shot was made on a power-play where Barton gained control of the puck off a rebound shot made by Karl Stollery of Camrose, Alberta. The other assist made by Francois, Ouimet of Lorraine, Quebec. This shot brought the Warriors to

only a one-point deficit entering the third period.

To the Warriors disadvantage, the Terriers stepped up their game in the third period, as Terrier players Popko and Gilroy scored two shots



Junior Joe Loprieno drills a BU player in front of their bench

~Photo by Michael Salvucci~

1:09 apart. Five-on-Five plays became a rarity at this game since there was 19 minor penalties throughout the night.

In New York on Saturday, the Warriors faced

the Black Knights of Army and came home with a win. The only shot was scored with 3:11 remaining in the third period, made by Pat Kimball of Framingham, MA. The shot was assisted by captain Joe Loprieno of Bloomingdale, IL, and the only senior in the October 18th line-up, Mickey Rego of Hudson, MA. Great games were played by Joe Cucci of Melrose Park, IL, who won 14 out of 19 face-offs, and Francois Ouimet who had four shots on goal.

Goalkeeper Joe Cannatta of Wakefield, MA, began his first collegiate start with a record shutout and just named "Hockey East Freshman of the Week." The Warrior's discipline was much greater than their Friday performance, committing only 3 minor penalties in totality throughout the game.

The Warriors overall 2008 season record at this point is 2 wins and 1 loss. Merrimack returns to New York next Saturday where they play Niagara at 4pm, and then Canisius on Sunday at 5pm. The

Warriors next home game is October 31st on Halloween. Come dressed in your costumes and cheer on the Warriors as they face the Boston College Eagles at 7pm.

Suozzo dissects Falcons

Throws for 231 yards and one touchdown



Freshman James Suozzo
throws down field.

~Photo by Michael Salvucci~