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Make your computer faster
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Football beats Pace

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Alarm puller pursued

By Shannon Nickerson
Staff Writer

At approximately 3:00 AM on Saturday, October fourth, the fire alarm in Monican Centre was pulled. In an interview with Lt. Mike DelGreco, the safety issues and consequences of pulling a fire alarm were reviewed. As many students have heard, there is a $1,000 dollar reward for whoever turns in the student who pulled the alarm or for information that leads police services to the offender. Maliciously pulling a fire alarm is considered a misdemeanor and a person can be fined or even sent to jail.

The town of Andover’s police and fire units respond to Merrimack’s alarms. Although they are more than happy to respond to accidents or real fires, it is annoying when they need to come to respond to a malicious pull. Not only that, but it could potentially mean life or death for someone involved in a real accident or fire.

If the police and firemen are here responding to a call that is unnecessary and there is a real accident or fire somewhere, it will take them much longer to respond to the real emergency. So, before you think about pulling the alarm as a “drunken joke,” think about the rest of the community. How would you feel if one of your friends or family members was seriously injured because the rescue units couldn’t get there sooner?

Insects bring West Nile to North Andover

By Joe Bonanno
Staff Writer

Back on September 10, the town of North Andover and the Merrimack community were notified of a mosquito that was found that tested positive for West Nile Virus. Measures were taken to prevent the spread of the virus across the town and here on campus.

According to the Center of Disease Control (CDC), about one in 150 people infected with West Nile Virus develop severe illness. Part of the Japanese encephalitis complex of viruses, WNV had first taken plight domestically in New York City during 1999.

A look inside SGA

By Michael Salvucci
Editor-in-Chief

The Student Government Association (SGA) here at Merrimack seems to, for a lot of people, operate behind closed doors. After the election the student body rarely hears much about what exactly SGA does.

For this reason I and members of the SGA decided that it would be a good idea to incorporate a story in every issue of The Beacon. From now in the majority of our subsequent issues there will be an update on what the SGA is doing to add some transparency.
Remembering Jeanne Clery: Propped door led to rape and murder

By Sergeant Jan Fuller

Merrimack College Department of Police Services

Jeanne Clery was a freshman at Lehigh University in April of 1986 when she was brutally raped and murdered in her bed where she was asp. The crime occurred at 6am and was perpetrated by a fellow student she didn’t know.

It was easy for the murderer to enter her dorm because three automatically locking doors, just like the ones we have here at Merrimack, had been taped open by other students so that they could gain easy access to the dorm rooms of other students with whom they were involved in relationships.

Jeanne was raped, sodomized, her neck cut, and she was strangled to death by fellow student Joseph Henry, who had originally entered the room to steal, something he’d done many times before on campus. After the murder, he finished his originally intended crime before leaving. His penchant for theft was a behavior fueled by a drug and alcohol problem and one that was well-known to his friends who did nothing to stop him. Afterwards, he returned to his apartment and bragged to his roommate about what he’d done. Subsequently, he told other fellow students who reported the crime to the police several days later.

There were other aberrant behaviors exhibited by this student that should have raised red flags to fellow students and administrators alike, but in the interest of keeping such criminal activity under wraps, little was done.

Jeanne’s parents discovered that there had been 38 violent crimes on the campus in the two years prior to Jeanne’s murder that had never been publicized. As a result of this incident the “Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990” was enacted, requiring colleges and universities to provide accurate crime statistics annually.

Lessons to be learned?

At Merrimack, we’ve seen everything from broom handles to beer cans propping open doors, coins stuck in mechanisms in an effort to prevent them from locking properly, and doors simply left wide open for easy access and convenience. Officers routinely patrol residence areas to check and close doors they find open, only to return later to find them propped again. Each incidence of propping is logged, reports of such activity forwarded to Residence Life, and fines levied for frequent offenders.

Before you prop a door, consider the possible consequences. Not everyone on campus has honorable intentions, and offering an open invitation to enter a building is asking for trouble. It’s not only the intended guest who can gain access. Merrimack is a safe campus. However, never become complacent enough to believe that “it can’t happen here” or “it won’t happen to me.”

Personal Safety requires Personal Responsibility.

Contact the Department of Police Services at: (978) 837-5555 Business or (978) 837-5911 Emergency

Merrimack College Annual Clery Report can be found on the Police Services webpage.

The complete story of Jeanne Clery can be found at www.securityoncampus.org.

Schedule for Advising and Registration

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Campus Center on October 6th at 3:30pm. Meet M.O.R.E. Council and learn more about this Campus Ministry retreat opportunity. All are welcome!

Cancer Awareness Month and that all the proceeds will benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The t-shirts are either $12 or 2 for $20.

Have you heard about the M.O.R.E. Retreat?: please contact clarken@merrimack.edu. You Must Be at Least 20 Years Old

Support Breast Cancer: ZTA will be selling t-shirts through Oct. 13th on Main St. or they can be purchased from one of the girls. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and that all the proceeds will benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The t-shirts are either $12 or 2 for $20.

Campus sprayed for West Nile Virus

continued from cover

At this time, researchers recognized that this particular strain of WNV was almost identical to a strain common in Israel. Unfortunately, since its arrival in New York, the virus has spread across the North American Continent, causing alarm among many state and local governments. From 1999 to 2007, there were 27,598 reported cases of WNV in the US alone. Out of that number, there were 1,086 fatalities, or about 4% of those who contracted the virus died.

As described, WNV can be a potentially life-threatening illness. Fortunately for young college students, those who are most at risk include adults 65 years of age and older and others with weakened immune systems.

The virus basically has two different levels of infection. An acute infection occurs in most healthy adults whereas a more serious onset occurs in individuals with weakened immunity. Symptoms of fatigue, fever, rashes, and headaches develop in only about one out of every five healthy individuals who contract the virus. While the virus may not significantly impact healthy individuals, there are more serious consequences for those who cannot ward off the infection.

Less than one percent of those who are initially infected go on to develop the second level of infection. For those who do, there is a 3 to 15 percent rate of death.

Humans acquire the virus through the bite of a female mosquito. During the breeding season, the female mosquito needs a source of protein to lay her eggs. She gets her protein from a blood meal, typically from an infected bird. She then goes on to fulfill her protein needs by drawing blood from a human. At this point the virus was transmitted from the bird, to the mosquito and finally infecting a person.

On the bright side, humans are “dead end hosts” of WNV. This means the virus cannot be passed from person to person under normal conditions.

Many of you may remember when Dean Shawn DeVeau sent an email notification to all students on September 10 in regards to a report from the town of North Andover concerning the West Nile Virus. His message informed us that the town was notified a mosquito tested positive for WNV in North Andover.

Dean DeVeau went on to notify the student body of a pesticide application on the evening of Monday, September 15. The company who conducted the spraying was Northeast Mass Mosquito, of Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts. NMM reported that the mosquito tested positive in mid-August.

Northeast Mass Mosquito is the contracted mosquito pest controller by 34 towns and cities in and around the Merrimack Valley. NMM is responsible for operating and checking mosquito traps twice a week in each of its 34 municipalities. It is also responsible for pesticide spraying applications.

In conjunction with the town of North Andover, NMM sprayed the perimeter of the college’s wetlands, particularly around the playing fields. In an interview with NMM’s director, Walter Montgomery, I learned that the spraying agent used is called Suspend, a synthetic pyrethroid pesticide.

When asked about Suspend’s effectiveness, Mr. Montgomery told me that it is 80% effective at keeping the bugs at bay during optimal conditions. Varying factors such as humidity, moisture and rainfall can decrease its effectiveness to 50%. One application is sufficient for at least two weeks.

I was pleased to learn that Suspend has a low mammalian toxicity rate; it is also friendly to many other outside creatures. "It does not affect your pets at all. If you like to talk about in the future include scheduling virus and surveillance scans, startup programs, paging files, services, a Vista-specific feature called ReadyBoost, formatting a drive and reinstalling Windows (the easy way!), and other useful tips. I might throw in some cool tips about popular programs like iTunes, too.

This is the beginning of a healthy PC. Unfortunately, I’ve run out of space for the plethora of great tips I wanted to share. I probably can’t talk about the future include scheduling virus and surveillance scans, startup programs, paging files, services, a Vista-specific feature called ReadyBoost, formatting a drive and reinstalling Windows (the easy way!), and other useful tips. I might throw in some cool tips about popular programs like iTunes, too.

Beacon Briefs

Want to get away?: This Thursday, October 23rd is Passport Day from 10:00AM to 2:00PM on Main Street in the Sakowich Campus Center. The United States Postal Service will be here to process your applications. Make sure you bring proof of US Citizenship (a certified birth certificate), proof of identity (driver’s license) and two recent color photographs and the applicable fees.

Have you heard about the M.O.R.E. Retreat?: M.O.R.E. Retreat Council presents Ice Cream and MORE in the First Floor Lounge of the Sakowich Campus Center on October 6th at 3:30pm. Meet M.O.R.E. Council and learn more about this Campus Ministry retreat opportunity. All are welcome!

Driving Opportunity: The Ski and Snowboard Club is looking for people to drive the vans for their trips. Anyone interested in becoming certified, please contact clarken@merrimack.edu.

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School News

Keep your own PC healthy!

By Christopher Powell

Staff Writer

Say goodbye to bugging that big, heavy laptop to the IT department every time it doesn’t boot up right or suddenly stops working. In this article I’m going to outline a few key maintenance tips to keeping your Windows PC running smoothly, reliably, and healthily.

If you’re not familiar with the concepts explained, chances are you’ll be very surprised with the results. Note that these are the bare-basics of absolutely necessary PC maintenance tasks, and I hope to expand upon the idea in the future. These tasks include defragmenting a hard drive (aka. hard disk), removing junk files, and cleaning up Windows registries. You probably don’t care how it works, and it’ll take a lot of space to describe how each one does so, I’ll just tell you what to do. Windows registries are running Windows XP or Vista. Also, for the sake of space, I haven’t listed direct links. All programs and services mentioned should be easily Googled.

First, defragmenting, or defragging. In short, defragging is reorganizing data on your hard disks so they can be accessed faster. Files become fragmented every time you write to the hard disk, and over time, this can drastically slow it down. Generally you’ll want to do this every week or after you install a lot of software or write lots of data. If you’ve never done this before, this is the first step to making peace with Windows. XP’s defragmenting program is okay, but Vista’s is a potentially hours-long process. I recommend one of two programs: Diskkeeper, which would be $30 for the home user; or Auslogics, which is free. The former has some nice features that make defragging easier, especially if you have large drives (250 GB or larger); it automatically defrags in the background when your PC isn’t being used, and does some other (admittedly useless as far as I can tell) things with hidden Windows files that the built-in defraggers can’t do. Auslogics is a free program that is much faster than Vista’s built-in defragger and does what it’s supposed to do. You can hit start and walk away, but it’s also kind of cool to watch the graphic it displays of your hard drive’s data being rearranged.

Second, removing junk files. Junk files can be anything that is unnecessarily taking up space on your disk, typically fragments of files, temporary files, and Internet caches. Also try to do this process once a week. You can use Windows’ built-in disk cleanup application, but I recommend a free program called CCleaner. This program does lots of good things, and in the case of junk files, it does wonders. It’s pretty easy to use; just start it up, click the Cleaner button on the left, click analyze, and go from there. There’s a very slim chance that you’ll miss any of the files you’re getting rid of. None of them really do anything besides jam up your drive, and there’s no way you’ll lose any documents or anything like that. While you’re there, clean up your registry, too. The registry is what starts up along with Windows, and it can get really cluttered over time and might cause problems. It works almost exactly the same way (click the appropriate button on the left), only it’ll prompt you to back up your registry in a single file you can put anywhere on your disk, which is a good idea if you want to reverse the changes. CCleaner is very safe in my experience, though, so you probably won’t need to.

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visitors and the numerous Special Events that are conducted here at Merrimack College. The spaces must be reserved for employees, faculty, commuting students, and we are offering a fuel-efficient conventional car because hybrids are expensive to repair.

“better off with fuel-efficient conventional cars” ~ Tom Hickey, SGA Rep

Representative Timmy Smith spoke against the proposition declaring, “freshmen don’t need cars.” Others pointed out that there are no shuttles available (even though the college used to advertise that they did indeed have them) and that freshmen should be provided with some sort of transportation option. SGA decided to wait to discuss this more next time before voting.

SGA hears Model UN’s plea

SGA started out the meeting talking about a possible new system for room registration. There is a push by the college to move room selection online similar to the way in which classes are picked. You will get a window of time to sign on to choose your room. One person will sign on and pick a room (already taken ones will be greyed out). You will then have about five minutes to enter in your roommate’s ID numbers. Subsequently, Austin Scholars and Honors Scholars will still pick their rooms traditionally. SGA was asked to vote on the issue simply for their backing, the vote passed.

Please take note that this in no way means that the new system will be implemented in the near future but is something to look forward to further down the road. They also talked about possibly getting Zip Cars here on campus. This is due to the large number of freshmen not getting parking passes. The cost of the Zip Car for a student would be an initial 35 dollar sign up fee, plus an hourly rate between 7.50-8.50 an hour. Merrimack would pay for the gas and maintenance of the Zip Car. The best advantage to this is that the age requirement is only 18, which would allow most freshmen to take advantage of them. Many were pushing for hybrid Zip Cars however representative Tom Hickey advised against it saying that we are better off with a fuel efficient conventional car because hybrids are expensive to repair.

SGA unleashed a salvo of questions on them asking about fund raising, publicity, and charities to give to (which is required for all students this year and their officers; Jen Rando and Jenna Ware went to plead their case to SGA. Reps from from Model UN asked them about fundraising, publicity, and charities.

Rando said that they are at a “frustrating point right now” because they don’t have any funding which makes it very difficult to have charities to give to (which is required for all clubs). Also, reps asked them how they can improve their name recognition, which is also a problem because without appropriate funding there would be no way for the club to take a lot of members...if any at all. Reps from SGA also asked Jen and Jenna why their funding stopped at which point they pointed back to the SGA as if to say “well you are the ones who decide funding”. At that point, the E-board murmured to themselves and thanked Jen and Jenna for their time. There was not enough time to discuss the matter much further and the vote is pushed until the next meeting.

SGA will convene twice between now and our next issue. Please read the October 24 edition of The Beacon for all important matters taken up by SGA.

Parking Reminder for All Students

The same applies to the Volpe lot where there are only 114 parking spots. Where would fans attending sporting events park? Where would your visiting teams park? Where would all of the renters of the Volpe Arena park?

There are 675 parking spaces for resident students (Lot’s 8A, 8B, 8C) and we have conducted a Freshman Lottery for the few remaining spots and had to deny some Resident Students the ability to bring their vehicles to campus.

I know this is not the answer that you wanted, but it is the reality of the situation and I hope that you can understand our dilemma and will obey the parking regulations here on campus.

Epiloge: The freshmen lottery was conducted on Tuesday, September 30, 2008. Eighty-one freshmen were drawn and fifty-three (53) students had to be denied the opportunity to purchase a parking decal. It is clear that all of you who have been given the privilege to park your vehicle on campus will better appreciate the privilege and at the same time have a better understanding of the enforcement actions that must be taken by our police officers.

Please Remember: Resident Students may not drive their vehicle to classes and are prohibited from parking their vehicle in any other lot except Lot’s 8A-8B & 8C. (The Resident Parking Lots) Students may not drive on emergency roadways, on the grass, service roads, sidewalks leading to any dorms, townhouses and or apartments or in fire lanes. Violator will be ticketed and may be towed at the owner’s expense.

Thank you for your cooperation.

By Ron Guilmette
Chief of Police Services

Recently I received a letter from a student who wanted some clarification on parking. This student did not know why students could not park in the Sakowich Center during the day time so they could attend classes as there were many unused parking spaces during the day.

I would like to share with all students the answer that I sent this student so that all of you will understand why Police Services must enforce our parking regulations.

Dear Student:

Thank you for your email and sharing your concerns regarding parking.

I would love to be in a position to accommodate your request and I understand your frustrations, however, the campus of Merrimack College is very small and we have tight restrictions imposed on us by the Conservancy Commission in the Towns of Andover and North Andover regarding wetlands and the number of parking spaces that we are allowed to create. There are only 258 parking spaces in the Sakowich Center lot and these spaces must be reserved for employees, faculty, commuting students, visitors and the numerous Special Events that are conducted here.

There are 1,443 Residents Students this year! Imagine for a moment what would happen if all Resident Students were allowed to take their vehicles to classes and park in the campus center lot! Where would our employees park? Where would the faculty park? Where would our commuter students and visitors park? Where would we have our special events attendee’s park?
Firming the core with an exercise ball

By Jeff LeBlanc
Staff Writer

An exercise ball, or swissball, is an excellent way to firm and tone the abdomen as well as provide yourself with an exercise routine that is good for your health. Besides developing good overall muscle tone for your abdomen, the ball provides numerous other benefits that range anywhere from rehabilitating back, hip, and knee injuries to delivering a powerful workout to improve core stability, posture, and muscle balance. You also improve your flexibility and your cardiovascular system by using a low-impact workout. The following are a few of the most important exercises for anyone wanting to learn how to use the ball.

The most commonly suggested area for work on toning and firming is the core, so that is the area I will focus on. The core muscles are the muscles in your body that stabilize and support all your movements. It is made up of the deep abdominal and back muscles that work as stabilizers for your entire body. These muscles are the deep muscles because, although you cannot see them, they maintain the core stability in your body. The exercise ball is better for the core than traditional exercises because it does not just tone the outer abdominal muscles; it also helps you build muscles from the inside. The exercise ball will help you build your abdominal or core muscles and help you maintain your flat abs for a longer period of time.

The Ball Crunch: This is a basic crunch on an exercise ball. You first position yourself on the ball so that your back is lying on the ball and your glutes are hugging just off of it. Then you should put your elbows behind your head with your thumbs behind your ears. Now that you are on the ball, with your back slightly arched you then lay back and crunch back up. You should feel this in your abdomen. Slowly lay back and then crunch back up and so on.

The Ball Sit-Up: This is a basic sit-up on the ball. You want to sit on the ball with feet well, wider apart on the floor. Next you should put your hands by your ears and slowly lower your upper body. The ball will roll underneath your body until it is positioned on the lower mid-back region. Now, bring yourself back up by using your hips. The exercise ball will force you to balance yourself while you are lowering and raising your upper body.

The Oblique Crunch: This exercise will target your obliques. The obliques are the flank rectus abdominal muscle, and are located just inside the hip-bones. They rotate the torso and stabilize the abdomen. The internal obliques work in the opposite way to the external oblique muscles; these muscles are very important to work. Place the ball on the floor in close proximity to a wall. Kneel on the floor between the ball and the wall placing your hands on top of the stability ball for balance. Extend one leg forward and one leg backward bracing them where the wall meets the floor. Once you've secured your foot position, get your hip high up on the ball. Relax and stretch yourself sideways over the stability ball with your arms bent and hands clasped behind your head. Push your hips downward into the stability ball and crunch your body lifting off the ball in the direction of the wall, until maximal range of motion is reached. Hold and slowly lower yourself back to your original position.

The Hip Extension: Just because you're using an exercise ball doesn't mean that you're not going to make contact with the floor. First lie down on the floor and drape your legs over the top of the fitness ball. Keep your legs straight from the knees to the feet, hip-width apart and place the palms of your hands on the floor beside you. With your heels firmly in place atop the fitness ball, thrust your hips upward, without straining your neck against the floor, until your body is aligned from your feet through your shoulders. Keep your shoulders on the floor, your abs tight, and hold the position for 2 to 3 seconds before gradually returning to the start position.

The Same Side Bicycles: This is an exercise that is a variation of the traditional bicycle exercise for the abs. First you want to lean back on the ball, lining up your glutes and your low back with your feet firmly planted on the floor at about hip-width apart. Placing your hands behind your head draw your navel towards your spine as you bring your left elbow and left knee towards each other, return your left leg to the floor and repeat with the right leg and elbow. One repetition is complete when you have brought both knees and elbows together one at a time.

By doing the above exercises you can help a lot with your daily life. Not only will the exercise help you look better, but you will feel better as you begin improving your cardiovascular health. Using the ball can and has helped many people achieve some of their fitness goals.
**Intramural Update**

### Flag Football Standings

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Entertainment
Nicholas Sparks lights up again

By Alicia Cyr
Staff Writer

The motion picture, Nights in Rodanthe, premiered on Friday, September 26. The movie was based on Nicholas Sparks’ widely acclaimed novel, Diane Lane and Richard Gere play the leading roles of Paul Flanner and Adrienne Willis in this love story set in North Carolina. It tells the story of two people from completely different backgrounds, a doctor and a housewife, whom are put in a situation that encourages them to share their life stories, and life tragedies. Through the pain, healing and the newly found comfort, the two are able to find real life-changing love. Nicholas Sparks’ Nights in Rodanthe, as a motion picture, lead up to his next big accomplishment.

Nicholas Sparks’ newest novel was released on Tuesday, September 30. The Lucky One reflects Sparks’ amaz ing authorship once more. The novel reveals the journey taken by a young man named Logan Thibault, a United States marine. He treks across the country, on foot, from Colorado to North Carolina, hoping to find a woman that he’s never met. This woman was brought into Logan Thibault’s life through a photograph that he uncovered in the dirt during his time fighting the war in Iraq. When Logan displays the photograph only to have it go unclaimed, he carries the picture in his pocket. The picture of a young woman brings a great deal of luck into Logan Thibault’s life. Logan witnesses the most terrible things during his time in Iraq. He is witness to the death of his friends among many other gruesome sights. But through the roughest, most dangerous times of war, fighting on the front line, Logan survives. Among all of the deaths he sees and the bad luck of others, this picture keeps Logan Thibault safe. It is his “lucky charm.” Once he returns home, this college-educated, well-rounded United States marine sets out on a journey that will change his life forever. Logan uses his smarts to uncover the mystery woman in the photograph. Logan Thibault and Elizabeth, a divorced mother, fall in love. But the secret of what brought a young man from Colorado to the small town of Hampton, North Carolina stays Logan’s secret. Elizabeth’s psychotically ex-husband will unsuccessfully try his hardest to tear the couple apart. Logan and Elizabeth fight the odds. Secrets will unravel from every angle. Every character in the novel reveals themselves in a unique light.

Once again, Nicholas Sparks glows. His amazing attention to detail and his ability to bring his characters to life show a rare talent. Nicholas Sparks brings you into the lives of Logan and Elizabeth and make you feel as though you are part of the story. Sparks makes it so easy to fall in love with the characters. The novel is a real page-turner. Once you have opened the front cover, you will not want to set the book down until you have read through it completely. In three hundred and twenty-six pages, Nicholas Sparks writes, in great detail, about the lives of two young people who are lost until they are found, found by one another. The novel, The Lucky One, is like any of the other thirteen novels written by Nicholas Sparks. It is truly an amazing love story.

Death Cab For Cutie: Proven to be humble rockers

By Eileen Milligan
Staff Writer

On Friday October 3rd, the gentle Death Cab for Cutie “ironically” rocked the stage of Agganis Arena. At first glance of the audience, I saw a mixture of moms, teens, BU hipsters, and people who were in their 20s to early 30s. It was difficult to say if the often tender Death Cab for Cutie evolved from the dreamy “Champagne in a Paper Cup” from one of their earliest records, into the darker and more experimental “Cath” from their newest record, “Narrow Stairs.” The band aimed to please by playing something for both the die hard Death Cab fan who lit up to hear older classics like “Company Calls,” and “Scientist Studies,” as well as for the newer Death Cab fan who was comforted to hear the more familiar “Tiny Vessels” and “I Will Possess Your Heart.” However, what seemed to be the biggest crowd pleasers of the night were the popular “Souls Meets Body,” and the acoustic love ballad “I Will Follow You Into the Dark” that made both old and new Death Cab fans feel satisfied.

In between songs the appreciative lead singer and guitarist Ben Gibbard chimed in saying, “Thank you,” while modestly reminding the crowd that they were “Death Cab For Cutie.” On one hand it was somewhat comical and strange for him to act as if their band was unknown, and thank the crowd for “Coming out on a Friday night,” but it was also nice to think that a band whose been around so long and has built such a wide fan-base, hasn’t lost their humility along the road to success. Death Cab for Cutie even took time out to thank their lesser-known opening act Saint Vincent by dedicating a few songs to them, and putting their ten-year-old band on the same level as a new indie artist. Gibbard as well as guitarist and pianist Chris Walla tried to connect with fans more by attempting to create an intimate club feel within a university arena by asking the crowd, “Are you having a good time tonight?” And Gibbard made peace with Red Sox fans over an old unspecified quarrel saying, “Go Sox!” making the band members appear more engaging and personable.

In addition to the band’s gracious manners, the stage itself had a warm and unpretentious look to it, relying more on the music and less on the glitter and glamour associated with putting on a performance. Besides a few flashing colored lights, and a smoke machine, there weren’t many technical tricks up the band’s sleeves. With the lack of distractions it was easier to focus on what should be the centerpiece of any concert, the music. Occasionally, I saw Gibbard motioning to the sound guy to turn the volume up or down, and noticed that the band’s concerns lied in the quality of their music as opposed to the quantity of special effects. Surprisingly Death Cab for Cutie’s background seems infused with a sense of humility with no banner in sight displaying their name. Instead the background was nothing more than a few bunched red theater curtains and some white and blue Christmas lights hanging vertically over them. As a result of there being so little to look at on the stage physically other than the band and equipment, it was palpable that this was not a pop show, but rather a rock show.

The band called it a night with one of their longer and older songs ‘Transatlantism’ that is disguised as a simple and mellow piano ballad accompanied by words echoing feelings of displacement and sadness, but slowly progresses into a powerful emotional breakdown with the support of bass, guitars, and pounding drums. The song was a nice finisher, displaying Death Cab’s unique and contrapuntal signature sounds by building a bridge between milder and plainer tunes, and growing into throbbing and more complicated melodies. And even though they didn’t smash a guitar at the end of their set, or fly off onto a jet with a bunch of groupies, they did prove that they are humble rockers. As they walked off stage together waving to the crowd, a gracious Walla shouted out a final farewell to you to Massachusetts saying that, “You were lovely,” I couldn’t help but think, “So were they.”
Questions on the Quad

What are your thoughts on the Patriots?

The Pat’s defense sucks.
The offense sucks. We suck. If I feel bad for Matt Cassel and we need Brady back.

I think they’re going to suffer due to Brady’s injury in the first game.

I have confidence in them. They’re going to do great!

They are going to suck, not just because I’m a Pittsburgh fan, but without Brady they should just throw in the towel.

~ Christina Beauvais

~ Meghan Rice

~ Jake Polas

If you could change one thing about Merrimack, what would it be?

I prefer nicer housing.

Get rid of the town-houses.

I wouldn’t change anything about Merrimack; I love it here.

Make the café open 24 hours a day. Also, take-out from the café would be nice.

~ Cara Perkins

~ Matt Surette

~ Timmy Smith

~ Evan Chamberlain

~ Compiled by Kyle Neary~
~Photos by Courtney Cutler~

Gregg’s Choke Difficult to Swallow

By Mike Annetti
Staff Writer

It’s a mantra heard time and time again, and with its every utterance, one can imagine the critic’s nose held high in the air as they resolutely proclaim that “the book was much better than the movie.” However, at least in this critic’s experience, it is a perception that tends to hold true over time (aside from some notable selections). The oftentimes cumbersome transition from the book to the silver screen typically results in the essence of the original being lost somewhere in the translation. Unfortunately, Choke did not succeed in avoiding this familiar blunder.

Based on Chuck Palahniuk’s novel of the same name, Choke is the story of Victor Mancini, a sex addict grappling with his addiction, his past, and his hollow existence. Played by Sam Rockwell, Victor fumbles through life, reluctantly working as a “historical interpreter” at a colonial recreation site. He’s simultaneously faced with the difficulty of his mother’s imminent death, due to her refusal to eat, in conjunction with a debilitating case of Alzheimer’s. Victor has placed his mother (played by Anjelica Huston) in a “topnotch” facility that is well out of his fiscal means. To supplement his income, he cons people into “loving him” by purposely choking on food at restaurants throughout the city. His asphyxiation saviors become voluntary caretakers, sending sympathy cards stuffed with cash. Victor is accompanied throughout the story by his lovable (and only) friend Denny (Brad William Henke). Denny is also a sex addict, who works alongside the story’s protagonist at the colonial site. Denny provides a sufficient amount of comic relief to counteract Victor’s dark existence, as he finds quirky and unorthodox ways to curb his own sexual addiction.

Lastly, Doctor Paige Marshall (Kelly Macdonald) is the character in care of Victor’s ill mother. Paige complicates matters throughout the story, offering extravagant methods of saving Victor’s mother, while simultaneously toying with Victor’s sex addiction. It’s a truly mind-bending story that could only be associated with Chuck Palahniuk and, perhaps, it should have stayed that way.

Written for the screen and directed by Clark Gregg, Choke does not capture the essence that Palahniuk established in the novel. For those unfamiliar with the work of Palahniuk, his work is dark, gritty, and often times beyond comprehension. While the film adaptation of Choke isn’t exactly “light-hearted,” the story undoubtedly lost some of its edge in its transition from the novel. While she undoubtedly plays a pivotal role, too much emphasis is placed on Paige Marshall, particularly her relationship with Victor. The movie comes across more like a dark, romantic comedy, rather than the scathing story of Victor Mancini.

Additionally, characters were tweaked, all seemingly in an attempt to make them more likable. The entire film had a “happy-go-lucky” demeanor to it, which strays far away from the dark nature of Palahniuk’s book. Casting was either completely haphazard or was done with little consideration of how the characters are presented by Palahniuk, as Rockwell gives the only performance true to the book. The creative license allotted to Gregg should have been revoked.

Perhaps I’m being too critical. The story is still conveyed in a concise and entertaining manner, and the story itself is enthralling. Flashbacks provide the audience with brief glimpses into the past of Victor Mancini, creating a longing to know what exactly happened in his chaotic past. Nevertheless, the movie pales in comparison to the book, as the entire presentation seemed rather flat and uninspired. While Choke may be enjoyed by the casual movie fan looking for an hour and a half distraction, Palahniuk fans can expect to be sorely disappointed by the film adaptation.
Opinion

Hockey moms unite

By Courtney Cutler

Editor-in-Chief

Photo Editor

By Michael Salvucci

Editor-in-Chief

When I visited the local hockey rink last week, it was filled to capacity with moms, dads, and kids cheering on their teams. It was a scene of joy and excitement, with the sound of the puck hitting the ice and the cheers of the crowd filling the air. I was struck by the bond that these families share, and the way in which they come together to support their loved ones.

The Beacon Editorial

Though we do a lot of publicity for various events on and around campus, I would like to take this opportunity to make the Merrimack community aware of a particular event that strikes a personal note for me and that I feel is extremely noteworthy.

As many of you may already know, near the end of this past summer a close friend and classmate Rob Maile passed away as a result of a swimming accident. Rob would be entering his senior year here, and will not be forgotten by anyone who had the fortune of knowing him.

A benefit, sponsored by his friends and family, in memory of Rob will be held on Saturday, October 18th, starting at 1:00pm at Deb’s Lakeview Lounge on 294 Tyngsboro Road in Dracut, MA. There will be food, multiple bands starting each hour from 2pm - 8pm, as well as, raffles and door prizes. This event is to raise money for funeral expenses and a monument for the cemetery.

I would like to encourage everyone to show his or her support. Tickets can be purchased for a donation of $10.00. Even if you cannot attend, I would like to personally ask you to make a donation to this worthy cause regardless. If you are at all interested, please contact Raeann Keeley at (978)-758-0925 or r.m.keeley@hotmail.com. You can also stop by and see her in the bookstore.

Thank you,

Ashley DeRusi

Editor-in-Chief

Selections from the Police Log

09/30/2008 11:10

5911 HANG UP Call Box

Santagi Lobby

Received a call on the emergency line from the elevator in Santagati Hall. Called the FDA and they reported no emergency at this time, and no one in the area.

10/03/2008 01:52

DISTURBANCE General

K Tower Outside

Resident student, reports that there are a group of males outside of K Tower breaking beer bottles. Officers are responding to K Tower to investigate. No one in the area.

10/04/2008 01:03

DAMAGE Intentional

Ash 2 East Hall

Officer requested assistance for mal damage in progress. Upon arrival units encounter resident students. Units report glass everywhere, trash tipped over, and malicious damage under $250. One Source was paged and they will be responding. AC

10/04/2008 14:29

MEDICAL Injury Ambulance/Trans

Fields Football Practice

Officer requested an ambulance at the practice field for a knee injury. North Andover Fire responded and transported the individual to Lawrence General Hospital for further treatment.

10/05/2008 02:11

PROP Rept’d as Missing

D Tower

RA from Apartments called and requested an officer for a possible stolen property. Officers responded and advised the cell phone was used to prop a door, unable to locate the phone.
Volleyball shows they are serious

Story by Merrimack Athletics

The Merrimack volleyball team proved it will be a major factor in the conference and region with a convincing 3-0 win over rival and preseason conference favorite Bentley Tuesday night at the Volpe Gym. Game scores were 25-13, 25-20, 25-23.

The loss was just the third in the last 49 regular season conference matches for Bentley, dating back to the start of the 2005 season.

Alicia Kuncaitis (Canton, MA) led the way with 15 kills, 16 digs, and two service aces, while hitting .351. Molly Cindric (Westlake Village, CA) added 11 kills and seven digs, while Elyse Lorenz (Frankfort, IL) added a double-double on 42 assists and 10 digs. Merrimack hit .298 overall and committed just 11 attack errors, while getting seven service aces to just one for Bentley.

Bentley started quickly, scoring the game’s first three points, but the Warriors answered with eight straight points, including two aces from Lorenz. They led by as much as 16-9 in the first set and cruised to a 25-15 win on a kill from Kuncaitis.

Merrimack led in the second set from 3-2 on and by as much as five. Kristin Applegate (Hampstead, NH) would close the second set out getting the kill off a ball handling error from Bentley.

In the third, the Falcons answered with eight straight points, including two aces from Lorenz. They led by as much as 16-9 in the first set and cruised to a 25-15 win on a kill from Kuncaitis.

Merrimack evened it at 16 off a Kuncaitis kill. With the score deadlocked at 22, Kuncaitis tallied a kill, and the Falcons committed an attack error to bring Merrimack within one point of the win. Bentley’s Virginia Wong followed with a kill, but Merrimack did not quit, as Kuncaitis sealed the win off a lengthy rally.

Alyssa Pickert (Tinley Park, IL) tallied 13 digs, while Lisa Barr (Alberta, Canada) posted 10 kills and 40 assists.

Wong totaled eight kills and nine digs, while Kristine Mickelson added a team-high 11 kills and six blocking assists for the Falcons, who dropped to 12-7 overall, 6-1 in the conference.

Both teams entered Tuesday’s match unbeaten in the conference, with New Haven also perfect thus far in the Northeast-10. Merrimack hosts New Haven in the team’s final home game on November 4.

The Warriors (10-7, 5-0 NE-10) have eight days off until they host Umass Lowell on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

# 13 Men’s Soccer falls to Le Moyne

Story by Merrimack Athletics

The Merrimack men’s soccer team, ranked 13th nationally and second in the east region, dropped a hard fought game 2-1 to Le Moyne College Saturday afternoon.

Trailing 2-0 and playing a man down for the final 30 minutes after Adam Leone (East Northport, NY) was ejected after being carded twice, the Warriors didn’t quit. Yiago Dalboni (Medford, MA) scored an unassisted tally, his fourth of the year, after chipping a shot over the goalkeeper, perfectly executing a breakaway tally.

That would be all the scoring for the Warriors, who were outshot by Le Moyne 12-9.

Angelo Reina netted a breakaway tally at 16:19, while Sean Lawler added insurance at 61:48, just 1:48 after Leone was disqualified.

Rob Pedra (South Hamilton, MA) stopped three shots in net, while seeing his shutout streak end at 440 minutes.

Merrimack (8-2-2, 5-2-1 NE-10) will visit Southern Connecticut Saturday at 7 p.m., in a rematch of last season’s conference championship in which the Owls prevailed 2-1.

Field Hockey loses to Saint Michael’s 3-2

Story by Merrimack Athletics

The Merrimack field hockey team was edged by 10th-ranked Saint Michael’s College Wednesday afternoon.

The Purple Knights scored first as Sara Fournier got her team on the board at 6:08, getting her second of the year unassisted. Jaclyn Germano (Westwood, MA) responded at 29:30, taking a feed from Lauren Gonsalves (Harwich, MA), before Gonsalves added her second of the season, sending the Warriors to the locker room tied at one at half.

After Saint Michael’s regained the lead just 41 seconds into the second, Jessica DeLacey (Charlton, MA) evened the score at two with just 5:43 remaining. Kelly Pasquantonio (Plainville, MA) would score on a Kerri Dommohski (Saugus, MA)assist, khaling the game 2-2.

But Merrimack’s upset hopes were dashed as Andrea Slaven beat Emily Achilles (Portsmouth, NH) for her eighth of the year with just 1:58 remaining in regulation. It was Slaven’s 46th career goal, setting the Saint Michael’s school record for goals in a career.

Achilles continued her excellent freshman season, stopping 10 shots in the loss.

Merrimack (5-9, 5-8 NE-10) hosts fourth-ranked Umass Lowell Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at Warrior Field.

Women’s Soccer tops Le Moyne 4-2

The Merrimack women’s soccer team picked up its third straight win, defeating Le Moyne College 4-2 Saturday afternoon at Warrior Field.

The Dolphins scored just 2:52 in on a lob from Christina Harrison, but the Warriors rallied for three first-half goals in 21 minutes, led by the play of Jackie Vickers (Newell, MA) and Gabrielle Gramprey (Brackton, MA).

Wong netted a breakaway tally at 16:19, while Sean Lawler added insurance at 61:48, just 1:48 after Leone was disqualified.

Rob Pedra (South Hamilton, MA) stopped three shots in net, while seeing his shutout streak end at 440 minutes.

Merrimack (7-2-2, 5-2-1 NE-10) hosts New Haven in the team’s final home game on November 4.

The Warriors (10-7, 5-0 NE-10) have eight days off until they host Umass Lowell on Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Sports

Suozzo Stuns Pace

By Mark Lindquist
Staff Writer

With starting quarterback Kurt Leone unavailable to play on the road against the Pace University Setters, all eyes were on freshman James Suozzo as he made his collegiate debut behind the center.

Suozzo impressed his coaches and teammates as he led Merrimack to a 31-28 victory. He completed 50% of his passes (21 for 42) for 246 yards and 3 touchdowns. Suozzo also showed his great mobility out of the pocket as he kept the ball 11 times and ran for 59 yards and 1 trip into the endzone. Suozzo’s terrific performance earned him Northeast-10 Player of The Week and Northeast-10 Freshman of The Week honors.

Running back junior Richard Johnson brought a solid ground attack with 61 yards on 19 carries. Suozzo also used Johnson in the passing game as he caught 4 passes for 49 yards. Senior wide receiver Jawara Loftis was one of Suozzo’s primary targets against Pace making 6 receptions for a total of 63 yards. Jeremiah Watts caught 4 passes of his own and entered the endzone twice. Watts leads all Warriors receivers in receptions, receiving yards, and touchdown receptions. James Suozzo also hit freshman Quavari Jackson 3 times including his first collegiate touchdown reception.

Kicker Sean Garvey kicked a successful 32 yard fieldgoal in the first quarter which at the end of the game turned out to be the deciding factor. Merrimack offensive linemen senior Nate Boynton, sophomore Jacob Bradley, junior Adam Burt, junior Chris Warren, and sophomore David Bellmont provided flawless protection for Suozzo as they did not allow a single sack on the day.

The Merrimack Warriors defense once again held down the fort when they needed to. With Pace driving up the field with very little time left on the clock, senior safety Mike O’Brien caught his second interception of the game to crush Pace’s comeback hopes. O’Brien’s 5 tackles and 2 interceptions against Pace earned him Northeast-10 Defensive Player of The Week honors. Junior Linebacker Shane Brown led the Warriors defense against Pace in tackles with 13. Senior Safety Jordan Rankine continued his defensive consistency as he brought down the ballcarrier 7 times. Brown and Rankine are now tied for the team lead in tackles with 46. Junior cornerback Anthony Taylor also compiled 7 tackles.

The Merrimack defense sacked the Pace quarterback for an astounding 8 times. Plowing through the Pace O-line was junior Daniel Sherr(2.5 sacks), senior Chuck Manthei(2.0 sacks), junior Marc Benjamin(1.5 sacks), and senior Joe Jolicoeur(1.0 sacks). Other notable defensive players include defensive linemen junior Bernard Cooper and sophomore Garrett Boyd.

Hockey drops preseason game to McGill

Story by Merrimack Athletics

The Merrimack College hockey team was edged by McGill University 2-1 in a preseason game Saturday night at Lawler Arena.

Trailing 2-0 in the second, Chris Barton scored Merrimack’s lone goal at 11:14, as he roofed a wrist shot on the power play. J.C. Robitaille and Justin Bonnivatibus picked up assists.

The Warriors outshot McGill 12-7 in the third and dominated possession for nearly the entire two minutes on two separate power plays but could not get the tying goal past goaltender Hubert Morin. Grant Farrell fired three shots from the point in the third while nine other Warriors each had one. In all, only three players did not register a shot.

Andrew Braithwaite and Joe Cannata split the game in goal, with Braithwaite allowing two goals on six shots and Cannata stopping all nine shots he faced. Morin stopped 32 shots for the Redmen, who are 2-3 on the season.

Merrimack hosts Robert Morris on Saturday in the team’s regular season opener at 7 p.m.

Like going to Warrior sporting events?

Write for Beacon Sports!!
Hockey edged by McGill in preseason opener

Junior Joe Loprieno takes the puck across the blue line

“Photo by Michael Salvucci”