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Speaker encourages compassion

By Sam Rabin, 4-13-06

EJ Sylvia told his mom he loved her in front of the whole regional high school last Friday.

EJ, a senior, called his mom at the request of Ed Gerety, a motivational speaker who addressed the entire school at an assembly. Mr. Gerety talked about character, personal values, and leadership.



Emma Conley Photo

(EJ Sylvia calls his mother during Ed Gerety's presentation.)

“When we lose someone close to us that is when we truly realize what is most important,” he told students. “Now think about that, and pretend you have only one hour left to live. Who would you call? Why haven't you called them yet today?”

Mr. Gerety also spoke about consequences and how every decision that people make affects their life and the lives of those around them.

“You have to remember the power of the consequences of every choice that you make,” said Mr. Gerety at the assembly. “Every choice you make either brings you closer to your goals, or further away.”

Ed Gerety graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in communications. He established a business at 22 years old to educate groups on leadership and personal development. He has written two books on leadership and has spoken in all 50 states, Europe, and Canada.

Mr. Gerety met with the Student Council after the assembly where he spoke more specifically about leadership and setting goals.

“He talked to us about specifying our dreams and goals and how to accomplish them,” said junior Alexis Moreis, secretary of the Student Council. “He told us not only to say our goals, but also to realize them.”

This was Mr. Gerety’s second visit to the regional high school.

“A few Student Council members had seen Mr. Gerety here back in 2003. They wanted him to come back,” said Student Council adviser Matt Malowski. “He does a good job teaching students the qualities of being a leader.”

Senior Molly Gray organized Mr. Gerety’s visit to the school.

“When he speaks to students, he isn’t just speaking to an anonymous audience,” Molly said. “He is directly interacting with them and he knows how to keep an audience connected to his message.”