

Collegian

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

Moraga, California

Thursday, February 18, 1999

Volume 96, Issue 12

Convocation Promotes Lasallian Education

"Shared Vision" proposed for Catholic Schools

Julia Jenkins
News Editor

Faculty and administrators along with a few students gathered together in the Chapel on Monday, February 15, for a College Convocation to celebrate the visit of the Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and to honor an outstanding professor.

Although, classes were shortened student attendance was low.

Superior General of the Brothers of Christian Schools Bro. John Johnston, FSC, came from Rome to address the College about "Promoting Higher Education Through Shared Mission" and to present History Professor Benjamin A. Frankel with the highest honor of Affiliation for his fifty years of dedicated service to St. Mary's.

The new College organ was inaugurated by Bro. Martin Yribarren, FSC, PhD. during the processional.

Johnston began by explaining the Lasallian mission today as "striving to challenge and help young people and adults develop their God-

given capacities as human persons and to learn to live as sons and daughters of God, as brothers and sisters among themselves, and as brothers and sisters to others."

He explained the importance of the responsibility of the Church to educate those without economic wealth, stating "if our institutions do not manifest characteristics that distinguish them from state or non-sectarian institutions, they are not worth the trouble."

He continued "the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools should participate actively in this important dimension of the mission of the Church. Young adults are searching for answers to profound religious, moral, and philosophical questions: they are searching for meaning. They need highly competent teachers who will meet them not only as mentors, but also as brothers and sisters, men and women who will take them seriously, walk with them, listen to them, and share with them the meaning they personally have found in their own lives."

Johnston further explained "A school is Lasallian when there is a profound reverence for each stu-

dent as a unique person, when there is a spirit of community, when the school "quality education," when it really merits the adjective "Christian," when it promotes solidarity with the poor and the quest for justice and peace, when its administrators and teachers have made their own the characteristics of Lasallian education, and when the school community is formed in reference to the story of John Baptist de La Salle."

Johnston proposed four statements of principle for the characteristics of Lasallian Education. First, "our identity must



Left: Bro. Craig Franz presents Bro. John Johnston a miniature De La Salle statue.



Bottom: The St. John Baptist De La Salle statuette.

Photographs taken by Damon Tighe

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Part 1 of St. Mary's History Series

The Names Behind the Buildings

Remembering Bro. Roger Kyran's contribution

George Malachowski
News Layout Editor

Bro. Roger Kyran, Dr. James Hagerty, Louis LeFeuvre, do these names sound familiar? Their names grace St. Mary's art room, theater, and lounge.

These men, as well as others, significantly changed the face of St. Mary's. Unfortunately, who these people were and what they did at St. Mary's has largely been forgotten.

This series will attempt to delve into St. Mary's past to expose the people who today grace our buildings with their names.

Named after Bro. Kyran

Aviani, who taught at St. Mary's in the 1950s and 1960s, the Brother Kyran Aviani Audio-Visual Room is located in the Brother Cornelius Art Center, which is next to the Hearst Art Gallery.

The classroom houses some of Kyran's artwork, including his self-portraits. Filippi Hall also displays Kyran's work.

Kyran changed the face of St. Mary's. Known as a "Renaissance Gentleman," he touched the lives of many people in the St. Mary's Community.

Whether it was winning the El Cristo Rey art exhibit for his terracotta crucifix (which now adorns a wall at Mont LaSalle) or designing the Christian Brothers' Christmas Card, he was always involved.

He was the faculty moderator for the rugby team and was frequently seen playing rugby, football and basketball with students.

He also brought music concerts to Oliver Hall and was the Director of the Art Gallery.

His originality even got him in trouble, as once he was admonished for not wearing his black robe while teaching a class.

"He was 100% for his students and that was all that mattered to him," recalls Bro. DeSales Perez.

Perez continued, "Kyran lived in the dorms and was vital to the residence halls. He loved to cook and was always cooking for his students. Generally, he was a night person; he would organize a 1:00am basketball game, but beforehand he would quickly prepare a meal of mussel soup or mussels and onions



Bro. Roger Kyran.

Archives

and then rush over to the gym. They would come back and his mussel soup or mussels and onions would be done and he and

Please see KYRAN, page 6

Admission Standards Questioned

Enrolled students found unprepared for college

Brian McNutt
Staff Writer

How would you like it if your freshmen admission letter said, "Look, what you've done in the past isn't good enough. And if you think it is, think twice."

We're going to admit you, but we think you're going to have to work especially hard?" According to Psychology Professor Brent LaMon, some students that are admitted to St. Mary's need to be sent that message.

The academic quality of entering students is an issue that has many faculty members and administrators talking. Some instructors are blaming low admission standards for academically unprepared students, and are worried the College is not adequately supporting its students.

At the same time, some administrators say admission standards are right where they should be, and warn against becoming too selective.

LaMon said, "In some cases I see students who really aren't college material. But perhaps they could be if we supported them. For example, we could require them to take a study skills course."

Accounting Chair Suneel Upda said that he has found a bimodal curve at SMC: a large number of very bright students, a large number of poor students, and only a few average students in the middle.

Upda explained that professors expect a normal curve: a large number of average students and a small numbers of very bright and very poor students. With a normal curve, the professor can teach to the middle, "while offering teasers to the very bright students to keep them engaged, as well as bringing along those students falling behind," Upda said. But with a bimodal curve, Upda asked, "Who do you cater to,

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Op / Ed

The Collegian welcomes submissions. They must be typewritten with name, major, job title or relation to St. Mary's College. No anonymous submissions will be accepted. Please include a name and a phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 400 words.

Send all submissions to:
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 or Drop off at the 2nd Floor Ferroggiaro

THE COLLEGIAN VIEW

Campus Responsibility

Responsibility...a word that is often met with a roll of the eyes, a soft groan, and a muttered complaint. Yet we take on this hated word with little thought to the consequences.

If pressed we could muster some semblance of a definition of the word. We might even go so far as to look it up in the nearest dictionary. According to Webster's dictionary, responsibility is the state, fact or quality of being responsible. According to the same guide, to be responsible is to be accountable, reliable and dependable.

This is the definition of this elusive word...but does it hold any true meaning for us?

It seems that education for some breeds responsibility, but for others it seems to suck us dry. Often, as students, we see ourselves accountable for no one but ourselves. Every obligation, every "responsibility" we commit ourselves to is easily replaced by our own personal needs—be them our studies, our social lives or even our families. All these things, that at one time we promised to put on a pedestal, have taken a step down for something else.

It is not our intention to accuse or scold anyone for this because all of us have done it at some point in our lives. And it is so easy to do. With barely a thought we set things we have deemed "important" aside and move on to that which seems to be "more" important.

In our dust, however, we often leave stragglers, our peers who have worked hard to see things through, and who often get caught holding an empty bag.

St. Mary's teaches us to rely on the community, to depend on those around us to support us in our endeavors. Yet we have all fallen victim to the "responsible" and in turn have become the responsible who are to blame.

Examples of this can be seen throughout our community. This year above all others seems to be a year where we, as students, are unable to stay loyal to the commitments we have made. In the ASSMC Senate both the Junior Class and the Senior Class have experienced problems with holding on to their members. Even the Collegian has experienced an uncommonly frequent turnover of staff.

No one is to blame. There seems to be no fault, but as each faction of the campus struggles to function without the assistance of those who "committed," the job at hand gets more difficult.

Responsibility...it's not a word to be taken lightly, for when we take it on, we accept the obligations and dependence that comes with it. Most often these "obligations" take the shape of people, and when we relinquish our responsibilities prematurely, it is those people who suffer.

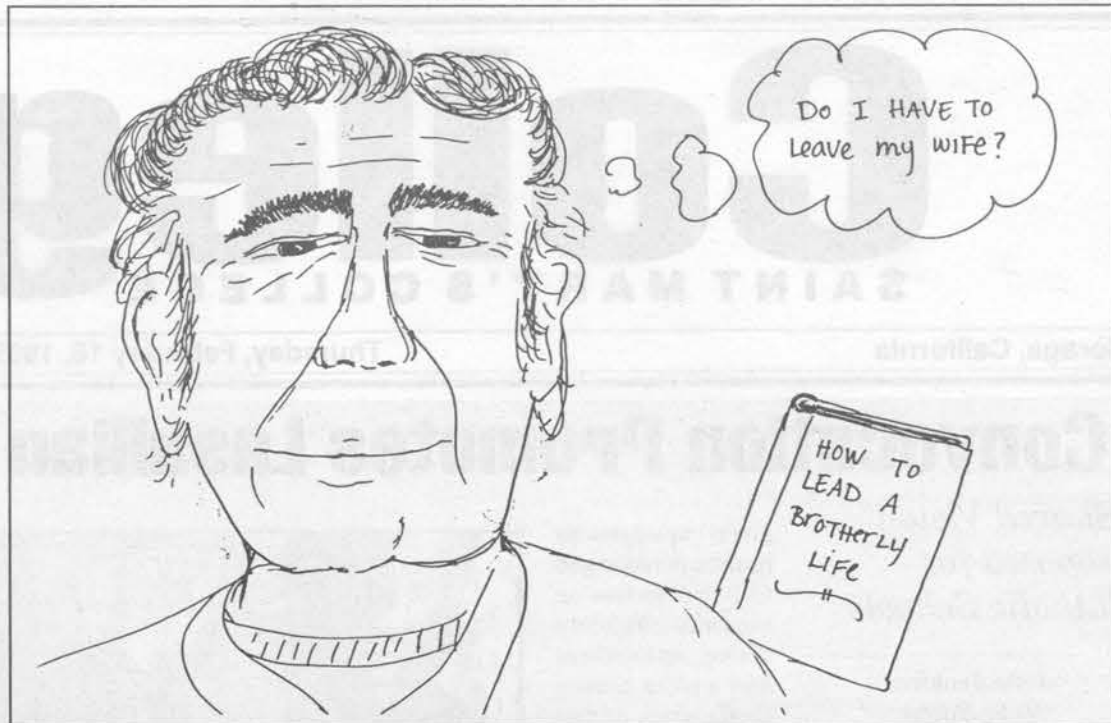
Editorial Corrections

• Last weeks front page article "St. Mary's loses Football Star Alum" contained a misspelling. Wedemeyer should have been Wedemyer.

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Ben Frankel and his thoughts on becoming an "Honorary" Brother.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Open Letter to the St. Mary's Community

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:
 How many grammar, spelling and punctuation errors would you expect in a five page term paper written by upper division St. Mary's students? What proportion of students would you expect to be able to undertake a standard compare-and-contrast essay?

In my January term class of 20 students, the mean number of mechanical errors was 24 per paper. Only two students had fewer than one error per page. One student had 56 errors, another 51, another 49, another 48.

As for content, half the students were unable to execute an essay comparing and contrasting the writings of several authors we encountered last month.

You might wonder: Did I count every misplaced comma? No, I counted errors conservatively, only tallying the first example of a repeated mistake, such as a failure to italicize or underline a book title. In fact, I kept a separate tally, for logical and factual errors, such as misspelled authors' names; these averaged an additional five per paper.

Were many of these students non-English speakers? Not one. Were they all math or science wizards who may not need skill with English? No, they represented 15 departments and programs. Did I explain how to write a compare-and-contrast paper? Yup! In fact, I gave explicit written instructions from outline to final draft. Did I emphasize the importance of grammar and spelling? Yes, I put it in writing. In fact, I warned students on earlier papers and deducted a few points.

What kind of errors are we talking about? Mostly simple ones: missing words, similar-sounding but inappropriate words, lack of subject-verb or pronoun-antecedent agreement, misspellings, lack of possessive case, use of effect instead of affect, it's rather than its, there for their, and many run-on sentences and fragments.

Do you think, by sheer chance, 20 of our least able writers selected the same class? No such luck. The students in my January Term class differed little from other students I've taught in my four years at St. Mary's. In fact, last spring I taught a senior thesis class. For all of my students it was their final class before graduation. Fully half had serious grammar and spelling problems. Slightly more than half also

exhibited problems of logic, such as contradicting themselves, or misrepresenting prior research or their own data.

What should we conclude from this evidence?

Certainly some of our students graduate from high school ill-prepared. But we've had them now for several years. Are they stupid? I've yet to meet one I thought dumb. Are my standards too high? Could be. But at least in competitive markets for jobs, students who think clearly and express themselves well enjoy a significant advantage.

Let me be the first to confess being part of what I think is wrong. I think in our laudable efforts to become close to students and relate to them as whole persons, we've also gradually lowered our expectations and relaxed our standards of criticism. This is hardly unique to St. Mary's. But here we're particularly encouraged to consider ourselves "co-learners" with our students and adopt semi-collegial relationships. As a result, we may find it awkward to evaluate them objectively.

Please pardon me if I now step on more toes. I think St. Mary's presses US to treat our students like customers at an expensive store. The administration doesn't want anyone becoming unhappy enough to leave before completing the purchase. Again, SMC is far from alone in this.

What's wrong with treating a student like a customer? Some, perhaps many, of our students are seeking the highest grade for the least effort, at least some of the time. We can make these customers happy, but only at the expense of their potential. If we try to placate the uninterested by lowering our expectations, we also shortchange more motivated students. In fairness, we can't have one grading standard for those who have little interest in the course and a tougher one for more serious students. Everyone's education is adulterated.

Now that I'm in this deep, allow me one further observation. All things considered, I think lowering our expectations and standards reduces stress and requires less effort than holding firm. Although it takes lots of precious time to become close to our students, a friendly relationship is more enjoyable than a more distant and critical one. Who needs the grief of a student angry with a grade? Isn't it easier to write "good" in a margin than figure out and explain how it could be better? Who can't grade a stack of papers more quickly when considering only a few categories—say from A to C+—rather than A to F? Finally, the less we assign, the less we have to prepare and to

grade. There are also enormous institutional pressures; who among the junior faculty can risk lower student evaluations? All of this encourages a deal with students: We'll go easy on you; you go easy on us.

Surely counter-arguments exist. Positive strokes are more effective than negative. Further, students enjoying close relationships with teachers may be more motivated to please them. But the bottom line remains. We simply aren't getting the results our students and St. Mary's College deserve. (If you think my observations of our students' accomplishments are unique, listen in at virtually any faculty meeting on campus.)

Many of you know that I'm serving out the terminal year of my contract. Some may dismiss my concerns as sour grapes from a misfit. For the sake of our students, however, I hope you look twice and ask why.

We have the resources—a wonderful faculty and class sizes small enough to make a profound difference in our students' lives. Such a change won't be easy. But our expectations of students and our standards for their thinking and expression are at the very heart of our vocation as educators, and their potential as citizens.

Sincerely,
 John H. McManus
 Communication Department

Graduation Speaker Letter

Dear Member of the St. Mary's College Community,

In December, the Class of 1999 Officers of the Associated Students of St. Mary's College Senior Senate and Brother Craig met to discuss candidates for the "Keynote Address" for our May 22, 1999 Commencement Exercises. The list was impressive and the dialogue was lively. The class officers researched and proposed the names of several individuals whom they believed could meaningfully address all graduates of the Class of 1999. They sought a person who appreciated, understood and represented the core values and mission of the College. In addition, they searched for an individual who could serve as a role model and who could pose challenges for them as they move toward the future.

We are delighted to tell you that the students selected Elizabeth Larson. A native of Marin County, she recently returned to the area from New York City where, from 1989-1997, she was the Managing Director of Soros Fund Management in charge of equity trading activities world wide. Her association with St. Mary's began when her son, John, enrolled as a fresh-

Hip-Hop's Future Unstoppable

Walker Lewis
Op/Ed Editor

In 1971, Kool Herc was the first deejay to mix break-beat instrumental music seamlessly over two turntables and rhyme over the break. Surprisingly enough, although the technique and technology have improved over the decades, the general concept of rapping over a beat has remained the same. So with Kool Herc's first block parties, hip-hop culture and rap music was born.

As rap music slowly evolved from the block party arena to a commercial tape, CD, and record format, it became the beat of the inner-city and the voice of a new urbanized generation. Throughout the eighties, the culture grew almost in spite of itself. Ironically, the rebellious messages contained in the rhymes, caught the attention of a public ready to listen. Regardless of whether people wanted to agree or not with the young hip-hop culture, everyone took notice on subjects like freedom of speech and self-expression.

By the end of the eighties, the voice of rap had reached what many call its golden age. At this time, groups like RUN-DMC, Public Enemy, and KRS-ONE were receiving praise from critics who had earlier labeled rap music as a fad. For the first time, rap music moved out of the city and received attention from urban and suburban fans. All of a sudden, the previously so-called isolated sound of the inner-city was accessible to all sorts of curious Americans.

As of the early nineties, rappers like Dr. Dre, Nas, and Tupac brought rap

music to the mainstream. Radio and television began playing rap music in heavy rotation and regarded it as its own unique genre. By the mid-nineties rap had established a commercial legitimacy that was surprising to many. In actuality, the commercial success of rap shouldn't have come as such a surprise. Rap's success is due in part to the hunger and ambition of its community. But it wasn't until the late nineties that rap planted its flag on top of the billboard record charts and could claim the voice of a generation.

Rap music has caused quite a ruckus over the past few years, and in 1998, the ruckus sold more albums than the previously best selling formats of popular music. Flashy rock stars from years past have been replaced with the likes of Jay-Z, Master P, and the Wu Tang Clan. All of a sudden, kids are buying turntables instead of guitars, and the computer literate generation is learning how to make music with samplers and drum machines.

Hip-hop is accessible because it demands that people to "keep it real" and stay true to themselves. With that kind of attitude, there's no telling how far hip-hop and rap music will go.

Walker Lewis is a Philosophy Major graduating in 2000.

Rock and Roll Forever

Chris Ursini
Staff Writer

During the 1990's, rock and roll has seen its share of downfalls. With the virtual break of bands such as Soundgarden, Stone Temple Pilots, Alice in Chains, and Guns n Roses, and other bands like Metallica and Pearl Jam toning down their acts, people are beginning to wonder about the place of rock and roll. Moreover, with the cover of

Time magazine being graced by the likes of Lauren Hill and a new poll out revealing that rock and roll albums were third in sales (falling behind rap and country) many are starting to wonder if rock

and roll is dead. You've heard it here first - rock and roll is not dead! In fact it will never die. As long as guitars and drums exist, rock won't die. Rock and roll is alive all around us. It is alive in the kid who strums his air guitar to Eric Clapton's "Layla", and it is alive in the three guys that decide that they are going to change the world by forming a band.

While sales in rock music have only increased by 6% compared to last year's increase in rap of 31%, they have still increased and that proves the fact that rock is not dead. One reason for the "slow" rise in rock sales, is the growing

"used" album industry. While many take advantage of buying albums at discount prices, it harms the artist in two ways: the artists don't get any royalties, and the sales don't count on the billboard charts. So if one person buys an album and then sells it back, and another person buys it, the artist receives credit for only one sale. This affects the rock industry more than any other industry, because more rock albums exist than any other, which is abundantly clear in the population of rock albums that dominate the shelves of any given music store.

Furthermore, rock and roll is just as big as it always was. While many people argue that Metallica has sold out to a more popular, radio-friendly format, the fact still remains every album they put out goes platinum. When on tour, they sell out arenas left and right, just like Led Zepplin did in the 70's. One would be hard pressed to find many rap or R&B acts that could accomplish that feat.

Rock music has also seen some reunions. Pink Floyd is on tour again. Stone Temple Pilots are slated to release an album this year, and while Soundgarden remains broken up, their songwriter Chris Cornell has embarked on a promising solo career with an album coming soon. These reunions and upcoming albums are good for rock and roll music, and they show that rock and roll will never die. That's why Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, and the Doors still sell albums twenty years later. "Rock and Roll forever."

Chris Ursini is an Engineering Major graduating in 2000.

Will Rap Replace Rock and Roll?

ting my lack of belief in organized religion, views on censorship, and my strong convictions in favor of family planning aside, I find this decision not to carry condoms extremely backward-thinking and irresponsible. Condoms, after all, are not simply birth control devices; they help prevent sexually-transmitted diseases. Since when was the prevention of AIDS an anti-Catholic sentiment?

Also, in response to Father Ragusa's statement that "there are plenty of stores that provide it (birth control) in the area, the nearby shopping centers are not particularly accessible to students without cars, and the closest Planned Parenthood is in Walnut Creek.

If the administration is furthermore so concerned about adhering to Catholic doctrines, why are gay and lesbian students even allowed to attend? Why are books that question Christianity even permitted to be sold in the textbook section of the store? And for that matter, why are we not just all given a catechism entrance exam to determine our moral fitness before being accepted into this school?

Kristina Goodnight
Master of Fine Arts student
in Playwriting, 1999

Volunteers Deserve Thanks

Dear Editor:

I would like to report that the spirit of service is alive and well at St. Mary's College, thanks to 10 gracious and thoughtful SMC students. I would like to acknowledge and publicly thank Qiana, Thuy, Sarah, Laura, Heather, Bob, Dave, Tony, Chris and Tim for their efforts in moving my deaf and disabled brother and sister-in-law into their new home.

After seeing my plea for help only one day before, on Saturday, January 16, these ten cheerful, considerate and extremely helpful students freely volunteered to help us make the move. My last-minute request had been posted just a few hours before my phone began to

ring with their positive response. We could not have made the move without them much less in three and a half hours. Better yet, they did not realize our connection with the college until they arrived for work.

Many thanks for your efforts. To the ten students: I hope the rest of the community will appreciate all your efforts. We certainly do!!!

Margy Hansell
faculty wife

Bro. Jack Addresses the Community

Dear Editor,

SMC students and fellow learners, "Welcome Back" to SMC! I trust your Jan Term course was enriching and your Jan Term break was refreshing. This spring semester will be exciting! You'll have innumerable opportunities for continued growth and development, learning and enrichment, insight and enjoyment inside the classroom and all around the campus. All of us Brothers, administrators, staff and faculty are eager to welcome you back to campus for the adventure that lies before you. As students and fellow learners, you and your well-being are the reasons we do what we do! We're so very proud of you and humbled to be engaged with you in this learning adventure.

This semester, together with God's help and the cooperation of all of us, we'll see more progress with campus improvements designed to enrich your life. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of this semester's anticipated improvements and upcoming activities.

Keeping Up With The News (Internet, Hardcopy and In-Person!) For updated information, check your Student Events Calendar on our College web site (from the SMC home page, click "Student Life", then "Student Government") or go directly to www.stmarys-ca.edu/stugov.html. Also, you'll find reading e-connections (posted in the glass-cased

bulletin board on the arcade to the south of Oliver Hall) and going to the ASSMC Senate Meetings to be helpful.

Poplar Grove Landscaping and the Capital Campaign (Feb 24 @ 4:00pm, Soda Center). How will the new Poplar Grove and the J. C. Gatehouse Science Center will be landscaped for your enjoyment? What's the College's Capital Campaign mean to you as a student? Come to the Student Town Hall Meeting (Feb 24 @ 4:00pm, Soda Center) to discuss these matters.

New Student Affairs Educators at SMC. We now have a Health and Wellness Educator, Miriam Eisenhardt (x4776) working with Student Recreation and Wellness and a Women's Resource Center Coordinator, Dr. Roseanne Quinn (x4096) working with Student Development and Leadership. Got a question? Want to help out? Got a suggestion? Give a call! Look for new and engaging events and activities soon.

Barnes and Noble and the Post Office (New Locations this March!). Hopefully by early next month, most of Phase One of the new Bebe Cassin Student Union will be ready for your use. You'll have an incredible new Barnes and Noble Bookstore and Post Office up by the LeFevre Theatre. Soon thereafter, construction starts on the old bookstore and post office to transform these spaces into a retail food area, coffee shop, and game room. These should be ready for your use after the summer. You're new Student Union is coming along!

Cultural Diversity and Interpersonal Communication (Each Tuesday from 4:30-6:00pm). An opportunity to talk about experiences of diversity and communication in a confidential and safe environment. Call Eve @ 510-466-5024 or Cathy @ x4364 for more information. Free!

Residence Life (Resident Advisors, Lottery and New Townhouses). The interview process for next year's RAs begins soon. It's a great opportunity to learn, serve, and exercise leadership skills (compensation includes

free room, board and much more!). The Lottery for next year's on-campus housing assignments begins soon. The RAs have more detailed information or call x4236. Construction has begun for the Edward S. Ageno East Townhouse (near Ageno C). It's expected to be available for next September.

Have a Student Concern? Come and drop by for a conversation with me, Brother Jack. Call x4235 for information. As you know, St. Mary's College is such a wonderful place for intellectual enrichment and life development! It is you, the students of SMC, the GAELS, that make this such a tremendous place! When we are creative, open and honest in our engagement of one another, we foster the best in all of us. Let us pledge to continue to lift up each other! I wish you a most successful and enriching semester. It is an honor, privilege and blessing to accompany you on this journey. Let us always remember that we are in the Holy Presence of Our Loving God,

Brother Jack Curran, FSC, PhD
Vice President for Student Affairs

Wedemyer Mistake

Dear Editor:

There is a serious omission in your front page article of January 28, 1999 regarding the death of star alum Herman Wedemyer. The article failed to mention Mr. Wedemyer's oldest son as a survivor. "Weedy" Wedemyer is my uncle and the son of the famed Wedemyer senior. He and his wife, Carole have three children. Yuki and Kuni are Mr. Wedemyer's granddaughters and Keli is his grandson. Yuki recently married and lives in Portland. Weedy and Carole along with their two youngest live in San Jose, California.

Thank you for an otherwise excellent article regarding my uncle's father.

Greg Schmitz, Principal,
Justin-Siena High School
Napa, California

LETTERS CONTINUED...

man, eventually graduating from St. Mary's in 1986. Ms. Larson, a gifted and giving individual, has called many to serve as the result of her leadership on the Board of Directors of the New York Ronald McDonald House, The Family Academy in Harlem, New York, and The Omega Boys Club, as Co-Chairman of the Wall Street Committee for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and a member of the Advisory Board for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, as Trustee of the Public Theater in New York City, and in starting a foundation that will concentrate on education and children's issues. A member of our Board of Regents since 1996, she accepted a seat as Trustee of St. Mary's College on July 1, 1998.

As the parent of a St. Mary's graduate, former Regent, and current Trustee, Ms. Larson knows very well that our reputation for excellence is rooted in our traditions as a Catholic, Lasallian, liberal arts institution. Most importantly, as a person who has called others to service, she understands how these traditions challenge each of us to develop a respect for the goodness and dignity of each individual in our community - a community that values diversity of perspective, background and culture.

On behalf of the Class of 1999, we are pleased to share this announcement with you and applaud the efforts of the officers of the class to make our 136th Commencement Exercises a memorable day in the future of St. Mary's College of California.

Bro. Craig J. Franz, FSC, Ph.D.,
President; Aubree Swart,
President, Class of 1999

Condom Outrage!

Dear Editor,

To say I was outraged when I read about the removal of condoms and several books from our privately-owned bookstore would be a major understatement. Even put-

Weekly World Report



"The news you need to know from around the world"

President Clinton Acquitted

On Friday Feb. 12, President Clinton was acquitted on both counts on perjury and obstruction of justice in the senate trial. After the trial, Clinton apologized the American public, "I want to say again to the American people how profoundly sorry I am for what I said and did to trigger these events and the great burden they have imposed on the Congress and the American people."

Clinton Starts Mexico Summit

President Clinton began a summit in Mexico Sunday to encourage its struggle against narcotics and government corruption and increase its markets for U.S. products. Clinton brought Mexico's President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce León a two-year two billion dollar line of credit to provide loans to Mexican businesses that buy American goods and services. It represents an increase of about \$400 million annually over a similar \$1.6 billion line of credit last year. The visit comes two weeks before a formal evaluation of Mexico's cooperation in fighting drug trafficking.

Earthquake Hits Afghanistan

Thousands of Afghanistan families are without shelter in the cold after an earthquake last Thursday that took the lives of at least 60 people. International relief efforts are postponed by the lack of foreign staff for UN agencies, who were pulled out of the country last year because of fears for their safety. The quake measured 5.5 on the Richter scale.

New King Takes Power

King Abdullah of Jordan asked the country's 23 member Cabinet to stay Sunday, going against tradition that the Cabinet should resign when a new king takes power. Adbullah assumed the throne last week after the death of his father, King Husein, who ruled Jordan for the 46 years. Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and his Cabinet had been expected to resign.

Tiger Woods Victorious

Tiger Woods was victorious over Billy Ray Brown in the Buick Invitational after a nine month losing streak. Woods won by two shots when he sank a 15 foot putt on the 18th hole at Torrey Pines South in San Diego on Sunday.

-AMS

Beyond Forty Hours a Week

Professor honored for his dedication to St. Mary's

Jennifer Parker
Staff Writer

If one knew Ben Frankel before he taught at St. Mary's, over fifty years ago, he probably would not have believed that he was to one day be named an honorary Christian Brother.

Frankel, himself, did not envision that teaching would play a role in his professional future, nor had he ever heard of the Brothers.

Ben Frankel, a New York native, explored his varied interests through several different career paths. He worked as a journalist for the New York Times and the Brooklyn Daily, developed his singing ability with the assistance of a music scholarship, and was also employed as an actor and an engineer.

However, no matter what road Frankel chose, more often than not, it led him toward teaching. He attributes this to divine providence, rather than chance. While Ben served in combat during WW2, he also taught English to illiterate soldiers and European refugees.

Today, this beloved St. Mary's professor concedes, "At this point, I can't think of any other career I'd rather have had. It didn't feel like fifty years; I was never counting."

Although he is best known at St. Mary's as a History professor, Frankel, who is the recipient of an honorary doctorate degree, has also taught Spanish, Jan term and Collegiate Seminar, coached a debate

team, sung in the choir, and acted in theater productions.

After retiring from the History department last year, Frankel has been responsible for two Seminar courses. Of his current role, Ben joked, "I feel guilty reading the Great Books and getting paid for it."

Besides his dedication to students in and out of the classroom, Frankel is committed to service

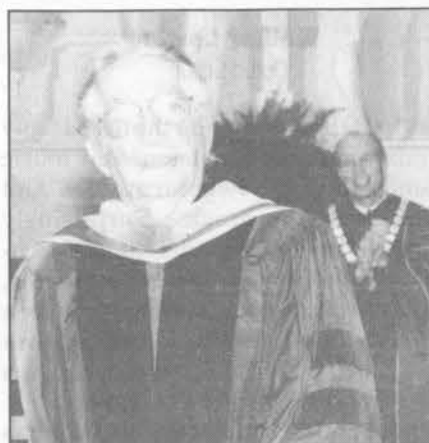
in a broader sense. He has been a part of many volunteer outreaches, several of which have taken Frankel to Latin America, his area of historical expertise.

Although he was offered permanent positions by other institutions, Frankel could not be persuaded to leave Moraga's hills. Frankel declared that St. Mary's fosters "relationships between instructors and students that you can't beat." He explained his appreciation for the lack of bureaucracy in the classroom, for the freedom that professors are given to "do what [they] need to do [to be most effective] in class; the only criteria being academic excellence."

Frankel is pleased and honored to be a formally affiliated member of the Christian Brothers' order. He greatly admires the fact that, above all else, "their loyalty is to God."

In addition to former President Bro. Mel Anderson, FSC, several of the brothers who are currently on campus were, at one time, Frankel's students.

Frankel finds it gratifying to witness firsthand their dedication to and contributions toward



Professor Ben Frankel at Convocation.

our St. Mary's community. A more recent student, Sophomore George Malachowski, attested that Frankel "really cares about his students and the work they do."

As an honorary Christian Brother, Frankel has made a lifelong commitment to be an active part of the order and its work. However, he does not take the traditional vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Frankel assured that whether his future holds more classroom time or a mission trip abroad, he "[doesn't] want to break ties with the College."

"If you were given a stipend of half a million dollars a year, how would you live your life?" That is the question that Frankel often poses to his advisees who come seeking career direction.

He believes that students should retain their idealism because "doing something for yourself and society" is superior to simply working for a living. Frankel praises the Collegiate Seminar program for "reminding students that there is a way of life beyond the forty-hour work week."

University Identities Questioned

"Ex Corde Ecclesiae" raises problems of autonomy and academic freedom

By Fawn Sutherland
Editor-in-Chief

Catholic Institutions of higher learning have recently been brought under the microscope for close examination of the founding beliefs these educational facilities proclaim to uphold.

Beginning with the 1990 papal document *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* (From the Heart of the Church) Catholic colleges and universities have been asked to define themselves using the mission, role and guidelines the *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* sets forth.

St. Mary's, as a Catholic institution of higher learning, will also be responsible for ensuring its Catholicity, as was revealed by Superior General of the Brothers of Christian Schools Bro. John Johnston, FSC during his visit earlier this week.

In his address to the St. Mary's community, Johnston expressed the difficulties detailed in the *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.

"Although finding a way to implement in the United States society come of the norms proposed in the papal document *Ex*

Corde Ecclesiae is not an easy task, the document has helped to bring the question of identity "out of the closet" and is serving as a catalyst for very pertinent and productive reflections."

Johnston went on to explain the extent as to which the Catholicity at Catholic institutions of higher learning should entail.

"Catholic identity involves more than courses in theology and religious education, more also than campus ministry, prayer, worship, and community service. The Catholic dimension must permeate and shape every aspect of the life of the school: tone, atmosphere, spirit, signs, symbols, relationships, curriculum, requirements, research, policies, regulations, hiring, government... When board members, administrators, teachers, staff, personnel, students, parents, former students, and benefactors take Catholic identity seriously, the know, understand, accept, and internalize the mission statement of their institutions. Of course many members of Lasallian institutions are not Catholic and are often not Christian. Nevertheless, we expect everyone to accept the Catholic philosophy of our institutions and, at the very least, refrain from being obstacles to its implementation."

Although the *Ex Corde*

Ecclesiae was created almost 10 years ago, the dialog on the document continues today. In November 1998, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops met and drafted a document intended to apply to the 1990 apostolic constitution.

If accepted, the document will require university presidents to pledge their loyalty to the church and for schools to recruit loyal Catholic followers to their faculties. One of the strongest points of controversy, however, is the document's support of Canon 812 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law.

Canon 812 requires that "teachers of theological disciplines in any institute of higher studies have a mandate from the competent ecclesiastical authority." Canon 812 attempts to safeguard the orthodoxy of church teaching within colleges and universities by requiring theology professors to be "approved" by the local bishops.

For many the biggest issues that remain are the document's failure to safeguard the autonomy and academic freedom of U.S. Catholic colleges and universities.

The document will be made available to the 230 U.S. Catholic Colleges and Universities for comment on by May 1999. A final vote is expected to take place in November 1999.

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THE NEWS

ENROLL: St. Mary's accepts students with inferior qualifications

Continued from page 1

poor students or good students?"

"It's actually a disaster," he continued. Professors usually tend to teach to the poorer students. "It's progressively going to erode the standards at St. Mary's College. Eventually good students will find that they don't have a place here," Upda said.

Religious Studies Professor Lynn Stott said, "In each class I have three or four very good students who could be at any school in the country and do fine. But in each class I also have seven or eight very poor students. I have to give extra assignments just to pull them up to a 'D'."

Stott continued, "I think some of these students weren't ready for college. If they're going to admit these students, they should implement a much broader infrastructure of support services."

LaMon added, "If we are going to admit [mediocre students] and we want to give them a chance, we can do more for them if we identify them during the admission process rather than having admissions simply admit them and then we find out the hard way that they're not really ready."

Former Registrar Barbara Lakin wrote a memo to the Chair of a Faculty Admissions Committee (CUAFA) Professor Jack Cassidy, in which she gave a synopsis of comments from faculty members.

A few comments were, "Students are unprepared for the academic rigors of the classroom... The [unprepared] student detracts from the faculty's ability to deliver quality education because of the time and energy needed to 'bring along' the unprepared student... The high (or even moderate) achieving student is not challenged by a 'dumbed down' course."

LaMon explained how a course becomes 'dumbed' down. "If you find that half the students in your class really can't do it, for instance, if you give a test and they miss three quarters of the problems, [you have a dilemma.] You don't want to fail half the students. On the other hand, every department has curriculum which we feel students have to master. If the students aren't mastering what we want them to master, how do we get them there? One alternative is to make it easier."

Well-prepared students are also affected. "We need to address the fact that there are great differences in our students' abilities and we want to get them all through," LaMon said.

"So I think it's more a matter of, are the best students really

being challenged if you have to get the weakest students through the course?"

An alternative to dumbing down a course is to create remedial courses to prepare students for college-level work. English Professor John Flemming said that students who are not prepared to take English 4, "Composition", can take the relatively new English 3 course, "Practice in Writing."

The Mathematics Department also has a new remedial course sequence, Math 13, 14, "Calculus with Elementary Functions." Mathematics Chair Jane Sangwine-Yager said the course is essentially pre-calculus.

Also, Chemistry Chair Steve Bachofer said that the Chemistry Department is looking into the possibility of a "pre-chem." course. This is in response to a one-third drop out rate in Chem. 8, "General Chemistry."

According to Director of Composition David DeRose, another resource students can use for help is the writing center. Students can drop in any time during its operational hours for group or individual assistance.

Additionally, math tutors are available by appointment.

In response to unprepared students, faculty and staff have also questioned the College's admission standards.

Former Assistant Registrar Nan McCool conducted a study to determine if there was a correlation between verbal SAT scores and composition grades. According to memos she sent to Lakin, many of the scores she came across were surprisingly low.

She wrote, "I noticed several of these low scoring students also had probation letters in their folders. If our concern is really student success and retention, I wonder if we are serving our students well by apparently disregarding low test scores in our admission practices."

Director of Admissions Dorothy Benjamin defended her department. "We are not going to admit students who we don't think are going to be successful students. That would defeat the whole point of admitting students who are prepared for college level work. That would be a disservice."

But according to Cassidy, CUAFA found that the Admissions Office was not consistent with its admissions criteria. "Far too much freedom is given to Admissions staff to weight different factors based upon subjective opinions concerning school quality, counselor references, performance in specific courses, etc.... As the applica-

tion period continues, standards are lowered as necessary to reach enrollment targets," he said.

LaMon, also a member of CUAFA before it was disbanded at the end of last year, said, "Right now it is simply the judgment of the Admissions officer. As time goes along, they go further into the pool of applicants."

So, according to LaMon, at the beginning of the admissions period standards are high, but as time goes by more students with inferior qualifications are accepted.

A source in the Registrar's Office said that she has seen entry qualifications of students that were similar to High Potential (HP) students, who are economically disadvantaged students accepted based on criteria other than standardized tests and high school grade point average.

But these students were not given the benefits HP students are given. She said, "We admit these students and we don't tell them they are coming in handicapped. We don't tell them that they are not prepared."

Some professors think the school is not selective enough. According to the Office of Institutional Research, a division of the College that compiles statistical data, St. Mary's admitted 83 percent of the freshmen who applied in 1998. According to the "U.S. News and World Report 1997 Annual College Guide," U.C. Berkeley accepted 39 percent of its students in 1997.

The report showed that acceptance rates of colleges and universities across the country range all over, from below 15 percent at the top schools in the country, to over 90 percent. Other schools in the high 70 to mid 80 percent are San Diego State, the University of San Francisco, and Santa Clara University.

"I can't imagine a college can be called selective if you accept 80 percent of those who apply," Upda said.

But according to Vice President for Enrollment Services Michael Beseda, the problem with becoming more selective is that the Christian Brothers' tradition "is about providing high quality educational opportunities to people who otherwise wouldn't have that opportunity. We don't want to be a Stanford University where we admit the intellectual elite. We want to be the kind of place that takes some very bright students, some good students, and some mediocre students that show potential."

"The Lasallian tradition is about admitting the poor, not the stupid," replied a professor.

SMC CRIME BEAT**Jan. 31- Dog Theft**

A student called the Moraga PD about the theft of a dog. The student said his life was threatened by the owner of the dog, but did not want to file a criminal report at this time. MPD said there was nothing they could do but told the student to notify Public Safety of any subjects or vehicles that may come on campus and report to the MPD if necessary.
MPD

Feb 15- Bikes Found

St. Mary's PS dropped off two bikes that were located on campus. The owners could not be found. Both bikes are in the storage area at MPD.
MPD

Due to a change in policy the Public Safety log was unavailable.

Bermuda Summer**St. Mary's Offers Summer Field-School**

George Malachowski
News Layout Editor

This summer St. Mary's will offer a Field School in Maritime Archaeology.

This four week course involves surveying, excavating and documenting shipwrecks from the 16th, 17th, and 18th century off the coast of Bermuda.

The class will involve four different aspects which students will rotate between. Students will dive down to ships and collect artifacts, analyze artifacts in the laboratory, map sunken ships, locate wrecks with sonar work, and research in the Bermuda Maritime Museum's archives.

There are eight openings for the class with priority going first to St. Mary's anthropology majors, then other students, and finally people from the community. James Allan who is teaching the class calls it, "A great opportunity, one that St. Mary's is hoping to offer every year now. Of course they would be in different places each year."

The Field School is a cooperative effort between St. Mary's, University of Rhode Island, and East Carolina University.

There will be eight undergraduate students from URI and four graduate students from ECU with the St. Mary's group.

The course is an upper division anthropology class worth one credit at St. Mary's and fulfills the field work requirement for Anthropology majors and minors with the archaeology focus.

The field school will operate through the Bermuda Maritime Museum where they will live and do lab work.

To take this class one must be a certified scuba diver and certified by the American Academy of Underwater Science (AAUS). St. Mary's will start a scuba certification class February 17. The \$400 class is open to students and the public.

Students who go to the Field School will complete the scuba certification process and then take a class to receive AAUS certification, which will be covered in the cost of the field school.

The estimated cost for the field school is from \$2,000-3,000. The class runs from the last week in May through the third week in June.

If you are interested in enrolling in this class contact James Allan in Garaventa 201 or at x4298 or x4368. A meeting is tentatively scheduled about this class February 28.

The new Women's Resource Center invites your participation in the following peer groups now forming for the spring. The initial meeting date is Tuesday, February 23, in Hagerty Lounge, at the times noted below. It will be up to the participants of each group to determine their own regular meeting day and time. If you cannot attend the first meeting, but want to be involved in one or more of the groups, please contact Dr. Roseanne Giannini Quinn, Women's Resource Coordinator, at x.4096.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 4 - 5 pm | Women's Resource and Action Committee (WRAC): This group is committed to providing education, safety, and support for women students throughout the St. Mary's community. |
| 5 - 6 pm | Understanding and Loving Our Bodies: A Body Image Discussion Group: This confidential peer group will explore issues of body image and self-esteem, foot habits, and body nurturing. |
| 6 - 7 pm | Women Of Color Alliance : Feeling isolated? This peer group will provide a supportive environment for cultural and social exchange, while creating an avenue of community on campus especially for women of color. |
| 7 - 8 pm | Lesbian and Bisexual Support Group: This confidential group welcomes women who are exploring their sexual identity amid potential coming out issues, as well as those women who already identify as lesbian or bisexual. |
| 8 - 9 pm | Graduate Women's Network: Stressed out? Share your experiences and concerns, across departments, about surviving in graduate school; receive thesis and social support and plan strategies for balancing your personal and grad. school life. |

Kyran: Renaissance man leaves legacy and lends his name to AV room

Continued from page 1

his students would eat. Kyran was always involved in student rallies and cheering sections. He was fully dedicated to getting the students to follow St. Mary's teams. He encouraged students to go to other schools and support the teams.

He would also take his students to the San Francisco Symphony. His parents owned a restaurant in San Francisco and he would regularly take his residents there. Caravans of students followed him to San Francisco."

Politics was another area Kyran dabbled in and he was highly involved in many decisions on St. Mary's campus. He helped with the aesthetic design of the school, especially the trees and shrubbery as well as Becket Hall. Perhaps Kyran took his biggest stand when St. Mary's was deciding whether or not to become coeducational. Kyran was against this change and even wrote a seven page letter defending his view entitled, "Apologia for Vita Who?"

In one response to the argument that women would improve the intellectual level and point of view of classes he replied, "I must admit that art classes would benefit from a feminine point of view. I think that we should also enroll old people and children, and, as many races and religions as possible too, because then we could have even more points of view and things would be better yet!"

He was also worried about St. Mary's traditions, writing "It is the faculty rather than the students who must provide the continuity of tradition at any institution. I have the increasing sense that recent growth of the faculty has

brought a serious erosion of any corporate aims. Discussion of matters such as the philosophy requirements centered much too often on 'how we did it' elsewhere and rarely if at all on whether there was a rationale or tradition at St. Mary's that was worth even considering, let alone respecting."

Kyran was a man of passion,



Kyran after a game.

for everything and anything. His friend Bro. C. Carl gave an insight into this man in an article in the Collegian after his death.

"I think of Bro. Kyran having 2:00am poetry sessions ... I think of him being angry since his floor was rioting one night and it turns out he was spending that night painting Icons for a Russian Liturgy the next day...I think of Bro. Kyran in Bermuda shorts when those were not the things for Brothers to wear ... "

Professor Ron Isetti remembers Kyran as a good athlete, "he was tall and lithe. Not only that, he was a renaissance man."

Kyran was born in San Francisco, bearing the name Earnest Joseph Aviani on July 6, 1928. His father was a Yugoslavian immigrant and his mother was a native of Califor-

nia. He attended St. Anne's Catholic Elementary School and Abraham Lincoln High School in San Francisco. He then attended San Francisco Junior College.

After two years at the junior college, Kyran decided to join the Order of Christian Brothers in 1948 and went to Mont La Salle. One year later he took the vows of the Order and changed his name from Earnest Aviani to Roger Kyran.

Kyran then came to St. Mary's to complete his degree, majoring in Art and minoring in Education.

After he received his BA from St. Mary's, Kyran returned to Mont La Salle and began his graduate work at UC Berkeley.

Kyran was offered a position at St. Mary's as an Assistant Professor of Art after a year of graduate work. He accepted the position and put off his graduate studies.

Besides all his involvement at St. Mary's, Kyran finished his Masters in Art at UC Berkeley and continued his education at Notre Dame, where he received his Master of Fine Arts. He still wanted to further his knowledge and studied at Oxford and Harvard. He was even accepted to Stanford for doctoral work.

Kyran's stay at St. Mary's was cut unexpectedly and tragically short on May 16, 1968. As he was returning to St. Mary's after dropping a friend off at his home, Kyran was hit and killed by a drunk driver who was driving on the wrong side of the road on Highway 101 in Marin County.

Bro. Roger Kyran died at the age of 39 leaving an indelible mark on St. Mary's College, its students, its faculty, and one of its buildings.

ADDRESS: Bro. John speaks at Convocation

Continued from page 1

be unambiguously Catholic... A Lasallian school- whatever its nature or level- is essentially a Catholic school... Catholic identity involves more than courses in theology and religious education, more also than campus ministry, prayer, worship, and community service. The Catholic dimension must permeate and shape every aspect of the life of the school."

Johnston commended St. Mary's Mission Statement "to be an outstanding Catholic institution of higher education... in seeking to meet its goals the College draws strength from three great traditions-Catholic, Liberal Arts, and Lasallian... The College seeks to maintain its Roman Catholic character striving to create an environment where Christian concerns occupy a central place in learning and community life and where questions of faith and practice inform all aspects of the educational process... In sustaining its Lasallian heritage, the College affirms both the Word and the World."

Second, "Structures and formation programs must be in place to assure the future of our institutions as Catholic in the Lasallian tradition."

Third, "our colleges must respond effectively to young people today as they search for meaning and community."

Fourth, "our schools must manifest and foster solidarity with the poor and the quest for justice and peace."

Johnston concluded with Father Kolvenbach's remark to the participants of the Jesuit bicentennial celebration: "The talent and dedication as-

sembled in this room is potentially a massive resource for building the Kingdom of God on earth ... You are in a position to form the minds and hearts of people who will mold the beginning of the Millennium.

On behalf of St. Mary's College President Bro. Craig Franz, FSC, PhD., presented Johnston with a statue of St. John Baptist De La Salle.

Bro. Charles Hilken, FSC, PhD. read the Citation for the Affiliation. "On this day, the Brothers of the Christian Schools salute you, Professor Benjamin A. Frankel, PhD, as a man whose own spirit, so closely resembles our own as Brothers that we want, to declare you as one of us! We believe that, it is with the deepest passion of commitment that you bear out that wonderful description of Lasallian education found in 'the Brother of the Christian Schools in the World Today: A Declaration'... For fifty years you have sought to 'identify and understand the challenges' of the students of St. Mary's College who have marched into and out, of you classes, and to 'respond by generous apostolic commitments,' and in doing so you have become one of us!"

Affiliation to the Institute is the highest and rarest honor bestowed by the Brothers of the Christian School. Frankel is the first professor in the 136-year history of the College to be so honored.

Other recipients of this award include the founder of St. Mary's College Joseph S. Alemany, and donors John J. Mitty, Fred A. Ferroggiaro, John Sabatté, Edward S. Ageno, and Frank J. Filippi.

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EVENTS

This week... February

Thursday--2/18

5:00 pm - Lunar New Year Dinner
(Hagerty Lounge)

8:00 pm - Taize Prayer
(Chapel)

Friday--2/19

11:30 am - Diversity Involvement Opportunities Fair
(Dryden)

11:30 am - Spring Involvement Fair
(Arcade and Quad)

11:30 am - Music of Mark Weigle
(Quad)

4:00 pm - Reception for Rosanna Quinn Director of
the Women's Resource Center
(Hearst Art Gallery)

9:00 pm - Comedian Michael Lee
(Claeys Lounge)

Saturday--2/20

10:00 am - 2:00 pm "Fear No People - Serve All
People" Day of Service

10:00 pm - "Fear No Rivals" Dance

Tuesday--2/23

7:00 pm - 100th Anniversary of Duke Ellington's
birth
(Campus Ministry)

Wednesday--2/24

12:00 pm - Jane Rachel Kaplan, PhD.
Never Say Diet
(Claeys Lounge)

Thursday--2/25

7:00 pm - Dr. Asa Hilliard - Ancient Egyptian
Origins of Greek and Roman Thought
(Soda Center)

Abinader's Cultural Tale

Jason Vitucci
Manging Editor

Telling a story is more than stringing lines of an anecdote together in verbal form. It is not mere talking. Storytelling is an art, and as in every art some individuals are more gifted than others. Elmaz Abinader is a premier storyteller and she proved this in "performing" two stories on Thursday, February 11. I use the word "perform" because her unique method of storytelling blends music with the presenting of a life experience.

The focus of Abinader's tales were a reflection of the title of the performance. *Lives Caught in the Culture Wars* consisted of two narratives about the clash of Abinader's Arab cultural heritage with both Arab and non-Arab cultures.

The first story, entitled *Ramadan in Egypt*, consisted of a few asides, but some of the focus was placed on passing

through two different Customs authorities. The first was in England as she was pulled aside and extensively questioned for many hours. The second dealt with her experiences at the airport in the Saudi Arabian capital. As an Arab woman from America she was not embraced by the Saudi guards. They even went so far as to lock her in a room for hours on end. The run-in in England was due to the fact that as an Arab woman, she appeared to be attempting to hide her nationality.

The second piece focused on the changing of her family's culture to become "more American." Her name was changed for a brief period to allow her to attend parochial school. Her mother was told that Elmaz would need the name of a saint to be allowed to attend. Her mother also bleached her hair blond.

My main reason for classifying Abinader's visit as a performance is her unique style. While

describing certain scenarios in the Middle East, drums were played in a Middle Eastern beat. The hymnal Muslim call to prayer was also piped in during certain parts. This helped in providing a setting for the audience.

In the second piece, Abinader included 50's music when she spoke of her American friends. Each time a profound American statement was made, a bell would sound.

In the question and answer period following the performance, Abinader addressed the issue of telling stories that are so revealing of personal family matters. She stated that those family members that are offended by the stories she tells, tend to stay away from her written work. Stories told by storytellers tend to embody some greater truths and many times the truth can leave a bad taste in one's mouth.

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Eating Disorders and Awareness Week

*Please come to **NEVER SAY DIET: Healthy eating, Issues with Food, and How to Help a Friend**, a talk given by Jane Rachel Kaplan, PhD, MPH, on Wed. Feb. 24 from 12:00 to 1:00pm in Claeys Lounge.

*Also there will be an information table in Oliver Hall on Wed. & Thurs. Feb. 24-25, from 11:30am to 1:30pm

*Questions? Call Miriam Eisenhardt, Health & Wellness Educator, x4776. Co-sponsored by Student Recreation & Wellness, the Counseling Center, and the Health Center.

Events Editor

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DETOUR

COLLEGIAN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

February 18, 1999

Life Through the Eyes of

RICHARD SHAFFER

FROM REAL LIFE
PAINTINGS AND CONSTRUCTIONS BY RICHARD SHAFFER

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Richard Shaffer Exhibit
January 16 - February 28, 1999

What is real life? And what comes from it? Artist Richard Shaffer provides an insight into these questions through a series of paintings and constructions, created by him, currently on display at the Hearst Art Gallery.

The exhibit, which contains pieces from the late seventies to the present, is comprised of many paintings, collages, and constructions all of which are— from real life.

Shaffer points out that all of the objects in his paintings are drawn to “actual size”, like in “Zebra Paris”, a painting of his wife Camilla. He continues this theme of “actual size” by pasting in feathers and scraps of paper into some of his paintings. The result is a very interesting array of reality contained, melded with reality portrayed. Shaffer’s Oceano “Collage” prints are brilliantly constructed, using torn-up scraps of paper smeared with bits of paint and ink to create chaotic patterns of color, text, and imagery.

Some of his constructions, like the “Zebra Shrine (Paris)” also incorporate text, as in pages torn out of books with most of the text blacked out, leaving mysterious and cryptic messages left in the negative space.

But what is probably the most notable of all of Shaffer’s creations would have to be the “House” he has built, over the course of fifteen days, in one of the gallery rooms, filling it almost completely. While not the size of an actual house, the construction is large enough to hold a boat Shaffer constructed from scraps of old frames and discarded bits of wood. The boat itself is ‘floating’ on what Shaffer describes as a “sea of postcards,” most of which were written to the House. The rest of the dwelling is filled with books, found objects, and other random things; all of which combine to create a very ordinary, very mundane-looking abode.

Shaffer’s work does not seem to be so much drawn from “real” life, as from “everyday” life. Everything is real enough, but nothing is added to it. There is no strong emotion contained in any of the art, save for the warmth and glow of Night Light (for Marissa), dedicated to Shaffer’s daughter, who was born just eight weeks ago.

A wife and child, a house, multitudes of rocks, feathers, shells, and lots of sand; evidence of a life lived by the beach in Santa Cruz, from day to day. Time is present, but not pervasive. A clock is installed at the beginning of the exhibit, and a cluster of clocks is stationed at the end. Messages like “You must swim with it” and “We’re in it for life” appear on various constructions, suggesting a sort of complacency or conformity.

Shaffer has become “average” through his art. There are no extremes. It certainly isn’t boring, though. No shades of grey of drab landscapes, but there are no vivid or bright colors either. Blacks and



A Richard Shaffer painting, entitled “Zebra Paris” is currently on display at the Hearst Art Gallery.

whites are always paired together on zebra dresses and chessboards; balancing each other out. Stationed at the top of “Artist’s Book with Chess Board” is the message, “Our life is a common human being’s life.”

Maybe there’s nothing left to do, as far as Shaffer is concerned, but to live life as it is. Cluttered desks topped with books, papers, and feathers. A house by the beach and a family.

But then there are the mysteries of Shaffer’s art. The self-portraits, stationed around the house all show the artist with the same blank, questioning stare. And the rings and circles that repeat constantly throughout almost every piece displayed in the gallery.

“NATURE WORKS IN CIRCLES—AND EVERYTHING TRIES TO BE ROUND,” he writes around the edge of Tondo 1.

And the boxes and the pyramids and the dodecahedron. In an essay by Shaffer, available at the front desk of the Hearst Gallery, he comments on his boxes.

“Each of these boxes was a form of containment, opening out only on a sixth side and usually standing like windows to an outside world beyond the studio isolation.”

If it is real life that Shaffer presents through his art, then it is his real life only. And we can only wonder what drives him. What lies behind that blank, questioning stare? What is he trying to contain in his boxes?

On the same shelf which holds the dodecahedron there is, at the opposite end, a seashell, glowing red. Hidden behind the rest of the objects on that shelf is an industrial laser, aimed right at the shell, illuminating it with red laser light. And laser light doesn’t shine like normal light does; it’s the most vibrant, beautiful light.

■ By Ben Shepherd
Staff Writer

Mel Gibson Gets Even in *Payback*

By Hugo Torres
Detour Editor

The film *Payback*, starring Mel Gibson, is a departure from the recent flood of comedic and romantic movies. In fact, the film is a departure from just about anything released in the past few years, at least since *Pulp Fiction*. Much like Tarantino's film, *Payback* turns a darkly violent situation into an adventure, with a few moments of humor thrown in.

Gibson plays Porter, a typical gun for hire who will rob banks and such for a fee. All is going well for Porter until his partner, Val, and Porter's own wife betray him, taking with them his share of a \$140,000 loot which Val needs to join a criminal organization known as "The Outfit". Left for dead, Porter is brought back to health by a street doctor who takes a sip of beer before using the alcohol to sanitize his instruments.

Once restored to health, Porter begins his quest of vengeance, following a trail of people back to the Outfit headquarters. In seeking only his half of the money, \$70,000, (but finding that everyone thinks he wants all of the loot) Porter manages to get himself entangled with two crooked cops, Asian mobsters, and the Outfit itself. Porter is given aid and sanctuary by his only true friend in the movie



Premiere

who also happens to be the love interest of the film.

A grainy, washed out look pervades the film, giving the film an almost black-and-white appearance. The settings and cars add to the atmosphere, giving one the sense that the film is set sometime in the 1970s or 1980s. The plot moves well and does an effective job of foreshadowing; just about every plot thread or event is brought to a resolution by the end of the film. Gibson turns in a fine performance as Porter, bringing quirkiness to the character.

The movie fails to spark much excitement however, as most scenes where Porter is in true danger are quickly resolved. Massive shootouts are not what this film is about. Still, it does have some interesting scenes (in particular, the climax of the film, while not completely satisfying, is innovative and logical) and is a slightly above average film, better than typical movie fare.

My Favorite Martian: A Disney Let Down

By Hugo Torres
Detour Editor

Disney has an interesting track record when it comes to movies. Either they produce an excellent film or they produce a stinker. It's rare to find a Disney movie that is simply average. *My Favorite Martian* continues the fine tradition of Disney films falling towards an extreme. Unfortunately, it's the latter one.

The martian referred to in the title is one Uncle Martin, played by Christopher Lloyd. That's not really the Martian's name, but it is used as a cover by the alien while he stays with a human played by Jeff

Daniels. The involvement of a government agency that searches for aliens and learns of Uncle Martin adds a little tension to the film, but not much.

The brevity of the film and its emphasis on antics leaves little room for character development. Each and every character in this film is a flat, one-dimensional creation. The plot moves well enough but has little excitement and few surprises.

My Favorite Martian shines in its special effects department, especially in Uncle Martin's suit, which is computer animated to good effect. The suit has a personality all its own, and is far more interesting than any of the human actors in the film.

The film is watchable, but just barely. See it at your own risk.

Bergman's *Nora* Weaves an Engrossing Tale

By Damon Tighe
Staff Writer

Hidden away from the hustle and bustle of Walnut Creek's Locust Street is the Playhouse West theater. Down the cozy cement pathway sits the quaint house that roofs a small stage and sixty-four seats. The small venue allows the audience to observe the actors intimately, which is especially helpful for the current performance of "Nora." The play is an adaptation by Ingmar Bergman of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Bergman's version shortens the content of Ibsen's original, but still aims at the same end. When *A Doll's House* was first performed in 1879, it had a dramatic impact on audiences of the time, because it pushed for society to recognize that women have the strength to be independent of men. Today this may not seem to be a groundbreaking idea, but "Nora" still has much to offer audiences, besides the early historical inclinations towards the women's movement.

The story takes place in the late 1870's in a Norwegian coastal town, but the stage is limited to the living room, dining room, and bedroom of the Helmer family. During the opening scenes it is easy to get a good grasp of how each character operates. The closeness of the seats to the stage allows everyone in the theatre to see and hear everything the characters do with great detail. Nora Helmer is performed by Heather Mathieson, who does an in-

credible job of capturing the two-fold nature of the main character. From her over-zealous actions to the strong words that surround her epiphany in the last scene, she provides an emotional ride all the way through. Neil Flint Worden plays the part of Nora's controlling husband, Torvald Helmer. His performance is likewise very good. Unfortunately, the rest of the cast did not have the abilities of these two. Dr. Rank, played by Robert Hamm, appeared more like a strange BBC character that had somehow found his way onto the wrong stage. He had a very convincing limp and did not drop any lines, but his costume and other mannerisms did not fit nicely into the scheme of things. Jason Anderson played Krogstad. He had a good powerful voice and strong gazing eyes when the important lines came along, but in-between he had many nervous twitches and small pauses in his speech that seemed awkward. Victoria Boesch plays Mrs. Linde, Nora's long lost friend. Her performance was solid after the first few minutes, where she appeared to be work-

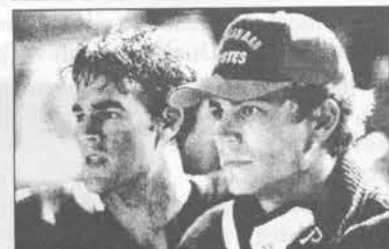
ing out some of the opening night jitters. Once the characters have defined their identities, the plot takes control of the audience's focus. What appears to be a happy marriage during the Christmas season soon begins to show cracks and faults. Nora's illegitimate borrowing of money from Krogstad is slowly exposed, along with the interest of Dr. Rank in Nora. The web of deception that Nora has woven slowly begins to come apart, thread by thread. Torvald, who was once held so high by this gentle web, encounters a great fall, when Nora finally decides to pull the last strings. His fall leaves his world broken and

MUST SEE MOVIES

LAST WEEKEND'S BOX OFFICE SALES

1. Message in a Bottle, \$15.5 million
2. Payback, \$14.5 million
3. My Favorite Martian, \$8.4 million
4. She's All That, \$7.7 million
5. Shakespeare in Love, \$7.3 million
6. Blast from the Past, \$7.0 million
7. Saving Private Ryan, \$3.1 million
8. Rushmore, \$2.9 million
9. Patch Adams, \$2.9 million
10. Varsity Blues, \$2.7 million

VARSITY BLUES



Starring James Van Der Beek and Paul Walker

Entertainment Weekly

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE



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4 Orinda Theater Square, Orinda 254-9060

- Message in a Bottle* F, T-Th: 4:00, 7:00, 9:30
S-M: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30
Shakespeare in Love F, T-Th: 3:45, 6:30, 9:15
S-M: 12:45, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15
Hilary and Jackie F, T-Th: 4:15, 6:45, 9:15
S-M: 1:30, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

Park Theater

3519 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette 283-7997

- Waking Ned Devine* F, T-Th: 4:45, 7:00, 9:15,
S-M: 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00,
9:15

The Ugly Duckling Appeals To All Ages

By Hugo Torres
Detour Editor

Saint Mary's College students and area elementary children alike were able to watch the fine Jan Term production of *The Ugly Duckling*, a grand performance that drew on a talented cast comprised of actors and dancers, with a bit of singing thrown into the mix. With a story known almost by heart to all in the audience, the *Ugly Duckling* dealt with such themes as growing up, staying true to oneself, and inner beauty.

The solid adaptation of the story covered all the bases and added a few new twists of its own. *The Ugly Duckling* deals with complex themes in an effective manner, leading to an accessible, appealing story. The excellent music also helped.

Fine acting ensured that the play held the interest of young and

old alike. Cynthia Lyons portrayed the mother duck who tries her best to deal with the odd duckling (played well by Linahla Bulatao) that is different from the rest. Damian Papa as the elder duck and Doug Giorgis as a cat were also standouts. A couple of actors, such as the talented Andy Brown, displayed their flexibility through the portrayal of multiple characters. Dancers, including Kristy McNutt and Christine Howe, kept things moving through their capable dancing.

The immense challenges of direct-



Michelle Malvini, Cynthia Lyons, and Doug Giorgis, part of *The Ugly Duckling* cast.

ing and choreographing a large cast were met with skill by the talented Micheal Cook and Cathy Davalos, who kept things simple enough to be followed by a young audience yet complex enough to remain interesting. Stage Manager Matt Deasaro did a good job of making sure things ran smoothly.

Two minor gripes: certain scenes seemed a bit out of place at times and the price of admission was a little steep considering the play was less than an hour. Still, it was a fine production, one that everyone involved has reason to be proud of. And best of all, anyone could enjoy this performance.



Eroica Johnston

Exciting Jan Term Classes

MUSEUMS AND MUSIC

By Ben Shepherd

Jan Term students can take advantage of opportunities on campus to visit local museums and hear different kinds of music, through one of two quarter-credit classes, offered on an annual basis. Bob Gardner, who is the instructor for both classes "Exploring Museums" and "Music Around the Bay," wants to take students to "places they normally wouldn't go."

"I like to see the culture at Saint Mary's change," says Gardner. "The school, or the students, do too little to go out and see the area." Students who take the class pay a fee of about \$55 and will visit various institutions, appropriate to the class, and have meals, paid for by class fees.

During the last Jan Term, the Exploring Museums class visited the DeYoung Museum, the Japanese Tea Garden, the Palace of the Legion of Honor, the Musée Machinique, the Exploratorium, the Oakland Museum, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium; while the Music Around the Bay class visited an Opera, a Symphony, and various Jazz, Zydeco, and Swing concerts—just to name a few.

"It's very relaxing—" said Maria Brunetti, a student who took the Museum class, "—because we get to leave town and go somewhere we don't go very often."

Some students find it to be difficult to pinpoint exactly what the best part of the class was.

"You can't really say it's one thing or another," said Maria Maravilla, another student who took the Museum class. "It's just the whole experience of meeting new people and making friends. I haven't been to a museum since I was about 7 or so; so it was very educational for me."

What's worth noting about the class, is that Gardner doesn't take students to museums and such to try and explain their significance or importance to them. Rather, his philosophy is to allow the students to discover their own meaning in what they see.

"I try and take kids to places they normally wouldn't go," says Gardner.

"Sometimes, you wouldn't go back, but at least you've been there—at least each person has gone out and made an effort. It's interesting that there's people who want to go out with others of a like interest and explore."

AT THE GALA

By Carolyn Hunter and Cheryl Sannebeck

On January 25, 1999, a magical night occurred at the War Memorial Opera House. In a whirlwind of tuxedos and magnificent dresses, the Gala opening night of the San Francisco Ballet season was entertainment for 60 St. Mary's students from Br. Ray Berta's "Encountering the Arts in the San Francisco Bay Area" and Claire Sheridan's "Backstage at the San Francisco Ballet" courses. The Gala was an event filled with elegance and spectacular dancing. A variety of works were presented, ranging from an excerpt from the classical ballet *Sleeping Beauty* to the very contemporary pas de deux, *Aquilarco*. Whatever tastes one might have, the Gala proved that the San Francisco Ballet dancers are masters of strength, skill, and artistry. They are truly a world-class company.

Before the performance there was a champagne promenade for all of the guests, and the smashing post-performance party was held in the newly renovated City Hall. Along with a variety of exquisite desserts and savories, there was a live band that kept everyone dancing.

This year's Gala was memorable for many St. Mary's students who now have a greater respect for ballet after attending this extraordinary celebration.

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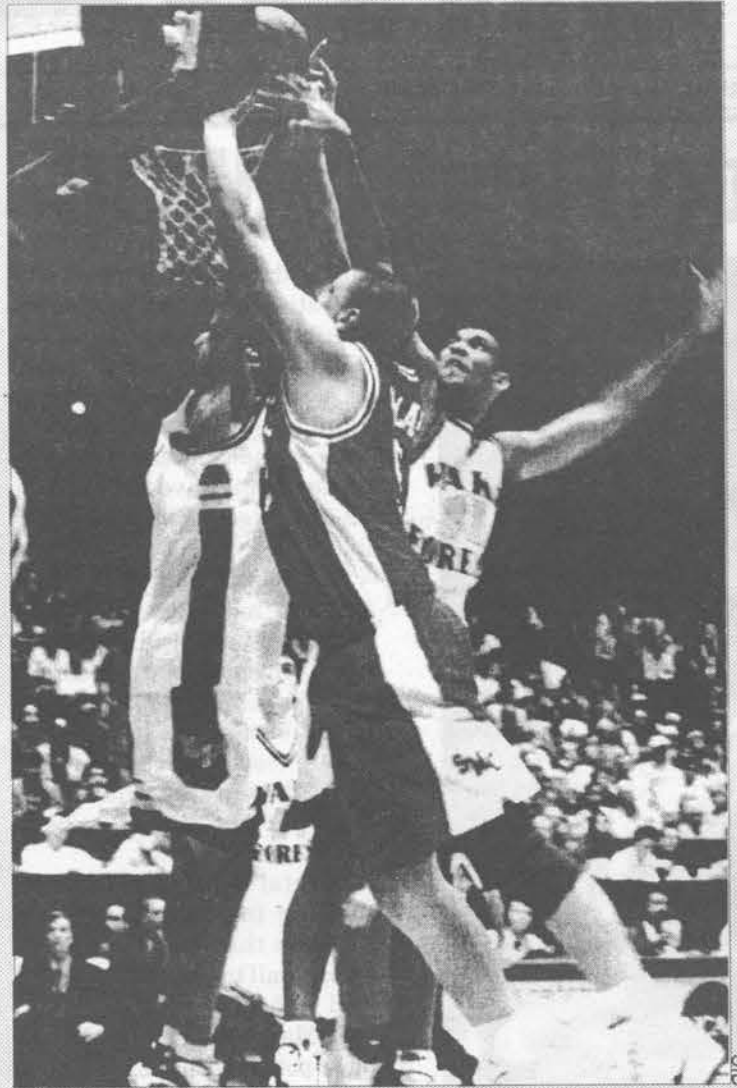
SPORTS

Millard Will Sit Out Rest of the Season

Brad Millard, St. Mary's College's center, announced that he will sit out the 1998-1999 basketball season. He is currently undergoing a rehabilitation program resulting from surgery to fix a broken navicular bone in his left foot. Even though he has made great strides in the last few weeks, Millard will probably not get a medical clearance to practice until mid-March.

His current rehabilitation program results from three surgeries on his left foot in a mere 10 months. First, Millard broke the fifth metatarsal in his left foot during warm-ups for the November 29, 1997, California game, and this was the last time he has practiced with the team. The following week, he had surgery to place a screw in the foot and another surgery last May to graft bone from his hip to cover the fracture.

However, while undergoing rehabilitation in early October for his original injury, he fractured a navicular bone in the same foot. Millard again underwent surgery to place a screw in the foot on October 20, 1998. He has the option to return next year or the year after and play for the SMC Gaels.



Doctors ruled out an end of the season return for Millard.

- J. G.

UPDATE: Baseball and Softball

Continued from page 12

Kermode double twice for St. Mary's, knocking home the Gaels two runs. Kermode went 3-for-4 against Hawaii with the Gaels collecting nine hits as a team.

The Gaels lost 7-1 the next day against Hawaii as starting pitcher Eric Siegal left the game with a leg injury in the third inning. Nick Wilcox relieved Siegal and was knocked around for five runs in four innings pitched. Michael Waugh brought home the only run for the Gaels.

Catch the Gaels at home against San Jose State on February 23, against Pacific on March 6 and against Portland on March 14 and 15.

Softball

St. Mary's Women's Softball team started their 1999 campaign by facing Loyola Marymount on the road for two games.

In the first game of the set, LMU limited the Gaels to four hits on two runs, winning 9-2. St. Mary's also committed three errors against the Lions. Jessica Hanaseth drove home a run for the Gaels on one hit.

Game two didn't get much better for St. Mary's as LMU limited the Gaels again to only two runs for a 9-2 win. Tracy Bealer relieved starting pitcher Rae Paulson and pitched two and two-thirds of an inning only giving up one run on three hits.

The Gaels went from L.A. to San Diego and couldn't come away with a win in two games against the University of San Diego. USD took the first game, 6-2 and then came back to take the second, 8-4. The Gaels received another nice outing by Bealer as the reliever came on to pitch two scoreless innings on one hit. Bealer also pitched in the second game against San Diego, throwing no-hit ball for three innings.

St. Mary's awoke offensively somewhat as they came threw to score four runs in the loss. Hanaseth went 3-for-4 on the day and both Katrina Chan and Catherine Hallada collected RBIs.

The Gaels come home for six home games in the month of March, five of which are in a row. St. Mary's plays Creighton on March 9, Northern Illinois on March 10, Southern Illinois on March 15, Purdue on March 16, Oregon on March 24, and San Diego on March 30.

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Three Way Tie For First in WCC

Quintal hits for 21 points in defeat of Portland

By Jim Bucci
Sports Editor

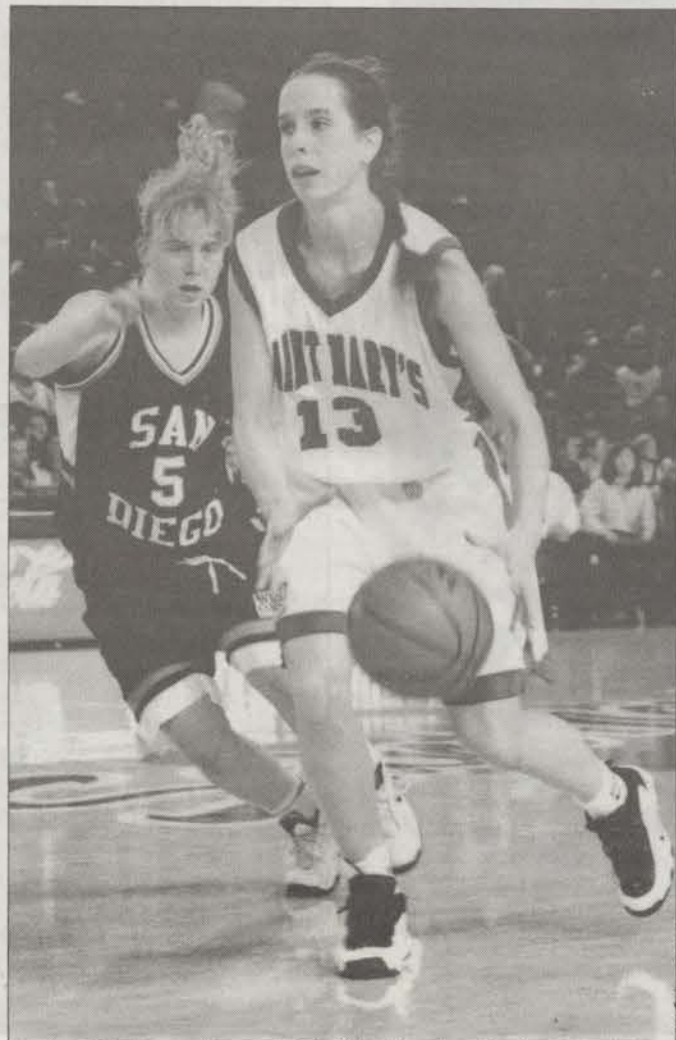
Four St. Mary's Basketball seniors received a nice going away present in the form of a 85-75 win over Portland in their final game at McKeon Pavilion. Seniors Stacey Berg, J.R. Payne, Krista Hall, and Sonata Pranaityte all finished their SMC careers at home.

The victory moved St. Mary's into a tie for first place with both Santa Clara and Pepperdine.

St. Mary's got off to a hot start against Portland, possibly fueled by the senior ceremony concluded just before tip-off. The Gaels raced out to an 11-2 lead on the sharp shooting of guard Leslie Quintal who paced the Gaels in scoring with 21 points. The junior connected on three first half three-pointers including an acrobatic layin on a long pass from Tracy Morris.

The Gaels whipped the ball around the perimeter, enabling many open looks for guards, Quintal, Payne, and Berg.

With 11:38 left in the first half St. Mary's had built a 29-12 lead on a jumper by Erin Abraham. "We played as well as we have all year during that stretch," said Quintal. "We moved well, we had great ball



Dannon Tighe

Senior J.R. Payne has provided the Gaels with steady point guard play.

movement. We did everything we were trying to do."

But Portland stuck around and chipped away the Gael towards the end of the first half. Pilot forward Sarah Green scored 12 points in the first half of play, many coming on short jumpers from around the free-throw line.

We've got to pick up our defense. There were a few times in the second half when we just let them push us around," said Morris, who finished with 18 points and 13 rebounds.

With 2:10 left before halftime Portland had closed the lead to 36-27 on four made free-throws by Kristin Stringer. The Gaels

suffered through a period of sporadic play in which too many quick threes were fired up. But All-Conference forward Morris gave St. Mary's some breathing room before half with back to back three-pointers from the corner. This gave the Gaels a 42-31 lead going into the second half.

The second half played like the first half with St. Mary's edging out to big leads and Portland firing back and remaining close, but never close enough to take the lead.

Berg started the second half with a three-pointer with Green following up with back to back buckets for Portland.

Quintal continued her hot shooting from behind the arc with two three-pointers in the second half to give SMC a 52-39 lead with 13:49 left.

St. Mary's extended their lead to 18 points with 6:22 left on a great high-low pass from Jermisha Dosty to her sister Jerkisha Dosty. The Gaels passed extremely well against Portland, finding the open shooter along the perimeter and the cutter going to the basket.

But, yet again, stubborn Portland wouldn't go away and climbed within 9 points with 1:15 to play. The game slowed to a free-throw shooting contest with Portland sending the Gaels to the line after every possession. Guards Payne and Quintal sunk their free-throws to ice the game for St. Mary's and four seniors. The Gaels now stand at 9-3 in WCC play and 22-5 overall.

Sports Briefs

Baseball

St. Mary's Baseball traveled to Tucson for a three-game set against Arizona which were all won by the Wildcats by scores of 19-6, 7-2 and 9-0.

The season opener for both teams wasn't kind for the Gaels as Arizona blew out SMC by a score of 19-6. Mike Waugh, though, had a single, a double and two RBI's for the Gaels. Casey Coakley and Kaazim Summerville both collected RBI's for St. Mary's in the loss.

In a strange development, St. Mary's used wooden bats throughout the series due to liability concerns while Arizona used the traditional metal bats.

In the second game of the series, Arizona freshman Ben Diggins hit a bases-loaded triple which lead to a five run first inning. The triple gave Arizona a 4-1 lead and came after a bases loaded walk.

Though Christopher Bye took the loss, the Junior righthanders struck out eight batters in 4 innings. Senior Gael third baseman Olin Cohan collected three hits, including a double for SMC.

The third game against Arizona played much like the second as Diggins again started, this time on the mound. The right-hander threw 5 innings of four-hit ball while striking out seven Gaels for the win. Junior designated hitter Tom Nichols doubled twice for St. Mary's.

In a matchup against always powerful Stanford University, St. Mary's held the Cardinals to five runs, but couldn't push one across themselves, losing 5-0. Mike Byer took over for Bye in the third inning and proceeded to hold Stanford to five hits and two runs over five and one-third innings pitched. Senior outfielder Dan Donohue went 3-for-4 for the Gaels which accounted for three of St. Mary's four hits. Stanford is ranked nationally this year at number 10.

St. Mary's traveled to Hawaii for a three game set against the number 23 ranked Rainbow Warriors, pulling a 2-1 upset in the first game of the series.

Junior righthander Jason Morgan-Voyce went the distance, allowing one run on eight hits while striking out four and walking none.

First baseman Travis

Please see UPDATE, page 11

Defeat of Portland Salvages Road Trip

Schraeder's double-double leads Gaels to victory

By Jim Bucci
Sports Editor

St. Mary's Men's Basketball avoided a Northwest sweep as they defeated Portland, 68-56. The Gaels rebounded from an ugly 45 points loss to Gonzaga on Thursday night and improved to 11-16 on the year.

The Gaels built a 15-point lead early in the first half which was chipped down to 8 at half-time. St. Mary's started the game by making their first five shots which accounted for 18 points.

"We wanted to focus on coming out early and trying to generate some enthusiasm," said Frank Allocco.

Though St. Mary's started the second half by not scoring in the first eight minutes, O'Neil Kamaka came through

by connecting on a layin and a jumper that ignited a 14-2 Gael run.

The Gaels allowed Portland to take a 42-41 lead and committed 7 turnovers before Kamaka's baskets.

St. Mary's defense also came through, holding Portland scoreless for 5 minutes. Allocco had an all-around game, scoring 11 points, connecting on 3 three-pointers, one turnover and dishing out 7 assists. St. Mary's had five players in double figures in Eric Schraeder who led SMC in scoring with 17 points and 10 rebounds, Kamaka who had 10 points, Josh Greer had 11, Frank Knight had 10, and Allocco with 11 points. Frankie King contributed two first half three-pointers and 5 assists.

"We wanted the players to take more ownership of the team," said Bollwinkel. "Frank Allocco and Eric Schraeder took charge and made sure we forgot Gonzaga and were ready tonight."



Dannon Tighe

Frank Allocco's three three-pointers helped key St. Mary's victory over Portland.