



THE COLLEGIAN

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

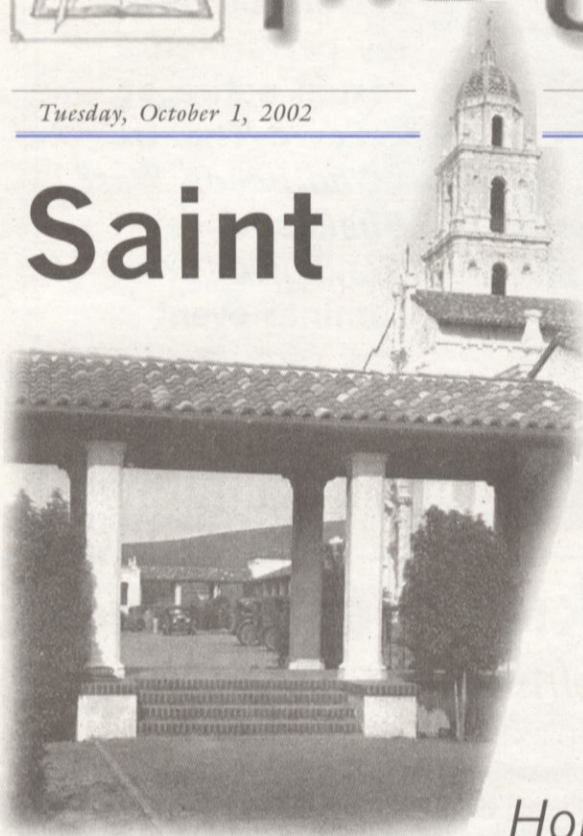
INSIDE

- ▶ **OPINION:**
Choosing your faith at a Catholic school
- ▶ **SPORTS:**
Football falls in 75th homecoming game

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Volume 100, Number 5

Saint Mary's Celebrates its 75th



Homecoming weekend marks 75 years in Moraga

by Chris Mateo
News Writer

After a long journey from San Francisco in 1863 to Oakland in 1889, and finally to Moraga in 1928, Saint Mary's College celebrated 75 years in Moraga with the annual homecoming game and ceremonies.

A plethora of events surrounded the celebration. The customary homecoming mass in the chapel initiated Saturday's proceedings. Following that, there was a Sodexo-sponsored barbeque, and many classes, tours, and panel discussions.

"Homecoming has two important points," said Giles Miller, director of alumni relations. "The first is the homecoming of the football team.

The second is the homecoming of the alumni... Some years, there is a lot going on. Other years, we encourage the guests to create their own festivities."

The celebration of Saint Mary's presence in Moraga began earlier this year and continued through this week's event.

"We felt that having this event on September 28 in conjunction with the annual homecoming would be a great way to blend tradition with an anniversary," explained Lisa Douglass, director of community relations.

"While we are showcasing the College, we are also looking to get the Christian Brothers, alumni, parents, and students involved for the class offerings," she said.

Douglass wanted to emphasize the fact that this weekend was also for the students.

"We wanted the students to come in and enjoy," said Douglass.

Miller added that the audience did not focus on alumni and parents, but included students, faculty, staff, and anyone else that is part of the community.

"Everyone should have felt welcome to come out and enjoy," said Miller.

"We tried to arrange specific events that would appeal to each group. On that day, no matter who you were, you were able to find something that made you feel like a part of the campus."

The afternoon got underway with a bagpipe parade leading everyone to the football game

where the Gaels faced the Western Washington Vikings.

Halftime entertainment included a drawing for a trip to Ireland.

To wrap up the evening, Butch Whacks and the Glass Packs, a music group of Saint Mary's alumni, entertained at the "Fifth Quarter" social.

The day concluded with the Class of 1997's five-year reunion and a historical presentation by Dr. Kevin Starr, a noted California historian.

Whether it was spending time in the chapel, walking through the first floor of Justin Hall or buying a new sweatshirt in the bookstore, there were many opportunities for the homecoming guests to commemorate their Saint Mary's College homecoming experience in any way they chose.

“ We felt that having this event on September 28 in conjunction with the annual homecoming would be a great way to blend tradition with an anniversary. ”

LISA DOUGLASS
Director of
Community Relations

Alumni on community, kegs, and camaraderie

by Josh Farley
Editor-in-Chief

Saint Mary's alum George J. Silvestri, Jr. says he owes his life to Saint Mary's College. Silvestri, a graduate of the class of '63, was on his way to Holy Names College as a sophomore when a head-on collision on Canyon Road put him in the hospital with a ten percent chance of survival.

"I survived, thanks to the prayers from those in the dining hall and the rest of campus," Silvestri said. He now feels a strong need to give back in any way he can.

Silvestri is one of many alumni who attended Saturday's homecoming ceremony and football game.

When Silvestri attended SMC, it cost only \$1,200 per year for tuition, room and

board, and there was no football team. And, of course, there were no women in school – the very reason he was driving to Holy Names College (a female institution) on the night he nearly died.

"...one of the best changes [to the college] was when women came in 1970," says Brother Dominic Ruegg, a graduate of the class of 1941.

Back when Brother Dominic was in school, there were a total of 350 undergraduate males, a hundred of whom played on the Saint Mary's football team.

"The Brothers were very strict," said Ruegg. "The student brothers were not even allowed to talk to the other students."

Nonetheless, Saint Mary's students have always known how to have a good time. Matt Wood, a 1977 graduate, said he

immersed himself in as many different activities as possible – having ethnic cultural nights; being on both the rugby and soccer teams; and celebrating after football games with keg parties. He remembers one post-game kegger in the Redwood Grove where a student got on stage and began to sing rugby songs. With the smaller SMC grounds of the time, the entire campus could hear the bellowing tunes.

"The school is a metropolis as opposed to the town it used to be," Wood said.

The three graduates – Silvestri, Ruegg, and Wood – all agree that St. Mary's has become bigger and more diverse. Silvestri wonders if the size of the College might be diminishing its value.

"...our sense of community [at SMC] is gone – all the

bricks and mortar in the world can't replace community, and if you don't have community, you don't have heart."

Nonetheless, the three graduates, like all alumni of the College, have concerns about our present-day institution due to the strong ties they've had and continue to have with the school. Despite certain reservations, 75 years in Moraga has seen many come and go, each definitely a Gael at heart.

"It's always a good place to be," said the worldly-traveled Brother Dominic. "I've never wanted to go anywhere else. This is it."

“ One of the best changes [to the college] was when women came in 1970. ”

BR. DOMINIC RUEGG,
FSC, PhD
Class of 1941

THIS WEEK

▶ **BEST OF: Chinese**
Yan's Mandarin on Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette
detour pg.8

▶ **Collegian VIEW**
If you have something to say, write it!
opinion pg.5

IN THE NEWS

Knights of Columbus get international recognition

The Saint Mary's chapter of the Knights of Columbus won two awards at the recent College Council Conference in New Haven, CT, September 20-22. They won the Outstanding Community Activity Award for their project "Cleaning Up For Jesus," collecting used clothing, furniture and small appliances on campus. They also earned an award for highest net gain in membership, with a 66% rise from the previous year.

NBC star speaking at new student convocation

Mahershalahashbaz Ali, star of NBC's "Crossing Jordan," will be speaking at the new student convocation on Wednesday, October 2, from 5-6 p.m. The event is required for all new traditional undergraduate SMC students. Contact Enrollment Services at x4277 for any questions about the event.

Greek MTV at SMC

"Greek MTV: Music, Theater, Violence Onstage" will be coming to the Soda Center, October 7 at 7:30 p.m. Mark Griffith shows how Aeschylus works.

Lecture on Cross-cultural healing

The School of Education hosts adjunct faculty member Ram Gokul, MFT, to discuss highlights of the Narrative Therapy and Community Work International Conference held in Atlanta over the past summer. The event will be in the Soda Center, October 1, from 7-8:30 p.m.

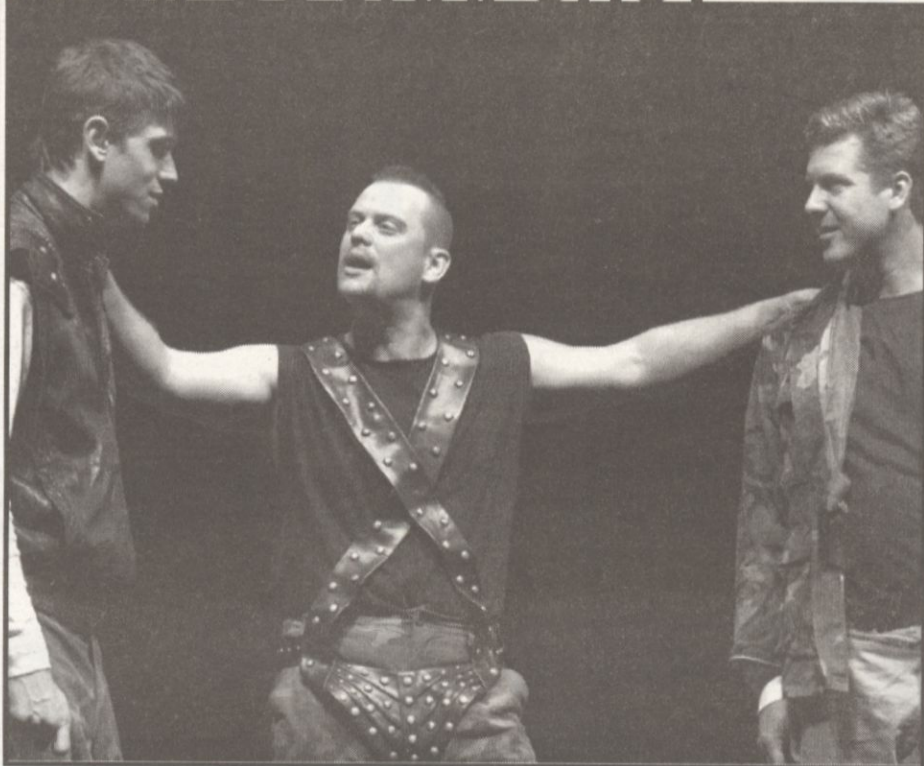
Ibiza dance

On Friday, October 4, KSMC sponsors the Ibiza dance in Dryden Hall. The dance will have light shows and two live DJs. Tickets are \$3 pre-sale, \$5 at the door. Free tickets will be given away this week on KSMC 89.5 FM this Tuesday from 5-7 p.m.

Club Meetings

Hemanas Unidas meeting October 1, 7-8:30 p.m. Delphine. Sports Band info meeting October 1, 9-9:30 p.m. Dryden. BSU meeting, October 2, 7-8 p.m. Delphine. Intersivity meeting, October 3, 7:45-9:45 p.m. Delphine. Dante club meeting, October 3, 7-8 p.m. Dryden.

CAMPUS SNAPSHOT



KATIE MILNER/COLLEGIAN

Troilus & Cressida onstage

The Shotgun players of Berkeley performed a sexual satire at LeFevre Theatre. "Who needs War? Shakespeare Plays with Love," seminar event was required for some classes.

College's US News rankings explained

Among private Master's Universities in California, SMC is #4

NEWS & ANALYSIS

by Chris Swain
News Editor

Ranked 12th in last week's issue of *U.S. News & World Report* magazine, Saint Mary's still places above many California universities.

Among private universities in California, within the report's Master's category, Saint Mary's lands fourth with an overall rating of 64.

The three top private schools in the category are Santa Clara (95), Loyola Marymount (80), and University of Redlands (68).

U.S. News & World Report magazine states that, within the Master's category of California public universities, only one, Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo (70), ranks higher than Saint Mary's.

Public universities within the Master's category for California rank lower overall than the private colleges and universities.

The colleges are ranked by *U.S. News* according to entrance statistics, retention, graduation rate, class size, faculty and alumni donations -- but the ranking system fails to acknowledge what students are currently doing with their edu-

cation.

U.S. News does survey seniors to get information about class instruction, as well as professor/student relationships and amounts of writing within the school year.

This information is not used to rank the schools, but is typically listed in alphabetical order.

The numbers not included in the ranking of Saint Mary's are actually the intangible factors that help add to the value of an SMC education.

According to *U.S. News*, 48% of SMC seniors ask questions in class or contribute to dis-

cussion on a regular basis. A quarter of Saint Mary's seniors often discussed ideas from readings or classes with faculty outside of class.

This analysis does not take into account schools that were ranked among the best doctoral universities.

Nationally, Princeton University (NJ), which conducted the research, finished at the top of the *U.S. News* list.

Stanford University headed up the list of the best national doctoral schools within California, followed by UC Berkeley in second.

CRIME BEAT

- 9/20 12:29 am
Incident: Intoxicated student
Synopsis: Student found intoxicated in Ferroggiaro Quad.
- 9/21 12:45 am
Incident: Medical
Synopsis: Student went to Health Services intoxicated, was referred to the dean of students.
- 9/21 1:00 am
Incident: Intoxicated Student
Synopsis: Student found intoxicated in Becket Hall. Case closed, student referred to student code of conduct.
- 9/21 2:10 am
Incident: Battery
Synopsis: There was a scuffle among students in the Augustine parking lot. Students referred to student code of conduct.
- 9/21 1:32 am
Incident: Minor in possession of alcohol
Synopsis: Student was caught after urinating in public and trying to evade a College official. Student referred to student code of conduct.
- 9/21 2:10 am
Incident: Harassment
Synopsis: Public Safety removed unwanted guests from South Claeys Hall. Referred to student code of conduct.
- 9/23 2:45 pm
Incident: Grand Theft
Synopsis: Reported theft of a laptop computer in J.C. Gatehouse. Case was suspended.

FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES

(Juniors and Seniors, too)

JOBS THAT SERVE

At the

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25 agencies seeking your help!

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THE CAREER CENTER
x 4600

Log onto:

smcnet.stmarys-ca.edu/studentjobs

Lopez delivers leadership to Latino programs

Latino Student Coordinator position being filled for the third time in five years

by Blake Grivette
News Writer

“ Things are moving forward and it seems that the Latino Club has been born again.”

BR. MICHAEL AVILA
Former Latino Coordinator

The seemingly endless search for a stable and experienced coordinator for the office of Latino student programs has come to an end with the arrival of Norma Lopez. The office has replaced its coordinator in each of the past five years.

Lopez was born in Tijuana, Mexico, and has a great deal of experience with Latino culture. She came here from Wayne State University, where she worked for many years.

She received an undergraduate degree from San Francisco State and her master's degree from San Jose State.

The search for a dependable coordinator has gone through its ups and downs, as many who seemed right for the job ended up with short tenures. Some left for undisclosed reasons, while

others departed because the job entailed much more than expected. “The reasons for leaving differed as much as the individuals,” said Brother Michael Avila.

When asked about the high turnover rate, Avila reiterated the department's failure to retain the people it has hired for the coordinator position -- including one who lasted for only nine days.

“She had no reason for leaving; however, I believe the job was not what she wanted to do,” Avila stated.

Apparently, the former coordinator felt more comfortable with academic advising, rather than programming the entire club.

Other departed coordinators gave reasons for leaving including misunderstandings with the administration and

some with contract troubles.

Irma Munoz, another former coordinator, left SMC last year despite a great initial effort to get here. Before Munoz was able to begin working for the school, she had to complete a six-month contract with the public school system.

Because the school wanted to have a Latino coordinator in the interim, an emergency meeting was held with all related advisors. A decision was made to name Avila the temporary coordinator for the club until Munoz could begin her tenure.

“We wanted the club to continue, and we really wanted her to head the club. So I took the position,” said Avila.

The misunderstandings and problems, however, began soon after Munoz's arrival. Unconfirmed reports assert that

she was promised money to help her complete her PhD wherever she decided to attend. The school, on the other hand, was under the impression that Munoz was going to complete her PhD at Saint Mary's.

As a result, Munoz decided to end her tenure after only a year of work, leaving students without a coordinator.

“We felt abandoned and hurt when we found out that we were not going to have a coordinator for the next year” said student Paola Castellanos.

Fortunately for MEChA, a new coordinator has arrived and will hopefully remain at Saint Mary's for an extended period of time.

“Things are moving forward, and it seems that the Latino Club has been born again,” said Avila.

Out-of-class experience

Seminar programming seeks to provide balance in and out of a classroom setting

by Elizabeth McKenna
News Writer

The outside world was brought into the Collegiate Seminar Program in 1990, through the combined efforts of Brother O. DeSales Perez and Barry Horwitz, with the creation of the Informal Curriculum program.

The main goal of this program, otherwise known as the seminar events program, is to enrich the texts used in seminar classes by sponsoring activities, such as plays and lectures, that directly relate to the issues being dealt with in the classes.

The program was designed to show students that learning does not stop in the classroom.

“You have to bring the outside world into the classroom and you have to take the students out of the classroom into the outside world of art, music and politics,” said Barry Horwitz, director of the seminar events program.

In order to bring the students even closer to the text, the people who plan the events

take into account the prevailing moods and events in the outside world. The current theme for the seminar events program is “What's Behind the Scenes,” which, as Barry Horwitz pointed out, is relevant in light of all the current scandals (i.e. the Enron situation), that are being revealed.

According to Horwitz, it costs a lot to put on a program but he finds that students think it's worth it.

Some students, though, wish that their money for the seminar activity program was used more effectively.

“I think that the ones that don't seem to be too productive, like the movies, should be cut because I can just rent the movie on my own,” said David Valadez '05.

Janie Prucha '04 believes that her money was put to good use, and found her seminar activity to be an enjoyable experience.

“I think it is valuable in the sense that it takes a perspective that is different from what we would normally hear of in class,” Prucha said.

“ You have to bring the outside world into the classroom.”

BARRY HOROWITZ
Director of Seminar Events

THE WAY WE WERE ...

(5 of 24)



The dedication of the 1932 *Gael* yearbook, “To the pioneers of Contra Costa County, who by virtue of their heroic, unselfish and valiant efforts have erected a thriving land from a waste of wilderness; a land which has a past as golden as the sunset; whose future is beyond the stars.”

SMC SAVINGS



GoGo Cafe
30%

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Orinda CA, 94563

Across from the
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THE COLLEGIAN

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To place an advertisement or inquire about a subscription, call *Collegian* Business Manager Thomas Burgemeister at 925.631.4279.

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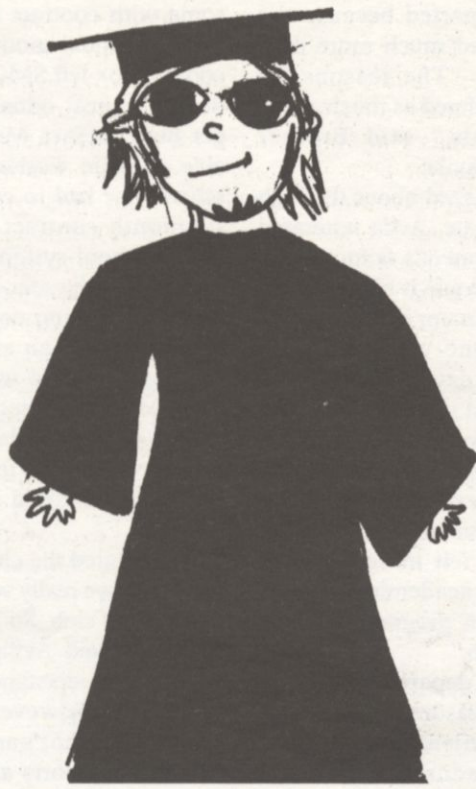
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OPINION



Cartoon by Jen Gerodias

"Honey! Don't forget your lunch!"

Gael POLL

Religious affiliations of SMC students

- 13
Percentage of students who are non-denominational Christian
- 4
Percentage of students who are Presbyterian
- 48
Percentage of students who are Catholic
- 21
Percentage of students who have no affiliation, but are not atheist.
- 2
Percent of students who are Buddhist
- 12
Percent of Students who are of other religious affiliations.

Each week, the Collegian asks questions of 100 random students and compiles the results above. All surveys are anonymous.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit your letters to the editor by mail, e-mail, or in person. All letters should be as concise as possible, and the Collegian retains the right to edit any submitted material, solicited or unsolicited.

The need to defend USA

Dear Editor,

As we reflect on that other day of infamy last year, how far have we come and what are our responsibilities as citizens? Justice has caught up with the enemy. The enemy itself is on the run, but even so, has not surrendered; and most likely will not surrender. As citizens, you and I are not at leisure to leave this task solely in the soldiers' hands. Here in our homeland, the enemy remains in waiting and he is a patient one, he will wait for the right time and place to strike us again. Every one of us constitutes the home guard, the front line is everywhere. The consequences of disregarding this duty may be orders of magnitude more horrific than 9/11.

People like Peter Tappener would rather stick their heads in the sand and make believe that no danger exists. People like Peter Tappener cannot see past their own Bush-bashing to accept reality. And as he did in his article in the September 10 Collegian, like-minded people are using every lie and deceitful tactic at America's peril. Mr. Tappener's "We are losing our freedoms" argument is an outright lie. Can he cite which freedoms have been lost? He certainly did not in his article. Ask yourself right now, "Which of my freedoms have been lost?" NONE. Right here, right now, today you and I can say ANYTHING WE WANT as though 9/11 never occurred and it was just business as usual. Mr. Tappener certainly made his opposition known. Well, Mr. Tappener, did the secret police come to your doorstep and arrest you? Of course not. What's more, the same is true for every person and media outlet in America. Every day we hear of opposition and dissenting opinion.

In the subsequent days of the 9/11 attack, thousands protested in Washington, D.C. against any form of military response, even before we knew who was responsible and how we would react to them. I suspect their minds were made up long before 9/11 occurred, but that is another story. In

the year that has passed, numerous demonstrations and discussions against our course of action have been held all across America. Here at Saint Mary's, we have all heard numerous professors rant and rave about Nixon the terrorist, Kissinger the terrorist and Bush the terrorist. Have any of them been silenced or hauled off to the nearest gulag by the local SS? Absolutely not.

What about freedom to exercise religion? Has any prohibition been placed on any faith? Are mosques being closed down? Is the Koran being abolished by means of any official governmental sanction anywhere? Absolutely not.

No law yet passed, be it the Patriot Act or otherwise, nor any other legislation presently in the works, deprives any American citizen of his or her rights as outlined in the Constitution. The type of offer-mongering, propagandistic tactics of Mr. Tappener and the like, though clearly tolerated in our society, borders on the treacherous and serve only to steer us from securing our safety. What's more, such tactics advance the cause of the enemy, whose primary objective is to deprive us of our greatest liberty, the right to LIVE.

To combat the enemy, to prevent another horrific attack, our government cannot afford to sit by and play a completely reactionary game. Clearly there are inherent difficulties in achieving this, as the enemy is already within the gates hiding among us. As such, we will all have to endure reasonable security precautions, we may be checked once, twice or three times at airports, we may have to deal with more thorough screening and background checks when applying for certain jobs or buying certain materials, we may have to begin ingraining in our minds the notion of increased situation awareness. We must use our common sense and good judgment given the REALITIES of the post-9/11 world.

The fear-mongers would like you to think that every single one of us will now fall under the scrutinizing eye of Big Brother. Is my phone being tapped?

COLLEGIAN VIEW

Your Saint Mary's Collegian

As the 2002-2003 Collegian is now five issues into the school year, we have begun to seek out responses to and reflections upon our many published works.

We have received some retort but, by and large, reaction has been minimal. We average a staggeringly low one letter to the editor per issue, and very few campus clubs and organizations have approached the Collegian for comments.

As a staff, we would like to remind every member of the Saint Mary's community that you are not only recipients of the Collegian; you make up the content of the paper. Being a part of the SMC community ranges from being a student, faculty or staff member to a resident of the Bay Area, an alumnus of the College, or the parent of a student here. We extend to you every opportunity to have your issues and name in print. If you have a response, e-mail us at collegia@stmarys-ca.edu and we will gladly print it in our letters to the left of this column. If you have a college event you wish to be publicized, submit it to the aforementioned e-mail address for publication in our "In the News" section. For those individuals wishing to write for the Collegian, we meet every Monday at 6:15 p.m. in Dante 113 to go over materials for our next issue.

We are your campus information source and forum. Please don't hesitate to be a part of the Collegian.

Are the e-mails of everyday American citizens being intercepted? NO. So why haven't you and I been deprived of our liberties? Ostensibly because you and I are not terrorists! If you are a terrorist then yes, you should be sh— your pants because we're hunting you down, one by one.

In this new war against the enemy, we are at a disadvantage. While the American people will cautiously proceed forward, even affording the enemy the right of due process, the enemy knows no bounds. The enemy makes no distinction between man and woman, young and old or combatant and civilian. WE SAW THIS EVIL LAST YEAR. The most basic function of our government is to keep you and I safe, away from those that wish us harm.

So why is that there are individuals who would deprive us of the most basic, common-sense tools and means of protecting ourselves? Because they don't like war? Well, who does? For peace?

What does peace mean? Peace for peace's sake? Will it take debris falling at their very feet, or perhaps the sight of their own loved ones in a body bag for them to accept the gravity of the

situation?

Peter R. Flores, Jr.
Class of 2003

A thank you from C.S.A.

Dear Editor,

The Commuter Student Association would like to sincerely thank whom-ever was responsible for notifying Commuter Students that the Jan Term books were available to pick up at the Registrar's office. The sign at the front entrance of campus as well as brightly colored fliers were a welcome sight to the several hundred students who commute to the Saint Mary's campus. Over the two years that our club has been in existence, notification of items of importance (especially with such magnitude as Jan Term) has been something we've been left in the dark about.

Finally, we have made our voices heard and are being notified of these important events. Once again, a hearty thanks goes out to the responsible party and we look forward to being notified of more upcoming events.

Michelle Jackson
President C.S.A.
Jessica Cook
Vice President, C.S.A.

E-mail us your Letters to the Editor at:

collegia@stmarys-ca.edu

To Praise, To Bless, To Preach

A look into Saint Mary's unknown Dominican heritage and history

by Nathan Cho
Opinion Columnist

Here at SMC, we often hear of Lasallian values and our Lasallian heritage, but it is a lesser-known fact that Saint Mary's College has a rich Dominican heritage.

The Dominicans (or the Order of Preachers, as they are officially called) were founded by Saint Dominic Guzman in the 11th century, and are known as teachers, scholars, and preachers.

The Most Rev. Joseph S. Alemany, OP, the first Archbishop of San Francisco and a Dominican friar, founded

SMC in San Francisco in 1863. It was only in 1868 that the De La Salle Christian Brothers took control of the College.

Not only did a Dominican found SMC, but SMC also once housed a community of Dominican friars residing and teaching on campus. The Dominican community lived in Saint Catherine of Siena Hall — named for a Dominican saint — and conducted the campus ministry center. The friars provided the sacraments, taught classes, and were an integral part of SMC.

Besides Siena Hall, which

now doubles as the presidential palace and Public Safety headquarters, two additional buildings are named for Dominicans: Aquinas Hall and Saint Albert Hall (the library).

Additionally, one community of the Christian Brothers is named for our Dominican founder: The Alemany Community. About five years ago, it was mutually decided that the Dominicans would leave SMC.

Currently, only one Dominican friar remains at SMC: Fr. John R. Morris, OP, ThD, an adjunct professor who teaches in both the religious

studies department and the Collegiate Seminar program. In addition to his teaching duties at SMC, he celebrates mass for the Brothers and doubles as the promoter of justice for the Western Dominican Province.

SMC has a rich but unknown Dominican heritage that we should revive and celebrate.

This writer personally hopes that, someday, the Dominicans can make SMC their home once more and foster the long heritage and relations that the College has with the order.

Collegiate Seminar events useless without classroom connection



by Alicia Jansen

As an incoming freshman, I heard (a thousand times, it seemed) about the "wonderful Collegiate Seminar program that is exclusive to Saint Mary's College." From what I was told, the program seemed to parallel my high school English classes. Maybe I was missing something.

Now, four weeks into the Collegiate Seminar program, I see some differences between it and high school English — the first being much more reading, and the second being the Collegiate Seminar events.

Barry Horowitz heads the Collegiate Seminar event planning, and designs the events to enhance the texts by showing students that what they are discussing in class connects to the world through art and theater. Most seminar instructors require their classes to attend these events and to turn in either notes or reviews. However, with eight events scheduled for this semester alone, some students feel like the program serves only to take up the little spare time they have during the day.

"I have so much work to do for all of my classes," commented one freshman enrolled in Greek Thought, "that the extra hours I spend going to seminar events and writing about them takes away from my time to finish other work. I don't even feel like I'm learning anything from it."

Although many students actually enjoy seminar events such as the Shotgun Players' production of *Troilus & Cressida* that played last week, they complain that there is often no discussion about the events in the classroom. It seems to me that, if the events are designed to teach more about how culture can connect to the classroom, instructors should make more of an effort to incorporate the information from the events into the classroom discussion.

Some instructors do a wonderful job of connecting the text to the real world but, for students who are not lucky enough to have those instructors, the seminar events seem useless. Professors should make more of an attempt to bring the text to life instead of just encouraging students to attend events and write papers on them.

As old as many of the seminar texts are, it is important for professors to keep in mind that connecting it to theater, politics, and the arts will make the Collegiate Seminar program more enjoyable for many of us. The connection for which Barry Horowitz designed the program needs to be made in the classroom, or else the events are, to many students, just a waste of valuable time.

In which faith DO WE FOLLOW?

Choosing one religion out of the multitude

by Christian Muller
Opinion Columnist

You've got hundreds of belief systems to pick from in the world. There's an overwhelming societal pressure to affiliate yourself with one or another. A great fear has been instilled in us regarding the consequences for not believing. This is the complicated issue of religion. What is the right belief? How do you confirm or defend it?

We have two main followings in our Western culture: Judaism and Christianity. These religions differ in doctrine, religious practices, and in the divinity of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, they are very similar. Disregarding how I was raised, which religion holds my own true beliefs?

Ten people see a car accident; five people see one version of the event and five other people see the accident in a completely different way. This analogy explains my struggle in choosing a religion. Some say that Jesus was divine, some say he wasn't. Some say he was resurrected from his tomb, some say that soldiers came and dragged him away. What real proof is there to choose between two systems that are so similar, yet

so different, when dealing with an event that occurred 2,000 years ago?

Could I decide which story I believe more? Yes — but I still struggle with a choice that is supposed to define my mind, body, and soul. Who can truly make this decision?

People say that blind faith is what it takes. I have blind

faith that there is something higher than myself, but I have found no true way to discover more about this being. At least, I have not found enough to pattern my life on a strict code of laws defined by this being.

It is my belief that many of the people who worship the faith they have chosen can hardly explain it in detail or defend it in an intellectual conversation.

The faith that I have wit-

nessed in others while growing up as a Christian is not as much God-sent as it is socialized.

Many people have attended Christian

churches with their families since they were young and, with little or no knowledge of anything else, have decided that it is their belief.

Would any Christian argue with me that, if they were born in India, they would still be Christian? Belief comes from society more than most think.

I am not against Christianity or any other religion; however I do believe that Socrates was right when he said, "I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing."

I feel that by choosing one religion, a person is saying, "I have respect for other religions; however, I have chosen the correct one." With our lack of knowledge in regards to the intricacies of the world, what right do any of us have to accept or deny any idea simply because it's rooted in Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity or any other religion?

Graphic design by Alicia Jansen



SPORTS

Football loses to Division II opponent

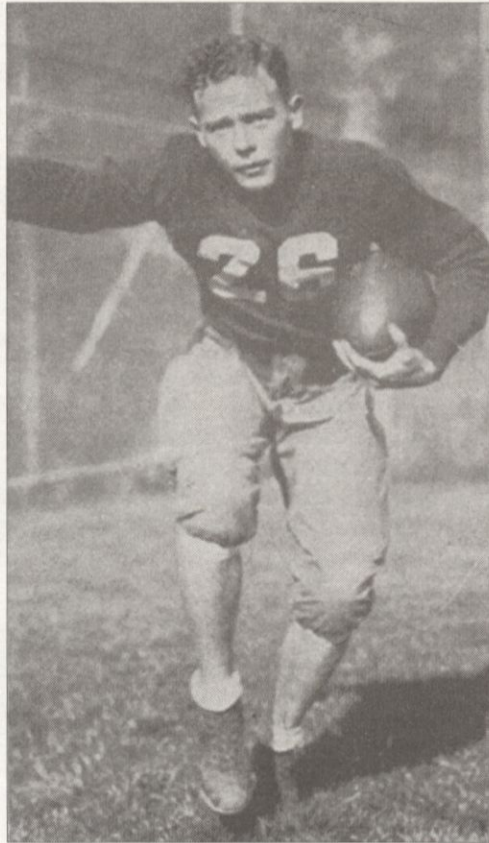
SMC fights valiantly before falling to W. Washington on Homecoming, 31-28

by Denny Bulcao, Jr.
Assistant Sports Editor

The Gaels (2-3) had trouble with a second straight undefeated opponent from the state of Washington. After returning from Central Washington, SMC faced off against a Western Washington (3-0) team that executed the same offensive strategy and put another loss on Saint Mary's record. An exciting comeback from a 21-7 halftime deficit kept the Homecoming crowd hopeful till the end, only to finish in a disappointing climax for the cardiac kids. Last week's 30-20 loss was the widest margin of victory (or defeat) for the Gaels all season. Every game has been decided in the final few minutes, if not in double-overtime.

Senior quarterback Ryan Sauter waited patiently behind Gus Papanikolas for the past three years at Saint Mary's. Sauter ran the offense efficiently and nearly brought the Gaels back after Trevor Johnston was banged up from the start and Stephen Ratliff was shaky as his backup.

The Gaels struck first in the second half with a 24-yard TD pass from Sauter to Nate



Ahern was the Galloping Gaels' QB in 1932. SMC wide receiver "T" Johnson takes on the Viking

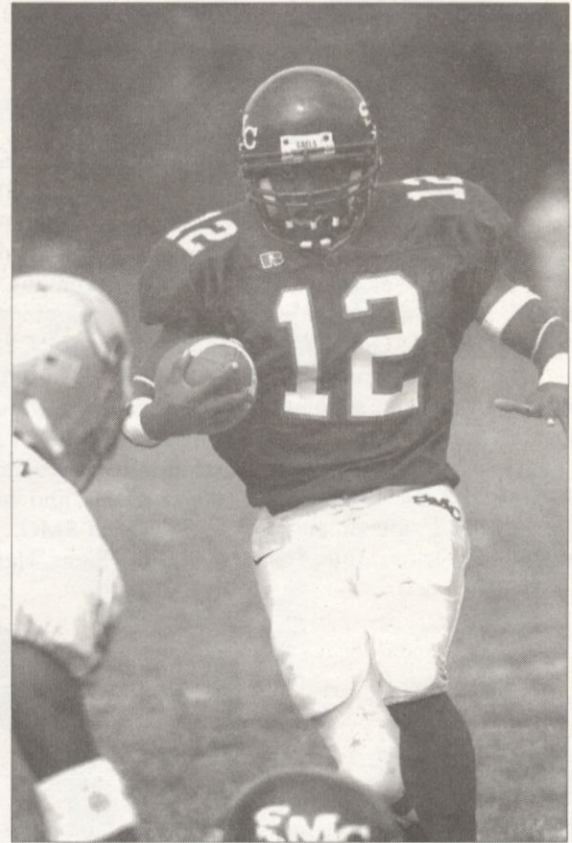


Photo by Katie Linnett

Brown. After a field goal gave the Vikings a ten-point lead, SMC made a vital offensive surge. With 13:22 left to play, Sauter dove in for six on second-and-goal. Andre Coleman's 32-yard TD

reception from Sauter with 5:37 remaining gave the Gaels their first lead of the game, 28-24. While beggars can't be choosers, eating up more of the fourth quarter clock would have been ideal. Josh Shimek's

15-yard TD pass made the score 31-28, and SMC's drive for a tying field goal ended in the hands of a Viking defender. Listen to the Gaels this Saturday live from Humboldt State on KSMC 89.5 FM.

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S SOCCER

SEPT 27TH
Saint Mary's 0
Air Force 4

SEPT 29TH
Saint Mary's 0
Denver 2

WOMEN'S SOCCER

SEPT 27TH
Saint Mary's 3
San Jose State 0

SEPT 27TH
Saint Mary's 1
BYU 2

SEPT 29TH
Saint Mary's 2
(23)Utah 1

FOOTBALL

SEPT 28TH
Saint Mary's 28
Western Washington 31

WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

SEPT 28TH
28th place
Allegra Porter (22nd) 21:54
Bethany Demore (186) 24:57
Ashley Viens (205) 25:56

MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

SEPT 28TH
Casey Chad (41st) 26:20
Davin Fiese (71st) 27:49
Chip Powers (72nd) 27:53

VOLLEYBALL

SEPT 27TH
Saint Mary's 3
San Jose State 2

SMC stepped on by NCAA elite

Gaels look at tough Stanford course as practice for regionals

by C.J. Daft

Assistant Sports Editor

As the Stanford Invitational was run on the difficult and exclusive Stanford Golf course, the Saint Mary's women's and men's cross-country teams did not fare well. Overall, the women finished 28th out of 32 collegiate teams that competed in the 6k event. Competitors in the non-scoring men's race did not place anyone in the top 40 in their 8k race.

The race course was a long and arduous one that took runners up and down fairways, burning spectators' leg muscles just from watching. For the runners, the hills seemed never-ending. "It was a real tough [course] with the steep hills," said men's runner Davin Fiese '03.

In addition to the severity of the hills, the Gaels experienced running on a mostly grassy course for the first time this season. This adds a tough dimension for any cross-country team.

"It exemplified a true cross country-course, with lots of grass and the challenging hills," said Ashley Viens, the third-place runner for the Gaels.

For the women's team, it was a brutal battle. Allegra Porter '04 was the one bright spot for the Gaels. She took 22nd place in 21:54, four seconds from the top twenty and over a minute and a half behind winner Sara Bei of Stanford (20:02). This was impressive, to say the least, considering that the field had some of the top cross-country teams in the nation,



Photo by Katie Linnett

Ashley Viens finished third for the Gaels on Saturday.

including Stanford, UCLA, Duke and Wisconsin.

Only one other Gael runner, Bethany DeMore '04, finished in the top 200, taking 186th place with a time of 24:57.

On the men's side, Casey Chad '05 finished 41st with a time of 26:20, Fiese took 71st in 27:47, and Chip Powers '04 finished six seconds later to earn 72nd place (27:53).

Although the Gaels did not finish where they would have

liked, they treated it as a practice for the NCAA Regional that will be held here in November.

"We need to work on our speed," Porter said of their preparation for this race and the rest of the season. "Some of us also have to work on endurance."

In addition to introducing the course, the meet introduced the Gaels to the other teams that they will face at regionals.

PROFILE ATHLETE



Lowry

by Karen Britten
Sports Columnist

Senior setter Brooke Lowry is described by her coach as one of the most hard-working and self-deprecating persons he knows. Then again, many setters are described as such. Setters arguably have the most important job in the sport of volleyball.

Her fun-loving personality and hard-working mentality made Lowry an integral member of the team at Xavier College Preparatory School for Girls in Paradise Valley, Arizona. Her love and drive for the sport sent her to the University of Wyoming, where she met and worked under current Saint Mary's women's volleyball coach Jon Stevenson. From there, Lowry drifted to the volleyball program here at Saint Mary's.

Lowry may enjoy hanging out at the beach and more outdoor activities like hiking and scuba diving, but her passion lies in the sport of volleyball. She plans to continue playing volleyball after college for professional organizations while pursuing a career in shipwreck archaeology.

"The team chemistry makes it a pleasure to play here," Brooke says of St. Mary's volleyball. She is excited to be a part of the beginning of a tremendous program under the leadership of coach Stevenson.

Women's rugby in demand at SMC

Rec sports looks to start women's rugby team for 2003 season

by Andrea Camarena
Sports Editor

Saint Mary's may soon add women's rugby to its list of competitive sports teams. The team is currently in the process of being chartered as a club sport by the College's Associated Students Senate.

Once approved, the team will play at the same level as their male counterparts, facing teams such as Santa Clara and Humboldt State. With a season running from February to April, the team will play a total of eight league games against five schools.

The formation of the team began last spring when Giselle Murillo '05 discovered the sport through her student job in the rec sports department.

With the encouragement of Marty Storti, assistant director of athletics for the recreational sports department, Murillo took on the challenge of introducing a new organization to campus.

Because of a lack of interest, the members of the rec department had been unable to get the sport going in past



Photo Courtesy of Giselle Murillo

Stephanie Burns, Kim Rivera-Corum and Katie Milner learn the basic skills of rugby.

years. After her first informational meeting last spring, Murillo found herself leading 60 women in regular practices, teaching them the basics of the game. Two weeks ago, Murillo held another informational meeting and the numbers slimmed down to 45,

but she is still confident that the level of interest will remain high. "We have a lot of freshmen in it, which is good because we want to keep getting bigger and younger so that it can go on and be popular," Murillo said.

Practices begin on October

22, and the team is still accepting players. Though the team is largely inexperienced, Murillo shows confidence in her future teammates. "People who practiced last year with us already have a foundation, so I say we're pretty much going to work up."

Men's water polo starts season 4-1

by Chris Lucchetti
Contributor

Saint Mary's men's water polo team opened their season 4-1 with strong performances and positive results.

Coach Jerry Cvecko and his ten-man squad opened league play with a game in Vallejo on September 19 against the Cal-Maritime Keelhaulers. The Gaels jumped out to a quick three-goal lead, but the Keelhaulers clawed their way back to tie the score at 5-5. John Leary, the team's standout

freshman hole man, was able to put the Gaels on top with a backhand goal to win the game.

As the hole man, Leary is largely responsible for the flow of the offense, and has done an admirable job so far while leading the team in shots and assists -- not to mention the fact that he is second on the team in goals scored.

"I'm really happy that I am able to contribute for our team," said Leary. "We are a relatively new team, but I know that, with hard work, we will

be able to continue our success."

The team wasted no time in getting back into the pool after their close victory. At the Ohlone Invitational Tournament in Fremont on September 20-21, the Gaels cruised through the first three games, defeating Cabrillo (6-5), DeAnza (5-0), and Marin (6-1). This placed the Gaels in the championship game, where they came up short against Foothill (7-3).

While the Gaels were

disappointed to lose in the championship game, the team came out of the tournament feeling good about themselves.

"As a team that has only been in existence for three years, we are extremely excited to place second in our opening tournament," said team captain Tom Walker. "We all have high expectations for the rest of the season."

The water polo team faces Cal-Maritime again in its first home game on October 1 at 5:00 p.m.

USA Dream Team?

by C.J. Daft
Assistant Sports Editor

After the USA Basketball "Dream Team" lost to Argentina, it ended an era in which an American national team dominated over any other country whenever it pleased. Before this happened, there was much pride and patriotism felt by this writer toward our dominance.

What happened? Did the rest of the world catch up? Were the Americans too confident that they were that much better? Maybe the dream team lies elsewhere, in a sport called golf.

This past weekend, the United States competed in the Ryder Cup, which is an international golf dual between the 12 best professional golfers from America and the 12 best from continental Europe. This is a tradition that has happened every other odd year since 1927, except during WWII and last year, when it was pushed back due to the terrorist attacks.

Unlike national team sports, the selection for the Ryder Cup team is based completely on merit. In order to make the team, individuals from either Europe or America have to earn points by placing in the top ten of a professional tournament played in the last two years.

At the end of the two-year period, the top ten Americans and Europeans automatically qualify for their respective teams, while the captain of each team chooses the final two golfers for the team. Instead of putting together a team that does not consist of the best athletes for that sport, the Ryder cup team consists of the twelve headline-makers from the previous two seasons.

Take, for example, this year's American roster. It included Tiger Woods, who has won six of the last twelve majors, and Phil Mickelson, who has won more money in the last 2 years than any other professional golfer in the world besides Woods. David Toms, who has won one major in the last two years, and David Duval, who has struggled of late but won the British Open last year, added depth to this team. Besides these four players, the team consisted of four other golfers who won majors earlier in their careers.

The Ryder Cup brings out the best in its participants, and brings much pride to the event, as recent results have been highly competitive.

As the recent World Basketball Championships and the Ryder Cup loss showed, a "dream" team is only a dream on paper or while sleeping.

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DETOUR

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REVIEWS

WEB

Among the viable options for young artists today, publishing comic strips on the Web is the cheapest and least traumatizing. One site featuring these efforts is Keenspot.com, which features 50-plus different Web comics. Keenspot offers many user-friendly services, such as showing all material free of charge and a quick navigator for all affiliated sites. While Keenspot sports some of the funniest comics on the Internet, it also sports the greatest bombardment of advertisement by a non-corporation. However, it offers a service that removes all ads on the site for a small fee. For a good laugh and instant addiction, check out Keenspot.com.

-Josh Krehbiel

FOOD

Famished after a morning of shopping in San Francisco? Think Neiman Marcus in Union Square for lunch. Cafe Neiman serves up quality food at affordable prices — no easy find in the City. The highlight of the lunch comes early, when the pop-overs are served. These warm, buttery puffs of fresh bread are great, and are reason enough to choose Neiman's for lunch. For seafood lovers, the lobster rolls are the appetizer of choice. For entrees, go for something quick and easy: An all-American cheeseburger. The experience at Cafe Neiman will be flavorful, filling, and won't leave a big dent in your pocketbook.

-Nick Manghum

FILM

"Four Feathers" attempts to intertwine the world views of a Victorian soldier and his Sudanese compadre. Does it happen? I guess. Heath Ledger is Harry, who's disgraced by his countrymen after fleeing from his Sudan-bound troop at the last minute. He proves his bravery in disguise in the Sudan, helped by a Muslim wanderer (Dijimon Hounsou) who steers him toward ultimate redemption. In the end, Harry, comes back to his peers and fiancée a surprising hero. Ledger's beauty and acting are worth the ticket. Hounsou and Wes Bentley also impress, and Kate Hudson is bearable after she stops giggling.

-Liz Schnitz

ECHO

ECHO
by Katie Linnett
Reporter
ECHO

If you can remember the old, run-down building that was previously Abernathy's Pub, you will be amazed at what you see when you walk into Echo, the new nightlife hotspot in Walnut Creek. Echo is the hottest new nightclub in town, located on Locust Street next to Chili's.

Owner Jeff Dudum has a passion for decorating, and has brought some New York style to the heart of Walnut Creek. As you walk in, the whole place is filled with a red glow — everything from the walls to the candles are red. After hitting up the bar, you can get your groove on over at the dance floor or just relax in the lounge.

Be sure to come early and enjoy dinner, served from 6:00-9:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Echo serves up a Mediterranean-style cuisine made up mostly of organic foods. Take advantage of Echo's candlelight dinners on the patio with these last few days of great weather.

Although Echo does have a cover charge, Saint Mary's students get in for free on Tuesdays with a student ID card. Dudum is well aware of the competition next door at Crogan's, and will beat their prices with \$3 well drinks and \$3 beers. The music is a key attribute of the club's appeal, featuring hip-hop and top 40 hits. Dudum is also trying to bring in local DJs from Saint Mary's for Tuesday night events. Be forewarned: Dress to impress — there is a dress code, and it is enforced.

So, what are you going to do now — the same old thing every Tuesday night? Why, when there are bigger and better things out there to explore? Come see the night life at Echo, where you can find cheap drinks, a long night of fun dancing, or even a bite to eat before the party is started. Echo offers an opportunity for Saint Mary's students to make the club our own. So be the first to bring your friends and get the party started.

THE COLLEGIAN'S
Best of LamorindaYan's does Chinese Right
Restaurant satisfies vegetarians and meat lovers alike

by Susanne Schweitzer

Chief Copy Editor

When I was given this assignment, I was a little nervous because so many people have definite opinions about which Chinese restaurant is the "Best." However, after careful consideration, I believe Yan's Restaurant on Mount Diablo Blvd. past Second Street in Lafayette is the premier place.

Being a vegetarian can be a drag when going out to eat at times because so few places offer interesting non-meat options. This is especially difficult when eating with a group of people who all want to share their meals, as non-herbivores are limited to the parameters of a few people's diet.

Luckily, I'm blessed with roommates and friends who either share my convictions, or are easily swayed. Five of us went to eat at Yan's, and we all left full and happy.

By far the best dish ordered was the Garlic Flavored Eggplant (\$7.50). Don't be scared by the name; I was too, but one bite cured me — it was delicious. Also



Photo by: Blake Grivette

Great dishes like these are made right around the corner at Yan's in Lafayette every day.

incredible were the Black-Bean Tofu (\$7.50) and the Szechuan Vegetables (\$7.25). Even our token meat-eater was impressed!

The service was very accommodating, as our server seemed to guess what we needed before we could ask. When our one carnivore ordered Hot and Sour Soup (\$5.25 for a small that

looks more like a huge), the waiter was quick to point out that it was chicken broth-based, as he'd observed the rest of us focusing on tofu and vegetable-based food.

Tea and rice were plentiful and quick to refill, and the kitchen was happy to accommodate a picky eater who insisted

on making up her own order. We also noted the 10% discount offered to diners who get take-out — a definite bargain.

If you're looking for vegetarian and vegan options that don't feel like a compromise, or if you simply want a scrumptious Chinese dinner, try Yan's. They deserve your patronage!