



# THE COLLEGIAN

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Wednesday, February 19, 2003

Volume 100, Number 15

## TUITION RISING

Construction projects and faculty salary needs raise tuition costs

by Chris Swain  
News Editor

Tuition is going up again with the approval of next year's budget by the Saint Mary's Board of Trustees. A 6% increase in tuition for current SMC students, and a 13.9% increase in tuition for new students was announced for the upcoming school year.

The increase will bring the annual tuition cost for attending SMC next year to \$22,000 for current students, and \$23,640 for new students.

All students will also face a 6% increase in housing costs, raising the annual fee to \$9,075. Brother Craig Franz, FSC, president of Saint Mary's, revealed the budget increases in a community letter.

"Anytime tuition is raised, it will put a strain on students," said Billie Jones, SMC Director of financial aid. With tuition on the rise, financial aid at the college will also increase according to the community letter. The financial aid office plans to maintain its commitment to all students; however, current students may not be applicable for the increase.

"I plan on working a lot of hours this summer to help pay the costs of the increase," said Daniel Wright, one of 58% of

students receiving some sort of aid package. The average aid package, which can include grants, scholarships, loans, and work/study, is \$16,653 for students who receive aid.

"I took out \$14,000 in loans for the year," said Vanessa Rebecchi. "I'll probably be taking out more loans and be searching deeper for scholarships for next year."

The upcoming increase in tuition, however is slightly lower than that of similar WCC schools, according to Michael Beseda, vice president for enrollment services and college communications at SMC. Beseda emphasized the positive impact of the increase for the school over the next five years as part of The Next Steps, a strategic plan that seeks to maintain "that Saint Mary's remains the premier, liberal arts learning environment."

In addition the rise in tuition will support an increased faculty salary pool. The 7.5 percent growth should allow the college to bring in new faculty to sustain the small classroom sizes.

After steady 6% (on average) tuition increases over the last 10 years, SMC has doubled both tuition costs and scholarship funding.

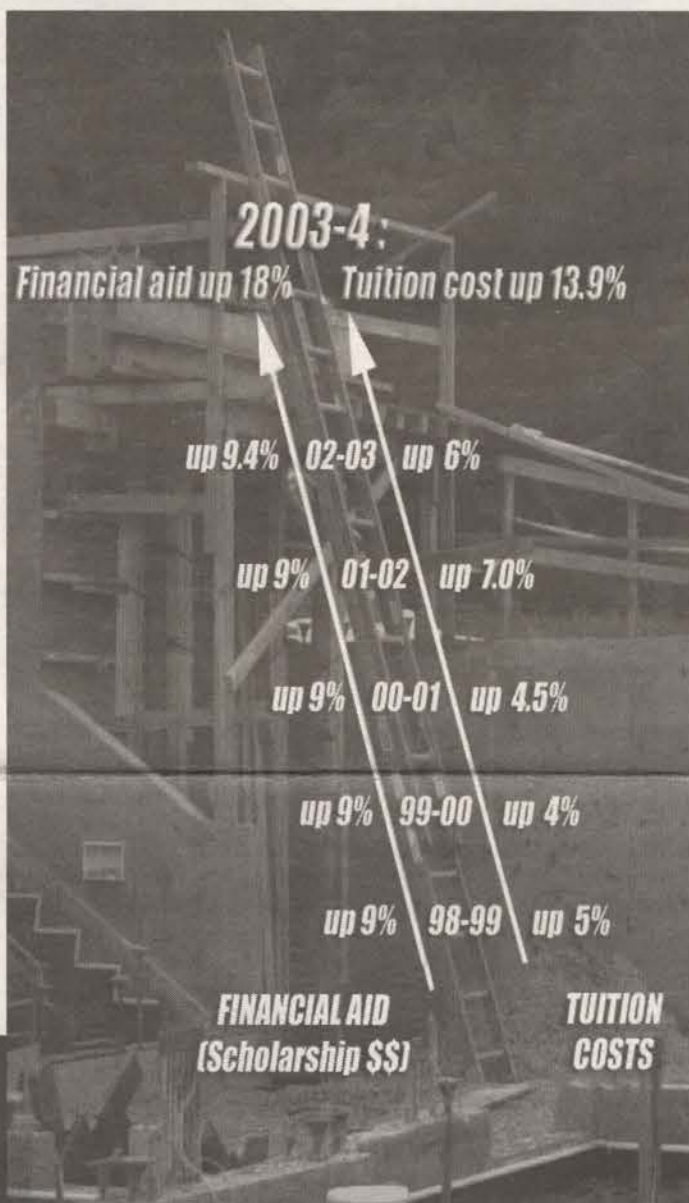


Photo by Allison Moore, Design by Rosemary Ruptic-Kramm/ COLLEGIAN

## Cassin Student Union ditches fast food

Peel and Subversions offer healthier alternatives to students

by Chris Mateo and Michelle Dalida  
Assistant News Editor & Staff Writer

Students walking into Cassin Student Union looking for their daily fix of Taco Bell may be surprised to see the vendor changed into Subversions, a new Sodex'ho restaurant making a fresh appearance to Saint Mary's. Along with the drastic change is Peel, a smoothie bar sharing a space with Starbucks in Café Louis. Students, working against a wall plastered with pictures of fresh oranges, push blenders on grind as they turn ordinary fruit to an extraordinary drink.

The switch from Taco Bell to Subversions and the addition of Peel is due to focus groups held by the Sodex'ho Company to try to accommodate the needs and wants of the student body. "From focus groups, we found that the student body wanted more health conscious alternatives," said



Subversions has replaced Taco Bell in the brickpile.

Sodex'ho Retail Manager Michele Blanc, who oversees the two vendors. "We wanted to introduce something new and give some variety. We are going with a fresh attitude."

This fresh attitude is certainly reflected in the extreme menu change. Subversions will offer high-quality six to twelve-inch sub sandwiches that can be made into combos that include chips and a drink. The sandwich alternative should be

up by the end of the month.

Peel, which has been running since Monday, February 10, offers a tantalizing blend of fruit smoothies with names such as, "Mango Tango," "Peachy King," and "Bananorama". Each drink boasts, "All Fresh, All Natural, All Fat-free," a fact that many students will embrace with open arms and thirsty palates. Matt Carroll, general manager of Sodex'ho Food Ser-

vices at SMC, stated in a recent email, "Peel has enticing fruit flavors, vital nutrients, and total convenience. It's everything you need to live an active healthy life. Best of all, Peel goes where you go - back to your room or right in your cup holder. With a day's requirement of fruit and dash of ice, beverages are blended to order. They are more than a healthy snack, they are a meal on the go."

Students find Peel to be a positive change to the SMC campus, but would love to find more originality in the creation of the smoothies. "I think Peel is a great addition to the campus. At least we have variety," said Ed Parcero '05. "But then again, I don't find much creativity or unique flavor. As much as they may or may not try to compete with other smoothie places, Peel just doesn't have the same attraction as Jamba Juice."

## Senate talks change for spring during assembly

by Jonathan Morales  
Staff Writer

Concerns of last November's events regarding sexual assault and student involvement on campus dominated the general assembly of the ASSMC Senate last Sunday.

The meeting opened with an address by President of the College Brother Craig Franz, FSC, updating the Senate about measures being taken to address student concerns regarding sexual assault. He thanked the Senate for its large amount of input and support he received from the Associated Students.

"As you know and I know it is really important to hear all sides of an issue rather than just one forceful side or another forceful side," Br. Craig said.

He asked the Senate and all SMC students for their help in addressing these issues.

"Quite obviously, one sexual assault on campus is one too many. The people who are damaged by this are not just the victim, but also roommates, families, friends, and ultimately the entire college community," he said. "Your words speak louder than mine."

Br. Craig also asked students to act safely on Saint Mary's Day Off later this spring, saying, "we have a responsibility...to ensure that our activities in the future are ones of which we will be proud."

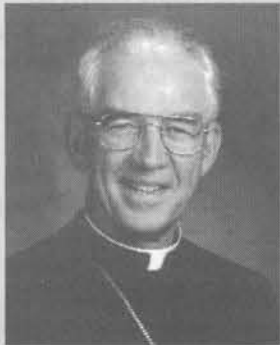
ASSMC President David Holquin, in his State of the Student Body Address, encouraged students to participate more in campus events.

"I believe it is crucial to the health of this college that all students are duly notified of events but perhaps, most important, show up to events," Holquin said. "It's time that we act, and not talk. Now is the time for change, so let's make it happen."

"As the threat of war looms ahead, I plead of this college one thing: to be proactive, and not reactive."

He also commented on progress made in converting Dryden Hall into a student lounge and invited all students to attend its reopening on February 20.

## IN THE NEWS



### Annual College Convocation

At this year's Annual College Convocation, SMC will honor the Most Reverend John S. Cummins, D.D., Bishop of Oakland. The Convocation will be held on Friday, February 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

### Dryden Grand Opening

On Thursday, February 20, Dryden Hall will be opened once again to the SMC community. There will be a DJ, food, games and prizes to help celebrate the addition of pool tables, foosball, air hockey, ping pong, and a 32-inch television. The event will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more information, call x8018.

### FAFSA Workshop

On February 19 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. the Financial Aid office will provide a workshop to help students with their Free Application for Federal Student Aid in Garaventa 240.

### Junior Formal

Bids for this year's junior formal went on sale Monday, February 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Programs. The junior formal will take place on Saturday, March 1 at the Westin St. Francis at Union Square in San Francisco from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. The cost will be \$105 per couple. There are a limited number of bids available. For details, call x4704.

### MFA Reading Series Continues

The Creative Writing Reading Series continues in the Spring with distinguished novelists Andrew Sean Greer, author of *The Path of Minor Planets*, and Russell Rowland, author of *In Open Spaces*, at 7:30 p.m. in the Soda Center. This reading is co-sponsored by the English Department and the MFA Program in Creative Writing. For more information, call x4088.

## CAMPUS SNAPSHOT



Andrea Camarena/ COLLEGIAN

### General Assembly

Adam Melville and fellow senators look on as addresses are given to the senate by Brother Craig and ASSMC president David Holquin.

## Meet Peter Michell: SMC's new VP for finance

by Jonathan Morales  
Staff Writer

One of the recent additions to the Saint Mary's administration is Peter Michell, the college's new Vice President for Finance.

Michell brings to Saint Mary's 20 years of experience in administrative positions at institutions of higher education. Although his original career path was teaching, he found himself instead working in administration.

Michell began in New York, where he helped to create a community college within the State University of New York system. He then went to Ripon College in Wisconsin. From there he moved to the Bay Area and worked at Mills College in Oakland and Notre Dame in

Belmont before coming to Saint Mary's.

"Several people called me and said 'You know, that might be a good place for you,'" Michell said.

As Vice President for Finance, several college functions are now Michell's responsibility, including food services, accounting, payroll, the bookstore, and Information Technology Services.

"In the past, I've done conferences in the past, public safety, campus safety, facilities, planning. I love the diversity of the position," said Michell. "I've even had the registrar reporting to me at one institution."

Although tuition is also one of Michell's responsibilities, the recent decision to increase

tuition was made before Michell arrived.

"This particular institution is very dependent on student tuition and fees," Michell said. "One goal is to increase endowment so we will be less dependent on tuition and fees, room and board."

The financial future of the college is included in "The Next Steps," a document written last May that outlined the goals of the college.

According to "The Next Steps", 93% of the college income comes from tuition, room and board fees.

"One of the main distinctions [between a corporate and] an institution of higher education is that it is not for profit," Michell said. Having worked with the Western Association

of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Michell said some schools practice poor business ethics, but these instances are rare.

"It never hurts to be vigilant," said Michell, referring to the accreditation process.

Overall, Michell is looking forward to working with at Saint Mary's and being part of its future. He noted the large alumni support Saint Mary's receives, saying "That's the mark of a good institution."

"I'm very pleased to be here because I think it is a great institution and a lot of good things are going to happen. I'm very interested in helping implement these plans and help this institution grow into the future."

## CRIME BEAT

1/29 11:50 p.m.  
Incident: Bomb Threat  
Synopsis: Bomb threats were received in Dryden Hall. The case was referred to the Moraga PD.

1/30 2:55 p.m.  
Incident: Possession of Marijuana  
Synopsis: Marijuana and drug paraphernalia were found in an Augustine Hall dorm room. Students were referred to Student Code of Conduct (S.C.C.).

1/30 10:02 p.m.  
Incident: Fire Alarm  
Synopsis: Candle burning in dorm room set off fire alarm in Beckett Hall.

1/31 2:00 p.m.  
Incident: Confiscation of drug paraphernalia  
Synopsis: Pipes were found in a student's dorm room in Augustine hall. Student was referred to S.C.C.

2/7 1:04 p.m.  
Incident: Possible fire hazard  
Synopsis: Public safety was notified as to a possible fire hazard in a coach's office in Madigan gym.

2/9 1:18 p.m.  
Incident: Student suspected of marijuana use  
Synopsis: Student suspected of marijuana use in Mitty hall. Referred to S.C.C.

2/10 2:00 a.m.  
Incident: Vandalism  
Synopsis: Portable toilets tipped over in Le Fevre Theatre construction site. Case suspended.

2/10 12:10 p.m.  
Incident: Possession of Marijuana  
Synopsis: Student caught possessing marijuana in Ageno B Hall. Referred to S.C.C.

2/12 9:33 p.m.  
Incident: Wrongful Towing of Vehicle  
Synopsis: Student called towing company to remove a fellow student's vehicle with no legitimate reason. The owner of the vehicle was charged \$150 for towing fees, and is really angry.




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**SEXUAL ASSAULT AT SMC**

# Where are we now?

PART ONE OF A CONTINUING SERIES

by Peter Tappeiner

## PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS A NEW SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

**N**early three months after the first news reports about sexual assault at Saint Mary's aired on KGO TV last November, new ground is being broken to address the many concerns raised in the report and by members of the SMC community.

Since December, the Sexual Assault Task Force comprised of students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members have been meeting to evaluate the College's policies. Informed by a survey of student opinion and experience, the Task Force anticipates making its recommendations to Br. Craig Franz, FSC by the end of March. Also expected by the end of March is George Washington University's Chief of Police Dolores Stafford's assessment of the College's reporting of campus crime under the Clery Act.

In September 2002, a Sexual Assault Policy Review Committee began to take shape when Women's Resource Center (WRC) Director Laura Armstrong and Sexual Assault Awareness Coordinator Sharon Sobotta went to Dean of Student Development Mary Spellman with concerns about the current policy. "We were all aware that the policy had some room for improvement," says Sobotta. In October, Dean Spellman selected committee members from staff and administration, while Sobotta was allowed to select two faculty and two students. The committee scheduled its first meeting for December 4<sup>th</sup>.

"It was clear that we needed to reexamine how our campus as a whole reacts to sexual assault," says Lindsay Lamb, one of the original members of the committee - which is now charged with the development and implementation of educational programming. Before the committee first met, however, the KGO report aired and the issue of sexual assault policy was thrust into the spotlight.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, in the first in his series of weekly letters, Br. Craig announced that he

had appointed a "task force to exhaustively investigate how our college addresses matters of sexual violence and campus safety." The Sexual Assault Policy Review Committee met once on December 4th to review the College's policy before being supplanted by the newly appointed Sexual Assault Task Force, chaired by Academic Vice-President Sally Stamp. The task force was formed in response to the demands presented by students on November 25th; "it was clear that the group who went to KGO did not feel that the existing committee was sufficient to address their concerns," says Br. Craig.

Br. Craig also wanted the Sexual Assault Task Force to have a "very broad charge" and to not focus solely on policy. The members of the new task force include faculty, representatives from the Trustees and Regents, members of the College's Disciplinary Hearing Board, the Deans of Student Development and Residence Life, students (including one Advocate from the Women's Resource Center and ASSMC President) as well as a former State Assemblyman from Contra Costa County. While not on the list of members of the task force, Br. Craig has also attended all of the meetings thus far.

The Sexual Assault Task Force has so far examined the College's current sexual assault policy and gone through how that policy functions in several different case scenarios of sexual assault reporting. As the level of knowledge about sexual assault issues varies among task force members, Cynthia Peterson, from Community Violence Solutions (CVS) - a local non-profit organization that addresses issues of family violence and sexual assault - presented a discussion of facts and myths about sexual assault, as well as services that CVS could provide to SMC including training and education. Peterson describes the task force's reaction to her offer of assistance as "very positive and supportive."

Maintaining an awareness of students' perceptions and concerns is also important to the task force. While David Holquin, ASSMC President is the only student to have been on the committee since its inception, Jessica Porras (Class of 2005), an Advocate from the WRC has been added as the only female student on the Task Force.

The task force is also administering a random sample survey of 300 students. This survey, supervised by Coordinator of Black Student Programs Brian Stanley, will ask students about their awareness, opinions and perceptions of issues surrounding sexual assault at

SMC. There is also an optional section that asks students about their personal experiences with sexual assault. The results of this study are going to be used internally by the task force to inform their recommendations and will not be released to the campus community.

What will be released are the results of a separate report regarding the college's reporting of campus crime under the Clery Act. This report, prepared by Chief Dolores Stafford of George Washington University, will be made available once Chief Stafford has completed her study of SMC's reporting procedures - which is expected to occur in late

March.

In addition to self-education and research, the task force is also scrutinizing Saint Mary's sexual assault policy. However, there are no specific portions of the policy that are designated for revision. "Where there will be (major and minor) changes is just emerging from this group," says Vice President Stamp. Members of the task force are confident that their recommendations to Br. Craig - expected to be made at the end of March - will be seriously considered. According to Stanley, "all the people who have the power to make a decision are on the task force."

### THE WAY WE WERE ...

(15 of 25)



SMC's first Hunger Strike

Protestors in 1972 fasted in the Chapel for the establishment of diversity programming.

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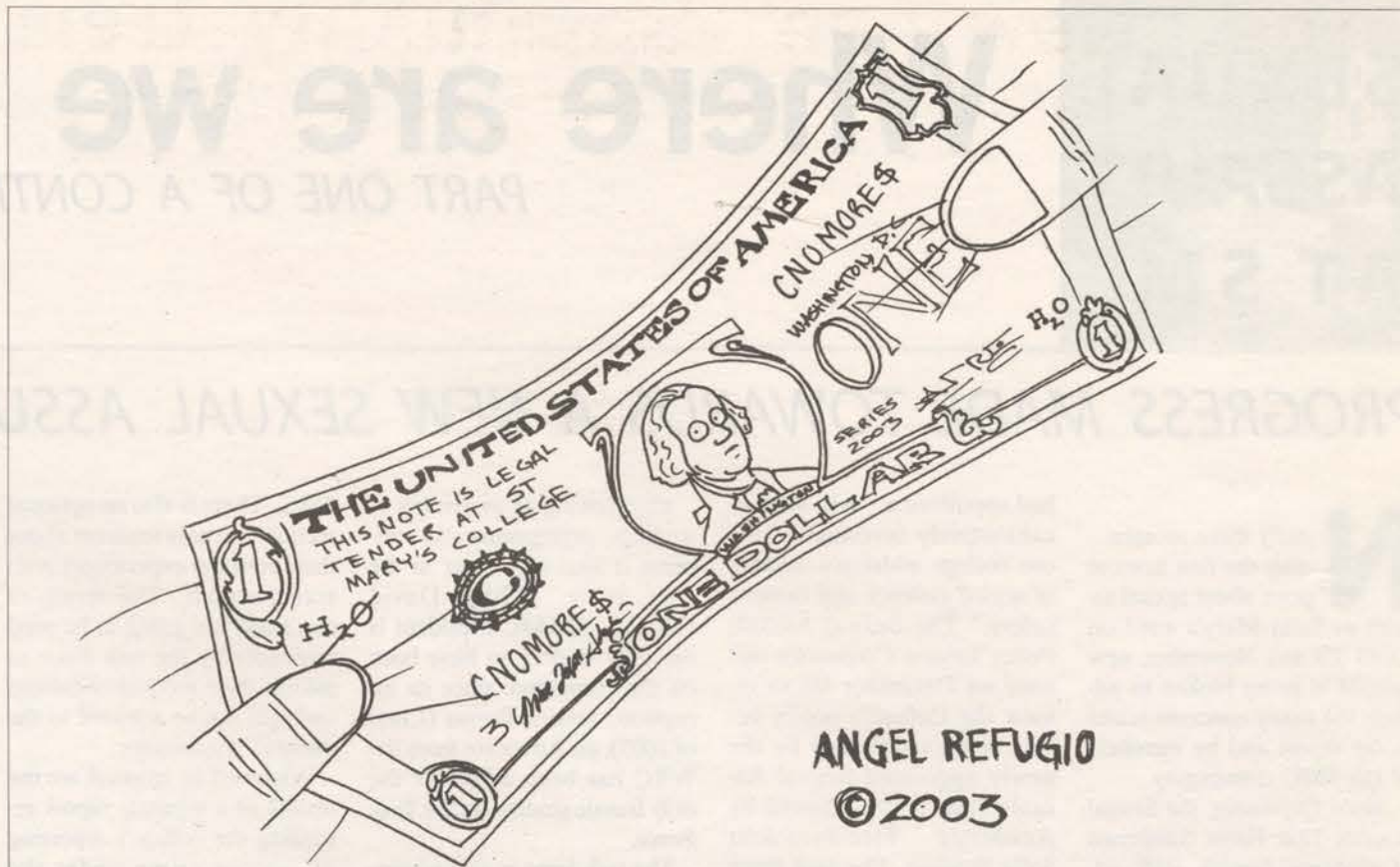
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# OPINION



Even George Washington is surprised at how much money SMC takes for its tuition.

## 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* reserves the right to edit any submitted material, solicited or unsolicited.

### Gael POLL

Student Response to the Tuition Increase  
**56**

Percentage of students who don't read the President's weekly letter via email.

**44**

Percentage of students who read the President's weekly letter via email.

**71**

Percentage of students who feel the tuition increase will be hard, but bearable.

**21**

Percentage of students who won't be affected by tuition increase.

**7**

Percentage of students who say they will not return next year due to the tuition increase.

*This week, the Collegian asked 70 students about their reactions to the tuition increase, and compiled the results above. All surveys are anonymous.*

#### Taking offense at orthodoxy

Dear Editor,

What are the values that Saint Mary's wishes to convey to its students and community? This is the question I asked myself when I decided to come to SMC and this is what I decided: Saint Mary's promotes community, diversity, exploration, questioning, and Lasallian values. This is what I see when I walk around Saint Mary's and see Brothers discussing the Vagina Monologues, basketball players discussing Aristotle, and Catholics discussing the Koran. College is a time to explore ideas that are outside your comfort level and to challenge beliefs that you hold dear. I take offense to the notion that I am being indoctrinated or brainwashed by speakers who challenge conventional ideas just as much as I take offense to the thought that the school is brainwashing me to be a good Catholic, whatever that means. Even more offensive is the idea that as a college student I do not have the ability to judge for myself the principles, causes, and consequences of important issues. I appreciate SMC's commitment to social justice and to challenging mainstream ideas, not disagreeing necessarily, just challenging. As a person who is comfortable with my beliefs, I do not find any speaker who takes a different view insulting. As a person who understands that I do not know everything, I invite people to present me with "unorthodox" viewpoints. I would hope that as college students, we are all open to learning something new and being questioned in our beliefs, because if you have

faith that what you believe is true, you will not be afraid to be challenged and you will always be open to your opponent's ideas. I thank SMC, a Catholic Institution, for holding true to Lasallian values that promote social justice and human rights and being secure enough in its heritage to invite dissenting opinion.

Michelle Jackson  
Class of 2004

#### Opening the mind

Dear Editor,

I congratulate Joshua Farley and your staff for publishing a very informative and spirited newspaper.

Having written for *The Collegian*, when it won many national awards under the editorship of Lionel Holmes and George Farnham, and being a newspaper person all my life, I do not hesitate to give this compliment.

I particularly enjoyed the article "Heresy and SMC," by Nathan Cho and Scott Miyashiro; the fact that it was printed illustrates the professional judgment of your staff. It seems to me the authors' biggest complaint is that the those speakers who endorse the "magestium" are not being invited to the campus. If not, they should be.

However, I must agree that students at Saint Mary's should be able to make independent judgment; also "As students, we should open our minds in wonder and take the advice of many wise scholars."

And may, I add, there are no better (and here I must disagree with the authors) than Joan Chittister, OSB; Rev. Dr. Charles Curran and Garry Wills.

Students have a right to agree or disagree. This is not to say that students are incapable of independent thought."

### Collegian VIEW

#### Tuition's Rising!!!

Saint Mary's College has increased its already exorbitant tuition by 13.9% for new students, and 6 percent for those currently in attendance. The same school that has recently been suffering with issues concerning the employment of its staff and faculty, the ever more saddening ambiguity of its "Catholic" and "Lasallian" identity, and poor policy in dealing with sexual harassment (to name but few of many major problems), has decided that the monetary worth owed it by its students is now greater.

Why does a school with such a substantial dilemma of expressing its greatness charge great-school prices? It is hardly shy of scandal when students and their families must pay even more money to attend a school whose own inherent quality is on the decline (as was evident in the *U.S. Weekly News and Review* ratings), and when such a high price of attendance can only be justified by the kind of changes that cannot be made by an increase in tuition.

This statement seems to be in direct contradiction to their referral to "mindless indoctrination" mentioned twice. Catholics, today, must disagree and dissent, if they are going to find the ultimate truth. All of us are blessed by the Holy Spirit, and with prayer and study one will find the ultimate truth.

That is the goal of the LaSallian Tradition, and is open to all regardless of their faith or creed.

Donald J. Wood, Ph.D.  
Class of 1945

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# The "New Age" Spirituality Trend

## Spiritual "trial-sizes" ultimately prove to be a bad bargain

by Liz Schnitz

Opinion Columnist

Deep in my religious studies reader one night, I open a "US Weekly" for an oasis of junk reading. A few pages into it, Pamela Anderson is sitting on a movie set in the Lotus position, palms facing upward towards a benevolent, peaceful god, complete with incense swirling up to the deity as well, proving her Brahmin devotion. Her worldly cares float up with the incense, her layers drop one by one and... suddenly!...she is finding the elusive sound of Om in between takes. Well, maybe not. But I do hope it provides her with interview topics besides Kid Rock.

It's no surprise that it's hard to commit to a religion in our present culture. The minute one does, she bears the tremendous burden of

defending her faith, and of course consciously living it. Too often one's religion and the rest of one's life don't feel melded enough into what Father Tom McElligott calls "lived experience" of faith.

The problem with "New Age" practices (i.e. yoga, feng shui, incense, and other uses of Eastern or cultic paraphernalia and ideas) isn't necessarily that the one path to God is belief in Jesus' death and resurrection, as many who share my faith believe, but that a full commitment to a single faith is the one path to a full and vital spirituality. During an era that has us digging constantly, but rather shallowly, for meaning in our lives, we should not be looking merely for spiritual trial-sizes, but for a deep faith in God.

The Church recently released an answer to Catholics who are conflicted about

participating in New Age practices. It advised the laity to proceed with caution, because engaging in practices of other faiths could, in effect, lead one away into Neverland.

Studying religion at Saint Mary's has left me intrigued and inspired by how many paths God has left for us to follow in order to find him. Just because not all paths are Christian, this does not condemn the devotees of other paths, but rather the people who become half-hearted - which Christians can fall prey to as well, despite popular belief.

In the case of New Age converts, their "journey" seems troublesome, since jumping idly from path to path in order to get to your destination proves that the traveler isn't really serious about getting there. Part of the danger of the New Age movement is that it can make

the religions it borrows from - which are hardly new - to look frivolous; a cheap alternative to serious faith. But it's important to keep in mind that the bhakti yoga borrowed from Hinduism is not in itself Hinduism, nor, for that matter, is the recitation of the lyrics to George Harrison's "Hare Krishna." If these religions really interest Hollywood and other enlightened hot spots, perhaps the devout can start to prove their devotion by renouncing their Manolo Blahnik shoes and whatever comes next.

We have to believe in the merit of our faith's journey and understand the wisdom of it, received only when we are patient with our inquiry. In other words, unless you are truly a Taoist, keeping feng shui on constant rotation in your vocabulary might be a sign of impatience.

### READ THIS COLUMN



by  
Susanne E.  
Schweitzer

### Ways of Spending... Time that is

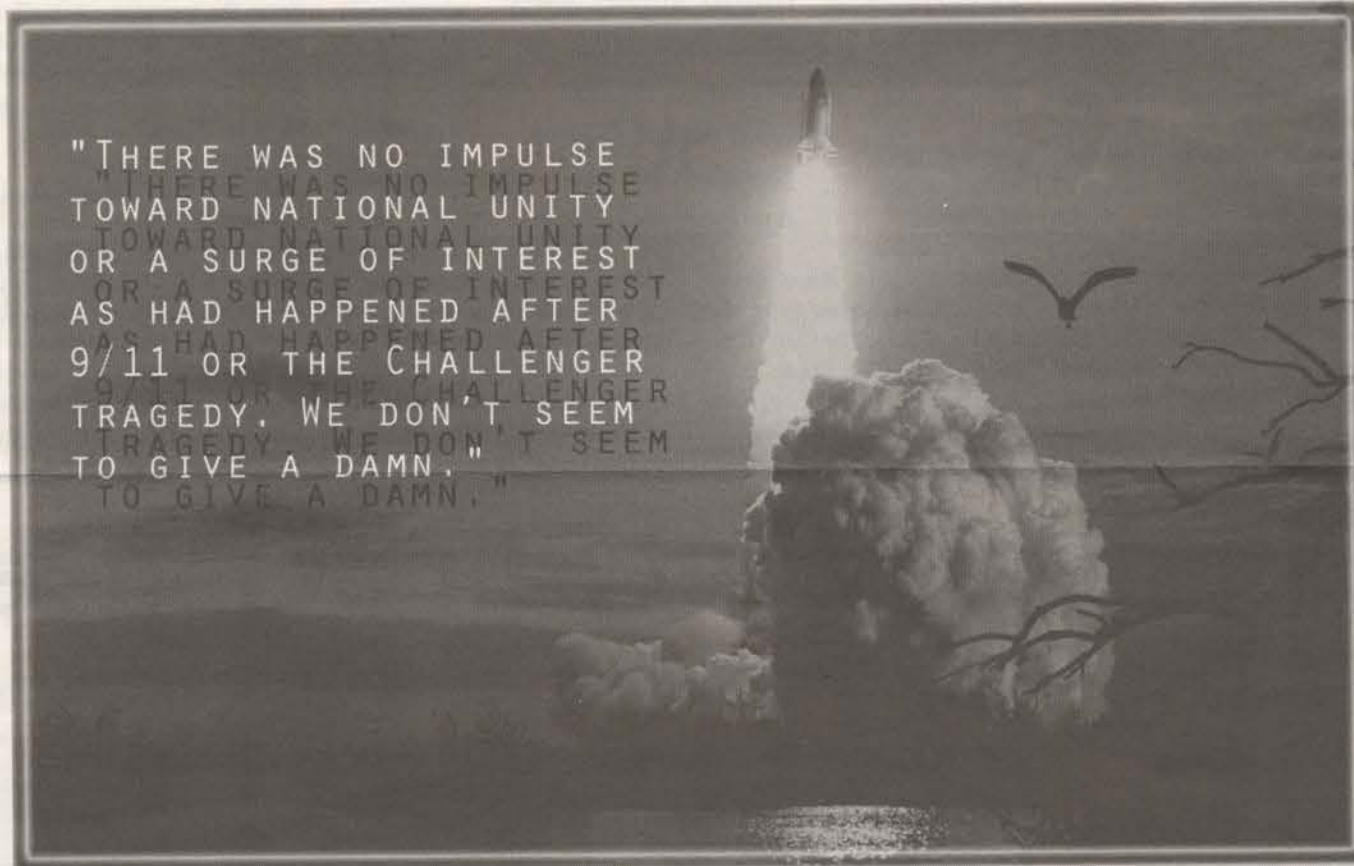
When I brought up this column, a good friend of mine said, "Great, go ahead and preach to them," in a very sarcastic tone, and I considered abandoning it.

See, I wanted to talk about the lack of responsibility that most of our generation seems to share. Boring, huh? I mean, who am I to preach to my fellow Generation Y about the decline of accountability? Why should you continue to read this column? For that matter, why should I continue to write it?

Many people are only in college because they want to make money in the "real" world. The rest are here because they want to have a job they really love (say, becoming a college professor), and SMC is one more step along the journey. Either way, the most cynical of us could just look at the entire college process as being much simpler if one could merely write a check for \$100,000 and be granted a fancy piece of paper that says you are better qualified to do X, Y or Z because you've paid more money than Joe Poor over there. The only problem with that is that it also takes four years to complete the degree. You are not just investing money (most of us are not even investing that, though our parents may be), you are also spending four years of your youth to enrich your mind, and to learn skills that WILL make you better equipped to live the life you've imagined.

So why is it truly so unheard of to actually use the time, instead of just waiting for "real" life to start? You're spending the best years of your life in a classroom. We are incredibly lucky to have the faculty and staff we do; not to mention the fact that a liberal arts education centers around basic questions to which you will spend the rest of your life trying to find answers.

Maybe it is preachy. Who am I to tell you how to spend your time? I'm just a student who is sometimes (okay, often) annoyed at the lack of preparation my fellow classmates exhibit. What point is there in trying to have a discussion on something no one's really read? The point of the "seminar-style" classroom Saint Mary's is so fond of is to relate a variety of topics into something relevant to us. However, it relies on a symbiotic interaction not only between student and professor, but student to student. That's the thing about personal accountability. It's never completely personal.



Photos courtesy of [www.imagesofspace.com/pages/largespaceshuttle.htm](http://www.imagesofspace.com/pages/largespaceshuttle.htm)

# SPACE HEROES REMEMBERED

## And where was our national unity during this tragedy?

by Pablo Armas

Opinion Columnist

February 8th's Columbia tragedy should've had an impact on all of us. After all, these were brave men and women who did what they could to make advances in human technology - trying to make the world a better place for everyone. Yet, no one paid any attention to the astronauts after they were killed (or even when they were alive). There was no impulse toward national unity or a surge of interest as had happened after 9/11 or the Challenger tragedy. We don't seem to give a damn.

When did we stop caring about our pilots and astronauts? When did we begin to roll our eyes in apathy at them?

We should be asking, "why did this happen?" instead of indifferently muttering to our-

selves with annoyance, "Again?" People used to admire what they did, schoolchildren wanted to be like them. To this day, my brother still dreams of being the first man to land on Mars.

Yet, despite the numerous opportunities that exist in space, the public doesn't care, and without any public support, the government began to dismantle the space program bit by bit. Software that should have been upgraded wasn't; parts for the shuttle are getting so scarce that NASA finds itself going to eBay to buy the parts that they need in order to get things going. The parts that they do have are worn out and NASA just prays that it holds long enough till they can get more funding to get it replaced.

Sadly, instead of giving the space agency more money, the

government siphons more money away and gives it to other divisions of the government that Congress deems more important. Now, I don't mind if the money goes to things like financial aid for college or paying off the debt or social services like Medicare or Social Security. In fact I encourage it; without it most of us would not be able to attend school.

However, what bothers me is when the money doesn't even go to these services (in fact, they seem to be getting less funding as well), but to the military. I'd rather see my money go to a program that could possibly solve our energy crisis than on missiles and planes that do nothing but suck up money and kill people.

So remember the space program and hope it continues

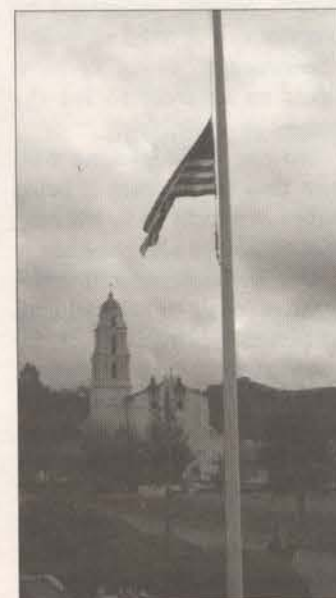


Photo by Lissette Garcia

The campus flag flies at half-mast after the tragic event.

even long after the accident, lest the astronauts have died in vain.

DETOUR

100 WORD REVIEWS

MOVIE

Old School takes comedy inside academia to a new level. 30-some-things create a fraternity, fearing the stark realities that define middle age. Luke Wilson (Mitch) exudes the same dry, sarcastic humor found in Rushmore and The Royal Tenenbaums. Will Ferrell (Frank) generates laughter in every scene, akin to his days at SNL. Vince Vaughn (Beanie) is at his comedic best, playing the cocky, know-it-all best friend a la Swingers. Entertaining cameos by Craig Kilborn, Seann William Scott (a.k.a. "Stifler"), and Snoop Dogg must have been easy to snag on location in L.A. National release is this Friday. Two words: See it.

-Denny Bulcao, Jr.

COMEDIAN

After four episodes of his new show on Comedy Central, Dave Chappelle has been on the road doing stand-up comedy in a show known as "Dave Chappelle is Blackzilla." On Saturday, February 15, Chappelle performed his act at the Warfield in San Francisco. This hour-long act covered topics from the war to the positive effects of a motorcyclist on a blind date. In between these issues included hilarious comments on relationships, world news, drugs, racism, and sex. Needless to say, Chappelle's ability to make his audience laugh was only surpassed by his ability to laugh along with his spectators.

-Chris Mateo

CLASS

Do you love authentic food, ancient ruins, and learning about art and culture? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you need to visit Italy. I recently traveled there during Jan Term with the Integral Program, and fell in love. I had an amazing adventure exploring Rome and Florence, visiting Pompeii, Pisa and Venice. Just seeing these beautiful cities and their remarkable structures amazed me. Michelangelo's works were incredible and our audience with the Pope was a unique experience. So start planning now because once you get there, you will understand why the Italians live, "Le Dolce Vita!"

-Lara Endreszl

Royal Siam Thai Cuisine



Photo By: Lisette Garcia

Front of Royal Siam in the Rheem Shopping Center.

Looking for good Thai? Royal Siam has the best food west of Thailand

THE COLLEGIAN'S Best of Lamorinda

by the detour staff

I have visited and eaten in Bangkok, Thailand, twice in my lifetime. And while this judgement may sound presumptuous, the food served up by Royal Siam, in Rheem Valley Shopping Center, is far superior to my two authentic Thai experiences.

Royal Siam's menu showcases gourmet Thai dishes cooked with ingredients familiar to the American palate. The restaurant's ample menu caters to the tastes of vegetarians and strict carnivores alike.

On your first visit to Royal Siam, you have to start with the Spicy Tofu (\$5.95), which is covered in a delicious, sweet and sour red sauce with a hint of spicy pepper. I tricked one of my anti-tofu, carnivore

friends into trying this, and even after he knew what it was, he continued to devour it.

Meat-eaters will enjoy the Royal Lamb (\$10.95), a house specialty, with a thick brown sauce to die for. Another excellent choice is Nua Ka Nar (\$6.95), the beef and broccoli dish with essence of orange.

Vegetarians should not miss Royal Siam's scrumptious curries (best with an order of rice). The Gang Dang curry (\$7.50) a green curry with bamboo shoots, eggplant, zucchini and basil. You can order this with prawns (for fish

eaters), tofu, or as is. Also try the Tofu Prig Khing (\$6.95) or the Vegetable and Tofu curry (\$7.50).

If you are new to Thai food, try the Pad Thai, a noodle dish which is universally enjoyable. Royal Siam offers a few versions of this dish (\$7.50).

Thai food is generally served family style, so bring a few friends along and try a variety of dishes. Thai Iced Tea or Iced Coffee (both \$1.75), or an imported Singha beer are great accompaniments to any selection.

Royal Siam's ambience is serene and intimate, making this an excellent spot for dates or a place to engage in friendly conversation.

The restaurant is decorated with framed collage prints of the famous Pacific Rim "Garuda," or "bird-lady." From the moment you walk in, you'll notice the Thai facades near the entrance to the kitchen. The owner of the restaurant clearly tried to create a welcoming atmosphere.

Unfortunately, Royal Siam is concealed under a typical Rheem Center awning which hides its friendly inner atmosphere. Next time that you are heading to a movie in Rheem, or checking out the new Starbucks or Blockbuster, take time to eat lunch or dinner at Royal Siam.

“Royal Siam's menu showcases gourmet Thai dishes cooked with ingredients familiar to the American palate.”

Finding beauty in science

A.S. Greer's "novel" notions of science became one

by Josh Farley Editor-in-Chief

Andrew Sean Greer's critically acclaimed novel, *The Path of Minor Planets*, highlights an astronomer's devotion to the stars, specifically, the life of a comet as it comes and goes over decades.

But Greer is no astronomer. So how can he, a writer of fiction, possibly understand the emotions of devoted scientists? "Sometimes," Greer says, "it takes an amateur to see the beauty of something."

No one is disagreeing with him thus far, as *Path* is being hailed as a rarity in its stunning mix of science and romance.

Greer is no amateur however, when it comes to his own craft of fiction writing. At 21, he graduated from Brown University as commencement speaker at his own graduation--and hell bent on having his first novel published.

"I was probably too young, and the novel was probably no good...but I tried to get it published."

He moved to New York City, working a variety of jobs and writing to as many different publishers as he could. After watching many of his friends choose to give up their artistic pursuits in the



“

Sometimes it takes an amateur to see the beauty of something.”

-Andrew Sean Greer

face of rejection, Greer realized that he would have to give up his original novel, and start from scratch out West.

He obtained his MFA (Masters in Fine Arts) in creative writing from the University of Montana. Upon graduating, when he realized he was unhappy with both Montana and his former residence in New York-- and he moved to Seattle.

"It costs too much to live in New York, and there is no money in Montana, so Seattle was somewhere in between." At 25, Greer got his "big break"—a short story in the

acclaimed "Esquire" magazine. But when the second novel he wrote went unpublished, he began writing *How it was for me*, a collection of short stories exploring the lives of lonely characters. He was finally published by Picador.

His major inspiration for *The Path of Minor Planets* came when he moved to San Francisco, setting his sights on again writing a novel.

"I was frustrated with short stories, and I'm always interested in what happens later [in people's lives]."

The plot line of *Path* revolves around reunions. "I

wanted to have [reunions] to present a snapshot of each character, and then some natural occurrence to give it structure."

Comets became his natural occurrence, and astronomers became his characters.

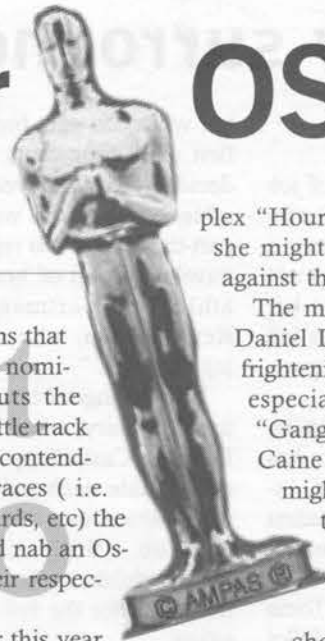
"Astronomy is evocative to everyone," says Greer, "I've even had astronomers contact me and tell me how beautiful it is to see [their work] in *Path*."

"Scientists have to be selfish, and they have to observe the world," he says, "when I wrote this book, I had to be selfish, and observe the world."

Andrew Sean Greer appears tonight, at 7pm, in the Soda Activity Center.

# the Race for OSCAR

by Liz Schnitz  
Staff Writer



plex "Hours" character Laura Brown, she might blend into the woodwork against these other performances.

The men's race is strangely led by Daniel Day-Lewis, an actor with a frightening dynamic in any role, but especially as Bill the Butcher in "Gangs of New York." Michael Caine in "The Quiet American" might be a long shot because of the political climate right now, as the movie is set during the Vietnam War.

Although the last time I checked, Hollywood wasn't lobbying for war right now, so that might even help Caine bring home another Oscar. Nicolas Cage almost deserves a trophy for being in a movie other than those recent "look into my sincere eyes" movies that he has hit his public over the head with. Jack Nicholson had a strong performance in "About Schmidt," but might not receive more than a nod for it. Adrien Brody is a critics darling for his performance in "The Piano." Although not as well known as his fellow nominees, a striking performance from an acclaimed movie about the Holocaust that features him playing the piano might land Brody the coveted position of reading a long list of love ones and producers up on the podium this year.

An interesting category this season is "Best Song," which is usually the most tedious. The most deserving are "I Move On," in "Chicago," and "Lose Yourself" in "Eight Mile." The latter is probably the more fitting song to win its category, as it's what most of the "Best Song" nominees have not been in the past: memorable.

In addition, "Lose Yourself" anchored Eight Mile, setting an emotional tone that made Eminem's foray into the Screen Actors Guild so rewarding for fans and non-fans. The best part is that Eminem will be on stage at the Oscars whether he wins or not.

For some reason, it seems that the announcement of Oscar nominations every February puts the movie industry into its own little track meet. In each heat there are contenders, and based on previous races (i.e. the Golden Globes, SAG awards, etc) the runners are lined up to try and nab an Oscar for his or her team in their respective events.

The teams to watch out for this year are, "Chicago," "The Hours," and, "Gangs of New York." "Chicago" was nominated in thirteen categories, including best picture. "The Hours," possibly the most deserving to win, was also nominated for best picture and is well represented in the acting heats. Finally, to the surprise of some critics, Martin Scorsese's "Gangs of New York" is entered in a lot of events at the Academy's meet. It is suspected that, as the Academy is prone to do, Scorsese is really being rewarded for previous work.

The nominees in the best picture category also include "The Pianist," keeping critics across the United States satiated, and "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," which does the same for nerds.

Nicole Kidman will probably win the best actress category, and she deserves to. She strikes the hearts of viewers as the brilliant and mentally tortured Virginia Woolf in "The Hours." The only unfortunate part of her almost-guaranteed win is that Julianne Moore, nominated for both best actress ("Far from Heaven") and best supporting actress ("The Hours"), might go home without either Oscar. Besides being up against Kidman for best actress, she will run alongside the tour-de force Catherine Zeta-Jones ("Chicago"), show-stopper Queen Latifah ("Chicago"), veteran Meryl Streep ("Adaptation"), and meta-veteran Kathy Bates ("About Schmidt") for best supporting actress. Like her quiet and com-

movie poster images taken from www.everythingoscar.com



Tune in and see who wins at the Oscars on March 23 @ 8:30!

## An Evening With My Vagina...

by Andrea Camarena  
Sports Editor

"Vagina. Vagina. Vagina." Whispers filled LeFevre Theatre Friday night at Saint Mary's production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues". The setup for the evening was simple; 20 actresses dressed in red and black sat on stage with three microphones and a spotlight.

The dramatic readings, created by Eve Ensler, were brought to SMC by junior Jackie Smith, who both headed the organization of the event and beautifully performed the first monologue of the night.

The sold out show raised over \$1,000 in honor of V-Day, the movement to stop violence against women, which was inspired by the original show. The proceeds from Friday's show will go to a safe house for battered women in Oakland. Eve Ensler and the founders of V-day have agreed to allow her play to be performed without royalties on February 14th as long as the proceeds go to women-friendly groups.

As announced at the end of the program, many of the actresses involved in the production had little to no acting experience; however, this hindrance did not have an impact on the effectiveness and meaning of the monologues.

Allegra Porter '04, was one of the highlights of the evening, performing the monologue titled *Because He Liked To Look At It*. This piece inspired the "Bob" name-tags worn by the men in the audience, and Porter's ability to relate the text to the audience was priceless. She delivered the piece with attitude and sarcasm and kept the audience submerged and laughing throughout her five minutes on stage.

Another highlight was Lindsay Lamb '03, who's *The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy*. Her series of moans from Mountain Top Yodeler to the silent WASP moan, had the audience in stitches. Lamb's stage presence and delivery was quite engaging as she performed this crowd pleasing monologue.

Eve Ensler represented herself in *I Was There In The Room*, a monologue describing a woman giving birth. Junior Ana Montanez gave a lovely interpretation of the play's author with her smooth acting in one of the few memorized performances.

The show was followed by a silent auction which raised more money for the Oakland shelter. The organizers hope to make the event annual and continue to raise money for charities that promote women's rights.

A FOX SPORTS TELEVISED GAME

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MCKEON PAVILION

THREE GAEL FORCE MEMBERS WILL BE CHOSEN TO COMPETE FOR \$400 IN THE "CRAWLING FOR CASH" CONTEST

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want to remind you that NOW is the time to apply for financial aid for next year.

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## SPORTS

## SCOREBOARD

## BASEBALL

2/2 SMC	5
San Luis Obispo	6
2/6 SMC	3
Sacramento State	2
2/14 SMC	4
Nevada	8
2/15 SMC	7
Nevada	9
2/16 SMC	10
Nevada	7

## Men's BASKETBALL

2/1 SMC	74
Pepperdine	67
2/5 SMC	69
San Diego	76
2/8 SMC	67
San Francisco	68
2/13 SMC	49
Gonzaga	73
2/15 SMC	71
Portland	59

## Women's B-BALL

2/1 SMC	57
Pepperdine	78
2/8 SMC	58
San Francisco	52
2/14 SMC	43
Gonzaga	67
2/15 SMC	75
Portland	57

## SOFTBALL

2/1 SMC	1
Oregon State	11
2/2 SMC	0
Southern Utah	8
2/2 SMC	4
Cal Poly	3
2/4 SMC	5(4)
UNLV	2(3)
2/9 SMC	2
Berkeley	8
2/15 SMC	1(3)
Humboldt	8(1)

## Men's TENNIS

2/7 SMC	5
Sonoma State	2
2/10 SMC	3
Hawaii	4
2/15 SMC	0
UC Irvine	7
2/16 SMC	2
Sac State	5

## Women's TENNIS

2/1 SMC	3
Santa Clara	4
2/4 SMC	6
Sonoma State	1
2/6 SMC	6
UC Santa Cruz	1
2/15 SMC	6
San Jose State	1

## Men's LACROSSE

2/15 SMC	10
Claremont McKenna	9

## Mystery surrounds trainer's departure

by Erik Van Buren  
Staff Writer

After a restructuring of job descriptions in the SMC athletic training room, veteran trainer Megan Toma has not been allowed to continue her current job status and has left the college's athletic department.

The lack of explanation regarding Toma's departure has left many SMC athletes, including tennis player Catalina Fillol, mystified and infuriated.

"I don't even know if Toma was fired or if she quit," Fillol said. "There has been bad communication in this situation."

Fillol, The SMC women's tennis team captain, described Toma as "very valuable," in her unorthodox methods. "Toma was not afraid to use different techniques."

"Toma is irreplaceable as a trainer," said another SMC athlete, who wished to go unnamed. "The athletic department is making a huge mistake by not offering her back her position."

Toma was a full-time trainer for eight years at the College,

but when she gave birth to her first child four years ago, she decided to stop traveling with athletic teams and work on a part-time basis. To replace the traveling aspect of her job, the athletic department hired Kevin Brown, who was willing to travel.

That arrangement continued until January, when Athletic Director Carl Clapp chose to consolidate each pair of part-time trainers into one full-time position. Still raising her young children, Toma could not apply for the full-time position.

Clapp was unavailable for comment on the consolidations.

Toma was not opposed to the athletic department's move to hire trainers almost exclusively for full-time positions, but thought the switch at mid-year was unusual.

"I would've happily left in May," Toma said.

The move to consolidate part-time trainers into a single, full-time position, is similar to the College's stance on adjunct and part-time professors, who are now being consolidated into tenure-track positions.

## Men's Hoops Back On Track

71-59 win at Portland ends 3-game losing streak



Men's Basketball stretches for practice.

by Denny Bulcao Jr.  
Staff Writer

The Gaels (12-11, 5-5 WCC) broke their longest and most damaging losing streak this past Saturday night with a solid 71-59 victory at Portland (9-14, 2-9). Frederic Adjiwanou finished with his second double-double of the year, racking up a career-high 20 points and 10 rebounds. Jonathan Sanders also had a career-best night, finishing with 14 points and a perfect 6-for-6 from the free-throw line. Also contributing in double-digits were Daniel Kickert with 12 and Ross Benson with 10 points, respectively.

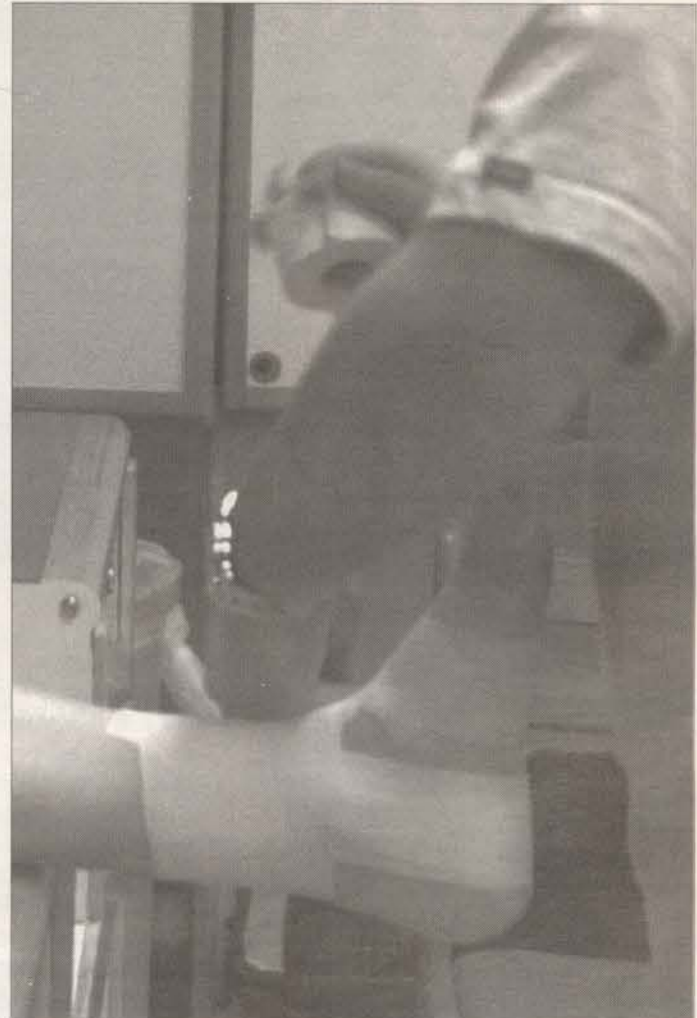
The much-needed win ended a three game losing streak, one that sent Saint Mary's from a second place tie to fifth place in the West Coast Conference standings. The victory nudged the Gaels up to fourth, after Santa Clara (3-7) beat Pepperdine (5-6) Sunday in the Leavey Center.

As it stands, Gonzaga (10-1 WCC) should secure the regular season championship and #1 seed in the conference tournament. This includes two automatic byes provided by the

new tournament format. A lot can happen in four games, but at 7-3 in conference, second place San Diego is close to joining the Zags in the semifinals. USF (6-4), who has already split with SMC after the most recent bit of misery in Moraga, may earn one bye if they finish third. The Gaels hope to push farther up the standings to avoid a possible #4 vs. #5 quarterfinal. LMU is barely breathing at 4-7, but the Lions recently handed Gonzaga their lone loss in So. Cal. Santa Clara (3-7) and Portland (2-9) can help teams like the Gaels earn higher seedings.

All you really need to know is that the Gaels' final four games of the year are critical. The conference championship and trip to the Big Dance (NCAA Championships) is up for grabs this year. The 2003 Gaels can be there, if they put a different kind of streak together—starting now.

Pack McKeon Pavilion for the final two home games of the year: Feb. 21 at 7:05 vs. San Diego and Feb. 23 at 1 vs. Santa Clara. Listen on 89.5 FM KSMC, www.ksmc895.com, Gael TV Ch.19, and www.smcgaels.com.



An SMC trainer wraps an athlete's ankle.

## Ratcliffe leaves Gaels for Cardinal

The search begins for a new coach as Stanford snags Ratcliffe from Saint Mary's.

by Irene Guzman  
Staff Writer

A search for a new head coach for the Saint Mary's women's soccer team has begun after five-year coach Paul Ratcliffe resigned as head coach to take the same job at Stanford University.

Ratcliffe made his announcement on February 10th, just a few weeks before the spring season for soccer was to start. The news came as a shock to many of his players and the Saint Mary's community.

"At first, I was upset but looking at the situation I'm happy for him," said junior Jen Belzer, a defender who will anchor the defense for the Gaels next season.

"Stanford has great facilities, salary, and recruiting. The only thing they don't have is us."

Ratcliffe cited his main reason for leaving as career advancement.

"There aren't many schools in the country that I would leave Saint Mary's for," he said. "Stanford happened to be one but it was a hard deci-

sion I had to make."

"I enjoyed my time here immensely. The players were superb and the friends I made were wonderful. I will miss everybody," said Ratcliffe of his overall experience at Saint Mary's.

Ratcliffe finished his tenure as Gaels' head coach with an overall record of 53-34-7 and a 21-13-1 record in West Coast Conference action.

He was named WCC Coach of the Year three times and led the Gaels to their highest national ranking ever at #7 in 2001.

That same year they advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament, beating teams like University of California-Berkeley and 2002 National Champions University of Portland.

Assistant Coach Stacey Shaw will take over coaching duties while the search for a new head coach continues.

"We already have team chemistry, all we need is a coach who can mesh with us," said Belzer. "No one is going to be Paul but we will do the best that we can."