

- ▶ **OPINION**  
Athletics versus academics **pg.5**
- ▶ **DETOUR**  
A trip to the hookah lounge **pg.6**

Volleyball: strongest season in 15 years



Tuesday, October 7, 2003

smcnet.stmarys-ca.edu/gaelpage

Volume 101, Number 6

## Senate sets sights high with new faces and goals

Newly elected seek more student involvement, relationship with administration

by Irene Guzman  
Staff Writer

The 2003-2004 Associated Students of Saint Mary's College, as a complete body, held its first meeting last Sunday in the Soda Center. They set goals for the future, including encouragement for more student activity on campus. The committee of the whole - the informal meeting of the Senate - managed to elect a Speaker, approve three board chairs, and discuss the approaching Senate

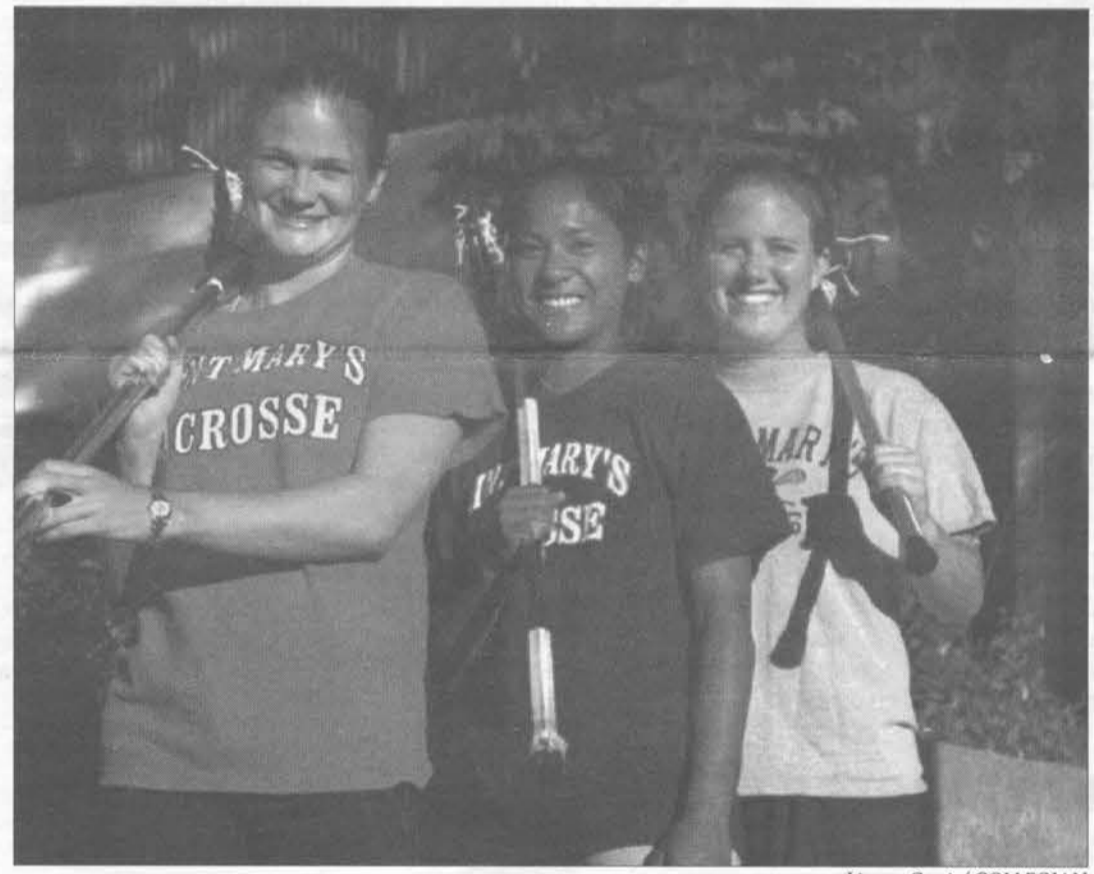
retreat, where they will spend one weekend collecting ideas on ways to improve student life on campus and improve relations with college administration. John Zabala '06 was elected Speaker of the Senate with an overwhelming majority of twenty-two affirmative votes and only four negatives, with six abstaining. Zabala will be the represented voice of the Senate in relation to the Executive Council.

He also chairs the Institutional Affairs Board and appointed the Club, Media, and Finance Chairs. The approved Board Chairs are as follows: Jessica Porras '05 for Media, Jerid Anderson '04 for Clubs, and Peter Vogt '06 for Finance. The elections to fill the vacant freshmen class and other openings for the remaining classes were held on Sept. 23-24, and voter turnout was a little over 300 students.

There were a few close races, most notably in the freshmen class, with the Vice President position going to Kelley McDonald over Shane Keane - by eight votes. Other results for the class of 2007 include Jillian Jweinat for President, and Senators Ben Campbell, Andrew Reese, Coree Brown, Scott Rodriguez, Amy Chambellan, Megan Bangert, and Erin Sanders. Alex Kirschner gained the sec-

ond open Senatorial seat with sixty-two votes, good enough for 33.9 percent of his voting class. The Class of 2006 voting resulted with Jeff Gaeto as President, Jahmese Myers for Vice President, and Senators Roberto Cabrera, Laci Jackson, Alex Kirschner, Ian Tongol, Peter Vogt, John Zabala, and Rebecca Glover. see SENATE, p2

### Women's lacrosse season in question.



Lisette Garcia/ COLLEGIAN

Despite the smiles of Katy Flood, Irene Guzman, and Colette Spencer, the seniors' lacrosse season looks grim.

by Michael Chin  
Staff Writer

It has been six months since the SMC Women's Lacrosse team has been with a coach. It was only a short two months ago when former coach Debra Holland resigned from her po-

sition following an unofficial written complaint by the team. With countless mistakes attributed to her, the most important of these were a lack of a legitimate schedule, a loss in scholarship money, and vital recruiting time.

Just two months ago, SMC began a national search for a coach. Like any other athletic team they have grown impatient and are wondering how much the administration really cares about them and their program. According to see LACROSSE, p3

## Bishop to join in 2004

Cummins to focus on Catholic identity, higher education, and organizations

by Chris Swain  
Managing Editor

With his retirement as bishop of the Oakland Diocese on Oct. 1, Bishop John Cummins will be coming to Saint Mary's in Jan. 2004, to work in the recently created John S. Cummins Catholic Institute for Thought, Culture and Action. "I welcome the opportunity to become more closely affiliated with Saint Mary's," said Bishop Cummins in a recent press release. Bishop Cummins said he looks forward to continuing his work "on issues of Catholic identity and the role of Catholic higher education in our society" while at SMC. "I think it is great," said Maryann Ferris, a student representative for the institute. "Just his presence will help solidify the Catholic identity of the school," said Ferris. The institute, which Bishop Cummins will play a part in, will seek to promote Catholic education initiatives, programs and research for the SMC community.

Bishop Cummins has been "initially and consistently enthusiastic" about coming to Saint Mary's, said Brother Craig Franz, president of SMC. "His presence," said Franz, "will make an enhanced environment." The institute was named in honor of Bishop Cummins, who served in the Oakland archdiocese for over 25 years. Bishop Cummins was also a trustee at SMC from 1969 to 1979. The Catholic institute for thought, culture and action will provide communication for campus organizations that are involved with Catholic activities. The religious studies department, the Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action, Campus Ministry, the Henning Institute and Lasallian initiatives, will all play a part in fostering the Catholic nature of the college. "[The bishop] has such a pastoral approach to Catholicism," said Ferris, "he is very open to speaking to students." see BISHOP, p2

## Director of Women's Resource Center leaves

Armstrong leaves; Sobotta to be interim director of women's center

by Andrea Camarena  
Editor-in-Chief

Just over a year after her arrival, Laura Armstrong, director of the Women's Resource Center, announced her unscheduled resignation from Saint Mary's on Oct. 10 for personal reasons. During the interim Sharon Sobotta, sexual assault awareness coordinator will stand in Armstrong's place while continuing her own role. Both Sobotta and Armstrong reiterate that the shortage of staff

will not diminish the work of the center. "We were both always involved in everything. So, with at least one of us here we will be able to continue the Center's work," Sobotta said. Mary Spellman, the dean of student development, must now form a committee to fill Laura's position. "We will begin a search for the position this fall using a committee formed from both faculty and students. As soon as we finish our

national search and find someone, hopefully they'll be able to start right away. Ideally, I'd like to have someone here by January." The role of the center has changed since Armstrong's arrival at Saint Mary's and most owe it to her, although she refuses to take credit. "Her and Sharon together as a team have basically gotten the Women's Resource Center up and running the way it should see ARMSTRONG, p3



Tina McAfee/ COLLEGIAN

John Zabala, Laura Armstrong talk outside the Women's Resource Center.

# What's Happening

## Alisa Macksey

Thinking about what to do after you graduate? Alisa Macksey, Associate Director of Lasallian Volunteers, will talk with you one-on-one about full-time volunteer opportunities. Alisa is a graduate of SMC and served as a Lasallian Volunteer as a Rehabilitation Specialist for adults with mental illness. Drop by the CILSA office in Ferroggiaro Hall or call x4975 to schedule a meeting with Alisa.

## Career Fair

Interested in pursuing a career in the non-profit field or volunteering with a local organization? Stroll the career fair to meet a range of social service organizations from around the Bay Area. The theme will be "Oktoberfest," so students will be eating German-style food along with listening to a live "oom-pah" style band. The career development center will hold the fair on Wednesday, Oct. 8 from 11:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. on central campus. Contact Patty Bishop at x4793 with questions.

## Jan Term

Registration for Jan Term classes will be from Monday, Oct. 6 through Thursday, Oct. 9. The last day to register for independent study projects is October 9.

## October Group Service Project

Join a fun group of students and meet new people while giving back to the community! The Social Action Leadership Team (SALT) invites you to join a Group Service Project at the Haight Ashbury Food Program on Saturday, Oct. 11. Come by CILSA to sign up, or call x4975 for more information.

## Robert Egger

On Wednesday, Oct. 8, CILSA will be presenting Robert Egger and his talk "Making a Living and Making a Difference" at the Soda Center. Termed a "righteous entrepreneur" by *The Wall Street Journal*, Egger has been fighting hunger in creative, business-like ways for the past 14 years. Following the event, you can meet with students from SMC Service Clubs and staff from local non-profit organizations to hear about different ways that you can make a difference.

## Senator Torlakson

On Tuesday, Oct. 14, Senator Tom Torlakson of the 7th district will be visiting SMC to speak to students and faculty about what has been happening in the State Capital (the budget, the recall, etc.). Senator Torlakson will be in the Soda Center from 9:30p.m. to 10:30p.m. to speak as well as answer questions. For questions, please call x4830.

If you have any events you would like to see posted, please email the event with details to [collegia@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:collegia@stmarys-ca.edu).

# Crime Beat

9/28 <b>Incident:</b> Possession of a weapon <b>Synopsis:</b> Possession of a weapon at upper De La Salle parking lot; case suspended.	1:40 a.m.	9/30 <b>Incident:</b> Medical assistance <b>Synopsis:</b> Medical assistance requested at De La Salle; referred to Student Conduct.	2:44 a.m.
9/29 <b>Incident:</b> Disorderly conduct <b>Synopsis:</b> Peeping through dorm window in More Hall; referred to Office of Residence Life.	1:21 a.m.	9/30 <b>Incident:</b> Medical assistance <b>Synopsis:</b> Injury at practice football field; referred to Office of Residence Life.	7:45 a.m.
9/29 <b>Incident:</b> Fire alarm <b>Synopsis:</b> Fire alarm activated due to smoke from cooking at Guerrieri West; referred to Office of Residence Life.	4:55 p.m.	9/30 <b>Incident:</b> Fire alarm <b>Synopsis:</b> Fire alarm activated in Ageno B lounge; referred to Office of Residence Life.	5:25 p.m.
9/29 <b>Incident:</b> Vandalism <b>Synopsis:</b> Window broken by water balloon in Justin Hall; referred to Office of Residence Life.	10:30 p.m.	10/2 <b>Incident:</b> Booted vehicle <b>Synopsis:</b> Booted vehicle at upper De La Salle parking lot; case closed.	1:40 p.m.
		10/2 <b>Incident:</b> Informational <b>Synopsis:</b> Malicious mischief to vehicle at Ageno C parking lot; case suspended.	11:32 p.m.

# SENATE: Senators prepared

continued from pg 1

President Jeff Haskins, Vice President Cristina Salazar, and Senators Jessica Porras, Brad Scoffern, Jerrad Fanucchi, Liz Kolstad, Paola Castellanos, and Chris Long now lead the Class of 2005.

The Class of 2004 will finish their time at Saint Mary's with President Irene Guzman, Vice President Dan Tichenor, and

Senators Jerid Anderson, Mary Hudson, Adam Melville, Nick Egide, Christina Hoskins, Grace Evers and Jeanae Morgan.

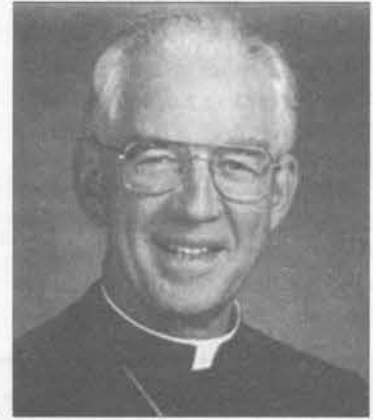
Associate Students President Tony Ancelj is looking forward to this year with this Senate. "There are a lot of goals that this group will accomplish," said Ancelj. "I especially want to work on the relationship with administration and the students, making it less of a 'us vs. them' mentality."

# BISHOP: Institute to be named after retired bishop

continued from pg 1

One such area that the Bishop and the institute aim to promote dialogue is by inviting the new bishop of the Oakland Diocese, Bishop Allen Vigneron, to participate in a seminar style discussion about Bishop Vigneron's written works.

The institute will also provide support for student/faculty research in learning about the relationship of Catholicism to various academic disciplines.



Bishop Cummins

# Students teach inmates at state prison

## Gaels volunteer as assistants for Higher Education in Vacaville

by Danielle Tinsley  
Staff Writers

Twenty interested Saint Mary's College students have volunteered their time in assisting inmates in Higher Education classes.

By providing this service, studies show that the current recidivism percentage rate (the rate at which inmates return to prison after release), which is 57-67 percent, drops as low as 10 percent.

Higher Education is the number one factor that makes a difference in the lives and decision

making of prisoners. This is a new program in Vacaville at the State Prison is run by a consortium of faculty from 17 Bay Area colleges and universities.

Students from these schools will be actual teacher assistants in the classrooms with the inmates. They will run study halls and work with the inmate students and their assignments.

Out of 800 inmates who applied, only 100 will be accepted into the program during this first round. Also the accepted inmate students will receive regular college credits from University of

San Francisco; so after their release they will have college credits to apply towards their future education.

Shawney Anderson from the communications department, who is in charge of the program at SMC, has been working in prisons for six years and has been bringing students in.

Anderson believes that this program is a positive experience for everyone.

The teacher assistants experience a completely new culture through higher education. Faculty get to feel the amazing en-

thusiasm of inmate students who are dedicated to progress, work hard on assignments, and who are appreciative and courteous in the classrooms.

"Every SMC student ever involved in this type of program has really loved working with the inmates. The experience never turns out the way they expect it to and their time spent made a huge difference in the world," said Anderson.

Anyone interested in this program should contact Shawney Anderson at Dante 109 or at X4468.

# Br. DeSales remembered

by Andrea Camarena  
Editor-in-Chief

A renaissance man, a teacher, a faithful catholic and a Gael, Brother DeSales Perez devoted 37 years of his life to the Saint Mary's community which will miss his humor, hospitality, and life as it mourns his passing.

Brother DeSales arrived at Saint Mary's in '66 and enriched the campus until his passing last Wednesday.

"He was a remarkable teacher. He was a renaissance man. He had a great sense of humor. He was always there for the students. He was renowned for his hospitality and generosity," said Brother Michael Meister.

A professor in the department of modern languages, Brother DeSales sat as the Director of the Collegiate Seminar program for several years and helped to make the seminar program the central focus of the academic programming of the school.

"As a brother he embodied the Brothers' mission and always focused on the students. He was a great teacher. He was very much beloved by students and was al-

ways loved by them," Meister said.

"I knew him before high school, so it's really sad. I knew him as more than a brother. I knew him in a lot of facets of his life. I knew 'his story.' He was a really unique guy so it's sad to see someone like that go. Even as a brother he had very interesting views, but his faith was as strong as any others," said John Zabala '06 as a friend and student.

Brother DeSales joined the community of Christian Brothers in '48 and left a lasting impact.

"In the community, he was committed to the brothers. It's hard to put into words. He was a wonderful part of the brothers' community. We enjoyed his presence," Meister said.

Brother DeSales passed on Oct. 1 at John Muir Hospital from heart complications following an angioplasty.

"Really, he was a person who was very much beloved. He's going to be missed by faculty, brothers and students. People from all over the world have sent me emails just shocked (at the news of his death)," Meister said.

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# Peeping Tom reported on campus

## Older male spotted spying on female residents of More

by Chris Mateo  
News Editor

On Monday, Sept. 29, Public Safety sent all SMC students an email reporting an incident of a middle-aged man looking into a female residence hall in the More Hall complex.

The suspect had thinning brown hair, a plain gray sweatshirt, light blue jeans, and dark shoes; no facial hair was present nor accent noticed.

There is currently an active investigation between SMC Public Safety and the Moraga police department.

However, no arrests have been made.

Public safety is working on a composite sketch of the "Peeping Tom."

The last time a similar incident

was reported was in June 2002. Yet, there has never been an incident involving a video camera.

"Students should be aware of this incident and report anything they see or hear so that we can make things safe on campus," said Bill Foley, director of Public Safety.

"With Public Safety and the community working together, we can make this a safe place."

The suspect was spotted with his pants down, using a portable video camera to tape the women. Mike Denieu '06, the resident directly above the women, noticed him around 1:10 a.m.

Denieu also saw the suspect waiting in a nearby parking lot an hour before, and when the women turned their light on, the peeping tom went to record them.

The resident advisor, Becky Glover, was off-duty at the time, but couldn't help but hear the screams coming from outside. (They were reportedly all in shock of the incident.)

"It was so loud and blood-curdling that I had to go outside and see what was going on," said Glover, who made the call to Public Safety.

"I haven't felt safe all week because there's some creepy guy coming around," said Glover.

Three people initially confronted the man. Devin Kraus '06 spoke to him.

"We were standing there and my suitemate asked him if she could help him; he said, 'Not anymore'," said Kraus.

"It's to the point where we always lock the windows, won't go

to sleep alone, and won't walk anywhere alone, not even to the library," said Kraus.

While Public Safety did respond quickly, the women did feel a bit of a delay.

"The guy who was supposed to be heading straight to our room pulled my friend over for speeding and helped someone else into the library," said Kraus.

Public Safety advises anyone who has any further information about this crime to contact them at ext. 4282. The case number is: 03 SEP 063.

One may also contact the Moraga Police Department at: (925)-282-5010. The case number for the Moraga PD is 03-1238.

Additional reporting by Andrea Camarena and Jesse Radin.

## ARMSTRONG:

continued from pg 1

have been," said Ana Montanez the education and outreach intern at the center.

Armstrong's departure comes as a surprise to the campus as well as to her. With her mother ill, she feels that she has no other choice.

"It wasn't an easy decision," said Armstrong. "I love the work I do at Saint Mary's. I love the students. They are doing things at this school and I was proud to be a part of it. But, my mother needs me more."

Leaving an institution that she's watched change in the course of a year, she finds only one accomplishment that she feels able to take credit for.

"I'm proud of what the center's done. I'm proud of safezone, the speakers on sexual assault," Armstrong said, "but, I'm most proud of hiring Sharon Sobotta."

# LACROSSE: Players continue to practice while awaiting a new coach

continued from pg 1

officials, they have conducted a national search, but each and every candidate that has applied is either not qualified or does not have the credentials for the job. "Frankly if he or she is not qualified than he or she will not be called back," said Rich Davi, director of sports information.

"Why waste our time if they are not the right person for the job?"

Furthermore, the athletic department admitted as to having at least one viable candidate who was offered the job, but after further contact, reneged on the job.

Moreover, the SMC athletic department has been in the process of replacing several coaching and administrative positions.

Already they have hired a football, baseball, soccer, and softball coach, as well as replaced head trainer Ryan Cobb.

It has been a busy time for the Gaels. "Hopefully, we will have several coaching candidates for lacrosse and be able to resolve this problem as soon as possible," said Davi.

The players understand that

the administration has a duty to find the best candidate for the job. (However, they fail to see how; it has been two months and no coach has been found).

There are still many slots to be filled and due to the uncertainty of the upcoming season several opponents, are hesitant to put the Gaels on the schedule.

According to rumors from

players not to be named, several recruits have cancelled their enrollment to the school due to coaching changes and uncertainty in the program.

Though these rumors are unconfirmed, several players have expressed their concern and have gone, as far as to question whether or not there will be a season. An outcome awaits to be seen.

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**SNAPSHOT** "Agamemnon" at SMC



Lissette Garcia/COLLEGIAN

From Wednesday, Oct. 1 to Friday, Oct. 3 in LeFevre Theatre, the Collegiate Seminar Players, directed by Barry Horwitz, performed Aeschylus' "Agamemnon" for the SMC community.

**CELEBRATE LATINO HERITAGE MONTH**

<p>Wednesday, Oct. 8: "The Many Faces in the Latino Community" 6:30p.m. to 7:30p.m. Hagerty Lounge</p>	<p>Thursday, Oct. 9: Orquesta Sensual 9:00p.m. to 11:00p.m. Oliver Hall</p>	<p>Friday, Oct. 10: Sabor Latino/ Latin Flava 10:00p.m. to 1:00a.m. Soda Center \$3 admission.</p>
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**THE COLLEGIAN**

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senate: a state of apathy

irene guzman

Another academic year brings a new class of freshmen, new rules, new hopes of change and fun on campus, and a new student government.

On Sept. 23 & 24, the associated students of Saint Mary's College held elections for open seats for the freshmen through senior classes. As usual, the candidates were few and the turnout was low.

But it's not like there wasn't any excitement.

The sophomore class had only two openings and only two candidates. If one were to do the math it would seem obvious that these two individuals had the election in the bag. But wait, there's my personal friend, the write-in vote.

Alex Kirschner won the second seat as a write-in candidate, beating the listed candidate by thirty-six votes. It was very impressive how many people knew to write his name in the write-in vote.

I personally can't complain about the write-in because I actually won the senior class campaign as a write-in candidate. I decided to run only one day before elections. So I took a picture, made ten or so copies and went around to the townhouses and posted them on doors. Then my suitmates made shirts telling everyone to vote for me. And I won.

There is something very wrong with this. Nobody should ever win on a write-in campaign. I am very embarrassed that our class presidency came down to a write-in and that it has worked out that way again for the sophomores.

We need students to care about student government enough to make a conscious decision of what they would like to change about this school and to actually take a stand to do it.

I have set goals, as senior class president, that I plan on achieving along with help from the rest of the senior class, and will work until I accomplish these goals. I will try to make my life better as a Saint Mary's student and will leave this campus in May knowing that I did the best I could and that I did, in fact, make a difference.

But we as students have to realize that it starts from actually doing something, doing anything.

It starts by deciding, "Hey, maybe I should run for Senate and try to do something about the alcohol matrix we keep complaining about."

Then, we as a student body should vote for students that run on an actual a actual platform, not the same stuff like promoting class unity and bringing the pub back on campus, but stuff that we can actually do - like holding on-campus events to liven up the weekends and instilling some school pride into our classmates.

The Senate is supposed to be a direct link between administration and the student body. You elected us to promote your needs and desires because they are our needs and desires too.

OPINION  
Collegian View

Today the people of California will be heading to the polls for the first gubernatorial recall election in the state's history. The voters will be asked two questions: the first inquires whether or not to remove Governor Gray Davis from office; the second asks who should replace Davis if he is recalled. If Davis is recalled, the new governor will take office right after the official recognition of the election results.

In addition, voters will be asked to vote on a specific ballot measure, Proposition 54 - an initiative that would ban government agencies from collecting racially based data.

With these two issues in mind, we feel that the recall and Prop. 54 should be voted against. Why?

The recall of California's governor will cost the state money, time, and respect. According to the website of California's Secretary of State, Kevin Shelly, "...the

current estimated county cost of conducting the October 7, 2003 statewide special election is between \$42 million and \$55 million. In addition, the state will incur costs of approximately \$11 million to provide California's 15.3 million registered voters with the state voter information guide. Therefore, the total estimated cost of the October 7, 2003 statewide special election is \$53 million to \$66 million." The millions of dollars estimated for this process is going to add to the state's multi-billion dollar deficit: just what we need, right?

Time is of the essence. Since March 25, 2003, the recall petition has been circulating after the certification by the Secretary of State. In six months, California's governing body could have focused on the primary issues and not which type of actor their constituents would support.

Speaking of actors, is the can-



Cartoon by Angel Refugio/COLLEGIAN

The recall circus has officially begun.

didate pool for this recall diverse, or what? Among the serious candidates is an actor who made millions of dollars in movies; a porn star; a former child actor; a single-named woman who lists her occupation as "entertainer;" a railroad switchman/brakeman and a golf pro named "Chip." There are 11 attorneys, nine teachers and 43 candidates who list their occupation as businessman, businesswoman, business executive or business owner. Aside from the political personas fighting for this position, what respect (if any) could California gain from having candidates who will "Terminate the deficit" or just go about

their business?  
In terms of Prop. 54, we feel that this measure should be voted against because it further separates us. Under the guise of a way to reach a utopian society, Prop. 54 will only erase our identities along with our backgrounds. These backgrounds distinguish people in the fields of education, health, and business. These differences are what make us unique and make us who we are. The sooner we can learn to embrace our diverse cultures and backgrounds, instead of denying their existence, the closer we come to understand each other as members of the human race.

Community Views

Dear Editor,

Saint Mary's deficiencies aren't all the college's fault. Some professors are really rip-roaring to teach something, however all the students just feel like taking a nap. The problem isn't the fact that this college isn't considered the best by U.S. News, or the strict residence policies (I assume you're talking about the alcohol matrix), or that we're not learning anything, the problem is the students would rather throw back a brewsky and complain about SMC than actually participate. You can't force somebody to deeply probe the mystery of existence; probing is an individual-exclusive activity. Start going to your classes as if you were getting an education, not a degree. Start actually preparing for class, instead of walking in saying "Man, I haven't even read for today." And lastly, stop waving around your beer and saying how much this college sucks; set the can down and find a way to change the way the campus is. The campus can't become #1 on the U.S. News report if the students don't make it a point to get it there. The college does have its

problems, but it's not an executive decision to fix them.

Josh Krehbiel

Dear Editor,

After reading this weeks [sic] Collegian, it has come to my attention that whoever is editing the opinion section is performing, to say the least, irresponsibly. First Ana Montanez wrote an article featured in the opposing views section. She argues that proposition 54 would be bad for health care and law enforcement. If she, or the opinion editor, would have actually read the proposition, she would have noticed very distinct exemptions of the proposition with respect to both health care and law enforcement. Although this lackadaisical method of 'editing' may be somehow excusable, it substantially weakens the credibility of your newspaper. Further, the Gael Poll only featured students in support of one side of the issue; why is this? Again, in the same issue, you published a letter by one Noel Cilker, criticizing an opinion article. He pre-

mises much of his argument on a direct quotation of the author: the phrase "homosexual agenda." Being the author of the article in question, I can assure you that this quotation was completely fabricated. A clause in the "Community Views" section says you reserve the right to edit any submitted material; if you do not edit for direct and careless fallacy, just what do you edit?

John T. Johnson

[Editor's note: Collegian staff writer, John Johnson, included two additional paragraphs critiquing the Collegian. Due to space constraints we could not print the complete letter.]

Dear Editor,

This is an announcement for all St. Mary's students. We at Senate are looking for enthusiastic, unique, and hard working students for 4 open spots on our Senate boards. Each board needs 3 senators, a board chair, and a student from the community not involved in senate. The 4 boards are Club and Organization board, which works closely with

the many Saint Mary's clubs and organizations; Finance board, which deals with the many facets of money and spending in the student community; Media board, which works closely with the media organizations on campus; and finally, Institutional Affairs board, which decides the Senate agenda among other things. If you are interested in any of these boards, please leave your name, contact information, and a short description of why you would like to work with these boards, at the ASSMC. Thank you and we look forward to working with you.

John Zabala  
Speaker of the Senate

Letters to the editor may be submitted to the Collegian through mail, email, or in person. All letters should be no more than 150 words in length. The Collegian holds the right to edit any submitted material, solicited or unsolicited. collegia@stmmarys-ca.edu

GAEL POLL

113 Saint Mary's students were polled on their knowledge and opinion of SMC athletics.

Are athletics important?

74%

of students think sports are an important part of life at SMC.

# Saint Mary's: Athletics vs. Academics

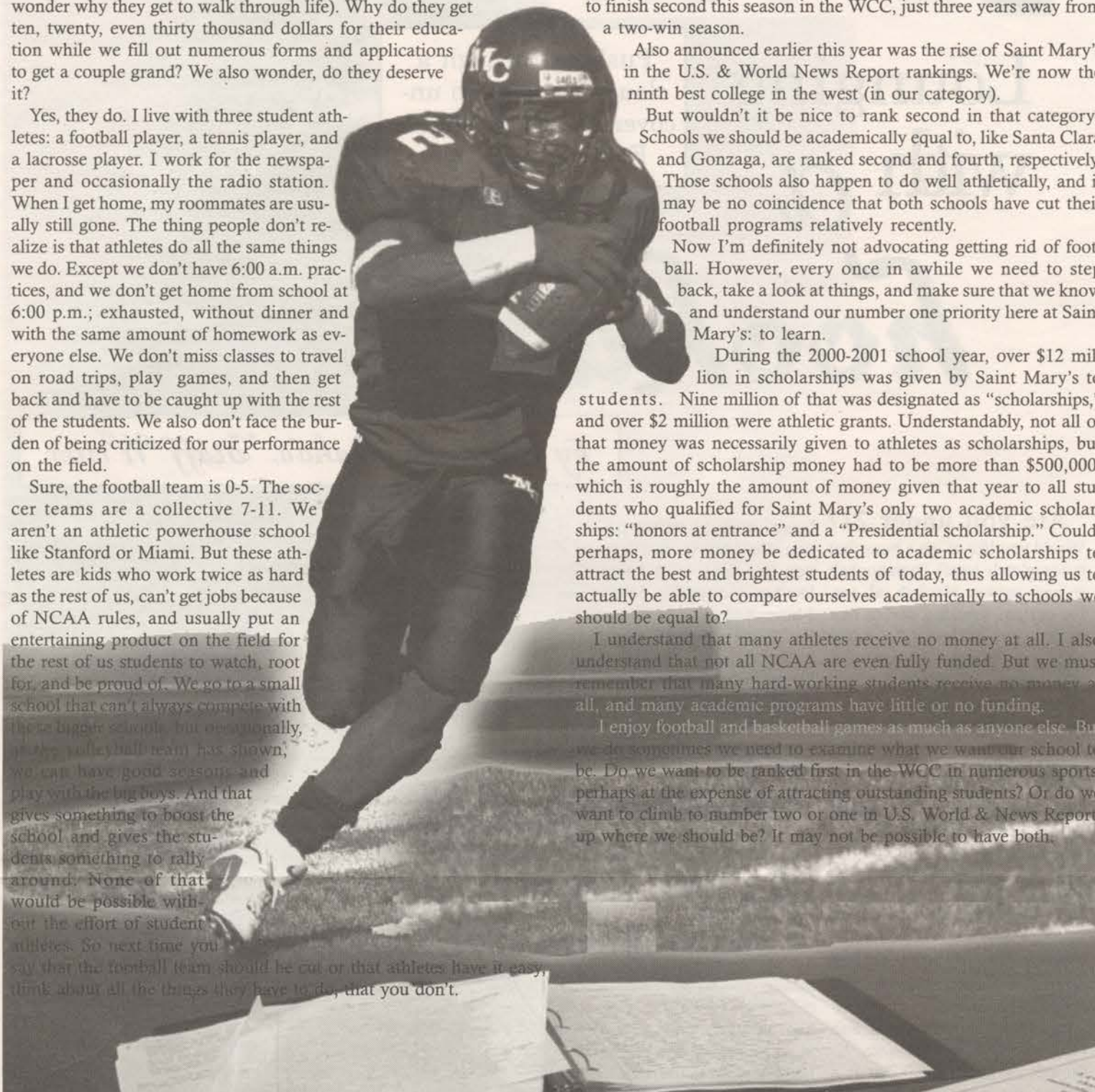
Working hard for the money

by Sam Adams Sports Editor

Many students glare at the student athletes of the world. (We wonder why they get to walk through life). Why do they get ten, twenty, even thirty thousand dollars for their education while we fill out numerous forms and applications to get a couple grand? We also wonder, do they deserve it?

Yes, they do. I live with three student athletes: a football player, a tennis player, and a lacrosse player. I work for the newspaper and occasionally the radio station. When I get home, my roommates are usually still gone. The thing people don't realize is that athletes do all the same things we do. Except we don't have 6:00 a.m. practices, and we don't get home from school at 6:00 p.m.; exhausted, without dinner and with the same amount of homework as everyone else. We don't miss classes to travel on road trips, play games, and then get back and have to be caught up with the rest of the students. We also don't face the burden of being criticized for our performance on the field.

Sure, the football team is 0-5. The soccer teams are a collective 7-11. We aren't an athletic powerhouse school like Stanford or Miami. But these athletes are kids who work twice as hard as the rest of us, can't get jobs because of NCAA rules, and usually put an entertaining product on the field for the rest of us students to watch, root for, and be proud of. We go to a small school that can't always compete with these bigger schools, but occasionally, as the football team has shown, we can have good seasons and play with the big boys. And that gives something to boost the school and gives the students something to rally around. None of that would be possible without the effort of student athletes. So next time you say that the football team should be cut or that athletes have it easy, think about all the things they have to do that you don't.



Losing our focus

by Jonathan Morales In-Depth Editor

Good news for SMC sports fans. Our basketball team is predicted to finish second this season in the WCC, just three years away from a two-win season.

Also announced earlier this year was the rise of Saint Mary's in the U.S. & World News Report rankings. We're now the ninth best college in the west (in our category).

But wouldn't it be nice to rank second in that category? Schools we should be academically equal to, like Santa Clara and Gonzaga, are ranked second and fourth, respectively. Those schools also happen to do well athletically, and it may be no coincidence that both schools have cut their football programs relatively recently.

Now I'm definitely not advocating getting rid of football. However, every once in awhile we need to step back, take a look at things, and make sure that we know and understand our number one priority here at Saint Mary's: to learn.

During the 2000-2001 school year, over \$12 million in scholarships was given by Saint Mary's to students. Nine million of that was designated as "scholarships," and over \$2 million were athletic grants. Understandably, not all of that money was necessarily given to athletes as scholarships, but the amount of scholarship money had to be more than \$500,000, which is roughly the amount of money given that year to all students who qualified for Saint Mary's only two academic scholarships: "honors at entrance" and a "Presidential scholarship." Could, perhaps, more money be dedicated to academic scholarships to attract the best and brightest students of today, thus allowing us to actually be able to compare ourselves academically to schools we should be equal to?

I understand that many athletes receive no money at all. I also understand that not all NCAA are even fully funded. But we must remember that many hard-working students receive no money at all, and many academic programs have little or no funding.

I enjoy football and basketball games as much as anyone else. But we do sometimes need to examine what we want our school to be. Do we want to be ranked first in the WCC in numerous sports, perhaps at the expense of attracting outstanding students? Or do we want to climb to number two or one in U.S. World & News Report, up where we should be? It may not be possible to have both.

## your relationship my opinion

katie kimball

So there's this girl that I've been hooking up with for the last couple weeks, and I don't know whether or not



I should keep things the way they are now or not. I just got out of a strange relationship with a former ex this summer and am not ready to give my all to another relationship. I would like the ideal situation for most guys: for the two of us to remain "friends with benefits." The thing is, I don't know if she feels the same way. If you can, Katie, please tell me how I should bring this topic up with her and how I can convince her to let us be friends who hook up on the side.

First off, things can't just stay the way they are. If you have any concerns about the situation - for example, you think that she may want a relationship - you owe it to her to tell her how you feel. If you do want to stay her friend, then you need to come clean with your situation. Odds are she'll respect the fact that you told her how you felt instead of messing with her head for a prolonged period of time.

Remember that she may not be your stereotypical girl. Guys tend to assume that any time they get physically involved with a girl, she will want a relationship. While I'll admit that hooking up with someone can often cause feelings to arise in one or both parties, this is not always the case. For all you know, she could just enjoy the pleasure of your "company" and only like you as a friend, which is all the more reason why you both need to talk about where you see this going.

Figuring out how to bring up this subject can be a little trickier. Definitely bring it up before you hook up again, and don't let her do anything she might regret later if you think she is under the impression that this will turn into a relationship. You should start by telling her that you respect her and you feel like you owe it to her to be up front and honest with her before things get too serious. You should explain to her what happened this summer and tell how that affects you at this point in your life. You can tell her that you are attracted to her and want to keep seeing her, but stress that right now you would need things to stay as they are: without a relationship.

At that point, the ball is in her court. There should be no convincing on your part. Although she may not say, "Sure, let's make out right now and then don't worry about calling me!" the situation can still work in your favor. She will likely respect you for being honest, and you can still be friends whether or not she wants to keep hooking up. Who knows? If you keep her as a close friend, you may soon find that despite your past experiences, you are the one who wants something more from the situation.

# Our Campus, our Environment

by Chris Moore

Staff Writer

Little changes could make big improvements

Many large agencies across the United States, including colleges, have taken many measures to make themselves more environmentally friendly. Can we say the same about our campus home, nestled in these beautiful hills?

Some slight modifications around campus would have some positive outcomes. The implementation of a recycling program, some reforms at Oliver Hall, and an increased awareness on campus will definitely show our appreciation for and love of our environment.

It is a quite common sight in Oliver Hall to see Styrofoam cups replacing the trays normally filled with reusable plastic cups. The decomposition rate of these cups is ridiculously slow, causing a very negative environmental impact. The costs of all of these Styrofoam cups must be quite high also, considering that hundreds of students use up hundreds of cups everyday. So why not make a small one time investment on more reusable plastic cups and keep enough cups washed to stock the baskets continuously?

Neighborhoods and large establishments of all kinds have many forms of recycling. Separate dumpsters for glass, recyclables, and normal trash are seen everywhere. Yet I have failed to see any here on campus. With thousands of students and some faculty living on campus, there is tons of trash generated each day; evident by the noisiest creature in the world, a dump truck, roaring outside of my window nearly every morning. This trash could be simply separated by different dumpsters, decreasing the amount of trash filling

landfills and making new life for worn out cardboard, paper, and glass.

Every student here on campus has a direct relationship with our surrounding environment. It is important that all of us recognize that relationship and do our part to keep this beautiful place at its prime.

If every student did the little things that count, such as turning off lights, not letting water run, and never littering, our campus would already be far ahead of our current environmental standing and save money.

“I think we need more school spirit & to support our teams.”



Lauren Brenner '07

24%

of students have NOT attended an athletic event.



David Brandt '06

“Sports need more administrative support & need to spread the wealth to all teams evenly.”

64%

of students PARTICIPATE in intermural, club sports, or varsity athletics.

**100  
word reviews**

**live:**

**James Taylor**  
Concord Pavilion / Oct. 3, 2003

The James Taylor concert this past Saturday at Concord Pavilion, proved that appreciation for good music has no bounds. Although the crowd was mostly made up of folks in their forties and fifties, age was clearly nothing but a number to the eclectic mix of people who sat under the clear night sky to enjoy such classics as "Mexico," "You Got a Friend," and "Fire and Rain," as well as material from his newest album. Couples canoodled under blankets up on the lawn. The vibe was great, the music even better, and a good time was had by all.

**-Katie Kimball**

**hear:**

**Rapture**  
Echoes

There's a stir in the indie rock community of today. Kids of all shapes and sizes are starting to dance to rock music again. Now, I'm not saying that the entire album is danceable, but sweet singin' sally! Listen to "House of Jealous Lovers," the album's sixth track. That cowbell will bring you into the funky bass groove, then you'll hear Luke Jenner howling "SHAKEDOWWWWN!!!" The band finds itself clumped in with the emerging sub-genre 'dancepunk' (!!!), Hot Hot Heat, The Liars..., and The Rapture are leading the pack with excitedly strained vocals and funky guitar and bass riffage.

**-Brent Mills**

**watch:**

**The Winged Migration**  
directed by Jacques Perrin

If you're in the mood for a larger-than-life Discovery Channel Special, definitely watch *Winged Migration* at San Francisco's Metreon. The documentary shows the story of thousands of birds quest for survival using no special effects, just amazing cinematography. Instead of using a narrator, the film lets the birds do the talking and the sound of chirping; and wings flapping is enough dialogue in itself. Watch the film and I guarantee that you'll never look at Big Bird the same way again. However, if you thought *Glitter* should have received an Oscar, then this is not the flick for you.

**-Irene DeGuzman**

**watch:**

**School of Rock**  
starring Jack Black

Jack Black and Joan Cusack star in what could be this year's worst movie, *School of Rock*. When I first sat down in the theatre, I knew something was awry. A good 80 percent of the crowd was high school girls who liked to scream...a lot. The movie starts innocuously enough; Dewey Finn (Black) gets kicked out of his band and then steals a substitute teaching gig from his roommate Ned (Mike White). After that, the movie begins its downward spiral. A completely implausible storyline didn't help matters either. Black's humorous antics are the only saving grace of this bomb.

**-Brent Mills**

**DETOUR**

Lounging  
with a

*hookah*

Pushing through a cloud of smoke to uncover an exotic Middle Eastern pasttime.

*by Michelle Dalida, Staff Writer*

Are you under 21?

Would you like to get a buzz that is completely legal? Then hookah is your answer. Hookah, ah yes, the curious smoking device that sends your brain into a fuzzy oblivion, is simply an ornate water pipe that sends flavored tobacco zipping toward your virgin lungs. Its origins started in Turkey, where many men and women lounged around on floor pillows, smoking the balmy nights away. In my case, it's smoking away the butt-freezing, East Bay night and my editor's birthday that led me toward Kan Zaman, a Middle Eastern restaurant and hookah bar located on Haight Street.

A pile of friends and I cramped into my three inch clown car, that I would like to call an Acura Integra, and headed toward San Francisco in a frenzied state. Although parking on Haight is a horror, we managed to parallel right next to the restaurant (on the corner of Haight and Schraeder) at about 10:30p.m. We headed into our Arabian-esque escape. The restaurant was packed with parties of 20, sitting on the floors covered with oriental rugs, and pillows. In front of them were huge pillars of the long lost orient in their grandeur: the hookah. Their hourglass-like figures were silhouetted by the dim lights and candles, while sexy, energetic Middle Eastern music piped in throughout the room. As we grabbed a table, first thing on our minds was what flavor to choose. Hookah tobacco flavor is just as important as choosing a college: you are going to be with it for a while, so you better choose something you like. In our case we started with strawberry and ended with apricot. If you can't decide, or are an amateur, let me give you some advice: anything

berry sits pretty on the palate. If you don't know, pick a fruit; if you are risky, pick something like honey or vanilla. In my case, I haven't smoked anything that I don't like - it is pretty error-proof.

The hookah works like this: tobacco is placed in the bowl at the top of the pipe, which is covered by coals. The smoke is sent through the chamber of the hookah where it is filtered through the water and gets sucked, by you, to the lungs. Although there are no illegal stimulants in the tobacco, the sheer strength and aroma of the flavor of the tobacco are strong enough to leave a person light-headed.

If the mere task of smoking is not difficult for you, then try making designs and patterns with the smoke; have a good time. The hookah wasn't made for a person to get in, smoke, and get out. The hookah's prime use was to promote conviviality and hospitality between the people sharing it, so take your time. Share the hookah with friends, as well as some of the tasty mazas that Kan Zaman offers. Like to skinny dip? Try the vegetarian hummos and babaganosh. If hot maza is your fare, falafels, shish kabob, and couscous are divine. Don't forget piping hot pita bread as a necessary munchy between long drags from the hookah.

Even though I can't smoke hookah on an oversized mushroom and puff out the letters "W-H-O A-R-E Y-O-U" like the caterpillar in *Alice in Wonderland*, going to Kan Zaman is a worthy adversary to Lewis Carroll's dream world. Not only can you smoke hookah at Kan Zaman, but you can eat, drink sweet Arabic tea and hang out with friends, instead of dealing with Carroll's dumb blonde in a blue dress and pinafore.

Kan Zaman  
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(Haight at Schraeder)  
415.751.9656





# A PORN STAR, ARTIST, AND COMEDIAN

These candidates count themselves among the candidates for the recall. Why? It's the American way, of course.

By Anna Gates, Staff Writer

The day has finally come. The long awaited (and debated) California Statewide Special Election is here.

And you, as an informed voter, are ready. You watch the nightly news, you've read the "Official Voter Information Guide," you even (gasp!) read the *Contra Costa Times*. You are ready to make California history by voting in the first gubernatorial recall election.

But before you head out to the voting booth today, make sure you are aware of all the candidates running for governor and what they stand for. Sure, you know who Cruz Bustamante and Arnold Schwarzenegger are, but are you as informed about the other 133 candidates? What about the porn star, artist, or comedian who are running? Do you know what their platforms are?

Let's face it, this election is a circus. But if you can't beat 'em, you might as well join 'em. So buckle up and be prepared to become a truly "informed" voter.

One interesting and alluring candidate is **Mary "Mary Carey" Cook**, the blonde porn star who prides herself on being equipped 36DD-24-36, respectfully. Cook is campaigning herself as a "fresh outsider" who has some hardcore ideas on how to whip California's financial problems into shape. Her plan to generate revenue includes taxing breast implants and making lap dances a tax deductible business expense. She also proposes to legalize gay marriages and recruit fellow performers from the adult video industry as ambassadors of good will. How, you may ask, has she generated enough funds to promote her candidacy? In her unique fundraising scheme, Cook has pledged to go out on a dinner date with anyone

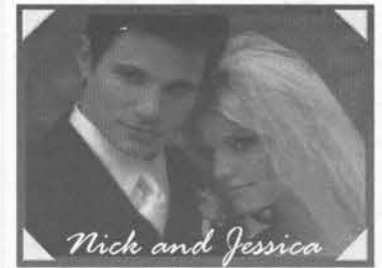
who contributes \$5000 or more to her campaign fund. During dinner, she is open to "discuss" any issues of importance to the contributor.

Another creative candidate is **Trek Thunder Kelly**, the artist from Venice Beach. Kelly, who wears only the color blue, is running for governor as an elaborate performance-art piece. He sees his participation as a way to generate interest in California voters and put an end to apathy towards politics. In Kelly's campaign, which serves merely to mock the political process, he asks voters to vote for him because he will "legalize drugs, gambling, and prostitution." It seems Kelly and "Mary Carey" would get along just fine.

And then there's the comedian, **Leo Gallagher**. You may recognize him with a mallet in his hand smashing fruit, but now he's running for governor. Gallagher, who sports the white-guy-afro, has a very intriguing platform. Some of his ideas include: repealing NAFTA, making it illegal to talk loudly on cell phones in public places, and canceling all remaining Charlie Manson parole board hearings. But his number one campaign slogan is: "Finally a Governor that you can get drunk with." What a role model.

Clearly these candidates don't take their role in the election seriously. Either for artistic reasons or to gain attention, their true intentions are apparent. However, their participation in the election has no doubt sparked great interest in California politics. And perhaps, just perhaps, it will take a porn star to get California residents to the polls.

Well, now you are officially "informed"...so go out and vote already!



## Why I Can't Get Enough of "Newlyweds"

by Irene DeGuzman

I love Jessica Simpson. I love to hate her. I love to listen to her speak because I know that there is almost a 100% chance of her saying something completely stupid and idiotic to the point that I am rendered speechless because I can't believe she just said that.

MTV in general is a massive marathon/rerun so that everyone can say they watched the episode when Jessica asks Nick why the tuna she is eating is called Chicken of the Sea.

Or when she refuses to eat buffalo wings because "I don't want to eat buffalo". There is a disturbed silence and someone asks her if she's serious. Nick tells her that buffalo don't have wings. She giggles at her folly and says that she "never thought about it."

Jessica was the most intelligent and virtuous. She was saving herself until marriage, sang about being irresistible and about loving someone forever. Then she stopped singing and began talking.

I haven't even started with Nick yet. Such a meathead. I do feel for the guy, though. If I was married to someone who had no idea how to mop the floor or asked groundbreaking questions like Jessica, I figure that he can get away with being kind of snappy to her. I think the show does well for him in that it makes him look like a genius next to Jessica.

I didn't expect too much out of Nick, though. My personal favorite scene was when he was in the dance studio with all of his dancers for his music video. He's talking to someone but his eyes are wandering and his voice just drifts off as focuses on some young, agile figure. Earth to Nick. You just got married to a really hot girl and besides, you have more respect for women than that, don't you?

The point of *Newlyweds* was originally to show how the trials and tribulations of a young, famous just-married couple unravel. Then the producers figured out that Jessica herself is the show.

As for Jessica, the publicity seems to do nothing but give blondes everywhere a worse rap than they already have.

So thanks, Jessica and Nick. Thanks for living up my Tuesday nights, and thanks for making me feel extremely good about myself. Thanks for letting me and the rest of America into your lives and thanks for letting us make fun of you.



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# SPORTS



Nick Sylva / COLLEGIAN

## WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

michael chin

Why be a Gael? No one else wants to be

It's 12:45 at the SMC homecoming football game. I look into the stands, and I don't see a packed house, but a ghost town. All because people decided to sit in their townhouses or dorms watching the Cal or USC game. For the athletic teams at St. Mary's, this is the typical crowd that attends their events: nobody.

Student athletes must ask themselves why no one else wants to be a Gael. There is no loyalty from the student body. Though the most important thing we do in our time at St. Mary's is work towards our degree, we owe some type of loyalty to the school. Why cheer for a team which you have no ties to? These are your fellow students. They represent YOU!

Most people will tell you that they want to watch a winner. Women's soccer, despite its record play in the toughest conference in the USA, has beaten two ranked teams; volleyball is near the top thirty in the country; and men's basketball is predicted to rank second in WCC conference. Moreover, football's Wes Borba looks primed to enter into NFL this coming year. Gaels sports are getting better. Yet people don't seem to notice.

Some don't support SMC athletics because they feel athletes are given special treatment, which is untrue. Being a student athlete isn't easy. Just like everyone else they need to graduate and fulfill the same requirements as all students. They take the same classes. Plus, many of the student athletes at SMC pay some tuition to attend this school and although many still receive financial aid, they have a job to do on the field.

Others would argue that because St. Mary's is not big time then there is no reason to go out to games. This is just an ignorant point of view. St. Mary's is I-A in every sport and I-AA in football. We play at the highest level and though we are under funded, somehow the Gaels manage to pull off upsets. Just look at what similar programs such as Villanova and Gonzaga have done. Just like us, they are small Catholic schools and yet they prosper in athletics. A little support could go a long way and that may push us to the next level. Once the administration sees that the student body cares about their athletics than they will begin to make us better. That means new facilities for both student athletes and all students alike. That means more money back to the school and greater prestige for the institution.

So how can you help? Go to a game. You'll see that they are actually fun and that our athletes are pretty damn good as well. Why not go? It's free!!! Yeah, that's right, FREE! I know this is word all college students know about. Sign up for Gael Force. It gets you better seats at basketball games and you get a really cool shirt. Lastly, show your support by sticking with us. Like all athletic teams there will be times of famine and times of prosperity. Keep with us, your Gaels, and we'll take you with us to that Promised Land.

## Player Profile

Jill Parmele

by Cori Simpson  
Staff Writer

There are very few, if any, players who have won the MVP at four volleyball tournaments; yet outside hitter and West Coast Conference player of the week, Jill Parmele has. So far this season, she is excelling for the Gaels; averaging 5.35 points per game which ranks her fourth for points in the WCC and fourth in kills per game, with an average of 4.64, Parmele's success is not unexpected, with her dominating play going back to Lodi High and even a few years in San Joaquin Delta College, where she earned conference MVP in 2001. She came to Saint Mary's last year and finished second on the team and 16th in the conference for kills.

"(Parmele's) talented, one of the best left-side hitters, and a good attacker who hits the ball as well as anyone in the country," said Coach Jon Stevenson. "She has worked hard, put the most into it, and plays great."

Parmele is a bit surprised that she has played on a higher level than her previous eight years of volleyball, but she shares her success with her teammates.

"The team has more talent," said Parmele. "Everything is going better than last year."

This week, Parmele and the rest of the team will take on Gonzaga and Portland University in McKeon Pavilion.

## Winning ways continue

Volleyball team's hot start is turning into solid season

by James Lee  
Staff Writer

No one saw it coming, but they don't care. The St. Mary's women's volleyball team has started with a bang, steam rolling to a 13-6 start, which is the best record they have ever had since joining the NCAA in 1985. This change can be credited to head coach Jon Stevenson, who took over the program two years ago. Since his arrival, the Gaels have excelled.

"In my two years here, we have gone from No. 271 (out of 313 programs), to a top 50 program," said Stevenson. "In fact, we received votes for top 25 in the nation for the first time in the program's history in the USA Today/AVCA Coaches poll two weeks ago."

They are achieving all of this while "competing at (relatively) the highest level and in the 2nd strongest conference in the

entire nation for volleyball," said Stevenson.

"Jon changed a lot of things in our program focusing mainly on playing," said junior Stacey O'Connor. "Everything we do in practice transfers to volleyball or game situations, for example we don't run to condition but have drills designed to get us in shape and also relate to a game like situation."

"We are a very competitive group of people and since we've been training together as a team since August we have great team chemistry," said O'Connor.

With competitive players and teamwork, the program is looking great. Leading the way for the Gaels is Jill Parmele '04, who is having a great season, leading the team with 269 kills. She was also named the WCC player of the week and was selected to the TCU invite all-tournament team. The Gaels are having great success with a really young team as well;

the team consists of one senior, three juniors, three sophomores, and six freshmen: all due to a very strong recruiting class.

The future looks bright for the Gaels to finish just as they started, by playing well and defeating their opponents.

"Our program will methodically continue to improve and will (at some point) be in the hunt for a conference championship as well as be in contention for the NCAA championship," said Stevenson.

The Gaels will host two league games this week. The Gonzaga Bulldogs on Friday Oct. 10, and Portland Waves on Saturday Oct. 11, both of which have promise to be great games against stiff competition - more than enough reason to go watch. As an extra incentive for the student body to attend games, Stevenson said he's offering one authentic practice shirt to anyone who can bring 20 people to all eight home matches.

## Score Card

### Cross Country

#### San Francisco State Invite

Men (8k): 3rd place (80 points)

A. Parsel - 2nd place, 26:04

Women (6k): 6th place (138 points)

A. Porter - 2nd place, 22:27

### Football (0-5)

	1	2	3	4	Final
Montana St.	15	8	17	0	40
Saint Mary's	0	0	0	0	0

W. Borba - 12 tackles, sack (2)

R. Mike - 5 tackles, sack (3)

### Women's Soccer (3-6-1)

	1	2	Final
(19) Utah	1	1	2
Saint Mary's	0	0	0

A. Artuso - 3 saves

	1	2	Final
New Mexico	1	0	1
Saint Mary's	0	1	1

C. Montero - goal (4)

### Volleyball (13-5)

(21) Loyola Marymount d. SMC 3-2

(6) Pepperdine d. SMC 3-1

### Men's Soccer (1-6)

	1	2	Final
Saint Mary's	0	0	0
(14) St. Johns	0	3	3

K. Wilson - 7 saves

## Love WHAT process?

40-0 Loss to Montana State stamps offensive start

by Sam Adams  
Sports Editor

Everyone has become frustrated. After a 40-0 beating by Montana State, and a 0-5 start, players, coaches and students alike are scratching their heads.

"(Screw) the process, I love wins," one fan yelled at the end of the game.

The problem isn't the winless start. It isn't that the offense has had trouble adjusting to the new spread formation. It is the fact that the team isn't even competitive, despite most of last year's key players returning this year. They have lost two games to Division II opponents, Humboldt and Western Washington, and have lost the rest of their games by an average of over 43 points a game.

They aren't even getting respect. This week Montana State scored on its opening drive, went for and converted their two-point conversion, then tried an onside kick. They were looking to run up the score. Montana State players were even heard yelling, "practice game," during pre-game warm ups.

Sure, the coaching staff has made changes, but so far nothing has been successful. They are scoring 13.9 points less than last year and giving up 21 more. Even though all of last year's starting defensive backs have returned, the team is giving up 52 yards passing more than last year. And the offense, which everyone looked to be a high scoring machine, is putting up over

100 yards less a game than last year. Their leading rusher (Clint Wilson) is back, last year's leading tackler (Wes Borba) is back, and new starters Heath Villareal, Ray Mike, and Anthony Woodards have done a good job: totaling 106 tackles and 5 sacks between the three of them.

What happened? This is a team that went 6-6 last year, and four of those losses were by three points or less. Their biggest deficit was 12. And nearly every significant player has returned.

The offense has been non-existent, and it all came to a head Saturday. The Gaels, in their second offensive scheme of the year, gained just 163 yards. The coaches have tried to adjust, dropping their pass heavy play-calling for a "fly" offense, in which they could still spread the field but take advantage of the athletes they already have on the team. The offense still has been ineffective in all but one half of football last week, when they took Western Washington by surprise and scored 28 points in the first half. Western adjusted, and they were held to seven points the rest of the way, sustaining nearly no drives, and allowed the Vikings to erase a 21-point deficit and win the game in overtime.

Mistakes have haunted the Gaels all year as well. St. Mary's has turned the ball over 21 times, throwing 16 interceptions and losing five fumbles. They are also averaging nearly 50 yards in penalties a game; a lot of them false starts and illegal shifts from the players still adjusting to the new play calling. These mistakes have halted the team's few drives that could be fruitful, putting even



Jesse Radin/COLLEGIAN  
The Gael's had no chance against Montana State.

more pressure on an already taxed defense.

In every way the Gael's opposing teams have excelled. The Gaels are losing the time of possession battle, keeping the defense on the field even longer. Opposing teams are gaining 424.4 yards a game and converting a whopping 42% of their third downs. And where Saint Mary's has only gotten 10 sacks, opponents have sacked Gaels quarterbacks 17 times.

In the end, the team is 0-5 after suffering an embarrassing loss at our homecoming game. The coaching staff is going to need to fix whatever is plaguing the Gaels. It's as if everything that could go wrong for head coach Vincent White and his staff has gone wrong. But if they don't correct the problems soon, he could be looking at a disastrous first season, wasting the senior years of some of his best players, and losing out on recruits. If the team goes on like this, it could be an early exit for White's first head coaching gig.