



IN-DEPTH
4 PAGE SPECIAL

THE COLLEGIAN

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SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

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Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Volume 101, Number 12

Matrix, VP dismissal discussed by Senate

Resolutions to increase funding for the associated students and changes to the matrix passed

by **Chris Mateo**
News Editor

On Sunday, Nov. 23, the Associated Student Senate of Saint Mary's College met in the Soda Center to discuss the past semester and the issues that have been brought to light. Old issues such as the alcohol and drug matrix, and recent concerns such as the dismissal of Gina Damiano were all discussed by the senate.

During the public forum, Damiano briefly spoke about her recent removal from her position as Vice President for Student Affairs and how this event should bring up the consideration of a resolution to specify such a previously unprecedented case.

After Damiano's address, Mike Zoll, Vice Provost for Student Affairs, briefly commented on the dismissal of Damiano, the alcohol and drug matrix, and recent Residence Life issues.

The docket began with the confirmation of Jessica Porras '05 as the new Vice President for Student Affairs. In turn, Senator Brad Scoffern '05 was promoted to Porras' previous position as media board chair.

The docket also included Andy McDowell, assistant director of athletics, discussing the new sports logo and the improvement of game attendance, the semi-annual reviews of clubs and media, amendments to the constitution and bylaws, and three resolutions.

The first of these resolutions called to increase funding for the associated students. The authors mentioned that an increase is necessary to fund the academic, diversity, and service clubs as well as the media, to fund all other existing clubs for upcoming years, to fund new clubs and club sports, and to increase events around campus in order to give students things to do on weekends. Jennifer Merlo '05, Vice President for Finance, presented these reasons for the resolution which passed.

As stated in the next written resolution, proposals included requesting, "that the parental notification sanction be removed and used only in the cases of extreme situation," and "that an amnesty clause be added for students who bring peers, who are heavily intoxicated, to Resident Advisors or other figures of authority." After the approved change to add a maximum standard for sanctioning policy violation, the resolution passed.

Finally, the "Resolution Expressing Concern Over Recent Dismissal of Gina Damiano" was brought up. As stated in the resolution, the authors urged "the Senate to take a stand against the administration's unprecedented actions in removing an ASSMC elected officer without the approval of the Senate," and called "for the administration to reevaluate the student code of conduct and the disciplinary process within the student handbook, in consultation with the Senate."

After a brief commentary on the resolution by John Zabala '06, Speaker of the Senate, the resolution was tabled.



With the addition of Jessica Porras, the executive council discussed three resolutions with the rest of the Senate.

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After a brief commentary on the resolution by John Zabala '06, Speaker of the Senate, the resolution was tabled.

RA's 'relieved' of duties

Residents unhappy with Res-Life decision

by **Andrea Camarena**
Editor-in-Chief

Residence Life relieved two full-time Resident Advisors (RA's) from their duties in the Guerrieris on Nov. 17 citing a "failure to perform to expectations" after distributing resource information to a resident who the RA's felt concern for.

In letters from Adriano Amaya, residence community coordinator, Gina Joy Salcido (Guerrieri East) and Katherine LaMons (Guerrieri West) were both given reasons for their termination.

"First you allowed your friendship with this student to supersede your responsibilities as a Resident Advisor," stated the letter addressed to Salcido. "Second, you were not forthright, but evasive in providing information that was requested of you."

ter addressed to Salcido. "Second, you were not forthright, but evasive in providing information that was requested of you."

"Third, you submitted documentation that did not accurately reflect your interaction with this student."

"Finally, while you did respond to the student in a supportive manner, you did not follow protocols in which you have been trained, including advising and consulting with supervisory staff."

The week of Nov. 2, a resident came to Salcido and LaMons separately.

"The resident had several issues. We weren't really sure what see RA, p3

STD Tests now offered at Health Center

Tests for students available by appointment or walk-in

by **Cori Simpson**
Staff Writer

The Health and Wellness Center started offering testing for sexually transmitted diseases earlier this month.

Previously, if a student wanted to be tested for an STD, the Health and Wellness Center sent them to the county clinic.

and Wellness Center sent them to the county clinic.

Now, the tests are completely confidential and offered at the center. Tests are \$15.

Many different types of tests are offered. According to Sue Peters, RN, of the health center, there are "tests for gonorrhea, chlamydia, and herpes simplex. We will probably be sending HIV tests to the county STD clinic."

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If a student is found to have an STD, antibiotics may be prescribed depending on the STD. These antibiotics are administered directly through the Health and Wellness Center.

As part of the treatment process, the center plans to implement education as a major component of this new service. Handouts and literature on prevention, treating partners, and other sex related issues are available in the center. When a student is tested for an STD, the doctor or nurse administering the test will also discuss the disease with the student to make them more aware of it and how to prevent and treat it.

"One of our emphases here is that we want to do education as opposed to just testing," said Peters.

Tests are only available to undergraduate students by appointment or walk in. Appointments are made only for STD testing.

"If appointments aren't used then we will go to just a walk-in see STD, p2

Day to stop violence honored

WRC and I-club sponsor international event

by **Caitlin Hungate**
Staff Writer

Awareness is a key element in changing behavior one way or another.

That is exactly what the Women's Resource Center and the International Club did in sponsoring the first annual International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women on the Saint Mary's College campus.

The day commemorates the lives of Patricia, Minerva and Maria Teresa Mirabel who were brutally beaten and strangled to death in the Dominican Republic on Nov. 25, 1960.

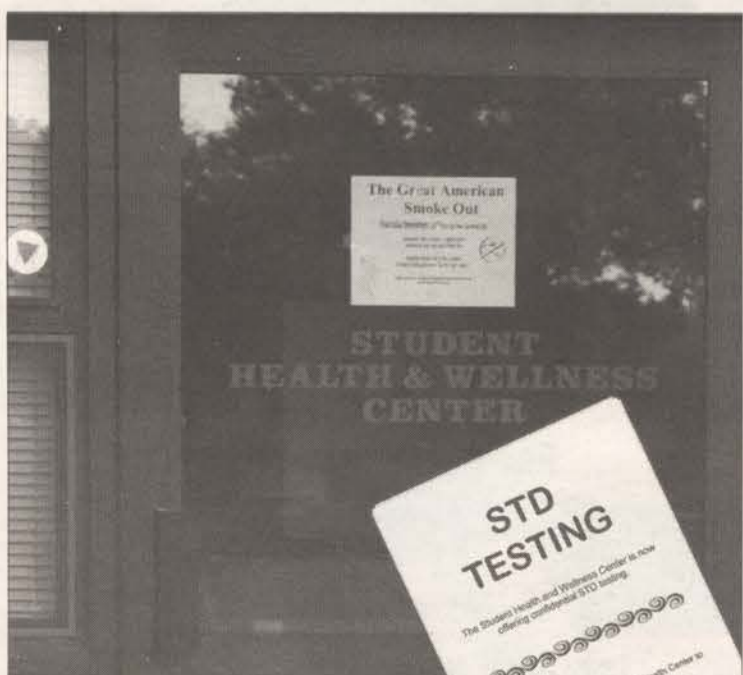
To remember their loss and enlighten the global community on domestic violence, people throughout the world gathered to tell their stories and educate their peers.

tell their stories and educate their peers.

Part of this event stressed cultural understanding and respect. The event in Delphine Lounge helped to bring back cultural perspectives by having Hina Azam, a religious studies professor speak from the Islamic perspective.

Other groups and organizations spoke such as Narika, a group that focuses on south Asian women in the Bay Area and Stand! Against Domestic Violence (formerly Battered Women's Alternatives), another group that helps Latin American survivors of violence.

Sharon Sobotta, interim director of the Women's Resource Center see VIOLENCE, p2



Lissette Garcia/COLLEGIAN

What's Happening

"Art With Space for Faiths: Stephen De Staebler's Family of Winged Figures"

Dr. Doug Adams, professor at the Pacific School of Religion and Graduate Theological Union, invites students to contemplate the paradox of God made flesh as imagined by artists throughout time on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Moraga Room of the Soda Activity Center.

This event is free to SMC, and \$5 for general admission (note: faculty & staff can stop by the gallery for complimentary tickets for your guests) The Gallery will be open from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and for an additional 30 minutes after the slide lecture.

Chamber Musicians

Add to your holiday enjoyment by hearing the SMC Chamber Musicians perform songs for all seasons on Thursday, Dec. 4 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Saint Mary's Chapel. All are welcome and admission is free.

Choir Concert

The NightinGael's Choir will be performing their fall concert on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. They will be singing a variety of songs, from traditional carols to contemporary pieces, including a selection of Spanish Christmas carols. Admission is free.

Christmas Break

Christmas Break is Dec. 12 to Jan. 3. The residence halls will completely close for Christmas Break, starting at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12.

Any student needing to stay on campus at any time during the Christmas break must fill out a Request Form at the Office of Residence Life by Dec. 1. The cost for staying on campus during Christmas Break is \$25 per day, which will be charged to the student's account. For more information please contact x4236 with any questions.

World AIDS Day

Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day. This day has a special place in the history of the AIDS pandemic. Since 1988, Dec. 1 has been a day of bringing messages of compassion, hope, solidarity and understanding about AIDS to every country in the world. Be Part of the Solution.

From Nov. 24 to Dec. 11 an AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display in the library and photography exhibit.

On Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. meet in the lobby of the library by the AIDS Memorial Quilt and proceed by candlelight up to Delphine Multicultural Lounge for a student forum, performance pieces, open mic, food and music.

Also on Dec. 1 will be "Day Without Art" as well as information stations and videos all day. Wear a red ribbon.

For more information, contact Miriam Eisenhardt Health and Wellness Educator at x4776.

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

Crime Beat

11/15	12:43 a.m.	11/18	11:30 p.m.
Incident: Burglary		Incident: Theft	
Synopsis: Burglary in De La Salle Hall; referred to student conduct.		Synopsis: Missing soap dispenser bottles from men's bathroom adjacent to the quad; case closed.	
11/15	3:26 a.m.	11/20	12:01 p.m.
Incident: Tampering with fire protection equipment		Incident: Possession	
Synopsis: Tampering with fire protection equipment in Mitty Hall; referred to student conduct.		Synopsis: Possession of marijuana in Justin Hall; referred to student conduct.	
11/15	11:14 p.m.	11/20	12:50 p.m.
Incident: Medical assistance		Incident: Hit and run	
Synopsis: Medical assistance - intoxicated student at De La Salle drive in front of Siena Hall; referred to student conduct.		Synopsis: Hit and run property damage at Filippi parking lot; case suspended.	
11/15	12:15 a.m.	11/20	7:29 p.m.
Incident: Medical assistance		Incident: Medical assistance	
Synopsis: Medical assistance - alcohol consumption by a minor at the Soda Activity Center; referred to student conduct.		Synopsis: Medical assistance in Madigan gym; referred to student conduct and the health and wellness center.	
11/16	4:30 p.m.	11/20	9:02 p.m.
Incident: Possession		Incident: Fire alarm	
Synopsis: Possession of alcohol by a minor in South Claeys; referred to student conduct.		Synopsis: Activated fire alarm in Ageno C; referred to student conduct.	

SMC Debate team chartered

Campus club brought back after 100 years

by Jessica McLennan
Copy Editor

Two weeks ago, the Associated Students of Saint Mary's College chartered the speech and debate team into a recognized club at SMC.

Though Saint Mary's sponsored the debate team back in 1896, the team only had a two-year running span.

It was not until about one hundred years later that the idea of instituting a debate team was mentioned by debate coach, John Hanecak, a communication department lecturer.

However, it was inventor John Macken '62, a former president of the college's Debate Society, which got the debate team in gear and financed their activities.

"It was the hope of our founder, John Macken, to establish a debate team again at Saint Mary's," said Mary Barnes '06, vice president of individual events for the debate team. "John put out flyers and distributed them in his classes in order to get people interested in speech and debate," said Barnes.

According to Kristen Mathe '06, vice president of the club, Macken wants to see "more students involved from different departments, especially the science department."

The members must work anywhere between 40 to 200 hours

STD: tests completely confidential

continued from pg 1

basis. We're hoping students will take advantage of it and realize that it's confidential. We hope they feel comfortable enough to come here," said Peters.

So far, students and administrators alike seem to think this is a good thing. According to Peters, "We have support for it from the administration. Their reaction has been favorable. I have not heard anything nega-

preparing for a speech and be comfortable speaking about "international policy, business, history, economics, and key societal values".

In order to make sure these students are well prepared, Barnes and Mathe oversee their preparations.

Barnes' specialty is interpretations and she also oversees meetings, gives students feedback on their speeches, and has the say over who goes to events to compete.

Mathe also helps students with their speeches.

"I had high school experience so I came in with some advantage. Public speaking was just something that I felt comfortable with. I help others improve while improving my own skills," said Mathe.

"Winning a round for our first year was a great accomplishment," said Barnes.

"The team as a whole did really well. Everyone helped each other and that connection really paid off," said Mathe.

Goals for the future include national and state competitions. But for now, the SMC debate team is just interested in doing well with their competition from colleges and junior college's along the West Coast.

The team meets every Wednesday, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Ageno A second floor lounge.

For once, students echo the opinion of administration. "We're excited. We've wanted to do something like this for a long time."

Tammy Cao '07 thinks it is a great idea and very important for the student body. "It's a good thing because it's beneficial and now that teenagers have access to it they are more likely to use it," said Cao.

VIOLENCE: day helps awareness

continued from pg 1

ter was very excited about this event that is a "perfect opportunity to start a new tradition on campus."

With the growing statistic that 50 percent of women in the world will experience domestic violence, this day honored the death of the Mirabel sisters was important.

By starting at the grass-root level on campus, the Women's Resource Center and International Club were hoping to mobilize more people on campus in the awareness of violence against women.

Many clubs such as the Latin American Student Association, the Black Student Union, and the Asian Pacific American Student

Association were there to further the cultural diversity.

Having diversity at the event helped promote cultural respect and, as Sabotta hoped to achieve, "challenge the stereotypes that these issues have been presented in the mainstream media."

Ana Montanez '04, who is the Education and Outreach Intern for the Women's Resource Center, was also very excited about the event.

Since statistically 1 in 2 women will be victims of domestic violence and 1 in 4 women will be victims to sexual assault, violence against women is no longer a class, race, or cultural issue.

But rather, it is an issue that affects everyone and it is important to get a "sense of unity among a diverse group of women," said Montanez.

GaelXpress heavily monitored

System to be upgraded during Thanksgiving

by Scott Burrola
Staff Writer

Many students found difficulty with registering for spring classes using GaelXpress. GaelXpress ran smoothly through the Senior and Junior registering periods, but encountered problems during the Sophomore and Freshman registration.

"Although GaelXpress, conjuring up feelings of frustration, testing the limits of my patience, and generating indignant consternation, I was able to successfully get all my classes due to my supernatural ability to persevere," said Kenny Mau '06, over his recent online experience.

Ed Biglin, Dean of Academic Development, heading GaelXpress, was not caught off guard this time. He made sure the proper people were in place for any faulty occurrence during spring registration.

While many students were busy registering for their classes over GaelXpress, behind the

scenes the system was being monitored from 6:45 a.m. till 8:45 p.m. during each registration day.

Andy Kraus, the Director of Enterprise Applications Information Technology Services, along with fellow personnel, were monitoring GaelXpress throughout the day. They were able to shut down and restart the system, anytime a defective incidence occurred. GaelXpress was never offline for more than ten minutes at a time, with the average being about five minutes. "Our goal is to make sure St. Mary's students do not even know we are there. We want the process to run as smoothly as possible," said Biglin.

GaelXpress will receive an upgrade over the Thanksgiving holiday. A new server will be installed, while the entire administrative software will be upgraded. According to Kraus, this should hopefully prevent any further problems that GaelXpress might experience.

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SMC participates in WHISC protest

Students, staff, faculty go on 'Fact Finding Trip' to Ft. Benning for second year

by Chris Swain
Managing Editor

For the second straight year a group of Saint Mary's students, staff and faculty attended the protests at the gates of the controversial Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC), formerly known as the School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, GA.

The group took part in the weekend as 'participant observers' looking to gain an educated opinion on the issues surrounding the school by attending three main events: an open house, a mass and the protest.

The issues that the group sought to learn more about during the weekend were: American foreign policy, especially in Colombia, the experience of the Catholic Church in Latin America over the last thirty years, and citizen engagement in complex issues,

said Gary Adler, Assistant Director of the Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action, one of the staff trip leaders.

It is important said Adler to go "to a demonstration and see what people are saying there through a critical lens."

Prior to leaving for Georgia, students listened to three lec-



COLLEGIAN ARCHIVE

Thousands gather every year at the gates of Fort Benning to protest WHISC.

tures, the first on United States' defense policies and attitudes. A second lecture was given about the historical situation of Latin America and the third was about

In the evening the group attended a mass sponsored by the Jesuits.

The protest is annually held in commemoration of the death of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and daughter, in which 19 of the soldiers associated

with this act were trained at the SOA.

On Sunday, the SMC group along with thousands of other protesters participated in the demonstration at the gates of Fort Benning.

The protest unites people of all beliefs and backgrounds under the principle of nonviolence.

The protest unites people of all beliefs and backgrounds under the principle of nonviolence.

the theology and psychology of nonviolence.

On Saturday morning, the group attended an open house at WHISC in which they toured the library, classrooms, and participated in an open house, which they had the opportunity to ask critical questions of faculty and administrators at WHISC.

RA: Dismissed from duties

continued from pg 1

was bothering the resident," said LaMons. "We referred the resident to many different sources - The Women's Resource Center, the Counseling Center, a confidential Blue Phone [the Sexual Assault Response Team]. We referred the student to all the different numbers so they could get whatever they needed no matter what the issue was."

"RA's are expected to notify their supervisor if they referred somebody to any type of resource if they had any kind of concern about that student," said Steve Nygaard Dean of Campus Life.

"We did follow protocol," LaMons said. According to LaMons, there was no reason to document the conversation, because no incident was specified. Both LaMons and Salcido felt they were following the protocol laid out by Martha Gonzales Associate Director of Residence Life at an RA meeting on Oct. 29.

"I wasn't told 'this in fact happened' it was a matter of concern," Sharon Sobotta, interim director for the women's resource center said. According to Sabotta, Salcido came into the Center to seek information for a student. "She didn't concretely know about a sexual assault. She asked what she could do," Sobotta gave Salcido the sexual assault crisis response team phone number.

"We did what was in the best interest of the student, but the

Office of Residence Life is now relieving us of our duties for that," LaMons said.

Both LaMons and Salcido are writing letters of appeal to both Mike Zoll, vice provost for student affairs and Br. Craig Franz.

"They're saying that we failed to perform to expectations, but we've never had complaints, ever," said second year RA Salcido.

A petition addressed to Zoll circulated through Guerrieri Park. One of Salcido's residents, Nancy Han '04 wrote the petition, which collected 69 signatures. The petition vouched for the competency of the former RA's and asked for reconsideration of the decision to relieve LaMons and Salcido from their positions.

"We, the undersigned feel that former Resident Advisors, Gina-Joy Salcido and Katherine LaMons were wrongly terminated from their positions," the petition reads. "With their termination, we will lose two of the best Resident Advisors at Saint Mary's College."

"The result of their actions didn't end badly. The student was fine and that should be the main concern: that the student is ok and is doing well," said Grace Evers, a resident of Guerrieri East. "She did everything in the best interest of the student."

Ronnie Willet has already stepped in to take LaMons' full-time RA position in Guerrieri West.

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SNAPSHOT

Shanty Town on Chapel Plaza

Nick Sylva/COLLEGIAN

Wednesday, as part of Human Dignity week, students built cardboard shelters on Chapel Plaza. After a cold and foggy night, they enjoyed a Dorothy Day shelter style breakfast.

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Go Fetch my Funny Bone

chris mateo

The earnings of the *Matrix* franchise – about \$1 billion. The way students know of their punishment regarding drug and alcohol use – the matrix. The chance to write about two matrices in one column – priceless. One word to describe both the movie and policy - overrated.

There were two movies following the original blockbuster. Some felt that it was fine just the way it was, others wanted more. The movie was taken to a totally different level of pop culture as soon as the mention of *The Matrix Reloaded* was made. It was hyped up. It wasn't the revolutionary (no pun intended) movie like the original. Overrated.

The policy is surrounded by much scrutiny. Let's put it this way: if you were to compare the matrix policy's appearance in the *Collegian* to the movie's own publicity, it would be like having *Matrix Revolutions* on every other issue of *Entertainment Weekly*, on Taco Bell cups, and on your little brother's wall. Wait. That was the case. Therefore, the analogy stands. Overrated.

Associating our matrix policy with every aspect of SMC (as I try to continue an almost impossible comparison with Hollywood's version) is like having each student "plugged in." How? Well, let's focus on student life. The Matrix is a false world. Everything seems real, but isn't. The inhabitants of the Matrix believe that this is the ideal environment; it's as real as real can get. They're protected from the harsh reality of a machine-ruled world. They're given a false sense of security. Ignorance is bliss.

That's not to say that SMC is a false world where the truth is hidden. But then again, doesn't the policy provide a blindfold over the eyes of administrative responsibility?

Here we have a way to cover the fact that students have minds of their own (much like the citizens of the Matrix). Responsibilities are limited; "choices" are few. It seems as if the existence of the matrix has students wary of authoritative discipline, not of personal well-being.

Just like the fear of being regulated by Mr. Smith or a squid-like sentinel, the matrix has forced the student population to revert back to the fear of being regulated by the ultimate authority (no, not an over-sized robotic face)...mom and dad.

If parents are the final say in students' discipline, what message is the matrix sending? If students are expected to be adults, then why are they being sent to their childhood authorities?

Only one person has the answers to these questions...the architect (and no, we don't have an old man sitting in the middle of a roomful of televisions on campus). Actually our "architect" is comprised of several people. Nevertheless, until students and administrators can come to a mutual understanding of the term "responsibility," keep expecting "Mr. Smith" to hack into the world of the parental units.

OPINION

Collegian View

The Senate has been through some major changes in the past few weeks. From the dismissal of Gina Damiano to the promotion of Jessica Porras, the Associated Students of Saint Mary's College has been through a drastic facelift during the transitory mid-year period. Before finals arrive, the students of SMC have seen several issues rise from their student government.

The first of these issues is the acknowledgment of flaws of Senate members. Many times we see the Senators as elected representatives and nothing else. We forget that they too are students and they too make mistakes.

The recent incident of Damiano's removal from her position as Vice President for Student Affairs was a wakeup call for those of us who tend to forget that we elect our peers and not saints.

Secondly, recent events have brought up some flaws in the stu-

dent code of conduct. With Damiano's case, it is a first-time incident, and, at the same time, seems to have set a precedent for future similar cases.

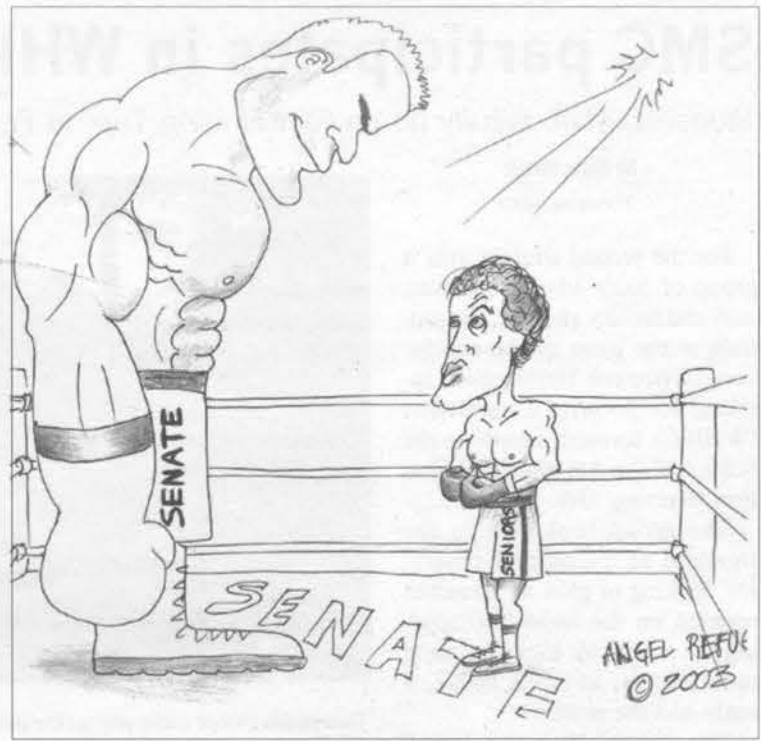
The event in mind has raised the question, "what else haven't we thought about?"

Third, while there exists two blatant reasons that the student constituency of the Senate should be concerned about their governing body, another topic has been raised.

This topic is the efficiency of the Senate. Yes, the issue of an elected official losing privileges to the matrix is unprecedented. Yes, the code of conduct has a hole.

However, students need to keep in mind that the Senate, despite these flaws, has worked to restructure with the utmost care.

Damiano's position has already been filled by Jessica Porras. The flaws in the matrix and the student code of conduct



Cartoon by Angel Refugio/COLLEGIAN

Perhaps the senior class' attempt at playing the hero at Sunday's senate meeting was a bit overzealous.

have been addressed.

Resolutions have been made. Committees have been formed.

The student senate of Saint Mary's College have faced tough issues, yet pushed through still making forward progress to correct errors for the betterment of you, the student body.

For the most part, yes, the matrix has had negative effects on a number of your lives, and yes our vice-president was removed without warning and these things need to be amended. Not only amended within the student code

of conduct does the matrix need amending, but also student organizations need to look at their constitutions and consider holding their leaders accountable.

It is the existence of this process that allows for the correction of mistakes and reaffirms student faith in your leaders and elected officials' governing abilities.

Let us now look with hope to the future of our student senate as representatives to be the leaders students want and need. And let us always remember we are in the holy presence of God.

Community Views

Dear Editor,

There are several matters of concern to students that I wish to address. First, a clarification of what I intended to say in last week's Collegian: It is unfortunate that Gina Damiano lost her ASSMC leadership position—her removal is a loss for the entire student body. I've spoken with Gina and have privately reiterated my sentiments. I believe that situations like this could be largely avoided if student organizations developed "code of ethics" and enforced them internally. I will gladly work with student leaders to develop such codes. Second, the code of conduct "matrix" for alcohol and drug violations is clearly a concern for many students. ASSMC leaders have identified this as a "top-three" issue that needs immediate attention. With my full support, President Tony Ancelj has commissioned a special task force to review the matrix. Third, there is dissatisfaction about residence life from

several angles. Residents have expressed to me both frustration and loss regarding two RAs who were recently dismissed. The recent resignation of full-time staff member (RCC) is indicative to me of troubles within the department. I am currently interviewing all residence life staff—including RAs—to better understand the situation before working towards a solution. I will do my best to communicate to you about future progress in these and other areas. Please also let me know what you are thinking by e-mail (mzoll@stmarys-ca.edu), call me directly (x4524) to talk or to schedule a lunchtime conversation. I hope your Thanksgiving holiday is full of blessings and appreciation for the many gifts we have been afforded!

Sincerely,

Mike Zoll
Vice Provost for Student Affairs

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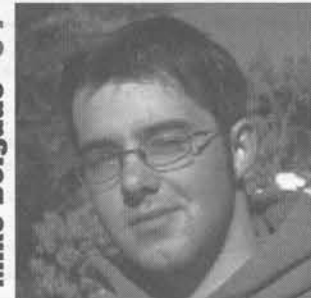
GAEL POLL

111 Saint Mary's students were polled on their opinion of Arnold Schwarzenegger taking office

Do you have confidence in Arnold as governor?



Mike Delgado '07



“Yes, he's a good business man that will get us out of the budget crisis.”

25% of students who voted in the recall voted for Arnold.



Last week, the *Collegian* polled 121 SMC students and found that *well over half of them have had sexual intercourse.*



In addition, 68% feel that Saint Mary's does not do enough to address the issue of sex. We think it's time to address it.



Catholic institution or not, a college is a college and that means college students are going to have sex, whether it's allowed or not.



With the rise of STDs, including AIDS, we live in a time where sex is not safe.



But despite this, the physical and emotional benefits of sex will drive young people to "do it." *It's on everyone's mind.*



Therefore, this month's In-Depth looks at the issue of sex. IT'S TIME TO END THE TABOO, IT'S TIME TO SPEAK UP, IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT.



got condoms?

Lack of birth control at SMC: Serious issue or minor inconvenience?

by Adrienne Gallo and Whitney Leonard

Visiting other college campuses, you may have noticed condom machines in the laundry rooms, near vending machines, restrooms, and at bookstores. Other campuses even have awareness weeks for safe sex with pamphlets on all the options and resources for staying safe and healthy. But when you walk around the SMC campus, you cannot find these conveniences.

Ever wonder why there are no condom vending machines or contraceptives being sold at the bookstore or even distributed in the health center? We all know that SMC is a Catholic institution where sex or premarital relations are forbidden. But do we really agree? As we know, this is a diverse campus, and not everyone is Catholic. If our views differ from the Catholic beliefs, should we still have to obey and subject ourselves to a campus limiting a safer lifestyle?

Chris Rose, the manager at the campus bookstore, says that there has not been a great demand for condoms and that nobody has really asked him for them. He does not know whether or not condoms are just not allowed to be sold on this campus, but it really isn't a concern for him because he doesn't think it would affect the profits of the



Lisette Garcia/COLLEGIAN

bookstore.

Would students even purchase condoms if they were sold here? Would students attend awareness meetings on safe sex? If contraceptives such as condoms were available, would our campus be healthier, or would it promote sexual activity?

Here are some of the facts: sexual relations are prohibited on campus, condoms are not distributed, and although the Planned Parenthood phone number is provided on each Emergency Information Sheet on the doors of each dorm, this campus does not condone such behavior. "The college...prohibits the cohabita-

tion by students who are unmarried and/or dating partners regardless of gender, in college-sponsored housing" (p. 37, Student Handbook).

There are definitely health benefits to knowing your options when it comes to sexual activity. Planned Parenthood provides women with the proper health care and birth control options for women who are sexually active. Without annual exams, people can find themselves not only with STDs, but sterile. These health concerns are the primary reason why many feel that there should be more awareness on

campus about birth control and health issues regarding sex.

With STD testing becoming available at the campus health center, many think that it would make sense for them to pass out or sell condoms in the health center too. If they are offering STD testing then there is obviously a concern about unprotected sex. Condoms could be an answer for the prevention of further spreading of STDs.

Although birth control availability on campus may not be a great concern or problem for many students, for the few who want to ensure their safety, it can make a big impact on their health and personal decisions.

76% of Saint Mary's students use contraceptives

72% of students who never or only sometimes use contraceptives would use them if available on campus

from a Collegian survey of 121 SMC students

The rundown on sexually transmitted diseases

The three most common infections

Jo-Ann Arquillano
Staff Writer

According to the American Social Health Association (ASHA), it is estimated that over 65 million people in the United States are living with an incurable sexually transmitted disease. Two-thirds of all STDs occur in people 25 years old or younger. Columbia University's health question-and-answer internet service, *Ask Alice!*, states that 20 to 25 percent of college students have been or are infected with an STD. It is estimated that approximately 15 million new cases of STDs will be contracted every year, and one in four of these new STD infections will occur in teenagers. Generally, human papillomavirus, also known as HPV, genital herpes, and chlamydia are reported to be the most common sexually transmitted diseases among college campuses.

The ASHA reports that HPV infects more than 40 percent of sexually active college students while genital herpes infects 12 percent of sexually active college students between the ages of 18 and 24, and five to ten percent of women between the ages of 15 and 24 have contracted the infection chlamydia.

Human papillomavirus is a virus that affects the skin in the genital

Sex: it does matter
Intimacy inevitably alters relationshipsby Caitlin Hungate
Staff Writer

Whether you believe in free love or the notion of virginity until marriage, sex is a topic that is on the minds of many college students. Sexual activity plays a key role in any relationship, and couples continually face this issue in their relationship.

For some men and women, sex should be the last thing developed in a relationship. Most importantly, the intimate connection that two people share should be the first to be developed, in which sex will either naturally evolve into the relationship or not occur at all.

Sex can change a relationship in a positive or negative way, or have no impact at all. Two males interviewed who were/are sexually active with their girlfriends both started out with saying sex had no impact in their relationships. The actual act of sex was not as big as the hype that they had heard from their peers. However, in retrospect, both agreed having sex added a new dimension to their relationship.

With sex, there was more physical responsibility for both the male and the female. Not only was there a sense of mutual responsibility in having safe sex, but each also felt a sense of pro-

tection for their girlfriend.

Clearly, sex changes things. And believe it or not, sex also changed their relationship in a negative way. Issues of jealousy came up and both commented they could not think of another guy having sex with their girlfriend; suddenly it was

Genital herpes is a recurrent skin condition that can cause skin irritations in the genital region.

Chlamydia, a bacterial infection that affects women, is a treatable disease. However, it can cause scarring of the fallopian tubes and therefore affect a woman's ability to have children.

Testing for STDs can take place before or after symptoms occur. Blood tests are usually administered and typically test results are given within a few days. If symptoms have already begun to show, appointments with gynecologists/urologists, primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, or even dermatologists can confirm any concerns.

Visiting a Planned Parenthood clinic is also an option. To find out where the Planned Parenthood clinic in any area is located, call 1-800-230-PLAN (7526). Another resource you can take advantage of is the National STD Hotline — they can tell you where free and/or low-cost clinics are located near you, and can also answer any questions you may have about the treatment, transmission, and prevention of STDs. Their number is 1-800-227-8922; and their hours are Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m. (EST).



Lisette Garcia/COLLEGIAN

this notion of "if I can't have her, no one can."

Whether or not we are ready to admit it, sex affects relationships. Not only should the message of precaution be stressed, but also being ready for how the act will change the relationship at the present and in the future.

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Sex: Black tie or casual affair?

by anna gates

Sex is sex—right? No matter the couple, positions, or toys involved, ultimately all acts of sexual intercourse have the same basic idea at heart...or do they?

In the ever-popular topic of sex, there emerge two distinct scenarios. There is presumably safe and predictable sex with a long-term partner, and then there is the random, "I don't know your name but I want to get in your pants" situation. And although both involve the action of sexual intercourse, the resulting effects are very different.

There is no denying that sex is a part of college life. The phenomenon of two people engaging in sexual acts without an assurance for future commitment (otherwise known as "hooking up") has become an increasingly popular pastime on campuses throughout the nation. A recent study, conducted at one college campus for *The Journal of Sex Research*, found that 78% of women and men being studied on the campus had engaged in hooking up at least once. In other words, people are getting it on with strangers on a pretty regular basis. But what are the emotional ramifications of such experiences?

A female SMC student said, "[Casual sex] gives you the self-reassurance that you are sexy...it's the mystery and ambiguity involved that makes everything very passionate and romantic." But with this sense of confidence and sexual prowess there also come many dangers, both physical and emotional. According to Planned Parenthood's website, by the age of 24, one in three sexually active people will have contracted a sexually transmitted disease (STD). And by having sex with someone whose sexual history is unknown to you, you put yourself at a greater risk to contract a STD. In addition, there are also many negative emotions that occur as a result of casual sex. Without any guarantee, casual sex can be unfulfilling and possibly lead to guilt or regret (despite how sexy you may feel during the act).

On the other side of the spectrum, there is sex that involves two people in a relationship. Although the dangers of becoming pregnant or contracting a STD are still prevalent, the emotional benefits of sex in a committed relationship are very different than those of casual sex. When asked about the emotional advantages of sex in a steady relationship, a male SMC student said, "[Sex] makes you feel so much closer to your partner...in a relationship, sex leaves you fulfilled." The act of sex, therefore, becomes a comforting action and a sign of love. However, these same feelings of contentment and security have the possibility to turn into something monotonous. "It just gets boring," a female SMC student said.

As common and frequent as sex may be on college campuses, the truth is that not every sexual act is the same. Each experience carries with it different feelings and different heartbreaks. So take into consideration the emotional effects that are attached to sex. Because if you don't think about it now, you'll have to face it in the morning.

A choice that could change your life?

Why wait until marriage?

by Brent Mills

Think before you act

by Cori Simpson

People don't want to lose their virginity to some stranger; they want it to be with someone special. I completely feel the same way. But to say you need to wait until marriage to lose it seems kind of ridiculous.

No one I know is pro-losing their virginity (well, almost no one). It's not something to be cast out as soon as possible. But most people I know who didn't believe that marriage was the necessary first step said that a strong commitment between the people is needed. I feel the same way; I just don't believe that marriage is the necessary pre-requisite for having sex.

I think regret and shame are the two reasons that keep most people from losing their virginity. They don't want to regret what they've done and they don't want to feel ashamed because of it. Marriage is a convenient way of taking that fear off of your shoulders at least in the public eye. Most people still view losing your virginity during marriage better than losing it before.

You only live once, why not have as much fun as you can? If you're truly in love with the person you're with and wish to show them, I don't see a problem. There shouldn't be any reason to wait as long as they're responsible and use protection. Sex is a sacred thing, but it shouldn't be 'wait until marriage' sacred. So what happens if someone doesn't get married? No sex? No way!



Kim Dao/COLLEGIAN

It's cool if you wait for marriage and it's cool if you don't. I just don't think a person should have to wait just because of marriage. You should be able to do what you like as long as you accept the possible consequences of sex and are ready to deal with them. Be it pregnancy or VD, no one can be completely safe unless they never have sex. But sex is great, and everyone, married or not, should be able to experience it in their lifetime.

61% of students have had sex

By now, you've probably figured out that sex is not condoned at Saint Mary's. There are no "Planned Parenthood" programs here and birth control isn't sold on campus. There's also the "cohabitation" policy.

But this is a college campus filled with college students looking for some action, so of course, sex is going to be had. If you're one of those students, then fine, but just consider for a moment some of the reasons to stay a virgin while going to this school.

Saint Mary's is a Catholic institution. Religion plays a big part in the lives of many students here, and religious people tend to have morals. Conventional morals say that sex before marriage

is wrong and that you should save yourself for your husband or wife. It makes sense. Sex is a sacred thing meant to be shared with someone you love deeply and truly care about. Who are you going to care about or love more than your spouse? If you wait until you're married to have sex, it will be your special gift to this person; something they know you saved just for them. Also, you have no chance of experiencing the awkward situation that occurs if you accidentally spout out a former lover's name in the heat of the moment.

Sex is supposed to be fun, but you don't want to make a mistake. Maybe you like to party. Maybe you like to have sex when you party. But what if one morning you wake up next to someone and disgustedly ask yourself, "why?" You have to live with the knowledge of what you did for the rest of your life. Or at least the knowledge of what you can remember you did. Everyone else at the party also knows what you did, and that may earn you an unwanted reputation. Then you're faced with multiple problems- you disappointed yourself, lost respect, and can't reverse the situation. All that sacrificed for just one night doesn't seem worth it.

I don't care what you do or who you do it with, but next time you're thinking about having sex, make sure you think with your head.

Pimps vs. Hoes

What has love got to do with it?

by Jessica Tsou
Staff Writer

"Don't know what you heard about me...I'm a motherf***** P-I-M-P...girl you can holla at me if you f***** with me, I'm a P-I-M-P..." 50 Cent is singing about it, so why shouldn't all males, right? That is exactly the problem. It's not just males who try to use the opposite sex simply for physical relations. At the various hook-up levels for males and females, there are completely different labels and social implications given to both sexes.

When a guy has a million different girls calling, he's labeled a "pimp," but a girl who has a million different guys calling her is considered a "tease" or "slut." People think: "She must have been flirting or flaunting around in order to get all of these guys to call her." This is usually not the case. Girls can be "pimps" too, just as much as guys can be "sluts" and "hoes." We usually associate the word "pimp" with being masculine and words like "slut" and "ho" to be feminine.

There seems to be somewhat of a common ground when it comes to kissing: most people have no problem with the term "kissing slut." Is it because it's just kissing? Maybe, but I personally see kissing as something special, and not something you dish out to just anybody. And when you say, "it's just kissing," then who's to judge those males and females everyone dubs "sluts"

and "whores" for saying, "it's just sex?"

There's an invisible point at which a girl makes the transition from tease/player to "slut," and a guy makes the transition from man-whore/jerk to "the man"/player-pimp; and it all comes down to sex. Pre-sex, a girl and guy can do the same exact things such as kissing a bunch of different people in the same week, talking to a couple of different people at the same time while telling each that they're "number one," and so on. But during that stage the girl is the one considered a pimp, whereas the guys get labeled a jerk or "a-hole." But when it comes to having sexual relationships, this magical switch occurs and everything is turned around. When it comes to sex, a guy and girl can do the same exact actions, but the guy is labeled a player and the girl a "slut" and "whore."

Why? I think a lot of it has to do with today's societal attitudes towards people, mainly guys, as being players, just using women as objects (Just check out the music video for 50 Cent's song I quoted before). And as much as women use men as objects too, those who do so get away with it because it is society saying that it is okay for women to do it because "we're liberated." However, male or female, the bottom line is that it's not cool to use label anyone or use them as an object.

Media-driven imagery

TV, movies promote false image of sexuality

by Marissa Nichols
Staff Writer

The rise in reality television has encouraged a construction of what reality is to its audience. Shows like *Paradise Hotel*, with a slogan that warns guests to "hook up or check out," are not subtle innuendos at what social normalcy demands; there is something wrong with the individuals in our midst that are not "hooking up."

Is the television audience taking these messages to heart? Is there simply too much sex on television, or are we supposed to get used to the openness in the transition from concealing our belly button to bearing all?

The younger age at which people begin to have sex is only a reflection of this message. This is more than a sexual revolution. This message is relating that promiscuity indicates how attractive and desired the individual is. Are we hearing that switching bedmates every week is not only okay, but recommended?

The truth is that sex intrigues us. It's our natural drive. But the objectification of sex and the commonplace subject that it has become disregards normal sexual relationships. Even soap operas have their characters sleeping around, and "who's her daddy" is a common question that's meant to guide the plot and cheesy acting.

We're encouraged to make our own lives "more interesting" by mirroring the drama that unfolds

on the screen. Obviously there's something wrong with getting to know someone's last name before you get it on. A relationship? Way too commonplace; the audience needs something more complicated, more dramatic. Media is already telling us that our lives are incomplete and to fulfill ourselves, we need only buy the appropriate product. Reality T.V., soap operas, mini-dramas and mini-series tell their audiences that the appropriate product is sex, come get some!

It's easy: you only need to model your lives after these unrealistic ideals of sexual promiscuity. In the world of movies and television, sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy, and rape are rarely included in the glamorized picture that the media paints for us.

37% of students have been in the same room as someone having sex

39% of students have had sex while someone else was in the room

Lissette Garcia/COLLEGIAN

Papal law or honest flaw?

by James Holger

Throughout my life, my mom made it especially known to me that if I were ever to "shack up with some chick," my finances would be severed immediately. For this reason, and the fact that I respect my mom and her conservative, Catholic beliefs, I choose not to fornicate. As a similar circumstance, Saint Mary's College of California, by policy, refuses to dispense contraceptives or otherwise provide sexual education to the students. My own mother would never support the kind of behavior she thought to be wrong, why should Saint Mary's?

One argument made is that Saint Mary's College should provide education and contraceptives to students because it is first and foremost for health concerns, not an issue of the church. First of all, Saint Mary's is not a public institution, it is private, and not only private, but one which adheres to Catholic tradition. If the school neglects papal law, which it is required to uphold as a Catholic institution, it would no longer be Catholic but a radical sect. Therefore one should not rely on the school to claim sovereignty from the Vatican which transcends it. Instead, one should recognize that such a request is ludicrous. If, in fact, one views this as primarily a health concern, I propose the cheapest, easiest, most reliable form of safe sex: abstinence.

A second concern brought up is one regarding the many drug and alcohol abuse awareness programs on campus, but none of which deal with sex, aside from the matter pertaining to rape; coincidence? State and federal law prohibit the consumption of alcohol by minors, the use of drugs outside the area of prescribed users, and rape: the act of forcing sex upon another. These are laws which apply to everybody living in the United States. As a private citizen, one is held to these standards and punished by a system of courts if they are broken. Likewise, the school, as its own entity, can make laws specific to it, as a private institution. But as a school itself, Saint Mary's follows two sets of laws: those of the state and those of the Church. Aside from these two sets, there are no laws which are, in the least, specific to Saint Mary's College.

However, there are people on the campus who think the act of sex and the education in regards to sex need to be addressed in the name of allowance, acceptance, and tolerance. As far as the act goes, the church does not in any case, tolerate premarital sex. And as far as education goes in regards to sex, why should there be an education process on an act that the Church, through the school, neither condones nor allows? People will choose to fornicate, and that is their own prerogative. Why should the school sponsor the programs which encourage fornication such as "safe sex"? I don't know about you, but I am elated that my tuition is going towards a fine education rather than condoms so two lustful teens just down the hall from me can get their freak on.

Students, staff discuss sex issues

Students express concern for the lack of open discussion



Aman Mahal Student **Steve Nygaard** Dean, Residence Life **Brent Mills** Student **Denise Witzig** Women's Studies Dept. **Caitlin Hungate** Student **Peggy Burns** Director, Health and Wellness Ctr. **Giana Borgman** Nurse Practitioner **John Zahala** Student

Excerpts from last Tuesday's roundtable discussion:

The nature of sex and sexuality:

JZ: It takes a lot of trust I think, for some people, especially in a relationship specifically, not just casual sex outside a relationship.

SN: Healthy relationships take time, they take work. It's important that they're dynamic and they allow for growth and support, and that includes aspects of sexuality.

DW: Sex is so consumerist in nature. It's sold in and of itself... I think that along with that... is this notion that if you're a young person, if you're really having fun, if you are all that you can be, you should be having sex.

GB: I'm struck by how much the media both trivializes and overinflates the importance of sex in the relationship. A meaningful relationship isn't really about sex, it's about helping each other and having fun.

On saving sex until marriage:

AM: Saving yourself for marriage is an incredibly symbolic thing to

do for a person because you've given that trust to them, you've given that part of your life to them. On the downside to that, you know, sex is not an easy thing....

PB: I do think that if you're engaging in sex and you're not in a committed relationship, there are some pitfalls, for example, pregnancy or a sexually transmitted infection. Who's going to be the person standing with you if something negative should happen.

DW: I do think that life is long...and that while its not necessary to have notches on your bedpost, so to speak, its part of human interaction to have sex.

SN: I think its possible for someone to be in a variety of relationships before their marriage, and to be sexual in those relationships in satisfying ways without "doing it" and still saving themselves for marriage. Yet we haven't talked about those.

Contraceptives:

SN: We don't have policies articulated, we have practices. But they

are practices not to offer contraceptives.

JZ: I think it's a real disservice to the health center to not be able to allow condoms to be distributed. ...I don't know what the mission statement of the health center says, but I would assume its something about keeping students safe, and making sure they have happy, healthy lives.

CH: The policy itself doesn't even address the problem that we don't have contraceptives on this campus. ...for those that don't have transportation or means to go off-campus easily to go to Planned Parenthood or wherever to get contraceptives if they chose to partake in any type of sexual activity, it puts a big damper on that...

BM: If contraceptives were more available on campus, it seems like people might be carrying them a lot more....

GB: I would not feel comfortable prescribing birth control to somebody because I know that coming into this job, my own personal feelings apart, the philosophy of the

school here. But in the interest of health I think I can discuss birth control with somebody.

The cohabitation rule:

BM: It seems kind of ridiculous to stop at 2 a.m., 'cause I mean, "Oh it's 2 a.m., can't have sex." That's probably one of the most 'lax policies that's enforced. That and, sadly to say, alcohol. I mean, the matrix, God bless it, is trying...

SN: Coming to a Catholic college, were you surprised that there were policies having to do with sexual intercourse?

AM: It did not surprise me that there were policies about sex. What did surprise me was that it was not talked about, it was not discussed, and it was never even brought up as far as what the safety precautions would be.

CH: The rules and the policy about cohabitation and sexual interactions, I don't think that was surprising to me at all. I think that lack of real discussion of contraceptives and, like Aman said about although we might not ask for it on this campus, that this is a place where you can go to talk about it. Just that alone would be helpful.



Members of the SMC community tackle the issue of sex at last Tuesday's discussion. Liz Hearst/COLLEGIAN


39% of students have had sex in the past 30 days

71% of students disagree with the cohabitation policy


87% of students think contraceptives should be available on-campus

71% of students believe that sex, while special, is fine outside of marriage


TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN GAEL FORCE FOR BASKETBALL SEASON




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Santa Clara Student Section



Cal Student Section



SMC Student Section

- 1. The Senior Class t-shirts claim that SMC is the best school in the WCC - it's time for our students to PROVE IT!**
- 2. The men's team is picked to finish 2nd in the WCC and needs your SUPPORT getting to the NCAA Tournament**
- 3. Our teams need fans like YOU**
- 4. FREE tickets to the WCC Tournament**
- 5. The women's team has led the WCC in attendance for five years and needs your help keeping the streak ALIVE**
- 6. FREE movie passes at selected games**
- 7. Invitations to pre-game SOCIALS**
- 8. Santa Clara thinks they have a BETTER student section at basketball games...enough said**
- 9. Receive a FREE t-shirt at the Dec. 6 USC game**
- 10. PRIORITY downstairs seating at games**

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Arnold in office: Burden or Blessing

Doubtful of "the terminator"

Give him a chance

by Caitlin Hungate Staff Writer

by Brian McGuigan Staff Writer

With the fury of the now not-so-recent recall election, Arnold Schwarzenegger was sworn in as the 38th Governor of California as he vowed to "bring California back." First of all, where did California go? It seems that Arnold's pre-governor stage has been meticulously crafted with listed achievements, such as the Chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports from 1990 to 1993, but what we fail to remember is he is known for his acting career, not a political one.

Yes, I am doubtful of what Arnold really will do and how he will "bring California back." It is now known that in American politics, actors and sub-par candidates can run and win elections. Being in a position of power and authority takes experience and brain power, something Arnold does not appear to have. For the past three decades, Arnold has built a career on body building and acting, not on politics.

One of Schwarzenegger's first actions as governor was repealing the car tax that Davis enacted in the spring. WOW! Because that was one of the key elements in the recall election, many of the candidates agreed that the car tax should be repealed. This was a predictable move by Arnold.

His after school program, "Arnold's All-Stars," aims at helping middle school students academically and athletically, but that does not solve the ever present educational crisis in our state. Education is a serious problem for a state with such diverse socio-economics, and there is clearly not equal opportunity for each and every child to succeed. Helping children is not only based on after school programs, but also what is done in the classroom. How will he tackle this problem?

I am not waiting for the day when Governor Schwarzenegger will fail miserably, but rather I am extremely doubtful and weary of another actor as a governor. Who knows? Maybe he will surprise many people in doing good things for our state and actually solve problems - but I'm not holding my breath.

Bad news, California is out of control. Good news, the flow of career politicians and their careless reign in Sacramento has been, well, terminated.

Arnold Schwarzenegger may not be the most qualified man to become Governor of California, but what were the alternatives? Gray Davis, Cruz Bustamante, and Tom McClintock are career politicians who have all taken part in royally screwing California.

These professional politicians don't care about you or the well being of this state. A \$9 billion deficit exemplifies this carelessness.

Schwarzenegger is not one of these career politicians. There are two specific topics in which he shows his care for you and this state: special interest and partisan politics.

He doesn't pander to special interest bases, as too many California politicians do. He realizes that pandering alters his agenda to favor those bases and corrupts his ability to take care of the common good.

Schwarzenegger does not play total partisan politics. His support for a women's right to choose shows this. Career politicians in this state never cross the partisan line. They are never willing to give in so that action is taken and the best interests of the people of this state are represented.

Whether or not you were in favor of the recall, or Schwarzenegger, you should support his intentions to right the chronic wrongs of this state. He wants to curb wild government spending which punishes residents with high taxes.

Schwarzenegger aims to bring economic prosperity back, which evaporated as the career politicians idled. Most importantly, he wants to set the example of how an elected official has a responsibility to his constituents to look out for them.

I'm not advocating that you love Schwarzenegger. You can love, hate, or get along with him all you wish. All I'm saying is that he cares about you and this state, unlike the professional politicians. So give the guy a chance to shake things up and take us out of this mess.



Your Relationship: my opinion

katie kimball

Friday night, I made out with a fellow SMC student at a bar. We wound up going back to his place. We had a really great time, but the next week, he wasn't even acknowledging my existence - and we have a class together! Why is this happening, and what can I do?

-Annoyed in the Agenos

My dear, you are not alone. According to my research, many people have experienced this problem, especially girls. It goes something like this: you go to a party or a bar, and start exchanging lusty glances with a hottie across the room. Maybe you shake it on the dance floor and flirt a little. Pretty soon, and maybe after a few drinks, you wind up making out. The night can go two ways from here: you either go home, hoping they will call, or go home in a few hours, doing the walk of shame through the townhouses in the icy morning fog, feet blistering in last night's heels and last night's underwear in your back pocket (note to my parents, who read this column: I am NOT speaking from experience).

The moment of truth will come in the following days - and at a school as small as SMC, you can bet on it happening. It will come when you see the participant in your torrid affair in the lunch line in Saga, or maybe in the Dante quad. It will come when you are walking down the hall, alone, and they are the only person walking toward you. Will they say "hi"?

Disturbingly, they often don't. It seems that many times, despite what you may have shared in the way of saliva, you and your special friend may never interact again. It can be an unnerving feeling to walk by someone who you were on intimate terms with yesterday, who can't make eye contact or mumble "hey" to you today. This could happen for any number of reasons - perhaps they are worried that you won't greet them, or maybe they genuinely don't remember anything. But more often than not, it seems like they don't want you to get "the wrong idea."

It seems like guys need to get the message that just because you may have given in to their wiles, it doesn't mean you want a relationship. It's almost as though they are thinking, "If I say hi to her, she's gonna think I want to go out with her." Believe me, girls are, in general, not this delusional. I say, call him on it. Don't let him think that you are sitting at home, waiting by the phone. Make an awkward situation less so by breaking the ice with a passing "Hey, how's it goin'?" Although the odds of having any meaningful conversation are slim, at least you can acknowledge each other's presence. For next time, you should evaluate how much these situations upset you and adjust your behavior accordingly. If it will really bother you if you hook up with someone and they don't call you, then you might want to reconsider going home with them. Make sure you think about what your expectations for these bar hookups are, before you start drinking. If you do decide to press on, make sure you protect yourself - physically and emotionally.

Something more to be thankful for

Remembering the meaning behind America's most overlooked holiday

by Lara Endreszl

Staff Writer

On the last Thursday of November, something special happens in homes across America. Families and friends gather to enjoy each other's company and feast on tradition. They are celebrating the triumph of life; the idea that they need to give thanks in order to fully appreciate everything they have and have lived for. As meaningful as it is to me, others aren't as receiving. I believe Thanksgiving is a neglected holiday.

Sure the Macy's Day Parade and football games provide the

entertainment value, the break is satisfying and the mounds of food are always favorable; but where is the sense of community?

When the Pilgrims landed, as it is told, the Native Americans greeted them in a friendly and peaceful manner, put aside their differences, and shared a sacred, homegrown meal.

We attempt to recreate this feast, but no amount of turkey can capture the magic behind this wonderful holiday.

There are no chocolate bunnies, no candy canes, magical characters or holy days linked with Thanksgiving. No carolers,

egg hunts, or dreidels fill us with cheer. The true holiday spirit is found in the meal - this spirit is the reason why people travel far, wait in line at Safeway, and celebrate with the people they care about. Through the preparation and sharing of food, people's souls interact with their stomachs.

Why do people cast aside this beautiful collaboration? Some don't see the point of traveling or spending money on lavish ingredients only to have leftovers and a pile of dishes. To many, this day is a burden, something they have to live with and go

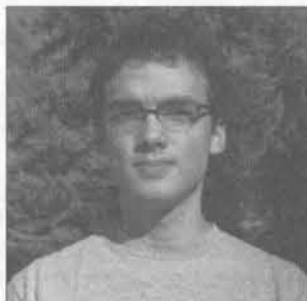
through to satisfy others. While most people appreciate the food and attend festivities out of respect for family and friends, some people truly love Thanksgiving because of the meaning behind it.

This Thursday is a chance to renew the neglected spirit. If everyone gives thanks for all they have, all they take for granted, and for life in general, they will eventually be happier as a whole.

Go home, gather your family and give plenty of thanks. Thanksgiving isn't the only time we need to give thanks and appreciate life, but it's a start.

"No, because he doesn't have any experience."

Chris Long '05



58%

of students have confidence in Arnold as governor.

Jessica Acuna '07



"Yes, because he seems confident and capable of doing a good job."

71%

of students feel that things in CA will change with the new leadership.

100 word reviews

hear:

Blink 182
Blink 182

While listening to Blink 182's *Blink 182*, I can't help but mature away from taking off my pants, having an enema of the state, and visiting the dude ranch. As a dedicated fan, I applaud Mark, Tom, and Travis' attempt at walking away from the immature antics that made me the teenage-angst lyric-loving punk that I am. Maybe I'm biased and don't expect anything big because I'm used to "All the Small Things." Don't expect the fun from previous albums and don't deny the serious styles of *Boxcar Racer*. Okay, enough with living in the past. I'm "Feeling This" album.

-CHRIS MATEO

read:

The Collegian
Saint Mary's College

I was once told by a past editor that, "the (Collegian) beast will always exist... it's up to those who create it to steer it in the right direction." This year's *Collegian* is definitely a well-oiled machine complete with creative photographers and designers, writers that are willing to push the envelope, and a bunch that truly knows how to have a good time. As an alumni and former editor, I know that what matters still exists here - a group that works hard for its college, gains the best practical experience of any organization on campus, and has a blast doing it.

-JOSH FARLEY '03

watch:

Elf
starring Will Ferrell

Will Ferrell is back. And this time he's entertaining us with a green hat and yellow tights in his new movie, *Elf*. Despite the PG rating that will perhaps dismay some Ferrell fans, *Elf* proves to be a great holiday comedy. It has a little something for everyone. There's some elf-on-elf romance, holiday cheer, disgusting displays of candy-eating habits and even the snowman from "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer." Ferrell's character, Buddy the Elf, isn't exactly "Frank the Tank," but this over-eager (and a smidge naive) elf proves to be a Ferrell persona that we won't soon forget.

-ANNA GATES

hear:

In the Zone
Britney Spears

After being out of the scene, Britney is back "in the zone" and taking it up a few notches. Not only does the album feature a ballad written by the pop princess, but her lyrics express the more provocative side of Britney. Lyrics about masturbation, clubbing, and intimacy, Britney is proving she isn't ashamed of who she is. The album features more dimension with hip-hop, techno, dance, and ballads. Although we know she is no musical genius, with more base and catchy tunes you girls know you find yourself behind closed doors belting out her lyrics and dancing in your unmentionables.

-WHITNEY LEONARD

DETOUR

THE TOP 25 CHEESIEST PICK-UP LINES

small talk

"Having sex is like playing bridge. If you don't have a good partner, you'd better have a good hand."

-WOODY ALLEN PHILOSOPHIZES ON THE OTHER GREAT AMERICAN PASTIME



by Katie Kimball, Opinion Editor

IT'S A DARK SMOKY ROOM.

You're standing at the bar, alone, playing with the olive in your martini glass. A creepy guy with a mullet and bad cologne approaches, and out of nowhere, drops the worst line of all time in an attempt to win your affection. We've all been there ladies, and here, exposed, are the top 25 pick up lines in all their cheesy glory. And girls, if you hear any of these, run quickly. And guys - don't get any ideas. Pick up lines are at best, laughable, and at worse, desperate.

25. I lost my phone number. Can I have yours?
24. Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again?
23. If you were a booger, I'd pick you first.
22. I'm a love pirate, and I'm here for your booty. Shiver me timbers!
21. Okay, I'm here - now what were your other two wishes?
20. Have you been dipped in babe sauce?
19. You'd better not walk in the rain - sugar melts, you know!
18. Baby, if you were words on a page, you'd be fine print!
17. It's women like you that keep me from joining the priesthood.
16. You...car...now!
15. Is your daddy a fireman? Because you make me turn red all over and go "WOO WOO!"
14. Can I buy you a drink so I look better?
13. If you're going to regret this in the morning, we can sleep until the afternoon.
12. I lost my puppy. Will you help me find him? I think he went in that cheap motel room.
11. Can you do me a favor? Next time you see your parents, thank them for me.
10. Do you have a band-aid? I scraped my knee falling for you.
9. I have a pen, you have a number - think of the possibilities!
8. Your clothes are irritating me. Will you please remove them?
7. Do you want to go to breakfast? Should I call you or nudge you?
6. Care to help me test the shocks on my car?
5. Can I borrow your cell phone? I promised my mom I'd call her when I met the woman of my dreams.
4. Do you have a map? I keep getting lost in your eyes.
3. Are you from Tennessee? Because you're the only ten I see.
2. Will you touch me? I want to tell all my friends I've been touched by an angel.

1. I only have three months to live...

Getting benefits from your friends

A relationship that can wander into the gray murky area

By Brigid Hughes
Staff Writer

So you've slept with a friend—a delicate situation in itself. Somewhere between being completely single and being completely committed; these are friends with benefits. This situation happens a lot more than you might think. You have a pretty good-looking guy/girl friend. Perhaps you've hooked up a few times. On top of that, it's been a few good weeks, maybe even months since you last got some action. Then one night, something happens and you end up sleeping together. Perhaps you bonded over deep thoughts, a long talk about the qualms of relationship surfing, or maybe you split a nice bottle or two of wine.

This is most common freshman year when young adults move from home, dump their significant others, and want to experience the fun and freedom that comes with being single. They don't want commitment, but a little something on the side isn't bad. Usually when two people find themselves sexually compatible, it's hard to resist. This we lovingly describe as "friends with benefits," the topic of our discussion.

It's usually a little secret between the two of you; that is, until you reveal your fling to your girlfriends or go bragging to your guyfriends. If the "friends with benefits" situation continues,

more people find out, especially when you start to mysteriously disappear at the same time every night to go to bed. You must remember to reiterate and maintain your "single" status. The nice thing (and only nice thing) about friends with benefits is that you can still go out looking for other guys/girls. It is seemingly the best of both worlds.

Friends with benefits can be fun but it can also be difficult to maintain. The two involved must reach an agreement early on not to get too attached to one another. You must not change your friendship pattern or things will deteriorate quickly. Feelings might seep into your "foolproof" plan and start to make it a stickier situation than you intended. There are three general paths to take: either you forget it ever happened, the fling develops into a more serious relationship, or whenever you feel a little antsy you sneak off and re-enact a scene from *Boogie Nights*.

Here are some of the problems with "buddies":

1. You find someone else. This is probably the least of your problems.
2. You start to lose the magical friendship you once shared.
3. It may turn from "friends with benefits" to just benefits. You don't even talk to this person anymore unless it's time for bed. This can be a big problem. Finally, the classic reason it



As Samantha on *Sex and the City* will tell you, sometimes it's not about looking for Mr. (or Mrs.) Right, but Mr. Right Now.

doesn't work is number 4: someone gets attached. It's hard to have sex with a person for a long period of time without developing a weakness for them. Sex is not something to take too lightly. It'll smack you one day—suddenly, you care. You're jealous. You're sucked in. This causes chaos and violates the rules of your "deal."

This setup can only work for a little while before failing. Being friends with benefits carries an intense warning: if it does go sour, it can turn into a mess. You will not only be losing your benefits, but also your friend. This situation often has an unfortunate ripple effect. Even worse, others can be put in the difficult posi-

tion of listening to you complain, and dealing with your screwed up feelings. You might inadvertently change the happy flow of your social circle.

So what's my personal conclusion? If you hook up with a friend and you care to hang onto this person, you should try to rework the relationship into a friendship. Just be grateful of regular doses of sex and enjoy the booty calls while they last.

Casual sex and friends with benefits isn't beneficial for anybody.

This does not come as a highly recommended option when you're standing at the crossroads of friendship, sex, relationship, and emotion.

Sound tracks that double as an aphrodisiac

The ultimate moodmakers.

"Strangers all around
With the light down low
I was thinkin' maybe we
Could...well...you know..."
-Janet Jackson
"Anytime, Anyplace"

"I want to wake up with the rain
Falling on a tin roof
While I'm safe there in your arms
So all I ask is for you
To come away with me in the night"
-Norah Jones, "Come Away With Me"

"Something 'bout the way your
hair falls in your face,
I love the shape you take when crawling
towards the pillowcase,
You tell me where to go and
Though I might leave to find it
I'll never let your head hit the bed
Without my hand behind it."

-John Mayer
"Your Body is a Wonderland"

"Do you know what you do to me,
Everything inside of me,
Is wanting you, needing you,
I'm so in love with you,
Look in my eyes,
Let's get lost tonight
In each other."

-Faith Hill and Tim McGraw,
"Let's Make Love"

"Hey girl, ain't no mystery,
At least, as far as I can see,
I wanna keep you here, laying next to me,
Sharing our love, between the sheets."
-Isley Brothers, "Between the Sheets"

"Go 'head and scream you can't hold out,
We can do it in the pouring rain,
Runnin' the train when it's hot or cold out,
Now 'bout in the library on top of books
but you can't be too loud,
You wanna make a brother beg for it
give me TLC 'cause you know I be too proud."

-Ludacris, "What's Your Fantasy?"

"A fall breeze blows outside
I don't break stride, my thoughts
are warm
And they go deep inside of you."
-Third Eye Blind
"Deep Inside of You"

"Could this be the greatest of
love of all?
I want to know that you will
catch me when I fall,
some people wait a lifetime,
for a moment like this."

-Kelly Clarkson
"A Moment Like This"

"Loving you is a like a song I replay,
Every three minutes and thirty seconds of every day,
And every chorus was written for us to recite,
Every beautiful melody of devotion every night"

-Bob Marley and Lauryn Hill
"Turn Your Lights Down Low"

"Lead me on girl, if you want,
Take my heart and my love,
Take of me all that you want,
And if there's a thing that you need,
I give you the breath that I breathe,
And if ever you yearn for the love in me."

-Maxwell, "Whenever, Wherever, Whatever"

"Knockin' me out with those American thighs
Taking more than her share, had me fighting for air
She told me to come but I was already there."

-AC/DC, "You Shook Me (All Night Long)"

"Sweet like candy to my soul
Sweet you rock
And sweet you roll
Lost for you I'm so lost for you
You come crash into me"

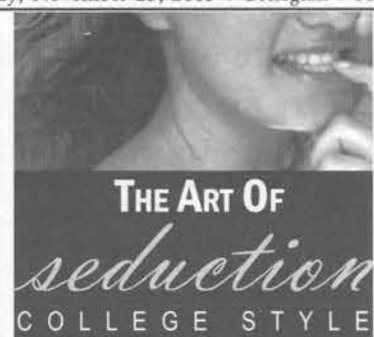
-Dave Matthews Band
"Crash Into Me"

"I know that you want me,
I can see it in your eyes,
You might as well be
honest 'cause the
Body never lies
Tell me your secrets and I'll
I'll tell you mine"

-TLC, "Red Light Special"

"Don't you know how sweet and wonderful,
life can be? I'm askin you baby, to get it on with me,
I ain't gonna worry, I ain't gonna push,
So come on, come on, come on, come on baby
Stop beatin' round the bush..."

-Marvin Gaye, "Let's Get it On"



THE ART OF seduction COLLEGE STYLE

by Anna Gates, Staff Writer

So there's this certain someone, and with the mention of his or her name, your heart skips a beat and your face suddenly feels like it's on fire (or maybe that's just your pants).

And you've dreamt and you've admired, but always from afar. And now, by some grace of God, that certain someone has agreed to hang out with you...tonight: at your place. But you're panicking and, let's face it, about to pee your pants from the excitement of it all. And because you're a college student, you have practically no time to prepare and even less cash to utilize. But you still want to make a good impression (and get a little somethin' in return).

Well, have no fear, because I am about to walk you through the art of seduction—college style. So get ready, because I know you've been tired, trying to hold back this feeling for so long. And if you feel like I feel...let's get it on:

The first step every well-trained seducer must conquer is, of course, the setting of the mood. Now obviously a dorm room isn't exactly a suite at the Holiday Inn, but trust me, you can work with it. Candles are the easiest way to create a sensual ambiance. To save money go for the Glade Fresh brand of candles. Not only are they cheap, but they come with their own holders...trust me, it's way classy. Want to add a little more heat to the room? Rent a DVD or video cassette of a fireplace. Okay, so it may be a little cheesy, but nothing says "let's get it on" like the crackling of a fire on your television screen.

The next absolutely necessary mood setter is music. The type of music you play will directly affect the outcome of your night. To go along with our seducing theme, a little Barry White, combined with 112, mixed with a little Boyz II Men "I'll Make Love to You" is sure to send the right message. If these bump and grind songs aren't exactly your thing, go for some punk covers of old love songs. But whatever genre of music you choose, make sure the verses will send the kind of subliminal message that you want them to. Because remember: it's all about the mood.

Now that you've set the mood, the rest is just a matter of minor details. Everyone knows that there is nothing sexier than someone who plays a musical instrument. So whatever you play, be it the guitar, piano, or saxophone, be sure to strategically place your instrument somewhere where your guest is bound to see it. It'll get the conversation going and give you a chance to show off. As for eating, break out the Todd Oldham plastic dishes and make a meal especially for your guest (or steal something from Saga).

So now you have a little idea of what it takes to be a good seducer. But above all else, when it comes to romance, just remember to be yourself.



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Players of the Week

Chris Harrel

Last Saturday was "senior day," the last game for a lot of football players, and Chris Harrel had a huge last game. The senior tailback started his final game and rocked the Weber state Wildcats for 118 yards on 24 carries, a 4.6 yards per carry average. He also had a touchdown in the second quarter, cutting Weber state's lead to seven at the time.



Lisette Garcia/Collegian

Triola Jackson

In the first game of the season, Triola Jackson continued to excel for the women's basketball team, shooting 5-of-6, totaling 15 points, six rebounds, three assists, a block and a steal en route to a Gael victory over San Diego State 52-47.

-Sam Adams

Score Card

Football (1-11)

	1	2	3	4	Final
Weber St.	7	14	7	7	35
SMC	0	7	0	8	15

Leaders:

R. Mike - 10 tackles
 T. Menke - INT
 C. Harrel - 24 att, 118 yds, TD
 A. Coleman - 6 rec, 74 yds, TD
 A. Woodards - tackle for a loss, fumble recovery

Volleyball (20-12)

SF d. St. Mary's 3-2
 K. Slazman - 19 kills
 J. Parmele - 16 kills

Women's basketball (1-0)

	1	2	Final
Saint Mary's	20	32	52
San Diego State	27	20	47

T. Jackson - 15 points, 6 reb.
 M. Mertle - 11 points

	1	2	Final
Saint Mary's	21	30	51
CS Northridge	20	25	45

Men's basketball (1-1)

	1	2	Final
Saint Mary's	39	37	76
Binghamton	27	31	58

P. Marigney - 22 points
 F. Adjiwanou - 10 points, 10 reb.
 E.J. Rowland - 14 points

	1	2	Final
Saint Mary's	27	28	55
Rice	27	42	69

E.J. Rowland - 17 points, 3 assists.
 D. Kickert - 13 points

SPORTS

What happened to Burley-Johnson?

The truth about the senior linebacker's lost season

by Sam Adams
 Sports Editor

Coming back for a fifth year, senior linebacker Ramon Burley-Johnson was looking forward to a great year. He was coming off a season in which he was second on the team in tackles only to roommate, Wes Borba, and was a First Team I-AA Independent selection at linebacker. He also led the Gaels with 5.5 sacks and forced two turnovers. With a new coach invigorating the team and having fans excited about the season, after three years of playing .500, this could have been the best year of all. But little did anyone know, it would be the worst.

The first game was uninspiring, with just 4 tackles in an embarrassing 44-3 loss to Northern Arizona. Students arrived to campus the next day, and with no school on Monday, St. Mary's erupted. The townhouses, off campus, everywhere, everyone was cutting loose. As was Burley-Johnson.

It started out as a little party for friends to come and hang out for the first time of the year, a few drinks, some music, the usual. But then the night went terribly wrong.

"We had a couple people over here, having a good time, I got a little intoxicated," said Burley-Johnson. "There was a girl I happened to be with, and come to find out afterwards, she had an STD. I had no clue, cause she didn't tell me, and that's

something you have to let people know before."

When he found out, he went berserk. He started punching things, pushing close friends out of the way.

"Everyone tried to calm me down, and I ended up punching through a window," said Burley-Johnson.

But he didn't just shatter the window. A shard of the window cut through his arm, through three major nerves. He was rushed to the hospital, where he stayed in ICU for many days and many surgeries. When he came to, not only was his football career over, but he also lost the use of his right arm.

The San Fernando native was laid up in the hospital for two months and three days, nearly the whole season. He was released in time to be on the sidelines of the last couple games.

"I'm very upset at the whole situation, my senior year, and my last season," said Burley-Johnson. "First team all conference last year, and then all that, right out the window, literally."

He now has rehabilitation three days a week to try and get some movement in his arm and hand.

"I'm trying to get back my arm, the rehab gets the tendons and wrist and stuff loose, in case I can use my hand it will be ready," said Burley-Johnson. "It will take a year and a half, if not more."

Many people speculated that because of this incident, along with another student-athlete



Courtesy of SMCgaels.com

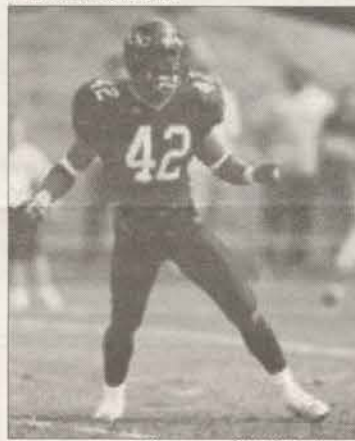
Burley-Johnson will graduate this year, his fifth year.

falling down and hurting themselves on the same night, is why the zero-tolerance alcohol policy was brought down on student-athletes.

"I definitely think its in part with what happened to me," said Burley-Johnson. "(Someone else) hurt themselves too, so they really tried to cut down on the alcohol."

Burley-Johnson is two classes away from graduating with a major in History, but looks forward to a future of coaching, and maybe teaching. But he also got a harsh lesson in life.

"Life is all about respect and morals, and obviously this girl has very few morals, if any," said Burley-Johnson. "But I can't blame anyone but myself. I've been lucky and appreciative that all my friends, teammates, and coaching staff's help and support. I love them all."



Courtesy of SMCgaels.com

Senior day goes sour

16 seniors play last game; lost teammate, Vargas, honored

by Sam Adams
 Sports Editor

Saturday, the football team ended its long season at 1-11, losing to the Weber State Wildcats, 35-15.

During the pre-game festivities, all the seniors were introduced along with their families. In a touching gesture by the team and the school, Bryan Vargas' family was brought onto the field and presented with a Vargas framed jersey. Vargas passed away tragically two years ago, and this would have been his senior game.

One positive from the game is that the seniors were able to shine. Tailback Chris Harrel rushed for 118 yards and a touchdown, safety Travis Menke had an interception, Linebacker Ray Mike recorded 10 tackles and scored on a two point conversion; wide receiver Andre Coleman had a season high 6 catches for 74 yards and a touchdown, and Anthony Woodards recovered a fumble and had his 8th tackle for a loss this season.

Gaels lose another heartbreaker

Volleyball still has chance to earn NCAA bid

by Irene Guzman
 Staff Writer

For the second time in as many weeks, the Lady Gaels volleyball team came within two points of beating a WCC opponent, only to fall short in the end.

This time it was Bay Area rival USF, who beat the Gaels by a score of 20-30, 30-21, 28-30, 30-26, and 16-18.

The loss ended Saint Mary's regular season, where the Gaels finished with an overall record of 20-12 and a WCC record of 6-8, as well as a 5th place finish in the conference.

Now all they can do is wait and see if the NCAA powers-that-be will reflect the difficult conference of the WCC and give them a shot at the post-season.

The match was close, with senior Jill Parmele and sophomore Kauai Salzman once again leading Saint Mary's. Salzman had a team high of 19 kills and 17 digs, while Parmele finished with 16 kills and 13 digs. Junior Lindsay Hardy led the defense with 33 digs.

USF struck first, taking the first game by a margin of ten points. The momentum went back to the

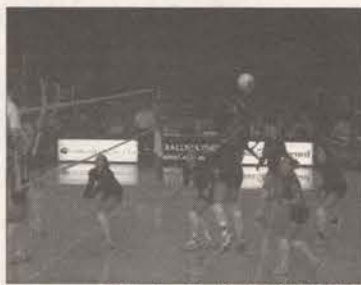
Gaels in the second game when they won it 30-21.

It was not meant to be, though, for Saint Mary's, as USF stormed back to take the fifth set.

A record crowd was present to watch the exciting match, and broke the previous record for a volleyball match with 634 fans.

Overall, the Dons definitely had to earn the win, with Saint Mary's pressuring, even though the Dons were the favorites to win.

What's left for the Gaels? Hopefully a berth in the NCAA tournament, which is considered unchartered waters for the young team, but even if they don't get a shot at the post-season, they still made a powerful statement to the rest of the WCC and the nation: Saint Mary's Volleyball is here, and they're not going away anytime soon.



Christina McAfee/COLLEGIAN

The team hopes their slide won't hold them out of tournament play.

Out of Bounds

by Scott Burrola

There's Something Rotten in the State of College Football

As college football winds down to its final weeks, the controversy surrounding the BCS escalates from a light broil to a flaming hot topic.

The BCS, the Bowl Championship Series, made up of four major bowl games with one being the national championship game, is college football's series of polls, computer rankings, and strength of scheduling systems, utilized to determine the top two collegiate football teams in the nation.

Our Saint Mary's football team is not found in these rankings because it applies to Division I football schools only and for no other reason, I'm sure! Anyway, the money hungry executives controlling the BCS, in partnership with such sponsors as AT&T, Tostitos, Nokia, and Federal Express, reap huge benefits as long as these four major bowl games belong to them. They pray each year that there are only two clear top contenders, as not to call attention to the faults and ludicrousness of their BCS system, which they hope will not fall to the wayside.

As of now, the BCS relies on many factors to determine who will play in this national championship game. One of these factors is the numerous computer rankings probably developed by math geeks in their parents' basements. These rankings are in place to eliminate human biases, but have become absolutely ridiculous and no longer serve their intended purpose. One ranking, the New York Times computer, has the once beaten USC at number 5, who has for the most part dismantled their opponents, while putting the thrice beaten Florida Gators at number 3. Another computer, Anderson & Hester, has a TCU team at number 3, playing in one of the nation's weakest conferences, who has managed to play consistent enough to remain unbeaten, yet they have played such a powder puff schedule, not one of their opponents is currently ranked or will be ranked.

Every NCAA sport has a play-off-formatted postseason to determine their national championship, except Division I football. Every other sport has one national champion free of controversy and politics. With the amount of games played over the course of the season and the injuries that accumulate, a large play-off pool found in baseball or basketball would not be practical. Why not keep the traditional bowl match-ups in the 4 major bowls? This would keep the old traditionalists happy while still keeping the BCS officials content as they rake in their money from these corporately sponsored bowls. Then, proceed with a final game or 4-team playoff, which could adequately determine a true champion, even creating additional revenue by having more games.

All we have left to salvage this year's BCS disaster is to hope we see a final game between Oklahoma and the Trojans of So-Cal.