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THE COLLEGIAN

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

Serving Saint Mary's for over a century

Moraga, California

Tuesday, February 22, 2004

Volume 102, Number 15

SMC student sues college

Student and family seek reparations for suspension; college attorneys call suit 'ridiculous'

by Jonathan Morales
News Editor

A Saint Mary's sophomore and his parents have sued Saint Mary's College, saying that the school failed to help curb his growing alcohol problem before suspending him for the semester.

The lawsuit calls for Ian Urtnowski's immediate reinstatement at Saint Mary's and \$24 million in reparations. College attorneys responded in court documents by saying that the lawsuit was "ridiculous."

"Ian is an adult. He knew the school's policies regarding drinking and he violated those policies - repeatedly," the documents state.

Urtnowski and his parents claim that Saint Mary's did nothing to remove him from a college and dorm environment in which alcohol is prevalent and that the college failed to properly notify them of the violations. Ian's father, Walter Urtnowski, said that immediate notification would have prevented further violations.

"If I was ever notified, he would have been taken out of the dorm," said Walter Urtnowski in a phone interview with the *Collegian* Sunday night.

The college countered that Ian could have moved off campus at any time, and that parental notification was sent in December of 2004.

"I sent written notice to Ian's parents in December 2004. Ian see LAWSUIT, p2

Jennifer Preciado asked to leave SMC

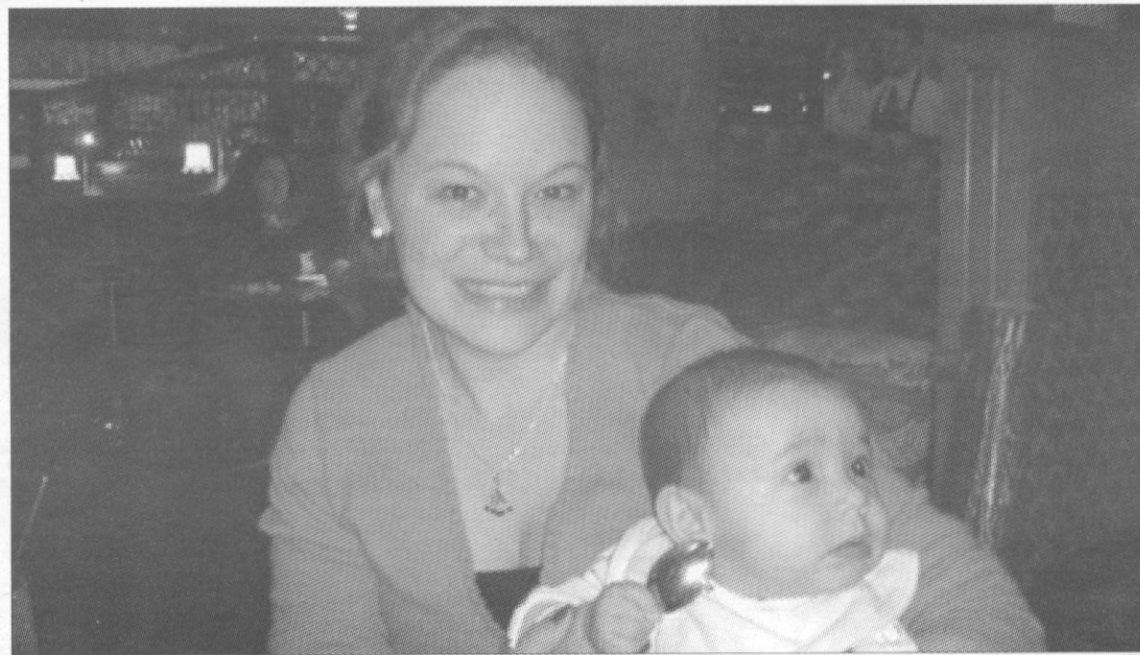


Photo courtesy of Alfredo Biralde III

Unlike in the past, students did not receive e-mail notification of the departure of Jennifer Preciado, above

Students question loss of yet another SMC staff member

by Chris Mateo
Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, February 8, word spread about the release of a Saint Mary's College staff member Jennifer Preciado, the Resident Community Coordinator (RCC) of the Canyon area. This news was provided by various staff members of the Office of Residence Life.

Many students, especially current resident advisors, were upset to hear the news of Preciado's departure. "From what I understand, she was let go because of her performance as an RCC," said Alfredo Biralde III '05, resident advisor of the second floor of Aquinas. "I'm disappointed in the school. We as the RA's practice the five core Lasallian principles. We are all expected to represent those principles, yet a person in my mind who represents all of those core principals was let go."

Biralde explained how Preciado was very supportive of the RA's. "I really liked the fact that she was our RA," said Biralde. "What we do for our residents - motivate, support, be a link between students and administration - she did for us. When I initially found out, it was really upsetting because within half an hour of finding out I had to see some prospective RA candidates and explain to them why they should do this job and I found that quite difficult because, in the back of my mind, I felt like an injustice was just done. I feel that people who either quit or were let go by the college are those

see PRECIADO, p3

Office of Student Leadership lacks budget

Staff, students waiting for money to support campus programs

by C. Mateo and J. Morales
Editor-in-Chief and News Editor

Several on-campus groups are hurting for money due to the fact that the Student Involvement and Leadership Office (SIL) has not received a budget for this year.

SIL has been pulling money from other resources, including the \$150 student body fee, to keep its office running.

"All I know is that we have not been given a budget for 2004-05 to work from," said Jim Sciuto, assistant director for Student Involvement. To help alleviate this problem, SIL has tried to use what little resources they have for finan-

cial support. "We had little lumps [of money] for particular areas, but we mainly used vendors and the copy machine for money," continued Sciuto. "And that is why events like Coffee Night or Karaoke Night don't have as much surrounding them. The only money we've used is \$8,000 they gave us to put on Music in the Quad, which has been very successful."

When asked about similar past incidents, Sciuto replied that nothing like this has occurred since he has been at the office. As for the reasons behind SIL's lack of a budget, Sciuto was not informed.

Other departments were given the same shock. "KSMC, who receives part of a college budget, also got cut by almost in half," said Sciuto. "Neither KSMC nor [SIL] was told that this was going

to happen. This also affects the Delphine Intercultural Center."

Student programming has suffered as a result of the lack of funds.

"This extremely hurts our programs," said Sciuto. "It's been frustrating to students because as we talk as a campus about enrichment, we haven't been able to do anything. I've been told that the budget's on the way, but I had originally been told that we were supposed to receive that at the end of September, then I heard October, then I heard by Thanksgiving, then I heard by Christmas, then by mid-Jan Term, then by the end of Jan Term, and then by the first week in February. And I still don't have it. So I don't really believe that we will get one by this year, considering that the school is al-

see BUDGET, p3

Katie Solis resigns as KSMC General Manager after three months

Interview process will name next head of radio station

by Jo-Ann Arquillano
Assistant News Editor

KSMC General Manager Katie Solis '05 has stepped down after taking up the position at the beginning of the fall semester for Noel Cilker '05. Solis announced her resignation during January term when, she says, "a lot of things just got hectic in my life."

Stepping down from the general manager position was, according to Solis, a personal decision.

"It was an awesome experience. I would do it again, I'd keep going if I could," said Solis. Originally appointed events coordinator, Solis accepted the title of gen-

eral manager after Cilker's departure with the intention of finishing off the year, and she maintains that her decision was completely unexpected. "I believe it's in the best interest of the station for me to step down and let someone who can really put their full effort into it...I thought I'd be here all year but things change in everyone's life," Solis said.

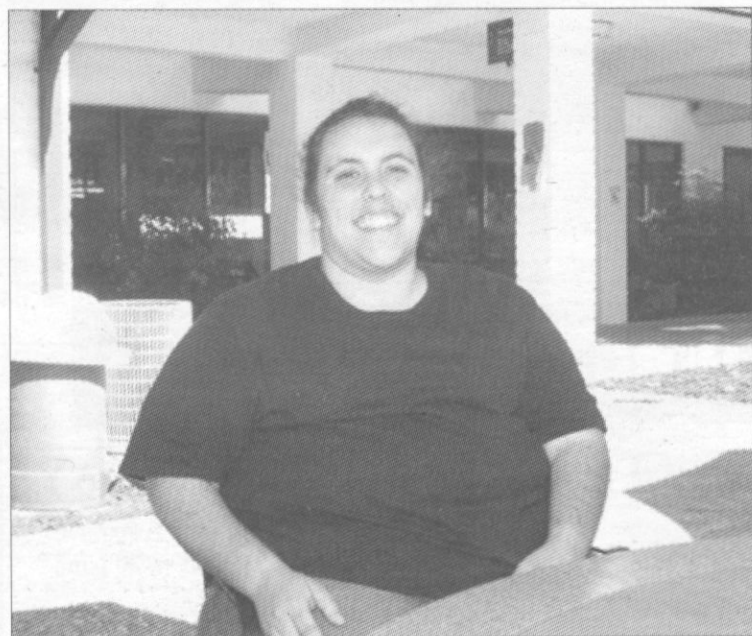
The replacement general manager has yet to be officially named, although Vice President of Student Affairs Jessica Porras '05 shares that "we do have a prospect but nothing's been confirmed."

While the application and interview process still has to be completed, Solis says that program director, Millie Vasquez, has "stepped up" to the position. "I asked Millie before I asked any-

body else...she was like my right-hand girl...it was kind of like the vice-president stepping up" said Solis.

Solis says that her involvement with KSMC will not diminish despite her resignation. "I'm still going to be there at all the events," Solis said. "You can still be a major part of an organization without having the prestige of a title over your head."

Solis remains a strongly supportive presence for the station, encouraging others to undertake leadership roles. "It's time for me to step back a little bit and let other people take the helm...I'm really excited to see where it's going to go this next semester. I'm going to stay involved and hope people get more involved...and make this station incredible."



Melanie Linney/COLLEGIAN

Katie Solis cited a "hectic" schedule as her reason for stepping down

INSIDE THIS WEEK

OPINION

Dispatch from Iraq:
Technological distance
pg. 5

DETOUR

Chris Long goes one-on-one with
Angel Vaquez about BOTB
pg. 6



SPORTS

Women's volleyball
coach resigns
pg. 8

Crime Beat

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>2/13 9:07 p.m.
Incident: Arson
Synopsis: Flyer maliciously burnt on bulletin board in De La Salle, referred to Student Conduct.</p> <p>2/14 7:28 p.m.
Incident: Fire alarm activation
Synopsis: Burnt food in De La Salle; referred to Student Conduct.</p> <p>2/14 10:50 p.m.
Incident: Loud music
Synopsis: Electric guitar in Guerrieri East; referred to Student Conduct.</p> <p>2/15 1:33 a.m.
Incident: Suspicious persons behind School of Education building
Synopsis: Students in unauthorized area/vehicle stuck in the mud, referred to Student Conduct.</p> <p>2/15 10:56 p.m.
Incident: Student Handbook violation
Synopsis: Use and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia in Ageno C; referred to Student Conduct.</p> | <p>2/15 11:26 p.m.
Incident: Fire alarm - manual pull
Synopsis: Malicious pull of a fire alarm in De La Salle Hall; referred to Student Conduct.</p> <p>2/16 10:00 p.m.
Incident: Threat
Synopsis: Note left on vehicle in Ageno West parking lot; referred to Student Conduct.</p> <p>2/16 6:43 p.m.
Incident: Property damage
Synopsis: Scratches to vehicle in Galileo Hall parking lot; referred to Student Conduct.</p> <p>2/17 9:45 a.m.
Incident: Damage to post
Synopsis: Damage to post on De La Salle road near Baseball Field; referred to Physical Plant.</p> <p>2/17 6:40 p.m.
Incident: Welfare check
Synopsis: Welfare check in Justin Hall; referred to Student Conduct.</p> |
|--|---|

riverrun

St. Mary's premier undergraduate literary journal



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Creative writing pieces, short fiction, personal essays, plays in one act, short scripts, poetry, photography, art, or whatever. Accepting submissions electronically at riverrun@stmarys-ca.edu, or place your submission in the riverrun box on the 3rd floor of Dante.

Deadline:

Friday, February 25th, 2005.

Contact:

For any questions, e-mail riverrun@stmarys-ca.edu

Expressions of Blackness comes to SMC

African-American Culture expressed through music, historical segments

by **Bettina Adragna**
Staff Writer

Students from the Black Student Union (BSU) as well as the Asian Pacific American Student Association and the Latin American Student Organization will be participating in this year's Expressions of Blackness today, on February 22, 2005. The event will include dinner and a presentation of black history by decade, starting in the 1800s, according to Julia Barboza, Events Coordinator for the BSU.

The purpose of Expressions of Blackness is "to promote black awareness at Saint Mary's," ac-

ording to Barboza. It is about "telling our story, telling our struggles," she said, and additionally, to "show our school [that] this is how hard we work."

The theme of this year's production is "struggle to overcome," according to Jenny Bruton, president of the BSU. The production is put on by students who express "what they think blackness is" with music, skits, and historical segments. This year, there will be six segments, with each one representing an era of black history. The sections will start with the "Introduction of Slavery to America" and end with "The Sky's The Limit," with sections on the Emancipation Proclamation, the Harlem Renaissance, the civil rights movement, and the 1980s to early 1990s in between.

It's "kind of a tradition," said Bruton. It is also "one of BSU's biggest events of the year."

Expressions of Blackness started with a "group of black students" who wanted an event that "showcases African and African-American culture," according to Brian Stanley, director of the Black Student Programs. With his help, the students created the event three to four years ago, and "have begun to make it their own event."

Participants have been working on the event since the beginning of this school year, according to Barboza. "We promote it for everyone to come experience our stories, experience our culture," she said. The participants want to "make people aware that we are here," and to combat the "negative bias" that some students may have toward the BSU's functions.

"We want everyone to come to this event," said Barboza, and to have an "open mind, open heart, and open soul."

"This is part of us," she said.

PRECIADO: RA's concerned over loss of 'excellent boss'

continued from pg. 1

same people that do have those five principles and who have such good relationships with students. I think that's what the college is all about. The reality is that we are the students and they are the administrators, and the ones being released are those who bridge that gap. I thought she was the perfect balance of what an RCC should be."

Chris Long '05, a former resident advisor who worked with Preciado last year, expressed his grief at last week's General Assembly. "She's an excellent boss. She gave me the encouragement I

needed as well as broadened boundaries when handling my hall."

Long pointed out the trend of losing certain staff members on this campus. "I was and still am extremely [mad]. Saint Mary's treats the staff who helps the students horribly," said Long. "Look at the number of staff members we've lost this year alone. Just last week we lost one of the school nurses. Last year we lost Mark Jaime. Who's next on the list, Sharon from the Women's Resource Center? Jim Sciuto? If Jim leaves, riots are going to start."

The former RA commented on the process by which Preciado

was asked to leave. "What really grated my nerves was that she was given initially six days to move off campus," said Long.

"She has a baby, her husband was away on business, so she had no time. I believe Brother Ron gave her at least another week to move out."

Finally, like Biralde, Long questioned the motives of the school in terms of handling these situations.

"I think the administration needs to start thinking about what they're here for. Are they here for the students or are they here for themselves? From what it's looking like now, it's not about us."

LAWSUIT: parents claim they were not noticed of violations

continued from pg. 1

had been informed in November 2004 that the notice was being sent," Scott Kier, associate dean of Student Life said in a declaration written to the court.

Walter Urtnowski claims he did not receive the letter until he drove up to Saint Mary's on December 7 and met with Kier and Dean of Student Life Mary Spellman. He said that the college originally told him that the Ian's suspension was for a full year, and then added, "Even the one semester is unfair."

In her statement to the court, Spellman said that "the disciplin-

ary process had been exhausted at that point and, despite Mr. Urtnowski's insistence, I was not in a position to revoke the suspension."

Prior to the suspension, the college disciplined Urtnowski several times, including issuing written warnings, placing him on probation, and requiring him to write a paper on alcoholism. He was also fined five times totaling \$250.

"I think that the whole alcohol, the whole disciplinary system needs to take into account more parental involvement," Walter Urtnowski said. "The thing that attracted us to Saint Mary's was

the promise of parental involvement, and that never materialized."

College attorneys said that Ian is refusing to take responsibility for his actions and that the college cannot be held accountable for his alcohol violations.

"Everyone from his fellow students to college administrators is to blame for Ian's predicament - everyone except Ian," the court documents state. "Ian Urtnowski knowingly violated Saint Mary's alcohol policies on multiple occasions. He does not deny his misconduct. He only denies responsibility for it."

Find out what we mean by

'In-Depth'

WRITE FOR THE COLLEGIAN
MEETINGS MONDAYS, 6:00 P.M.
DANTE 115

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

TODAY

Expressions of Blackness, 5:30 p.m., Soda Center, free admission

WEDNESDAY

Karaoke Night, 9:00 p.m., Dryden

Katie Springer Forum: God vs. Science, 7:00 p.m., Soda Center

THURSDAY

SIL Workshop: Successful Leadership, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., Delphine

Women's basketball vs. San Diego, 7:00 p.m., McKeon

"Hollywood is Hell: Dante in the USA," 7:30 p.m., Soda Center

Comedian: Vince Morris, 8:30 p.m., Soda Center

FRIDAY

Battle of the Bands, 8:00 p.m., Ferroggiaro Quad, \$3 admission - all proceeds go to Tsunami relief

SATURDAY

Women's basketball vs. San Francisco, 7:00 p.m., McKeon

Pulses spring dance, 10:00 p.m., Soda Center

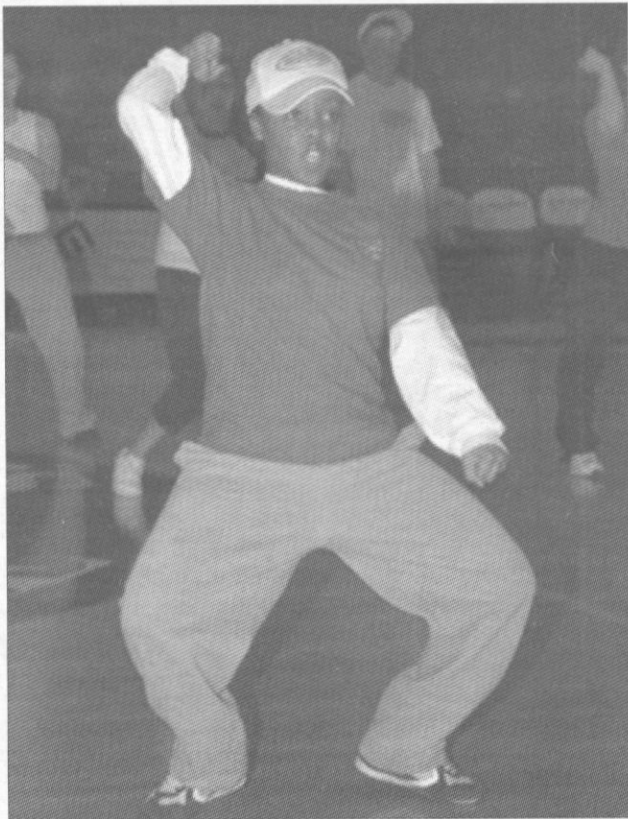
Don't forget

ASSMC Executive Team elections are here. Petitions are available in the SIL office beginning February 24 and are due March 3. Voting will take place online on Tuesday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 9.

Summer Orientation Staff (SOS) applications are available in the SIL office and are due Friday, March 4.

The WCC basketball tournament begins March 3 for women's teams and March 4 for men's teams.

SNAPSHOT



Melanie Linney/COLLEGIAN

Sonya Lee '08 teaches a dance to the members of the Pulsos Dance Team. Pulsos will be performing at the womens' basketball game on Thursday night.

Students, faculty to discuss 'God versus Science'

by **Aideen Rahimi**
Assistant Opinion Editor

A group of students and faculty met on February 17 to prepare for the upcoming Katie Springer forum: "God vs. Science" which will take place at the Claeys Lounge in the Soda Center on February 23 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was a discussion on the structure of the forum. There will be nine panelists, including three students, three science professors, and three religious studies professors. There will also be a student and a faculty moderator.

"We came up with three main questions that will be asked of the panelists," Savannah Pronovost '07 who is the president of the

Science Club and the coordinator of the forum said.

"After the panelists response the forum will open to questions from the audience."

These three main questions will deal with scientific issues and current moral issues faced today, historical conflict between science and God, and finally the Intelligent Design.

"The forum will be like a seminar style discussion," Brian Deveraux '06 said.

The planners of the forum are expecting there to be a very stimulating discussion on the topic that has concerned humanity since the beginning of scientific thought.

"This forum has been something I've wanted to do for a long time," Pronovost said, "I believe

God and science are very related and it's important to discuss this with our peers because it builds community."

In fact, the forum committee is so dedicated that according to Deveraux they like to call themselves the "scientific crusaders."

The event is sponsored by the Science Club, the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, the Physics Club and the Religious Studies Department and dedicated to Katie Springer, a SMC junior who passed away last year November.

"Katie passed away in the middle of this project and this forum is dedicated to her because she was such a big part of it," Pronovost said. "A goal of ours is to have this forum once a year dedicated to Katie Springer."

BUDGET: Student leaders express concern

continued from pg. 1

ready talking about next year's budget."

Student leaders also expressed their frustration with the situation.

"It's very disappointing," said Jennifer Merlo '05, ASSMC vice president for Finance. "[SIL] is not getting the resources it needs, and it's unfortunate. Student programs have suffered." She added, "It's also very frustrating when the Associated Students has to keep on bailing out the administration.

[AS] is the one funding all of the events, and although it should be a mutual thing, it feels like we're the only ones doing it."

Jessica Porras '05, ASSMC vice president for Student Affairs, echoed Merlo's concern that student organizations were suffering.

"I think that it was a huge effect on student organizations because they are expected to program more and bigger than before," Porras said.

Currently, the SIL office is operating on student body fees, ac-

cording to ASSMC President Jeff Haskins '05, money he believes should be used for student programs.

"Student money should be spent by students, not spent and allocated to college offices and departments," Haskins said.

He also added that he was worried that if the college's financial situation does not improve or worsens, student body fee money could be taken from SIL and redirected to other parts of the college.

THE COLLEGIAN

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b e y o n d the bubble

NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS BITES

BY **TONY VALA-HAYNES**

-BENHA, Egypt—Egyptian Doctors announced Saturday that they successfully removed a 10-month-old girl's second head. Manar Maged, the 10-month-old girl, is said to be in "serious but improving condition."

-HONOLULU, Hawaii—North Shore beaches, including Pipeline, were closed last Wednesday after surfer reported an 8-foot tiger shark brushing against him and attacking his board at Rocky Point. While his board was damaged, the surfer remained unharmed.

-BOSTON, Massachusetts—A woman from Quincy determined the identity of her rapist by the smell of his breath. The woman was attacked and raped by a man wearing a ski mask two weeks ago. During the attack she recognized the man's foul smelling breath to be the same as her boss and immediately reported her suspicions to police. Her boss, Tuen K. Lee, 36, was arraigned Tuesday after pleading not guilty to charges of aggravated rape and kidnapping.

-MALDEN, Massachusetts—After a violent brawl that broke out in the middle of a hockey game officials decided to ban all fans—including parents—from the rematch between Shawseen Tech and Northeast Malden. The first game, which took place Jan. 7, ended with fans fighting each other in the stands and on the rink. A witness claimed, "Before you knew it, everyone was fighting. There were bodies on top of bodies. They jumped on the players." In an attempt to avoid such an event again, officials banned everyone except the players and coaches from attending the rematch.

-DENVER, Colorado—A veteran firefighter faces suspension after allowing his teenaged daughter to drive his city-owned vehicle. His daughter reportedly crashed the vehicle and while she walked away, the vehicle sustained considerable damage to its right-front side.

Why did the front page change again?

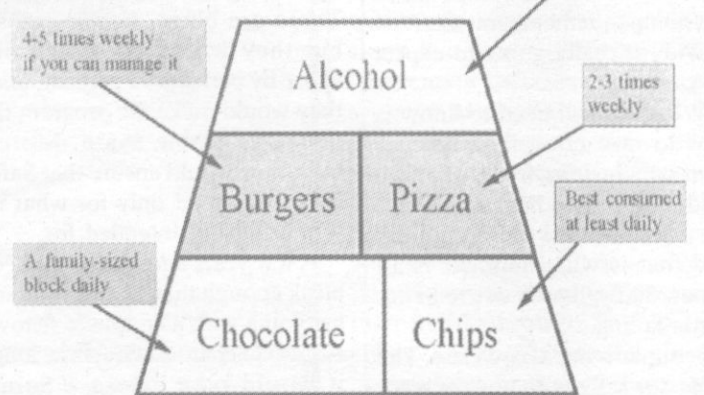
If you glanced at the front page of the *Collegian* this morning (and if you've gotten this far, you probably did) you may have noticed that the contents of the paper are now listed along the bottom of the page, marking the third time this has changed this year. Why the change? We felt that placing this information at the bottom of the page allows us to have more stories on the front page, and also makes the front page easier to read. The *Collegian* is for the students of Saint Mary's College, and we want to ensure that all students enjoy reading it. To that effect, if you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know.

Jonathan Morales
News Editor

EATING RIGHT?

Food pyramid

(Actually, more of a trapezoid)



Free Screening!

Wed. Feb. 23rd

11:30-2:00

Outside of Oliver Hall

For more info contact: SMC Counseling Center, 631-4364

Seminar, what's the point?

by Jonathon Morales

News Editor

With the beginning of the new semester, I have now become part of the juniors and seniors for whom life at Saint Mary's College no longer includes Collegiate Seminar. I must say, I won't be missing it.

But what you're not going to get from me is the usual "thank God Seminar is done, because I hated that class." I actually love Seminar. I'm a firm believer that the Seminar style of learning is by far superior to the "memorize and recite" style of learning that dominates the remainder of my education.

What I'm upset about is the lack of effectiveness of the Seminar program at Saint Mary's, and who I'm upset the most with are my fellow students.

I don't know how many times I walked into class to hear this from other students:

"Did you do the reading?"

"Of course not. I never read for Seminar."

"Yeah, neither do I. This class is a joke."

This is frustrating on so many levels. First of all, it is a shame that people will pay upwards of \$40,000 to come to school here, and completely blow off class. Of course, the argument goes that Seminar really isn't an "important" class. Come on, we have our majors to worry about, don't we?

But believe it or not, when we graduate, we're not going to remember all the specific details of that history class we took freshman year. We're not going to recall every single one of the scientific formulas we learned in biology. We definitely won't remember every aspect of the *Odyssey*, or every circle of Dante's *Inferno*, or all the agonizing details of Thomas Hobbes social contract.

We get bombarded every single day in class with dates and figures and numbers, and we're not going to remember it all. And nobody is really going to expect us to.

What we will need to know is how to read critically, draw our own conclusions from what we read, and argue them effectively. We need to know how to think, and that is what Seminar is all about. Sadly, that is where Seminar is failing.

Seminar is not a hard class. The professor assigns an hour of reading and just asks you to think about it. No tests. No memorizing dates and names. No pressure if you read it and still don't understand. Just try to comprehend as best as possible, and come to class ready to talk.

That's not a hard thing at all to do, and the payoff is huge. So I ask those students who are still in Seminar to take it seriously, or else the entire point of Seminar is lost, to the detriment of the quality of education at SMC, but more importantly, to the detriment of your own education.

OPINION

Quote of the Week: I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts
- Will Rogers

Community Views

Dear Editor:

As a former student leader who had a part, albeit a small one, in the development of Saint Mary's "Safe Rides" program, I was disheartened to learn that the service had been canceled. I was even more disheartened – almost disgusted, in fact – to hear that the reason behind the end of Safe Rides was that the students had abused it and made a mockery of the purpose it was originally intended for.

The idea of a Safe Rides program was first tossed around during my term as Associated Students Vice President for Student Affairs in 2001-02; however, it was my successor, Tony Ancelj, who further developed the plan and made it a reality. Among those who developed Safe Rides, it was understood from the beginning that the program was never intended to pick up students from the campus and drop them off elsewhere – its goal was to provide a safe way back to campus for those whose only other option was to ride home with a drunk driver.

"If you idiot-proof something," it's often said, "they will build a better idiot." I couldn't help but be reminded of this saying when I heard that Safe Rides was being used as a free shuttle service to Safeway and Blockbuster. Get a bike, people, or make friends with someone who has a car – that's part of the college experience. "Give me convenience or give me death" is not a productive motto.

No one should be allowed to use Safe Rides for any trip that starts at the Saint Mary's campus, and the program should not start operating until, say, 9 p.m. These are blunt, simple steps, but they would cut down on abuse by perhaps 95 percent, and they would make the program financially viable again. Moreover, they would ensure that Safe Rides was used only for what it was originally intended for.

A few years ago, things looked bleak enough that I had a morbid bet going with a couple of fellow ASSMC Senators about how long it would take before a Saint Mary's student was killed in a drunk-driving crash on the way back to campus. The Safe Rides program was our attempt to make sure I never had to pay that bet off. To keep it that way,

please, let's bring the program back, and let's make it do what it was intended for.

Brad Kvederis
Class of 2003
Vice President for Student Affairs, 2001-02

Dear Editor,

Yes, as discussed in last week's Collegian, Safe Ride will be discontinued as of March 9th 2005. However, the caption accompanying a Safe Ride tombstone reading, "ASSMC fixes their money problem by abandoning students to drunk driving" is simply not accurate. "Abandoning" implies that the Associated Students does not care about the well being of students. The reality is quite the contrary: The implications of this decision on students were our number one concern. An important question was posed: Does a program that enables students not to find a designated driver promote responsible drinking? One may argue that the point of Safe Ride is to prevent students from driving drunk. This can be accomplished in a number of ways without relying on student funding: Remember, student body fees (intended to fund clubs and student events on campus) fund Safe Ride. Drinking responsibly includes arranging for your safe return home. With student safety and well being as our priority, we urge students to arrange for designated drivers or plan to call a taxi if they anticipate needing a safe ride home. The reality is, once students have graduated from SMC, they will have to arrange for their own 'Safe Rides.'

Jessica Porras, '05
VP for Student Affairs

Fellow Students:

I would like to be clear that the elimination of Safe Ride was not solely a money issue. The elected officers of the Associated Students has a fiscal responsibility to provide programs that serve ALL students, and we found that Safe Ride was used by a select few who used it multiple times. In fact, this one-year trial of Safe



ANGEL REFUGIO

The newest drinking game at St. Mary's.

Ride was intended to access student needs, and we now have solid data showing that students need a transportation service to help us get off campus. This is not the end...because we are using this information and data to create a NEW program to meet our needs for transportation. We will be aggressively moving forward to ensure the infrastructure and program is available by this fall, but we need your help. Please join with us to motivate the College to act quickly, and to invest financial in this program that will benefit us all. The idea is to have student workers drive mini-van shuttles around the surrounding cities on a routine schedule, specifically when the County Connection is not in service (i.e. nights and weekends). If you have any comments and/or want to help in the organization of this service, contact us at assmc@stmarys-ca.edu or call x4280.

Jeff Haskins
Associated Students President

Dear Editor,

After reading last weeks Collegian edition, I was deeply disappointed in two things: the caption under Angel Refugio's cartoon stating "ASSMC fixes its money problem by abandoning students to drunk driving" and an opinion article titled, "Safe Ride: Tweak it, Don't kill it."

I personally have spent many hours gathering all the Safe Ride data and discussing options with the Executive Council and Student Senate. For the record, the decision to cut Safe Ride was not all about the money. Yes, this is a very expensive program (currently forecasted to cost \$8000/year) but there are other factors: the cab company SMC was using was difficult to work with, the number of students this program served was minimal, students chose to use the program as their personal taxi service disregarding its clear purpose stated on all

Safe Ride business cards "to use when in an unsafe or dangerous situation," it lacked an educational component that would go along with our Lasallian tradition of "quality education" and finally, if we renewed the contract the yearly cost would increase to approximately \$10,000.

To clarify further, in the opinion article it was inferred that the taxi cab drivers were upset about the program ending. This is a complete fallacy. Cab drivers understand the purpose of the program and are annoyed that students are using their services to return movies, go grocery shopping, and even hopping around town. Also, gas prices continue to rise; thus, cab drivers suffer financially by being stuck to a discounted per mile charge that is stated in our contract.

My point is that the Associated Students were faced with a difficult decision. We did explore potential changes to the program. The options on the table would not solve the flaws in the Safe Ride program. As a result, student fees will no longer support this type of program. We are not abandoning students to drunk driving or giving up without a fight. Please remember a cab ride home is always a safe ride. You just have to foot the bill.

I would hope that in the future staff writers will research their topics before coming to an opinion that is based on fiction rather than fact.

I encourage all students to voice their desires with college administration for a NEW program to be implemented if you feel it's needed for the Saint Mary's College community.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Merlo -'05
ASSMC Vice President for Finance

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

A dispatch from Iraq: Technological distance

From August to December 2004, a U.S. Army lieutenant was stationed in Iraq. During this time, he kept correspondence with his family and friends through e-mails. These are some of his letters. The following was sent on September 12, 2004. Note: These letters have been edited for length.

If you've been following the news, you know that we've reached a grim milestone here in Iraq. Over one thousand US service members have died here now, with no particular end in sight. The one thousandth death occurred just outside our perimeter when an ordnance convoy struck a series of three very large IEDs. The resulting explosions were so large that they were heard all over the base, prompting several slightly panicked queries to the main command post asking what the hell was going on.

I don't know the name of the soldier who was killed, or whether that soldier was a man

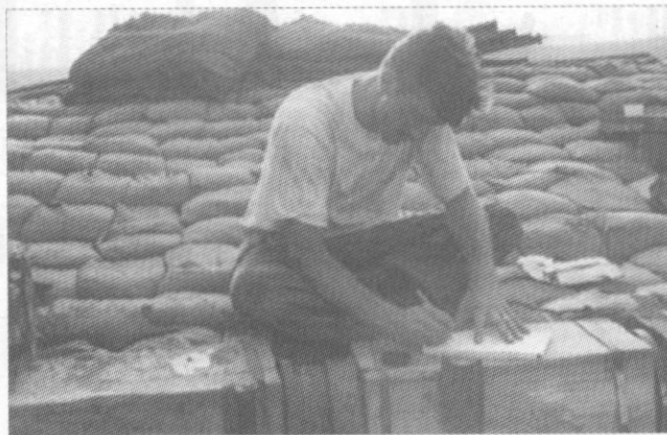
of this is that the frantic emotion that can be heard in a radio transmission is largely stripped out. Some elements type in all capitals to indicate the immediacy of their transmission. This is the cyber equivalent of shouting over the mike. But by and large, all the transmissions are fairly antiseptic, especially considering the gravity of the subject matter

Yesterday I sent an e-mail while we were under rocket attack. I am sorry to report that there was one severe injury as a result of that strike. An Air Force soldier had the ill fortune to be within three feet of one rocket when it hit. The MIRC Chat very blandly put out that there was one wounded in action, and a short time later put out a request for blood donors. I had the rest of the details later that day when I ate chow with an Air Force nurse. The blast basically cut him in half from the pelvis down, and also excised most of one arm. He will live, but he has only four fingers to work with for the rest of his life.

I am deliberately not sparing any of you the details here. This is war, and I want everyone to know it.

It worries me that so many people at home seem to have formed a picture of war as a sort of highly sanitary video game, in which few are injured and even fewer are killed. We hear a great deal about the mighty technology of the US military, and I can personally attest to the fact that we are bringing a remarkable array of technological weapons to bear in this conflict. I fear, however, that the glamorous toys and ingenious devices mask us to the true horror of warfare.

There is in fact a term for this sort of unique blindness. David Grossman, a U.S. Army Ranger and West Point psychology professor, described it as "technological distance." My unit



and my fellow soldiers are certainly subject to this phenomenon. These events occur at great physical remove from us, and of course, are seen through the electro-optical eyes of our sensor package. Many of our soldiers can describe, with a sort of wonder, the sight of an Iraqi mortar team brought under fire. It is accurate to say that the target was destroyed, but this does not mean total obliteration. The airborne howitzer of the gunship basically tore the enemy to pieces, many of which remained fairly identifiable in the aftermath of the strike.

As a soldier, I feel it is incumbent upon me not to feel too much sympathy for the insurgents we killed in the attack. These are people who would gladly destroy the men and women I have chosen as my brothers and sisters, and from a strictly professional standpoint, I should feel some comfort that they have been denied that opportunity. This is the face that I wear each day as a leader of soldiers. But I cannot deny that I am touched by a sense of absolute horror at the terrible necessity.

The US military's reliance upon technology is a direct result of our aversion to casualties.

Therefore we may find ourselves stymied, as individuals and as an organization, when faced with an enemy that has learned to close within the arc of our advanced weaponry. This is a bad guy that grabs us by the belt in a bid to deny us the use of our long-strike weapons, and more often than not they succeed. If we are to defeat this enemy, we had better cut off our blinders and look at the problem with clear eyes. We had better be prepared to raise an entire generation of young men and yes, young women too, who will learn to close with another human being and destroy them at an intimate distance.

War is sometimes necessary. There's no denying that fact. There are some evils in the world that can only be met by force. When that is the case, we have little choice but to gird ourselves for war and prepare to stomach horror. I would like to think, however, that leaders who make the decision to send men and women to war would be fully cognizant of what war truly is and what it costs. It should be no secret to any of you that I do not think our current leaders took that responsibility in the particular case of Iraq.

Stereotypes invade Television

by Jesse Radin

Staff Writer

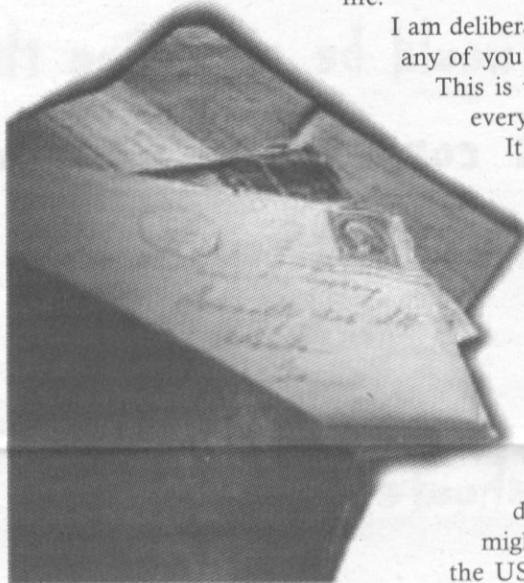
All kinds of stereotypes are constantly exploited in various forms of media, most specifically in movies. For example, in the movie *Bringing Down the House* black and white people are portrayed as having little if any traits in common and are often in direct conflict. The white characters are boring "white-bread" lawyers and the black characters are clubbing twenty-something hipsters and it is often as if they are speaking different languages. In other movies, there is always the token "black guy" who spews out incoherent phrases such as "This is wack."

The black people I know aren't any more different from me than people of my own race. There's more difference between me and some other white people than there is between me and some black people. Yet television and movies don't seem to understand that. They utilize artificial and stereotypical differences between races for a cheap laugh at the theaters and on TV.

The worst example of racism in television is displayed on the last two years of McDonalds advertisement. They target ethnic stereotypes by playing rap or hip-hop music while having mainly minority actors speak casually with a constant display of stereotypical slang, especially with the phrase "I'm lovin' it." The most recent McDonalds ad utilizes a black woman sitting in a field of grass becoming overexcited about how green McDonalds salads are. McDonalds exploits stereotypical differences between races and never seems to display them together. Burger King is less offensive because they often have three people, each of a different ethnicity, together enjoying their hamburgers without the use of slang.

However, some TV shows must be commended for breaking overused and tired stereotypes in the last several years. One example of such an event is *Malcolm in the Middle*. Black and white characters associate with each other on this show without the usual "wall of confusion" that is created when two "extremely different" cultures attempt to communicate with each other on a common ground. Instead, characters of different races in "Malcolm in the Middle" are portrayed as similar people. Both Malcolm (white) and Stevie (black) were in the gifted class in their middle school. They both enjoy an upper-middle class lifestyle and neither of them relies on clichés or catchphrases for their humor.

Gay men are usually stereotypically effeminate artistic types that could never catch a ball even if they really wanted to. Lesbians are either portrayed as attractive twenty-somethings that can't resist the urge to spontaneously make out with each other or as "butch" women with incredibly short hair and a hatred for males. And none of these three stereotypes are accurately represented of these groups, yet they are displayed time and time again.



PHOTODISC

or woman. I wasn't there to see it happen. But I was able to watch the events unfold, in a way, over a communications system we use called MIRC Chat. As the name implies, this is a military version of the internet chat window. An advantage of this system is that several participants can be active at once, without interfering in each other's missives. One result

Do I sound like a neo-feminist? Good.

by Jackie Bernardo

Copy Editor

As I continue reading Deborah Kopagan Kogan's "Shutterbabe", which was given to me by someone who was assigned to read it for her English class last semester, I keep contemplating the age-old, nagging question of why men are always the "heroes" when it comes to sexual promiscuity and women are always the "sluts" and "whores." Is the answer only justifiable to society?

I've heard many theories as to why this is so; some have said that it is only natural for men to have more of an inclination to engage in more sexual activity than women, since they have this so-called innate duty to spread their sperm. Others have said that men have a much more aggressive demeanor than women and so their promiscuous activity should be

praised. My guess is that society has always *thought* men to be aggressive and domineering, while women were always *thought* to be demure and reserved and that these separate assumptions have decided the responses of society to their sexual activity. Either way, I say the labels are unfair.

Now, I am not advocating or encouraging promiscuity among women; I am only questioning the reason for the impartiality among the sexes. It just doesn't seem fair to praise one person and condemn the other for having engaged in sexual activity. I say if people are going to respond to it, praise them both, or condemn them both. Or perhaps remain indifferent to the sexual behavior of both. Regardless, I just think that submitting to the brainwashing labels of society is not the answer.

The Katie Springer Forum: GOD vs. SCIENCE

Are they really that different?



This is an opportunity to take a look into the life-long debate between creation and evolution, life and death, and the all around struggle between right and wrong.

Saint Mary's College
Soda Center - Clays Lounge
February 23, 2005
7:00 pm
Dessert & Refreshments

Reviews

 the crap never ends

The Wedding Date



(www.yahoo.com)

Now, I know I am infamous among my friends for having a large collection of sappy/corny chick-flicks, but I do have standards. And *The Wedding Date* definitely does not meet them. This movie, which has a funny premise just plain sucks. The dialogue is minimal, the plot has many holes, and the pacing is all over the place. The romantic comedy genre has been delivered a low blow with the addition of this movie to the film world. Not even Dermot Mulroney's a**, which is nice for a man his age, can save this movie. But since that was the best thing about the movie and I have nothing else to say about the movie other than it sucking, I will describe it in detail for all. Mulroney's butt was taut, you know, like I could bounce a quarter off that! No sign of wrinkles, but in Hollywood it's not uncommon for a man to get a little Botox here and there, not that I'm suggesting anything...

-Melanie Linney

American Dad

Since Jan Term break I have done nothing but quote episodes of Family Guy. I apply things said in class to Seth McFarland's brilliant humor, I reply to my parents in monosyllabic phrases of arrogance, and, when applicable, I pronounce the "j" in the word "fajitas". It is because of these and a million other reasons that I consider myself a fan of Family Guy.

I don't laugh at every family-based cartoon sitcom. It is because of this reason that I am not a fan of American Dad. Maybe it was because of my post-Super Bowl mentality. Maybe it was because I was expecting a lot more. Maybe it was because Seth tried too hard in making sure American Dad was not just another attempt to inject his intellectual, sometimes-off-color, and a lot of times-rude humor into my brain.

The alien sounds like Templeton the rat from the movie Charlotte's Web. The dad is a trigger-happy American man with the face of Joe the neighbor in Family Guy, and modesty of a Chia Pet. Maybe I'm reading way too much into the first episode, but like they say, you don't get a second chance at a first impression.

- Chris Mateo

DÉTOUR

Shameless Self-Promotion. Hoody Hoo!

Operation: Battle Of The Bands

Chris Long
 Softcore Editor

Huzzah! The Battle of the Bands has returned with a vengeance. This year, one night is insufficient; a battle of this biblical nature requires two. The opening round starts on February 25th, in the LeFevre Quad at 8 p.m. This new and improved battle features five bands, going at it in the first round, followed closely by a second round clash of titanic proportions on March 11th, in LeFevre Theatre. The Class of 2005 in conjunction with the Progressive half of Program Board are bringing the rock that has been sorely missed back to Saint Mary's College of California.

The origins of this event are similar to last year's battle, a simple fundraiser for the Class of 2005. The horrific and tragic events in Southeast Asia this December changed this. The traumatic images from the earthquake and the Tsunami's destruction caused this original plan to be scrapped in favor of a proposal that best fits our school's Lasallian traditions. Angel Vasquez '05, the organizer of this event, felt he was in the position to do something. "I was sitting around watching cartoons, and I was thinking about it and, [Expletive Deleted], I thought [the proceeds] should go to the Tsunami's victims," he says. Last year the event raised over a thousand dollars for the class of 2005, hopefully for this tremendous cause, more funds will be raised for the victims. But the fundraising aspect is not the only reason to see the show. It's going to be kick a**.

Last year the Battle of the Bands was infinitely better than GaelStock, and it cost less to boot. When asked whether this year's

battle would be as good or better than last year's event, Vasquez had this to say, "It doesn't matter, I just know that all the bands will be better than anyone who's headlining GaelStock. This is Angel-Fest. Music for the people, by the people. [Expletive Deleted] Stroke 9 (Saint Mary's Day Off, 2002), and [Expletive Deleted] Cake (GaelStock, 2004). [Expletive Deleted] Drunk-Stock. This is what Rock n' Roll is."

Vasquez is sure that the bands performing will be excellent because he has heard them. "Who am I to deem these bands as the greatest Saint Mary's has to offer? I'm Angel Vasquez. I'm the Rick James of Saint Mary's." Well to be honest, he became annoyed by this point in the conversation because I questioned him on, "What do you know about being hardcore?" Vasquez's response did not even require him to utter the smallest of syllables. He just stood straight, head turned slightly to enhance the image of his beard, and raised his arms in a, "What up? You wanna throw down?" manner, symbolizing that he is indeed hardcore.

So, Saint Mary's students, one and all, come to the Battle of the Bands, because we are likely to never see an event like this for some time. Vasquez has organized the Battle of the Bands for the last two years, and sadly, he will be leaving Saint Mary's this May. Therefore we must all go, because this may be the last time to get our socks rocked off. And in the words of Angel Vasquez, the bringer of Rock to SMC, "this is just round one, Mother [Expletive Deleted]. The fun is just beginning."

Battle Watch:

conducted by Pablo Armas

2005 Loyal Minion

edited by AV and CL

On a breezy Sunday afternoon, 103 students were asked if they would be attending this Friday's concerto of majesty. This is their story:

62 shouted, "Hellz yeah!"

23 said, "No, I suck."

18 lamented, "Maybe. I'm not quite sure if I know how to rock."

JF04965	This Is Not An Actual Ticket. It Is An Ad. Go Ahead And Cut It Out. Then Get It Autographed. It'll Be Worth Something On ebay Someday.	JMS5645
\$3.00 Admission	Class of '05 in association with Progressive P.B.	564561894
GA	LeFevre/Ferroggiaro Quad Limited Seats On Main Floor B.O.T.B.: Rock of the Titans	Y#BBB9080
123AVCL	No Infants/Doors at 7:30PM FRI FEB 25, 2005 8:00PM	GA
20FEB05		Proceeds donated to The Red Cross to aid the victims of the tsunami

THE BIG LEBOWSKI

12 Greatest Quotes

By Aideen Rahimi, Chris Long, and Angel Vasquez

photos provided by www.dvdreviewer.co.uk and http://battellemedia.com

12. Walter: He lives in North Hollywood near the In And Out Burger.
The Dude: No, the In And Out Burger is on Calrose.
Walter: Near the In And Out Burger.
Donny: Those are good burgers, Walter.
Walter: Shut the [expletive] up, Donny.

11. Maude: This compulsive fornicator has taken my father for the proverbial ride.

10. Donny: How come you don't roll on Saturday, Walter?

Walter: I'm Shomer Shabbos.

Donny: What's that, Walter?

Walter: Saturday, Donny, is Shabbos, the Jewish day of rest. That means that I don't work, I don't drive a car, I don't [expletive] ride in a car, I don't handle money, I don't turn on the oven, and I sure as [expletive] don't [expletive] roll! Shomer Shabbos!

9. The Dude: No, you're not wrong, Walter, you're just an [expletive].

8. Donny: What the [expletive] is he talking about?

The Dude: My rug.

Walter: Forget it, Donny, you're out of your element!

7. Walter: Nihilists! [Expletive] me. I mean, say what you like about the tenets of National Socialism, Dude, at least it's an ethos.

6. The Dude: Your living in the past.

Walter: Three thousand years of beautiful tradition, from Moses to Sandy Koufax...you're ***damn right I'm living in the [expletive] past.

5. The Dude: You brought the [expletive] pomeranian bowling?

Walter: I haven't brought it bowling...I didn't rent it shoes, I'm not buying it a [expletive] beer, it's not taking your [expletive] turn...

4. Jesus: Let me tell you something, bendejo. You pull any of your crazy [expletive] with us, you flash a piece out on the lanes, I'll take it away from you, stick it up your a** and pull the [expletive] trigger 'til it goes "click."

The Dude: Jesus.

Jesus: You said it man. Nobody [expletive]'s with the Jesus.

3. Walter: Were you listening to the Dude's story?

Donny: No, I was bowling.

Walter: So you have no point of reference, Donny. You're like a child that wanders into the middle of a movie.

2. Walter: [Expletive] it, Dude. Let's go bowling.

1. Walter: Donny was a good bowler, and a good man. He was...he was one of us. He was a man who loved the outdoors, and bowling, and as a surfer he explored the beaches of southern California from La Holla to Leo Carillo, and up to Pismo. He died.. he died as so many young men of his generation before his time, and in your wisdom, Lord, you took him. Just as you took so many bright, flowering young men at Khe San, and Lan Doc, and Hill 364. These young men gave their lives, and so did Donny. Donny who loved bowling. And so, Theodore Donald Karabotsos.. in accordance with what we think your dying wishes might well have

been....we commit your final mortal remains to the bosom of the Pacific Ocean, which you loved so well. Goodnight, sweet prince.



Top Ten Chappelle Show "Quotes"

Chris Mateo

Editor-In-Chief

10. I'm Rick James, [expletive]. (as Rick James, duh)

9. You don't think I have Playstation? I'm rich, I'm rich, [expletive].

8. Kiss the rings, [expletive]. (as a weatherman)

7. You know what dog food tastes like? It tastes exactly how it smells...delicious! (as Tyrone)

6. How about you and your boys versus me and the Revolution? (as Prince)

5. I ain't yellin', this is how I talk! Ain't you never seen my movies? Deep Blue Sea! That was a good one! They ate me, a [expletive]

shark ate me! (as Samuel L. Jackson)

4. I've always wanted to say this, 'For Shizzle!' (as Tiger Woods)

3. Yeah! (as Lil' Jon)

2. What! (as Lil' Jon)

1. Okay! (as Lil' Jon)

The Legend of Chris Long

Part I:
How Chris became the Assistant Détour Editor

Angel Vasquez

Editor of this fine section

So you're probably wondering how I got an assistant editor.

Well, it all started on a cold Monday afternoon. Chris Mateo asked me to try and recruit some more writers to attend our weekly storyboard meeting. So I delivered. Foolishly, Chris Long sat at his computer wasting his time away on AOL Instant Messenger (Long763) [asst. ed. note: I hate Angel so much right now]. Cunningly, like a fox, I sent him a message. It read:

chris, i need you to go to the collegian meeting cuz i'm not gonna be here this weekend. i already talked to mateo and he'll teach you how to put the page together.

Apparently he was too smart to fall for it. "No way," he spat out. So I pulled out the words of mass destruction.

c'mon, seriously, i'm leaving.

He asked, "Where are you going?"

sweet home.

I had to expound.

i'm auditioning for lynyrd skynyrd in alabama. i'll be back next week. if all goes well, i'll be back never.

"kk" he replied.

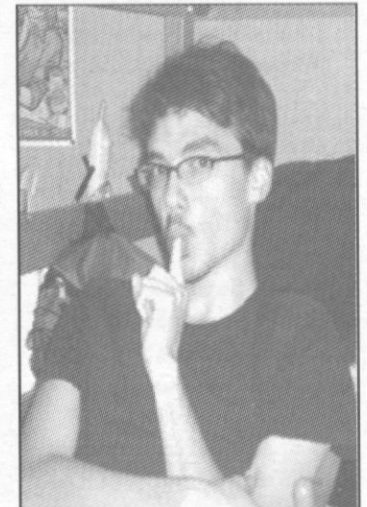
The darn fool believed me. Wrapped around my finger he was. But just to make sure he would be there I promised him I would give him my books that he needed for Br. Mark's Religion and Literature course [asst. ed. note: I got the books].

Yes, I delivered the goods. We meet for a secret dinner in the cafeteria, and after that he sat around waiting for the storyboard meeting, while I attended the Editor's Meeting that is held prior to storyboard.

Shock, fear, and wonder enveloped him when I walked into the room. I sat next to him and told him he needed to write an article. Hence last weeks Myspace.com fiasco.

He was appalled, but quite frankly, I didn't give a damn. By the end of the meeting, I approached Chris Mateo and proclaimed that Chris Long shall henceforth be my assistant. Mateo gladly agreed despite Long's lack of Collegian experience, effort, or want. Nonetheless, here we are today.

Isn't that right, little buddy?



(Photo by Angel Vasquez)

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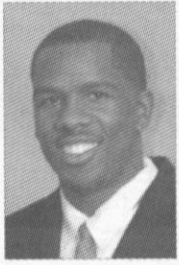
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Players of the Week

Paul Marigney



In his final home game in a Gael uniform, Paul Marigney shined, scoring a game-high 32 points against Pepperdine

on Saturday. Marigney was also sensational against LMU on Thursday, scoring 28 points on the way to a nail-biting one-point victory over LMU.

Rosy Iaccino

Iaccino was the leading goal scorer for the Gaels this weekend in a tough 14-5 loss to Stanford on Friday. The senior attacker scored both her goals in the second half of the Gaels' first game of the season. Iaccino and the rest of the Gaels are back in action this Wednesday versus UC Davis in the Saint Mary's Stadium.



-Allison Kop, Asst. Sports Editor

GAEL SCORE CARD ZONE

Baseball (2-7)

SMC defeats Sacramento 8-1

Women's Lacrosse (0-1)

Stanford defeats SMC 14-5

Men's Lacrosse (2-1)

SMC defeats Stanford 15-9

Men's Basketball (22-7)

SMC defeats LMU 72-71
SMC defeats Pepperdine 81-69

Women's Basketball (13-12)

SMC defeats LMU 69-55
Pepperdine defeats SMC 67-53

Men's Tennis (2-7)

Utah defeats SMC 5-0

SMC Weekly Athletic Schedule

Wednesday

Women's lacrosse vs. UC Davis, 3:30 SMC Stadium

Thursday

Men's basketball @ USF, 7:05
Women's basketball vs. USF, 7:05

Friday

Baseball @ Cal, 2:00
Softball @ UCSB, 12:00 & 2:00
Women's Tennis vs. UCSB, 3:00

Saturday

Men's basketball @ San Diego 7:05
Women's basketball vs. San Diego, 7:05
Baseball vs. Cal, 2:00
Men's Rugby @ Reno
Softball @ Cal Poly, 12:00 & 2:00
Men's Tennis vs. Pacific @ UC Davis
Women's Tennis vs. Nevada Reno, 12:00

Sunday

Baseball @ Cal, 1:00

SPORTS

Men's Basketball downs the Waves

Gaels finish home schedule with 15-1 record

By Sam Adams

Co-Sports Editor

In Saint Mary's final game at McKeon Pavilion this year, four seniors were playing for the last time in front of their home crowd. They made sure they didn't let anyone down.

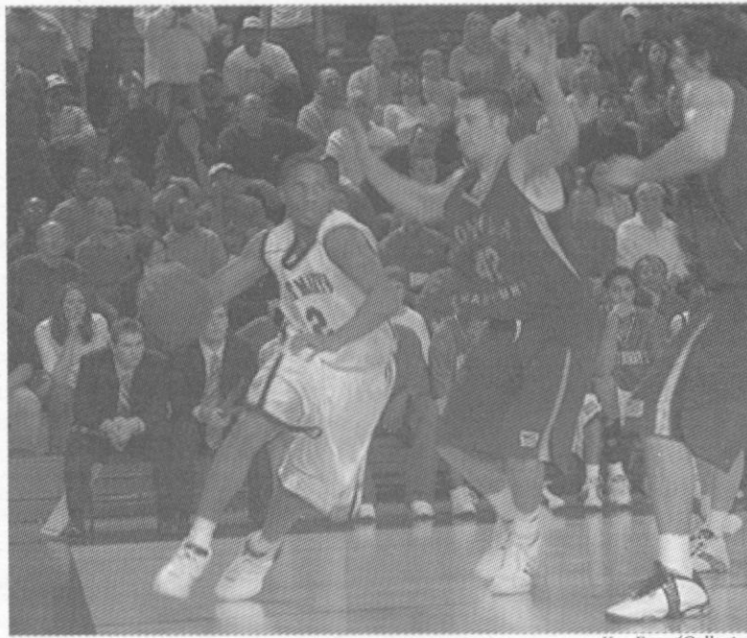
In the final home game for the Gaels against Pepperdine, Saint Mary's was led by Paul Marigney's 32 points on their way to a 81-69 victory, and remain 1 1/2 games behind Gonzaga in the WCC standings. The Gaels finished the season 15-1 at home.

"It's a pretty emotional experience, but at the same time you can't be emotional about senior night and not about the game," said Marigney, "and it was a big game."

"Paul has been great in big games," said head coach Randy Bennett. "He just has the ability, and when I see it, I recognize it and there is almost any shot I'll let him take."

Paul took plenty of big shots during the game, going 5-9 from three-point range and converting on several tough drives to the basket.

However, Pepperdine did not lose quietly, going up 12-9 to start the game. Saint Mary's roared back to make the score 28-20 on back-to-back three's by Marigney and a dunk by fellow senior, Jonathan Sanders. But Pepperdine made it a one point game just before halftime, and the



Senior E.J. Rowland drives to the basket against a Loyola defender.

Gaels went into the locker room leading only 30-29 at the half.

Sanders finished the game with 11 points, six rebounds and four assists despite an eye infection that has kept him out the past two games and injuring his arm in the middle of the second half. Junior Daniel Kickert also had another solid game, scoring 17 of his 21 points in the second half.

But it was Marigney who put on the show, putting the Gaels up for good with a three-pointer with 9:04 left in the game and a 56-55 lead. Saint Mary's got a huge break when, after a Marigney lay-up Pepperdine coach Paul Westphall was given a technical. Kickert sunk both free throws to give the Gaels a late seven point lead, spurring a student section chant of "Thank you Westphall."

This isn't the first time Marigney has lit up Pepperdine—in last year's season finale fans saw

Marigney score 40 en route to the WCC scoring title.

"I've always been pretty revved up since I tore my ACL against them," said Marigney.

Bennett had much praise for his seniors after the game, stating that the team hasn't been under .500 since Sanders joined the team, that E.J. Rowland was, "the best point guard that has ever played here," and that he was very happy he was able to bring Frederic Adjiwanou back for one more year.

"We are going to miss those guys," said Bennett, "Big holes to fill, not just as players, but as people."

The team's 15 home wins is a Saint Mary's record and their .937 winning percentage was another team high. Saint Mary's travels to USF on Thursday for their second to last regular season contest. The game will be televised on Comcast Sportsnet.

Stevenson resigns as head volleyball coach

Cal Poly snags most successful volleyball coach in SMC history

By Allison Kop

Assistant Sports Editor



Stevenson coached SMC all the way to the Sweet 16 this year.

Following the most successful volleyball season in Saint Mary's history, Jon Stevenson has resigned as the head coach of the Saint Mary's women's volleyball team. Stevenson announced his resignation last Thursday, the same day his team was recognized at halftime of the men's basketball game for reaching the Sweet Sixteen of this year's NCAA tournament.

In a press conference on Thursday afternoon, Stevenson was an-

nounced as the new head coach for Cal Poly.

"Saint Mary's created a terrific opportunity for John," said Athletic Director, Carl Clapp, "We gave him a fair offer."

Since taking over as head coach in March of 2002, Stevenson has improved his team's record for three consecutive seasons.

In Stevenson's first year, the team achieved a 9-18 overall record, nearly doubling their wins from the previous year. The following season the Gaels won a then-school record 20 games and were selected to the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history.

This season Stevenson guided his team to an impressive 25-4 record, including 2 wins over Stanford, the eventual national champion. The team entered the NCAA tournament as the #12 ranked team in the country. The Gaels won two tournament matches, making it all the way to the round of 16,

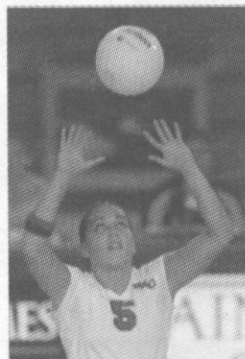
before losing to 7th ranked Washington.

During his tenure as head coach, Stevenson saw three of his players selected to the WCC First Team and seven of his players picked as WCC Honorable Mention selections. Mandy Bible was selected twice this year as National Player of the Week, once on Sept. 28 and again on Dec. 5.

Before coming to Saint Mary's, Stevenson played 16 years of professional beach volleyball and was inducted into the Professional Beach Volleyball Hall of Fame. He also served as head women's coach of Sonoma St. and head men's coach at UC San Diego.

Director of Athletics Carl Clapp said that a search for Stevenson's replacement would begin immediately.

"We are open to all candidates," he said, "We will try to search efficiently and in a timely fashion, but the most important thing is finding a good match for Saint Mary's."



Women's Rugby

The women's rugby team played in their first and only home game this season against Cal State Monterey Bay on Saturday at Pat Vincent Memorial Field, beating the Otters 27-7. Carlee Stewart, Tracey Dashjian, and Erica Wallace scored for the Gaels in the first half. Dashjian and Wallace both added another try each in the second half. The Gaels played shorthanded with key players Sara Jennaro and Catrina De Vos, out due to injury. The Gaels face Santa Cruz next Saturday February 26 at UC Santa Cruz.

-Katelyn Hegarty, Staff writer

Baseball

The baseball team scored their second win of the season Saturday, beating Sacramento State 8-1 in seven innings after the game was called due to rain. Joel Fountain pitched the entire game for the Gaels allowing one run and five hits, while striking out four. Sam Carter led the team with 3 RBI in a 1-for-4 performance. Orben Frederick went 2-for-3 with 2 RBI and Preston Young contributed with a solo homerun. The Gaels next game is slated for this Friday versus Cal. The following day Saint Mary's will take on the Bears at Louis Guisto Field at 2pm.

-Allison Kop, Asst. Sports Editor

Women's Lacrosse

Women's lacrosse suffered their first loss of the season on Friday falling to Stanford 14-5 on Friday. Stanford jumped out to an early 6-0 lead before the Gaels got on the board with a goal from Jackie Spencer. Rosy Iaccino had two goals for Saint Mary's who will look to improve in their next home game scheduled for this Wednesday at 3:30 in the Saint Mary's Stadium.

-Allison Kop, Asst. Sports Editor



Men's Lacrosse

Coming off a tough loss to Cal Poly, the Gaels had another tough match, this time against Stanford. The Gaels came out early and never looked back en route to a 15-9 victory in Palo Alto on Saturday.

"I don't remember the last time we played Stanford," said attacker Peter Burns. "Historically they have been very good and we spanked them."

Burns finished the game with six goals and five assists, while Midfielder Kevin Beecroft had four goals and an assist.

"Our defense really came to play, Trevor had a great game in goal as well," said Burns.

-Sam Adams, Co-Sports Editor