

THE COLLEGIAN

Serving Saint Mary's for over a century

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Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Volume 101, Number 23

Dance company presents Mandala

Students choreograph, perform senior projects

by Jenna Fox
Staff Writer

The new dance studio is filled with golf clubs, costumes, music, and hard working students this week as they prepare to perform their dance concert this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 6 - 8 at 8:00 p.m.

Dances choreographed by Saint Mary's College faculty and students will be performed with a mélange of styles. Swing, Ballet Folklorico, African, and Modern dance pieces will be presented.

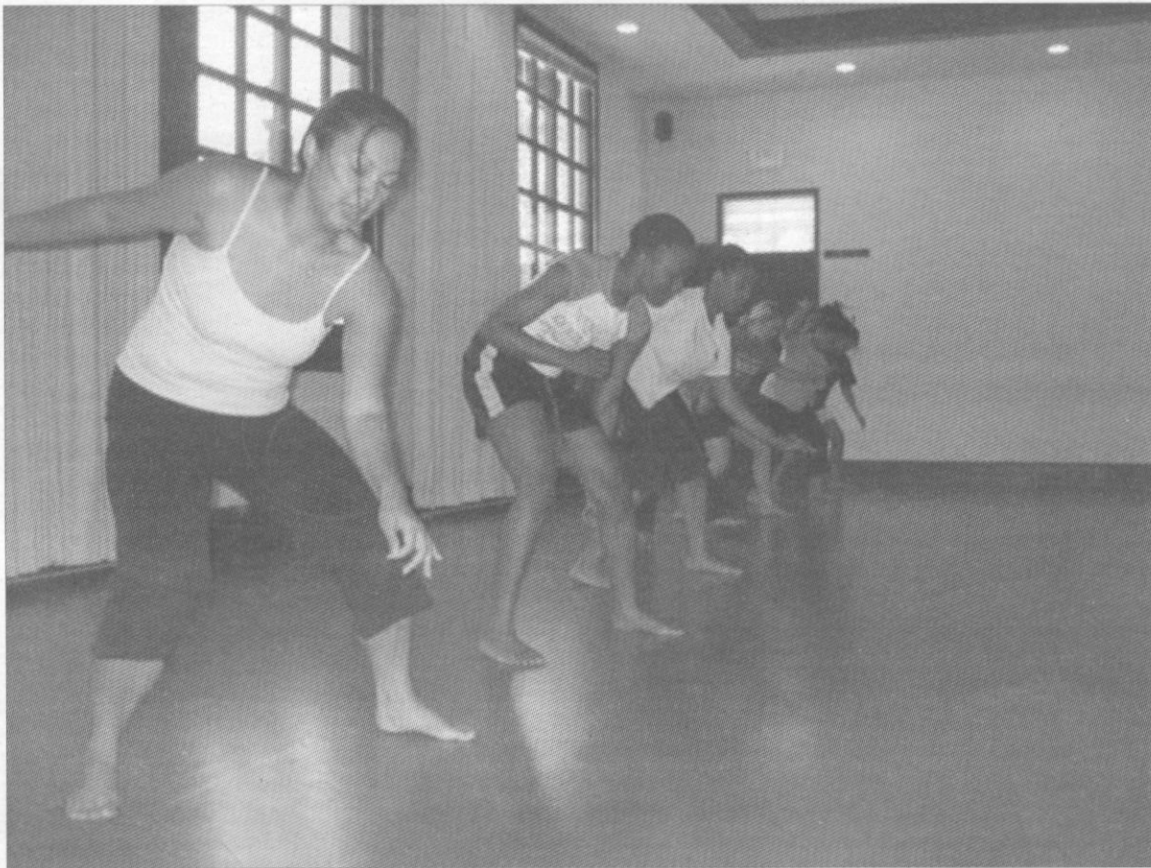
Seniors Trish Bote, Erica Fitzpatrick, Iddy Thompson, and Julie Umphenour each choreographed a piece for the show as their senior projects. Bote and Fitzpatrick created companion pieces that deal with transcending stereotypes of women. Iddy

Thompson will perform her solo to music that Mathew Park '05 composed and will perform on guitar. Julie Umphenour choreographed a piece called "Unwrapped," that incorporates scenes from her dreams. Bote, Fitzpatrick, and Umphenour also performed their pieces at the American College Dance Festival in Arizona this year, from which they got very positive feedback.

Junior Megan Opel also choreographed a piece for the concert called "The Progression of Gray Matter," a fascinating piece about the three personalities of one person: Love, Beauty, and Intelligence.

"The dancers have all been doing pieces that are really introspective, like self-healing or

see MANDALA, p2



Trish Bote and her fellow students practice in the Syufy Performing Arts center for the SMC Dance Company's concert.

Ken Fung/COLLEGIAN

KSMC rocks Wednesday night

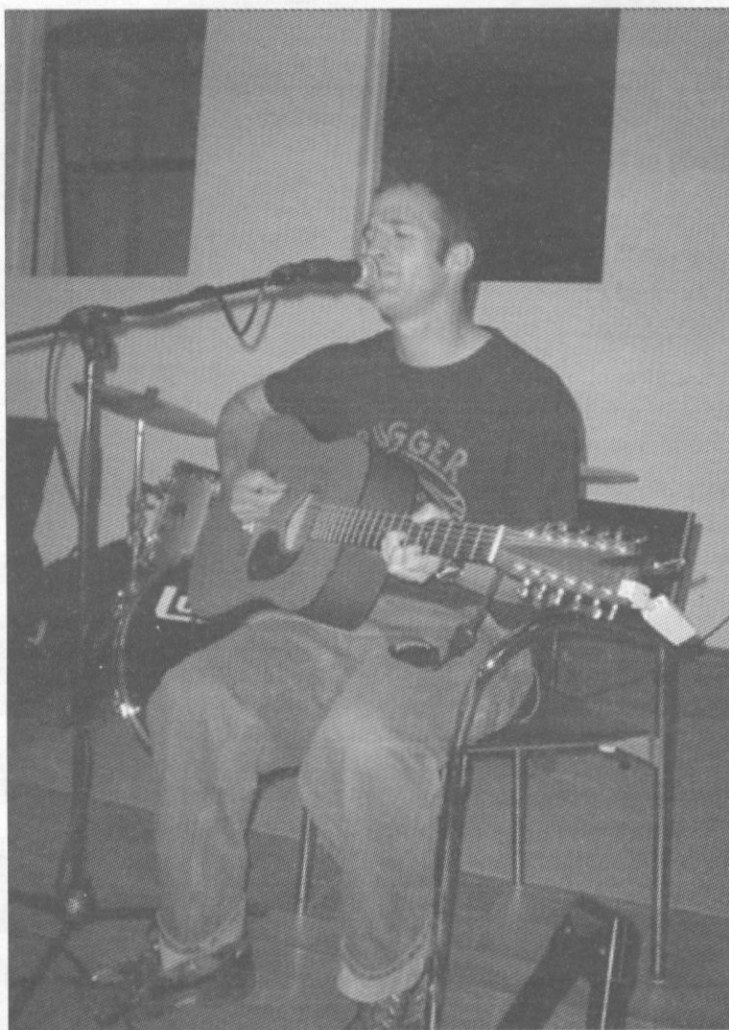
Dryden event gets audience approval

by B. Adragna and C. Simpson
Staff Writers

KSMC hosted their first live music performance of the semester, "Wednesday Night Rocks," in Dryden Hall on April 28. The bands, Rust Belt Music, Carrier, and Those That Rock were well received by the audience who became more and more receptive as the night went on.

The first band, Rust Belt Music, played mellow, sad songs that listeners relaxed to. John, the only member of the band available to perform, said his band is "indie in the sense that [they] don't make any money" but classifies his band in the musical genre of rock. Rust Belt Music had a folksy, almost country, feel to it. With lyrics such as, "I miss the bottle/I miss my friends" this band's music had a laid-back tone to it.

The next band, Carrier, surprised the audience with their energy. The bassist jumped up and down, the singer sang loudly into the microphone, and the drummer pounded furiously. Even the audience got into the music, banging their ping-pong paddles into the tables. Carrier's sound was more alternative than Rust Belt Music and was reminiscent of the newer punk/rock/alternative bands that are popular today. Carrier, with a more upbeat sound, had songs that anyone could sing along to.



Lisette Garcia/COLLEGIAN

John Lindenbaum of Rust Belt Music performed in front of his Dryden Hall audience Wednesday night.

The final band, Those That Rock, a Saint Mary's band, performed many covers. These included Five for Fighting's "Kryptonite" and Lynard Skynard's "Simple Man" as well

as an original song by Angel Vasquez '05, the guitarist.

This event was put together mainly by Katie Solis, events coordinator for KSMC. The idea see WEDNESDAY, p2

3-part series

after graduation

JOB, GRADUATE SCHOOL, SERVICE

What seniors are doing...

Part 2: Grad School

by Caitlin Blighe
Staff Writer

While most seniors are anxiously anticipating the day they can throw their caps up in the air and bid farewell to Saint Mary's, many will not be saying goodbye to papers, tests and late night studying.

In fact, a good amount of seniors are already applying to

graduate school, or have already applied and are going right back into school in the beginning of fall.

According to a statistic given by Br. Brendan Madden, Director of the Career Center and counselor to students considering graduate school, about 17 percent see GRADS, p3

Gaelpage returns online

College Communication office revives medium

by Andrea Camarena
Editor-in-Chief

The student-run campus events newsletter is back and online, courtesy of the Office of College Communication. The website went live Friday and highlights campus events, news stories, and announcements from various campus organizations.

Located at www.stmarys-ca.edu/gaelpage, the site will eventually host online message boards and polls.

Erik Johnson, former vice president of Administration for the Associated Students, led the effort to revive the former

ASSMC media. Johnson presented the idea to the provost council in October.

Provost Sally Stampp encouraged Johnson to maintain the website through the office of College Communication to prevent the site from dissolving.

Cori Simpson '07 was hired through the office as the student editor for the site, which will go on hiatus over the summer but will return in the fall.

For more information, or to submit an announcement to post to the site, send an email to gaelpage@stmarys-ca.edu.

What's Happening

Gael Awards

The Gael Awards Show will take place Tuesday, May 11 in LeFevre Theater at 7:00 p.m. The event is an ESPY's-type show to honor senior student athletes, award winners, the coach of the year, and many other honorees. The cost is \$5.00 per person which includes a ticket and access to dessert social after-party. All are welcome. Dress is semi-formal. Advanced reservation is required. Call the Ticket Office at x4392 to reserve your seat.

Kairos

Kairos is coming. For more information to attend or to help with this student-led retreat coming May 7 and 8, please stop by Campus Ministry or call x4366. All are welcome.

Plan for Athletics

You are cordially invited to join Russ Harrison, Regent of Saint Mary's College and Chair of the Athletics Review Task Force, and Carl Clapp, Director of Athletics, for a presentation and update on "The New Strategic Direction for Athletics and Recreational Sports." This meeting will take place Wednesday, May 5, at 4:15 p.m. in LeFevre Theatre. The intended audience for this presentation is students; as space allows, interested faculty and staff are cordially invited to attend.

Senior Social

The Class of 2004 Senior Alumni Faculty Social will take place on Thursday, May 6, at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Come see your senior slideshow. RSVP at x4200. Tickets are \$20.00 and include dinner and hosted, wine, and signature drink.

SMCDC

The Saint Mary's College Department of Performing Arts presents the Saint Mary's College Dance Company (SMCDC) from May 6 to May 8 at 8:00 p.m. in LeFevre Theatre. Choreography by the dance faculty: Catherine Marie Davalos, Randee Paufve, Dana Lee Lawton, Stacey Printz, Pope Flyne, Jim Brosnahan, Carlos Moreno, and students: Trish Bote, Erica Fitzpatrick, Megan Opel, Iddy Thompson, and Julie Umphenour. Admission is \$10 for general admission, \$9 for non-SMC students, and \$7 for the SMC community. For reservations, call x4670.

Transitioning into the "real world"

Hear stories, experiences and advice from individuals who have survived the transition today at 4:00 p.m. in the Delphine Multicultural Center. This event is sponsored by the Women's Resource Center and the Health and Wellness Center. For more information, call x4193.

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

Crime Beat 2003-2004

Best of Crime Beat

9/2	3:00 p.m.	Incident: Illegal Dumping Synopsis: An unknown person illegally dumped substances at the Rheem Shopping Center. Case suspended.	nis court office; referred to student conduct and business office.
9/12	1:00 p.m.	Incident: Burglary Synopsis: Stolen furniture in Delphine Multicultural Lounge; case suspended.	
11/2	10:00 p.m.	Incident: Possession Synopsis: Possession of marijuana and paraphernalia and lying to a Public Safety officer at Guerrieri East Hall; referred to student conduct.	
11/12	4:30 p.m.	Incident: Grand theft Synopsis: Grand theft of personal belongings at Program Board office in Cassin Student Union; case suspended.	
11/18	11:30 p.m.	Incident: Theft Synopsis: Missing soap dispenser bottles from men's bathroom adjacent to the quad; case closed.	
1/14	4:50 a.m.	Incident: Tampering with vending machine Synopsis: Tampering with vending machine outside ten-	
2/14	10:30 p.m.	Incident: Found weapon Synopsis: Weapon found (knife) in Hagerty lounge kitchen area; referred to student conduct.	
2/15	1:40 p.m.	Incident: Grand theft Synopsis: Grand theft (cell phone and 50 CD's) from North Claey's parking lot; referred to student conduct.	
3/6	1:05 a.m.	Incident: Possession Synopsis: Possession of paraphernalia (beer bong) in Guerrieri West; referred to student conduct.	
3/11	5:15 p.m.	Incident: Stray dog Synopsis: Stray dog outside Cassin Student Union; case closed.	
3/15	5:15 a.m.	Incident: Prank Synopsis: Soap suds in fountains (Chapel Courtyard and Cassin Student Union); referred to student conduct.	
4/20	12:47 a.m.	Incident: Suspicion Synopsis: Possession of fireworks in Justin Hall; referred to student conduct.	

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MANDALA: SMCDC includes traditional with modern continued from pg 1

awareness. That's why I used the word 'Mandala' as the name of the concert. It's a prayer circle and it has to do with coming full circle and learning something from yourself or from each other," said choreographer and instructor Catherine Marie Davalos.

But the concert is by no means completely serious or sad. Davalos' own piece "Fore" is a fun and comical swing-style piece. The piece plays off the word "swing," incorporating the idea of a golf swing and swing dance and music. Faculty member Jim Brosnahan also choreographed an excited Swing piece. Other faculty contributors in-

clude Randee Paufve, Dana Lee Lawton, Stacey Printz, Pope Flyne, and Carlos Moreno. "I think the thing that people who have never seen dance before, or not a lot of modern dance, worry about, 'I'm not going to get it' when the title and the emotion is usually all we have to get. You don't have to get the exact story. The interpretation is open. I think that the concert is also very entertaining: creative, artistic and entertaining. I think that people will enjoy it," said Davalos.

Tickets are \$7.00 for the Saint Mary's community, \$9.00 for non-Saint Mary's students, and \$10.00 general admission.

WEDNESDAY: KSMC hopes to find weekly event in concert continued from pg 1

came from students and DJs at the radio station. "I talked to a lot of freshmen actually, and it really was a student-driven idea," said Solis. Hopefully it will become a regular event, if not every Wednesday then at least once or twice a month.

The idea for the bands came from KSMC DJs who knew Rust Belt Music. Rust Belt Music is friends with the band Carrier. "We brought in two local bands from Berkeley because we wanted to bring in a bunch of local bands. We got the names from DJs so we knew that they had some kind of following," said Solis. Both bands were exciting about coming and are hosting a concert at their home on May 15. Both

bands were, according to Solis, "very understanding and helpful."

The purpose of the event was to get students to stay on campus, to give students stuck on campus something to do, and to give commuter students a reason to come back on campus. It also gives students a chance to realize the creativity that abounds in the Bay Area and gives students a chance to hear about up-and-coming bands before they are signed.

For more information about Rust Belt Music, Carrier, or Those That Rock, contact KSMC at x4252 or visit www.ksmc895.com, www.rustbeltmusic.com, or www.thespinach.com.

SMC commemorates D-Day

In commemoration for the 60th anniversary of D-Day, Donald Malarkey, one of the inspirations for the book and film *Band of Brothers*, will speak on Monday, May 10.

Malarkey is an original member of Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 10th Airborne, the World War II infantry unit chronicled in Stephen Ambrose's best-selling book and the award-winning HBO miniseries, *Band of Brothers*.

The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a screening of "Day of Days," the second episode of *Band of Brothers*. Following the screening, Malarkey will share his experiences in Easy Company and sign copies of *Band of Brothers*.

Malarkey has joined several surviving members of Easy Company to get Congress to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to Richard Winters for his leadership on D-Day. -C.M.

CHECK IT OUT!!

Drunk Driver Simulator Visits SMC

Check out this state of the art driving simulator "intoxicated" to different Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) Levels

The simulator seats 12 people who can ride along and see how the current "drunk" driver is driving!

WHEN? Thursday, May 6
10:30am - 2:00pm
WHERE? Chapel Lawn Loop
HOW? Just show up! (look for the semi)

Did you know????

Drunk driving kills someone every 30 minutes

3 in 10 Americans will be in an alcohol-related crash during their lifetime
Co-sponsored by Counseling Center, Student Health and Wellness Center, Student Activities, and Public Safety

GRADS: students go on to graduate, medical, law school continued from pg 1

of graduating seniors will go right back into school, while 13 to 15 percent decide to attend graduate school within six months to a year after graduation.

Another 20 percent go to grad school within five years of graduation.

Brother Brendan Madden said that those who want to pursue graduate school right after undergraduate study are usually very directed.

"Most of the students that come in know exactly what they want to do," said Madden.

This is definitely the case for Jennifer Havey, a Liberal and Civic Studies major who will be staying at Saint Mary's to receive her masters and teaching credential.

"SMC has an outstanding teaching program," said Havey. "I will start school this summer and it will end in the summer of

2005. Hopefully then, I will start teaching first grade at a low income school."

Havey isn't the only student who is staying close by, either at SMC or in the Bay Area. According to Madden, many St. Mary's students' first choice in graduate school location is the Bay Area, followed by Northern California and then Southern California.

Some popular schools for SMC graduates are the University of California in Berkeley, University of California in Davis, University of San Francisco, California State University in Hayward and, of course, SMC.

Jackie Johnson, a psychology major, also plans to stay close, as she will be attending John F. Kennedy graduate school in Pleasant Hill.

"I just want to further my education," she said. "I want to get started. The sooner I get out

there, the sooner I can get a job and start making money."

While many seniors jump right in to graduate school after graduation, many opt to take a year or two off.

Jen Belzer, a psychology and biology split major will be taking a year off and applying to medical school in the fall. "I know I'll be in med school for about seven years and I didn't know if I would get all of my classes done, so I gave myself a leeway of a year," said Belzer.

Whether a student takes a year off, or jumps right back into school, the key ingredient to success in graduate study is motivation.

Yvonne Silva, a politics major, plans on taking a year off before she attends law school. She hopes to become an attorney and then a judge. "I want the time to prepare myself and get motivated again, especially after four years of hard studying," said Silva.

Beyond NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS BITES
the bubble

BY TONY VALA-HAYNES

- MIAMI, Florida — A woman from Oklahoma reportedly drove around with her deceased mother in the car. The mother's decomposing body was found in the back seat of the car, parked at Wal-Mart, while the daughter was shopping. The body had been decomposing for 5 days before it was discovered.

- SANTA MARIA, California — On Friday, Michael Jackson pleaded not guilty to charges of child molestation.

- SYDNEY, Australia — Officials are calling for the extermination of 20,000 koalas on Kangaroo Island in order to keep the marsupials from destroying the island's habitat.

- SOMERVILLE, New Jersey — Former NBA all-star Jayson Williams was found "not guilty" of charges of manslaughter and aggravated assault.

- FALLUJAH, Iraq — Two Marines were killed and 6 others injured in a suicide bombing on Friday.

- HIGHLAND PARK, Texas — Harriette Kelton, a 97-year old woman, was arrested and jailed last Wednesday for failing to pay a traffic ticket.

- ATLANTA, Georgia — Two journalism students at the University of Georgia will not graduate because they plagiarized for a student newspaper.

- A current poll revealed that more voters prefer President Bush's policies on National Security than John Kerry's policies.

(Sources: cnn.com, msnbc.com, The Contra Costa Times)

Women march for rights

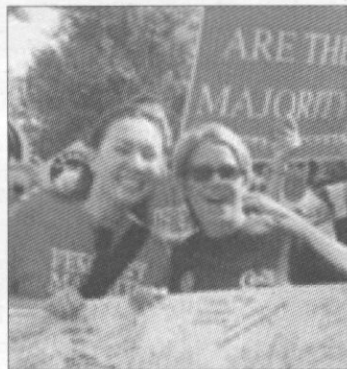
by Caitlin Hungate
Staff Writer

According to the website www.marchforwomen.org, an estimated 1,150,000 people marched in Washington D.C. on April 25 to show to the nation and our government leaders that women's lives "are at risk and lawmakers [need to] stop intruding on a woman's right to access critical reproductive health services and make deeply personal decisions about her health and life."

Organizations such as American Civil Liberties Union, Black

Women's Health Imperative, Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, National Organization for Women, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America came together to coordinate the march.

Gloria Fedlt, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America was quoted saying, "They're not just after abortion rights. This is a full-throttle war on your very health—on your access to real sex education, birth control, medical privacy, and life-saving research."



www.marchforwomen.org

An interesting aspect from the march was that even some pro-life individuals were able to see a broader context of reproductive rights for all women, even though they may have been opposed to abortion itself.

SNAPSHOT



Tina McAfee/COLLEGIAN

On Thursday, April 29 the fourth annual Latino Cultural Night entertained the audience of the Soda Activity Center with skits and dances, such as Ballet Folklorico seen here.



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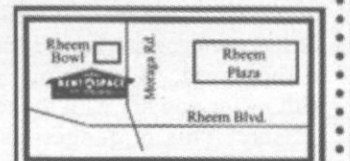


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THE COLLEGIAN

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OPINION

Iraq: the next Vietnam?

Jonathan Morales

"Our purpose in Vietnam is to prevent the success of aggression. It is not conquest, it is not empire, it is not foreign bases, it is not domination. It is, simply put, just to prevent the forceful conquest of South Vietnam by North Vietnam."

President Lyndon Johnson said those words 40 years ago to justify military action in Vietnam. It is easy to say now that Vietnam was a mistake. Hind-sight is 20-20. But it is inexcusable to ignore signs that bad history is repeating itself.

Today, we are embroiled in a complicated conflict in Iraq. Day after day we watch, listen, and read as our armed servicemen and women are injured and killed half a world away by people our government told us would greet us as "liberators."

But we're told that we must not lose hope, for to give up in Iraq means giving up to the terrorists. In fact, just as Vietnam was seen as the must-take stand against the evils of communism, Iraq is portrayed as the critical battleground in the so-called War on Terror.

Bush has said, "Some have argued that confronting the threat from Iraq could detract from the war against terror. To the contrary, confronting the threat posed by Iraq is crucial to winning the war on terror."

All one has to do to find the similarities between Iraq and Vietnam is listen to the outrageous rhetoric that comes from the mouths of our nation's leaders. Our resolve is being tested, we're told, but as always, we will prevail.

We're brainwashed by phrases such as "the evil-doers" and "those who hate freedom."

It's time for a reality check. At the least, let's pay attention to the blatantly obvious facts.

Just in case you've forgotten, 15 of the 19 September 11 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia, not Iraq. Saddam had no connection to Osama bin Laden—in fact Osama actually called Saddam an "infidel." Oh and by the way, there were no dreaded weapons of mass destruction.

Check up on it, please. It's been in the papers for months.

But Bush, whose family is really good buddies with the Saudi royal family but no friend to Saddam, has cast the war on Iraq as critical to the war on terror. He has even gone so far as to say to the world, "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." This is dangerously similar to the East-West, "with-us-or-against-us" mentality that fueled Vietnam.

And that is exactly Bush's problem. His view of the world is pitifully juvenile. He wants everything to be black and white. Either you're with America and you love freedom or you're a terrorist.

Unfortunately, this war is not as simple as that. We're making the same mistakes we did 40 years ago by oversimplifying the conflict. And I fear that, just as in Vietnam, we're in for a long, deadly haul.

Letters from the Editors

Readers,

The trash has been disposed, the stage disassembled, the grass hosed down; Gaelstock has come and gone. The day was filled with the usual antics; 8 a.m. pre-parties, roaming packs of students and a raging crowd of intoxicated concertgoers.

Just like last year, and the year before, and the year before that, people were excited for Gaelstock. It's inevitable; it's like Christmas for the partying masses. Every May, we get our hopes up, anticipate the greatest event of the year, and revel in the headache of the aftermath. This year was no different; they brought Cake and we came. Unfortunately, Cake seemed to hate their audience; refusing to play requested songs and making fun of the crowd for almost their entire time onstage. To top it off, besides the beer garden, the only thing occupying space on the field were bodies. Disappointment came with the absence of bounce houses, rock climbing, and other inflatable forms of entertainment. (Rumor has it that the delivery truck made it all the way out to Menlo Park...good try guys).

Despite the hang-ups, the day was a success. I saw smiles plastered all over campus from 9 a.m. through 9 p.m.

This year was my first time visiting the infamous drunk tank. I was surprised and pleased to see

only three students detained. The volunteers from the Health and Wellness Center and the Counseling Center dedicated their entire Saturday to distributing juice, taking vitals, and showing genuine care for the students of Saint Mary's.

In the same vein, Public Safety fulfilled their mission of keeping the campus safe. Parties happened, and it wasn't a matter of busting everyone on campus for violations. They let students have their parties and simultaneously kept the campus under control.

Nothing big was broken up, no serious injuries. Thank you to Public Safety, the Health and Wellness Center, the Counseling Center and the Student Affairs staff for letting the campus enjoy the tradition of May Day/Jamaica Me Crazy/Saint Mary's Day Off/Gaelstock for another year.

And congratulations to the Saint Mary's student body for being responsible. You made the day worth it for at least this Gael.

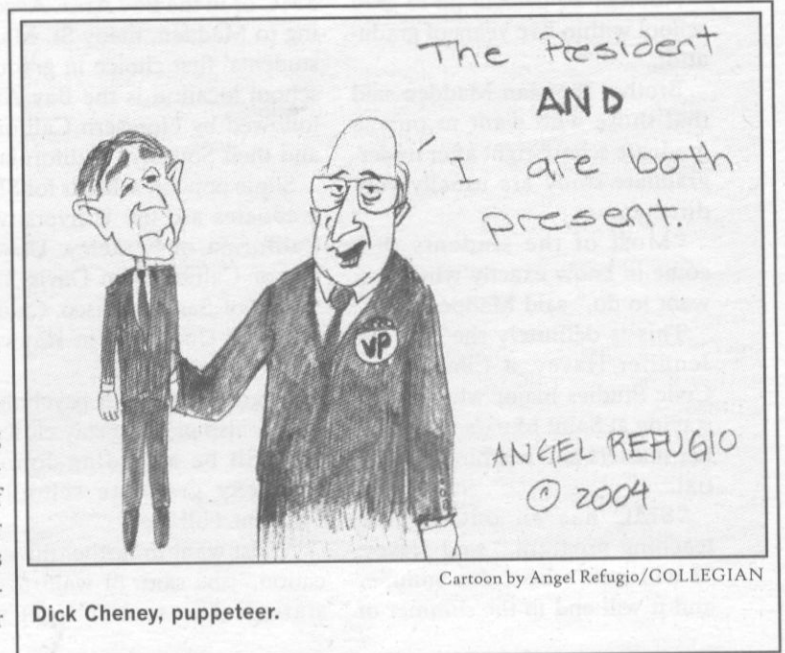
Cheers!

Andrea Camarena
Editor-in-Chief, Collegian

Readers,

I've been doing a lot reminiscing about the past four years recently.

I won't bore you with it, al-



Dick Cheney, puppeteer.

though with only 18 days left until graduation it heavily is occupying my mind.

Instead, let me tell you about the future:

I'm excited...let me explain why.

Besides the fact I'm graduating, I'm graduating alongside some pretty amazing people.

Maryann Ferris, Jacqueline Smith, Carrie Webber, Carley Brandt, Marisa Pino, Cheryl Thompson, Nikul Shah, Tiffany Record, Keriya Kim, Abbigail Zito, Monique Smith, Kelly O'Donnell, Daniel Villarreal, Lindsay Lopez, Caroline King, Adriana Garcia, Katie Krueger, Robert Porter, Strada Morris, Marie Canete, Leo Guardado, Allegra Porter, Natalie Wilson, and Marco Torres, to mention a few.

These students, along with many others have committed countless hours to scholarship and service, for this they should be congratulated.

I'm especially excited about graduation on May 22.

The thought of walking across the stage in front of family and friends after four years of investment in this place and everything about it will be both joyous and saddening.

Having gone to graduation the past 3 years, I've listened to graduation speakers and valedictorian addresses, seen masses of students walk across the stage, but something is different about this year: it's our turn.

Congratulations,
Chris Swain
Managing Editor, Collegian

Community Views

Dear Editor,

Gaelstock weekend has come and gone. I think many would agree that it was a fun event overall. The one thing that stood out for me the most, however, was the tremendous job by all the great staff. Whether it was program board, student activities, the counseling center, or the health center, everyone did tremendous work.

Of all these groups though, I have to say that the one that stood out the most was Public Safety. I would just like to say thank you to Bill Foley and his staff for letting us have our fun and at the same time knowing when to take care of us.

Sincerely,
John Zabala
Vice President of Administration for the Associated Students

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

THE COLLEGIAN

2004-2005

Now looking for talented, enthusiastic, dedicated, and experienced individuals to create a staff for the upcoming academic year..

Pick up an application at a central campus Collegian stand and drop it off outside the office on the second floor of Ferroggiaro Hall...all applications are due Friday, May 7.



Interested?

Call x4279 or email collegia@stmarys-ca.edu for more information...

GAEL POLL

Photos by
Lisette Garcia
Compiled by
Pablo Armas

106

SMC students were asked about their plans for the summer.

What are you looking forward to this summer?



Showing photos of our fallen soldiers

Do pictures exploit the dead or honor their sacrifice?

by Cori Simpson

disrespectful and numbing

a touching tribute

by Katie Kimball

The war in Iraq is without a doubt extremely controversial. Perhaps one of the most disturbing controversies is whether or not the news media should show pictures of the dead. They should not.

First, allowing pictures of the dead to be seen by the public shows no consideration for the families of those killed. These people are already going through more than they can handle; and having to see their dead son or daughter on TV or in newspapers just makes it worse. Not only that, but if a family has a child who is missing in action or who is assumed dead, then when they see those pictures, it brings grief to the forefront of their minds and leaves them wondering if that dead body is their child.

Secondly, the practice of showing bodies is disrespectful to the dead whose bodies are being shown. After everything the soldiers went through, I'm sure they would just like to rest in peace. Instead, they are being paraded around television to the public as a symbol of everything horrible that is happening.

Thirdly, the worst thing about allowing pictures of bodies to be shown in the news is that after a while it loses its effect. The first time someone watching the news sees a dead body, it will undoubtedly gross them out or make them turn away. After a while though, they may start to look at the pictures and feel sad or disgusted. Then they will be able to look at the pictures without being disturbed and without feeling any sort of unpleasant feeling. In that case, the pictures lose their effect and what started out as an effective tool to make the public realize what's happening has turned into just another story that isn't so bad after all. That is the worst side effect of showing bodies on the news. People get used to it and then they really don't think that it's too bad.

Of course many people argue that it's good or even necessary to show dead soldiers on the news. The images alert people to the atrocities that are being committed and makes people realize that we are fighting a real war and even real American soldiers are paying the price. But really, if someone says that a soldier got caught in machine gun cross fire and didn't make it out alive, a picture isn't necessary to illustrate just how awful that is.

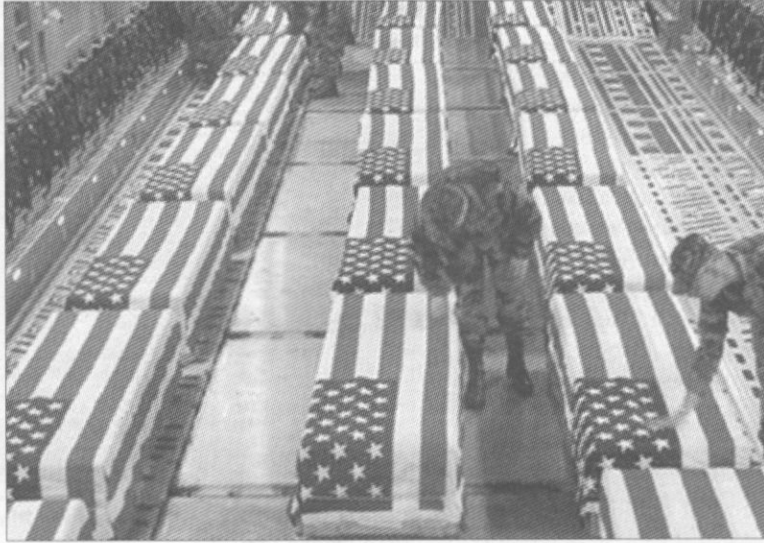


Photo courtesy www.TheMemoryHole.org

Not wanting to show rows of flag draped coffins has more to do with politics than respect. The photos that have been published are tasteful, surrounded by officers saluting them as fallen brothers and sisters. What else could inspire more admiration in the hearts of people watching at home? Whether or not one agrees with the war in Iraq, everyone can be touched by these pictures of soldiers being given the final rest they deserve. The images of the dead at Dover Air Force Base are not graphic or exploiting in any way - rather, they are a tribute to those brave soldiers.

Showing our dead is also one way in which the American public can really be impacted by the war. In this war, fought overseas and on foreign soil, we often forget how much the war touches us here at home. Respectfully showing the dead is one way for all of us to appreciate the sacrifices that are being made by these young men and women, and to make all of us appreciate that this conflict is costly and touches people's lives. The coffins are also anonymous - no specific family is being exploited or shown their dead without permission so that we can appreciate the seriousness of war. Rather, they remind us that those could be our loved ones in flag draped coffins- those could be our friends, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters.

Of course these pictures will affect policy and public support of the war in Iraq, which is exactly why the Pentagon does not want you to see them. Right before an election, the last thing George W. wants any of us to see are soldiers returning in coffins. We never see wounded soldiers lying in agony in hospital beds, soldiers sleeping on the ground in blistering heat in the middle of a sandstorm, exhausted and hungry after working 24-hour shifts, collapsing in a hail of machine gun fire. But these are the realities of war, not some man standing behind a podium talking about "fighting the war on terror." Perhaps these are the sorts of images that it will take for those of us who have never been through a war to realize what war really means, and perhaps to remind us that we should never be hasty or eager to enter into one (or to stay in one, for that matter).

the struggle for democracy

caitlin hungate



After enough death and destruction on the nightly news about the war on Iraq, I thought it would be time to comment on the hypocrisy and arrogance of our current administration. There are several points to address, however, two seem to be the most important: the current value of the American flag and United States foreign policy.

After September 11, 2001, the symbolism of the flag changed completely. Instead of maintaining the image of being patriotic, loving your country, etc., displaying the American flag on yards, t-shirts, cars and many other places meant that you sided with the current president. You were the epitome of patriotic if you had a flag after September 11. However, to me and many others who are against the war in Iraq, we have become the unpatriotic ones. Suddenly, because we do not support an ill-founded war, as we see it, we are unpatriotic. We are no less patriotic than the rest because we disagree with the policy on war. Peace has never been given a chance. Has anyone even thought that peace, not war, could be patriotic?

We go to another country, bomb the heck out of them, kill plunder, and the latest development, abuse of captured Iraqis. Some say this is just a by-product of war. If that is the justification for war, then why are we going to war in the first place? Why is abusing humanity patriotic?

Consistently the United States has been involved in world affairs when their interests have been at stake. Not only have we become the world's policemen, it has become our duty to democratize the rest of the world. After World War II, Japan was forced to become a democracy with the United States instilling ideas of what our government is and how they should become. That is exactly what we are doing today in Afghanistan and Iraq, and possibly more in the countries of the "axis of evil."

Since we have given thought to these country's previous governments, have we seriously given thought to the effects of democracy on other people? Although, in the eyes of America, democracy is the best form of government, there are still a lot of problems with it.

It is important to understand that it is quite arrogant to go into a country and try to instill notions of democracy when they know nothing of the sort.

The wrath of the boob still going strong

Months after the Superbowl stunt, we're still reeling from the consequences

by Jon Slobodin

Staff Writer

What seemed to be an innocent stunt has turned our country into the new Soviet Union.

America was already going downhill. With the melting pot that is this country, we were heading in a downward spiral of political correctness and "Oh, don't say that, it might offend somebody" fear. So it's not like we were in great shape to begin with. But then something happened that might have changed the course of Western history as we know it. Wacko's sister had to pull her boob out. What began as a non-malicious yet contrived and desperate stunt on the part of "Damita Jo" was the domino that has put our country into a state of Orwellian fear which I'm afraid is just beginning.

Immediately after that, the Pro

Bowl canceled JC Chasez's performance because he used to sing with Justin Timberlake, the infamous boob revealer. Yeah, that's rational thinking. That's like saying if George W. Bush were ever friendly with the Bin Laden family, then he should never be president. Okay, bad example.

Then the snowball started to get rolling. Clear Channel pulled Howard Stern off the air in many major markets because a caller said the "n" word on his show. If you ever listen to Howard's show, you know that there have been more offensive things said, I don't know, about 67,000 times. Yet now the FCC decides that the "n" word is just too much for adults to handle. Then he got pulled off the air in more markets because of his discussion of anal sex. I don't know about you, but if I don't get to hear about the many pleasures of the back-door at 8 a.m., I'm just

not myself. This is why people listen to him. They want raunch, and that's why he makes money. To do this now is hypocritical and unfair. Not to mention it wasn't Clear Channel's decision. The government was behind it, and if that doesn't scare you, I don't know what will.

Now all this I could live with. But then it happened. It was the straw that broke the camel's back. CBS pulled the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show. I know, I feel your pain. This one truly boggles the senses. You can go to the beach and see unattractive people in their skivvies, but when it comes to watching beautiful leggy women saunter in them, that's just too much for the kids. They might be traumatized by the gorgeous lingerie on the gorgeous women. How dare they try to corrupt our young children like that, when there's healthy,

educational fare like "The Swan" on TV.

So after crying myself to sleep at night, I wanted to know why this is happening, and what can be done to stop it. Here's my theory. After the incredible outrage at Janet's stunt, Congress and other government watchdogs realized that their base core of voters are the soccer moms and religious right to which they are so beholden to please, and the ones who expressed the most ire towards the event of Super Sunday. They are afraid. They don't want to tick off the wrong people, and because of that, the rest of us, and freedom of speech, will suffer the consequences. As to what can be done to stop it, I do not know, but the only thing I'm sure of is that "Miss Nasty" has single-boobedly ruined America as the bastion of freedom as we know it.

10%

of students will be living with their friends this summer.

“Surfing at Manhattan beach and meeting girls.”



Tom Miles '05

58%

of students are traveling to another state or country



Yesenia Galvan '07

“Seeing old friends again. You know, reunite and catch up.”

a complete education:

25 things every gael should do before graduation

by Brigid Hughes

While seniors trudge through the last few weeks of school with combined excitement and dread, we inevitably get nostalgic about our time spent at Saint Mary's. As I talked to friends this past weekend, we remembered the good, the bad...and the ugly. There were lots of things we did and a few we definitely shouldn't have. Here, in no particular order, I present the things every Gael should do before graduating from SMC. Not for the faint of heart.

25. Get written up, inevitable if you decide to continue.

24. Go to the catacombs. Remember a flashlight.
23. Steal a golf cart and ride it 'til she's got nothing left.
22. Paint the SMC with a big group of friends. Watch out for mud and/or cow pies.
21. Go to Fish Ranch Road.
20. Get soaked by the townhouse sprinklers at midnight.
19. Spend an all nighter studying for finals. Go to 7-11 for bad coffee at 4a.m.
18. Streak across central campus.
17. Change your major at least once.
16. Go to Oasis and Gaelstock, but refrain from getting thrown in the drunk tank.
15. Get a speeding ticket going 38 mph on Saint Mary's Road.
14. Run from public safety.
13. Have a fling, or two, or three, or...

12. Break into the pool for a middle of the night skinny dipping session.

11. Get drunk with a professor.
10. Go to a basketball game, a football game, a rugby game, a lacrosse game, baseball etc...
9. Forget dorm rooms and throw a party in Dante.
8. Talk your way out of failing a class.
7. Party on "The Hill."
6. Go to Petar's for Diamond Dave and an overpriced drink.
5. Throw a kegger at the observatory.
4. Break into Saga at night, steal supplies, and make "illegal quesadillas."

3. Make bad friends and move on, make lifelong friends and move in.

2. Pay your parking tickets (or else!).
1. Party balls at graduation. See you there.

DETOUR

'Mean Girls' or a passing phase?

Writer Tina Fey explores the the melodramatic world of teenage girls

BY JESSICA GUTIERREZ STAFF WRITER

Upon seeing a preview for the movie "Mean Girls," one is immediately assured that America's latest trend is to be 15-years-old, be able to look 25, and afford designer clothing. This 'tween queen' phase that has swept Hollywood, and so, swept the world, has recently reached it's apex. Within one month, movies like "New York Minute" starring the Olsen twins (matriarchs of all that is 'tween', "13 Going On 30", "Ella Enchanted", and "Mean Girls" are all hitting the box offices. So what's the hot commodity? To find out, head to your local movie theatre and see "Mean Girls."

As a college student, you might feel a little out of place, but soon will be pleasantly surprised to find that the movie is a Lorne Michaels film. Any big fan of Saturday Night Live (SNL) should be eager to see what's in store. Tim Meadow, Tina Fey, and Amy Poehler are the SNL cast members who gave great performances as a sarcastic principal, a cool math teacher, and an eccentric

mother. Tina Fey, who wrote the screen play, does an amazing job translating Rosalind Wiseman's book, "Queen Bees and Wannabes," onto the big screen.

The movie is about Cady (Lindsay Lohan), an only child, who has lived in Africa all of her life with zoologist parents who have home-schooled her since kindergarten. At age 16, Cady finds herself and her family moving back to the U.S., where she will have to attend an actual high school. Optimistic about making friends, Cady enters her first day at school with a smile and an outgoing attitude. She finds a safe-haven in the "social reject" group who inform her on all of the cliques at school and Fey wonderfully captures this segregation moment as a jungle scene where each animal has its own place and all are fighting against each other to survive. This metaphor is woven throughout the whole movie and is great satirical comedy. The elite social group is known as "The Plastics." The group is comprised of 3 girls who are beautiful, dumb, popular, and wealthy. They are like the alpha males

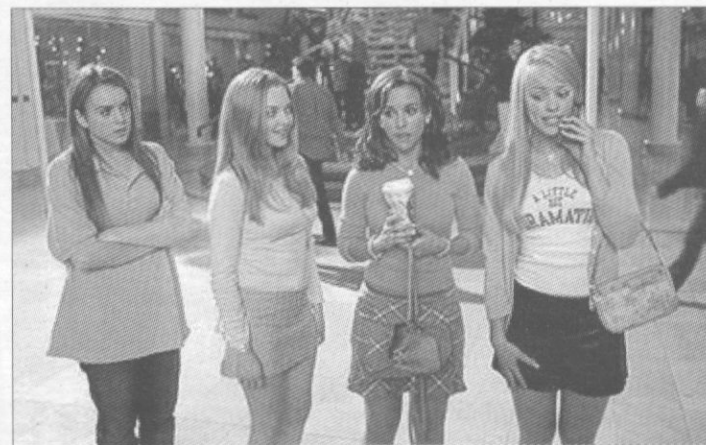


Photo courtesy of PARAMOUNT PICTURES
Cady (Lohan) finds herself with "the Plastics" at the mall in a scene from "Mean Girls."

of the student-body-gorilla-pack who dictate everything. "The Plastics" take a liking to Cady and begin to initiate her into their tight-knit group. Once in, Cady develops a crush on Regina George's ex-boyfriend, George, leader of "The Plastics", sabotages her crush and loses Cady's trust. Hurt, Cady forms a secret alliance with her two "social reject" friends and plans revenge on George. From here on out the plot gets tangled, involving SNL comedy, a math competition, and les-

sons on not to focus on being the best at the expense of hurting others.

Needless to say, the movie has something for everyone. So while the movie had its lows (under age drinking, gratuitous teenage cleavage/sexuality, and scandalous teacher-student relationships), it still manages to make the viewer laugh and learn. It's funny, well-versed, and has a moral that doesn't make you want to gag, but actually evaluate your own friendships.

Ushering back the party

Second semester seemingly marks unofficially the return of the party at Saint Mary's.

BY JAMES LEE STAFF WRITER

I always hear people gabbing on and on about things when hanging out, and the topic always comes up to be about the "on campus parties." And you've probably heard it, as it always starts with the phrase "there is nothing to do on campus." It is usually followed by "it has gotten worse every year since I have been here." It seemed as if it would follow suit this year with rules actually being enforced, and the new sanctions outlined in the matrix policy. But things have changed drastically since the beginning of the year, almost coinciding with all of the changes in Residence Life.

The news of crazy parties had been circulating around. Jugs of long island ice teas, kegs of Guinness beer and a DJ were present at a Saint Patrick's Day party. Other parties took it to another level by challenging people to drink a fifth of their choice.

After Gaelstock weekend, my notion has been confirmed. The day before, the same people that had the St. Patty's party had an ungodly amount of people and alcohol at their townhouse, and the day of Gaelstock was just madness. It almost reminded me of the good old days where I saw people lined up on the balconies drinking with people yelling, the empty cans and bottles on the lawns, and music blaring from certain suites.

The differences have been noted by students. Jean Tolentino '06 said, "The difference is that people/students at SMC feel more safe to party now. There is more concern about safety in the rules rather than punishment. The object of rules should be to have freedom with an understanding of consequences, not strict punishment on petty offenses." Junior Jamee Thomson said "There are more parties this semester and I think its better, because it gives us something to do on a Friday or Saturday night."



Listening to Bach

Turning over a new leaf of music

I have to admit that I was getting a little tired of the same old rock/rap I always hear on KSMC. So on Friday, I listened to the performance of Bach's B minor mass in San Francisco along with other SMC students.

My favorite part of the performance came after the intermission when they sang the Credo (Nicene Creed). "Crucifixus" was repeated over and over in various tones, bringing a sorrowful feeling over those listening, which came in the phrase "Crucifixus Etiam pro nobis" (was crucified for us). During the Credo, in a similar style, they repeated "Et resurrexit tertia die" (And on the third day he rose again). It was beautiful and uplifting.

The whole of the performance was magnificent, with sounds that Bach probably intended and would approve of. Also, the performance was sung entirely in Latin, the language of the Catholic Church.

Vance George, Director of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, conducted this masterpiece written by J.S. Bach.

The performance began with the "Kyrie" (Kyrie Eleison or Lord have mercy upon us).

Next, they sang the "Gloria" (Gloria in excelsis Deo or Glory be to God on high).

The voices at times were a bit quick to follow along, but the music in the first half was excellent.

Following the intermission, the performance went on to the "Sanctus" (Holy Holy) as well as the "Agnus Dei" (Lamb of God).

I enjoyed the change of pace from the music I usually listen to; getting into the city and to listening Bach with peers was an exceptional time.

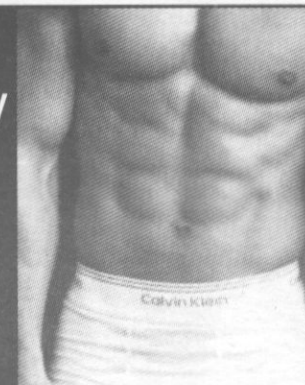
-Pablo Armas, Staff Writer

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(tongue : in cheek)

by Jon Slobodin

Oprah viewers waiting patiently for instructions

Chicago, IL- With nearly three weeks having passed since talk-show host Oprah Winfrey last issued an official command, approximately 60 million Oprah Winfrey Show viewers remain on standby, stationed in front of their television sets awaiting further instructions from their leader.

"We must be patient with Oprah," said Winfrey fan Melanie Luke. "Ours is not to question why she is taking so long. When the time is right and we are needed again, Oprah will tell us what to do."

Across the U.S., Oprah viewers' anticipation for new Winfrey directives is reaching a fever pitch. In Winfrey's home base of Chicago, throngs of fans have gathered outside her Harpo Studio headquarters around the clock, maintaining their silent, faithful vigil.

Though the city's streets are quiet, a palpable sense of expectation fills the air.

"What book should I read? What low-fat lemon-bread recipes should I use? What made-for-TV movies should I watch to give me a sense of empowerment?" asked Pamela Kolb, a Springfield, IL homemaker and one of the approximately 13,000 viewers huddled outside her studio. "In these complex times, it can be frightening to have to go three weeks without any guidance from a television personality. But we must remain true to Oprah's vision. Our duty is to stay focused and on full alert until new orders are issued."

"Oprah will not let us down. I know this much is true," said longtime fan Victoria Hudson, clutching a copy of the Wally Lamb best-seller *I Know This Much Is True*, the last item Oprah fans were commanded to buy before the three-week directive drought began. "She will not leave us to make decisions for ourselves. I have faith in her."

Winfrey is the most powerful woman in the world and Time magazine named her one of the Most Influential People Of The Century. Her greatest influence, however, is that which she holds over her army of 60 million couch-bound women, who unfailingly obey her nationally televised directives on everything from home-decorating to weight loss.

"I follow Oprah's advice to the fullest, said viewer Krisann Chasarik of Pittsburgh, PA. "I used to wear a lot of teal, but after seeing a recent episode called 'Oprah's Wardrobe Makeovers,' the only colors I wear are muted autumn hues, such as forest green and burgundy."

I just wish she would issue some more commands for us to obey. If I have to wait much longer, I might find myself inadvertently following the orders of some other talk-show host."

Spokespersons for Harpo said Winfrey understands the responsibility that comes with such extraordinary power.

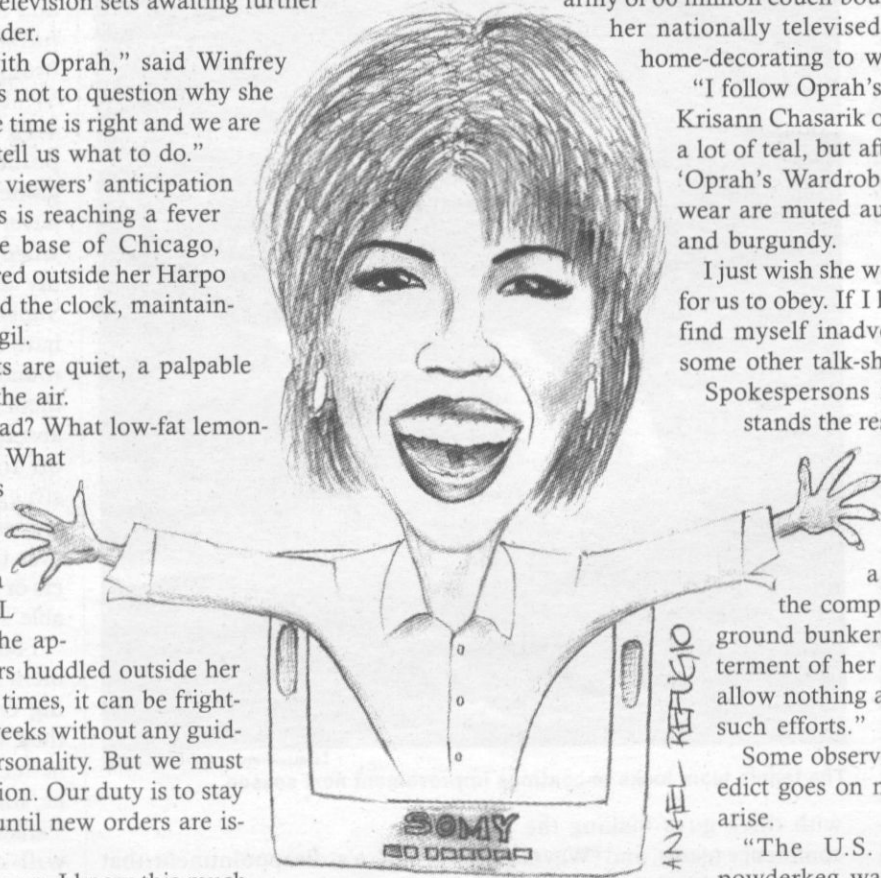
"Oprah takes her role as a world leader very seriously,"

PR director Amy Jones said in a press release issued from within the company's massive network of underground bunkers. "Her commitment to the betterment of her subjects is supreme, and she will allow nothing and no one to stand in the way of such efforts."

Some observers fear that if the wait for a new edict goes on much longer, serious trouble may arise.

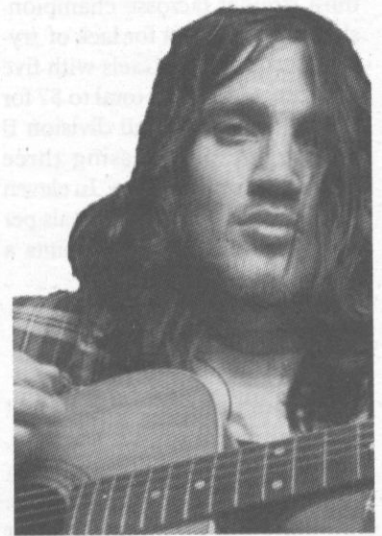
"The U.S. daytime-TV audience is a powderkeg waiting to go off," said Catherine Murphy, director of Media Studies at Harvard.

"If this mob continues to be left without direction, it is in danger of fragmenting into thousand of uncontrollable splinter groups, acting without cohesion and creating a state of virtual anarchy. Oprah must avert this crisis scenario before it's too late."



Pure artistry collides with your senses:

A look at John Frusciante



Described as a "pure artist" by Red Hot Chili Peppers (RHCP) bandmate Flea, John Frusciante infuses that honest vibe into his new solo album, *Shadows Collide With People* released in February 2004. Best known in RHCP for his distinct hypnotic guitar work and delicate melodies, he played with the band until 1992 when he left to enter drug rehab. RHCP's 1999 release, *Californication*, an explosive album that sold millions worldwide, marked Frusciante's return to the band complete with a new look and a transformed sound.

Following that album, was RHCP's 2002 release, *By The Way*, which was also an international success. A very prolific time for the band, and especially for Frusciante, who began work on his solo project. *Shadows Collide With People* maintains a magnetic sound similar to RHCP's innovative style. Along with writing and producing the entire album, Frusciante also provides all guitar work, vocals, and art direction. Flea joins in playing upright bass with RHCP drummer, Chad Smith provides drums and percussions. Most of the songs are in F, G, and A minor so they all have similar chord structure and progression. Because of this, all of the songs are inextricably linked to each other. When reading a best-selling novel, you aren't going to start with chapter 9 and flip around; you turn on a Frusciante album and listen all the way through. This includes 4 tracks that are composed of completely ambient sounds. For some reason, hearing synthesized music blaring from a machine can be disarming; but, on this album you are drawn into the sounds that are similar to the ambience used in Incubus albums. And they become essential keys to understanding the mental place of the artist. With other albums, Frusciante has sang on, you can actually hear his voice falter, on this CD his voice is this powerful self-declaration. It sounds as if the microphones are placed five feet away from him and you can still feel his voice reverberating through you. The whole package will knock your socks off, blow your hair away, you get the picture. So, if you are looking for a brand new sound and feel in music, then check out this album.

-Jessica Gutierrez
Staff Writer

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Players of the Week

peter burns

Burns unfortunately lost his third straight lacrosse championship game, but not for lack of trying. Burns led the Gaels with five goals, increasing his total to 57 for the season, leading all division B players, despite missing three games to an ankle injury. In eleven games, Burns had a 5.18 goals per game average, and 6.54 points a game as well.

colette spencer

Spencer was a record setter last year, scoring 53 goals in a season. Well, that record is now obsolete, because Spencer blew right by it, scoring 64 this season. Spencer had three goals against Cal in the women's lacrosse season finale on Saturday, pushing her total 11 goals past her previous high.

-Sam Adams, Sports Editor

Score Card

Women's Lacrosse (4-12)

Cal - 20
SMC - 10

C. Spencer - single season scoring record (64 goals)
M. Brady - 5 goals

Men's Lacrosse (6-8)

Championship game

SMC - 8
San Diego - 11

Tennis

Women (9-13)

Men (14-11)

Softball (11-43)
WCC (5-15)

	R	H	E
Saint Mary's	2	8	4
San Diego	5	5	3

	R	H	E
Saint Mary's	3	6	4
San Diego	5	8	0

	R	H	E
Saint Mary's	4	9	1
San Diego	3	10	1

	R	H	E
Saint Mary's	6	8	1
San Diego	1	5	0

Baseball (13-30)
(WCC 6-12)

	R	H	E
Saint Mary's	4	9	1
San Jose State	2	7	0

	R	H	E
Saint Mary's	5	7	1
Portland	6	9	0

	R	H	E
Saint Mary's	10	17	0
Portland	7	13	3

	R	H	E
Saint Mary's	8	-	-
Portland	9	-	-

SPORTS

Gaels Tennis ends much improved season
Team finishes season with a 4-0 win over the Gonzaga Bulldogs

by Sam Adams
Sports Editor

After consecutive losing seasons, the men's tennis team was able to pull together this season and play to their potential, closing out the season with a 4-0 win over Gonzaga and a 14-11 record, improving on their 8-16 record one year ago.

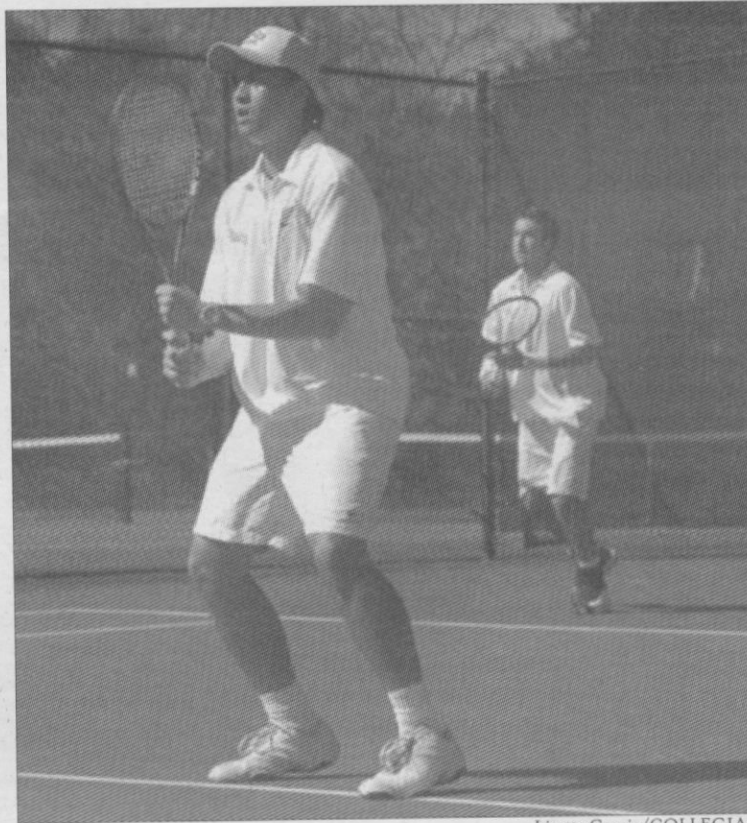
"All the guys played really well all year," said junior J.J. Whitlinger. "The last two years we've had a good team but we haven't been able to win the close matches. This year we got over the hump and really started to play with confidence that we could win the matches."

And for this season of improvement, the Gaels have been rewarded. Tennis coach Michael Wayman was named West Coast Conference Coach of the Year; and also receiving post-season recognition was sophomore Andre Sion (Perpignan, France), who was named to the WCC All-Conference Team. Also receiving accolades were freshman Adam Fauvre (Bakersfield, CA) and sophomore Martin Marechal (Toulouse, France), both earning honorable mention.

Sion went 17-5, second on the team in victories. Eight of his victories came in the number one spot, where he went 8-4.

Fauvre led the team in victories with 18, and Marechal had 13 of his own.

"(Our improvement) really shows in our post-season awards,



Lisette Garcia/COLLEGIAN

The tennis team looks to continue improvement next season.

with three guys making the all conference teams, and (Wayman) getting coach of the year," said Whitlinger.

Wayman is the first men's tennis coach in the history of the St. Mary's tennis to be tabbed with the honor.

Although the team finished three games above .500, they were somewhat disappointed with their performance down the stretch, going 2-5 over their last seven and finishing seventh in the WCC tournament.

Crew captures first place in one race

Men's and Women's season wraps up

by Allison Kop
Staff Writer

The Men's and Women's crew teams each finished up their seasons strong this weekend in Sacramento, competing in the WCC Championships on Friday and the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association meet on Saturday and Sunday.

In the Women's WCC Championships, the Saint Mary's Varsity Four finished first with a time of 7:52.30. The Varsity Eight finished fifth in their race and Saint Mary's finished 5th overall in the team standings.

Following the strong performance, senior Breezy Jackson was named to the All-WCC first team. It is her second selection to the team in two years.

"It's an honor," said Jackson, "I'm really excited. It's nice to be recognized with all of these great rowers."

The women also competed in the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association meet, which features teams from all across the western U.S., including perennial

powerhouses UC Davis and Gonzaga. SMC's Novice Four finished second out of the 18 teams in the competition, and the Varsity Four came in fourth, losing third place by just .2 seconds.

The men's team also had a successful weekend, finishing third in the overall team standings of the WCC Championship. The Varsity Eight had one of its best outings of the year, finishing third, just behind Gonzaga and Santa Clara.

"We had lots of tough competition, but we stuck to our game plan and had a really strong race," said Senior Dan Tichenor. "It was a good way for us to end the season. I think this is the best we have ever done as an Eight."

The men's team also performed well in the WIRA, with the Varsity Pair taking first place out of the 18 teams present. The pair, made up of Dan Tichenor and Bryan Barrett, won the race for the third consecutive year. The Varsity Eight finished third in the final, competing against some of the best teams in the West, including UC Davis, Orange Coast College and Puget Sound University.

"There's disappointment that we didn't finish higher in the conference, but that's just how it happens sometimes," said Whitlinger.

"Every team in the conference knows we're better than what we finished. Nobody at the tournament wanted to play us; we just couldn't pull it all together for the first couple days."

This was the tennis team's first winning season since the 2000-01 season.

Another lost championship

Men's Lacrosse loses to San Diego in fourth quarter

by Sam Adams
Sports Editor

The men's lacrosse team was unable to win the Men's B Division Championship game yet again this season, dropping their final game of the year at Loyola Marymount to University of San Diego, 11-8.

Peter Burns, the team's leading offensive threat, scored five goals in the losing cause. Peter Stemp, Nick Egide, and Marty Young each had a goal. The team was unable to hold on to an 8-8 tie in the fourth quarter. This was the team's fourth straight loss and fifth straight appearance in the championship game.

On the women's side, the Gaels lost their finale against Cal 20-10. Collette Spencer not only led the team in goals, but set the school record at 64 for the season, breaking her old record of 53.



Lisette Garcia/COLLEGIAN

The Gaels finished 6-8 for the year.

My Team vs. Your Team
Cliff Spinola

The passion of the sport

I grew up in the East Bay Area and have lived here all my life. I grew up an A's and Raiders fan, and my passion for hockey was further escalated when San Jose brought the Sharks to the bay. While watching the Raiders go 4-12 last season was as disappointing as when their home games are blacked out, I will never forget the year before last when I got to witness firsthand my team in the ever dramatic Super Bowl. While the Sharks have never been past the second round of the playoffs, watching them play tough this year is an absolute thrill. While the A's are off to a rough start and they struggle with keeping their top names due to money, no one will ever take away the Bash Brothers or Ricky Henderson's unbeatable stolen base threat.

I boo your team when we play them and I have a hard time giving credit to the other team if they win, even if they did play better. There's always going to be something wrong about the Yankees' payroll in my mind. I will never admit to the Red Wings being a dynasty in the NHL. I will go into every season believing that this is the year my team will win. I'll find something wrong with your team and I'll show how mine is better. And that is the beauty of sports. I have my team and you have yours and no one can take that away from us. I'll sit down with my friends who like other teams and debate over who is better anytime. My team is always better to me.

How can one not appreciate the competitiveness and thrill of sports? How can one not help beaming with joy when the sun flickers off fresh blades of grass, when the fresh ice glows, or when your team's name is painted in the end zone? Just walking into my team's stadium gives me goosebumps. Whoever says that it's just a game just doesn't know. It's not just a game when tears come to your eyes, for good or bad. It's not just a game when you can celebrate the feat of a team you've backed all your life.

Sports give us something that nothing else in life can: from the Little League parents watching their son get his first hit, to the smile in a kid's face when he attends his first live sporting event; from watching your team raise the ultimate trophy in the air, to sitting in your rocking chair in old age, still rooting for that team you came to love many years ago. Of course, like anything else, if you take one thing too seriously it may not be good for you. But sport gives us something to look forward to, someone to root for, and something to talk about. It's a passion that drives our minds and enralls our spirits. So root for your team and I'll root for mine. And may we never forget the true qualities of sport that take us all in: the passion, the love, the competition, and, of course, bragging rights.