

# THE COLLEGIAN

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

Serving Saint Mary's for over a century

Moraga, California

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Volume 102, Number 24

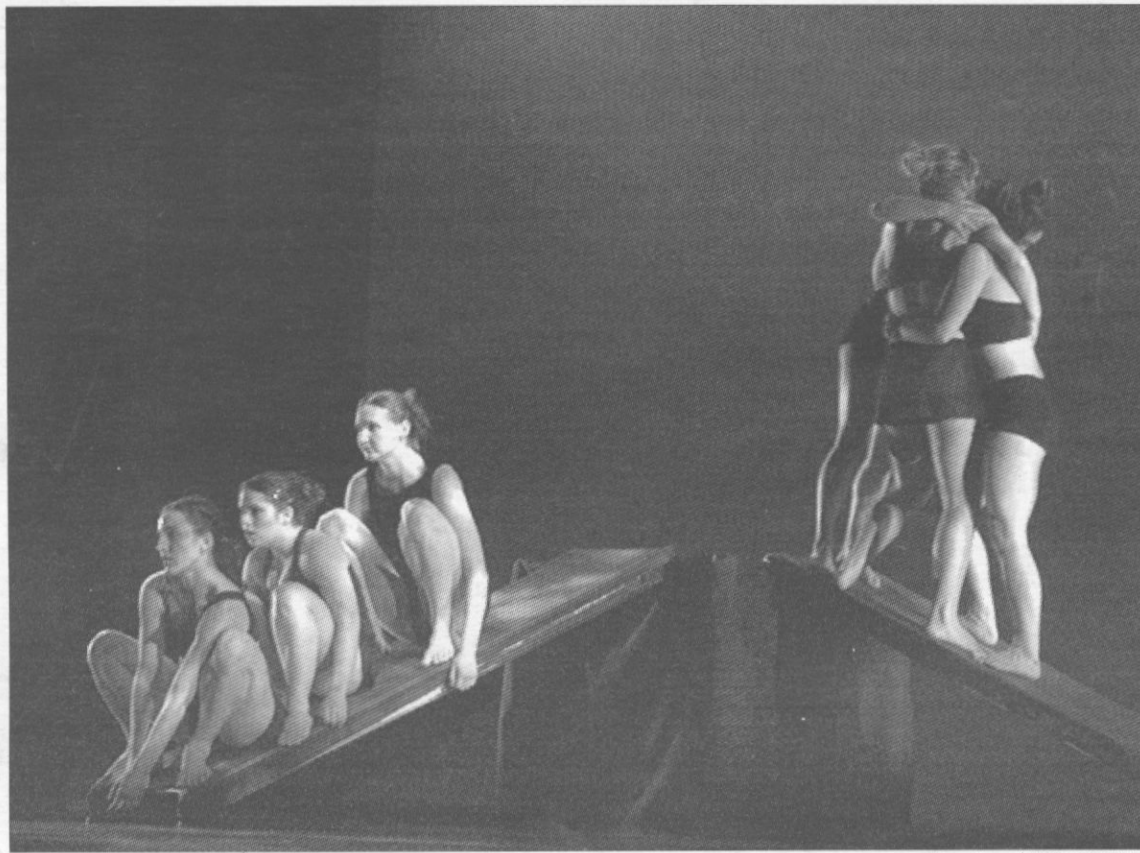
## SMC Dance Company builds their 'House'

*'The House that Dance Built' combines faculty, student projects*

by Jo-Ann Arquillano  
Managing Editor

The Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department presented its annual Saint Mary's Dance Company performance last week, May 4 through 7 in LeFevre Theatre. This year, the show was entitled: "The House that Dance Built." The evening performances ran over two and a half hours in duration, segmented into three sections by an intermission with refreshments being sold in the lobby and a "chocolate pause," in which dancers served complimentary Hershey Kisses to the audience.

"The House that Dance Built," while also including performances from Pope Flyne's African dance class ("Akwaaba: A Welcoming Dance") and Carlos G. Moreno Jr.'s ballet folklorico class ("Mis Trompitas"), was primarily made up of performances showcasing the company's modern-based dance style. Pieces like "Holding On - Letting Go" expanded the traditional template of dance performances and included elements of media, coordinating the movement with poetry, interviews, video (both pre-filmed and live) and music. "Love and Other Maladies" in-



Ken Fung/COLLEGIAN

"Urban Primates," one of the performances at this weekend's dance production by the SMC Dance Company

cluded dancers Julie Boucher and Elizabeth Morales singing along with the recorded music being danced to in a musical theatre style piece. "Urban Primates" utilized prop sets, featuring performers dancing on, under, and around a structure of three ramps.

Beside the faculty-choreographed pieces, the production

also consisted of student-choreographed dances. Accompanied by Natalie Miske, Mathew Park's senior project in music, "Cold," combined dance with an acoustic guitar and vocal performance by Park himself.

While some audience members opted to exit before the lengthy show concluded, many chose to remain until the finale,

dedicated to the graduating seniors of the dance company.

Two students who stayed for the entirety of the Thursday evening performance said that it was worth it to stay until the end.

"It was very vibrant...like organized chaos," said Kristine Myhre '08. "It was very visually appealing...it was awesome," added Delaney Diskin '08.

## Women's Studies approved as major after 12 years as program

by Jonathan Morales  
Editor-in-Chief

Last week, college administrators approved Women's Studies as an official Saint Mary's major, formalizing requirements for students who wish to study in the program.

Previously, students could only minor in Women's Studies or work with a faculty member to create an individualized major in Women's Studies.

"The difference is now we're going to have an official and formalized major," said Denise Witzig, director of the Women's Studies Program. Students currently take a variety of courses from many different departments to create a Women's Studies major, and that aspect of the program will remain the same.

"Women's Studies thrives and works well [at Saint Mary's] with students because of its interdisciplinary nature," said Witzig.

The Women's Studies Program offers three courses: an introduc-

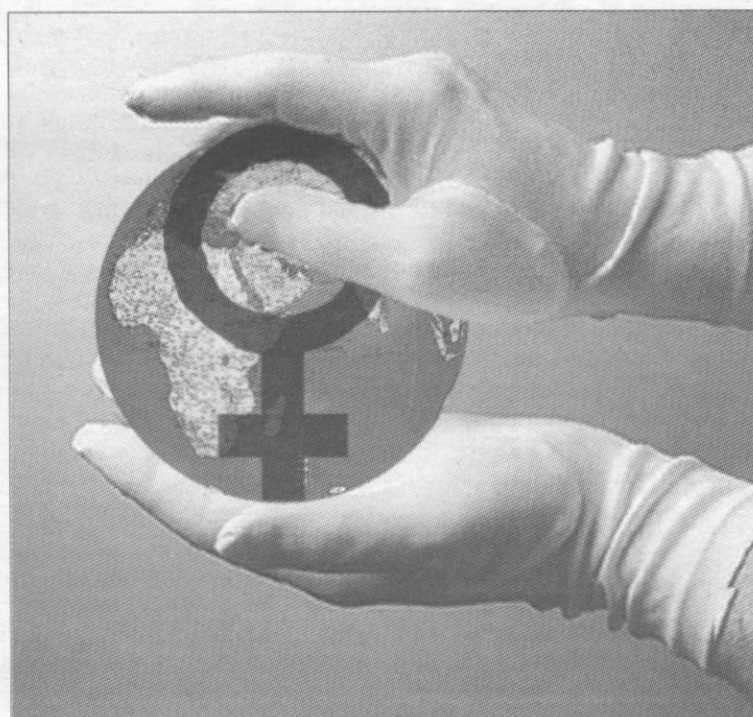


Photo graphic by Melanie Linney/COLLEGIAN

tory course, a special topics course that changes each semester, and a course in feminist theory. In the new major, students will be able to choose a humanities track or a social sciences

track, and choose courses from other departments that have a gender focus.

"The difference is going to be that there will be much more formalized requirements," said

Witzig. "You won't have to make it up as you go."

Witzig. "You won't have to make it up as you go."

One addition for next year will be a course in masculinity, taught by Communication Professor Scott Schonfeldt-Aultman, which will be required.

"Men have gender too, so why aren't we talking about it," said Witzig, who will be stepping down as Women's Studies Director after this year. Myrna Santiago, currently a professor in the History Department, will take Witzig's place next year. Santiago said that one of her main goals is to make the major more well known to students.

"It's a program that's not just for women," said Santiago.

The new major is good news for students who have had trouble trying to create an individualized Women's Studies major. Bettina Adragna '06 says she hasn't had problems, but knows students who have.

"I think it's really nice that it's the first new program Br. Ron approved, as far as I know," said Adragna.

## SMC dining: how does it compare?

by Jessie Heying  
Staff Writer

University of Portland students have left campus for the summer, but just days ago students could access daily menus for campus commons and cafés from the comfort of their own room. Their online menu gave them all the answers.

Although Catholic colleges along the West Coast all have similar meal plans, University of Portland and University of San Francisco both succeed at giving students more options than Saint Mary's.

Even freshmen know the policy.

"All students who live on campus have a meal plan," said Kevin Jones '08 while sitting at Late Night.

Meal plans range from unlimited entrance to eight meals per week in Oliver Hall.

"I have a full plan, but I've eaten here [Oliver Hall] about six times," said Jessica Crawley '06, who has had a meal plan for the entire school year.

Students living in the townhouses receive \$25 per semester in flex-dollars which can be spent in Oliver Hall or Café Louie.

The rule currently stands that all students living in dorm or suite-style residence halls do not have access to an approved kitchen facility, and therefore must have a meal plan.

The kitchens available in many of the residences are for "hall programming," said Michael Viola, Assistant Director for Housing and Residence Life.

Viola finds it hard to imagine all residents of South Claeys or Ageno B cooking in the small kitchen, which is now available on a daily basis.

"At this point, the college is not set-up for that," said Viola.

Phone calls to Sodex'ho were not returned.

Similar to the galloping Gaels, all University of Portland students who live on campus are required to have a meal plan, according to Ross Fujii, Office Manager for Bon Appetit at Portland school.

Also similar to Saint Mary's, students can choose between five different meal plans. The largest of which offers 20 meals per week, the smallest which offers seven meals per week with 395 core points for the school year.

see DINING, p3

INSIDE  
THIS  
WEEK

### IN DEPTH

Creative living: Life for people on a student budget  
Inside

### SPORTS

Check out who you voted as athletes of the year  
pg. 7



### DETOUR

Just for good measure:  
THREE final 21 questions  
pg. 8

# Crime Beat

<b>4/30</b>	<b>3:31 p.m.</b>	<b>Synopsis:</b> Hit and run in Filippi parking lot; referred to Student Conduct.
<b>Incident:</b> Vandalism to a vehicle		
<b>Synopsis:</b> Right signal light pulled out with wires from a vehicle in Ageno B parking lot on the Mission Road side; referred to Student Conduct.		
<b>5/1</b>	<b>6:02 a.m.</b>	<b>5/5</b> <b>12:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Incident:</b> Vandalism		<b>Incident:</b> Information only
<b>Synopsis:</b> Three tires slashed in Justin parking lot; referred to Student Conduct.		<b>Synopsis:</b> Minor accident at Carnival 4 Kids, accident occurred on 4/29 at 4:30 p.m.; referred to CILSA.
<b>5/2</b>	<b>10:30 p.m.</b>	<b>5/5</b> <b>10:10 p.m.</b>
<b>Incident:</b> Vandalism		<b>Incident:</b> Student conduct violation
<b>Synopsis:</b> Third story window broken from the outside in Augustine Hall; referred to Student Conduct and the Business office.		<b>Synopsis:</b> Urinating in public in Beckett; referred to Student Conduct.
<b>5/4</b>	<b>1:25 a.m.</b>	<b>5/5</b> <b>11:40 p.m.</b>
<b>Incident:</b> Noise complaint		<b>Incident:</b> Vandalism to college property
<b>Synopsis:</b> Loud party in Ageno East; referred to Student Conduct.		<b>Synopsis:</b> Graffiti on the wall of Aquinas Hall; referred to Student Conduct.
<b>5/5</b>	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>5/6</b> <b>2:12 a.m.</b>
<b>Incident:</b> Hit and run		<b>Incident:</b> Physical and verbal altercation
		<b>Synopsis:</b> Physical and verbal altercation in the lower De la Salle parking lot; referred to Student Conduct.

## Dean explains why grades can be inconsistent

*Frank Murray says it's difficult to set a standard to be met by all classes*

by Cori Simpson  
In-Depth Editor

While the year comes to a close and students pay more and more attention to their class grades, some may be wondering why in one class an 88% is an A- while in another class a 92% is only a B+.

Frank Murray, Dean of Academic Affairs recognized that some professors grade differently than others and that such practices might cause confusion. He also explained why there is such variation among professors in terms of the way they grade students. Differences occur because there is no school-wide grading policy. Professors are left to determine their own grading policies. Murray said, "As far as a school policy goes, faculty are given a certain amount of freedom to determine their grading policy as long as it is articulated to the students, preferably in the

syllabus." According to Murray, a professor's syllabus is the contract that a student enters into with that professor. If a professor writes in the syllabus that in their class a 92% is a B+ or an 88% is an A-, then those are the standards students should expect to have to meet.

Murray understands that it may not make sense at first, but pointed out that in many cases, evaluating students on an absolute scale would be inappropriate. For example, an absolute scale would eliminate the use of curved grades, which in some cases might mean that every student would have a D or an F. The current policy lets professors determine which percentage equals A work, B work, C work, and so on, as opposed to the school maintaining that even in classes where the highest percentage is a 64%, nobody would get an A. He also mentioned that there is a struggle to maintain fairness but also consistency when dealing with grading policies.

"I'm sympathetic to that problem and I think there is a concern for fairness and consistency that

faculty are always struggling with," said Murray. The college has the same problem professor by professor that professors have student by student.

If students feel that their work has been evaluated unfairly, they can undergo an appeals process to change the grade. The appeals board is made up of three faculty members and two students who look at the situation and determine whether or not the grade given is a fair grade. Usually, if the work was evaluated according to the standards set out in the syllabus there is not much the board can do.

The overarching issue with differences in grading policies is that each professor has a different style and standard for grading. Since no two professors teach or evaluate alike, it is difficult to standardize grades.

"In an ideal world everyone would have exactly the same set of circumstances to deal with in their education, workplace, neighborhood... but the reality is, no matter how hard you try there will be problems to deal with," said Murray.

## Class of '05 looks forward to future Seniors share diverse options after graduation

by Chris Mateo  
Editor-in-Chief

This year, the seniors of Saint Mary's College of California have a wide range of opportunities ahead of them after May 21 - graduation day. From graduate school to the never-ending job search, the class of 2005, like seniors before them, will be busy making the transition into the post-graduate life.

Some students will be continuing to apply what they have already learned from both inside and outside the classroom into the real world. Locally, Duyen Pham, the outgoing president of APASA, plans on studying at the University of California in Los Angeles for her Masters degree in Social Work. "I plan on getting my MSW because I am receiving my bachelor of arts in so-

ciology and I want to broaden my knowledge of social work before I go into the field," said Pham.

In tradition of the motto "Enter to learn, leave to serve," several students plan on continuing their service to the greater community. Katie Solis was one of the seniors selected into the Lasallian Volunteers program. "I wanted to give at least one year to service," said Solis. "I'm not sure where I will be placed, but wherever it is, I will be able to help out in one way or another."

Like the seniors giving their time to community service away from the Bay Area, some are preparing to work for their nearby community. Sofia Navarro plans on joining The Unity Council in Oakland. "I plan on working for The Unity Council," said Navarro. According to its website, The Unity Council is, "a non-profit organization that helps build the assets of families and low-income communities

through a comprehensive program of sustainable physical, economic and social development."

Jeff Haskins, the outgoing President of the Associated Students, is looking forward to working in the business world. "I will be joining SBC through a two-year management-training program," said Haskins. After a couple of years, Haskins plans on relocating to the east coast.

Many others will be enjoying a break between their undergraduate years and employment. "I plan on moving back home for a while," said David Legnitto. "I will continue my job search from the comfort of my house."

Some seniors, such as John Howell, will be enjoying a much deserved break before continuing his job search. "After graduation I'll be in Japan for a couple of weeks visiting a friend," said Howell. "After that I have to finish up one more class next semester while I look for some work."

## Chat Room explores social life at Saint Mary's College

*Students, faculty meet to ask, answer questions*

by Bettina Adragna  
Staff Writer

On Monday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m., "Social Life Meets College," a "chat room" program put on by the Communications Department at Saint Mary's College, took place in Dryden Hall. The event was facilitated by Mary Soto '06, and attended by students and faculty.

The evening started with questionnaires that asked which events participants had attended, what they did on nights and weekends, and what activities they were involved with. These were set on tables that were decorated with tinsel, candles, purple tablecloths, and inspirational quotes. The room was mostly full of people by the time the introductions began at around 7:20 p.m. Ice cream bars were available throughout the event, and green, purple, and orange balloons decorated the rest of the room.

After the questionnaires were filled out, the event was introduced and Soto described the process by which the chat room would proceed. Students and faculty were to sit at the tables in groups and discuss a question that

was displayed on the overhead. They were to write down their ideas and discuss the question for fifteen minutes, after which they would go on to the next table, sitting with different people.

There were three questions that the participants had to answer. The first one was, "Describe the social life of you and your friends. What's working? What's not working?" The second one was, "What ideas do you suggest to enhance social life on campus?" Finally, participants were asked, "From your previous answers, which ideas do you consider to be the top three priorities at Saint Mary's College, and how would you make them come to life?"

After the three discussions, the participants came together at the end for a group discussion of their answers. Ideas that were discussed included a place for students who were twenty-one and over to socialize on campus, implementing shuttles to movie theaters and shopping areas, involving dorms in events such as pool tournaments, and extending the hours of the library and food services.

At the end, Soto said that the participants' ideas would be compiled and given to different committees on campus.

## The Collegian congratulates the class of 2005!

### WHAT'S HAPPENING...

#### TODAY

Student Leadership Banquet - 5-7 p.m. - Soda Center

PULSES Dance Performance - 7:30 p.m. - LeFevre Theatre

Movie Night - 9 p.m. - Dryden

#### WEDNESDAY

Free HIV testing - 11-3 p.m. - Health and Wellness Center

Watch "Napoleon Dynamite" with stars Aaron Ruell and Efran Ramirez - 7-9:15 p.m. - Rheem Theatre

NightinGaels Spring Choir Concert - 8 p.m. - Chapel

#### THURSDAY

LASA Workers Appreciation - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Delphine

Psychology Club and Faculty Dinner - 5-7 p.m. - Hagerty

#### FRIDAY

BALA Kick-off event - 6-9 p.m. - Delphine  
RSVP by May 8

#### SATURDAY

Softball End of the Year Banquet - 1:30-3 p.m. - Delphine

#### Don't Forget

Food drive May 10 - 17.  
Turn in your non-parishable items to the barrels in the SMC post office.

Nine days until summer break!

Sponsoring an event?

Want it in the calendar?

e-mail the Collegian at collegia@stmarys-ca.edu or call us at x4279

(sorry, due to space limitations we cannot list club meetings)

# SNAPSHOT



Ken Fung/COLLEGIAN

Students dance at last Wednesday's BBQ in the quad, which featured live music from a mariachi band. The BBQ celebrated Worker's Appreciation Day.

## beyond the bubble

NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS BITES

By TONY VALA-HAYNES

-PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania—A 20-month-old girl remains in critical but stable condition after falling from a 2nd story window and landing on the sidewalk this past Friday. Police say the child crawled out of her crib and reached a window in her family's apartment. The toddler suffered from a fractured jawbone and multiple bruising.

-BAKERSFIELD, California—After disappearing nearly three months ago, John Albertson reappeared at a friend's house over the weekend of May 1. When Albertson went missing, Police only recovered his abandoned car. After reappearing, Albertson has no recollection of where he has been for three months.

-FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—Several boys were arrested Friday at Sunrise Middle School after starting a fight in the cafeteria. 10 boys were charged with disorderly conduct after the incident.

-HUNTSVILLE, Texas—Three students found a dead infant in a trash can this past Wednesday outside a Sam Houston State University dormitory. Police say the placenta was still attached to the baby but have yet to determine whether the baby died at birth or later.

-SEATTLE, Washington—A whale died after getting stuck between two pilings near the Puget Sound Naval Base. The young gray whale was migrating from its winter breeding ground in Mexico to its summer feeding area in Alaska when it got caught in the pilings.

(Cnn.com, The New York Times)

## DINING: Options vary from school to school

continued from pg. 1

Cove points work as flex-dollars in two cafés on campus.

"I think the main complaint students have is too many meals at the commons and not enough cove points," said Katie Beede, a University of Portland freshman who opted for the middle of the five meal plans.

University of San Francisco offers students a main campus dining facility, Jamba Juice, and Crossroad's Café, according to junior Ronald Owens, an RA and student assistant in Residence Life at University of San Francisco.

Students use flex-dollars for all of their dietary needs. Three levels of spending are available which are comparable in price to the rates available at Saint Mary's. Students take responsibility for their own spending habits with a makeshift checking account.

"It depends on the eating patterns of the student," said Owens, who admits that some students easily run out of "flexies" while others share with friends who may otherwise be without during the end of the semester.

"Everybody is pretty happy with the meal plans," said Owens.

But back at Saint Mary's students have other opinions of campus dining. "It's not fair when people have to count meals," said Abraham Harris '08, who alluded that Oliver Hall was key to socialization during his first year at Saint Mary's.

But for now, freshmen sit at Oliver Hall and munch on a nighttime snack of quesadillas and french fries. Unlike University of Portland, students on the Saint Mary's campus must still traverse campus to discover the menu.

As students try to look online for a weekly menu in Oliver Hall, they read, "Today's menu has not been posted."



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## semesteratsea

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## Wish your name was here?



It's not too late to join next year's staff!!! Call x4279 or e-mail [collegia@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:collegia@stmarys-ca.edu) for more info.

## The Guru Leaves



by Colin de Leon-Horton  
Opinion Editor

At the beginning of the year, I wrote a column about freshmen and their sometimes-foolish actions that occur when they first step onto campus. I got a lot of compliments for it. In this, the year's final issue of *The Collegian*, it seems only fitting that I write something that answers that article; how I, as a senior at Saint Mary's, have changed over the years. Of course, then I would wax sentimental, soppy and generally irritating.

Too bad. I've grown a lot at Saint Mary's, and I feel that the school deserves something that will make people's eyes moist.

Perhaps I should explain first that my experience here was something quite accidental. In high school I was a rebel, which is a nice and sexy way of saying inverted and socially retarded. After four years of despising about 90% of my peers in school, I wasn't about to make the same trendy move that they were making and go to college. Like Hell. Of, course, the short-sightedness of my youth didn't allow for me to plan on what I would do, but then again, I was 17. I was invincible.

However, after some gentle encouragement from my parents in the form of a free application, I applied here, and lo and behold, I got in. I did the mental equivalent of a double take. I also had no choice but to go through another four years of school.

Four years later, I'm glad. I've grown a lot at Saint Mary's, going from total self-imposed social leprosy to a gruff lovable rascal. More importantly, I've also gained something that has had, and will continue to have, a deep and profound effect on my life. Through my experience here specifically through my major, I have found the joys of learning for its own sake. I appreciate this so much that I plan to do at least another few years of school to earn a higher degree.

It is when dwelling on this thought that I stroke my chin and find myself remembering the old me, the angry scared me that didn't know how to handle himself on campus. Then, typically, I find myself wondering what would happen if the past me and the current me happened to fall into a vortex in the space time continuum and managed to meet in some sunny field filled with daisies. While the past me would want to beat the living hell out of the current me, and could because I was in much better shape back then, I feel pride in the fact that I have, for the most part, taken the correct path in my life.

Thank you, Saint Mary's, for everything.

# OPINION

## Collegian View

I can't believe this is issue 24 already. As my senior year comes to an end and I begin to think about my four years at Saint Mary's. I get sentimental, not only were these years some of the best, but they will also forever remind me of scholastic endeavors, friendships, laughter, love, and surely one of the warmest communities I have ever known. My experience here cannot be summed up in a limited number of words, which I am allotted therefore I will not try. I will instead recount a simple few memories of albino raccoon scares, squirrels jumping in dorm rooms, Gaelstock debauchery (not mine of course), cramming for finals, endless office hours in Gatehouse and the Psych Department, computer failings the eve of a deadline, laughter in *The Collegian* office, and friends that have touched my heart. I do not know

what the future holds, but I know that I will be well prepared for a world outside Saint Mary's.

- Amy Beth Kelly '05, Managing Editor

As another year of the Collegian comes to a close, I have reached the inevitable point of looking back fondly at 24 great issues, while at the same time looking forward with anticipation to the next 24. This year, I look forward as the next Editor-in-Chief, a perspective that is both exciting and humbling.

I can't thank enough Chris Mateo and Amy Kelly, who have done such great work this year that I must now live up to. And I look forward to working with my managing editor, Jo-Ann Arquillano, to continue to make the Collegian the respected campus media that it was this year.

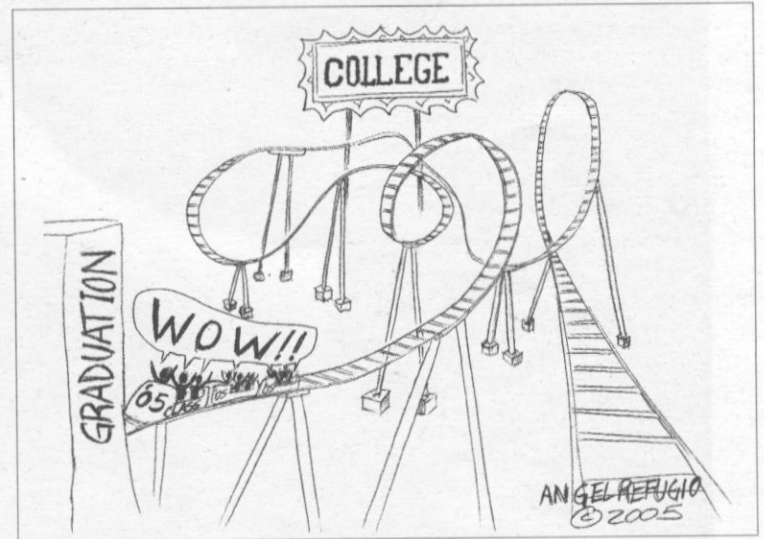
## Community Views

Dear Editor,

The article titled "Diversity Clubs: Are They Really Necessary" by Mr. de Leon-Horton which appeared in the May 3<sup>rd</sup> *Collegian* contained several objectionable statements. Suggesting that BSU, APASA, and LASA are failures because they fail to get the attendance of some un-stated percentage of White students at their club meetings is absolutely ridiculous. Mr. de Leon-Horton's article seems to rest on a weak and limited definition of education and several erroneous assumptions. Specifically, Mr. de Leon-Horton erroneously suggests these organizations can only educate in one venue (club meetings) and that the success of their educational activities can only be determined by looking at who doesn't participate. Mr. de Leon-Horton appears to ignore the reality that most of the education undertaken by BSU, APASA, and LASA occur outside of the club meetings. He seems unaware of the role those organizations play in developing, hosting, and supporting campus events like Day of the Worker, Halloween Party for Inner-City Youth, and Carnival for Kids. They have hosted internationally renowned speakers (i.e. bell hooks, Alice Walker and Sandra Cisneros), a "Wake-A-Thon" event that raised thousands for a local charity, adopted middle schools in Berkeley, and operated a Saturday school which taught English to some of the campus service staff. None of

those events took place within the limited confines of a club meeting, some focused on diversity, some were educational and all involved students of various ethnicities. Linking all of those activities is a connection to a Catholic/Lasallian vision of purposeful education, which is linked to service, community, and solidarity. Most importantly, those activities provided an important opportunity for students to learn how to respond to the call of, as the Brothers of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Chapter wrote, "human solidarity and the Christian spirit [which invites students] to share their goods and to serve those who are in need."

Mr. de Leon-Horton's apparent view that BSU, APASA, and LASA are simply self-segregating is equally problematic. To be fair, we would share his difficulty with the concept of ethnic specific student clubs if we believed that students of color do not have a qualitatively different experience in college from White students. If we thought that the experience of racism could be dismissed as an "uncomfortable feeling" and that race is not a form of capital in American society horded by some for use against others, then BSU, APASA, and LASA appear to be pitiful attempts at segregation. However, we have had the benefit of a rich and diverse curriculum where diverse scholarship, research, and anecdotal evidence informs our conclusion that people of color have a qualitatively different life experience than White folks before, during, and after college. The feelings of



Seniors get ready to step off the roller coaster of college life

I know as well that I will have an excellent staff around me, and I can not wait to see their work next year.

It is, of course, never too late to join the staff. If you're interested in writing, photography, or anything else we do here (or maybe something we don't), let us know.

The Collegian is the voice of the students, and we would love to have your voice as a part of the staff. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 631-4279.

See you next year!

- Jonathan Morales '06, Editor-in-Chief

Dear Editor,

A response to Collin [sic] de Leon-Horton's opinion. As BSU president I felt as though you personally stabbed me in the gut. With your comments about our club creating "self imposed segregation," you have stepped on all the hard work BSU has done this year in promoting diversity, and efforts to welcome. You have totally disregarded all the manpower, and months upon months put into expressions of blackness, and all the time and events trying to share and represent our culture. Not to mention the dozens of non-profit organizations that have been benefited by our clubs. Diversity is not being colorblind as you've implied with your statement, "A persons skin color does not matter," it does matter. Diversity is about celebrating the uniqueness and beauty of every culture. Your statement has disgraced me, my culture, and the history of my people. Sorry you don't find importance in your own culture. No, I wouldn't be apposed [sic] to having a European club, even though while listing the diversity clubs you FAILED to mention Eire Og (Irish Club), and the Dante Club (Italian Club), which are European

In closing my response I would like to reiterate that everyone is welcome to BSU, and not everyone (members or executive officers) is Black in our club. And if we were that uncomfortable about being around other races we wouldn't be coming to predominantly white Saint Mary's.

Jenny Bruton, '05  
President of BSU

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be submitted to the *Collegian* through mail, e-mail, 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](mailto:collegia@stmarys-ca.edu)

**Note:** Due to space limitations and the high volume of letters this week, The Collegian regrets that it was unable to print all the letters received.

See COMMUNITY, p5

# Becoming an AIM nation

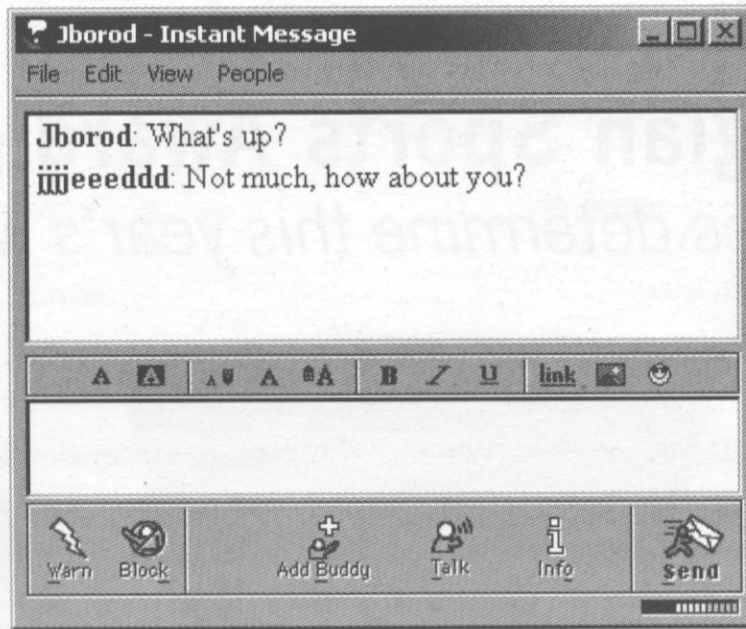
The lost art of old-fashioned correspondance

by Adrienne Gallo

Contributing Writer

So...I can't exactly explain why, but I'm totally addicted to AOL Instant Messenger. The funniest thing about it is that I hate the whole concept: typing words that mean virtually nothing and are devoid of any emotion. Sadly, I admit that something so simple that has become so routine has brought me happiness. This communication system has, at times, replaced the use of actual emails, in-person conversations, and chats on the phone. Since when did talking on the phone become an inconvenience? Have we totally eliminated the need for old-fashioned correspondence? We must look beyond this method of quick messaging and become more personal with the people we communicate with.

The exchange of "LOL's" and "haha's" and smiley faces make me wonder what the point of it all is. Here on the SMC campus, where every student has access to their own internet connection, many people find themselves permanently connected and the little box in the right hand corner of their computer screen has turned into their daily messaging central. Because the instant comments are



AIM dialogue, insipid, as always

far too impersonal to establish any real connection it can be scary. I am soon left wondering, "Do we even know who these people are?" After all, you chat with people who are forced to pick out a name that they identify with and before you know it, you could be talking to someone claiming to be BIGFOOTballer or Kitten24, even silly screennames like NastyBalls and Shopgirls. Seriously, how much gets accomplished through instant messenger anyways? It's not

that instant by the time you decode what they have purposefully misspelled and then think of an equally witty response.

Just the other day, I found myself standing across the room by the window when I heard a little noise coming from my computer telling me I had a message (a sound that has become all too familiar). When I walked back I saw that it was none other than my roommate messaging me from two feet away. Of course, there was nothing more ex-

changed than hellos but the concept was disturbing. What have we come to? Have we gotten too lazy to make eye contact during conversation when the other person is so close? My hesitations about being online were confirmed when one of my best friends sends a message late one night saying how she having a bad day. It was clear she was crying and needed someone to talk to and a shoulder to lean on. Clearly, instant messaging is not the answer for giving advice or getting to know someone. It is a temporary fix to long term social problems if you can't get out there and hang out.

The problem is this: far too much time is spent typing, waiting for a reply, and hoping that the style of writing is conveyed with the exact tone as if it were spoken. While some argue of its convenience and inexpensiveness, I argue its lack of personality and ingenuity. And so...I challenge more students to pick up a phone, write a note and pass it, perhaps even leave a voice message every once and again...but do not become victim to this quasi social "click" that only exists in cyber reality.

## A love letter to my friends on the Right



Photographic by Melanie Linney/Collegian

by Jaime Zepeda

Staff Writer

Dear Conservatives,

I don't really hate you. The thing is, I don't hate anybody—not even your boy, big W. I disagree with your opinions 95% of the time, but that still leaves 5% of delicate agreement. As much as I avoid admitting it, I agree with you sometimes. For example, I don't believe in super taxing the rich, as some other left-wingers advocate. It seems counterproductive, a reason not to try to succeed, leading us into conformity. I never said I want a flat tax or a tax cut, for that is an anathema to me. Yet, literally punishing the highest tax brackets is not a proposal I will support either.

I think I used to agree with you more back when your party (come on, you know you are all Republicans at heart) believed in isolation and small government. Isolation today seems a much more agreeable option than it did 10 years ago. Interesting how the isolationist party is now the imperialist one. Small government is now outdated. I yearn for the days when the government actually stuck to governing, instead of becoming a pesky peeping tom, following us and preaching morals—Christian morals, of course. So small government is good, as long as you don't let the government get lazy; and isolationism is great as long you help the country you are exploiting (military aid is not acceptable). If it were not for those simple caveats, I would have a dirty Buchanan '00 bumper sticker on my SUV.

I could go on and list other similarities between the right wing and myself, but 400 words is all I have. Let me say this though, you conservatives (i.e. Republicans) sure have some gravitas, even the women. If I were a conservative, I would have a hard time explaining my "values" to those lefties, or even centrists. To stand firm while advocating marriage bans AND small government is definitely fearlessness. Or, what about denying the global warming effect as unfounded science? I could not pull that off without sweating a bucket a minute. Your gutsiness is worthy of praise.

I hope you can see that we are not so different after all. I may poke fun, and I may argue, but we do have some common ground—just as I think some of you believe in many leftist ideals. If it weren't for your side, debate would be non-existent, or at the very least quite boring. For that I also thank you. Consider this a love letter and a thank you note. You won't be getting many of these from me.

Regards,  
A liberal elitist

## Community

Continued from pg. 4

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the writer for his perspective, and engaging in a discussion about diversity at Denny's. Your Integral major emerges, in terms of inquisitive dialogue. However, dialogue becomes defective when flawed claims and faulty assertions of an organization's purpose are expressed. The three diversity clubs have not failed since their establishment over a decade ago. I do agree that it is difficult for some students to join a diversity club and not feel, perhaps uncomfortable, but I'm sure many minorities on campus can reciprocate this discomfort from just being at Saint Mary's College. A few questions to think about: Does the Western world care to understand how Eastern cultures have impacted our American culture? Why do we learn about Greek Thought and not value Multicultural Thought as a required seminar? I would like to suggest an improved research be done with a well-rounded foundation before accusations of "self imposed segregation" are made.

Jean-Arellia Tolentino, '06

Dear Editor,

Response to article in Collegian by Colin de Leon-Horton on 5/3/05—

Wow, I can't believe the type of mentality that continues to stifle the growth of a multicultural, conscious society.

It definitely speaks in volume about our society, but it is obvious to me and many other students at Saint Mary's that we need diversity clubs as a source of solidarity and validation for our experiences at a predominantly white institution. There continues to be a misunderstanding of racial solidarity and separatism. I feel that BSU, LASA, and APASA by no means perpetuate separatist ideologies. Rather, they offer a safe place for social and political issues, pertinent to our community, and necessarily to the world at large to be discussed. The author of the article stated, "Racism and, as natural as it may, differentiation by race, is stupid. Feeling uncomfortable around a group of people because they are a different color than you is stupid." [sic] Racism is a socio-historical construct that continues to be reproduced, disguised, and maintained by color-blind ideologies that minimize the prevalent [sic] of race in constructing our positions in society, such as this article illustrates, as well as overt racist behavior. There is nothing natural about racial categorization; the concept itself is a product of colonization and imperialist avenues to gain political and economic power. Racism is obviously not a thing of the past and to invalidate the experiences of the students that find a comfort zone in diversity clubs is ignorant and shows the greatest problem in our society: apathy.

Elsie Rita Wanton, '05

Dear Collegian,

Thank you for your article about rank and tenure (R&T) at Saint Mary's. It is a process that students don't know much about. However, it is my experience that student evaluations are taken very seriously by R&T. In fact, they are taken too seriously, given that the faculty handbook barely mentions them and given their questionable reliability. The faculty handbook clearly considers peer evaluations to be the main source for evaluating teaching effectiveness, but the R&T committee is not impressed by that. Part of the reason may be the cavalier attitude many departments exhibit toward these peer evaluations, but I think that the main reason is different. Numbers are easy to compare and deal with and R&T members enthusiastically embrace this opportunity to reach what they think are easy conclusions.

Unfortunately, many, and sometimes all, members of the R&T committee have a poor understanding of statistics. This is because many are drawn from departments where anything resembling mathematics is considered a dark art. Some were probably not very good at it in their college years. Yet they are undaunted by this lack of expertise. Even assuming that the numbers are large enough for this kind of analysis (they usually are not), this leads to situations where scoring 0.2 points below a department average when the standard deviation is, say 0.7 (and I am being generous), is a cause for

serious concern to the R&T committee. This would be considered ridiculous by any professional statistician, who would of course be viewed with suspicion by the amateurs on the R&T committee, who know everything much better. After all, their fellow faculty elected them. At other institutions, in an effort to make the process as transparent and objective as possible, respected external reviewers are used to evaluate faculty professionally. Not so at Saint Mary's, where mediocrity rules and where it frequently happens that faculty sit in judgment of a colleague whose work they are not equipped to understand. In fact, it is entirely possible that a committee consisting of people who know nothing about physics will deny tenure to a physicist who is considered excellent by his or her own department, which bases its opinion on the same evidence as the R&T committee. This is arrogant, not to mention immoral, given the very real consequences for people's careers and families. It also reminds one of a Kafka novel. I found it interesting that Prof. Stroffolino had a different experience. Perhaps the R&T committee, or influential faculty on it, forms an opinion about a candidate based on politics rather than academics, and then simply uses whatever evaluations suits them best to dispose of a candidate they don't like. But that would not be "Lasallian", so that could never happen.

Aaron Melman, Ph.D.,  
Math Dept.

# Players of the Year

## Daniel Kickert

Daniel Kickert has been a standout for SMC all year. A junior, Kickert has started every game of his career and was named to the WCC First Team for the second straight year. Look for this Aussie to continue his winning ways and lead his team back to the NCAA tournament next year in his senior season.



## Mandy Bible



If there are such things as superstars on a volleyball team, Mandy Bible would be it. The sophomore setter led her team

to the second round of the NCAA playoffs this year and twice named National Player-of-the-Week. With two years of eligibility left, Bible is set to take the up-and-coming SMC volleyball team to even greater heights, perhaps even a national championship.

## SMC Hall of Fame



Denis O'Connor was quarterback for the Gaels from 1944-47.

Last week Saint Mary's inducted six new members into the Athletic Hall of Fame. This week's article is the final installment of our three week series covering this year's inductees. This week we take a look at Robert Haugen and Denis O'Connor.

Robert Haugen was a standout basketball player for Saint Mary's from 1985-89. He ranks in the top ten in six different categories of Saint Mary's records. The three-time All-West Coast Athletic Conference selection ranks second all time in Saint Mary's history for career points (1,502), third in field goals made (528), and fifth in career rebounds (730). He also owns the single season record for field goal percentage at .649. In his senior season, Haugen led his team to the NCAA regional for the first time since 1959.

Denis O'Connor was a four-year starter for the Gaels at quarterback from 1944-1947. He served as captain on a Saint Mary's team that advanced to the Sugar Bowl in 1945 and the Oil Bowl in 1946. O'Connor will always be remembered as the "the tape, the glue, the bailing wire" that made the Galloping Gaels successful. O'Connor also played for the West team in the 1945 East-West Shrine Game.

-Allison Kop,  
Asst. Sports Editor

# SPORTS

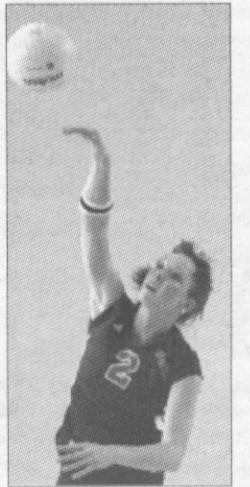
## And Collegian Sports Award goes to... Students' votes determine this year's winners



**Male Athlete of the Year**  
Daniel Kickert  
**Female Athlete of the Year**  
Mandy Bible  
**Senior of the Year**  
Paul Marigney  
**Team of the Year**  
Men's Basketball  
**Rookie of the Year**  
Missie Stidham  
**Coach of the year**  
Randy Bennett



Paul Marigney was the leading scorer for the Gaels this year.



Stidham's play helped her team reach the Sweet Sixteen of the national tournament.



Bennett coached his team to a school record 25-9 season.



Men's basketball reached the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1997.

Photos courtesy of collegesports.com

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# 2004 marks a turnaround for Saint Mary's Athletics

## Class of 2005 takes Gael athletics to new heights this season

By Michael Chin  
Sports Editor



For the first time in over 30 years the Galloping Gael football team no longer took the field. Although the student population did not feel the loss, alumni were hurt, many of them canceling checks and donations given to athletics. With these sudden financial departures and a dismal record for most sports in the West Coast Conference in 2003-04, athletic director Carl Clapp was on a ship that was sinking fast. Then in stepped the savior of athletics: basketball. Perhaps second only to football in profit margins and television time, men's hoops has become the "big sport" for the little school.



This year SMC felt the glass Cinderella slipper slide onto their foot as they advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in eight years and finished with the best record in Saint Mary's history. The feat by men's basketball typified the year for SMC. Several sports made the jump from stagehand to center stage.

It began with volleyball in the fall where the Gaels blazed through their regular season schedule with wins against eventual national champion Stanford and perennial WCC powerhouse Pepperdine. The Gaels received national recognition as setter Mandy Bible was named National Player-of-the-Week twice and SMC climbed into the Top 20 nationally. In the national tournament the Gaels swept through the first two rounds, but were met with stiff competition in the round of 16 when they fell to the University of Washington in Seattle.



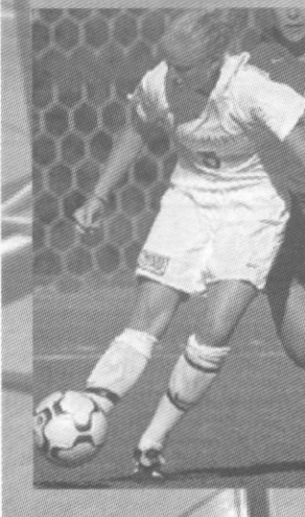
Men's basketball followed with their improbable year. In the spring, SMC was pushed into national prominence by two more sports, golf and men's rugby. In the last three years, golf coach Scott Hardy has taken his team to new heights. This year was a breakthrough year as the Gaels toppled eight time WCC champion Pepperdine and Senior Joe Lanza captured SMC's first individual golf title in school history.

In rugby, Saint Mary's rebounded from last year's disappointing season to return to the top ten of the national ranks, advancing to the sweet sixteen with wins against Chico State and Western Washington.

These feats represent just the beginning of a new generation in Saint Mary's athletics. Other sports, such as baseball, which doubled their win total from a season ago and women's tennis, who placed in the top half of the WCC, are also on the rise. This month Clapp announced that all of the current athletic facilities would be reviewed and suggestions be made to improve their current condition. So let the Saint Mary's athletic renaissance begin.



Be a business major, it's the easiest one.  
-Mike Sansoe, on advice to freshman



Do what makes you happy and do what you think is right no matter what people tell you.  
-Carey Noakes, on best advice ever received

Don't take anything for granted. It goes by so fast it's unbelievable.  
-Jenny Barbera on advice to freshman



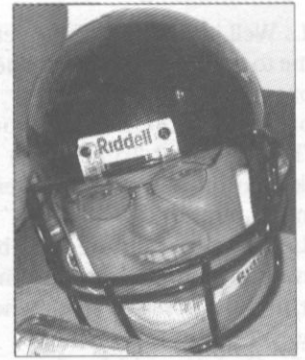
Going to the NCAA tournament this year.  
-Jon Sanders on his favorite Gael memory



This year versus Stanford I scored six goals and had five assists. It was a big win.  
-Pete Burns, on his best game at SMC

## Four and Out

By Sam Adams  
Co-Sports Editor



What a four years it has been. In my time with the newspaper, I have watched programs rise and fall, made tons of friends and watched some exciting sports. Some of the things that have had the biggest impressions on me:

-The fact that my favorite sport never could turn it around in four years.

-The loss of the football team and, in turn, the loss of some good friends and fun Saturdays.

-Learning new sports I'd never paid attention to, such as lacrosse, rugby, tennis and soccer.

-Watching the basketball team go from the laughing stock of the WCC to one of the most exciting teams I've ever watched. In my senior year, I got to watch one of the biggest upsets in school history, as we knocked off Gonzaga and got to rush the court, only to see my back on ESPN highlights an hour later.

-Watching friends incur major injuries and understanding what it truly means for an athlete to go through a traumatic injury. Learning that it is much more than losing a player for a certain amount of games.

-I've learned that when a player gets cut, it isn't just getting rid of a bad player; sometimes it is ending someone's career in the sport they love.

-I've learned that road trips aren't just a way for student-athletes to get out of class. I went on one to announce the game and was exhausted, late on my schoolwork, and grumpy—and I didn't even play a game.

-I have had the pleasure of writing something that people actually read and weren't afraid to comment on, or even post on their fridge (LWP).

-I was actually nearly talked into joining a sport, but decided I didn't want to get beat with a stick.

-Meeting the amazing staff we have at Saint Mary's, and all the great people you see at the trailer or at Bianca's. I've learned to trust that staff, even though in the past I may have been critical, it looks like they have the programs at this school mostly headed in the right direction.

-I've learned to play hard, never take plays off, how to pitch through it, how to love the process (even if you don't know what it is), the true value of Sobe, the flask trick that never gets old and that P.M.B. can eat two lumberjack slams in one sitting. So be careful and don't blink your eye, or else you can go from looking forward to the next four years to looking back on them and make sure when you do look back, look back fondly.

# Questions with Chris-Tofu L u o n g

by Chris Long

CL: Well it's the end of the year, time to graduate, lets do 21 questions to end the year right.

Tofu: Who the hell are you? Where are you? To hell with it, ask your questions quizmaster I am not afraid.

CL: Well then here we go. I believe that you are a history major, are you going to teach when you get out of this hellhole?

Tofu: God-damn it! Just because I'm a history major doesn't mean I'm going to teach. There are lots of things that I can do like... or... I hate you. At least I can enjoy my weekends unlike you science majors.

CL: I'm not a science major. If you had a superhero name what would it be?

Tofu: The Amazing Long Dick. It's a homage to the DLS crew from my freshman year.

CL: You need serious help. What is the meaning of life?

Tofu: Jim Scuito.

CL: Too True. What will you remember about SMC?

Tofu: Our Hate. It binds us. Our hate binds us together.

CL: Hmm. I see. Favorite teacher?

Tofu: To hell with you. I ain't falling into that trap. I still have finals, and I need to kiss ass to pass my last classes.

CL: Do you realize your professors read this?

Tofu: Crap Can I strike the last?

CL: Hell No. You deserve the pain. Does Saint Mary's have a drinking problem?

Tofu: How can a school drink? It's not alive. Jesus. And you call me insane.

CL: Do you hate anyone on campus?

Tofu: This paper isn't large enough to cover the amount of people who are on the list.

CL: Does that include me?

Tofu: Depends.

CL: Your favorite band?

Tofu: You know the one Angel Vasquez is in? That one.

CL: How old are you?

Tofu: Hey man, slow down, I can't add that fast... divide by .5, add 2, yeah 22.

CL: Where are you from?

Tofu: The glorious Southern California, where the sun shines, and we hate "Hella."

CL: Do you know who I am?

Tofu: You're my physical body, I am the part of the brain that tells you to run and skip naked. You should listen to me more.

CL: Why are you so gay?

Tofu: God-damn it, I'm not gay! Just because I think you should run and skip naked, doesn't mean I'm gay.

CL: What's our favorite book?

Tofu: Tale of Two Cities. Because the French die by the hundreds.

CL: How did we get the nickname "Tofu"?

Tofu: Oh the glorious De LaSalle days. Good old Blake, thought when everyone was calling me "Topher" they were calling me "Tofu." It stuck.

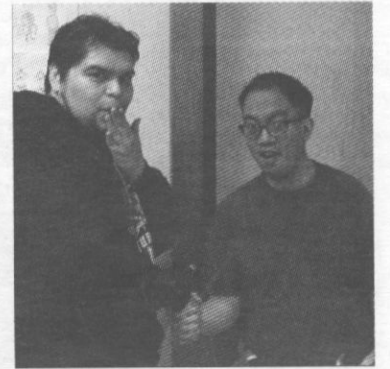
CL: What do you think of Angel Vasquez?

Tofu: He's a god amongst men. But I hate him, the fact he convinced someone I'm suicidal. Or for getting me involved on campus. He deserves death.

# DÉTOUR

You know you loved it. And that's real!

## Chris Mateo vs. Angel Vasquez: What It Sounds Like When Doves Cry



Chris Mateo: If you could street fight any celebrity, who would it be?

Angel Vasquez: Umm, Hayden Christensen. Then I can say I f'ed up Darth Vader when he was a kid. Or maybe all those Pop-Punk bands. You know, Good Charlotte, New Found Glory. All those, bitches.

CM: Well, there goes my cd collection.

AV: Hey, someone had to say it.

CM: If you could have your own cereal named after you, what would it be?

AV: Frosted Covered Angels.

CM: What did you want to be when you grew up?

AV: A teacher.

CM: Really?

AV: Yeah. It was dark times.

CM: What's your favorite band/musician?

AV: Metallica.

CM: What's your favorite section of The Collegian?

AV: Ummm, In-Depth.

CM: If you could have a super human power, what would it be?

AV: To kill people, like Death.

CM: Oh, just touch them and they die? Cool! Uhh, what's your favorite book?

AV: Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury

CM: If they made a movie about you, who would play you?

AV: Jack Black.

CM: What world record would you break?

AV: (Thinks for a really long time) I don't know, man. F'ing hundred yard dash.

CM: (laughs) You can't run very fast.

AV: I...F'ing, you know how many people I could kill if I ran that fast?!

CM: Have you ever thought about a world without hypothetical questions?

AV: Once.

CM: And what happened?

AV: I got really sad and started to cry.

CM: If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?

AV: I don't know, you'd have to ask Carol Lashof.

CM: Is she the one that inspired that question?

AV: Yes!

CM: Have you ever called a psychic hotline?

AV: No, they called me.

CM: Regarding?

AV: Life insurance.

CM: What was your favorite Saturday morning cartoon?

AV: "Bobby's World".

CM and AV: (hum the "Bobby's World" theme).

CM: Which character on Gilligan's Island would you want to be?

AV: Ginger. She was fine, fine, fine.

CM: When was the last time you were challenged to an arm wrestling competition?

AV: Few years ago. Probably by Blake [Levine].

CM: Do you have a PhD?

AV: Yes.

CM: In what?

AV: NO! I don't have a PhD!

CM: Who would win in a fight: Odysseus or Beowulf?

AV: Beowulf.

CM: Which holds more truths: The Bible or the Borzoi Handbook?

AV: Borzoi. Just ask Barry Horwitz. He thinks I'm a psycho. I make lude comments about ninjas and pirates in the emails I send him.

CM: Were you worried about Y2K?

AV: Yeah.

CM: Who let the dogs out?

AV: Snoop Dogg.

CM: If you were a spy, what would your spy name be?

AV: Gaseous Snake.

AV: If you could street fight any celebrity, who would it be?

CM: Probably that Haley Joel Osmand kid. I remember when he used to be everywhere. After I'm done with him, he won't be.

AV: If you could have your own cereal named after you, what would it be?

CM: Mate-O's.

AV: What did you want to be when you grew up?

CM: Editor-In-Chief of The Collegian.

AV: What's your favorite band/musician?

CM: New Found Glory. But after them, Green Day.

AV: Can you dance?

CM: Yes.

AV: Show me?

CM: (proceeds to dance)

AV: If you could have a super human power, what would it be?

CM: To prevent you from killing people. You'd be my arch nemesis. You'd be walking up to someone and I'd be like, "No. Stop it. No" (does slapping on wrist motion).

AV: What's your favorite book?

CM: Catcher In The Rye.

AV: Poke you in the eye.

CM: You're such a poet.

AV: If they made a movie about you, who would play you?

CM: Matthew Perry.

AV: WHAT?!

CM: No. Ralph Macchio. He needs work.

AV: If you could break a world record what would it be?

CM: Fastest Collegian Out-Put.

AV: What was your favorite Saturday morning cartoon?

CM: The Smurfs.

AV: The Smurfs!?!?

CM: (hums the theme song).

AV: Do you remember any of your Halloween costumes from when you were a kid?

CM: Yes.

AV: What were they?

CM: One was Big Bird in a Chef's out-fit. I went as Puff Daddy once.

AV: When you were a kid?

CM: High school! I wasn't that creative. I remember Big Bird and...a Ninja Turtle.

AV: Which character on Gilligan's Island would you want to be?

CM: Professor.

AV: What vegetable do you think will most likely evolve into a sentient being and take over the world?

CM: Tomatoes.

AV: How did you meet your spouse?

CM: Through APASA.

AV: Were you worried about Y2K?

CM: Of course not. It's happening in ten years.

AV: Who is your daddy, and what does he do?

CM: My daddy is a Coal Miner. No, he's an elementary school teacher.

AV: How many licks does it take to get to...

CM: Lollipop.

AV: How dare you call me that, I was going to get to it eventually, you son-of-a-bitch.

CM: Sorry.

AV: Do you wear a "Livestrong" band?

CM: No.

AV: Why not? Do you support the spread of cancer?

CM: ...I just lost it.

AV: Well then. If you were a spy, what would your spy name be?

CM: Chris Mateo. Think about that one.

AV: If you could ask God anything, what would it be and why?

CM: "Why is my spy name 'Chris Mateo'. Why couldn't I get 'James Bond'?"

### Top Ten Things To Do After Your Last Final of Senior Year

A List Compiled By Jonathon Morales, Chris Mateo, Chris Long, and Angel Vasquez

Top 10  
The Last

10. Masturbate (by Angel)
9. Drink (by Jon)
8. Get rid of your bong (by Chris L.)
7. Laugh at the Freshman who have to do this for 3 more years (collabertive effort)
6. Realize that you failed on purpose so you can take it again (by Chris M.)
5. Apologize to your teacher for flipping him or her off (by Angel)
4. Give the albino raccoon a hug good-bye (by Chris L.)
3. Put your clothes on (by Chris M.)
2. Say, "Hey, I should walk up to the Cross." Then go to your room and start drinking again (by Chris L.)
1. Laugh at all the Seniors who have to come back (by Angel)