



THE COLLEGIAN

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA
www.smccollegian.com

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Moraga, California

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Volume 104, Number 3

SMC Remembers



Annie Douglass/ COLLEGIAN

The SMC turned black on Sunday in memory of the events of September 11, representatives from various clubs on campus made the hike to the sign in hopes to create a lasting visual reminder of five years ago. Groups participating included the SMC Democrats, the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, Gay Straight Alliance, Amnesty International, and the SMC Progressives. The clubs comprise a group known as the dreamers.

Wife of Flight 93 victim comes to Saint Mary's

by **Melanie Maxwell**
Assistant News Editor

Wednesday night September 6, 2005, Saint Mary's students and community members listened intently to Deena Burnett, the widow of Tom Burnett, a passenger on United Flight 93. Tom Burnett was more than a mere traveler, however. He helped lead the attempt to take back the plane from the terrorists on September 11, five years ago, a feat that has made him and his fellow passengers heroes. Deena, who was living in San Ramon at the time of the attack, began her presentation with a recap of the day that changed thousands of lives.

Deena shared with the audience how she watched the attacks unravel on the news and wondered if her husband's flight was in the air or not. Her question was answered when he called for the first time and told her everything was not all right. Tom relayed that someone had already been stabbed and that she needed to call the authorities. While Deena was on the phone with the FBI, Tom called a second time. He stayed calm and asked Deena questions about the other attacks. She attributed her own calmness to her husband's. He called back a third time and related that they had a plan to take back the plane. In his fourth and final call Tom told his wife, "If they are going to crash this plane we are going to do something." They were waiting until they were over a rural area to attempt their plan. As she waited by the phone it occurred to Deena for the first time that the passengers of Flight 93 might not make it. When she never received a fifth call her fears were confirmed.

The passengers of Flight 93 were the first to fight against ter-

see 9/11, p4

Hillside SMC painted black in memory of 9/11

by **Z. Farmer and L.Hua**
Managing Editor & Editor-In-Chief

Driving onto campus this week, people of the Saint Mary's community may be taken aback by the black letters of the SMC on the hill.

"I think people may think, 'Why? Why is the SMC painted black?'" said Devin O'Leary '07, president of Campaign to End the Death Penalty (CEDP).

Five years ago, September 11 became a day that would live in infamy. Since then, a number of groups on campus have held a memorial for those who perished in the attacks.

A collaboration of the SMC Democrats, Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), SMC Progressives, Amnesty International, and CEDP decided to paint the SMC black in honor of September 11. The plans for this year's September 11 memorial started at the beginning of the school year. The groups wanted to "pay homage and respect to those who died that day and to open people's eyes not just as a nation, but as a people of the world," said Garcia.

"We're not making a political stance. We're all in some way affected by 9/11. It's an inclusive statement," said O'Leary. "It was a dark day then, it's a dark day now."

Nathan Garcia '08, president of the SMC Democrats, wanted all to take part in the memorial. "We [wanted] to make it visible," said Garcia. The reason for the color black O'Leary and Garcia, pointed out was to emphasize how dark a day it was.

Ten people helped paint the SMC on Sunday, including a member of the Saint Mary's College Republicans (SMC Repub-

see BLACK, p4

Beloved staff member retires

by **J. Harry Painter**
Staff Writer

Students, faculty, and staff alike are saddened to have said their goodbyes to one of Saint Mary's College's key employees, Suzanne Wise. Last week, Wise, an assistant registrar, retired after 15 years of exemplary service to the Saint Mary's community.

Wise first arrived at Saint Mary's in the admissions office in 1991, and eventually found her way into the financial aid department before settling into her home as an assistant registrar.

Wise was born in Detroit, Michigan, and raised in Southern California. She attended Saint Bernard High School in Playa del Rey, and went to college at California State University Long Beach. Prior to working at Saint Mary's, Wise worked primarily as a stay-at-home mother. She is married and has two children, a son and a daughter.

She is known for being much more than just an employee in the registrar's office, however. According to Arthor Curley '08, vice president for student affairs, "She's willing to talk to you not just about classes, but about anything that's going on in your life...She will be missed."

Members of the staff also sense that Wise goes above and beyond her call of duty as an employee. Echoing a similar statement he made at her retirement party, Vice Provost for Enrollment Michael Beseda said, "To me she is a model of the LaSallian spirit. Our founder reminds us that we are in God's holy presence. Suzanne recognizes and honors that presence in every person she serves."

Wise is grateful for the experience she has been able to have at Saint Mary's. "Brother Ron said that 'LaSallian' is about relationships, and I have made so many relationships. This job has afforded me the opportunity to really build those relationships with students, faculty, and staff," she said. "It really is a community."

Now that Wise has retired, she plans on catching up on things she has not been able to do as often while working. "I'm hoping to visit my daughter in Germany, and do some volunteer work," she said.

Wise's retirement reception was last Wednesday afternoon, and was attended by numerous friends and coworkers, as well as some students. Her last day of work was on Friday. A successor to her position has not yet been named.



Annie Douglass/ COLLEGIAN

Suzanne Wise has worked at Saint Mary's College for 15 years.

OPINION

Harry Painter questions religion and 9/11 rages on
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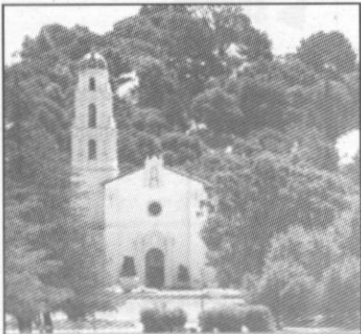
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The Collegian
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THE COLLEGIAN

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SnapShot



Courtesy of Ariana Garcia

Participants from Labor Day's Annual Freshman Olympics posed for a photo after one of the days many trying events.

The 2006-2007 staff of *The Collegian* wishes to invite all photographers to join this year's staff. As an incentive, the second page SnapShot a weekly featured photo, will now be a competition for the best picture taken in a week. This competition will be judged by the Editor-in-Chief and the Managing Editor, Linda Hua and Zack Farmer. From these photos one will be selected as the year's best. This photo will be sent to the Associated Student Press as part of a national competition for photo excellence.

Crime Beat

9/1 11:40 a.m.
Incident: Fire Alarm Activation
Synopsis: False alarm in the Rheem center warehouse; referred to the Physical Plant.

9/1 11:46 p.m.
Incident: Handbook Violation
Synopsis: Possession of beer bong in South Claeys; referred to Student Conduct.

9/2 12:30 a.m.
Incident: Handbook Violation
Synopsis: Minors in possession of alcohol, possession of marijuana in Ageno A; referred to Student Conduct.

9/3 12:15 a.m.
Incident: Medical Assist
Synopsis: Minor under the influence in the Soda Center, transported to John Muir Hospital; referred to Student Conduct and Health and Wellness Center.

9/3 12:58 a.m.
Incident: Failure to Comply
Synopsis: Refusal to obtain SMC parking permit at the Public Safety front gate; referred to Student Conduct.

9/3 2:20 a.m.
Incident: Battery on School Official, Handbook Violation

Synopsis: Destruction of evidence, possession of marijuana for sales and minors in possession of alcohol in Sabatte Hall; referred to Student Conduct and Moraga Police Department.

9/3 3:25 a.m.
Incident: Fire Alarm Activation
Synopsis: False alarm in Becket Hall; referred to Student Life and Physical Plant.

9/4 12:50 p.m.
Incident: Auto vs. Auto Collision
Synopsis: Collision on Saint Mary's Parkway; parties involved exchange information.

9/4 8:30 p.m.
Incident: Hit and Run
Synopsis: Damage to vehicle at the rear of Madigan Gym.

9/4 11:10 p.m.
Incident: Information Only
Synopsis: Lost medical record in Justin Hall.

9/5 7:30 a.m.
Incident: Information Only
Synopsis: Possible hit and run at Ascot Drive and Moraga Road.

9/5 1:40 p.m.
Incident: Medical Injury

Synopsis: Injury in Human Resources Office; referred to Human Resources Office.

9/5 8:49 p.m.
Incident: Property Damage
Synopsis: Cracked windshield in Lacrosse parking lot; referred to Business Office.

9/6 3:00 p.m.
Incident: Lost Property
Synopsis: Wallet with ID, credit card, Driver's License and money lost in Justin Hall.

9/6 11:11 p.m.
Incident: Fire Alarm Activation and Handbook Violation
Synopsis: Possession of hookah, beer bong, and marijuana in Ageno West; referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant.

9/7 12:40 p.m.
Incident: Fire Alarm Activation
Synopsis: Dust from grinder set off alarm in Brother Jerome West; referred to Physical Plant.

9/7 1:55 p.m.
Incident: Medical Call
Synopsis: Bee sting in Health and Wellness Center, transported to Kaiser Hospital; referred to Student Life and Health and Wellness Center.



LINDA HUA

Promote literacy

So I was out having Chinese food a few weeks ago with Zack Farmer and his mother, when it was time to crack open the fortune cookies. My fortune was weak and Zack's was worse, but his mom got the best ever. "Promote literacy. Buy a box of fortune cookies today."

Zack has ever since taped that to his computer in our office. I see it everyday and it cracks me up that a fortune cookie was advertising itself. Lately however, it's taken on a different meaning for me: "Promote literacy," it said. I got to thinking about it and yes, literacy should be promoted.

When I was a child, if anyone gave me a fiction novel, I would have been content for hours on end. The spines of all my books from elementary school are very worn and cracked in many places. I also remember that whenever we received Scholastic book order forms, I would always have to get at least one book.

Now, give most kids a book and it will stay unopened and become forgotten. To entertain a child nowadays—or to keep him/her sitting in one place—is to shove him/her in front of a television with an Xbox 360. Sadly, book order forms now also include video games.

I knew a kindergartener who, presented with the word "cat" would not know how to read it, but given "game over" would know exactly how to read it and what it meant. He had been playing video games since he could sit. For presents, he receives teen-rated video games—never has he received a book. Never have I seen him with a book.

Even my twin sisters, children of the '90s, while they may not love reading now, loved "reading" as toddlers.

Call me old, call me senile, but honestly, it bugs me that parents quickly resort to turning on the television when their children get too energetic. Hardly—I mean, never do I see this boy's parents sit down with him and teach him to read or spell. I've seen them play video games and absent-mindedly plugging in movies for the kid, but never teaching him to read or encouraging him to pick up a book. Every time I see him out with his parents, this six-year-old is glued to a portable DVD player or a Play Station Portable (PSP).

How has the video game console become the new babysitter? Why are American-born, English-speaking children in sheltered classes to gain better reading skills?

It's a little bit disturbing and so perhaps the fortune was right: literacy should be promoted, even promoted as weakly as reading the fortunes from inside cookies.



Saint Mary's evaluates current curriculum

Task Force hopes to better reflect mission of Saint Mary's College

"As the year ends take time to examine how faithful you have been in your duties. Persevere in what you do well and correct what you do badly."

— Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Patron Saint of Teachers

by **Agustina Allende**
Staff Writer

While reading Dante's *Inferno* many students wonder, "Why is this important? How will this help further my education and career? How helpful is a math course to an English major?"

Saint Mary's prides itself on maintaining a curriculum that centers on the Catholic Lasallian principles and mission as well as a liberal arts education. For this reason, the college implemented the "Great Books" curriculum, also known as Collegate seminar, as the center of the general education in the 1940's. In the 1970's, the College incorporated the 4-1-4 calendar that brought about the birth of January Term. Since these changes occurred the College has not thoroughly reviewed the core curriculum. Integral major Nick Brown '07 said, "This hasn't happened since 1984 and I guess it was time to do it again."

It is also with the recent accreditation by the Western Association

of Schools and Colleges (WASC) that Saint Mary's has begun to review its educational strength. Math professor Jim Saurberg explains that WASC probed the

Mary's community members. Wensley described the afternoon as a, "small discussion based environment, and the context of discussion centered around the col-

curriculum and mission statement," said Brown, who attended the pilot. "I am pretty biased and wish the whole school would be in the integral program." It is due

to the integral program that Brown said, "I am actually getting the core curriculum no one else is getting at Saint Mary's. The core curriculum is what gives Saint Mary's its uniqueness."

When asked if the CCTF

will result in a major shift in the core of the Saint Mary's curriculum Saurberg states, "I think it's really too early to tell." Although no changes can be promised, it is expected that any approved changes will become effective in fall 2008. On September 27, there will be a college-wide forum to further discover how the college curriculum is working and not working. A tentative second college-wide forum will be scheduled. This forum will begin to create an objective for the core curriculum that will follow the mission of Saint Mary's.

Mission Statement

The Mission of Saint Mary's College is to probe deeply the mystery of existence by cultivating the ways of knowing and the arts of thinking. To affirm and foster the Christian understanding of the human person which animates the educational mission of the Catholic Church. To create a student-centered educational community whose members support one another with mutual understanding and respect.

school to question, "What are we doing and how does that integrate to our mission?"

To do this the college has created the Core Curriculum Task Force (CCTF). The CCTF is composed of faculty members, students and administrators. Co-chair and physics professor Roy Wensley states that the CCTF wants to, "Get people's feedback. We're just trying to get as much community involvement as possible." He also states that the CCTF is in its first year of a three-year plan.

Thursday prompted the first of many discussions between Saint

lege mission statement." According to Wensley the group also addressed, "what works and what's not there in commitment to the mission and making it effective."

As it stands, the Saint Mary's curriculum consists of 22 courses for general education and an average of 14.57 courses for a persons' respective major. This makes up the 36 credits that are required to graduate. This leaves little time for an elective outside the major in the true liberal arts tradition.

"It was a pretty necessary and important discussion to have. I really liked that we're trying to actually bring in more of the core

News Briefs

Author: Christina Garcia

The Masters of Fine Arts reading series will host author Christina Garcia tomorrow, Wednesday, September 13 at 2:15 p.m. in Delphine.

Garcia, a Cuban raised in New York has worked as a political journalist for *Time Magazine* and has also received the Whiting Writer's Award. Garcia published works that deal with the significance of having Hispanic roots in America. Her novels, *Monkey Hunting*, *The Aguero Sisters* and the National Book Award-nominated *Dreaming in Cuban* explore cultural identities and issues pertinent to Hispanic-Americans.

For more information Contact Chris Sindt at (925)631-4088

Oasis approaches

When one thinks of Moraga, California, a tropical oasis usually isn't the first thing to come to mind. However Friday, September 15, the tropical-themed dance, Oasis will take place in Ferroggiaro Quad.

Students are encouraged to dress in their best luau attire and come ready to dance under the stars and festive decorations. The event begins at 9 p.m. and ends at midnight.

The cost to get into Oasis will be \$5. All guests must register and registration forms are available in the Program Board office in Cassin Student Union.

For more information contact Program Board.

Hits and Homeruns

Actor and singer, Bryon Motley will be presenting a show to pay tribute to his father, former Negro League umpire, others in the League, and jazz performers in his *Hits and Homeruns*, a one-man multimedia show.

The presentation will take place September 16 at 8 p.m. in LeFevre Theatre and will highlight 50 years of music and baseball from America's days of segregation.

Tickets for general admissions are \$20 each, \$19 for seniors, \$10 for students, faculty, and staff.

For more information, contact Debra Holtz at x4222.

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Campus Calendar

SkillScan Workshop
Tuesday, September 12
9:40 - 10:55 a.m.
De la Salle

Turnitin.com Workshop
Tuesday, September 12
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Filippi

Turnitin.com Workshop
Tuesday, September 12
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Dante 215

Multicultural Dinner
Tuesday, September 12
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
De la Salle

Movie:
Rome, The Ultimate Empire?
Tuesday, September 12
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Soda Center

Career Information Night
Tuesday, September 12
6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
Soda Center

Mass of the Holy Spirit
Wednesday, September 13
12:40 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.
Chapel

Turnitin.com Workshop
Wednesday, September 13
2:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Garaventa 130

Christina Garcia
Wednesday, September 13
2:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Delphine Lounge

Turnitin.com Workshop
Wednesday, September 13
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
De la Salle

FYE: Wellness in Residence
Thursday, September 14
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Soda Center

Oasis
Friday, September 15
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Ferroggiaro Quad

Black Board Training
Saturday, September 16
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Garaventa 230

Hits and Homeruns
Saturday, September 16
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Lefevre Theatre

Planning an event?

Want it in *The Collegian*?

E-mail us with the details of your event at:
collegia@stmarys-ca.edu
or call for more information:
(925) 631-4279

Sorry, but due to space limitations we cannot list individual club meetings.



Melanie Maxwell/COLLEGIAN

Deena Burnett poses after her talk on September 6. The widow of a passenger on Flight 93, her experiences were inspiring to students who may not have been directly affected by September 11, but have now seen the results of that day.

9/11: Widow inspires with story of loss of husband

continued from page 1

rorism, and as Deena said, "In fighting back they made a difference."

After September 11 Deena received thousands of letters and e-mails. In the three she shared, people who barely knew her husband told stories of how he made an important difference in their lives. Deena used these stories to show that "each of us can have an impact in the world beyond ourselves."

Deena's talk was not simply her tragic story; her message was that everyone could be a hero and make a difference. She told the audience that a hero was someone who had three qualities: character, courage, and convictions. Reminding us you do not need a tragic story to be a hero, Deena shared one of her husband's favorite sayings, "Live everyday as if it is your last, for surely one day you will be right." Her closing words were a challenge to think about what is important to you and to fight for it.

Her poignant speech left few dry eyes in the audience.

Elizabeth Patterson '10 said, "Mrs. Burnett is a truly powerful voice behind the courageous men and women of September 11, her words and actions inspire me to fight for the right cause and to ultimately make a difference for my generation and my country."

From the Saint Mary's College Republicans (SMC Republicans), the sponsors of this event along with the Young America's Foundation, the SMC Republican Co-Chairs Monica Zook '07 and Danielle White '07 said that Saint Mary's is fortunate that Deena came to speak. "[We are] happy she is here to remind everyone their purpose everyday and their purpose for their country," said Zook.

Audience member, Cadet Alexander Amante '10 said, "It is good she is doing stuff like this because it is important our generation understands the meaning of sacrifice and duty."

Deena has been a leading voice for families effected by the tragedy of September 11 and recently finished her novel *Fighting Back: Living Life Beyond Ourselves*.

BLACK: Symbolic reminders of September 11 on campus

continued from page 1

licans).

Aside from painting the SMC, the groups have also put up the names of the victims in the corridor between Ferroggiaro Hall and Oliver Hall.

Last year, the SMC Republicans placed 3,000 American flags in the Chapel Lawn, an event that was repeated this year.

"A few volunteers from the community outside of Saint Mary's and at Saint Mary's" came to help place flags on Sunday morning, said Taline Kuyumjian '09, public relations officer of the SMC Republicans. "We invited them to come participate with us. All the other groups chose not to."

"We kind of feel left out that the Republicans didn't even approach us," Garcia said. "I, personally, did not want to take a back seat to them and their memorial when they made no attempt to include us."

"This isn't about politics," said Danielle White '07, co-chair of SMC Republicans. "This isn't about Republicans or Democrats. It's about 3,000 people. And the fact that there are some people who can't see that is devastating."

"This is not a biased, pro-war event," said Kuyumjian, "This is not about politics—it's never been about politics. This is to remember those who lost their lives."

"It's upsetting that people al-

ways find another angle in what we do," said Katie Marsella '07, vice chair of the SMC Republicans.

The groups who painted the letters were unable to offer a public memorial as SMC Republicans had last year. "It's a matter of we couldn't do it this, we'll do it next year," said Lindsey Rosellini '07, president of GSA.

"The world stage right now prompted us to do something," said O'Leary.

"We want to separate the violence," said Garcia, "It's a humanitarian statement."

While some at first thought that

the black paint was controversial and that it was a "countermemorial" against the SMC Republicans, O'Leary and Garcia pointed out that it is a color of mourning and that the painting was not done to counteract with the SMC Republicans.

"It was a dark day for all of us," said Garcia. "Human interest groups like us affect all humans," said O'Leary.

"I don't see a big deal of why they're making such a big raucous over painting the SMC black," said Martin Torres '09 who participated in both placing flags and

painting the letters. "I agreed with the memorials."

"It's the tragedy of our time," said Kyle Bonderud '09, who also participated in both events. "Today's not a day of taking sides."

"I think everyone has their own way of expressing how they feel about the memorial," said Torres, "I pick and choose what I follow and I like both of their memorials."

"I just don't understand why they're so mad," said Torres, "We're all united, yet we're sided."



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

The SMC Republicans commemorate the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 with 3,000 flags on Chapel Lawn, each flag representing a life lost on that day.

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The Collegian
FEATURE

Online Communications: How many "friends" do you have?

LiveJournal.com

Xanga.com - The Weblog Community

Facebook | Home

MySpace

by **S. Wang and M. Freeman**
Staff Writers

Hatched from the union of innovative minds and technological advances, Internet communication has become one of the most prominent novelties of the age. With the ease and simplicity of Internet based communication, individuals can broaden their horizon of friendship. Networking programs such as Facebook and MySpace render the task of making friends much easier than it has been in the past. "_____ wants to be your friend." Sure, why not? With one simple click, a new friend is made. A monkey could make a friend like this.

Distance and varied lifestyles are no longer factors that hinder the process of making a new friend. The fear is taken out of an encounter with someone new because a friend request denial is less harsh than a direct "no" to your face.

Blogs, message boards, online diaries, communities, etc. are effective ways of personal mass communication. Though it sounds paradoxical, it actually makes sense. Sites such as LiveJournal, Xanga, and Blogger simplify the task keeping others up to date on the events in your life, from the insignificant haircut to the most outrageous auto vehicle behavior from a Camry. Molly Muldoon '10 said that she and her friends mostly used Facebook and e-mail to keep in touch over the summer because they knew that the other would check online regularly. Sounds great and that's just the passive form of online communication.

Messenger programs such as AOL Instant Messenger, Yahoo! Messenger, MSN Messenger, and ICQ provide a slightly more direct encounter with other people. It allows for multiple personal conversations all at once, a rather difficult feat to accomplish, let alone attempt, in person. Again, it sounds like a paradox, but there is still truth within the madness.

So, with the ease of communication and the ability to make a ridiculous amount of "friends" on Facebook, what could possibly be bad about this technological craze?

Studies have shown that people are spending more time online than ever before. A recent survey found that people spend, on average, about 14 hours a week online, about equal to the amount of time they spend watching television. But among "intensive users," the number was closer to 30 hours per week. Last year, China opened a clinic for people age 14-24 that have experienced such disorders as depression and insomnia due to long hours of gaming or instant messaging. This leads some in the medical community to believe that such excessive use of the Internet can lead to an actual addiction, comparable to pathological gambling. With the risk of physical side effects, especially potential addiction, is the Internet something to be regarded as just another innovation?

Chair of the Sociology Department Robert Bulman notes that the criticism against new technology dates back to the 19th century. "When the telephone was

invented, lots of people were upset that it would destroy face-to-face communication and letter writing," said Bulman. Such criticism is now questionable. As a society, "we will adjust to the Internet just fine." Bulman argues that the concern over the Internet is nothing to be surprised about. "Each generation faces a world different than that of their parents," said Bulman. This scares the older generation "for understandable reasons." To this generation, the Internet is a legitimate technology that fosters communicative flexibility and information freedom.

Psychology professor Mary True believes that the Internet yields a mixed bag. While the Internet contains a wealth of information, she explains that students need to be careful about information gathered from it. For instance, a biology student may not be able to tell whether certain information gathered is "junk science" or the real deal. "From a scholar's point of view, it's hard to distinguish between truth and fabrication," said True. Her point is important, as sites like Wikipedia have come under fire for its anyone-can-edit mantras.

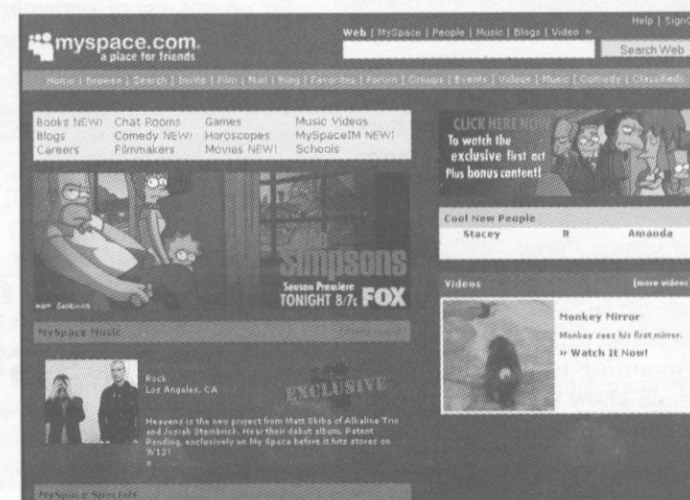
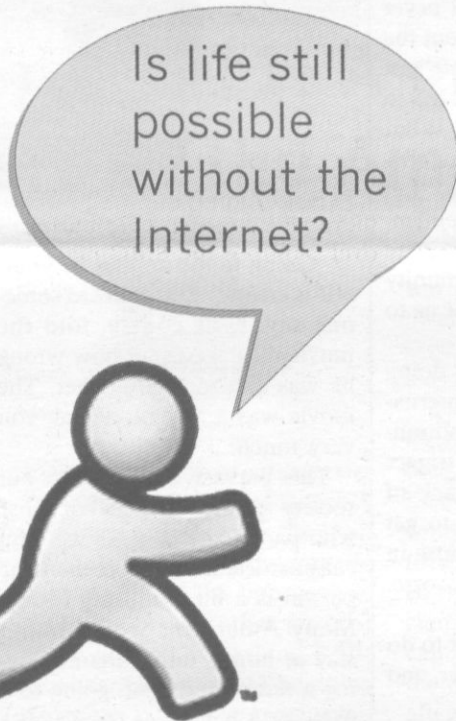
As a consequence of information freedom, the amount of information available on the Internet presents temptation. True explains that mammals have a "seeking motive"—that is, a need to hunt for prey and experience the thrill of the hunt itself. She compares the use of the Internet to this hunt, except that humans don't know when to stop because with so much information available. It is difficult to control oneself. The Internet "plays on a mammal's propensity to seek," said True. However, with no end point to the seeking motive, humans exhibit ad-

dictive behavior.

Is life still possible without the Internet? True thinks so. She recalls how her family likes to visit upstate New York, where the area has "very little technology." She found that while up there her family felt "closer together," and they played games and other activities that would seem trivial in a technology-pervasive world. It is in moments without the Internet that people realize how much "they have become dependent on it," said True. Once one overcomes the mindset that the Internet is a necessity, it becomes easier to regain the pre-Internet era mentality.

Such "interaction" among people grows less personal. Human communication has reached a point where people don't need to focus on those around them, simply those they can reach through the computer. Sure, one gets a jumpstart on making friends before college or high school even starts, but it lacks the uniqueness that comes with the progression of a friendship. As a byproduct of impersonal interaction, a new definition of friendship is formed. A couple dozen pokes, random comments, and picture compliments now earn the title of "friendship."

Then again, it does feel good to be one with 500 plus friends on MySpace and the one with 60-some comments on Xanga, but how many of those people does one actually want to talk to in real life? Unless the Internet is one's reality, then we apologize.



The Collegian
OPINION



SCOTT CULLINANE

Terrorists Protection?

In a regrettable move, President Bush has announced that we are now extending Geneva Convention protections to some Islamic terrorists currently in our possession. Those now enjoying this protection are terrorists like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—the architect of 9/11.

The terrorists follow no laws and target civilians. So, why are we giving them protection? They did not extend Geneva Convention protection to Nick Berg, Paul Johnson, or Daniel Pearl. We should use the best means we have to protect others from similar fates by doing everything we can to get information out of these terrorists, even if that means torture.

Some who oppose the use of torture to extract intelligence feel that the information we would get may not be reliable. They feel that the person being interrogated would say anything to end the pain. But torture can include a wide range of effective coercive measures, not just physical pain. If we arbitrarily take all these options off the table, our ability to protect ourselves is weakened. If the information the terrorist has means lives—innocent lives—then making the terrorist a little uncomfortable seems pretty minor in comparison. Furthermore, we know that many terrorists, as part of their training, receive instructions on how to resist normal interrogation techniques.

It is not inconceivable that harsher and more wide ranging methods could be the only option to extract the needed information. A further reason to shun this move to give protections to terrorists is that by announcing these new rules to the world the terrorists now know what to expect. This would heavily limit our interrogation options even further.

We should go so far as to declare the fact that we do torture as a deterrent to those thinking about committing terrorist acts. They should know that if they commit violent acts, we will get them. When they are detained, it will not be pleasant for them in any way.

Instead, in too many cases, when we capture a terrorist we give them clean clothes, a warm place to sleep, a copy of the Koran and food prepared to the dietary guidelines of their culture.

If you want to talk about torture, listen to the phone recordings of those trapped in the World Trade Center. Listen to the people call for help, saying that they do not want to die, but realize their life is over. That is real torture.

The terrorists who would gladly inflict that on every one of us have no right to get any protections from us.

Collegian View

Here we go again. The Democrats and the Republicans fighting once more. If it were in Washington, we would brush it off and ignore it because politics are a joke and they fight over the wrong issues.

Here we are on September 12, the day after the five-year anniversary of the September 11 attacks and it is the Democrats and Republicans here on campus that can't get along. Over what? The memorials of September 11. The SMC Democrats, SMC Progressives, Amnesty International, Campaign to End the Death Penalty, and the Gay-Straight Alliance walked up to the SMC and painted it black in memoriam. The SMC Republicans put flags in the Chapel Lawn. Everything is fine and dandy...until they start complaining about who didn't invite who to help in their memorial.

This is what we can't stand about politics. For an event like this, there should be no complaints about whom helps who or who does what. It is not the point to September 11. By bickering over these fickle things, we disgrace the memory of those who perished.

Last year, some 30-plus clubs were involved in Wake-A-Thon, which raised money for the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. Everyone knew what was at stake and whom this truly was for: those who lost their homes or loved ones.

We claim to be enlightened but we let petty differences blind us from what is truly important: your fellow man. Not everything is a competition of who is better or who was right. We know, as a media, what right do we have to say that. Because we don't have to compete against another newspaper, we are free of the competition and try to

be as honest as we can. We serve the people.

Enter to learn, leave to serve. That is the staple on which our school was founded. Especially as clubs under the Associated Students of SMC, we serve the students, not ourselves.

But hopefully this system we call politics will see us through and do what they were designed to do: serve the people. Who are we kidding? After George W. is out of office, another patsy will be put in and be tormented by the public for four to eight years.

The system starts in grade school and continually gets worse as you get older. Well, I guess that's politics. Bury the other at any cost. So, when is the next election?

THE COLLEGIAN

Saint Mary's College of California

Linda Hua, Editor-in-Chief
 Zack Farmer, Managing Editor
 Danny Acosta, Opinion Editor

Letter to the Editor

9/11. Never have numbers conjured up so many emotions, reactions, and divisions. "Never Forget", as if we could. But what is it exactly we are not supposed to forget? The tragedy? We will never forget that day of destruction, horror, and reality. But what about the tragedies that led up to those events years ago? What about "not forgetting" the poor diplomatic and international relations that led to retaliation by a very angry and desperate group of people? What about "not forgetting" that peace is a non-partisan goal that any civilized group of people should work towards? If you are religious, "Let us remember, that we are in the holy presence of God." We remember our place that we may act in ways which God would approve. Are wars, divisions, hate, pride, and all the other things our community and world seems to be dealing with attributes God would want us to have in His presence?

Why isn't our administration and the people of this country doing everything in their power to promote healthy relations both internationally and domestically? I have been disappointed with this administration and the way they have used "peace" and "equality" as trigger words for lack of patriotism. I am also disappointed with lack of pressure the people of this nation put on the administration to get things right. It is not enough to give low approval ratings to those in power, we must collectively make a change before things get any worse. Who doesn't want peace and equality?

So, on this day of remembrance, "never forget" what we must do for humanity and "let us remember" what it is to love one another, and work together to bring peace to this earth.

- Karen Reid, '07

Let's boo the loner



JAIME ZEPEDA

"Going to the movies by yourself is creepy," I once heard someone say. I, of course, told the movie theater cashier how wrong he was and took my ticket. The movie was a delight. Thank you very much.

This pervasive attitude in our society towards "loners" or those who participate in tasks we typically associate with more than one person is a bit confusing to me. Many Americans would rather stay at home, rather than enjoying a restaurant meal, going to a party or a ball game, or watch a movie by themselves.

Oddly enough, even these stay-at-home-and-pout people are also labeled "loners." Our culture sure has something against the citizen who buys TV dinners for one. Matchmaking services abound, reminding us our *soulmate* is out there, so go find them *now!* The lifelong bachelor is at times admired by men who wish for such relationship freedom, and swooned over by women who like the unattainable man, but more often felt pity by those who already have a partner. The bachelorette is even worse off, having to fend off pressures from many venues to get married and settle down—how it is *supposed* to be.

Loners in high school are shunned by the rest of the students. At the same time, people in the workplace see loners as the likeliest employee to go postal. Hardly ever do you see romantic comedies that end by leaving the single man and woman, well, single. It appears to be anathema to our culture to let people be lonely.

Of course, we human beings are social animals in the need of interactions with other beasts of our kind. Chatting or grinding it up with other people is perfectly human (and at times a bit graphic). But does this go against our home-grown idea of the American Dream? We, as a culture, are taught that the American Dream is what every citizen strives for, to pull ourselves up by the bootstraps.

The self-made man or woman is often the greatest figure of admiration. I have to figure that sometime during that triumphant voyage to the top this figure of admiration might have fit the "loner" status. I am sure these people did things by themselves, solved their own problems, motivated themselves, and probably went to a couple of restaurants by themselves to mull in their thoughts.

So then, why do they not suffer the wrath as does the guy who loves to read in the corner of Barnes and Noble? It might have to do with how they present themselves.

An air of confidence and success separates the self-made American from the loner. Nice slacks and a \$100 haircut do not hurt either. If you win, you are no longer a loner, but the embodiment of the American Dream. If you do not succeed, then start dressing in black and pout.

This is unfair. There is no doubt. Your value as a person goes back to what you have or do, not what you are.

Shouldn't the loner be accepted as a part of the American Dream? Do these two ideas go well together? It is worth analyzing if this odd relationship is indicating: a) hypocrisies in our culture, b) the American Dream is actually a fabricated illusion, or c) All of the above. Of course, you can add d) none of the above, but I am afraid you would be by your lonesome on that one.

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The Collegian
OPINION

External forces have no place in religion

Why spirituality should come from within, not from Kirk Cameron

Your religion sucks. Because of the Crusades. Because of President Bush. Because Mass is a waste of time. Because I don't believe that God is sending me to a fiery pit after I die. Because of Kirk Cameron.

Now, I know Cameron, Pat Robertson, and Mel Gibson symbolize the darker sides of Christianity, but that's no excuse. The fact that they exist is enough for me. The religion spawned these tools and without it they wouldn't be such tools. Cameron would still be acting in C movies, Robertson would be doing whatever it is he was doing before he received a television deal, and this Friday night most of us would be on our way to see *Lethal Weapon 5*.

The biggest beef I have with Christianity is that it's spread through fear. We have people like Cameron and Robertson on the television telling us that if we don't convert, we're going to Hell forever. What kind of God condemns the people *He* created to a sentence of everlasting pain? Not my god.



J. HARRY PAINTER

My other problem with it is that it doesn't make any sense. Jesus died for my sins? Okay, so before Jesus came around, the billions of people whose lives ended long beforehand, no matter how righteous they may have been, were just chilling down under, being tortured and beaten by Satan. Like I said, not my god.

I'm not saying Christianity is the only religion with flaws, though. I'll embrace Christianity again long before I convert to Judaism or Islam. And don't get me started on Jehovah's Witnesses. But the fact is that Christianity has flaws and many of them.

Why do we imprison ourselves within the confines of any

religion? Fundamentally, don't they all preach the same concepts? There is life beyond this one, our actions have consequences, God lives within all of us. Does it truly matter whether you eat a Big Mac on Good Friday, skip Mass every once in a while, or choose not to confess all your wrongdoings to the local pastor?

Think about it. None of us have any evidence of whether or not Jesus really turned water into wine, or whether snakes really used to give bad advice. All we have is the word of some ex-child star-turned-evangelist. And *Growing Pains* wasn't even that good of a show.

When you go back far enough, the reason I grew up Catholic is because around 500 years ago, some pompous Spaniards colonized my mother's homeland and decided to force Catholicism on the natives. I, for one, am not going to believe in doctrine that was pushed on my ancestors against their will.

I, instead, will embrace the best

aspects of many religions around the world, ignoring insignificant and divisive details of each particular faith. I do not care whether or not premarital sex is a "sin." I'll condemn it for my own reasons. But loving my neighbor as myself I can do. Want me to circumcise my future kid, Rabbi? No, I think I'll keep his penis the way God made it. But I love that you agree that his soul will be pure at birth. And to hell with the idea that swatting a fly in this life will lead to my reincarnation as a fly in the next. But the idea of *Moksha* is a sensible thought.

When it comes down to it, I really want is for people to stop focusing on the unimportant details of religion, and find their own spirituality. I do not hate God, I am not an atheist, and I don't even hate Kirk Cameron. Maybe it's a romantic idea, but I just feel like if we lost all the pointless doctrines, there would be a lot less dead people in the Middle East, and maybe Mel Gibson would still have a career.

UN's Resolution 1701 fails to be effective

Brian Sapper
Staff Writer

The United Nations' actions can be anemic and meaningless in the long run. A good example of this is the recent treaty between Israel and the Iranian and Syrian-backed terrorist group Hezbollah, which ultimately does nothing but delay the conflict.

The treaty, known as Resolution 1701, seems exactly what is needed to remedy the turbulent situation in war-torn southern Lebanon. According to the treaty, the Israeli military pulls out from Lebanon and ceases any offensive actions. In return, Hezbollah—the aggressor in the war—disarms and loses its ability to attack Israel. The UN will then simultaneously send a 15,000-strong peacekeeping force consisting of soldiers from Italy, France, Germany, and other nations. This force will be backed by another 15,000 soldiers from the Lebanese army to the southern border of the two countries. It will be the duty of the peacekeepers and the Lebanese army to police Southern Lebanon. This will ensure that the two parties of the conflict comply with the guidelines of the treaty.

Resolution 1701 soon falls apart when it is realized that the forces deployed to the region are going to do absolutely nothing. Although it clearly states that the Lebanese and UN forces must make Hezbollah comply and disarm, both do not wish to carry out their objectives. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has recently said t, "Obviously, if at some stage they [Lebanon] need advice or some help from the international community and they were to approach us, we would consider it, but the troops are not going in there to disarm." Imagine if all fores were this effective and efficient.

Both sides of the conflict are now preparing for the next phase of the war. Hezbollah has yet to release their two captors. Rather than disarming, they are taking this opportunity to get new and better weapons. On August 21, the country of Turkey grounded six Iranian and Syrian planes loaded with anti-ship missiles for Hezbollah.

Israel has not adhered to the Resolution 1701. While the blockade has been lifted and the air strikes has ceased, the Israeli Army is still occupying parts of southern Lebanon, claiming they will not leave until the UN begins to uphold all of the resolution. On August 19, Israeli commandos raided a Hezbollah stronghold along the border, claiming that they were upholding the resolution buy eliminating a supply line from Syria.

This treaty that the UN has created has as much value as the paper that contains it. Sooner or later, the war will resume, and once again the civilians in Israel and Lebanon will be hit the hardest.

Misconstruing 9/11: A guide to forgetting other dangers in the American landscape

For the past four years for the first week and a half of September we remember 9/11. The U.S. has not let Americans comfortably mourn 9/11 to help them attempt to proceed with their lives. Today, 9/11 has a new meaning. 9/11 is what the federal government employs to strike fear in our lives. 9/11 was a vehicle manipulated to start a war that was on the government's agenda. That is the purpose Pearl Harbor served. What is FDR's ever-so-famous quotable? Was it "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself"? He was right.

FDR, like every other politician, knew that with fear you can bring the masses to its knees. Disabled, the masses are chained at the ankles, ready to be dragged through whatever misadventure the government has constructed. That is what we are today, disabled. This is what we are today, chained.

The notion that terrorists are jealous of our freedom is no different than a bad movie plot. Osama does not want the freedom to buy an iPod nano. I doubt very many terrorists want to be policed by their national government. I doubt they want to legalize gay marriages and abortion. I doubt



VICENTE OCHOA

they very much want to have elections. And I most certainly doubt they want to live under the U.S., which is ruled by a democratic dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. If Osama or any other terrorist group wanted everything I just listed then they would be doing American citizens a great favor. Ironically, the fear the terrorists — and the government — bring limits our freedom. If they were jealous of our freedom, they have less to be jealous about now.

Every catastrophe that happens to the United States displays our weaknesses. Just like Hurricane Katrina demonstrated to us how useless and neglectful state, local, and federal governments in a time of disaster, 9/11 magnifies the vulnerability of the United States and how much people around the world do not envy us, but hate us.

The justification of our war on terror, essentially, is perpetual war for perpetual peace. We at-

tack our "threats." That way, they will not harm us again. Having war in order to keep peace is an ill-advised paradox to say the least. We cannot say no to violent extremists by killing them.

The problem with only remembering 9/11 is that Americans have a selective memory and that's what our politicians love about us. Americans are addicted to misery--misery is always a compelling story--and the politicians exploit that. While American citizens are enthralled with the war on terror, many forgot the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Maybe Hurricane Katrina does not mean much to people because it was a hurricane and it is nature. Popular belief is that the hurricane did most of the damage and killing. Katrina killed no one in New Orleans. In fact, Katrina missed the city completely, going wide to the east.

It was not the hurricane that drowned, suffocated, dehydrated and starved 1,500 people that week. The killing was done by a deadly duo: a failed emergency evacuation plan combined with faulty levees. Behind these twin failures is a great tale of cronyism, profiteering and willful incompetence that takes us right to the

steps of the White House. We have forgotten those in need; those who are suffering, starving, sleeping outside on the streets. We have forgotten the poor and beaten down. We have forgotten the sick, and lonely old. The culmination? Each week we lose 100 fine young men who believe the U.S. is on their side. I would like to go after those who were involved in planning 9/11, and that, in part, means going after our national government. People at and around ground zero now have terrible respiratory illnesses that could have been prevented with the proper resources and information, but the government was busy working on contracts for Halliburton.

It is integral to mourn the deaths of the innocent, but that should not be selective. That means the death of our "enemies" because retaliation means killing innocent people too. That means the death of Americans in the war and in the streets. The deaths caused by unmitigated social illnesses that are being ignored because they do not have political gain behind them. Do not be oblivious to how 9/11 is being misconstrued by our politicians and the conservative right to herd us away from persistent problems in the U.S.

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WE ARE HERE. ARE YOU? WRITE US.

The Collegian
DETOUR

Croc Hunter dies while shooting program in Australia

Ocean's Deadliest proves deadly for superstar animal activist

by **Adrian Garro**
 Staff Writer

A good man passed away. Steve Irwin, better known as the "Crocodile Hunter," died as the result of a stingray barb piercing his heart. He was in Australia's Great Barrier Reef, shooting a new Discovery Channel children's program called—irony aside—*The Ocean's Deadliest*. He was in the water and a stingray, having been provoked somehow, shot its barb into Irwin's chest as previously stated, piercing his heart and killing him.

Irwin made a very successful career out of putting his safety in jeopardy. He devoted his life to bringing awareness to the plights felt by many endangered species, he also introduced his viewers to a wide array of animals that they might otherwise never see. He even starred in a movie based on his 'crocodile hunter' persona. Needless to say, he was a larger than-life man, with an important message: animals should be loved and treated with respect.

It is easy to view his actions skeptically, as running around battling crocodiles seems a bit gimmicky. Viewing some clips of his show on YouTube.com,

though, shed some light into what he was actually about, and the message he was trying to express.

People always criticized him for the way he would yell, run around, and seem to provoke wild animals into a fight. Irwin, however, viewed this criticism as a good thing when people would get upset about him jumping on a crocodile's back and wrestling in the mud. He saw the outrage as positive because in the past, people would not hesitate to shoot these animals; whereas now they get upset if he is seen rolling around with one. The fact that people are now more sensitive regarding these creatures, once taken for granted, shows the effect he had on the public.

Irwin's actions were actually very helpful to the animals that he rescued from foreign places and returned to their natural habitats. He also exhibited a sense of compassion and reverence for the animals he dealt with that was greater than the type of love we humans seem to show each other. On YouTube.com, there is a clip in which Steve is overwrought with emotion after a very beloved croc dies. Irwin cries, and expresses the intense bond he felt with this particular croc. He was completely in love with what he did and it shows in clips like this



Courtesy of <http://rfleming.rmpc.co>

Irwin, posing with his most noted sidekick, a crocodile.

one.

Steve Irwin died doing what he loved. That is something most people would want themselves: to go out on their own terms. While he was alive, he was extremely important in the wildlife conservation movement, bringing to mind issues most people

normally don't consider. He was beloved by children and adults across the globe for his cartoonish appearance and quirky phrases, most notably 'Crikey!' The world will miss him. He did things no one else did, and taught us things in a way that made us laugh while we learned. He wasn't

Courtesy of <http://animal.discovery.com>

Irwin is survived by his wife and two children.

teaching rocket-science, he presented issues in a way that was accessible to everyone, and that is part of his importance.

His impact on the world is most evident in the permeable shock that was felt by his death. While it was not surprising that he died while being around a deadly animal, it is still very sad.

Hopefully, someone will follow in Irwin's footsteps and try to emulate the passion and care he put into each day and each animal he was around. Until that happens, his absence will be felt more and more each day.

Rest in peace, Steve.

A clarification of all things Ironic

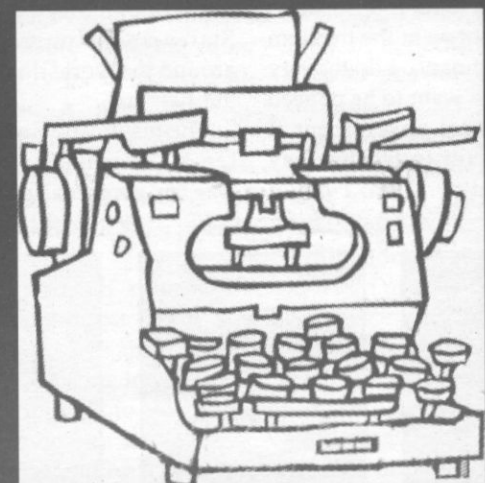
"It's like 10,000 spoons when all you need is a knife..." Irony is a concept that people, including Alanis Morissette, love to throw around. More often than not though, their examples really fall under the category of "coincidence."

For example, the seemingly indestructible Steve Irwin, official wrestler of crocodiles and veteran swimmer with great white sharks, being killed by a usually docile stingray is in fact ironic. Seeing someone at the mall you haven't seen in four years, or as one ironic joke website claims "Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?" is in no way, shape, or form ironic.

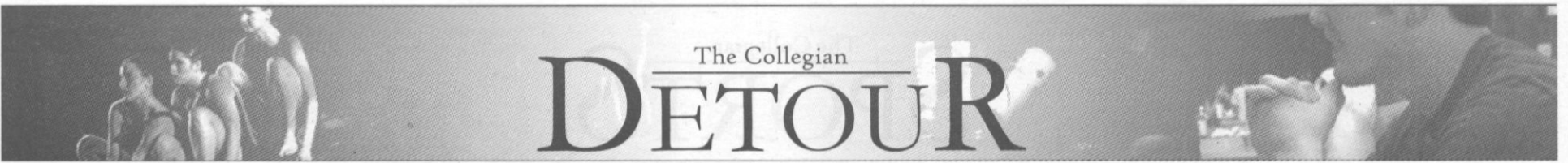
I once had a teacher break it down like this: irony is "anything you would expect to happen in the opposite of a perfect world." This is by no means an official definition, but perhaps it will save one or two of you from making one of the most annoying, and regrettably common, malapropisms around town.

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The Collegian
DETOUR

Facebook fires up students

Thousands sign petition against database changes

by Amber Lister
Staff Writer

Who would have known a change to a website's format could be so controversial? Lately it seems every conversation around school has related to facebook.com. In early September the popular college social database, facebook.com underwent several changes to its layout. Facebook.com is a web site where any college or high school student or alumnae can create a profile visible to members of his or her own school and anyone he or she approves as a friend.

The purpose of the site is to act as a directory for college students. More than 11 million students are now part of the network. The website makes it easier for students to connect with one another by joining groups, posting pictures and communicating through publicly posted comments called Wall posts and private messages. According to a survey compiled by New York University students, 85 percent of all college students at NYU have facebook.com profiles and 70 percent spend at least one hour a day on the facebook.com website.

Prior to the new alterations, basic information such as name, address, birthday, etc. were visible to others on facebook, but users could decide what other in-



Courtesy of www.jeffiepan.com

formation they wanted friends to see. The controversy lay in the addition of a feature called "Mini Feed" to each user's profile.

On September 5, the "News Feed" feature was put into place. At that point, information that was previously hidden such as friend additions, relationship changes and any other additions to a profile were sent to every user on one's friend list. Many students were disappointed that their personal information was being distributed around the web site without their consent. Mandy Lung '09 commented, "It's creepy. Why do I need to know the second someone cancels a relationship?" Thomas Barksdale '10 [explained], "I don't care what per-

son X and person Y are doing."

Other users were more concerned that the setup had become too confusing. "It was better the old way. It used to be simple. You only saw things on your home page that related to you," stated Bob Berry '08.

Hundreds of facebook.com groups were created in protest of the new features claiming they "encourage stalking." One of the disgruntled groups, "Students Against Facebook News Feed (Official Petition to Facebook)" created by University of Iowa students gathered up over 300,000 members in less than a day. Another group, "Facebook Users Against the News Feed and the Mini Feed" compiled over

50,000 signatures of protest to the new features.

Site creator, Mark Zuckerberg responded to the complaints by insisting, "This is information people used to dig for on a daily basis, nicely reorganized and summarized so people can learn about the people they care about." However, the pressure on him to remove the feature mounted and Zuckerberg altered the News Feed feature two days later saying, "We really messed this one up.... But apologizing isn't enough. I wanted to make sure we did something about it."

The site now gives users the option of shutting down access to certain parts of their profiles. "It's safer now because I can't track what other people are doing as easily," said Kenny Mansfield '10.

Whether the changes were productive or not, it is clear Mark Zuckerberg's network is performing the function it was created for: providing a communication system between college students around the country. No visible signs of decreased membership have surfaced due to the recent controversy and facebook.com remains the seventh most visited web site in the United States, according to the research group comScore Networks, Inc.

Do not take Snakes out of the theatres

Summer delivers instant cult-classic to eager Fans

by Danny Acosta
Opinion Editor

There are many horror films that fall flat. Japanese remakes watered down to the tune of a PG-13 rating seem to be the norm in Hollywood. Finally, a movie packages the two worst fears of humanity—the primal and the man-made—into a soaring thriller. Those two fears can only be one winning combination: snakes and a plane.

Snakes on a Plane achieves a new level of cinematic cleverness. The opening scene of tropical beaches and oversized screen credits is reminiscent of the *Weekend at Bernie's* trilogy. This establishes the movie as recognizable as a spoof of its absurd action/thriller genre. However, it employs just enough of the what-else-can-go-wrong? elements to take itself seriously. There is plenty to go awry when angry, venomous snakes are confined to the discomforts of coach.

The actors of *Snakes on a Plane* deliver Razzie award winning per-

formances. Samuel L. Jackson plays Neville Flynn, an FBI-agent sworn to protect an integral witness. They are set to bring down the evil Eddie Kim, played by Byron Lawson, who killed the witnesses' father with a baseball bat, a tacky expensive suit, and overtly villainous lines. These are the uproarious moments borne of cliché rampid throughout the movie.

At every turn, there is unnecessary sex, profanity, and blood. This may be the result of a studio-ordered re-shoot that upped the film to its R rating, so there is never a dull moment. And how can there be? There are mother*%&^# snakes on a mother*%&^# plane!

Snakes on a Plane reached unmatched levels of hype prior to its release for Samuel L. Jackson's (soon to be on the American Film Institutes 100 Greatest Movie Quotes, I am sure) line "We need to get these mother*%&^# snakes off of this mother*%&^# plane!" However, just as entertaining are his

constant reminders of "do as I say if you want to live." This movie has crap-ridden dialogue at its best. Director David R. Ellis and writers Sebastian Gutierrez and John Heffernan need to find dates for the Oscars.

This movie sets new cinematic standards. It defines popcorn films and holds them to new—maybe impossible—standards. It instantly aligns itself with the cult classic *Army of Darkness*. The serious-joke of a title track provided by Cobra Starship solidifies the film as the coolest movie of the 2006 summer. The only movie that could rival the genius of *Snakes on a Plane* is if the late, great Ed Wood teamed with film legend Russ Meyer to co-direct Bruce Campbell and Abe Vigoda in *Big-Breasted Alien Woman Riding Tigers from Jupiter in the Mall of Doom*.

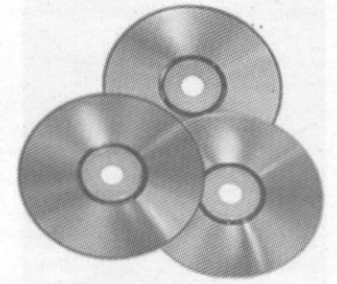
Samuel L. Jackson was smart enough to agree to make the film just by hearing the title. With the same amount of information, audiences should be smart enough to buy tickets. Rarely can a cult-

classic be seen in theatres. Re-viewing a campy movie, I am required to leave with a campy quotable: *Snakes on a Plane* is a must-see, action-packed, thrill ride that will keep you biting your nails on the edge of your seat from beginning to end!



Courtesy of www.snakesonablog.com

New Releases



The Matches
Decomposer

John Mayer
Continuum

Justin Timberlake
futuresex/lovesounds

The Mars Volta
Amputechture

Concert Watch

Thursday, Sept. 14

Under the Influence of Giants
Cafe Du Nord, San Francisco

Friday, Sept. 15
Unearth/Terror/Animosity
Fillmore, San Francisco

The Matches
Slim's, San Francisco

Saturday, Sept. 16
High Like Five
The Red House, Walnut Creek

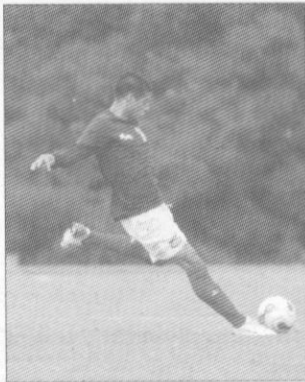




The Collegian
SPORTS

**Players
of the Week**

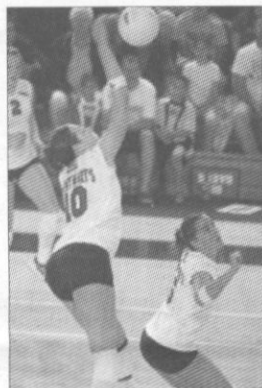
Carlos Diaz



Collin Krauthamer/COLLEGIAN

On Friday's game against Bowling Green, forward Carlos Diaz '09 scored the only goal for the Gaels on a free kick from 40 yards out into the upper corner. The sophomore standout currently leads the team with three goals on the season.

Christina Kirk



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

Senior Christina Kirk led the Gaels to their fourth win of the season against Idaho. Kirk recorded 12 kills for an outstanding hitting percentage of .688. She also had 12 digs and four blocks in the match.

Volleyball still looking to intensify and improve
Splits weekend matches against Idaho and Long Beach

by **Zack Farmer**
Managing Editor

The Gaels split their matches last week, winning at Idaho and losing at Long Beach State.

Saint Mary's lost for the second time in a week to Long Beach State but this time in straight sets, 3-0.

Taylor Groess '09 led the team in kills with 14 and points with 10.5. Missie Stidham '08 recorded only eight kills and a .061 kill percentage.

"We came out strong and in control," said Coach Rob Browning. "We just couldn't finish."

The Gaels lost by a total of 14 points on Thursday. Browning said, "For sure, our most disappointing loss of the season."

Browning made changes late in the match against Long Beach State to mix things up. "It gives us some more options," Browning said. "We went with that lineup against Idaho."

Against Idaho, Browning played only eight players as opposed to the 11 he played against Long Beach State. The strategy immediately paid dividends as the Gaels won in three sets while having four players in double-figure kills. This included a career-high in kills from Megan Burton '10 and a double-double from Christina Kirk '07 who had 12 kills and 12 digs while recording a .688 kill percentage.

"She's definitely a cornerstone of our team," said Browning

when referring to Kirk. "We really rely on her."

Stidham rebounded in this game with 15 kills and nine digs against Idaho.

The Gaels held Idaho to a .196 kill percentage while recording 44 digs to Idaho's 31.

Browning still sees much room for improvement. "We're looking for consistent play," said Browning. "We need to play with intensity and focus."

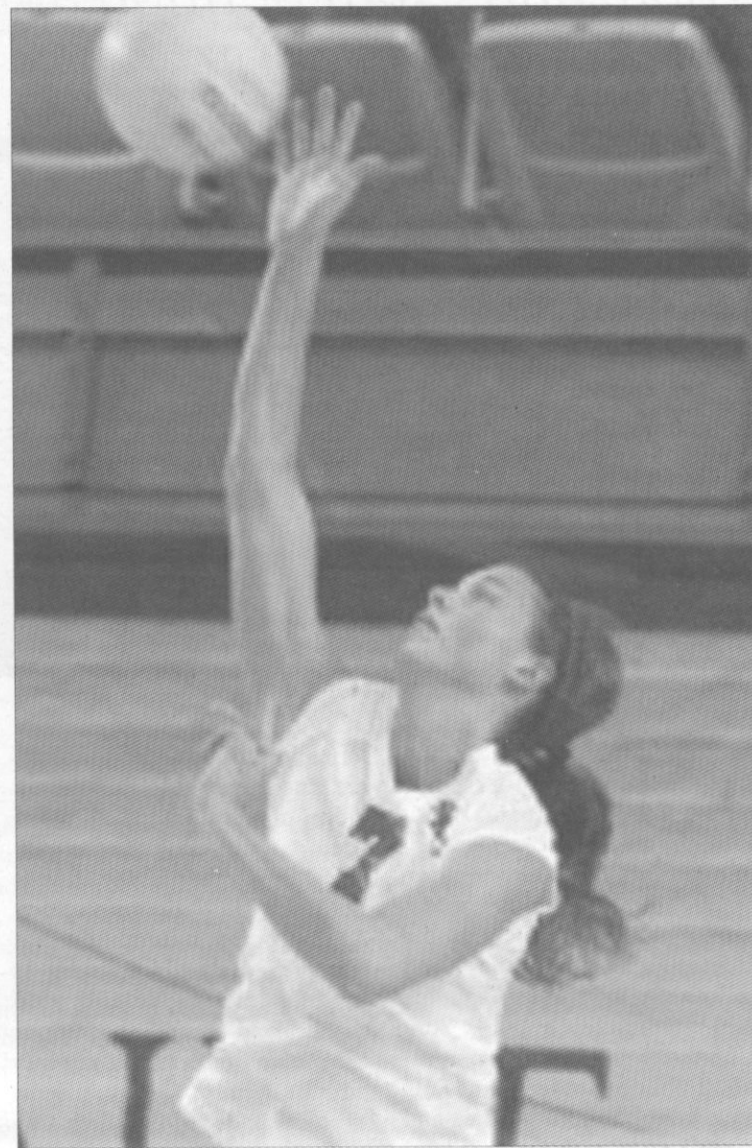
Intensity and focus will be key as they enter the Stanford Tournament in which they will play UC Irvine and #8 in the country Stanford.

The Gaels are 2-4 all-time against the Cardinals but have won two out of the last three, including two wins in the 2004 Sweet Sixteen season.

Against Nebraska last week, "we were with them play for play. One of their servers got on a roll and that was the difference," said Browning. "Against a team like Stanford, we've got to stay focused and believe that we can beat them."

With five players remaining from that 2004 team, Browning hopes that the experience of those players will come into play. "We want them to recapture the underdog feel."

At 4-4, the Gaels are tied for sixth in the West Coast Conference. They have two weeks before



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

Junior Taylor Groess played one of her best offensive games last week against Long Beach State.

conference play begins on Thursday, September 28th against the Santa Clara Broncos at McKeon Pavilion.

Cross country turns efforts into personal bests
Great start to the new season for women's team

by **Stefanie Ordoveza**
Sports Editor

Saint Mary's cross country opened the new season at the Aggie Invitational in Davis, CA last Saturday.

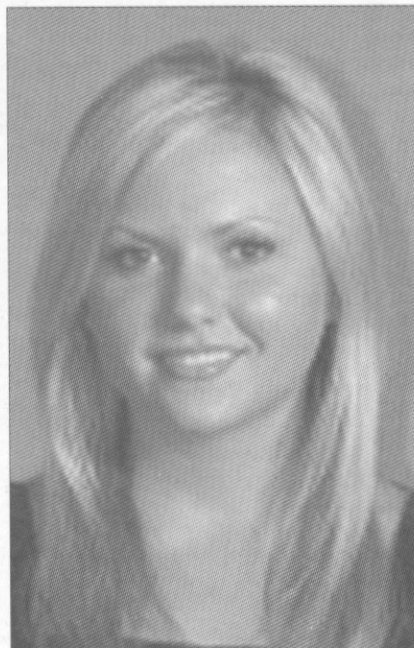
Both teams performed beyond their expectations in this race with several personal bests and even a placing from the women's team.

The women's team started the season off strong for the Gaels, finishing fifth out of the 13 schools who attended the race this year. This result was the best the women's team has ever performed in almost seven years at the Aggie Invitational.

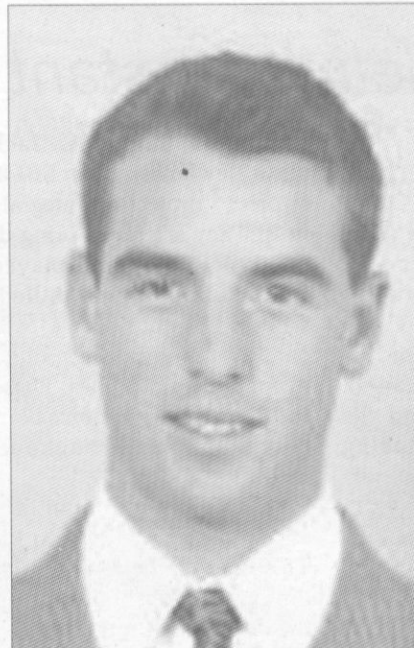
Leading the women's team, Karrie Hagedorn '08 recorded a personal best with an impressive time of 19:42. The pace proved fast enough to record several more for the Gaels. Claudia Aguilera '07 and Clare Schwallie '07 who both finished with a time of 20:35 recorded personal bests for themselves as well.

Not too far behind finished Haley Hunsaker '10 and Deanna Price '07, finishing with times of 20:54 and 21:53.

The men's team raced in the 8k event and also recorded personal



Junior Karrie Hagedorn and Senior Sean Hanley led the Gaels in last weekend's Aggie Invitational in Davis. Both runners performed personal bests at this race.



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

bests in the process. The Gaels were led by captain Sean Hanley '07, who recorded a 29:04, one minute faster than his result last season on the same course.

Following him were David Stiles '09 and Alex Nabors '08, who recorded times of 29:12 and 30:11, again continuing the trend of personal bests for both runners.

The large amount of improve-

ments may be because of the returning runners' experience, but the more likely reason seems to be because of the enhanced fitness of all the runners.

"Everyone really pushed themselves in the off-season. Whether it was dieting, workouts in the gym, or drills, everyone worked to create improvements," said Hagedorn. "Also,

everyone did their part, not just the returning runners. The freshmen really stepped it up in this race."

This highlight in women's cross country is just the start to what both cross country teams are aiming for - a better finish in the West Coast Conference.

With only four races left, both men and women's teams are working to employ the strengths they've realized.

"We're running together and we have good team chemistry," said improving this season."

The next race will be this weekend at the Aggie Invitational in San Diego, California at 9 a.m.

**Men's and Women's
Cross Country
Aztec Invitational
San Diego,
California
9:00 a.m.**

**Sports
Calendar**

Friday, September 15
W. Soccer @ Northeastern
4 p.m.

Volleyball vs. UC Irvine
@ Stanford
5 p.m.

M. Soccer @ UNLV
7 p.m.

Saturday, September 16
Cross Country
@ San Diego State Invitational
9 a.m.

Volleyball @ Stanford
5 p.m.

Sunday, September 17
Men's Soccer vs. UC Irvine
@ Las Vegas
12 p.m.

Women's Soccer @ Harvard
4 p.m.

Monday, September 18
Volleyball vs. U. Montreal
7:05 p.m.
McKeon Pavilion

The Collegian
SPORTS

Men's soccer unable to stay above Bowling Green

Plagued by fouls and cards, game ends in close draw

by Rachael McCoy
Staff Writer

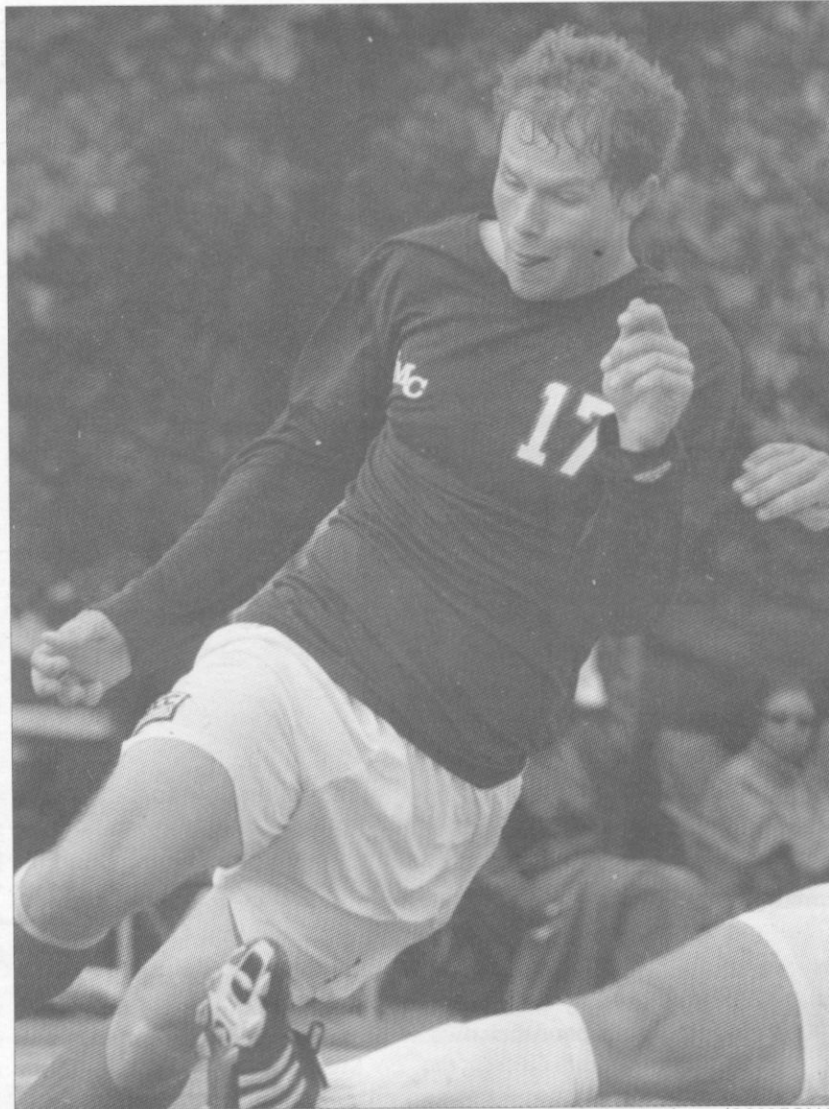
Last Friday's game against the Bowling Green Falcons ended in a 1-1 tie after 90 minutes of play and two overtime periods.

The first half proved unsuccessful offensively for both the Gaels and the Falcons. No goals were scored, but the Gaels were able to keep the ball on the Falcon end for a majority of the first half, resulting in many attempts on Falcon goalkeeper Brent Petkus and limited attempts on Gael goalkeeper Brian Mason '08.

Forwards Carlos Diaz '09 and Matt Fitzgerald '07 led the Gaels in attempts at goal for the first half of the game. Despite their attempts, along with attempts from others, Falcon defense proved strong enough to keep the Gaels from scoring.

The first 35 minutes of the second half of the game proved to be just as unsuccessful offensively for both teams as the first. During this period, tables were turned and the Falcons found themselves with more opportunities to attack on the Gaels' half of the field.

The second half was filled with yellow cards resulting in fouls from both teams, including intentional kicking, elbowing, and the occasional "foul mouth." With eighteen minutes left in the game, Falcon defender



Collin Krauthamer/COLLEGIAN

Junior midfielder Jason Stanwood recorded one of the shots on goal attempted by the Gaels against Bowling Green last Friday.

John Mackenzie and midfielder Ryan Perea were both yellow carded, along with Gael midfielder Corey Watts '07.

Another yellow card was given to Falcon midfielder George Davis, which resulted in a free kick taken by Gael forward Diaz. His effort resulted in a goal for the Gaels, putting them in the lead with a score of 1-0.

Later in the game with five minutes left, Gael defender Anthony Butler '07 gained yet another yellow card for his team. Coupled with this offset, the Falcons made an intense effort to tie the game and their efforts paid off. With two minutes remaining, Falcon forward Ahmad Smith scored a goal that tied the game at 1-1.

Smith's goal led the game to overtime which for the first minute was quite brutal. A scuffle between Gael and Falcon players resulted in Falcon's goal-scorer Ahmad Smith to be red carded and thrown out of the game.

Overtime did not result in any goals for either team. Although the Gaels put forth a great effort to regain their lead, they were unable to do so.

Next Game
Friday, September 15
@ UNLV @ 7 p.m.

Ultimate Frisbee = Ultimate Fun!

by Whitney Medved
Detour Editor

Not everybody can be a D-1 athlete, and frankly not too many people would be willing to, considering the all-consuming nature the sport seems to have on one's life. That is the beauty of club sports, and not even club- just straight-up randomly organized congregations of kids who want to kick a ball around, channel some adrenaline, and get the ol' ticker going. I recently had an opportunity to engage in one such fun-fest, about two weeks ago at an impromptu ultimate Frisbee game.

At the mention of "Frisbee" the reader is probably tempted to write this off as a stereotypical college experience. Where was the hacky sack, right? I assure you, while there was a flying disk, as well as some bare feet, there was defiantly no guitar strumming, dreadlocks, or the like involved.

What started out as a pathetic passing trio battling the harsh adversaries of wind and a general lack of skill, soon turned into four, then five, and before we knew it enough stragglers had arrived on the scene to form two teams, and the game went under way. I kind-of-sort-of knew everyone, but I feel like the motley nature of the group added substantially to its fun level.

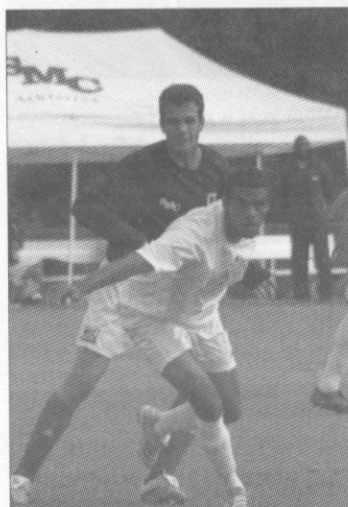
I have not played ultimate since at least eighth grade, though I don't think that I made enough of an effort in those games to even say it counted, so it is safe to say that I have never actively participated in an ultimate Frisbee game.

Nevertheless I charged down the pitch with conviction. I attempted to get open, help out teammates, and even managed to handle the Frisbee a couple times. A healthy dose of competition developed between the two teams; challenges were made, taunting and fake-outs occurred, as well as some jumbo-screen-worthy, how-the-heck-did-he-make-that catches. I was laughing the entire time.

While the opposing team had an edge on us in the beginning, we soon tied up the game, and until the bitter end there was a dialogue of scoring. We played through dusk and the craziest sunset I have seen in a while, right on into dark, the neon rimmed Aerobie (my sister assures me they are the best...) becoming harder and harder to follow, but never completely disappearing.

Like all good things it had to end, much to the dismay of some super-charged players and the relief of those worn-out. "Next point wins," we called, both teams determined to leave the field with a good name. A good fight was fought for that last point. They finally managed to pull one over on us, breaking through with their flawless short game, and that was it. I didn't even care though, I had so much fun. If it wasn't for those players that meant business, I probably would not have even known the score.

Recap of the Week: Men's Soccer



Zack Farmer/COLLEGIAN

midfielder Guillermo Trujillo '09 scored a goal from a thrown in pass from the outside. The Highlander goalie was nowhere to be seen as the ball rolled straight down the center.

Leading 3-2, the Gaels defense held strong, led by efforts from Alex Christlieb '07 and Corey Heldreth '09.

Then on a questionable foul, the Highlanders were granted a free kick which went in. However, the goal was quickly discounted as it was granted as an indirect kick and executed with no other player besides Highlander midfielder Erasmo Solorzano making contact with the ball before it entered the goal in the top left corner.

Toward the end of the game, the Highlanders worked its best to regain the tie but the Gael defense proved tough.

The Gael offense did not let down either. With 1:14 left in the game, senior forward Matt Fitzgerald's effort resulted in a Gaels' penalty kick. Defender Dylan Leslie '10 scored, solidifying the win by giving the Gaels a 4-2 lead.

The Gaels will take this win to improve their overall record to 2-2-2.

The Saint Mary's men's soccer team pulled out a win last Saturday in a fast-paced and well-fought match against the UC Riverside Highlanders.

After leading 2-1 in the first half, the Gaels worked to keep the momentum running in their direction.

However, in the second half and 26:40 remaining in the game, Highlander defender Ben Oliver scored a goal from midfield that nobody seemed ready for, including junior Gael goalie, Brian Mason.

Where is he now? Kickert goes pro in Italy

by Stefanie Ordoveza
Sports Editor

Daniel Kickert, former Saint Mary's all-time leading scorer in men's basketball, left for Italy on September 1 to play professionally this year. He was signed to play for the club Livorno in a Division I Italian league.

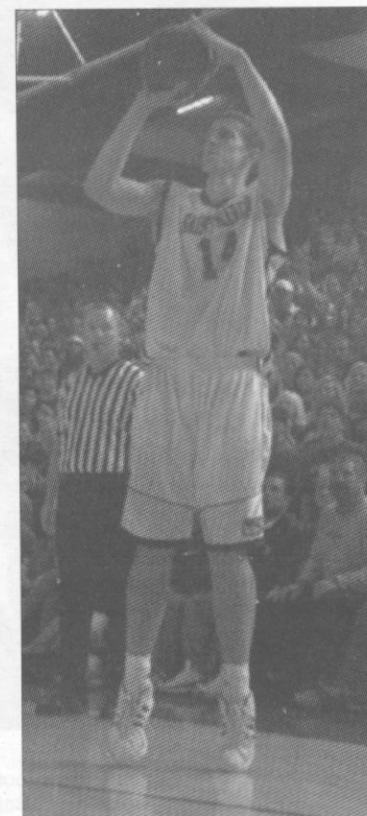
Though he received better offers from a professional league in Poland, Kickert chose to sign a professional contract with Italy while in Japan. According to Kickert, the choice wasn't about money but instead opportunity.

Kickert was advised by teammates Wade Helliwell and Jason Smith on his decision. Helliwell and Smith accompanied Kickert on the Australian Boomers team, where they played together in the National Championships in Japan.

Kickert's legacy will never be forgotten by the Saint Mary's basketball world- coaches, players, fans, and media alike.

He leaves Saint Mary's with many accomplishments, which include his leading the Gaels to the NCAA Tournament in 2004, being selected to the All-West Coast Conference First Team two straight years, and being named WCC Player of the Year by Sports Insider in 2005.

Kickert hopes to move his career forward by using this initial opportunity as a means to later play in the larger Europe-wide professional league.



Collegian Archives

Daniel Kickert has gone to Italy this year to play professional basketball.

Alumni funding renovates Pat Vincent Field

Better drainage system a top priority for rugby program

by **Oliva Talavan**
 Staff Writer

The Saint Mary's men's rugby team has been the longest standing club team at Saint Mary's.

Despite playing on a poorly designed rugby field, they have survived the past 50 years, continuously building their program. For three consecutive years, the rugby team has been ranked nationally in the top ten.

Now, the Pat Vincent field is under construction. It is being re-designed and reconstructed by Colony Landscaping, a company that focuses its expertise in retrofitting athletic fields. This same company constructed Stanford's rugby and football fields. The Saint Mary's field will be modeled exactly after the Stanford's rugby field and will be amid the finest facilities in America. The cost of the renovation is \$500,000.

In June 2003, Coach Jon Everett launched plans for renovation.

Last March, Saint Mary's hosted a celebration for the 50th anniversary for the men's rugby team. The celebration was organized by alumni, Gerald Murphy '72 and Marty Storti, Associate Director of Recreational Sports, who elected a captain from each year (1956-present) to locate all their former teammates and inform them of the gala.

A total of 350 alumni rugby



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

The Pat Vincent Rugby field is currently under a \$500,000 renovation by Colony Landscaping. It is expected to be completed by November.

players from all over the country attended the celebration, where they watched last year's Saint Mary's rugby team play and then attended dinner in the Soda Center. It was at this event that the renovation plans were announced and donations were requested.

Because the rugby team is considered a club sport and not a Varsity sport, they receive minimal funding from the school. So

with the renovation costing \$500,000, the rugby team had to fund a large amount on their own. In addition to alumni funding, the rugby team also received a large donation from the Old Blues Rugby Club (Cal Alumni), who has been raising money for 10 years to build a field for the East Bay Youth Rugby Program. Through an arrangement made with Brother Ron Gallagher, the East Bay Youth Rugby Program

will be allowed to use the field twice a week, one day for practices and one day for games.

Many other people helped to make this new field possible, including Brother Ron Gallagher, Brother Stan, Joe Kehoe, and the Development Office.

The former rugby home, the Pat Vincent field, was named after a former coach at Saint Mary's, a well-known player in the rugby world.

The field was originally constructed in 1990. Though it was a new field, it was built with poor drainage. When it would rain, the soil would become extremely muddy, making it very difficult for team members to run at full speed and was also very dangerous.

Side player, Matt Cordova '06 said, "Every time we played at home during the rain season, we had two opponents: whoever we were playing that Saturday plus the field. The drainage system was so bad that in any given play, there was a possibility of drowning in the standing puddles of water."

The construction will start by removing 12 inches of the topsoil and then installing a proper drainage system. This drainage system will allow the water to run off the sloped top surface and seep into the top layer of grass, where it will then fall into underground channels that connect to a natural ground water distribution point.

The field will be then topped off with properly selected grass designed to survive the pounding rain.

The rugby players are very content with the new field design. Side player, Brendan O'Meara '08 said, "We are a fast team and the new field will work to our advantage."

The field should be done in November right before the season starts.

Home field advantage not enough

Saint Mary's Soccer Classic brings more losses for the Gaels

by **Megan Manley**
 Staff Writer

The Gaels took just six shots Thursday when they faced the Vanderbilt University Commodores in the second game of the Saint Mary's Fall Soccer Classic.

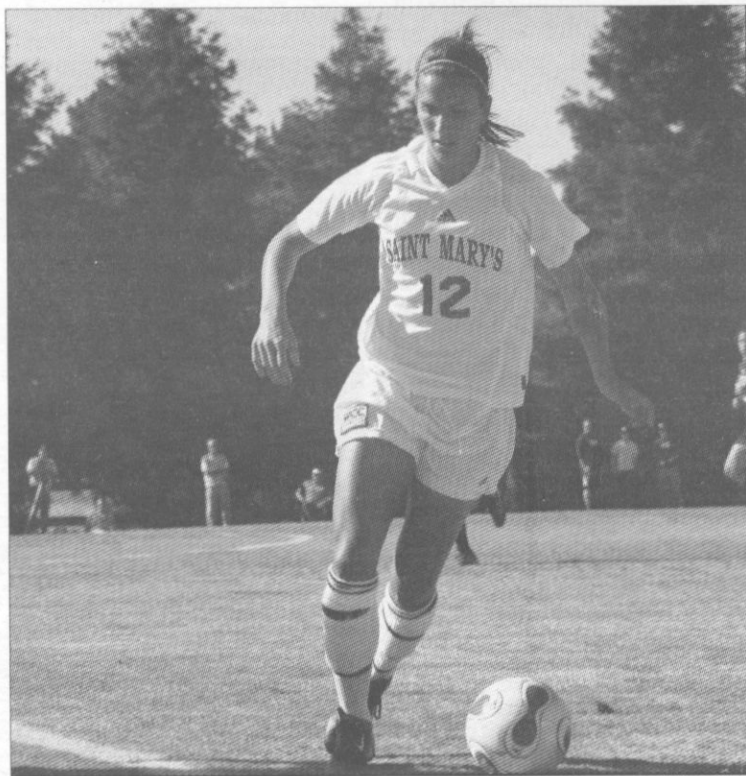
The lone goal of the game came from Commodore senior midfielder Susan Alveavey off a penalty kick in the 24th minute of action.

Ten minutes after the goal, Commodore Katie Schulz was given a red card for violent misconduct. The Commodores were forced to play the final 55 minutes of the game with 10 players and were still able to hold onto its advantage for the win.

The Gaels were plagued with fouls throughout the entire game, racking up 17 fouls in comparison to the Commodores' eight.

Freshman goalie Jennifer Zenovich was tagged with the loss for the Gaels after recording two saves. Vanderbilt's Tyler Griffin earned the shutout win.

The Gaels looked to rebound from their 4th straight loss on Sat-



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

Senior forward McKenna Belzer looks to lead the Gaels to a turnaround victory this upcoming weekend in Boston.

urday when they faced the Air Force Falcons at Garaventa Field

on the final day of the Soccer Classic.

However, the Gaels were dealt with another loss, losing to the Falcons 2-1.

The loss makes five straight for the Gaels, dropping them to a new record of 1-5 and eighth in the West Coast Conference on the season.

The Falcons scored the first goal of the game on a header by Rhett Chase. The Gaels responded in the 55th minute when sophomore forward Nikki Shrey scored her second goal of the season off a corner kick from senior midfielder Joelle Gizzi. With the score tied, Corbin Sanford of the Falcons scored the game-winning goal on a rebound in the 65th minute.

The Gaels outshot the Falcons 14-5.

The Gaels return to action again on Thursday, September 15 traveling to Boston for the Harvard Invitational. Looking to turn things around, the Gaels will first face off against Northeastern University before facing Harvard to close the tournament.

This Week's Sports Trivia

1. What year was it when a reporter began to call the Saint Mary's football team the "Gaels?"

- a. 1868
- b. 1905
- c. 1926
- d. 1939

Bonus: What newspaper did it appear in?

2. How many Saint Mary's alumni have been inducted into the baseball Hall of Fame?

- a. 0
- b. 1
- c. 3
- d. 7

3. What was the last Saint Mary's team to win a National Championship?

- a. Women's Soccer
- b. Women's Basketball
- c. Volleyball
- d. Football

For answers, go to www.smccollegian.com
 Last week's answers: 1)c 2)b 3)a Bonus: 2001