

INSIDE

CAMPUS NEWS:

Dia de los Muertos honored

SPORTS:

Men's basketball preview

Moraga, California

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Volume 104, Number 11

Propositions prompt campus forum

by Mike Bonazza Staff Writer

Representatives from the SMC Progressives, Democrats, and Republicans all gathered in the Delphine Intercultural Center on Thursday night in political unity for one specific purpose: to educate the Saint Mary's community on the propositions for today's elections. "We want to objectively inform our fellow students so they'll know what they are voting for," said Nathan Garcia '08, the president of the

Vote between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the Soda Center

SMC Democrats. They presented cohesive concise and summaries on what each of the propositions entailed.

Associated Students

Saint Mary's College Vice President of Student Affairs Arthor Curley '08, who presented Proposition 89, said, "It is important for college students, especially at Saint Mary's, to start leading by voting and it is our responsibility to inform them."

Proposition 89 increases revenues, primarily from increased taxes on corporations and financial institutions, to fund public fi-

see VOTE, p4

Author Cristina Garcia comes to Saint Mary's

by Alex Lavaroni Staff Writer

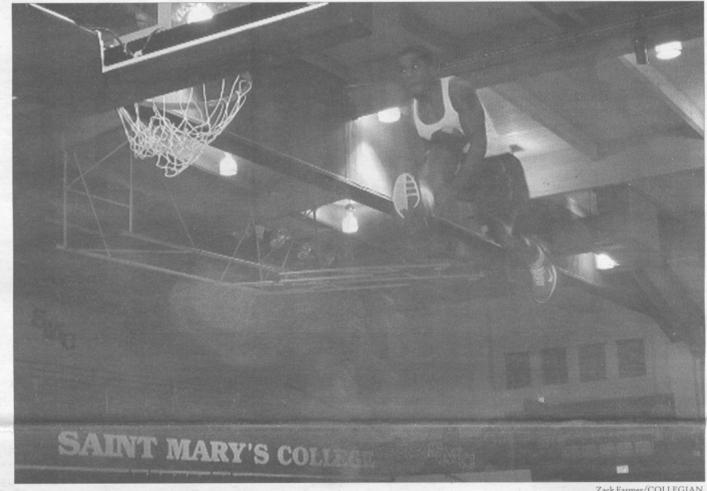
Author Cristina Garcia came to speak at Saint Mary's College on Wednesday, November 1, in the Soda Center. The evening began with a quick introduction of this animated storyteller, given by Chris Sindt, the director of the Master's of Fine Arts program at Saint Mary's. Next, Professor Rosemary Graham came forward to share the many accomplishments of this well-known

In 1992 Garcia published her first novel, Dreaming in Cuban, which was a National Book Award finalist. This book documents the irreversible effects of the Cuban revolution on three generations of the del Pino family from the 1930s to the early 1980s. She has since published two more novels, The Aguero Sisters (1997), and Monkey Hunting (2003). As a result of her literary achievements, Garcia has been a Guggenheim Fellow, a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University and the recipient of

see GARCIA, p4

'Madness' starts winter season

Despite length, event brings fun and excitement for students



Zack Farmer/COLLEGIAN

by J. Harry Painter Chief Copy Editor

Last Thursday, the Saint Mary's community came together for one of the College's prime events, MidKnight Madness. The gathering is an annual celebration of the upcoming Saint Mary's basketball season, held in the McKeon Pavilion.

Sponsored by Gael Force, the event featured performances such as dances and skits, introductions to the men's and women's teams, and, for the second year

in a row, the Golden State Warriors slam dunk team, along with other exhibits of entertainment.

Gael Force President Whitney Lopez '08 said that the event is designed "to get everyone pumped up for the basketball

To help accomplish this, the night was kicked off with the fight song, "On to Victory," perofrmed by the Saint Mary's Spirit Team and Sports Band. The crowded gymnasium was then greeted, and the teams were introduced, beginning with the women's basketball team.

The introductions were followed by highlight videos from last season, showcasing all the greatest moments of the year. The videos were welcomed with roars from the audience, suggesting that the Gaels were indeed "pumped up."

For the crowd's entertainment, the lineup featured numerous dances from the Spirit Team (one by the Dance Team sepa-

see MADNESS, p4

Octavio Solis discusses Marfa Lights production

West coast premiere this week in LeFevre Theatre

> by Karen Juan Staff Writer

Octavio Solis, author of the plays El Paso Blue, Gibraltar, and Marfa Lights, visited Saint Mary's last Wednesday to talk about his work. Through the discussion, students and faculty got to know Solis and his writing process before the west coast premiere of Marfa Lights at Saint Mary's.

The performing arts department production, directed by Professor Rebecca Engle, opens on campus on November 9

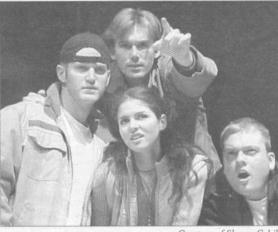
Solis was introduced by Chris

Sindt, director of the master's in fine arts program in creative writing. Sindt asked Solis the preliminary questions, after which students and faculty had the opportunity to ask their

"It was really interesting getting into the mind of the playwright [and seeing] how the process works," said Tasia Barrett '08, who plays the gothic Nina in Marfa Lights. "I've loved [the play] ever since I first read it two years ago.'

Marfa Lights, Solis explained, is named after a phenomenon that occurs in Marfa, a small, isolated town in West Texas. The magically appear-

ing "ghost lights," as they are called



Cast members Jon Bertain '07 (left), Beau Ballinger '07 (center top), Maggie VandenBerghe '07 (center bottom), and Andrew Russ '07 rehearse for the Marfa Nights debut on Thursday.

OPINION

Campaign ads characterized by hack politics

DETOUR

You didn't ask for him, but you got him. K-Fed

see MARFA, p4

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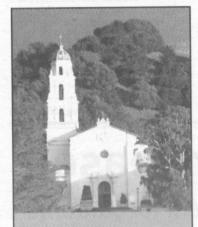
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THE INSIDE PAGE



THE COLLEGIAN

Saint Mary's College of California

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Zack Farmer: Monday 2:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., TTH 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m., Friday 2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Brandon Elefante: Monday 10:20 a.m. - 11:20 a.m., Tuesday 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m., Thursday 2:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Friday 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The Collegian is the official newspaper of the Associated Students of Saint Mary's College The Collegian is published weekly, except during examination periods and academic recesses. The Collegian reserves the right to hold and edit all submitted materials, solicited and unsolicited. The Collegian View is the unsigned opinion of The Collegian's Editorial Board. The Collegian's Editorial Board is comprised of all oversight staff members. Other opinions expressed are not necessarily endorsed by The Collegian, its contributors and/or advertisers. To place an advertise ment or inquire about a subscription, call The Collegian's Business Department at 925.631.4279.

SnapShot



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

Students partake in the Mid-Autumn fun at the Festival on Saturday by using a bounce house.

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

10/27 11:27 p.m.
Incident: Suspicious Circumstances

Synopsis: Negative results at the women's restroom by Café Louis; referred to Student Conduct.

10/31 12:00 a.m. **Incident:** Student Handbook Violation

Synopsis: Prohibited items (pets), minor in possession of alcohol, and possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana in Augustine Hall; referred to Student Conduct.

10/31 2:20 p.m.

Incident: Grand Theft
Synopsis: Two laptop computers and one iPod stolen from
Guerrieri East; referred to
Student Conduct.

10/31 9:45 p.m.

Incident: Fire Alarm Activation and Tampering with
Electrical Property
Synopsis: Fog machine set off alarm in Justin Hall; referred to Student Conduct.

11/1 2:23 a.m. **Incident:** Fire Alarm Activation

Synopsis: Steam from shower set off alarm in Ageno East; referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant.



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LINDA HUA

Driving to class is futile

h crap, I'm late to class!
There is no way that I can
make it there in three
minutes. Should I drive? It will get
me to central campus in a zip, but
where will I park?

This dilemma runs across my mind every time my alarm clock decides to take a break and stop working properly every once in a while.

Maybe it's because I don't want to waste gas, but most days, I just end up power walking downhill from my humble Ageno West abode.

Other days, if I'm lucky, I had remembered to bring my bike back to my suite the night before; then I can just coast downhill. Every time, though, I am tempted to drive.

However, in most circumstances, there is no time-wise merit for me to drive to class.

Last year, when I lived in Ageno A, there was this guy who I always ran into when I was late: we would exit the building at the same time; some days, he'd take a lazy stroll and be really late, and other days, he'd be in a rush and he'd drive to class. Every time, I'd just walk to class. It always cracked me up when he drove though, because he and I would end up in class at the same time. There wasn't much point for him to drive

This year, living in the upper townhouses, I do see a little merit—it cuts out a lot more time, coasting down that hill. I did it once. It was futile.

Sure, I got down to central campus within a minute, but I then had to play the parking game...and there was no parking. By the time I had found a little parking spot squished in the far corner of the upper-level parking behind De La Salle and next to the lower townhouses, I was already late to class. Not to mention that I still had to make the trek on foot to Korth Tower.

And so every time I see rushed people drive to class, I laugh inside because I know that I will see them arrive at class at the same time as I will.

So next time you consider driving to class for the sake of time, make sure to think it through—you're most likely going to arrive at the same time as you will if you had walked.

Although, I picked up a new prayer this week that might help: "Hail Mary, full of grace, help me find a parking space."

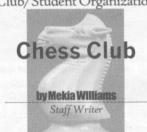
It works every time for our Senate representative, Ryan Resurreccion '07.



The Collegian S SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE of California

Weekly Featured Profile

Club/Student Organization



The Chess Club started just a few years ago and is still in the process of getting the ball rolling. Although chess seems like such a serious game, the atmosphere of the Chess Club is quite a friendly and social environment.

Christopher (Christo) Raines '08, president of the Chess Club, learned to play chess through his father. He considers himself an intermediate chess player with the goal of beating his dad at chess more than just once. To this day, Raines still carries around a 40year-old chessboard from his dad that he takes to far off places, as he enjoys being able to play chess in scenic backgrounds like Mexico and Belize.

During the course of this "meeting," the club members play games of chess, socialize and get to know one another a little better. They also talk about recent events relating to chess, such as local events and tournaments that allow the members to learn a little more about the chess world.

Most of the players in the club, as described by Raines, are "casual players." They have either been taught by their own parents or learned in some similar way.

Raines explained his philosophy on the skill of chess as being "not for the weaker of the mind or heart." However, he said, "People that don't know how to play should be encouraged to play and get more comfortable with the game in order to enjoy the atmosphere of the club.'

In addition to getting more people to join and find interest in chess, the club has a series of other goals. The Chess Club would one day like to be able to partake in tournaments. The only thing stopping them is there are not enough members. One of the main goals of the club has been trying to get the word out about the club by playing chess in Oliver Hall's cafeteria, and simply using word of mouth to spread interest about the

Raines explained how he would also like to get t-shirts for the fairly new club, possibly at reasonable prices from a nonsweatshop company. Also, the club would like to change their meeting place to Delphine Intercultural Center in order to coincide with a more comfortable atmosphere that the Chess Club tries to promote. Raines is hoping that these goals can be achieved sometime in the spring semester. For those Facebook members, the Chess Club has also formed a group under the website in which about 45 people take part. Raines hopes that, someday, the many people that have joined the club virtually will also be a part of the club physically.

Community honors Dia de los Muertos

Day of the Dead honored with vigil, memorials around campus

by Jennifer Steele Staff Writer

In an intimate gathering put on by the Latin American Student Association (LASA) outside of the chapel last Wednesday night, various members of the Saint Mary's community gathered to

honor el Dia de los Muertos (the Day of the Dead). In a flyer distributed by LASA, it is said that Dia de los Muertos is a traditional celebration that "views death as a part of life, not something to be

LASA wanted to have a Dia de los Muertos celebration on campus this year in order to give people time to remember those that they've lost. LASA Public Relations Officer Randy Lopez said, "LASA views themselves as a home away from home and wanted to give non-LASA members a chance to experience that same feeling." LASA also wanted to give all students a chance to participate in a customary Latin event.

Speakers reading an explanation of Dia de los Muertos started the cer-

emony. Participants were each able to light a candle in honor of someone they had lost, someone they wanted to remember every night, but especially on the day of the dead. The ceremony concluded with a prayer said aloud in both Spanish and English that read, "Those who die still live in Your presence, their lives change but do not end. I pray in hope for my family, relatives and friends, and for all the dead known to You alone." After the prayer, LASA invited attendees to talk amongst themselves, look at the altar, and enjoy the snacks.

Day of the Dead is a tradition that many believe was started approximately 3,000 years ago by the indigenous people of Mexico.

The Spaniards saw the tradition and tried to get rid of it, but failed. Now Dia de los Muertos is celebrated everywhere from Mexico to the Philippines to the United States.

The specifics of the celebration vary today based on location, but modern celebrations blend both

Zack Farmer/COLLEGIAN

the native and Roman Catholic

in the chapel foyer on Wednesday night.

elements, so the festivities typically include a prayer or mass.

Argenis Rubio '07 adds to the names of the honored

One of the main beliefs about Dia de los Muertos is that the family member comes back and stays with the family for the night. Because of this, altars are made in either the home or the cemetery and consist of the deceased's favorite food, flowers, and other things. On campus last week, there were six different altars set up, each in recognition of a dif-

> ferent group of people: in Brother Jerome West, dedicated to the Brothers, in the chapel foyer, dedicated to friends and family, in Delphine Intercultural Center, dedicated to leaders and influential people from around the world, in Fillipi Hall, dedicated to children, in Program Board, dedicated to those who have died crossing the border, and in the Women's Resource Center, dedicated to the women from Ciudad Juarez.

When asked why she attended the event, Ariana Peña '10 said, "It was something I'd never done before."

The Dia de los Muertos ceremony was a nice break from the hectic schedules of

Saint Mary's students and a chance to remember those who have passed on; it was a way to stand quietly and think about how important people are.

Campus Calendar

International Dinner Wednesday, November 8 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Hagerty Lounge Contact x 8518

"Faith, Service, and Social Justice" Sister Antonia Brenner will speak Wednesday, November 8 Chapel, 7 p.m. Contact x4468

Marfa Lights Thursday, November 9 LeFevre, 8 p.m. Tickets x4670

Marfa Lights Friday, November 10 LeFevre, 8 p.m. Tickets x 4670

Marfa Lights Saturday, November 11 LeFevre, 2 p.m. Tickets x4670

Brazilian Studies in

Northern California Keynote speaker: Ambassador Mauricio Costa Saturday, November 11 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Lafayette Room, Soda Center Free admission Contact x4584

Marfa Lights Saturday, November 11 LeFevre, 8 p.m. Tickets x4670

Fall Preview Day Sunday, November 12 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Filippi Hall Contact x4224

Marfa Lights Sunday, November 12 LeFevre, 8 p.m. Tickets x4670

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.

News Notes

Due to a high volume of stories, not all articles written were placed in the newspaper, but there are more articles online at www.smccollegian.com.

Correction:

In last week's issue, we claimed that Saint Mary's College "placed first on a list of over 500 schools for the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll." This claim was not entirely correct. Saint Mary's College was one of 500 schools honored with the award and one of 141 colleges to be hon-

We apologize for the mistake.





MADNESS: Gael Force initiates basketball season with entertainment

continued from page 1

rately), Pulses, and even the women's basketball squad.

In addition to participating in the team's dance, some of the women's basketball players came out in revealing garb and imitated the Pussycat Dolls, gyrating seductively around a Flava Flav look-alike.

The viewers were also treated to contests similar to those during NBA All Star Weekend, particularly a three-point shootout and a shot challenge, where coed teams were to shoot from markers placed around the court, the winner being the team to complete the course the fastest.

The general community was not limited to simply watching the events of the night. To get the spectators involved, host Sam Westermann '09 took volunteers from the bleachers to participate in a competition. In this game, two participants at a time were tied at either end of a rope and were to strategize ways to score a basket, sometimes at the expense of the loser's dignity.

But perhaps the most impressive shows of the evening were put on by the professionals. The Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corp, a guest drumline dressed in Gael Force attire, fascinated the audience with an intense drum show. Later, two members of the Warriors dunk team delivered acrobatic slams, captivating the Gael crowd and leaving them in

However, some students had complaints about this year's Madness. Curtis Masaniai '08 was unimpressed by the repeat act from last year. He said of the event, "It was awesome," but added that "they should have done something new."

Lopez said, "We weren't at first going to bring the dunk team back." She added that plans to bring other acts to the event fell through, so Gael Force contacted the dunk team again as a backup

Lopez pointed out that this actually worked in Gael Force's favor. "The dunk team said that they had a drumline they could provide," she said. She hoped that having the Blue Devils would make up for the absence of a new main event.

Some were disappointed that the gathering was over shortly after 11 p.m., after having been in attendance for little over an hour. Alex Nadeau '08 expressed that she was "kind of disappointed it ended early." Christina Castro '09 reflected this viewpoint, saying that "It could have been extended."

The reason for the event possibly being cut short may have been that the men's basketball skit was allegedly cancelled. Castro said of this, "I don't think it was fair. We're there to see both teams participate, not just one."

Despite some complaints, however, there were positive feelings about the evening. Bry Landly '08 said, "It was really fun. You could tell a lot of work went into it."

Lopez had high expectations for the event, and was happy to see a high number of students in attendance. She said that it turned out "way better than I expected. We kind of pulled this together at the last minute, and it just was awesome."

Landly saw MidKnight Madness as a good omen of things to come for Saint Mary's basketball. "I'm definitely looking forward to this season," she said.

MARFA: San Francisco-based playwright visits campus

continued from page 1

locally, have been a mystery since the time of the Native Americans.

Solis revealed that the theme of Marfa Lights is "light and darkness." He said, "It's light that appears when it's darkest."

The San Francisco-based playwright admitted that he did not always want to write. He originally wanted to be an actor, but was dissatisfied with the kind of roles he landed. He turned to writing after being inspired by playwright Eric Overmyer's use of language in Native Speech.

Solis began his career as a playwright at Dallas' 500 Café where he worked as a bartender. One of the most important things Solis said he has learned is to "make things happen on my own." He saw an opportunity, and he took it, using the bar's open nights to stage plays he wrote and starred

After going through his background, Solis answered questions about his writing process. He said that when he writes, he lets characters be themselves. "I learned to push everyone out of the room," said Solis.

Jorge, a character from Marfa Lights, is an example of a straddler-a character Solis revealed is always present in his plays. This character, Solis explained, is an effect of growing up in his hometown of El Paso, Texas: According to Solis, the city is where "a lot of our cultures and class questions converge." The straddler is torn between his or her parents' culture and the American culture. In every play, Solis lets this character "redefine what it means to be American."

Joey Lujan '07 remarked that Solis' characters are easy to relate to. "Some people kind of miss the mark on realism, [but Solis] totally hits it," he said. In Marfa Lights, Lujan plays Sonny, whom he described as "a college frat boy...trying to fit in."

Besides Barrett and Lujan, the cast of Marfa Lights includes performing arts students Beau Ballinger '07, Jon Bertain '07, Marielle DeNapoli '07, Vince Rodriguez '09, Andrew Russ '07 and Maggie VandenBerghe '07. The play runs in LeFevre Theatre from Thursday, November 9 to Sunday, November 12. There are a total of five performances: Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Solis will lead a discussion after Saturday's 8 p.m. show. Tickets are \$8 for Saint Mary's students, faculty and staff, \$12 for other students with ID, and \$15 for general admission.

VOTE: Propositions up for debate before today's midterm elections continued from page 1

nancing of political campaigns for state elected officials.

were discussed include Proposition 1-E, Proposition 86, and

Proposition 1-E authorizes a \$4.09 million bond to rebuild and repair California's most vulnerable flood control structures, rebuild delta levees to protect California's drinking water supply system and appropriates money from the general public to pay off bonds.

Proposition 86 imposes a \$2.60 per pack excise tax on cigarettes, indirectly taxing other tobacco products and raising funds for various health programs, children's health coverage and tobacco-related products.

Proposition 87 establishes a \$4 billion program with a goal to reduce petroleum consumption by 25 percent, with research and production incentives for alternative energy, alternative energy vehicles, energy-efficient technologies, and for education training. These issues were among the 13 propositions that were discussed.

Each panel representative had prepared notes on an assigned proposition in which a summary was provided followed by a detailed list of the pros and cons of the propositions as well as what interest groups argued for which side. For many students who attended the event on Thursday, today's election will be their first. When asked about the reason of attendance, Kenneth Mansfield '10 said, "I wasn't informed at first and it was nice to have personal instruction on the propositions, not just a book summary." Representatives constantly asked for questions and clarified unclear definitions and concepts so that the propositions could be better understood.

Write for The Collegian

Storyboard Meetings Monday, Dante 117 6 p.m.

GARCIA: Cuban-born author discusses cultural identity

continued from page 1

the Whiting Writers Award.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Garcia moved to New York at the age of two with her family, prior to Fidel Castro coming into power.

Garcia received a bachelor's degree in political science at Barnard College in 1979 and graduated from John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in 1981 with a master's degree. Garcia worked as a political journalist, serving as Time magazine's bureau chief for both Florida and the Caribbean prior to becoming a novelist.

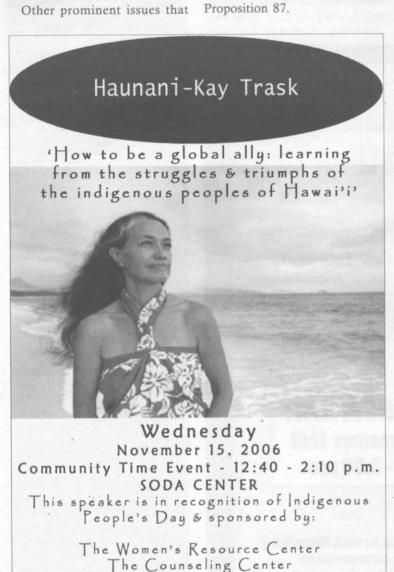
Once Garcia made her way to the podium, she dedicated her readings for the evening to her students. The first excerpt that Garcia read was from her novel Monkey Hunting. This story demonstrates the struggle of one family through five generations, four countries and two centuries. Garcia said "I wrote Monkey Hunting in my own interest in multicultural diversity." Garcia bases her novels on real events, which enable her to relate to the characters she creates.

The next two excerpts Garcia read were from her newest creation, A Handbook of Luck, which has yet to be published. This novel follows the lives of three young individuals through their journey into adulthood. The novel describes the struggles of each character as they are forced to face the process of migration. Because she is bilingual, Garcia easily incorporates both Spanish and English into her novels. Garcia said, "The challenge is to capture English musically in what Spanish

Through her novels, Garcia expresses the various difficulties of a dual cultural identity and her views of the immigrant experience. Garcia said, "You can't be Cuban because you write in English. I am out here in California and may not fit in anywhere, but I am Cuban, too. As I started to figure things out, I began to write."

After her readings, Graham sat with Garcia to discuss her work. Graham said, "That was wonderful. Your work is very intriguing." She continued to ask Garcia questions and soon opened a questionand-answer session for the audience. When asked if she outlined her novels, Garcia said, "I do not outline my novels for all kinds of things happen. For me, I try to remain as open as possible and go with the mysteries and surprises along the way."

Garcia's forthcoming novel, A Handbook to Luck, will be published in April of 2007.



Women's Studies

HAPA Club

Anthro-Soc Dept.

History Dept.

Delphine Intercultural Center

Center for International Programs

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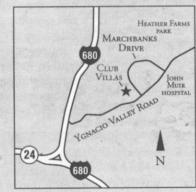


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JAIME ZEPEDA

SMC: A peculiar portrait of U.S.

When I arrived at Saint Mary's at Freshmen Orientation in June of 2003, I was amazed by the beauty of the cam-

But the cars really did it for me. Audis, Jaguars, Benz, oh my! The people coming out of them were equally interesting to me. I didn't think much of it then, but I should have analyzed it more.

The mentality that often permeates Saint Mary's can run from being elitist to being ignorant to being good-hearted. An example of the former is the most recent attack toward the Sodexho workers, who have felt the outspoken wrath of some SMC students through bratty letters and snide remarks. The attack is nothing new, as I have often heard fellow students point out the "laziness" of the "stupid" workers, who are being "paid" by their tuition. I assume "their" refers to Mommy and Daddy's money. How sad it is to belittle everything to money you don't earn.

As a former club founder and president, I have seen what Saint Mary's thinks of extracurriculars. Trying time and again to rattle the cage and show the need for social and political action, I must acknowledge apathy is rampant. I am sure Saint Mary's would be more apathetic if it weren't so lethargic. This is unfortunate, as most of this school has the resources and means to make some serious change, for just a small amount of effort in exchange.

Fundraisers, forums, service opportunities have come and gone, unable to maximize the good they can do because of uninterested students. I can only wish those who fail to participate in their community good luck, and a plush job offer post-SMC...or more Audis in the ga-

This is, in no way, to demerit those who have made a positive dent. The aftermath of the Sodexho attack showed a different side. Many came to the aid of the workers, noting that those who attack them are oblivious to the world outside of their bubble. A group on Facebook, "I am a decent human being who ALSO pays 40K to attend this school" has made it their mission to turn the tide in favor of those who serve us food and put up with us. Organizations like CILSA and Campus Ministry prove selflessness is

Saint Mary's shows different aspects of America and the world. My school can be filled with decent human beings, but whenever it goes astray, we need to set its driving mentality straight. Some may need to take note: this is what responsibility is about.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

When I read your point and counterpoint in the last issue, "Does homosexuality belong in an inclusive, Catholic community" I was extremely confused and puzzled. But after carefully reading and drifting through what is an erroneous argument, I have decided that Geoffrey Meadows' moral of conduct is probably equivalent to that of Paris Hilton and her career. It all seems a bit badgered, contrived and while he may be able to exercise his abilities to read the Bible and use a thesaurus in his writing, his sense of humanity seems to suffer from a serious lack of perspective.

First of all, Mr. Meadows seeks to define his perspective and scatter it haphazardly through his article. He wants to say the SMC being painted in a rainbow fashion is blasphemous, but I'll tell you what really is: his skewering of the word homophobia. He equates it to merely, "an irrational fear of sameness." What he doesn't get it is that even though through his self-defined notion of the word, he goes on to describe homosexuality in its purest form. Our society has people that breed the fear of homophobia in that they want to reduce homosexuals to a lower form of being by denying them certain human rights such as the right to love and the rights to family. These discriminations arise from homophobic people want to deter the notion of gay people from being the same, and specifically being the same as they are. Mr. Meadows perhaps breathes the same air, because his article seems to suggest that gay people should be alienated from religion, education and a Catholic-based education. An irrational fear of sameness, Mr. Meadows; yes, I think so. Maybe it includes yours?

The writer spends a chunk of his opinion relenting on ambiguity of the GSA's mission in that it seems to "excruciate" him. What's excruciating is that the writing is on the wall, and it fails to translate to anything clear in his archaic adaptation of Catholic thinking. It is without logic that he wants to argue that "homosexuality is not the oppression of homosexuals, it is in the way such fears are manifested into acts that can be potentially oppressive but such acts do not necessarily arise out of this fear..." because really I don't think Matthew Shepard was tied up, tortured, and beaten to death because of some other fact beyond he was gay. Last time I checked the word hate was not secular in it's meaning, and should Mr. Meadows think so: I would love to have him explain to me what was going on Hitler's mind during the Holocaust, or the slavery era or maybe just even tell me what thoughts are erupting through someone's head if they are assaulting another person while yelling the word "faggot?"

He also asks, "What sort of discrimination is being fought against?" I doubt Mr. Meadows has set foot into the Women's Resource Center. I doubt he has even thought to inquire about how Campus Ministry deals with students who come to them with problems of sexual identity. I hardly doubt that he even has been to a Gay Straight Alliance meeting himself. I think it would be a safe assumption that he has never even set foot into a Black Student Union, Asian Pacific American Student Association or Latino American Student Association meeting either. Perhaps, he didn't talk to anyone who was a part of the standing ovation that was at the end of GSA produced event, "The Bash." These places wouldn't exist on Saint Mary's campus, if there weren't a major number of students who didn't feel any form of discrimination whether conscious or subconscious while trying to attain their education through this school.

What's ambiguous is now to be made clear. Mr. Meadow's homophobic sentiment under the guise of the Saint Mary's campus is truthfully garners no legitimate standing merit. Perhaps, what's sad that he seeks to put a stamp on the Catholic religion to contrive it in to being one to put a disdain on people for their differences and seeking to alienate them in doing so. I for one know a majority of the fully functioning, mindful and socially conscious members of the Saint

Mary's community who are Catholic and do not adapt to this ideology at all. Until you step even a foot into someone's shoes, Mr. Meadows-I beg of you to seek some information before you construe an opinion on our institution of higher learning that relegates merely amongst a selective group that you hold membership to.

Sincerely yours, Kim Dao, '06

By the way, there were 23 spiders in last week's issue.

To The Collegian,

Thanks very much for your front-page story last week about SMC's placement on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. We appreciate the award and The Collegian's ongoing support of our efforts in assisting hurricane survivors in the Gulf Coast. Still, we think it is important to set the record straight about the nature of the award itself and our role in SMC's selection for it.

Your article was correct in stating that over 500 schools were nominated for this national award for colleges that have a significant record of community service, with special attention paid to exceptional efforts for participation in hurricane relief. It is not the case, however, that SMC "was placed first on [that] list of over 500 schools." Instead, out of that initial group of 500, 141 colleges and universities were selected for inclusion on the honor roll. SMC was among that group of 141, with special recognition for hurricane relief.

We are very honored to help our school receive national recognition, but it is important to remember that our efforts during Jan Term and Easter Break were only part of the reason that SMC received the award. In fact, the major thrust of the award is overall community service. Any school that received recognition would have to maintain exemplary levels of service to communities of need, whether or not that service was a response to a national disaster. SMC has a remarkable record of achievement in the area of community service, particularly through the efforts of CILSA, Campus Ministry, the Liberal and Civic Studies Program, social justice and service learning courses in many academic departments, the minor in Justice and Community, and the philanthropic efforts of student clubs and organizations. Even in the area of hurricane relief, SMC's contributions extended far beyond our groups' actual physical presence in Louisiana and Mississippi and the almost 5000 hours of direct service that we offered while there. Almost every facet of our campus offered some form of aid to those affected in 2005.

Students organized fundraisers, including the all-club Wake-a-thon, a Walk-a-thon, a comedy benefit, a concert in Oliver Hall, Penny Wars, a drive for clothing and other goods (with a delivery truck provided by a relatively new SMC alumnus), and a series of consciousness-raising campaigns. Staff donated money and energy as well, including a highly successful raffle of donated goods and a fundraising drive at their annual Benefits Fair. Campus Ministry and Student Involvement and Leadership teamed up to coordinate the "Bridges to the Bayou" campaign, generating contributions from our Lasallian district to support Lasallian schools in the affected areas. The SMC administration arranged to accommodate displaced students for as long as they needed our support. All of our efforts are acknowledged by our placement on the Presidential Honor Roll.

Finally, we wish to point out the only real "heroes" in this entire story are the people of the Gulf Coast. They endured the storms and their aftermath; they protected, rescued, and sheltered each other. They opened up their homes, their lives, and their sorrow to us. We had the great privilege of working side by side with them as we helped them to turn important corners on their road to recovery. They continued to struggle and toil once we were gone, always keeping their eyes on the future. They will graciously welcome us back this January as we once again try to aid them in their efforts to reclaim their lives.

We have vowed that when we speak of our time there, we will keep the people of that area in the foreground rather than us. This letter is one attempt on our part to keep that promise to ourselves and to our Gulf Coast friends.

Relieve. Rebuild. Renew.

Sincerely,

Shawny Anderson and New Orleans Crew

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St. Mary's College **Diversity Dance**



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Return to Upton Sinclair's The Jungle

EU, NAFTA open doors for rich, shut doors in face of poor

Apparently, America is not the only country that mistreats immigrants.

When author Upton Sinclair described the horrors Lithuanian immigrants faced in American food industries in *The Jungle*, the Food and Drug Administration was created in response to the social commentary. Ironically, there has been a return to this subjugation of immigrants to menial positions depicted in the current situation in London.

England recently announced a denial of Romanian immigrants permission into the country once Romania joins the European Union (EU) in January of 2007. Their reason for such a measure was that when Poland joined the EU it was thought that their annual rate of immigration would decrease to approximately 3,000, but instead it increased to 10,000 people per year. England feels that their country is too small (or good) for immigrants.

As a result, Romanians will not completely be banned from entering the country, but will be given admittance under certain conditions. Consideration will be given

by Municen Soni Staff Writer

to those who are outstanding in areas of mathematics or science, or to those who agree to take low paying jobs in the agricultural industry. The bill also denies Romanian teenagers from working unless they are enrolled in a British university at least part-time.

Though the British claim it is for their country's benefit, their social position is one that exploits and takes advantage of the lower class by saying society benefits when employees have jobs such as working factories for low wages.

It is ironic that while both the United States and England are considered first world and *progressive* countries, there is regression into using trade agreements as a method for exploiting minorities.

Similar to the creation of the EU, was the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the U.S. that has been controversial since its birth. Although NAFTA has perceived benefs in the Northern region of Mexico (the creation of jobs in maguilladoras, exploitive factories

along the border), it has caused thousands of farmers to leave their jobs because they are not only receiving 20 percent lower wages than before NAFTA, but are unable to trade their crops with United States because of price differences. Thus, just as Romanians are being forced into lower class jobs, Mexicans have been forced to flee their country, but only to find themselves harshly treated in the U.S.

Like NAFTA, which lead to an increase in immigrants attempting to cross the border, the EU has also lead to a higher rate of immigration into countries such as England and Ireland. Instead of helping the countries they have been assigned to, large economic networks such as the European Union and NAFTA aid the large countries that use these economic ploys in order to benefit themselves.

Third world producers are facing higher instances of poverty and malnutrition because of the EU's agricultural policy that allows for an unfair market in which farmers in third world countries are not compensated for their work, but rather are made to compete with market prices. However, instead of creating a path for equality between weaker countries, dominating nations (France and Spain) refuse to reform the system, allowing for an increase in marginalized communities. America is just as guilty as France in that regard; while it continues to cause Mexico to have a weakened economy, the U.S. benefits by the economic bullying that brings Mexicans to American soil.

Although NAFTA and the EU were assigned to help, both systems redistribute wealth into larger nations while perpetuating the existing problems in smaller countries. There is a downward spiral in to the restrictions on minorities and jobs that were present during earlier periods of history; England's restriction of Romanian immigrants is reminiscent of the Chinese Exclusion Act that restricted the Chinese from entering America.

As globalization continues, it reinforces discrimination between rich and poor nations. We need another Sinclair.

Obama brings hope

by Khalida Sarwari
Staff Writer

Barack Obama's recent an nouncement of a possible run for president in 2008 once again gives Americans the reason to believe that there are better days ahead.

In his keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, Barack Obama looked to the future of America and saw hope. The greatest gift from God, he said, was this "belief in things not seen." With the current administration in complete disarray, the disastrous war in Iraq, and the devastating tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, Americans have had little to be hopeful about in the past two years. The unlikelihood of the war coming to an end anytime soon and a new scandal in the White House every week, even Americans who haven't been jaded by these circumstances have a reason to be optimistic about the

In 2005, Obama was chosen as one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the world after being chosen as only the third African-American to serve the U.S. Senate since the Reconstruction era. Obama's popularity is boundless. He is a well-recieved orator in front of eclectic audiences. Some who have heard the young Senator speak in person say that he doesn't speak to his audience as if they were a faceless mass, but that he has a way of reaching out and directly speaking to each and every member. These are but a few distinctions that set Obama apart from the insipid pack of candidates.

To sum up Obama's persona in one word, integrity instantly comes to mind. He has a refreshing honesty about him that a lot of political leaders either lack or stifle in various ways. This is a man who has freely admitted in his autobiography Dreams from My Father that out of curiosity he dabbled with marijuana and cocaine as a young schoolboy in Hawaii. A graduate of Columbia University and Harvard School of Law, he also had the sense of making something better of himself bringing. Through his actions and words, Obama carries himself like a man who is not ashamed of who he once was as much he is proud of who he has now become.

When a leading Republican senator like Kirk Dillard touts his candidacy, any doubt that the young senator will have a successful run is quickly diminished. Calling him an "extraordinary man" who "can really work with Republicans," Dillard especially praised Obama's intellect and charisma. Even Cheney agreed that he is an "attractive candidate."

With rock star appeal to spare and a cool-sounding name to boot, Obama possesses the necessary qualities to give him a successful run for presidency, should he run, in the 2008 election.

Hack politics characterize election time ads

Watching this drivel proves politicians are hollow

Oh where, oh where, shall I begin?

9/11 and terrorism are the platforms that Republicans are riding into the midterm elections.

National security is a fancy idea, but I think a practical idea would be first to recover the damage of 9/11. Particularly, I think the best idea is to do honor and justice to the victims and their families by bringing them closure. Over five years after the attacks, remains are still being discovered because of an admitted rushed "recovery." While this reflects poorly on local authorities, it also signals that the Bush administration had more important things to do like draw up contracts and stage photo opportunities about "justice" in America. Irony.

Republican leader Bill "Fallible" Frist urged Republicans not to discuss Iraq during their campaigning. This ever-so-blatant downplaying of one of the biggest blunders in recent memory should say something about how much politicians care about the people. Although, I would venture to say that is sound strategy.

Despite not wanting to discuss Iraq, GOP ads have equated a Democratic win to a win for the terrorists. This logic is airtight and in no way preposterous.

The most disgusting of all the ads floating around campaign time belongs to Republican Mike DeWine. The Ohio Senator's ad features doctored footage of the 9/11 attacks. They added more



Danny Acosta

smoke. This is very...Hollywood. Real-life human suffering is not enough to secure votes. "How can we make it more tragic?" Unfortunately, this fear-pushing has a place in voting. Fear—and hack politics—go a long way.

A GOP ad warns Democrats will increase taxes by \$2.4 billion to "reckless spending." The campy nature of this ad is rivaled only by *Snakes on a Plane*. The only thing more painful to watch is Phil Angelides somehow, someway being vaguer than the Terminator. The scare-mongering of the tax increase (for which they offer no explanation) pales in comparison to the GOP re-airing Osama tapes. Way to give him free publicity.

The Democrats are once again asses. I would discuss their ads in detail, but their lack of funding prevents me from seeing any. One ad touts the leaders of the party. I was unaware Democrats had leaders. Speaking of "leaders," John Kerry's feeble attempt at humor—the first sighting of his personality—has caused him to back peddle. Rather than thoroughly pointing out the oh-so-many plot holes in the Iraq war during election time, he resorts to sub-par

jokes. I thought these guys had writers?

On a side note: the man making the election hell for Republicans, President Bush, recently stated he is not happy with the situation in Iraq. He speaks as if there ever was a time to be happy. People are dying everyday. The death toll in Iraq for American soldiers in October was over 100. November is off to a bloody-start. This is more than politics. This is

life. For millions.

"We cannot allow our dissatisfaction to turn into disillusionment about our purpose in this war," said the President. What is the purpose of the war he refers to? Now that Saddam is being sentenced to death, "progress" will be shouted in the streets. Do not be fooled, instability in the region was not because of one man, it is because of a zealous, multi-faceted division within the nation.

I am sure GOP ads for the 2008 Presidential election will feature Saddam on the end of a noose.

Ads on both sides relay images of the middle class. Too bad it is disappearing.

Enter celebrities. Michael J. Fox has been criticized for appearing in an ad that supports stem cell research. St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Jeff Suppan appeared in a counter-ad. Fox has been a stemcell advocate for years. All of a sudden (conveniently, at election time) Suppan has an opinion?

I wonder whether this opinion was formed before or after he

scratched his balls during the seventh inning stretch.

But really, terrorism is the biggest issue in the election.

The new Dick recently said that a "dunk in the water" is not all that bad. McCain, where are you? Oh that's right, supporting the party.

If the U.S. wants to be tough on terror, then it should jail Cuban terrorist Jose Posada Carrilles, who has been living in the U.S. despite being a known terrorist in half-a-dozen nations. If the U.S. wants to be tough on terror, then it should repeal The Military Commissions Act. If the U.S. wants to be tough on terror, it should stop terrorizing the public with these generalities that are so rampant during election time.

This is all just hack politics. Yet, American zealots on both sides are continuing on this road. Gone are the days where politicians were linguists and orators.

Swept under the rug is social progress.

Now, we are subjected to overcommercialized notions of politics, which do nothing to explain issues (my guess is because neither side has interest in solving them)

I guess I am just nostalgic when it comes to politics.

Whatever happened to the good ol' days when candidates merely accused each other of letting a black man out of prison to rape a white woman?

Oh, nostalgia...

DETOUR DETOUR

Running with Scissors snip happy

Flim is eccentric, but cuts characters, relationships, storyline

by Karen Juan
Staff Writer

THE BOOK

If somebody told you that Family Guy is a true story, would you believe them? If you said yes, then you would have no trouble accepting Augusten Burrough's memoir, Running with Scissors. Like Family Guy, Burrough's novel is amusing because it is utterly strange and ridiculous. Unlike the off-the-wall television show though, Running with Scissors claims to be true.

Published in 2002, Burrough's memoir chronicles his bizarre childhood growing up with the unconventional Dr. Finch and his

Running with Scissors

Courtesy of http://www.marquette.ed

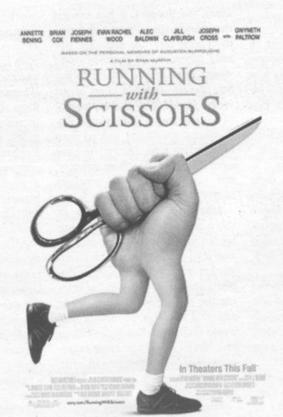
family, after being abandoned by his psychotic mother. From the start, Burroughs establishes he is no ordinary boy: "While all the other kids were starting fights and getting dirty, I was in my bedroom polishing the gold-tone mood rings I made my mother buy me at Kmart and listen-Barry to ing Manilow...."

Augusten's mother, Deirdre, is a seriously ill and overdramatic failed writer, who eventually becomes a lesbian. She leaves 13-

year old Augusten with her psychiatrist, Dr. Finch, who looks like Santa Claus but is definitely not children's bedtime story material. He calls the room adjacent to his

clinic his "masturbatorium," and believes God is talking to him through his defecation: "It means things are looking up. The s*** is pointing out of the pot and up toward heaven, to God."

The Finches live in a terribly dirty house, which Augusten initially has trouble adjusting to with his perfectly groomed hair and pressed



Courtesy of http://us.moviesr.yimg.com/movies.yahoo.com

slacks. As time progresses and Augusten loosens up, Dr. Finch's daughter Natalie becomes Augusten's best friend, while 33year old Neil Bookman, Dr. Finch's adopted son, becomes his lover

Everything and everyone in the book is either weird or over-thetop. There are moments one has to stop reading and ask, Can this really be happening? It's going to be hard to enjoy the book if one keeps doing this. At one point the reader has to resign him/herself to give up making sense out of it, and just laugh (or cry) with Burroughs. Because although the characters are crazy, they are human; and as Augusten develops feelings for themwhether those of love, hurt or resentmentone can't help but feel them too. Running with Scissors may not be the best comedy or tearjerker of a memoir, but it certainly is the most eccentric.

THE MOVIE

The book's film adaptation, also called Running with Scissors, is currently playing in theatres. Written and directed by Ryan

Murphy, the movie stars Joseph Cross as Augusten and Annette Bening as his mother. Gwyneth Paltrow, Joseph Fiennes, and Alec Baldwin also appear in the film. The cast members deliver strong performances, especially Annette Bening, whose portrayal of the melodramatic Deirdre is flawless and natural.

As screenwriter, Murphy salvages the funniest moments of the book, like the feces-reading and ceiling renovation, but scraps several characters and modifies a few relationships. For instance, Murphy makes the relationship between Augusten and Agnes, Dr. Finch's wife, more significant by giving them heartwarming scenes as mother and adopted son. It seems imperative that poor, abandoned Augusten has a new, somewhat sane mother figure in his life. Murphy also alters Augusten's romantic relationship with Bookman, whom he makes into a raging lunatic who hears voices in his head. The movie shows the two having sex, but does not display the inner-workings of their relationship, their genuine love and affection for each other.

Film adaptations are never better than the book, and "Running with Scissors" is no exception. Because the characters, especially Bookman and Natalie, don't appear to be anything other than crazy, the audience doesn't feel any sympathy for them. The audience leaves puzzled, discontented and completely weirded out. Unlike the book, the movie doesn't pull one into the behindthe-scenes story. One just sits there watching; laughing at a bunch of strange people doing silly things. If you want some laughs, and you're not affected by dysfunctional families and psychiatric illnesses, then go check out the movie. If you have more than a couple of hours to spare, I suggest reading the book.

100 Word Reviews

Wrong-handed desks

by Mark Freeman Staff Writer

In a world of right-handed tyranny, the left-handed desk stands out as a bastion of freedom. The unfortunate student who writes with the "wrong hand" must wade through a sea of desks built for righties-hoping for the chance to encounter the one desk that will save them from writing at a painful sideways angle. Unfortunately, many must deal with this right-handed monopoly; they let their elbow hang in space as they complete their hour-long test. But for those who search, the left-handed desk is the key to comfort and joy. For lefties, nothing ever felt so right, uh, left.

Very nice, great success

hy J. Harry Painter Chief Copy Editor

Sacha Baron Cohen's Da Ali G Show fans have no doubt been worried about the hype his new film, Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan, has received. But the hype, as expected, was deserved.

Borat's carrying on like a serious journalist and bringing out the best and worst of American culture is priceless. Who couldn't laugh at Borat's declaration "We support your war of terror," met with unanimous applause by rednecks at a rodeo?

Borat is full of brilliant comedy from start to finish, and even has a beautiful underlying story about true love.



I know why college kids wait forever to do laundry. It's not that we can't figure out the machines (I mean, the buttons are pretty self-explanatory...), nor that we are lazy-well, maybe we can be a little lazy, but the problem lies somewhere else. One of the many laundry trials is the skittish transfer of clothing and linens-where you grab a big ol' pile, and sort of speed-fling it into the dryer but a pair of underwear always seems to fall on the floor no matter how hard ya fling....Yeah, laundry once every week or two is plenty.



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"Caterpillar Soup combines gentle lyricism, dry humor, and radiant spirituality. Strelkoff's vast emotional range could melt granite."

- Los Angeles Times

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Fencing

A modern sport?

by Geoffrey A. Meadows
Staff Writer

Swordplay has a long and ancient tradition reaching as far back as ancient Egypt. From knights in armor to the courts of the renaissance and finally even the famous duels of a mere century ago, swordplay has long been both recreation and serious. Presently, its status is no longer that of settling disputes among aristocrats, but has become the modern sport of fencing.

The sport is often called "physical chess" because of the complex tactical decisions one must make under enormous pressure and time constraints. At the same instant, one must exert the body in the cardiovascular sense and must also be able to critically analyze his/her opponent's defense and attack. There are two main actions in fencing: one is a thrust accompanied with a lunge (attack) and the second is a parry of the former (defense). All other actions are varied forms of the two.

Modern fencing utilizes three weapons: the foil, the epee, and the saber. The rules vary for each weapon but only slightly, so one can start by doing foil and move quite easily into either of the other two weapons. Unfortunately, there are many clubs that focus upon only one of these weapons, making it difficult for people to find the one they like most.

In America, fencing has never really been extremely popular, but there are a significant number of clubs in the country, and many in the East Bay. In recent years America has been doing well internationally with the women's saber team winning many world and Olympic titles. America has generally struggled to keep up with the deep-rooted traditions of the much stronger European fencers though. Italy, France, Germany and Russia generally dominate the podium at all international events.

Locally, fencing is actually quite popular, although it gets virtually no press and most people have never even seen a fencing match. The Bay Area is home to many internationally renowned coaches who are starting to produce international level fencers. There are tournaments organized by the Bay Cup, complete with medals and glory (sort of).

So if you are feeling the urge to poke people with metal sticks while getting physical and mental exercise; or you simply desire to engage in a sport with dignity, fencing is definitely worth checking out.

CBGB: The club that saved rock

Popular venue closes after steady decline

by Emily Esguerra

Though there are few clubs in America that can take credit for fostering some of the greatest punk and rock musicians of our time, the one that stood proudest was the legendary CBGB in New York City. For those who have never experienced the greatness of the CBGB, I'm afraid that your fate has already been been decided, as the 36-year-old club closed permanently this October. However, recent times at the CBGB were nothing compared to the hard-core days of its youth, turning into more of a hang out for NYU students, rock & roll old timers, and young native New Yorkers. Founder and owner Hilly Kristal opened the CBGB in 1973, in hopes to attract the musical fans of the club's acronym: Country Bluegrass Blues. But Kristal's plans for a Country Bluegrass Blues crowd backlashed, and instead he created the greatest underground rock club in American history. Kristal states, "Fortunately, or perhaps unfortunately, things didn't work out quite the way I'd expected." Little did Kristal know at the time, that there would be many more unexpected additions to his rock and roll empire.

The club's full name is CBGB & OMFUG, though most simply know it as the "CBGB," and many people are more often bewildered by the second acronym to the

does OMFUG stand for? Kristal replies, "That's more of what we do. It means Other Music For Uplifting Gormandizers;" a gormandizer being a voracious eater of, in this scenario, music. However, it wasn't the music that was attracting fans to the club in its later years, but its history. New York University student and next door neighbor to the CBGB, Bronwyn James, sheds the same sentiments as a frequent CBGB clubber: "I guess it was inevitable that it wouldn't always be able to host Blondie and the Ramones, but people still appreciated it for its history and we're even proud to say that we've been there."

Though its elder years weren't as successful as its younger ones, hundreds of New Yorkers still attended nightly events and concerts at the club. James remarks, "I live right next door and there would be people out every night, usually just a bunch of hipsters smoking, but the sidewalks on this block were never empty." Even in its glory days the club was seen as an outlet for good, solid, "back to basics" kind of rock, particularly because the club opened in the summit of the Disco era. Kristal states, "The formula driven Disco music and the long drawn out solos and other complexities in much of the rock of the late '60s and early '70s encouraged a lot of disgruntled rock enthusiasts to seek the refreshing

club's name, than the first. So what rhythms and sounds of simple, high energy rock and roll, which seemed to take place right here at CBGB." And rock and roll they did, even in the final minutes prior to the club closing.

When asked about the night of the closing James remarks, "A crowd filled the block all night long. I was woken up at 3 a.m. by shouts and was happy to see them still there when I looked out my window. People, some pretty young, some who I'm sure were CBGB's original crowd, just stood around and talked, reminisced, and sang songs, including some written especially for the occasion. There was a band, too."

A nostalgic and extremely poignant occasion, there are mixed feelings about the permanent closure of CBGB; some saying its greatness could've been resurrected and others feeling that now was a good time to say goodbye, when people could still appreciate it and the club still had its dignity. James, however, sways more with the latter, "It's too bad the support couldn't have been rallied a little earliermaybe it could have been saved. Or maybe it's better this way, closing when people can still remember its glory days. If it ever became just a hangout for NYU freshmen...that would be a travesty." A travesty it could have been, but a glorious underground rock empire it was, that will, as they say, "go down in history."

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Disney Animated Character

PERFORMERS!

K-Fed 'plays with fire,' gets burned

Federline becomes new Vanilla Ice

> by Adrian Garro Staff Writer

America, we have entered a new era. That's right-Kevin Federline's rap CD Playing with Fire finally came out.

Appropriately launched on Halloween, the backup-dancerturned-Mr. Britney Spears has dropped a bomb on the world, and man, does it stink.

In case you don't know who K-Fed is, he is the worthless waste of humanity that married Britney Spears, and immediately went from anonymous loser to rich and famous annoyance.

It would be one thing if he was actually an artist prior to knocking boots with Britney, but instead, he has carried out the reverse-Paris Hilton Effect: instead of being born into fame and riches and then releasing a CD, he became rich through marriage, and used her to finance his album.

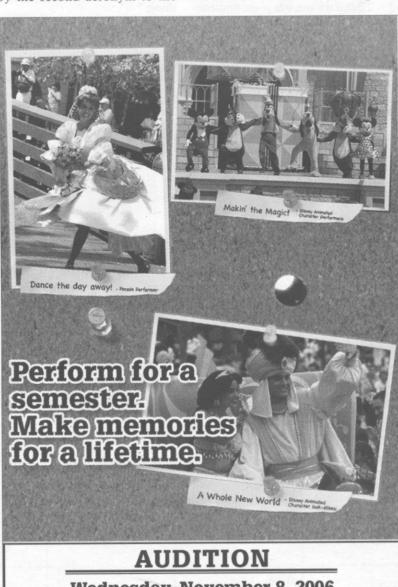
Shame on you, Britney, for supporting this. You sure can pick a winner.

Lyrically, K-Fed (or "Pancake Man," as he refers to himself) makes Fred Durst of Limp Bizkit look like a venerable god. Federline drops such poetry as, "It's goin' down like a fresh pair of panties" (in Privilege), "K-Fed, I'm the pimp of all pimps/mack of all macks/sit back cuz y'all wack" (in the intellectually stimulating Dance With a Pimp) and, "This marijuana's got me heavily sedated-I'm Kevin Federline, America's most hated" (in America's Most Hated). Clearly, we are dealing with a genius here. Perhaps the best rhyme was, "Who told this bastard that he can't rap? I got \$50 mil, I can do whatever I want," which doesn't actually rhyme at all.

K-Fed's delivery is similar to that of someone imitating Eminem, constantly making statements about how critics (or "haters") just add fuel to his fire. The problem is, there is no fire to be seen anywhere. Every single song is about clubbing, haters, drinking, and how awesome and rich he is. There is no meaningful content anywhere, but that's hardly a surprise.

The beats are decent, but that's because K-Fed had a money tree at his disposal, called Britney. All the semi-phat beats and weird keyboard noises (Lose Control) make part of the CD at least somewhat listenable, but it all boils down to the fact that it is Kevin Federline doing the "rapping".

K-Fed has absolutely nothing to say, thus he should never have even released a CD. He isn't an artist. If the music industry was a fish tank, he would be the one sucking on the wall, cleaning up all the dirt and grime, doing anything he can to be around the rest of the fish, and still consider himself a valid member of the group.



Wednesday, November 8, 2006

Broadway Studios 435 Broadway . San Francisco, CA 94133

4:00 pm

Please arrive 30-60 minutes before the audition time to register



SPORTS

Men's basketball ready for tip off

'Underdog' Gaels waiting to surprise national audience





Sophomore Stefani Rocco scored from 30 yards out during the women's soccer season closer against #4 Santa Clara this past Saturday. The goal was Rocco's first of the season and served as the Gaels' lone goal against the Broncos.

Achim Christner



Sophomore Achim Christner advanced to the finals of the University of the Pacific Invitational this past weekend. Christner went 2-0 before losing to a Pacific player in the finals.

Sports Calendar

Today, November 7 Men's Golf Hawaii Fall Intercollegiate @ Oahu, HI All Day

Thursday, November 9 Women's Volleyball vs. Pepperdine 7:05 p.m.

Friday, November 10 Men's Basketball vs. Seattle Pacific 7:35 p.m.

Saturday, November 11 Women's Volleyball vs. Loyola Marymount 1:05 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. San Diego State 7:35 p.m.

Sunday, November 12 Women's Basketball @ California 2 p.m.

Staff Writer

The Saint Mary's men's basketball team is looking to win the West Coast Conference (WCC) title this year after falling short in recent years. The Gaels return eight of their top nine scorers from last season.

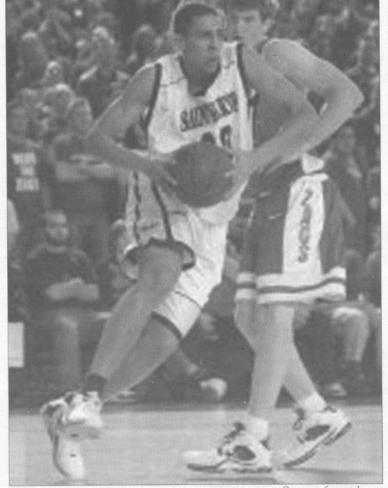
According to head coach Randy Bennett, the Gaels will look to senior forward Brett Collins and sophomore standouts Diamon Simpson, Ian O'Leary, and Wayne Hunter, as well as transfer junior Tron Smith, to fill the lost of the school's leading scorer, Daniel Kickert.

"We have a tough schedule so hopefully we won't let that beat us up," said Bennett.

Bennett and the Gaels have high hopes for this season, and their tough schedule does not have them cowering. Set to face eight teams who received a ticket to the "Big Dance" last season, the Gaels will be battle-tested after their out-of-conference schedule. "You better have mental toughness," said Bennett. "You can't for one second give yourself an excuse.'

The schedule will give a young Gaels team a chance to compete with some of the NCAA's elite teams, such as Univeristy of Connecticut and Seton Hall. "I think it is going to be fun because eight teams went to the tournament and our goal is to get there also, so this is kind of a measuring stick to see where we are at and the level of competition," forward O'Leary.

Picking a tough schedule was a strategic move on Bennett's part, giving the Gaels a second chance



Sophomore forward Diamon Simpson will look to be a top player in the C, after leading the Gael in rebounds as a freshman.

"The schedule is tough. It might be a little too tough for as young as we are," said Bennett. "But if we can win some non-conference games, we will have a chance to play our way into the tournament."

This year's team is expected to be more athletic than in the past.

to earn a ticket to the NCAA tour- "This team is really explosive, athletic, [and] fast. I think it is going to open a lot more things,' said O'Leary. "This team is going to be a run and gun type thing.

> The faster pace will undoubtedly lead to higher scoring, giving more Gaels a chance to highlight their talents.

"I think our team is more of a

balanced team than we have had," said Bennett. "Instead of three real good scorers I think there are five or six pretty good scorers."

This season, the WCC conference has a contract with ESPN to appear on Big Monday, giving the Gaels a national stage to showcase their talents. The Gaels will host both Gonzaga on ESPN during rivalry weekend early in January and San Francisco on ESPN 2. The Gaels will also play two games on the road, televised by ESPNU.

In the WCC coach's poll the Gaels were picked fourth behind Gonzaga, Loyola Marymount, and San Francisco. The Gaels think that getting picked to place fourth in the WCC conference is irrelevant. "It doesn't matter. When it is all said and done, it is going to be what you did," said Bennett.

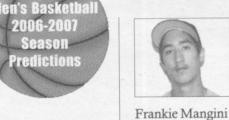
The Gaels will have their work cut out for them, but they have come to enjoy the underdog posi-

"I like our team being in that position. If you come to Saint Mary's, you better understand that you are an underdog, because you are a lot of the times" said Bennett. "But we will be alright."

Now it is up to the Gaels to prove their talent. "That's why you play all of the games, to see who is better," said forward Collins. "We could be first, we could be last. I guess we just have to wait and see."

The Gaels start their season off with the Shamrock Invitational on November 10-12 where they will play Seattle Pacific, San Diego State, and Murray State.

The experts' picks





Gonzaga

Brandon Worthy,

23-9

(Round of 64)

Tron Smith,

Guard

NCAA

LMU



J. Harry Painter

Gonzaga



Saint

Mary's



Brandon Elefante





Zack Farmer Megan Manley

WCC Tournament Champion

WCC Player

Record

SMC

Postseason

SMC Player

of the Year

Champion

WCC

of the Year Saint Mary's

Men's Basketball vs. Murray State 7:35 p.m.





Diamon Simpson,

20-II

NCAA

(Round of 32)

Diamon Simpson,

Power Forward

SMC



Brandon Worthy,

25-7

(Round of 64)

Brett Collins,

Foward

LMU

NCAA



LMU

Gonzaga





Brandon Worthy, LMU

20-II 23-9

NCAA NCAA (Round of 64) (Sweet 16)

Brett Collins, Diamon Simpson, Forward Power Forward

SPORTS

Women's soccer suffers loss in finale

Late Gael goal not enough to catch up to Broncos

by Frankie Mangini

Sports Editor

The Saint Mary's women's soccer team took on south bay rival #4 Santa Clara last Saturday. The game was the last for seniors McKenna Belzer, Sarah Churchill and Joelle Gizzi.

In this season closer, the Gaels lost to the Santa Clara Broncos 2-1

The Broncos scored early in the match. Marian Dalmy scored on a penalty kick in the 16th minute of the first half. Dalmy took a shot that beat Gael goalkeeper Jennifer Zenovich '10 to the lower corner of the goal.

For the remainder of the first half, the Broncos dominated play. They held the Gaels to zero shots, while recording eight of their own. Still, Zenovich and the Gaels' defense held the game at only 1-0.

In the second half, the Broncos continued to control the game early until they found the net again. In the 65th minute, Broncos' Hayley Siegel took control of a loose ball in the penalty box. From the left side, she shot a bending ball to the top corner, extending their lead to 2-0.

The Gaels finally found a way to respond, taking two shots on net before scoring their first of the

game

In the 73rd minute, senior forward McKenna Belzer passed the ball to sophomore Stefani Rocco. Rocco buried the shot into the upper left corner of the net from 30 yards out.

The goal was Rocco's first of the year while Belzer recorded her team-leading fourth assist.

The Gaels continued to pressure offensively for the rest of the match, but they could not score the equalizer.

With the loss, the Gaels' final record stands at 1-5-1 in West Coast Conference (WCC) play and 3-13-4 overall. The Gaels tied with San Francisco for fourth place with four points.

Women's Soccer Final Standings

	Record	Points
SCU	5-1-1	16
POR	4-1-2	14
PEP	4-2-1	13
LMU	2-1-4	10
USD	3-4-0	9
GON	3-4-0	9
SMC	1-5-1	4
USF	1-5-1	4



THE GAEL NOTEBOOK

Women's Basketball: The Saint Mary's women's basketball team fell 88-77 in an exhibition game against Love and Basketball on Friday.

Junior Maija Lahde kicked off the game right for the Gaels by hitting a 3-pointer for the team's first bucket of the night. However, Love and Basketball dominated the first half, forcing multiple turnovers, and leaving the Gaels trailing 41-23 at the half.

The Gaels started the second half on a 13-5 run, eventually cut the lead down to six but never came any closer. It was a run and gun game for the Gaels under new head coach Paul Thomas.

The Gaels cut the deficit in the second half, but never took the lead. Sophomore Jontelle Smith led the Gaels with 14 points. Senior Sheridan Arredondo racked up 13 points and three rebounds on the night. Lahde added 11 points and junior Monica Mertle had 10 points in the Gaels' loss.

The women's basketball team opens the regular season on Sunday, November 12 when they travel to Berkeley to face California at 2:05 p.m.

Men's Tennis: The Saint Mary's men's tennis team participated in the University of the Pacific Invitational this past weekend. The team's efforts were highlighted by sophomore Achim Christner and

senior Adam Fauvre.

Christner advanced to the finals of the ITA 'A' Singles draw, where he lost to Pacific's Moritz Starke.

Fauvre lost in the first round of singles in the ITA 'B' Singles draw but came back to win his next-three matches to win the consolation championship.

In doubles, the pair of Dan Anderson and Thomas Dawson-Roberts went 2-1 in the ITA 'D' Doubles draw. In one of their matches, they convincingly defeated University of Nevada in a quick 8-3 match.

This tournament caps off the fall pre-season for the men's tennis team. Their season will officially start on January 21 when they will take on Northern Arizona

Women's Tennis: The Saint Mary's women's tennis team headed to San Diego to compete in the San Diego State University Invitational last weekend. Six teams participated in the invitational, some of which were New Mexico, UC Irvine, and conference rival Pepperdine.

Saint Mary's ended the tournament with titles in the Flight I Doubles draw. The doubles pair of Jessica Hoath '08 and Aude Lambert '07 won the doubles championship, beating the #2 seed University of New Mexico's Gersic and Abou-Zekry 8-4.

Saint Mary's other doubles team, consisting of Femke Strijbis '10 and Stef Ordoveza '08, won the consolation doubles title, beating University of San Diego's Perl and Lindstrand.

As far as singles, the team struggled in gaining wins.

However, there were a few highlights with Hoath beating one of San Diego State's top players, Alesya Vidov, 6-4, 6-2. Strijbis also pulled out a great win against University of San Diego's Lindstrand in the semifinals of the Consolation I bracket, winning 7-6 (4), 6-1.

This tournament closes out the pre-season for the Gaels, and they look forward to their season starting on January 13.

Intramural Basketball: This week, intramural basketball began its postseason tournament. Of the nearly 20 teams that began the intramural season a month ago, the field has been narrowed down to 12 teams in both the co-ed and competitive divisions.

The first round of the playoffs began this past Sunday. The winners of these games will compete tonight for the right to play in the championship games later in the week.

At the very latest, a new intramural basketball league championed will be crowned before the weekend is over.



Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Men's soccer finishes fall season flat

Gaels battle Portland to draw after stumbling to Gonzaga



Argenis Rubio/COLLEGIAN

Senior Desmond Brooks anchored the Gaels' defense in his final collegiate match on Sunday against Portland.

by Alex Branch Staff Writer

The Gaels had a tough weekend, playing the Gonzaga Bulldogs on Friday and then the Portland Pilots on Sunday. On Friday, the Gaels suffered a hard loss to the Bulldogs, 3-0. On Sunday, the men finished in a 1-1 tie against the Pilots in double overtime.

On Friday, both teams came out a bit weak in the first half, jockeying physically for position to make up for the lack of technique on both sides. The two teams traded long balls and possessions for about 30 minutes, until the Bulldogs picked up the pace for the last 15 minutes of

ages of -0.025 and -0.100, re-

other solid match with 32 assists,

Senior Mandy Bible had an-

spectively.

the first half. The effort paid off with the Bulldogs earning a goal in the 37th minute of play on a shot to the low corner from about 25 yards out.

The Gaels were more successful in the second half, controlling the pace and style of most of the play. Despite several good scoring chances, they were ultimately

beaten by the superior organization and passing of the Gonzaga Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs scored again in the 80th and 86th minutes, finishing the game 3-0.

On Sunday, the Gaels came out strong to play the Portland Pilots in the final match of the season.

The Gaels started the game early, with a good look at the goal in the second minute of play. They continued to attack throughout the game, racking up seven shots on goal in the first half and eight more in the second.

The Gaels' organization and passing were infinitely better than in Friday's match, and the improvement paid off with the Gaels marking the first goal of the match in the 26th minute.

Sophomore Carlos Diaz took the first corner of the game and placed it perfectly on the far post where senior Alex Christlieb headed it into the keeper's box. The play was finished by Gael senior Corey Heldreth who headed it past the keeper from five yards

Unfortunately for the Gaels, this was their only goal for the game, and the Pilots responded in the in the 61st minute in a similar fashion. The Pilots dropped a beautiful corner kick to the far post, where it was headed to the top of the keeper's box by Christopher Sanders. Patrick Jurney then volleyed the ball into the net

Throughout the game, both teams had several scoring chances, with shots going off the posts or being narrowly saved by the keepers, who both had phenomenal

Gael keeper junior David Lenser was a force to be reckoned with as he kept his defense in line and tallied four saves for the day.

The Gaels finish their season 4-10-6 overall and 2-7-3 in West Coast Conference.



Argenis Rubio/COLLEGIAN

Senior forward Matthew Fitzgerald took four shots against the Pilots on Sunday. Fitgerald ended his collegiate career with 12 goals for the Gaels.

Volleyball continues to struggle on the road

Dons' defense allows Gaels only 37 kills in quick three game match

by Zack Farmer

Managing Editor

Saint Mary's went into the weekend looking to rebound after losses at Santa Clara and San Diego but could not come through as the Gaels continued to struggle, falling to the San Francisco Dons at the Hilltop, 3-0.

The Gaels fell in the first match 30-24. This was the closest game the Gaels came to the Dons. They limited their errors in the first game committing six errors to USF's eight but were out killed 19-14.

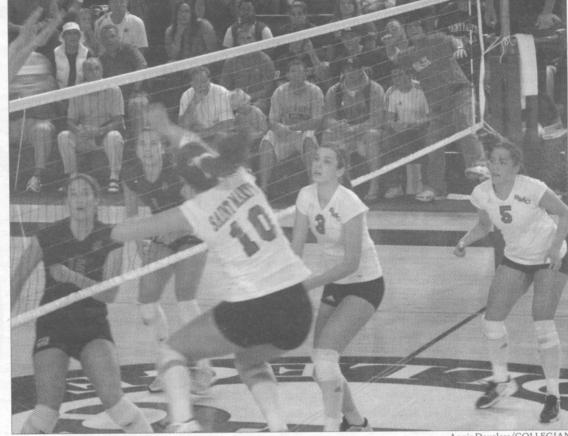
After the first game, the Gaels tapered off and posted a .128 attack percentage the rest of the match.

Senior Christina Kirk led the Gaels with 13 kills. Red-shirt freshman Nikki Gonzalez had another solid game with 17 digs.

San Francisco had three players record double-digit kills and two players who recorded 20+ assists in the match.

The Gaels were held to just 10 kills in the second game and were out killed 60-37 in the match.

They also were out dug 54-42. Junior Missie Stidham and sophomore Brittany Barker had sub-par games with attack percent-



With the loss, Saint Mary's falls to 9-12 overall and 4-6 in the West Coast Conference. They are in 10 digs, three kills, and five fifth place in the conference and

will return home to play Pepperdine (12-10, 8-3 WCC) and Loyola Marymount (17-9, 5-6 WCC) this week after a tough

End of Season Trivia

- 1. At this year's Bronco Invitational, how many Gael cross country runners had personal bests?
- 2. Men's soccer had one of their best wins against USF. At the time, what was USF's ranking?

 - 11
- 3. In the women's soccer game against USF, how long did it take for the Gaels to score?
 - a. 4.6 seconds
 - 6 seconds
 - c. 15 minutes
 - 89 minutes

Bonus: Who scored the goal?

Answers: 1.d, 2.c, 3.b Bonus: Jessica Menzhuber