

THE COLLEGIAN

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA
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off volleyball
players

Moraga, California

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Volume 104, Number 12

Chase '07, Drummond '07, King '08 earn 'superior' at Sigma Xi

by Karen Juan
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, all Saint Mary's College students who attended the annual Sigma Xi Student Research Conference came back with awards. This year, the students are Katie Azevedo '07, Annie Chase '07, David Drummond '07, Emily King '08, Michael Pisarek '06, and Jia Shen '09.

The conference was held on November 3 and 4 in Detroit, Michigan. Each of the students prepared posters and presented their scientific research. Chemistry professor Valerie Burke was the students' chaperone for the conference.

Chase, Drummond and King each received the highest ranking of "Superior," while Azevedo, Chen and Pisarek were each awarded "Excellent," the second-highest honor. "We were all pleased we were recognized," said Pisarek.

The six students, along with others who were not able to attend the conference, had spent their summer on campus as part of the research program of the School of Science.

"The whole faculty and administration is very proud," said Brian Jersky, dean of the School of Science. Jersky attributed the students' success to "hard work, good support, and excellent faculty." He also wished to thank the School of Science donors, who fund the summer research program.

According to chemistry professor Joel Burley, the students' exceptional performance "speaks very highly of our students and of the work that they do in the summer research program."

Burley, who was a mentor to King and Azevedo, said, "I know that both put [in] many long hours...they deserve their awards." Azevedo also won the Joseph P. McKenna Science Award in October.

Burley spent two weeks with King and Azevedo in the Joshua Tree National Park in Southern California to conduct research. Burley noted that King possessed "strong quantitative skills" that helped her with the mathematical modeling involved in her research project, entitled, "Surface Ozone Concentrations at Remote Locations in Joshua Tree National Park."

King said, "I was not expecting to win this award; I felt like everybody did a good job." She felt that her peers and teachers contributed a lot to her success. "It really motivates me to have positive influences around me."

King, a biochemistry major, wants to continue doing undergraduate research. She is planning to enter medical school once she graduates.

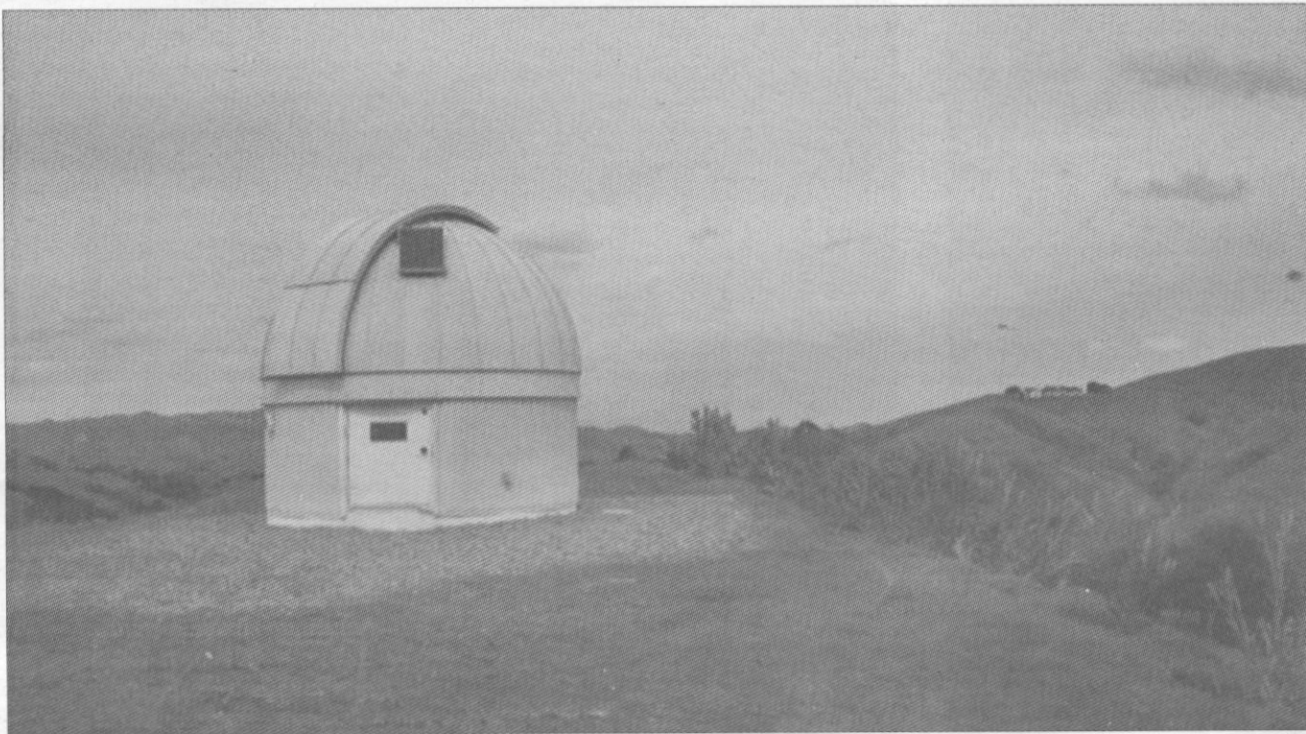
Like King, Chase is thankful for her teachers: "I was really glad to represent Saint Mary's. The School of Science and my mentor, Dr. [Chris] Ray, really supported me well."

Physics and engineering professor Chris Ray believed that Chase's persistence and determination helped her succeed. He said Chase, one of the students who started the Physicists of Saint Mary's (POSM) club and the department's evening tutoring sessions, is the type of person who gets things done. He said that Chase didn't let the disappointments in her research hold her back. "She just kept moving," Ray said. "She's very

see SIGMA XI, p4

Mercury pays rare visit

Astronomy department views Mercury crossing sun



Mel Olson/COLLEGIAN

by Mark Freeman
Staff Writer

For a few hours on Wednesday, November 8, Saint Mary's students were able to view a rare cosmic experience—the planet Mercury crossed the sun.

Dr. Ron Olowin, chair of the physics and astronomy department, helped students and other curious onlookers observe the event through a large telescope on the Chapel Lawn. Olowin explained that the event is "fairly rare because there are only about thirteen of these transits every century" and that it is a "once in a lifetime experience."

According to Olowin, the orbits of Mercury and Earth are "not compatible" since they rarely align with each other. Mercury has a faster orbit than

Earth, and one Mercury year is roughly 88 days. Olowin compares the orbits to car blinkers—sometimes people will have their lights flashing at the same time, but at other points the lights won't be in sync.

Saint Mary's students were lucky as they were able to see the planet's entire five-hour trek across the sun. "In the East Coast, people only saw it for a few minutes," Olowin said.

A special filter was used to view the sun. Olowin explained that the filter "absorbs or reflects 99.9 percent of the light that strikes it," and whatever remains is pushed into a magnifier. This way, people can view the sun without worrying about being blinded.

Those who took a glimpse through the telescope saw the planet as a tiny

speck against the massive surface of the sun. At different points in the day viewers could watch the planet slowly progress across the star until it finally vanished from sight. Along with Mercury's transit, students were also able to view a large sunspot about ten times larger than Earth through the telescope.

A simulation of Mercury crossing the sun can also be viewed on the department's website (<http://physics.stmarys-ca.edu/>) in the Astronomy Lab section. This allows students to see Mercury's transit all at once, instead of over the course of a few hours.

The department has put on events see MERCURY, p4

Professor performs Native American songs

Juan Avila shares traditions and history of his ancestors

by Melissa Vlach
Staff Writer

A small crowd gathered in the Chapel on Wednesday to witness a Native American tradition. Juan Avila, a seminar professor at Saint Mary's, shared traditional deer songs with the audience.

The event, held during community time, demonstrated songs of the Yoeme people, also called Yaquis, from southern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. The traditional songs have been passed down through generations for thousands of years.

Avila, whose mother is from Sonora, described the presentation as a combi-

nation academic talk and sharing of traditions. He began with a welcome in the language of the Yoeme people. He then shook everyone's hand.

Before he started the songs, Avila explained a little about the Yoeme religion. He said that the Yoeme place a very high value on nature.

"What we call the 'huya ania,' which translates to the 'wilderness world,' is a very sacred place for us," he said, explaining that this is any place of wilderness.

Spending time with nature is important in this culture.

"We're getting spiritual power, and we're getting strength for ourselves,"

he said about the practice.

The religion is often described as syncretic, incorporating aspects of the native religion as well as Catholicism. Despite this mix, the song lyrics have remained the same over the years.

"There are no European or Christian or foreign references in the songs," he said.

In addition to telling about the religion, Avila sang some of the traditional deer songs, while accompanying himself on various percussion instruments. Each instrument has its own meaning.

"For us, everything has significance," see SONGS, p4

OPINION

Reverend plays with faith.

pg. 7

DETOUR

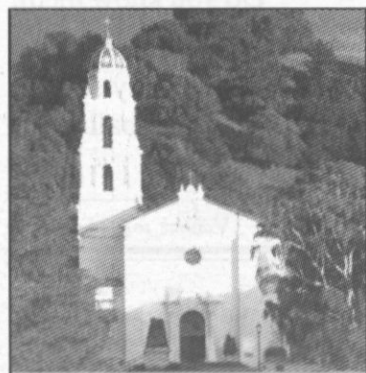
Can you connect
...the dots?

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THE COLLEGIAN

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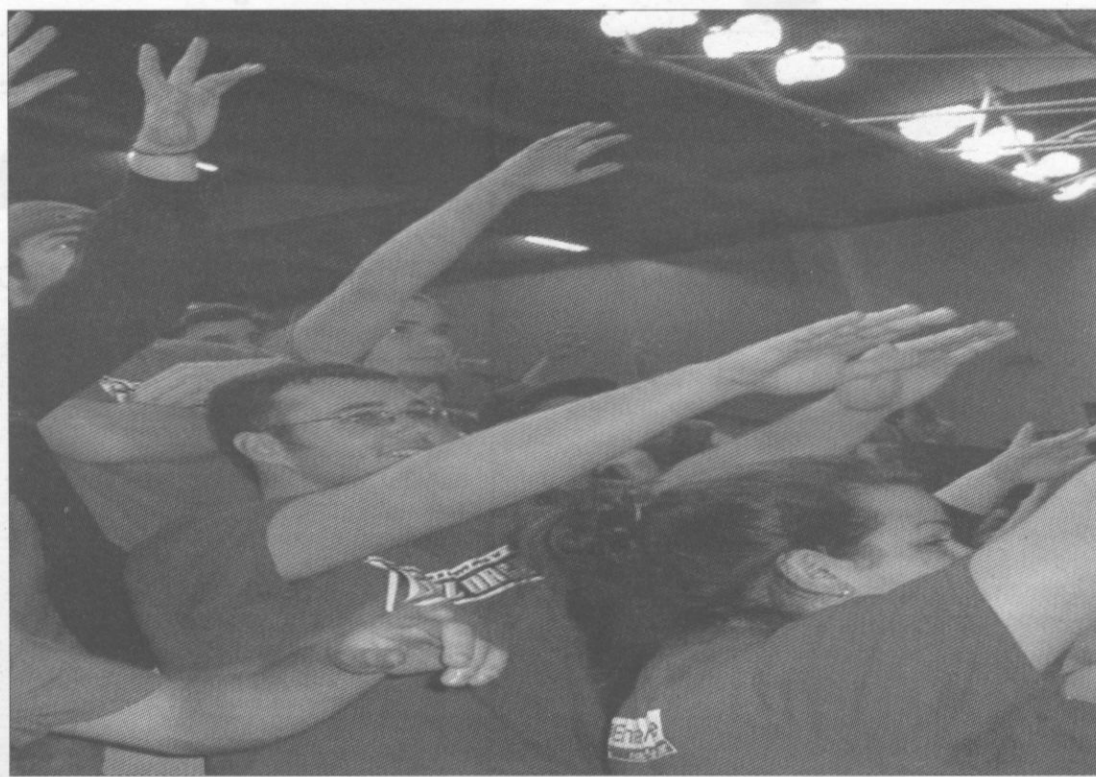
Linda Hua:
 Monday 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.,
 Tuesday 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.,
 Wednesday 1 - 5 p.m.,
 Friday 2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

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 advertisement or inquire about a subscription, call *The Collegian's* Business Department at 925.631.4279.

SnapShot



Brianna Merihue/GAEL

Fans in the Gael Force section cheered the men's basketball team as they defeated Murray State on Sunday.

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.



ZACK FARMER

It's game time

Being an athlete in high school, I remember getting the pre-game jitters. It's an hour before game time and your blood is pumping, your heart is racing, and the adrenaline is rushing through your body.

Oh yeah, it is such a good feeling. But now, in my post scholastic-athletic career, I find myself struggling for that particular rush.

However, it all came back last week before MidKnight Madness.

It was getting close to showtime and I was getting really anxious. Not nervous, anxious. My second MidKnight Madness (I didn't go freshman year) was approaching and I was anticipating an amazing show. Although slightly disappointed, it did not deter my craving for basketball season.

As I walk to the gym I have my iPod in ear and listen to a number of songs to get me pumped up. I did the same thing before each time I would pitch in high school.

It's also because it was the jumpstart of the basketball season. Oh, did I miss the cheering, the jeering, and the excitement of the game.

In only a few short months, the West Coast Conference Tournament will be here and hopefully I will be there. Hopefully a week after that, the basketball team will be (NCAA) Tournament bound and I will be on the road again.

At the games is where you truly see the Gael pride. Seeing the sea of red of the Gael Force section is very fulfilling. The noise from the loudest fans in the WCC might give you temporary hearing loss and a sore throat, but it will be worth it.

That is why I can't wait for Gonzaga and Santa Clara to get here. Those are the heated rivalries and you can see the passion of every Gael in the building.

It's not just the crowd I miss; it's the atmosphere. It is almost a sense of comfort being there in my little corner of the gym ready to cheer our team on.

All right I'm ready, hair painted red and blue, wristbands and instrument at the ready for *The Hey Song* and *Final Countdown*.

Every now and then happens the awkward silence of the crowd as one cheer stops and people are regaining their energy; this is where I come in. It's not like I am one of the drunken followers chanting "You suck" to opposing teams' cheerleaders. I am one of the leaders.

Why the excitement? Why the pre-game jitters? Because I play at the basketball games, too. I'm sports band.

Crime Beat

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>11/3 6:40 p.m.
 Incident: Informational Report Only
 Synopsis: Welfare check in Augustine; referred to Student Conduct.</p> | <p>11/5 12:08 a.m.
 Incident: Unlawful Entry
 Synopsis: Minor in possession of alcohol in Justin Hall; referred to Student Conduct.</p> | <p>and stereo player stolen in Ageno B lot; referred to Student Conduct.</p> |
| <p>11/4 1:45 a.m.
 Incident: Medical Assistance
 Synopsis: Minor under the influence of alcohol in Ageno A transported to John Muir Hospital; referred to Student Conduct and Health and Wellness Center.</p> | <p>11/5 12:52 p.m.
 Incident: Fire Alarm Activation
 Synopsis: False alarm in Warehouse; referred to physical plant.</p> | <p>11/7 12:50 a.m.
 Incident: Hazardous Conditions
 Synopsis: Entering inaccessible area in Hagerty Lounge, De La Salle; referred to Student Conduct.</p> |
| <p>11/4 3:00 p.m.
 Incident: Fire Alarm Activation
 Synopsis: Steam from shower set off alarm in Ageno West; referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant.</p> | <p>11/6 2:08 a.m.
 Incident: Driving Under the Influence
 Synopsis: St. Mary's Road front gate; cited and released.</p> | <p>11/7 11:27 p.m.
 Incident: Suspicious Circumstances
 Synopsis: Possible fraud in Ageno C; referred to Student Conduct.</p> |
| <p>11/4 4:25 p.m.
 Incident: Informational Report Only
 Synopsis: Mud on walls and columns outside Chapel.</p> | <p>11/6 10:36 a.m.
 Incident: Fire Alarm Activation
 Synopsis: Possible electrical short in Warehouse; referred to Physical Plant.</p> | <p>11/7 11:35 a.m.
 Incident: Fire Alarm Activation
 Synopsis: Trouble alarm went off in Warehouse; referred to Physical Plant.</p> |
| <p>11/5 4:34 p.m.
 Incident: Vandalism
 Synopsis: Attempted Theft from vehicle in Claeys North; referred to Student Conduct.</p> | <p>11/6 12:22 p.m.
 Incident: Medical Assistance
 Synopsis: Transported to John Muir; referred to Student Conduct and Health and Wellness Center.</p> | <p>11/7 9:22 p.m.
 Incident: Fire Alarm Activation
 Synopsis: Burnt Popcorn in Aquinas; referred to Physical Plant.</p> |
| | <p>11/6 6:58 p.m.
 Incident: Theft
 Synopsis: AM/FM Sony radio</p> | <p>11/9 2:50 a.m.
 Incident: Handbook Violation
 Synopsis: Co-habitation in Guerrieri East; referred to Student Conduct.</p> |



Weekly Featured Profile

Faculty/Staff Member

Stephen Sloane

by Stefanie Wang
Webmaster

There is a certain professor at Saint Mary's that has a particular fondness for cowboy boots, cooking, and noir films. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, received his Master's degree at Harvard University and his Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley in political science. He even goes horseback riding when the weather is nice. Now who is this interesting character?

Why, it's Professor Stephen Sloane of the politics department.

On the weekends, he likes to go horseback riding. He owns several horses and runs a therapeutic riding center (a horseback riding facility for the physically disabled). In addition to equestrianism, he and his wife, a mystery novelist, like to watch movies from the '40s and '50s. He has a particular fondness for movies from that era, especially cowboy films.

Growing up in New York City, he watched a lot of these cowboy movies. One of his favorite films is Robert Redford's *Electric Horseman*. Sloane says he "likes the cowboy culture."

"Those movies were very romantic," said Sloane. He adds that the cowboy culture is also another reason he enjoys living in California.

Before coming to Saint Mary's in 1976, Sloane was in the Navy for 30 years. Coming from a patriotic family and growing up during World War II, "becoming [a naval] officer was a neat thing to do."

In Sloane's opinion, it was choice that offered a good education and good job. He was stationed in numerous countries during his time as a naval officer, including Sicily, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Canada. The last place he was stationed was in Oakland where he was in charge of the ROTC program at the University of California at Berkeley. It was then that he chose to go for his Ph.D.

Sloane chose to teach at Saint Mary's because he wanted to live in the Bay Area and teach at a liberal arts college. Saint Mary's was and still is an ideal place for him because "[There is an] emphasis on small classes, more interactions between students and teachers."

He loves to teach for he believes "the more you teach, the more you learn...interacting with students on a one on one basis or small groups is very satisfying. I make an impact on the students and they make an impact on me."

Sloane is "very grateful to Saint Mary's for giving [him] a second career that [he] love[s]."

'Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve': Saint Mary's community service recognized

County praises Saint Mary's College for community outreach

by Oliva Talavan
Staff Writer

On October 27, Saint Mary's College was one of this year's 12 recipients of the Contra Costa Human Relations Commission Achievement Award. The college received this award at the fourth-annual awards banquet at the Deputy Sheriffs Association and was hosted by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the Human Relations Commission. Here, the 12 recipients were recognized and honored for their outreach efforts and commitment to giving back to Contra Costa County.

To honor Saint Mary's at this banquet, the Director of Community and Government Relations Lisa Douglass accepted the award on behalf of the school. Douglass said, "As an alum of Saint Mary's I was very proud to receive the award on behalf of the college due to the fact that Contra Costa County is acknowledging the College's outreach efforts, as well as our providing of teachers and scholarships."

Among the crowd of the 120 attendees sat the other 11 recipients. These recipients included Marc S. Grisham, City Manager (Pittsburg), Bobby Arnold, West Coast Children's Clinic, Courtland Booze, Mary Perez, Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility, Shelter Inc., H. Abram Wilson, mayor of San Ramon, Mary and Eizo Kobayashi (Concord), and OPTIC. Saint Mary's was the only school or college that received an award.

In addition to the award, the 12 beneficiaries were honored for "bridging the gap—helping others live better lives through their commitment to community service," said Douglass.

This award was given to Saint Mary's by the Human Relations Commission, which was established by the Board of Supervisors. This commission was created in order for the Board of Supervisors to be more informed of issues regarding positive human relations and community agreement among all who live in or visit Contra Costa County.

The Human Relations Commission also insures that residents and visitors of the community may take pleasure in an equal opportunity to live, grow, learn, work, play, worship, and exercise standard responsibilities. This commission admires and provides educational programs that will amplify generosity among the citizens of Contra Costa County. Another goal of theirs is to prevent acts of discrimination.

Saint Mary's was recognized by the Contra Costa County Human Relations Commission for its involvement in the country through active community outreach, for providing teachers for community colleges, for attendance on county boards, and for providing



Mel Olson/COLLEGIAN

Lasallian Tradition. Contra Costa County honors Saint Mary's for outreach.

scholarships for capable students who are less fortunate.

Besides being honored for community service, this award facilitates larger connections for the school. As more organizations and individuals hear about Saint Mary's more opportunities are opened for students and teachers

alike.

In addition to Brentwood Press coverage, this gala was also recorded by Contra Costa Television (CCTV), channel 27, and will air on Monday, November 20 at 9 p.m., or on Tuesday, November 21 at 10 a.m.

Looking for great journalistic experience? Join us.

THE COLLEGIAN

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ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

Meetings on Mondays at 6 p.m. in Dante 117. collegia@stmarys-ca.edu 925-631-4279

Campus Calendar

Student Leadership Workshops

Tuesday, November 14
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Delphine

Reflections

Wednesday, November 15
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
LeFevre Theatre

Hauanani-Kay Trask

Wednesday, November 15
12:40 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.
Soda Center

Celebrating Our Stories

Wednesday, November 15
3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Delphine

Caterpillar Soup

Wednesday, November 15
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
LeFevre Theatre

Jerome Karabel: The Chosen

Thursday, November 16
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Soda Center

Delphine Programs

Thursday, November 16
7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Delphine

Reflections

Thursday, November 16
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
LeFevre Theatre

Reflections

Friday, November 17
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
LeFevre Theatre

Club Dance

Saturday, November 18
10:00 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.
Soda Center

ASSMC Senate Meetings

Sunday, November 19
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Soda Center

Thanksgiving Dinner

Monday, November 20
2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Soda Center

Lasallian Community Events

Monday, November 20
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Art Building 105

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.

MERCURY: Once-in-a-lifetime experience swings by campus

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like this before. "We often observe the November meteor showers as well as lunar eclipses and partial eclipses of the sun," said Olowin. They have watched a transit of Venus crossing the sun as well, an event that happens roughly twice each century. While astronomy classes will still be looking at the stars and other exotic objects like quasars, Olowin thinks that there won't be another public event until next term.

For the Mercury viewing, the department had hoped to connect a television camera to a telescope, allowing for live television broadcast of Mercury's transit, but a

power failure in the morning damaged some equipment. "We weren't able to resurrect the camera," Olowin said. There were worries that the project might be cancelled due to rain and bad weather, but the skies cleared up in the afternoon.

Unfortunately for those who missed the event, the next Mercury transit won't occur until 2016, according to NASA, and it most likely won't be as majestic as the one from last Wednesday. Because of the latitude and longitude of the planet in the sky, "We won't see anything like this until 2170," said Olowin.

News Brief

Sociology professor Jerome Karabel from the University of California at Berkeley will be visiting Saint Mary's this Thursday, November 16, to talk about his book *The Chosen: The Origins of Selective Admissions and the Battle over 'Merit'*. *The Chosen* is a book that delves into the history of the admissions redefinition of merit, and altered standards. Focusing on the biased politics of the "Big Three" (Harvard University, Yale University, and Princeton University), Karabel reveals that "the admission of blacks into the Ivy League wasn't an idealistic response to the civil rights movement but a fearful reaction to inner-city riots."

The lecture will be in the Soda Center at 4:30 p.m., for more information contact x4706 or Robert Bulman at x8121. This event is sponsored by the anthropology and sociology department.

ing the genocide by the Mexican government that took place around the turn of the 20th century. As a historian, he is trying to find the truth about this poorly documented event.

Avila believes that carrying on the traditions of his people is very important.

"Our responsibility is that we're doing these things correctly. We're doing these things respectfully. We're teaching the younger ones," he said.

Campus Ministry and the Delphine Intercultural Center sponsored the event as part of National American Indian Heritage Month.

SIGMA XI: Three students return from Detroit with highest recognition in research

continued from page 1

productive."

"I'm very proud, and I feel accomplished," said Chase. Her project, entitled, "Optimization of Baseball Swing Parameters for Different Levels of Play," was about finding the changes in optimal swing strategy from little league to high school and college.

Chase, a physics major, is looking to publish her paper. After graduation, she plans to go to UC Davis to enter the school's Graduate Mechanical Engineering Program. She hopes to continue doing research in Biomechanics, the field she did her research project in.

For Drummond, who is double majoring in math and physics, a liberal arts college education helped him "solve problems in creative ways." His research, entitled "The Gordon Game and Competitive Sequencing," is about analyzing who wins a mathematical game. Drummond's

mentor, math professor Chris Jones, described his research as "accessible and interesting to everyone."

Drummond intends to continue his research in the subject. After graduation, he plans to attend graduate school.

Pisarek, who is planning to publish his research next year, called the Sigma Xi conference a "confidence-builder." He said that having to present his research to professionals in the field was intimidating, but it also gave him confidence in his work. He added that being able to present information is a useful skill that will be beneficial in the long run.

"We were there with other schools that are powerhouses in the scientific community.... Saint Mary's did very well against them," said Drummond. "The Saint Mary's science program is very strong. It's time the School of Science is well-recognized."

SONG

continued from page 1

cance," he said.

He explained that one instrument represents the deer's breath while another represents its heartbeat. A rattle-like instrument signifies the plant world.

The songs relate to ancient ways of life for the Yoeme people. "A long time ago, our people depended on the deer," he said. The songs are their way of showing appreciation to the creature.

"We needed to have a way to thank the deer," he remarked. During traditional celebrations, songs are sung all night, accompanied by a deer dancer who is supposed to represent the deer itself.

"We're calling in the spirit of

the deer," Avila shared. The lyrics of the songs go through different stages in a deer's life, starting with songs about the fawn and reaching songs about the elder deer by morning.

After the night is done, the elders reflect on how it went. Throughout the presentation, Avila took the time to answer any questions from members of the audience. Avila became involved with the Yoeme traditions after reading the book *Yaqui Deer Songs/Maso Bwikam* by Larry Sanders and Felipe S. Molina. He met Molina and asked to learn the traditions.

"I'm still learning," Avila said, despite having studied for about 18 years.

In addition to learning about the deer songs, he studies the history of the Yoeme people, includ-



SAINT
MARY'S
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The Committee for Lectures, Art and Music presents



Caterpillar Soup

Wednesday, November 15 at 8 p.m.
LeFevre Theatre

A fall from a tree four years ago changed Lyena Strelkoff's life forever. In an instant, the talented actress, dancer, and writer became a paraplegic. Undeterred by her new physical limitations, this courageous

artist integrated her experience into a powerful one-woman show.

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

— Los Angeles Times

Free to Saint Mary's College students

Co-sponsored by the School of Liberal Arts

Students with SMC ID should pick up tickets in advance at LeFevre Theatre, Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Faculty and staff can purchase tickets for \$10 by calling 631-4670 or going online to www.stmarys-ca.edu and clicking on "arts."

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The Collegian
FEATURE

Do you know these people?

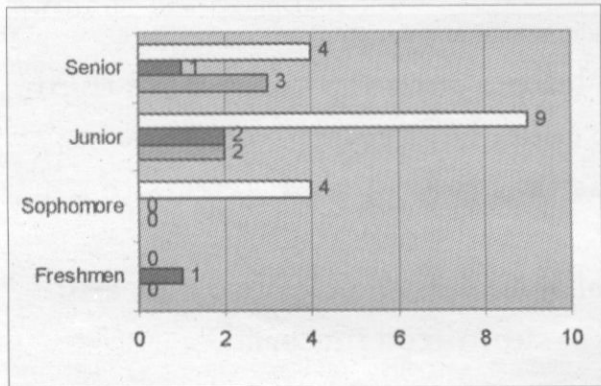
The Collegian surveys 100 undergraduates to find out

by M. Maxwell, J.H. Painter, S. Ordoveza, L. Hua, M. Olson

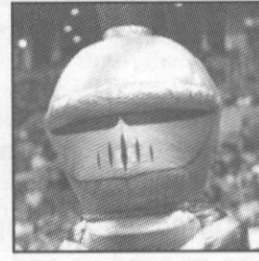
100 traditional undergraduate students of Saint Mary's College of California participated: 25 freshmen, 25 sophomores, 25 juniors, and 25 seniors. Survey says...

Dark Grey - Correct Title Only Light Grey - Correct Name Only White - Both Quotes - Wacky Responses

“Hot. Who is he?” “Vin Diesel’s Son”

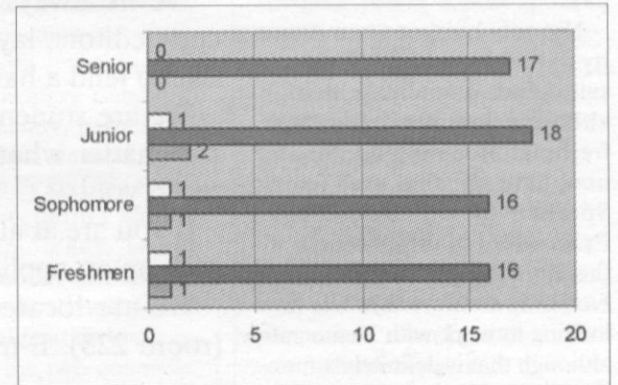


Mark Orr
Athletic Director

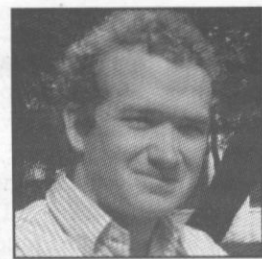
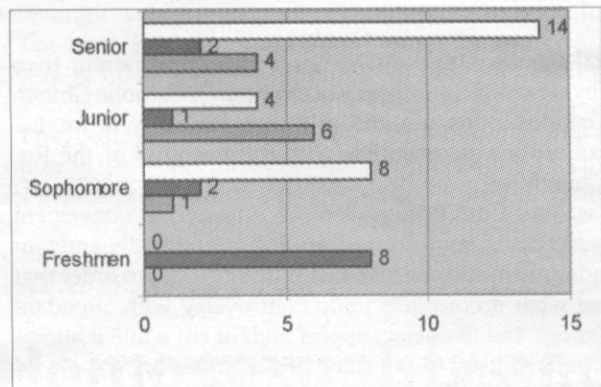


Gael Force One
Mascot

“Marvin the Martian”



“All around slacker”

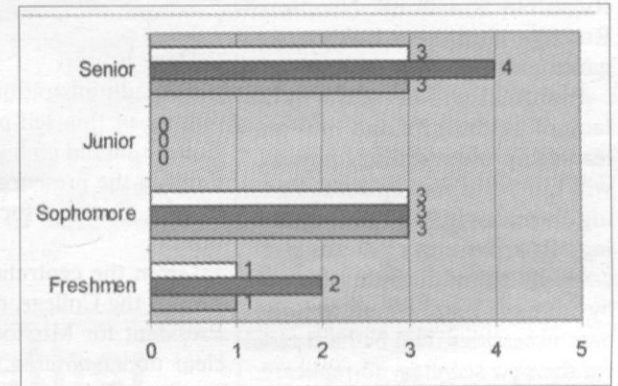


Shane Keane '07
ASSMC President

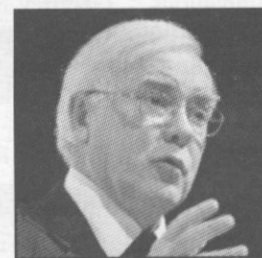
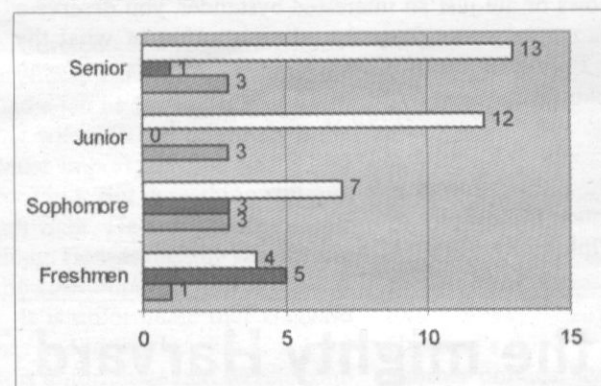


Dorothy Jones
Dean of Admissions

“Brenda, secretary in De la Salle”



“Politician”

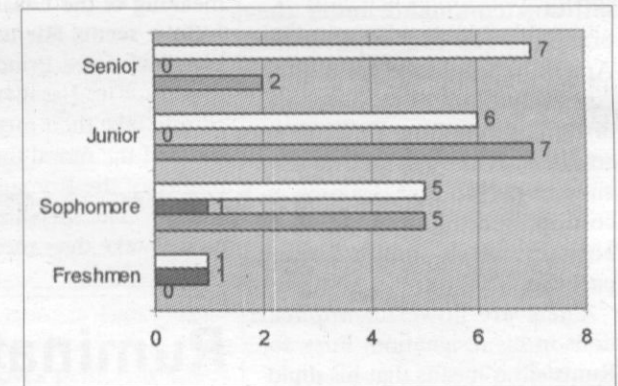


Brother Ronald “Ron” Gallagher
College President

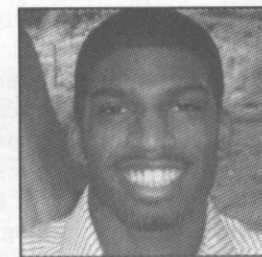
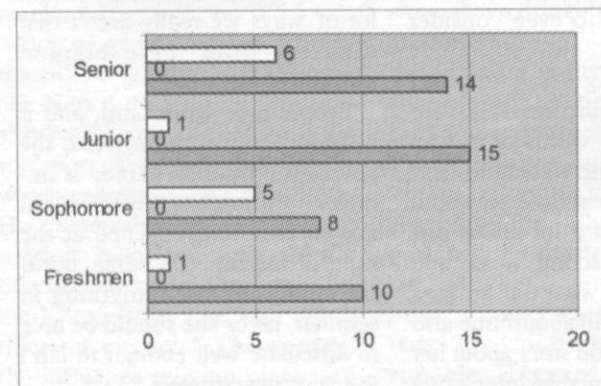


Whitney Lopez '08
Gael Force President

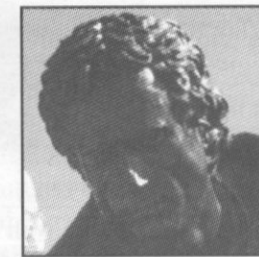
“That one girl I worked with”



“Brian: Drives CILSA van”

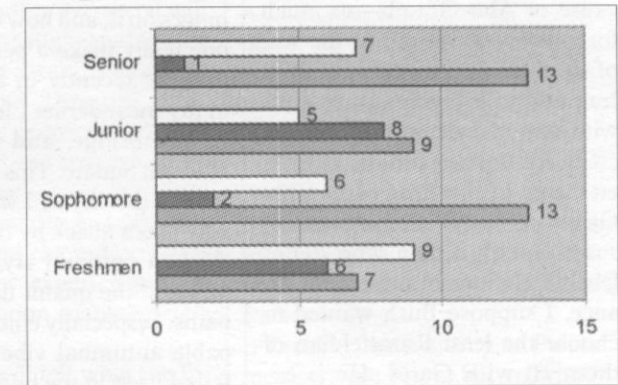


Arthur Curley '08
ASSMC VP of Student Affairs



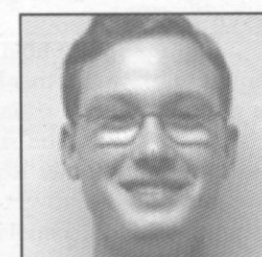
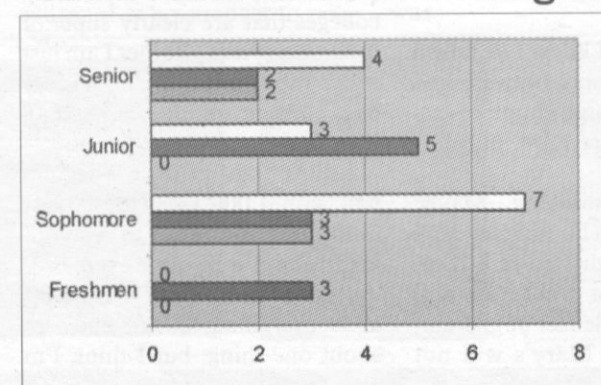
Saint John Baptist de la Salle
Patron Saint of Teachers

“Statue, winks eyes whenever a virgin walks by.”



He is the founder of the Christian Brothers as well

“Facist columnist for Collegian”

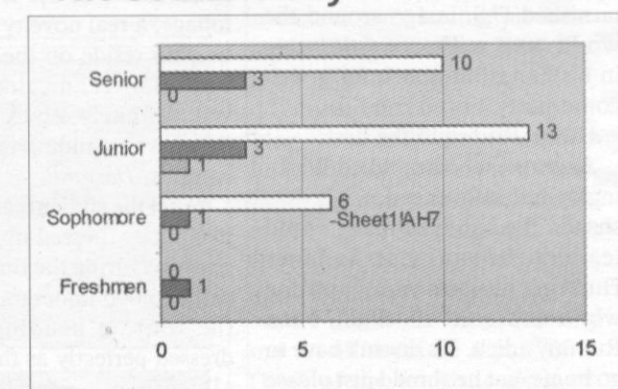


Scott Cullinane '09
The Collegian Staff Writer



Randy Bennett
Men's Basketball Head Coach

“The Sodexo Guy” “President”



The Collegian
OPINION



JAIME ZEPEDA

Subtract Rumsfeld, subtract arrogance

November 7, 2006 was a good day.

Not only because a new majority in the House and Senate resulted from a landmark election, although that was definitely refreshing. Not only because we now have the first ever female Speaker of the House (San Francisco's Nancy Pelosi), although that was definitely due. Not only because Bush is now looking to work with Democrats, although that is definitely a funny thought. I woke up with sunshine in my face when I knew that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was done. No more Rummy, no more wrinkly arrogance at the podium.

Rumsfeld will be missed. His lack of leadership, and horrible leadership when actually present, will not be easily replaced. Failing the troops in Iraq by constructing a flawed strategy that was criticized by the military itself, and by failing to supply them with the bare necessities, will be hard task for the new secretary to replicate. The inhumanity seen in Abu Ghraid was approved by Rumsfeld, the head of civilian military command under the president. His contempt for the American people and press was a continuous show of arrogance and disdain, something difficult to continue. It is very hard to find another person that contains incompetence, hubris, and stubbornness all in such a lovable package.

There are powerful implications in his resignation. First, for Rumsfeld it means that his diplomatic immunity will cease to protect him. And as soon as he exits his office German officials may charge him with war crimes because of Abu Ghraib—so much for a farewell party. For the rest of us, it means new leadership in Iraq and in everything that deals with national defense. The newest name floating around is Robert Gates, former head of the CIA. Gates has been called a "consensus-builder," a man who defies labels and a man of substantial nuance. I suppose Bush wanted to choose the least Rumsfeldian of them all with Gates. He is expected to go through the Senate confirmation process without a hitch, placing the war disaster, the tarnished U.S. image around the world, and military restlessness in his hands. So much for a welcome party.

I wish Rumsfeld the best.

As a man who has called Washington home for decades, who has shaken the hands of many world leaders (he still has Saddam Hussein's business card), and one who relishes the limelight, I bid Rummy adieu. He doesn't have to go home, but he should just please leave Washington for good.

Collegian View

As Thanksgiving approaches, we at *The Collegian* realize how close we are coming to our last issue of 2006. This is our second-to-last issue of the fall semester already.

There've been ups and downs in this semester of publication, but overall, it's been a good semester.

At this point, we would like to encourage any undergrads who are interested in journalism to join us.

We are always welcoming new writers, photographers, copy editors, layout designers, and anyone who would like to lend a hand.

We are student-run and student-volunteer, so it does not matter what your major or experience is. We will teach you!

If you are at all interested, please stop by our office to pick up an application or send us an e-mail.

We are located on the second floor of Ferroggiaro (room 223). E-mail us at collegia@stmarys-ca.edu.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The administration of St. Mary's College proposes that the community of this self-proclaimed Liberal Arts, Catholic and Lasallian College should embrace and live out certain Lasallian Core Principles: Faith in the presence of God, Respect for all persons, Inclusive community, Concern for the poor and social justice, and Quality education.

Given the centrality of these principles to the administration's vision of the College, one would think that the President, Provost, Vice President for Mission and the Vice Provosts, at least, would have a clear understanding of the core principles and be able to communicate, unambiguously, that understanding to the College community. On the other hand, given the range of opinions presented recently in the *Collegian* by serious and engaged students, the real, substantive meaning of the Lasallian Core Principles appears deeply ambiguous.

So it seems fair to ask the administration what is true about the Lasallian Core Principles:

A. The Lasallian Core Principles are to be understood in light of, and take their meaning from, the understanding of the human person and the moral theology/philosophy proposed by the teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church; or

B. The Lasallian Core Principles are to be understood in light of, and take their meaning from, an understanding of the human per-

THE COLLEGIAN
 Saint Mary's College of California
 Linda Hua, Editor-in-Chief
 Zack Farmer, Managing Editor
 Danny Acosta, Opinion Editor

To send letters to the editor, e-mail them to collegia@stmarys-ca.edu. Please try to keep your letters to 200 words each. *The Collegian* has the right to edit any submitted material.

son and a moral theology/philosophy (i) which are different than those proposed by the teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church and (ii) which condone, approve and celebrate, explicitly or implicitly, some human actions incompatible with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church; or

C. The Lasallian Core Principles mean whatever is convenient at the time they are being invoked, and are left intentionally ambiguous so that the administration can avoid hard questions (i) in order that it does not cause what it considers undo controversy with attendant decline in admissions and financial support and/or (ii) while it allows the College to conform itself to the spirit of the times; or

D. The Lasallian Core Principles mean something else, which is [fill in the blank].

We propose that, whether you support the Gay-Straight Alliance, Geoffrey Meadows or are just an interested bystander, you deserve a clear, unambiguous statement from the administration of what the Lasallian Core Principles mean. Can respect for all persons mean anything less than that?

Ernest S. Pierucci, '72
 S.A. Cortright, '75, Philosophy
 Patrick Downey, Philosophy
 W. Harter, Philosophy

Ruminations on Saint Mary's vs. the mighty Harvard Pride and legacy are everything, is there a difference?

What's in a name? How much hinges on it, and how can the right one really make a person?

I was recently in Boston, and in my meandering I found myself in Cambridge, and specifically Harvard Square. This was my first time in the city so I was undoubtedly taken aback by the tradition-steeped colonial style architecture and the quaint uneven stone paths. I especially enjoyed the palpable autumnal vibe that manifested itself in the bite of the crisp air, an entire city of chicly clothed sweaters and blazers, and the intense colors of the freshly fallen foliage; a real novelty for those of us who reside on the west coast. Seasonal technicalities aside, I was definitely struck by the fact that I was standing on Harvard's campus. *Harvard!*

"I bet the students all go to class like, really dressed up," I said, already picturing the throngs of students (6,000 undergrads, we took the tour...) heading to class, dressed perfectly as they must do all things perfectly, as they



WHITNEY MEDVED

swelled with knowledge so as to go out into the world and truly represent the crème de la crème of society. "Umm, I bet they're just like us," a teammate said and yeah, I bet so. I bet they do wear sweats, I bet they do wait until the night before some papers are due to write them, and I bet one or two of 'em have even read Sparknotes *Gasp*.

I don't remotely know these people, and I am sure the academic curriculum at Harvard is rigorous, otherwise the institution simply couldn't have gained the honor and prestige it has. I am also sure that on some level that same solid reputation has conditioned me to believe that as a mere civilian in this country, just an average Jane attending a school of

lesser renown, that I am in some way unworthy to even consider this place.

The student guiding the tour said the academic core of Harvard is based on the words of a dean who once said he wanted his students "to know a little bit about everything, and a lot about one thing." Wait a second; we do that too... isn't that what our area requirements are all about? She also told us a feel-good story about her current dean amiably interacting with her and a couple of peers as they sunbathed on the quad lawn in January—he is just that kind of guy.

But hold on, I know I've talked to Brother Ron once or twice, and I know that a large chunk of faculty and staff are RDs, including Brother Ron.

This got me thinking... Maybe our school isn't a household name ("Maryland, right?" was a common guess that weekend) and maybe the simple fact of graduating from Saint Mary's will not guarantee us a job in whatever

field we decide to enter, but in a lot of ways we really aren't that different from these big-gun schools.

People here work hard, and if a student works the system, the potential education gained is immense. Future employers might not become flabbergasted at the sight of the school's name, but if the student learned anything in seminar, he or she should be able to articulate well enough to land the spot nevertheless.

This is not a way for me to feel better about myself for not going to Harvard, nor am I demeaning colleges that are clearly superior in some respects. Rather I am just trying to say that our school is not bad. I am saying that our school is awesome; its just different.

I don't want to sit in a lecture hall with 1,000 kids (the largest class at Harvard, intro to economics I believe it is...) or even 100.

I do want to learn a little bit about everything though, and a lot about one thing; but I think I'm already on my way.

The Collegian
OPINION

Russia is critical in Middle East peace

The U.S. sets model for democracy, Russia should follow it

With the mid-term elections settled, Democrats and Republicans alike must keep to a common goal: find stability in the Middle East and stop nuclear proliferation from escalating throughout the world.

Surely, the new Democratic majority will clash with the Republicans just as the Republican majority clashed with the Democrats. With Bush's time in the White House winding down and the new shift in power, working toward the common goal of ceasing nuclear weapon programs around the globe is paramount.

To find a solution to the ongoing war on terror and ultimately attain stability we must build a strong relationship with Russia by encouraging them to continue to promote and strengthen certain democratic values.

The history of post Cold War Russia is filled with uncertainty and strife.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and first-ever direct presidential election signified the start to a new and potentially positive democratic government. However, drastic cuts in state sub-



MIKE BONAZZA

sidies of crucial industries as well as the rise of corrupt bureaucracies led to hyperinflation, high interest rates, and an overall decrease in quality of life. These problems plagued Russia with political opposition parties to democracy throughout the 1990s. In addition, the 1998 financial crisis saw a drastic drop in commodities prices worldwide, drastically affecting countries such as Russia, which is dangerously dependent on oil.

Russia finished off the decade with an economic depression worse than the Great Depression. In 1999 and 2000 the combination of oil prices and revenues shooting up as well as the devaluation of Russia's currency helped Russia regain confidence on the international stage.

Now, however, this newfound confidence is plagued with U.S.

uncertainties about Russian domestic policy. The biggest rifts between the United States and Russia have been Russia's retreats from conventional democracy in the recent 2000s.

Among the most prominent of these retreats include the unfair 2003 parliamentary campaign of President Vladimir Putin, the crackdown on independent media enterprises, the continual prosecution of Russian journalists, the interference of elections in neighboring countries, and the power of wealthy oligarchs who exercise ever-increasing control over Putin's judgment.

Presenting the most difficult obstacles to the Russian-U.S. alliance are the oil oligarchs who constantly encourage suspicion of the U.S. to protect their large stakes in revenue from nationalized assets.

Putin is and must continue to fight attempts by oil oligarchs to claim a stake in the Russian government.

Putin must dispel outside council that would encourage taking a negative stance toward the United States. The most conducive way

to bring about the positive development of Russia's economy is to observe core democratic values like those found in the U.S., such as freedom of press and competition in the industrial sector and then to implement these values so that the Russian economy frees itself from oil revenues and CEOs that control those revenues.

In order to achieve nonproliferation and stability, particularly in the Middle East, we must mend ties with Russia by keeping strong what our two countries have in common—democracy. In the most recent summit meeting between George Bush and Putin, nuclear nonproliferation and a reaffirmation of the two countries' commitment to combat terrorism was first on the agenda. However, both of these goals would be impossible to achieve if the Russian economy were to suddenly destabilize.

In order for Russia to meet the ambitious goal of achieving stability in the Middle East, it must resist old authoritarian tendencies and continue to make progress toward democracy.



J. HARRY PAINTER

Please clarify 'diversity'

Imagine you're a post-apocalypse alien explorer investigating the remains of the former Saint Mary's campus.

Your party meets up beside the odd-looking sacred edifice of worship. You find strange documents speaking of "diversity." You are confused by what can only be deemed illogical self-praise, and assume that excessive pride in one's background is a staple of human nature.

Perhaps you are confused by the sheer ambiguity of the term because it is never used twice in the same way. Your bewilderment might be justified, considering that the word is misused and overused every day here at Saint Mary's.

Are you still diverse if you're not brown or black? If I didn't know any better, I'd assume not.

The College's diversity requirement states: "Students shall complete one course focused on the history, traditions, and/or culture(s) of a people or peoples of non-European origin." The courses that meet the requirement: Introduction to Islam, Minority Politics, Modern Japan—you get the idea; nothing related to white people.

This diversity requirement makes two poor assumptions about diversity. The first is that diversity cannot be found in European culture. There are vast differences between the cultures that the majority of students have been raised in and the myriad cultures that can be found in Europe.

The second assumption is that all students at Saint Mary's are well-versed in European culture and oblivious to non-European matters. The fact is that most Americans, let alone most students, are oblivious to everything outside the American bubble, not just the black, yellow, and brown regions.

Saint Mary's also has an odd stance on deciding which student organizations are diverse. At least the German Club is given credit as a Diversity Club, but so is Pulses.

I realize the majority of Pulses members are black, but so what? The club's primary purpose is to perform dances, and as far as I know that is their only purpose. In fact, doesn't having predominantly black members by definition make them non-diverse?

I contend that diversity is something that can be found even in the majority. I contend true diversity is not something we have to go out of our way to create with useless programs like the Campus Diversity Initiative.

Let's clarify the term diversity and let all races be a part of it. Think of the futuristic alien explorers.

Homosexuality and the Church come together

Rev. could be on wrong end of what he preached

Reverend Ted Haggard had everything a man could want. He had a job he loved. He had a loving wife. He had bright children. Most importantly, he had a love for God. But something still was not right. He was missing something. He was missing gay sex and the consumption of drugs.

It is unfortunate that Haggard has had to live in a life of secrets. It is unfortunate that secrets coming undone ruined his life.

It is also unfortunate that he encouraged systemic oppression that forced others to live with a secret.

Before giving up his glittery throne, he led the 14,000 member New Life Church. He was also President of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), which represents over 30 million. His influence extended not just to religious followers, but to the nation because as Haggard says: "If the Evangelicals vote, they determine the election." This conveys the influence religion plays into politics in a nation founded on separation of church and state—a nation against persecution.

Haggard is no stranger to poli-



DANNY ACOSTA

tics. Haggard and President Bush had weekly conversations. Haggard's fall proves he is just another political leader. It is the same pattern of the Mark Foleys and Mel Gibsons of the world: mess up royally in the public eye, beg for forgiveness, and suddenly remember a drinking and/or drug problem.

Religion is merely a means to establishing a political force. Haggard was recently featured in the documentary *Jesus Camp*. The summer camp for kids was a microcosm for what Haggard preached. The camp taught about the "right to life" and created political soldiers against gay marriage. The kids listened to the personable Haggard attentively. Hopefully, Haggard is not a Foley of the world. Hopefully, he did not teach the kids what an 8-ball was.

Haggard wants to begin what other Church leaders are calling the "restoration process." His "restoration process"—also known as excommunication—is said to take three to five years. This allows just enough time for the Evangelicals to gain back the ground lost by this supreme hypocrisy. But Haggard's absence does not sweep away the problem of sexual repression.

Focus on the Family leader James Dobson promised to oversee Haggard's return to "normalcy." However, he recently stated a lack of time would prevent him from being with Haggard (no pun intended). Way to help the family, Dobby. What Haggy fails to realize is it is not a matter of recovery from sickness. Evangelicals admittedly do not like to engage in sexual conversations and ironically have adverse reactions to homosexuality. Perhaps attacking one form of sexuality, while not fleshing out the ideas of others, can create complexes in the minds of, let's say, its proponents. Perhaps not attempting to understand heterosexuality diminishes understand-

ing of homosexuality.

Haggard attacked gay rights because of his religious beliefs. Persecution, however, is one of the paradoxical pillars of the Church. Haggard's fallout should point to the burgeoning problems associated with judging the disenfranchised. Maybe they will extend their acceptance past Haggard and to those like him.

Haggard proves politicians and even religious leaders have no place in preventing others from liberty and the pursuit of happiness in a free nation.

"Those men [his overseers] will perform a thorough analysis of my mental, spiritual, emotional and physical life. They will guide me through a program with the goal of healing and restoration for my life, my marriage and my family," Haggard wrote in a letter to his Church and the public. Haggard must now experience what he imparted upon many—persecution.

Only time will tell what the future holds for Haggard.

My guess is electroshock therapy.

The Collegian

collegia@stmarys-ca.edu

WE WANT OPINIONS

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Hate our paper?

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The Collegian
DETOUR

Unofficial start of holiday season officially moved up, Christmas comes early for retailers

Stores hope to hook shoppers before they spend all their money

by Sean Kent
Staff Writer

For all of those who missed the top-secret memo that was passed among all the major retail stores this fall, the first official shopping day of the holiday season has been moved from the Friday after Thanksgiving to the first weekend of November. This subtle switch was first reported by KPIX, who cited Gail Hillebrand of the Consumer Union as saying, "They [retail stores] want to get you before you max out your credit cards. It's a hook to get you to go there first."

While the chaos of the new ultimate shopping weekend has already subsided, the commercials for stores, credit cards, and movies has just begun. Capitalizing on the newly-adopted theory of aggressively capturing consumers before credit card bills pile up, Visa has already launched their variation of the Charles Dickens' classic. Ebenezer Scrooge sheds his penny-pinching ways to compile a hoard of purchases rivaling any of Paris Hilton's shopping binges. Of course he completes this spree with his Visa card in hand, in the hope that he'll win one of 10 \$100,000 prizes given away by the credit card company.

Along with the Visa ads, you can expect the usual Capitol One

vikings and M&M spots to premiere in upcoming weeks. Besides the overt references to holiday folklore, there is also a shift in the type of commercials that are being aired. Recently, Geoffery the Giraffe and his band of Toys-R-Us employees have been popping up more often than ever on TV screens.

Entrancing scenes of the year's coolest toys induce anyone under the age of 12 to drool. Aimed at a different demographic, a new Best Buy commercial draws the same reaction from a group of adult men ogling a plethora of new electronic equipment while neglecting their outdoor wintertime chores.

The biggest offender of this early advertising onslaught has been holiday movies. Disney's *The Santa Clause 3* got the early jump on all its competitors with its November 3 release. In past years, holiday films have at least waited until Thanksgiving to un-



leash their commercialized holiday cheer, yet for some reason Disney Pictures felt compelled (probably by their accountants) to distribute their film almost two months prior to the arrival of its title character. Also guilty is 20th Century Fox's film *Deck the Halls*, starring Danny DeVito and Matthew Broderick, slated to open the day before Thanksgiving. What could be better than gorging all day on turkey and then passing out in a darkened theater loaded with tryptophan instead of spending time with your family?

The early emergence of the

Christmas spirit is nothing entirely new. For years, radio stations have begun playing traditional holiday songs on Black Friday, the former start of the shopping season. Progressively over the past few years, stores such as Target, Walgreen's, and Long's have begun selling their Christmas paraphernalia earlier and earlier. This has been a growing trend with all commercialized holidays, yet Christmas is the biggest moneymaker. This year the aforementioned retailers were stocked with winter decorations before Halloween had even passed.

Retailers, credit card companies, and the movie industry all play the role of the Grinch every Christmas by preying on the generous spirit of the holiday. The early advertising blitz is nothing more than a tactic to squeeze a few extra pennies out of hardworking families who try to provide the best Christmas possible for their families. These companies rarely ever realize the agony they cause their customers. In fact, Americans file for bankruptcy in December and January more than any other time during the year. Maybe these industries should take a lesson from every Christmas special ever produced and remember "the real reason for the season."

100 Word Reviews

Not-so-guilty guilty pleasure

by Megan Manley
Staff Writer

Luke and Laura from General Hospital have been one of the most loved couples on TV for decades. After a long separation, Luke and Laura have finally been reunited. After their renewal of vows went awry four years ago, Laura was left in a trauma-induced coma or something fancy like that. Last week, she awoke from her coma and is now back in Port Charles to rekindle her great love. The show has been hinting at her return for years and now she's back! Good job GH... everyone should watch. I promise soap operas aren't as lame as people say.

The \$1 section

by Linda Hua
Editor-in-Chief

Target's \$1 section always excites me. There are so many fun knick-knacks that I can get...all for just a dollar. There are awesome kitchen utensils for the townhouse, fun little toys to give as random gifts, but best of all, there are socks. I really like socks. One-dollar socks, to be exact. These are what trips to Target usually consist of: a stop at the \$1 section to pick up some fun new footwear. They come in a variety of colors and designs...some have furry tops, some have pom poms, they're all just awesomely fun and they just cost a buck!

New appreciation for turkeys

by J. Harry Painter
Chief Copy Editor

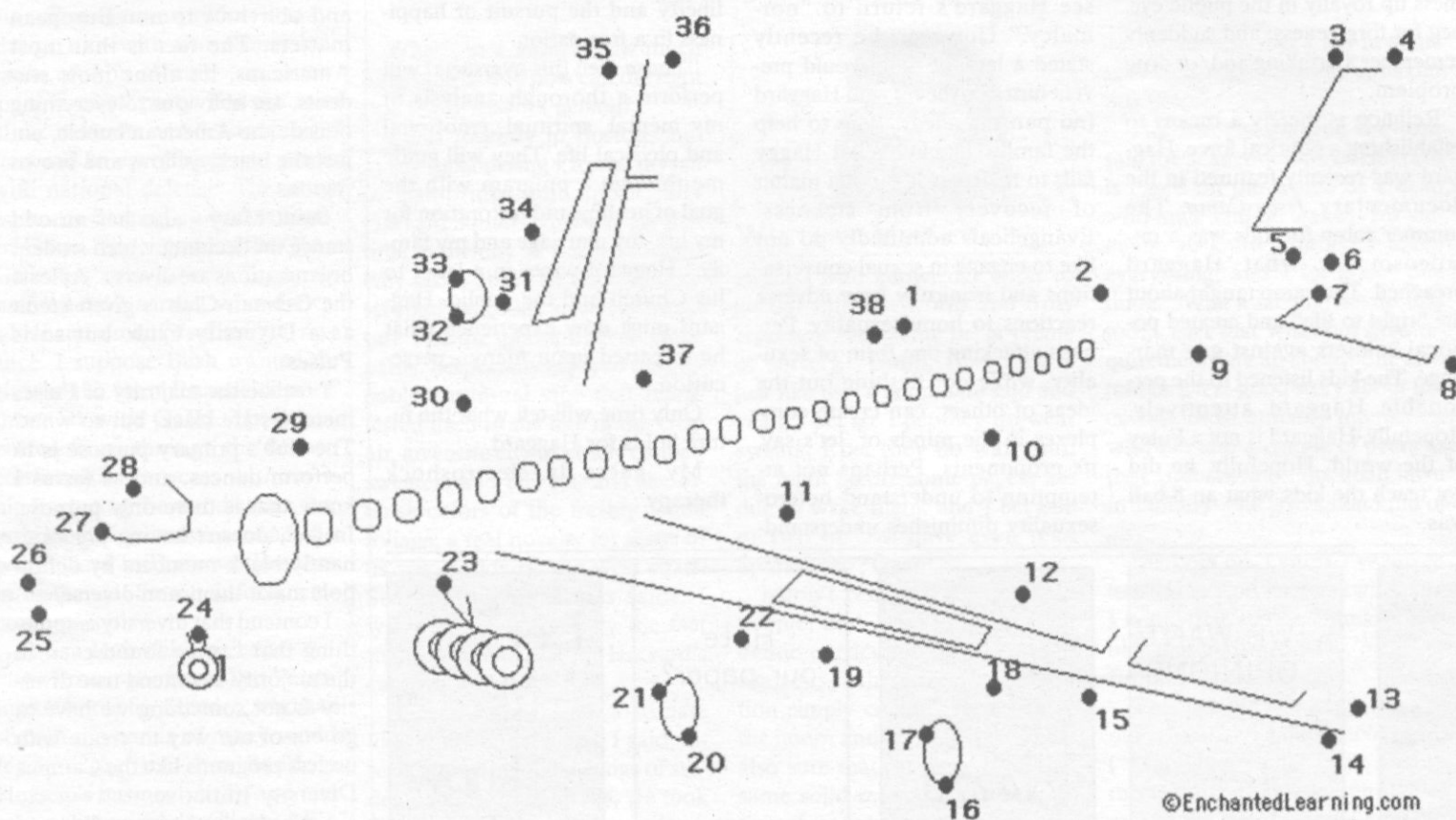
I can't wait for Thanksgiving. Turkeys are tastier than they get credit for. I've never really appreciated the work that goes into my Thanksgiving dinner every year; that is, until this past Sunday, when I "volunteered" (I only went to complete a mitzvah for Judaism class) at Saint Vincent de Paul in Oakland, and had to slice turkeys myself.

Which reminds me, I've been watching those birds wander outside my townhouse all semester, and I'd be lying if I said I didn't have the urge to show my thanks and make a meal out of one of those suckers.

Hmm...

Connect the dots

You know you want to!



Harsh Times strikes emotional chord

Bale successfully channels psyche of Gulf War veteran

by **Khalida Sarwari**
Staff Writer

Sinking his teeth into yet another multifaceted role, Christian Bale proves once again that he is not a typecast actor. Bale's stunning portrayal of Jim Davis, a recently discharged ex-Army Ranger suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after returning from the Gulf War, is strongly reminiscent of Robert De Niro's Travis Bickle, in Martin Scorsese's 1976 film *Taxi Driver*. Like Travis, Jim is at once a social misfit and a victim of society.

Written and directed by David Ayer (*Training Day*), *Harsh Times* is, above all, a character study of a deeply troubled man who has difficulty adjusting to life after experiencing the brutalities of war as a soldier on the Gulf Coast.

The complexity of Jim's character is perfectly exemplified in the first three scenes of the film. The opening scene shows Jim in a combat zone, brilliantly captured through a rifle scope. This scene is revealed to be a nightmare flashback from which Jim anxiously awakes to find comfort in the arms of his faithful Mexican girlfriend, Marta (Tammy Trull). In this touching scene, Jim reveals his

sensitive side as he promises Marta that he will get her to the United States and marry her. The following scene shows Jim going berserk on an unsuspecting motorist after he discovers his appli-

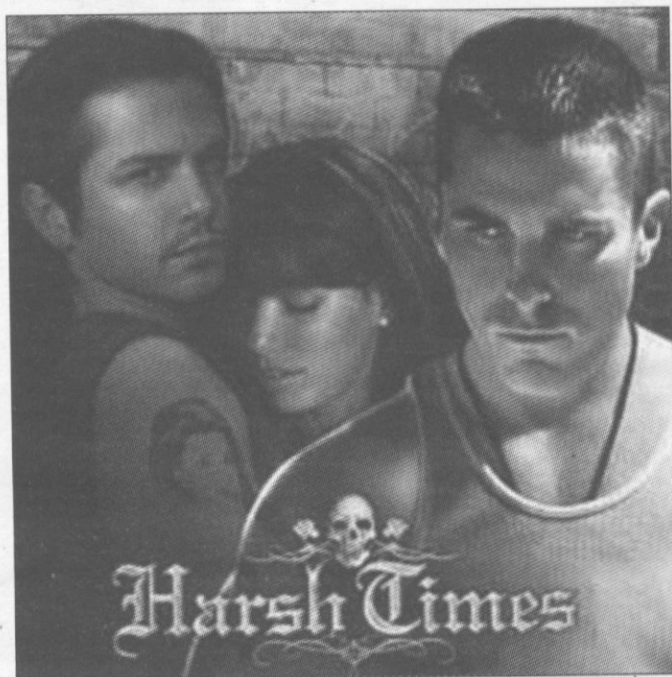
sents the more level-headed and predictable of the two friends. This makes it all the more interesting when, despite pressures from his girlfriend to get a job and clean up his act, Mike is drawn to

scene, Mike is clearly traumatized after witnessing the brutal slaying of a bar owner.

Other notable characters in the film are the girlfriends. Eva Longoria plays Mike's girlfriend, Sylvia, in a somewhat limited role as a lawyer frustrated with Mike's dishonesty and slacker tendencies. Trull stands out in her role as Jim's sweet and devoted girlfriend, one of the few people in Jim's life capable of drawing out his compassionate side.

Many scenes in the film take place in a car with Jim and Mike driving erratically through the streets of Los Angeles, evading their responsibilities. When they're not getting high and discussing plans to get laid, they have difficulty staying out of trouble. They often ran into situations involving guns and shouting matches with pissed-off Mexican gang bangers. Thanks to the presence of an underlying tension gripping every scene, the film rarely seems to drag.

In the end, what makes Ayer's directorial debut most successful is his ability to draw multi-faceted character portrayals from the film's talented cast. The heart-rending final scene leaves an especially haunting impression on the audience.



Courtesy of www.musicomh.com

cation at the LAPD has been rejected. It takes much persuasion on the part of his steadfast best friend, Mike, to calm him down.

In a compelling performance by Freddy Rodriguez, Mike repre-

sents the world of danger in which Jim operates. He seems to be intrigued by the idea of death and domination as he questions Jim about what it felt like to shoot people as an army ranger. And yet, in a later

Concert Calendar

11/14-11/20

.....

Gwar:

Warfield SF
11/14

Del Tha Funky Homosapien:

Fillmore SF
11/16

High Like Five:

Slims SF
11/17



Lifestyles of the rich and the famous

We just can't seem to get enough of this stuff

by **Adrian Garro**
Staff Writer

Did you hear? Ryan Phillippe and Reese Witherspoon are getting divorced. So much for that dream marriage of one-time heartthrobs. Wait—Kevin Federline and Britney Spears are also getting divorced? NO WAY! They seemed to be the picture of marital bliss.

Okay, maybe not.

I don't actually care about these celebrities having relationship trouble. It is quite funny, though, how K-Fed is asking for "spousal support" in his divorce claim. The thing that bugs me is how much we are supposed to care about the personal lives of rich and famous people we will never get to meet. Who cares if Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn's relationship is "on the rocks?" Leave them alone.

It seems like it would be a hassle to be a celebrity, with the media constantly prying into your life and personal issues that most people keep to themselves. Paul McCartney's ex-wife is caught up in some sex scandal thing? Uh, thanks for letting me know, EVERY MAGAZINE at the checkout stand. I don't really need to know that, though.

Again, I do not go out looking

for this information. It is crammed down my throat whenever I visit any media-related website, and because I work at a drug store. These stories keep being reported because people like to know this stuff. I guess it's fascinating to some people that Tom Cruise is such a wacko, that Katie Holmes has to go through labor without anesthesia, because that's how those crazy Scientologists do it. Again, uh...thanks? We should not care about this, but we do, because most of us seem to love to live vicariously through those we idolize.

The perfect example of this sort of voyeuristic fascination in action is the failed marriage of Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey. Public interest in these two "singers" sparked an MTV show, *Newlyweds*, chronicling their young marriage. The show then ultimately caused the failure of their marriage, due to the fact that they were always on camera and tensions built up in the relationship; Lachey also must have felt lame since his wife was the one everybody cared about, instead of him. This should never have been a show, but since everyone loves watching famous people on TV, it was made, and ultimately caused their marriage to fall apart.

Another byproduct of this ob-

session with stars' personal lives is the relationship abbreviation. From Bennifer to TomKat, we as a society talk about them so much that it is necessary to create shorter ways of saying their names. Talk about obsession.

If use peasants were not so in love with looking at pictures of all the pretty celebrities we wish we were, the paparazzi would probably not exist, and people like Princess Diana would still be alive.

It is easy to blame our obsession with celebrities on ourselves, but the fact is that we would not care so much if the media didn't cover every second of these people's lives. They tell us what we are supposed to want to know, and we eat it up, at times becoming obsessed. Every time I see a middle-aged woman buy a copy of *US Weekly*, stating that Nicole Richie is down to 15 lbs, I almost want to tell the lady "Don't buy that, it's stupid." I didn't say that, of course, but maybe I should have. It doesn't matter if Kirstie Alley has "ballooned" up to 140 lbs, nor does it matter what kind of shoes Eva Longoria wore to the store the other day. I wish we were not so obsessed with celebrities, but that is something that will probably never change.

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The Collegian
SPORTS

**Players
of the Week**

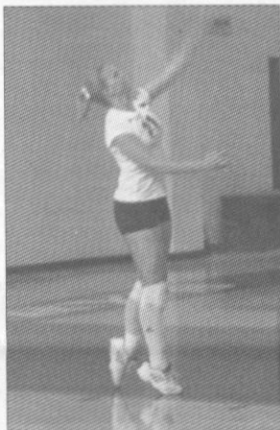
Todd Golden



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

Junior Todd Golden led all Gael scorers on Saturday with 15 points against the San Diego State University Aztecs. Golden shot 5-9 from the three-point line in just 35 minutes of play. Golden also was named to the Shamrock Invitational Tournament team.

Cassandra Kolkka



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

Senior Cassandra Kolkka, in her final home match against the Loyola Marymount Lions, nearly recorded a double-double, tallying 10 kills and nine digs in the match. Kolkka also had four service aces, helping the Gaels sweep the Lions last Saturday afternoon.

Gaels end five game skid in home finale
Women's volleyball sweeps Lions after falling to Waves in five

by Zack Farmer
Managing Editor

Last weekend four Saint Mary's seniors played their last volleyball game at McKeon Pavilion. Seniors Mandy Bible, Christina Kirk, Lauren Holland, and Cassandra Kolkka played their final game in front of the Gael faithful on Saturday.

On Thursday, the Gaels played a tough match against the Pepperdine Waves, only to come up on the short end, losing the match 3-2.

In the first game, the Gaels quickly fell to the Waves 30-19. But in the second game, Saint Mary's roared back and took the game 30-25.

The second place Waves got back on their game and beat the Gaels 30-18. In the fourth game, the Gaels were able to fend off the Waves, forcing a game five.

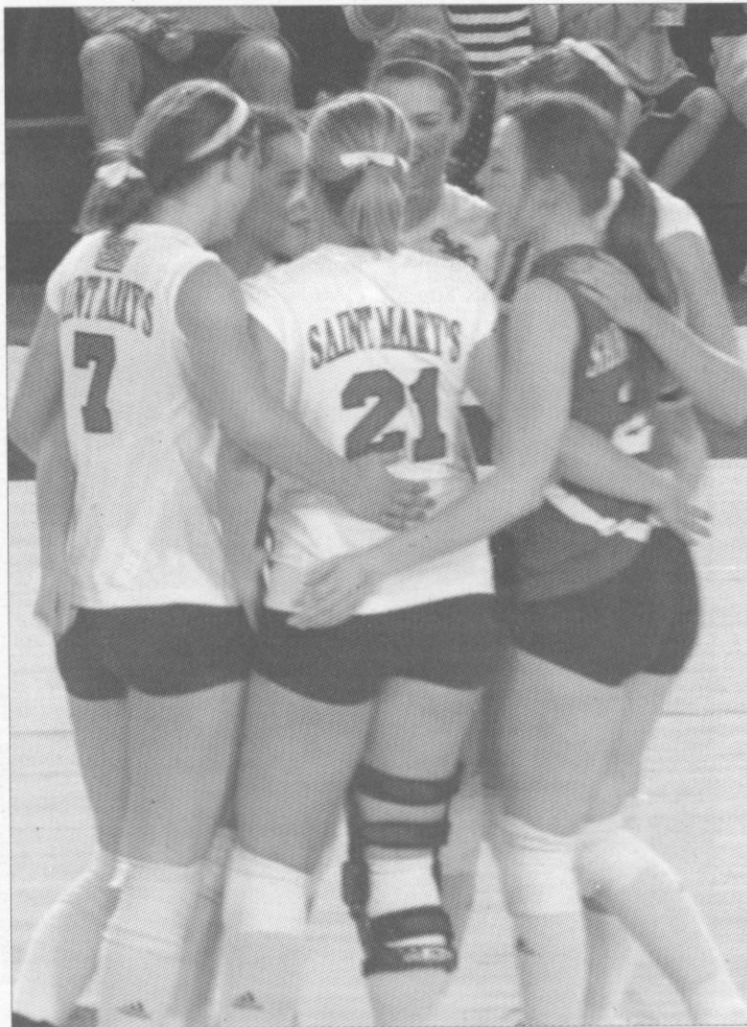
Saint Mary's was not able to take care of Pepperdine as the Waves took the final game 15-11.

Missie Stidham '08 recorded a game high 20 kills and 22 digs. Bible led the Gaels with 53 assists and 17 digs.

Alita Fisher '10 had a career game with 27 digs at libero.

On Saturday, the Gaels beat the Loyola Marymount Lions in a sweep, winning the match 3-0.

The Gaels were trailing the Li-



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

The Gael seniors embraced their last home match against Loyola Marymount on Saturday.

ons 29-26 but stormed back to fought back and forth but the take the lead 30-29. The teams Gaels broke through and took the

first game 33-31 on a Kirk block.

The Gaels took complete control of the second game by going on a 9-0 run early in the game and coasted to the 30-16 victory.

In the third game, the Lions fought hard and took an early lead but the Gaels fought back quickly.

During the match, the referee platform nearly collapsed in the middle of a small run by the Gaels. The five-minute duration did not faze the Gaels as they put the match away 30-26.

All four seniors played the entire final game together.

Bible led the Gaels with 40 assists, four digs, and six blocks. Kolkka recorded 10 kills, nine digs, and four service aces. Kirk had nine kills, three digs, and six blocks. Holland had two kills and four digs.

Stidham led the Gaels in kills with 18 and 12 digs. She also had six service aces.

The Lions committed 22 errors to the Gaels' 14. The Gaels outblocked the Lions 25-5 in the match.

With the split over the weekend, the Gaels are now 10-12 overall and 5-6 in West Coast Conference play and tied for fourth in the conference.

The Gaels will finish their season this week on the road against the Gonzaga Bulldogs and the Portland Pilots.

THE GAEL NOTEBOOK

Men's Lacrosse: On Saturday, the Saint Mary's club lacrosse team held their second-annual SMC Lacrosse tournament. Games were held on the lacrosse field, Garaventa Field, and the practice field next to Saint Mary's Stadium.

Saint Mary's played Dominican University in the first match. They won 8-1 with junior Chris Burns scoring two for the Gaels. Every player participated in the game for the Gaels.

In the afternoon, the Gaels faced the top team, Sonoma State. Sonoma State defeated the Gaels 7-2. The two goals were scored by sophomore Alex Dabney and sophomore Hunt Hendon.

The Gaels then faced rival Santa Clara in their third and final match. The Broncos proved too strong for a tired Gaels team, as the Gaels lost 8-3. Burns led the team in goals with five.

This was the second tournament for the Gaels this year. Their record moves to 3-2 on the season.

Men's Golf: Men's golf participated in the Hawaii Fall Intercollegiate Tournament in Oahu last week, finishing in seventh place out of 16 teams. As a team, they finished with a total score of 883 (+19), a score that tied the Gaels with College of Charleston.

Individually, junior Mike McRae finished seventh with a

score of 217 (+1), the fourth time McRae has placed in the top 10 this fall season.

Freshman Daniel Cone also had a good showing, finishing the tournament with a 219 (+3), placing him in 12th place, his best collegiate result. Junior Josh Kelley also performed well, helping his team to its top 10 finish, recording a 221 with a five over par.

The Gaels now look forward to improving on this finish on the start of their spring season in February.

Men's Soccer: Four players on the men's soccer team garnered West Coast Conference (WCC) honors last week.

Senior Matthew Fitzgerald was appointed to the all-conference first team and freshman Dylan Leslie to the second team. Senior defenders Alex Christlieb and Desmond Brooks were WCC Honorable Mention recipients.

This is the fourth time Fitzgerald has been recognized by the WCC, three of those times as all-conference first team awards.

As for Leslie, on top of being recognized to the second team, he was also named to the WCC all-freshman team this season.

Christlieb's Honorable Mention is his consecutive second, finishing his collegiate career as team captain and a strong component of the Gael defense along with Brooks, who also evidently de-

served his selection to the list of WCC awardees.

Men's Basketball: In the early signing period, the Saint Mary's men's basketball team signed one of Australia's top basketball recruits, Patrick Mills.

Mills, a 6-foot, 180-pound point guard, has much to offer to the Saint Mary's basketball program.

Besides taking part in the international 2006 World Junior Select Team and 2006 Junior National Men's Team, Mills also became the youngest player to be asked to join the Australian National Team, which former Gael Daniel Kickert once participated in.

Like Kickert, Mills also attended the Australian Institute of Sport, a prestigious sports school that prides itself in its high-level athletic training and strengths in general education.

Mills' training and accolades distinguish him as one of the most accomplished players that the Saint Mary's basketball program has ever recruited.

On signing him last week, head coach Randy Bennett expressed great excitement in Mills' decision to attend Saint Mary's College (instead of Utah, Nebraska, Wake Forest, Alabama, and various professional Australian teams) due to the experience, leadership ability, and talent he is ex-

pected to bring to the program.

Men's Baseball: The Saint Mary's men's baseball team is holding their third-annual Meet the Players Night on Saturday, January 6.

The benefit dinner will introduce the men's baseball team as well as have a live and silent auction. All the proceeds will go directly to the Saint Mary's baseball program.

Last year, the night was headlined by the Major League MVP of 1974, first baseman Steve Garvey. This year, the dinner will feature former Giants first baseman, J.T. Snow.

The men's baseball team looks forward to this night as part of their season being officially kicked off just this past October.

Women's Soccer: Three Saint Mary's women's soccer players earned WCC Honorable Mention awards for the 2006 season.

Senior McKenna Belzer, senior Sarah Churchill and red-shirt sophomore Mallory Lee earned the award, and each was the first in their collegiate careers.

This year, Belzer started in 15 games, recording six points. She scored one goal and had four assists. Churchill controlled the defense for the Gaels as she started in 18 games this year, and holds the record for most games played for the Gaels, with 80.

**Sports
Calendar**

Wednesday, November 15
Men's Basketball
vs. CSU Monterey Bay
7:05 p.m.

Thursday, November 9
Women's Volleyball
@ Gonzaga
7:05 p.m.

Friday, November 10
Women's Basketball
vs. Miami
7:35 p.m.

Saturday, November 11
Men's Basketball
@ Southern California
12:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
@ Portland
1:05 p.m.

The Collegian
SPORTS

Women's basketball in transition mode

Gaels' versatility fouls out against the #21 California Bears

by Sean Kent
Staff Writer

In only their the second game of the year, the Saint Mary's women's basketball team faced one of their stiffest challenges of the season, squaring off against the #21 California Bears.

The Gaels came into the contest after an opening week exhibition loss to the club team, Love and Basketball, a squad composed of former college players.

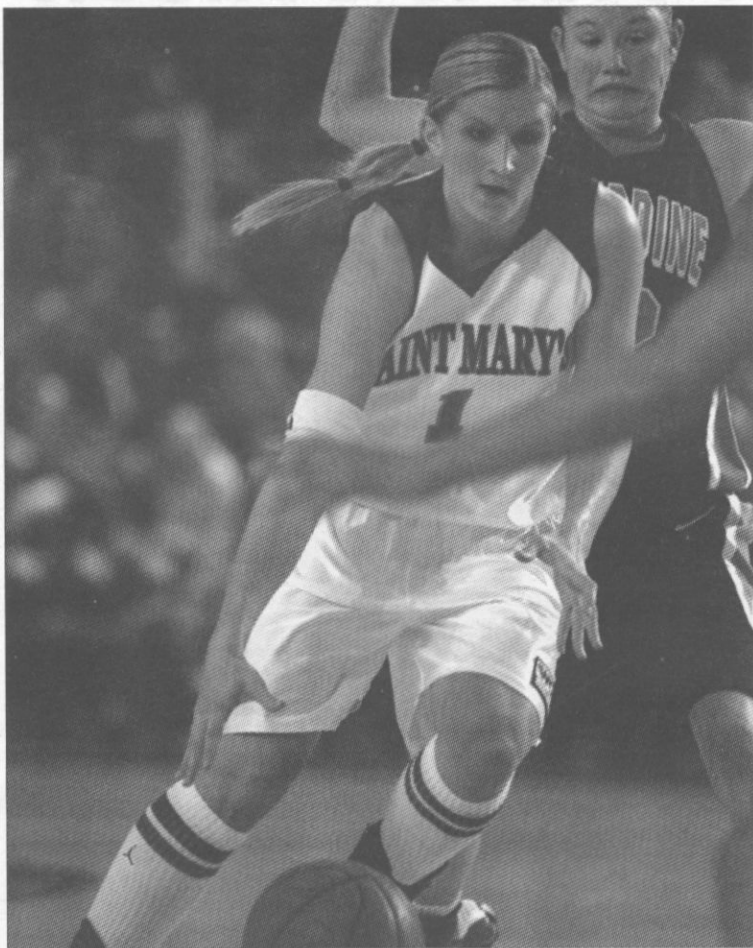
Head coach Paul Thomas said about the big time match up, "Hopefully, we play hard and aggressive and we're able to compete at the best of our ability."

This is Saint Mary's only ranked opponent on their schedule at this point in the season.

"They're very good at the inside-out game and have the ability to score from the post," said Thomas of his competition.

Although the Bears will provide a major challenge for Saint Mary's, Thomas also offered some keys for the Gaels to win. "We need to challenge shots, not allow a lot of easy baskets, no second chance points."

Some of Saint Mary's strengths early in the season have been the versatility of their players. In a sense, the Gaels' ability to adapt into multiple styles of play reflects their wildcard, small-



Collin Krauthamer/COLLEGIAN

Junior Maija Lahde has been one of the key players for the women's basketball team, scoring 11 points for the Gaels against Love and Basketball.

school mentality, an intangible Saint Mary's hoped to use against their more publicized Berkeley neighbor.

Team leadership has also been a major part of the change this year under first year coach Thomas. Lauren Shaughnessy '08 and

Serena Benavente '08, the two team captains, have been key in this process, helping develop a sense of unity with the team's new coaching staff.

Three other leaders that have proven themselves at this early stage in the season are Maija Lahde '08, Mikaela Cowles '08, and Monica Mertle '08.

Unfortunately, the Gaels eventually fell to the California Golden Bears, losing 71-56.

The Gaels started out well, keeping up with the Bears for the first 13 minutes of the game. Shortly after, the Bears went on a 17-3 run and never looked back.

Although Saint Mary's outshot California 57-53 and outscored the Bears 49-40 in points from the field, they still could not get themselves back into the game.

However, fouls may have kept the Gaels from reaching victory. Players Shaughnessy and Sierra Chambers '10 both fouled out of the game. California drew 27 fouls in the game, allowing them 37 free throw attempts to the Gaels' 13.

Overall, the Gaels were led by Mertle with 14 points and Lahde with 13.

With the loss, the Gaels are now 0-1 on the season and will face Miami University this Friday, November 17 at 7:35 p.m. at McKeon Pavilion.

Another TUF night

by Danny Acosta
Opinion Editor

The Ultimate Fighter (TUF) season finales have delivered some of the most memorable moments in Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) history. Forrest Griffin, bloodied in a stand-up war of attrition, smiled his way to victory. Stephan Bonnar earned his UFC contract in the same 15-minute epic. Season four's finale was another memorable night; however, the memories did not come from the finals.

Season four of TUF, *The Comeback*, placed former UFC fighters on the road to a title shot, a contract, and sponsorship. The night featured welterweights Matt "The Terror" Serra against Chris "Lights Out" Lytle and middleweights Patrick "The Predator" Cote versus Travis Lutter.

Machado jiu-jitsu black belt Travis Lutter only had one thought in his mind throughout the season and throughout this night: submit him. Cote has survived the infamous ground attack of former light heavyweight champion Tito Ortiz and looked to knockout Lutter. In two minutes time, Lutter finished his comeback by finishing Cote with an armbar from an unlikely position.

In preliminary action, Capital City Fighting Alliance's Scott Smith and Serra jiu-jitsu student Pete Sell showcased the pizzazz of their housemate Shonie Carter, who famously stated: "Do you know what P.I.M.P. stands for? It stands for Punching Is My Pleasure!" The fight contained all the elements of a TUF finale experience: all heart and all action.

Rapid, hurtful exchanges between the two fighters led them to high-five and applaud for each other during the first round. They remained standing for the entire first round, where they strung together leg kicks and punches. As the round ended, they hugged and had a brief chat as if it were the end of the fight. This sportsmanship and friendship developed during the show. The second round brought a once-in-a-lifetime finish.

Sell landed a stunning body punch that sent Smith backwards and to one knee, clutching his damaged ribs. Sell pounced. He attempted to finish the fight, but was blindsided by a vicious right hand that knocked him out. It was the last punch Smith had in his arsenal as he laid across the mat after connecting. The fight was awarded to Smith, but the result resembled a double-knockout.

The solid under card performances made for another memorable TUF finale. Serra and Lutter's fights were not the most impressive, but the completion of their comebacks manifested what makes the sport great. It is the reality of the participants. They are husbands, fathers, and warriors. And as showcased by Smith and Sell, men become warriors in the realm of unpredictability. Men become warriors in the fight world.

Feature this: willpower

Hagedorn inspires with shoeless effort

by Stefanie Ordoeza
Sports Editor

Karrie Hagedorn, the top runner for the women's cross country team, was selected to compete in the NCAA Western Regionals. The Regionals took place last Saturday in Portland, OR.

Hagedorn, the first Gael ever to compete in the NCAA Regionals, represented the Gaels well, finishing the race in inspiring fashion.

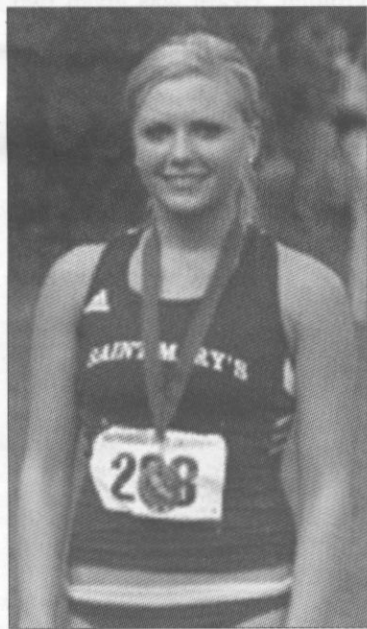
Hagedorn started the race off very well, sticking in the top half of the competition (which included national champion #1 Stanford, #8 Arizona State, and WCC Champion Portland).

However, due to the rain the course had suffered over the past week, Hagedorn unluckily ran into a mud patch, which stripped her shoe right off her foot.

Instead of stopping, as most would expect her to have done, Hagedorn quickly tossed her shoe to her coach, Randy Rau, and proceeded to run, barefoot.

Upon reaching her coach again after 1500 yards, she hurried to put her shoe back on, but by that time, she had already lost 150 places, pushing her time back to 24:54 overall in the 6K event.

Hagedorn's determination exemplifies the reason why her results have never faltered and why her college career has been so impressive.



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

Junior Karrie Hagedorn became the first Gael to compete in the NCAA Western Regionals, which she earned after an impressive junior season, leading the Gaels as the top female runner in every race this past season.

Her hard work has led her to change women's cross country history and her efforts will never be forgotten.

Hagedorn now finishes her season with several school records, personal bests, and a medal from the San Francisco Invitational earlier in the season, distinguishing her as one of the top runners the Gael cross country program has developed.

Haunani-Kay Trask

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Men's basketball starts season strong

Gaels' record moves to 2-1 after Shamrock Invitational

by Megan Manley
Staff Writer

The Saint Mary's men's basketball team won their first game of the season on Friday against the Seattle Pacific Falcons in the Shamrock Invitational Tournament. The Gaels started off shaky but eventually won the game 71-60.

Senior forward Brett Collins came out strong for the Gaels, shooting 7-12 and scoring 18 points to lead Saint Mary's scorers.

Sophomore power forward Diamon Simpson added 15 points and five rebounds for the Gaels, shooting 7-11 from the floor, including three dunks and snagging two steals in just 17 minutes.

Sophomore Ian O'Leary dominated the glass for the Gaels, grabbing eight rebounds in 25 minutes of action.

The Gaels never trailed in the second half and ran home with the win. Freshman Omar Samhan went 4-4 in his debut as a Gael, racking up 10 points and six rebounds in 14 minutes of action.

Fresh off the win, the Gaels went into the second day of the Shamrock Invitational fired up. Facing off against the San Diego State Aztecs, who went to the NCAA Tournament last year, the Gaels looked to quiet San Diego standout Brandon Heath.

Unfortunately, the Gaels could not shut them down, losing the game closely 74-73.

Heath nabbed his second game-winner, making two free throws with 16 seconds left to give the Aztecs the victory.

The Gaels led at the half 39-35, but the Aztecs came out tough in the second half, building a nine point lead with just over five minutes left.



Collegian Archives

Senior forward Brett Collins played an aggressive offensive game in all three games, helping the Gaels go 2-1 at the Shamrock Invitational Tournament, which took place at the McKeon Pavilion all last weekend.

But the Gaels answered with a 7-0 run.

It started out with junior guard Todd Golden's three-pointer to cut the lead to six. In the next play, Collins blocked a shot from Aztec Kyle Spain. Golden got the rebound and passed it to a streaking Collins, who made a strong dunk. Collins stole a pass just seven seconds later and finished it off with a jam to get everyone on their feet, cutting the lead to just two.

O'Leary hit a clutch three-pointer with 1:24 left on the clock to tie the game at 72.

Shortly after, O'Leary hit the second of two free throws to give the Gaels a 73-72 lead with 36.6 seconds left.

The Aztecs then took possession with Heath taking up the shot at the free-throw line. Fouled by Golden, Heath was given two shots and made both, giving them the one-point lead.

After an immediate Gael timeout, Collins drove it in but was blocked out-of-bounds. With possession from under the basket, the pass went to Golden, who missed off the front end of the rim

on a shot that went up as time expired.

"We didn't get over the hump tonight. We dug ourselves a hole," said head coach Randy Bennett. "[But] I was proud of them getting back in it."

The Gaels' starting five of Collins, Golden, sophomore Wayne Hunter, O'Leary, and Simpson each had solid performances, as all five scored in double digits. Golden led the Gaels with 15, shooting 5-9 from three-point land.

Simpson earned his first double-double of the season, racking up 11 points and 10 rebounds. The double-double was the third of his career, and he also had six blocks.

The first half was led by Hunter, who recorded seven points in the first five minutes of play and 14 points on the night. O'Leary also tallied 14 points in the contest, while matching his eight rebounds from the night before. Collins started off slow but kicked things up in the second half, finishing with 12 points and eight boards.

The Gaels finished off the tournament strong against the Murray State Racers Sunday night, winning 62-44. The Gaels started the game with a 17-3 run. The Racers never got within 10 as the Gaels completely controlled the game.

O'Leary led the Gaels with 14 points and Simpson led the Gaels in rebounds with seven. The team was led by a strong offensive effort, highlighted by guards Tron Smith and Golden.

Sophomore Yusef Smith scored his first points as a Gael in this game, slamming a dunk with authority over two Racer defenders.

The Gaels finished the tournament 2-1 and look forward to their next game on Wednesday.



Stefanie Ordoveza/COLLEGIAN

Sports Trivia of the Week

1. The Gaels' record for most three-pointers made came in 2005 in their victory against Gonzaga. How many threes did they make?

- a. 7
- b. 10
- c. 12
- d. 16

2. Who has the most blocks in one game for the men's basketball team?

- a. Diamon Simpson
- b. Federic Adjiwanou
- c. Brad Millard
- d. Peter Thibeaux

3. Both Paul Marigny and Odell Johnson hold the Gael record for most points scored in a WCC game with 40 points. They did it against the same team. Which team?

- a. Gonzaga
- b. San Francisco
- c. Santa Clara
- d. Pepperdine