

THE COLLEGIAN

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA
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Volleyball ends season against Portland

Moraga, California

Tuesday, November 21, 2006

Volume 104, Number 13

Interviews coming down to wire

Vacant Vice Provost for Student Life position to be decided within month



Zack Farmer/COLLEGIAN

Jane Camarillo is the director of residential education at Stanford University and a finalist to become Vice Provost for Student Life. She was part of an open session with students and faculty last Wednesday.

by **Stefanie Wang**
Webmaster

The finalists for the position of Vice Provost for Student Life are in their final stages of interviews and the decision will affect much of the student body.

Student Life includes the Health and Wellness Center, the Director of New Student Programs, Residence Life, the Mission Assistant Dean, Public Safety, Student Involvement and Leadership, and the Women's Resource Center. In the hierarchy of educational command, the Vice Provost for Student Life is part of the President's cabinet, along with the other provosts and directors of enrollment, academics, and athletics. This cabinet makes decisions that affect the whole school.

At the beginning of the semester, this position was advertised nationwide so that Saint Mary's could draw a wide pool of applicants. From a group of over 60 applicants, the search committee narrowed it down to a group of semi-finalists, and then to the current group of five finalists.

"This is a lot of work and the search committee has done a very good job," said Sweeney. A professional consultant was also hired to aid in the process.

A committee of 11 people, headed by Frances Sweeney, vice provost of academic affairs, and Eté Martinez Anderson, assistant dean of Student Involvement and Leadership, are interviewing and sorting through the five final candidates for Vice Provost for Student Life. The search committee comprises of

Sweeney, Anderson, Brother Donald Mansir, Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action Director Janet Luce, Professor Mary McCall, Associated Students of Saint Mary's College President Shane Keane, Pulses President Sonya Lee, Assistant Athletic Director for Student Support Services Kari Montero, Professor Zack Flanagan, Dean of Academic Advising & Achievement Russ Tiberii, and Vice Provost for Enrollment Michael Beseda. This is a fairly large committee and the reason for this is because the "Search committee has a goal to represent many areas of the undergraduate college," said Sweeney.

Because the Vice Provost for Student Life will be interacting a lot with students see VPSL, p4

Hawaiian author, and indigenous rights activist speaks

Trask talks about indigenous struggles, preservation of culture

by **J. Harry Painter**
Chief Copy Editor

Last Wednesday during Community Time, students had the chance to attend a fiery speech in the Soda Center. In recognition of "Indigenous People's Day" and "National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week," University of Hawai'i Professor Haunani-Kay Trask stopped by Saint Mary's to speak about Hawaiian political issues.

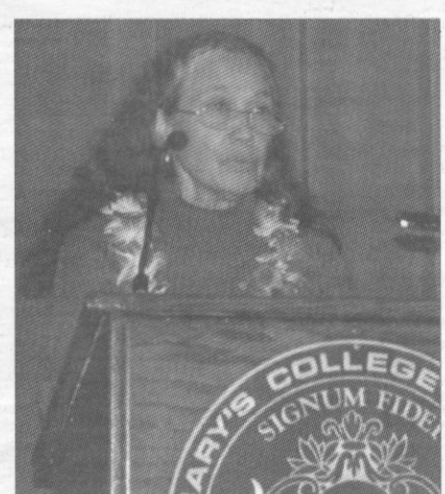
The event, entitled "How to Be a Global Ally: Learning from the Struggles & Triumphs of the Indigenous Peoples of

Hawai'i," was kicked off with a traditional chant by Ka'iulani Kauahi '09, and then an introduction by HAPA (Humans Actively Practicing Aloha) President Brandon Elefante '08.

Elefante described Trask as an "internationally known indigenous human rights advocate." Indigenous people were defined by Trask in her speech as the "original people of the land."

Trask stated that Hawaiians need four declarations in order to find justice for what she called her "home country." The first is "The right of Native Hawaiians

see HAWAII, p4



Zack Farmer/COLLEGIAN

Macken Speech and Debate Team returns from UOP with first place

Debaters wrap up season well

by **Sean Kent**
Staff Writer

On Saturday November 11, the Saint Mary's Macken Speech and Debate Team concluded their fall season with an impressive showing at the Paul Winters Invitational hosted by the University of the Pacific. The Gaels sent four competitors to the finals in five different events and won the overall award in the Small School Division.

The team impressed with their victory in both the awards they won because of the tough competition they edged out. In fact, the Paul Winters Invitational is largest speech and debate competition in the country and attracts national attention. Due to the tournament's size, 35 teams in all, the victory will earn Saint Mary's one of three "legs" to qualify for the national competition in March.

"[It] felt pretty good. It was a good measure of the team. It showed we've done progressively better," said Liz Ashman '09 of their most recent victory. For Ashman and her debate team partner Elizabeth Patterson '10, the progress has come at an unprecedented rate.

The two young women, both in their first year on the Saint Mary's Macken Speech and Debate Team, began the year at the novice level. To graduate to the junior level, and consequently the open level, a speaker must become a finalist in two events. In the only two events prior to the Paul Winters Invitational, both Ashman and Patterson qualified for the finals, earning themselves junior level status for the national event. Even under the national spotlight, the duo didn't falter. They yet again advanced to the quarterfinals and are now halfway to joining the open division. "I was impressed with the competition. It was really exciting," said Patterson.

The other two competitors, Elissa Meisenheimer '09 and Shana Dhillon '09, also fared well in the individual speaking events. Meisenheimer qualified for the finals in the novice Extemporaneous Speaking category, while Dhillon advanced to the finals for both novice Prose Interpretation and novice Poetry Interpretation. Ashman added to her debate skills by also qualifying for the finals in the Persuasive Speaking group.

One of the many difficult aspects of competitive speech and debate is the wealth of knowledge each competitor must ascertain. At the Paul Winters Invitational and other events the Gaels have competed in, the debate and speaking style has been Parliamentary, where competitors are given their topic on the day of the competition. Allowed eight minutes to prepare for a speech and 20 minutes for a debate, the competitors must be up-to-date on current events ranging from Iraq and Iran to renewable energy and Hamas. This impromptu style is considerably more difficult than the "IE" method in which participants are given their subjects in advance and allowed to research and prepare before the competition.

see MACKEN, p4

OPINION

Illegal immigration rages on

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DETOUR

Painter can't hold it in any longer

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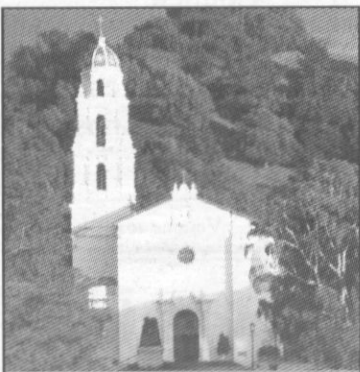
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The Collegian will publish again in January Term. See you all next year!

THE INSIDE PAGE



THE COLLEGIAN

Saint Mary's College of California

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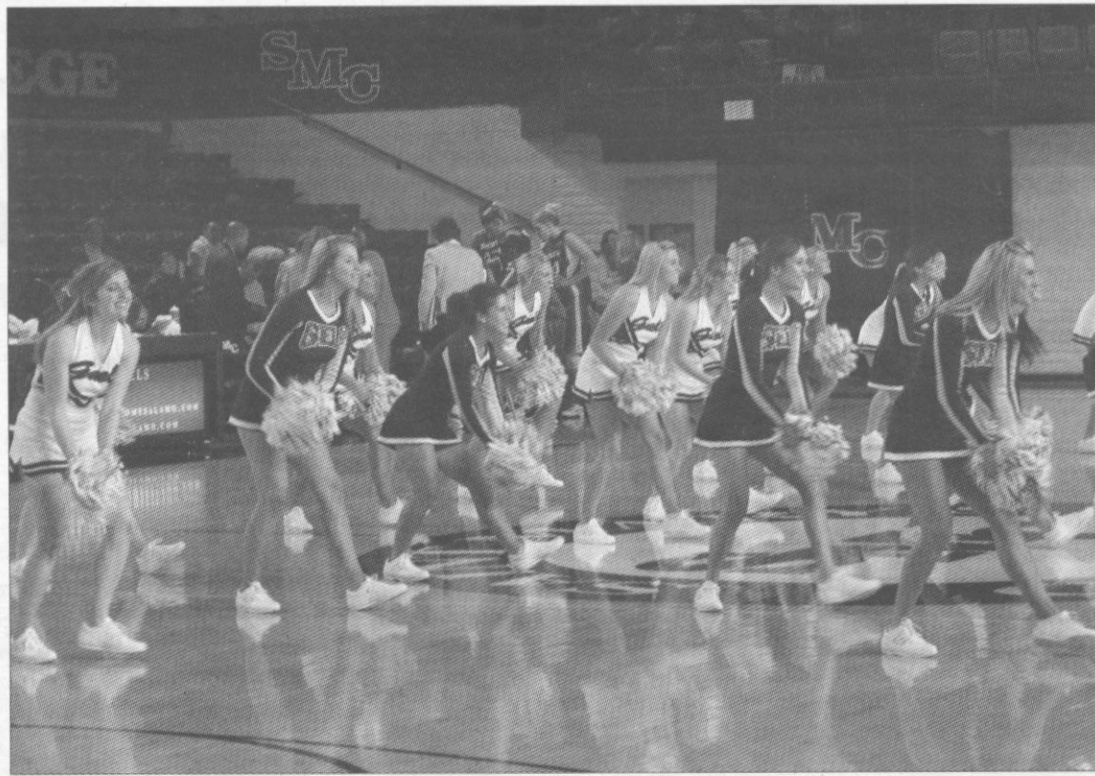
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 Monday 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.,
 Tuesday 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.,
 Wednesday 1 - 5 p.m.,
 Friday 2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

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



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

The Spirit Team entertains the fans at the women's basketball game against University of Miami on Friday night.

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

11/9	5:00 p.m.	11/13	12:35 a.m.	parking lot; referred to Student Conduct.	
Incident: Annoying and Obscene Phone Calls		Incident: Medical Assistance			
Synopsis: Several calls in a short period of time to Thille Hall; referred to Student Conduct.		Synopsis: Occurred in Augustine Hall, transported to John Muir Hospital; referred to Student Conduct and Health and Wellness Center.			
11/10	6:30 a.m.	11/13	9:26 p.m.	11/14	7:20 p.m.
Incident: Medical Assistance		Incident: Handbook Violation		Incident: Vandalism to College Property	
Synopsis: Occurred at San Miguel Drive, student transported to John Muir Hospital; referred to Student Conduct and Health and Wellness Center.		Synopsis: Possession of Marijuana and paraphernalia in Assumption Hall; referred to Student Conduct.		Synopsis: Damage to caged area in Catacombs; referred to Matt Carrol and Sodexo.	
11/12	12:30 a.m.	11/13	9:40 p.m.	11/14	9:45 p.m.
Incident: Suspicious Circumstances		Incident: Hit and Run		Incident: Violation of Student Conduct	
Synopsis: Possible drug trafficking in Sabatte Parking Lot; referred to Student Conduct.		Synopsis: Damage to passenger side door in De La Salle middle parking lot; referred to Student Conduct.		Synopsis: Cohabitation and lying to a college official in Ageno A; referred to Student Conduct.	
11/12	9:13 p.m.	11/14	1:50 a.m.	11/15	11:25 a.m.
Incident: Property Damage		Incident: Minor Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol		Incident: Information Only	
Synopsis: Traffic accident in the parking lot by Garaventa Hall.		Synopsis: Occurred on De La Salle Drive by Augustine Hall, cited and released; referred to Student Conduct.		Synopsis: Unwanted phone calls to Ageno C; referred to Student Conduct.	
11/12	9:20 p.m.	11/14	4:10 a.m.	11/15	10:50 p.m.
Incident: Medical Assistance		Incident: Information Only		Incident: Minor's in Possession of Alcohol and Drug Paraphernalia	
Synopsis: Occurred in Ageno B, transported to John Muir Hospital; referred to Student Conduct and Health and Wellness Center.		Synopsis: Possible vandalism to two left side tires in Lacrosse		Synopsis: Weapons confiscated in Justin Hall; referred to Student Conduct.	



LINDA HUA

Adding to the controversy

The five Lasallian Core Principles: faith in the presence of God, concern for the poor and social justice, quality education, inclusive community, and respect of all persons.

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

There are perpetual complaints and remarks on how Saint Mary's students do not fulfill these principles and statements, but there are 2,525* traditional undergraduate students. Is a handful of them enough to generalize to the rest of the student population? What of the faculty? There are 197* faculty members. How many of them fulfill these declarations? I can distinctly think of a few who do not.

Furthermore, quite a few of them do not follow the Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education: student-faculty contact, cooperation among students, active learning, prompt feedback, time on task, communicate high expectations, and respect diverse talents and ways of learning.

Fortunately, my professors this semester follow these 12 principles and fulfill the mission statement well. However, I've run into quite a few bad apples. Some of them are in no respect Lasallian, others completely disregard the mission statement, and a handful that do not have good practice in education.

Ninety-nine percent of the time, Saint Mary's students do receive a quality education—we really get every penny's worth in that respect. However, respect is a huge part where there is much to be ameliorated.

If I was to pick one principle/statement from each of these three traditions, I'd say the ones that need attention are "respect for all persons," "to create a student-centered educational community whose members support one another with mutual understanding and respect," and "respect diverse talents and ways of learning."

True, respect between two individuals is a double-ended situation. True, respect is either added to or subtracted from. However,

see HUA, p3



Weekly Featured Profile

Lasallian Student Spotlight

Brandon Birr

by Alex Branch
Staff Writer

Chances are anybody who is a member of LASA, works with the Admissions Office, was part of the Bonner Program, or spends a lot of time doing community service has met Brandon Birr '07.

Birr is a 21-year-old history major and Spanish minor from Los Angeles. He is a very active member of the campus community and a man who puts his faith in God.

Birr started "making choices" as soon as he came to Saint Mary's, joining the Bonner Leader Program his freshman year. Being a Bonner Leader was a two-year commitment to tutoring middle school and high school students and it fit perfectly into Birr's plan to become a high school teacher. Birr says he wants to teach high school because it "is a really important time in someone's life," and he wants to teach at a Lasallian high school for many reasons. He said, "My faith dictates where my life is going," and "the Brothers really made a big impact on my life." These factors translate into a Lasallian high school teaching job as being perfect for Birr, where he can share the Lasallian principles with students and help shape their futures.

However, Birr's enthusiasm for his faith and for the Lasallian mission, "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve," does not just come out in his career goals. "I love working at Admissions," Birr said. He is working to emphasize to new and prospective students that they may be joining Saint Mary's as a student, but the Saint Mary's community is not where their community ends. He said he emphasizes to students the "world-wide Lasallian family," and the brotherhood that comes from being part of the huge Lasallian community.

Not everything Birr does is about becoming a teacher, though. In an attempt to explore his heritage, Birr went on exchange to Costa Rica in the fall of 2005, where he had the opportunity to visit family he had not seen since he was a young boy. He is also active in service and went to Tucson, Arizona with Brother Michael Avila's Christian service class, where he helped to build a student library.

Birr is not only impressive in how he shares faith in God with others, but also in how he puts his own faith fully with the Lord. Birr said he has "matured in a lot of ways," during his time here at Saint Mary's. Like most students about to graduate from this phase of their life, Birr said, "I don't know what next year holds for me," but that is how Birr practices the Lasallian Tradition: faith in the presence of God.

News Briefs



Courtesy of http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/news_events/news/121205_nyeri.html

Lasallian Mission in Africa

A lunch and slide show presentation will be held in the Soda Center on Wednesday, November 29 during Community Time (12:45 p.m. – 2:00p.m.) to celebrate the Lasallian Mission in Africa. The mission helped Saint Mary's School for Boys in Nyeri, Kenya—a school that

has been run by the Christian Brothers since 1990 and reaches out to the poor, offering an education at one-fourth the price of public school. Special guest Brother Dominic Jordan, FSC will be speaking at the presentation next week.

For more information, contact Sally Jamison at x4406.

This is The Collegian's last issue for fall semester. We will resume publication in January with our first issue coming out on Wednesday, January 17, 2007. Please feel free to e-mail press releases for January and on to collegia@stmarys-ca.edu. And as always, thank you for your readership.

Michael Palmer

Outstanding poet, Michael Palmer will be reading next Wednesday, November 29, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. in Claeys Lounge, Soda Activity Center. Palmer is the Saint Mary's MFA Program's Distinguished Poet in Residence and is an author of many poetry volumes including *Notes for Echo Lake*, *Promises of Glass*, and *Company of Moths*. He also won this fall's Wallace Stevens Award of \$100,000 from the Academy for American Poets, which recognizes mastery in poetry.

Admissions will be \$3.

For more information, contact Chris Sindt at x4088.

Roasting Brother Mel

Brother Raphael Patton is currently collecting stories about Brother Mel Anderson, the longest-lasting president of Saint Mary's College. A fundraising event, "Roasting Brother Mel" will be held on Saint Patrick's Day to benefit the Brother Mel Endowed Scholarship Fund. Send any stories, thoughts, anecdotes, or random information about Brother Mel to be shared at the event to Brother Raphael at rpatton@stmarys-ca.edu.

Campus Calendar

Thanksgiving Holiday
November 23 – November 24

Gospel Choir Concert
Tuesday, November 21
12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Chapel
Contact x4682

Chamber Musicians Concert
Wednesday, November 29
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Chapel
Contact x4670

Celebrating Our Lasallian Mission in Africa
Wednesday, November 29
Community Time
Soda Activity Center
Contact x4406

Mural Unveiling
Wednesday, November 29
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Delphine Intercultural Center
Contact (916) 261-1519

Poet Michael Palmer
Wednesday, November 29
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Soda Activity Center
Admission \$3
Contact x4088

Nightengael Concert
Thursday, November 30
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Chapel
Contact x4824

Liturgy of Lights
Sunday, December 3
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Chapel
Contact x4366

Sustainability in the Community
Wednesday, December 6
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Moraga Room
Soda Activity Center
Contact x4074

Christmas and New Year's Recess
December 8 – January 7

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.

HUA: R-E-S-P-E-C-T

continued from page 2

for some professors to just blatantly disrespect students is wrong.

I've had a professor shut down my computer while I was saving a huge project in a Garaventa computer lab at 7:45 a.m. because I was taking the seat of a student who would be coming into class at 8 a.m. I've had professors who judge and grade on a first-impression basis, giving me better grades than others because I appear to be a model student. I have friends who've had professors tell them, "It's too bad so-and-so had to die the night before your paper was due." I've had professors stare at a student, dumbfounded by a question and move on with little response. And I have had professors call their whole class dumb for failing to understand what they have failed to teach.

The worst part about these professors is not that I caught them in a bad mood, but that this is how they are in general.

I am not saying that the faculty is the main reason for civility problems on campus; however, they as role models do contribute to the whole effect.

We need to focus on the community as a whole to approach and tackle the College's lack of civility.

* Figures found in Saint Mary's 2006 Fact Book.

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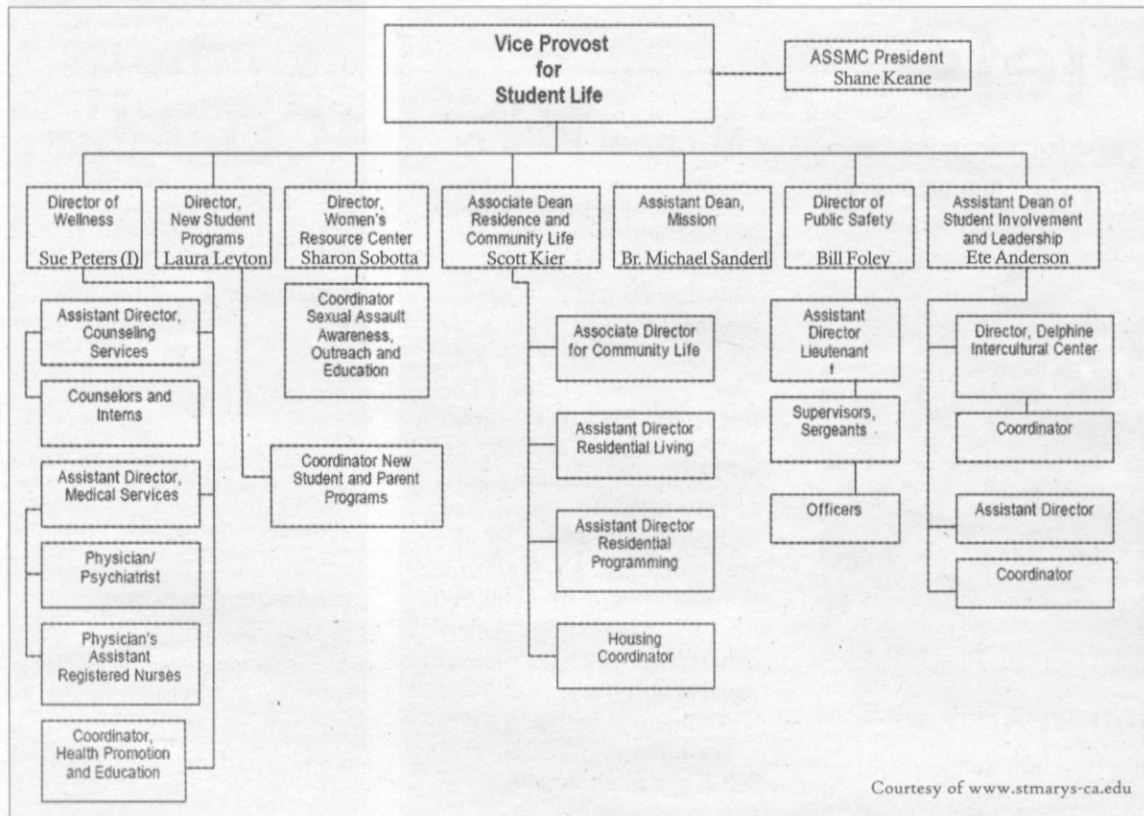
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ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

To join us next semester, e-mail us this break: collegia@stmarys-ca.edu



MACKEN: Three sophomores and freshman win first place in Small School Division

continued from page 1

While in the process of building a national reputation, the team is still looking for more members to join. Ashman said, "The more people that join the club, the tougher the pool of competition amongst each other will be." Tri-weekly meetings are usually held in Assumption Hall on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. However, the team will not re-

sume regular practice until January Term.

In January, the team will be extremely busy, hosting a number of workshops for prospective members and attempting to gain the other two legs to qualify for nationals. Patterson said, "We're anticipating the spring season and hoping to put Saint Mary's on the map."



Photo courtesy of www.stmarys-ca.edu

The Macken Speech and Debate Team: Front row, from the left: Elizabeth Patterson '10, Liz Ashman '09, Elissa Meisenheimer '09, Shana Dhillon '09. Back row, from the left: Miles Burgin, Director Cathy Glenn, Taline Kuyunjian '09, Michael Antonopolous '09, team sponsor John Macken, President Nathan Garcia '08, and Evan Koike.

VPSL: New administrator will carry responsibility over Residence Life, SIL, etc.

continued from page 1

dents, the search committee also hoped to get students more involved as well. Therefore, individual open sessions held earlier this month with each of the candidates. Also, in the most recent campus bulletin, a schedule for open sessions and links to the Vice Provost candidates' résumés were provided. Sweeney said, "The goal is not to have the whole campus participate. All résumés have been put on the campus bulletin

for everyone to read." The open sessions were a chance for students and faculty to get involved in the process of choosing a new Vice Provost for Student Life. One of the qualifications is a terminal degree which is the highest degree in the field. Sweeney said that they are looking for "someone who will be student-focused, embrace [the College's] diversity, someone who respects the values of the

College in the Catholic, liberal arts, and Lasallian aspects."

Melinda Oliver, the administrative assistant for Student Life, is assisting the search committee and explains that students and faculty were encouraged to participate in the process, but it's really up to President Brother Ronald Gallagher and Provost Sally Stamp to decide based on the evaluations given by the search committee.

Scott Kier, the associate dean of community and residence life, is temporarily serving as the interim Vice Provost for Student Life until one is hired. They hope to decide on a Vice Provost by the week after the Thanksgiving holiday and to have the candidate in office by next semester. Sweeney said, "This is an important position and it's not good to have it empty for long."

The candidates vying for Vice Provost for Student Life are Jonathan R. Long, James E. Moore Ph.D., Jane Camarillo, Mary Ellen Smith, and Kevin Lawrence Bowman Ph.D.

Long is the Vice President of Student Services at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. Moore is the Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. Camarillo is the Director of Residential Education at Stanford University. Smith is the Director of Volunteer Programs for the Institute of Texan Cultures of University of Texas at San Antonio. Bowman, is the Associate Vice president for Student Affairs and Director of counseling and psychological services at San Francisco State University.

For more information on the candidates and their résumés, please visit http://smcnet.stmarys-ca.edu/news_events/interview_sched.html.

HAWAII: Trask visits Saint Mary's

continued from page 1

to self-definition according to both our own Native genealogy and all declarations emanating from the United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples."

The second declaration is for "Publicly disseminated statements against recent anti-Native Hawaiian lawsuits devised to take entitlements, including programs, lands and waters, and federal inclusion in the policy on recognized Native nations."

Trask also asked for "A declaration enunciating support for Native Hawaiian self-government on Native lands, including water, access, and development following traditional Native concepts."

The last declaration Trask spoke of was, "A final statement supporting a boycott against all tourism to Hawaii, whether of individuals or groups." She also said, "This is critical given that the mass-based corporate tourist industry brings over six million visitors to Hawaii every year causing tremendous environmental damage, and commodification of Hawaiian culture and our Native people."

Trask likened this practice to prostitution. She said, "The state is the pimp, the tourists are the johns, and our beautiful people and land are subjugated to the corporate engine of mass-based tourism."

She also criticized the United States, saying that "The U.S. is in

a state of right-wing, fascist ascendancy." She pointed out that people who support her cause are considered "anti-American," and said, "We're now considered a threat to national security."

A major theme in her presentation was the right of self-determination, of which Trask said, "For indigenous peoples it means that they have a human right to gather as their own self-identified culture." She summarized that "they are defined by themselves."

While Trask sees the problems for Hawaii as indigenous people's issues, she stressed that others can participate and help out with her people's struggle. These people are what she refers to as allies. She said, "[An] ally is someone who is not indigenous, [but] contributes in their own way to help indigenous people." But she made it clear that "Allies must support leadership designated by Native people."

Trask was born in San Francisco, but raised in Hawai'i. She went to school at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and has taught at the University of Hawaii in Manoa since 1981. She is the author of four books, including *From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawai'i*, and two poetry books, *Light in the Crevice Never Seen*, and *Night is a Sharkskin Drum*. She is currently a professor in Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawaii.

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The Collegian
FEATURE

Inner workings of Academic Honor Council

The purpose of the pledge for academic integrity; how is it enforced

by Karen Juan
Staff Writer

Even though the Academic Honor Code is now in its third year, the code and the Academic Honor Council (AHC) that implements it remain a mystery to many students.

"A significant portion of the student body has no clue what the Academic Honor Code is," said AHC Co-chair Brianna Hardy '07. Additionally, Shipra Bhalla '07, who co-chairs with Hardy, said, "Not a lot of people know about the council. If they do, they know very little."

"It's so hard to get the word across," said Associate Dean of the School of Liberal Arts Shawny Anderson, who is one of the original authors of the code. "We know it's a slow process."

Most students, if not all, have signed the pledge to obey the honor code. The AHC holds pledge ceremonies during freshman and transfer orientations. However, said Bhalla, "Only a few people pay attention."

Although students sign the pledge, some don't understand it. According to Anderson, the biggest challenge for the AHC is for everybody to understand what they committed to.

"I think students need to be aware of who they are, what they do, and the consequences of cheating, plagiarizing," said Erik Coloma '09, APASA vice president of student affairs. "I don't think the student body really knows what they do and who they are, especially."

Because there is a lack of awareness of the code and the AHC among students, Bhalla is worried that the wrong information will spread. Sometimes, stories spread of students supposedly suspended or expelled by the AHC. "I don't want people to get a bad impression of the council," said Bhalla.

As the AHC's Co-chairs, Bhalla



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

Students caught cheating or misciting are sent to the Academic Honor Council. Students take the academic pledge of integrity, but how many students know the workings of the code and the council or take it seriously?

and Hardy teach the integrity seminar that honor code violators have to take. The seminar meets for an hour and a half once a week for a total of six meetings. In the seminar, students learn about academic integrity through films, discussions, and projects.

Taking the seminar gives the student the opportunity to remove the "X" in the "XF" standard sanction. The sanction doesn't necessarily "scar the person's transcript," said Hardy. With an "F," the student can re-take the course and get a better grade, thus erasing any evidence of the sanction. "We are giving the student so many chances," said Bhalla.

"A lot of people see [the code] as this threat of punishment, but that's not what it is at all," said Anderson.

Frank Murray, dean of academic development, said, "Our system is designed to be educational rather than punitive. We want students to learn and grow."

"The Saint Mary's way," said AHC coordinator Monica Mendenhall, is "compassionate." According to Mendenhall, the rules regarding plagiarism in other colleges are much harsher than those of Saint Mary's. Some schools suspend students at the first offense. At Saint Mary's, very few violations end in a suspension or expulsion. Since the beginning of the honor code's implementation, there have been six suspensions and two expulsions.

Despite this fact, "A lot of faculty members feel the council is too harsh on students sometimes," said Hardy. This can lead to less support of the honor code from the faculty, which can then lead to fewer reports of violations.

So far this semester, there have been four reported violations. Mendenhall said that this time last year, there were around 30 violations. The sudden decrease could mean that more students are following the code. However, according to Anderson, the decrease

The Pledge

As a student member of an academic community based in mutual trust and responsibility, I, _____, pledge:

- to do my own work at all times, without giving or receiving inappropriate aid;
- to avoid behaviors that unfairly impede the academic progress of other members of my community; and
- to take reasonable and responsible action in order to uphold my community's academic integrity.

The Academic Honor Code should help the SMC community to:

1. Foreground the importance of academic integrity in an academic community.
2. Enhance community education about academic integrity.
3. Encourage student leadership and broad community participation in the promotion of academic integrity college-wide.
4. Secure from students a public commitment to uphold standards of integrity.

http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/academics/ahc/honor_code.html

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NEXT ISSUE WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17

could also mean that "people aren't following the honor code—mainly the faculty." It is possible that fewer teachers are turning in their students.

There is a need to remind faculty why obeying the code is so important, said Anderson. According to Hugo Leon '07, having an honor code and council is good preparation for the future. "When you graduate from college, you have to use your own words once you start working," he said.

For Bhalla, the goal of the AHC extends beyond teaching students to do their own work in their own words. The goal is to promote not

only academic integrity, but also "integrity in every aspect of students' lives," she said.

"It all comes down to character. We want students to have the best character there is," Bhalla said.

Mendenhall, who is the first person students see when they have been reported, said that a violation is usually "a red flag for something else that goes on." Students make bad choices because "they're in a crisis," she said.

"I wish people could see [that] we care," said Mendenhall.

Hardy said, "We are here to guide you through it and get you back on track."

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The Collegian
OPINION



ADRIAN GARRO

You all disgust me, you 'Gaels'

School spirit? Apparently SMC has none.

I went to the first two home games for the men's basketball team last weekend, and was somewhat surprised at the sparse Gael Force crowd in attendance. Both games, despite hearing how they were almost "sold out," there was a sizable gap of empty seats in the student section.

Where was everybody?

The SMC basketball team is really one of the few sports teams on campus that anyone seems to care about, and yet for the home opener of a new season, practically no one showed up. Was drinking more important? Is it really too much of a hassle to print out your ticket online before going to the game? Whatever the reason is, it was disappointing to see more SDSU fans cheering on Saturday's game than SMC students. Normally I do not really care about the fan support at the games, as I am used to going to games with ugly attendance figures (as I'm an A's fan). It just surprised me that the basketball team that seems to be a big deal failed to interest the students enough to get off of their butts and go to the games.

I understand that not everyone likes or cares about sports, much less SMC sports, but I seem to remember packed stands for practically every game the last three years. I do not know if this past weekend is any indication of what to expect for the rest of the year, but if it is, that's too bad. Apparently we as a student body would rather sit around watching *Nip/Tuck* reruns on FX or drowning our sorrows in beer and mixed drinks.

The lackadaisical attitude of the typical SMC student (yes, I am generalizing, but it is valid) is probably to blame for the lack of support at the games. I had previously thought that spending fifteen dollars for a Gael Force shirt so I can sit in the "student section" was a scam, but have recently relented and am now a red-shirt toting spectator. That cannot be the reason that so many students weren't at the games. There must be something else.

Or not, who knows. People are fickle, and SMC students just do not seem very interested in on-campus events, for the most part.

For those of you who went, and go to every game, good job. Small schools like ours should have no problem filling up the student section for sporting events, especially when the team is good, like our basketball team. We can't be apathetic about everything.

So when the next weekend game rolls around, hold off on the beer pong and King's Cup until Saturday (or at least after the game).

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like the opportunity to clarify my comments I made to the reporter when asked to participate in the "Do you know these people?" feature in last week's Collegian. I was asked to identify a variety of people from the College, including my roommate Shane Keane. Since I obviously know Shane very well, I joked and said he was an "all around slacker." Realizing how this could be interpreted in the Collegian, I specifically asked and was told it would not be in the article. Unfortunately this was not the case. This comment was made in jest and in no way represents my opinion of Shane as a person or as my President. Shane has done and continues to do a very commendable job as President of the ASSMC. I apologize for saying anything that embarrassed my friend and portrayed him in a negative manner.

David Lenser '07

Dear Editor,

The dust has settled on another registration period...or has it?

How does one diplomatically say the technology sucks?

What is the PC catch phrase or word that adequately informs CaTS that the technology sucks?

For second year in a row, as the sun sets the system breaks down. I know it's not really broke...just a few minor problems, I mean imagine 100 or possibly 200 people accessing the system at the same time...the horror!

It can't handle it.

What a sad commentary on our technology. Faith in the system—I don't think so. Credibility of CaTS, the Registrar's office—the institution as a whole—sinking fast. \$28,000 a year and I can't register at my assigned time. Shame.

But I'm sure our WCC partners are having the same issues—NOT!

J Binks

Dear Editor,

Being nestled in these quiet hills, many students at Saint Mary's fall victim to the mentality that we are a dreary and sleepy campus instead of the bustling center that it truly is. We are constantly inundated by flyers and posters encouraging us to attend this-or-that meeting. I don't have a problem with these eye-catching ads because hey, clubs need to get the message out that they have a meeting or a fundraiser. Besides the annual club fair most clubs don't constantly pressure you to submit to their particular club mentality. I say *most* because one club has continually rubbed me the wrong way; Project Green. For those of you unfamiliar with Project Green (I don't anyone has yet to come in contact with these constant survey wielding students) let me take a moment to enlighten you: Project Green seeks to make Saint Mary's eco-friendly, etc but when I'm sitting in Oliver Hall eating I don't want to fill out a survey, read an article or hear about recycling for the thirteenth time today. While filling out one of these surveys which asked if I was happy with the services provided by Sodexo and if I would be happier with more organic fruits and vegetables I happened to read the very last question of the survey, "Would you be willing to pay more?" Whoa there. Yes I am for sustainable living and I am for organic food. Heck I'm even for recycling but I am already paying enough for room, board, and tuition without dealing with Project Green. There is only one earth and we have to make the best use for what we have so let's recycle but why such a group with such low attendance of regular members is on a campaign which may inadvertently raise my tuition is beyond me. Let's remember that in the end it all comes out the same way.

A sophomore

Family values discussion reveals nothing really

by Brian Kuenning
 Staff Writer

The Speech and Debate Club hosted a discussion on family values on Monday, November 13. Four Saint Mary's professors, each one from a different department, put forth their opinions on this "controversial" topic. The diversity was orgasmic. Professor Downey from the philosophy department made a recurring argument (as those who have taken his classes know). His main points were: 1) The greatest good of the family is children, 2) The family is directly responsible for the well-being of the child, 3) The city exists for the good of the family, 4) The family exists naturally, prior to the city.

Professor Gentry-Akin from the Religious Studies department spoke on how Catholicism looks at the family from the perspective of human happiness according to God's plan (Beatific Vision, yada, yada). Further, he claimed that the family is the best context in which to prepare for this happiness. Therefore, he said, Catholics should support all legislation that strengthens or supports the family. In addition, the Christian home was, in his mind, to be seen as a small cell of the Church. For a more detailed explanation of what professor Gentry believes on family values, I would refer you to the Catholic Catechism, preferably the U.S. edition, as it is more handy and pertinent to our local American issues.

As for the history professor, Brother Charles claimed that the family is a legal creation. He said there are eight main values to the family: unity, protection, loyalty, good governance, piety, paternalism or maternalism, honor, compassion for all members. He went on to say that the existence of these values in the family is the measure of a family and that it didn't matter how you make up

the family, I guess, as long as it was legally valid.

Finally, Professor Ahnen from the politics department enlightened us on how family values played into the recent election. Half of the U.S. states now ban gay marriage and most also deny gay civil union, he said. He concluded by getting into how money is affecting families in this country relative to the two issues of minimum wage and the widening gap between the rich and the poor in this country.

No breakthroughs. No one changed any of their essential opinions on the subject as far as I can tell, relative to the audience or the teachers. No surprise there.

While Professor Downey made an insightful argument, going back to Aristotle and commenting on the political left, on the whole, the event was super normal. While much information related to the topic of family values was provided, with the exception of Professor Downey, no good arguments for how you should actually come to a conclusion about what the family is and how it should fit into society were made. The event was orchestrated in the modern fashion of framing educational events, which is that it was in the vein of "raising awareness" or "providing information."

The problem is neither of these two provides an understanding of the very root of the issue, its basis, or the first principle which one has to argue to, and then from, to resolve the matter. The issue of whether the family is natural or artificial really has to be settled before one can argue further about how family should fit into society.

I think we can call "awareness-raising" or "information-providing" events like this *interesting* but it's not as if they get to the heart of the issue.

Elton John comments reveal he is a hypocrite

by Khalida Sarwari
 Staff Writer

The solution to all of our problems is finally here. Let's slap a ban on religion, then sit back and watch world peace materialize. This visionary idea was recently espoused by English pop singer Elton John in an interview with *Observer Music Monthly Magazine*. John blasted organized religion for promoting "hatred and spite against gays."

How curious that John is against religion, because of the supposed evils he claims it promotes, yet he considers himself a friend of Eminem. In his heyday, the controversial rapper spouted lyric after lyric insulting gays, making homophobic remarks a steady theme in many of his songs. In one of his exemplary tracks, entitled *Remember Me*, Eminem freely bashes gays, derogatorily referring to them as "faggots." Eminem was subsequently awarded with accolades from every major musical establishment, including nine Grammy Awards in a span of four years. Surprisingly, even John was enamored with Eminem's "intelligence." Calling himself an admiring fan, John praised the rapper, equating him to the likes of Jimi Hendrix and Mick Jagger. John performed alongside, hugged, and praised Eminem and his homophobic tirades, but now he takes a stand against religion for fueling anti-gay discrimination? Apparently, the aging musician is unaware of his own prejudice and hypocrisy.

Even more tiresome than an outspoken celebrity is an uninformed outspoken celebrity. Every once in awhile they come out of their cozy multi-million dollar mansions and proclaim a completely revolutionary and original idea for social change or so they'll have us believe. Then, just as quickly, they retreat back to their

life of luxury, without offering any applicable solutions and without really having said much about anything at all. Even a pro-gay church group was offended by John's remarks, claiming that his words perpetuate a popular "misconception" in the gay community. Reverend Giles Fraser from the Inclusive Church, a pro-gay group in the Church of England, said, "I'm sad because it deepens the perception that the church is intrinsically homophobic."

Like any powerful social institution, organized religion has the potential to be abused. Throughout history, religion has been a powerful tool in the hands of fanatics who use it as an excuse to spread hate and violence. And yet, religion has been at the foreground of social progress, addressing social problems such as poverty. In the 1930s, the Nazis mercilessly slaughtered millions in the name of science. Shall we abandon science, too, with the knowledge that it offers possibilities that were once beyond the scope of human imagination? Politics is another institution that is regularly abused. But perhaps the solution to world peace lies in anarchy?

Religion may not benefit nor satisfy every person in the world. But religion does give a lot of people a reason to believe in and hope for a meaningful existence. Furthermore, strict moral dictates imposed by religion are at the bedrock of all civilized societies, functioning to keep society in check. Morality, although capable of dissociation from religion, nevertheless is strongly tied to religion.

Drawing on a belief espoused by Ivan Karamazov in *The Brothers Karamazov*, existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre once noted: "If God did not exist, everything would be permitted." That's something to reflect upon, Elton.

The Collegian
OPINION

America has a new mantra and it is: 'If something goes wrong...blame the guy who can't speak English'

The illegal immigration will not die. It persists as one of the premier problems in America. Let us explore it.

A Republican investigative report in Missouri claimed abortion in the United States is the reason illegal immigrants crossed the border. This is one of the many ways the illegal immigration issue is obstructed.

The logic is (I know, there is none): abortion kills potential workers. Thus, America needs cheap labor (because the lack of overpopulation that would also allow cheap labor is not around). Ah, so the truth is revealed. Abortion is not *really* about saving lives, it is about making more worker bees.

It is about having more worker bees of a pleasing color.

I applaud this panel of Elephants for attempting to kill two evils with one stone. *If you get an abortion, a brown person will do low-wage labor for you!* The horror.

"It is inappropriate that tax payer dollars be used for those who broken our laws and are defrauding our system," said Republican Representative Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee. Apparently, Mrs. Blackburn (an ironic moniker), has never heard of the prison system. The prison system receives more tax payer dollars than schools.

Oh, let's not forget that tax payer dollars pay for the pork barrel politics that people like Marsha frequently practice. If you ask me, the real law breaking, the real defrauding of the system is when people like Tom Tancredo make it into office.

Earlier this year, Republican Tom Tancredo of Colorado pushed to revoke birth right citizenship. So if a person is born in America, they are not necessarily American. Meaning, three million Americans a year would no longer be Americans. They would be babies sent back to their homeland (a place they were not born, but supposedly belong to) in Operation Return to Sender.

Remember Operation Return to Sender? How can you forget it with its cutesy name. What's not cute about it?

Let's ask seven-year-old Saul Arellano, who is in an international court battle so he can have a mother. I thought America was about family values? Oh, that's right. White family values.

So, Tommy boy, how do we give someone citizenship? Based on the color of their skin? Yeah, that's worked in the past.

This proposition is especially interesting because it was supposed to strip people born to illegal parents in the United States of their citizenship.

Have any Latino friends in college (of course you don't, enrollment rates are barely hovering around double digits)? Wave them goodbye.

I suppose that is the most efficient way of suppress the advancement of a people; to strip them of education. After all, this has been efficient in the past and still presents problems today.

The constitution-bending Republicans that back Tancredo point to the 14th Amendment, which states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof..." The issue is in the second clause. That is, the vague implication that Americans must have no allegiance to any other nation. This pathetic attempt at revoking birth rights equates heritage to dissent.

Too bad heritage is too important to sacrifice for some monoculture. See World War II for further reference.

But back to Mrs. Blackburn's claim. Let us analyze the use of tax payer dollars, shall we? The United States is guilty of gross misappropriation. The proposed fence is estimated to cost \$950,000,000.

Oh sorry, that is just for half of the fence. This fence is as agoraphobic as it is xenophobic. It physically manifests a solution to a social problem—a highly misguided solution.

Patience is better than error. This is a lesson that is completely ignored in approaching hot-button issues. Social problems are solved through tedious reforms that include changes in lifestyle. For example, a change in lifestyle would be to not rely on exploitive labor.

Illegal immigrants have been blamed in the suppression of wages. In order to understand the American



DANNY ACOSTA

economy, one must realize how it came to prominence. The short answer is slave labor. The long answer is also slave labor. Then came America's innovative period in the Industrial Revolution, where economic prosperity was achieved through the exploitation of many Irish immigrants among others. Railroads? Asians.

It is historic that groups of people are blamed for social ills rather than unearthing and mitigating or solving what causes them in the first place. Instead of figuring out a way to foster the economy without cheap, exploitive labor, there have merely been shifts in blame. So who is to blame?

Let us use Wal-Mart as a completely hypothetical example of an exploitive employer. Wal-Mart is not only America's largest private employer, it is Mexico's. In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) gave American corporations free range in Mexico. The result is over 650 Wal-Mart stores in Mexico. This is second only to the United States, which has 3,600 Wal-Mart stores since 1945.

NAFTA allows for corporations to rape Mexican economy and culture with plenty of corporate protectionism initiatives. It should be noted corporations were included in drafting the agreement that sex-guru/President Bill Clinton signed. One of the measures strips Mexico's federal government of the right to intervene in corporate profiting without legal repercussions—even if the corporation is abusing human rights. Furthermore, NAFTA has promoted the growth of *maquilladoras*, border-town factories that have a history of sub-human working conditions for women.

Perhaps the first step in improving the immigration issue is to stop treating Mexico as a low-grade prostitute.

I can hear America, dressed in red, white, and blue fur, screaming at a crying Mexico, "Where's my money, b****?! Where's my money?"

The claim that illegal immigrants are using up American resources is an interesting one. The reason they must come to America to use these resources is because unemployment in Mexico has tripled since—get ready for an ironic number—1994. This means leaving behind their families and walking into a punch in the face that is called the American workforce. This is the same workforce that is now diminishing because of outsourced labor, to which NAFTA heavily contributes.

But we must stay the course in finding a convenient scapegoat.

Hospitals are losing money rapidly because a lack of reimbursed visits to the Emergency Room, which is being pinned on illegal immigrants. Maybe they do not have the money to pay because they are paid less than a living wage. Maybe they are working jobs twice more hazardous to their health than anyone else like construction and farm work.

Maybe they are like 45 million *citizens* and counting that live in this country without health care. But this is not a social ill; it is entirely the fault of the-illegals. Those dam, dirty illegals.

Maybe, just maybe, no, *in fact*, they do not receive health benefits from employers because employers are not supposed to be hiring them.

So if illegal immigrants attempt to take action against employers like Wal-Mart (and they would be hard pressed considering they have no rights), who exploit them regularly, the third-party contracted to hire the immigrants suffers, not the billion-dollar corporation.

This whole hospital thing should not be a problem anyhow. I thought illegals did not have a means of driving themselves to a hospital. They do not have licenses. I figured they never made it to the emergency room. I thought they just died waiting for the bus.

So how should illegals work if not under extreme conditions? Guest worker programs! These programs are a joke.

H2A programs charge thousands of dollars to achieve guest worker status and then employ these workers for roughly \$200 per 60 hour week. The condition of their Visa states they cannot seek different employment. This is indentured servitude. One needs only to look at the *Bracero* Program, which was incredibly demeaning and corrupt.

As reported in every news source available, the first people affected by illegal immigration are legal Latino-Americans. Next in line on the trail of hurt are low-income blacks followed closely by low-income whites. In short, classicism will always prevail because there will always be someone poor enough, someone desperate enough to do the work no one wants to do.

The Minutemen had the best platform in all of the illegal immigration discussions. They petitioned black workers guard the border because illegals would take *their* jobs. This divide and conquer strategy is similar to what exists in every urban neighborhood, but it does not stop there, it has been powerful enough to take down the Black Panthers or even nations. So, black people of America, protect your underpaid, underappreciated, degrading jobs because if you do not do them, illegals will.

Illegal immigrants caught crossing the border are subject to 180 days in prison. This clogs up the prison system more than Latinos that buy into subversive media images of what it means to be a Latino in America. After all, watching the news I would think Latinos only exist in the criminal form. God forbid there be a positive Latino image readily available in the media.

But that's fine, watch Carlos Mencia and treat Scarface as a hero. Enjoy your prison without walls.

Latinos, Mexicans, illegal immigrants, they are all just cogs in the machine.

More than half of the farm workers in this country are illegal aliens. America touts its hypocritical small-town images, while its wealth comes from exploitive, encroaching ventures. Everyone should know that the people doing the work of the All-American boy, that farm work, that field work that peaks its head at Fourth of July and during half-ass Ford advertisements, are the very ones disenfranchised.

They are the ones that are hated by those very towns. It pains me to think that Cesar Chavez is considered a hero in America, yet his voice is not heard anywhere in these xenophobic arguments against an entire people.

The best example of how illegal immigrants are scapegoats is the way they are being equated to terrorists.

Under a new law, they can be treated as enemy combatants. Illegal immigrants can and will be tried before military commissions instead of civilian judges or juries. This military trial bars detainees from challenging their detention. Habeas corpus was not that great anyway.

The current, unfortunate, American attitude towards illegal immigrants and people like them was perfectly summed up by Mr. White America himself, John Gibson. On his "news show," he declared half of American children are minorities (non-white). In 25 years, he stated,

"That's right White America; preserve the white race because Latinos and minorities are not Americans like you."

the majority of the population will be Hispanic. He responded to this study by exclaiming: "Make more babies!" That's right White America; preserve the white race because Latinos and minorities are not Americans like you.

After all, the national language is English. Right. Gibson went on to say, "Civilizations need population to survive..." But if there is still a population provided by Latinos, is that not civilization? Yeah, I guess not.

Or perhaps the best way to sum up the climate surrounding illegal immigration is the idea that America should hire illegal immigrants to build the very wall that would keep them out. What people fail to realize is illegal immigrants founded America and make it what it is. So build a wall, it will only distance you from yourself.

As Lou Dobbs put it, illegal immigration is a national disgrace. But it is not in the way he thinks.

The way illegal immigration is perceived in a free nation is a disgrace. In fact, in this free *Christian* nation, it is ironic that the idea of loving thy neighbor as you love yourself is disregarded. It is interesting to see how neighbors are viewed with such disdain. What is really compelling is how a nation can treat them as we do.

Know that I have more to say. And I hope you continue to take your rights for granted because apparently—allegedly—that is what it means to be an American these days.

The Collegian

DETOUR

Stranger Than Fiction brings out best of Ferrell

Story, performances set movie apart from previous films

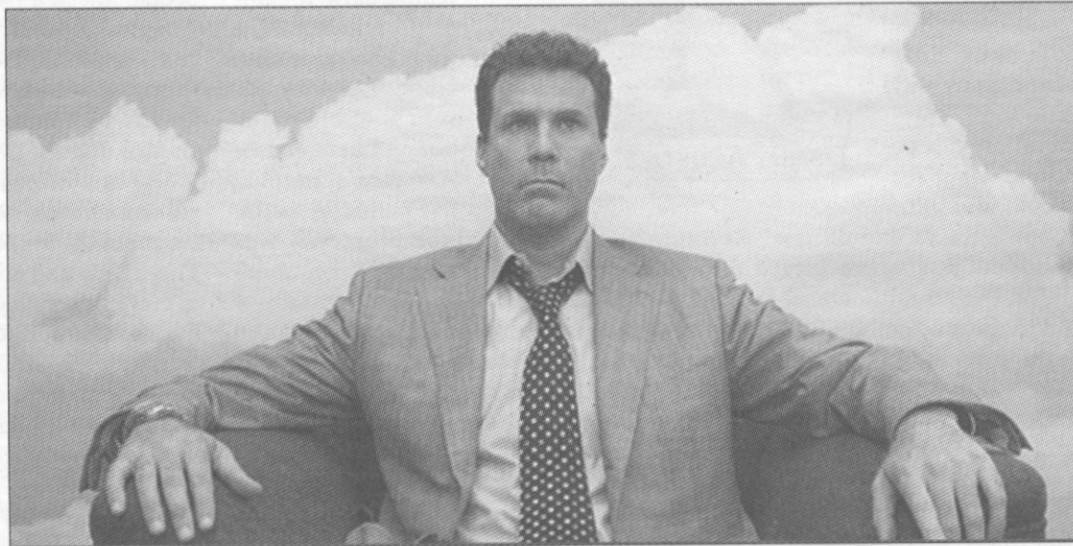
by Mark Freeman
Staff Writer

Stranger Than Fiction is not a typical Will Ferrell movie.

The film's unpredictable plot and twist of romance will probably disappoint those expecting another *Anchorman* or *Talladega Nights*. This is because Ferrell's role as Harold Crick, an IRS agent doomed to die, is not like the macho, silly characters he has played before. Instead, he is a confused soul trying to search for answers while fighting against fate.

Ferrell's character is stuck with a curious problem: he hears a voice in his head. The voice belongs to Kay Eiffel (Emma Thompson), an author writing a story about Harold, not knowing that he exists. Kay narrates his life, much to his displeasure and "with a better vocabulary." While Harold is certainly unnerved that the voice can sense his every thought it is only after the voice announces his imminent demise that he starts to worry.

Harold seeks out help in the form of Professor Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman), to try and understand the voice. Hoffman advises that Harold figure out whether he is in a comedy or a tragedy, thus determining his fate. "In a comedy you get hitched; in a tragedy you die," Hoffman explains nonchalantly. Harold sets out to find the mysterious voice—but along the way he finds love



Ferrell Strikes a serious pose for a change and it works, says Freeman.

Courtesy of www.popmatters.com

as well.

The idea of a serious romantic backstory in a Will Ferrell movie seems absurd. But Harold's pairing with baker Ana Pascal (Maggie Gyllenhaal) works wonderfully and is arguably the strongest part of the movie. Gyllenhaal is sweet and sardonic as Ana, who is being audited by Ferrell. The two have several endearing scenes together—Harold brings her baking flour while she seduces him with cookies. It all seems wonderful, but it's ironic knowing Harold's ultimate fate.

Marc Forester, (*Finding Neverland*), does an excellent job of portraying Ferrell's character. He learns to live out his aspirations—rocking out on a beat up

guitar—while shirking his loner lifestyle. As Harold nears his date with destiny, one actually cares about his situation, far different from Ferrell's previous characters such as Ron Burgundy or Ricky Bobby, who come across as stereotypically manly and wooden. Here, Harold doesn't take on zealous anchormen or gay French racers—he confronts death itself.

This doesn't mean there aren't a few bumps in this otherwise enjoyable film. Queen Latifah stars as Penny Escher, a sort of pseudo-secretary to Kay who only talks about the dangers of smoking. Luckily her presence, along with Professor Hilbert's instant acceptance of Harold's situation (he seems to think people hear narra-

tors in their heads all the time), only slightly spoil the film's allure.

While *Anchorman* was funny in a crude, kick-a-dog-off-a-bridge sort of way, *Stranger Than Fiction* utilizes Ferrell's comedic talent much more effectively. When accused of ogling Ana, Ferrell apologizes and explains that he was only doing it "as a representative of the United States government." The movie sprinkles its humorous moments—and there are quite a few—throughout the film instead of wasting them all in the first ten minutes. While this movie may not earn much money, Ferrell deserves credit for taking on a serious role—it's one of his best yet.

The Last King of Scotland is first in line at Oscars

Whitaker embodies tyrannical yet loveable ruler

by Danny Acosta
Opinion Editor



Che Guevara famously stated: "Cruel leaders are replaced only to have new leaders turn cruel!" *The Last King of Scotland* explores this proposition by telling the story of real-life Ugandan dictator Idi Amin through the eyes of Nicolas Garrigan (James McAvoy), Amin's personal doctor (a fictional character).

The film begins in the foggy skies of Scotland. A new P.H.D., Nicolas suffocates in his potential cookie-cutter life encouraged by his stuffy father. He spins a globe to decide his future, which sends him to Uganda where Idi Amin has become ruler.

When Idi Amin (Forest Whitaker) arrives on screen, the leader speaks of humble beginnings and a new Uganda for the people at a pastoral pep rally. This scene relays all the elements that make *The Last King of Scotland* an instant Academy Awards powerhouse. Whitaker captivates the audience immediately. Director Kevin Macdonald underscores

the joyous celebration with horror and tension. McAvoy's eyes simultaneously display intense devotion and oblivion.

Nicolas works at a mission and quickly follows Amin like the majority of

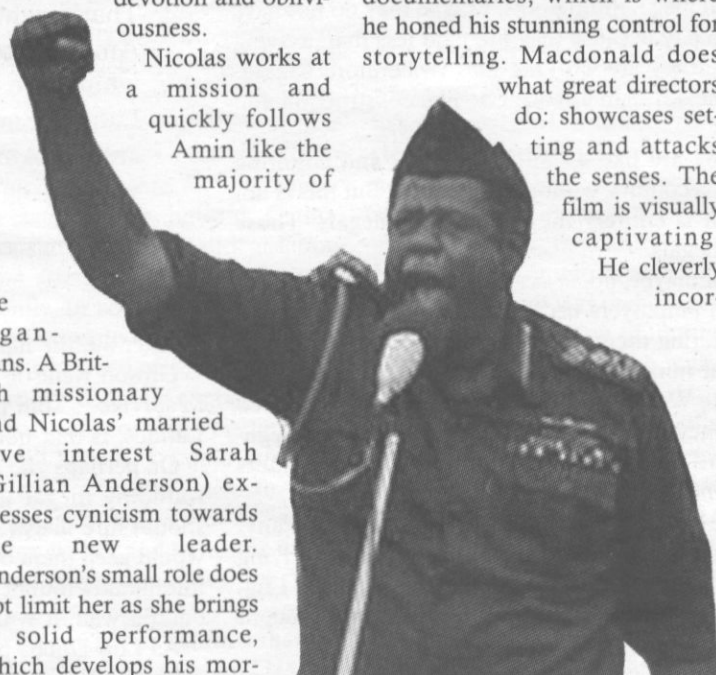
the Ugandans. A British missionary and Nicolas' married love interest Sarah (Gillian Anderson) expresses cynicism towards the new leader. Anderson's small role does not limit her as she brings a solid performance, which develops his morally tangled character.

After being summoned to aid Amin, Nicolas' Scottish heritage initiates a bond because Amin believes he is Scottish. Nicolas is offered a position as his personal doctor—an offer he cannot refuse. Here, the party begins.

Debut director Kevin

Macdonald may have a masterpiece in terms of debut features. He has spent his career directing documentaries, which is where he honed his stunning control for storytelling. Macdonald does

what great directors do: showcases setting and attacks the senses. The film is visually captivating. He cleverly incor-



Courtesy of www.fox28.com

porates a '70s party film feel. This highlights the extravagant lifestyle enjoyed by the Dictator. Africa takes a backseat to pool parties, afros, and drinks. Macdonald employs conventions of '70's filmmaking like layered stills. The film looks *Easy-Rider*-esque at

times. This could have jumbled the story or suspended disbelief, but Macdonald pulls it off seamlessly.

The film delivers new classic scenes. Whitaker creates a truly chilling moment when he addresses Nicolas as "son." The climax of the film is not to be missed. This film is not to be missed. The climax will be remembered as legendarily gruesome—one of the better tragic moments.

The Last King of Scotland is easily the best film of 2006 despite stiff competition. Newcomers Macdonald and McAvoy display a wealth of promise, while Forest Whitaker powers his way through the best role of his career. Whitaker perfectly captures the jovial and violent essence of Idi Amin. Whitaker's Oscar-worthy performance encompasses stunning range. This range portrays a man so eccentric, he was the self-proclaimed "His Excellency President for Life, Field Marshal Al Hadji Doctor Idi Amin, VC, DSO, MC, Lord of All the Beasts of the Earth and Fishes of the Sea, and Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa in General and Uganda in Particular."

100 Word Reviews

Building healthy lifestyles

by Whitney Medved
Detour Editor

This isn't really a review, but bear with me... Apparently, little kids in Attleboro MA. can't play tag anymore. Apparently a lot of kids in a lot of states can't play games like *touch* football, tag, and other games of physical exertion because of the liability of parents suing for physical injury. Oh, and apparently these games do a number on kids' self-esteem. Great, so let's just make them sit on their hands; maybe get 'em to play a little more Nintendo, and effectively promote the sedentary lifestyle our little ones live these days. I bet that will really jack up self-images. Oh, and keep rollin' those "5 a day" commercials, because it seems one just needs to eat fruit to be healthy, not exercise...right.

Weird worms

by Stefanie Wang
Web Master

Every day, as I walk from Assumption to the dining hall, I must play a game of hopscotch with the scattered dried worms. What's worse than that twisted version of hopscotch? Hopscotch with live worms. Gross, I know. However, the worms don't seem to come out and terrorize me when it rains. It has been my experience that worms tend to come out during the rain as opposed to a routine sprinkling of the grass. Do Moragan worms swim around in the mud? Or are they playing water polo with pebbles? Not sure why they're so weird; I still dislike them anyway, offensive little buggers.

Drizzle: Despicable yet delightful

by Amber Lister
Staff Writer

Rain. As I am from Denver, rarely have I encountered prolonged rainfall. We have afternoon showers back home, but rain that lasts for days on end is new to me. I can't quite decide if I like this change in precipitation or not. It's easy to fall in love with the ripples forming on the street below my window as I watch from the dry indoors and I absolutely adore feeling the raindrops cooling my forehead as I run. I guess the only problem I have with rain is its uncouth ability to ruin freshly applied make-up or curled hair and leave heavy, wet patches on the bottoms of my jeans that never seem to dry.

The Collegian
DETOUR

'Final' Fantasy, or just the twelfth edition?

RPG watching from a rookie's perspective

by **Adrian Garro**
Staff Writer

PlayStation 3 came out last Friday. Sony only released oh, cfrghabout six or seven of the systems on the U.S. market, so whoever camped out long enough outside of Best Buy in the freezing cold for a week to get their grubby hands on one is probably enjoying the bounty he or she made on eBay by now. For the rest of us, we are stuck with our lowly PlayStation 2's.

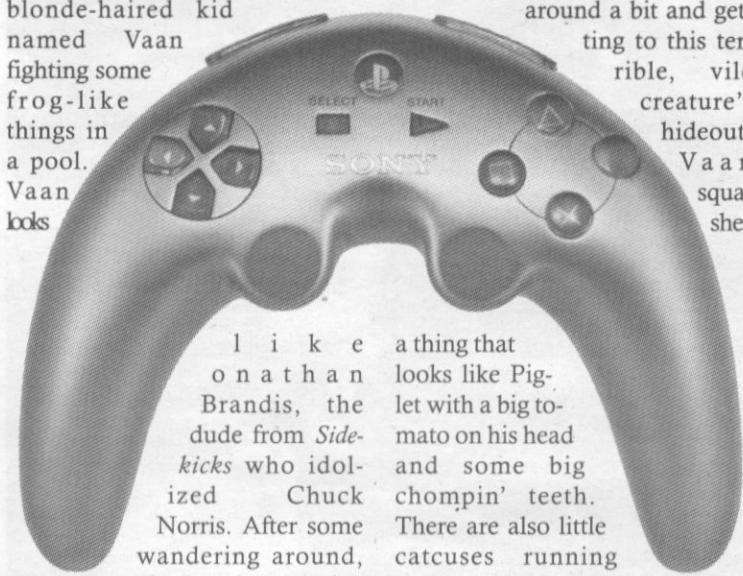
Not that my friend cares, though. He got a copy of *Final Fantasy: XII* last week, and I watched him start the game. I have never played a *Final Fantasy* game, but I have seen enough of them to know that they require an amazing amount of patience in order to "beat." I also see why people get so immersed and obsessed with these types of games. You cannot just sit down and play for a half hour or so; the game is too demanding.

I present you now with a rundown of what I witnessed in the early stages of *Final Fantasy XII*.

Upon loading up the game and navigating around a bunch of menu and setup screens, my friend (let's call him "Tim") was finally allowed to begin playing...after the 15-minute cut scene that sets the plot of the game.

Some king was killed, someone else died, and a blonde guy was a jerk to someone. The saga begins.

After the cinematic part is finished, the game cuts to another movie scene with an effeminate blonde-haired kid named Vaan fighting some frog-like things in a pool. Vaan looks



like a thing that looks like Piglet with a big tomato on his head and some big chompin' teeth. There are also little catcuses running around looking stoned that Vaan has to vanquish. After trying and failing to slay a giant T-Rex with a lowly Level 1 Vaan, Tim restarts the battle, and wins, steering clear of the dino and the weird dog/wolf things roaming around. Somehow, Vaan ends up in a village somewhere, and acquires an ally, a girl who helps him attack these big falcon/owl/scarecrow things who lumber around but aren't really that hard to beat.

you have to equip potions and get licenses to use weapons and all that.

Migelo tells Vaan that he has to go fight a "Rogue Tomato" outside of town. After running around a bit and getting to this terrible, vile creature's hideout, Vaan squashes

At this point I would like to complain about the fighting method in this game, one that requires a player to attack, then stand around waiting to be attacked by said combatant, at which point the player is then allowed to attack again. Its chivalrous nature would make Don Quixote proud, but it gets a bit annoying, especially to an RPG novice such as myself; I am more accustomed to the crash/bang fighting of GTA games.

At this point, I had to leave, but I had seen enough of the game to see why *Final Fantasy* is one of the most famous franchises in gaming history. If you have a few weeks of spare time to play a game, then by all means attempt to tackle this beast. In the hour and a half I watched Tim play, he basically accomplished nothing in the plot of the game, which shows how massive a feat it must be. That is why people get so attached to these games. They require patience and dedication, and I'm sure the payoff is akin to getting an A on a test you studied two weeks for.

So to the tens of people who have a PS3 for the next few months, enjoy your shiny new games; I'm sure they only take a few months of game time to beat. For the rest of us, we can enjoy the extra free time.

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No fall for Babel

by **Danny Acosta**
Opinion Editor

The tragedy is once again triumphant. *Babel* reinvents the tragedy for modern audiences by sticking with ancient themes. Like most tragedies, it is unrelenting. *Babel* is as silent as waters. This absence of sound is visually assaulting. What is spoken is necessary and unheard.

Babel follows the intricacies of an international incident. Richard (Brad Pitt) and his wife Susan (Cate Blanchett) are on a bus in Morocco when Susan is shot. Susan begins to bleed to death in a nearby village. Richard attempts to work with the American Embassy, but no help is in sight. It is here that the story of a rural Moroccan family, a Mexican housekeeper, and a Japanese teen deaf-mute intersect.

The setting bounces from middle-America to the heart of Mexico to Japanese hot spots and the depths of nowhere in Morocco. With each scene, Director Alejandro González Iñárritu builds cliff hangers worthy of season finales. When he returns to what seems to be long forgotten, it is swift. He never neglects emotion. He concludes scenes by berating audiences with the visceral emotions of the complex characters.

Babel's ensemble cast has both star power and screen-stopping performances from newcomers. Brad Pitt plays at a higher level in his small, critical role. Gael García Bernal grips viewers with tension in his role as Santiago, an intoxicated, loving nephew.

Mohamed Akhzam proves the actor's best tool is the face. The pain he portrays with short looks matches that of Adriana Barraza, who never appears on screen with him, but pours out the tragedy through her eyes in a way audiences have rarely seen.

Director Alejandro González Iñárritu returns with screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga. The pair collaborated on two Academy Award film contenders: *Amores Perros* (2000) and *21 Grams* (2003). In typical Arriaga fashion, the narrative is complex and non-linear, but maintains rising action and at times achieves heart-breaking heights. The duo tells the story in large, divided scenes. This contributes to what can make for a mess of a film. While *Babel* constantly shifts through seven languages (including sign language), Iñárritu bolsters the notion that film is an international language through his lucid storytelling. For 142 minutes, they explore a simplistic yet profound human tragedy—communication breakdown.

Babel will be a hot topic during Oscar season. The buzz generated will come and go. But as the camera fades out in the last scene, there is a stunning realization that these stories are as overbearing as forever. These stories do not come and go. Unfortunately, they may go unheard.

Maybe I like to relieve my bladder in seclusion

Community urination should be left for ballpark, not at school

by **J. Harry Painter**
Chief Copy Editor

Dude. When I urinate, I like to do it in privacy. Which is why I hate the public restrooms at Saint Mary's. After a brief walkthrough of some of these restrooms, one would think that the concept of private pissing was foreign to this place.

Last week, I was on my way down the hall from *The Collegian* office to the men's room. For those who aren't aware, this bathroom has exactly two urinals directly next to each other—a nightmare for anyone with a fear of public urinating.

I noticed *The Collegian's* Business Manager Brandon Elefante trailing not far behind me, and only one thing was on my mind. I proceeded to enter the restroom, and took to the urinal on the right, wondering whether my Hawaiian friend had it in him to ruin my urinary experience.

I stood there on my toes, since the urinals are so high that my globes could hardly avoid coming in contact with the porcelain. Like a decent human being, Brandon chose the stall; my day was saved. But why should the natural human necessity of urination ever be an uncomfortable one? It shouldn't.

First off, how much would it really cost to put some barriers in between the urinals? In Dante Hall, there is a row of 10 urinals, each one separated by a gap no longer than my middle finger. This bothers me, considering that there are never more than four people using those urinals at any given time. It wouldn't hurt to give people a little breathing room. It's not penis envy either; it's my natural aversion to showing myself to strangers. And I know it's not just me, because I have never seen two people simultaneously occupy adjacent urinals. The unspoken rule is to leave at least one vacant and skip to the next, or opt for the stall. This common occurrence could be avoided by simply nailing a few boards to the wall.

Second, anyone who's been to the men's room in Dante could also tell you that there's a urinal di-

rectly next to the sink, leaving one's manhood potentially inches away from another guy's hands. What's the deal, administration? I guess leaving a foot's length of room was out of the question, what with our tight budget and all.

Even worse—and I'm sure that in their rush to class some haven't noticed—there are gigantic windows on the wall that are *always* open. I understand that some of us get claustrophobic, but excuse me if I'm willing to sacrifice a little air in order to piss without SMC's student body, 2,500

strong, looking on in approval.

Speaking of approval, what genius approved placing two separate toilets in the handicapped stall in the restroom? What could possibly be the use for two toilets in one stall? Yes, disabled people sometimes have special needs, but I'm pretty sure this isn't one of them.

It's not rocket science, administration. I don't want to go into some whiny spiel about how my daddy's paying you \$40,000 a year and I deserve this and that, but come on. Let me pee in peace.

Detour

a section for stars

wacky fan
gossipy reviews
out of the ordinary

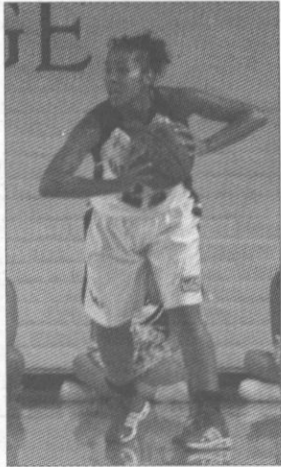
It's a detour from the norm

join us next semester!
meetings 6 p.m. in Dante
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The Collegian
SPORTS

**Players
of the Week**

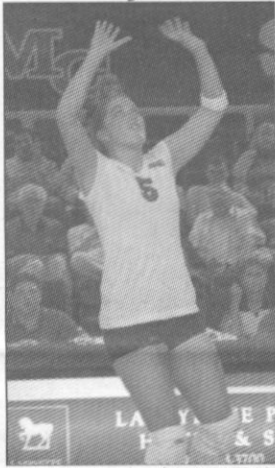
Jontelle Smith



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

Sophomore Jontelle Smith led the Gaels with 17 points in Friday night's win against Miami. 12 of her points came in the Gaels' 17-3 run to take the lead. Smith went three of six from behind the arc and shot 58 percent from the field.

Mandy Bible



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

Senior Mandy Bible had 58 assists, 10 digs and nine blocks in the Gaels' win over Gonzaga on Thursday. On Saturday she capped her career with another solid game. She added another 56 assists. In addition she had 12 digs to go along with her four kills.

Pacquiao: Pride of the Philippines
"Pacman" keeps promise, beats Erik Morales by KO

by S. Ordoveza & F. Mangini
Sports Editors

The United States had Michael Jordan. Brazil had Pele. Canada had Wayne Gretzky. The Philippines had who? Nobody...well, not until now.

In the Philippine world of athletics, nobody has come close to breaking into the international sports scene. In fact, the last known Filipino team to compete internationally was the 1992 Little League World Series team, who were disqualified for the use of illegal players. However, with the rise of Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao, the Philippines has finally come to claim their spot in the international sporting scene.

Known as the "Pambansang Kamao" (meaning "National Fist" in English), Pacquiao has become bigger in the Philippines than Jordan has ever been in the United States. Encompassing the skills of a world class boxer in his prime, Pacquiao has the inspirational story to go along with it.

A man who grew up with only a six grade education and made a living selling cigarettes on the streets, Pacquiao moved his life in another direction, looking to boxing as his way out.

Now, Pacquiao is the reigning World Boxing Council (WBC) International Super Featherweight Champion, with a record of 42-3-2 and 32 knockouts. He has quickly become a household name for Filipinos both in the Philippines and around the world.

Every fight is a big day for all Filipinos, which may have explained the millions of viewers who kept their televisions on the



Courtesy of braggingrightscorner.com

fight last Saturday evening against Mexican fighter, Erik Morales.

Morales, known as "El Terrible," had beaten Pacquiao in their first meeting. However, Pacquiao came back to win the second, and Saturday would be their third and final face-off.

With both national anthems presented before the fight, the crowds created an atmosphere of chaos and excitement, anticipating a grueling and endless fight. As both men entered into the arena, it was clear they both carried their country's hopes on their back and their pride in their gloves.

In the first round, Pacquiao already had the fans on their feet, landing three haymakers square on Morales' face. Morales landed more jabs, but every time, Pacman countered with solid shots. Towards the end of the round, Morales took a hard swipe at Pacquiao, but Pacman was too fast. After a quick duck under, he countered with a strong shot to the gut.

In the second round, Morales came out strong, landing everything he could on Pacquiao, but Pacquiao showed no fear. Instead of backing off, Pacquiao countered with several more combi-

nations and finally connected with a strong left hand to Morales' face, knocking Morales down for the first time and raising every Filipino to his feet. Morales immediately got back up, and the two fighters let the punches fly only to be stopped by the bell.

After the round, it seemed that Pacquiao was surprised by the jabs that Morales had successfully executed. However, the competition only motivated him to come out stronger and quicker in the next round.

In the third, Pacquiao took complete control. Just a minute into the third round, Pacquiao landed a blow to Morales' chest that quickly put Morales on the defensive. Pacquiao continued, throwing a flurry of punches, which knocked Morales down for the second time. After catching his breath, Morales jumped back up, assuring the referee he could continue.

But as quickly as Morales got back up, Pacquiao was even quicker to attack, again carried out an unending spell of blows to Morales' face, knocking him down for the third and final time. A dejected Morales could do nothing but give up.

In just three rounds, Pacquiao showed Morales and the world why commentator Jim Lampley called him, pound for pound, one of the top two boxers in the world.

Considered the most exciting boxer of our day, Pacquiao has finally given a name to Filipino athletics. Finally, there is respect for Filipino sports—thanks to the national fist of Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao.

St. Pierre kick starts legacy at UFC 65
Stellar card highlighted by title change, KO victories

by Danny Acosta
Opinion Editor

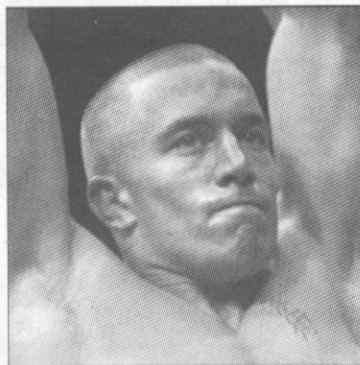
"The Neo-Samurai" Genki Sudo drapes himself in a flag that reads "We Are All One."

On November 18, 2006, at Arco Arena in Sacramento, CA, Georges St. Pierre would have done the same had he not been immersed in the greatest moment of his career.

The main card kicked off with Joe "Daddy" Stevenson battling Dokonjonosuke Mishima. Mishima carried a plush Snoopy to the cage, but Snoopy could not help against Stevenson. An impressive takedown and cartwheel guard pass by Mishima landed him in a guillotine choke. He escaped, but Stevenson persisted and caused Mishima to tap out.

Heavyweight contender Brandon "The Truth" Vera looked to extend his undefeated record past his hero, former Heavyweight champion Frank Mir. In a minute and nine seconds, he did just that.

Heavyweight champion Tim "The Maine-iac" Sylvia demanded respect as he defended his belt against Jeff "The Snowman"



Courtesy of sherdog.com

Monson. What ensued for five rounds was a timid and awkward encounter. Sylvia won a decision, but had no time to relax as Brandon Vera, who had finished his last three fights in the first round, challenged him next.

The sold-out Arco Arena erupted as Georges St. Pierre entered. At that moment, the 15,305 roaring fans did not matter in his mind. Only one man mattered: the welterweight champion Matt Hughes. Hughes has carved his legacy as a UFC and MMA legend. He did so, in part, by submitting St. Pierre with one second left in the first round of their 2004 bout. St. Pierre ran sprints

around the Octagon, while Hughes' theme "Only a Country Boy Can Survive" led him to the cage.

"It's not time for vengeance, it's time for redemption," St. Pierre said in his pre-fight interview. St. Pierre stared straight into Hughes' eyes, a change from his star gazing of 2004. The action began with St. Pierre throwing a series of leg kicks and one-two punches. An ill-fated leg kick landed on Hughes' groin. St. Pierre apologized and the action ensued, but he nailed Hughes again. The fight picked up as Hughes ate stiff jabs. St. Pierre threw numbing leg kicks. Hughes countered, but St. Pierre always got the better of the flurries. The round closed with St. Pierre sending Hughes to the mat. Referee Big John McCarthy enforced the bell and stepped in before St. Pierre could finish a stunned Hughes.

The second round picked up where the first left off. St. Pierre never hit the mat—an unheard of accomplishment against a man known for his vicious slams and tenacious takedowns. He tossed

Hughes aside when he went for a takedown and employed a Thai clinch to make him pay for the attempts.

St. Pierre telegraphed a leg kick and Hughes took the bait by changing levels for a takedown. St. Pierre connected with an unforgiving high kick. His shin smashed against Hughes head and Hughes slammed against the mat. Hughes regained his composure, but St. Pierre was already landing punches. Hughes grabbed hold of St. Pierre's hand and St. Pierre switched to elbows. Hughes was unable to defend himself—he was dethroned.

The welterweight championship is a tangible representation of St. Pierre's life. The belt is hard work, dedication, and love.

Canadian flags waved through the crowd and USA chants broke out when St. Pierre circled in the Octagon. "[Fans] care about fighters souls," St. Pierre said in a post-fight interview. Georges "Rush" St. Pierre is humble, a showman. He is a neo-samurai. And it is for this reason, the loudest chants of the night were "GSP! GSP!"

**Sports
Calendar**

Today, November 21
Men's Basketball
vs. TCU
7:05 p.m.

Friday, November 24
Women's Basketball
vs. CSU Northridge
7:05 p.m.

Saturday, November 25
Women's Basketball
vs. Missouri/Alabama
7:05 p.m.

Sunday, November 26
Men's Basketball
@ Cal Poly
5:00 p.m.

Monday, November 27
Women's Basketball
vs. Utah State
7:05 p.m.

The Collegian
SPORTS

Men's basketball conquered by Trojans

Gaels win one at home, drop one on road

by Megan Manley
Staff Writer

The Saint Mary's men's basketball team was busy this week taking on both the Cal State Monterey Bay Otters and the University of Southern California (USC) Trojans.

In the first game of the week, the Gaels ousted the Otters 89-41 to improve their record to 3-1 on the season.

The 48-point margin of victory was the largest for the Gaels since their 52-point trampling of the UC Santa Cruz Banana Slugs on November 18 of last season.

The Gaels quickly racked up a double-digit lead five minutes into the game and there was no turning back.

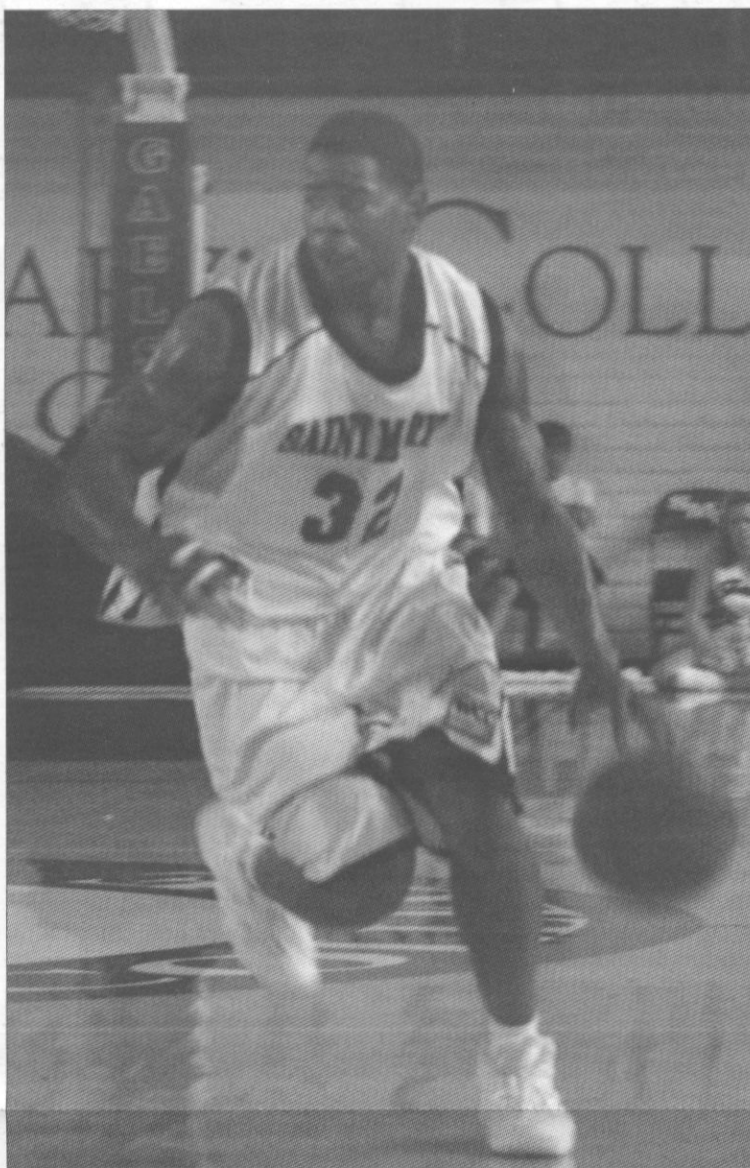
Freshman Omar Samhan came out with force for the Gaels, scoring a career high 15 points, going 6-8 from the floor. The Gaels' center also nailed all three of his free throw attempts.

Diamon Simpson '09 and Brett Collins '07 chipped in 12 a piece on the night, while all 11 players contributed points to give the Gaels their third win of the season.

The game marked the return of senior guard John Winston who sat out the first three games of the season due to an injury. Coming off the bench, Winston added spark by bringing in eight points and five assists.

Samhan earned an assist by setting up Yusef Smith for a transition slam, one of two for Smith that night. The Saint Mary's lead reached as many as 50 points in the final minute after sophomore forward Ian O'Leary hit a three-pointer for the Gaels.

Saint Mary's used its size advantage to dominate the boards, out-rebounding Monterey Bay



Argenis Rubio/COLLEGIAN

Senior John Winston came back on Wednesday after missing all three games in the Shamrock Invitational. Winston scored eight points against the CSU Monterey Bay Otters.

50-32 and scoring 36 points in the paint to the Otters' 20. Saint Mary's shot 56.4 percent for the game, hitting 31 of 55 shots. Monterey's Richard Jenkins led the Otters with eight points.

After the win, the Gaels geared up to face the USC Trojans in their first road game of the season.

In the game, Saint Mary's shot only 31 percent from the field, falling 69-63 to the Trojans. The Gaels had a number of chances to grab the lead later in the ball game, shooting 21-67 from the field and 1-18 from three-point range prevented them from overtaking the Trojans.

USC took an early 14-4 lead seven minutes into the game and never looked back.

At the half, the Trojans led 33-25. The Gaels looked to fight their way back in the second half, but an 8-1 run by the Trojans in the beginning of the half kept USC in control.

However, with a few good plays, the Gaels found a way to trail only by four points in the last four minutes of play (53-49).

Unfortunately, plagued by missed free throws and turnovers, the Gaels could not close the Trojan lead. During crunch time, Samhan made the first of two free throws with 3:46 left in the game.

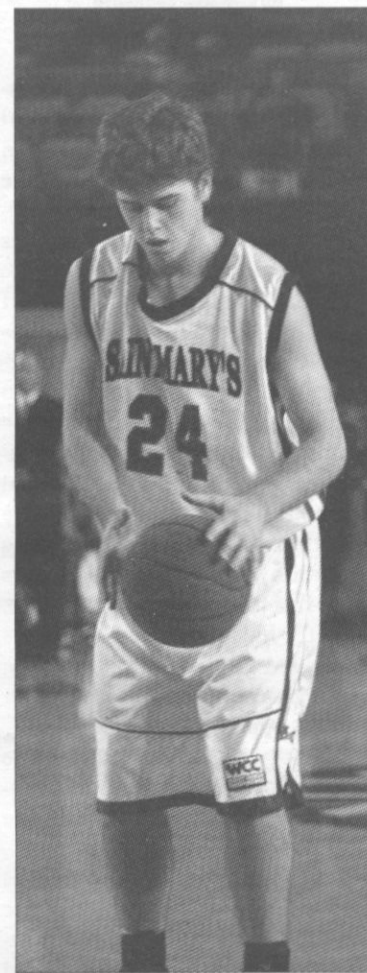
Missing the second, Samhan grabbed the rebound and tried to convert a shot but Trojan Taj Gibson blocked the attempt, grabbing the rebound and was fouled. Gibson made both of his free throws to extend the lead to five points (55-50).

Tron Smith '08 kept the Gaels in the game by scoring 11 first-half points off the bench and finished the game with 12. Collins also brought in 12 points for the Gaels on the night. Simpson racked up 11 points for the Gaels.

With the loss, the Gaels move to 3-2 overall.

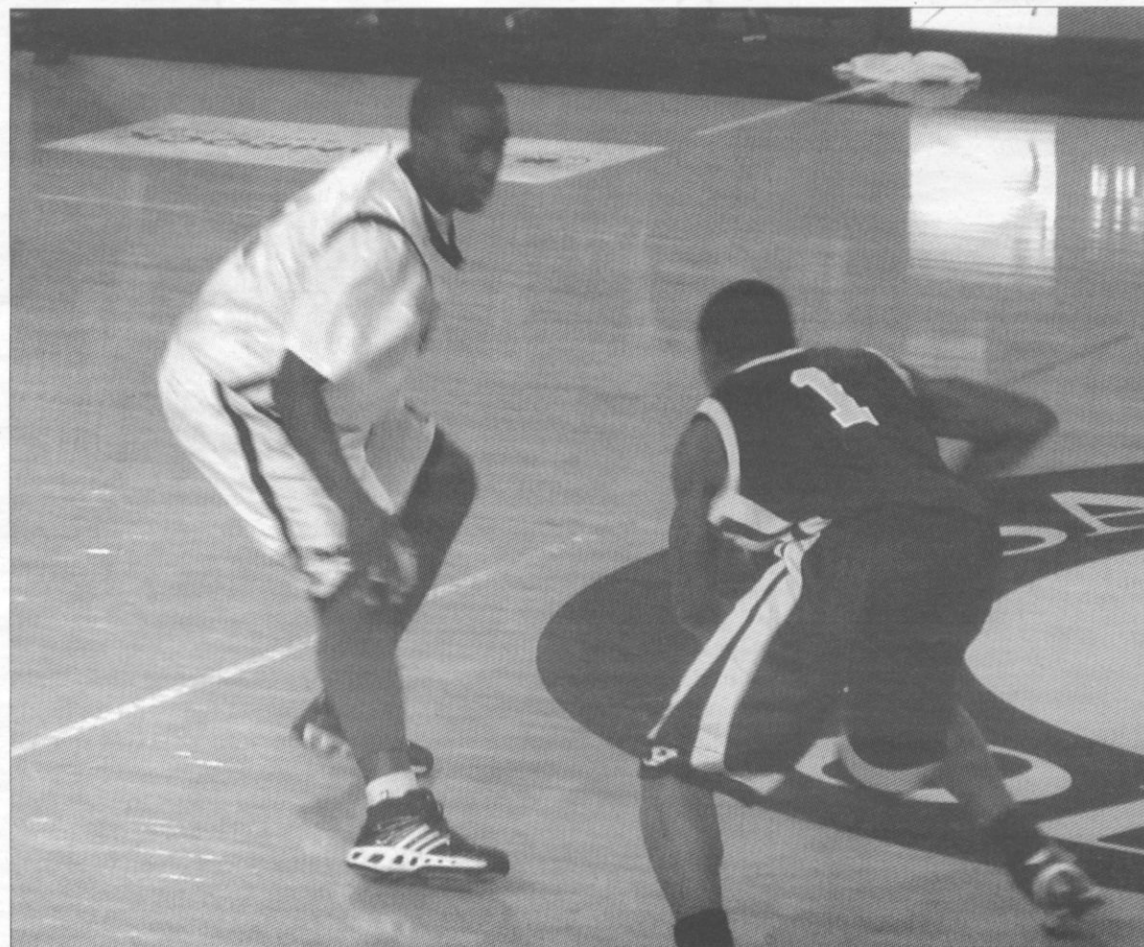
The Gaels will return home on Tuesday, November 21 to face off against the Texas Christian Uni-

versity (TCU) Horned Frogs. The game will tip-off at 7:05 p.m. at McKeon Pavilion.



Argenis Rubio/COLLEGIAN

Senior Todd Golden went 6-6 from the free throw line against the USC Trojans on Saturday.



Stefanie Ordoveza/COLLEGIAN

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Women's Basketball
@ SDSU
Dec. 10, 2:00 p.m.



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Women's basketball survives Hurricane Gaels' second half comeback just enough to beat Miami

by Stefanie Ordoeza
Sports Editor

The Saint Mary's women's basketball team hosted the Miami Hurricanes last Friday at McKeon Pavilion. Starting out slow, the Gaels eventually found their momentum and took the Hurricanes by storm, winning the game 69-68.

From the moment after tip-off to the end of the first half, the Miami defense seemed almost indestructible. The Gaels struggled to execute any successful plays against the Hurricanes, only making six out of their first 29 field goal attempts. The Hurricanes' defense also threw off the Gaels' passing execution, causing seven turnovers in the first four minutes of the game.

As the half progressed, the Gaels continued to struggle offensively, missing several lay-ups and other scoring opportunities. The energy on the court quickly became one of low intensity for the Gaels, giving the more active Hurricanes the advantage.

From the start, the Hurricanes moved the ball well around the arc and created easy openings for post-up plays. The Hurricanes were led by point guard Renee Taylor, who shot well from the outside. Her strong guard play gave Saint Mary's head coach Paul Thomas something to think about after the first half ended as the Hurricanes led 33-21.

After the halftime intermission, the movement was quicker, passes were more precise, and plays were executed with much more intent.



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

It was a totally different ballgame.

With this improved defensive effort by the Gaels came many more opportunities to close the Hurricane lead. At 16:42, sophomore Jontelle Smith stole the ball from Miami's Taylor and made it count on a breakaway lay-up that brought the score to 29-36, causing an immediate Hurricane timeout.

The play was then followed

by a Smith three-pointer and another lay-up (with a chance for a three-point play), which brought the entire crowd to its feet. The Hurricanes, not knowing what hit them, substituted players in and out, but that would not stop freshman Sierra Chambers from making the tying shot at 15:16.

The Gaels changed the momentum by completing a 15-3 run over the Hurricanes and tying the score at 36-36.

The run began with a jumper from junior Maija Lahde, the third leading scorer for the Gaels, bringing the score to 23-33. Two more shots fell for the Gaels which were the end results of two steals.

With a stronger defensive effort, highlighted by junior Lauren Shaughnessy, the Gaels had more opportunities to better execute their offense. The Gaels did so, continuing their run with several

more buckets by red-shirt junior Monica Mertle and Smith, the leading scorer for the Gaels with 17 points (nine of which were three-pointers), who together, increased the Saint Mary's lead to 62-51.

However, with a few Gael errors later in the game and the continuing determination of Miami's Taylor, Maurita Reid, and Carla Williams, the Gaels' lead was brought down to a mere three points with 45 seconds left to go.

Shaughnessy then had possession and was immediately fouled by the Hurricanes' Latoya Cunningham. Shaughnessy hit her first free throw, bringing the score to 69-65, but her second rolled out, giving the Hurricanes a chance. Miami quickly responded with a three-pointer by Taylor that reduced the gap to just one point.

With just 19 seconds left, the ball was inbounded to Chambers who was closed in by three Hurricane defenders. Trapped, the Gaels were called for a five second violation, giving the ball back to Miami.

Down by one with 15 seconds left, Taylor had a shot to win the game for Miami. However, her shot from the top of the key fell short, and the Gaels fought hard for the rebound until time ran out, securing the 69-68 victory.

The Gaels' victory improves their overall record to 1-1 for the season. Their next appearance will be this Friday against Cal State Northridge at 7:05 p.m. at the McKeon Pavilion.

Volleyball ends season with loss to Pilots Gaels' split on Pacific Northwest trip good for fourth place

by Zack Farmer
Managing Editor

The Gaels finished their season with a split over the weekend against Gonzaga and Portland. This season will be the first time in four years that the volleyball team will not participate in the NCAA Tournament.

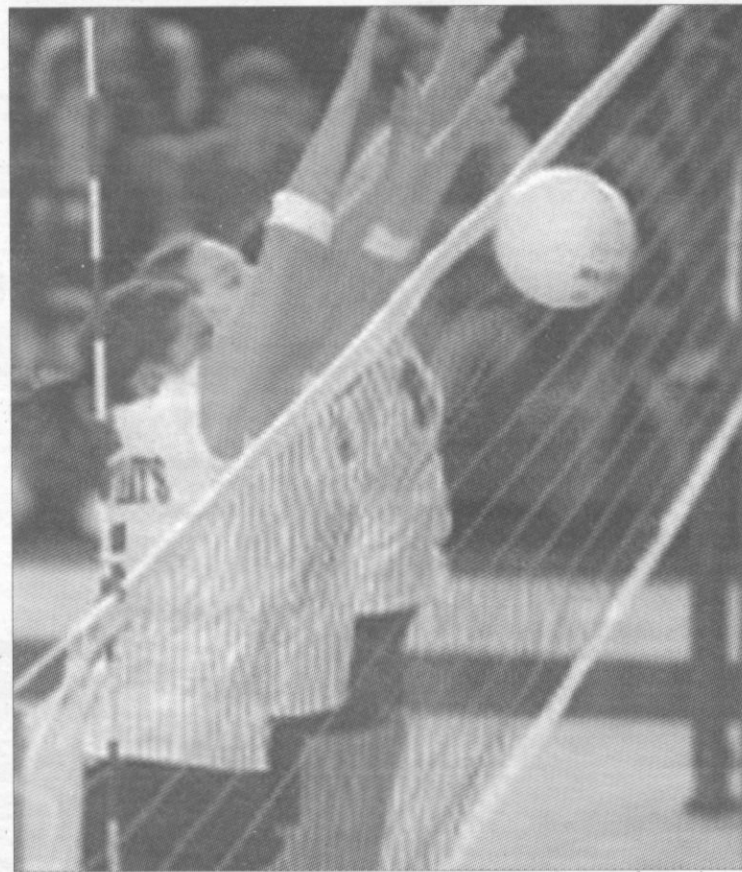
The week started off well as the Gaels took care of the Gonzaga Bulldogs on Thursday, 3-1. The win gave the Gaels a split with the Bulldogs on the season after a loss to Gonzaga earlier in the season.

Saint Mary's started off with two hard fought wins in games one and two with the score of 30-26.

The Bulldogs battled back, taking the first game after the break, 30-24. However, the Gaels found a way to regroup and put down the Bulldogs 30-21.

The Gaels had four players in double-figure kills, led by Missie Stidham '08 with 18. Cassandra Kolkka '07 recorded another double-double with 10 kills and 15 digs.

Mandy Bible '07 recorded a near



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

The Saint Mary's volleyball team ended their season in a tough five-set match against Portland. They finished 6-8 in West Coast Conference play.

triple-double as she had 58 assists, 10 digs, and nine blocks.

Saint Mary's tried to end the season on a high note but was not afforded the luxury as Portland took the final match in five games.

After dropping the first two games 30-26 and 30-28, the Gaels stormed back in the next two sets, winning 30-28 and 30-24 to force a game five. However, the Gaels fell short in a tough fifth game, losing 17-15.

Stidham led the Gaels again with 24 kills and 11 digs. Kolkka recorded her second double-double of the weekend with 11 kills and 16 digs.

The loss was the end of the college careers of seniors Bible, Kolkka, Christina Kirk, and Lauren Holland, of whom had notable career accomplishments. Bible became the Saint Mary's all-time leader in assists (5362) and service aces (128) during the season.

With her record, Bible is tied with Tracy Holman (LMU) in third place on the West Coast

Conference (WCC) all-time assists list. She is also third all-time in total blocks (425) and seventh all-time in digs (939).

Kolkka ends her career third on the all-time service ace list (108) and the all-time leader in digs (1298).

Kirk finished her career placing fourth on the all-time blocks list (395).

Holland, despite limited playing time, chipped in 88 kills and 178 digs over the course of her career.

The four seniors were part of all three NCAA Tournament teams, which included the trip to the Sweet Sixteen in 2004. The four seniors accumulated a record of 75-41 and the school record of 25 wins in 2004.

The season ends with the Gaels finishing with an 11-14 overall record and went 6-8 in WCC play. Their record ties them with University of San Francisco for fourth.

With a young group of players taking the helm, the Gael volleyball team will look to return to the NCAA Tournament in 2007.