



- ▶ **NEWS FEATURE:**
Black History Month
- ▶ **SPORTS:**
Baseball sweeps Utah Valley

Spring into Action 2007

Students, alumni, staff volunteer at elementary school, child development center in Oakland



Courtesy of Jennifer Pigzy

A group of Saint Mary's students, alumni, and staff rest during a day of volunteering at various locations Saturday.

by Alex Branch
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, between 75 and 100 Saint Mary's students, alumni, and staff teamed up through the Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA) and the Office of Residence Life (ORL) to do community service at the Saint Martin de Porres Elementary School in Oakland, Alameda Point Collaborative (APC), and Centro Infantil Child Development Center in Oakland. Volunteers cleaned storage rooms, built foundations, gardened, and built shelves, among other services.

According to Doug Biggs, the Community Resources Director at APC, the 40 or so volunteers working there accomplished in one day what it would take the regular APC Nursery staff two to three months to do. Freshman Irene Nino has gone to Saint Martin de Porres several times and said, "Seeing the same people again and seeing how much they get from us being there, how blessed they are having our help, keeps me coming back."

The event, titled Spring into Action, is a

collaboration between CILSA and the ORL. Coordinator Molleen Dupree said, "Our goals are primarily twofold. Our two main goals are to build up the community here at Saint Mary's, and give people the opportunity to get to know new people. It's a real help to those agencies, too. They know they can count on a huge group of people who are going to come twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring." These goals seem to be well-achieved. Derrick Montalvo '10 said of his day at APC, "The garden looked a lot better when we were finished, and I got to know a lot of people better... It was fun, and people should try it."

The Day of Service programs began as an outgrowth of the work CILSA and the ORL had been doing over the years. "There was a small group of students and staff that came together almost a year and a half ago and said 'We want to do something big. We want to channel the energies and efforts of all these smaller projects into one big project, to have a ton of people involved,'" said Molleen Dupree.

This year marks the first time alumni have been included in the project, and a

turnout of eleven alums is a solid start. Two alumni who volunteered were Andrew Buckingham, class of 1984, and Vicki Oliveira, class of 2004. "I received a postcard in the mail, and I was pretty excited about getting that," said Oliveira, "it's the first time I've heard about this program." Both were pleased to be working with current students, as well. "It's nice to reconnect and see that Saint Mary's is infiltrating into other walks of life," Buckingham said, "It's encouraging." Oliveira also expressed a sense of hope, saying, "it's reassuring to see there are young kids interested in giving back to the community."

Freshman Kyle Pounder said of his day at Saint Martin de Porres, "It was a good day. It was much needed work. Some of the kids were there with their families, too, so we worked with them, and that was cool."

There will be another APC service day March 10, and Carnival 4 Kids will be April 27. Buses also go to Leo Center several days a week, and anybody who wishes to volunteer for any of these activities should stop by CILSA during regular office hours.

Undergraduate financial aid to increase 22 percent

by Melissa Vlach
Staff Writer

The financial aid offered by Saint Mary's College will increase by \$3.6 million next year, adding significantly to the need-based aid already available. "It is an extremely large increase," said Michael Beseda, the Vice Provost of Enrollment.

With this 22 percent increase, Saint

Mary's College will offer approximately \$19.9 million of non-athletic financial aid. Comparatively, last year's financial aid increased by just 4 percent from the previous year to \$16.3 million.

The money comes from what Beseda calls a "rainy-day fund." A collection of money was saved up for an unexpected catastrophic event, but then was deemed unnecessary. Since it was found that insur-

ance would cover any such event, the \$20 million was moved from the low-yielding account in which it was located into a different account, generating about \$1 million of interest per year. The additional revenue led to the increase in financial aid.

The boost does not mean that current students at Saint Mary's will see drastic

see AID, p4

Scholars' Reception

Professors converge to celebrate achievements

by Brian Kuenning
Staff Writer

This year's Scholar's Reception featured a presentation of the academic and scholarly work that has been done throughout the year by Saint Mary's professors. The event, which took place in the main hall of Saint Albert Hall Library, was hosted and introduced by the Dean of Academic Resources Thomas Carter.

Several speeches were given that discussed raising money for the school and praising scholarly works, which were displayed in a Powerpoint slideshow. Carter stated that this was the fifth year in a row for the social event that recognizes and honors faculty. "This is the one place teachers get to talk about scholarship instead of teaching," he said.

The scholarly work that was being honored came from various departments on campus and was displayed on posters around the library.

Some of the works being praised included a paper by Ravi Bhandari from the Economics department entitled "The Political Economy of Civil Conflict." Another example was a lecture by Ronald E. Ahnen from the Politics department called "Brazil in International Relations." This lecture took place in San Francisco as part of the Great Decisions Series and was sponsored by the World Affairs Council. Many more professors and works were honored.

During the event, faculty talked among themselves and got a chance to relax a bit with their colleagues. When asked to comment, Chris Sindt, an English professor said that it is a "supportive event for the faculty" and that he is "happy that we do it." He also said that the faculty should be scholars as well as teachers in order to be optimal professors. Brother Camillus Chavez, who was also in attendance said, "Scholarship is part of keeping up with your field" but that "the main work is always teaching."

The short event lasted only about a half hour, but after the speeches, the faculty members remained in the library to talk about their own and other's accomplishments.



Lindsay Isles/COLLEGIAN

OPINION

Your responses to
The Vagina Monologues

pg. 6

DETOUR

Ghost Rider does not
ride the whip

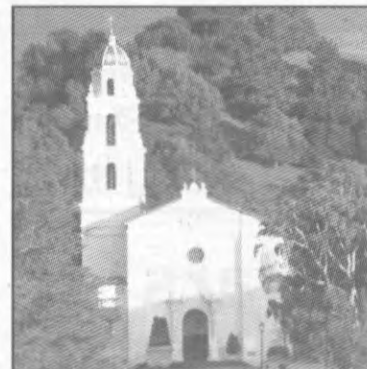
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The Collegian

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THE COLLEGIAN

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S.M.C.

SnapShot



Courtesy of Jennifer Pigzy

Many students attended Saturday's Spring into Action event, volunteering to help out others in need.



ZACK FARMER

My wallet will hate me!

Every few years a summer comes along where there is an endless list of movies that just have to be seen. This is one of those summers. As I start seeing the posters and trailers everywhere I start making a list of movies that have to be seen on premiere day and those for which I can wait until the DVD makes it to Rasputin Music in Berkeley in the \$5.95 bin.

Even though it is actually in May, the start of the movie season begins with *Spiderman 3*. After the first two huge successes, it has to be seen on premiere day, assuming I can get in. It's another movie of Spiderman getting revenge but this time, the evil consumes him. Just once I would love to see the villain win and he sort of does in this one.

Although, only in Hollywood can someone go from complete nerd to action hero/villain (Tobey Maguire, from *Pleasantville* to Spiderman, and Topher Grace, from *That '70s Show* to *Venom*). Anyway, moving on.

Later in May, *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* opens and the cult following of Captain Jack Sparrow rises again. With the third and so-called last installment of the story, it brings back the familiar call of "Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate's life for me."

The summer also brings the next Harry Potter movie, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. For those who are in love with the book, this may not be the highlight of the summer but for those who don't read the book like me, it'll do.

My highlight could be the release of the long awaited movie extravaganza that is *The Simpsons Movie*. It will be an amazing sight to see Homer, Bart, and Sideshow Bob on the big screen but it begs the question: what will they do for two hours? If the trailer is any indication, Homer will be caught between a rock and a hard place, quite literally.

Mike Myers also makes his return this summer in the third installment of *Shrek*, duly named *Shrek: The Third*. Many trilogy finales have fallen flat on their faces, but this could be the summer of successful third installments.

Shrek: The Third may be the last of the movies that I will waste my money on in the theatres, but the list of movies that can wait until the DVD release goes as follows: *Ocean's 13*, *Transformers*, *Rush Hour 3* (okay, I'll wait until it is playing repeatedly on TNT or TBS the month after release), *Underdog*, and *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*. They are not worth the film they were recorded on. But I'll get over it, and just look forward to the movies that are worth seeing.

Crime Beat

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 2/1/07
Incident: Information.
Synopsis: Syufy Performing Arts elevator and lobby, suspended, malicious mischief. | Student Conduct, assault. | 2/10/07
Incident: Minor under the influence-medical assistance.
Synopsis: Becket Hall, referred to Student Conduct and Health Center, transported to John Muir. |
| 2/1/07
Incident: Fire alarm.
Synopsis: Ageno East, referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant, burnt food. | 2/4/07
Incident: Burglary.
Synopsis: Augustine Hall, referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant; broken window, stolen TV, iPod docking station, and textbooks. | 2/10/07
Incident: Domestic violence.
Synopsis: Ageno C, referred to Student Conduct and Counseling Center, emotional abuse reported. |
| 2/1/07
Incident: Fire alarm.
Synopsis: Aquinas, referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant, false alarm. | 2/4/07
Incident: Property damage.
Synopsis: Justin Hall, referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant, broken window. | 2/12/07
Incident: Vehicle accident.
Synopsis: Library Quad, suspended, no body damage. |
| 2/1/07
Incident: Possession of alcohol.
Synopsis: Mitty Hall, referred to Student Conduct, lying to college official. | 2/5/07
Incident: Fire extinguisher use.
Synopsis: Ageno B, referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant, inappropriate use-vandalism. | 2/13/07
Incident: Fire alarm activation.
Synopsis: Justin Hall, referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant, false alarm. |
| 2/2/07
Incident: Property damage.
Synopsis: Baseball field parking lot, referred to Sharon Neward, B.O. and Athletics, damage to car hood from fly ball. | 2/9/07
Incident: Fire alarm.
Synopsis: Bookstore, referred to Physical Plant, caused by Orkin Pest Control spraying. | 2/13/07
Incident: Fire alarm activation.
Synopsis: Guerrieri East, referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant, burnt food. |
| 2/3/07
Incident: Minors in possession and under influence of alcohol.
Synopsis: Mitty Hall, referred to | 2/9/07
Incident: Property damage.
Synopsis: Bus circle median, suspended, deep tire impression in circular flower garden. | 2/13/07
Incident: Fire alarm activation.
Synopsis: Aquinas Hall, referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant, burnt popcorn. |

Don Quixote

The Soldier of the Sorrowful Face

by Nicholas Leither (MFA '06)

The Collegiate Players perform
a modernized comedy *Don Quixote*

Tues., Feb. 27 at 8 pm

Weds., Feb. 28 at 12:45 pm



LeFevre Theatre (One Hour)



Weekly Featured Profile

Lasallian Student Spotlight

Nathaniel Brown

by Alex Lavaroni
Staff Writer

Nathaniel Brown '09 has been nominated for this week's Lasallian Student Spotlight for exemplifying one of the Lasallian Core Principles: respect for all persons. Brown, who is from Thousand Oaks, California, is enrolled in the Integral Program. Nominated by his brother Nicholas, Brown earned this honor for his actions towards others. He teaches by examples that differences in individuals are to be understood and valued. Whether it is a class discussion or a friendly dialogue, Brown continually shows respect for others and their beliefs in his active involvement in the Saint Mary's community.

The Integral Program is one of the reasons Brown chose to attend Saint Mary's College. He has always been impressed by this program. Brown said, "I get immersed in my Integral classes through the interesting subjects, the intellectual conversations and the people in our little community. I'm learning more than just a subject - I'm learning how to approach subjects."

In his spare time, Brown likes to spend time with his friends and watch movies. "I love movies! This past year, one of my favorite movies was *Thank You For Smoking*," he said. His future goals include working in the film industry and one day becoming a director or a writer for the big screen.

Brown is very involved in the community at Saint Mary's College. He is currently an active member of the Academic Honor Council, where he helps to make decisions concerning academic honesty. Brown said, "I enjoy being a part of this council because it makes me feel like I am helping to accomplish something better, not only for myself, but also for the school."

Brown also works as an Ambassador for the school, giving campus tours and helping to run events for perspective students. "One of my favorite activities that we have done is Fall Preview Day, because it really gives me a chance to meet new people and make a connection with other students." Brown likes being a part of the Saint Mary's College community because he enjoys the easy-going atmosphere of the campus.

Brown really admires people who live their dreams. "I think anyone who does what they love for a living is a hero. To actually live your 'dream job' is usually a risk. It takes a lot of bravery and drive to do that."

Tutoring Center to see changes

New location, request process, Master Tutors revamp center

by Oliva Talavan
Staff Writer

The Tutoring Center, which is located in the Academic Support Center, has started implementing changes that will continue until spring 2008. The Tutoring Center is hiring the most qualified students as tutors to make the tutoring program at Saint Mary's more efficient and assisting. A longer application process will guarantee the finest tutors on campus.

In addition to ensuring that qualified students are tutors, the Tutoring Center is also hiring Master Tutors. These Master Tutors are graduate students who have much more experience in their subject matter than undergraduate students. As of right now there are four Master Tutors.

Ruth Santee, Coordinator of Tutorial Services, is selecting the most requested subjects and hiring prospective tutors for these areas. However, if there is a subject that a student needs help in that is not one of the selected subjects, Santee will accommodate the request.

Another significant change to the Tutoring Center affects the steps involved in requesting a tutor. The requesting process is no longer done online, rather it is now done by an in-house method. The Tutoring Center will place all of the tutors and subject matter on a board in their office and allot certain times for each area of in-

terest. They have opened up three rooms in the Academic Support Center solely for tutoring.

Each tutor has certain times that they will be working in the office and the tutee meets with them at whatever given time accommodates them best. The Tutoring Center is using the space that they have more efficiently now, which was an area that they found needed adjustments.

Instead of only offering times in the afternoon, they are including day tutorial services as well. Santee and Dean of Academic Advising and Achievement, Russell Tiberii looked at the space they used in the past and the low demand times for student testing. They discovered that students usually used the testing rooms during mid-terms and finals. The three rooms weren't being used efficiently during other weeks.

These changes have required a lot of work from Santee, Tiberii, and the rest of the Tutoring Center staff. They researched tutoring programs at other colleges, including Santa Clara University and Diablo Valley College, with hopes of improving the program at Saint Mary's. They analyzed the other programs and compared them to ours. Tiberii said, "We looked at other schools and programs of good practice and put them to use here."

Santee and Tiberii made changes that they found to ben-

efit both the tutor and tutee. Other goals were to expand the services offered, continue operating high quality services, and to be more efficient.

In addition to all of these changes, the Tutoring Center and Student Academic Center will be moving to a new home. The center will be leaving Sichel Hall and relocating to Fillipi Academic Hall, which is still under construction.

Also, there might be a name change to the Tutoring Center and Academic Support Center. The new title might be the acronym TASC, which stands for Tutorial and Academic Skills Center.

Tiberii sees many changes happening now, with even more in the future. He believes that we can never be satisfied with the changes because new students will be coming into the school with different needs. In the future he hopes to see the use of the internet to provide tutorial help.

"I am glad they are making improvements to help the student. I look forward to using the new program," said Clare Ford '09.

The Tutoring Center hopes that more students will take advantage of the program and anticipates change in the academics of the students. "Our goal is to develop high quality academic support programs and services to meet the needs and demands of Saint Mary's students" said Tiberii.

Campus Calendar

Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 21
12:40 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.
Chapel
Contact: Joanne Angerame
x4366

**Woodrow Wilson Fellow
Callie Crossley Lecture**
Wednesday, February 21
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
LeFevre Theater

Expressions of Blackness
Wednesday, February 21
5:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m.
Soda Center
Contact: Brenda Kiba
x4349

**MFA Creative Writing
Reading Series - Forrest
Gander**
Wednesday, February 21
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Admission \$3.00
Soda Center
Contact: Chris Sindt x4088

**Dryden Movie Night
The Departed**
Wednesday, February 21
9 p.m.
Dryden Hall

Expressions of Blackness
Thursday, February 22
5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Soda Center
Contact: Brenda Kiba
x4349

**Friday Night Hot Spot:
Karaoke Bash**
Friday, February 23
8 p.m.
Dryden Hall

B TSA February 2007
Saturday February, 24
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Contact: Linda Moilan
x4811

Club Dance
Saturday, February 24
10:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m.
Soda Center

Middle East discussion
Monday, February 26
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Soda Center
Contact: Patrizia Longo
x4140

Planning an event?

Want it in *The Collegian*?

E-mail us with the details of your event at:

collegia@stmarys-ca.edu
or call for more information:
(925) 631-4279

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

**News Brief
Freshmen
Survey Results**

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) recently released the results of the 2006 freshman survey. Over 271,000 students from 393 institutions participated in this survey. The survey included questions about total parental income, demographics, political views and beliefs, goals, academic history, and expectations for college. Results from Saint Mary's students were also compared to a peer group, which include Loyola Marymount University, Pepperdine University, Santa Clara University, University of Portland, University of San Diego, and University of San Francisco. Saint Mary's is more ethnically diverse than other Catholic institutions and about as diverse as the peer group. However, students' expectations for accomplishments throughout college fall short of the peer group average percentages. Results are online at the Saint Mary's website. Any questions should be directed to Mark Figueroa at x4754.

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AID: Financial aid increases after transfer of funds into high interest accounts

continued from page 1

increases in their financial aid. "It primarily means that the amount of aid that we'll offer to new students will be able to meet a greater proportion of their needs," said Beseda.

However, he stated that the money will have an effect on all students.

"For current students it means that we'll be able to continue the awards that we currently are offering, which are substantial: \$16 million in aid this year. So it does allow us to continue those, but it doesn't create a fund for returning students in particular," said Beseda.

Beseda hopes that the additional funds will help to increase the number of students from low-income families, which is defined as an income up to about \$50,000. One measurement that the school uses to determine the number of low-income students is the Pell Grant. This federal grant is given to students based on college costs, family income and family size. This year's freshman class had 21 percent Pell Grant recipients.

"We want to move back to 25 percent, and that's a very ambitious goal when you compare us to other schools," Beseda said.

The school reached this goal for the 2003-2004 academic year, but the number has decreased over the past few years.

In addition to helping these low-income students, Beseda said that the money will assist middle-income students at Saint Mary's. He defines this

group as having incomes up to about \$100,000 a year. He added, however, that many factors, such as size of family, affect who is considered middle-income.

"And with the increase in financial aid we'll be able to extend aid offers to students coming from those kinds of backgrounds as well," he said.

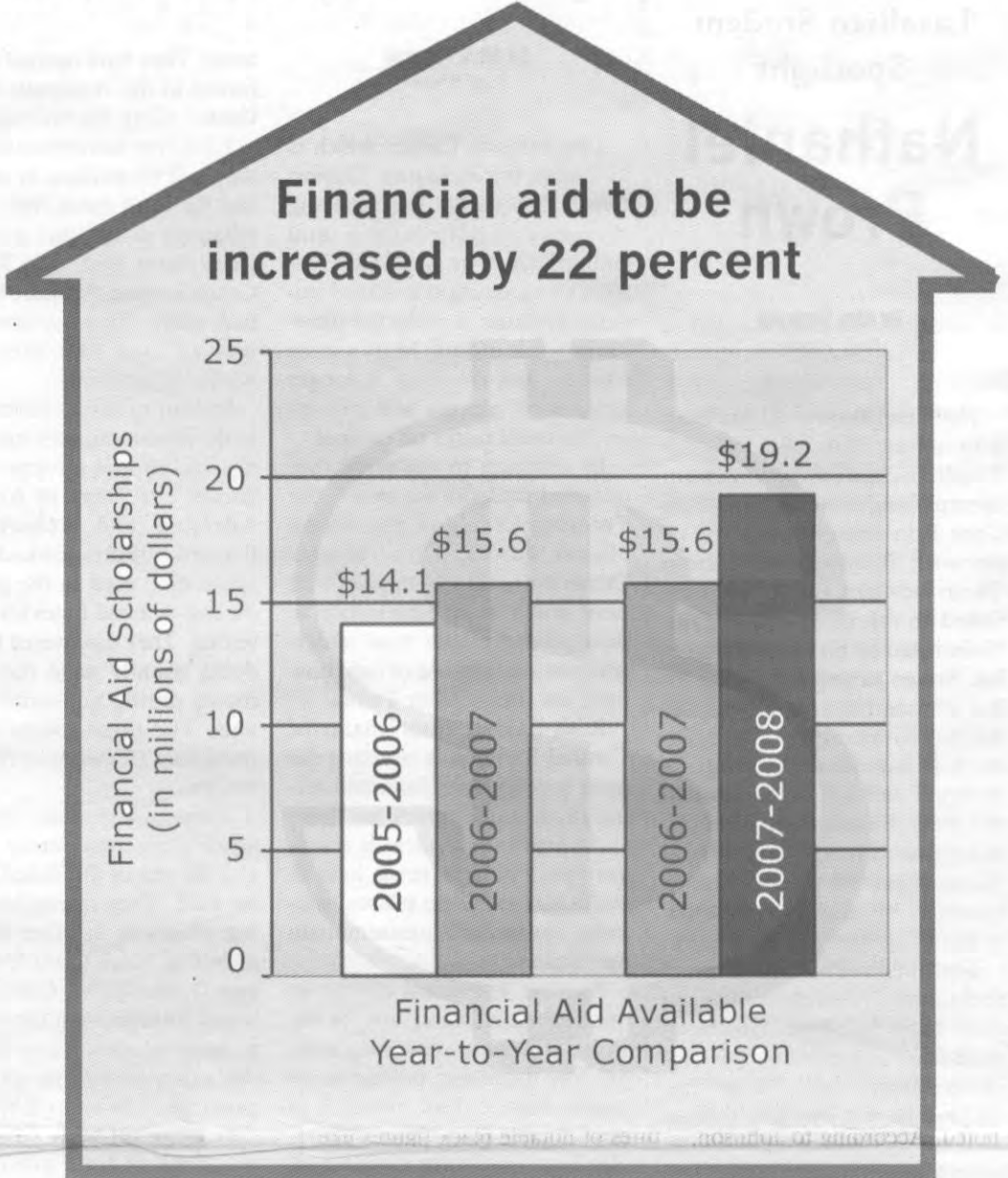
Saint Mary's strives to provide this kind of financial aid for its students, according to Beseda.

"In general, our approach to financial aid is to put most of our money into need-based aid," he said. "Some other schools offer a lot more merit scholarships." He explained that this approach comes from the school's Lasallian tradition.

"Because of the Christian Brothers' long commitment to serving poor and working class families, we've always put the vast majority of our money into need-based aid in order to help those families afford a Saint Mary's education," he said.

He feels that the goals of aiding Pell Grant recipients reflects this commitment to providing education for all.

"It's one of the real ways that we remind ourselves and show that we're a Lasallian school, and I'm proud of the fact and pleased that the board and the president, the administration and the budget committee reaffirmed their commitment to that goal and committed the funds. It's a testament to the fact that we're willing to commit our resources to our mission," said Beseda.



Figures taken from 2007 Fact Book. Illustration by Linda Hua/COLLEGIAN



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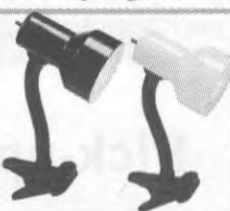
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The Collegian
FEATURE

Celebrating Black History Month with notable alums

Controversial former dean of students returns to honor Black History Month

by **Brian Kuenning**
Staff Writer

In attendance at the celebration of Black History Month was Odell Johnson, a Saint Mary's alumnus, came on a basketball scholarship and graduated in 1958. He became dean of students at Saint Mary's in 1968. Controversy arose during his term as dean of students and in 1972 his contract was not renewed. He advocated co-educational dorms and was known for his progressive opinions compared to the administration. Johnson said, "I was pushing the envelope and I knew some higher-ups knew about it."

In protest to the firing of Johnson or "O.J." as many called him, five Saint Mary's basketball players left the court during half-time of a Santa Clara game on February 26, 1972. Said Johnson, "Students were just pissed off. I had no idea [that they would be]." Johnson also noted that "even white students and staff stood up." People Johnson did not expect to stand up did for what was right, he noted. According to Johnson, people weren't just standing up for him, but for what was right.

It was former school President Brother Mel Anderson who de-

cidated to let him go. It was upsetting to many of the Black and Latino students because Odell was a role model. Odell was someone who students looked up to as one of the only black faculty/staff members at the time. Even though it was Brother Mel who had let him go, Johnson was not offended by his decision. Further, he mentioned that he knew Brother Mel had made a tough decision.

After his time at Saint Mary's, Johnson worked at the College of Alameda for seven years as vice president of instruction. After that, he worked at Laney College in downtown Oakland where he was president for 15 years, starting in 1980. He retired and at his retirement ceremony, he asked Brother Mel to do the invocation. Brother Mel accepted his invitation and according to Johnson, he said many nice things about him and was overall good about the speech. Johnson said, "Brother Mel and I became friends."

Featured at the event was a slide show of the college pictures in 1972, when the controversy arose. The presentation also had pictures of notable black figures like MLK, Jackie Robinson, Mohammed Ali, Jesse Owens, and Venus and Serena Williams.

Athletics' Chris Harrell makes a difference for student athletes

by **Julie McAvoy**
News Editor

For some students, the Saint Mary's campus, tucked away in the hills of quiet Moraga, can be a solace from the violence and temptations of big cities. Chris Harrell found that Saint Mary's provided this exact opportunity for him to, "get away from all the drama of gangs and violence of South Central L.A."

Harrell played football for Saint Mary's, before they cut the program in 2004, and is currently enrolled in the graduate counseling program. As the Graduate Assistant to Athletics, Harrell

works with incoming and current student athletes to make sure that they stay eligible and follow NCAA regulations. Harrell said he acts as an, "extra advisor for them--helping them out with classes and keeping them on track."

In the coming fall semester, Harrell will be teaching a life-skills class for freshmen student athletes. This class will focus on teaching them how "to be safe and smart in what they do on and off the field."

By this May, Harrell should have his Masters Degree in Counseling and plans to work in a high school to finish up his credentials. In the past he has worked with elementary-aged children and is currently working as a counselor trainee at a middle school in Berkeley. Harrell said he helps sixth through eighth graders by, "talk-

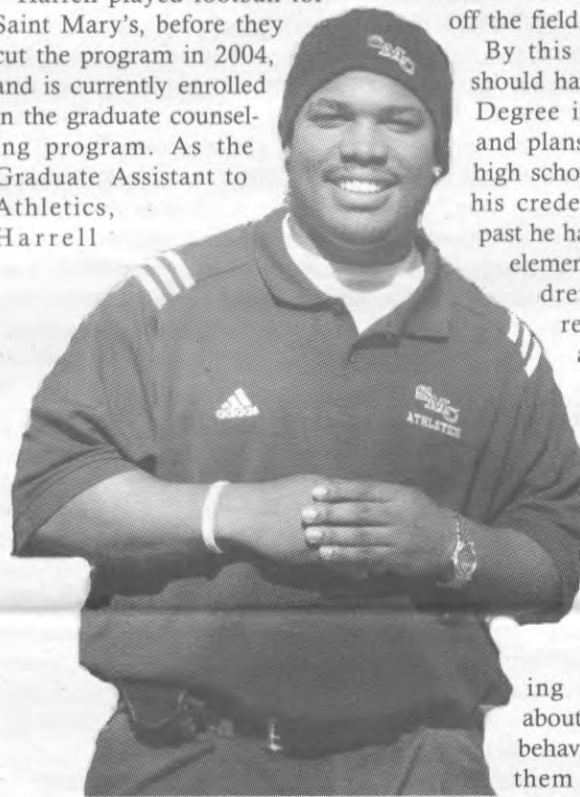
ing [with them] about academics and behavior and getting them on the right

track to graduate."

The example that Harrell gave was that if a student is struggling in algebra because they do not think that it is important, he will talk to them and help them to realize that they need to put an effort into their algebra class in order to succeed in life. Harrell was very humble about his efforts, noting that he is still new in the field and he is still learning. Mostly, he tries to motivate students to value their education. "Hopefully, I can enlighten them and open their eyes to the bigger picture - that they can see the future," he said.

Saint Mary's has helped Harrell get to where he is today by providing him an opportunity to succeed. "Where I grew up, I was surrounded by gangs and negativity. There was not a lot of motivation for kids to succeed," he said. "Now I'm here and I see all these opportunities that I can achieve." He said that former Saint Mary's Athletic Director Carl Clapp was also very instrumental in helping him continue his education at Saint Mary's.

In his undergraduate and graduate career at Saint Mary's, he has realized that, "there are millions of things I can do other than polluting my own community with violence and negativity. There is a different mindset now that the sky is the limit."



The comedic likings of Reggie Steele

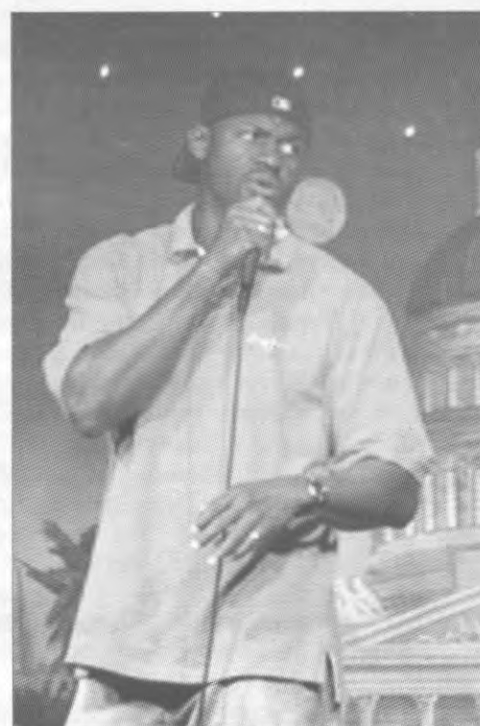
by **Jenna Zack**
Staff Writer

Reggie Steele, an alumnus of Saint Mary's College is a well-known comedian, actor, and writer currently based in Oakland. He has visited Saint Mary's on several occasions to perform for various comedy nights—his latest visit being last year in the Soda Activity Center.

Graduating with a degree in sports management from the College, with the urging of his friends, Steele went on to pursue a career in comedy as he enrolled in San Francisco Comedy College.

"After a friend suggested trying comedy and giving me a notebook to write my observations in, I wrote down everything I saw for six months," said Steele on his MySpace. "In 2000 I walked on stage for the first time, said my first joke, got the laugh and I was hooked. Comedy races through my veins and every time I step on stage it's like I'm getting my fix. I'm addicted."

Saint Mary's has not always been known for its great diversity, but one can see how Steele got by with his easygoing attitude. He said, "My comedy revolves



Courtesy of myspace.com/reggiesteele

around me and the world I live in, from family, friends, and to simply walking down the street. My life is revealed on stage for all to witness and relate to. No hang ups, no preconceived ideas, and no judgments—just a point of view that will have you laughing, enjoying yourself and wanting to hear more."

Steele's point of view also makes him an award-winning comedian. "In 2003, I won The

Rooster T Feathers Armature Comedy Competition and I was also a finalist in the 2003 Battle of The Bay Comedy Competition," he said.

Steele is well-known around the Bay Area, as has been featured at the San Jose Improv, Rooster T Feathers, Pepperbelly's, the San Francisco Punchline, along with other hot comedy spots.

Steele has performed with other famous comedians such as Damon Wayans, Tommy Davidson, Bob Marley, Tommy Drake, Megan Mooney, Jackie Kashian, John Witherspoon, Kevin Hart, and other comedians.

During his last performance at Saint Mary's Steele impressed many students with his jokes. Selina Melancon '09 left the show greatly impressed by Steele. "Out of all the comedians who came, he was my favorite," said Melancon. She "remembers laughing a lot and would definitely see him again."

To learn more about this alum, check out his websites at www.myspace.com/reggiesteele and www.reggiesteele.com.

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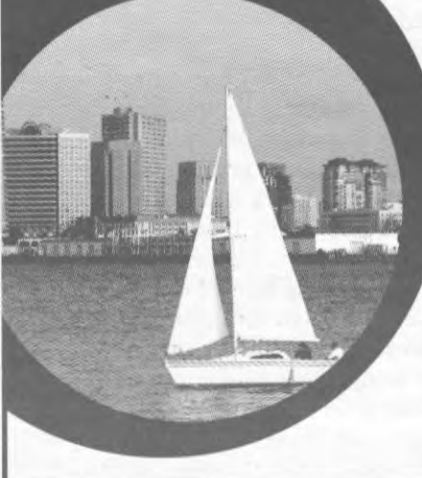
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The Collegian
OPINION



SCOTT CULLINANE

Silly liberal, iPods are for kids

You liberals are silly.

In the great state of New York, wacky liberalism and immense government are again teaming up to impinge just a little more on our freedoms.

But what else do you expect from a blue state?

A New York State Senator by the name of Carl Kruger has proposed fining people \$100 for crossing the street while also using a cell phone, iPod, BlackBerry, or other like electronic device. Kruger claims that several pedestrians have been struck by motorists because they were distracted by such a device. Kruger said, "This electronic gadgetry is reaching the point where it's becoming not only endemic but it's creating an atmosphere where we have a major public safety crisis at hand."

This amounts to little more than politician's micro-managing our lives and stripping us of what remains of our personal responsibilities.

When you were a little kid, didn't your mother always tell you to look both ways before you cross the street? Everyone as a child heard this warning more times than they can remember. If people are dumb enough to step into traffic and in front of a car without looking first, then they are dumb enough to ignore a mere \$100 fine. This is another useless, pointless, and totally unenforceable law. Senator Kruger might as well try to ban stupidity.

The state cannot regulate common sense.

This is just like how New York City banned trans fats, in the vain hope of improving public health, in yet another pointless micro-management of our lives. Where in the Constitution does it say that part of government is ensuring my arteries are clear? If I want arteries that are clogged like the Caldecott Tunnel at rush hour with a 10 car pile up, that is my right.

It is amazing how those in government won't fix social security or face the millions of illegals living in this country, but they can find time to manage how I cross Saint Mary's Road. How long will it be until it is law that we can't leave our homes without a protective layer of bubble wrap around ourselves and the only food we can buy are health bars?

As my favorite President said, "If no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else?"

Lawmaker's jobs are not to run my life for me. That is still my job.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As a former SMC student and cast member in two *Vagina Monologue* productions at Saint Mary's, I was completely appalled by the opinions of Mr. Geoffrey Meadows. While I respect his right to express his own opinions, I do have very serious issues with those opinions.

First of all, every year opinions by students, faculty, staff, and others are raised questioning how *Vagina Monologues* fits into the mission of a Catholic university. It is simple—all we have to do is read the mission of the production, "V-Day's mission is simple. It demands that the violence must end. It proclaims Valentine's Day as V-Day until the violence stops. When all women live in safety, no longer fearing violence or the threat of violence, then V-Day will be known as Victory Over Violence Day" (www.vday.org).

Given that the mission of the *Vagina Monologues* demands that violence against women must stop, let us look to our very own campus to see how Saint Mary's fares in that department. Freshman year, I came to Saint Mary's in the aftermath of the hunger protests and all the publicity of Saint Mary's campus officials covering up sexual assaults on campus. Violence on our very own campus occurs—whether it is sexual assault or other forms of violence, violence is alive and well, UNFORTUNATELY.

So perhaps for just a moment, let us move beyond the play in Mr. Meadows words that "glorifies masturbation and graphic lesbian pornography" and look to the broader issues that are raised by these monologues such as cultural, gender and global issues. By talking about vaginas and all that goes with it, the point is to break the taboo and silence of "down there." The play creates a safe zone to engage us all in discussion of the mystery, beauty and abuse of vaginas throughout the world. When we focus on one issue—homosexuality or masturbation as Mr. Meadows does, we are failing all the women who have been affected by violence. It is not a "shock-based diatribe," rather it is the realities and experiences of women throughout the world. Perhaps it is shocking because we are breaking the taboo of not talking about vaginas, but these are facts, this is history, this is right now.

As a feminist, I am proud to support the mission of *Vagina Monologues*. Women are not degraded—we reclaim words that have been used negatively to describe us, we empower women to honestly and safely talk about sex, we talk about giving birth, we talk about periods, we talk about tampons, we talk about female genital mutilation, we talk about rape, and yes, we talk about masturbation and being lesbians. But we are real and we are honest. And we work to end violence against women one V-day at a time.

In peace,

Caitlin Hungate '06

Dear Editor,

I am sick and tired of these articles dictating what should or shouldn't be done on a "Catholic College Campus." First of all, St. Mary's College of California passes certain events for a reason. Saying that they're wrong would be like defying the pope. You can't think the pope is wrong! He's the pope! Likewise, the college is in charge and if they say an event has merit, then it has merit.

Secondly, the term Catholic College is composed of two parts. The first part is "Catholic," yes. There are certain religious views and ideals practiced here. We have a chapel, we have brothers and fathers, and we have a ginormous cross on a hill. But the SECOND part of that phrase is "college." It's a place of higher learning, of exploring new and different ideas, and of changing both one's self and the society one lives in. To say that our school should adhere strictly to the Catholic doctrine would be turning this from a college into a monastery.

Finally, I cannot stand when there are people speaking out on things they themselves cannot comprehend, yet find "inappropriate." Geoffrey Meadows' article on the *Vagina Monologues* was incredibly misleading and rather unintelligent. "Shock based diatribe?" How about the "shock based diatribe" that says that if you don't love God, you'll go to hell? Excuse the pun, but that's one "hell" of a shock based diatribe. And yet, that one is never questioned. I do not mean this to be a critique of a faith system, but rather an exposé on the hypocrisy that some people exhibit when examining the "secular" world while meanwhile practicing a faith they really know nothing about.

Oh, and don't get me started on the whole slippery slope presented in Meadows' article about rape. That was just ridiculous.

The *Vagina Monologues* is not to be taken at face value. It has a deeper meaning, just like everything else in life. And just like everything else in life...if you only take it at face value, you might as well be "talking to a vagina."

Billy San Juan '08

To send letters to the editor, e-mail them to collegia@stmarys-ca.edu.

Please try to keep your letters concise.

Please sign with full name, and if applicable, year in school and/or title. *The Collegian* has the right to edit any submitted

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the Ban the Vagina Monologues opinion article by Geoffrey A. Meadows.

I help out with The Vagina Monologues for the perspective I get from it. It's fun and interesting. I've spent many hours listening to the monologues and getting to know the women who read them, as opposed to the one script that Meadows read. I'll tell you the conclusions that Meadows jumps to are simply baseless. I wish he could see the deep pain and insult to the performing women his article caused. He wouldn't sound so self satisfied. Outrageous, narrow minded, hateful, hurtful self righteous, hypocritical, inaccurate: As your strait, white, average guy these words come to mind when I the article Meadows'es wrote in the last issue. Let me address Meadows point by point.

He asks how the brothers could let this show go on. Many of the brothers give a quiet support to the diversity that the show brings. They are not crazy about it, but they realize that Catholicism is about tolerance, and not every student is Meadows type of catholic. They see that silencing the production would be a terrible thing for our student body. Religion is one of the oldest tools used to oppress and silence women. Men who feel uncomfortable when women express themselves often hide behind religion while shouting 'blasphemy' and demonizing the empowered women. I'm excited that the monologues will go on.

It shows that Meadows sexist views are losing validity. Although controversial, woman can now speak out, and take it from me, there is so much that needs to be said and shouted. In the monologue that Meadows criticizes, called "Coochie Snorcher", he not only gets the age of the protagonist wrong, but he completely misinterprets it by only looking at the surface. The monologue goes much deeper than the age of the main character and sex, or if the act is with a male or female. To only look at the politics of "Coochie Snorcher" is to miss the point completely. It's about a young girl who learns first to be ashamed of her vagina. Then her sexuality is later destroyed by violent molestation. She finds healing and the courage to love herself through her sexual relationship with a woman. Political correctness has nothing to do with the way she finds healing. Meadows says the 24 year old woman rapes the protagonist (who is 16, not 13, to clarify). Meadows goes on to address the double standard for when a man commits rape instead of a woman. Too bad Meadows can't tell the difference between a violent molestation by an uncle as opposed to a mature woman gently revitalizing a young woman's sexuality and self worth in a consensual way, because he might appreciate the monologue more. Meadows presumptuously writes, "Throughout the play women express either a desire to become their vagina or imagine they have already been transformed." Really the humanizing of the vagina in the play doesn't aim for the women to become vaginas but to recognize the vagina as part of the woman as a whole human. For example, the play asks, "If your vagina could speak what would it say?" this type of question de-objectifies the vagina, allowing women to see it as part of themselves. How could that be a bad thing?

Meadows quoted Elliott Smith (who must be spinning in his grave) "The devil's script sells." Umm hello, all the proceeds from the *Vagina Monologues* goes to charity, no one is making money off this except the Home of Hope Foundation. Is it still such an evil thing Geoffrey? After the pain that Meadows caused with his careless article I'll end in a quote as he did, and it's from one of his favorite movies: *The Big Lebowski* (thanks MySpace) "This aggression will not stand, man." The show will go on.

Thanks,

Collin Krauthamer '08

Dear Editor,

STOP writing anti-gay articles...full stop. I am responding to the "Ban the Vagina Monologues" article of last week, but more accurately I am responding to the Collegian editorial staff's misguided view on journalistic integrity. In the BTVM article, the author calls woman on woman sex a "scalding blasphemy" that Saint Mary's should ban as the insult it is. This sounds so much like an article from first semester that debated the legitimacy of a Gay Straight Alliance on campus, which was so very similar to the John Johnson article of two years ago that led to a maelstrom of debate in the collegian as to not only the GSA's legitimacy, but the very attendance of Saint Mary's by homosexuals.

While I do believe the topic should be explored and discussed, allowing anti-gay rhetoric in your articles is simply spreading hate, and you should know better. In the case of the BTVM article, lesbianism is cause for moral outrage enough to ban a performance that dared contain it. For those that say that Saint Mary's is a catholic institution and as such should condemn homosexuality, I won't argue. I completely disagree, but that is not the point of this letter. The point of this letter is to tell you to stop writing anti-gay articles or allow anti-gay references in your articles, unless you plan on including anti-black, anti Hispanic, anti-Jew, anti-Muslim... anti-other as well. It's possible to be contentious without being offensive and degrading. As a senior, I am tired homophobic references thrown throughout our student bodies daily conversations. Homophobia is so Gay.

Ken Hall '07

The Collegian
OPINION

Justice Department throws gauntlet on DNA ownership *Who really owns your DNA in the world of biotechnology?*

DNA should stand for do not apprehend.

Is your DNA as subject to government confiscation as your household goods?

Is it a weapon which others can use against yourself and your ethnicity?

According to the Justice Department, the answer is affirmatively yes. Currently, the department is completing rules to justify the appropriation of DNA from criminal detainees and illegal immigrants in an effort to build a database. It would allegedly help catch repeat criminals and help officers target behavior patterns in crime.

To this effect, the law was passed in January of 2006 as part of the Violence Against Women Act in order to identify repeat sexual predators, but it has already been recognized as a generic tool against underdogs. Even those individuals who are part of the struggle against sexual abuse are opposed to this law, highlighting its general repulsiveness.



DARWYNN DEYO

The problem with the law is rooted in its political reasoning. It assumes that the government has the authority to take DNA samples of anyone who is suspected of breaking its laws, but in fact, your DNA first belongs to you.

The nanny state, in whatever form or administration, presumes too much when it takes from you in order to protect you. Since you own your body's genetic code, the government taking on the grounds of suspicion trespasses property and privacy rights.

Most pundits, however, are arguing that since the law only applies to criminal detainees and illegal immigrants, that most citizens won't be affected negatively.

Last I checked however, you

didn't have to be guilty to be detained.

The law also specifically targets illegal immigrants because some data suggest they are more likely to be rapists, using a few historical cases to justify the generalization.

One could just as easily argue that men on the border are more prone to lawlessness, and their DNA samples should be in the database as well.

Any such database that classifies mental and physical disease with ethnicity-associated crimes heightens the probability of racism and the number of innocents proven guilty by statistical chance. Aside from being bad science, what is put into law now for one use can be manipulated and justified for another later. Other data contrarily reveals that illegal immigrants are arrested for civil crimes, not criminal ones.

Furthermore, the database is irrevocable, as the law already grants the authority to collect DNA samples from convicted

criminals.

The issue has split women's groups, and among those who have heard, Republicans and immigrants. Rape is obviously evil. All the same, taking DNA from the accused, not the convicted, so as to use it as a weapon invoking psychology and statistics is also a rape of the individual.

I don't expect lawmakers to care about individuals, but I do demand they advertise it.

Last year in the United Kingdom a similar law was proposed which would also include a database of the victim's DNA. If the DNA of detainees is supposed to identify patterns in crime, would the victim's DNA identify patterns in who should be protected?

Voting citizens are adults, at least in the political sense, and should be treated as such. This law will not deter crime, just as the haphazard death penalty has not and will not.

Neither should get the support of silent approval from its would-be lab rats.



JAIME ZEPEDA

Small states, slow deaths

The underdog is being terminated.

After mending his broken leg, big shot Governor Schwarzenegger is breaking the back of the longshot. He proposed the move of the California Primary to an earlier date, most likely February. At the moment, the Primary occurs in June, making it one of the last states to vote for a party candidate. The Governor argues that making California one of the first states to have a primary will give the gargantuan state the influential role it deserves.

I couldn't agree more.

California, with its 55 electoral votes, more than 33 million residents, and many more illegal immigrants, deserves a powerful role in national decision-making. But like this? I am afraid to say that the way politics has worked from the birth of this nation will cease to exist.

The Governor has created a monster...kind of like Predator, but with less hissing.

Making California one of the first, and thereby most important, states for a candidate running in a primary will be the death of the underdog. The first states in a primary, like Iowa and New Hampshire, are not important in themselves. Iowa has more cows than people, and New Hampshire is, well, no offense, New Hampshire. What makes candidates seeking the Democrat or Republican label flock to these puny states is the snowball effect a win can create. A win in Iowa will most likely lead to a win or a good chunk of the vote in Nevada, which will lead to a win or a good chunk of the vote in New Hampshire, etc. That is why California's primary in June is considered less than nail-biting. By the time we get to vote, there is already such a smaller pool of candidates and a clear leader in the party that the vote casts itself. By having little states have a say before big states, the opportunities are more inclusive, than not.

An Iowa primary campaign versus a California campaign is not even close in terms of budget, time, logistics, and outreach possible.

So why diminish an already dwindling role on the national political scale?

The possibility of a peanut farmer (Jimmy Carter) becoming president will be slapped in the face with reality.

Other big states like Texas and Illinois, are pondering the same move. This will really make politics a rich person's game.

It will make a powerful name and hefty purse more important than good positions on important issues. It will...oh wait, that's how it is now.

Nevermind.

First it's the bank, next it's the presidency!

Bank of America gets ridden like a Mexican immigrant for its 'pro-immigration' policy

The second biggest bank in the U.S. will now issue credit cards, mortgages, and accounts to illegal immigrants. The horror... the horror...

The National Illegal Immigration Boycott Coalition (NIIBC) is now boycotting Bank of America for its actions. Do not worry NIIBC. The credit cards issued will have no more than \$500, thus the illegal immigrants will not have enough money to buy rights and privileges. Furthermore, if an illegal immigrant tries to get a mortgage, their neighborhood (on the other side of town from Tom "Talks Too Much" Tancredo—a vocal critic of Bank of America's actions—but not far enough so he has to mow his own lawn) will be gentrified anyway. So why worry?

The program complies with the Patriot Act.

Well, maybe the NIIBC is on to something. Let's not give credit cards to the lowest-level of the economic ladder that need to feed



DANNY ACOSTA

their families, let's continue giving them to eight through twelve-year-old socialites-in-training so they can buy new thongs.

Issuing credit cards is an issue of protection. Financially, it opens up the option of avoiding check-cashing services and money transfer services, which gouge the miniscule wages of illegal immigrants. Furthermore, having a bank account prevents crime. If everyone kept their money in their home, home invasions would lead to huge cash payoffs. This is a common problem in illegal immigrant communities. The ability to have a bank account will mitigate crimes against Latinos.

Although a credit card lights new paths, it constrains as well. Illegal immigrants—contrary to popular belief—are not getting a free ride. The illegal immigrants first have to pay \$100 and suffer through interest rates as high as 21%.

The bank is just like any other corporation. They are exploiting illegal immigrants. The difference this time is there is an upside for the illegal immigrants.

Bank of America takes center stage in the credit card controversy yet the Los Angeles department store chain La Curacao has already issued approximately one million credit cards to illegal immigrants. So they already have credit cards? And there have been no terrorist acts? No financial ruin.

The move is perfectly logical. Issuing more credit cards means more money for Bank of America. Socially, it is just as logical. Non-residents pay taxes too, thus they

can be tracked through tax numbers or "other evidence of taxpayer status" and have a credit card. A credit card may even allow for some disposable income, which will help bolster the economy as illegal immigrants already do.

I know its scary seeing a brown person in a bank because they are obviously there to rob it, but I say we act crazy and give them the benefit of the doubt.

Critics attack the provision because it allegedly encourages assimilation; however, illegal immigrants are ostracized for being different. So which is it? Not issuing illegal immigrants credit cards perpetuates the paradoxical practice of denying services to those that provide services for us.

And for those who believe all illegal immigrants are people-smuggling, drug-dealing, white-raping heathens, do not worry. Black market deals do not accept credit cards.

Human rights of the mentally ill ignored in the prison system

We always brag about the preservation of human rights in this country. Every once in a while however, a news story comes up that makes us doubt ourselves.

On August 6, 2006, 21-year old Timothy Souders died of dehydration at the Southern Michigan Correctional Center. At the time of his death, he was chained to a concrete bed as punishment for breaking prison rules. Souders took a shower without permission, broke a stool, and flooded his cell with water from the sink.

Souders landed in jail after getting caught shoplifting paintball guns and threatening employees with a pocket knife.

Prior to his arrest, he had been diagnosed as bipolar.



KAREN JUAN

His mental health deteriorated and his physical health was compromised in prison, where he tried to commit suicide three times. On one of these occasions, he stabbed his stomach seven times.

My first question is: Why was Souders in jail? So he shoplifted a couple of paintball guns, big deal. Would a three-year old be put in jail for stealing candy? No, because the kid is too young to know what

he is doing. Likewise, Souders didn't know what he was doing. He was so depressed that he even begged the cop who arrested him to shoot him instead.

My second question is: Why was Souders on top of a concrete bed? A mentally ill person needs to be treated, not punished. It's bad enough that Souders was put in jail. Does he really have to be chained for 12-17 hours?

Third question: Why doesn't anybody seem to care about this? When I was watching this story on "60 minutes" last Sunday, I was horrified. I could not imagine how our country could let something like this happen. Then I found out that it has happened several times before. And with the

current amount and status of mentally ill inmates, chances are, it will happen again.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics, a program of the U.S. Department of Justice, reports that over 1.2 million inmates (55 percent of all inmates from local jails, state and federal prisons) have had a problem related to mental health. Some only have a history of mental illness, while some only display symptoms. There are about 360,000 who have both.

So much for a system of "rehabilitation."

It is easy to ignore prisons, but I hope Souders' death will show everyone the ugly truth about prisons so that no one else, mentally ill or not, has to suffer like he did.



The Collegian

DETOUR

Grammy Awards underwhelm yet again

Show proves you don't have to be talented to win an award

by Adrian Garro
Staff Writer

Last week, something unimaginable took place on CBS: The Black Eyed Peas' tune "My Humps" won a Grammy. That is just about the perfect thing to have happen on the award show, which claims to reward the "best" musical artists of the past year or so for their achievements. It is not as if the Grammys actually award talent; it seems instead that awards are divvied out to either established acts who have released yet another safe, familiar album (see: the Dixie Chicks) or to acts who have ruled the pop charts (see: Black Eyed Peas). As whether or not a musical artist is "talented" is usually a judgment call, it would be hard to instead reward deserving, hardworking artists who actually offer something worthwhile, instead of Fergie carrying on about how she can get men "love drunk off my humps" and how she makes them dump buckets of money on her in their efforts to win her over. Rewarding songs such as this merely reinforces the shallowness of the United States, but as a whole especially the Grammys themselves.

Folk/jazz/flute band



Courtesy of www.chinadaily.com

Jethro Tull famously won the award for "Best Hard Rock/Metal Performance" in the 1989 Grammys, beating out Metallica (a band that actually plays hard rock music). Perhaps the Grammy voters misinterpreted the term "metal performance" to mean the flute that Jethro Tull mainman Ian Anderson played on the recordings. Maybe, just maybe, Grammy voters do not have much of a clue what is going on. That could help warrant "My Humps" winning an award at last week's ceremony. At any rate, these examples help to show how the Grammys are rarely an accurate judge of talent.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers, the

band who stormed out of L.A. in the late 1980s with their funk/rock hybrid that paved the way for many bands in the 1990s, closed the Grammy Awards last week. During their acceptance speech for Best Rock Album, drummer Chad Smith declared "We need more rock bands" in the US.

He's on to something. While trendy pseudo "punk" bands like Panic! At the Disco and My



Courtesy of www.oor.nl

Chemical Romance rule the lives of young teenagers packing the malls across the country, the most popular music continues to be rap and hip/hop. A glance back 15 years ago, to when bands such as Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and

Soundgarden ruled the charts with their original, passionate music, shows a time in which 'popular' music actually was deserving of its success. Now, novelty songs and artists such as Fergie and Ludacris sell millions of records essentially because they know how to market themselves, and not because of any actual, meaningful content or contribution. Kurt Cobain was able to attain the status of "Spokesman of a Generation" for helping institute the grunge movement that affected the rest of the 1990s and beyond due to his passionate, emotional delivery. Looking back on the early 2000s twenty or so years from now, it would be hard to pick out a deserving candidate to be the spokesman/spokeswoman of this generation. Chad Smith was right; there need to be more rock bands with original sounds contributing to the musical landscape.

Maybe then the Grammys will actually be able to reward deserving artists for their accomplishments. As it is now, the Grammys are not a very consistent judge of talent, and that was very obvious during last week's show.

100
Word
ReviewsLOST is back and
better than everby Jessie Alexander
Staff Writer

Opening the spring season, the last two episodes of *LOST* were no disappointment. Last week, *LOST* fans had a surprising first with a glimpse into the past of one of the Others, Juliet. Last week's episode explained the story behind Desmond's strange premonitions. Desmond said his life flashed before his eyes when the hatch exploded, but the visions persisted and now he sees into the future. As always, more questions were raised than answered. This was definitely one of the more confusing and bewildering episodes, but *LOST* wouldn't be *LOST* if it didn't leave us all feeling a little lost.

Just Jack what
the U.S. needsby Adrian Garro
Staff Writer

British MC Just Jack's new U.K.-only album *Overtones* is just what the U.S. needs. Unlike the inane "hyphy" movement and unintelligible nature of most mainstream hip-hop in this country, Jack Allsopp sticks with more muted, stripped-down sounds and (gasp) musical instrumentation on his songs. "Starz in their Eyes" is the tour de force, with its catchy guitar work and Jack's flow, which is less abrasive than fellow U.K. rapper the Streets. Overall, *Overtones* is a breath of fresh air for the hip-hop genre, and hopefully it is as well-received here as it was in the U.K. Only time will tell.

For more of this week's reviews, visit
www.smccollegian.com

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Join us in the spring.

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Monologues features heartbreaking, funny tales

Play celebrates sexuality, condemns violence against women

by Mark Freeman
Staff Writer

When I walked into LeFevre Theatre to see Saint Mary's College rendition of *The Vagina Monologues*, I was handed a nametag sticker that simply read, "Bob."

There were only a handful of Bobs in the audience, all of whom were probably unsure what to expect from the performance. But Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* proved to be an eye opening experience, both for women and Bobs alike.

The Vagina Monologues are the result of hundreds of interviews that Ensler had with women across all age groups and cultures. The interviews touched on topics that may seem awkward to some. But together, they are a statement of sexuality, a call to action against violence, and a triumph for the organ whose name sounds like an "infection" according to one monologue.

At the start of *The Vagina Monologues*, the cast of 21 Saint Mary's students declared that they were "worried about vaginas." They certainly had reason to be. Among the 20 different stories, several depicted atrocious crimes against women, including rape, abuse, and genital mutilation. One monologue in particular, "The Memory of Her Face" described a woman who was constantly beaten by her husband, and eventually left disfigured.



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

Molly McCarthy '07 and Alicia Torres '08 perform Eve Ensler's controversial play *The Vagina Monologues* at LeFevre Theatre last week.

But despite heartbreaking stories like these, *The Vagina Monologues* are hardly feminist propaganda. One performance was about a woman who had a good relationship with a man (should I mention his name was Bob?) and how this relationship allows her to embrace her sexuality.

Many of the monologues were just funny, and had most of the audience laughing—save the Bobs who probably didn't get the jokes but laughed anyway. In the

monologue "The Flood," an older woman recounts her experiences with her "down they-ah" and the problems it gave her. Another monologue, "My Angry Vagina," attacks the "cold ducklips" used by gynecologists.

Overall, the cast did a wonderful job portraying the various women Ensler interviewed. As I left, I smiled, knowing that I had gained some insight not just about vaginas, but the female personality as well.

The Collegian

TOP 5
Simpsons
Supporting
Characters

1. Apu Nahasapeemapetilon, Ph.D.



2. Dr. Nick Riviera

3. Groundskeeper Willy

4. Chief Clancy Wiggum

5. C. Montgomery Burns

Upcoming
Movies

February 23, 2007

The Astronaut Farmer (PG, starring Billy Bob Thornton)

The Number 23 (R, starring Jim Carrey)

Reno 911!: Miami (R, starring Thomas Lennon)

The Abandoned (R, starring Anastasia Hille)



The Collegian
DETOUR

Ghost Rider promises fire, cannot light match

Another notch on Marvel's belt, another pain for moviegoers

by Danny Acosta
Opinion Editor

Filmmaking 101 this is not. Mark Steven Johnson (*Elektra*) directs his way into a hole that should be a grave in his new film *Ghost Rider*. He wrote and directed one of the darkest characters in the Marvel universe into a PG-13 cliché-a-thon starring Nicolas Cage as Johnny Blaze.

Johnny, young and in love, excels in a Carney duo of death defying stunt bikers with his father. He sells his soul to the devilish Mephistopheles (Peter Fonda)—in return for a favor, to be named later, of course—in order to save his dad's life from cancer. Johnny agrees. His dad wakes up healthy. Mephistopheles kills his healthy dad. He then calls upon Johnny to be his new rider, a soul collector for Satan. Johnny is offered an out: kill Blackheart (Wes Bentley), who happens to be Mephistopheles' son, and regain his soul. Rid himself of the Rider. This movie moves forward

with the subtlety of a speeding semi. It is chained down by banality. Johnny professes his love for Roxanne (Eva Mendes) by carving "J+R forever" into a tree on a scenic stretch of road. This trite writing degrades the originality of a skull-flaming, chopper-riding, demon-slaying, bounty hunter. Gleefully villainous lines like "looks like trouble found

getting Cage's hair piece in place. He displays, digitally generated, his abs in one scene. Cage portrays a soul hunter grappling with the absence of his own and never reaches the human or maniacal side of his character. In a highly unbelievable world, the most unbelievable part of the movie is when Johnny refuses hard liquor for jelly beans.

the Rider, Johnny proclaims "I feel like my skull is on fire, but I'm good." What a clever reference.

Ghost Rider is a CGI-fest. It vividly comes to life in *all two brief action sequences* over 114 minutes.

It is understood there is no thinking required in *Ghost Rider*. However, questions continually arise such as: "Did he really say that?" or "Is it too late for a refund?"

Ghost Rider rode into theatres

without being pre-screened for critics—a typical practice for movies that suck all enjoyment out of surprisingly full theatres.

While, this movie is not Filmmaking 101, it should be a course on how to ruin potential.

Punishment Level:



1 out of 5 Skulls



Courtesy of www.imdb.com

Cage's quirkiness, however, is enough to be enjoyable...next to Eva Mendes. She plays a love interest of the rebellious, supernatural Rider. Her character, unlike her figure, is flat. Mendes' voluptuous figure screams, "This is why

you" or "I will make you pay for this" are standard. *Ghost Rider* runs into a wall, but continues to plow through it with no other motivation than testosterone.

Although, testosterone seems absent. This can be attributed to 43-year-old Nicolas Cage. His character is a young, fit, tough, tortured soul yet production went ahead and spent three hours a day

I am here."

The only positive element of *Ghost Rider* is Caretaker (Sam Elliot). Elliot strikes the right chord. His grainy tone provides a glimpse down the path the movie should have ridden, but instead there is a cutesy and half-hearted approach that tries and fails to deliver the humor of *Fantastic Four*. After his first transformation into

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The Collegian
SPORTS

**Players
of the Week**

Lauren Mello



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

Lauren Mello led the Gaels offensively on Thursday against the Sonoma State Seawolves. Mello went four for seven with two homeruns- a triple and a single. Mello knocked in four runs and scored four runs in the Gaels' two wins over the Seawolves.

Marah Calvo



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

Sophomore transfer Marah Calvo went undefeated in both singles and doubles in both her matches against Gonzaga and Santa Clara this past week. Winning both her singles matches convincingly, Calvo proves to be one of the women's tennis team's strongest links as she continues to help the Gaels to victory.

**Sports
Calendar**

Home Games

Thursday, February 22
**Women's Basketball
vs. Pepperdine**
7:05 p.m.

Saturday, February 24
**Women's Lacrosse
vs. Canisius**
12:00 p.m.

**Women's Tennis
vs. UC Davis**
2 p.m.

**Women's Basketball
vs. LMU**
2:05 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 25
**Women's Tennis
vs. Hawaii**
10 a.m.

**Men's Tennis
vs. Nevada**
12 p.m.

Gael softball starts season strong
Saint Mary's beats Sonoma State twice

by **Frankie Mangini**
Sports Editor

The Saint Mary's women's softball team won their first two games of the year against the Sonoma State Seawolves on Thursday afternoon.

The Gaels started the season quickly scoring five runs in the first inning.

Junior Bronwyn Russell doubled to left field, followed by a bunt single from junior Molly Bergeson. Senior Lauren Mello knocked the two in on a triple to right field.

Two batters later, sophomore Sadie Dolcini doubled in Mello for a run. Junior Megan Galloway then capped off the inning with a two-run homer to left center.

Mello led off the third inning with a solo shot to give the Gaels a further lead of 6-0.

Senior Lauren Gardner held Sonoma State in check for three innings, scattering just two hits. But in the fourth inning, the Seawolves strung together four singles.

Trailing 6-3, the Seawolves loaded the bases for the second time of the inning with just one out. But Gardner was able to in-

duce a fly-ball to centerfield which wasn't deep enough to score the runner on third. Gardner then ended the threat with a groundball back to the pitcher.

Galloway came in relief for Gardner, shutting down the Seawolves with four strikeouts earning the save for the Gaels.

In the second game, senior Kate Albaugh pitched a complete game for the win.

In the bottom of the first inning, the Gaels took the lead early when Dolcini singled in Mello.

In the third inning, Mello scored her second homerun of the day on a shot down the right-field line. The Gaels then added two more runs to take a 4-0 lead.

Albaugh cruised through the first four innings, giving up only one hit. Sonoma State finally scored two runs in the sixth when Albaugh gave up back-to-back doubles. Albaugh eventually got out of the jam with a pop-out to catcher Dolcini.

Albaugh, after giving up a lead off hit in the seventh, induced a groundball out. Albaugh then went on to record her ninth strikeout of the game before a pop-out to second to end the game.

With the wins, the Gaels are now 2-0 on the season.



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

Senior Lauren Gardner pitched four innings in the Gaels' home opener. Gardner gave up just three runs off of six hits, which was good enough for a win as the Gaels scored seven runs in the game.

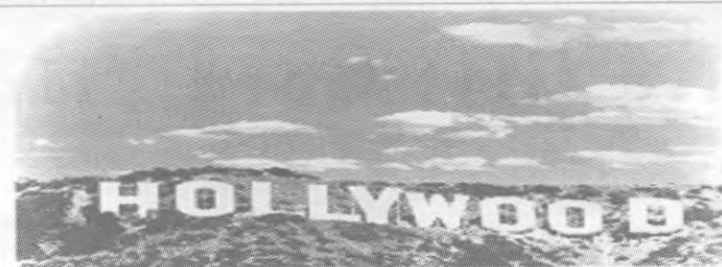
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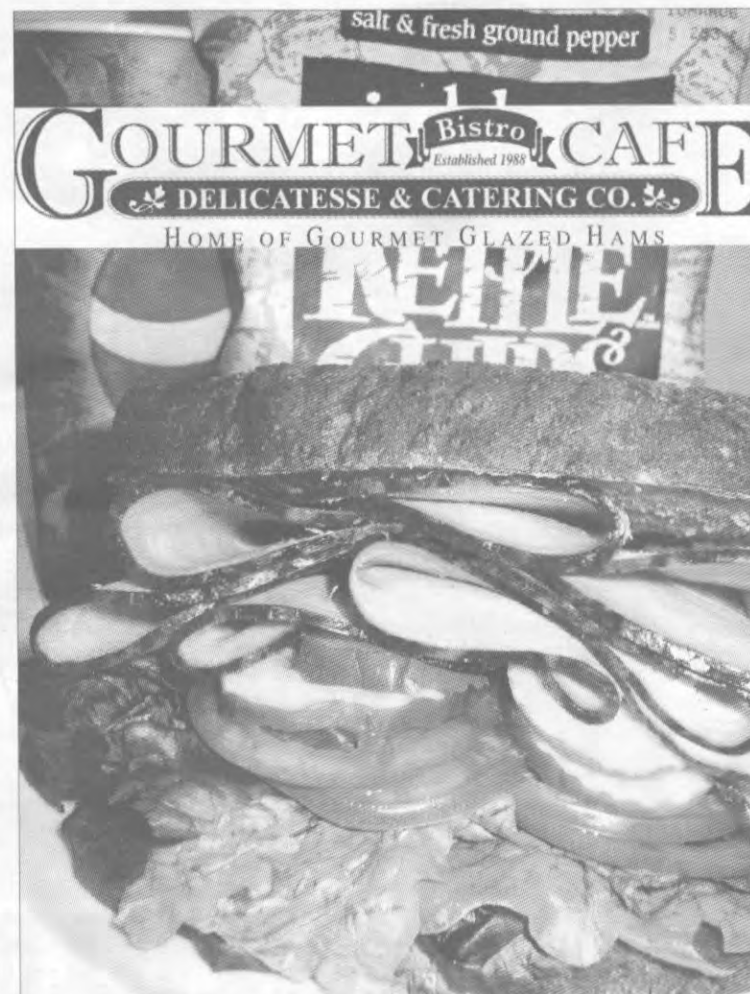
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The Collegian
SPORTS

Baseball sweeps Utah Valley State

by Sean Kent
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Saint Mary's baseball team got back on track after their four-game slide in a big way.

After losing to UC Davis on the road last Tuesday 6-3, they completed a three-game sweep over the Utah Valley State Wolverines at home in impressive fashion, outscoring their opponents 32-6.

The Gaels set the tone for the series in the very first game, pounding the Wolverines 16-1. Junior Sean Gleason struck out 13 Wolverines, bringing his season total to 24 strikeouts in only 23 innings. Freshman Matt McCormick capped off the game with a one-two-three ninth.

Offensively, Saint Mary's put lopsided numbers on the board all day, scoring a run in the second, four in the third and fourth, five in the fifth, and two more in the sixth.

Freshmen Randy Wells and Kyle Jensen had the hot bats going four for six and three for four respectively. Freshman Mike Cippola knocked in four and scored three times in his first Saint Mary's start, while junior Ian Gordon also knocked in four runs.

The Gaels offensive outburst put their team batting average over the .400 mark for the year, with both Jensen and fellow freshman Anthony Allioti hitting .405 and Wells close behind at an even .400.

Saint Mary's continued to roll Saturday with another easy 13-3 victory. Trailing by a score of 2-1 most of the game, the Gaels busted out in the sixth inning, batting around and scoring eight runs.

The scoring began with senior J.P. Musgrove's two-RBI single and was followed by an RBI infield single from Wells. Allioti then knocked in two with a single, setting the table for the big blast of the inning, a three-run homer to left off the bat of sophomore Joel Staples. The blast was the Gaels' first longball of the year and capped the eight-run rally.

Saint Mary's added three more in the seventh and another in the eighth. Freshman Brandon Berl earned his first victory for the Gaels, pitching seven strong innings and only allowing two runs while fanning five. Senior Michael Nisco pitched a stress-free eighth and freshman Jimmy Munill allowed one run on two hits in the ninth but then promptly struck out the side.

After two laughers of the series,

the finale proved to be a much tighter contest.

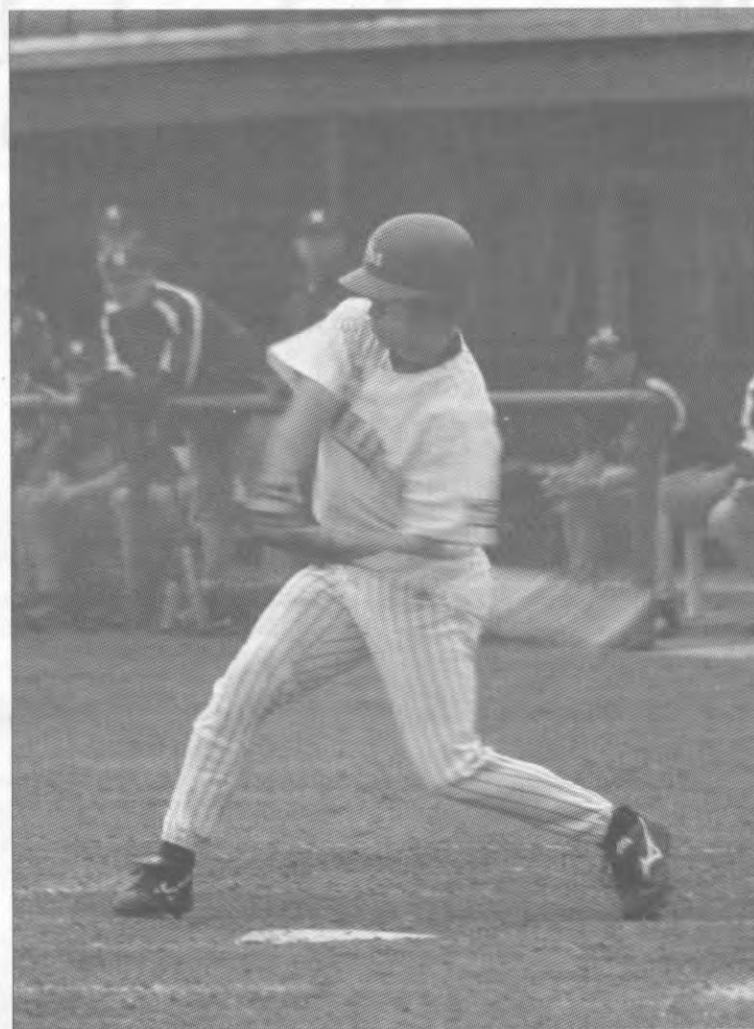
Utah Valley State pitcher Jace Brinkerhoff held the Gaels scoreless through the first five innings while his team mounted a 2-0 lead on first baseman Dan Bulow's two run homer to left.

Saint Mary's touched the tiring hurler in the fifth when senior Eric Cattoni hit a double off the wall in left-center and then scored on a Wells' single. Cattoni had earlier dazzled the crowd with a diving catch of a drive that was slicing away from him in right-center.

Saint Mary's continued to roll in the sixth as the first four straight batters reached on hits. Two runs scored during the inning, one on a double by Gordon, who then scored the go-ahead run on Musgrove's double off the right-field wall.

Despite some controversy in the inning over a hit batter and a tag at the plate where the catcher looked to have dropped the ball, the Gaels were able to secure the victory 3-2. Junior Alex Jensen pitched four scoreless inning in relief and struck out five to earn the victory.

The Gaels are now 6-8 overall for the season.



Zack Farmer/COLLEGIAN
Senior Eric Cattoni led off the fifth inning with a single after making a diving catch earlier in the top of the fifth.

THE GAEL NOTEBOOK

Photos by Annie Douglass

Men's Basketball: The Gaels handed USF their fifth conference loss as Saint Mary's defeated the Dons 92-83.

Seniors Brett Collins, Blake Sholberg, and John Winston were recognized before the game as it was the last home game in McKeon Pavilion for the three players.

Collins paced the Gaels with 26 points on 10-13 shooting on Senior Night. The Gaels took the lead with 13:21 left in the first half on an Omar Samhan '10 layup and did not look back. Saint Mary's largest lead was 17 mid-second half.

San Francisco guard Manny Quezada scored a career-high 35 points in the game.

The win on Monday gave the Gaels a 6-6 record, good for fourth in the conference and one game behind the Dons (7-5) for third place.

Saint Mary's will make their final games before the WCC Tournament as they travel to So Cal to play Loyola Marymount and Pepperdine.

Men's Tennis: Last Friday, the Saint Mary's men's tennis team took on the #59 University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors.

The Gaels started out strong, convincingly winning the doubles point. Shortly afterwards, the Gaels came up with a 3-0 lead as freshman Andrea Zannoni won

his match at the #3 spot, 6-3, 6-0.

Senior Adam Favre then won at the #4 position, winning his match 6-4, 6-4.

The Gaels were now in position to beat the 59th team in the country, only needing one more Saint Mary's singles win.

Unfortunately, sophomore Achim Christner and junior Joel Kusnierz could not come up with the wins, despite close, hard-fought matches.

The Gaels then looked to sophomore Alp Ozpinar and senior Andre Sion to close out their matches.

Sion had two chances to win his match and clutch the victory for the Gaels but missed an overhead to lose his final match point and brought his opponent back into the match. Both Ozpinar and Sion ended up losing in the third set tiebreaker, serving the Gaels a 4-3 heartbreaker loss to the Rainbow Warriors.

Winning the doubles point, the Gaels strung together four more singles wins, taking the victory 5-2 over Gonzaga on Saturday.

Kusnierz won his match 6-2, 6-1. Sion won his 6-3, 6-4. Christner and Favre also won, winning their matches 6-1, 6-2 and 6-2, 7-



5, respectively.

This win is their first home win of the season. With this past week's matches, their

record is 3-4. They return to action this Saturday against Nevada.

Women's Lacrosse: The women's lacrosse team began their season last Friday against the #16 Stanford Cardinals.

It was a tough match as the Cardinals dominated the Gaels from the very beginning. Just 1:20 into the competition, the Cardinals' Lauren Schmidt scored, giving them a quick 1-0 lead.

The Gaels then answered with a goal of their own, coming from Jackie Spencer.

Afterwards, the Gael defense fell slow as the Cardinals went on a 9-1 run. Thereafter, the Cardinals continued to score four more goals, giving them a 14-2 lead at the half.

The game ended in a 22-6 loss for the Gaels, making them 0-1 for the season. Their next game will be this Saturday against the Canisius College

Griffins.

Men's Rugby: With the Pat Vincent Memorial Field renovations finally finished, Gael rugby was able to play their first home game of the season on Saturday against the UC Davis Aggies.

Both teams played strong to gain some ground. Little was accomplished, though, but Saint Mary's was able to keep an advantage with the score entering the second half 12 - 3 for the Gaels.

The Aggies then scored a quick try at the start of the second half making the score 12 - 10, but it was to be their final point for the game, as the Gaels shut them down and scored three tries to finish with a final score of 36 - 10.

Senior Tate Soinila had a big performance for the Gaels, post-

ing three of their tries. He put up a fourth, but it was called back due to a penalty.

After the game, player Joe Midthlyng said, "We played pretty well in the beginning part of the game and then it kind of dropped off a bit towards the end of the first half, but we held it together after some tough calls from the ref. It definitely showed us some things we need to improve on against those bigger teams, but overall I thought it was a pretty good day."

The Gaels currently have a 9 - 1 record for the season, their only loss being against UC Berkeley, and stand fourth in the nation and second in their division.

"It's been a good year so far, so long as we can keep it going" says senior Captain Kevin Swiryn.

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Women's basketball cruises on the road

Gaels improve to above .500 for first time this season

by Megan Manley
Staff Writer

The Saint Mary's women's basketball team was in action on the road twice this week. The Gaels faced the University of San Francisco (USF) Dons at War Memorial Stadium on Thursday night. The Gaels earned the victory, defeating the Dons 61-51.

The Gaels had the lead for a majority of the first half, but a 14-6 run by the Dons had the Gaels down by one point (26-25) at half-time.

The Gaels came out of intermission on fire. A 19-4 run gave the Gaels a 12-point lead with 13:10 left in regulation.

Sophomore guard Jontelle Smith scored four consecutive hoops to give the Gaels their advantage. She made her two three-point shots in the Gaels' run. Smith led all scorers with 18 points.

The Gaels had a 11-3 run as the clock wound down, giving the Gaels their twelfth win of the season.

Senior center Sheridan Arredondo tallied 11 points and 10 rebounds for a double-double off the bench for the Gaels.

Junior guard Lauren Shaughnessy scored eight points, six boards, and dished out seven assists in the victory.

On Saturday night, the Gaels were back in action, taking on the University of San Diego (USD) Toreros at the Jenny Craig Pavilion. The Gaels earned a big West Coast Conference (WCC) victory, defeating USD 51-47.

Saint Mary's went into the second half with a slight edge over USD, holding a 24-20 lead after freshman Sierra Chambers con-

verted a lay-up with nine seconds left in the half.

The second half was a back and forth battle between both teams, but the Gaels held a 49-47 lead with 56 seconds left. The Toreros tried to tie the game but were unable to convert as Jontelle Smith grabbed a defensive rebound for the Gaels.

Serena Benavente sealed the win for the Gaels with two made free throws with only seven seconds left in the game. This win marks the first time this season that the Gaels have swept a road trip.

The Gaels also had a strong showing from junior Maija Lahde who scored 15 points and six rebounds, going 7-12 from the floor.

Benavente added her own 13 points and eight rebounds on the night while shooting a perfect 8-8 from the free-throw line.

Saint Mary's shot 40 percent from the floor, 13 percent from three-point range, and 58 percent from the line while holding San Diego to just a meager 33 percent from the floor, 20 percent from downtown, and 69 percent from the free-throw line.

The win is the Gaels' third in a row and puts them above .500 at 13-12 for the first time this season.

The Gaels are now tied with Loyola Marymount University (LMU) for third place at 7-5 in the WCC. The Gaels will conclude their regular season with Pepperdine on Thursday before "Senior Night" on Saturday against LMU in a game that will determine third place.

Right: Junior Maija Lahde scored 15 points against the USD Toreros.



Annie Douglass/COLLEGIAN

Women's tennis undefeated after two 7-0 wins

by Frankie Mangini
Sports Editor

The women's tennis team improved their record to 5-0 after this weekend with two conference victories over Gonzaga and Santa Clara.

On Friday, the Gaels hosted the Gonzaga Bulldogs. In doubles play, the #3 pair of sophomore Erin Young and transfer sophomore Marah Calvo won the first match of the day 8-3. Junior Jessica Hoath and senior Aude Lambert secured the doubles point with an 8-5 victory. Freshman Femke Strijbis and junior Stefanie Ordoveza finished the doubles sweep with an 8-4 win.

In singles play, Young had an easy time, taking #4 singles 6-1, 6-0. After a default at the #6 spot, Calvo took the #5 spot. Calvo won the first 10 games before dropping a pair. Calvo went on to win 6-0, 6-2.

Lambert won her match 6-2, 6-4 at the top spot, while Hoath won her match 6-4, 6-2. Strijbis won

the first set quite easily 6-0 but fell quickly behind 5-2. Strijbis battled back to take the set 7-5, completing the sweep.

The Gaels then traveled to Santa Clara to take on the Broncos. The Gaels got the doubles point with wins at the #1 spot where Hoath and Lambert won 8-6. Young and Calvo took the #3 doubles 8-5. Strijbis and Ordoveza dropped the only match for the Gaels 8-6.

At the top spot, Lambert was down 2-5, before coming back to force a tie-breaker. Lambert took the match 7-6 (7-2), 6-2. The match is Lambert's sixth straight win in singles play.

Hoath took the #2 spot easily winning 6-3, 6-0 while Strijbis took the #3 position 6-1, 6-1. At the four spot, Calvo won her match 6-3, 6-0.

Young took the #5 spot 6-2, 6-4, and Ordoveza completed the sweep, winning 6-4, 6-2.

The Gaels will host UC Davis here at Saint Mary's this Saturday.



Stefanie Ordoveza/COLLEGIAN