



THE COLLEGIAN

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA
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Soccer sweeps on Sunday

Moraga, California

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Volume 105, Number 5

Annual Oasis dance avoids rain

Students enjoy tropical-themed outdoor dance with few drunken incidents

by **Stephanie Tang**
Staff Writer

Tropical weather hit Saint Mary's College on Friday, September 21 with the annual Oasis Dance, sponsored by Campus Activities Board (CAB).

Oasis was held in Ferroggiaro Quad from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. and drew out about 1,000 attendees. Of them, about 200 were registered guests.

Ferroggiaro Quad was blocked off with barriers and decorated with balloons, Hawaiian streamers, and various other tropical adornments. Though the dance started off slowly, more and more people began to show up after 10 o'clock. The same D.J. that was used for the Welcome Back Dance was hired for Friday night and he worked the music selection.

Oasis was cancelled last year due to an unexpected blackout. Before the dance, Director of CAB Emily Robbins '08 said, "The blackout last year was out of our control, but our biggest concern this year is the chance of rain." CAB Dances and Concerts Coordinator Kaitlin Gligo '09 said, "We have several alternate on-campus locations where the dance could be held inside if necessary." The sprinkles that fell on Friday luckily ceased an hour before the dance was scheduled to start.

For both the freshmen and sophomore classes, this was their first Oasis Dance. Yanira Romero '11 said, "I really don't know what to expect." Tiffany Wentling '09 has been to Oasis before and said, "It's obviously better than last year. Still, it's more fun and more relaxed than the one during my freshmen year."

The planning process began in mid-August. "This involves setting a date, meeting with coordinators, with Public Safety,



Linda Hua/COLLEGIAN

Students enjoyed dancing and mingling in Ferroggiaro Quad last Friday at Oasis, the annual Hawaiian-themed dance.

Residence Life, and advisors. This is a huge event and planning began right as school started," said Robbins.

Most agree that the planning paid off. "There's a lot of energy. The music could be a little bit better, but the set-up is good. I think they did a good job. The decorations are not much, but that's okay," said Patricia Cruz '11. Anita Bhatia '08 said, "It's my first time and I really like that we're outdoors. The setting and the music are great."

Robbins' goal was "for everyone to have a great time, make some memories, and meet new people. I also hope to see some

outrageous outfits." Brandon Cooper '11, who was dressed in a grass skirt and coconut bra, said, "I like it a lot! Everyone gets dressed up and it's awesome."

Security was also a major issue in the planning of the dance. Additional outside security was hired to ensure the safety of all the students. Mebrak Kahsai '09 said, "I feel very secure. There is a perfect amount of security here."

No major problems occurred during the dance. Ed Maramag of Public Safety said, "It's been pretty mellow tonight. To be hon-

see OASIS, p4

ASSMC elections get sticky again

by **J. Harry Painter**
Detour Editor

The class elections two weeks ago brought upon a number of frustrations for voters and candidates alike; frustrations that, long after the final vote was cast, still have not been entirely resolved.

That final vote, in fact, was the source of one of the major frustrations of Saint Mary's College's fall 2007 election. Newly elected Freshmen Class President Connie Tai '11 was victorious by a margin of just one vote.

While Tai received a comfortably greater number of votes than primary runner-up John Skaff '11 (63 to his 40) in the preliminary election, without a simple majority, or above 50 percent of the total votes, she was to contend with Skaff in a run-off election. The run-off took place two days after the first ballot was closed, on Thursday, September 13. The results found Tai the victor, but not without controversy.



Courtesy of www.smcnet.stmarys-ca.edu

According to Associate Students of Saint Mary's College (ASSMC) President Connor McNeill '08, Skaff "felt that [Tai] had violated the campaigning process." Assistant Dean of Student Life Eté Anderson said, "[A] student [had] a complaint because he was asked to do something he wasn't comfortable with." Neither McNeill nor Anderson would disclose the details of the complaint. However, McNeill said, "The person that he felt had

see ELECTIONS, p4

Consultant to help formulate solution for lack of parking

School searching for ways to make more space on-campus to alleviate parking crunch

by **Olivia Talavan**
Staff Writer

Having just arrived on campus with 20 minutes to get to class, hoping that there is enough time to use the restroom and find a seat, commuters often end up spending all 20 minutes finding a parking space. The only lots open are in the Agenos, which is a 10-minute walk to class.

Saint Mary's has created the Campus Facilities Planning Committee (CFPC) to create new parking and transportation plans. The CFPC hired Walker Parker Consultants (WPC) to help them strategize. WPC has worked with other universities such as, University of San Diego, University of California at Berkeley, and Gonzaga University.

Hired a year and a half ago, WPC sur-

veyed the campus in order to develop a plan for new parking locations. They discovered that there are 5,092 students, staff, and faculty on campus, with only 2,139 available parking spaces.

“ There are 5,092 students, staff, and faculty on campus, with only 2,139 available parking spaces. ”

Peter Michell, vice president for finance and chair of CFPC said, "We are at our peak parking right now."

This is not only a major concern for the campus, but for the city of Moraga as well.

The town of Moraga is worried about Saint Mary's not having enough parking

spaces and possibly having to park in parts of the town. Also, the town is concerned with how much traffic the College may generate as it continues to grow.

In addition to analyzing the parking spaces on campus, WPC has been looking at prospective areas for future parking. As Saint Mary's expands in size with buildings and in population there will be more of a demand for parking spaces.

The College has plans of reaching up to 3,000 undergraduate students and constructing a recreational center, baseball field, and more housing. If parking areas are used up to expand the campus, there needs to be a plan to create more parking spaces.

The Saint Mary's campus lies on 420 acres of land, however the land that can be built on is very limited. Since the hills are weak, the campus can only build on

roughly 100 acres of land.

Instead of expanding outward, the College must expand upward or into the ground.

The WPC has come up with plans to build underground parking structures or tiered adding levels to existing parking areas.

One idea is to build parking under the new recreational center which will be constructed on the baseball field and its parking lot.

Another idea WPC had was to build spaces below the intramural and lacrosse field and then install artificial grass. Instead of just changing the grass field into parking spaces, this would allow students to still have their practice field and keep the campus looking beautiful and green.

see PARKING, p4

OPINION

Should students bother to party on-campus?

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DETOUR

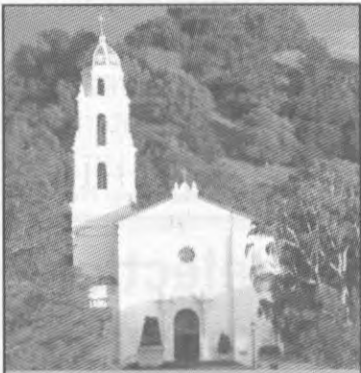
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THE COLLEGIAN

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SnapShot



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

Ruben Navarette Jr. highlighted the benefits of Latino immigration in the U.S. last Wednesday as part of the Social Justice Speaker Series.



LINDA HUA

Let's get petty

It seems that in large classes, it's easy to fall prey to social norms and create an unofficial seating structure as if those seats were assigned.

When entering early to a crowded class, have you ever taken advantage of the "first come, first serve" seating policy that is standard in most classes at Saint Mary's? Did you notice when you did it that people became really pissed off at you for messing up the structure that wasn't supposed to exist?

It seems so petty that something as miniscule as a seating switcheroo can be so upsetting. Hello, it's public domain; I don't believe you have a property label on that seat.

Yet, there are many who respond this way and not only to seating change, but also to a variety of subtle changes in the teaching and learning styles, such as having professors with accents, utilizing a specific type of pen to take notes, and gratuitous use of highlighters.

One must wonder, what is the reasoning behind these nerdy comforts?

It seems that these needs are indicators of insecurity—protectors from the unknown. However, what gets me is that it is such an oxymoron. We are here at college—a liberal arts college to be exact—to learn and experience new things, to delve into the unknown, and to receive a broad and integrated education. One would think that after years of seminar roundtables that we've learned to apply this to how we learn and to how we socially interact.

Perhaps students feel that there are magical spots in the classrooms where they can learn the best. F.N. Jones and J.B. Cooper say otherwise in their empirical research article, *The Relation Between College Grades and Classroom Seating Position*: "12 semesters of grades from an economics course at the University of California, some 5,000 cases in all, were analyzed with reference to the seating position of the students. No evidence for seating advantages was found."

Perhaps it's just the Saint Mary's cultural environment that fosters this concept of easily-violated personal space, self-centeredness, and rigid habits. We can pretend to broaden our minds and learn respect for others, while staying secure in our homey and padded bubble, protected from the real world—it encapsulates the feelings of insecurities and doesn't work to force them out.

I highly doubt that at urban universities a fit would be tossed if someone "stole" someone else's seat.

Crime Beat

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>9/14/07 10:55 p.m. Incident: Medical Assist. Synopsis: Sick student in Freitas Hall transported to hospital by friends. Referred to the Office of Residence Life and the Health and Wellness Center.</p> | <p>9/15/07 2:45 a.m. Incident: Vehicle Collision Synopsis: Non-injury crash with minor damage to vehicle in baseball parking lot.</p> | <p>9/15/07 10:50 p.m. Incident: Student Handbook Violation Synopsis: Minor under the influence and in possession of alcohol in Guerrieri West. Disrespect to a college official. Referred to Student Conduct.</p> |
| <p>9/14/07 11:02 p.m. Incident: Student Handbook Violation. Synopsis: Possession of marijuana for sale in Thille Hall. Referred to Moraga Police Department and Student Conduct.</p> | <p>9/15/07 9:52 p.m. Incident: Unauthorized bonfire Synopsis: Fire extinguished at Lake De La Salle Dam. Referred to Student Conduct.</p> | <p>9/16/07 12:50 p.m. Incident: Student Handbook Violation Synopsis: Hazing incident in Ageno East. Referred to Student Conduct.</p> |
| <p>9/15/07 2:39 a.m. Incident: Vandalism Synopsis: Broken window. Referred to Physical Plant.</p> | <p>9/15/07 10:20 p.m. Incident: Illegal Dumping of Waste Synopsis: Waste found on fire access road to Lake De La Salle Dam. Referred to Moraga Police</p> | <p>9/18/07 4:43 p.m. Incident: Vehicle Accident Synopsis: Non-injury accident in Filippi parking lot.</p> |
| <p>9/15/07 2:39 a.m. Incident: Medical Assist Synopsis: Sick student in Jus-</p> | | |

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The Collegian NEWS



Weekly Featured Profile

Faculty/Staff

Lidia Luquet

by D.J. Bowen III
Staff Writer

The Signal Theory. Three hundred stolen pastries. Only one student in attendance on the final day of class. All these topics have crossed the path of Saint Mary's math professor Lidia Luquet, who received her doctorate in mathematics by discovering the Signal Theory, which involves determining the limits of an integral, but in a very complicated manner.

Despite this seemingly solely intellectual personality, Luquet said, "My main problem is students take too seriously what I say." A former student of hers has created a website with several of her funny quotes on it, according to Luquet.

The 300 pastries were stolen from the Saint Mary's dining hall on the weekend of a math teacher convention at the College. Emergency replacements had to be found in the morning for the two hundred math teachers in attendance. In regards to the lone student in the classroom, he was left out of the loop on a hoax her students played on her on the final day of school while she was teaching at the Monterey Naval Post Graduate School. The students sat in the room next door as she stood shocked in her normally orderly classroom.

Luquet has spanned her teaching spectrum from teaching elementary school in Argentina, her country of origin, all the way here to teaching high level mathematics at Saint Mary's College. Her teaching has also placed her in Mississippi, doing summer jobs in Santa Clara, and as an assistant at Cornell University.

Luquet carefully balances intellect and humor. Any student who has experienced a day in one of her classes can attest to this. When describing her classes, she said, "We laugh all day." When entering her office, one would find an immense collection of mathematics books in one corner of the room, but just opposite of it, a colorful flower vase painted by none other than Luquet herself.

A normal day for Luquet would entail a record player setting the tone for the evening as she cuddled up with her latest infatuation of novels about the lives of America's founding fathers. She did say she likes studying this county's past because, "It helps you understand the present better."

Luquet also showed great pride and sentiment when speaking of her older students by saying, "By the time they get to juniors and seniors, you know them."

If one were fortunate enough to have this sentimental, opera-loving, free-spirited Argentine painter-historian-mathematician as a teacher, they would definitely be enriched as a student and have a fun time while doing it.

Peace pole serves as symbol of hope

by Stephanie Carlsen
Staff Writer

Peace has a new home on campus. Last Friday, Saint Mary's students and faculty gathered to celebrate the dedication of the new peace pole. A peace pole is an international symbol for the hopes and dreams of all humans. The Director of the Center for International Programs (CIP), Dino Pruccoli, announced that, "to date, there are over 250,000 peace poles in over 190 countries."

Saint Mary's is proud to now be among those locations. Placed outside of the Ferroggiaro Hall, the newly installed peace pole was dedicated last Friday. Several students and faculty members gathered on the lawn where the Center for International Programs had set up decorations and a table of international treats.

The ceremony opened with Pruccoli thanking all of the people involved. "Our peace pole was made possible by the CIP, International Club, Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA), Women's Resource Center, and Amnesty International," he said.

These five groups worked very hard to raise the money to install the peace pole. Peace poles can cost anywhere from \$200 to

\$2,000, and while Saint Mary's has chosen a more affordable one, raising funds still proved to be challenging.



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

Dino Pruccoli speaks at the dedication of the new peace pole, which symbolizes the hope for peace.

Overall, the installation of the peace pole faced few other challenges. For the most part, everyone was thrilled to have a constant reminder of the hopes and dreams for peace in the world. The final placement of the peace pole was

chosen because it is the center of campus, a sort of crossroads that everyone walks past.

The Saint Mary's College peace pole displays the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in eight different languages: English, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Thai, Chinese, Swahili, and French. In deciding which languages to use, Pruccoli commented that they thought about the world as a whole. They chose Arabic because of the world's current situation, Chinese because of the mass of people that speak this language, and French because it is an international language widely used in Europe.

The dedication plaque on the peace pole bears a famous quote from novelist, political activist, Nobel Laureate, and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel: "Peace is our gift to each other."

The hope behind the peace pole is that it will remind us all of our place in the world. It is a symbol that ties one person to the bigger world picture. It connects the individual to the whole.

Pruccoli's final comment was "Peace is more than the absence of war. It is about transforming our societies and uniting our global community to work together for a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world for all."

'Crossing Borders' chosen as theme

Speakers, movies, discussions planned to celebrate Latino Heritage Month at Saint Mary's College

by Melissa Vlach
Chief Copy Editor

A celebration of Hispanic culture kicked off last week and will continue for just over a month.

Latino Heritage Month began at Saint Mary's last Tuesday, September 18, with an opening ceremony in Delphine Intercultural Center. Keynote speaker Enrique Ortiz '08, president of the Latin American Student Association (LASA), gave a speech relating to the month's theme of "Crossing Borders." The events scheduled for this month all relate to the theme in some way.

"We're trying to take care of every aspect: political, cultural, social, education," said Elia Moreno, coordinator of Delphine Intercultural Center. She hopes that the events throughout the month will cause people to ask themselves, "What borders have I crossed?" Such borders might deal with education, religion, gender, culture, language, or other topics. "You might be surprised to see, once you start thinking really deeply, like 'Wow, I have crossed a lot of borders,'" she said.

Several events have already taken place. Ruben Navarette spoke during last Wednesday's community time as part of the Social Justice Series. Then, on Thursday evening, a panel of immigration occurred in Delphine.

More events are planned for the coming weeks. This Thursday,

September 27, the documentary *La Ciudad* will be presented. This movie gives four different stories about Latino immigrants in New York City who came from different countries.

Salsa Night in Dryden will occur the next night, September 28. A Latino/a Faculty and Staff Night is planned for the following Thursday, October 4. This will be a potluck dinner and social. "We're inviting...Latino faculty and staff from campus to come together and talk to students about their experiences," said Moreno.

LASA will collaborate with the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) for the showing of the film *Quinceanera* on October 10. The movie deals with issues of culture and sexuality. "LASA and...GSA are going to get their members involved and bring them together in order to watch the film and maybe at the end have a discussion about it," said Ortiz.

A group of ex-braceros will come during community time on October 24. These men were hired as laborers in the United States several decades ago. "They came from Mexico and they were hired to come to the U.S. to work...So they would come from Mexico, work for a season, go back to Mexico, and it was a cycle," said Moreno.

The closing ceremony will take place the following evening, on Thursday, October 25. There will

be a Latin Lounge or "Noche Roja" with music and a comedian. "You don't have to be Latino; we don't want to throw people off by the term Latin Lounge," said Moreno.

A final event will occur after the closing ceremony, however. A trip to the Dia De Los Muertos Festival in Oakland will take place on October 28.

Along with Delphine, many groups and individuals helped to plan the events for the coming month. Moreno mentioned Student Involvement and Leadership, the Women's Resource Center, Associate Dean of the School of Liberal Arts Shawny Anderson, all of the Latino faculty and staff, and various diversity clubs including LASA, GSA, the Business and Accounting Latino Association (BALA), Hermanas Unidas, the Asian Pacific American Student Association (APASA), and Humans Actively Practicing Aloha (HAPA). "One thing I try to...get across to people is collaboration. I don't want people to be thrown off by the word 'Latino,'" Moreno said.

The national observance goes from September 15 to October 15. According to infoplease.com, the dates correspond to various Latin American countries' independence days. Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua celebrate on September 15. Mexico follows on September 16, while Chile celebrates on September 18.

Campus Calendar

Career Information Night
Tuesday, September 25
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Soda Center, Moraga Room

Study Abroad Fair
Wednesday, September 26
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Ferroggiaro Quad
Contact: Dino Pruccoli

Blood Drive
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Soda Center
Contact: Sue Peters x4354

Creative Writing Series
Ben Lerner
Wednesday, September 26
2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. &
7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
De La Salle Hall,
Hagerty Lounge &
Soda Center, Claeys Room
Contact: Chris Sindt

Meet the Firms
Wednesday, September 26
5:00 p.m.
Soda Center

Coffeehouse
Wednesday, September 26
9:00 p.m.
Dryden Hall

Women's Volleyball Game
Thursday, September 27
1:00 p.m.
McKeon Pavillion

Travel Course Meeting Ireland
Thursday, September 27
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Soda Center, Claeys Room
Contact: Chris O'Steen x4771

Salsa Night
Friday, September 28
9:00 p.m.
Dryden Hall

Preserve Lamorinda Open Space Art Sale
Sunday, September 30
8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Benilde Lawn
Contact: Carol Firestone x4030

King Lear
Monday, October 1
7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Soda Center, Lafayette Room
Contact: Barry Horwitz

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The Collegian NEWS

OASIS: Rain clears before annual dance

continued from page 1

est, I thought it would be a lot wilder than what it is. For the most part, everything went well and the students have been cooperative and cordial."

Though the tropical climate did not last long, students seemed to accomplish Gligo's goal of "coming together as a community and enjoying themselves."

PARKING: Lack of spaces leave students frustrated

continued from page 1

"Plans help us make some decisions," said Bill Foley, chief of Public Safety, "I have been here for five years and have heard parking and transportation plans, but this is the first time I have seen a real comprehensive parking and transportation study."

WPC has selected seven additional areas on campus, bringing the total to nine, where there could be possible parking lots or structures. This would create

1,082 more parking spaces on campus.

The new Filippi Academic Hall has recently occupied 76 resident parking spaces. If the school continues to build, parking spaces can disappear very quickly.

Felicia Fuentes '09, a campus resident, said, "We don't have enough parking on campus, which makes it harder for the commuters to find parking. Then they end up taking residents' spaces."

Samantha Miller '09, a commuter, said, "It's hard to find parking. I end up parking in the Assumption parking lot and then find a ticket on my car when I get out of class."

WPC also proposed eight Transportation Demand Management strategies, including parking permit fees, more bus lines, incentives for carpools, and van pooling programs.

Out of all the other colleges that

are part of the West Coast Conference, Saint Mary's and Pepperdine are the only two colleges that have free campus parking. The other schools range from \$50 to \$618 annually for a parking pass.

Michell said, "I am hopeful that we will be able to develop a comprehensive campus parking and transportation plan by the end of the academic year."

ASSMC: Connie Tai wins freshmen presidency by one controversial vote

continued from page 3

their rights violated by Connie Tai never turned in a written statement of his violation."

If the student had filled out a report of violation of rights and it was determined that the statement should be reviewed under the Election Code, then, according to McNeill, "...it would be us four exec. members and the applicable class presidents [to review the statement]." Once the statement was reviewed, the evaluators "would...deliberate and hold a closed ballot vote," McNeill said.

In other words, if the allegations were true and the student in question decided to report the violation, Tai could have been stripped of her new position. But the system in place also leaves open the possibility that any students victimized by fraudulent campaigning may choose not to report it—and Skaff would have little power outside of private persuasion to force a student to do so.

"Since [Skaff]'s the one running against [Tai], he can't bring forward a complaint," said McNeill. "If...that particular student doesn't fill out a statement of their rights being violated there really isn't anything that can be done." McNeill said that a scenario like this is "technically possible...but democracy relies on participation."

As of last Wednesday, Skaff was still unaware that no hearing would be taking place regarding the election results.

All three other classes held elections due to positions left open following last spring's election.

The few sophomores and seniors who attempted to vote in the election, which was void of candidates in any of the four collective open positions, were met with nonsensical error messages and unable to submit write-in votes.

Vice President for Administration Danny Weeks '08 said, "There were some communication issues between me and Web Services."

Anderson agreed that technical difficulties were at fault for the voting problems. "We rely on [Computer and Technology Services]...We don't know how to manipulate [the program] or make it do things," she said.

McNeill said, "I think the

online ballot system works very well...The few problems that exist are out of our hands."

But whether or not the computers (or computer service technicians) were willing to comply, there was a larger problem of whether or not the bylaws necessitated write-in candidates for the open positions. Section 103.02 (B) of the ASSMC Bylaws states: "In a race with no recognized candidates, a write-in candidate must attain the vote total threshold of one-half the number of votes garnered by the candidate with the greatest vote total in the respective class." Critics of this bylaw say that it is unclear on how a write-in candidate can be elected, since the candidate must reach half the votes total of a nonexistent official candidate.

Weeks recognized the incon-

gruity of the bylaw's wording. "Since there were no candidates in the election, [there was] no number to base that 50 percent off of," he said.

"It was an important but minute step that was overlooked because...there was no existing interest [in running]," McNeill said.

In a statement, Anderson said, "The ASSMC is aware that some of the bylaws need serious updating. In that light, Danny Weeks, VP for administration, will lead a group of students (senators and students-at-large) in reviewing and updating them. It is my hope that this group of students make [sic] recommendations to the senate on much needed improvements—especially as they relate to the election process."

Despite the confusion over the

write-in process in this election, Weeks said that ASSMC would prefer to appoint "someone who has already gone through the training and has more knowledge of the process."

Weeks shed some light as to why there was such a lack of candidacy in the first place. "People were ill-informed about these elections because of the timeline," he said. "I think it had something to do with the fact that the entire school schedule was pushed up this year, and therefore our elections were also pushed up."

He also pointed out trends with seniors in general, noting that for the past two years there have been unoccupied senate seats. "There generally is less involvement in senate in senior year," he said.

Both Weeks and McNeill echoed similar sentiments about the

publicity of the elections.

"It's possible that we could have done a better job advertising," Weeks said. McNeill said, "Online voting works well. It's simple, it's easy, it's clear cut. The only thing that could be improved is the timeliness of the advertising and the effectiveness of the advertising."

Now that the elections have passed, students cannot fill the empty positions the conventional way; there is a secondary solution. A student who wishes to fill a position must contact his/her class president. There will be an application and interview process with the student's class senate, after which the senate will send nominations to the Institutional Affairs Board.

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The Collegian
FEATURE

Finding way from bachelor's to master's

Graduate school search proves to be daunting, but necessary task

by **D. Deyo & LHua**
Opinion Editor & Editor-in-Chief

Before Google-ing "graduate schools," consider this.

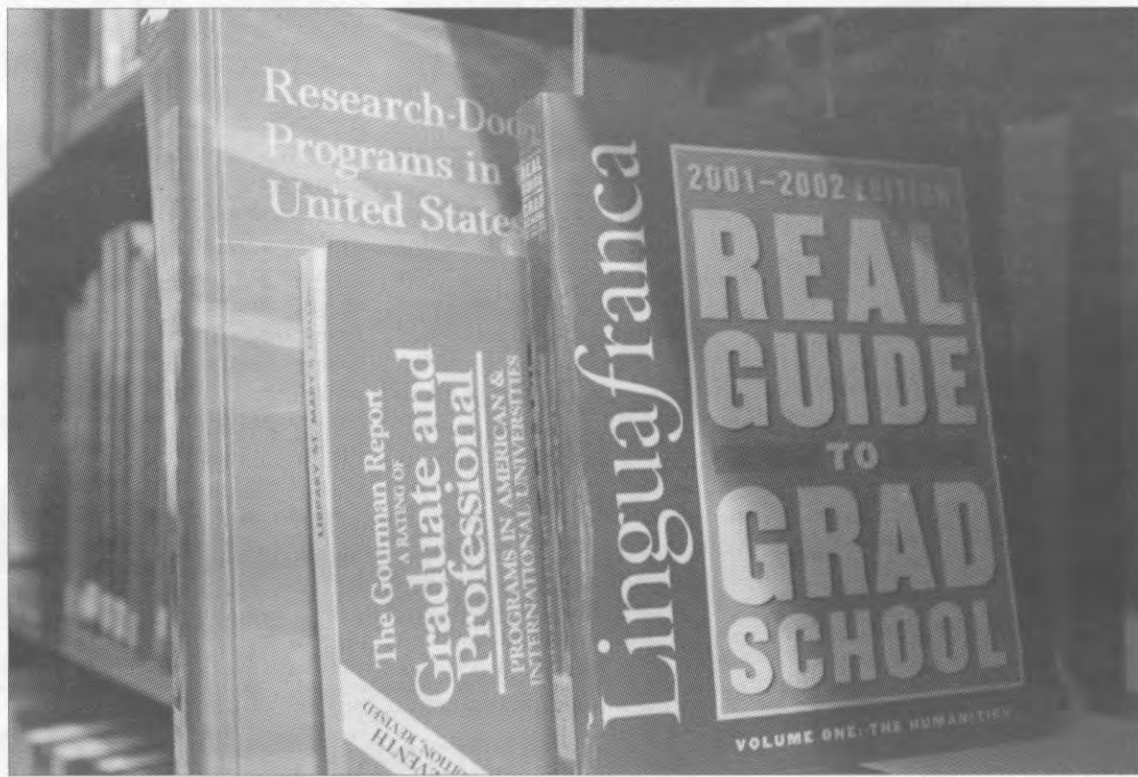
Finding the right graduate school can be a daunting prospect. Some students don't know what tools are available or who to ask for guidance, but now is the time to begin. One resource is Brother Glenn Bolton in the Career Center, who works with students on applying to graduate schools. He said that in this era, "a graduate degree is the old baccalaureate degree" in terms of worth in the real world. As the baby boomers increased the baccalaureate population, their children are now increasing it twofold to devalue the bachelor's degree, making those with a graduate degree more valuable employees.

But what should one look for in a graduate school? Some free, online resources are *The Princeton Review* and the *U.S. News & World*

grams, post-degree career placement, and scholarships and financial aid.

However, the tricky thing about actually preparing for admission is that there exists no standard process as well known as the process for getting into an undergraduate college. While Bolton said that admissions officers look to see "what did the person do in their last four year with their time to get them prepared," other things to consider include personal statements, general GRE scores, particular GRE scores, grade point averages (GPAs), letters of recommendation, experience in the subject matter, and more.

The process of selection and elimination from acceptance varies greatly across the universities. However, Bolton said that as far as GPAs go, it is reasonable that "they're going to look at the overall GPA...most [programs] say solid Bs," whereas for "the more selective programs—solid Bs won't do that."



Linda Hua/COLLEGIAN

faculty "who've done graduate level work and have excelled," said Bolton.

Another good idea is to talk with students who've recently been through the graduate admission process, particularly in relevant fields.

Karrie Rufer '07 now attends George Mason University and offered advice on applying for graduate school. She emphasized that researching specific schools and their background is crucial to making a good match. Find out as much as possible about the school and the head of faculty for the specific program. What is their academic background? What do they research? Rufer said that "schools can get pretty specific in not only what they teach, but how they teach it...undergraduate studies provide guidelines and a basis for further studies [but] graduate studies should push you. Take this academic opportunity to broaden your horizons and challenge yourself intellectually." If the program requires several levels of approval and committees, be wary. Knowing the nature of the beast now could save years of frustration down the road.

For the letter of intent, Rufer recommends understanding the general mission statement of the department. "If they ask you what you want to do in the future, what's important, try (not stretching the truth, of course) to orient your discussion around what you feel the college wants to see. They're looking for people who not only fit into their program but who, after they leave it, will reflect positively on them." Though it sounds like a lot of extra work, Rufer recommends visiting the top graduate school in which one is interested. "Make an appointment with the dean of the department. Showing initiative will get you a long way as far as admission goes. Go to a class that sounds interesting."

Some final thoughts to keep in mind are to learn what's required for your degree early on, mainly so that you can get a program pre-

requisite filled before you graduate. In trying to decide between a master's and a PhD program, keep in mind that the master's is more of an applied degree; talk to professors and find out what jobs each degree offers. As for the mountains of school loans possibly accumulated during undergraduate studies, Bolton said that "the debt is just an investment. If you don't invest in yourself, you don't get the job and the salaries. It pays its way off."

In hindsight, Rufer said, "I wish

I had paid more attention to the GRE. It's a pretty important part because grad schools have a lot of applicants and not a lot of criteria that you have to fill. Standing out in each of their requirements is very important." She also wishes she "knew what to expect...the transition from undergraduate to graduate studies seems like it would be seamless; however, it's a big lifestyle change. Prepare to read for hours, sit in three-hour-long classes until 10 p.m., and feeling a lot more competition."



Linda Hua/COLLEGIAN

Report. *The Review* aids in the search for specific schools and programs, has tips for improving your Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) score, lists rankings, and saves a list of preferred schools at the end of the search. The search is broken down by the type of school (public or private and the importance of specific programs), cost and aid, location, student body composition, and admission standards. Then, for each school generated, it has student feedback, school statistics, specific pro-

Another key to graduate school admission is to keep close and constant contact with academic advising, faculty, and staff. Letters of recommendation carry much more weight in graduate school admissions. "It's important to have good letters of recommendation and resumes," he said. "Talk to the faculty and staff. They're not here because of the salary. They're here to help pass on to others what they've gained and help you along the way." Furthermore, for advice outside of the Career Development Center, the best people to turn to are the

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SCOTT CULLINANE

9/11 demonstrators will never support U.S.

After my last article several people commented to me that they were surprised that I did not write about 9/11 since it was so close to the anniversary. Well, here is my article on 9/11, reflecting on how some people picked to spend that day.

Most people took that day to remember where they were on that Tuesday morning. They thought about the contrasts between the depraved Muslim terrorists and the genuine bravery of those who worked to save lives.

However, a few people took 9/11 and twisted it, using it to expedite their own political wants by using the anniversary to protest American foreign policy. The San Francisco State College Republicans put on a 9/11 memorial event that was met by such a negative backlash that it has garnered national media attention.

Though not as loud, anti-war protesters even made a 9/11 appearance at Saint Mary's. A handful of adults gathered in front of the chapel to protest. They provided an excellent contrast to the pro-American 9/11 memorial hosted by the Republican Club. Since at least some of the people taking part in this protest were either faculty or staff, it may be inappropriate for me to express the full measure of disapproval of their actions, but anyone familiar with my articles can well imagine what would be written.

It is curious how these protesters, in general, deplore the human rights issues they say come from war and the violence it causes, yet this cannot be their true motivation. If they really cared about stopping violence they would not have had signs that said "U.S. out of Iraq;" they would have had signs against Al-Qaeda, who massacre civilians. They should have had signs against the genocidal war mongering of Iran or the Syrian penchant for killing pro-democracy leaders. Of all the evil in the world, they pick America to focus their attacks on. What kind of logic is that?

The protesters say "don't dare challenge their patriotism" because "peace is patriotic." When peace leads your fellow countrymen and women to their deaths, that is not patriotic. By these protesters' definition of being a good American, we should all go out on July 4th and burn the stars and strips.

If they want to protest the war that is their right, but to do so on 9/11 is nearly sacrilegious. That they take the day when America was at her weakest, when America was reeling from the attack and use that day to attack, not defend, America shows their true feelings.

If they cannot support America on 9/11, there is no day on which they will support America.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
This is in response to every article Scott Cullinane has written. Scott, every time you write an article, I wonder if you even think about what you are writing. You always right ignorant comments that never make sense. They are arguments that haven't even been well thought out. Like the time you wrote about people taking food from Saga. Who cares? Some people can't afford a full meal plan and would like to take something more back to their room. What about the time you wrote about not having Black History Month? Remember that? You said that we shouldn't put all of black history in one month. Think about it though. If we didn't have black history month, would schools and people all over the U.S. really spend time talking about black history. I sure don't think so. You

write so much about how crappy of a job democrats are doing in Congress when really the ones to blame are the Republicans. The reason Congress can't get anything done is because the Republicans are stubborn and won't vote for anything that is thought up by a Democrat. Then there was the article on how Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are only where they are at because of their looks. What looks? They are just a different kind of candidate and that is intriguing to people. Why try to separate candidates because of their looks. It doesn't matter. We need to focus on issues. Scott, I think it's time you start thinking outside your conservative box and realize that you can't always be right.

Sincerely,
Cesar Ramos '09

The Collegian's letter policy:

Letters to the editor may be submitted online for the print version of *The Collegian*. Letters to the editor should be no more than 200 words. Please sign your letter with your full name and if applicable, your year in school and/or title. Anonymous letters are not often published. Opinions expressed are not necessarily endorsed by *The Collegian*, its contributors, its advertisers, or the College's affiliates.

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Nate Garcia, "Profile of a conservative party"
Darwyn Deyo, "The land of the silent and the home of the tasered"

Irrelevant happenings more publicized than financial aid

Though Jan Term costs high, scholarships remain selective, have vague criteria

Money is hard to come by and students normally like to seize any opportunity to snag extra cash for school. Seeing as how education is a pretty big deal, students shouldn't have to limit their educational experiences due to financial difficulty, but it happens.

This year's deadline for January Term scholarship applications was September 13. Something like this should have been widely publicized. Students are informed of miniscule and irrelevant events on campus: Sister Ingrid left the school, Academic Senate is reconvening, the College Guild luncheon is occurring. What is the College Guild anyway?

The school is pretty quick to let us know when we owe money regardless of accurate accounting. Despite making it to the extended studies list, I was still billed for an extra class this term. When it



STEFANIE WANG

comes to giving us money, it's another long process that we need to schlep through.

It's not the school's responsibility to lead us by the hands, but if certain opportunities are vital to much more than just a small selection of students, it would be advisable to send an e-mail about it. There were a number of e-mails sent regarding early registration for Jan Term study abroad courses, but there were virtually none regarding Jan Term scholarships. If students were expected to rely on word of mouth, then the student population wouldn't be up to date on anything.

One thing administration did

do well this year was publicizing when the meetings were for each of the traveling courses. But really, what's the use in receiving information about a course you can't afford?

In addition to their low-key nature, the scholarship criteria are restricting. The information available on SMCNet states there is a "preference for students with higher GPA." How high is high enough? Can they be any more vague? Also, the only suggested applicants are "students who have not previously studied abroad or participated in a January Term travel course."

Not only are these people nitpicky about who gets money for Jan Term, they are providing several thousand dollars just for one person in a lottery. SMCNet states that "in the last few years, at least five scholarships have been made available, each covering 75 percent of course fees for

a...travel course." Why can't they reduce the amount of each scholarship and create a greater number of scholarships out of the same budget?

According to the prices listed on SMCNet, the average cost for this year's Jan Term travel courses is \$3,020.26, excluding the \$60 internship course. Assuming that the costs of these courses don't change, an estimated \$2,265 will be awarded to each of the students lucky enough to win. Since I'm such an optimist, pretend that eight students win the lottery this year and have 75 percent of their costs covered by the scholarship. That's about \$18,000 total. Wouldn't it be better and more socially just to have 18 scholarships of \$1,000 each so that more people are able to fund their Jan Term desires?

As I'm such a realist, I'm not counting on changes, if any, until well after I've graduated.

French foreign minister takes one-day aggressor stand

France, Iran try to make themselves relevant; nothing but hot air

by Sean Kent
Staff Writer

Oh, how the times have changed.

This week, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner made the latest contribution to his country's verbal assault on Iran, stating on Monday that his country must prepare for the possibility of war with Iran over their nuclear program. Almost immediately, the comment was downplayed and regarded as "being taken out of context."

While Kouchner may have never directly said that France was going to war with Iran, his comments definitely reflect his country's aggressive stance on Iran. It's ironic that France, who just five years ago was the most vocal opponent of our invasion of Iraq, now seems to be the aggressor that most of the Western

powers, including the Bush administration, are failing to support.

For all the criticism President Bush has garnered over the past seven years, his insistence that a diplomatic solution be found in Iran seems to sooth everyone's nerves about a new military campaign in the Middle East. But in the soap opera that is the standoff between France and Iran, anything can happen.

Both sides have made threats that few view as more than just talk and both seem to change their minds from day-to-day. It was only a few weeks ago that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said he would make the "drunken Western powers pay," while he is now upset that the American government won't allow him to lay a wreath at Ground Zero. It also didn't help his case when his first

response to war threats from France was to counter with plans to bomb Israel.

Iran's proposed response to French military action, which is more like a religious crusade than a legitimate military counter-strike, also indicates how quickly an attack could turn into a third world war. For both countries, this war of words seems to be nothing more than false bravado coming from two nations who recently found themselves in the spotlight. The last time France initiated an unprovoked international conflict, they had a miniature emperor at the helm. Iran, for two decades overshadowed by Iraq, is beginning to assert itself in the Middle East as the new prominent Western powers agitator. Both France and Iran want to shed their recent images and re-establish themselves as relevant mem-

bers of the global community.

While French President Nicolas Sarkozy's warmer attitude towards the U.S. has been refreshing, his aggressive foreign policy has alarmed some of his fellow countrymen. As the U.K.'s Prime Minister Gordon Brown, another first-year head of state in Europe, has taken his country out of Iraq, France is now the closest thing to an ally America has in the Middle East.

However, with the U.S. reluctant to get militarily involved in an Iranian conflict, France has few friends, especially in the European community.

The French now know the burden the U.K. faced for the last four years in being the only European country willing to stand beside the U.S. in a war that was never clearly justifiable.

The Collegian
OPINION

Should students bother to party on-campus?

The price students pay for freedom

Nick Giontriddo

Darwyn Deyo

Students should reclaim campus parties

This is not an attack on any of the fine officers that don the Public Safety uniform. I have been at Saint Mary's for four years now, and have racked up a hefty amount of parking tickets, so Public Safety has become my second home. Rather, it is about the bad job that Saint Mary's has done in establishing a dry campus. There's no alcohol if you're under 21, and there are no questions about it.

Think about this scenario: you go to a college where the school acknowledges a social event on campus that will be serving alcohol. That actually exists at all eight Claremont Colleges in Los Angeles. In Section II of the Claremont Pomona Alcohol Policy it reads, "The College allows student organizations and individual students to register parties and social events that serve alcohol ("registered events") in specified campus locations." Imagine not having to huddle in your dorm corner hoping that Public Safety won't catch you sipping a beer.

Claremont has successfully established a friendly but also authoritative relationship with its students. With that policy, there aren't so many incidents related to alcohol consumption. It's horrible opening the newspaper to the Crime Beat every week and reading that no one on campus knows how to keep their alcohol down. Maybe there wouldn't be so much disciplinary action taken if the stranglehold was lessened just a little bit.

Yes, Saint Mary's College is founded on very traditional values, but it's the 21st century and people do drink. Maybe the school should consider a little leniency instead of cracking down on all parties so that the campus looks like a ghost town every weekend. Not only do campus residents have to worry about the ungodly inflated tuition, but they also have to worry about forking all their funds over to the room and carte blanche meal plans. Those of us that live in the hills

of Lamorinda outside of Saint Mary's get to enjoy our freedom, despite recent squabbles of townspeople. It costs a tad more but in return we get to live without fear of a private, contained party being broken up. In my apartment complex, unless we were to start demolishing all the walls, there's no way we would have to worry about being written up.

Those of us that pay that slightly higher price get to relax



Linda Hua/COLLEGIAN

and enjoy the unparalleled freedom of genuinely having a good time.

Making friends with the authorities is always the way to go. Once you make friends with all of the officers of the Moraga police force, consider yourself "in." It's much better to party off campus because if you live in one of the "college-designated" areas, it's socially understood that it's going down. If college is partially about having the college experience, the school should change the rules. Keep the students where they are naturally intended to be rather than risk them driving all over town.

As of right now, off-campus partying is the place to be. Enough said. It often ends in citations and fines for us, but at least we're having a good time enjoying what's left of our college experience.

Times are changing, so should the rules.

Since last year, there has been a perception that Public Safety has been cracking down.

Parties get broken up faster, resident advisors are more uptight, and as a result, the campus is abandoned on the weekends. There are obviously parties in the townhouses but are they anything more than random drunkenness that will inevitably get shut down by Public Safety? It doesn't have to be this way.

breaking the rules (even if nobody has been hurt), they leave for off-campus solutions. What happens then?

Theoretically, people go in groups with a designated driver to a safe location. They either go to a bar (if they can sneak in) or they party at a friend's apartment. But even off-campus locations have rules on excessive partying, especially because they are part of the public domain. If students are making a disturbance, they could call down the landlord, bartender, or the Lamorinda police. This last consequence won't deter students from drinking; it'll just make them pay more for it than they would on campus, in a safe and private environment. Furthermore, the designated driver doesn't always work out. People think they're less of a lightweight than they actually are and ending up getting a DUI or in an actual accident. All of this could be prevented by letting people party on campus.

Even the rule for quiet hours by midnight is somewhat detrimental since most bars don't close until about 2 a.m. even in the quiet part of the woods. Students, who technically shouldn't have large groups in their suites, might go off campus to continue the party.

An alternative to a crackdown on drinking might be monitoring. If students knew that Public Safety wasn't out to get them just because they were partying they would probably stay on campus and stay safer. If Public Safety acted more as a fail-safe deterrent against belligerent behavior (which they can control only if it happens on campus) instead of an invading force, students would come back to roost. True, the campus would be less dry, but students would be here in an area for which they have paid.

After all, it is our campus. The more the school tightens its fist, the faster students will slip from their fingers.

This is the students' campus. The Student Handbook states that from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays are designated quiet hours. The noise level "should not be heard outside of or between any residence hall rooms." Conversely, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. students can be slightly louder unless a staff member or another resident asks them to be quiet. It's a simple rule for living together, but it's being enforced to an extreme. In particular, parties are being shut down before midnight by Public Safety in order to keep Saint Mary's a "dry campus."

It's understandable that they want to do their job and keep the campus safe, but think of the consequences. When students can no longer party in peace on campus, they come up with alternatives. Students, underage or not, will drink and party on the weekends. When they can't drink without being disturbed or accused of



JOSE ALVAREZ

If I Did It...O.J. strikes again

O.J. Simpson is yet again in legal trouble.

He, with a group of men, broke into a room at the Palace Casino in Las Vegas on September 14.

Though Simpson denies it, a gun was allegedly on one of the robbers, and Simpson was booked on several charges, including six felonies. He is, at best, an accomplice in this case, but the media has put the spotlight on Simpson for the mere fact that he's a celebrity.

Following his 1995 acquittal of the double murder of his ex-wife Nicole Brown and another man, Ronald Goldman, Simpson (probably 10 years too late) also wrote a book, *If I Did It*, in 2006. One can only guess the point behind the whole idea of writing a book 11 years after the murder case he wrote about has been closed.

However, by putting it into print form, he shows that he wants an eternity of fame because the written word carries on for millennia. Simpson is probably doing it for the attention in order to carry out another 15 minutes of fame, just like the robbery case.

After nine months in a courtroom, most people do not want to be anywhere near one again; Simpson purposely risked it, though this time he only spent a few hours in court.

He claimed he broke into the casino to take back his memorabilia, but he was not alone. Simpson had several people to help him out, some who are also being charged with felonies along with Simpson himself.

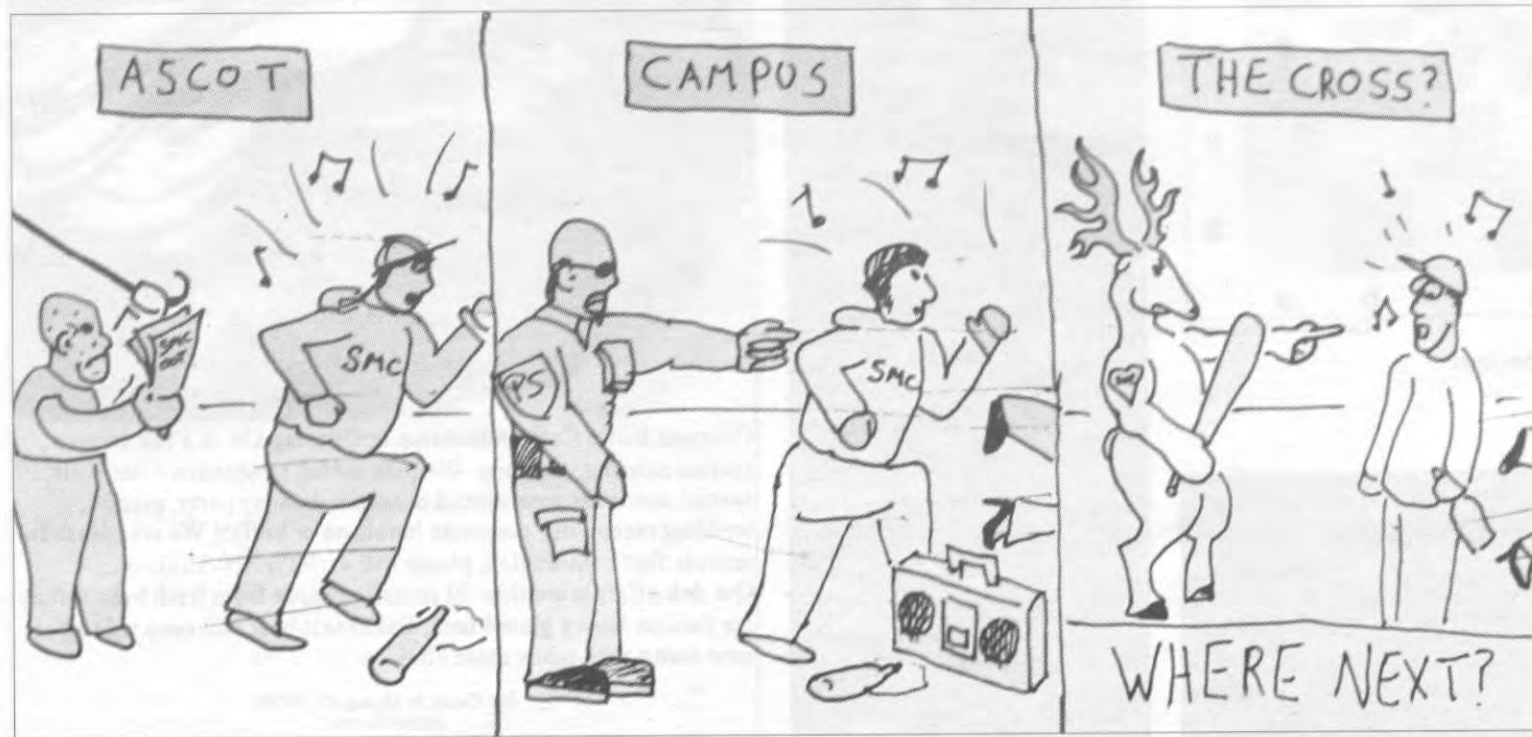
The details may be fuzzy to the untrained eye on whether he did it for the stuff, but bringing other people into the fiasco makes it appear that he did it for the attention and that his accomplices wanted a piece of it.

Now, on the other hand, Simpson isn't really as bad a person as the media says he is; he's just made a few mistakes like the rest of us. In his glory days, Simpson was a Heisman Trophy winner and an NFL Hall of Famer. One day, however, the pro football accolades passed and he was forgotten. Simpson doesn't want to be forgotten.

He escaped conviction for double murder, he wrote a controversial book, and now he's on trial for armed robbery. To keep his 15 minutes of fame alive, he needs to keep up controversy, since the good old media likes to report on that more than other issues.

Simpson is probably going to escape jail time, given his track record, but who really knows?

After all, maybe he "did it" this time. Lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place, not even for celebrities.



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN



The Collegian DETOUR



Oasis 2007 from rare sober perspective *One need not be drunk to find pleasure in annual fall ball*

by Linda Hua
Editor-in-Chief

As per tradition, for the annual Oasis dance, one must be drunk in order to attend and have fun.

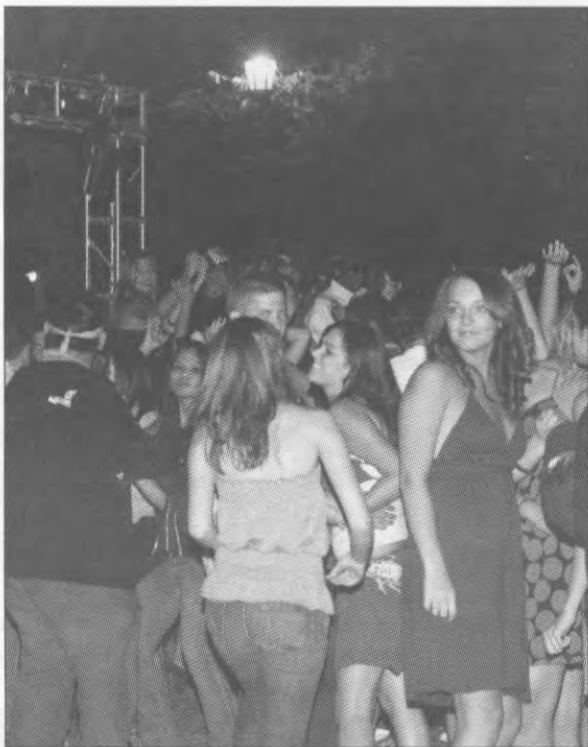
Some may find this cultural requirement of drunken debauchery strange.

What I've always found strange about our annual Hawaiian-themed dance is its name. An oasis is a watering hole in the desert. Maybe I'm missing something, but what does that have to do with Hawaii? Certainly, an "Oasis" does not call for sarongs, leis, guys in grass skirts and coconut bras, or seahorse balloons. I would expect Oasis to call for camels, extreme dehydration, tumbleweed, and cacti.

Yet I digress. Friday's outdoor dance was attended by one very sober yours truly.

At about 10:00 p.m., an hour after the commencement of the event, I thought that perhaps I had arrived too early, for Ferroggiaro Quad was not as full as I had remembered it being during the last two Oases. But as I soon found out, I had arrived with Oasis already in full swing. Even by the

end of the night, the crowd did not reach full capacity. Perhaps it was the threat of rain that put a damper on the turnout, but I think that a few sprinkles would have made it fun. Or at least it would have slicked off the body odor permeating from the raunchy college



Linda Hua / COLLEGIAN
Students welcome the first Oasis in two years in Ferroggiaro Quad Friday.

the DJ to say that it was difficult to tell one song from the next. I must say, however, that attending Oasis as a sober senior was a great experience—that is, watching the drunken folks was a great experience. Let's see...I got hugged by the same drunk person about five times, hit on by someone who graduated my freshman year, and kissed on the forehead by someone who was extremely belligerent, swore that I hated his guts, and demanded that either I or my boyfriend kiss him back. I also truly enjoyed watching very drunk men giggle.

As far as the dance, however, it was rather lackluster. There were so many thrashing drunk people, it was a bit difficult to navigate and do your thing, but I suppose that if one were drunk, it wouldn't matter. Although I really liked that both men's and women's restrooms were for women only, whereas the men had to use portable restrooms—this really helped to clear the breaking-the-seal-again lines.

The moral of the story is that if one must be sober when everyone else is drunk, then find humor and make fun of all the drunken people.

Surprisingly, while the music was booming, it wasn't doing more than that. The bass was good, but it was difficult to actually decipher one lyric from the next. However, it compliments

the DJ to say that it was difficult to tell one song from the next.

I must say, however, that attending Oasis as a sober senior was a great experience—that is, watching the drunken folks was a great experience. Let's see...I got hugged by the same drunk person about five times, hit on by someone who graduated my freshman year, and kissed on the forehead by someone who was extremely belligerent, swore that I hated his guts, and demanded that either I or my boyfriend kiss him back. I also truly enjoyed watching very drunk men giggle.

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The moral of the story is that if one must be sober when everyone else is drunk, then find humor and make fun of all the drunken people.

Going retro: fresh to def *Hip-hop fashion, culture get back to basics*

by B. Macey & A. Davis
Staff Writers

History must be repeating itself. Did we really just see rope chains weighing down the necks of 50 Cent and Yung Joc? Oh yeah, that's old school, and good news for an industry desperately in need of much more than just a wardrobe change.

Rope chains, doorknocker (or bamboo) earrings, and bright colors: hip-hop fashion has long forgotten those days, when it was more than just bling and white-tees. It was a certain look, something almost indefinable by words alone. The swagger came complete with a b-boy stance, shell-toes, and a Kangol hat. It gave the golden appearance of wealth painted over a cheap necklace that let the world know you were harder than DMC.

Hip-hop didn't have too much in those days, but it had enough. It made an entrance that couldn't be ignored. It proved contagious as it swept through the music industry and through neighborhoods across the nation, leaving the days of the mundane in its dust.

A resurgence has shown itself as of late. We've all seen remnants of the decade responsible for both Flashdance and Breakin' even around this very campus. I know you didn't think those skinny jeans came from nowhere. Our parents wore those in an assortment of colors before many of us were even thought of. So why the revival?

We have considered a plethora of ideas as to why hip-hop is embracing '80s fashion. For one, it really shows love. Of course the chains and four-finger rings we see today are real, but it's still acknowledging where it all began. Will it ever get that deep? Are we going to see Soulja Boy in an Adidas jumpsuit with a gumby? Probably not, but it's a start.

Or it could just be that hip-hop is having fun. If artists are going to have fun with their music, then their fashion should reflect that. Early hip-hop was all about fun. Trends are reoccurring and perhaps this was bound to happen sooner or later.

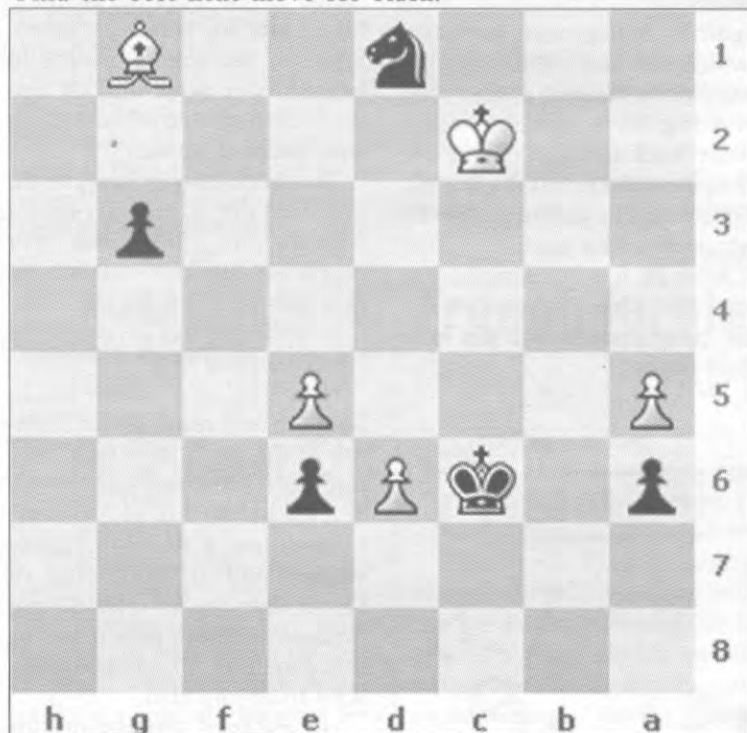
So what's next for hip-hop fashion? How about the '90s? Hip-hop could start reverting to Aaliyah-esque styled baggy jeans, tight shirts, overalls with the straps hanging, and backwards baseball caps. We miss those days.

Feel like taking on '80s hip-hop fashion? It's simple. Ladies, all you need are some doorknocker earrings, a bright colored, loose fitting off-the-shoulder shirt, some skinny jeans, leg warmers, and pumps. And guys, rope chains and track jackets will have to suffice for now but feel free to take it to the next level.

Don't expect major breakthroughs in the music just yet. Remember, hip-hop is still more about jumping on the bandwagon than being revolutionary. But taking it back to the days when the music felt real, even if through fashion alone, is relieving.

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Artist Awareness

Iron & Wine

myspace.com/ironandwine



Courtesy of harpmagazine.com

Where He's Been

- Real name Sam Bean, born and raised in South Carolina.
- Has released two studio albums, one live album, and several EPs.

Where They Are

- Third studio album, *The Shepherd's Dog*, released today.
- Rising singer-songwriter on Sub Pop record label.

Download These

- "The Trapeze Swinger"
- "Boy with a Coin"
- "Naked As We Came"

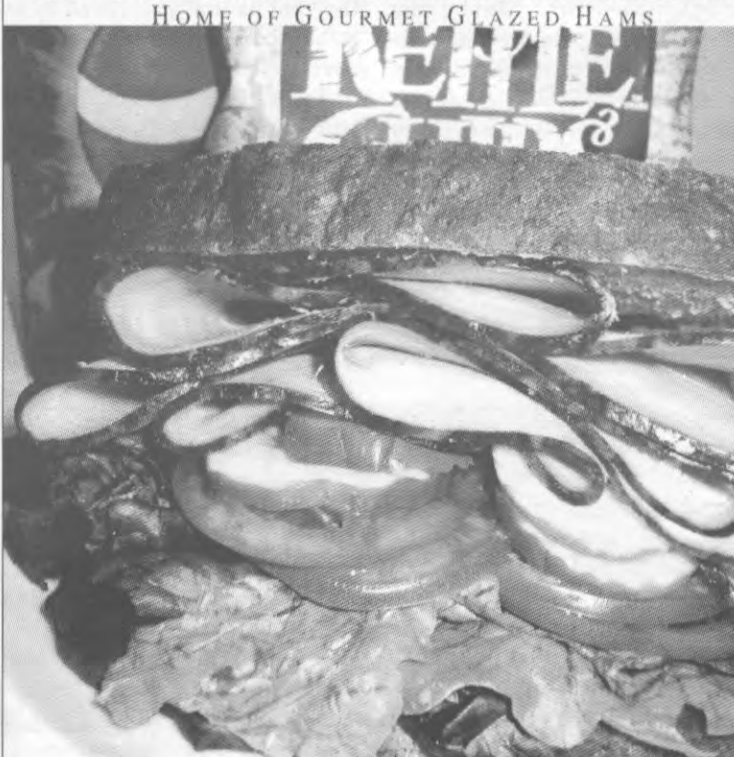
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The Collegian DETOUR

CONCERT WATCH



Tuesday, 9/25
Justin Timberlake - 7:30 p.m. @ ARCO Arena

Clap Your Hands Say Yeah - 8:00 p.m. @ The Independent

Wednesday, 9/26
Morrissey - 8:00 p.m. @ Fillmore

Clap Your Hands Say Yeah - 8:00 p.m. @ The Independent

Friday, 9/28
Down - 8:00 p.m. @ The Warfield

The Chemical Brothers - 8:00 p.m. @ Concourse at SF Design Center

Saturday, 9/29
The Crystal Method at Lovofest Weekend - @ Ruby Skye

Girl Talk - 9:00 p.m. @ Fillmore



CDs

Tuesday, 9/25
Foo Fighters - *Echoes Silence Patience & Grace*

Iron & Wine - *The Shepherd's Dog*

Jill Scott - *The Real Thing: Words and Sounds Vol. 3*

Rascal Flatts - *Still Feels Good*

Down - *Over the Under*

Keyshia Cole - *Just Like You*



Action/Drama
110 minutes
Rated R (for intense sequences of graphic brutal violence, and for language)

by Mark Freeman
Staff Writer

Peter Berg's *The Kingdom*, set in Saudi Arabia, is more than just another shoot-the-terrorist thriller. It's *CSI* on steroids—a detective story laced with political maneuvering that exposes a culture frightening to Americans.

The movie earns its "R" rating by the first scene as dozens of foreigners are blown to bits by suicide bombers. The scene is heartbreaking and painful: a father is gunned down in front of his son and innocent people are shot looking out their windows. As one of the terrorists forces his son to watch the chaos, feelings of revulsion a la 9/11 come rushing back.

FBI agent Ronald Fleury (an effective Jamie Foxx) loses a friend in the attack. Unfortunately, his efforts to get an investigative team to Saudi Arabia are hampered by government higher-

Kingdom reigns with suspense Captivating thriller defies standards

ups. Frustrated and running out of time, Fleury cuts through the bureaucracy by convincing a Saudi official to intervene. Foxx is impressive here, but his character takes a back seat to the action.

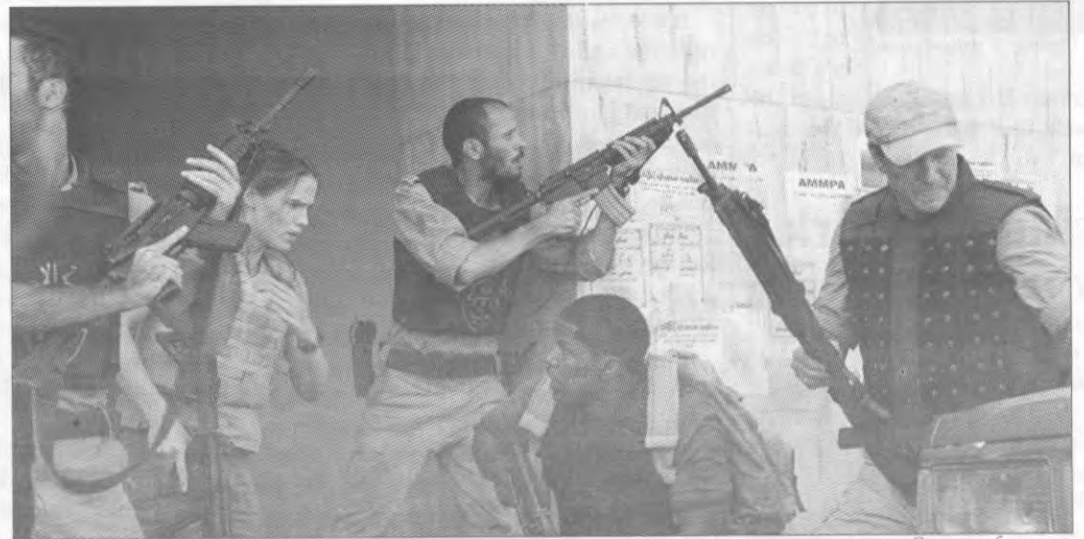
The Americans get their trip to the Middle East—but only for five days. Fleury's team consists of Janet Mayes (Jennifer Garner), Adam Leavitt (Jason Bateman)

at times cultures clash; Mayes isn't allowed to touch dead Muslims and the Americans have to deal with meddling princes.

Along the way, Fleury develops a friendship with Al-Ghazi. The men find they're both out for justice. We also learn that the Americans aren't the only ones dealing with a culture gap—Al-Ghazi is mystified when Fleury proclaims, "That's my sh*t." Al-

scious Saudis—until she starts kicking bad-guy butt, that is.

Unfortunately the movie's message about improving American-Arab relations falls on deaf ears. The shoot-outs with the terrorists are so violent and mind-numbing that it's easy to feel prejudiced against the well-intentioned Saudi police force. Al-Ghazi appears to be the only Saudi out for justice—the princes and generals only



Jamie Foxx (bottom center), Jennifer Garner (left), and Chris Cooper (right) star in politically-conscious upcoming thriller *The Kingdom*, out this Friday, September 28.

and Grant Sykes (Chris Cooper, the epitome of a government agent). The team isn't very effective at first—they're locked in a gym by their Saudi escort, Colonel Al-Ghazi (Ashraf Barhoum) and kept under constant guard.

The film's strength comes from the relationship between the security-conscious Saudis and the Americans who are desperate for evidence. Each side feels the other is hampering the investigation and

Ghazi does not catch on to Fleury's slang. "Do you need to use the bathroom?" the flustered colonel asks.

Their friendship is the only real character development we get in the movie. Cooper is funny as Sykes, but he spends most of the movie digging through a mud hole. Leavitt whines a lot and Garner is reduced to playing a token woman character who has to cover up in front of the self-con-

want photo-ops.

But while *The Kingdom* shouldn't be viewed as the defining film of the War on Terror, it does provide thoughtful entertainment in a normally dead time for movies. By the time the shooting really starts, one would expect the movie to turn formulaic, but we're kept in suspense, never knowing who is lurking around the next corner.

Middle Eastern Festival brings culture to Lamorinda Event last weekend well worth stop on way to BART station

by J. Harry Painter
Detour Editor

Last year, I had no idea that Lamorinda was capable of providing me entertainment. Then, after a mind-numbing day at work—the kind of day that would have driven Owen Wilson over the edge—I was astonished to hear that there was something to do.

That's not a misprint; there was something to do within 10 minutes of Saint Mary's.

After work I headed straight there and was delighted to find that there was a Middle Eastern Festival a short drive down Moraga Way.

Fast forward to last weekend, and I was ready this time to enjoy the modest event and appreciate it even more.

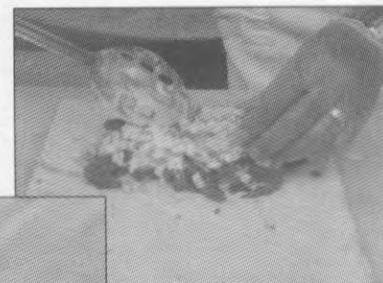
Most students at Saint Mary's did not have much notice of the event unless they happened to drive towards Orinda for BART or Highway 24, in which case they would

have stumbled upon signs for the annual festival.

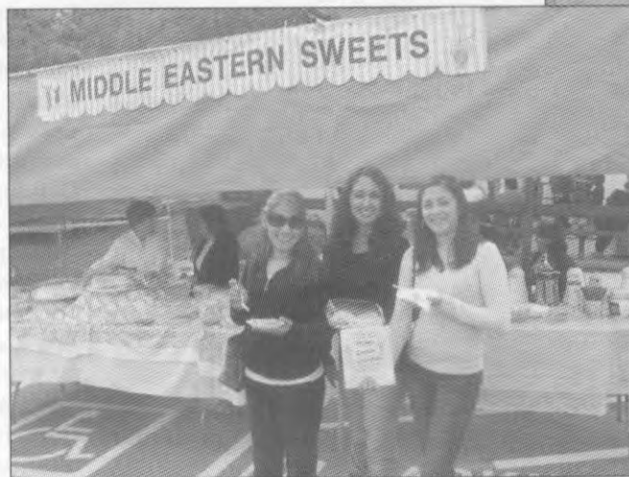
The festival, held at Saint John the Evangelist Antiochian Church (SJtEAC) in Orinda, has now been held for 14 years.

Held almost all day last Saturday and Sunday, the festival brought touches of culture not experienced otherwise in

fet, several desserts, live music, dabkeh dancing (traditional Middle Eastern folk line dancing),



J. Harry Painter / COLLEGIAN



J. Harry Painter / COLLEGIAN

Seniors Heidi Soto (left), Mindy Marquez (center), and Lorna Contreras (right) stash numerous desserts from the festival.

Lamorinda. Those who were lucky enough to attend were treated to various foods at both an outdoor grill and indoor buf-

parishioner Alfred Farradj] always encouraged us to have a festival." He said that this year's festival was dedicated to Farradj,

who passed away three weeks ago.

Rula Adranly, a parishioner for over 25 years and wife of Deacon Nicholas Adranly, said, "It started out really small...[we] used to hold it at the Orinda Community Center and the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church."

It appears that the festival has found a fitting home, however. According to Nicola, the majority of SJtEAC is of Middle Eastern descent or originally from the Middle East. The makeup of many parishioners, he said, is "Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian, Palestinian, Egyptian, and from Iraq."

Adranly said, "It's really a community building thing, to introduce the Middle Eastern Festival and our surrounding community."

While this community hardly included that of Saint Mary's students, those who happened to attend were treated to something out of the norm for the quiet, excruciatingly serene area around campus.



The Collegian
SPORTS

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

David Blanchard



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

Senior David Blanchard tallied two goals over the weekend, both proving to be game-winners. His goals has helped the Gaels to a 4-2-0 record this season.

Megan York



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

Freshman Megan York led the Gaels again to two more victories over the weekend. She tallied another 20 kill-20 dig game against CSU Bakersfield, her eighth double-double of the season.

Gaels, Ciliento finish off Valparaiso
Freshman lifts Saint Mary's to thrilling overtime win

by DJ Bowen III
Staff Writer

Sophomore Jessica Menzhuber glanced the ball off her head to the foot of teammate Alex Ciliento '11 to score the lone goal of the game, in overtime, and put an emphatic punctuation mark on the twice-victorious weekend for the Gaels (4-2-2).

It was the attacks of Menzhuber near the end of regulation, coming up from her defensive position that ignited the very lackluster Gaels offense at the end of the game. "I'm super offensive-minded," said Menzhuber.

"I trust my defenders to cover for me," said Menzhuber, in regards to her moving up to "generate energy" for the Gaels offense.

The final and defining play of the weekend occurred in the 96th minute of the game, over five minutes into overtime, with a weekend that already included a physically grueling 90-minute affair versus Sacramento State on Friday evening. Allie Weiner '10 took the corner kick and aimed it at Menzhuber. "She was aiming for my head," said Menzhuber.

In Friday's action, Saint Mary's used good passing and teamwork to control the ball for the majority of the second half, evidenced by Goalkeeper Tara Larson '10 only needing to make one save in

the later half.

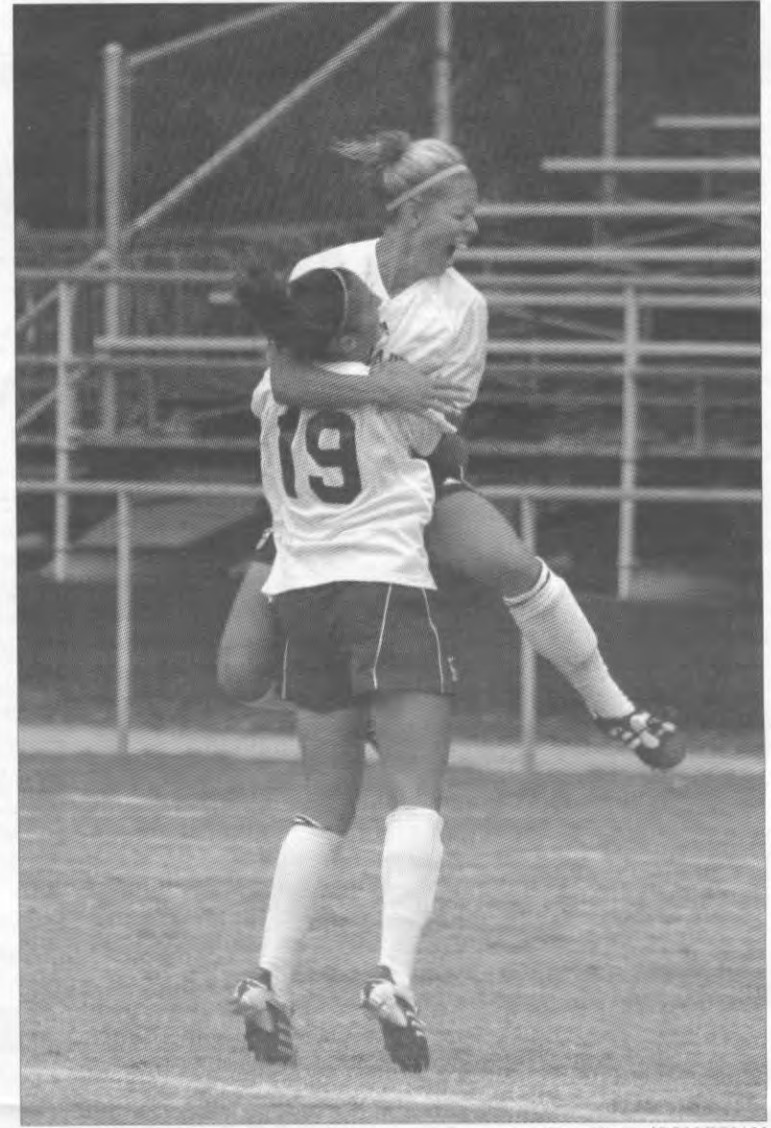
Tara Ferrell scored in the 37th minute of the first half to initiate the action. In the 60th minute, a very controversial own goal was scored for Saint Mary's by the fault of Sacramento. The ball was kicked, headed, bounced off the crossbar, and into Sacramento's goalkeeper's hands in an instant. The goalkeeper claimed the ball did not cross the plain of the goal, but the referee disagreed and the goal stood as the second goal of the night for the Gaels.

Not to be forgotten in all the mix was the tremendous work of Larson who completed both shut outs by logging every minute of both matches. A key save in the match against Valparaiso occurred with time winding down in the first half, the away team had the ball and was attacking the Gael goal.

A shot was headed straight for the middle of the crossbar, but Larson gave it a punch to ensure the tie would last long enough for the Gaels to prevail.

The Gaels swept their weekend matches and now have a record of 4-2-2. They have recorded three wins and two ties in their five overtime matches.

The Gaels will have their work cut out for them. They will look to keep their momentum against Cal and Stanford on the road.



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

Alex Ciliento '11 (top) celebrates with Danielle Spann '09 after scoring the game-winning goal on Sunday afternoon against Valparaiso.



GO GAELS!

ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

Thursday, Sept. 27
Volleyball v. Gonzaga*
7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 28
Women's Soccer @ Cal
4 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 29
Volleyball v. Portland*
1 p.m.

Cross Country @
Stanford Invitational
5 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 30
Women's Soccer @ Stanford
1 p.m.

* - WCC game

TRANSACTIONS AND STANDINGS

| Women's Soccer | | | | Men's Soccer | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Team | WCC | PTS | Overall | Team | WCC | PTS | Overall |
| SCU(1) | 0-0 | 0 | 6-0-1 | SCU(6) | 0-0 | 0 | 5-1-2 |
| POR(3) | 0-0 | 0 | 6-1-0 | GON(12) | 0-0 | 0 | 5-2-0 |
| GON | 0-0 | 0 | 5-2-0 | SMC | 0-0 | 0 | 4-2-0 |
| USD(25) | 0-0 | 0 | 5-1-2 | USF | 0-0 | 0 | 4-3-0 |
| SMC | 0-0 | 0 | 4-2-2 | USD | 0-0 | 0 | 4-3-0 |
| LMU | 0-0 | 0 | 4-3-1 | POR | 0-0 | 0 | 3-3-1 |
| PEP | 0-0 | 0 | 1-4-2 | LMU | 0-0 | 0 | 1-4-0 |
| USF | 0-0 | 0 | 0-5-2 | | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------------------|---|
| Sacramento State | 0 | Saint Mary's | 1 |
| Saint Mary's | 2 | Sacramento State | 0 |
| Valparaiso | 0 | San Jose State | 1 |
| Saint Mary's | 1 OT | Saint Mary's | 2 |

| Cross Country | | | | Volleyball | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|------------|-----|------|---------|
| Big Wave Cross Country Invitational | | | | Team | WCC | PCT | Overall |
| Men's | | | | GON | 0-0 | .733 | 11-4 |
| 1. Hawai'i Pacific | | | | USD(18) | 0-0 | .692 | 9-4 |
| 2. BYU - Hawai'i | | | | USF | 0-0 | .687 | 11-5 |
| 3. UH - Hilo | | | | SMC | 0-0 | .667 | 8-4 |
| 4. Saint Mary's | | | | PEP | 0-0 | .667 | 8-4 |
| 5. Chaminade | | | | LMU | 0-0 | .583 | 7-5 |
| | | | | POR | 0-0 | .538 | 7-6 |
| | | | | SCU | 0-0 | .533 | 8-7 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Women's | | | |
| 1. Brigham Young | | | |
| 2. San Diego State | | | |
| 3. Hawai'i | | | |
| 4. BYU - Hawai'i | | | |
| 5. UH - Hilo | | | |
| 6. Saint Mary's | | | |
| 7. Hawai'i Pacific | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|
| Cornell.....(0) | 11 | 27 | 12 |
| SMC.....(3) | 30 | 30 | 30 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| CSUB.....(2) | 17 | 22 | 32 | 30 | 13 |
| SMC.....(3) | 30 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 15 |

Random SMC Sports Fact of the Week

The most goals in a single season for women's soccer is 20 by Lori Hokerson in 1994.

GIONFRIDDO: What have sports come to?

continued from page 12

the sports world may not be able to comprehend. According to sources, Goodell had discovered that Belichick's alleged videotaping was just a small part of what potentially could be a bigger scheme. This "alleged" behavior was to include what some sources called a "library" of information, notes, and video on each of the defensive coordinators (both past and present) in the league. Delving into this so-called "library" could have reverberations similar to that of opening Pandora's Box. Now, based on the previous four months in professional sports, who's really ready for that?

Apparently intertwined in this ridiculously progressing story come rumors of wire-tapping. Are you kidding me? Belichick is pretty much making a perfect Nixon impersonation. Over the course of a few games, Belichick had "allegedly" installed microphones in the pads of his players in order to pick up audible calls, as well as going to the extremes

of maybe interfering with the wireless frequencies between the opposing players and coaches.

Football has come a long way from leather helmets and miniscule contracts, but a "Tapegate" scandal is just exponential growth.

So far many players and coaches have come to Belichick's side about this entire ordeal, but time may be running out. Historically speaking, it wasn't until coming to New England that Belichick saw winning ways. With the Cleveland Browns and New York Jets, Belichick was pretty much run out of town.

Does Tapegate have any correlation with this phenomenon? With the sanctions imposed on the Patriots for this breach of rules, players have still come to his aid, but just like Nixon, the long line of moral inconsistencies might finally have come to the forefront. If the allegations remain true, Belichick has been gambling against a very strong governing body. As a betting man, I'm putting my money on the house.

Sanctions against Patriots:
Head Coach Bill Belichick fined \$500,000
Patriots fined \$250,000
If playoffs reached, 2008 1st round pick forfeited
If playoffs missed, 2008 2nd & 3rd round picks forfeited



The Collegian
SPORTS

Cross country finishes at Big Wave Invite

Men's and women's teams finish fourth and sixth respectively

by Zack Farmer
Managing Editor

The men's and women's cross country teams traveled to Kaneohe, Hawai'i and placed fourth and sixth respectively in the Big Wave Cross Country Invitational.

Once again, Karrie Hagedorn '08 led the Gaels with a finishing time of 15:23 in the women's 4K race. She finished 10th at the Invite. Little more than 40 seconds behind her was Tess Frannemann '11 at 16:06. She finished in 22nd place.

The women's team finished

**Next meet:
Stanford Invitational
Saturday, 5 p.m.
Stanford Golf Course**

in sixth place with 137 points, only 12 behind University of Hawai'i, Hilo. They finished ahead of Hawai'i Pacific University.

The other teams finishing ahead of the Gaels were Brigham Young University, San Diego State, Hawai'i, and Brigham Young University, Hawai'i.

Freshmen Maddie Dangler

and Jade Lewis finished in 38th place and 41st place with times of 17:07 and 17:26, respectively.

Juniors Mario Mendoza and Nick Shea finished four seconds apart in the men's 5K race. Mendoza finished in fourth place at 16:48 and Shea finished in fifth place at 16:52.

The men's blew away Chaminade University by 53 points and finished within striking distance of a second-place tie with BYU, Hawai'i and Hawai'i.

Freshman Mark Blucher finished in 16th place with a time of 17:40. He finished three seconds behind Hawai'i Pacific's Kevin Enriques. Junior David Stiles finished in 19th place with a time of 18:10.

Four of the participating teams in this tournament were NCAA Division II teams.

The Gaels will travel to Palo Alto next weekend to participate in the Stanford Invitational. The meet will begin at 5 p.m. at the Stanford Golf Course.



Maddie Dengler '11 finished in 38th place in the 68 runner competition in Hawai'i last Saturday.

Courtesy of www.smcgaels.com

VB: WCC play awaits

continued from page 12

Lowell, added 16 assists and six kills, respectively.

The Roadrunners came to Moraga looking for revenge three weeks to the day after they had been upset on their homecourt. In almost identical fashion, the Gaels pulled out the nail-biter after Bakersfield pushed them the full five games 30-17, 30-22, 30-32, 25-30, 15-13. Saint Mary's got off to their usual hot start in both of the first two games, but the young squad faltered in the following two. "Everyone played good in the first two games," said Head Coach Rob Browning, "and everyone played worse in the next two. Bakersfield began serving well, as we knew they could, and we made some mental mistakes."

The tense tiebreaking fifth game was a seesaw struggle. A York kill and an ace by Payne put the Gaels up on their way to a 13-11 lead. A subsequent attacking error and service error by the Roadrunners sealed the win. York tied her career-high in kills with 26, while Gross added 21. Jaeckel was perfect in the second game, going 6-for-6, while Megan Burton '10 had four kills on five swings.

The final two wins, which came this last Friday and Saturday improved the Gaels' record to 8-4 overall heading into their first West Coast Conference game this Thursday against Gonzaga.

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Old Logo

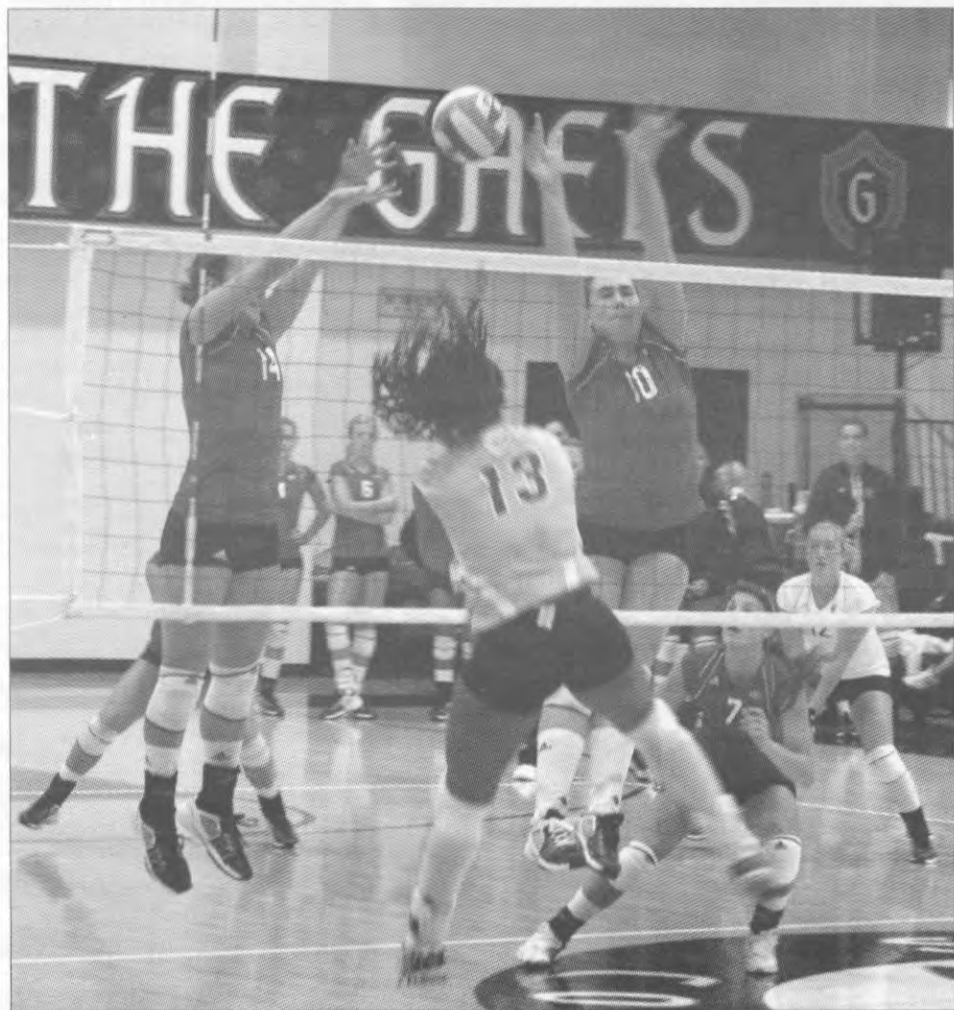
AS

New Logo

?

Gaels impress heading into WCC play

Cornell stifled, Bakersfield falls short yet again in thriller



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

Freshmen Kapua Kamana'o (14) and Shannon Lowell (10) have been solid contributors for the Gaels to this point in the season. Saint Mary's holds an 8-4 record.

by Sean Kent
Staff Writer

As most of the student body prepared for and recovered from the controlled chaos that is Oasis, the volleyball team concluded their preseason schedule impressively, sweeping Cornell and battling CSU Bakers-

field through the full five games.

Despite Cornell's best efforts in Saint Mary's first of two matches on consecutive days, the defending Ivy League champs seemed overmatched to say the least. The Gaels coasted to a decisive win in straight games 30-11, 30-27, 30-12. As has been Saint Mary's tendency all season, they

jumped off to sizzling start at the outset and, with the exception of a two-point deficit in the second game, they never relinquished the lead.

While junior Taylor Groess' six-point serve streak got the Gaels jumpstarted, the real deciding factor in the game was Cornell's 14 errors to Saint Mary's none. Lauren Jaeckel '10 and Groess would each tally three kills in the opener, while Alita Fisher '10 had eight digs. Freshman Kapua Kamana'o led the team in assists with 11 and contributed to the squad's .464 hitting percentage.

The second game was a tense back and forth battle. Another opening run gave the Gaels the advantage, but soon the two sides traded points

for most of the game. It wasn't until Saint Mary's faltered at 18-19 that Cornell grabbed its only and short-lived lead, eventually stretching it out to 27-24. After two crucial timeouts, the Gaels rolled off six consecutive points to wrap up the match. The third game, again, tilted towards the home team as Groess hit another six-point streak to start off, but the attack was sustained by the Saint Mary's defense. They held Cornell to a .061 hitting percentage, while they generated .414 percentage of their own. Freshman Megan York continued her superb first year with 17 kills, nine digs, and six blocks for the match. York's classmates, Christy Payne and Shannon

see VB, p11

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| GAELS | 3 |
| CSU BAKERSFIELD | 2 |

Reincarnation of Watergate

Belichick, Patriots contribute to lawlessness of sports

by Nick Gionfriddo
Staff Writer

I hope it doesn't come to this, but I can see it now, Bill Belichick ferociously defending his reputation while at the same time declaring in Nixon-like fashion, "I am not a crook". Seems too oddly familiar doesn't it? That's because the Patriots could now find themselves in the midst of one of the biggest sports scandals we, the fan, have ever seen. The mere "interpretation" of videotaping defensive signals could have legs longer than Cameron Diaz and as deep as the infamous 1972 Watergate scandal.

During the opening week of the NFL season, a Patriots employee was found to be taping defensive play calls that the New York Jets were making during their 38-14 win. Although the situation was handled firmly but nonchalantly when the employee was told to stop, the repercussions from that one act have been severe. Since the "incident", critics have begun to question the legitimacy of many Patriots past Bill Belichick-era victories, including Super Bowls.

Prior to the week two national broadcast of the Patriots-Chargers game, the NFL's new disciplinarian nazi, Roger Goodell, had demanded that a myriad of information that Belichick had been collecting be turned over to the League office, thus causing an infinitesimal happening to change into a controversy many outside

see GIONFRIDDO, p10

Men's soccer sweeps before WCC play

Gaels on three game winning streak going into conference play

by Zack Farmer
Managing Editor

The men's soccer team swept their weekend matches against Sacramento State and San Jose State, 1-0 and 2-1 respectively.

In a fairly quiet opening game, the Gaels took a game on the road from Sacramento State 1-0.

The only goal scored was by senior David Blanchard in the 76th minute off of a free kick by sophomore Dylan Leslie.

Senior Brian Mason held strong for the 1-0 shutout. He collected one save on the day and his second shutout of the season. Both sides were only able to produce five shots during the game.

Heading home, Saint Mary's had broken the .500 barrier and looked to add against San Jose State.

The Gaels struck early against San Jose State as they

scored in the 18th minute when freshman Brian VanDoorninck took a pass from Blanchard and junior Justin Kim for the five yard punch-in.

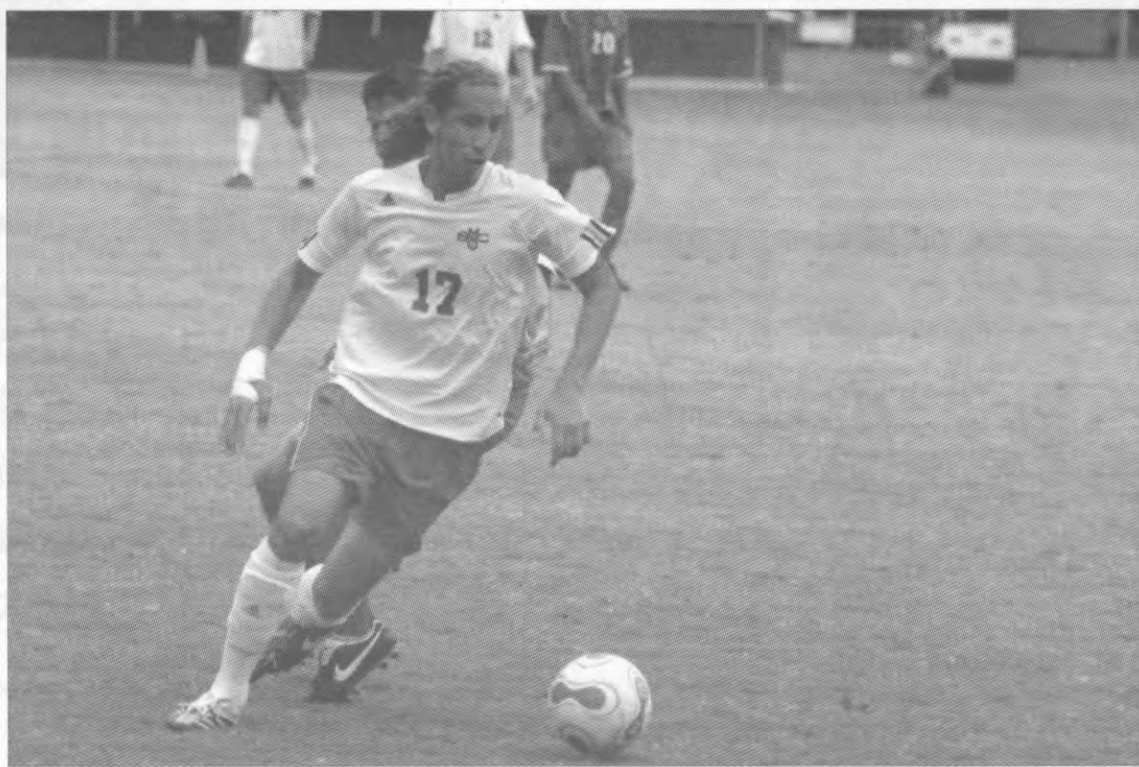
Spartan goalkeeper Richard Mann bobbled a Blanchard shot and nearly gave it up to another Saint Mary's player for a goal.

San Jose State kept the pressure on as the Gaels used backup goalkeeper Keenan Flynn '10 in place of the injured Brian Mason '08.

Flynn picked up two saves while the Spartans took eight shots in the half.

Early in the second half, the whistles started blazing. Within the first 15 minutes of the second half, the Gaels picked up three yellow cards, one of which handed out to VanDoorninck for unsportsmanlike conduct toward an official.

VanDoorninck was set off by a no-call by an official when Leslie ran into an opponent and fell, fa-



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

Justin Kim '09 collected an assist on Sunday when David Blanchard '08 scored the game-winning goal.

voring one knee.

Leslie returned to the game 10 minutes later.

Late in the second half, Saint Mary's recieved another opportunity to score. This time senior Erik Robert set up Blanchard for the header into the near post for the goal.

With the Gaels leading 2-0, the Spartans became very physical and put the pressure back on Saint Mary's. In the 79th minute, San Jose State's Julio Gonzalez recieved a pass from Ricky Dorrego and dumped the ball over Flynn from 16 yards out.

That would be the closest the

Spartans got in the game. Flynn finished the game with four saves on five tries.

With the wins over the weekend, the Gaels are now 4-2-0 going into an off week. After their week break, they will return to work facing Gonzaga on October 5 at Saint Mary's Stadium.