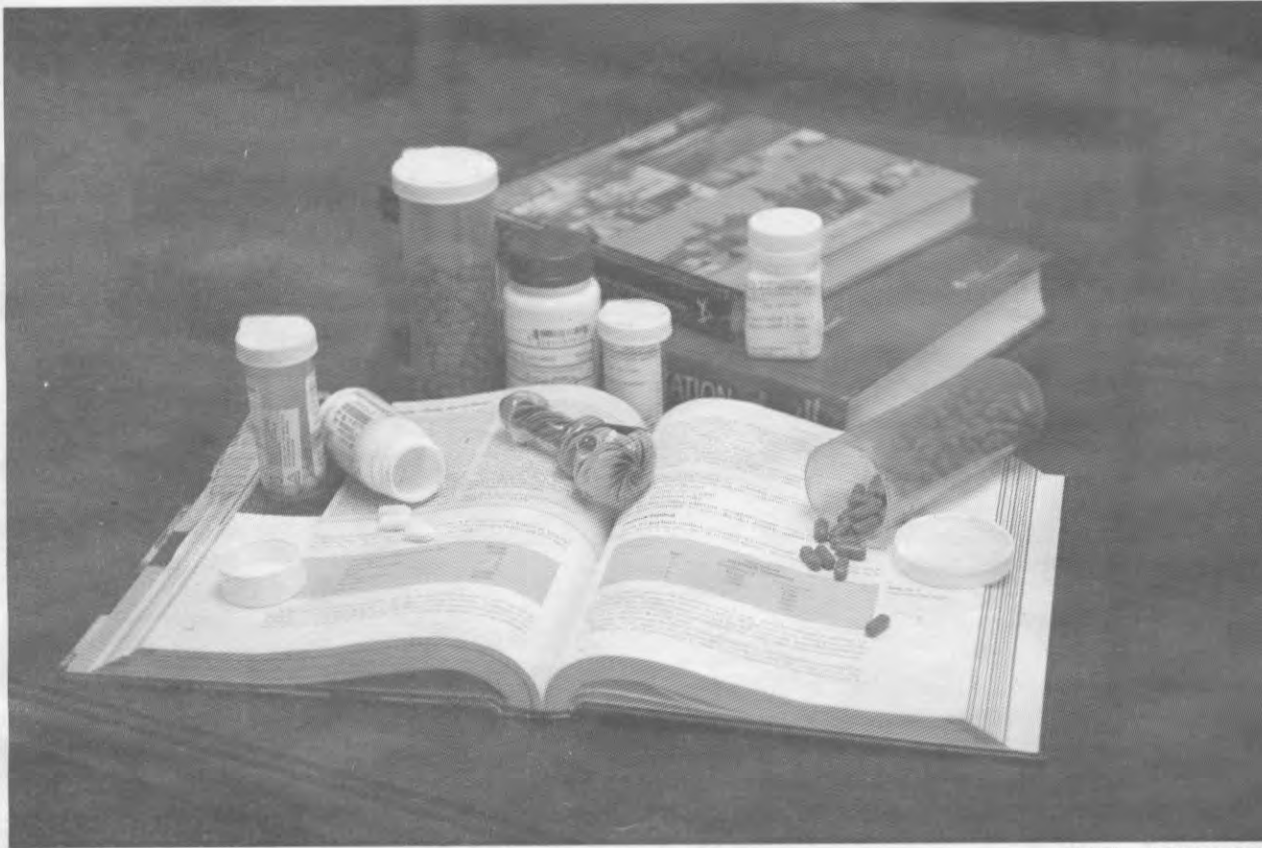




- ▶ **FEATURE:**
Drug violations rising
- ▶ **SPORTS:**
W Basketball wins in over time

Marijuana, cocaine, pills, paraphernalia



Mel Olson/COLLEGIAN

Researcher presents autism findings

by Patrick Buelna
 Staff Writer

Known as one of the most heritable disabilities, autism is defined as a brain development disorder that causes impairments in social interaction and communication, and restricted and repetitive behavior. While being an incurable disability, behavior training can reduce its impact on an autistic person's life.

Last Tuesday, Professor Sally Ozonoff, the vice chair for research at the University of California Davis's Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders (MIND) Institute, visited Saint Mary's to give a lecture on the discoveries from her recent study on autism.

Since infancy is the time "when the brain is in its most plastic, rapidly growing stage—that's the best time to treat someone with symptoms of autism," said Ozonoff.

Ozonoff, with the assistance of other professors and graduate students, collected a group of infants that had an autistic sibling and a second group of infants that had a sibling without autism, for a combined number of more than 300 children. They performed basic tests for autistic behaviors on the two groups of infants, beginning as early as seven weeks old until after they were two years of age. Some of these tests

see AUTISM, p4

Drug use becoming more common on campus as Public Safety enforces smoking ban in dorm rooms

See Feature on page 5 for full story

Original Civil War letters digitized into online display

Letters from Forrest Little survived to tell tale of his 20-month service as Union soldier

by Sean Kent
 Staff Writer

Rarely does the past get the chance to come to life in a unique and authentic way, let alone in a quaint community like Saint Mary's. History is often likened to a narrative, one with innumerable characters and subplots. With the digitization of nearly two dozen Civil War letters, historians, students and virtually anyone else interested in the great divide of the states can go online and view firsthand accounts of Forrest Little, a soldier in the Union army.

At the webpage's public unveiling this past Thursday in the library, Professor Carl Guarneri, Reference Librarian Sue Birkenseer, and Dean of Academic Resources Thomas Carter all told the tale of how the letters made it onto the Internet, while observers munched on a variety of appetizers. It seemed fitting that the "coming out party" would be held in a part of the library few students have ever seen, the conference room, where the walls were lined with rare books waiting to be discovered in the same way Little's letters were. Perhaps they are the well from which material can be drawn for the library and history department to collaborate again.

In fact, the plight of those unseen books exactly echoes those of the Civil War letters, or at least it did until this summer. After the College was given the documents as a gift by Mary and Francis van der Linden in 1995, Guarneri was entrusted with them as the resident source on all things Civil War. For the last decade he had been taking them to class periodically to let his students get a literal feel for the history they were learning about. It wasn't until he visited Hildene in Vermont, the home of Abraham Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, that he got the idea to digitize the letters and get them their proper exposure.

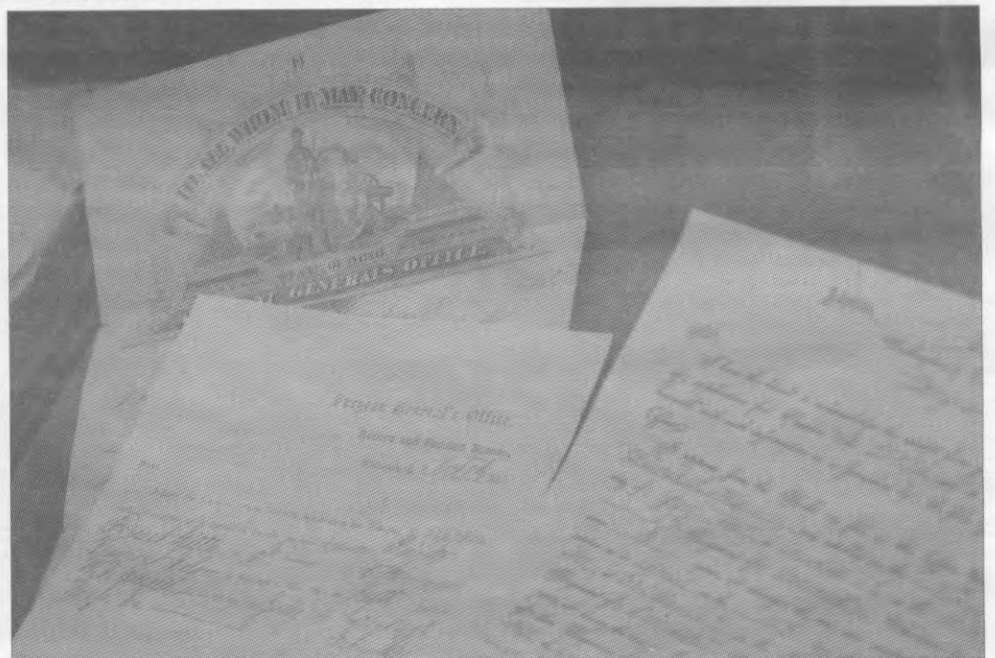
The letters were then painstakingly scanned by Reference Librarian Sarah Vital over this past summer, while Birkenseer designed the webpage and Guarneri transcribed the letters word-for-word, grammatical mistakes included. What makes the online display all the more vivid is that while one can read the complete, typed transcripts, one can also click on .jpeg images of the letters and see Little's actual penmanship. As Guarneri remarked, seeing the actual document is important in that one can see the original author's changes in mood from day-to-day. While early let-

ters might be neat and formal, later documents could be hurried and scribbled, often reflecting a soldier's physical state at the time.

All the educational advantages of studying the documents aside, the actual

letters tell the story of a 19-year-old who traveled nearly 20 miles to enlist in the Fifth Vermont Volunteers Regiment in September of 1861. While his early letters are pa-

see CIVIL WAR, p4



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

Original letters from the Civil War were publicly unveiled in the library last Thursday. They will be displayed in the library for the next few days; copies of them are available for viewing anytime online.

OPINION

Students kicked out, what are you going to do about it?

pg. 7

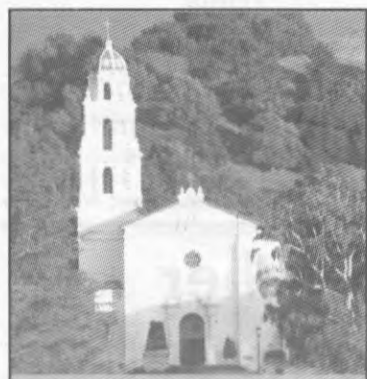
DETOUR

Let's go Murphies!

pg. 8

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THE INSIDE PAGE



THE COLLEGIAN

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SnapShot



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

A small number of students, faculty, staff and visitors congregated for All Saints' Day Mass on November 1 in the chapel.



LINDA HUA

Lasallian does not equal affordability

Williams College in Massachusetts offers an \$80,000 education per student, however their tuition, room, board and fees only cost \$42,310. They "admit students on their merits, meet 100 percent of demonstrated need, and provide aid packages that minimize loans and campus employment" (www.williams.edu).

However, that's not all. Recently, Williams College and Wesleyan University in Connecticut adopted a new loan policy where most students from low income families (\$40,000 per year or less) will not have to take out any loans and will graduate debt free by using grants. On top of that, any loans taken out will be federally subsidized Stafford Loans and if that weren't awesome enough, all students will be graduating with 35 percent less debt than those before them.

These two colleges are among the most exclusive liberal arts colleges in New England (*Chronicle for Higher Education*). Saint Mary's College of California has been gradually declining in ranking: from ninth best university on the West Coast in 2004 to being tied for 10th last year according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Why should we pay more for less?

Inclusive of tuition, room, board and fees, Saint Mary's costs over \$43,000; add miscellaneous expenses, such as books and travel, the total estimated cost is \$46,310 (www.smcadmit.com).

While Saint Mary's does not meet 100 percent of demonstrated need, their 80 percent is still good, but what does that number really mean? Notice on the financial aid award letter that your "Total Estimated Funds Available" includes work study and loans. My federal work study eligibility happens to be \$6,000—they sure are expecting me to work a lot while attending a full load of classes and managing a newspaper.

Calculating generously, since freshman year, my expected family contribution has been about \$5,000. By the time that I graduate, I'll have about \$160,000 paid in good old Saint Mary's education. Given the 80 percent demonstrated needs met, I should have paid only \$28,000; instead, I have just under \$40,000 in loans. This accrued even when I only took extra loans for freshman and sophomore years in addition to the federal loans every year. Otherwise, I have paid for tuition myself, by consistently working two jobs throughout the year and having worked up to four jobs in one semester in 2005. This means that on top of the \$40,000 in loans, I have also paid an additional amount over \$15,000, which leads to a \$65,000 bill—a far cry from the 80 percent assistance that Saint Mary's claims to offer.

As a Lasallian institution, Saint Mary's should model Williams and Wesleyan and make higher education more affordable, especially if the 80 percent is what it boasts.

Crime Beat

10/26/07 5:15 p.m.
Incident: Accidental damage to private property.
Synopsis: Baseball smashed windshield in baseball parking lot, referred to Athletics and Business Office.

10/28/07 12:06 a.m.
Incident: Grand theft.
Synopsis: Golf cart stolen from Madigan Gym, recovered and referred to Alumni.

10/28/07 12:00 p.m.
Incident: Suspicious circumstances.
Synopsis: Attempted removal of vending machine in Filippi Hall, authorization verified and case closed.

10/28/07 4:04 p.m.
Incident: Informational report.
Synopsis: Students on roof of Madigan Gym near the pool retrieving a soccer ball, referred to Student Conduct.

10/28/07 8:02 p.m.
Incident: Vandalism.
Synopsis: Intentional biohazard incident in the women's restroom near Café Louis, suspended.

10/29/07 8:07 p.m.
Incident: Fire alarm activation.
Synopsis: Burnt Halloween decoration in Mitty Hall, referred to Physical Plant and Student Conduct.

10/29/07 8:20 p.m.
Incident: Student Handbook violation.
Synopsis: Possession of marijuana and paraphernalia in Mitty Hall, referred to Student Conduct.

10/30/07
Incident: Abusive conduct (occurred on 10/25/07 @ 1:30 p.m.)
Synopsis: Disruptive behavior in Galileo Hall, referred to Student Conduct.

10/30/07 11:30 a.m.
Incident: Informational report.
Synopsis: Potential break-in into SMC Data Room of the North Arcade, referred to Ed Biglin of CaTS.

10/30/07 8:04 p.m.
Incident: Petty theft.
Synopsis: Stolen skateboard in De La Salle Quad, referred to Student Conduct.

10/31/07 4:05 a.m.
Incident: Fire alarm activation.
Synopsis: Unable to identify source of smoke in hallway of Ageno C, referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant.

10/31/07 9:30 a.m.
Incident: Informational report.
Synopsis: Possible break-in to desk in Academic Advising Office, suspended.

10/31/07 2:56 p.m.
Incident: Medical assist.
Synopsis: Student fell in the laundry room of Mitty Hall and was transported to John Muir Hospital, referred to Residence Life and Health and Wellness Center.

11/1/07 12:35 p.m.
Incident: Possession of marijuana.
Synopsis: Lying to a college official about possession in Aquinas Hall, referred to Student Conduct.

11/1/07 9:10 a.m.
Incident: Informational.
Synopsis: Smell of smoke in building from unknown source in Rheem Center, referred to Physical Plant.

11/1/07 4:40 p.m.
Incident: Traffic accident.
Synopsis: Property damage only in De La Salle Drive in front of Physical Plant, referred to Physical Plant and Business Office.

11/2/07 11:45 a.m.
Incident: Medical emergency.
Synopsis: Student from Counseling Center transported to Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek, referred to Residence Life.



The Collegian NEWS



Weekly Featured Profile

Faculty/Staff

Steve Cortright

by Caitlin Graveson
Staff Writer

Professor Steve Cortright could not have imagined the effects of his decision to turn down Cornell University in favor of Saint Mary's College. He could not have predicted that he would remain a part of the school for over 30 years.

As an undergraduate, Cortright was inspired to study both philosophy and Integral after learning to read Aristotle and Plato in Greek. Learning the Greek language changed his perspectives on ancient Greek philosophy. It was not the task of learning another language that inspired him, as Cortright came to Saint Mary's fluent in German, but rather the opportunity Greek provided him to read historical texts in their original form. The professors under whom Cortright studied truly inspired his desire to teach, such as Frank Ellis who sparked Cortright's interest in Philosophy.

Just two years after graduating in 1975 from the Integral program, Cortright became a part-time professor. He took a leave of absence from 1979-1980 in order to do more graduate study at the University of Norte Dame, but since then has been active at Saint Mary's, teaching regularly in both the philosophy and Integral programs. Although he volunteers to teach each of his classes and enjoys every class he teaches, his favorites are Integral Freshman Mathematics Tutorial and Integral Junior Laboratory.

Cortright remembers Saint Mary's student life of his time as very different from that of today. With no BART and no car, students were forced to find entertainment on campus. "Everything was less organized and more spontaneous, which was educational and a treat," said Cortright. One of Cortright's favorite things to do as a student was to work on the annual Shakespeare or Greek Thought play that the Integral program produced. The program would build the set and perform in Redwood Grove. One year the Integral program produced an opera version of Euripides' *The Bacchae*, to which Cortright can still remember the chorus.

As a professor, Cortright enjoys "being a part of a community of learners who talk about questions that matter." He values the common conversation that occurs among faculty. He also says that some of his best friends as an undergraduate now teach at Saint Mary's.

Having been here as a student 30 years ago, Cortright provides perspective on the changes Saint Mary's has undergone. The school has grown drastically in size and

see CORTRIGHT, p4

College's strengths, weaknesses detailed

WASC committee pays special visit to discuss library, diversity

by Julie McAvoy
News Editor

Last week, a Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation committee visited campus to meet with students, staff and faculty. Following visits in 2003 and 2004, the College's reaccreditation was confirmed and the committee requested two special visits to address some of the areas of needed improvement.

The first of these visits focused on the doctorate in Educational Leadership program and concluded with a positive evaluation in 2005. The most recent visit concentrated on library resources, diversity, and adult and graduate education.

Saint Mary's coordinated a team of six faculty and staff members to prepare a special report, which was presented to the three WASC committee members. This report detailed the changes that the College has made since the last WASC visit and presented an overview of each area that the committee planned to address.

After reading this report and talking with students, staff and faculty, the committee chair Dr. Ronald Troyer, provost of Drake University, gave an oral recap of what the final written report will include. This was summarized in a special Campus Bulletin and the final report will be available in

March.

Other committee members are CSU Dominguez Hills Professor Dr. Shirley Lal and CSU San Marcos Dean of Library Dr. Marion T. Reid.

This committee applauded Saint Mary's in many areas, including its hospitality, honesty, openness and promptness of providing requested documents. Also, the committee pointed out the benefits of the creation of a

“ Recognizing that academia typically engages in lengthy discussion prior to making decisions, SMC needs to move more quickly from discussion to action.”

Vice President of Mission, which was appointed to Brother Michael Sanderl, and a Celebrating Diversity Committee. Saint Mary's was said to have set an example for other institutions in its academic program review and development of learning goals.

Creating a culture of evidence, specific plans for the improvement of the library, and the Building on Strengths plan were also commended by the committee. Development of the graduate school programs was praised as

well, specifically the decisions to close the School of Extended Education's SEED program, and the combination of a number of graduate programs into the School of Liberal Arts. The development of the position of Associate Dean for Graduate Programs was also noted as beneficial to the College.

Furthermore, the committee gave several suggestions on how the College could improve. Many of these suggestions centered on the need to act more and discuss less or reenergize lethargic areas of the College. The Campus Bulletin report said, "Recognizing that academia typically engages in lengthy discussion prior to making decisions, SMC needs to move more quickly from discussion to action." It was proposed that the College hire a consultant to improve promptness and action surrounding issues of "inclusively and civility."

The library was another area of focus for improvement, especially its budget, resources and physical space. The Doctorate in Educational Leadership program was also seen as needing continued improvement and concrete deadlines.

Issues that were described as "urgent" were the need to increase institution-wide progress and publicize efforts to address respect and diversity. An immediate and aggressive plan to deal with incivility was another area of needed improvement.

Campus Calendar

Locally-Grown Organic Lunch

Wednesday, November 7
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Oliver Hall

Social Justice Speaker: Ralph Spinelli

Wednesday, November 7
1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Galileo 201
Contact Shawny Anderson

Creative Writing Series: Rob Spillman & Elissa Schapell

Wednesday, November 7
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
De La Salle Hall, Hagerty Lounge
Contact Chris Sindt

Creative Writing Series: Russ Rhymer

Wednesday, November 7
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Soda Center, Claeys Room
Contact Chris Sindt

Life Lessons Series

Thursday, November 8
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Delphine Lounge
Contact Ivan Pagan x4349

Working Smarter Not Harder

Friday, November 9
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Soda Center, Orinda Room
Contact Melanie Harris x4212

The Future...

Friday, November 9
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 10
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Galileo 112
Contact Grete Stenersen

Magic: The Gathering Booster Draft Tournament

Saturday, November 10
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Dante 116
Contact Victoria Hudson x4977

Math Monday

Monday, November 12
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Galileo 202
Contact Michael Nathanson x4445

Project One World

Monday, November 12
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Delphine Lounge
Contact Sharon Sobotta x4171

Planning an event?

Want it in *The Collegian*?

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NEWS BRIEF

Social Justice Speaker discusses California prison system tomorrow

"Ralph Spinelli is a risk taker. He weighs the odds and almost always decides they are in his favor. Sometimes the risks pay off—most recently earning his Bachelor of Science degree from USF at the age of 61, before entering the MFA program at St. Mary's College after already having a successful career as an executive with Harrah's Hotel/Casinos. But sometimes they didn't pay off—most notably when he

ended up in prison," reads his biography. Ralph Spinelli was an inmate in the California correctional system for many years. On Wednesday, November 7, he will be on campus in Galileo Room 201 during community time (starting at 12:40). He will be speaking about the justice and injustice of the California Correctional Institutions, as he experienced it.

CORTRIGHT: Professor recognizes changes in Saint Mary's over time

continued from page 3

students now have less time for one another. In the early years as a professor, Cortright used to know almost all the students on campus. He was also close with the entire faculty, which led to both "friendships and conflicts." Cortright said the school was linked together as an intimate learning community, whereas today students have only institu-

tions and rules in common. Students today have a "ferocious dedication" and are more driven because of concern with economic prospects after college. "It makes some grade grubbers but it also imparts seriousness," said Cortright.

Cortright hopes he will remain a part of the Saint Mary's College community for many years to come.

CIVIL WAR: Original letters from the Civil War enrich library collection

continued from page 1

triotic and upbeat, a definite shift in tone can be heard as he describes a longing to be back home: "I some times wish I was at home where I could be sure of a good bed every night and especiley a good breakfast..." The letters continue to catalog Little's participation in General George McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, through the battles of Lee's Mills, Williamsburg and Savage Sta-



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

wound, but from typhoid fever in 1862, just 20 months after enlisting.

The actual letters will remain on display on the ground floor of the library for the next few days, after which they will be returned to the rare texts area. They will remain available for anyone to access online at <http://library.stmarys-ca.edu/research/history/usa/little/index.php>.

tion. However, Little died prematurely, not because of a battle

AUTISM: UC Davis researcher presents findings on early detection of autism

continued from page 1

were observing the child's response to their name and point of focus during social interactions.

After about nine months, Ozonoff and her colleagues began to find enough evidence to diagnose some of the babies. Previously, the earliest age psychologists could reliably diagnose autistic children was two years old, which is accurate 80 to 90 percent of the time. If Ozonoff and her colleagues could reliably diagnose the infants with autism before the age of two, then this would establish a new precedent that would allow parents and psychologists to get a head start on treating the children.

When Ozonoff discovered that the pre-two year old diagnosis were accurate, she proposed to begin developing ways of treating infants for autism. Belonging to one of the groups of psychologists innovating techniques, she romanticizes that in about "10 years, we will have formal screenings for autism" starting when the infant reaches six months. Having the means to diagnose and treat autism at such an early age gives hope of being able to better incorporate autistic people in society and the professional world.

This may be why Saint Mary's Dean of Academics and Achieve-

ment, Russell Tiberii, who coordinates providing accommodations for Saint Mary's disabled students, attended the lecture. Tirberii said he wished "to keep updated in the field, because our department deals with the result of progress made in the treatments of autism."

With one in every 150 people being diagnosed with autism, it is no wonder that Ozonoff and her colleagues' discovery has captured the attention of psychologists. Treatment for infant autism, pioneered by Orzonoff, may lead to progress in mitigating the effect autism has on people's lives.

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For more information on how you can help to stop hunger visit helpstophunger.org

Visit www.forstudentsbystudents.com for complete details.



The Collegian
FEATURE

Saint Mary's: Below the influence

by **Mark Freeman**
Staff Writer

On October 16, Public Safety found cocaine, marijuana and drug paraphernalia in Ageno B. If this news isn't shocking, it's probably because such incidents are becoming more commonplace at Saint Mary's College.

Drug law violations rose 54 percent in 2006 from 2005 (83 from 54) according to crime statistics published by the College. While overall statistics for 2007 aren't available, the school had 12 drug related violations in October alone. These violations generally include the possession of marijuana and other drugs.

Bill Foley, chief of Public Safety, explained that there are a "variety of reasons" why the number of policy violations has gone up. Foley cited a nationwide trend of increased marijuana usage and the school's relatively new non-smoking policy inside dorms as possibilities. According to Foley, cigarette smoke "may have masked [the scent of marijuana]" in the past, but people are more likely to pick up the plant's distinctive odor with the ban in place.

California's medical marijuana laws may also explain the rising numbers. Public Safety has found "evidence of more frequent displays of medical marijuana certificates on campus," Foley said. But while the certificates are technically legal in California, card holders will still be busted because the "College subscribes to be a drug-free school in compliance with federal law," Foley said.

The rising drug violations, especially those involving marijuana, may stem from use of such illegal substances at younger ages. According to a study by the University of Michigan in 2006, roughly 15 percent of eighth graders had tried marijuana. By the time they are ready for college, the study found that 40 percent of students had tried the drug.

One student, who wished to

remain anonymous, related similar experiences. "I have a 16-year-old friend who did pot when they were eight years old and meth at 13," the student said.

These trends suggest that incoming college students are more likely to have tried illicit drugs than in past years. Nancy Glenn, the associate director of the Counseling Center said, "Incoming students continue to report experimentation and use of other drugs (besides alcohol)," she said. In addition, Glenn mentioned that "there is a growing national trend in prescription drug abuse," particularly medicines used for treating Attention Deficit Disorder.

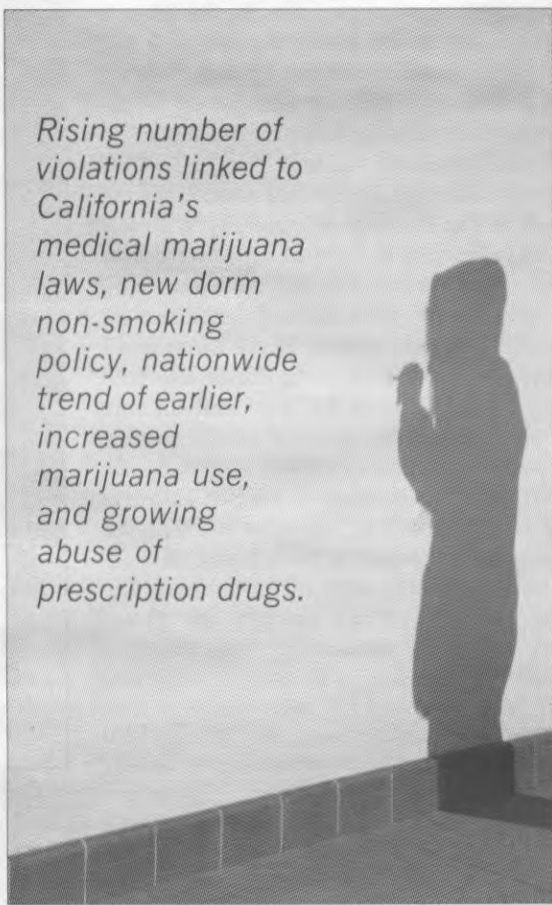
The student, who has taken Adderall without a prescription, as well as marijuana and cocaine, believes that freshmen are more likely to be caught with drugs. "This year, I'm not sure if Public Safety got stricter or freshmen got stupider," the student said in reference to the rising drug violations.

Foley agrees that younger students are more susceptible to drug usage. Attending college is "one of the first times they've been away from supervision, so it is a time of experimentation and exploration," he said. Students are "finding out who [they are] in a new social setting."

The student estimates that roughly 50 percent of Saint Mary's students are regular drug users, but this estimate is "based on the crowd I hang out with." The student said he/she meets people through "social events where drugs are present," rather than at academic clubs or extra-curricular activities.

According to the student, Saint Mary's students purchase drugs because they "have extra money and nothing better to spend it on.

Rising number of violations linked to California's medical marijuana laws, new dorm non-smoking policy, nationwide trend of earlier, increased marijuana use, and growing abuse of prescription drugs.



Mel Olson/COLLEGIAN

Drug violations increased 54 percent from 2005 to 2006. This school year seems to be on track to surpass both years with 12 drug-related incidents reported in October alone.

I tend to see first-generation college students working instead of doing drugs...those with successful families can rely on their parents to bail them out if something happens," the student said.

However, a student's social status won't help when Public Safety comes. Foley described the department as a "gatherer of facts and a gatherer of information, similar to police departments in the off-campus world." When Public Safety receives an anonymous tip, it builds a case to see if a person has violated the law or Student Handbook policy.

When a case is strong enough, Public Safety performs what Foley calls a "knock and talk" visit with the individual or it may conduct a more thorough search. "Everything is documented," he said. Once a violation has been established, Public Safety refers individuals to Residence Life for internal review or to the Moraga

Police Department as a criminal complaint. In drug policy violations, drugs confiscated from individuals are flushed or turned over to the Moraga PD. "We don't store drugs," Foley said.

Foley explained that Public Safety is often cast as the "bad guy" when it confiscates drugs, but he explained that their role is for the students' benefit. "One of our functions is to enforce rules and regulations," he said, but "I believe very strongly in being involved in the community." Since Foley arrived at Saint Mary's he has been working to "build relationships with students, faculty and staff on campus" and make the department seem less "unapproachable."

When it comes to stopping friends from using drugs though, individual students may have more power than Public Safety. "Students who want to

help their friends can have honest and frank discussions. It is important to be specific—tell your friend that you are concerned and back up your concern with specific examples about the ways their use are causing problems for themselves and/or others," Glenn said.

Indeed, the student admits that

"drug use starts in a time of crisis for the person." They explained that they started using cocaine after a breakup with a significant other. To help friends in their time of need, Glenn suggests students "be supportive and provide resources that can help."

She recommends that students refer their friends to the Counseling Center and Health and Wellness Center. "Students can also come in for a consultation at the Counseling Center to discuss their concerns and figure out a game plan before they have a discussion with their friend about their drug use."

While drugs exist on campus, students should take comfort in the fact that Saint Mary's is on par with other small, liberal arts schools. In 2006, Santa Clara University had 88 drug law violations while the University of San Diego had 63.

In fact, bigger-name schools have had more serious problems. According to a February 2007 report by *The Heights*, Boston College's newspaper, some BC students were implicated in a massive drug bust that included 46.1 grams of cocaine, drug paraphernalia, and a fake weapon. One of the students faces trafficking charges, which could lead to three years in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

According to the student, Saint Mary's doesn't face problems of this magnitude. "I haven't really seen dealers on campus," they said. "Alcohol is way easier to get a hold of anyway."

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The Collegian
OPINION



CASEY O'BRIEN

FEMA fabricates news conference while homes burn

In response to the fires sweeping Southern California last week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) staged a phony news conference.

Journalists and reporters nationwide were given 15 minutes to make it to the news conference, after which the doors were shut, though hardly anyone can travel at light-speed to make a conference.

Rather than having real journalists, FEMA had their own public affair personnel pretend to be reporters and fill the seats to inquire and report about the handling of the Southern California fires. As the public affair personnel didn't push for negative scrutiny, it was very easy for FEMA Deputy Administrator Harvey Johnson to avoid questions comparing their responses to the fires and Hurricane Katrina.

Had actual journalists been present, questions could have upheld the truth for American citizens. Not only was the conference fabricated because of an absence of journalism, ABC News said "it looked like any other Washington press briefing, with a public affairs official walking up to a podium, introducing a government official and kicking off a press conference." FEMA has betrayed Hurricane Katrina victims, Southern California "once-residents," field journalists, news agencies, and every person concerned with the news. Journalists have the right to cover the news, and when they are denied that, the Constitution needs to be upheld.

Since the incident, FEMA has apologized and has finally experienced the fallout from the situation. A *New York Times* article stated that what "[John P. 'Pat' Philbin] said, was that the agency staff was late in sending out a notice to reporters about the briefing, but could not postpone the briefing because of restrictions on when it could use a satellite uplink to distribute live video to the media."

Philbin has been fired for this incident, and FEMA officials have been reprimanded, but so what? So far, FEMA has yet to have a flawless plan for handling a natural disaster. Not only does this embarrass their organization, but the Department of Homeland Security is also stigmatized because FEMA is one of their branches.

As the presidential campaigns get set for the one-year race for office, FEMA will be extremely criticized for their inadequacy. When the agency for emergency management has to apologize for being substandard, there are serious implications. Even the people whose homes burned to the ground are being lied to.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We are sending this to you anonymously as two students at St. Mary's who feel we have an important message for the St. Mary's community. We ask that you please publish this in hopes that it will bring more attention to what is and what is *not* happening at St. Mary's. We also ask that you publish this anonymously, not because we do not stand by our opinion, but because our already threatened safety at St. Mary's could be in danger if our names are attached.

In response to the article regarding the first sexual assault case of the year, we are writing to you as two students who have been greatly disappointed by the disciplinary hearing process at St. Mary's. Our disappointment stems from a lack of concern for the victims involved—making those who have already been harmed concerned for not only their safety but the safety of the members of the community. We came forward for the sole purpose of obtaining justice and with the assumption that St. Mary's would uphold the five Lasallian core principles. We were greatly disturbed by the outcome of our specific cases. The accused in both cases were repeat offenders, who had been given a simple slap on the wrist after each incident. We put ourselves in a vulnerable position by revealing our experiences to respected officials with the expectation of being protected. In response to coming forward, we found that St. Mary's dealt with the situation by isolating us and the situation at hand. As victims we were not offered justice, but are haunted every day by the presence of these offenders that freely roam the St. Mary's campus. Why is St. Mary's protecting the guilty instead of the innocent?

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.

W	rite in	WE WANT YOUR LETTERS
	The Collegian	
SPEAK OUT		collegia@stmarys-ca.edu

Colbert's presidential campaign shot down as illegal *Officials need to grow a sense of humor, understand the joke*

by Bryant West
 Staff Writer

Steven Colbert, the host of *The Colbert Report* makes millions across the country laugh, but it's increasingly obvious that the federal government doesn't have the same sense of humor.

Colbert announced on his show on October 16 that the rumors of him running for president were true, and that he would be running on the Democratic and Republican ballots in his home state of South Carolina (though he revealed on October 31 that while he put his name on the Democratic ballot, he was not willing to pay the \$35,000 fee the Republican ballot demanded). Instantly the country was cheering its support. The Facebook group "1,000,000 Strong for Stephen T. Colbert" took only eight days to

get a million members, a sign of his popularity among the public.

However, his campaign, a joke or not, could be violating federal laws. Corporations aren't allowed to back presidential campaigns, and this causes problems as Doritos is Colbert's public sponsor. Colbert worked around this by claiming that Doritos was only sponsoring his show and not his campaign—"It is illegal for my crunch money here to pay for my show, and the show can report on my campaign," said Colbert. Comedy Central could also be violating the law; Lawrence M. Nobel, a former general counsel for the Federal Election Commission, said that it is illegal for a cable station to give a talk show or give control of a program to a favored candidate.

Regardless, as of November 1 the Democrats in South Carolina decided not to approve his application to be on the ballot. Many said Colbert took his role as a comedian too far and that his campaign mocked the serious issue of presidential campaigning, while some think he honestly meant to enter the Office. On the other hand, while he was going for the South Carolina ballot, Colbert didn't think he stood a chance or he would have put his name on more states. As he didn't, he is now out of the running.

Sarcasm is a way of communication. The common person feels disenfranchised from the political landscape and Colbert, as well as Jon Stewart and Bill Maher, capitalize on this feeling. Colbert is the newest of the three and, while he has an enormous

fan base, needed fresh material—and running for president was the perfect idea. Considering how depressing the current political landscape is anyway, a little more finger jabbing at the election process is not mocking the presidency any more than what Colbert does on a regular basis. The federal election officials need to learn some humor of their own before declaring the flaws in what is obviously a joke campaign. As they dug through his campaign to find every loophole, all they did was ruin the joke.

Colbert had his supporters, but even the diehard fans only dreamed he will make the office, and those who took his campaign to be anything other than a joke need to learn some humor of their own.

Atheists most looked on with suspicion in America *No faith makes atheists less trusted than homosexuals, Muslims*

The results are official: a study by the University of Minnesota has shown that atheists are the least trusted social group in America, ranking behind other contemporary controversial social groups like homosexuals, Muslims and recent immigrants.

Although atheism hasn't been as controversial a social group in America as the other three groups, people seem to dislike atheists more because of the very fact that they believe in nothing. Former Attorney General John Ashcroft once said, "We have no king but Jesus," and many Republican-leaning pundits such as Ann Coulter have also preached Jesus-based thought.

We've tried this whole "faith-based" thing for quite a few years and we're going practically nowhere when this is taken to its extreme. We live in a society where many constituents believe in a god, and American values



JOSE ALVAREZ

tend to amplify this belief to the point where it spreads practically everywhere. This happens often enough and to the point where it is forced on those with different beliefs, even unbelief.

In essence, the study found out that Americans think atheists are worse than homosexuals who supposedly threaten American family values through sexual deviancy, Muslim fundamentalists who took thousands of lives when they blew up the World Trade Center, and immigrants who apparently keep taking jobs. While not putting down homosexuals, Muslims or immigrants in general, we as a society are taking a

step backwards when we discriminate against atheists, or any other social group. Atheists make up a mere three percent of the population, yet they are the glaring exception to society's increasing tolerance of other groups over the past 30 years, during which there have been so many other civil rights advances to get rid of the barriers dividing America.

Why do Americans dislike atheists so much? It may simply be that many Americans believe in a higher being and the fact that many Americans hold fast to their religious views. The Americans whose ancestors came to escape religious persecution are now becoming the persecutors by asserting that if you don't believe in a higher being, you have no morals whatsoever. This is wholly untrue—in fact, a good number of current atheists were once part of a major religious faith. The unbelief in a God is actually *up* com-

pared to years past, with explicit belief in God dropping to 82 percent in 2005 compared to a 94 percent belief in 2000.

Discrimination in America has gone from persecuting the color of one's skin to persecuting one's thoughts. One of the fundamental American principles is the freedom of religion, and in essence, the freedom *from* religion. One of our Founding Fathers, John Adams, said that "the Government of the United States is not in any sense founded upon the Christian religion."

This leaves the question: *why* are atheists the least trusted social group in America again? The Constitution was set up to allow freedom of thought to all people who believe or don't believe. This is just fascism attempting to control what we think, and it is good that the University of Minnesota study raised awareness of this unjust persecution.

The Collegian OPINION

EDITORIAL FEATURE:

Students kicked out of dorms right after finals, high unexplained cost for staying

Why are students kicked out on Thursday afternoon when finals week lasts from Monday to Thursday?

This school is not as timid and substance free as the administration would like, but regardless of social tendencies, this tiny, boring campus is our home. Students live here for approximately eight months out of the year. This is a place that we've grown accustomed to and a place of certain sentimental attachment. If not that, it's where all our stuff is.

Resident advisors (RAs) and directors (RDs) normally keep frivolities under control and maintain some balance of order in residence halls

when school is in session, but they also have lives outside of school and would most likely leave campus at some point during winter recess. With no one on campus to regulate students, it is very possible that belligerent behavior will ensue.

However, some students have finals on Thursday at 5 p.m. and live somewhere outside of the Bay Area. What of them? It is especially difficult if these students don't have cars. Dragging a month's worth of supplies from a bus to BART to the airport is not an easy task for one person and taxis are expensive. So what is the best solution for these students? For the 35 percent of out-of-state, Southern Californian, and international students, the Thursday 5 p.m. deadline is a little severe. Students are able to request an extended stay, but it wasn't well publicized last year and some students ran into problems with the early deadline. Students were accustomed to the Friday at noon move-out deadline.

Though Residence Life is taking more precautions for making sure students are well-informed of the updated policy this year, is it enough? There's only about a month of school left. Residence Life needs time to process all the extended stay forms, and students



STEFANIE WANG

still haven't received a mass e-mail regarding holiday move out. Unless Residence Life really likes sorting through requests and verifying the validity of each request two weeks before the start of recess, action should be taken soon.

Residence Life is kind and reasonable enough to waive fees for students who need an extra day

	2006-2007	2007-2008
Double	5,926	6,220
Single	6,510	6,950
Triple	4,750	5,000
Townhouse double	6,900	7,100
Townhouse triple	6,190	6,400

Compiled by Stefanie Wang, information from SMCNet

2006-2007 year increased by an average of \$497 per year, yet the maximum cost per day has remained \$25. The increase of the cost of a regular double room from last year is \$294. That raise isn't too intimidating, but the cost of a single room has increased by \$440 since last year.

It is reasonable to pay a certain amount of money for extended stays, but why has the daily rate increased to \$50? Staying on campus for several days during winter recess was meant as an alternative for students instead of staying in a hotel. With a 100 percent increase in cost, a hotel looks more promising. With better amenities and the possibility of a complimentary breakfast, why stay on campus when a hotel provides better service?

If the increase in the daily rate is an adjustment to rising costs

School is in session for 33 weeks, which means that the current cost for a student in a double room is about \$27 a day. Last year, it cost about \$25.60 a day for a double room. Now, where are the extra costs coming from? To my knowledge, there are no extra precautions taken for Winter recess. Public Safety is on campus regardless of what time of year it is. Sodexo has and will remain closed during holiday breaks. If food services will remain active this year, then the extra \$25 makes more sense. However, this is not the case.

If the school is trying to account for inflation and rising costs, why have there not been small adjustments over the course of several years? Did they suddenly realize that \$25 a day just isn't enough to cover the cost of keeping the school operating and increased it by two fold?

However, if one of the main goals of the price increase is to discourage students from staying a long time during winter recess, a better method would be making the selection process more difficult. Residence Life already verifies the finals schedule of students with conflicting exam times. Instead of having it so that only some students have to deal with the Thursday at 5 p.m. deadline and the issues that come with it, Residence Life should just reinstitute the leniency and good grace of kicking students out on Friday at noon.

Students with illegitimate reasons for staying on campus will be a problem regardless of policies and deadlines implemented, so making the cost of staying on campus more expensive might not help as much as they would like it to.

If there are good reasons for a 100 percent increase, students deserve to know part of the breakdown of costs or, at the very least, an explanation.

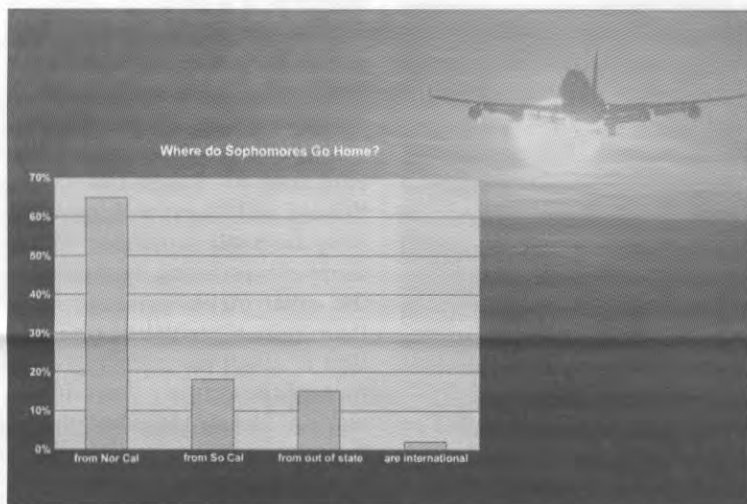


Photo illustration by L.Hua & D.Deyo/COLLEGIAN. Image courtesy of wallpaper-desktop.net
Students come from all over but have to leave the day of finals.

on campus due to traveling or scheduling conflicts, but students whose requests are approved and don't fall into the traveling or scheduling conflict bracket are screwed.

When the class of 2008 were freshmen, they could pay an hourly rate for staying on campus. Though the rate was rather ridiculous, the maximum anyone would pay was \$25 per day. The cost of room and board from the 2003-2004 school year to the

	Room and Board	Increase (\$)
2001-2002	8,050	-
2002-2003	8,550	500
2003-2004	9,075	252
2004-2005	9,530	455
2005-2006	10,010	480
2006-2007	10,566	556
2007-2008	11,090	524

Compiled by Stefanie Wang, information from SMCNet

of gas, electricity and water, why has the rate remained the same for so many years?



DARWYNN DEYO

Romney's college aid will increase unemployment

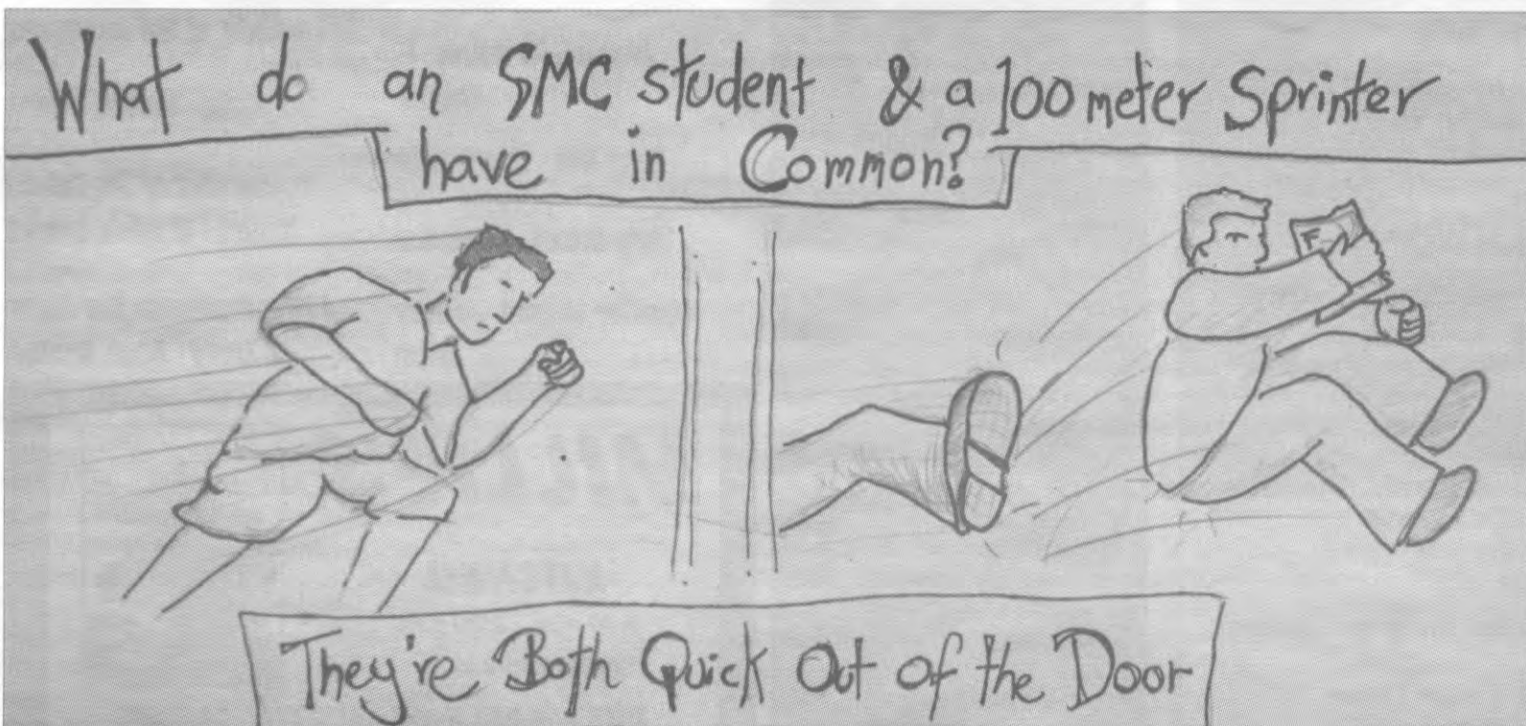
Mitt Romney, Republican presidential nominee, has a new way to screw up America's education system. He wants to subsidize majors that lead to socially acceptable careers.

The former Massachusetts governor wants to link financial aid for college to the careers students pursue after graduation. Though he was careful enough to not specify which majors and careers would receive more aid, it makes no difference whether future doctors, teachers or social workers get more aid than art history majors because the idea relies on subsidizing certain fields, leading to inefficient allocations in the labor market.

There is an alternative to supporting some failing majors over others through tax-payer dollars. As some colleges already do, certain degrees could cost more than others, depending on the expected income that major would yield. For example, degrees with limited job opportunities (i.e. those leading primarily to professorial or research positions) would cost less than those with multiple avenues of employment. The benefits to this scheme are that students who earn degrees with low incomes won't pay for a degree that is, in terms of the return, less valuable than those with high incomes. Furthermore, as most of the low-income degrees require more education than a bachelor's for the student to find a job in their field, the lower cost of undergraduate degree would reflect that it alone is not of high value—and the student would have more money over time to earn their masters and doctorates.

Perhaps Romney will find support for his program, but at what cost? Students might take low-yielding majors just because it costs them less with in the short-run, but if the financial aid supports theatre majors in order to promote culture, what happens then to the excess supply of actors, techies and screenwriters? They won't all find jobs just because Romney wants to promote their existence. Instead, if our society values business and accounting majors over theatre, more people pursue degrees where there are jobs waiting, then there is no need to subsidize the major. It happens naturally in response to market forces.

Like it or not, America has a long history of letting the market work, and as a result we have a strong business and service-oriented economy. If instead we create a surplus of social workers and theatre majors without jobs, there will have been no point in spending yesterday's tax dollars on today's welfare recipients.



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN



The Collegian
DETOUR



Nineties pop scene tries for comeback
Jive squeezing last drops from has-been lemons?

by DJ Bowen III
Staff Writer

Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys each released new full-length albums this past Tuesday to mixed reviews. Despite both of these artists be-

have benefited by making this a battle to determine who could make the better comeback in the face of new challenges: Spears, facing the loss of custody of her children but continuing her career amidst difficult times, or the Backstreet Boys, a group making music for the first time without original member Kevin Richardson.

I suppose Jive did not want listeners to "choose" between the two CD's, but as evidenced by West's *Graduation* sales and 50 Cent's *Curtis* sales, a little controversial hype helps everyone involved. *Graduation* and *Curtis*, respectively, are the two highest selling albums in their first week this year, while *Blackout* is projected to sell around half of *Curtis'* mark.

The other main issue is that '90s-style pop is not where the money is to be made in the current music market—it's radio-ready hip-hop. 50 Cent uses simple lyrics and catchy beats to sell records, and Kanye relies on addictive hooks set to equally

danceable beats.

Spears' Pharrell Williams-produced music could best be described as club-ready pop—every song is constructed using heavy bass, sexual lyrics and indulgence in synthesizers. Nelly Furtado's Timbaland-produced *Loose* already perfected the dance pop model in the past year. The Backstreet Boys, on the other hand, didn't even bother to change up the style for this comeback release. Granted, all four of the group's previous releases have gone platinum, two of them double-digits platinum. Jive Records' stance on the Backstreet Boys CD must have been, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Both albums will sell plenty; after all, it's still Spears and it's still the Backstreet Boys. But if these blasts from our past aren't careful, a certain 2008 Michael



Courtesy of www.los40.com

ing among the top five with their respective releases on iTunes, this dual October 30 release date was not hyped anywhere near the 50 Cent vs. Kanye West battle of September 11.

How compelling would it have been for one of these artists, releasing their albums on the same day, to make a proclamation equivalent to that of 50 Cent's? "If I/we don't outsell the other, I/we will retire." That alone would boost sales of the less-hated '90s pop star, even warranting interest from those who would rather bleed from their ears than listen to either of these records and would gladly see one of the two groups retire.

The heart of the answer lies in the fact that Spears and the Backstreet Boys share the same record company. But why not stir the pot a little? Jive Records could



Courtesy of www.sciam.com

Jackson comeback album will be ready to push them back into irrelevance. Of course, it may already be too late to undo the damage wreaked by poor promotion and Jive's dull eye for music trends.

Showcasing Piedmont
'Footloose in Arcadia' brings color to campus

by Peter Hunter
Photographer

"Footloose in Arcadia" is the Hearst Art Gallery's latest display, and, to be totally blunt, it is a phenomenal display of fine art of the highest calibre. The show is an intriguing and eclectic mix of art from artists who lived in the Piedmont area or painted it between 1890 and 1930. The display is in celebration of the last 100 years of art in the area. This is the final stop in a larger series of art events.

The art itself has all been donated by 56 different museums and a number of the pieces are also from Saint Mary's College's own collection. Every one of the paintings is a perfectly captured slice of turn of the century California, from our very own Oakland Hills to the mountains at Yosemite and back out to the bay.

I was most impressed by the epic oils by Raymond Dabb Yelland and Christian Jorgensen. They are a true centerpiece to the show, encapsulating the feeling of the other pieces perfectly with their masterful use of color and light to attain the essence of both turn-of-the-century Americana and the feel of the countryside. Jorgensen's painting of Yosemite in my mind seems like a pure influence on Ansel Adams' photographs of the same area so many years later; they both exhibit a perfectly deft sense of the minute de-

tail of the area and its sheer imposing power at the same time.

Another fantastic work in oil to look out for is William Hahn's "Indians in the Snow" as it shows a beautiful glimpse into California's dim and distant past. Dating to around 1880, it shows a scene miles apart from the other visions of the Piedmont area in the show, and its stark and subtle coloring adds a pleasant shift from the ochres and greens present in so many of the works on display.

A further intriguing part of the show is a totally eclectic selection of paintings and sketches by Xavier Timoteo Martinez, displaying some of the more truly bohemian style of art from this period. The display contains a strange mix of his work, from oils to mixed media, pencil and watercolors. Although his works are not as imposing or dramatic as some of the others with which they share wall space, I feel that they manage to capture and set the mood of the show, a mixture of bohemian beauty and inspirational landscapes.

Overall, it is a very well-hung and well-displayed show, with a wide and diverse view of bohemian and turn-of-the-century Californian art that everyone on campus can identify with. It gives us an idealized view of a bygone era. It is well worth spending an afternoon looking at, even if it is just to try and see what has changed in the area in the last century.

Attention Disorder Corner

FIGURE THIS

Einstein's Problem
(part of a weekly series run by the math department)

Problem Facts: There are 5 houses in 5 different colors. In each house lives a person with a different nationality. These 5 owners drink a certain beverage, smoke a certain brand of cigar, and keep a certain pet. No owners have the same pet, smoke the same brand of cigar, or drink the same drink.

The question is: Who owns the fish?

Hints: The Brit lives in the red house. The Swede keeps dogs as pets. The Dane drinks tea. The green house is on the left of the white house. The green homeowner drinks coffee. The person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds. The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill. The man living in the center house drinks milk. The Norwegian lives in the first house. The man who smokes Blend lives next to the one who keeps cats. The man who keeps the horse lives next to the man who smokes Dunhill. The owner who smokes Bluemaster drinks beer. The German smokes Prince. The Norwegian lives next to the blue house. The man who smokes Blend has a neighbor who drinks water.

THE COLLEGIAN
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Go to www.smcollegian.com for more content:

Review of Puscifer's *V is for Vagina*
Cartoon: *St. Jean of the Lawn*



Venetian Snares
myspace.com/venetiansnares



Courtesy of www.outlar.com

Where He's Been

- From Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, born Aaron Funk
- Has been mixing, writing, and playing electronic music since the early '90s

Where He Is

- Last month, released latest full-length album *My Downfall (Original Soundtrack)*
- Is known for making experimental music in odd time signatures

Download These

- "If I Could Say I Love You"
- "The Hopeless Pursuit of Remission"
- "Szamár Madár"



CDs

Tuesday, 11/6

Jay-Z - *American Gangster*

Angels & Airwaves - *Empire*

Sigur Rós - *Hvarf/Heim*

Chris Brown - *Exclusive*

Monster Magnet - *4-Way Diablo*

DVDs

Tuesday, 11/6

Ratatouille - Ian Holm

Seinfeld - The Complete Series

Flight of the Conchords - The Complete First Season - Flight of the Conchords

Sicko - Michael Moore

The Best of the Colbert Report - Stephen Colbert

I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry - Adam Sandler

Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast

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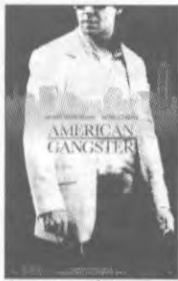
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The Collegian REVIEWS



Courtesy of cinemaplus.files.wordpress.com

American Gangster: American classic? Film realistically, potently portrays life of drug lord

American Gangster
Crime/Drama/Thriller
157 minutes
Rated R (for violence, pervasive drug content and language, nudity and sexuality)

by **Danny Acosta**
Contributing Writer

A sharp mind and a workmanlike approach to life are two admirable traits, but they still might not command the respect and fear of a man with a massive money clip. Frank Lucas had all three of those things. And a gun.

American Gangster follows his rise in New York's underworld. A world rapidly changing was too much for Harlem socialite and gangster Bumpy Johnson, but protégé Lucas (Denzel Washington) meets challenges with the rationale of a businessman and the ruthlessness of a man of the streets.

His problem solving abilities elevate him to the top of the dope game. Lucas is a straightforward man—a departure from those around him—and Washington highlights this in a subdued performance. He centers himself in attitudes of moral high ground,

which allows for explosive moments. The dynamic nature of Frank Lucas is on the level—not exaggerated, not understated.

It is Richie Roberts' (Russell Crowe) job to discover the secrets to Lucas' success. The cop falls from grace in his department due to (of all things) honesty and is appointed to a federal task force. All the while, his affinity for women chips away at his ex-wife and their ongoing custody battle like a sledgehammer.

Crowe acts like a man hung over with iron resolve. Oddly enough, it works, and that is something next to the compelling Washington, a man who could have starred in his own movie.

Cuba Gooding Jr. and Josh Brolin chime in with strong supporting roles to round out the film.

Both leads do not play at their highest levels. But acting opposite a fellow Academy Award winner, with Ridley Scott calling the shots, they do not have to.

Director Scott brings us the gangster film—redefined. *American Gangster* restrains itself from overdramatizing the life of a drug kingpin. Instead, the story roots itself in the real issues surrounding New York's 1970s heroin addiction. The political climate of America's involvement with Viet-

Year.

Scott misses no details. The irony of a drug dealer's work and community involvement is ever-present. Stark contrasts in Frank Lucas' life—from his origins to associates—are explored with momentum, all the way to the answer of Lucas' puzzling operation.

Screenwriter Steven Zaillian (*Schindler's List*) does justice to the source material: "The Return of the Superfly" by Mark Jacobson. The San Francisco State University graduate pulls straight from Lucas' mouth as told to Jacobson right onto the silver screen. Having the real Richie Roberts and Frank



Courtesy of movies.about.com

Superstars Denzel Washington (left) and Russell Crowe (right) face off in *American Gangster*, Director Ridley Scott's latest film, out last Friday.

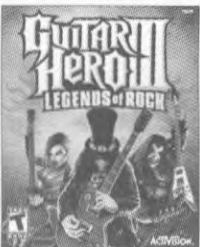
nam rides on the back of Harlem's socioeconomic structure as corrupt cops put their hands in the drug trade just as much as Lucas.

Scott delivers his best effort in six years, his best since *Black Hawk Down*. He returns to prominence, not in the high concepts of *Blade Runner* or *Gladiator*, but in a gritty world that is a refreshing change on the heels of *A Good*

Lucas on set couldn't hurt either.

With Washington, Crowe, Zaillian and Scott, it is no wonder the film plays out as one of the best of the year—with ease. But even such high-end talent can botch a promising project. They didn't. They have made, arguably, the best movie of the year.

Rating: **B**



Courtesy of news.filefront.com

Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock
Music
Wii, Xbox 360, PlayStation 2, PlayStation 3, Mac, PC
Rated T (for lyrics, mild suggestive themes)

by **Jose Alvarez**
Staff Writer

The video game industry has cranked out yet another guitar video game. The latest in the *Guitar Hero* series, *Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock*, hit stores on October 28.

The game is actually the fourth in the series, following *Guitar Hero Encore: Rocks the 80s*, which was an addendum to *Guitar Hero II* and not an actual game. This is also the first *Guitar Hero* (GH) game to be released for all of the major consoles, which include PlayStation 2, PlayStation 3, Xbox 360 and Nintendo Wii. A PC version is also planned. The game, previously developed by Harmonix, is now developed by Neversoft, best known for its development of the *Tony Hawk* series of skateboarding games.

The game features 71 songs, of

Guitar Hero back with more songs, online mode Latest installment tougher, will challenge seasoned gamers

which 51 are master tracks. *GH* installments in the past have mostly used covers of famous songs. Featured artists include Iron Maiden, Rage Against the Machine, Guns N' Roses and AFI. There are even custom guitar tracks made by the developers themselves.

Like any game, this one does have drawbacks. Some aspects of the game's graphics take a step backward, which is bad news for most fence-sitting gamers who rate many video games solely by the quality of the graphics. The fret board and the notes are harder to read, but the game compensates by improving the quality of the background graphics.

Many of the gameplay elements of *GH II* have returned, with several new ones: Co-Op Career, Battle Mode and even "boss battles." *GH III* is also the first installment to feature online capabilities.

Battle Mode includes hitting specific notes in order to gain power-ups to use against opponents to mess up their concentration. Boss battles, which are an extension of Career Mode, implement a Battle Mode type of play against a famous guitarist, such as Tom Morello (of Rage Against The Machine/Audioslave fame),



Courtesy of xbox360media.ign.com

Guitar Hero III is the first of the popular series to include online capability. This has been made possible for all versions of the game.

Slash (of Guns N' Roses/Velvet Revolver fame), and even the Devil himself. There are many more items in the Store than there were in previous installments in the series.

The difficulty curve has increased significantly, particularly on Hard and Expert. Most Expert note charts on *GH II* are now the Hard note charts on *GH III*.

So if you are really dedicated to the game and want to face off against people in tournaments, you'll love the Hard and Expert difficulties in the game—many of the songs have difficult guitar solos, particularly "The Devil Went Down To Georgia" by the Charlie Daniels Band and

"Through the Fire and the Flames" by DragonForce, the two hardest songs in the game. However, Hard and Expert are where the difficulty curve really increases—if you're just a casual *GH* player, Easy and Medium are about the same difficulty as they were in *GH II*.

The game is also compatible with old *GH* guitars—the game is also packaged with a wireless guitar for \$99.99 and the game by itself is \$49.99 for the PS2 (\$59.99 for next-gen consoles). So dust off your old guitar controllers and invest in this game—it'll be well worth it, and you'll be rocking all the way through the school year.

Rating: **A-**

Dropkick Murphys lights up The City

by **Peter Hunter**
Photographer

The anticipation was killing me; we had been waiting to see the Dropkick Murphys again for a long time, and when I heard the band was playing The Warfield on Saturday, I grabbed my suitmates and forced them to go with me. I had seen the Boston Irish-punk band before back home and was thoroughly interested to see how an American audience would respond to their mix of traditional Irish folk songs and "Oi" punk.

You never go to a show to see the warm up acts, and this show was no exception. Opening the show was The Tossers, an average traditional Irish folk rock, followed by L.A. band The Briggs. This was the best of the three support acts by far. The Briggs was a good, high-energy, straight, out-and-out punk band with no pretensions, but the band needs some work on its songs before it has a chance to go far.

It's kind of a running joke in show business that you send out a terrible act before the main performer to make the headliner look better. This is the second time I have seen the Dropkick Murphys pull off this stunt to perfection. Once the Filthy Thieving Bastards had finished annoying me with a terrible blend of folk and psychobilly that should never have been allowed out of the band's garage in Oakland, the Dropkicks appeared.

"Famous for Nothing," from the Dropkick Murphys' latest album *The Meanest of Times*, kicked off the show. It was another powerful and hard rocking show from the current masters of Celtic punk. The band played both for its own enjoyment and straight to the crowd; this always makes for a good performance no matter who is playing.

As this was only the second gig of their 31 date tour of America and the U.K. it was obvious that they were trying to iron out some of the creases in their set. They had some issues with the amplification of some of their acoustic instruments like the tin whistle and the bagpipes, but for a band who have been playing for 13 years, they carried on with an air of authority that can only come with experience.

The set was a burly mix of newer and older material, with favorites such as "The Fields of Athenry," "The Warriors Code," and, of course, "Shipping up to Boston" as an encore. The very active crowd seemed to enjoy it, especially during two spectacular stage invasions which were very much encouraged by the band.

The only drawback was the progressively poor mix of sound, especially the fact that the vocals were so low in the mix. I knew the words, so this didn't bother me too much.

Overall, it was another high octane performance by a band known for just that.

Rating: **B+**



The Collegian
SPORTS

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Louella Tomlinson
Women's Basketball



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

In her first intercollegiate game, freshman Louella Tomlinson scored 21 points, grabbed nine rebounds and totaled five blocks on Saturday to help the Gaels to a 93-86 overtime win.

Shannon Lowell
Volleyball



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

Freshman Shannon Lowell recorded 28 kills over the weekend, including a team-high 13 against #15 San Diego on Thursday.

ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

- Today*
Men's Golf @ Hawai'i Fall Intercollegiate
Oahu, HI
Monday-Wednesday
- Friday, November 9*
Women's Basketball @ Prairie View A&M
Waco, TX
- Volleyball v. Santa Clara
5:30 p.m.
- Men's Basketball v. Sonoma State
8 p.m.
- Saturday, November 10*
Cross Country @ NCAA Western Regionals
Eugene, OR
- Women's Soccer @ Santa Clara
1 p.m.
- Women's Basketball v. Baylor
Waco, TX
- Men's Basketball v. Drake
7:35 p.m.
- Sunday, November 11*
Women's Basketball v. Howard
Waco, TX
- Men's Soccer @ Santa Clara
7 p.m.
- Women's Rowing @ Head of the Lagoon
Foster City, CA

Women's soccer falls to #20 San Diego
Saint Mary's remains winless in conference play

by DJ Bowen III
Staff Writer

In the midst of a whirlwind in an attempt to comeback versus the nationally ranked San Diego Toreros, freshman forward spark plug Alex Ciliento stopped. She had something in her eye and couldn't continue the action. "I can't see!" she screamed to her coach on the sidelines.

"We don't need you to see; just run hard," yelled back Head Coach Kelly Lindsey, who had the look of a grizzled veteran as she roamed the sidelines with a limp. She still had a sense of humor in this tough test for her young Gaels.

This might have been one of the few lighthearted moments in a game dominated early by San Diego who scored two goals in the first 25 minutes and never looked back.

San Diego junior forward Amy Epstein, who had scored nine goals entering the game, added two more to her total, including the first to start off the action in the fifth minute. She punched her shot in the goal from 12 yards out.

The Toreros' second goal came off the foot of Christine Mock, who assisted Epstein's first goal. Mock put the ball in the back of the net from the right side off of a corner kick.

Epstein's second goal came as the result of a rebound off of Gael sophomore goalkeeper Tara



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

Junior Mallory Lee '09 (17) was unable to help the Gaels overcome the highly ranked Toreros on Friday.

Larson's save. In the 55th minute, Epstein gathered, dribbled, and put the ball in with authority to provide the three goals USD would need for the victory.

The Gaels finally got on the board in the 68th minute when Stefani Rocco '09 scored off a free kick set-up by Mercede Koning '11 and Jessica Menzhuber '10. The goal came immediately after Lindsey made a substitution to move the dynamic duo of Menzhuber and Ciliento to the two forward positions. The change

immediately paid dividends, but it was definitely too late.

The game was played next to the rugby field in front of the school due to a conflict with playing at Saint Mary's Stadium. The change of venue still kept the Gaels winless in home conference games this year, and moved their overall record to 6-10-2 (0-6-0). The #20 Toreros improved their record to 13-2-3 (4-1-1) and entrenched their second place standing in the West Coast Conference.

The game was mostly con-

trolled by San Diego. The Gaels did not get a shot on goal until the second half, where their second and final shot on goal netted Rocco's first goal of the season. Once Lindsey made the bold substitution and San Diego made a goalkeeper switch with a minute, the Gaels seemed reenergized, and answered with their lone goal of the match.

The Gaels will wrap up their season against Santa Clara next Saturday where the Broncos host a 1 p.m. matchup.

TRANSACTIONS AND STANDINGS

Men's Soccer				Women's Soccer			
Team	WCC	PTS	Overall	Team	WCC	PTS	Overall
SCU(3)	6-0-2	20	11-1-4	POR(3)	6-0-0	18	14-3-0
GON(27)	4-1-4	16	9-3-4	USD(20)	4-1-1	13	13-2-3
POR	4-1-4	16	6-4-5	LMU	4-2-0	12	12-5-1
USD	5-2-1	16	8-7-1	SCU(11)	3-3-0	9	11-5-3
SMC	2-5-2	8	6-7-2	PEP	2-3-1	7	5-7-6
USF	2-6-1	7	6-9-1	GON	2-4-0	6	11-7-1
LMU	0-8-0	0	2-13-1	USF	2-4-0	6	2-12-3
				SMC	0-6-0	0	6-10-2

Saint Mary's		Portland	
OT	0	OT	1
PTS	1	PTS	3

Saint Mary's		Gonzaga (27)	
OT	0	OT	0
PTS	20	PTS	0

Women's Basketball			
Team	WCC	PCT	Overall
SCU	10-1	.909	18-9
USD(15)	7-3	.700	17-7
PEP	7-3	.700	16-7
LMU	5-5	.500	13-10
SMC	5-6	.454	13-10
USF	4-6	.400	15-11
GON	4-7	.363	16-11
POR	0-11	.000	7-18

Stat Leaders			
Points:	Tomlinson 22, Smith 21, Chambers 13	Rebounds:	Lahde 14, Tomlinson 9, Smith 7
Assists:	Benavente 6		

VB: Gaels gearing up for Santa Clara at McKeon

continued from page 12

a 30-22 win. Bright spots for the Gaels included junior Taylor Groess' four kills and two kills coupled with two blocks from Lowell.

The final game would be Saint Mary's strongest, as they jumped out to an early 10-8 lead. But USD responded with a tie at 10-10 and then took the lead at 16-13 on three straight blocks.

The Gaels made one last push, scoring four straight points to tie the game at 26-26, but then the Toreros responded with a four-point run of their own to close out the match 30-26. Sophomore Lauren Jaeckel managed to add five kills on six touches in the third game, but it was not enough.

Saturday's match against the Dons was a much different story. While USF pushed Saint Mary's the distance in two of the four games, four Gaels compiled double digit kills in the match, including Megan York '11 and Jaeckel who led the team with 16 each.

In the first game, there would be 13 ties as the Dons would keep the pressure on after the Gaels grabbed the early lead.

After USF pulled even at 29, the teams would trade points until consecutive kills by Lowell,

then freshman Kapua Kamana'o would seal the win for Saint Mary's at 33-31.

The second game would be even more indecisive as the teams would exchange the lead multiple times. The Gaels overcame an early deficit, but the Dons would pull away from a 20-20 tie with a 10-4 run to win their only game of the day, 30-24.

The deciding factor in the second game was a .253 hitting percentage for USF to Saint Mary's .086.

The third game was by far the most dominant for the Gaels as they hit .333, including junior Brittany Barker's perfect 3-3 game. The team also tallied 18 digs, while Groess had three kills in six attempts and no errors in the 30-21 victory.

USF wouldn't go down without a fight as they slowly shrank a seven point lead at 25-18. After tying the game at 29, the teams swapped points up until another tie at 33-33.

It was York's 16th kill of the day and a USF error that would give the Gaels the match, 35-33. Saint Mary's will look to close out their home schedule this Friday against the other Bay Area rival Santa Clara.

Random SMC Sports Fact of the Week

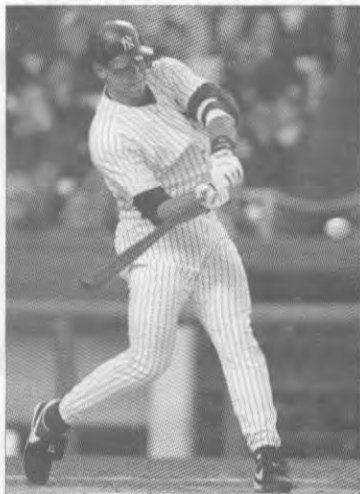
The last Saint Mary's team to be a part of a NCAA Regional Tournament or National Tournament is the women's volleyball team in 2005 when the team went to the first round of the NCAA Tournament with a 19-10 record. This was current head coach Rob Browning's first season at the helm of the Gaels.



The Collegian
SPORTS

**ALVAREZ:
NY implodes
as A-Rod bolts**

continued from page 12



Courtesy of www.msn.com

Alex Rodriguez will be playing MVP in another uniform, but which one?

dump, they would probably have room to acquire A-Rod to spark their rather dismal offense. When your main power source last season was already in his mid-40s, you'd want to get another one. A-Rod is 32 and is coming off of a monster season. At the rate he is playing at, he might be able to surpass Barry Bonds.

Chicago Cubs. Mark Cuban is looking to purchase the team, and since there is no salary cap in baseball, he could pair A-Rod with Alfonso Soriano, Aramis Ramirez and Derrek Lee.

New York Yankees. There is a slight possibility that A-Rod can return, but according to A-Rod himself, he is "unsure of the future team composition." If he rejoins the Yankees, he'll still be in a prime position to pursue a championship, if the pitching improves.

If you played on a team that is practically the very *standard* of excellence, you would have had at least one championship. A-Rod walked away with zero championships and a rather dismal showing in the playoffs.

Have a non Saint Mary's sports opinion? Write it here.

Gaels take opener against Loyola

Tomlinson, Smith lead way for Saint Mary's against Wolfpack in overtime thriller



Zack Farmer/COLLEGIAN

Junior Jontelle Smith (22) was second on the Gaels with 21 points on Saturday afternoon in the team's final tune-up for the 2007-2008 season.

by Zack Farmer
Managing Editor

The women's basketball team opened their season in thrilling fashion with a 93-86 overtime win against Loyola University of New Orleans.

The game was played at a very fast pace and was riddled with

turnovers. In the first half alone, the two teams combined to commit 34 turnovers. Saint Mary's was able to take advantage of the turnovers as the Gaels took an early 8-2 lead in the game.

Junior Jontelle Smith led the Gaels in scoring in the half with 13 on 5-11 from the field. Smith finished with 21 points and seven rebounds. The Gaels also capital-

ized on their offensive rebounds, pulling down 12 boards in comparison to Loyola's three.

Saint Mary's took a 38-31 lead into the half and in the first minutes of the second half looked to be putting Loyola away. The Gaels went on an 11-2 run to kick off the second half. The run was sparked by five turnovers by Loyola.

Freshman Louella Tomlinson led the charge with five points during the run. Despite only shooting 33 percent during the run, Saint Mary's held a 16-point lead leading into a Loyola timeout.

After the timeout, Loyola tightened up their defense and traded baskets with the Gaels before taking the momentum. With 9:30 remaining in the half, Loyola had cut the lead to single digits. Guard Trenese Smith who had a game-high 35 points orchestrated the Wolfpack charge. Five Saint Mary's turnovers also contributed to the charge.

Six consecutive points by Trenese shrank the lead to three. Two more free throws by forward Kimberly Rigg brought the Saint Mary's lead to one.

Sophomore Sierra Chambers scored on a fast break to increase the Gaels' lead back to three.

A Loyola free throw brought the lead by two. Following the free throw, a slough of turnovers kept the Wolfpack around. With 12 seconds left Benavente was fouled and put on the line for two shots. She hit the first to give Saint Mary's the three-point lead. She missed the second and Loyola went on the break, led by Trenese.

Her three pointer with six seconds left was shot long, picked up by Loyola forward Christine Mainguy who raced to the three-point line turned and threw up a prayer over Chambers. Her shot went in as the buzzer sounded, tying the game at 76 and sending the game to overtime.

Saint Mary's came firing out of the gate in overtime, hitting seven of 10 shots. Senior Maija Lahde led in overtime with six points. She finished with 12 points, 14 rebounds, and five steals.

Tomlinson, in her first collegiate game, finished with 22 points, nine rebounds, and five blocks. Benavente tallied 13 points and six assists on the afternoon.

The Gaels' first official game of the 2007-2008 season will be on Friday as they travel to Waco, Texas to play Prairie View A&M.

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