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THE COLLEGIAN

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

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Tuesday, November 13, 2007

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Men's basketball wins in opener

Volume 105, Number 12

Speaker shares incarceration experience

Ralph Spinelli explores injustice of California penitentiary system

by **Stephanie Carlsen**
Staff Writer

"It's my story. I'll tell it any way I want." Words of Ralph Spinelli, former inmate.

Mary Volmer, English professor and friend of Spinelli, opened the event last Wednesday during Community Time with a quick greeting and introduction of Spinelli.

Spinelli worked in the entertainment industry for years. He is a recent graduate from the University of San Francisco at the age of 61 and received his Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from Saint Mary's at the age of 65.

According to Volmer, "It is amazing that Ralph is standing here today." Spinelli has suffered from several heart attacks, cancer, and a few strokes. But the part that puts most people off is that Spinelli spent twelve years in prison.

Spinelli was quick to admit that it was for two separate offences. The first time he was imprisoned was in Oregon: a 10-year sentence for an organized crime robbery. He only served 17 months. His second incarceration was ten years out of a 17-year sentence.

Spinelli had spent a year in jail, and was being transferred to a prison on a bus, which had a huge cage in the middle of it. "I was in the cage, handcuffed and shackled. There were four guards and the bus driver, all with loaded shotguns," he said. "I told them, 'you watch too many movies, I want to get out of jail. I want to go to San Quentin.'"

At San Quentin, he was subjected to several examinations: IQ, physical and AIDS tests. He was watched for two weeks and his prison level was determined. "I am the



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

only person in the history of California to work their way through all the levels of prison," Spinelli said.

He started in a maximum security prison out in Pelican Bay. In fact, he was there when the shootings occurred. The inmates involved were having a fistfight, no weapons involved, when a guard shot one of them through the neck.

As a result, the inmates were put in lockdown. They were only allowed to watch movies, which were purchased using the Inmate Welfare Fund, their source of money. Eventually, the guards stopped showing movies.

According to Spinelli, the guards were the ones responsible for the racial segregation.

They would go around to the inmates and tell the whites, "The blacks want us to show more black movies," and then they'd tell the blacks, "The whites want us to show more white movies." Spinelli said, "By the time we were out of lockdown, everyone hated everyone else."

He also commented that he would be really interested to know what happened to the movies. He was often responsible for inventory, and when things went missing, he wondered where they went. "The missing truck was up at some guard's ranch, the typewriters were in some other guard's home office," he said.

The California Department of Corrections (CDC) has a \$5.5 billion budget, and

it's questionable where the money goes. "It's coddling cops," Spinelli said forcefully. "The CDC consumes money to get more."

In order to improve the CDC's rehabilitation program, Spinelli suggested sending paroled inmates to community colleges. "The gang-bangers don't know how to survive in our world. They would love to get a job, but they don't know how, they don't know how to work in the system."

Spinelli's message to students is: "You are, collectively and individually, a political force." He encouraged the students of Saint Mary's to go to the polls and to contact their politicians. "You can make a difference."

'Fag' discourse theory on high school homophobia

Researcher discusses results from 18-month study at working class school

by **J. Harry Painter**
Detour Editor

Last Thursday, guest speaker C.J. Pascoe, Ph.D. shared with a few dozen students her take on heterosexism and similar topics. Pascoe, a postdoctoral scholar at the Institute for the Study of Social Change at the University of California, Berkeley, is the author of recently published book *Dude, You're a Fag*.

Her lecture, "Guys Are Just Homophobic: Heterosexuality, Homophobia and Masculinity in High School" gave her views on the touchy issues covered in her book and offered solutions to what she sees as major problems.

She spent 18 months researching and observing the behavior at a working class high school (renamed "River High School")

see HOMOPHOBIA, p4



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

C.J. Pascoe at the podium as she began her lecture "Guys Are Just Homophobic: Heterosexuality, Homophobia and Masculinity in High School."

Belligerence injures students, school pride

by **L. Hua & J. Alvarez**
Editor-in-Chief & Staff Writer

"There was a guy bleeding from the head because someone broke a bottle over his head. There were girls fighting, yelling and screaming," said Boat Dance attendee Marie Conner '08.

The annual Boat Dance, sponsored by the Saint Mary's rugby team, according to some students is a time other than Oasis and Gaelstock where students take "getting drunk" a little too far.

"I came away feeling embarrassed and almost ashamed of being a Saint Mary's student," said Conner. "I haven't been to the other Boat Dances before so I can't compare them to the others. I have heard

see BOAT DANCE, p4

OPINION

Oliver Hall sends student to ER
pg. 6

DETOUR

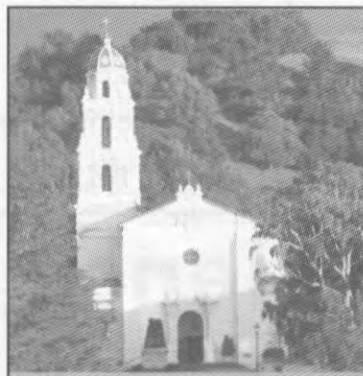
American Gangster Part II:
The album

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THE COLLEGIAN

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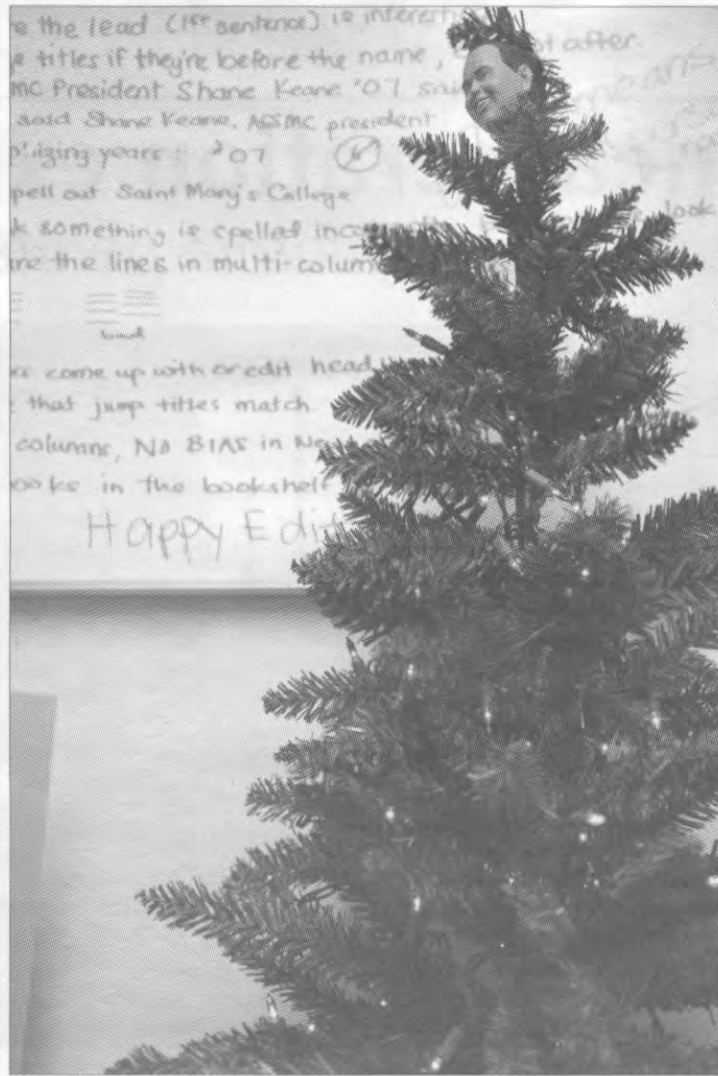
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SMC

SnapShot



Linda Hua/COLLEGIAN

The Collegian
Christmas tree.
Don't worry Randy
Bennett, you're
our star.



ZACK FARMER

More gusto, please

I was very impressed by the student body coming out in force for the first men's basketball game.

Intimidating by sheer number, Gael Force and the Saint Mary's community set a home opener record of 2,253 as they supported our team last Friday. Albeit we played NCAA Division II Sonoma State, the crowd was still raucous and ready to go.

Because the final home volleyball game ran long, the fans even got to cheer on our team against our long-time rival Santa Clara. The attitude at the game clearly showed the rivalry between the Broncos and Gaels. The volleyball team delivered in a thrilling fashion and the men's basketball team pounded Sonoma.

However, I was not all too impressed with the crowd for the second game on Saturday. We finally competed against a NCAA Division I school, Drake, and Gael Force showed up in puny numbers. The Gael Force section was half empty. For a Saturday night during the academic calendar, that was an oddity.

Saturday night basketball games became a tradition on this campus, but that wasn't obvious on Saturday. Those who were there did not keep up the customary noise level in McKeon Pavilion.

The Aussie chant, which started up late in the Drake game, was also sad. The great majority of the crowd did not pick up on it until the announcer for the night, Mike Samuels, said it over the microphone after junior Carlin Hughes' first three-pointer of the night.

There was also a number of times when the crowd stopped making any noise. This allowed Drake supporters to be heard loudly and clearly. Luckily, the Gaels' quickly responded to the Drake chants.

This may be too early for an appraisal of the fan base, but many Saint Mary's students are used to McKeon Pavilion being near deafening, and this just was not the case on Saturday. With the men's team playing host to Oregon in a week, I would hope that Gael Force and other Saint Mary's fans are ready to take on the Ducks.

A number of people call this the hardest place to play on the west coast and Saint Mary's needs to live up to that reputation. The #12 Oregon Ducks are formidable and have a plethora of NCAA Tournament experience in addition to playing in one of the toughest conferences in college basketball (Pac-10).

Fans, be prepared. Massage your vocal chords. Be creative, bleed red and blue, and of course be ready for the Ducks.

Crime Beat

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|--|--|
| 11/3/07 | 7:00 p.m. | Plant. | Synopsis: Alarm set off by professor who had been smoking a pipe in Dante Hall; referred to Physical Plant. |
| 11/4/07 | 12:15 a.m. | Incident: Sexual harassment. Synopsis: Sexual harassment case at Saint Mary's Road under investigation; referred to Human Resources. | 11/5/07 11:35 a.m. Incident: Harassment by telephone. Synopsis: Annoying and inappropriate phone calls in Syufy Hall; referred to Student Conduct and Telephone Services. |
| 11/4/07 | 12:35 a.m. | Incident: Disorderly conduct at a school sponsored event. Synopsis: Battery with serious bodily injury at Boat Dance on the Blue and Gold Fleet in San Francisco Bay; referred to Student Conduct. | 11/5/07 12:40 p.m. Incident: Burglary. Synopsis: Video iPods taken from car in Justin Hall parking lot; suspended. |
| 11/4/07 | 2:30 p.m. | Incident: Medical Assist. Synopsis: Alcohol intoxication in Freitas Hall, student transported to John Muir Hospital; referred to Student Conduct and Health and Wellness Center. | 11/6/07 7:15 p.m. Incident: Fire alarm activation. Synopsis: False alarm in Dante Hall; referred to Physical Plant. |
| 11/4/07 | 9:14 p.m. | Incident: Accidental damage to private property. Synopsis: Damage to vehicle windshield from foul ball in baseball parking lot; referred to Athletics and Business Office. | 11/6/07 10:36 p.m. Incident: Medical call. Synopsis: Ill student in Assumption Hall transported by friend to the hospital; referred to Residence Life and Health and Wellness Center. |
| 11/5/07 | 10:55 a.m. | Incident: Suspicious circumstances. Synopsis: Reported odor of marijuana in Freitas Hall; referred to Student Conduct. | 11/7/07 6:04 a.m. Incident: Suspicious circumstances. Synopsis: Investigation of odor and smoke found cardboard and papers smoldering in a trash can in Ageno C; referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant. |
| | | | 11/7/07 11:30 a.m. Incident: Fire alarm. Synopsis: Air control contractors working on the boiler and set off the alarm in Ageno C; referred to Student Conduct and Physical Plant. |
| | | | 11/7/07 6:12 p.m. Incident: Suspicious circumstances. Synopsis: Jammed lock cylinder in Aquinas Hall; referred to Student Conduct. |
| | | | 11/8/07 (occured 11/7/07 at 11:43 p.m.) Incident: Medical assist. Synopsis: Possible concussion in Assumption Hall lounge, transported to John Muir Medical Center; referred to Residence Life and Health and Wellness Center. |
| | | | 11/8/07 12:28 a.m. Incident: Medical assist. Synopsis: Ill student transported to John Muir Hospital from Claeys South; referred to Residence Life and Health and Wellness Center. |
| | | | 11/8/07 11:20 p.m. Incident: Medical assist. Synopsis: Slip and fall and re-injury to knee in Claeys South, transported to hospital by parent; referred to Residence Life and Health and Wellness Center. |



The Collegian NEWS

Weekly Featured Profile

Lasallian Student Spotlight

Elizabeth 'Lizzy' Nealey

by Linda Hua
Editor-in-Chief

Nominated for exemplifying quality education, peanut butter addict Elizabeth "Lizzy" Nealey '10 explained her understanding of the Lasallian principle: "For me quality education means deep comprehension and true understanding of the reality of the way we should truly view life," she said. "It is an ascension from the Socrates cave of unknowing, imagination and opinions into the light of knowledge, truth and intellect."

Parallel to being chosen as one who exemplifies quality education, Nealey said, "My favorite thing about Saint Mary's so far has definitely been the professors. As of yet there is not a single teacher that has not gone above and beyond my expectations of which I am increasingly thankful."

Nealey is a philosophy major and a minor in the Italian language. She is "involved in XALT, the Gregorian Chant choir, the Rosary, the Dante Club and Lasallian Community."

Considering how involved Nealey is now, it is ironic that this Newport Beach girl had little taste for Saint Mary's College when she first learned of it.

"Laura Apisakkul, one of the senior admissions counselors came to my high school during my senior year after I had heard the name of Saint Mary's mentioned a couple of times, and I became somewhat interested in this school, but it definitely was not my first choice," she said.

However, after visiting her grandmother in Napa Valley, Nealey said she "came to see the school and took a tour. My acceptance and a second visit later I decided to come to Saint Mary's."

Drawn to Saint Mary's as a whole, Nealey said, "I can't say that there was anything in particular that inspired me to come here besides the fact that it is a beautiful campus and presented itself as an educationally qualified institution."

Now that she is here, Nealey enjoys it and is flirting with the idea of double majoring in philosophy and religious studies. She also lives in Becket Hall's Lasallian Community where she actively gives back to the larger community in accordance with the Lasallian tradition.

Author Russ Rymer speaks on writing Creative writer discusses book, non-fiction genre



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

by Alex Lavaroni
Staff Writer

Creative non-fiction writer Russ Rymer visited Saint Mary's last week as a part of the Creative Writing Series. Rymer's first book, *Genie-A Scientific Tragedy* was published in 1993 and was translated into five languages. This work soon transformed into a NOVA television documentary, received a 1995 Whiting Writers Award from the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation, and was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award. His second book, *American Beach-A Saga of Race, Wealth, and Memory*, was nominated for a Los Angeles Times Book of the Year Award for Researched Non-fiction, and named a *New York Times* Notable Book. Rymer is currently at work on his third

book *Out of Pernambuco*, a history of the violin bow and the imperiled Brazilian wood. It is to be published next year.

In addition to his novels, Rymer has contributed many articles to major magazines and newspapers, including *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Atlantic*, *Smithsonian*, *Mother Jones*, *Vogue*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Times Book Review* and *The Strand*. He is the former editor-in-chief of *Mother Jones* and executive editor of *Portland Monthly*. His research for the book has been supported by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, which appointed him a Guggenheim Fellow in 2002.

The evening began with a quick introduction of Rymer's career, given by Professor Graham Foust,

the director of the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program here. Next, Chris Sindt, an English professor, came forward to share the accomplishments of this author. Professor Sindt said, "Through the complexity of the text, Rymer makes his stories understandable because of his love of learning to understand each individual."

Once Rymer made his way to the podium, he began reading a raw file of a letter which he described as "a touristy travel piece." This was copy of a letter he wrote to a friend while he was on a trip in the Mediterranean. Rymer draws the inspiration from his stories from letters he has written to close family and friends. He said, "I consider letter writing as being a strong source of creative non-fiction."

After his reading, Sindt sat with Rymer to discuss his work and soon opened the conversation to a question-and-answer session for the audience. When asked about the genre of creative non-fiction writing, Rymer said, "The intense feeling when you write about someone you think you will know for the rest of your life."

He described the creative non-fiction writing as a broad canvas in which people are rapidly moving. "It's surprising how books become chapters of your life and then close off. For a while, life can be so intense and then suddenly become so vacant once a book is finished."

Campus Calendar

Dine with Alums
Tuesday, November 13
5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Soda Center
Contact Courtney Carmignani
x4577

Thanksgiving Reception
Wednesday, November 14
12:40 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.
Brousseau Hall Atrium
Contact Fallon Kepner
(510)258-5669

SMC Gospel Voices Concert
Wednesday, November 14
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Chapel

**Afternoon Conversation With
Writer Oakley Hall**
Wednesday, November 14
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Hagerty Lounge
Contact Graham Foust
x4457

**Joe Orrach's solo show
"In My Corner"**
Wednesday, November 14
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Art 105
Contact Rebecca Engle
x4159

"The World on the Brink"
Thursday, November 15
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
LeFevre Theater
Contact Vicky Richard
x4467

Twelfth Night
Thursday, November 15 -
Saturday, November 17
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
LeFevre Theater
SMC Community - \$10
General Admission - \$15
Contact Sharon Cahill
x4670

BSU Dance
Friday, November 16
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Soda Center

**Group Service Project at
Alameda Point Collaborative**
Saturday, November 17
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Meet at De La Salle statue
Contact CILSA
x4975

Thanksgiving Dinner
Monday, November 19
4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Soda Center
Contact Matt Carroll
x4378

Planning an event?

Want it in *The Collegian*?

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HOMOPHOBIA: High school males guilty of overcompensating masculinity

continued from page 1

for privacy), and focused on the social interactions between students of different genders and sexual orientations.

The title of her book is meant to capture the sentiment of what Pascoe calls the "fag" discourse: the casual and abundant use of homophobic language that she often observed during her year and a half at River High.

"Being subject to these homophobic epithets has as much to do with masculinity as [sexual orientation]," she said. "I heard girls use the term 'fag' only three times during my one-and-a-half years of research." Pascoe said she had lost count of the number of times boys used the term. She also "never once heard a boy call a girl a fag."

She focused heavily on homophobia's role in schoolyard dominance among males, few of whom necessarily identified as homosexuals. "Through jokes and imitations of fags, the boys showed that they were masculine," Pascoe said. "Boys confidently remind each other to be masculine."

Pascoe brought up her theory of "compulsive heterosexuality," the exaggerated public display of heterosexual interaction. She said that boys would flaunt their heterosexuality in order to "defend themselves against the 'fag' discourse...It's also about a de-

fense against homophobic assault."

She gave the example of boys being excessively flirtatious and touchy with girls. "Flirtatious touching often escalated into almost violent interactions," she said.

Pascoe carefully and simply outlined her solutions to what she considers a significant societal issue.

Pascoe said, "We need to enforce legislation that has already been passed." Specifically, she advocated for closer observation of California's "School Safety and Violence Prevention Act," which allocates funds to school districts with the intention of helping promote programs to reduce violence in the schools.

She also said that it is important to educate students about gender and sexual orientation issues. Schools can achieve this via "gay-straight alliances, assemblies of guest speakers [and] curricular changes," she said.

There are more difficult changes that also need to be made, Pascoe said. "We need to start changing the social definitions of masculinity." We must "support gender variance" and "develop new vocabularies," she said.

Junior Evan Koike, who attended the lecture, said, "It was very revealing...It's one thing to experience [the 'fag' discourse];

it's another thing to have someone explain [it]."

However, Koike's experience with homophobic interaction was mostly limited to high school. "I don't see it played out as much [at Saint Mary's]. People who go to college actually want to go to college," he said. "People are generally more educated. More education means more tolerance."

Katy Murphy '08, a sociology major, said, "It was very insightful. We need to have definitely more speakers." She added that Pascoe was a better speaker than Chris Kilmartin, who visited two months ago, but she appreciated both speakers.

Murphy agreed with Koike about the magnitude of homophobia and heterosexism at Saint Mary's. She said, "I don't think it's as important in college as it was in high school."

Still, both asserted that there could be improvements in understanding of this topic. Murphy said that in order to better educate students about these issues, introduction to sociology and introduction to women's studies should both be required classes for all students. Koike said, "What needs to be changed is the mindset."

One of Pascoe's concluding arguments that resonated with the audience was, "We need to make our schools safe for sissies."

BOAT DANCE: Drunken issues and a night of revelry

continued from page 1

they are wild but I never expected this."

The drunken display of Saint Mary's spirit was apparent before the boat even left the port. Some students were too belligerent to be let on the boat. Conner said that "one girl got literally dragged off the boat kicking and screaming before we had even left because she was too drunk."

However, after that ordeal, Conner said they "had to stop the boat because the guy who was bleeding from the head needed immediate medical attention."

"We had to stop the boat because the guy who was bleeding from the head needed immediate medical attention."

Marie Conner '08

"I was scared to be on that boat," she said.

Kurt Eklund '10 felt differently. "Overall it was one of the best times ever at SMC," he said. "I had the best date ever. The DJ was fresh. It was just a hyphy time."

For the rugby team, "It was an overall success," said rugby player Kyle Mickiewicz '08.

The annual Boat Dance is a fundraiser for the rugby team. This year's proceeds will go toward the team's travel costs, including an Easter trip to Argentina. "We had a good time. It's pretty popular with the students," said Mickiewicz, who felt that the event was

as successful as last year.

In regards to the night's turbulence, Mickiewicz said, "Everyone else was having a good time. It was just two bad apples who had to ruin the time for everyone."

As an attendee, the only complaint from Eklund was, "I wish the rugby team coordinated a ride for our group so we didn't have to deal with one of us driving but other than that it was a blast."

At the same time, many other attendees seem to agree with Conner as she said, "We should be able to drink and not let things get out of control."

"I also had to avert my eyes

many times because students were engaged in very inappropriate 'public displays of affection' which closely resembled sex," said Conner. "It was just disappointing that Saint Mary's, as a Catholic school representing Saint John Baptist De La Salle, is acting in this manner."

Conner is not alone in her opinion of the dance. She said she "even overheard one of the workers on the boat on the phone talking about how wild and out of control this group was. Let's just say the security on that boat had more than their share of work that night."

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The Collegian
NEWS

Academic Honor Council

Current statistics recently released

by Stefanie Wang
News Editor

	06-07	04-05
Academic Honor Code Reports	50	75
Total Reports of Suspected Violations	58	70
Total students reported	58	70
Students with 2 violations	3	6
Students with 3 violations	0	0
Total violations (No Contest + Hearings)	46	69
No Contest	21	9
Report resulting in no violation	11	6
Suspensions	0	3
Expulsions	0	1
Modified Sanctions	10	17
Standard Sanction - XF grade	36	51
Unresolved - outcome still pending	1	2
X Removed in 2004-05	n/a	14
X Removed in 2005-06	n/a	n/a
X Removed in 2006-2007	7	n/a
Freshmen	22	15
Sophomores	20	19
Juniors	11	18
Seniors	6	18
AHC Integrity Seminar	0	1
Accounting	0	6
Art	0	0
Anthropology (An/Soc 04-06)	0	0
Biology	10	0
Business Administration	0	0
Chemistry	1	0
Collegiate Seminar	10	20
Computer Science	0	0
Communication	1	4
Economics	0	2
Education	1	0
English 004	5	0
English 005	0	1
English misc	0	1
French	0	1
History	1	1
Integral	1	0
Jan Term	7	2
Kinesiology	2	0
Math	0	3
Performing Arts	0	1
Politics	2	3
Psychology	5	9
Registrar's Office	0	0
Religious Studies	5	18
Sociology (An/Soc 04-06)	5	0
Spanish	0	0

For the full chart, visit www.smccollegian.com

Vanessa Synder '09 and Megan Grady '08, the co-chairs of Academic Honor Council, explained several of the categories:

"X removed in each year means that this is the year that students successfully completed the Integrity Seminar to have the X removed (which is a mark on their transcript that signifies academic dishonesty that can only be removed with successful completion of the course).

"Total violation is the total number of cases brought to the Academic Honor [Council] in which the students were found more than likely in violation of the Academic Honor Code. No contest is when students do not request a review board after being reported, they simply accept a standard sanction of an XF. [Hearing] here means that these students were found to have more than likely violated the Code after having been heard by a board in a review.

"A modified sanction is when the board finds that the standard sanction of an XF is not appropriate for the particular case being heard and the sanction is al-

tered to better fit the student and the educational opportunities of the student. This can be more severe and less severe than the standard sanction of an XF.

"A standard sanction is an "XF". This means that the student receives an "F" on their transcript in the class that academic dishonesty occurred. The "X" signifies academic dishonesty in that class. The "X" may be removed with successful completion of the Integrity Seminar which is taught by the Co-Chairs of the AHC. The course in question can be retaken when the X has been removed by the Council. The grade from when the student retakes the class will replace the F in the student's GPA, but because SMC has a historical transcript system, the F will still appear next to the new grade (again, once the class has been retaken, the F does not go into the GPA)."

For more information on the Academic Honor Council, pick up an issue of next week's *The Collegian*. Also, contact Vanessa Snyder at vm1@stmarys-ca.edu or Megan Grady at mgrady@stmarys-ca.edu.

Officials closer to decision

Results from campus evaluations bring search to final steps

by Julie McAvoy
News Editor

The search committee and President Brother Ronald Gallagher are one step closer to choosing a new provost.

Search Committee Chair Carole Swain said, "Brother Ron met with the search committee last Thursday and received our deliberations as well as all the written feedback that had been gathered from each candidate's visit."

Four of the candidates visited campus over the past month and were interviewed by the president, administrative members, faculty, ASSMC representatives, the Staff Council and the Academic Senate. "All four candidates were well received and well-regarded by students, staff and faculty," said Swain.

After the interviews and open forums, the search committee compiled a profile on each candidate detailing their "strengths and concerns."

These were based on the evaluations completed by each member of the Saint Mary's commu-

nity who was present at the interviews. "Brother Ron has taken all that information and met with each candidate individually and is now doing further reference checks," said Swain.

The search committee expects that the new provost will be in office by the beginning of the upcoming spring semester. "I am filled with anticipation. The search committee is excited and I think the president is pleased with the candidates we put forward," said Swain. "The choice will happen in a timely matter."

In response to the claim that students were not involved in the search process, Swain said, "We tried to get as many people involved in the interviews and selection process as possible."

She reported that roughly the same size group of student and faculty showed up consistently at their prospective open forums. "It wasn't big groups of faculty and students, but it was often the same students, faculty and staff that met with each candidate," said Swain.

There was a group of approximately six to eight students at each

open forum and between six and 17 faculty members at each of their open forums. "Those who met with the candidates represented a broad community of our college," said Swain.

Swain felt that, "student evaluations were used just as much as the evaluations from any other member of the community." She also noted that the group that had the highest attendance at the open forums was staff.

Even though some students did not feel that their opinions were appreciated, Swain said, "The input of students was valued equally with faculty, staff and administrative input." Each group was given separate open forums to ask pertinent questions and evaluate the candidates.

Swain pointed out that appreciating student input is part of Saint Mary's core values. "We are a Lasallian institution and the students are the reason we are here. If we didn't value them, we would be hypocritical, and I don't think we are," said Swain. "It is important to us that the provost can serve the students well."

News Brief



Photo courtesy of www.uscgsanfrancisco.com

Fifty-eight thousand gallons of fuel spilled into the Bay, killing wildlife and contaminating beaches.

This was the result of a container ship that hit the Bay Bridge.

As of Sunday, November 11, nine beaches have been closed off as well as many other shoreline locations. Of the 58,000 gallons spilled, only 9,500 gallons had been contained by Thursday night

according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

One problem that arose was that wildlife that was affected by the spill. Ducks migrate from Canada this time of year; the flocks that have settled in the Bay were greatly affected by the spill. The oil clings to feathers of the ducks and if they try to preen themselves, the oil will poison them.

The fish in the contaminated area will also die from any contact with the oil.

A recent article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* revealed that the residue from this spill may last and have negative effects on the environment for years to come.

For further updates, visit www.uscgsanfrancisco.com, www.marinemammalcenter.org, or www.sfgate.com to volunteer to help or for more information.

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The Collegian
OPINION



JOSE ALVAREZ

Hollywood on strike

Last week Hollywood writers went on strike, and as a result, many popular shows' productions may be on hold indefinitely. This means you might have to watch re-runs of *Grey's Anatomy*, *House M.D.* and, sadly, *The Colbert Report*.

This strike, like most, revolves around money and employment benefits. Specifically, The Writers Guild of America went on strike November 5 against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) over compensation for Web content and increased compensation per DVD sold.

It is the second issue that has become the sticking point and is why, when the contracts expired on October 31, the strike commenced the following Monday. The last time that the Writers' Guild held a strike was in 1988, which amounted to \$500 million in losses.

These strikes are crippling to the morale of the American people. They are the same Americans who hear constant negativity in the media every day when they turn on the television—negativity about the war in Iraq, rising oil prices, global warming and economic instability. Somehow, we all need to band together and support these writers because they are underpaid and underappreciated. These writers help produce the same shows that take our minds off reality for a bit. This is a serious problem for the fun-loving Americans that we are.

In a nation where our lives practically revolve around hard work and where time is of the essence, we need our TV shows to keep us motivated and in good spirits so we can continue to be productive members of society. This is a problem of the little guy, because the writers are the ones producing the scripts of your favorite TV shows.

So, what is the solution? We must raise funds to help the writers during their strike, at least temporarily, so we can make them happier. Tensions at the negotiating table will be calmed a little bit, which would speed up the process to help them get back to work and keep the American people happy in times of uncertainty, which have plagued the beginning of the 21st century significantly.

Always keep the little guy happy because the little guy keeps that machine running. Without him, the entire process shuts down and leaves many Americans in the dark—that is, in the dark of entertainment. Entertainment is essential to keep Americans happy and motivated to keep an even bigger machine running. That machine is called society.

Campus health center and cafeteria fail students

Those with allergies at risk by no labelling, no emergency meds

Saint Mary's health center and cafeteria are not sufficient for our safety and well-being on campus.

On Tuesday, November 6, I had an emergency that should never have occurred. I am highly allergic to peanut products and that night at Oliver Hall I ate some cake that had no labels as to what its ingredients were. After one small bite I instantly tasted the peanut butter, which I believe was in the frosting.

I immediately ran to my friend's place and drank a large glass of milk with two Benadryl. However, it was not working fast enough. My chest became tight and tingly and I felt my throat swelling. My breathing was not normal and I felt like I was going to vomit.

Since the Health and Wellness Center closes at 4:30 p.m., there was no place on campus for me



JENNIFER KENNEDY

to immediately get medications to help me breathe. I was started to become hysterical, not sure of what to do. My parents and friends were worried that I would get worse, so my friend decided to take me to the ER. Luckily my reaction wasn't as severe as it could have been, and I was given medications once I got there to reduce the swelling in my throat.

However, I constantly think: what if the reaction had been worse? The Health and Wellness Center wasn't open for me to get an EpiPen or some other medication, and the nearest hospital is John Muir in Walnut Creek.

The most common allergy is to nuts, particularly peanuts, along with cow's milk, eggs, soy, fish and shellfish. According to the *Washington Post*, one percent of Americans are allergic to peanuts or another kind of nut. "Nut allergies account for the majority of the 30,000 severe food allergic reactions that occur annually, causing 2,000 hospitalizations and about 200 deaths." This is very serious.

The cafeteria does not label the food's ingredients at all. When you ask the servers cannot tell you, or they give you some obscure answer like pasta is in pasta, which was a real response to one of my inquiries.

They should post a sign every day as to what is in every item along with the oils that were used to cook them. The staff as well should be fully aware of all the ingredients contained in the food.

People are allergic to a lot of things and unfortunately, it only takes one bite to kill some people.

In addition, the cafeteria needs to realize the seriousness of food allergies. For me, if you cook something with peanuts, peanut butter or peanut oil and do not wash the pan thoroughly enough, then I will have a reaction.

Finally, with Saint Mary's being so secluded up on this hill and the fact that many students live on campus, there should be at least one person on staff or at least on call to advise 24 hours a day. After 4:30 p.m., the only options are 911 or driving yourself to the ER.

After this scary night, I don't feel safe on this campus due to my serious food allergies, and I only hope that the awareness of the severity of allergies can bring about some improvements.

Collegiate seminar could use historical context

Using works outside primary text will enhance class discussions

The collegiate seminar is considered one of Saint Mary's defining features because it allows students to connect with the Great Books. But if the seminar program wants students to get the most out of its courses, it should give students some historical context for the Great Books instead of letting them grope about in the dark.

Don't get me wrong, I like seminar. It's not often that students get up close and personal with the likes of Virgil, Hobbes and Thoreau. I've met some great people through my seminar classes, but I've also had numerous classes where the group would sit in silence, stupefied by Aristotle or Locke. Providing some historical information about the writers' time periods would enhance seminar discussions and better allow students to become "curious, thoughtful members of an intellectual community."

For instance, my Renaissance, 17th and 18th Century Thought class recently read Sor Juana Inés de La Cruz's *The Answer*. While the book on its own provides interesting material about the power of education and the struggle for women's rights, Sor Juana's opening lines appear to be written in admiration of another holy woman.

However, it turns out that Sor Juana's seemingly innocent tale is actually written in response to a conniving bishop who attempted to smear her in the press. The revelation of this information gave the class a better understanding of the book; they were able to pick out the anger and sarcasm in Sor Juana's work instead of mistaking it for a kindly letter.

Unfortunately, students are discouraged from gathering information outside of the text. This policy, while well-intentioned, effectively silences the historical aspect of the discussion. While I understand that students shouldn't



MARK FREEMAN

be getting their analysis from SparkNotes' commentaries, my class would have completely missed the point of Sor Juana's work if we hadn't read the introduction.

When I took Introduction to Biblical Literature, we were taught that to understand the Bible we would have to rely on two levels of analysis: 1) how the work applies to you now, and 2) how the work related to the people living at the time. That second level of analysis is especially important when considering difficult texts like the apocalyptic Book of Revelation.

In the past, some people have only relied on the modern interpretation of Revelation, with disastrous results. The seminar program should encourage this two-level approach to discussion. Allowing students to explore the historical context of a Great Book will give them a better understanding of the author's time period.

The program should encourage students and faculty to research information about concepts found in the texts if they want to fully understand and discuss complex works which have shaped world thought for centuries.


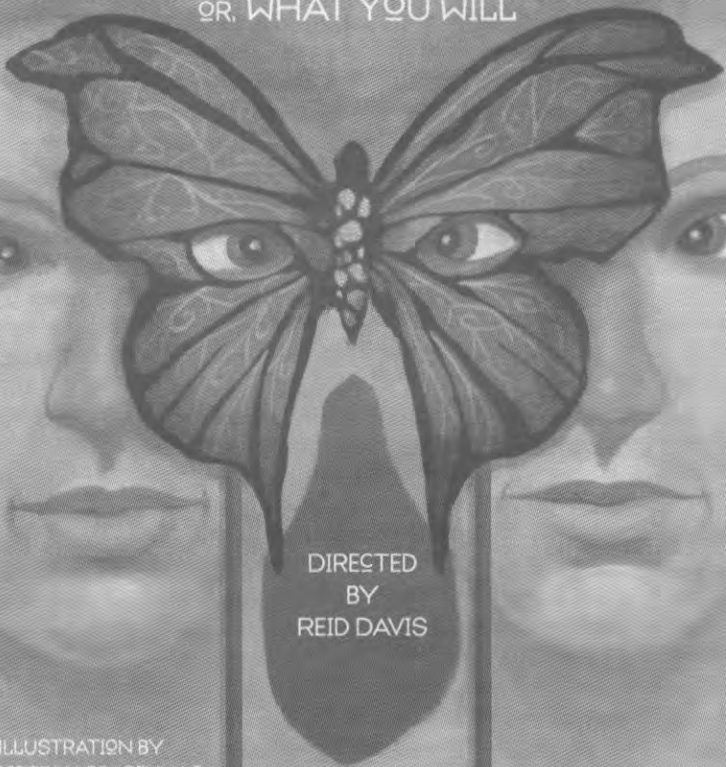
While I'm not saying that the lack of historical context will drive students to go on ill-fated adventures like Don Quixote, I do believe that students will be more grateful to the program if they are provided with information that lets them connect with the Great Books on multiple levels.

Now that's something worth bragging about to prospective students.

THE COLLEGIAN
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Go to www.smccollegian.com for more articles:

Jennifer Tang, "Gay-hating Westboro Church fined \$11 million"


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The Collegian
OPINION

EDITORIAL FEATURE:
U.S. dollar losing value, how the Federal Reserve messed it all up

by **D. Deyo & N. Garcia**
Opinion Editor & Staff Writer

The American dollar is worthless—or will be soon.

The British pound, Euro and Canadian dollar are now each worth more than the American dollar.

One reason why the dollar dropped so suddenly and dramatically is because of the trade deficit, caused when America takes out foreign loans to maintain its daily spending and when Americans purchase more abroad than those in other countries purchase here.

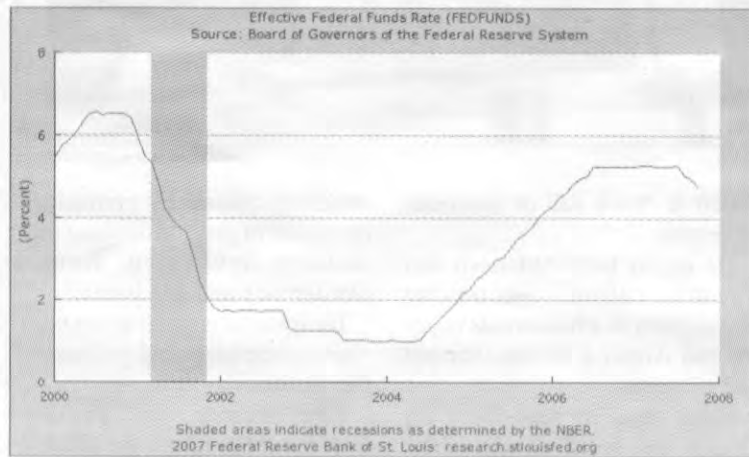
The higher the dollar price is set on core goods such as oil, the more debt America incurs. This creates the trade deficit, currently about \$56.5 billion. There are some positive spillover effects to the dollar's depreciation because it means those in other countries can purchase American goods more cheaply, but at the same time purchasing abroad becomes more expensive for Americans—and it's not like the Federal Government has stopped taking out foreign loans.

The question for most Americans is: why is this happening now? The suddenness of the drop isn't actually all that sudden. The dollar has been slowly losing value for several years, but it was only this summer with the housing market collapse that people began to panic and clamored for a cut in the federal funds rate. The federal funds rate is the interest rate at which banks loan money to each other. After having cut it once before, the Federal Open Market Committee cut it again on October 31 to 4.5 percent.

Both rate cuts were made in an attempt to stop the housing market crash from spreading to other parts of the economy and causing a recession, but when economic data came out shortly after the first rate cut, it showed the economy was okay without the rate cuts. There had been a significant increase in non-farm jobs, opposed to a massive decrease as was first thought, and GDP actually grew by an annual

rate of 3.9 percent, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

While it's true that banks are still in trouble, they did give out loans to risky customers and are now paying the consequences. Trying to bail out the banks at the expense of other Americans isn't something the Fed wants to publicize but that's what they did when they cut the federal funds rate for the second time.



While Chairman Bernanke has indicated he doesn't plan to cut the rates again any time soon, some financial forecasters are suggesting he might not have a choice now.

His second rate cut actually made the situation worse, which is why in the past week and a half the headlines have focused on the dropping value of the dollar and decreased investment concerns.

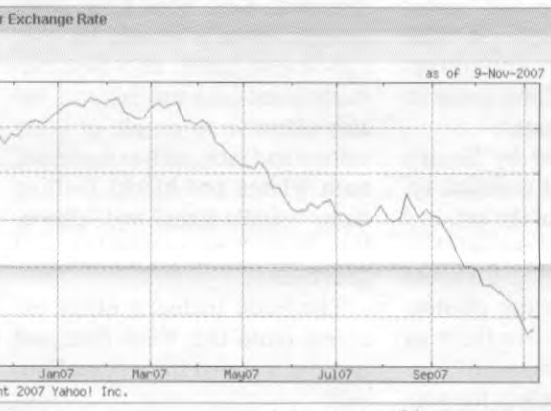
Some presidential candidates, including Rep. Ron Paul from Texas, think that the value of the dollar could drop to zero, especially if Bernanke arbitrarily drops interest rates again. Think it's impossible for our dollar to have no value? Remember the days when the dollar was worth more than the Canadian dollar?

As of November 11, the dol-

lar buys only 94 cents of a Canadian dollar. There is a high cost to Europe, the United Kingdom and Canada in light of the dropping value of the dollar because their exports become more expensive with their currencies. Then people everywhere begin to prefer American goods as they are cheaper.

However, if the Fed pursues this as a monetary policy to encourage domestic growth, it en-

courages (or forces) Americans to spend their money at home instead of abroad—a form of protectionism, which doesn't produce low prices for consumers. So first the Fed devalues our currency by making it cheap and unattractive for investment, and at the same time they make us prefer domestic spending. How clever.



hurting Americans. Remember, when the dollar is devalued through inflation, the money you have in your wallet automatically becomes less valuable because you can buy less.

If you want any more proof of how the dollar's day really has passed (for now, hopefully), check out the new Jay-Z music video "Blue Magic", written for the film *American Gangster*.

Instead of showing a case full of American dollars, the rapper uses a case full of euros—in a music video about an American gangster.

Both these events are hitting the dollar hard, but not as hard as the value of a dollar is hurting Americans. Remember, when the dollar is devalued through inflation, the money you have in your wallet automatically becomes less valuable because you can buy less.

Once a sure investment with its U.S. Treasury bonds and T-bills, America is now being abandoned by foreign investors as the dollar sinks ever lower.

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LINDA HUA

What's your purpose when drinking alcohol?

Thinking of doing something really silly but don't want it to harm your rep?

Here's an easy solution: get drunk, do that silly thing (like dance to the music, listen to Kelly Clarkson, or start a fight), and when you sober up, blame it on the alcohol, because that's totally legit, right?

People who need to use alcohol as an excuse to do anything are insecure. People who act out and start a fight, only to later blame it on the alcohol are cowards.

Since when is it acceptable to do something that you know is inappropriate, regardless of your state of sobriety? Would you ever get drunk and beat up your boss? Even in a drunken state, one would realize that doing such a thing is improper.

There are some things, however, that you can blame on alcohol, including but not limited to: increased negative sexual arousal effects, beer bellies, liver cirrhosis, high blood pressure, diabetes, memory loss, and—ironically to some—increased stress.

Of course all students would like pleasurable sexual experiences, have enough college food to weigh them down, would like to live a long and healthy life, keep all of their limbs, be able to learn and graduate, and already complains about stress. Why make it worse?

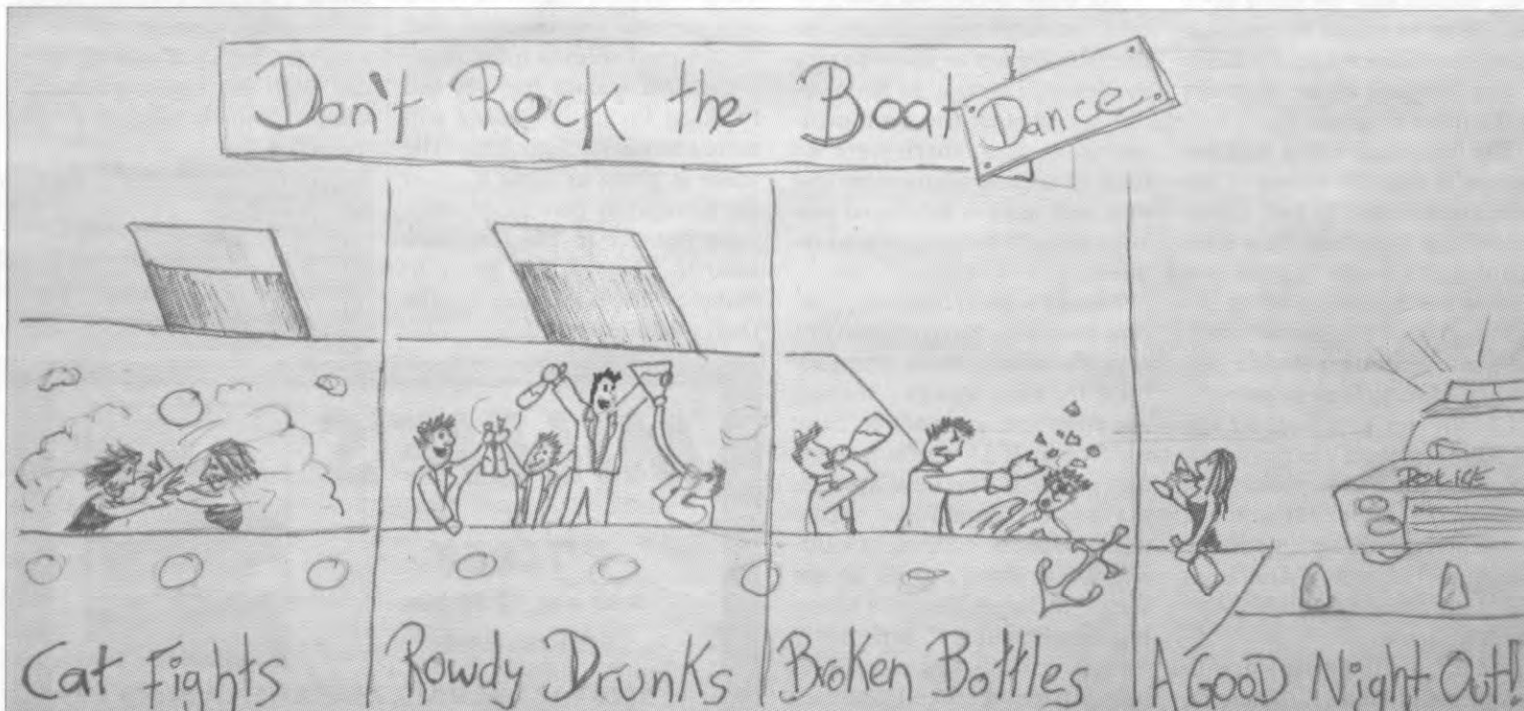
Now I am not claiming to be abstinent of alcohol consumption—I support casual drinking and drinking for taste. The point is: how many Saint Mary's students can claim to like the taste of alcohol?

Over and over, I get the same reaction from students when talking about drinking: "Ugh, I hate the taste of alcohol. I only drink to get drunk. There is no point in drinking otherwise—the stuff is disgusting." If not that, I often hear, "God, it's been a hell of a stressful week, I am so getting wasted tonight."

It is dispiriting to see one look upon alcohol as a means for ventilation—have you not heard that such a motive leads to alcoholism? Drinking should be a choice that you make in order to enjoy the flavor, not a choice you make in order to enjoy your life. If you have to drink to have fun, you lead a dismal life.

So when you left the boat dance with a cut under your eye, on your shoulder and on your foot, requiring about 200 stitches, I hope you didn't blame it on the alcohol, and I sure hope that you had fun.

That was the choice you made, wasn't it?



Peter Hunter / COLLEGIAN



Uncommonly Common

by A. Davis & B. Macey
Staff Writers

After 15 years, seven albums and 18 nominations, Common has finally started getting the recognition he deserves. Making an effort to expand the typical role of hip-hop, Common steps outside the box, offering socially conscious lyrics that resonate with purity and realism.

Common serves as a breath of fresh air in an industry in desperate need of relief. Unlike the rest of mainstream hip-hop, he comes with no gimmicks—just real lyrics built on raw talent and ever-growing versatility.

But let's not forget: Common's no stranger to the game. With number one albums and numerous hit singles under his belt, it has taken too many years for this rapper to truly shine. Even with numerical success, he has been so easily overlooked in his 15-year career that if it wasn't for his stark contrast to these rookie rappers, he could easily be mistaken for new hype.

So many things have worked to combat Common's overdue glory. For one, he started his career as a small face amongst big names. It's not easy to stand out against a Tupac or Biggie. Secondly, his socially conscious lyrics were way too deep for mainstream hip-hop, forcing him into the shadow of those who were more easily understood.

But Common's finally figured it out. It is only recently that he has found a way to balance his distinctive style with what the people are willing to listen to. Combine this with how wack many rappers can be today; the spotlight could not help but shift to something with more substance.

In a recent interview with International Music Feed, Common spoke about his perceived responsibility to hip-hop and future generations. He said, "When you go talk to kids in the school and you say something significant to them, you plant a seed. That seed is going to last forever through those children you spoke to. Even if one of them gets the message it's going to be here forever." He continues, "But a booty-shake video may not have that same timeless appeal."

Unwavering in an industry that is constantly trend-hopping, Common displays his versatility while staying true to his roots of awareness. Growing more mature with each new album, Common's refusal to conform has made way for the popularity that has been a long time coming.

Covering topics such as love, respect, and the ills of street life, Common has no opposition to being labeled a "conscious rapper." In the same interview he said, "Conscious isn't a bad term when you think of what it really means. It means aware and being awake. So, if I could be put in the conscious category, I would. That's one category I would rather be in, than probably any other."



Courtesy of www.amazon.com

Borat Sagdiyev - Borat: Touristic Guidings to Minor Nation of U.S. and A. and Touristic Guidings to Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan
Humor
Hardcover: 176 pages

by Jose Alvarez
Staff Writer

Jagshemash! Sacha Baron Cohen, or should I say Borat Sagdiyev, can now add "author" to his résumé.

Borat: Touristic Guidings to Minor Nation of U.S. and A. and Touristic Guidings to Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan is a two-sided satirical guide following Borat's experiences in America and the fictional character's home country of Kazakhstan.

On one side is Borat's guide to what is otherwise normally known as The United States (Borat mistakenly calls it "U.S. and A."). Flip it over, and you get Borat's equally offensive guide to "Glorious" Kazakhstan.

Don't be alarmed by Borat's broken English and constant typos—they are part of the act, and it wouldn't be Borat if they weren't there. What you should be alarmed by are the photos, some of them offensive (such as the naked Kazakh women).

If that isn't a problem for you, you will enjoy *Touristic Guidings*,



Courtesy of www.news.com.au

which is chock full of hundreds of laughs.

He mocks both American and Kazakh culture, portraying Kazakhstan as a backwards country and America as high-handed and arrogant.

Borat observes that there are "barely any Jews" in one of the biggest Jewish settlements in America: New York City. Even though Cohen is Jewish, his alter ego is extremely anti-Semitic. Borat is not only anti-Semitic, but also offensive to people of every culture and race, such as feminists, both whites and blacks (calling them "vanilla faces" and "chocolate faces," respectively), and Muslims.

The book includes many excerpts from the *Borat* film and original material from Borat himself.

Borat pokes fun at facets of

American culture. He even targets the queen of pop: "American men includes Spiderman, Ronald Miconalds and Madonna."

He spies on women in the bathroom, even including pictures of the women.

The humor in *Touristic Guidings* ranges from the obscene to the absurd. Borat will assure you, "This book a most sensible acquisition if you are think of travel to this country and will instruct you on all you needing know—from how to get cage of your wife through airport, to how to gain entry to an American vagine without spend money." The wording alone is funny enough that you won't be able to help but laugh at the mockery of the English language, let alone the substance of the jokes themselves.

His usual kicks that are taboo

Borat: Cultural learnings of America for make benefit literature

in America—his fondness for rape, prostitution, and Judeophobia—get a little old after a while as they appear frequently in the book.

As for the Kazakh side, he shows pictures of abandoned or run-down places and portrays them as great facets of Kazakh culture—especially Tinshein swimming pool, which is alleged in the movie to remove 80% of human solid waste.

Borat also shows his profound love of the sport of ping-pong, even taking three whole pages to describe one game that he played.

The best picture in the whole book is Borat's family tree, which is a huge labyrinth, as Boltok the Rapist is his father as well as his grandfather. Some people only mentioned in the movie are now seen in the book, including Borat's children. His favorite, Hooey Lewis, is a reference to American musician Huey Lewis.

Those who are easily offended, the politically correct, higher-ups in academia, or the grammar Nazis need not open this book. Fans of the hit film will find more lovable zaniness here. **B+**

100
Word
Review

AVA reaches peak

by Jennifer Kennedy
Staff Writer

I-Empire, Angels & Airwaves' (AVA) sophomore album, is a beautifully poetic collection of music that heavily reflects lead vocalist/guitarist Tom DeLonge's (formerly of Blink-182) growth and struggles in life. The album takes you through a journey of romance, faith, the hardships of childhood, and facing the world, while reaching anyone who has ever felt alone or like giving up. The serene electronic elements create the sensation of soaring through space, while at other times leaving you feeling invigorated. *I-Empire* exceeds AVA's debut album, coming together in a tighter, better-organized manner. With this improvement, the band has finally reached its potential. **A-**

Correction:

In last week's article by Danny Acosta, "American Gangster: American classic?" the rating should have been "A."

Stop butchering classic tales, Disney Cinderella, others become never-ending stories

by Stefanie Wang
News Editor

When Cinderella married her prince at the end of the movie, I didn't care about the "ever after" part of the story. To be honest, I prefer to just leave it at the wedding scene. I don't want the image of *Cinderella* that has been burned into my brain since the '90s to be ruined by marriage issues and faulty magic. *Cinderella II* and *Cinderella III* are disgraces to the original movie.

The first thing wrong with the sequels is that the voices of the mice are different. In fact, all the voices are different. The fairy godmother's magic is somehow flawed so that everything becomes undone. Thanks for breeding a new generation of bitter pessimists, Disney. Way to go.

Certain movies provide leeway for sequels such as *The Rescuers* or *Toy Story*, but Disney classics like *Cinderella*, *The Little Mermaid* and *Bambi* need to remain untouched. I don't need to know if Ariel has a kid with wanderlust. Nobody needs to know.

Disney really pushed it with *Peter Pan: Return to Neverland*. That's just a horrible string of

events in cartoon form. The story was pure rubbish. To make matters worse, Wendy sounded much older than Peter Pan, which is more than a little unsettling. It destroyed my perception of Neverland and the overacting, villainous goodness that is Captain Hook. Mr. Smee's voice was also different.

The point of the classics was to retell the stories transcribed by the Brothers Grimm or just to be nice movies with morals. In the original versions of the aforementioned movies, there were no hints of sequels whatsoever. The way each story is structured provides no path for a successful sequel.

Though sequels may have a decent story line, it's wrong to twist a classic cartoon movie into a vehicle for easy money—seeking abomination in order to have shelf filler. If Disney is running out of ideas for new stories, maybe they should just release more platinum editions of existing classic movies to fill up the shelves at Target. Digitally restoring "masterpieces" repeatedly isn't as embarrassing as milking each masterpiece for all it's worth by throwing together makeshift

stories.

To this date, Disney has made sequels for *Cinderella*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Lion King*, *Aladdin*, *Bambi*, *Lady and the Tramp*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Peter Pan*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Fox and the Hound*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Pocahontas*, and then some. These movies had no capacity for elongated plots. These movies shouldn't be made into sequels and trilogies, but Disney can't seem to grasp that.

I've said it since the '90s and I'll keep saying it: Disney will make a sequel for *Snow White*. The witch is going to come back or she'll magically have an evil step-sister just like in *The Little Mermaid II*. They're also going to make a *Sleeping Beauty II: The Onset of Narcolepsy*.

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The Collegian
DETOUR

New Jay-Z LP ambitious
American Gangster respectable, flawed

by DJ Bowen III
Staff Writer

Let me first give kudos to Mr. Carter for trying something that has never been attempted on a hip-hop album before: Jay-Z has modeled his album after a feature film. Most of the tracks were literally inspired by specific scenes from the Ridley Scott flick of the same name (which he saw long before its wide release November 2). From the pace and structure to the content, Jay-Z has done his best to make this album a musical companion to the movie.

The film involves a drug lord, crooked cops, and a tight, intricate plot relatable to street poets like Jay-Z. It was so appealing to him that he decided to expand on certain aspects of the film that reminded him of his childhood and weren't touched on quite enough in the film.

The structure is straight from Filmmaking 101: it begins with a subtle introduction ("American Dreamin'"), continues with rising action ("Roc Boys (And the Winner Is)..."), climaxes ("Party Life"), and concludes ("Fallin'").

This is an interesting new direction for Jay-Z. The problem is that the other aspects of *American Gangster* are so flawed.

It is a wonder why Jay-Z would turn his back on the elements that have made his past albums classics. When at his best, his material is not overshadowed by star guest appearances. His classic debut *Reasonable Doubt* does feature numerous guests, but most are by

his own Roc-A-Fella Records artists, who do not take the spotlight from Jay-Z. On *The Blueprint* and *The Black Album*, his other two foremost albums, every single lyric in every verse is delivered directly from Shawn Carter himself (with the exception of "Renegade," a track featuring Eminem on *The Blueprint*).

In *American Gangster*, Jay-Z forgets that his audience wants to listen to him, not any one else. Nas' album *Hip Hop is Dead* was satisfactorily done with a hodgepodge of collaborations, but Jay-Z is too focused this late in his career to try to pull a stunt like that. Unfortunately, unlike on Nas' LP (which featured Jay-Z himself on a track), guest appearances weaken *American Gangster*.

Lil Wayne is at his best in his stream-of-consciousness raps, but here is forced to rap about Brooklyn (he's from New Orleans). The second appearance, by Beanie Sigel on "Ignorant Sh*t," is not bad, but less than notable. The real problem comes, however, when Nas makes his appearance on "Success." Nas' appearance overshadows Jay-Z to such an extent that all I could think about was how much I can't wait for Nas' upcoming album *N*gger* to drop.

The choice of producers for *American Gangster* is another source of contempt for me. *The Black Album*, probably the most quotable hip-hop album of the last five years, literally had no discernable flow between songs because so many different producers contributed to it. This orga-

nized disorganization, however, made it unique and exceptional.

American Gangster almost seems overly rhythmic in this sense. Diddy produces six tracks, perhaps so Jay-Z can capture the magic responsible for The Notorious B.I.G.'s *Ready to Die* and *Life After Death*, which are the cream of the crop for fans of hip-hop's glory days. Diddy does a valiant job, but I would have preferred an album utilizing more Roc-A-Fella producers like Kanye West and Just Blaze.

American Gangster finds the magic in its two Neptunes-produced tracks and shines brightest with "Roc Boys" and "Success," but these are small-scale waves in the normally tsunami-scale reach of Jay-Z.

What keeps *American Gangster* afloat is the always-excellent lyrical quality of Jay-Z. Featuring commentary on O.J. Simpson, Don Imus and global warming, this LP lies somewhere in the middle of the pack of Jay-Z's lyrical performances.

Some of the songs, however, are preachy and don't bring out the best in Jay-Z. If I want a storyteller's album, I'll rely on Common's *Finding Forever* and Talib Kweli's *Eardrum*. Jay-Z doesn't pull it off nearly as well as the elite conscious rappers. B-



Jay-Z - American Gangster
Hip-hop
58:49
(15 tracks)

1. Intro
2. Pray
3. American Dreamin'
4. Hello Brooklyn 2.0 (ft. Lil Wayne)
5. No Hook
6. Roc Boys (And the Winner Is)...
7. Sweet
8. I Know
9. Party Life
10. Ignorant Sh*t (ft. Beanie Sigel)
11. Say Hello
12. Success (ft. Nas)
13. Fallin' (ft. Bilal)
14. Blue Magic (ft. Pharrell)*
15. American Gangster*

*Bonus track

Courtesy of www6.rocafella.com

Timeline compiled by J. Harry Painter & DJ Bowen III / Image courtesy of upload.moldova.org

- 1996
- 1997
- 1998
- 1999
- 2000
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
- 2006

Reasonable Doubt

Jay-Z's least commercially-successful album, but has been dubbed "classic" by many in and out of the music industry. If only more people would listen to it, for Christ's sake. Go get it now.

In My Lifetime, Vol. 1

Not as critically acclaimed as *Reasonable Doubt*, but sold well—naturally, it was criticized by some as his sellout album. Give the man a break though; he didn't own the New Jersey Nets yet.

Vol. 2: Hard Knock Life

Grammy-award winning album that brought Jay-Z the most commercial success of his career. Signaled the rise of Jay-Z with numerous popular hits, despite said hits containing more bleeps than lyrics.

Vol. 3: Life and Times of S. Carter

3x platinum album known for the single "Big Pimpin'"; continued to establish him as a top lyricist. Had the nation "spendin' cheese" in excess for years to come, although some say the U.S. economy was already heading in that direction anyway.

The Dynasty: Roc La Familia

Intended as a compilation to introduce other members of Roc-A-Fella Records, was marketed as a Jay-Z solo album to increase sales. Beanie Sigel and Memphis Bleek must not have had enough "name value" or "talent" to propel the album into elite status.

The Blueprint

Kanye West's coming out party as a producer who brought us the hit "Izzo (H.O.V.A.)," Along with *Reasonable Doubt*, one of only 43 hip-hop albums ever given the "5 Mic" rating from *The Source*. No wonder they made three versions of it.

The Blueprint²: The Gift & the Curse

This double album marks the beginning of the Jay-Z/Beyoncé era (although they had already been dating long before "'03 Bonnie and Clyde"). 4 million U.S. sales later, we can safely argue that everyone still craves a good love song.

The Black Album

A signoff to Jay's alleged retirement, essentially a collection of "best of" tracks from every current great hip-hop producer outside of Dr. Dre and DJ Premier, spawned many remixes, including *Collision Course* (with Linkin Park) and DJ Danger Mouse's *The Grey Album*. EMI wasn't particularly pleased with the latter's unlawful use of The Beatles' *White Album*, but who cares?

Kingdom Come

A valiant comeback effort after the short "retirement," kept interesting by the four Dr. Dre tracks; Jay-Z goes for the "conscious rapper" angle with the final 2 tracks ("Minority Report," "Beach Chair"). No surprise, considering he had been hanging with his new buddy Nas a lot (Hell was rumored to have frozen over).



The Collegian SPORTS



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Patrick Mills Men's Basketball



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

In his first weekend in a Gael uniform, freshman Patrick Mills led the Gaels in scoring, averaging 13.5 points and 3.5 steals per game in the weekend sweep of Sonoma State and Drake.

Kapua Kamana'o Volleyball



Courtesy of smcgaels.com

Freshman Kapua Kamana'o helped the Gaels take down the conference leading Broncos in five games. She recorded 55 assists and 11 digs on her way to supporting four double-digit kill performances on Friday.

ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

Today
Men's Basketball vs.
CSU Bakersfield
7:05 p.m.

Thursday, November 15
Volleyball @ Pepperdine

Friday, November 16
Men's Soccer v. San Diego
2 p.m.

Saturday, November 17
Men's Rugby II v.
UC Santa Cruz
10 a.m.

Men's Rugby v.
Loyola Marymount
12 p.m.

Women's Basketball v.
San Diego State
2:05 p.m.

Volleyball @ Loyola Marymount

Sunday, November 18
Men's Soccer v.
Loyola Marymount
2 p.m.

Gaels harness Broncos in five set thriller Volleyball beats second consecutive Bay Area rival Santa Clara in five

by Sean Kent
Staff Writer

It seems fitting that the volleyball team's last home game should go the full five games against their biggest rival in front of the largest home crowd of the season. In a situation like that, nothing short of a win could be expected, and the Gaels delivered in dramatic fashion 30-17, 26-30, 30-21, 25-30, 15-10. Five Saint Mary's players managed to tally double digit kills en route to the victory over the WCC's top seeded team.

Things started serendipitously for the Gaels as they opened the match with an ace. Not only did that foreshadow the outcome of the back-and-forth contest, but it also established the tempo of the first game: Saint Mary's domination. The Broncos could only muster an anemic .065 hitting percentage, but the blocks really told the tale of game one. The home team also only committed one error and slammed down 14 kills in the opener. Freshman Kapua Kamana'o had 13 assists in the first frame, while Lauren Jaeckel '10 led the team with four kills.

The second game put the Gaels on the defensive as Santa Clara came out hungry. The Broncos' defense returned the favor as Saint Mary's was the team to hit .065. Santa Clara's Brittany Lowe and Lauren David keyed the attack,

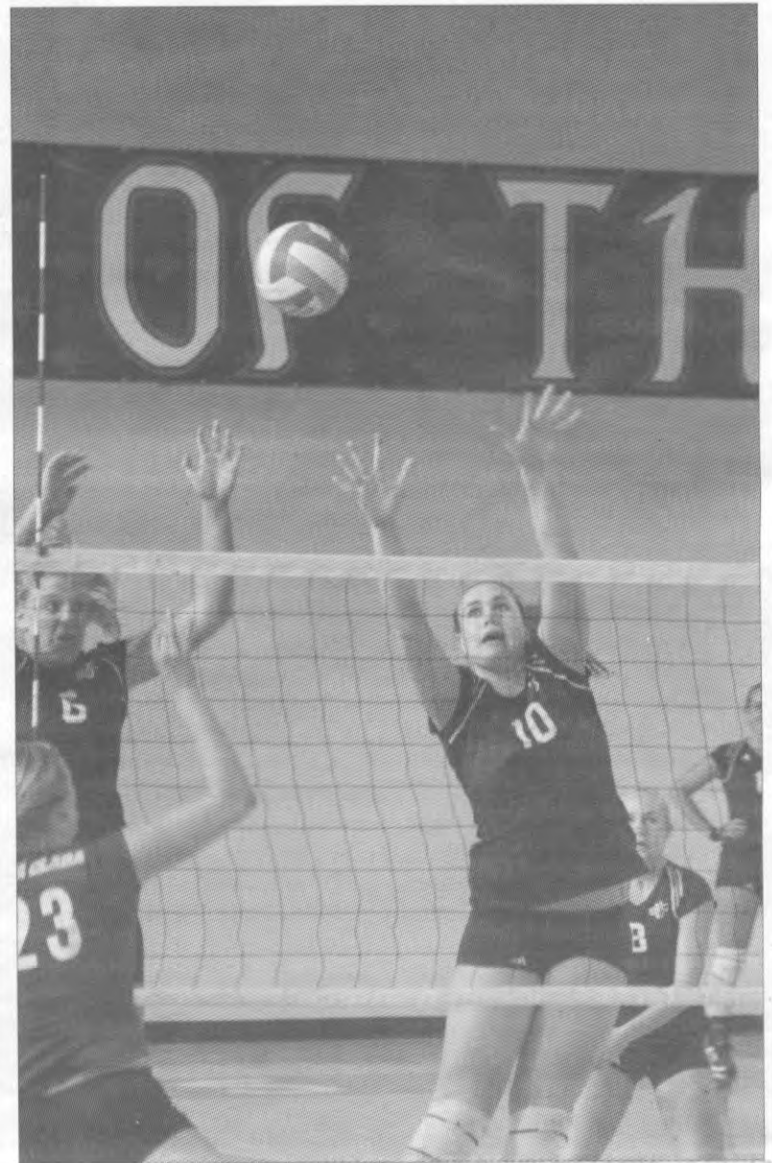
combining for nine kills, while Brittany Barker was one of the bright spots for the Gaels with three kills on three touches.

In game three, the Gaels returned to their dominant form, wrapping a comfortable 30-21 win. As a team, Saint Mary's had 16 kills with just two errors and a .424 hitting percentage.

The Gaels got off to a rough start in the fourth game as the momentum shifted again. Santa Clara came up strong on the attack and would keep the lead the entire set on their way to a 30-25 win.

As McKeon began to fill during the fourth game, more for the ensuing men's basketball home opener than the volleyball action, the raucous, impatient crowd got behind the Gaels' cause. In the tiebreaker, both teams traded points for their first five scores. The Gaels then edged ahead on a Kamana'o kill after a long volley. Saint Mary's then capitalized on Santa Clara's nagging service errors and never looked back. Freshman Megan York finished the Broncos with one of her 13 kills on the night to win the game 15-10.

Brittany Barker '09 recorded a double-double with 10 blocks and 10 kills. Kamana'o also impressively compiled 55 assists for the match, leading the way for a team hitting percentage of .251. The Gaels close out their WCC on the road, heading to Pepperdine on Thursday and Loyola Marymount on Saturday for the finale.



Peter Hunter/COLLEGIAN

Sophomore Lauren Jaeckel (left) and freshman Shannon Lowell (right) help cap off a thrilling win against conference leading Santa Clara.

TRANSACTIONS AND STANDINGS

Women's Basketball				Men's Basketball			
Team	WCC	PCT	Overall	Team	WCC	PCT	Overall
POR	0-0	1.000	2-0	SMC	0-0	1.000	2-0
SMC	0-0	.667	2-1	GON(14)	0-0	1.000	1-0
PEP	0-0	.500	1-1	USD	0-0	1.000	1-0
LMU	0-0	.500	1-1	SCU	0-0	1.000	1-0
USD	0-0	.500	-1-1	USF	0-0	.500	1-1
GON	0-0	.000	0-0	POR	0-0	.333	1-2
SCU	0-0	.000	0-1	LMU	0-0	.000	0-1
USF	0-0	.000	0-1	PEP	0-0	.000	0-2

Team	1st	2nd	Final	Team	1st	2nd	Final
PV A&M	42	38	80	Drake	38	32	66
SMC	37	50	87	SMC	35	41	72

Team	WCC	PCT	Overall
SMC	24	23	47
Baylor(15)	57	44	101

Team	1st	2nd	Final
SMC	44	43	87
Howard	28	37	65

Men's Rugby		
Humboldt State		20
Saint Mary's (4)		35

Men's Golf		
Hawaii Fall Invitational		
T-4 at -35 (UNLV, CoC)		

Men's Soccer			
Team	WCC	PTS	Overall
SCU(3)	8-0-2	26	13-1-4
POR	5-1-4	19	8-4-5
GON(23)	4-2-4	16	9-4-4
USD	5-3-1	16	8-8-1
SMC	2-6-2	8	6-8-2
USF	2-7-1	7	6-10-1
LMU	1-8-0	3	3-13-1

Women's Soccer			
Team	WCC	PTS	Overall
POR(3)	7-0-0	21	15-3-0
USD(12)	5-1-1	16	15-2-3
SCU(16)	4-3-0	12	12-5-3
LMU	4-3-0	12	12-6-1
GON	3-4-0	9	12-7-1
PEP	2-4-1	7	5-8-6
USF	2-5-0	6	2-13-3
SMC	0-7-0	0	6-11-2

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