

# The Point News

## Verizon Fails to Increase Speed

By DAVE CHASE  
Managing Editor

Verizon, the Internet provider for St. Mary's and the entire University of Maryland system, failed to double the speed of the college's Internet despite hardware upgrades that could deliver Internet speeds nearly 20 times faster than current speeds.

Last February, St. Mary's Technological Services requested that the University of Maryland Academic Telecommunications System (UMATS), the organization that provides Internet to all Maryland public schools, increase the school's current 45 MB/s (megabytes/second) Internet connection to 100 MB/s. UMATs Chief Network Technology Officer, Norwin Malmberg, put in the request to Verizon.

After several missed deadlines Verizon installed the correct equipment on both ends last October. However, according to Malmberg, "we plugged everything in and it didn't work." Malmberg was told by Verizon that there was no connection between Hyattsville, UMATs' central location, and Lexington Park.

Verizon then put in a work order to install a Transport Land Service (TLS) to support a 100 MB/s connection between Hyattsville and Lexington Park, which

should have been installed with the other equipment. According to Malmberg, the TLS could not be completed before the beginning of the Spring 2011 semester. Verizon would also install a temporary Ethernet Private Line (EPL) while the TLS was being installed.

"[The] EPL line is more expensive, more than twice the price," said Malmberg. "But we have to live with it," he added, while Ve-

**"WHEN THEY HAVE MISSED THE DEADLINE MULTIPLE TIMES, YOU STOP BELIEVING THEY WILL DO IT."**

—NORWIN MALMBERG, UMATs CHIEF NETWORK TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

rizon installs the TLS line.

In e-mails given to *The Point News* on the condition of anonymity, UMATs and SMCM were told on Jan. 6 that "all of the pre-work has been completed. However, [Verizon is] working through some contractual issue."

Weeks later, on Jan. 25, a Verizon representative said in an e-mail, "I uncovered that the engineering work order that we completed back in December was for OC48 and not EPL."

The OC48 line provides 2100

MB/s of capacity between Hyattsville and Lexington Park. According to Malmberg, Verizon is unlikely to use the increased capacity for St. Mary's. "They will take the capacity and chop it up for other uses," he said.

St. Mary's Director of Campus Technology Support Services, George Waggoner, said, "they could have a [Vice President] say, 'give them the connection and we will eat the money'."

"The problem is not technical," said Malmberg. "[I have] no idea what the timeline is for the original service we ordered," he said. Malmberg and Waggoner also do not know when the EPL line promised in early January will be installed. "When they have missed the deadline multiple times, you stop believing they will do it," said Malmberg.

"Verizon should not give a date if they

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PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

## SEAHAWKS BEAT SEA GULLS, PG. 5

## Room Selection Schedule Modified

By KYLE JERNIGAN  
Editor-In-Chief

Because of the delay in hard tuition numbers, the Office of Residence Life (ORL) has moved back room selecting and housing contract deadlines into early March.

The choice to move back deadlines for housing was made shortly after the second quarterly meetings of the Board of Trustees, when Trustees decided to hold off on setting next year's tuition until February. Assistant Director of Residence Life Kelly Smolinsky said, "We don't want students to sign a contract without knowing the conditions...I don't think that would be ethical."

Instead of being due Feb. 25, as stated in the *To the Point* student handbook, housing contracts and deposits will be due the next Friday, March 4. Applications for apartments, single rooms, townhouses, and suites have similarly been moved back.

As a consequence of these changes, and the fact that selection of doubles, triples, and quads have been moved back after advising day, Residence Life has also decided to

get rid of the normal room draw process in favor of an application system very similar to what is currently used for suites and townhouses. Everyone will now apply any time between the opening of

would take a potential friend's spot in the time between each applicant's room draw.

Smolinsky said, "For me, it's more important that if you have someone you get along with that you can room together. Now I can guarantee you that yes, you will be able to live together." Smolinsky also said that Residence Life would see how the process went in the coming fall and possibly consider making the change permanent.

Residence Life is also going to be rolling out a new web site for this year's room selection, which will contain information such as updated room plans and standard sizes of things like beds and desks; Smolinsky hopes having this information more readily available to students will lead to more informed and satisfactory choices. Smolinsky also said that Residence Life would be re-evaluating the distribution of students in Calvert Hall, known for its unusual room sizes. The due date applications for single rooms have also been moved to match those of north campus apartments.

**Mar. 4:** \$200 housing deposit and housing contract due by midnight. LLC Rosters due.

**Mar. 7:** Special Housing Needs Requests due to ORL.

**Mar. 8:** WC Apartment applications and Single room applications due (notifications by Mar. 9).

**Mar. 9:** Townhouse applications due (notifications by Mar. 10).

**Mar. 23:** 6-person suite applications due (notification by Mar. 24).

**Mar. 28:** 10-person suite applications due (notification by Mar. 29).

**Mar. 31:** Regular double, triple, and quad applications due (notification by Apr. 4).



PHOTO BY DAVE CHASE

## College Welcomes Comedian, Pg. 3

## GOVERNOR'S CUP TO HOLD FINAL RACE?

By STEVE REES  
News Co-Editor

In an effort to lower auxiliary expenses to promote the College's academic mission, the College administration is considering modifications of the budget that may lead to the end of investment-heavy projects, including the annual Governor's Cup Yacht Race, after 2011.

The Governor's Cup, entering its 38th race this August, began in 1973 under the design of then-St. Mary's sophomores Pete Sarelak,

Russell Baker and Dale Rausch, '71, with the help of former College president Renwick Jackson and the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association. The race itself is a weekend-long event, with racers sailing from the state capital to St. Mary's City, followed by an awards ceremony and after-race dinner and party event.

"The race starts at the outer edge of Annapolis Harbor [the modern capital]," said Adam Werblow,

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# College Submits Plan to Gain Climate Neutrality By 2020

By STEVE REES  
News Co-Editor

With the ever-increasing threat of climate change fueled by emissions increases, environmental damage, and low use of renewable energy, St. Mary's submitted a Climate Action Plan on Jan. 12 to achieve climate neutrality by 2020, continuing the College's fight for campus sustainability.

Submitted to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, the Climate Action Plan is a 26-page document detailing the College's current carbon footprint (or total greenhouse gas emissions), current methods of reducing that footprint, and further actions to be taken in the next decade to balance energy use and consumption and become more energy efficient.

The College is one of 362 higher education institutions that have submitted the plan, which includes 22 institutions from the State of Maryland.

"Students care a lot about us being a green school," said Sustainability Fellow Lisa Neu, '10, "even if they don't think about it every day."

One of the major goals detailed in the Action Plan is to promote energy efficiency on campus, enough for at least a 15 percent increase in energy efficiency by 2020.

One approach to this goal has been to replace older, more wasteful energy sources (such as the Crescent Townhouses HVAC units) with more energy-efficient ones rather than repairing them when damaged.

"By tacking on a small fee to the repair costs, we can get the renewable product that will be more beneficial in the long run," said Luke Mowbray, the Facilities Planner and Sustainability Coordinator at St. Mary's.

Other methods, including Neu's outreach programs promoting

energy conservation, the use of energy-efficient light bulbs on campus, and a modified summer work-week of four days, 10 hours per day as opposed to five days, eight hours per day, are also being implemented.

Becoming more energy efficient will be a more feasible method

**"THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE OF THIS [CLIMATE NEUTRAL] OBJECTIVE."**

-LUKE MOWBRAY

FACILITIES PLANNER AND SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

of reducing climate change on campus than funding renewable energy.

While the Action Plan promotes a five percent increase in renewable energy on campus by 2020, the high costs of solar panels and irregular winds for wind power make such methods more difficult than becoming more energy efficient.

"The sort we use is energy efficiency rather than renewable energy," said Mowbray. "In terms of cost, we're doing what we can do."

This also applies to the College approaching climate neutral rather than zero-emissions status, which would be a significantly more costly and less feasible option for St. Mary's.

By lowering the College's carbon footprint, increasing energy efficiency, and investing in off-site renewable energy resources, St. Mary's hopes to offset its contribution to climate change by 80 percent by 2020 as opposed to its current 60 percent.

The Climate Action Plan does not mark the first approach of St. Mary's towards climate neutrality. In 2008, one year after being recognized as part of the EPA Green Power Partnership,

the College received a grant from the State of Maryland for a pilot program promoting green building construction.

With the help of the student body, which voted to tax itself to promote its construction, Andrew J. Goodpaster Hall became the first green building on campus, receiving a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certification for energy-conservative productivity. Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum are LEED's point-based certification levels, awarded for promoting green methods during a building's construction and operation.

Goodpaster itself saves 300,000 gallons of water annually compared to a non-green building of similar size, and uses 30 to 40 percent less energy.

The College's Strategic Plan also promotes green construction, as all future facilities will be green buildings. This includes the Anne Arundel Hall Replacement Project, currently in its planning stages to rebuild Anne Arundel Hall as a LEED Gold-certified building by Winter 2015.

"The Administration has been extremely supportive of this [climate-neutral] objective," said Mowbray.

One of the many groups on campus promoting the College's climate neutrality goal is the St. Mary's River Project, a group of student, faculty, and community volunteers promoting environmental awareness in St. Mary's County schools.

"Even though we don't directly use the phrase 'carbon neutrality' in our lessons," said junior and SMRP president Jon Barkley, "the kids learn that by planting trees (which help take up excess carbon dioxide), conserving land, and following the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle), they can have a positive effect on our planet's future."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Sustainability Committee has been working to implement a test run for the reusable boxes by tabling during meal times.

## Reusable To-Go Box Pilot Program in Progress

By EVAN KELLEY  
Staff Writer

Soon about 400 students will be walking around with their new "eco-oyster shells", or reusable to-go boxes, as part of the campus initiative to be more sustainable. The reusable boxes will be much more environmentally friendly than the current Styrofoam boxes that students use.

A leader in this initiative, sophomore Becky White said, "[Styrofoam boxes] create a tremendous amount of waste, everyone can see the trashcan overflowing on sunny days." St. Mary's goes through about 600 Styrofoam to-go boxes per day, which adds up to about 132,000 boxes per year.

Other colleges have had success with these programs. Facilities Planner and Sustainability Coordinator Luke Mowbray explained that his undergraduate college, Eckerd College, has had success with reusable boxes. Eckerd is one of 116 schools that also have similar programs.

In regards to St. Mary's, he said, "We didn't want to do a full implementation program to start with because we just want to feel things out... we decided to go with a pilot program." During the Spring semester, students who sign up for the program will have the option to use the oyster shells.

This semester is meant to test how the system of the oyster shells works, and to see if any problems need to be fixed.

The start date of the program was moved back to Feb. 4 because of shipping delays. Students who sign up for the program will be able to

pick up their oyster shell at the sustainability table in the Great Room.

Instead of a student renting or owning a single oyster shell, students in the program will also be able to get a token card. This token card can then later be exchanged for an oyster shell. The card acts as a way to identify who is in the program while also making it possible for a student to not always have to have an oyster shell in possession. Bon Appétit will be responsible for cleaning the oyster shells.

For those who might miss being able to easily dispose of their to-go boxes, Mowbray said, "If you don't like the idea of using a reusable to-go box container then that's fine, we are not taking away the option of Styrofoam, we are just adding more options."

While some might like being able to easily throw out their boxes, one student, first-year Danielle Manos said, "I think carrying around a to-go box will be like carrying around a backpack, not that big of a deal."

White responded by saying, "I think it's the kind of thing people can get used to pretty quickly, it's sort of comparable to the tray-less system where people got used to and then didn't even notice not using trays."

White hopes for full implementation by next semester. However the program is still in its trial run. As of this writing, 85 spots are still available for interested students. The program is capping the amount of people at 400 and they already have 315.

Manos said, "This is the only Earth we have, we should treat it well."

## Will Gov. Cup Set Sail Again?

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Director of the Waterfront and Principal Race Officer of the Governor's Cup, "and boats race 70 miles to a finish off of Church Point, St. Mary's City [the colonial capital]."

The St. Mary's community has shown strong interest in the race since its inception, with as many as 400 ships during the races in the 1980s.

"Some [community members] are sponsors, some race, some come to welcome visiting sailors," said Werblow. "[The Governor's Cup] is one of the few events that brings a large number of people to our campus."

Despite its previously high participation, the race only boasted 119 racers last year, and has increasingly generated less profit for the College annually. Costing \$72,000 last year but only gaining \$54,000 in revenue, the \$18,000 deficit was a noticeable portion of the school's overall budget.

"With a long view forward in mind, there are actions we are taking now to help ensure our viability and to make us more attractive to those with the means to support our mission," said President Joseph Urgo during a Board of Trustees meeting in December.

"Finances need to consider the academic mission," said Associate Vice President of Planning and Facilities Charles "Chip" Jackson, "and \$20,000 is a lot."

The decline in the race's participation is a growing trend in point-to-point distance races, as the long travel commitments and difficulty

**"THE GOAL IS TO BE BUDGET NEUTRAL, AND WE'RE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO RAISE REVENUE AND CUT COSTS."**

-CHARLES JACKSON, ASSOCIATE V.P. OF PLANNING AND FACILITIES

of the race make it a less attractive type of event.

"It's a long, hard race," said Jackson, "and those types of races are less and less popular in the sailing world."

Current steps are being taken to modify the event for this year and future years in order to lower the cost to the College and raise revenue for the event.

Included in these changes are the possible cancellation of the after-race dinner and having a lower-

scale after-party alongside the post-race events. "People pay for the dinner, but it itself lost almost \$10,000," said Jackson. "Some sailors have mentioned that they wouldn't mind losing the dinner."

Losing the dinner would also increase the attention towards the other events occurring during the Governor's Cup, including band performances and vendor tents.

"The goal is to be budget neutral," said Jackson, "and we're looking at ways to raise revenue and cut costs."

Despite the financial struggles of the event, the Governor's Cup is still scheduled for this August, with modifications in place to see if costs can be lowered. A trustee group of community members is currently meeting to aid in this endeavor.

"There has been very productive dialogue that will serve the College well," said Jackson. "We look forward to informing the community."

The administration is also looking at the River Concert Series, which was mostly budget-neutral last year with the help of successful fundraising, and Slackwater, an environmental awareness journal that lost its Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant this past year.

## Verizon Responsible for Net Installation Delays

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can't deliver," Waggoner added.

The cost of the Internet speed upgrade remains uncertain. In a rate sheet given to UMATS and SMCM last October, Verizon quoted the cost of upgrading from 45 MB/s to 100 MB/s as \$104,640 per year.

However, in December the cost was quoted as \$117,480 after UMATS requested that Verizon revise a three year contract they sent UMATS using terms and

state contact pricing and terms."

Regardless of the price difference, Waggoner believes he can upgrade the speed not only to

**REGARDLESS OF THE PRICE DIFFERENCE, WAGGONER BELIEVES HE CAN UPGRADE THE SPEED NOT ONLY TO 100 MB/S BUT TO 1,000 MB/S USING \$100,000 SET ASIDE TO PROVIDE WIRELESS SERVICE TO RESIDENCE HALLS.**

pricing from Verizon's contract with the Federal Government. In e-mails concerning the contract and quote, one official said, "Verizon folks tell me that they don't have the necessary codes populated into their internal systems to allow them to order this using the

100 MB/s but to 1,000 MB/s using \$100,000 set aside to provide wireless service to residence halls. "The SGA overwhelming said they would prefer faster Internet over wireless [service]," he said, "so it turns out once we get the line in, I have \$100,000 to upgrade the speed."

The additional \$100,000 would more than cover 1,000 MB/s service quoted at \$177,554 last October. Waggoner is unsure, however, if that rate sheet is still accurate.

Verizon officials did not respond before *The Point News'* publication deadline.

# Comedian Dazzles

By HANNAH GRABENSTEIN  
*Opinions Editor*

Seaton Smith had a problem with the stage lighting. Playing on racial stereotypes, he claimed that because the lighting was so dim at the front of the stage, when he walked forward he immediately became a “suspect.” But back upstage, in the brightness of the spotlight, he was again “safe.” He walked up and back, repeating “suspect” and “safe” to an uproarious crowd. Smith, who performed comedy at St. Mary’s Hall last Friday, was very well received and was deemed by many to have been the best comedian St. Mary’s has had in a while.

Senior Jessica Riesett commented, “I thought it was awesome. He was really funny. Sometimes comedians can be awkward, but he wasn’t.”

Performing to a beyond capacity room, Smith related personal anecdotes, including a story where he thought he bought two laptops for \$70 from a crack-cocaine addict, but actually purchased two boxes full of newspapers.

Smith relied heavily on audience interaction; at one point he asked, “How many black people go here?” and a lone voice in the crowd shouted back, “Ten!” Smith also did an entertaining job personalizing his routine for the



PHOTO BY DAVE CHASE

**Seaton Smith performed in a packed St. Mary’s Hall this past Saturday as Programs Board’s first comedian of the semester.**

St. Mary’s students. When he noticed people standing in the back and sitting in the aisles, he joked, “There must be NOTHING else going on here.” (The audience, it seemed, agreed wholeheartedly).

In addition to discussing the college, Smith’s act touched on everything from racial issues to the moment he knew he loved his

girlfriend (for those curious, it was after she returned from the bathroom and he realized that she’d clogged up the toilet).

Overall, Smith received an extremely positive reaction. Sophomore Jonathan Weber left the performance pleased: “[He was the] best comedian we’ve had here. He needs to come back.”

# Ice Rink Reaction Lukewarm

By JULIA ANDRADE ROCHA  
*Features Editor*

Students returning to campus from winter break were welcomed back by an artificial ice rink event on Saturday, Jan. 22. Hosted by the Student Government Association (SGA) and Programs Board, the event was planned as a fun and unexpected way to start off the semester.

With the Hawk Radio providing music, students were able to snack on chips, drink hot coffee and watch their friends skate on the artificial ice rink. The rink, constructed out of large puzzle-piece shaped plastic, was sprayed with water to provide a more realistic skating experience. However, the day’s freezing temperatures and the rink’s small size deterred many students who had planned on attending.

“It was small and kind of disappointing,” said first-year Erica Wharry, who had intended to go ice skating with some friends. Seeing that the rink only covered at most a third of the basketball court behind the Michael P. O’Brien Athletics and Recreation Center, she and her friends changed their minds. “After seeing it I didn’t want to go,” Wharry explained.

Junior Marshall Betz said differently. “It’s not really what I expected,” he admitted, but he also added that it was a “great thing to get people to come together,” even if it was “just to complain.”

Despite the cold, senior Jes Harvey, Director of Campus Programming, said that many of the participants were having fun, with students displaying their skating talents or dancing on the rink. There was a consistent flow of skaters, with no need to impose the 30 minute limit since the rink never reached full capacity (35 skaters).

Harvey explained that the men’s basketball game against Stevenson University made many students opt out of the cold and into the heated arena making the rink close early at around 4:30 p.m. By that time, 213 students had skated.

As for whether this will become a new St. Mary’s tradition, nothing has been decided. Harvey suggested that next year’s Programs Board spend the extra money for a bigger rink if they decide to bring it back. With some funding provided by the SGA, Programs Board paid \$5,800 for the rink, including skate rentals. However, Harvey was unsure how much a larger rink would cost, pointing out that in the end, it would depend on “what the students want.”

Wharry said she would “definitely consider” attending an ice skating event if the rink were bigger. Betz said, “I would come back next year, even if I didn’t skate.” However, he added that it “depends on how much” a larger rink would cost. “It might be too much to spend right now,” he concluded.

# Studying in Dublin, Ireland



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA DAVIS

**Junior Anna Davis in County Wicklow, Ireland. She is currently studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland at Trinity College.**

Submitted By ANNA DAVIS  
*CLASS OF 2012*

The moment I walked through the main gates of Trinity College during a summer vacation to Ireland, I knew I had found the place where I wanted to spend my semester abroad. I gazed around, open-mouthed, at the stone architecture and the tall columns of the white buildings that surrounded me. Students hurried across the cobble-stoned square, talking excitedly to each other in their Irish accents, and I desperately wanted to be one of them. Now I am one of them as a visiting student at Trinity College, Dublin.

I have been here for two weeks and I can already comfortably call Dublin my new home. It no longer seems weird that they drive on the left side of the road, and I almost always look in the correct direction when I’m trying to cross the street (people here completely disregard crossing signals). Mailboxes here are green, not blue, and paper money comes in all different sizes and colors (or “colours,” as they spell it here).

Being at Trinity is absolutely nothing like being at St. Mary’s. I live in an apartment building located about a 25-minute walk from campus. There is no such thing as a meal plan, and the dining hall is more like a café.

Trinity is situated directly in the city center of Dublin and is one of its main tourist attractions. A few blocks from campus is Grafton Street, the nicest place to shop in the city.

Not only is the atmosphere here

different, but also the academic system is completely the opposite of St. Mary’s. Most classes only meet once a week for fifty minutes and there are no specific homework assignments. Students are expected to study and read about the topics of their lectures on their own time as they see fit. Grades for the semester are usually based entirely on an essay due at the end of term and then a final exam after lectures are over. Everything here is an independent study type of experience.

Living in Ireland gives me opportunities that I have never had before and probably will never have again. The rest of Europe feels so close to me now. I have already begun talking to the new friends I have made here about taking weekend trips to places like Rome, Madrid, and Paris. A plane ticket from Dublin to London can be as low as €10 (about \$13.60)! Traveling within Ireland is simple as well: an Irish Rail station right next to campus can take me anywhere in Ireland with as little hassle as the D.C. metro system.

It is definitely sad being away from St. Mary’s for a semester, and I cannot wait until I get back next semester full of stories to share with all my friends. But, for now, I am excited about sharing my experiences and stories about Ireland with you and telling you all about what study abroad in Europe is like. This semester promises to be full of new experiences, plenty of mistakes, a little bit of culture shock, and, most of all, a ton of fun.

# Victorious End to JAG’s Journey

Submitted By  
JOANNE GOLDWATER

Wearing a neon pink wig and a bright pink sweater, I walked into the office of Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Cancer Center on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010 for my final radiation treatment for breast cancer. My appointment was for 3:30 p.m. When I walked in at 3:15 p.m., the waiting room was full of patients. Usually, there are only one or two other people waiting for treatment when I walk in. The receptionist told me that the radiation machine was not working properly and the technician was on his way, but my procedure would be delayed. Really? On my last day? Give me a break!

My husband and I had dinner reservations for that night to celebrate the end of radiation. It had been quite a journey from that day near the end of July when I discovered the lump in my left breast to this day. I underwent two breast surgeries to remove the dreaded lump and some lymph nodes to check for the possibility of the disease spreading to other body parts; various scans of my bones, organs, breasts, and brain which required contrasting dyes, radioactive dyes, and laying inside claustrophobic tubes; two types of genetic tests; countless blood draws; and a little problem that was discovered with my liver. I was anxious to finish this part of my journey.

The highlight of this long awaited day was the reaction I got from the other patients and the staff members. Every single person at the center grinned or laughed out loud when they saw me. After all, I was quite a sight! It brought me extreme pleasure to be able to bring some laughter and a moment of lightheartedness to the other patients, some of whom I had never met and others whom I had never seen smile during the six weeks that I was undergoing treatment. The mood in the waiting room instantly changed when I sat down.

I was finally called in for my treatment. I changed into my hospital gown and proceeded into the treatment room. My wig caused the three staff members working with me to laugh. They took a picture of me standing in front of the radiation machine. At last, I got on the table, got zapped, and I was done. At 5:06 p.m., I was cancer-free and a proud breast cancer survivor!

My six weeks of radiation (five days

a week for six weeks) were not too difficult. The treatment involved getting a few pinpoint-sized tattoos that helped the technicians line up the machine each day. I laid on a movable table and got into a prescribed position (my right hand rested under my right butt cheek, my left arm rested in a “cradle” at a high, out-of-the-way position to allow for the radiation beam to hit my breast at the correct angle while my head was turned toward the right wall of the room).

Radiation itself does not hurt at all. It is just like getting an x-ray at the doctor’s office. However, instead of getting a one-second “zap” of radiation, for the first five weeks, my treatment involved getting two 20-second “zaps” while the machine was in one position, then it moved to a second position and I got two more 20-second “zaps.” For the last week of radiation, I got a few more pinpoint tattoos because they had to line up the machine differently. For the last five days, I got one 40-second zap directed at the surgical site.

The side effects from radiation were not too bad. I started getting a nice sun-tan the second week of treatment, but

**“At 5:06 p.m., I was cancer-free and a proud breast cancer survivor!”**

**-Joanne Goldwater,  
Director of Residence Life**

by the end it turned into a bad sunburn that covered my entire breast to my left underarm. My skin got very dry and rough (and then it started peeling), and was sensitive to the touch. I experienced significant (for me!) fatigue. I got home from treatment each day, took a nap before dinner and was in bed before 8:00 p.m. At the time of this writing, my tan is almost gone, my skin has returned to normal, and I am almost back to my normal energy level. The good news is I have not had to shave my left underarm for weeks, thanks to radiation!

Friends, colleagues, and family members went the extra mile for me and my family during those six weeks. People volunteered to drive me to and from radiation and prepared meals for us during the week. I am so grateful to everyone for those kindnesses!

I recently started taking Tamoxifen,

a hormone therapy medication that blocks the effects of estrogen in the breast (it is not the same as hormone replacement therapy used in association with menopause). I will have to take this for the next five years to reduce the likelihood of recurrence. Side effects include fatigue, increased intensity and frequency of hot flashes (TRUE!), possible hair loss, clots, headaches, nausea, skin rashes, and vision changes.

Because of some liver problems that were discovered as result of the blood tests I started getting in September, my liver has to be closely monitored while I am on the medication, which means I will have to have regular blood tests for a while. And I have to give up alcohol for the foreseeable future. I am scheduled to have a screening mammogram and diagnostic sonogram on Feb. 3. Because I have very dense breast tissue, I must also get sonograms to catch whatever the mammograms may miss. You can bet I will keep up with these diagnostic tests and follow-up appointments with my team of doctors!

I hope you will join me at the College community’s Relay for Life on Saturday, Feb. 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. in the Michael P. O’Brien Athletic and Recreation Center. This year’s Relay will be a cancer-fighting good time! I can’t wait to walk in the survivor lap! To join a team or donate, please go to <http://www.relayforlife.org/smcem>.

I am a very fortunate person. I had little “c” because I did not need chemotherapy. My cancer was caught early, thank goodness, and that made all the difference in the world. I am not the same person I was on July 28, 2010. Believe it or not, I am actually glad that I went through this experience. My life has been forever changed for the better. I have a different perspective on what is important to me. I appreciate my family, colleagues, and friends much more. I know the value of good health and will never again take it for granted.

I am deeply grateful to the College community for your outpouring of support. You kept my spirits up during some scary, dark moments last semester. My personal motto from the musical Pippin has even greater meaning to me now: “Don’t you see I want my life to be something more than long?”

As I said before, cancer is treatable and beatable! Thank you for joining me on this incredible journey!

# St. Mary's Alumni Release Band's Debut Album on iTunes

By JESSY SCHROEDER  
A&E Editor

This past December marked an important time in the lives of a small group of past St. Mary's alumni with the release of their band's debut album, *Finding Color in the Ashes*.

It isn't that often that the student body here at St. Mary's receives the chance to hear much about what past alumni have been achieving since graduating from their own collegiate days. But the four friends that make up the band Drop Electric have been gaining some media attention this winter due to the release of their debut album.

The group consists of Ramtin Arablouei, '05, on drums, David Garber, '06, on piano and keyboard, and Neel Singh, '06, and Sho Fujiwara (a Northwestern University alumnus) on guitar.

According to the group's Myspace page, they "creates a hybrid of rock, electronica, world, and hip-hop music

with a booming, bass heavy style...which in turn brings together Eastern and Western cultures over beats that make any crowd move."

Drop Electric held the official release party for their CD on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010 at the Black Cat in Washington, D.C. where they were joined by the bands The Sweater Set from D.C., and Brooklyn's Emily Wells.

Not only has this group of St. Mary's alumni successfully published their own album, but they also have been using Drop Electric as a platform to support local issues and fundraising within the local Maryland/D.C. community, such as Young Women's Drum Empowerment Project and Empower DC.

The band stated in an interview on D.C.'s District of Sound website in 2009, "Obviously, it's nice to make money and fund studio work, but when it

comes down to it we are all members of the community and as a result have responsibilities. We just want to make any small contribution we can. We'll continue to do this as long as we are a band."

**"WE WANT CURRENT STUDENTS TO KNOW THE LEGACY THAT LUCILLE CLIFTON LEFT BEHIND."**

-Neel Singh '06, guitar

The group particularly went to great lengths in order to help raise funds for their former lead singer Padma Soundararajan, also an alumna of St. Mary's, after she lost both parents and her two sisters to a devastating car accident a few years ago, which left her the sole provider for her two younger brothers, one with autism and the other with severe cerebral palsy.

Due to Soundararajan's

new responsibilities, she unfortunately had to drop out of the band, leaving the group with no vocalist. Afterwards, Drop Electric had no choice but to become an all-instrumental band.

The band's Facebook page

states that "During the ensuing months, the remaining members of the band found solace in music. This album captures the music written during that time period. Each song attempts to make sense of the tragedy and find glimpses of hope in the often senseless nature of life."

The album has been dedicated in loving memory to Soundararajan's family. However, she isn't the only one that has helped to craft

the resulting sound of the quartet's new album, since the CD is also dedicated to the late former St. Mary's professor Lucille Clifton.

Clifton over the years has left an important legacy at St. Mary's College, including the plaques of her writings that circle the St. John's pond, her poem "Blessing the Boats" that can be seen printed on the wall of the main hall of the campus center, and the memories that many upperclassmen have of her speaking at their first-year convocation.

She was a close friend and mentor to Arablouei, and recordings of her voice reciting her poetry can be heard in a number of their songs. "We want current students to know the legacy that Lucille Clifton leaves behind, as well as the students who came just before them," said Singh. "It is one of our great regrets that she cannot hear the album."

A review of their album

in the Washington Post appeared in mid-December 2010 with the reporter Catherine Lewis stating that the "sorrow is apparent in these mostly instrumental songs...[but]...this album surges with a tranquil hopefulness." They have even been compared in reviews to bands such as Explosions in the Sky and Mogwai.

*Finding Color in the Ashes*, which includes thirteen tracks averaging lengths of around four minutes a piece, has also been officially released on iTunes for \$9.99.

Despite their growing audience, Drop Electric still remembers that their beginnings happened here at St. Mary's. "This album could not have been possible without SMCM and the love we have for that place," said Singh. "I cannot stress enough how important St. Mary's is in our lives and how thankful we are that we decided to attend the school."

## Traveling Exhibit Aims to Break Down Boundaries



By AMANDA ZELAYA  
News Co-Editor

Students walking by Boyden Gallery in the last few weeks may have noticed a new exhibit being housed in the gallery entitled "Between Fences." Between Fences is a Smithsonian Institute traveling exhibit that has been touring Maryland since September 2010.

Michael S. Glaser, Professor Emeritus, wrote a letter introducing the exhibit in which he describes it as "[an exhibit] designed to encourage local communities to consider the various ways fences are experienced."

"Local fences play a large role in how we see ourselves as

members of our Southern Maryland community," writes Glaser. He also wrote on the mission statement of the exhibit, which is to "encourage us to think more deeply about how we are defined by the fences in our lives."

The exhibit is composed of numerous installations concerning fences, both metaphorically and physically, and how those around the Southern Maryland community are breaking down fences and communicating.

Glaser wrote, "Local exhibits will embrace a rich mosaic of diverse groups, such as, the Patuxent River Keeper, the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, Daughters

of Abraham, Calvert Marine Museum, Walden Sierra, the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, to name a few." Each participant set up an installation to be in the gallery as a way to explain how their organization works to break down fences.

Most of the installations utilized pictures and information about their organization to express how they were breaking down fences, but some took it even further and used other forms of art to express themselves.

The installation "And They All Fell Down: English Language Learners in U.S. Schools, by Katy Arnett and the Members of the Student Education Association," created large, colored puzzle pieces which each held a fact about English Language Learners in the United States education system.

The Walden group's "Air it Out: A Clothesline Project," displayed artistic t-shirts as a way to express the fences faced by those who have been victims of abuse.

While each group had smaller installations which they had creative control over, the center of the exhibit holds large information concerning fences and their history in the United States.

These posters show fences as they have evolved in utilization and material throughout the United States.

## Calendar of Events: What's Going on This Week

Wednesday,  
Feb. 2

4:40 PM  
NS&M  
Colloquium:  
Hydrography  
- Science, Art,  
and Sea Stories  
of Seafloor  
Mapping by  
Lt. Comm. Ben  
Evans  
Schaefer 106

4:30 PM  
IE Chat: Study  
in France and  
Germany  
Glendening  
Annex

Thursday,  
Feb. 3

4:30 PM  
IE Chat: Study  
in India  
Glendening 181

8:00 PM  
Coffeehouse:  
Pete Kilpatrick  
Band  
Campus Center

8:00 PM  
"A Little  
Midnight  
Music" by  
pianist Eliza  
Garth  
Auerbach  
Auditorium, St.  
Mary's Hall

8:15 PM  
Twin Lecture  
Series with  
Professor  
Lawrence Howe  
of Roosevelt  
University  
Daughtery-  
Palmer Commons

Friday,  
Feb. 4

4:30 PM  
IE Chat: All  
Programs and  
NSE  
Glendening  
Annex

7:30 PM  
Music  
Performance by  
Calico Jack  
Historic St.  
Mary's City  
(Admission \$15)

8:00 PM  
Comedian Arvin  
Mitchell  
Auerbach  
Auditorium, St.  
Mary's Hall

Monday,  
Feb. 7

4:30 PM  
IE Chat: Study  
in Argentina  
and Costa Rica  
Glendening 181

Tuesday,  
Feb. 8

4:30 PM  
IE Chat: Study  
in Australia  
Glendening  
Annex

6:30 PM  
"Can Our  
Country Lose  
its Addiction  
to Debt? The  
Causes and  
Consequences"  
by Jeffrey S.  
Thiebert  
Cole Cinema

Wednesday,  
Feb. 9

4:30 PM  
IE Chat: Study  
in Italy  
Glendening  
Annex

Friday,  
Feb. 11

3:00 PM  
Student Recital  
Montgomery Hall  
25

3:00 PM  
Sex Therapy  
101  
Goodpaster 195

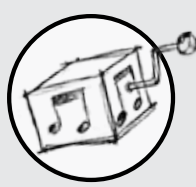
8:00 PM  
Comedian Myq  
Kaplan  
Auerbach  
Auditorium, St.  
Mary's Hall

All Day  
Last Day to Add  
Courses  
\$25 Fee

Saturday,  
Feb. 12

10:00 AM  
Arboretum  
Event - Winter  
Pruning  
James P. Muldoon  
River Center

1:00 PM  
5th Annual  
Southern  
Maryland Brain  
Bee  
Auerbach  
Auditorium, St.  
Mary's Hall



MUSIC  
BOX

### Girl Talk

9:30 Club, DC on Tuesday and  
Wednesday, Feb. 1 and 2 @ 7 p.m.

### Robyn

Ram's Head Live, Baltimore on Tuesday,  
Feb. 1 @ 7 p.m.

### Tea Leaf Green

9:30 Club, DC on Friday, Feb. 4 @ 8  
p.m.

### Gang of Four

9:30 Club, DC on Wednesday, Feb. 9 @ 7  
p.m.

### Lost in the Trees

Black Cat, DC on Wednesday, Feb. 9 @ 9  
p.m.

### Lotus

9:30 Club, DC on Friday and Saturday, Feb.  
11 and 12 @ 8 p.m.

### Jimmy Eat World

9:30 Club, DC on Sunday Feb. 13 @ 7 p.m.

# CLUB SPOTLIGHT: THE HAWKETTES



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARMEN FUENTES

The Hawkettes practice several hours a week for their performances.

Three members of the Hawkettes reflect on their experiences as a part of the team.

By CARMEN FUENTES  
Junior Captain, The Hawkettes

The Hawkettes are a team of 17 girls who are dedicated to dance and love to perform. We are a dance team, not a cheer squad. We welcome all girls with dance experience to try out for the team in the fall. The Hawkettes perform at all of the boys basketball home games, and the girls basketball home games on Saturdays. We would like to perform at all of the girls home games but during the week they are at 6p.m. and many of us have class then. We practice three times a week, two days in the movement room and one day in the dance studio, for a total of six hours as a group. Individually each team member is expected to practice the dance on her own during days that we do not have practice. Most of the girls on the

team have a dance background and have been dancing for most of their lives, some of the girls have gymnastics and cheerleading experience, and some girls didn't dance before they came to college but impressed the captains at tryouts and have become integral parts of the team. Hawkettes is different from Dance Club because it is a specific style of dance (poms) as opposed to a collection of every type of dance. More than half of the Hawkettes are also in Dance Club. We love to perform, and Hawkettes gives us a chance to do that for an entire season. Come to the basketball games and see us perform at halftime.

By ROSA TREMBOUR  
Captain, The Hawkettes

Looking back over the past three years, I am extremely happy to have been a member of the Hawkettes. Two sophomores invited me to try out when I was a first-year,

and joining the team gave me an immediate group of great friends. We were a very small dance team in 2007 and 2008, but slowly more and more people began to show interest and now we have a very talented group of 17 girls.

I think what brought this group together was a sense of pride in St. Mary's and a love of dance. Combined, the two make for fun performances and the opportunity to support sports teams on campus. The eight original Hawkettes all really enjoyed each others' company as well as performing for crazy fans. We always looked forward to the enthusiasm in the arena when someone would score or when the student section would start another cheer. Students, faculty, staff, and coaches were all supportive of us and helped make it possible for the team to continue and grow. Since I was a first-year the team has nearly doubled. It is also really wonderful to see how the team has come together. The Hawkettes have a policy of helping each other, whether with the dance routines or with school work and other activities. I think many of the Hawkettes are happy they have their fellow dancers to support them outside of practice and performances.

With time the dances have become more complicated and we now have a more comprehensive repertoire. Some years the fans would ask us why we only performed two routines or why they were only three minutes in length. This year we are constantly learning new choreography and extending the length of the routines so the fans have a little more halftime entertainment. As you may have noticed if you were at the last game, we have new uniforms! This is one step toward making the team a bigger, more formal presence on

campus. Ideally we would like to also enter regional dance competitions, cheer on other sports teams, and participate in more campus-wide events. This being my last year on the team I am very hopeful that all these will happen in the future. The current group of girls is talented, energetic, and motivated to continue and develop the Hawkettes in years to come.

I'm so grateful for being a part of the Hawkettes, and I encourage you to come to the games and cheer with us and for us!

By ANINA TARDIF-DOUGLIN  
Captain, The Hawkettes

The Hawkettes has been an important part of my life for the past few years. I tried out for the team my sophomore year and was made a captain my second semester on

the team. Since then I have been choreographing dances and mixing music for the team. As captain of the team, I find myself extremely busy all the time, constantly making time to choreograph and arrange dances. It's hard work but when I see the girls at practice working hard, I know that it's all worth it. When we are out on the floor of the arena performing, it's the best feeling, and I am so proud of all my girls. I have helped this team grow throughout the years and my hope is that in the future the Hawkettes will have a real coach and be a competitive dance team.

Every year we get better and better, and I know the girls can do it when Rosa and I are gone. I know that the thing I'll miss most about college is the Hawkettes.

## Seahawk Schedule

2/2	Women's Basketball vs York (Pa.)	6:00 p.m.
	Men's Basketball vs York (Pa.)	8:00 p.m.
2/5	Women's Basketball vs Marymount	2:00 p.m.
	Men's Basketball vs Marymount	4:00 p.m.
2/9	Women's Basketball vs Salisbury	6:00 p.m.
	Men's Basketball vs Salisbury	8:00 p.m.
2/12	Baseball vs Randolph-Macon	12:00 p.m.
	Women's Basketball vs Wesley*	2:00 p.m.
	Men's Basketball vs Wesley*	4:00 p.m.

\*home game

Compiled by Anna Agarunova

# MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATS RIVAL SALISBURY

By JOHN HENRY HAIN  
Staff Writer

Opening the 2011 season on Jan. 3, the Seahawks began with a rocky start, losing to Guilford College (57-61), but gained momentum with three straight wins against Marymount University (74-65), University of Mary Washington (91-65), and Frostburg State University (88-60).

Despite a brief setback with a loss against Wesley College, the Seahawks continued their successful season with a game against Salisbury University. Flying in the top 25 of the D3 conference with a record of 14-4, the St. Mary's men's basketball team defeated long-time rival Salisbury Sea Gulls with a score of 81 to 74 last Wednesday, Jan. 19 in an impressive home game.

"At this point in the season we are really trying to play some good basketball," said Head Coach Christopher Harney. "We need to focus on correcting our mistakes and getting ready for the tournaments. We were coming off a tough loss against Wesley and we really needed a rebound off of Salisbury, who was good. Salisbury has always been a tough game for us. I was a lot happier with the results of that game."

Coach Harney was honored at the Salisbury game for his 100th career win.

The game started with a quick twist, as Salisbury's Chris McGrew scored a quick layup 23 seconds into the game only to have St. Mary's pull ahead 50 seconds later with a three-point shot by junior James Davenport. After gaining the lead, St. Mary's pulled further ahead, dominating the first half with another three-pointer by senior point guard Alex Franz, a

shot from first-year Christian MacAuley, and another three point shot by Franz which put St. Mary's ahead by six points. The Sea Gulls attempted to put ahead with two missed shots, but MacAuley caught

a rebound and put up a jumper giving St. Mary's an eight point lead on Salisbury.

Five minutes in, sophomore Chris Hutchinson stole the ball and passed to Franz, who put up another three

points, giving Chris his second assist of the game and bringing the score to St. Mary's 19, Salisbury 8.

A few minutes later Franz threw up another three, and eight minutes and 30 seconds into the game junior Mikey Fitzpatrick entertained the crowd with a dunk. Later in the game MacAuley gave the crowd another entertaining performance with yet another dunk. St. Mary's closed the first half of the game up by eight points, the score 38-30.

"We have great chemistry," Harney said. "These guys are re-

ally patient and willing to sacrifice their stardom to find the right player that's open. In contrast Salisbury struggles with that - there were some guys forcing shots."

**"These guys are really patient and willing to sacrifice their stardom to find the right player that's open."**

-Chris Harney  
Coach, Men's Basketball

The second half of the game started with Salisbury making two foul shots and a layup to catch up. Franz managed to score another three, with two successful foul shots followed by Fitzpatrick. Eight minutes into the second half, senior Sam Burum got another two points putting St. Mary's ahead by 15 with a score of 54-39. The last eight minutes of the game the Sea Gulls fought hard to catch up, scoring six points bringing St. Mary's down to an 11-point lead. Franz took a foul with three minutes left and made one foul shot to bring St. Mary's ahead by 12, only to have the team struck back down to a 10 point lead with a layup by Salisbury's Chris McGrew. Pulling the team ahead

once again, Franz made two foul shots with one minute and 31 seconds left on the clock, only to have Salisbury respond once again with a layup by McGrew.

The last minute and 31 seconds consisted of St. Mary's and Salisbury trading fouls and foul shots—Salisbury trying to gain the lead, and St. Mary's clinging to what was won. With eight seconds left on the clock McGrew threw one shot, but despite the extra two points it was not enough for the victory. St. Mary's defeated their rival 81-74, a

well-earned seven point lead.

"We pride ourselves on winning at home," junior shooting guard Deon Queen said. "The fans always help us get over the humps."

"I think the Salisbury game was a great game" Harney added. "Salisbury is very good and their record doesn't really reflect their team right now. They've got size and great players. They're not that far from us on paper as far as talent goes. I think the game last Wednesday was a good reflection of the off-paper differences. Now we are just trying to focus on these conference games, and they are tough. Its like every game is a war, you really don't know what is going to happen."

The Seahawks continued their victory streak in the following two conference games with a victories over Stevenson University (86-55) and the University of Mary Washington (69-58).



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

Junior forward Mikey Fitzpatrick shoots a layup in Seahawks vs. Sea Gulls game. St. Mary's won with a final score of 81-74.

# Dating at SMCM: As Much Fun as the MVA

SUBMITTED BY EDEN CAR-SWELL  
Class of 2011

SMCM is known for its rigorous academic programs, scenic campus, and eclectic, friendly student body.

Come for the academics? The friendly people? The scenery? Yes.

Come looking for love? I wouldn't.

No one should be enrolling at a college or university because of the male-to-female ratios or chances for a Must Love Dogs reenactment, but coming to St. Mary's thinking that one might find someone worth being in a relationship with might just be a disappointment.

A lot of the reason behind this is because this college is so small. Is it really possible to find a soul mate on a campus the size of a Lego block? Absolutely. Is it easy? About as easy as climbing Mount Everest. Running into the same people every day doesn't add up to the healthiest dating scene, and neither does the fact that people get recycled like aluminum cans. Also, probably 35 percent of the students I know are in relationships with people at home (though this doesn't stop some of our beloved Seahawks from creepin' and playing the field anyway).

Then there's the "Keep St. Mary's Weird" factor. Though the ethnic diversity here is a little iffy, there is personality diversity. All the people that consider themselves "normal" are weary of dating someone that falls in the "weird" category.

Being weird isn't a bad thing; it works for Carrot Top, Jack Black and Shrek (who also falls in the "ugly" category). But for some, it's a deal breaker on this campus.

Alcohol is another dating kryptonite. A person can't make connections with someone while that person is plastered to the point of singing Vanilla Ice songs. Drunken hook-ups and "What-happened-last-night's" are a staple at this college, and most students I talked to feel that that's as close to commitment as SMCM students like to get. A few added that there are way more (sober) sexual relationships on this campus than meaningful, committed relationships; one student dared to say "Everybody's banging everybody. It's a complex spider's web."

I'm not saying it's impossible to find someone. Sure, it's hard because this campus is tiny, a lot of students are in relationships or virtually "undateable", and liquor turns good prospects into drunken slob.

But, I do know lucky people that have been in long-lasting relationships right up until Commencement Day. They can't tell you what the secret to it is, though... because there isn't one. I myself am happy in a relationship, but it took me three years and a lot of luck to get here.

To sum up: Dating at SMCM is like showing up at the MVA at 3pm. It's frustrating and hopeless. If you want to try your luck, feel free. It might work out in your favor. But, just to be safe, keep your head in the books.

# WINNING THE FUTURE, TOGETHER: REFLECTIONS ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

BY DAVE CHASE  
Managing Editor

Last Tuesday, President Obama delivered the State of the Union to a joint session of Congress. As always, the speech was surrounded by pomp and posturing, yet this speech sounded entirely different from the typical laundry list of Presidential requests.

Just weeks after the shooting in Tucson and the President's moving speech at the memorial service, many argue that the State of the Union should have followed up on Tucson. However, the President couldn't give a speech with the same soaring rhetoric after giving a speech about how our rhetoric caused a violent divide. The only way to follow Tucson was to give a speech that said, "here is how we are going to move forward together."

That is exactly what Obama did during the State of the Union. He put aside his and Favreau's talented pen and gave a raw, honest speech full of humility and strength.

One professor commented that the speech seemed disorganized, but how else could one address the sheer number of problems this country faces genuinely?

At a time when both sides blame the other and look for as many reasons to criticize and point fingers, Obama stood up and argued that

**"[PRESIDENT OBAMA] PUT ASIDE HIS AND [SPEECHWRITER JON] FAVREAU'S TALENTED PEN AND GAVE A RAW, HONEST SPEECH FULL OF HUMILITY AND STRENGTH."**

although have problems we all agree that we must "win the future", and that no matter your ideology or party we agree on maintaining America's greatness. Then, though some call it pandering,

he laid out specifics that each side can compromise on-renewable energy and tort reform.

The second to last paragraph in the President's Tucson speech said:

"If there are rain puddles in heaven, Christina [Green] is jumping in them today. And here on Earth, we place our hands over our hearts, and commit ourselves as Americans to forging a country that is forever worthy of her gentle, happy spirit."

The State of the Union told us how he plans to forge that country.

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# NEW MUSIC POLICY NOT IDEAL: A LETTER TO RESIDENCE LIFE

SUBMITTED BY NATHAN HESSE  
Class of 2011

Dear Associate Dean Goldwater,

Thank you so much for asking North Campus residents to respond to your new policy. I particularly support policy numbers five and six, which encourage students to talk with one another and to live in a community. However, I do think there are a number of issues that need to be addressed immediately on both a temporary and permanent basis. I speak for myself, but more importantly on behalf of all campus musicians, current and future, to whom these policies apply.

First, we must not forget that there are other musicians in other parts of campus. This continues to restrict all students in non-North Campus residences from practicing in their rooms. If this policy makes sense for North Campus, it makes sense for the whole campus.

Second, I would like to draw particular attention to the arbitrarily assigned practice times. In our first meeting, three practice times a week were assigned, though with no real method to the time scheduled. I agreed to these times although they are horribly limiting and they ignore the fact that artists should not be limited to such minuscule time to practice their craft. These hours are conveniently poised in the middle of the only time that

dinner is offered and some people have 6:00 p.m. classes on Tuesdays. These times are irrational and inconvenient. On a personal note, I happen to be working Tuesday and Saturday afternoons. This prevents us from legally practicing music as a band (or as individuals) on those days. Should I quit my job to continue playing music or can we find a reasonable compromise? What about other musicians who are busy during those times? Should we also prevent them from playing music just because their schedule does not fit this mold?

Additionally, it is disconcerting that only band members and two guests per member can be present. Our

friends should be allowed to listen to us practice, and realistically, each of us do have more than just two friends. We are part of a close-knit and vibrant community.

With policies five and six in effect why does limiting practice times even matter? Why be illogical about it? Live amplified music should be allowed to be played within the already allotted non-quiet hours and with utmost respect to "courtesy hours." Encourage us to be in conversation with our neighbors, not to have our lives regulated by arbitrarily assigned and unthinking policies.

Sincerely,  
-Nathan

## The Temporary North Campus Amplified Music Policy

1. Bands are allowed to practice in the common spaces inside suites, townhouses, or apartments during designated hours as noted below.
2. Only band members and two other guests per band member may be present during practices.
3. Live performances (for guests other than noted above) are not permitted.
4. Practice hours:  
-Tuesdays: 4 - 7 p.m.  
-Fridays: 4 - 7 p.m.  
-Saturdays: 12PM - 5 p.m.
5. Courtesy hours are always in effect. If a request is made to turn down the music, the band must comply with the request.
6. The "three door down" measure will be applied; that is, if the noise is audible three doors away it is too loud.

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Come to the campus center Mondays at 8.

## Assange, WikiLeaks: Defenders of Information Freedom

SUBMITTED BY PHILIP ALSOP  
Class of 2011

It would seem that the WikiLeaks storm has passed. What makes me say this? The fact that news media coverage regarding WikiLeaks and Julian Assange has, for the most part, been downgraded to the ticker that scrolls across the bottom of the TV screen.

Allow me to bring it back to your attention: Julian Assange is the MAN. All caps intended. He keeps it real. He has the hardest hitting headlines. He also sheds light on pure and unadulterated truth. I thought people blast American news media for being too biased and tame. If that's the case, then why is everybody so mad at Assange?

First, a series of facts: Julian Assange heads a publishing group called WikiLeaks. They publish information passed on to them about organizations, governments, and companies by people from within those respective organizations, governments, and companies. Julian Assange is currently in Britain, out of prison on bail and fighting extradition to Sweden, where prosecutors have issued a warrant for his arrest so he can be interrogated over alleged sex crimes. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell called Julian Assange a "high-tech terrorist." Vice President Joe Biden agrees with this statement. The US government is also investigating Assange in an attempt to see if he violated

the Espionage Act.

Now, a series of my opinions: the issues of sex crimes in Sweden are absurd. It seems all too convenient that after WikiLeaks publishes copious amounts of documents that shed light on dubious American diplomatic practices that such a warrant would be issued. Call me a conspiracy theorist, but again, this is just my opinion.

Next, to call Julian Assange's actions "espionage" is outrageous, especially when the law the US government is claiming he broke was enacted in 1917! Outdated much? Of course, there has been no evidence to prove one way or the other. But remember, WikiLeaks is a publisher – they merely publish information that

has been leaked to them from outside sources, sources that they try very hard to keep distance from to maintain anonymity for all parties involved.

Finally, to call Julian Assange a terrorist is good old fashioned doublethink. Let's define "terrorism," since it is a word that should not be thrown around lightly. Merriam-Webster defines terrorism as "the systematic use of terror especially as a means of coercion." What terror has been incited by WikiLeaks over the course of their four year existence? What have they coerced anybody to do? None and nothing. Mitch McConnell, Joe Biden, the US government, and any government around the world who call Julian Assange a terrorist merely do so because they are trying to remove elements that don't fit in with their worldview and their agenda.

Note that not one single person has been killed because of WikiLeaks. Not one terrorist attack has been launched because of the information that has been brought to light. In fact, nothing drastic has happened at all because of WikiLeaks besides all the uproar. Most of the information that has been leaked, especially with the diplomatic cables, essentially reveals information that we already suspected, such as China revealing that it does not like dealing with North Korea.

The US diplomats whose integrity has been compromised amounts to nothing more than political embarrassment. Big deal. These people deserve to be embarrassed. And who says they are beyond embarrassment? They are public officials – this is what they signed up for.

So I'll say it again: Julian Assange is the MAN. I can only hope that he continues to publish raw information that holds our public officials accountable, because they are not above accountability. More importantly, they are not above the law.

I think Andrew Napolitano of FOX News Business says it best when he said, "If we allow the governments of the world to label Assange a terrorist and allow them to shut down WikiLeaks, it will be one giant leap towards tyranny." Yes, I said Fox News.

Check out the video here: <http://www.frequency.com/video/wikileaks-has/2056904>.

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- 2011, The Point News.

## Ask Miss Meghan: Are Condoms Really That Effective?

Dear Miss Meghan,  
My friends and I were wondering if you could settle a debate for us: How effective are condoms really? The package says they are 98 percent effective, but we've heard a lot of stories about people getting pregnant or STIs even when a condom is used.

-Jimmy

Dear Jimmy,  
I'm going to answer your question assuming that you are talking about male condoms, if that is okay with you. The answer to your debate over battle hats is that condoms are only as effective as the persons using it. The wonderful folks who make condoms have a certain standard that they have to maintain in order to distribute their product here in the USA, and I'd wager that no one is sitting around the factory poking holes in every few just for fun (lets chalk that one up to urban legend). Most latex condoms are 98 percent effective against pregnancy, and highly reduce the risk of transmitting an STI, but that assumes you do everything 100 percent correctly, every time.

Yes, correct condom use is more than just putting it on. The first step is to make sure the condom is not expired. Second,

you want to make sure that you are using the correct size. Penises come in all shapes and sizes. If you have condom that is too big or too small, it can slip off or reduce circulation and/or pleasure. Length of the penis is less an issue than width (with a shorter penis, just do not unroll the condom all the way). Plenty of websites have explanations of how to find your correct condom size. One of my favorites is [condomania.com/TheyFit](http://condomania.com/TheyFit). TheyFit is actually a custom line of condoms, and from the site you can print off a measuring tool that gauges width and length. The TheyFit brand can be pricey, but if you call Condommania they can recommend mainstream brands that are similar in size.

Once you have found the correct size, and are sure that the condom you are using isn't expired (and that there are no holes or tears in the package), you want to put it on the (erect) penis before it gets anywhere near your partner's genital area. Pre-cum can contain semen, so if gets near the vaginal opening or on the outside of the condom, there is a higher risk of pregnancy.

When putting a condom on, you want to leave a bit of room at the tip, so it is helpful to squeeze the tip (getting any air out as well) as you roll it down all the way to the base of the penis. Lubricated condoms can be slippery fellas, so use two hands, or have your partner help.

Once it is on, there are still a few more things to do to ensure proper usage. If at any point it slips off or rips, put a new one on (again, because of pre-cum). Finally, when done, you need to hold onto the base of the condom while you are pulling it out, and then take it off.

If you take all these steps, every time, then condoms are 98 percent effective. Research has provided us with a "typical use" rate of pregnancy which is around 86 percent (a 14 percent chance of pregnancy). If you do not use any type of birth control over, there is an 85 percent chance of pregnancy, so I think that, even without perfect use, your odds are much better with a condom than without.

If you want to know more about condoms, other birth control, STIs, or other sex related questions, stop by the Campus Center the week of February 7th-11th where we will be tabling for Safer Sex week with demonstrations, sex jeopardy, condom roses, and Ask-a-Nurse. Also Love Lines will be held Wednesday, February 9th at 8pm in Cole Cinema and don't miss the Vagina Monologues.

Happy Safer Sex week ya'll!

Sincerely Safer,  
Miss Meghan

## An Offshore Account Comes Free With the Position



SUBMITTED BY DANNY RUTHENBERG-MARSHALL  
Student Trustee

As we dive deeper into the search process for the 2012-2013 Student Trustee, I'd like to take an opportunity to fill you all in on what the Student Trustee actually does that makes the position moderately important. And before you all stop reading, please know that I'll do this in as self-deprecating and humorous a way as possible. No guarantees that I'll succeed,

but if you want guarantees then you should talk to a used car salesman.

Everyone knows St. Mary's has a President, but much like everyone else in this world, even he answers to someone else. In this case, that someone else is that mysterious entity some of you may have heard of, the Board of Trustees (they answer to the governor, who answers to Barack Obama, who answers to Michelle Obama). Well, that omnipotent group of individuals needs to have some checks and balances in place, so they don't run amok and put all our tuition dollars in a Cayman Islands bank account. In this case, they created a position for one of those tuition paying folk we call students, who might not want to see his/her tuition dollars siphoned off the top. We call this position "Student Trustee."

Now, before I go any further, I'd like to reassure all of you that I don't think our current trustees would put our money in Cayman Island accounts and flee the country. They're much more the Swiss bank account type of people. Now, that "Student Trustee" thingy

spends a year in training, getting to know the trustees and how the whole process works. Then s/he jumps into the full role of being the voice of the students and attempting to secure his/her own offshore account. On the side, the Student Trustee gets to advocate for the students in such mundane processes as the Strategic Planning, mold fiasco solution brainstorming sessions, buildings and grounds initiatives, enrollment and student affairs happenings, tuition hikes/drops, internet ramblings, and anything else that s/he feels needs student representation and doesn't have it. The position opens doors that might otherwise have been welded shut by the Physical Plant.

In all these instances, it might be helpful to have the opinion of the student body as well. This takes us into the phase Einstein referred to as "information gathering." This can be done a multitude of ways, from sitting on the patio with a giant sign looking like an idiot, to heated discussions over the pong table. Sometimes it's done through everyone's favorite means

of communication: the All Student E-mail. The critical step in this whole process is having people care about things. An impassioned student body gets things done. So now, if you're a first-year or sophomore, stop and think about whether or not you might make a good student trustee. If you're a junior or senior, take a moment to chuckle at the fact that you're more than halfway through/almost done, and then think if there are any first-years or sophomores that you know who would be good at this. Suggest it to them. Stress the offshore bank account and the free use of recreational dinghies and kayaks to really sell them on it.

Students who are interested in applying should pick up an application at the info desk in the Campus Center, or e-mail me with questions. People who want to find out more about the position in general should check out the website, [www.smcm.edu/student-trustee](http://www.smcm.edu/student-trustee). And just remember, if you really want to get things done, be prepared to bribe someone; it's what our government is based on.

See you on the path!

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