

The Point News

NEST CONTROVERSY LEADS TO SHUTDOWN

By JULIA ANDRADE ROCHA & HANNAH GRABENSTEIN
Features Editor & Opinions Editor

Though the Nest has not always been a popular late-night weekend hotspot, last semester saw extraordinarily high attendance, leading to a volatile situation that recently resulted in its temporary closing. Rumors abound on campus about the events of Saturday, Feb. 5, but certainty has been hard to find.

Since its inception in 2007, the Nest's function has been to provide substance-free events in Daugherty-Palmer Commons (DPC). However, in the past attendance at the events has been fairly low. According to Clint Neill, Coordinator of Student Activities and Judicial Affairs, "Typically in past years the Nest hasn't been so heavily attended. Usually people come and go... to other events on the Greens, but we've been noticing that students are staying." In December, there were slightly less than 300 people who would attend throughout the night, Neill said, but even that is large for a small venue like DPC.

In anticipation of large crowds, senior Mica Artis, Programs Board Nest Chair,

had asked Neill and Coordinator of Orientation and Service Sola Ogundele, '10, to help staff the event due to a lack of student volunteers. Senior Jessica Harvey, Director of Campus Programming, was also on the volunteer staff. On the night of Saturday, Feb. 5 attendance almost immediately became an issue, Artis said. In the past, students did not usually arrive until 11:00 and would come and go frequently; in this case, there was a steady stream of attendants beginning at 10:30, with few of them choosing to leave.

By 11:30, at least 400 students had arrived or were waiting to get in, many of whom were "highly intoxicated," according to Neill. Artis explained that the dance floor had reached capacity, with many students standing in the lobby instead. Student volunteers, in addition to Neill and Ogundele, were frantically trying to check IDs, manage the number of allowed guests, and restrict the backpacks and purses that students were attempting to bring. Artis explained that, due to the difficulties in attracting members for the Nest Committee, there were only nine people staffing the event, including Ogundele, Neill, Harvey,

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PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

Vagina Monologues Celebrate V-Day, Pg. 6

VOTE FOCUSES ON MUSIC DEPT. TO FORM POSSIBLE MASTER'S PROGRAM

By KYLE JERNIGAN
Editor-In-Chief

Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) and Dean of Faculty Larry Vote is stepping down to return to his roots as a music professor, and to help President Joseph Urgo possibly develop a summer Master's program.

Vote worked as Provost for eight years prior to last semester, when he was given the new title VPAA/Dean of Faculty. In both positions, Vote oversaw academic programs and relations between faculty and the administration; as Provost under former President Jane Margaret O'Brien, Vote also acted as a mediator between the Vice Presidents and O'Brien.

According to Vote, stepping down from his position as VPAA/Dean of Faculty will not affect his other duties, and he will continue to work closely with the music department (himself returning to the position of Professor of Music) and run the River Concert Series; in fact, it is his talents as a musician and music professor that led Urgo to approach Vote with the idea of creating

a master's program in the arts, connected to the series. Urgo said, "I can't think of anyone who has [more] artistic and administrative credibility...I'm just glad that he decided to continue administrative duties."

Vote, as special assistant to the President, will be in charge of developing the master's program and gauging interest among faculty and potential students. Vote said, "I will explore the possibilities for enhancing, in particularly academic ways, our arts programming in the summer." He added "This will allow our students and students from other parts of the country to come to [the College] at a very beautiful time of the year to have an intense experience in one of the arts disciplines."

Urgo said that he hoped this could be the start of a larger master's program, in which students could take part in highly specialized areas of study which would require residency during the summer, but could be coordinated through email and online courses throughout the rest of the year. He added that the offerings would, "depend on

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College Assesses Accessibility, Encourages Awareness

By PETER SPARKLIN
Assistant Editor-In-Chief

During the semester Lenny Howard, Assistant Vice President for Academic Services, frequently takes a walk on campus to assess the accessibility of campus for individuals with disabilities, an issue that at first glance only seems to affect a limited number of students on campus but in reality is of major importance.

The ramps, handicap buttons, lips from roads to sidewalks, and lifts are all visible to anyone on campus, but despite these features there are still problems with entering buildings, using doors or going to class.

Howard said part of his job was, "trying to make sure everything is accessible." He travels around campus with students of all abilities to make sure that students can get around campus as well as to raise awareness

of problems with accessibility at St. Mary's.

For example, there are obvious issues, such as when there are no handicap buttons for doors, there are not elevators in buildings (such as Calvert Hall) or handicap buttons do not function. There are other issues that many people do not even realize are problems because they are not glaring deficiencies.

One of these issues are the lips from roads to sidewalks for individuals in wheelchairs. These lips are located near handicap parking spots. The issue here is that the lips usually lead directly into the handicap parking spots; if a car is parked in the handicap parking spot, then an individual in a wheelchair is unable to use the lip to get to or from the road or sidewalk.

Similarly, the gravel in parking lots around

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN GUGERTY

Students Arm Against Undead Tag Apocalypse on Campus

By HANNAH GRABENSTEIN
Opinions Editor

The weekend of Feb. 5 and 6, over 50 zombies on the St. Mary's campus starved to death as part of Mission Scorched Earth, when humans stayed indoors to deprive zombies of their food; the Friday before, also known as Z-day, 30 zombies surrounded Goodpaster Hall to attack and kill Professor Leah Eller. The primary reason that the campus isn't littered with the dead undead: because all those involved in these vicious attacks are College students and professors, playing a widespread game called Humans vs. Zombies (HvZ).

The rules of the games are as follows: Humans (commonly referred to as the Resistance) must have bandanas around an arm or leg, and can use Nerf guns or socks to fend off the Zombies. By shooting a Zombie or hitting him or her with a sock, the Zombie will be stunned for 15 minutes, which means that the Zombie cannot "zombify" any Humans for that period.

Zombies (or the Horde) must have a bandana around their head at all times, and can only turn Humans into Zombies by tagging them. Once a Zombie catches a Human, that Human will become a Zombie player within one hour, during which they are neither Zombie nor Hu-

man. If Zombies don't catch any Humans, or "feed," within two days of being turned into a Zombie, or their most recent kill, they "starve" and are out of the game. Thus the objective of the Zombies is to catch all of the Humans and turn everyone into Zombies, while the Humans' goal is to outlive the Zombies by starving the Zombies to death.

"I really enjoyed being a human," said junior and HvZ player Ariel Webster, "but once I turned into a zombie, I kind of gave up except to join the Horde for Z-day."

The game, which began at midnight on Jan. 31, had 135 original players. Only one person is the Original Zombie (or O.Z.) and other players are not made aware of his or her identity. This year, first year Mary Claire McCarthy was picked as the Original Zombie, and by Feb. 4, Zombies had taken the majority. However, after "Mission Scorched Earth," the Zombies took a drastic hit with the deaths of 50 of their teammates.

The game is maintained using HVZSource, a database created by Chris Weed and others that keeps track of many schools' HvZ games. It keeps records of Humans alive, and Zombie statistics, including number of kills,

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Nest Policies to Be Reviewed

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and herself.

Eventually after a consultation with Public Safety, Neill and the rest of the staff attempted to further regulate entry to DPC, since there are multiple side entrances, by creating a line at the front door. The situation continued to escalate, with many disruptive students pushing and hassling the volunteers and staff members, and with some becoming confrontational, according to Artis; Harvey said that a student had his t-shirt sleeve ripped off in the commotion outside.

"It was out of control," said Artis, explaining that one of the volunteers was sexually harassed and many others were verbally assaulted. "None of [the volunteers] had to be there; they were helping me out."

"People were up in our faces screaming, 'Let us in! Let us in!'" Harvey said.

Inside the building, students were attempting to open the side doors to allow others to enter, and some students in line outside attempted to push through the front doors. Harvey explained that though the side doors were an issue, they are unable to block them because that would pose a fire hazard.

Neill also saw beer cans inside and witnessed students try to bring in open containers into the intentionally alcohol-free event. Though the event was advertised as alcohol-free, as all student-run events are, Neill encountered many students who were "highly intoxicated" attempting to gain entrance.

Neill was eventually approached by the student volunteers about concerns for their comfort and safety. "I, as a staff member, could not have a safe event ... When my students tell me that they do not feel safe then I take that seriously. The students came to me and said, 'We can't handle this.' I said, 'Shut it down.'"

After making the call at midnight to close the Nest down, it took thirty minutes to evacuate the more than 470 attendees from the building. According to Neill, when Public Safety came to assist, students booed. "That really disappointed me," Neill said. He also said that he and the volunteers were "flipped off" by drunk, angry students, "because we were asking them to leave."

While cleaning up after everyone had left, staff saw many empty beer cans and heard students who had brought coats, clutches, or purses searching for presumably stolen items. "We need to reassess how we do the Nest so these kinds of things don't happen," Neill said, while Harvey mentioned that there's a possibility of instituting a coat check to eliminate the risk.

Additionally, Harvey said that many of the paintings that hang in DPC were taken down. Though they weren't damaged, "that's a huge issue," Harvey said. "We can't vandalize these buildings and get away with it."

An important component of the safety of the Nest is the staffing of the security.

The staff is comprised entirely of student volunteers, and not many students feel compelled to assist with safety. In the past, when attendance was relatively low, security and staffing was less of an issue. However, with increased crowds, security poses more of a concern. Artis explained that for an event of that size in the future, she would need at least 20 volunteers.

Such a number is difficult to reach considering there are only three members on the Nest Committee, including Artis. Harvey, who was the Nest Chair last year, explained that typically there are eight or so students who volunteer to staff the events. According to Harvey, Artis had a meeting with Safe House, and the town house RAs to devise methods for attracting more student leaders to staff the events. Harvey also said they're considering instituting a way to identify staff from the people attending the event.

All Student Government Association (SGA) sponsored events are staffed by students, including the coffeehouses, comedians, lectures, and films. Only larger events, such as World Carnival (which also has the added concern of being outside), are staffed by adults.

Following the event, Assistant Dean of Students Kelly Schroeder and members of the SGA Executive Board decided to suspend all SGA-sponsored dance events for the semester, according to Artis and Neill. This led to the cancellation of two events hosted by the St. Mary's Triangle and Rainbow Society and the Black Student Union, arousing negative feedback, according to Artis. "I had angry people blaming the Nest for all of this, but I did not even know about the suspension until after it had been decided," she said.

However, she added that the decision was for the best: "The SGA didn't want to be hosting parties without knowing how to control them and knowing how to prevent what happened at the Nest," she said, adding that many of the rumors concerning the role the Nest had in the cancellations of other events could have been easily dispelled had anyone bothered to ask.

"All they had to do was ask, but they just got angry instead," citing many interactions on Facebook having a role in perpetuating misinformation.

Both Neill and Artis were quick to explain that, to their knowledge, the Nest and other SGA sponsored dance events have been temporarily, not permanently, suspended. Artis is still planning next month's Nest with hopes that the SGA and Student Activities will have implemented a policy on dance events by that time. Neill explained that such a policy would likely address the required staffing for having fun events while maintaining security.

On Wednesday, Neill will meet with Assistant Dean of Students Kelly Schroeder, Director of Campus Programming senior Jessica Harvey, and Director of Public Safety Christopher Santiago.

At the meeting, Neill hopes to discuss ways to improve the security at the Nest. "We're going to look at what other schools are doing," Neill said, "we're going to get the feedback from SGA, and then we're going to say 'What is best for our students and our culture here at St. Mary's?'" They're also looking for student input on the situation.

While looking at other schools' policies, Neill has noticed that though they usually address alcohol, the general security issues, including staff numbers and training, are relevant. Extra security, in the form of Public Safety, is an option; however, Neill wants the events to remain approachable to students. Harvey also thinks having Public Safety staff the event might be intimidating, even to students who "have nothing to hide." Additionally, she's not sure that Public Safety has the officers to spare for the Nest. "They don't have the time or ability to stay here and babysit a program for students the entire time," she said.

Another possibility is moving the location of the Nest to a larger, more accommodating space, preferably one that is further away from North Campus. Suggested venues include the Upper Deck and the Michael P. O'Brien Athletics and Recreation Center. Artis said that the Nest for next month is being planned for the Upper Deck, though she is not sure how many students that would accommodate.

Even so, "there needs to be more large venues on campus," said Artis. Though she did not know DPC's standing room capacity, she said that the building was not built to be used as a venue for large student events. She also pointed out that events being over-capacity is not uncommon, citing the popularity of I-3 Female Orgasm, hosted by Feminists United for Sexual Equality last fall.

Harvey believes that the location of the Nest will be contingent upon the motivation of the attendees. If students legitimately want to go to the Nest, she explains, than a larger venue is a feasible option. However, if students are attending because "there's nothing else to do and they're already intoxicated, then we may try moving it away from the residential areas and putting it in the Upper Deck," Harvey said. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a way of efficiently determining which is the case, and for now Harvey believes they'll have to rely on trial and error.

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, Harvey is going to present a resolution to the SGA which will remind students of the purpose of the Nest; she hopes to be able to send out an informative all-student email reiterating the Nest's intentions.

Ultimately, Neill said the goal is to provide an "alcohol-free, alternative venue for students who don't want to go to the club scene."

The Nest will continue at some point, he assured. "We just need to figure out how to have it where the true purpose can continue."



PHOTO BY RYAN GUGERTY

In buildings around campus like Montgomery Hall, where this wheelchair lift can be found, passageways are too narrow for students in wheelchairs to maneuver, decreasing accessibility.

Campus Accessibility

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campus and especially in Public Safety's parking lot make it very difficult for any person in a manual (not motorized) wheelchair to get through those areas. In Montgomery Hall and other buildings around campus, doorways for classrooms and bathrooms are too narrow or the doors open in a way that make it difficult for people with disabilities to use them without help from someone else, or at all.

Emergency exits and wheelchair lifts are also issues on campus. Howard pointed out that emergency exits in the Michael P. O'Brien Athletics and Recreation Center exit onto grass which could be problematic if it is raining. Wheelchair lifts, like the lift in Montgomery Hall, are operated by a key and there are directions for how to use the lift once the key is present. However, neither the location of the key nor who has possession of the key is listed anywhere.

Howard said, "I think we could do a better job of being aware of physical handicaps."

Dr. Laraine Glidden, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, also teaches the First-Year Seminar "Ability and Disability," in which students explore the same topics of campus accessibility that Howard does.

Glidden said that accessibility on campus has improved in recent years. She gave the example of the construction of LEED-certified Goodpaster Hall, which "was built way after the Americans with Disabilities Act was implemented... it should be totally in compliance with it."

In a paper written by first-year Travers O'Leary for the first-year seminar he wrote, "the buildings are compatible with the Americans with Disabilities Act, but they really are not accessible nor are they accommodating....some problems

around campus are simply due to negligence."

O'Leary pointed out similar issues of narrow hallways, non-functioning elevators and handicap buttons, flowerpots and benches in front of buttons and sinks in the bathrooms with handles that are difficult to turn.

Glidden said, "Sometimes the changes one has to make are simple and cost nothing, it simply is being aware."

"People need to get the sense that this is everybody's responsibility as members of a community."

Howard said that for the majority of the campus population, there are "so many things we take for granted" in regards to how people can get around on College grounds every day.

Much work has been done and is continually being done to improve the campus to make it more accessible. Howard has a list of projects that are reported to him by students with disabilities who face difficulties, as well as other aware individuals.

Howard works closely with the Physical Plant to repair problems that he finds and that are reported to him. Buttons have been fixed or moved and there have been many retro-fittings of ramps, lifts, elevators, and lips. His office also helped improve the accessibility of the Health and Counseling Center. Students who have any concerns or notice possible accessibility issues should contact Howard to see if they can be improved.

Glidden said that these issues are often overlooked by students who don't worry as much about accessibility, but "one group [affected by accessibility on campus] are the temporarily disabled, it could be any one of us...crutches make us much more aware."

"We all need to take responsibility for making the community as welcoming and accessible as possible," said Glidden.

VOTE TO STEP DOWN FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FOR MUSIC PROFESSORSHIP

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faculty [interest], but we'd like to start talking about it."

Urgo said that many other small, liberal arts colleges have similar programs. He added that having one at St. Mary's would not only better take advantage of the "gorgeous" surroundings during the summertime, but would also provide new revenue streams for the college. No specific programs, however, have been finalized.

While Vote goes on to focus on developing this new program, a search committee has already been formed to find his replacement. According to Professor of Psychology Anne Marie Brady, the committee consists of six faculty, five staff, and one student; she is both a faculty representative and the chair.

According to sophomore Annalicia Contee, the board had their first meeting this past Friday to develop a position profile for the new VPAA/Dean of Faculty, and decided what they're looking for. She said that the committee was looking for someone with a great deal of experience with a Liberal Arts education, outstanding communication skills, and a Ph.D or equivalent terminal degree. Brady said that she believes the new VPAA/Dean of Faculty should also work closely with faculty and support faculty development.

According to Vote, "the new dean should be dedicated to the liberal arts mission, an active scholar, and excellent teacher, one with strong management skills...a good sense of humor, [and have] a good judge of character, patience

and vast energy."

This position profile will be handed over in the coming days to Isaacson, Miller (the search firm the College also used to find Urgo and Vice President of Development Maureen Silva), who will begin reaching out to candidates. Brady said that Isaacson, Miller would likely present the committee with a pool of around a dozen candidates, of whom the committee would choose the top eight to interview themselves. The top three candidates from that pool will then be brought to campus. Brady said that the committee would like to have a recommendation to Urgo and the Board of Trustees (who make the final decision) by commencement, and have a new VPAA/Dean of Faculty ready to take Vote's place by the end of the semester.

College Participates in National Recyclemania Competition

By ALEX WALLS
Contributing Writer

Over the next couple of weeks, the College will be participating in the national Recyclemania competition.

Recyclemania is a competition among colleges and universities to promote higher levels of recycling while tracking which schools recycle the highest percentage of their waste. Held every year, the competition seems fierce as 600 schools attempt to beat out the rest of their peers by becoming the number one recycler.

This is the first time in two years that St. Mary's will be participating. There are two different categories in which a school can participate: the competitive division, or the benchmark division. This year, St. Mary's will be participating in the benchmark division.

"[Participating in the benchmark division] means we have to report our data, but we are not competing against other schools," said Facilities Planner and Sustainability Coordinator Luke Mowbray. "We can compare ourselves to others with less regulation."

Recyclemania is just the first step to increasing the

school's recycling numbers. The College's recycling rate from last year was around 40 percent of total waste produced. The Sustainability Office is trying to increase this number to over 50 percent. "This is a learning opportunity for us to see what

works," said Mowbray, "and this is a great opportunity for us to find ways to get students to recycle."

The Sustainability Office has been working hard to organize this event and to find ways for students, faculty, and staff to become

involved with the program. Lisa Neu '10, the Sustainability Fellow, has been working closely with many parts of the community to ensure success over the next few weeks. "The most important part is to encourage students to recycle, and that

is where we can get student clubs to help," said Neu. "We are trying to find ways for students to become more involved in the process."

One of the ideas proposed was to have student volunteers go into the offices throughout campus, both

faculty and staff, and recycle any old papers or office supplies. Neu continued by saying that "this would help motivate student, staff, and faculty members to work together."

Each week a report from St. Mary's County sanitation workers will be sent to the College outlining how much recycling versus waste was collected. "Weekly reports are a fantastic opportunity to show what steps can make a difference," said Mowbray. "We will be learning the things we ought to be doing and what works."

In the future, the Sustainability Office wants to move up into the competitive division; however problems relating to trash reporting are creating a short delay.

For the time being, the College will be learning how to better monitor the numbers while increasing both the total amount of recycling of the school and increasing community support. However, the most important thing is "remembering to reuse over recycle," said Mowbray.

Recyclemania will run for eight weeks starting Sunday Feb. 6 and ending Saturday, April 2.



PHOTO BY RYAN GUGERTY

The College plans to participate in the benchmark division of Recyclemania this year, which began Feb. 6, and will be responsible for maintaining statistical information regarding on-campus recycling until Apr. 2, after which St. Mary's will be compared to 600 other heavily recycling-minded institutions.

Gender Neutral Housing Pilot Program Planned To Take Effect Next Spring

By HANNAH GRABENSTEIN
Opinions Editor

According to the President of the Student Government Associate (SGA), senior Marlena Weiss, the option of gender neutral housing will be a reality at the College. However, not until the room selection process during the spring semester of 2012 will students be able to choose for the following fall semester.

The campaign for the housing option has been a large part of Weiss's platform during her time in the SGA.

Specifically, the new plan will allow students to choose to room with another student

of the opposite gender. This is one step further than the current situation, in which students have the option of sharing a suite with mixed

er talked to anyone who's against it," she said, including students who do not currently reside in on-campus housing.

SPECIFICALLY, THE NEW PLAN WILL ALLOW STUDENTS TO CHOOSE TO ROOM WITH ANOTHER STUDENT OF THE OPPOSITE GENDER.

genders, but still must room with a person of the same gender.

As of yet, Weiss has heard only positive feedback about the proposal. "I have nev-

Currently, the only concerns she has heard deal with circumstances for first year students.

Though the choice will be primarily restricted to North

Campus, the option would be open for first years, according to Weiss, assuming they take the necessary steps in contacting Residence Life, though that seems unlikely given that most students enter knowing very few other students or have access to North Campus.

Additionally, Weiss said there will be no circumstance under which a student would be forced into a gender neutral housing situation, including study abroad cases.

For example, if a female and male live together in the fall and the female travels abroad in the spring, unless the male student otherwise informs Residence Life, another male student would be assigned as his roommate for the spring semester.

Weiss used winter break to finish putting together the proposal, schedule a meeting with the President's Council, which she said will be the final step, and talk with all departments to "double-check [that] all our bases are covered."

With the time until the program's inception next spring, Residence Life should be able to work out most of the kinks, Weiss said. However, when the option is actually available, Weiss believes that is when any functional issues with the system will arise and be worked out.

Part of the reason the program won't start for over a year is because Weiss believes it is important to have time for Residence Life staff and the students to prepare for and make the gender neutral transition.

"I hope that students interested in participating in gender neutral housing will start communicating with [Residence Life] as soon as the school year starts," she said.

CORRECTIONS BOX

Feb. 1 Issue

* In the article "Seahawks Beat Sea Gulls" (Pages 1 and 5), Photographer Kevin Baier was incorrectly credited for photos taken by Katie Henry.

* The first section of "Club Spotlight: The Hawkettes" (page 5) was written by Anina Tardif-Douglin, not Carmen Fuentes.

* In the article "College Submits Plan to Gain Climate Neutrality By 2020" (Page 2), it was incorrectly stated that students voted to increase student fees in order to help pay for Goodpaster Hall and its LEED certification. According to clarifications submitted by Sustainability Fellow Lisa Neu, students voted in 2007 to increase their fees to cover the cost of purchasing renewable energy credits for 100 percent of the College's electrical consumption. Goodpaster Hall itself was funded entirely by the State of Maryland.

Humans Versus Zombies Campus

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time turned, time last fed, and time starved. Also, a Facebook page keeps track of gossip related to the game, or questions about specific rules and conditions of "zombification" (if a Zombie kill was legal or not). For HVZSource, each Human is given an ID number. Once "zombified," they give that number to the Zombie who killed them, who then reports the ID as a kill on the database that keeps track of the 48-hour time limit for the Zombies.

On campus, there are "safe zones," where both Humans and Zombies are safe from their respective evils. These zones include academic buildings and residence halls, among other locations, so that the game does not interfere with students' classes, sleeping time, and club participation.

The game represents one of the few activities on campus that can involve all College members, requires no advanced skills or training, is not intensely physical, and does not involve alcohol.

The game was started at Goucher College, and has been run at St. Mary's by junior Corey Payne for the past few games. Incredibly, the game has expanded worldwide, with games across the nation and in countries like Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Australia, and Namibia.

The two sides have elicited mixed reactions. Junior Lauren Smith said, "I suck at being a zombie. I could not get Carolyn Reiner," whereas junior Reiner said, "Every year, I say I'm not going to play because the stress kills me. But I can't stay away."

PROVOCATIVE AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH BOOKS ON THE HEROES LEADERS WHO CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY

Globalizing Our Education

By ANNA AGARUNOVA
Sports Editor

President Joseph Urgo attended the annual American Association of Colleges and Universities Conference on Jan. 27, along with Dean of the Core Curriculum, Libby Nutt Williams, Assistant Dean of the Core Curriculum, Ruth Feingold, and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Larry Vote. The conference was held in San Francisco and featured discussion on global education and study abroad programs.

"We...present[ed] on what it's like to go global as a public honors college, since we are one of few," Williams said. "Specifically we presented on the challenges that we think can arise. President Urgo talked about what it means to be a public honors college and his vision of public education at a fine liberal arts institution. Larry Vote, myself, and Ruth Feingold each took a piece of what we thought were the challenges to students."

The conference included administration representatives from colleges all over the nation, many of whom also presented on what has been happening nationally and internationally in higher education.

"We talked about the challenge of access," Williams said. "How do we ensure that global education is something that all of our students have access to financially – looking at airfare incentives and potentially developing more scholarships."

Williams also stressed the importance of providing students with strong interdisciplinary programs, pointing out that the relationship with James Cook University in Australia has allowed more opportunities for biology majors to study abroad.

The panel also presented on the Core Curriculum's Experiencing the Liberal Arts in the World (ELAW) requirement, which can be satisfied through studying abroad, though

students can also participate in an internship, take certain experimental courses, put together directive research or conduct an independent study.

"I spoke about the ways the ELAW requirement ideally will encourage students to study abroad and [how] such study can combine with the rest of their college coursework," Feingold said, explaining that international study should not be seen merely as an "add-on" or a vacation. "Students should think...about how such study can contribute to their overall educational and personal goals."

According to Williams, a major point that the panel made was the idea of "amalgamation," meaning that studying abroad should not just be tacked on and should instead blend in with the rest of the student's education. This is achieved through advising, helping students think about study abroad opportunities early on, and through reflective essays that ELAW participants are required to submit.

"Americans are a peculiar people," Feingold said, expressing that many people remain "willfully ignorant of the world around us than almost any other nation" despite the resources to travel.

Feingold also said that she wanted to combat this by having students study abroad, gaining "a specific knowledge of the world beyond our national borders" and "an increased sense of independence and confidence, bred of their realization that they must -- and can -- manage themselves in very unfamiliar surroundings."

"It is important for students to understand the scholarly world as well as the world in practice," Williams said. "Things like study-abroad can transform a person's perspective on the world, and the world is very global now."

Alums Advise Prospective Farmers



PHOTO BY RYAN GUGERTY

Guy Kilpatric, '09, will begin his job as an Assistant Grower at Sunnyside Farm in Virginia this coming month.

By JULIA ANDRADE ROCHA
Features Editor

"Farmers should be respected just like doctors and lawyers," said Meredith Epstein, '08, at a presentation she gave with fellow alum Guy Kilpatric, '09, on the successes both have found as part of a growing movement of young farmers in the United States. As part of "Do It in the Dark" Month, the event was sponsored by the Student Environmental Action Coalition, the Campus Community Farm and EcoHouse on Feb. 3.

Though neither comes from an agricultural background, Kilpatric and Epstein became interested in farming at St. Mary's as members of the Community Garden Club. Since graduation, they have spent their time cultivating their careers in sustainable farming. Most recently, they

both served as apprentices at the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

In the apprenticeship, they learned more about a growing community of "greenhorns," a name used to describe young adults who are getting progressively more interested in farming. They explained that the program also gave them a more scientific background when it came to sustainable farming. Along with the 700 hours of field work in the farm during the six-month long program, apprentices spent 300 hours in the classroom.

"The most important thing is that there are a lot of people who are willing to reach out to others new to farming," explained Kilpatric. Epstein and Kilpatric described other opportunities available, including programs that connect young farmers with others who have become too old to farm their land. Instead of selling their land and risking development, older farmers can connect with younger farmers and keep the land as an agricultural zone.

"I don't know if the Career Development Center gives advice on how to be a farmer," said Kilpatric, but he felt it was important that students

"[As a farmer], I am getting a salary comparable to any recent college grad."

-Guy Kilpatric, '09

know of successful young farmers. "I am getting a salary comparable to any recent college grad with a degree in biology, economics, political science," he explained.

Epstein added that it is important for young people to know "it is possible to also be successful" as a farmer, no matter their academic



PHOTO BY RYAN GUGERTY

Meredith Epstein, '08, will be working towards a M.S. in Agriculture, Food & Environment at Tufts University next fall.

background. Kilpatric majored in English and writes about farming while Epstein had a student-designed major in environmental studies.

"Farming is a lot more than just digging around in the dirt," said senior Tess Wier, President of the Campus Community Farm, "so it's good to see how alum with a liberal arts background were able to apply their education to this very important field."

"It's exciting to bring home all the knowledge, the experience, exciting to bring back the excitement," Epstein said, explaining why she and Kilpatric wanted to speak at St. Mary's about their farming experiences. "I just wish there had been some way for me to learn what I learned in Santa Cruz here in a liberal arts setting," she concluded.

Classes No Cake Walk at Trinity College



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ANNA DAVIS

Anna Davis, junior, is currently studying abroad in Ireland and is attending Trinity College in Dublin. The main entrance to Trinity, pictured above, is called Front Gate.

SUBMITTED BY ANNA DAVIS
CLASS OF 2012

Junior Anna Davis is currently studying abroad at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. This article is part of a continuing series based on her reflections as she studies in Ireland. The first installment was published in *The Point News* on Feb. 1, 2011.

After three weeks of lectures here at Trinity College in Dublin, I am beginning to get a good idea of the way things really work around here. Lecture classes at Trinity are exactly what the name makes them out to be: lectures. They are not discussion-based because there are simply too many students in the class. There are about 11,000 undergraduate students at Trinity, so the class sizes here are nothing like what I have become accustomed to back at St. Mary's.

My social psychology course here is held in a lecture hall that is probably three times as big as the lecture halls in Goodpaster. Being a psychology major at St. Mary's, I had never been exposed to big lecture classes like, for example,

and it usually cuts into about five minutes of our class time.

My "Popular Literature" professor is unfazed by this and simply makes her lecture run later to make up for it. It seems that, generally, the Irish are far more relaxed about time and schedules than what I am used to, especially having grown up just outside Washington, D.C. (a city that runs like clockwork).

As I mentioned in my previous article, most classes here are independent study-based. There are no assessments of knowledge of the class material during the term. This means that there are no tests in most of the classes. Some will have midterm presentations, but this is rare.

My grade for all but one of my classes is based entirely on the final exam. The final is a two-hour block of time in which I will have to write two essays based on the course material covered. After having looked up past exam essay questions, I have found that they are normally analytical and open-ended.

The idea is that the exam tests one's knowledge of the entire course, rather than one's ability to memorize. There is no such thing as multiple-choice here at Trinity. The best thing that I can compare Trinity's assessment system to is the high school International Baccalaureate (IB) program. IB classes are offered as an equally rigorous alternative to AP classes at some high schools.

The format of the English and history IB exams is exactly the kind of thing I will be dealing with come mid-May. I am definitely not excited about having my whole grade based on one exam... but I guess it is all just part of the Irish Trinity experience. Wish me luck!

Sexpert Tells All On Sex

By ZACH ESER
Staff Writer

"I'm gonna grab your hair and hope this works out." Much of the attitude at the Sex Therapy 101 lecture given by our very own "Sexpert," Meghan Root, was created by such evocative statements. In college, however, what better way to grab someone's attention than make a sex joke?

The lecture, part of Safe Sex Week, was riddled with fascinating information that ranged

from different forms of treatment for sex-related issues to different paraphilias. In addition, Root covered issues concerning the LGBT

QIA community and sexual identity. Root even cover what it is like to treat someone with an issue like pedophilia.

Root used the "Circles of Sexuality" from Advocates for Youth as her base model during the forum. The "Circles of Sexuality" is a system based on five different forms of sexuality: sensuality, intimacy, sexual identity, sexual health and reproduction, and sexualization.

"These circles," Root said, "make up the majority of our sexual experiences." She later went on to talk about our sexuality changes as we grow older and how our "response cycle changes" as we experience new pains, pleasures, or just learn about our likes and dislikes.

The tone of the lecture created

a comfortable environment for the material, important considering the taboo nature of many of the things Root discussed. Advocacy and acceptance of difference provided a common theme throughout the lecture. "People are allowed to like weird things," said Root. "If you can find a girl who likes to sit on balloons, good for you."

The students in attendance generally responded to the lecture positively. Sophomore Taylor Sturm

"If you can find a girl who likes to sit on balloons, good for you!"

**-Meghan Root,
Sexual Assault & Wellness
Advocate**

attended the lecture since Sex Therapy is something she is interested in. "It's important to talk about sexual health

and well-being and being fulfilled sexually. I think it's a topic that's shied away from," Sturm said. "I think it's something that people of all ages and from different backgrounds can benefit from."

Juniors Amanda Pazouki and Andrew Llewelyn shared Sturm's sentiments. "People learn about it in high school, but they really have to figure it out on their own," Llewelyn said. Pazouki said, "It's an awkward topic. No one wants to talk about it. It's hush-hush." She added, however, "It think it's fun because it's so awkward."

Despite the awkwardness of talking about sex, let alone therapy for problems related to sex, it doesn't seem to hold Root back. "I don't like children because they get up early and I don't like old people... what do I like? Sex."

Love Will Conquer Everything

By JULIA ANDRADE ROCHA AND HANNAH GRABENSTEIN
Features Editor and Opinions Editor

Imagine your favorite professor is planning on retiring and she or he has the chance to impart one last bit of wisdom. Sybol Anderson, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, was given the opportunity to do just that (though she is not retiring—we promise).

The Last Lecture Series is organized by Nitze Scholars and gives student-selected professors the opportunity to give a lecture on the topic they are most passionate about without the hassle of retirement or death. Anderson's lecture on Feb. 10, entitled "Love is How We Make It" addressed the relationship between romantic love and other concepts that help shape our world.

"We don't talk enough about love," started Anderson, clarifying that the songs heard on the radio are not a good indication. She explained that "love is how we make it" is meant in two ways: "You want love?" she asked, "Make love... And be a good lover in and out of the bedroom." The second meaning that was more central to her discussion was that "love is the way we're going to make it out of every problem we face, individually and socially."

Anderson sees love in the second sense taking many forms: respect, recognition, solidarity and finally intimacy and affection. All forms of love

would help to heal social ailments, she said.

She proceeded to ask the room full of people to engage in an exercise with her. She asked audience members to stare into another person's eyes: "Just really seeing another person is a profound... form of intimacy that can be transformative," she said.

Audience members seemed to feel the same. "Even though I don't know her, I began to feel like I had known her for all my life," said one person. Another added that staring into his partner's eyes made him feel more comfortable asking questions.

In the end, Anderson asked that all of the audience members take the forms of love experienced in their relationships and bring them out into the community. "If we... made St. Mary's a community in which intimacy, solidarity, recognition, and respect were normal practices," Anderson said, "we [would] go into the great wide world, generating solidarity, recognition, and respect."

Anderson's last lecture concluded with a video she composed with the help of several students, faculty, and staff members. Entitled "Real Love," the video showed clips of people smiling into the camera, friends hugging and others enjoying each other's company throughout campus. Anderson concluded the lecture with a playful demand, "So go! Make love!"

Enviro-Ethics Lecture Pleases

By PETER SPARKLIN
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

On Monday Jan. 31, Andrew Terjesen lectured on magnanimity; it was a lecture proposing that human beings should take care of the environment, not because they have any obligation to or because it benefits humans to take care of it, but because they can take care of the environment and show their greatness by choosing to do so.

Terjesen was one of three philosophy candidates who spoke in the past two weeks; all are vying for an open teaching position in the philosophy department.

Terjesen's lecture, "A Call for Magnanimity Towards the Environment," focused on a re-evaluation of the concept of magnanimity and how it can be applied to environmental ethics; he specifically argued that care for the environment needed to be less focused on the importance of humans and benefits

that can be derived from caring for the environment.

The lecture began with an introduction to debates on climate change

and the uncertainty that surrounds that it. Terjesen said, "We don't know what is going to happen...so what is our responsibility in these cases?"

He compared the problems with the relationship between interests advocating for environmental legislation and those against, such as Greenpeace versus big business, to the relationship between the environment and human beings.

In both of these cases there is one party that has much greater power to affect change; in these examples, big businesses (with more money and governmental access) and human beings.

The proposed solution in both of these cases was magnanimity. The groups who have power should recognize that they have "superiority, but [they shouldn't] exploit it." Magnanimity is "about the kind of person who recognizes the position we hold could have been held by someone else" and that we personally did not accomplish the position of power that we are in.

Terjesen said that humans need to have a "sense of gratitude that you are where you are" in relation to the rest of the environment and that "morally

speaking, you are a better person for not taking advantage" of that position of power.

He pointed to problems of motivating people to care about environmental issues if individuals do not see or feel effects of their actions and an individual feels that their "contribution...is not going to do anything anyway."

In response to this and in an effort to get people to care about the environment, nature is often personified to invest interest in caring for it. Terjesen said this anthropomorphism is only effective so far because it does not address problems with environmental systems and parts of the environment that do not feel pain or that we cannot directly see (such as soil systems or air problems).

This is why Terjesen argued for magnanimity. It is a concept that does not require us to anthropomorphize nature or to feel even connected to nature.

One simply has to realize that "the environment includes people... and you happen to be lucky enough to be the sentient one."

"The environment includes people ... and you happen to be lucky enough to be the sentient one."

**-Andrew Terjesen,
Candidate for Assistant
Professor of Philosophy**

The lecture was well attended by a mix of both students and faculty, all of whom had the opportunity to rate Terjesen and how well he might fit as a professor at St. Mary's.

Junior Brendan Loughran said, "I liked that he appealed to classic examples...but also appealed to contemporary philosophers as well."

Sybol Anderson, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, she could not speak on the lecture because she is on the search committee for a new philosophy professor, though she did describe the search and hiring process.

She said the Philosophy department was searching for how the candidates interacted with students, their fit in the department, and "competence in environmental philosophy, feminist philosophy, or both."

This lecture was the first of three candidates who spoke in the past two weeks. Barrett Emerick presented "What are Apologies and Why do They Matter?" and Selin Gursozlu spoke on "Integrity and Moral Challenge."

Anderson said that the new Assistant Professor of Philosophy should be decided by the end of February.

Our Expanding Debt Hard To Swallow

By FLORA LETHBRIDGE-ÇEJKU
Staff Writer

It is no longer front-page news that our country is in debt, but just how bad is it? According to Harry Zeeve, National Field Director of the Concord Coalition, we are in the worst financial situation our nation has ever been in. This past Tuesday Zeeve, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Democracy and Public Policy Studies, gave his center's findings on the increasing debt our nation is acquiring each year and what we, as a nation, should do about it.

With the introduction of the credit card in the mid-1950s, our country's culture began to shift from one of saving to one of spending. As Zeeve puts it, "We became addicted to debt, and we all know you can't live beyond your means indefinitely."

Now we are faced with a nation that is over 14 trillion dollars in debt, and counting. To put that in perspective, that would roughly be the equivalent of four years of out-of-state tuition, fees, room, and board for 100 million students. That would be 50,000 times our current student population.

In 2010, the U.S. spent 1.48 trillion more dollars than it took in and with that trend showing no signs of stopping, Zeeve explained that "our increase in deficits reduces our ability to increase our national savings." This increasing debt has led to dependence on foreign lenders; with that borrowed money comes interest which we need to pay back in addition to money borrowed.

Part of the issue is that we are a progressively aging nation. As

Zeeve said, "demographers agree that we have a dynamic shift to an older population and that shift is permanent."

With an aging population comes an increase in need for such government programs as social security, Medicare and Medicaid. Forty percent of our national budget is currently put towards social security, Medicare, and Medicaid. "And this is before the majority of baby boomers retire," Zeeve added.

According to the Concord Coalition's findings, in less than fifteen years, social security, Medicare, and Medicaid plus the interest we owe to foreign lenders will consume all of our federal revenue.

"This is a multi-trillion dollar shortfall that we've known about since the 1980s but ignored," explained Zeeve. "For the next 25-50 years we will be reforming healthcare and we need to bring down the costs."

Even with the knowledge of our nation's tremendous debt, the question remains: how do we solve this problem? As Zeeve sees it, "don't discount the effect your action can

have. We have to let our legislators know that it is politically safe for them to make some tough decisions."

The Concord Coalition is currently undertaking what they call "The Fiscal Wake-Up Tour," which began as a series of public forums around the country. Now, in addition to those forums, they have organized in-depth local committees to further focus attention on our nation's fiscal challenges.

As Zeeve said on Tuesday, "there aren't any easy answers but our current fiscal policy is unsustainable and we cannot grow our way out of the problem."

Finding a solution to our economic troubles will require bipartisan cooperation and a willingness to discuss all options. Zeeve repeatedly stressed the need for citizen involvement, especially those of our generation.

He concluded, "This is your problem... you have got to think of it in very personal terms. Public engagement and understanding is vital in finding solutions."

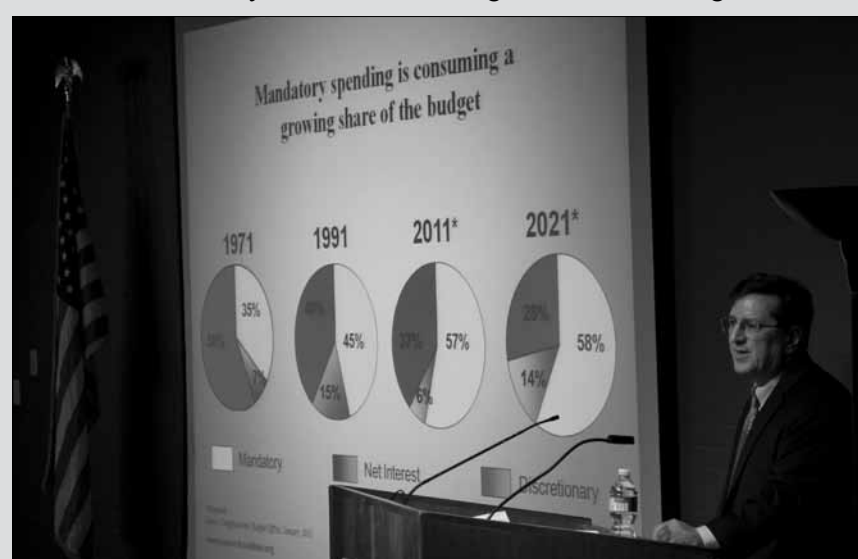


PHOTO BY TOM KEEN

Harry Zeeve, National Field Director of the Concord Coalition, explains the increased rate at which mandatory spending has grown within the national budget.

NOAA Officer Presents on Subaquatic Cartography

By STEVE REES
News Co-Editor

Lieutenant Commander Ben Evans of the Office of Coast Survey at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) presented on his work in underwater charting and navigation at the College's Natural Science and Mathematics Colloquium (NS&M) lecture last Wednesday, in a presentation titled *Hydrography: Science, Art, and Sea Stories of Seafloor Mapping*.

A friend of two College professors, Evans was introduced by Physics Assistant Professor Josh Grossman and Mathematics Assistant Professor Alex Meadows, all of whom went to Williams College for their undergraduate degrees. "Two of us actually finished the Physics degree there," said Grossman, referring to himself and Evans.

Evans began the presentation in Schaefer Hall by giving the audience of students, faculty, and community members an idea of what hydrography entails. "'Hydrography' is not a word," said Evans. "But, hydrographic relates to the characteristic features (as flow or depth) of bodies of water," referring to the Webster's Dictionary definition.

Hydrography is a specific discipline in the study of oceans and other bodies of water, known as oceanography. The goal of hydrographers has not changed for thousands of years: to make nautical charts for maritime commerce. "The majority of goods we import come from water," said Evans.

In 2008, annual cargo tonnage reached 8,720 million tons, over twice as much as its value in 1980 (3,704 million tons). Ships that used to draw 30 feet of water due to their large size and cargo now can draw as many as 51 feet, and shipping miles have increased by 123 percent. With the contraction of the Arctic ice caps, allowing for more trade routes and a potentially ice-free Arctic by as early as 2013, these routes and cargo sizes are expected to increase even further, placing more importance

on safe, accurate navigation.

From 1973 to 1982, the United Nations Third Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III) resulted in the Law of the Sea Treaty, which dictated that signatories of the treaty could claim seabed resources of the Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) around the country, beyond its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). While the United States did not sign the latest 1994 greement of the treaty (Article XI), which concerned the establishment of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to monitor a country's underwater activities beyond its EEZ, its EEZ's monetary worth approaches \$1 trillion, and is 25 percent larger than the U.S. land mass.

In 2010, President Obama approved the National Ocean Policy on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning to zone (chart) the EEZ. But President Thomas Jefferson, in 1807, had begun the process of coastal surveying by establishing the Survey of the Coast, the first U.S. scientific agency. The Survey of the Coast merged with several other nautical agencies to form the NOAA in 1970.

The NOAA has about 1,000 charts that detail the depths of the U.S. coast, including charts from Jefferson's era that focused on depth measurements. These were done using lead lines that were spun in the air on a ship and thrust into a body of water, with a measurement of the line when the lead weight hit the bottom of the sea floor.

Combined with horizontal positioning techniques where two relative points on the coast were referenced to determine nautical position, accurate depth charts were generated that are still maintained by the NOAA.

The process of lead lining was abandoned in the 1930s with the development of SONAR (or, the Vertical Beam Echosounder). With this technology, a sound would be emitted below a ship, which would quickly travel through water to the sea floor.

The sound waves would echo to the surface and be detected by a receiver, which would use the echo time delay and known speed of sound in water to calculate depth.

The development of computers in the 1990s that could handle vast depth calculations and data aided in the development of more thorough nautical charts. "The physics aren't strenuous," said Evans, "but suddenly in the 90s, we had computers that could handle this vast array of data."

While the science may not be difficult, the navigation and depth determination can bring its own challenges to hydrographers. With changes in tide and vessel conditions (if heaving, pitching, rolling, or yawing), it can be difficult to maintain frames of reference, as well as modify measurements (due to sound speed changes in the water) or survive the water itself. "The sea doesn't care about you," said Evans.

The process has been further advanced with the development of Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), which can do SONAR sweeps for about a day underwater for mass depth calculations, and FLIP (or Floating Instrument Platform), which is a platform ship resting on two buoyant supports that decrease the buoyant force on the ship to prevent depth data skewing.

Evans concluded the lecture with a discussion of the AUVs' recent practical application: they were used to survey for underwater debris of Space Shuttle Columbia, which disintegrated upon re-entry on Feb. 1, 2003, over much of Texas and Louisiana. While the in-flight data recorder was not found, a video of the seven astronauts that ends four minutes before the shuttle began to disintegrate was recovered.

The next NS&M lecture will be on Feb. 16 at 4:40p.m., presented by Brigham Young University's Dr. Michael Dorff and titled *Shortest Paths, Soap Films, and the Shape of the Universe*.



PHOTO BY RYAN GUGERTY

Paul DiBlasi, half of Calico Jack, performed songs based on traditional maritime folk music with lead singer and songwriter Janie Meneely.

Calico Jack Plays HSMC

By PETER SPARKLIN
News Editor

On Friday, Feb. 4. in the State House in Historic St. Mary's City, the 'maritime musicians' Calico Jack performed their collection of music inspired by the traditions and culture of the Chesapeake Bay.

Their music had a folksy, lilting feel to it, conjuring up images of seaport taverns, oyster trawlers, and the relationships between sailors and their crews, their families and their careers.

Calico Jack is comprised of Janie Meneely and Paul DiBlasi; Meneely has been writing songs about the Chesapeake Bay for over 25 years. Meneely said, "There was very little traditional music

[recorded]...so I began writing music about the bay."

Now, Meneely and DiBlasi are hired to perform all over Maryland. Meneely said, "There has been a real response from hearing about places they love."

Their set list included "Billy Taylor," "Shanghai Dredger," "Ladies of the Bay," and "Chesapeake Cafe," a variety of songs about oyster harvesting, sailors, and the decline of the use of sailing vessels.

Audience members enjoyed the uniqueness of the performance. Clark Bryan of St. Inigoes said the performance was "a chance to get out, learn about Chesapeake History...we've never been to anything like this."

SMCM Students Perform "Monologues"

By KYLE JERNIGAN
News Editor

Every year around this time, women from across around the world unite in giving voice to a subject not often touched upon in "polite" conversation: their vaginas. St. Mary's students, as part of this "V-Day" movement, were not vague in validating their relationships with their vaginas with a vivacious and vibrant performance in this year's version of the "Vagina Monologues."

The V-Day movement, according to the official web site, occurs around Valentine's Day and "generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sex slavery." This attention is usually generated through performances of Eve Ensler's "Vagina Monologues", which according to this year's director Lisa Davidson consists of a group of monologues that tell stories that celebrate female sexuality and raise awareness of sexual violence against women.

The monologues, written by Ensler and based on interviews she conducted with women from all walks of life, consisted of questions such as "What would your vagina wear?" and "If your vagina could talk, what would it say?"

Performances consist primarily of monologues that are performed every year dealing with topics like pubic hair, sexual relationships, and birth; however, directors also add in two other monologues: one spotlight monologue and one which is chosen from a collection of monologues. This year, the former was a memorial to Myriam Merlot, the woman who brought the "Vagina Monologues" to Haiti and died in the Haiti earthquake in 2010.

Davidson chose "They Beat the Girl Out of My Boy," a monologue from the perspective of transwomen, as this year's special mono-

logue. She said that she chose it because she was upset with the fact that trans* people and men normally cannot perform in the play, and said, "[I] thought it was unfair that [Ensler] mandated what is and isn't a female and what is female sexuality." Davidson also chose to stage this year's monologues in a faux-protest atmosphere, complete with picket signs

"[I] thought it was unfair that [Ensler] mandated what is and isn't female and what is female sexuality"

-Junior Lisa Davison, Director, on her choice to spotlight the monologue "They Beat the Girl Out of My Boy"

partially reverent of his partner's vagina, and "Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," about a woman sex worker who exclusively catered to other women, elicited uproarious laughter from the crowd. The latter in particular showed off the impressive vocal "moan range" of first-year Liz Porter. "My Angry Vagina," performed with powerful vehemence from junior Ana Palomino, railed against things such as tampons, thongs, and the gynecologist's "mean, cold duck lips".

Other monologues were much more sobering. "My Vagina Was a Village," performed by junior Karina Mandell, told the story of a Bosnian woman subject to sexual torture at a rape camp. The audience and fellow performers fell silent as Mandell told how her vagina, once metaphorically described as a vibrant village, was no longer a place she could visit. "I do not touch it anymore, not now, not since."

The monologues concluded with the special monologue, in which senior Tess Wier, juniors Allison Bailey and Jess O'Rear, sophomore Rose Weinschenk, and first-year Yna Davis stood up from their seats in the crowd and took turns telling the stories of transwomen who had experienced discrimination for their gender identity. O'Rear, speaking in character, said, "They 'assigned' me a sex... it has nothing to do with who you are." At the end of the monologue, the four performers embraced at the edge of the stage, followed by the rest of cast.

Student and faculty reactions to the performance were generally positive. Professor of Psychology Jennifer Tickle said, "I thought it was well performed...and I think they did a very good job capturing the feelings people have about their vaginas." Junior Crystal Barnes said, "I like how they were very uninhibited. They just weren't shy and didn't hold back."

The play began abruptly when the performers ran screaming through the aisles clutching their signs, jarring the audience out of their pre-play smalltalk and fitting with the protest theme. To introduce the play, juniors Deanna Clements, Brianna Manente, and Jana Fronczek expressed their anger about the lack of talk about female sexuality and how they were "worried about how we didn't think about vaginas." The other performers, surrounding the stage, cheered in approval as Manente mentioned all the different types of women interviewed for the monologues.

The play began proper with "Hair," in which senior Nona Landis played a woman who was advised in couple's counseling to give in to her husband's demands to shave her pubic hair. She said, "[after shaving], there was no protection, no fluff!" She added, "you have to love hair in order to love the vagina ... you can't just pick and choose the parts you like."

Performances ran the gamut of emotions. Some, such as "Because He Liked To Look At It," a woman's take on a man who was

Comedians Arvin Mitchell and Myq Kaplan Visit St. Mary's

By JESSY SCHROEDER
A&E Editor

Recently the SGA Programs Board here at St. Mary's hosted comedians Arvin Mitchell and Myq Kaplan for their weekly Friday Comedy Series in St. Mary's Hall's Auerbach Auditorium.

After Seaton Smith had hilariously kick off the series on Jan. 28th, he left behind an incredibly hard act to follow. Next up was Arvin Mitchell, who started the show off by thanking us for bringing him "in for black history month," but that he was really "creeped out" that he had to perform next to the cemetery that sits right outside of St. Mary's Hall.

Mitchell didn't exactly disappoint, but he most likely lost quite a few happy audience members due to some of his racist and prejudiced jokes. During his stand-up routine he made a culturally offensive joke targeted at a specific audience member, as well as laughed about the Obamas having sex, midgets at a funeral, men beating women, and a few stereotypical gay jokes.

Many of these quips might be fine at some of the other venues that he attends, but since St. Mary's is known as an open-minded school with such a socially diverse student body, some of his jokes didn't receive the reception he was probably hoping for.

It also seemed as if Mitchell had not exactly planned out how his skit would flow. Many awkward

pauses appeared throughout the hour as he waited for something to happen in the audience that he could comment on, such as someone's phone ringing, him noticing that a girl had her feet up on the chair in front of her, and The Point News photographer snapping photos in the audience.

Despite the awkwardness of most of his set, he still gave the audience a good laugh. A better actor than he is stand-up comedian, he was able to have students laughing at his spot-on impressions and ridiculous faces.

Not only did he perfectly do the voices of the old man who loves Chris from *Family Guy*, Snoop Dogg, President Obama, and Bill Cosby, but he had many audience members shrieking with laughter whenever he put on one of his "crazy" facial expressions. The part that possibly gained the most applause, as well as a shout of "Do it again!" from the audience, was his impression of a dubbed Asian karate film.

There also was more audience chatter than usual, with many people holding their own side conversations or talking straight back to Mitchell. A debate was even sparked after a student asked him whom he wanted to win the Superbowl and his answer was the Steelers. All of the audience commentary even provoked him to say, "This is the weirdest audience. And I love it."

This previous Friday of Feb. 11 came the third installment of the comedy series, which hosted comedian Myq Kaplan. As with every other week, the show officially started after the audience began a rousing chant of "Francis" for Francis Rodezno of the SGA Programs Board committee, who always introduces the night's comedian.

After Mitchell's slight miss on targeting jokes to the St. Mary's audience, Kaplan, who was finalist for NBC's Last Comic Standing, could definitely be considered as a hit. This week there were no awkward pauses, and he easily breezed from joke to joke.

As with many comedians that visit St. Mary's, Kaplan commented on some different aspects of the school. "I hear there's a lot of Bio majors here," he stated, "because there's a river near by." He then paused and added sarcastically, "That makes sense."

Many of his jokes dealt with wordplay and were perfectly tailored to his audience. Among them were the mention of vegans, math, grammar, and some very clever Harry Potter puns. Kaplan even mentioned, "I think you guys are my demographic. Because you know the word 'demographic.'"

By the end of his hour-long segment, Kaplan wound down by amusing himself with singing the word "sports" to different theme songs, and spinning out cheesy



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

Comedian Arvin Mitchell poses for the camera with his "crazy person" face, a crowd favorite, during his Comedy Series performance.

wordplay jokes that kept the audience chuckling.

After Kaplan had left the stage, Francis Rodezno reappeared to announce that the Programs Board would soon reveal something "bigger than even World Carnival,"

which would be announced on Valentine's Day.

SGA Programs Board's next announced comedian for their weekly Comedy Series will be Jen Kober on Friday, February 25, 2011 at 8 P.M. in St. Mary's Hall.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: ST. MARY'S MEN'S RUGBY

COMPILED BY JOHN HENRY HAIN
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's men's rugby team is preparing for their 2011 spring season with long runs, quick sprints, and group lifts in the weight room to build a team that can not only win the upcoming season, but create a new team of giants.

With the senior players on their way out, and the junior players stepping up to take lead, both veteran groups look back on their fond memories while out on the pitch.

By BENJAMIN GARBART
Senior

I've been playing on the team since I came here freshman year.

I have been a captain for the past two years, and it has been enjoyable to see the team go through its cycles.

We have always been a small team compared to the larger schools we face, but with the help of our coach, Larry Donmoyer, we have been able to keep our skill level on par and have really grown as a team.

As a graduating senior, I feel that the team is in good hands with our new captains and administrators. Under the leadership of Paul DiIorio, the team is already getting whipped into shape for the up and coming season.

We are always looking for new members and welcome anyone who wants to learn the game.

By PAUL DI IORIO
Junior

A good friend told me before my first day of men's rugby practice that "football is the gentleman's game played by hooligans, and rugby is the hooligan's game played by gentlemen." At the end of my first practice, I knew I would be spending the next four years at St. Mary's playing for the Men's Rugby team.

When your team's one weakness is size and experience, it's necessary to play with speed, toughness, and commit as few mistakes as possible on the pitch.

We have a very dedicated team and we all understand that if we want to win then we must outwork our opponents. In a game where you truly are only as strong as your weakest link, our team works hard to be as conditioned a possible. Along with an experienced coach to teach us strategy and make us more knowledgeable about the game, our team can compete with the best in Maryland.

To anyone interested in join-

ing the men's rugby team, the spring semester is your best time to join as we focus more on teaching this great game to those who are new.

By ADAM HAMMETT
Junior

I was introduced to rugby my freshman year at St. Mary's, when I first accompanied a friend to rugby practice. After that first practice I was hooked.

Now a junior on the team, I look back at that first rugby practice I attended and realize how much it has positively impacted my experience here at St. Mary's.

The rugby team here on campus is much more to me than just a sport. All of us on the team are close friends and we all have a fun time working towards being the best team we can be. A common misconception about rugby is that you need to have past experience to play, but this is not the case. Almost every player currently on the team had never played the game of rugby before coming to college. I would urge anyone looking to

have a fun time playing a physical sport to give rugby a try, because in several years you will not look back and regret trying a club sport, but you may look back and wish you again had the opportunity to play on a rugby team.

By MICHEAL CANDORE
Senior

I joined the men's rugby team in the fall of my freshman year with no prior knowledge of the sport. I was told by a few upperclassmen that it was very similar to football, so I gave it a shot.

Three and a half years, a broken jaw, and a broken nose later - I learned how to play a great game, and I formed friendships that I will carry with me well after I leave college.

The team has had its ups and downs over the past few years, but the camaraderie has always remained.

The men's rugby team always welcomes newcomers, whether you've played for years, or never picked up a rugby ball.

Seahawks Baseball Team Looks Ahead

By ANNA AGARUNOVA
Sports Editor

With eleven new recruits, the Seahawks baseball team shows potential to have their first winning season in seven years, according to Head Coach Lewis Jenkins.

The Seahawks opened their season with a 1-1 record following the Randolph-Macon College double-header on Feb. 12. The team is looking forward to their first home conference game Feb. 19, against City College of New York, where President Urgo is expected to throw the first pitch.

"I think the team has looked very good in the fall," Jenkins said. "In the spring, it's been a nightmare. We've been out on the field three times [since Jan. 18], which is a long period considering we've been working out every Saturday and Sunday. The weather has been very tough on us, and the three days that we've been outside it's been muddy, and windy, and cold."

The uncooperative weather forced practices to be held in Somerset Hall in the Micheal P. O'Brien Athletics and Recreation Center, which caused problems for the team as well.

"There's only so much we can do inside," Jenkins added. "They've already hit the fire alarm and broken a window, so we're kind of in the doghouse. It all happened within about a week. I'm just holding my breath that we don't do anymore damage.

It certainly wasn't done on

purpose, but the day we hit the fire alarm they were having a swimming meet. It was kind of chaotic."

The biggest challenge this season will be the conference games, according to Jenkins. Nonetheless, the team is optimistic about improving this year, compared to previous years.

"We had a horrible season last year," Jenkins said. "I never had a year that bad as a coach and I've been coaching my whole life. There was only one outstanding player last year, and that was Matt Baden. He's a senior and he's had a good year every year he's been here. The rest of them weren't able to work up to their ability. Consequently we only won nine games."

Despite setbacks, the team shows optimism for the upcoming games. According to Jenkins, although recruiting has always been a challenge for sports teams, the Seahawks have added seven new first-years to their roster, many of whom are already impressing teammates.

"The guys have been working hard, playing hard, and really competing," senior captain Ian Simpson-Shelton said. "We've got a lot of new faces this year, a couple young kids, and transfers who came in ready to go. They're not afraid to step on the field. We've also got a lot of older guys that are ready to be leaders and step up and take responsibility for the team too. I think we'll be a whole lot better this year."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ADVOCATES FOR CANCER RESEARCH

By LAUREN JACKSON
Staff Writer

St. Mary's women's basketball did more than play the game against Marymount University Feb. 5; they played their part in the fight against cancer. To show their advocacy for cancer research, both men and women's basketball teams sported white warm-ups with cancer support ribbons, and encouraged the crowd to wear white in an effort to "white out cancer." Combined, the St. Mary's basketball teams raised close to \$700 to donate to charity.

Raising money for cancer research had a special meaning for the team, as most of the women have known someone who has lost their life to cancer or is a cancer survivor.

Sophomore Pui Sham's family was affected by the disease when her aunt was diagnosed with breast cancer ten years ago. Her aunt opted for a mastectomy instead of chemotherapy, and after surviving breast cancer, was later diagnosed with kidney cancer. Sham's aunt then underwent chemotherapy, and is now a proud cancer survivor.

"Now, she's alive and well," Sham said. "My aunt Brenda is one of the very few people I know who has survived cancer and twice at that. I am glad to be doing my part to help other people like my aunt."

The team's season has been as successful as their contributions to cancer research - with eleven wins on the record, seven of which have been in the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC).

In their first game in the fight to "white out cancer" the women's team led 35-26 against Marymount University at halftime, but lost by a mere four points at the completion of the game. Despite the loss, senior Jamie Roberts scored 20 points, her third over 20 point game of the season. First-year Shana Lewis contributed with 12 points.

The Seahawks women's basketball team continued to don their white warm-ups when they took their support to Salisbury on Wednesday Feb. 9. After a narrow loss to Salisbury earlier in the season, the team was able to come back and earn a win. With seconds left in the game Roberts scored on a layup and put the Seahawks ahead 61-60.

"Our win against Salisbury could help us earn a spot for the CAC playoffs depending on how we do in the remaining games of the regular season," Sham said. "Hopefully the momentum we got from this win will

continue to carry over for us. The end of season doesn't seem very clear just yet, but we're going to take it one game at a time."

On Saturday, the St. Mary's women's basketball team celebrated their senior game. The sole senior, Roberts, is a key player and leader of the team.

"Hopefully the momentum we got from this win will continue to carry over for us."

-Pui Sham, Sophomore Guard

Roberts reminisced about her time at St. Mary's.

"During my four years here, I can say that each team has been totally

different," Roberts said. "I've been on the team when we had eight players and had to beg soccer and baseball boys to come practice with us so we could scrimmage - and now to be on a team with 13 girls has made a big

difference."

"Despite me being the only upperclassman I think the success that we've had so far this year is proof of the talent we have. We've had several games that we've lost by one to four points, which shows that we've been competitive in all of our CAC games - we just need to figure out how to be able to get it done and come out on top."

While standing at an 11-11 spread after the Feb. 9 game, the Seahawks remain at a 11-12 total record after a heartbreaking 62-59 loss to Wesley College during Senior Day on Feb. 12. While Roberts reached a career-high of 23 points during the game, it was not enough to best the female Wolverines.

The Seahawks women's basketball team is still looking forward to ongoing success for the remainder of the season and plan to continue to take their fight against cancer out on the court.



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

First-year forward Raven Owens shoots a layup at the Salisbury game Feb. 9. The Seahawks won the game 61-60.

Seahawk Schedule

2/16	Baseball vs Chris. Newport	2:00 p.m.
2/18	Women's Swimming CAC Champ. Men's Swimming CAC Champ.	TBA TBA
2/19	Baseball vs CCNY* Women's Lacrosse vs Stevenson* Women's Basketball vs Frostburg Men's Basketball vs Frostburg	11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
2/20	Baseball vs CCNY* Men's Lacrosse vs Roanoke*	12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m.
2/22	Men's Basketball at CAC Women's Basketball at CAC	TBA TBA
2/23	Women's Lacrosse vs Wesley*	3:30 p.m.
2/24	Men's Basketball at CAC Women's Basketball at CAC	TBA TBA

*home game

Compiled by Anna Agarunova

Video Applications on YouTube Only Benefit Internet “Trolls”

By ZACH ESER
Staff Writer

YouTube is a website where the strange and the unpleasant have found a home alongside the countless other videos that keep insomniacs like me entertained at night and asleep in class. Over the past year or so, some potential students have applied to our prestigious slice of heaven via YouTube. Awful idea.

YouTube is meant to be a place for “trolls,” a term used to describe users on the site who spend all of their time making witty and often vulgar remarks at the expense of the uploader or the content of the video itself. Needless to say, I am a troll. While I feel video submissions are an interesting and refreshing approach to the stale application process high school seniors have to face, uploading the videos via YouTube is an awful way to go about this.

First off, allow me to reiterate the emotional and unrelenting stress that trolling has on YouTube users. Do

people want to be told they’re terrible musicians? Not really. Is it unnecessary to point out all of the camp, idiocy, lack of genuine thought, and failure in every application tape? No. Are trolls likely to make these comments in spades? Most probably.

Trolls are not ones to hold back their opinions; it is their sole purpose on YouTube to rip apart anything that may be considered unique or “cool” by the people who watch or create the videos. Once again, I know this because I have spent plenty of hours making fun of Justin Bieber or that one girl who looks like an walrus.

Furthermore, one of the main complaints at St. Mary’s is the connection speed and bandwidth on the campus and in the dorms in particular. By posting YouTube applications, potential

students are forcing the Admissions staff to suck up all of the bandwidth available for us, the current students enrolled at the college. How does the college expect students to be on top of their e-mail accounts, their Blackboard assignments, and their Facebooks or Tumblrs if there is no bandwidth to support it? YouTube is a bandwidth hog and prospective students are enabling the Admissions staff to take what little is left for the student population.

I would understand the efficiency of the YouTube application process if we had decent internet, but Verizon isn’t on their game and therefore it’s an issue worth noting.

Lastly, I understand that there is an initiative to keep St. Mary’s a somewhat odd and unorthodox community and by opening the floodgate of Hell known as YouTube, it would allow

plenty of eccentric individuals to have an upper hand in the application process. Seriously, though. How weird does the St. Mary’s community really want to be? Do we really need another thirty people who enjoy live action role-playing in the woods? Another twenty-one people who listen to nothing but showtunes and wonder why girls (or guys) aren’t interested? Last, but not least, do we need any more “Bros” who plague the school with LAX pennies or Natty Light?

I think not. Unfortunately, video applications, especially via YouTube, is

going to appeal to plenty of these types of people as it is an interesting medium that doesn’t take nearly as much effort as trying to prove yourself through writing. Or, for some others, they put too much effort in their video. Trying too hard can often make you look like you’re trying too hard.

In closing, I find this to be a potentially demeaning and tacky method for application and while I have seen well-made, interesting submissions, most of the videos have been a waste of five minutes of my life. Then again, maybe this is just the troll in me.

BY POSTING YOUTUBE APPLICATIONS, POTENTIAL STUDENTS ARE FORCING THE ADMISSIONS STAFF TO SUCK UP ALL THE BANDWIDTH FOR US, THE CURRENT STUDENTS ENROLLED AT THE COLLEGE.

Tuition Increases Likely for All Students

SUBMITTED BY DANNY RUTHERBERG-MARSHALL
Student Trustee



Allow me to apologize in advance, because most of what you’re about to read will not be good news.

There will be a tuition increase this year - likely around six percent for in-state and an equal dollar amount for out-of-state. As with most of you and your families, this institution is suffering financially. Our Foundation is not able to give nearly as much money to the school as it has in the past, and our costs are rising. How are our costs rising when inflation is so low and we’re doing so many things to cut cost? Three ways: first, cost cuts can only cover so much, as we cannot sacrifice the quality of our program for the sake of budget. If we did that, we would become just another Salisbury or Frostburg. Second, despite low inflation, some specific expenses continue to rise rapidly. One example is retiree benefits.

Under state law, we are required to provide our employees with a certain level of retiree benefits. When these premiums rise by ten percent, it hits us hard, costing the institution an additional half million or so dollars, without us seeing any additional benefits. That hurts. While that is an extreme example, there are other instances of it littered throughout our budget and the budget of every institution in the country.

The third way is perhaps the most difficult one to accept. Our revenue stream is declining. One of the biggest ways in which this is happening, though there are plenty of others, is through the change in percentage of out-of-state students. Based on our best estimates, the incoming class of 2015 will likely have forty fewer out-of-state students than the outgoing class of 2011. That means next year, the whole school will have forty fewer out-of-staters than it does this year. With an average difference of \$10,000 in tuition for in-state versus out-of-state, we’ll have approximately \$400,000 less in next years budget.

But shouldn’t the state give us more money for the additional in-state students we have? Well, that’s how it works at most state schools, but we have what’s called a block grant. That is, we have a certain chunk of money that we get every year, regardless of how many in-state and out-of-state students we have. That amount normally goes up by the standard rate of inflation each year, and it will go up by that again this year. The problem is, over the last two decades, the portion of our budget that we get from the government has declined by around twenty percent. It used to be nearly half of our budget, and now it’s

just over a quarter. Again, this raises the question of, “Why?”

In the 1990s, the state government asked us to increase our student population from 1450 to 1850. We said yes, despite not getting a bump to our block grant to coincide with the bump in students. Earlier this decade, students were seeing annual tuition increases of more than ten percent at times. This inequity, corrected by charging the students more, is one of the primary reasons our in-state tuition and fees are more than \$5,000 higher than University of Maryland College Park. Not coincidentally, our out-of-state costs are nearly identical with College Park. These two numbers will go up by the same dollar amount, and not the same percentage, for the foreseeable future, as the college doesn’t want to unfairly distribute financial burdens.

So what’s going to happen with financial aid? The College has made a commitment to increase our financial aid budget by the same percentage as we increase tuition. While this is necessary, it’s sort of like stealing from the left hand to feed the right. With our financial aid budget at over six million dollars, a proportionate increase to that detracts from our added revenue due to tuition increase.

Let’s recap: tuition will go up for three reasons. We can only cut costs so much, some expenses continue to rise, and our out-of-state enrollment is shifting significantly. The proportion of the state government’s contribution to our budget has decreased drastically over the last two decades. Tuition increases back in the day were insane. Financial aid will still go up by the same percentage. Our budget is suffering big time, even with small tuition increases.

Where do we go from here? We keep looking for ways to cut costs without hurting our program, we keep pressuring the state government to continue with their support and, when possible, to increase it, and we look for more ways to increase financial aid. As the state balances its books and the economy slowly recovers, things will get better. Until that time, I promise to do everything in my power to keep tuition increases as low as feasible, and keep looking for new ways to raise money. When this comes to a vote at the next Board meeting, I will be voting “no” on the issue. It will still pass despite this. Good luck to everyone in making next year’s payment, and I’m sorry I can’t do more.

This Wednesday, at 8 PM in Schaefer 106, the candidates for Student Trustee 2012-2013 will present themselves to the selection committee and answer a series of questions. After the committee’s questions, anyone in the audience will be allowed to ask additional questions. I encourage all students to come and out and make their voices heard in this important selection process. The committee will be taking audience feedback into consideration when making its decision. For more information on the position, please visit www.smcm.edu/studenttrustee.

The Looming Specter of an NFL Lockout

SUBMITTED BY PHILIP ALSOP
Class of 2011

The Super Bowl is over, the good guys won, and now it is time for the agonizing wait until next fall when the 2011 NFL season starts.

If it starts at all.

If you are a Sports Center junkie like me and my housemates, then you should at least be aware that there is a pretty big problem between the National Football League (NFL) and the NFL Players Association (NFLPA). You should also know that the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) is set to expire on March 3. Despite Roger Goodell’s and the owners’ assurances, things are not looking good.

As of Feb. 10, a meeting between the owners and the NFLPA was cancelled, as well as a meeting scheduled for next week.

Instead of delving into the nitty gritty of the labor negotiations, here are the big things you need to know. The owners claim that, despite increases in revenue, costs are going up at a disproportional rate and as such, the owners should get more money as well as institute an eighteen game season to further increase revenue. The players, on the other hand, want more health care after retirement as well as increased access to NFL financial records.

It seems that the compromise here is

obvious. Have a seventeen game season and up the players’ health care to a certain extent, but less than what they are asking for. But since the season doesn’t start until September, no one is really feeling the heat to do anything but talk tough.

As the issue stands right now, I can’t help but lay blame on the owners. Granted, neither side is doing a good job with PR, but even if that weren’t the case, the owners are coming off

...THE OWNERS ARE COMING OFF AS GREEDY AND SECRETIVE...[THEY] ARE SIMPLY TRYING TO MAKE [THE PLAYERS] PLAY UNDER UNFAIR CONDITIONS.

as greedy and secretive. They are the ones claiming that, despite record-setting season revenue, they are losing money, yet they don’t show the records that prove it. They are the ones who have walked out on meetings with the players. They are the ones who want to institute an eighteen game season with virtually no increases in compensation to the players. The players want to play. The owners are simply trying to make them play under unfair conditions.

As for the fans, I typically hear a lot of grumbling about football players and how much money they make, and thus they should just shut up and do

their jobs. That is a fair statement to a certain extent. But fans should put NFL players’ salaries, as well as the nature of playing football itself, in context with players of other sports and how much money they make. For example, in the NFL, the only money that is guaranteed to players is the signing bonus. After that, contracts are written in such a way that certain expectations have to be fulfilled for the player to see the rest of that money. In basketball, all the money is guaranteed. Just look at Gilbert Arenas and everything that has happened to him. Does he really deserve over \$100 million for playing basketball over a six year period, especially after bringing guns into the locker room?

Tom Brady is currently the highest paid player in the NFL, bringing in \$72 million over four years. Tom Brady, arguably one of the greatest quarterbacks to play the game, makes less money to do more than Gilbert Arenas ever will in his career. The point is, the way in which football players get paid is much more aligned with the real world: you are hired based on your merits, and you are paid based on the quality of your work.

In short, if there is a lockout, I’ll probably be watching the United Football League, because this is probably a great time for them to get their foot in the door and really start competing with the NFL.

Punching Babies

SUBMITTED BY HEATHER PRIBUT

Tired of throwing socks at losers in headbands?

Why aren’t they stopping?!
We’re in the safe zo- Oh god...
THEY ATE URGO!!!

Braaaaaaaaaaains...



Then play Humans vs. REAL Zombies!

Real Zombies... Real Gore... REAL FUN!

Getting Abroad is Easy, Everything else...

By JESSY SCHROEDER
Arts and Entertainment Editor

It's a fact: I love St. Mary's. I love being able to sail on the river just for kicks, being able to "hike" all of the way across campus from Calvert to Goodpaster in ten minutes flat, and being able to walk the length of the path and recognize almost everybody that I pass. You know, all of those cliché things that our past tour guides and orientation leaders love to gush about.

The thing that really snagged my attention and made me consider SMCM as my official college, though, was the fact that we have such amazing opportunities for studying abroad. We can choose to go for a semester, a year, a summer, or over spring break. Then we can decide if we want to stay within the U.S. or travel to places like The Gambia, England, China, or Argentina.

We have signature programs to choose from that help to lower the cost and if we go abroad in the fall we can even qualify for a stipend to help pay for our flights. Basically our school is just awesome when it comes to convincing us to study abroad.

There is one problem with the programs, though, that I've heard many students complain about. It often feels like St. Mary's is concerned more with pulling as many students as they can into the programs than they are with actually checking in on us once we have finally left our sweet, little SMCM.

Just think about it. If you have already studied abroad (or perhaps are abroad right now), how many times did the school contact you to make sure that you were settling in alright, that everything was going as planned, that you somehow didn't tragically die on the flight over, or if you simply needed any help after a volcano erupted in Iceland right at the end of exams causing your flight home (and every other flight out of the continent) to be canceled until further notice?

To all of the first years out there who might not know this, that last one actually did happen to some of our students who studied in Oxford last spring. They were left stranded in a foreign country, with their flights canceled, their meal plans expired, and the looming possibility that they could have been kicked out of their residences. Want to know how long it took before they heard any word from St. Mary's asking if they were alright? That would be about three or four whole days.

Granted, two of those days did coin-

cide with the weekend, so most of our school's staff were out of the office. But it would seem that after having such an unfortunate event happen, which was broadcast on every news channel in the U.S., there would have been somebody who would have thought to shoot out a quick email just to double check on them. But that supposedly didn't happen until angry parents started calling the school with complaints.

Two of my good friends were in Oxford when all of this was happening. I can only imagine what must have been going through their minds since they had no idea when they would be able to come back home or how they would be able to afford all of the extra meals that they had to buy while they whiled the days away waiting. I remember them constantly coming up with different ideas about how to get out of Europe, even if it meant they had to kayak to Belgium, drive all of the way to Russia and fly to L.A., to Dallas, to Newport and finally land in Baltimore.

But that's not my battle to fight with the school. What really irked me while I was abroad was that I was continuously lied to about when I would receive a refund of my loan payments so that I could pay for my rent and my meals. Not only was I told the day that I left on my flight that all of us studying in

Australia would receive our refunds within two weeks, but I was fed the same line many more times throughout the semester.

I completely understand that the only payments we needed to give SMCM was our tuition and mandatory study abroad fee, and that we would have to use our own method of payment to pay for our room and board while we were abroad, but most of us have our student loans for a reason. And that is because we can't physically pay for tuition, room, and board up front. Meaning that when I'm abroad and have not received those loans, I literally cannot pay my landlords or buy food for myself.

The second time that my roommate and I asked when we could collect our loan money we were told that we would have to wait until after the add/drop period at SMCM. Since we had started our classes a month before everyone back home, this meant that we were going to be six weeks behind on our rent.

Then we were told that we would have to wait even longer. Despite the numerous emails and phone calls to the International Education, Business,

Your Parents Were Right... About Hip Hop

SUBMITTED BY EDEN CARSWELL
Class of 2011

Remember when you were in middle school, and your mom walked into your bedroom to find you dancing to "What's Your Fantasy" (a raunchy Ludacris song), flailing your arms around like you were directing air traffic? Remember the horrified expression on her face as she set your CD on fire and forbade you from ever listening to rap music again?

...Well, maybe that was just my experience.

But, even though hip hop reached a point where one could call it "art" in the late '80s and early '90s, parents are back to hating it. Why? Because it's awful. Back then, hip hop was celebrated for its quality themes and complex lyricism. Hip hop has changed a lot since then—now rap is a "Swag Fest," and if it isn't that, then it's "trap houses," cooking drugs, stacking money, or taking girls home from the club. And although some people see these themes as "quality," for a lot of folks, hip hop has officially died.

Ok, it's not dead quite yet, but the murderers currently on the radio and on VH1 are working on it as we speak. One of my favorite perpetrators is Soulja Boy, an Atlanta-based rapper who was discovered over YouTube and SoundClick with the worn-out song "Crank Dat (Soulja Boy)." Though it was catchy and came with a little dance, Soulja Boy's bad production quality and lack of rhyme and cadence makes it hurt to listen to his music. If you want qual-

ity rap, throw his album back in the 99-Cent bin. Gucci Mane is another perpetrator; his nasally, congested flows in "Wasted" and "Freaky Girl" prove to be good for southern rap music, but are bad if you want complexity in rhythm and subject matter. For a rapper who has so much money, he can't afford to buy talent (or a box of tissues).

There are, however, hip hop artists who are trying to do CPR on this controversial-yet-popular music genre. Kanye West is the first we think of. Though he himself is a first-class jerk, and his lyrics have gradually become mediocre, the power of his hooks, themes, and sampling/production, especially on his albums *Late Registration* and *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* make his words hip hop genius. Drake is another trying as well. His airy, deep production, as well as his thought-provoking themes (the insecurities and paranoia that come with being famous, friendships that fall by the wayside, etc.) and introspective lyrics make him stand out and give rap enthusiasts hope that hip hop will eventually return to its golden years.

Though these artists and many others are working tirelessly to restore hip hop, the money-seekers and "swag" rappers outnumber them. And whenever your parents turn on the radio or play an iPod, one of the hip hop murderers is probably who they'll hear first.

So, tell your parents they can hate hip hop now. After years of defending it, I can finally agree.

and Financial Aid offices, and those messages my parents angrily left, we were always lightly brushed away and told to wait longer.

Eventually I received my money at the end of September, while my roommate acquired hers in October, four whole months after we had landed in Australia and roughly two weeks before our classes ended. I really cannot count how lucky we were to be renting rooms from possibly the nicest landlords ever. Otherwise, we most likely would have been kicked to the curb before mid-August.

My roommate and I were forced to find jobs to pay for our groceries. Our diet mostly consisted of the Aussie version of Ramen noodles and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Really nutritious, right? We had also originally budgeted our money at the beginning of the semester, but since our loans arrived so late and the exchange rate had drastically changed so much in those four months, we both ended up paying over \$500 extra for our rent than originally planned.

A similar problem happened to an-

other friend when she studied in Alba, Italy. Due to a foolish mix-up in which the Business Office believed she hadn't paid part of her semester fees, which she really already had, she was told that she should not have ever set foot on her flight to Italy to begin with.

I really don't mean to bash the school, dissuade any potential study abroad students from taking part in the programs, or make the offices at this school hate me any more than I know they already do. Remember, I love St. Mary's! And I really love that we have so many opportunities to travel the world.

My semester in Australia is definitely the most fun that I have ever had, and I got to enjoy it all for five months straight! I would go on hour-long rants about it if everyone around me didn't always get so annoyed (i.e. everyone should study abroad in Australia!).

These instances have just started to make some of us think. How much is the school really concerned about us once they have gotten us into a study abroad program and shipped us off to our respective countries? It is just some food for thought.

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We welcome all readers to submit Letters to the Editor. Letters can be sent to *The Point News*, dropped off at our office in the Campus Center, e-mailed to Kyle Jernigan (kjernigan@smcm.edu) or Peter Sparklin (pfsarklin@smcm.edu), or sent through our web site at <http://thepointnews.com/contact/letter>. All letters and articles are due by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before an issue is printed. We do not guarantee that any letter or article will be printed. The author should sign his/her name, provide his/her phone number, hometown and class standing if they are a student. Letters of less than 250 words are preferred. Letters are more likely to be printed if they have relevance to a considerable portion of the college community, are likely to spark dialogue, or present new ideas.

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- 2011, *The Point News*.

Ask Miss Meghan: Eating Disorders in Both Genders

By MEGHAN ROOT
Resident Sexpert

Dear Miss Meghan,

I have a friend who pukes sometimes from working out too much. He also will make himself throw up if he had any alcohol that night, and twice I've heard him vomiting after he eats. My sister has bulimia, so I'm worried he might have an eating disorder, but I've never heard of a guy having one. How can I help him?

-Waiting for your weigh-in

Dear Waiting,

First off, I'm glad that you wrote in. It can be difficult to notice eating disorders in men or women. Thankfully, we have come a long way in symptom recognition for women who are struggling with body image and weight, and one can frequently find an article in Cosmo about eating disorders alongside the pop culture conversations about starlets who are "too thin" (yet sadly right next to that is an advertisement for the "best ways

to shed ten pounds").

However, we do not frequently engage in conversation around how eating disorder symptoms manifest in men. We often see eating disorders manifest in male athletes, who need to be a certain weight or size to perform, such as in wrestling, racing cars, horse racing, or running. However, an eating disorder can manifest in males who are not athletes as well. Research reports that about 10 percent of all individuals diagnosed with an eating disorder are male, but also that males who fit the criteria for having an eating disorder are frequently not evaluated for those symptoms. Therefore, it is much harder for males to get the help they need if they have an eating disorder. Also, culturally we seem to be narrowing our definition

of what a "real" man is, so we see men going to more extreme measures to fit into that typology. If we follow Jersey Shore logic, you are not a real man if you don't GTL every day (gym, tan, laundry for those non-Jersey Shore fans).

RESEARCH REPORTS THAT ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF ALL INDIVIDUALS DIAGNOSED WITH EATING DISORDERS ARE MALE, BUT ALSO THAT MALES WHO FIT THE CRITERIA FOR HAVING AN EATING DISORDER ARE FREQUENTLY NOT EVALUATED FOR THOSE SYMPTOMS.

means following eating), restriction (severe constraints of the amount of food eaten), inability to maintain less than 85 percent of expected weight based on age and height, or a pre-occupation with weight or body image. Presence of any of these symptoms is a concern. The best approach to helping out your friend

is to call him out. Tell him that you are worried about some of his choices, and want to know if he is willing to speak to someone about it. If that does not work, talk to mutual friends and let them know you are worried. The more people involved, the less he is able to hide his symptoms. Another option is to see if he can come into Counseling and Health Services to learn about the effects that repeated purging can have on his body, like his throat, stomach, and teeth and some of the mental health aspects.

I had a good friend in college who would purge after she went out drinking every time so that "she wouldn't feel hung-over." While this may seem logical to the developing brain, in reality if you drink so much that you are hung-over, the solution that is safer for your body is to drink less alcohol and drink more water.

Sincerely eating my lunch while typing,
Miss Meghan

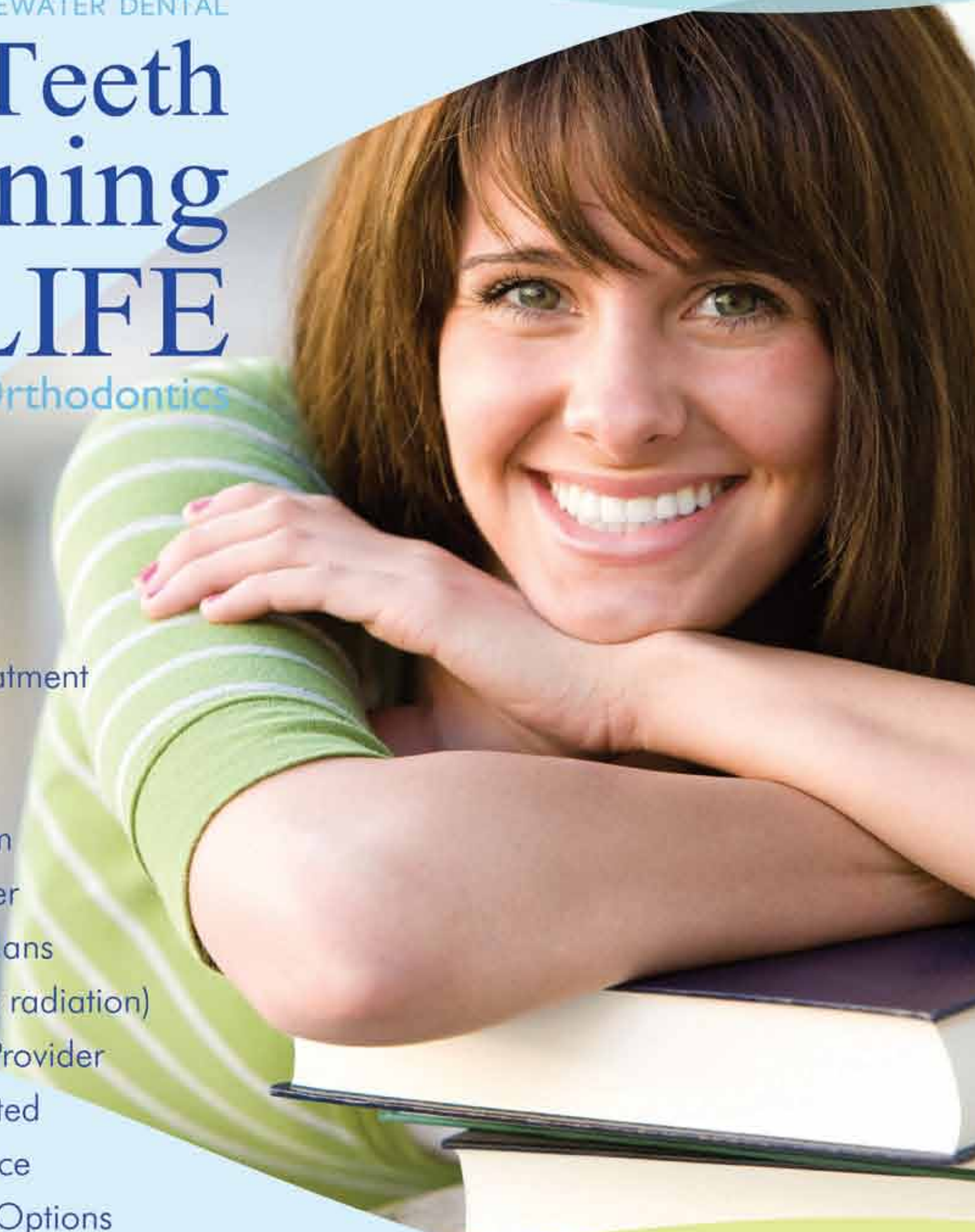
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