

The Point News

Chick-fil-A Debate Continues

By ALEX WALLS
Staff Writer

As the events continue to unfold over the Chick-fil-A debate, some tensions appear to have been lessened after a forum hosted by Professors Barbara Beliveau, Celia Rabinowitz, and Sybol Anderson allowed students to vent their frustrations over the Daily Grind's "Chick-fil-A Thursdays."

Approximately 55 students, staff, and faculty members were present to hear more about boycotts, particularly this one, and to voice their opinions about the College's values relating to this issue.

Chick-fil-A (CFA) has been reported to have donated to the Winshape Foundation; this foundation has in turn donated money to conservative movements against same-sex marriage. Members of St. Mary's Triangle and Rainbow Society (STARS) and the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) have charged that by selling Chick-fil-A on campus, the College has been violating the "safe space" policy.

At the beginning of the forum, several members of STARS and SDS stated that this boycott was not a campaign against personal, political, and religious values, nor was it attempting to limit the consumer choices of their peers.

The audience was then given a quick breakdown about the history of boycotts and whether or not they are successful. Professor Beliveau said boycotts are successful "if there is commitment and support" among a large group of people.

She gave historical examples of successful boycotts including the Montgomery Bus Boycotts. In 1955, an African American woman named Rosa Parks did not give up her seat to a white commuter on the Montgomery bus line.

Her arrest started one of the largest boycotts in American history, which only ended with the desegregation of the bus lines.

Rabinowitz then began a brief discussion about the College's institutional values. The values, which can be found on the College's website, describe St. Mary's as a place open to "diversity in all its form and social responsibility and civic-mindedness." The question that this boycott raises is whether or not the school selling Chick-fil-A goes against what the institution values.

Anderson then posed the question, "What does it mean to value diversity in all its form, social responsibility, and civic-mindedness?" This question then lead into a discussion about whether or not Chick-fil-A should be sold on

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Seahawks Make it to Elite 8



PHOTO BY DAVE CHASE

The St. Mary's Seahawks Basketball Team made it to the Elite 8 before they were knocked out of the competition by Middlebury College, finishing No. 13 in the division 25-6.

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St. Mary's Hosts First Toughest Student Challenge



PHOTO BY BRENDAN LARRABEE

The Challenge began at 10 p.m. and lasted as long as it took team members to complete the course; teamwork was integral to success.

By ANNA AGARUNOVA
Sports Editor

For two consecutive weekends, students participated in the St. Mary's Toughest Student Challenge, a test of physical and mental strength that highlighted the importance of leadership and teamwork.

The event was run by senior Jean-Pierre "JP" Alfred, and aimed to transform the individual mentality of needing to win by transferring it towards group effort.

"We take marathons and turn them on their heads," Alfred said. "We do marathon distances in packs. You can't finish without the person to your left and right - it's geared that way."

Physically, the challenge in-

involved flutter kicks and push-ups in the river, running 15-plus miles with bricks and carrying a two thousand pound log around campus.

However, the teams were also tested mentally with riddles. Students had to solve problems such as making a gurney out of logs and moving their heaviest member in a wheelbarrow with a flat tire with a light pole that could be no further than six inches away at all times.

"It's all about mechanical thinking while stress is applied. It's all mental." Alfred added. "The first ten minutes of the challenge, you're cold and wet. That eliminates the guys who think they want

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Students Question Judaic Studies Endowment

By TESS WIER
Copy Editor & Contributing Writer

The Philosophy and Religious Studies Department, a department that has eight full-time professors and fills a significant percentage of classes with visiting and part-time instructors, has recently taken a further blow from the financial crisis facing St. Mary's.

The Ike Weiner Chair of Jewish Studies, an endowed position, will no longer be filled. Devorah Schoenfeld, the last professor to occupy the position, left the school in 2010. In an email correspondence with junior Keith

Colson, President Urgo said, "the endowment that has supported this faculty chair is not generating sufficient funds for it to continue at present."

Endowed chairs are one way for private donors to support the college, as they are funded from an outside source and are not part of the college's operating budget. A private donor sets up an endowment fund, usually for some type of special or particular interest, which funds a position specializing in that area. The Ike Weiner Chair of Jewish Studies was a position that the SMCM academic

catalog describes as "established through the generous support of June Weiner Auerbach in honor of her father."

The Ike Weiner professor is to be a distinguished researcher with broad expertise in Judaic studies, an eminent scholar and gifted teacher who provides academic leadership, and is an individual capable of providing intellectual and cultural leadership in the region." If the endowment fund no longer provides enough money for this position, it would be yet another cost added onto the school's

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PROGRAMS BOARD FACES DIFFICULT CONTROVERSY OVER FIRING CHAIR

By KYLE JERNIGAN
Editor-in-Chief

The recent termination of junior Reid Levin from the position of Programs Board Coffeehouse Chair, ostensibly related to lackluster attendance at meetings, is leaving some students crying foul play.

According to Levin, the incident occurred Sunday, Feb. 20, when he was called into a meeting with Director of Campus Programming Jessica Harvey. Levin said that Harvey confronted him at the meeting about missing two Programs Board meetings and not attending

other Programs Board events (the latter not mandatory, but encouraged), which she said was grounds for his dismissal. Levin said, "essentially [Harvey told] me that I'd been kicked off of Programs Board."

Levin said that, although he did miss two Programs Board meetings this semester, he notified Harvey both times of his absence and claimed that she said at the time that it was okay. Levin also said that he was not aware of the two meeting policy before his termination, and that although he had missed other Programs Board events, he rarely if

ever saw other members of the Board at Coffeehouse.

Levin believes that there are no solid reasons for his termination and that the reasons for it are likely related to a personal issue with another member of the Board. Junior Dave Gittes, who Levin said had "been involved with everything from the beginning", added that Levin had attended peer mediation for the issue and that both he and Levin believed the issue was settled at its conclusion. However, Levin said that even after the mediation, he felt ostracized

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by the Board.

Harvey, however, gave a much different timeline of events. According to her, Reid was provided with the Programs Board Mission Statement, Goals and Expectations during the first week of last semester. She added that she and Programs Board coordinator Clint Neill became concerned about the fact that Levin neglected to fill out a number of evaluation forms for Coffeehouse events and missed two meetings, a Coffeehouse, and a Programs Board mini-retreat on Jan. 29; she added that although he warned Harvey of his absences, he did so either immediately before or during events.

That following day, Harvey said she and Clint met with Levin to discuss his lack of attendance, but the situation did not improve and Levin missed a third meeting. Additionally, though Levin said that many of these absences were the result of illness, Harvey claims that other members of Programs Board informed her that they saw Levin out at parties on days he claimed to be ill. She said, "I felt like he'd been lying to [Neill] and I the whole time."

According to Harvey, this, combined with what she termed "consistently poor communication" regarding event planning and Levin's inability to help at welcome-back events at the beginning of this semester, led to his termination. She also said that his termination had nothing to do with any personal issues with the Board or its members. "Although Reid held several excellent Coffeehouse programs," she said, "there is a lot of behind the scenes work

that Programs Board members must do in order to maintain their position on Programs Board."

Complicating the matter further, a swarm of rumors began to surround the incident almost immediately after Levin's termination. One of these, according to Levin, was that he quit Programs Board on his own volition. Levin said that this is completely untrue, and that he has repeatedly tried to tell people that he was terminated, and did not quit. Levin said, "I essentially want people...to know that I still want to do Coffeehouse." Harvey said she was unaware of the origins of these rumors, and said she had immediately informed all members of Programs Board of her decision (and her reasoning for it) shortly after making it.

More troubling, perhaps, are the rumors that Levin drained the Coffeehouse budget, causing the program to have to go on semi-hiatus during April. According to a Programs Board balance sheet provided by Levin, the Coffeehouse was allocated \$5,500 for fiscal year 2010-2011. Of that \$5,500, Levin claims that \$1,000 was spent prior to his knowledge by Harvey for the band Pearl and the Beard at the beginning of the school year. Levin used that money to book six bands, including Holy F**k, his most expensive band at \$1,500. However, Levin said that the Holy F**k's performance brought out some of the highest attendance in Coffeehouse history, and he believed the booking was justified as a result.

About \$1,890 of the budget was left over at the end of last semester, and after the booking of three separate bands this

year the budget still contained \$490, with which Levin said he was "completely comfortable" completing the rest of the year's Coffeehouse events. Harvey, however, pointed out that the stated budget was actually \$100 less as a result of an unreported receipt for the reward gift card for AirBands.

Gittes is also upset about the Student Government Association's (SGA) handling of the issue and the fact that Levin's termination was not mentioned by Harvey at the SGA meeting the following Tuesday. He said, "[Harvey] is required to discuss Programs Board activities; she did not. [It was] business as usual, which was the most perturbing part." Gittes also said that he considered discussion he had witnessed on Facebook about Levin's termination obscene and uncouth.

Harvey said that she did in fact report that the Board was looking for a new Publicity chair at the meeting, but did not mention Levin specifically because she felt uncomfortable doing so with him and his friends in attendance. She added that she believes in retrospect she should have done so.

Despite these issues, some students have stated that Levin's actual work on Coffeehouse was exemplary. Gittes for example, pointed out that the Coffeehouse chair is only required to have one Coffeehouse a month; Levin had one every week, except in cases of inclement weather. Dom Morris, in an unpublished editorial for The Point News, said, "I can honestly say that this year has held some of the best, and most well-put together Coffeehouse events that I have seen during my time

at SMCM...I have watched Reid plan these events with great care and effort, I've watched him work hard to run the events, and most importantly, I've observed how much it meant to him." Harvey also said that Levin's work, up to the current semester, was "phenomenal", and added, "I'm really upset this

had to happen."

Harvey said that Coffeehouse will continue to run until the end of March with the Battle of the Bands and a concert for Invisible Children, but will be put on hiatus during April because of the large amount of other programs being offered around campus.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JEAN-PIERRE ALFRED

Students competing in The Toughest Student Challenge faced physical and mental stresses meant to "weed out" the group.

Students Challenged Mentally and Physically

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to be here, because once you put some of these guys in water, they quit. What you're left with is the team, and at the end of it, the team comes together. Always."

"We don't care if you can run six minute miles. What we care about is leaders. Let's see how you take the most broken, beat down individual that just doesn't want to finish and make them finish. Its definitely all about leadership."

Many of those who participated in the challenge took turns as leaders of the group, motivating and carrying their team through each obstacle. The challenge lasted for each team as long as it took for them to work together as one. The first class started at 10 p.m., and went until 5:30 a.m. the next morning.

"I was in a leadership position for a while," sophomore Emily Burdeshaw said. "It didn't strike me until later in the challenge that even as a leader you had to be a part of the team and assign subordinate positions. We had puzzles

that the leader had to figure out; meanwhile the team was doing flutter kicks and bear-crawls, which is really painful. That was stressful. You definitely had to think on your feet."

Students were encouraged to have water, a windbreaker, headlight, some type of "Under-Armour" garment, and a Camelbak. Safety was a priority during the challenge, and those that were underprepared or couldn't safely complete the challenge were asked to quit. Nonetheless, the two-week event proved to be an unforgettable experience for those involved.

"It was probably one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had," Burdeshaw said. "You couldn't be an individual - you had to be a part of the team. It was something we learned pretty quickly."

"The physical stuff was definitely hard, but the hardest part was keeping up the 'we can do this' attitude. A lot of the people I talked to on the team agreed: give us a month, and we'd definitely do it again."

Student Opinions about Chick-fil-A

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campus.

One student said, "[Chick-fil-A] can do whatever they want." This comment then brought many people to raise their hands to respond. Many describe how they felt that Chick-fil-A violated the "safe space" policy which made them feel uncomfortable.

There was some discussion about bringing another vendor to campus to balance Chick-fil-A. However, several members of the community felt that keeping Chick-fil-A on campus would not solve the fundamental problem at hand. One professor said it would only "skirt the main question."

Nitze Scholar Discusses Social Media, Internet Influence in Politics

By ALEX WALLS
Staff Writer

The internet has radically changed modern life in ways unimagined even a couple of years ago. Over the last few months, the world has witness these radical changes in the form of revolution and social upheaval. As a response to the recent uprisings in the Middle East, many have begun to explore the role of social medial in the political sphere and how these cultures have use it for the advancement of their political agendas.

One person who has been exploring this topic closely is this year's Nitze Senior Fellow, Nicholas Thompson. Michael Taber, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, introduced Thompson, who is also the grandson of the late diplomat and Board of Trustee member Paul H. Nitze, to a crowd of approximately 60 students, staff, and community members.

While the topic and discussion remained serious, Thompson did spend some time joking around. The line "this is the largest group of people besides family reunions that can pronounce my grandfather's name" received laughter from the audience.

As a senior editor at The New Yorker and a contributing editor at Bloomberg Television, Thompson has been studying the current crisis in the Middle East in great detail. He explained to the audience that an increase in technology would most likely lead to an increase of democracy and freedom. By using examples like the Tunisian and Egyptian revolts,

After the talk, Anderson described the dilemma and said, "we seem to have clarified what the crux of the issue is; that is, we have to decide as a community whether by maintaining our contract with CFA we compromise a set of our institutional values, in particular our commitments to diversity and social responsibility."

As the forum came to a close, many remarked on the civility that was shown by all who participated. One member of SDS was "glad we could have a dialogue." There was also agreement that it was good that both sides were present to voice their concerns. Anderson summed up both arguments by

saying some members see "Chick-fil-A as encouraging the violation of human rights and [that the college] should end its contract with the company," while others "do not see Chick-fil-A as implicated in human rights violations [and] see no problem with continuing to do business with them." Anderson continued, "that's the dilemma we have to resolve."

In the end, the dilemma remained unsolved. However, many expressed hope that this could be how problems in the future would be resolved. Senior Paul Sauchelli, of Students for a Democratic Society, said the forum will "set a future precedent for future discussions."

Thompson described how the citizens of these countries used social media like Facebook and Twitter to organize themselves effectively.

The internet is becoming "the great liberalizer," he said. It allows people to find others who believe in the same causes. When people discover others who believe the same thing they do, it invokes a higher level of passion. "You see support of your ideas by other people which then intensifies your own passions" said Thompson. "Once you see you are not alone, it is easier to become embolden by the additional support."

The internet also has no "gate keeper," therefore, governments no longer have control over information within any country. Thompson explains that "By creating anonymous blogs, pages, and websites, the state no longer has a monopoly on information." Once information flows freely to the people, the government has a harder time upholding the veneer of the state.

However, Thompson then explored the reason and ways internet may actually harm the causes of revolutionaries. "It is very easy to create the illusion of activism on the internet" said Thompson, "revolutions are started by those who have strong connections with others that they will be willing to die for." Even though a revolutionary group may have millions of followers, there is little tying these people together. The internet causes people to work less and create weak connections amongst each other: two traits that usually lead to fail revolts.

Thompson also said conversations are less developed and intelligent. Since a person can hide behind their computer and anonymous name, they can say anything that pleases them. This leads to arguments that spiral out of control as the passions of the participants overtake their reason. The internet is also seen as a less serious forum for interaction. "People who are on the internet for 10 hours are not looked highly upon," said Thompson, "especially when they are on LOLcats."

At the end of the talk, there was no answer about whether the internet is good or bad. Thompson concluded that he did not know. "The internet gives more power to the youth since they understand the new social tools of the day," said Thompson. "However, the internet makes us more tribal." Since people read the articles and blogs that agree with them, they are more likely to only receive half the story or one side of the argument.

The talk was well received by those present. It was "fascinating, deeply knowledgeable," according to Julia Bates, who continued by saying that it will make her think about the new role of social media. Sophomore Marty McGowan seconded that comment by saying it was a "very informative talk, relative to the political movement of the day." There was also praise for Thompson and his speaking style. "He was extraordinary well-spoken and delightful to listen to," said first-year Claire Kortyna.

Weiner Jewish Studies Fund to be Discontinued

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already taxed operating budget where no such cost existed before.

For the Philosophy and Religious Studies department, this position helped to round out the course offerings to give Religious Studies students a good grounding in the three Abrahamic faiths. With the position gone, Urgo wrote, "the Religious Studies Department may be able to place some of the courses in Judaic Studies into its course cycle, to be taught by other faculty members."

Junior Keith Colson learned about the discontinuation of the chair from one of the visiting professors in the department. A Religious Studies major, he is concerned about the quality of education that the department will offer without the chair. He says, "We are an already small department.... You would not ask an astronomy professor to cover for a geology professor and expect their exper-

tise in the one field to be sufficient to cover the other. Religious studies is no different." Keith also said he was worried that he had to find out about this position being discontinued from word of mouth, rather than from a school-wide announcement. He said, "This really affects my education, and I would have liked to have heard someone address this." Keith has been organizing an email-writing campaign to Urgo "to let him know that we care that this is happening.... Concerned students can write an email to President Urgo to let him know this is something we care about."

There are a number of other endowed chair positions at the College, according to the academic catalog, but the Judaic Studies endowed position is the most specific and specialized of these positions. The other positions, in contrast, deal more broadly with honoring faculty with achievements in the liberal arts and sciences.

Film Brings Local Practice Under Scrutiny

By JULIA ANDRADE ROCHA
Features Editor

On March 9, the *Facing Fences* project and the Campus Community Farm held a screening of *Fresh*, a film on agriculture and the food system in the U.S.

Fresh explained many of the problems pointed out by Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and the recent film *Food, Inc.*, such as the dangers of monocultures, farms that lack biological diversity. However, the film focused on the ways some farmers address these problems.

Many farmers who attempt to combat this, such as Joel Salatin, focus on organic production with a diverse crop. Salatin runs Polyface Farm in Virginia

and raises chickens and cattle. His farm, which he inherited from his father, has not used chemical fertilizer for 50 years; instead Salatin uses waste from his cattle and chickens to fertilize his crops and pastures.

Will Allen, Director of Growing Power, an urban farm in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, similarly combats the current food system. He runs workshops in the urban farm, showing local com-

munity members how they can utilize vertical space and make compost in order to grow their own food.

As many farmers from the local community attended, a subsequent discussion led by Christine Bergmark from the Southern Maryland Agricultural Commission focused on local agriculture in St. Mary's County. Bergmark pointed out that though Southern Maryland does not have industrial farms such as those pointed out in the film, 375,000 acres of farmland have been

lost to development in the past decade. As for local food on campus, senior Tess Wier, president of the Campus Community Farm, explained that the Farm has had difficulties developing a relationship with Bon Appetit due to insurance issues. Local farmer Brett Grohsgal, co-owner of Even*Star Farm, responded, "Your local Bon Appetit leaves everything to be desired."

Grohsgal, who used to sell produce to the College's branch of Bon Appetit, said that changes in management in the past few years led to many local farmers being "pushed out" from a relationship with the local Bon Appetit. Even*Star currently sells produce to the Bon Appetit branch at American University, where Grohsgal said his experience has been nothing but positive. However, he said Bon Appetit at St. Mary's has required local farmers to "jump through too many hoops" in order to maintain their contracts. Grohsgal said one farmer was asked to obtain humane certification in order to continue selling his eggs; such a certification would have required him to build a roof over his 18 acre pasture, Grohsgal said.

"They have more words than actions," said Grohsgal, referencing Bon Appetit's mission to buy most of its food from local sources. He added that there are "so many local farmers trying" to sell produce to the College. Students interested in purchasing local food produced in Southern Maryland can go to societyofgood.com in order to find local farmers' markets or farms that participate in community-supported agriculture.



PHOTO BY DAVE CHASE

Christine Bergmark and Brett Grohsgal, co-owners of Even*Star Farm, have sold produce to the College's Bon Appetit in the past. However, Grohsgal explained that many local farmers find the management difficult to deal with.

Students Ask for Recognition in Film

By MARIA SMALDONE
Staff Writer

On March 8, the Center for the Study of Democracy invited the students of St. Mary's to Cole Cinema for a showing of the documentary *Papers: Stories of Undocumented Youth*. The film chronicles the lives of five high school or post-high school students who have enough accolades and academic integrity to attend college, but cannot do so because they are illegal immigrants.

To preface the documentary, José Ballesteros, Associate Professor of Spanish, said that there are "ten-thousand students raised [in the U.S.] illegally who have a limited access to jobs and education" after they graduate from high school. The showing of the film coincided with the Maryland General Assembly's consideration of the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act. Presently, illegal immigrants who are accepted into state colleges must pay out-of-state tuition, even if they have lived in Maryland for years. Maryland's version of the DREAM Act would make illegal immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children eligible for in-state tuition. The DREAM Act rejected by Congress last year would have made two years in college or two years in the military a step towards gaining citizenship.

Papers follows five students on their search for post-high school success.

Monica is a giggly teenager who hopes to marry her boyfriend in the near future. However, threats of deportation to Guatemala make her worry about staying with him in the country she calls home.

Jorge is an outspoken young man who struggles with two minority statuses as an illegal Latino immigrant and a homosexual. Yo Sub is a Korean high school student and a National AP Scholar. All twelve colleges he applied to rejected his application because of his illegal status. Simone, who moved to the U.S. from Jamaica as a child, is barred from attending college and takes dead-end jobs with meager pay—the only jobs employers are willing to give to an illegal immigrant. Juan overcomes his initial disinterest with school in order to fulfill his promise to his mother that he would earn a high school diploma. However, he wonders what is next for him after high school.

The documentary notes how these students do what the government tells them to: stay out of trouble, stay in school, and work hard. Their efforts go unrewarded; the government refuses to grant them access to citizenship, let alone a college education. The film notes that the federal government guarantees secondary education for illegal immigrants, but does not provide for these same students in their college careers.

The citizenship issue ties in with the DREAM Act because illegal immigrants

who were brought to the U.S. as children have a harder time gaining citizenship than their parents. Undocumented immigrants usually ask for asylum from the government or get help from family members who already live in the country. Without these conditions, the citizenship process is very difficult to navigate.

Papers describes how immigrants built and shaped the United States economy from its earliest days—African slavery was a forced immigration that greatly fueled North and South America's economies, and Irish and Chinese immigrants built railroads in the U.S. a few centuries later. The film explains immigration history to show how the U.S., "a country of immigrants," is so ironically unwelcoming and inflexible towards its new inhabitants.

The documentary ended hopefully, with undocumented students from all over the country staging a mock graduation in Washington, D.C. in support of the DREAM Act that was voted down in Congress. Four out of the five students interviewed in the film were attending or already graduated from college.

After the film, Ballesteros introduced the discussion panel: Anthony Colon, a "foremost diversity advocate" and lawyer who brought educational reform to the Latino/a community; Elias Vlanton, whom Ballesteros described as "the most caring educator" he ever met, is

TROUT & MATH

By STEVE REES
News Co-Editor

As part of the Natural Science and Mathematics Colloquium, American University mathematics professor Dan Kalman, father of St. Mary's graduate Chris Kalman '05, presented *Province of Polynomia – Uncommon Excursions for the Seasoned Visitor* on Feb. 28. On March 9, Susquehanna University professor and St. Mary's graduate Jonathan Niles brought the audience back to the United States with a discussion of trout-stream ecology in his lecture *Riparian Forest and Stream Interactions: The Importance of Terrestrial Invertebrates to Brook Trout in Appalachian Streams*. Introduced by mathematics professor Alex Meadows, Kalman began his presentation with a discussion of roots and polynomials, intended for a mixed audience of students, faculty, and community members with varied understandings of Kalman's field.

Creating a mathematical world known as "Polynomia" as a means of organizing his lecture, Kalman explained how polynomials have roots, or powers of one that satisfy the polynomial if they replace the variable "x", usually when the polynomial is set to equal zero.

He showed the audience how to use such knowledge by solving any polynomial $p(x)$, where $p(x)$ was a polynomial with any degree of non-negative integer coefficients, simply by knowing what the polynomial would equal if "x" was replaced by one and what it would be if that solution also replaced "x".

For those not math-savvy in the audience, Kalman showed that if an equation $p(x)$ was modified so that "x" was replaced by "1/x", the numbers in front of those variables would all switch in sequence once the equation was set up as a fraction, with the denominator being the highest-powered "x" variable.

"It's not as applicable as a talk about trout," said Kalman, foreshadowing the following week's lecture with Niles, but nonetheless seemed to be an effective application of the concept.

Continuing with a discussion of curly roots to solve cubic polynomials, Newtonian identities, synthetic division to divide equations, binary powering as a means of representing

functions, and Lill's Method as an older, graphical method of solving a polynomial's roots, Kalman concluded with an important point for all math and non-math venturers of Polynomia.

"There are many more Polynomia destinations," he said. "I hope you come again soon."

The following week, Niles continued the series with his discussion of a very different area of research: how the plant and animal life on the banks of streams have a major influence on the ecology of aquatic organisms. Introduced by biology professor Bob Paul as a former student of Paul's Limnology class, Niles began with a discussion of what is a riparian forest.

"Most people think that 'riparian' refers to the long stretch [of land] on the side of the stream ... but this is not the case," said Niles. "It does run parallel, but also is dependent on the land up the slopes. It is bidirectional."

After previous research showed that the energy in streams on the west coast of the United States was not sufficient to support the large fish population, and that riparian organisms landing in the stream for fish consumption were taking up the energy requirements, Niles tested this idea with brook trout populations in Appalachian streams.

He prepared eight streams, four with 50 percent of the canopy around the streams cut and four with 90 percent of the canopy cut, with an uncut region to serve as a control, to observe the change in diets of the brook trout over an almost one-month period. He did so by observing internal stomach contents via gastric lavage (flooding of the body with water to induce regurgitation).

Niles determined there was a higher amount of terrestrial biomass in trout from the uncut regions compared to the 90 percent cut regions, indicating the importance of riparian life on trout diets. "Niles showed an interesting relationship between terrestrial invertebrates and the ecosystem," said biology and biochemistry major Luke Trout, junior, "but there seemed to be a lot of variables that would make me question the validity of the experiment."

The next NS&M lecture will be on March 23 by SUNY-Potsdam mathematics professor Joel Foisy.

a social studies teacher to immigrant students at Bladensburg High School in Prince George's County; Angie Gutierrez, a junior at Bladensburg High School and an undocumented immigrant from Guatemala, is also the president of her class and the first sophomore in her high school to earn a score of five on an Advanced Placement exam.

Vlanton began the discussion, saying that he "thought the film was very powerful." He explained that the U.S. "wanted workers, and what [it] got was people" who are in need of basic human rights. He reiterated the film's notion that "everyone benefits from blue-collar workers," and the disintegration of the DREAM Act would "suppress a vast chunk of the [U.S.] labor force."

Gutierrez commented that she can not afford to pay out-of-state tuition at Maryland state universities, and found

watching the film with her mother to be "very emotional."

Colon, a Latino, began his reflection on the film by recalling a time when he was in Leonardtown, MD around 30 years ago and was told to walk on the opposite side of the street in order to avoid "trouble." He admits that the issue of undocumented immigration has "a lot of gray." However, he attributes the government's unwillingness to promote the DREAM Act to "benign racism," meaning unintentional racism that is not overtly malicious. Instead, it is shown in subtle ways like the hindrance of the DREAM Act or being told to walk on the opposite side of the street.

The DREAM Act under consideration in Maryland was recently approved by the Maryland State Senate on March 15 and the bill will soon move to the Maryland House of Delegates.

TRAVELING: CONFIDENCE WITH A SIDE OF NUTELLA

Submitted By ANNA DAVIS
Class of 2012

One of the greatest opportunities studying abroad in Europe has given me is the ability to travel the world. Traveling across the Atlantic to Europe is ridiculously expensive, but once already in Europe, getting around is simple.

Just last week, during Trinity's week long break, I traveled to Paris, Brussels, Bruges, and Amsterdam for far less than I would have had I been traveling from the States. Ryanair is a budget airline that allows me to get from Dublin to almost anywhere for less than thirty euro, and even to

London for under ten (they do have strict carry-on restrictions and charges for checked bags, but it is definitely worth the sacrifice). Trains in Europe are also very easy to use. After flying to Paris, we rode the high-speed Thalys train to our destinations. It is fast (obviously), convenient, and fairly priced.

Traveling abroad with friends instead of parents is a very liberating experience. Before studying abroad, I had never planned a trip without my parents, and rarely even helped my parents when they were planning our family vacations.

For last week's trip, I traveled with two other American girls also studying abroad at Trinity this semester. We

planned our flights, trains, and hostel reservations without the help of any parents and also managed to navigate non-English speaking countries without assistance. This is something that I never thought I would be able to do. Before this trip, I had never been to a non-English speaking country before, but now I am confident in my ability to survive in a city no matter the language or location. Hand me a city and metro map, and I am good to go. A brochure of tourist attractions is always helpful, too.

Traveling to four foreign cities in a week can be nerve-wracking, exhausting, and even terrifying at times, but in the end, it is all worth it. I independently

managed to navigate the Paris metro and its winding streets, with only a semester of French under my belt. I managed to keep a cool head when we were stranded in Paris for a night with nowhere to sleep after realizing that we had arrived in the city too late to catch the airport shuttle.

I even successfully ordered a delicious plate of Belgian waffles doused in Nutella and whipped cream with a little bit of broken French and a lot of pointing. I was nervous before leaving for this trip, but now I feel confident that I can travel anywhere.

While traveling, there is never time to take a break and relax one's mind. Break time is planning time, and if the

planning is done, then that means it must be time to get that measly six hours of sleep before waking up at the crack of dawn the next day to beat all the tourist lines.

I always thought that spending a semester abroad would make me feel more confident and independent. After my trip, I know this to be fact. I would definitely recommend spending a semester abroad, especially if it means traveling, to anyone who wants a confidence boost. I used to be worried about living on my own after college, but now I know that I will be able to handle any obstacle put in my way.

Gray-Street Talks Poetry and Environmentalism



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

Laura Gray-Street visited St. Mary's in order to read some of her works about love, family, and environment for the VOICES Series.

By KEVIN BAIER
Online and Advertising Manager

On Thursday, March 3, Laura Gray-Street, a visitor to artist house, spoke to St. Mary's students and faculty with poetry about love, family, and the environment in Daugherty-Palmer Commons (DPC).

Professing her love of St. Mary's pond and shoreline management, Gray-Street told students that her use of "scattervision" when writing poetry was augmented by the St. Mary's atmosphere.

She began her reading with poems titled "Meet Me at the Speed of Light," "Vertigo," "First Lessons of Bee Keeping," and "Ring Necks."

"Meet me" entwined the science of genes and natural processes with the search for knowledge and the meaning of soul.

"Vertigo" carried undertones of parenting and its successes; "First Lessons" dealt with the tantric nature of change and youth/growing-up; and "Ring Necks" focused on

using the poetry of "other."

Gray-Street's poetry masterfully mixed scientific fact with artistic exploration. Junior Gursharan Kaur Bawa said her poetry was "really intriguing...[by] mixing science with art."

Gray-Street mentioned that her poetry is driven by, among other things, the examination of human & industrial waste problems versus the beauty and preservation of nature.

Senior Anina Tardif-Douglin said her most pervasive theme was "definitely nature...kind of a fear of the diminishment of nature," and that "she uses such scientific language and...she makes it sound evocative."

Gray-Street continued her reading with a story of how she hates using syntactic expletives in her poetry but worked hard to write a poem using them as the central poetic device.

She also spoke of her writings of dark poetry which focused on social ills. She wrote on topics

such as animal cruelty, war, and childhood delinquency.

Gray-Street then read a poem satirizing the existence of a tank stuck in a river for nearly 20 years. She later commented that her love for the environment, being the most foundational theme of her writing, is why she wrote this and many of her other poems.

Senior Sasha Todak said "her poetry reveals environmental issues that become accessible to any person."

Gray-Street concluded her reading with two "ekphrastic poems": "On Michael Stringer's Microphotograph: Crain Fly," and "Goya's Dog."

'Crain fly' focused on the beauty and complexity of all species, even the smallest and 'Goya's Dog' was more personal with tales of Gray-Street's parents, her family dog, and the power of symmetry in the universe.

Todak said, "It wasn't just a poetry reading, it was a literary and scientific performance."

Rabbit Proof Fence Ties Australian Aboriginal History with "Facing Fences" Exhibit

By JESSY SCHROEDER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

On March 2 the SGA Programs Board Lecture Committee hosted a showing in the Campus Center's Cole Cinema of the Australian film *Rabbit Proof Fence* in conjunction with the "Facing Fences" exhibit that just finished its stay at Montgomery Hall's Boyden Gallery.

The film, based on a true story, told the tale of the early-to-middle 20th Century in Australia when the Aborigines Act was in place. Considered at the time to be a lesser race than White Australians, children that were of mixed races, which were labeled as either half-caste or quarter-caste, were taken from their homes and taught to live like White Australians.

These children came to be known as part of the Stolen Generation in Australia. At the time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, who are the indigenous people of Australia and the Torres Strait, were considered to be of a much lower class to all whites because of their skin colors.

Rabbit Proof Fence, which premiered in 2002, has been able to enlighten much of the rest of the world on just some of the extreme injustices done to many of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the past.

This particular story followed three little girls (Molly, Grace, and Daisy) as they were ripped

from their mothers' arms and were taken to the Moore River Native Settlement. There they lived with others of mixed races, ranging from infants to preteens, and were told to forget everything about their own languages and cultures.

Instead they were made to learn better English, practice Christianity, study English songs, and adopt the cultural practices of White Australians. If they disobeyed, they were tortured with solitary confinement within a wooden shelter placed outside.

Upset at being so far from their mothers and own cultures, the young girls embarked on a 1200-mile journey to find their way home to the Jigalong country where their community lived. In order to find their way back, they were able to follow the extensive "rabbit proof fence" that had been constructed across Australia in order to keep agricultural pests out of parts of Western Australia.

This film, therefore, complimented the traveling exhibit of "Facing Fences" by showing a way in which fences can work with or against people and nature. "Fences are supposed to keep civilization on one side and wilderness over here," said Professor of English Robin Bates. "That is the irony of the fence, though. The children use the very fence as their ally, as though nature has found a way to use the very barriers of civilization."

The boundaries and fences in

the film not only are the physical ones that kept out the rabbits, but also are the social ones that separated those of white skin from those of all other skin colors.

"We chose the films because it seemed pertinent," said senior Lawrence MacCurtain, the Student Government Association Programs Board Lectures Chair. "In my mind the film personifies the themes of the 'Facing Fences' exhibit, namely, the role of boundaries or border, be they imaginary or tangible, in shaping communities."

Though only viewed by around thirty students within Cole Cinema, all those that came out to watch the film appeared to become greatly involved in the story that was revealed on the screen.

While some students claimed to not even know what *Rabbit Proof Fence* was about when they arrived to the theater, they soon became enthralled with the journey that the girls took and steadily grew irate with the character of Mr. Neville, who was in charge of keeping the girls at the Moore River Native Settlement. Many gasps of anger were emitted, along with hushed curses at the persistent Mr. Neville.

"It isn't that Australians are bad," stated Executive Director of Historic St. Mary's City Regina Faden. "We all have fences. The entire exhibit is thinking about in your [own] community what separates us."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: WHAT'S GOING ON THESE NEXT WEEKS?

Friday,
March 25

2:00 PM
Religious
Tolerance in Early
America Lecture
Cole Cinema

3:00 PM
Student Music
Recital
Montgomery Hall 25

Saturday,
March 26

3:30 PM
Presidential
Inauguration of
Joseph R. Urgo
Townhouse Greens

All Day Event
Maryland Day
Celebration
Historic St. Mary's
City

Sunday,
March 27

1:00 PM
Sunday Clean-
Up with Keep St.
Mary's Beautiful
Meet at Campus
Center

Monday,
March 28

4:40 PM
Lecture by Senior
Nitze Fellow
Auerbach
Auditorium, St.
Mary's Hall

Tuesday,
March 29

All Day Advising
No Classes

Thursday,
March 31

6:30 PM
"War of 1812:
Chesapeake's
Forgotten War"
Lecture
Auerbach
Auditorium, St.
Mary's Hall

8:15 PM
VOICES Reading
with Daniel Groves
Daugherty-Palmer
Commons

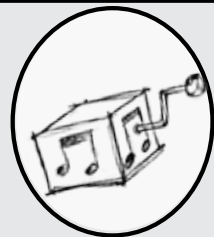
Friday,
April 1

8:00 PM
SMCM Jazz Combo
Montgomery Hall 25

Sunday,
April 3

2:00 PM
Walk a Mile in
Her Shoes, Sexual
Assault Awareness
St. Mary's College of
Maryland track

1:00 PM
Sunday Clean-
Up with Keep St.
Mary's Beautiful
Meet at Campus
Center



MUSIC
BOX

Sick Puppies

Rams Head Live, Baltimore on Wednesday,
March 23 @ 7 p.m.

Dance Gavin Dance

Rams Head Live, Baltimore on Thursday, March
24 @ 7 p.m.

Cold War Kids

9:30 Club, DC on Saturday, March 26 @ 8 p.m.

Razzmatazz Dance Night

Black Cat, DC on Saturday, March 26 @ 9:30
p.m.

Lost in the Trees

Black Cat, DC on Monday, March 26 @ 9 p.m.

The Dirty Work Tour feat. All Time Low

9:30 Club, DC on Monday, March 28 @ 5:30 p.m.

Cut Copy

9:30 Club, DC on Tuesday and Wednesday, March
29 and 30 @ 7 p.m.

Papercuts

Black Cat, DC on Wednesday, March 30 @ 9 p.m.

Who's Bad: The World's #1 Michael Jackson Tribute Band

Rams Head Live, Baltimore on Friday, Apr. 1 @ 8 p.m.

No Scrubs: 90's Dance Party

9:30 Club, DC on Saturday, Apr. 2 @ 9 p.m.

-Illustration by Peter Lance

SEAHAWK BASKETBALL MAKES IT TO THE NCAA SEMIFINALS

By STEVE REES
News Co-Editor

After a Capital Athletic Conference victory on Feb. 26 and subsequent NCAA victories in its first three tournament matches, St. Mary's ended its run in the championship with a loss to Middlebury College that, despite being unfortunate, was a landmark game for the Seahawks as its first entry in the Elite Eight of men's basketball.

The Seahawks began the race for the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship with a conference victory on Feb. 26, defeating the Wolverines of Wesley College 97-65 with a strong victory in the CAC championship game. Wesley, No. 2 in the conference, began the game with a 0-7 lead over St. Mary's before sophomore guard Chris Hutchinson made the first score for the home team.

With exceptionally strong performances by senior center Sam Burum, junior guards Mikey Fitzpatrick and James Davenport, and senior guard Alex Franz, the team held a 47-20 advantage over the visitors by halftime, and held their victory with a 50-45 performance in the second half to bring the final score to 97-65, St. Mary's.

Now automatically entered in the NCAA championship with other top-performing colleges in the country, the Seahawks faced their first-round competitors less than a week later. St. Mary's handed visiting Medgar Evers College a 72-55 loss on March 4,

but with a game much closer in score compared to the previous week's Wesley game. Competing shot-for-shot with the Cougars, the Seahawks held a slim one-point advantage by the 36-35 halftime, and after a few minutes into the second half, Medgar Evers came up with a 44-42 lead. This spurred the College into action, and after a 21-0 run by St. Mary's in a nine-minute time frame, the Seahawks held a lead that was not challenged by the 72-55 conclusion.

In the second NCAA championship round and fight for a place in the Sweet Sixteen, St. Mary's took on 2010 Final Four contestant Randolph-Macon College in another game on the home courts. This time, St. Mary's did not start slow at the starting buzzer, taking a 12-2 lead that never switched in favor of the Yellow Jackets.

Ending halftime with a 34-21 lead, the Seahawks continued a strong performance into the second half, ending the game with a 68-53 victory after a 34-32 second-half performance. Burum scored 15 points during the game, followed closely by Franz's 13 and first-year center Christian MacAuley's 12.

St. Mary's made the eight-hour bus trip to the University of Rochester, NY, on May 11 to face Buffalo State College in a fight for the Elite Eight sectional finals position.

While being on the away court of the Louis Alexander Palestra, the Seahawks did not slow their stride against the Bengals, taking a 40-32 lead by halftime that

culminated into a 85-74 victory after a 45-42 second-half performance. While the 40-32 halftime score was a struggled, back-and-forth exchange of leads between both teams, a three-pointer by junior guard Deon Queen with 58 seconds on the clock spurred the Seahawks to push forward to a 8-0 scoring lead, an attitude that held in the second half as St. Mary's sealed its first-ever entry into the NCAA Elite Eight.

Unfortunately for the Seahawks, their run for the NCAA championship was halted after a disappointing loss to the Middlebury Panthers the following night in Rochester, as a 27-25 lead in the first half sank into a 40-23 performance by the Panthers that gave Middlebury the 65-50 win it needed for Final Four entry.

While Franz scored 16 points during the game and Hutchinson 10, it was not enough to hold a second-half victory. Middlebury lead in rebounds, assists, turnovers, and bench points despite being closely followed by the College, and moved on to a close 57-59 loss to the University of St. Thomas Tommies at the Salem Civic Center in Salem, VA, in the semifinals race.

The Seahawks impressively ended the 2011 season 25-6, with 14-2 conference and 15-0 home-game spreads and the first-ever Elite Eight achievement.

The team will return to the courts next Fall in the hopes of progressing even further in the 2012 NCAA Championship.

Men's Baseball Shows Great Promise

By HANNAH GRABENSTEIN
Opinions Editor

Though the 2010 baseball season left something to be desired for St. Mary's fans, the Seahawks seemed to have turned things around. This year, 22 games into the season with at least 12 left to go, St. Mary's has a winning record with 13 wins and nine losses, and is 6-6 in conference play, a considerable upswing from last year's final record.

In 2010, the Seahawks had a 9-24 season and lost their last eight games, five of which were at home. However, 2011 already seems like a more promising season; the Seahawks have won their last three games, all away, against York College of Pennsylvania. Sophomore pitcher Wick Eisenberg said, "This season has been a drastic improvement from last year. We already have more wins than we did last year, have a .500 record in the conference and all around have been playing much better baseball. So far, the team has been very pleased with our progress."

Though there have been some considerable losses, such as their 11-1 loss against Salisbury on March 5, the Seahawks have also chalked up some incredible wins. In both of their games on Feb. 19 in the Hawk's Nest against City College of New York, which ended in seven innings each, St. Mary's dominated. In the first game, the Seahawks home opener for which President Joseph Urgo threw the first pitch, St. Mary's scored seven runs with two outs in the first inning, and only progressed from there. Senior second baseman

Matt Baden, senior first baseman Ian Simpson-Shelton, and first-year first baseman Alex Lenovitz each had four RBIs. The final score was 25-2, with two triples and seven doubles. In their second game, the Seahawks drove in 10 runs for a 10-6 win in seven innings.

Since those two wins, St. Mary's has had 10 more wins and seven losses, including their most recent three game domination over York.

Another important win for the Seahawks was a 5-1 victory in the first game in the Hawk's Nest against their rival, No. 21 Salisbury University. Though they lost the next two games at Salisbury, Eisenberg described this as a huge win for the Seahawks, saying "Salisbury, a big rival of ours, was ranked in the top 25 heading into the game, and our ace [sophomore] Devon Jerrard pitched a complete game gem, leading us to a 5-1 victory."

When thinking about the future, Eisenberg said, "Going forward, our main goal is to continue winning. If we do this, a lot falls into place for us; we can qualify for the CAC playoffs, and go deep in the tournament, possibly winning it. We have pitchers in Jerrard, [junior] Mike Victory, and [senior] Barret Enix, who can pitch as well as anyone in the conference, and hitters like [sophomore] Corey Napier, [senior] Matt Baden, [senior] Bobby Corton who can produce for us in big games, so if those key players continue to step up for us, winning should be simple."

On March 22, the Seahawks play Washington College at 3:00 PM in the Hawk's Nest.

SMUT WINS: CAPTAINS REFLECT ON CHAMPIONSHIP

SUBMITTED BY BROOKE AUSTIN
St. Mary's Ultimate Team

It all started on a balmy Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. The St. Mary's Ultimate Team (SMUT) split into three teams, alumni, underclassmen, and upperclassmen. Our story follows the upperclassmen.

A team of eight girls and nine guys went on to do something the St. Mary's Ultimate Team has never done: win a tournament. With one day to play a round robin coed tournament, SMUT had their work cut out for them. They had to win four games out of their pool followed by two more to become

victors. No doubt, legs were tired and tempers ran high, as SMUT desperately tried to defend their home turf.

The morning started off quickly, as SMUT rolled past Catholic University 13-5. The team was feeling solid and was ready to play the much-anticipated match-up with the alumni team. Davey Clough, co-captain of the men's team, shares his thoughts on the matchup between the alumni team and the upperclassman team.

According to players, the game was friendly and joking between both teams but also very competitive. The home team was on the de-

fense, so they had to get a turnover and then capitalize on it - leading up to a layout catch in the endzone to end the game.

The game was, as players put it, "an epic battle that easily rivaled the Iliad", as the younger "SMUTTERS" came out on top. This game helped shape the rest of the day for SMUT.

They went into their bye round feeling good and seeing the light as they only had to be at Salisbury University and Liberty University to coast into the A bracket championships.

The Salisbury game proved to be difficult at first; however, SMUT came out on top 10-5. Liberty proved to be easy as SMUT won big 13-2. The team had plenty of opportunities to perfect their play as they prepared for the bracket play.

After reseeding all of the teams, SMUT upperclassmen were the easy favorites. They had a bye the first round, only to find themselves battling Loyola University. The game went back and forth for the first four points, until SMUT woke up and rallied.

"The whole time we were playing Loyola, we kept thinking about the coveted trophy that we desperately wanted to win," senior Lucia Randazzo said. "At halftime we got our heads realigned as we jumped around and sang our favorite SMUT cheer. This is the one thing we needed to get going again and show Loyola what's up."

SMUT went on to beat Loyola 10-5, to setup a matchup between Liberty's A team and themselves.

"We wanted this more than anything before," senior co-captain Brian van Parys said. "We wanted this tournament to be a springboard for the rest of the spring season and for Sectionals and we desperately wanted to bring home the

trophy."

Due to darkness the two teams decided to play the championship game to nine instead of 13. SMUT started off strong by utilizing all the players on their team. Elizabeth Bengel, a senior rookie on the girl's team was especially proud of that. "It was such an incredible experience to be a part of a team that fostered mutual respect of the male and female players."

The team was clearly feeling good as they started pulling out a little trickery for the crowd that gathered to watch the championship game. Tricky throws and gratuitous layouts were happening on every point. The defense was strong and was not allowing Liberty to score at all. The

final score was 9-0 in favor of SMUT making them the first ever team in SMUT history to win a tournament. "It was an incredible day full of ultimate, scoring, and hanging out with great friends," junior Chris Robinson said. "Winning the tournament will go down as one of my favorite memories of school history."

SMUT is continuing their winning ways as the men's team took home a first place trophy at the annual spring break tournament in Brunswick, Georgia. Come out to support your fellow SMUTTERS April 16 and 17 as they look to win their section and travel on to Buffalo, NY for ultimate nationals.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ST. MARY'S ULTIMATE TEAM

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YOU NEVER CAME TO THE FORUM

SUBMITTED BY PAUL SAUCHELLI
Class of 2011

This op-ed is addressed to all those who complain about the Chick-fil-A (CFA) protest. Much of what I say hereafter stems more from my personal feelings than from the agenda or rhetoric of SDS, so don't take this as a direct statement from the organization.

You need to realize that we didn't have to do this. The LGBTQ community could have written a letter to the Campus Store and administration months ago explaining, backed by factual evidence, why Chick-fil-A is an organization which, in many ways and on every level, not only is philosophically anti-homosexual but actually works to directly oppress and harm homosexual rights and mental well being (e.g. camps to 'cure' people of homosexuality).

Furthermore, sponsoring such an organization is in conflict with the expressly stated mission statement of our College, which has a significant homosexual population. We could have taken this product away a long time ago with no prior notice.

For example, those beer pong posters the campus store used to sell were taken off the shelves because one parent of a student wrote a letter that she was offended. Surely, if an entire demographic of students showed solidarity in staunch opposition to the presence of Chick-fil-A in the form of a written letter, the campus store would have obliged because of the aforementioned precedent.

But we are SDS: Students for a Democratic Society. It was for your edification and your right to dis-

agree that we organized this campus wide event. Yet, how many of you came to the forum? Not many. SDS has probably done more research than anyone else on this campus, besides STARS and a few others.

Some of the information I've heard people citing in opposition to the claim that CFA isn't working directly and indirectly to actually reverse the liberation of homosexuals have been blatantly false. Chick-fil-A as a corporation and the organizations it donates to work openly to oppress homosexuals in a very real way. It is beyond the scope of this op-ed to list their offenses, and maybe we should have another formal gathering where all information is collected and discussed, but trust me when I say the information is there. I'm more than willing to hear out someone who believes otherwise, but where have you been?

We are trying so hard to give you a chance to speak out and for you to really understand what we are fighting for, but so few people speak to us at our protest table in the Campus Center. Where are your op-eds? The Facebook conversation was pretty good but only good for so much. Most importantly, the faculty-sponsored forum seems to have been ignored by those who disagree.

What's more, you've done little to suggest possible alternatives, leaving it to us to figure out feasible replacements. Why would we bother to find a replacement? Because we respect your right to consumption and because we want to minimize the loss to the average student of

ASK MISS MEGHAN: SEXTING IS FINE, AS LONG AS IT'S CONSENSUAL AND LEGAL

By MEGHAN ROOT
Resident Sexpert

Dear Miss Meghan,
My boyfriend goes to another school and has been trying to get me to sext him. I don't know if I want to, am worried it will some how get out, or that I will be bad at it. Any advice?
-Susie Sexter

Dear Sexter,
The first thing I have to ask is are both you and your partner over the age of 18? Sending any images of exposed "private" parts of someone under the age of 18 may be considered distribution of child pornography. Yes, many under 18'ers do this anyway and don't get caught; however, I'm fairly certain you don't want Chris Hansen showing up to your dorm room, so just be aware. If you get sent a photo of someone who is underage and then forward the photo to anyone else, you get the joy of not only being in possession of child pornography, but also charged with distribution. Hello jail time. Minus the risk

of prison however, sexting is 100% safe (no STIs or risk of pregnancy)!

May I suggest listening to your gut reaction? If you don't want to sext, or are unsure, than stick with "not now hunny" as a response until you are ready. Trust is the key (because few people actually want nearly naked photos posted on TWI or some other website). Trust not only in a partner, but trust in your own decisions. Also evaluate what both you and your partner are risking by doing this, as well as what will be gained (ex. fearful but building intimacy).

There are degrees of sexts, from sharing a fantasy or talking dirty over text message, to sending nearly nude photos with a casually placed arm, to the classic full on naked bathroom mirror cell phone camera shot. You can decide if you are comfortable with a few text messages, but really don't (or really do) want a photo of your boyfriend's penis sent to your phone while you are in the middle of class. You also want to decide how long you will keep the sexts on your phone, because there is

nothing worse than having your little sister steal your phone and show your parents the "pretty picture" on it while you are home for break.

Start slow with a sexy "guess what I'm wearing" text message and see how it feels. The more you practice, the more comfortable you will be. It will probably be hilariously awkward at first, but that is okay. You are allowed to laugh. Sexting is a great way to learn about your partner and to build sexual communication skills because you have to be able to be explicit about what you want, like sharing a fantasy or describing what you would do/want done to each other. If you know what your turn-ons are and can communicate them, then you will be a successful sexter. Don't try and make the texts sound like they came out of an adult film. Use your own language, with a little bit of creativity and honesty thrown in!

Sincere-ish,
Miss Meghan

our activism.

You must understand that if Chick-fil-A is taken away (still not a reality, mind you), you can still go and buy it at their franchise store. We don't care if you buy Chick-fil-A. We care about the fact that our school provides aid to an organization which clearly betrays our stated institutional values of providing a safe space for people of all genders, ethnicities, creeds, etc. Democracy is majority rule and minority rights,

and CFA betrays the latter. So if you've refused to take advantage of the opportunities for democratic discussion and cooperation, then fine.

It's your choice to abstain from something that is still your fight, despite the fact that your ability to get a civil union and all its far-reaching legal and economic benefits isn't influenced by Chick-fil-A's actions. But don't go around complaining

and making snide, passive-aggressive, and hurtful remarks and constructing misinformed arguments when you've clearly rejected the open democratic process we're trying to develop.

All I know is that I am going to keep fighting for equality and I will never, ever, yield to the floundering and wholly ignorant protests from a bunch of people who want an overpriced chicken sandwich.

SGA Substantive and Vital to St. Mary's

SUBMITTED BY
DANNY RUTHENBERG-MARSHALL
Student Trustee



When I came to St. Mary's as a freshman (way back in the day when we were still called freshmen), the thought of joining the Student Government Association (SGA) had never crossed my mind. It still hadn't more than a year later when then-SGA President Sunny Schnitzer suggested I apply to be the Student Trustee. I followed her advice, and when I got the position, even though I wasn't obligated to go until my senior year, I started attending the meetings. That's when I discovered, much to my surprise, that the SGA actually does stuff.

I was working under my high school and middle school assumption, when we had SGA and they met every once in a while so they could put things on their college applications/resumes and to plan one or two dances. No way in the world was I interested in doing something that didn't really do anything. College SGA is so different, but since I know that's not good enough to convince any of you, allow me to tell you everything that it has done lately.

First, the SGA is the primary source of funding for the more than one hundred clubs and organizations we have on campus. Over the course of a year, it gives more than \$160,000 to clubs. Other things it does each and every year include funding SafeRide,

The Point News, Hawk Radio, the Dove Yearbook, and Programs Board (which does the weekly films, world carnival, coffeehouse, comedians, the Nest, and much more). It hires recycling coordinators, composting coordinators, and an athletic trainer for club sports. Each year it also pays for the purchase of renewable energy credits to completely offset the carbon emissions from our electricity.

Outside of the yearly expenditures, the SGA passes numerous pieces of legislation to accomplish more things. Some of these include the geothermal wells at the river center, the new club sports field between Waring Commons and Lot T, half the floating docks for recreational dinghies, the barn restoration next to the campus farm, the water trampoline, the Student Investment Group, the Green St. Mary's Revolving Loan Fund, and, most recently, funding for the Campus Bike Shop (which will hopefully become an annual expenditure).

These aren't all the things the SGA does, but rather a select list of some of the more prominent ones. With an annual budget of over \$400,000, the St. Mary's SGA has some real power. It is an opportunity for students to effect change on campus and to get events they want to happen to really happen. It is a way to gain experience working with a collaborative body towards the betterment of the community. It is the voice of the students on all things, whether they are in line with the administration or in stark contrast. It is a tool with which to shape the College. Any student can go speak their mind at a weekly meeting, contact their senators, or even run for office. Regardless of how you choose to get involved, you should do something. This is our home, and it's time for us to step up and make it the best home possible.

For more information on the SGA, visit their website at www.smc.edu/sga.

See you on the Path!

Punching Babies

By HEATHER PRIBUT
Cartoonist



Urgo Urges For Campus Civility

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPH URGO
President

Dear St. Mary's College Community:

In conversations with students, faculty, and staff over the last few weeks, a recurring theme of civility on campus has emerged. Simply put, the word on the banks of the St. Mary's River is that people are becoming less nice.

I'm told there are fewer greetings on The Path and more earbuds cocooning playlists that have left their owners insulated from passers-by. There also seems to be a rise in mean-spiritedness. These issues are prickly because while we want everyone to be nice to one another, we all have the right to be asinine sometimes. So, this message is not about being selfish or hoarding the jellybeans. That's human

nature. When I think of civility I think more of the work it takes to create, maintain, and participate in a community.

I am thinking more specifically about cleaning up after ourselves, holding the door for others, looking people in the eye, smiling, and (remember the old lesson?) treating others as you would want to be treated.

At college we study the best that's been thought, said, created, imagined. That's a high bar for behavior. Under observation, how will the critics assess our contribution? High quality? Worthy of national distribution? Or, destined for rubbish and not even recyclable?

I don't think we need to be nice all the time. I agree with the idea articulated by Abbie Hoffman, a defendant from the Chicago Seven trial a generation ago: "When deco-

rum is repression, the only dignity free men [and women] have is to speak out." We always need space for dramatic articulation. At the same time, this is our home. Let's not soil where we eat. Civility has its place in our learning environment as a key component in creating and maintaining our community.

As news about our institution is sent into cyberspace via YouTube videos, Tweets and Facebook pages, we all have a hand in shaping the content of OurTube. Let's reflect on our interaction with others, just for a moment, and decide how we want St. Mary's story to be told throughout the community, the state of Maryland, the country—and the world.

Joseph Urgo
President
St. Mary's College of Maryland

For Boycott, Both Sides of the Spectrum Too Strong

BY ZACHESER
Staff Writer

In the March 1 issue of *The Point News*, an article was submitted by Eden Carswell entitled “Chick-fil-A: ‘I Wants My Sammitch.’” This article has sparked more discussion over what has already been an extremely hot topic among the campus community. While I agree with Eden regarding the moral implications of Chick-fil-A as a corporation, I feel like the bigger picture at hand should not be the LGBTQ community, but rather the role of conscious consumerism.

As conscious consumers, it is our job to weigh the pros and cons of outlets available to us. Unfortunately, in a country like the United States, we have a tendency to feign ignorance for the sake of consumerism and it’s only when light has been shone on something that we finally get up in arms about something. Chick-fil-A is no exception to this rule. However, let me point out that it is common knowledge that Chick-fil-A isn’t open on Sundays, it owns the WinShape Foundation which reaches out through fundamental Christian beliefs, and the corporation was founded in the American south. So how is it that just now people are realizing that a southern, Christian corporation like Chick-fil-A gives proceeds to Christian groups who oppose LGBTQ rights?

All it really comes down to is allowing ourselves to see the facts and make informed decisions on what we spend our hard earned money on. Without the persistence

to inform ourselves, we wind up sitting around in the dark which, in cases like Chick-fil-A, can become an issue larger than what it really is.

We have to be mature about this. Do I think that buying a chicken sandwich should be equated with giving the LGBTQ community the finger? Absolutely not – that’s a very extremist view of the situation and, frankly, quite ignorant.

“NOW THAT SOME REVEALING INFORMATION HAS BEEN RELEASED... WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO RE-EVALUATE WHERE WE STAND. GETTING CARRIED AWAY, AND THIS GOES FOR BOTH PARTIES, ISN’T GOING TO SOLVE ANYTHING AND WE AS ADULTS SHOULD NOT JUDGE OTHERS FOR MAKING THEIR INFORMED DECISIONS.”

On the other end of the spectrum, do I think that harassing someone with chicken sandwiches because he disagrees with the moral foundations of a company is acceptable? Not even – that’s cruel, childish, and ridiculously uncalled for. Now that some revealing information has been released regarding company activity, we obviously have to re-evaluate where we stand. Getting carried away, and this goes for both parties, isn’t going to solve anything and we as adults should not judge others for making their informed decisions.

I am proud to say that I consider myself part of the LGBTQ community here at the college as a friend, a supporter, and an ally. However, I refuse to dislike someone on the basis that they bought a sandwich. To me, that sounds just as wrong as supporting anti-gay causes. It’s preposterous to say the least. I think everyone just needs to look at the facts, make educated decisions, and leave it at that. Protest if you want to and buy if you want to. Or, try to find an alternative. I personally couldn’t care less about Chick-fil-A. Did I mention I’m a vegetarian?

WHY WE GO TO COLLEGE

SUBMITTED BY DAVE CORDERMAN
Class of 2011

The American collegiate student is under attack. In a March 4 op-ed article titled, “College the Easy Way,” New York Times writer Bob Herbert asked the question “What are America’s kids actually learning in college?” His answer, “not much.” He notes a new book entitled *Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses*, by Professor Richard Arum of New York University and Josipa Roska of University of Virginia. According to this book courses are getting easier and students are partying more with skills such as critical thinking and reasoning playing the victim.

Blame is ubiquitous. “Kids are lazy these days,” reads one comment in the highlights section of Herbert’s article. Another blames, “the high schools, the parents, those obstinate republicans.” Poland according to Jacek from Lower Silesia, Poland, “gives math tests to seventh graders that high school teachers, never mind students cannot solve.” Don’t forget those “Cadillac football stars,” reads another. “We live in a society of glorified nitwits,” says furnmtz of Oregon. Feeling good about yourself yet? These days it is not enough to attend college or get good grades.

In other news, the school’s Board of Trustees just voted to raise the tuition rate for St. Mary’s College by 6 percent, meaning the cost of in-state tuition and out-of-state

tuition will now be many more thousands of dollars. You may wonder where all that money is going; surely with annual raises in tuition that money is going to be spent on the best educators and facilities for education, maybe even more money to spend on printing stuff or at least modernizing St. Mary’s College so students do not need to print so much stuff. Removing piles of dirt or paying for more administration staff seem to be the last things anyone would guess, especially since the school is now outsourcing more

“COLLEGE IS A MASSIVE RISK, MORE SO THAN LAS VEGAS. EACH YEAR YOU ARE BETTING AWAY YOUR HOUSE, YOUR FUTURE, FOR SOMETHING THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW IF YOU WILL BE AWARDED.”

services like transcript requests. However, that is not the point I am trying to reach. More precisely, as these books/articles/comments all point to is one question: what is the point of college?

College, most people believe, is about learning stuff; however, they find out sooner or later that College is not about learning stuff but rather about spending money to get stuff. Those Cadillac driving football stars? You could be driving one of those Cadillacs, a new one, twice a year, for four years; Lil’ Wayne doesn’t even have that many. So what is college? College is Cadillacs; it’s something you

Embrace the Nest Mess

BY DAVE CHASE
Managing Editor

The weekend before Spring Break saw the first test of the new Nest policies. I am told only a handful of students went. In fact, *The Point News* sent a photographer to cover the event and he captured an empty upper deck - a far cry from the 400 people who crowded into Daugherty-Palmer Commons (DPC) at the last nest.

I guess the new policy worked. I understand the Nest is meant to be a substance-free event. And that’s great and there should be a substance-free alternative on campus. However, in the process of hosting a substance-free event, Programs Board discovered the immense popularity of a campus-wide dance party. In other words, an event, sponsored by Programs Board and paid for by our student fees, where a quarter of the campus consistently came.

Sounds like a win to me.

Yet, as soon as the event became popular, new rules came out to effectively kill the event. If the rules are purely in the name of maintaining the Nest as a substance-free event, fine. But then why hasn’t Programs Board developed a new non-substance-free event? I know I don’t care what the event is called.

Unfortunately, we all know the new policies come from the same mentality on alcohol consumption we have dealt with our entire lives. The mentality that says, “if we don’t talk about it and shame those who partake, maybe it will go away.” The same mentality that drives high school and college students alike to drink in basements and under

power lines and do stupid things like get in a car instead of calling for a ride. And, ironically, the same mentality that propagates the kind of binge drinking on this campus and campuses across the country that this same mentality hates.

Time for a new approach. For the first time, we have a college President who wants to engage in a dialogue. As President Joseph Urgo said, “I share a number of concerns with presidents and chancellors who wish to reopen the debate on the drinking age. I am concerned that we, as professionals responsible for the education of young adults, have created an atmosphere where students who choose to consume alcohol often do so in ways dangerous to their health.”

The new Nest policies only continue that atmosphere.

Instead, why not hold a campus-wide dance party and not ban intoxication? Use the event as an opportunity to engage in a dialogue. Not necessary at the event, though at this point we all listen to Pandora and watch Hulu and are use to 15-30 second interruptions in our entertainment for a commercials. Use the same approach, a drinking fact in between songs.

More importantly, use the event as a place where intoxicated college students can go safely have fun.

Drinking in college will not go away. Hiding, shunning and cracking down on it won’t do anything. Certainly with a substance-allowed dance party and a pub, SMCM will go so much further than any other college in having an honest conversation about the perils and, yes, pluses of drinking.



A photo of the March 5 Nest at the Upper Deck.

Photo By Tom Keen

buy. Imagine you go to college for one year and you flunk out. You’ve test driven the Cadillac and crashed it into a tree, now you have nothing but a handful of junk and a boatload less money.

So why do schools go easy on kids these days? Because they realize that a college degree is a good, just like a Cadillac. Consumers (us) today in America do not “go to college.” Instead we “pay for college,” and there is a difference.

Academic standards, the pursuit of knowledge; that was what college once was about. Now higher learning has been replaced by the Leviathan of consumer culture. You pay a price and expect something in return; a college degree. Colleges realize that there is incentive behind producing graduates. Flunking a bunch of people means they stop paying and less people show up to pay for a degree they are less certain to obtain, although they are paying an exorbitant sum of money. College is a massive risk, more so than Las Vegas. Each year you are betting away your house, your future, for something that you do not know if you will be awarded.

So how do you get people to keep paying? Minimize the risk and let potential students know, if you attend our college, you will graduate with a degree in hand. As a result,

academic standards and academic freedom go down. Students are less curious and less passionate about learning when they know that the price of failure is equal to thousands of dollars of debt.

Herbert, book authors, and commentators cite outcomes. Kids are studying less, and still getting degrees. Why? Do not look to the students, or the professors, or even the college loan institutions which have received so much bad press. Look to the colleges who charge so much for school, thousands of dollars, fortunes to most people, and in turn provide college degrees that do not have a strong base in achievement.

So the Board recently voted for an increase in tuition of 6 percent. I would encourage them, if their goal is to produce academically talented and successful students from St. Mary’s College of Maryland to not raise that rate. Rather they should cut it, so that students who come here and the parents that send them here will not feel the risk of failure – leaving the College much more leeway in determining the standards by which students should abide. So often we are told to go ahead and fail, because failure is a learning experience and in the long run we will be more creative, more intelligent and more clever. However, to most students going to college these days, the cost of failure far outweighs the benefit.

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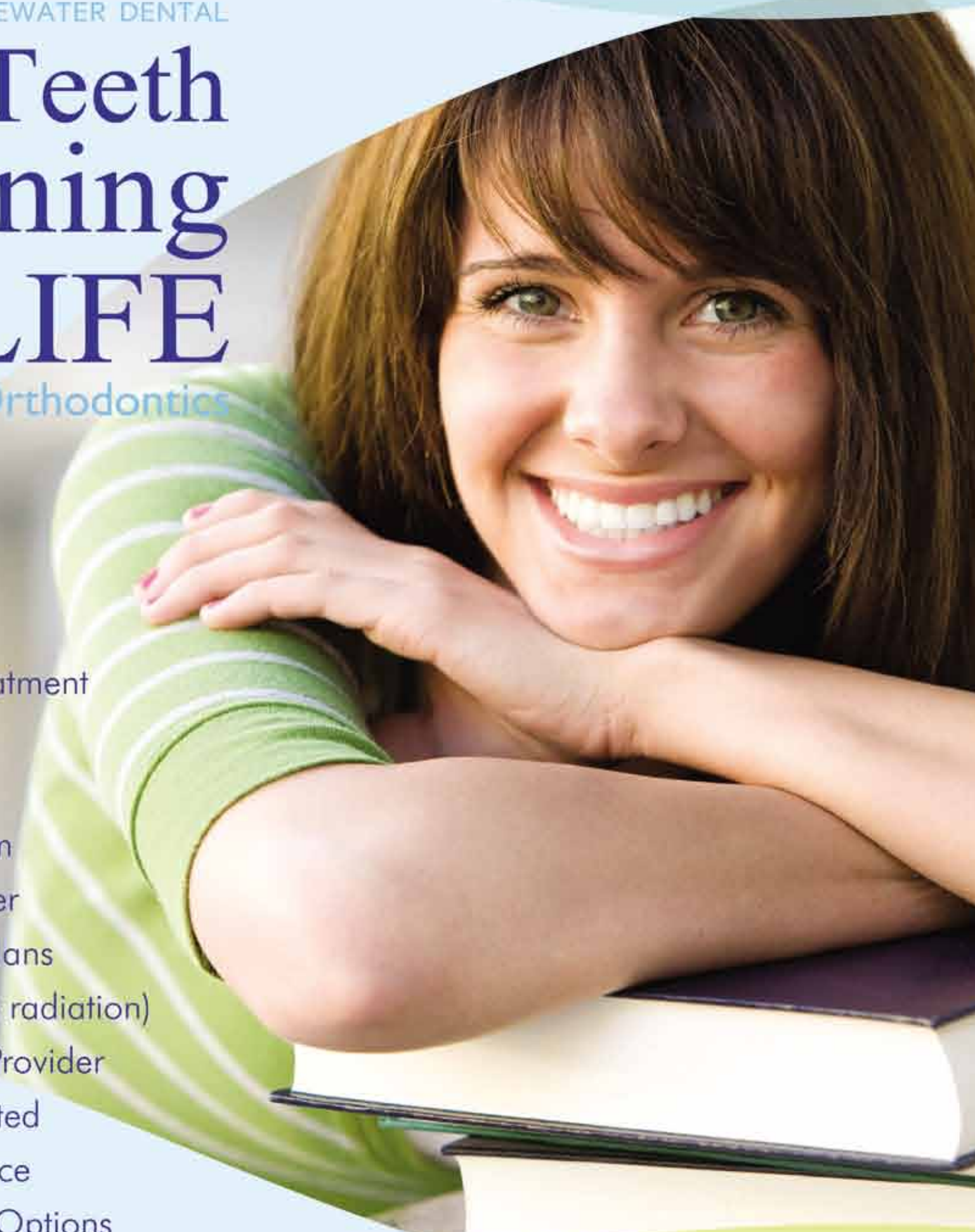
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