

The Point News

Students Leave Hotels, Move to Ship, Pg. 2



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FOREMAN



PHOTO BY ALEX STILLSON

Students participate in a muggle version of the magical game of Quidditch during Potter Palooza weekend on Admissions Field.

PotterPalooza Celebrates Wizarding World

By ALLISON KIGHT & MARIA SMALDONE
Assistant Editors

On Oct. 23, St. Mary's College of Maryland temporarily transfigured into the prestigious yet fictional institution of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry from J.K. Rowling's popular "Harry Potter" series.

Scheduled during the weekend in which "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" was shown in Cole Cinema, Potter Palooza offered a whole slew of activities where students could show their love for their favorite boy wizard. On the agenda was a costume contest, a horcrux scavenger hunt, a Quidditch tour-

ament, and even a Potter-themed feast in the Great Room.

Programs Board special events chair and senior Tricia Byers came up with the idea when a few of her friends who graduated last year "thought doing Harry Potter activities would be a great event on campus." The other members of Programs Board, who World Carnival chair and senior Anna Danz says, "all love Harry Potter," contributed ideas and worked with Byers to create the event.

The costume contest was held on the Campus Center patio. Students showed up dressed as characters ranging from the sadistic Death Eater Bellatrix Lestrange to the in-

nocent and loyal house-elf Dobby. The winner was junior Tyler Wates, who dressed as Harry's fugitive godfather Sirius Black. First-year Eden Anbinder dressed as the odd-ball Luna Lovegood. "She's one of my favorite characters, and she's a Ravenclaw like me. I also have a Gryffindor robe and I considered dressing as Hermione, but I felt like that would have been a betrayal of my Ravenclaw house," said Anbinder.

The Horcrux Scavenger Hunt had teams of students running back and forth to different places on campus, such as the bell tower, the shoe tree, and the Pub, led by a series of rhym-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Students and Staff Show Locks of Love by Cutting off Hair

By TAYLOR SCHAFFER
Assistant Editor

On Wednesday, Oct. 19, Fiscal Associate for Student Activities Sara Renn cut off 19 inches of her hair. Renn was one of 11 participants who donated her locks to Locks of Love.

The Locks of Love organization is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis, according to the organization webpage. The event was

organized by the Office of Student Activities and was held in the Aldom Lounge.

"I decided to donate my hair to Locks of Love because I believe it is a worthy program. As a child, I've always had long hair, so I imagine that being without hair may be depressing to a child," said Renn. "I can grow long hair anytime, and I am saddened that some children may not be able to grow hair at all. The reward for me is the feeling that I've helped restore a child's self-esteem."

Other participants in the event include senior Lynd-

say Fournier, junior Kayla Hall, and first-year student Kate Cowart, who donated 11 inches of hair. According to Coordinator of Orientation and Service Programs Sola Ogundele, '10, there were three donated ponytails dropped off in addition to the haircuts done on site.

Renn had not cut her hair for five years, when she donated her hair to Locks of Love for the first time. "I began donating in 2006, when I first learned of the Locks of Love program," she said. "From that day forward, I've pledged to myself to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

Hallowgreens, Pg. 3

INSIDE

- NEWS.....1-2
- FEATURES.....3-5
- A&E.....6
- SPORTS.....7
- OPINIONS.....8-9



BULB PLANTING
WITH LESLEY URGO CONCLUDES
COLLEGE'S SUSTAINABILITY WEEK
PAGE 5



ARTWEEK
INCLUDES ARTIST LECTURES, DISPLAYS
OF STUDENT ART ON CAMPUS
PAGE 6



FENCING
ATTENDS RECENT MEETS, DISCUSSES
OVERALL SPORT EXPERIENCE
PAGE 7

NEWS IN BRIEF: Sarah Michele Guineviere Pyles Memorial Scholarship

By JESSY SCHROEDER
News Co-Editor

Last semester while studying abroad in the International Education's program in Alba, Italy, sophomore Sarah "Sadie" Pyles passed away unexpectedly. In order to commemorate her life, her family has established a scholarship in her name: the Sarah Michele Guineviere Pyles Memorial Scholarship.

"[The scholarship] was designed to benefit students with demonstrated financial need, who have completed at least one year at St. Mary's and have a 3.0 or higher grade point average, with a preference for students studying political science and/or art history," said Donor Relations and Communications Officer Karen Raley, '94.

There is a formal document, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between the Pyles family and the College's foundation "that stipulates how a named gift is to be funded and how the gift is to be used, or awarded in the case of a scholarship," said Raley.

An email was sent out to students that fit all of these listed qualifications, which stated a quick biography of Pyles, includ-

ing that she loved to read, was planning to major in Political Science and minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies as well as Art History. It was also mentioned that she had the desire "to change the world and make it a better place through international relations."

Therefore, students applying to the scholarship needed to submit a one-page essay on how they themselves would change the world to make it a better place. All submissions were due by Oct. 17 to the Financial Aid Office, which would then be passed along to the family of Sarah Pyles. The Pyles family is currently reading over the essays, which were forwarded to them without the names of the authors. Their recommendation for who should receive the award will be sent to the Financial Aid Office.

Ultimately, the Financial Aid Office has the final say on who the recipient will be, and are planning on announcing the winner of the award in about a week. The amount of the award is \$1,000 and will go towards the student's school funds for the 2011-2012 year.

Displaced Students Move Again

By DAVE CHASE
Managing Editor

On Oct. 25, President Urgo announced in an all-student email the college rented a cruise ship called the Sea Voyager to house 244 students displaced by mold in the Prince George and Caroline residence halls.

The ship arrived at the Dove dock in Historic St. Mary's City on Oct. 30 and students were originally going to move into the ship on Monday, Oct. 31. However, at a press conference on Monday President Urgo said students could not move into the ship until the next day due to a problem securing the boat to the dock, which prevented the final safety tests.

The displaced students moving into the ship are currently living in three hotels in California and Solomons, MD. Urgo made the decision to rent the ship after students moved to the hotels saying, "[hotel] challenges threatened to dilute the residential experience of St. Mary's. And even more, would soon violate the every mission of our college." He added, "The Sea Voyager restores our campus community."

The idea to rent the ship came from Dan Plesch, a 2004 graduate and sailor. Plesch saw the ship was for sale and moving from Maine to Virginia. He suggested the college could rent the ship during the sale process.

Urgo saw the idea as an innovative solution and unique fitting to the college community given the importance of St. Mary's river. He said, "[acknowledging] the source

of so much of this College's spirit. This wonderful body of water: the historic byway for seekers of truth and knowledge, through refuge and through study."

Students were displaced after the college determined the mold in the two affected dorms was systematic and not sporadic. The college consulted with Compliance Environmental, Inc., an environmental and industrial hygiene consulting firm, and Dr. Hung Cheung, an occupational physician, and decided to do extensive mold remediation, according to Charles "Chip" Jackson, Associate Vice President of Planning and Facilities.

"The mold is primarily located above ceilings and within enclosed conditioning equipment," said Jackson. The College does not yet know the exact cause of the mold beyond condensation from the heating and cooling pipes. "The insulation failed to prevent condensation from forming and causing mold, [...] we are committed to finding the root cause," he said.

Jackson also said the cost for mold remediation in both residence halls will cost approximately \$1 million from the college's physical plant fund. The cost for temporary housing, including the ship and hotels, will be an additional \$1.5 million from the college's contingency fund. "This event will not impact next year or subsequent years' tuition," said Jackson. "Our students' safety and well-being is foremost in our minds,"

he added.

Most students are excited by the ship but some are still concerned about the underlying problem. "Since they found the mold, they have done a good job but my hall reported [mold] on day two of the semester and no action was taken until day 30. The problem should have been dealt with this summer," said sophomore Sami Keyani, originally a resident of Caroline first left.

According to Urgo, the college has not given any compensation to the displaced students beyond reimbursement for expenses. Displaced students will be given priority for housing next year.

During their stay on the ship, students will have TV, wifi and a 24-hour study room. The ship's crew will also clean students' rooms.

As for security, Public Safety will be patrolling the shore around the ship from 7 p.m. until 7 p.m. and the ship's crew will handle security on the ship 24 hours a day. While non-residents will be allowed on the ship, only 290 people will be allowed on at any time and everyone, residents and non-residents, will be required to sign in to gain access to the ship, according to Jackson.

The ship is also required to comply with all state and federal laws governing a ship at sea. For instance, one of every ten bags brought on board must be searched to comply with Homeland Security regulations.

Students will reside on the ship until the end of the semester.

Harry Potter Themed Weekend Creates a Magical Time on Campus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing riddles. At each station was a student volunteer who would sign a sheet next to the picture of the horcrux that the team found. Sophomore Caitlin Slife, who participated in the hunt, said, "It was an exciting time to spend with my friends and enjoy a story that has helped to shape our generation."

All of the teams eventually found their way to the Admissions Field, the last station, where a "Muggle-fied" version of the wizarding game Quidditch was played. In the books and movies, Quidditch is played on flying broomsticks. However, non-magical players must run around the field while holding a broomstick between their legs. The St. Mary's players lacked real broomsticks, which were replaced with pool noodles and

"Swiffer 2000s."

As the Chasers and Beaters (offense and defense) fought to score a goal by throwing a quaffle (a rubber ball) through one of three hoops at each goal guarded by a Keeper, two members of the cross country team positioned as the Seeker and the Snitch played a seemingly endless game of cat and mouse around campus.

The Seeker's main mission is to look for and eventually catch the Snitch, which automatically ends the game. First-year Erik Fisher was an accidental Snitch. "One of my cross country team mates said I could substitute," he said. Obviously, Fisher's teammate didn't show up.

The weary Quidditch players regained their strength at the Potter-inspired feast in

the Great Room. The "International" section offered foods worthy of the Great Hall at Hogwarts like Shepherd's pie, pumpkin pasties, and steaming cups of Butterbeer. The Great Room was decked out in the banners of the four Hogwarts houses, adding to the

spirit of the event.

Sophomore and Quidditch player Michael Shaughnessy summed up his feelings about Quidditch, and Potter Palooza in general: "It was epic sauce. It should be a weekly tradition."

Students Donate their Long Locks



PHOTO BY KRISTIN SEYMOUR

Eleven participants had their hair cut in the Aldom Lounge to be donated to the Locks of Love organization, while three others dropped off already cut ponytails.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
always grow an appropriate length of hair to donate to the cause."

Renn encourages all students, male and female, interested in donating to the Locks of Love organization to participate. "Consider making a difference in someone's life by growing long hair and donating it to a child in need," she said.

Though all are encour-

aged to participate, there are some requirements and restrictions. Participants are required to have 10 inches of hair available to cut for a complete hairpiece to be made, although locks that are six to 10 inches are accepted as well. No bleached or highlighted hair is accepted, but hair may be permed or layered. Dreadlocks are also not accepted. The organization accepts mailed-in

hair as well. All hair must be braided or in a ponytail and it must be cleaned and dried before sent.

This was the first Locks of Love event held this year on campus, and the Service and Social Change program of the Office of Student Activities is interested in starting to host them once a semester. For more information about donating, visit lockslove.org.

Zylak Selected as College Director of Public Safety

By STEVE REES
Deputy Editor-in-Chief

After phone and on-campus interviews with potential candidates for the College Director of Public Safety position, Interim Director Dave Zylak has been selected to officially take on the responsibility.

Having been with the College since last April as Interim Director, Zylak has become increasingly familiar with the College campus, having already been a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and affiliated with the campus through his daughter, a St. Mary's graduate.

Among other potential candidates, Zylak was selected over Carlos Sanchez, currently a public safety consultant in Miami, Florida.

After numerous phone interviews, seven candidates were selected. "From there, we came up with the top three to bring to campus," said Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Students Laura Bayless, "and Zylak and Sanchez were two of the top three." The third interviewee declined the on-campus interview.

Zylak and Sanchez spent last Wednesday and Thursday, respectively, in meetings with students and administrators discussing the position and views of public safety and law

enforcement. This involved having lunch with students at noon in the Great Room, a tour around campus (even for Zylak), and an open forum in the Glendening Annex from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"While background checks still need to be completed," said Bayless, "Zylak has been offered the position of Director of Public Safety."

In meetings with students, Zylak believed that the most important role of a public safety officer is to protect students, faculty, staff, and others on-campus, a role similar to a police officer with respect to a city's citizens and visitors. He has encouraged positive Public Safety-student relations through programs with students and bi-monthly open hours and hopes to replace the police-like look of the current public safety officers with shirts displaying embroidered badges.

"Most students know the officers and some by name," said Zylak, "so the hard badge and uniform is not really necessary."

In terms of partying policy, Zylak understood some students like to drink and could get a little "tipsy." He said, "If you're stumbling around on Route 235 at night in and out of traffic, we might have a problem."



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

Dave Zylak, Interim Director of Public Safety since last April following Chris Santiago's resignation, has been selected as the College's new Director.

Panel on Humor Writing Draws Laughs, Sea Squirt Stories

By HANNAH GRABENSTEIN
News Co-Editor

Dissecting, analyzing, and generally talking about humor can be surprisingly unfunny. However, students laughed as the panel of three professors discussed humor in Monday's "Writing with and about Humor," part of the Writer's Series.

Professor and Chair of English Ben Click began the discussion with an excerpt from American humorist O. Henry's essay, "Confessions of a Humorist." O. Henry related that he spent much of his time stealing humor from his family, friends, and even by "stalking" his children. One particularly funny incident involved his hiding out in a pile of leaves while his son played, only to realize that his son had set the pile of leaves on fire (presumably unaware of O. Henry's presence).

According to Click, the panel on humor was necessary because of a dearth of humor-related events on campus. Many of the lectures, movies, and other speakers which St. Mary's hosts lack humor, and the Twain lecture doesn't necessarily fulfill that role entirely. Additionally, Click announced that soon, a contest will be announced for humor writing, with fairly steep cash prizes for first through third places. And, according to Click, the winner of the contest will be announced or otherwise recognized by the Twain lecturer. (No decision has been made on the speaker yet, but the lecture will be held either the 27 or the 28 of April, convocation weekend)

Associate Professor of English Kate Chandler spoke about the relationship between humor and environmentalism. She explained that often, humor makes people feel more connected to the subject and with that bond, they are more deeply invested in the outcomes. Chandler read a brief humorous excerpt written as a fable about a sea squirt and related her own experiences with environmental humor. Chandler wrote "Nature Notes" in the River

Gazette, and explained that she really didn't know all that much about environmental studies when she began so she relied on self-deprecating humor to connect with her audience.

Next, Assistant Professor of English Brian O'Sullivan discussed the difficulty in deciding when humor has gone too far or crossed the line. He presented an article which The Washington Post humor columnist Gene Weingarten wrote in 2007 about the small percentage of Americans who strongly approved of the Bush presidency. Much of the article drew laughs from both the panelists and the audience. O'Sullivan explained that one of his students wrote to Weingarten for an assignment and received a response in which Weingarten actually said he regrets writing parts of the article, because it could be construed as offensively generalizing lower classes as uneducated rednecks. O'Sullivan discussed the idea of boundaries and what the difference is between using a stereotype and satirizing it.

Chandler also advocated humor as a way to get an audience to understand or accept an idea. "Humor may get [readers] to accept the issue, or at least listen to it." When an audience is put at ease, they're more likely to be receptive to an idea or issue. "[Humor] makes you like me more, listen more, and trust me more," said Chandler. Click agreed saying, "Humor puts people in the frame of mind to be persuaded."

Junior Kelsey Kuszmaul was pleased at the reception and enjoyed the talk overall, "I was really excited to have this type of talk . . . I really think the professors chose interesting things to talk about and everybody laughed." Junior Tobias Franzen agreed, saying, "I thought it sucked. I hated being here." And panelist Kate Chandler summed the talk up nicely, commenting, "Nice layout! The couches were very comfortable!"

Gobodo-Madikizela Talks Trauma, Paradox of Remorse

By ALLISON KIGHT
Assistant Editor

On Oct. 26, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Professor of Psychology at Cape Town University, South Africa and author of the 2011 St. Mary's summer reading book "A Human Being Died That Night," spoke at St. Mary's Hall for her lecture "Engaging the Other: Trauma, Witnessing, and the Paradox of Remorse."

Gobodo-Madikizela has a master's degree in clinical psychology from Rhodes University and a doctorate in psychology from the University of Cape Town. She is a Senior Consultant for the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town and served on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) after the abolition of apartheid in South Africa. She visited the St. Mary's campus for four days during the week of Oct. 23-29 and gave several lectures to the students taking the first-year seminars, in addition to her talk on Oct. 26.

She began her lecture by expressing her honor at visiting St. Mary's, thanking the school for the "wonderful few days I've spent here." She described the first-years she had spoken with earlier in the day, as "profound, thoughtful students."

Her experiences with post-apartheid South Africa have sent her on a personal and professional journey to answer two questions: How have different groups with a history of violence dealt with the experience of everyday trauma and how have experiences of the past shaped these

groups? She says that her work grew out of an investigation into the extreme violence of "necklace murders," a brutal form of torture in which a rubber tire filled with gasoline is placed around a victim's neck and set on fire. Gobodo-Madikizela wanted to discover how to theorize about this unspeakable violence.

She discovered that the perpetrators of torture distanced themselves from the murders, describing them as a "surreal experience." Their transformation was influenced by layers of experiences of deprivation, degradation and humiliation. She said, "The capacity for reflection and the ability to empathize with others is disrupted by traumatic experiences."

Severely abused individuals cut off a painful experience to protect themselves, called disassociation, and this tendency may persist into adulthood. "The tragic and gloomy aspects of a person with

a history of traumatic experiences are taken out on another person. Past traumas do not simply go away or disappear. . . the trauma reemerges again and again. Conversation about facing the past. . . remains a critical aspect of transformations."

Gobodo-Madikizela's work with the TRC emphasized dialogue between the victims and the perpetrators. She aimed to unravel the "complex legacies of the past." The sessions set an important narrative trend for the 20th and 21st centuries, showing that people can no longer ignore the importance of facing the past. "The significance of the TRC is not so much in its failure or success," said Gobodo-Madikizela. "It is in the great insight it has given us about how to engage with ones former enemies."

She went on to emphasize remorse and its significance in recovering from trauma. She said that it is an easy route to set those who inflict violence aside as monsters, but by allowing them to reclaim their

sense of humanity, victims can share that humanity with their perpetrators. Until one feels remorse, he or she remains closed to healing. The TRC was a unique environment where the evildoers did not deny the atrocities they committed, but were encouraged to own up to them and feel remorse.

While discussing the TRC, Gobodo-Madikizela shared several anecdotes about victims who forgave the dealers of violence and helped them redefine their lives after evil. The rehumanization of the perpetrators allowed the people of South Africa to imagine the possibility of living side by side with reminders of pain.

To conclude her lecture, Gobodo-Madikizela answered several questions about her personal experiences during apartheid and her work with the TRC. She emphasized the importance of "witnessing to each other about our pain" and opening dialogue to encourage healing.

Professor of Anthropology Bill Roberts, who attended the talk said, "Personally, I found her talk intellectually compelling and emotionally uplifting. I found her focus on 'empathy' as a mechanism by which we all have the opportunity to recognize our common humanity, something recognizable to an anthropologist."

The response to her lecture was immensely positive with students as well. "I thought it was spectacular," said first-year Allegra Garrett. "She's a real inspiration and a very wise woman."



PHOTO BY KEVIN BAIER

Students donned creative and often crazy costumes and gathered on the Townhouse Greens to celebrate Hallowgreens, one of the most popular events of the Fall semester.

Hallowgreens Tradition Continues, Halloween Celebrated at St. Mary's

By JASMINE JONES
Contributing Writer

The always-anticipated Hallowgreens festivities took place on the Townhouse Greens Saturday night, right in time for the brisk winter cold despite a week of warm October weather.

The annual celebration takes place on the Saturday nearest to Halloween, and calls for dressing up in costumes, socializing, and enjoying the often original, typical, or ridiculous Halloween costumes of fellow St. Mary's students. "It's a great way to show creativity. I like the fact that I can go outside my door and see half of the school socializing and just having fun," said Senior Bethany Townsend, who dressed up as a unique ninja mouse.

Students started gathering on the Greens as early as 9 p.m. dressed in full costume and prepared for the night of fun. As usual, St. Mary's kept the tradition innovative, creative, and exhilarating with characters from the eventful night consisting of a picnic table, holiday fairies, and the average college dinner: a cup of noodles.

A large group of Mario Kart racecar drivers were also in attendance, totaling a complete group of thirteen. The group used the Greens as

their racetrack for the night, bumping into each other and simulating the characters and actions from the actual video game. While there was a wide range of imaginative get-ups for the night, there were also the typical outfits that make appearances every year. The standard costumes worn included pirates, ninja turtles, avatars and bumblebees.

Public Safety remained outside of Daugherty-Palmer Commons, overseeing the wellbeing of students throughout the night. St. Mary's Interim Director of Public Safety David Zylak said, "We are going to have an all hands on deck night for public safety [at Hallowgreens]" before Saturday evening even arrived, cognizant of the necessary lookout for any prohibited activities.

While the massive gathering is a new experience to most first-years at St. Mary's, most seniors enjoyed their last time around before graduating. Senior Mike Victory, who posed as Pokemon's Ash Ketchum on Saturday night, says, "Hallowgreens defines why small schools are better than big schools."

"It's an opportunity for you to exercise your imagination and be who you want to be or what you want to be," Townsend said.



Open Untill

Sunday- 10:00 pm | Mon - Thur- 11:00 pm
Fri - Sat- Midnight

Specials

Natural Light	Guinness Black
Fatty Natty	Lager
\$10.99 18pk Bottles	\$6.99 6pk

Dos Equis	UV Vodka	Select Wines
\$12.99 12pk	\$13.99 Handle	3 for \$15.00

Genny Ice	Baileys Coffee Cream
\$11.99 30pk	\$12.99 750ml
(while supplies last)	

Admiral Nelson Spiced Rum
\$15.99 Handle

Woodchuck Sampler	Jim Bean
\$15.99 12pk	\$12.99 750ml

Pizza Special

1 Large 2 Topping Pizza \$9.99

One card accepted for food and gas only

Socha Relates Cummings Poetry, Beach to Mathematics

By ANNA DAVIS
Features Editor

For the Natural Science and Mathematics (NS&M) Colloquium on Oct. 19, Katherine Socha visited St. Mary's to present her lecture, "maggie and milly and molly and may: mathematical stories inspired by the beach and e.e. cummings." Socha, previously a Mathematics Professor at St. Mary's, is now the Director of Educational Policy for Math for America.

Socha formatted her lecture around Cummings's poem, "maggie and milly and molly and may." The poem is six stanzas long, with the four middle stanzas each telling the story of the one of the four girls who all went to the beach one day. Socha picked a word or topic from each of these middle stanzas and somehow related it to interesting, and sometimes bizarre, concepts in math.

To make the lecture comprehensible to all those present, not only the math majors, Socha limited her use of math equations and advanced math theories. She instead opted to use examples and visuals to explain any mathematical concepts that she mentioned. "This is mathematics as much as a concert is music without having sheet music in front of you," she said. This approach can also be thought of as "the difference between the ideas of mathematics and the symbols you use to describe out those ideas specifically," she continued.

In the second stanza of the poem, we

are told, "maggie discovered a shell that sang." In order to relate seashells to mathematics, Socha talked about the Fibonacci spiral, which is created by drawing circular arcs connecting squares in the Fibonacci tiling. The Fibonacci sequence is a pattern of numbers that follows a specific equation. The spiral approximates the curves made by the shells that one would find on the beach.

Children commonly believe they can hear the sounds of the ocean when they put a shell up to their ear, just like Maggie. Socha explained it is not the sound of the ocean, nor is it the sound of the blood rushing through one's ears, that the shell seems to make. Instead, "you're focusing certain frequencies and then they're picking up background noise," explained Socha. Socha demonstrated this phenomenon by holding up a cup to her ear and explaining that the sound will change as the cup is moved closer or further away from the ear.

In the next stanza, we learn that "milly befriended a stranded star whose rays five languid fingers were." In mathematics, starfish can be used as an excellent example of symmetry. "Symmetry is our friend; we like symmetry," said Socha. She then demonstrated how to fold and cut a piece of paper into a perfectly symmetrical five point star. Socha also told the story of how she one day realized this fold and cut pattern only worked on letter sized paper. She thus explained, using trigonometry, what the angle of

a certain fold in this process must be to make the star always turn out perfectly symmetrical.

Next in the poem, "molly was chased by a horrible thing which raced sideways while blowing bubbles." Socha first talked about bubbles, which she described as "classical mathematics."

"There are a ton of theories on how crop circles form and they all focus on this magical amazing thing that they're all perfectly circular."

- Katherine Socha, Director of Educational Policy for Math for America

Bubbles are always enclosing a fixed volume, so the sphere created is nature's way of minimizing the amount of energy used. Socha interpreted the "horrible thing" as a crab, and discussed animal gaits and their locomotion on land. She discussed both symmetric movement, like the bilateral symmetric motion of a squirrel bounding across the ground, and the asymmetric walk of a human. To help the audience understand, Socha demonstrated a lot of the different ani-

mal gaits, including "pronking," which is the motion gazelles use when they are leaping straight up into the air during pursuit by a predator.

Finally, Socha read how "may came home with a smooth round stone as small as a world and as large as alone." In relating this to mathematics, Socha talked about rotational symmetry. She discussed the discovery that when a drop of milk hits the still surface of a container of milk, a perfectly symmetrical sphere is created. Small splash rings grow up out of the spherical shape with the same number of "spikes" every time, as long as the distance dropped and size of the droplet remain the same.

Socha also went off onto a small tangent about crop circles. "There are a ton of theories on how crop circles form and they all focus on this magical amazing thing that they're all perfectly circular," said Socha. "How could natural causes create something so incredible as a perfect circle?" Because modern agricultural techniques cause corn crops to all grow to the same height, a corn field mimics the mathematical phenomenon of an infinitely flat plane. Just like the ripples created when a rock is dropped

into water, when one corn stalk breaks because of something like static electricity, it will have rotational symmetry that will break all the corn stalks around it until the force is attenuated.

"I've heard many good things about Katherine Socha and I was not disappointed. I love the way she prefaced the talk, reassuring us that only one slide had actual equations on it," said junior Christiana Sabett. "As a math major, I will admit that I was expecting it to be more math-heavy, but overall it was quite enjoyable. Katherine engaged the audience well and spoke fluidly. Now that I've met her, I do wish she would come back to teach at St. Mary's."

"The presentation was a quintessential liberal arts presentation. Analogy and literary reference is something the rest of the 'general audience talks' could learn from," said junior Josh Kaminsky.

The next lecture in the NS&M Colloquium series will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 4:40 p.m. in Schaefer Hall 106. Dr. Steven Farber from the Carnegie Institution will present his talk entitled, "Chewing the fat with larval zebrafish: How a model organism can help us understand digestive organ function."

Debate on Climate Change, Environmental Effects

SUBMITTED BY ARIEL WEBSTER
Class of 2012

As part of the Natural Science and Mathematics (NS&M) Colloquium series this semester, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Professor at Penn State University in the Department of Meteorology and Geoscience, Michael E. Mann came to St. Mary's to discuss the reality and politics of climate change in Schaefer Hall on Oct. 26.

Mann began his talk by reviewing the evidence there is for the fact that humans have had and will have a significant affect on the earth's climate. The earth warmed one degree Celsius over past century, and both sea levels and temperatures have risen while snow coverage around the world has lessened. According to Mann, the earth warms and cools naturally, however, based on solely natural models the earth should have cooled slightly in the last 100 years instead of warmed.

Critics might argue that all of these results are based on models and that it is impossible to accurately model something as complex as climate. Mann countered this argument by pointing to models such as Hansen's Three Predicted Global Warming Scenarios, which have predicted very accurately the amount of global warming we have experienced in the last 50 years.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a panel of thousands of scientists working under the United Nations, has concluded that global climate change is "very likely" due to greenhouse gases. Mann pointed out that, "scientists don't use the term 'very likely' lightly" and what it means is that they are about 90 percent sure of their results. Almost identical conclusions have come out of the scientific academies in almost all of the industrialized nations in the world.

At this point in time, it is possible to see the effects of climate change on the weather. On any given day in the United States there are record high temperatures and record low temperatures; a few decades ago the ratio of record hot to record cold days was one to one. Today it is two to one, in favor of the hot days. Any particular hot day is not evidence of climate change but the trend is significant. Rainfall also can demonstrate this trend: warmer sea temperatures lead to evaporation and more rainfall. "I liked the stats that he used to prove it was actually happening," said senior Colleen Brummitt.

Since it is possible to already see such profound effects, it is reasonable to ask why no action has been taken. This is because the subject is highly politically charged. The first example Mann used to show this political masking was a memo written in 2002 by political consultant Frank Luntz, which coached politicians

in how to argue against climate change.

Mann's next example was of an event called "Climategate," when private emails of scientists researching climate change were stolen and released to the public. Oddly enough, the following political attention was not focused on the theft but on the supposed fraud that the scientists discussed in the emails. Sarah Palin, former Governor of Alaska, wrote an opinion article in The Washington Post declaring that the scientists were deliberately hiding a decline in global temperature. This was not true, according to Mann. The scientists were trying to negate incorrect and confusing tree ring data from the 1960s.

Mann found himself in the center of the climate change debate because of his work on the "hockey stick graph," which has become an icon for climate change. Because of this work he was targeted by political opponents of climate change such as Texas Representative Joe Barton (R), who subpoenaed all of his research and data.

Barton's subpoena was attacked by almost every news source in the United States and nearly every scientific journal. Mann stressed at this point that there were politicians on both sides of the aisle that have defended climate change and scientists. Mann praised former New York Representative Sherwood Boehlert (R) specifically as a national hero for calling out his fellow republicans for driving the Republican Party towards becoming a party of anti-science.

Barton was not the last to subpoena Mann. When Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli subpoenaed him, The Washington Post published no less than five editorials and two cartoons bashing Cuccinelli for the dangerous precedent he was setting under which any scientist could be stopped from doing their work if the Attorney General did not like their subject or findings.

The political debate and battle for acceptance of the reality of climate change is ongoing. This is a shame, according to Mann, because the scientific community accepted the reality of climate change two decades ago. The debate now should be how to fix the problem. If we stay on this track, says Mann, "[the] coral reefs will be gone within 40 to 50 years" and crops in the tropics will suffer significantly. If we want to avoid this, we have to bring our CO2 emissions to a peak within the next decade and below the levels of those in the 1990s by the mid-2000s. This cannot be accomplished by individuals reducing their carbon footprint; we need to put a cost on emissions.

"I don't want a world where my daughter can only show her children polar bears in zoos," Mann says, "and that is what we are heading towards."



PHOTO BY KEENE KELDERMAN

St. Mary students and faculty assist Lesley Urgo and the St. Mary's Arboretum Association plant daffodil bulbs in gardens in various places around campus. Thanks to these volunteers, daffodils will be beautifully blooming all over campus in the spring. This wraps up the events for the the College's Sustainability Week.

Bulb Planting Strengthens St. Mary's Arboretum Association's Roots

By TAYLOR SCHAFER
Assistant Editor

With shovels, augers, or trowels in hand, about 35 students joined Lesley Urgo, member of St. Mary's Arboretum Association, around campus on Friday, Oct. 28 to plant daffodil bulbs, wrapping up the College's events for Sustainability Week.

Along with Urgo, Sustainability Coordinator and Facilities Planner Luke Mowbray helped plant the bulbs with students in the various locations on campus. Starting on the Campus Center patio at 2:30 p.m., groups spread out to gardens by the Library, Health Center in Chance Hall, Goodpaster Hall, the Michael P. O'Brian Athletics and Recreation Center, Glendening Hall, and by the tennis courts to begin planting.

"I like to see the beautiful colors of the flowers around campus," said Urgo, who also planted over 400 bulbs last fall. "I would love this place to explode with daffodils in the spring."

Sophomores Brett Williams and J.J. Eckert were required to help with planting for their Environmental Perspectives class. "Even though it's a class requirement, I don't mind. I'm excited to see them in the spring. It'll

be cool to look at them and be able to say 'I did that,'" said Williams.

Other volunteers like junior Andrew Koch came to simply help out the college. "I've had experience in landscape work before, so I thought I could help out the campus and it looked interesting," he said. "Next spring, we'll hopefully see the fruits of our labor."

"I would love this place to explode with daffodils in the spring."

- Lesley Urgo, member of St. Mary's Arboretum Association

Since the St. Mary's Arboretum Association was founded in August 2010, campus sustainability events have been happening on campus.

Besides the bulbs planted last fall, Urgo led the renovations of landscaping around the Prince George and Dorchester Hall buildings last November along with about 50 student volunteers. According to Urgo,

new sod was put down as well as the planting of new trees, daffodils, and other flowers.

Last spring, a healing garden was planted by the Cobb House as well as 25 new trees planted around campus by Arboretum members and student volunteers as a part of the college's first ever Arbor Day series of events from March 22 to 25 and in preparation for President Joseph Urgo's inauguration on March 26.

March 26 was also the ribbon cutting ceremony in the remembrance garden by Kent Hall to celebrate and officially kick off the start of the St. Mary's Arboretum Association.

Other campus groups affiliated with the St. Mary's Arboretum Association include the Community Garden Club, the Student Environmental Action Coalition, Eco-Reps, the Sustainability Committee, EcoHouse, and the St. Mary's Watershed Association.

Upcoming St. Mary's Arboretum Association events include "The Healing Powers of Gardens" on Nov. 5 with guest experts MJ Raleigh, director of counseling services, and Alex Kampf, tai chi practitioner and also tree planting around Schaefer Hall, Parking Lot R, and Waring Commons on Nov. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Nitze Fellow Delaunay Talks Compromise in Humanitarian Action

By MARIA SMALDONE
Assistant Editor

The first lecture out of three for this year's Nitze Senior Fellow Public Lecture Series, entitled "Humanitarian Action and the Politics of Compromise," was given on the evening of Oct. 18 in St. Mary's Hall. This year's Fellow is Sophie Delaunay, the U.S. director of the humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders, which in its native French is Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

The main purpose of MSF is to send teams of volunteer medical staff into more than 60 countries, which are home to those who are "threatened by armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, exclusion from health care and natural disasters," according to the lecture's program.

Michael Taber, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and the Director of the Nitze Scholars Program, said Delaunay is "so grounded in the organization" that she has worked with for 18 years. He got the sense that "she enjoyed speaking to college groups" about her work, which made her a perfect fit for the position of the Nitze Senior Fellow.

Delaunay opened her lecture by commenting on how the field of humanitarian assistance has developed in the past decade, and gave two examples of how it has improved and declined. The best development in this area, said Delaunay, "is the number of lives we're able to save," and the worst being "the humanitarian circus of so many organizations latching on and creating chaos."

She then went on to discuss three major patterns of humanitarian crisis: the proliferation of actions, a gradual shift to long-term development and the politicization of aid.

In regard to the proliferation of actions, Delaunay said that "never in history have there been so many sources of aid," all of which have

experienced tremendous growth. MSF, for instance, grew from a \$1 million organization to one worth \$7 million in just one year.

Delaunay used Haiti as an example to show how an unprecedented boom in humanitarian organizations is "never a guarantee of a good performance." Haiti has the "largest concentration of NGOs [non-governmental organizations] in the world, yet 3,000 people there will die of cholera" due to miscommunication or issues between groups.

A shift towards long-term development, according to Delaunay, has been the result of "donors driven by the need to support a political agenda" that emphasizes

"[Doctors Without Borders physicians are] constantly challenged to give quality care, address the immediate needs of individuals in a crisis, and advocate for more adaptive diagnostic tools."

-Sophie Delaunay, U.S. Director of Doctors Without Borders

the service of international needs, and so donors have shifted towards supporting global programs.

This goal of giving aid for the intent of long-term development, Delaunay said, is crucial because there is always a growing need. "The largest refugee camp on the border of Kenya and Somalia... is in disastrous conditions. We cannot meet all needs because of the constant arrivals of refugees. It has taken more than a year for international governments to respond to

this tragic emergency."

Delaunay added that the recurrence of measles outbreaks in Africa and Asia would have required MSF to vaccinate 4.6 million people in 2010, which she said is "too much for one organization. The humanitarian system is not completely functional at this stage."

The politicization of aid, Delaunay said, is due to the fact that many issues have political roots. "As crises get greater visibility [to governments], the potential for confusion of political and military action is even greater."

Delaunay used the U.S. military in Afghanistan providing aid "to win the hearts and minds of the people" as an example of the politicization of aid. She then spoke of how political figures can use the "instrumentalization of aid" like those in Somalia, who "limit aid to certain areas" in order to reward those who support the government and punish those who do not. These two examples, Delaunay said, are not considered humanitarian assistance, which "should be delivered on the basis of international humanitarian law" rather than arbitrary political motives.

In an age where "everyone calls themselves 'humanitarian,'" Delaunay spoke of how MSF wishes to overcome such challenges and provide effective care" by preserving its core ideals: ensuring MSF's independence, committing to medical ethics and high standards of care, and defending MSF's space of work.

Part of securing MSF's independence, said Delaunay, is securing MSF's financial independence. The organization must be able to take action "without having to wait for the green light from the donors." In doing so, MSF asks its donors to trust them in allocating funds, but Delaunay adds that donors can withdraw if they are not pleased with the transfer of their donation



PHOTO BY KEENE KELDERMAN

Nitze Senior Fellow Delaunay visited St. Mary's to discuss how the field of humanitarian assistance has developed over the past decade.

from one area of MSF to another.

Delaunay stressed MSF's commitment to medical ethics and their unbiased care of people "regardless of who they are, where they are from, and what they are affiliated with." The doctors of MSF are "animated with the same spirit as when they would work in a hospital at home," although they are "constantly challenged to give quality care, address the immediate needs of individuals in a crisis, and advocate for more adaptive diagnostic tools."

Maintaining a work space for MSF, said Delaunay, is based on the trust of the government of the countries in which the organization is working. "If our intent is not to give impartial aid, then our trust and our space is lost. We need to preserve the authorization to work and not be targeted by any groups. Distancing ourselves from the politics of a crisis is essential for not being targeted. We need to have a dialogue with all parties in a conflict in order to be known and understood by everyone who has power to harm or recognize our agenda of medical care."

"I don't want you to leave tonight thinking MSF has higher morals," said Delaunay. "We don't think humanitarian objectives are more noble than military ones. We never claim to bring peace. We keep our neutrality and distinguish ourselves from the conflict." Delaunay admits that one would think such impartiality would never survive on the ground, but said that MSF has been forced to compromise their moral beliefs in order to maintain this ideal.

"We will never get the level of autonomy and access that we would like," said Delaunay, who used a situation in Sri Lanka as an example of this autonomy being compromised for the sake of MSF's mission. In 2009, tens of thousands in Sri Lanka were hiding during government bombings meant to drive out rebels. Delaunay said that when MSF criticized this violence, the organization was threatened with deportation. "We could either

speak out and be expelled or keep a low profile and keep providing help to as many as possible."

In Myanmar, Delaunay said that MSF's independence of action was constantly limited by the country's regime. However, this compromise brought benefits: more than half of the HIV patients in the country were treated by MSF.

Delaunay recalled a time when "compromise was unacceptable and would have undermined MSF's credibility." At a refugee camp in Zaire housing victims of the Rwandan genocide, MSF volunteers discovered that many of their refugees were actually perpetrators of the genocide. According to Delaunay, at that moment MSF "had a moral obligation to leave." Similarly in North Korea, MSF's aid was provided through a public distribution system that discriminated against certain members of the population, and MSF "had to leave even though people were starving."

At the end of her lecture, Delaunay remarked that MSF will be releasing a book that explains how "being humanitarian is first and foremost about action, how

MSF balances benefits in public choices, and how the organization is adapting to a changing environment."

Sophomore Ashok Chandwane noted Delaunay's amiableness, "She spoke with a French accent and I enjoyed the stories she

shared with us during the reception."

Audience member Rebecca Prasher, a senior, said, "I think Sophie opened our eyes as to how volunteer organizations function, and as to how humanitarian acts can be used as weapons. She also made it clear that volunteer organizations such as Doctors Without Borders often walk a fine line with regards to how donors perceive them, and how MSF has to take into account so many varying factors when deciding to pull out of an area or not. Although we'd like to offer our help to those in need regardless of the situation, it's much more complex than that."

"If our intent is not to give impartial aid, then our trust and our space is lost...Distancing ourselves from the politics of a crisis is essential for not being targeted."

-Sophie Delaunay, U.S. Director of Doctors Without Borders

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

4:30 PM
Chewing the Fat with Larval Zebrafish
Schaefer Hall 106

TBA
Field Hockey CAC Semifinals
TBA

TBA
Women's Soccer CAC Semifinals
TBA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

8:15 PM
A Writers Harvest for a More Sustainable Harvest
Daugherty-Palmer Commons

7:00 PM
Men's Basketball at St. John's (Exhibition)
St. John's

TBA
Volleyball CAC Semifinals
TBA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

4:00 PM
Swimming vs. Randolph-Macon
Michael P. O'Brien Athletics and Recreation Center

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

12:00 PM
The Healing Powers of Gardens
Healing Garden behind Cobb House

1:00 PM
Swimming vs. Goucher
Michael P. O'Brien Athletics and Recreation Center

TBA
Field Hockey CAC Championship
TBA

TBA
Men's Soccer CAC Championship
TBA

TBA
Volleyball CAC Championship
TBA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

12:00 PM
Sunday Clean Ups with Keep St. Mary's Beautiful
Campus Center

3:30 PM
St. Mary's College of Maryland Orchestra Concert
Montgomery Hall 25

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

4:30 PM
Migration Ecology of Marine Fishes
Schaefer Hall 106

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

2:00 PM
Tree Planting
Public Safety

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

All Day Event
Take A Hike
St. Mary's River State Park

11:00 AM
Men's and Women's Cross Country NCAA Midwest Regional
DeSales University

1:00 PM
Swimming at York PA with Dickinson and Susquehanna
York College

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

12:00 PM
Sunday Clean Ups with Keep St. Mary's Beautiful
Campus Center

9/11 Commemorative VOICES Reading Series Concludes

By ANNA AGARUNOVA
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Voices Reading commemorative 9/11 Series concluded with two readings, held on Oct. 13 and Oct. 27. Crowds of students came to Daugherty-Palmer Commons (DPC) to hear two prominent poets, Laila Hallaby and Amiri Baraka.

Laila Hallaby was born in Lebanon to a Jordanian father and American mother, and drew from her heritage to write "West of the Jordan," her first novel, published in 2003.

According to Hallaby, her second novel "Once in a Promise Land" follows the story of Jassim and Salwa, who left the deserts of their native Jordan for Arizona,

each chasing mirages of opportunity and freedom.

Although the story does not directly touch Ground Zero, the couple cannot escape the "dust cloud of paranoia settling over the nation," said Hallaby.

Hallaby read several poems about hope and culture, and an excerpt, "Once in a Promise Land."

**"These are very
Weird times that we
live in. . . Don't let
the world pass you
by." - Amiri Baraka**

The excerpt included a section of the introduction that was left out of the paperback version of her book.

The excluded prose used an airport luggage check as a metaphor for removing stereotypes and misconceptions, just as one would remove shoes while going through security, and recommended that the reader do so before beginning the novel.

"No turbines or violent culture" Hallaby said.

"I keep thinking about how things have changed and where we have gotten to in the past ten years," Hallaby added. She went on to read an article she wrote about the incident earlier this year in Tucson, Arizona, when congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was shot in a supermarket.

"I do not live in fear of crazed gunmen or terrorists," said Hallaby. "Though I do worry about planes crashing. Quite often my heart skips when I hear a plane's engine as it prepares to land a few miles away."

Hallaby has always believed that if other people could see her world from the inside, then they couldn't have "such ridiculous and negative stereotypes," she said.

The 9/11 series concluded with Amiri Baraka, a well-known

American poet since the 1960's and former poet laureate of New Jersey. Jeffrey Coleman, Associate Professor of English, introduced Baraka as a "renowned and sought-after author."

"Suffice to say, Amiri has been writing extremely provocative literature since the '60s and is still writing amazing things," Coleman said. "His last book, not including the one that came out this week, won the American Book Award. It's a book about the African-American presence in American classical music."

Baraka has written over 40 books of essays, poems, drama, and music history and criticism, and is a revolutionary political activist.

According to Baraka's website, his influences include musical orishas from Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane, Thelonius Monk, and Sun Ra to the Cuban Revolution, Malcolm X and world revolutionary movements.

Baraka is also known for being the founder of the Black Arts Movement in Harlem in the 1960s.

Baraka read several musical poems including his famous piece "Someone Blew Up America."

According to Baraka, the poem made headlines when the governor of New Jersey and others demanded his resignation as the state's Poet Laureate after a reading of the poem at the Dodge Poetry Festival.

The first few lines caused controversy as they referenced to those who knew beforehand about the New York City World Trade Center bombings in 2001.

"These are very weird times that we live in," Baraka said. "It is very important for us to be conscious. Don't let the world pass you by; you won't even know it's happening. The dumbest thing I can image is you being in the world and not even knowing how it works."



Hallaby draws from her heritage and experience to comment on misconceptions of Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim individuals.

ARTISTspotlight:

Colleen Brummitt

By MONIQUE THOMPSON
Contributing Writer

Colleen Brummitt is a perfect example of the creative spark that dwells on St. Mary's campus.

She is one of the many dedicated dancers at SMCM. As an individual who has been dancing for nearly three years, Brummitt shows how you can do what you love while balancing your academic schedule.

She also proves that any student can break from their shell and become a talented figure in the student body.

Brummitt joined St. Mary's Dance club her sophomore year and has been an active member ever since. She explains that dancing has made her "a lot more self-confident than [I was during my] freshman year."

She has been given a boost in self-esteem while being a part of Dance Club and as a result has become "more outgoing."

Dance club allows its members to dance in the styles that they are comfortable with or branch out into different types of dancing.

Maurielle Stewart, the president of Dance Club, comments that Brummitt "has bridged out from strictly hip-hop to more contemporary and lyrical."

Brummitt believes that with dancing, practice makes perfect.

When she is not preparing for a show, she can be found practicing just to enhance her muscle memory.

"There are rehearsals once a week, tech week before a show, and I practice every chance I get even if I think I don't need it," said Brummitt. Practicing also helps her with her confidence before a performance.

When asked what dancing means to her, Brummitt said that "dancing is a form of expression."

Dancing has helped her become the person she is today. It has allowed Brummitt to speak through her movements. Even though practicing is an important part of dance, it isn't all hard work. "It's definitely what I use as my stress relief," she said. She can show who she is and enjoys doing it. Even now as Brummitt has entered her senior year, she can still express herself through dance.

Brummitt has been an integral figure in the club. "She is what you hope to find in dance club; someone who is enthusiastic, loving what they do, and learning in the process as they hone their skills," said Stewart. It is clear that dancing has had a significant impact on Brummitt's academic career. Those who wish to watch her dance can find her in upcoming shows hosted by Dance Club.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMIRI BARAKA

Amiri Baraka was the former Poet Laureate of New Jersey.

Review in Brief: Jazz Night

By TAYLOR SCHAFFER
Assistant Editor

With a full house, the St. Mary's College of Maryland Jazz Combo performed in Montgomery Hall on Friday, Oct. 28 at 8 p.m.

Led by director Don Stapleton, the Jazz Combo is made up of members from the Jazz Ensemble, according to senior Andrew Llewellyn, who plays the trombone. The free public concert included classic works from composers like Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, and Oliver Nelson.

Llewellyn was pleased with the turnout of the concert as a whole. "It went well," he said. "Everyone did a solid job, and I was pleased with the big crowd."

Though it was the first Jazz event of the year on campus, the combo performed for the first time this semester at the St. Mary's Country Oyster Festival on Oct. 15 in Leonardtown.

"We usually do five concerts in an academic year," said Llewellyn. "Three in the fall, including the Oyster Festival, and two in the spring."

Upcoming Jazz concerts include one on Dec. 2, which will feature music from both the Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensemble with vocalists.

Other upcoming music events on campus include a student recital on Nov. 4 at 3 p.m., an Orchestra performance on Nov. 6 at 3:30 p.m. led by director Jeff Silberschlag, performances by the choir and chamber singers on Nov. 11 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., and a student recital on Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. All performances will be held in Montgomery Hall.

Students Celebrate Third-Annual Artweek

By ANNA DAVIS
Features Editor

This semester, the Art and Art History Department proudly presented Artweek 3.0, the third annual campus-wide celebration of art. According to the St. Mary's website, "Artweek emerges from departmental efforts to diversify our programmatic offerings, find collaborative opportunities for faculty and students alike, and offer a wide range of art-related events to the campus community." All events were open to the public.

The first event that began Artweek on Oct. 24 was the showing of the documentary film, !Women Art Revolution. Hannah Piper Burns, the Artist-in-Residence and alumna of St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), premiered the film on behalf of the director, Lynn Hershman Leeson. Burns advertised the film as one which was important to all artists and women. The film explores the history of feminist art from the '60s to the present and documents the events and actions taken by female activists to make their voices heard. The !Women Art Revolution website describes the film as revealing "how the Feminist Art Movement fused free speech and politics into an art that radically transformed the art and culture of our times."

The film features rare footage of interviews with prominent feminist artists about what it meant to be a woman in a profession that was dominated by their male counterparts. The documentary explains the troubles and censorship these women encountered while trying to get their artistic visions seen in galleries and museums. They also describe the movement they formed to ensure that their work was recognized as art. The film provides information about fun-

**"I am a student of the human condition, by turns mirror and hammer."
-Hannah Piper Burns**

damental female artists, such as Judy Chicago and The Guerilla Girls, who made it possible for modern women to get involved in art culture.

This documentary not only opened up access to a hidden portion of history, but also led to the anticipation of following Artweek events.

All who attended applauded the film for its recognition of feminist expression that is sometimes not available to the public. Burns expressed her concerns that the subject material still was not being mentioned in art classes and

lectures. The showcasing of the film at SMCM gave students the opportunity to experience a different perspective of art culture.

On Oct. 25 Jennifer Wagelie, senior academic officer at the Indiana University Art Museum and previously a research fellow at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, visited St. Mary's to discuss the National Museum of Natural History's collection of Maori art. The Maori are the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand. The collection at the museum, as stated on the St. Mary's website, includes "feather and flax cloaks, intricate wood carvings, stone adzes, and nephrite pendants or hei-tiki." In addition to lecturing on the history of the museum's collection, Wagelie spoke more broadly on the process of attaining non-Western art and what happens to it when it is displayed to a foreign culture.

On Oct. 26, Burns returned to display more material from her film and video collection. She also had an artist talk in the library later in the day.

"As someone who makes stories out of other peoples' words and images, I am constantly evaluating my position as a semi-permeable membrane. At best, I'd like to think of myself as a kind of em-

pathetic devil's advocate who values earnestness over irony and integrity over impact. At the very least, I am a student of the human condition, by turns mirror and hammer. One thing I have learned is that truth is as subjective as aesthetics," said Burns in a quote on the St. Mary's website.

Joe Lucchesi, Associate Professor of Art at St. Mary's, along with the students in his Race and Representation: African-American Art class presented various themes and issues relating to African-American artists and the production of their contemporary art. According to a press release from the University of Maryland David C. Driskell Center released on Sept. 24, 2007, the exhibition "highlights the remarkable focus of the Jean and Robert Steele collection. For the last three decades, the Steeles have developed a collection of hundreds of prints and works on paper by African American artists."

The final event in Artweek was the Third Annual Art and Art History Department Throwdown. On Oct. 27, Burns and Ken Castelli, '06, competed against Billy Friebele, Assistant Professor of Art, and Lucchesi in "an epic battle of the wits, quick thinking, and academic discourse," according to the St. Mary's website.

Men's And Women's Swimming Undefeated

By EVAN KELLEY
Sports Editor

Both men's and women's swimming won their first meets, making them undefeated as they prepare for home meets on Friday, Nov. 4 against Randolph-Macon College at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 5 against Goucher College at 1 p.m.

Junior Joanna Purich explained the nature of swim meets: "First, there's a relay with four people on each relay team. Then, there are 10 different individual events, and then at the end we have another relay."

Both teams swam against Catholic University before swimming against Hood College and Marymount in a tri-meet.

Sophomore Hanna Rizkallah described tri-meets simply by saying, "Usually we have dual meet, so it's just two teams competing, but in this case there were three teams competing."

Sophomore Claire Huckenpoehler explained one thing she did not like about tri-meets, saying, "Tri wasn't an ideal situation because not everyone got a chance to swim because there were only two lanes to swim per team instead of three."

However, the possibility of all the women swimming in a meet is slim

considering the size of the team. Purich commented saying, "We have tons and tons of girls so not everyone gets to swim, but it also makes us more competitive and helps us to be better." Likewise, the men's team has a lot more men than usual, Purich said, "With all the freshman that have come in, the guy's team is almost a full team."

Purich, Rizkallah, and Huckenpoehler all mentioned the importance of first-years on the team, with Rizkallah specifically saying, "We have a lot of good freshman, a lot of good fresh talent, and we all came together as a team with the new freshman."

Rizkallah was happy with the team's morale saying, "We all were really good at getting up and cheering when other people were swimming."

The Freshman on the women's team did place well. Even in events where other St. Mary's students placed first, a first year often placed second. First year Brooke Raab picked up three wins for the team in events including the 100 butterfly and the 200 Freestyle. Another First year, Kelsey Abernathy, came in second behind Raab in the 100 Butterfly. Elaina Kohles, another freshman, placed third in the 100 Freestyle.

Likewise Freshmen on the men's

team contributed to an impressive showing. First year Ben Immink came in second in the 200 freestyle after Junior Billy DeBoissiere. Jackson Holden, another first year, came in second in 500 Freestyle. Dylan Cope '15 also placed second in the 100 backstroke and the 1000 freestyle.

However, like most athletic events, there usually is something to work on in practice. Even with their undefeated record, Huckenpoehler said, "We had a good start but there are always things we need to work on." Rizkallah said, "Our coach said our starts and turns could get better, so we need to still work as individuals, but as a whole I think we are pretty good."

Rizkallah explained an advantage in the upcoming meets, saying, "I think we'll do really well. We have home field advantage. You always do better at your home pool. And we have a really nice pool with plenty of space for teams to warm up and cool down, and I think that's really important with swimming."

All three swimmers seemed excited about the season so far, with Huckenpoehler saying, "It's really positive, we're all really motivated, and we got a good group of people together."



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FOREMAN

The College Sailing Team competed in the Masia Open on Oct. 29-30.

Cross Country Places in Blizzard-Struck Capital Athletic Conference

By STEVE REES
Deputy Editor-in-Chief

"It was cold," said junior men's Cross Country runner Dan Swain about last Saturday's nine-team meet at John Rudy State Park. Despite the cold, snowy conditions during the York College-hosted CAC Championships round, the Seahawks managed to place fifth overall in the men's and women's competitions as they continue to the Mideast Regional on Nov. 12. Running close to 34 degrees Fahrenheit after an almost four-hour drive to John Rudy, PA, the Seahawks entered 28-strong, as the 13 male and 15 female athletes competed against runners from Salisbury University, the University of Mary Washington, York and Hood Colleges, Frostburg State University, Stevenson and Marymount Universities, and Wesley College.

"I can honestly say this is the

first time I've ever run in a blizzard," said junior runner Nick Pasko. "We packed up because if we didn't then we wouldn't have been able to see where we were going."

Out of the 94 individual competitors in the men's race and 89 in the women's race, the top three runners of each team placed in the top 38 and 39, respectively.

For the men's team, Pasko crossed the line first with a 31:14.77 time, placing 36th. Close behind, first-year David Kersey placed 37th with 31:16.75, and first-year Collin Hickey placed 38th with 31:21.87. After two runners from Salisbury and Stevenson crossed the line, Seahawks Tim Carey (first-year), Swain, and Matt Bennett (sophomore) finished the eight-kilometer race under the 32-minute mark.

For the women's team, first-year Michelle DiMenna took 14th with 27:20.31 in the six-kilometer race,

followed closely by junior Katie Phipps, who placed 15th with a 27:21.49 finish. Junior Margaret Lillie placed 42nd with a 33rd for team scoring, followed by senior Kathleen Tatem in 46th, sophomore Julia Gardner in 55th, junior Alex Moore in 58th, and sophomore Sylviann Houck in 59th.

Overall, the men's team scored 147 points and the women's team scored 127. The CAC Championships meet marked the seventh of eight officially scheduled competitions for both teams, with one meet remaining on Nov. 12 at Center Valley, PA, at 11 a.m.

"Overall, I think we are having a pretty good season," said Tatem. She continued to say, "We have been able to keep our morale up and stay focused despite battling through some tough injuries and racing conditions this season. We are all super excited and ready to go out, run fast and have fun."

Men's Soccer Narrowly Misses Playoffs

By STEVE REES
Deputy Editor-in-Chief

Despite a close 1-0 victory over Marymount University on Oct. 22 that left the Seahawks one win short of the playoff ticket, the men's soccer team took a 3-0 loss during a home-game against Salisbury University that ended the team's conference-competitive season.

The season began strongly for the men's team with a 2-1 win over Eastern Mennonite University on Sept. 3, a 4-0 shutout against Penn State Altoona the following day, and two more victories (including a 3-0 shutout) that brought the team to a 4-0 standing one game short of the conference season.

However, following a close 2-1 loss to the Johns Hopkins University Blue Jays, the team suffered two additional losses (including a 3-1 conference loss to Frostburg State University), bringing the team to 4-3 overall and 0-1 conference.

Despite their 1-0 conference win against Hood College on Sept. 24, the team then suffered three straight losses and took a 2-0 shutout loss to York College on Oct. 8.

With a 1-3 conference spread and 5-7 overall, it was looking grim for the Seahawks until an uplifting 3-0 shutout on Oct. 11 against the University of Mary Washington, a home conference game that brought the Seahawks closer to playoff competition.

Senior forward Mark Jaskolski netted a goal with assistance from junior midfielder Frank VanGessel. After halftime, senior midfielder Brian Payne and first-year forward Matthew Braun secured two additional points to lead the Seahawks to their first win against the Eagles since 1981.

Despite their performance, the Seahawks took a 2-1 loss to the Wesley College Wolverines four days later. Even while securing a 1-0 victory against Marymount the following week, St. Mary's needed to defeat Salisbury to get into the playoff season.

The Seagulls took a strong offensive in the first half with 10 goal attempts, all deflected by the seemingly driven Seahawks defense. Despite the strong performance and an equally solid defense following the second half up to minute 54,

Salisbury managed three scores in the following 16 minutes, sealing the Seahawks' fate with a 3-0 shutout on Oct. 24.

Seventh in the conference, men's soccer finished the season with a 4-1 loss to Catholic University, leading to an overall 7-10 season and 3-5 conference spread. The conclusion also marked the first completed season for new head coach Alun Oliver '04, who joined the Seahawks following former coach Herb Gainey's retirement.

"Going into the season, everyone was excited for the fresh start with a new head coach," said Assistant Coach Peter Krech '09. "Our final record was not what we had hoped it would be, but I thought there were a lot of good things that happened throughout the season."

Men's soccer will be back next fall to take on the CAC Championship with stronger determination.

"Our seniors will definitely be missed for their contributions both on and off the field," said Krech, "but I believe that we have a great young core to build from...they are up for the challenge that lies ahead."

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: FENCING

Submitted By ALEXIA TANSKI
Class of 2014

What is the one place where it is not only okay, but advised that you stab your best friends and acquaintances? The Fencing Club, of course! Every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., you and your friends can use weapons to stab, slash, and defend yourself and each other – Olympic style.

The "point" of the Club is giving the students the chance to learn, practice, and enjoy one or all three weapons of sabre, epee, and foil. Out of the three weapons, sabre would probably be the most recognizable; the bouting is very fast paced and it is generally the most aggressive due to the fact that one is able to slash and cut with any part of the blade. In order to receive points, however, the fencer is only allowed to attack the top half of the body. The blade has a bell guard that curves around the handle, protecting the fencer's hand.

Epee is considered the least aggressive weapon. Fencers who choose this weapon are able to use the tip of the sword to attack any part of the body. The blade has a large bell, like a cup, that covers the top of the hand.

Foil is in between sabre and epee. It has a small, circular bell guard and fencers attack their opponent's torso, also with the tip of the blade, in order to receive points. While it has more complicated rules and judging, much like sabre, it is what is first taught to new club members because it teaches the basics of footwork as well as offensive

and defensive exchange.

The Club gives great opportunities for students not only to learn fencing, but also to push themselves and test their own abilities against other fencers of all ages. The Club recently attended two tournaments: Fence-A-Thon, an all-night fencing tournament, and Chaos, held at University of Maryland College Park (UMCP). Both of these tournaments are great chances that allow each student to test themselves, if they so choose.

Our Fencing Club belongs to the Baltimore-Washington Collegiate Fencing Conference (BWCFC), which is a collection of Fencing Clubs in the region (this includes UMCP, Navy, and University of Maryland Baltimore County). Within the BWCFC, three tournaments are held in a year: one in the fall and two in the spring. For the first two, each school club participating sends three teams (one for each weapon) to compete against each other. Generally, those who made it into one of the first two team competitions have the right to go to the third, which is an individual competition.

If you are interested in joining, our club meets at the tennis courts until it gets cold, in which case we will meet in the Michael P. O'Brien Athletics and Recreation Center by the pool. We have club equipment you can use, so you don't have to worry about buying your own gear.

Do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail (adtanski@smcm.edu) for more information. We hope to see you soon!



PHOTO BY STEVE REES

Senior Ariel Webster, right, dodges an attack from an opponent and counterattacks in a foil bout during Fence-a-thon on Oct. 21.

Punching Babies - As you mold itBy HEATHER PRIBUT
Cartoonist**Musical Instruments Available**

Ukuleles
Bongos
Tambourines
Acoustic Guitars
Recorders
Mandolins
Maracas
& more!



smcbooks.com
240.895.4420



A non-profit organization owned and operated by St. Mary's College of Maryland We're Here For You!

Miss Meghan: Birth Control Part 2SUBMITTED BY MEGHAN ROOT
Resident Sexpert

I recently have become sexually active with my boyfriend. How do I decide which birth control method is right for me?
-Indecisive

Dear Indecisive (continued from previous article),

Now that I've covered condoms, the pill, the patch, the shot, and the ring, let's move on to diaphragms, cervical caps, sponges, IUDs (intrauterine devices) and Implanon.

Diaphragms, cervical caps, and sponges are between 84% and 94% effective when used correctly, and I wish more women would go back to these methods because they do not affect the hormone levels in your body. However, many folks see these as "dated" and they do require some planning of sexual activities. You need to get fitted at your gyno for a diaphragm, but they last a while. These methods take some planning on the woman's part because they are typically inserted a few hours prior to sexual activity.

Finally, we come to IUDs and Implanon. Depending on your insurance, coverage of these items varies. The script for Implanon

currently retails around \$800, not including the price of the "surgery" from your gyno to implant the small plastic chip into your arm. IUDs are either plastic or copper, and the plastic IUD and Implanon affect the levels of progesterone in your body.

We suspect that the copper IUD neutralized the PH balance of the

DIAPHRAGMS, CERVICAL CAPS, AND SPONGES ARE BETWEEN 84% AND 94% EFFECTIVE WHEN USED CORRECTLY.

uterus so any egg that is fertilized does not plant onto the uterine wall. Some women report cramping, spotting, or prolonged periods, especially during the first six months. However, others report that while on these they no longer get a period, which over the course of the five to seven years that the device is in means that you are saving a bundle on tampons or pads. Up until recently, IUDs were only considered an option for women who had already given birth at least once or who were over the age of 25, but nowadays most gynos are

more than willing to provide IUDs or Implanon for sexually active 18- to 25-year-olds as well.

Surgery is also an option, but is costly and permanent. Vasectomies (men), tubal ligations (women), hysteroscopic sterilization (women), and hysterectomies (women) are all surgical procedures. If you have made the decision to never have children, this may be a great option. Many women and men below the age of 35 find it difficult to convince a doctor to perform the procedure for fear that the patient will later change his or her mind. If this is the choice for you, please work on creating a convincing argument for it.

Now, I hope providing you with all these options hasn't made the decision any harder than it already was. Choosing the method right for you depends on your memory skills, cost, comfort with your body, insurance, and what will work best for your body. I can't emphasize enough the importance of having a good gynecologist and a communicative partner to discuss your options with.

Sincerely still enjoying every time I see that boat,

Miss Meghan

Boats and Committees: News from the TrusteeBy MAURIELLE STEWART
Student Trustee

My oh my! There sure has been a lot of excitement floating around campus these past few weeks. I would insert a joke about the mold to the tune of "holy moldy!" or another reference to the "love boat," but I don't want to be cliché. Though I am not one of the 350 students who was evacuated from Caroline and Prince George Halls, don't think I have turned a blind eye to how this disruption has been affecting every facet of this campus community. You may be reading this article from your original residence on-campus, but please realize that we are all still directly affected. When our neighbors are uprooted, our whole campus community is in flux; our family is displaced. All in all, I am extremely proud at the open doors and listening ears that students have been displaying as they rise to help their fellow classmates. And by the time this article is published, the Sea Voyager will be floating in the harbor as the ship and the students get acquainted with their new home for the next few weeks. I feel this is a very ingenious way to deal with an unfortunate situation. Though President Urgo didn't exactly "buy" us the ship, he and the

administration were extremely clever in finding a way to sew the torn piece of cloth back onto the fabric of our home by the river. Let this time be a testament to our resilience as a family unit.

Also, some of you may or may not have heard through the rumor mill about a Public Safety Student Advisory Committee. Well, if you've heard, you heard right and it's on the way. After much dialogue with concerned students and insightful members of administration, I was able to characterize the student-Public Safety relationship as a bit abrasive. Unfortunately, this sentiment was one that existed from the time I joined this community almost four years ago. To remedy this relationship, I came up with the idea of a Public Safety Student Advisory Board that would serve as a permanent mechanism of communication between the student body and Public Safety. It would be a way to aggregate and report student concerns to Public Safety and for them to relay developments back to the student body. This board would be a way to keep both bodies accountable. As of right now, it's in its last stages of development and I am super excited to get it up and running.

Now, you may be wondering what I've been doing amidst all these changes. My main two jobs have been listening and talking. I've tried my best to reach out and communicate with anyone who has been affected in any capacity and listen to their stories. Whatever your joys, concerns, or frustrations have been, I have done my best to objectively listen to them all and take down questions that I can then ask to relevant members of administration. Secondly, I've been talking. Any information I've received I have sent it out to you all as soon as I could. I feel like one of my main objectives was just as simple as making people feel like they were in the loop and connected. I've been asking questions and giving you the best answers I could find out. Some members of the press have also contacted me and I've done my best to give a well-rounded account of student opinion. As always, if you feel like I can be doing anything better, keep me accountable and let me know! Also, I know that many of you still wonder how a situation this grand could have just cropped up in the middle of the semester. I've heard those concerns and they will be addressed as soon as the water settles. I will be sure to let you know what

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY:**KEEP PRIVATE LIVES PRIVATE**SUBMITTED BY JESSICA
PAGUIRIGAN
Class of 2014

In response to the opinion editorial, "Dear St. Mary's We Need to Talk," published in the last issue of The Point News, I would like to address the importance of protecting our community. The writers of the editorial had admirable intentions in raising awareness about preventing sexual assault and stressing the importance of supporting our friends who have survived sexual assault. However, in an attempt to protect potential victims, the protection of the survivors was compromised.

Now, while the editorial did not provide specific names of the survivors, it referenced an easily identifiable group of people on-campus, the Orientation Leaders. This was a violation of discretion. We live on a small campus; we are all neighbors, and we have seen everyone's face at least once. To point out any particular group, be it a sports team, a club, etc., would endanger its members' privacy. The survivors belonging to those groups could feel targeted because attention is being drawn in their direction.

When the survivors are targeted, this not only endangers their privacy, but also their well-being. Sexual assault is something that may define one particular moment in the survivors' lives, but it is a moment that affects the rest of their lives. It is a traumatic experience, one that causes fear and distrust, and one that is haunting. As with all traumatic, private experiences, this is one which can only comfortably be shared with those whom the survivors have chosen to trust because to retell the story puts them in a position to relive that moment.

Therefore, remember that any traumatic experience belongs to its owner and that story must not be divulged to anyone without their consent. Should that person learn that his or her story has been shared without permission, this forces the person to relive that moment without emotional

precautionary measures are in place as soon as I find out.

Finally, be on the lookout from a message from Alex Walls, the Student Trustee in Training, about the start of the selection process. This year has been zooming by and before you

or mental preparation. Reliving is not solely confined to a short flashback of that life-changing instance, but it can encompass triggered thoughts and feelings that the person then has to battle with yet again.

There are not only emotional and mental consequences of targeting a group in which a member has been sexually assaulted. Survivors are put at risk for another attack by the assailant. If the survivors are targeted, so too are the assailants: if they fear that their victim has made open accusations against them, they may seek retribution.

So, I ask that when anyone wishes to raise awareness about sensitive topics that they please be aware of the potential harm they could be doing. Please, only draw attention to the issue without drawing attention to the people.

Also, research the issue thoroughly in order to make sound factual claims. The sample referenced in the editorial does not accurately represent the number of on-campus assaults. Nor does it address the fact that males are also victimized by sexual assault and that women can also be sexual offenders. There are no concrete gender role divisions in sexual assault.

As a disclaimer, I would like to add that I am by no means an expert on sexual assault or its consequences. Should anyone wish to learn more about sexual assault on campus, or in general, please refer to one of the following:

The First Responders Network at 301-904-2015

Meghan Root, the Sexual Assault/Wellness Advocate at 240-895-4289

National Sexual Assault hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE

Sexual assault is a very serious subject that does need to be addressed. St. Mary's, be sensitive, be protective of your fellow students and friends. Let us prevent future victimizations, and protect the survivors by keeping their stories close to our minds and hearts, but out of the public realm.

know it will be time to pick the next Student Trustee! Remember to add Maurielle Student-Trustee on Facebook. I care about each and every one of you. Please let me know what you need from me so I can represent you all in the best way I can!

Point: Harry Potters should be Considered a Classic

By ANNA DAVIS
Features Editor

Ever since "Harry Potter" became an international literary sensation, the topic of whether or not the series could ever be considered a classic has been a hot debate. I think that one day, the "Harry Potter" series will become a classic.

I am a huge fan of the series – so much so that I'm not ashamed to admit that I used to write fanfiction about it when I was in middle school. But that's beside the point. "Harry Potter" will not become a classic because of its popularity, but instead it will become a classic because of its lasting power and timeless relevance to kids, adolescents and adults everywhere.

Young kids read "Harry Potter" because they love Harry as the hero, someone young and brave who can use magic, fight dragons, and defeat the bad guy. Adolescents relate to Harry on a more personal level. He has embarrassing moments with his romantic interests, is nervous around girls and jealous when the one girl he loves is with someone else. Adults respect Harry because he is so young, but still an incredible hero who overcomes all odds to vanquish evil.

The story may be something that we've heard before, but that doesn't make it any less lasting. J.K. Rowling created her own magical world and a set of hugely lovable characters. We've all read the good versus evil story a million times, but there are also some bigger social issues captured in the story of "Harry Potter." The issue of questioning authority, like Dolores Umbridge and Gilderoy Lockhart, comes into play. Readers are taught that just because someone is declared a leader doesn't mean they deserve the power they have been given. The problem of an untrustworthy government is also presented. It is shown how the public can often turn a blind eye and how this can lead to bigger problems. Rowling also demonstrates how the press can be used as propaganda and as a way to propagate terrorism. In the line of terrorism, Rowling also shows the faulty decisions that

a government can make in its weak attempts to defend its people.

Many people bash the series' chances at becoming a classic by stating that it's no "literary masterpiece." That's true, the writing's not spectacular, and "Sorcerer's Stone" was the first book that Rowling ever published. You can't really hold that against her, since, for example, Harper Lee's one and only novel is "To Kill a Mockingbird." But the title of "classic" should not be confused with literary masterpiece. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a classic as something "serving as a standard of excellence; of recognized value." "Potter" may not be a standard because of its writing, but maybe it will create a new standard for relatable and loveable characters and the kind of book that is relevant to people of all ages and at all times. It's not the first to do this, obviously, but it sets the bar pretty high.

Now, "Harry Potter" is mostly loved by fans because of the sense of nostalgia they get when they remember waiting in line for hours to get that new "Potter" novel. What will happen when a new generation of readers picks up the series? And the next?

I think that "Harry Potter" will be around for a while. The series won't be overshadowed by the movies because the books have so much more to offer than the films ever could. "Harry Potter" brought a whole generation together by teaching them to love reading again, something they forgot about with all the television shows, computer games and video games competing for their attention. I can't wait to share "Harry Potter" with my future children, and have them share it with their children. "Potter" is an international sensation now, and I think it will become an international classic in decades to come.

Counterpoint: Why Harry Potter Shouldn't be a Classic

By JASMINE JONES
Contributing Writer

I'm all for Harry Potter. It's true: I was one of the first generations to enjoy the J. K. Rowling novels. My brother was the first in the family to buy them, and I followed suit and read all seven as quickly as I could. I laughed at the Weasley brothers, cried when Dumbledore died, and hated He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named as much as anyone else did. But I am not an advocate for the Harry Potter fan club rooting for the books to be considered a "classic" piece of literature.

Yes, the saga has been praised for its ability to improve children's desire to read. And while that is significant and is well-deserved credit in a world where reading is a venue to educate one another, literary critics deem "classics" as pieces that transcend beyond the stereotypical hero and villain novel, i.e. Harry Potter.

While the school of witchcraft and wizardry is unique, the stories built within them are not. How many times have we seen the group of friends fighting against a higher power (Harry, Ron, and Hermione vs. Lord Voldemort)? The best friends turned lovers (Ron and Hermione)? Good defeating evil (the finale)? If we took the time out to replace the world of Hogwarts, and put this story in the context of a novel in a high school setting, the storyline is clichéd. We've all seen Harry, the

leader, Hermione, the nerd, and Ron, the klutz, and we've grown to love them.

While Rowling's writing is built for child-level learning, the content of the novels are not. Death is one of the most significant themes, especially as the series progresses. The series grapples with death and the struggles that accompany it. However, the mere idea of death within a children's series does not constitute for the merit it needs to be considered a masterpiece.

In short, Harry Potter is meant to tell a story, and to sell a story. As I said, I enjoy reading Harry Potter books, I do (the movies are a different story). Yet the conversation in regards to its ability to be regarded a "classic" has yet to be proven to me, especially in literary terms. We look at novels like "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and realize how intricately delved these are into issues within our society: racism, class structure, the lives of Southerners during the nineteenth century. But does Harry Potter truly grapple with these same issues that are prevalent today?

The purpose of Harry Potter is set out to entertain and inspire children; so was every other children's book that I read when I was in elementary and middle school. I encourage devoted fans to remain faithful to J. K. Rowling and Harry, and I expect nothing less. But it takes more than just a multi-million dollar fan club to produce a classic piece of literature, and I find it difficult to believe that Harry will ever surpass his current level of admiration by adoring, faithful fans to captivate the public on a level considered to exceed basic levels of literary thought.

St. Mary's College of Maryland
Campus Center Room 145B
18952 E Fisher Road
St. Mary's City, Maryland 20686
Phone: (240) 895-4213
Fax: (240) 895-4445
E-mail: pointnews@smcm.edu
Web Site: <http://thepointnews.com>

Editor-In-Chief
AMANDA ZELAYA

Managing Editor
DAVE CHASE

Deputy Editor-In-Chief
STEVE REES

News Editors
HANNAH GRABENSTEIN
JESSY SCHROEDER

Features Editor
ANNA DAVIS

Arts & Entertainment Editor
ANNA AGARUNOVA

Sports Editor
EVAN KELLEY

Opinions Editors
STEVE REES
AMANDA ZELAYA

Photography & Online Editor
KEVIN BAIER

Assistant Editors
ALLISON KIGHT, TAYLOR
SCHAEFER, MARIA SMALDONE

Staff Writers
JASMINE JONES
MONIQUE THOMPSON

Photographers
KEVIN BAIER, KATIE CAFFEY,
JUSTIN FOREMAN, KEENE KELLERMAN,
STEVE REES, KRISTIN SEYMOUR, ALEX STILLSON

Cartoonists
HEATHER PRIBUT
CAITI SULLIVAN

Faculty Adviser
BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

The Point News is published biweekly during the academic year by the undergraduate students of St. Mary's College of Maryland. The ideas and opinions expressed on its pages are not necessarily those of the College.

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 Amanda Zelaya (akzelaya@smcm.edu) or Steve Rees (sdrees@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.

The opinions expressed in commentaries and letters are solely those of the writers and not necessarily the views of *The Point News* or St. Mary's College of Maryland. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of at least two-thirds of the editorial board. We reserve the right to edit any work submitted to *The Point News* in order to correct errors in spelling and grammar, or to shorten length.

Anyone may place advertising in *The Point News*. For current advertising rates, please e-mail our Managing Editor at dechase@smcm.edu. Advertisements represent no endorsement by *The Point News* or St. Mary's College.

Any news tips, story information, corrections or feedback may be sent to akzelaya@smcm.edu, or submitted through the web site at <http://thepointnews.com/contact>

- 2011, *The Point News*.

Honestly, the Great Room needs more food diversity. The pizza is great, but the spaghetti is getting a little old. Literally.

I paid \$100 to park a couple hundred feet from my room. If I have to park in Guam one more time because of INCONSIDERATE VISITORS, I'm gonna sink the boat.

Do you have something that you simply

NEED to say?

Submit your Squawks today (to sdrees@smcm.edu), and have your maximum 40-word rant printed for all to see and agree with. Or disagree with. It's your call.

There are some people that put noticeable time and energy into Hallowgreens costumes. Then, there are those who don't *cough cough* Marios and Luigis *cough cough*.

Why didn't Maintenance take care of the mold when we first noticed it? Or better yet, BEFORE we moved in?

Cartoons

By CAITI SULLIVAN
Cartoonist

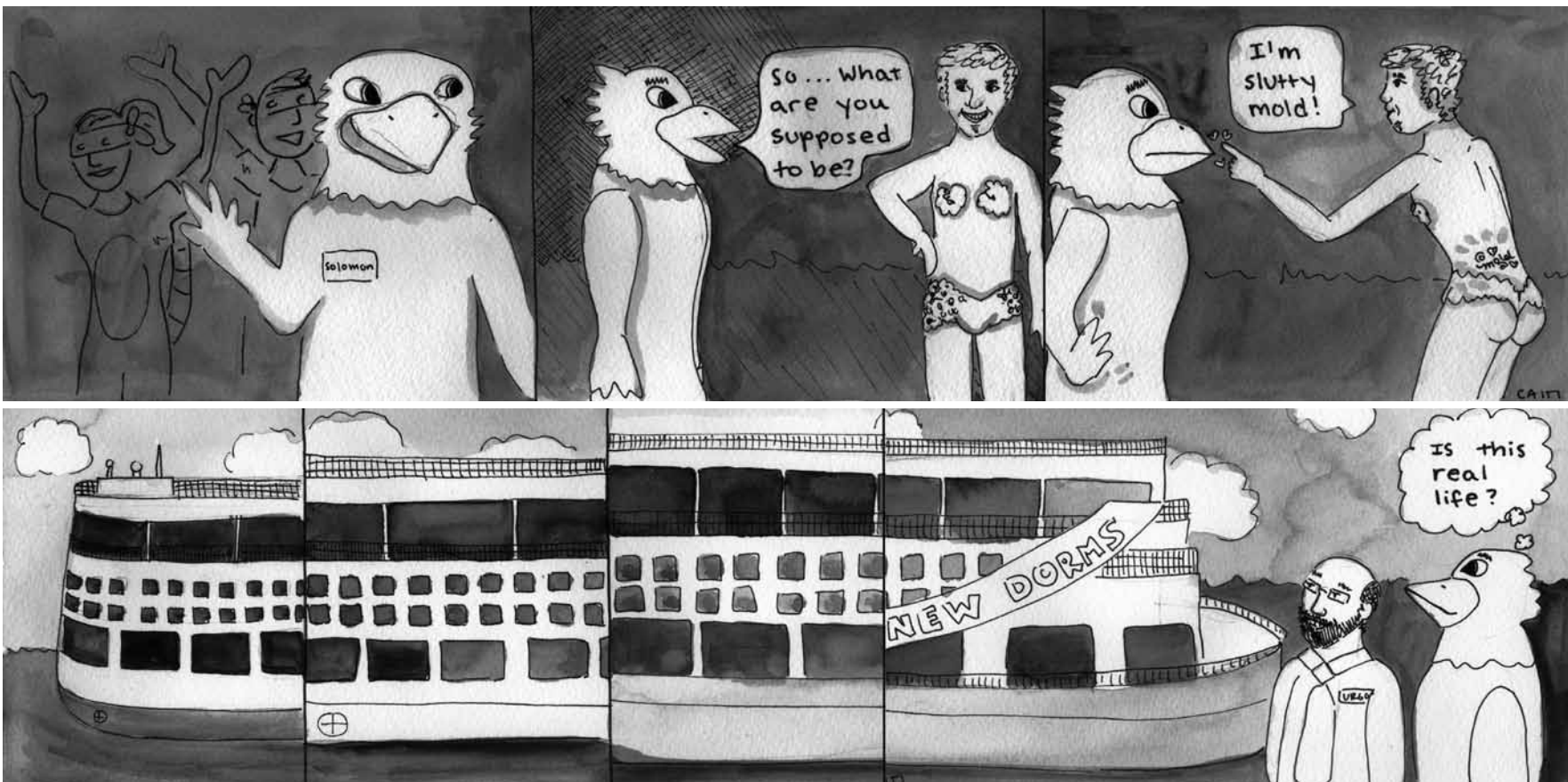


Photo Feature: Hallowgreens 2011

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BAIER, KATIE CAFFEY, AND STEVE REES

