



The Belltower

SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume II

Issue 6

February 2010

Students ride bus for free with SMU ID

Katie Hawkins
Editor-in-Chief

On February 8, transportation for Saint Martin's University students got a lot easier. Now, SMU has joined Evergreen State College and South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) in a deal with Thurston County's public transportation provider, Intercity Transit. Students are now able to use their Saint Martin's identification card as a bus pass to catch a ride anywhere from the Westfield Mall in Olympia to SeaTac.

The pass program has been under discussion for years, but Saint Martin's began discussing it more seriously last semester. Junior Dara Zack, along with many other students, brought up the idea of free bus passes for students at the open forum held through ASSMU last fall.

"Many students wanted to use the transit system but didn't know how to go about it," said Zack. There were many questions about the cost of contracting the service, as well as if buses would stop on versus near campus. According to a student survey last fall, 73 percent of students were all for transit passes which would be funded by the Student Activity Fee paid by undergraduates. Each student pays \$8.26 per credit hour, and students who do not pay the fee (or graduates) may purchase the pass for \$20 per semester, as well as for summer.

"Now that the passes are free, I think more

See BUS, Page B1

Saint Martin's University continues to grow

Students have a positive response to the new fitness center



Above (By Nick Harvey): Saint Martin's recently finished 36,000 square foot recreation center.
Below (By Ninalynn Benitez): The SMU community enjoys refreshments during the grand opening.



Krinda Carlson
Staff Writer

After opening its doors over two months ago, the new Recreation and Fitness Center on the Saint Martin's University campus is a place of constant activity. The 36,000 square foot facility does not just offer a place to work out individually, but provides group classes and training. Cardio, pilates, and yoga classes are held throughout the week for anyone who wishes to sign up and participate.

Becky Traber, who is also a student working on her masters in education at Saint Martin's, leads a power yoga class every Monday night in the dance studio of the center. She taught

the class last year in Burton Addition and, though she says she misses the fireplace and cozy environment of Burton, she is enjoying the increased space. The ability to fit more attendees in her class is a plus.

"The students here are a nice group of people to work with," Traber says. On a personal level, working out at the new facility "is like night and day. Before [in the old weight room], it was like working out in someone's garage."

Student Jennifer Johnson works at the fitness center when she is not training for track and field or in class. She commented on how much cleaner the new facilities stays.

See FITNESS, Page B1

Students show concern over grants and scholarships

Katie Hawkins
Editor-in-Chief

There is no doubt about it: Saint Martin's University is an expensive place. However, students know they are getting a great education, and they want to stay enrolled. Some are finding that a little more difficult now that tuition has raised almost \$3,000 in the last two years. Some students who receive grant money from the university are finding that the amount is fluctuating year to

year, sometimes for the worse. Students with academic scholarships are noticing that their scholarships don't increase... even though the cost of school does. Eric R. Pederson, Dean of Enrollment, has made things a little easier to understand.

There are two basic ways to obtain academic merit for school: based on academic record pre-Saint Martin's (the amount is locked in for one's entire Saint Martin's career), which is the most common way for universities around the

country, or scholarship money given based upon schooling pre-Saint Martin's for the first year, and then later based on your academic record at Saint Martin's. This is all well and good, most students would say... but not if, for some reason, a student's grades slip while they are enrolled (and let's face it, a college GPA can be a bit more difficult to keep up than a high school one).

"Sometimes the latter sounds more attractive, but it's a two way street," said Pederson.

"To be fair, the amount would have to go up and down."

Reed College and Gonzaga attempted the fluctuating academic scholarship approach, and they faced questions of tactics, and ended up changing their system. But is there a solution to the frozen academic scholarship money?

"Ultimately Saint Martin's needs money for a scholarship improvement program, so that students who get better grades than they did in high school can apply for more

help," Pederson said. Pederson is familiar with this system from Whitman College, but even the wealthiest school in the state couldn't find money for every student.

While some students find that their academic scholarships are frozen, some are finding that their grant money isn't. Grant money is based on financial need of the student. Each year that a student fills out their Free Application for

See GRANTS, Page B1

GRANTS, From cover

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the university takes into account how much financial aid a student needs. This can fluctuate year to year, based on the relationship of the cost of school and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This can pose some problems for students if their grant money decreases while the tuition increases.

“My father’s business wasn’t doing so hot,” said Danielle Tanaka, a student who left Saint Martin’s in 2009 because of financial issues. “My family couldn’t afford to send me back. The raise of tuition didn’t help.” Interestingly enough, even with her father’s suffering business, Danielle received no FAFSA money.

If you are like Danielle and are not receiving FAFSA money when you should, there could be two problems. Because the FAFSA is usually due on March 1 students and their families may not have enough time, or even the opportunity to sit down and work on the FAFSA together. Also, the FAFSA coincides with taxes, and because students had to have the FAFSA filled out in March, it was often done with estimated information, which has to be updated when tax returns are finished. These two issues can have a large effect on a student’s financial aid reward.

Now, to help more students get accurate aid, Saint Martin’s has changed it’s FAFSA deadline to April 15 in order to give students and their families time to fill it out together (spring break), and so families can fill out their taxes and the FAFSA at the same time.

Saint Martin’s is also taking other

steps in order to improve the Financial Aid Department. SMU has now switched from Noel-Levitz, the largest enrollment manager in the country, to a smaller consultant, Hardwick Day and Associates, who specialize in small, private institution. Since they have only 50 clients, Saint Martin’s gets much more attention.

“Noel-Levitz wasn’t bad, but we were a small fish,” said Pederson. “Moving to a specialized company simplifies the process.” Pederson also wants to emphasize that no student should worry about getting less aid in the transition.

“We will be phasing in the change so that no one loses aid. With each new class, we will slowly introduce the change, evaluate, and then continue with the next class.”

As for the State Need Grants, Governor Gregoire is beginning her negotiations with full funding, and if they are cut, there will be a lower starting point. The financial reality is that some cuts could happen, and with a third of Saint Martin’s enrolled students eligible for State Need Grants, this could be quite a blow. With tuition on the rise, many students could be affected.

Hopefully everyone who wants to remain at Saint Martin’s University in the future is financially able. Danielle Tanaka believes that if she was able to get more grant money, she could have stayed enrolled at SMU.

“I love the people, campus, food, everything about Saint Martin’s,” said Tanaka, who is now attending Kapiolani Community College in her home state of Hawaii, where her tuition is \$79 per credit. She wished that she could come back to Saint Martin’s, and many students hope they can remain.



Photo by Nick Harvey

Lacey Transit within walking distance of Saint Martins provides easy bus access.

BUS, From cover

students will be excited to use the system,” said Zack.

Senior Ericka Manthey also thinks the new transit system is a great idea.

“I have a roommate who doesn’t have a car, and she will be taking the bus from my house, which is in Tumwater, to school every day.” Saint Martin’s decided to participate in what Evergreen, involved since 1998, and SPSCC since 1992, have already found to be beneficial.

“The routes used by Evergreen and SPSCC students are among the highest ridership,” said Erin Scheel, Youth Education Specialist for Intercity Transit. Market research done in 2008 and 2009 showed that 46 percent of riders are below 25 years of age. “It has been especially helpful for students at SPSCC, where there is limited parking.”

Although the campus roads are not equipped to hold heavy buses, Saint Martin’s has the best access to the buses in the county because the campus is near the transit center (off Sleater-Kinney Road, corner of Sixth Avenue and Golf Club Place). Route 66 (which travels to Pacific Avenue, Ruddled Road, and downtown Olympia),

67 (Tri Lake area), and 68 (Tumwater Square, Downtown Olympia, Lacey Corporate Center, Mullen and Carpenter Roads) all serve near the SMU campus. However, many other routes are available from the transit center.

“In addition to great access to Intercity Transit, students can connect to broader areas, such as to the Tacoma Dome, Mason County, and Grays Harbor,” said Marketing and Communications Manager, Meg Kester.

Intercity Transit was been awarded the American Public Transportation Association's award for Best Mid-Sized Public Transportation System in America in 2009. They were also recognized by the Federal Transit Administration for Operational Innovation and Ridership Success, with the Ridership Award for increased ridership and high rider satisfaction in the quality of transit service and customer service.

“The bar is set high, and we will continue to strive for the best for the Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater communities,” said both Kester and Sheel. “We are excited to work with SMU, and anticipate a long and successful partnership.”

For information on bus schedules and routes, visit <http://www.intercity-transit.com/mapsandschedules/.aspx>

JANUARY IN REVIEW

Christopher Gentile - Staff Writer

World Wide United States

Protestors in Hong Kong marched to the government’s liaison office demanding that Beijing grant them full democracy.

In Japan, Wendy’s, after almost 30 years, closed it’ doors. Lines at the chains snaked down streets on the closing day (Bloomberg News).

North Korea announced that it wants to end “the hostile relationship” between itself and the United States-increase communication (Choe Sang-Hun, NYTimes).

In Hong Kong, a high speed vessel belonging to an anti-whaling group collided with a Japanese whaler at sea-both parties blaming each other for the crash (Mark McDonald, NYTimes).

On January 12, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocks Port-au-Prince, Haiti-hundreds of thousands feared dead (Simon Romero/Marc Lacey, NYTimes).

In Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the Burj Khalifa opens, making it the world’s tallest man-made structure (Landon Thomas Jr, NYTimes).

The longest annular solar eclipse of the third millennium occurred on January 15 (IndiaPRWire).

On January 4, Johnny L. Wicks, 66, opens fire in a Las Vegas federal courthouse lobby, killing a security officer and wounding a US Marshall-he was fatally shot a t t e m p t - i n g to flee (Steve Friess, NYTimes).

In entertainment news, Green Day’s ‘American Idiots’ is heading to Broadway’s St. Thomas Theater this spring, based on Grammy-award winning album, will be eligible for 2010 Tony Awards (Patrick Healy, NYTimes).

Simon Cowell announces that he is leaving ‘American Idol’ (Edward Wyatt, NYTimes).

The 2009 Billboard results are in-Taylor Swift and Susan Boyle dominate-Boyle’s debut album “I Dreamed a Dream” skyrockets to #1 and stays there since its release, new Billboard record (Ben Sisario, NYTimes).

Nintendo announces that it will begin offering Netflix video streaming on its Wii, consisting of mainly older movies and television shows (Brad Stone, NYTimes).

Scott Brown, R-MA, wins senate seat, upsets health care reform, breaks democrat filibuster (Glen Johnson, AP).

FITNESS, From cover

“We clean everyday and wipe down all the equipment a lot...we mop the gym at least once or twice a week.”

The access to this gym, with three new basketball courts, is something that SMU baseball player Marshal Nelson appreciates about the new facilities. He attends the open gym nights and likes the fact that this allows him to interact with more people.

“The indoor track has helped also,” Nelson says. “I run a lot on it,” and it’s available during open hours for all students and faculty. Senior track runner, Connor Flaherty, expressed similar thoughts about the track.

“I really like the indoor track because I run on it every time I’m here.” No more battling the rain or cold to get a run in. Flaherty did mention, “We need better quality hand weights,” but other than that, the new facilities have been a plus – especially, “all the space!”

Along with more space, there are a few

more rules to be aware of: some of these include no profanity or fighting, appropriate attire such as keeping shirts on and not wearing open toed shoes. Also, entrance is granted through scanning student ID cards, so they are important to carry when going to use the facilities.

“Always having the card key can be tough,” Nelson claimed, but other than trying to get in the habit of bringing it around, the new rules have not been hard to adjust to.

As the newest addition to the campus, the recreation and fitness center has gathered a great response from the students and staff. On a daily basis it draws together those training for athletics and others coming for the pleasure of physical activity. Flaherty agreed that, since the center has opened, he has seen more people than usual. It provides an environment to not only exercise, but also a place to connect and interact with other members of the Saint Martin’s community.

Precious proves to be a gem

Tristan Beach
Guest Writer

"My name is Claireece 'Precious' Jones and I want to be on the cover of a magazine," she says in the beginning of the film. "Precious" will not make the cover of a magazine, she won't be in a BET music video, she won't become a trendsetter and she won't win an academy award. However, the actress who plays Precious, Gabourey "Gabby" Sidibe, just might snag that Oscar.

"Precious," based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire portrays a young black teen growing up in 1987 Harlem. Precious is beset by adversities—she is grossly obese, has been raped repeatedly by her father and bore two of his children, suffers daily abuse at the hands of her mother, and is illiterate. The only person who seems to show her kindness is her teacher, Ms. Blu Rains (Paula Patton).

In her opening voiceover, introducing us to her character, Sidibe sets the tone for much of the film. Her narration is somber, relentlessly honest in the way she recites her lines. Listening closely, we can hear her tone change from somber to light, mirroring the shift in tone of the film. An amateur might simply have read her lines or barked them. It is hard to believe this is Sidibe's debut as an actress.

"Precious" shines like a precious stone—the directing, the writing, and particularly the acting are nearly flawless. Lee Daniels, who produced 2001's "Monster's Ball,"

which starred Halle Berry, directed this gem of a film. Geoffrey Fletcher adapted Sapphire's novel to the screen.

According to various interviews, Daniels had a hand in every level of this film—from overseeing the script to handpicking his actors. One actor in particular, Sidibe, snagged the role of Precious in a single screen test. The screen test, which can be seen on YouTube, enacts a pivotal scene of the film in which Precious breaks down in tears over the hopelessness of her situation.

"Love don't want me! Love beat me! Love make my daddy rape me!" Sidibe's unrelenting emotion shakes us and her vulnerability even makes us uncomfortable. However, as the camera focuses on Sidibe, the voice of Ms. Rains drifts in from off screen during the test saying, "That wasn't love, Precious."

Sidibe's performance is only one part of an amazing ensemble of surprising actors. Comedienne Mo'Nique plays Precious' mother, Mary. Mo'Nique, who rose to fame on TV's The Parkers, tackles her role as relentlessly as Sidibe. I found the scenes between mother and daughter both disturbing and heart-wrenching. Mary, an embittered shut-in, orders Precious around all day while physically and emotionally abusing her. We loathe Mary and pity Precious as the film continues on, each scene becoming more violent than the last. However, Precious finds safety and love in the form of Ms. Rains, who becomes a surrogate mother to her and pushes her to excel beyond her limitations.

Daniels proves to be a genius at casting. Mo'Nique and Sidibe are perfect in their roles as well as Patton, who plays her character without a shred of dishonesty. Another standout in the film is the unlikely Mariah Carey, who has been hounded for poor performances in previous films such as Glitter. Daniels cast Carey in an earlier movie of his, Tennessee, which opened to a select few theatres and mainly circulates through indie circles. His experience with the established pop singer led him to making her his choice for the role.

Carey's turn as a sympathetic social worker is remarkable. She de-glamorized herself for her part as actresses will sometimes do—Charlize Theron's performance in Monster comes to mind. And like other actresses, once de-glamorized, Carey becomes unrecognizable. Her character, although doing little in the film to improve Precious' situation, acts as Precious' confidant and eventually the middleperson between her and her mother by the end of the film.

Rock singer Lenny Kravitz shows up in scrubs to play his part of a male nurse, John McFadden, who treats Precious kindly, though does little else in the film.

"Precious" could have ended up being another typical high school drama—troubled student seeks help from enlightened educator. What keeps the film from ending up in muddy melodramatic water are the intense realism of its script and the brutal honesty of its actors. I have seen few films that come close to exposing a hidden

world of abuse to such an extent as "Precious" does. The honesty brought to the screen can be quite shocking. There are scenes that disturb us and others that drive us to tears. Some people may find the content hard to stomach. This in itself is not a flaw, but proof that such worlds of violence and depression do exist whether we ignore them or not.

The only flaw I saw in the film was the way it credited its actors. Kravitz's name appears before Sidibe's because he is an established artist. However, this is his acting debut and his character has such a small role that it's not worth really noting. However, what he does with it is respectable and I would like to see him in more films. Oprah Winfrey and Tyler Perry saw enough potential in this film to create an incredible marketing campaign to gain attention for the film. A lot of people feel put off by the hype and some will undoubtedly feel betrayed by Oprah if it turns out the movie isn't their cup of tea.

All in all, the film is worth watching at least once but I wouldn't suggest trying to watch it multiple times to discover hidden meanings. There is no room for the audience to come to their own conclusions. However, this isn't exactly a flaw as 2008's "Slumdog Millionaire" can attest. Just recently, "Precious" picked up three Golden Globe nominations: Best Picture (Drama), Best Actress in a Drama (Sidibe) and Best Supporting Actress (Mo'Nique). Perhaps Sidibe's Oscar isn't too far away.

3 1/2 stars out of 4

"Duet for One": setting stage for full house

Elena Larson
Staff Writer

Have you made plans for post Valentine's Day fun? Head to the Kreilsheimer Hall on the Saint Martin's University campus on February 16 through the 20 at 7:30 p.m to be part of the audience of "Duet for One," directed by Emilie Schnabel. Tickets will be available at the door for the general public's convenience: \$10 for general admission and \$6 for students.

Any observer who guesses by the title of the play might mistakenly assume the plot of the story includes only one performer and his or her music.

"Duet for One" is based on a woman, Stephanie Abrahams, who is a violinist, but the woman's story wraps around the unfortunate tale that this woman is struck with Multiple Sclerosis and is tragically slipping into the depths of depression. Like a movie, the play follows her

with its own lenses as Abrahams struggles with her battle against her disease and, in the end, struggles against herself.

"This play is intriguing in that it is driven by the the characters' self-discovery



Emilie Schnabel

rather than physical action. At times funny, at times poignant, and even at times a little frightening," says Schnabel. As said by CurtainUp, "... this is not a play about music per se, but rather about the corrosive effect of profound loss on the heart and soul of

a greatly gifted violinist."

And if that does not grab your attention from the current football game playing on ESPN, then let us analyze the playwright of whom was inspired by a tragic life of Jacqueline de Pre, a musician who struggled with the same disease as Abrahams. "'Duet for One' is an extremely well-written piece dealing with therapy in a unique and engaging way," Schnabel said.

With the London Financial Times declaring the piece "a wonderfully sensitive play, positive and optimistic," and with such a complex and a self-struggling story line, it isn't a fault of mine to feel a magnet pull to a fictional character. The character's self-struggle to survive in being faced with one's inner demons can be related to every one of us. So let's not spare a minute, second or hour. Head to the music building to see where the lovely tale of Stephanie Abrahams takes you.

Re-imagining Holmes? Elementary my dear

Amanda N. Hatman
Staff Writer

What to say about cinema's latest attempt to bring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "Sherlock Holmes" from pages to the big screen, except to quote the dear boy himself: "Ritchie, what have you done?" Alright, not quite... For those seeking an amusing diversion from the hustle and bustle of the new year, it certainly delivers, but a thoughtful movie mystery which the audience races to solve before our favorite sleuth, sadly no. "Sherlock Holmes" leaves many moviegoers wanting more Doyle and less of director Ritchie's typical over-the-top cool guy characters.

Film critic Jonathan Hickman of E! Insiders writes "Ritchie's vision here (the product of five screenwriters) is alien to anything written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and may have the unintended effect of pushing

viewers back to the books."

Still, the film which is estimated to have grossed over \$65 million in its first week-end, and unprecedented sales its opening (Christmas) day, must have something going for it. Block bookings from Baker Street Regulars notwithstanding, Ebert says, it's sure to be enjoyed by action fans. Whatever its disappointments, audiences across the board have hailed the film with positive ratings for the trio's performances (Downy, Law and McAdams), its sweeping scenery and terrific score. Despite being initially drawn to the film by the promise of seeing a childhood literary love come to life, I confess to be greatly entertained.

So the trick to enjoying "Sherlock Holmes"? Step one: forget everything you thought you knew about Sherlock Holmes and his endearing companions. Step two: grab your popcorn and buckle up. Step Three: expect to be surprised.

Saints women struggle in conference play



Dara Zack goes for rebound against Evergreen.

Photos by Steve Herppich/ Guest Photographer

Brandon Jones
Sports Editor

The Saint Martin's University Women's basketball team has struggled in GNAC play as well as on the road in what is turning into somewhat of a bleak season for a team that looked ready to surprise some teams in a strong conference.

The Saints are 1-6 in conference play with nine games left in the season. On the road, SMU has struggled mightily posting a 2-6 record in opposing gyms. An encouraging

sign for the Saints is that they have six upcoming games at home, a welcome break from this season's hostile environments.

The Saints are 5-3 in Marcus Pavilion this year (7-11 overall) and it's looking doubtful that they will finish near .500 for the year.

The Saints were 6-4 overall before they lost to Cal State-San Bernadino which set off a chain of bad games culminating in a seven-game losing streak. Two of those seven games were blowouts, one a

54-80 loss to Seattle Pacific University, the other a 50-67 loss to Western Washington. The losing streak was broken by a strong effort against Alaska-Fairbanks where the Saints crushed the Nanooks 82-48.

In that game, the Saints seemed to do everything right as they garnered their first conference win. The win was statistically different than the most games this season as the Saints saw a solid scoring effort from multiple players, turned the ball over fewer times and nearly

shot lights out from the field.

Dara Zack led the Saints with a game-high 18 points and chipped in seven rebounds to add to the Saints dominance on the boards. Katie Hawkins lead the Saints in rebounding with nine and Danika Lawson added seven and a game-high four assists. Zack, Jamey Gelhar, Krissy Basset and Megan Teade all scored in double digits in the win, a rarity for the Saints. Basset sank all five of her free throws as the Saints pummeled the Nanooks down low, outscoring them 38-18 in the paint.

This game was a stark contrast to the contests preceding it this season. Thus far, three players are averaging double figures in points per game (Zack, Basset and Gelhar). The next closest player (Teade) is averaging just over seven. This is not bad considering the Saints bench runs pretty deep, but it does show that offensive productivity is a bit top heavy when looking at the stat sheets. The Saints also have the second worst turnover margin in the conference averaging 19.5 giveaways a game. In the Fairbanks game, SMU only turned the ball over 10 times.

As a team, SMU may not be strong statistically speaking. Individually, there are

definitely some great performances that should not go unnoticed. Dara Zack is once again having a stellar season. She is second in the league in scoring at 16.2 ppg and is destroying any competition in the rebounding category. Zack is averaging 9.6 boards per game, almost one more rebound per night than the next player in the conference. Zack also leads SMU in assists and is seventh in the GNAC with 3.1. Jamey Gelhar is leading the league in Three-Point percentage at 50 percent on 62 attempts, helping the Saints to second place in Three-Point percentage in the GNAC.

It is clear that this will turn out to be a disappointing season for the Saints. Even after their strong performance in Alaska, the Saints returned home and lost to Central Washington 78-69. Trailing by one point at half time, SMU could not hold off the Wildcats as Central went on to outscore the Saints 46-38. The Wildcats also took it to the Saint's bench outscoring SMU 22-4.

SMU still has a relatively young team. There are plenty of things to look forward to next year, but much improvement can still be made this year. Look for SMU to pull off one upset before the year is over.

Mens basketball in a slump

The Saints shoot to make a comeback

Brandon Jones
Sports Editor

The Saint Martin's University men's basketball team got off to a hot start this season as they beat 11 of their first 12 opponents.

Things have definitely changed. After a triple overtime thriller in which they defeated Western Washington, SMU has lost its last six games.

Though the GNAC is a very competitive conference, it was not expected that the Saints would be sharing a seat in last place with Alaska Fairbanks at 11-7 (1-6); especially after a win over Western, the number two team in the conference.

One thing that has plagued SMU this year is poor shooting. The Saints are by far the worst shooting team in the GNAC and are last in both field goal percentage and three point percentage, along with a seventh place spot in free throw percentage. This bad shooting has led to an offense that ranks second to last in scoring.

The Saints were able to win some games early because of their defense. SMU has the fourth ranked defense in the GNAC which helps make up for the power offensive showings. Re-

bouncing has also been stellar for the Saints as they are in second place in the GNAC averaging 38.5 a game.

The Saints efforts have been led by Junior big man Blake Poole who is having a monster season for SMU.

Poole has filled up the stat sheet this year and leads the Saints in over eight categories. Currently, he is second in the conference in scoring at 20.2 ppg and first in rebounding, pulling down a ridiculous 11.9 boards per game. Don't blame the Saints poor shooting on Poole though. The Saint's star has the second highest field goal percentage in the league at over 60 percent on 207 attempts.

While Poole is surely on his way to an all-conference first team selection, the rest of the Saints are going to need to pick things up as the season progresses.

Most of the team's woes have come on the road this year. The Saints have lost all five of their road games this season while going 6-2 at home. That home record just took a hit on January 31 when the Saints fell to

Central Washington 83-68.

Going into the second half down by three points, the Saints looked to have a chance of knocking off the GNAC's third ranked team.

The second half turned out to be a miserable one for SMU as Central held the Saints to a meager 29 points, while the Wildcats helped themselves to 41.

If the early season was any indication, it is that the Saints do know how to win games. It may take one good performance to help the team get back on their feet as they try to finish strong in the GNAC.

At this point, the middle of the pack does not seem like a bad place to be.



Saints called to timeout during mid-game.

WINTER OLYMPICS VANCOUVER 2010 CANADA

DON'T MISS A MOMENT OF THE 2010 WINTER OLYMPICS, TUNE IN TO NBC STARTING FEBRUARY 12-28 TO WATCH FOR LOCAL TEAM USA MEMBERS:

Karen Thatcher (26)

Blaine - Hockey

Thatcher is a two-time member of the U.S. Women's National Team for the International Ice Hockey Federation World Women's Championship and a member of the U.S. Women's Select Team in 2008-2009. She played three years at Providence College of Hockey after first attending Brown, ending her career as 10th on the school's all-time points list and led her team for two straight seasons with 47 overall points.

J.R. Celski (19)

Federal Way - Short Track Speedskating

Many are making Celski out to be the next Apolo Anton Ohno, he started training early, moving to California at the age of 14 to get the best coaching. He won five medals in the 2009 World Championships and is a two-time U.S. Junior overall champion.

Patrick Deneen (21)

Cle Elum - Freestyle Skiing

Deneen has already won the 2009 World Championship title, and the rookie of the year doesn't want to stop there. His father is a part-time owner of a ski resort, and because he was home-schooled, was able to ski nearly 200 days per year.

Scott Macartney (32)

Crystal Mountain - Alpine Skiing

The experienced Macartney has already participated in the 2002 and 2006 Olympic games. Because he grew up in Washington, he has crossed the border a time or two to ski at Whistler, which may give him an advantage of some European contenders. On a biographical note, he is active in local breast cancer programs, including work with the Evergreen Cancer Center.

Apolo Anton Ohno (28)

Seattle - Short Track Speedskating

If you are unfamiliar with Anton Ohno, you must be unfamiliar with the Winter Olympics altogether. He has already won a gold and silver medal in 2002, as well as a gold and two bronze medals in 2006. One more medal will make him the most decorated American Winter Olympian. From 1995, in just 2 short years Ohno became best short-track skater in the U.S.

Christian Niccum (32)

Woodinville - Luge

Niccum was a four-time Junior World Doubles Champion with partner Matt McClain. He was discovered through the Verizon-USA Luge Slider Search and also enjoys hiking and snowboarding.

Greg Romaniuk (39)

Snohomish - Curling (Skip)

Romaniuk's teammates include Doug Pottinger, Leon Romaniuk and Troy Schroeder. He attended the U.S. National Championships in 2009, 2008, 2003, 2002 and 2001, and the Canadian Junior Championships in 1989 and 1990.

Bree Schaaf (30)

Bremerton - Bobsled and Skeleton Federation

Schaaf graduated from Portland State University where she played Volleyball and for the last nine years has volunteered as a camp counselor for Stanely Stamm Seattle Children's Hospital camp. She started skeleton in 2002, but only recently switched to bobsled in 2007. She was 9th overall in the 2009-2010 World Cup, 10th in the 2009 World Championships in Lake Placid, and 2008-2009 America's Cup Champion.

Will Brandenburg (22)

Spokane - Ski and Snowboard
Originally from Walla Walla, he comes from a family of swimmers. He was Ski Racing Alpine Junior of the Year and had his first two World Cup starts in 2008. He had knee surgery in 2009 to repair some meniscus damage, but he is 100 percent ready for the Olympics.

Vic Wild (23)

White Salmon - Ski and Snowboard

Wild is one of the biggest up-and-coming speed riders and also enjoys some baseball and football. He began skiing at the age of seven at Mt. Hood Meadows, and currently enjoys night races at Steamboat's Howelsen Hill. He had two NorAm wins in 2008 and five NorAm podiums in 2007, but his best was during his 2010 season opener when he finished eighth to lead the U.S. in the parallel slalom in the Netherlands.

For more information about the USA Olympic Team, visit www.teamusa.org

Students slim up to walk the diploma runway

Loosing weight becomes graduation requirement

Emilie Schnabel
Staff Writer

Entering the spring semester, many seniors at Saint Martin's University are gearing up for graduation. But what if some of our seniors were told they had to take a special physical education class before they would be handed their diploma? This is precisely what happened to students attending Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. Beginning in 2006, the school started administering Body Mass Index tests (BMI) and measuring the waistlines of the seniors. This year, however, was the first year in which the university really began to enforce the policy: If the student was diagnosed as obese (defined as having a 30 or higher BMI) then the student was required to complete a "Fitness for Life" class. If a student failed to complete this requirement, then the student would be barred from the commencement ceremony and would not receive his/her diploma.

This policy has elicited much reaction, both negative and positive. The subject was first publicly acknowledged when National Public Radio (NPR) aired an interview with Dr. DeBoy, Chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Lincoln University and since then has elicited attention from CNN, The Associated Press, as well as local media outlets such as Seattle's hit Grapes of Rad podcast, and countless blogs around the country.

On NPR Dr. Deboy stated, "We know that obesity and its co-morbidities are going to rob individuals of quality and quantity of life. What good is it to go through college, get your bachelor's degree at Lincoln University, go get your graduate degree, work for five, six, seven years, and all of a sudden, you experience a catastrophic health issue associated with the obesity? That would be a tragedy."

What is the difference between Lincoln University's policy and Saint Martin's two credit P.E. requirement? The most obvious difference, and the one that has created the most controversy, is the fact that the requirement only affected those students who, through testing, were deemed to be obese. This is viewed by many as a form of discrimination. Another difference is that the students could "test out" of the class by proving to the university that they had lost weight and lowered their BMI. Another argument against the program is that these students, adults, ought to be allowed to make their own life-choices. Many bloggers are wondering why smoking, copious drinking, and other common undergraduate health issues are not

also being addressed through course requirements if they are as potentially damaging to the body as obesity. The objections are felt strongly enough by people opposing the policy that an online petition was spread through blogging networks requesting that the policy be revoked, and dissenters were encouraging their peers to flood Dr. DeBoy's inbox with outraged complaints.

While the university could have no effect on the health of its students before they arrived, in his interview Dr. Deboy admitted that the university may have been partly at fault in not providing healthy food options once the students were at school due to lack of budget. (The transcription and sound clip of Dr. DeBoy's interview can be found online at www.npr.org). Lincoln University knew that enacting such a radical policy would force strong reactions, but the university decided that it was important to associated with your peace advocate charge instill a sense of health into the students before sending them out into the workforce. But was the program really helping students become healthier?

Reactions from students have been mixed. Some students greeted the policy with cheer, claiming that the class was an easy credit, and a great way to jumpstart a healthier lifestyle. Other students were upset claiming that they felt discriminated against. One such student was Tiana Lawson; she was so upset that she wrote an editorial in Lincoln University's newspaper, *The Lincolnian*, stating that while she elected to take the course after testing out in order to have a healthier lifestyle she thought that the class discriminated against heavier students, and made them feel separated from the rest of the student body. (The editorial can be found online at www.thelincolnianonline.com).

After fierce reactions on both sides, the university held a meeting on December 4 and decided to rescind the BMI policy for graduation. While Dr. DeBoy was firm in his support for the policy, fear of legal implications from students who refuse to take the course and charges of discrimination caused the university faculty to vote that while the policy was well-meant, it was ill-conceived and would no longer be in effect. The "Fitness for Life" course, HPR 103, is now optional for all students and is being changed to encompass multiple health issues, not just obesity. Plans for policies regarding health of students at Lincoln University are at this moment uncertain, but this controversy has certainly sparked interest around the nation. Perhaps other universities may take steps in addressing obesity in undergraduate students in the future.

Soul Solutions

RAW LOVE

Krinda Carlson
Staff Writer

Hearts! They're everywhere. I walked into Fred Meyer after Christmas and was bombarded by hearts reminding me that Valentine's Day is coming. And... I got excited. February 14 is one of my favorite days. WAIT! Before you cringe, give me a chance to explain. For me, it's always been a celebration of what our hearts are made for – love. But not the commercialized version that says chocolates and roses are what love is about. To me, true love is raw.

Just think about the heart. Not the paper, polka-dot kind, but the heart inside your body. It really looks like a mass of chewed red gum-wads stuck together. Pretty nasty, yet it is what keeps us alive physically and spiritually; it is what allows us to fulfill Jesus' primary commandment. Luke 10:27 says to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..." So, in all its globby-looking glory, the heart is made for this love. That's why I say true love is raw...it's not always pretty. We want to make it cute. We wish it was painless. But anytime we give our ALL for something, there are sacrifices. Think of what some call one of the greatest love stories of all times – Romeo and Juliet. They threw their whole heart into their love. Their sacrifice was great, but agony of living without love was greater for them. When I read this Shakespearian play, I think of what I call the greatest love story of all time. It's MY love story...

He came to me. He saw me and wanted a relationship, but there were

barriers. I had too much junk in my heart and didn't know how to let it love. Plus, I was afraid; I wondered, What if I give my whole heart and it isn't enough? He knew that the barriers had to be removed, so He chose to take my junk and fears and put them to death through Himself, literally. He said, "I love you enough to go through all this just for a relationship with you." Then, He died, for me, on a cross, a crowd mocking His sacrifice. Before I even chose to love Him back, He willingly did this. But, unlike Romeo and Juliet, our love story did not end there. He miraculously came back to life, and He asked me again, "Will you love me with ALL your heart?" I said, "Yes!" and I learned what true love really was. By the way, He offers true love to you too. His name is Jesus.

But we, as a society, have tried to domesticate real love because it's safer. Culture's turned it into a selfish pursuit instead of self-less. As a result, some of us have settled for substitutes; some of us have become cynical of love; some of us don't believe in love anymore. Yet, the fact that we still have an entire day, Valentine's Day, devoted to love reminds me of our need. Could it be that we're unsatisfied because we're looking for love in acts or symbols that are counterfeits of real love? Love in its rawest form is found in sacrifice; the greatest sacrifice is found in loving and being loved by Jesus Christ. In his book *Soul Cravings*, Minister Erwin McManus sums it up in saying, "Love exists because God is love...if God is love, it is maddening when we are running from God and yet searching for love. Our souls will never find satisfaction until our hearts have found this love we so desperately yearn for."

Proposal for State Need Grant cut

Elena Larson
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, December 9, Governor Gregoire announced her proposed budget for the next year which deals with the \$2.6 billion budget shortfall. One of the options and, possibly a decision, for change that she had proposed was cutting a portion out of the State Need Grant Program.

It should be distinguished that these cuts do not affect state financial aid for this coming spring semester, but it is still shady ground of what changes will occur for a recipient of a State Need Grant's award.

Let's not rock the boat by counting our eggs before they hatch, because the exact thing happened last spring! The state legislature debated over changes to the financial aid up until the last day. Given the dilemma, full funding for these programs was still maintained and, to anyone's surprise, the funding actually increased.

Saint Martin's University has students' backs as there is a well-built community between the university and the Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW). Saint Martin's University is a strong sponsor of restoring these financial aid programs so that students statewide and locally are not financially short fallen.



Photo by Ninalynn Benitez

Students are breaking their banks to pay for school

Creative dating: 5 hot ideas for you, your significant other, and the month of love

Emilie Schnabel
Staff Writer

It's February and everywhere you go you see red paper hearts, simpering greeting cards, chocolates, and tasteless candies that say things like "I Heart You," "Text me" and "Be Mine." Don't you think that this year you could try a little harder? Stop eating up that commercial crap and take some initiative in your relationship—trust me you will be thankful you did. Take your significant other (or for that matter your best friend) somewhere special. I'm not talking about the Regal 16 down the road or O'Blarneys. Here are five dates in the Olympia/Lacey/Tumwater area that are simple to pull off, but show that you put a lot of thought into your plans:

1 The Painted Plate—This is exactly what it sounds like. Centered in downtown Olympia at 412 Washington Street, this local business is stocked with unfired pottery ranging from plates to bowls to wall tiles to large washing basins. Take some time to talk to your date and paint corresponding plates. Even if this isn't up your alley, your date will be pleased that you took some creative time getting to know them rather than trying to...well...not get to know them.

2 See a show—For a classy evening on the town take your special person to a show rather than a movie. There are several theatres in the area: The State Theatre, The Washington Center For the Performing Arts, The Capitol Playhouse, and also The Kenneth J. Minneart Center for the Performing Arts at South Puget Sound Community College. Located in downtown Olympia, they offer a wide range of concerts and plays to choose from throughout the year. Even Saint Martin's University is offering a play, "Duet For One," this February and it is located on campus. Show dates and times can be found on each of the theatre's websites, and make sure to compliment the evening by having a nice dinner together.

3 Laser Fun Zone—Located a couple of minutes away down Ruddell Road, the Laser Fun Zone, while a little small, is still an adequate space in which to run around and shoot people. The space may not seem very intimate at first, but there's nothing like working up some endorphins to endear yourself to your date.

4 Saturday Costco Extravaganza—A personal favorite, this date requires a sense of adventure and a Costco membership (or an escort service by someone that



Photo by Ninalynn Benitez

has one). The rules are simple: create a scavenger hunt list of a hundred items that can be found at Costco. Go around trying to find the most items in an hour (this works well as a double date or large group outing) and bonus points go to whoever eats the most free samples and has the pictures to prove it. Costco can be located at Hawk's Prairie in Lacey and in Tumwater. Be careful not to get kicked out.

5 Nighttime Fountain Run—In Heritage Park, located in the Port of Olympia, is a giant geyser fountain that you can run through. During the summer, it seems

to be constantly full of nasty screaming children. However, during the month of February, especially in the evening, it is fairly deserted. Stock up on cocoa, a homemade picnic, and a spare change of clothes; but don't tell your date where you are going. (Please tell them to dress very casually otherwise this date will end in tears, recrimination, and eventual breakup. Or marriage.) Turn on some tunes, dance in the fountain, and then warm up with your picnic. Make sure to check fountain hours before you go, though!

Thinking outside the box will help keep your relationships fresh and let your partner know that you care.

Cheating, Hormones, and Tiger OH MY!

Gary Fiorina
Staff Writer

Mistresses, Ambien, golf club wielding wives, oh my! Who would have guessed Tiger was such a cheetah? Recent allegations of Tiger Woods' long-term sex-capades with a total of nine women have thrust the issue of infidelity back into the limelight. Infidelity is nothing new in the world of celebrities. Just a few years ago, Christie Brinkley's fourth and most recent ex-husband, Peter Cook, was caught cheating with an eighteen-year-old secretary. Even the beautiful Halle Berry has been a victim of infidelity, with her ex husband citing sex addiction for the cause of his wandering eye and loose zipper. If Christie Brinkley and Halle Berry weren't enough woman for their lucky men, it's clear a spouse's attractiveness has little to do with their partner looking for intimacy elsewhere. If our outward appearances have nothing to do with monogamy, the reason for infidelity might be found deeper in genetics.

Some supporters of Woods claim the golfer's numerous infidelities were brought on by the presence of the "cheating gene" in his genetic make-up.

In 2008, Swedish scientists published research on what they dub the "monogamy/cheating" gene in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Now with infidelity back in the spotlight, there has been renewed interest in the myth of the cheating gene and its weight in justifying unfaithfulness.

The cheating gene experiment surveyed 550 Swedish twins and their spouses/partners. At 82 percent, a majority of the tested couples were married, like our friend Mr. Woods. The men underwent genetic testing to see if they possessed a special gene variant called allele 334, or the cheating gene. Four out of ten men tested possessed one to two copies of allele 334, which controls the production of the hormone vasopressin associated with mate stability in mammals. Primitive studies on allele 334 have been conducted on prairie voles, revealing that the presence or lack of vasopressin predicts whether a male mammal will mate and help raise the litter or simply move on in a journey of continuous mating. It was concluded that men who harbor allele 334 are at a greater risk of having relationship issues. It's clear if Woods possesses allele 334 in his genetics, it must have made him act as the more randy voles did in earlier experiments.

In addition to genetics, the researchers also sat down and conducted different surveys with the couples. Men who were married or in long-term relationships were asked if they had experienced a relationship crisis in the last year that made them think about divorcing or breaking up their relationship. Also, the wives and girlfriends of the men were asked what it was like to live with their boyfriends/husbands. From these surveys, researchers gauged the couples' levels of affection, cohesion, consensus and satisfaction in their relationships. Of the 550 men tested, 15 percent of men without the cheating gene reported having serious relationship issues. In regards to men who possess allele 334, it was reported that four out of 10 Swedish men possess it. The wives and girlfriends of these men reported much lower levels of satisfaction, affection, cohesion and consensus in the relationship than those women in relationships with men with no allele present in their genetics.

However, players should not rejoice now. The medical community has stepped forward in regards to the cheating gene and has agreed that although the findings are exciting, they are just the first step in investigating genetics' role in the complex world

of human behavior. As with all new genetic breakthroughs, the common consensus of the scientific community is that continual research must be conducted. Genetic predispositions are nothing new to science with people said to be born predisposed towards drugs and alcohol. Why should cheating be any different? Since Wood's fall out, it's been revealed that his own father cheated on his mother with several women in his teen years, leaving Woods devastated. It must have taken a lot of Ambien to not remember he was repeating the tragic cycle while sleeping with mistress number one, a Las Vegas cocktail waitress, or mistress number six, a waitress for an IHOP-like establishment in Florida.

Woods is currently undergoing treatment for sex addiction at the Gentle Path Clinic in Hattiesburg, MI. It has been rumored that his wife Elin, who happens to be Swedish like the researchers and patients in the cheating gene experiment, has broken her silence with Woods in hopes of slowly rehabilitating their marriage and keeping her family together. Elin, what are you thinking? Time to prepare for your spotlight girl, because this is sounding like an epic episode of "Cheaters" in the making.

Dear

Coco

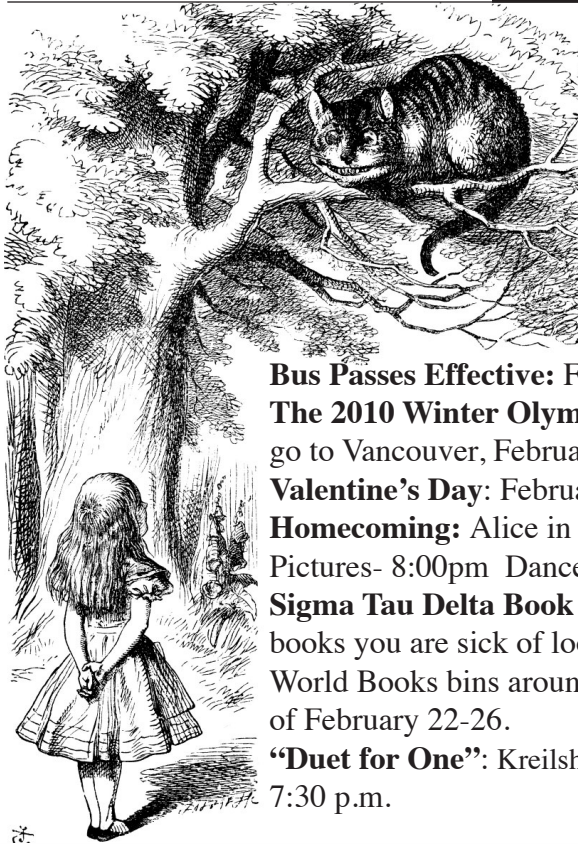
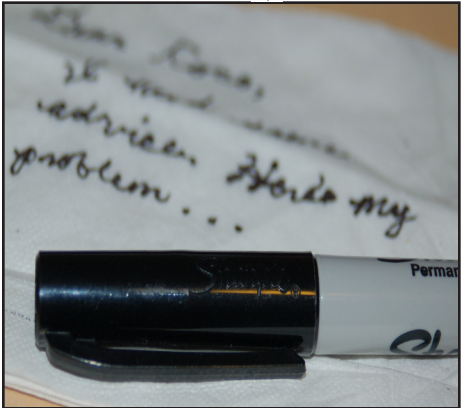
Platonically Torn

I'm writing to you about a problem I'm facing in the friendship department. Over break, a friend of mine who shall be called "Cheetara" asked if I would like to go out to dinner. I hadn't seen Cheetara in awhile, so I gladly agreed and was looking forward to the meeting. Immediately after I made plans with Cheetara, another friend, "Panda," asked if I wanted to go out to eat at the same place! All three of us used to be good friends but have grown apart since moving in separate directions for college. I explained to Panda that I had just made plans with Cheetara to go to the same restaurant and we would love for her to join us! Panda said she couldn't "handle" Cheetara, and flat out refused to come. When Cheetara asked why Panda wasn't coming I had to make up a white lie and say she wasn't feeling well. Since then Panda hasn't given me the time of day. I feel like I did nothing wrong. I don't understand why Panda would be irritated with me. If anything, she put me in an uncomfortable position, forcing me to have to lie to a friend. Do I try to explain the situation to Panda and make amends or do I just let it blow over?

Sincerely,
Platonically Torn

In this situation it seems that you are the middle man. However, you should not feel the need to explain or feel bad about the situation at all. You are being a true friend to both and were looking out for each of their feelings. Talking and explaining to Panda the situation is something to consider, however, if she does not understand you position, you must explain that she needs to come to terms with your relationship with Cheetara if you want to remain friends. People will come and go in your life, but no matter what, true friends will stick by you through thick and thin. To offer your honesty and to be upfrot with Panda is the best thing can do as a friend. You will come to realize who, despite the challenges and differences you will face, will be there for you no matter what and accept the person you are!

♥ Coco



Don't be late
for some very
important
dates:

- Bus Passes Effective:** February 8
- The 2010 Winter Olympics:** Watch it on NBC or go to Vancouver, February 12-28
- Valentine's Day:** February 14
- Homecoming:** Alice in Wonderland, February 19
Pictures- 8:00pm Dance - 9:00pm.
- Sigma Tau Delta Book Drive:** Have any academic books you are sick of looking at? Look for Better World Books bins around campus during the week of February 22-26.
- "Duet for One":** Kreilsheimer Hall, February 16-20
7:30 p.m.

THINGS THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE

Jake Kinderman
Staff Writer

People who stay in a relationship with someone they don't even like.

Too many men and women put themselves through painful relationships. One telltale sign is when one member of the relationship complains subtly or vigorously about their companion on a daily basis. What happens when one is desperate for a relationship? They end up with the last pick, and if you ever played a schoolyard sport, you should know you just dug your own grave. Some guy will end up with a girl who pushes him around, and he becomes "whipped" as the frat guys say. On the other end of the spectrum, the ladies end up with what we in the business call a "d-bag," which of course

is slang for a "bag of doughnuts." Why do you do this to yourselves? I am going to suggest a new relationship strategy for this Valentine's Day. Instead of suffering with a terrible boyfriend or girlfriend, just dump them before buying the candy and flowers and find someone who is actually nice to you. Let the terrible people date each other and all the nice people do the same. If we stick with this pattern, we will eventually separate into two species of human: one terrible, one nice. Then we can send the terrible ones to Greenland with no technology so they'll never escape and drown when the glaciers melt.

Valentine Day Horroscopes

- Aries (Mar. 20 - Apr. 19)**
Relationships are a lot like tables. One leg is love, one is trust, one is shared pleasures, and one is shared dreams. Lasting relationships need all four legs for balance. In your case, though, you will never get rid of the irritating wobble.
- Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20)**
Love will fill your day with sugar plums, fairies and pretty flowers.
- Gemini (May 20 - Jun. 21)**
Your significant other is getting a little tired of hearing you talk about love and romance. Lighten up and talk about what they really care about: free chocolate.
- Cancer (Jun. 21 - Jul. 22)**
Don't send your boyfriend/girlfriend compromising photographs via cell phone at this time. A friend will find them and forward it to his/her friends, and it will most likely end up in the March issue of *The Belltower*.
- Leo (Jul. 22 - Aug. 23)**
Your significant other will not think it is funny that you took him/her to the caf for Valentine's Day dinner. Take them somewhere classy, like Carl's Jr.
- Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sep. 22)**
When you are out this weekend, don't judge a book by it's cover. It's dimly lit.
- Libra (Sep. 22 - Oct. 23)**
You seem a little nervous for your big date this Valentine's Day.

- Relax. Don't know what to talk about? Discuss current movies, classes, or debate the current count of Tiger Woods' mistresses.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 22)**
The aggressive approach will not work this Valentine's Day. Stop texting him/her every five minutes and give them room to breath. You may not end up with a date, but you will be without a restraining order.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
Don't give your valentine that nasty chalk-like heart candy that are etched with sweet nothings such as "Be Mine" and "I Heart You." No one likes that stuff.
- Capricorn (Dec. 21 - Jan. 20)**
Whatever you do, do not contact your ex boyfriend/girlfriend on Valentine's Day. They will most likely think you are pathetic and lonely. You might as well eat the heart candy.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
Your ads on Match.com and EHarmony will not provide you with a date for this Valentine's Day. Get up off your booty and find a live date that you know resembles their facebook picture.
- Pisces (Feb. 18 - Mar. 20)**
You will have to send flowers and candy to yourself this Valentine's Day. Hopefully people will think you have a secret admirer. If not, you still have the candy!



The Belltower

THE BELLTOWER STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Katie Hawkins	Staff Writers: Jason Collins Krinda Carlson Gary Fiorina Christopher Gentile	Amanda Hatman Jacob Kinderman Elena Larson Chanell Sagon Emilie Schnabel
Sports Editor: Brandon Jones	Layout Ediotr: Nick Harvey	Photographer: Ninalynn Benitez
Business Manager: Jamey Gelhar		

Our Mission: As fellow students at Saint Martin's University, our staff is constantly working to keep you up to date on what is going on around campus, our community, and throughout the world. Our newspaper will provide information that is valuable to our campus and especially to students at SMU. We will never back down from taking on any issue at our school and promise to give our best efforts to keep the community informed.

Role of the advisor: The advisor is a journalist, educator, and manager who is, above all, a role model. The advisor's ultimate goal is to mold, preserve and protect an ethical and educational environment, not to monitor the final content of the student newspaper.

Belltower Advisor: Julie Yamamoto

For questions, comments, or suggestions, send an email to belltower@stmartin.edu, drop a note by room 175, or visit our Facebook page!