



The Belltower

SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume II

Issue 7

March 2010

Internationally renowned artist wows attendees

Emilie Schnabel
Staff Writer

On February 6, 2010, at 8:00 p.m., the Abbey Church was filled to capacity for Paul Galbraith, world renowned classical guitarist. The audience, made up of all ages from young children to silver-haired senior citizens, was waiting excitedly while taking in their surroundings. A raised platform was stationed prominently in between an eagle-shaped lectern and three heavy candle sticks, and on the platform was a curious square box with two f-holes carved into the side and a gleaming wooden chair.

"It's a good thing nobody advertised in Seattle, otherwise we wouldn't have gotten a seat," a middle-aged woman chuckled as her neighbor nodded in agreement. A few Saint Martin's students and faculty were scattered throughout the audience, but most of the audience members were community members that had heard of the free world-class concerts the Saint Martin's Abbey puts on throughout the year and decided to take advantage of the great way to spend a Friday night.

The lights dimmed and out walked a confident man dressed in black. Galbraith was carrying a curious looking guitar—it was a little larger than to be expected and something about

See **GUITAR**, Page B1

SMU's Sustainability Committee plans for future *Saints look towards community garden on campus*



Photo by *Nick Harvey*

SMU's Sustainability committee sees future plans for a garden behind tennis courts on campus.

Krinda Carlson
Staff Writer

While studying in your room, the munchies attack. So, you walk out from the dorms, behind the tennis courts. There – a garden waits, inviting you to take your pick of fresh produce. And you do. After all, this garden is for students, by students. This is the future that the Saint Martin's Sustainability Committee hopes to see materialize within the next year.

Recently constructed, the Sustainability Committee is supervised by Chair, Irina Gendelman. President Dr. Heynderickx charged the

action when Dr. Hashimoto, professor of Education, brought the idea to his attention. The formation of this group in the Saint Martin's community is part of a growing global movement to make an awareness of the environment a part of everyday decisions.

"The idea is to think about how we can be more aware of how we use resources on campus," says Gendelman. The committee breaks down into three subcommittees: conservation, transportation and the community garden, with the community garden being one of the Sustainability Committee's first major projects.

One of the key inspirations for planting a community garden on Saint Martin's campus derived from Michelle Obama, who created a garden on White House property to educate against obesity. She hopes to teach kids where food comes from so they can make informed decisions. Locally, Evergreen State College and University of Washington, Tacoma, have planted similar gardens. Thus far, the proposed location for the project at Saint Martin's, behind the tennis courts, has been approved by the necessary authorities. Gendelman says that the Sustainability Committee is still

discussing fencing to keep deer out and the best type soil preparation, but hope to begin building in March.

The garden will empower students and other volunteers on campus to grow their own food. Along with the community aspect, Gendelman explains that the Sustainability Committee wants to allow individuals to have their own plots.

"How cool would it be to walk outside your dorms and pick some strawberries?" she described with enthusiasm. The garden will be organic, and Gendelman feels that local nurseri-

See **GARDEN**, Page D1

Researcher for NASA makes a difference in Engineering Department

Katie Hawkins
Editor-in-Chief

It is true that many students don't get to know many engineering majors as their laboratories are in Cebula Hall instead of Old Main. What many students also don't know is that Cebula Hall houses the office of Dr. Amanie Abdelmessih, Mechanical Engineering professor and Director of Thermal Engineering Laboratory. She has frequently done research for NASA during the summers.

Born in Port-Said and raised in Alexandria, Egypt, she had originally planned on being a doctor, but not in the area of internal flows of heat transfer.

"I used to say, 'I will be a medical doctor and help everybody' when I was young," Abdelmessih says. She originally wanted to be a medical doctor until she realized in middle school that people indeed die, and that doctors cannot heal everybody. She cannot stand to see people in pain, so decided to focus on other talents.

Abdelmessih was always the top of her class when it came to math. Egypt issues a national exam, and students can make choices for their higher education based on their total score. At the time, engineering schools took the highest. Abdelmessih received her bachelor's degree from her school of choice, Alexandria University. The engineering program was made up of all technical courses, giving her two and a half times the credit hours of what is required in the United States.

After obtaining her degree, Ab-

delmessih went into the paper industry and entered the real world.

"I was overprotected as a child," she explained. Abdelmessih grew up with equal rights in her home, and her parents were always very supportive of her education. In a time and place where women were generally thought of as lesser than their male counterparts, her parents were truly ahead of their time in raising her.

"When I decided to get my degree

See **NASA**, Page B2

Homecoming Court 2010:

Freshmen Count:

Mike Vandehay

Freshmen Countess:

Kelsey Thompson

Sophomore Baron:

Brady Bomber

Sophomore Baroness:

Niki Sanich

Junior Duke:

Ahmadou Seck

Junior Duchess:

Marisha Kasjan

Senior Prince:

John Jentzen

Senior Princess:

Melissa Archuleta

KING:

Nick Baker

QUEEN:

Maryanne Alexander



Photo by Jessica Jenkins/ Guest Photographer

GUITAR, From cover

it did not seem quite right. The man mounted the raised platform and sat down. It than became clear what had been bothering the few audience members who came to the concert not knowing what to expect—the guitar had twelve strings instead of the usual six, and sticking out of the bottom was a long metal end pin. Then, to make things even more unusual, Galbraith set the guitar upright, and placed the bottom of the end-pin into a notch carved into the small wooden box with f-holes. Galbraith was holding his guitar like a cello, and the box with f-holes was specifically designed to help amplify the sound from the unusual instrument. All of the unconventional parts of the instrument were forgotten as Gal-

braith took in a deep breath, raised his hands, and then began to play.

Galbraith's repertoire was diverse and satisfying: Galbraith started out the evening with Bach's Cello Suite No. 1 in G (transposed to D) and after the first of six movements were complete, no one could remember that this is not the way guitars are traditionally played. After J.S. Bach, Galbraith played Luciano Berio and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. Just as efficiently as he began, Galbraith left the stage for intermission. The lights came up, and it took a few minutes for the audience to wake up from the trance Galbraith had left them in and to make the mad dash to the restroom. Even there the conversation was on one subject and one subject only: how incredibly talented Paul Galbraith's performance was.

A quick look at the program before the second half resumed reinforced what everyone had been saying. Galbraith had been nominated for a Grammy for one of his CDs, and the same CD had reached the TOP 10 on Billboard's classical charts. Galbraith has been featured on NPR numerous times, played in Lincoln Center's "Great Performances," played sold-out recitals in over 19 states, over 13 countries, and won several prominent awards and played with some of the most prestigious orchestras in Europe, only 11 of which were listed.

The second half of his concert was just as compelling. Galbraith opened with a Haydn keyboard sonata, and closed with Manuel Ponce's Variations and Fugue on "La Folia," and then, as if that wasn't enough, Galbraith re-

turned to play an encore piece just as difficult as the rest of his repertoire. As the lights came on a final time, the audience's applause lasted over five minutes.

"I can't believe we got to see that for free," the same woman from before said to her friend. A man behind her heard the conversation and joined in, "I have all of his CDs and I've been waiting for a chance to see him in concert for years!" Hundreds of similar conversations were echoed all around the abbey. The only downside was that so few students attended this amazing free performance in their backyard.

The next Abbey Church event will be at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 24 featuring pianist Tanya Gabrielian and is again free admission .

MARCH IN REVIEW

Christopher Gentile - Staff Writer

World Wide

Deficit forecasted to increase \$100 Billion this year (Jack Calmes, NYTimes)

Yale University, facing a \$150 million budget deficit, is planning cut staff and freeze salaries along with reducing graduate students attending (Lisa Foderaro, NYTimes)

Google seeks aid of the National Security Agency for assistance with regards to cyberattacks to his cyber security last year (John Markoff, NYTimes)

United States

Gunmen open up fire on house in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, killing 13 high school students (Elisabeth Malkin, NYTimes)

U.S. finishes in first for medal count in the 2010 Winter Olympics with 37, Germany next with 30, and Canada third with 26.

In Afghanistan, weather caused 17 avalanches, burying more than two miles of highway in the Hindu Kush mountain range (Rod Norland, NYTimes)

Career Services

- Online job search – Saints4Hire www.stmartin.edu/careercenter and click the student links.
- Resume and Cover Letter preparation
- Annual Career and Internship Fair (April 13, 2010) and Fall Accounting/Engineering Career Fair
- Separate career events as requested by clubs (Etiquette dinner – March 2, mock interview demo, resume/interview workshops, employer panels – e.g. State Farm on Feb. 18)
- Interview Tips
- Help with job search
- Career exploration tools - MyPlan includes 4 assessments (personality, skills, values and interests)
- Information Interview assistance and referrals
- Alumni Mentors
- Employer Directories (online on Saints4Hire, and previous year's Career Fair book)
- Resource Library
- Handouts on "What Can I Do with This Major?"

Contact Ann Adams, Director * Old Main 247
aadam@stmartin.edu * (360) 486-8842

NASA, From cover

in engineering, my aunt took me aside and told me that engineering was not adequate for girls. She said that nice girls go into English Literature." Abdelmessih soon realized that her aunt was not the only person who thought this way. As she entered the work place, she came to see that she would have to prove herself to earn male respect. At the time, women in Egypt were not allowed to work after 9:00 p.m., so the company could only employ her for the morning shift. Everyone was unhappy that they had hired a woman who could not work the majority of the time.

"The laborers were not used to women, and it was obvious they did not want me there," she says. "Workers considered women as slaves or possessions." Luckily, her parents taught her to have respect for her elders, and she learned on the job to take care of her own problems and not complain about the way she was treated by the men. After a year, they treated her with respect, and one of the workers even named their daughter after Amanie, giving her the best compliment she has ever received.

After awhile, Abdelmessih became bored. She began taking classes towards gaining her master's degree in the evenings while still working full time. She continued to work hard to prove herself as a female so that she was not looked over. After she gained her degree, she had to make a choice: she could keep fighting to become CEO of the paper company in order to prove that women are capable, or keep studying towards her PhD.

"I decided that I wanted to do something I enjoy instead of proving to others that I am capable." However, her journey from Egypt to Saint Martin's would prove how capable she truly is.

Abdelmessih applied to Oklahoma State University so that she could study with an internationally famous professor under a research assistantship to help pay for her doctorate. However, research money

was scarce, and the chairman offered her a teaching assistant position when the money ran out.

"I used to think teaching was boring," she says. "But it was the first time in my life that I realized I could make a difference."

Abdelmessih decided that teaching was her calling, and wanted to find work in California in order to be closer to her family, who had also moved to the United States. She ended up at Northrop University in Inglewood. She began teaching a graduate course, and then was hired full time until the school was unfortunately shut down due to financial difficulties. However, it was this event that led her to Saint Martin's.

Saint Martin's, a college at the time, was searching for reputable faculty for their thermal engineering classes. Although the resources seemed small to Abdelmessih, she decided to give the school a try. She was immediately impressed by the students on her visit, who paid much attention to her presentation and asked intelligent questions.

"I also liked the setting here. It's pretty and safe," she said. "A number of things attracted me." Luckily for Saint Martin's engineers she took the job.

During several summers she has researched for NASA at the Dryden Flight Research Center "numerically studying high temperature black body cavity/water cooled heat flux gages, heat transfer environmental characterization of high temperature furnace calibrator" and other things that makes an English major's head spin. She has received NASA certificates of recognition for her research contributions in 1991,

1992, 1998, 2005 and 2007. She has been published over 20 times, is a faculty member of the Saint Martin's University Society of

Fellows, and given the National Distinguished Engineering Educator Award by the Society of Women Engineers last semester.



Dr. Amanie Abdelmessih

Photo by Ninalynn Benitez

However, as decorated as Dr. Abdelmessih is, she tells me that the most exciting part of her story is the work of her Saint Martin's students. Each year the senior class of the Mechanical Engineering Department must put together a final project, and when Dr. Abdelmessih is given the opportunity to teach a senior design class, if the project is good enough, she will get it published. She fights for grants so that students are able to build contraptions such as instrumented air conditioning bench experiments, computer assisted instructional aides for heat transfer, or currently, efficient dryers for the paper industry. In 2006-2007, her students designed and built a heat flux simulator that is currently used for research at NASA. It is obvious that Dr. Amanie Abdelmessih truly has made a difference for the students at Saint Martin's University.

February 25, 2010

Traditions Café
300 5th Ave SW
Olympia, WA

6 pm Social
Speakers begin
promptly at 6:30 pm

LWVTC GENERAL MEETING

TOPIC: Early Childhood Education

Presented By:

League of Women Voters of Thurston County

Take a
moment
to make a
lifetime of
difference.



1063 Capitol Way S.
Suite 212
Olympia, WA 98501

Phone: 360-352-8220
www.lwvthurston.org

CONCERNED ADULTS ARE WELCOME

Experienced Saints baseball team off to rocky start

Brandon Jones
Sports Editor

The Saint Martin's University Baseball team was possibly the biggest surprise in the GNAC last year; finishing 22-30 (15-16) to finish third in the conference. Also, considering the fact that they had been picked to finish last, it was an even bigger surprise to find them battling for first-place mid-way through the season.

The Saints hope to bring some of that magic back this year, but so far, things have been a bit rough.

Thus far, the Saints are 3-9 on the year, but should be happy with their result over Central Washington University (a GNAC opponent) whom they played in tournament play in Idaho.

This was a telling 10-3 win for the Saints as CWU was picked to finish in second place, one spot ahead of SMU, in a 2010 GNAC

coaches poll.

The Saints gave solid efforts hitting and pitching in the win, but it was the fact that they took advantage of a few costly Central errors that really put the game in SMU's bag.

The Saint's got things started in the first-inning as lead off hitter Andrew Elke singled to third base on a bunt. After a fielder's choice, Aaron Johnson doubled down the left field line to advance Cody Brooks to third. Travis Jones drove in the first run of the game with a single through the right side. Blaine Evans laid down a sacrifice bunt to score Jones and make the game 2-0 in the first.

Central answered back with a run in the bottom of the inning, but SMU took advantage of a costly throwing error to take the lead back in the second.

Both teams went scoreless until the sixth-inning when the Saints erupted for five runs.

Michael McIver led the inning off and reached first on a fielding error. With one out and pinch runner Adam Hudspeth in the game, Bobby Twedt singled to right field, advancing Hudspeth to third. Zach Leonard was walked to load the bases with one out and a ground out brought Hudspeth home to make the game 4-1.

Brooks then doubled down the left field line to score two more. After advancing to third on a wild pitch, Brooks scored on a double by Johnson. Jones then singled to right field driving in a run and giving the saints a 7-1 lead.

The rest of the game went smoothly for the Saints, but things have not been so easy over the entire season thus far. However, a 21-7 thrashing of Seattle University should instill some confidence in the Saints as individual performances begin to stand out.

Johnson has a .375 batting average on the year, good enough

for sixth best in the conference. He also leads the GNAC in walks, home runs, runs scored and RBI.

As a team, the Saints have the highest on-base percentage in the GNAC at .398. The Saints also have the most RBI in the league at 70, coming in second in hits and runs scored. The Saints have also been walked a league-leading 63 times, the next highest is 38.

Despite the high volume scoring, SMU has left much to be desired on the bases. They lead the GNAC in runners left on base with 106.

The Saints' pitching staff has struggled a bit as they move forward into the season. The SMU staff has the most losses in the GNAC and rarely cracks the top three in any category. If SMU wants to finish in the top two in the GNAC, it will take continued offensive firepower and an improved pitching staff to propel the Saints forward. Luckily, the year is still young.

SMU Softball hopes for more in 2010

More experienced team could bring success to Saints program

Brandon Jones
Sports Editor

There is no doubt that the SMU softball program has been struggling for a while now. Multiple losing seasons have added up in the past few years, but there is a sign of hope. The Saints, who may have had the youngest team in the GNAC last year, return all but two key players for the 2010 season.

Many of the Saints' young stars like Morgan Klemm and Kristine Kaneshiro are back for another round, more experienced and ready to take on a bigger role for SMU.

The Saints are 3-6 overall this year and 2-2 in conference play. Last year, the Saints scraped together a 16-27 (14-25) record. One which can easily be bested in 2010.

The Saints can at least take comfort in the fact they return some of the top players in the GNAC. Klemm leads the group and was the Saints only first-team all star selection. Klemm had the seventh highest average in the conference at .344 and hit seven home runs and drove in 22 runs total.

Klemm is joined by other top teammates Kaneshiro, Brandi Klemm, and Kristi Sigafoos. Kaneshiro was the tenth best hitter in the conference with a .325 average, knocking in 25 RBI. Brandi Klemm was solid at the plate as well, batting .308 while anchoring the Saints pitching staff.

Thus far, it has been a freshman that has surprise opponents.

Joslyn Eugenio has come on strong for the Saints early in the season and has set the tone at the plate batting a team high .367. Eugenio has shown some speed on the base paths as she also leads the team with four doubles on the year while taking the bulk of the workload in the circle for the Saints. Eugenio has pitched 25.2 innings this year and is 1-2 overall.

Opponents are now a bit more weary of Morgan Klemm, but her numbers have not been affected too much. She leads the GNAC in RBI with eight and is tied for the home run lead at two.

Amanda Arnzen has stepped up this year as she is ranked third amongst pitchers in opponent batting average. Arnzen is also fifth in the GNAC with nine strikeouts.

There is no doubt that the SMU bats are hot. With strong hitters like Klemm, Kaneshiro and Eugenio, the Saints should not suffer from a shortage of offense.

As of March 1, the Saints are first in runs scored, hits, and home runs in the GNAC. Where they are clearly struggling is in the pitching department.

With a team ERA of 3.92, the Saints are second to last in the conference. In order for the pitching staff to get better, the Saints will need to be stronger in the field as they have the lowest fielding percentage in the GNAC.

Tough basketball season at a close

Both teams struggle through GNAC competition

It was a tough season for SMU basketball players and fans this year as both teams struggled to gain footing in the GNAC all year.

With only a couple games left on the schedule, both teams will look to better their records and finish strong, despite somewhat disappointing seasons.

The women's team will finish with a losing record, both overall and in conference. They did do quite well at home this year, racking up an 8-5 record. The team was led by Dara Zack who had a monster

year. Zack averaged 16 points per game along with a league leading 8.8 rebounds. She was fifth in the conference in assists.

On the men's side, things were not too bad seeing as the Saints lost so many key players last year. This season they are 14-11 overall, but 4-10 in conference. The Saints have not won an away game all season which does not bode well as their last two games are on the road.

Blake Poole led the Saints this year and was one of the top players in the conference. Poole averaged league highs with 20.8 ppg and a huge 12.8 rebounds per game. The only player to average a double-double in the conference.

Though the Saints may have had a difficult year, both teams are very young and will benefit from the playing time received this year. With two of the best players in their respective conferences in Zack and Poole, the Saints will have plenty to look forward to next year as they chase the GNAC title.



Schnabel's rendition of "Duet for One" proves success

Elena Larson
Staff Writer

The lights dimmed. The stage was set as an office with three bookshelves to the right shoulder of the audience with a light pink arm chair pushed against the bookshelf. To the left of the bookshelves, there is the entrance to the office with an office desk to the left of the entrance with a brown folder and other personal artifacts on the desk. The first scene Stephanie (current student Olivia Baumgartner) comes in on a wheelchair while Dr. Feldman (graduate Matthew Pritchard) sits himself behind his desk. Throughout the whole play has the conversation between the doctor and the patient of the patient's disease and how to manage with being a handicap for the rest of her life and not being able to do what she loves, play the violin, ever again.

"Duet for One" is the unfortunate tale of Stephanie Abrahams, a violinist struck with Multiple Sclerosis who tragically slips into the depths of depression. Like a movie, the play follows her with its own lenses as Abraham struggles with her battle against her disease



Photo by Ninalynn Benitez

The cast of "Duet for One" recapture the famous work of Tom Kempinski

and, in the end, struggles against herself.

After watching the performance, freshmen Jennifer Montufar stated "the first part of it was interesting, but watching two people throughout the play was – I don't know how to explain it – *not* boring. The second part, after the in-

termission, was very interesting after their tones changed. It kept me awake and in tune. I kept laughing and couldn't look away. Also, the actors were amazing! They did a good job!" This gives credit to junior Emilie Schnabel for putting together such a thoughtful rendition to the original play written by

award-winning British playwright Tom Kempinski.

Schnabel, Baumgartner and Pritchard did a wonderful job of capturing the emotion and troubles of one with MS as we learn that the woman must give up something that is not just an instrument or a hobby, but what has defined her life.

**Quick & convenient
for Saint Martin's
Students & Staff!!!**

- Black Angus Hot Dogs
- REAL Fruit Smoothies
- Coffee Milkshakes
- Breakfast Burritos
- Bagels & Cream Cheese

And MORE!

**Bring This
Coupon for
\$1.00 off
your next
Purchase!!!**

**Stuffed Pretzels
8 Different Flavors!**

**24/7
ATM**

1210 Clearbrook Lacey, WA
Across from the Lacey Post Office on the corner of Lacey Blvd. & Clearbrook *(360) 455-9666

Three Chinook students face misdemeanor charges for texting

Sexting takes teen world by storm

Gary Fiorina
Staff Writer

Sexting. Urban Dictionary defines it as “a term created by the media referring to sending sexually explicit text messages and pictures.” Three Chinook Middle School students might describe it as the worst thing to ever happen to them in their young scholastic careers. These three students, who were formally charged with felonies for sexting in Juvenile Court on January 28 2010, are thanking their lucky stars because on February 17, a juvenile prosecutor reduced the charges to misdemeanors of telephone harassment. These lesser misdemeanors can also be avoided if the students complete juvenile diversion program. However, the reduction in charges has some people calling fowl.

The original incident stemmed from three Chinook Middle School students circulating explicit photos of a fourteen year old girl. The three perpetrators at the heart of this incident are one 14-year-old boy, and surprisingly, two 13-year-old girls. A girl sent a nude photo to her ex-boyfriend (14 year old boy charged), who then sent it to one of the 13-year-old girls. With the neutral power of technology, these photos made their way from North Thurston High School, Olympia High School, and beyond. Originally, the three students were charged with felonies and with these serious charges would come serious ramifications. As class C felonies, the students could have spent up to 30 years in juvenile detention and have to register as sex offenders for life. Completing a “diversion” program must seem like much less daunting solution for students.

Parents of the students of Chinook Middle School must have of a lot of questions for their children when they received an automated phone message and a letter

in regards to the sexting incident. School Principal Kristen Rae told parents: “We care deeply about the students and community that we serve, and appreciate your support as we educate our students about this issue. Please use this as an opportunity to talk about proper cell phone use and potential consequences with your student as well.”

Charges have been dramatically reduced in part of the lack of legislation in regards to sexting. Thurston County Senior Deputy Prosecutor Rick Peters defended his decision to reduced charges saying: “the technology is ahead of the legislation.” It is a new phenomenon in terms of our country's youth and crime. According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 20 percent of 1,280 surveyed teens admitted to participating in nude and semi-nude acts of sexting. The school district has done its job notifying parents and educating students. However, the point must be hammered in to young teens that this is a crime.

What makes sexting cases complicated is that the lines of victim and perpetrator are blurred. The girl who originally took the photo needs to be held accountable for her poor decisions. However, she in no way asked for them to be circulated to all the school districts in the area.

The incident at Chinook Middle School is only one example of this rapidly growing, perverse issue spreading through our nation's youth, and with the help of parents, educators, and specific sexting legislation, this issue will be eradicated. MTV has taken on the issue with anti-sexting commercials. However, they come off as more of an unintentionally hysterical public service announcement than an effective one. Tween celebrities also need to step up. (Don't think we forget about you, High School Musical star and amateur photographer, Vanessa Hudgens).

GARDEN, From cover

es and community businesses will donate some seeds and plants to get the project started.

“Bon Appetite has expressed interest in working with us...possibly using some of the fresh produce,” and the Committee has considered using some of the food as an outreach to soup kitchens. The community garden hopes to improve Saint Martin's in three major ways: benefiting the en-

vironment, saving money for the school and providing fresh, healthy food for students.

“A key component to get the garden project going is involvement from students,” Gendelman asserted. Students can gain more information or send the Sustainability Committee ideas through Irina Gendelman's email, or log onto the group's blog, run by student Amanda Hatman, called Sustainable Saints (<http://sustainablesaints.blogspot.com/>).

Soul Solutions

FLYING, FAITH, AND FALLING

Krinda Carlson
Staff Writer

Sometimes I think I can fly. Like the smell of homemade bread, flying tempts me to be daring and sample it. Sampling has its risks. (Note: I'm mildly allergic to flour). When I'm feeling kamikaze-ish, I do it anyway.

The earliest I remember attempting to fly was when I was five. I put on my little sister's diapers – two for extra padding. My family's deck, at the time, was multi-leveled. I fast-waddled to the top of the three stairs and jumped like a cannon-baller, “Gravity, be defied!” I hovered in the air. Then, fell. On the descent, I kicked my stubby legs out to form an “L” shape and thumped full-force onto my bum. I should have put on a few more diapers. I kept this up for a good ten minutes...until my mom found me.

I was in grade-school when I played my next extreme-flying sport. My siblings and I had a rope swing tied to a tall pine. To use the swing, we had to climb a meteor-sized rock. The true way to play was to grab the tail at the bottom, sprint to the left edge of the rock, and shove off. Whoosh. I would soar out and around. Feet dangling. Body twisting. Hands burning. Tree branches approaching! A wreck was in store if I didn't release before the swing completed a half-circle. So, I let go. It was a good ten feet down. I never considered potential leg-breaks. My momentum would tuck me into a roll on the ground. By the time I popped up, pine-needles were my new hair-extensions and dirt layered my clothing. It was wonderful! I did this every week for a solid four months.

My newest flying obsession involves roller-coasters. The ultimate, thus far, is the Dueling Dragons at Universal Studio's Island of Adventure. It is one of those inverted roller coasters where your feet hang down. When I visited

the theme park last winter, I rode in the very front. The coaster chink-chinked to the top. Then plunged down, hurtling me through the air at 55 miles per hour. Now this was flying! I rode it until the park was almost closed. After these flights, it wasn't my body that fell, it was my stomach.

As I've discovered, flying requires flinging myself out and risking the fall. This makes flying a perfect metaphor for faith. Often, I want to live a “safe” faith and not risk falling. I'm sure many agree that, at times, having faith in God is scary: what if He asks me to give up something I don't want to? What if He asks me to do something I'm frightened of? What if I can't “get it right” and I fall down? But, if we're always afraid of downs in life, we never really experience the ups; we can't enjoy the exhilaration of faith if all we think about is falling. If we choose to believe in God but don't throw ourselves fully in, not only do we miss the experience of what it feels like to soar, but we don't know where to look when the gravity of life drags us down, hard. Even when we're at the lowest point of our lives, faith gives us a place to direct our focus – upwards, to where God offers His hand.

In Matthew 14, a man named Peter is sitting safely in a boat and sees Jesus walking on the water. Jesus invites Peter to join Him, and Peter throws himself out of the boat in faith. Peter walks on water! But, the minute he starts to fear going down, he begins to sink. In this moment of falling, Peter knows to look upward, where the hand of Jesus reaches down. Peter grasps the hand, and is lifted once more. Sure, he fell, but he had the faith enough to fling himself out, and so he experienced the exhilaration of walking on water! What if Peter hadn't taken the risk? What if I'd never risked falling? What if you don't risk flinging yourself into faith? Then, we all risk missing life's moments of soaring.

Several future projects have been discussed under the conservation and transpiration subcommittees of the Sustainability Committee. One includes building covered biking areas on campus to encourage faculty, staff and students to bike places more often. Also, the Committee would like to begin a zip-car program. This would involve a system of shared cars which students could sign up to rent, pay-

ing an hourly fee. Some big dreams include implementing a rainwater collection system and solar panels on campus. However, the first step to build off is beginning the community garden. According to Hatman's Sustainable Saints blog, “The garden is also an excellent fit with the Benedictine philosophy of environmental stewardship, community and labor.”

The Book of Eli: A must see

Amanda Hatman
Staff Writer

"Not a movie for atheists. Richard Dawkins would probably insist on a refund," says Rotten Tomatoes reviewer, James O'Ehley of fantastiqueZINE. Reviews for "The Book of Eli," which features such headliners as Denzel Washington and Gary Oldman, did not look good. Besides being yet another in a string of post-apocalyptic films from Hollywood (Some predecessors include last years "2012," and Jackson's lauded "District 9"), Eli was pitted against its own Goliath with Cameron's runaway smash-hit "Avatar."

Eli didn't win this one. "The Book of Eli" reported grossing \$88.9, to "Avatar's" \$237 (2012: 167 m, "District 9": 115.6 m). Washington and Denzel, both stars in their own right, though lending splendid performances, could not save the film from its January release date. Following in the wake of such Holiday releases as the latest Chipmunk film, "Sherlock Holmes," the much talked about Baldwin and Streep collaboration "It's Complicated," and of course "Avatar," Eli faced yet another desert wasteland beyond the screen: the January theater. With everyone back to work, school, budgets blown out, and new resolutions, January has a history of poor sales for even the best of films. Eli was unfortunately no exception.

The movie takes place thirty years after a final devastating war where Eli (Denzel) wanders across the broken and bare desert that was once unified and identifiable states. Long emptied cities, forgotten about highways, blinding and unforgiving sun, and bandits who would kill a man for whatever he is carrying or no reason at all, his only companions. But Eli is not your ordinary transient. Cutting down any would-be gangs of muggers before they even realize what hit them, he protects something far more valuable than his own existence. Spurred and directed by his belief in something greater, Eli is a cockroach among Earth's last survivors.

Only one man in this new dystopia realizes the power Eli wields. Carnegie (Oldman), self appointed dictator of an improvised town of thieves and mobsters, sees Eli and his charge as opportunity to manipulate the weak and younger survivors as well as extend the reaches and power of his empire, and is determined to seize it at any cost.

Don't let the sales fool you, Eli, despite its misguided release, is a definite must see for everyone (besides Richard Dawkins).



STUDENT RANT

Earlier this semester I had to go print something out in the library. It was about a quarter to nine on a Sunday. I went downstairs, and log into a computer, which spared no time in telling me it would log me off automatically in ten minutes. I wondered why the computer was logging me off when we have over two hours before closing. That's when Matt Gochenouer, who used to work at the library, told me the library got rid of the only person who was willing to stay until 11:00 p.m. on Sundays. Now, this seems very odd to me, because I didn't know the library runs like this.

I've always thought the li-

Inconsistent hours finally takes toll as library kicks students out too early

brary's hours were too inconsistent. It closes at 5:00 p.m. on Fridays, which is frustrating because there have been times before where I need to print something out and the library is closed six hours before it usually does. SIX HOURS. No one up there is willing to work at least until 9:00 p.m. on Fridays? I know it's the start of the weekend and many people have plans, but isn't the library there for us to get work done in? I'm sorry, but if you work in the library, then you have to do your job. If you worked in an office the worked from 9:00 to 5:00, you wouldn't say, "I'm only willing to work until 3." It's not like

people wouldn't be in the library if it stayed open until 11:00 p.m. every day. I've never found it empty. Student are always in there doing homework. I was in the library this past Sunday, and with about 10 minutes till 9:00 p.m., there were at least a dozen people still sitting at the computers. If there is only one person in the entire staff who would stay until 11:00 p.m. on weekends, then what happened to that person? I don't know the answer to this, but something tells me it's something annoying...

Anonymous

Do you have your own rant or would like to respond? Email us at SMUBelltower@stmartin.edu



Concert: 8:00 - 10:00pm

Tickets online: \$30, \$20, \$15

www.olytix.org

or by calling the Washington Center for the
Performing Arts at (360) 753-8586

Tuesday through Friday from 12:00—5:30pm

Slack-key Guitar and 'Ukulele Workshops

Sunday March 14th

South Puget Sound Community College

Kenneth J. Minnaert Center for the Arts

Room 21-252

To register :

Online: www.oluevents.com

Contact: Kim Allen (360) 866-0279

Or email : admin@oluevents.com

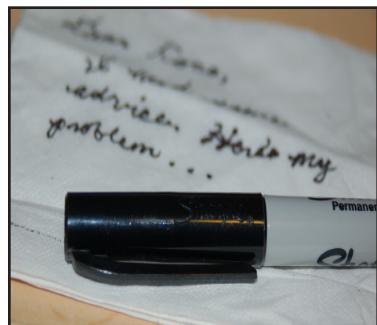
Letters to Coco

My roommate and friend thinks that he is great at singing when that is not the fact. He sings constantly: in the shower, doing homework, while cleaning, along with radio... I can't take it anymore! People have complained, but he isn't getting the hint. I ask him to keep it down sometimes because I'm trying to study or sleep, but he only keeps quiet for a day or so until she starts all over. He also says she wants to try out for American Idol, but I'm afraid he might end up on the first few episodes. I don't know what to say because I don't want to hurt his feelings.

Please help,
Simon Cowell Fan

I told my roommate once that she could borrow a piece of my clothing, and now she takes my clothes without asking ALL THE TIME! I will be walking back to my dorm room from class and see her passing by in a complete outfit from my closet! I also see my clothes on the floor on her side of the room. I don't mind if she borrows a shirt or two at times, but she doesn't return them and throws them around the room... all without asking! I have told her that I appreciate it if she asks to borrow my things first, but she still walks around in my stuff as if they were her own, acting like it is no big deal.

Peeved and Pantless



Dear Simon Cowell Fan,
You definitely need to put your foot down and explain to him the situation. Tell him is nicely that you need to study or you need to get work done and it's kind of distracting with all the noise and loud singing. Suggest places where it might be a more private to practice and where he would get less noise complaints! Say something like, "I know you really enjoy singing, but I know this place where there is even better acoustics, and it's a great place to practice." As far as the whole American Idol thing goes, suggest to him to have a mock audition first and share with him some suggestions that he can improve on. But if he still doesn't listen and still wants to try, we can see how far he gets past Mr. Cowell!

♥ Coco

Dear Peeved and Pantless,
She definitely needs a reality check and come to realize she cannot keep doing this to you. Tell her that if she borrows them, to ask before, if she doesn't listen, then tell her she needs to pay for the clothes she wears. She wants to treat your closet like a Macy's then have her pay for what she uses. If talking to her and saying how you feel doesn't work, you definitely need to talk to your RA about it or someone in charge. You pay for the room and you pay for your clothes, and this situation is a form of stealing. She is stepping outside of the boundaries and eventually will make it miserable place to live in! Stand up girl!

♥ Coco

THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE!!!

Jake Kinderman
Staff Writer

SODA IN THE REC CENTER

The opening of the new recreation center has sparked a new inspiration for student fitness and sports activities. It is lined with new cardio equipment, weight training facilities and an indoor track to shave off that festively plump physique we all gained from the holidays. This leads me to wonder why, set among all the new fitness facilities and equipment, is there vending machines filled with soda and candy?! Since one 20 oz bottle of Coca-cola has 240 calories and over 70 grams of sugar in it, one would think that it would not be the first beverage a "Saint Martathlete" seeks after a pick-up basketball game or a good stint on the elliptical. Drinking a soda before, during, or after a workout is like hunting for Lion in the Serengeti with a fun noodle. It just doesn't make sense.

MAC IN-TRASH TALK

Why does the IT office hate Macintosh computers so much? SMU Mac owners will recognize the following scenario: You walk into the IT office because the wireless has gone down...again. The tech person notices you have a Mac with you and startles you with a judging stare. You peacefully inquire about the wireless situation and the IT person decides they need to enlighten you on the superiority of a PC over a Mac. They continue to explain that on a Mac you are not able to hack into the pentagon, measure the distance between a computer

programmer and their next pocket or keep track of the temperature of the sun. As you are pretending to listen you look around at all the broken computers in the IT office, which happen to be PCs. Doesn't it seem a bit foolish that an IT employee tries to convince someone that PC's are superior when they are surrounded by a PC graveyard? Next time you decide to bash on a Mac, think about the 37 fire wall updates you need every few hours, how it takes six minutes for a standard PC to start up, and finally how there are over 1.1 MILLION different viruses written for windows and under 500 for Mac. If you choose to respond I recommend writing a note and mailing it because chances are your PC will just freeze, crash, and begin smoking when you open your e-mail.

PEOPLE WHO BRING BABIES TO RATED R MOVIES

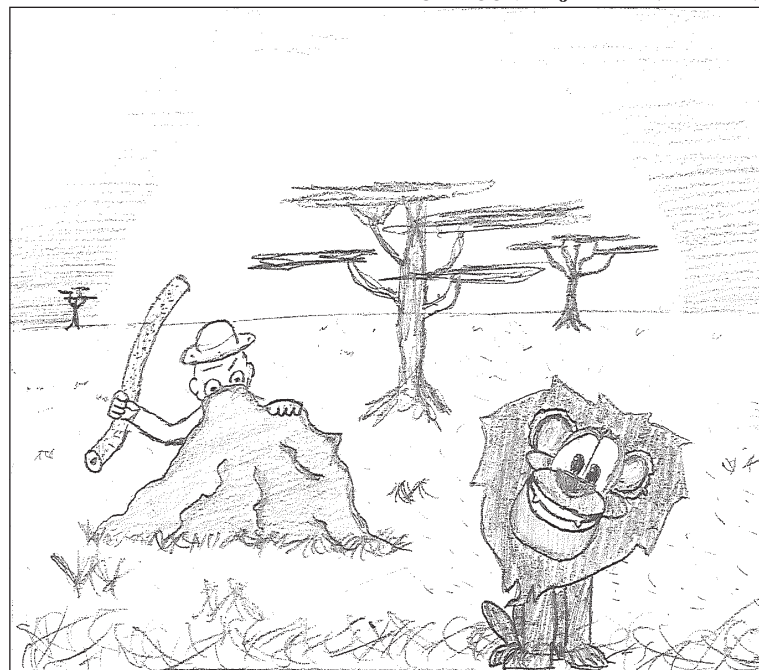
Talk about stupid parents. No wonder so many kids today have such attitudes,

bad mouths and general lack of respect for authority. I recently saw the new Martin Scorsese film "Shutter Island" the other weekend and a baby began to cry during a particularly disturbing scene. I vote mom and dad parents of the year. What decently intelligent person sees the preview for a new suspense/horror film that takes place in an insane asylum and decides their toddler needs to see it?

Another example was during the recent superhero flick "Watchmen," where during a graphic sex scene a man began leading his three children out of the theatre. Now this movie was extremely violent prior to this scene, and it doesn't make sense that it was the nudity that drove the family out, not the excessive blood spattering across the screen for the hour leading up to it. New parents of the millennium need to get it together and not make unbelievably stupid decisions like taking young children to traumatic movies. Stay home and watch "Night at the Museum" or something.

LION HUNTING WITH A FUN NOODLE

CARTOON BY JAKE KINDERMAN



The Belltower

THE BELLTOWER STAFF

Editor-in-Chief:
Katie Hawkins

Sports Editor:
Brandon Jones

Business Manager:
Jamey Gelhar

Staff Writers:
Krinda Carlson
Gary Fiorina
Christopher Gentile
Amanda Hatman

Layout Editor:
Nick Harvey

Jacob Kinderman
Elena Larson
Chanell Sagon
Emilie Schnabel

Photographer:
Ninalynn Benitez

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!