Welcome to a new year

By Cheryl Casey
News Editor

A new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs was introduced at Sacred Heart University's annual Convocation on July 1, following the selection made by a search committee of staff, faculty, students and trustees. A Harvard graduate, Dr. David Harnett admitted he was "extremely impressed when talking to students during the inter-

New Provost and Academic V.P. joins SHU

By Cheryl Casey
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A new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Sacred Heart University assumed his position on July 1, following the selection made by a search committee of staff, faculty, students and trustees.

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Pioneer Weekend kicks off

By Christopher Twarowski
Contributing Writer

This upcoming weekend marks the fourth annual Pioneer Weekend at Sacred Heart. Throughout the next three days, students will be able to participate in a variety of activities and events sponsored by the Student Events Team (S.E.T.).

"It's going to be a great celebration," said Provost Assistant Dennis Lezko. "We're trying to establish some tradition here.

Director of Student Activities, Denise Sutphin, agreed. "It's our official kickoff," she said. And what about their enthusiasm for the faculty. Many other quantities about Sacred Heart also attracted him to the position.

"Sacred Heart is an unusual institution among higher education institutions," explained the Provost. "Its pace of growth, its vitality, its expansiveness...all of which are not characteristic in a time when most places are downsizing.

Harnett's duties will place him in charge of all graduate and undergraduate academic pro-

Avalon Gates: Concerns addressed

By Ayanna Perera
Staff Writer

Buildings three, four, and five at Sacred Heart's new housing complex, Avalon Gates, have still not opened, with students having to be housed in motels such as the Fairfield Motor Inn and the HI Ho.

Mostly seniors and some juniors, who call Avalon Gates "home," have been visibly inconvenienced after having high expectations of moving in by the start of the semester.

Senior psychology major Corey Lasuha, from West Springfield, Mass. is one such student who has been temporarily housed at the HI Ho. "I'm so alone at the motel. Sometimes I cry all night because I'm so lonely and have no idea when I'll actually be able to move into Avalon," expressed Lasuha. "If we were to die today no one would know but the cleaning lady because there is so little contact with anyone," she added.

Dan Connolly, director of Housing Operations, explained that as of 4 p.m. of Sept. 9, Building 3 will be ready by the week of Oct. 1, Building 4 by the week of Oct. 8 and Building 5 will be open by the week of Nov. 5. "I think the major frustration for people is that Avalon Gates is not ready. When Sacred Heart was negotiating and signing the contract with Avalon, we were under the impression that all the buildings would be open prior to Sept. 1," explained Connolly. "We do not control the contractors that are constructing the Avalon apartments," he added.

According to the Department of Residential Life, when they construct buildings on campus, they have guaranteed dates after which they gain a certificate of occupancy. "Since this is an Avalon Gates project, we do not control what their contract says about completion dates or certificate of occupancy," reiterated Connolly.

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Avalon: trying to resolve the problems

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Apart from Sacred Heartresi­dents anxiously waiting to move into Buildings 3 and 4 of Avalon, residents in the community are also expecting to move in. For instance, Sacred Heart owns only six of the 36 apartments in Build­ings 3 and 4. "Avalon Properties has in their contract with Sacred Heart, as well as all their future residents, that they are not responsible for construction delays," Connolly emphasized.

Finally, stressed Connolly, "We as an institution, especially the CIP's, have made a major effort to assist Avalon Gates in open­ing at the projected times, and I expect that the VP's along with the senior administration at Avalon will continue working together to house students as soon as the buildings meet the codes of the City of Bridgeport and the State of Connecticut."

Despite all these problems at Avalon, there are those who feel that the wait is certainly worth­while.

Justin Venych, a junior me­dia studies major from Massapequa Park, NY and a resi­dent at Avalon, remarked, "As far as I'm concerned, Avalon Gates will be well worth the wait. We are going to be living in a beautiful place eventually. It just may take a little while."

Services emerge from flames

Wellness Center dissolves after fire

By Michele Herrmann

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Career, Counseling and Health Services continue to op­erate despite difficulties with space and utilities. "The cause of the fire was an electrical malfunction occurring in wiring," according to Fair­field Lt. Deputy Fire Marshall William Kessler.

"It [the wiring] heated and ignited the wooden framing in the basement underneath the stairs. The fire spread up through the building from the basement to the attic," Kessler said.

On Sunday, July 14, a Public Safety Officer notified Kessler in the morning first spotted the fire. Three engines arrived at the scene at 5:20 a.m., and firefighters exting­uished the fire at 6:36 a.m.

Personal belongings, elec­tronic equipment and furniture were destroyed. A majority of files were left intact, slightly charred by flames.

The restoration service was brought in to clean the files and remove the odor of smoke.

The fire relocated Career and Health Services to the first floor of South Hall and the Counseling Center to the Residential Life of­fice.

"It's unfortunate that it came at such a critical time when space was such an issue," said Michael Holmes, now the director of Ca­reeer Development.

The fire "in one way, inter­rupted a real growth process" for Career Services, said Holmes, who estimated that 73 percent of the Class of 1996 received jobs and graduate school placement.

Holmes is also seeking to rebuild his staff with the depar­ture of Nina Clark, former direc­tor of Internships and Coopera­tive Education, and Mary Ann Mathews, director of the Senior Scholars Program.

"We have this obstacle, but we have confidence that we'll gain momentum."

Holmes plans to have two new career development coordi­nators and a secretary shortly.

"We have this obstacle, but we have confidence that we'll gain momentum," said Holmes. For the Counseling Center, lack of space and materials are difficulties to overcome.

"We're in the process of re­ordering some of our materials we lost, but we are not rushing because when it comes in we don't know where to put them," said Dr. Anne Nadeau, director of Counseling.

The center is also unable to hold special programs due to pa­perwork lost in the fire.

Counselors are still seeing students, but have been using various offices on campus to keep confidentiality.

"We're very grateful to fac­ulty, staff and administrators who have loaned us the use of their offices," said Nadeau.

Despite this obstacle, Coun­selor Jocelyn Novella encour­ages students to come.

"Don't be discouraged. Please feel free to call us and we'll make arrangements," said Novella.

Despite damages, the former Wellness Center building is re­pairable, said Kessler.

The Counseling Center will move to one or two of the three athletic trailers sometime in October. Career Services will move to the Admissions building.

The possibility of repairing the Park Avenue House remains uncertain at this time.

Dr. Mark Connolly, in the Community is dis­solved. Holmes will now report to Vice President of Academic Affairs and Administration Jim Barquinero. The Counsel­ing Center staff will now report to Dean of Students Larry Weick.

Provisor: excitement and high hopes for Sacred Heart community

Continued from page 1

"The greatest impact you can make on this campus is the re­cruiting of the highest talented young teachers and scholars. For their presence will last for de­cades to come," he said.

Several goals and concerns are on Dr. Harnett's agenda. "I hope to see to it that the initial one of forum in which I could have an freedom to work," he revealed.

Harnett also added "my pet interest is in the University library as almost a metaphor for the cen­tral functioning of the University. I hope to be a part of a plan to enhance the library in certain ways." Included in this plan is a collection as current as possible and a facility more accommodating for students and faculty.

"What I am most concerned about is when students complete here, they are able to write clearly and analytically, able to have ba­sic computational skills and are comfortable in public speaking and explaining what they know well," explained the Provost. His goal is to provide students with "basic skills for a lifelong career."

Dr. Harnett wants to know what students are saying, and is interested in having a liaison for contact with the university com­munity. He intends to teach, which will make him available to stu­dents, but also desires "some sort of forum in which I could have some interaction with students. I am not going to be holed up in this office."

However, if anyone wishes to visit him in his office, he in­sisted they are more than wel­come. His black minichihuahua and office helper, Joshua, will be more than happy to entertain guests!

He realizes that students have concerns and needs, but "all of these needs are a function of growth. We are growing so fast, but our problems are glorious prob­lems."

"The Provost added, "It's com­fortable for the Student Center to know what they're doing. It's exhilarating to know what they can do."

Dr. Harnett comes to Sacred Heart from Rosemont College, where he was academic dean and a professor of history since 1992. Many candidates applied for the position, 20 were strongly considered, and 11 inter­viewed. Harnett was among two finalists.

Several other positions on campus are showing new faces this semester.

Michelle Kansky of Trumbull has been named Bur­lar of the Student Center. She is also in the Student Center. She has been named the university's new faculty chair of commu­nity studies. Kansky has taught English, literature and poetry courses in a career spanning more than 2 decades, which have been spent at the Univer­sity. She is perhaps best known as a published poet.

Other new appointments chair. She has served as coordi­nator of the university's account­ing department since 1995 and as an associate professor of ac­counting since 1992.

Dr. David Curtis, profes­sor of English at Sacred Heart, has been named the university's new faculty chair of commu­nity studies. Curtis has taught English, literature and poetry courses in a career spanning more than 2 decades, which have been spent at the Univer­sity. He is perhaps best known as a published poet.
No desk job here

By Gina Norelli
Features Editor

There are people that work behind desks all day, and there are people such as Dr. Thomas Forget who do their most effective work by walking around. Dr. Forget, the new executive administrator to the president, uses what is called the "ear to the ground" method of administration. He searches the campus for areas that are running smoothly and areas that require improvement.

"So far the biggest challenge (I have faced) is to try to understand and participate in the life of a very challenging university," said Forget. "The ongoing challenge will be to carry forward the university's goals and objectives of hearing the university community and taking that back to the president and cabinet," he added.

Forget works closely with aspects of Dr. Cernera's five year Strategic Plan that outlines Sacred Heart's goals and objectives intended to transform the school into one of the leading comprehensive Catholic universities in New England.

Welcome: Cernera's greeting

Continued from page 1

legal frustrations to our timely completion of East Hall, and we have responded creatively to meeting our extraordinary goal of providing housing for all undergraduate students who seek it. We have managed with a temporary bookstore during the opening of school book rush in order to prepare new and existing bookstore and faculty office space. We have temporarily sacrificed a portion of the Dining Hall to make possible the expansion of our kitchen, which should be ready late fall. We accomplish all this at Sacred Heart University with that bold spirit which sees possibilities rather than obstacles, growth instead of decline, new life over stagnation. Of course, that spirit is embodied in the good-natured and generous way in which all the members of our school community work together, care for each other, and learn together. Let's all have a great year!

Students connect with local inner-city community

By Erin E. Harrison
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Eighteen Sacred Heart students, including 14 first-year students, worked as urban volunteers in Bridgeport as part of a pilot service-learning program entitled "Community Connections '96." According to Phyllis Machledt, director of Service-Learning, "The project was to get freshmen involved early with other students who have similar interests.

The students were led by four upperclass student leaders, Liz Rathbun, a senior from Stockbridge, Mass.; Colleen McGrath, a junior from Davenport, Iowa; Rachel Ford, a junior from Lindenhurst, N.Y.; and Doug Knowe, a junior from East Longmeadow, Mass.

During the week-long project, from Aug. 24 to 31, "students were put to work where the community needed help the most," Machledt noted.

Participants stayed at the St. Charles Urban Center, a retreat house and outreach center located on East Main Street.

"I've worked with community service before, but never for people in such poor conditions," commented Debbie Ventenelle, a first-year student from Port Jefferson Station, N.Y. "It was great seeing how little they have, but how happy they are."

Students labored at a Habitat for Humanity site, served food to the homeless at Thomas Merton House and helped landscape the Aspira Center, a Hispanic community center.

The participants also took children of the Alpha Home to Beardsley Park Zoo and worked with the mentally ill at the Hope Is Here Social Club at Golden Hill Methodist Community Center.

"The little things I did, like making a meal, gave me a feeling of accomplishment and united our group," said Anne Marie D'Amore, a first-year student from Port Jefferson Station, N.Y.

"Many times people come to an experience like this expecting to change other people or the world. What really happens is that you change and your perceptions change. Service learning may be education outside the classroom, but it's still education."

Pioneer Pizza

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The newly elected 1996-97 Student Government is proud to say that the newly elected President, by the students. We would like to have every opportunity to serve the students to the best of our abilities. We also accept the responsibility and the honor of serving the administration by listening to and relaying the information to the faculty.

One of the Student Government's awareness of student concerns. We hope to reach our goal by adding suggestion boxes to popular areas on campus and surveying the students regularly. We will also be holding meetings with our respective classes in their entirety for their feedback once a month. The Student Government office in Hawley Lounge will now be open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with additional weekend hours to hear student concerns. In addition, we have installed a second phone line which is extension 4705. We can also be reached by e-mail under “Government, Student.”

One second objective is to promote communication with the faculty. There will be Student Government representation at Faculty Senate meetings. In addition, the Executive Board is considering Dr. Harrett's suggestion to add a Vice President for Academic Positions to the Executive Board. This position would involve the investigation of class size, availability, library hours, faculty investigations and student academic needs. Our third objective is to promote more effective communication with administrators. Students and administrators would be linked one-on-one to have contact at least once a month. The link will give administrators a chance to hear directly from the students.

The Student Government is proud to say that the student trustee was one of the most important members of their Student Government associations. We will pursue getting a student on the Board of Trustees at Sacred Heart.

The four objectives are to have direct communication with the Board of Trustees. At a recent national Student Government conference, we discovered that most have a student as either honorary member or voting member of the Board of Trustees. Many schools expressed that the student trustee was one of the most important members of their Student Government associations. We will pursue getting a student on the Board of Trustees at Sacred Heart.

Finally, in order to relay information to the students, we will utilize the meetings with the individual classes. We will also seek the support of the Spectrum as a medium for communicating new issues and concerns.

The administration's response to the Student Government's goals has been favorable. We hope to work with you, the students, to make our goals a reality so we can serve you better. We wish you the best of luck in your academic year.

Contributed by Christy Ashley, Student Government president.

Comeback Kid vs. Republican Revolution -- Who's winning and why?

By Rob Sawicki
Columnist

Back in 1992, Bill Clinton survived some early troubles in his campaign to win his party's nomination for President. He would go on to defeat incumbent George Bush and third party candidate Ross Perot. He was dubbed the “Comeback Kid.”

Clinton won the Presidency with 43 percent of the popular vote, which his critics immediately used to claim that there wasn't a mandate for his vast legislative initiatives.

The Clinton Presidency got off to a rocky start. He barely passed his 1993 Economic Plan through a Democratic Congress. That plan, of course, has allowed his critics to claim he is the champion of the largest tax increase in history.

After the first year of his Presidency, Bill Clinton was finding support from members of his own party lacking. His approval ratings were way down in the thirties, and Democrats in Congress were afraid they would be thrown out in the 1994 mid-term Congressional elections. They wouldn't support him on the centerpiece of his campaign: Health Care Reform.

It was too late, however, the “Republican Revolution” was moving forward. They had made a “Contract with America.” It was also packaged as a campaign strategy targeted at what Americans felt was wrong with the country. And, in November 1994, voters gave Republicans control of Congress for the first time in 40 years. Which spells the question: “What has happened?” I saw in a recent poll the President's approval rating is now 60 percent. He holds an 18 point lead over Bob Dole. Ross Perot isn't showing more than six percent in any poll.

The answer: “It’s the economy, stupid!” James Carville's words of wisdom in 1992 still hold true. As much as Republicans would like to say that the “family” is the biggest issue in the campaign, it's not.

The economy, more often than not, is the biggest issue. In 1994, Ronald Reagan won re-election by asking the voters one simple question: “Are you better off now than you were four years ago?” The majority of Americans felt they were. The result was a landslide victory for the President. In 1992, the economy wasn’t good and George Bush wasn't re-elected.

This year, the economy is stronger than it has been in decades. Unemployment is at a 30 year low. Stocks have gone way up, and the deficit has been cut in half.

While the President may have cut taxes, it was primarily on the wealthiest Americans. He also signed the Earned Income Tax Credit, which reduces taxes on lower income families.

Bob Dole has proposed a 15 percent tax cut for all families regardless of income. He claims we can lower taxes and balance the budget without reducing services to our neediest citizens. Based on his standing in the polls, the rest of the American people believe this as much as I do. They remember the last time we tried to do this, the 1980s—when we incurred a $4 trillion debt.

The American people realize that balancing the budget without cutting Medicare and school lunch programs is more important than anything else. They also realize that under the leadership of President Clinton the economy has strengthened considerably.

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I hate cats. Well, I hate the presence of cats.

I haven’t always hated cats, but after all these years in which six billion cats have come out of the wombs of home, mostly at my two sisters’ invocations, I hate them (the cats). The only redeemable quality in felines is that they’re funny when you yell “AAYYYYIEEE!” and sit there on a glass door behind them.

It always annoys me:

• They climb on top of anything tall (refrigerators, China cabinets, me standing up), knocking over anything in their paths (“Oh, Dusty, don’t mind the vase of six dozen imp­ posingly high lilacs on the counter, you can just knock it over, smashing it into two thousand pieces so you can lie on the end of the counter even though every other flat surface in the kitchen is in use!”)

• They lie in one place for hours, lulling you into a sense of security so that when you walk by they can reach out their claws for no apparent reason and shred your ankles.

• They’re kinda stupid. Don’t get me wrong—I know that most cats perform one or two theoretically intelligent acts, but that’s about it. For example, we have a cat named Dilly. I don’t know why he’s named Dilly—two theoretically intelligent acts, but that’s wrong—I know that most cats perform one or more acts that most people don’t.

As an assistant at Sacred Heart University, I have been bombarded with complaints and concerns ranging from the cramped and disorganized housing, unpicking food, broken and obsolete computers, limited parking, and lack of classroom space. Although these concerns are legitimate, I struggle with the thought of the complaints made. I was appalled at the lack of interest on the part of the students to try and rectify these concerns by involving them in the many committees that have been created to make their concerns heard.

This letter goes out especially to the Class of 2000. Make your voice be heard. Join these committees available to you without reluctance bashing Sacred Heart. This is your time to make changes and ensure that Sacred Heart is the best place to be. If you feel that the committees available to you are not in your best interests, then create your own committees— it is possible.

Ayoma Perera

ATHLETIC AREAS LIMITED

To the editor:
The unfinished facilities for athletic teams to work is limited. Next to the tennis courts, there was supposed to be a grass field for teams to practice and hold competitions. There is a field there, but how a team supposed to practice on 50 yards of grass? With four sports and one club team in season (not including JV teams), a turf field and 50 yards of grass is hard to work with. Who gets to practice on what? What about games? Athletes do not understand why they tease us by breaking ground last year for the Athletic Complex and not follow through it? Why waste the time and money to clear the field when they did not finish it?

Granted, the school couldn’t afford to continue building, but I don’t see the need to buy new furniture for the offices, or add on to the buildings or add on to the cafeterias which is making the space smaller. Besides all the additions, each student is paying about $19,000 for tuition. Where is this going money?

Rich Raupp

GRATEFUL SENIOR

To the editor:

As I prepare for my last semester at Sacred Heart, I wanted to take the time to thank the people who took time out of their day to help me with mine—the professors of the English and media studies departments.

As a student who has attended Sacred Heart for the last five years as a part time commuter student, contact with the school has been largely through my instructors. Some people say that I should get more involved with SHU, but to tell you the truth, I do not have the time. I know this is the standard excuse, but working full time and taking at least nine credits a semester does not leave much time for extra activities. As the school focuses more on the needs of the full time resident students, I am thankful to have had understanding professors who understood that some people have commitments outside of school. There have been many times when a professor has helped work around schedule that I do not have much control over.

It is refreshing to know that the professors I have had are concerned about teaching me and not concentrating on the fracas of growth the rest of the University seems to be concerned with.

Thank you all for taking the time to show me you were interested in my progress as a student.

Jennifer Gilbert

PUBLIC SAFETY VALUABLE

To the editor:

What a difference a year makes. For the past few years I have been working at Sacred Heart University as a Public Safety Officer. As the years went by, I grew to dread the coming of September and the return of the students. After a somewhat pleasant real summer, the students would return with their usual problems and gripes. No parking, false fire alarms, and usually an alcohol induced complete disrespect to Public Safety. Believe me, I tell you that this tends to wear on you and at times can make even the most optimistic personality look forward to the coming of June.

Now that I have transferred to a different department, the students return has prompted a different response in me. I look forward to seeing the many work study students who work with me and have noticed a change in my attitude when I meet with them to come to work in the morning.

Arthur T. Gerckens

REMEMBERED

September 12, 1996

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To the editor:

What a difference a year makes. For the past few years I have been working at Sacred Heart University as a Public Safety Officer. As the years went by, I grew to dread the coming of September and the return of the students. After a somewhat pleasant real summer, the students would return with their usual problems and gripes. No parking, false fire alarms, and usually an alcohol induced complete disrespect to Public Safety. Believe me, I tell you that this tends to wear on you and at times can make even the most optimistic personality look forward to the coming of June.

Now that I have transferred to a different department, the students return has prompted a different response in me. I look forward to seeing the many work study students who work with me and have noticed a change in my attitude when I meet with them to come to work in the morning.

Arthur T. Gerckens

REMEMBERED
Sparking quality friendships

By Gina Norelli
Features Editor

The first year of college can be overwhelming and scary when it comes to making new friends. Coming from high school, where many of your friendships dated back to kindergarten, first-year students find that they are faced with the challenge of selecting quality friends amongst the hundreds of possibilities available.

As a junior student who has been there already, I offer you the following guidelines (in no particular order) that may lead to the path of finding friends that are worth having.

1. **Do not compromise your values or yourself**
   - If you do not drink or do drugs, don’t place yourself in the company of those who do.
   - We are judged by the company we keep.

2. **Be accepting of others**
   - If you find that the people you are spending time with are cheating on tests, harming themselves, putting down others and support them. It’s also important to show others that you possess as long as you choose to join.

3. **Trust your intuition**
   - You can probably recall several instances in your life when your intuition, or “gut instinct” was right on target. Trust it, because it knows.

But intuition need not only be to detect negative things. If you get a feeling that a person would be a good friend, talk to them and get to know them.

4. **Be patient and trust time**
   - Most friendships do not happen overnight. They evolve over time and many shared experiences.
   - You don’t have to be best friends with your roommate.
   - Resident may go through several roommates during college. As well as Residential Life tries to match you with compatible roommate, it doesn’t always click. If it works out on the first try, you are fortunate. Sometimes you just have to find the perfect roommate on your own, as I did.

5. **Risk changing who you are**
   - Sometimes it is hard to leave a comfort zone. You may have latched onto a certain group of friends during orientation or the first weeks of school, but later find that you have nothing in common with them and cannot be yourself around them. Do not feel guilty, this happens often.

   - Without being tactless, I suggest you slowly distance yourself and spend more time with people that you can better relate to.

   - After all, don’t you want to go through for years of college with a group of friends that you have nothing in common with.

   - The saying goes, “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he can never lose.”

   - Have some of your own friends outside your group of friends.

   - Even if you find a large group of friends who you enjoy being with, it is important to not isolate yourself from other potential friendships.

   - For one thing, by limiting yourself to an exclusive group of friends, you may seem “cliquish” to others and they may not approach you.

   - Instead, it is refreshing to know there are friends that you can go to outside of your group of friends.

   - Maintain (or attain) a positive attitude.

   - Smile, laugh, have fun. The stresses of college life require a lighter side and a bit of humor.

   - Humor serves as great tension relief. If you remember to have fun, laugh and find the funny side to life, and others see that, you may be doing them a lot of good.

   - Some of my fondest memories of the past two years have been sitting around with friends and joking about nonsense.

   - "A friend you can't trust in times of trouble is like having a toothache or a sore foot."Proverbs 25:17.

6. **Accept rejection**
   - Just as you may reject a friendship that is going nowhere, be prepared that you will inevitably be rejected at some point.

   - Also, keep in mind that those things which hurt, often instruct.

   - I can say that every time I have been rejected, the situation made sense soon after.

   - "Whenever someone rejects you, tell yourself that it bears on the other person, not you; it's nothing personal," said Grayson and Meilman.

   - Actively place yourself in social situations/organizations.

   - Besides talking to others who live near you or are in your classes, it’s important to become involved with activities that interest you. Others with the same interests will be there and friendships are often based on common interests.

   - Don’t get discouraged if you are not the best at the activities you choose to join.

   - As the saying goes, “The forest would be quiet if only the best birds sang.”

   - Offer the talents and experience that you possess. As long as you try your best, know that is enough.

    - Know God

   - What better place to improve your faith than at a Catholic University such as Sacred Heart? I suggest that you attend Mass, become familiar with Campus Ministry, pray and trust God.

   - With all of the evils of the world, God is what will keep you safe and on the right path to developing strong relationships with others.

   - Now is the time

   - You have been handed an empty canvas on which you may paint a variety of interesting friendships.

   - This is an exciting time and I wish you the best of luck. May your stay at Sacred Heart University be full of friendships that last a lifetime.
Meet new Dean of Students

By Shaena Doherty
Staff Writer

Meet new Dean of Students

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Staff Writer

Sarcastic. When Lawrence Wielk was asked by the Sacred Heart Search Committee for the new Dean to describe himself in one word, that is how he responded. He now holds the title of Dean of Students at SHU and holds a challenging and demanding position.

Formerly the Vice President for Student Services at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Dean Wielk chose Sacred Heart University over many reasons. But he was quick to point out that they were the ones who chose him.

"I think a number of factors intrigued me," he added in a more serious note.

The overall growth at SHU was one important factor. This University is no longer a community of 200 in his first years; it is now a community of thousands.

Residential Life particularly intrigued him, since the rise in student population increases the problem of the moment seems to be the delay in Avalon Gates, the newest housing complex. The day, as Wielk points out, is a "unique challenge."

In general, another challenge is integrating commuters and residents.

Wielk wishes the commuter students would feel as much a part of the SHU community as the residents.

Dean Wielk has goals for Sacred Heart. He wants to form a long range student development five year plan to make education a 24 hour-a-day process. To accomplish this goal, Wielk plans to make an assessment with a student life team of what SHU has, what it needs, areas of growth, and current plans. Also, Wielk wants to improve the quality of life for all students. As far as graduate students are concerned, Wielk wants Graduate Services in the form of housing, health and career issues.

"I don't want to spread the staff thin, so I would like to expand staff or work with the graduate staff," he said.

When asked if he felt he had big shoes to fill since replacing Dean Kevin Kelly, he had to think for a minute.

"I didn't know Dean Kelly too well and only met him once. I can only ask my staff about him."

Wielk wants to make sure he focuses on some of the same things Kelly did and fulfill the expectations of the Search Committee.

"I don't want to be anyone but myself," Wielk said. On the other hand, Wielk's job is challenging.

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Famous talents to perform at SHU

Theresa Hickey
Assistant A&E Editor

Sacred Heart University's Theater is about to embark on its most exciting and jam packed season. The levels of theater will range from the amateur to the professional. Students, faculty, professional actors, professional actresses and even big name stars, will share their talents with the Sacred Heart community theater audience.

The foremost attraction of the upcoming year is The Sacred Heart University Center of Performing Arts' collaboration with the Stratford Festival Theater, Inc. While the Stratford Festival Theater, Inc. is building three new theaters, they will be using Sacred Heart University's Theater as a trial ground for new unpublished plays, according to Louis Burke the Artistic Director of the Stratford Festival Theater, Inc.

There will be a series of six plays read. The event is entitled "The Play's The Thing" and it will be an active part of the theater for many months. The readings will be given by, as the information pamphlet reads, "the finest talent available." The pamphlet does not lie.

Some of readers include such talent as James Earl Jones, Elaine Stritch, Julie Harris and even the artistic director himself, who said he has been doing these readings for years.

The six plays are led off by Michael Folie's "Monsters." The plot is reminiscent of the summer blockbuster "Independence Day." It takes place in a New York Hilton hotel while aliens are taking over the whole city.

The readers will include the extraordinary work of James Earl Jones, John Glover, Jane Krakowski, James Naughton and Elaine Stritch. Premiering on September 16 at 7:30, "Monsters" is described as "Provocative" by the pamphlet provided by The Center of Performing Arts.

Closing the evening will be "Hat," taking place Feb. 10, 1997. The play is not performed per se. There will be no costumes, sets or even memorizing.

According to Louis Burke, the object of the readings is for the Stratford Festival Theater, Inc. to get an idea of what upcoming playwrights' works will be used in their new theaters.

The evenings will include active discussions following the actual script reading and the audience is able to include their opinions as well.

The play-wrights will also participate in the readings in order to learn about their works by "hearing their work aloud," according to Dr. Ed Malin of the Psychology Department.

Malin, who is also an actor, is the liaison between Louis Burke and the Sacred Heart Theater community. He is very excited about this year's season and hopes the students will take part in what he calls, "the most extensive and cultural experience on campus."

The theater is growing in parallel to the University and it is hoped by those involved that the students will become active speculators and contributors to its growth.

For information on how to obtain tickets, as well as cost details, contact Fredrick Sailer at the Center for the Performing Arts, at (203) 374-2777.

"Prozac" Depicts Depression from the Heart

Danielle Nolan
A&E Editor

Although Elizabeth Wurtzel's "Prozac Nation" was published in 1994, I discovered the book this past summer when it was recommended to me by a close friend. You may be scared by the title, as I was when I heard it, but it is a book every young female and male should read.

"Prozac Nation" is the autobiography of Elizabeth Wurtzel, a remarkably intelligent girl who battles manic depression.

Although her fight with depression will never be over, she comes to terms with her disease enough to compile each of her experiences, inner thoughts and heartaches into an organized and raw story that very openly describes her feelings toward men, her mother, drugs and suicide.

"No one who had never been depressed like me could imagine that the pain could get so bad that death became a star to hitch up to, a fantasy of peace someday which seemed better than any life with all this noise in my head," said Wurtzel in Chapter three entitled "Love." As I read the book, I found myself wondering how someone as sick and considerably young as Wurtzel could write such a candid memoir of her life. Her language and her memories are so vivid that I could hardly put "Prozac Nation" down.

Wurtzel explains where her depression began and, although she cannot elucidate why it started, she attempts to remember by exposing herself. It was as if she used the writing of her autobiography as a therapy session to examine and retrace her steps.

Wurtzel's parents divorced, her father left and she was sent to summer camp where her first suicide attempt occurred. Her mother could not handle the pressure of having an ill-fated daughter who did not have a reason to her madness.

From Wurtzel's description, the tension her mother conveyed was enough to make anyone go crazy.

Wurtzel used flashbacks to make the book even more enticing. Although she jumps from one time period to the next, I was never confused. In fact, it made the book all the more interesting.

Wurtzel's life story takes her through college at Harvard, a summer in Dallas, six months in London and more bad relationships than she would like to recall. Her concepts on college and boys are normal thoughts turned into obsessions by her sickness.

Not only was Wurtzel saddened by everyday life, drugs were thrown at her on a regular basis. Whenever she made a doctor's visit or a hospital stay, whether it be for a suicide attempt or just an everyday attack, she was given a new age drug to help her relax.

These drugs became almost an addiction. In retrospect, the book focuses on Wurtzel's life in her own "Prozac Nation." Writing about this incredible mind. Each of her thoughts is introspective and each word is strikingly telling. "Prozac Nation" is real and certain.

Wurtzel is not only an amazingly gifted writer, she is also a comedian. Each thought is marked by a special quote, song lyric or funny saying. She includes jokes wherever she can making "Prozac Nation" a mix between Harvard type speech and Bruce Springsteen type sarcasm. "Prozac Nation" was an astonishingly refreshing book that got inside the brain of a manic depressant. Wurtzel reached inside herself to force people to understand what she endures everyday.

"Nude Men" author Amanda Filipacci said this about "Prozac Nation." "You begin, intending perhaps to get acquainted with the interesting topic of irrational, demonic depression, but after just a few pages, you get the uneasy sensation that the topic is getting acquainted with you."
DRUNK DRIVING DOESN'T JUST KILL DRUNK DRIVERS.

Andrea Harris, killed Aug. 26, 1991 at 8:00pm on El Camino Real, Atascadero, California.

Next time your friend insists on driving drunk, do whatever it takes to stop him. Because if he kills innocent people, how will you live with yourself?

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.
To the editor:

After enjoying my summer vacation, I have noticed several new changes both inside and outside of the school. The computer lab has been downsized, though it contains new disk drives and updated programs. In making the computer lab smaller, it will cause problems later in the semester when many students will need it to type out papers.

Also, they moved the bookstore, which upset me, because what else can they improve upon in the store that they haven’t already. The only problem with the bookstore is that the high-priced items are too expensive, such as the textbooks required for our classes.

Outside on campus, they have finally broken ground for the sports complex that was supposed to be built in 1996. Also, it surprises me how our school fees are taken quickly though everything that the school does to keep the student happy is a slow process.

With so many changes happening in the school, I am glad to be commuting instead of being on campus. For example, students who live at Taft Commons and Avalon Gates who have to wait for the shuttle, I feel sorry for them because from experience the shuttle is not a reliable source of transportation.

Phillip Mc Donald

Avalon Gates: A Limited Pleasure

To the editor:

As a senior at Sacred Heart University, I am one of the few students who have moved to Avalon Gates. My apartment is beautiful and I am very happy that I am not at the Hi Ho or the Fairfield Inn. As a resident my apartment is entitled to three parking passes. This is causing a problem. I live with five other seniors who currently all have cars.

During my freshman year I was told “Next year you will be able to have a car on campus, but right now Fairfield zoning problems have limited student parking availability.” This statement was repeated to me and other students each year thereafter. Now that I am a senior (which is currently the smallest class) the school is still trying to limit parking. When I asked the Residence Hall Director what would be done, she said, “resolve it by priority numbers within the room.” This makes no sense. Last year, Residential Life used priority numbers to determine room selection. This sent seniors scrambling the halls for people with high priority numbers so that they could acquire rooms in the “plush new Avalon Gates.” Now those seniors are paying the price with their cars.

Wouldn’t the most sensible solution be to allocate parking passes by community priority number rather than apartment priority number? It seems to me that Seniors have paid their dues. I don’t think that their return should include hotel accommodations and parking problems.

Corinne Waldheim

Pioneer Classifieds

HELP WANTED:

BUSTY FAMILY HOME DAYCARE in EASTON. CREDITS IN ICE/EDA. A PLUS. MUST BE RESPONSIBLE, DIVERSE, ENERGETIC, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, SITTING. IF YOU LOVE WORKING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, PLEASE CALL 452-9205.

LARGEST STUDENT TRAVEL PLANNER ON EAST COAST LOOKING FOR CAMPUS REP TO PROMOTE KODAK SPRING BREAK TRIPS! GREATEST LOWEST PACKAGES AND BEST INCENTIVES. HOURS ARE FLEXIBLE. CALL DEBBIE 261-2319.

BABYSITTER WANTED IMMEDIATELY. SHH GRAD STUDENT NEEDS SITTER TO CARE FOR EASY GOING TODDLER AND SOMETIMES 3 YEAR OLD BROTHER. PLEASURABLE HOURS. $5-$7/HOUR, NEAR UNIVERSITY, OWN TRAN. CALL 724-3277.

BABYSITTERS NEEDED. EASYGOING WONDERFUL FAMILIES, LOOKING FOR BABYSITTERS FOR DAYS, EVENINGS, AND WEEKENDS, NEAR UNIVERSITY. OWN TRAN. TAKE A BREAK FROM CAMPUFLIFE. GREATEST PLACE TO STUDY. $5-$8/HOUR. CALL 374-3277 OR 371-0965.

FOR SALE:

WORD PROCESSOR FOR SALE. 2700. OLDER, NEW CARTRIDGE INCLUDED. $300. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL BRAD AT 365-4221.

For more information on placing your own classified ad, call Jeremy at 371-7963.

Let your voice be heard on campus...

Write a letter to the editor.

Drop off at the Spectrum office 3 days prior to publication date.

FLIK MAKING PROGRESS

To the editor:

In the two years that Flik has been here I have seen the food service go through many changes. Most of these changes have benefited the student body so it upsets me that I have heard so many people criticize the food service.

Flik has shown that they care about the students by the comment board they have used in the past. Students are allowed to ask questions and voice their requests by writing them on a card. Then the responses from a Flik representative are posted so that people can see what they have to say about topics like our favorite cereal or how well the pasta is cooked.

I think that if students tried to improve the Dining Service in a constructive way then more problems would be solved. Returning students will remember the problems that occurred last year when students neglected to bus their trays. This behavior was totally immature and only made problems worse.

I am not saying that Flik is perfect. Any student on campus has at least one gripe about the food.

Despite their failings the people at Flik seem open to criticism and take our wishes under consideration. They are still one of the few organizations on campus who listen to the students and I would just like to say thank you.

MaryKay Welch
Fall sports preview: a look at the season ahead

Field Hockey

The Lady Pioneers are coming off a successful season in their three-year history posting a 14-5 record in 1995. Coach Robin Schwartz, who led the ECAC champions last year, will try to lead his team to another successful season. The Lady Pioneers are ranked No. 7 nationally in a pre-season Division II poll by "College Sports Magazine." The team will open its season against Stroudsburg and Bloomsburg, two teams that will be easy for the ECAC champion to overcome. These are must-sees for the Lady Pioneers as they try to gain a playoff berth.

Women's Volleyball

The squad is coming off a competitive first season under coach Scott Carter, who led the Lady Pioneers to a 16-20 record last year. This year, the team is expected to make a stronger showing. The Lady Pioneers hope to improve from last year's 10-12 record and make the playoffs.

Field Hockey opens season with win over Montclair

Second half goals were scored by junior Cheryl Casey, and Hynes who ended up with a hat trick. The team showed marked improvement last year under coach Christian Morrison, who took over the cross country program last fall. The Pioneers return a strong corps of runners including junior Brian Young and freshman Rich Raupp, who were second on the team with four of her five matches.

Women's Cross Country

The team is looking to build on its impressive showing at last year's 10-10 record. The Lady Pioneers hope to improve upon last year's 9-8-2 mark with returns of senior Karin Zujewski, who led the team with six goals. Sacred Heart also has the veteran leadership of junior Brian Young and junior outside hitter Tracey Oullette, and junior setter Melissa Amore.

Women's Tennis

The Lady Pioneers hope to improve their inaugural record of 5-7 as coach Mike Guastella's team returns its top two players as well as entering a strong, young singles player, Ashley Almquist, who is the top singles player, and Ashley Almquist, who is the top singles player.

Men's Soccer

Thekey piece to the team's success will be on defense, as the team returns two starters including sophomore Jeannine Daluz and Melissa Kiely. Sacred Heart will get contributions from last year's second singles player, Ashley Almquist, as well as junior Matt Azzarelli, who is one of the team's top players. The Lady Pioneers hope to improve from last year's 10-10 record as Dave LaLiberty's squad will need to rebuild due to the graduation of three key players, including three-time All-East Coast standout Ben Fallon.

Sacred Heart, however, returns numerous players who showed promise a year ago. Sophomore Karen Bagley will be looked upon offensively, along with Meredith Carr and Kristin Ferguson. The Lady Pioneers strength will be on defense, as they return two starters including sophomore JIM D'Agostino. The key piece to the team's success may be sweeper Jayne Schleiff, who missed last year.
Outlook positive for gridders

Channel 12 to televise Sacred Heart vs. St. John's contest

By Joe Collett
Staff Writer

The Gridders are back and ready to tackle the 1996 season head on. Coach Gary Reho is hoping his squad will improve their 3-7 mark of a year ago by relying upon the senior leadership of captains Scott Kohler and Brian Ihlefeld.

The Pioneers will kick off the new season by being televised by Norwalk's cablevision 12 in a home game against Saint John's, which will be sponsored by the Kasper Group.

Reho feels that the off-season workouts and the hard dedication during practice will lead the team to success.

"Spring ball has really put us ahead of the game as far personnel, but the hard work during the off-season and the commitment towards practice is what will win games for us," said Reho.

The Pioneer's offense has the returning power of Sacred Heart's first 1,000 yard rusher, and Non-Scholarship Division II All-American, in Brian Ihlefeld. Ihlefeld, who amassed 1,057 yards and seven touchdowns, is optimistic about the season.

"We have worked really hard during camp, and we are ready for the season to begin. I'm confident in this year's squad, and I'm sure we'll do well," said Ihlefeld.

The quarterback position has not yet been established, but sophomore Peter Fiora, and freshmen Chris Petitti and Steve Ladd are competing for that spot. The receiving corp will need to be upgraded with the departure of the graduated Ray Szemsky, who holds every receiving record at Sacred Heart. Junior James Markwica and Dave Galligani will be looked upon to pick up the slack.

The defense will be strong as ever with senior captain Scott Kohler as its leader. Kohler, a defensive lineman who joins Ihlefeld in the honor of being named to the Non-Scholarship Division II All-American squad last year, registered 87 tackles during the 1995 season.

Kohler also set a school record last year with 19 tackles in a game.

The defensive line will boast three returning starters along with Kohler. They include juniors James Thomson, John Armstrong and Jeff Heinz. The linebacker position will spotlight senior J.J. Chella, who was fourth on the team in tackles last season. Juniors Mario Torres, Adam Fuller and Jason Power, along with sophomore Lester Sutton and senior Chris Carroll feel that the defense will do just fine this season.

"The defense has experience in all areas, and we all work well together as a unit. We are ready for the season," said Kohler.

Airtime will be at 1:30 p.m. Hopefully the gridders won't get camera shy.

Runners finish first

By Stephanie Smith
Contributing Writer

History was made on Sept. 7 for the Men's Cross Country team when they finished in first place at the Quinnipiac Invitational Meet. The Women's Team finished with a strong third, trailing second place Quinnipiac by nine points.

The men were led by freshman Mike Hernandez from Woodside, NY.

Hernandez placed second overall with a time of 28:59 for the five mile course.

A strong block of runners followed Hernandez consisting of sophomore Tom McCabe (30:26) freshman Dan Gallardo (30:28), John Walsh (30:29), Brian Williams (30:31) and Ed Mahoney (30:55) in placing seventh through 11th respectively.

Head Coach Christian Morrison was very proud, as this was his first win as head coach.

"This [win] will always be special," said Morrison.

Sophomore Carrie Demingian from Broad Brook, Conn. led the Lady Pioneers with a third place finish overall. Her 5,000 meter time of 19:25 set a Sacred Heart school record.

Freshmen Michelle Wesolowski and Tara Sullivan took ninth and 10th places with respective times of 20:23 and 20:28.

The next finishers were sophomore Theresa Flood (21:07) in 14th place and junior Shannon Heald (21:15) in 15th place.

The Cross Country Teams will travel to Smithfield, RI on this Saturday for the Bryant College Invitational.

The Sacred Heart men's lacrosse team (the Dawgs) celebrate after their ECAC championship win over Bentley College last May. The women's lax team was also ECAC champions. Coach Rob Randall (far left) departed this year for a coaching job at Army, West Point, N.Y. The laxmen are awaiting the arrival of their new coach. To hear more about who filled the position, read next week's edition.

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