Car thefts continue to drop on and off campus

By Lori Singer
Contributing Writer

Contrary to various rumors claiming that auto theft is on the rise, or is a major problem on Sacred Heart University's campus, the reality is just the opposite. According to the Director of Public Safety, William O'Connell, "there have been a total of two or three car thefts" for the entire year 2000.

Crime statistics have been compiled for the past three calendar years by the Department of Public Safety. Their findings have been published in the Annual 2000 Crime Awareness Brochure. This report confirms that the same exact number of car thefts was reported during the previous year, 1999. The three incidents in 1999 all occurred on campus, in non-residential areas. In 1998, there were no occurrences of cars being stolen.

However, in 1997, there were thirteen incidents of auto theft. Eleven of them took place on campus, in non-residential areas. The other two motor vehicles were taken off campus, and on public property.

Although O'Connell and his department would like to take the credit for this tremendous decrease since 1997, he said, "they would not be able to." There have been no changes in the way the department patrols the area. There is the same number of officers on duty for the same amounts of time now as there have been for the previous three years.

He went on to say that "car thefts are cyclical, and have more to do with the thieves." O'Connell offered some insight regarding the type of vehicle to be stolen. "When the snow starts to fall, we have Jeeps or four wheel drive vehicles targeted."

The best way to deter the thieves is to lock all your doors, and purchase the Club if you do not already own it. Second, and most important, always stay alert, and "do not assume that what you are seeing is ok," said O'Connell.

Lastly, "if you see somebody walking around that looks suspicious, than give it a second look, and call Public Safety right away, so they can investigate it further."
An earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck the nation of El Salvador on the morning of Jan. 13. There were no known casualties throughout the nation, as well as roughly 200,000 people still missing.

The earthquake, followed by some 1,600 aftershocks, has left over 50,000 homeless. The nation of El Salvador is on tenterhooks, and the civil war in 1992, Sacred delegation in their efforts.

The earthquake is but the latest relief. In accordance with her wishes, the students of the community, to insist upon the ministries performed in her community, to insist upon the indefinite postponement of this years trip.

Sister Elena has instead encouraged the delegation to continue their fundraising efforts. I encourage all to support the delegation in their efforts.

Due to the lack of space in this weeks spectrum, these events will be reported in a full length article next week.

By Matthew McGuire
TMS Campus

The number of murders decreased on college campuses this year, however, the percentage of sex offenses, robberies and violent crimes increased despite downward national trends, according to a new crime report issued by the U.S. Department of Education.


The number of crimes committed, only 19 percent occurred on campus, compared to 73 percent that occurred on public property.

For example, the number of robberies increased on campuses, as the increase remained lower than the national average decline of 8.5 percent. The number of sex offenses increased 6 percent from 2,337 in 1998 to 2,469 in 1999. The study states that sex offenses are "the most underreported crime in America."

As a result, the increase could reflect improvement in the rate of reporting, rather than an increase in the incidence of sex offenses.

On a national level, incidents involving forcible rape - one component of total sex offenses - declined by 4.3 percent from the same period.

On-campus robberies also increased on campuses, despite a national downward trend, according to the study. Schools reported a total of 1,997 robberies during 1999, up seven percent from 1998 and nine percent from 1997.

The number of reported aggravated assaults totaled 3,777, down from 3,856 in 1998. While the decrease of two percent on college campuses fol­lowed the national trend, it was a smaller figure than the national 6.2 percent decrease.

Visibility is the most frequently reported crime reported to the U.S. Department of Education, and a total of 26,035 burglaries were reported on campuses in 1999, up two percent from 1998. Nationally, burg­laries declined by 10 percent.

Colleges and universities reported 2,067 hate crimes for in 1999, an increase from 2,374 in 1998.

The study attributes the increase to faulty reporting from two-year for-profit institutions, which generally employ police officers and may have misrepresented some figures.
**Black History Month**

You are invited to join in the celebration of our ancestors

**February 14, 2001**

In the Main Dining Hall

10:30 am to 2:00 pm

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<th>Lunch Menu</th>
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<td>Split Pea w/ Ham Hocks</td>
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<td>Kool Aid w Lemon</td>
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<td>Sweet Potato Pie</td>
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<td>Banana Pudding</td>
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**Flik International Presents**

**Wacky Weekly Specials**

FOR ONLY A BUCK!

Dining Hall

**MANIC MONDAY**

FROZEN YOGURT

W/ ALL THE FIX'INS

**TYPICAL TUESDAY**

BAGEL & CREAM CHEESE

**WACKY WEDNESDAY**

ORDER OF FRENCH FRIES

**THRILLING THURSDAY**

SOUP & SALAD BAR

**FREAKY FRIDAY**

SLICE OF PIZZA

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**Incident report from Jan. 16 to Jan. 20**

**Jan. 16:**
- **9:30 a.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a complaint that a resident’s mail was found open. Public Safety Officer responded and filed a report. Public Safety is investigating.
- **12:03 p.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a complaint that several items were taken from an apartment. Public Safety Officers responded. Public Safety is investigating.
- **3:06 p.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a report that a student hit another car while parking. Public Safety Officers responded. No damage was done.
- **3:41 p.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a report that a student spilled a chemical on her hand. Public Safety Officers responded. Student drove herself to St. Vincent’s Medical Hospital.
- **9:23 p.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a complaint that a resident’s car window was broken. Public Safety Officers responded. Public Safety filed a report and is investigating.

**Jan. 17:**
- **10:10 a.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a report that there was an intoxicated visitor in the dorms. Public Safety Officers, AMR, Fairfield Police, and Fairfield Fire department responded. Visitor was transported to St. Vincent’s Medical Hospital via ambulance.
- **5:09 p.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a complaint that knee brace was stolen. Public Safety Officer responded. Pitt Center member left the brace at the Pitt Center over the weekend. Public Safety is investigating.

**Jan. 18:**
- **10:02 a.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a complaint that some personal items were taken from a desk. Public Safety Officer responded and filed a report. Public Safety is investigating.
- **12:50 p.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a complaint that a VCR was stolen. Public Safety Officer responded and filed a report. Public Safety is investigating.
- **4:37 p.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a report that a Buildings and Grounds employee was injured. Employee was taken to St. Vincent’s Medical Hospital via another employee.
- **5:29 p.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a report that a vehicle was hit while parked on campus. Public Safety Officer filed a report. Fairfield Police arrived and filed a report.

**Jan. 19:**
- **1:22 a.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a complaint that a resident door handle was vandalized. Public Safety responded. Lock Smith was informed and fixed the handle.
- **1:54 a.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a report that a resident injured his hand when he was off campus. Public Safety Officer responded. Resident was taken to St. Vincent’s Medical Hospital by a friend.
- **1:55 a.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a report that a resident was injured in an off campus fight. Public Safety Officer responded. Resident was taken to St. Vincent’s Medical Hospital by a friend.
- **3:29 a.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a fire alarm. Public Safety Officers responded. Alarm was activated from a malfunction.

**Jan. 20:**
- **4:00 a.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a fire alarm. Public Safety Officers responded. Alarm was activated because a fire extinguisher was discharged for no reason.
- **12:00 p.m.** - The Public Safety Office received a report that a weapon was found while a resident was moving. Public Safety Officers responded. Public Safety is investigating. Resident refused to call Bridgeport Police.

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**Public Safety Releases**

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Editorials

Time to find some other ways to handle snow

One of the perils of living in the northeast is that once winter rear its ugly head, we become inundated with snow. Although fun to play in, it can create all sorts of headaches for those of us with cars. Anyone who has tried to park on campus lately knows what we’re talking about.

SHU needs to put their collective heads together and find a better solution to snow removal than what we currently have. Plowing all the snow into the corners of the lots has reduced parking spaces dramatically, making it quite difficult to find a spot.

Even more frustrating though is how to find a solution to this problem. The current system just isn’t working well. While it’s more fun to put money into new facilities and cool technological gadgets to improve the schools image as a growing institution, more money needs to go towards snow removal.

Heaters to melt the piles of snow and other solutions like that need to be considered.

While upgrading our snow removal process won’t put SHU on the top of the US News and World Report best colleges and universities list, it will greatly benefit the lives of the students who cough up a lot of tuition to go here.

New Art department step in the right direction

Good news for all art students who are more than 5’10” tall. You can walk about your department without the fear of your skull banging into a sprinkler head. The SHU art department has moved from its dungeon below the Academic Building and now has a new home on Oakview Drive.

Art programs are very important to any institution that bills itself as a liberal arts school like Sacred Heart. Programs like art and media studies require a great deal more than simply classrooms to listen to lectures in. Students can’t have a well rounded education without the proper equipment necessary.

Imagine if all the science labs were to be housed in the same substandard facilities the art department was forced to spend two and a half years in. The uproar would have been deafening.

But that is behind us. Changes were made and hopefully the education off everyone involved will be enhanced for the better.

College life from another perspective: the sit-in protest

Two years ago, I had the fortune of witnessing and experiencing the first of two sweatshop sit-ins — the last loud crusade UW activists waged against the ethereal evil empire of corporate exploitation.

For those who don’t know, the sit-in revolved around UW apparel, which is produced in sweatshops. I went to the sit-in because I agreed with the cause. And because I had a close friend who was involved in planning it. I arrived at Bascom Hall relatively late and found the lobby looking like a scene from "Animal House."

There were open pizza boxes, crusts, bottles and cans strewn about the room, and several people were passed out in corners. As I later found out, most of this food and drink had been donated by local businesses who supported the activists’ cause.

In addition to the food, various magazines, books and board games had also been donated to occupy the activists’ time. Two International Socialist Organization members had passed out around an open "Monopoly" box. They slept like babies, blissfully unaware of the irony.

Those people who had not fallen asleep were outside smoking cigarettes and arguing about various issues. A few of them mentioned the sweatshops, but most conversation revolved around their contempt for the UW campus. How the student body “needed to be more active” and how “they didn’t understand how everyone could be so —– stupid and apathetic.”

One person angrily professed that there should be no negotiations and that they should run through Chancellor Ward’s office, knock books and plants and other things over, and then stand with their arms crossed, grinning their teeth above him until he agreed to their terms.

Some even had philosophical justifications for this approach.

Pulling phrases from their bag of Marx and Chomsky, they displayed their utter contempt for all authority. “We live in a patriarchal society,” said one person, “and are used to being patronized. If we are going to get anywhere, we can’t speak or act on their terms.”

After about 20 minutes, the old man got up and left. He didn’t seem angry. But as he passed me on his way out, I heard him whisper: “We’re just going to get arrested if we act like we’re in damn paramilitary group.”

I never stayed to see what happened. By that time, the discussion had gotten so loud that it was quite difficult to get anywhere.

The Spectrum is a student-run newspaper of Sacred Heart University, published every Thursday during the academic year. All mail should be sent to the Spectrum, Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Ave., Fairfield, CT, 06432-1000. Our phone number is 203-371-7963 and fax is 203-371-7828.

The SHU Voices

What is your New Year’s resolution?

Lisa McDonald
Granby
Junior

“To start going to AM classes.”

Dorothy Tully
South Windsor
Sophomore

“To be more positive.”

Bill Woodruff
Brookfield
Junior

“To go to the bars more often.”

College life from another perspective: the sit-in protest

By Jonathan Burkhardt of the University of Wisconsin-Madison

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I never stayed to see whether the aggressive tactics prevailed. After being bored by the discussion and not feeling I could offer any help or insight, I left for class.see if anything had changed. It appeared to me that nothing had. The same people were there, and the same discussions were going on.

The editorial pages are an open forum. Letters to the editor are encouraged. All submissions are subject to editing for spelling, punctuation, grammar, clarity and length. The Spectrum does not assume copyright for any published material.

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A thank you from Doc C

Dear Editor,

Happy New Year and a huge thank you to all the students, staff and administrators who helped me tough out a particularly difficult semester. Without your care, prayer and schlepping efforts, I never would have made it through.

With one Surgery down and one more to go, I am working hard in physical therapy and I hope to return by graduation day.

With every good wish for a fruitful and rewarding semester.

I am forever grateful to you all,

Marian Calabrese-Silverstein

We only ran two letters to the editor this week!!! That means there’s plenty of room for yours to go in here!!! Submit one ASAP to the Spectrum office!

Time to take a look at the war on drugs

The Chicago Tribune

For years, the nation has been trying to combat drug use and addiction with tough law enforcement, aggressive policing, firm prosecution and long prison sentences. But the results have been mixed at best. And across the country, doubts about the drug war are not only surfacing but leading to changes in policy.

In November, Californians approved a ballot initiative mandating treatment instead of incarceration for those guilty of drug possession or use, something Arizonans endorsed in 1996. Last week, Republican Gov. George Pataki of New York moved in the same direction when he said he wants to "dramatically" reform the state’s notoriously harsh drug laws, begun in the 1970s by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. In New Mexico, Republican Gov. Gary Johnson has strongly endorsed the proposals of a commission that urged an even sharper change of direction.

The New York laws, though not quite the most Draconian in the country, gained public notice because they were among the first to impose long mandatory sentences for the possession or sale of relatively small amounts of hard drugs.

So does the New Mexico governor, whose commission has expanded the boundaries of the debate. Its recent report proposed eliminating all penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana, making other first and second drug offenses misdemeanors that would not carry jail time, getting rid of mandatory minimums, and making it easier to sell syringes over the counter.

In the United States, people addicted to tobacco or alcohol are seen to be in need of therapy, not punishment. For many drug users, a similar approach offers the hope of better outcomes at lower cost.

The drug law reformers in New York, New Mexico and elsewhere may not have all the answers, but they’re on the right track.
By Keysha Whitaker

Features Editor

Look up in the sky! It's a bird, it's a plane... no, it's Student Union Operations Assistant Kerri Casella, flying high over SHU. At four feet seven and three-quarters inches tall, she may not be able to leap tall buildings at a single bound, but she definitely is making a lasting impact on the SHU community.

Originally from Wilmington, Massachusetts, Casella earned her undergraduate degree in Childhood Studies from Plymouth State College in Plymouth, New Hampshire.

Casella considered becoming a graduate assistant, but initially did not pursue it because she wanted to teach. It wasn't until she received a random, life-changing call from Director of Student Union Patrick Connelly, that she decided to pack her bags and head for Connecticut.

"It was actually completely random. I got a phone call from Patrick Connelly. He asked me if I wanted to come for an interview. I was completely shocked. I had thought about graduate assistant positions but I dismissed it because I wanted to teach.

But actually called my school and I was recommended. When I came for the interview, the people were friendly. I was interested in getting my Masters, so it kind of worked out," said Casella.

Casella began her 10 month position at SHU in August of 1999. This year she is responsible for the SHU Shuttle Service, the Hawley Lounge Game room, Channel Six, and Technical Services. Casella is also the advisor of the Ski and Snowboard Club and a Faculty Friend of South Hall.

Casella immediately began to adjust to the new environment and position. "The hardest adjustment to Connecticut was being so far away from my family. I was always only an hour and a half away," said Casella.

"Once here I discovered that being so close in age with the students, and not being able to interact with them was difficult as well." However, Casella soon began to experience the bright side. "The best thing about this position is the people that I run into. The students are accepting, kind, and welcoming people," Casella said.

Of her responsibilities at SHU, the Shuttle Service may have the most notoriety. Casella has managed the Shuttles since she began.

"The biggest challenge was, the Shuttle Service. When I first started, I couldn't tell you the first thing about cars, how to change a tire, or when to change the oil. But now I can tell you anything you want to know from maintenance to rules of the Department of Motor Vehicles. I have learned the ins and outs by dealing with driver and student complaints. Overall I think that we have made some good improvements."

Casella mentioned that the vans were upgraded this semester. Also, there are now full time and part-time shifts that run from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m., and 3 p.m. to midnight. More trips to the transit station in Bridgeport have also been added due to the elimination of the shuttle to the Ramada Inn in Shelton.

Though her position ends on June 18, Casella hasn't slacked off.

"My goals for the Shuttle Service this semester are to iron out the wrinkles and try to have a smoother semester. We hope to get Channel Six up and running so clubs and organizations will be able to advertise on it," said Casella.

Casella is also orchestrating the purchase of a new sound system and entertainment equipment for club use, as well as redecorating the Hawley Lounge and providing more tournaments.

Working at SHU has taught Casella about herself as well as others.

"Because I was an education major, I had patience with children, but I have learned to be more patient with adults overall. I learned I can handle many more types of people than I ever expected," Casella said.

Casella recalls one incident in the Pit Center when a young boy challenged her because of her height, thinking she was a child.

Casella said, "He yelled, little girl, little girl! Why do you have a radio? He dared me to prove it was real."

"People often give me second looks. Everyone is always shocked to find out I am a supervisor. People still think I am in junior high," said Casella.

Casella's relationship with the Shuttle drivers was another chance for her to prove herself.

"At first it was difficult to gain respect and show them I wasn't going to be a pushover and that I knew or was learning what I was talking about, but I have gained their trust and respect over the years."

"Days in and days out we deal with complaints from the students," said Casella.

"In my time here, I like to think I've made a bit of difference... If I can positively influence one person, that makes all the difference" Kerri Casella
Poetry from the Heart
necessity (the sweetest oxygen)

by Brandon M. Graham

as a patient [pause] patiently awaiting her arrival I stood as a child hands pressed, faced pressed against the window of my pain and though I had no issue of blood just issues of the heart I hoped my faith would enable me to be whole again she wore no garment, nor was she encircled in the midst of a crowd but I knew it was all in touch her single-handed clutch could nurse my pain thus, I would be made whole again

mother should have named her physician her love had intoxicated me and had cause me to host visions in dizzying spells of untold tales of how I've always needed someone to nurse this broken heart to nurse these scars faces and a squishy stress-ball body.

(service. enters a beautiful girl wearing a head-wrap 4-inch black heels carrying a small blue duffel bag) you came in the form of the sweetest oxygen and have breathed life into that was living thus, giving me new life as I laid there in a trance I attained a new stand ard of under stand ing which had been unknown to me I suddenly comprehended theorems of what exactly love is and I drew the most beautiful conclusion on a pad of loose leaf thought your love had defined all the verbiage Webster could muster definitions would not only confine u but would fail to define u

bravery warred against insecurities and although your heart had felt and known all too well the shackles of heartache of heartbreak you [pause] loved despite all the matters of the heart you had chosen to love me so freely you have got me wide open, wild loose like a pair of old hand-me-down trousers you are the lone reason of why gray skies have become foreign of why skies have resumed blue your rays of cares had shone so passionately down upon me and I've felt for the first time in all of my existence as if I too were a necessity

Editor's Note: All are invited to attend "Shades of Poetry", an open-mic showcase featuring poets from SHU and local universities. "Shades of Poetry" is sponsored by UMOJA and will be held in the Mahogany Room on Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Free to SHU students with ID. $5 donation for non-students.

Student buys Kit Kat for over $3000

By Keysha Whitaker
Features Editor

I think I sold my soul for a Kit Kat Bar and a yellow squishy man.

I remember the day that it happened. It was the end of my freshman year - back when the Pitt Center was just a whole in the ground, and the Humanities Center was the South Wing.

On my way to class, I was stopped by a woman at a table in front of the Faculty Lounge.

"Wanna get some free stuff?" she said.

On the table she had king size candy bars, t-shirts, rainbow Slinkys' and little yellow smiling faces. Two little yellow men with "Have A Nice Day" smiley chains: two little yellow men bars, a Slinky, and two key-chains to take anything I wanted.

I suddenly had to put my part-time earnings towards tuition, books, car insurance and other mundane things we usually let our parents take care of.

But on my meager salary, I couldn't seem to keep up with my credit card bills.

The storm hit. The two major credit cards began to charge me late fees and "charge-offs", and make current payments on the two major cards, the damage has been done.

My balances are still overlimit because each card wants at least $800 to bring it under.

My "charged off" accounts and will stay on my credit report for the next seven years, as well as my late payments.

I am now a "credit risk". Though I want to put Sacred Heart over my knee and give it a firm spanking for allowing credit card companies to come in and play on our needs for credit and fast cash, I'm not trying to pass the blame.

But I do hope you think of this article, before you stop in front of the Faculty Lounge, or charge that item that you really don't need.

And where are my little yellow squishy men? Who knows? But they cost me over $3000. I sure wish I'd kept them.

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Enhance employability!
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ATTENTION SENIORS!
Are you stressed because . . .
• People ask, "What are you going to do after graduation?"
• And YOU HAVE NO IDEA!
• You are waiting for a job interview
• You can't decide if you should go to graduate school

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
There will be a monthly meeting where we can share frustrations and help each other in making decisions.

FOR INFO EMAIL: whitakkm@sacredheart.edu or nadeaua@sacredheart.edu
by JAN. 26, 2001
Are you Unbreakable?: The Spectrum takes another look at a great overlooked film of 2000

By Susan Magnano
Contributing Writer
Film Review

That's what you'll be asking yourself after seeing M. Night Shyamalan's latest film, "Unbreakable." Shyamalan had big shoes to fill after his last smash hit "Sixth Sense." "Unbreakable" has faced mixed reviews.

The truth is that if you want to see an action packed movie with car chases and chicks this movie isn't for you; try "Charlie's Angels." But if you are up for a change of pace that keeps you guessing in the "Sixth Sense" kind of style I highly recommend "Unbreakable." Unbreakable features Bruce Willis as David Dunn, the solo survivor of a train wreck, who escapes without a scratch.

The film also co-stars Samuel L. Jackson as Elijah Price, a comic book art dealer born with a degenerative bone disease which causes his bones to break easily. Spencer Treat Clark plays Joseph Dunn, the wide-eyed son who wants to believe that his dad is a superhero, and Robin Wright plays Audrey Dunn, the patient wife and mother.

The story has a slow pace as did the "Sixth Sense", but both keep you guessing. There is a comic book theme, which sets the tone for good verse evil.

Price has been searching for someone completely opposite of himself, someone whose bones will never break. Once he hears about Dunn's survival he contacts him and suggests he might be something similar to a superhero he has read about in a comic book.

The story evolves with many twists and turns made up from brilliant camera techniques. There is even a surprise ending, which can only be expected from the director of "Sixth Sense".

Anne Panofi, a junior from Nanuet, NY said, "Unbreakable dragged on and I thought there was going to be a little more to it." John Ruggiero, a junior from East Haven said, "Unbreakable was slow and took a while to get to the point but it was well worth it in the end. I thought it was an unbelievable movie and M. Night Shyamalan is one of the best young directors out there."

Overall, "Unbreakable" is a great movie and like "Sixth Sense" it will stay in your thoughts even after it is all over. But don't take my word for it. Find out if you are unbreakable and see it for yourself. Watch for "Unbreakable" in video stores.

SHU Media Studies Production Festival 2000

WINNERS
Denise Fassano-Best Instructional Video
Ryan Costigan-Best Abstract Video/Best Commercial
Chris Economy-Best Interview Video/Best in Show-Poison
Justin Liberman-Best Picture-Night of the Hurricane

"Even though I was given the award, I cannot say that mine was the best. Every entry was unique and very well done. I think the only true winner of the fest was the Media Studies Department." -Justin Liberman, junior, South Windsor, CT

"It was a remarkable night filled with great art and amazing talent. It was the best work that has been done that I have seen thus far at SHU." -Greg Golda, Faculty

"I was really proud of my work. It was a good feeling being able to show my piece to so many people." -John Ruggerio, Junior, East Haven, CT

"The outcome was amazing, I think the attendance doubled if not tripled in size compared to last years fest, it was really a great sight to see so much more of a participation and interest." -Chris Cirri, Senior

"It was really a great thing to see, I am not even a Media Studies student and I truly loved the Festival it was great to see the work that my fellow students were able to do." -Denise Farina, junior, Education Major

Facts -MSA (media studies association) was the sponsor and was able to earn money.
-There was a judge's panel and audience vote
-There are videotapes of the entire production festival for sale at the Media Studies Studio for $10.
-Other films were done by Anne Pandolfi, Sue Magnano, Jim Rouse, Matt Norris, Nicole

AquaFreda, John Ruggerio
-This semesters Fest will showcase Senior Projects and all other MS entries.
-Entries are open to all students

Photograph of Senior Jeff Husse and grad student Matt Flood enjoying a cigarette and a friendly conversation on campus.

Smoking still big at SHU

By Cassandra Johnson
Contributing Writer
Health Profile

"I smoke because it's cool," says Jim Paulson, junior, from Long Island, NY. "I smoke, it's a nasty habit, I know that," says Ann Little, Junior, from Pearl River NY. "I appreciate the concern people give me, but I enjoy smoking and person who can make me quit is me."

In our world smokers exist all around us. They aren't breaking the law by smoking cigarettes.

It's a choice they freely make although the way smokers are treated it's hard to believe smoking is not a crime.

There is plentiful material about the health risks of smoking and anti-smoking propaganda. Smokers know they put their life in danger every time they smoke.

It seems the warnings only aggravate the non-smoking community who despite already having their own way. Restaurants in recent years have gone from smoking sections to non-smoke policies and similarly schools have been strictly enforced as non-smoking.

At Sacred Heart our smokers are confined to the outdoors, yet still there are complaints from non-smokers.
By Joseph J. Brigante
Contributing Writer

In 1970, African-American Melvin Van Peebles took a shot on directing "The Watermelon Man." This film was the pure example of out of the ordinary films starting during the 1970's. Some look at this film as a ridiculous comedy, while others look at it as degenerating. In fact, it is serious and meaningful, and as effective today as it was then.

Cambridge plays Jeff Gerber, a white middle-class insurance broker who is a bigot. He insults every black seen, while joking with them to hide his hate. His luck is changed one early morning. As he went to bed a white man, Jeff Gerber wakes up a black man. It is his own living nightmare. He gets to see how the world treats him because of his skin color. Erica slurs at him. Jeff is now the minority in an unkind world.

One of the most powerful scenes in the film is when Jeff goes to see a co-worker, Erica, to have intimacy. After it is done Erica tells Jeff that they have to have sex every night and she will never have a relationship with anyone except a black man. But Jeff tells her that he wants her to love him for who he is and not the color of his skin. Erica ignores his pleas. It is then that Jeff realizes that she doesn't love him, and he tells her right to her face that he is a 'Blonde Bigot.' What makes this scene so powerful is that this controversy is still going on today in America. Are intimate interracial relationships love or just a fake way to show you are a nice person.

This film was one of there most powerful film of 1970. The "Blonde Bigot." What Melvin Van Peebles had on contract with Columbia Pictures. After it was released, with it's controversy and views of it being degrading, Columbia dropped the contract. Yet, I will say this is one of the most truthful black films made in history by a black director. It brings out the truth of situations and people, something Hollywood refused to do at the time. By far, "The Watermelon Man" is the most powerful film of 1970.

A & E Briefs

Showing in the Schine
At 7 p.m. on Jan. 26 and Jan 27, and at 2 p.m. on Jan. 28 the movie "Meet the Parents" will be showing in the Schine. The movie, starring Ben Stiller, is about his trip to meet his girlfriends parents, and what happens when it doesn't go as smoothly as he thought it would.

Celebrate Black History Month
The opening ceremonies for the celebration of Black History will be held at 2 p.m. on Jan. 31, in the Mahogany Room. Free t-shirts will be given to the first 50 students.

Winter Weekend
Starting Jan. 24 and running through Jan 27, the Students Events Team will be hosting a number of activities.
At 9 p.m. on Jan 24 in FLICK there will be a scavenger hunt sponsored by South Hall. At 8 p.m. on Jan 25 in the West Hall Great Room there will be a Wacky Relay sponsored by West Hall.
At 8 p.m. on Jan 26 at Jefferson Hill there will be a Knock-out Tournament sponsored by J-Hill.
The final events on Jan 27 are Flag Football at 10 a.m. on the soccer field. At 12 p.m. there will be a tug-of-war at Parkridge, Sponsored by Parkridge.
At 1:45 p.m. in the Pitt Center Women's Basketball will play Quinnipiac. The final event Ultimate Frisbee will be held at 3:30 p.m. on the green, and is sponsored by East Hall.

Winter Weekend

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Winter Weekend
SHU mens ice hockey’s losing streak continues

By Keri Blair
Sports Editor

The men’s ice hockey team is currently on a four game losing streak, and is looking for a way out.

Their losing ways continued this past weekend as Canisius and Mercyhurst defeated them.

Last Saturday Canisius College upended Sacred Heart by a score of 5-3.

The Ice Griffins took a 3-0 lead into the third period, but the Pioneers staged a late rally.

Sophomore Les Hrapchak lit the lamp early in the final frame to get his team on the board.

Senior Ed Bourget dented the twine two minutes later to cut the Griffins lead to 3-2.

Canisius scored a short-handed goal to make it 4-2.

Bourget slid an Eric Drake rebound past the sprawling goalie to bring the Pioneers within one.

Canisius finished off the game with an empty net goal to make it 5-3 final.

Sunday was a tough game for the Pioneers as they saw their top six offensive catalysts out of the lineup.

They were disqualified in the Canisius game the night before, due to an on ice brawl, and a few other key players had to sit out the following game.

With a depleted line-up, Sacred Heart showed some character but was unable to defend their league power Mercyhurst.

The Lakers were unable to score in the first, but tallied three goals in the second en route to a 4-0 victory.

Sophomore goaltender Eddy Fehti played well between the pipes and recorded 25 saves on the night.

Sacred Heart could not find the back of the net but they had some scoring opportunities.

The streak has put the tarnishes on one of their playing level and expectations.

"This is a big weekend coming up for us," said senior Eric Drake. "We need to win both games this weekend because these are the teams we are fighting with for a playoff spot."

They continue their quest tomorrow night against Bentley at 7 p.m. at the Milford Ice Pavilion, and will travel to West Point on Saturday.

An athlete’s work is never done: The pressing importance of off-season training

By Kristin Lee
Staff Writer

Feature

On any given day, we can see Sacred Heart athletes practicing on Campus Field. They could be preparing for a game the next day or the next week. But what about those athletes who aren’t “in season”?

Off season training is one of the most important aspects of an athlete or a team’s preparation.

"While your off-season preparation may not make the difference between Olympic Gold or also-ran, it can be the difference to in-season success," said field hockey goalie coach, Jen O’Haire.

Karen Kureck of allstar-racingsports.com indicated three basic things that an athlete should concentrate on during the off-season.

The first of these is rest, both mentally and physically.

"The first thing you should do in the off-season is make sure you are rested and healthy," said Kureck. "For some people this means taking a few weeks completely off...for others it may mean playing their sport just a couple of times a week."

The next factor is to work on your weaknesses. O’Haire believes that it is important to work with your coach when you are planning your off-season workout.

"You find out what the coach thinks of your game, you get feedback on what to work on and you get a better picture of what your coach wants from the position," said O’Haire.

Kureck’s third tip for off-season training is to build up a base for the next year.

"One thing to remember is that it is harder to get in shape than it is to stay in shape and if you completely let yourself go, it will take much longer to get back to where you were at the end of the season," said Kureck.

Athletes should use a combination of aerobic exercise and strength training to properly prepare themselves for the up and coming season. Of course, the amount or extent to which each athlete does depend on their playing level and expectations.

O’Haire also believes that it is important to keep a training diary. "Putting things down on paper reinforces accountability, it can make dreams real," said O’Haire.

O’Haire suggests that by writing down what we do and how we feel, we will be able to plan our off-season training accordingly.

An athlete’s work is not done at the end of their season. Especially from the college level and up, an athlete prepares all year round.

"I use the off-season to rest and to get myself ready for the next season," said Sacred Heart field hockey player, Julie Messenger.

"It’s the best time to build on my strengths and to work on my weaknesses," said Messenger.

Student athletes drink more often then non-athletes according to study

By Matthew McGuire
TMS Campus

They run, they jump, they shoot, they slide. And according to a new study, they also binge drink.

The Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study recently published new findings that showed that college athletes have a higher rate of binge drinking and experience more alcohol-related harms than non-athletes.

The study was published in the January issue of Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise, and it is the first national study that compares binge drinking among college athletes.

According to the study, 57 percent of male athletes reported binge drinking compared to 48 percent of male non-athletes.

The study defined binge drinking as consuming five or more drinks in a row - four for women - on one or more occasions in the past two weeks. A drinking as consuming five or more drinks in a row - four for women - on one or more occasions in the past two weeks. A drink was defined as 12 ounces of beer, four ounces of wine, 12 ounces of wine cooler or one shot of liquor.

Senior Ed Bourget dented the twine two minutes later to bring the Pioneers 5-3.

57 percent of male athletes binge drink compared to 48 percent of male non-athletes. The trend continued for female athletes, where 48 percent reported binge drinking compared to 40 percent of female non-athletes.

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Student athletes are also more prone to social characteritics that tend to promote binge drinking, such as having five or more close friends, being a fraternity or sorority member, placing importance on parties and spending two or more hours a day socializing.

Coaches and college administrators should be aware of the social pressures on athletes and take further steps to help limit alcohol consumption for college athletes so that binge drinking doesn’t continue to pose a threat to them and their peers," said Henry Wechsler, principal investigator of the study and director of College Alcohol Studies at the Harvard School of Public Health.

If you have a problem drinking more than their peers, college athletes also reported more alcohol-related harms. More athletes reported that alcohol interferes with their studying (66.4 percent) than non-athletes (58.2 percent), and 67.4 percent of the athletes reported that alcohol interferes with athletics.

Despite reporting a higher level of binge drinking, athletes also reported a greater exposure to college alcohol-education efforts.

"Education alone is not enough to curb binge drinking among this population," said Toben F. Nelson, a Harvard School of Public Health doctoral student and the study’s lead author.
**Sports Briefs**

**Fencing begins a hopeful winter season**

Sacred Heart’s fencing looks to a hopeful winter season as head coach Tom Ciccareone and assistant coach Bruce Gillman lead the team against teams such as Drew, Marist, UMass and West Point.

Amanda Damour, Janelle Lowrance and Carrin David are the strong competitors for the women’s Epee squad this winter. Competitors for the men’s Epee squad are Bob Zink and Jay Hadianato.

On the women’s Sabre squad are Sarah Ravenscroft, Jenny Herb and Kristen Hubacheck, while Erik Hansen and Ryan Carlson compete for the men’s Sabre squad.

Meghan Humphrey, Emily Gonzales, Amy Greene, Nathan Gonyea, Jay Egan and Mark Rossetti make up the men and women’s Foil squads.

**Sacred Heart picked second in MAAC by Faceoff Lacrosse magazine**

The men’s lacrosse team was picked second in the Faceoff Lacrosse magazine’s pre-season MAAC poll.

The Pioneers are coming off a 7-9 record overall, and a 5-4 in the MAAC.

Sacred Heart returns a potent offense that produced 186 goals, and a 12.40 gpg average. As a team the Pioneers were ninth in the nation in scoring offense, and second in man down percentage with a .826 mark.

Sophomore Stephen Grabow, junior Erick Perez and sophomore Paul Lyons were named Preseason Players to Watch by the annual publication.

The Pioneers open the 2001 season at home against Wagner College on Feb. 25.

**SHU men’s volleyball begin with big wins**

The men’s volleyball team won their first match on Jan 17 on home court against Endicott College 3-0.

It was their first match for both squads, in the 2001 season was the Pioneers.

Senior Josh Swan (Wellington, Fla) had 13 kills and five digs to lead the Pioneers in the first match of the season.

Men’s volleyball posted the biggest win in the program’s history last Friday, in a 5 game upset over East Coast Powerhouse NJIT. This defeat marks the biggest upset on the East Coast since Penn State University’s 1994 National Championship.

**Pro wrestling plays big role in mainstream entertainment**

By Derek Bailey

Contribution Writer

Feature

Throughout time people of the world have gathered in large groups to watch sport events, musicals and ballets, but who would have thought that these very same people would be gathering in even larger groups to watch pro wrestling?

Pro wrestling has been around for about forty years now but has changed drastically in the past three years.

In the 1950’s you had straight ups face to face wrestling. You had your “good guys” and you had your “bad guys” and they always battled it out one on one.

In most cases the good guys would always win and the bad guys would suck back to the dressing room.

For this era it was exciting, but when the 1990’s rolled around the owners of the pro wrestling companies needed a change, a drastic change.

“Wrestling today is very different. It is more action packed, and has actually turned into a drama type series,” said Jeff Russo a sophomore from Clifton, N.J.

If a viewer who had never watched wrestling before turned on the television and started to watch it, they probably would have no clue as to what is going on.

It is said that wrestling is like a drama series in which to understand what is going on you have to know what has gone on for the past couple of years.

There are feuds between the wrestler’s that are developed over time,relationships formed, and injuries that fit into the plot.

“In order to understand wrestling you have to watch it religiously,” said Russo.

Wrestling has not always been a popular sow on television. The World Wrestling Federation, which is the leader in pro wrestling today, once was almost bankrupt, but when Vince McMahon bought the business from his father in 1990 he changed it drastically to fit today’s ever changing society.

It is more violent, sexual and explicit. Ever since this change wrestling has gone “sky-high” in ticket sales, merchandise sales and TV ratings.

“I love wrestling. I always watch it on Monday nights and if I miss it, I feel like I have missed out. People are always talking about the next big thing,” said Jennifer Warner a sophomore from Westchester, NY.

Wrestling has been around for a generation and continues to grow. It has become a multimillion dollar business.

**SHU Athlete of the Week**

**Rutnik named Player of the Week by the NEC**

The Pioneers have been looking to sophomore forward Brook Rutnik from Albany, N.Y.

“Rutnik is playing extremely well for us this season. She is making a great deal of easy baskets and pulling us through... She has really picked up her game and is setting a leading example,” said Head Coach Ed Swanson.

Last week Rutnik was named Player of the week by the North East Conference.

Rutnik looks to keep a strong stance in the upcoming home games against Central Conn. State and Quinnipiac.

**Sports Schedule for January 25-31**

**Tonight**

- **Women’s Basketball**
  vs. Central
  CT State
  7:30 p.m.

- **Wrestling**
  @ Wagner
  7 p.m.

**Saturday**

- **Men’s Basketball**
  vs. Wagner
  12 p.m.

- **Women’s Ice Hockey**
  vs. Union
  5 p.m.

- **Women’s Swimming**
  vs. CCSU, Westchester TBA

**Sunday**

- **Women’s Ice Hockey**
  vs. Colgate
  3 p.m.

- **Men’s Basketball**
  @ Monmouth
  7 p.m.

**Monday**

- **Wrestling**
  vs. AIC
  7 p.m.

**Tuesday**

- **Women’s Basketball**
  vs. Binghamton
  6 p.m.

**Wednesday**

- **Women’s Swimming**
  @ CCSU, Westchester TBA

**By Derek Bailey**

Contribution Writer

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behind the plate for the Pioneers and will both be student Shawn Stillway (East Foxboro, M.A.) and graduate winners and 10 incoming freshmen overall, and it's such a conference overall, and it's such a great deal of easy baskets and pulling us through. They have really picked up their game and are setting a great example," said Swanson. Another strong player is junior Leslie Newhard, last seasons leading scorer for SHU, photographed at the right battles to the net against the Rams.

The Pioneers play at the William H. Pirt Center tonight against Central Conn. at 7:30 p.m.

SHU indoor track performs well at Challenge Cup also turned in by Shammar Drew who placed second in the 55 meter dash (6.59). John Sakowich (Jr. Woburn, MA) placed fifth in the 400 meter dash (51.51) and Tom Daly placed fifth in the 500 meter run (1:10.57).

The men also turned in a strong performance in the 4x400 meter relay placing third in a time of 3:27.69. The team consisted of Sakowich, freshman Gal Candato, sophomore Dean Hanafin, and junior Adam Reynolds.

The women were led by freshman Sarah Tasber who placed third in the 400 meter run with a time of 1:00.24. She also contributed to the women's sixth place finish in the 4x400 meter relay.

The women ran a time of 4:15.88. The team included Tasber, junior Heidi Cheever, and freshmen Emily Marks and Colleen Cotter.

See Track, Page 10

Women's hoops beats Fairleigh Dickinson

By Keri Blair
Sports Editor

This past Saturday afternoon the Sacred Heart women's basketball team beat the Fairleigh Dickinson Knights at the Rothman Center.

Newcomer Brooke Kelly was named NEC Player of the week. On the left Brooke makes her way to the basket against the Knights. "Brook has a tremendous week. She was one of the reasons why we did so well in our two victories out west. She has been a tremendous attribute both offensively and defensively," said head coach Ed Giaquinto.

The Pioneers next two games are on home court and they "look to separate themselves from the rest of the league," said Swanson. Two other key players that the Pioneers have been looking for are sophomore forward Brook Rutnik (photographed in the middle) and sophomore center Tara Brady. "They are both getting a great deal of easy baskets and pulling us through. They have really picked up their game and are setting a great example," said Swanson.

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Pioneer baseball begins preparations for upcoming season

By Keri Blair
Sports Editor

After finishing their first season at the Division I level, with a record of 12-38, Sacred Heart's baseball team will begin training for the 2001 season this week.

The Pioneers are led by head coach Nick Giaquinto, who has high hopes and expectations for the upcoming season. "I think it's a balanced conference overall, and it's such a short season, if you can get hot and stay hot, you can do some damage in the league," said Giaquinto.

The years squad consists of five starters, 10 letter winners and 10 incoming freshmen.

Freshman Brian Rojiee (Foxboro, M.A.) and graduate student Shawn Stillway (East Northport, N.Y.) will both be behind the plate for the Pioneers and will be the "tools of ignorance" for Giaquinto this season.

Stillway batted .265 last year with 14 RBI and 22 hits. At first base is senior Brian Brockerhorst hitting .225 with 25 hits and four home runs. He was one of the reasons why we did so well in our two victories out west. He has been a tremendous attribute both offensively and defensively," said head coach Ed Giaquinto.

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