New Semester Brings New Additions to Library

By Mark Stanczak
Staff Reporter

As students return for another semester, they may recognize a few new friendly faces and several new conveniences at the Ryan Matura Library. During the early 1990's, it was ransacked and war zone in the late 1980's, and now the Bridgeport Side of Bridgeport The East Side was once a drug mission, Prospect House, and Malcolm X Mission, Prospect House, and McKinley Elementary School. The students who participated in CURTIS Week 2003 gather together for a group shot.

By Keri Nastri & Jennifer Motisi
Staff Reporters

CURTIS Week is a unique experience for all who embark on this five-day journey. CURTIS stands for Community Understanding, Reflection Through Inner-city Service. Phyllis Machledt, Director of Service Learning and Volunteer Programs, had nothing but praise for the students involved. "The students were challenged by what they saw and did, and kept open minds...We all grew and learned from CURTIS Week, especially from the discussions we had together. What a wonderful group of students - hardworking, persevering, open-minded and fun! They really made an effort to get to know the community," said Machledt.

During this week 16 students and two faculty members from Sacred Heart University left the comforts of their home, ending their vacation a week early, and moved into the Urban Center at St. Charles Parish on the East Side of Bridgeport. The East Side of Bridgeport was once a drug war zone in the late 1980's and early 1990's. It was ransacked with fighting gangs, unemployment and poverty. Now the area is slowly rebuilding itself but is still much in need.

Answering the Bridgeport community's call for assistance, these students immersed themselves in the community by volunteering at various sites throughout the city. These sites included several soup kitchens; such as the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, Prospect House, and the Brooks Street Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, BAYM, Remesa East, and McKinley Elementary School. The students worked at the different sites throughout the week, seeking to understand how the community works and strives to become better. The students were also exposed to other cultures by visiting a Mosque and learning more about the religion of Islam. They were also able to meet three ex-convicts who shared their stories with the students to educate them about poor correction facilities and policies of the state of Connecticut.

For their enjoyment entertainment, the group attended the musical, "The King and I" at the Downtown Cabaret Theater, a one man show called "Lackawanna Blues" and another personal story about how a Haitian woman overcame a life of discrimination. Dinner consisted of classic Puerto Rican dishes, such as chicken and rice, beans, salad, and plantains. Another night they went to a local Mexican restaurant with excellent food and live entertainment for everyone to sing along with and dance to.

In addition to streamlining its organization, the Ryan Matura Library is upgrading services for patrons, as well. New lockers were installed on the lower level at the end of last semester. The lockers, a gift of the University College Council, will be available starting this week for students to store their belongings while on campus.

"My first reaction is a positive one," - Mr. George Gill

Also, Benamati has recently ordered 13 new Dell computers to replace older models in use on the main floor of the library. The new workstations will be faster, take up less desk space, and include flat panel monitors. Library goers should expect the new computers to be delivered shortly. "I'm hoping by mid-February," anticipates Benamati.

Sacred Heart's Librarian, Mr. Dennis Benamati, explained that this new position is "responsible for the business side of the library; ordering, receiving, inventory and cataloguing."

The library's new employees, George Gill and Bonnie Figgat, take a break from their work to pose for a picture.

During each activity the students were encouraged to speak with the people they encountered at each site, the workers, volunteers, and clients. Each night the students engaged in a reflection with the people they encountered, where they would share their experiences of the day and debate sensitive issues, such as race, discrimination, and religion. It was through these conversations that the students learned some of the most valuable lessons of the week.

Senior Naiara Azpiri of Basque Country, Spain, who attended the event stated, "I chose to do the week because I did it last year and it was life changing experience. I feel much more open minded and down to earth after being exposed to people who, for one reason or another, are in a different situation than myself," said Azpiri.

Michael Gardner, a sophomore from Otsining, NY, said:

See "CURTIS," page 3
Who Will Sing for SHU?

By Katie Fanning
Staff Reporter

In one week, Sacred Heart's campus will become the scene of a competition for survival of the quickest, the smartest, and the sneakiest. Students will be "fighting for their lives" and for cash prizes, in the first campus wide game of "Assassins." The game begins on January 31 and continues until there is one survivor.

Sponsored by Residential Life and organized by the Jefferson Hill Resident Assistant staff, "Assassins" is the first and largest campus wide Residential Life event of the semester. J-Hill RA Matthew Dow has introduced the game to Sacred Heart and given students the opportunity to compete for survival.

By giving life to this program, Matt hopes to achieve the Residential Life goal of building campus wide community. He expressed his enthusiasm by saying, "I am very excited and hopeful at the response we've been getting." Over 100 students from different resident halls have already signed on to participate in this well-received competition.

While the details of the game remain classified to preserve some mystery, Matthew was able to explain the basic rules. On January 30, all players who have signed up will receive an envelope in their SHU mailbox with everything needed to become an "assassin."

The goal of the game is for each player to "assassinate" the target they are assigned to, by tagging the person with a sticker that must remain on him or her for one minute. When a player successfully "assassinates" their target, they are "out" of the game and must forfeit the name of their assigned target. Players continue their pursuit until only one "assassin" remains.

The final survivor and the "assassin" with the most clever hits will be awarded a generous cash prize. By requiring students to seek out their targets, which can be friends or strangers, Residential Life hopes that this program will bring about campus unity and perhaps even some new friendships. Matthew says, "Everyone will be forced to interact and meet new people. Are you interested? In order to be an "assassin," students have to sign up by January 26. To join the ranks, simply e-mail the following information to Matthew: your name (first and last), hall and room number, and mailbox number, to m-dow@sacredheart.edu.

"Assassins" may turn out to be the biggest programs of the semester so make sure you are not left out of all the fun. Get ready to have a good time! Play "Assassins."

What to Know About the FAFSA Form

By Eileen Gullian
Staff Reporter

The FAFSA application is an important form for college students and their families to fill out each year. FAFSA offers college financial aid, college scholarships, student loans, federal grants and federal student aid for college students.

After the first of each year the applications are available and they should be filled out as soon as possible to insure the possibility of qualifying for financial aid.

April Parody (East Haddam, CT) stated, "My advice is to make sure your don't procrastinate, because I did and I didn't receive any funds."

Many students don't bother filling out the information because they think that they will not qualify for aid, however in many cases they tend to be wrong.

"Even if you qualify for a small loan every little bit can help your family and you out in the long run," said Megan Walsh (Stewart Manor, NY).

For more information on the FAFSA form, Fastweb.com offers detailed information that will help students through the step-by-step process.

FAFSA forms can be obtained by downloading it at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by going to the financial aid office on campus in Curtis Hall. The Office of Financial Aid recommends that students fill out the FAFSA online.

For those who have already filled out the application in past years, they may qualify for a renewal form. This makes it less of a hassle if you qualify for the renewal FAFSA form.

Christina Roy (Wallingford, CT) said, "The renewal form doesn't have you report all required sources of untaxed income, such as Social Security or child support. Also, students should use the 1040 Federal tax return for reporting income and taxes paid, not the W-2. Be sure to include yourself in your parents' household size even if you did not live with them in the previous year. Finally, be sure to sign the application after the application is filled out and sent, the next step is to just wait. Within 4-6 weeks you will receive your Student Aid Report, which verifies the results.

The 2003-2004 FAFSA is an important form to all college students seeking financial aid.
News Briefs

Don't Miss a Trip Down 8 Mile Road!
This weekend in the Schine Auditorium come see Eminem in “8 Mile.” The movie will be showing at 7 p.m. on Friday and 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Free with SHU ID!

It's Time for the Big Game!
Come watch Super Bowl XXXVII and enjoy free food this Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Outpost. The event is open to all students. The Pub will be open, and students need 2 forms of ID to drink.

Suicide Awareness Week Begins!
Nu Epsilon Omega is sponsoring Suicide Awareness Week from January 26 - February 2. The week starts this Sunday with a vigil on the Flk Patio at 9 p.m. Be sure to attend the various events throughout the week.

Public Safety Reports

January 13th:
6:59 p.m. - A South Hall resident injured his jaw and broke a tooth when he fell from his bed. He was transported to the hospital via taxi cab.

January 16th:
9:46 p.m. - An officer confiscated a student's knife set from a South Hall room due to a housing violation.

January 18th:
8:01 p.m. - A fire alarm was set off in West Hall caused by a resident using hairspray.

January 19th:
1:25 a.m. - A RA reported disorderly visitors in a J-Hill apt. were drinking alcohol. One visitor assaulted the RA and was arrested.

January 20th:
1:54 a.m. - An officer observed an intoxicated West Hall resident was ill. She was taken to the hospital via ambulance.

2:13 a.m. - An exit sign in South Hall was damaged exposing the wires. B+G was notified.

Curtis Week Takes Place Over Break

Continued from page 1
This experience opened my mind to new cultures that I now have a deeper understanding of. I now realize that there are many people who have led a hard life, with few choices that have put them in a cycle of poverty that is almost impossible to escape.

The group this year consisted of more male participants than any previous year. They were an extraordinary group of students who were open to new experiences, each other and the community.

The students were challenged in a new way by being taken out of their comfort zone, but they rose to the occasion. They gained friends and earned the respect of the community,” observed Machteld. Many of the students involved came back to school this semester and are working to start new programs to benefit those who they met and were touched by during the week.

Rich Kasten a junior from Coram, NY is a brother of Alpha Sigma Psi whose cause is Child Advocacy. Rich said that he joined “CURTIS Week as a way to learn more about Child Advocacy. When I spent a day in an elementary school with sixth grade students I was inspired. They told me that they did not have an after school program. I saw that these kids had a lot of potential and they need to be shown that they have options and realize that college can be a possibility for them.”

Overall CURTIS Week was a positive experience for all who were involved. The students were introduced to urban life as it is lived by its residents. They were brought into a world of diverse culture and gained tolerance and understanding. Each student walked away with a greater understanding of people and life.

By Maureen Daley
Staff Reporter

The process of becoming a resident assistant, more commonly known as a RA, is a difficult one. The fall 2003 semester is already beginning. In the coming month Sacred Heart University students interested in becoming RAs must act.

This is not an easy task to determine if they are qualified for the job. Resident assistants are student leaders who are considered the heart of all residential life programs. They live in the Sacred Heart University dorms, and are responsible for creating a community on their floors and in their halls.

RAs are typically well organized, good with time management, natural leaders, able to deal with critical situations, creative and must maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA. “The RAs work hard to keep everyone involved and safe. It takes real dedication to become a resident assistant,” says Meaghan Mullane, a sophomore from Wantagh, NY. There are also many duties and responsibilities of being a resident assistant. This includes being on duty six to seven nights a month, creating at least six programs for an assigned floor, acting as a liaison between residents and campus departments, as well as attending weekly meetings with resident life staff and the designated hall director. Although the duties are great, the rewards of being an RA outweigh the drawbacks. Senior RA in East Hall, Michelle Hubbard, of Gurnee IL. States, "Being an RA will help you develop skills which will be beneficial in any career you choose.

There are three stages in the process of becoming a resident assistant. The first is to complete and hand in an application by February 14, 2003. All applicants will then participate in a group process on the following Sunday, February 16, 2003. The group process consists of several team activities so that the director and assistant director of resident life, residence hall directors and current RAs can observe how applicants interact and work within a group. Potential resident assistants are rewarded through a point system during the group process.

The third and final stage is only for those applicants who receive high point values in the group process. Students who reach this level have an interview with a residence hall director and two current resident assistants. Once the interview is complete, it is then up to the staff of resident life to decide who will fill the void left by RAs not returning next year. "Our goal is to find student leaders who will give back to Sacred Heart as much as they get from us," states associate director of resident life, Allen Machienso.

Applications can be picked up at the office of the Residence Life located on the first floor of East Hall. For more information on becoming a resident assistant visit the Office of Residential Life, or call 416-3417.

Yale Mourns; SHU Reacts

By Elaine McCauley
News Editor

As the Yale University community mourns the loss of four of its students, the Sacred Heart community reacts to this horrific and tragic accident.

"When you hear about something like this it makes you realize that life can be fragile at any age," said senior Mark Zanetto from Meriden, CT.

Last Friday between 4 and 5 a.m. the students’ 99 Chevrolet Taico crashed into a jackknifed tractor trailer on I-95 North between exits 24 and 25. In total two cars and two tractor trailers were involved in the collision. Icy roads were said to have played a part in the accident.

One of the victims, sophomore Nicholas Grass, was from nearby New Litchfield, CT. Freshman Amanda Lemiexus from Agawam, MA said, "He [Grass] was from the town over from me and I’ve seen him at parties at home. It was so sad to think that one day he was here and now he’s not."

Of the other five survivors of the accident, two still remain in critical condition. The nine students, all members or pledges of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity were returning from a fraternity event in New York City.

The accident is still under an intensive investigation by both the Connecticut State Police and the National Transportation Safety Board.

An article from January 19th in the Connecticut Post stated “The NTSB does not get involved in every fatal highway accident that happens,” said NTSB spokesman Ted Loftakiewicz. "We tend to look at issues that have some national significance such as the design of the highway median which allowed the tractor-trailer in this case to cross over the median into [concurrent traffic on] the other side of the road."

According to an article in the January 20th issue of the Connecticut Post, “Most of the victims were members of the Bulldog football or baseball teams. The DKE fraternity is popular among Yale athletes. Former members include President Bush and his father, both of whom played baseball at Yale. Being part of a sports team or any organization on a campus automatically connects a student to all the people involved in the group. Members of Sacred Heart men’s track team commented on the tragedy and how it has affected them.

Freshman Andy Rawlings from Peekskill, NY and Junior Paul Herman from South Bronx, NY said, “We honestly feel that this is a tragedy that we lost student athletes. Our condolences go out to the family members, friends, teammates, and fraternity brothers of all the victims. God Bless.”

Freshman Bryan Smith (Copiague, NY) added, “The loss of any athlete is a hard hit to all athletes because it lessens the competition. I hope it doesn’t affect the teams as a whole and I send my condolences to all that interact with the victims.”

For some at Sacred Heart, this accident hit close to home because of the familiar stretch of highway where it occurred.

"This was a definite eye opener for all people at SHU because we all travel on 95 and it’s definitely a dangerous highway. It makes you realize that you have to have a driver who’s responsible and reliable," said junior Jillian Oparowski from Southington, CT.

"This was a good one for us," are the words of wisdom Student Government President Tom Pesce said, "This tragedy serves as a caution to people as RUSH begins. No one should do anything they don’t feel comfortable doing. Luckily Sacred Heart hasn’t had any case like this one and we should pride ourselves on that."
Transfer Backs Residential Life

I am writing my editorial in response to Alexis Lampone’s entitled “Residential Life: Right or Wrong?” which I juxtaposed with my own. While I agree it is difficult to have to readjust to a new environment, with new people and their habits...let me remind you that this is what college is about. College, when you break it down is not about the classes, or learning exactly what you need out in the “real world.” It is literally a learning experience, about life...how to deal with people that you are not used to, being exposed to different cultures. It is literary to mature and leave college as a well-rounded, and adjusted individual.

As a transfer myself, I have to say that I was appalled by the idea that transfers should have their own floors, as if they had the plague because they are new. They are not new. We are all in the same boat. We have just a separate dorm for new people and those who are switching rooms...doesn’t that sound nice.

It really saddened me when Robyn Johnson was also quoted saying that living with someone new is so hard, “Because cliques that are also formed are very hard to be broken and to understand and get along with them.” So, wait a minute...when she gets out in the real working world and someone new starts, is she not going to be able to get along with them because they are new, and how is she going to change? Wait, here is a better idea...maybe office buildings and all working environments should have their own separate floors for new people, this way the normal floor will not be disrupted. Really...how old are you that you are still so consumed with the idea of cliques?

This is supposed to broaden your horizons, not make you get even more involved into the high school mentality that you are (supposedly) trying to leave behind as you mature. It is not the fault of Residential Life; they are doing their job. They are not here to make your friends for you; they are here to prepare you for types of situations that you will face in the future. And let’s get one thing straight here, Residential Life is placing students in the rooms, they are not admitting them into the school. If there are too many students, and not enough beds and/or space, that is not their fault. With housing being as difficult as it has been for the last couple of years, maybe SHU should start taking in only the number of students they know they have beds for. But, that is just my (logical) opinion. Also, they are not trying to “save space,” rather make space.

When I transferred here I had been in the Cardiac Care Unit at Montefiore Hospital in New York, for almost two weeks. I had my final heart surgery on a Friday, went home Saturday, and moved into East Hall on Tuesday. Crazy...I know, but I was so excited I kept telling the doctor that I needed to be released early because I had to pack!

“As a transfer myself, I have to say that I was appalled by the idea that transfers should have their own floors...”

The day I moved into East Hall, the girls on my floor immediately helped me unpack all my stuff, arrange my bed and furniture, and we sat around and talked all night. One of the girls even ran over to the main building around midnight, to get me a campus map, so that I could find my way around the next morning. They helped me out with everything.

Now, as a senior, I still live with them. They made it so much easier for me to adapt, feel comfortable, and feel accepted. While I realize that this is a very extraordinary circumstance, it was an amazing one as well.

I feel terribly for anyone who would have to come into a new environment, where they know no one, are nervous already, and have to deal with the immaturity “clique” mentality that was expressed in Johnson’s comment. As Alexis Lampone ironically stated in her article, “Why would any student want to move into this type of environment?” My feelings exactly!

Sami DeVita
Editor-in-Chief

Residential Life: Right or Wrong?

When students enter Sacred Heart University as freshmen, there is nothing wrong with the procedures that Residential Life takes, by placing students with strangers because in reality all freshmen start out looking for those friendships that will make the college experience more enjoyable. But after all bonds are made, the next year friends decide to go into the “group” living quarters such as East Hall suites, or Jefferson Hill apartments. But what happens when one of your roommates leaves or transfers out? Residential Life decides that it is okay to place someone else in that person’s room or bed.

According to Residential Life this is okay and the staff feels that no one is being violated, but never are the students confronted about their feelings on this subject matter. Residential Life will fill a room that is the size of a closet with three people in order to save space.

According to Residential Life the procedures are very clear. First, the information is given to the students of the dorm or apartments that a new roommate will be filling one of their open spots and this is stated in the handbook and the housing contract. When students first come back from summer vacations or if freshman they are asked to sign a housing contract, and within this housing contract it says that students can expect the arrival of a transfer, or present student of Sacred Heart University to be moved in any time that there is an open spot in their housing quarters. However, Residential Life notifies residents of that housing situation that a new student will be arriving. If for any reason that someone does move out of the apartment and other roommates want another resident to move in permission must be granted by the hall director within the first two weeks of school. This is stated in our student handbooks. But if it is between semesters and you of roommates leaving and students wish to have friends move in permission must be granted by Residential Life and have everything done before the semester is over. So now if it is the beginning of a new semester and students are sitting in their “group” housing quarters in which their friends have moved out for reasons, these friends that they have chose to live in “group” housing quarters, such as Jefferson Hill or Parkridge Townhouses or even the apartments.

The Upper classes seem to agree with each other that Residential Life should not be able to just place new students with people that live in “group” or “private” housing quarters such as Jefferson Hill or East Hall Suites or the townhouses, and apartments.

However Residential Life has the right to move in and be back in students faces, without any concern that the students will object to the procedures. But when it comes to filling in open spots is Residential Life right or wrong when they put transfer or current students in with students that live in a dorm or a few floors somewhere for transfer students themselves.

Andrea M. Lafaro, Class of 2004 (Parkridge Townhouse.) When asked about the alternatives that should be considered, Andrea answered “that transfer students or current students should be placed with freshmen in or sophomore housing, because there is not a complete bond between everyone in these year groups.” Also interviewed was Olga Sokolova, class of 2005 who lives in East Hall, she explained “that it is not a problem because when I was a freshman my roommate was a total stranger. It is part of living on campus.” Robyn Johnson who is also a junior and lives in Avalon Gates agrees with Andrea “I think it is wrong. They have no right to just tell me that I am now living with a transfer, unless I give permission.” Also when asked about alternatives Robyn responded “Residential Life should put them with the freshmen in a dorm or a few floors somewhere for transfer students themselves.”
Letters/Op-Ed

Dear Students,

I thought long and hard about what I would like to say to you as we enter another semester together at SHU. Basically, there are two things. The first, is a small, simple word with a very big, important meaning - trust! For that is one of the most important elements we will all need to be successful this semester. Trust in yourself, trust in each other, and especially in God! Everything happens for a reason and He will not let you down. The second is from one of my all-time greatest heroes, Vince Lombardi. Everything that Lombardi did and taught to his players was focused around bravery, sacrifice and, above all, trust. He holds dear is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle-victorious!

Please remember that your Student Government and I are always here to help you on your journey through SHU. We are constantly working to improve our school for you and we would like you to be a part of that process. I invite you to stop by our office located in Hawley Lounge any time to talk to one of us about any ideas or concerns you may have. None of us is strong enough to achieve our goals alone, but together, we can accomplish anything! With that in mind as we begin, always remember to think, act, work, and always remember that hard work makes up for a multitude of mistakes!

With SHU Pride,
Tom Pesce

The SHU Voices

What is your favorite part of Super Bowl Sunday?

-Compiled by Susan Magnano

Chris Barr
Bridgeport, C.T.
Junior

Meredith Alango
Thornwood, N.Y.
Sophomore

Jeff Guillot
Smithtown, N.Y.
Junior

“The commercials because they are really funny”

“I like the parties and get togethers.”

“I can’t say I like anything because the Jets lost.”

New Year’s Resolutions

By June Meyer
SHU Counseling Center

It’s that time of year again. The holidays have come and gone, and the new year resolutions are in place. I can just hear it, “This year I will stop smoking, lose weight, work out more, ... eat right.” All worthwhile and useful causes. But, what about caring for your emotional well-being? What about making sure you are happy as well as healthy. Calm as well as fulfilled. Self confident as well as successful? Below are the “Ten Rules to Emotional Health” borrowed from Sharon Johnson’s Therapist’s Guide to Clinical Intervention. Take a look at and give these rules a try.

Ten Rules to Emotional Health:

1. Take care of yourself. Take time to relax, exercise, eat right, spend time with people you enjoy and activities that you find pleasurable.
2. Choose to find the positives in life experiences instead of focusing on the negative. Most clouds have a silver lining and offer opportunity for understanding and growth. If you accept that things are difficult and you choose to do what you need to do...it does not seem so bad.
3. Let go of the past. If you can’t change it and you have no control over it, then let it go.
4. Be respectful and responsible. Don’t worry about other people; do what you know is right for you. When you take care of business you feel good. Don’t get caught up in blaming others.
5. Acknowledge and take credit for your successes and accomplishments.
6. Take the time to develop one or two close friendships in which you can be honest about your thoughts and feelings.
7. Talk positively to yourself. We talk to our selves all day long. If we are saying negative and fear-filled things, than that is the way we feel!
8. Remove yourself from hurtful or damaging situations. Give yourself some space and problem-solve a sensible approach for dealing with it.
9. Accept that life is about choices and is always bringing change to you that requires adjustment.
10. Have a plan for the future. Develop longterm goals for yourself, but work on them one-day-at-a-time.
The Brains and “Braun” Of Dirtbike Racing

By Kerry Frel
Features Editor

“I won a go-cart when I was 12 in a raffle. I convinced my parents to let me sell it and get a dirt bike,” says senior Craig Braun of Syosset, Long Island, N.Y. Braun has a unique, and sometimes dangerous, hobby, dirt bike racing. He’s had almost no regard for his racing career, and is more concerned about these than he is his car.

On Sunday, at the Arena at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport, spectators saw Braun, better known as number 432, fly the Arenacross race. Braun, known as number 432, flew during the event, and he wasn’t the only one. “There were a few broken collar bones and some people broke their wrists over this past weekend,” Braun said.

In preparation for Sunday’s competition, “mechanic,” Kim Holmes, spent about four hours preparing his bike. It is not mandatory for a racer to have an assistant, but with all the preparations involved, Braun said he was glad to have help.

“I check the fluids to be sure they’re on the mark, make sure the chain is completely lubed, all the nuts and bolts are secure and make sure there are no leaks and all the filters are clean and clear,” Braun explained.

Competitors often warm up their bikes before a competition at some point so it will function properly. “You start the bike to make it warm,” Braun said.

With dirt flying as riders rounded curves of the course and smoke coming out of the back of the bikes, family and friends in the stands cheered. Braun said he’s used to the dirt and smoke of the sport.

“No headaches. It’s not always regular gasoline in the bike’s engines. I use aviation fluid back a ‘fizzing’ and ‘mechanic’ smell,” Braun explained.

Braun said he often sees the same people at the Arenacross races, and it goes to the tri-state area.

“It’s a tight-knit sort of thing. You see people over and over again. Sometimes there are questions, from overseas, like England and Australia. You travel with the same group of people, but you’re always meeting new people,” Braun explained. And you won’t see a lot of number 432 speeding through the dirt.

“I was assigned 432 about 8 years ago, the AMA, American Motorcycle Association, assigns everyone a number,” Braun said. Many of the competitors are sponsored by a particular company. The attire of each competitor varies based on the individual’s preferences, but the outfit usually in professional dirt bike racing. While dirt bike racing is a very large part of Braun’s life, he is involved in other activities. He likes to tend to his engine control, hobbies like planes and cars.

Craig Braun poses with his bike before heading to the starting line.

Unconventional Jobs Over Conventional Vacation

By Jennifer Motisi
Staff Reporter

After a long semester of reading pages upon pages of textbooks, writing essays, and studying for hours. Sacred Heart students looked forward to spending a relaxing few weeks free of classes and assignments. Students’ dreams of staying out late, sleeping until the afternoon, and hours of hanging out with old friends were suddenly slowed to a halt—it was time to get a job.

For many students, working over the break consisted of driving to the mall at 10 a.m., folding piles of shirts, helping inquisitive customers find the perfect holiday gift, and then driving back home eight hours later only to do the same thing the next day.

These types of jobs do have their enjoyable moments, but at times they can be monotonous and frustrating. While many students are content with their jobs inside the mall, others have found a different world of jobs that they enjoy.

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Rosado moves to INROADS

By Jamie Pasculli
Staff Reporter

Since August of 2001, Michele Rosado has worked at Sacred Heart University as a Graduate Assistant. Before coming to Sacred Heart as a graduate student, Rosado grew up in the Bronx, N.Y. and got her undergraduate degree at SUNY Albany.

While working as a GA she serves the students of SHU as the advisor to Greek Life, the sophomore class, and she has coordinated events and programs such as STAR I, and Alcohol Awareness Week.

You can find her in Hawley Lounge day or night working hard for the students of SHU. Now the time has come for Rosado to say “goodbye” to Sacred Heart. She has been offered a job at a company called INROADS in Stamford. According the website writers for the company, “INROADS is an organization that seeks to increase business career opportunities and knowledge for the best and brightest young people of color, while giving corporates the opportunity to develop a diverse managerial talent.”

At INROADS, Rosado will serve as a Professional Development Specialist. She explained that her responsibilities at INROADS will include: advising, coaching and motivating college interns to promote professional, personal and academic growth and, “recruiting students by interviewing and selecting potential interns to fill different internship positions.”

While working and going to school, Rosado took on many different positions and interacted with many different people. When asked about her SHU experiences she said, "it’s definitely been one of my biggest learning and challenging opportunities that I’ve had. I love working with the students, they have helped me learn about myself, which will help me in my new job at INROADS. This job has been a great stepping stone for my new job, and I will definitely miss everyone here.”

Rosado finds working with students to be interesting work. "It is definitely very rewarding when you know that you’ve had an impact on the students because that is basically why I stayed at Sacred Heart for so long. I could have gotten a full-time job, from the beginning, but I decided to stay and work with the students.”

Ms. Rosado will not completely be leaving Sacred Heart, she will continue taking her graduate classes here in order to maintain a Masters degree in Business. It is still unknown who will be taking over Rosado’s responsibilities, but it is certain that she will be missed by many of her friends and co-workers at SHU.

"It was a joy and a pleasure working with Michele. She is not only my co-worker she is one of my very good friends. Michele has kept me sane for a year and a half and I am glad that I had a friend here,” said Jacinda Felix, a fellow SHU graduate assistant.

Matt Hales a senior from Union, NJ who serves as the VP of Greek Life, is another person at SHU that works very closely with Michele. “It’s a bittersweet deal. I’m happy for her because she found a full-time job that makes her happy, but I am also sad because we have become really close. She started out as my advisor, but she also became a very close friend of mine,” Hales said.

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Poet’s Corner

By Danielle Mc Grath Junior

Love yet to be fulfilled

She sits in the chair.

She looks out one window,then the other.

One she sees the past in, the other what she desires in the future.

She craves the complete package of a relationship of love, honesty, and amazing life of sensuality.

She looks out the window at her past and then lets go of it , closes the window locks it and shuts the shade on it.

She looks to the future and sees the man of her dreams.

He has a sweet, caring and honest face and far too a young boy in tow.

But that does not scare her.

But what scares her is the thought of letting him in on how she feels for complete fear of rejection.

She secretly desires to be with him, and be the woman he needs in every aspect of his life.

She realizes that he has seen her in the window.

She shys away from the window and awaits his response.

But secretly craves a caring hug and kiss from him.

Sweet Desire

She looks over at him as he sleeps,

and it makes her smile and her heart skip a beat.

She gently caresses his face and kisses his forehead.

He awakes and asks her what she is thinking about.

She cannot bear to bare her whole soul,

it’s far too soon,

so she simply shuts down her mind.

She realizes it’s best to just live in the moment,

and takes things as they come.

She realizes she at the very least has a new friend,

but also wants to spend more time with him.

She wants to eventually bare it all to him and have him bare it all to her.

She has looked into the windows of his soul,

but knows that she must earn the key to the heart and only when it is the right time to access that key.

Just as he has looked into her

he must still earn the key to open her

But she feels no rush, or pressure

just a desire to explore each other’s life.

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Gear Up For Spring Break

By Diana Lumani
Staff Reporter

With the looming real world drives students mad, spring break is an appealing solution to the dilemma. And even though the second week of the new semester has yet to close, students never find it too early to plan for spring break. In fact, if you’re just starting to plan now, you might have missed out on some great deals. But, what are the hot spots that are being traveled to this year?

“It’s party central in Cancun," said Marissa Martins from Norwalk, CT. In the last several years this destination has been a main attraction for college students who are in search of sun, sandy beaches and dance clubs with their classmates.

“Last year’s hot spot was the Bahamas. The drinking age is only 18. Americans with money were treated like Kings and Queens and there were no shortage of places to go. The only downside was that ‘cabbies’ never had change," revealed John S. Palerino, a junior from New Rochelle, NY. In the Bahamas, with over 700 islands, it offers spring breakers plenty of options, from pink-sandy beaches for sun worshippers to glitzy casinos for all the high rollers. According to Clevertraveler.com the most popular places include Nassau, Paradise Island, and Grand Bahama Island, and despite the high number of tourists, there’s plenty of traditional British charm to go around. The most active nightlife focuses on the major resort hotels, among many dance clubs and bars packed with blithe partiers.

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The Butler, who advises Evan, introduced the audience to Paul, a 28-year-old construction worker who only earns a meager $19,000. Paul is a eligible bachelor who has just inherited $50 million. However, these performances by artists like B2K, Missy Elliot, Shania Twain, and Matchbox 20 performed, were a bust as well. Even with B2K andeminable fortune by Shania Twain was not enthusiastic. Although going into and rising above the audience by stairs while singing, her performance appeared as if Shania did not have any feeling. Besides the well-sung performances of Mariah Carey and Christina Aguilera, who showed off their sensational voices when singing their songs, "Through the Rain" and "Beautiful," the awards did not offer any other really substantial performances. Although not the greatest singer, Osbourne at least showed energy and spunk when performing her single "Shut Up," which many of the other performances thoroughly lacked. Though not the greatest of performances, it still was an awards show, which meant lots of awards where to be handed out. The big winner was controversial rapper Eminem. Although absent from the show, the rapper still managed to walk away with all four of the awards he was nominated for, including Best Pop/Rock and Hip Hop/R&B Male Artist and Favorite Pop/Rock and Hip Hop/R&B Album. Other winners included Creed and the Dixie Chicks who each walked away with two awards. Winning two awards was new Rhythm & Blues sensation Ashanti, who won two of her five nominations for favorite new Hip hop singer and favorite new Pop Artist. Although the American Music Awards tried to make the normally entertaining show exciting by recruiting the Osbournes to host, it just did not work. The 30th annual American Music Awards proved unfortunately proved to be nothing but just another boring awards show.

"And the Award Goes To"...Not the Osbournes

By Colleen Mitrano
Staff Writer

On Monday January 13, 2003 the 30th annual American Music Awards hosted by the Osbournes family aired. Although highly anticipated, the show proved to be nothing but yet another long, three-hour awards ceremony, produced by Dick Clark.

Even though the Osbournes are known and loved for their crazy dysfunctional behavior, it was that behavior that forced, some reason, just did not fly. The family acted silly and did not even appear to have any organization or hosting strategy. From the usual cursing to an unnecessary Britney and Justin joke, to commenting about useless things, the Osbournes added nothing to make the awards move along quickly.

Not only did the Osbournes prove to be a disappointment, but the usually energetic dancing and using vivid stage designs when performing their hit "Bump Bump Bump," the performance still lacked any vivacity.

In addition, the usually lively country performance by Shania Twain was not enthusiastic. Although going into and rising above the audience by stairs while singing, her performance appeared as if Shania did not have any feeling. Besides the well-sung performances of Mariah Carey and Christina Aguilera, who showed off their sensational voices when singing their songs, "Through the Rain" and "Beautiful," the awards did not offer any other really substantial performances. Although not the greatest singer, Osbourne at least showed energy and spunk when performing her single "Shut Up," which many of the other performances thoroughly lacked. Though not the greatest of performances, it still was an awards show, which meant lots of awards where to be handed out. The big winner was controversial rapper Eminem. Although absent from the show, the rapper still managed to walk away with all four of the awards he was nominated for, including Best Pop/Rock and Hip Hop/R&B Male Artist and Favorite Pop/Rock and Hip Hop/R&B Album. Other winners included Creed and the Dixie Chicks who each walked away with two awards. Winning two awards was new Rhythm & Blues sensation Ashanti, who won two of her five nominations for favorite new Hip hop singer and favorite new Pop Artist. Although the American Music Awards tried to make the normally entertaining show exciting by recruiting the Osbournes to host, it just did not work. The 30th annual American Music Awards proved unfortunately proved to be nothing but just another boring awards show.

"Joe Millionaire": Fighting for love or money?

By Donna Palumbo
Staff Writer

The Movies of 2002 in Review: All that Glitters is not “Goldmember”

By Patrick Scalisi
Staff Writer

To be quite frank, 2001 was a dark year for cinema. Beginning early on with a probable writers strike and ending with the wounds of September 11th, Hollywood saw, at least for a time, a lack of interest in the usual celebrity gossip and blockbuster releases as the famous came together to unite an injured nation and studios retracted now-risque titles. That being said, it is no surprise that 2002 opened the door to reinvention and Hollywood gratefully seized the opportunity. Drawing on some of the oldest traditions in film history, studios began to revive everything that America loved about the movies before September 11th and fell back on familiar characters and stories. It is little wonder, then, that 2002 saw the continuation of Star Wars, James Bond, and Star Trek while filmmakers drew on even older sources such as the inco­rence of comic books and the grandeur of J.R.R. Tolkien for inspiration.

It is for this reason that 2002 may be accurately called The Year of the Franchise. Here are some of the highlights.

“Spiderman”
The buzz for “Spiderman” began as soon as the casting calls did, and Tobey Maguire proved that he was the right man for the job. Spiderman became one of the year’s biggest blockbusters, going head-to-head with movie mammoth Star Wars and emerging the victor.

“My Big Fat Greek Wedding”
Thanks to Mrs. Tom Hanks and a bottle of Windex, “Greek Wedding” became the success story of the year. Made for $5 million, “MBFGW” went on to become the highest gross­ing independent film, drawing profits amazing. A sequel and a sitcom are in the works but per­spective audiences have mixed opinions about lighting striking twice. (Available on DVD and DVD February 11th)

“Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets”
In late October, the world of cinema mourned the loss of Richard Harris, the hell-raiser as well known as for his extra­curricular activities as for his film roles. Harris’ death had a particular impact on Harry Potter fans, as “Chamber of Secrets” would be one of his last roles. Harry’s second year at Hogwarts would prove to be infinitely darker than his sugarcaked first adventure, but “Chamber of Secrets” is plenty to feast on while J.K. Rowling churns out the Fifth Book.

“Die Another Day”
Why not revisit the oldest franchise in film history in 2002? Moviegoers and critics have yet to find an answer to this ques­tion, as the twentieth James Bond film opened to its biggest week­end ever and received glowing reviews from both the industry and the fans. Bond managed to reign over super-spy flop “XXs” (which was recently named the worst movie of the year by “Entertainment Magazine”) and held a number one spot for 3 weeks. (Now in theaters)

“Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers”
Very little can be put into anywhere at any time.” (The sublime magnificence that accom­panies Peter Jackson’s second installment of the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy. Boasting spe­cial effects that could put George Lucas’ Industrial Light and Magic out of business, Two Towers is an experience that must be seen to be believed. (Now in theaters)

With 2003 now in full swing, one can look back on the previous year and witness the reinvention that took place in the way America makes, watches, and rents mov­ies. It’s true that 2002 did have its darker days (“Austin Powers in Goldmember” and “Men In Black II”) but these were often cast away by the unexpected (“Die Hard” and “4 Mile”). Nevertheless, in the words of Harry Potter’s self-indulgent teacher, Gilderoy Lockhart, “Fame is a fickle friend;” and 2003 may have a few surprises of its own.
Two Sports, One Star: Brian Pawlowski

By John Antignani
Sports Writer

The sun glints off the helmet of number four. He settles into his position of strong safety anticipating where the opposing quarterback will throw the ball. He swoops down in front of the intended receiver and intercepts the football in full stride.

His 4.46-yard dash speed belies his 6’2” 220 frame. The opposing offensive players have now turned into defenders, which has become quite a mismatch. All that the hapless opposing players can hope to do is paw hopelessly at the tall figure in the silver and red ensemble of Sacred Heart, as he streaks down the sideline.

Football season is over and indoor track season has begun. The muscular, blond-haired athlete is bounding down the 40-meter runway that leads into the long jump pit. His enormous gait covers the distance very quickly as he hits the takeoff board with precision and timing.

His arms and legs are a whirl of activity as he catapults himself into the air. He lands in the dirt-up smiling.

The athlete’s name is Brian Pawlowski, All-American Division I-AA Mid-Major football player/track star at SHU.

According to Morrison, “Brian is still very raw when it comes to track and field. It’s a tough balancing act for him, with demands football places on an athlete, but with hard work he has a chance to become a highly competitive Division I competitor in the jumping events.”

By Amy Lavole
Sports Writer

Sacred Heart University women’s basketball has been performing well this past month with strong showings in and out of the Northeast Conference. The Pioneers have only one loss at home and are looking to improve their 8-5 record at home and 18 points and 11 rebounds.

The games left Sacred Heart at 6-8-5 overall and 6-5-2 in the MAAC, which puts them into the sixth position in the conference. Paquet’s three points in the two games give him a team leading 18 for the season.

The next two games, they dropped heartbreakings losses at Marquette (76-69) and Columbia (73-69), despite senior Brooke Kelly’s (Medford, NJ) career-high 29 points, but bounced right back for home victories over Brown (85-73) and New Hampshire (64-57).

SHU took its first NEC loss on Jan. 11 at rival Quinnipiac, when their amazing comeback fell short by a single point, 66-65. On Jan. 14, Sacred Heart traveled to New Haven, CT to rock the Yale Bulldogs 70-54, highlighted by a career-high 23 points from senior co-captain Brooke Rutnik (Albany, NY).

On Jan. 16, Monmouth University broke the Pioneers’ 12-game home win streak by coming from behind to hand SHU a 60-59 loss in the final 22 seconds of the game, despite 14 points from Durmer and Kelly’s first double-double of the season with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

The Pioneers recovered quickly with a gut-wrenching 60-58 victory over Fairleigh Dickinson on Jan. 18, led by Durmer’s team-high 14 points.

“We had a bit of a rocky start this year,” says Durmer. “With the loss of our starting point guard, sophomore Allie Bagnell (Newton, PA), to a severe knee injury during last Thursday’s Monmouth battle, “we’re going to have to regroup,” says Kelly. She stated, “We’re just getting into the heat of the season,” as the Pioneers are facing only NEC competition for the rest of the season.

“But we’re optimistic,” says Durmer.
Men’s Basketball Bounces Back

Despite a slow beginning to their season, the Pioneers have posted four wins in the past couple weeks.

By Katie Atkins
Sports Writer

Despite beginning the season with five straight losses, the men’s basketball team has posted a 4-6 record since then, bringing their overall record to 4-11 and their Northeast Conference record to 2-2.

Before departing for a weekend in Puerto Rico, the Pioneers hosted back-to-back games against Duquesne and Northeastern but dropped both. SHU closed off the San Juan Shootout, which was held Dec. 20-22, with a 77-64 victory over Puerto Rico-Mayaguez.

“Puerto Rico was good for the team because it gave us a chance to become better teammates and friends,” said freshman Zach Spivey (Lubbock, TX).

Sophomore Greg Curley broke his own school record in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 6.37 seconds, breaking his personal record of 5.98 set in 2002.

The key highlights of the 3.6 stretch over winter break include a last second victory over Columbia, the result of a three-point shot by junior guard Omar Wellington (Pensacola, Fla.) with .02 remaining on the clock.

In another recent close game, the Pioneers upset Quinnipiac in a Northeast Conference match 2-0. Junior Maurice Bailey (Hempstead, NY), who is averaging nearly 17 points a game, poured in 25 and junior Chris Assel (Eagan, MN) contributed 21 points to the cause.

This past Saturday the Pioneers defeated Fairleigh Dickinson University 74-62 in front of an enthusiastic home crowd.

Despite the loss, the Pioneers are now prepping for several upcoming Northeast Conference contests.

“Knowing individuals from the other team better and having some familiarity with the type of game they play will be to our advantage, but to theirs as well,” said Boyle.

The key to the rest of the season will be to do what we do best all the time; to try to be consistent with the positives.”

Saturday’s game against Fairleigh Dickinson marks the mid-point of the regular season and the Pioneers have 14 games remaining, all of which are Northeast Conference match ups. So the real test has now arrived.

SHU is back in action on Thursday at home against Monmouth, who currently leads the NEC conference with a 3-0 record, at 7:30 pm. The Pioneers will face fellow NEC rival St. Francis (PA) who boast a 3-1 record, this Saturday at 7 pm in Loretto, PA.

“Our goal now is to win as many conference games as we can so that we can fight for that NCAA tournament bid at the end of the season. I think the school will definitely have something exciting to cheer about when tournament time rolls around,” said Wellington.

Weekend Schedule

Friday, Jan 24
- Men's Ice Hockey vs Iona
- Men's Basketball vs UMass

Saturday, Jan 25
- Men's Basketball vs St. Francis (PA)
- Women's Basketball vs St. Francis (PA)
- Men's Bowling vs Boston College
- Women's Bowling vs Wagner College
- Men's Track vs Boston College
- Women's Ice Hockey vs Wagner College
- Men's Volleyball vs Wagner College
- Men's Ice Hockey vs UMass

Sunday, Jan 26
- Men's Bowling vs Iona
- Women's Ice Hockey vs Quinnipiac
Pioneers Poised for Needed Turnaround

Despite a rough streak, the Pioneer Men’s Ice Hockey Team is ready to turn things around.

By Henry Gargiulo
Sports Writer

Coming into their weekend games with Fairfield University, the Sacred Heart Pioneers men’s ice hockey team had only one win in their last six games compiling a 1-4-1 record over that time. But with a 3-1 victory at home and a 2-2 draw on the road with their cross-town rivals, the Pioneers are starting to turn things around.

The first period started out a bit slow Friday night as neither team could solve the others goalie, and neither team took a penalty.

The second period, however, started with a bang. From the opening face-off Fairfield’s Rae Metz worked the puck forward to a streaking Dan Cotter. Cotter was able to fend off the Pioneers back-checking defenders and lift the puck up over the shoulder of Pioneer goalie Eddy Ferhi (St. Charenton, Fr) and just 13 seconds into the second, the Pioneers trailed.

The Stags lead was short lives because just 1:10 later the Pioneers answered back. Senior Martin Paquet (Ste. Catherine, Que) dropped the pass to Marc-André Fournieur (Fr. Ste. Nicholas, Que) just inside the blue line, who quickly sent the give-and-go pass back to Paquet who easily beat Fairfield goalie Andrew Martin.

The contest would remain deadlocked into the third period. Early in the third the Stags had a great opportunity to pull ahead, only to be denied by the post.

The draw was to Ferhi’s left side, the Stags won cleanly to James Lubinski, who sent a shot that beat Ferhi, but mailed the post and came back out. Although the goal judge temporarily turned the light on, indicating a goal, the referee quickly waived it off and play continued.

The Pioneers took advantage of their lucky break and made no mistakes in capitalizing on it.

See “Rivals” Page 10

Indoor Track Explodes into Mid-Season

The Men’s and Women’s indoor track teams began their season in the Indoor Relay Carnival at Southern Connecticut State University.

Christopher Giarrusso
Sports Writer

The men’s and women’s Indoor Track and Field opened their season with wins at the Collegiate Track Conference Indoor Relay Carnival at Southern Connecticut State University on Dec. 8, 2002. This was the sixth time for the men and the seventh time for the women that they have won the carnival.

For the men, freshman Evan Lasher (Pleasant Valley, NY) destroyed the old shot put school record by over six feet, throwing 48’8 3/4” to break the mark of 42’8 1/4” set by Mike Stanley in 2000. Lasher automatically qualified for the New England Championships, becoming the first-ever qualifier in the men’s shot put in school history.

Sophomore Todd Brownell (Hudson Falls, NY) ran a 1:58.2 on the 400-meter anchor leg of the men’s sprint medley relay to tie a school baton carry record. Brownell shares the record with John Morash who set the record at the New England Championships last season.

The 4x1600 meter relay team of freshman Tyler Arnett (Clinton Corner, NY), junior Michael Berluti (Northfield, CT), freshman Robert Gill (Brantree, MA), and junior Andrew Renna (Danbury, CT) set a new record with a time of 19:11.91, breaking the old record of 19:37.21 set in 1999. In the shot put relay, they qualified for the New England Championships.

The women were led by sophomore Gregg Curley (East Wareham, MA) and freshman Evan Lasher (Pleasant Valley, NY). Curley set five new school records and finished with 3327 total points, breaking the old record set last year, and also qualifying for the New England Championships. He also set records in the open 55 meters hurdles 8.38, pentathlon 55 meters hurdles 8.38, pentathlon high jump 6’0” and pentathlon 1000 meters 2:51.13. Curley placed fifth overall for the day. Lasher finished fifth in the shot put with a throw of 48’8 1/2”, breaking his own record set at the CTC Indoor Relay Carnival.

The men were led by freshman Kaitlin Ratz (Mansaquin, NJ) and junior Sara Tasber (Henrietta, NY). Ratz set a new school record in the women’s pentathlon shot put, recording a throw of 31’10 1/2” to break Meghan Warnock’s record of 26’4 1/2” in 1999. Tasber was named Northeast Conference Women’s Indoor Track Athlete-of-the-Week for the week of January 6-13 due to her performance at the meet. Tasber took home the award after winning the 800 meter in a time of 2:21.75. Tasber also posted the fastest split with a time of 59.4 in 4x400 relay which helped lead the team to a sixth-place finish in a time of 4:10:61. This is her third NEC Athlete-of-the-week honor. She also earned it once during her freshman outdoor season and once during last year’s indoor season.

Tasber currently holds the

See “Track Stars” Page 12