BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Tears and cheers erupted across Latin America on Wednesday as an Argentine cardinal became the first pope from the hemisphere, and many who doubted that he could help bring the church closer to the poverty-wracked region that is home to more Roman Catholics than any other.

Drivers honked horns on the streets of Argentina’s capital and television announcers screamed with elation at the news that the cardinal they knew as Jorge Mario Bergoglio had become Pope Francis.

People jammed the Metropolitan Cathedral in Buenos Aires for a Mass for the new pope, and priests said they hadn’t seen such a big crowd in decades.

"Francisco! Francesco!" the faithful screamed. Outside, a thousand people sang and waved Vatican and Argentine flags as well as banners with the image of the Virgin of Lujan, the patron saint of Argentina.

"I’m old, it’s difficult to move around, but today I had to come," said Neltida Bédino, an 85-year-old retiree. "As a Catholic and an Argentine, I thank God for giving me life to witness this event."

"It’s a huge gift for all of Latin America. We waited 20 centuries. It was worth the wait," said Jose Antonio Cruz, a Franciscan friar at the church of St. Francis of Assisi in the colonial Old San Juan district in Puerto Rico.

"I think it’s important for people in Argentina. I’m going to feel blessed," he said after exchanging high-fives with church secretary Antonio Veloz.

Bergoglio’s former spokesman, Guillermo Marco, told Argentina’s TN television station that the new 76-year-old pope — who is also the first from the Jesuit order — "has enormous pastoral experience" with a humble bearing.

"You can count the occasions when he used a car with a chauffeur," Marco said.

"His choices of life as cardinal have been to have a normal, common life."

The new pope was known for taking the subway and mingling with the poor of Buenos Aires while archbishop.

That common touch was evident in the new pope’s first words to the crowd.

"I couldn’t believe what I was seeing, when he started saying, ‘Good afternoon, just like someone saying hello to a friend,’" said Bishop Eugenio Lira, secretary-general of the Mexican Conference of Bishops. "He will certainly be the pope who is closest to the people of Latin America. He knows the problems of Latin America very well."

Soraida Louza, a political science professor at the Colegio de Mexico who studies the church, said he was a logical choice. "First, Latin America is the most important region in the world for the church, but one where evangelical churches have been making inroads. So it may also be an attempt to stop the decline in the number of Catholics."

Straws for a cause

Sara Hanna Staff Reporter

In the final week before spring break, students in Professor Steven Michels’ American government class were given a simple task: they were asked to design a public event or demonstration related to a topic of public policy.

The group assigned gun rights had an idea related to the drinking straws. "You know, like the last straw," said freshman Kyle Martin.

The group initially thought they might distribute straws around campus, an idea that was clever but potentially costly. The group quickly decided that an easier way to get the word out and get everyone involved would be to collect straws, which ignited the idea of the Last Straw Campaign.

The goal of the campaign is to collect 100,000 drinking straws in support of gun control legislation—one for each incident of gun violence in the U.S. each year.

"The original assignment was just to design a public event or demonstration, but what the group came up with was so simple and clever that I thought we had to actually do it," said Professor Michels. "It would have been a shame not to do it, the students were thrilled."

However, the timing was not ideal, and the group ended up assembling a bit of groundwork right away.

"While everyone else was away for spring break, we spent our time sending e-mails back and forth to get our game plan in order," said Michels.

Michels’ students are very passionate about their project.

"Our concept deals with the latest tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT to be the final result of gun violence because we have simply had enough," said freshman Anthony Tartaglia. "This is the last straw. We feel not only as a group of college students, but also as a nation that we shouldn’t have to deal with such tragedies due to gun violence."

The plan is to deliver the straws to Congress in Washington, DC on the one-year anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy — on Dec. 14, 2013.

Students involved in the Campaign have taken initiative by making both Facebook and Twitter accounts, as it would be an effective way to get their message across to peers.

Straws for a cause page 2...

President Petillo published in HuffingtonPost regarding gun control

Christopher Ballas Staff Reporter

Huffington Post published a blog written by Sacred Heart University President Dr. John Petillo on Feb. 25, which consisted of his stance on the current state of safety for college campuses and gun control after the Sandy Hook tragedy in Newtown, Conn.

Petillo’s post focuses on the idea that everyone has a role to take action in the battle against violence from educators, parents, students and to citizens in general because the United States cannot rely on political leaders to invoke change.

"The events in Newtown didn’t change my stance of violence and gun control, but it certainly heightened the reality of the situation," said Petillo in an interview conducted with the Spectrum.

Petillo says in his post that American policymakers will continuously talk about taking action towards stricter gun control, but all it will end with is just "much talk and little action." Because of the context of the tragedy, gun control becomes a fundamental element in keeping the country safe, especially children.

"I respect the rights of hunters and other people who respectably own small arms, but assault rifles within reach of the general public is just absurd," said Petillo in the interview.

Petillo also discusses with Spectrum how society’s stance on violence has shifted.

"Values have changed, deterred and society has made violence seem relatively positive in movies, television, video games, etc. and as a result, these kids don’t have the same respect for life like people did years ago," said Petillo. "They need to realize it isn’t a sport."

Video games, television, and movies can obscure the concepts of what is acceptable in reality as compared to these fictional worlds. This line can be blurred in the eyes of youthful and impressionable minds, according to Petillo’s post in the Huffington Post.

Petillo’s post also includes statistics regarding guns in America, "by age 18 our nation’s children have witnessed 16,000 murders and some 200,000 violent acts on TV," and studies have shown that such behavior can directly lead to "anti social and aggressive behavior."

Taking action is what Petillo and 270 other college presidents are trying to do, recently sending a letter to President Barack Obama about making it harder to acquire assault weapons, addressing the "easy access to assault weapons especially guns that can hold up to 100 rounds of ammunition without re-loading."

"In regards to the letter to Obama, I am a realist, a pragmatist," said Petillo to Spectrum. "I know that an issue as big as this can’t be solved in one day, one week. I do hope that it raises voices on the issues, and people become more passionate on this important issue."

Petillo ends his blog with the premise that ending violence is a resolve conquest, and he plans to push on towards this goal for the coming months are years.

"Zero tolerance, public awareness and continued discussion are all necessary if we are going to change America and protect our schools," said Petillo in his blog. "No one law will solve the problem, because our propensity for violence is woven into the fabric of our society. And that must change."
Volunteer Programs travels the world to give back

Andrea Coronis
News Editor
Mark Podesta
Asst. News Editor

Sacred Heart University’s student organizations stress the importance of being active in university life. One of the many offices tucked inside Sacred Heart’s main academic building is Volunteer Programs and Service Learning. Volunteer Programs is an influential office here on campus.

“The students actually logged a total of 53,000 volunteer hours last year,” said Maura Cook, Assistant Director of Volunteer Programs. “Every year we have an annual goal of 50,000 volunteer hours.”

The time students put in volunteering and actively helping others is done across a wide variety of service opportunities.

A popular program among students is the mission trips to various countries outside the United States, and Habitat for Humanity trips to various cities across the nation.

During spring break this semester, three groups of Sacred Heart students each traveled to different Central American countries to experience a new culture and education, perform various services and meet new people. For a week they experience what it is like to live in a different country and adjust to the changes, traveling to El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica. Students were excited to embark on these trips.

“The main purpose of the ‘Mission Matters’ trips is to give students the opportunity to learn and live through the mission of the University,” said Guatemala leader, Mia James. “The mission of the university is to help develop students into people who are ‘knowledgeable of self, rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to social and civic obligations, and able to respond to an ever-changing world.’”

Students who participate in these trips want to experience something incredible. “Once I heard that volunteer programs added Costa Rica and Guatemala I really wanted to go. I have heard such amazing personal experiences that people have had in El Salvador, and I wanted to have an experience like that in my life,” said junior and one of the leaders for Costa Rica, Tina Tramontano.

Each trip had one or two leaders who were responsible for preparing for the trip, raising money, and leading activities.

“It was difficult being a leader for the Costa Rica trip because it was the first time Sacred Heart has planned this trip,” said Tramontano. “As the leaders, both Javier Vidal and I, along with the leaders of the other delegations, organized fundraisers and helped any of the delegates fundraise and prepare for their trip.”

Each of these trips was very different and had something new to offer the students.

“El Salvador is to learn and stand in solidarity with the people, listening to their stories and about their lives- helping in any way we can,” said James. “Guatemala was a pilot trip to see what exactly we could do there and Costa Rica was a trip focused around education.”

While placed in these new environments, the groups got the chance to meet many residents of the communities.

“While we were in Costa Rica we were all in separate homes of different families,” said Tramontano. “We were also partnered up with a university in Costa Rica called TEC where we practiced out Spanish while helping teach and practice with the natives their English.”

Students brought back with them a new understanding and appreciation for the culture and the people they encountered.

“Being emerged into a culture of a different language, you are forced to practice their language in order to communicate,” said Tramontano. “I also learned to not take anything for granted... When we went to the elementary schools and donated notebooks, the looks in the children’s faces was something I will never forget.”

Even students who have gone on the trips before learned new things on their trips.

“I have been to El Salvador twice and Sacred Heart has been going to El Salvador for 21 years,” said James. “It was very interesting and unique to begin to forge relationships, build trust and learn brand new things from the Guatemalan’s and organizations we visited.”

Straws for a cause

...CONTINUED from page 1

By using social media, the students ask that fellow Sacred Heart students demonstrate their support for restrictions on gun ownership to help address gun violence in the United States.

“The idea of the whole campaign is to get support to end gun violence,” said junior Cassie Briffett. “It’s also an amazing way to reach out to the community of the Sandy Hook Victims.”

Now that the Final Straw is getting bigger, other members of the class are looking to lend a hand as well.

“We want to end instances such as Sandy Hook, Columbine, Aurora, and so many more from happening by making a change and taking a stand,” said Tartaglia.

“Make your straw the last straw.”

With a combination of hard work and passionate students, The Last Straw Campaign has been paying off extremely well.

“I have been impressed with the work that all of the groups have done. But given how Newtown has affected our campus, the group that has been working on gun control has taken on greater significance—not just for them, but for everyone in the class, I think,” added Michels.

For more information on the Last Straw Campaign, “like” their Facebook page at The Last Straw Campaign or follow them on Twitter @StrawCampaign.

New Pope ordained

...CONTINUED from page 1

“Being Latin American gives him an advantage. He understands the problems of poverty, of violence, of manipulation of the masses,” Alvarez said. “All that gives him experience for the job... He’s one of the family.”

Even Argentine President Cristina Fernandez, a sometimes antagonist who once compared Bergoglio’s stands on abortion and gay rights to “medieval times and the Inquisition,” offered congratulations.

“It’s our desire that you have a fruitful pastoral work, developing such great responsibilities in terms of justice, equality, fraternity and peace for human-kind,” she wrote in an open letter.

Latin America has some of the world’s sharpest divides between rich and poor, and Mario Cruz, a Catholic at the Parish of the Miraculous in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, said the pope’s “main challenge will be the fight against economic inequality.”

He also noted the erosion of church membership in the face of Protestant denominations and secularism. “I hope he calls those who have left and those without faith to the bosom of the church,” he said.

Monsignor Jose Cummings at the Cathedral of San Juan noted that the new pope “has presented himself as a simple and humble man,” and specifically mentioned the word charity in his first remarks.
Sacred Heart students love “food porn”
Students comment on Instagramming pictures of food

Erin Marley
Editor-in-Chief
Michala Fitzpatrick
Staff Reporter

I recently Instagrammed a lot of food from Costa Rica when I went there on vacation. I think college kids like to Instagram pictures of food from their spring break trips to show some cultural differences,” said junior Anthony Campbell.

Instagram is an online photo-sharing and social networking site that enables its users to edit and share photographs with their friends.

“I don’t generally tend to Instagram photos of food,” said junior Elise Lorenz. “I have noticed, though, that many people do tend to hashtag the word ‘foodporn.’”

The trend of sharing images of food has become increasingly popular amongst Sacred Heart students.

“I Instagram pictures of sushi frequently, and I’ve noticed a lot of other people from SHU do too,” said Campion.

There are a number of reasons why students enjoy sharing their food photos.

“I usually only upload photos of baked goods that I make,” said sophomore Alanna Woodford. “I like to try to get creative around the holidays and show off my creations to my friends. I made Santa strawberries around Christmas.”

Instagramming pictures of food isn’t the only thing that is trending among college students.

There are a number of established restaurants around Sacred Heart that students say have good dishes to present as “foodporn” photos.

“Goodfellas, Best Edibles, Mario the Baker and Merritt Canteen are all really popular places for SHU students to Instagram,” said junior Jenna Sheridan.

Other students can agree on this.

“Bacon Egg and Cheese sandwiches are by far one of the most popular foods to Instagram, especially from Best Edibles,” said junior Angelo DiSorbo.

Some students believe that this movement may be more common among the demographic of college students.

“I think once you get into college and live on your own some people really get into and creative with their cooking or they just enjoy the pleasures of whatever kind of takeaway they want,” said Sheridan.

Sheridan is not the only student who feels that there is a certain group of people that is more likely to Instagram pictures of their food.

“I think it’s popular among upperclassmen because it’s a whole new world of eating once you are living on your own,” said junior Gina DeFeo.

Another trend among college students is sharing their favorite meal.

“Breakfast is my favorite meal of the day because I get to Instagram pictures of my homemade shakes with my ninja that I just got for Christmas,” said DeFeo.

People take pride in their recipes and the food that they create and want to share their results with their friends.

“My friend and I are having a competition of who can cook the best meals,” said senior Stephanie Ringbauer. “Any good meals we make we post on Instagram for our friends to see.”

Amy Says...

The art of traveling

Traveling is something I will never stop doing. I love it. With that said, I do have some unfortunate aspects of it cannot go unnoticed.

Let’s take airports for instance. I think I can safely say that most people deem airports as being awful. It is impossible not to turn into an irritable 5-year-old after sitting in one for thirty minutes. You have the screaming babies, intercom announcements that have to be said in 12 different languages, eight-dollar bags of chips and security in general, as a few lovely elements.

Going through airport security might as well be the pinnacle of monotony. Let’s just say, I know they’re looking me naked through those machines. They aren’t fooling anyone with their unassuming stares! Have you noticed that there always is one passenger who can’t seem to make it past the checkpoints?

The real question is, what is so bad about carrying a jar of peanut butter on board an airplane? I turn to the security guy and say, “it’s not like I have a liquid bomb in there.” He responds curiously while rapidly patting down my head and shoulders. “You’re a surprise.” Never say “bomb” around airline securities... hypothetically or not.

I have also noticed that an airport terminal cannot be complete without at least 3 local birds flying around inside. I don’t know if the airports use them as some sort of metaphor or what. All I know is I once saw a lady get pooped on and she did not see the symbolism behind it.

Now that you’ve dodged all the birds and overly priced vendors, you’ve made it to your gate ready to board your plane. The flight attendant gets on the intercom and says, “first-class flyers you may now board at your leisure.” At your leisure? Oh how nice.

While this is happening, coach flyers are being arranged silently in a single file line. Why do first-class people get to board first? Yes I know it’s essential for these people to watch the “poor person parade” comfortably from their own seats, or should I say living room recliner. Even so, it would make much more sense to board from back to front. That way people don’t have to climb over others.

After everyone is in their seats, a 20-minute safety presentation is performed. News flash: If we crash from 35,000 feet there are going to be some exits they didn’t mention to us.

From there on out, in ten-minute intervals, the pilot will be on the intercom for updates. “This is your captain speaking. We have now reached a cruising altitude of 35 thousand feet.”

Thanks for the information and it was truly thought provoking the first four times I heard it. I know, now I am just being picky.

In retrospect, it is truly astounding that we are even able to go through all these trials of traveling. I mean we used to take voyages via ship that would take years to complete and only half the crew would survive. The fact that we can travel from New York to Europe in 7 hours without developing Small Pox is astounding.

This is why all the complaining that takes place on airplanes should not happen. We all need to just sit back for a minute and realize we are able to be thousands of feet in the air while watching a Romantic Comedy and sipping on a cup of soda. Like what? We can fly in the goddamn sky. It’s amazing and quite a miracle.
Hawley Lounge: Sacred Heart hot spot

Students comment on their positive experiences in the Hawley Lounge

Meghan Amaya
Staff Reporter

"You can always find me in Hawley lounge. I love Hawley because I always get to meet new people and it's convenient when having to do homework. It's a nice place to hang out with friends. I enjoy keeping busy and the lounge is where there is always something to do," said junior Alexis Ramirez.

Hawley Lounge is a place where you can go between your classes and relax or study. You will often find commuter students occupying Hawley.

"I spend a lot of time in Hawley lounge because I am a commuter student. I find that the environment in Hawley lounge is completely different from the rest of the school. Maybe it's because the majority of us are commuters and we understand and share the feeling," said senior Mollie Boushark.

Hawley Lounge is not just a lounge used to kill time. It is a welcoming and friendly place that will always keep you entertained and wanting to come back.

"Ever since I started coming to Hawley last year I have met many different people that I didn't expect to. Because of that, I go there much more this year. I find that it is great for students who want to meet new people and don't necessarily get the chance elsewhere," said sophomore Andrew Wysocki.

The lounge is also used for student services. There are often meetings or appointments held by different organizations such as clubs, sororities and fraternities. You can find Student Government and student activities to buy concert tickets and out of school trips.

"I spend most of my time here and I have had a such a positive experience every time. I am a new student to Sacred Heart and literally every friend that I have, made I met in Hawley.

There is never a dull moment in this friendly atmosphere. It's nice to get away from the stress of class and just talk to people, play pool or a board game," said freshman Denicia Thompson.

Hawley Lounge is also an attraction when the S.E.T. Student Events Team, hosts fun activities such as custom made accessories.

"I have always enjoyed the activities put on by the Sacred Heart's Student Events Team in Hawley Lounge. Whether it is Minute to Win It, make my own Pixie Stix, key chains, or taking pictures for iPhone cases, the Student Events Team always has an enjoyable event for the students, both residents and commuters, to participate in," said junior Rob Morales.

When you spend so much time in a certain place, you begin to have a special connection with the location and the people.

"The lounge is wonderful for social gathering and seems to be busy during much of the day, but when it gets busy, it also tends to get loud. I usually do my homework there and socialize with my friends, and it really gives me a sense of belonging. It is nice to be a part of a group that cares about each other and is always bringing in new faces and plenty of funny moments," said sophomore Andrew Wysocki.

This article was contributed to by Amy Nunes, Assistant Perspectives Editor

Hey girl.

Shakespeare's got nothin' on you.

Email Spectrum@sacredheart.edu to be a contributing writer.
Best of Bob Dylan

Dan Otzel
Sports Editor

Well, it’s that time again.

Time for my pen to ink another Bob Dylan article.

I just can’t help.

Last month, Rolling Stone Magazine released a “Bob Dylan Special Collector’s Edition” that consists of Rolling Stone interviews, tributes from Mick Jagger to Benito, most importantly, a definitive (so they say) list of Dylan’s greatest 100 songs.

The list was a collaboration of artists, writers and Dylan experts. Experts, or ‘Dylanologists,’ all have their own, wildly different, definitive lists of the troubadour’s most outstanding lyrical and musical achievements.

As do I.

So, with that said, here are my top 10 greatest Dylan songs:

1. “It’s Alright, Ma (I’m Only Bleeding),” 1965. Easily, Dylan’s greatest lyrical beginning of a song. “Darkness at the break of noon/Shadow’s even the silver spoon/The handmade blade, the child’s balloon/Epochs both the sun and moon/To understand you know too soon/There is no sense in trying.”

2. “Mississippi,” 2001. The original release is great, but the alternate version released in 2008 takes the tune to a different level and catapults this song into my top 10.

3. “Like a Rolling Stone,” 1965. Tabbed by Rolling Stone as the greatest song ever written. “Like a Rolling Stone” still reigns as a masterful ride through raw emotions. It also legitimized Dylan as an electric powerhouse, the poet laureate of rock and roll. “How does it feel?”

1. “Blowin’ In The Wind,” 1963. Dylan at his Dylanist. “Blowin’ In The Wind” was the brainstorm of a 22-year-old folk singer from Minnesota that changed the way many youth viewed their world. Who would have guessed that the skinny kid with a curly mop of hair could produce one of the most poignant, yet simple, songs of all time? “How many roads must a man walk down/Before you call him a man?”

4. “The Times They Are A-Changin’,” 1964. One of the most famous songs of the 60’s. “The Times They Are A-Changin’” categorized the changing landscape of America then and now.

5. “Desolation Row,” 1965. The final song on “Highway 61 Revisited,” Dylan’s greatest album (that’s another article). “Desolation Row” is a beautifully haunting and vivid portrayal of an anguish-filled mystery locale. Every time I hear the song, I am transported to a bleakly lit city street in the center of Dylan’s mind. “And Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot/Fighting in the captain’s pew.”


7. “A Hard Rain’s A-Gonna Fall,” 1963. The song that made poet Allen Ginsberg weep the first time he heard it and the song that brands Dylan as a poetic prophet. “A Hard Rain’s A-Gonna Fall” still fails to achieve the fanfare it deserves. “Then I’ll stand on the ocean until I start sinkin’/But I know my song well before I start singin’.”


9. “Blowin’ In The Wind,” 1963. Dylan at his Dylanist. “Blowin’ In The Wind” was the brainstorm of a 22-year-old folk singer from Minnesota that changed the way many youth viewed their world. Who would have guessed that the skinny kid with a curly mop of hair could produce one of the most poignant, yet simple, songs of all time? “How many roads must a man walk down/Before you call him a man?”


Spring break in Indiana

Jeff Daley
A&E Editor

When your friends come back from a service week over Spring Break and you ask them about their experience, they try as best as they can to paint a picture of their week.

I personally have had a hard time talking about my week because words simply cannot describe the time we have during this service week.

To me, a service week is something that you have to experience for yourself.

Last year, when I was a sophomore, I chose to be apart of one of the biggest organizations here on campus. Habitat for Humanity has been a huge influence to me and will always be close to my heart.

When I joined, I heard nothing but great things about the club and really wanted to experience what my friends had participated in their freshman year during spring break.

Having done previous service work, it was something I really wanted to be apart of because I absolutely love helping out the community.

Spring Break came along that year and I was fortunate enough to be chosen for a trip to Benton, Arkansas with 15 other students.

That was my first trip and I will never forget that week or the people I met.

After that trip, I knew I wanted to be apart of Habitat for Humanity on a bigger scale.

Following that trip, I was elected on the club’s executive board along with 11 other students who show as much love for Habitat as I do.

This past year, our eBoard has been working very hard to fill the shoes of previous Habitat clubs.

It is definitely a tough task to take on, but I think we killed it.

Spring Break came up fast and before I knew it, I was Co-leading 16 other students into South Bend, IN, with my best friend Nicole Floriano.

The two advisors on our trip were Amy Ricci, Director of Student Activities and Graduate Student, Eddie Kennedy.

I would not trade any one person that I went with on that trip because by the end of the week, we all became one big family.

The Habitat we partnered up with, Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County, were so accepting of us and treated us very well.

We felt so welcomed in Indiana and loved every minute spent there.

During our week in South Bend, we learned that spring break had a great time at the Habitat work site.

The woman we were helping was a single mother of two daughters and worked more than one job. Her name was Chantilly and was one of the most down to earth people I have met in my life.

During our week, the crewmen working at the site became very close to our group.

I especially got close to one crew member named Gerry. Gerry reminded me a lot of my grandfather and inspired me. He taught me things that my grandfather couldn’t in his old age.

When I first met him everyone said that I was like his son because we both had two of the same bandannas and had the same personalities.

At the end of the week, I traded bandannas with Gerry. He gave me his favorite bandana: a brown bandana that I will never forget.

That’s what I love about community service.

I think that the people you encounter in your service are the most ‘real’ people you could ever meet.

That really is the main reason why I love Habitat so much. The people we help are the most deserving people, and value everything they have in their lives, while most take things for granted.

My group left a part of themselves in South Bend, Indiana and I hope someday we all go back.
Features

Horizons Literary Journal prepares for publication

Elizabeth Lezama
Managing Editor
Bethany Barbar
Staff Reporter

Within the next couple months, Horizons, an interdisciplinary, multi-cultural journal celebrating the creativity of Sacred Heart University students, will be publishing its 28th issue this Spring.

Horizons is a yearly journal that exhibits the creativity of Sacred Heart students. Although the journal was a blended publication in the past, featuring an online and print version, it became exclusively online in 2007.

Students of the university may submit various creative works for consideration. Types of creative works accepted include: fiction and drama, creative non-fiction and essay, photography and art, and poetry.

“All works are creative. Whether they are works of creative non-fiction, a selection of poetry, or works of art is irrelevant. This is something where everyone is welcome to submit,” said senior essay and creative non-fiction editor, Elizabeth Lezama.

With a unique theme to each issue, students have the ability to express their creativity in a cohesive work that sends a message. The theme for the 2013 issue will be "Everything Within the Book-Ends of Life."

“This journal is an opportunity to showcase our voices and have our messages heard. It’s about us as writers, artists, and photographers and what we have to say,” said senior fiction and drama editor of Horizons, Samantha Malachowski.

Book-ends can include works that relate to family, friends, church, growing up, identity, roles, etc. Although works must fit within the confines of the theme, Horizons does not censor any material submitted, save for gratuitous content.

Horizons is a student run publication consisting of five editors. Each issue of Horizons showcases the ethos of the editors. This year’s editors include: senior Lezama for creative non-fiction and essay, senior Malachowski for fiction and drama, senior Justine Quammie Bassomb for poetry, freshman Mary Award for photography and art, and junior Nick Aquilino for the technological aspects.

Dr. Sandra Young of the English Department acts as the Faculty Editor and Advisor of Horizons.

Not only are editors honing their editorial skills, but students who submit have the chance to enhance their portfolios by providing direct links to their published work.

“All of the editors have one goal: to promote the creativity of SHU students,” said Young.

Horizons is a tool for portraying the creativity of Sacred Heart and all it has to offer. Showing others, regardless of location, the diversity and talent that the university is capable of is a key aspect of the journal.

I work side by side with the art department to make sure all the art that is not seen at Oakview can be seen by the student body through Horizons,” said Award.

Every editor works towards the same goal of presenting an admirable collection of works that Sacred Heart can be proud of.

“With taste and talent, we hope to present a wide array of poetry,” said Quammie Bassomb.

With the publication deadline approaching quickly, the editors are excited to see the university’s potential printed in Horizons.

“We want your voices to be heard! We are looking to inspire and impress our colleagues by showcasing our community’s creative side,” said Malachowski.

Submissions are still being accepted for the various sections until early April.

Those interested in submitting to Horizons may reach the editors at their respective emails:
lezama@sacredheart.edu (creative non-fiction/essay)
malachowski@sacredheart.edu (fiction and drama)

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Success for first ever Student Philanthropy Week

Katelyn Racanelli
Staff Reporter

As the midterm period comes to a close and students get ready for Easter Break, the Ryan-Matura Library is packed more than usual at Sacred Heart University. With the new renovations the building received this past year, and all the resources available to students without charge, students are encouraged to take advantage of all the library has to offer.

“Unfortunately, there are a lot of students who have no idea what there is to offer,” said Libby Knapp, Head of Information Literacy Programs.

The Ryan-Matura library offers different resources to students and faculty, including access to e-journals, textbooks, and a Patent and TradeMark Resource Center. According to Libguides-SacredHeart.edu, the PTMC is "designed to support the individual or corporate/legal researcher’s efforts to conduct self-directed and preliminary research."

After receiving feedback and criticism of over 300 surveys from the Sacred Heart community, the library has designated the second floor to be a ‘quiet zone’, according to a recent e-mail sent campus-wide.

“You asked for more quiet space on the library’s second floor,” states the e-mail from Peter Ferrity, librarian of the Ryan-Matura library.

“The Library’s second (upper) floor has been designated as a ‘quiet zone’ and is the only designated quiet study space on campus.”

The e-mail goes on to mention how the new regulations will be enforced.

“If you are making noise upstairs with a group study session, you will be asked to move downstairs,” said the e-mail.

The Information Literacy course was once required of all students to show how to utilize the programs within the Ryan-Matura Library. However, the course is no longer required for the individual or corporate/legal researcher.

"We can offer the information, but if they want to follow through with an inquiry, then they need to do research on their own." said Knapp.

Knapp explained that many of the resources that the library offers are often underused. She said that once the resources are used, the students will be able to see how useful all of the databases are.

"All of the databases we use here at Sacred Heart are out in the work force. They may have different interfaces but they all have the same foundations. Hospitals, PR firms, Fox News, etc. all have libraries and everyone needs information," said Knapp.

Other students visit the library frequently and are familiar with many, if not all, of its resources.

“If I live in the library twice a week, I am aware of what they offer, particularly the interlibrary loan," said sophomore Joe Erdos.

This article was contributed to by Sam Malachowski, Chief Copy Editor.
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Sacred Heart's own 'Survivor'

Ashley Monplaisir
Staff Reporter

Sacred Heart University alumni have proven that we will survive in the world outside this university's walls. Former student Allie Pohevitz is a prime example of our alumni doing big things.

Pohevitz first put her foot through the door when she became a contestant on the popular television show "Survivor." Prior to the show Pohevitz, like many viewers was a big fan.

"I was a huge fan of the show since the first episode. I used to watch it with my family when I was 11 years old when the first season aired," said Pohevitz.

"Survivor" is a reality game show where contestants live in the wilderness and compete.

"Going into it, obviously the biggest motivating factor in becoming a contestant was the money, but aside from that, I just looked at it as the ultimate social experiment. Where else would you ever be put into this type of a situation with people from all across the country? There is no way to ever experience the types of ups and downs we all felt unless we were in a situation like this," said Pohevitz.

Pohevitz had a great time on the show, even though it was short lived.

"My experience on the show was absolutely positive, though it ended way too soon," said Pohevitz. "While I had some less than stellar moments, I wouldn't trade a second of it for anything in the world."

Preparing for a show like "Survivor" doesn't seem possible.

"Sacred Heart definitely helped me as far as getting prepared for Survivor," said Pohevitz. "I mean, I lived in a suite in North with 11 other girls. If I could make it through that, I can make it through anything."

Being a part of a show like "Survivor" there are a lot of memorable moments that come with it.

"As a contestant my favorite moment was honestly just stepping onto the mat and getting our Buffs for the first time. I had been dreaming of that moment for over half my life, so to finally have it come true was beyond anything I could even begin to describe," said Pohevitz.

Though Sacred Heart's own didn't make it far in the competition, she says she would go back for a re-try if given the chance.

"I would do it again in a heartbeat. If they offered to bring me back right now I would hop on the next plane, no questions asked. I need some redemption," said Pohevitz.

As for any Sacred Heart students who are looking to get involved, Pohevitz provides some words of advice.

"As fast as getting on the show, just be yourself. Casting can definitely see through the fake personas you are trying to present, and unless you are being your true self, or you are a phenomenal actor, that isn't going to cut it. They want to see the real you, and that is what makes the show so great," said Pohevitz.

Flo Rida coming to Sacred Heart

Michele Capocci
Staff Reporter

This Friday, March 22, Florida-born rapper Flo Rida will be performing at Sacred Heart's Pitt Center.

With Wiz Khalifa as last years spring performance and Kid Cudi the year before, Sacred Heart student activities team definitely had their work cut out for them in choosing this years' performance.

However, Amy Ricci, director of student activities had a plan in choosing this years artist.

"I think that our office has certainly kept up to date with current artists that are doing well right now on the radio and in other mediums," said Ricci. "We always try to get an artist that is well known and appeals to a majority of the students. We've had rap artists for a while and they've done really well, so we wanted to try and get a hip hop/dance artist and cater to other musical interests of our students."

With singles such as "Low" (feat. T-Pain), "Right Round," "Club Can't Handle Me," and his most recent hits, "Good Feeling" and "Wild Ones (feat. Sia)," Flo Rida seems like a solid choice.

He has also broken barriers by uniting millions of fans of pop, hip-hop, and club music on calibrations with many artists from different musical genres.

"The Flo Rida concert seems like it will be a good time. I'll be there with friends, and his songs are pretty catchy. I'm sure everyone will be singing along and having fun," said freshman Christian Spies.

Though some are looking forward to the concert this Friday, others believe it might not be the best choice.

Junior Danielle Tomlin said, "I personally like Flo Rida, I think he has some good music but for the majority of students here he isn't the most popular or favored artist they would like to see perform."

Though Flo Rida may not reach the largest demographic at school, student activities is still expecting a large crowd.

"Those who may not have come out to one of our previous shows are coming out for this one and those who come to every show are saying that they wouldn't miss a concert at SHU regardless of who it is," said Ricci.

Students plan on attending just for the good time.

"I've heard a lot of students talk negatively about the concert, but I'm going. I feel like seeing anyone in concert is fun regardless of how famous or not they are," said Spies.

On the contrary, other student's do not plan on going.

"I am not going to the concert, I don't listen to Flo Rida or that type of genre of music at all, I'm sure it would be fun to go with all my friends but I don't want to spend the money on someone I don't even really know his songs," said junior Lizzy Scattereday.

Even students somewhat familiar with his songs aren't planning on going. Sophomore Phil Falcone said, "I am not going to the Flo Rida concert because I don't follow his music that much and also I don't think he should've been chosen as someone to come to SHU. I think a lot of his music has become very outdated."

Though many students are up set over this years concert choice, Scattereday offers up a solution to the problem.

"I think it would be a good idea for students (of all life or whoever chooses the concerts) to pick a couple artists/bands and then send out an email survey for the students to vote on the one they want the most," said Scattereday. "I think that would boost their sales by letting them know what the majority of students want at the concert and it will allow them to incorporate all of the university.

Whether or not students will enjoy Flo Rida, students believe the experience itself will prove to be a good time.

"Everyone has different taste in music, so I understand it's hard for the school to choose," said Tomlin. "But I do hope those who go have fun and enjoy it."

"It's an experience and a fun performer, but some students believe the experience itself will prove to be a good time.

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"Every
"Nunsense" at Sacred Heart

Students performing in this weekend’s "Nunsense".

Tyler Kemp
Staff Reporter

On March 14, "Nunsense," a benefit show hosted by the theatre arts program premiered at Sacred Heart University.

Many supportive patrons watched in the old chapel as the "Little Sisters of Hoboken" tore up the stage.

There were a total of nine nuns in the performance, all directed by Leo P. Carusone. He not only directed the actresses, but the entire musical score as well.

This was just one of the several shows presented, spanning a time frame from March 14 to 17.

Nunsense, which originally premiered in 1985, is a musical comedy with a book, music, and lyrics by Dan Goggin.

Goggin expanded the concept into a cabaret that ran for 38 weeks, and eventually into a full-length musical.

The original off-Broadway production opened December 12, 1985, and after over 3,000 shows, became the second-longest-running off-broadway show in history. Carusone was the original musical director for the show in the 1985 and has since helped out Goggin.

The success of the show prompted six sequels, and three spin-offs. By the time it had closed, it had been translated into 26 different languages, and grossed over $500 million, worldwide.

Sister Mary Regina, who was played by freshman Theresa Borsini, regaled as mother superior.

Throughout the play, she was constantly hassled with the stresses of being a mother figure.

At her side was sister Mary Hubert, played by senior Stephanie Tagliantieri.

Other performers with large roles included freshman Haley Tannella, sophomore Alana Miller, and junior Lindsay Shea.

Act one was broken up into 15 scenes, and ran for about an hour. The structure allowed for a very smooth process. Each sister had their own personal stories, and the audience was able to connect with each one.

"That first act was great! I didn’t exactly know what to expect at first, but once they got the ball rolling, the laughs kept coming," said junior Chris Rivera. "I can’t wait to see what they’ve got planned for act two."

"So far, so great!" said Greg Mills from East Haven, CT.

In between acts, there were refreshments sold while the audience was able to congregate and stretch their legs.

After a short break, the audience was quickly drawn back in by the performers. Act two was also segmented into 15 different scenes, running for about an hour as well.

"I thought it went very well! It was the first time they had an audience, so they weren’t used to the laughter," said director Leo P. Carusone. "It was fun!"

"Best SHU musical I’ve seen so far, those nuns were hilarious," said freshman Andrew Lawlor.

For those who missed out, SHU’s TAP (Theater Arts Program) has an upcoming play entitled "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," playing April 18-21.

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Get active with SHU intramurals

Nick McAneney
Staff Reporter

With 31 Division I sports at Sacred Heart University, it is impossible not to walk the campus and see athletes cloaked in gear signifying their belonging to a certain team.

But, what about students not competing at the DI level? There are club sports, but that requires a major time commitment.

Enter the Sacred Heart University Intramural Program.

Intramurals at Sacred Heart offer students the flexibility and opportunity to compete in a variety of sports throughout the school year. The diverse field of sports offered allow participants to get their exercise in a friendly, yet competitive, atmosphere, while still having the choice to play some of their favorite sports.

“We offer a variety of intramural sports to students in both the fall and the spring,” said Maile Hetherington, the Graduate Assistant for Intramural Sports. “In the fall, we have flag football, basketball, indoor soccer, volleyball and dodgeball. Spring sports include flag football again, outdoor soccer, basketball, floor hockey and tennis.”

Even though any student can join, there are certain restrictions for DI athletes. DI athletes are prohibited from playing the same or a similar sport to the sport they play at Sacred Heart. That is the only restriction of the intramural program.

This spring, the plethora of sports that will be offered are soccer, flag football, a women’s soccer tournament, an ultimate Frisbee game, floor hockey, two softball tournaments and a tennis tournament along with free play.

The women’s soccer tournament is March 19 and the ultimate Frisbee game is on March 20, the same day floor hockey begins. Flag football kicks off March 24 and the softball tournaments are March 23-24. Tennis is available every Saturday from April 20 to May 4.

Every team can be co-ed except for the women’s soccer tournament team. Each team consists of teams of 5 vs. 5, except for the women’s soccer tournament, which is 4 vs. 4. Soccer and football are played with two 20 minute halves, while floor hockey is three 12 minute running periods.

Soccer is played on Monday and Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Flag football is played on Sunday, also from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Floor hockey is played on Wednesday and Thursday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., as well.

Intramural sports are also a great opportunity for students to interact with each other.

“I really enjoy playing intramural sports,” said sophomore Craig Dix. “It allows my friends and I to get together and do something we all want to do, and have it be competitive, but also fun, at the same time.”

And, for those who think these games do not matter to the intramural athletes, they will tell you otherwise.

“It can become about bragging rights,” said sophomore Liam Doyle. “If you beat a team that your friend plays on and then you see them around campus, you’re going to be like, ‘Hey, we got you guys good. Can’t wait to do it again.’ It’s a nice feeling.”

Not only do these sports offer competition for students, it is also a way for Sacred Heart to promote good sportsmanship among the student body.

“The best part about intramural sports,” said Hetherington, “is that it’s a great way for players to be a part of team without the high practice demands of a varsity or club sport. We promote a healthy level of competition and encourage good sportsmanship. It’s just an all-around great way to stay active in a fun and positive atmosphere.”

If you are interested in signing up for any of the intramural sports teams, you can do so through the Sacred Heart website.

Do you suffer from headaches when you study?
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To make an appointment call: (203)396-8181
Pete Mormino
Contributing Writer

The 2013 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship Tournament celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, and college basketball has provided us with a bracket full of many teams that have the potential to go all the way in a season where five teams held the top ranking in the country, the selection committee hasn't seen a tournament stranger than this one.

"Our job is just to identify who we believe are the best teams," said Mike Bobinski, chairman of the selection committee, to the media. "I think it's great for college basketball when, in the committee's evaluation, there are good teams spread all around the country in a variety of different settings and leagues. That's a positive, as far as we're concerned."

The diverse field shows no favoritism after a season full of shocking ups and inconsistent teams that have played without a firm grip on their destiny. Teams coming from big and small conferences are replacing the regulars that normally populate the brackets, hoping to become the Cinderella story everyone dreams of.

On Selection Sunday, the 10 member selection committee unveiled the field of 68 teams that will battle all over the country.

Louisville, Kansas, Indiana and Gonzaga have been seeded No. 1 in each of the four regions. Kentucky, last year's champion, misses out on this year's tournament. Some would argue if the Wildcats deserve a spot, or in Middle Tennessee State, an at-large team from the Sun Belt Conference who took the final spot in the tournament, more deserving? Kentucky is the 5th defending National Champion to not make the tournament since the field was expanded to 64 teams in 1985 and, then, 68 in 2011.

"We had our chances, but I'm not going to stop," said Kentucky head coach John Calipari to the media. "It's a great lesson for the future of our program and a humbling experience for me as a coach."

MIDWEST Louisville was awarded the top overall seed, No. 1 in the Midwest Region. The Cardinals seem to be the most complete team as of late, and the momentum will take them a long way.

Rightfully so, Louisville's resume proves a point with 10 wins versus the RPI top 50, which is more than Duke, Gonzaga, Indiana and Miami. The Cardinals also won the Big East Tournament for the second straight year after Saturday's comeback victory over Syracuse. Duke is more than thankful to have star player Ryan Kelly back and healthy just in time. Coach K's team will make a solid run and land themselves in the Elite 8 with consistent play from deep threat Seth Curry and big man Mason Plumlee. The Blue Devils will take on No. 15 seed Albany in Philadelphia in the opening round. The Great Danes of Albany fell just short of upsetting UConn in the first round of the 2006 Tournament. Pac 12 Champions, Oregon (26-8), are led by a veteran front court and will battle the Beavers of Oklahoma State. St. Louis will be challenged by New Mexico State, who will eventually meet Oregon. But, Louisville cleans this all up on its way to the Final Four.

Michigan State and Duke will meet in the Sweet 16 in the bottom of the bracket. Coach Izzo is a veteran coach who's become very comfortable winning in this tournament.

WEST In the West, Gonzaga gets its first No. 1 seed in school history. The Zags strength of schedule was 97th in the country second worst strength of schedule of any No. 1 seed in the last 20 years.

Ohio State's defense will be too strong for Notre Dame's offense. The Buckeyes were here a year ago and are riding an eight-game win streak.

Kansas State received the No. 4 seed, as a Big 12 at large bid, but getting past Wisconsin in the following round seems overwhelming.

Gonzaga and Ohio State run through the West Region and meet in the Elite 8.

SOUTH Here we have Kansas, Georgetown, Florida and Michigan.

Kansas is the No.1 seed, the Jayhawks' 11th No.1 seed, which ties them for the 3rd most all-time. They are 6-1 vs. RPI top 25 and 15-4 versus the top 100 this season. Kansas is making its 24th consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance, the longest active streak in men's college basketball. Kansas takes on North Carolina but prevails with solid play from Elijah Johnson, who has been great all year. Michigan ends VCU's run early behind the play of Trey Burke.

Kansas and Michigan meet in the Sweet 16 in the top half of the bracket, with Georgetown and Florida in the bottom half.

EAST Indiana is the No. 1 seed in the East Region. The Hoosiers were 3-0 against the RPI top 10 and have no losses outside the top 50. This will be Indiana's third ever No. 1 seed. They reached the Elite 8 in 1993 and won the national title in 1987.

"It has been a long time and a long, hard process to get a program back to considered among the best in the country," Indiana head coach Tom Crean said at a news conference.

Indiana was the closest thing to a dominant team this season but find themselves in a tough East Region that includes Marquette, Syracuse and Miami.

"The program has been considered for decades as one of the best in the country, but now to have a team and have this program back there with that seeding behind it is fantastic," said Crean. NC State is led by star CJ Leslie, but Victor Oladipo and the Hoosiers will be too strong when they meet in the Round of 32.

UNLV beats No. 12 seed California in the First Round, but loses to Syracuse in the following round. Marquette is a No. 3 seed, matching its best seed ever. Although they face a veteran squad in Davison, led by Coach Bob McKillop, Buzz Williams' squad is too fast. Syracuse and Indiana in the Sweet 16 will be a very exciting contest and Miami will knock off Marquette in the bottom half of the bracket in this deep East Region.

"I think togetherness, unselfishness playing for each other, is often overlooked and undervalued," said CBS Analyst Clark Kellogg. "Those attributes of unity and chemistry can often be an equalizer as long as the talent gap isn't super great."

A region that includes Coach K, Rick Pitino and Tom Izzo all in the same bracket is a formula for an exciting tournament. Opening games will be more competitive than ever, with only more madness following in the weeks to come.

"I still think there will be a healthy chance to see some turbulence in the first weekend," Kellogg said. "I think we'll have an exciting tournament."

Brackets will be busted and the tournament will live up to its expectation. Here's what happens in the end: Louisville beats Ohio State and Indiana beats Michigan. Louisville and Indiana have a date in Atlanta's Georgia Dome on April 8, where the Hoosiers become the 2013 National Champions.

The 2013 NCAA Tournament tips off with the First Four in Dayton on March 19-20. Fill out your bracket, and see if you can pick who will be cutting down the nets in the Georgia Dome on April 8th.
Sports

Automatic bid gone in a Red Flash

Women’s basketball stunned in NEC tournament

Dan Otzel
Sports Editor

A repeat trip to the Big Dance was abruptly can-
celled for the Sacred Heart University women’s bas-
ketball team last Wednesday night, as they were over-
whelmed by Saint Francis University (Pa.), 83-67.

"We were just totally outplayed, outcoached and
out-prepared right from the opening tip," said Sacred
Heart Pioneers head coach Ed Swanson, the New
England Basketball Hall of Famer who is tied for the
most NEC Tournament wins in conference history
with 16. “Kudos to Saint Francis, I thought they played a
terrible game. They played with high energy [and] high
emotion and we didn’t match that, and that’s my fault.
They just outworked and outplayed us.”

On a day where Sacred Heart never led, the Saint
Francis Red Flash jumped out to a quick 8-1 lead, in
a little over a minute, and never looked back.

“We came out with an intensity right from the
jump,” said Saint Francis head coach Joe Haigh, in
his first season as head coach and fifth with the pro-
gram. “They came out today and decided we weren’t going
to lose the game.”

Spurred by junior forward Ali Williams and her 17
first half points, the Red Flash were able to push their
lead to 20, 29-9, midway through the opening frame.
Williams, an All-NEC First Team and an All-Mid Major
selection, terrorized the home team in front of 632 at the
Pitt Center.

In a quest to deliver Saint Francis its 12th NEC
title, Williams filled the stat sheet with 24 points, 12
rebounds, six steals and four assists.

“It was do or die,” said Williams, who ranks in the
top two of the NEC in scoring and steals. “We needed to
win; it was the only option. We came out strong and we
never looked back.”

Sacred Heart looked poised to make a run, cutting
the deficit to 16 twice, but Saint Francis freshman guard
Aisha Brock hit the shot that summarized the evening
– an ugly bank-job three time as expirited – to give her
squad a 46-26 halftime advantage.

“We dug the hole for ourselves,” said Sacred Heart
junior point guard Erica Norman. “We have to pay
the price and learn that we can’t get tired and just dig in.
We can’t trade baskets with them and we did. Every time we
scored, we came back, we were just ready and they hit
big shots.”

Norman, last year’s NEC Tournament MVP and
an All-NEC Third Team pick this year, struggled
Wednesday with Saint Francis’ game plan execution,
turning the ball over six times in 27 minutes.

After Norman quarterbacked Sacred Heart to two
blowout wins against the Red Flash already this season,
Haigh and his staff prepared a simple game plan: disrupt
the point guard who ranks fourth in the nation in assists.

“We did have a different game plan coming into this
game,” said Haigh. “[We] did a great job defensively at
the front of our press trying to limit touches to Norman.
Sacred Heart’s been a great consistent team all year and
we know Norman’s one of the best point guards in the
league.”

That Saint Francis defense forced 23 Pioneer turn-
overs that resulted in 21 points. They also held Sacred
Heart to 32.1 percent shooting, while they shot 39.1 per-
cent from the field and 40.6 percent from beyond the arc.

“We knew their game plan to come and stop me and
get the ball out of my hand,” said Norman. “They suc-
cceeded in that. As a junior, I need to learn that I can’t let
them stop me and get the ball out of my hand. I have to
learn that I have to make one sharp cut and I need to get
myself open. I think I just need to put my big girl pants
on.”

The Red Flash would extend the lead to 23 – the
largest of the game – early in the second half, but Sacred
Heart refused to relinquish their NEC crown without a
fight.

The Pioneers closed the gap by three over the next
five minutes and, with 12:49 remaining, launched
into a 9.0 run, ignited by sophomore guard Gabby
Washington’s jumper, that would leave them down 11,
58-47.

“We’re just thinking, ‘OK, let’s pick it up, we can
change the tide,’” said Washington. “They attacked it,
they came out with more energy, we came out flat, com-
plete. They came out ready to play and they had some-
thing to prove. They outplayed us.”

Although Washington led Sacred Heart with 16
points, the All-NEC Second Team member and 38.9
percent career shooter shot a dismal 17.6 percent (3-17)
from the field, including a 0-9 first half.

“We defended great,” said Haigh. “Washington had
to work a little harder on the perimeter [and] we did a
great job of executing our defensive game plan off the
ball.”

After exchanging blows, the Pioneers found another
spurt, as Norman and Washington would each tally two
points and cut the lead to 10, 63-53, with 5:39 left.

“I thought we used so much energy trying to come
back,” admitted Swanson. “And, give Saint Francis cred-
it, every time we made a little run, they had an answer.
They came in here, it’s a tough place to play, and they
took it to us. All the credit to them.”

10 would be as close as Sacred Heart would come,
however, as they were outscored 20-14 the rest of the
way.

If the first half was the Ali Williams show, then the
second certainly belonged to Red Flash freshman
Rebecca Sparks, who dominated the final 20 minutes
with 16 points, on route to a career and game-high 27
points.

“We had practice yesterday, came back for a shoot
around last night and had shoot around this morning,”
said Williams. “It was good to get a lot of shots up in an
unfamiliar gym and we all felt confident. I don’t know
what happened to Sparks tonight. I never knew she was
a shooter, but we’ll go with it.”

Sparks, the 5-4 guard from Teaneck, N.J. who had
never scored in double figures until Mar. 4, was red hot
on a day where Francis seemed to be the operative name.
Sparks was 7-15 from the field, including 5-7 from three,
and 8-8 from the foul line. She also chipped in three
steals, two assists and two boards in just 28 minutes.
She eclipsed her career-highs in big goals made and
attempted, three made and attempted and free throws
made and attempted.

“When I came into the game,” said Sparks, “I was
nervous; so, so nervous. But, then, after a while, I put
all my effort and heart into it. If I were once, then it’s
on for the rest of the game. I’m not going to stop. I just
played, had fun.”

The loss drops Sacred Heart’s NEC Tournament
record to 16-11 overall and 13-4 at the Pitt Center, mak-
ing the Pioneers wait for their fourth NEC Championship
since joining the conference in 1999.

“I’m not shocked and that’s the disappointing
thing,” said Swanson. “We just missed some of the things
a championship team needs. One time it was leader-
ship, the next time it might have been toughness; it was
a whole bunch of different things throughout the year.
If I thought we played hard, I thought we improved, I just
don’t think I ever feel in my gut that we had that ches-
tice. But, I thought we had a terrific year.”

On Sunday, Saint Francis traveled to Hamden to
calculate Quinnipiac University, the NEC regular season
champs, for the conference’s ultimate prize. The Saint
Francis tourney run would end, though, as Quinnipiac
absolutely annihilated the Red Flash, 72-33, claiming an
automatic bid in NCAA Tournament.

Sacred Heart’s postseason life is not over, however.
With a second place regular season conference finish,
the Pioneers receive an automatic bid to the WNIIT, a 64
team field which begins tonight.

Senior forward Morgan Merriman looks for an open layup.