Cernera sets record straight

Ashley Winseck  
The Spectrum

Sacred Heart has been in the national news recently for one of the most distressing discoveries in campus history. President Anthony Cernera is providing a home to Charles Stubbs, a priest defrocked for molestation accusations.

A Connecticut Post story that ran last Thursday opened the floodgates to endless comments on Cernera’s decision. Contrary to the popular opinion that this information would bring to Cernera and the university, the comments Cernera received were nothing less than praise, according to Cernera.

“We have been flooded with letters, emails and phone calls from people saying thank you for doing this, what a wonderful example of Christian integrity,” Cernera said in an interview this past Monday.

This is not the expected reaction.

“I immediately thought [that] this is going to give out horrible publicity for our school and is going to look like our school promotes that sort of thing,” said Nicole Hubbard, junior, Valley Stream, N.Y.

Webb clearly stated the general opinion of the student body. What Cernera wants students and others to see is not that he was taking in a child molester, but that he was doing a favor for a friend.

“Without condemning any of his actions, when he needed a place to go in order to transform his own life, we made a personal, family decision to come to his assistance,” Cernera said in a personal statement.

Stubbs, accused with molestation charges, wasnever convicted, although he was formally defrocked in 1997. Despite the allegations, Cernera and family have been close friends with Stubbs for 18 years now, and have provided him with a home for the past three years.

The house where Stubbs resides is the vacation home of Cernera and his wife, which, Cernera explained, is vacant the majority of the year, aside from various summer weekends and other holidays. When it came time to make the decision to assist Stubbs, there was no question.

“It would have been inconceivable to us to say that we could not help,” Cernera said. “What would my children, or even the students, think of me if I did not offer my hospitality?”

The reputation of the university is always a concern to Cernera. In this case he never foresaw it becoming an issue. For him, this was not about Stubbs’ past; it was about helping him attain a new future.

Unfortunately for Cernera, that was not the message conveyed, particularly by the Connecticut Post’s story.

“If we are going by the reputation that our school is trying to set, that we are supposed to be a school with Catholic integrity and a well rounded Catholic tradition, then these actions are not acceptable,” said Ryan Clark, junior, New Rochelle, N.Y.

However, Cernera feels that the focus should be placed on what he did to help, See CERNERA on page 3...

Illustrator speaks at Annual Art Festival

Diana Muniz  
The Spectrum

SHU’s Annual Art Festival was held on Tuesday, April 11. The event took place in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts, where guest speaker Illustrator Jerry Pinkney shared his views on The Art of Telling a Story through his various works of art.

Students and faculty gathered together to watch a slideshow of Pinkney’s talent in the art of story telling. He was able to depict different eras through distinctive and distinguishing use of color, shape and lines.

“I wanted to show that an African American artist could make it on a national level in the graphic arts. I wanted to be a strong role model for my family and other African Americans,” said Pinkney.

‘Pinkney comes from a remarkable family of artists and writers committed to telling stories that celebrate the human spirit and have universal appeal; focusing on the African-American experience.

He has received many awards, some including: Multiple Caldecott Honor books, Multiple Coretta Scott King... See ART FESTIVAL on page 2...

Young at heart, third graders spend a day as college students

Rachael Yarmosh  
The Spectrum

On Friday, April 7, busloads of third grade students were dropped off at Sacred Heart University for the ‘Young at Heart’ program, where the children were “introduced to the possibilities of a future college education.” The day ran from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and included an opening ceremony, activities/sessions and lunch.

Amy Ricci, a mentor to first year students here at SHU, organized the second annual Young at Heart day.

“In our office, along with helping the first year students through their transition from high school to college, each mentor plays a role in planning events, lectures and programs for freshmen to participate in throughout the school year. One of my responsibilities was to organize our second Annual Young at Heart day and gather freshmen as well as upperclassmen, clubs/oranizations and staff from Sacred Heart to volunteer their time and expertise for the day,” said Ricci.

Young at Heart day is organized and hosted by the Mentor Office, but with the
A picture of the artist himself.

Awards and Coretta Scott King Honor books, designed to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to honor Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination in continuing to work for peace and world brotherhood.

"[The event] went tremendously well. It was well attended, and very important for the Art Department. He is a great person within the field of education, and diversity in American society," said Jonathan Walker, Chair, and assistant professor of the Art Department.

In addition to these awards, Pinkney received The Virginia Hamilton award, which recognizes an American author, or illustrator whose work demonstrates artistic excellence, makes a significant contribution to the field of multicultural literature for children and adolescents, and serves as a model for other artists in the field.

He talked about the passion for art and how he came about finding this love. He grew up in a small town in Philadelphia not surrounded by many children's books.

"I don't recall many children's books at our house, or being read to as a child.

One of the first books I remember was Little Black Sambo. I think then I was drawn to the story because there was a black character," said Pinkney.

"The first time I realized art was in my freshman year of college. I had a break and not knowing anyone wandered into an art gallery at school. I remember there how comfortable I felt. I felt like I belonged and owned this gallery space; not knowing my exact space.

Pinkney found his love for magazines, some of which he has illustrated for including: Readers Digest and National Geographic. He often switches the periods and places in his art work.

"I can go from illustrating a project regarding the slave trade, Underground Railroad to the jungle book for children. It's good to work with different periods, some being ideas and others dreams."

"I love nature and the idea of space and convincing the viewer that what is being seen is really happening. It helps to study and truly understand what it is you are drawing about. Doing this can really add a unique style and feeling to your work. I try to stay objective when expressing slavery and other similar tragedies. My job is to describe the horrific scene not express anger or hatred about that specific time period."

Pinkney concluded his presentation by saying, "Students need to find their love and voice. Try to find a voice, read as much as possible and see as much as you can. If you understand color and drawing, you can draw anything."
Young at heart, third graders go to college

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help from Sr. Donna Dodge in the Office of Mission and Planning and Phyllis Machledt in the Service Learning and Volunteer Office it all comes together.

The day began with three local elementary schools—John Winthrop School, Luis Munoz Marin School and Bryant School bringing their third grade students to our campus to participate in activities led by students and faculty here. By each school bringing between 50 and 75 third graders to Sacred Heart, we accommodated nearly 300 children as well as their teachers and chaperones.

The way the day worked is every school was broken into several groups consisting of 4-7 children and assigned a "buddy" for the afternoon. "Buddies are student volunteers. In order to be a Buddy, students were asked to sign up through our office. We then had training meetings the week of the event, giving the Buddies helpful hints on how to lead a group of third graders and what their role and responsibilities would be on that day," said Ricci.

"The children participated in physical, educational and artistic related activities all run by student clubs/organizations and various academic departments on campus," said Ricci. Such events included Kickball led by the Intramural Department, Freeze Dance led by Beta Delta, Scavenger Hunts led by the Student Alumni Association, a Mystery Hunt led by Zeta Iota Lambda, Sacred Heart students led some of the activities for these third graders.

Reading led by the Library staff, a Math Bee led by Nicole Faison & Melissa Sanders—RHSD's, Friendship/Teambuilding activity led by the National Honor Society of Psychology, History Jeopardy led by the History Club, Macaroni Necklaces led by the Italian Club, Transparent Ornaments led by the Greek Senate, Playing with the Bands led by the Band Council and Martial Arts led by Martial Arts Club to name a few.

"The Mentor Office funds Young at Heart day, providing the buses, lunch and t-shirts for the children along with the help of the Office of Mission and Planning who provided a water bottle for every child to take home," said Ricci.

The children also received other "goodies" during their activities through the day including candy, Sacred Heart knapsacks, and the arts and crafts they made during various sessions.

"I volunteered for Young at Heart day with my sister Kappa Phi. We helped serve lunch and all the kids were so cute. They were jumping up and down, showing off the stuff they made detailed at their activities, and you could tell they were so happy to be there. It felt good to know we could be making a difference in their lives because they all kept saying when they got "older" they wanted to come to school here," said Cristin Brady, sophomore, Larchmont, N.Y.

Sacred Heart's own Mr. SHU, Bryan Smith, senior, Copiague, N.Y added, "I think this day is always a success for the SHU community and the volunteers enjoy it as much as the children do."

When the day's activities had ended the children were sad to leave on their buses and all "buddies" were sad to see them go. The second Annual Young at Heart Day was a success and much thanks goes out to all who participated and dedicated their time to making a difference in these children's lives.

Not on the background information.

"I acted the way I'm supposed to act as a Christian. The fundamental principle is this: what would Jesus do? I have always tried to follow the call of Jesus to offer help," said Cernera.

Cernera added that even if he could have known how the Benedictine rule of his decision would be made into such an issue, he claims he still would have held by his duties as a Christian.

The point that Cernera stressed almost as strongly as calling his Christian morals was the fact that the situation concerning Stubbs is not related to the university. While walking the fine line between his public and private life, Cernera firmly believes that his decision to aid his friend was a private matter.

"This was a decision that Anthony and Ruth Cernera made as a family, out of our deepest Christian convictions to help," Cernera said.

He felt that there was no need to contact or involve any members of the university in his private life. The decision had nothing to do with faculty, administration, or students and should not, therefore, reflect on their reputation, according to Cernera.

Cernera strongly believes in following the work of Jesus, his lord.

"I don't want to compare myself to Jesus, I'm an ordinary human being just trying to do good. I hope when the students and the community look at the story in that respect, they can be proud of what I did," said Cernera.

Dr. Block and the Science of the Bible, showing students the truth

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The best part of teaching this class is to see those who didn't think the Bible is true and thought it was just fair tales that teach lessons actually believe the events encountered in it," said Block.

He added, "For those who require proof that the Bible's 'miracles' are events that happened and can happen again, it's an important course. Some people, regardless of their denomination, need that. They believe in Christ and go to church but are unsure the Bible's stories were actual events and they are."

Block also explained that most students took the course expecting to see a brawl between science and religion. One of his greatest challenges has been to take a student who thought that way and make sure that by the time he/she walks out of his class, understand that one supports and reinforces the other.

"There's no argument between science and religion. The Bible talks about the 'who' and science talks about the 'how.' God created it — no question, we are just trying to figure out how he did it," Block said.

Kim Ferris, a sophomore from Darien finishing the class this fall, said, "It was actually not at all what I expected. I was not looking forward to the class at all but then it ended up being one of my favorite classes to go to."

"I thought it would be really boring but it ended up being really interesting and I have learned a lot from the class. Dr. Block is really an amazing teacher," Ferris said.

In terms of what he expected from the class, Victor Barros, sophomore, West Haven, said, "It was in some ways. I expected stories from the bible to be explained in a scientific way, however, I didn't expect the loads of time spent on rocks."

Ferris said the most interesting part of the class was learning "there is no argument between science and religion. It has actually increased my belief in the Bible."

In terms of whether students were surprised that this course was being offered at Sacred Heart, a Catholic university, before they actually took it to learn what it was all about, Ferris said, "I am Catholic so I know that some Catholics believe that science is against religion. I wasn't really surprised that Sacred Heart offered the course because I feel like this university is very open-minded and not so much focused only on the Catholic aspect since it is a university that welcomes all religions."

On the other hand, when asked if the course reinforced his beliefs in the Bible, Barros answered "No."

He added, "Quite honestly, I've little care for religion to this day. I don't under stand how eating cracker on Sunday gets you closer to God. The class did however make me think, that if people knew science like we do today back then, then the bible probably wouldn't be filled with many miracles - if any."

On a scale of one to five, with five representing the hardest and one the easiest, Barros gave the class a 3.0 adding, "That's only because my study and work habits don't fit the class."

Ferris gave the class a 3.5 adding it was "just because of the amount of material you learn for exams. It is not really that hard if you are willing to learn the information."

The class will hopefully continue to be offered in the spring semester, Block said.

Look for Science and the Bible next spring to acquire science credits without a lab requirement.

Cernera sets the record

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The Greater Bridgeport Area Scholarship

Courtney Kohloff
The Spectrum

The Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation, which is a community foundation with assets nearing close to $40 million in more than 300 funds, is currently offering Undergraduate and Graduate students scholarships. Classified as one of the area’s largest scholarship grantors, the foundation prides itself on its focus and priority on education. In 2005 alone, more than $200,000 in scholarships were awarded to more than 100 students in the area.

Ranging from $1,000-$8,000 in scholarship money, the foundation offers scholarships to students in numerous towns such as Bridgeport, Fairfield, Easton, Milford, Monroe, Shelton, Stratford, Trumbull and Westport. All students applying must be enrolled in either a higher education college or university, specialized study program, or advanced vocational training.

While each Sacred Heart University student is encouraged to apply, the criteria for most of the scholarships requires the applicant to be a graduate of a Bridgeport area high school, demonstrate financial need and a GPA of 2.7 or higher. Along with those requirements, each application should include a personal essay, a letter of recommendation, a transcript with the grades from the most recent semester and an application with all forms completed.

Sarah Hunkins from the Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation provides numerous tips to students applying for the application. “Use the essay to give us a sense of what you hope to accomplish with your education. Clearly show us how you match the requirements of the scholarship. Ensure that you provide the correct financial information outlined in the application packet. Above all, be sure to return the application on time” (promarked June 1, 2006) and completed letter of recommendation, financial information, essay and application form,” said Hunkins.

On the application, each applicant is required to describe how they are qualified for the scholarship, list their career goals and objectives, work history, honors, awards and special accomplishments, community service or involvement and financial assistance. A personal essay is also required to provide the applicant with a chance to write more about themselves, their accomplishments and their qualifications for the scholarship.

“|Melissa Daddana, sophomore, Trumbull and JJ Wilson, junior, Bloomfield are students both interested in applying for the scholarship. “I think it’s great that this foundation offers scholarships to students around the area. I am interested in applying for this scholarship and hope that everything works out the way I planned,” said Daddana. Wilson said, “I have always strived to be the best I could be and by applying for this scholarship, I feel that I will be able to get noticed for my achievements and accomplishments at SHU.” |

Unlike most scholarship foundation, not only one type of scholarship is offered. There are general criteria scholarships, as well as specific scholarships such as health and medical studies scholarships which include The Employees Tuberculosis and Respiratory Association, Health Related Studies Scholarship and May Camp and Webster Upson Walker Scholarship.

There are also scholarships in the education studies department, which include the Karen Telickey Scholarship, legal studies scholarships, which include the Greater Bridgeport Bar Association Scholarship, religious studies scholarships, which include the May Camp, and Webster Upson Walker Scholarship and industrial arts scholarships, which include the Arthur Lunn Learn A Trade Foundation.

Applications could be found on the Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation Scholarship Website, gbafound.org and click on the left hand side of the page. The applications can be downloaded from the website and then saved as Microsoft Word, and each application should be typed and printed. Each application is due by June 1, 2006.

Non-sexist child rearing is the only way to raise kids in today’s society

Maria Gomez
The Spectrum

The Non-Sexiest Child Bearing discussion was a way for Professor June-Anne Greeley, Professor Cristal Manning and the Director of Women’s Studies, Jennifer McLaughlin along with Professor Bowman of the Psychology Department to present how to raise and educate our children in this society, which is supposed to be more open than years ago.

“How do we raise our children in this Feminist generation?” said Bowman.

The gender role is very important; both the man and the woman should have a hand in raising our children.

Biological, cultural and social aspects were taken in consideration as family influence in terms of how our children behave in this society.

A fifty-year-old man was raised differently from a twenty-five year old man; years ago, men wouldn’t do the cooking or the cleaning. However, nowadays, the things are a little different; a man may not be expected to clean up the house, but neither a woman. Gender roles have changed; the line has been gradually deteriorating.

In fact, a marriage should be a contract in which both partners should share and distribute their duties in relation with children.

“I don’t want my children to be raised thinking that a woman should do the cooking,” said Manning.

Biologically, male and females are different; we are biologically determined. “We are set up to do things differently, but that doesn’t mean that it is better or worse,” said Bowman.

However, socialization plays an important role when it comes to our children’s education and behavior.

As Manning said, she didn’t push her daughter to wear certain clothes or play with certain toys.

Later, Greeley pointed out how media has the power to influence our children in many ways. “Perhaps our roles are influenced by media,” she said.

“As a single parent with two boys, I did not create a gender environment,” said Davis.

“I am convinced that biological or sociological influence is much stronger than family,” she said.

The biology identifies male and female, but society has much more power or effect on what male/female roles are.

McLaughlin, mother of a boy and a girl, talked about how her daughter is the typical girly girl; her daughter didn’t learn that from her; “the way children act is something that they learn outside,” said McLaughlin.

Most agreed that family may have an impact on children at first, but it’s society that has that power. The cultural aspect is more important; children are influenced by the things they see and hear in the outside world.

Girls supposed to wear pink and play with dolls and boys are supposed to wear other color except pink and play with trucks or blocks. These are the stereotyped male/ female roles; however, the nowadays reality is totally different, and this is because the media and our culture are teaching us that this doesn’t have to be necessarily this way.

There is nothing wrong with a girl playing with trucks or a boy wearing a pink t-shirt. This is also very much about maturity. When children grow up, they decide what they want to do.

On the other hand, an important issue is also in the air: Who takes care of the children? The mothers used to be the ones who were in charge of that issue. Nowadays, the roles have partially changed. Both partners decide what is better for their children and who should take care of them. Now, women have the choice to choose between go to work or stay at home and take care of the children.

In addition to this, men’s role has also changed, in general they help out with the children. Indeed, some of them they don’t expect the woman to do the entire job such as be home and get dinner ready.

Bringing children to daycare is another issue that is being discussed. Daycare has certain negatives aspects but also positive aspects because children learn how to behave in the outside world since they are very little. “They are ready to go when they need to,” said Bowman.

This depends also on the family. Some families are still very conservative with a strong belief on traditional role models.

Some people have the choice to decide their own roles so that they can find their comfort level. This makes a difference in the development of you.

Some mothers would stop working to take care of their children but they eventually would go back to work. As Manning said, “I needed to go back to work after six months taking care of my daughter.”

No matter what the decision is in terms of who takes care of the children, the important thing is that nowadays women have the right to choose if they want to stay at home and take care of the children and the house or go to work and split their time doing both things. Besides, the male role has also changed, so this has become very helpful for women as well. A non-sexist child bearing is the key to educate our children in the right direction.

The Spectrum would like to congratulate the class of 2006 and wish them the best of luck!

Have a safe and fun summer!
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Summer trends: from vacations to what to wear

Rachelle Murphy
The Spectrum

Summer is upon us and that means it is time to update our wardrobe, go on vacation, head to the beach and enjoy the time off from school and studying. It seems as if everyone is extra busy making plans for the summer. Obviously, the beach is the place to be during the summer. However, there are a number of trendy vacation spots. They vary in price, but there is a spot for everyone to vacation at. Some of the most expensive vacation spots are the Isles of Capri, Greek Islands and London. These spots have great shopping, and of course lots of sunshine. The culture in these spots is invaluable, so soak it up.

Some of the odder summer spots are Russia, and Scandinavia. It is said that at these locations, the sun almost never sets. This would make for an interesting experience. Imagine summer picnics after midnight. Montreal is said to have beautiful summers, and is closer than you think. They also have tons of shopping and great restaurants and bars. Summer in the Hamptons is synonymous with the rich and famous, however there is something for everyone here. There is shopping, fishing, polo, horses and vineyards.

If you are more into camping, check out the camp areas around New England. Any national park would be a good place to go camping. The parks offer a variety of things to do. All you need is a tent and a fire going to have a good time. No matter what you end up doing, summer is all about relaxing and enjoying life. Start making plans to meet with friends at a cool location, where fun is sure to be had.

During the beautiful days of spring it doesn’t take much to notice that everyone on campus is starting to shed their winter clothes. Walking around on campus, girls and guys alike are wearing the latest trends for the summer.

The summer trends for girls are white, white, and more white. White is the biggest color this season and it is making quite an impact on jewelry and clothes alike. Other important colors this season are burnt orange, fuchsia and turquoise.

Other trends in clothes are bows. Bows have been making their rounds on the red carpet as seen by Charlize Theron during the Oscars. Another trend is with skirts. Skirts are becoming fuller and longer; with the current trendy skirt length being just below the knees. Jewelry is becoming funkier as each season passes. The necklaces are becoming longer with varied colors and shapes on each strand. Gold is the metal color of the summer.

Bracelets are layered and with various textures and finishes. The trendy earrings this season are chandelier earrings and there is a departure from hoops and shaped hoop earrings. Look for chunky pieces and layering different strands and beads to add a more vibrant look.

During the summer, shoes are always important. Flip Flops are still a staple; wear them in a variety of bright bold colors. The biggest shoe trend for the summer has to be both wedges and espadrilles. These shoes have been all over runways and the red carpet.

The themes for girls' summer apparel are nautical, safari and "Victorian" romance. The only major trend that isceasing any following is the nautical theme. Bold stripes and colors such as navy blue and red are prominent.

The summer trends for guys are simpler than the girls. The nautical theme is still prevalent for guys, especially the colors white, navy blue and other bright bold colors. Polos are a wardrobe staple, and this season is no exception. Wear polos in bright colors and bold patterns.

Even guys jewelry has been affected by the upcoming summer. Necklaces have become longer. Bracelets and cuffs are more masculine by using worn textures such as leather banding and leather cords. Or for a smoother, cleaner look, stainless steel is the way to go.

Hair styles are another that is changing this season. For girls there are multiple trends to try. The bob is back, with lengths varying from the ear all the way to the shoulder. Straight hair makes a return, but volumize it.

Flip flops are a trend that keep feet happy. Also another trend is the headband. Everyone from Hilary Duff to Lindsay Lohan has been seen rocking this trend. Either wearing your hair up or down with a sleek headband will be sure to glam up your look for the season. Also, bangs are going to be big this summer. Rock them to the side swept or strong and blunt. Either way, you will look great.

There have not been any new trends for guys' hair. The style is pretty much the same. If anyone needs to update their look before going home, you should get a Fresh Cut. It is the trendiest place to get a haircut on campus and will leave you looking trendy and ready to take on the summer.

Finals are approaching, and summer is almost here. The trends mentioned here are just suggestions, so get out and find a look all your own. Also, plan a great vacation with friends from school. Have a great summer!
He Said... She Said...

Is summer a time for hooking up or some serious love?

Robert Roy
"He Said" Columnist

Summer is different for everyone. If you have a significant other then summer is going to be three months of sunny days and beaches spent with that person. If you are single then summer may be a radically different story for you. For the majority of people, summer will signify the end of classes, three months of earning money and fun in the sun.

Some of us will find ourselves behind a desk at a low level internship just waiting to build up experience on our resumes. All of this for our chance to land that great job after we graduate. This may make a summer boring and repetitive, but in the end hopefully it will have been worth it.

Then there are summers where you work 40 hours a week, play a summer sport, have to find time to get in the gym and still manage to maintain a steady relationship. That type of summer is about getting as much accomplished as possible.

The truth is there is so much pressure on students to have huge internships during the season that we find ourselves with summers more stressful than the school year. This does not leave time for love or hookups.

If you believe that your four years spent at college are enough to allow you to coast through your summers you are wrong. If you want to succeed you are going to have to find a balance between work and a social life whether it is for hooking up or for love.

Overall, I think that the summer is for anything you want it to be. If you want to stay in your relationship and go out and go on vacations together, go out and have a good time.

The summer could be a great opportunity to renew your relationship and get to know one another better. If you are single, the summer is a great time to travel and meet new people. It is also a great time to see old friends.

Who knows what could come from the summer. Whatever your plans are, enjoy the season, be sure to follow your heart, and overall have a great and healthy summer!

Rachelle Murphy
"She Said" Columnist

The onset of summer generally causes distress within couples and singles alike. The thought of being away from one another for the summer can make couples go crazy. Summer for singles is generally all about hooking up and trying to find relationships.

Couples generally try to stay together, but sometimes that does not always work. Both partners need to decide what they feel is best for themselves and the relationship in question. If they both feel that there is a future, then definitely stay together. If the relationship is a joke and you want to be free to explore other possibilities, then break up.

Singles during the summer generally are looking to hook up or to try a relationship. The great thing about being single is that you get to meet new people and go out with a variety of types. The summer for singles is all about socializing.

What are your upcoming plans for after graduation?

Lauren Stabile
Staten Island, N.Y.—Senior

"I start grad school in September at the College of Staten Island."

Chris Fontana
Courtlandt Manor, N.Y.—Senior

"I'm going to be back here again for my masters in chemistry."

Erin Ferrantino
Rocky Hill—Senior

"I'm going to Canada with friends and then I start grad school at SHU for my masters in teaching."

Anna Harris
Bronx, N.Y.—Senior

"I'm going home to work probably in Manhattan. I'd like to do something with teaching and then grad school at Mercy, College in Manhattan."

Elaina Caccesa
Staten Island, N.Y.—Senior

"I'm probably going to work for the Board of Education of New York and go to grad school somewhere, but I don't know where yet."

Ryan Morgan
New London, N.Y.—Senior

"I've been applying for sports jobs but I won't find out if I got them until mid-summer. I'll probably be helping with shelters and safe homes back home in the mean time."

The semester came to an emotional conclusion Sunday night at Marissa’s in Trumbull. Jim Daly, Student Government President, introduced the Shu Senate Board to the Installation Dinner attendees who led the show.

Jason Guberman-Pfeffer, President of the Class of 2009, thanked his board for a successful year and gave recognition to his First Year Advisor, Ray Mendic. Accomplishments of the Class of 2009 include Freshman Wear clothing sales and a recycling program, which placed green recycling buckets all over campus.

The Class of 2008 President, Amanda DeMatteis, wished her board a summer farewell and referred to them as her best friends at Pace University. With tears and hugs, the board of nearly twenty members sent their president home with a handbag in hopes of a successful summer at her internships in Washington, D.C. This board will miss Kelly Linski and Janelle Watson who will be V.P. of SET and studying abroad, respectively.

The Junior Class gave a play by play of this year with the help of Monica Concha and Dom D’Erisco, presidents of the 2006-2007 Academic Year. This class has done an outstanding job of executing the Mr. SHU and Winter Semi-Formal events. The Semi-Formal was one of the most anticipated events in the history of SHU. This junior class really pulled things together and advertised for this amazing event. Seniors that will be missed from this class include Erin Muuer and Ana Lutfi who will be graduating early and VP of Greek Life, respectively.

Finally, many tears were shed while the Class of 2006 wished their farewells to Student Government. Jenna Molloy, VP of CCO thanked Tom Wantman, her advisor in one way or another through all of her four years at SHU. Amy Nardone, President of the Class of 06 thanked her board for their hard work, planning and organizing all of the senior events during the year. It was sad to see the senior class say their goodbyes to Student Government, but their accomplishments were well recognized.

The Greek Senate also attended the Installation Dinner. Josh Senack, VP of Greek Life thanked each of his senators in addition to Jane Sanders, his advisor, and Krista McLoone, his VP overseeing J Board affairs.

And last but not least, VP of senate, Kurt McCord, called each of his senators to the front of the room. Special thanks were given to all for a great year. Successful events include hosting the Meet your Senators Day and attending the Fireide Chat with Dr. Cernern.

This dinner was a very fulfilling end to a successful academic year. The Executive Board thanks all students in attendance and wishes all students a safe and happy summer!

—Contributed by Erin Muuer.

Come voice your opinion at a Senate Meeting!

Tuesdays at 7:40 a.m. in the Faculty Lounge
SHU F.O.R.C.E. rocks the house

Valerie Bellegarde
The Spectrum

Since winning the Club of the Year Award in its first year on campus, SHU F.O.R.C.E. has made a name for itself around campus. Beginning with nineteen girls, the group now has over 40 members and they put on a show for their third annual recital.

The recital was displayed a variety of dance numbers including jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, and even a special performance by SHU Elite. The girls practiced every Thursday and all day on Sundays and came together to put on a great show.

The Executive Board for the club consists of President Katrina Torres, Vice President Kaithlin Brownridge, Secretary Jenna D’Agostino, Treasurer Ashley Lussier, Advertising Chair Jenna Coccia, Fundraising Chair Ashley Bonora, and co-advisors Dawn Doucette and Amy Ricci.

From the Alumnus dance to the crowd pleasing 80s mix, the diversity and the hard work was quite apparent.

“Overall our performance went really well both nights,” said Christine Peterson, a sophomore from Cape Cod, Mass. “We were all very prepared for the shows this year. I think we looked good out there, from the music to the costumes, it came together really well.”

There was a lot of pressure this year because this was our first year with a new president, but we stepped it up, and I can honestly say this is our best year,” said Katrina Torres, junior from East Hartford.

“We have grown to 41 members and we even had a boy on our team. All our members have something to offer and have great talent. I think you can see this talent in the different types of dances this year.”

This year was also an exciting year for F.O.R.C.E. because they had their first official male member of the group. Sophomore Carlos Pena from Washington Heights, N.Y. is not the only guy to dance with the club, but is actually the first guy who tried out for the group and made it. Pena helped choreograph “Touch It” with Paul Herman, a Sacred Heart alumni and former Mr. SHU.

“I loved ‘Touch It,’” said Torres, “it was my favorite dance, and I loved practicing for it. And our costumes were original and fun to put together. We had two boys choreographing for it so it was a different style.”

Sophomores Amanda Johnson and Ashley Greco dazzled the crowd with their “Neswies/Chicagno” tap duet.

The “Call On Me/80’s mix” had the crowd dancing in their seats and very entertained.

The Alumni dance had some familiar faces and was a very well done performance. Former president, Samantha Couture, Lana Barnes, Sarah Hendrie, Maria Crapanzano and Dawn Doucette reminded the audience of who they were.

“It was so much fun,” said Jenna Coccia, junior from Johnston, R.I. “We were all so glad that they could come back and perform with us. It was a surprise for us, the alumni had fun, and our new and old members enjoyed watching them perform. It was hard to lose our seniors last year because we were all so close so when they came back to perform, it made our day to know they’d be around once again.”

The seniors were not forgotten either. The graduating members did their “Senior Dance” as a send off.

“I feel the recital was one of the best we’ve had,” said Jenna D’Agostino, a senior from Stamford. “There was much more diversity. I am really sad to be leaving F.O.R.C.E. cause it was a huge part of my life and I enjoyed every minute of it.”

Hot concerts for hot weather

Dana Cannizzaro
The Spectrum

The weather is getting warmer and bands and artists across the country are getting ready to pack up their gear and hit the road for their summer tours.

Blogs are keeping fans updated. Ticketmaster is sending e-mails, and E-bay is auctioning off tickets at very high prices. That’s right, it’s time to get your hands on the tickets that are going fast.

One highly anticipated tour happening this summer is Van Warped Tour, the annual day long event that leaves you full of dirt and dehydrated. None the less, some great bands to look forward to performing this year are Thursday, Dillinger Escape Plan, and Motion City Soundtrack.

Warped tour will be making stops at Pritchburg Airport in Mass. on Aug 2, and Nassau Coliseum in N.Y. on Aug 5. If you’re ready for the heat, then you’re ready for Warped Tour.

If you were one of the many fans that missed Guns N’ Roses, well there is good news. They’re back. Axl and friends will be heading to the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City May 15 and 18. Warning, both shows are sold out! But if you still have an "Appetite for Destruction," you can play “Welcome to the Jungle” on repeat!

New Jersey natives Bon Jovi will be playing a few dates in the states as well. They will be at Giants Stadium in N.J. for two nights only, July 18 and 19.

New Englanders shouldn’t fret, the band will be at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass. on July 27. It might be appropriate to say that Bon Jovi is “wanted, dead or alive!”

Dave Matthews Band is heading out on an intense tour this summer. Fans of Dave Matthews and company should be happy to hear that they will be hitting the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New England area in late June and early July.

One of the most talked about tours to be happening this summer is Madonna’s Confessions tour. In support of her recent album, Madonna, who is also now known as Esther, is treating her fans to a national arena tour.

Getting your hands on these tickets won’t be easy. In fact and new wardrobe of leotards, many fans are seeking her scheduled performances.

In New York City, she has five shows booked at Madison Square Garden.

Prices for these tickets being sold through ticketmaster are caus- ing jaws to drop and bank accounts to be emptied. Tickets for the Madison Square Garden performances range from $64.50 to $354.50. Would you say that those prices are “borderline” crazy? Or, not even close to materialistic for this “material girl”? Whatever Madonna, you do what you want! You’re a “Lucky Star”!

The summer looks bright for all of you concert goers. Remember to bring your sun-block because the sun doesn’t go in when it’s time to rock out.

AP Photo/ Kirsty Wigglesworth
Madonna’s summer tour is one of many excellent tours that are taking place this summer.
It seems of late that many movies are not as wholly original as they should be. One of the most talked about movies of 2005, “Brokeback Mountain,” was indeed a short story before making the jump to the silver screen. Also, what is sure to be one of the most talked about movies of the summer, “The Da Vinci Code,” follows the same pattern from being published to being projected. Are there no more original ideas left in Hollywood or is it that books and movies have more in common than most people realize? I’m going to shoot for the latter.

I bring this topic up only because I was watching “The Hours” over Easter break and got to think how well made that movie is, but also how well written the book is. It may be slow for some people to watch, yes, but then again, aren’t some books slow in the middle? As an English major I can attest to that. “The Hours” presents a story about three women in three different decades of the twentieth century. Suicide is a common thread among them, but the palpable object that keeps all the stories related is a book by Virginia Woolf called “Mrs. Dalloway.”

The story of “The Hours” involves Virginia Woolf as one of the characters, writing her famous novel. Another character is a 1950’s housewife in California reading the novel, and the last character is nicknamed Mrs. Dalloway by a friend and plays out all of the actions that the titular character does in the book. May sound confusing at first, but whether in a book or on a screen, the story is told impeccably.

The book represents struggle for women and their plight to find their place in society. Each decade more and more freedom is issued, yet, they are all still bound by their secret feelings for the same sex. Each character is a strong woman in the world; confident and able, but inside, they are utterly alone and fragile. The movies had very strong homosexual undertones from the female perspective and it shows a great deal of persecution among them in their respective time periods.

Homosexuality is a very strong issue in America today and this book offers great insight to that. But honestly, how many people read nowadays as compared to the time before film? The reading community lost many members when film was developed because it offers a quicker, easier way to experience emotions as opposed to the longer, more satisfying feeling one gets from reading a book. On a positive note, however, it is the film that will get issues out in the open. George Clooney said it best at this year’s Oscars when he said “Hollywood has it out of touch,” because they are. Writers need to be in touch to display the rawness of reality and fantasy. It is then turned over to Hollywood to bring the rawness to light.

“Crash,” this year’s recipient of the Oscar for Best Picture, is also about a specific kind of persecution — racial persecution. If “Crash” was a book, would it win the Pulitzer? Maybe if it was written with the same emotion as the movie, but then again, maybe not. The point is that books and movies — the original ones — share a common trait, and that is probing into the human condition. Every great book has something to say about the human condition. Coincidence? I think not.

So why take books and turn them into film? To bring issues forward that other films have not yet touched upon. Oprah’s book club tries real hard to get people to discuss books and the values they hold, but it’s a losing battle when films like “The Hours” and “Brokeback Mountain” turn books into stunning pieces of film. It is rare for a book to make more money than its movie. Some say that is as a deterioration of reading. Me, well, I see that as another perspective of a common theme. Books and movies are two very different mediums that cater to two very different communities; there are, however, the few lucky like me that enjoy a good book as well as a good film. As long as both keep the common theme at heart, like the persecution from sexual identity in “The Hours,” you can see that the book offers deep insight to what the persecution feels like, while the movie gives insight to what the perception looks like. Both offer insight to the human condition, just one medium will reach a broader audience. Either way, people like me will reap all the benefits of a well made film and a well written book.
Dr. Castonguay says “I’ll be back” to MSDC

Theresa Vosilla
The Spectrum

Since 1999 students and faculty members of SHU have become familiar with a driving force behind the advancement, success, and development of the Media Studies and Digital Culture Department’s prime mover; the Chair of the Media Studies and Digital Culture Department, Professor James Castonguay.

After finishing his Ph.D. in 1998, Castonguay was an assistant professor at the University of Michigan in communication, film, and video studies. He then came to SHU.

“I really wanted to be at a place that put teaching first and where I could work closely with students, and so I was thrilled when I was offered the position at SHU,” said Castonguay.

Since his arrival at SHU he has made quite an impact on the department, students and faculty members. Such so that he was the recipient of the 2005 Dr. Marian Calabrese Final Four teaching award, that he named as one of his greatest personal accomplishments thus far at SHU.

“i was extremely honored and surprised to have received the 2005 Dr. Marian Calabrese Final Four teaching award,” said Castonguay.

But, there are some students at SHU who would argue against his surprise.

“He shouldn’t be shocked, he’s an excellent professor. I have had two classes with him and I thoroughly enjoyed both of them. I love the way he teaches and gets you to think about different issues in the media,” said Caitlin Dour, senior, Levittown, N.Y.

There are some future plans for the MSDC department. Some exciting changes and plans, as well as new courses and faculty that are soon to arrive.

“MSDC was among the first places to offer DVD authoring, and we are teaching videogame production next spring,” said Castonguay.

MSDC has also begun to place a greater emphasis on students applying what they learn in the history and theory classes to their own productions. This new emphasis on applied learning or applied humanities is something that the department also looks forward to doing much more of in the future.

Joining the MSDC department next fall will be a new professor, Dr. Sara Ross.

“She is going to be a fabulous addition to our program. Dr. Ross teaches history and theory as well as digital production classes, so we are very excited that she will become part of MSDC,” said Castonguay.

“We can continue to respond to the changing media landscape while also grounding newer media in the context of older media, including print, film, radio, television, and video,” said Castonguay.

In regards to the accomplishment’s of the Department of MSDC thus far;

“as the Internet and digital culture demonstrate, you never know what’s lurking around the corner when it comes to media and communication technologies, and I think we have been a regional leader in terms of responding to new developments within the media industry and academia,” said Castonguay.

He credits the continued growth and success of the Department of MSDC from everyone.

“The result of the hard work of the entire faculty, staff, and our students,” said Castonguay.

In terms of satisfaction, the thing that Castonguay finds to be truly rewarding is the close relationships that develop between the faculty and the students in the Department of MSDC. Even after graduating these relationship often continue as students keep in touch and come back to visit.

Along with his accomplishments at SHU, Castonguay has an impressive resume of credentials to boost. He has published several journal articles as well as chapters in books such as; “Hollywood Goes to Washington: Scandal, Politics, and Contemporary Media Culture,” in Headline Hollywood. He has also contributed to “The Routledge Encyclopedia of Postmodernism and The Encyclopedia of American Immigration,” to name a few examples.

For future plans, publishing his own book is something that he would like to do.

“I hope to be published in the not too distant future. The book project is a study of war and the media from the Spanish-American War to the war on terror, and I’ve been working on it for several years,” said Castonguay.

To finish his book project Castonguay will be taking a one-semester sabbatical in the spring of 2007. SHU faculty member’s can apply every six years for a semester, or yearlong sabbatical to help improve their teaching and qualification.

“It’s definitely going to be strange not teaching for a semester, but the research and content in the book will also be used in several of my courses, so I look forward to being able to share the results with students in my future classes,” said Castonguay.

In addition, Dr. Ross joining the faculty will make things easier on the department, Castonguay reassures the SHU community that he will be keeping in touch with everyone during his sabbatical and there’s no way he will miss graduation.

“Plus, as this semester has once again demonstrated, time flies, so I’ll be back in the classroom before you know it” said Castonguay.

Seniors express their feelings and emotions about graduation and the uncertainty of their future

Scott Wagner
The Spectrum

“The function of the university is not simply to teach bread winning, or to furnish teachers for the public schools or to be a center of polite society; it is, above all, to be the organ of that fine adjustment between life and the growing knowledge of life, an adjustment, which forms the secret of civilization,” W.E.B. DuBois

DuBois’ words should be weighed heavily on many seniors here at SHU who will be crossing that very threshold this coming Mother’s Day. For some looking forward to graduate school it is just the beginning of another scholastic venture. Many others, however, are taking a sigh of relief, four years of unpredictable and unavoidable situations topped with hours of work and class each day, finally coming to an end.

“To be completely honest, I am excited to move on. I’ve experienced so many good things in my life, but I could not see myself going directly back to school. I want to get into my field and see where I stand. If it doesn’t work out, maybe then I’d consider giving it a second go. I think I owe it to myself to try something new,” said Ryan Magovarn, senior Belmar, N.J.

“Doing something new doesn’t necessarily mean changing everything. Justin Gage, senior, Computer and Political Science major, plans on sticking around the Fairfield area after graduation.

“I’ve been accepted into the Information Management Leadership Program (IMLP) at GE Commercial Finance, which is a two-year IT training program. I’m very excited to start, but at the same time it will be tough to leave school since I’ve enjoyed it here so much. I will most likely still be in the area, so hopefully I’ll be able to stop in every once in a while,” said Gage, senior, South Burlington, VT.

The semester is almost over and even with graduation not far in the distance some seniors are not yet seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Many seniors are spending their final weeks on campus just trying to get by.

“I haven’t really had much time to think about graduating. I am going through the process of being hired, so on top of that I have nearly 30 pages of papers to write,” said Jen Meyer, senior, Branchburg, N.J.

“I’m excited for the unknown. It’s always thrilling when you start a new chapter,” said Meyer.

A new journey begins for graduates. Some are looking for jobs, while others are continuing on to graduate school.

“My life at SHU has been a roller coaster, but although the good times have always outlasted the bad. The friends I have made will stay in my heart forever, if not right next to me like I have right now. I think that a degree is a vital part of furthering any career, but it’s the people who have made my time here worth it,” said Elizabeth VonBrecht, senior, Foreside, Maine.

“Never regret. When times are good, it’s wonderful. When times are bad, it’s just experience,” said VonBrecht.
Habitat for Humanity makes a difference in the lives of many

Ashley Borisov
The Spectrum

Habitat for Humanity is known for building simple, affordable homes in low income areas to further develop disadvantaged communities. SHU has been a large part of making this possible in areas of lower Fairfield County.

“We have the oldest campus chapter in Fairfield County. One of the best things about the campus chapter is that we work so closely with the local affiliate Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County in the Bridgeport and Stratford areas,” said Phyllis Machledt, advisor to Habitat for Humanity SHU campus chapter.

“Habitat really took off on campus in 1985,” said Machledt.

“It is a very community based organization. If you go to the East Side of Bridgeport, you can see easily 40-45 houses that have been built in that neighborhood in the last few years. It really makes a difference in the community because they all work together and the concept is to build a community and not just a house. We have built 109 houses so far in total,” said Machledt.

Habitat has meetings every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the UC wing. They dedicate Saturday mornings and afternoons to the actual work and building time, where they go to the site and complete the tasks of the day.

“If we go as often as we can, it’s hard, but I try. It’s only Saturdays, so it doesn’t conflict with classes. It’s hard for a lot of people to come in the morning, so I think it deters people,” said Megan Wood, junior, Port Jefferson, N.Y.

“Since October has been working on a project in particular that has really had a significant impact on the community and family they are helping.

“This year we have been working on a handicapped accessible house in Bridgeport, 463 Pembroke Road, on the East side. We have been working on this house since Halloween weekend. We are building it for Nynika Rose whose sister has a disability. She and her sister live on a second floor apartment now and her sister is basically under house arrest. When her sister was with her they moved into a new house that was handicap accessible. She was supposed to have another house last year but she couldn’t accept it because it wasn’t acceptable. So they didn’t accept the first house,” said Wood.

“We have been working on this house for almost a year; we started Halloween weekend, with the Blitz Build, which is building from the foundation to the roof, in one week. We normally send about 15 people every Saturday, but that week we had people going in shifts, we probably sent out approximately 60 people in the week, usually 5-6 people each shift,” said Wood.

“The dedication is Saturday, April 29th, at 3:30 p.m. at the house. It’s almost finished. Most of the houses that Habitat contributes to and builds are in Bridgeport. But they don’t stop there; Habitat and SHU have been sending, for years, many of their volunteers and students to work in areas of need in places such as Alabama and North Carolina.

“We sent two groups, over Spring break, to Alabama and North Carolina. In North Carolina, they did a blitz, roof to foundation, and in Alabama we did sheet rocking and flooring because we didn’t have a place to put the house. There were about 20 students in Alabama and 12 in North Carolina,” said Wood.

Habitat works so hard on each and every project they are given. Habitat volunteers offer man hours and muscle, but they also add love and care into each and every project. The outcome shows all of their hard work, and how much of an impact they make on the community.

We have had Habitat homeowners speak about their experiences before and after receiving their homes. Nyника was talking about what it would mean to her sister to have a handicap accessible house. It’s the type of organization where we accept and welcome people throughout the year and you don’t have to start in the beginning of the year. It’s a tangible way to see how much of a difference,” said Machledt.

“We work so closely with Habitat. We hear all the time how appreciative homeowners are. It’s constant; it’s hard to work with volunteers to get that constant work. I would love to work with habitat in the future, or something with the community. I love habitat,” said Wood.

“Her easy to get involved, just come to the meetings and if you can’t come to the meetings come by the Service Learning office, next to the Faculty Lounge. We always have sign up sheets and ways to get involved. We also have a Habitat screen name: hearthabitat, which is run by our president Kaitlin Gerberville. This was started in the fall. It’s the easiest way to get a hold of people, she also sends out interested but still can’t make the meetings,” said Wood.

Making the most of your day

Ceren Akinci
The Spectrum

Your diet, sleeping habits and the way you breathe can all have an effect on your energy level. There are some important things you can do today, to have more energy for tomorrow.

The most important part of being healthy is getting enough sleep. Although eight hours is essential, what time you go to bed also plays an important role. Dr. Recchi recommends going to bed around 10 p.m. in order to develop a healthy cycle and sleeping habit. The human body restores itself following a 24-hour cycle linked to the natural day light. Getting eight hours of sleep during the night, instead of during the daytime helps the restorative process. It is possible to feel tired after sleeping for more than eight hours. An example would be if you were to go to bed at 4 am and wake up the next day around noon.

A poor diet is another contributor to the deficiency of energy. Having too much sugar and caffeine can lead to fluctuations in the blood sugar, alternating the body from having too much energy to having a major burn out. According to SELF magazine, low fat foods should be carefully monitored to avoid the consumption of unnecessary sugar, which is often added for taste in processed food that is low or high in protein.

Important changes in your eating habits, such as adding more protein to your diet will help increase your energy levels. By giving your body the nutrients it needs to remain strong.

Leafy vegetables, almonds, figs are all considered alkaline foods and aid in the balance of the human body. According to Cathy Wong, MD, who specializes in alternative medicine, foods that are high in alkaline help keep the human body healthy and energized by maintaining its PH level range of 7.36 to 7.44.

The most important part of any diet as well as one that promotes more energy is keeping your body hydrated by drinking at least eight servings of water. According to Wong, not getting enough water is one of the main reasons for low energy levels. If you experience a slump mid afternoon and find it’s hard to stay awake, try taking a small walk to increase your energy level. Even 15 minutes will help you fight off feeling sluggish. If you have the chance, fit in a quick nap. Regardless of how brief it is, the rest will still help your body regain energy.

A small snack that is high in sugar can also act as a pick me up. Avoiding a lunch that is high in fat or carbohydrates will keep you away from feeling sleepy mid afternoon. Nutrients such as iron as well as Vitamin C are also essential. Vitamin C helps your body absorb iron, a big part of hemoglobin that carries oxygen to your cells. Legumes such as lentils, beans, dark green are all great sources of iron. Vitamin C on the other hand is found in fruits such as oranges, red berries and kiwi, according to fruitarian.com.

With proper diet, plenty of water and eight hours of rest, your body will have all of the resources it needs in order to replenish and feel revived. It is also equally important to avoid sugary foods and caffeine in order to prevent your body from feeling burned out.

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Priority consideration is given to applications received by May 1.
Sports

Teams, fans prepare for NFL entry draft

Pat Pickens
The Spectrum

Baseball was known forever as "America's Past Time." Fans grew up idolizing its stars and wishing that they could be the great players of their era. But times have changed.

Football is the lead game on the block now, and there is more apparent than the coverage of the National Football League's college draft.

The draft, which will take place Saturday at Radio City Music Hall in New York, has become one of the biggest and most exciting television shows for football fans.

In fact, in a recent ESPN.com poll, over 50% of the fans voting said that the draft was more exciting to watch than the NHL playoffs, NBA playoffs or regular season baseball.

ESPN will run wall-to-wall coverage, as they always do, starting at noon on Saturday and running all the way through the conclusion at 6 p.m.

This year is one of the better years for fans of high pick teams. Some great college players and future superstar potentials in the NFL are coming out and joining the league.

Nowhere else is this more apparent than with the crop of players leaving the University of Southern California.

USC expects to have the number one overall selection go to Houston in running back Reggie Bush. Bush is the defending Heisman Trophy winner and had an amazing junior season.

He carried USC most of the season, one in which USC came within one play of winning a third national championship in a row.

There were those who said that Bush may not have been the best player on his own team.

Mike Leinart, quarterback, expects to go in the top five, potentially as high as pick number three to the Tennessee Titans. He was the Heisman Trophy winner two years ago, and had a stellar senior season.

He says he will want him as a replacement for the aging Steve McNair and if they drafted Leinart it would reunite him with former offensive coordinator Norm Chow, with whom Leinart worked for two years at USC.

One of the most intriguing cases in this year's draft is that of Texas quarterback, Vince Young.

Young, who carried Texas to a national championship, had a fantastic junior season. He threw for over 3000 yards and 26 touch- downs. His rushing abilities also make him a dangerous threat to defenses in football.

Right after the season ended, Young was being considered as a potential number one overall pick. But things took an omit- 

Young got a six out of 50 total points on the "Wunderlich test," an intelligence test that several NFL teams administer as a way to gauge a football player's well roundedness.

That has scared many teams on Young as they see him now as a potential risk. He will still be picked in the top 10 but probably not the top five.

Another quarterback who has had a sudden change in the other direction is Vanderbilt's Jay Cutler.

Cutler led the Southeast Conference in yards thrown last year and has had solid workouts in the combines leading up to the draft. These workouts have led some scouts to say he is a better pick than Leinart and Young.

The knock on Cutler is that his best record at Vanderbilt was 5-6 and Leinart and Young have both led teams to national championships.

Cutler never led his team to a bowl game.

He will still be gone in the top 15 picks.

The best offensive lineman of the group is Virginia's D'Brickashaw Ferguson. Ferguson is widely regarded as one of the most complete linemen in all of college football.

He stands 6'5" and weighs 395 pounds. That weight doesn't stop him from moving quickly however. He ran a 5.08 40-yard dash, and scouts say he has the footwork of a ballerina. Ferguson was also a leader and captain for the Cavaliers this past season.

He expects to be a top five pick, poten- tially going number four overall to the Jets.

The Jets are one of the more interesting teams to follow come draft day.

Last season they had super aspirations, but after a rash of injuries, they found them- selves in shabby one for one trades for draft picks.

They have many needs on both sides of the ball, and playing in New York, they also must contend with making a splash.

One of Chad Pennington's shoulders is a complete uncertainty, he missed 12 games last year because of it, and if Leinart is avail- able they would be hard pressed not to pick him.

But they also have needs with their line, which is where Ferguson would come in, but they also are in the market for a run- ning back, and on the defensive line.

One thing that is certain about the draft is that there will be surprises and trades especially on day one.

It will be interesting to see how it all comes out when the commissioner steps the podium with the first pick.

The Houston Texans are now on the clock.

HOCKEY continued from back page...

the good and the bad.

"We are sort of pushed into playing some D-3, and even sometimes Club teams that we clearly don't dominate. Then when we have the opportunity to play a D1 team we are not exactly prepared to step it up to that extreme of a notch," Stephanie Boulay, a junior from Anchorage, AK said.

Women's ice hockey must play each season knowing that they are not playing for any tournament; they miss out on the playoff and post season play which many teams in a league relish.

Nevertheless, the team continues to play out of love for the game, anticipating that one day they will be a part of a league and get the recognition that they deserve.

"I think the team looks forward to eventually joining a league and hopes that it happens sooner than later," said Sarah Turbert, a senior from Norfolk.

"With an actual league to play in there would be numerous benefits," Boulay said.

"Being in an all D-1 conference would be extremely challenging for us, but also an extremely necessary step to take to as a pro-

DANCE continued from back page...

remaining half of the teams to compete for one final spot on that finals lineup.

"We met with our choreographer outside and began reworking key parts of the routine," Gray said. "Six long hours later, after much sweat, blood and tears, and a few gallons of sun block, we got suited up again for the challenge cup."

The grueling challenge was a turning point for Dance Team members.

They had performed like never before and thought they would have a spot to compete in the finals.

"The series of emotions from the team that followed were as varied as you could imagine, from tears to forced smiles," Gray said. "We had to compose ourselves and we congratulated the team that beat us."

Though they were unable to repeat last season's glory, the girls knew they had done their best.

"A successful team beats with one heart, and I could never do it without my co-captains and my teammates," senior co-captain Johane Joas of Everett, Mass. said. "Together we have faced struggles like competition. Competition time is when our individual personalities leave and we think like 'one big fat elephant.' During the long and vigorous practices, dancing through injuries, sprains, and broken bones (literally), we all had one goal — success."

"And this year I am proud to say that we defended our title as the number one college dance team in the New England region. We also competed on a national level this year against great teams. We worked really hard and we are extremely proud of ourselves," Joas said.

"We may not have made it on that finals stage, but we caused quite a ruckus at the Challenge Cup," Gray said. "We let them know Sacred Heart may be a little school from the North, but it is definitely a force to be reckoned with, and we will be back next year to do it all again with the same passion."

The Athletic department continues to explore options for women's hockey in hopes that the team will eventually become a part of a conference.

"Discussions have taken place with those few [schools] that are not in a league, but the number doesn't exceed four schools," Cook said. "I serve on the Atlantic League Executive Committee, the committee of our current men's conference, and we have had discussions with them to assist in keeping in touch with the market place for other Division I schools."

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Second-seeded Women's Lacrosse set for NEC tournament.

Fitzsimmons Files:
Everything new about the New York Mets has been simply amazing in 2006.

This year's World Cup has the potential to be one for the ages, writes Mike Barrett.

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The Brahams for Traveling Achievement Award
World prepares for Cup, United States for success

Mike Barrett
The Spectrum

After America's best performance in the team's recent history four years ago, United States soccer is back in action this summer in Germany for the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

The U.S. team that had its best campaign last go around returns with an international ranking as high as four in some polls. It will have to rely on many of its talented players such as midfielders Landon Donovan and Claudio Reyna, to get them past a tough group that contains such soccer powerhouses as Italy and the Czech Republic.

The team will look upon Reyna, the team captain, to set the tempo for the team. Reyna is one of the several returning players from the 2002 World Cup and has been one of the United State's premier central midfielders for several years.

Donovan was one of the keys for Team USA's success last World Cup, leading the team's offense in his first World Cup. He will be called on again, along with speedster DaMarcus Beasley, to lead the offense.

On defense, the men will have veteran Eddie Pope and the quick-footed Steve Cherundolo as their first line of defense before keeper Kasey Keller. Keller is coming off a strong 2005 season where he was named the U.S. Soccer Federation's Male Athlete of the Year and will be depended on to bail the U.S. out of some tight spots.

"The United States will have some tough competition this year," Tom Mara, a sophomore from Rockville Centre, N.Y., said. "They will have their work cut out for them if they want to show the world that they deserved the rank they got coming into this year's cup."

Aside from the tough competition the United States will face in their own group, several teams stand in the way of the team winning its first World Cup. The strongest of these teams is the defending champions, Team Brazil.

Brazil is considered by many as the world's best team and there is more than enough evidence to support this. They possess some of the world's best players, such as Ronaldo and Ronaldinho, while also sporting a very deep bench.

Star American midfielder/forward Landon Donovan takes on a Jamaican defender.

"Although I am excited about Team USA and their chances, I think Brazil will repeat this year. They have great starters and a bench that could probably start on almost any other team in the world," SHU men's soccer defender Brian Down, a sophomore from Jefferson, N.J., said.

Adding to the excitement of this season's cup is the fact that all of the games will be available to watch on television. During the last World Cup, only certain games were shown, and they were aired during the early hours of the morning, making it difficult for fans to watch.

"Being able to watch more of the games on television is great," sophomore Raphael Rezende said. "Hopefully with more games being on, the interest in soccer will grow in the United States."

Rezende, a native of Goias, Brazil, explained how an event like the World Cup is viewed differently in Brazil than the United States.

"It's on a totally different level. In Brazil, everything stops for the World Cup," Rezende said. "Especially this year with the team that Brazil has assembled. It might be the best international team of all time. They are the favorite to win it all, and I am hoping to see a final match between them and Argentina."

The World Cup is set to kick off in June, with the first match being held on June 9 between the 2002 World Cup runner up Germany and Costa Rica. So whether you see it as soccer or football, get ready for a World Cup that will be one for the ages.
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New Look Mets start off season the “Wright” way

The fans were decked out in black, blue and orange when loud cheers echoed and boomed like thunder inside Shea Stadium, which became a contained house of frenzy as David Wright sent a Livan Hernandez pitch into the stands opening night against the Washington Nationals.

Jose Reyes joined the Mets faithful by jumping to the top step of the dugout. He waited to congratulate his left side of the infieldmate as he watched with awe while the hangerun ball sailed into the beautiful New York night. This certainly wasn’t an ordinary evening in Flushing, Queens simply because it was the beginning of the Amazin’s new chapter. Only this chapter might have the ultimate happy ending Mets fans have longed to experience since 1986.

At the conclusion of the 2005 campaign, the Mets once again watched the Braves compete in the playoffs instead of themselves, but as the White Sox parade finished and autumn gave way to winter, General Manager Omar Minaya took initiative and played hard ball when it came to dealing with off-season transactions and trades, knowing his goal was to fill holes. Needless to say, signing closer Billy Wagner, first baseman Carlos Delgado, outfielder Xavier Nady, catcher Paul Lo Duca and some middle relief corps appeared to be more than just a possibility of serving as the missing pieces of the puzzle.

A developing Wright and Reyes has rapidly become the cornerstone of the Mets franchise and it won’t be too long until they swipe the title of baseball’s best left side of an infield from Alex Rodriguez and Derek Jeter.

Coming into the season, the resurgence for Carlos Beltran, who didn’t play at top form due to lingering injuries in his first year as a Met last season after being the hottest free agent on the market, was disguised as if they signed another outfielder with 30 homerun-30 stolen bases potential. The looming question entering the season that all New York fans dreaded to ask themselves was, “Is Pedro going to stay healthy?”

As of this past Monday, the Mets have the second best record in baseball at 12-6, thanks to a 10-2 start and four of those victories were earned by the Major League leader in wins, Pedro. His aching toe seems fine and his off-shore shoulder is delivering dancing high 80’s pitches and low 90’s fastballs when needed to kick it into the next gear. Four straight quality starts, one of which earned him his 200th career win, leave little to worry about on the mound.

Speaking of surprises, is it me or does it look like Tom Glavine is putting like its 1996? A decade ago, Glavine was probably by the most dominant left hander pitching, alongside Greg Maddux and John Smoltz, on the pitching-stacked Atlanta Braves. Now, Glavine might be the key to truncating the Braves in 2006 to end their streak of 14 consecutive division titles. Through four starts Glavine has a miniscule 1.38 E.R.A. and has struck out 26 batters in 26 innings.

Wagner, who already has four saves and sports a 1.00 E.R.A., may not enter a game to “Enter Sandman” as well as Mariano Rivera, but he sure is lights out. This club will win a ton of one-run games, much like the Nationals did last year. Why did the Mets need Wagner so badly to close games? Two words that want to go make Mets fans keel over and sprint for dear life to a bucket to vomit: Braden Looper. A dominant stopper is one of the top prerequisites to competing in late October.

Rookie Ibtian Bannister, who has shown talent on the mound by throwing strikes thus far, has earned himself a starting spot for the duration of the season. Aaron Heilman, Pedro Feliciano, and Duaner Sanchez have been potent as a bridge to Wagner in middle relief.

It’s exciting to watch these pitchers throw, especially since they lead the league in least runs given up, with only 65, but the bats are something to marvel at. Some have hinted that Wright is head and head with the cross-city rival third baseman A-Rod, and in his second full year that time may have come.

He sure has picked up some base running tips from speedster shortstop Reyes, since he already has five stolen bases. Reyes, who led the National League in stolen bases and was fifth in hits last season, has continued to be one of the best table setters in the game.

Cliff Floyd and Nady have proved to the baseball world they are great side complements of Beltran, who now unfortunately is battling hamstring problems, which could keep him out for precautionary reasons.

Lo Duca, who settled in nicely at the two hole, has caught Mets hurlers with ease and will be an important part of this revamped team all season long.

Though early in the season, when even the Reds have a winning record by the grace of God, a statistic to look at which usually shows whether or not the team is for real is their record as the away team. The Amazin’s are 5-1 away from the confines of Shea Stadium and are second for the league lead in home wins with seven.

This wondrous team stands three games above the Braves for the East division lead as of Monday and plays two more series’ in the next two weeks against Atlanta, which could be crucial in setting themselves apart from the opposition. Building an early season cushion will pay off immensely come September because then if Martinez or Beltran needs time to rest for the playoffs, he won’t be forced to play while scrambling for playoff position, a problem the Yankees encountered last season.

Barring injuries, these Mets will not go away, and it’s not vain to mention that the Braves are already scared for their lives. Watching Pedro strike out hopelessly batters with a dazzling changeup, Reyes steal bases as if he was shot out of a cannon, and Wright send homerun balls out of Shea Stadium is something to get used to. The effect of those sights will be triumphant cheers coming from Amazin’ fans that remind baseball of their slogan, “You Gotta Believe.”
Women's lacrosse advances to NEC tournament

Kristyn Nicastro
The Spectrum

Women's lacrosse dominated the Northeast Conference, rattling off six wins in its last eight games, posting its best-ever record in conference play at 6-1, and clinching a spot in the NEC Tournament. After a one-year absence the Pioneers will revisit the playoffs on May 5 and 7, at the site of the regular season champion.

This is the Pioneers' eighth year competing in the NEC, qualifying for the tournament five times and posting a 78-64 Division I record. The team has obtained 10 wins in each of the last three years and has not had a losing season since 1998.

Women's lacrosse had a daunting start to the 2006 season, consecutively falling short in its first seven games. The Pioneers rallied to overcome these losses and become a tighter unit; demonstrating its unshakable fortitude, the team clinched the second place spot in the NEC, its highest seeding in its five playoff appearances.

"Everyone outside our team and coaches doubted us and never thought we'd make it this far. But after being ranked sixth in the preseason poll, we stand here ranked second, and we just never gave up on ourselves," Brianna Bubbeck, a junior from Bethlehem, N.Y., said.

The women's lacrosse team worked and improved together with its variety of dedicated players who fiercely competed on the field.

The team's powerful defense, led by goalie Candice Celebre, shut down many of its opponents' key players, playing a fundamental role in defeating its competitors. Jess McDonough, a junior from Carmel, N.Y., believes that Celebre's performance is a major factor in the defense's strength.

"[She] comes up big when we need her the most," McDonough said.

The team's attack is composed of talented players who work together in an effort to eliminate the game of their opponents and reach victory. Each attack on the field contributes to the outcome of every competition.

"Our attack is composed of so much talent that when we work together you never know who is going to take the lead and have a blow out game that day, because the next day it's a different attacker," midfielder Maureen Hohn, a junior from Lutherville, Md., said.

But women's lacrosse's greatest asset can be considered its team unity, with players recognizing each other's strengths and weaknesses in order to play more as a team. The team worked together to turn the season around, with leadership coming from everyone at different times.

"I think the chemistry on the team is great. As you can tell from our statistics we can't win without each other," Celebre said.

"There is not one girl on this team that stands above the rest. Everyone is a threat and that is the key to our success."

"We've had good days and we've had bad days, but in the end our team has proven we can come back from any bad day," Hohn said.

Women's lacrosse continues to fight hard, proving that it possesses the talent level where expansion is not needed or planned.

As an independent team, women's ice hockey plays a variety of teams from different leagues and conferences. Yet, many other D-1 teams can not work the Pioneers into their busy schedules, which are already set up with teams in their own conferences. Some of the team's players believe that the vast discrepancy in the skill levels of its competitors can make it difficult for the team to play consistently.

"In terms of competition it is hard because one day you are playing a more seasoned team such as Maine and Vermont, and then you turn around and play a weaker team," Nicole Farrelly, a senior from Windsor said. "Sometimes it is hard to keep your mind focused when you are flip-flopping between such extremes of competition."

See HOCKEY on page 12...

WIH wins ECAC, searches for a D1 conference of their own

Kristyn Nicastro
The Spectrum

Women's ice hockey recently completed its third year as a Division I independent team, having brought intense competition to the ice. Now, the team aspires to progress to the next level.

After making the transition from D-3 to D-1 status, the Pioneers are now on a new mission, which is to ultimately become a part of an all D-1 conference.

According to the director of athletics, Donald Cook, women's ice hockey is currently an independent team because NCAA regulations require that there be six teams to be a competing, recognized league and a sufficient number of D-1 schools that sponsor the sport are not available.

While there are a couple of existing women's leagues, such as Hockey East and ECAC, they have a membership structure that makes it difficult for a team to join.

Valerie Bellegarde
The Spectrum

After placing seventh in the nation at last year's Nationals competition and placing first in the Northeast Dance Challenge, the Sacred Heart Dance Team was looking to do even better this year. Unfortunately, the ladies were unable to achieve their goal.

The sixteen members of the competition team were freshman Stephanie Righetti; sophomore Amy Baldovin, Brenna DaSilva, Amanda Falcon, Nadanye Limerick, Liz Onoroto, Gina Saccaro and Jackie Stephens; juniors Dayna DiBiasi, Nicole Engel, Jen Giordano, Jenna Gray and Jen Riga; and seniors Johane Joss, Jessica MacConaghy, and Nicole Righetti.

The Northeast Dance Challenge was a week before nationals at Westfield State College. The women competed against five other schools, including Ithaca College, Providence College, University of Hartford, and Central Connecticut. By winning first place, they were able to defend their titles from previous years.

Their practice schedule increased in order to prepare for Daytona, and once they got there, the practice did not stop. Nerves were running high and the girls were all extremely excited.

"We performed very well at prelims, but it didn't feel the same as that rush at Westfield," Jenna Gray, a junior from Sayville, N.Y., said. "As we sat and waited to hear all the rest of the teams' scores it became clear that we'd have to dance again at the Challenge Cup that Night. The top 10 teams go to finals and the challenge cup is another chance for the..."