



HOLLYWOOD NIGHTMARE

Jennifer Hudson mourns family members.

PERSPECTIVES Mixed emotions over gas prices.

A&E SHU alum revives Darien art gallery.

FEATURES In the Spotlight: Danielle Nuccio.



November 6, 2008 Volume 25 Issue 8

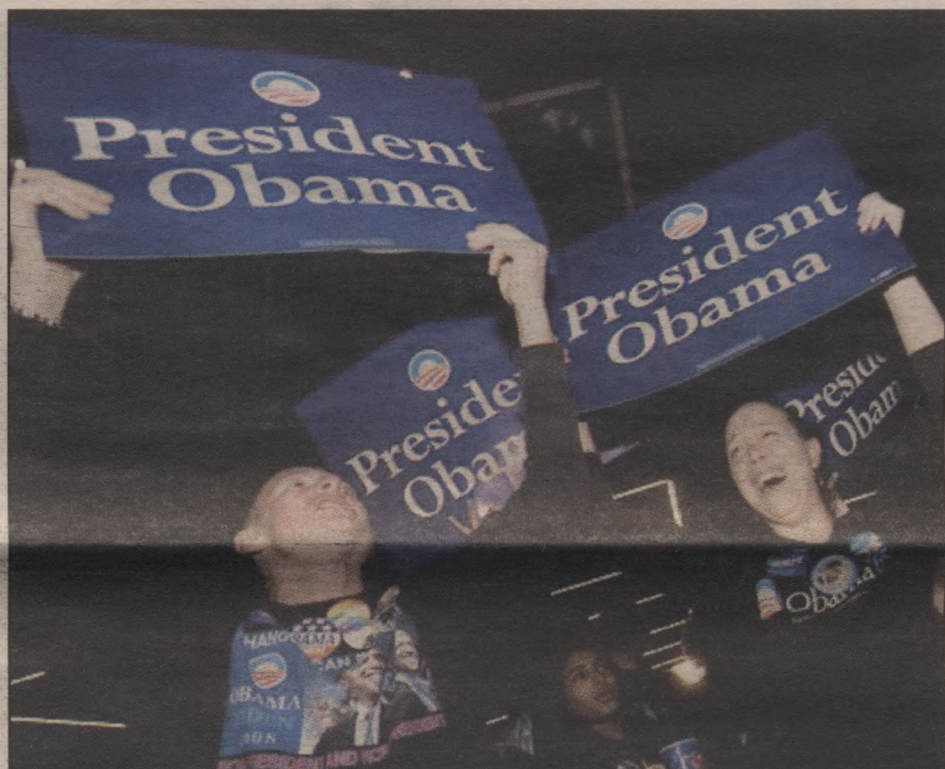
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Obama wins 2008 election

No more beating around the Bush, Democrats are in



AP Photo/Morry Gash and Chris Ryan

Left photo: Sens. Barack Obama and Joe Biden wave to the crowd after Obama's victory speech on election night, Tuesday Nov. 4, at Grant Park in Chicago.

Right photo: Obama supporters show their excitement as Obama is declared the next President of the United States. See SHU HOSTS on page 5 for full article.

Hate crimes continue at local college

Ines Cenatiempo
Staff Reporter

College campuses in the United States are usually seen as places of non-discrimination and acceptance, but recent events at Quinnipiac University in Hamden are proving otherwise.

On Oct. 26, two incidents of racially-charged hate crimes were committed on the campus, and were reported to the Hamden police department, according to News Channel 8 (WTNH) in New Haven.

Racial slurs and swastikas were discovered outside the dorm rooms of three African-American basketball players, said

See SHU on page 2...

Tuition up, economy down

Dennis Conrad
Staff Reporter

For students and parents who are doing all they can to pay for college, these days may be looked back upon as stressful and woeful times.

Over the past few years, the government has worked hard to make attending college more reasonable, but in spite of the efforts, many students and their families are finding the increasing tuition hard to overcome during the economic downturn.

"The goods and services that schools buy to run themselves are going up faster than the general consumer price index," said Philip McCabe, vice president of finance. "The higher education price index has increased 50 percent more than the consumer price index since the year 2000."

With the current Sacred Heart

University tuition price around \$38,000, students are feeling the crunch and seniors are dreading the future debt that they will face after graduation.

"With the prices of everything nationwide being so high, it is becoming a real detriment to the families of students attending college," said junior Mark Uyeno.

Tuition increases have clearly put a strain on some students, but what influences this constant increase?

"It's interesting to me how we often forget universities are consumers of goods and services, as those goods and services increase in price, those costs need to be passed along," said Julie Savino dean of university financial assistance.

According to Savino, higher education systems around the country have seen a diminish in federal and state funding. Therefore, tuition prices that were once artificially low due to subsidies have increased dramatically.

"If you go back to 1990, Sacred Heart was a commuter school," said McCabe. "We had taken a facility that was originally a high school and built it into a commuter-based school. After 1990, we began a transformation into the four year residential based facility that you see today. The school has added programming and facilities over time to support the needs of our students, which have been funded, in part, by tuition increases."

Savino added that tuition has increased by 6.5 percent in 2008-09. This is 0.9 percent above the consumer price index that increased by 5.6 percent from July 2007 to July 2008.

With Sacred Heart's tuition consistently climbing higher almost every year, some students are hoping that the university will provide students with more grants or financial aid.

"What's really important here are the prices students actually pay," said Savino.

See STUDENTS on page 2...

INDEX

NEWS	1-5
PERSPECTIVES	6
A & E	8

FEATURES	10
SPORTS	12-16

CONTENT

ELECTION	5
HE/SHE SAID	7
ARTISTS TO WATCH	9

SPOTLIGHT	10
SCOREBOARD	12

News

Students concerned with rising tuition prices

...CONTINUED from page 1.

"Almost 90 percent of our full-time undergraduate students at Sacred Heart receive grants that reduce the actual price of tuition. The university continues year after year to take seriously the financial assistance programs and options we make available to all our students."

As the economy slowly begins to get stronger, students wonder if the high prices will subside.

"I think we're way to pre-mature to say the economy is getting better," said McCabe. "We are going to be in a very slow economy for a while. We're going to have to watch it closely and hope for the best, but right now there is no way to tell."

Donations to a university play a large role in its funding and the bad economy has affected the way people use

their money.

"As an example, individual health care costs, costs for universities that maintain employee health care coverage, have skyrocketed," said Savino. "As a result to these economic changes, college and university endowments, which are a significant source of funding, have been hit hard."

McCabe suspects the average university endowment is down because most people are invested in the financial instruments that have been hit very hard over the past 12 months.

"What concerns me is that students have to take out loans while the school continues to ignore the economy," said Karole. "We then have to pay off those loans after

graduation, pending we find a job in one of the worst job markets since the 1930's."

Sacred Heart's financial administrators want the students to know they are doing all they can to improve this challenging situation.

Savino said that everyone working on this issue is concerned about assisting students and families by tackling the "difficult issue confronting all of us."

"From the cost perspective, we are champions for those seeking education and pursuing a better life," said Savino. "I think you will find, and feel confident, that we will continue to work long and hard during very exacting and perplexing times to serve our students."

Goodwin set to cap off fall lecture series

Mike Randa
Staff Reporter

Sacred Heart University's fall student affairs Lecture Series comes to and end with the appearance of Pres. Historian and Pulitzer Prize winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin on Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Edgerton Center for Performing Arts.

Goodwin, best known for her time as assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson during his term in office, is the best selling author of political literature "Lyndon Johnson & the American Dream", "The Fitzgeralds and The Kennedys" and "No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II" and more.

Sacred Heart students, faculty, and community members have a unique opportunity to experience Goodwin's knack for history through her lecture "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" and pick up her book by the same name.

National Best-seller "Team of Rivals" recounts President Lincoln's complex relations with the strong personalities he

brought into his war-time cabinet. The book won the prestigious Lincoln Prize and the inaugural Book Prize for American History.

Goodwin went on to win the 2006 Lincoln Prize for outstanding work about the President and the Civil War, the inaugural New York Historical Society Book Prize, the Richard Nelson Current Award and the New York State Archives History Makers Award.

"Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" joined the best sellers list on its first week in publication in October 2005, and soon reached No. 1 on the New York Times Best-Seller List.

Amongst her literary accomplishments, she has written for leading national



Photo courtesy of www.colostate.edu

Doris Kearns Goodwin visits SHU on Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Edgerton Center for Performing Arts.

publications, is currently a commentator for NBC, and was the first female journalist to enter the Red Sox locker room.

"She has a lot of really impressive political history," said senior Mark Metcalf. "As a hardcore Red Sox fan surrounded by Yankee fans, I hope that she touches on her experiences with the team. That would definitely be interesting and worth hearing about."

According to Achievement.org, Goodwin was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. where her parents encouraged her love of books and baseball. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Colby College and

psychology doctorate in Government at Harvard University.

In 1967, her opposition to President

Johnson's foreign policy led to her co-writing an article entitled "How to Remove LBJ in 1968" only to become a special assistant to President Johnson in the White House soon after.

After President Johnson's retirement in 1969, she taught as a professor of government at Harvard, teaching a course on the American Presidency, leading to the publication of her first book and New York Best-seller "Lyndon Johnson & the American Dream", drawing on her conversations with the late president.

Goodwin went on to write "The Fitzgeralds & The Kennedys", "No Ordinary Time" and "Wait Till Next Year", a memoir showcasing her love of the Brooklyn Dodgers and her ability to write outside of politics.

"This is definitely a terrific opportunity for the student body, as she clearly will have some really interesting stories to talk about," said senior Rich Baron. "I've been really impressed with the selection of speakers for the Student Lecture Series so far this year, but I think that her lecture will be the highlight of them all."

SHU and QU students feel impact of campus crimes

...CONTINUED from page 1.

WTNH. Threatening phone calls were also made to the students the next day.

This is not the first time hate crimes have been committed at Quinnipiac. In Sept. someone wrote an anti-Semitic slur on a Resident Assistant's whiteboard in one of the residence halls, said The Quinnipiac Chronicle, the university newspaper.

Quinnipiac president John Lahey said that the remark, referred to as a 'hate speech' by university officials, did not constitute a felony 'hate crime' because it did not make a distinct threat. All of the most recent comments were threatening in nature, said The QU Chronicle.

According to the New Haven Register, Quinnipiac senior Jasmine Vega said, "It's a good move to involve the cops because this is a recurring thing and nothing is being done. So now there may be a consequence. The police will deter other students from this and from doing something

illegal."

The students responsible for these crimes have been arrested and are currently waiting to be tried.

On the morning of Oct. 29, two female Quinnipiac students were arrested by the Hamden Police department in relation to the most recent incident of hate speech/crime on campus.

They were charged with disorderly conduct, first-degree harassment, and first-degree conspiracy to commit harassment, and are now being held by the Hamden police department on a \$2,500 bond, said the Quinnipiac public relations office.

A third arrest was made later that day, according to John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations at Quinnipiac.

Quinnipiac freshman Charles Merritt of Clifton, Maine was arrested in connection with the hate speech, and is currently being held by the Hamden Police

department on a \$100,000 bond, said the Quinnipiac Chronicle.

All three students have been dismissed from the university, said Quinnipiac president John L. Lahey in a statement released by the QU public relations office.

According to Hamden police, the two female Quinnipiac students involved are due in court Nov. 12, said WTNH.

Because of the close location between Sacred Heart University and Quinnipiac, the news has affected Sacred Heart students as well.

"When I found out, I couldn't believe people still did things like that. This is college and we're not supposed to hate because every other person is too liberal to be a hater," said junior Sara Baker.

Quinnipiac senior Dan Shpak said that he thinks that it is a terrible thing to hate people based on race. His best friend is Indian and would be very upset if anyone racially harassed him.

"I feel things like that takes

us 20 steps back from where we're really headed," said junior Alina Salcedo.

According to Jack Fernandez, director of public safety at Sacred Heart, the campus has never had a situation involving hate crimes.

The International and Multicultural center at Sacred Heart aims to include students of all races in clubs and organizations where they can share their culture with others. Their goal is to provide awareness of the diversity on campus.

"I think our multicultural center helps stop racial discrimination because it shows how a great deal of people have respect for each other's race and that people who commit hate crimes are a small minority," said senior Joe Mazza.

Quinnipiac also has a Multicultural Affairs office.

"Sometimes people talk about [change], but they don't put it on paper, but I can see here that people are willing [to make

changes]. And it appears the administration is looking to help students become more aware of racial issues and diversity," said Tyrone Black, director of multicultural affairs at Quinnipiac on the student life Web site.

Quinnipiac is working to strengthen the lines of communication among all students on campus.

With help from the Multicultural Affairs office they are hopeful that the school diversity programming will make a difference, said WTNH.

Lahey said in a press release on Oct. 29, "I cannot state strongly enough that this university community has absolutely no tolerance for acts of this kind and will do everything in its power to prevent them. Moments such as these can be an opportunity for reflection and dialogue, and for making an increased commitment to tolerance and the celebration of diversity."

WIKIPEDIA: FACT OR FICTION

Speaker explains how students can use their 'Wiki'

Brittany Barbarise
Staff Reporter

On Thursday Oct. 30, Stuart Mader, author of "Wikipatterns," gave a lecture at Sacred Heart University describing the many benefits of Wikipedia—a common search engine Web site used by students and businesses.

Though some students and professors prefer not to use Wikipedia as a reliable search engine, Mader described the many other ways to use it.

"None of my professors let me use it, however I use it as a starting point for my research," said senior Nicole Giglia.

Mader spoke about the six different ways Wiki can be used at work, the first being a "work hub." This is a virtual extension of your physical workspace. Wikipedia can be used as a way to keep employees updated on new changes and also post company announcements.

Each employee can post their own feedback on the same page, and new employees can be kept up to speed by simply reading the page.

Mader said that it's also great for professors to create a syllabus or lesson plan because they can store all of their documents and continue to build it.

"For the most part there is a lot of true information, but there are the exceptions for when people go on and make informa-

tion up," said Giglia.

Giglia recalled a time that she and her friends went onto Wikipedia and made updates to a celebrity's page with information that "may or may not have been false." Although she had no problem altering the content, it was deleted by a monitor within about 15 minutes of it being posted.

Also, Wikipedia surfers may notice that content which does not come from a credible source usually appears in red font.

"My professor said for the most part [Wikipedia] is true but that everything on there should be taken with a grain of salt," said junior

Morgan Farrell.

Still, Wiki is useful for meetings and project management. Businesses can put their meeting agenda on a Wiki. To organize a project, Wiki can be the social center of every group where employees can interact directly with one other.

According to Mader Wiki is great for staying organized. Companies can use their Wiki page to document inventory, stock numbers, and it is also easy for employees to access.

When asked about the information on Wikipedia that is unreliable, Mader replied, "For every single bad edit on Wiki, there are hundreds of thousands of good information."

Wiki: (noun)
a Web site that allows collaborative editing of its content and structure by its users.
Oxford American Dictionary

Outpost gets an upgrade

New events give students more campus entertainment

Jared Faircloth
Staff Reporter

Entertainment takes new forms at The Outpost Pub. In recent weeks, the Outpost Pub has been offering entertainment to students; however attendance has been low for some events.

"The Outpost is a convenient place on campus for students to come and hang out," said Beth Coyne, student union operations manager. "Whether it is grabbing food from the Bistro and catching the game, or those 21 plus students who are working towards their 50 beers around the world, it is a place for students to gather."

The Outpost has noticed the popularity of local nightclubs and as a result, they've opened Club OP.

"Students go to off campus areas for a change of environment," says senior, Brittini Ross. "Even if it means going to Tommy's Bar and Grill at the golf course next door, it gets students away from campus."

For some students, the Outpost Pub is still the same dining hall they eat lunch in every day.

"It reminds me of middle school dances I used to go to," says senior Mike Goldsmith. "They may decorate the pub, play cool music and change the name. But it's still a cafeteria."

With the swipe of their meal plan, students can enjoy food served at the Outpost Bistro but drinks served at the bar must be purchased with cash.

"It would be nice if students could use their meal plan," says sophomore Dee Bower. "I think that if students were able to pay off their bar tab with their meal plan the pub would have more business."

Students still think the Outpost can be a cool place with the right entertainment.

"If they had bands, more students would go. If they had other entertainment more of them will also go," said Goldsmith.

The Outpost has already hosted a performance by Fake ID, a cover band from the local area. The event was well attended, and featured the giveaway of an all expense paid trip to Walt Disney World at the end of the night.

"Music relieves tension for most of us and I think if we had a local jazz group come play for us, that would be pretty cool," said senior Chris Forsyth. "Let's make the Outpost more like an outlet for kids to get away from papers and projects."

While students may not enjoy Outpost entertainment some universities don't offer entertainment at campus pubs. Neither Fairfield nor Quinnipiac University offer bars on their campus.

Students with suggestions to increase attendance at the Outpost Pub are encouraged to express ideas.

"We have a variety of events coming up in the next couple weeks and are beginning to plan next semester," said Coyne. "I am very interested in continuing to cater to the students and finding out what they would like to see."



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News

Blau Collection becomes library for CCJU CCJU library collection to be dedicated in Ryan-Matura library

Leslie Bradshaw
Staff Reporter

In the past year Sacred Heart University has brought multiple additions to campus, including the new chapel and renovations to Hawley Lounge. Students now have another addition to look forward to, this time in the realm of academia.

On Nov. 10 at noon, the Blau Collection: The Library for Christian-Jewish Understanding will be dedicated in the Ryan-Matura Library.

"This is the first dedicated collection in the field of Christian-Jewish relations," said Dr. Ann Heekin, the director of programs and publications for the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding (CCJU).

CCJU, which was established in 1992, is a result of the Second Vatican Council's teachings and is at the forefront of fostering improved relations between Jews and Christians.

According to the CCJU Web site, this "draws together religious leaders, laity, scholars, theologians and educators to cultivate these new seeds of mutual respect and develop programs and publications to overcome deep-seated antagonisms that recent progress has not yet healed."

Together with the CCJU, the Blau Collection hopes to serve as another bridge towards understanding between Jews and Christians.

The collection "recognizes the growth in the field of literature in Christian-Jewish understanding that has occurred since the Second Vatican Council teachings which encourage inter-religious understanding and dialogue," said Heekin.

According to Dennis Benamati, university librarian, the collection will be housed in the third floor classroom of the library and is available to all students, educators and religious leaders and scholars.

"It will be a resource for students who are taking

courses in a range of departments – religious studies, humanities, and history both at the undergraduate level and the masters level," said Heekin.

The collection resulted from the special partnership between CCJU and the Community Foundation for Christian-Jewish Understanding, which was created and managed by the Blau family.

According to Heekin, when the collection is dedicated there will be over 300 volumes, including books, magazines, documents, rare books and multi-media, that were purchased with the support of the Blau Community Foundation.

It of other library collections, "ranging from the Marian Collection of works on the Virgin Mary, to the Behuncik Collection of Slovak-American materials," said Benamati.

The Blau Collection is unique in that it advances the school's mission by providing an opportunity for students, faculty and religious leaders to reflect on the "diverse thoughts that have shaped our common search for truth," said Benamati.

It is expected that through the reflection and analysis of these pieces in the collection that there will be the potential for an ongoing dialogue among the community about the connection between religious heritage.

Benamati said, "it helps promote the value we place of diversity, and particularly religious diversity, as enhancing the university community and creating opportunities for dialogue in the common search for truth."

According to a Sacred Heart press release, "this new scholarly resource will enhance the CCJU's position as a leader in inter-religious dialogue."

The works that are housed in this collection in the library also come from diverse subject areas, and can therefore be used in relation to many different major concentrations.

Heekin said that the subject areas include Jewish and

Christian understanding of the Hebrew Bible, the history of Christian-Jewish relations from the 1st century through the 18th century, the Holocaust and the churches, and post Holocaust relations.

"A religious studies course addressing the church's theology of religious pluralism will find texts that address the new understanding of the church and the Jewish people that encourages dialogue and reconciliation since the Second Vatican Council," said Heekin. "Likewise a modern European history course would address World War II and the Holocaust and the collection could be helpful here."

Heekin expects the collection to grow over the coming years with the addition of new materials.

"As the collection grows, it will offer the best scholarship in the field for students who are doing research in subject areas that intersect with the history of Christian-Jewish relations," said Heekin.

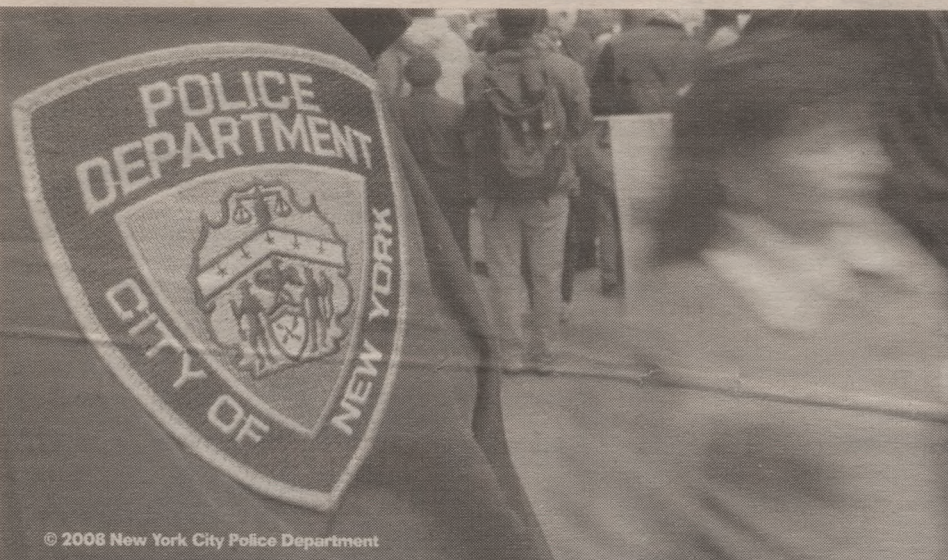
Students will be able to access the collection by searching through the volumes, as well as using the online catalogue to find materials of interest. All materials included in the collection can be searched through the keyword "Blau," said Benamati.

With the dedication of the Blau Collection, the Sacred Heart community will see firsthand, the function the library serves in different magnitudes.

"Libraries are a window to, and contain the record of, the diversity of the human experience," said Benamati.

According to the CCJU Web site, having the ability to use key texts to encourage improved relations and understanding between two religions that have been at odds for most of history is an exciting prospect, and at the heart of what CCJU stands for.

"Mr. Blau, the Community Foundation for Christian-Jewish Understanding and the university's Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding have given us a great gift," said Benamati.



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SHU hosts election coverage party

Students of opposing parties gather together to hear results

Shannon Ianni
Assistant News Editor

Choose or lose 2008.

On Nov. 4, Americans chose, and around midnight it was announced that Sen. Barack Obama would be the next U.S. president.

Election day has come and gone. The commercials are over and the lawn signs can be taken down. The voting is complete and Barack Obama makes history by becoming the first African-American president of the United States.

Although the popular vote remains unknown, it is clear that Obama has won the race with 338 electoral votes. He beat his opponent, Sen. John McCain by 182 electoral votes, who finished with 156.

On election night, Sacred Heart University students packed the University Commons for an election night party.

Sponsored by S.E.T., Student Government, the Thomas More Honors program, and the department of government and politics, students from all political affiliations gathered in anticipation as the election results were being revealed.

"Because it's such a big election, we really did need a lot of voters to vote," said sophomore Katie Costantino. "I voted with Sen. McCain because even though people think he is like Bush, he's not. He has the experience and is very consistent with his moral views."

With the results of the latest poll done at Sacred Heart, Sen. Obama was the presiding candidate, many of his supporters

watched with hope that he will continue to take the lead in the tight race.

"I did vote, and I voted for Obama because I feel that he is a reliable person, and he has really reached out to our generation," said senior Erin Bulvanoski. "He focuses more on the middle class rather than the rich, and he especially focused on our generation. The world needs change especially with the way it is now, and Obama will really do that."

Because the race for the presidency has been extremely close, Sacred Heart students focused on the major issues in each of the candidate's platforms.

"Of course we do need change, but Obama didn't state exactly what the change [we need] is," said Costantino. "If you're not clear on something, you can't put it

into effect. It is like one extreme to the other. Yes, he reached out to young voters, but what he showed wasn't really the issues. They just saw what he was advertising on the surface."

Despite any political differences, students also looked back on both of the candidate's campaigns as a whole.

"Regarding the campaign for both sides, I feel that they both did a good job at getting to the issues and not using smear tactics that we have seen in the past," said sophomore Adam Lupo. "They both have provided real transparency on all of the issues."

Though race and gender have both proven to be new and major aspects of the election this year, the polls remained tighter than ever.



Political Predictions



Results presumed before voting day



Chris
LeBeau
*Democratic
Columnist*

In a clinch for the U.S. presidency, Sen. Barack Obama will pull ahead and win the election. I think he will take Nevada, Colorado and Virginia, bringing his total electoral vote number to 270.

Even though over the past few weeks Sen. John McCain has been dumping exuberant amounts of money and time into Pennsylvania, I think Obama will still clinch Pennsylvania with a 5 or 6 percentage point margin of victory, not as large as previously expected but still a decisive victory. This will bring Obama's electoral vote count to 291. As for states leaning towards McCain, they will take North Dakota and Montana. It seems that McCain may avoid embarrassment in his home state and win Arizona, bringing his electoral vote count to 148.

Despite the fact that McCain has a decent sized lead in Georgia, and the state is leaning towards McCain, I believe Obama is going to pull off the upset in Georgia because of the enormous black vote during the early voting that was held.

I think Obama is going to either win Georgia or Indiana in the election. Out of these two, I am picking McCain to win Ind., bringing his electoral vote count to 159. With Obama carrying Georgia in an extremely tight win, his electoral vote count will add up to 306.

As for Mississippi being a toss-up, I believe this will go to McCain, which would bring his electoral vote total to 170. As for North Carolina, Obama will carry the state with the slightest margin of victory in the country. This will be

one of the most competitive states in the nation and will come down to the wire with Obama carrying the state with a razor thin lead, bringing his electoral vote count to 321. I wouldn't be surprised if North Carolina is determined by less than a couple thousand votes.

It is fitting that I predict Florida and Ohio last because in the last two elections, these two states have been the deciding factors.

I think that Obama will take Florida with about a 2 to 3 percentage victory, bringing his electoral vote count to 348. However, I believe McCain will take Ohio with a smaller margin of victory of about 1 to 2 percentage points, bringing his electoral vote count to 190.

So there you have it, Obama will become the next president of the U.S. with 348 electoral votes, beating McCain with 190 electoral votes. As for the popular vote, Obama will win the popular vote by about 2.5 to 3.5 percentage points.

In the end Obama will carry just over 50 percent of the popular vote with McCain carrying around 47 percent of the popular vote. Also, I believe third party candidates, such as Bob Barr and Ralph Nader, will carry about 3 percent of the overall popular vote. Obama will win the presidency with 348 electoral votes and winning the overall popular vote.

With Obama winning the presidency large gains in both the House and the Senate for the Democrats, the U.S. will be back on track after being derailed by Pres. George W. Bush the past eight years.

Conn. clings to same Democratic habits



Alexandra
DiGiorgi
*Republican
Columnist*

It's hard for me to speak for the nation in the race for president because I'm from Connecticut - a state with a great track record in recent years for keeping some good people in office. However, many issueless, one trick ponies have made their way into office in our state.

I predict that Sen. Barack Obama will sweep the state; the reality is that Connecticut is a "winner takes all" state in the Electoral College. These voters will support any Democrat that appears on the ticket. My hope is that the state will stop free basing Democrats in favor of something truly divergent (Green, Libertarian, Working Families, dare I say the "R" word?). Alas, you will not see it this cycle because bad habits diehard in the land of steady habits. Do you feel the wild winds of "change?"

I often wonder if Connecticut Independents are actually Democrats in denial who crave unique social identities. Democrats and the majority of Independents have rarely parted ways in the past 20 years when it comes to presidential elections.

In the past, Sen. Hillary Clinton, Al Gore, and John Kerry all won in Connecticut by an overwhelming margin. Then again, this state has not seen a Democratic governor in nearly 20 years. Is that an accident?

How do people justify having a Liberal administrator in Washington and a Conservative administrator at home? State residents are still going to show support for Conservative and Independent candidates that have weathered it all, that can fight and reason with bloodcurdling extremists, and most importantly, represent interests when no one else will. The

media illustrates Connecticut as navy blue as states can possibly get; but it can look convincingly purple.

Despite the fact that he has run countless ads of himself with Obama as if they were old friends, Democratic U.S. Congressional candidate, Jim Himes, probably will not beat the Republican incumbent, Rep. Christopher Shays. Himes has never held an elected position and his issues are rather generic in comparison to other Republicans and Democrats.

Himes doesn't have much experience to prove that he will be an effective member in the U.S. House for the majority of Fairfield County. He was the chair of the Greenwich Democrats therefore he can talk to Democrats. But can he talk to people who are not Democrats? Your guess is as good as mine is.

Most high-level Connecticut officials have had extensive experience before holding their current position. For example, in 2006, Ned Lamont proved that relevant elected or bureaucratic experience is just that; relevant. Lamont had held a low level office in Greenwich, but he never talked about this.

It is strange that he withheld that experience from his resume. Not only did his major opponent, incumbent Sen. Joe Lieberman (CT-I), have elected experience, but he actually talked about it because Lieberman knew that the voters would be interested.

Ultimately, I think the election will come down to old time tested Lieberman and Lamont. Lieberman not only walked away just a winner, but also a winner who was ousted by his own party, the Democrats.

Disclaimer: The political columns were taken before election day. They do not display the opinions of the Spectrum, they are Sacred Heart student opinions.
Share your views, contact pannyc@sacredheart.edu.

Perspectives

Mixed emotions over wavering gas prices *Despite plummeting cost, students still cautious of excessive driving*

Andrew Conforte
Contributing Reporter

Just one month ago, senior Shane Robinson could no longer afford "the luxury of a Sunday morning cruise," an activity that the student once loved.

Although he was aware of the rising gas prices, Robinson, along with many other students, said he still needed his car to get around.

Though he was unhappy about the prices at this time, he said he would continue to drive when necessary, until the cost of gas reaches six dollars per gallon.

Like Robinson, Sacred Heart students began thinking twice before putting their keys in their ignitions. The sharp rise in prices caused many students to change their habits.

Less than a year ago, the national gas price was at \$2.82 according to the Energy Information Administration. Last month, the national average was an entire dollar higher than that price at around \$3.85.

Many students have turned to self-propelled vehicles such as bicycles and skateboards.

"If gas prices ever got to the point where I couldn't afford it, I wouldn't have a problem riding my bike wherever I needed to go," said sophomore Will Kelleher.

Sophomore Andrew Bessette agrees. "I'd ride my bike or walk where I needed to go," said Bessette, though he was quick to point out that that would only be the case if prices rose too high.

Sophomore Mike Oberlander was a



Photo courtesy of Associated Press

While they may not be filling up their tanks as often as before, students are relieved with the fact that gas prices are temporarily decreasing.

little more conservative. He said that at school, walking is his main form of transportation.

However, he still uses his car at home. "I can wait it out a little longer, but once gas hits \$5.50, I think I'm going to have to switch to walking completely," said Oberlander.

For those that were left with no option but to drive on a daily basis, car companies have been trying to make the endeavor a little easier to swallow by producing Hybrid cars.

Hybrids have been advertised as a

way of the future, as a combination car that consists of gas and electric power. The Ford Company, for example, has three SUVs that each average 32 miles per gallon.

The cars are under the three different branches of the Ford Company. The first is the Ford Escape, the second is the Mercury Mariner, and the third is the Mazda Tribute.

All three are priced at an average of \$27,000. This may seem a little high, considering the regular Ford Escape is only \$20,000, however the regular Ford also

only averages 25 mpg.

So, in the long run, choosing to drive a hybrid can save you many trips to the gas station.

Junior Alice Kessler commented that, while hybrid cars are a good method to save on gas, they aren't necessarily a realistic solution for college students.

"Students are having trouble affording used cars, along with their college tuition as it is, so purchasing new hybrid cars isn't really an option for most," said Kessler.

While the gas prices have recently taken a surprising plunge, some people still make careful decisions when it comes to their driving habits.

"I try to only drive back and forth from school to my dorm once a day, and then I try to take the shuttle whenever I can," said Kessler. "Like most college kids, I'm simply trying to save as much as I possibly can on gas right now."

Now that the prices have begun lowering, some people seem to be thinking in a different direction.

"I'm thrilled that gas prices have gone down. I paid \$2.39 yesterday in Milford," said senior Jenn Marcoux. "It's still not cheap, but now I don't have to feel guilty about driving around a little bit longer than I normally would. Plus, driving back home for the holidays won't cost me so much, which is always good."

While we cannot be certain that these prices will stay like this for any length of time, it is still a step in the right direction.

"I may be able to get my Sunday morning cruise after all," said Robinson.

The SPECTRUM

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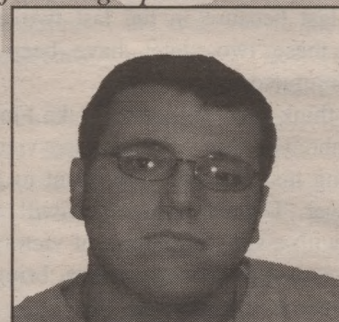
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SHU Voices

Kyle Bush
Staff Photographer



Justin Smith
Junior

"A better economy."



Kyle Smith
Senior

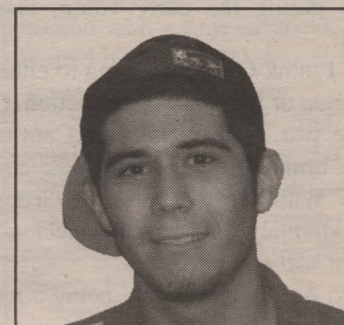
"More help for the middle class."

What political change are you looking forward to?



Raydhiri Hidalgo
Senior

"A change in healthcare."



Corey Corcoran
Junior

"More regulation on big businesses."

Rant of the week: Uneducated voters sway students' opinions

Rants & Raves

Allie Pohevitz

Columnist



Ignorance is bliss. Well, maybe it's not always that great.

In a year that has held one of the most controversial presidential campaigns ever, it seems to me that people are not always as up on their facts as they claim to be.

I can't be sure that this is how everyone else feels, but one of the most frustrating things to me lately seems to be people who go into crazy political discussions with no more knowledge than your average third-grader.

How can you tell if someone has no idea what they are babbling about?

It's easy. It is usually the person talking the most and/or the loudest about topics that no one else seems to be bringing up.

While your opinion matters, sometimes it's best to keep it to yourself, especially if you are unsure of its factual accuracy. Just because you overheard someone else saying an idea was good or bad, it does not mean you should relay that message to the masses.

While something you overheard may sound correct in your mind, it is not necessarily true. If you bring it up to other people without proper information to back up your statements, you will just come off sounding foolish.

Because this election was one of the biggest we have ever seen, many people spent a good part of their day researching information about the candidates and different policies.

While listening to these people's thoughts is not necessarily a bad idea, spewing this information to others comes with the risk of having the ideas mixed

around and come out differently.

It is only fair that people get to come up with these decisions on their own, instead of being spoon-fed information by someone who is unsure what they are giving out.

With this past Tuesday's presidential election being the first that the majority of Sacred Heart students were eligible to vote in, it is no surprise that this has been a large topic of conversation right here on campus.

As if talking about things you are uneducated about isn't bad enough, it has become even more evident that a majority of students were swayed to vote one way or another, based on how their friends or family had decided to vote.

Don't get me wrong, I trust my family and their opinions greatly. But I believe that with times constantly changing and the economy being in the state it is in, it is important that we form such huge conclusions for ourselves.

Taking direction from our parents and grandparents may not benefit us in the end.

Because of the differences in age, we need to realize that plans that may be good for our older relatives may not be what we need to better our lives.

Listening to friends also may not be the best idea.

Because we all come from different backgrounds and financial situations, there is no way to say that what is best for your friend is also best for you.

Though there is no way to apply my advice to this past election, it is important to educate yourselves for the next time around. Do your own research. Learn about each candidate and understand the policies that they stand for.

Avoid pushing your beliefs upon others and resist being influenced by someone who has no idea what he or she is talking about.

You have four years, so I suggest you start getting more information from credible sources, and less from those walking down the halls.

He Said/ She Said...

Do political issues cause relationship issues?

Brian Germain

He said



Political issues

matter in any relationship that matters. If two people don't agree with political issues, they are doomed from the get-go.

A relationship can handle the cute contrast of differing favorite baseball teams, but eventually politics will catch up with you.

Arguments can range from abortion to stem cell research and the million other issues in between. If a person doesn't have a moderate political temperament, things have the potential to blow sky-high in the relationship.

Politics are an obvious reflection of a person's ideologies. When you make a commitment to date someone, what you are really saying is you like the person and what they stand for. They have similar ideologies as you, and that makes you attracted to them (unless you are still choosing lunatics that contrast your personality to rebel against your mother).

So when in the midst of a seemingly beautiful relationship, you find out your significant other thinks Dr. Kevorkian should be praised as a saint for his work while you think he and others like him are demons, there is a problem.

I suppose it could get worse. When you talk about euthanasia, your girlfriend could think you're talking about young children in a far east continent. That just makes her an airhead, and that is a whole separate article for another time.

To settle any dispute, you should have a competition of some sort. One that I find always works for me is the "cake race."

If she is in favor of big oil companies maintaining power in the U.S. and you are for alternative energy, you put the issue to rest by taking out two pieces of cake.

You then see who can get their face closest to the piece of cake without actually touching it. Then, when her face is hovering right over the icing, you take your hand and slam her head into the cake just to let her know how wrong her opinion is. That's politics, baby.

This, of course, lets you enjoy a delicious dessert after the argument as well.

When talking politics with your girlfriend, you should always start off by reminding her of the great words JFK once spoke. I believe they go something like this: "Ask not what your boyfriend can do for you, but what you can do for your boyfriend."

Amanda Altieri

She said



In a relationship,

you may disagree on anything from movies to genres of music. Political disagreements are no different.

Politics is a difficult topic to discuss because everyone has different views. Sometimes in the midst of the passion people feel about certain topics, others can become offended.

When dating someone on the opposite side of the political spectrum, learning to agree to disagree is something that must be done. Couples have to find a middle ground.

I think that it is possible to date someone who has different views than you. In fact, in many instances, opposites attract.

I know a couple who has polar opposite views and makes it work through humor and understanding that it is okay to not always agree on everything. Joking about the reasons that make your political stances different can relieve some of the stress as long as it's done lightheartedly.

For couples in our age group, the main issue of discussion is the war in Iraq because many people know someone fighting overseas. As it is such a controversial subject, there could be tension if the two don't share the same views.

Future economic plans are also topics to consider. With many of us heading out to the work force after school, all issues that involve the economy directly affect us and are sometimes brought up in conversation.

So what if, after some discussion, you discover that you two are in complete disagreement?

Keep an open mind. Respecting your significant other's views on things is important because the last thing you want to do is sound arrogant and uninformed.

No matter what your opinion, everyone is allowed to speak his or her mind in a tasteful way. Both people in the relationship must be accepting and respectful.

For most of us college students, this was the first election that we were able to participate in. With the first African American presidential candidate and a women vice presidential candidate, the race for the White House was an exciting adventure to watch unfold.

Even if you claim to be uninterested in politics, this was one election that involved everyone. So now with the election behind us, hopefully your relationship issues will also be a part of history.

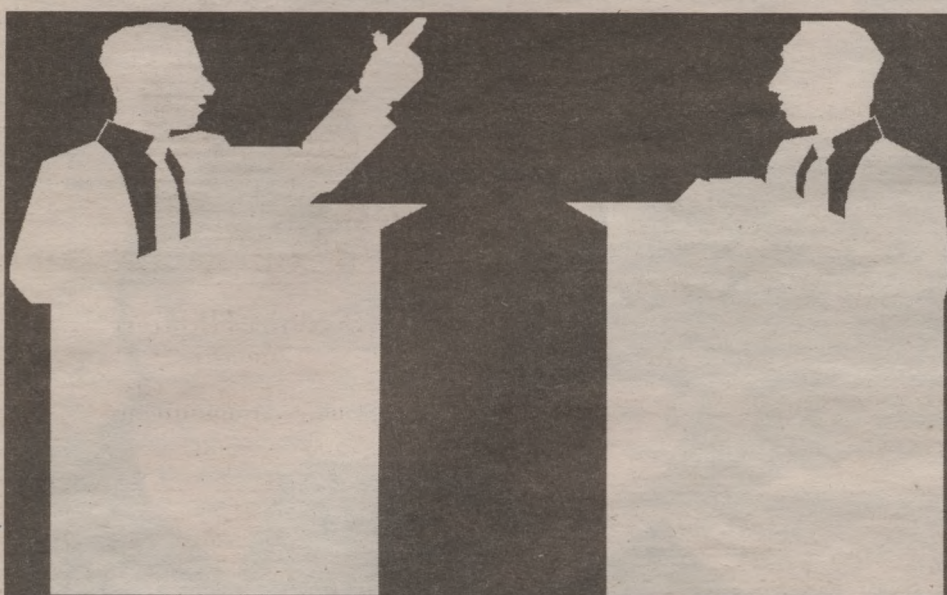
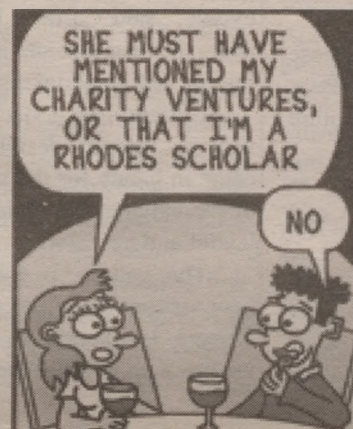
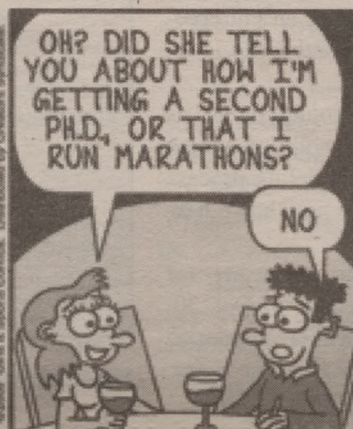


Photo creation by Zack Lane

Too often, people argue without any previous knowledge about a subject. Students must be educated before agreeing or disagreeing with a certain political issue.

Girls & Sports



—Arts & Entertainment—

‘Dreamgirl’ faces domestic nightmare *Family members of Jennifer Hudson murdered in Chicago*

Manny Santiago
Staff Reporter

Dream girl Jennifer Hudson has been presented with an Academy Award for her performance in the 2006 film “Dreamgirls,” but tragedy has now stricken her just as quickly as her success in Hollywood.

MTV News reported that the murders of Hudson’s mother Darnell Hudson Donerson and her brother, Jason Hudson, occurred on Oct. 24.

Hudson’s mother and brother were found dead in their home in Chicago. Subsequently, her 7-year-old nephew went missing. Julian King was gone for three days after the murders and his body was found on Oct. 27 in an abandoned car.

William Balfour, Hudson’s sister’s ex-husband and the only man that has been detained in the slaying of Hudson’s mother, brother, and nephew, could have been in jail for violating his parole instead of out on the street at the time of the murder, according to Fox News.

He has served jailtime for attempted murder previously and has been known to make death threats—albietly widely disregarded—concerning his ex-wife’s family.

“I think it is terrible and something

needs to be done to find the person who did this,” said senior Tim Sherry.

At this point in the investigation, the authorities are trying to focus on what Balfour was doing the day of the three murders, said MTV News.

Hudson, who became well-known after her stint on “American Idol,” had just come out with a new CD in September.

This past Tuesday “American Idol” host Ryan Seacrest commented on the murders.

“We’re praying for her. I sent her an e-mail to share my sorrow,” said Seacrest.

On the morning of the crimes, Balfour was seen driving in the Hudsons’ neighborhood around 7 a.m. Around noon, though, his car was seen on surveillance video being driven by someone else.

Chicago police found the gun that was used in all three murders a block from where they found the body of King, according to several news sources.

It was traced back to its original owner in Michigan, who had reported it stolen.



From left to right: photo courtesy of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, photo courtesy of Associated Press

From left to right: Hudson with her 2006 Oscar for Best Supporting Actress, a hearse outside of the Nov. 3 memorial service.

“How anybody would want to hurt a family like that is unfathomable and Jennifer Hudson shows strength,” said senior Kelly O’Connor. “And that’s admirable.”

In the wake of the tragedy, the Hudson family has decided to form a foundation for the victims. The foundation is called the Hudson-King Foundation for victims of domestic violence.

In a statement, the family said that

“the specific purpose of the foundation is to care for the needs of families who have lost relatives to a violent crime.”

On Monday, the family held a memorial service for the slain victims at the Pleasant Gift Memorial Baptist Church. The service included a private service and also a public one.

As of right now, the only suspect in the case is Balfour, who is being held for questioning.

Sacred Heart alum revives Darien art gallery

Katie Conigliaro
Staff Reporter

On Thursday, Oct. 30, former Sacred Heart student Deb Carrara reopened the Noroton Gallery of Darien. The reopening event featured a display of artwork by local artist Sergey Stepanenko in the celebratory atmosphere of a cheese and wine reception.

According to the Noroton Gallery Web site, the gallery represents both New England and International artists, “showcasing originals of oils, acrylics, watercolors, colored pencil, and pen and ink.”

Carrara, the new owner of the gallery, displayed nothing short of excitement for her newly refurbished gallery and wanted to share her accomplishments concerning the remodeling process with the community around her.

“I’m relieved to have all the work behind me,” said Carrara. She found her main goal and most important responsibility in owning a gallery to be “uniting artists and clientele in an atmosphere that is conducive to art appreciation.”

In picking Stepanenko, Carrara chose an artist that she felt would truly represent what it was she had in mind for the future of the gallery.

“I plan on making the gallery as diverse as the people around here,” said Carrara.

Consequently, the artist featured for the first gallery opening since its close this past August, is Stepanenko. He is originally from the Ukraine, and has had his

paintings featured in the gallery since he first moved to the United States.

The gallery chose to only feature his art, as all of this work depicts scenes from the Connecticut and New York area. Some of his oil paintings included landscapes and water scenes such as, “Hudson River—Tapanzee View” and “Lighthouse View.”

“The latest series is fabulous in that it’s local,” said Carrara.

Stepanenko agrees on this local feel the paintings present.

“I like the ‘Horses’ painting,” said Stepanenko. The self-interpreted titles depict the hallmarks of New England countryside and the New York area.

Deb Carrara’s involvement with Sacred Heart began with fundraising for the non-profit organization, Sound Waters. She worked with Sacred Heart professors to create an informative video about the horseshoe crab organization.

Later, Carrara decided to take classes at Sacred Heart for her own edification.

“It’s nice to let yourself constantly evolve,” said Carrara. Being an entrepreneur, she said that she is continually looking for new undertakings.

Carrara has a background in art as well as interior design—both of which came in handy for the remodeling process of the gallery. The gallery now has a new layout and new floors.

The gallery, is fresh and ready for new visitors and customers as of Oct. 30. Carrara is excited about her revamped undertaking in the ownership of the space.



The Spectrum/Steve Coppola

Carrara with Stepanenko at the Oct. 30 Noroton Gallery reopening.

Good new music week

Andrew McCoy
Staff Reporter

Troy Davis, a Georgian man on death row, is appealing his death sentence. This news riddles the Web site of Ted Leo and the Pharmacists. Not very typical of a pop-punk band, but for the overtly political Ted Leo, it's fitting.

Initially a solo project for Leo, he added backing musicians in 1999 officially forming Ted Leo and the Pharmacists. Leo is the sole constant member and brainchild of the band.

The current band, consisting of Chris Wilson on drums and James Canting on guitar, is the closest the band has been to having full time members.

With a voice that echoes Elvis Costello and guitar riffs straight out of Joe Strummer's arsenal, Leo fuses roots in early nineties hardcore, indie rock, and dub-reggae to create a unique sound that never loses sight of the melody.

"Leo is an immediate vocal presence with melodic gifts," said Rolling Stone.

The band's two newest albums, "Shake the Sheets," and "Living with the Living," both received admirable reviews from Rolling Stone.

Ted Leo & the Pharmacists deliver dependably great tunes



Photo courtesy of Blythe Dresser Photography
Leo performing at Bumbershoot Arts Festival in Seattle, WA on Oct. 4, 2007.

"It's different. It's not something I'd normally listen to, but it's catchy," said junior Jess Dufour after listening to "Me and Mia," Leo's most popular single.

"Shake the Sheets," Leo's fourth studio album, typifies a darker lyrical sensibility. In the title track, Leo's political frustration is evident as he asks, "when will we find a chord as resonant as to shake the sheets and make us move?"

And in all of this, Leo can still write a hit. His vocal talents, which range to falsetto, shape the melodic nature of his songs. Listeners can't help but hum along even as Leo delves into darker topics.

Where Ted Leo and Pharmacists truly shine is in concert.

Known for his excessive tour schedule—taking breaks only to write and record—fans of the band know to expect an ever energized Ted Leo and the Pharmacists in concert.

Leo sings like he has a bone to pick. He belts out songs with passion equal to that of a political activist. The stage becomes Leo's pulpit; he preaches to the masses, begging them to feel as he does.

Equally as good, the Pharmacists' talent gives Leo a back strong enough to make the audience feel the closeness.

"I'm surprised they aren't more popular," said junior Christie Caravello while listening to the band. "This could be big on the radio."

In an interview with Bad Hand Writing, Leo said, "I want my music to be heard by, and I want to play to, as many people as possible. I like playing to crowds who appreciate what we do, it's why you bring it out on stage to begin with."

More music you should know

Alex Moreno
Staff Reporter

Imagine walking into a room and seeing a crowd of people dancing happily. A huge synthesizer with wires spewing out dozens of cables stands in the front.

Marshall amplifiers stacked on each side of the synth blast hard, rocking electro dance beats around a white light-beaming crucifix in the middle of the stage.

This is just another night at work for the French electro house group Justice.

Formed in 2003 and hailing from Paris, France, members Xavier de Rosnay and Gaspard Augé released a poppy, dance sounding remix of Simian's electro-rock track "Never Be Alone Again" for a Paris college radio station remix contest.

The track grabbed the attention of Ed Banger Records and the duo soon became one of the most successful groups on the label.

"Collectively, they're some of the most sonically exciting and spiritually punk rock things to have happened in dance music in years," said NME Magazine.

"With loads of melodrama and not a moment of subtlety, Justice defines the new-jacques swing," said Rolling Stone Magazine.

The group's album was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Electronic/Dance Album and the single "D.A.N.C.E." was subsequently nominated for the Best Short Form Music Video Grammy.

The duo has won two Best Video of

French house band Justice shakes things up in America



Photo courtesy of Marco Dos Santos for Ed Banger/Vice/Downtown Records
de Rosnay and Augé of French electro house group Justice.

the Year awards for the 2006 and 2007 MTV Europe Music Awards.

The hit single "D.A.N.C.E." was ranked No. 4 on Rolling Stone's 100 Best Songs of 2007 List. The song was accompanied with a pop art music video that was nominated for Video of the Year at the 2007 MTV Video Music Awards.

The group's early projects included making remixes for popular artists and groups such as N.E.R.D., Franz Ferdinand, Britney Spears, and Fatboy Slim.

Justice has been compared to early pioneer electro house musicians Daft Punk, who rose to fame in the late 90's during the early days of the French house music movement.

Dummy Magazine described Justice member de Rosnay as witty and polite with

the body frame of a pipe cleaner. "Despite being 24, and sporting simian-like sideboards, he could pass for a teen and gets asked for his ID every time he tries to buy a drink in LA."

The other half of the duo, Augé, has been described as tall, shy and quiet with a porn star handlebar mustache, according to Dummy.

The popularity of the group has grown excessively since the release of their album. Their song "Genesis" has been featured in a Cadillac Escalade commercial, while "Waters of Nazareth" appears in the popular video game "Grand Theft Auto IV."

Recently, Justice has announced that they will be releasing a live CD and DVD compilation titled "A Cross the Universe" on Nov. 10.

'High School Musical 3' draws all ages crowds

Michael Squitieri
Staff Reporter

When you were in high school, did anyone ever just jump up and start to sing and dance? Most likely not, but that is all they seem to do in the new movie "High School Musical 3."

The film was released nationwide on Oct. 24. It has already grossed over \$42 million in box office sales according to yahoo.com.

This was the first time that a "High School Musical" movie was released as a major motion picture. The other two films in the series were made and aired on the Disney channel.

Both of these were huge successes. "High School Musical" was shown multiple times, when it first was released on Disney, "to an audience of 34 million viewers—a phenomenal number for a cable movie," according to cbsnews.com.

Disney has made a huge hit. It has even merchandised the movie. CD's, clothing, and school supplies all with the High School Musical kids on them can be found nationally.

The stars of these films have also developed booming careers.

Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, and Ashley Tisdale have used the popularity of these movies to further their careers. Hudgens and Tisdale have both come out with studio albums. Efron is turning his fame into pure celebrity with starring roles in "Hairspray" and his new movie, "17 Again."

"I'm not a huge fan of the movie but I am a huge fan of Zac Efron. There is just something about him that is really appealing and I can't wait to see his next film," said junior Alexa Greenspan.

But with all this popularity has come the unavoidable gossip.

Hudgens had nude pictures released on the Internet, much to her dismay. Tisdale had a nose job and, in the wake of her surgery, has been rumored to have had even more plastic surgery.

The "High School Musical" movies were made for the tween generation of 9- to 14-year-olds. But why are they so popular with older youths—especially female college students?

"I feel that female college students like these films because every girl loves pop music. That is what these movies are all about: a good soundtrack. I really could care less about the story line," said junior Kristin Finan.

The soundtracks to these films also have always made it to number one when they were released for each film. According to billboard.com, "High School Musical" peaked at number one and sold over 4 million copies, and "High School Musical 2" peaked at number one also and sold over 3 million copies.

"I just feel that the movies are popular with the older girls because of the guys that are in it. But also it just something fun to go, see and sing and learn all the songs. It is a totally just about the music and all the dancing. Just a fun up lifting time which is really good," said Greenspan.

Features

In the Spotlight: Danielle Nuccio

Freshman has paper published in local Long Island newspaper

Alex Moreno
Staff Reporter

The start of a student's first year of college is full of different emotions. You don't know what to expect or what surprises and accomplishments will come along the way.

For freshman Danielle Nuccio, accomplishment came early. Within Nuccio's first three months of college, she became a published writer. A local Long Island newspaper will publish the paper she wrote about her hometown of Manorville, N.Y.

Nuccio's published paper started out as a simple assignment for an effective communications class.

Her teacher, Prof. Kozma offered extra credit points to anyone who submitted their paper to be published in a local newspaper. This resulted in Nuccio being published in the Long Island newspaper, the South Shore Press.

"I couldn't believe it when I heard they were going to publish my paper," said Nuccio. "It was such a great honor. I really didn't think it would happen, but it really caught me by surprise."

Nuccio's paper describes what life is like in the small Long Island town during different times of the year. She goes on to describe her town as "the gateway to the Hamptons."



The Spectrum/Zack Lane
Freshman Danielle Nuccio gains recognition for exceptional paper.

The article discusses different activities and events families can participate in during the year. Fall brings activities such as pumpkin picking at local farms and haunted hayrides.

"The winter weather in Manorville is not as harsh as some may think. It usually snows during the winter, but we haven't had a blizzard in years. Due to the plethora of trails in Manorville, many people love to go quading and snowmobiling in these trails," said Nuccio in her paper.

Though this small little town is considered quiet and meek, it has seen its share of well-known people come through.

During the summer of 2008, rapper/ reality TV celebrity Falvor Flav stopped by a local McDonalds in the town.

Nuccio said that for the ten minutes he was there, he was the talk of the town for a week.

Manorville is also home to the fitness celebrity and bodybuilder, John Basedow.

Nuccio's paper said that Manorville is only "moments away from the Great South Bay, making boating a Long Island pastime. Whether you are fishing or just going to the beach, locals love boating on the Great South Bay. Fishing is very common here as well. The Great South Bay has a variety of fish that people catch."

The credit for Nuccio's publication can in part be given to her mom who told her to take a chance to get it published because there was no harm in trying.

"I first tried to get it into one of the bigger name papers like Newsday, but they never got back to me," said Nuccio.

After a few attempts, Nuccio was told that the South Shore Press agreed to publish her article.

Once she found out her paper was going to be published, Nuccio said she was filled with joy and pride.

This sense of pride was shared with Kozma who considered this to be a great moment for one of her students.

"You saw that she went above expect-

tations of the class and did more than just the typical student," said Kozma.

Kozma said that Nuccio's paper was both complete and well written. She said she couldn't believe how Nuccio was able to write five pages about such a small town.

"She gave a wonderful description of what it is like to live there and a great overview of the town itself," said Kozma.

"It was really wonderful to see when students take initiative and go beyond expectations. Other students should take advantage of opportunities like these when they come around."

**Do you know someone who
deserves to be
"In the Spotlight?"**

If so, email Samantha Selvaggio at
selvaggios@sacredheart.edu or
Juiliana Brittis at
brittisj@sacredheart.edu.

Explain why they are spotlight
worthy and they may be featured in
our next issue!

A 'price-less' love of music

Marisa Graniela
Staff Reporter

Arman Dixon, also known as Arie, has always been recognized as a track superstar at Sacred Heart University.

Dixon, who now works as an assistant coach to the team, also competed in tryouts for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Defeated but not discouraged, he is already training to tryout for the 2012 games.

With the support of his family, the track team and the Sacred Heart community, it is no surprise that Dixon has achieved even more than just athletics.

Dixon and partner Semu "Wapeace" Walusimbi, together known as Physha Price, won the 7th Annual Midatlantic Music Conference Contest.

The MMCC is an event where aspiring college students compete for the opportunity to display their talents down south to promote their schools. Fans have two weeks to vote in their favorite act. The winner travels to North Carolina to perform for three days.

"It was so crazy for us to win because I didn't realize how much the school supported me. My manager, Big Lou, called us up one day and told us about the event and we were all for it. The only downside was that we were entering into the contest with four days left when everyone else had two weeks for voting," said Dixon.

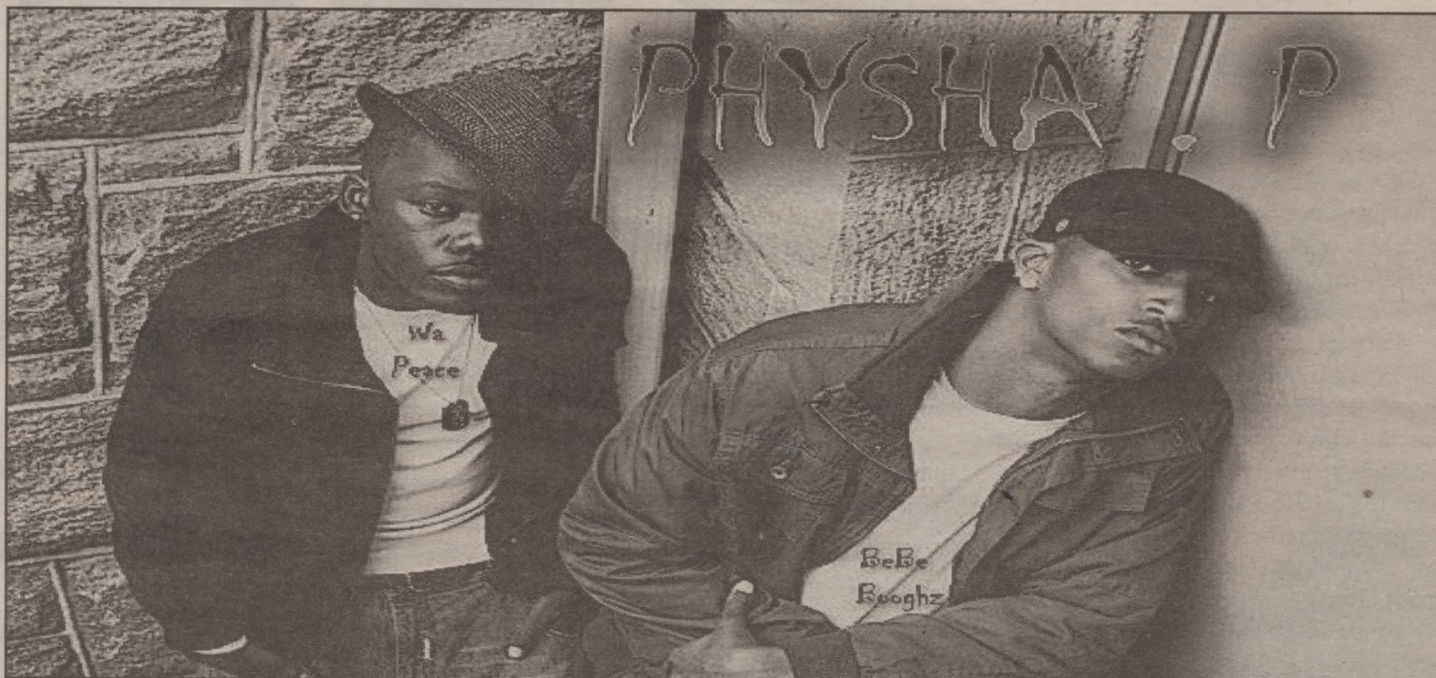


Photo Courtesy/Arman Dixon

From left: Semu "Wapeace" Walusimbi and Arie Dixon.

"Within that first day we flew to second place! I was like what! Are you kidding me! I had no idea that people cared that much. Then within the next twenty-four hours we were number one. I was in shock. I really just felt love from everyone, in that moment I felt truly blessed."

Sacred Heart students shared in Dixon's pride and excitement in winning.

"I'm so excited and happy to see Arie

succeeding in his music career. I hope that the Midatlantic Music Conference will help him get the recognition he deserves and strives for," said junior Colleen Nassauer.

Though Physha P, which is what they are often referred to, may not have a performance lined up for Sacred Heart anytime soon, within the next few weeks two new singles will be released.

"Keep a look out for our new tracks,

'Do what you do' and 'Shorty got me', coming out very soon. They're both hot tracks and I think everyone will love them. I think they're definitely going to blow up," said Dixon.

Dixon and Physha P can be found on the internet on various sites and will be on iTunes within the next few months. Their latest single, "Hear I am" featuring Kelly Clarkson can be found on MySpace.

¡Aye carumba! New menu upsets students

Kyle Bush
Staff Reporter

¡Yo quiero quesadillas!

This is a sentiment felt by all the students of Sacred Heart University after the loss of student favorite, quesadillas.

As of Sept. 1, Flik dining services has changed to Chartwells and with it goes the beloved quesadillas available at Roncalli hall.

Since the switch, Roncalli's grill has been renamed Coyote Jack's, which no longer offers students the quesadillas they crave.

"Coyote Jack's is a Chartwells branded concept," said Mark Tammone, senior director of dining services. "When you deal with a branded concept there are certain parameters you have to stay in, including the menu."

With the change in name came a change in the menu which upset many students.

"They took out arguably one of the best meals there," said senior Barry Smith.

The new menu has stirred some controversy for a few students, who can't eat much, if anything on the new menu. The multiple choices on the menu are different than the previous one, which has created issues for some.

"I'm a vegetarian and they just took out the cheese quesadilla which was the only thing



Student's place orders at Coyote Jack's in Roncalli Hall.

The Spectrum/Kyle Bush

I could really eat," said junior Laura Walker. "It's not fair that all they have now are burgers."

The loss of the quesadilla was not done to upset students, it was due to a switch in services.

"Through the brand you have to follow the menu, and the quesadillas are not on the branded Coyote Jack's menu," said Tammone.

The loss of the quesadilla has been an annoyance for the students, especially those who have a late night craving.

"I ate them mostly late nights

after midnight," said junior Lisa Mariani. "It was what we looked forward to late at night."

The Roncalli menu has been a staple for Sacred Heart students who get late night cravings, and could stop by the grill until 3 a.m. on the weekends.

"I ate them late nights on Friday and Saturdays," said Smith.

However since the switch in the menu, students are not making the traditional Roncalli pit stop for food before returning home.

"There has been a lot less students here now," said Jomar Henton, a Coyote Jack employee. "The students love those quesadillas."

Although the students miss the menu over in Roncalli, the quesadillas will not be gone forever.

"They need to bring back our greasy food!," said Mariani.

Fear not students, they are.

"We are going to bring chicken and cheese quesadillas back, but they will be offered in the bistro late night and on the

grill all day," said Tammone.

With the flood of complaints from hungry students, Tammone and the dining staff decided it was essential that quesadillas be put back on the campus.

"I do listen to the students and I try to do everything I can for them," said Tammone.

Although the quesadillas are not exactly where Sacred Heart students like to find them, now there is at least one place on campus where they are made.

"I would definitely love the quesadillas back," said Smith. "They're a great meal."

A few students were appreciative that the school listened to their concerns and are willing to bring back the beloved snack.

"It's not exactly the same, but I'm just glad that they'll be available somewhere on campus," said Walker. "Something is better than nothing."

Others are not as easily satisfied.

"They should bring all of the late night food back; the quesadillas, the mozzarella sticks, all of it," said Mariani.

Since the loss of the late night quesadilla was taken so badly by Sacred Heart students, there might just be a glimmer of hope for those looking to quench their late night craving.

"In the future, in second semester there may just be a chance that the quesadillas will be going back," said Tammone.

Gift cards may be no gift at all during holiday season

Angela Salerno
Staff Reporter

For many holiday shoppers, there always seems to be that one person who has just about everything. With this being the case, many shoppers purchase gift cards as holiday presents.

With this year's economy decline, holiday shoppers may want to reconsider purchasing gift cards due to many businesses going bankrupt.

According to ConsumerReports.org, "if a retailer goes bankrupt, its gift cards and merchandise credits might be worth little or nothing."

With the gift-giving holidays right around the corner, senior Mallory Berko feels as though businesses that are in financial trouble should stop selling gift cards to customers.

"It is not fair to customers, especially in this economy. Everyone is suffering right now and to conduct business in this manner isn't fair," said Berko.

One of the most recent cases of this business approach is seen with the electronics store Shaper Image, who recently closed their doors due to chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Many Shaper Image gift card holders were told their gift cards were no longer of value or use, although the store continued to sell their gift cards without any notice they would soon be going out of business.

According to Sacred Heart University's adjunct professor in international business, Bob Svensk, he says that for a company who knows they are in debt and will soon have to file for bankruptcy this behavior can get them in trouble.

"A company that knows for certain that it will close

after the holidays and has sold gift cards for products or services that it knows for certain that it can not deliver on, has certainly engaged in fraudulent behavior," said Svensk.

Berko believes if this is the case then those who own gift cards to a store that has gone bankrupt should be able to receive some type of compensation for their unused gift card.

"If this happened to me I would try to find a way to use the gift card or get my money back. I think the gift cards owners should be given the option to use the card at another store, or at least receive a discount with it," said Berko.

Likely enough, this is exactly what the store Brookstone has taken action upon.

According to ConsumerReports.org they are accepting Shaper Image gift cards as a 25 percent discount for in store purchases.

Senior Alyssa Larsen believes in order to avoid buying a gift card to a store that may soon go bankrupt, purchasing a credit card gift card would work better.

"I would recommend purchasing a Visa gift card for the holidays rather than one from a particular store, just to be safe," said Larsen.

Besides Shaper Image's bankruptcy file, other businesses such as Circuit City and Linens 'n Things have been reported as undergoing bankruptcy reorganization.

In order to decide whether or not to buy a gift card from these companies for the holidays, consumers are able to keep track of these businesses financial status.

"Some of the large retailers certainly are or will be in financial straits after the holidays. If one is truly concerned that they will not be able to deliver, financial statuses can be readily checked out on the web, in the press, or at the

Better Business Bureau," said Svensk.

With more and more businesses feeling the hit of the economy's downfall, credit unions are beginning to form to protect the rights of gift card owners.

Consumers Union is one credit association who is working with the Federal Trade Commission to stop bankrupt claimed businesses from selling gift cards to shoppers.

Although it may be hard to tell now which companies will feel financial trouble after the holidays, Larsen believes holidays shouldn't be about gift giving.

"I admit I would be frustrated if this happened to me, but the holidays are not about receiving gifts. It would be more upset if I bought someone a gift card they could not use, than if I received one and couldn't use it," said Larsen.

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Sports

Weekend Scoreboard

Friday, October 31

M. Soccer

SHU-0

Monmouth-2

W. Soccer

RMU-1

SHU-2 (2OT)

M. Ice Hockey

SHU-3

Army-6

W. Ice Hockey

SHU-0

Syracuse-10

Football

Wagner-20

SHU-42

Saturday, November 1

W. Ice Hockey

SHU-3

Syracuse-7

M. Ice Hockey

Army-3

SHU-3 (OT)

Sunday, November 2

W. Soccer

St. Francis (PA)-1

SHU-1

M. Soccer

SHU-3

Mt. St. Mary's-2

Team Records

Football: 8-1

W. Volleyball: 16-9

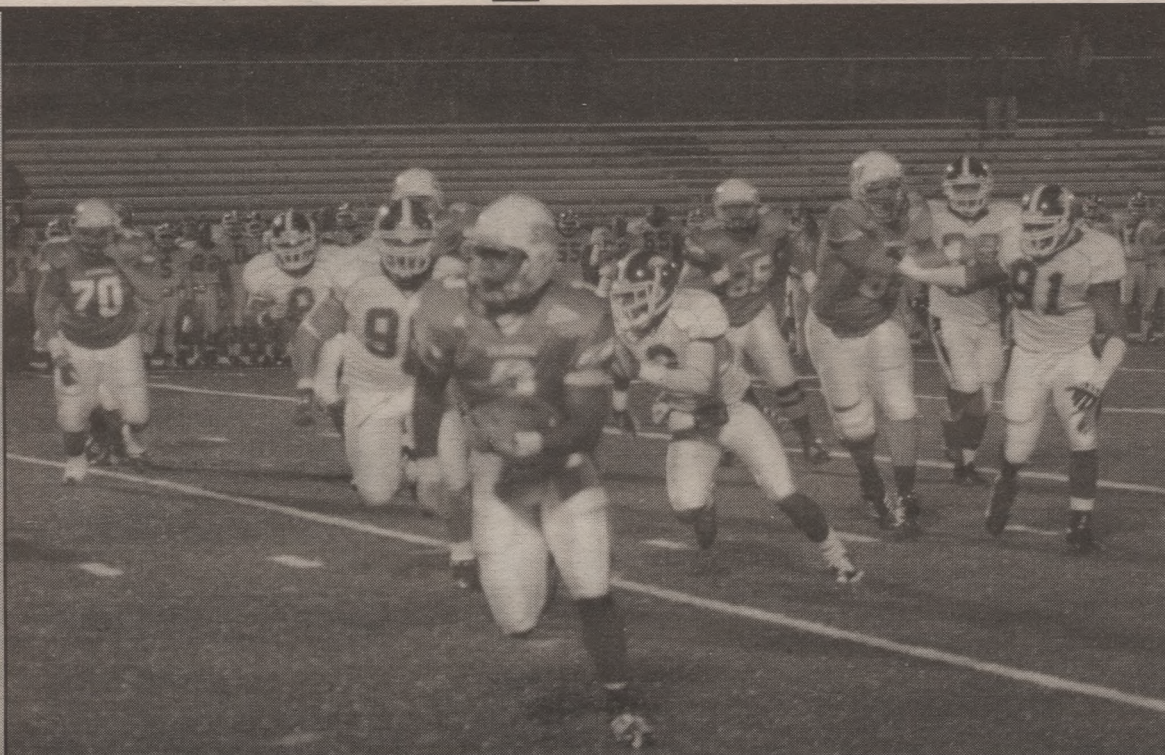
M. Soccer: 6-7-2

W. Soccer: 2-14-4

M. Ice Hockey: 1-5-2

W. Ice Hockey: 3-4

Field Hockey: 7-11



The Spectrum/Steve Coppola

Sacred Heart's Evin Jones (#3) eludes Wagner defenders during the Pioneers' 42-20 win on Oct. 31

Brown's injury overshadows Pioneer victory on Halloween

Steve Coppola
Staff Reporter

Trick or Treat?

MSG network's special Halloween football game telecast between the Sacred Heart University Pioneers and the Wagner College Seahawks provided treats rather than tricks for the Sacred Heart faithful as the Pioneers coasted to their eight win of the year by defeating the Seahawks 42-20.

There was one scary moment in the game when senior defensive back Rishard Brown made a tackle on Wagner's running back Prince Young. The hit left Brown lying motionless on the ground for several seconds before the trainers rushed out to his aide and immediately called for a backboard and stretcher.

You could hear a pin drop as Campus Field turned silent when people realized the injury was more serious than it appeared.

Brown's head was immobilized and he was put on a stretcher and taken off the field to a waiting ambulance. Brown appeared to be alert as he moved his arms and legs and even gave a "thumbs-up" sign to the crowd and his teammates.

This unfortunate ending came after a dominating performance by the Pioneers on the night.

"I think he's going to be all right," said head coach Paul Gorham. "He definitely had an episode, but this is just a precaution."

Offensively, the Pioneers were led by senior running back Evin Jones and sophomore red-shirt quarterback Dale Fink.

Jones, who ran the ball 29 times for 170 yards and a touchdown on the night, became only

the sixth player in school history to rush for more than 1,000 yards on the year.

"We needed Evin's score because we were getting tired on defense," said Gorham.

After the game, Jones was quick to compliment his teammates' effort in helping him rack up the yards.

"The offensive line blocks for me in the trenches and I get the yards," said Jones.

Fink also put on a show for the MSG network cameras, throwing four touchdowns and 136 yards. His only blemishes on the night were two interceptions, but by then, the game was already out of reach.

Defensively, the Pioneers were led by linebackers Rich Marrone and Brian Flumere who both totaled eight tackles in the win.

The Pioneers started the game with the ball and wasted no time finding the end zone.

Starting at their own 38-yard line, the Pioneers moved the ball down to the Wagner 44-yard line. Facing second down and ten, Fink dropped back to pass but missed his intended receiver and was intercepted by Wagner's Mikah Panda. However, there was a defensive holding penalty called against the Seahawks that negated the turnover.

Sacred Heart made the Seahawks pay for this mistake and seven plays later, Fink found freshman Jared Kemp for the three yard touchdown which gave the Pioneers an early 7-0 lead.

Wagner answered right back on their first possession but the Pioneer defense held them to a 25-yard field goal which cut into the Pioneer lead to 7-3.

Not wasting any time on their next possession, the Pioneers

marched 68 yards in nine plays for the touchdown.

After Fink and the offense moved the ball down to the 24-yard line, the Pioneer quarterback dropped back to pass and found a wide-open Steve Tedesco in the middle of the end zone but the ball bounced off his chest and fell incomplete for a rare dropped pass by Tedesco.

Tedesco found his redemption three plays later when Fink connected with him for a 13-yard touchdown catch, increasing Sacred Heart's lead to 14-3.

The Seahawks finally found the end zone in the second quarter when quarterback Adam Farnsworth found his receiver Morgan Mizell for a 20-yard touchdown catch.

After forcing the Pioneers to punt on their next possession, Wagner added a field goal to pull within one point of Sacred Heart 14-13.

The score remained that way until Fink found Tedesco again for the touchdown which put the Pioneers up 21-13 with 17 seconds left to play in the half.

Coming out of the locker room, the Seahawks looked to get things going on offense as they started the second half with the ball.

Starting from their own 20-yard line, the Seahawks were able to move the ball both through the air and on the ground. Taking 6:29 off the clock in the process, Wagner punched it in from one yard out for the touchdown making the score 21-20.

Unfortunately for Wagner, the Pioneer defense wouldn't allow them to score another point on the night.

See FOOTBALL on page 13...

XC teams finish in top three

Catherine Oehm
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University men's and women's cross country teams competed in the annual Northeast Conference Championship race on Saturday, Nov. 1 in Holmdel, N.J.

Though Quinnipiac University took first place in both the men's and women's races, the Pioneers followed with both teams placing in the top three.

The Pioneer men's team placed third overall in the 5-mile race while the women's team placed second in their 3.1-mile race. This was the second year in a row that the Pioneer men's team has finished third in the NEC Championship race.

"[Kenworthy] is now one of the best runners in our conference and he had a pretty good chance to win."

-Coach Christian Morrison

"[The men] came in third last year so we did equal to that, however, this year [the men] could have done better," said head coach Christian Morrison. "It is a little disappointing but, overall, the men had a really great season."

Sophomore Andrew Houghtalen and senior Luis German earned top 25 finishes for the Pioneers. German clocked in with a time of 27:50 and came in 22 overall while Houghtalen came in 25 overall with a time of 27:57.

The Pioneers' third place finish did not come easily, however, as a pair of runners had to overcome ankle injuries on an already slow and hilly course.

"Two of our top three men had ankle sprains and during a 5-mile run over the roots and rocks, it is very difficult to run with a sprain," said Morrison.

Senior John Kenworthy placed second with a time of 26:33, which earned him All-NEC honors for the second time in his career.

"[Kenworthy] is the most improved distance runner that I have ever coached," said Morrison. "He is now one of the best runners in our conference and he had a pretty good chance to win."

Junior Brendan Rickert also contributed to the Pioneers' success by posting a top 15-performance and clocking in at 27:26 while freshman Taylor Dressman posted the fastest time by a Sacred Heart freshman this season, finishing in 28:15.

See QUARTET on page 13...

Quartet leads Pioneer women to second place

...CONTINUED from page 12

Freshman Richard Marcello and junior Matthew Chorney clocked in with the same time of 28:19, which rounded out the Pioneers' top seven.

Quinnipiac also captured the NEC championship on the women's side as the Pioneers placed second.

"Quinnipiac is especially tough to beat," said Morrison. "As much as we would like to win, we were happy with third" said Morrison.

Freshman Brittany Llobell and Mckenzie Krause and sophomores Dana Troy and Samantha Troy all finished in the top 12 which earned them a spot on



Photo courtesy of Athletic Communications
Sacred Heart's Sarah Tencza finished with a time of 20:22

"I've been here for 15 years and this is the best men's and women's team I've ever coached."

-Coach Christian Morrison

the NEC All-Conference Team.

"We had four women in the top 12, so even though we didn't win, it was still the most we ever had," said Morrison. "We had three in 2005 and we won that year."

Llobell and Krause were the top two finishers for the women's team. Llobell clocked in with a time of 19:21, beating out a Monmouth runner by only one second and placing ninth. Krause finished with a time of 19:12 while placing sixth overall.

The Troy sisters also helped lead the Pioneers as Dana Troy placed 11, clocking in with a time of 19:22 while Samantha Troy placed 12 with a time of 19:23.

Senior Kathleen Henry posted a top 25-performance, clocking in with a time of 20:19. The Pioneers' top seven was rounded out by freshman Johanna Acosta with a time of 20:20 and junior Sarah Tencza clocking in with a time of 20:22 despite being under the weather.

After the races, Morrison had nothing but praise for his squads and the effort they put forth this past weekend.

"I've been here for 15 years and this is the best men's and women's team I've ever coached," said Morrison.

Football thumps Wagner behind Fink's four TD's

...CONTINUED from page 12

The Pioneers answered right back when Fink found redshirt sophomore wide receiver Tony Patterson for the 21-yard touchdown catch that extended their lead 28-20. The drive was set up by emerging kick-return standout Stephen Gerhard who returned the kickoff 38 yards to Wagner's 49-yard line.

The turning point in the game happened on the next possession when the Seahawks took the ensuing kickoff from the Pioneers and returned it all the way to Sacred Heart's 30-yard line before kicker Joe Schroeder made the tackle.

It looked like the Seahawks would start their drive in excellent field position but there was a holding penalty on the play that negated the return and instead pushed Wagner back to their own 13-yard line.

Looking to counter the Pioneers' touchdown with one of their own, Farnsworth

dropped back to pass but the Pioneer defense broke through the line and forced Farnsworth out of the pocket.

Instead of throwing the ball away, he tried to make something happen out of

nothing by rushing a throw that fell into the waiting arms of Brown who intercepted the ball and returned it 51-yards for a touchdown. Following the extra point, Sacred Heart was in command of the game 35-20.

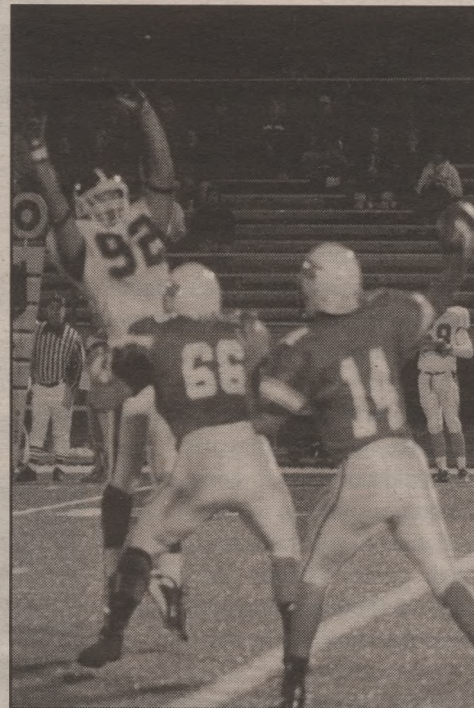
"That definitely took the weight off [the offense]," said Fink. "It was big for him to get that score."

Sacred Heart would add another touchdown late in the fourth quarter which extended their lead to 42-20.

The Pioneers return to the gridiron on Saturday, Nov. 8 when they travel to

West Long Branch, N.J. to take on Monmouth University. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

After that, the Pioneers will conclude their season at home against Central Connecticut State University on Nov. 15 at 1 p.m.



The Spectrum/Steve Coppola

Quarterback Dale Fink (#14) makes a pass on Oct. 31 vs. Wagner.

W. Rugby loses heartbreaker to Hofstra in championship

Mike Hauck
Staff Reporter

After cruising through the regular season with a 5-0 record, the Sacred Heart University women's rugby team fell victims to the discretion of a referee's calls in the championship game against Hofstra University on Sunday, Nov. 2 as they lost 10-7 on a last minute score by the Pride.

After receiving late notice that the game would not be played at their home field at the Jewish Community Center - but instead at Andrews Field in Norwalk - the women had to adjust to the site relocation.

"While we would have liked to play on our home field, we just as many fans come out to support us in Norwalk," said junior Katie Henshaw.

The start of the game was a defensive stalemate as the teams went back and forth with many important tackles being made.

The Pioneers opened up the scoring in the first 10 minutes of the game when the ball was placed in the center of the tri-zone and the ensuing two point conversion attempt was easily kicked through to make the score 7-0.

That was it for the scoring in the first half as neither team capitalized on several opportunities.

In the second half, Sacred Heart was determined to add to their lead and

appeared to have scored another tri to put them ahead by what would have been two scores.

However, the referee was out of position on the play and could not see what happened through the pile of players and disallowed the tri.

This controversial call took the wind out of the Pioneers' sails while giving new life to the Pride.

Hofstra would end up scoring a tri later in the second half, but missed the two point conversion so the score remained 7-5 in favor of the Pioneers heading into the final minutes of the game.

With less than a minute to play, the ball popped out in the Hofstra tri-zone and one of their players jumped on it for a last minute score to give Hofstra the improbable 10-7 come-from-behind victory.

"Naturally, we are all disappointed with the outcome of the game, but we had a great season and can't wait to get back to the championship next year," said Henshaw.

Despite the loss, the women's rugby team improved significantly from last year and has emerged as one of the elite club sports teams at Sacred Heart.

The women have a bright future and a strong foundation to build on for their upcoming seasons as the team returns the same core group of players for next season.



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Sports

M. Soccer shut out by Monmouth, edge The Mount Pioneers' NEC playoff hopes hanging on by a thread

Ryan Mongillo
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University men's soccer team suffered a devastating defeat on Friday, Oct. 31, losing to Monmouth University 2-0 in West Long Branch, N.J. The Pioneers then traveled to Emmitsburg, Md. to take on Mount St. Mary's University on Sunday and kept their playoff hopes alive with a 3-2 victory.

The Pioneers allowed two goals within an eight-minute period against Monmouth and it proved to be too much for them to overcome in a game that the Pioneers needed to have.

"We need to win three out of our last four games in order to have a chance to make the NEC playoffs," said senior Jonatan Allback. "We did not want to come out in the first game and lose, and unfortunately, we did."

The Pioneers followed suit on what seems to be an ongoing occurrence in their games as they outshot the Hawks 16-7 while earning a 6-0-corner kick advantage. Despite these opportunities, the team could not find the back of the net.

The Hawks controlled the time of possession during the first half and they continued to press the Pioneer defense.

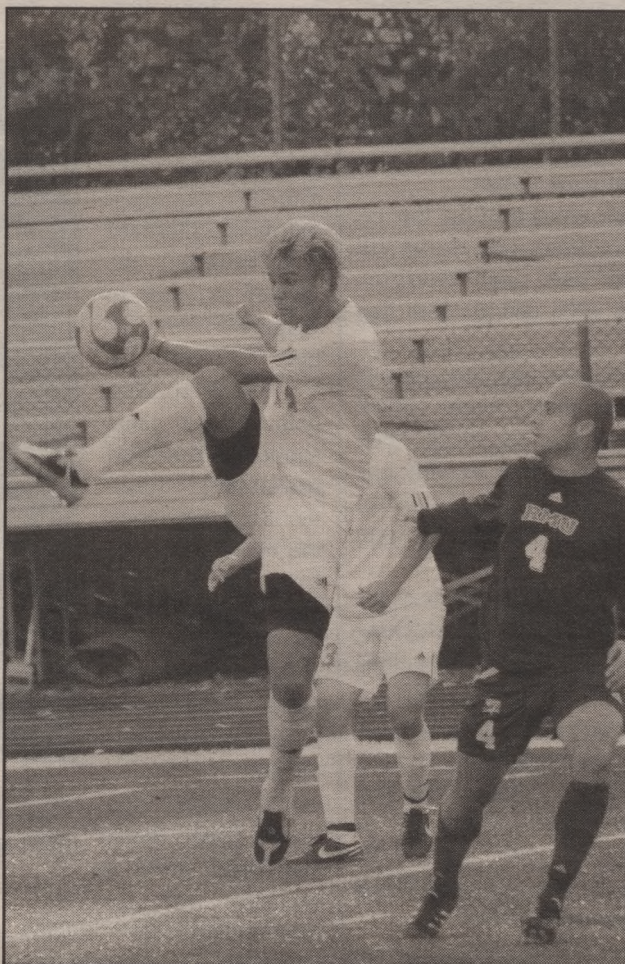
Monmouth finally got the break they were looking for when Rob LaRocca was taken down in the box for a penalty kick. Ryan Kinne was selected to take the kick and kicked the ball past Pioneer goalkeeper Matt Jones and into the bottom left corner of the net to put Monmouth up 1-0.

"We didn't want to fall behind because we knew how important the first goal was going to be," said Jones.

Eight minutes later, the Hawks would put the nail in the Pioneers' coffin by scoring their second and final goal of the game when Kinne stole the ball from the Pioneer defense and found teammate Andreas Klang who beat Jones for his first goal of the season.

With the Pioneers trailing 2-0 and only 40 minutes left in the game, their hopes of winning were slim to none. The Hawks' defense stepped up and would not allow the Pioneers to create another quality scoring opportunity for the rest of the game.

Senior Luke Gagliardi led the team with four shots, including two shots on goal. Jones made two saves in net



The Spectrum/ Jim O'Connor
Jesper Fredricksson (#14) controls the ball against Robert Morris University.

for the Pioneers while Hawks goalkeeper Bryan Meredith made a career high nine saves.

With the loss, the Pioneers put themselves in a tough spot, as they cannot afford to have another bad game if they want to make it into the postseason.

"We know that we had to win three out of four games and we lost [Friday]," said senior Luke Gagliardi. "That means we have to win out the rest of our games, starting with Mount St. Mary's on Sunday."

And that's just what the Pioneers did as they scored three first half goals which propelled them to a 3-2 victory over the Mount on Nov. 1.

With the victory, the Pioneers continue to cling to the hope that they can make it into the NEC playoffs.

"We didn't want to think about winning three games in a row yet," said Gagliardi. "We wanted to focus on winning one game...and then focus on the next game after that."

The Pioneers jumped on the scoreboard first when junior Matt Mones served up a ball to fellow junior Filipe Celikkaya who found the back of the net.

The Pioneers decided that they weren't satisfied with just a one goal advantage as a little more than seven minutes later, senior David Backman set up sophomore Mario Mililli to extend the Pioneers advantage to 2-0.

Thirteen minutes later, the Pioneers would extend their lead yet again when Backman was awarded a penalty kick and, just as he has done throughout the season, calmly converted on the opportunity and the Pioneers were cruising 3-0 at halftime.

"We were definitely happy to be up 3-0 at halftime," said Jones. "It was a solid effort from our team with our backs up against the wall."

The Mount did not want to let a team embarrass them on their home field, as they came out with a vengeance in the second half.

Jones made a great save on Mount forward Chris Wheeler but Scott Phinith pounced on the rebound kicked it past the Pioneer goalkeeper to cut the deficit to 3-1.

The Mount continued to press to get back into the game and with two minutes remaining in the game, Kyle Patrick crossed the ball over to Steve Pathroff who beat Jones to make the game 3-2.

Mount St. Mary's had two final opportunities in the games' final minute and a half, but Jones was up to the task and preserved the Pioneer lead and their win.

The Pioneers are aware that their destiny is in their own hands. They need to win their last two games and get help from other teams in the conference if they want to make it to the NEC tournament.

"We know the task at hand, and we just have to continue taking our games one at a time," said Gagliardi. "Our last two games are at home, and we know we can win on our field."

The Pioneers will put their playoff hopes on the line once again tomorrow when they welcome Long Island University to Campus Field. Game time is at 3 p.m.

Field Hockey secures third seed in NEC tourney

Mike Hauck
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University women's field hockey team clinched the third seed in the upcoming Northeast Conference field hockey tournament on Thursday, Oct. 30 with a 2-1 overtime victory against the Quinnipiac University Bobcats at Campus Field.

"I'm just glad we came out on top," said senior Carisa Eye. "These are the kind of games that you remember for the rest of your life and to have it on Senior Day just meant that much more to us."

The Pioneers made sure that Senior Day was a memorable one. Senior goalie Whitney Mills was near perfect on the day as she turned away nine of the ten shots she faced on goal.

"Whitney played awesome, like her usual self," said Eye. "If she wasn't on top of her game today, they could have scored a lot of goals. She was simply spectacular for us today."

While Eye did not have one of her usual three-goal games, she was still a part of the action as she had an assist that led to a goal for junior Kelsey Zeyher.

Eye deflected a ball right to Zeyher who buried it in the back of the net for the first score of the game in minute 43.

The Pioneers looked to be holding firm and headed for an easy 1-0 victory, but Quinnipiac would not go down without a fight.

With one last attack from the Bobcats, they finally got a ball past Mills with six minutes left to play in the game when junior forward Mackenzie Liptak broke away from the pack and converted on the opportunity.

At that point, the momentum temporarily shifted in favor of the Bobcats as the team was given new life with the goal.

"It was definitely disappointing to have them score at the end like that, but it just made it a brand new game and that's the mentality we had," said Eye. "We didn't put our heads down or throw our hands up in the air. We kept with what we were doing and it ended up paying off."

With the score deadlocked at one, neither team would score for the remainder of regulation and the game went into overtime.

Both teams had chances to score early in the overtime period, but clutch plays by both goalies kept the score tied.

Eye was denied two goals in the first five minutes of the overtime period while Mills saved blasts from the opposition's attackers.

With these close scoring opportunities, everyone in attendance had the feeling that something was going to give.

The Pioneers got their game-winning goal from sophomore Stephanie Fazio as she drew out the goalie from the cage and lifted it over her shoulder to secure the 2-1 victory.

"We knew someone was scoring just by the way the overtime period opened up," said Eye. "The ball was flying back and forth while the goalies made ridiculous saves to keep their teams in it, Kelsey got an opportunity and she took advantage of it to win the game for us."

Although they were out shot 19-9 by the Bobcats, the Pioneers kept their heads in the game and stole a win away from the Bobcats.

The Sacred Heart field hockey team will now gear up for their first game of the playoffs against second seeded Rider University. The game will take place on Friday, Nov. 7 at 1:30 p.m. at Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pa.

In the two team's only regular season match up, Rider defeated Sacred Heart 3-1. Now, Sacred Heart is looking to get even with Rider.

"This is going to be a hard fought game until the end because nobody wants to lose and go home, so we'll be doing everything in our power to win this game," said Eye. "[We] want to go out with a bang and hopefully we can bring a championship home to Sacred Heart this year."

M. Ice Hockey salvages split with Black Knights

Zach Frank
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University men's ice hockey team met the Atlantic Hockey Association defending regular season champions, the Army Black Knights, in a two game series on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

Coming off a morale-boosting series against RIT, the Pioneers entered both games ready to battle it out with Army. After suffering a 6-3 loss on Friday night, the team was able to rebound with a 3-3 tie on Saturday.

The weekend series left Sacred Heart with an overall record of 1-5-2, however, the players are confident that they can bounce back from this arguably slow start and be a force to be contended with.

"Our record right now doesn't reflect how our season will end up," said freshman defenseman Ryan Miniaci. "We have put in good efforts versus top teams and it will only make our team better down the stretch."

Both teams came out skating well on Friday, but the Black Knights' offensive scheme was no match for the Pioneers in the first period, as the game was 2-0 going into the second.

A little over two minutes into the second period, Sacred Heart sophomore defenseman Chris Brown put the team on the scoreboard when fellow sophomore forward Adam DeJong fed him the puck across the crease and Brown fired it past the Army goalie for a power-play goal.

However, the Pioneers' success on the extra-man opportunity was overshadowed five minutes later, as Army went on an offensive onslaught, scoring four straight goals in the second period, sending the game into the third period with the Black Knights ahead 6-1.

DeJong added his name to the scoring column after he received a pass from junior forward Dave Jarman and fired the back into the back of the net.

Nearly three minutes later, senior forward Bear Trapp scored his first goal of the season on a slapshot that cut the Black Knights' lead to three goals.

This would be all the offense that the Pioneers could gather as the game ended with Army winning 6-3.

The loss served as a wake up call for the Pioneers.

"It was very disappointing not coming home with a win after Friday night's game," said junior forward Erik Boisvert. "After a great series against RIT, we felt confident about the upcoming games with Army. We felt prepared, but we just did not execute as well as we were expected to."

Saturday night's game gave the Pioneers a chance to avenge their loss the previous night and improve on their play.

"We did not change much, we just knew that we had to be more consistent in order to beat them," said sophomore forward David Berube. "We focused more on our puck play, our systems, and our physical play Saturday night."

The first period play for both teams set the tone for the rest of the game.

Sacred Heart's offense came out firing, as they took 17 shots on net compared to Army's five. But both goaltenders remained solid between the pipes, allowing no goals to be scored and sending the game into the second period tied at zero.

Early in the second period, Army net-



The Spectrum/ Zack Lane

Evan Mladenoff (#27) waits for the puck to be dropped against Army on Nov. 1

ted the game's first goal on an odd-man rush into Sacred Heart's defensive zone. The score would remain at a 1-0 standoff for nearly 12 minutes in the second period.

With 3:41 left in the second, Sacred Heart's Boisvert notched the team's first goal of the night, tying the score 1-1. Boisvert was assisted on the play by freshman forward Matt Gingera, who fed him a perfect pass at the face-off circle, where he fired a slapshot past Army's goalie.

The tie wouldn't last long, as Army came right back less than two minutes later, scoring the game's third goal and making the score 2-1 in favor of the Black Knights.

Despite being down by one goal entering the third period, Sacred Heart did not let the deficit take them out of the game.

"Even if you are down in the third period at home, there is always that little boost of energy from the fans that make us keep going strong and hopefully come back with a win," said Boisvert.

Scoring the first goal of the third period, Berube recovered a loose puck in Army's zone and netted a slapshot past the Army goalie, tying the score at two.

Once again, Army was able to counter Sacred Heart's goal, scoring 1:31 later and putting themselves in the lead by one.

After nearly seven scoreless minutes and facing a 3-2 deficit, the Sacred Heart offense was able to bear down and work as a unit.

Junior defenseman Corey Laurysen converted on a rebound off of a shot from DeJong, tying the score 3-3 and sending the game into overtime.

After a fierce overtime period which featured many scoring opportunities for both teams, neither offense was able to convert and the game ended in a tie.

Coming out of the weekend series 0-1-1 against Army, the Pioneers will need to focus and buckle down, as they have a bye-week which allows them two weeks to prepare for another weekend series against conference rival American International College on Nov. 14 and 15.

"In preparing for AIC, we'll use the two-week break to our advantage and look to get our key contributors healthy and back into the line-up," said Miniaci. "Our attitudes are positive and we haven't doubted for a second that we'll win an Atlantic Hockey championship and gain a birth to the NCAA's."

W. Soccer spoils St. Francis' bid to land NEC playoff spot

Zach Frank
Staff Reporter

This past weekend, the Sacred Heart University women's soccer team concluded their season with two conference games at Campus Field.

The Pioneers recorded a win on Friday against the Robert Morris Colonials and a tie on Sunday against St. Francis (PA) Red Flash.

Friday afternoon's game against the Colonials proved to be a thriller, as the Pioneers edged past the Colonials 2-1, on a double-overtime goal.

Lisa Nowakowski netted both of the Pioneer goals on the day while sophomore forward Alex Mack assisted on the tying goal, as she fed Nowakowski off of a direct kick in minute 74 of the game.

The game-winning goal was assisted by senior midfielder Megan Wosleger, who also set up Nowakowski's goal off a direct kick just 1:05 into the second overtime.

"We played with purpose and passion this weekend," said sophomore midfielder Lindsay Elliott.

Late in Sunday's game against the Red Flash, it was a different name that would help the Pioneers avoid a loss.

Sophomore midfielder Leigh Dogmantis scored her seventh goal of the season for Sacred Heart in minute 83 of play off a cross pass from freshman midfielder Samantha Kee.

Prior to Dogmantis' goal, the Pioneers trailed the Red Flash 1-0 for nearly 50 minutes of play.

The goal proved to be the last of the game and of the season for the Pioneers as the game ended in a 1-1 tie after two scoreless overtime periods.

Over the course of the weekend, sophomore goalkeeper Meghan Reichelt remained solid in the net.

In the two games, she recorded a total of ten saves, allowing only two goals in her near 211 minutes of play.

The women's soccer team finished their season with an overall record of 2-14-4.

The tie on Sunday was celebratory for the Pioneers, as it did not give St. Francis enough conference wins and withheld them from the Northeast Conference playoffs.

"We wanted to make sure St. Francis didn't make the Final Four, so that was a big energy boost," said Elliott.

Now that the 2008-09 season has come to a close, the team and coach Kim Banner will head back to the drawing board and look to improve on their performance this season.

"Now it is rebuilding and getting stronger and better for the next fall season," said Banner. "I think most people don't realize that our season is short and quick, so any injuries can cost you games and seasons."

Despite a disappointing season, Banner has high hopes for next year's team.

"The 2009 class looks very promising and we are looking to get back on track and hopefully have a successful season next year," said Banner.

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SPORTS

The Spectrum

<http://spectrum.sacredheart.edu>

BROOM RIDE

Pioneers cruise
past Wagner
on Halloween

The Spectrum/Steve Coppola

Sacred Heart's Justin Embler (#50) tackles Wagner running back Shane Smith (#33) on Oct. 31.



The Spectrum/ Zack Lane

HEADSUP

Field Hockey heads to NEC playoffs on high note
page 14

ROADWARRIORS

M. Soccer picks up split on road
page 15



The Spectrum/Jim O'Connor