



## A HIGHER HERO

Phelps faces criticism on photos.

## PERSPECTIVES *He Said/She Said...*

A&E Valentine's Day tunes inspire love.

## FEATURES *In the Spotlight: Dr. Andrew Miller*

February 12, 2009 Volume 25 Issue 14



# SPECTRUM

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## Deadly wildfires blaze down under



AP Photo/Alex Coppel (top) News LTD (bottom)

As fires blaze through the Gippsland region in Australia's Victoria state on Feb. 7, rescue ensue. Top photo: A firefighter watches the flames rip through acres of Australian land. Bottom photo: Water pours from a helicopter in an effort to stop the flames. As of Tuesday evening 181 deaths had been reported. For more on this story - See AUSTRALIA WILDFIRE on page 2...

## Students trek 22 miles carrying Catholic cross

Mallory Berko  
Staff Reporter

The knights will come-a- marching.

On April 6, students from Sacred Heart University's Knights of Columbus council 9251 will march from Fairfield to New Haven, carrying wooden crosses, as a way to get the Sacred Heart community involved with other area councils.

The walk, which will involve carrying an 8-foot tall by 4-foot wide wooden cross, "will serve a dual purpose for our council," said sophomore Sam Dowd, Deputy Grand Knight (second in command).

"We are using it as a way to show our love for Jesus and his sacrifice for us. We want to make a sacrifice this Lent that we know will mean something," said Dowd.

Dowd said that the Knights of Columbia council has been dormant at Sacred Heart for quite some time, but has become active in the last four years.

Several members, including sophomore Paul Carrier, Grand Knight (first in command), wanted to do something that would get members of the Sacred Heart community involved with other area councils and the Knights of Columbus order as a whole, Dowd said.

The students will be walking along Route 1, but in order to complete this journey, the Knights will have to obtain parade permits from each city in which they will be walking through, said Dowd. And the walk will be completed, regardless of rain or snow.

The event will begin on the school's campus. "We will leave Sacred Heart on Monday after a mass, and make it to a council in Orange. where we will stay overnight," said Dowd. "Then we will wake up in time to make it to New Haven's St. Mary's Church, where the Knights were founded, for a mass at noon," he said.

Possibly one of the biggest challenges the order could face, is the people they meet along the way.

"This will be something that we struggle with in terms of conveying our faith to those who may not be in the same place as we are," said Dowd. "While we are nervous that we may encounter some people who may have disagreeing views,

we are excited that our public display of faith will encourage others."

The crosses that both Sam and Paul will be carrying—which were hand-made— weigh close to 60 pounds each. They will carry them as far as they can by themselves, and if assistance is needed, other Knights will step in and help.

The Web site for the Knights of Columbus notes that the order has grown from only a few members in one council, to nearly 13,000 councils and almost 2 million members throughout the United States. The order has spread to other countries over the years, including Canada, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Poland, just to name a few.

According to the Knights of Columbus Web site, the order was formed by father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, and on March 29, 1882, the Connecticut state legislature officially chartered the Knights of Columbus as a fraternal benefit society.

The Knights of Columbus's main purpose is to help families who suffer economically and help maintain stability through the order's life insurance program, and the time and energy that has been donated worldwide to help local communities.

"Members of the Knights of Columbus seek to make a difference in the world through five areas of service—faith, community, family, youth, and fellowship," said Edward Hendricks, professor at the Isabelle Farrington School of Education at Sacred Heart, and faculty advisor and trustee to the order.

Members of the order at Sacred Heart have been involved in many community involved events, including sponsoring barbeques to introduce men to the Knights; the cross building and carrying event; hosting prayer hours and rosaries; serving as musicians, lectors, ministers, and ushers at Masses at Sacred Heart.

According to Hendricks, the council has been the driving force behind collecting supplies for members of the Armed Forces serving in war zones.

The men who are members of this order at Sacred Heart are "brave enough to admit that they are Catholics and to live their faith openly," said Hendricks, "and strong enough to serve as role models and

See SHU KNIGHTS on page 5...

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# News

## Australia wildfire death toll expected to pass 200

Tanalee Smith  
The Associated Press

HEALESVILLE, Australia (AP) — The high death toll from hundreds of wildfires across southeastern Australia has forced authorities to re-examine an accepted survival strategy when blazes threaten: Get out early or hunker down and fight.

Many people waited too long and perished as they tried to escape the weekend infernos.

"People need to understand that a late departure is the most deadly," fire chief Paul Rees said.

Recovery teams moving into burned out towns in Victoria state found charred bodies on roadsides and in wrecked cars — grim signs of futile attempts to flee the raging wildfires fed by 60 mph (100 kph) winds, record heat and drought. The number of deaths was expected to surpass 200, and a few fires were still burning.

"The clear evidence is that the most dangerous place to be is on the road," Rees, Victoria's country fire authority chief, told reporters Tuesday.

The scale of the disaster has shocked a nation that endures deadly firestorms every few years.

Authorities defended their preparations and actions during the fires that swept southeastern Australia on Saturday, saying the extreme weather conditions made catastrophe almost inevitable.

But they agreed that the "stay and defend" policy, under which homeowners remain to

protect their properties from fire, needed to be reviewed.

"It is the application of that policy and a lack of an alternative that we need to work on," Rees said.

Evacuation is not mandatory in high-risk areas, and Australia's wildfire services largely comprise volunteers who lack the resources to protect every home.

In Victoria, there is no formal alert system to warn of approaching wildfires, though the Country Fire Authority distributes advice and updates on its Web site and through radio broadcasts.

One expert suggested Australia's shifting demographics could be partly to blame for the scale of the tragedy.

Mark Adams of the Bushfire Cooperative Research Center told Australian Broadcasting Corp. Television that many urbanites who moved to city outskirts have no experience with wildfires and rely wholly on the fire service for help. But families who have lived in the area for generations are prepared to battle blazes themselves, Adams said.

Victoria state Premier John Brumby said he asked Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to consider setting up a national emergency fire warning system months ago.

But officials agree that in the worst conditions, the direction and intensity of fires can change so quickly that sirens, e-mails and other warning systems are not effective.

The wildfires outside Melbourne, Australia's second largest city, destroyed more than 750 homes, left 5,000

people homeless, and burned 1,100 square miles (2,850 square kilometers) of land, the fire authority said.

While the official death toll stood at 181 Tuesday evening, Brumby said there were an additional 50 bodies that the coroner had not identified and were not included in the official tally.

"This is going to be a significant number. It will exceed 200 deaths," he said.

One elderly resident of Healesville, who asked not to be identified by name, said he escaped before the blaze engulfed his home but he lost two friends.

"It was too fast," said the white-bearded man, tears streaming down his cheek and his chin quivering. "They had prepared their property but they wouldn't have wanted to die there."

Healesville lies about 60 miles (100 kilometers) north-east of Melbourne.

The Coleman family in Kinglake district, about 70 miles (130 kilometers) from Melbourne, had a clear plan: 29-year-old Brooke took her two daughters to her parent's house about 20 miles (32 kilometers) away, while her husband Zack stayed to protect their home.

But leaving her husband — a member of the town's fire guard — was terrifying.

"I left Saturday evening with the fire at my heels," Brooke Coleman said. "I could see the mountain on fire, and he was in it."

Her husband saved their property, but some of their neighbors lost their homes.

Coleman said the government should not dictate whether families stay or go.

"I don't think it's the government's fault so many died," she said. "I think more education is needed for people's awareness of when to leave and when not to leave."

Victoria's Police and Emergency Services Minister Bob Cameron said the state government would not consider making any policy changes until it received the recommendations of a commission investigating the disaster.

Police suspect some fires were started by arsonists. Police Assistant Commissioner Danyne Moloney said a sketch would soon be released of a suspect in one of the fires, which killed 21 people.

Of Australia's estimated 60,000 fires in forests and other vegetation each year, about half are arson or are suspicious, the government-funded Institute of Criminology said this month.

Parliament suspended normal debate for a second day Tuesday to hear condolence speeches.

The possibility of arson "leaves us speechless," Rudd said. "This ... is simply murder on a grand scale."

President Barack Obama telephoned Rudd to convey his condolences and offer assistance. Dozens of other world leaders also sent condolences.

Firefighters continued to battle more than a dozen blazes across Victoria on Tuesday, although conditions were much cooler than during the weekend. Forecasters said temperatures would rise later in the week, posing a risk of flare-ups.

## University print lab causes some frustration

Stephanie Sakellarides  
Staff Reporter

Junior Kelley Valdes spent an hour in the print lab trying to get her paper printed out before her class. Not only was her ID card not accepted, but the printer would also not process her work.

To some Sacred Heart University students, the print lab has become their worst nightmare. More so than not, students tend to run into problems while rushing to print their work before class. This has caused both stress and frustration for students.

"The print lab is running at a high efficiency right now, all of the machines are checked daily to ensure that they're working properly," said Chris Lavoie, academic computing systems support supervisor.

Lavoie also adds that the print lab is run on a "refresh cycle", which means the computers are replaced every three years. The printers are repaired as well when problems arise.

For the students who do not have their own printer, the computer lab is a better option, especially when they are on campus for most of the day. Yet lately, students find this option to be more of an inconvenience.

"Using the print lab shouldn't be as complicated," said junior Kylie Picard. "I have my own printer but the ink is so expensive that it doesn't pay off to use it."

According to Lavoie, many of the problems of intermittent printing delays are due to the processing of large files. When students print from a computer the print jobs are stored in a print queue to be processed. It takes time for the queue to process all the documents.

Some students involved with work-study in the print lab are also feeling the frustration.

"Sometimes students don't tell the workers when there is a paper jam or when it's out of paper," said junior Terri Walsh.

Lavoie assures Sacred Heart that all the work-studies employees are fully trained to handle any problems or issues with the print lab.

"I think some are helpful, but sometimes if I'm having trouble they don't know what is wrong, or they'll tell me to use a different computer, which is frustrating especially when you're in a rush to get to class or it's really crowded," said junior Heather Jones.

Lavoie said that one of the goals of the print lab is to have it fully staffed at its busiest times.

Due the population increase of students, the amount of documents needing to be processed daily has also increased. The talk of expanding the print lab has become a topic for discussion, but Lavoie said that as of right now there are no plans in the works.

"At the moment we don't have the space for any expansion plans," said Lavoie. "The print lab was remodeled 4 years ago to accommodate more students and provide more advanced computers and technology. We have upgraded but as of now there aren't any new plans."

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# Steele hired to lead the republican party

Alyssa Scott  
Staff Reporter

Members of the Republican Party can now breathe a sigh of relief. The Republican National Committee (RNC) has brought out their secret weapon to restore the party's image.

Appealing to a crowd of a younger and more diverse population, the Republicans have elected African-American Robert Steele as the new party chairman.

According to the New York Times, "Mr. Steele was elected in a contest that took six drawn-out ballots before any of the candidates received the required 85 votes. In the final ballot, he defeated Katon Dawson, the South Carolina Republican chairman, drawing 91 of the 165 votes."

As a result, Republicans and supporters are pleased about the selection of the new chairman.

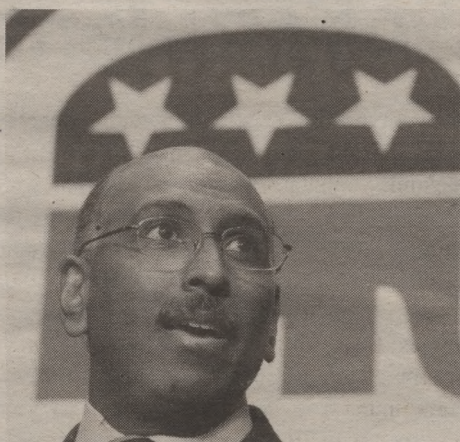
"The choice of Michael Steele is an attempt on the part of the Republican Party to broaden its electoral base among racial minorities, and to demonstrate that the GOP is a more inclusive party," said Dr. Gary L. Rose, chairman of the department of government and politics.

Although he has not been settled in this position for very long, Steele has already announced some of his plans to improve the party.

"I think he will be a good benefit to the RNC. It seems as though he will build the party through the Grass-Root Effort," said senior Alexandra Digiorgi.

Following through with this plan would improve upon what President George W. Bush had previously attempted.

According to the Newsmax Web site, "When George W. Bush was president,



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsibais

## Michael Steele plans to improve the future of the Republican Party.

he called the shots at the RNC, and his approach created a top-down operation that focused on 28 key states. That worked in 2000 and 2004 but not in 2006 and 2008."

Because the party has weakened over the past couple years, this type of change seems to be just what the party needs to recover.

"Steele is a likable and fair-minded individual, and even though he is very conservative, he is not an antagonist, as some recent RNC chairs have been," said Rose.

Already, Steele has followed through with his promise to restore the RNC by cutting many jobs to make massive changes.

Obtaining former chairman Mike Duncan's position, which was appointed by President Bush, Steele's election expresses the RNC's desire to change and break away from the previous presidency.

"Steele does have a reputation for

excellence and sound leadership, which the RNC, at least in terms of its image, desperately needs," said Rose. "The party is in need of a major makeover in terms of fresh ideas and fresh faces, which Steele provides."

Not only is he looking to improve the RNC, but Steele is ready to take on the Democratic Party with full force.

The New York Times states that "Mr. Steele also signaled that after an election in which there were signs that the party was shrinking — in terms of parts of the country and groups it was appealing to — he would make a concerted effort to get the party back on track and compete with Democrats."

Immediately following his election, Steele has already begun taking action against the Democrats' plans for the country. In response to President Barack Obama's economic plan, Steele encouraged Republican house members to stand strong against it.

"Obama should have reservations about the fact that not a single Republican House member voted for the \$819 billion stimulus package. Republicans are saying there's too much political pork in the bill that won't create many jobs," as stated in the N.J. Courier Post.

As a loyal leader Steele assures he will stand strong with his party to support America.

By developing promising plans for the RNC, Steele has restored a sense of hope for Republicans and their party.

"He's a decent guy, and a moderate republican. I think that he will do a good job," said Digiorgi.

In addition to being a new inspiration to Republicans, Steele has also made histo-

ry, being the first African-American to be chairman of the RNC; however, he appears to be modest about his achievement.

According to the New York Times, "Mr. Steele made no mention of his race in his acceptance speech, and members said that was not a major factor in their decision. Nonetheless, it was clearly a force, playing out at a time when the nation has just inaugurated its first black president."

In this time of change, Republicans can take pride in their party's new accomplishment.

"Selecting an African-American to head the Republican Party is another milestone in American politics which will only serve to enhance the political status and political opportunities of African-Americans in the U.S.," said Rose.

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# News

## Off-campus criticism leaves students concerned

Therese O'Shea  
Staff Reporter

You might assume that a prestigious university set in the heart of Fairfield is making the news for a community service project or a winning sports team.

However, Sacred Heart was recently criticized in both the local newspapers and television stations for its negative influence on the Bridgeport community, mostly due to problems with students living in off-campus housing.

"Most of the incidents involve a group of students living in a residential area, as the result of noise, litter, excessive cars parked on the street, where parties are going on.

"If there were signs of party activity, we don't have the jurisdiction to control what goes on off-campus, so public safety would call the police to step in. In doing this, hopefully we were at least a step ahead of the neighbors in calling the police," said Larry Wielk, dean of students."

Some students feel that the label associated with students living off campus is too general, and do not necessarily apply to everyone living in residential areas around Sacred Heart.

"As an off campus student,

I don't see why we would be viewed in a negative light," said sophomore Brian Flumere. "I've lived in Bridgeport for almost a year now, and I have yet to have a neighbor complain about any disturbances from students living in our neighborhood."

However, there have been incidents, Wielk said, and most of them in the past year have taken place in the north end of Bridgeport.

"We would like for students to be more welcomed there, but it is going to take cooperation from both students and the community to control the problem. Students need to understand that they have to be respectful of both their neighbors and the community," said Wielk.

Some students say they understand that the university is set in a residential area, where families just like their own want to live peacefully among the community without any type of continuous disruption.

"It's basically about keeping things at a respectable level," said Flumere.

Students at nearby Fairfield University have mixed opinions about their neighboring college.

"There are some people that I know that go [to Sacred Heart] that aren't the best people, which

fuels some of the stereotypes that students here have of students there," said Lily Muniz, sophomore at Fairfield University.

Others believe that it is easy to share the community with Sacred Heart.

"Sacred Heart students are friendly and I get along with all the students I have met from there," said Fairfield freshman DJ Campana. "I haven't heard any bad things about Sacred Heart. When I visit the university, it seems like a great school."

*"They have to understand that we're in college and we're going to have fun, within our limits of course." -Rob Cali*

Looking from the inside out, Sacred Heart students have higher hopes for how they are viewed in the local community.

"I think there's always going to be a small group of people who are against college students and their lifestyle, but I think that the majority understands our

situation and respects us," said sophomore Rob Cali. "They have to understand that we're in college and we're going to have fun, within our limits of course."

Sacred Heart's commitment to excellence is evident through the service students provide to the community, as they willingly give their time to volunteer for the benefit of others.

Many feel that because the university is so dedicated to helping the community, on local and global levels, the focus should be placed there.

"I would like people to see us for our contributions through community service. Sacred Heart does a lot of work in the community, and it seems like people focus more on the negative side of things more so than the positive," said sophomore Jaclyn Bellino.

With service organizations ranging from Greek Life, to Habitat for Humanity, from Sunshine Kids, to volunteering at the Jewish Home for the Elderly, there are numerous groups associated with community service at Sacred Heart. Those who are involved in these organizations see and appreciate the hard work and dedication that students put into the local community.

"In person, I have only seen

and heard positive feedback from the local community," said Dawn Doucette, coordinator of volunteer programs at Sacred Heart. "We work with or service so many wonderful individuals within the Bridgeport Community that all are always happy to meet SHU students."

Just last week, students volunteered their time to a program called "Souper Bowl of Caring," a food drive sponsored by the ONE Campaign. Students worked to collect canned goods and monetary donations for the local St. Charles food pantry.

"I would like SHU students to always be viewed as positive role models, because we do so much for and with the community," said Doucette.

As the semester continues, many at Sacred Heart are hopeful that they can continue working on being seen in a positive light, and for the good work done by students to be the image that the community has of the university.

"The students that are involved, caring and do enrich our overall community, are the ones that shine over the others and I think do represent Sacred Heart University and its students," said Doucette.

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at the women's basketball game.





Sacred Heart University/Tracy Deer-Mirek

(From left) Father Peter Lynch, Chris Russo, and Sam Dowd of the SHU chapter of the Knight of Columbus spent the weekend constructing crosses on the Chartwells patio.

## SHU Knights are run by dedicated students

...CONTINUED from page 1.

a source of inspiration for others."

In order to be a member of the Knights, you must be a male over the age of 18, and a practical Catholic. Knights are allowed to be as involved as much, or as little, as they choose, but they must be dedicated, committed, and willing to serve the fraternity with their fellow brother knights.

The order is a student organization. It is not maintained or run by teachers or advisors, but rather students by who are dedicated to their religion and community.

Mike Giarratano, co-director of the intern program at the School of Education, serves as the order's financial Secretary. He said that the recruitment level this year has shown impressive results and with dedicated members, such as Dowd and Carrier, the order hopes to bring in even more members in the coming year.

"This is a wonderful involvement for students, in which they get to live the religion by the things they do each day, and not just by attending a weekly service," said Giarratano.

# GREEN IN THE CLASSROOM

Mari Brown  
Staff Reporter

Recycling bins, compost piles, re-usable shopping bags, and hybrid cars. All these things are for helping to save the environment. Among the long list of environment-friendly ways of living is using less paper at home, in the office, and at school.

At Sacred Heart University, there is a movement spreading across campus that has the school going green. There are plenty of recycling receptacles for students and faculty members to dump their plastic bottles and used paper in.

Professors are also taking initiative in their classrooms. Using the Internet more, many professors are posting their class syllabus online, distributing worksheets through Blackboard, and accepting homework assignments through email.

"It's true that I am using Blackboard for posting syllabi, assignments, and readings, and for collecting most assignments, and that using less paper is a big motivation for this," said Dr. Sara Ross, assistant professor of Media Studies.

Another Sacred Heart professor, Pilar Munday, has also become more green-conscious.

"We have this medium now, Blackboard and the Web, that we can use...why not use it?" said Munday.

Blackboard is an online tool that Sacred Heart hosts for students and teachers. Each course has its own link, with more links to access information such as the syllabus, assignments, a discussion board, and more. Blackboard is readily accessible on the Sacred Heart Web site.

"There are certain things that are definitely easier, like uploading the syllabus and having students print it if they want to," said Munday. "On the other hand, it is definitely more difficult to correct certain homework online."

Throwing the red pen out the window isn't easy at first, according to Ross, it just takes some time to adjust.

"It took a while to get used to typing comments instead of writing them out by hand on the papers, but now I'm faster and at the same time just as thorough," said Ross.

With professors changing their ways, students are forced to change their ways as well.

"I think it's very convenient to have Blackboard, as it reduced the need of paper," said freshman Javier Tabora. "I can easily use my computer to type out an essay and then send it to my teacher as soon as I'm done so I don't have to worry about it anymore."

This campus-wide movement to save the environment isn't sponsored by the school, but is results from personal practices by students and teachers. "In my home

life, I've been trying to reduce my carbon footprint by eating local foods, driving a fuel efficient car, etc.," said Ross, "so it made sense to try to make some changes in my working life, as well."

Papers from students pile up over time, and Professor Richard Magee realized this long ago. "I thought about all of the semesters that I had piles of final papers and student portfolios stacked in my office, and it was obvious that one semester probably meant well over 1000 pages that ultimately ended up in the recycle bin at best and in the trash at worst," said Magee.

Sophomore Allison Santaniello is one student who not only appreciates going green in the classrooms, but also goes green in her dorm at Sacred Heart.

"I recycle in my dorm because it's such a simple thing that we can do to help the environment," said Santaniello. "Some of my friends don't seem to understand why I recycle if I'm not getting a profit from it, but what they don't realize is what a difference they can make in the world we live in."

From driving a fuel-efficient car and recycling reusable materials, to posting homework assignments online, everyone can help the environment by going green.

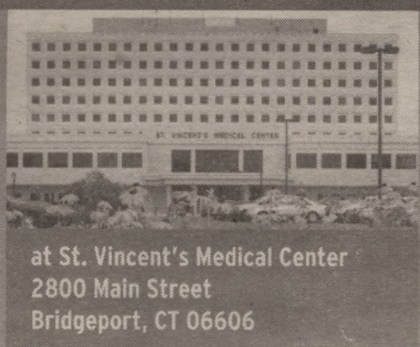
"It's really important that we keep the environment in mind," said Santaniello. "We have so many opportunities to make a difference now, why wait any longer?"

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Daria C. Ruffolo, RN, MSN-CS, CCRN ACNP, spent nearly 20 years as a bedside nurse in the surgical/trauma intensive care venue before taking on the role as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, with the trauma team at a busy urban level one trauma center located in Chicago, IL. She holds undergraduate degrees in both nursing and biology. Daria has adjunct appointments in two collegiate nursing programs and has spoken at over 200 national conferences including NTI, Trends and the Midwest conference. In addition she has a number of publications to her credit in journals such as The International Journal of Trauma Nursing, AACN Clinical Issues, Journal of Trauma Nursing and Nursing Ethics.

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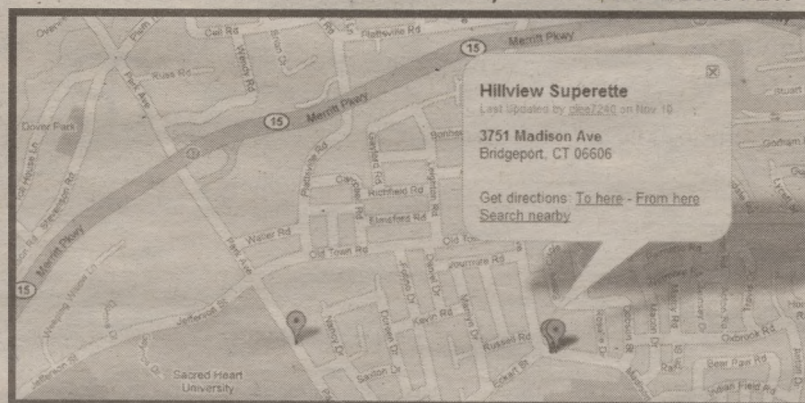
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# Perspectives

## Love is abundant on campus, but funds are limited Students attempt to make Valentine's Day memorable and affordable

Joe Mazza  
Staff Reporter

Want to make Valentine's Day special without burning a hole in your pocket? You're in luck.

Overall, students appreciate less expensive gifts on the "love holiday," anyway, and are expecting to spend less this season.

"I don't have the money I had in previous years," said senior Pat Donahue. "Buying candy, chocolates, flowers, and going out to a fancy restaurant this year may not make sense financially."

As another student with less money in his pocket, senior Luke Gagliardi is approaching the holiday differently.

"In past years, I would probably try to impress a girl by spending more money," said Gagliardi. "This year is more cute and personal."

Showing affection for a loved one could be as simple as buying just one rose for him or her.

Sacred Heart University is doing its part to help out students on the special day. The office of residential life offered roses for as little as \$3.

If that's still out of your budget, keep in mind that you don't even have to spend any money in order to show love to somebody close to you.

"I'll make her a card, and just not worry about spending money on overpriced flowers and chocolates," said

Donahue. "All I really want is to spend time and hang out with her as we enjoy each other's company."

Gagliardi thinks that if a significant other doesn't show gratitude in any caring gift being given to them, it should be contemplated to whether they deserve that care.

"If a girl were unhappy with any gift I wouldn't be dating her," said Gagliardi.

Still, some people have had to spend more, not on candy or flowers, but on postage.

Freshman Lauren Candee had to spend more money than usual because she had to package her gifts and card in order for her boyfriend to get it overseas.

"I bought him candy and movies and

some other stuff, and I decided to get candy for the other guys in his squad too because I think everyone should get a valentine on Valentine's Day," said Candee.

It was money well-spent for Candee, but what her boyfriend really liked the most was the love put into it.

"It was nothing special, just a bunch of Valentine's candy and some movies and a couple other little things," said Candee.

But no matter what the actual gift is, the best gift given and received is one from the heart.

"I just hope it makes him smile, that's all. The real meaning of Valentine's Day is being together and appreciating the time you have together."

## No date required on Valentine's Day, students say

James Kearns  
Staff Reporter

What's the best Valentine's Day present you never got?

Valentine's Day is traditionally thought of as a couple's holiday when two people in love show one another how much they really care, but what do you do if you're single and don't have someone to share the day with?

"I usually go out with a group of my single friends," said junior Keith Wilkinson. "You can't really sit around and be hurt if you don't have a date."

Many at Sacred Heart University agree, and would prefer to go out and do

something fun with their friends than to hide in their rooms.

"I'm not sure what I'm doing yet," said freshman Georgina Cordello. "I'm probably going to go see 'Twilight' here at school."

Others have decided to stay in on the classic couple's day.

"I'll be babysitting my niece," said freshman Emmalee Eng. "My brother tricked me into doing it. He called me up and asked what I was doing on Valentine's Day, and I told him nothing. Then he said he had someone cute for me, so I said agreed to it. Then he said, 'Perfect, my wife and I are going out to dinner, can you watch the baby for us?'"

Some, however, don't handle a low-key Valentine's Day as gracefully as others.

"It's like being on a stool in front of the entire world and everyone is pointing and laughing at you while you're outside and everyone else is having fun," said Eng.

While being single on Valentine's Day is tough, what about those who have long distance relationships?

Freshman Danelle Record's boyfriend from Clerk Summit, Pa. is planning to come up for the Valentine's Day weekend.

"I'm so excited," said Record. "Friday night, we're going out to dinner

together at my aunt and uncle's house, and on Saturday we're spending the day together."

Still, Wilkinson perceives the true meaning of Valentine's Day to be "[a reminder] that love still exists no matter what is going on in the world."

Record agrees that the holiday is usually given too much attention.

"To be honest, I've never been into the whole 'Valentine's Day' idea much before," said Record. "It's just another media holiday, which is why my boyfriend and I just hang out together. But just being able to see him and spend time with him is the best Valentine's Day gift I could ask for."

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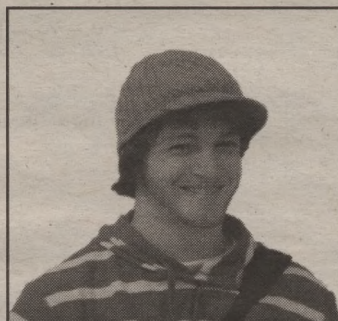
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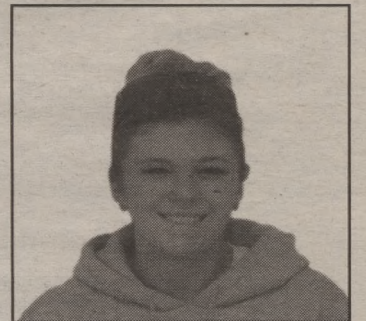
Kyle Bush  
Junior

"Plastic Rose."



Brian Beatty  
Freshman

"Snack pack of pudding with a block of cheese."



Carisa Eye  
Senior

"A photo of Dennis Rodman with rainbow hair."



Mike Cortina  
Junior

"A pre-owned stuffed animal."

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Answer for last week's "Where in SHU?"  
Hawley Lounge



## Rant of the week: Love is only expressed when a holiday is near

### Rants & Raves

Allie Pohevitz  
Columnist



He loves me, he loves me not. He loves me, he loves me not.

Feb. 14, a day single people have, over the years, come to despise. But what about those of us who are in committed relationships?

What makes everyone so sure that those of us who are coupled up are in love with the idea of lovin' on Valentine's Day?

I'm a girl, and I have a boyfriend, so automatically I should love candy hearts, right? I should also love flowers, puppy dogs, and all things pink.

Don't get me wrong, I do, in fact, love all of those things, but to be forced into thinking that this is what I am supposed to feel makes me want to run fast in the other direction.

Why should I be forced to believe that there is only one day a year in which I deserve praise?

I'm not asking that my significant other should buy me roses or candy every day, my thinking is actually quite far on the other side.

If you showed me you loved me all year long, why would we need to go so crazy for overstuffed teddy bears and bland greeting cards on one specific day?

In theory, Valentine's Day has a very sweet meaning: to show your loved one just how special they are to you.

Its purpose is to explain in song and poem and obscure declarations just how amazing you are.

Its purpose is to prove to your significant other that your life would be worthless without his or her shining face to get you through each day.

Perhaps I'm being overdramatic, but the truth of the matter is that Valentine's Day is no more of a sweet romantic holiday than it is a competition of who can walk away with the most loot.

People have become so obsessed with the idea of receiving presents on Feb. 14 that they do things as stupid as staying around in a relationship they are unhappy with just to see what they can walk away with.

I am not saying everyone acts like this. There are some couples that truly do show love to one another every day of the year, and for them I say run with Valentine's Day.

But to those who are just starting out, skip the dramatics and split the cost of a nice dinner.

It doesn't need to be anything over the top.

For that matter, it doesn't even need to be anything out of the ordinary, just a nice time with your loved one.

Still not convinced that Valentine's Day is a holiday concocted to sell candy and cards?

Try typing, "Sweetest Day" into your search engine. Also known as the third Saturday in October, Sweetest Day began in 1922 by a group of popular candy corporations.

Though in place for nearly a century, the "holiday" was not picked up by Hallmark until 2006.

In just two years since being picked up by the card company, the amount of greeting cards created has nearly quadrupled.

The premise of Sweetest Day is to buy candy and flowers for the one you love.

Sounds an awful lot like Valentine's Day, doesn't it?

Not every relationship is the same. Some people began dating four days ago, while others began four years ago.

Regardless of when it began, there should be no certain day in which people feel forced to show their love and affection to their significant others.

If you truly love someone, you will always love them, regardless of the date on the calendar.

So, Happy Valentine's Day.



Photo Courtesy of Microsoft

Only on Valentine's Day do girls receive heart-shaped boxes of chocolates from their significant others.

## He Said/ She Said... Is Valentine's Day strictly a girl's day?

Brian Germain  
He said



Every Feb. 14, a chubby little cherub flies his diapered bottom around with the most deadly weapon known to man.

In a mental state of pure madness, he pulls back his bow and lets the arrows of infatuation fly.

The results of this action could not be better.

Cupid has the power to make a hardened criminal turn into a smitten kitten.

This unparalleled force can cause a great deal of trouble because no one ever really plans for love—it just happens sometimes.

Feb. 14 is a day where love blooms faster than tulips in springtime.

The cynics say this day is an elaborate scheme thought up by Hallmark to make a fortune.

But I say that they're still just bent out of shape over some valentine they never got from Joe Dipuc back in third grade.

In the end, know that this day is here to stay, but you have the option to embrace it, hate it, or ignore it all together.

Doing the first will yield the best results, because the potential of this single day is greater than any power known to the mortal man.

Okay, men, I know you're always wondering where your present is on Valentine's Day.

Why is it that you're expected to shell out two months of your work-study paycheck and get nothing in return?

Why have women argued for equality for years and here I am in 2009 and I can't even get a freakin' Valentine's Day card?

Where's the equality in that?

It's all a big test to solidify or disprove the idiocy of individual men.

We are tools of marketing that get roped into buying jewelry, candy, roses, cards, and other items that are marked up 12,000 percent this time of year.

The smart man would look into his heart and not his wallet; use his brain and not his credit card.

Let's get creative this Valentine's Day and not break the bank. Let romance bloom, instead of a bouquet of six-dozen long stem roses.

Write a poem, cook her dinner, shower her in love; not in material items.

Feb. 14 should remind you that when you have the right girl by your side, love is all that matters.

It's like an element in the air; you need it just as much as oxygen. Happy hunting, Cupid.

Liz Warren  
She said



I'll admit it: I've never really been a romantic.

I don't particularly enjoy sappy movies, nor do I ever have any desire for a bouquet of flowers.

I'm a stone cold, merciless feminist 364 days of the year.

But on Feb. 14, it is my duty to wholeheartedly embrace my femininity. Yes, every year on that day, I transform into a giddy little girl for anything that's pink, heart-shaped, fuzzy, or a combination of all three.

And I think all girls agree with me on this.

Yet, something tells me that none of this sounds the least bit appealing to guys. I highly doubt that even the most sensitive guy would appreciate a talking teddy bear as much as I do. That's why I think Valentine's Day is strictly meant for the girls.

Yes, I said it.

Now before this causes a male-lead coup, I'd like to point out that the holiday's colors are red and pink.

Walk into any store after New Year's, and the fluorescent fuchsias and magentas will blind most guys, while they'll lure in almost every girl, taken or single.

If the holiday was truly meant for both genders, don't you think the colors would be more neutral?

Christmas's colors are unisex.

Hanukkah's colors are unisex. Even St. Patrick's Day's colors are unisex. Valentine's Day's colors, however, are more female-friendly.

If the color scheme of the holiday isn't proof enough, the concept of the holiday should convince any remaining skeptics.

Valentine's Day is meant to remind someone that you care about him or her. And while I'm sure everyone wants to feel loved, girls just want it more.

There's even scientific evidence which states that women are more emotionally needy than men. There, I said it. The feminist within me is cringing as I type.

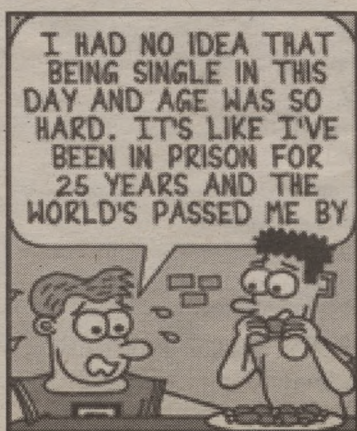
So basically, sometimes all a girl really wants is a stuffed animal and some chocolate to make her feel loved.

While I believe in equality, I also believe in the gender gap.

There are just some things that guys will never understand about girls, and vice versa.

And one of those things is an appreciation for a nice, cuddly, pink teddy bear that says 'I love you' when you squeeze it.

# Girls & Sports





# —Arts & Entertainment—

## Tunes to make your heart skip a beat

Genevieve Manna  
Staff Reporter

With the famous fourteenth approaching, these tunes and flicks are a must for all Valentines.

Some people love it. Some people hate it. Whether you like it or not, St. Valentines Day is in full gear for Saturday. The holiday is an excuse to share with the world how in love you may, or may not be. Nothing says, "I love you," like diamonds and chocolate, but mix tapes and movies are a close second.

1. "Love, Love, Love, (love, love)" by As Tall As Lions. Beginning slow, lead singer Dan Nigro gradually gains momentum vocally and explains his newfound appreciation for the ever-popular emotion, love. The love struck ballad has a laid back, funky twist to it, and is perfect for V-day lovers.

2. "Everlong" by Foo Fighters. A shoe in for a Valentines Day mix tape. With a chorus such as, "And I wonder/ If everything could ever be this real forever/ If anything could ever be this good again/ The only thing I'll ever ask of you/ You've gotta promise not to stop when I say when" you can't go wrong delivering the right message.

3. "No Other Love" by John Legend ft. Estelle. You can't celebrate the day without a little bit of soul reggae. This body-moving track is off of Legends junior album *Evolver*. With Estelle's contribu-



Photo courtesy of Mohammed Ballas

Some traditional teddy bears and flowers in preparation for Valentines Day.

tion, it's a perfect love-giving duet.

4. "Fuzzy Blue Lights" by Owl City. If you can't celebrate Valentines Day with your loved one because of distance, then this is the song for you. Adam Young, known for his solo project *Owl City*, provides a peaceful track expressing the feeling of longing for someone far away. It's quasi-electronic beat provides some soothing charm.

5. "Just Like Heaven" by The Cure. Feb. 14 and The Cure go hand in hand.

This melodic mesmerizing song has an uplifting beat and is perfect for the occasion. According to lead singer Robert Smith, "the song is about hyperventilating, kissing and fainting to the floor".

Movies more your thing? These flicks are perfect if you're in the loving mood.

1. "Moulin Rouge" (2001). A musical that is fantastically loud and vibrant, presents a catalogue arranged in technicolor with artists such as Paul McCartney, Nirvana, and Madonna. The movie fea-

tures two passionate lovers played by Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor.

2. "Eternal Sunshine for the Spotless Mind" (2004). Memories are always cherished, but what about ones involving exes? The lead, played by Jim Carey, finds out that his girlfriend has recently had a procedure done to erase all memories of their relationship. He hunts down the doctor and hopes to get the same procedure but then decides that erasing his memories is not at all what he wants because he cherishes them.

3. "10 Things I Hate About You" (1999). Now please, hold back the laughter. Teen romance movies have always been an easy target. But, if you actually thought about it, the most iconic love story of all was between two teenagers; ever hear of Romeo and Juliet? Speaking of Shakespeare, "10 Things I Hate About You" is filled with references to the famous poet.

And last but certainly not least:

4. "When Harry Met Sally" (1989). On Valentines Day a classic is always in order. Pop this into a DVD player and decide for yourself whether or not men and women can really be 'friends'. The film is a timeless romantic comedy about two friends that grow older, closer, and possibly wiser. You will laugh, cry, and wish that Harry Burns were telling you how he "loves that it takes you an hour and a half to order a sandwich."

Happy Valentines Day!

## Does being a celebrity mean school's not important? Stars shock fans with the truth about their education... or lack thereof

Lacey Gilleran  
Staff Reporter

"You may now move your tassel from the right to the left."

This is one saying most Americans will remember for the rest of their lives. It's from when they graduated from high school.

Parents like to explain it as one of the milestones in life that will only lead you to succeed.

But what about those people that did not graduate? Did you know that some of them continue to make millions of dollars every year, while you are in college paying off loans?

It's true, many of the celebrities that America has grown to love, have not graduated high school. So while you are swimming around in financial debt, they are floating on a raft, and sipping on a big glass of "my life is awesome" in the middle of the Caribbean.

According to the Web site, [www.glamorati.com](http://www.glamorati.com), there are many celebrities that have not graduated high school. Some of them will surprise you while others will make you say, "Well, that explains a lot."

The list includes Jessica Simpson, Britney Spears and her sister Jamie-Lynn Spears.

When seeing the not always intelligent bunch of Jessica Simpson, Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan, and Paris Hilton on the list, many Sacred Heart University



AP Photo/Chris Pizzello

Spears makes millions despite her lack of education.

students were not shocked, "because they sound dumb when they speak," said senior Rob Matz.

It is a known fact that these women cover the headlines with questionable actions.

From driving with a baby on their lap, to getting pregnant at 17, to making a life out of asking if tuna is chicken or fish, these women have not only left their audiences laughing at them, but also saying "oh wow, did they really just say that?"



AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian

Travolta shocks some with the news that he is not a high school grad.

However, is the fact that they did not graduate high school one of the reasons for the constant lapses in judgment?

"I'm not surprised they did not graduate because of their public persona," said graduate student Kristina Bostley. "When you are growing up you think 'pop stars don't go to school.' I mean, just looking at what they do shows their intelligence."

Even though there are people like "train-wreck" Lindsay Lohan on the list, there are actors, musicians, and personali-

ties that people would not name if asked who they thought did not graduate high school.

Some of the surprises on the list include Nicolas Cage, Leonardo DiCaprio, John Travolta, Robert DeNiro, and Oscar winner Hilary Swank.

Junior Danny Skrelja could not believe some of the people he saw on the list. "I guess because of the way they present themselves as being well-educated," he said. "In all honesty, it just shows how many stupid people there are in the world."

While it is easy to pass judgement on those who did not flip their tassels, it is also impressive to see what these people have been able to make for themselves.

With all these celebrities dropping out and making it big, perhaps they are sending the wrong message.

Many Americans, especially young adults, idolize these celebrities because of how they look, and the careers they have formed for themselves.

But is not finishing high school a good decision to make?

"I feel like it's a Catch 22. Everyone chooses a different path and maybe [dropping out] is a better path for a musician or actor, but does that mean if you go through school you won't get far? I mean, what's the point?" said Matz.



# Michael Phelps, a higher hero?

## Bong pictures surface and Phelps faces multiple critics

Sarah Prial  
Staff Reporter

In the first week of February, News of the World published a photo of Olympic hero Michael Phelps smoking marijuana out of a large glass bong.

The internet immediately exploded with opinions, arguments, and a rapidly released apology from Michael Phelps.

"I engaged in behavior which was regrettable and demonstrated bad judgment," he said. "I'm 23 years old and despite the success I've had, I acted in a youthful and appropriate way."

He concluded his statement by promising that "it will not happen again."

Freshman Alex Zeller was "disgusted" upon first hearing of Phelps' drug use. "I used him as an example of success and what one can accomplish by working hard," said Zeller.

Junior Greg Jones, a football player, thought it was "funny" that Phelps, as an Olympic hero was "stupid enough to put himself in a position like that," he said.

Despite the uproar, two of Phelps' sponsors, Omega and Speedo, are standing by him.

A statement by Omega, a Swiss watch company said, "The current story in the press involves Michael Phelps' private life and is, as far as Omega is concerned, a nonissue."



AP Photo/Hassan Ammar

**Phelps giving a public apology for his poor judgement.**

Speedo, another sponsor, took a similar position. "In light of [his] statement yesterday, Speedo would like to make it clear that it does not condone such behavior and we know that Michael truly regrets his actions," said a company statement.

Is it acceptable for Phelps' use of an illegal drug to engage in this behavior and to get away with it so easily?

"He is looked on as a role model for determination and a hard work ethic. To go

out and act like a high school partygoer is unacceptable," said Jones. "Especially to the young children that watched him during the Olympics."

However, the International Olympic Committee believes that by releasing an apology, Phelps did take responsibility.

"Michael Phelps is a great Olympic champion. He apologized for his inappropriate behavior. We have no reason to doubt his sincerity and his commitment to continue to act as a role model."

USA Swimming has decided to suspend Phelps for three months in order to, "send a strong message to Michael because he disappointed so many people."

Also dropping Phelps from contract was Kelloggs. On the companies Web site, they stated the reason for dropping him after the incident was because his behavior, "is not consistent with the image of Kelloggs."

Is he truly committed to acting as a role model? This is not Phelps' first incident with illegal substance abuse. In 2004 at the age of 19, Phelps was sentenced to 18 months probation for driving under the influence of alcohol.

According to the CBS News Web site, he told the judge, "I recognize the seriousness of this mistake. I've learned from this mistake and will continue learning from this mistake for the rest of my life."

As of now, Michael Phelps still plans to compete in the 2012 Olympic Games.

# Transgender cast member stirs up questions

Michelle Munden  
Staff Reporter

MTV's "The Real World: Brooklyn" premiered on Wednesday, Jan. 7 and is the twenty-first season for the reality television series.

The show focuses on a group of diverse strangers living together for several months as cameras follow their lives and personal relationships.

There are two changes this time around for "The Real World: Brooklyn" that have critics talking. Not only are there eight cast members instead of the usual seven, but also for the first time ever, there is a transgender member in the cast.

The transgender issue has been a touchy subject for quite a few years now, and "The Real World" has certainly seen its fair share of gay and lesbian cast members, but were viewers ready for a transgender?

"I think it's good because it's trendy. I think it will bring more people to watch the show because it makes you more curious," said senior Lauren Peppas.

So first things first, of course, what exactly is a transgender? The dictionary defines transgender as, "appearing as, wishing to be considered as, or having undergone surgery to become a member of the opposite sex."

To understand more simply, a transgender is basically someone who was born one sex and has surgery to transform their body into the other. Most transgender individuals feel that they were born with the wrong body parts, so they may seek out surgery to make their physical corrections.

Enter Katelynn, a 24-year-old who was born a male and traveled to Thailand to have surgery in order to complete the transformation to female.

Season 21 of "The Real World" began as usual, but it did not take long for the other housemates to have suspicions about Katelynn. Eventually, Katelynn confessed and explained her real self.

If you are confused about the transgender life, you are not alone. Other "Real World: Brooklyn" housemates and students here at Sacred Heart University indeed had their questions and gossip running ramped.

"I don't think there's any problem with a transgender on the show, but I have a vague understanding of what it means," said junior Christopher Rivera. "I guess it's like a genetic disorder, if it can even be called that. She should just choose the gender she feels most comfortable with in order to live a more normal life."

So why did MTV finally decide to go this route after avoiding the issue for so long? Some students make valid points.

"I think it's interesting because there are more transgender people in the world today, and this is one of the first times it's been broadcasted on television, so it could be inspirational towards other people," said junior Lynn Tomasz.

With the show now being in its sixth episode for the season, viewers can continue to plan on daily drama.

To catch the action for yourself, you can watch every Wednesday night on MTV at 10 p.m.

# Clarkson's new single climbs charts

## "My life would suck without you," reels in new fans

Liz Brombacker  
Staff Reporter

What jumps from 97 to the No. 1 spot in just one week?

Former American Idol winner Kelly Clarkson's new single "My Life Would Suck Without You," made the biggest leap in the past 50 years on the Billboards Hot 100 list. Her single sold 280,000 digital copies in the first week that it was released according to the Billboard Web site.

Her single is not only climbing the charts, but students on campus are also impressed with her recent release.

"I really love the new song, 'My Life Would Suck Without You,' because it's a good mix of pop and edgy music," said sophomore Dana Troy.

Clarkson teamed up with producers Max Martin and Dr. Luke, who produced Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl," to create her new song, which Rolling Stone Magazine calls "straight up pop."

This is the first single Clarkson has released since her album "My December" in 2007.

According the Web site www.Allmusic.com, after getting in a fight with her production team, Clarkson went against team member Clive Davis's advice to remain as a pop artist and released *My December* as more of a rock album.

Despite Clarkson's high ambitions this album did not get the response she was looking for.

Her new single though, has not only pleased past fans, but is also drawing in a new fan base.

"I think that this song will attract a lot more fans that are different from her



AP Photo/ Dan Steinberg

**Clarkson performing at a pre-Grammy show in Beverly Hills.**

normal fans, because she is more upbeat in this song and it shows she's more versatile," says freshman Brittany Llobell. "She can go from a slow love song to a song you would hear in the club."

Fans not only like the way that Clarkson's new song sounds, but they like the lyrics as well. Clarkson's song includes lines such as, "My life would suck without you" and "I know that I've got issues, but you're pretty messed up too." These are lyrics that Clarkson's fans feel they can relate to.

"I enjoy the rhythm and upbeat

tone of the song. I just enjoy her music because a lot of her songs are songs that I can relate to my own life," said junior Sarah Tencza.

Clarkson's new single is reaching a wide audience, not only through internet downloads, but on the radio as well. Clarkson's single has reached the top of a lot of radio playlists, including New York's Z100.

However, right now Clarkson is not scheduled for any upcoming tours; though, in the past fans have not been disappointed with her live performance.

"I went to a Kelly Clarkson concert and I loved every second! We ended up second row from the stage, it was awesome," said Tencza.

Clarkson's new album "All I Ever Wanted" is due in stores on March 17. "My Life Would Suck Without You" will be the first single on her album.

Clarkson appears to be excited with the new album as well as its cover, as she stated in her blog, "it's very colorful and they have definitely photo-shopped the cr\*p out of me, but I don't care haha! Whoever she is, she looks great."



# Features

## In the spotlight: Dr. Andrew Miller

Nicole Giglia  
Staff Reporter

From "90210" to 06825, Dr. Andrew Miller, assistant professor of media studies and digital culture (MSDC) at Sacred Heart University, brings the lessons of Hollywood to the East Coast.

Miller graduated in 1987 from the University of Michigan with a double major in English and film.

After spending one last summer in his home state of Massachusetts, Miller said he "got in a car and drove to California."

Having always known he wanted to work in the movie industry but not knowing what exactly he wanted to do, Miller soon found himself working in Los Angeles on low budget horror films.

"With low budget films you do everything from getting coffee to building sets," said Miller. "Once I even had to pour cockroaches on an actress and then wrangle them back up for another take."

Soon Miller completed a two-year program to become an assistant director. During this time he worked on various television shows and movies including the "The Doors," a film about Jim Morrison, the famous and influential lead singer of 60s rock band The Doors.

"An assistant director is basically an on-set manager. You're in charge of planning and managing the shoot," said Miller.

Following his training Miller became a full-fledged assistant director.

Some of his projects include the movies "Of Mice and Men," and "Sister Act 2." He also worked on hit television shows including "L.A. Law" and "Beverly Hills, 90210" where he was responsible for "making a call-sheet" and "directing

hallway extras."

After getting a taste for Hollywood, Miller wanted a change. "I liked movies but not assistant directing. It's not very creative," he said.

It was back to school for Miller. First he obtained a degree of Masters in Communications from the University of Iowa and then a doctorate degree in film studies from the University of Pittsburgh.

In the fall of 2000, Miller made his transition to Sacred Heart where he is currently an assistant professor. "It's a good fit," said Miller. "It's a great department with great students."

Miller's history has made him a valuable resource for many students.

"He's a great teacher," said senior Manny Santiago. "He worked in the business so he's very knowledgeable."

Recently he has taught classes that focus on digital editing, sports in the media, and film history. "I've taught both theory and production which I love," said Miller.

"He'll help you but he won't just give you the answer. He'll make you work for it," said senior Anthony Santos. "He knows what he's doing and he gives you creative freedom."

Senior Kendra Sloan says she loves having Professor Miller here at Sacred Heart.

"He is passionate about his job and he is very influential and always willing to help you out," said Sloan.

If you haven't had him as a professor, maybe you've at least seen him on campus. Many students take note of him for his wardrobe.

"His 'Blues Brothers' sunglasses are my favorite," said Santiago.

"I've dressed the same way since



Photo courtesy of Samantha Selvaggio

Dr. Miller teaching his students in the media studies lab.

college," said Miller. "I'm stuck in the 80s, just not in a Pat-Benatar-hair kind of way."

Aside from being a teacher, Miller has played a role in helping the MSDC department grow.

"Recently I've helped start the video news magazine called 'The Pulse.' Some technical difficulties have prohibited the news segment from airing on the campus televisions but 'The Pulse' has been altered to air on the web and 'should be posted on iTunes U in the next couple of weeks," said Miller.

He also took part in the development of the media studies lab.

Even when classes and meetings are finished, Miller's day isn't quite over. It's off to soccer practice, piano lessons, and kung-fu classes.

"I shuttle my 9-year-old daughter to various places," said Miller. "I've coached her soccer team for a few years."

When he finally gets some time to

relax Miller watches what he describes as "far too much TV." He's also a "big Celtics and Patriots fan."

"I read a lot of science fiction," said Miller. "Clearly I've become more and more of a geek the older I've gotten, but that's the good thing about getting older, you don't have to be so cool anymore."

As his students leave his classes he "hopes that they will become active and involved citizens, that realize things such as how people are represented in the media really matter."

"Today people are media producers even when they don't realize. They need to care, be responsible, and see themselves as active participants," said Miller.

For the future Miller's goals include "continuing to build the department of MSDC." With the world of media constantly changing Miller said, "as a department we are not content to stay the way we are. We need to change with it, and that's what makes it so exciting."

## 'SIFE' gives students real experience in the world of business

Andrew McCoy  
Staff Reporter

Juniors Brendan Beatty and Mark Galletta sit around the table of a classroom struggling to compile a marketing plan to help bring the bare essentials to a tiny impoverished area in Rwanda.

Not your typical efforts for college students, but for the members of Students in Free Enterprise, better known as SIFE, it's just another meeting of their club.

And stories like this are common place for the organization started in the United States in 1975.

With 38 thousand student members, and over 1500 universities involved in the program, SIFE offers students the ability to make connections to the 47 countries which participate in the program, as well as get first hand experience with large businesses and business leaders.

Students involved get the chance to work with local businesses by helping to get their products and services out to the public.

"In [2007] we worked with Fairfield-based business, Bigelow Tea and developed a marketing idea which organized a tea-tasting table outside of Flik to get the name out to the students," said junior

Brendan Beatty, the club's current president, and member since freshman year.

But local businesses are not the only companies in which the program is involved with.

Since its culmination at Sacred Heart University in 1999, students have had the chance to work with such groups as the American Cancer Society, the Harlem Globtrotters, ESPN, The Bridgeport, "Sound Tigers," Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and even Madison Square Garden.

The appearance of the WWE on campus can also be attributed to the members of the club.

Members of the Sacred Heart branch have even used it as an opportunity to give back to the community through working with local needy companies.

"Traditionally, we have always had some kind of connection with companies and schools in impoverished areas of the state," said Joshua Shuart a professor at the university and club advisor.

Each April, the students' hard work with the businesses is put to the test as they are paired with local chapters of SIFE at surrounding universities to compete in the regional competition in New York.

Here the students give presentations outlining the efforts put in over the course

of the year, which are in turn judged by a board of businesspeople who take the day off to rate the groups.

"It's great to see what other schools [do] with their time and it's nice to be judged by real business executives," said Beatty.

Traditionally, Sacred Heart has done quite well at the competition, and has even won a spot in the national competition in past years. But for Sacred Heart's chapter of SIFE, the competition aspect of the club is second to the learning experience.

"I feel that they have worked hard, been very true to themselves, and have done some incredibly beneficial projects. The end result is inconsequential for me, and I hope for some of them," said Shuart.

For the students, the benefits of SIFE stem from the connections and experience in which they gain from participating.

"I've found it is a great way to meet people and learn from companies without the formal internship or part-time position," said Beatty.

"The program itself is very self-directed, and as such, most of the participating students leave campus having developing great leadership skills that will serve them well after graduation," said Shuart.

But the club has not been without its trials and tribulations.

In 2007, having graduated many of the members, the program was forced to rebuild itself.

Currently, the program is host to 25-30 members, most of which being a part of the Welch College of Business at Sacred Heart.

However, membership is not limited to only those within the business program on campus. In the past, SIFE has seen members from nearly all majors and is open to anyone.

Members who attend weekly meetings, and help on the project have the opportunity to apply to receive one credit for participation in the club, but students interested in gaining business experience are encouraged to come to meetings.

Those interested can contact Shuart directly or keep an eye out for postings on meetings.

Although still relatively young of a program at Sacred Heart, the program shows a lot of promise in positively influence the upcoming classes of future business people.

As Beatty noted, "I have really enjoyed my time with the club and am really excited about the future of it."



# 'How's your news?' brings light to lives of disabled

Gina Cerniglia  
Staff Reporter

A Sacred Heart University student is making a difference in his community. Senior Mike Randa has done much more than a regular 21-year-old.

His family runs two organizations in his hometown of Sherborn, Mass. One is The Life Experience School, which is a school for disabled adults, and the other is Peace Abbey, a center dedicated to nonviolence, social justice, and animal rights. People with disabilities from all ages attend the programs to feel a sense of comfort and to be in a nurturing, family-like environment.

"Since I was born I have been basically raised by the students at the school, and having that type of upbringing truly shaped me into the person I am today," said Randa.

Over the summer, Randa works at a camp for adults with disabilities called The Cheshire Project located in Los Angeles, where a group of his campers have a television show coming out on MTV called "How's Your News?"

The concept for the show originates from a camp called Camp Jabberwocky in Martha's Vineyard, which was established in 1953. Author Arthur Bradford and musician Chad Urmston of the bands State Radio and Dispatch created "How's Your News?" by putting together a news team and interviewing residents on the island.

Trey Parker and Matt Stone, who created the popular show "South Park," got hold of the tapes and MTV signed on the news team for six episodes which recently premiered Feb. 8 at 10:30 p.m. Randa's campers from the Cheshire Project acted as reporters on the show.

"What I hope 'How's Your News?' will help do is to eliminate the hesitancy that some people have towards interacting with people with disabilities, and be able to see them as the intelligent, unique, and downright loving people that they are," says Randa.

It seems that this show is going to be a big deal. Some Sacred Heart students have already previewed the show on MTV.com.

"This show looks hilarious. It's not about pitying the mentally ill, or even making fun of their deficiencies.



Photo courtesy of Michael Randa

**Ozzy Osbourne with camper Larry Perry at the Jim Henson recording studio.**

This is about laughing with them as they interview famous people, and it made me respect them even more for being so open with strangers. This show just seems so fun to watch," said junior Ines Cenatiempo.

The show puts a positive light on those with mental disabilities.

"I'm confident that the MTV viewers will fall in love with these guys, no doubt about it. Their energy is contagious," said Randa.

Along with the show's premiere, the camp also has a movie premiere coming up in Los Angeles and Boston.

Every summer the campers meet in Venice Beach and create a film from a script that is written by their director. This past year, they created a film called "The Greatest Song Ever Written."

It is a mock-"rockumentary" film about a fictional band that randomly breaks up after producing rock 'n'

roll's greatest song ever written.

The film follows a documentary filmmaker as he tries to get a hold of surviving members of the band and reunite them.

Musicians and actors such as the well-known Ozzy Osbourne, Damien Rice, Missy Higgins, and Johnny Knoxville acted in the film alongside the campers.

"I was intrigued that they volunteered their time, showing more than an interest to be a part of the camp, and I think it was a bit of a humbling experience for them. I tip my cap to them, I really respect that," said Randa.

Movies and TV shows were not all that was produced by these campers.

While in L.A. shooting the movie, Rice recorded a song sung by the campers to be put in a benefit album, "Songs for Tibet-The Art of Peace."

The song was called "Making Noise" and was recorded at Jim Henson's studio, the same studio where "The Muppet Show" was recorded.

"Recording at Jim Henson's studio was pretty surreal for everyone, especially those of us who grew up with 'The Muppet Show!'" said Randa.

The song they recorded was unique.

"While other musicians entered the studio with guitars and amps, we strolled in with pots and pans and cheese graters as our instruments of choice," said Randa.

"Making Noise" was released under the album name "Damien Rice and The Cheshire Project."

"The song is wonderful, and a portion of proceeds from the album sales go straight to support our camp. It's also pretty neat to be on an album with the likes of Jackson Browne, Sting, and Ben Harper," said Randa.

You can download the song on iTunes or purchase the album on Amazon.com.

"For me, being a part of these projects have truly enriched my life. Some people see it as a type of service, but I honestly have never thought of it that way because it's not a one way type of thing. They do just as much for me, if not more than I do for them. I'm proud to say that they have been a part of me since I was born, and I truly love them like family," said Randa.

## Orientation leaders 'begin the journey' for future freshman

Amanda Kaufold  
Staff Reporter

"Of all the experiences I've have at Sacred Heart this was by far the greatest," said sophomore Kelly Leather.

"It was the best three weeks of my life. I wish I could put into words what it means to me. It's one of the most moving experience to be a part of people's lives."

Leather joined the program to meet new people and define her leadership skills. However, she got a lot more out of it than she expected to.

"After the orientation was done, I was filled with an incredible feeling of happiness, enthusiasm, and excitement," said Leather.

Leather is just one of many participants of the program who had nothing but good things to say about it.

Junior class president, Katie Higgins was an orientation leader in 2007 and 2008, and said "it's good way to get involved in the university and a really great experience all together."

This year's student orientation chair is sophomore Robert Napolitano. As the student chair, Napolitano will work alongside the student life graduate assis-

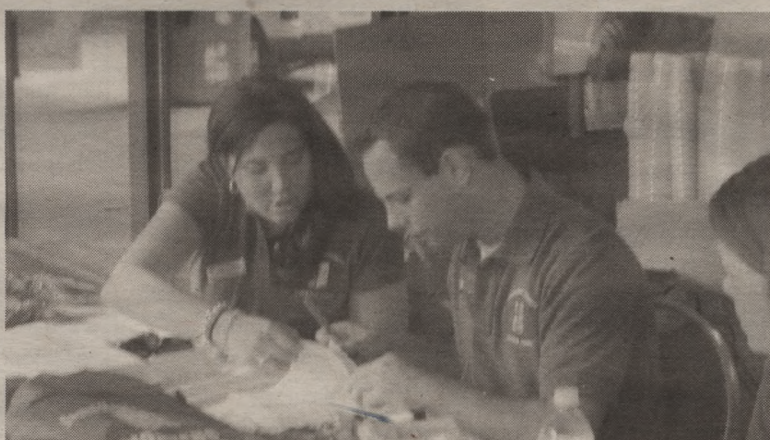


Photo courtesy of Colleen Carney

**Orientation leaders Katie Higgins and Rob Napolitano plan for a fun filled orientation program.**

tant and the associate dean of students to plan and carry out the program.

"It has been hands down my best experience here at Sacred Heart. The OL experience gives the students a chance to develop their leadership skills, build lasting friendships, and have a lot of fun. I would encourage anyone to apply if they are interested," said Napolitano.

If you are interested, the applications are available online or can also be signed out in student life.

Completed applications are due Feb. 24 by 5 p.m. to the student life office. If you have any questions about the program,

contact student life graduate assistant, Colleen Carney.

Regarding student selection, Napolitano said, "during the application and interview process we look for positive, outgoing people that will represent the school well.

"We like to take a wide variety of people for our leaders. There isn't one specific 'type' of person who becomes an OL. We have people from every different campus group and we really try to get a diverse mix," said Napolitano.

Once chosen, orientation leaders go through intense training. They arrive on campus a week before orientation begins

to participate in workshops that will fine-tune their leadership skills.

"We go through many different situations, teaching, practice, and explaining about the entire process. Yet, we also have a ton of fun. We go on trips and go out to eat, and really create a close knit group," said Napolitano.

Each year the orientation program has a different theme. The 2009 theme is "Your Journey Begins Here."

Napolitano believes this is this tagline perfectly describes what orientation is all about.

"The start of your college career is certainly a new journey for each student and the freshmen get to begin their journey at Sacred Heart at orientation," said Napolitano.

The orientation leader program began in 1991 when the school became a residential campus. The program has gone through major changes throughout the years to become what it is today.

When it began, the Associate Dean of Students, and former Student Activities Director, Denise Tiberio, would simply ask a few students to participate in the program as a favor to her.

"Now it has turned into a highly prestigious job on this campus. During the orientation program the leaders are the ones interacting with our incoming students, and this is the first look that these students have on our campus," said Carney.

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# Sports

## Scoreboard

Thursday, February 5

M. Volleyball

SHU- 3

Hunter- 2

M. Basketball

Quinnipiac- 66

SHU- 64

Friday, February 6

M. Hockey

SHU- 6

RIT- 4

W. Hockey

SHU- 2

RMU- 7

Saturday, February 7

W. Basketball

LIU- 53

SHU- 66

M. Basketball

LIU- 72

SHU- 101

M. Hockey

SHU- 3

RIT- 5

W. Hockey

SHU- 0

RMU- 12

Monday, February 9

W. Basketball

Quinnipiac- 56

SHU- 72

## On Deck

Tonight

W. Basketball @ RMU

6 p.m.

M. Basketball @ RMU

8 p.m.

Tomorrow

M. Hockey vs. Army

7:05 p.m.

W. Hockey vs. Syracuse

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 14

W. Basketball @SFPA

4 p.m.

M. Basketball @SFPA

7 p.m.

M. Hockey @ Army

7:05 p.m.

W. Hockey vs. Syracuse

2 p.m.



The Spectrum/Zack Lane

Sacred Heart's Lindsey Gibson (left) and Stephanie Ryan (right) compete in the Pioneers' 72-56 win against Quinnipiac University on Feb. 9 at the William H. Pitt Center.

## Pioneers silence QU Bobcats behind Sowinski's 21 points

Dan Repetti  
Staff Reporter

On Monday, Feb. 9, the Sacred Heart University women's basketball team continued their quest into the record-books against the Quinnipiac University Bobcats.

The Pioneers are currently riding on the longest winning streak in school history with 12 straight wins, placing them in first place in the Northeast Conference standings. They have a three game lead over the Central Connecticut State Blue Devils who are 10-3 in the conference.

"It feels good to be in the position we are now, but at the same time we're not satisfied. Our main concern is making it to the championship," said sophomore Alisa Apo.

Quinnipiac showed up on Monday night, looking to put an end to the Pioneer's winning streak, but to no avail.

"It is always a little more intense when we play Quinnipiac, but we knew they were going to come out hard. We play game by game, minute by minute, and one step at a time. We just come out and focus on what we have to do to keep winning games," said Kaitlin Sowinski.

And that is exactly what the Pioneers did.

At tip off, Quinnipiac showed some fire by coming out with a lot of intensity as the Pioneers showed a bit of fatigue from coming off a three game

stretch. Still, it seemed as if the Pioneers were doing everything right on both sides of the ball, but they just weren't getting all the points that they wanted.

One player would come out for a quick rest and another player would come into the game and play just as hard.

Quinnipiac looked over-matched, and their players couldn't catch a break because of the talent that was on the court and coming off the bench at all times.

Defensively, the Pioneers were holding Quinnipiac to a minimum amount of points. The ladies went into the locker rooms sitting on a comfortable lead over the Bobcats.

In the second half, the Pioneers were boxing out and getting most of the rebounds.

Callan Taylor came off the bench and proved to be trouble for the Bobcats. She was a threat from not only inside the paint, but also knocked down two 3-point shots. It was her accuracy that was the most threatening to the Bobcats as she only missed three shots.

Sowinski also gave the Bobcats a hard time throughout the entire game as her timely rebounding and strong presence in the paint gave Quinnipiac a hard time on offense.

Although all of the girls have been a factor in the recent success that the team is enjoying, it was the tempo set by guards Maggie Cosgrove, Stephanie Ryan, and Apo that paced the Pioneers.

Setting up plays and find-

ing the open player along with getting the ball into Sowinski and Taylor's hands, these guards are an integral part of the team.

Apo played an important role in the win against Quinnipiac because of her ability to run the ball on offense, shoot, and open up the court to make plays happen. On defense, she is quick and always in the face of her competitor.

"The closest team that we have had compared to these girls has to be the 2006 team," said Ed Swanson, women's basketball head coach.

"Being able to be in the NEC title game and making it into the NCAA tournament is terrific. The 2006 team had a lot of team chemistry and worked together great, but this team that has the talent to do big things."

They will continue in pursuit of capturing the NEC title and are continuing to play solid all-around basketball.

They are still trying to make history by riding out the longest winning streak in the university's history.

The Pioneer women's basketball team returns to the court tonight at 6 p.m. against the Robert Morris University Colonials in Moon Township, Pa. The game will be televised on Fox Sports-Pittsburgh and the Connecticut Sports Network.

For more on the women's basketball team, see WOMEN on page 15...

## W. Ice Hockey suffers sweep at RMU

Dan Nevanpera  
Staff Reporter

After a four-game winning streak, the Sacred Heart University women's ice hockey team suffered a disappointing sweep at the hands of the Robert Morris University Colonials this past weekend in Moon Township, Pa. With just three games left in the regular season, the Pioneers' record now stands at 12-13-2.

The first game – held on Friday, Feb. 6 – resulted in the Pioneers falling to the Colonials 7-2. The Pioneers managed only 20 shots on goal in the game, whereas the Colonials fired 46 on the Pioneer net.

Sacred Heart committed several penalties throughout the game and the Colonials' power play attack proved to be too much for the Pioneers to defend. Robert Morris scored two power play goals in five attempts on Friday.

The game was fairly close when the horn sounded at the end of the first intermission. The 2-0 Colonial lead was cut in half when Pioneer freshman Caitlin Gottwald introduced rubber to mesh. The Pioneers were outshot by the Colonials 18-6 but only trailed 2-1.

The majority of the second period was quiet. Both teams battled on the ice but Robert Morris came out victorious again by scoring a short-handed goal at the end of the period.

The beginning of the third period marked the downfall of the game for the Pioneers. Though they succeeded in finding the net once more off the stick of Jaclyn Rideout, the 5-2 score would be the closest the Pioneers would come to picking up a "W". The Colonials capitalized on two more power play opportunities and ended the game with a score of 7-2.

In the second game, senior captain Gina Arnone led her team onto the ice in hopes of avenging the previous loss but the Pioneers were pounded even further into the ice with a devastating score of 12-0.

Arnone is the Pioneers' leading scorer on the season with 21 goals and 14 assists. She has a total of 35 points on the season. The combination of Arnone and sophomore Lauren Fontaine has been a bright spot throughout the season for the Pioneers. Combined, these two forwards have scored 38 goals on the season for the Pioneers and have fired 228 shots on opposing goaltenders.

For the fourth time this season, however, the Pioneers were shut out; this time by Robert Morris goalie sophomore Daneca Butterfield who made 21 saves in net for the Colonials. The Pioneers missed seven power play opportunities, four of which came in the second period.

The Colonials struck first only eight seconds into the game. This set the tone for the rest of the night. In the third period, the Colonials put the game far out of reach for the Pioneers, scoring six unanswered goals, all short-handed and in normal play.

The Pioneers will welcome the Syracuse University Orange to the Wonderland of Ice rink in Bridgeport this weekend. The games will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13 and at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14.



# Trapp sets assist record in split with RIT Tigers

Dan Cofiniotis  
Staff Reporter

Just one assist away from breaking the Sacred Heart University all-time record, senior Bear Trapp took that record and made it his own Friday night, as his 92<sup>nd</sup> career assist helped the Pioneers defeat the Rochester Institute of Technology Tigers 6-4 at the Ritter Arena in Rochester, N.Y.

In an exciting and emotional series which some may have called "an old-fashioned shootout," the Pioneers outlasted RIT in the first game but suffered a loss in the series finale.

"...In front of 2,500 intense RIT fans both nights, it was only us; that's all you have on the road in an environment like that and we battled hard to come out on top," said senior Eric Giosa.

The Pioneers wasted no time going on the offensive as Trapp scored on a one-timer from sophomore David Berube who won the offensive zone face-off leading to the assist with just fifty seconds in to the game.

The lead was then extended to 2-0 when junior Erick Boisvert put a hard shot on goal that beat RIT goaltender Jared DiMichiel over the shoulder. Boisvert now has nine goals on the season.

The Tigers would not go down without a fight, however, as they scored two goals in a 22 second span to tie the game at 2-2.

Bobby Raymond scored from the blue line with a hard slap-shot which put the Tigers on the board. Shortly after this goal, Sean Murphy tied the game by picking up a loose puck in front of the Pioneer net and batting it past the Pioneer goalie. Murphy would score again later in the first period giving RIT the lead going into the first intermission.

Similar to the first period, the Pioneers came out of the locker room motivated and acted quickly by scoring at the 3:42 mark to tie the game at 3-3.

Senior Kyle Tyll put a hard shot on goal which was deflected by Tiger goaltender DiMichiel. With a loose puck, junior Mike Rosata refused to be denied as he put a shot on goal which got past DiMichiel to tie the game.

Berube gave the Pioneers the lead again at the 8:16 mark when Trapp recorded his second assist of the game. The assist put Trapp at 92 assists for his career which is a new school record.

"It will probably mean a lot more to me when I am older," said Trapp. "To look back at what I have done is a nice reminder of how good of a career I have had here."

Berube's goal came on a one-timer in which Trapp carried the puck behind the net and centered a pass to him, allowing Berube to beat DiMichiel. After two periods, the Pioneers maintained a 4-3 lead.

The Tigers refused to lie down, however, as they came out of the locker room with a vengeance in the third period. They tied the game at the 9:18 mark when Al Mazur used the Tiger power play to his advantage and ripped a shot on goal from the blue-line, beating Pioneer goaltender Olivier St. Onge.

With less than five minutes to play in the third period, Berube scored his second goal of the game which proved to be the

decisive one for the Pioneers. Berube scored by crashing the net on a deflected shot from freshman Anthony Yelovich, batting the puck out of mid-air and through DiMichiel's legs.

Boisvert later added an empty net goal with 20 seconds remaining to seal the win.

St. Onge shined in net with time expiring in the third period as he stopped 36 shots to earn the victory for the Pioneers.

Game two seemed to be promising for the Pioneers as the momentum was on their side after beating the first ranked Tigers at home. But the Pioneers momentum came a bit too late and could not contain the Tigers as they went on to win 5-3 despite a brief comeback effort from the Pioneers in the third period.

"We feel confident and most importantly believe in each other," said Giosa. "In this game it was penalties that killed us. With 13 penalties in the game we were short handed for about half the game."

Having an extra-man advantage was a big boost for the Tigers who increased their lead in the first and second periods as the Pioneers could not stay out of the penalty box. This allowed the potent Tiger attack to score four goals with the man advantage. Also, four different Tiger players scored goals while the Pioneers managed to score just once with the extra skater.

Cameron Burt's eighth goal of the season was the go-ahead goal in the first period that made the game 1-0 in favor of the Tigers. Burt beat Pioneer goaltender Stefan Drew on a wrist shot to the far side after teammate Brennan Sarazin assisted Burt on a well-executed the give-and-go play.

Andrew Favot and Anton Kharin both scored in the second period for RIT, increasing the Tiger lead to 3-0.

Freshman Matt Gingera scored a power play goal with 8:47 left in the second period and was assisted by junior Dave Jarman with a crease-crossing pass for the one-timer. This cut the Tiger lead to 3-1.

The Pioneers had a chance for a comeback as they were given two 5-on-3 power plays midway through the second period. The Tigers, however, killed 1:44 of power play time and the Pioneers could not get many scoring opportunities.

Tyler Brenner pushed a shot across the goal-line with just a second remaining in the period and after consulting with each other, the officials ruled that it was, in fact, a goal, making the score 4-1.

Trapp scored an even strength goal early in the third period to cut the Tiger lead to 4-2 with still plenty of time remaining in the period.

The Tigers, however, answered Trapp's goal with a goal of their own as Brennan Sarazin recovered a rebound off a shot from the point which resulted in Sarazin finding the empty side of the net giving the Tigers a 5-2 lead.

Giosa added a late goal after picking up a loose puck and finding the back of the net to make the score 5-3 which was how the game ended. Giosa's goal was his 11<sup>th</sup> goal of the year which leads the team.

The Pioneers return home Friday night to open their next series with the Army Black Knights at the Milford Ice Pavilion. Face-off is scheduled for 7:05 p.m.

# Fencing teams wrap up league play with wins

Stephanie Reyes  
Staff Reporter

Senior Mary Danegger walked out of Tufts University last Saturday after fencing the best she has all year.

Her contribution helped the Sacred Heart University women's fencing team go 5-1 with wins against Tufts, 15-12, University of Massachusetts, 21-6, Dartmouth University, 20-7, Smith College, 19-8 and even rival Vassar College, 15-12. The Pioneers' lone loss came against Boston College, 16-11.

The match on Saturday was the last of the Northeast Fencing Conference season. The Pioneer women finished with a final league record of 8-4, which is good enough for fifth place.

"The women's team all cheered and helped each other out as we have been all season," said Danegger. "We all seemed focused and determined to win and it showed in our results."

The top fencers of the match were Danegger (16-2) and freshman Amanda Green (16-2). Junior Krista Bacci and sophomore JoAnne Siskidis both went 15-3, and junior Catie Sagevick went 12-5.

"While Amanda has been one of our best performers from the start of the year, Mary had everything really click in Saturday," said Dr. Thomas Vrabel, head coach. "I think that Mary will keep up this level of performance for the rest of the season now that everything came together



Photo Courtesy of Courtney Perlee

Sacred Heart's Krista Bacci fences an opponent at Tuft's University on Feb. 7.

on Saturday."

The Pioneers finished the season with their best record since joining the NFC three years ago. The team also has three players, Siskidis, Bacci, and Green, in competition for first team all-league honors. Additionally, Danegger and Sagevick, are in competition for second team all-league honors.

See BACCI on page 15...



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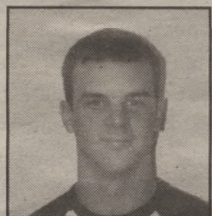
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# Sports

## Torre was right; A-Rod really is "A-Fraud" *Rodriguez's confession is just what baseball doesn't need*



Rob Morgan  
Sports Editor

### Sports Scene

Turns out, Alex Rodriguez really is "A-Fraud" after all.

In a shocking turn of events, the man once viewed as baseball's savior and future home run king has now become the biggest phony in professional sports.

Shortly after Sports Illustrated first broke the news this past weekend that Rodriguez tested positive for anabolic steroids in 2003, reactions ranged from shock and disappointment to wondering who will be next.

For years, all you heard was that Rodriguez's accomplishments were legitimate in an era where finding a player who hasn't experimented with performance enhancing drugs is a rarity.

When Roger Clemens, Barry Bonds, and Mark McGwire were all being accused of using steroids, Major League Baseball

Commissioner Bud Selig — as well as many members of the media — essentially gave A-Rod the benefit of the doubt on the issue — claiming that since there was no evidence against him, he must be clean.

It seemed like the only person in the world who thought A-Rod was dirty was Jose Canseco.

The day that the Mitchell Report was released, Canseco could not believe that A-Rod's name was not included in the report. But because Canseco was in such financial debt at the time and was trying desperately to promote his new book, no one really took him seriously.

But little by little, many of the players named in Canseco's book turned out to be proven steroid users and now, with baseball's biggest kahuna finally reeled in, Canseco is sure to be saying to everyone, "I told you so."

Rodriguez now finds himself having hit rock bottom; letting down his fans, teammates, and coaches — all of whom deserved so much better.

He will be forever known as a cheater and a phony and he doesn't have anyone to blame for that but himself.

While A-Rod's confession to Peter Gammons on ESPN Monday afternoon was a positive first step in salvaging whatever credibility he has left — no doubt better than Clemens' and Bonds' approaches

— I got the feeling that Rodriguez wasn't really sorry for what he did; he was just sorry that he got caught.

What makes this whole situation even worse is that just 14 months ago, in the wake of the Mitchell Report, Rodriguez appeared on *60 minutes* with Katie Couric and stated that he never used steroids because he never felt the need to gain a competitive advantage over others in the league. Clips of this interview will certainly follow him for the rest of his career, cementing his name as the biggest phony in MLB history.

But for now, Rodriguez and the Yankees have another P.R. nightmare on their hands.

If you thought the fallout from the Joe Torre book was going to cause problems this season, Rodriguez's steroid admission is going to be nothing like he or the Yankees have ever dealt with before.

You can bet that when Rodriguez arrives in Tampa, Fla. on Feb. 18 for the first day of pre-season workouts, a horde of cameramen and reporters will flock to his locker in a matter of seconds.

Publicly, the Yankees have stated that they will support their \$275 million third baseman but privately, they must be kicking themselves because they could have let Rodriguez go after he inexplicably opted out of his contract before last season.

In his restructured contract, Rodriguez was due to receive incentives for every home run record that he breaks.

Should be interesting to see whether or not the Yankees try and recover some of that money.

Now, Cashman and the Steinbrenners are stuck with Rodriguez and all of his baggage and distractions for at least another nine years.

It's going to get real ugly real fast for A-Rod and his teammates. Instead of Madonna masks, Red Sox fans will now serenade Rodriguez with chants of "A-Roid" and might even wave syringes in the air every time he steps to the plate.

For a guy so wrapped up in what other people think of him, it's going to be impossible to ignore.

What most people seem to be forgetting about all of this is that if the information of failed tests in 2003 was never leaked in the first place, we would not be having this discussion today.

Rodriguez would have continued to amass gargantuan numbers and break all kinds of records and everyone would have thought that it was legitimate.

But now Rodriguez is left wondering how he went from superstar to bust in a matter of days.

And that's the beauty of karma.

## 'Four H's' lead men's hoops over LIU Blackbirds *Hassan, Henley, Howard & Hardy carry Pioneers*

Chris Whittemore  
Staff Reporter

After a tough 66-64 loss to Quinnipiac University Bobcats on Thursday Feb. 5 night, the Sacred Heart University men's basketball team bounced back on Saturday, Feb. 7 to beat the Long Island University Blackbirds 101-72.

"After our loss on Thursday I think we all just realized we let a golden opportunity slip away," said junior guard Corey Hassan.

In front of a crowd of 1,595 at the William H. Pitt Center, the Pioneers set two Division-I school records by draining 16 3-pointers and shooting a healthy 65 percent (39-60) from the field.

Hassan led all scorers with a career-high 25 points while shooting seven of nine from the 3-point line. On Thursday, he collected his first double-double of the season, netting 20 points and grabbing 13 rebounds.

"Corey was automatic yesterday and set the tone for everyone else," said junior guard Ryan Litke.

Hassan is now averaging more than 10 points per game and 12.1 points per game in conference play.

"It felt good to be able to get out there and knock down shots. I wouldn't have had the opportunities to hit those shots if it weren't for my teammates finding me at the right times and just great ball movement by our whole team," said Hassan.

Five Pioneers finished in double figures on Saturday.

"Corey has been playing out of this world and really makes it easier to win when he is playing like that," said graduate student Joey Henley.

Litke held his own Saturday, contributing 12 points, four rebounds, and three assists.

"It was a lot of fun to watch. I think everyone stepped up big time; it was a team effort and a win that we needed," said Litke.

The Pioneers jumped out to a commanding 18-5 lead in the first six minutes of play and never looked back.

Freshman guard Shane Gibson added 16 points on seven of nine from field goal range and two of three from behind the arc.

The Pioneers went into the half with a 21-point lead 48-27, thanks to shooting nine of 13 from behind the arc in the first half.

Junior guard Chauncey Hardy contributed to the win, draining 16 points and adding eight assists. He was perfect from behind the 3-point line.

"I thought everyone contributed well yesterday as a team," said Hassan.

The second half was more of the same as the Pioneers continued their hot shooting. With just five minutes into the half, they had extended their lead to 31 points, bumping up the score to 69-38.

"As long as we play defense and play free like we have been doing we are going to be really hard to beat," said Henley.

Henley finished with 14 points and nearly missed his fourth double-double of the season, grabbing nine rebounds. Henley is averaging 15 points per game overall and 16.2 points per game in conference play.

"We know that the regular season is almost over and it's time for us to give it all we have to make sure we're in a good position and can hopefully get home court advantage come NEC tournament time," said Hassan.

The Pioneers have improved their record to 11-12 overall and 8-5 in the conference. They are playing particularly well at home with a winning record of 7-4 overall and 6-2 in conference play.

"Our last couple games the crowd has been great. It helps so much and it makes it so much more fun when there are a lot of people in the stands being loud," said Hassan.

The Pioneers have a losing record when playing away from their home crowd. They are 2-3 in conference play and 4-8 overall. "Playing in front of the crowd really gets us going," said Litke.

As for the LIU Blackbirds, four players finished in double digits in scoring. Junior Jaytornah Wisseh, freshman Lucas Faggiano, and freshman Julian Boyd finished with 11 points apiece.

"We prepared for LIU just as we would have any other game," said Litke.

The Blackbirds shot just 31 percent from the field and were out-rebounded 39 to 26. As for the Pioneers, it was also the first time they scored over 100 points all



The Spectrum/Nicole Giglia

**Sacred Heart's Joey Henley posts up against Long Island University on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the William H. Pitt Center. Henley finished with 14 points and nine rebounds against the Blackbirds.**

year.

"Next up for the Pioneers is an away game against the Robert Morris University Colonials tonight at 8 p.m. in Moon Township, Pa. The game will be televised on Fox Sports-Pittsburgh and the Connecticut Sports Network.

"As long as we hit the open man and hit the open shot no one can stop us," said Henley.



# Women's hoops keeps unbeaten streak alive

Matt Jarvis  
Staff Reporter

The Sacred Heart University women's basketball team extended their winning streak this past weekend by defeating the Long Island University Blackbirds 66-53 on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the William H. Pitt Center.

The win also helped the Pioneers strengthen their hold on first place in the Northeast Conference by improving their overall record to 15-7 and 12-0 in the conference.

Despite the win, the Pioneers continue to look for areas of improvement if they want to make a serious run at the conference championship.



The Spectrum/Zack Lane

**Sacred Heart's Alisa Apo takes a foul shot during the Pioneers' 72-56 win over Quinnipiac University on Feb. 9 at the William H. Pitt Center.**

"I thought that we could get a little tougher on the defensive side," said head coach Ed Swanson. "I'm a little disappointed at our effort level at times. You just look at the 11 offensive rebounds 36 total rebounds; they definitely beat us to these balls. Overall, I thought we showed some composure and fought back and made the plays."

Sophomore Alisa Apo had a team-high 19 points and six rebounds while classmate Maggie Cosgrove chipped in with 13 points, four assists, and three steals.

"We knew LIU was a good team; they just beat Quinnipiac," said Cosgrove. "They give a lot of teams a run for their money; they're battling for a place in the tournament as well and we knew that they were going to come out and try to make a run. We just had to bear down and run with them."

LIU took a quick 4-0 lead in the first period, but a layup by senior Kaitlin Sowinski started an 11-0 run by Sacred Heart. The spurt was capped off by a 3-pointer by senior Khalia Cain.

Sacred Heart jumped out to their biggest lead of the first period after an 18-6 run that began on layups by Sowinski and Apo.

The Blackbirds answered quickly on another jumper by Palmer and a foul against Sowinski enabled LIU's Chelsi Johnson to convert on a pair of free throws, making the score 15-12 with 7:41 to go in the half.

Sowinski picked up another early foul

and was forced to the bench for most of the first half. Fortunately for the Pioneers, Apo and Cosgrove answered the call.

"We knew they had good inside game with [Palmer] and [Chelsi Johnson], but Coach has been saying over and over that we need to dominate their guards and we had the mindset to do that today," said Apo.

Freshman Callan Taylor completed the 18-6 Pioneer run with two 3-pointers on assists by Cosgrove and sophomore Maureen Reilly, respectively. With about two minutes left in the half, a layup by Taylor gave Sacred Heart a 14-point lead, 29-15.

"It's really important that the girls come off the bench and play well," said Cosgrove. "I think the team really stepped up this game."

Cosgrove's 3-pointer as well as two foul shots by Apo put the Pioneers ahead 34-23 heading into the locker room at halftime.

The second period began on a positive note for the Pioneers, with an opening layup by Sowinski.

The Blackbirds answered quickly with back-to-back jumpers as well as a free throw by Palmer, tightening Sacred Heart's lead to just six points.

Looking to stop the Blackbird momentum, senior Stephanie Ryan nailed a 3-pointer followed by a layup, but a pair of Long Island free throws and a quick 3-pointer closed the gap to 41-38.

"They simply outplayed us in the second half," said Swanson. "Maggie Cosgrove got on the team a little bit, which is good, that's what we need. We need somebody besides the coach getting on the team when things start going bad."

Palmer scored 19 out of her game-high 29 points for the Blackbirds in the second half.

She drew two more fouls from Sowinski which forced her to the bench once again in the second half, leaving her teammates to pick up the slack down low.

Later in the second half, a 3-pointer by Cosgrove and a 3-pointer by Apo increased the Pioneer lead to 51-45 with 12 minutes to go in the game.

A 16-2 run over the next eight minutes would secure the Sacred Heart win thanks to a layup by Reilly and jumpers by Apo and Palmer.

The game concluded with a pair of free throws by Apo with 30 seconds remaining resulting in the 66-53 Pioneer victory over the Blackbirds.

When asked about keeping their winning streak alive, a humble Apo realized that it doesn't matter what team the Pioneers play; every game is important.

"You have to realize that every game is so fragile," said Apo. "The last place team could come in here and beat us and you just have to realize that every team is capable of that and every game is so fragile that you just have to come in ready to play every game."

So how will the Pioneers improve and continue their winning ways?

"We have to scout what we do in practice and bring it to the game and I don't think we'll end up in as much foul trouble like we did today," said Swanson. "Am I happy with the win? Absolutely. But are there other areas of concerns that we need to address? Absolutely. The team has to be receptive to what we're trying to teach them."

# Bacci and Williams' winning records guide Fencing to win

...Continued from Page 13

There were many women who ended the season with winning records including Bacci who finished with a 29-5 record and Green with a 29-7 record. Siskidis, however, ended the 2008-2009 regular season with a total record of 30-6; the highest on the team.

"Based on the way that we are coming on at the end of the season, I feel that a top three finish at the Northeast Fencing Conference Tournament can be achieved," said Vrabel. "With strong performances from the entire team, especially of Catie Sagevick, Mary Dannegger, and Courtney Perlee, we could be in a position to pull this off."

The men's fencing team came out of their last match of the Northeast Fencing Conference at Tufts University with a 4-2 score.

They beat teams such as Dartmouth (20-7), Tufts (16-11), and UMass (21-6), losing to BC (14-13) and Vassar (17-10).

2008 US Junior National Champion, freshman Marty Williams had a high record of 13-2, which was a great contribution to the team's wins. The high scorer of the afternoon however, was freshman Justin Dion with a match record of 14-1.

"Justin came to the team this year almost unnoticed and has established himself as one of the top two fencers on the team," said Vrabel. "He is our hardest worker, is the most receptive to coaching of any of the men, and never

loses his focus or composure on the fencing strip."

The Pioneers came very close to beating BC, losing only by one point. They stepped up their game after their loss to Vassar, and Williams had a 5-1 win against his opponent from BC.

The men's fencing team has two athletes competing for first team all-league honors, Williams with a season record of 26-4, and Dion who finished his season with a record of 35-18.

"On paper, we have the ability to be one of the top two finishers at the NEFC Tournament," said Vrabel. "It remains to be seen what Pioneer squad will show up that day. I guess this is to be expected with a team that has no seniors and starts mostly freshmen. The potential is there - the challenge is to harness it."

The Sacred Heart University men's fencing team has six freshmen out of total nine starters. Though they have more than proven themselves to be great assets to the team this season.

After concluding their Northeast Fencing Conference schedule yesterday against NYU and Columbia University, the team will next compete in the New England Championships at MIT on Feb. 21. The match is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

"As our success grows, so does our national reputation," said Vrabel. "The word is getting out about fencing at Sacred Heart and I believe that we are well on our way to becoming a top 15 NCAA program."

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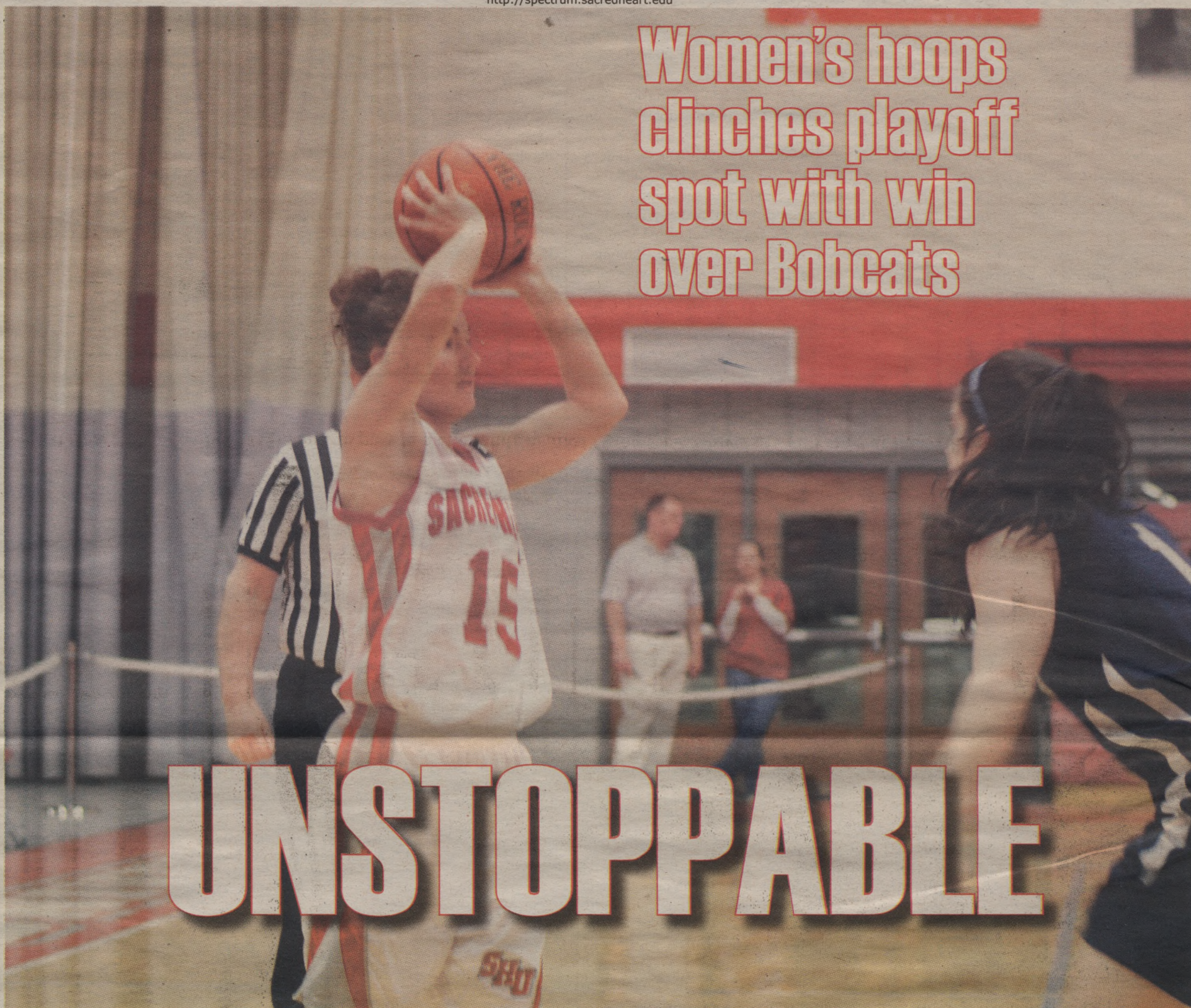
# SPORTS

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The Spectrum

<http://spectrum.sacredheart.edu>

Women's hoops  
clinches playoff  
spot with win  
over Bobcats



# UNSTOPPABLE

The Spectrum/Zack Lane

Sacred Heart's Liz Gruber (#15) looks to pass to a teammate against Quinnipiac University on Feb. 9 at the William H. Pitt Center.



The Spectrum/Zack Lane

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## RIGHT TOUCH

Fencing teams close out regular season, eye playoffs  
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## HIGH SCORING

Men's hoops sets Division I records in win  
page 14



The Spectrum/Nicole Giglia