SEIU withdrawals petition for unionization from NLRB

Sabrina White
Editor-in-Chief
Brian Messing
Section Editor

Recently the Saint Martin’s University Faculty Union Organizing Committee announced their withdrawal of their petition to unionize at SMU with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). This decision comes after months of negotiations and demonstrations by the unionizing faculty, as well as student supporters and outside community members. In the last academic year, the union sponsored many events, such as the faculty and student walkout, the petition to strike on campus, demanding fair pay and improved working and learning conditions for faculty and students. The main change of approach regarding unionization is pursuing a union outside the NLRB. Brian Barnes, Associate Professor of English, stated that “Ballard brings excellent academic credentials, superb teaching skills, and a practical engineering experience to the classroom.”

The school of engineering was not the only department at Saint Martin’s to gain new faculty. The College of Education and Counseling Psychology added two assistant professors of education, Marcela de Souza, Ph.D., and Celeste Trimble, Ph.D. Christopher Maund, associate dean of graduate studies, attended the University of Arizona in Tucson, Ariz, while earning her Ph.D. in language, literacy, and cultural studies, attended the University of California Santa Barbara in education.

There is precedent for unions to exist outside of the NLRB. Brian Barnes, Associate Professor of

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To our loyal readers,

Thank you for taking the time to pick up and read this distinguished issue of The Belltower. The reason why democracy works and good governance persists across the world is because of journalism and the free press. It is no coincidence that the press is known as “the fourth estate” of government. The final check on power or authority at all levels is the media. It is with great earnestness that we at the Belltower accept this responsibility and pursue our principled objective.

In this issue of The Belltower, we tackle pressing issues across a conglomerate of frontiers. This issue covers the recent changes regarding faculty unionization, national news stories like the president’s current travel ban, international news stories such as the recent German election and the Kurdistan referendum in Iraq, events at school like the Les Bailey writer series and the various sports stories around campus covering volleyball, cross country, men’s golf and women’s soccer.

On a final note, thank you for the opportunity to serve you as a section editor at The Belltower. It is an honor and a privilege to play my part in reporting to the community the issues that affect them. I look forward to continuing to serve you in the future and hope you enjoy this issue of The Belltower.

Sincerely,

Brian Messing, News and Lifestyles Section Editor

Role of the adviser

The adviser is a journalist, educator and manager who is, above all, a role model. The adviser’s ultimate goal is to mold, preserve and protect an ethical and educational environment, not to monitor the final content of the student newspaper.

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Fall’s newest hit and returning television series

Hugh Hefner and the fate of Playboy Enterprises Inc.

Bethany Montgomery
Section Editor

On Sept. 27, billionaire and founder of Playboy Enterprises Inc. Hugh Marston Hefner died of cardiac arrest at the age of 91. Hefner, born and raised in Illinois, got his initial idea for Playboy magazine while working for a publishing company, not long after he attended college and served in the military. After borrowing money from family and friends and scraping up a small loan, Hefner released the first issue of the magazine’s rise to fame was contributed to a combination of pictures of beautiful women and literary pieces by leading authors of its own ideals and creative spin on the idea of hunting super humans. IMDb states, “The series is about an ordinary suburban family whose lives change course forever when they discover their children have developed mutant powers. When the threat of a hostile government forces the family to go on the run to protect themselves, they join the ranks of an underground network of mutants. Together, the group fights to survive in a world where fear and misunderstanding put them at constant risk.” Fans of the X-Men will likely enjoy the series, and perhaps see tie-ins to the current X-Men film universe. There are plenty of returning and new shows to keep you captivated throughout the fall season.

Hugh Hefner, founder of Playboy, is one of the most significant social and cultural movements of our time in advocating free speech, civil rights and sexual freedom. He defined a lifestyle and ethos that lie at the heart of the Playboy brand, one of the most recognizable and enduring in history.” In its 60 years of existence, Playboy has shaped the social world with its risqué images and controversial articles by legendary authors and celebrities. Although the fate of the company is uncertain, its legacy and founder are unmistakable icons of the twentieth century.
The Saints hosted the Division-II West Region Volleyball Tournament in the beginning of September where they split four games. They dominated against Humboldt State University with a 3-0 victory. Rachel Gondrezick led the team with 12 kills. Nicolette Nesbitt led with 35 assists and Clarice Bue Buchman with 12 digs. They then lost 3-0 in their second match against Point Loma University and again to Notre Dame de Namur University 3-1 in their third game. SMU bounced back to win its final game 3-2 against California State University Dominguez Hills where Rebecca Mitchell had 17 kills. Nesbitt finished the match with 50 assists and 15 digs which contributed to earning the player of the year. All of this was based upon individual results more than the team aspect, saying that his high school team was based elsewhere and he found it on the links. Fitchett began golfing his freshman year of high school, saying he’d “burned out” on baseball after playing for 12 seasons. A freshman out of Yakima, Wash., Tyler Fitchett brings a powerful punch to an already lethal team. A close team always brings the best out of each other and we hang out outside of golf all the time.”

The biggest transition he’s found in golf is the pressure off the court which improves our play tremendously.” Following the tournament, the team split their first two GNAC conference games against Western Oregon University and Concordia University. The Saints fell to the Wolves in straight sets but had amazing performances from Rebecca Mitchell who finished with 24 kills in the next game against Concordia with an SMU victory of 3-1. This win against Concordia was the first time in Saint Martins NCAA Division II history.

The Saints have had a competitive conference, which Langford mentions, “We have faced many great teams this year so far, but the toughest team was the University of Alaska Anchorage. They are currently ranked number 20 in the nation and have a solid team.” The Saints fell 3-1 to University of Alaska Anchorage and 3-1 to the University of Alaska Fairbanks but didn’t go down without a fight in either match. Mitchell tallied 15 kills against Anchorage and 15 versus Fairbanks. She raised her number of kills for the season to 166 which ranks her fourth in the GNAC (Great Northwest Athletic Conference). Coming to SMU once again lead the team with 13 kills while Jordan Keane finished the game with 27 assists and 42 digs. SMU faced another tough loss in their game against Montana State University-Billings (3-0). Nicolete Nesbitt led the team with 24 assists while Hannah Neumann recorded 10 digs for the game. The Saints went on to head in a full five set match against Central Washington University for the first time since 2001. SMU walked away with heads held high as they beat the Wildcats after a tough game. The game was a back and forth battle between the teams during each set. Mistakes were made by each opponent and both teams took full advantage of the others. Once again Mitchell lead the offense with 19 kills, while Gondrezick followed close behind with 16. Nesbitt finished with 34 assists with Keane trailing behind with 26. Neumann lead the team with 25 digs. SMU now sits with a record of 7-8, 2-5 GNAC and faced the undefeated number 1 team, Northwest Nazarene University on Oct. 7 at home.

The rest of the Saints team found stride in later rounds as they took home sixth place out of the 166 competitors with a final time of 27:20.0 minutes. Finishing in the top five for the Saints was junior Joe Edgecomb who finished fourth for SMU (27:33.9) and Colton Buster (27:59.9). The men’s team had a few PRs which they were proud of as well, which include being nominated to the All-GNAC and pushing to become First Team All-GNAC and putting up a 3-1. With a couple more tournaments remaining in the season, Fitchett has big goals, but these goals are doable especially with his work ethic and the support of the rest of the team.
Women’s soccer seniors reflect on their last year

Nathan Pearsall
Staff Writer

Lauren Allison, Dulce Armas and Brittany Orlosky have spent a lot of time on the pitch behind Old Main, and with this being their final season, we took the time to get to know them just a little better.

Dulce Armas

Q: How did you guys become interested in soccer and what made you pursue it in college?

A: I started playing at a young age when I moved to a new town, it started as a way for me to make friends and play outside but I wound up falling in love with the game. I was blessed to see professional women’s games at a young age and those moments planted the seeds for me to pursue the highest level of play possible. I’ve been working towards those dreams for 15 years now and pray I never have to give them up.

Q: What sports icon did you look up to growing up?

A: I always looked up to Sisleide do Amor Lima, a Brazil professional soccer player and co-winner of the 1999 FIFA Golden Boot award. I knew her as Sissi when she coached me during my teenage years. As a fellow woman of color, she inspired me deeply because I saw myself in her and it gave me hope I could play alongside the best of the best if I worked hard enough.

Q: What is your major? Where do you see yourself after graduation? Will you try and play anywhere or will soccer become a hobby following college?

A: I am currently majoring in business administration and I hope this will lead me to a graduate program on the east coast or perhaps abroad in a Spanish speaking nation. My goal is to use my business connections to create a larger network for philanthropy in my home state of California. I am deeply committed to finding ways to play soccer after college, more specifically I hope I can play for a futbol club overseas. I don’t think I will ever stop playing, even if that means I’m playing in pick-up games at a local park.

Q: How tough is it battling class schedules/homework with traveling and games?

A: Some days are harder than others. It can be very overwhelming for sure but the coaches make sure that we are students first and do everything they can to help us balance our schedules. Professors have been very understanding as well, which has been amazing over the years!

Q: If you could be any animal, what would you choose and why?

A: I would be a wolf for sure. They are just all around awesome and majestic.

Brittany Orlosky

Q: Tell me about your pregame tradition, do you have a pregame meal you always have, or something special to you that you never forget to do?

A: Listening to music and having dance-offs with my teammates. We have dance parties before every game and hype each other up. I always say a prayer right before kick-off and during the national anthem.

Q: What team in the GNAC do you always look forward to playing and why?

A: Winning state for club my senior year. I played for Northwest Nationals and we won at Starfire sending us to regionals in New Mexico. It was the perfect way to end my club soccer career

Lauren Allison

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Angel celebrated their 51st Oktoberfest.

while Leavenworth celebrated their 19th and Mt. Angel’s Oktoberfest in Bavaria celebrated their 184th festival.

From all over the world. This year, Oktoberfest in Munich is the largest in the world, attracting six million visitors.

The grounds were taken up by the fun-fair. With beer halls and tents and the fest of the 1896, these small stands of beer were replaced to boost Bavarian agriculture. Today, the same were added—the first agricultural show, intended for horse racing is what led to the tradition of Oktoberfest. In 1811, an addition to horse races was the kick-off you bet money on your weight loss, driving apps like Lyft, Uber, and UberEats allow you to sell your taxi service, and Rover or DogVacay gives you the opportunity to walk dogs or dog sit. They also include links to various freelance writing jobs and writing competitions. A more extravagant way to earn money is to teach English overseas.

According to Market Watch, an estimated 250,000 native English speakers are teaching the English language abroad. Students are actively participating in paid teaching positions overseas while earning an international experience and being immersed in a new culture. One organization that I will be working through at the start of next year is Greenheart Travel, a non-profit dedicated to providing Saint Martin’s with the best student-run newspaper. The staff at the Belltower are constantly working to keep Saint Martin’s and its students up-to-date on important issues and activities around our campus, community, and throughout the world. These positions are paid and are exciting and flexible ways to earn some extra cash. For more information please see the applications on our website at http://www.bellowersmnu.org.

The last and probably the best way to earn some extra cash while studying is to write for the Belltower. The Belltower is an exciting and welcoming work environment dedicated to providing Saint Martin’s with the best student-run newspaper. The staff at the Belltower are constantly working to keep Saint Martin’s and its students up-to-date on important issues and activities around our campus, community, and throughout the world. These positions are paid and are exciting and flexible ways to earn some extra cash. For more information please see the applications on our website at http://www.bellowersmnu.org.

A Pacific Northwest Oktoberfest

Taylor Gersch
Staff Writer

What exactly is Oktoberfest? Traditionally starting in the third weekend of September and ending the first Sunday of October, it is a grand Bavarian event attracting crowds of people. Prince Ludwig, who was to become King Ludwig, was set to marry Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen on Oct. 12, 1810 in Munich, Germany. The citizens of Munich were invited to celebrate their engagement at the fields of their city gate known today as “Wiesn.”

Horse races were originally held to mark the close of the festival that was later expanded to include people of Bavaria as a whole. This tradition of horse racing has led to the tradition of Oktoberfest. In 1811, an addition to horse races were added—the first agricultural show, intended to boost Bavarian agriculture. Today, the same agricultural show is held every three years at the festival in Bavaria. In 1818, the first carousel and swings were set up along with small stands for festival goers to purchase 100s of dollars for local causes including their library, fire department, nursing homes and schools. Since its inception, Mt. Angel’s Oktoberfest has distributed nearly 3,000,000 dollars to non-profits. Junior sociology major Lauren Maley attended her first Oktoberfest with friend Taylor Wolf this year since Wolf’s family helps at one of the many booths at the festival.

“There were so many people! It was a really fun environment because there was always music playing, everyone you talked to was super nice and inviting, and people got really into the event. Everyone was walking around in their flower crowns and outfits, so of course we had to get our own flower crowns too. People from all over the world come to this one event, so it was interesting to see people from different backgrounds and cultures come together to celebrate, eat and drink. The food was absolutely amazing, and most of the proceeds went to local non-profits,” said Maley.

Malay would recommend that others attend the event next year, “It was super fun and I do plan on going back next year.” Senior biology major Taylor Wolf, who attended Mt. Angel’s Oktoberfest with Maley has been attending the event as long as she could remember. She grew up ten minutes from Mt. Angel and her family volunteers their time to work at the Sacred Heart Knights of Columbus booth at the event.

“The event is very crowded. People travel from all over the world to attend the Mt. Angel Oktoberfest. The atmosphere is very authentic. Mt. Angel is a Bavarian town so the German event is only fitting to be held here. There are people laughing and talking, there is music and dancing, and overall exciting and fun event. It is for all ages so there is children and adults alike enjoying the festivities,” said Wolf. While neither Maley nor Wolf were lederhosen for the event, they did purchase and wear flower crowns and would encourage people who want an authentic experience to invest in lederhosen or a dirndl, a traditional German dress.

Starting the celebrations in 2003, Leavenworth’s Oktoberfest has continued to grow to 10,000 attendees, with bands traveling all the way from Germany to attend. Leavenworth’s festival was ranked among the top Oktoberfest celebrations in the country.

Masters in counseling graduate student Kelli Bannerman also attended her first Oktoberfest at Mt. Angel this year at Leavenworth, “It was loud, a lot of people, food and dancing! The food was so good, it was mostly all authentic German cuisine, and there were homemade donuts and elephant ears! There was a variation of beers just for the event and we had refillable mugs,” said Bannerman.

Bannerman intends on attending the event again next year during the second weekend, since there tends to be more interactive activities and games at that time. Without a doubt, Oktoberfest offers a cultural and fun experience for those who enjoy fall and Bavarian tradition.
Lattin’s Country Cider Mill and Farm is nestled in rural Olympia just 20 minutes from Saint Martin’s University. The idyllic, family farm features apples, trees, a pumpkin patch and a large barn filled with locally farmed produce, canned goods and cider.

From the end of September through October, Lattin’s hosts their annual Applefest and pumpkin patch weekends. Although the farm, store and pumpkin patch are open every week day, these special weekend events have additional games and activities for children as well as booths for local artisans and craftsmen.

Saint Martin’s students searching for fun, fall-themed activities need look no farther than Lattin’s Country Cider Mill and Farm. Lattin’s distinguishes itself from other local fall attractions with its famous apple products and free admission. Though parking is five dollars, and individual products and activities may cost, one can wander through the farm and pumpkin patch weekends.

Whether you are looking for fall ambiance, the perfect pumpkin or fresh made treats, Lattin’s Cider Mill and Farm’s Applefest and pumpkin patch gathers everything good about Autumn into a small farm less than a half an hour from Saint Martin’s campus.

Homemade soaps for sale at the cider mill farmers market

The new iPhones and Apple products excite consumers despite hefty price

Last month, Apple Inc. introduced new smartwatches, an Apple TV, the new iPhone X and 8 Plus. However, the main attraction was the new iPhone X, set for release on Nov. 3. According to ABC news, Apple’s senior vice president Phil Schiller and CEO Tim Cook presented the iPhone 8 and iPhone X at a launch in Cupertino, Calif. The iPhone X is available for preorder on Oct. 27.

With a starting price of $999. In an article by KTAL News, Tim Cook, CEO of Apple said the iPhone X is “the future of the smartphone.” Although we think we’d expect anything less, given Apple’s history of keeping people constantly intrigued by its technology. Another important fact about the new iPhone X according to Apple’s executives is that the X actually stands for “ten.”

The phone also features an all-glass design, with a glass front and back. This is also a feature on the iPhone 8 and 8 Plus as well. The feature allows for the phone to be charged wirelessly. To help ease your mind about the idea of carrying an all glass phone, Apple has said it is “the most durable” glass they’ve ever used in a smartphone.

To reiterate, the front of the iPhone X is all screen, they’ve officially done away with the home button. This new screen measures 5.8 inches diagonally. Some of the past iPhones allow you to unlock your device or apps with a fingerprint scan but the iPhone X is now offering the ability to unlock your phone by using facial recognition. According to Apple, the iPhone X comes with two types of storage capacities, 64GB and 256GB.

What may come as a disappointment to some, the iPhone X still lacks the headphone jack, something that was removed with the iPhone 7. In addition to the phone, you will also find a five-watt power adapter, a USB cable, a headphone jack adapter and earphones with the lightning connector all in the box. The new iPhone X only comes in two colors, silver and space gray. At least it makes the choice a little easier. The iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus offer silver, space gray and gold. The iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus are starting at 699 dollars and 799 dollars.

At this event, it was revealed that the iPhone X will come with a stainless-steel case. The camera on the iPhone X will feature portrait mode with a portrait lighting feature. Schiller said that the chances of a random person unlocking your phone are one in a million. The coolest part? It adapts to your voice over time, Schiller said, and is going to be a new addition to this prestigious smartphone, animated emojis that mimic the user’s facial expressions. Many are predicting iPhone users will go out and buy the iPhone X because it’s the newest on the market, while others are saying it will help sales of the iPhone 8 and 8 Plus by making them look like the better and cheaper deal.
German Federal election causes upset in Bundestag

Brian Messing  
Section Editor

Angela Merkel, the chancellor of Germany, prevailed in Germany’s federal election on Sept. 24. Merkel was successfully elected to a fourth term as Germany’s head of government. It may seem that the story of Germany’s 2017 election is over, but it is far from over as Merkel must now negotiate her coalition agreement to formally establish power. Under Germany’s parliamentary system of government, the chancellor must have the backing of more than half of the members of the Bundestag (the German Parliament). If the largest party in the Bundestag does not have a majority, they must work to convince the smaller parties to support their government in exchange for cabinet positions and concessions on policy.

Since Germany uses a proportional representation system, meaning that percentage of the vote won is equal to percentage of the seats won (five percent of the popular vote equals five percent the seats in parliament), there are many parties that are represented and no single party has a majority on its own. In the last parliament, the CDU-CSU and Union and also served as president of the European Parliament and their candidate for chancellor, the Greens, dubbed as the “Jamaica Coalition” according to some. It is also likely that the “Jamaica Coalition” agreement will be much more detailed than previous coalition agreements. This is largely because there are three parties involved rather than two (leading to more potential disagreements if two parties agree on something but the other one doesn’t), and a more turbulent political environment following the populist uprisings across the world including the AfD.
Faculty, from cover

reading and culture. Her dissertation was titled “Entering into Particulars: Re-conceptualizing Adolescence through Young Adult Literature and Critical Narrative Pedagogy.”

On Trimbble’s interest in English education, youth literacy and adolescent literature, Boyle stated in a press release that “Trimbble’s commitment and pursuit of understanding of indigenous culture will bring a needed focus on opportunities for Saint Martin’s University CECP faculty and students.”

The School of Business welcomed Andrew Barenberg and Bob Danielle as new assistant professors of business. Richard Beer, Ph.D. described Barenberg as “an economist with special interest in health economics and how health care (or the lack of it) relates to economic inequality and educational achievement in children.”

Barenberg earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Massachusetts, while Danielle received an Ed.D. in higher education and organizational change from Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill.

Students and faculty alike look forward to the new changes and perspectives that these staff additions bring to the campus, hopefully making the 2017-2018 school year the best year yet.

History and Chair of the History Department said that unions existed before the NLRB. Barnes described a union outside the NLRB as functioning with “workplace democracy, where workers do bargaining surveys and elect representatives.”

Barnes noted that there is a difference in operation of this union than with the NLRB.

One difference between a union formed outside the NLRB and a traditional NLRB union is the lack of federal protections for the union and its members, as mentioned in a quote from Snow, stating that a union outside the NLRB would be “workplace democracy without federal protections.”

Michael Butler, associate professor, said “The Faculty Union Organizing Committee was already discussing the possibility of withdrawing the NLRB petition, as the administration’s primary objection to the faculty unionizing had pertained to the jurisdiction and involvement of the NLRB.”

Snow went on to say that now the NLRB petition has been withdrawn, “[the administration] now has the opportunity to negotiate in good faith,” as Snow noted that their primary objection to negotiation was subjecting Saint Martin’s to NLRB influence. The most important thing according to Snow was that “there is still a faculty union, it is still affiliated with the SEIU, and there are still members and people who are supportive.”

The Faculty Union Organizing Committee had been bringing full-time faculty members along with contingent faculty and instructors to the SEIU 925 union. This poses some confusion, as under the NLRB v. Yeshiva University Supreme Court ruling from 1980, full-time faculty members cannot unionize on private college and university campuses across the nation.

In response to the e-mail sent from the faculty union representing the President of Saint Martin’s University, Roy Heynderickx, made the following statements in an e-mail sent Sept. 28. “Yesterday afternoon we received a letter from the Saint Martin’s Faculty Organizing Committee indicating that they are withdrawing their union recognition petition pending before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) until there is a confirmation of the action from the NLRB.”

Heynderickx continued, “In the meantime, the University, including myself and the deans, remain committed to supporting our contingent faculty to address concerns they shared at the recent open forum. This includes meeting with full-time faculty to create opportunities for contingent faculty to have more of a voice on our campus. In this Year of Community, we will continue to have meaningful conversations, but also move towards inclusive solutions.”

The theme for this academic year is the Year of Community. The University will be focusing on the theme of understanding of indigenous culture and hosting events dedicated to this theme. These events and the theme in general are meant to bring together members of the campus community under shared Benedictine values. Some on the side of the union would argue that negotiations against a union, as well as the underrepresentation and poor treatment of adjunct and contingent faculty go against the Benedictine and Catholic ideals that the University strives to uphold. This is seen in the email sent out by the Faculty Union Organizing Committee, which refers to correspondence made by Pope Francis.

“It is in this spirit that we seek to re-engage the Saint Martin’s University administration, calling on them to respect and follow the words of Pope Francis when he states: ‘There is no good society without a good union, and there is no good union that is not reborn every day in the peripheries, that does not transform the discarded stones of the economy into corners.’ Pope Francis, June 28, 2017.”

The Belltowr reached out to the NLRB Regional Office in Seattle to gain information on the legal implications of the withdrawal, and whether SMU would have to recognize the union formed outside NLRB. At the time of our inquiry, the NLRB office had no new information on the status of the negotiations, and did not comment on SMU’s position to recognize the union outside the NLRB.

As of the publication of this article, a decision has not been reached by the regional NLRB office on the petition to withdraw put forth by SEIU and the Faculty Union Organizing Committee. Neither the administration nor the Faculty Union Organizing Committee have made an official statement on the issue, as the final decision awaits word from the NLRB office in Seattle.

Irish Kurds vote 93 percent in favor of independence for Kurdistan

Mariah Partin  Staff Writer

On Sept. 25, the decision for Iraqi Kurdistan to gain independence from Iraq was put to a vote. With an overwhelming 93 percent vote in favor, the independence referendum passed, despite opposition from Baghdad, the U.S., and other countries in the region.

Relations between the Kurds in northern Iraq and the rest of the country have always been uneasy and even hostile. According to ABC News, the memories of Saddam Hussein’s massacres of at least 5,000 of their compatriots are still fresh in the minds of Iraqi Kurds. Baghdad has also slashed the salaries of public servants in Iraqi Kurdistan by up to 70 percent since the price of oil bottomed out. Without the financial benefits from Baghdad, many Kurds wondered if being on their own could be any worse.

Despite changes in Iraq’s government over the years, the Kurdish people continued to be persecuted. Reports, the U.S., U.K., France, the Arab League and the U.N. are worried that this act could have a destabilizing effect on an already volatile region. Despite this, the Kurds celebrated their victory for days. Independence movements surrounding regions could potentially lead to more skirmishes between militias and armed gangs, causing a possible wider regional conflict. After the landslide vote, the Kurds want to negotiate with the Iraqi government, who have refused and demanded that the results be annulled.

The New York Times stated that Iraq’s in fear of losing regional territory, as well as the oil and gas reserves in that region. Turkey and Iran oppose the referendum because they fear that this could light a fire for separatist ambitions among the Kurdish minorities in surrounding countries. Iraq is already taking control of the border leading into the region from Turkey, and they have forced the suspension of international flights out of Kurdistan’s two international airports. The New York Times also reported that Turkey has threatened to close the border between Turkey and Iraq.

Another concern is Kurdistan’s form of government. The Kurdistan Regional Government lacks democratic foundations of law, free and fair elections, civil society and a legislature, which led to certain officials such as Iraqi parliament member Rabbon Maroff heading the “no for now” movement that opposed the vote. This included flying to Kurdistan, a middle east specialist at the International Crisis group said, “Kurdistan is not ready because economically, it’s a mess.”

With the Kurdish government being 20 billion dollars in debt and the country plunging worldwide, gaining independence is looking to be a difficult task. Hoshyar Zebari, an adviser, former foreign minister and uncle to the Kurdish President Massoud Barzani, said that relations with Iraq have irrevocably broken. The concern now is that Iran’s influence on Iraq’s Shiite-led government will strengthen. A possible resolution could be constitutional sharing or a Kurdish federation with Iraq, but for now a negotiation does not appear immediate.

Kurdistan’s desire for independence and recognition seems properly deserved, but for now we will hope for a de-escalation of hostility between region and Iraq, as well as less instability between middle eastern countries.

I want to see something specific featured in the next issue? Submit suggestions or your own writing to belltowr@stmartin.edu

*Guest submissions must adhere to the Guest Submission Content Policy, printed on pg. 2 to be considered for publication.*


**The Eucharist: The centerpiece of the Catholic faith**

**Kianna Garmanian  
Staff Writer**

Love. Endless love. Love that freely gives without taking. Love that transcends the hearts of believers and inspires the minds of all who seek.

This type of love is one that is not of this world and cannot be fulfilled by any human person, material possession or accomplishment. Rather, this pure and selfless love is one that is heavenly and divine, one that will transform your heart without you even knowing. So, you may ask, what type of love is this?

This love is Jesus Christ, true God and true man, fully present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion.) Catholics believe that during each Mass, the gifts of bread and wine are fully transformed into Jesus’ body and blood, through the words of the priest who acts in the person of Christ. What exactly does this mean? Why is the Eucharist so important? To help demonstrate, clarify, and explain the beauty of the Eucharist, it is first beneficial to look at the Sacrament of Matrimony (marriage), since all of us are probably familiar with this concept. When a man and a woman are bonded in marriage, they officially become one; while they are two separate individuals, the couple is united together as one body, soul and spirit upon receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony. When the man and woman obtain this bond, they vow to give themselves entirely to one another, which is the true definition of love. Through the complete offering of themselves to each other, the spouses are uniting in love and for love.

Thus, marriage is not completed or fulfilled unless the bond of body and soul takes place. If a man and a woman offer their hearts to one another and not their bodies, or vice versa, their marriage is incomplete and broken, and feelings of emptiness and incompleteness will always grow within themselves. On the other hand, when a couple freely offers their entire beings to each other, their marriage will blossom and flourish in the richness of unity. Here, we can see the importance of a man’s complete sacrifice for his wife and a woman’s complete sacrifice for her husband.

When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, he offered up his body and blood to the apostles during the Last Supper. The reason for this was because Jesus wanted to share in an intimate relationship with each of them, and similarly, with all of us. Christ, in the same way that a man and woman give themselves to one another in marriage, offers us his body and blood each time we receive Holy Communion at Mass.

In marriage, if a man and woman do not offer their entirety to each other, their marriage lacks fullness and unity. Similarly, without frequent reception of the Eucharist, our relationship with God is incomplete.

The Last Supper is so significant because Jesus invites us to receive his whole being so that we may be completely and fully united to him. Christ not only offers us his words and teachings in the Bible, which we hear during Mass, but gives us his body and blood to be intimate with us, just like a married couple. Essentially, Christ is our spouse, since he offers both his body and blood to us.

John 6:53-56 states, Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” This passage from the Gospel of John contains the actual words of Jesus, in which he explains how his flesh and blood will remain eternally with us, just like a married couple.

This explains how the Eucharist is eternal nourishment, which is necessary for our full transformation. By fully understanding the mechanism, and importance of the Eucharist for the transformation of ourselves, one can then grasp the real meaning of the Mass. Catholics don’t just gather together every Sunday for the music, or to hear the priest talk about God. We come to Church for Christ and Christ alone! Catholics gather together to join in the heavenly feast and nourish their souls with Jesus’ body and blood, which empowers believers to embrace His calling and love others in Christ’s name.

Last year, junior Avery Reich-Norris began attending Mass at the Abbey Church, and says, “Daily Mass has changed my life. The Eucharist is just so great!” Come and experience the transformational and salvific love of Christ for yourself, who is fully present in each Catholic Mass. If you wish to attend Mass and are not Catholic, you are more than welcome to come but please do not receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Because of the sacredness of Jesus’ body and blood, it is important to take formation classes to prepare yourself for the beauty of Christ’s offering. If you wish to receive Holy Communion, there are RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes you can take on campus (contact Fr. Peter Tynan) to learn more about the meaning of the faith and becoming Catholic. For all interested in attending Mass, here is the Abbey Church Mass Schedule: Monday-Friday (5:00 pm); Saturday (8:00 am); Sunday (11:00 am and 7:00 pm).

The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Rosary

**Kianna Garmanian  
Staff Writer**

One of the most well-known events in the Christian Bible is when Mary says “yes” to become the mother of God. Her “yes” changed the course of humanity, as a savior was brought into the world. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would bear a son named Jesus, she exclaimed in Luke 1:38, “May it be done to me according to your word.”

Not only did Mary agree to follow God’s will, but her profound humility and faithful service to the Lord serves as an inspiration for all believers. Throughout the centuries, catholics have asked for Mary’s intercession and many of the Saints have also written about the unfailing prayers of our blessed mother.

A misconception that many non-Catholics have is that Catholics worship Mary. While Catholics do honor and respect her as the Lord’s most faithful servant, all prayers and consecrations to our blessed mother are for her intercession. In other words, Mary helps lead the faithful closer to her son, Jesus, so each prayer offered to her is an offering to Christ, as St. Louis de Monfort states, “We never give more honor to Jesus than when we honor his mother, and we honor her simply and solely to honor him all the more perfectly. We go to her only as a way leading to the goal we seek - Jesus, her son.”

Believers should never honor Mary in many ways and has devoted multiple feast days and solemnities to honor her significant role as the mother of God. This month, October has been named as the month of the holy Rosary. The Rosary is the most popular Marian devotion. In fact, the first Sunday of October has been named as the month of the holy Rosary. The Rosary is the most popular Marian devotion. In fact, the first Sunday of October has been named as the month of the holy Rosary. The Rosary is the most popular Marian devotion. In fact, the first Sunday of October has been named as the month of the holy Rosary. The Rosary is the most popular Marian devotion. In fact, the first Sunday of October has been named as the month of the holy Rosary. The Rosary is the most popular Marian devotion. In fact, the first Sunday of October has been named as the month of the holy Rosary.
Crime on campus: a summary of the annual Fire and Safety Report

Les Bailey Writer’s Series features local author Jim Lynch

Breanna Brink
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Oct. 4, Jim Lynch, the author of the novels “The Highest Tide,” which won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award in 2006, and “Border Songs,” which was published in 2006, was introduced by his friend Carleen Archibald, a communications director and chair of the English Department at Saint Martin’s University. He recounted how Bailey had told him “I just wanted someone who can speak effectively in a wide variety of genres. They have remarkable publication histories and a couple of weeks, Public Safety also asks students to be vigilant in reporting and preventing car theft. In a recent email to the SMU campus, Lynch encouraged students to lock their vehicle doors, keep their valuables on them and to make sure they have all the contact information available, such as active alarms. Anyone who wants an escort to their vehicle is welcome to call Public Safety at 360-438-4555. Any suspicious activity can also be reported by calling 911.

In the past three calendar years, SMU has had no reported cases of homicide, aggravated assault or motor theft—a streak of success that can be attributed to increased police presence and active reporting by students, faculty and staff.

Due to increased vehicle prowling in the last three weeks, Public Safety also asks students to make sure their vehicles are in a well-lit place with the windows up. Disciplinary action against drug, alcohol and theft offenses were relatively low, with one reported case of destruction/damage or vandalism of property.

Disciplinary action against drug, alcohol and illegal weapons possession were collectively lower than other years, with 100,000 cars every day, the highway is imperative to helping guide traffic through the busy city. After the road is re-opened, the viaduct needed to be demolished and removed, a process that began in 2011. In 2013, the construction of a replacement tunnel began. The tunnel is not expected to be finished until 2019, when it will open to commuters. The new tunnel is supposed to provide more stability and strength, especially in the face of another severe earthquake. This new tunnel will enable further protection to commuters throughout Washington and provide a safer route of travel than a typical bridge can.

This tunnel provides potential job opportunities for the engineering students of Saint Martin’s University. Moore explained the project for students to understand and have direct contact with the type of work they will most likely be doing when they start their future careers.

The tunnel will provide a safer route of transportation, especially in the face of a natural disaster. The new tunnel will be better suited to survive an earthquake than the old viaduct was. Once the construction is complete, there will be more efficient connections throughout Seattle to potentially cut back on excessive traffic build up, helping to guide commuters throughout Washington.

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Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my revulsion at the jokes published in the Sep. 25, 2017 issue of The Belltower. As a father of an SMU student, a male SMU employee, and a former student, I found several jokes to be sexist and unprofessional. The ninth joke relies on the stereotype of the “ditz” which has contributed for many years to women being dismissed and ignored.

The sixth joke, the one about drug dealers and prostitutes, was far more offensive. Because the image of the crack whore is almost always applied to African-American women and is a modernization of images used during throughout American history to justify enlisting, raping, assassinating, and killing women of African descent, it is class, sexist, classist, and violent.

In legal terms, jokes like these contribute to a hostile environment, a condition of sexual harassment. The jokes, as bad as they were, hint at the serious complaint that many women in the SMU community have voiced. In the last several years, we have lost brilliant and capable women faculty and staff members, many of whom have identified hostile work environment as a contributing factor to their leaving. This was the primary topic of the women’s panel that took place last spring. Participants told stories of being talked down to, silenced, discredited, being given unsolicited and condescending advice or unwelcome and inappropriate comments about their looks.

The loss of these women has been keenly felt by students. I have worked with Criminal Justice students who are very upset by the departure of Dr. Diana Falco. Additionally, two weeks ago I met with a video communications student from Adobe Premier. “Because I am just a beginner on Adobe Premiere, I could not very much. She sighed and wished that Dr. Sonia De La Cruz was still here to help her. Both of these talented and charismatic women cited hostile environment as a cause for leaving SMU this summer.

I care deeply about this community. When I finished grad school, I was excited to offer a position here because SMU hits a number of points in my “fantasy job description.” As a Benedictine institution, not only for the Belltower Staff, but also for the campus as a whole. The jokes, as bad as they were, hint at the serious complaint that many women in the SMU community have voiced. In the last several years, we have lost brilliant and capable women faculty and staff members, many of whom have identified hostile work environment as a contributing factor to their leaving. This was the primary topic of the women’s panel that took place last spring. Participants told stories of being talked down to, silenced, discredited, being given unsolicited and condescending advice or unwelcome and inappropriate comments about their looks.

To my professors and classmates, I have to apologize for the insensitive and offensive material published in last week’s Belltower. This was not our intent, nor is it reflective of the community. The jokes column was started as a way to bring together faculty, and some students. We at the Belltower are aware of the offense that could have been perceived by students raises some concerns about the campus climate as well as the general societal climate, as outlined in the Letter to the Editor we received. These jokes play into bigger issues that we face on campus, and as a community we should strive to be open to these issues and confront them instead of pushing them to the background. There are plenty of sensitive topics that need to be discussed, and as Editor-in-Chief I am striving to make the Belltower an outlet where these conversations can take place, and where our community can become better informed of the campus environment and other newsworthy stories.

As always, if you have concerns or comments about any of the content published in the Belltower, please send us an email or Letter to the Editor, as outlined in our guest submissions content policy printed on page two, and the LTE policy below.

Your Editor-in-Chief,
Sabrina White

In response to recent community concerns

An apology to the Saint Martin’s community

On behalf of the Belltower, I would like to acknowledge the offense taken by members of our community at the jokes published in the last issue of the Belltower. I would like to reaffirm that all these jokes were submitted by students not affiliated with the Belltower and do not represent the opinions or ideals of the Belltower as a whole. We understand the concerns raised by members of the community, but prior to the expression of these concerns we had received generally positive feedback from informal student inquiries following the initial publication. This made the situation more difficult for us to understand initially, particularly because we had so many conflicting opinions to consider.

Some of the jokes were in bad taste. At the time of the publication of the joke, we had no idea how much depth about the impact that some of them may have on the community. It is only after that we received feedback on small sections of the paper, such as the jokes column, but we did receive a Letter to the Editor and some informal feedback from professors, faculty, and some students.

We at the Belltower are aware of the offense that could have been taken by a reader of the paper, and I would like to state that as Editor-in-Chief, it was not my intention, nor the intentions of our Editorial board to cause any offence whatsoever. Comedy is a tricky subject, and does not always come across as it was initially intended to.

We would like to take this opportunity as a learning moment, not only for the Belltower Staff, but also for the campus as a whole. The fact that these jokes were submitted by students raises some concerns about the campus climate as well as the general societal climate, as outlined in the Letter to the Editor we received. These jokes play into bigger issues that we face on campus, and as a community we should strive to be open to these issues and confront them instead of pushing them to the background. There are plenty of sensitive topics that need to be discussed, and as Editor-in-Chief I am striving to make the Belltower an outlet where these conversations can take place, and where our community can become better informed of the campus environment and other newsworthy stories.

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Your Editor-in-Chief,
Sabrina White