

THE LAKE FRONT

News for the students. By the students.

Volume 58, Issue 2 FEBRUARY 2014

Selrico food services

New items added to menu, students express concerns about food services.

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University Minister marries

Mara McDonald became the wife of Louie Rodriguez on MLK weekend.

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Slater on shootings

University president mentions precautions to be taken if shooting on campus.

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Athletes take on two sports

Two volleyball players on second team: basketball team and softball team

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Fate of majors on probation to be known



The University could soon see the permanent return of eliminated majors. *Photo by Angelica Casas*

By Darian Mendez Reporter

Former university president Tessa Pollack decided to eliminate 12 majors in the fall of 2012 - art, drama, human sciences undergraduate and graduate program, marketing, Mexican-American studies, natural science, organizational leadership for undergraduates, philosophy, religious studies, social studies and Spanish.

President Jane Ann Slater, CDP delayed this decision and gave faculty

until March 31, 2014 to revitalize their respective programs.

As of Feb. 11, there are only two majors left in the proposal writing process.

Social studies with a history track, marketing, drama and Spanish are on their way to recovery, said John Gomez, psychology professor and chair of the Program Revitalization Task Force.

The graduate human sciences and religious studies programs are still writing their proposals. Programs discontinued by faculty include: under-

graduate human sciences program, natural science, the undergraduate organizational leadership, philosophy, the graduate sociology program and social studies with the political science track.

The discontinued political science track does not include the revitalized degree in political science, which now has a concentration in pre-law, said Leda Barnett, assistant political science professor, via email. The social studies degree with the political science track was discontinued due to historic

low enrollments, Barnett said.

"The degree in Political Science and the degree in social studies with a concentration in political science were two distinct degrees," Barnett said. "All of the improvements/revitalization for this degree have been approved by the Faculty Assembly and the Board of Trustees and are now being implemented."

While low enrollments also affected philosophy, Jorge Valadez, head of the philosophy department, said the university played a part in enrollment numbers.

"It is important to note that the decline of the philosophy department began when the general education requirement for philosophy was reduced from two to one course," Valadez said. "After that, we had trouble attracting philosophy majors since students only took the Introduction to philosophy required course and seldom explored philosophy further."

Because of these low enrollments, upper level philosophy classes required for majors had to be cancelled, Valadez said.

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Congregation to host Cajun-inspired dinner



Proceeds from this year's Down on the Bayou fundraiser will go towards students taking a pilgrimage to France this summer to follow in the steps of Father John Martin Moye, founder of the Congregation of Divine Providence. The event will be held Saturday, Feb. 15 at Chapel Auditorium. *Courtesy photo*

By Desirae Martinez Reporter

Diana Maya, a freshman, has been to Greece, Italy and Mexico. This summer, she will head to France to experience a piece of history.

The Division of Mission and Ministry and the Congregation of Divine Providence have joined together to raise money for students planning to take a pilgrimage to France this summer.

Planning began last September and 20 pilgrims are currently signed up for the journey, said Sister Gloria Ann Fiedler, who is

organizing the trip.

"There is no deadline to sign up, so other students are more than welcome to register, but they should register as soon as possible," Fiedler said.

The students will be following in the footsteps of Father John Martin Moye, founder of the Congregation of Divine Providence. Father Moye founded the Congregation for women with little educational opportunities. The Sisters of the Congregation continued Moye's message and founded Our Lady of the Lake University.

CAJUN DINNER continued on page 7

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IT'S COMPLICATED

Single on Valentine's Day is OK

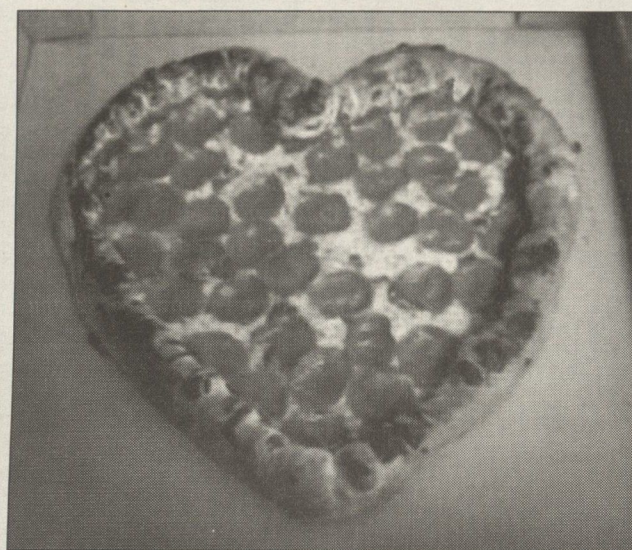
By **Clarissa Rodriguez**
Contributing Writer

In elementary school, I would decorate a shoebox with pink wrapping paper and paste little red cutout hearts on it that always seemed to come out crooked. I made sure no one would miss my box by writing my name across the front in huge bold letters with a black sharpie. Back then I collected tons of Valentine's Day cards and gifts, but ask me how many I get now.

Yeah, you guessed it right: NONE.

This little lady isn't sad though, nope, not me. After listening to my girl friends blabber about how great or horrible their past Valentine's Days were, I realized that I'm not missing out on much. I don't have to buy him those corny 'Family Guy' boxers that he's been eyeing or the next Madden video game he would use to ignore me anyways.

I'll be spending my money on something that's really worth it and the answer to all of my problems: pizza... heart-shaped pizza. And I must have something to wash it down with, so I will be visiting my friends at the liquor store that is conveniently down the street. While couples are stuck in the chaos of waiting for a table at their favorite restaurant, I will be feasting on my pepperoni



Gallo Pizzeria offers heart-shaped pizza. *Courtesy photo*

pizza.

I also won't have to spend time and money on buying an outfit. As if getting ready every morning wasn't already a mission. Imagine what women go through to look their best for a date. We have to buy the perfect cocktail dress, jewelry and matching pumps! Next we have to make sure our nails are done and that our eyebrows look almost as good as Kim Kardashian's. Thank goodness I won't have to go through that this year. Instead, I'll be spending my four hours trying to beat my high score on Solitaire.

I won't have to worry about how I look either because I will be wrapped in my cheetah onesie with my furry companion, Cici, sitting by my side. The thing

I love about Cici is that she doesn't know its Valentine's Day, so she isn't expecting a new toy or a box of biscuits from me. That's the thing about Valentine's Day - there can be so much pressure to make the day a perfect one. It's like there is a "Most Amazing Valentine's Day Ever" contest that measures who had the most wonderful day. The judges are Facebook and Instagram; the more likes you get measures how great your day was.

To all the lovebirds: have a memorable day because at least you have someone to spend it with. As for us single people, we have to look on the bright side— at least there is no chance of us getting dumped on Valentine's Day.

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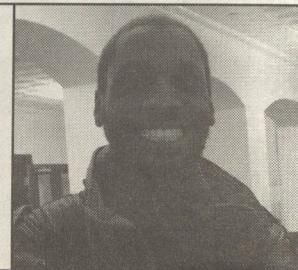
What do you say?

SHOULD MARIJUANA BE LEGALIZED?
WHY OR WHY NOT?



Andromeda Torbert, sophomore biology major, said it should be legalized only as medicine. "If it's used for non-medical purposes, then no," Torbert said.

James Laney, senior biomathematics major, said it should be legalized because the government should not tell you what is good for you or not. "You're basically giving up your free rights."



Elizabeth Rodriguez, senior art major, said prisons are filled with offenders for selling or taking drugs and that is ridiculous. "If marijuana was legal, we could imprison more dangerous people."



Alex Austin, junior communication disorders major, said the economy would benefit because the government would greatly tax the marijuana.

Maranda Mendoza, freshman english major, said marijuana should not be legalized. "People do not think straight under the influence," Mendoza said.



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Submission requirements:

The Lake Front accepts letters to the editor for publication on the Opinion page of this newspaper. Letters should have the author's printed name and contact information. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters can be submitted in person, electronically or by mail and become the property of *The Lake Front* upon receipt. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for libelous material, grammatical errors, space constraints and/or offensive language. *The Lake Front* does not discriminate because of age, gender, ethnicity, national origin, disability or sexual orientation. "Letters to the Editor" is intended to serve as a public forum for issues related to the OLLU community.

LAKE FRONT: THANK YOU!



Thank you Marketing & Communications for this Canon!

Tons of people take pictures of memorable events, but for a while The Lake Front couldn't because our only camera was stolen.

A few weeks ago the editor-in-chief and managing editor of The Lake Front went to a spiritual retreat that began on a Thursday night. That Friday, the Janu-

ary Issue came out so staff members left the office door open as they passed distributed the newspapers. When the editors came back to the newspaper office the next Monday, they realized their only camera was missing. The Canon T2i Rebel with a lens belonged to Mariam Kevlishvili, former editor

and current reporter, who let The Lake Front borrow it since we had no working camera. Kevlishvili saved up for months in order to buy that camera.

The editors contacted all newspaper staff members to make sure no one had it. Later on that week, the newspaper filed a cam-

pus police report realizing that the camera must have been stolen.

Later on, The Lake Front posted on Facebook asking for help locating the camera or for donations to purchase a new one. Santos Vargas, a social work professor, along with an anonymous person, donated money for a new camera. Then Marketing and Communications donated one of their cameras so the paper wouldn't be pictureless. The monetary donations will go toward a second camera so no event on campus is left without being photographed due to lack of equipment.

The Lake Front staff wants to thank all the donors for their help and support.

If you know any information about the whereabouts of the stolen camera please email gerendon@ollusa.edu or contact campus police.

Littering to blame for pests on campus

By Darian Mendez
Contributing Writer

It amazes me how every morning at 7:30 I arrive on campus half-awake only to be greeted by housekeeping staff members in Providence, Moye and Main. Here I am, sleep-deprived and grouchy while these friendly staff members have enough energy to clean every floor of every building, and still treat me like I'm family.

So when I've seen a roach zoom by me in the hallway or have to move abandoned bottles and snack bags in order to use a computer, I know it's not housekeeping's fault. They don't wipe windows or dust every day. They're too

occupied keeping up with cleaning up what students leave behind.

We've all seen it—computer labs have been littered with candy wrappers and snack bags. Sometimes the caps and bottles next to monitors aren't empty.

So should we be surprised to see what pests—vermin, not the litter bugs—leave behind?

Being a college student creates a professional environment where responsibility is essential. In other words, by the time you're of age to attend college your mom, dad, grandma or legal guardian should not be cleaning up after you. So it's pretty surprising to see lounges and labs trashed out.

Don't believe me? Look at the C-store mid-semester—trails left behind from hungry students on the tables, in the couches and by the computer. Not to mention evidence of Cheetoh hands on keyboards.

It's one thing to be at this point in life and still need someone to clean after you, but it's another to point fingers when the consequences surface.

Sure, rats and roaches like to be inside when the weather is cold and rainy. But there are things we can do to prevent their presence on campus, like throwing away our trash and not feeding the animals.

Darrell Glasscock, director of the physical

plant, said the bigger issue was students feeding animals outside. By leaving trash out, students are supporting pests that are already inside the building. By feeding stray animals, you're inviting pests in.

"Virtually every budget on campus is tuition funded," Glasscock said.

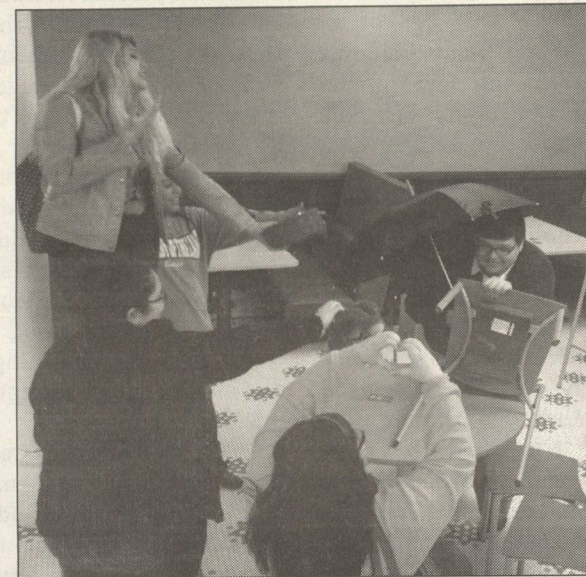
So yes, part of out tuition goes to monthly visits from ABC Pest Control.

But why not ask where the tuition is going when computers and printers are down, instead of when poop happens. When it comes to not working, computers have more of an excuse than people do.

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The Valentine's Day

SURVIVAL GUIDE



Hiding from love. Photo by Guadalupe Hernandez

By Cristian Ortiz-Salas
Reporter

Single on Valentine's Day? Don't worry, you're not alone. If you don't have a date on this holiday don't pout; this day can be as fun for singles as it is for couples. Here are a few things you can do to make your Valentine's Day enjoyable:

1. Stay in and have a movie night. Betsaida Lopez, a junior, dedicates this day to relax and enjoy herself. "When I find myself without a significant other...I like to spoil myself with all of my favorite sweets, relax and watch a good flick," Lopez said. Staying in and having a movie night is a great way to relax and save money. We all love a little extra cash.

2. Volunteer. The best way to spread your love is by doing a little volunteer work. Find a place to volunteer nearby and spend the day giving back to your community. For more information on volunteering opportunities you can visit the Center for Service Learning and Volunteerism located

in Worden building.
3. Pamper yourself. Have a spa day! Being single has its perks because you'll have extra money that you can spend on yourself instead.

4. Study for Midterms. Midterms are just around the corner on the week of Feb. 17 – Feb. 21. Spend a productive and procrastination-free day in the library studying for your midterm exams. It is open Fridays until 6 p.m.

5. Host an Anti-Valentine Dinner.

an anti-Valentine's Day dinner. Alex Puente, a junior, has made this a tradition with her single friends. "It's kind of sad," Puente said. "But it's a pleasure enjoying their company."

I, myself, am single, but after tomorrow you can find my profile on www.MeetChristianSingles.com. Just kidding!

Love? No thanks. I prefer money, helping others, studying and friend outings.
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Film group seeks recognized status, explores all genres

By Kimberly Yosko
Reporter

When Juan Balderas came to Our Lady of the Lake University last fall, he noticed there was not a film club on campus.

Balderas, a freshman psychology major, has a passion for film, so he is starting a film club.

Balderas has submitted necessary paperwork to become a recognized student organization.

"I decided to create this club in order to help people express themselves through the art of filmmaking," Balderas said. "We only had one meeting last semester, but we were able to get together and discuss films."

After the first meeting, Balderas started to recruit

other friends who also shared his passion for films and filmmaking. Along the way, he recruited Esteban Cantu, Collection Management & Web librarian, to be the club's advisor.

One of the first people he asked to join the club was Henry Garcia, a junior English major. Garcia also shares Balderas' passion for films and filmmaking.

"I like creative writing, and I'd love to write scripts one day," Garcia said.

As of this semester, there are 13 active members in the film club, including four officers: Balderas is the president, John-Paul Espinosa, a freshman computer systems and security major, is the vice-president and cinematographer, Garcia is the secretary and Osvaldo Contreras, a fresh-

man math major, is the sergeant-at-arms, which is a person appointed to "keep the peace" during meetings.

Andromeda Torbert, a sophomore biology major, joined this semester because she also shares Balderas' passion.

"I have an appreciation for film and I want to share it with others," Torbert said.

There is not a specific genre the club focuses on.

"We look at all genres and familiarize ourselves with them, whether it's comedy, horror, romance, or any other genre," Balderas said.

The film club is not an official club yet, but they are looking for people who are interested in film and movies to join. It is also

free to join.

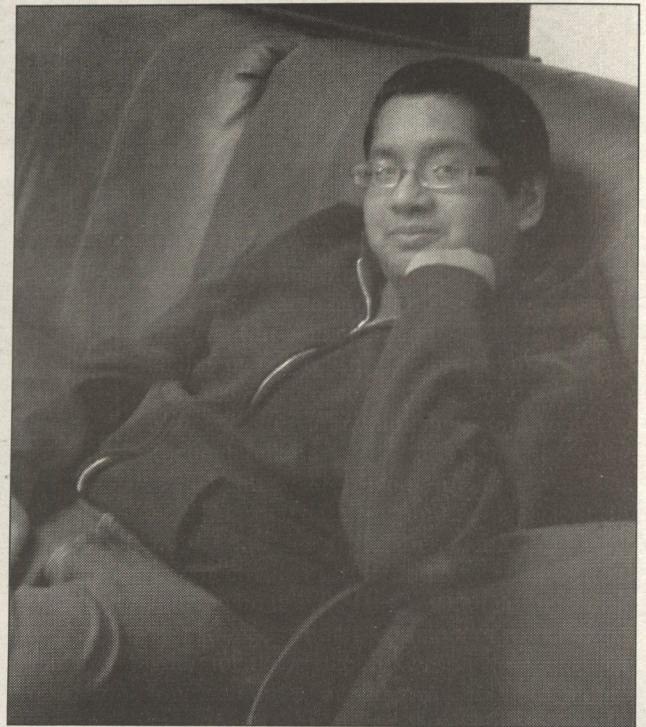
"People can join if they want to make films and have an interest in films," Garcia said.

Balderas said the club is even hoping to host a film festival on campus.

"We have plans for a future film festival," Balderas said. "Due to much planning, however, it will probably be a few years until we get that off the ground. It takes about two years to get a film festival organized."

If you are interested in joining or want more information about the unofficial club, contact Balderas at jbaldaras@ollusa.edu. The club meets at 7 p.m. every first Wednesday of the month in Pacelli Lobby.

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Juan Balderas is the founder of the rising film club on campus.
Photo by Kimberly Yosko

Tutoring, Writing centers prepare for midterm season

By Angelica Casas
Editor-In-Chief

In preparation for midterms, the Tutoring and Writing centers will have more tutors and writing consultants available for assistance in the upcoming weeks.

Both centers are located in Moye Garden Level and are open everyday for students needing help in specific subject areas or with any part of the writing process.

Mary Francine Danis, Ph.D., is the director of the Writing Center. Danis, who has been at the university for 43 years, sees hundreds of individuals walk through the Writing Center every month. Just last semester, 353 different students signed in to a total of 981 sessions with one of seven writing consultants.

Danis said most of the students visit the center seeking help on their class assignments, but some also need help with resumes, cover letters, graduate school research, McNair research proposals, creative writing pieces and even dissertations. Once in a while, they help a faculty member working to get their pieces published.

"Students are often pleasantly surprised when they come in for the first time," Danis said. "We try to be respectful, pleasant, comfortable human beings."

The center accepts walk-ins if a consultant is available, and also helps students via email and phone calls.

"Some people are embarrassed to come in because they think their writing is bad," Danis said. "We're happy to work with

those people."

The seven consultants all have a bachelor's degree and six of them have their master's. It is not a requirement for them to be students at the university.

Danis said they sometimes even help her.

Recently, Institutional Advancement asked Danis to write something up for the department. After writing it, Sabrina Zertuche, a writing consultant, read it over for Danis and provided her with suggestions.

Like Danis, she asks all those who interview to be writing consultants if they have ever received help for themselves or "been at the other end."

"If the staff members don't know what it feels like," Danis said, "they're not going to be as sympathetic."

On the other end of

the hallway, Loren Torres waits to assist students who seek academic help through tutoring.

The Tutoring Center has eight tutors, each specializing in one or two of the following subjects - Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Science, Physical Science, Spanish and Business.

Many times, Torres, Tutoring Center assistant and university alumnus, has seen students return to the Tutoring Center to show off the high grades they earned on their assignments and express their gratitude to the tutor who assisted them.

"That's cool; it's always rewarding," Torres said. "It's like a team where you work with students and they work with you."

Online tutoring is also offered through Smart-thinking, which can be ac-

cessed through the My-OLLU portal. The service, which is paid for by the university, has live tutors available 24 hours a day in a variety of subjects.

Although no official midterm events will be held, both centers will remain open later and have more writing consultants and tutors available, especially in the evenings.

For final exams, both centers will collaborate with the rest of Student Success Services and the Student Leadership and Development Office to host events, such as "Cram Jam," in late-April.

These events highlight what the centers do all-year around, Danis said.

"If people are learning something new and they can tell us what they're understanding, we're happy," Danis said. "We want them to be confident writers

and become good problem solvers."

The Writing Center is open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday; from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday; and 3-9 p.m. on Sunday.

The Tutoring Center is open from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday; from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-4p.m. on Sunday. Tutors are available only through specified hours.

Both will be closed Saturday, March 8 through Friday, March 14 for Spring Break.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact the Writing Center by email at writing@ollusa.edu and contact the Tutoring Center by email at tutoring@ollusa.edu by phone at (210_434-6711 ext. 2445.

amcasas@ollusa.edu

Student uses medical marijuana for tumor

By Shannon Valladolid
Contributing Writer

When Alice wakes up every morning she smokes a joint of marijuana. This has been her routine for the last five years.

Alice smokes at least two more joints throughout the day to help with pain caused by the tibial nerve in her foot that she describes as "1000 knives stabbing her in the foot."

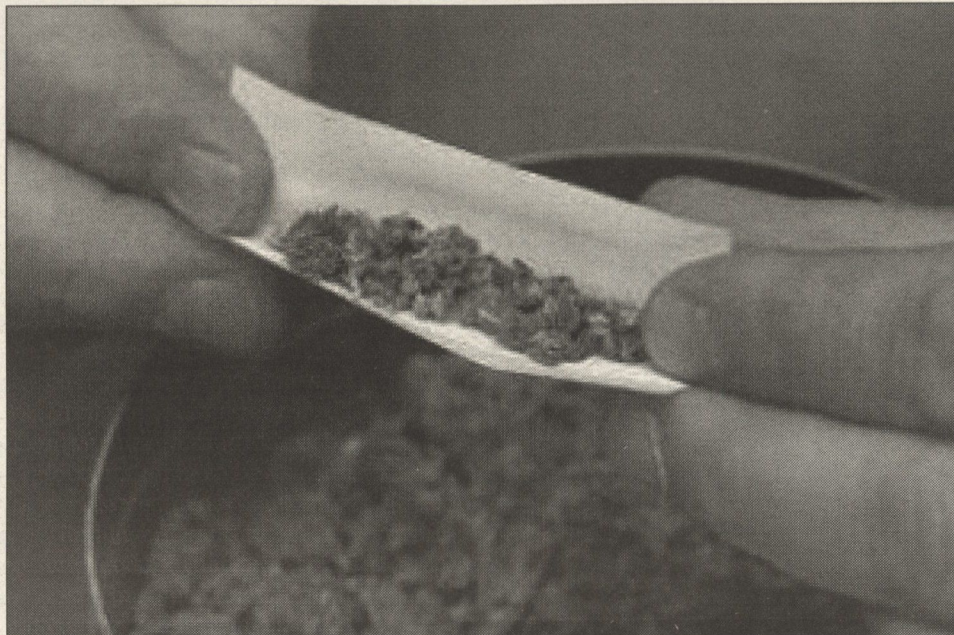
Alice, whose name has been changed to protect her identity, is a student at Our Lady of the Lake University. She was born with venous malformation, a rare disorder that gave her a blood tumor on the arch of her right foot. Venous malformations (VMs) are superficial or deep veins that are abnormally formed or dilated.

Marijuana has helped reduce Alice's chronic pain better than doctor prescriptions, she said.

Alice started smoking marijuana at age 16 when she would attend high school parties and social gatherings. She quickly realized that the pain in her foot was relieved after a few puffs of marijuana. For the first time since she was 7, she was able to think about something else besides pain.

"When I first smoked marijuana, it was for social purposes," Alice said. "I then realized the effects it started to have on me and my nerve pain. Once I smoke marijuana the pain starts to decrease immediately."

People in need of medical marijuana, such as Alice, in states where it is not legalized, find it hard to not have the accessibility such as people in Colorado and Washington. Spending around \$150 on marijuana every month puts a damp-



A student, who we will refer to as Alice, uses marijuana to alleviate her chronic pain. *Courtesy photo*

er on her checkbook, but Alice explains she wouldn't have it any other way.

"It would be a lot easier for me if Texas would legalize the drug that has helped me so much," Alice said.

Since the age of 7, Alice has had twelve surgeries to get rid of the tumor and also decompress and cushion the nerves in her foot. She explained how growing up with chronic pain caused her to miss out on a normal childhood.

"I had to sit out [during] Physical Education and recess at school every day," Alice said. "I could never play sports, go to school functions, or participate in extracurricular activities."

Alice, who is from Corpus Christi, was unable to receive treatments in her city because of the rarity and precision required in the treatment that only certain hospitals in the nation are equipped to do. Needing immediate attention, she set out to Colorado to start receiving treatments. These treatments shrank her tumor over a two-year period. However, compli-

cations occurred when Alice first started dealing with chronic pain.

"I couldn't walk, sit, stand or do any physical activity without pain," Alice said.

During her preteen and teen years, Alice continued to have more surgeries and took countless medications. Although the narcotics helped with her pain, they also came with a dangerous price. She developed a physical dependence on the medication and eventually built up a tolerance for them.

"I became immune to many medications very young that ended up not helping me out in the long run," Alice said.

Now a 21-year-old college student, Alice has trouble reading, doing homework or studying with the excruciating pain she feels in her foot. She has tried other treatments such as opioids, anticonvulsants, antidepressants and local anesthetics, but they don't measure up to how marijuana has helped her.

"I do not smoke to get high," Alice said. "I smoke

the amount that I know I need to be able to work and function as 'normally' as possible."

Claudia, whose name has also been changed to protect identity, is Alice's close friend. In the last three years she has known her, Claudia has seen Alice go through many dark times caused by her surgeries.

"I've noticed that she prefers to smoke in addition to taking her daily prescription and it actually helps her more than just the prescriptions by themselves," Claudia said.

In a year and a half, Alice will graduate from the university with a degree in social work. The experiences in her life have made her realize that her calling is to help children that live with chronic pain or illnesses.

"I would not be where I am today without the people that helped me along the way," Alice said. "As someone who has personal experience with pain, I feel as though I am more understanding and empathetic towards others."

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MAJORS

continued from page 1

He and Thomas Keyes, philosophy professor, agreed on offering only a philosophy minor and creating courses that complimented other majors.

Mexican American studies and Visual Arts have been given more time to revitalize their program due to changes in faculty, Gomez said. A new faculty member for Art has been hired and already began this January.

"It doesn't make sense to revitalize without [her]" Gomez said. "[She is] going to be the champion of [her] program."

To Slater, Mexican American studies is vital to OLLU.

"We want to ensure that it is a very strong and sustainable program and thus will delay its approval as a revitalized program until later," Slater said.

For a program to go under revitalization, the faculty must first provide a proposal to present to a college and dean, Gomez said. After this is done, the Curriculum Committee, a unit of the Faculty Assembly, ultimately decides whether or not the proposal is approved.

Contrary to Pollack's actions, Slater has left the process to the faculty, Gomez said. The curriculum committee has the ultimate say-so.

"[Slater] left this in our hands," Gomez said. "Now she can do what she needs to do."

The deans are keeping her updated with what's going on with the revitalizations, Slater said.

"It's faculty that create these programs," Slater said. "They should run [revitalization]."

On March 31, the day Slater set as the deadline for revitalized programs, the programs will get on

the agenda for the Faculty Assembly. The delayed art and Mexican American programs should be ready by next spring.

"[The programs] will be ready," Slater said, "I feel confident. [Faculty] are some of the most creative people I've ever met. You folks are blessed. I'm so proud to be their president."

Revitalizing the programs means making them more attractive to prospective students, as well as preparing them for life after graduation.

The revitalized drama program, for instance, will now focus on theater management, directing and producing. It requires a minor in Mass Communications and a practicum at a theater production company.

"The issue is drama competing with different universities," Gomez said. "Every university is producing actors. Only Our Lady of the Lake specializes in theater management."

The revitalized Spanish program will have a concentration and minor in translation and interpretation. To Gomez, this program appeals to every major because of the job market's demand for bilingual speakers.

"Every application says bilingual preferred," Gomez said. "Interpretation is extremely important. It builds trust. Interpretators must understand the subtle nuances."

Gomez believes these changes also ease the minds of parents worried about students' chances in the job market.

"The foundation for revitalization was advice that parents give their children when the parents have gone to college," Gomez said.

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Students comment, express concerns on Selrico food service

By Yvonne Rosas
Reporter

When Our Lady of the Lake students are asked to make a comment about Selrico's cafeteria food, the answer is not "yes" or "no"—they respond by asking, "Do you have the time?"

The list of complaints from student to student vary, but the amount of complaints that are readily available says something about the state of on-campus catering.

Most students found it easy to share anecdotes about a bad experience with on-campus dining. Some have even reported sickness or nausea after eating. SGA has received complaints from students in recent Food Committee meetings as well.

Students brought up issues about the service staff, the quality of the food, and some even found unexpected surprises in meals.

Danielle Leal, a senior social work major, found small black bugs crawling



Adelfo Carbajal noticed small black bugs crawling in a side salad she made on Jan. 28. *Photo courtesy of Danielle Leal*

around in a side salad she made in the salad bar on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Leal had already started eating her salad before making the discovery.

"The cucumbers were brown all over the edges," she said after she found the bugs and inspected her salad. "I got so sick after

eating that."

Leal immediately threw her salad away and reported the incident.

Other students claimed that they have received their food raw, dripping with grease, and generally not in a state of being properly prepared.

Jessica Benavides, se-

nior psychology major, once received raw pork chops from the hot foods section. "It was like they were beyond rare."

Dewey Johnson, general manager for Selrico, said he is being proactive with food care. To show for that, thermometers are now being implemented on the grill and fryer to make sure food served is cooked properly.

The lack of variety is another issue that students, especially those living on campus, feel they must deal with.

"They serve the same thing," said Jacqueline Gonzales, junior business management major. "There's no variety. I feel like they serve the same chicken from two weeks ago."

Selrico has a four week cycle, with dishes coming and going each week.

"I understand where students come from," Johnson said. "For example, even if you love McDonald's, you can get sick of eating McDonald's every day. I try to

come up with monotony breakers."

Johnson said that special days have been created to bring more variety for students, like the crab boil.

The most common complaint, however, is the food price. Four groups of students were interviewed at the cafeteria and all commented on the prices of on-campus food and how unfair the general food prices are. Commuters are hard-pressed to buy food at the cafeteria, finding it easier to just pack their lunches or eat off campus.

"It's too expensive," said Angel Solares, sophomore psychology major. "If I didn't have a meal plan, I don't think I'd be buying from here."

Johnson said there is not much that can be done about the food pricing.

"It's an agreement between the university and the corporation," Johnson said. "I will tell you that our prices are much lower than the standard and other universities."

Johnson calls himself customer satisfaction-driven and will do his best to accommodate every student's needs on campus, such as a gluten-free diet.

"If I can get the 99, I still want to get the 1," he said.

There is a food committee on campus that meets weekly to discuss issues regarding on-campus catering and services. Mark Center, director of Residence Life, is the chair of the committee.

If students wish to voice their concerns they can contact SGA through a member, email or add a comment in the cafeteria drop box.

Students can also speak up when it comes to food that has not been prepared properly or considered dissatisfactory.

"If students are unsatisfied with their meal I encourage them to respectfully tell the food service staff the reasons," said Ashley Guevara, SGA president.

yerosas@ollusa.edu

Johnson: Food service adds heart-healthy options to menu



Among the new items Selrico now offers are gluten-free cookies and hummus with pretzels. *Photo by Kimberly Yosko*

By Kimberly Yosko
Reporter

New items are on the menu in Sister Annie B's Cafeteria, and more healthy

ones have just arrived.

Some of the new items in the cafeteria include: Crystal Light mixes that can be put in water for flavor, Odwalla Bars and

hummus with pretzels. Although not as healthy, the C-Store has also added new items like Fuego and Nitro flavor Takis, Hostess products, and Nutella to-go cups. Most of these items have already become very popular among students.

For those who are gluten intolerant, the cafeteria has recently added gluten-free snacks.

Dewey Johnson, general manager for Selrico, said he has already received positive feedback for the gluten-free snacks.

"We added gluten-free items last semester," he said. "There have been two students that have

told me that they are gluten intolerant and they are very happy about the new snacks."

Heart-healthy items were added to the menu.

"Members of the Food Committee and I went to a heart-healthy seminar during the last week of January," Johnson said. "It was a healthy food taste test. We were able to pick out 10 items that were tasty and healthy."

The Food Committee has met for a few years and is made up of Johnson, student government representatives, Mark Center, director of Residence Life, Jack Hank, director of Stu-

dent Life, and other students who want to voice their opinions and ideas.

Johnson said he is also planning for the future. He has already thought of a menu for Fat Tuesday, the day before Lent begins. This year, Fat Tuesday will be on March 4.

"There will be seafood gumbo, jambalaya, red beans and rice, and other Cajun foods available on the menu in honor of Mardi Gras and Fat Tuesday," Johnson said.

Johnson also wants to add another item to the menu soon.

"I'm thinking about adding an ICEE machine

on campus in the near future," Johnson said.

The Food Committee is always looking for feedback from students. Students are encouraged to fill out the blue "How are we doing?" sheets and put them in the comment box, which is near the Stir It Up side of the cafeteria. The Food Committee reads all comments to see what needs to be changed and what needs to stay the same in the cafeteria.

For more information on or to become part of the Food Committee, contact Mark Center at mrcenter@ollusa.edu.

kayosko@ollusa.edu

Glasscock: Pests can be prevented

By Ruben Renteria
Reporter

It's not every day you find rat poop at Our Lady of the Lake University, but when you do, it will make its way onto Facebook.

That's what happened when Melissa Trevino, a senior, posted a picture on The Lake Front's Facebook page of rat droppings she found in the Renaissance Parlor one evening after class.

Trevino had just left class when she decided to head over to the lounge area located in the first floor of Main Building. As she walked towards a sofa, Trevino saw the words, 'Watch out' written on various notes left by other students. Trevino took a closer look and that's when she realized she was looking at rat poop on top of a flat red sofa and in the corners of the room scattered along the floor.

Situations like these happen when the university community fails to pick up after itself, she said.

"Too many times I have seen students and staff just leave trash behind or it falls to the ground and it is just left there," Trevino said. "Everyone should do their part by throwing away their own trash."

Darrell Glasscock, director of Physical Plant, said housekeeping and their 30 employees handle the maintenance and upkeep of the university's 600,000 square-foot floor space. Each employee is given a designated area and it is up to them to ensure their space is as clean as possible. The university also partners up with ABC Home & Commercial Services to ensure proper extermination practices are done weekly to reduce rodent activity.

However, Glasscock understands any efforts taken will not completely wipe out all rodents.

"The unfortunate fact of life is that we will never ever be rat free or mouse free," Glasscock said.

But, in order to handle the current rodent activity, the university as a whole has narrowed down the reasons of why it keeps happening.

These reasons include students who feed stray animals, the students and staff who leave trash lying around and the people who don't store their food away properly.

As the weather becomes increasingly colder, the shift in temperatures forces animals to look for food and shelter, two things our university grounds have plenty of, Glasscock said.

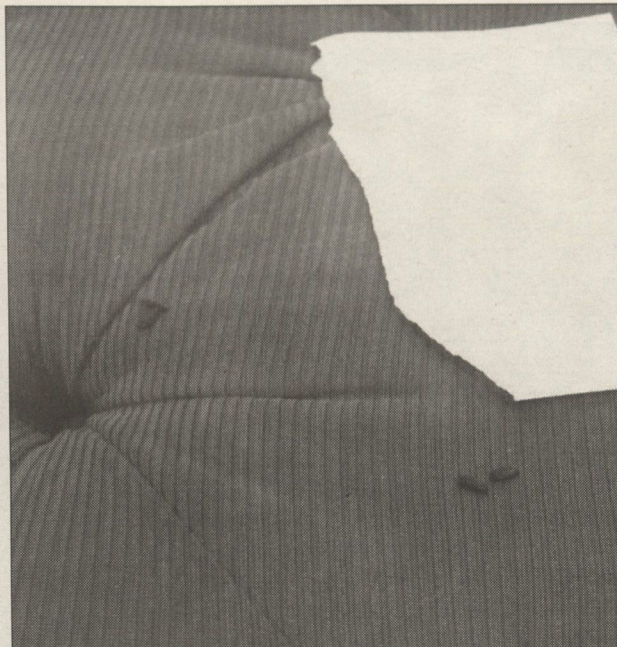
When a stray dog or cat makes its way on campus, students feed them, Glasscock said. He believes this only further complicates the issue because it will increase animal activity around the campus.

"When we put food out for animals, as much as we love animals, these dogs and cats, these strays also exponentially increase the attraction level," Glasscock said.

Another issue is when students or faculty leave a drink, a bag of chips or a plate behind. Whether intentional or not, this becomes a green light invitation for these critters, Glasscock said.

"They smell these foods out," he said. "When you leave out stuff overnight, keep stores of snacks in little bitty bags in your drawers, that's going to bring them in guaranteed."

The best solution for those who store food away



Melissa Trevino notified The Lake Front about rat excrement in Renaissance Parlor. *Photo courtesy of Melissa Trevino*



A raccoon was recently found in one of the dorm halls on campus. *Photo by Guadalupe Hernandez*

is to do so properly so it closes off smell vapors that attract rodents, he said.

But, despite this recent incident of rat excrement, Glasscock and the university housekeeping staff do their best to prevent situations like this from happening.

"We do our best to keep them out," he said.

But if rodent activity continues to happen, then the university community needs to report it, Glasscock said.

"All too often, people won't report it. We have to

know, in order to respond," he said.

Students can contact Physical Plant via email, by phone or in person in their office in St. Ann's Hall.

"We pay too much money to be overrun by pests," Trevino said.

For anyone who has questions or concerns regarding rodent activity, they can email Glasscock through the department's email and submit a work order through olluphysicalplantworkorderrequest@ollusa.edu.

rrenteria28@ollusa.edu

CAJUN DINNER

continued from page 1

The pilgrimage will take students through the cities of Paris, Lourdes, Metz, and Strasbourg, among other cities. But the journey is more about spirituality than sightseeing.

The pilgrimage also includes daily Mass and a tour of where Moye studied.

"It is the opportunity to share the founding of the Congregation of Divine Providence and their work during the late 1700s," Fiedler said. "The students will get a global view of the Sisters of Divine Providence and continue the global message."

Although Maya is well travelled, she says she is just as excited about seeing France.

"I've been to Europe before and it was great, but I think it would be nice if I went but with a religious focus this time," Maya said. "I want to have a bigger understanding of where OLLU originated. I love the school, so it seems only

logical to know its history."

The Ministry and Congregation is hosting Down on the Bayou, a New Orleans inspired dinner that will include Cajun food, music, and dancing to raise money for the pilgrimage. Students attending the trip and former students of the Providence Leadership Program will perform a merengue, salsa, and western dance, but audience participation is encouraged.

Down on the Bayou will take place from 6-10 p.m. on Feb. 15 from at Chapel Auditorium. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$500 for a table of eight.

There will also be a raffle at the event for a king size quilt made by the CDPs. Tickets will be sold at \$1 each and the raffle tickets for an iPad Mini will be \$5 each.

For tickets to Down on the Bayou, contact Roxanna Chavez at (210)-434-6711 ext. 2193 or rchavez@ollusa.edu. For more information on the pilgrimage, contact Sister Gloria Ann Fiedler at (210)-854-0873. demartinez@ollusa.edu



Students traveling to France for the pilgrimage will follow in the footsteps of Father John Martin Moye. *Courtesy photo*

McDonald walks down aisle after Good Friday engagement



Mara McDonald, university minister and Zumba instructor, married Luis Rodriguez, her boyfriend of 4 years, on Jan. 18. *Courtesy photo*

By Angelica Casas
Editor-In-Chief

Her Indiana license plate got her married.

On Jan. 18, Mara McDonald, university minister and Zumba instructor, walked down the aisle of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church to marry Luis Rodriguez, her boyfriend of 4 years.

McDonald and Rodriguez are both from Indiana, but they did not meet until both were living in the same apartment complex in San Antonio.

Rodriguez saw McDonald's license plate and

waited by the apartment mailboxes to talk to her. When he approached her, he asked if she was from Indiana, but was given only a one-word answer.

"I was having a bad day," McDonald said. "I was like, 'Yeah.'"

Rodriguez continued talking and asking questions. McDonald found out his family lived 1.5 hours from hers in Indiana and that he was on a "God-high" after having attended a retreat. He asked her what she was studying and was excited to hear she was going to school for pastoral studies. McDonald invited

him to go to her church and he gave her his information, which she lost.

After giving her his information again, they started to hang out and became friends.

It was after several months that McDonald's sister told her she never likes the people that treat her well. This stunned McDonald and she later prayed about it.

"God answered my prayer the next day," McDonald said. "I looked at him and I was like 'Oh my God, I think I like him.'"

At the time, McDonald was working all day and

did not think she was in a place to be in a relationship, although she did like Rodriguez.

She later went to his apartment and asked him what role she was playing in his life, and if there was potential in their relationship or if they should remain friends.

They both prayed about it and came to the conclusion that they wanted to be together—but not before asking her father, which Rodriguez was insistent on doing.

But the day after they became a couple, McDonald was interviewed for a

job in her hometown, and was hired. Rodriguez took it as a break up, and McDonald said it felt like one.

McDonald moved and would constantly pray, taking their distance one day at a time.

"If we're not meant to be, [the distance will] break it," McDonald said she thought. "If we are, we will make it."

She did not want to move back to San Antonio only to be with Rodriguez, but a job opened up here at the university.

McDonald came back to San Antonio in October 2012 and became the in-

terim University Minister, a position that is now permanent.

After five months of having been back in San Antonio, Rodriguez proposed to her on Good Friday while on a family trip in Florida. At first, McDonald's reaction was not one Rodriguez hoped for.

Rodriguez had originally thought McDonald's whole family would be in Florida. He had already bought the ring and was going to ask her parents before travelling to Florida. But when he found out McDonald's father would not be going, he panicked.

"He felt like he was in a telenovela," McDonald said laughing.

Rodriguez called McDonald's father and told him he was planning to ask for his daughter's hand in marriage in Florida.

On the flight to Florida, McDonald felt bothered because she felt their relationship was going nowhere.

What she did not know was that her mother was helping Rodriguez plan his proposal with all of her family there, including her father.

At 3 p.m. on Good Friday, her family gathered to pray and reflect. All of a sudden, McDonald's mother, who is never a punctual person, said it was time to pick up a prescription at Walgreens. She left in the middle of reflection. What McDonald did not know was that her mother was going to pick up her father.

Rodriguez and McDonald then went to the beach.

While on the beach, he told her he had to go to the restroom. While she was turned away, he wrote, "Mara, will you marry me?" in the sand.

Faculty Assembly president recalls early life, education

By Angelica Casas
Editor-In-Chief

Steven Blanchard dropped out of Texas Tech University twice, the second time only six credit hours away from graduating.

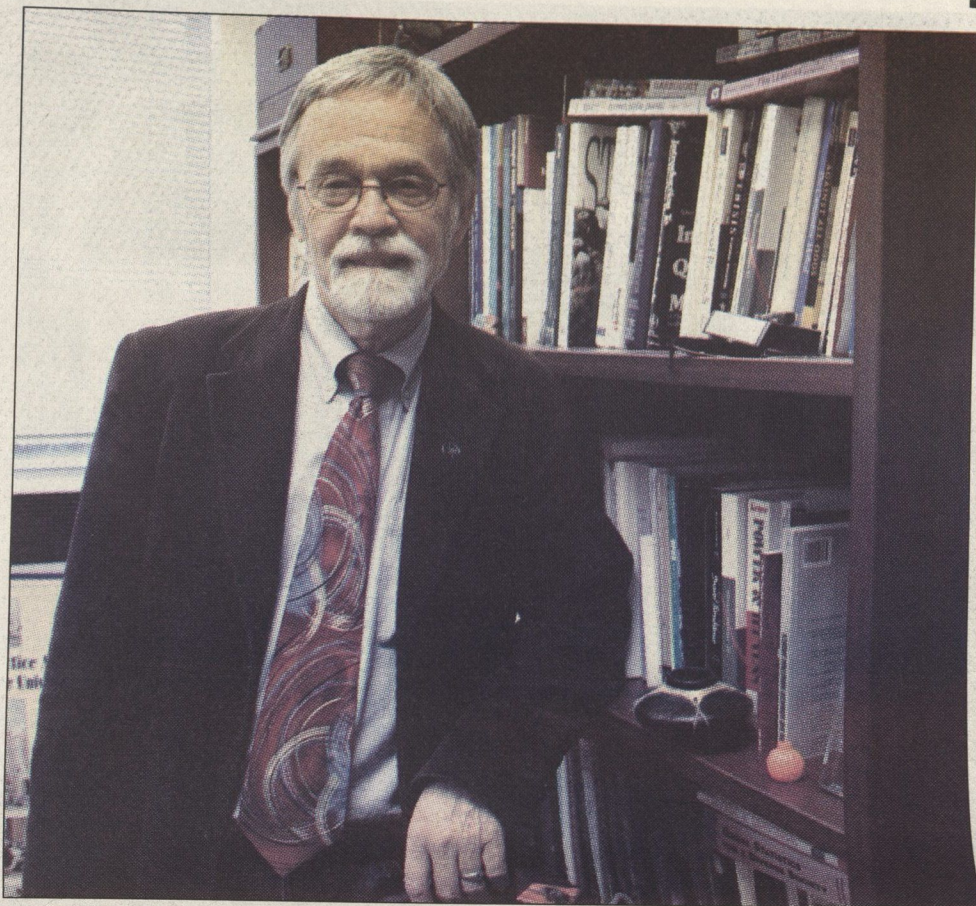
He was faced with a lack of motivation after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, and didn't know what he wanted to do with his life.

"[Kennedy] had said in his inauguration speech, 'Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.'" Blanchard said. "When he died, I felt I had to live out his legacy."

Academics were the last thing on his mind, and his grades suffered for it.

Blanchard, Ph.D., is the Faculty Assembly president and professor of statistics, research methods and sociology.

He was born in Okla-



Faculty Assembly president Steven Blanchard, Ph.D. did not always have it good. His determination, motivated him to strive for his doctorate, and begin his teaching career. *Photo by Angelica Casas*

homa, where his father met his mom while stationed there as a military pilot.

His family moved around a lot and was living in Midland when Blanchard decided he wanted to attend Texas Tech. He changed his major many times – from pre-law to pre-med to botany.

After dropping out once, he returned to Tech his senior year, but felt the university wasn't a fit for him, so he dropped out again.

He joined the Peace Corps for 3 years and worked with indigenous people in Ecuador. Before this, had already worked in migrant labor camps north of Lubbock.

He finished his undergraduate studies at the University of Houston, but not easily. It was a requirement to complete at least 60 hours there in order to graduate so, having been close to graduating at

Texas Tech, he was at U of H for two years, all while living on his own.

Blanchard went to school from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and worked at a mental hospital from 4 p.m.-12 a.m. Because he spent most of his money on tuition and books, he lived in a rooming house where rent was cheap and so were living conditions. He remembers how he would eat his Cheerios – he'd pour the cereal into his bowl, pour the milk, mix both, wait for the beetles to float up, scoop them off and then dig in.

"I didn't care," Blanchard said. "I was determined."

He received his bachelor's degree in Medieval History two years later.

Blanchard worked for over 20 years in various jobs including as a custodian and for the Welfare Department.

BLANCHARD continued on page 11

SHARING THE LOVE

*por mi guapo con todo mi corazón,
te amo muchísimo*



Happy Valentine's Day Lori.

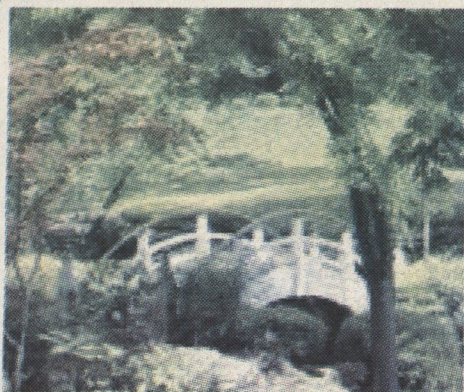
Our best wishes for this coming year and know that we love you & support you always!

Love Dad, Mom, Lesly, Cris, Allie, & Rocha

Briana Bustamante,

Happy Valentine's Day, we love you!

-Mom, Dad, Ericka and Gordo



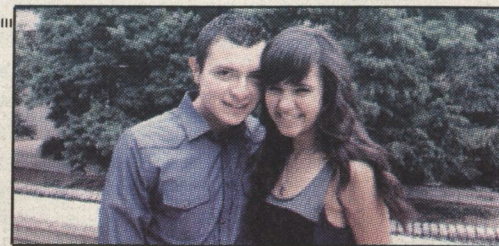
"We stood on a bridge, surrounded by nature and all its beauty at the botanical gardens. A moment in time was forever locked into my memory

-Happy Valentine's Day L.E.M



Estudiantes de español principiante, intermedio y avanzado: ¡Felicidad y Bienestar en este Día del Amor y la Amistad!

Dra. ML



*José,
Hi love, I just wanted to let you know, in case you forgot, every moment since the day I met you I've fallen more and more in love with you and I wanna tell you in every way possible. Happy Valentine's day my darling.*

Love, Sky.

University president, Chief Juarez discuss shooting protocol

By Neida Escamilla
Contributing Writer

If somebody were to enter Our Lady of the Lake University pointing a loaded gun at anyone who crossed their path, students might be forced to hide under tables and faculty would lock their classroom doors.

"I would be very afraid for the safety of students, faculty, staff, members of our campus community," University President Jane Ann Slater, CDP said. "I know I'd start praying very very quickly."

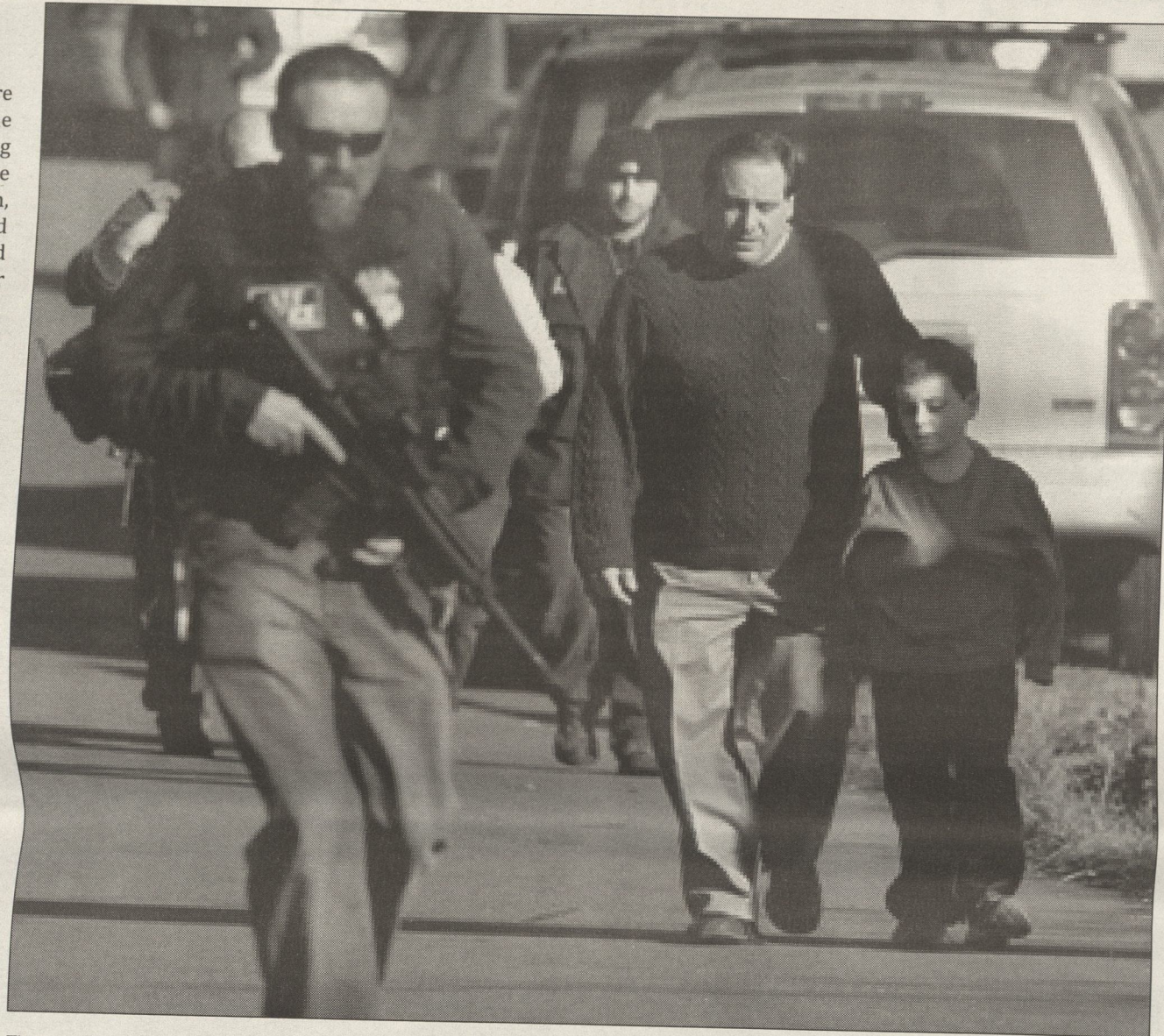
Increases in gun violence on school grounds means more attention to safety protocol on how to handle these dangerous situations, something the university is prepared to take on if a situation like the one described above were to happen.

"We have a very well-planned response effort," Slater said. "Our response plan is detailed and it tells you exactly what to do."

"The process would vary depending on the situation," said David Juarez, University Police chief. "But of course our main goal is to neutralize and contain the situation and ensure safety of the community."

There have been 382 school shootings in the United States since 1992, with Texas ranking as the second highest state in number of shootings with a total of 29, according to stoptheshootings.org.

When an event such as a mass shooting occurs, people turn to the mental health community asking if this certain individual has had a history of psychological issues or if they were under psychiatric care prior to committing the crime.



The shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, which totalled 28 deaths including the perpetrator's, stunned the nation. *Courtesy photo*

John Gomez, Ph.D, psychology professor, said there is a thought process behind these violent acts carried out by an individual, but he wants to emphasize it wouldn't be called crazy.

"It's not crazy," Gomez said. "These people are rational, they're thinking by ideas of means to an end that you and I would never pursue. They seek revenge and they seek revenge violently. To them, however, it seemed like a rational act, might have been impulsive, a lot of emotion, but they had a goal in mind."

A person's mental state

usually isn't the sole cause as to why they would want to take a gun and shoot other people. Gomez said an increase in the amount of pressure or stress somebody faces, together with a history of mental illness, only adds fuel to "snap."

The phrase snap, Gomez said, is not bad.

"I think they're at a point where they really can't take it anymore. They've got to act. They've got to do something about that. I don't mean to open to possibility of saying anybody could have done this. It's important to see that under certain pres-

ures these people, school shooters, who have had a mental health history, it's not completely unexpected," Gomez said.

Just one month into the new year, 11 active shooting incidents occurred on or near a high school or college campus.

Freshman Anna Olivaréz is from Mission, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley. She says being away from her family only adds to her fear of a shooting on campus.

"I'm away from home so that's another scary situation if anything were to happen," Olivarez said. "I'd

pretty much be alone."

Slater's fears are not only for those involved in the danger zone, but also for those who have a curiosity.

"I would be fearful that someone would want to see what's happening and put him or herself in danger by getting too close and not following the directives of the police officer who is trying to keep everyone safe," Slater said.

In an email response, Juarez said university police has personnel who are Hostage Negotiator trained and many officers trained to use an AR-15 rifle.

University officials like the idea of implementing a lockdown drill, especially for students and faculty that could be stuck inside classrooms during an emergency situation.

"I think that faculty members and staff members could be instructed in individual classes," Slater said. "They'd be told what to do in the event of a shooting so they could get out of sight and the person is not able to get in easily."

Juarez provided some key points on how university police would handle a critical situation like a shooting on campus.

"Quickly recognize the potential or existence of a critical incident request additional support and supervisory personnel through the dispatcher, seek positions of safety from where the situation may be contained within the smallest possible area, and isolate non-participants from the threat," Juarez said.

If necessary, EMS and Fire Rescue will be called to assess any injured persons. In addition, police will try to establish communication between the suspect or any hostages to help control the situation.

Slater ensures the university will use a variety of communication methods such as email, phone calls, text message to alert people if there were reports of shots fired on campus. Also, students are encouraged to look on OLLU's social media pages for additional updates and safety information.

"We would do everything possible to protect [students], Slater said. "We've anticipated situations and have prepared people to respond and have a plan."

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Friday, Courtesy photo

WEDDING

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Rodriguez returned to McDonald and asked her what the sand said. The first thought that came to McDonald was that she pressured him on the plane.

He got down on his knee and she got down on hers. He told her she was supposed to be "up there," not on her knees.

"Her reaction was a humble one, which totally embraces her character," Rodriguez said. "It was a symbolic gesture for me to kneel and submit my life-long dedication to her, yet she was insistent on being at the same level."

When she got up, she told him, "Yeah, of course."

They walked up the boardwalk and McDonald saw her dad. She broke down because this represented her father's approval of their engagement after he had not been supportive of their relationship in the past.

"I envisioned many scenarios in my head but ultimately God was the director of how the Florida proposal worked out," Rodriguez said. "I can only take half the credit for how beautiful our engagement day turned out."

The couple has now been married for a month.

McDonald and Rodriguez share many similarities but also differences. These differences at times made her doubt the survival of their relationship.

"He's Protestant, I'm Catholic, he's Hispanic, I'm white," she said. "We didn't know if this was going to work."

But both are open to what God wants from their relationship.

Father Kevin Fausz, university chaplain, presided at their wedding ceremony. McDonald's long-time friend and Director of University Ministry Mario Serrano was also present at the ceremony.

"I wish them to become who God has created them to be as a couple and as individuals," Serrano said.

Rodriguez said he looks forward to learning what purposeful endeavors God has in store for them as husband and wife.

"Will we be a couple that ministers through exercise, teaching, or helping the homeless? Who knows?" Rodriguez said.

Although their future is unknown to them, he looks forward to learning with her at his side.

"I would not expect any other woman to accept me and my flaws the way she does," Rodriguez said. "She makes the act of loving unconditionally look easy."

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McDonald became engaged to Rodriguez last year on Good Friday. *Courtesy photo*

Club raises money for Mizuumi-Con

By Darian Mendez
Copy Editor

Mizuumi-Con, Our Lady of the Lake's annual anime convention, might become a two day event.

Mizuumi Anime Club aimed to raise \$20,000 in donations by Feb. 12 via Indiegogo, a crowd funding website, to offer free admission to anyone interested in attending the convention on March 22. If donations reached \$60,000 or more, the funds would allow the convention to last two days.

"We wanted to do the donation this year because we wanted the con to be free for everyone to attend and enjoy," said Ashely Aguillon, Mizuumi Anime Club president via email. "Our aim wasn't just for our guests, but vendors and artists as well. We charge out of necessity and we just wanted to help make things easier for them."

However, because the crowd funding page for donations was started late in the fall semester, Aguillon said she didn't think they will reach their goals this semester but has high hopes for the future.

As of Feb. 10 Mizuumi raised over \$1,000. While they failed to reach their goal of \$20,000, the website said they will keep all funds raised.

"When we did this new system of Indiegogo we didn't know what to expect," Aguillon said, "Next year we will try again, but make it better from what we learned."

The Indiegogo page also saved Mizuumi from convention stress, Aguillon said.

Mizuumi had problems with the company that processed its transactions, Aguillon said, and according to the convention website Mizuumi lost its two convention coordinators due to personal reasons.

"The crowd funding idea had the benefit of easing the convention stress off of all of us during a time of personal uncertainty, which it had done" Aguillon said.

lon said. "We've been lucky these last few years to have a consistent staff, but it changes. For the most part, staff coordinators are us students, so we usually do have a position or two to fill each year when someone graduates."

Chris Pagonis, Mizuumi Anime Club's advisor, had the idea of a donation system where donors would receive incentives for their generosity. The Indiegogo page linked on the convention's website has several donation options with perks ranging from convention badges and shirts to wrestling belts and a dedicated brick in St. Anthony's Courtyard.

"It is less that we are selling bricks and more that we would like a permanent way of thanking those who supported us fiscally," Pagonis said via email. "Just like how we have benefactors' names on labs and rooms of the university to thank those who have given us the resources to educate, we believe that it is important to

thank those who help us to get future students of OLLU on campus."

Another donation perk titled "Grand High Poobah Tier" allows the donor a Friday and Saturday night stay on campus, meals, line jumping privileges and airport transportation. The "Founders Circle" option, just above the "Grand High Poobah Tier", gives donors a \$50 gift card to the Vendor's Room, a section of the convention where vendors and artists sell their work, and a wrestling belt.

Despite not reaching their goal, this experience will only help Mizuumi-Con, said Aguillon.

"Each Mizuumi-Con helps pay for the next," Aguillon said. "Other cons have done similar projects, whether it was to start up or help make their con bigger."

For more information on Mizuumi Anime Club, Mizuumi-Con or volunteering contact Ashley Aguillon at araguillon@lake.ollusa.edu

dgmendez@ollusa.edu

BLANCHARD

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For some time, he lived in a goat ranch in Comfort, TX.

"If that's what was in front of me, that's what I did," he said. "If something knocks you flat, you're more than likely at fault."

Although he "zig-zagged" through life, he always had his eyes on receiving his doctorate.

A demographer he knew sponsored his graduate studies and Blanchard received his Doctorate in Sociology from the University of Texas at Austin.

"Put a goal out there and let that be your motive, even if it takes 25

years," Blanchard said. "Even if you don't get the job you want out of college, you take it and go from there."

Blanchard was then qualified to teach at a university level.

"Providentially, as the *monjas* would say, I chose this place because I run into energized and motivated students," Blanchard said. "Y pues aquí estoy."

Before he came to the university, he was a professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. There, he taught classes to more than 250 students at a time, something he did not have in mind when he was 18-years-old and began dreaming about becoming a university pro-

fessor.

Some of Blanchard's classes are online. Because he prefers *ojo-a-ojo* communication, he prepares videos for his students, which he posts to YouTube.

"The greatest value of the university as a learning community is the professor-student relationship," Blanchard said. "So I'm the producer, director, playwright, and I've got my lights, all with the idea of trying to engage the students."

Blanchard said this relationship causes students to return and chat with their former professors once they graduate and have careers.

"It's not about giving

anyone my point of view, but creating an environment where students are open to their own capacities," Blanchard said. "I'm a mentor, and sometimes a teacher."

His office is always open for students to seek academic help or simply to chat. Some ask for advice and, after listening and speaking to them, he tends to leave them with the same words.

"You need to make this life your own," Blanchard said. "Stay open to possibilities, listen to your heart and be patient. The more you listen to your heart and the less you listen to your head, the better it is."

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Alliance to educate about LGBT through entertainment

By Gianna Rendon
Managing Editor

Education fosters open-mindedness. Some students from Our Lady of the Lake University seek to educate others on lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender rights.

The Alliance, a club that embraces diversity and all sexual orientations and gender identity on campus, educates the community through events.

The club is hosting a Drag bingo, similar to the Mexican loteria, called "Club Loteria" from 5:30-9:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21 at Uptown Studio at 700 Fredericksburg Road, in Downtown San Antonio.

This is an event where people can learn "in a new and fun way," said Michael Torres, the vice president of the club.

"If someone does have prejudice or openly discriminate against people that they need to open themselves up," said Ignacio Trevino, president of the Alliance and a straight ally "Sometimes you have to make yourself uncomfortable in order to grow."

Through leading the club, Trevino said he wants to provide all students with an outlet to express themselves through gender expression, gender identity and sexual orientation.

"There are all kinds of people out there," Trevino said. "What people don't realize is that every-

one deserves human dignity—it's part of the Catholic values."

The proceeds of the event will go to scholarships for an LGBT or straight student who fights for LGBT rights. A small portion will go towards the Creating Change Conference next year in Denver, Colorado to train OLLU students about LGBT rights.

"If you are planning on coming please be respectful please be open minded," Trevino said. "It's going to be different if you never been to [a drag show] before but it's going to be fun. You are guaranteed to have fun."

The bingo is for ages 17 and up. A ticket is \$20 and an extra \$5 for a spaghetti plate. Each quest will be given 3 loteria cards for



The Alliance will host "Club Loteria" from 5:30-9:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21 at Uptown Studio. *Courtesy photo*

10 games.

The spaghetti plate will be served from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. and the bingo begins at 6:30 p.m.

Trevino said he wants the event to be like a night club experience for those who attend.

"If anyone has been to a drag show before, that's what you can expect with a bingo aspect to it," Trevino said.

There will be six performances by Drag Queens between each game.

"Drag Queens show a sense of empowerment and show a sense of acceptance for gender non-conforming people," Torres said. "Drag Queen culture is a whole different culture that I feel people should be aware of."

Autumn Summers, a drag queen who helped organize the event, will be the emcee. Summers took the initiative to get the entertainers and helped Uptown studio work out the details, Torres said.

Torres contacted some of the Drag Queens that help organize San Antonio College's drag bingo during "Coming Out Week" and Summers agreed to help. Summers said he started doing drag in 1982 because there were people with HIV/AIDS that couldn't afford medication and were dy-

ing at high rates.

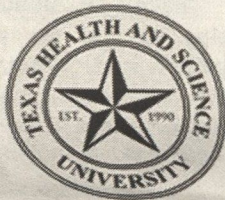
Langton Drive will be performing behind the Uptown Studio. Entry to the yard is \$3, but if you bought a ticket to the bingo admission to the yard is free. The Fridge-SA food truck will also be there serving up some grub. There will be a 30 minute intermission so bingo players can go outside and listen to the band. There will also be tables with LGBT information in the yard and other vendors.

"Education is key, educating the younger generation no matter what their sexual orientation is teaching them that it OK to be who YOU are both inside and out can help us all live a better life together," Summers said via Facebook message.

Tickets can also be purchased at the door and credit cards will be accepted. There will also be a raffle for various prizes including gift cards for \$1.

For more information email iatrevino@ollusa.edu or mtorres2@ollusa.edu. If you are interested in volunteering at the event, email Amanda Beschonnet at ambenton@ollusa.edu. "Like" OLLU Alliance on Facebook. The Alliance meets from 5 p.m.-6 p.m. every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at Elliot house.

gerendon@ollusa.edu



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OLLUCrushes account can be flattering, objectifying

By Angelica Casas
Editor-in-Chief

Valentine's Day can be lonely if you have a crush that doesn't know you exist. A new Twitter account can help with the anxiety of confessing feelings in person.

The @OLLUCrushes Twitter account anonymously tweets the names of crushes sent through direct messages to the administrator or through the website Ask.fm. In less than 3 weeks, the page has received 178 followers and published nearly 150 tweets, as of Feb. 12.

The administrator of the account, who the story will refer to as "Nomad," created the account on Jan. 29 after seeing a similar page for the University of the Incarnate Word. But OLLU's and UIW's Crushes accounts are not the only ones on Twitter - there are hundreds of crush pages from various institutions around the country that have been up for over a year now.

Nomad's roommate is the only person who knows about Nomad's creation of the account designated for



The OLLUCrushes Twitter account anonymously tweets the names of crushes sent through direct messages to the administrator or through the website Ask.fm. *Courtesy photo*

OLLU students.

"I didn't think anyone was going to get into it," Nomad said. "I was nervous."

Last spring, anonymous posts took on the form of OLLU Confessions, a Facebook page that features anonymous statements from students and alumni that concern friendship, professors, faith, Greek life at the university and sex.

Nomad said the Twitter account is different because only the names of crushes are posted and any gossip or "dirt about people," is filtered out.

"For the most part, I did it to boost people's self-esteem," Nomad said. "I want to make everyone feel that they do have someone who crushes on them. I've always just wanted for people to feel flattered."

Nomad has already heard comments from persons whose name made the page and were, indeed, flattered.

"I've heard a lot of, 'OMG, I can't believe they posted me. I wonder who it was,'" Nomad said. "It's a lot of responsibility to keep it a secret."

Nomad said keeping the page updated takes up

much of time, but he/she tries to share whenever students will most likely be scrolling down social networks, such as during community time and in the evenings. When things are going slowly, Nomad posts the names of persons he/she is crushing on.

In one occasion, someone sent in Nomad's name as his or her crush. Unfortunately for Nomad, they sent it in anonymously through Ask.fm.

"I got excited!" Nomad said. "I was flattered and now I can see from their perspective. I still don't know who it was."

Nomad said it is also good for those people with low self-esteem who are mentioned on the page. He/she has also heard comments such as, "I can't believe somebody likes me here."

"That's who I'm doing it for," Nomad said, "the people who don't feel pretty."

Nomad has noticed some names are sent by people who do not attend the university but whose crush does.

Austin Delgado, a university alumnus now studying at St. Mary's Uni-

versity, said he has never posted to a page anonymously but that is a great way to say whatever you want without consequences, whether that be a good or bad thing.

"It's good for those boys and girls who can't muster up the courage," Delgado said.

Nomad said the anonymity is understandable and that the page alleviates some of the stress involved in confessing a crush, but the page should not replace identifiable communication.

"I think that you should really tell someone if you're crushing on them," Nomad said.

A blog published in Seventeen Magazine identifies the anonymity of the crushes as only one of many problems with these types of pages. It mentions that on countless occasions, the anonymous tweets objectify girls' bodies and can make them feel uncomfortable, not flattered.

"The girls feel ugly or unnoticed if they aren't mentioned," the blog post states. "And when they do get singled out in an objectifying comment, they either get really excited,

sadly, or feel very targeted and upset."

Nomad said most posts about professors and any that may be rude or that diminish or offend the person mentioned are omitted.

Contrary to what Nomad said, a tweet mentions a professor on campus. Also contrary are some of the tweets that objectify the bodies of those whose names are posted, mainly those of girls.

Tahiry Contreras, a senior, said body parts are mentioned in most of the tweets posted by the account.

"It's all about that ass, those legs, that hair," Contreras said. "There's more to a human being."

Ernestina Maldonado, a sophomore, said she would not feel flattered if someone pointed out her body parts in a tweet.

"There should be a page where you say nice things about people," Maldonado said. "A complimentary page."

To have a tweet posted with the name of your crush, visit twitter.com/OLLUCrushes or ask.com/OLLUCrushes.

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Drama club renamed, renewed

By Corrigan Moran
Reporter

The 24th Street Players have left the stage.

Their MySpace page remains haunted full of 2006, but Our Lady of the Lake's theatre club has been renewed this semester—the old name is gone.

Elizabeth Rodriguez, president of Act 24, describes last semester's short-lived revival of the 24th Street Players as a method of coming to know

what OLLU wants out of a theatre club.

"Many think of 'Shakespeare' and 'boring' when hearing a traditional name like 'theatre club,'" Rodriguez said, "With Act 24, [we] will symbolize a revamp of the traditional 24th Street Players, bringing modern entertainment into our community."

Charged with similar hopes of their predecessors, the members of Act 24 are aiming to change what you think of their

passion.

"Theatre involves so much more than just acting," Rodriguez said, "Costumes, dancing, makeup, directing, producing, construction - even things like science, math, history and beyond - are all a part of the theatre."

The motto of Act 24 is: where reality meets fantasy. Though the 24th Street Players' Myspace will live on, Act 24 is ready for a fresh start, and they want you with them on this new

stage.

"We get the freedom of becoming someone new, and that is always a good escape when handling the pressures of college and life. Anyone can be part of our club," Rodriguez said, "Anyone would be surprised what they can do once they have a monologue in their hands."

Interested? Contact Rodriguez at erodriguez3@ollusa.edu for more information.

cjmoran@ollusa.edu

New pavement



Brick pavement has been added to a space in the Mall Area in front of the Bookstore. *Photo by Angelica Casas*

SOUNDS IN SAN ANTONIO

Your guide to good music during study breaks

Express your love through the perfect song, artist

By Darian Mendez
Copy Editor

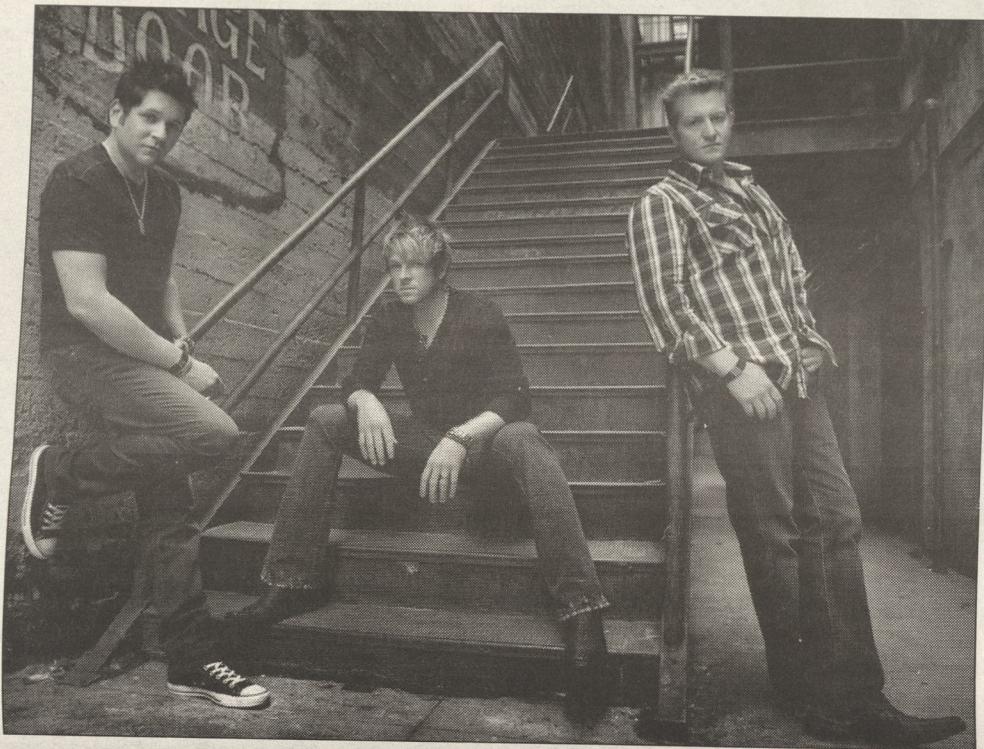
To paraphrase Tom Hanks, San Antonio's like a box of chocolates – you'll never know what you're gonna get. Some people really like caramel and others avoid it completely, but sometimes revisiting or giving caramel another chance will change your mind.

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2/14 Bone Thugs-n- Harmony
Backstage Live, 1305 E. Houston
Tickets: \$26-\$76

Why spend money on chocolate and flowers when you can express your feelings through aggressive harmonic rap music? Bone Thugs-n-Harmony go way back, harmonizing with 2Pac, Eazy-E, Big Pun, and The Notorious B.I.G.

2/14 Nicho Hinojosa
Club Rio, 13307 San Pedro Ave.
Tickets: \$28
If it's intimacy you crave on Valentine's Day, let Nicho



The annual San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo brings the biggest names in country to the city. This year, Rascal Flatts will perform at the AT&T Center on Feb. 17. *Courtesy photo*

Hinojosa serenade you and your cutie on the dance floor. Nicho's studied music in Monterrey and can play a handful of instruments, but his talent will win your heart.

2/17 Rascal Flatts
AT&T Center, One AT&T Center Pkwy
Tickets: \$15-\$33
What happens when Ohio and Oklahoma team up in Texas?

Award-winning country-fitting for the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo! Strap on your boots and get ready to sing along to some of the most iconic country songs to date.

2/20 Metal Church
Backstage Live, 1305 E Houston
Tickets: \$16

Country too mellow for you? Prepare to have your face blown off by sheer drum force. They started in the 80's, but now they're here, reminding you young folks about the power of rock and why drums are so important.

2/21 Candyland, Kill Paris
Club Rio, 13307 San Pedro Ave
Tickets: \$19-\$35

Candyland is more like candy for your ear straight from Santa Barbara. The band takes pride in mixing Trap, Dubstep and House on the same track and are open to sending demos to their own record label—artists check 'em out.

2/22 Memphis May Fire
White Rabbit, 2410 N. St. Mary's St.

With a new album set to release in a month, Memphis May Fire is showing off their bold Texas talent when it counts. They've been around for some time but The Unconditional Tour is

proof enough they're not done reinventing the standards for hardcore music.

2/22 Nikki Hill
Luna Live, 6740 San Pedro Ave
Tickets: \$5-\$10
Ever heard of roots rock? Imagine soul, with a kick of rockabilly in the form of a strong, independent woman. Nikki Hill is described as a whiplash, meaning she is going to blow you away with what she's come up with. Don't expect Taylor Swift material from Hill.

2/24 Hall & Oates
The Majestic Theatre, 224 E. Houston St.
Tickets: \$125-\$150

It doesn't matter if you're a rich girl, a man-eater or out of touch with Daryl Hall & John Oates. They will always make your dreams come true, unless you have a kiss on your list. We can't guarantee that.

Are we missing anything? Let us know what's going on in the local music scene via email at dgmendez@ollusa.edu or lakefront@ollusa.edu.

OUR MAIDEN OF THE MARSH

<p>My name is Desdemona Neveah Arleigh.</p> <p>Da-What?</p>	<p>Just call me DNA.</p> <p>Now hurry up. We have to keep moving.</p>	<p>Its community hour.</p> <p>What for, you just iced that zombie?</p>
<p>...and lunch rush is about to begin.</p>	<p>KRAACK!! BOOM!!</p>	

Comic by Robert Vasquez and Levi Rios

BABY PAN

In desperate measures to find a companion for Valentine's Day, Baby Pan, Baby Pablo and Henrietta created dating profiles on OKCupid.com. Would you date one of them?



Name: Baby Pan
Age: Young at Heart
Hometown: Neverland
Job: Lake Front Mascot
Why you should date me:
You will always laugh—either at me or with me.
Perfect Date Location:
Elmendorf Lake



Name: Baby Pablo
Age: Old man in a young man's body
Hobbies: Soccer
Pet Peeve: Baby Pan talking
What I'm looking for: A person not annoying like Baby Pan
Perfect Date Location:
Anywhere not by the lake, the ducks scare me.



Name: Henrietta Flamingo
Job: Lawn guard
Hobbies: flying and swimming
What I'm looking for: a bird of a feather
Favorite Saying: Bird's the word
Favorite game: Flappy Bird

By Gianna Rendon and Angelica Casas

CINEMANIACS

Cristian Ortiz-Salas and Desirae Martinez are both juniors who met their freshman year at Brackenridge High School. Both have a passion for movies. They have seen many movies together and enjoy commenting about them. Martinez enjoys the storyline of films, while Ortiz-Salas is drawn to the cinematography aspects of films.



And the Oscar goes to...

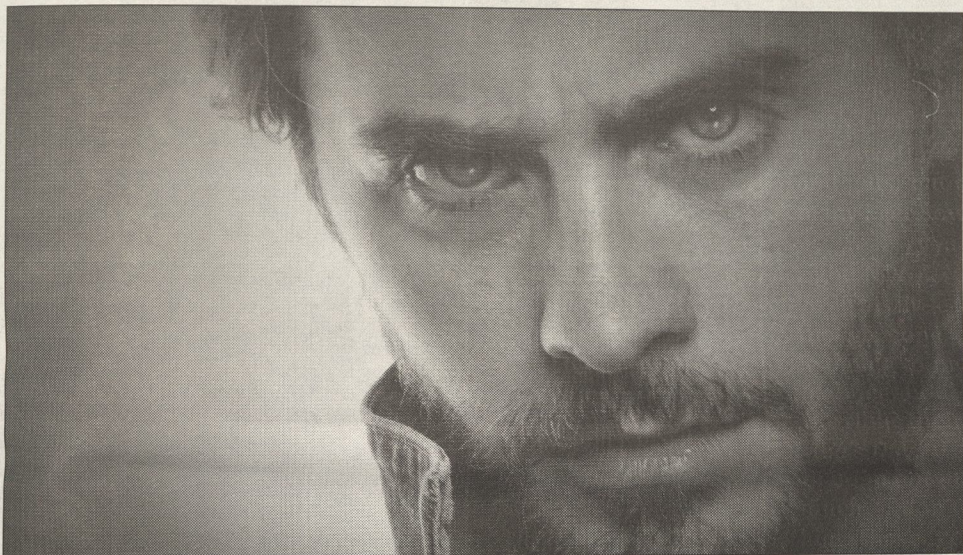
By Desirae Martinez
Reporter

The Academy Awards showcases and awards the best in film. This year the Academy has nominated

a unique variety of films. *Gravity* dazzled audiences with its visuals, *12 Years a Slave* moved audiences to tears, and *The Wolf of Wall Street* broke the record for most f-bombs in a movie.

The winners won't be announced until 7 p.m. ET, March 2 on ABC, but here are some predictions of who will take home an Oscar.

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Jared Leto plays Rayon, a transgender, in *Dallas Buyers Club*. *Courtesy photo*



Alfonso Cuaron directs *Gravity*, starring Sandra Bullock as a medical engineer. *Courtesy photo*

BEST PICTURE

Nominees:
12 Years a Slave
American Hustle
Dallas Buyers Club
Nebraska
Captain Phillips
Philomena
Gravity
Her
The Wolf of Wall Street

My Prediction: *12 Years a Slave* - Steve McQueen's masterpiece follows Solomon Northup, a man who was born free, kidnapped, and sold into slavery. The film is a brutally honest look at American slavery, which at times makes it uncomfortable to watch, but that doesn't negate its powerful performances, scenes, and storytelling.

BEST DIRECTOR

Nominees:
Steve McQueen, *12 Years a Slave*
Alexander Payne, *Nebraska*
David O. Russell, *American Hustle*
Alfonso Cuaron, *Gravity*
Martin Scorsese, *The Wolf of Wall Street*

My Prediction: Alfonso Cuaron, *Gravity* - Best Picture and Best Director usually go hand in hand, but in this case the Academy will probably give it to Cuaron. Cuaron's film *Gravity* stars Sandra Bullock as a medical engineer on her first space shuttle mission when disaster strikes and she finds herself adrift in space. *Gravity* is so visually striking and a technical marvel that Cuaron proves himself to be a visionary genius.

BEST ACTOR

Nominees:
Chiwetel Ejiofor, *12 Years a Slave*
Matthew McConaughey, *Dallas Buyers Club*
Christian Bale, *American Hustle*
Bruce Dern, *Nebraska*
Leonardo DiCaprio, *The Wolf of Wall Street*

My Prediction: Matthew McConaughey, *Dallas Buyers Club* - It's all going to come down to Matthew McConaughey and Chiwetel Ejiofor, but McConaughey is looking like the one to beat. He lost 50 pounds to play Ron Woodroof, a hard-living, homophobic AIDS patient who smuggles experimental medicine and challenges the FDA. McConaughey's performance lies in his development from someone who is misinformed to someone who is leading a cause.

BEST ACTRESS

Nominees:
Amy Adams, *American Hustle*
Sandra Bullock, *Gravity*
Cate Blanchett, *Blue Jasmine*
Meryl Streep, *August: Osage County*
Judi Dench, *Philomena*

My Prediction: Cate Blanchett, *Blue Jasmine* - Blanchett has been sweeping the best actress category for her role as Jasmine Francis, a New York City socialite who hits rock bottom when her husband's fraudulent business dealings unravel. Although her character should be off-putting, Blanchett is interesting to watch as a woman caught somewhere between neurotic and psychotic.

BEST SUPP. ACTOR

Nominees:
Jared Leto, *Dallas Buyers Club*
Bradley Cooper, *American Hustle*
Jonah Hill, *The Wolf of Wall Street*
Barkhad Abdi, *Captain Phillips*
Michael Fassbender, *12 Years a Slave*

My Prediction: Jared Leto, *Dallas Buyers Club* - Leto's character Rayon is a transgender, HIV-positive drug addict who partners with a homophobic AIDS patient (played by Matthew McConaughey) in a meds-smuggling operation during the 1980s. While Leto adds spunk to his character, he also adds a vulnerability that is necessary to bring out the softer side in McConaughey's character.

BEST SUPP. ACTRESS

Nominees:
Jennifer Lawrence, *American Hustle*
Lupita Nyong'o, *12 Years a Slave*
Sally Hawkins, *Blue Jasmine*
Julia Roberts, *August: Osage County*
June Squibb, *Nebraska*

My Prediction: Lupita Nyong'o, *12 Years a Slave* - Newcomer Nyong'o plays Patsy, a slave who befriends freeman Solomon Northup (played by Chiwetel Ejiofor) during his time of enslavement. Nyong'o delivers a raw performance of a woman trying to stay strong but nearly at her breaking point as she is lusted after and abused by a cruel plantation owner.

Two volleyball players add second sport to their schedules

By Carl Hansson
Contributing Writer

The everyday life of an Our Lady of the Lake University student-athlete typically consists of early mornings in the gym, long weekends on the road, and many late nights of studying. All of this could be an overwhelming experience for even the brightest student, but volleyball players Brittany Martinez and Jessica Walaski are taking the experience of being a student-athlete a step further, by competing in not only one, but two sports.

Both Martinez and Walaski were recruited to play volleyball under Head Coach Mark Lee. They played an important role on the Saints team last season finishing with an 15-12 overall record and a 9-4 Red River Athletic Conference record.

Lee is happy to see his two players contributing to other teams at the University and according to him, both players have the right mindset to be successful in the classroom and in their two sports.

"I don't have a problem with them playing two sports and I actually like that they get the full college experience," Lee said. "They are both hard working players with good attitudes, so I know that they can manage two sports and keep up with school."

This marks the first time OLLU student-athletes play on two teams during the same academic year. OLLU had a soccer player join the volleyball team one season, and a volleyball player join the basketball team the next season. However, none have been active on two teams in one season.

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JESSICA

Jessica Walaski, a freshman from San Antonio and an East Central High School graduate, transferred to OLLU from Palo Alto College last fall to join the volleyball team.

Walaski played multiple sports growing up and throughout high school. She played four years of volleyball and basketball, as well as two years of soccer at East Central.

Recruited to the volleyball team as a middle blocker, Walaski played 27 matches for the Saints during the fall semester. However, instead of getting a couple of weeks rest before the start of off-season practices, Walaski was asked to join the women's basketball team.

"I got excited when Coach Minner asked me if I wanted to play for the team. I knew that I had to step up my game to compete and prove that I could play for him," Walaski said.

Head Coach Christopher Minner said he knew what Walaski was capable of since he had her tryout for the team before the season started. When

a post position opened up, she was the perfect fit, he said.

"I knew that she had played dual sports in high school and at Palo Alto, so I knew that it was something she could handle," Minner said. "She has a good personality and has been able to adapt very well going from one sport to another."

Taking 17 credit hours this semester and adding a sport to that does not give Walaski a whole lot of free time, but she believes that her busy schedule helps her stay focused and maintain good grades.

"It's a lot and overwhelming at times," Walaski said. "However, it makes me get my work done. It's definitely playing sports that makes me get good grades, because without good grades I couldn't play so that definitely helps me stay focused."

Getting thrown into the middle of pre-season workouts with the basketball team, Walaski had some catching up to do, both with fitness and with learning Coach Minner's style of basketball.

"Volleyball shape is completely different from basketball

shape. I also had to learn a thousand different plays," Walaski said. "I feel like I'm a little behind compared to the other women, but I don't use it as an excuse. Instead, I use it as motivation to get better and catch up what I missed."

However, in the long run she will see how the two sports will help her become a better player in each, Walaski said.

"Even though it's two different sports I definitely feel like I can benefit from both of them, and I'm getting better vertical jumps and faster from both sports," explained Walaski.

According to Walaski, her family is just as excited as she is for the opportunity to play the two sports she loves at a collegiate level. She loves having her biggest fan in the stands every home game.

"My dad comes to all the home games and he's very, very happy that I got this opportunity," she said. "He has always been there for me and he's very excited that I can play both sports even though he always tells me that academics come first."



Jessica Walaski, a freshman, plays for the volleyball and basketball teams. *Courtesy photo*

BRITTANY

Brittany Martinez, a freshman defensive specialist from El Paso, Texas, and a Chapin High School graduate, played multiple sports growing up. In high school she played softball and volleyball for four years and was a part of the basketball team her freshman and sophomore year.

Martinez said it was never a question whether or not she would play softball when she was given the chance.

"I regret not playing basketball all four years in high school, so I didn't want to do the same mistake here and not play softball," said Martinez.

Lee said he looks forward to following his defensive specialist's progress on the softball field this spring.

"Coach Lee was happy for me and said that it gives him a reason to go and watch more softball games," Martinez said.



This semester, Brittany Martinez is on the volleyball and softball teams. *Courtesy photo*

Volleyball and softball might seem like two sports with very few things in common, but according to Martinez they complement each other well.

"I think they will both help me become a better athlete. Volleyball gives me quicker feet for softball season and softball will definitely get me in better shape once volleyball starts again," Martinez said.

Softball Head Coach James Kling said he had heard about Martinez's interest in softball.

"I heard a lot of good things about her from Coach Lee, and other players, and it turned out to be a good fit," Kling said. "She has some catching up to do as far as learning all the plays we do and the culture, and also as far as what my expectations are of her and the team. She is adjusting well, and she is a smart individual, so that won't be a problem."

Even though Martinez has

juggled playing multiple sports for years, she describes that the difference between high school and college is like night and day.

"College is more about getting ready for your future career, so things are a lot more serious than in high school. Back then, you didn't have to worry about much, and now it is the other way around," Martinez said.

This means not only more hours in the gym for Martinez, but also a lot more time spent studying and trying to fit in work at Campus Recreation.

"It's pretty hard to keep up with everything and there's a lot of late nights and early mornings, but I just have to stay focused. I do like it since it keeps me super busy," Martinez said.

Martinez and the Saints softball team opened their season last Saturday, Feb. 8 against Coastal Bend College.