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Youthful Lafayette Library and Learning Center users gather at the main entrance and indicate the facility is not only number one, but also one year old. Photo Doug Kohen

Lafayette Library's Successful First Year

By Cathy Tyson

It's hard to believe the Lafayette Library and Learning Center (LLC) has been open for an entire year. While the old shoe box library on Moraga Road collects dust, on most days 1,000 patrons – sometimes as many as 1,300 people per day stream through the glass double doors to enjoy the spectacular, user-friendly “community living room.”

A plethora of books, magazines, audio materials, computers, homework help, comfy chairs and a food-friendly policy invite users to come and stay a while. Any given day will find seniors hanging out, little ones excited for story time and a chance

to use the automated materials handling system “all by myself,” along with adults settling in with a laptop, cell phone and papers galore.

Library Manager Susan Weaver explains, “The new library is surprisingly different than the old library on so many levels.” She said this is due in part to the physicality of the place, room to accommodate many more people, the wi-fi, the homework center. “I think we have the best library in the world. It's worked out better than we anticipated – I love that people camp out here.”

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Quote of the Week:

"I have made this a lesson in adversity and bravery for my children."

Read Letters to the Editor, page L4.

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Angels in America at SMC

By Lou Fancher

Professor Reid Davis spent more than a year selecting *Angels in America*, the Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department's fall production. Reading plays, talking to students, considering curricula in related courses and the theater department's "season of angels" theme, Reid digested copious amounts of information and input while making the decision. "And, I made an informal poll with our English professors," he adds, "I heard *Angels in America* over and over again."

Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize winning play about the origins of the AIDS crisis in the late 1980's has been named "one of the ten best plays of the century," by London's National Theatre. It has received rave reviews; calling it "deep", "spiritual", and "thrilling". The play deals with timeless issues—life, death and faith—while chronicling the domestic drama of two couples, whose lives intersect.

"It's Kushner, thinking about the richest and the poorest: the most and the least powerful," Reid says. "The play's reach is Shakespearean. The issues are personal as well as global."

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Saint Mary's College *Angels in America*: Andrew Galindo on left as Roy; Liam Callister as Joe. Photo Michael Cook

Challenging Conditions for Lamorinda Grapes

By Sophie Braccini



As the French prepare to release their 2010 Beaujolais Nouveau on November 18th, Lamorinda winemakers are releasing their own 2010 production. But it has been a very difficult year for local vineyards and wineries. Spring was very wet and summer never really settled in; grapes took longer to mature and develop acceptable sugar content. ... read on page L1

On the Road with the Gaels

By Caitlin Graveson



Saint Mary's women's volleyball took on WCC-league rivals the University of San Diego Toreros last Wednesday, November 3. With a win, the Gaels would tie the Toreros for first place in the WCC and move closer to securing a spot in the NCAA postseason tournament. Unfortunately, SMC lost to USD in four sets (25-22, 17-25, 13-25, 21-25) to fall to 8-2 in league and 16-7 overall. ... read on page S1

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