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Saint Mary's College students taped mouths with the slogan #EndtheSilence at a May 5 protest.

Photo Andy Scheck

Saint Mary's Students Demand More Diversity

By Sophie Braccini

Questioning the world is at the core of a college student's life. Part of that involves questioning authority, often beginning with peaceful protests like the "End the Silence" protest held May 5 at Saint Mary's College where over 100 students, along with some sympathetic professors, participated in a series of events across the Moraga campus to express their concerns about

a lack of diversity at the college. SMC reports that 46.9 percent of admitted freshman in 2015 were white, 25 percent Hispanic/Latino, and 6.3 percent African-American. The college website indicates that SMC is ranked No. 116 in ethnic diversity nationwide, with a diverse student body that is far above the national average.

The protesting students developed a long list of demands to the college's board of trustees that included encouraging donors to create more scholarships for incoming marginalized, low-income, undocumented, and first-generation students; hiring permanent bilingual staff;

... continued on page A11

LAMOINDA WEEKLY

News	A2 - A14
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B10
Not to be Missed	B8-B9
HOW TO CONTACT US	B9
Food	B10
Sports	C1 - C3
Classified	C2
Shop Orinda	C4
Our Homes	D1 - D16
This Week Read About:	
Leigh Creekside Park Discussed	A2
EBMUD Water Plant Construction	A2
Rheem Center Survey	A5
Rheem Blvd. Reopens	A4
Orinda Repaving Work	A6
Council Denies Funding CCE Study	A6
Answers to Measure L	A7
Art Exhibit for the Ages	B7
Peter Pan Foundation Production	B2
Tennis update	C2

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Can Bullying Be Stopped?

What parents can do to help a child in distress

By Jennifer Wake



Photo J. Wake

Sending a child off to school for the first time can fill most parents with a sense of apprehension, but the anguish one Moraga mom felt over the course of two and half years when dropping off her son at a local elementary school, knowing he was being continually bullied there, was palpable. "We were desperate to get him help, but also keep him safe at school. The bully also targeted [my son] at sports and got other boys involved so it became more and more difficult as he got older," said the mom, who asked that her son's and her own name remain anonymous. By the fourth grade, her son, who had always been talkative and open, became depressed – to the point of talking about hurting himself.

After working with the school, a private psychologist and his teachers during both second and third grade, and the bullying having continued, the mom decided to pull her son out of public school.

Confront Problems

A report by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development estimates that 1.6 million children in grades six through 10 are bullied at least once a week in the United States. Seventh-grade students reported the highest rates of bullying or harassment, according to Kidsdata.org, a program of Lucille Packard Foundation for Children's Health.

... continued on page A13

Camps B3-B5

A listing of 46 local summer camps and classes – page B3-B5.

Civic News A1-A14

AUHSD considers graduation requirement changes – page A3.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

Stanley Middle School wood-working club underscores "Stem-inism" – page B1.

Sports C1-C3

Dons carve through DFAL slate – page C1.

Our Homes D1-D16

A loving look at a sister's garden – page D1.