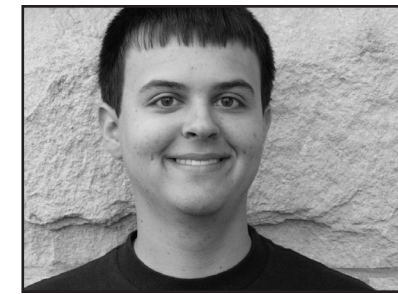




# Freshman looks back with wisdom for years to come



## PERSONAL COLUMN

CLINTON DICK

I have been asked by a large variety of people why I like Southwestern so much. I tell them that it is a beautiful place in a very nice town that is just the right size for me. What I never forget to relay to them is how amazing the people are at the college. All of the, professors, administrators and fellow students alike, have found a way to make me feel as though SC is my second home.

Though I was nervous, coming here was like starting a new life and I'm glad I chose a place that welcomed me with open arms. No matter what the situation is, the professors I've had have always stepped up and helped me whenever I was in need of assistance.

They have also shown that they care. They have made me feel as though they want me to succeed just as they want every one of their students to go far in life.

As far as the friends I've made, for many of us, the journey is just beginning and for some, we may not meet for a while due to graduation and such. Despite this, I am still excited for the years to come. For those who do not see Southwestern the same as I do, I know I cannot shift your mind set. Southwestern truly is an amazing place for all those who choose to picture it that way.

Finally, it wouldn't be fair if I didn't give you as the reader something to think on after you're done with the column. As we all approach the end of the year, there is one thing we all have on our minds.

Summer is a time of fun, relaxation by the lake or the pool and, of course, summer jobs. Many of us will be working our butts off during the summer vacation to pay for a trip back to SC next semester. Also, there will be a good number of those who will be thinking of ways to get farther along with their degree and how to prepare for the future. To this I have to say I hope everyone has a great summer and try not to kill yourselves trying to get ahead.

Though it is important for all of us to strive to get better at what we want to do, I think it is more productive to live for the present. Look forward to the future and what you want to do with your life, but remember that you are not living four years from now. You are living now.

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In 15 days, I will have earned a total of 44 college credit hours. Although I've gotten a lot out of the lectures and exams, what I have truly gained came from my experiences outside of the school work.

I can already tell that when that last day of classes comes around I will be relieved, yet empty. I have learned far more in my first year at Southwestern than I have anywhere else in my life. My last wish as a freshman is that I can pass on what knowledge I have gained to whoever may be reading this.

First off, no matter how awkward or uncomfortable it may be, meeting new people is not nearly as bad as never knowing someone the way you would have if you had just spared a hello.

As with the rest of the freshman, my experiences at SC began with Builder Camp. Even though I felt just as out of place as everyone else did, it is what truly kick started the things to come.

Even if it means coming out of your comfort zone, don't hesitate to meet someone new. You never know how much they will change your life and even though you may think you have enough friends, the heart has no limit on the amount of people it can store.

I also found the transition from high school level work to college work to be a shock. I never got lower than a B in high school, but I soon learned that college is no walk in the park. With this being the first time I was ever on my own, I found out quickly that everything you learn leading up to college is used to help you survive.

When you come to SC, you have to take responsibility for yourself and the decisions you make. If there is one thing that the mounds of homework has taught me at college, it is that when you have the right mind set, responsibility finds you.

So for all those out there coming to the point where school work is becoming a backstage priority to wishing it was summer, all I can say is hang in there. There is nothing stopping you from making it through these final weeks but you.

# Faithful fans rewarded with auditory revolution

By Paige Carswell  
Sports editor

## MUSIC REVIEW

Attention, MGMT fans who are hoping for more of the same music as "Electric Feel" and "Kids": This album may not be for you.

The sophomore effort from MGMT is definitely not "Oracular Spectacular"—well, at least not the first half of it. "Congratulations" seems to stem from the second half of the band's debut, and in doing so, successfully makes a rather indiscreet, rude hand gesture at the majority of fans who simply skipped over it in an impatient attempt to get back to danceable music.

The attempt to stay away from

mainstream music is apparent in this album, from the quirky beginning riff, "It's Working," to "Brian Eno," where the band sings, "I followed the sounds to a cathedral, imagine my surprise to find that they were produced by Brian Eno."

This is not a stroke of musical genius, nor is it danceable. It probably won't be heard on the radio, and will likely be rejected by former fans who were hoping for some more singles. It seems like the only message it has is, "We do what we want." It's sporadic, at best, leaping from branch to branch faster than Tarzan.

But, somehow, it works. The super-trippy, electro-feel combines with bright, poppish lyrics to make for an album that is overcast at some points with music that will make you wonder how you can feel so dreary listening to words that can be so light-hearted.

The 12-minute "Siberian Breaks" is the song that will represent this album—for anyone with enough patience and sanity to listen to the entire Pink Floyd-esque track. It jumps from beautiful to dreary in a matter of seconds at some points, and never gives the ear a chance to calm down before turning onto itself again.

For the brave of heart who makes it through the entire album, "Con-

gratulations" gives you a song to calm down to after the acidic rollercoaster. The acoustic guitar, light keyboard and vocals make for a stunningly serene end to the jagged ride.

This is an album that will undoubtedly not experience the same success as "Spectacular," with the missing singles and cutesy feel, but the body of work is innovative and capturing.

And, the title is a self pat on the back for such a creative approach to the after-fame album.

Congratulations, MGMT. This album is anything but a failure.

Paige Carswell is a junior majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at [paige.carswell@sckans.edu](mailto:paige.carswell@sckans.edu).

# Do more this Earth Day than hug trees

By Sally McGuire  
Staff reporter

## EDITORIAL

It is the middle of April. The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing, the pollen is worsening allergies, but hey, April is also Keep America Beautiful Month. Who knew?

April is the perfect month for this holiday. It is easier to keep America beautiful because spring usually gives more opportunity for people to work with. There isn't snow covering up all of the trash to pick up in alleys, it isn't too hot to help an old neighbor water a garden and the worst scenario so far during this spring season has been rain. The late catching of "spring fever" usually crops up about now.

Do a Google search for "Keep America Beautiful Month," and up comes pages and pages of tips, events and plans on how to do so.

Southwestern's Green Team has planned much for this week in celebration of Earth Day, which is on April 22.

This past Saturday was the first annual Sweep Winfield. Over 1,125 pounds of trash and recyclables were

collected from participating school teams. On Monday, Scott Kuhn came to the school to talk about home energy ratings. On Tuesday, Brian Robinson spoke about renewable energy. Today was the nature hike around the campus led by Kate Norton. A group of Girl Scout Brownies are coming tomorrow to talk about water conservation. The Green Team is also hosting a tree planting event that day. On Saturday, the Green Team will travel to high schools to present workshops about creation care. Finally, on April 27 the Green Team will be helping to organize a collection of electronic waste to recycle.

Keep in mind that Earth Day isn't just for a bunch of tree-hugging hippies to gather and plant trees and sing Kumbaya and curse the government. Oh no. Earth Day has more meat to it than that.

It was actually what evolved from an environmental movement in 1970, the year of Apollo 13, Jimi Hendrix's death, of the Beatles' last

album and the birth of Earth Day. During this time Americans were also splurging on gas like it was air, and didn't know exactly how much the environment, especially the air, was being damaged because of this.

On April 22 of 1970, 20 million people of all differing races, political stances, religions, ages and genders assembled at local places to rally for a healthy environment. All who had been protesting against oil spills, bad water use, pesticides, destruction of the wilderness and more had finally recognized a widespread goal.

From this first Earth Day followed the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. By 2000, thousands of environmental groups and millions of people in over 180 countries were somehow involved in Earth Day. This year will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day.

Some people are pulling their weight to make America cleaner. On the other hand, many don't think about how dirty or smelly America is or could become. We generate about 1.8 million disposable diapers every

year. How gross is that? Or what about this: over 80 percent of things that end up in a landfill could've been recycled. That's not smelly, that's just embarrassing. Even more embarrassing is the unrecycled plastic filling up those fills, which is due in part to the 2.5 million plastic bottles Americans throw away, not every year or every day, but every hour. That's right, raise an eyebrow in surprise. Think of the children and grandchildren of the future wearing their oxygen tanks who might've appreciated a change, even a small change, which was made to reduce, reuse or recycle. Though it might be a stretch to think of the future like that, people now can't ignore the ever changing environment.

A holiday for almost everything exists. "Keeping America Beautiful" could mean a minute change in lifestyle, parking cars for Park-It Day or tossing graded papers into a recycling bin instead of the trashcan. Be proud enough to preserve the place where you live.

Sally McGuire is a freshman with an undeclared major. You may e-mail her at [sally.mcguire@sckans.edu](mailto:sally.mcguire@sckans.edu).

# Word on the Hill

What makes you break down and cry?

By Alejandra Rojas



"When something I love gets messed with."  
**Mandy Bostwick**  
elementary education sophomore



"Sad movies."  
**Cristian Mendoza**  
computer sciences freshman



"Coach Crandall yelling at me."  
**Jordan Barrett**  
secondary education freshman



"The thing that makes me break down and cry the most is when I can't understand my homework."  
**Raven Carr**  
biology freshman



"I never really cry."  
**Trini Mendoza**  
accounting sophomore



"Losing at Halo."  
**Jeff Smith**  
physical education senior



"Death in the family."  
**Luke Garis**  
video game development junior



"Really bad break-ups."  
**Michelle Vasquez**  
nursing junior



"Thinking about losing family members."  
**Tory Dreger**  
athletic training junior



"When I'm double or triple booked and I'm supposed to be one or three places at the same time."  
**John Badley**  
English junior



"Losing the most important thing in your life, like a memory from your childhood or a gift from a really close family member."  
**Jordan Silerio**  
business freshman



"I've never really cried."  
**Ben Nachampassack**  
undeclared sophomore

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