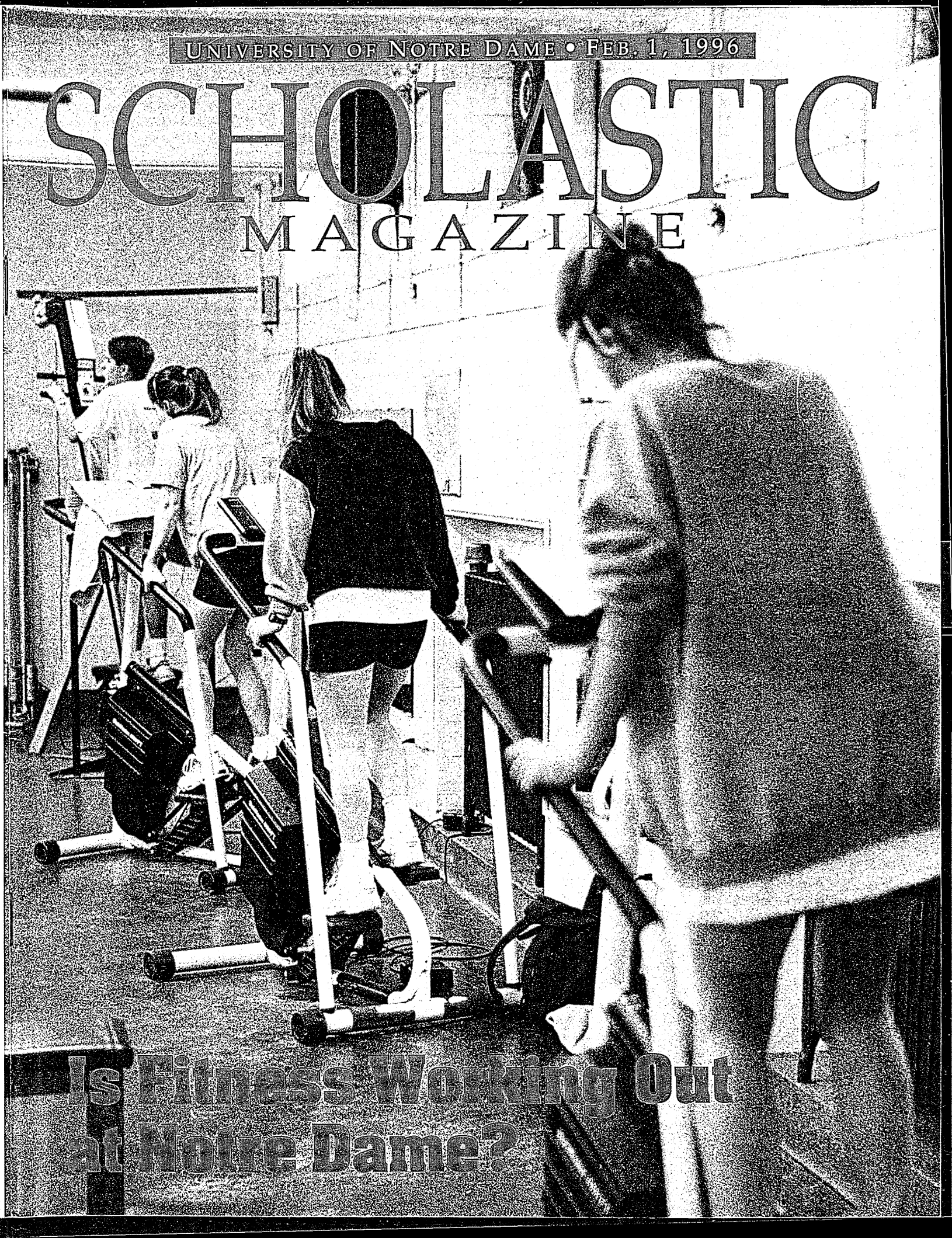


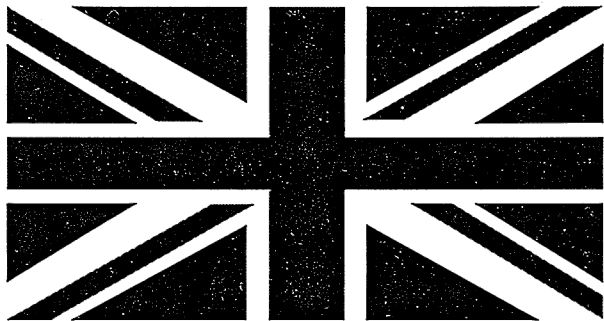
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SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINE



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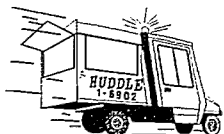
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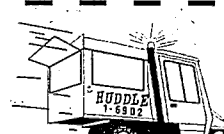


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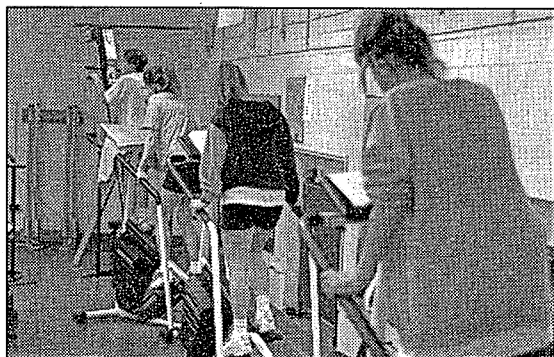
MAGAZINE

VOLUME 137, NUMBER 12

FOUNDED 1867

FEBRUARY 1, 1996

COVER STORY



Fitting in Fitness

Now that students have made their new year's resolutions, it seems harder than ever this semester to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Lines for the Stairmaster are long and the pizza in the dining halls invariably looks better than the green-dot low-fat choices. But soon the university will change all that. New low-fat entrees are being tested every day, and a new RecSports center is slated to be built in the next few years.

.....page 16

E.M.S.



Junior Mike Flood decided he wanted an ambulance. 500 miles and \$500 later, he and his sectionmates were the proud owners of the "Zahmbulance."

.....page 8

The Winning Touch



Muffet McGraw, the winningest coach in Notre Dame women's basketball history, has guided the Irish to the top of the Big East. Here's her story.

.....page 14

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WANTED: Aerobics Class

When I was a sophomore, my friends and I did aerobics in the lounge of my dorm. When I lived at home last summer, I took aerobics classes at the local YMCA for only \$10 a month. Even when I was in London, my flatmate and I used to take the pillows off the rock-hard couch and do step aerobics to pulsating British rock.

This year, I'm not doing aerobics. It's not about a lack of desire, however. It's about a lack of availability. My dorm no longer has a student with aerobics training willing to wake up early with me on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. And the aerobics classes on campus, all fill up within hours. The only other avenue for some stepping and lifting seems to be going to an off-campus gym, where membership fees are around \$100 a semester.

And so I've resigned myself to a semester without aerobics. But the problem is, there don't seem to be many other exercise options available either. If you want to go to the Rock all you can look forward to on the cold walk are long lines, a crowded weightroom and sweaty machines. And Loftus and the JACC are getting similarly crowded.

But as J. Michelle Cox points out in her cover story on page 16, being healthy is not totally hopeless. Some students have found that working out at odd hours means shorter lines, and the dining halls have really been working to offer students a better selection of nutritious, low-fat foods. In addition, the Colliquoy states that the university is scheduled to build a new Rec Center sometime in the next four years.

Until then, I suppose, I'll just keep doing what I'm doing now — Buns of Steel and Cindy Crawford's Workout in the cramped space of my dorm room. Anything to stick to that New Year's Resolution.

Welcome

I would like to welcome juniors Jeremy Dixon and Brian Hiro to our staff. Jeremy will be our new sports editor, replacing Jake Schaller, who is studying in London this semester. Brian will be his assistant. Both Jeremy and Brian have been strong sports writers for the magazine, and you can see their efforts this week on pages 13-15.

Scholastic has also hired its first layout staff, and they have already done some good work. This week, Jeff Smith laid out the story on pages 14-15 and Emily Schmidt laid out the story on pages 8-9.

Michelle Crouch
Editor in Chief

Cover photo by Stan Evans

59 Years Ago...

The February 5, 1937, issue of *Scholastic* published the results of a religious survey. Below is an excerpt:

Never has the Religious Survey excited so much comment. Particularly provocative was a question about the virtue most desired in a girl. There were the usual answers of purity, honesty, faith, hope and charity; but in capital letters was a bit of pragmatism. The writer wanted to find a girl who would drink a dime glass of beer instead of a 50-cent cocktail.

Any takers?

—MLC

SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINE

Volume 137, Number 12
February 1, 1996

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*Disce Quasi Semper Victurus
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In Defense of Campus Bands

Dear Editor:

I read with some dismay the final paragraph of the otherwise quite engaging article by Justin Cole and Joe Marchal about the musical year in review (*Scholastic*, Nov. 30). After giving well-deserved props to stalwarts Jawbreaker and well-deserved bashing to Better Than Ezra, they had to ruin it all and bash the campus music scene.

I have been in this area and an active participant and supporter of original campus music for over five years. During this time I have had to struggle against Notre Dame's infamous resistance to anything new or unusual, and I feel a need to shout out when the music I love is being bashed.

Although they're not my cup of tea stylistically, I have to give George and the Freeks respect for continuing on. It's not their fault that the denizens of area clubs are too timid to open their ears anything less mainstream in its sensibilities.

I also feel compelled to shout out the venerable names of Tacklebox, Hace Frio and Tweak, all worthy campus bands that should not be overlooked.

My own band, emiLy, has come up with some of our best music to date this semester, and is also worthy of notice.

There you have it. I've said it a thousand times before — break out of your shell and open your ears to what's going on around here.

Joe Cannon '94

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to hear from
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Animated Arguments

Dear Editor:

As the former president and founder of the Robin Fan Club, I must say even I agree with John Infranca's points about Robin in his column "Worthless Superheroes" on Nov. 30. But, let me say, it could be worse ... he could still be wearing those awful Peter Pan boots, green undies and a bright red circus outfit. I mean, when Bob Kane created Batman, he created a character who used a bat costume to strike fear into the hearts of criminals. Robin on the other hand must have been created to strike fear into the heart of a street mime.

However, all that has been changed now. Robin has a much darker look and all that good stuff ... he's no longer a sidekick but an equal partner. And gosh darn it, people like him (not the bad guys, though).

Oh, by the way, Hairy, Pee-Forever Tongue Fall-Out Guy sounds really cool. How can I join his fan club?

Brian K. Carpenter
Zahm Hall

Dear Editor,

John Infranca's ability to point out the shortcomings of the only fictitious characters oriented toward an audience consisting mostly of children who actually represent noble values is admirable. But one question: Why? Did he really not like superheroes as a child? Did he pick this topic because he could not think of another, or is this a legitimate complaint on his part? Superheroes have kept millions of children entertained for decades, and they stand for values people should uphold. Nowadays, the glorification of senseless violence is practically accepted in our society; it at least goes unopposed.

Infranca is very privileged to have a great medium through which he can communicate to one of the best student bodies in the world. I don't think he is making the best of it. Honestly, I think he could write a pretty darn good column. He's got a good sarcastic sense of humor. The potential is there; he should actualize it, for God's sake! And I wish him good luck doing it.

Please take this as a constructive criticism, and in the future, consider seriously the topics you choose and why. If not, no trouble. This is just one opinion.

John Kuehn
Grace Hall

Scholastic is now accepting applications for

1995-96

Editor in Chief

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Questions? Call Michelle Crouch, 1-5029 or 4-1533

Safety Blitz

Landlords and students need to do more to prevent future break-ins at off-campus residences

BY BRIDGET CASEY

Junior Matthew Rose returned from break to find that the Notre Dame Avenue house he shares with three other students had been robbed. And it only got worse. "It was hard enough to have to deal with such a mess in our house when we got back, but two days later I was at Tracks and I found over 20 of my CDs. It was definitely a second slap in the face."

Rose's roommate, junior BJ Phillips, is disappointed but not bitter about the incident. "I definitely learned a valuable lesson about security in general," he says. Indeed, the burglaries that plagued students at Campus View, Turtle Creek, College Park and campus-area houses served as a wake-up call to issues of security faced by off-campus students.

Most students look to apartment complex managers and landlords to provide security provisions. And while some landlords are taking measures to increase security, not all students are convinced that they are doing enough.

Routine checks of properties are common, but don't work very well. At Campus View Apartments, where 14 break-ins occurred, Manager Doreen Muszer reports that Notre Dame Security as well as the South Bend Police were making daily checks of the area. Similarly, the landlord of Rose and Phillips' Notre Dame Avenue house agreed before break to check the area on a daily basis.

Senior Shelley Stefan, a Campus View resident, thinks the landlords have an obligation to do more. "There is definitely not enough security around here. A full-time guard would be nice."

Senior Doug McKenna recognizes the drawbacks of that proposal, however. "There really is no way to police the place 24 hours a day. And heightened security would raise rent

and cause an increase in rules and regulations. Freedom comes with risk."

Some renters, though, have other means of protecting their apartments from break-ins. According to Chris Matteo, manager of the Lafayette Square and Notre Dame apartments, security systems protect all of the units he supervises. And this measure seems to be working.

Senior Carrie Kienstra, who lives at Lafayette, says her alarm system makes her feel more secure, especially over breaks. "People know that we have ADT alarms. That's a big reason why our apartments are not broken into as often anymore." Indeed, no Lafayette apartments were robbed over break.

Even with such security provisions, an obvious problem for student renters is that everyone knows when they are away for the holidays. For this reason, McKenna believes, "There's just not much that can be done about the whole thing."

"There is definitely not enough security around here. A full-time guard would be nice."

According to Corporal Millard Hill of the Crime Prevention Unit of the South Bend Police Department, though, there is a lot that can be done by individual residents to decrease the probability of break-ins. He lists several precautions that every resident should take before leaving to help improve personal security.

"In short, don't advertise what you have and that you are not home," he recommends. "Storing valuable items is definitely a good idea." Irv Sikorski of the Notre Dame Police Department reports that storage is available to students free of charge in the Security Building.

The Notre Dame police also provide engraving pencils for students to clearly mark valuable items with names and drivers license numbers. This way, if they are stolen they can be recognized and recovered more easily. "Put your

What You Need To Know

about protecting valuables off-campus

- Before leaving for breaks, cancel all newspapers and mail, close the curtains, put lights on timers and store all valuables
- Door frames should be sturdy; deadbolt locks should extend at least one inch; sliding glass doors and windows should be equipped with a locking security bar
- Mark televisions and stereos with name and drivers license number; put name and number in the computer hard drive; keep a list of model and serial numbers of these items
- The Notre Dame Police Department offers free storage of valuables during breaks at the Security Building, and they provide engraving pencils for marking personal items.

name and identification number in your computer's hard drive. Keep a list of model and serial numbers," Hill says.

A strong front door is one way to keep out possible prowlers, according to Hill. In many instances last month, thieves used a crowbar to enter through the front door of student apartments. Campus View management, in fact, replaced the wooden door of each apartment that was broken into with a reinforced steel door.

"A strong frame which is secured well into the adjoining wall is essential," Hill explains. "And the dead bolt lock should extend at least one inch." A bar keeping any sliding glass doors and windows in place is a key feature. Hill also says, "Interior doors, such as those leading into bedrooms, should also have locks so that those rooms may be shut off to any unwanted visitors."

Some of those students at Campus View who were not hit this time are worried because they still reside behind the wooden doors that did not keep burglars out over break. "It's just silly that they are not putting new steel doors on every apartment. You have to learn from past mistakes," points out Stefan.

Officers Hill and Sikorski are currently looking to the future, as are many students considering a move off campus next year. Information sessions about security are already planned for the beginning of next school year.

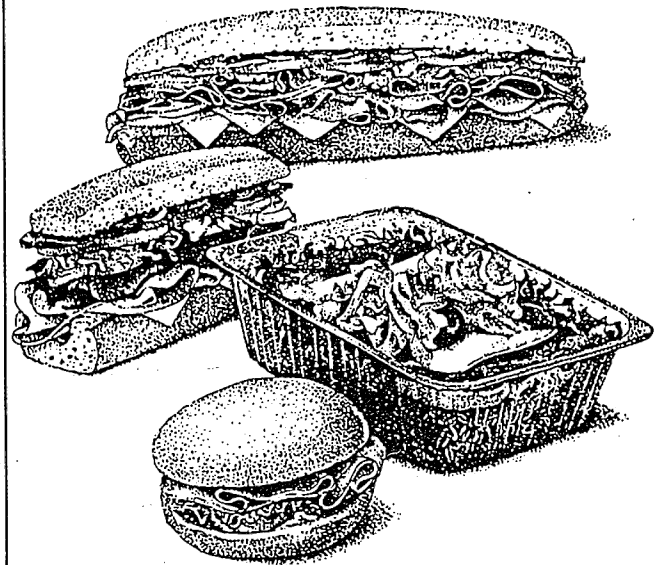
But students will have to decide whether the risk described by McKenna is just too high. Off-campus senior Ken Maverick, who deems his apartment management insensitive to student needs, has decided it is. He asserts, "If I had it to do over, I wouldn't live in Campus View. The lack of security is just too great." □



Aaron Skalicky

LOCK UP. Lieutenant Wanda Shock of the South Bend Police Department emphasizes the importance of a strong door frame and lock.

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The Changing Times

Class schedules have been reworked for the fall of 1996

Revised Standard Class Times

| Monday/Wednesday/Friday (50 minute classes) | Tuesday/Thursday (75 minute classes) | Monday/Wednesday (75 minute classes) (ONLY for classes of 400 level and above) |
|--|---|--|
| 8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. | 8:00 - 9:15 (ONLY for departmental exams and graduate level classes) | 8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. |
| 9:35 a.m. - 10:25 a.m. | 9:30 - 10:45 | 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. |
| 10:40 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | 11:00 - 12:15 | 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. |
| 11:45 a.m. - 12:35 p.m. | 12:30 - 1:45 | 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. |
| 12:50 p.m. - 1:40 p.m. | 2:00 - 3:15 | 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. |
| 1:55 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | 3:30 - 4:45 | |
| 3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. | 5:00 - 6:15 | |
| 4:05 p.m. - 4:55 p.m. | | |
| 5:10 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | | |

BY KATE MCSHANE

Eight o'clock class! I'll never make it. If only I could sleep an extra half hour ...

For Notre Dame students with early classes, this may be a common sentiment. And now, thanks to some creative rescheduling, their wish is about to come true. A plan proposed by Registrar Harold Pace to change the master class schedule was passed by the Academic Council on December 17.

When the revised schedule is implemented in the fall of 1996, the earliest 50-minute MWF class will begin at 8:30 a.m., rather than 8 a.m., pushing the end of the day to 6 p.m. instead of 5:20 p.m. Classes that meet Mondays and Wednesdays for 75 minutes will be the only ones with a starting time of 8 a.m. — earlier than their current 8:40 starting time.

Timothy Scully, vice president and associate provost, is excited about the changing schedule. "It is a fine idea. We are starting it next year to see if our hypothesis is correct," he explains. "We want to utilize our class space better, offer more attractive times and maximize student options."

Many students just like the idea of starting later, even it is only a half an hour. "I think starting at 8:30 will be much better. I will be able to sleep longer, and I don't think students will care if the day ends later," says freshman Julie Rietzke.

The main point of reworking these times is to make the academic schedule more efficient — reducing the crowds in the dining halls and around DeBartolo and giving students more class times from which to choose.

"The change is definitely an adaptation to the students' lifestyles, and they will love it," notes finance professor Connel Fullenkamp. But he personally likes the old schedule better. "Faculty don't like the later classes because they go too late into the day and deplete time from our families."

According to the Academic Council, however, faculty have indicated the major disadvantage of an 8 a.m. class is that departmental support staffs are not available beforehand. "Occasionally I would like to get my copies made before my morning class and sometimes the copiers aren't avail-

Current Standard Class Times

| Monday/Wednesday/Friday (50 minute classes) | Tuesday/Thursday (75 minute classes) | Monday/Wednesday (75 minute classes) (ONLY for classes of 400 level and above) |
|--|---|--|
| 8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. | 8:00 - 9:15 (ONLY for departmental exams and graduate level classes) | 8:40 a.m. - 9:55 a.m. |
| 9:05 a.m. - 9:55 a.m. | 9:30 - 10:45 | 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. |
| 10:10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | 11:00 - 12:15 | 12:50 p.m. - 2:05 p.m. |
| 11:15 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. | 1:15 - 2:30 | 2:20 p.m. - 3:35 p.m. |
| 12:15 p.m. - 1:05 p.m. | 2:45 - 4:00 | 3:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m. |
| 1:15 p.m. - 2:05 p.m. | 4:15 - 5:30 | |
| 2:20 p.m. - 3:10 p.m. | | |
| 3:25 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. | | |
| 4:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m. | | |

able then," explains math professor Alan Howard.

The council hopes that more classes will be scheduled during the new class times. For the past several semesters, only 40 to 45 classes have met during the first period, falling far short of the 160-class capacity.

"It will work depending on if the students think that an 8:30 class is closer to eight or closer to 9 a.m.," suggests finance professor Bill McDonald.

Still, some professors prefer this year's schedule. "It may be hard to get up in the morning, but it's worth it to get out earlier," notes physics professor Grant Matthews.

In another change, on Tuesdays and Thursdays there will be an additional class period between 12:15 and 1:15 p.m. Ava Preacher, the assistant dean of Arts and Letters, likes this feature of the new schedule. "In a time when we have so many students wanting the same class times, many have difficulty getting classes," she says. "The extra class will be very valuable."

Still, some remain skeptical. Fullenkamp notes, "If you keep pushing back the times to accommodate the student schedules, classes will eventually be between 10 a.m. to 8 p.m."

Maybe. But for now, the extra 30 minutes of sleep will have to do. □

X Marks the Accused

Students involved in last semester's Advanced Corporate Finance cheating debacle speak out

BY MICHELLE CROUCH

Finance major Joe Slankas says he did not cheat on the Advanced Corporate Finance examination he took last semester. But when prospective employers look at his transcript, they will not see the 'A-' he thinks he deserves in the class. Instead, in the space where his grade for the class should be, there is a big, black 'X.'

What exactly does it mean? That is the question that companies and graduate schools are bound to ask the finance students who received 'X's on their transcripts after being accused of cheating on a take-home finance test last November.

The 'X' grade essentially indicates an incompleteness and is given with the approval of the student's dean in extenuating circumstances, according to Du Lac. It reverts to an 'F' if not changed within 30 days of the next semester in which the student is enrolled.

"Some companies require transcripts, and it puts me in an awkward position," says Slankas. "You can't really explain to them that you're under investigation for cheating even though you didn't cheat. Then you not only look like a cheater, you look like a liar."

The examination was a take-home test that had to be completed on a computer. Most students in the class had to depend on the campus computer clusters, and the result was that there was a large concentration of students in the labs all working on the same test at the same time. "No one walked into the computer lab and said, 'I'm going to cheat,'" contends Slankas. Indeed, despite rumors that some students were passing around their answers or stealing print-

outs, most finance students believe that few, if any, students actually intended to cheat on the exam.

"I think we just got caught up in the moment," says one anonymous senior. "We're used to working with people, helping people out. That's something we've been doing and other business students have been doing since the beginning."

Working with another student on an exam is no doubt a violation of the honor code. And, although the professors of the class tried to make it clear, there is still a gray area for many students about the less clear-cut violations of the honor code. "Some of the things they deemed cheating were petty and seemed very unclear to us," notes Ben Herrig, a senior who was in the class but was not accused of cheating. According to him and other students, professors have said that everything from asking someone how long it took them to complete the exam to asking someone whether or not they used a graph are violations of the honor code.

"I was just answering general questions like 'Do we have to print out a spreadsheet?'" says one senior who pleaded guilty because he was not sure if he had violated any rules.

This indicates that more communication may be needed between students and professors on exactly what is a violation of the code. "If the professor had stressed exactly what cheating was, had been more specific, there may not have been a problem," says Herrig.

Some students have also expressed disappointment with the way the department has handled the situation. "The whole thing I didn't like is that they approached it like you're guilty until proven innocent. All these people got 'X's and so many are not

guilty. It's ridiculous," says senior Greg Klenke, who was not incriminated, but who says many of his friends were. "They all had to go home and explain to their parents and grandparents what that 'X' was on their transcripts."

Other students are most disappointed that the university has taken almost three months to resolve the situation because, like Joe Slankas, they have been interviewing and looking for jobs.

But three months may not be unreasonable. Although the university would not release the exact number of students suspected of cheating, 49 students in the College of Business Administration had 'X's on their transcripts, a number higher than

"I think we just got caught up in the moment. We're used to working with people, helping people out."

the average, according to University Registrar Howard Pace.

Considering that many of those students probably had hearings with the Department Honor Committee, it is no wonder that it's taken so long. "There is a specific process for handling cases such as this," says John Keane, Dean of the College of Business Administration. "That process is underway. An established departmental committee consisting of both students and faculty is looking into it."

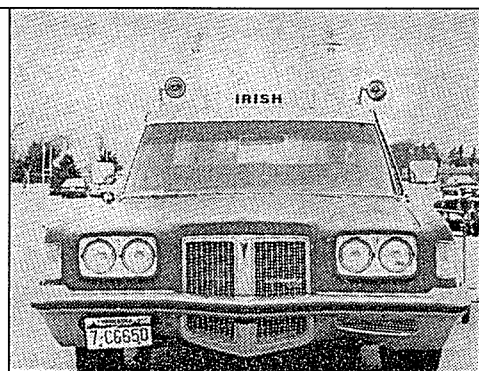
Adds a committee member, "It's an extremely frustrating and time-consuming task to look at each case and give it the same kind of concentration and consideration that you would give to it if it was the only case."

According to the member, all of the hearings were completed last week and students should be informed of the results in the next couple of weeks.

In the meantime, most of the students are just anxious to put the whole thing in the past. Says one senior, "It will be nice to have this over with. It's been on our consciences for over two months now, and this is an important time for all of us, with interviews and our future to think about." □

Abby May contributed to this article.

Emergency Mass Transit Station Wagon



Eric Paredes

The residents of Zahm 1B have eliminated expensive cab rides and are providing entertainment for everyone with the high-profile Zahmbulance

BY STEVE MYERS

Checkout lanes at grocery stores are stocked with so-called "impulse purchases" — lighters, keychains, magnifying glasses and other items which shoppers would not normally buy.

Such trinkets don't appeal to Zahm junior Mike Flood, however. For him, an impulse purchase involves a rerun of *CHiPs*, a drive to Minnesota and \$500 cash. After all, few grocery stores stock ambulances in their checkout lanes.

Last summer, Flood was admiring the emergency vehicles featured on a rerun of *CHiPs* when he realized that by buying an ambulance, he could both fulfill a childhood dream and meet the transportation needs of his hall section. His quest started with his local fire department in Norfolk, Nebraska, and ended with an ambulance dealer in Minnesota. The dealer was willing to unload a 1972 Pontiac station wagon ambulance for a mere \$500.

Flood contacted his section mates, rounded up the money and set off with a friend for Minnesota. "The dealer said the ambulance had been sitting on his lot rotting for two years. They had been using it as a Ghostbuster car for Halloween," recalls Flood. "We turned the key and it started right up."

He and his friend started back to Nebraska with their new red ambulance, equipped with a stretcher, neck brace, auxiliary generator and working lights. The ambulance only broke down once during

the trip back to Norfolk, where with near-prophetic foresight Flood bought a AAA membership, registering the ambulance as a station wagon.

As Flood soon discovered, the Zahmbulance (as it has come to be known) is not merely a vehicle, but the main character in the stories that arise from driving it. Such as the adventurous move out to South Bend, when Flood and section mate Mike Krafve learned much about the wiring systems of early seventies Pontiac station wagons. They resigned themselves to randomly pulling cords and fuses to keep the ambulance from shorting out. Flood was not reassured when, as the headlights flickered faintly while driving through a rural construction zone, Krafve assured him that it was "no big deal."

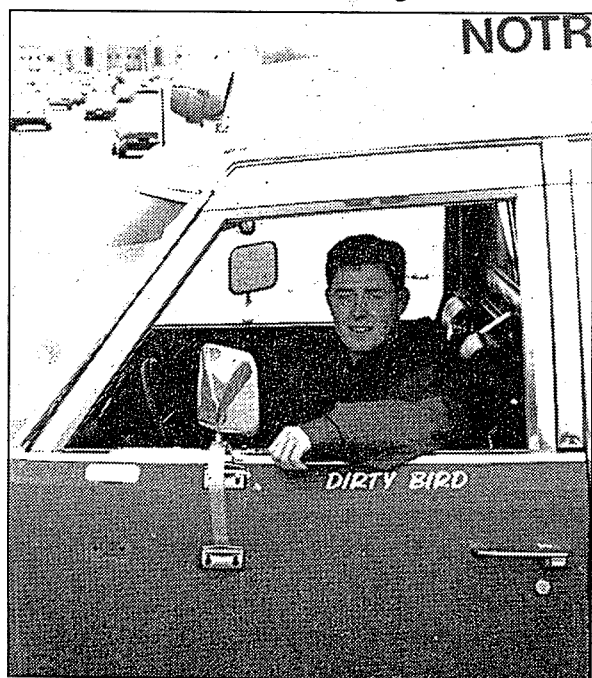
Apparently, AAA felt differently. Five service calls later (four on the trip to Notre Dame), including two requiring towing, AAA wrote a letter to Flood's parents informing them that their membership would be cancelled if there were any more service calls for the "station wagon."

Flood found that Notre Dame was not much better equipped to deal with his unique mode of transportation.

Before he could register the vehicle he had to check it out

with Notre Dame Security and the fire department. After removing the flashing lights, the blue crosses on the doors and the word "trauma" from "Metro Trauma Unit," the car was approved. Flood and his section mates added a lighted "IRISH" sign above the windshield and "Stay back 500 feet" lettering on the rear to complete the unique look of the Zahmbulance.

The Zahmbulance immediately met with approval from its group of owners, who use it extensively to visit the neighborhood bars. No doubt seeing a red and white



Eric Paredes

DIRTY BIRD. Mike Flood practices emergency maneuvers in the Zahmbulance, which is three years older than he.



PROUD PARENTS.
The owners of the Zahmbulance owe many safe rides and wacky stories to their \$500 initial investment.

ambulance pull up to a bar and unload 15 students has encouraged a few patrons to stop drinking for the night. In fact, just last week a student stopped Flood and his friends as they were driving up to Bridget's. "He wanted to know if it was a real ambulance," says Flood. "He told me his friend was passed out and they needed to look for him." Flood quickly cleared up the confusion, and the student went off to find another ambulance.

Flood notes the many advantages of the Zahmbulance, one of which is the sliding glass partition separating the driver from the passengers. "If the level of intoxication has risen to an intolerable level, the sober driver can enjoy the solitude offered by the glass partition," says Flood. And don't forget the original reason for the 'Bulance's purchase (besides the *CHiP* episode)—its amazing passenger capacity. The record number of occupants currently stands at 22.

Riding in the Zahmbulance is entertaining in itself. "It's a novelty," says Zahm junior Chris Carbajal. "We drive by the JACC and everyone honks at us. Personally, I like the attention."

"People lean out of their cars and chant 'Ghostbusters,'" adds Flood. "Kids always want to see the lights." Although Flood had to remove the revolving lights, he can illuminate the "Irish" sign above the windshield.

In addition to providing entertainment for passengers and passers-by, the Zahmbulance has done its share of community service. One night, when Flood was

volunteering at a homeless shelter, the officer on duty told him there was a man who needed to the emergency room. The officer was unaware that Flood was uniquely qualified for the job, and he gladly provided the transportation. "I put him in the passenger seat and he asked if he could light up," says Flood. "I figured, why not let him smoke now—he won't be able to when he gets to the hospital."

When Flood arrived at the emergency room, he had two choices of entrances: the regular lane and the ambulance lane. Naturally, he chose the ambulance lane. The two South Bend police officers on duty at Memorial Hospital were surprised to see an ambulance with "Notre Dame IN" lettered on both sides drive up to the emergency room entrance. "They watched the ambulance pull up and a guy roll out of the passenger door smoking a cigarette," says Flood.

Interestingly enough, many people ask Flood how many people have died in the 'Bulance. Flood says he doesn't know and that he tries not to focus on the vehicle's past. "I see it as a new beginning," he says.

Although many people find the Zahmbulance amusing, not everyone is

so lighthearted about it. Flood met with opposition as soon as he arrived on campus in August. "When I pulled up to the security guard, he told me that the ambulance was sick, wrong and disgusting," says Flood. "He told me to take it back where it came from."

Unfortunately for that security guard, that is simply not an option. Flood says that he doubts the Zahmbulance will ever make another serious road trip. At the end of the year, he plans to sell it to an underclassman in his section so it may continue its present duties as Zahm Hall mass transit. And if the 'Bulance should ever decide to retire early, Flood has opened the door for a variety of successors. Ladder trucks, for instance, run just a bit more than an ambulance—though it might take another road trip to get a good deal on a quality fire truck. □



The Wonder Years

The myth that college years are the best years of your life is perpetuated by parents, professors and alumni. But do students really believe it?

BY KATE MCSHANE

Junior Jen Rubow can still remember being a nervous incoming freshman at the Long Island send off during the summer of 1993. The club officers told the group, "We are so jealous of you. We would love to do it all again. Your college years are definitely the best years of your life." While the people in the room nodded their heads in agreement, Rubow, like many others, couldn't help but wonder if what they said was really true.

"Notre Dame was the perfect size. Wherever you went you met new people, but at the same time there were a lot of people you already knew."

"Are the college years the best years of your life? So far, certainly," says Joel Freiburger, who graduated in December. "But I haven't lived the other ones yet. The basic answer, though, is that the people I've met here have made these the best years of my life."

With all this hype, most freshmen probably come to Notre Dame with high expectations. College is usually their first experience away from home, and they anticipate the complete freedom from their parents that comes with it.

But the excitement can wear off, according to some current undergrads. "I had high expectations about the new amount of freedom, partying and making great friends," says senior Jonathan Patrick, Notre Dame's Student Body President. "There is no doubt that all these were fulfilled the first and second years. But by now these things are not as exciting and seem normal to me."

Freshman Theresa Gibbons agrees, "I expected it to be more competitive than high school and I didn't expect to be in classes all the time," she says. "I expected it to be better socially. It was really exciting at the beginning, but I am wondering what is left."

But according to Freiburger, these problems are not unique to Notre Dame. "Sure, there are some severe limitations at Notre Dame, but the more I talk to friends from other schools, the more I hear the same things: the bar scene gets old, the opposite sex are a hideous group of fools and so on," he says.

Freiburger may have a point. It makes sense that as you get older, you outgrow the social scene at Notre Dame.

Looking back, though, most Notre Dame alumni seem to agree that their years at Notre Dame really were the best in their lives. Whether they cite the inherent sense of community at Notre Dame or their experiences with their friends, they almost invariably mention the people they met as the main reason that their years here were the best of their lives. After all, when else in a person's life can they live and interact with so many people their same age?

Rich Palermo, '95, points out that "Friendship-wise, Notre Dame does an excellent job in providing dorm unity which ... results in friends for life. I love being on my own now, but I do miss that sense of

community and my friends."

Others, like Mike Schmiedeler, '94, note that it was more than just the dorm unity that made Notre Dame special. "Notre Dame was the perfect size. Wherever you went you met new people, but at the same time there were a lot of people you already knew."

According to Patrick, a balance of work and play is the key to enjoyment while you're here. "I don't think my course load has been that bad. I have never been pulling my hair out," he says. "I try not to get stressed out because having a balanced life of making good friends, enjoying yourself, and getting relatively good grades is more important to me than getting straight 'A's'."

And, upon graduation, many alumni add academic life to their list of fond memories. "When I see work relative to my whole time at Notre Dame, it didn't take away from anything else," says Kathy Slover, '94. "I valued doing my work in order to get good grades, but it didn't take away from the time I got to spend with my friends."

For many students, studying is not their only responsibility. Notre Dame students are involved in extra curricular activities ranging from athletics to community service. These additional time constraints could potentially cause more stress and pressure. However, many students see their work and activities as an integral part of their happiness at Notre Dame. "Not only my dorm, but the C.S.C., Campus Ministry and other Notre Dame communities ... have contributed to my complete education," says Clara Finneran, an RA in Siegfried Hall. "I hope every four-year period after this one teaches me as much, makes me laugh as much and think as much as this one."

Schmiedeler adds, "There is so much to experience and so many opportunities. That is a main part of education at Notre Dame. You can learn so much from classes, activities and your social connections."

Four years of education can provide a student with facts and figures, but there is a lot of learning that occurs outside of the classroom. "Notre Dame has been, like all opportunities, a chance to find out more about myself," says Freiburger. "My college years at Notre Dame have been a great occasion for some of the best friendships I've ever had. I do remember going to class ... but these years have been the best of my life so far because of the people."

Surprisingly, Schmiedeler notes that one of the benefits of being at Notre Dame are the single sex dorms. "I thought single-sex dorms were great," he says. "No, it is not the real world, but I think for the amount of time we are here, it's not that long." Patrick also sees the long term benefits of living in single-sex dorms, although he is currently living

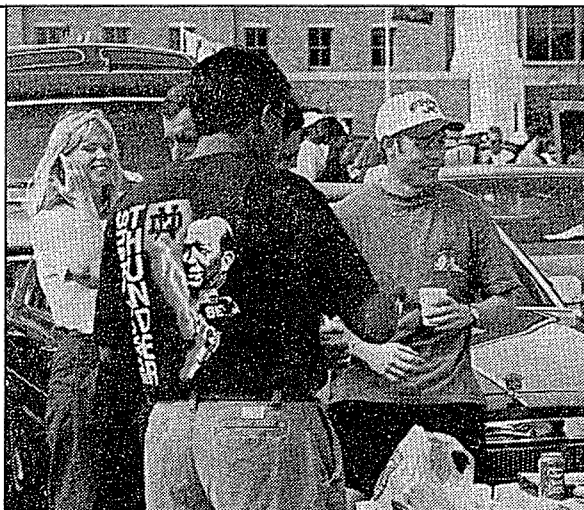
off-campus. "I was happy living in single sex dorm because it really fostered true friendships," he says. "There is a bond between friends who come from the same dorm."

But others, like Palermo, believe that these policies deprive students of an important element of college life. "The lack of co-ed housing is not real life," he says. "You can't compare living on your own in an apartment to single sex dorm life."

Whether they approve of co-ed housing or not, most alumni have to say they loved Notre Dame while they were here. But would they do it all over again? For Finnegan and many others the answer is complex. "I think it is unfair to say that any four years of our lives can be or would have been the best years. We have so much more of life to look forward to," she says.

Even if their college years were the best four years of their lives, they realize that they are ready to move on. "Basically, I have to say I loved it. I was sad to leave, but it was time to move on," Slover says. "I experienced many great things that I never would have experienced if I didn't go here, but college is confined, and life now is more open ended."

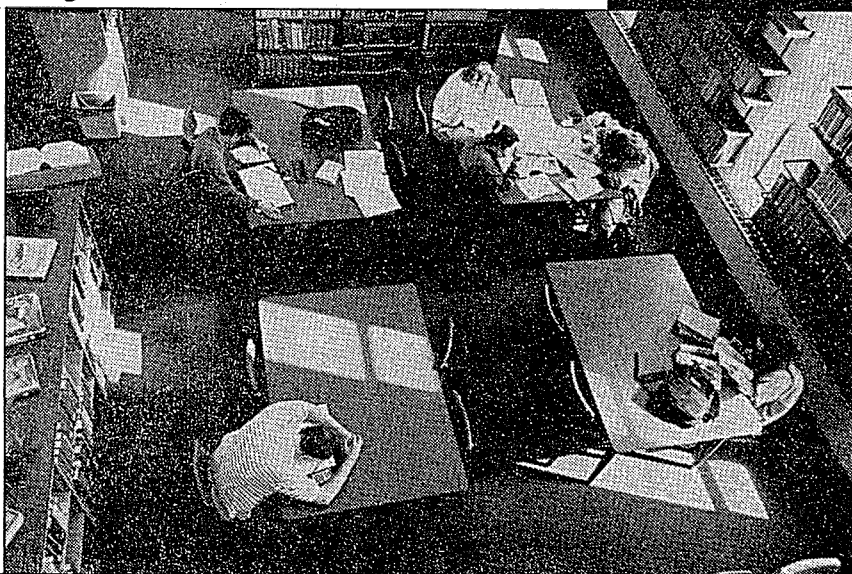
Schmiedeler agrees. "I don't think there will be any other time in my life when I'll be surrounded by a community where there is such a common thread, yet you are continually meeting people with such diverse ideas and interests," he says. "I am not sad that it is over, it is just a different life now that is hard to get used to."



Stan Evans

BACK FOR MORE. Year after year, alumni return to campus to relive what many consider were the best years of their lives.

CRACKIN' THE BOOKS. For the most part, Notre Dame students do not let their studies detract from the quality of their years here.



File Photo

gipper.1@nd.edu

Campus Watch

BY THE GIPPER

Attitude, Allegations and Innuendo

I never give them hell; I just tell them the truth and they think it is hell.

— Harry S. Truman

FRIENDS - 1 GOD - 0

The Gipp must confess that he was one of the millions of viewers unable to tear himself away from the boob tube on Sunday until he got his weekly visual dose of Jennifer Aniston and Co. Yes, millions of Americans became vegetative idiots transfixed on the television set for four hours of football and a special one hour episode of the TV show, *Friends*. Apparently, nothing could compete with this line-up. Not even Sunday Mass, which the rector in Alumni moved from 10:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Yes, dear Gipp fans, as bad as it may sound, even God was put on hold so that the female population could drool over Joey and Ross and the male population could drool over big chest-havin', tight-shirt-wearin' Rachel and Monica. And people say that television is affecting the moral and ethical fibers of American society.

LIQUID LUNCH (LITERALLY)

Trash. A rat. An empty keg of beer. Which one of these things is out of place on the loading dock behind North Dining Hall? If you guessed a rat, you really aren't looking too hard, but if you guessed a keg of beer, pat yourself on the back. One of those large, silver dispensers of magical liquid caught the eye of several students as they passed NDH this week. The whole thing has the Gipp perplexed. Even ignoring the fact that a beer keg on campus is one of the biggest no-nos in Du Lac, what were the

dining hall workers doing with a keg of beer? Where, amongst the milk and the juice dispensers, is there a beer tap? The Gipp thinks he has stumbled upon an explanation for the horribly absurd dining hall experiments gone awry, such as the recent Walt Disney Dinner. No dining hall worker in his right mind would possibly volunteer to don a Goofy outfit and try to entertain a bunch of obnoxious college kids. Add beer to the equation and you've got yourself Gilligan's Island and Spam Night, complete with Spam Woman. To test the Gipp's theory, make sure you sniff the breath of the clowns at the next Circus Lunch.

UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE YEAR

While the Gipp is on the topic of alcohol, a certain student recently called Bridget's to inquire about a band playing there. In the midst of the conversation, the student randomly asked whether or not the bar had changed hands in recent years. The Bridget's employee remarked that it hadn't done so in the last three years and then went on, "Don't worry; we still encourage underage drinking. That is, with a valid ID." No beating around the bush here. Let's face it: the only thing missing from Bridget's is one of those wooden cut-out characters that stand at the entrance to kiddie rides saying, "You must be at least this high and under 21 years of age to enter this bar."

Does Bridget's really deserve this verbal abuse? Before you answer that, consider the story last semester about the night when one of the bartenders got on the intercom and asked the entire bar to stop and wish a certain female student a happy 20th birth-



day. In Bridget's defense, that is a special age: one more year until she can drink at a bar other than Bridget's.

... NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH IT

Let's talk about inconsistency and contradiction. Recently, the University of Notre Dame received a \$5,000 grant from the Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts for scholarships supporting students in the music department. Liberace? Notre Dame can't bring itself to recognize an organization of homosexuals on campus, but it won't hesitate to accept funds from an organization founded by one of the most blatant homosexuals. The Gipp is staying neutral in the whole GLND/SMC issue because the Viewpoint section of the *Observer* has remained generally bicker-free as of late, and the last thing he wants to do is rekindle the fire. However, the Gipp does feel the need to point out that the whole situation is dripping with irony. What's next, \$27,000 from pro-choice femi-nazi Jocelyne Elders for students in the theology department, \$11,000 from Dr. Kevorkian for students in the pre-med department or \$14,000 from the Ku Klux Klan for the Center for Social Concerns?

So long for now, Gipp fans, and don't forget to keep e-mailing the Gipp with your tips. If you don't have any, please e-mail the Gipp with any suggestions as to what to do now that football season is over. What is there to do at 8 a.m. Saturday morning or all day Sunday? Do people actually do homework on Monday nights? Your suggestions will be most appreciated. □

Facing the Beast

Think Notre Dame men's basketball is in the doldrums? Take a look at the Big East Conference

BY BRIAN HIRO

Pity Notre Dame basketball coach John MacLeod. In any other year, he and his band of short-on-talent, long-on-heart players would have received a much warmer welcome from the charter members of the Big East Conference. Who knows, the recent victory over Rutgers might even have been classified as "ho-hum" rather than "monumental."

But this is no ordinary Big East campaign. This year marks the return of the Big East as the nation's dominant conference. Step down, ACC. Wait your turn, Big Ten. The Big East is once again a beast.

This view from the top of the conference heap is not foreign to the Big East. Just over a decade ago, Villanova, Georgetown and St. John's treated the NCAA Final Four as if it were a Big East tournament before the Wildcats shocked the Hoyas in the championship game. That year, the Big East had it all. The nation's three best teams. A constellation of stars that included Patrick Ewing, Chris Mullin and Pearl Washington. In-the-spotlight coaches like big John Thompson and little Rollie Massimino. In short, the Big East commanded the close attention of the college basketball world.

Over the years, however, the limelight found a different target and the Big East gradually sank in stature. Other conferences began to out-recruit Big East schools for the top prep players in basketball hotbeds like New York and Philadelphia. And the ill-conceived six-foul rule that the con-

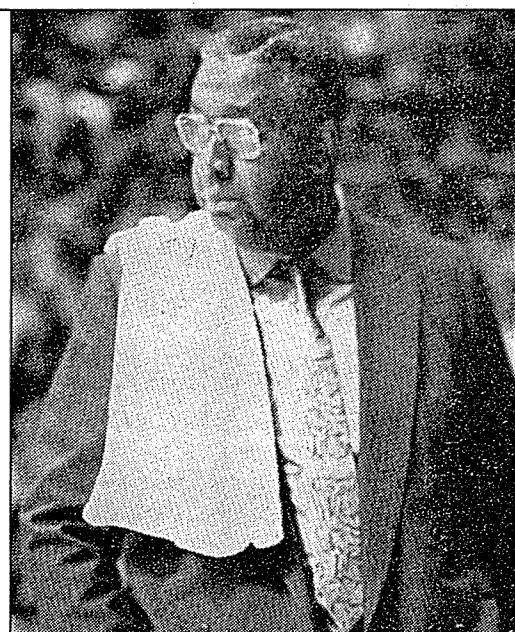
ference adopted led coaches to teach hacking along with the pick-and-roll and the halfcourt trap. The league hit rock bottom in 1993, a year in which only three teams made the NCAA tournament and none of them reached the Elite Eight.

Notre Dame should have packed its bags for the Big East right then. At that time the conference would have made the Ross twins look like NBA lottery picks instead of just Bookstore standouts. But the 1996 edition of Big East basketball is only making the Irish long for their MCC days.

Seen the AP Top 25 lately? Connecticut, Georgetown and Villanova all have permanent residences in the top ten. Syracuse and Boston College aren't far behind.

It all starts with the players. Imagine Dick Vitale screaming at the top of his lungs to his ESPN partner: "The Big East is awesome, baby! I mean, are you kidding me? You give me a starting five of Allen Iverson, Ray Allen, Kerry Kittles, Danya Abrams and John Wallace. I'll give you the rest of the country, and I bet you I win."

You'll get no argument here, Dicky V. With the exception of a couple of centers named Camby and Duncan, the candidates for Big East Player of the Year are also the candidates for National Player of the Year. Georgetown's Iverson is really an incomparable talent with speed and quickness rarely seen on the collegiate level. He could penetrate a sliding-glass door.



THE OLD GUARD. Thompson's Hoyas are one of the reasons the Irish have failed to win in the Big East.

UConn's Allen, with his combination of perimeter skills and leaping ability, calls to mind (stop me if you've heard this before) a young Jordan. He's at his best when the game's on the line. Kittles of Villanova, tall and lanky, reminds many of another Chicago Bull: Scottie Pippen. He excels in the transition game and, like Pippen, has a wingspan Manute Bol would envy. Syracuse's Wallace, a solid-but-unspectacular player in his first three years for the Orangemen, has added the three-point shot to his game and, in the process, has carried an otherwise mediocre Syracuse squad to a 14-5 record. And pudgy Abrams, a Barkley protege at B.C., throws his weight around to the tune of 20 points per game.

The Big East coaching ranks have also been infused with young talent. Energetic coaches such as Villanova's Steve Lappas, Pittsburgh's Ralph Willard and Pete Gillen of Providence are beginning to receive some of the attention usually reserved for Thompson and Syracuse's Jim Boeheim. Willard, for instance, brought in one of the top five recruiting classes in the country this fall, helping the Panthers upset Georgetown and take number-one UMass to overtime.

Bottom line for Irish fans: don't despair. MacLeod and his team will take their punches this year and next, but eventually Notre Dame will get the players that will be able to retaliate. In the meantime, sit back and enjoy Big East basketball. You never know when it will be this good again. □

Head coach Muffet McGraw is leading the women's basketball team to a conference championship and an NCAA berth

The Winning Touch

BY JEREMY DIXON

The coach crouching at half-court during practice is not a well-known face. Although she has been here for nine years, the longest tenure in Notre Dame women's basketball history, Muffet McGraw remains a stranger to the majority of students on campus. This year McGraw has guided the Irish to the top of the Big East, receiving well-deserved attention for her and her team.

As the team continues its success in its inaugural Big East season, much of the credit has to go to the coach. Their record stands at 14-4, with a conference record of 8-1. The team's only Big East loss is to Connecticut, the defending national champions, and they are bringing a three-game winning streak into Saturday's game at Rutgers. But she is quick to point out that it is the players who are making success possible: "I'm so happy with this team. They're working hard, and things have really been going well for us because they have made it happen."

Despite the anxiety of venturing into the uncharted waters of the Big East, McGraw, the winningest coach in Notre Dame women's basketball history, is impressed with the Irish response. "We didn't know what to expect coming in. It was difficult for us to scout teams for the first time which made it hard, but it helped our mental preparation because we really had to come out sharp every night."

McGraw's love for basketball began while she was growing up in West Chester, Pennsylvania. She says she was especially influenced by her family. "I had four brothers and the neighborhood was full of boys,



Aaron Skolch

and I was usually the only girl. We'd go down to the park to play basketball. I just loved it immediately."

Soon after, she began playing organized basketball, and eventually went to St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia where she was a four-year-starter. After her graduation, McGraw began searching for a job. "I really wanted to continue with basketball somehow, and a high school basketball coaching job opened up in the area. I really didn't know I wanted to coach, so I was debating whether or not to try it."

She did coach, for two years, and posted a 50-3 record. After this brief stint, she signed on to play for the California

Dreams, a team in a professional women's league which went under after her rookie season. "I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity," she reminisces. "I was anxious to try it and see what it'd be like because I still loved playing."

Coach McGraw could not stay away from the game for very long. She was the head coach at Lehigh for five years before she decided to move on. "We were good, but were never considered for post-season play. My goal was to get to a place that had a national reputation."

Smiling, she says, "My husband was a big ND fan, and he was pushing me to apply for the job. I didn't expect I'd get it, and was really surprised when I was asked to come out and interview."

Seated behind her desk in an office filled with pictures of her five-year-old son Murphy, McGraw has found her niche at Notre Dame. Although a very demanding coach, she is attempting to be more relaxed this season. "I don't carry on with a loss for a couple of days anymore. My goal is to be consistent so the team knows what to expect every game. Having a five-year-old helps. You learn patience."

At most practices, Murphy will drop in on his mother. Like any little boy, he runs around, playing and talking to anyone who will listen. With the beaming face of a proud mom, McGraw says, "Having Murphy was probably the best thing that

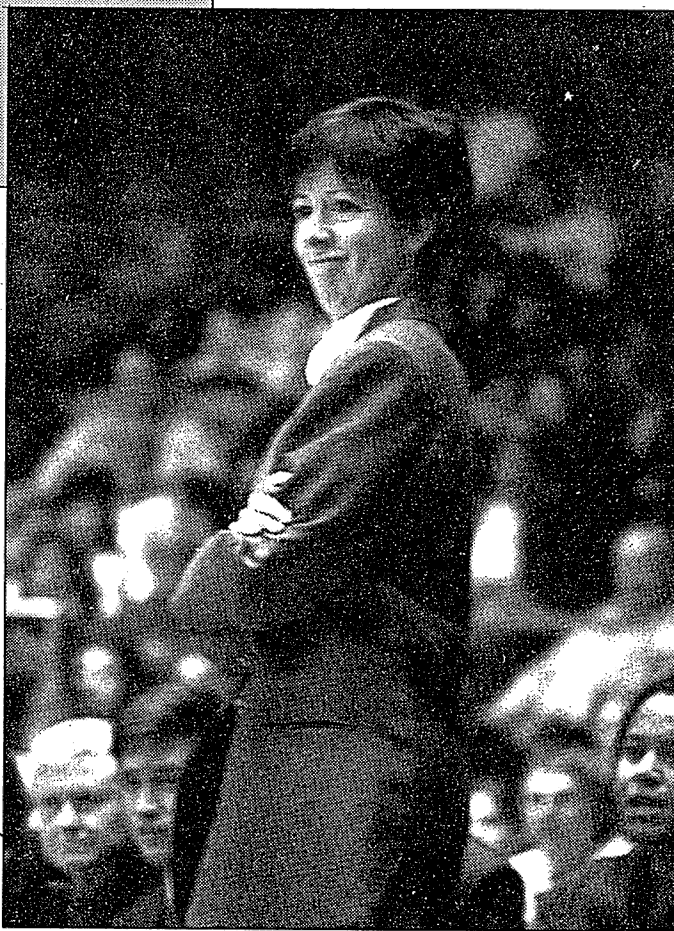
ever happened to me."

She does not deny that having a career is taxing on her role as a mother, however. "I think it's always difficult to be a working mom. You just naturally feel guilty a small percentage of the time."

Helping McGraw raise their son is her husband, Matt. "Marry someone who likes to cook and do the laundry," she says, laughing. "Seriously, though, he is wonderful."

The motherly instinct has not extinguished her competitive nature, however.

"I'm very intense. I like things done a certain way, and the team has responded well to knowing we're going to do this until we get it done right."



Coach McGraw tries to hold back the smile as her Irish cruise to another victory.

On the sidelines and on the practice court, McGraw devotes her energy to improving the team. She is not the type of coach who sits passively on the sidelines, but one who shouts praise and voices disappointment.

"I am very intense. I like things done a certain way, and the team has responded well to knowing we're going to do this until we get it done right."

Her players also seem to agree with

McGraw's assessment of herself. "She is very focused," says senior co-captain Carey Poor. "She commands respect due to her experience as a player and a coach."

The team has some high, yet attainable, goals which McGraw has set, including finishing in the top three in the Big East and going back to the NCAA tournament, which eluded the Irish last season. The coach simply refuses to back down from the challenge presented to her. "We're ready for the pressure. I think it's a great league and it was a good move for us to join because of their national reputation."

McGraw foresees great things in the future of Irish women's basketball. "I think that in five years we will be a perennial NCAA tournament team, a team that someone always talks about and is ranked every year."

For McGraw, favorite moments include the team's trips to the NCAA tournament, although she quickly adds that her ultimate goal is to win the national championship.

Notre Dame holds a special place in McGraw's heart. While not overzealous, her fondness for this place is obvious: "The atmosphere is one of family. It's a place where you can feel that people genuinely care about you. Everyone is so friendly. That was the impression when I came here

and still have nine years later."

As practice finishes, McGraw gathers her team around for a final talk. As they head off the court, there is an air of optimism in the arena. The coach herself is ready for the future: "We're not looking too far down the road. We're getting there now and I think next year will be our best ever. We have the foundation down — we just have to get it done." □

From crowded weight rooms to a shortage of low-fat ranch dressing, students are competing with each other to work healthy decisions into their daily lives

BY J. MICHELLE COX

There are nine names on the waiting list for the treadmill at the Rock. The most popular item in the dining hall tonight is the low-fat rice and vegetable dish. The Stairmaster in Farley Hall is booked solid for three weeks. And the plain yogurt container on the salad bar is completely empty.

As these scenarios become more common, it is obvious that Notre Dame students are taking the conventional wisdom to eat healthy and be active to heart. Yet national statistics say that college students are, in fact, some of the least likely people to set or attain fitness goals. A recent study showed that 37 percent of 18 to 21-year-olds had not participated in any vigorous activity during the previous week.

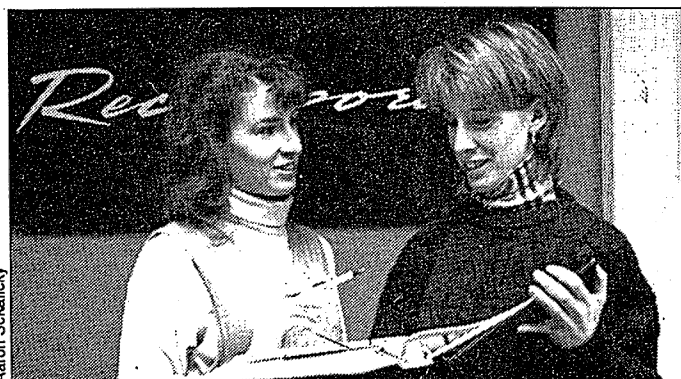
Perhaps, though, many Notre Dame students don't fit into that statistic. Since January, atten-

dance at the Rock averages about 1,000 people a day, not including the physical education students who take classes there.

And this popularity is self-evident. Lines are long, machines are breaking, rooms are hot. Sophomore Melissa Radey explains, "Yesterday I had to wait for 50 minutes to get on the Stairmaster. Only three of the usual five were working, and it really slows things down."

Other campus fitness programs are also encountering problems that come with popularity. RecSports officials have recognized the growing demand for aerobics classes, yet many of the classes still fill up on the first day, and some would-be steppers are stopped in their tracks.

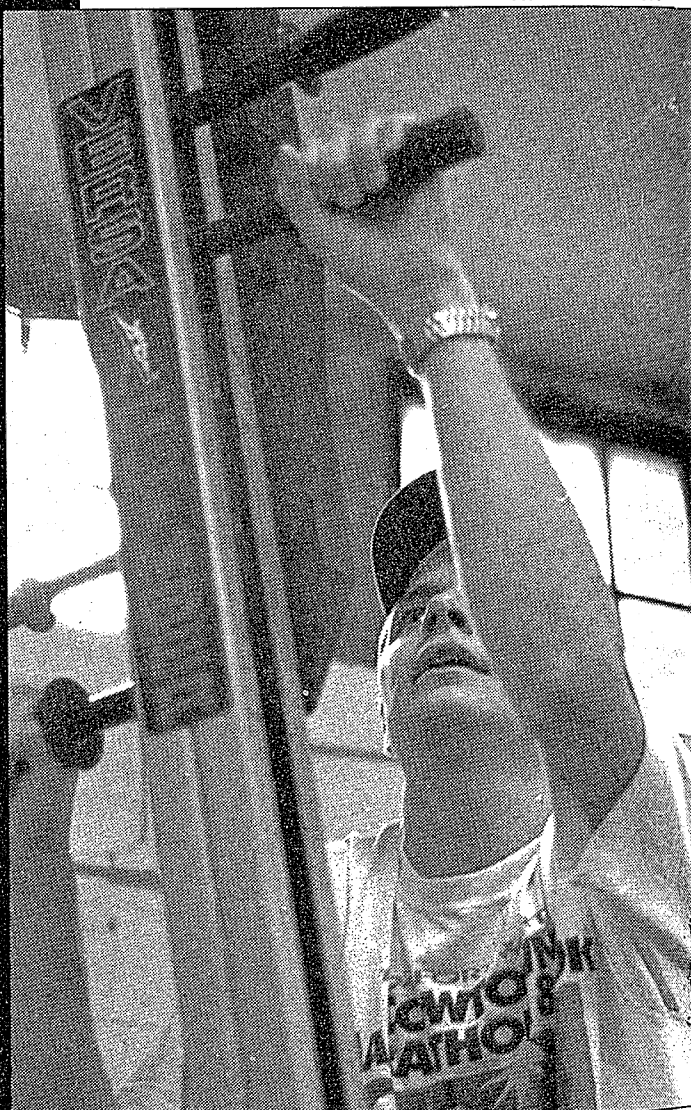
"We have added to our total aerobics schedule, including six step classes. We've expanded the available class times. It's a very popular program," says Jennie Phillips, university fitness coordinator.



HEALTH TIMES TWO. Jocelyn Antonelli and Jennie Phillips, twin sisters, work for the university improving students' health through fitness and nutrition programs.

Fitting in Fitness

UPHILL BATTLE. Freshman Jason Timmermann knows it can be difficult to working out into one's schedule.



Proposed in the *Colloquy 2000* is a new RecSports Center which is currently on the drawing board.

Despite today's crowds, there is hope for the future. Proposed in the *Colloquy 2000* is a new RecSports Center which is currently on the drawing board. Although no plans have been finalized, both Phillips and Br. Louis Hurcik, director of Rockne Memorial, are confident that the new center will help meet the demands of active students.

"We've been visiting similar facilities at other universities, and we're trying to decide what will work best on this campus. I'm really pushing for an open, encouraging environment that will get people excited about exercising," says Phillips. Last semester approximately 100 students, faculty and staff took advantage of Phillips' expertise by scheduling a personal consultation.

"Everyone has to start on his or her own level," explains Phillips. "I can provide education and knowledge. I can check a person's body composition and set up a program, but it is each person's individual responsibility to be healthy."

What's important, according to Phillips, is to develop a theory and practice of total health and wellness.

Part of a total picture of health are eating habits which focus on nutrition. As the national interest has moved in that direction, so has the focus of the university. Just last fall Notre Dame Food Services created a position for a registered dietitian to

serve as a nutritionist.

Since starting that job at the end of September, Jocelyn Antonelli (coincidentally the twin sister of Phillips) has been working to educate food service workers and students about what is served in the dining halls. "I'm interested in culinary nutrition — the chef and I have been working on food that is both healthy and tasty," explains Antonelli.

The key to that combination is choice. "I'm not here to eliminate all fat or serve as the nutrition police," Antonelli says. "Anything can be good in moderation. And everything can be fattening in excess."

Freshman Pat Coyle, for one, is satisfied with the choices. "It meets my expectations, I guess." But he does think that North Dining Hall has more variety, especially of healthy items. "The only healthy choice you can count in South Dining Hall is the salad and pasta bars."

Radey doesn't even feel like she can completely count on

"I'm not here to serve as the nutrition police."

those standbys. "The salad bar is great. But why do they have to pour oil all over the pasta? And if I wanted butter on my vegetables I would put it on myself." She adds, "I should be able to get a well-prepared low-fat meal without having to eat only rice and a baked potato every meal."

This is one concern that both Radey and Antonelli share. "We've been experimenting with some of our recipes to see how we can prepare them using less fat and still come out with

an entree that tastes good," reports Antonelli. "And when we say something is 'lighter fare' we need to be explicit and consistent in what that means — only so much fat, cholesterol and sodium."

Overbreak, Denis Ellis, Notre Dame's head chef who was recently featured in *Food Management* magazine for his efforts in healthier cooking, held a three-day workshop for all university cooks on lower-fat cooking. Since returning from break, some of them have been experimenting with recipes.

For instance, a group from Food Services tried and tasted four different variations of fettuccine alfredo ranging from 70 percent to 48 percent total fat. They also prepared variations of chicken à la king, ranging from 46 percent to 26 percent fat. For now, such items are just something they are considering, but perhaps they will be seen on students' dining hall trays in the future.

"We really want to know what students want. If the students express a desire for something, the university will get it," claims Antonelli. And they really are always getting new items in the

dining halls. "In just one day, I'll sometimes notice that six new recipes have been added to the file," she says.

Of course, new is not always better. "Often when there is something I like in the dining hall, like the rice valencia, everyone else likes it too and it's gone quick. Why not serve those popular items more often?" suggests Radey.

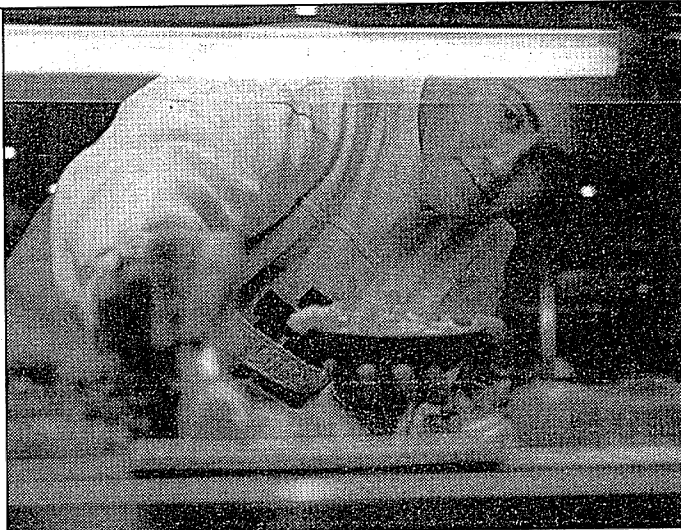
Antonelli does recommend some simple standby rules for good nutrition and health. "Never skip meals. Eat five servings of fruits and vegetables a day. Drop the diet mentality," she advises.

Eliminating that quick-fix mentality is the real key to achieving any sort of health and wellness goals.

"There is no magic bullet, you just have to stick to it. If you fall off for a while, that's okay. Just get back on the healthy track," says Phillips.

As Coyle points out, "If you really do want to get in shape, you can definitely do it here. It's possible."

Even if it means taking a close look at what's on the dining hall menu and waiting 30 minutes for the stationary bike. □



Photos by SHAN EVANS

GOING FOR THE GREENS. Sophomore Rod Dobrinski takes advantage of the salad bar at the dining hall, one of the healthier options available to students.

NOTE!
Please limit use of Stairmaster to 20 minutes at a time
Please be considerate of those waiting.

SPLINTERS FROM THE PRESS BOX

A roundup of the week in sports

January 23 to January 30

edited by Brian Hiro

Men's Basketball Drops Two More Big East Games

The Big East remained unfriendly to Notre Dame as the Irish fell to Miami 72-64 in Coral Gables and 69-59 at home to West Virginia. The losses kept the Irish in the Big East cellar at 1-6.

Ryan Hoover paced the Irish with 15 points in the loss to the Hurricanes. Pat Garrity added 13 points and nine rebounds. Bad free-throw shooting plagued Notre Dame against the Mountaineers. Garrity led all scorers with 24 points, but made just one of six free throws.

Women's Basketball Improves Record to 14-4

Co-captain Beth Morgan and Katryna Gaither continued to carry the load for the Big East-leading Irish. In a 66-53 victory over St. John's, the pair combined for 41 points as Notre Dame overcame a one-point halftime deficit.

On Saturday, Gaither's 21 points and 16 rebounds and Morgan's 16 points helped the Irish to an easy 67-50 win over Miami. Carey Poor added 12 points as Notre Dame limited the Hurricanes to 30 percent shooting.

We Are ND: Think most fencers are from foreign countries and speak in funny accents? Well, the top two foilists on Notre Dame's undefeated women's team, freshmen Sara Walsh and Myriah Brown, hail from none other than Mishawaka, Ind.

Quote of the Week: "We had a horrendous time from the free-throw line. Twenty-six percent ... is not a good percentage." — John McLeod on Notre Dame's free-throw woes against West Virginia.

Dix's Pick: The Irish go into Washington seeking to upset the Hoyas. Once again, they start out strong with Ryan Hoover hitting three 3's. But Georgetown goes on a 17-2 run to start the second half, winning 85-61.

Hiro's Hunch: Notre Dame wins the opening tip, but then gets buried by a Georgetown offensive assault. Still smarting from their loss to St. John's, the Hoyas force 25 turnovers and nail eight treys. Allen Iverson's 27 points help Georgetown overcome 22 from Garrity to win 82-66.

Hockey Team Sweeps Army Over Weekend

In a pair of nonconference games, Notre Dame emerged victorious twice, beating the Cadets 7-3 Friday night and 4-2 on Saturday. Senior captain Brett Bruinicks had two goals in the first win, leading an offensive barrage in which five other players scored. Jaime Ling's goal and assist boosted the Irish in the second game.

Men and Women's Swimming Take Two Dual Meets

Wisconsin-Milwaukee and St. Bonaventure proved no match for the Irish swimmers and divers as both the men and the women prevailed. Senior Dave Doherty registered wins in the 100 and 200 freestyle in both meets while diver Liane Gallagher captured all four diving competitions for the women.

Fencing Squad Remains Unbeaten

Notre Dame's men's and women's fencers conquered six foes each at the Notre Dame Open on January 27, to improve to 12-0 and 14-0, respectively. Both teams face defending national champion Penn State in dual meets this weekend.



Katryna Gaither

The junior center led the women's basketball team with 26 points in a win over St. John's and then added 21 points and a season-high 16 rebounds against Miami. She has scored in double figures in a school record 43 straight games dating back to last season.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jaime Ling

Ling notched a goal and an assist to spur the hockey team to its second consecutive win over Army. The goal was the 50th in the senior center's brilliant career, during which he has led the Irish in scoring every season.



Honorable Mentions



THE "WINNERS" ARE. Grant (left, with Julianne Moore) celebrates his marketing genius, while Dunaway (bottom left, with Jason Alexander) was undone by *Dunston*.

Though the Academy Awards are a good month away, there's always time for another pointless awards ceremony. So here's *Scholastic's* little awards presentation for those categories that Oscar fails to, uh, honor. No acceptance speeches, please.

■ **Best Overacting by a Male:**

Kevin Spacey in *Swimming with Sharks*.

Sure, he was good in *The Usual Suspects* and *Seven*, but watching him machine-gun insults at Frank Whaley was the year's most underappreciated delight.

■ **Worst Overacting by a Male:**

Tommy Lee Jones in *Batman Forever*.

More loud and obnoxious than the film itself. At times you had to ask yourself, "Just what the hell is he smoking off-stage?"



■ **Best Overacting by a Female:**

The cast of *Muriel's Wedding*.

Ranging from hopeless romantics to bitchy backstabbers, this ensemble proved to be last year's guiltiest (and funniest) pleasure.

■ **Worst Overacting by a Female:**

Sharon Stone in *Casino*.

Why critics have trumpeted her role as being Oscar worthy is a mystery. Just because she kept her clothes on for three hours doesn't hide the fact that her performance was the most over-the-top melodrama since Dunaway did Crawford in *Mommie Dearest*.

■ **Best Supporting Performance:**

Chris O'Donnell's Robin Costume

Is that a batarang in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?

■ **Least Appealing Movie Trend:**

Cyber-tech Computer Thrillers.

Virtuosity, *Johnny Mnemonic* and *Hackers* failed to connect with audiences. Reality bites.

■ **The "Spreading Ourselves a Bit Thin, Aren't We" Award:** Antonio Banderas.

For starring in the mildly successful *Desperado*, flops *Four Rooms* and *Never Talk to Strangers* and in every single photograph of Melanie Griffith.

■ **The "Say Goodbye to Hollywood, Your Film Career Is Over" Award:**

• **Actor - Chuck Norris in *Top Dog*.**

Has to take comfort that his only job now is a CBS prime time series.

• **Actress - Faye Dunaway in *Dunston Checks In* and *Don Juan DeMarco*.**

Get a prescription for that Norma Desmond syndrome, Faye.

• **Director - Mel Brooks for *Dracula: Dead and Loving It*.**

When your cast includes not one, but two members from the cast of *Wings*, disaster is sure to follow.

■ **Most Creative Ad Campaigns:**

Nine Months - Hugh Grant paid \$60 for more press than Fox could've dreamed of.

Dangerous Minds - "The movie sucks, but how about that soundtrack!"

Waterworld - "Come and see if it's really that bad!"

■ **Writer's Cramp Award:**

Screenwriter Joe Eszterhas

Not only did he script the anemic flop *Jade*, but also the equally limp *Showgirls*—Then added insult to injury when he had the audacity to say the latter was a good "moral movie."

■ **Dumbest Idea of the Year (Possibly Decade) Award:** *Cutthroat Island*.

OUT OF BOUNDS



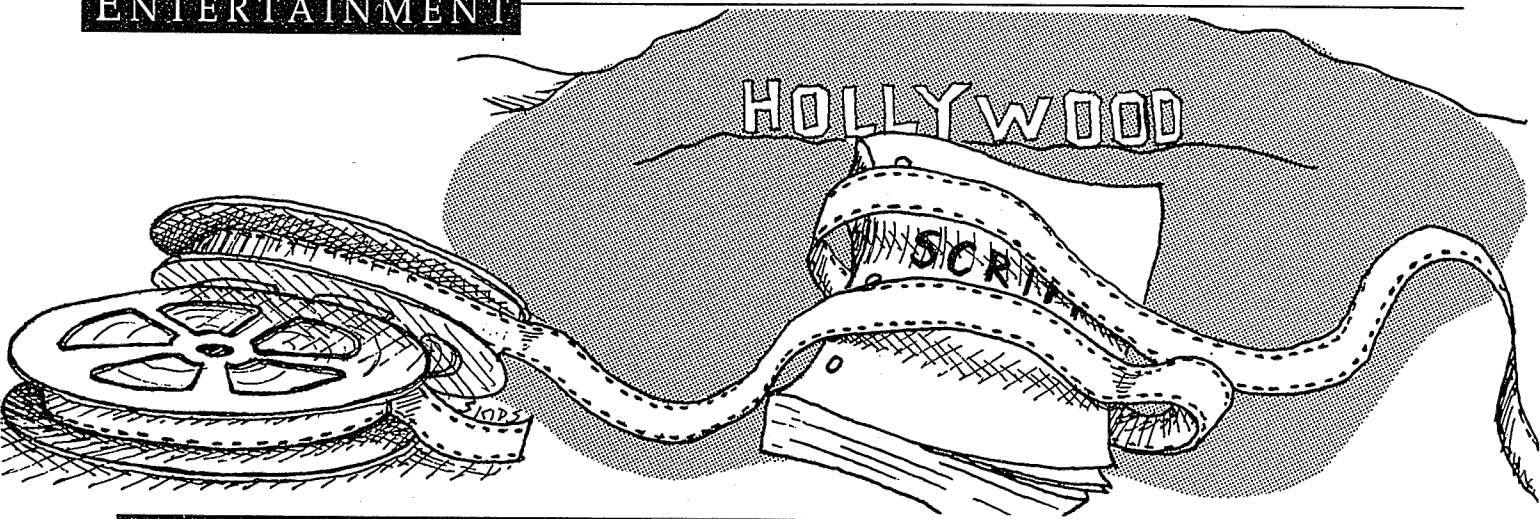
This Week's Best

On video, this summer's surprise hit *The Usual Suspects* will be out this week. Featuring an endlessly twisting plot and a cast that includes Chazz Palminteri, Pete Postlewaite, Gabriel Byrne and Kevin Spacey, we advise you to avoid playing the drinking game "Keyser Söze." On television, Tracey Ullman, TV's most talented actress, returns with an arsenal of new and old characters in HBO's critically acclaimed *Tacey Takes On...*, Wednesday nights. □



UNUSUAL SUSPECTS. Gabriel Byrne (left) head the ensemble cast of *The Usual Suspects*. Tracey Ullman (right) plays over 20 characters in her new HBO series.

by Chris Myers



FROM HALF-NAKED PRIMADONNAS TO KEEPING A TIGHT BUDGET,

HOLLYWOOD

PROFESSORS JILL GODMILOW & TED MANDELL DISCUSS THE OBSTACLES

CONNECTION

FACING NOTRE DAME FILM STUDENTS ON THEIR WAY TO TINSELTOWN

A film student walks into Jill Godmilow's office with a rather unique request. "Hey Jill, can I bum a smoke?" Godmilow gladly obliges and the student leaves the fabled Loft on the third floor of O'Shaughnessy Hall. It is this unique bond between teacher and student which helps Godmilow's film students not only learn something about the technology behind the film and video industry, but also something about themselves. "We teach filmmaking as a personal art practice," says Godmilow, "not as a way to get a job, and that's the bottom line." In light of last weekend's Student Film Festival, *Scholastic* takes a look at what goes on behind the scenes in this department and at the people who run it.

BY AARON NOLAN

Professor Jill Godmilow got her start in film production back in the 60s when the National Endowment of the Arts first began funding the projects of independent film makers. Working behind the scenes in Hollywood, she was involved in a number of prominent feature films including Robert Redford's *The Candidate* and Francis Ford Coppola's *Godfather*. Soon, the large-scale venues lost their luster for Godmilow. The many changes of different producers, tension between cast and crew members and Marlon Brando's daily ritual of mooning the camera at the end of filming began to get to her. "You can call this article 'Filmmaking is Not Glamorous,'" Godmilow said. "None of it's glamorous. There's a moment when, for people who don't have to deal with it every day, they would see it as glamorous. It's not glamorous ... unless you find Marlon Brando's ass glamorous."

In 1972, Godmilow gave up on Hollywood and started to make her own films including her documentary *Antonia: A Portrait of the Woman*, which was nominated for a Best Documentary Academy

GODMILOW

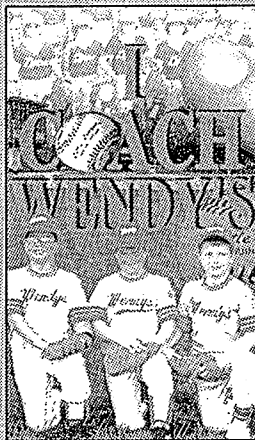
IT'S NOT GLAMOROUS...
UNLESS YOU FIND
MARLON BRANDO'S ASS
GLAMOROUS

ON FILMMAKING

Award in 1974; the 1987 film *Waiting for the Moon*, which starred Linda Hunt and brat-pack favorite Andrew McCarthy; as well as *Roy Cohn/Jack Smith*, whose Snite Museum premiere last semester sold-out and prompted additional screenings. Eventually, Godmilow decided she wanted to teach, so she came to Notre Dame and has been a mainstay ever since. Surprisingly enough, she claims that she hasn't encountered any restrictions from the traditionally conservative administration on her films, which have dealt with Notre Dame no-nos like feminism and homosexuality. "There's been no censorship of any kind ... I mean we don't fly in their face but we're not trying to insult anybody."

Though Godmilow may seem like the experienced veteran in the film program, there is a flip side to the coin. Professor Ted Mandell describes himself as the "techno guy" of the duo. Certainly with the demands of teaching the Introduction to Film and Video Production and Professional Video Production classes, it is necessary for him to be an expert on the machinery required for the behind-the-scenes production work.

Mandell began his career in film as an undergraduate communications major here at Notre Dame and graduated in 1986. He then took a year away from school to work as a sports producer and director in northern Kentucky before going on to receive his Master's from the University of Iowa. Coming back to teach at Notre Dame in 1988, Mandell works mostly in video and post-



■ R E V I E W

Ted Mandell
Waxes
Nostalgic in His
Little League
Documentary

A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN

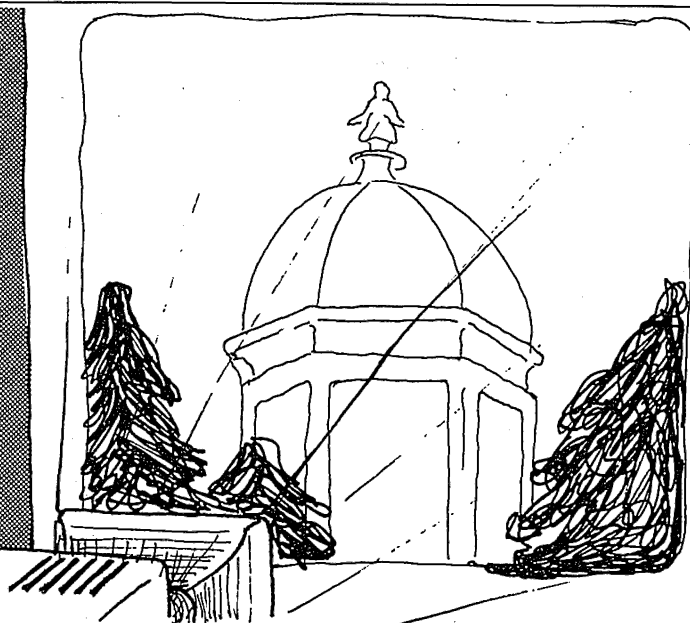
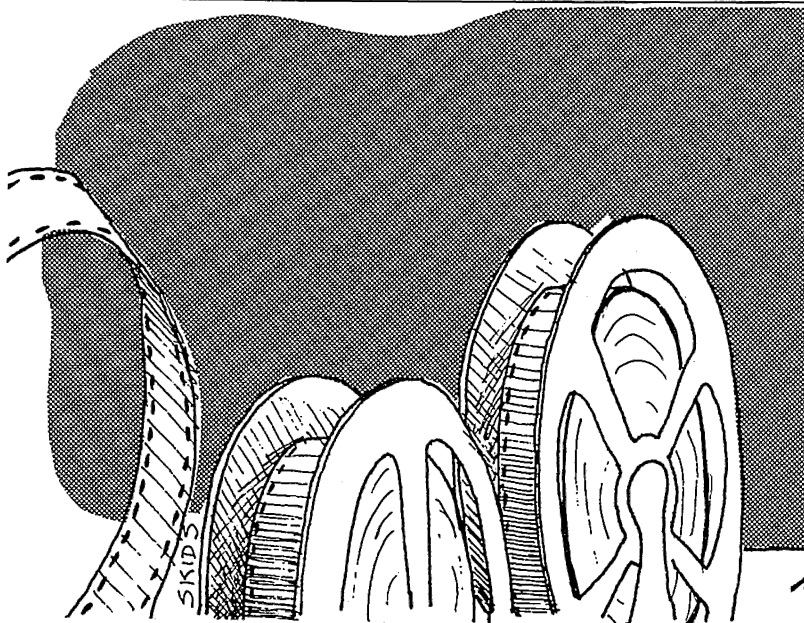
The crack of the bat, the cheer of the team in the dugout and the smell of freshly-mowed grass — all guaranteed to evoke memories of little league games across America. In *I Coach Wendy's*, a newly released documentary video by Professor Ted Mandell, the filmmaker relays some of his experiences coaching the Wendy's team of the East Side Little League in South Bend.

This documentary is a well-developed view into what goes on "behind the scenes" of little league baseball. Don't watch this video expecting a play-by-play of the team's ups and downs throughout the season because the vast majority of this 59-minute video depicts the people who run the show — the parent volunteers, the coaches and, yes, even the barbers. What makes *I Coach Wendy's* so interesting is the simple fact that it isn't a *Bad News Bears* remake — you won't see a team of ne'er-do-wells suddenly dig down to draw up untapped potential in order to win the big game. The team finishes the season fourth in the league, but that's completely beside the point. This film is less about athletics and more about a little slice of Midwestern small town life, sort of a Norman Rockwell painting on video.

The video alternates between the activities surrounding the East Side Little League season — fund-raisers, equipment preparation and field maintenance — and a first-person narration by Mandell himself on his own little league experiences as a catcher for a team in mid-1970s Kentucky. This interspersing of time periods is effective because it presents a whole picture of Little League baseball, and the anecdotes told by Mandell about his own baseball days are quite amusing. His comments are also effective in capturing moments that we can all relate to from our pasts. "Sometimes, when my team isn't playing," Mandell reminisces, "I just come out and watch a game for no apparent reason. I think back about helping mom and dad take the lawn chairs out of the trunk because they didn't want to sit in the stands ... but most of all, I think of our center fielder, Tommy Donovan, making an over-the-shoulder catch to beat the Veterans of Foreign War Post 7062."

Overall, *I Coach Wendy's* does great justice to the game of little league baseball and life in middle America. It's interesting, funny and great entertainment for anyone who used to play the game as a kid. As far as documentaries go, this one hits a home run.

—Aaron Nolan



production work, but also films documentaries such as his recent video on little league baseball in South Bend, *I Coach Wendy's* (see sidebar review, page 21). In addition to his teaching and documentary work, he is also in charge of the Cinema at the Snite program and the annual Student Film Festival for which he creates an opening piece of his own to set the tone for the show. One of the more memorable of these introductory videos was a parody of the scene from *Rudy* in which the football players turn in their jerseys, replacing the players with film students giving their film reels up to Godmilow "for Rudy."

and had to deal with that." Godmilow describes the festival as the end result of a long "maturing process" which takes place during the course of the semester. "You have to be a pretty aggressive student to take up film. You have to push a lot of people to make a lot of things happen at once and be at the center of that while having information floating in. It's like being a general in the field: you have to feed the troops, transport them, and somehow in the middle of all of that you have to get this exquisite performance out of someone while your production manager is telling you that you're two days over budget."

MANDELL

WHEN STUDENTS WALK OUT OF HERE THEY GET MORE EXPERIENCE THAN MOST PEOPLE AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES

ON NOTRE DAME'S FILM PROGRAM

For this year's opening piece, Mandell contacted a number of Notre Dame film/video alumni and asked them to send their own footage of what it's like to be a Notre Dame alumnus in the world of production. Some of the replies showed success stories while others were more self-deprecating. Two alums sent in some footage from Hollywood about a Notre Dame graduate who thinks that he should get hired solely based on his alma mater. Other video was sent from a graduate who was a Foley (sound effect) artist for the movie *Sense and Sensibility* and another who was location manager for *In the Line of Fire*. Said Mandell, "The Film Fest, in a weird kind of way, even though each film is individual, ends up being its own complete film because it's an hour and 45 minute film made up of a bunch of other films. You have to figure out how to tie it all together. This introduction video helps to set up how the audience perceives the film fest."

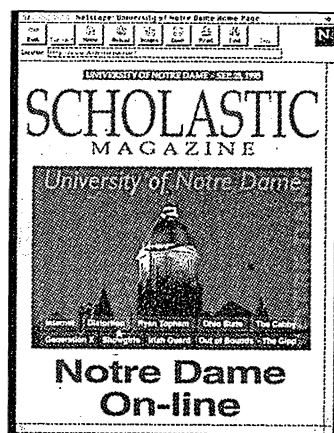
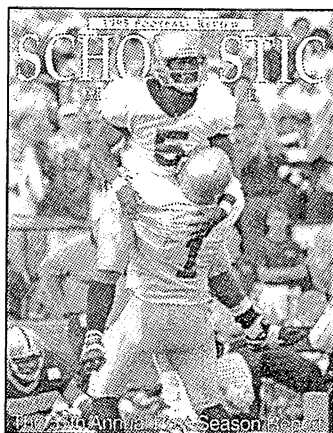
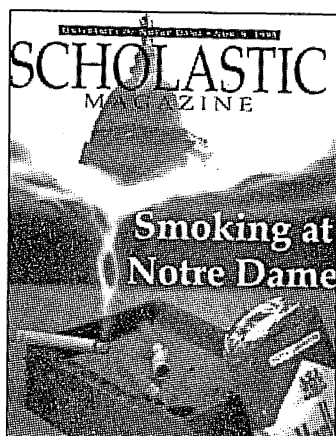
The festival itself is the result of a semester of hard work on the part of the students. According to Godmilow, "For some it's the first time they've gone out with a crew, a \$40,000 camera

Mandell agrees with Godmilow on the difficulty of production work and believes that the Notre Dame film students are among the hardest working in the country. "Since we don't have a graduate program here, it is taught at a graduate level, so when students walk out of here they get more experience than most people at most of the other universities. We have a small program, one in which Jill and I can work one-on-one, whereas you have a big program at another school where you've got a couple hundred students doing production — you can't teach that."

So up in that mysterious O'Shag Loft, both Godmilow and Mandell will keep the cameras rolling in the COTH film department and keep themselves busy with their own personal film projects. In the meantime, the next Scorseses or Coppolas may be hard at work planning the next week's shooting schedule, touching up their script, making final editing cuts — or maybe just bumming a cigarette off their professor. Until Hollywood calls — that's a wrap. □

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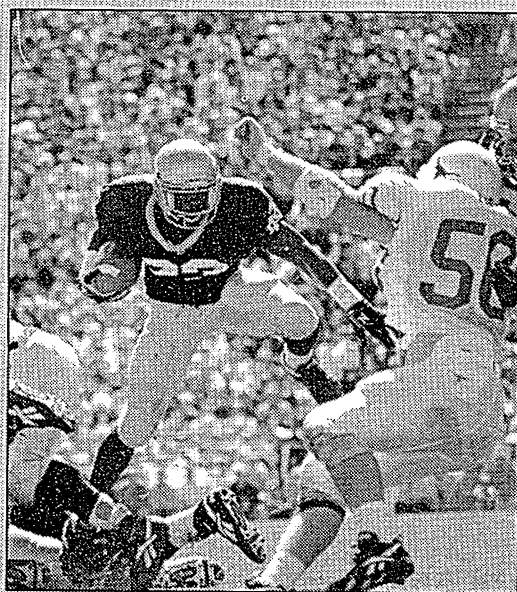
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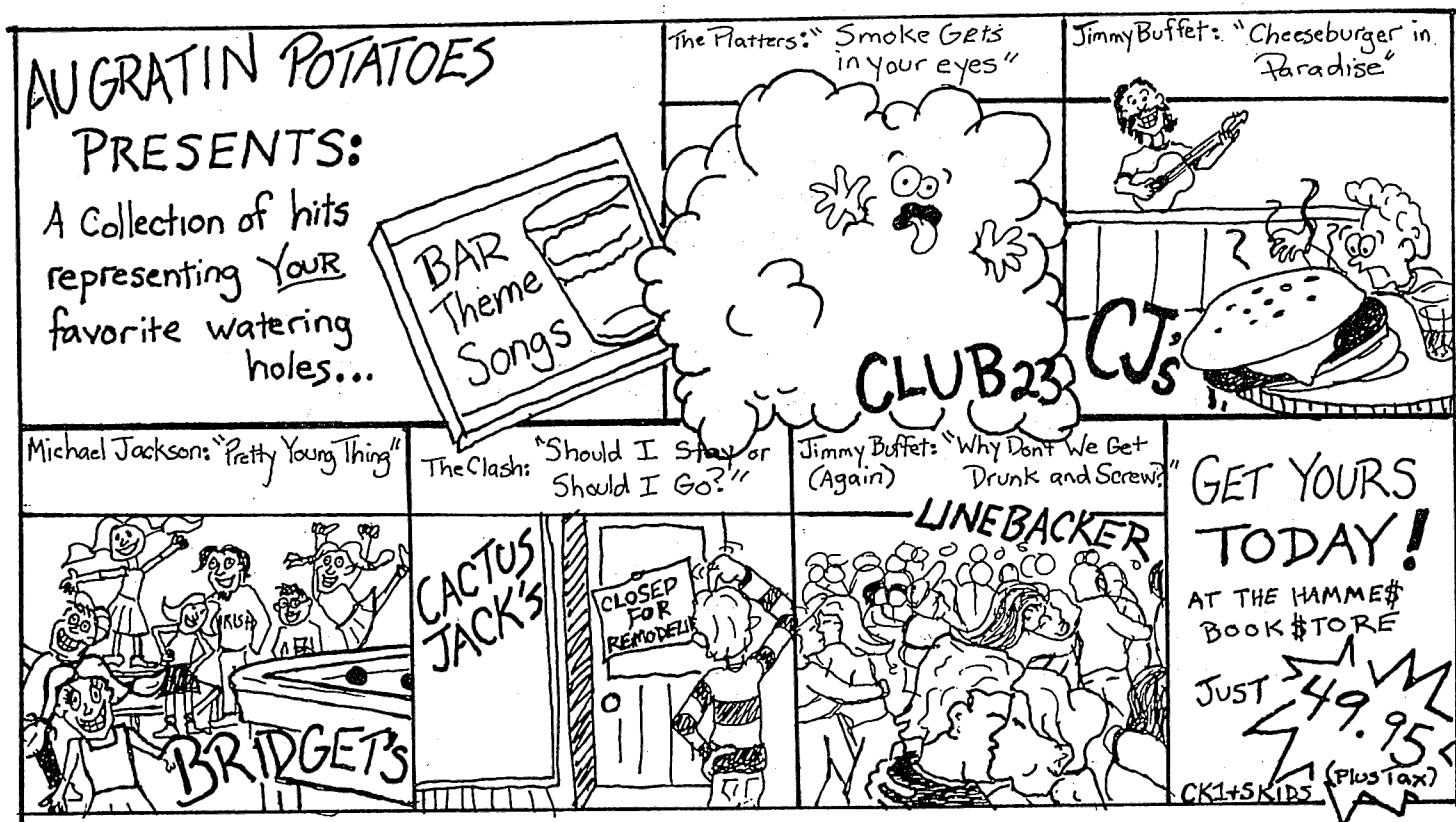
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COSMETICS COUNTER SPARKS PROTEST!

BY JOHN INFRANCA

◆ *Stanford University: It's Just Super!*

"Boundless, challenging, incomparable, Western/pioneering, stunning and vibrant." These words are all part of a strategic plan devised by Terry Shepard, director of communications at Stanford University, to serve as "A way of describing and thinking about the university." The plan was designed to define the school for the public and help employees who are at a loss for words in describing the campus. Mr. Shepard, in reaction to criticism of the plan, said the words were only designed to "give people some common themes." Nonetheless, due to wide ridicule, the university has decided to drop the plan.

You have to wonder about those employees unable to describe their place of work without the help of a specially designed vocabulary list. Their imagination must be limited, untested, run-of-the-mill, Eastern/static, unremarkable and languid. As for Mr. Shepard, we'll just call him underworked.

◆ *Dating Dilemma*

If you thought dating at Notre Dame was bad, just listen to this (or read it yourself if you don't have someone to read it aloud to you). Worried about the lack of dating at Brown University, the student body has formed a committee to determine the "institutional reasons" behind this problem. Rajib Chanda, a junior involved in Brown's student government, believes the problem may stem from overinvolvement in extracurricular activities or from the practice of

Meanwhile, Men Fear Increased Beer Sales

travelling in packs to parties (Sound familiar?). As a result, for Valentine's Day, the school's student government is hiring a private dating service. In addition they plan to sponsor more barbecues and beach trips and may even ask local businesses to donate movies tickets or candlelight dinners.

Did I hear overinvolvement in student activities? Remind me to get out of the office a little more.

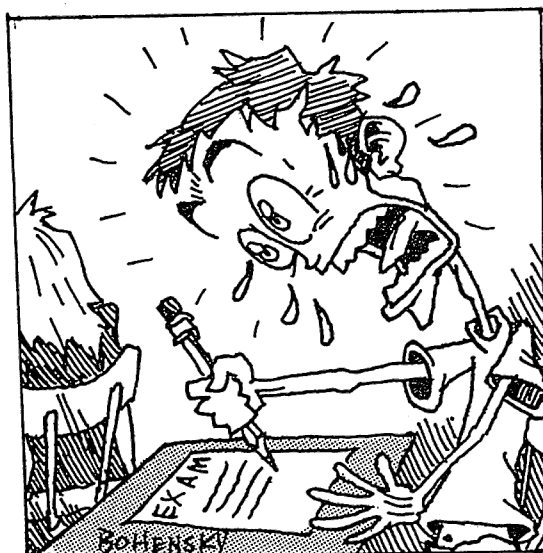
◆ *Quite Sick of Too Much Lipstick*

Twenty University of Pennsylvania students have protested the campus bookstore's addition of a make-up counter. "The women at Penn don't need to be told that they don't look good enough without makeup," said junior Clare Bayard, one of the protestors. The protestors also noted that the new section occupies 10 times more space than the section for books on women's studies.

In a related story, my sources at Penn have told me that the opening of a beer wholesaler a few block from the university has faced protests from a number of male students. One protester, who wished to remain unnamed, voiced this opinion, "The men at Penn don't need to be told that they can't get drunk enough without more beer."

◆ *Do I Hear \$50?*

Jose Martinez, an art professor at Texas A&M University, resigned after he was caught accepting \$50 from a student in exchange for an 'A.' The teacher first demanded \$100 for the grade, but later lowered the price for a top grade to a mere \$50. After the incident was reported, police



wired the student and arrested the professor as he accepted an envelope containing the \$50. Mr. Martinez has decided to plead not guilty to the charges against him. And as for that envelope, the one with the \$50, now what was that for again Mr. Martinez?

In retrospect, perhaps Mr. Martinez was merely trying to introduce his art students to the practice of silent bidding.

◆ *Dubious Distraction*

According to a former medical school student at the University of New Mexico, the reason he flunked out was bouts of extreme anxiety while taking tests. He further complained that school officials did nothing to facilitate his learning disability. The student, Kevin M. McGuiness, a 41-year-old clinical psychologist, said he had the most trouble during math tests. The university's lawyer has denied that Mr. McGuiness's "alleged disability" is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act. He also denied that McGuiness ever told anyone about his problems, or asked for special treatment.

Rumor has it that Mr. McGuiness's lawsuit has fueled a nationwide movement. One student is suing his former school complaining that the reason for his failing grades was his own lack of study. Another student has said that his school's bookstore ran out of pens and pencils on the day before finals. And, perhaps most mysteriously, one student complained that his school would not cancel a varsity basketball game in order to provide "an adequate place for large scale, uninterrupted group study." □

Coming Distractions

February 1-February 8

Field, Court & Alley

Tennis

- ND Men vs. Boise State. Eck Pavillion. Friday, 4 p.m.
- Notre Dame Invitational, Finals. Rolf. Friday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

Track

- Meyo Invitational. Loftus. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 12 p.m.

Cultural Connection

Lectures and Seminars

- Film, "Faces of Women," followed by panel discussion, "The Role of Women in African Society." Snite. Room 101 DeBartolo. Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
- Black History Month Celebration, Movie Night, "Higher Learning," followed by panel discussion. Auditorium, Hesburgh Library. Friday, 7 p.m.
- Art Festival, Hallelujah Night. Stepan. Saturday, 7 p.m.
- Guest Artist Recital featuring Brentano String Quartet. Snite. Sunday, 2 p.m. Admission.
- Spanish Mass. Chapel, Stanford-Keenan Hall. Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
- Lecture, Paul Rogat Loeb, Author of "Generation at the Crossroads," Auditorium, Hesburgh Library. Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Entertainment

- Film, "To Die For." Carrol Auditorium, SMC. Friday and Saturday, 7 and 9:30 p.m.
- Film, "Amateur." Snite. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 and 9:45 p.m.
- Film, "Dead Presidents." Cushing. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m.

On the Silver Screen

February 2 - February 8

University Park West: 277-7336.

- "Toy Story," G, 2:15, 4:45, 6:45.
- "Big Bully," PG, 9:10.
- "Dead Man Walking," R, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.
- "Bio-Dome," PG-13, 2:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:15.

University Park East: 277-7336.

- "Restoration," R, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:40.
- "White Squall," PG-13, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35.
- "From Dusk Til Dawn," R, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50.
- "Eye For An Eye," R, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:15.
- "Heat," R, 1:30, 4:50, 8:10.
- "Jumanji," PG, 2:00, 5:00, 7:15.
- "Screamers," R, 9:30.

Movies 10: 254-9685.

- "Grumpier Old Men," PG-13, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10.
- "Black Sheep," PG-13, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:45, 9:55.
- "Twelve Monkeys," R, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15.
- "Two If By Sea," R, 1:20, 3:40, 5:50, 8:10, 10:20.
- "Don't Be A Menace," R, 12:45, 3:05, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40.
- "Sense and Sensibility," PG, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:05.
- "Mr. Holland's Opus," PG, 12:50, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00.
- "Leaving Las Vegas," R, 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50.
- "Dunston Checks In," PG, 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:35.
- "Bed of Roses," PG, 12:55, 3:00, 5:10, 7:35, 9:45.

Editor's Choice

While perhaps not actually worth dying for, Gus Van Sant's black comedy *To Die For* is definitely worth seeing. In a year filled with a surprising number of great female roles, I believe Nicole Kidman's starring performance is the one most worthy of an Oscar.

-JJI

NOEL NIGHTMARES

What to do about those unwanted gifts

BY JOHN INFRANCA

Let's face it. For every great Christmas gift there's always that lemon you have no idea what to do with. I'm sure many of you can remember a painful childhood experience of anxiously opening a gift only to say, with hesitation: "Gee, Grandma, thanks for the tube socks. (Uncomfortable pause.) You know how much I love the striped kind." For me, few of these socks ever found their way into my shoes and onto my feet. Instead most were turned into hand puppets in a vain childhood attempt at a career in ventriloquism.

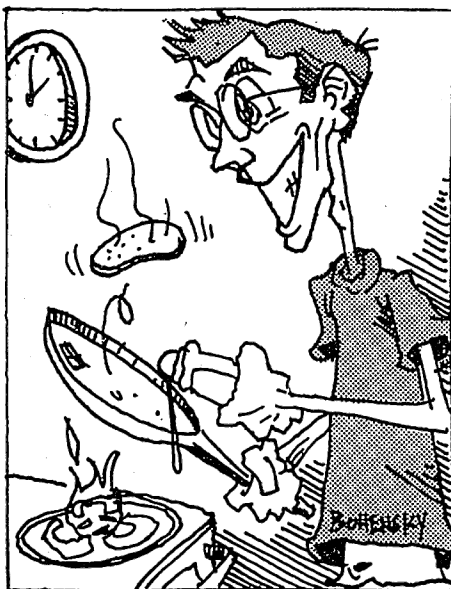
These earliest of Yuletide nightmares persist to this day. I find myself wondering which of Santa's elves, after 18 years, is still obsessed with making me a pair of Transformers underoos every Christmas season. Haven't the other elves told him that they stopped making Transformers years ago? Luckily I have found a use for this excessive accumulation of underwear. The elastic waistbands, once ripped untimely from my Fruit of the Loom, were able to bundle newspapers neatly for recycling. As for the rest of the ill-fated undergarments, a friend of mine on the swim team uses them as bathing suits.

Perhaps the most enigmatic of Christmas gifts is the canister of roll-on which always seems to sneak its way into my stocking. Is it meant as an appraisal by my mother of my personal hygiene? Or is it a vain attempt by my father to save his failing investment in Sure deodorant? My failure to use these roll-ons at the rapid pace I receive them has caused me to resort to using them to grease many a pan before cooking. Low in calories, I have found they add a tangy and intriguing taste to almost any meal.

Last minute gifts are often the worst, especially when their tardy purchase is glaringly obvious. There's always the "You've got a friend in Pennsylvania" mug. If you read between the lines, the rest

of the message is "And he bought you this mug at an interstate rest stop." It's not that I don't like mugs; but if I had instead received a Pennsylvania thimble, I would only need Hawaii and Alaska to complete my entire USA set.

Speaking of collections, the newly expanded line of Chia-products provides fertile ground for an abundance of unexpected Christmas gifts. In addition to everyone's favorite, the traditional Chia-pet, there are



now such necessities as a Chia head and even a happy little Chia tree. While their decorative potential alone is enough to give Martha Stewart an endless array of possibilities, these Chia creatures can serve many purposes I'm sure their creators never even dreamed of. In fact I'm certain Martha herself is disappointed she didn't think of cutting the hair from some poor Chia and using it as garnish on a special dish of Chicken à la Chia.

Outside of the kitchen the Chia's possibilities are even more numerous. Serving as a hood ornament, a custom trimmed Chia can add a sporty yet singularly frugal look to anyone's vehicle of choice. For the budding entrepreneur, the full set of Chia products,

once acquired, makes for a wonderful children's petting zoo. Just be sure that after visiting the kids wash their hands before they eat. We wouldn't want any little Chia tongues to grow now, would we? In hindsight the Chia pet's many possibilities actually make it a better gift than most people think. Plus, with the careful use of a Flowbee, its hair can be cut in seconds, making it easier to care for than a cat or dog.

No list of bad Christmas gifts can be complete without the fruitcake, that structurally sound compound made of fruit, cake mix and many ingredients too appalling to expose here. Since getting a fruitcake to someone is a job in and of itself, I suggest you wait until the gift giver leaves before disposing of this fruity folly of the culinary art. If possible, keep the cake in your trunk for future use as a spare tire. Or, if it is of the variety with a hole in the center, I suggest letting it sit for a year, then, when hardened, using it as base for next year's Christmas tree.

Much to my relief I am not the only person to be subject to Santa's sarcastic seasonal surprises. One fellow domer's mother recently received a hand-knitted, children's winter cap from a loving relative. Running vertically from top to bottom all around the hat was the recipient's name. While a possible violation of all known fashion regulations, the hat would prove useful when meeting a stranger in a public place. It's also a versatile bring-your-own nameplate for pressing dinner engagements.

In hindsight Christmas gifts really are what you make of them. So, if you are reading this, Santa, please don't think me ungrateful. If you could, however, make your reindeers' time worthwhile and bring me a new set of underoos next year, I'd appreciate it. How about the Power Rangers? I think Martha Stewart would consider that a very good thing. □

This is a humor column. These views are not necessarily the views of the editorial staff of Scholastic Magazine.

Hooked on a Feeling

by Kim Smith

I don't know exactly what this feeling of God's presence is or why it exists, but I do know that we are all very lucky to be able to share this feeling with each other.

Kim Smith is a freshman residing in Lyons Hall. She is from Edmond, Oklahoma.

The feeling first came to me about this time last year. Just nine short months ago I made one of the most impulsive, yet important, decisions of my life. It all began when I came to Notre

Dame in the spring of my senior year of high school. I was trying to decide which college was best for me, and as soon as I arrived on Notre Dame's campus, an overwhelming feeling came over me.

I remember sitting on a bench by St. Joe's lake and looking across the water. It was then that I first realized what makes Notre Dame dif-

ferent from the numerous other colleges I had visited. It was a feeling.

I could never figure out why or what made me feel this special way. I spent my entire first semester enjoying the spirit of Notre Dame, never really knowing what it was. While I was home over Christmas break, I felt strange and I couldn't figure out why. Something special was missing. It was nothing tangible—just a feeling. What was missing didn't hit me until I came back to campus and began discussing my feelings with a good friend.

I know it may sound silly, but I felt like God was missing. By returning to campus, I had returned to God's presence. I think this is the same feeling that I felt last April when I came to visit Notre Dame. I wasn't able to describe exactly how I felt then or why,

but I do know that I never felt that way on any other campus I visited.

I know people experience God in different ways and the feeling I feel can be described in a million different ways. The important thing is that this feeling is here. It is all around us, in our dorms, all over campus and in our lives. We are truly lucky to be a part of this feeling.

There are not many places in this world where faithful young Christians experience this together. I don't know exactly what this feeling is or why it exists, but I do know that we are all very lucky to be able to share this feeling with each other.

We are all part of a unique community united by faith. This faith drives the spirit of Notre Dame. When people talk about the power of the Notre Dame spirit, they are also talking about the strength of this religious feeling. Where else in the world can you find a college campus with as many religious opportunities such as those that Notre Dame offers? How many college campuses have daily mass, bible study, faith groups, prayer groups, the Grotto and an unlimited number of priests?

It doesn't matter if you are the most devout Catholic or a non-practicing believer. Everyone is open to experience this special feeling of God's presence. As Notre Dame students, we are united by a common faith, a spirit that can rarely be found on the typical college campus.

When people at home ask me if I think I made the right decision by going to Notre Dame, I always respond with a simple "yes." When they ask me "Why?" I reply, "Because it feels right!" There is so much in a feeling, so much more than you can ever describe. □

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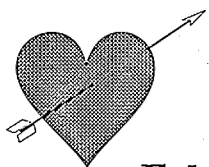
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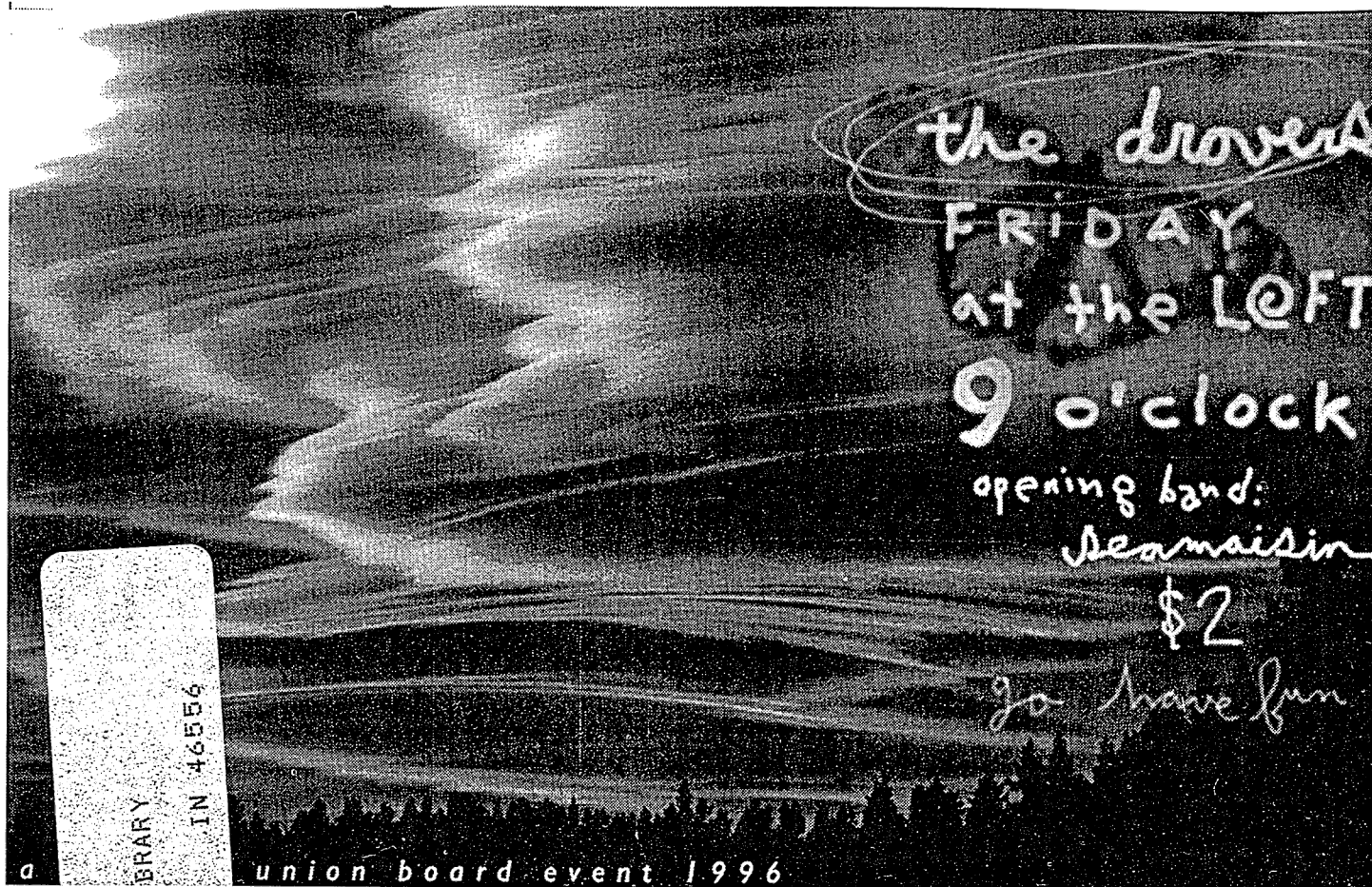


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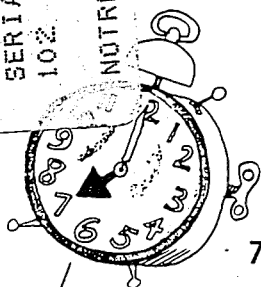
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