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# SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINE

VOLUME 138, NUMBER 9

FEATURE STORY

Founded 1867

DECEMBER 12, 1996

## A Very Bookstore Christmas by Zac Kulsrud

Whether you prefer the mellow sounds of *Slow Jams Christmas* or the danceable carols of *Billboard's Greatest Christmas Hits*, this guide to the season's best and worst music should help you find your favorite tunes for the holidays.

# By Independent

## Means





Last year, the independent newspaper *Right Reason* launched its campaign to hold Notre Dame to its Catholic character. Today, it often stirs up controversy for its conservative opinions.

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## **Testing the Water**



by Alyssa Peterson

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## FROM THE EDITOR

#### **Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree**

Sophomore year, my roommates and I bought a three-foot tall Christmas tree, and decorated it with paper from the garbage can, Necco candy wrappers and a pink Daisy razor. We put wrapping paper on our room door and drew Christmas pictures to deck the cinderblock walls. The whole time, we listened to the *Charlie Brown Christmas* CD and laughed at how ridiculous it all looked.

This year, we bought a real tree for \$19.99 at Flowerama and set it up in front of the window in our apartment. We took ornaments and strands of lights from our houses over Thanksgiving and we have grand plans for decorating it. But until our schedules permit it, it will remain adorned only with the tags from the tree stand and a strand of red tinsel haphazardly thrown onto one side.

It's hard to get into the Christmas spirit when the bustle of finishing papers and taking exams takes precedence over wrapping presents and spreading cheer. But some background Christmas music might be the best way to add some festivity to the season of study days. Zac Kulsrud reviews some of the season's best and worst CDs on page 16. For my roommates and me, though, it just isn't Christmas without garbage on the tree and Charlie Brown in the CD player.

#### Mea Culpa

In the last issue of *Scholastic*, the article "Raging for Rights" inaccurately reported that Assistant Vice President Bill Kirk threatened to use police force to break up the Young Democrats' rally if it occured. And in the article "The Night Shift," the frequency of WSND was incorrect; its frequency is 88.9 FM. *Scholastic* regrets these errors.

#### **Bon Voyage**

Scholastic extends its thanks to Kristin Alworth, who will be spending her spring semester in London. Kristin has gone above and beyond the call of duty this semester as editor of both the news and campus life sections. Best wishes, Kristin! You will be missed.

#### **Finally!**

This is the last issue of *Scholastic* for the semester. Look for us again in January, when we will publish our annual Football Review. Until then, good luck on finals and have yourself a merry little Christmas.

#### Bridget Bradburn Managing Editor

## 21 Years Ago: This Can't Be Notre Dame

In the April 11, 1975, issue of *Scholastic Magazine*, the Week In Distortion column explained how students would know that they were no longer at Notre Dame. The telltale signs included:

Detex cards go on sale in the bookstore ... Students are no longer standing in line for anything ... The sun is shining four out of five days ... New sidewalks replace mudpaths ... The infirmary replaces throat cultures with doses of efficiency ... The student is allowed on campus with a car for more than 15 minutes ... Enough copies of books are available at the Reserve Room ... ND men have their rooms furnished with Chippendale furniture like BP and Farley ... Lawn sprinklers aren't pointed at sidewalks ... The Observer isn't afraid to endorse something or someone ... Exam questions are suited to allotted time ... Pre-med students are no longer suspicious of one another.

21 years later, we're glad the university upholds so many school traditions.



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BSB

## **Smith Glosses Issues on Drug Legalization**

#### Dear Editor,

Kyle Smith's comments in the Nov. 14, 1996, issue of *Scholastic* bring up some interesting but regrettably invalid points. Though he provides a dinnertime conversation topic or something to think about while waiting for a computer to become available, Smith fails to address the topic of legalization of drugs completely or effectively.

Eighty years ago, the legislature of the United States was not bored. They did not suddenly decide that Americans were running out of control. As Smith points out, crime was low. The government, therefore, must have had some motive for regulating drugs other than a desire to control American society. For, as Smith says, addicts were a "tiny, controllable minority." The government passed legislation to regulate drugs because drugs were dangerous and addictive. These properties have not changed in the years since 1914.

Though Smith's solution of personal responsibility over authoritarianism is generally a beneficial one, in the case of drugs it is not feasible. Legalization of drugs will do nothing to solve the problem already established in the United States. If all illicit drugs were legalized, drug addicts would not say, "Gee, the government is giving me more personal responsibility. I better react by accepting that responsibility and becoming a more law-abiding citizen." As a freshman, I'm sure Smith has seen his peers do the exact opposite. We freshmen do not necessarily accept our new freedoms by taking more responsibility for ourselves and our actions. If anything, we become less responsible, as is frightfully evidenced by our drinking habits.

Furthermore, addicts are exactly the people who are wholly incapable of accepting and acting upon personal responsibility. Drug highs are caused by brain chemicals reacting to the stimulus of the drug. The brain does not function naturally or normally when one is under the influence of drugs, nor does the residue fully clear itself from the brain before the next drug craving sets in. People addicted to drugs suffer from near-constant impairment. Even if they are willing to accept the increased personal responsibility, they are incapable of making the intelligent or informed decisions that Smith suggests. For an addict, it is not only the brain but also the physical need for the drug that makes the decisions. The legalization of drugs will not cure the addicts, nor will it be conducive to their recovery.

Legalizing drugs will lead to a drop in crime. The problem will still be there — it simply won't be a crime anymore. Likewise, the administration could take away all student rights and then boast that they never once violated them. If the sale of drugs were to become immediately legal, those with already-established drug businesses would see the biggest profits. Drug sales would still be a huge moneymaker, and there is no reason to believe that gangs would stop fighting over the corners and customers, unless Smith means to imply that legalizing drugs would provide enough customers to go around. Smith downplays this fact, but there's no reason not to believe that drug use won't go up. This is again equivalent to the situation of students at Notre Dame. It is permissible for us to drink alcohol on campus, so more of us do so and we do it more often and in greater quantities than when we lived in our parents' houses, where such imbibing was impermissible.

Prisons will no longer be crowded, but drug sellers will still sell drugs and people will still use them. Drug-ridden, underweight, developmentally-delayed infants will still be born, people will still die from overdoses and users will continue to be violent and unpredictable when high. The legalization of drugs will decrease crime, or at least what we call crime, and solve prison overcrowding, but it will not solve the problems that led to the outlawing of drugs in the first place.

Kate Rowland Lyons Hall Freshman

## Scholastic Wants to Hear from You

• What do you think about Student Senate?

- Do you think students have enough rights?
- Do you think religion was created for the sake of survival?

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Letters for Thursday's issue must be submitted by Monday at 5 p.m.

Letters must be signed and include your name, address and phone number. Scholastic reserves the right to edit letters for space.

or e-mail us at:

# Finding a Voice

Student Senate struggles to define itself and figure out exactly what its role is

#### <u>by Jake Mooney</u>

A sk many Notre Dame students how they feel about Student Senate, and you're more likely to receive quizzical looks and questions than informed responses. To many students, the Senate is a hazy entity, a little-understood branch of student government perennially overlooked amid the hotly contested races for student body president and major administrative policy decisions. The average Notre Dame student, however, is not the only one who lacks a clear understanding of the Senate's role and purpose. Many student government members are currently asking the same questions.

EWS

According to the student government constitution, Student Senate is composed of the student body president and vice president, representatives from each class and each dorm as well as the off-campus president, the Student Union Board manager and the student body treasurer.

While the composition of the Senate is clear, its powers and duties are open for interpretation. In addition to the power to allocate funds and approve certain personnel decisions, the Senate is vested with the power to "formulate and advance the position of the student body on all issues concerning student life."

If this directive seems broad or unspecific, that's because it is. Student Body President Seth Miller thinks this vagueness is beneficial. "The Senate's function is what its members want to make of it," he comments, adding that the Senate "is there to offer a forum for student leaders to discuss campus-wide issues."

Enough of these student leaders are concerned about the Senate's role in student government, though, that a 20-person committee is in the process of investigating possible reforms of the Senate, and the way the entire student government works. Brendan Kelly, chief of staff of student government and a member of the Senate, organized the committee and is pushing for student government reform. Kelly, who is in his third year as a member of student government, says, "After a while, some things become obvious. People aren't working well together."

Though Kelly will head the reform committee, he feels that the changes will have support from other Senate members. "There's already a lot of support on an unity and effectiveness. The reform committee will try to get to the root of these problems by examining, among other factors, a more effective way to continue ideas from one year to the next. Kelly cites continuity problems as one of the Senate's biggest obstacles. "Every year we have the same problems, and we make very little progress," he says. "We have to start over every year, and we end up looking naïve. Why should the administration give us what we want when we can't organize ourselves?"

Miller agrees that with better continuity, the Senate would function more effectively. "Our reputation with the administration goes to what we've done in the past, and if we could get up to speed quicker, we could do a more efficient, better job," he says.

Both Miller and Kelly are quick to point

"We have to start over every year, and we end up looking naive. Why should the administration give us what we want when we can't organize ourselves?" — Brendan Kelly

individual basis. We need to present a large package," he says.

Kelly disagrees with Miller's assertion that the Senate's flexibility works to its advantage. "The Senate is very flexible, but so flexible that its role is ambiguous, and it has failed to reach its potential," he says.

According to Kelly, the main problems with the Senate are a lack of consistency,

out that the current Senate has taken steps to improve communication with previous administrations, but that the constitution does not explicitly require such efforts to maintain continuity between student government administrations. "I think it's fair to assume we'd look at subcommittees to work on transition," Miller says.

Another issue the committee may exam-

ine is the composition of the Senate. Currently, the student body president is a voting member of the Senate, and some students, including Kelly, see this as a conflict of interest. According to Kelly, "The Senate should be a check on the president. It should be reviewing what the president does."

Miller, however, sees no such conflict, and emphasizes that the Senate's job is to represent the whole student body. He does acknowledge, though, that there could be a potential conflict in the president and Student Union Board manager serving on the budget committee.

Student Body Treasurer Erin Hoffman agrees, saying that there are "self-interest problems" with the formulation of the budget. While Hoffman attributes many of these problems to the fact that newer, inexperienced officials are forced to try to organize their budgets, she also says that "there are no checks and balances," and that some non-elected positions, like the treasurer, "could lend themselves to being a problem."

Hoffman also disagrees with the idea that the president should be prevented from serving on the Senate. "If we elect a president to represent us, he should be running things, and should be there to look out for us and build consensus," she says.

Another issue is why the student body treasurer and the Student Union Board manager — both non-elected officials — are allowed to vote on issues that do not directly relate to their areas. "Erin Hoffman and the people in SUB are great at what they do, but that depends solely on the people in the positions," Kelly says. "Why should they vote on GLND/SMC or the Alumni/Senior Club? These are sensitive issues."

Hoffman disagrees. "Any student leader is qualified to have an opinion," she explains. "We don't represent a contingency, but that's not unique." Hoffman adds that the treasurer is the only student government official who has an overall view of every organization.

Miller also feels that these groups should remain as voting members of the Senate. "Both groups are important to student life, and their areas of operation are vital," he says. "The Student Senate is a representative body."

Besides being reluctant to change the composition of the Senate, Miller also disputes the idea that the Senate is ineffective, and points out that the Senate has been making progress on several issues this year. In shaping university policy, Miller thinks that this year the Senate has been "an arena for students to form solidarity and express their opinions" on such issues as *du Lac* revisions, campus improvements and the usage of the Alumni/Senior Club. Specifically, he points to the work the Senate did in making a recommendation to the Campus Life Council during the controversy over the College Democrats' right to protest.

This year, however, it has been unclear whether the actions of Student Senate have made an impact on the administration. Student Senate sent a letter dated October 30 to Professor Patricia O'Hara, vice president for Student Affairs. The letter recommended that a committee be formed to discuss the structure of *du Lac*, disciplinary hearings and student rights. O'Hara responded to their recommendations in a letter dated November 13. However, her letter was addressed to Miller and Megan Murray, student body vice president, rather than the Senate as a whole. In this letter, O'Hara wrote that the Campus Life Council (CLC) is the appropriate forum for such discussions.

Kelly disagrees with Miller regarding the amount of influence the Senate actually had on the administration's handling of these issues. He points out that Student Affairs is only required to respond to the CLC, not to Student Senate. "What the Student Senate should be doing is researching the issues, so we present a united front to push things through the CLC," he says. In Kelly's view, the way to achieve this unity is to increase the size of the Senate and achieve "wider democratic representation." He cites disagreement among Senate members as a major factor in the administration's treatment of the Senate. "Bill Kirk and the rest of the administration will respond positively if they feel that we have a clear consensus," he says.

While most student government members would agree that Student Senate can be an influential force, the dispute over how it will accomplish this goal, and how well it has served in the past, will continue. Miller says that the Senate should serve as "the students' voice," but just how strong this voice is remains uncertain.





### NEWS

A year after its founding, Right Reason has established itself as a conservative, Catholic and often controversial voice on campus and they have done it ...

# By Independent Means

#### BY BRIDGET BRADBURN

Steal

raduate student Dan Moloney announced his resignation on the same day that Lou Holtz did. But unlike Holtz's

\*\*\*\*\*\*USSEDECTION ISSUE

Love the Republican,

Republicanism

on Catholics voting Democrat

on a real Pro-Life Movement

RIGHT REASON

all of us" and he thought the best way to ensure this was to hand the reins over to an undergraduate.

"Right Reason has to be an undergraduate paper for it to continue. That's part of the reason I wanted to move on," says Moloney, who is in his third year as a graduate

> student in philosophy. "There needs to be some transition or it will become stag-

nant."

The vitality that Moloney hopes will be preserved is characterized by a strong, conservative, Catholic voice. Moloney and his sister Sheila, a senior at the time, founded the paper last year to "call Notre Dame to pay attention to its Catholic character," Moloney says. "We try to document how Notre Dame is not living up to its Catholic ideals. We try to reflect on Catholic character and how that reflects on education. culture and politics."

Moloney saw a need for a publication with this goal because he didn't see a forum available for

students to debate issues in campus news. In his first year here, he was bothered by the philosophy department's attempts to appoint a pro-choice professor to the chair in ethics and the GLND/SMC controversy.

"There are ways in which the Catholic teaching on homosexuality is being used for political gain," he says. "I saw a need for an independent newspaper that could talk about these things."

A year after its founding, the voice that Right Reason has adopted, the issues it addresses and the opinions it embraces have sparked reactions around campus. These reactions have taken many forms, from the theft of 2,000 issues last spring by two GLND/SMC members to an article in Common Sense this semester questioning their funding and political ideology (see sidebar). But throughout it all, the editors of Right Reason have remained steadfast in their views.

Many students are put off by this agenda. "I think there's an inherent fallacy in saying that they're trying to maintain a Catholic character because ... I disagree with their presentation of what Catholic character is," says junior René Rimelspach. "I think it involves more social justice than I see coming through in their articles."

Unfortunately, the editors think much of the criticism Right Reason commonly gets is not as well-informed. "I know a lot of people dismiss it because they think they know what it says," says Senior Editor Josh Hochschild.

Publisher Fred Kelly, who will take over as editor in chief with the next issue, also recognizes that much of the criticism they receive is uninformed. "I find that most

resignation, Moloney's resignation was not surrounded by controversy over whether he was forced out or was leaving of his own volition. Moloney decided to step down as editor in chief of Right Reason because he wants the paper to be something that "outlasts

Stan Evans

ironic," he says. "[The criticism] stems from readers' ignorance."

The editors believe misunderstandings most often surround the humor and irony in the newspaper. But they feel this satire is vital to their purpose. "there are people who don't agree with the views but objectively can appreciate the humor and irony," Hochschild says.

But Rimelspach does not think that their style of humor belongs in a newspaper. "It detracts from their legitimacy. It's in poor journalistic taste sometimes," she says.

"The way to approach the self-important liberalism on campus ... requires not pointby-point rebuttal, but satire," Moloney says. But he believes this satire goes over the heads of many of *Right Reason*'s readers. "Some people don't get the jokes, the satire ... not by a long shot. A lot of people think that satire isn't compatible with Christianity."

Criticism is a motivation for what *Right Reason* does, Moloney admits. "When people write for *Right Reason*, they know they won't be extremely popular. ... [But] because you write for *Right Reason*, you wear the criticism as a badge of honor." At the same time, though, he says, "A lot of people [at Notre Dame] don't take a strong position [on issues]," and the "counter-cultural role that *Right Reason* plays ... cause[s] people to be put off [by the idea of] writing for us."

While *Right Reason*'s relationship with some members of the the student body and faculty has been volatile, it has found an ally in Professor Ralph McInerny, director of the Jacques Maritain Center. McInerny allows the staff to use the center for layout and production of the issues.

McInerny acts as an advisor "only informally," Kelly says. "We don't consult him often." Hochschild adds that both he and Moloney, who knew each other during their undergraduate years at Yale, already had experience in campus journalism and didn't see a need for an official advisor. And while Moloney says *Right Reason* is "considering down the road registering as a student group," they are nervous about how much editorial control a university advisor would have. Joe Cassidy, director of Student Activities, points out that all official student media establish their own editorial policies, though.

Hochschild says that one of the reasons the newspaper is deliberately not an official student organization is that they knew they would be criticizing the administration and



READING HIS RIGHTS. This student explores the articles the editors hope will remind students of the university's Catholic character.

did not know how much editorial control the administration would claim. He believes they have the best of both worlds right now, since they have permission to distribute on campus but don't have to be accountable to the administration in any way.

Hochschild believes McInerny understands these concerns. "He asked not to be made an official part of the newspaper because he didn't want us to feel beholden to him," Hochschild says. "And he wouldn't claim to agree with everything we publish."

But no one seems to know whether an unofficial student group can use university

office space, although the administration has asserted in the past that unrecognized student groups can not university facilities as meeting places. Kelly believes the relationship is legitimate "if we have the professor's permission." But Cassidy was not aware that the staff was using McInerny's office space and says he does not know if it is within the boundaries of *du Lac*.

Sr. Jean Lenz, assistant vice president of Student Affairs, also does not know of any rules regarding professors' involvement in unofficial student groups or the groups' use of office space. "I don't think we have any

7

jurisdiction over that," she says. "That's more [the professors'] business. ... We have no policy in Student Activities and there is no policy in *du Lac*."

When asked about his relationship with the newspaper, though, McInerny responded angrily. He stresses that he has never been questioned about providing office space to the staff and says he would "find it very odd that anyone would raise the question."

And while neither Lenz nor Cassidy were aware that *Right Reason* is laid out and produced in McInerny's office, they both stress that the issue of faculty involvement in unrecognized student groups has never before been raised and they don't see it as a potential problem.

Overall, the editorial board is satisfied with the impact the paper has had on campus over the past year, and they are optimistic about the future. "We would like to continue what we're doing and do it better," Moloney says. "The quality of writing is very good .... and the quality of thought is very good at *Right Reason*, but I see us having a more educational role [in the future]."

Hochschild has less specific goals in mind. "In the first five years, it's hard to tell what the final identity is going to be. College traditions are strange because there is so fast a turn-over," he says. He hopes the current editorial board can give the paper "enough of a structure and an identity that people can inherit it without feeling they have to reinvent it." But he thinks that *Right Reason*'s "primary identity will always have something to do with standing up for Notre Dame and its orthodoxy."

## Getting by with a Little Help from Their Friends

For a newspaper that exists to stir up debate on campus, *Right Reason* has escaped a potentially significant controversy over the details of their financing.

Last year, *Right Reason* received \$3,000 in seed money from the Bradley Foundation, a Milwaukee-based philanthropic organization that funds charitable organizations and hospitals in Milwaukee. They also donate large sums of money to right-wing think tanks, magazines, scholars and journalists.

One of the Bradley Foundation's more controversial donations have been to authors whose work is considered by many to be racist. They funded authors Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray who wrote *The Bell Curve*, a book that proposed that intelligence is based on the genetic predisposition of each race, with blacks being on the low end of the spectrum.

*Right Reason* did not receive any widespread criticism for their attachment to the Bradley Foundation, though. "I don't think anyone knew or cared," Senior Editor Josh Hochschild says. "For anyone who watches, they know there are these think tanks who give money to publications. They don't even blink at giving out money. ... A couple thousand is really not that much money."

One person who has taken issue with the foundation, however, is Director of Gender Studies Kathleen Biddick. Biddick wrote a column titled "What Price Does it Cost to Silence Queers at ND?" which was printed in both the Gender Studies newsletter and in *Common Sense*. In the column, Biddick implored students to "go back to [their] dorms and dining halls and talk among [them]selves about the way knowledge is coming to be bought and sold at Notre Dame." After detailing some of the activities of the foundation, Biddick asked, "Is this the Foundation we want to invest in the intellectual elite at Notre Dame?"

But Publisher Fred Kelly defends the Bradley Foundation and their more controversial activities. "They're not racist. They can be construed as such [in today's society], but I don't mind being associated with them," he says. them or employed by them," Hochschild adds.

According to *Right Reason*, this year they are funded by a few hundred dollars in subscriptions and \$1,500 from the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, which has also received donations from the Bradley Foundation and funds conservative newspapers at schools nationwide.

One of the benefits *Right Reason* would reap if it sought recognition as an official student group would be the ability to apply for university funds. "I like being independent, but it would be nice to have some money," Kelly says. He fears that "along with student government money comes some restrictions."

It is also unclear as to whether *Right Reason* would have to make financial concessions if they were to gain official recognition. While no official steps in seeking recognition have been taken yet, Kelly says that if they would have to forfeit their outside grants, *Right Reason* probably would not seek official status.

Director of Student Activities Joe Cassidy thinks it is premature to ponder the fate of their outside grants before action has been taken on gaining recognition, though. "It's putting the cart before the horse," he says. "Why look at funding before looking at whether we are interested in recognizing them?" And Cassidy is not sure how much interest there would be in recognizing them. "What purpose would they serve that current publications don't already?" he asks. "They'd have a tough sell."

Moloney disagrees with this idea. "We're obviously very different from other papers on campus," he says. "*Right Reason* is a journal with a point of view. We fill a niche just in a sense of being a journal of opinion."

While it might change if *Right Reason* ever does seek official status, Moloney speaks of the current challenge of "trying to be a student group while officially off-campus. Notre Dame has been very nice to us ... they've been very forgiving." Still, he admits, "it would be nice to have the privilege of being a student group and the freedom of being off-campus."

"We don't make any money from them; we are not beholden to

— by Bridget Bradburn



## Tackling the TCE

Teacher course evaluations are intended to improve teaching, but it is unclear how much weight students and teachers give them

#### BY LAUREL PAFFHOUSE

T's that time of year again. There are about 10 minutes left in class, and the professor is passing around a stack of pink Scan-Tron forms. They are the Teacher Course Evaluations, and students know the drill. The forms are halfway finished even before the professor leaves the room as students rush to escape class a couple minutes early.

Teacher Course Evaluations (TCEs) are intended to help professors improve their teaching and their courses. However, students and professors question how useful they really are. A major problem with TCEs is that students and professors regard the form differently. Many students just think the form is an inconvenience and a waste of time. As sophomore Greg Barlin says, "They're a pain."

Since students do not see the results of TCEs, many are unclear about the impact of the evaluations and tend to fill out the surveys flippantly. Senior Carrie McKnight believes that the "purpose [these evaluations] have for tenured professors" is nebulous. Many students, like McKnight, think that their comments and evaluations are unimportant, since it often seems that anything less than a scandal for a tenured professor will not change their teaching position.

Professor Ursula Williams believes students take the TCEs as seriously as their professors lead them to believe they should. When teachers treat the evaluation as unimportant by allotting only a small amount of time for students to complete it, students think professors will regard TCE results with the same lack of concern. "Students are smart. They catch on," says Williams.

Junior Brendan Kelly, chief of staff of student government and a member of the Student Academic Council Committee (SACC), thinks the difference in viewpoint between students and professors causes many of the problems with TCEs.

According to Kelly, "students aren't going to take them seriously" because they are ready to head home after a semester of classes. The evaluations are doled out late in the semester and any complaints students have concerning the professor or course cannot be fixed since "the damage is done." Kelly also thinks students are unaware of the importance these results play in the promotional and tenure decisions for professors, and that causes students to be careless while filling out the surveys.

Despite student skepticism, some professors say that TCE results are very important to them. Professor Umesh Garg, says he "has no idea" how seriously students respond to the TCE, but he still takes them "very, very, seriously." He believes the comment section, in particular, is a "truly useful source of information." In fact, he remarks that he "would not trade [the comment section] for anything else." Williams, too, says she has "always taken them seriously."

Changes in the TCE may be underway, however. Kelly says the SACC is currently looking at ways in which the TCE can be improved. Although the recommendations have yet to be determined, Kelly hopes to see the evaluation administered earlier in the semester. TCE questions regarding the teacher's enthusiasm and a question identifying each participant's gender are also being proposed.

Teacher evaluations have come a long way since their inception, though. Professor Edward Cronin says, "They are 100 percent, 1,000 percent, better than what they used to be."

The current teacher course evaluations emerged largely due to Cronin's efforts. According to Cronin, originally one student from each class would evaluate the professor. After the results of a particular evaluation, however, Cronin says that "a very fine professor received a low grade." As it turns out, the student who evaluated this professor never went to class, which resulted in the undesirable evaluation.

Cronin recognized the injustice of this criticism, so he petitioned to have the evaluations reshaped. Cronin headed a group of three people that investigated "nearly 40 teacher course evaluations from colleges across the nation." They took the best from each evaluation and formatted a survey that evaluated a teacher's performance in class based on student comments. For the most part, Cronin's reformed evaluation parallels the one that current students fill out every semester, and the goal of today's TCE is the same: to evaluate how a teacher transfers knowledge to a student.

But many want to see improvements made on the TCE in the near future. Kelly, for one, hopes that students and faculty members will allow the teacher course evaluation to reach its maximum potential. "People are very open to change. It's just hard to get them to do it," he says.

9

### CAMPUS LIFE

# With Honors

The Notre Dame Honors Program provides a small group of students with some unique opportunities in the classroom

LOUBEL L. CRUZ

BY



they are designated as the "best and gifted" of Notre Dame.

Among the already intelligent student body here at Notre Dame, there lies an elite group of scholars. This small group consists of only about two percent of the student population, about 80 people in both the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Science. This exclusive group is the Honors Program, where the students are given a more challenging workload and a more rigorous course design.

The Notre Dame Honors Program was founded in 1983 by the deans of the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Science. The program was intended to make the intellectual resources of both the colleges available to students who have the desire and background to profit from their resources. "The Honors Program is focused right at the intersection of both colleges," says Professor Cornelius Delaney, director of the Honors Program. "It's an attempt to get very gifted students who are capable of doing advanced work in both."

The Honors Program promises their students smaller classes, a more intellectual classroom environment and the best professors at the university. Another perk is that honors students have priority getting into classes. Basically, they can enroll in any course they need for their major or want to take

Qualified students are invited by Kevin Rooney, director of Admissions, to apply to the Honors Program during their senior year of high school after they are admitted to the university. "Rooney selects ... those [students] he thinks would benefit the most from doing work in both the College of Science and the College of Arts and Letters, and those students are the ones that are invited into the program," Delaney says. Students accepted into the program have expressed an interest in doing work in both colleges and have demonstrated that they are qualified to do both.

In spite of the extra work, students find the benefits of the program make it worthwhile. "It took me a long time to decide whether I wanted to be in the program because of the extra work," junior Bridey Grant says. "But I really liked the idea of getting into all the classes I wanted to take. I knew that I would be able to fit all my classes into my schedule without any problem."

Senior Laura Eidietis enrolled in the program primarily because of the smaller classes. "I knew that meant I would get more individual attention," she says.

The honors students also like being challenged intellectually. "I knew that the Honors Program was harder and more demanding, and that it would force me to do more work than if I was in the easier courses," remarks senior Matt Mendlik.

Of course, honors students face more demanding academic expectations than the average Notre Dame student. "Most of the courses they have in the program are highly intensive seminars, as opposed to the general lecture courses," Delaney says. "The main difficulty is that the students are doing this throughout the whole spectrum of disciplines, not just the one they are interested in."

During the freshman year, honors students have a structured, fairly rigorous courseload. They take a year-long writing seminar and are also required to take courses in science, philosophy and a social science. Science majors are required to take extra science courses and enroll in Calculus 165/ 166, while Arts and Letters students enroll in a yearlong foreign language course and Calculus 195/196. The math, philosophy and seminar courses consist of all honors students. These classes are more writingintensive than regular classes. Some honors philosophy classes, for instance, require a 10-page paper every week.

The numerous courses required for freshman honors students makes that year particularly challenging. "Freshman year is definitely the hardest, somewhat like a proving ground," Mendlik says. "You have to take harder chemistry and biology classes, and I probably wrote 100 pages total for my philosophy class."

After their freshman year, students begin work in their majors and take regular classes, although their courses are mostly upper level. For instance, their second philosophy course must be a 300 or 400 level course. The remaining academic requirements include an honors senior seminar, and honors students must complete a senior thesis or research project in their last year, since some majors don't require one. The students usually begin this project during the first semester of their junior year.

Eidietis likes this aspect of the program. "It's a good idea for a science major to do a research project, and the Honors Program allows you to do this," she says. A biology major, Eidietis spent last summer at the upper Michigan and Wisconsin border studying the eating habits of aquatic insects.

Since enrollment in the Honors Program is small compared to the entire student population, honors students tend to have classes with the same people. "I like knowing a lot of people, and since we have such small classes with the same students, the [number of] people we get to meet is very limited," Grant says.

While the program does promote a unique camaraderie, the students do not associate only amongst themselves. "We are all close friends because the classes are so small, but I'm not just friends with honors students," says Eidietis.

Sophomore Arthur Cunningham feels the same way. "I know all the students in the program well, but I have close friends that are not in the program," he says. "I do like, however, to sit down and talk and have discussions with other Honors students."

Although the Honors Program does offer numerous benefits, it also has its drawbacks. Students are occasionally frustrated with the workload as well. "I sometimes feel that I am doing a lot more work than I should be required to do," Cunningham says.

But the students enrolled in the program don't seem to mind the workload too much. According to Delaney, most students stay in the program all four years — the retention rate is over 90 percent.

The reasons the students stay enrolled are

varied. Many honors students admit that they like the Honors seal that is placed on their transcripts, but they also appreciate the self-satisfaction that comes from their participation in the program. "I learn more from the people I'm with than the classes, and both are incredibly enlightening," freshman Kristen Bogner says.

Cunningham thinks honors students get more out of their classes because they are so challenging. "It is hard work, but if you don't appreciate the gratification, you shouldn't be in it," he says. "It took me a long time to decide whether I wanted to be in the program because of the extra work, but I really liked the idea of getting into all of the classes I wanted to take." — Bridey Grant



STUDY BREAK. Professors Cornelius Delaney and David Lodge unwind at an Honors Program picnic. The small size of the program promotes camraderie among its students.

### CAMPUS LIFE

tales from the crypt



Students recount horror stories from the infirmary, from misdiagnoses to creative medical advice

#### BY ALLISON FASHEK

t's starting again. There's a tickle in the back of your throat, your head is aching and your temparature is see-sawing faster than the thermostat in DeBartolo. All you want to do is curl up in bed and hide under the covers while Mom makes chicken soup. Yes, once again the flu season is here. It doesn't matter how many shots students roll up their sleeves

for, the flu will hit hundreds of innocent Notre Dame students in the coming months. Since most students don't have the option of retreating homeward to recover, they turn to the next best thing: the infirmary.

OK, it's probably more truthful to say that most flu victims would rather chew off their own

arms than make the fateful journey to the infirmary. This sentiment is not surprising, considering the number of scary stories from infirmary victims. Sophomore Brian Tomcik dreaded visiting the infirmary so much that he waited over a month before he finally admitted that he needed to visit it. "I thought I could shake it," he says, but in the end there was no other choice, and he "gave up the fight."

Everyone seems to have a personal tale from the crypt of health services. Senior Matthew Joss recalls a horror story from his freshman year. "It was right after the Purdue weekend — I had a sore throat, bloodshot eyes, the works," he says. The doctor at the infirmary wrote a prescription, telling him he probably had strep throat, even after Joss repeatedly asked for a mono test. "The nurse told me, 'No, it's not mono."" Sure enough, when he went home for fall break he was diagnosed with mono, and missed the majority of his November classes re-

Sophomore Rosemary Sage, another infirmary survivor, caught a cold last year on a flight back from spring break. "The doctors told me I had fluid trapped in my ears, and basically I was deaf," she explains. "I had been skiing over break and had a bad burn on my nose. The nurse was more worried about the burn than my cold." Along with some penicillin, the doctors recommended she chew a lot of gum and yawn to pop her ears.

> After emptying several boxes of Trident, she went back for more help. "It had been a while and I was still deaf, so they prescribed a stronger medicine," she says. Sage had never heard of this new drug, but she didn't really pay attention to what the doctor was saying until he sud-

"They're just not as good as Mom." – Matthew Joss

covering.

Later that same year, Joss sprained his ankle during a Bookstore Basketball game and went to the infirmary for a set of crutches. "At first they didn't believe me, that I could barely walk and needed help," he says. "My ankle was so swollen, it was huge." Once he convinced the nurse that he had a legitimate medical complaint, he waited a half an hour and was charged \$30 for the crutches. "They're just not as good as Mom," he says.

denly added, "And by the way, that's a steroid."

Sophomore Kevin Hughes has been to the infirmary twice this year. "I think it was the dining hall food — I ate the pizza both times," he says. Each time he visited the infirmary, he started out with a stomach ache that grew progressively worse, and as a last resort turned to the infirmary. "The first time I went, I told the nurse I had an upset stomach, but she didn't listen," he says. "One nurse was rubbing my stomach, feeling around for something. I don't know what she was doing." He did notice that the doctors and nurses alike were very protective of the dining hall. They defended North Dining Hall, commenting that "the entire South Bend area is having serious flu problems," even though it was only the middle of September. Hughes was not convinced.

Fifth-year student Armando Sobalvarro didn't have a choice about turning to the infirmary. After severely cutting his arm last winter, he ran across campus at 3 a.m. seeking help. "It wasn't a big deal; I was very calm," he explains. "But it was freezing cold outside, and I had run all the way over there." Thinking he had broken into a cold sweat because of his cut, the nurses began to treat him for shock, making him lie down and ripping off his watch. "They didn't believe me when I told them I wasn't in shock. It was a little bit much; it was like an episode of *ER*," he says.

One particularly bitter ex-infirmary patient, who wishes to remain anonymous, was feeling under the weather for a couple of weeks. She turned to health services and underwent a series of tests. She was told to wait for the results, but they never came. "I finally called them myself. It turns out they had been holding my results for weeks," she says. "When I asked to speak to my doctor I found out he was on vacation for the next two weeks, and I still



wasn't feeling any better." The whole experience left her uncured and unhappy, and she vowed not to return again.

She had to return, however, when her roommate sprained a finger during a Midnight Olympics game of broomball, though. She recalls with horror how a nurse began asking about the nature of the problem. "[The nurse] started flipping through this huge book, looking for the section on fingers and how to treat sprains," she says. The nurse finally asked whether she wanted to go to the emergency room, or take a couple of Tylenol. It wasn't a difficult decision. Her roommate took the pills and ran.

A few good infirmary horror stories are probably the best cure for cold and flu sufferers this season. Perhaps students will be scared into staying healthy.  $\Box$ 

# SOMETHING TO FIT ANY SIZE APPETITE



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### CAMPUS LIFE

For anyone who has never experienced a Northern winter, Scholastic has the answers to all of your questions about snow



#### BY CHRISTIAN DALLAVIS

t's cold out there, campers, so bundle up. For the first time in at least four years, we've had some serious snowfall before Thanksgiving. For many freshmen who are spending their first year north of the Mason-Dixon line, all this snow is pretty strange. So I have taken it upon myself to provide you with this E-Z Guide to Snow and Winter in South Bend.

### ✤ Snow

Snow is white and cold and a bit wet if you hold onto it for too long. It comes from the sky and piles up on the streets and has many fun and exciting uses.

### ✤ Snowmen

Or women. Don't be afraid to create a whole snow menagerie if you want. Just start with a snowball and roll it around until you have a big snow boulder that you can't lift and is covered with mud. Then make two or three more and stack them up. Finish off your creation by sticking a stick in its face along with a few rocks for eyes.

### ✤ Snow Forts

Recreate the battle scene on the frozen ice planet Hoth on North Quad with your very own snow bunker. Forts were always my favorite. Just make walls out of snow as tall as you can, then try to make a roof over it. Use cardboard as a support, or just try to pack the snow real tight. You should have just enough time to crawl inside before it collapses on your head. When I was younger, I used to like to stay in my forts for hours and I often used them to store Twinkies. After you've built your fort, you should move right on to ...

### ✤ Snowballs

Snowballs are easy, fun and illegal. Just pack a little snow into a ball and chuck it at your friend's face. A variation on this is to wrestle your friend to the ground and push his face in the snow, or stuff snow down his or her coat.

### ✤ Snowball fights

Again, illegal. But oh so fun. Here's how to start one: Get your whole dorm out on the quad and have everyone make a snowball. Go straight to Zahm with a few buckets of water, dip your balls in the water to harden them, then join the rest of the campus in throwing snowballs at the people in front of Zahm. Watch out for the security officers with the video cameras — wear a ski mask to avoid future Student Affairs hearings.

### ✤ Eating snow

Snow is low in fat and calories and everything else. In fact, it's just cold water. There's no good reason to eat it, unless you just got beat up in a café while walking home from Superman's Fortress of Solitude where you recently lost your super powers because you were in love with a woman.

### ✤ Snow grafitti

Nothing is more manly than staking out your territory by writing your name in the snow. It's as easy as unzipping your pants. Just don't eat your name when you're done.

## \* Snow angels

Not really fun unless you're about five years old. Lie down in the snow and flail your arms and legs about until you're tired, then get up and ruin your angel by stepping on the imprint.

## ✤ Sledding

Forget any illusions you have about going sledding on campus. The only hill is behind Lewis and it's too short to be any fun. The closest you can get is Kegg-und-Schleiden, which involves getting a keg at your apartment and riding it down a hill. It's even more fun naked.

So for those of you from California or Florida or Texas or wherever, you will see plenty of snow, and you'll wholeheartedly regret not going to your state school. But don't worry, because now you will know how to get the most out of your snow and ice. Just try not to hurt each other, unless of course one of you is from Zahm. CAMPUS COMMENTARY

gipper.1@nd.edu

## Campus Watch BY THE GIPPER

## Attitude, Allegations, and Innuendo

reetings, Gipp lovers! The Gipp has been on his best behavior lately, hoping to fool Santa into believing he's a well-mannered young man yearround. It's been a particularly difficult act, though, considering the Gipp is starting his winter withdrawal. In fact, he was feeling so lonely the other day, he considered calling one of the numbers written on the wall of the stalls in the library basement bathroom.

#### SHADES OF MEANING

Holiday depression aside, the Gipp was amused by a sign in SDH noticed by an alert apprentice Gipp. The sign reads, "All Gods' Children." The theological implications of that misplaced apostrophe are astounding. Should the theology department start screening food service workers? That's a lot to ask, considering they apparently don't have control over hiring their own professors.

#### VIGILANTE ATHLETES

Speaking of control, it seems that some football players have had some trouble keep-

#### Top 10 Most Popular Christmas Gift Requests at ND

- 10. Bulletproof vest (ND Ave. Apartments residents only)
- 9. All-access detex
- 8. Brass knuckles (linemen only)
- 7. Allegro schedule
- 6. Decent haircut at University Hairstylists
- 5. Lunch at SDH in under an hour
- 4. Bike stolen from Flanner
- 3. Promise from Ron Powlus to graduate this spring
- 2. Anything from Campus View (area thieves only)
- 1. Funny student comic strip in
- The Observer

ing it. They were involved in two fights in two days last week, defending their version of justice. On Thursday, after being ejected from Club 23 for fighting, they went to their new enemy's house to settle the score. When they found the front door locked, one of the crew smashed the glass in the front door and invited himself in. Too bad they couldn't break up the USC defense as easily.

On Friday, a couple of friends of two football players were involved in an argument outside CJ's and paid the price in blood. The football players picked up the slack, however, and reacquainted the aggressors with the asphalt.

Morals: Football players are big, naturally or not, and they can pretty much do whatever they want. Depending on who you are, this can either work to your advantage, or put you in the infirmary. If you knock into a football player on the dance floor, get ready to throw down. If you're friends with one of them, you don't have to listen to *anyone* insult you. Must be nice.

#### THIS WAY TO THE MAGIC KINGDOM

How about those mass-produced signs that sprang up all over campus recently identifying all the buildings and landmarks? They're just one more sign that the school is on its way to becoming a convention center. This isn't called the Catholic Disney World for nothing. Plans are underway to build a monorail from Football Fantasyland to the Magic Grotto. By the way, who has the decoder rings for the JACC sign?

#### A CLEAN, WELL-LIGHTED PLACE TO HAVE A CIGARETTE

Smokers on campus have been irritated ever since the campus-wide ban on cigarette smoking and sales was instituted a few **REASON NUMBER 6666 THE GIPP LOVES NOTRE DAME:** Professor Ralph McInerny, addressing his Thought of Aquinas class last fall, referred to certain things everyone knows are definitely wrong, such as "murder, homosexuality and premarital sex." Well, the Gipp will see you all in hell. The remaining five students can build Augustine's City of God here on campus.

years ago. The administration hasn't been so hard on alumni, though. Members of the Sorin Society can still smoke in the University Club. A representative of the Sorin Society said they wanted to take the smoking policy "one step at a time."

The Gipp wonders why he wasn't treated to the same "baby-steps" as the alumni. Does it have anything to do with the fact that he doesn't donate more than \$2,000 a year to the university? Shame on you, Gipp, for such thoughts during the Yuletide season!

#### **RIGHT MAKES RULES**

Apparently, no one in the Dome has given any thought to *Right Reason*'s role on campus, including their funding from national right-wing foundations. They distribute on campus, use university resources and shield their bigotry behind "satire" without complication. The Gipp knows of some homosexual students who want to start their own newspaper, and they even have a national foundation to fund it. Wonder if they'll get the green light? Sorry, kids, but only rightwingers pass Go in Irishopoly.

That's it for now, children of the Dome. When the Gipp returns next semester, he'll have some cash in his pocket and a spring in his step — until he arrives back in the land of the sacred tundra and drops \$300 on his books.

But that's better than the pepper spray greeting the enthusiastic students received when they rushed the field after the Rutgers game. Someone should tell the ushers that it's not a security risk when the students rush the field after Holtz's last home game.

If Christmas starts to drag, remember that only some of us can get those endorphin highs naturally — the rest of us need help.  $\Box$ 



Since we are not allowed to have a real tree in our dorm, and an artificial one with shot glass ornaments just doesn't seem to be the same, a friend suggested I listen to some Christmas music. Therefore, on a quest to get into the holiday spirit, I went to the Bookstore's Christmas music bin and purchased six Christmas albums. Some had traditional carols, some had blues, and some were simply ungodly, but all the albums at least mentioned Christmas ...



t is hard to imagine Bush, The Presidents of the United States of America, Sponge, Wool, and Luscious Jackson singing Christmas carols, but on *Come All Ye Faithful: Rock for Choice* these groups come together to make a hard-edged, vigorous album. Like most multi-artist albums today, the CD has a political goal as well. It includes a letter to send to the Speaker of the House encouraging investigation "into all violent anti-abortion groups."

This is definitely not your traditional Christmas collection. Don't expect to hear anyone singing "We Three Kings" or even "Jingle Bells." If you do, you will be shocked when you hear the second track, "I Did it For the Toys." The lead singer for Dance Hall Crashers, Elyse Rodgers, tells about a recent experience she had with Santa in this accelerated tune. Apparently she wanted toys so badly that she, well, you know ... did it with Santa. She never explicitly states this, though, and does "hate to admit it but he was the best I'd ever had." Unfortunately, things did not go too well after that as she says, "He's a pervert you can tell it in his eyes ... he only does it for the joy of little kids bouncing off his thighs."

Even though some tracks of the CD sound like they were thrown together in an hour or so, it contributes positively to the CD's overall laid-back feel. Once you get past the first track by Henry Rollins, the CD opens up and takes hold of many emotions and attitudes associated with a "Generation X" kind of Christmas — joy, confusion, stupidity, sex with Santa and the search for peace. I don't really know what to say about Rollins's contribution to the album; you would just have to hear him for yourself as he reads "'Twas The Night Before Christmas" in a cryptic voice with helicopters and gunfire in the background.

The CD is worth buying just to hear Bush

... Rock for Choice put me in a pretty good mood, but nothing could have prepared me for the next CD that I opened ...

hat would Christmas be without a cozy fire in the fireplace? And what better way to start it than by burning *Dr. Demento, Holidays In Dementia*? Just a few words about this CD: It's *terrible.* Actually, that might be too kind. In the words of one of my roommates, "This is the worst \*&(^#@?! CD I've ever heard." No word that is publishable can really describe this \*&(^#@?! CD.

The CD is merely an attempt at humor. The Surgeon General should put a warning



sing "Good King Somethingorother." Bush mixes together traditional lyrics with some new lines ("a Frenchman carrying nuclear fusion"), a kind of echo-like guitar, and music that at times resembles Jimi Hendrix's "Hey Joe" and The Ramones's "Blitzkrieg Bop."

This is one of the best new compilation

CDs out there, combining a variety of styles with very few weak points. John Lennon might be turning over in his grave as Cranes butchers his classic "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)," but I think he and the rest of the Beatles would bypass this track and listen to the album anyway.



on this CD because it is painful to listen to any of the tracks for more than 30 seconds. *Dementia* includes modified traditional Christmas songs ("The Twelve Pains of Christmas") and a few new songs that won't become classics anytime soon ("It's So Chic to be Pregnant on Christmas"). Looking at the titles of the songs, one might think the CD has potential, but don't be fooled. "Hanukkah Rocks" and "Hanukkah Homeboy" don't hold a candle, let alone nine candles, to Adam Sandler's famous "Hanukkah Song."

Just the word *Dementia*, synonyms of which include madness, craziness, insanity, senility and mania, should give you a clue as to the CD's quality. Most songs use a synthesizer and have a back drum beat, so please don't buy the CD for the music. Actually, don't buy the CD for any reason. If you're looking for humor this Christmas, try giving Uncle Bob eggnog spiked with Everclear.

... After I left the room with Dementia playing, I was relieved to find a pyromaniac taking a torch to the CD. I decided to put in something more classic to renew my holiday spirit ...

erry Christmas!" Sounds harmless, doesn't it? Perhaps that's the reason I next put in Merry Christmas by Bing Crosby. Every year, after my family goes to 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service, we drive around looking at Christmas lights. On Christmas Eve all the radio stations have their Christmas randomizers playing and we always hear traditional songs featuring Crosby. I think there is a reason why the songs from Merry Christ-

*mas* are so appropriate for the post-church drive. When Crosby sings, he personifies the Christmas spirit. I don't know what kind of guy Bing really is, but on the album he sounds sincere, almost fatherly.

The album was first recorded on record in 1961 and the CD still has that kind of scratchy, imperfect sound quality that gives *Merry Christmas* its solemn character. If you're in the right mood, "Adeste Fideles" and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" over-



## Muppets Overshadowed by Has-Been

ince my childhood, I have always been a Muppets fanatic. I have nearly every word of *The Great Muppet Caper* memorized, and dozens of Muppet pictures and posters adorn my dorm room wall. The one piece of Muppet memorabilia I had never been able to get my hands on, though, was John Denver and the Muppets' 1979 album, A *Christmas Together*. Last Wednesday, this album, which I have been anticipating my entire life, was re-released on Laserlight CD. I was so elated that I had my editor take me to Circuit City as soon as it opened just to be the first to get the CD. I was a little surprised that there was no line outside the door, but my elation soared when I realized that it only cost \$4.99. Who would be willing to sell a CD for a price that low when it contained the priceless music of the Muppets? I soon realized why it was so cheap.

Unfortunately, John Denver, the human companion to the Muppets in this album, seems to overpower the spirit associated with the Muppets. Although the Muppets' fabulous sense of humor shines through in certain parts of the album, the remainder of the album is merely the dry, dull music of has-been country singer John Denver with the Muppets singing backup, allowing very little of their individual personalities to shine through.

Despite its lackluster overall performance, the album begins with a promising start: a Muppet rendition of the classic Christmas carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas." With one Muppet taking each of the 12 verses, this song will surely delight even the greatest of Scrooges. In this

whelm your soul with more than just the Christmas spirit. Now, I'm not saying the album changed my life or anything, but *Merry Christmas* is a classic worth hearing. The album takes a different tone on track

... Bing Crosby recorded Merry Christmas 17 years before I was born, so I decided to listen to something a little more contemporary. But instead of listening to someone I could relate to, I ended up hearing music that at times reminded me more of a Barney Christmas television special ... seven when Crosby sings a kind of cheesy, jazzy version of "Jingle Bells." The rest of the CD is more upbeat — well, about as upbeat as "It's Beginning To Look a Lot Like Christmas" can get. You might not be able to endure Crosby for all 12 tracks, but listen to *Merry Christmas* if you get the chance — even if it's while looking at the tacky Christmas lights on North Quad.



hat do you get when you combine synthesized music with 12th century French chants? *A Fresh Aire Christmas* by Chip Davis might be your answer. American Gramaphone, the company that issues the CD claims "to be a major force behind the creative and technological revolution sweeping the international recording and music industry."

Unaware of this "creative and technological revolution," I eagerly purchased *Fresh Aire*. Forty-two minutes later I decided I wanted 75 percent of my money back because only three of the songs are worth listening to. The album is more than contemporary; it's almost artificial. Listening to *Fresh Aire* after *Merry Christmas* is like eating homemade cookies, then drinking skim milk. Skim milk and *Fresh Aire* just leave you with a bad taste in your mouth. Give me chocolate milk and music not domineered by computers and supersaturated with sound effects.

The CD opens with "Hark! The Herald Trumpets Sing." The title itself is shady, and the song is even worse. Any music that reminds one of Barney, as many of the song, the true spirit of the Muppets shows through, especially when Miss Piggy belts out verse five, "Five Golden Rings." Her ad-lib "budubum" slipped in after her verse makes an unforgettable addition to the song.

After listening to the first song, one expects the rest of the album to be a delightful mixture of Muppet humor and Christmas spirit. This notion is quickly dispelled when the second song begins. This song, a duet of Rowlf the Dog and John Denver singing "Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas" is somewhat pleasing to the ear, but it makes watching paint dry seem exciting. Rowlf's normal hilarious slipups in words, like the unforgettable transposition of "lease" and "leash" in *The Muppet Movie*, are not present. Rowlf's flawless singing may sound nice, but it isn't what has come to be expected of the Muppets. Unfortunately, the album continues to go downhill from here. Of the remaining songs, most are just John Denver songs with a chorus

Unfortunately, the album continues to go downhill from here. Of the remaining songs, most are just John Denver songs with a chorus of Muppets in the background. Songs on this album like "The Peace Carol" and "A Baby Just Like You" are original John Denver creations that lack originality and a fun-loving spirit.

But two rare jewels are added into the medley of John Denver solos. The Muppets sing a version of "Christmas is Coming" and the traditional banter between Piggy and Gonzo makes it a delightful song. Also, "We Wish You A Merry Christmas," in which Piggy becomes upset because she believes Christmas pudding is made with bacon, is a worthy addition to any collection. Unfortunately, these two songs and "The Twelve Days of Christmas" cannot be purchased individually.

This album may be appealing, particulary at its low price, but don't be fooled. It is merely a vehicle for John Denver's career. It is unfortunate that the good reputation of the Muppets had to be stepped on by Denver. If he had shared the spotlight with the Muppets in more than just the three noted tracks, this Christmas release would be worth adding to any collection.

— by Brian Christ

synthesized tracks do, should have no place in your CD collection. Fortunately, not all the tracks are digitized. "Veni Veni (O Come, O Come Emmanuel)" is a calm yet passionate chant. "Greensleeves" has a few artificial parts, but overall is a good piece. However, the effluence of chimes and bells and whistles and drum beats and horns in "Carol of the Bells," the next track, reminds me more of *The Phantom of the Opera* "Overture" than silver bells.

Granted, there is nothing wrong with

*Phantom*, it's just that when I listen to *Fresh Aire* I feel like I'm drinking trendy flavored coffee and having a meaningless conversation in a phony coffee shop. For best results this holiday season, don't give this album to anyone you really care about.



f you want an album that everyone will enjoy, from Aunt Sally to your roommate, try *Billboard's Greatest Christmas Hits (1955-Present)*. How can anyone not like "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer?" Even my Grandma, though I tell her it's ominous, sings along. However, if you really want to please Grandma, put on the first track, "Jingle Bell Rock." You'll see her grab Grandpa and dance like they never have before. If they haven't heard enough, let the CD run to the next track, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." This 1957 classic peaked at the number 14 spot

on Billboard's Top 100 and remains a favorite of all ages, even us crazy college kids.

The album also contains some more traditional carols that seem to be played every year. "Little Drummer Boy" and "White Christmas," two songs that every artist seems have a version of, are interspersed throughout the album. Even though they may not have the originality of the other songs on the album, they are well worth including on a Christmas hits album.

"The Chipmunk Song," complete with Dave yelling at Alvin, Simon and Theodore, is a snappy tune, as are most of the songs on ... Once again I turned to Christmas music that I could count on, without all the bells and whistles and bells. The next CD I found turned out to be essential to any holiday collection ...

Billboard's Greatest Christmas Hits. Of course, Christmas wouldn't be complete without Elvis. The King sings "Blue Christmas" with all his heart in the way that no one else can emulate. Then, there is "Nuttin' for Christmas," my roommate's Christmas theme song. Apparently he's done some things that Santa would consider "naughty."

This album is, as I said earlier, an essential. Give this CD as a gift to anyone of any religion and they are bound to love you for it. You might not sing these carols in church, but hey, you don't exactly drink eggnog there either. ... After listening to five Christmas albums in a row, I was getting tired. Unfortunately, the next CD didn't help much. But it wasn't the release that made me drowsy, it was that I didn't follow the instructions ...

picked Slow Jams Christmas, Volume I out of the "Price Busters" bin, so I was a little suspicious from the start. My suspicions were further aggravated when I saw this sticker on the front on the case: "Put another log on the fire, 'cause this album's hot!" Very, very, suspect.

After I opened the CD case and looked at the inside cover, I found this: "Instructions for Maximum Holiday Enjoyment. 1. Light fireplace. 2. Uncork champagne. 3. Light candles ... etc ..... 6. Get close to your baby." So, I guess this CD, technically, is for everyone out there with a baby.

Despite your first impression, however,



This CD is best when lights are low.

Slow Jams Christmas might surprise you. It features songs from 11 popular artists, including The Temptations, The Whispers, and Charles Brown. The songs have a jazzy, Motown feel that many people don't hear this time of year. Nat King Cole's classic rendition of "The Christmas Song," is one everyone can sing along with, even if they don't have a baby.

Sometimes the album drags on, so *Slow Jams Christmas* is appropriately named. The CD is best when lights are low or late at night when winding down to sleep. Sometimes the songs seem to run together, time passes, and the CD suddenly ends. None of the tracks especially jump out and grab you, but if you don't like to be grabbed then *Slow Jams Christmas* is for you.

In a few days finals will be over and we will be gone for break. Maybe the Christmas spirit will hit you, maybe it won't. If any of these CDs will help you get into the spirit, then I suggest you pick them up for you or for someone else's stocking. Maybe these CDs will make you sick, or maybe groups like Rage Against the Machine brighten your holiday. But whatever music you choose to listen to, may you and yours have a happy holiday.

## Dave, Brandon, John & Dave Thanks for your 110 percent

1996 Lyons Football







Interhall Champs

## From a team who's all heart!

<u>E</u>NTERTAINM<u>ENT</u>

# HOW WE'LL SPEND OUR CHRISTMAS

## THE SCHOLASTIC STAFF PICKS THEIR FAVORITE FLICKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Kristin Alworth For any student who has plowed through Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* or Kant's *Critique of Practical Reason, Home Alone* is your best bet this season. Granted, it's a juvenile movie without much substance, but that's about all any self-respecting Notre Dame student can handle after finals. Besides, after living with parietals, who hasn't dreamed of being able to play while the parents (a.k.a. Kirk and O'Hara) are away?

Tom Benco A Christmas Story because I always wanted a BB gun.

**Paul Bohensky** The holiday season is simply incomplete without *A Christmas Story*. A glowing leg lamp, decoder ring and the maternal fear of air-powered rifles — everything needed to cheer up even the hardiest Scrooge. This movie is also chock-full of holiday safety tips for children, including the consequences of licking frozen flagpoles and the horrors of soap poisoning. So gather the whole family together, whip up the egg nog and join in the only movie experience that truly reflects the magic of Christmas.

**Bridget Bradburn** For me the Christmas spirit is best exemplified by the holiday scenes in *When Harry Met Sally*... The estranged friends spend the weeks leading up to December 25 apart — she drags a Christmas tree down the streets of New York City alone, and he calls her answering machine to leave "the traditional holiday grovel." It takes a while, but by New Year's Eve they are able to kiss and make up, and they even shed light on the lyrics to "Auld Lang Syne" — "Well, anyway, it's about old friends."

**Brian Christ** Without question, the greatest Christmas movie ever made is the 1992 film *A Muppet Christmas Carol*. The Muppets come alive with this remake of the Dickens classic, their fourth feature film. This movie is the perfect blend of crazy Muppet humor and the Christmas hope of the original story — a must for any Christmas season.

Jeremy Dixon My favorite Christmas movie is *A Christmas Story*. My favorite scene is when Ralphie has to put on his Christmas present from his aunt: a pink bunny suit. He looks so pathetic in the silly outfit and his little brother just laughs at him. It reminds me of all the horrible Christmas presents I have received, although there was never a rabbit outfit for me under the tree.

**Patrick Downes** Due to some odd, nostalgic tendencies, my dad has always had an aversion to any movie made after the 1960s. To

make matters worse, he always seemed to grab the remote control before any of us could get to it. So, today, my favorite Christmas movie is his favorite Christmas movie, *Miracle on 34th Street*. There are bound to be better Christmas movies, though, and some of them might even be in color.

I'd recommend *Miracle on 34th Street* to anyone starting to feel like there is no Santa Claus. This movie will certainly cure you of that delusion.

**Stan Evans** My favorite is *It's A Wonderful Life*. I think Jimmy Stewart gives a really good performance. It's been a Christmas favorite since I was a kid, but I don't like the colorized version. It detracts from the nostalgia.

Sean Hynes My favorite has to be *A Christmas Story* because I like the part where the mother makes the little kid eat his mashed potatoes like a pig. That, and I never had a BB gun, so I can relate.

Chris Myers Nothing tugs at the proverbial heartstrings quite like seeing Al Pacino's Michael Corleone and Diane Keaton's Kay Adams walking outside of Radio City Music Hall, carrying Christmas presents and talking about Ingrid Bergman in *The Bells of St. Mary's*. Passing the decorated windows, Kay sees the newspaper headline announcing the hit on Don Vito and Michael is suddenly reminded that Christmas is really all about being close to the one's you love. Here's to *The Godfather*, a film that reminds us of the importance of family this, and every, holiday season.

Steve Myers When picking a movie during the holiday season, it's important to consider underlying themes, not just setting and plot. Thinking back to those Christmas Eves tucked under the covers, my mind racing with anticipation, I remember imagining Santa gloriously flying across the sky as he spreads goodwill (i.e. toys) across the world. Reminds me of the final scene of *Dr. Strangelove*, where Slim Pickens climbs onto the nuclear bomb in the bomb bay, forces the doors open, and screams, "Yeee-HAAA!" as he gloriously drops to the earth, spreading goodwill (i.e. nuclear bombs) across Russia.

**Meredith Salisbury** All-time favorite: *How The Grinch Stole Christmas.* Even more villainous than that Humbug Scrooge, the Grinch sucks every sign of Christmas out of Whoville, but can't drain the Whos' Christmas spirit. You have to admire a show where the bad guy's heart grows two sizes, everyone cheers the villain, and they even serve up a delicious roast beast. But after all the effort the Grinch goes to dragging those Christmas trees up a mountain, you have to wonder why he couldn't get earplugs to block out the Whos' song.

**Colin Smith** *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas.* I like Mr. Boogeyman — I like how he gets foiled by Santa Claus. My greatest hero takes on my worst nightmare and wins. Now I can sleep at night. (Under my bed is safe.) I also like how the country unites together to fight a common foe when they all shoot down the imposter Santa. And the music is cool, too.

Jenny Stachowiak *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* It's Dr. Seuss and you've gotta love Dr. Seuss. The cartoon has cool music, a heartwarming story, a happy ending and all. You can't go wrong.

ENTERTAINMENT

## • GOOD SPORTS Holiday Bowls

So the Irish aren't going to a bowl game this year. Oh well, at least it's a relief to see that all of that money the athletic department is saving us will be put to good use. It's unfortunate that the Irish didn't wait a little longer to refuse a post-season game, because they may have gotten an invitation to one these coveted "first tier" bowls. Who knows, maybe Mike Wadsworth will reconsider and accept a late invite. After all, we are Notre Dame, and what is a college bowl game without us?

#### The Greed Bowl

This contest is played between two equally money-hungry, if not bowl-deserving, teams. This year, since no athletic director in the country is as financially conscious as Michael Wadsworth, Notre Dame would play themselves in a rematch of the preseason Blue/Gold game. Aptly enough, the game is played at Notre Dame Stadium with tickets being sold for the new uppertier. Though there are no seats in the section, Wadsworth settles the matter by saying, "No one sits for the games anyhow," and gives those ticket-holders a 50-cent discount on the purchase of a stadium brick. The game is spon-

sored by Art Modell, for his "great strides in ruining sports tradition" and the winning team gets to relocate as an NFL franchise in Cleveland. Ironically, that's what the losing team gets too.

#### The Arrogance Bowl

Two teams who think they are "all that," compete in a battle to see whose ego can conquer over all. Here, Notre Dame would face off against BYU, whose season included 11 wins over unranked opponents and only one loss to the fierce Washington Huskies. And, of course, who can forget their overtime victory in the WAC Championship over perennial powerhouse Wyoming. A team like BYU would be a perfect foil for Notre Dame, who proved their worth in arrogance two years ago accepting that Fiesta Bowl invitation. The Arrogance Bowl stubbornly refuses to be called a second tier bowl, and that suits these two teams just fine. Winner gets enough money to deem the bowl "financially acceptable" and a nice gold toilet bowl to flush their pride down.

#### The Dream Bowl

Since the college football world revolves around Notre Dame, the Dream Bowl is the perfect bowl for this year's Irish squad. Despite the team's inconsistency and imperfect record, the Irish can still play for the National Championship in the Dream Bowl. Of course, they'll play an equally deserving team, which is why this year's Dream Bowl Committee chose to have a Notre Dame-Pitt rematch. This time, the Irish shut out the Panthers 152-0 and AP voters are so impressed, they vote the Irish number one. The winner of the Dream Bowl receives 100 billion dollars, the band doesn't perform "YMCA" or "Macarena" once and, yes, we have a kicker, too.

#### The "Screw You" Bowl

Bowl game perfect for those athletic directors with 8-3 teams. Rather than send your team to one of those pesky "second-tier" games, send them here, where they can play for sportsmanship, pride, honor and love of the game. Here, the Irish could play one final game for the seniors, send coach Holtz out with a win (and maybe erase the taste of that USC loss), give the band and cheerleaders one final hurrah and give the fans something to look forward to over the holiday break. Winner gets a sizable sum of money, respectability and recruiting exposure, while avoiding being called arrogant and greedy. Highlight: at halftime, Michael Wadsworth auctions off his mother to the highest bidder.

## ◆ ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS AN "A" Finals Are Comin' to Town

he snow on the ground, the anticipation of students across campus, nervous smiles and late nights. It's time for final exams and you know what that means time to brush up on your cheating. As you pull those endless all-nighters, OOB, in conjunction with the Notre Dame Finance Department, would like to give you these helpful hints on how to cheat properly.

• Don't forget your pens, pencils, calculators and contacts.

Tuck those crib notes inside your pen shafts; pencils allow you to easily change your answers to match your neighbors; preprogram those Casios with plenty o' illegal formulas and clean your contacts for clear eyesight to see the difference between your neighbor's Scantron B and C circles. • Get up bright and early.

Breakfast is the most important part of the day. Grab a quick bite to eat before you get to your exam room early enough to sit next to the curve-wreckers.

• Dress comfortably.

Remember that dressing in layers keeps you warm and conceals all the liner notes you've written on your T-shirt.

Hope these tips help make studying a little easier for you and therefore, the holidays a little brighter. And remember the Finance Major's Creed: If you don't know the answer, somebody else does.

CHRIS MYERS

BY

## SPORTS COMMENTARY

## Lamentations of a Bucs Fan

If you like to follow professional football, don't live in Tampa

#### by Brian Hiro

hose seven New York Jets fans out there seem to think they have it pretty bad. A 1-11 record. The butt of more Letterman jokes than Bill Clinton. The laughingstock of the NFL. Yeah, pretty bad all right.

Now take the pain of a Jets fan, double it and extend it over 20 years. That's the pain of a Tampa Bay Buccaneers fan. The term "fair-weather fan" does not apply to us because we've never known anything but bad weather. Heck, "fan" hardly applies; it's hard to be fanatical about a team so laughably inept. Calling the Bucs the NFL's laughingstock does not do them justice; they're the laughingstock of professional sports history.

All you need to know about the Bucs is that in 1976 when Coach John McKay (I use the title lightly since he was 0-14 that year) was asked what he thought of his team's execution, he replied, "I'm in favor of it." No, on second thought, that's not all you need to know. You need to know a lot more. Just how pathetic are the Bucs? Let me count the ways.

• Not counting the recent expansion teams, they own the worst winning percentage in the history of pro sports. Yes, worse than the Clippers. They could have about eight 10win seasons in a row and still be at the bottom. Something tells me that's not going to happen.

• They just ended a streak of 12 straight years with 10 or more losses by going 7-9 last year. But don't worry. They're back on track this year with two more chances to reach double digits.

• They traded Steve Young back in 1987 to make room for Vinny Testaverde, who set interception records that will never be broken and blamed it all on color blindness. Then they traded Testaverde to Cleveland to make room for Steve DeBerg. At last check, Young and Testaverde were starring and DeBerg was in a retirement home. Their



current "franchise" quarterback, Trent Dilfer, does his best to lose every game by throwing about four interceptions for every touchdown pass.

• They drafted running back Bo Jackson first overall in 1986. Strangely, he discovered a long-lost love for baseball and signed with the Kansas City Royals. Strangely too, he returned to football when the Bucs no longer owned his draft rights.

• They changed the name of the league's ugliest facility from Tampa Stadium to Houlihan Stadium. Catchy, huh?

•As if the Jackson fiasco wasn't bad enough, they can boast the following "Where are they now?" list of top-10 draft picks: Ron Holmes, Broderick Thomas, Keith McCants, Charles McCrae and Eric Curry. And, oh yeah, they traded what would have been the top pick in 1992 for Chris Chandler, a backup quarterback.

• In 1991, they had a chance to hire bigname coaches Bill Walsh, Bill Parcells and Buddy Ryan. Instead they chose offensive "coordinator" Richard Williamson. Never heard of him? You're not alone. After a year, he used the Bucs head coaching job to catapult to Bengals receivers coach. Many called it a parallel move.

• They came out with a team song about a decade ago, distributed on floppy 45s. It went something like this: "Hey, hey, Tampa Bay, the Bucs know how to shine. Hey, hey Tampa Bay, the Bucs know how to shine. If we're in trouble, that's okay; we can pull it out. Because we know we're on the top, we

stand up, stand up and shout." The song's writer is still puzzled why it never caught on. He is now managing David Hasselhoff's music career.

• They once put the future of the "franchise" in the incapable hands of Jack Thompson, unaffectionately known as "The Throwin' Samoan." Needless to say, it didn't work out.

• They once brought in ex-professional wrestler Jesse "The Body" Ventura as a radio analyst. Apparently The Ultimate Warrior turned them down because their games looked so fake.

• In 1985, they tabbed Leeman Bennett to bring the team new life. He went 4-28 in two years as coach.

• They seem to think red and orange is an effective color scheme. I won't even address the mascot, a winking pirate with a feather between his teeth.

But these embarassments aren't even the worst part of following the Bucs. The worst part is the way they tease you, always stringing you along with the promise of a bright future. They'll win three or four meaningless games at the end of the season (they're at it again this year) and suddenly you're anticipating draft day like normal fans anticipate the playoffs. They'll go 3-1 in the preseason and they're "turning the corner." Come to think of it, the Bucs' sorry history has been one big turn of the corner.

No more for this fan. It's time to face reality; that corner is never coming.

Any room on that Broncos bandwagon?



SOPHOMORE SENSATION. Scott Zumbach continues his success with three first-place finishes last weekend. He owns Notre Dame records in the 1650-yard freestyle and the 400-yard individual medley.

#### BY ALYSSA PETERSON

fter the Notre Dame men's and women's swimming teams closed out the first semester of competition with the second annual Notre Dame Invitational last weekend, they now turn their attention to their yearly winter training trip. This year the Irish will travel to prepare for the second half of the season.

The men's team will be traveling to Brazil in January for 10 days of intense training and competition. "We're all excited to train in that environment," says senior Ry Beville. "Being in a new place will make it easier to work hard."

The past four months of practices have been more strenuous then ever before. "We're training harder than in the past, so we're pretty tired and probably won't see significant results until next semester," Beville says.

But the men have already seen some impressive races against tough competition. In dual meet action, the Irish defeated Western Ontario and Boston College while narrowly losing to Ball State and Connecticut.

"We've faced some great teams, but we've progressed at every meet with our times steadily improving," says senior captain Matthew Rose. "Last weekend [at the Invitational] especially gave us a chance to turn in some really fast times."

After the first two days of the three-day invitational, the Irish took the lead over Buffalo and UConn, but the Huskies pulled out the meet victory on the last race, winning by one point. Sophomore Scott Zumbach won both individual medley events, continuing his successful season, while freshman Herb Huesman, still recovering from a knee injury, was a double winner on the springboards.

Zumbach's and Huesman's performances are fulfilling the expectations of Head Coach Tim Welsh. "Scott Zumbach is one of the swimmers we are really counting on this year," Welsh said at the start of the season. Welsh is also depending on Huesman, a four-time high school All-American, to enhance the men's diving program. "He is on a more elite level of U.S. diving and his presence will help out the other divers on the team."

Huesman is not the only freshman making waves for the Irish. With 15 newcomers to the squad, fresh enthusiasm has been added to training and competition. The young swimmers are helping the Irish on the scoreboard with several victories so far this season from freshmen Antonio Fonseca (breaststroke/free), John Lubker (free), Robert Fetter (free/IM), and Sean Casey (free).

The depth of the freshman class, added to the strength of the upperclassmen, should allow the Irish to reach their season goals. "We want to keep dropping our times at every dual meet next semester and move into the top four at the Big East Championships," says Rose, who led Notre Dame to a seventh-place finish in the conference meet last year. "We also want to rewrite the school record book this year," adds Beville, who currently holds Notre Dame records in the 100- and 200-yard butterfly events.

After their impressive meet at home this weekend, the men will have several weeks of training at Rolfs Aquatic Center and a brief break for Christmas before heading to Rio de Janeiro. They will not only practice twice a day, but also compete in the Summer Olympic Festival against members of the Brazilian National Team and some 1996 Olympians.

hile the men are visiting South America, the women's squad will be in Hawaii. The trip to the island will not be all fun and games, though, as the women will spend most of the 16 days in the pool preparing for the more competitive half of their season.

"Our week in Arizona over fall break



# the

INDIANAPOLIS BOUND? Junior Linda Gallo hopes to join teammate Erin Brooks at the national championships. She has barely missed the qualifying time in the 200-yard freestyle already this season.

gave the girls a taste of what to expect in Hawaii," says first year Assistant Coach and 1994 Notre Dame graduate Kristin Heath, who assists both squads. "But the girls have been training well across the board and should continue the intensity over the training trip."

Head Coach Bailey Weathers believes his team has been handling the demanding practices well while still swimming fast at meets. "The girls are pretty tired, but they're still training hard and performing well," he says.

Fortunately for the Irish, the schedule so far this season has not been too challenging, allowing more time for training, which involves 10 water workouts per week. After a loss to Arizona, the women have taken three straight dual meets and the Notre Dame Invitational.

Like the men, the women also boast a large and fast freshman class, while depending on speed rather than numbers in the senior class. Led by NCAA qualifier and senior captain Erin Brooks, who set a meet record in the 200-yard backstroke last weekend, the Irish look to send more swimmers to the national competition in March.

"We have the ability to send six girls and some relays to the NCAAs and should break into the top 20 in the standings," predicts Weathers, in his second season with the women's team. Two of his swimmers have already made consideration times for the meet — Brooks in the 200 backstroke and junior Linda Gallo in the 200-yard freestyle.

Brooks and Gallo hope to be joined by more teammates on their quest to bring the swimming program national recognition. Some of those national qualifiers may be from the team's young faces.

"The freshmen have really been swimming well and have fulfilled all our expectations," says Brooks. While the rookies are still adjusting to the academic demands and intense athletic program, they have been enjoying themselves both in and out of the water.

"What I really like is the way we all get along as a team," says freshman Allison Hollis, one of the team's leading backstrokers. "Our class is very close, and we've also bonded well with the upperclassmen. They've helped us a lot and are always encouraging us in swimming and schoolwork."

Classmate Natalie Najarian agrees that the camaraderie of the team has helped ease the pressure of being a varsity athlete. "At first it was hard learning how to balance academics with swimming, but it's getting a little easier now," she says. The team hasn't let that get in the way of reaching its goals, though. The Irish women are expected to win the Big East Conference meet this year, and, after defeating UConn, Boston College and Pittsburgh, they seem prepared to accomplish that feat.

While the Irish have had smooth sailing so far, next semester's schedule will demand that they step up another level. They will face some perennial swimming powerhouses, including Michigan, the defending national champion. But Heath is not worried about the tougher competition. "The girls are getting excited for some challenges next semester and are looking for a chance to prove themselves," she says.

The first tests of the new year will be over semester break with a meet against the University of Hawaii and the Rainbow Classic, an invitational with numerous college teams. Although the "vacation" in Hawaii will by no means be a restful one, the team is anxious to train outdoors in the tropical climate. "We're really looking forward to the trip," Brooks says. "It's going to be a hard two weeks, but being in the sun will definitely boost our attitude and spirits."

When the women return to South Bend, not only will they be tan, but they will be prepared to prove that Notre Dame swimming has truly become a national power.

#### SPORTS

## Splinters from the Press Box

A roundup of the week in sports December 4 to December 10 edited by Jeremy Dixon

#### VOLLEYBALL

#### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Dec. 4	Hofstra	W	3-0	Dec. 6	#3 Portland	W	3-2
Dec. 8	#12 Ohio State	L	3-2	Dec. 8	#2 North Carolina	L	1-0

Key Player: Jaimie Lee led the Irish in kills both games, with 14 against Hofstra and 27 against the Buckeyes.

Key Stat: The starting lineup only played together once all season, as three starters missed a combined 44 games due to injury. Up Next: 1997.

#### HOCKEY

Dec. 6	at #8 Michigan State	L	4-3
Dec. 7	Alaska-Fairbanks	W	3-1

**Key Player:** Forward Brian Urick leads the team with eight goals, including six in his last seven games.

**Key Stat:** The Irish have lost five of their last eight games by one goal, including two in the final minute.

**Up Next:** The Irish are off for finals and Christmas before returning to action on December 28 at Princeton. Key Player: Jen Grubb had the game-winning assist against Portland and played stellar defense in the championship game. Key Stat: The Irish joined North Carolina as the only school to appear in three consecutive NCAA finals. Up Next: 1997.

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Dec. 5	at Purdue	L	73-58
Dec. 7	Providence	W	91-75
Dec. 9	#19 Wisconsin	L	81-69

Key Player: Beth Morgan had her second double-double of the season against the Friars, with 17 points and 10 boards. Key Stat: The 7-3 start is the best for the women's team since 1978 when the Irish started the season 8-2.

**Up Next:** A much-needed rest for the travelweary team before playing at Valparaiso on December 21.

What They Said: "I've been trying to be a good boy, I don't know what else to do. It's sad. [NBA Commissioner] David Stern has these referees in diapers, and they can't make any calls." — Chicago Bulls' bad boy Dennis Rodman after his ejection last Saturday.

What We Read: "Some of these teams are on television more than Oprah and Ricki Lake and Alex Trebek combined. I think Georgetown played Villanova a hundred times last year. At least it seemed that way. Bobby Knight and that red sweater could be part of the wallpaper. Is that the only sweater he owns?" — Leigh Montville, *Sports Illustrated*, on college basketball.

**Dix's Pick:** The men's basketball team heads down to Lexington to take on the Kentucky Wildcats. Although the team showed life against IU, Rick Pitino's boys are too much for the inexperienced Irish. Pat Garrity leads the way for Notre Dame with 22 points and six rebounds, but the team falls 85-57.

**Hiro's Hunch:** A trip to Hoops Heaven is not what John MacLeod's troops need if they want to boost their confidence before facing the bullies of the Big East. Kentucky has been on quite a roll since losing to Clemson in mid-November. Garrity shows he's prime time with 25 but the Wildcat duo of Derek Anderson and Ron Mercer are too much as the Irish go down, 93-64.



Scott Zumbach

The sophomore from Katonah, N.Y., helped lead the men's swimming team to a second-place finish at the Notre Dame Invitational last weekend, with wins in the 200 individual medley, 400 individual medley and the 200 butterfly.

### Athletes of the Week

#### Jen Renola

The first-team All-American was the main reason the Irish went into double overtime against North Carolina. The senior co-captain recorded a tournament-high seven saves in her final game tending goal for Notre Dame to keep her team in the game.



### ON OTHER CAMPUSES



# What's Wrong With This Picture?

### BY CHRISTIAN DALLAVIS Media Hoax

The above photo is on the cover of the University of Miami men's basketball media guide for the 1996-97 season. All the seniors are decked out in their caps and gowns, ostensibly getting ready for graduation. According to the 1996 NCAA Graduation Rate Report, however, only three of them can actually expect to graduate this year, since the graduation rate for Miami's men's basketball team is only 57 percent. That was awfully nice of the coach to let them play dress-up, though.

### The Grinch

Undercover police recently busted 10 students at California State University in Chico, Calif., for selling marijuana in a dormitory. University police had planted an undercover officer in the dorm at the beginning of the semester to stop the growing drug trade among students. This case is similar to the recent incident at College Park Condominiums, where owner Chris Fielding went undercover disguised as a landlord and busted his residents for having fun. Any day now he is expected to crack down on Christmas trees and Nintendo.

### ♦ Wah, Wah

One of the nation's biggest rivalries had another showdown last weekend when Army

and Navy met. In the weeks leading up to the game, Army underclassmen were required to answer their phones with "Beat Navy" instead of the traditional "Hello." This effort to unite the student body and motivate the team has spread to Notre Dame — with a twist. Athletic Director Mike Wadsworth is requiring all on-campus students to answer their phones by whining and crying about not going to a bowl game.

## ✤ Just Like on Days of Our Lives

A female student at Mississippi College recently had an involuntary exorcism performed on her by her roommate and an alumna of the school. The two women attacked and choked the alleged succubus in the presence of the director of the dormitory, who did nothing to stop the ensuing fight. No charges were filed, however, and the victim only wound up with a bruised cheek. No word yet on whether the exorcism worked, but the victim's head stopped spinning and she stopped vomiting all over everyone, which are considered promising signs.

## ♦ No Smoking in the President's Office

The president of Villa Julie College in Stevenson, Md., was recently fined \$1,312 for breaking a rule she created. In 1994 Carolyn Manuszak instituted a campus-wide ban on smoking, offering "no exceptions." Two years later, however, she was caught smoking in her office restroom. She told the AP, "I realize that smoking is not good for anyone's health ... I no longer smoke in my office." At least here we can take some comfort in the fact that our president isn't breaking his own rules, although he was recently seen sneaking a catapult into Sorin. (Check out *du Lac* page 14, 10b: "This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, rifles, shotguns, pistols, BB guns, pellet guns, catapults, bows and arrows, stun guns, knives, and martial arts equipment.")

### Dead Kitties at the Snite

A senior at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C., included a dead kitten in a sculpture that was on display for a month in the university library. In his work of art titled "Love," J. Keith Walters incorporated a four-foot-tall steel replica of a human spine attached to a metal rib cage with a freezedried cat inside. The artist explained that the cat represented a living thing inside a cold cage that, like an overprotective mother, was meant to be nurturing but ended up destroying. The exhibit closes this month, and the university has no plans to remove the dead animal from it. Luckily for us, the exhibit is coming to South Quad next semester, but will include dead squirrels on the red and blue arrow sculpture by O'Shaughnessy. 

WEEK IN DISTORTION

# Just Stick Her Under The Tree

To: saintnick.1@northpole.com From: Zachary.W.Kulsrud.1@nd.edu Subject: Christmas List

#### BY ZAC KULSRUD

ear Santa, I know it has been a long time since we last talked. Actually, we've never talked. All our correspondence has been through the U.S. Postal Service, except for that time back in '83 when I had to FedEx my last minute Hungry Hungry Hippo request, but that's beside the point.

I would ask about Mrs. Claus, the rest of the elves and the reindeer, but I realize you're a busy man this time of year and don't have time for small talk. Just give my best wishes to Donner and Blitzen.

Let's get to the point, Santa. You have been good to me over the years. You came up big in '85 with those three big Transformers under the tree next to Mouse Trap, my favorite board game for years to come. Then there was 1986. My parents re-

fused to buy me the Spiderman Big Wheel because they said they flipped easily, like an Isuzu Rodeo, but you delivered. The sparkling three-wheeled machine was waiting for me next to the fireplace on Christmas morning.

The fact is, Santa, that you went to bat for me for over a decade. Unfortunately, however, our relationship has collapsed over the last seven years. That's why I had to e-mail you when I came across your homepage on the Internet. I just need to come forward. It hurts even to discuss it, but I have to bring up the scandal of 1990. Instead of the Bo Jackson rookie card I found a My Little Pony in my stocking. You also need to know about 1989, when the same thing happened, only this time with Strawberry Shortcake. Was it just a coincidence that my younger sister got the Barbie Corvette that year and I only got underwear? The truth hurts, doesn't it, big fella?

But I'm willing to put that all behind us, sir. I'm sorry I had to bring all that up, but

Was it just a coincidence that my younger sister got the Barbie Corvette that year and I only got underwear? The truth hurts, doesn't it, big fella?

> those days were painful. The truth is that you, sir, have done more for me than I could have ever imagined. The toys you brought me made my year, and all I had to do was give you cookies and milk and be nice. Mistakes happen, I realize that. It isn't easy pleasing the billion or so kids out there every December 25th.

> So this year, I've decided to ask for one thing, and one thing only. You know I'm only an innocent 18-year-old, and I have three and a half years of tough schooling ahead of me, but forget all of that for just a moment. I'm desperate and you are my last



hope. Santa, sir, please bring me a wife.

Yes, I'm serious. I beg you to bring me that special someone. I want to break free of the manacles that are the dating scene at Notre Dame. I am trapped in a thousand midnights bearing harmless names such as "SYR" and "Formal." You, Santa, can be the beacon lighting my way from captivity. You burn bright in the cold South Bend sky, brighter than any halogen lamp, brighter

than that obnoxious "Z" on Zahm Hall.

But I'm not asking for a halogen lamp, nor am I asking you to get rid of that "Z" — I've already got that covered. What sparked this request, I don'tknow. Maybe it was seeing my uncle Dan over Thanksgiving. I can't imagine him walking around in this crazy world as a single man. Or maybe it was Grandpa; who knows what would happen to him if Grandma got run over

by a reindeer? I do know, however, that I need a spouse, and soon. A deep, dark winter is settling in and I don't know if I can uphold my Catholic vows of chastity for much longer. Forget Power Rangers and Nintendo 64 — there are too many of those on campus anyway.

Solicit the help of your friends if you have to: Rudolph, the elves, the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy, the Grinch, anyone. I know the Tooth Fairy owes me a few favors. I didn't even get a card, let alone money, when my wisdom teeth and four other baby molars were pulled last summer. I hear you know the Grinch, too. He's a good guy, now, isn't he? Could he maybe pull a few strings down in Whoville? Cindy Lou Who sure is a cutie.

My wife can ride with you on the sled on Christmas Eve, if it's not too much trouble. I bet she'll be more than willing to go down the chimney and throw the milk and cookies up to you. If there's not enough room in your sled I'll hire a cab to bring her here. I know it might be expensive — I don't know the current fare for taxis running from the North Pole to campus, but I'm more than willing to pay.

Pick a good one for me, Mr. Claus. I'm putting my faith in you. Do me a favor and don't show her my picture in the dogbook; it's terrible. Make sure she can handle the scintillating night life of South Bend and the scrumptious meals of North Dining Hall. Give me a gorgeous, intelligent, athletic lady and I promise you, on my sacred honor, that I will treat her like a queen. We'll have a big Catholic family and you and Mrs. Claus will be their godparents, you have my word.

Please process my request as soon as you can, Santa. I don't know what the demand



for the ladies is this year, but I want first dibs. From what I see at Notre Dame, a lot of my friends will be asking for spouses, so make sure your work force is prepared. Oh, and one more thing — don't tell my parents or anyone else about this. My parents sometimes think they're sort of omnipotent middlemen, giving me things they bought and saying they are from you. Hear me when I say that I still believe. This year, Santa, let's keep it between you, me and my lovely new bride.

This is a humor column. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff of Scholastic Magazine.



## LIFE IN HELL



## CALENDAR



#### THURSDAY — December 12 Concert, Notre Dame Chorale, Handel's Messiah, Washington Hall, 8 p.m. FRIDAY — December 13 Concert, Notre Dame Chorale, Handel's Messiah, Washington Hall, 8 p.m.

#### SATURDAY — December 14

Concert, Glee Club Christmas Concert, Stepan Center, 6 and 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY — December 15 Study Hard! Naked boys on the quad, 10 p.m.

MONDAY — December 16 Ooh, finals! Naked boys in the library, 10 p.m. TUESDAY — December 17

Ooh, more finals! No more naked boys. Too bad. WEDNESDAY – December 18

Only two more days - Have a good break!

Absolutely Useless
Information:

How did Catherine the Great die? What's so great about Paul Revere? Was St. Patrick Irish? What can Sumo wrestlers do with their testicles? Can you tickle yourself? What did Washington say as he crossed the Delaware? ----- CD

": inod bennab the damped boat" Henry "Ox" Knox's journals, he said, "Move your big ass, Harry, but rubbing the roof of your mouth with your finger; According to General their bodies. (Only shrews, moles and hedgehogs can do this); Yes, try Nothing the rest of us can't do - they can't really withdraw them into slave of Irish pirates. (He even called the Irish "savage barbarians"); court martialed for cowardice later in the war; No, he was the British sow bin suit to the suit of the British the suit of her and was ion die having sex with a horse - that's a story made up by her enemies); Answers: She fell off the toilet and died of a stroke at age 67. (She did

#### Movies 10: 254-9685.

- •The Mirror Has Two Faces, PG-13, 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15.
- •Mars Attacks, PG-13, 12:20, 12:40, 2:45, 3:10, 5:15, 5:35, 7:40, 8:05, 10:10, 10:30.
- •Star Trek First Contact, PG-13, 12:45, 3:20, 7:10. 9:55.
- •Daylight, PG-13, 12:00, 1:30, 2:35, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 7:50, 9:40, 10:20.
- •The Preacher's Wife, PG, 12:10, 1:10, 3:00, 4:00, 5:45, 7:20, 9:00, 10:00.
- •The English Patient, R, 1:00, 4:30, 8:00.
- •Set It Off, R, 2:15, 4:50, 7:55, 10:25.

### University Park West:

277-7336.

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•101 Dalmatians, G, 12:00, 12:30, 1:30, 2:45, 3:15, 4:15, 5:20, 5:50, 7:00, 8:00, 8:30, 9:25.

### University Park East:

- **2** 277-7336.
  - •Jerry Maguire, R, 11:00, 11:30, 1:45, 2:20, 4:40, 5:30, 7:35, 9:00, 10:30.
  - Jingle All the Way, PG, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:35, 11:30.
  - •Romeo and Juliet, PG-13, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40.
  - First Wive's Club, PG, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25, 11:30.
  - •Space Jam, PG, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:15, 11:15.

•Late Shows on Friday and Saturday only!

•New Student Rate: \$4, Monday-Thursday with a student ID!

### FINAL WORD

# Religion for the Sake of Survival?

by Michael McCurdy

From stopping at the Grotto after running around the lakes to going barefoot to 11 p.m. mass on Sunday nights in Dillon Hall, I was immediately aware of the religious atmosphere that permeates this campus. The religious character of Notre Dame contributed to my decision to attend the university. Although the idea of spiritual growth still appeals to me, my spiritual foundation has experienced more uncertainty than growth during my time here.

It is not the fault of the university or the atmosphere that causes me to be skeptical of my faith; in fact, I cannot imagine a better environment in which to foster religious development. This doubt arises from my need to determine the relationship between God and me in the overall scheme of life.

As I watch the behavior of both humans and animals, I continuously see the similarities between the two. Yet, it seems that we tend not to acknowledge our similarities with nature, but instead we stress our differences. Based on the overwhelming number of similarities linking humans to other organisms, I question whether there *is* anything that fundamentally separates us.

The perpetuation of its own kind is the ultimate objective of every species. This drive even causes the female spider of a particular species to sacrifice her life so her babies can feed on her carcass in order to sustain them until they mature. Similarly, most people would not become involved in a relationship if they thought their partner did not have the qualities they wanted to pass on to their offspring.

Since we are more intelligent than our animal counterparts, we have formed a much more complex method for preserving our species. We have channeled our innate desire to continue our species by creating morals to preserve and advance our society. Because humans are not endowed with strength, speed or toughness, we had to create a communal society where we worked together in order to survive.

Morals arose out of the need to maintain order and stability in the community. They cause us to contemplate the consequences of our actions before we act, aware that what we do might affect the lives of others. Our empathy for others and our desire to preserve our species causes us to abide by a certain code of behavior. Without morals, society would be thrown into anarchy.

Since morals could be a human construction, how can I be sure that by living a moral life I am really any better than someone who does not? Am I just conforming to societal norms? Is religion a human creation as well, helping to preserve society? Perhaps spiritually (if I have a spirit) I am no better, although I may be a better member of society. By following the conscience that society instills in me, I am following my natural instincts to preserve my own species. So, I am basically using this human construction of morality to help guide me in pursuing my inborn desires. The purpose of religion might just be to facilitate an increased sense of morality; or perhaps there is a higher being that truly *does* care if we "love one another as ourselves."

It seems that people always look for the reasons behind the way things are, and religion attempts to provide answers for the ever-questioning human mind. The answers provided by religion are valiant attempts to quench people's desire to know the meaning of life; yet, if religion is a human construction, these answers continue to fall short of their goal.

The only honest explanation for life, from its simplest to its most complex forms, is that we do not know the answer. This lack of knowledge allows me to choose to believe in what I think is the most reasonable explanation: some higher power could have started this cycle of life. I have no idea what God is or why he created life; all I know is that God provides an answer for what we do not understand but would like to know.

Although I have these doubts now, I must keep an open mind about my faith and religion. Yet, just like Socrates's statement, "An unexamined life is not worth living," an unexamined faith is not worth believing. By thoroughly examining my beliefs, I hope to ensure that they are based upon my own personal convictions and reasoning rather than on outside influences.

Michael McCurdy is a sophomore Arts and Letters pre-professional major who resides in Dillon Hall.

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