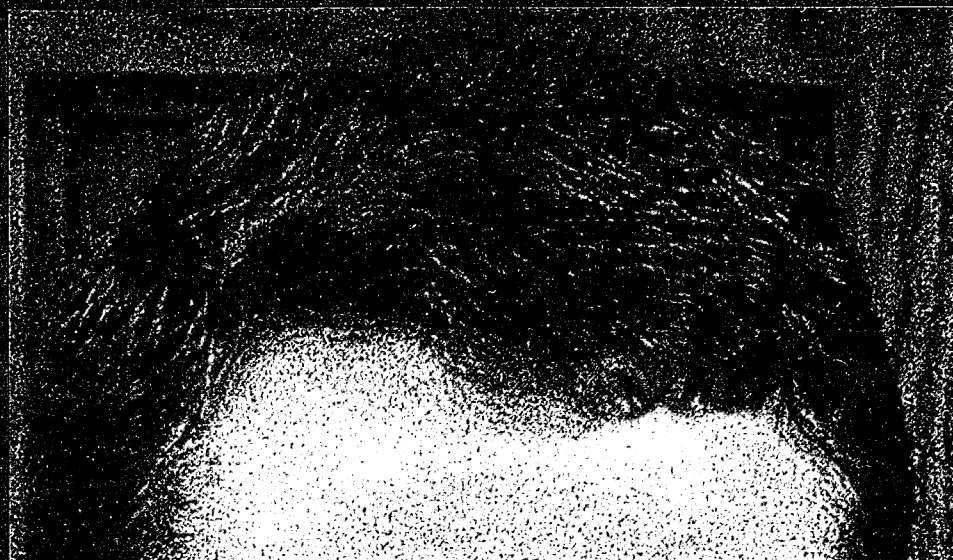


UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME • FEB. 6, 1997

SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINE



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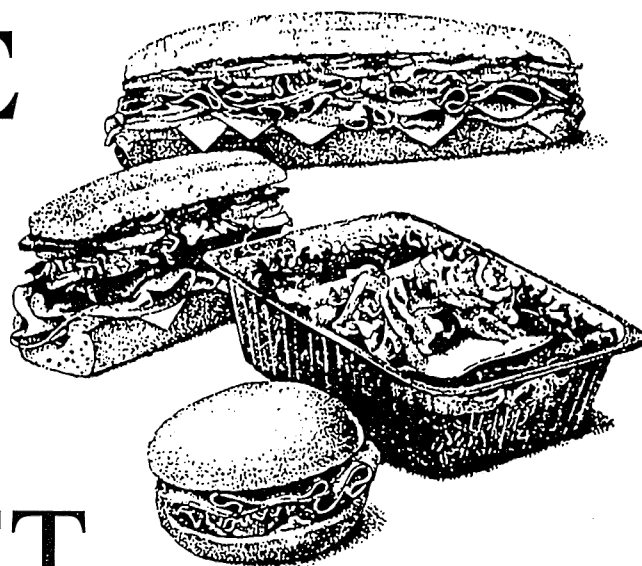
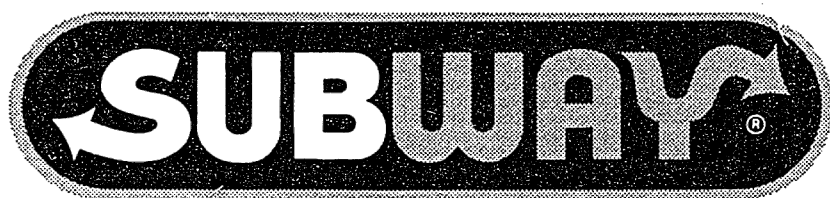
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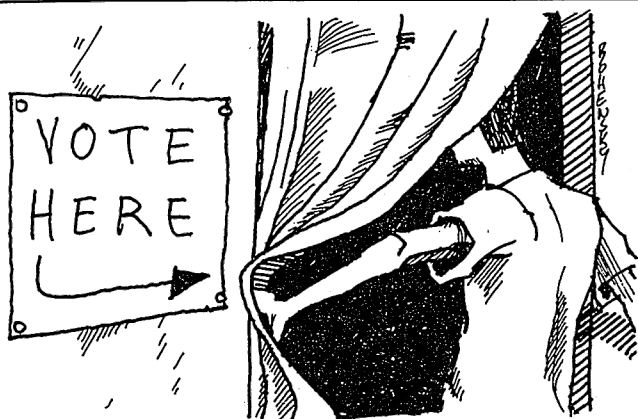
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FEATURE STORY

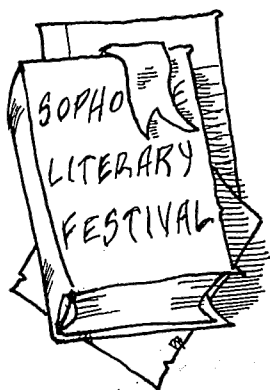


Building the Perfect Ticket

After interviewing each ticket and listening to the candidate debates, *Scholastic* casts its vote. With our interview transcripts and campaign commentary, you, too, should be able to make an informed choice for next year's leaders.

.....4

Spellbinding



by Heather Schomann

Tom Clancy and Eavan Boland headline this year's Sophomore Literary Festival, as it celebrates its 30th anniversary. Here is a sneak preview.

.....10

FEATURES

Fast Food Candidates.....9

by J. Patrick Coolican

Why Buy More?.....14

by Steve Myers

Taking Shape.....16

by Bridget Bradburn

In a Class by Himself.....17

by Brian Lucas

If They Build It... ..18

by Jeremy Dixon

Nutts to Hollywood.....22

by Andrew Nutting

DEPARTMENTS

From the Editor.....2

Editorial.....3

Campus Watch.....13

Splinters From the Press Box.....20

Out of Bounds.....21

Calendar.....27

Week in Distortion.....28

On Other Campuses.....30

Life In Hell.....31

Final Word.....32

Full Tilt



by Joe Gallagher

With a roll of quarters and some time to kill, *Scholastic's* resident arcade expert tested out all the Gorch Games Room has to offer.

.....24

Limited Options

Last year, there were just too many candidates. This year, there may not be enough. After sludging through platforms, transcripts and Bridget's memories, I'm left with a few nagging questions.

First, why do I care? I'm graduating. Even if the next president gets everyone on-campus hang tags and Robert Shapiro as the defense attorney for Student Affairs, I won't be affected. Nevertheless, I am inclined to care. I guess my problem is that I'd like to see improvement in the state of affairs around here, whether I benefit or not.

After deciding that I *do* care, I struggled with my conceptions of the ideal candidate. I would like to build my own student government president out of the choices — combine the efficacy of Griffin/Nass, the down-to-earth attitude of Barrette/McCaghy, the drive of Szabo/Gillard, the idealism of Chica/Caro and the personal touch of Booker/Parker. Obviously, I can't, so I'm left to prioritize. I'm not confident that Szabo and Gillard will have the right touch — even if they can concentrate on one issue. Yet Griffin and Nass had to be harrassed into addressing any of the issues. I'm not sure where they'll draw the line between "getting stuff" and addressing issues like student rights and homosexual equality, but I think they'll be effective day-to-day leaders with an eye on improving students' lives in tangible ways.

In this election, voters will have to prioritize for themselves. I hope our endorsement and the transcribed interviews starting on page 4 will help.

How We Conducted the Interviews

Scholastic interviewed each ticket running for student government president and vice president, asking them the same 14 questions. We transcribed six of these questions and their respective answers on pages 4-8. We based our endorsement on a majority vote of the interviewers, and the endorsement appears on the facing page.

Editor in Chief Applications

Applications for editor of *Scholastic* are available in 303 LaFortune and are due Monday, February 17.

Steve Myers
Editor in Chief

Eight Years Ago: A King and His Court

In 1989, one candidate, Dan Fahey, chose to run as student body king and had already chosen a set of ministers to fill the role of vice president, including a minister of justice, minister of truth, minister of peace and minister of imagination. When *Scholastic* asked the candidate what his ticket would bring to the office, he replied, "imagination, justice, peace, love, and truth." Fahey believed he and his ministers would be best for the job because:

"Talking from a Hobbesian point of view, I could have no weaknesses because I'm sovereign. Everybody submits their will to the king. He has no weaknesses."

We like the idea of a candidate with no weaknesses, but unfortunately Seth Miller is graduating.

—BC

SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINE

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*Disce Quasi Semper Victurus
Vive Quasi Cras Moriturus*

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Vote Griffin and Nass

Scholastic cautiously endorses Matt Griffin and Erek Nass for student body president and vice president. Essentially, we vote to reelect Miller/Murray, though Griffin lacks Miller's hard ROTC exterior and Nass has a few pounds on Murray. *Scholastic* never liked the current administration, but in contrast to last year's crowded race, none of the five tickets offers an appealing new option.

No ticket expresses concern for issues relevant to this year's student body or demonstrates the effective political know-how that *Scholastic* is looking for. At least three issues — a student bill of rights, placing a student on the Board of Trustees, and gay/lesbian rights — confront student government right now, but only the Szabo/Gillard platform addresses them. Instead, tickets address student amenities like an off-campus shuttle, infeasible solutions to the parking problem, a cybercafe in the Huddle, and to our collective joy, Szabo's promise to level Stepan Center.

"Communication" was the buzzword after *The Observer* gave the Miller/Murray administration a D in that category. Two tickets propose placing a regular ad in *The Observer* to keep the student body abreast of their progress. The Chica/Cano ticket even promises to personally bring themselves to the students.

Like their opponents, Griffin and Nass basically promise no more than to bring the students more "stuff." But experience and awareness put them ahead of the game.

Griffin and Nass admit that their second home is the second floor of LaFortune. Griffin's term as junior class president and Nass's position as SUB chairperson provide them with first-hand knowledge of the way student government works. Griffin's membership on Student Senate keeps him up-to-the-minute on the concerns voiced in that forum and enables him to see how to legislate those concerns into policy.

Griffin says they "know which battles to fight" and therefore they make attainable and somewhat well-researched campaign promises. Right now, student government pays to keep the basement of LaFortune open 24 hours and Griffin plans to make the first floor a 'round-the-clock public space as well. Their promise to keep Hesburgh Library open all night should appeal to procrastinators and overachievers all over campus. And who wouldn't mind a ResNet-connected printer in his or her dorm? In reaction to Miller/Murray's lack of communication, Griffin/Nass intend to enclose a monthly insert in the *Observer* that informs the student body of their progress. These are realistic ideas from an administrative standpoint, but the cost of executing all of them will draw too deeply from the student government bank account.

Although the Griffin/Nass platform does not initiate discussion on any new issues, they advocate persisting with issues already on the table. Their approach to the administration is cautious; Griffin does not intend "to burn any bridges pushing unrealistic ideas that might weaken our voice in the future." But until pressed by *Scholastic* in the debate, Griffin and Nass did not confirm that standing up for gay/lesbian rights and placing a student on the Board of Trustees were issues worth burning bridges for. We hope "things" like on-campus student parking and a cybercafe don't take

higher priority on their administrative wish list.

In the end, Griffin just wants student government to be fun. "You go into the SUB office and they have a basketball hoop while the student government office is a serious place with a lot of desks," Griffin says. He hopes to make the atmosphere of the office more approachable to the average student who is too intimidated to go in and voice opinions in person.

While the Griffin/Nass platform lacks seriousness in relevant areas, they are aware that deeper issues exist. In the meantime, they are committed to keeping students happy with the monetary concessions within their jurisdiction. Several other tickets have elements that appeal to us, but the strengths of each could not compensate for inherent weaknesses.

Szabo plans to bully the administration into passing a students' bill of rights and allowing a student to sit on the Board of Trustees. He will "knock on Fr. Malloy's door every day" if he needs to — "the administration can't ignore that." No, they can't, but his confrontational attitude might put the administration on the defensive and damage the chances of future presidents to affect change, permanently closing the door on these important issues.

The well-spoken Mary Gillard, on the other hand, demonstrates an understanding of the legislative process. A member of the Student Senate, she understands the likelihood of placing a student on the Board of Trustees. She insists that we often expect opposition from the administration in areas where they would really rather hear our voice. Specifically, she feels the Board of Trustees will welcome a student member and take suggestions from that seat seriously. Too bad she's not running for president.

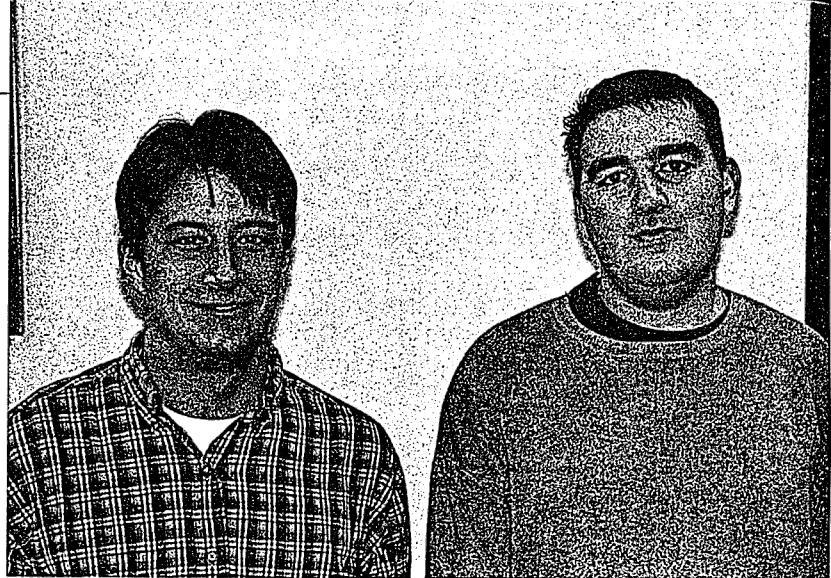
The good old boys of Flanner Hall, Barrette/McCaghy and Chica/Cano, came out of the woodwork to gloriously commemorate their senior year and to provide a profile of the generic Domer while Bobby Booker and Laura Parker displayed a grasp of current issues. Their intention to run an administration that "keeps it simple, structured and strong" has merit. Their student-oriented platform reflects their experience as dorm co-presidents. But their intention to revive school spirit through improved social opportunities emphasizes programming over administrating. That falls out of the realm of student government and into the SUB office. Maybe they would be successful HPC presidents.

We know what life is like under an administration disconnected from the students — it's not so bad. We don't have a student on the Board of Trustees. Explicit disciplinary rights in *du Lac* don't exist. But Mod Quadders don't have to walk as far to the ATM machine anymore. Within the next couple of weeks, SafeRide will eliminate the temptation to drive home after a night at the bars. And if Griffin and Nass are as successful in fulfilling their campaign promises, SafeRide can drop us off at the library, where we can study off our beer buzz at 3 a.m. We just ask that Griffin and Nass leave the second floor of LaFortune to find out what Notre Dame is really like once in a while. Miller/Murray provided immediate gratification, but students' rights concerns will ultimately demand consistent attention from a student body president and vice president.

— *Scholastic Magazine*

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MATT BARRETTE BRIAN MCCAGHY



President: Matthew Barrette
Class: junior
Major: Government
Home: Beaver Dam, Wis.
Experience: Deputy Commissioner for the Board of Trustees report

VP: Brian McCaghy
Class: junior
Major: Chemical Engineering
Home: Lansing, Mich.
Experience: No student government experience

• In two minutes, tell us the main goal you would like to achieve as student body president and vice president.

• BARRETTE: We have two major goals. ... The first one is communication. *The Observer* gave the last administration a D for communication and there have been criticisms of the last administration's lack of communication with the student body. One of our main objectives is going to be to encourage a lot of ideas from the student body — as many as possible — in order to make student government, instead of a separate organization, an organization for the student body.

• MCCAGHY: What we've come up with is using a paid advertisement by the student government because we think this is the most important thing student government can do and it's a good way to use our money. We would take all letters or calls that people have into the student government office — they might even be complaints. If need be we'll reply to them or we can even call these people up ... and say, 'We can work on this. Do you want to help us out, anything?'

• What do you think student government's relationship with the administration should be?

• BARRETTE: We represent the student body; we don't represent the administration. That's pretty obvious. The relationship should be ... being a conduit to the administration [for] ... student issues and student concerns, and representing the students to the administration when there's something the students want or desire that needs to be brought to their attention.

• How do you feel homosexuals are treated at Notre Dame?

• MCCAGHY: I don't really notice many homosexuals out. ... I think it's indifference. No one goes out and makes fun of anybody or persecutes [them]. But the administration ... by not recognizing [GLND/SMC] ... they have the right to do that since it is a Catholic university.

• BARRETTE: The group that they've proposed ... is a good thing because it acknowledges that there are homosexuals on campus. And it recognizes that even though the Catholic Church isn't generally supportive of homosexuals per se, it still recognizes them as human beings. ... Everyone needs to be treated with

respect.

What is your best and worst Bridget's memory?

MCCAGHY: [Best] One time earlier this year two friends and I went in ... and there wasn't anybody else in there ... We just hung out and talked to Christie and Katie [the bartenders] at the bar. My worst one was ... when Rob, the bouncer, died. It's tough when someone you've developed a friendship with dies suddenly like that.

BARRETTE: When they let me in without a cover it was nice. I think that place is fun when it's not crowded — just like any bar.

[Worst] I remember one time there was a blues band there ... and it was just packed. You couldn't move ... you couldn't talk to anyone, and I left after about five minutes.

What is the most relevant thing that happened at CLC and Student Senate meetings this year?

BARRETTE: Neither of us are on the CLC or Senate, but I think there's two relevant things. One of them is the [student government] reform. I'm not positive that it's directly part of Student Senate but I know there's a committee set up. I think a student on the Board of Trustees is important ... It's something that will help Notre Dame students and it will help the Board of Trustees. A lot of them ... were here 20 years ago, they don't really know exactly what ... it's like anymore. If there's a student who's a member of the full board — non-voting, of course — who they could refer to, I think that's very important.

What sets you apart from the other candidates?

BARRETTE: ... In our conversations, in developing our ideas, we've talked to ... regular students about these things, instead of in political relationships. Obviously, everyone on the Senate and CLC are students too, but I think ... a lot of them develop a self-importance sometimes and I think what separates us is we don't have that ... self-importance.

MCCAGHY: We ... want to be part of the student body, to involve student government in the student body. ... Student government is an organization ... with an 8,000 person membership.

Election 1968: Student Rights

The main platforms of the two front-runner candidates, Pat Dowd and Chuck Perrin, included reforming Student Senate because it did not adequately represent the views of the students and working with the administration to guarantee students' rights. Dowd suggested giving more emphasis to hall councils to alleviate the ineffectiveness of Student Senate.

Twenty-nine years later, it doesn't seem like very much has changed.

"We represent the student body; we don't represent the administration."

—Matt Barrette



BOBBY BOOKER LAURA PARKER

In two minutes, tell us the main goal you would like to achieve as student body president and vice president.

PARKER: Our main goal is to revive school spirit in all facets of Notre Dame life. Obviously this includes football games and pep rallies, but also weekend social opportunities and basic ... relations among students. We want to return Notre Dame to the school we applied to and chose to come to, the school that has developed this extensive alumni and reputation.

BOOKER: We believe the best way to do this is to have an administration that is simple, structured and strong. One of the problems that people have talked about with the current administration is the lack of communication between the different organizations and between them and the administration itself. We want to alleviate any problem as such by being simple. We're going to focus on our goals and other problems and solutions that arrive. We're also going to attack any problems that occur in a structured manner. We believe that if you come to the table with a simple plan, a structured plan, then no way will you fail. It will be a strong plan.

What do you think student government's relationship with the administration should be?

BOOKER: We believe that as president and vice president, we are in a position to be the representative for the students here at the University of Notre Dame. We are in a position to give our insight, after we communicate with our constituents ...

PARKER: I think the administration and the students are often in opposition and it's important to work with them and not be opponents necessarily. If we just communicate with each other along the way then maybe there won't be as much conflict between the two.

How do you feel homosexuals are treated at Notre Dame?

BOOKER: That is a topic Laura and I have talked about at length the last couple of days. We feel that at the University of Notre Dame, although we are a Catholic university, we don't treat homosexuals in a way that we feel is correct. They should be able to organize and have an organization as members of this community. It's come up lately that GLND/SMC was turned down to have their rally. We believe that we have to stay under the premises and principles of a Catholic university. They are still students at this university and they should have a voice.

PARKER: As students they have the right, just as everyone else does, to meet no matter what their opinion may be.

What is your best and worst Bridget's memory?

BOOKER: I just recently turned 21, so I was there for the first time last weekend. There were no bad memories. It was a different experience and it was fun. It's nice to get a different variety of people. Other than that, I have no complaints about Bridget's.

PARKER: The best and worst would be dancing on top of tables, depending upon the time I haven't been there much this year.

What is the most relevant thing that happened at CLC and Student Senate meetings this year?

BOOKER: ... I think what's going on right now about having a student on the Board of Trustees is very important, if not the most important thing that's happened this year with Senate. As I've said before, this is part of our job as president and vice president: to be the liaison between the university and the students. And I believe having a student on that Board is very important. Right now we need to take the time needed to form a very good proposal to have a student on that board.

PARKER: There is no reason not to have a representative.
BOOKER: Also, I'd like to state that what the reform committee has done is something very important. They've moved up the election. There was a time in which I didn't understand the rationale, but now I do. I understand that they want to have a smooth transition of power between the two governments ... when the new administration comes in, they can have the time to find out what works and what doesn't in the very beginning.

What sets you apart from the other candidates?

BOOKER: ... We've had experience in the position of being representatives as well as being looked upon as leaders of a small community within our dorm. Work goes into it yet it's been interesting as well as informative for me to see what people in a dorm want. Likewise, I think I can bring that type of leadership on a grand, on a larger scale, to the campus.

PARKER: I also think that what sets us apart is our ability to represent a lot of people. I think we both come from different backgrounds with different views and visions. As we've been talking over our platform, we have found different ideas and better ways to do things. I think with the different things we've been involved in we really do know how to represent people.

BOOKER: And lastly, just with the idea that we're coming in focused, keepin' it simple, structured, and strong. I want to emphasize that ...when the student body government comes in, they're not focused and they don't have their goals set, objectives set in stone. And you're not capable, if you're not structured or organized in a proper fashion, of getting those goals attained.

President: Bobby Booker

Class: junior

Major: Government

Home: Twinsburg, Ohio

Experience: Carroll Hall

Co-President

VP: Laura Parker

Class: junior

Major: Government

Home: McLean, Va.

Experience: Walsh Hall Co-

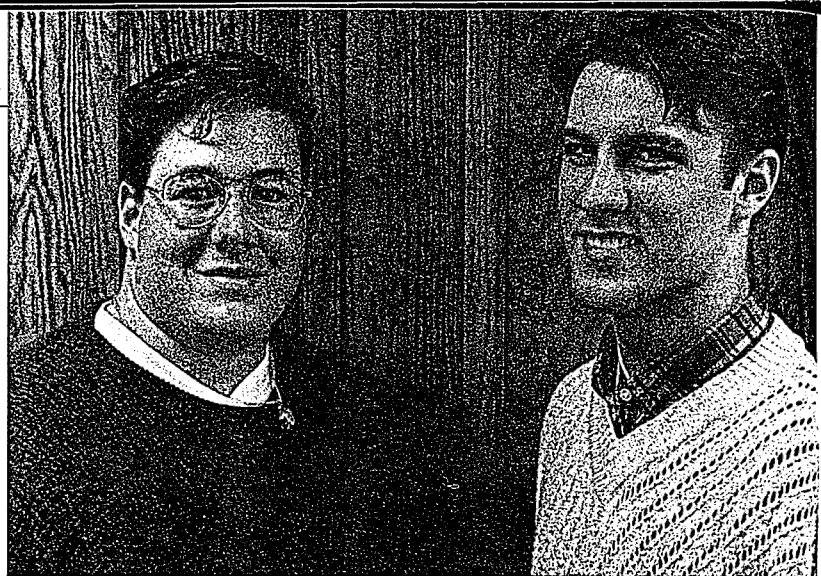
President, SUB AnTostal

Marketing Chair

"We believe the best way to revive school spirit is to have an administration that is simple, structured and strong." —Bobby Booker

ELECTION
1991
NOTES

ANDREW CHICA JONATHAN CANO



President: Andrew Chica
Class: junior
Major: Accountancy
Home: Bakersfield, Calif.
Experience: No student government experience.

VP: Jonathan Cano
Class: junior
Major: Accountancy
Home: Pittsburgh, Pa.
Experience: No student government experience

● In two minutes, tell us the main goal you would like to achieve as student body president and vice president?

● CHICA: Our main goal is to put students in control. We are merely going to act as their voice. Rather than us tell the students what they want, they tell us what they want. They're going to be there for us. We want anything that the students are interested in, as well as faculty and staff. We want to get the entire school involved.

● CANO: Our plan is basically to go to them and see what they want and not wait for them to come to us. We want to keep them informed, so we are going to investigate various vehicles of communication to inform them of what we're trying to do for them [and] what can be done.

● CHICA: We want to keep the students on top of the government rather than government on top of the students.

● What do you think student government's relationship with the administration should be?

● CHICA: Complete open forum. Close knit — that way the students know what the faculty wants for the students and the students know what the faculty expects at all times. Basically the key to everything is communication. We're absolutely for keeping close contact with faculty just to make sure that all opinions and concerns are voiced and heard.

● How do you feel homosexuals are treated at Notre Dame?

● CHICA: Unfairly. We can't promote understanding this way. I believe the general consensus on campus is one of understanding. They deserve more press time and the chance to voice their opinions. I guess you can take a traditional campus background and interpret it any way you want as to how they should be treated. Basically, they are good people. They are roommates and section mates, they are part of our student body. Everyone is brought here for a reason. Everyone is trying to find their place and I believe everyone belongs here for a reason.

What is your best and worst Bridget's memory?

CANO: The worst Bridget's memory for me was walking home one time when my friends left me there accidentally, or at least they told me that they accidentally left me there. And best? I'm not sure I have a best. Bridget's really isn't that fun of a place.

CHICA: Any one of the just about two times that I went was crowded and I had a hard time walking around. But when you are trying to bull rush your way through people and everyone is trying to have a good time, you don't want to step on anybody's toes. Pretty much any time going there when it's crowded is a bad time. A big frame does not go well in crowded places. And the best time? I don't know that I really have a best time. I'm engaged so I really don't go out to the bar scene that much. I just kind of stay home and pine away. But it's not a bad place, it's a nice place to just hang out if you're under 200 pounds.

What is the most relevant thing that happened at CLC and Student Senate meetings this year?

CHICA: To be honest with you, the most relevant would be just opening up the lines of communication. Facilitating the discussions that they do allows a lot of opinions to be heard. Through those, through speaking and throwing out ideas and opinions, change can come about. It's facilitating discussions.

CANO: Keeping open the lines of communication.

What sets you apart from the other candidates?

CANO: From what I've seen of the other candidates platforms, we seem more anxious to bring ourselves to the students, for them to voice their opinions to us directly. We promise to have no suggestion boxes because we think those are pretty ridiculous. Why should the students have to go out of their way to voice concerns about their university? They are paying \$25,000 or something around there. Why should they have to go out of their way for anything? We should go to them and let them know what we are doing for them.

Election 1991: Philosopher Kings

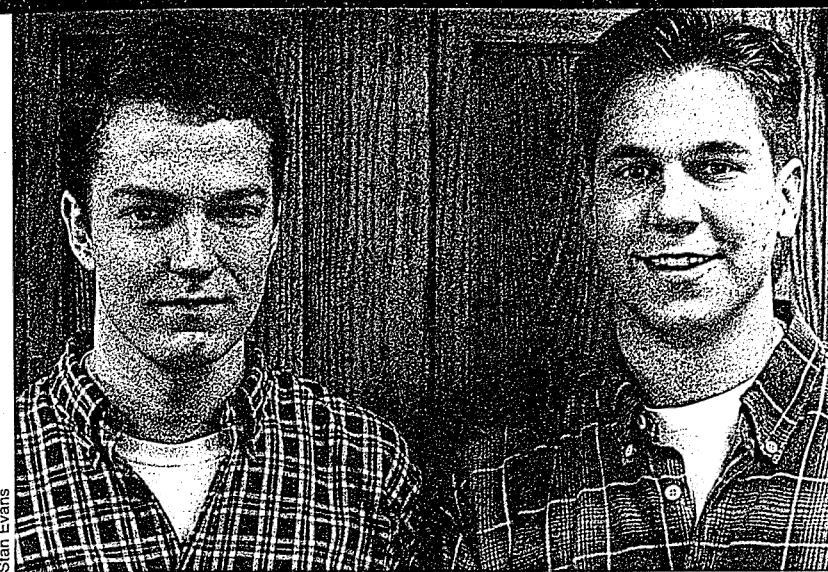
Mark Kromkowski and Sam Nigro ran on a platform in which they would make the office of student body president into the office of the philosopher king. They suggested massive restructuring of the university's administration:

"I guess ultimately we'd get rid of the board of trustees. We want a real democracy, [like that of] Athens, an exemplar of good government. It's not the only type of good government, but we could easily get in the JACC, make it the assembly, vote by lot, pick congressmen by lot, have a pure democracy."

Ironically, six years later the candidates think that the only fair way to govern is to join the organization that Kromkowski and Nigro wanted to eliminate.

"We want to keep the students on top of the government rather than government on top of the students."

—Andrew Chica



W L E
• 97
N O T

MATT GRIFFIN EREK NASS

In two minutes, tell us the main goal you would like to achieve as student body president and vice president.

GRIFFIN: Our whole goal is summarized in our theme, which is "Your Voice" ... Every item on our platform is very well researched and it's all specific things that can actually happen. [Erek] has a lot of SUB experience ... and I've had three years of student government experience, and we wanted to really have a platform that was true and that ... had ... ideas that could actually be done and implemented. Our main theme is action and I think our records in both of our individual organizations really prove that we can do stuff and we hold up to our promises.

What do you think student government's relationship with the administration should be?

GRIFFIN: A lot of times, student government is criticized for being too friendly towards the administration, ... not really representing the students. ... I think we need to have a relationship with the administration ... where they respect us and we have a rapport, but yet we're not ... on a string attached to them [as] their puppets ... one that definitely has a focus as far as having one voice for the student body that's directed towards the administration. I know there's been a lot of talk about how there's Campus Life Council and there's Student Senate and there's the student body president and there are all these different organizations on campus and they all send mixed voices to the administration. ... That's a clear goal of ours, to have one voice, and maybe the students will be taken more seriously.

How do you feel homosexuals are treated at Notre Dame?

GRIFFIN: I've seen a big change since my freshman year as far as awareness and people's attitudes towards homosexuals at Notre Dame. I think that the more the issue is brought up ... the more awareness is increased. I think [that] how the student body president handles that issue and also how the administration handles that issue has a lot of influence on the way they're treated on this campus.

NASS: Within the last two years, homophobia has really been in people's minds — they really targeted it, looked at themselves. I think that's really something that people have to look at themselves and say, "Is it something I can become more aware [of], more accepting of other people." That's all it's about. It's accepting other people.

GRIFFIN: That's one of the best things about Notre Dame. [The students are] so ... friendly and open and accepting of so many people. All of a sudden the homosexuality issue comes up and it's totally opposite of the way the rest of Notre Dame is. Not in all cases, but particularly in male cases. I think that's improved a lot. At least in my dorm, there's more and more homosexuals who are willing to come out ... whereas our freshman year no one would say that. I think that's a good move and that's showing a lot more acceptance.

What is your best and worst Bridget's memory?

GRIFFIN: The best memory is the first time I ever went there

last year. It was February after Megan Murray won student body [vice president] and we all went. It was my first time in a bar. So, it was kind of exciting to go there, and there were so many people there and a lot of friends.

NASS: My best memory, my funniest memory there, was probably when my roommate didn't have an ID. He was African-American and we borrowed some white girl's ID and he got in.

GRIFFIN: The worst? Every trip to Bridget's is a bad memory.

NASS: I hate to turn this into a serious question, but ... we want to extend SafeRide and to make sure that people know about it because I've been to Bridget's enough to see drunk people just drive home, and that's something that really concerns me. I'd like to make sure that people know that SafeRide is available.

What is the most relevant thing that happened at CLC and Student Senate meetings this year?

GRIFFIN: I sit on Student Senate and first of all, let me say that Student Senate is the biggest waste of an hour in my week. ... I think it [addresses] a lot of issues that are well-done and well-planned out, but this year it has lacked any direction at all. And that's one thing we're focusing on. ... We really want to make Student Senate a voice of the students. But as far as issues are concerned, I think the most valuable meeting I've had all year was when Chuck Hurley came from Notre Dame Security and talked about parking and campus access. ... Another big thing is the students' rights issue that has come up. ... We kind of got slapped around by Patty O'Hara and told that we really don't have any power and that we're not really important. ... Maybe that's one of the reasons we don't have any direction because we kind of got slapped in the face there and told that Student Senate really isn't important. And that's what we've been struggling with.

NASS: I think another problem is that students don't know what Student Senate is. ... That really needs to change next year. They need to know what Student Senate is and what we do for them.

What sets you apart from the other candidates?

GRIFFIN: Our experience and our platform of action is what sets us apart.

NASS: Our platform is also ... attainable, something we've researched and we know we can do.

GRIFFIN: Between his Student Union Board and my student government experience, we know what can be done and what can't be done. There are certain battles you should fight and certain battles you shouldn't fight and I think that's where a lot of times student government runs into problems — when they try to do stuff that is way out of their bounds. I think it's important to be an idealist ... but when it comes down to it, you want to get stuff done and you want to represent the student body as best you can. If sometimes that means not fighting an issue, than that's what you have to do. There are other issues that are important.

NASS: But if an issue is of dire importance, you step up to the plate.

President: Matt Griffin

Class: junior

Major: Government

Home: Anchorage,

Alaska

Experience: Junior

Class President,

Freshman and Sopho-

more Class Secretary,

Stanford Hall Council,

Student Senate, SUB

AnTostal and Concerts

Committees, Senate

Reform Committee

VP: Erek Nass

Class: junior

Major: Marketing/
Communications

Home: Madison, Wis.

Experience: SUB

Commissioner, Junior

Class Council, Keenan

Hall Council, Keenan

Hall Freshman Orienta-

tion Chair, Senate

Reform Committee

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MATT SZABO MARY GILLARD



President: Matt Szabo
Class: junior
Major: Government
Home: Glendora, Calif.
Experience: Morrissey Hall Council, Student Advocate, Transfer Orientation Chair

VP: Mary Gillard
Class: junior
Major: Government/History
Home: Wilmette, Ill.
Experience: District 4 Senator, Knott Hall Co-President, Knott Hall Council, Campus Life Council, Senate Reform Committee

• In two minutes, tell us the main goal you would like to achieve as student body president and vice president.

• SZABO: There are some issues right now ... that need to be addressed pretty seriously. Right now, we are facing ... issues of student rights ... We're being pushed around by an oppressive Office of Residence Life. We're being ripped off by the bookstore every semester ... and we're using a meal plan that is 20 years out of date. We're using facilities, i.e. Stepan Center ... that, for the caliber of this university and the caliber of the students, we shouldn't be dealing with. We deserve a little bit better than this.

• GILLARD: If students see that student government can do something for them ... they'll be more excited about it and ... show that same enthusiasm for student government that they do about the Keenan Revue and SYRs and football games ...

• SZABO: Our goal ... is to turn the focus ... back to the students. You see all this stuff that goes on, all the decisions that the Board of Trustees makes and the administration makes, but we have to remember that this is an undergraduate university. We're going to push these issues, and we may not become best friends with some of the administrators ... but that's OK because the focus of all the decisions that should be made by the administration and by other bodies should ... benefit the students.

• What do you think student government's relationship with the administration should be?

• SZABO: [It] should be one of understanding that their goal is to better serve the students. Right now, I don't think that we have that understanding. ... They treat us a bit like we're children. ...

• GILLARD: I think one of the problems, too, is the setup of the CLC. ... If you want real legislation passed, that's what it has to go through. Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of the CLC is rectors, rectresses and the administration and ... the students' voices get lost. I don't think the right issues are being raised ... but the problem with the CLC right now is that things aren't going through because there's a difference of opinion. ... One of the ways that can change is to give more power to the Senate because that is the student force. ... And that's already been started with the Senate reform committee.

• How do you feel homosexuals are treated at Notre Dame?

• SZABO: Homosexuals are treated as if they are not part of the Notre Dame family and I think that if we're really serious about this Notre Dame family ... it can't exist if certain members of this family are excluded for whatever reason. I think we're really behind in achieving the Notre Dame family. I think that homosexuals are not treated at the same level as they should be.

• GILLARD: I think that was all too apparent in the whole incident with the College Democrats for the National Coming Out Week. It was obvious for what reasons [their request for a rally was denied] — the contents were not what the university ... thought went along with what Notre Dame stands for, and that's

completely absurd. ... It says it in *du Lac* that all students should be allowed to express what they believe in, ... all students [meaning] gay, lesbian, whatever.

What is your best and worst Bridget's memory?

SZABO: The best Bridget's memory may be the first or second time I went there.... I met some people there and we were just dancing on the tables and singing. There was some hokey band there — and it was fun, it was fun.

GILLARD: [The worst memory is] definitely falling off the Bridget's table. And looking at your clothes the next morning and having the strange black whatever that is on your pants. And the awful smell.

SZABO: Or ... leaning against the wall in the bathroom.

GILLARD: I think the best Bridget's memory is just being there with your friends.

What is the most relevant thing that happened at CLC and Student Senate meetings this year?

GILLARD: The whole idea of having a student on the Board of Trustees [is] the most important issue we've discussed by far this whole year. If we can work through that, and if that can get accomplished, [it] will open the door to so many different things. I think that's what will give the students a lot more power and a lot more input.

SZABO: Monk Malloy and his staff are all the employees of the Board of Trustees. They make all the decisions, all the major decisions at least. ... To not have a student on there simply doesn't make sense because this is an undergraduate university.

GILLARD: I think the most important thing that's been discussed ... [on CLC] is the revision of *du Lac* and having actual student input on a committee. ... There's not a student who's actually on that committee who can say, "This is what we want and we feel that this language will be best. The students will understand this." ... You have to be a lawyer to be able to understand [*du Lac*].

What sets you apart from the other candidates?

SZABO: First of all, Mary and I complement each other better than any other ticket. ... I have experience in representing students at the Office of Residence Life. ... I've also got very strong ties to how things work in dorm life [on the Morrissey renovation committee]. I'm ... concerned with keeping the focus on local community life. We're the only ticket that has CLC experience.

GILLARD: I think that's really important, just to understand Student Senate, the workings of it. ... It's essential to have dorm experience, and ... leadership in all different areas.

SZABO: This isn't the time for complacent, business-as-usual student government. ... We're ... willing to do what it takes and stand up for student issues. ... We're not going to be intimidated and we're not going to back down.

Fast Food Candidates

This year's debate moderator offers his insight on the student government candidates for president and vice president

BY J. PATRICK COOLICAN

I asked a friend for his impressions of this year's class of ambitious youngsters running for student body president and vice-president. His response was appropriate: "Impressive mediocrity." And they're not very articulate either.

As I watched the "debate," I felt like I had written my own Notre Dame satire, in poor syntax. Matt Szabo, the sharply dressed, hot Californian with the great hair, began by talking about what Notre Dame is all about: SYRs, football, Pop Farley, Keenan Revue, Christmas in April, blah blah blah. Yes, read your *Observer* and listen to Hootie.

He then suggested getting rid of Stepan Center as a platform plank. Stepan killed the sound at the Widespread Panic show a few years back, and I look forward to it being demolished on orders from President

Szabo's ticket also claims they will do something about hyperinflated bookstore prices. I can just see Father Malloy with the button in his hands to blow up Stepan, "Look, our bookstore prices are INSANE! Now you can get *Beyond Good and Evil* for just two dollars! Just two dollars!"

The Griffin-Nass ticket came out as the early favorite, touting experience. Mr. Griffin looks like a closeted Seth "Bank Machine" Miller, and claims to have spent lots of time on the second floor of LaFortune. (Why didn't someone tell me that's where all the action is?) Mr. Nass had perhaps the line of the evening: "Well, I don't know if you guys, like, I don't know ... watch 90210 [laughter], but there was this one episode where Brandon got accused of being the President's lackey and ..." Although I admit that much of my political knowledge stems from television, I certainly don't admit that

freely. They claimed they were "your voice," but it sounded more like "your boys," which of course they are. Mr. Griffin wanted to put student government in perspective, so in a rush of words, he informed us: "This isn't Southern California ... State ... UC Davis.

... Oh you know those schools out in California." Yes, you're right. California floods, Indiana never thaws.

I wish Dr. Hatch would make an appearance at one of these public undergraduate events. He might get a quick wake-up call about the quality of his undergraduate population.

My favorite part of the evening of entertainment was the mumbler. I must admit, I have a bit of a mumbler fetish, perhaps because I was one as a kid. When asked

about the proposed "universal parking pass" and the possible resulting complications in D6, Cano mumbled. Yes, he mumbled, except occasionally I heard the word "golf," so I'm not sure what was going on. All I could think of was Bill Murray and northern California sensamia.

The Booker/Parker ticket offered up cable television as an idea to complement their plan for "more and diverse social opportunities for students." What a great social opportunity for a student body that is already dull and shallow—more TV! Imagine the hours and hours of SportsCenter the boys could watch, or Lifetime Television for Women, Nick at Nite, Singled Out, professional wrestling. Everyday!

Eggs, you were a year too early. You would've won in a landslide this year. □

My friend's impression of this year's class of ambitious youngsters running for student body president was appropriate: "Impressive mediocrity." And they're not very articulate, either.

Szabo. Yeah! Explosions! They could sell popcorn. Yeah. And there'd be beer! Good beer! Bottled beer taste in a can! His ticket also plans on privatizing LaFortune so that it might include Macri's and Starbucks (both of which suck, incidentally). He claimed the university would make more money if it privatized LaFun (wait a minute, does the accounting office know this?). Yes, turn LaFortune into a shopping mall. And for that matter, I want more big screen TVs in LaFortune. No, I want them everywhere!

Election 1967: Political Parties

Believing that student government needed to exist as more than just "an elaborate, transient organization with a charismatic leader at the summit," *Scholastic* endorsed the formation of the Action Student Party, a campus-wide political party that would help to continue the goals of one administration into the following ones.

"One man cannot effect changes that, by their nature, must be done over a period of time. A political party, one that arises again and again, can. If Notre Dame student government is ever to become a reasonable force, the existence of strong competent parties is essential."

Maybe this year's candidates need to learn a lesson from the candidates of the late '60s and work for achievable change or continuity of issues.

Spellbinding

What do a physicist, a Native American spiritualist, a beat poet, a feminist and a suspense novelist have in common?

The 1997 Sophomore Literary Festival

BY HEATHER SCHOMANN

“**B**less the ordinary ... sanctify the common.” This is poet Eavan Boland’s call to her muse. Boland hopes that her invocation will be shared by Notre Dame students and that they will find inspiration for their own writing at the 1997 Sophomore Literary Festival. The Irish poet, whose writings deal with the everyday lives of women, is one of the featured writers at this year’s Festival.

*All night the sound had
come back again,
and again falls
this quiet, persistent rain.
What am I to myself
that must be remembered,
insisted upon
so often? Is it
that never the ease,
even the hardness,
of rain falling
will have for me
something other than this,
something not so insistent--*

— excerpt from “The Rain,”
Robert Creeley

First conceived 30 years ago as a week-long forum on the works of William Faulkner, the Sophomore Literary Festival has become a week-long gathering of a few of the world’s most notable authors. This year’s committee, composed of sophomore class members of the Student Union Board, has brought together authors as diverse as Boland and American novelist Tom Clancy. There is something for every literary taste at the 1997 Festival.

SLF will begin on Friday, February 7, with best-selling author Tom Clancy taking center stage. The author of such novels as *The Hunt for Red October*, *Patriot Games*, *Clear and Present Danger* and most recently *Executive Orders*, will kick off the Festival with a bang. Clancy is credited with the creation of the techno-thriller genre that dominated the best-seller lists in the late 1980s and early 1990s. His novels, three of which are also blockbuster films, are filled with intricate plots of government subversion. The

committee is excited about Clancy’s appearance, which wasn’t finalized until after semester break. “Tom Clancy is part of the established literary world. We usually host up-and-coming writers. With all of his books and films, he has a lot of recognition,” SLF chairperson Hunter Campaigne says.

Boland, whose collection *Outside History* is part of this year’s core syllabus, is Saturday’s featured author. Boland was attracted to the Festival because of Notre Dame’s Irish link. “We’re very excited to have Ms. Boland at the Festival because she is so widely respected. She makes only an average of four reading trips a year to the United States,” Campaigne says.

The Dublin-born poet is acknowledged as “the preeminent female poet of her native Ireland,” according to the Briarwood Writers’ Alliance. Her themes center on women’s issues, making her equally popular with literature and women’s studies classes. “Her cerebral yet often tender visions of suburban domesticity have also made her a popular and inspirational writer for many women living in that everyday world,” writes Anna Mundow of the *Boston Sunday Globe*. Notre Dame English Professor John Matthias says that Boland “expresses great concentration and passion in her writing. She is very skillful at her craft.”

Boland left Ireland at age 12, when her father became Ireland’s first ambassador to Great Britain. She later moved to New York when he became president of the United Nations. When she returned to Ireland as a college student, she was looking to find herself. “The expatriate,” she writes, “is in search of a country; the exile in search of a self.” Boland also began to feel alienated by sexism, discovering that, “maleness was

another country and the borders had long been closed. Women appeared only as the lifeless object of Irish poetry, which ... traditionally fused the national and the feminine, simplifying both," Mundow writes. Boland concentrates on the everyday in her writing, deriving inspiration from her family, neighbors, and even the most common objects.

On Sunday, physicist and writer Alan Lightman is the featured author. The John E. Burchard Professor of science and writing and senior lecturer in physics at MIT has written literary essays, short fiction and reviews that have appeared in *Granta*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *Story*. In 1990, his book, *Origins*, won the Association of American Publishers' Award for the best book in physical science. *Einstein's Dreams*, his first fiction book, as runner-up for the *Boston Globe's* Winship Award in 1993. His most recent book is a collection of essays entitled *Dance for Two*.

Campaigne feels that Lightman is one of this year's most interesting guests. "He has a unique dual focus in the humanities and physics. He's so talented that you can pick up one of his books and be immediately drawn in, even if you don't have a science background," she says. "The physics department donated money for his speaker's fee. I believe that's the first time a science department has contributed." Reidy feels that Lightman's background will bring students to the Festival that would otherwise not attend. He says, "He appeals to a different crowd than most of the other authors. College of Science students might be more interested in coming to hear him speak." Lightman will be hosting a workshop the following day from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Notre Dame room in LaFortune.

Pricilla Cogan, a clinical psychologist intensely involved in the native American spiritual community, is the featured author on Monday. A practicing psychologist for the past 20 years, She has also taught workshops in cross-cultural healing for the past 14 years with her husband, psychologist and first principal chief of the Free Cherokee, Duncan Sings Alone. She specializes in pipe and sweat lodge ceremonies. In her novel *Winona's Web*, she blends her expertise in psychology and Native American teachings to tell the story of an elderly Lakota Sioux medicine woman near death.

Although a new author, many committee members have read *Winona's Web* and think that Cogan is going to become a very

Bards of South Bend

This year the Sophomore Literary Festival once again features a student reading night. In their first appearance two years ago, the performances proved so popular that the SUB committee is continuing this new tradition. On Tuesday, February 12, eight students will share their talents with the Notre Dame community.

Joe Francis Doerr is a first-year graduate student in the English department at Notre Dame. Originally from Austin, Texas, he spent several years on the road as a singer/songwriter before returning to the University of Texas, from which he graduated magna cum laude in 1995 with a BA in English. Although Joe has tried his hand at genres as diverse as pop lyrics and screenplays, poetry is his passion. After working as a professional lyricist for ten years, Doerr returned to graduate school because he was "unsatisfied with the limitations placed on me by pop lyrics. I wanted to return to poetry where I can express myself better."

Mary Beth Ellis, a Saint Mary's sophomore from Cincinnati, Ohio, is majoring in English and Political Science. She began writing in high school after a change in career plans. She says, "My dream of becoming an astronaut was destroyed by Algebra I, so I decided I could better serve my country as a writer." She will read her original short story, "High Culture and the University of Notre Dame - The Story of My First Dorm Party."

Jessica Maich is a South Bend native, finishing her Master's in creative writing this year. She has attended the Festival many times and feels it is the best "free and open to the public" winter event on campus. This is her second appearance in the performance portion of the Festival, which she credits with heightening interest among college community members.

Jim McNamee of Fairfax, Va., now a senior at the university, began writing in high school when he and his friends published a 'zine. "Writing started as a way to vent, but now I've become more serious and more critical," he says. He will present a deconstruction of children's stories that he eventually hopes to turn into a comic book, with the help of some friends.

The oldest of seven, Jacob Radenmacher was raised in Decatur, Ill. Last year he studied at Trinity College in Dublin and participated in a two-semester play-writing and acting workshop. After graduation, he hopes to pursue his acting and writing, by either attending an MFA program in acting, a play-writing course, or moving to a major city to begin his professional career.

Bryce Seki is a junior PLS major from Hacienda Heights, Calif. In his spare time he enjoys studying the Beat Generation, playing video games, watching Audrey Hepburn movies and keeping up to date on "pop culture." "Poetry is my main focus right now. I haven't explored other forms as much, but I'd like to eventually," he says.

Jessica K. Szczepaniak-Gillece is in the MA program in English. Her work has appeared in *The Juggler*, *Talebones*, and *Llyr*, and her poem "Little Red-Cap" received honorable mention in the forthcoming anthology, *The Year's Best Horror and Fantasy 1996*.

Born and raised in Alabama, James Thomas is a first year student in the creative writing program. He completed his undergraduate degree in English at the University of Alabama. He began writing in elementary school when he rewrote the plots to his comic books. He will be presenting a short story entitled "Show and Tell."

—Biographies courtesy of SUB

successful author. Says Reidy, "We think that her career is really going to take off and we're very excited to have her here now."

Cogan is taking a different approach to the festival. She will spend part of her time telling traditional Native American stories as well as reading from her novel. She plans to stay on campus for several days with her husband to take in the Festival and Notre Dame.

Campaigne says, "She sounds very interested in us and in campus. She's looking forward to spending time with the students." Cogan will be hosting a workshop on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in LaFortune's Notre Dame room for interested students.

On Wednesday, Robert Creeley will make his third visit to the Festival to share his poetry. U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass has called Creeley's style "the one truly original style created after 1945." His early poetry was heavily inspired by jazz music. Creeley says that while a student at Harvard Univer-

sity he "was frankly doing almost nothing else but sitting around listening to records."

From jazz, Creeley developed the idea that poetry depends on its presentation more than its subject matter. He incorporated the unique range of jazz sounds and rhythms into his work. He was a member of the group of poets dubbed the Black Mountain group in the 1950s, which also included Allen Ginsberg, a past participant in the Sophomore Literary Festival. The Black Mountain poets are considered by many a forerunner to the counterculture movement of the

1960s. After holding numerous professorships, two Guggenheim fellowships and a Rockefeller Grant, Creeley was named State Poet by the state of New York. His latest volume of poetry is entitled *Echoes*.

The 30th annual Sophomore Literary Festival promises something of interest for every student ranging from physics to Native American tales, poetry to espionage thrillers. There is an author on the schedule sure to satisfy all. Readings will begin at 8 p.m. in Washington Hall, with the exception of Clancy, who will begin at 7 p.m. □

*And at the place where time stands still, one sees
lovers kissing in the shadows of buildings, in a frozen
embrace that will never let go. The loved one will
never take his arms from where they are now, will
never give back the bracelet of memories, will never
fail to show his love, will never become jealous, will
never fall in love with someone else, will never lose
the passion of this instant of time.*

— excerpt from *Einstein's Dreams*, Alan Lightman

Thirty Years in the Making

"Sunday, March 5: Class of '69 presents 'Intruder in the Dust,' Faulkner Literary Festival, Engineering Auditorium." This was the only mention in the March 3, 1967 issue of *Scholastic Magazine* of what has grown into one of Notre Dame's most time-honored traditions. Since that inauspicious beginning, the Sophomore Literary Festival has been host to many of the world's most renowned authors.

The Festival, by its second year, featured Norman Mailer, Ralph Ellison, William F. Buckley, Jr. and Kurt Vonnegut. Female writers such as Margaret Atwood, Joyce Carol Oates, Susan Sontag and Elizabeth Sewell have also attended in past years. Now, the tradition continues with the appearance of poet Eavan Boland.

Three of the country's most notable playwrights have also been guests at the Festival. In 1971 *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* author Tom Stoppard appeared; Arthur Miller, author of *Death of a Salesman*, considered by many to be the greatest American play, appeared in 1973; and Tennessee Williams, who penned the classics *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, visited campus in 1977 to take part in the Festival.

Several authors have made repeat performances. Poet Allen Ginsberg visited the Festival in 1972 as well as in 1979. Galway Kinnell first came to the Festival in 1976 and returned in 1995. Robert Creeley, one of this year's featured authors, is making a record third visit.

This year's Festival promises to keep with tradition by bringing several of the most interesting authors in English literature to campus.

— by Heather Schomann

Campus Watch

BY THE GIPPER

Attitude, Allegations, and Innuendo

It was a long, hard break for all of us. The Gipp missed waking up in the shadow of the Dome — at least on those days when the sun is visible. But he dealt with his homesickness by simulating his favorite aspects of Notre Dame. For instance, he parked at a shopping mall a couple miles from his house and walked home every day. In lieu of Bridget's, one day he brought a case of beer to a daycare center.

But we're all back now, safe and sound — except for those of you who live in Stepan Center. If Matt Szabo has anything to do with it, the lease will run out on Stepan next year. Luckily, he doesn't.

The Gipp does have a confession to make, though. He hasn't quite figured out his e-mail, so he didn't get all the tips that you loyal Campus Watchers sent in until he got back. So he'll try to sprinkle those tips that aren't too outdated in among the fresh, squirming ones.

AS LONG AS EVERYONE HAS A GOOD TIME ...

The Gipp squealed with joy when he heard this tip. Tom Schlidt reported in *The Observer* that John Jordan committed to Notre Dame as an offensive lineman. Schlidt reported that he is "unknown as a player." Not unknown to Holtz, though. His father, Jay Jordan, is a major donor to the business school and used to let Holtz use his plane for recruiting trips.

Mere allegations? Think about it: how many 6'0", 250-pound offensive linemen — who have not been recruited by any other schools — get scholarship offers from Notre Dame? Notre Dame has always boasted of its commitment to service, and now they're

taking that commitment to the playing field. Well, if they don't go to a bowl, they might as well pretend they're United Way.

SHELTERING THE ENEMY

Speaking of which, university employees receive a notice encouraging them to contribute to United Way's annual fund-raising efforts. Funny that a school steeped in Catholic values encourages donations to a foundation that supports Planned Parenthood, a

REASON NUMBER 6667 THE GIPP LOVES NOTRE DAME: The rector of Badin keeps the men's bathroom on the first floor locked. The assistant rector told a cross-legged male that the rector figures there are "plenty of restrooms in South Dining Hall." Luckily, Sr. Nolan, there are also plenty of trees around Badin. You give us no other option.

from Sports Info?

LET'S GET THEM BACK, PART II

Part I of this series ran after the OSU game in the fall, when that overjoyed Buckeye did a victory dance in the end zone during the alma mater. This time, it's a Web page: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/ih8nd/>. Whoever maintains the homepage apparently really, really hates Notre Dame. (Must be a BC student who

was wait-listed here.) There isn't any substance, just a lot of statements to the effect of "We hate Notre Dame." The Gipp suggests you stop by and e-mail this hateful individual. His address is 104245.02417@compuserve.com.

Postscript for Licensing department lawyers: the homepage features a graphic of a gagged leprechaun.

Now if we students can't even make Irish bottle-opener keychains, they certainly can't defame our leprechaun — even if he was mute on the sidelines this year.

CHECKBOOK BALANCING WOES

Now for a tip from before the holy holiday. Campus View, which has changed management twice since current residents signed their leases, is having some trouble with basic debits and credits. Residents received notices on their doors during exam week detailing current debts and credits, ranging from a couple dollars to hundreds of dollars. Most residents, however, were current on their expenses. The office was filled with angry Domers within minutes. Residents were told to submit proof of payment to clear up the confusion. Does anyone know if Campus View hired the accountant



MEIJER

24 Hours at Meijer: Why Buy More?

When I grow up, I'm not going to pay rent, because I'm going to live in Meijer. I'll eat at the Pizzeria, bank at the in-store 1st Source Bank, watch TV in the entertainment center, get my news from the tabloids, poop in the public restroom and sleep on the patio furniture. And to light my way through it all, I'll use a Black and Decker Snakelight (\$9.99).

To preview my future as a live-in loiterer, my trusty sidekick, Patrick, and I decided to try spending each of the 24 hours in a day in Meijer. You think you love capitalism? Think again.

BY STEVE MYERS

Big Band Music From the War Years CD: \$5.97

3 p.m.: We arrive as did the Pilgrims, hopeful yet fearful. Unlike the Pilgrims, though, we don't fix dinner for the employees and then kill them. The manager and employees don't know how to react when we explain that we will be establishing residency in their store for the next day or so. "Have fun," says one of the employees, in a tone of voice that in retrospect seems ironic.

Both The Hoosier Cookbook and More Hoosier Cooking: \$6.99, \$6.97

4:15 p.m.: We've been walking around the store for an hour, trading Meijer memories. We've already spotted the \$19.97 "four shelf slotted bookcase" that every Notre Dame student receives at freshman orientation. No one notices us loiterers; everyone is in a mad rush for the checkout lanes. The 38 checkout lanes are packed and are reminiscent of the black and white photos of immigrants at Ellis Island.

MoistAir 750 evaporative humidifier: \$27.99

6 p.m.: Dinnertime. We sit down for a hearty meal at the Meijer Pizzeria. The sign at the soda fountain reads, "Free refills — same visit only." We're gonna take Heinrich Meijer to the bank on that one.

New Improved Smarter Clapper (turn on both TV and cable box!): \$20

6:50 p.m.: To entertain ourselves, we take shopping carts and follow shoppers around the store, selecting the same items as they do. With one particularly frazzled young mother, we drop extra snacks into her cart with her small child when she momentarily leaves the cart.

Magnavox 33 inch TV: \$699.99 ("Financing provided by 1st Source Bank. Loans approved while you shop!")

8 p.m.: We stand in front of the bank of TVs, our entire field of vision filled with flashing images and Snackwell's commercials. We notice that if we stand too close to the TVs, our eyes start watering.

Bathroom sign: "Team Meijer please wash hands. Cleanliness promotes better health"

8:40 p.m.: We stop by the video store, open a membership, and start looking for highbrow entertainment. Can you say *Don't*

Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead?

Charlotte Hornets infant sleeper, size 2: \$12.99 (on clearance, 30 percent off)

9 p.m.: The flow of couples begins, as Meijer becomes a refuge for parents trying to get away from their kids. "Hey, honey, do you think we need a VCR rewinder?"

Mailmaster series all-plastic mailbox, front and rear access doors: \$49.97

10 p.m.: Examining the postings on the bulletin board in one of the entranceways (near the convenient cash machine), we see a sheet entitled, "STOP BEDWETTING." Our curiosity piqued (don't ask), we take a closer look. On the form is a selection headed "Child's age: (ages 4-50 only)."

15x10-foot American flag: \$253 even

11 p.m.: More free refills. If only they had a Taco Bell inside here. While we are thinking of things Meijer doesn't have, I realize they don't have a barbershop. Shoemsmith be damned — I need a haircut!

"Reasons to Shop Meijer" number 26: "So many ways to pay!"

11:55 p.m.: We prepare for the witching hour by setting all the alarm clocks.

Pony rides: One cent

Midnight: Our efforts are rewarded tenfold as the air is filled with the sweet sounds of buzzing, beeping, chirping, static and Hootie.

Red Bananas from Ecuador: price not marked

12:20 We go back to the TVs and put the movie in one of the TV/VCRs. Soon our eyes are tearing again — not from standing too close, but from laughter. That Christina Applegate sure is easy on the eyes, too.

The Pill Book, with a cover featuring Zoloft and Prozac tablets: \$6.99

2 a.m.: We keep running into a couple doing some late-night shopping. We don't know if the boyfriend is shooting us dirty looks because we keep talking into a handheld tape recorder or because we've been checking out his girlfriend.

Nickel-free earrings, dated: \$4.99

3 a.m.: We realize that we have been unconsciously walking in a circle that ends at the vacuum cleaners — I think I might want one. We decide to branch out and visit the grocery area. Even in Meijer, late-night food options are limited. Because they might be upset if we use a microwave in Appliances to cook something, we split a Jumbo Sub (\$4.99).

Beware of the Dog sign: \$.79

4 a.m.: Waiting in the checkout lane behind us is a man, alone, buying a pregnancy test kit. As he leaves Patrick says, "Hey, buddy, save your money — you're not pregnant!"

.50 caliber rifle: \$99.99, 20 percent off, no coupon necessary

4:26 a.m.: Fatigue setting in. This isn't funny anymore. With cloudy minds and rubbery legs, we decide that there must be a mystery in a store the size of Meijer — especially one that stays open all night. With newfound purpose, we start looking for clues.

"Sacred Heart of Jesus" Candles (aisle 7, above salsa) \$1.35

4:45 a.m.: We're on to something. The toy section has been cordoned off all night. A man with a plastic backpack full of liquid wax (or so he says) is waxing the floor. When we ask him when he'll be done, he tells us he has to apply five coats. I tell him

I don't think anyone can tell the difference between three and five coats. He replies cryptically, "That's what I used to think, too."

Slam" infant basketball shoes, size 2, velcro closure: \$11.95

5:30 a.m.: The store is mostly empty now, save the gas-powered floor polishers that periodically roar by. Meijer's overhead isn't the result of being open 24 hours, it's due to floors so smooth you can do the Moonwalk from Housewares to Hardware. The toy section is still closed off. He says he is on his third coat.

Hoosier Lotto, potential for millions of dollars: \$1

7 a.m.: As the sun rises over the parking lot, we're debating whether we would spend our last five dollars in the world on a Sony Betamax cassette or the latest issue of *Skin Diver*, "The World's Largest and Best-Read Scuba diving Magazine." We decide on the Beta tape — it could still make a comeback.

Goldfish: \$.19

7:35 a.m.: The enemy agent has stopped "waxing the floor," a coded phrase that we have not been able to crack. But now he says he has to "let it dry." I tell him, "The long-necked goose shimmied down the Muskeeter-filled hallway." He gives me a confused look. Apparently, our codes are different.

"Three Quick Bun Firming Workouts," exercise video: \$9.77

8 a.m.: Walk Like an Egyptian is playing on the Muzak, and we're feelin' fine!

Engagement rings: \$99.99-\$399.99

Wedding bands: \$29.99-\$139.99 (fancy band)

9 a.m.: We ask one of the clerks if they have Tickle Me Elmos. She says she doesn't know, and that the toy manager won't be in until after lunch. We tell her we'll wait.

BluBlockers Starshield Polarized sunglasses, As Seen on TV: \$19.95

9:30 a.m.: Real shoppers have invaded our domain. We retaliate by removing items from their carts when they're not looking. I look at a fireproof filing safe with interest, not realizing that I'm exhibiting classic symptoms of Meijer Syndrome: lightheadedness, a desire to buy everything

in eyesight and a newfound respect for Lynard Skynard.

Indiana, the Hoosier State: A Pictorial Guide: \$4.97

10 a.m. As we're on our way to treating ourselves to a lunch of free samples at the deli ("How about the smoked turkey?"), we notice two 18-year-old guys in the toy section carefully examining Star Wars action figures. As they walk away, a plainclothes security officer peeks around a corner and starts following them. I express relief, because I've been shoplifting six-packs of yellow corn skewers (\$9.97) all night.

National Enquirer, "Elvis was murdered—secret autopsy proves it": \$1.39

11:15 a.m. We can't take the lunchtime crowd, so we are reading in the deli area, anxiously awaiting halftime. Fatigue passed long ago, as did any significant brain activity. This makes reading *Das Kapital* difficult. The irony of reading Marx in Meijer is not lost on me. My partner is reading *Bye Bye Thumbsucking*, a Muppet Babies Big Step Book (\$3.54).

Barbie playhouse, pink roof, purple door: \$229.99

12:30 p.m.: We are prepared to risk deportation if the toy section is not open by now. Through our sleep-deprived clarity of mind, we have determined that whatever Meijer is hiding is there.

3-D fuzzy blacklight posters: \$4.97

1:50 p.m.: Walking into the toy section, I slip, grabbing hold of a Pocahontas pillow (\$6.97) to keep from falling. Apparently he did apply five coats. We ask the toy clerk if they have Tickle Me Elmos. She naively replies that they don't. Aha, Heinrich Meijer! You have new improved Clappers and comatose goldfish, but no Tickle Me Elmos! I give the clerk some advice to pass on to her superiors: You can't hide your product weaknesses behind five coats of wax, even if you are open all night.

2:59 p.m.: Victorious, we parade around the store, quizzing each other on deli prices. On our way out, we pick up a couple of Sacred Heart of Jesus candles, give a couple kids free pony rides and walk into a new age.

I have to figure out how I'm gonna pay rent when I grow up. □

J. Patrick Coolican contributed to this article.

Taking Shape

The man behind North Quad's snow sculptures talks about his creative way of dealing with South Bend winters

BY BRIDGET BRADBURN

On a dreary Wednesday afternoon, Dan Sullivan seems restless. An icy rain is falling, turning the existing layer of snow to slush and coating the sidewalks with a sheet of ice. Sullivan is stuck in his dorm room. He paces around looking for a cigarette and says that on days like this he can only think about what he will create after the next snowfall.

Sullivan's room in Zahm faces his canvas — North Quad. He is the sculptor of the snow figures that, for the past two winters, have risen from the otherwise flat, tundra-like quad. Sullivan is from Tampa, Fla., and saw snow for the first time last year, when he spent his first winter in South Bend. After seeing another student build a snowman, he realized he could shape the piles of snow that surrounded him into more interesting figures. And the novelty has not worn off.

"I'm making the best of a bad situation," he says of his hobby. "When you've got one-and-a-half feet of white stuff, you're either going to complain about it or do something about it."

What he has done includes a sculpture of a woman sitting on a bench — his first work of snow art — a sea serpent, a lion, a swan, a Sphinx and a replica of Rodin's *The Thinker*. And all he uses to do it are his own two hands — protected by two pairs of gloves — and a butter knife. "It's not from North Dining Hall," he emphatically insists.

Beyond the tools, though, there is no method to Sullivan's work. "Frankly, I can't explain how I do it," he says. "It depends on how much snow I can build up. Sometimes it just takes a shape. It's a very forgiving medium."

Snow is not the only medium with which

Sullivan has worked. "In the spring, I like to do sidewalk chalk drawings," he says, adding that he enjoys writing poetry and screenplays, going to movies, drawing and painting. "I consider myself a man of the arts."

While he has not done sculptures using any other material, Sullivan does consider his snow sculptures an art form. "But I wouldn't consider it a serious art form where I want you to study it and comment on it." He adds that his family and friends back home are amused by his newfound talent. "My mother often jokes and says, 'I'm glad we're sending you to school to do something with your life.'"

For Sullivan, the sculptures do involve a serious time commitment. He sculpted the sea serpent that sprawled across North Quad last year during finals week. "I had no exams, so I spent an all-nighter on it," he explains. "I'm not a slacker."

Last year Sullivan did all of his sculpting at night. This year, however, he spent the daylight hours of the weekend after this semester's first blizzard sculpting the lion, the swan, the Sphinx and *The Thinker*.

"The only problem this year is that people have ripped the heads off the sculptures and put them at the door [of Zahm Hall]," he says with a wry smile. "We're pretty sure it's a guy from Keenan. It takes a real genius to rip the head off *The Thinker*."

Sullivan got his first glimpse of the art world at a young age. "My grandfather is an



THINKING MEN. Sullivan poses besides his latest masterpiece, a rendition of Rodin's *The Thinker*, before its head was removed.

artist and since I was little he has taught me about perspective." Ironically, though, it was Sullivan's other grandfather who originally influenced his academic decisions. "My other grandfather was a brain surgeon — he was very analytical. He would send me articles on genetics, and for a long time I wanted to be a genetic engineer."

As a freshman, Sullivan was a biology major until one day he had a revelation. "I was sitting on this couch," he says, pointing to the couch on which he is lounging. "Someone was talking about Orgo and I came to the realization that I can't do this for the rest of my life." He then changed his course of study to a double major in English and Communication and Theater.

He jokes that he should be using the dreary, mild days to get ahead in his reading so he will have more time to sculpt when the snow accumulates again. Instead, he sits on his couch, listens to Harry Connick, Jr. CDs — "I like the slow-going, funky stuff" — and smokes a cigarette. "I just sit in here and think of what I'm going to do next," he says with a shrug. □

IN A CLASS BY HIMSELF

Co-captain Steve Noble has earned praise for his performance — both on the ice and in the classroom

BY BRIAN LUCAS

Streaks are an important part of sports. Cal Ripken's streak of consecutive games played has made him a household name. Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak is one of baseball's most amazing records. Steve Noble, co-captain of the Notre Dame hockey team, has an impressive streak of his own. But it has nothing to do with his skill on the ice.

Since receiving a B+ in an anthropology class freshman year, the junior finance major has earned 24 straight As. At Notre Dame, Noble has posted perfect grades in 28 of the 29 classes he has taken. That translates into a 3.98 grade point average, highest among all student-athletes this year.

This type of academic success is rare for even the average Domer. For the captain of a varsity team, such an achievement is almost unheard of. The time constraints for varsity athletes are difficult, especially when practice lasts three to four hours a day.

"It's a challenge trying to balance the schoolwork and the practice time," Noble says. "It gives a lot of structure to the day, though. There's class, then practice, then it's time to study. You have no choice but to follow the schedule."

This organization is what makes Noble successful. It's also one of the things that caught the eye of Dave Poulin. When Poulin took over last year, he immediately noticed Noble's hard work and intensity.

"He's in the weight room usually about four times a week on his own," Poulin says. "That's besides the time we spend in there as a team. I just look at him and wonder how he does it."

The strong first impression Noble made on Poulin earned him the position of assistant captain last season. This year, Noble is

a co-captain with senior Terry Lorenz. He has a chance to become a three-year captain, something that is unprecedented in the history of Irish hockey.

With this season's squad being the second youngest in Division I hockey, Noble's experience and leadership are invaluable. Many freshmen play important roles on the team, and they look to Noble for advice.

"He's not the loudest guy in the locker room, but he leads by example," freshman Ben Simon says. "He's always there, on and off the ice, whenever we need to talk."

Besides being one of the team leaders, Noble is also one of its key players. Earlier in the season, he endured a span of 15 games in which he did not score a goal, and the team went 3-12 during that time.

Finally, on January 17, Noble broke out of his slump against Alaska-Fairbanks, scoring Notre Dame's first shorthanded goal of the season. That began a personal four-game scoring streak that included the game-winning goal against Alaska-Fairbanks the next night. The streak ended in a 3-0 loss to Michigan State last week, but Noble is still encouraged by his improving play.

"It's really just a matter of overcoming the mental aspects of the game," he says. "When you play poorly you lose confidence, and when you play well you regain it. Right now I have that confidence, and hopefully I can continue to play well."

Noble has been developing confidence since he started playing hockey at age five, when his family installed an ice rink in the backyard of their Ontario home. Noble grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, a border city near Michigan, and hockey was in his blood.

"My father played, my brothers played, and all my friends played," Noble says.



Sian Evans

GET OFF MY BACK. Noble fights off a defender against St. Cloud State. He leads the team with four power play goals.

"Sometimes my mom would even lace up a pair of skates."

When he finished high school, Noble was drafted by the St. Louis Blues in the eighth round. Many high-profile college programs courted him as well.

"I looked at some schools with great hockey programs and some schools with great academic reputations," Noble says. "Notre Dame had the best balance."

With graduation just a year away, Noble has started to think about the next big decision in his life. With his grades, he would be a good candidate for a number of jobs in the business world. But given his skills on the ice, a career in professional hockey is not out of the question, either.

"A lot of it depends on how I play next year and on my health," Noble says. "I keep in touch with some guys who are in the minors now and really enjoy it. On the other hand, I've also spoken to people who have entered the business world and are happy."

Whatever Noble decides, one thing is certain — the team will surely miss him. "Steve's the type of player we want the program to be about," Poulin says. "There are very few times that I go out recruiting and fail to mention his name."

Using Steve Noble as a building block for the future can only improve the outlook of the Notre Dame hockey team. If the team adds more players like him, it could soon be earning straight As. □

If They Build It...



The new Rolfs Sports Center will make more options available for the fitness of Notre Dame students

BY JEREMY DIXON

A day doesn't pass by when there aren't people running around the lakes or making their way to the Rockne Memorial or Loftus Center. Lately, however, overcrowding has forced the university to add another building on campus — a new athletic center specifically for students, set to open next January.

Currently, the university provides two weight rooms for the general student population: the Rock and the Joyce Center. But due to conflicting arrangements, these are not always open. The Rockne weight room is closed in the middle of the day for freshman physical education classes. The Joyce Center weight room is closed until 6:30 p.m. every weekday, forcing anyone who wants to lift before dinner to go to the Rock. It is open during most sporting events, but does close during large luncheons and outside events. This makes for long lines to use the equipment at the Rock.

"You can never get anything after class," freshman Julie Jenkins says. "There's a wait for everything."

The frigid South Bend winters also force runners and basketball players indoors. Again, there are only two places to go for either. Runners have the option of Loftus or

the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. Loftus is closed in the afternoon from 3:00 until 6:30 p.m. for varsity practices, and the same rules that apply to the weight room are in effect for the track in the Fieldhouse as well.

"The only time we close the track is when there's a track meet or a clinic," Loftus Director Charles "Lefty" Smith says. "The rest of the time, we're open at our regular hours."

Indoor basketball courts are also few and far between. There are two at the Rock and seven at the Joyce Center. Those at the Joyce are many times taken by varsity teams, intramural games or other events, leaving those who want to play a pick-up game waiting for the snow to melt.

It is often difficult for students to know exactly when each facility will be closed because of other commitments. To combat this, RecSports has instituted a 24-hour hotline that tells callers which facilities are open. There is also a Web site on the university home page that gives students the needed information. The phone number is 631-8REC and the Web address is www.nd.edu:80/~lhurcik/NDfacilities.html. "We're very close to reaching the next level, which will be a daily update of what's open and what's not," Sally Derengoski, director of Rec Services and Fitness, says.

The overcrowding and sometimes frustrating schedules of the existing campus athletic buildings are things that RecSports and the athletic department aim to alleviate with the new rec center. Set to open next January, the facility will offer students another option for their recreational needs.

Being built adjacent to the Joyce Center,

"This will be a tremendous addition to fill in the gaps of what we need. We want it to meet the user needs and be a pleasant environment."

the Rolfs Sports Recreation Center will have three stories. There will be three hardwood courts, available for basketball or volleyball, and another plastic floor, which can be used for floor hockey, indoor soccer or inline skating.

"This will be a tremendous addition to fill

in the gaps of what we need," Derengoski says, who is coordinating the project for RecSports. "We want it to meet the user needs and be a pleasant environment."

Also present in the building will be another weight and fitness room. This new room, which will rival the size of the varsity weight room in Loftus, is projected to be nearly 5,000 square feet, larger than the two non-varsity weight rooms combined. The weights were selected after a campus-wide survey was completed, which asked users what they wanted to see in the building. There will also be fitness machines, such as treadmills, stair-steppers and stationary bikes.

Suspended above the courts will be another track, accessible from the second floor, three lanes wide and one-tenth of a mile long. The RecSports office will also move into the new building, allowing easier access for intramural and club sports sign-ups.

Questions linger, however. With the influx of students on South and Golf Quads, it remains to be seen if the Rock will continue to be crowded or if students will walk across campus to the Rolfs Center. This issue was debated by the planners, according to Derengoski. "It was an important decision where it was located," she says. "We based it upon where populations would be when it was open."

The choice was narrowed down to the current location or one on the golf course, which were comparable in walking distance for most students. The committee settled on the Juniper Road location because of a number of factors, including easier access for off-campus students, more parking and the distance from the Rock.

"It's hard to predict right now," Br. Louis Hurcik, director of the Rockne Memorial, says. "Where students go depends on them."

"It probably will ease overcrowding at the Rock," sophomore Scott Schaefer, who works out there three to four times weekly, predicts. "But it depends on the students, because campus will be so South-Quad heavy next year."

Also a concern is whether the new building will affect the policies of the existing facilities, especially Loftus. Crew team member Mike Kroeger is worried about his team's fate.

"Our biggest concern would be getting caught in the middle, being shut out of the RecSports building because of general student use and out of Loftus because of varsity teams," he says. "But we haven't heard

anything official yet."

Officials are quick to answer these concerns. "We see this as an addition, not a replacement. There's been no discussion of changing policies," Derengoski says.

haven't been any final recommendations on facility optimization yet," Derengoski says. "When it is completed, we will communicate them to students."

Despite these concerns, the new building

"We see this as an addition, not a replacement. There's been no discussion of changing policies."

"I don't see why we would change our policy," Smith adds.

RecSports and the athletic department are in the process of reevaluating the current policies, meant to review the schedules and policies in place at the moment. "There

is continuing as planned, and when opened, will serve students and faculty. At that time, a new option will be available to all, but with the uncertainty surrounding usage, there still may be lines at the Rock or people braving the weather to run around the lakes. □



SORRY, PLEASE COME AGAIN. Loftus closes every afternoon for three-and-a-half hours to allow varsity teams to practice. Other student rec buildings also close during the day because of other commitments.

Stan Evans

Splinters from the Press Box

A roundup of the week in sports
January 29 to February 4
edited by Brian Hiro

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Jan. 29 at Pitt L 88-64
Feb. 4 St. John's W 75-70

Key Player: Admore White, who hit four straight free throws in the final 20 seconds to clinch the victory for the Irish.

Key Stat: Pitt made an astounding 16 of 23 three-pointers in its blowout of the Irish. The 16 treys broke the single-game Big East record.

Up Next: The Irish host slumping UConn and suprising West Virginia.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jan. 29 at Miami W 72-71
Feb. 2 at St. John's W 75-47

Key Player: Katryna Gaither made two free throws in the final five seconds to ice the win in Miami.

Key Stat: Beth Morgan became the first player in school history to exceed 2,000 points by netting 21 against the Hurricanes.

Up Next: Syracuse at home Thursday, then a road trip to unbeaten and top-ranked Connecticut.

HOCKEY

Jan. 31 at Lake Superior L 6-3
Feb. 1 at Lake Superior L 4-0

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

Key Stat: The Irish have played five consecutive games against nationally-ranked teams, losing four of them.

Up Next: Two home matchups with conference foe Ohio State.

SWIMMING

Men's

Jan. 31 at Buffalo W 126-115
Feb. 1 at St. Bonaventure L 119-113

Women's

Jan. 31 Southern Illinois W 161-132
Feb. 1 at Michigan L 82-58

Key Player: Linda Gallo won five events.

Key Stat: The men's team had its four-meet winning streak snapped against the Bonnies.

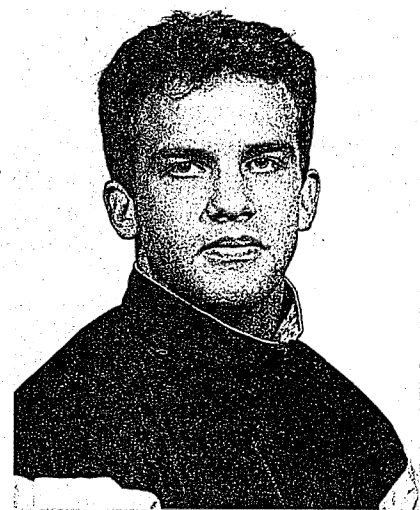
Up Next: Western Kentucky for the men; the Big East Championships for the women.

What They Said: "I hit it good and kept my head down. When I saw it go through, I was shocked. Then I did my ham dance, 'Show me the money!'" — Lance Alstodt on his million-dollar field goal at halftime of the Pro Bowl

What We Read: "Tiger Woods's mother hopes her son will take a Thai bride, just like Woods's father did. Kulthida Woods also said Tiger's bride better like golf, better expect a background check and better be ready to sign a prenuptial agreement. Who says romance is dead?" — Steve Rosenbloom, *Chicago Tribune*

Dix's Pick: The Big East has been waiting all season for this one: 15th-ranked Notre Dame coming into Storrs to face the top-ranked Huskies. A battle of All-American candidates, the game comes down to the final minutes as Kara Wolters scores 24 for UConn and Beth Morgan connects for 29. The Huskies pull it out, 77-72.

Hiro's Hunch: The Irish carry their 10-game winning streak and perfect Big East mark into Husky territory to take on the biggest juggernaut this side of Kansas. UConn looks unbeatable — especially at home — with All-Americans Kara Wolters and Nykesha Sales, and they prove it against the visitors. Gaither and Wolters battle to a draw inside, but outside shooting and depth is the difference as the Huskies roll, 79-56.



Bill Lester

The senior sabreman broke one of the oldest records in the Notre Dame fencing books when he won his first match against Cleveland State Saturday. With the win, Lester eclipsed assistant coach Mike Sullivan's mark of 183 career wins that had stood for 17 years.

Athletes of the Week

Jennifer Engelhardt

The freshman from Battle Creek, Mich., improved her NCAA qualifying mark by three-fourths of an inch in winning the high jump at the Mayo Invitational. Her leap topped the field by almost five inches and represented a new career best.



◆ THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Run for Your Life!

It's that time of year — again. You'll read *The Observer* and *Scholastic* profiles and endorsements of candidates, all of which are so chock full of "unbiased reporting" so much so that it seems all student body presidential candidates sound alike. Well, OOB knows they *are* all alike, and therefore cuts through the campaign bull with this handy, one-page guide, analyzing each ticket based solely on their posters. In the end, you may not agree with the endorsement, but hey, if you're looking to this column for hard core, life-changing advice, you're beyond help.

★ **Matt and Mary**

- Have you read their poster? These two aren't just running for office, they're saving the world. The copy on this thing isn't campaign rhetoric, it's rejected lines from the *Independence Day* ad campaign. "It's time to rally! Because this is our university. Now we take it back." Let's hear it, guerillas!

Trivial Idea File: Replacing Stepan Center because it's "an eyesore ... totally adverse to the beauty of our campus" (Hint: let's start with the crappy art and work up) "We need something soon ... anything ... anything other than Stepan!!!" A few weeks earlier and these two could have been candidates for Oscar nominees.

Connecting Us: No mention of progress updates in *The Observer*.

Say What?: Szabo's credentials include "student advocate." Hey, aren't we all.

Mod Quad ATM: No.

Best Reason to Vote for Them: They write, "The students of St. Mary's and almost every respected university in America have direct [student] representation." Thanks for making the distinction.

★ **Matt and EreK**

- Platform includes issues from campus parking to study space to student unity. I think they also have plans for balancing the federal budget and reforming welfare, but they ran out of room on their poster, leaving space for only a small photo of two J. Crew rejects.

Trivial Idea File: Moving Opening Mass earlier in the year. Yep, that's the issue that's gonna get the swing voters.

Connecting Us: Monthly insert in *The Observer* updating "what Student Government is doing for you."

Say What?: "Students with a carload of friends should be allowed to drop them off, day or night." I can see the guard gates now: "Hey, why are you guys all wearing ski masks, camouflage and carrying assault rifles?" "Um ... ROTC." "Oh, OK."

Mod Quad ATM: No.

Best Reason to Vote for Them: They promise to "increase existing 24-hour space in each dorm." Well, at least we know these two have a sex drive.

★ **Matt and Brian**

- "Somethin' Brand New..." their poster reads. Try more like something brand name. Like those two interlocking NDs. Get the licensing rights to those, Matt and Bri?

Trivial Idea File: Honestly, it's hard to find one. Actually, it's hard to find any ideas at all. Sparse poster is well laid out with a lot of white space, uncluttered by annoying "platform" that intrudes most of the other candidates' ads.

Connecting Us: Bi-weekly ad in *The Observer* to act as student forum.

Say What?: They promise to "uphold and preserve" Notre Dame's tradition and mission as a premiere Catholic University. Per-

haps they could get a spot on *Dateline*.

Mod Quad ATM: No

Best Reason to Vote for Them: Inexperienced and it shows. Few ideas and the ones they endorse seem lame, but surprisingly feasible. Obviously trying to bat 1.000 by stepping up to the plate as little as possible.

★ **Bobby and Laura**

- Their posters scream "Booker and Parker." "Booker and Parker," now there's a ticket with a ring to it. "This Friday, the precinct is under fire from a local gang of drug dealers and the chief is putting on the heat. Catch an all new *Booker and Parker*, CBS Friday." It sure sounds a lot better than their slogan, "Simple. Structured. Strong." Are they running for office or peddling Nuprin?

Trivial Idea File: "Revive student involvement at pep rallies and games." We hear winning games might help.

Connecting Us: Bi-weekly open forums and student government sites on the Net.

Say What?: They promise "Bands at Stonehenge in fall and spring" and "More concerts, comedians and speakers." If I worked for SUB, I would be insulted.

Mod Quad ATM: No.

Best Reason to Vote for Them: Their names don't begin with "Matt."

★ **Andrew and Jonathan**

- Didn't see any of their posters in LaFortune, outside the dining halls or above any urinals. Hey guys, get a better PR person.

Best Reason to Vote for Them: Low-key campaign saves them from cheap OOB sarcasm. By sparing us (at least OOB) the usual "vote for us" hot air, more space was given to their worthier opponents. You know, these two guys might just be on to something here.

★ ★ ★

And OOB endorses: None of the above. No ticket is fighting for that ever-important Mod Quad ATM, and until these kids start talking *real* issues, we say, screw 'em all.

— Chris Myers

OUT OF BOUNDS
SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

Nutts to Hollywood

The best and worst of movies '96 — Scholastic style

BY ANDREW NUTTING

I know, I know. "It's already February. 1996 ended 38 days ago. Siskel and Ebert had their Top 10 show 41 days ago. Why the hell are you doing a retrospective on 1996 films now?"

Well, O un-pop-cultured one, in case you didn't notice, nominations for the Oscars come out Monday morning. Yes, it's that time of year when people whine that good little movies will never be nominated for Best Picture as long as evil studios rule the cinema, that so-and-so should have been nominated for Best Actor instead of Best Supporting Actor and that all five Best Original Song nominations really shouldn't be from the last Disney animated feature.

Well, I'm not a whiner, I'm a doer, so I've made up my own cinematic awards whether you or the Academy agree with them or not. So here are the First (and I hope) Annual Nutt Awards, named, of course, after myself:

Best Film: It's somewhat embarrassing to say that a movie known only for its hot-and-heavy

girl/girl sex scene was the best movie of the year. So it is with a blushed face that I write *Bound*, the movie known only for its hot-and-heavy girl/girl sex scene, was the best movie of the year, albeit not for the seemingly obvious reason.

Usually "suspense" movies have about four suspenseful scenes, each lasting about five minutes. *Bound*, the story of an ex-con lesbian (Gina Gershon) who conspires with the girl next door (Jennifer Tilly) to rob the latter's mid-level mobster live-in (Joe Pantoliano) of over \$2 million, kept me in suspense for 70 consecutive minutes. Written and directed by brothers and college dropouts (take that, film schools) Larry and Andy Wachowski, *Bound* has all the necessary ingredients of film noir (high visual contrast, wicked characters, plot twists numbering in the dozens, girls getting punched in the face, -fingers being cut off) plus Pantoliano's performance, which should receive a Best Supporting Actor nomination but won't. The veteran Chicago-based thespian pulls off one of the most difficult roles of the year brilliantly. Playing a character much smarter than the viewer originally thinks, Pantoliano is forced to go absolutely insane yet stay calm at the same time for, oh, about the 70 minutes that the viewer is in terror. (Note: Some of Pantoliano's crazed mutterings seem mighty similar to things heard during finals week.)



Worst Film: I try not to see obviously bad movies, so it probably isn't the absolute worst movie of the year, but *A Time to Kill* had plot holes Marlon Brando and Roseanne could walk through, was badly directed, morally inept, and contained the worst final-scene music since the 1940s. Even what previews promised to be a powerful scene between Kevin Spacey and Samuel L. Jackson (the one where Jackson yells, "Yes, they deserve to die and I hope they burn in hell!") was poorly done.

I thought it was in the screenwriter's handbook that a witness should break down only after having been badgered by an attorney for several minutes. Evidently *Kill*'s director Joel Schumacher decided that a rural black man would fall apart on the witness stand after only a question and a half. Additionally, Schumacher gave tal-



Joel Schumacher reminded us that cold-blooded murderers are people too, while Jackie Chan finally connected with U.S. audiences

ented actors Donald Sutherland, Sandra Bullock, Ashley Judd and Brenda Fricker either ridiculously contrived lines or had them play second fiddle to "hot young hunk" Matthew McConaughey, who was better — much better — in *Lone Star*.

As for *Kill's* "message," it's something like this: "Vigilante justice is right. Do not question that. Now cheer when a double murderer goes free. Good job." This film would have been far more interesting had Jackson's character killed two men who were suspected of raping his daughter but actually didn't. How's that for your plot twists?

Best Ensemble Cast: The tale of a busload of African-American men trekking cross-country for 1995's Million Man March, Spike Lee's *Get on the Bus* featured some of the best acting of the year by Ossie Davis, Charles S. Dutton and especially Andre Braugher. Using Reggie Rock Blythewood's script, *Bus's* first hour flies by faster than Michael Johnson on a Concorde — its "roll call" scene being the most spontaneous, energetic cinematic moment of the year. It's unfortunate that some heavy-handed plot bogs down the second half (a policeman has a verbal war with an ex-gangbanger and an estranged father has to make amends with his son), but the acting remains top-notch throughout.

Right now I'm blatantly going to say that if any actor in the world deserves an Oscar nomination this year, it's Ossie Davis. He may not have even been the best actor in Lee's film, but the Academy owes him big-time after ignoring his remarkable work as Da Mayor in *Do the Right Thing*.

Funniest Scene (tie): Two scenes will receive this distinguished Nutt Award. The first is the first family dinner scene in *The Nutty Professor* (which was a little bit funnier than the picture's second dinner sequence). I laughed so hard I missed half the farts.

The second scene is the last scene of *Eraser*. Reportedly, the original ending of this Schwarzenegger killfest tested poorly with preview audiences, so Warner Brothers ordered a reshoot. It's a damn good thing they did, too. As it is now, the final scene is anticlimactic, brutally violent, completely unrelated to the rest of the film, and absolutely hilarious. Not only does Arnold kill the bad guys (I'm wondering if he actually let the bad guys live in the first version), but does so in such a manner that the bad guys

literally see death approaching yet can do nothing about it. The kicker is, the scene serves absolutely no purpose whatsoever, aside from providing a closing explosion. Without a doubt, the best scene of any action movie this year.

Stupidest Claim Made by Numerous Prominent Critics: Okay, *The Fan* had a bad script, wasn't very suspenseful, and its direction by Tony Scott was irritating. But — and this is a big But — **Robert DeNiro's performance** was possibly the best lead performance of the year. Many critics use convoluted logic to rip on DeNiro in *The Fan* because DeNiro has played so many psychos before. It's as if critics are so used to DeNiro-as-psycho that they felt no reason to be interested in what this particular DeNiro psycho does.

Wrong. That's like saying, "Michael Jordan always hits game-winning shots, so there's no reason for Bulls fans to get excited when he hits another one." A good performance is a good performance, and *The Fan* is more than worth seeing thanks to DeNiro alone.

Best Robert Altman Movie: Well, the best 1996 Robert Altman movie wasn't a Robert Altman movie after all. Altman, the director who virtually invented the multi-protagonist picture with *Nashville* and *Short Cuts* was beaten at his own game this year by John Sayles, the writer-director-editor of *Lone Star*. The film, dealing with the mystery surrounding a skeleton found near a multiethnic Texas border town, leaves no detail ignored. Characters include a white sheriff who can't live up to his legendary father, an aging Mexican woman who refuses to speak Spanish on the north side of the Rio Grande, and a black bartender whose estranged son becomes the new general at a neighboring Army base.

Tightly weaving together stories not only of different people, but of different time periods, Sayles's film would have been the best picture of the year were it not for Frances McDormand's unnecessarily overacted performance of an unnecessarily over-written character. □

More Nutts

Most Prominent Critically Lauded Film that Will Definitely Not be Nominated for Best Picture: *Breaking the Waves*. The day the Academy nominates a film shot only with a hand-held camera will be the day *Observer* music critics review R&B and hip-hop.

Best Allegory: *Big Night* — a film about Italian brothers who refuse to cash in by compromising their restaurant's culinary standards despite intense pressure from across-the-street competition. Co-directors Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott served up a thinly veiled attack on Hollywood studios with this entertaining drama/romance.

Best Screen Newcomer: Well, he's not a true newcomer, but Jackie Chan's remarkable stunt sequences finally found mainstream American audiences. Chan's seniority paradoxically has him defeating true newcomer Edward Norton, who won over audiences and critics in *Primal Fear*, *The People vs. Larry Flynt* and *Everyone Says I Love You*.



FARGO AND AWAY: William H. Macy

Most Overrated Film: *The People vs. Larry Flynt*. Worthy performances by Woody Harrelson, Courtney Love and Norton, but sloppily written and not as engrossing as it should have been.

Coolest Nutcase: Robert Carlyle. The sadistic Begbie in *Trainspotting* made Joe Pesci's screen persona look sedate.

Most Precocious Young'un: Natalie Portman is making millions by shoving it to child-labor laws. In a 12-month time frame, the now-15-year-old had substantial roles in *Heat*, *Beautiful Girls*, *Mars Attacks!*, and *Everyone Says I Love You*. At that age, I thought 15 hours a week at Romio's Pizza was something to bitch about.

The Film for which I Could Not Think of a Category But Deserves High Praise Nonetheless: *Fargo*.

And Finally, Best Area Movie Theater: Ugh. Make the trip to Chicago. —AN

FULL TILT

The Gorch Games Room is a great place to waste time and money ... here's why

Stan Evans

BY JOE GALLAGHER

Blinking lights. A strange cacophony of sounds. U93 playing in the background. The next SYR in your dorm's basement? Nope—the Gorch Games Room in the basement of LaFortune.

For those who have never ventured into Notre Dame's pseudo-pool hall/arcade, The Gorch holds a collection of the latest video games, pinball machines and shoot-em-ups to entertain Domers looking for a study break. But how do the games actually stack up? Are they truly entertaining, or just another way for the powers that be to suck money out of the student body?

Armed with only this question, a *Scholas-tic* budget of 10 dollars and our own determination to put off studying for the sake of a good story, my trusty assistant, Jay, and I headed over to the Gorch Room to test the worth of the games therein.

The first game we noticed was, of course, the biggest. **Cruisin' USA** seats two people

in front of a 3-D virtual racetrack. The player selects one of four cars, from a '63 muscle car to an Italia P69, and races through streets from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco. Jay and I faced oncoming buses, trucks, police cars and each other in an attempt to finish first.

The cars handled well on the screen and the 3-D graphics were incredibly real, but a lot of the time the action seemed pretty cartoonish. Hitting a deer in Iowa caused bloody deer bits to explode, Mortal Kombat-style, all over the road. Bumping into another car could send you shooting into the air, and sometimes it

seemed more like bumper cars than actual racing. Each game costs 75 cents per player — \$1.50 just to have a single head-to-head race with someone else. Besides, if you want to skid all over the road and try to hit other cars, you can just go driving around D6 in February. All in all, not a bad game, but somewhat overpriced.

Another racing game sits across the room, almost unnoticeable in the shadow. **RoadBlasters** has nothing in the way of excitement or real variety namely because it was made by Atari in 1987. You put in a quarter, and get a car that shoots at other cars. And motorcycles. And more cars. And more motorcycles, ad infinitum.

The game next to it looks just as old. **Time Pilot** is basically Asteroids with color. Looking at the two games, it's strange to think how most college students today could create a better program using nothing but their PC. But looking at the 8-bit graphics, I did get a bit nostalgic for the days of Pac-Man, Frogger and Zaxxon, of the days when guys

who had Super Mario Brothers were considered cutting edge and Cyndi Lauper played in the background instead of Alanis Morissette. Not that popping a quarter in Time Pilot is going to automatically give you a flashback to the '80s, but it does offer an interesting glimpse of the way video games used to be. As an added bonus, the Gorch is giving away Time Pilots to whomever holds the highest score by March 4. Definitely worth the 25 cents, before video games of its kind become totally obsolete.

After testing the racing games, Jay and I moved on to sports. First we tested the time-honored game of **air hockey** for a mere 50 cents. After I lost 7-1, we quickly decided to move on (well, at least I did) to the other two sports games.

Basketball and hockey are two totally different sports, but **Hang Time** and **Open Ice** reduce them both to a two-on-two passing and shooting game. A third turbo button increases your player's speed but only adds to the confusion of the two games. Hang Time did have one extra feature: by entering a password you can go back later and play with the same team, thus allowing you to keep a running record of your victories and defeats. But why spend 50 cents a pop when there are free basketball courts at the Rock and JACC? With Hang Time and Open Ice, you can either randomly hit buttons or play enough games to develop some knowledge of what you're doing.

Of the two, Open Ice does have a slight edge because it's from Electronic Arts, which produces the top sports games on the market. Play could be fun and competitive once you master it, but if you're not willing to put in the time (or money) you should probably just stick to more simple fare.

Pinball might seem like a pretty simple game to master, but the **Barb Wire** game adds a whole new dimension. I somehow missed watching the movie (along with everyone else) so I can only assume that the bizarre graphics and sounds have something to do with the plot of the film.

The game boasts tons of bumpers, chutes and lights, a screen on the backboard that shows various graphics for getting certain bonuses and a character named Big Fatso who occasionally spews out insults. If the action slows down, there's a multiball mode that throws out three pinballs to shoot around the table. The best part is the "Ball Saved" feature, which automatically gives you an extra shot if your ball immediately goes in the gutter. These innovations, combined with the fact you get a guaranteed amount of

playing time, ensure that you get your money's worth.

After watching me play *Barb Wire* for two games straight, Jay suggested we move to the shoot-em-up games. **Crypt Killer** offers three guns to shoot in six different environments. Basically, you're a warrior with a very big gun trying to collect mystical gems in order to free the world from some evil being, but you'll soon forget the plot once you start the game.

Mummies, fish-men, flying swords, rats and a hundred other monsters get in your way and are used as target practice. Unlimited ammo reloads your gun and shooting at treasure chests uncovers different types of ammo. You begin the game with a simple one-shot gun, but can upgrade to shotguns, machine guns and even missiles. It's a great (though bloody and ultra-violent) way to relieve tension. Face it, there's nothing more cathartic than blowing away a few hundred walking skeletons after failing an exam. The graphics and sound are unbelievable,

and even though you can't control the movement of the first-person viewpoint, you still get the feel of running through a haunted house shooting for your life.

Although each player has to put in 50 cents for each game, it's hard to walk away when you're so close to killing the huge bosses at the end of each level. The game is well worth the cost, especially if you have two other people to join in.

Area 51, the other big shoot-em-up game, seems less spectacular. The plot revolves around aliens who've taken over an army base of some sort, and you must follow your army inside, shooting all the way. One problem — if you shoot at your own troops (only distinguished by their blue uniforms) you lose a life. This makes good sense as a lesson in real life (if you consider shooting at aliens "real life") but on an arcade game it's far more natural to shoot at anything that moves. The action (shot with real actors) onscreen looks blurry in a lot of places, compared to the digitally rendered graphics

of *Crypt Killer*, which are usually crystal clear. Reloading ammo requires shooting offscreen, which is usually distracting long enough for an alien to shoot a missile or three at you. If you have 50 cents burning a hole in your pocket and feel like shooting at something, play *Crypt Killer* instead.

Another popular video game genre is the *Street Fighter* type. If you've ever been in an arcade you must know about them — you put in 50 cents, pick one of several fighters, and try to beat the hell out of another fighter. The Gorch has three such games: *Soul Edge*, *X-Men vs. Street Fighter* and

Samurai Showdown 2.

Jay and I decided to sample *Soul Edge* first because of its cool 3-D rendered graphics and because it was closest to us at the time. The basic premise was that each fighter had a different weapon, and you had to use the weapon to beat up the other fighter. Simple, right? One problem — the action is reduced to a few simple moves such as chopping, kicking and jumping. Jay and I chopped and hacked at each other until we each had a victory, at which point the victorious fighter did a dance over the body of the loser (onscreen, that is).

I assume that different combinations of buttons and joystick movements will produce flashier moves, but why bother learning them when the simple standard brutalities seem to do the job? To top it all off, the winner of a two-player match doesn't get to advance to the next round unless he deposits an additional 50 cents. The graphics were awesome, but the play got old after a while.

X-Men vs. Street Fighter offers far more variety. You get to choose not one but two fighters in a tag team-style fight, where pressing a few buttons switches the players. There are tons of flashy moves that are easy to learn, but the action moves so quickly that it's hard to tell what's going on. Each game seems almost like watching a Saturday morning cartoon.

One problem: the *X-Men* game seems to be broken. Every background scene was broken up by vertical lines, the joystick didn't work on my side (the left), and half of the buttons didn't respond when hit. The game was still fun but would've been a lot better if it actually worked properly.

The third fighter-type game is harder to find but probably the overall best to play. *Samurai Showdown 2* is on the Neo-Geo machine at the back of the room. You first have to select the game, then put in a single quarter to play. In addition to being the cheapest fighting game in the Gorch, the graphics and game play are great. *Showdown* manages to incorporate the cartoon style of *X-Men vs. Street Fighter* with the hard-hitting style of *Mortal Kombat* with successful results. The plot has been translated from Japanese so it doesn't make much sense, but since when does plot matter in a video game?

The other three games on the Neo-Geo machine have the same low price, and are somewhat addictive in their own right. *Neo Turf Masters* reduces the game of golf to hitting a button when a bar onscreen reaches a certain level. The graphics are Nintendo



Cruisin' USA is comparable to driving around D.C. in February

PINBALL WIZARD. Josh Weber (opp. page) sure plays a mean pinball. *Cruisin' USA* (above) features cops, buses, trucks and exploding deer.

quality, but it is a good feeling to actually make par. **Bust-A-Move** offers a puzzle game much like Tetris, but with colored bubbles instead of blocks. The game is incredibly addictive, especially since it's only a quarter per game. **Zed Blade** lets you choose a plane with several types of ammo styles and shooting formations, then pits you against a horde of enemy guns, planes, and spaceships. Pretty much all the games on the Neo-Geo system are cheap and addictive in their simplicity — worth checking out.

So now that I've stretched the *Scholastic* budget and thoroughly tested all that the Gorch Games Room has to offer, I have to say that the best game in the room is ... air hockey. No graphics, no sounds, no time limit, no special moves to learn; just two bumpers, one puck, and a floating cushion of air. Truly the Rudy of arcade games, only much cooler. A digital scoreboard over the table eliminates any argument about the score, though you can expect a good amount of trash-talking and competition. It's sort of reassuring to know that while *Mod Quad*, the golf course, and even the house that *Rockne* built are disappearing, at least the air hockey table in the Gorch Room shall always remain. □

GRADING THE GORCH

Crusin' USA B+

Road Blasters C-

Time Pilot D

air hockey A+

Hang Time C+

Open Ice B-

Barb Wire pinball A

Crypt Killer A

Area 51 B

Soul Edge B+

X-Men vs. Street Fighter A

Samurai Showdown 2 A-

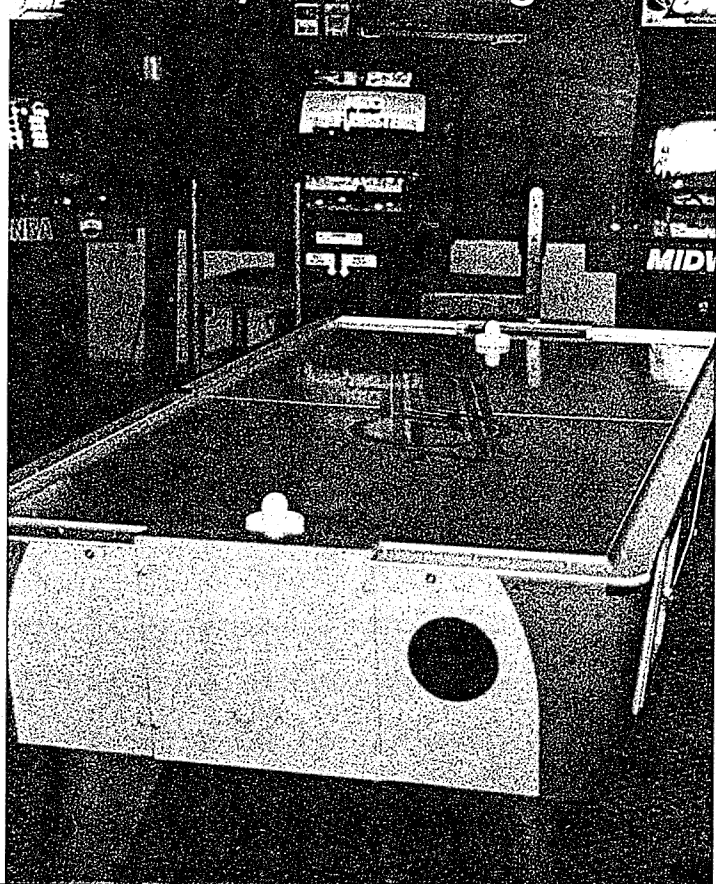
Neo Turf Masters B-

Bust-A-Move A

Zed Blade A

—Joe Gallagher

No graphics, no sounds, no time limit ... Air Hockey is truly the Rudy of arcade games.



Stan Evans

If you don't

VOTE

you can't

Vote tomorrow in
your dorm or in
LaFortune



BITCH

COMING February 6 - 12 DISTRACTION

THURSDAY — February 6

Basketball, ND Women vs. Syracuse, JACC, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY — February 7

Swimming, ND Men vs. W. Kentucky, Rolfs Aquatic Center, 4 p.m.

Hockey, ND vs. Ohio State, JACC, 7 p.m.

Looking for Richard, 7:30 and 9:45 p.m., Snite

SATURDAY — February 8

Basketball, ND Men vs. Connecticut, JACC, 12 p.m.

Hockey, ND vs. Ohio State, JACC, 7 p.m.

Looking for Richard, Snite, 7:30 and 9:45 p.m.

SUNDAY — February 9

Tennis, ND Men vs. Illinois, JACC, TBA

MONDAY — February 10

The Cheat, 7 p.m. & *The Conversion*, 9 p.m., Snite

Piano Concert, Sanford Sylvan & David Breitman, Hesburgh

Auditorium, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY — February 11

Pather Panchali, 7 p.m. & *The Public Enemy*, 9 p.m., Snite

Basketball, ND Men vs. West Virginia, JACC, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY — February 12

Last date for return of housing contracts to Student

Residences at Notre Dame

Basketball, ND Women vs. Boston College, JACC, 7 p.m.

Black History Month, Film, *Warrior Marks* followed by panel discussion "Female Genital Mutilation in Africa and Asia,"

7 p.m. 155 DBRT

Piano Concert, Sanford Sylvan & David Breitman, Annenberg

Auditorium, Snite

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Subscription to *Scholastic*, *The Observer*, or *Modern Art* for any additional aesthetically displeasing artwork brought into the *Scholastic* office (Hours M-F, 2-5 p.m.) or dumped onto College Park property.

-ZWK

THE SILVER SCREEN

Movies 10: ☎ 254-9685.

- *Star Wars: A New Hope*, PG, 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30.*
- *The Ghosts of Mississippi*, PG-13, 10:10.
- *Turbulence*, R, 12:55, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45.
- *First Strike*, PG-13, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 7:25.
- *Metro*, R, 1:20, 4:00, 7:30, 10:20.
- *In Love and War*, PG-13, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30.
- *The Preacher's Wife*, PG, 1:30, 4:10, 5:45, 7:20, 9:00, 10:00.
- *The English Patient*, R, 1:00, 4:30, 8:00.
- *North Star*, R, 9:45.
- *Shine*, PG-13, 1:10, 3:35, 5:50, 8:10, 10:25.
- *Beautician and the Beast*, PG, 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:55, 10:15.*
- *Mother*, PG-13, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:30.

University Park West:

☎ 277-7336.

- *101 Dalmatians*, G, 2:00.
- *The Pest*, PG-13, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:20.
- *Meet Wally Sparks*, R, 2:15, 9:30.
- *Michael*, PG, 4:30, 7:00.
- *Gridlock'd*, R, 4:15, 6:45, 9:00.

University Park East:

☎ 277-7336.

- *Jerry Maguire*, R, 1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35.
- *Beverly Hills Ninja*, PG-13, 1:00, 3:15, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40, 11:30.
- *Scream*, R, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:10.
- *Zeus and Roxanne*, PG, 1:30.
- *Evita*, PG, 1:15, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00.
- *Dante's Peak*, PG-13, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50, 12:15.

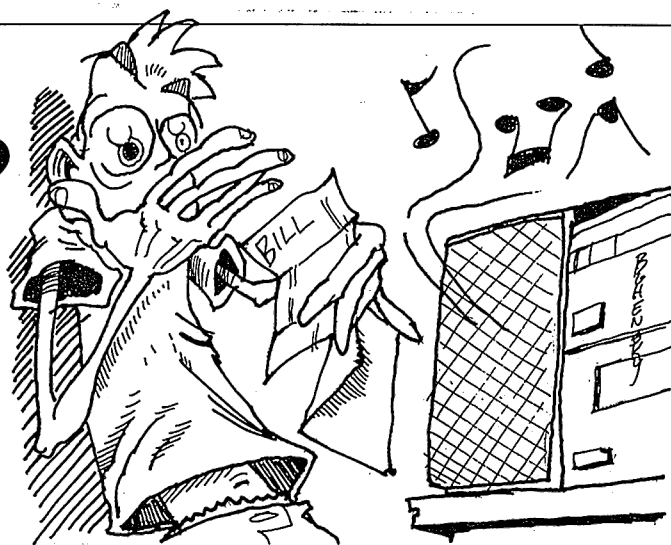
•Late Shows on Friday and Saturday only!

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

*No Passes

Junior Irish?

Some people, even if they don't worship football, are destined for Notre Dame



BY ZAC KULSRUD

And so I ambled. Sick, tired and weak, I wiped the sweat off my brow and vigilantly trekked. I still had "Walk Like an Egyptian" pounding inside my skull, the sound of the Bangles ballad pushing me onward.

January had depleted me of all my strength, and I still had over three months of school left. So worn was I that I decided to leave campus, maybe for good. It was all falling apart, then I got the CDs, and I snapped. I needed time to think about it all so I just walked, not knowing where my legs would take me.

Like Forrest Gump through Alabama, I passed Juniper and Grape, then through Niles, Mich., and into the countryside. Now it was Devo's "Whip it" that muddled my thoughts — one-hit wonders be damned! I could go no farther. Sitting down on a bench in a small park I put my hands around my neck and tried to choke "99 Luftballons" out of my system.

Actually, I loved the decade of big hair, Strawberry Shortcake, and Tone Lōc, but I hated the parcel the UPS man delivered Tuesday. But how, I asked myself, could I hate the six CDs? There were over 110 songs and more than six hours of '80s rock for only \$39.95! How? Because I had to give it back. Why? Because there was mis-carriage of justice.

I saw the infomercial on television over break and I knew I had to have it. So I called the 1-800 number and ordered the definitive '80s collection. It came, and my friends and I almost cried to Toto's "Africa." But when I saw the bill, I really did weep. It was not \$39.95, but \$119.95, less than I'll make as an editor at *Scholastic*. Apparently it was

three *easy* installments of \$39.95, but I am convinced that the whole thing is a sleazy scam. I swear it was false advertising, or else I was too excited to listen carefully — one of the two.

So with a great deal of emotion (and after recording all the CDs on tape), my roommate placed *Forever '80s* back in its case and I resealed the package. We went to the post office, paid \$10 in shipping and handling, and hoped our money would be refunded.

But while drowning in my sorrows in that small park a young lad sat down next to me.

*I was stressed out and
felt like a worthless
pawn in the game of
Infomercial.*

"Why's you cryin'?" he asked.

I looked up and said that I was stressed out and felt like a worthless pawn in the great game of Infomercial.

"I'm sad, too, 'cause I'm so young."

"I'm just a freshman, uncertain and lonely. I know how you feel." There, somewhere in the air, I could feel the instant bond.

"I'm seven and a half, just two weeks until I'm eight."

"I'm only 18, 1,500 days until I'm 21."

"I tell people I'm nine, though, just so people like me more."

"My ID says I'm 28, but the Bridget's bouncer doesn't seem to care."

Giggling, he asked who Bridget was. Just a friend, I told him. Just a friend.

He continued. "I still pee in my bed sometimes, but I don't know it until I wake up. It makes me mad."

"At the last SYR I threw up and urinated all over myself in bed, but I don't remember much about that night. My roommate was kind of mad."

"Sometimes I's gots to go so bad that I run to try to find a place, but sometimes I just can't hold it."

"I sometimes have to go badly, too. And when I walk back from Turtle Creek onto campus, I go on the university buildings."

"I's done it lots of times on our neighbor's, but my friends say it's all right."

"Our neighbor is Zahm Hall, and my friends say it's all right, too."

A few of his friends yelled his name, trying to cajole him into playing freeze tag, but he didn't move.

"Do you do bad things?" he asked.

"I'm not Catholic, but still I try not to."

"I pulled up Katie's skirt at her birthday party."

"Just like Anne."

"She stuck out her tongue at me and called me names. It was funny."

"Anne called me names and slapped me. It hurt."

"Someone dared me to do it. Why you?"

"Mr. Cuervo told me to do it."

We now had a mutual respect for each other. He asked me who Mr. Cuervo was. Just a friend, I told him. Just a friend.

"Do you like girls?" he said.

"Yes, I do — just like most guys my age."

Then he whispered, "People don't date much at my school."

"We have our troubles, too." I assured him.

"I went out with a girl for three hours one day and kissed her once."

"That's more than I've gotten."

He paused. "I don't like girls yet, but my older friends tell me I will one day."

"I like girls, but the upperclassmen tell me that it doesn't matter."

"What does that mean?"

"One day you'll understand, my friend. One day you'll understand."

And I understood his need for nourishment as he hopped down, skipped away, and returned holding his lunch in two hands. He offered me a cookie and I accepted.

"My mom packs my lunch every day in a brown bag with a sandwich, corn chips, rotten fruit and a juice box."

"An old lady with a hairnet sometimes fixes my lunch in a brown bag, with a sandwich, corn chips, rotten fruit and a juice box."

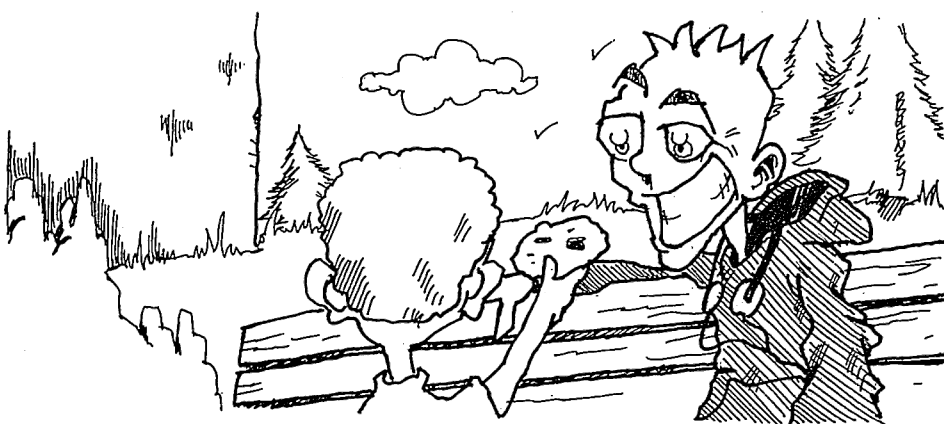
"One time at school, in the cafeteria, I dropped my tray and people laughed."

"One time at NDH I dropped my tray and people clapped."

"One day, after lunch, I's feelin' real badly like my stomach was going to explode. I got sick and had to go to the nurse, but she didn't do *nothing*."

"We have a similar place called the infirmary."

"I've been to the nurse twice, but never



the principal's. Our principal's a mean woman who doesn't let us have fun. But we make fun of her a lot when she's not around."

"Patty O'Hara, Keenan Revue."

I was amazed at the boy's conversation skills and apparent intuition, as he seemed to sympathize with my problems.

"Why are you here?" He leaned closer to me, waiting for the answer.

"I had to leave campus for a while and sort my life out, plus I got screwed over trying to buy '80s CDs."

"My dad says the '80s were bad and children of the '80s are a cancer to our society."

"Is he a Democrat?"

"Yes, and he has a picture of a peanut farmer on the refrigerator."

"Do you like that picture?" I knew this was the climax of our talk.

"No, it scares me."

My nerves calmed and I felt like I had just fulfilled some part of my destiny. I patted the young Republican, tray-dropping, administration-hating, potential binge-drinking, intelligent, inept dating-skilled child and said,

"Son, you're ready for Notre Dame." □

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

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Scholastic Magazine is now accepting applications for

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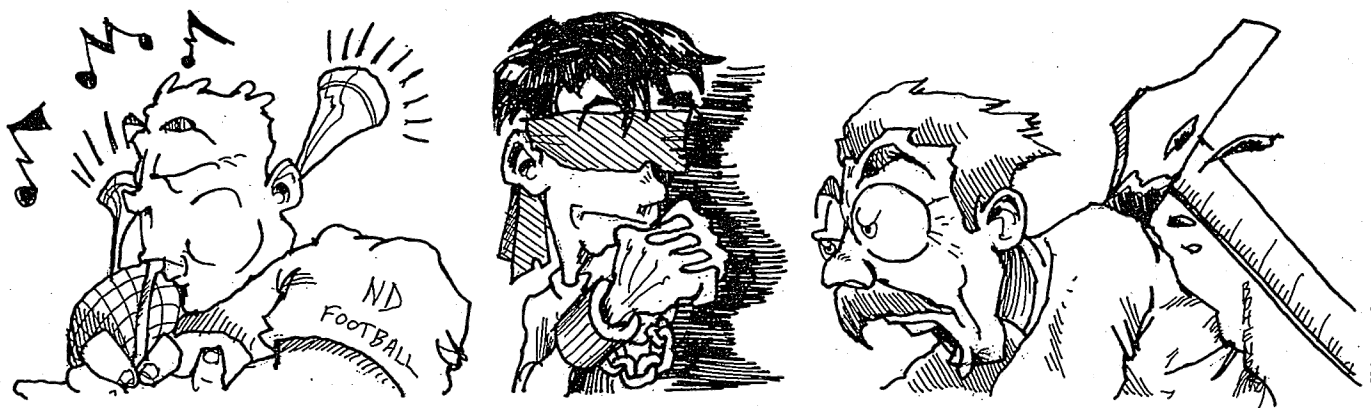
Applications due Monday, February 17 by 5 p.m.

Applicants will be required to give a speech to our Editorial Board on Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Call Steve at 1-5029 with questions.

Report: Elvis Seen at Sacred Heart

And he was wearing a kilt



BY ZAC KULSRUD

◆ Sightings at Crowley

At the Cleveland Institute of Music, students were recently seen carrying bows and arrows around campus. Despite what many observers initially thought, CIM has no archery team. The students, who all played string instruments, were part of a seminar that explored how archery could enhance their performance techniques. Most participants had no prior archery experience, but strangely enough, the best string players had the best shot. Apparently a similar program was scrapped here at Notre Dame, where the football team spent Sundays at Crowley Hall playing bagpipes, hoping to increase team camaraderie.

◆ Culturally Aware?

A Jewish wedding was recently staged at Fairfield University, a Roman Catholic institution, in Connecticut. The Kadima Club, a group that studies Jewish culture, sponsored the wedding to give students and faculty a better understanding of the Jewish ceremony. The event was complete with the signing of the *ketubah*, a marriage contract, and the groom's traditional crushing of glass at the end. In light of the event, a few Notre Dame students plan to stage a wedding at the basilica to celebrate Elvisonia, a religion whose primary deity is The King himself.

◆ No, It Was Not a Bengal Bout

At State University of New York College at Buffalo police arrested a professor of creative studies after he allegedly blindfolded, handcuffed and then tied up a student while engaging in a role-playing game at a nearby motel. Scott Isaken is charged with unlawful imprisonment and was released on bail, but according to his lawyer, categorically denies the allegations. The student opted to play the game, as opposed to writing a 20-page paper, as a sort of punishment for leaving class after signing the attendance sheet. The lessons: (1) Beware, freshmen, of those professors who require attendance, for you might end up with them in a motel after parietals. (2) Perhaps as Domers we should consider ourselves lucky to have a book like *du Lac* that prevents such unruly behavior.

◆ Please, No More Artwork

We here at Notre Dame can empathize with the controversy surrounding a new sculpture at Radford University in Virginia. In front of the science building there is a sculpture of a big bomb surrounded by other creations of science. Apparently dozens of students and faculty are appalled at the artwork, saying it gives science a bad name. Geology professor Ernst Kastning was distraught and said that the university teaches science along with responsibility. Unfortunately, we do not even know what the scul-

tures here on campus depict, but it is just as easy to make fun of them. Let's hope the administration does not put more sculptures on campus, like a big vat of Yo Cream in front of NDH or a big Bunsen burner in front of Nieuwland.

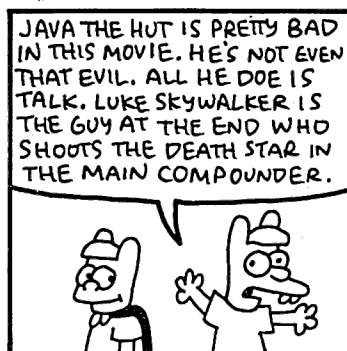
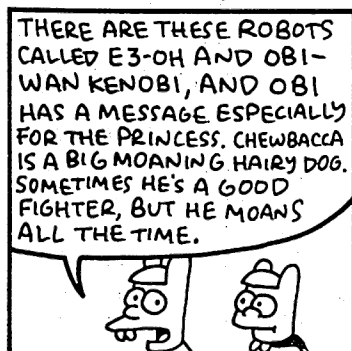
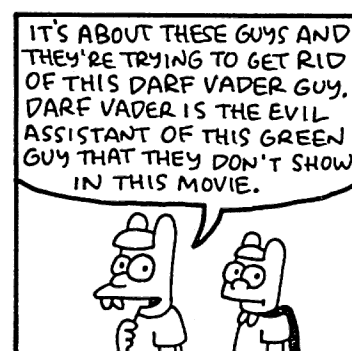
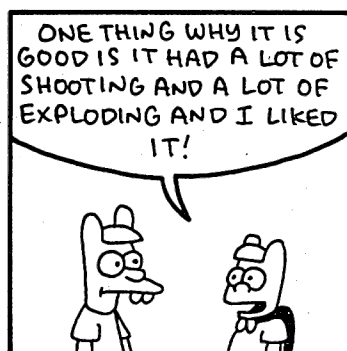
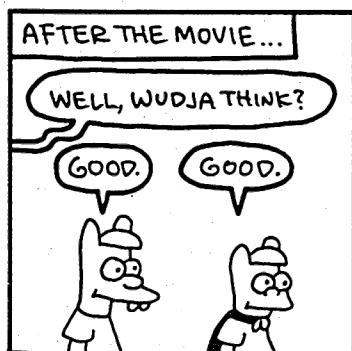
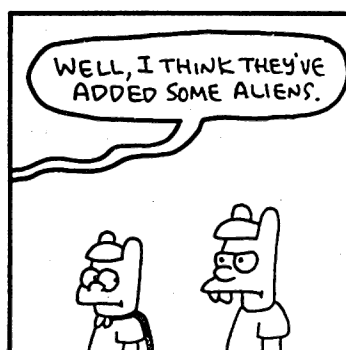
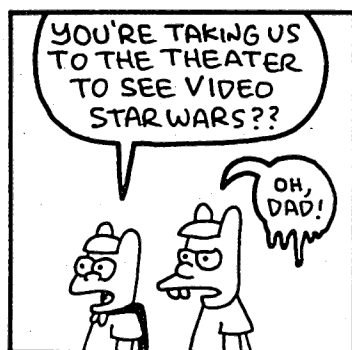
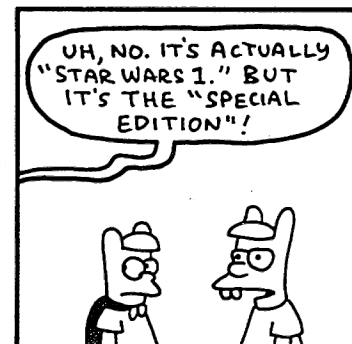
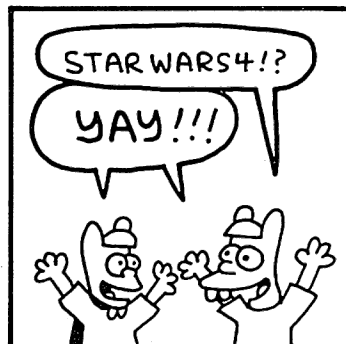
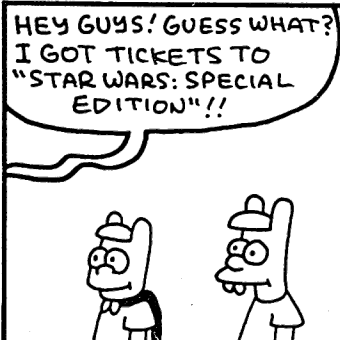
◆ Writers Wanted

The latest issue of *Advice Magazine* at the University of Michigan included a story that did not go over too well with a Michigan graduate-student organization. The magazine, a student publication that traditionally has given tips for choosing courses and professors, published a student's fantasy of murdering a teaching assistant. The unidentified architecture student explained how he has often dreamt of murdering his TA with his T-square and thinks of whipping out his 12-gauge pump-action shotgun, which he bought at K-mart. Furthermore, the student claims the TA belongs to a secret sect of Nazis. *Advice's* editor defends the commentary saying that it is a frustration that every student has once felt. The story has brought up a few questions here on campus. Is the crematorium included in the construction of Bond Hall really necessary, and does this story reveal something about the 12 missing Chemistry Lab TAs of 1983? And for all of you interested in submitting similar stories to *Scholastic*, there is no one scheduled to write next week's Week in Distortion. □

LIFE IN HELL

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GROENING

ABE AND WILL GO TO STAR WARS



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Ethnic Void

by Steve Myers

When I used to go over to Eddie Park's house, I had to take off my shoes as soon as I walked in the door. I would put my running shoes next to the pile of shoes by the front closet, next to Eddie's shoes and his mom's and dad's. One time I forgot to take them off, and I made it as far as his family room when his mother came in and spoke very quickly to Eddie in Korean.

He asked me to take my shoes off, and I did, feeling very embarrassed. I asked him about it once, and I learned it had something to do with Korean ideas of hospitality and politeness. It's an interesting custom — if you visit, plan to stay. Make yourself at home. And, for a 12-year-old Ohioan with no such custom at home, try to make sure your socks match.

I say Ohioan because, as far as I can determine, that's what I am. Apparently, I have Irish and German heritage, but these are just terms to me, categories

rather than adjectives. I have as much connection to Ireland or Germany as I do to Korea. Probably less, because at least I know to take my shoes off in Eddie's house. The extent of my knowledge of Irish tradition goes no further than a cursory understanding of the Blarney Stone legend.

So my ethnicity is Ohioan, which is fairly nondescript. Ohio has no customs — geographical, culinary, or metaphysical — that distinguish it from any other Midwestern state. If I lived in Louisiana, perhaps I would eat cajun food, or as a Kansan I could describe the grasses of the Great Plains bending in a strong wind. A friend of mine from the south side of Chicago speaks a dialect of English in which "that" sounds like "dat."

I'm not complaining about my boring Midwestern home state. But, considering the lack of real ethnic influence in my life, a strong regional one would have

done. Instead, I was raised in an ethnic void, and my favorite meal is lasagna — an Italian dish prepared quite well by my Irish-German mother.

Oprah fans may be disappointed to learn, however, that I have not been scarred by wearing my shoes indoors and not eating spicy food. Instead, I've taken a casual interest in my friends' ethnic influences, inspired by a curiosity to learn what exactly was missing from my life.

I learned that my friend Aditya is a Brahman, a member of the highest caste in India. During exams in high school, his mom prayed for him at a small shrine in her bedroom. Another friend showed me a small door in the middle of his upstairs hallway. When his parents built their house, they included a similar shrine in the plans.

Then I came to Notre Dame, where so many students proudly assert their Irish heritage. I have to admit, at first I was mildly envious of those who wore claddagh rings to indicate their romantic status.

My curiosity has paid off. I have accumulated bits of information about the different ways that people use ethnicity to identify themselves, and though I have none myself, I appreciate them. I am familiar with many aspects of Indian society, and I have found an attraction to the strong, dominant rhythms and rich melodies of African music. Still, I wonder how differently I would view myself if my parents had listened to the Chieftains, and sometimes the suspicion that I have been missing out returns.

In New York on Saint Patrick's Day, I got a taste of what it might have been like. My uncle took me to an Irish bar where I drank Guinness and listened to "O Danny Boy." I talked to a tall, distinguished, mildly intoxicated businessman from the East Side. I got a sense of the comfort and security of ethnic identity. In a room full of Irish, I realized that, technically at least, I was one of them.

Even so, I know that while I can categorize myself as Irish-German, I cannot describe myself in those terms. Though I have never been to my relatives' house in Galway, I do remove my shoes when I stop by to see Eddie Park. □

Oprah fans may be disappointed to learn, however, that I have not been scarred by wearing my shoes indoors and not eating spicy food.

Steve Myers is a senior PLS major and the current editor in chief of Scholastic. To this day he almost always wears matching socks.

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