

GROTTO RENOVATIONS PLANNED

STUDENT GOVERNMENT KICKS OFF NEW PROGRAMS

# SCHOLastic

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

VOL 142

02

7 SEPT 2000

## dark ages

is notre dame football  
ready for a  
renaissance?





the latest campus news and sports  
in-depth coverage of campus issues  
reviews of campus entertainment  
off-the-wall humor

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07 SEPTEMBER

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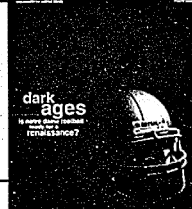
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Design by Mike Griffin  
Photo by Kate Foster  
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SCHOLASTIC 02



# Lunch with *Rudy*

from the editor

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*Disce Quasi Semper Victurus  
Vive Quasi Cras Moriturus*

I looked up from my chicken fajita and stared at the posters surrounding Sean Astin. "What's the name of the movie?" I asked one of my friends. He squinted at the posters, trying to make out the movie's title. "I think it's *Rudy*. Looks like it's about Notre Dame football."

I shrugged, took another bite of my fajita and looked at the memorabilia hanging on the walls of New York's Planet Hollywood. Turning my attention back to Astin, I watched as he donated a Notre Dame football and varsity jacket to Planet Hollywood's movie-stuff collection. As a sophomore in high school, college was the last thing on my mind. Of course, I had heard something of Notre Dame's legend, and I knew that the university had a storied football tradition. As for that *Rudy* movie, my friends and I couldn't have cared less about it.

Now, six years later, I — like all true Irish fans — can recite the movie almost verbatim. The plot is in many ways familiar, a classic example of a man following his dream. But the plot is also indicative of Notre Dame's character. The combination of Notre Dame's strong academic and athletic traditions is reflected in Rudy's own struggles to make both the school and the football team. Only one other university — Stanford — consistently ranks among the top 20 universities both academically and athletically.

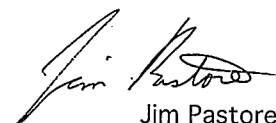
Recently, however, critics have questioned the vitality of Notre Dame's football tradition, pointing to a lackluster season and a host of problems off the field. In this issue, *Scholastic*'s Chris Hamilton takes a look at the Notre Dame football program, examining how academics impact recruiting and analyzing the program's prospects for a return to the top. Gerry Meskill adds a preview of this season's upcoming opponents.

## New Faces and a Face-lift

I'd like to welcome aboard our newest staff members. First-year Kyle Zuaro will be handling advertising for *Scholastic*, and senior Katie Caspersen will be running the news department. Congratulations and good luck to both new staffers.

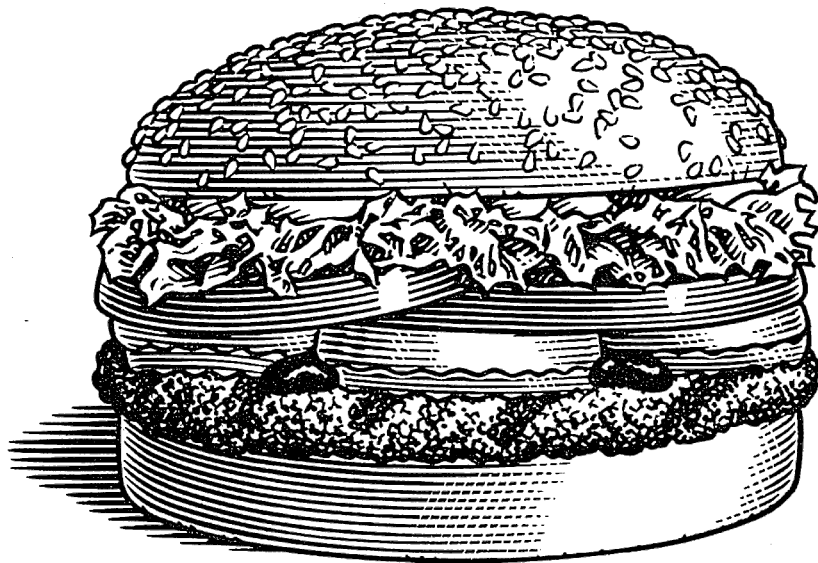
We've also made some substantial changes to the design of the magazine this year. The cover, along with nearly all of the feature sections, including this page, the table of contents, the calendar of events, *Splinters* and *ND Notebook*, are sporting new looks. Many thanks to Mike Griffin and Matt Barr, who spent countless hours making the magazine look great.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic year at *Scholastic* and remind all readers that we welcome letters to the editor. Why not drop us a line and tell us what you think of our new look?

  
Jim Pastore  
Editor In Chief



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# ndnotebook

cd review ten questions judgement calls news listening in domelights years ago

## You Can Grab 'n' Go, but Don't Forget Food Safety

New bags aren't just about fashion

Story by Katie Caspersen  
Art by Caroline Wolf

Whether it's a new panini machine or a different name for the same old soup, the dining hall is always changing. This semester it was the traditional brown grab 'n' go bag that received a major facelift.

Sporting a blue-and-gold logo, the sleek white bag is not the dining hall's nod to the latest fall fashions, but rather an attempt to ensure student safety.

"Prevent food-borne illness," reads the bag's main message. "Perishable food items should be eaten within 1 to 2 hours or else refrigerated."

"In the food-service industry, if perishable food is out for that length of time, we don't use it, no exceptions," says Barry Bowles, general manager of North Dining Hall. "It's important that students follow the same guidelines when using grab 'n' go."

Many of the popular grab 'n' go items fall into the perishable-food category, so it is important that students pay close attention

to this warning. Foods such as meats and cheeses are especially susceptible to bacteria that can cause a nasty case of food poisoning.

In addition to a safety message, the bag also lists dining hall and grab 'n' go hours for quick reference.

"We are trying to make the dining halls more convenient for students, and this is just one small way for us to keep you informed of our hours and our menu variety," says Bowles.

While no specific incidents prompted the change, food services

added the bags from its own budget as a preventative measure.

Although many students undoubtedly noticed a color change, did anyone take the time to read their lunch bag?

"We have some 450 to 500 students coming through grab 'n' go for lunch every day, and even if only 10 percent of those students actually read the bag, that is still a good amount of students that we are reaching with this important message," Bowles says.

So, if you're going to run some errands or sit through class before enjoying your egg salad, check your bag and remember to hit the fridge first. □



## Ten Questions

with Papa John's pizza-delivery man...

Eddie Shaw



>>

*Although he was born and raised in Hawaii, Shaw is a tried-and-true Notre Dame fan. After dropping off a few orders of breadsticks (yum!), he stuck around to make a prediction on the Nebraska game and tell us who really makes the best pizza.*

**How long have you been working for Papa John's?**

This is my fourth week—but I've worked for Pizza Hut for three years.

**So who has the best pizza?**

Chicago deep dishes — well, actually, I like my own homemade pizza best. I make it with whole-wheat crust, Canadian bacon, shrimp, pineapples, mushrooms and on-

ions. There are some other good pizza places. Let's see — oh, wait, I work for Papa John's — Papa John's is the best.

**Have you ever had to rough up the Pizza Hut or Domino's guys?**

No, we don't have any of that — I actually wave to all the drivers. But from what I've heard, Papa John's owns this place. Is that true?

**I think so — it's the breadsticks.**

Breadsticks—yeah! That's the kicker, man, with all those sauces. We used to have people call us up when I worked at Pizza Hut and ask for cheese sauce, but we didn't have any.

## The Twilight Singers

Twilight as played by The Twilight Singers

label: Columbia

release date: 12 September 2000

Story by Matt Cremer

if you like *Marvin Gaye* you'll love *The Twilight Singers*

After three years of rumor, hard work, bootlegging and rewriting, Greg Dulli has unveiled his latest project, *Twilight as played by The Twilight Singers*. The album has a different flavor than the aggressive alterna-rock that he and the Afghan Whigs have released in the past. *Twilight* contains more soul and is clearly influenced by Dulli's collaboration with British dance duo Fila Brazillia. The calming strings and the slow sweat of soothing ambient beats blend perfectly with three-part vocals to produce a beautiful and tragic tapestry of love, madness and seduction.



The Twilight Singers

Dulli himself has already dubbed the

new album "the ultimate make-out" CD. I have yet to test the idea, but after listening to a song appropriately titled "Love," which begins with slow, easy beats that nearly induce a trance, I can see how the album could work as a musical accompaniment to the breaking of parietals. The soft sounds roll over you until you are surrounded by candle-lit lyrics.

Aside from any initial feelings the album might conjure, repeated listening reveals a sharp lyrical tongue. The music is a double-edged blade combining melodic slow jams with words of bittersweet loss.

*Twilight as played by The Twilight Singers* is a musical mosaic that can be enjoyed one tile at a time. However, the more and more familiar you become with the album as a whole, a deeper and more beautifully complex image emerges from the sounds. □

*This column is a new feature in Scholastic. Check out each issue for reviews of up-and-coming bands.*

### judgementcalls



#### Dillon Pep Rally

Nothing like firing up the team by recalling past blunders.



#### Home Opener

Davie finally did something right. The question is: how long can he keep it up?



#### Ticket Distribution

Another year, another debacle.



#### Labor Day

It was the unofficial end of summer, and we were stuck in class.

>>

#### So how long do those sauces last?

They last for quite awhile — we've eaten them for at least three days in the refrigerator.

#### What was the weirdest place you've ever delivered to?

When I worked at Pizza Hut, they made me deliver to Knocker's. That was kind of awkward. And another time, I went up to a house to deliver pizza, and I peeked in the window, and the lady was sitting behind the table with at least 50 or 60 large candles, and I'm thinking, 'Oh my God! What the heck is going on?'

#### Have you ever felt the need to carry weapons with you?

No, you don't really need a weapon. David walked around the walls of Jericho for, what, seven days, right? And the walls fell down? He never even lifted a weapon. God did it all.

#### Are you a big boy-band fan?

No, no, they're not my thing. I can't stand them, actually. I always make up the lyrics for their songs — I always try to time it with "taking your money," and "buy all my paraphernalia so I can pay off my big house and car payments."

#### Just how crazy do deliveries get on football weekends?

Oh, it's ludicrous. You'd think every-

body got their driver's license from the Kmart blue-light special. And when we win, people are heavy-handed with tips. When we lose, they're a little harder to squeeze. You gotta remind them of old games, like, "Remember when we came back from USC last year? That was nice, wasn't it?"

#### So are we going to beat Nebraska?

Well, I'm an optimist, and I know anything can happen. I'd say the point spread will be 14-21, but I think there'll be a few surprises. I'm still rooting for us.

— Sarah Childress



## 107 Years Ago Don't Get the Giggles

When mirth inspires murder, we should all be wary...

In the April 1, 1893 issue of *Notre Dame Scholastic*, 'The Man in the Tower,' an anonymous column faintly reminiscent of our beloved Gipper, which specialized in rants, ravings and general social commentary, reports:

*Horrors! Yesterday I met a genuine rara avis—a giggling boy. Did I run away? Nay, nay! ... I followed this fellow around for the short space of two hours and never was I so strongly tempted to break the Fifth Commandment. I heard him giggle and giggle until I wished that he would goggle and gaggle his head off.*

Never fear: the attitude toward merriment on campus has greatly improved since then. Luckily, the members of this year's *Scholastic* staff are much more tolerant of giggling boys—at least, they don't have time to follow them around. Feel free to chuckle away with impunity.

— Sarah Childress

## LISTENING



"No, we have no problem with the Russians selling their submarines to China."

—international relations professor



"Ooh, what flavor are you?"

— dining-hall worker to a student wearing a shirt that read "eATMe"



"Isn't it ironic that SUB is showing *Mission: Impossible* the weekend of the Nebraska game?"

—overheard in South Dining Hall



"It's gonna be 94 degrees on Saturday—so you'd all better drink plenty of fluids tonight and tomorrow to be ready for the game."

—Bob Davie at the Dillon pep rally



"I went to a wedding this weekend. Unfortunately, my wallet got drunk and jumped out of my pocket."

—CAPP professor



## domelights

COMPILED BY CRISTIN FENZEL

This year's ticket process was frustrating enough without the added stress of having thousands of students invading the parking lots around Stepan. Here's the breakdown by class of the number of students who purchased tickets.

Seniors 1,805

Juniors 1,556

Sophomores 1,717

Freshmen 1,876

Graduate/Law 1,549

St. Mary's/Holy Cross students 1,297

# Print Police

“Do you know why I stopped your print job today?”

## AGGIENOBLE

**P**icture this: You're sitting in a completely full computer cluster, finishing your paper with only five minutes before class starts. You push the print button and eagerly dart to the printer. You wait a few minutes — no game. You return to your computer, assuming that the printer had not received your command. You push the print button again and run to the printer. One minute before class — still no paper. Other students surround the printer in similar frustration. Just as you are about to return to your computer once again, your paper slowly peeks through the mouth of the printer and, after the last page emerges, the paper files out a second time. You quickly throw the second copy in the trash and head to class 10 minutes late.

It sometimes seems as if students spend more time printing a paper than they do writing it. In the past, when the printers became overloaded, students had no way of knowing whether their print jobs had actually been processed. Frustrated, they were quick to push the print button more than once. Of course, the papers eventually printed — one copy for each time the print button was pushed.

The huge waste of paper that resulted from this process has led the Office of Information Technologies to try a new printing system, Print@ND. You may have no-

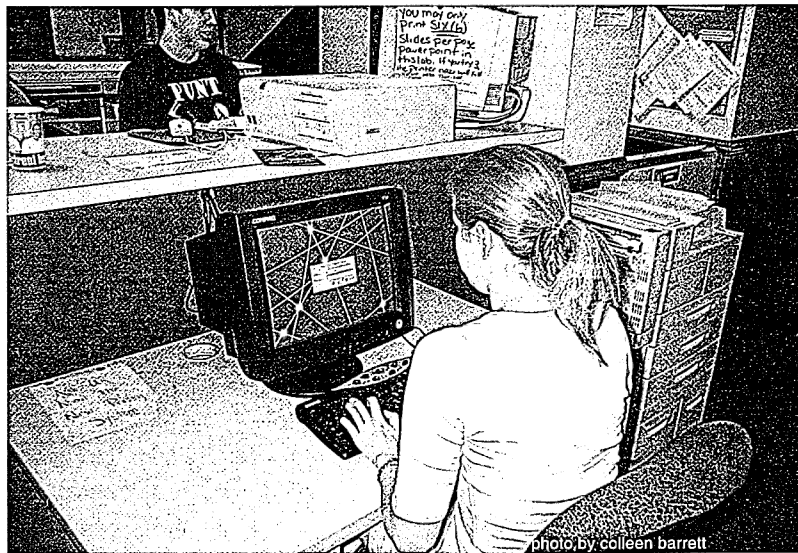
The Print@ND monitors installed in all of the computer labs show users' print jobs, so students know that their command went through and do not issue unnecessary print commands. Before a print job will actually work, students must log in to a Print@ND monitor and confirm their printing jobs. The monitor also allows users to re-prioritize and cancel jobs.

For the OIT, Print@ND records peak printing hours as well as the amount of paper in each cluster. The department hopes that this new procedure will prevent future student charges for printing.

“We hope that the careful logging of paper use from the monitors will justify paper costs in the computer clusters and make the process more convenient for all users,” explains Jeff Hanrahan, manager of distributed computer resources for the OIT.

Student reception of Print@ND seems

clusters. Windows NT has been upgraded to NT@ND 2, which the OIT claims speeds up log-ins. Software applications have been placed on each computer's local drive — rather than the network — for added quickness. New and updated applications abound, most notably Microsoft Office 2000 for



WHERE THE ELECTRONS MEET THE PAPER  
A student logs on to a sleek Print@ND station.

**The Print@ND monitors installed in all of the computer labs show user's print jobs, so students know that their command went through.**

ticed the system's black monitors lurking by the printers in the computer labs. While the new system may initially seem like an additional hassle, the department is hoping that it will actually make the clusters more efficient.

“Print@ND will cut down on paper use and costs as well as student frustration,” says Sara Exum, the department's marketing consultant.

positive. “I have gotten really frustrated in the clusters when I didn't know whether my printing job went through or if the printer was out of paper,” says sophomore Danielle Ledesma. “It will be nice to know that it really is working.”

Besides Print@ND, the OIT has implemented many other improvements. Complementing Print@ND are new high-speed Xerox printers that have debuted in several

Windows. The new software is not, however, without the kinks attendant to many new computer ventures. For this reason, the “old” Windows applications remain available on each workstation. The OIT has also implemented another way for users to change their AFS passwords. There is now a link off of the Web page <http://www.nd.edu/~ndoit/> that is more convenient to use than the old Telnet method and is more accessible for those who choose not to use Eudora.

For those needing help using all of these new technologies, the OIT has extended the hours of its Help Desk. It is now available both in person at the Computing Center and Math Building and by phone at 1-8111 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays.

Both the OIT and students are hoping that these changes will take some of the hassle out of using the computer labs. “The Office of Information Technologies is continually working on new ways of improving,” says Hanrahan. □

student government goals  
and long-term projects for the  
2000-2001 academic year

> **rector's endowment fund**  
provide financial means for  
all students to participate in  
university events

> **martin luther king jr. day**  
increase tolerance and un-  
derstanding

> **founders day**  
celebrate notre dame's his-  
tory as a community

> **greatness grant**  
funds student-initiated ser-  
vice projects

> **blessing unto others**  
campus-wide donation to  
chilean orphanages

> **voter-registration drive**  
encourage political involve-  
ment

> **academic luncheons**  
allow students to meet with  
professors and advisors over  
lunch

> **athletic interest**  
boost student attendance at  
athletic events and increase  
student interest in olympic  
sports

# making progress

**C**ommunity, spirituality, athletics and academics: the balanced diet of a Notre Dame student. This year, student government is striving to make it even healthier.

Shocked? Why? For the past few years, students have continually questioned the worth of student government. A recent article on [ndtoday.com](http://ndtoday.com) raised the question, "Is there student government at Notre Dame?"

But the answer appears to be "yes" this year, as Student Body President Brian O'Donoghue and Vice President Brooke Norton take steps to implement a series of new programs. With long-term projects in the works — and some programs already underway — student government hopes to impact the daily lives of Notre Dame's students.

## Community

The Rector's Endowment Fund is one program already in operation. The intention of the fund is to allow all students to take part in Notre Dame community activities, regardless of monetary concerns. The university prides itself on its ability to meet the financial needs of increasing numbers of students every year, yet some students are excluded from campus events because they lack the money needed to participate.

At the discretion of a residence hall's rector — and, ultimately, Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman — money can be given to students who otherwise could not participate in such university events as home football games, section dinners, dorm dances and experiential-learn-

ing seminars.

Because of the nature of the plan, O'Donoghue says that "the fund will be handled quietly and with dignity." Resident assistants, assistant rectors and rectors will all keep an eye out for residents in need of financial assistance.

The details of the plan was recently passed by the Financial Management Board vote, and minor kinks with the program were resolved. "Finally this program will become reality because of the hard work and diligence of many fine people," Chief of Staff Jay Smith says.

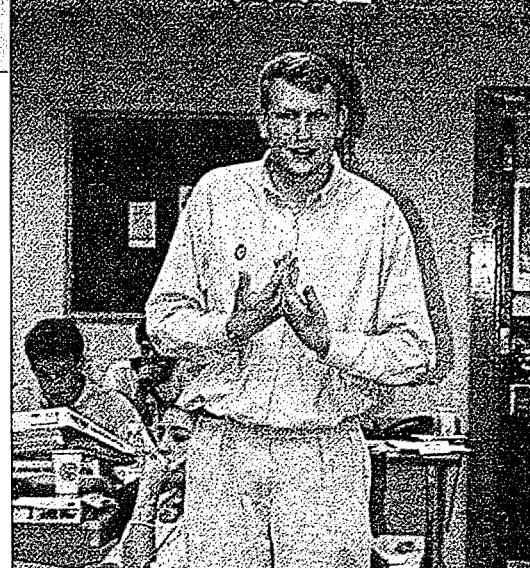
The service, diversity and programming divisions of student government will direct projects that seek to strengthen the Notre Dame community and that offer students the chance to assist the South Bend community. The service division will continue the Irish Elves and Project Warmth programs, according to division head Stephanie Burum. Additionally, the division is organizing a mini-conference at Notre Dame for eighth graders, providing them the opportunity to explore their fields of interest.

Todd Calais, head of the diversity division, expects to keep busy planning Martin Luther King Jr. Week and hopes to co-sponsor events that will make Notre Dame a more "tolerant and exciting school." He says, "Besides being a place for fun and education, college is the perfect opportunity to expand one's mind and to learn about new experiences."

Student government also has its eye on history and tradition. The programming division plans to revive a Founders Day celebration as a way for the whole campus to



## DREWOLEJNIK



celebrate Notre Dame's roots and to learn about the struggles faced by Father Sorin and the first Notre Dame students.

As the divisions continue to plan activities, assistance from interested students is crucial. "Get involved with something you love," Burum advises students. "At the same time you can help not only the Notre Dame family, but the rest of our community as well."

### Spirituality

The spirituality division is pursuing two major projects: Greatness Grants and Blessing Unto Others.

Greatness Grants, one of O'Donoghue and Norton's campaign initiatives, will provide funding for student-initiated service and projects. Spiritual division chairs Brendan Harris and Drew Gawrych are working closely with Director of Campus Ministry Father Richard Warner on making this project a reality. "Being in college is dreaming about saving the world," says O'Donoghue. "This fund may make it a little more possible and provide money for works in the Catholic social mission."

The "Blessing Unto Others" fund-raising project seeks to spread some of Notre Dame's wealth to two orphanages in Chile run by the Congregation of the Holy Cross. "Most dorms do fund-raising, but it is in small pockets," Gawrych says. "This project will be done as a student body and done well."

The preliminary plan calls for a week of activities to raise money and educate students about the orphanages and life in Chile. A keystone event, such as a Christian-music festival, would bring the week to a close. If

successful, organizers hope to make the event an annual occurrence. "We are so blessed here at Notre Dame," Gawrych says. "This project gives a chance for Notre Dame students to be a blessing unto others."

### Academics

The academic division will kick off the year with a voter-registration drive, and it hopes to provide absentee ballots from students' home states during election time. The idea is to encourage students to be politically involved as part of their social responsibility.

The academic lunches started by the Cesaro administration will also be continued, giving students the opportunity to meet with professors and advisors over lunch.

Other academic projects in the works include a College Fellows program that would provide professors with money to take students out to dinner, and a summer exchange program that would allow Notre Dame students to use facilities at local universities when they go home for the summer.

### Athletics

John Micek, student representative of the department of athletics, and Sharon Bui, the head of the athletic division, seek to improve student attendance at all Notre Dame athletic events.

Noting that over 80 percent of the student body participated in a sport in high school, Micek hopes to form a committee centered on increasing student involvement in the Olympic sports, focusing on more than just the well-supported sports of basketball and

football.

Current ideas to increase student involvement include competitions for free tuition at volleyball matches, food giveaways and 12th-man groups at soccer games. T-shirts for the 12th-man Notre Dame Futbol Club would be handed out in conjunction with many of the matches.

Other plans include having a goal set up on South Quad before important men's soccer matches for students to shoot on the team's goalies. Furthermore, excited coaches are thinking of holding mini-clinics, speaking in dorms and going out to dinner with super-fans.

"Hopefully, these committees will bring added incentives, but ultimately our spirit and pride as students will be the measure of success," Micek says. "We as students are the purveyors of the tradition of excellence in Notre Dame athletics."

### Making it Happen

While student government's plans sound ambitious, the question remains: Will this administration achieve its lofty goals and impact on student life? Or, as so often happens, will the campaign promises prove to be vacuous?

Student government points to the changes already taking place. It says, too, that it is not solely responsible for the outcome of programs.

"Our success or failure depends on the Notre Dame student body and whether they want to make Notre Dame a better place," O'Donoghue says. "They love it. I know they do. I hope they will get involved as a duty to Our Lady." □

# Too Much Information?

Notre Dame professors use caution  
when considering new genetic information

Imagine a situation 10 years from now. You try to apply for health insurance, but before you can meet with a representative, the insurance company requires you to submit a blood sample. What if, with this small sample, the company could view your entire genetic code, revealing any genetic abnormalities you may possess — including whether or not you will develop a terminal illness? What if a prospective employer had access to this information?

This summer, situations like this moved a step closer to becoming reality. Scientists involved in the Human Genome Project, an international research collaboration, announced in late June that they had deciphered the entire human genome, unraveling and ordering the 3.1 billion “letters” that make up a strand of human DNA.

These advancements could mean new treatments for such conditions as tuberculosis, cancer and even HIV, but this milestone also raises serious ethical concerns. Many Notre Dame professors have been investigating these implications from the beginning of the project’s existence. In October 1995, just as the genome project was beginning to appear on the public radar, Notre Dame hosted an interdisciplinary conference exploring its ethical, theological and social dimensions.

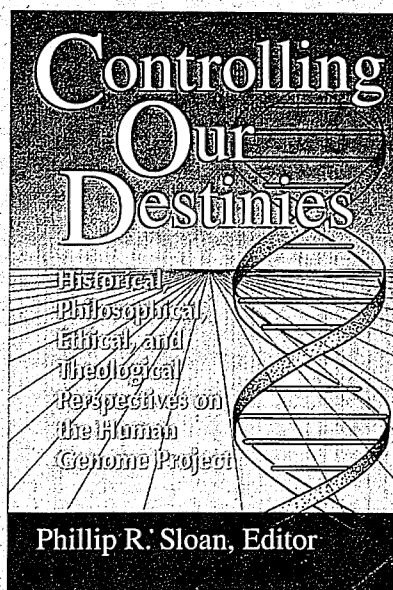
One of the professors involved in planning the

conference was Phillip Sloan, director of the Program in Science, Technology and Values at Notre Dame and a professor in the Program of Liberal Studies. “Notre Dame was an excellent place to have an interaction of people across disciplines to address these important questions that will affect all of us in the upcoming century,” he says.

With major funding from the government and support from the university, the conference brought perspectives from all areas and set an important dialogue in motion. This year Sloan published a collection of essays continuing the dialogue from the conference.

The book, *Controlling Our Destinies: Historical, Philosophical, Ethical, and Theological Perspectives on the Human Genome Project*, is coming out amidst a flurry of media activity concerning the genome project. Sloan finds reports that scientists have “cracked the code of life” or “discovered God’s blueprint” misleading, and he hopes that the collection of essays will serve as a resource for thoughtful consideration of how society is going to use this new genetic information.

“It was our choice to produce this information, but now we have to learn what to do with it,” says Sloan. “There are many positive medical benefits down the road, but at the same time, many troubling ethical



**Phillip R. Sloan**

Director of the Program in Science,  
Technology and Values

“In the elation over the decoding of the genome, it seems time now to ask some hard questions about what genes do and do not do. They do not tell us about our existence as reflective, cultured and self-conscious beings.”

problems that I am not sure we are ready to handle.”

Professor Richard McCormick, emeritus John A. O’Brien chair and professor of Christian ethics, envisions a host of practical moral problems. For Catholics, such ethical implications arise in genetic counseling and elective abortion. Traits that we now consider normal may soon become abnormalities for which parents begin screening. For example, although obesity may not be a desirable trait, it is still considered ordinary. With new genetic information, parents might see that their child is inclined to obesity — and elect to abort the pregnancy, trying for a “more-desirable” child.

Sloan also wonders about the burden of knowledge that comes when learning about one’s own genetic information. Would you want to know about genetic abnormalities that you might possess? What if nothing could be done about them — would you still want to know?

According to McCormick, “the most immediate and obvious problem generated by the Human Genome Project is genetic privacy.” One test is already available that identifies a gene associated with breast and ovarian cancer, but there is ongoing debate over who should take this test and what should be done with the results. Who should have access to your genetic structure, and what rights do you have over what information is being released?

The questions are endless, and they stretch across such a broad range of fields that Sloan believes students and the public need to view this issue beyond a scientific perspective. “In the elation over the decoding of the genome, it seems time now to ask some hard

questions about what genes do and do not do,” Sloan says. “They do not tell us about our existence as reflective, cultured and self-conscious beings.”

The genome project will once again be featured as a main topic of discussion on campus when Notre Dame hosts the Undergraduate Bioethics Conference in March 2001. In the meantime, the Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values at Notre Dame

“There are many positive medical benefits down the road, but at the same time, many troubling ethical problems that I am not sure we are ready to handle.”

— Phillip R. Sloan

hopes to hold a campus-wide forum in October as an opportunity for students and faculty to come together to better understand the issues surrounding the genome project and continue an educated dialogue.

Sloan and other Notre Dame professors involved in this discussion do not want to overshadow the positive advancements that will come from the genome project, and they wish to keep all disciplines involved.

“I am a guarded optimist about these developments,” says Sloan. “I am optimistic about the scientific quest generally, and I applaud the achievements of dedicated scientists in their search for understanding. But I would suggest we need a healthy dose of skepticism and caution about these developments.” □

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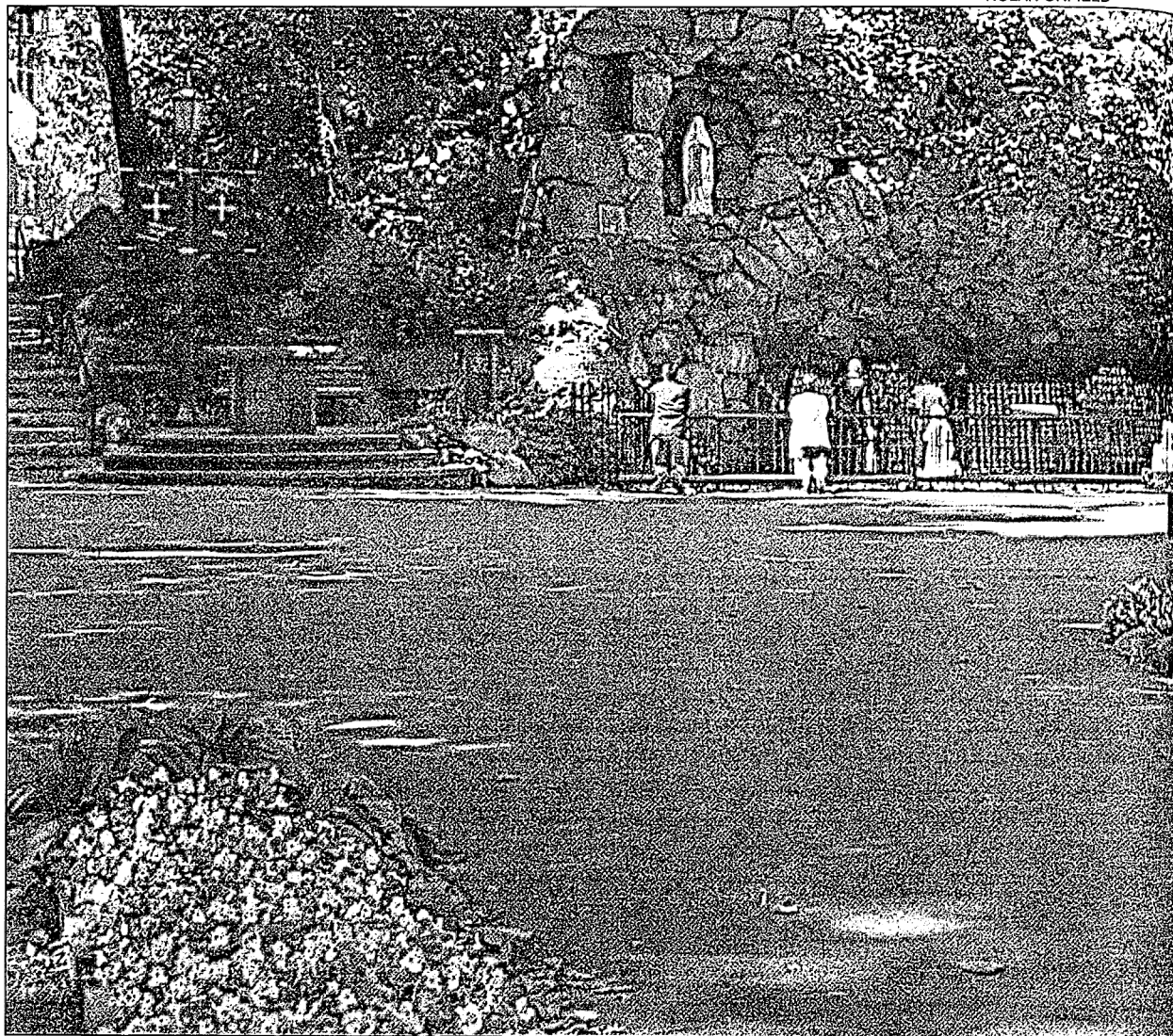
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## PLANS TO RENOVATE THE GROTTO

# A N E W G

JACKLYN KIEFER

It was one hell of a fire; heavy black smoke belched from the opening of the Grotto. The heat was so intense that when water came in contact with the stone, it caused spalling, which happens when the stones become overheated and chip or fall off in blocks. Large pieces lay on the ground in front of the rocks. Candles, grouped on the floor of the Grotto for lack of holder space, had ignited their plastic containers, causing a fire. The candle racks had been pushed back, over other burning candles, to make room for more on the floor, and the ones below had ignited those above them."

This was the scene that greeted Notre

Dame Fire Chief Brother Borromeo Malley on September 23, 1985. Malley told this story to Dorothy Corson approximately one year before his death in 1994.

An estimated 1,500 candles burning after a victory over Michigan State had ignited the blaze. Amazingly, the statues were unharmed, and, despite the spalling, the Grotto enclave remained intact. The Grotto was speedily repaired after the fire; 15 years later, no visible signs of damage remain. The ivy and trees have grown back, and the smoke stains have long been removed.

No major improvements have been made since then, but that is about to change. The Class of 1955 is giving money to make some improvements to the Grotto. Paul Fulmer,

class secretary, says, "The Class of '55 was very interested in funding the Grotto project as our reunion gift to the university because of the many memories we have of the Grotto, and the meaning it gives to Notre Dame."

The class has raised approximately \$59,000 of the \$177,000 necessary to complete the improvements. Additional refurbishments will be carried out as the money is raised over the next several years. According to Kathy Webb, director of the annual fund, the first renovation will likely be the installation of a storm-water drainage system, as standing water around the Grotto is a serious problem.

Nearly one-third of the money raised will fund the replacement of the asphalt around





Artist's rendering of the Grotto after the planned renovations.

## WILL RELY ON ALUMNI CONTRIBUTIONS

# R O T T O

the Grotto with brick-edged concrete. The southeast and northeast stone stairs will also be replaced with cement stairs for easier access.

To preserve the Grotto in its present form, only the area surrounding the Grotto — not the Grotto itself — will be renovated. The Grotto has remained virtually unchanged in its 106-year existence under the watchful gaze of the Blessed Mother. Over the years, she has seen countless marriage proposals, listened to hundreds of students' problems and undoubtedly has heard millions of prayers for help with finals. She has also seen things that few people know about — including the building of the Grotto itself.

The statue of the Blessed Mother that

stands above the Grotto has known more than one home, in fact. It stood in the octagonal shrine Father Sorin built in 1878 just behind the Basilica. Shortly after he died, Father William Corby decided to build a more accurate replica of the original Grotto in Lourdes, France on campus. Corby decided to build the new Grotto at the bottom of a small hill along the shores of the lake.

As crew members were digging, a small spring welled up from the ground in virtually the same spot as did the one at the Grotto in Lourdes. The water from the original Grotto was reputed for its healing properties. Many interpreted this occasion as an indication of the Blessed Mother's approval of the Grotto project. The place

where the spring welled up was originally outfitted with a backyard pump, but now a fountain stands there. Upon the completion and dedication of the new Grotto on August 5, 1896, the statue of Mary was moved to the new Grotto in the hillside.

The ties between the two Grottos have remained strong over the years. On the centennial anniversary of the appearances of the Virgin Mary to Bernadette (February 11, 1958 through February 11, 1959), the university planned many improvements to the Grotto, including paving the grounds, which were previously made of crushed stone. It is believed that the Seniors' Last Trip to the Grotto originated during this year.

Another example of this link is the appearance of two black stones on the right side of Notre Dame's Grotto, under the statue of the Virgin Mary. The stones were brought back to the university from the Grotto in Lourdes. Many students and alumni who are aware of their significance place their hands over the larger of the stones as part of their ritual when going to the Grotto. Installed by Father DeGroote in 1938, the first black stone is barely noticeable, as it is only two inches wide. But the second, which Father Phillip Schaerf secretly placed below the smaller stone in 1958, is about six inches long.

Just three weeks after the fire, the statue of Dr. Tom Dooley, which honors his humanitarian work in Southeast Asia, was added to the Grotto area. This addition was made 24 years after then-University President Father Theodore Hesburgh received a letter from Dooley conveying his love

for the Grotto. Now the stage is set for the planned renovations.

The Grotto leaves a strong impression on all who see it. It is often the first place students and alumni visit upon returning to campus, and it holds a unique place in the hearts of those who live on campus year-round. Agreement is universal that it is one of the most precious things on Notre Dame's campus. Though the Blessed Mother has watched over the university from the Dome for more than 100 years, most students feel closest to her while at the Grotto.

Father John Fitzgerald expressed this feeling in a 1950 *Scholastic* story. He wrote, "From the great Golden Dome of her University, Our Lady reigns as our Queen. Yet at the Grotto she seems to have stepped down a little closer to us that she might emphasize the other side of her personal relationship with us — that of Our Mother. The beauty of nature surrounding the Grotto,

the candle glow — the comforting listening presence to turn to brings solace in all our troubles."

*Observer* writer Kathy Martin wrote of the Grotto's magic in a 1986 story. She quoted Hesburgh, who is often seen visiting the Grotto at night, as saying, "I really believe that Our Lady watches over this place. I feel I ought to stop in and say thanks, and also pray that she keeps watching over it.... I've been to shrines dedicated to Our Lady all over the world. Mary may visit them, but she lives here at Notre Dame." □

*Corson preserved many stories of the Grotto in her documentary "Cave Candles." The complete manuscript of her research can be accessed at <http://classics.archives.nd.edu/corson/>. The stories were taken from there and from Grotto Stories, compiled by Mary Pat Dowling.*



THOUGH THE BLESSED MOTHER HAS WATCHED OVER THE UNIVERSITY FROM THE DOME FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS, MOST STUDENTS FEEL CLOSEST TO HER WHILE AT THE GROTTO.

## STORIES FROM THE GROTTO

When we told our seven-year-old son, Nick, that we were going to Notre Dame for the weekend, he was excited to return to the place where we had so many fun family outings. Nick asked if we could go to "that place."

"Where? The bookstore?" "No."

"The Golden Dome?" "No."

"The ACC?" "No."

"Where?" "You know, that place."

"What place?" "God's cave."

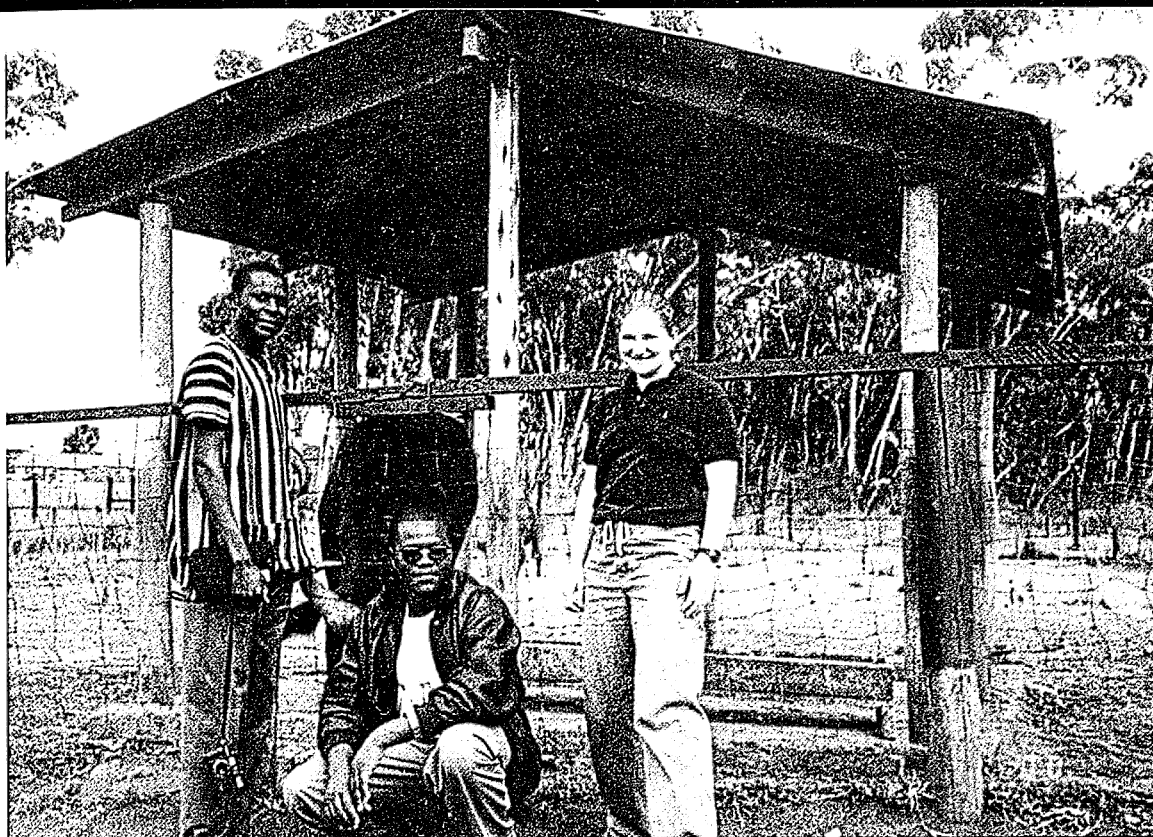
We knew immediately that he meant the Grotto. We took Nick to the Grotto on that trip and on every trip since. He still calls it God's Cave.

— Jim Tomshack  
Portage, Michigan

Not having gone to Notre Dame, my girlfriend, but soon to be fiancée, did not realize the importance of the Grotto. So some weekend I convinced her to go to South Bend from Chicago to visit some of my college friends who were there for a wedding. It did not make sense to her, since we saw them the night before, but I had to get her to the Grotto somehow to ask her to be my wife. When we finally made it to the Grotto, I was relieved to find very few people present, since I wanted to propose in private and have a natural, memorable moment together. As we knelt down to pray, I heard a golf cart pull up behind us. Much to my dismay, it was time for a very slow walking Brother to clean the wax from the candle holders and fill all of the empty candle slots. Each trip back to the golf cart I was hoping was his last. My wife's knees got so sore kneeling that she went back to sit down. A few minutes later, I followed her and we sat for some time in silence, me waiting for the brother to complete his task. It must have been 40 minutes later when he was finally driving off. Immediately, but not wanted to appear too anxious or nervous, we lit candles for our parents as I proposed. It was truly a memorable moment, and she even said, "yes."

— Gary M. Purk  
Class of 1984  
LaGrange, Illinois





Maria Feilmeyer visited the Animal Orphanage in Nairobi this summer.

Photo courtesy of Maria Feilmeyer

# Learning from Experience

Notre Dame students travel abroad for research and service work

JEFFREYNEWCAMP

**W**hat did you do this summer?" The oft-repeated question is usually greeted with a series of bland, oft-repeated answers.

"Hung out."

"Went to the beach."

"Worked."

But some students take advantage of the summer months to travel abroad, participating in university-sponsored research and service programs. The Nanovic Institute for European Studies, the Center for Social Concerns and the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies offer interested students funding and direction to pursue projects on foreign soil.

## The Nanovic Institute for European Studies

The Nanovic Institute for European Studies provides undergraduates with competitive research grants to study in either Europe and Russia. Senior Jim Wrzosek spent his summer in London, researching the critical decisions made by the British government during World War II. Wrzosek's study was funded in part by a \$3,000 grant, which helped defray the expenses of living in London. While the program sponsored his research, Wrzosek was responsible for managing his own expenses and directing his own work. "I was given the money and I made all the decisions . . . where to stay, what to do, when to go," Wrzosek says.

Although London is an exciting city, Wrzosek saw its less

glamorous side. He spent most of his time sifting through materials in places like the Imperial War Museum and the British Office of Public Records. Focusing his research on how the British rationalized massive air raids on Nazi Germany, Wrzosek made some interesting discoveries about the psychology of warfare.

"Knowing many civilians would be killed in an air-war, Britain focused their propaganda on the evils of the Nazi leaders," Wrzosek says. "This seemed to dull the sense of wrongness involved in widespread air attacks."

Wrzosek will continue the work he started in London, using his research to write his senior thesis. "Study abroad goes far beyond things that happen in the classroom," Wrzosek explains. "These programs enable students to take advantage of the opportunities available to them."

## The Center for Social Concerns

The Center for Social Concerns also offers students the opportunity to travel abroad during the summer months and participate in service projects. Recent student destinations include El Salvador, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Chile, India and Israel. Like the Nanovic Institute, the CSC provides financial support for students' work. The center typically offers a \$1,700 grant and up to \$1,000 for airfare to students participating in service work on foreign soil. According to CSC staffer Rachel Tomas-Morgan, there are no strict prerequisites for the program, but interested students must first pass a selection process that includes a test of the student's foreign-language proficiency. This helps the CSC

match students with a program that is right for them; a student without any skills in Spanish, for example, would not be permitted to work in a Spanish-speaking country.

This summer, junior Katherine Henze traveled to the Dominican Republic through a service program sponsored by the CSC. Henze helped teach middle-school students and led extracurricular activities. She soon realized, however, that she had far more to learn from her students than they had to learn from her. As Henze became more and more familiar with the children, she noticed how content they were with what little they had. Henze especially remembers taking some pupils to the beach for an afternoon of fun. "So many of them were happy" despite their poverty, she recalls. Henze notes that while most children in the United States have so much for entertainment, the children she worked with were much happier with only the simplest of toys. The experience challenged Henze to reevaluate her own cultural assumptions. She says that sometimes we must realize that most of our boredom is superficial and that other cultures can assist in this realization.

Intimately involved with the culture, Henze was challenged to abandon the comforts of home and learn how to operate without the luxuries Americans take for granted. "I didn't take a shower for months," she says, "but it didn't matter." She considers it all part of experiencing the culture.

#### **Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies**

The Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies also provides students with the opportunity to spend the summer conducting research and preparing to write a senior thesis. Although the institute has an international focus, it funds study both abroad and in the United States. The Institute selects four students to receive a \$3,000 grant. These four students may choose to spend the summer either interning with a government agency or performing a study project. The work done during the internship or study project will eventually form the basis of the student's senior thesis. In the summer of 2000, students traveled to locations such as Washington D.C., Mexico, Chile and Kenya. Senior Maria Feilmeyer was one of the recipients of the Kellogg Institute grant during the summer of 2000. She chose to travel to Nairobi, Kenya in order to conduct her study project. With a double major in theology and philosophy and a concentration in African studies, Feilmeyer researched how churches in Africa were responding to the AIDS epidemic throughout the continent. As with the Nanovic grants, the Kellogg Institute expects students who win the grants to manage their own finances and direct their own work. Though the Kellogg Institute awarded Feilmeyer a \$3,000 grant to pay for her expenses during the summer, she was responsible for making most of her

living arrangements. Feilmeyer stayed in a Holy Cross Formation House and lived with priests, seminarians and brothers from Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and the United States.

The program gave Feilmeyer the chance to interact with like-minded missionaries. During her stay, Feilmeyer visited the slums of Nairobi four times, the medical missionaries from Ireland twice. She also visited twice with a nurse in charge of an AIDS parish outreach program. She also interviewed a number of people from many Christian organizations that assist AIDS patients and help to stop the spread of the disease in Nairobi.

These experiences can have a profound impact on program participants. In fact, Feilmeyer participated in few tourist activities while in Kenya due to her feelings of sadness and hopelessness after visiting the destitute areas of Nairobi. Nevertheless, Weilmeyer says her experiences gave her a great awareness of the culture of the people of Nairobi and its struggles in dealing with HIV and AIDS.

Feilmeyer also gained a greater appreciation of how a resident of Nairobi lives from day to day. Electricity was rationed in the city, causing difficulties in the planning of events. "We sometimes bought ice cream for the socials, but only on days we had electricity [for the freezer] or could eat it right away," Feilmeyer explains. In addition, the drinking water available to her was not safe to drink. It had to be boiled to make it sanitary. This, coupled with vaccines, kept her safe on her trip.

She did have one unfortunate experience, however, that caution and medicine could not prevent. While traveling in a car from one end of town to the other, Feilmeyer experienced what is known as "Nairobierry."

"All of our doors were locked, but while someone was distracting me at my window, another reached in [the other window] and unlocked the back door and took our my backpack, which had four days of clothes in it," Feilmeyer says. The trip went on, and, according to Feilmeyer, the positive experiences vastly outweighed

the loss of her backpack.

**“I was given  
the money and I  
made all the  
decisions...  
Where to stay...  
What to do...  
When to go.”**

**— Jim Wrzosek**

Many students study abroad each year. Overseas internships, service-learning programs and research projects are all wonderful ways to experience foreign cultures. With the right mix of learning and fun, any summer abroad experience can be a summer well-spent. Most students will agree that the beaches of the Dominican Republic are far superior to the beaches of Lake Michigan, and that hanging out in downtown London beats the community pool any day. Far more rewarding than the sand and nightlife, however, is the sense of accomplishment most students feel after completing a summer research or service project. □



# MIND OVER BODY

## HAVE NOTRE DAME'S ACADEMIC STANDARDS CRIPPLED ITS FOOTBALL PROGRAM?

CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON

It was a particularly cruel off-season for Irish fans across the country. In the months leading up to the 1964 season, headlines scattered across every major newspaper dissected and analyzed Notre Dame's fall from grace. The last time the Irish took the field, they suffered an embarrassing loss to Syracuse. Legions of reporters and writers seemed more than justified in their unyield-

ing criticism of a once proud football program. Pointing to Notre Dame's lackluster 14-25 ledger during the past four years, they proclaimed the end of a dynasty.

That season, Notre Dame came within one victory of the national championship, winning the title two years later and posting an impressive 95-17-4 over the next 11 years.

Over the course of the last century, Notre Dame has firmly entrenched itself at the heart of the college football universe. The Fighting Irish own the highest winning

percentage of any Division I team, along with 11 national championships, and seven Heisman trophy winners. This list of achievements, however, does not imply that Notre Dame has been immune to brief struggles. There's no mistaking that the Irish have struggled of late. This season marked the first time in over 15 years that the Irish were not ranked among the top 25 teams in the AP preseason poll. Notre Dame has not notched a postseason win since the 1993 season — the last year they threatened to win the national championship — and they finished last season by going winless in November.

Irish fans have not been bashful in expressing their growing frustration, and the media is once again proclaiming an end to Notre Dame's legendary reputation. Last May, *Sports Illustrated* published "Irish Stew," a critical article by Tim Layden that argued Notre Dame would never return to its past glory. "It seems as though every time you go through one of these periods, the media and others somehow think Notre Dame just can't do this any more, Notre Dame will never be good again," Sports Information Director and Assistant Athletic Director John Heisler says. "We went through some .500 years or a little above in the early '80s ... and you read the same things, 'Notre Dame's never going to win again and the academics are too tough, and they are playing these tough schedules, and

it just isn't going to work.' Now that obviously wasn't true either. I think all these sorts of things are cyclical."

Kevin Rooney, who worked in the admissions office from 1979-97 and served as the office's director from 1984-97, also took exception to *Sports Illustrated's* portrayal of the Notre Dame football program.

"It seemed as if they were trying to sensationalize the situation," says Rooney, who watched Dan Devine, Gerry Faust, Lou Holtz and Bob Davie recruit some of the nation's top prospects. "In other words, they were trying to make things appear overly dramatic."

Some critics have identified Dan Saracino, current director of admissions at Notre Dame, as one of the main reasons behind Notre Dame's shortcomings on the playing field. *Sports Illustrated* indicated that Notre Dame's present academic standards are too stringent for the school ever to contend seriously for the national title.

"I was disappointed in the article, but the positive spin that came out of it was very gratifying," says Saracino, whose friendly demeanor contrasts with the imposing, confrontational image presented in the story.

"The overwhelming response from administrators, from trustees, from even coaches and high-school counselors, and other colleagues at other universities was very, very positive, basically saying that if the worst *Sports Illustrated* can say about

Notre Dame is that we have high admission standards, then God bless them."

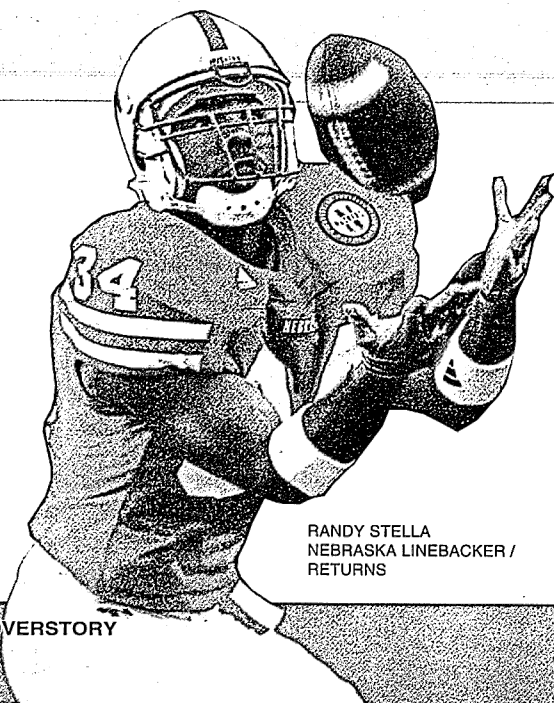
Saracino is also extremely optimistic that Notre Dame can find the type of recruits that will return Notre Dame to the pinnacle of college football. "There's no question in my mind that we can find students who have taken a more demanding college prep program with a better GPA, and are good athletes — we're not looking for that many."

Notre Dame's high admission standards are well-documented among college football followers, but these standards are by no means as unreasonable as critics often charge. Notre Dame requires each recruit to take 16 college-prep courses in high school, instead of the NCAA-mandated minimum of 13. To put that number in perspective, if a recruit just satisfies Notre Dame's minimum 16-course requirement, he is still taking one less prep-course every semester of high school than the typical incoming Notre Dame student.

The university also requests that recruits perform competently on the SAT. It may come as a surprise to many that Notre Dame's average SAT scores for players enrolled between 1994 and 1997 is a modest 951, which ranks the institution 35th among Division I-A football programs. Notre Dame is over 200 points below Stanford's Division-I-A-leading average of 1176, and also trails schools such as UCLA (990), Ohio State (979), Purdue (966), Michigan (959),

## SEASON OUTLOOK

COMPILED BY GERARD MESKILL



RANDY STELLA  
NEBRASKA LINEBACKER /  
RETURNS

### (1) Nebraska (1-0)

September 9, 2000

1999 Record: 12-1 (Big-12 Champions)

Last Game: San Jose State (49-13 W)

Traditions collide when Nebraska comes to town on Saturday. Lately, when Irish fans speak of "tradition," they mean it as a synonym for "history." For the Cornhuskers, tradition is now. The Huskers boast 31 consecutive nine-win seasons and bowl appearances — both NCAA records. They have had three national championships in the 1990s. Nebraska returns 20 starters, including quarterback Eric Crouch, punter Dan Hadenfeldt, center Dominic Raiola, and tight end Tracey Wistrom. Last season Crouch set four Cornhusker records and finished fourth in the AP balloting for national player of the year. Hadenfeldt broke the Nebraska records for season punting average (44.98 yards per punt) and single-game punting average (57.6 yards per punt against Colorado). Raiola set school records for most knock-down, or pancake, blocks in a season with 140. Wistrom broke the school record for the best yards per reception average, notching 26.8 yards per catch. Nevertheless, if the Irish win Saturday, they will be the ones pursuing the 2000 national title.





**"A LOT OF THINGS CONTRIBUTED TO WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR, AND I DON'T THINK YOU CAN BLAME THE COACHING STAFF WHEN EVERYBODY PLAYS A PART."**

**ANTHONY DENMAN  
SENIOR LINE BACKER**

Penn State (958), and USC (955).

These statistics by no means suggest Notre Dame has less stringent admission standards than the other schools listed above. Notre Dame typically places more emphasis on high-school coursework and GPA than many other Division I-A schools. Instead, these statistics merely illustrate that the Notre Dame admissions office is not as demanding as many perceive it to be when considering recruits.

Over the past decade, outsiders have suggested — without any concrete evidence — that Notre Dame has raised its recruiting standards, preventing the Irish from admitting numerous talented prospects. But Saracino is quick to point out that this supposed jump in standards simply is not grounded in fact. "If you look at the academic profile of the football team, it isn't any better than it was [10 years ago]," says Saracino. "So that is more of a concern on our part. The student body has gotten stronger and the football players are going to have to compete in some way with those students, so there is a concern."

Rooney agrees with Saracino, dismissing another prevalent, unfounded rumor that has spread over time among fans and the media alike. "From time to time, it keeps coming up, that in December of 1990, there was a sudden change in standards," Rooney says, referring to a rumor that the Notre

#### **(14) Purdue (1-0)**

September 16, 2000

1999 Record: 7-5

Last Game: Central Michigan (48-0 W)

Purdue looked impressive in its tune-up contest with Central Michigan. Heisman favorite quarterback Drew Brees threw for 317 yards and three touchdowns, essentially burying his opponent. The 48-0 win was Purdue's first shutout in almost nine years. In addition to having arguably the best quarterback in the nation, the Boilermakers' wide receiver Vinny Sutherland has tallied over 1,000 receiving yards and is the only player in Purdue history to return two kickoffs for touchdowns in a single season. The Brees-Sutherland combination translates to lots of touchdown passes and a possible Irish headache.

#### **At (24) Michigan State (0-0)**

September 23, 2000

1999 Record: 10-2

Last Game: Florida (37-34 W, Citrus Bowl)

Last year, Michigan State made the Irish look silly in a dismal 27-17 home loss. While the Spartan lineup contains a double threat in the backfield with T.J. Duckett and Dawan Moss, Michigan State may have far more questions than answers. On offense, the Spartans graduated two starting wide receivers and quarterback Bill Burke. Defensively, they lost linebacker Julian Peterson and defensive end Robaire Smith, who combined to tally 23 of MSU's single-season record 54 sacks last year. On special teams, MSU lost place kicker Paul Edinger (46-of-58 career field goal attempts) and punt returner Gari Scott who holds the Spartan record of 1,088 career yards on punt returns.

#### **Stanford (1-0)**

October 7, 2000

1999 Record: 8-4 (Pac-10 Champions)

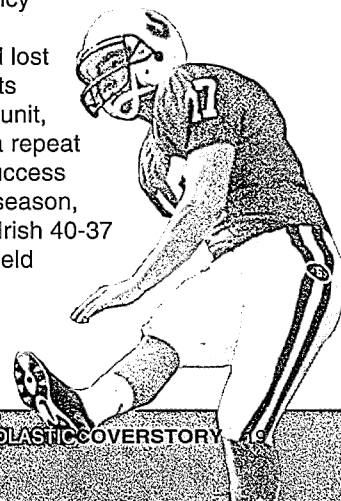
Last Game: Washington State (24-10 W)

The Cardinal parted with 10 starters this spring, including star quarterback Todd Husak. Joe Borchard, Randy Fasani and Chris Lewis are the three men vying for the starting role in the 2000 season.

Front-runner Borchard was impressive in his backup role last year, appearing in 10 games and leading the Pac-10 with a 177.3 pass efficiency rating (42 of 71).

However, Stanford lost more than half of its starting defensive unit, which may make a repeat of last season's success challenging. Last season, Stanford beat the Irish 40-37 on a last-second field goal.

MIKE BISELLI  
STANFORD  
PLACE KICKER



Dame administration sought to suddenly tighten admissions policy because players were performing poorly in the classroom during Holtz's tenure as head coach. "And to me, that is such an incredibly ill-drawn conclusion, because the class that had entered in the fall of 1990 and that graduated in 1994, in retrospect was probably my favorite group of football recruits during my 13 years. It also turned out to be a very good group, that's the group that happened to be seniors during the 1993 season, which in retrospect was the glory year of the decade," he adds. That class included four All-Americans: Aaron Taylor, Jeff Burris, Tim Ruddy and Bryant Young. "I just thought that they had the best combination of academic and personal qualities of the classes I can recall during that era," Saracino says. "So why would we, in light of that group coming in, suddenly decide to raise standards? It just doesn't make sense to me at all."

Critics also claim that Notre Dame can no longer recruit the types of players who placed the Irish among the nation's elite in the late '80s and early '90s, pointing to Tony Rice and Chris Zorich as examples of star players who would not meet the university's current academic standards. Rooney believes that an incident during the December recruiting banquet weekend in 1990 has led fans and the media astray with regards to the academic qualifications of

Zorich. During that time, two prospects who attended the same high school as Zorich were told they were not academically eligible for Notre Dame. "While they were from the same high school, they were not students who had taken nearly as many academic courses as Chris Zorich," he says. "Neither one of these guys would have worked at Notre Dame and yet because they went to the same high school, several years later obviously, the feeling was that they were as good as him and that set off this whole myth that Chris Zorich wouldn't have been admitted and that we had raised standards," Rooney says.

While some claim the Irish football program is suffering at the hands of academic standards, new Athletic Director Kevin White disagrees. Plain and simple, Notre Dame has not raised standards and Notre Dame is not turning its back on the football program. "The senior administration is terribly committed to having a very successful college football program, bottom line," White says. "It's very apparent to me that everybody from [University] President Fr. Malloy, to Provost Nathan Hatch, to ... Executive Vice President Fr. Scully ... is fully behind the intercollegiate athletics program and specifically, 100 percent behind this football program."

Because White replaced Head Coach Bob Davie's most ardent supporter — Michael Wadsworth — speculation abounds that

Davie will be judged by more stringent standards this season. Many believe White will expect Davie to produce big victories this season, and perhaps even reach a predetermined win total to keep his job.

White, however, maintains that he does not want to add to the stress of coaches and players. "My responsibility is to help create the most success-oriented, most conducive environment around the program," White explains. "I've got to work hard at reducing the anxiety around our staff and our players ... I think coaches and student athletes will perform at a much higher level if we can get the anxiety reduced."

Placing the coaches in more of a "comfort zone" is perhaps just what the doctor ordered for a group that is arguably the most scrutinized in all of sports. White also knows that there is more to a win-loss record than the coaching staff's performance — the players have to do their part as well.

Senior linebacker and team Captain Anthony Denman understands the need for the entire team to step up and take responsibility. "A lot of things contributed to what happened last year, and I don't think you can blame the coaching staff when everybody plays a part," he says.

Offensive lineman Kurt Vollers adds, "I don't think you can put blame on anyone, like you can't say it was so and so's fault — I mean, it was everyone's fault. Football's

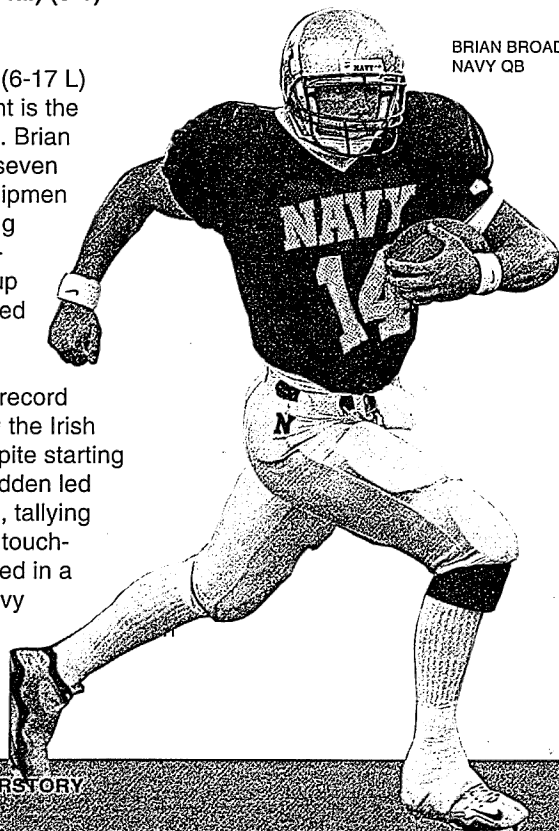
### At Navy (Orlando, Fla.) (0-1)

October 14, 2000

1999 Record: 5-7

Last Game: Temple (6-17 L)

Navy's brightest point is the quarterback position. Brian Broadwater started seven games for the Midshipmen last year before being sidelined with a fractured clavicle. Backup Brian Madden stepped in for the final five games, leading the Midshipmen to a 3-2 record and nearly defeating the Irish in South Bend. Despite starting only five games, Madden led the nation in rushing, tallying 626 yards and eight touchdowns. He was injured in a spring game, but Navy believes he may re- this season.



BRIAN BROADWATER  
NAVY QB

### At West Virginia (1-0)

October 21, 2000

1999 Record: 4-7

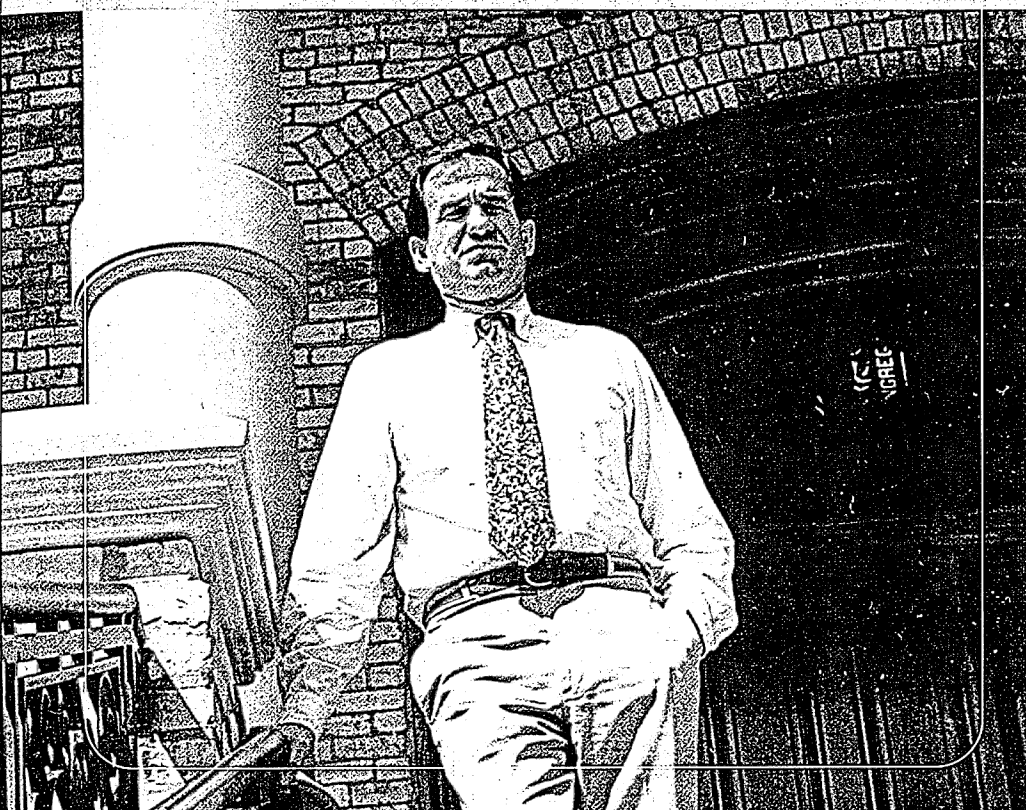
Last Game: Boston College (34-14 W)

After a dismal 4-7 campaign, Head Coach Dan Nehlen set out to improve his defensive line. The Mountaineers lost 12 defensive lettermen while returning the same number. They also lost starting quarterback Marc Bulger, who was drafted by the New Orleans Saints. However, Brad Lewis proved that he is capable of replacing Bulger, throwing for 726 yards and eight touchdowns last season in five starts, including a gutsy 22-20 loss to No. 2 Virginia Tech. Nehlen's adjustments to the defensive and offensive units, sparked an impressive win over Boston College. Add to it that West Virginia was 4-2 in Morgantown last year — losing close contests to Virginia Tech and Navy — and the Irish could be in for a good fight.



"IF YOU LOOK AT THE ACADEMIC PROFILE OF THE FOOTBALL TEAM, IT ISN'T ANY BETTER THAN IT WAS [10 YEARS AGO]. SO THAT IS MORE OF A CONCERN ON OUR PART."

DAN SARACINO  
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS



the biggest team sport there is, and when one person messes up, then yeah some people are more in the spotlight, but in the same sense, the people that aren't in the spotlight, when they mess up, it's just as critical."

But can anyone be blamed if Notre Dame is pummeled by its brutal, early season schedule? Many consider playing Texas A&M, Nebraska, Purdue and Michigan State consecutively and without a bye week too daunting a task for a highly-ranked squad, let alone a team that is trying to regain its position among the nation's elite.

Heisler sees the difficult schedule as another long-standing facet of Notre Dame football. "I think it's a tradition, along with a lot of other things around here," he remarks. The facts seem to support Heisler's conviction. Since 1977, when the NCAA began tracking the toughest Division I-A schedules, Notre Dame's has been named the most difficult five times (1978, 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1995), ranked the third-toughest two times (1986 and 1999) and rated the fourth-hardest twice (1979 and 1990).

In fact, the NCAA also proclaimed Notre Dame's schedule to be the most challenging in the five-year time period from 1986-90. During this period, a struggling Irish outfit rebuilt itself, earned a national championship, won 23 straight games, the longest winning streak in school history.

"I don't think we can waffle on playing

#### Air Force (1-0)

October 28, 2000

1999 Record: 6-5

Last Game: Cal State Northridge (55-6 W)

Air Force's offense promises to be one of the best in years. Returning for the Falcons is senior quarterback Mike Thiessen, who started five games last year, throwing for 827 yards and eight touchdowns. The Falcons lost Matt Farmer, one of the best wide receivers in school history. However, the rest of the offense remains largely untouched. Much of the defense also remains intact, with only the secondary taking major hits. In the season opener the Falcon offense was explosive, putting 55 points on the scoreboard in a 49-point victory. November 11, 2000

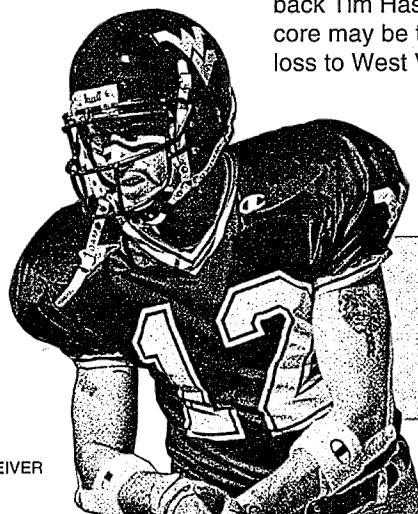
#### Boston College (0-1)

November 11, 2000

1999 Record: 8-4

Last Game: At West Virginia (14-34 L)

Defense is a primary concern for the Eagles, as they lost all but three lettermen on the defensive line. At the linebacker position, Boston College must replace team MVP Frank Chamberlin. The offense still looks bright, as Boston College only had major losses at the wide receiver position and returns starting quarterback Tim Hasselbeck. However, the damage to the defensive core may be too much to overcome, as indicated by the dismal loss to West Virginia in the season opener.



A.J. NASTASI  
VV WIDE RECEIVER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY, THE NAVAL ACADEMY, THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, AND WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

the high-end programs around the country,” says White, who wants Notre Dame to maintain its national profile. “But I think we can do a better job as it relates to when we play different folks and particularly when we return games, where some locales provide significant challenges, climate and otherwise.” Specifically, White would like to take the academic calendar into consideration when creating future slates, planning big games so they will not interfere with mid-term exams or fall break. He also would like to avoid unfavorable scenarios that send the Irish to boiling climates in early September, such as next season’s match-up against Texas A&M at College Station.

With all the negative publicity surrounding Notre Dame’s recent shortcomings and challenges, White hopes many will not disregard another traditional — yet widely overlooked — Notre Dame statistic. “I’m very disappointed,” White says. “That a lot of people aren’t talking about how, although we make pretty significant admissions accommodations for incoming football players and other athletes in other sports as well, at the end of the day they are graduating at a rate of about 89 percent, which is fifth in the country. I think that really speaks to the uniqueness of this institution.”

White, known for his proactive, diligent work ethic, is committed to fielding a squad that will make the Irish faithful proud. “Notre



**“THE SENIOR ADMINISTRATION IS TERRIBLY COMMITTED TO HAVING A VERY SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE FOOTBALL PROGRAM, BOTTOM LINE. IT’S VERY APPARENT TO ME THAT EVERYBODY FROM [UNIVERSITY] PRESIDENT FR. MALLOY, TO PROVOST NATHAN HATCH, TO ... EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FR. SCULLY...IS FULLY BEHIND THE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS PROGRAM AND SPECIFICALLY, 100 PERCENT BEHIND THIS FOOTBALL PROGRAM.”**

**KEVIN WHITE**  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Dame is a very special institution,” reflects White. “There is only one Notre Dame and I think we enjoy a wonderful point of difference as it relates to spirituality, mystique, lore, magic, if you will. When I think about

our potential here, I just think it’s unlimited... We’ve always found a way to bounce back and I’m very confident that we will be in that pinnacle position once again, hopefully in the not-too-distant future.” □

#### **At Rutgers (1-0)**

November 18, 2000

1999 Record: 1-10

Last Game: Villanova (34-21 W)

Rutgers hopes to rely on rehabilitated quarterback Mike McMahon, who was lost for the season while scoring a touchdown against Virginia Tech. The Scarlet Knights also return their corps of wide receivers, including Walter King and Errol Johnson. Rutgers’ biggest concern is the graduation of four of the five starters on the offensive line. The biggest loss on defense was All-Big East end Wayne Hampton, who led the team in pass rushes for three consecutive years. While Rutgers has showed considerable improvement in the early season, they have little chance of defeating the Irish this year.

#### **At (11) USC (1-0)**

November 25, 2000

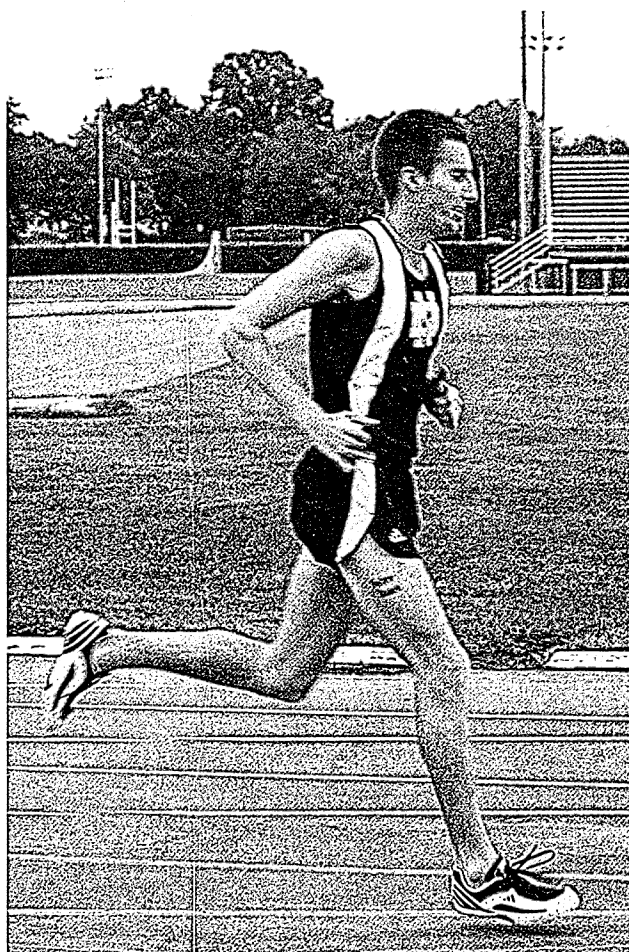
1999 Record: 6-6

Last Game: At Penn State (29-5 W)

The Trojans return half of their starting offense and 10 of their 11 starters on defense. Quarterback Carson Palmer returns from a broken collarbone to lead USC’s impressive offensive unit. In 1999, Palmer threw for 490 yards and three touchdowns before going down in the third game of the season. USC is fortunate in that most of their large losses are filled with competent recruits. The Trojans’ most significant area of loss is at the wide receiver position, where R. Jay Soward and Widrell Hayes dominated last year, combining for 1,375 receiving yards and eight touchdowns. Filling the gap, however, is a formidable threesome, including Pac-10 Freshman of the Year Kareem Kelly. If the Trojans remain healthy, the concluding game of 2000 could prove to be a major challenge for Notre Dame.



**ZEKE MORENO**  
USC LINEBACKER



# IRISH EYES ON

Luke Watson



This six-foot tall junior is the number-two runner on the Big East Champion men's cross-country team. In 1999, he won the U.S. Junior Cross-Country Championship. Luke Watson is also an accomplished as a track athlete, having scored in multiple events last year and setting the all-time Notre Dame record in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 8:46.98.

**I have been running since I was:** in the seventh grade, but I became very serious about running in the ninth grade.

**My greatest achievement at Notre Dame is:** making the Dean's List here at Notre Dame for two semesters.

**My goal for the season is:** to win districts and be an All-American in cross country.

**The hardest class I've taken at Notre Dame is:** Freshman General Chemistry.

**My most memorable experience at Notre Dame is:** winning the team Big East Championships in Cross Country in 1999.

**My favorite meet is:** the Drake Relays for track and the Big East Championships for cross-country.

**My favorite cross-country course is:** Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, New York.

**Between cross-country and track, I prefer:** track, because it is more of a spotlight, and there is more control of it with things like splits. Speed is also a larger factor in track, and I have good natural speed.

**I chose Notre Dame because:** I really liked the feel I got here. The people were nice, and I felt that I could get along well with the team. Notre Dame also had a traditionally strong cross-country team.

**If I could play another sport, it would be:** nordic skiing.

**The most thrilling part of a race for me is:** the start of any major race, because you have, like, 300 people filing into a 10-foot wide path. Anything can happen. It is so unpredictable. I like the excitement.

**The hardest hill I've run is:** this hill that I encountered while training with the University of Colorado. On this one run we went up a hill that was two and a half miles long and it just did not seem to end.

— Mike Miranda

## Men's Football (1-0)

**Key Stat:** Notre Dame did not turn the football over on Saturday.

**Prime-Time**

**Performer:** Junior QB Arnaz Battle completed 10 of 16 passes for 133 yards and two touchdowns, as well as 50 yards rushing.

**Next Game:** The Irish host No. 1 Nebraska Saturday at 1:30 p.m. EST.

## Women's Soccer (3-0)

**Key Stat:** The Irish outshot Providence 32-2.

**Prime-Time**

**Performer:** Freshman Amy Warner scored a hat trick in a 5-1 win over Providence.

**Next Game:** Notre Dame hosts Santa Clara tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. EST.

## Men's Soccer (2-1-1)

**Key Stat:** The Irish went 1-0-1 at the UNLV Fila/Snickers Rebel Classic.

**Prime-Time**

**Performer:** Sophomore goalkeeper Greg Tait was named the Most Valuable Player of the UNLV Fila/Snickers Rebel Classic.

**Next Game:** Notre Dame travels to play Boston College Saturday at 1:00 p.m. EST.

1892

by Jessica Daues

# FROZEN MOMENTS



The Irish football team proves their mettle with a win against South Bend High School, building a foundation for future successes.

**NOTRE DAME: 56**  
**SOUTH BEND HIGH SCHOOL: 0**

The cannot argue with facts, and the facts show that Notre Dame's program is among the best in college football. From the first game in 1887 to the present, the Irish have the best winning percentage in college football, winning 73.3 percent of their 1,047 games. Building such a tradition of excellence, however, did not come easy. In fact, the Irish lost the first game of their inaugural season to Michigan,

8-0. From there, things did not get much better. By 1889, the Irish had played a total of five games, and won only two. Notre Dame had no football team for the next two years, possibly due to lack of student interest.

In 1892, Notre Dame looked to turn things around for its young football program. The year started off with a pleasant surprise from the university — new uniforms and footballs. Notre Dame didn't see it necessary, however, to hire a head coach. Captain and quarterback Pat Coady led the Irish starting 11, who played both defense and offense. Coady did most of the talking for the team. "I've had the fellows out practising [sic] and we are going to have an elegant team," he boasted in the October 8, 1892 edition of *Notre Dame Scholastic*.

The student body shared Coady's sentiments. *Notre Dame Scholastic* further reported, "Football is as popular as ever, in fact, there is a great deal of enthusiasm over the subject, and much is expected in the way of a team this year. The fact that practice was done on such a hot day last Thursday shows that there must be a great deal of football fever in the boys! Let us have a good team that will be an honor to Notre Dame!"

The Irish looked to fulfill that challenge in their season opener on October 19 against South Bend High School. That morning, South Bend's squad filed off of its bus in high spirits. Their enthusiasm may have waned, however, as they caught sight of the playing field. "When the team went out upon the field, the difference between the two were immediately seen. Notre Dame's men were bigger and stronger in every way, while those of the High School were much smaller," *Notre Dame Scholastic* noted. The game began with a rush by Notre Dame. Fullback W. McDermott scored

the first touchdown, opening the floodgates for Notre Dame's offense. By the end of the first half, the Irish led 22-0.

As the second half opened, it became painfully obvious that South Bend had no chance of staging a comeback. Notre Dame kept pounding away at the high school, winning the game 56-0. The score would have been higher, *Notre Dame Scholastic* explained, had the team practiced more before the game. "The High School boys play a very fair game for a team of their size and weight, but Notre Dame's eleven was too much for them." Despite this obvious disadvantage, South Bend put up a very "plucky" game and was admired by the Irish for their tenacity. As the South Bend High School team walked back to their bus, looking "disconsolate and dilapidated," the Irish celebrated their victory.

This was an important win for the struggling Irish program. "This game shows that there is good football blood here and it should be worked up," *Notre Dame Scholastic* commented after the game. The Irish closed out their season one month later with a 10-10 tie against Hillsdale College, ending with a 1-0-1 record for 1892 and giving the five-year-old Irish program a total record of 3-3-1.

Although the 1892 team certainly would not rank among Notre Dame's best, the newfound enthusiasm the team inspired ended any danger of the program collapsing from lack of interest. The next season, Captain Frank Keough led the team to a 4-1 record, playing college teams from Kalamazoo, Albion, De LeSalle, Hillsdale and Chicago. By 1898, Notre Dame was playing — and beating — such teams as Illinois, Michigan State and DePauw. Football was quickly earning a place in the hearts of Notre Dame students and starting a tradition of excellence that has spanned over 100 years. □

## OUR CALLS >>

**sport:** football  
**opponent:** Nebraska  
**where:** Notre Dame Stadium  
**when:** Saturday 1:30 p.m.

Battle and the offense have an outstanding day, pounding three touchdowns through the Nebraska defense. Unfortunately, Husker QB Eric Crouch is equally successful and Nebraska edges the Irish, 31-24.

Nebraska's offensive line proves too much for the Irish. Even though Notre Dame puts up a good fight. Nebraska wins, 30-21.

The momentum from last week's win over the Aggies carries the Irish to an impressive performance and victory over the Cornhuskers. Irish stun the nation with a 28-14 win.

Gerard Meskill

Jessica Daues

Jim Pastore



TIP THE GIPP. GIPPER.1@ND.EDU

# Campus by the Gipper Watch

The Gipp's back and ready to ride! He wants to welcome all the Irish faithful back to campus. He wants to extend a special welcome to any Nebraska fans who made the trip out from Lincoln this weekend. If you're feeling homesick, come see the Gipp: he'll give you something to husk!

## On Other Campuses

While the Gipp's on the subject of schools he doesn't much care for, he wants to share with you an e-mail he got this summer from a bitter Ohio State fan. It seems this Buckeye and a buddy of his have some history with the Gipp. The fan — let's call him mwaters21@aol.com — explains, *"Back in 1996, this buddy of mind charged your field, ... passed your feeble security, and threw two birds sky high at your fans in your inzone."*

The Gipp breaks in here with a question: Just what is an "inzone"? Judging from the context, it's a place on the field where classless Ohio State fans stand. Either that, or our friend Matt has the editing skills of *The Observer* staff. Back to the story.

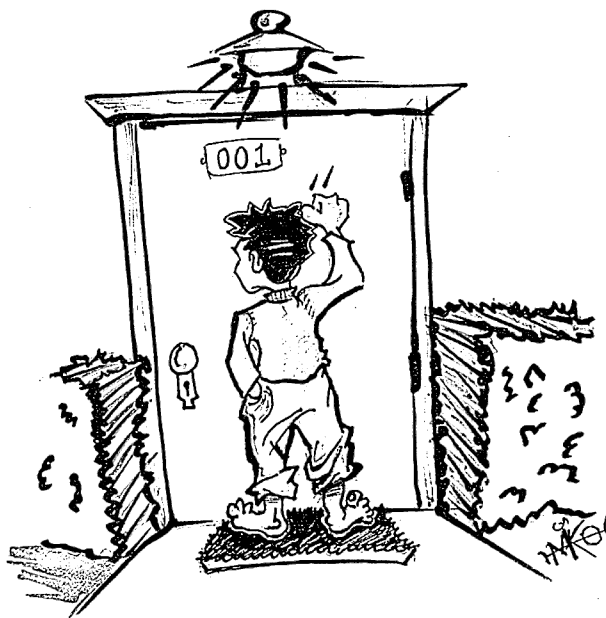
*"By two birds, I mean he flipped you the bird, i.e., gave you the finger."* Thanks for the clarification, buddy. *"You recognized this as immature, obnoxious and low-class...."* The Gipp has great judgement. *"I, on the other hand, saw this as hilarious, retaliatory and ingenious."*

Let's see what happens next to his "ingenious" friend. *"You ... approached him after his dance ... You fronted as if you were doing a report on college fans and my buddy ... fell for your trap and submitted to you his name and e-mail address. In turn ... you printed this info in the paper and prompted*

*your student body to unleash an attack of e-mails on my brave compadre."*

The Gipp strikes again — now that's genius! *"I guess what I'm saying is this, you will print an apology to my buddy Al ... If it is unacceptable, you will see what has become known on Ohio State campus as the AL-MACARENA in the 2000 Football Season ... the birds will be let loose again and you'll know when it happens...."*

Hey, Matt, the Gipp's got something you can husk, too.



## Big Brother's Watching

So just how far does the long arm of Notre Dame's administration reach? At least across the Michigan-Indiana state line. Just ask OUTreachND. The group went to get some T-shirts printed. Unfortunately, the guy who took the order had read up on his *du Lac* and

sent off a fax to the university's licensing department. The response was prompt: the shirt was unauthorized and should not be printed.

Undeterred, OUTreach ND's Dave Wyncott placed a call to the people in the Dome. Amazingly, the administration relented, and the shirts were printed. Is that the sound of hell freezing over that the Gipp hears? Not quite. After donning their shirts for Activities Night, the group's members headed over to the JACC — perhaps to join *Right Reason* or the College Republicans. Roaming around the arena floor, some of the members came across an empty table and decided to sit down for a while. It wasn't long before the watchful eyes of a Notre Dame administrator caught what was going on and closed in on the group quicker than a stadium usher on a bag of marshmallows. Taking names and kicking the group out, our heroine saved Activities Night from any unseemly controversy.

## A Notre Dame Fairy Tale

Gather 'round and Uncle Gipp will tell you a story before he has to go. Do you remember the story of Cinderella? Well, this story is a little bit like that one. Once upon a time, there was a boy who went to a grand dance at a place called Heartland. Beautiful maidens in very little clothing served the boy special drinks that made him happy — too happy. The boy danced and danced and stayed out well after midnight. When he awoke, he found he was in a strangely familiar place. He got up off the couch and opened the bedroom door to find ... a girl! She sat up and laughed and laughed. The boy was confused. He was in Castle Point, but he was in the wrong apartment. Stumbling out the door, the boy found his way home and went back to sleep. When he awoke again, he realized he had left his shoes behind at the other apartment. Unfortunately, he could not remember where he had been. So he walked from door to door, trying to find the shoes that fit his bare feet. Don't fret, Gipp fans, this story has a happy ending. The young man eventually found his shoes and lost nothing more than a little dignity in the end.

Well, that's all the Gipp has time for today. The Gipp lives for your tips, so keep them coming. Until then, be well and remember: too much husking will make you go blind. □



# they're frickin' global

## CARRIESWEENEY

**T**he long history of one of Notre Dame's two radio stations, WVFI, isn't the easiest of stories to follow. "It's hard to describe where the station has come from," Station Man-ager Adam Frick explains. "There are rumors floating around that it's been a station since the 1950s, and that it used to be part of WSND. Now it's just known as the alternative rock station of Notre Dame."

What *is* quite clear is that the station is moving in the right direction. According to Frick, the student-run "Voice of the Fighting Irish" has been fighting to go FM for the last 15 to 20 years. The station will take another step in that direction within a month by broadcasting globally over the Internet. Once the site is established, anyone in the world will be able to

listen to the station's broadcasts merely by accessing [wvfi.nd.edu](http://wvfi.nd.edu).

This is not the first time the station has attempted to broadcast over the Internet. In fact, its impending global transmission is only the latest of several developments that have occurred in the past few years. In spring 1999, after experiencing poor ratings while broadcasting at 640 AM, the station discovered that its transmitter system, which sends signals from LaFortune to dorm rooms, was run-down and outdated. This problem was compounded by the countless TVs, VCRs, computers and other electrical devices now common in dorm rooms that can contribute to a signal's deterioration. Consequently, during that spring, only four buildings on campus could actually receive the station, obviously explaining the lack of listeners.

During summer 1999, instead of focusing on re-



vamping their outdated equipment, station employees focused on raising money to broadcast over the Internet during the upcoming school year. When they returned to school, they had reached an agreement with the administration that allowed them to do just that—but only to those with a valid Notre Dame AFS ID. Since only students had been able to receive the station when it was on the AM dial, this stipulation was not particularly surprising. However, in September 1999, as WVFI began to broadcast, the program intended to block non-student users was never implemented. So, for about six weeks, anyone in the world who visited their Web site could listen to the station's music, which was of a quality comparable to mp3s.

The administration soon realized the situation, however, and, citing concerns about the station's representation of the university, blocked non-student users, thus reducing the station's audience from theoretical billions to a few thousand Domers.

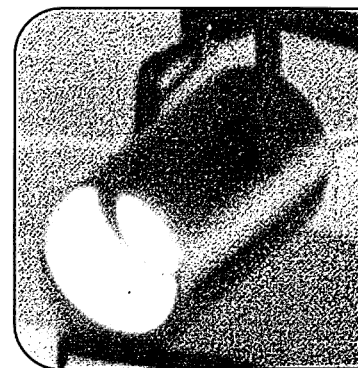
"It was tough to lose the global audience," Frick says. "Broadcasting globally really improved our morale and gave us so much new responsibility. I remember when I was a freshman, as a DJ at WVFI, everyone was up in arms because the then-advisor said that by the next semester, we'd be on the FM dial. Ever since, we kept being told, 'This year is the year

as a direct link," Frick says. "There's a direct link to *The Observer*, and so we hope that we'll eventually get one, too."

Currently, listeners have to type in the Web address for the station, instead of clicking on the list of "popular sites," which provides direct access to many Notre Dame Web pages.

Despite the promise of Internet broadcasting, the station hopes to eventually secure a place on the FM dial. "It will take a few more years, since right now there are no open spaces on the local FM dial," Frick says, but the university administration has agreed that if a "low-power station"—one with a three-mile signal—becomes available, WVFI can broadcast over it.

Meanwhile, the station continues to focus on the preparation necessary to assure that its site will be in top form for the world to see. Junior Brian Snyder, the designer and coordinator for the page, is, according to Frick, "one of the best," and has focused on giving the site an edgy appeal. The page will also feature a new Internet magazine called *Mindset*, edited by junior Jon Alvarez and sophomore Tim Bradley. "It will cover any news piece regarding culture at Notre Dame," Frick says. "It will be more commercial than *Common Sense*, and it will try to cover what *The Observer* doesn't. We want to make sure that we're



station manager adam frick hopes

## ***global internet broadcasting***

will breathe new life into WVFI

we're going to go global or FM.' Part of our job is to keep on fighting until we get there."

Frick and the rest of the WVFI staff have indeed put up a fight, refusing to let their station remain unheard.

This summer brought administrative changes that, in addition to the efforts of the staff, helped the station advance towards its goals of worldwide access. In the most notable transition, Laurie McFadden replaced Adele Lanan as the WVFI's advisor. "She brought a whole new lifeblood into media at Notre Dame," Frick says. "I think she'll continue to bring excitement, electricity and energy to the program."

McFadden is equally inspired by the potential of the students and the station's technology. "In terms of opportunities for students, this station is awesome," she says. "Imagine students having their first broadcasting job heard in Australia. I know they realize the privilege of going global, and I'm enthused about working with them. We're really going to give students a way to exercise their First-Amendment rights."

Although the station is currently accessible to students and should become globally available within a month, the staff has even greater expectations for its future. "We're talking to Notre Dame Web advisors, and we hope to be put on the Notre Dame home page

uncovering every stone." The staff hopes to have the magazine up and running by the first broadcast this year.

The site also features upcoming campus events and concerts, a catalog of music available on the station and its current playlist, a chat room and information on local bands. In addition, WVFI will continue to have exclusive rights to broadcast Irish football games. Previously, when it was still an AM station, WVFI had to send ESPN a signal, which was then multiplied in order to allow a larger audience to hear the games. Now, the site will be able to reach that audience on its own.

Although the Web page is not yet broadcasting full-time, the station caught a glimpse of its global future last Saturday when it announced the Texas A&M game in its first worldwide broadcast of the year. Every game will be covered by announcers who, according to McFadden, "can compare to anyone in the broadcast box in terms of knowledge."

This is a year of hope for WVFI. It promises to bring improvements to the station that will add to its unique, ever-changing history. "We have to stay on our toes," Frick says. "I'm very excited about the potential we have." □

◆ GROOVY

# The Ultimate Experience

*Spend one week with the Ultimate Frisbee team and you'll never be the same*

by Kara Zuaro

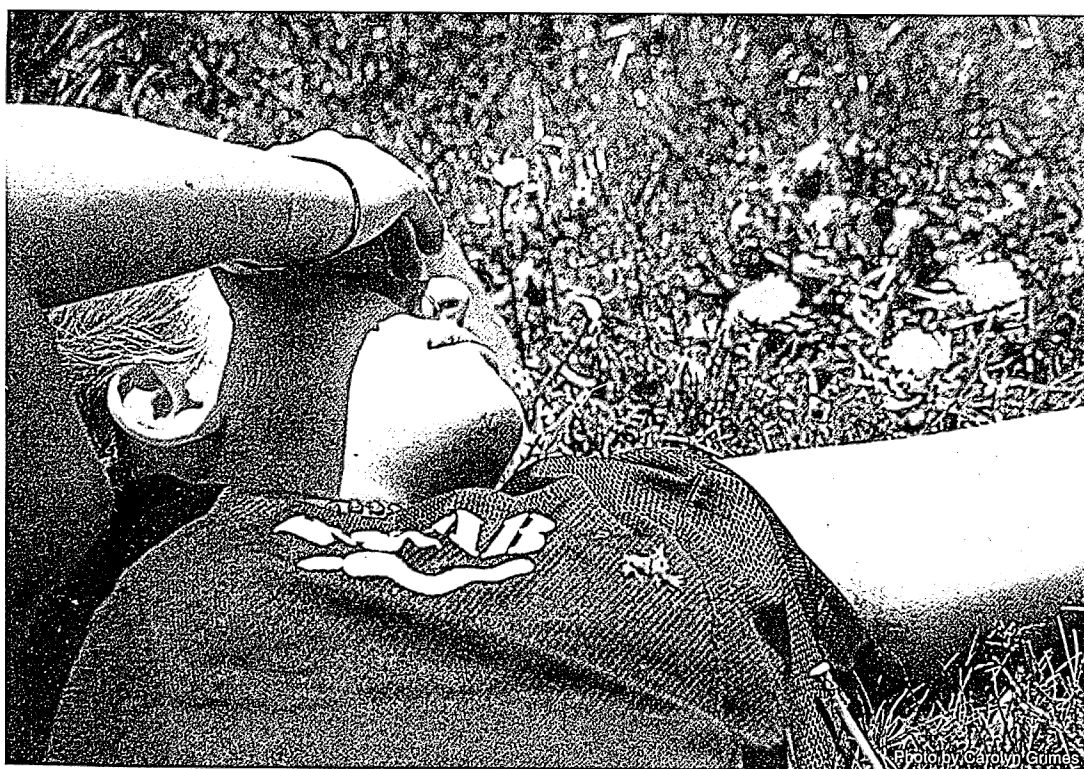
You're such a follower," Steve Hemkens shouts over the Thursday night din at McCormick's. His hair is piled up over a well-worn visor, and he grins as he says, "I know you're just writing this article as an excuse to hang out with the Ultimate team." It's no grand revelation that I've been using this column as a social vehicle over the last few semesters. This, however, is the first time somebody I'm interviewing has caught on to my secret method of meeting new friends. "But it's OK," he continues. "We don't mind."

I didn't know much about the women's and men's Ultimate Frisbee teams, a.k.a. Womb and Papal Rage, respectively. Even from afar, the team members always seemed a little more laid-back than the general Notre Dame population; a little messier and a little more earthy. I wasn't sure if there was a connection between the sport and the nature of the players, but I was ready to find out.

So I call up the captains to tell them I'm interested in writing about their teams and they invite me over for dinner, just like that. It's raining when I pull up to their house. I'm led inside by a couple of guys in T-shirts with the sleeves cut off. The house is crowded with kids talking and laughing, still in their dirty practice clothes and lit pink by a sign that says "ultimate" in neon letters. Neil Young is playing on an eight-track, and I feel

like I'm getting a quick glimpse of life at Notre Dame as it was for my dad in the '70s.

There are a lot of friendly faces, and I recognize a few. I'd met Chris Fuchs before, and I remember him because he drove me home from a bar and lent me his coat for the walk between the parking lot and our dorms. A guy in the next room reminds me of another small heroic act — he bought me an egg-and-cheese biscuit at Burger King last spring when I was out of Flex Points. I had cash but he insisted that nobody should pay real money at LaFortune and then just sort of vanished. He's introduced to me as Nick Creten, and he doesn't even remember the breakfast incident, which makes him seem all the more valiant.



ERIN FLEMING relaxes in the sun after a long day of practice.

OUT OF



PAUL SHEPHERD, sophomore club treasurer, tastes a sip of victory from an Ultimate disc.

Photo by Carolyn Grimes

I put my bag in a corner, out of everyone's way, and turn to meet a concerned Laura Beeby, who asks me if everything's OK. She thought that I was hiding in a corner because I didn't know anybody, and she immediately starts introducing me to people. It makes sense when I find out later that Laura is regarded as the mother figure of the team.

"We really are a big happy family," says Carolyn Grimes, co-captain of the women's team. "We're very, very comfortable around each other, since we spend so much time together."

Besides all the pseudo-familial relations, there are a number of *real* family ties on the team. Erin Flemming, for example, tells me that she got involved because her brother was on the team, and Mike Shiel, who had a couple of siblings playing Ultimate at Notre Dame before him, says, "I knew the whole Ultimate team when I showed up, and that made freshman year very easy."

Freshman year wasn't so simple for everyone, though. "My R.A. thought I was maladjusted," Grimes recalls. "I think she told one of the juniors in my section to take me to practice with her. She was very positive about it, but I was pretty bad. It's hard to get the throws down. I was really, really frustrated at first, but it was the best thing for me."

Jennie Wellman, co-captain of the women's team, joined Womb with some friends at Activities Night. But she was the only one who lasted through a few practices. "My friends didn't like it because we had to do push-ups every time the disc hit the ground," she explains.

Papal Rage Captain David Pickett joined the team when he didn't make the cut for a varsity sport. The players unanimously

agreed that the intensity of the sport combined with the easy-going attitude of the Ultimate team ended up making it more suitable for them than other athletic alternatives.

Since there aren't any referees in Ultimate, the game relies on an honor system. "You call yourself out or call yourself in, and you call your own fouls," Grimes explains. "It's a very calm way of solving things. Sometimes people get a little huffy, but there are no major problems. The Ultimate Players Association is starting to have people called 'observers' in national and championship games, but they are not allowed to make calls unless [players] ask them."

I never imagined there could be a sport in which players made their own calls and didn't get in fights over it, but maybe that's why you won't find any jerky kids on the Ultimate team. To be honest, I'm just happy that I found these kids at all. I spent a lot of time trying to uncover some secret philosophy, some ritual that made them into the kind of kids you see laying shoeless and smiling on the quad in front of O'Shag when everybody else is rushing to class. The truth is, though, they're just regular kids. They love Notre Dame, a good game and each other. If there's anything abnormal about the bunch, it's that they love each other a little more than you'd expect. "Don't you love the smell of Ultimate boys?" Grimes asks me, taking a post-practice whiff of Pickett, the Ultimate boy with whom she's sharing a chair. "It's like a combination of body odor and wet grass." I have to admit, it's actually kind of nice.

The team is always taking on new players, and they encourage tall, fast people to join up. "But we'll take the short, fat kids, too," Grimes adds. "And we'll love them just as much." □

# BOUNDS

# The Price of Pride

## Adult Flicks and Grandparents

JESSE KENT

After only eight days of ownership, my newly purchased VCR decided to take its own life. Apparently it found the daily grind of hanging out with my television and stereo too much to bear, because unexpectedly and altogether resolutely the machine turned off, exhausting itself forever. I immediately missed the slight whine of its inner wheels turning, the lights that fluttered and flickered when my commands were given, and most of all, the \$89.53 that I apparently threw out the window when I bought the piece of junk. How naive was I to think that my Magnavox and I had entered into something meaningful and absolute in this topsy-turvy world; the understanding that we would watch thousands of movies and share countless hours of quality leisure time together? The worst part of all this is that in her death, the fickle bitch had tightened her rigorous grip around an adult tape affectionately and accurately called *Johnny Wang Rides Again*. Now I had to take this VCR to a repair shop with *Johnny Wang* stuck inside it, because at the end of the day, 90 bucks is 90 bucks.

In response to the question of why such a film was locked tight in the bowels of my traitorous electronic appliance, I should interject at this point something about my relationship with adult movies. First of all, the tape was my friend's. I'm not trying to throw all of this on him, but he's really got problems. Secondly, most guys will admit that adult movies are much like circuses: they hold a certain mysterious element of the unknown and the never-before-seen. That's why, when my friend passed the circa-1972 film onto me, my curiosity was piqued by the front cover: a man more bear than human with the largest butterfly-collared shirt ever made and a woman who appeared to be dressed as either a meter maid, a short-order cook, or an effeminate member of the French Foreign Legion. But I digress.

What was on the tape is not important; that it was resting in my VCR as I handed it over the counter of Fix-It Electronics to a roly-poly woman named Shirley was. This was someone's mother, I thought to myself, sweat breaking out at my temples.

"Just got a tape stuck in it, honey?" she jawed while chewing on some bubble gum. I swallowed down a lump in my throat at the word honey. I nodded.

"Well, come on in the back then. My husband, Paul, he'll have it out in no time flat."

Fix-It Electronics was straight out of Dickens's *Chancery Lane*, and we wove our way back through electronic paraphernalia from the past 50 years. There were all sorts of odds and ends, including empty television sets with their tubes missing entirely and buckets full of old Japanese short-wave radios. We finally found Paul with his head inside an antique microwave. You could have driven a Volkswagen into it. Shirley explained that a nice (I winced) young (I shuddered) college student (I blushed) wondered if he could have the videotape in his VCR removed. With a kind smile, Paul took the VCR and worked the cover off in four turns of his screwdriver. I bit my lip when I saw the tape clearly labeled *Johnny Wang* and that whole bit, but Paul's hands continued to work regardless. He loosened the machine's lockjaw with a turn here and tighten there. Finally, he pulled the tape out, pleased with his work. I was relieved to think this episode might pass without utter embarrassment.

"Only one more thing to check. Then we'll have this VCR back to you, good as new," he said as he tightened the VCR's cover back on. He reached for a cord from the back of a nearby television set resting on a milk crate. My heart nearly stopped.

"Um, sir, you don't have to see if it works. I'm sure it's right as rain now."

"Son, don't be silly. It'll only be a second." By now he had the VCR's power on and the lights all began to twinkle again. I wanted to curse out that machine but my tongue was too dry to form audible words. I was about to be caught in the weirdest, most surreal moment of my life: watching an adult movie with Paul and Shirley Thomas, elderly owners of Fix-It Electronics, proud grandparents of 15, and regular patrons of the Early Bird Specials down

at the Colonial Pancake House. In short, they were decent, respectable, God-fearing Hoosiers. Right when Paul hit the play button and an image appeared on the screen that only I knew could be a man and a woman intimate in nothing less than the Biblical sense, my arm flew out and I knocked the television set over. It fell from its milk crate table with a horrible crash.

Currently, I'm paying off the television set in monthly installments to Fix-It Electronics. In all, this is costing me \$300 more than if I would have bought a new VCR. Yet, somewhere in the brown-speckled, dank underbelly of my soul, I have a little pride left. Sometimes one must weigh embarrassments. I sleep much better at night since Paul, Shirley and I never had to experience *Johnny Wang* together. □



# distractions

## editor's choice



An assortment of speakers is coming to campus for your enjoyment in the upcoming weeks. I suggest you start lecture-hopping on Thursday, September 14th, with "Guns, Drugs and Money: The Politics of Peace in Columbia." If, by chance, you identify more with those who actually like guns and drugs – and develop a wickedly itchy trigger finger – not to mention an overwhelming desire to become the totalitarian dictator of a small country – fear not. You can change your evil ways. Army-crawl over to "Nonviolence for the Violent" on the afternoon of Friday the 15th. If that doesn't cure you, wake up early the next morning and attend "A Bird's Eye View of Ophthalmology: From Memphis to Madagascar" to learn about the latest advances in eye surgery. Think of it as my quiet little way of reminding you that it's all fun and games until somebody loses an eye. Stop that! You'll put your eye out! Stop!



7 september 2000

## lectures

- **Tue 12** Members of the Committee on Notre Dame's Position on the Ordination of Women: "Married and Ministering," 7:30 PM, Faculty Lounge, Hesburgh Library
- **Thu 14** "Guns, Drugs and Money: The Politics of Peace in Columbia," 12:30 PM, Room C-103, Hesburgh Center for International Studies
- **Fri 15** "Nonviolence for the Violent: The John Howard Yoder Dialogue on Religion, Nonviolence and Peace," 11:00 AM, Auditorium, Hesburgh Center for International Studies
- **Sat 16** "A Bird's Eye View of Ophthalmology: From Memphis to Madagascar," 9:00 AM, Room 101 DeBartolo
- **Wed 20** "Taking the Side of the Victim: The Philosopher as Advocate," Speaker: Father Mike McNulty, 4:00 PM, Auditorium, Hesburgh Center for International Studies

## cinema @ the snite

- **Fri 08** and **Sat 09** *Lolita*, 9:00 PM
- **Mon 11** *Do the Right Thing*, 7:00 PM
- **Fri 15** and **Sat 16** *Bye Bye Brazil*, 9:00 PM
- **Sun 17** *Black Orpheus*, 1:30 PM
- **Sun 17** *Orfeu*, a remake of *Black Orpheus*. Film will be followed by a discussion between the director, Carlos Diegues, and ND anthropologist Roberto DaMatta, 4:00 PM
- **Mon 18** *Vertigo*, 7:00 PM

## the arts

- **Ongoing** Ramiro Rodriguez Exhibition, Snite
- **Thu 14**, **Fri 15** and **Sat 16** William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, 7:30 PM, Washington Hall

## events

- **Thu 07** Pachanga '00, All Day, LaFortune Ballroom

## sports

- **Fri 08** Volleyball: Adidas Invitational, Arena, Joyce Center  
Michigan State vs. UCLA, 1:30 PM  
ND vs. Nebraska, 4:00 PM
- **Fri 08** Women's Soccer: KeyBank Classic, Alumni Field  
Connecticut vs. Stanford, 5:00 PM  
ND vs. Santa Clara, 7:30 PM
- **Sat 09** Football: ND vs. Nebraska, 1:30 PM
- **Sat 09** Volleyball: Adidas Invitational, Arena, Joyce Center  
Michigan State vs. Nebraska, 4:30 PM  
ND vs. UCLA, 7:00 PM
- **Sun 10** Women's Soccer: KeyBank Classic, Alumni Field  
Connecticut vs. Santa Clara, 11:00 AM  
ND vs. Stanford, 1:00 PM
- **Sun 10** Volleyball: Adidas Invitational, Arena, Joyce Center  
UCLA vs. Nebraska, 12:30 PM  
ND vs. Michigan State, 3:00 PM



# Life Under the Domes

by Anne Cooper

From my window, a most enviable view stretches away into the distance. Strata of sky descend from above and beautiful buildings rise below to culminate in one central point: the Golden Dome. The Dome is certainly a literal and symbolic center of social, spiritual, academic and athletic life here at Notre Dame, but it means a great deal more to me than ever before, after living a very different life under a very different dome.

Thousands of miles and a world away this summer, an even more enviable view awaited me, morning, noon and night: the Old City of Jerusalem and its beautiful golden Dome of the Rock. A perpetually cloudless sky lingers there between rolling hilltops, and the stifling wind off the Judean desert turns your gaze from the Mount of Olives across the valley of the Garden of Gethsemane to the one city that forms spiritual and cultural centers of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Even the storied traditions of Notre Dame pale before the fame, history, influence and spirituality of Jerusalem. And, although Catholicism was born in Jerusalem, the differences between our Golden Dome and that of the City of Peace are immense.

The Holy Land is unlike anything I was prepared to encounter, a constant attack on one's senses and

The 'City of Peace' is full of more conflict and contradiction, prejudice and oppression than any I could have imagined.

*Anne Cooper is a senior from Pasquerilla East. She is committed to the study of bioethics.*

sensibilities. It is a land of fiercely held tradition, of spectacular marketplaces and serene desert. It is a land of unfailing hospitality between strangers — and, yet, open hostility between Israeli and Palestinian

neighbors. It is the land in which Jesus lived and worked, loved and suffered — died. It is where flocks of pilgrims come with eyes blind to the suffering that continues on all sides.

It is a place where the thermometer reaches heights unknown to my Ohio childhood, and where tempers flare hotter still. But more difficult to comprehend than the cultural and environmental differences I saw was the lack of freedom and the prevalence of fear that characterize life for a Palestinian in Jerusalem. Life there is beautiful, vibrant, intense and ever-surprising, but injustice is all-pervasive and inescapable. In essence, the "City of Peace" is full of more conflict and contradiction, prejudice and oppression than any I could have imagined.

Consider Bethlehem, perched as it has been for thousands of years on the hilltops to the southwest of Jerusalem. The "little" town of Bethlehem is itself

full of contrasts. Today, the three Magi would have no trouble finding their way, even without the Christmas star; every road is well-lit by neon stars suspended between light poles and six-foot-tall, glow-in-the-dark statues of Mary waiting to be sold. Yet on the hill above these annoying tokens of tourism, the Church of the Nativity celebrates the traditional birthplace of Jesus in a sacred, reverent and timeless way.

Many are pilgrims who visit Manger Square, perhaps picking up a souvenir olive-wood Nativity scene. But few are those who realize that only a few minutes away, illegal Israeli settlements surround Bethlehem, settlements that are built over the razed remains of Palestinian villages. These settlements are built by the labor of the Palestinians themselves, many of whom have few if any other ways to make a living. Few are those who notice the Palestinian refugee camp less than five minutes away, where families have lived in poverty for more than 50 years. Earlier this summer, a little boy from this camp set up a fruit stand to earn money for his family and had all the bones in his arm broken by an Israeli soldier who then refused to fund the boy's medical care.

Few are those who have visited the nearby village of Bittir, where coils of razor wire mark off a live minefield in Palestinian backyards. Israel partially cleared the field to build an access highway to the settlements but now refuses to clear the rest of the mines. Few are those who realize that five minutes from Manger Square, Palestinian protesters throwing rocks were put down with tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition. "City of Peace" can be a misleading name for many reasons.

"Rubber bullet" is an even greater misnomer. The way the term is used in our newspapers, they sound innocuous, as if they are just a gentle warning that bounce off their targets. The fact is that they are squared-off steel cylinders painted with a thin coating of rubber. And they blind, maim and kill.

Spending a summer under the Dome of the Rock has drastically changed my view of life. Each time I get soaked by a rampant sprinkler, I realize that the water could enable an entire Palestinian family to bathe. Each time I cross the quad, I thank God it is not littered with minés. Each time I go home, it is with the gratitude that my house will not be arbitrarily demolished.

And each time I look up at our dome, I think of that dome so far away, and appreciate the freedom, justice and peace we have here now. □

# *irish spirit*

by mike griffin



This week from  
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cafe'  
Lafortune  
9:00

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day

Wash  
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8:00

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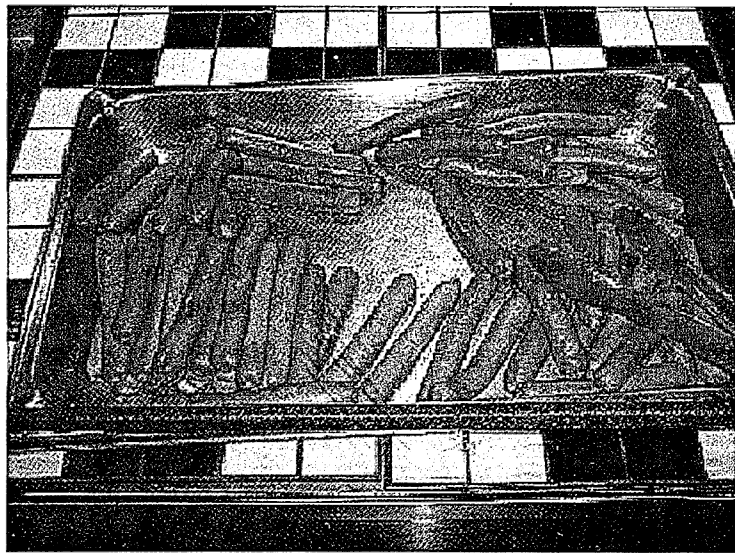
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