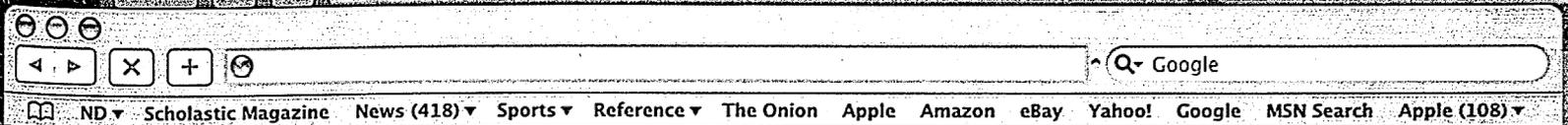


# SCHOLASTIC 08

VOL 147

09 FEB 2006

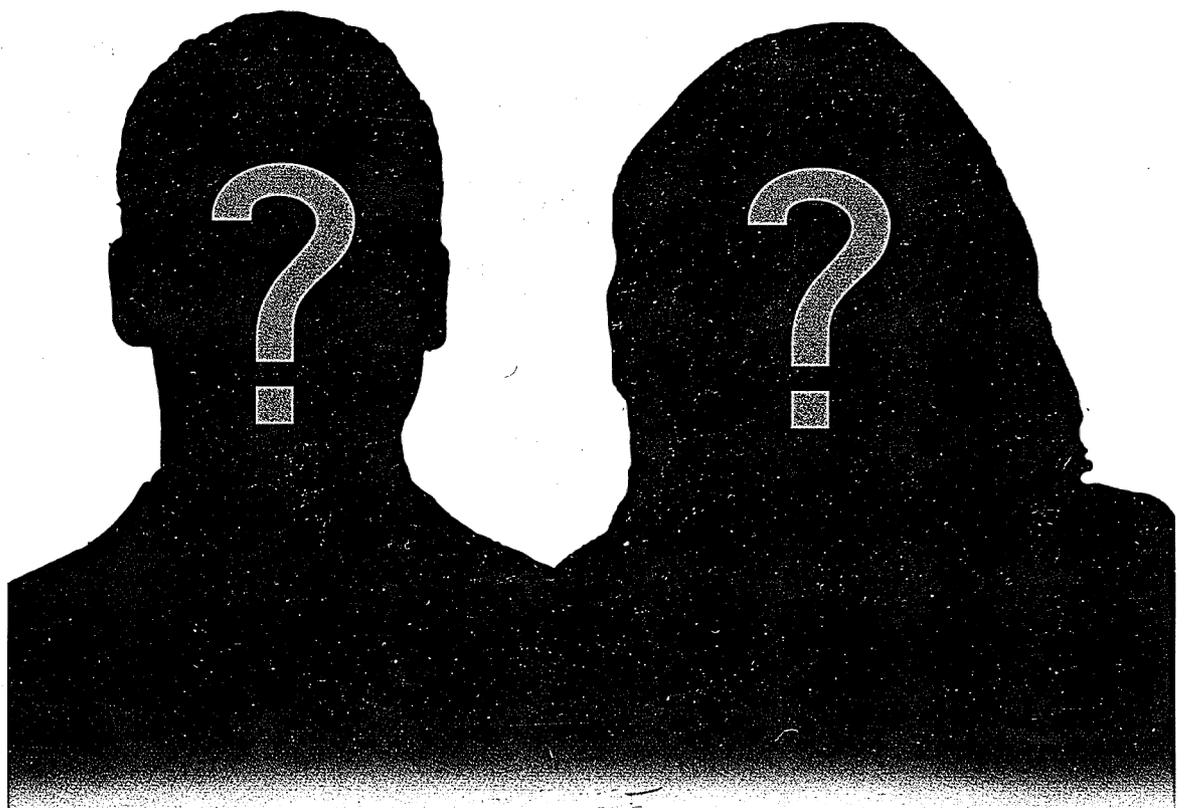
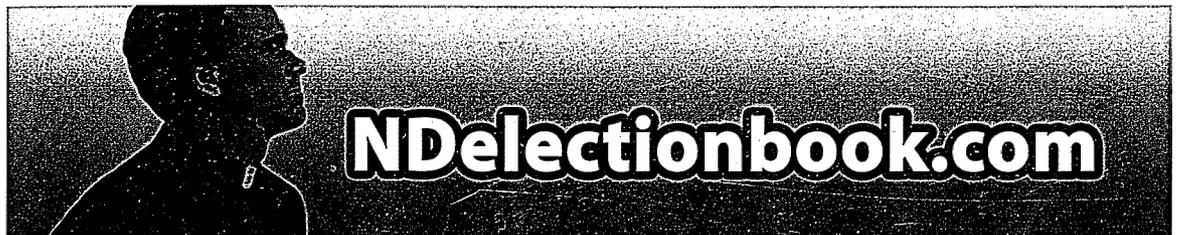
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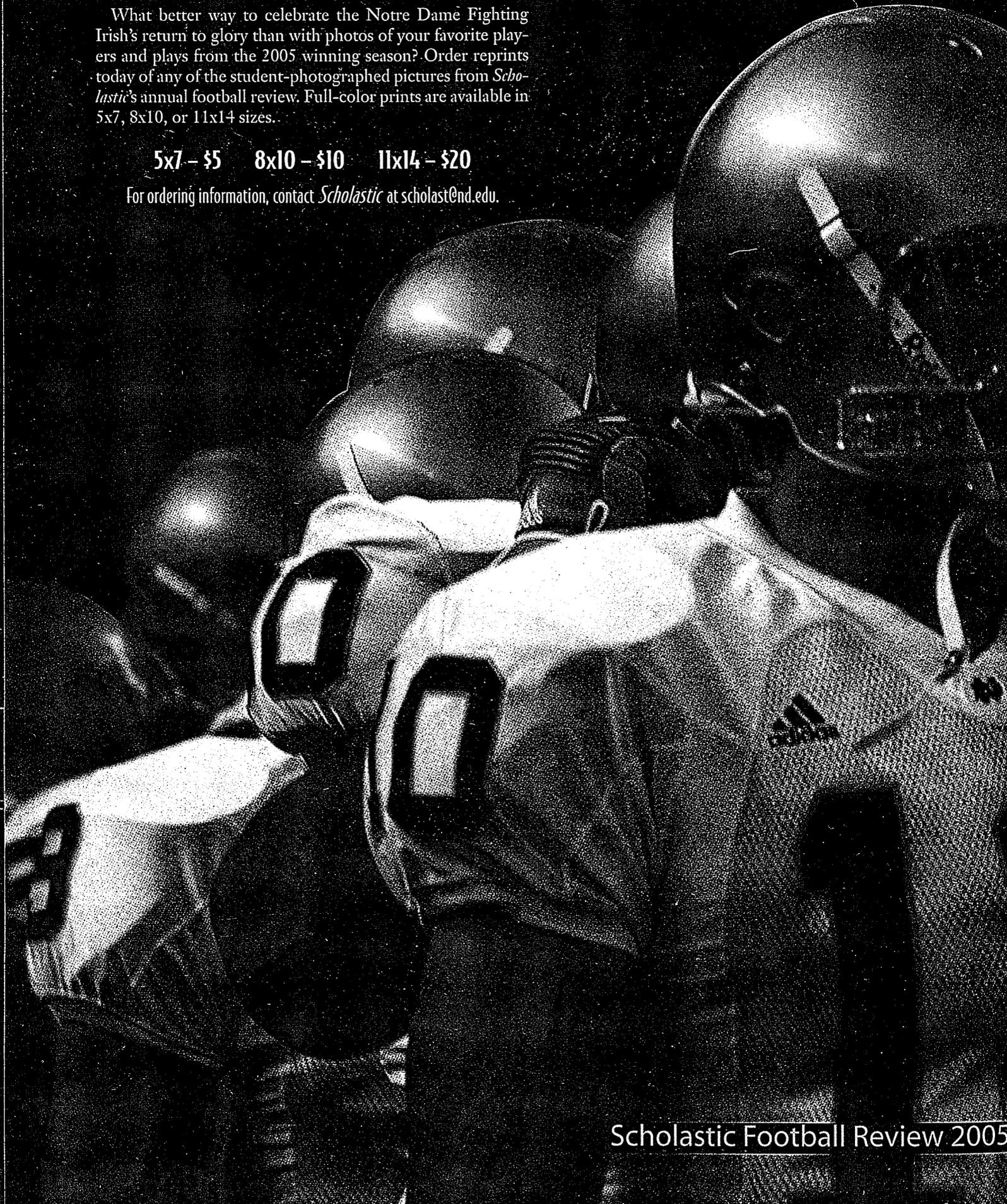
Who Will be the Next Face  
of Notre Dame Student Government?

# Prints are Available

What better way to celebrate the Notre Dame Fighting Irish's return to glory than with photos of your favorite players and plays from the 2005 winning season? Order reprints today of any of the student-photographed pictures from *Scholastic's* annual football review. Full-color prints are available in 5x7, 8x10, or 11x14 sizes.

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For ordering information, contact *Scholastic* at [scholast@nd.edu](mailto:scholast@nd.edu).





# SCHOLASTIC

The Ninth of February 2006

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*Scholastic Staff*  
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# Ed Notes

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

## More Than Just a Game

There is a quotation from the late Senator Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.) that might resonate with Notre Dame students: "Being in politics is like being a football coach," he said. "You have to be smart enough to understand the game, and dumb enough to think it's important."

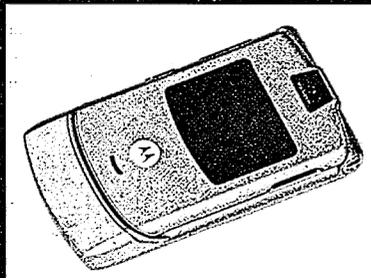
While it is true that football is just a game, few Notre Dame students, even the most fevered football-haters, would claim that the sport is unimportant to the university. The football team gives the school national renown, and it unites the Notre Dame community around a common interest. While only a tiny fraction of the university comprises the football team, everyone at Notre Dame has something riding on it. As a result, we demand that only the best players and coaches be allowed to be part of the team.

Something similar could be said for student government. Of course not everyone can be a part of student government, but it is, by its nature, representative of the entire student body. A good student government reflects well upon us; it suggests to administrators, trustees and outside observers that Notre Dame students care about how they are perceived and how they are treated. A bad student government, on the other hand, suggests that the student body has poor judgment and deserves to be lorded over by the administration.

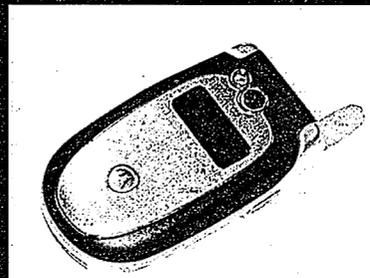
So we at *Scholastic* implore you to vote in the student government elections and vote for the candidates that you believe will best represent the student body. To aid you in your choice, we have compiled profiles of all the candidates, a list of our favorite and least favorite platform planks and an endorsement of the ticket we believe is best. We hope you find it useful. Enjoy the issue.

Sincerely,

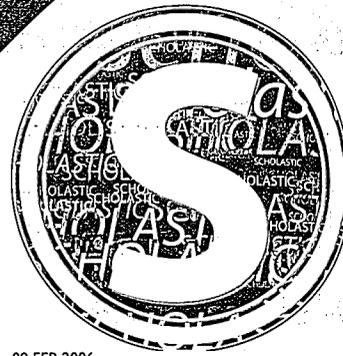
Jim Ryan



Mo Ertel, Editor in Chief



Jim Ryan, Editor in Chief



Vol. 148, No. 07 • 09 FEB 2006

## SCHOLASTIC



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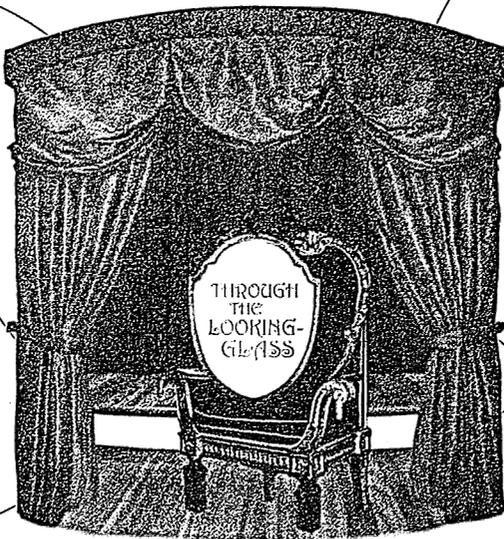
### Advisor

Robert Franken '69

*Disce Quasi Semper Victurus  
Vive Quasi Cras Moriturus*

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Look for  
NEXT  
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Mar 2



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME  
LITERARY FESTIVAL  
FEBRUARY 13th - 16th

|                                      |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Mon 2/13</b>                      |   | <i>co-sponsored by The Creative Writing Department</i>  |
| 3 pm<br>LaFortune<br>Foster Room 306 | James Salter<br>(Prose Writing Workshop)  |   |
| 7 pm<br>SDH Oak Room                 | James Salter<br>(Lecture)   |   |
| <b>Tues 2/14</b>                     |   |   |
| 4 pm<br>LaFortune<br>Foster Room 306 | Kevin Guilfoile<br>(Humor/Mystery Writing Workshop)   |   |
| 5:30 pm<br>LaFortune Ballroom        | Tasha Alexander<br>(Lecture)  |   |
| 7 pm<br>Washington Hall              | Student Night <i>performances of original student work</i><br>(Hosted by Kevin Guilfoile & featuring slam poet Saul Williams) |   |
| <b>Wed 2/15</b>                      |   | <i>co-sponsored by The Institute for Latino Studies</i> |
| 3:30 pm<br>McKenna Hall              | Rane Arroyo<br>(Poetry Writing Workshop and ILS Cafecito)   |   |
| 7:30 pm<br>McKenna Hall Auditorium   | Rane Arroyo<br>(Lecture)  |   |
| <b>Thurs 2/16</b>                    |   |   |
| 4 pm<br>LaFortune<br>Foster Room 306 | Buzz Bissinger<br>(Political Journalism/Non-Fiction Sports Writing Workshop)  |   |
| 7 pm<br>Washington Hall              | Buzz Bissinger<br>(Lecture)   |   |



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# Judgment Calls



**Subway delivers:** A two-week trial delivery service? Now we've got no reason to ever leave our rooms.



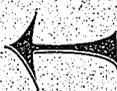
**Ornery philo professors:** You're what's wrong with the university. You and your mystery books.



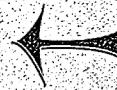
**The Brangeletus:** Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's fetus brings up the world's pretty quotient by 5 trillion percent.



**Zahm vomits on Keenan:** Seriously, boys ... just, seriously. Get a hobby.



**Random soft drink flavoring in SDH:** I guess I'd like to make my Cherry Coke even "cherry-er."



**Jenkins' speech:** Whatever your position, *Scholastic* likes that Jenkins was forced to say the word "vagina" about 50 times.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Looking Past the "Monologues"

There's more at stake than what can play at a film festival

One week into the spring 2006 semester, the Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., delivered his address, "Academic Freedom and Catholic Character: An Invitation to Reflection and Response," the content of which since has become an increasingly debated topic among those affiliated with the University of Notre Dame. The speech, in a most succinct and uncontroversial retelling, outlines Jenkins' desire to uphold Notre Dame's distinct mission as a university founded upon Catholicism while at the same time maintaining the university's status as a premier educational institution. However, as evidenced by the scores of passionately composed "Viewpoint" letters that have been appearing in *The Observer* since the delivery of the speech on Jan. 24, 2006, by those both in favor of and in opposition to Jenkins and the ideas set forth in his address, there appears to be far more at stake with regards to the future of the university than merely ensuring Notre Dame's continued presence in the national rankings as a top 20 university or fostering a Catholic, faith-based atmosphere on campus.

As many have noted, Notre Dame has reached a turning point in its history, a place from which, if it acts appropriately, it can evolve into an even greater, more elite institution. But while the debates that have been raging over Jenkins' speech seem to be focused largely on whether or not the university should ban performances of the "Vagina Monologues" and the Queer Film Festival, seemingly suggesting that the continuation or cessation of such events will decide the fate of the university, *Scholastic* wonders if the very premise behind Jenkins' speech won't be more detrimental to the integrity of the university than a controversial play or the showing of a few films ever could be.

Indeed, the distrustful attitude that Jenkins seems to have taken toward the student body is disconcerting to say the least, and the presumption that a student's Catholic faith will be compromised if he or she is exposed to a viewpoint that runs contrary to Catholicism is, well, rather insulting. And although Notre Dame's own Department of Theology functions under the rubric of "faith seeking understanding" — a primer that is taught in every intro-level theology course — it appears as though Jenkins doesn't trust that Notre Dame students will be able to discern what's right from what's wrong.

The question then remains: What kind of Catholics does Notre Dame strive to produce? Is it complicit in educating unquestioning, obedient Catholics who adhere to their faith for no other reason than it's what they've been told to do? Or should Notre Dame attempt to yield Catholics who are strong in their faith, not because they've been indoctrinated to do so, but rather because their faith has withstood the test of secularism? Regina Coll, professional specialist in the Department of Theology, once wrote, "Believing or doing what we are told is not in itself virtuous: It is not in itself Christian. Obedience is often a lack of courage and responsibility under the guise of virtue." If this is to be taken as true, perhaps the only way for Notre Dame to truly balance its pursuit of academic excellence and Catholic integrity is for it to have the courage to trust that through the process of intellectual questioning and self-examination its students will arrive at a version of Catholicism that is consistent with the values that the university strives to uphold.

# New Science in Cyberspace

Two Notre Dame professors create an online journal to further scientific debates

• Daric Snyder and Cathy Steinmetz

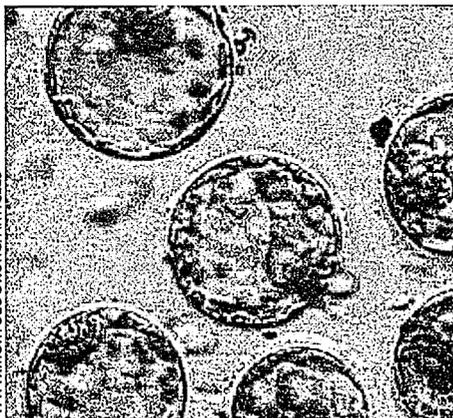
**D**aily stories on controversial scientific topics such as stem cell research, assisted suicide and human cloning grip countless headlines in the media. These highly debated issues involve complex ethical and scientific concepts that can be difficult for members of the general population to comprehend. A new online journal at Notre Dame hopes to bring needed clarity to these issues.

Within the next two weeks, the Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values will launch the "Reilly Center Reports." The online journal will publish writings on a variety of ethically controversial science topics. For the issues addressed, the Web journal will provide multiple articles that offer various perspectives on each debate and will explore both moral and scientific aspects of the debates.

Two Notre Dame faculty members, theology professor Gerald McKenny and philosophy professor Don Howard, organized the journal. McKenny, often contacted by the media as an authority on biomedical ethics, conceived the idea of the journal. Through his interactions with reporters in the media, McKenny discovered that there are no helpful resources available for those who need to accurately report on these issues, yet lack background knowledge of technology and ethics. McKenny approached Howard with the notion of a comprehensive Web journal. Working through the Reilly Center, they turned the idea into a working resource that will be accessible to all those interested in issues relating to scientific ethics. "We want it to be responsible and useful," McKenny says.

The first issue of the "Reilly Center Reports" will focus on the contentious intellectual quarrel over evolution and intelligent design. Featuring the perspectives of four Catholic and three non-Catholic contributors, the issue intends to cover the full scope of thought on the debate. McKenny would like the journal "to be somewhere between an op-ed and an academic piece," providing clearly argued positions on each topic, as well as concise explanations of the underlying science and technology.

Ultimately, McKenny hopes to make the "Reilly Center Reports" a preeminent source of credible academic thought on controversial scientific and ethical issues.



WWW.MORTOLOGY.ORG/ARTICLES

## TOP 5 Scandalous phrases at Notre Dame

**1.** "I don't want to get married":  
I really would rather live alone with these cats.

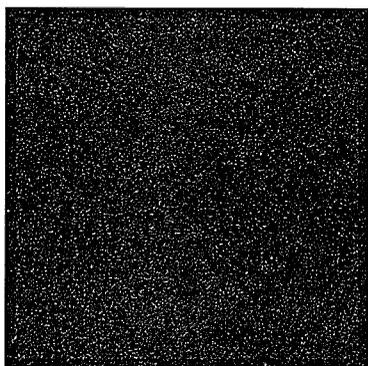
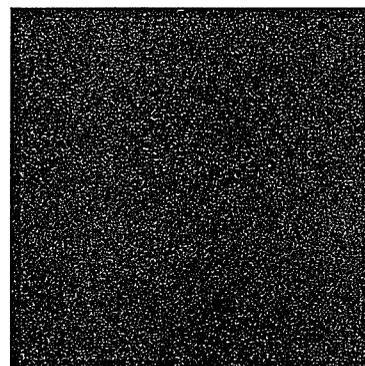
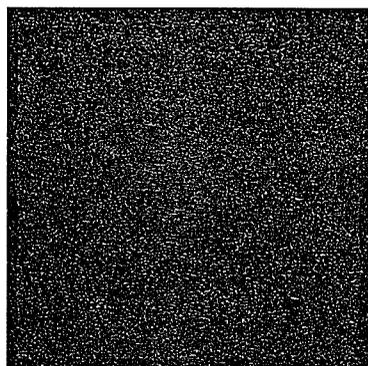
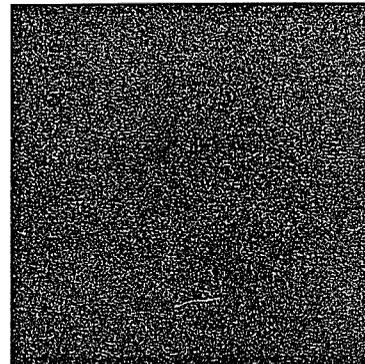
**2.** "I have no body image issues":  
Me and this double cheeseburger don't need your treadmill.

**3.** "I'll stay in your room tonight":  
We don't have to get down. We're just friends.

**4.** "Who is Brady Quinn?":  
I know nothing of this beefy hunk of whom you speak.

**5.** "My parents went to OSU":  
And they're super-duper smart!

# ELECTION FACE-OFF 2006



When interviewing the tickets, we also gave them an intelligence test — we asked them to use the word “quercetin” in a sentence without giving them the definition. You know what it means, right?

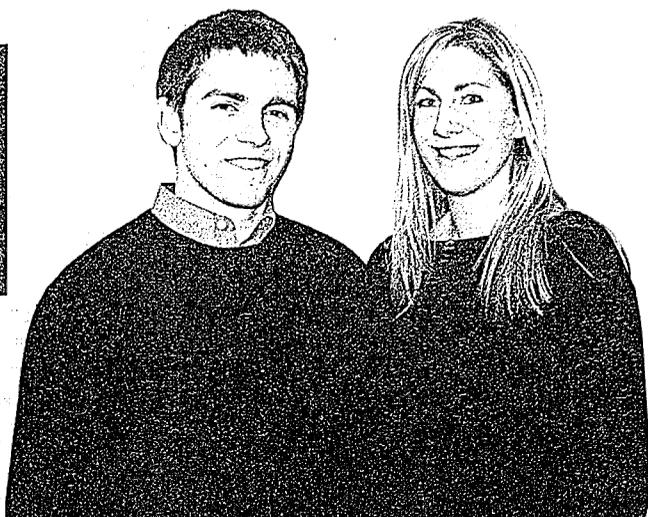
**quer\*ce\*tin:** a yellow, powdered crystalline compound, synthesized or occurring as a glycoside in the rind and bark of numerous plants and used medicinally to treat abnormal capillary fragility.



## A Retrospective:

## BARON-SHAPPELL

Outgoing Student Body President Dave Baron and Vice President Lizzi Shappell reflect on their administration



**VOICE OF THE STUDENTS** Baron and Shappell served as strong representatives of the student body during the past year.

• Dave Poell

When senior Dave Baron and junior Lizzi Shappell assumed their respective positions as student body president and vice president in April 2005, they brought a wealth of administrative experience along with them. Prior to being elected, Baron served as the chief executive assistant to then-Student Body President Adam Istvan and then-Student Body Vice President Karla Bell, and he served as the freshman class president of the University of Notre Dame's class of 2006. As the senator representing Badin Hall for the 2004-2005 academic year, Shappell served as the chairperson of the Gender Relations Committee, which since has been renamed the Gender Issues Committee. Stressing their collective student government experience as a positive attribute of their ticket, the Baron-Shappell administration has been resolute in following through on most of the promises that it made during its campaign last year.

Among the early successes of the Baron-Shappell tenure were the addition of a new student trolley transportation system; the establishment of the Community Relations Committee on student government; an information fair for off-campus students that took place at the beginning of the 2005-2006 academic year in August; and a charity relief effort for the victims of Hurricane Katrina held during the Notre Dame-Michigan State football game in September. However, when asked about what platform issue was most important to their campaign, Baron and Shappell agreed that community relations carried the most weight. "This was an issue we thought was important

even before the whole dispute with the passing of the [off-campus student noise] ordinance in August," Baron says.

Part of the reason for Baron and Shappell's central focus on community relations stems from both students' strong ties to the South Bend area. Shappell is a native of Mishawaka, Ind., and Baron developed a working relationship with South Bend Mayor Stephen Luecke while working in Luecke's office last summer. These bonds with the local community served both Baron and Shappell well during last fall's campus-wide controversy regarding the eviction of off-campus Notre Dame students who were penalized for allegedly violating the provisions of the ordinance.

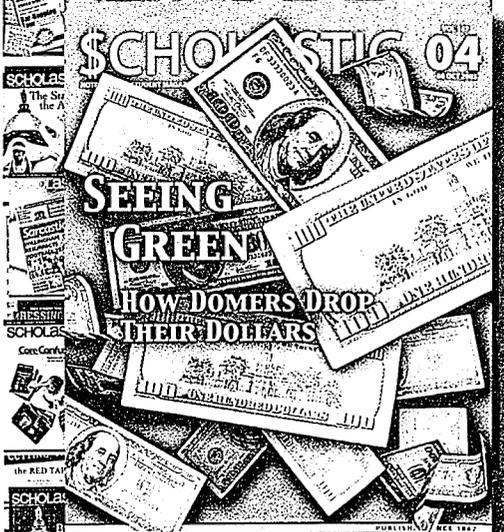
The pair acknowledges that while the eviction problem gave the administration a chance to gain some real hands-on experience in South Bend community relations, it also forced student government to table a number of other initiatives. Rather than devoting their energies to new policy breakthroughs, the majority of the administration's time had to be devoted to representing students' interests in the face of heated opposition from South Bend community members. "[The evictions] made us reprioritize things," Shappell says. "Whenever students are being evicted, this should be our main concern."

Despite the difficult relations with South Bend residents, Baron and Shappell say that they have both felt extremely pleased and privileged to represent the Notre Dame student body at a time of great transition. With the inauguration of the Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., as

university president and the beginning of Irish football Head Coach Charlie Weis' tenure, the 2005-2006 academic year has proved to be a year of extraordinary change in the Notre Dame world. Baron is pleased by the progress his administration has made in establishing a beneficial relationship with Jenkins and the many facets of the administrative bureaucracy. "Jenkins has come to us to solicit student input on a number of issues," Baron says.

In the two and half months that remain for Baron and Shappell at the helm of student government, both want to continue to push for certain initiatives that have not been fully realized. Baron says that he would like to put significant time into creating a student programming fund that could help Notre Dame plan extravagant concerts and other student events with more A-list entertainers. By effectively utilizing the healthy working relationship that they have crafted with the Jenkins administration, Baron and Shappell hope to act as the voice of student opinion in the current debate over academic freedom and arrive at some common ground with the president. Baron thinks that the overall progress his administration has made on a major student issues will provide momentum to his office in future contentions with administrators. "Students have always felt we were doing a lot on the students' behalf," Baron says. Shappell echoes this sentiment: "We've proven that we've taken a proactive stance for the students, and we hope that we've started off the new era in a nice fashion," she says.





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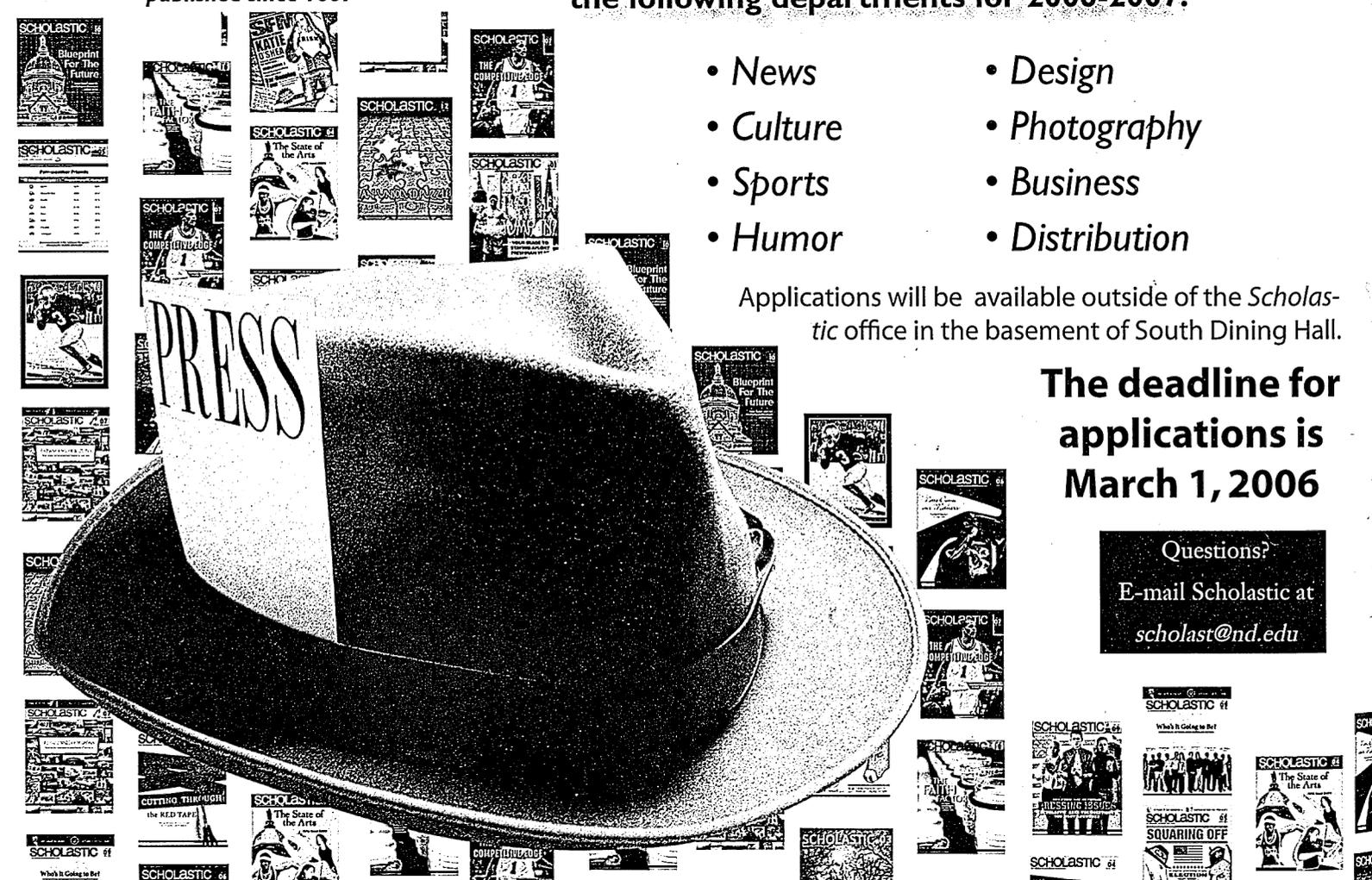
is now hiring editors, assistants, and staff for the following departments for 2006-2007:

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- Sports
- Humor
- Design
- Photography
- Business
- Distribution

Applications will be available outside of the Scholastic office in the basement of South Dining Hall.

**The deadline for applications is March 1, 2006**

Questions?  
E-mail Scholastic at [scholast@nd.edu](mailto:scholast@nd.edu)



## Check out the candidates



### President Basic Info

Name: Ryan Black  
 Major: First Year of Studies  
 Status: Freshman  
 Hometown: Flower Mound, TX  
 Residence: Knott  
 Facebook friends: 173

### VP Basic Info

Name: Catherine Martinez  
 Major: First Year of Studies  
 Status: Freshman  
 Hometown: Westerville, OH  
 Residence: Cavanaugh  
 Facebook friends: 209

### Qualifications

As freshmen, Black and Martinez have no experience in Notre Dame student government; both, however, held leadership positions during high school. Although their credentials at Notre Dame are lacking, both candidates are involved in Circle K service activities, and Martinez is a member of the Pre-Law Society and Spanish Club. Black attended multiple forums sponsored by current student government and feels that improvements can be made. "My friends and I would sit down and discuss the issues of Notre Dame and figure out what could we do to make it better," Black says. "We decided there were things that needed to be addressed."

### Personal Info

Web site: <http://www.nd.edu/~rblack>  
 Campaign slogan: "Fresh Year, Fresh Faces, Fresh Perspective."  
 Use the word *quercetin* in a sentence:  
 "That's so cool. That's so quercetin."

**Vote!**

### Student/Administration Relations

"Dave Baron and Lizzi Shappell have created a fantastic relationship [...] with administration in general," Black says. But, he adds, "Even though they've created a great relationship, there's more than can be done with that relationship." Black-Martinez repeatedly referred to compromise with all facets of the university. "We're not just going to say 'this is our idea.' We still have the system, but we change something [...] in increments," Martinez says. With regards to the issue of academic freedom, Black-Martinez wishes to approach the student body and remind them that the Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., is a figure of authority and that the decisions of the administration should be respected. But the candidates provided no concrete idea for improving the sometimes strained relationship between Notre Dame students and the administration.

— Regina Gesicki

### Platform

Black-Martinez puts forward a four-plank platform on their Web site, consisting of community relations, gender relations, dining hall reform and bowl tickets. The pair addressed only their first two planks in their interview with *Scholastic*, stating that both community and gender relations have not been adequately addressed by the Baron-Shappell administration. Black says the recently created student government committee on community relations "is a good start" and "would be a foundation" for the Black-Martinez administration. They propose a loosely outlined athlete-mentor program in which local children are invited to come to campus to experience the Notre Dame spirit, which would, according to Martinez, "create a better image for the university," especially in light of the noise ordinance. The Black-Martinez ticket wants to approach the issues of gender relations and diversity by taking action and "challenging the student body to meet us halfway." The pair also proposes a once-a-year, after-parietals lock-in program reminiscent of the Freshman Orientation DomerFest. With games and food from 2 a.m. until 8 a.m., Martinez-Black feels that the proposed lock-in is another way to integrate the genders. Martinez addressed dining hall reform in passing, proposing the transfer of dining hall meals to flex points. Martinez-Black did not address its plan for bowl tickets but did state that its "opponents are really just beating around the bush with forums; we want to take action."

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# electionbook

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Football Review  
Photo Reprints  
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## President Basic Info

Name: Jason Laws  
Major: Political Science/Spanish  
Status: Junior  
Hometown: Charlotte, NC  
Residence: Fisher  
Facebook friends: 630

## VP Basic Info

Name: Bob Costa  
Major: American Studies  
Status: Sophomore  
Hometown: Yardley, PA  
Residence: Zahm  
Facebook friends: 318

## Qualifications

For Laws, the decision to run for student body president did not come easily. After serving as class president his freshman and sophomore years, participating in the Council of Representatives and being involved with the Teacher and Course Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee his junior year, Laws was frustrated with student government. "I was going to opt out and just focus on my senior year," Laws says, "but I thought and prayed about this over break and decided to run." Laws found a running mate in Costa, an active member of the Student Union Board (SUB). Costa works for the student government communications department and is the director of SUB's AcoustiCafe. "I've learned a lot this year from working with other student leaders," Costa says. Costa also ran for student body vice president as a freshman.

## Personal Info

Web site: <http://www.nd.edu/~jlaws>  
Campaign slogan: "We only have one voice — yours."  
Use the word *quercetin* in a sentence:  
"Did Jason Laws pick a girl on 'Next'?  
Of quercetin!"

Vote!

## Student/Administration Relations

Laws and Costa believe that their loyalty to the voice of the student body distinguishes their ticket. "Our platform isn't just our personal ideas," Laws says, "it's a platform that's inclusive and built from a collective standpoint." For Laws-Costa, student government works as a bridge between the students and the administration, collecting the opinions of the student body. On the current debate over academic freedom, the candidates assert that student government should be fully involved. "You can't just have people emailing Fr. Jenkins," Laws says. Costa adds, "Student government can act as a facilitator." They promise to take an active stance on the issue, working for compromises representative of the entire scope of student opinion. Laws believes that student government should "be the collective voice of the students. Bob and I are dedicated to this," he adds. "We know how to sacrifice for people."

— Daric Snyder

## Platform

A more accessible, attentive student government stands as the central issue in the Laws-Costa platform. "We saw that Notre Dame is producing great leaders and we want to tap into that more," Laws says. The candidates intend to bring student government business beyond its office in LaFortune Student Center, holding open meetings around campus and overhauling the student government Web site into a useful resource for information and participation. Laws and Costa also plan to encourage students to speak their minds and "Stick it to Jenkins" by providing a life-sized poster of the university president on which students will be able to place sticky notes with their concerns. Additionally, Laws-Costa intends to focus on minority issues at Notre Dame, seeking to form a black student union as a prototype for similar organizations that could serve various minority groups on campus.

Laws-Costa promises other direct improvements to student life. In the dining halls, Laws-Costa wants to keep North Dining Hall open until 9 p.m. during the week, add more Grab 'n' Go options, and provide bigger to-go cups. They intend to coordinate with the law school and the university to provide legal counseling for students in a variety of situations. Laws-Costa also wishes to create student-only pep rallies on Thursdays before football games.



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### Qualifications

They're experienced, they've demonstrated their ability and they have a plan. With six combined years on student government, current Student Body Vice President Lizzi Shappell and current Junior Class President Bill Andrichik have experienced both the policy and programming sides of student government and say that the student body can expect "tangible results" from them. Shappell, a political science and peace studies major, met Andrichik, a political science and English major, in a comparative politics class, and the two juniors have had a strong working relationship ever since. As a result, the pair has a good chemistry and seems capable of acting as a cohesive unit. According to Shappell, what sets her and Andrichik apart from the rest is their "established working relationships with the administration." Because of their extensive time on student government, they have seen first-hand which ideas work and which will be swiftly snubbed by the administration.

### Platform

The Shappell-Andrichik platform is detailed, well researched and extremely ambitious. Dividing their ideas into seven categories, the platform, according to Shappell, "adds to the continuity of this year's administration with some innovation." The pair understands that some aspects of Shappell's equally ambitious platform with current Student Body President Dave Baron have yet to be realized, and both Shappell and Andrichik hope to accomplish such pending goals as providing students free newspapers through the College Readership Program next year. The candidates are adamant about improving community relations and want to establish a "Dialogue Summit," provide legal consultation for students living off campus and create a student government committee on community relations. Andrichik and particularly Shappell, who served as gender issues committee chair her sophomore year, also feel strongly about improving gender relations on campus and hope to erase the impression that "gender issues" implies "women's issues." Their most researched and realistic idea is for improved Grab 'n' Go items which would be chosen based on the results of a student survey. Their most ambitious idea calls for a Carry Forward Fund that could provide an additional \$20,000 annually to either a variety of student organizations or to one large campus event.

### President Basic Info

Name: Lizzi Shappell  
Major: Political Science/Peace Studies  
Status: Junior  
Hometown: Mishawaka, IN  
Residence: Badin  
Facebook friends: 480

### VP Basic Info

Name: Bill Andrichik  
Major: Political Science/English  
Status: Junior  
Hometown: Pleasant Prairie, WI  
Residence: Stanford  
Facebook friends: 294

### Personal Info

Web site: <http://www.nd.edu/~eshappel>  
Campaign slogan: "Leadership. Action. Results. Expect Nothing Less."  
Use the word *quercetin* in a sentence:  
"While we were forming the sexual assault information system, we decided to get rid of all the quercetin."

Vote!

### Student/Administration Relations

Shappell and Andrichik see the decision made by the Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., regarding the state of academic freedom at Notre Dame as a potential "turning point for the university." Both candidates support the performance of the "Vagina Monologues," but would rather focus on the larger issue of academic freedom than dwell on the oft-debated role of the controversial play at Notre Dame. They plan on using their student government experience and established "working relationships" with the university administration to address the issue of academic freedom and accomplish their other platform goals.

— Amy Meyers



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## President Basic Info

Name: Erica Wells  
Major: Psychology/Spanish  
Status: Sophomore  
Hometown: Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Residence: Pangborn  
Facebook friends: 410

## VP Basic Info

Name: George Chamberlain  
Major: First Year of Studies  
Status: Freshman  
Hometown: Charleston, WV  
Residence: Sorin  
Facebook friends: 212

## Qualifications

Though Wells has never been a member of Notre Dame's student government, she has extensive service experience. Wells has worked with the Gender Relations Center (GRC) as a FIRE Starter, or peer educator. She worked on a program called "Zahm's Gay?" which addressed homosexuality issues on campus. Wells is also a member of her dorm council, serving as the brother-sister dorm events commissioner, and she has been on the executive board for Habitat for Humanity. Chamberlain works for Circle K on a program called "There Are Children Here" (TACH). He also serves on the senate oversight committee and as a SafeWalker for Notre Dame Security/Police.

## Personal Info

Web site: <http://www.nd.edu/~ewells>  
Campaign slogan: "ONE FAMILY, ONE VOICE, ONE CHOICE for student body."  
Use the word *quercetin* in a sentence:  
"Peace, love and quercetin."

Vote!

## Student/Administration Relations

Wells and Chamberlain are forthright about their goals for student-administration relations. "[On contentious issues], I think we need to sit down and talk with the administration about their motives," Wells says. "If they make sense, I don't think that we should question them, but rather try to come to a compromise." Wells and Chamberlain also clearly state that they want to hear what the students are saying. They will take the ideas that are presented to them in proposed forums with the student body directly to the administration and push for the students' rights. All in all, Wells and Chamberlain have simplified their campaign to one general goal: improving Notre Dame. With a unified student government and a willingness to listen to the student body, they believe that they can make this goal a reality.

— Christopher Meskill

## Platform

Wells' and Chamberlain's platform aims to increase student government unity and open discussion with the student body. They extend this open discussion in developing programming to meet student needs. For instance, Wells-Chamberlain has found that promotion of events pertaining to multicultural issues and gender relations would have the greatest impact on student attendance, not altering programming as previously was believed. Therefore, they hope to increase publicity for future events and create a buzz for such organizations as the Asian-American Association and the GRC. Wells and Chamberlain also envision improved relations between rectors and residents, saying better communication and less fear of punishment will improve the quality of life in residence halls. They also are eyeing fiscal policies that would enable allocation of Student Activities funds towards more campus-wide events and better bands for "The Show." But Wells' and Chamberlain's lasting legacy would be to put more power in the hands of students. Whether it be through town hall-style forums or going into dorms to find out what the student voice is, Wells and Chamberlain are committed to making student government the voice of the student body. "With a student body as small as Notre Dame's," Chamberlain says, "I see no reason we cannot be a true democracy and less of a republic."

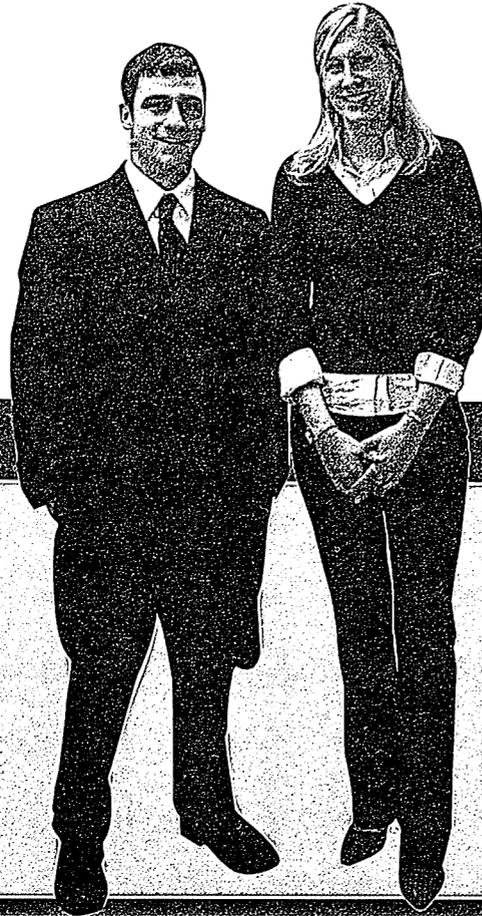


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## Platform Initiatives

- Student Choice Grab 'n' Go
- Alumni Contact Network
- Legal Consultation for Students
- Improved Bowl Game Lottery
- All-Student Pep Rallies

"The student body would benefit from leaders dedicated to continuing the work that Baron has started."

The best candidates for student body president and vice president are not merely the ones with the best ideas; they are the ones with the knowledge, connections and determination to put their ideas into practice. Current Student Body President Dave Baron has served a successful term by taking feasible proposals and working tirelessly with an extensive network of associates to improve student life at Notre Dame. The student body would benefit from leaders dedicated to continuing the work that Baron has started. For this reason, *Scholastic* endorses junior Lizzi Shappell and junior Bill Andrichik for 2006-2007 student body president and vice president.

As current student body vice president, Shappell is familiar with how student government functions, and she has established relationships with the students, administrators and trustees who can effect change at the university. Her platform is detailed and well researched, if heavy on policy rather than more tangible promises. But in the long run, her goals of improving community relations

and addressing gender issues are more valuable to students than satisfying their latest material demands, like more items at Grab 'n' Go.

Andrichik is a good addition to the Shappell ticket. Having served as sophomore vice president and junior class president, Andrichik also has seen extensive student government experience. His past involvement in events programming complements Shappell's policy-making experience well.

Junior Jason Laws and sophomore Bob Costa are solid candidates who seem to have a sincere desire to do good for the Notre Dame student body, and they have enough student government experience to know what they can realistically accomplish. They also have the charisma to earn the respect of students and administrators alike. But their platform is not as comprehensive as that of Shappell-Andrichik. And while many of their more clearly articulated proposals — like campus-wide stall notes and student-only pep rallies — would be nice, they hardly address pressing student needs.

Ryan Black and Catherine Martinez

say they would bring a breath of fresh air to student government, but as freshmen they have not been at the university long enough to fully understand student needs and what can be accomplished through student government. Sophomore Erica Wells and freshman George Chamberlain say their personalities and their emphasis on communication will make them effective leaders, but they have little in the way of a platform, which suggests that they are unprepared for the office that they seek.

Student government will gain influence at Notre Dame only if it is led by effective leaders who implement changes and gain the respect of administrators, even if they do not share their views. With this in mind, students should serve their own interests by voting for the candidates they feel are the most legitimate leaders, not just the ones that make the most promises or have the best personalities. Student government often is maligned at Notre Dame, but it is capable of doing good for students when under the proper leadership.





|         | M | T | W | TH. | F | Sat. | Sun |
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| 10      |   |   |   |     |   |      |     |
| 11      |   |   |   |     |   |      |     |
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| 1pm     |   |   |   |     |   |      |     |
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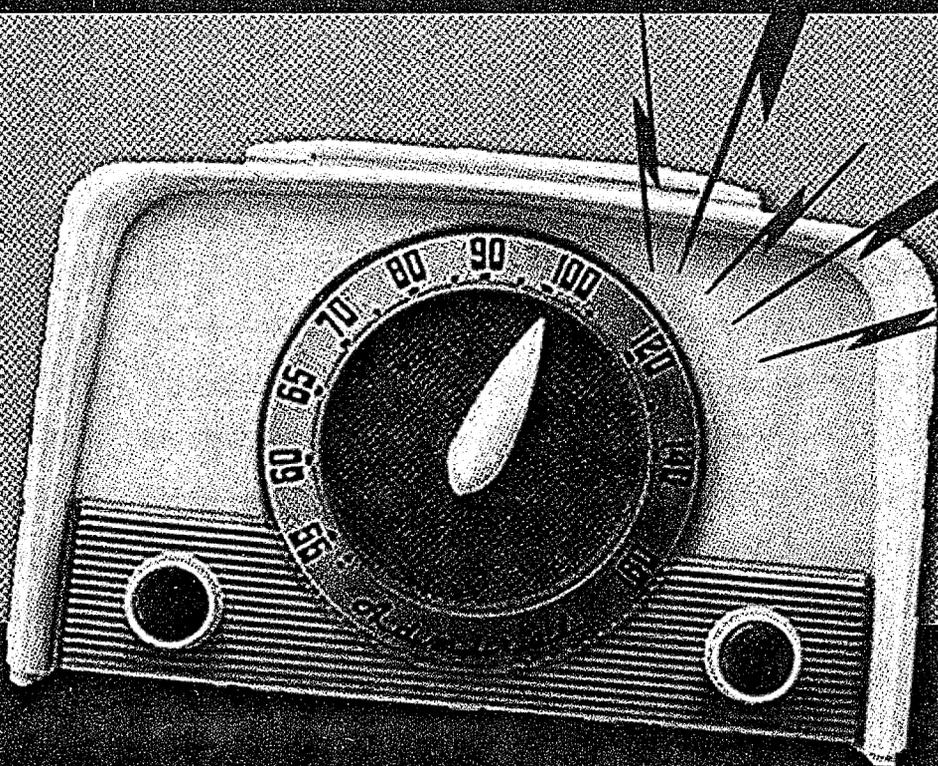
- Sports Talk
- Hip Hop
- World
- Specialty
- Classic Rock
- Indie
- Bluegrass/Folk
- Talk

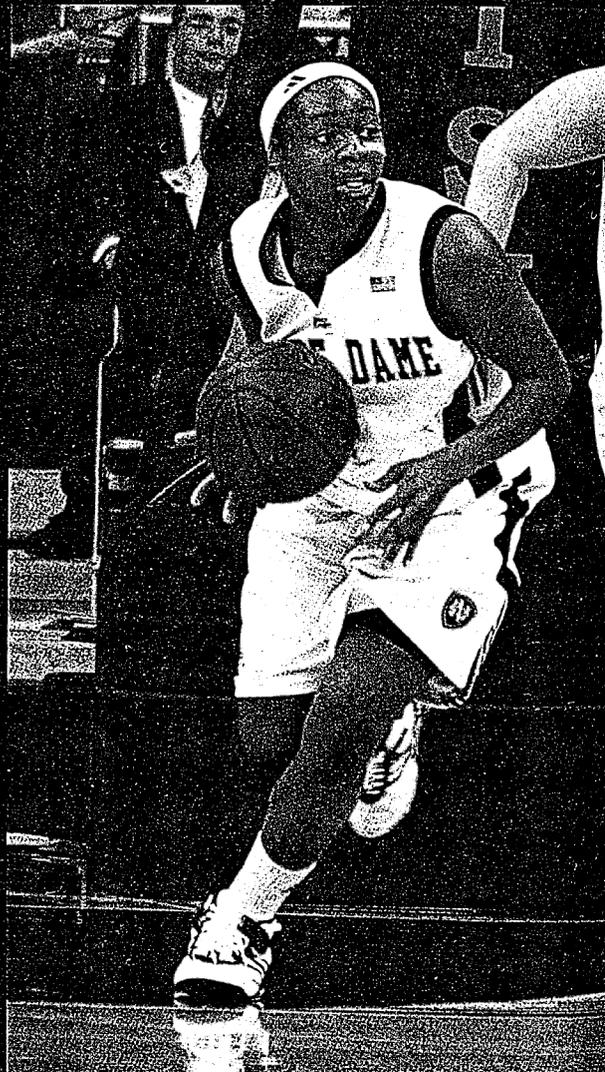
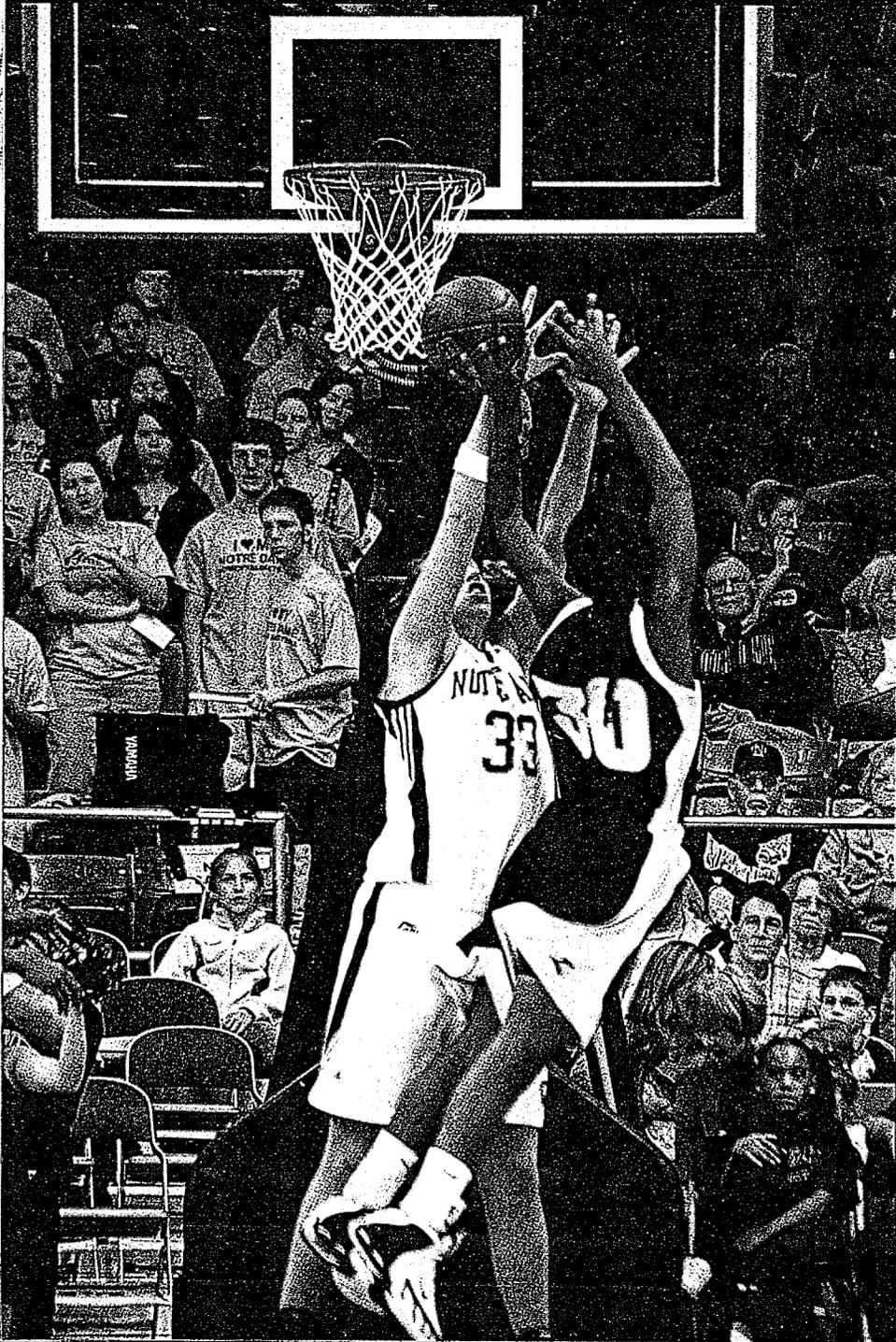
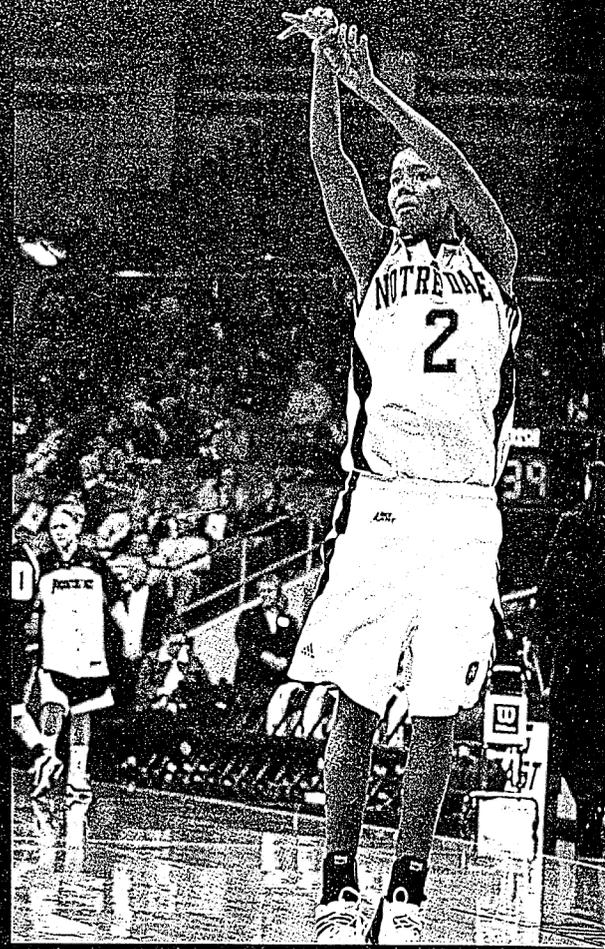
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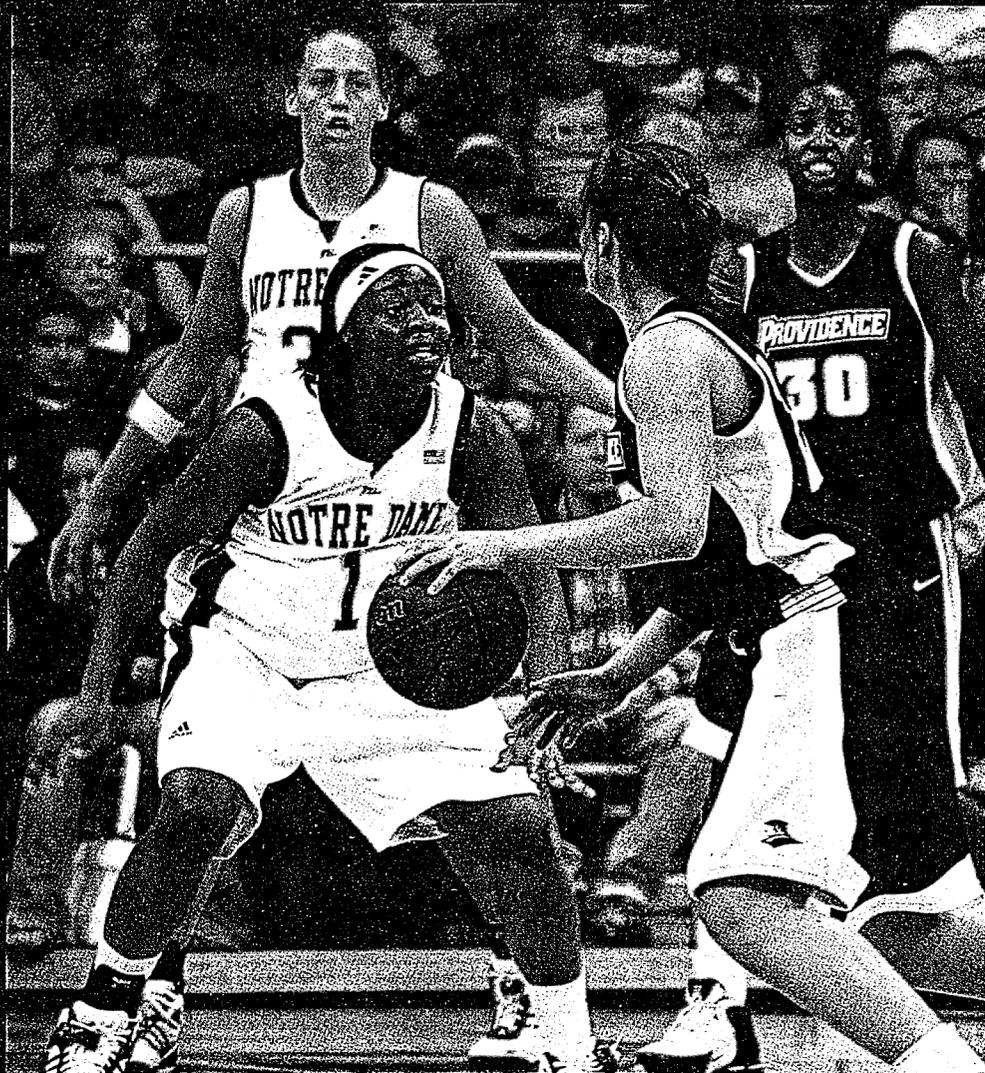


# Women's Basketball



## Notre Dame vs. Providence

1. Junior guard Breona Gray looks to inbound a pass to set up an Irish score.
2. Sophomore guard Charel Allen practices shooting beyond the arc.
3. Sophomore center Melissa D'Amico goes up to block a Providence shot.
4. Sophomore guard Tulyah Gaines drives the ball up the court.
5. The Irish bench looks on as Notre Dame tops Providence, 66-48.
6. Gaines measures up her Friar opponent.



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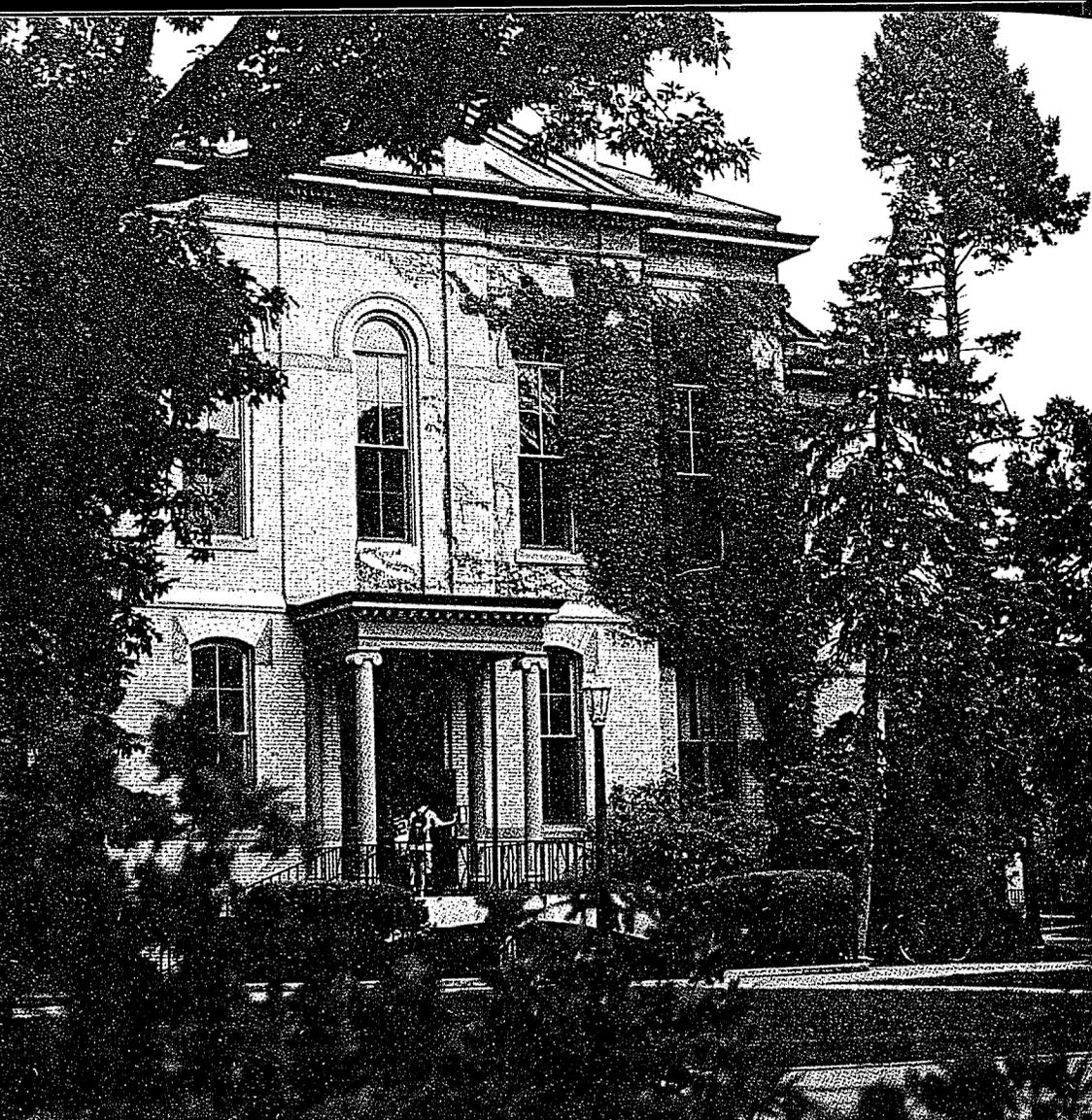
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# “Fresh” student ART

## A painting class' artwork on display at local gallery

•Meaghan Garvey

The students entering Riley Hall for the first day of professor Maria Tomasula's multilevel painting class last spring hardly expected that in a year's time their work would be exhibited in an exceedingly well-regarded show at a South Bend art gallery. In fact, Tomasula herself did not even expect it. "Undergraduates are very rarely featured in art shows," Tomasula says. "I was unaware at the beginning of the class that a gallery showing would come from it."

However, the work from that class is currently on display at the Crossroads Gallery in downtown South Bend in an exhibition entitled "Fresh." In the past, the gallery has featured faculty members and graduate students from the university's Department of Art in addition to the work of established outside artists.

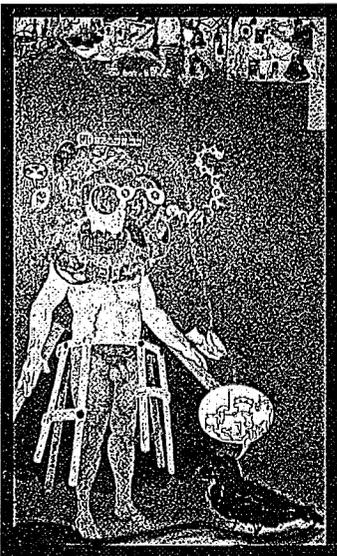
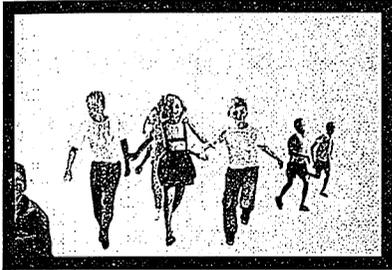
"The show features the best works from the class. I had a lot of really talented students," Tomasula says. "We had no thought of having a show ... [But then] the department presented to us the opportunity to have a show. It was the first undergraduate show."

In the class, students were free to focus on any themes and styles of paintings; the only requirement was to finish three paintings by the end of the semester, concentrating on the quality rather than the quantity of work. Students invested great amounts of time, both in and out of class, to complete their pieces.

"The painting class itself is designed to give students ample time to really focus on creating a finished product. Often with short due dates people tend to leave paintings unfinished or rush through them," says senior Matt Masoni, whose work, entitled "And They Dance Around Your Heartbeat," is featured in the show.

"Unlike most other classes, art classes are six hours a week and most of us spend at least the same amount of time outside of class working," says junior Chau Nguyen, another featured artist. "During crunch times, many of us are [in Riley Hall] pulling all-nighters to finish our products." Nguyen has two paintings on show at the exhibit, one entitled "Scylla and Charybdis" and the other "Stealing Away."

While many of the class members took the class as an art major working towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts or a Bachelor of Arts, several members of the class and show are not from an art-related field of study at all, making the



TOP Masoni's "And They Danced Around Your Heartbeat"

MIDDLE Nguyen's "Stealing Away"

BOTTOM Katie Monahan's "Tom Knetchel's 'A Bird's Nest'"

class' acquisition of an official gallery showing even more impressive.

"There were students in the class from all different disciplines of art — sculpture, graphic design — aside from painting, as well as students from all different majors," Tomasula says. "Yet there was a great deal of talent."

Due to the eclectic enrollment of the class, the artwork on display attempts to articulate a variety of inspirations. Some of the paintings portray nature or the mundane, while others are abstract and mind-boggling in their complexity. The different styles of the 19 artists involved in the project have thus resulted in a stimulating environment full of vivid colors and provocative ideas.

The turnout and response to the "Fresh" opening on Jan. 26, 2006, clearly affirmed the class' talent. "The opening was fantastic," Tomasula says. "There were wall-to-wall people."

After opening night, there were "a slew of inquiries about purchasing work," Tomasula says, although the original intent of the show was merely to display the pieces and not to sell pieces.

"As an undergrad, it is a lot harder to have a show because of limited space," Nguyen says. "Having a group show before our thesis exhibition and seeing the support that came out of it gave many of us the motivation to perhaps work harder and pursue other venues to show our work. I hope the university continues to provide us with opportunities like this," she adds.

This will likely be the case. The success of this initial experience with an undergraduate gallery set a precedent for future shows of the same sort. "We'd like to have a show each year now to showcase undergraduate work, seeing that graduate students have regular show," Tomasula says. "In the future, we hope to expand the show to include all kinds of works, like sculpture and prints."

Nguyen says, "The show is a strong case for why we need to have the continual support from the university and everyone in the community to foster creativity."

The "Fresh" exhibition is located at 217 Michigan St., and it will be running through Feb. 17, 2006.



"Breakfast on Pluto"



As foster kid Patrick "Kitten" Braden, played by Cillian Murphy, grows up, he leaves behind his small-town life in Ireland for London, where he's reborn as a transvestite cabaret singer in the 1960s and '70s.

"Brokeback Mountain"



A raw, powerful story of two young men, one a Wyoming ranch hand and the other a rodeo cowboy, who meet in the summer of 1963 shepherding in the harsh, high grasslands of contemporary Wyoming and form an unorthodox yet life-long bond.

"Happy Endings"



An ensemble cast telling 10 stories with intertwining characters. One story is about a father and son who are dating the same woman. Another features a woman who long ago gave her baby up for adoption but is now being blackmailed by a documentary filmmaker who claims to know the now-grown child's whereabouts.

# What's in a name

by Mike Laskey

When the Notre Dame Queer Film Festival debuted in 2004, it created an instant buzz. News outlets from the *Chicago Tribune* to the Fox News Channel covered the event, and the festival's featured film — "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" — filled the Hesburgh Library Auditorium on both of its screening nights. Despite the expansive media attention and campus popularity, festival co-founder Liam Dacey (ND '04) faced no interference from the university before or during the event. "I never dealt with the administration at all the first year," Dacey says. "We planned [the festival] out earlier in the fall, and it really came into being right inside the walls of the Department of Film, Television, and Theater (FTT)."

Dacey met with the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., during the festival, along with visiting filmmaker and Notre Dame alumnus Don Roos (ND '77) and several members of the group Gay and Lesbian Alumni of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College (GALA/ND-SMC). "[Hesburgh] compared the work that we were doing on campus to the civil rights movement that he was involved with in the 1960s," Dacey recalls. "Then he said something to the effect of, 'Being gay is all right, God knows that,' and he blessed us."

After the festival, Dacey met with several university officials, including then-president Rev. Edward Malloy, C.S.C., and then-provost Nathan Hatch. "We had an understanding that [the festival] was solely an academic event, which is why [Malloy] allowed it," Dacey says. "It wasn't like we had some sort of outside agenda."

Dacey graduated in 2004, but the festival returned with new student leadership in 2005, prompting Bishop John D'Arcy of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to write a critical letter to the *South Bend Tribune*, in which he called the festival

an "abuse of academic freedom."

Last year's festival went on unaltered, but D'Arcy's letter touched on an issue that the university's new president, the Rev. John Jenkins, C.S.C., brought to the fore with his high-profile speech this January: How does Notre Dame balance academic freedom with a desire to maintain its Catholic character?

In examining this question, Jenkins named the Queer Film Festival and the Vagina Monologues as two university-sponsored events that "appear to be at odds with certain fundamental values of a Catholic university."

While Jenkins' speech was the first public address to hint at university-imposed changes in the festival, administration officials and festival organizers had actually first met during the fall semester to discuss the name and the content of the festival.

"There's been a huge shift," Dacey says. "The student [organizers] this year had to deal with the administration, which I never had to do. I was just dealing with the film department."

This year's three student organizers, graduate students Martin Laina and Harry Karahalios and senior Nora Fallon, agreed to change the name of the event to "Gay & Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Narratives, Spectatorships," specifically removing the words "queer" and "festival" from the event's title at the administration's request. "The Queer Film Festival bears a title which, to a non-academic observer, seems to celebrate homosexual activity," Jenkins said in his speech.

"It's obvious how the name has changed," Karahalios says. "The bottom line is that the name has changed, and it is an acceptable change to all the parties involved."

Dacey is not as satisfied with the change. "The name issue

*"Bear Cub"*

Pedro, a gay man with an active social life and big circle of friends, takes in his nephew Bernardo for a couple weeks. When it appears as though it might become a permanent arrangement, however, Pedro turns to his friends for guidance as he and 9-year-old Bernardo begin to forge a household together.

*"Saving Face"*

A Chinese-American surgeon living in Manhattan is shocked when her single mother shows up on her doorstep pregnant. To help her mom save face and avoid the taboo in the Chinese community of being an unmarried pregnant woman, the doctor helps her mom find Mr. Right. People clash in this film that explores culture shock.

*Gay Republicans*

In 2004, Log Cabin — the Gay Republican Club — was put to the test. President George W. Bush's unequivocal opposition to gay marriage presented them with a stark choice — whether to be good Republicans and support the president, or stand up for their civil rights as gay Americans. This decision afforded them a historic opportunity to affect the election, but it also opened schisms that threatened the unity of the club itself. Politics get personal as the Log Cabin wrestle with an issue that goes to the core of their identity.

— plot summaries from [www.imbd.com](http://www.imbd.com)

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is pretty ridiculous," he says. "First of all, 'queer' is the proper academic term. The title made sense because it's called queer film in academia. To shift the title makes it less academically justified. Also, festivals are what film events are called. It's not a celebratory thing; it's a commonplace thing."

Dean Mark Roche of the College of Arts and Letters, who participated in discussions about the event, recognizes the usage of the word "queer" in academia, but says that the term has connotations that are not consistent with Catholic teaching. "While 'queer studies' is the technical term for the academic study of homosexuality at most universities," Roche wrote in an e-mail, "it is not simply the disinterested study of homosexuality, but includes an affirmation of homosexuality as legitimate practice in a way that is contrary to the position of the Catholic Church. In that sense it is a value-laden term."

Roche wrote that while "festival" is the "technical term" for events like this one, "The net effect of the previous title was that attention was diverted from the study of films that deserve our attention to a focus on the event as advocacy, whether real or perceived [...] In the end the decision of the organizers was not to focus on the morality of homosexuality but instead to focus on the films themselves."

FTT Professor Pamela Wocjik, who is the faculty advisor for the event, agrees with Roche that it is important for the event to focus on the films and not morality. "This is not an event that is about promoting or denigrating homosexuality," Wocjik says. "It is about showing and discussing films that emerge from or represent homosexuality. And to me that is a big difference. The panels involve people who are discussing films, not morality. It's about films and filmmakers and film studies."

Laina, Karahalios and Fallon stressed the importance of the two panels and one lecture that are part of the event and are closely tied to the its academic mission. Guest panelists at the event will include directors Roos and Miguel Albaladejo, both of whom have films that will be featured over the weekend. The directors will also visit film classes and answer questions after the screenings of their films, Karahalios says.

Alexander Doty, a scholar from Lehigh University whom Wocjik describes as one of the most eminent figures in queer theory, will deliver the keynote address, which is entitled "Gay & Lesbian Film, Queer Theory & the Academy."

This year's lineup of six films is led by "Brokeback Mountain," the love story of a ranch-hand and a rodeo cowboy that garnered eight Academy Award nominations. Both screenings of the film sold out almost a full week before the opening night of the festival.

"This is an incredible opportunity to see films that wouldn't necessarily have made it near the vicinity of Notre Dame," Karahalios says. "We wanted to get films from as recently as possible that at the same time give different points of view."

Laina also emphasized the unique opportunity that the event provides. "We're looking at films that deal to some extent with sexuality, but they also deal with everyday human emotions and human life, which is what is so brilliant about them," Laina says. "These are movies that people have the opportunity to relate to, everyday people on this campus. We're aiming for everyone on campus to have that opportunity."

While this year's organizers have dealt with the challenges posed by the university, the future of the event is unclear. "There's this dialogue on campus that the president has invited, and the outcome of the dialogue is obviously unknown,"

Laina says. But the fact that the administration let the student organizers maintain their independence this year could be a hopeful sign for the event's supporters. "We've had full autonomy in terms of selection of movies, panels and the lecture," Laina says. "That has never been a question. There has been a slight question about representation and publicity, but the essential concepts and content of the event have never been questioned."

Dacey, however, is worried that this could be the event's final year. "I feel that because of these limitations that are being imposed it's going to be harder for students to do the [event]. When you make concession after concession students can get worn down," he says. "Anyone who cares about academic freedom either way, I recommend going to the films to see what this is all about. See it for yourself, because you might not have the opportunity ever again." ⑤

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF FILM, TELEVISION & THEATRE PRESENTS  
**FEBRUARY 2006**  
 PROKOBACK MOUNTAIN [Leo, USA, 2005]  
**16 February 2006**  
 Making Gay & Lesbian Film  
 [Prof. Will Godwin, Dan Rocco, Miguel Albeladego]  
 Lecture: Prof. Alexander M. Dohy  
 Gay & Lesbian Film, Queer Theory & the Academy  
 GAY REPUBLICANS [Westmoreland, USA, 2004]  
 CACHORRO [Bear Cub] [Albeladego, Spain, 2004]  
 SAVING FACE [Wu, USA, 2004]  
**18 February 2006**  
 Panel: "Global Cinemas / Global Cultures"  
 [Prof. Jim Collins, Luke Gibbons, Carlos Jerez-Ferrari]  
 BREAKFAST ON PLUTO [London, Ireland/UK, 2005]  
 HAPPY ENDINGS [Roca 77, USA, 2005]  
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 Department of Anthropology  
 The film event is also supported by the Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae of the University of Notre Dame and St. Mary's College (OH-ATOCAC).

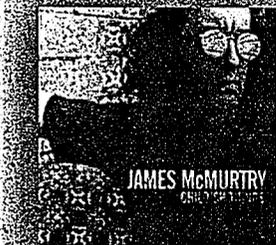
**GAY + LESBIAN FILM**  
 FILMMAKERS. NARRATIVES. SPECTATORSHIPS

**NEW PERSPECTIVES** The official poster for the Gay and Lesbian Film event has been circulating throughout campus.

## STAFF PICKS : MUSIC TO GET YOU THROUGH THE WINTER



### "Childish Things" — James McMurtry



James McMurtry could be considered a country singer, but Toby Keith he is not. The steel guitar is nowhere to be found in his straightforward, electric guitar-driven compositions. And it is doubtful he voted for President George W. Bush. The album's standout track, "We Can't Make It Here," is a scathing indictment of corporate greed that puts a face on the victims of outsourcing. The entire album is peppered with down-and-out red-state characters — McMurtry writes with a literary sensibility he no doubt inherited from his father, Larry McMurtry, author of "Lonesome Dove." The younger McMurtry's intelligent lyrics and rough-around-the-edges sound are a refreshing departure from the sappy, overproduced songs that are omnipresent on mainstream country radio.

— Jim Ryan

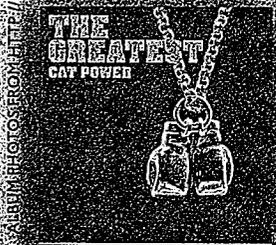
### "Kicking Television: Live in Chicago" — Wilco



In recording their new live album "Kicking Television," Wilco faced the daunting task that bands confront whenever they release live material: How do we make this old stuff interesting so people will want to listen to it again? Wilco has no trouble making their distinctive brand of country-rock interesting on "Kicking Television," performing with a clear, enthusiastic love for their music that is harder to find in studio recordings. From lead singer Jeff Tweedy's unadulterated, raw, scratchy vocals to Nels Cline's perfectly grungy guitar solos, this is a necessary addition to any Wilco fan's library or a great 23-track introduction to one of America's most remarkable rock bands.

— Mike Laskey

### "The Greatest" — Cat Power



Chan Marshall, performing as Cat Power, returns to her Georgia roots on the blues-influenced "The Greatest." This is not merely a greatest-hits compilation. Marshall takes her pliant and sensuous voice in a different direction with "The Greatest," assisted by legendary Memphis musicians Leroy and Teenie Hodges, among others. Standout tracks include the beautifully layered title track, "The Greatest," and "Willie," an unconventional love song. Some are more melancholy than others, but each song on "The Greatest" tells a sweeping story, infused with a uniquely soulful Southern attitude.

— Regina Gesicki

# Through the Looking Glass

by sarah barrett



**James Salter**  
Esteemed novelist and author of "Solo Faces" and "Light Years"



**Tasha Alexander**  
Notre Dame alumna and author of "And Only To Deceive"



**Rane Arroyo**  
John Ciardi Prize-winning poet

Feb. 13, 2006, marks the commencement of the 36th annual Notre Dame Literary Festival, "Through the Looking Glass: A week of literary perspectives," celebrating the literary achievements of esteemed authors and talented Notre Dame student writers. In conjunction with the Creative Writing Program, the English Department and the Institute for Latino Studies, the Student Union Board presents a weeklong exhibition of literature, featuring writers James Salter, Tasha Alexander, Kevin Guilfoile, Saul Williams, Rane Arroyo and Buzz Bissinger.

The Notre Dame Literary Festival began as a tribute to William Faulkner more than 35 years ago, and it has evolved into a multifaceted annual event, bringing poets, essayists, novelists and playwrights to Notre Dame's campus. Past participants include T.C. Boyle, Kurt Vonnegut, Ralph Ellison and Gwendolyn Brooks, among many other highly acclaimed members of the literary world. Each year, the Literary Festival has upheld its mission to offering a scholarly and creative atmosphere within which students can enjoy the company of renowned authors and refine their own writing techniques.

Sophomore Festival Chair Laura Fox teamed up with the Student Union Executive Board and Festival committee members Caroline Nally, Kerry O'Connor and Colleen Stehlin to schedule and plan next week's events. "Programming the Notre Dame Literary Festival has been the most fulfilling experience that I have had at Notre Dame," Fox says. "My passion for books and reading has been lifelong, and it has been a wonderful opportunity to translate that love into a campus event." She hopes that students and faculty alike will join in this celebration of literature.

The Festival will begin with a prose writing workshop with novelist and short story writer James Salter on Monday, Feb. 13 at 3 p.m. in 306 LaFortune Student Center. Salter is the author of novels "Solo

Faces," "Light Years," "A Sport and a Pastime" and "The Arm of Flesh," among others, and has been praised as "one of the best writers in this country" by the *Bloomsbury Review* and as "the author of some of the most esteemed fiction of the past three decades" by *Publishers Weekly*. Salter also will be hosting a follow-up lecture to his prose writing workshop in the Oak Room of South Dining Hall at 7 p.m. on February 13.

On February 14, Kevin Guilfoile, Notre Dame alumnus and author of "Cast of Shadows" and "Chicago Noir," will start the day off with a humor and mystery-writing workshop at 4 p.m. in 306 LaFortune. At 5:30 p.m., Notre Dame alumna and author of "And Only To Deceive," Tasha Alexander, will give a lecture in Lafortune Ballroom. To finish out the night, Guilfoile and slam poet Saul Williams will host Student Night at 7 p.m. in Washington Hall. Guilfoile and Williams will be presenting a diverse collection of their works, including Guilfoile's publication "My First Presidential: A Scrapbook By George W. Bush" and presentations of Williams' various artistic talents.

On Wednesday, John Ciardi Poetry Prize winner Rane Arroyo will host a poetry writing workshop and Institute for Latino Studies Cafecito at 3:30 p.m. in McKenna Hall. Later that evening, Arroyo will give a lecture at 7:30 p.m. in the McKenna Hall Auditorium.

Thursday's events will wrap up the festival, with Pulitzer Prize winner and author of "Friday Night Lights" Buzz Bissinger. He will hold a political journalism and non-fiction sports writing workshop at 4 p.m. in 306 LaFortune and give a lecture at 7 p.m. in Washington Hall.

Regardless if one's interest lies in news journalism or creative writing, anyone with a passion for literature should take advantage of the writers attending the Literary Festival. To sign up for a workshop, contact Laura Fox at lfox1@nd.edu.



**Kevin Guilfoile**  
Author of "My First Presidential: A Scrapbook by George W. Bush"



**Saul Williams**  
Renown slam poet and multitalented performer



**Buzz Bissinger**  
Featured author of the Literary Festival and Pulitzer Prize winner

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAURA FOX

SCHOLASTIC CULTURE



# S O T S . . . . .

## Big East Woes

• Michael Kim

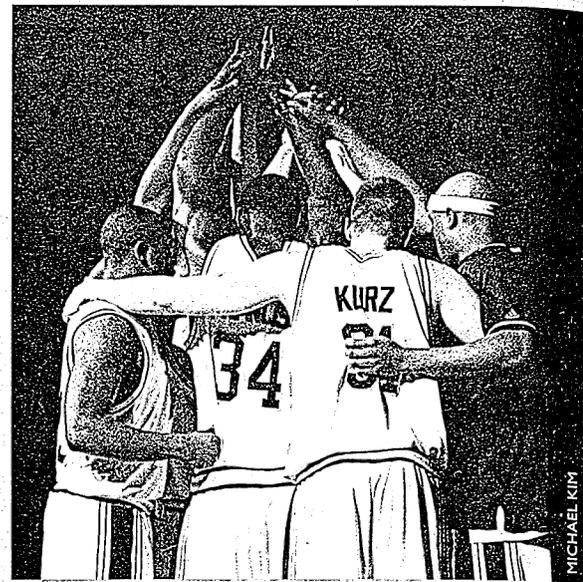
You know that nauseating feeling you get when Notre Dame loses to Boston College in football? Multiply that by two (maybe three) and you'll get the sickening sensation that comes from watching the performance of the men's basketball team, which recently has had an unfortunate knack for losing in style. The Irish have lost eight Big East Conference games (including five straight) by an average of 3.25 points per game and 26 points total. Three of those losses have come in overtime and two of those in double overtime. Big East coaches and college basketball fans alike are starting to take notice of the plight of the Irish. "There's a part of me that absolutely feels sick inside for Notre Dame," Louisville Head Coach Rick Pitino said after defeating the Irish 89-86 in overtime last Saturday. Why is this team so close, but yet so far?

Consider the various ways Notre Dame has floundered its conference games: A fall-away jumper by Marquette with 1.1 seconds left; an uncontested tip-in by Villanova with 1.7 seconds left; a three-point shot at the buzzer by Louisville. It's like a cruel, heartless soap opera. But it's not like this Irish team isn't any good. In fact, they are fourth in points per game in the Big East with 75.8. However, their of-

fensive prowess has not been able to compensate for the defensive meltdowns that have cost the Irish time and time again.

It's mind-boggling how a once-auspicious program that made a Sweet-16 appearance in the 2003 NCAA tournament has spiraled downward so quickly. Once shooting for a perennial NCAA tournament bid, the Irish might not even make their own conference tournament! Only 12 of 16 teams in the revamped Big East get an invite to New York City. "We're trying to claw our way back to New York," Notre Dame Head Coach Mike Brey said after the Villanova game on Jan. 28, 2006. "It's going to be a dogfight." And if the Irish don't make it to the Big East Tournament? Some heads might face the guillotine. The Irish are on pace to have their first losing conference record since 1999. Some assistant coaches might be shown the door — or, do I dare say — perhaps Brey himself? That might be a stretch, considering he's under contract until 2010, but we all know that contracts no longer guarantee job security at Notre Dame. Think former Head Coach Tyrone Willingham.

The Irish continue to say the things a team in dire straits should say after a



MICHAEL KIM

series of heartbreaking losses. "We're going to keep our heads up," Brey offered after the Villanova game. "All we can do is keep giving ourselves chances." But there comes a point where talk like this becomes redundant, and it seems as though "trying hard" is becoming a questionable virtue for Notre Dame. It has taken them nowhere but the cellar; they're No. 15 out of 16 teams in the Big East.

We all hope that Notre Dame and Brey get it together. The Irish will need to win at least five more games to even have a chance at securing a spot at Madison Square Garden for the Big East Tournament. You can't help but commend their effort to continue to fight with what they've been through. But in the end, they won't be defined by their fighting spirit but rather — as shallow and objective as it is — by their record. And from that viewpoint, they stink. S

Notre Dame vs. The Other Guys

# From the Press Box

• Michael Kim LEVEL 1

Assigned to:  
**SCHOLASTIC**

USE MEDIA ENTRANCE

Although the football season is over, football Head Coach Charlie Weis can't seem to get out of the spotlight. According to the *Boston Globe*, Weis attended the Super Bowl XL festivities in Detroit, Mich., and reconnected with New England Patriots Head



BRENNAN JANNON

Coach Bill Belichick and Patriots quarterback Tom Brady. At one point,

Weis was hounded by an autograph-seeking fan wearing a Michigan jacket. "I have a policy," Weis said. "I don't sign for anyone wearing a Michigan jacket." The disappointed fan began walking away when Weis said, "I was just kidding. I had to bust you a little bit." After signing for the fan, Weis added, "Anyway, my favorite player ever went to Michigan." Weis, of course, was referring to Brady, the man who helped Weis win three of his four Super Bowl rings during his tenure in the National Football League ...

Former Notre Dame tennis player David DiLucia (ND '92), the only Irish

# Irish Eyes On... Lauren Connelly

## •Michael Kim

Senior Lauren Connelly, a native of Oklahoma City, Okla., is the current team captain for the No. 22 Notre Dame women's tennis team. She and her older sister, Sarah Jane Connelly (ND '05), who was captain last year, became the first set of sisters to serve as women's tennis captains in school history. Lauren Connelly has a 74-32 (.698) career mark and is on pace to finish among the all-time top five in career women's doubles wins at Notre Dame. She also performs well in the classroom, having won the Knute Rockne Student Athlete Award in 2004-2005 as the team's top academic performer.



### Why did you choose to attend Notre Dame?

This university is the perfect community for academics, athletics and faith. I ultimately chose Notre Dame because of the people here, including my coaches and amazing teammates.

### What is the biggest highlight of your tennis career at Notre Dame?

Big East play during my freshman year was unforgettable when we beat Miami 4-3 in the finals. It is always a great feeling when we pull through on the close 4-3 matches and the team is able to celebrate together.

### Who do you admire the most?

I admire my parents. They introduced me to tennis and sacrificed their time to help me excel to where I am today.

### What do you think separates a top 20 tennis team from a top 5 team?

Good team morale is so important in college tennis. When 10 girls come together to reach the same goal, great things tend to happen. Taking one match at a time and not getting discouraged during a long season often separates the good from the great.

### How does it feel to follow in your big sister's role as team captain?

It's such an honor. She is the prime example of what a captain ought to be, and I often look to her for guidance.

### What do you do when you're not playing tennis?

When I'm not playing tennis I love catching up with friends and watching movies.

### Use one word to describe women's tennis Head Coach Jay Louderback.

Relaxed but determined ... that's two!

athlete to garner All-American honors five times (twice for doubles, three times for singles), is now offering his tennis prowess through coaching. DiLucia — who had a 146-33 singles record at Notre Dame and was the only Irish player to be ranked No. 1 in singles by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association — left his position with the United States Tennis Association to become the personal coach of the current No. 3 female tennis player in the world, Lindsay Davenport.



port. Davenport has reached the No. 1 ranking four times in her 13-year career, and she also has won three grand-slam singles titles. But Davenport hasn't won a grand-slam title since the 2000 Australian Open; she hopes that DiLucia can guide her toward winning the three remaining 2006 grand-slam tournaments.



Vs.



## OUR CALLS

**SPORT:** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**OPPONENT:** DEPAUL

**WHERE:** DEPAUL ATHLETIC CENTER

**WHEN:** SUNDAY, FEB. 12, 4:00 P.M. CST

Michael Kim  
Sports Editor

Although women's basketball holds 14-8 overall record, it is struggling to a 5-6 record in the new Big East Conference. The Irish are coming off a tough 68-65 overtime loss to Villanova at the Joyce Center last Tuesday, a loss in which the Irish erased a 21-point deficit. Notre Dame faces a stiff challenge against a desperate DePaul team looking for critical conference wins as well. The last time the Irish played the Blue Demons, they were pushed to the limit and barely squeezed a 78-75 victory at home. Senior guard Megan Duffy, with her team-leading 15.7 points per game, will have to rally her troops with her leadership and experience. She has been struggling with confidence issues beyond the arc, and she'll have to sure up her stroke down the stretch, which includes a game against conference leader Connecticut. As for this game, I see the Irish squeezing out another tough one against DePaul, 65-62.

Christopher Meskill  
Executive Editor

Notre Dame basketball's Big East woes are not limited to the men's side, as the Irish women are 5-6 in the newly formed super-conference. Fortunately for the Irish, they will get a chance to rebound against a DePaul squad with an equally unimpressive season thus far. In this game, I look to the slight size advantage for Notre Dame; six-foot-five-inch sophomore center Melissa D'Amico could be the difference in this one, towering over the relatively short Blue Demon post. If senior guard Megan Duffy can set up clean passes to her center, this game could be the turning point in the season for the Irish. Expect a well-coached, efficient Notre Dame offense in a relatively comfortable win, 62-55.



# Just A Football School?

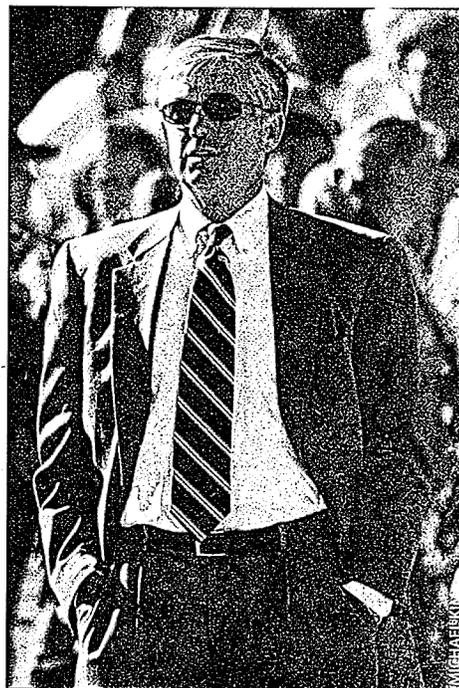
Don't look now, but the "other" 25 sports are making significant strides at Notre Dame.

• Michael Kim

The statement "Notre Dame is just a football school" echoes throughout campus. While this stereotype is easy to believe considering the amount of media attention and revenue the gridiron sport generates for the university, it is simply untrue. Believe it or not, football wasn't even the most popular sport on campus in the mid-1800s as baseball held that distinction. Football's legendary status didn't evolve until the 1920s with the arrival of a relatively unknown Norwegian named Knute Rockne, who was more concerned with building a track and field program than a national championship football team.

It is undeniable that football is the crown jewel at Notre Dame, but the other 25 varsity sports are beginning to pull themselves out of the sizeable shadow that football casts and are developing their own identities. This is something Notre Dame Athletic Director Kevin White has sought since his appointment to the position on Mar. 13, 2000. White was urged by former university President Rev. Edward Malloy, C.S.C., to make the non-football sports competitive in order to make a serious run every year at the NACDA Directors' Cup, given to

the best all-around athletics program in the country. Notre Dame has placed 11th three times (1993-94, 1995-96, 2000-01), the high-ranking they have ever achieved.



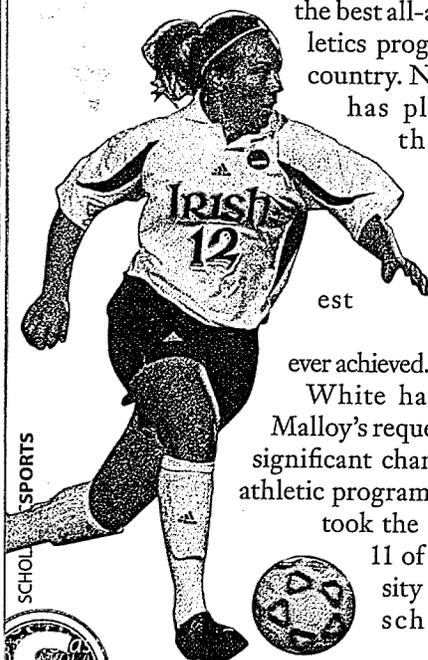
**THE WHITE DIRECTION** Notre Dame Athletic Director Kevin White progressively improves the athletic program and guides it towards its ultimate goal of winning the NACDA Directors' Cup one day.

White has honored Malloy's request, making significant changes in the athletic program. When he took the helm, only 11 of the 26 varsity sports had scholarships available, making it very difficult to compete with perennial all-around athletic powers like Stanford and UCLA. In his six years as athletic director, White has raised the funds to provide the maximum amount of scholarships allotted by the NCAA to virtually every sport at Notre Dame. He has also made it a goal to gradually improve the facilities, as evidenced by the construction of the new Guglielmino Athletics Complex, which opened in the summer of 2005. More importantly, White has maintained the academic integrity of Notre Dame in athletics, contributing to its status as one of the top-performing institutions in terms of graduation rates. In the most recent Graduate Success Rate compiled by the NCAA, Notre Dame was ranked first, with 16 of the 20 athletic programs evaluated having graduation rates of 100 percent and none below 90 percent.

It wasn't always this way. "When I first came here, basketball and football was the athletic program. Every other sport was like the stepchild," says Joe Piane, head coach of track and field and men's cross country for 31 years at Notre Dame. "But now, there's an expectation of excellence." Piane and his teams have embraced the lofty expectations set by White. With the help of improved facilities and increased scholarships, men's cross country has been a perennial contender in the Big East Championship and finished third last November in the NCAA Cross Country Championships, while the women finished seventh. Their stellar performances have racked up 154 points of the 412 total for Notre Dame in the race for the 2005-2006 Directors' Cup, which currently puts the Irish first in the standings ahead of Penn State (308.5) and Stanford (282). The same sports that were once neglected are now making significant contributions to Notre Dame's ultimate athletic goal of winning the Director's Cup.

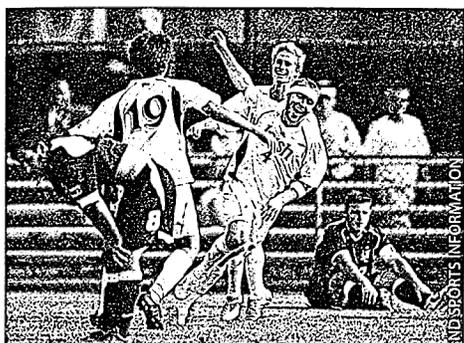
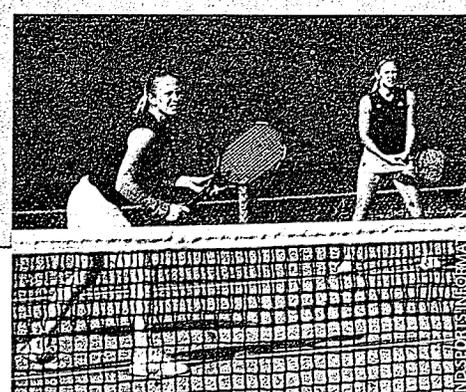
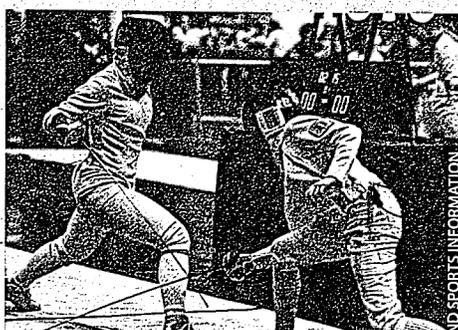
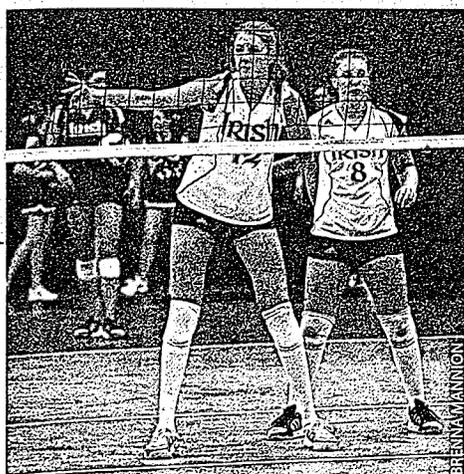
Cross Country isn't the only sport showing signs of potential to become a consistent contender on the national stage. The Olympic sports — as they are appropriately called — are also helping the Notre Dame athletic program build its versatility. Women's soccer has won two NCAA national championships, most recently in 2004. The Irish are the only team other than North Carolina to have multiple soccer championships. Add the dominating fencing program which has won seven NCAA Team Championships (1977, '78, '86, '87, '94, '03, '05), and you have multiple national powerhouse teams at Notre Dame.

Women's volleyball is pushing to be a national power as well, finishing with its highest-ever final ranking last year at No. 12 in the CSTV/AVCA Division I Coaches' Top 25 poll. During the 2005 season, women's volleyball peaked as high as No. 5 in the rankings and knocked off six ranked teams including perennial contenders No. 3 Florida and No. 19



SCHOLASTIC SPORTS





Southern California.

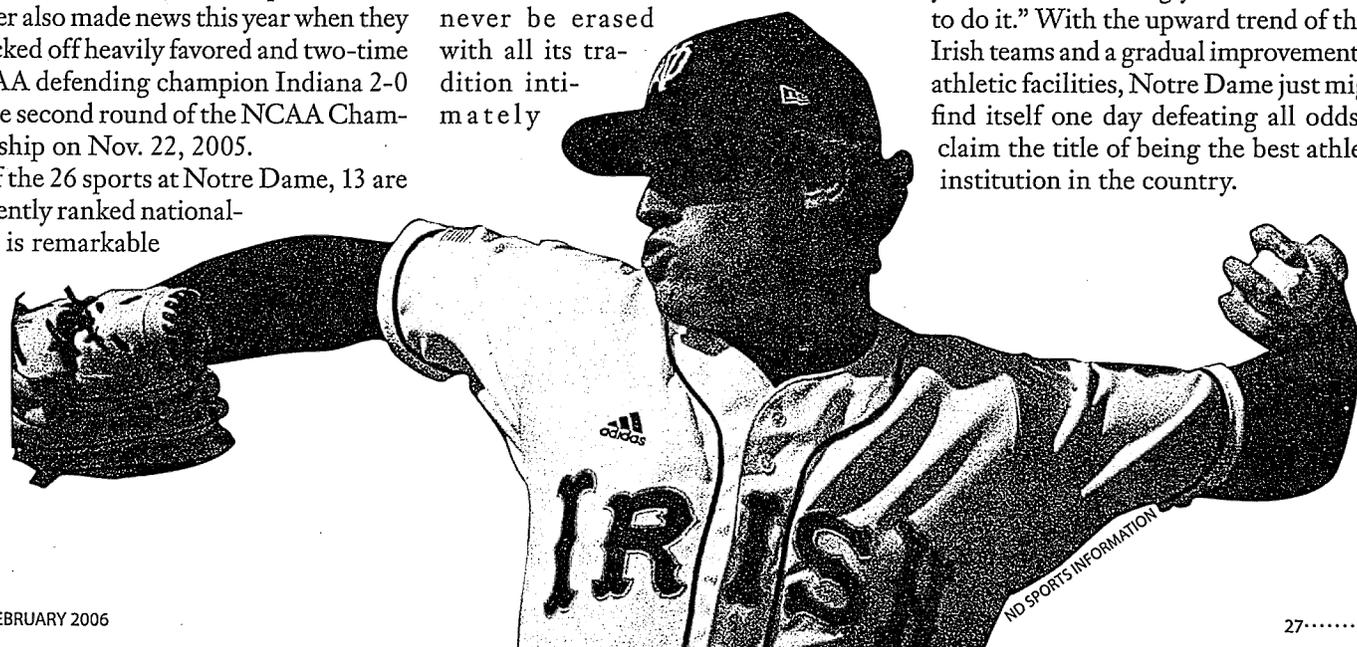
Flashes of brilliance are to be found almost everywhere in the athletic program. Men's baseball continues to defy the cold midwestern weather and make serious runs at the College World Series annually. Men's tennis claimed its 1,000th victory last January over No. 18 North Carolina to become only the sixth Division I school to accomplish the feat in men's tennis. Women's tennis boasts the No. 1 doubles team in the nation with twin sisters Catrina and Christian Thompson. Men's soccer also made news this year when they knocked off heavily favored and two-time NCAA defending champion Indiana 2-0 in the second round of the NCAA Championship on Nov. 22, 2005.

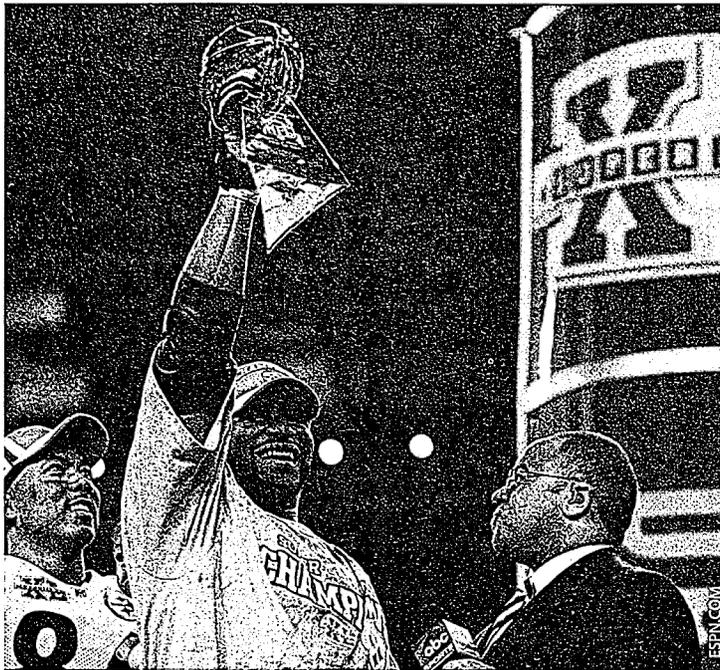
Of the 26 sports at Notre Dame, 13 are currently ranked nationally. It is remarkable

progress considering that none of these sports just a few years ago had sufficient resources to compete consistently on a national level. Notre Dame has come a long way in building parity among its athletic program by remaining firm on its ambitious mission of being the best all-around athletic program. However, they still have a ways to go. "You can't expect to go from 15th to first," Piane says. "You just have to keep creeping up." Although there is much room to improve, the Irish are closer than they have ever been.

Perhaps the stereotype of just being a football school can never be erased with all its tradition intimately

intertwined with the history of the university, but the other 25 sports are starting to chip away at the notion and slowly but surely are gaining national recognition. "I think you have to earn that over time," says John Heisler, senior associate Athletics Director at Notre Dame. "One or two years will make an impression on people, but putting yourself in position year after year and establishing yourself is the way to do it." With the upward trend of these Irish teams and a gradual improvement on athletic facilities, Notre Dame just might find itself one day defeating all odds to claim the title of being the best athletic institution in the country.





**AT LONG LAST** Bettis lifts the Lombardi Trophy as Super Bowl XL Champion to the cheering of his hometown Detroit fans.

# Ode to Jerome

The Bus finally comes to a stop with a Super Bowl win

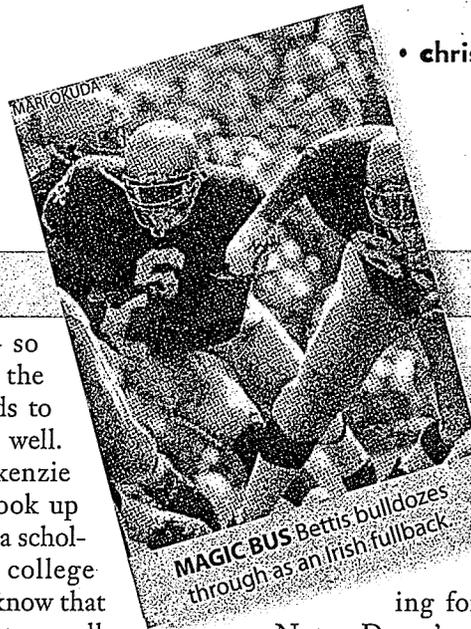
• christopher meskill

Let me tell you a story — a fairy tale, if you will. Imagine a teenager, battling a harsh upbringing, who meets a life-changing mentor. This tutor takes the boy under his wing and cultivates him into a man — a man who rises to the most revered stage in his trade. But on his way to greatness, the young man stumbles and again seeks guidance from his old teacher. After receiving his mentor's counsel, the man returns to the stage and achieves the greatest honor in his craft in the very place from which he rose up. And he lives happily ever after.

This is not a tale of a heroic knight, magician or king in a far-off land at a mythical time. It is the story of a football player from Michigan whose inspiring story began only 20 years ago. Jerome Bettis, the running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers, is accustomed to adversity, whether it is the opposing defensive line or the streets of Detroit on which he was raised. Bettis' ability to find opportunities and

capitalize on them — so evident when he is on the football field — extends to his life off the field, as well. As a teenager at Mackenzie High School, Bettis took up football so he could get a scholarship to pay for his college education; little did he know that it would become his future calling. Bettis was recruited as a senior by Lou Holtz, then the head coach of the University of Notre Dame. Although Bettis did not fit the mold for a traditional running back, Holtz saw something in the short, stocky kid from Michigan, which was heart. Under Holtz, Bettis learned to muscle his way into the end zone and then into the National Football League. He was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams (later the St. Louis Rams) after only his junior year.

As a member the Rams, Bettis once again found himself battling adversity. This time, it was disguised as mediocrity — as the Rams struggled, so did Bettis. After only three seasons in the NFL, Bettis seriously contemplated quitting. Suffering the pressures of the national spotlight, Bettis decided to return to his mentor, Holtz. Bettis once again enrolled at Notre Dame, seeking guidance, discipline and maturity. Bettis registered for



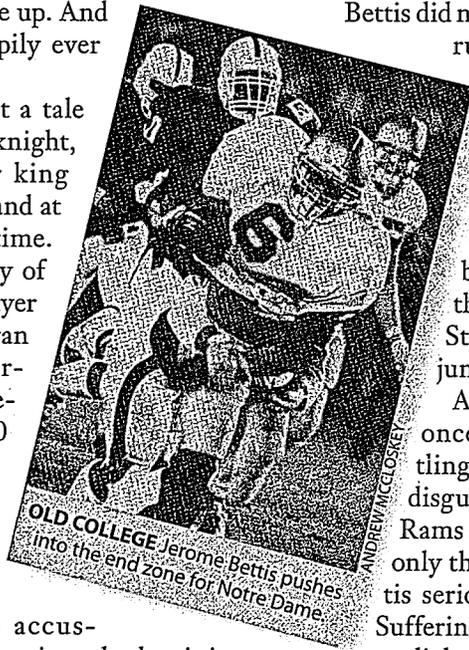
**MAGIC BUS** Bettis bulldozes through as an Irish fullback.

18 credits in the Mendoza College of Business in the spring semester of 1996 and continued training for the NFL using

Notre Dame's athletic facilities.

This semester refocused Bettis in time for his first season with a new team, Bill Cowher's Pittsburgh Steelers.

In just one season, Bettis' career was rejuvenated. That season, he set his career highs in yards and touchdowns. Game after game and season after season, Bettis produced strong, consistent performances. Unfortunately, Bettis watched as the Steelers fell short of the championship year after year. Nine seasons and nine unsatisfying finishes led Bettis, along with the Pittsburgh faithful, to believe that the man known as the "Bus" would never win a Super Bowl. But of course, things turn around in the end, as in any good fairy tale. Last Sunday, Bettis, the mentor for a young, feisty Steelers squad, led his team into Super Bowl XL in his hometown of Detroit. In the face of his upbringing and his past, Bettis' career finally came full circle; he went out on top, hoisting a championship trophy in front of the city in which his haul started. Sometimes fairy tales really do come true.



**OLD COLLEGE** Jerome Bettis pushes into the end zone for Notre Dame.



# humor

## Listening In ...

- Student 1: "What're you doing for Valentine's Day?"  
Student 2: "Emo music, 'Sex and the City,' and thoughts of joining a convent."
- "I'm tired of you. I'm tired of you women and your vaginas."  
— overheard student at IHOP
- "I would move your paper date back a week, but unfortunately, I don't like any of you."  
— history professor
- "Anyone can be a vagina, but not everyone gets to have one."  
— male student
- "That guy looks like a walking fetus. He looks like a walking stillborn."  
— student in South Dining Hall
- "It's not like I'm saying, 'Let's all go out and get raped and rape someone.'"  
— English professor

## Forty-seven Years Ago

**N**ature. The feel of dirt between your fingers. The scent of grass and trees. The purity of the great outdoors. It seems that the *Scholastic* staff has always had an appreciation for agriculture. Consider this article from the May 1, 1959 issue:

*"In the Neolithic period came the most important discovery in the history of man — the discovery of agriculture. Why is this so important? Because, good friends, without agriculture there would be no tobacco, and without tobacco there would be no Marlboro, and without Marlboro you would be without the finest filter cigarettes that money can buy. And I would be out of a job. That's why."*

They farm so you can smoke. Can't you see the connection between the great farms of America and your quick nicotine fix in-between classes outside of DeBar? If they grow it, we will smoke. But of course, you could also make the same argument about cocaine. When I tried to tell that to my arresting officer after that bender last fall, he just laughed at me as he shoved me into the back of his car.

— Doug Schlarman

Joining the Class of 2006 at K's Bar and Grill as they deeply enjoy all-you-can-eat hot dogs, a couple of guys do their best Paris Hilton impression, and they appear to love every second of it. Is anybody else turned on by this?



# The Gipper

**X**in, chao Gippings! Gipper hopes you had an amazing Tet last week, in addition to a Happy Chinese New Year, and probably Happy a whole other jolly host of New Years that the Gipp doesn't know or, frankly, even cares about. It's that time of year in South Bend when the world is a vision in brown, when the crisp air carries the stench of sewage from between O'Neill and Keough and jams it in your face like a psycho wielding an ice pick. It's times like these when there's only one thing that keeps the grip of seasonal affective disorder from taking hold: *Scholastic's* Football Review. Haha, no, the Gipp is just messing with you. Does anyone even read that? Anywho, as the Gipp continues to hoist rodents out of their burrows and hold their squirming bodies aloft to the sun in an attempt to divine the weather, please satiate yourself with these offerings, one a seductive tale of suction, the other, a painful glimpse into the high price of low common sense. Quite high.

After returning from Bookmakers one night and setting off on the treacherous trek from D2, one lucky stiff convinced his date, or friend, or paid escort, or whoever was drunk enough to go along with this, that he simply could not wait the 10 extra minutes until they reached the privacy of his room in Fisher; they had to stop right then, in the holiest of academic landmarks, under the welcoming arms of the Lamb of God, in Hesburgh Library. Having made it in before closing time, the sniggering couple mounted ... the stairs and sequestered themselves in a second floor study lounge.

Now, in the Gipp's mind, the somewhat odd part of all this is that of all the secret hidey holes and crannies to be found in the 'brary, someone would seek privacy inside what amounts to a human gerbil tank, complete with a glass wall exposing them to whomever might be innocently and totally not-on-purposefully sauntering by. And since the Gipp now knows that this sort of study-nook hooking up is going on, that's pretty much constantly. He just spends hours sauntering and sauntering. Uh, that is to say, he is just, you know, checking. For security. Yes, that's it ... security. The Gipp anticipates seeing your expectant faces fogging up the study-room glass right next to his own by the end of this week.

Our next story almost sent the Gipp into a tailspin of sadness and despair. But after some brisk sauntering, he was back on

top of the world. Be warned. Ain't nothing funny about this story. But you avid readers already know to expect nothing less. And by less, the Gipp means more. Drained after a night of weekend bacchanalia, our protagonist, whom for the purposes of anonymity the Gipp will call "Stanton," groggily awoke from a stupor and began readying himself in earnest for the sweet oblivion of drunken slumber. He reaches toward his eye, attempting to take out his contact, but to no avail. AN HOUR LATER Stanton stopped his insane scramblings, removed his fingers from his swollen peepers and sought medical assistance for the lost lenses. Fortunately before it occurred to anyone to bore into the poor boy's skull and release the demons trapped inside, or maybe slap some leeches into his oozing sockets, one of the "medical professionals" over at Health Services, or if the MAN won't allow full disclosure, the good folks over at Smealth Smervices, looked in his trusty spyin' glass and informed our special protagonist that he reckoned there ain't no way they can get them little fellers out, 'cept down at the big hospimital; there's a machine that can do it for you. And, the Gipp assumes, the theme from "Deliverance" blared on the intercom.

So Stanton, as it were, somehow blindly found his way downtown to be examined by an actual doctor, who informed him with horror that THE CALL WAS COMING FROM INSIDE THE HOUSE. No, actually, she told him that in fact his contacts were no longer in his eyes, probably had not been in the entire time he had been jamming his thumbs into his retinas; and that all the furious scabbling and clawing at his eyeballs had gouged scratches in his corneas, which would require antibiotics until his self-inflicted wounds healed themselves. Prescription in hand and a bashful grin on his face, he could finally sleep, bloody ocular cavities weeping all the way home.

Wow, what a tragic story. The Gipp would rather leave you with something light. Imagine, if you will, a baby duck wearing a little top hat. Or a clown being crushed in a tractor combine. There, that's better. Now, you keep up the good work, my lovelies, and send the Gipp the yarn with which he weaves the magic of humiliation. You know where to find him: Endlessly sauntering. Until then, he shall remain,

*The Gipper*

# A Bad Case of VD

• Halle Kiefer

With St. Valentine's Day just around the corner, the sight of each jolly red and pink foil heart cavorting through the dining hall, every heart-shaped box beaming up at you in the Huddle, each blush-colored sugar cookie is a gentle reminder of what's really true and important to a person, a realization that springs from the crossbow of a naked baby angel, floats like a zephyr through the chill February air and strikes you with the arrow of warm, enveloping understanding that you are totally and utterly alone.

What a great idea for a holiday. No, actually, that's not fair. I don't hate Valentine's Day because it reminds people of their utter solitude. If you're totally alone, you never really forget about it. Am I right or am I right? VD might promote heterosexism and type II diabetes, as well as encourage obesity (but really, how much encouragement do those people really need?). However, the true offense of Valentine's Day is the validation it offers to those people who "commit" public displays of affection.

I say "commit" here because it signifies what PDAs really are, that is, crimes against all persons with the power of sight, hearing and in some unfortunate cases, smell. Frankly, I find them more offensive than suicide bombers. PDAs make you feel like you are seeing something not intended for the eyes of unsuspecting strangers, like a closed-circuit broadcast of a colonoscopy or a serial killer's day planner. In all honesty, I'd rather be picked apart by jackals than see a pair of love birds exchanging hands in pockets HANDS IN THE OTHER PERSON'S POCKETS FOR THE LOVE OF JESUS in front of the fro-yo machine, faces tilted upward or downward with a glaze of lust in their eyes. These love fascists giggle and goose-step all over the rules of public decorum; they are oppressively cute. Those who commit PDAs should have to enter their names in some sort of registry. But, hey, that's just me. Maybe

you see things differently. For example, if you're some sort of pervert.

Personally, I think we should totally revamp Valentine's Day. Roses, teddy bears — today's sterilized expressions of love have nothing to do with the origins of the holiday. According to the History Channel, Valentine's Day often is thought to be the Christianization of the pagan holiday Lupercalia, during which participants sacrificed a goat and then "sliced the goat's hide into strips, dipped them in the sacrificial blood and took to the streets, gently slapping both women and fields of crops with the goat hide strips." What girl wouldn't want to be lovingly cuffed with a blood-soaked shred of goat flesh? And with that last sentence, if you listened real quiet as you read it, you could hear *Scholastic's* right to free speech being revoked.

Valentine's Day also implies that love is by far the most necessary emotion, which I think is inaccurate at best. What about poorly concealed despair? Or bemused condescension? What about unmitigated rage? We can celebrate Unmitigated Rage Day much more satisfyingly than VD, replacing midnight serenades with bar stools heaved through picture windows in passionate statements of our undying fury for one another. Instead of bearing insipid sap such as "Let's Kiss" and "Fax Me," conversation hearts can convey real sentiments, like, "You'll regret ever having been born," or, "I will systematically destroy everything you love." No greeting cards, not unless you plan on tomahawking them into someone's eye.

In solidarity with the new Valentine's Day, I decided to nix my initial plans, which involved bursting out of a cake clad in lacy unmentionables and crooning a sultry siren song. Alternatively, I can just stand there in my drawers and have my date break a Martin's sheet cake over my face, after which I wheeze out Aerosmith's "I Don't Want to Miss a

Thing" on a frosting-smearing kazoo. Perhaps you too could aid the campaign. For example, instead of ostentatiously showering your beloved with candy and gifts in front of his or her dementedly jealous dormmates, you might, for example, gift that person with some hand-selected flowers you have tastefully wrapped in an old newspaper. Which you then might tastefully stuff into a Hefty bag and tastefully hurl into a wood chipper.

The reality is, romance doesn't require a holiday to make it worthwhile. Maybe you'll date someone during college. Maybe you won't. Maybe you'll have your heart broken. Maybe you won't. Maybe you'll die alone. And you probably will. But until then, let's take back Valentine's Day from the jack-booted canoodlers who would try to tickle-wrestle it from our grasp. This coming holiday, I wish you good luck with your VD.

## Does your vote matter?



*Barbara Galle is a sophomore majoring in English and sociology. She hails from Emerson, N.J., and is a resident of Cavanaugh Hall.*

I think that student government definitely gets things done. It's crazy to think that when candidates run for election here, the promises they make may actually come true. Part of me is still stuck in the high school student government mentality where the "platform" was essentially saying "vote for me and there will be free ice cream ... everyday ... the whole year." I was actually student council president in eighth grade at my grammar school and I did ... nothing. Really. Tragically, at my high school student government didn't do much more. Basically, there never were any platforms, and duties included reading announcements over the PA system and decorating before prom — always with balloons.

Notre Dame is my first real experience with a student government that accomplishes things and doesn't just serve as a resume filler. When candidates say they will strive to achieve certain goals, they are serious. The current president and vice president have truly set their platforms in motion. They actively took steps to improve university relations with the rest of the South Bend community, meeting with the city council and working with the mayor. In addition, to-go cups at the dining hall? The thought had never crossed my mind, but they were promised, and there they are. Members of the student government at Notre Dame stand behind their platforms and work to the best of their abilities to fulfill their promises. No one is promising free ice cream forever, but promising real things that, when set into practice, will improve our college experience ... and not cause a stomachache. ☺

I know nothing about Notre Dame student government. Therefore, it's probably not my place to give an opinion about its ineffectiveness. However, I believe that my ignorance on the issue shows student government has no real leverage on the university. If the student government actually accomplished something meaningful, I think I would hear about it, considering I'm a student. As long as the university is run by a president and alumni, the wants and needs of the student government aren't going to be taken seriously. The university presently operates with policies and rules that work and have worked in the past. Students simply don't have the power to change much, and this is why I think student government is good opportunity to discuss issues but not to actually change them.

I do, however, respect the candidates who stated they will fight for larger to-go cups. The current cups resemble all the other small containers of quick consumption that are ubiquitous on campus, rather than an actual beverage cup.

So voting in the election is not high on my list of priorities. Why vote for candidates who aren't going to be able to accomplish anything? And if I decided to vote, would it really affect the election? Not to burst anyone's bubble, but your vote doesn't matter. One out of 8,000 is a very small percentage, or, in other words, insignificant. One person's vote doesn't matter and never will. If voting did matter, more than 64 percent of the nation would vote in order to decide our president, the man who will decide the future of this country. I'm betting the Notre Dame turnout will be even lower than that. Student government possesses an extremely limited amount of power; it is as irrelevant as my vote. Someone does have to win, though, so here's to the candidates who will give me a bigger cup. ☺

*Nick Gergen of St. Paul, Minn., is a sophomore science-business major. He is a resident of — Stanford Hall.*



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