

NOTREDAME'S STUDENT MAGAZINE

marie magdalene

101
ways to
PLEASE
your god!

What naughty
things

40%
of students
are scrambling to
cover up when their
roommates walk in
unexpectedly?!?!

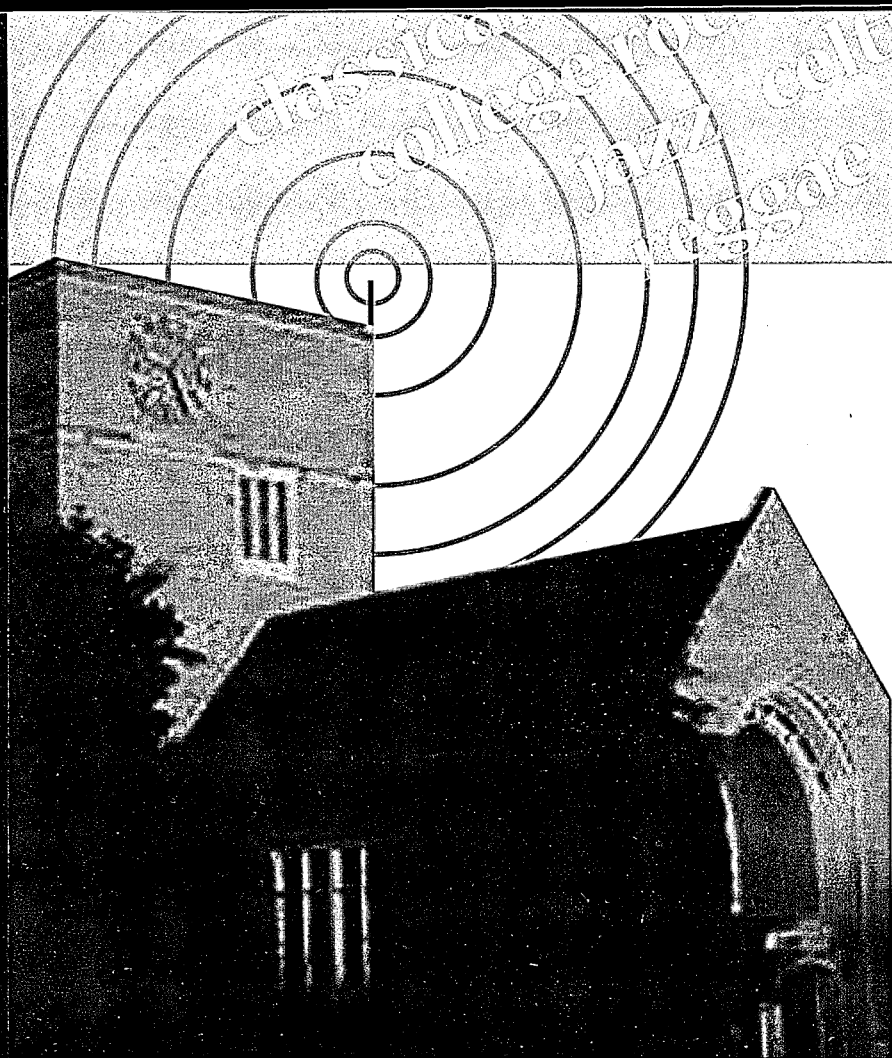
But Health Services says
"it's mono!"
What to do when the
burning discharge
won't stop!

Spring Fashion
Preview:
Put away the Fleece,
Break out the Fleece!

Morning Class
5-Minute
Beauty Tips:
Make Baseball Hats
and Eye Crust work
for you!

DULAC
Violations
Exposed!

How to
go on a
date, you
losers!



MUSIC STRAIGHT FROM N WSN 88.9 FM

Tun

MINDSET

Mindset is Notre Dame's cultural and music webzine. The site features show and cd reviews, interviews, venue info, photos, and music from campus and local bands. Everyone interested in writing about music and art is encouraged to participate.

www.nd.edu/~mindset

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Sat. April 8

SCHOLASTIC

The Thirtieth of March 2006

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KRISTIN REVE



BRENNAN MANNION



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NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

Changing the World, One Satirical Morsel at a Time

As the abnormally cold days of March fade into oblivion and the squirrels begin to frolic with a fervor they haven't displayed since September, one thing is certain ... April Fool's Day, in all its pagan glory, fast approaches. In order to keep pace with the series of pranks, embarrassments and the creative use of squishy materials that are sure to be utilized for the amusement of revelers this Saturday night, *Scholastic* proudly presents the 2006 installment of its satire-ridden issue, *Sarcastic*.

During the past week, our fearless senior correspondents have spent the better part of their days analyzing and exposing the Notre Dame landscape in all its beautiful absurdity. As you, dear reader, will discover, they found plenty to poke fun at. From scandalous *duLac* violations to the racy musings of *Sarcastic's* advice columnist, we at *Scholastic* hope that this issue will bring a spot of ha-ha funny laughter to your day and help you to kick off the April Fool's weekend in style. So get comfortable, enjoy the issue and be on alert this April the 1st. Look out for electric-buzzer handshakes and cleverly placed whoopie cushions and be on the lookout for that notorious jokester waiting to exploit your one weakness. Lack of vigilance can make you quite the fool — an *April* fool, if you will.

A Debt of Gratitude

Since this issue constitutes the final labors of our now dearly departed senior staff, on behalf of my fellow co-editor and myself, I'd like to thank the seniors for their dedication to *Scholastic* and the guidance they have provided for the magazine during the past year. The way you've all put your credibility on the line by subjecting yourselves to outrageous displays of self-mockery has been truly admirable. Go out and show the world what kind of person the craziness of all those nights nestled away in a stuffy office in the bowels of South Dining Hall has turned you into. I have a feeling the world will be impressed.

Until next time,



Christopher Meskill, Editor in Chief



David Poell, Editor in Chief



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SCHOLASTIC



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Vive Quasi Cras Moriturus

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30 MARCH 2006

Look for
NEXT
ISSUE
April 27

Congregation of Holy Cross

*Friends and Brothers
in Holy Cross*



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ANSWER
THE CALL



Judgment Calls



George Mason University:

Thanks for beating UConn, the only basketball team that's more obnoxious than Duke!



MTV Dating Shows:

When the words "I don't think you're ready for this jelly anyway" are uttered, *Scholastic* celebrates.



Scientologists: Not that we have any excuse, but Tom Cruise, Katie Holmes and their evil unborn spawn freak us out.



Permacloud: Can we program a button on our keyboard for incessant whining about South Bend weather? It seems more appropriate after spring break.



St. Patrick's Day:

So yeah, it's an amazing holiday. But it would've been even better if we were on campus for it.



Impending Room Picks:

Although we don't really care, it brings a level of pettiness and drama that *Scholastic* thrives on.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Big Brother is Watching

The Facebook phenomena hits ResLife

At 10:52 p.m., a young woman gives birth to her first child, and by midnight, the photos have traveled from coast to coast on www.webshots.com for all to view. A new era has dawned on the Internet, changing it from a reference to a business and now into an all-encompassing community. The online world is so comprehensive it does not fit any one definition but can only be described as unlimited excess and access — perhaps access to that which is better left undisclosed.

With technology always on the rise, www.facebook.com (Facebook) has become a portal into the college community in a way that has never existed before. With the ability to post profiles, photos and even social events, most college communities embrace the versatility and breadth of the Web site.

As one would suspect, Facebook has been used to implicate students in illegal activities and to confirm suspicions of wrongful behavior. Although this seems to be an invasion of students' privacy, the administration is not legally unjustified in using this tool to monitor its students. At Notre Dame, any employee at the Office of Residence Life and Housing (ResLife) has access to the same excess of information as one's fellow classmates, since Facebook is a public domain. By posting anything and everything on Facebook, students leave themselves open to public scrutiny, particularly by those with the power to incriminate them for what they have so casually shared.

Whether happy about it or not, Notre Dame students declare they will abide by the regulations set forth by the administration when the enroll. Violations of *duLac*, whether public or private, are illegal on this campus and seriously enforced if discovered by university officials. To post such occurrences on Facebook is simply begging for administrative inspection. It is comparable to any misdemeanor committed; whether or not the misdemeanor is reported does not reduce the illegality of the action. In this sense, Facebook is simply alerting the administration to more of the violations on campus than were previously detectable.

While students may see this rather morose outlook as similar to the "thoughtcrime" outlined in George Orwell's "1984," there is one fundamental difference — the people are still empowered. What appears on one's Facebook profile is subject to what he or she places there, and the viewers of this material are at the discretion of the user. Any additions to the profile made by another individual are easily dismissible. Facebook even offers user-friendly privacy settings to move profiles from the public arena to a private, personalized viewing sphere.

The user essentially controls his or her own destiny and is capable of limiting what personal information is broadcast to the public. Ignoring the potential consequences of poor profile management will likely result in an undesirable result at some point in time. After all, it is one thing to admit a wrongdoing and another to draw attention to it. ☹

Spotting Fool's Gold

Connecting the Media with April Fool's Day

• Erin Robertson

The exact origin of the phenomenon of April Fool's Day pranks is unknown but widely speculated. The favorite day of practical jokesters everywhere occurs every year on April 1. The main aim of this day is to hoodwink unsuspecting family, friends and strangers by master-minding hoaxes and practical jokes.

One speculation behind the origin of this foolish day comes from the observance of the mockery of Christ when He was sent from Annas to Caiaphas, from Caiaphas to Pontius Pilate, from Pilate to Herod, and from Herod back to Pilate again, preceding the crucifixion which is dated as having happened on April 1. Another origin comes from the observance of the vernal equinox in India. The last day of the festival of the equinox, April 1, was reserved for farces of grand proportions. Always cognizant of such opportunities, several media outlets partake in the fun.

Some of the most outlandish and cunning jokes have played out in the media. Even the most reputable news sources have treated April Fool's Day as fair game for revelry. Spotting the latest slew of hoaxes has become an annual pastime. Burger King posted an ad in *USA Today* offering left-handed customers a Whopper with all condiments rotated 180 degrees so the burger would drip from the right side. Numerous customers were fooled and asked for the new burger at chain restaurants across the United States.

The advent of the internet has also helped pranks to propagate. One email circulated announced the internet would be shut down from March 31 until April 2 in order to purge "electronic flotsam and jetsam." In 1999, the music website Wall of Sound reported that Britney Spears was 11 years older than she claimed she was. Fans called her record label for confirmation. So, it seems not even Britney is exempt from April Fool's practical jokes.

Our very own Notre Dame publications have tried their hand at producing farcical publications in honor of April Fool's Day as well. This phenomenon has fueled spoofs such as "Sarcastic" and *The Observer's* "Absurder." There is no end in sight for the historic day that pranksters know and love. ☺

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Burger King is one of many corporations that has notoriously tricked its clients on April Fool's Day.

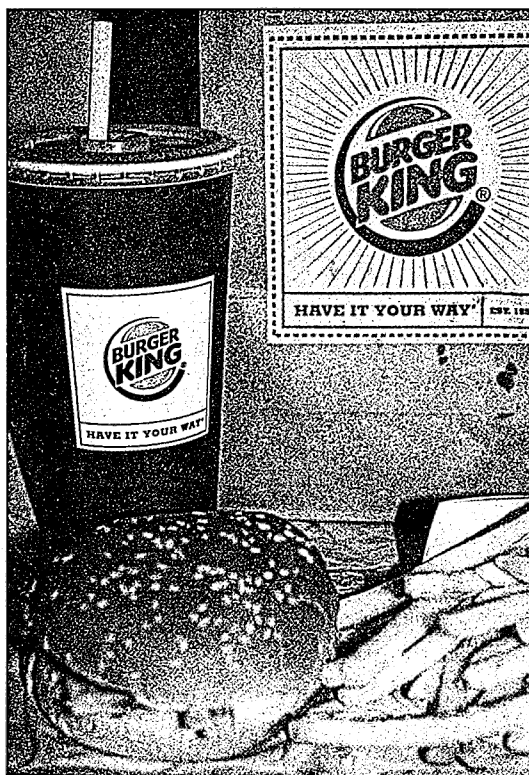


PHOTO BY KRISTEN KEVE

TOP 5 Rejected Prank Notre Dame Headlines

1.

Ritual Pagan Festival On Campus:

Goat sacrifice occurs on steps of Main Building.

2.

Rector House Party Busted:

Scandalous mugshots and photos from the scene inside!

3.

Architectural Award Given to Stepan Center:

Observers find building attractive, practical.

4.

Northface Banned on Campus:

Students left without clothes, forced to go naked.

5.

Jenkins' Marriage to the Church on the Rocks:

Can our favorite couple make it work?

FACING *the Facts*

Examining the security issues encountered by Facebook users on campus

• Daric Snyder

In the opening days of the 2004 fall semester, the Web site www.facebook.com (Facebook) arrived at Notre Dame. Within weeks, thousands of Notre Dame students logged in for the first time to the now-familiar social networking site. By the end of that semester, the site had conquered the majority of the student body. More than just a fad,

the Facebook is now a fixture of Notre Dame social life.

The usefulness of the site relies largely on its ubiquity, not only at Notre Dame, but at thousands of colleges and high schools around the country. With everyone connected, it is easy to keep track of old friends, new friends and even "friends" you haven't met yet. Beyond basic contact information, an individual's profile often tells a great deal about its creator's activities, interests, friends and classes. Last year, the site, which previously allowed a single profile photo, introduced photo albums, allowing users to upload and share pictures. Further, the albums

offered a feature known as "tagging," which allows users to label their friends in photos.

This abundance of fun and useful information explains the site's popularity. Yet, this same glut of personal data can lead to unintended consequences when students get a little too personal. At many schools with Facebook, students are reluctantly discovering the troubles of placing seemingly private information into a surprisingly public realm.

At North Carolina State University, students were brought up on charges of under-aged drinking when campus police found incriminating photos on Facebook. Louisiana State University removed two swimmers from the team after they insulted coaches in a Facebook group. At Syracuse University, several students were punished for bashing a professor through the site. Pennsylvania State University used Facebook to find students who rushed the field in the post-victory frenzy after this fall's football matchup against Ohio State. Several police officers were injured during this chaotic incident. Students at George Washington University, aware that the site was monitored by campus police, promoted a "death party" through the site. Those authorities arriving at the party instead found a "love party" with hugs for each incoming guest. A professor at the University of North Carolina weeded through profiles to determine which students would be allowed to take his class. John Brown

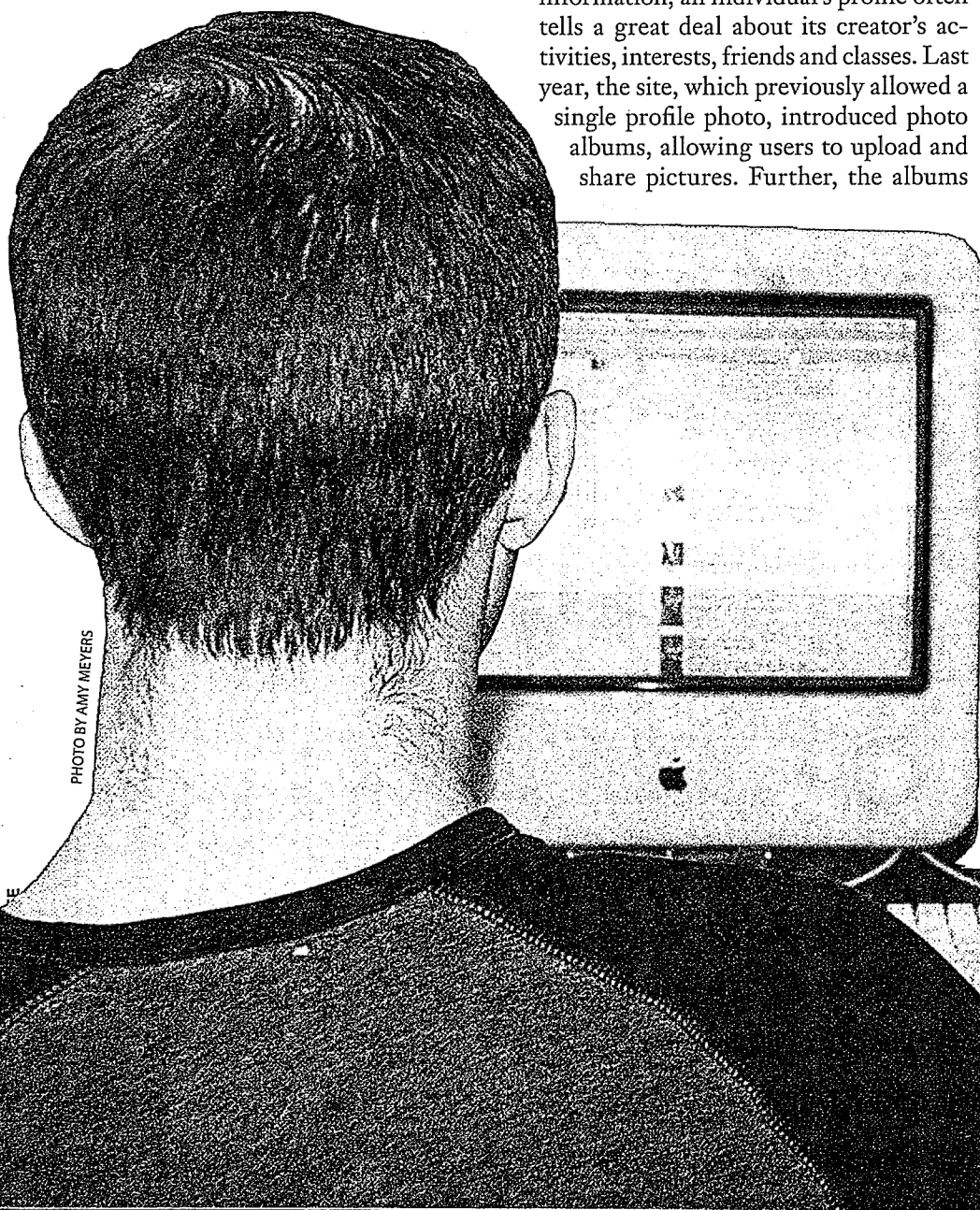


PHOTO BY AMY MEYERS

University, a strict Christian school located in Siloam Springs, Ark., expelled a gay student after administrators were led to photos on Facebook of the student dressed in drag.

Yet it's not just administrators and campus police who are logging on to the site, but potential employers as well. Recently, employers admitted to checking the profiles of recruits on Facebook and other social networking sites, such as www.myspace.com. Aspects of an individual's character that may not surface in a job interview might shine through in an online profile intended for friends, and photos of students in compromising positions could keep them out of desired job positions.

Could incidences like these happen at Notre Dame?

There is certainly enough incriminating information on the site to bring trouble to many Notre Dame students. A simple cruise through random profiles turns up plenty of crude humor, praises of debauchery, countless photos of under-aged drinking and liquor in dorms and other "evidence" that could be used to implicate students in wrongdoing. While information shared on Facebook may not be particularly surprising to the average college student, it may cause a number of people outside the student body with easy access to this information to take notice.

Right now, there are about 18,000 Facebook accounts at Notre Dame. Notably, this number is greater than double the number of undergraduate students here. Subtract current graduate students and students who have graduated since the introduction of the site, and a substantial number of accounts still remain. Fake profiles, faculty, staff and less-recent alumni make up the remainder.

Fake profiles, though in violation of the site's terms of use, which state that users may not "create a false identity on the service," are often added by students as a joke. A profile for Pope Benedict XVI or "24"'s Jack Bauer may be a fun "friend" to add, but the existence of these accounts reveals the ease of registering an account on the site. The only requirement for registering a

new account is an nd.edu email address. Students creating spoof accounts usually take advantage of the multiple ways an email to their Notre Dame account could be addressed. This simple requirement, however, has a tendency to lure students into a false sense of privacy, considering the relative ease with which university officials can create their own Facebook account.

"People get Notre Dame email addresses for a lot of reasons," says Bill Kirk,

"I've been on Facebook and some of the things students put online make me ask, 'What are you thinking?'"

-Bill Kirk, associate vice president,
Residence Life and Student Affairs

associate vice president for Residence Life and Student Affairs. Kirk points out that any University employee could potentially create a Facebook account. This includes administrators, professors, hall staff and campus police. In addition, Notre Dame alumni also have accounts — alumni who may have ties to companies students could be trying to find jobs with.

"I've been on Facebook," Kirk says, "and some of the things students put online make me ask, 'What are you thinking?'" Kirk acknowledges that he has an account with the site, hidden from public view. Other campus authorities, including some rectors, use the site as well, several with visible profiles.

Kirk acknowledged that some student leaders were upset to learn of use of the site by these authorities. "I explained we hadn't broken any rules. I didn't represent myself falsely by using the site; there's no need to. That information is simply out there," he says.

As for ResLife using the site to hunt down violations of *duLac*, Kirk says, "We don't go looking. We have enough incidences come through the office as it is. We don't have the time." While ResLife may not look for students breaking rules on Facebook, Kirk stated that it would potentially act on Facebook information that was brought to its attention. Though

ResLife isn't actively looking, other authorities, such as resident assistants, who often have close bonds with students under their responsibility, haven't been able to avoid finding info.

Justin Doyle, a Dillon Hall RA, is Facebook friends with many people in his section and around the dorm. "The RAs looked at this at the beginning of the year," Doyle says. "We anticipated people would be careless with what they put online." Doyle says he tried to preempt any trouble by talking to his section early in the year. "I gave them a friendly reminder to be careful about it," he says. Despite the warning, Doyle acknowledges that he and others have needed to talk to students about photos posted online during the year. "There's no room for error," Doyle says. "You make a bad choice, it gets online, and then it's out there."

There are several things Notre Dame students can do to improve their privacy on Facebook. The site offers privacy settings, available from the "My Privacy" link on the left sidebar. The information available only to friends can be differentiated from an open, public profile. In addition, certain people, or entire groups, such as staff, faculty and alumni, can be barred from one's profile. Although it is possible for anyone to register as a student, faculty member or an alumnus, these security settings can limit much of the content available to outsiders. A limited profile that hides certain information from specific people can also be used. Photos have privacy settings as well; if someone uploads a photo tagged with a certain person's name, that person has the ability to remove his or her name from the photo.

If a student is concerned about who might be looking at what is on his or her Facebook profile, the best idea may be to refrain from putting information online in the first place. Many are publicly posting information that few would have shared so openly a few years ago. Bill Kirk suggests that the dangers of online exposure may be good reason for "students to reflect on their behavior."





News Analysis: "Theological Face-Off"

Why won't the Cardinal Newman Society leave Richard McBrien alone?

• David Poell

Less than two months after a preliminary investigation conducted by the University of Notre Dame theology department dismissed an allegation of possible plagiarism against the Rev. Richard McBrien, the Crowley-O'Brien Chair of Theology, the university has been alerted to another separate incident of possible academic dishonesty by the prominent theologian. This allegation was brought to the attention of University President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., in the form of a letter written by Patrick Reilly, the founder and president of the Cardinal Newman Society (CNS), a staunchly orthodox Catholic organization that monitors American Catholic universities' adherence to the doctrinal positions of the Vatican. According to the letter addressed to Jenkins, dated March 13, the CNS encourages Notre Dame to investigate certain passages contained in McBrien's 1997 book "Lives of the Popes," which "closely paraphrase and sometimes identically resemble wording in the 1986 edition of 'The Oxford Dictionary of Popes' by Rev. J.N.D. Kelly."

In January, the CNS urged the university to investigate charges brought forth by a Massachusetts resident and the Catholic blogger Dominic Bettinelli, Jr., that raised concerns about McBrien possibly committing plagiarism in the writing of an article entitled "Banned in Boston," which was published in the January 6 edition of *The Tidings*, the official newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. According to a CNS press release dated January 19, the CNS was concerned with passages in the article that were similar to those in an editorial written by Eileen McNamara entitled "Zealots Mask Real Struggles," which was published in the *Boston Globe* on December 11, 2005. Both articles were written about a protest waged by Catholic activists against a Catholic Charities fundraiser honoring Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

It should be noted that the CNS is no friend to McBrien. On the organization's

Web site, McBrien is listed as Notre Dame's most prominent apostate theologian among a list of other alleged "heretics and dissidents" who teach "anti-Catholic theology" at Catholic institutions. According to Reilly, the organization's main problems with McBrien concern his more liberal views on Catholic theology in general and his book "Catholicism" in particular. The book has been criticized by the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Doctrine for certain portions that do not accord with Catholic orthodox teaching.

McBrien, who declined to be interviewed for this article, did provide the following statement about his relationship with the CNS: "The Cardinal Newman Society has a history of making unsubstantiated allegations against me, including the serious charge of heresy. But only the hierarchical magisterium of the Church has the authority to render such a judgment, and it has never done so. I view this latest type of allegation as an attempt to come at me from a different angle. The university has established procedures for handling such allegations and to date has found this type of criticism of my work to be unsubstantiated. I continue to have confidence in these university procedures."

In a phone interview conducted with Reilly, the CNS president asserted that the impetus for the most recent accusation of possible plagiarism against McBrien came as a result of the university's alleged improper handling of the first complaint. The university's final decision on whether or not to pursue a full investigation is contained in a five-page letter dated January 24 by theology chairman John Cavadini, passages of which were leaked to the *National Catholic Reporter* (NCR) and published in the NCR's February 24 edition.

According to the NCR, Cavadini dismissed the complaint alleging possible plagiarism "on the grounds that the alleged copying constitutes 'carelessness'

rather than unethical behavior; that statements of regret and apology for oversight have already been issued; and that there is no previous instance to indicate a pattern requiring investigation." Another passage from Cavadini's letter that was included in the NCR report characterizes the CNS as "a militant right-wing Catholic interest group lobbying for the most stringent standards of orthodoxy to be used in courses and curricula at Catholic colleges and universities."

Despite this rather unfavorable description of the CNS, Reilly says that his dispute with Notre Dame chiefly concerns the university's justification for dismissing the plagiarism charge. "The two stated reasons for not conducting an investigation were inappropriate," Reilly says. In Reilly's opinion, the fact that McBrien's alleged copying constitutes "carelessness" justifies the concern of plagiarism. "The question is whether there was plagiarism, not what the intent was [...] We see nothing in Notre Dame's policies or anything at any other institution that suggests that if an individual claims they didn't want to plagiarize but did then it's no longer plagiarism," Reilly says.

Reilly also disputes the assertion in Cavadini's letter that "there is no previous instance to indicate a pattern requiring investigation," a claim that Reilly charges as being false given a book review of "Lives of the Popes" published in the July/August 1998 issue of *Books & Culture* magazine by Notre Dame professor emeritus of history, the Rev. Marvin O'Connell, C.S.C. In his review of the book, O'Connell cites examples of excerpts in McBrien's book that bear similarities to passages contained in Kelly's book, "The Oxford Dictionary of Popes." The presence of these similarities was acknowledged and defended by McBrien himself in the February 10 edition of the NCR: "I have quite a few lines regarding my indebtedness to, among other sources, J.N.D. Kelly's 'The Oxford Dictionary of the Popes.' And in all the years my

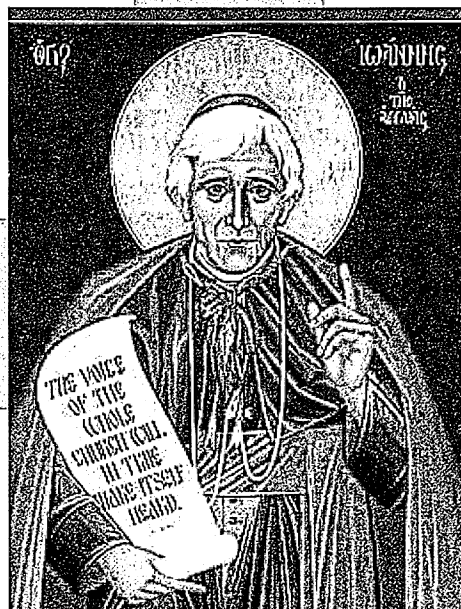
book has been out, I've never had any complaints from him or anybody else regarding misuse of his material."

Yet for Reilly, O'Connell's book review constitutes a possible previous instance of plagiarism that should have been reason for concern among those conducting the investigation. "Cavadini said they looked into this background and said they had no prior concerns of plagiarism. That's what caused us to produce this new documentation [...] It seems highly unlikely that Cavadini could not have turned this up and it's almost impossible that McBrien didn't know a colleague had accused him of plagiarism in a review of his book. So that's why we came out with this second instance. It wasn't sour grapes in reaction to the prior complaint. It was to demonstrate that their dismissal of the claim was false," Reilly says.

According to the definition of plagiarism as derived from the Notre Dame Academic Code of Honor, plagiarism is "the use of another person's writings, ideas, insights, analyses and arguments without giving proper credit to the original source." Yet technically, plagiarism is not a legal concept and thus can be difficult to prove. In order to avoid some of the contradictions between statements contained in university documents and those attributed to the CNS as to whether Notre Dame was justified in dismissing the first complaint of possible plagiarism, *Scholastic* consulted a linguistic expert by the name of Alan Perlman of Perlman Communications, Inc. in Highland Park, Ill., to analyze the two columns in question that precipitated the initial concern of plagiarism. In his final analysis Perlman wrote, "I find no linguistic evidence whatsoever that Father McBrien plagiarized his article from Ms. McNamara's article. The only linguistic similarity between the two texts is a quote that each writer could have obtained independently. I should note that the two texts introduce the quote with different wording. The two articles are, of course, concerned with the same event, but the similarity ends there." Perlman added, "The Cardinal Newman Society's complaint that the structure, arguments, ideas and general theme of Fr. McBrien's article closely resemble those of McNamara's op-ed, at some points using near identical language to McNamara's, is completely unsupported by the linguistic data."

Perlman's analysis of the documents is

extremely informative. It lends credence to the university's decision to dismiss the complaint on the grounds that McBrien's column lacked sufficient evidence of plagiarism to warrant a further investigation. Given the complete absence of linguistic data supporting the existence of plagiarism, the alleged "carelessness" of McBrien in failing to adequately credit McNamara for certain attributions is rendered a moot point. Even if McBrien's editorial decisions were careless to some degree, this carelessness insofar as it relates to similarities between the two articles is not sufficient to merit a charge of plagiarism. Few writers would claim that carelessness is an ideal to be aspired toward, but in and of itself carelessness does not necessarily imply academic dishonesty.



Cardinal John Henry Newman

The results of Perlman's investigation, however, raise questions about the university's decision not to pursue a full investigation. Why didn't the university just settle the issue once and for all by investigating the plagiarism charge wholesale? Judging by Perlman's consultation, McBrien had nothing to worry about in the first place. By giving full consideration to the plagiarism complaint, Cavadini could have avoided the rebuttals by Reilly that the university sidestepped the complaint in a "whitewash."

Unfortunately, the charge that the university's second justification for dismissing the complaint — "there was no previous instance indicating a pattern requiring investigation" — lay beyond the scope of Perlman's analysis. It seems

unlikely that there is any way Notre Dame could satisfy the CNS's dissatisfaction with failing to address O'Connell's book review. Given McBrien's interview in the *NCR*, O'Connell's feelings on the book were well known, but apparently the university judged this isolated incident as insufficient to indicate any pattern of wrongdoing. Yet McBrien should take stock in the fact that "Lives of the Popes" has been in circulation for nine years without any accusation of plagiarism from anybody save an activist Catholic group with a history of targeting McBrien. O'Connell's review noted strong similarities between the books, but he did not explicitly accuse plagiarism, which is a very narrowly defined concept that typically requires more than the mere observation of some similar passages cited in a book review in order to merit a lawsuit. As McBrien notes in the February 10 article in the *NCR*, "If I were trying to hide my sources and claim as my own what is the work of somebody else, I would not be so up-front at the very beginning of the preface and in the acknowledgement of the sources I did use."

At the end of our interview, Reilly alleged that Cavadini betrayed the trust the CNS had in Notre Dame by not conducting a serious investigation. Cavadini declined to comment for this article on the grounds that it concerned a confidential personnel matter. Given this silence, it is impossible for anyone to know the full story surrounding the particulars of the investigation. This being the case, it seems inappropriate for CNS members to criticize the actions of the university when they know very little of the internal operations of the university. It is also slightly disconcerting that an organization that claims to be dedicated to upholding a strict adherence to Catholic values in all Catholic universities would publish provocative, one-sided press releases accusing Notre Dame of impropriety without anything close to an airtight case. In doing so, the CNS has challenged the integrity of university officials and damaged the reputation of a fellow Catholic, all with relative impunity. Furthermore, this approach of going after McBrien by citing extremely questionable evidence has done little to further the CNS's mission of enhancing the quality of Catholic institutions.

Soulful Song

Voices of Faith blends love of God with love of music

•Andrea Borrego

Several student performing arts groups at Notre Dame have found themselves in positions of prominence across the nation. For example, on Saint Patrick's Day, Notre Dame's Symphony Orchestra performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City with renowned Irish band, the Chieftains. Following suit, Notre Dame's Gospel Choir, Voices of Faith, stirred the crowd with a performance of the national anthem at a Memphis Grizzlies-Denver Nuggets NBA game over spring break.

Voices of Faith choir members spent spring break on tour, visiting five southern states, and culminating the trip with a performance in Memphis at the Grizzlies game. According to choir member Theo Ossei-Anto, the Memphis Pyramid Arena was at near full capacity when it "turned off the lights and put spotlights on us," an experience he claims "was pretty cool." The Star-Spangled Banner was "jazzed up a little," says Student Choir Director DeAnna Colvin. Ossei-Anto described the performance as a "soulful version of the national anthem."

Beyond the excitement of performing at an NBA game, the trip was successful in all aspects. The hosting alumni associations in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi booked performances for the choir at a wide range of venues: schools, local churches, cathedrals and even centers for the disabled,

such as the Ronald McDonald House in Mobile, Ala.

The planning of the trip was a year-long process, and its itinerary was set long before Hurricane Katrina affected the region. "God sometimes puts us where He wants us to be," says Melvin Tardy, the choir's faculty advisor.

Although the choir allotted special time

endured such hardships was meaningful. "To know that you made a person's life better makes you feel good, like you've accomplished a mission," choir member Alicia Davis says.

Founded in 1976, Voices of Faith now has 55 members and continues to grow in size as members from the Notre Dame community increasingly identify with its mission. The choir officers actively work to create an environment that reflects the light, hope, faith and spirit of God. Rehearsals typically open with "worship," consisting of a prayer and vocal warm-up. Following worship, the group reads Bible passages aloud, and then begins to practice its songs; the songs are usually thematically linked to the Bible passages. The meeting culminates with a prayer request or a praise report — a student-offered story of a positive occurrence.

The choir represents a wide range of backgrounds, ethnicities and faith traditions.

Despite the group's Christian affiliation, people of varying faiths, including some who do not identify with a faith at all, join the choir eagerly. The group, however, is faced with one common misconception. Davis, the choir historian and special activities coordinator, says, "Since we are a gospel choir, many people get the idea that we are all African-American, but we're not. There are people here from many different backgrounds."

Tardy, who is a First Year of Studies advisor, joined the choir as a Notre Dame undergraduate and returned years later as its faculty advisor. Tardy supervises



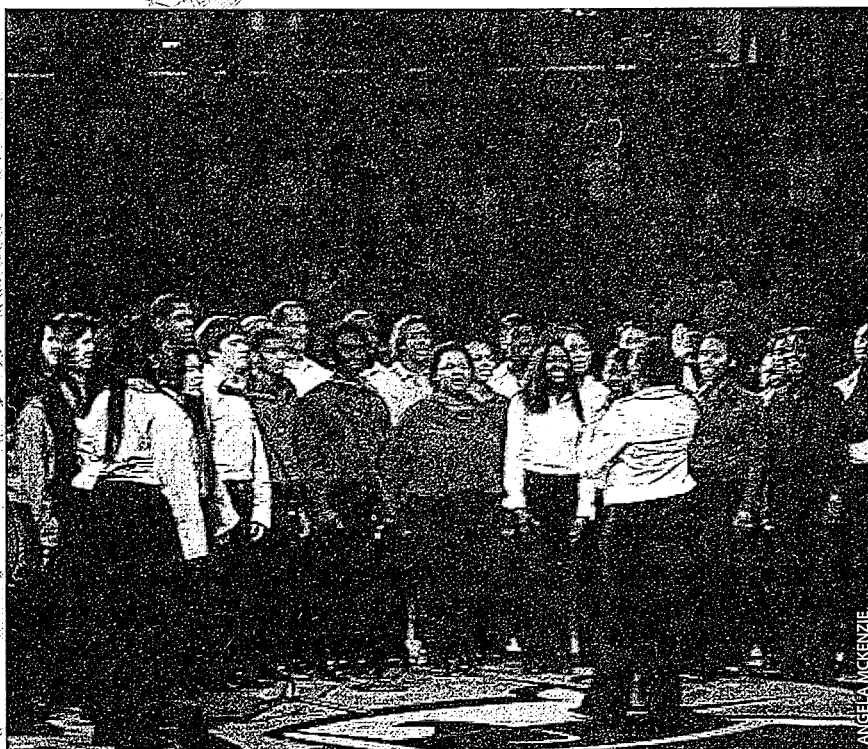
LIFE ON THE ROAD Voices of Faith group members squeezing in a moment between rehearsal to pose for a shot.

for sightseeing and fun activities, the tour was above all a ministry trip. The mission of the "Southern Healing Tour," as club president Marcus Jackson called it, was to reach out to those in need through the power of singing and worship. Witnessing firsthand the devastation Hurricane Katrina inflicted upon the South was an eye-opening experience for some. To choir member DeAnna Colvin, being able to contribute to the healing process of the audience made the concert in New Orleans "the best night ever [...] one of the best experiences of my life." For the choir, singing for an audience that had

and ensures that the group is running smoothly. To Tardy, Voices of Faith is a unique group because it is completely self-motivated. He points out that there are a variety of ways a college student could spend Friday evenings rather than meeting to practice from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. as choir members choose to do.

Whether singing at an NBA game or a dorm Mass on campus, Jackson says that the choir always tries "to have fun, to minister to those who are hurting and to minister to ourselves." The choir fosters these objectives each time it gathers, and this latest tour gave them the opportunity to realize that.

9



ANGELA WICKENZIE

VOICES OF PRAISE Voices of Faith in the spotlight while performing the Star-Spangled Banner at the Memphis Pyramid Arena for the Memphis Grizzlies-Denver Nuggets NBA game.

Tennessee

Georgia

Louisiana

Mississippi

Georgia



WWW.ND.EDU/VOICES/

FAITH IN ACTION The members of Voices of Faith pose during its five-state one-week tour.



The Dome Yearbook

Is accepting applications
for Section Editors:

Dorm Activities

Religion & Service

Sports

The Arts

Academics

Special Events

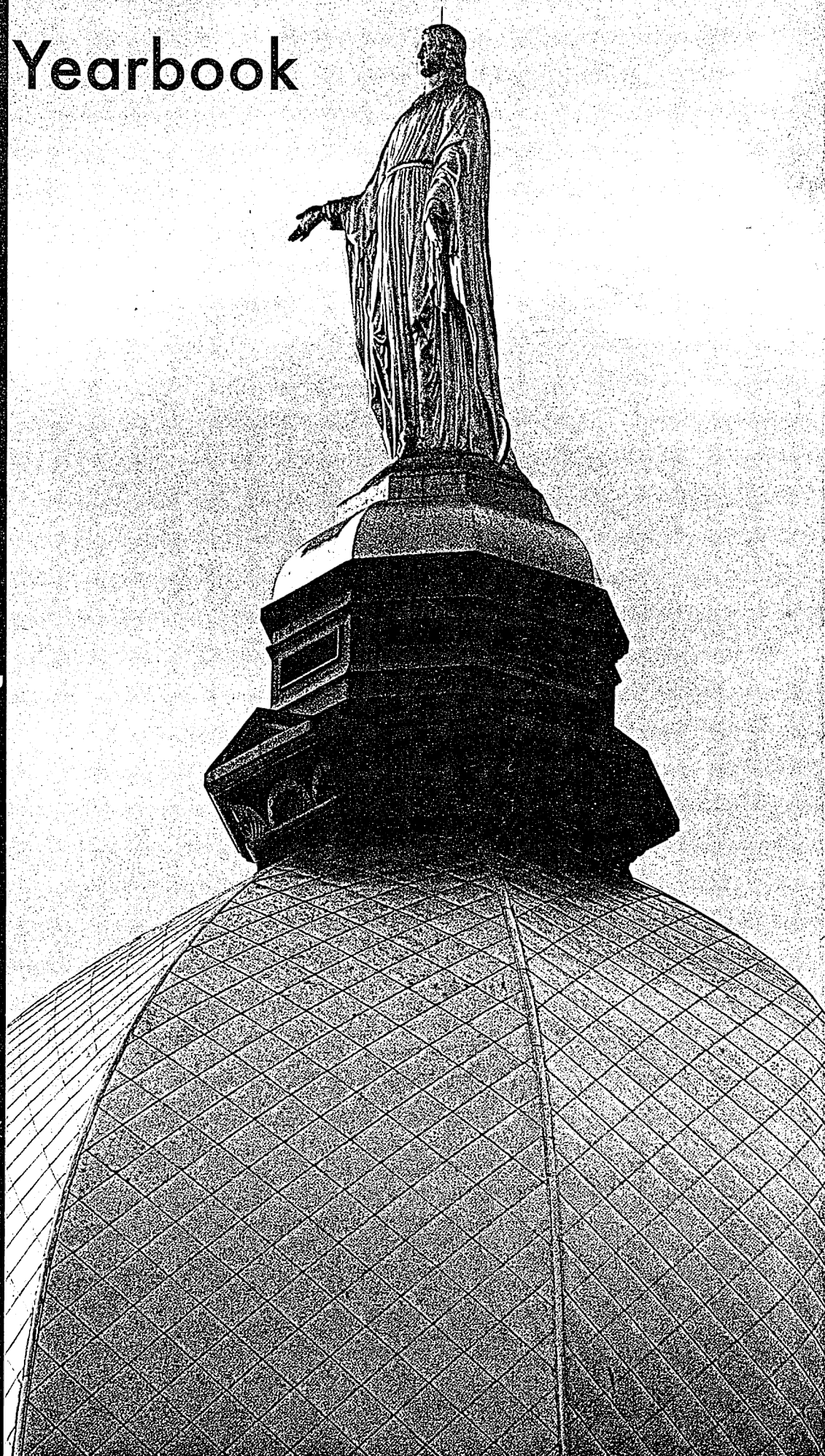
Seniors

And graphic designer

*All positions receive
a stipend*

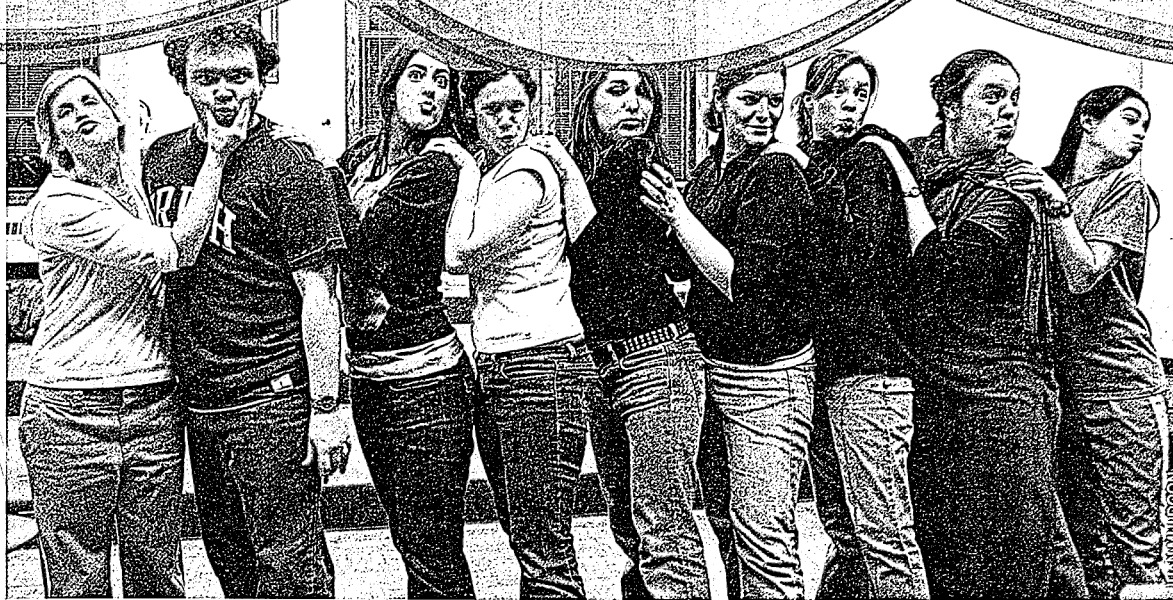
Send informal statement
& resume to Dome@nd.edu
By April 14

*Experience helpful
but not necessary



A New Voice Emerges

A Dramatic Twist in Notre Dame's Liberal Arts Curriculum



PLAYING AROUND The cast members show the silly side of opera.

• Sarah Barrett

Starting in mid-February, DeBartolo Hall's previously drab walls began to 'captivate students' attention. By spring break, a new wave of eye-grabbing decor had been mounted and began to spark conversation and slow the flow of traffic between classes. Brightly colored and dramatically posed, these posters have been advertising the Opera Notre Dame's upcoming production of Jacques Offenbach's "Orpheus Goes to Hell."

Unconventional advertising slogans, from "Scandal in Paradise!" to "Eurydice thinks he's HOT!!!," created by Jennifer Marley, the music department's publicity

and outreach coordinator, were surprising and original. The provocative posters reflect a sentiment in line with that of the satirically dramatic opera.

Offenbach's "Orphee aux enfers" ("Orpheus Goes to Hell") was written in 1858 as a two-act satire, setting the ancient legend of Greek mythological figures Orpheus and Eurydice in a contemporary society. A century and a half later and thousands of miles from its place of origin, the playful nature of his opera lives on.

Opera Notre Dame will be performing Offenbach's script, translated from the original French to English by Stage Director Mark Beudert. It will capture the soap opera-like tragedy of the Greek legend of Orpheus and Eurydice as well as the scandal-hungry nature of 19th century French society.

The love-hate relationship between Orpheus and Eurydice reminded Beudert of modern-day Hollywood love controversies and inspired the advertising campaign. "From [the relationship between Orpheus and Eurydice in the play] we drew the comparison to the modern day exploits of Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt, which were all played out in the tabloids," Beudert says.

According to Marley, Opera Notre Dame selected "Orpheus" with a student audience in mind.

"Past operas were much more tragic. This one is much more lighthearted, and will be a lot of fun and really get people excited [...] We tried to really connect [the opera] with a contemporary idea," she says. "When people think of opera, they think of something old and dusty, and that only rich people in furs and diamonds go to [...] We need to change this."

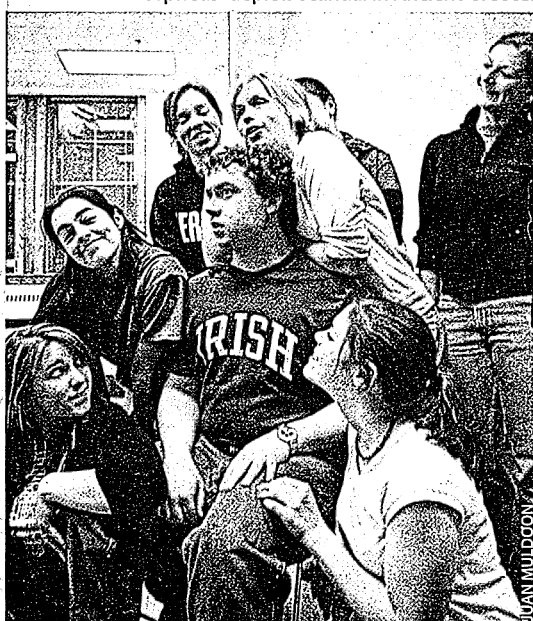
Taking advantage of the increased funding for this year's production, Marley drafted approximately 30 classified ads to post in *The Observer* from the end of February through the end of the run of "Orpheus." Each small ad was written with the intention of intriguing the reader but to not quite reveal the plot of the story.

Junior Emily Sladek, who plays Eurydice in the opera, was featured in the posters and is excited about the stir they have created. "The vibe around campus is more than I anticipated," she says. "I get calls from many people as soon as new ones go up, saying, 'Oh my gosh, have you seen this?'"

The cast and crew have high expectations for audience turnout and hope that with greater community awareness of the opera program, it can finally gain recognition as an integral component of Notre Dame's liberal arts community.

The production will be held in Washington Hall, Friday and Saturday, April 7-8 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at LaFortune Box Office, \$5 for students and senior citizens, \$10 for adults and general public.

LADIES MAN "Orpheus" depicts scandal in Ancient Greece.



Writing Her Own Story

Notre Dame student successfully publishes novel

• Molly Slavin

Kathy Zhu is an average Notre Dame student in most respects. The sophomore English major hails from the northwest suburbs of Chicago and resides in Farley Hall. But the unassuming Zhu stands out from the crowd — her novel, “Jade Butterflies,” was published in 2005 and quickly became available from giant online distributors.

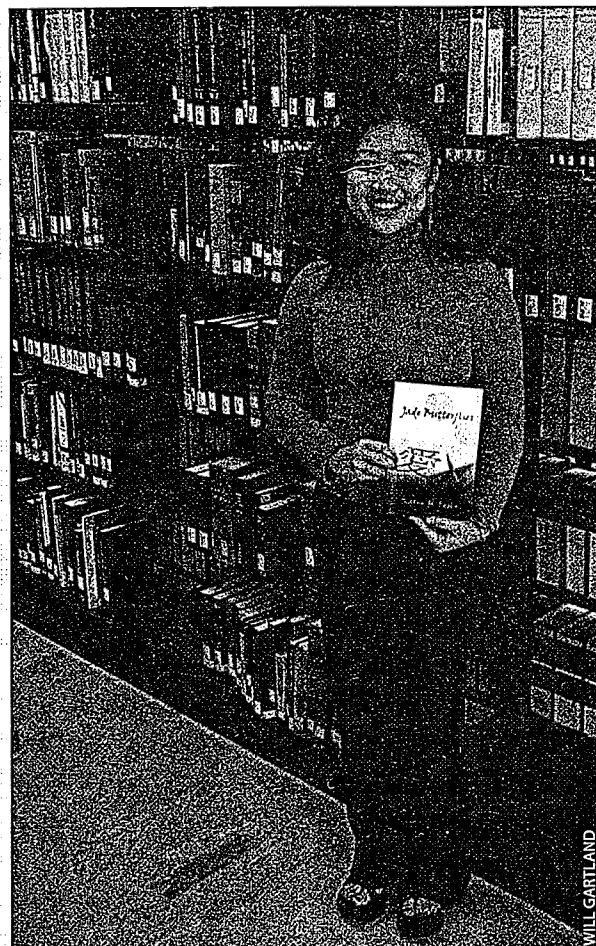
When asked about how it feels to be a published author, Zhu says, “It’s awesome. This has always been a childhood dream of mine. I just had no idea it would happen so quickly, and it took a while to sink in.”

“Jade Butterflies” is a young-adult novel set in imperial China. Its plot focuses on Mei, an ingenious young girl who disguises herself as a boy in order to receive an education from an academy in the capital city. She meets Shan Shu, another student en route to the capital, and the two become good friends during the course of the journey. Once at the academy, she discovers a terrible secret that threatens to destroy China. Mei must risk everything and reveal her deepest secret if she is to prevent a horrible chain of events from occurring.

Zhu has been writing since she was young, with continuous encouragement from her mother. Begun the summer before her freshman year of college, this book was her first extensive project. As she continued writing, she decided to submit her text for publication. Prominent companies like Random House do not publish new authors, so she was forced to look for different options. She sent five chapters and a synopsis of the rest of the book to PublishAmerica, a publisher specializing in works by new authors, before heading to Notre Dame at the end of that summer. PublishAmerica accepted her manuscript on the condition that she finish the entire novel by January 1 of the following year.

“It was really hectic,” Zhu says. “I had to sacrifice mall trips and movies with my friends a lot of the time. I just had to manage my time really well. The trick is to write one or two pages every day and set reasonable goals for yourself.”

Although this book is geared towards young adults, Zhu would like to write for a broader audience in the future. The goal of this book was to introduce Chinese culture to young Americans, although anyone interested in Chinese history or culture would enjoy reading “Jade Butterflies.”



A LITERARY LIFE Student author Kathy Zhu poses with her newly published novel, “Jade Butterflies.”

Living in China for six years of her life allowed Zhu to present a more accurate backdrop for the story, an aspect of her writing that she believes to be very significant.

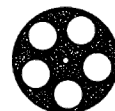
Zhu is thinking about attending law school after graduation, although she also wants to continue writing. She knows that writing, as a career, is extremely difficult, but she believes it is something she will continue to do for the rest of her life. **9**

“Jade Butterflies” can be purchased at www.barnesandnoble.com, www.amazon.com or www.publishamerica.com. Zhu also has a box of copies in her room that can be bought at a discount. Her email address is mzhu@nd.edu, and she asks that anyone interested in purchasing a copy of “Jade Butterflies” please not hesitate to contact her.

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OF NOTRE DAME JOURNALISM"

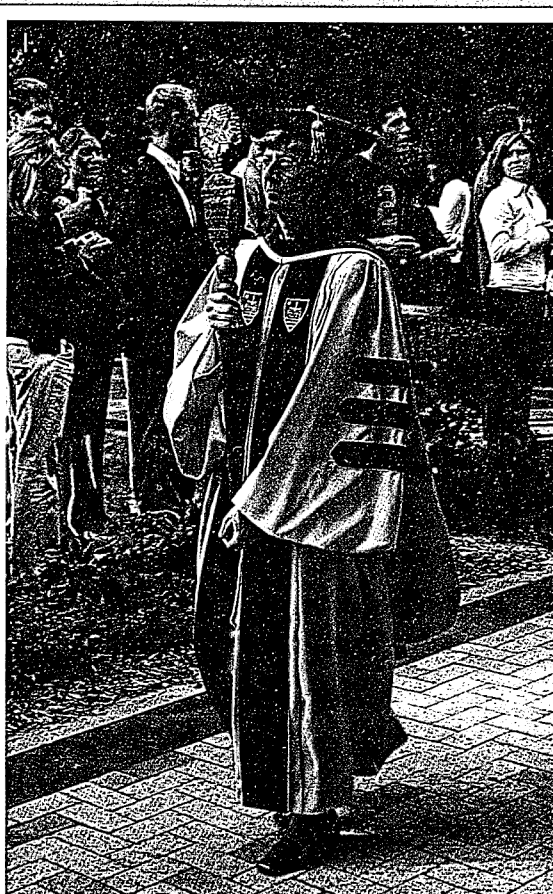
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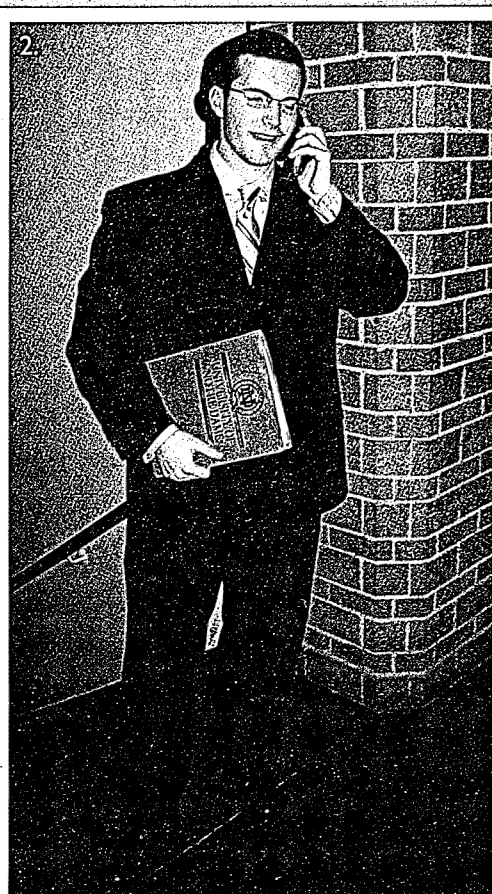
1. *Inauguration Lady*

Who says you can't be an academic and fabulous??? Oh, I see.



2. *Jim*

This student proudly wears the Notre Dame man's job interview uniform of blue suit, blue shirt and gold tie. Eighty-hour work weeks, never seeing your family, and dead at your desk from a heart attack at 45? Yes, sir! He definitely will be hired by KPMG.

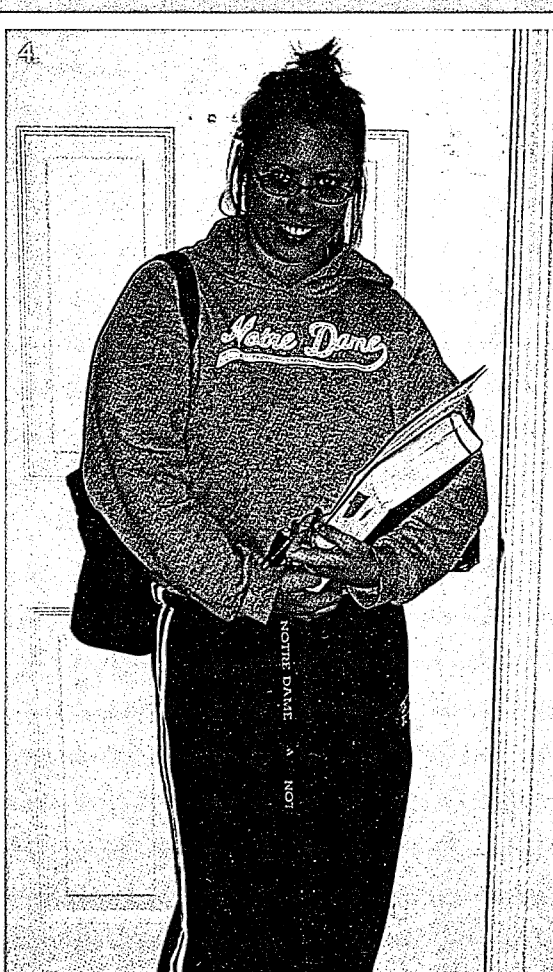


3. *Halle*

This student obviously is in hot pursuit of her MRS degree. She's giving up early and is donning her Mom Jeans with gusto.

4. *Lauren*

Hair stylishly slicked back with her own excreted oils, this hollow-eyed Domer sagsgers confidently to her 8:30 a.m. class with fuzzy memories from the bars of the previous night on her mind. She looks like the living dead without the tedious calorie counting that comes with eating the brains of the living!



DULAC VIOLATIONS

The following are based on actual excerpts from the 2006 edition of duLac.

*P*itching duLac :

"It is the students' responsibility to be aware of these expectations and conduct themselves accordingly as members of the Notre Dame community." (P. 4)

*S*ee squir

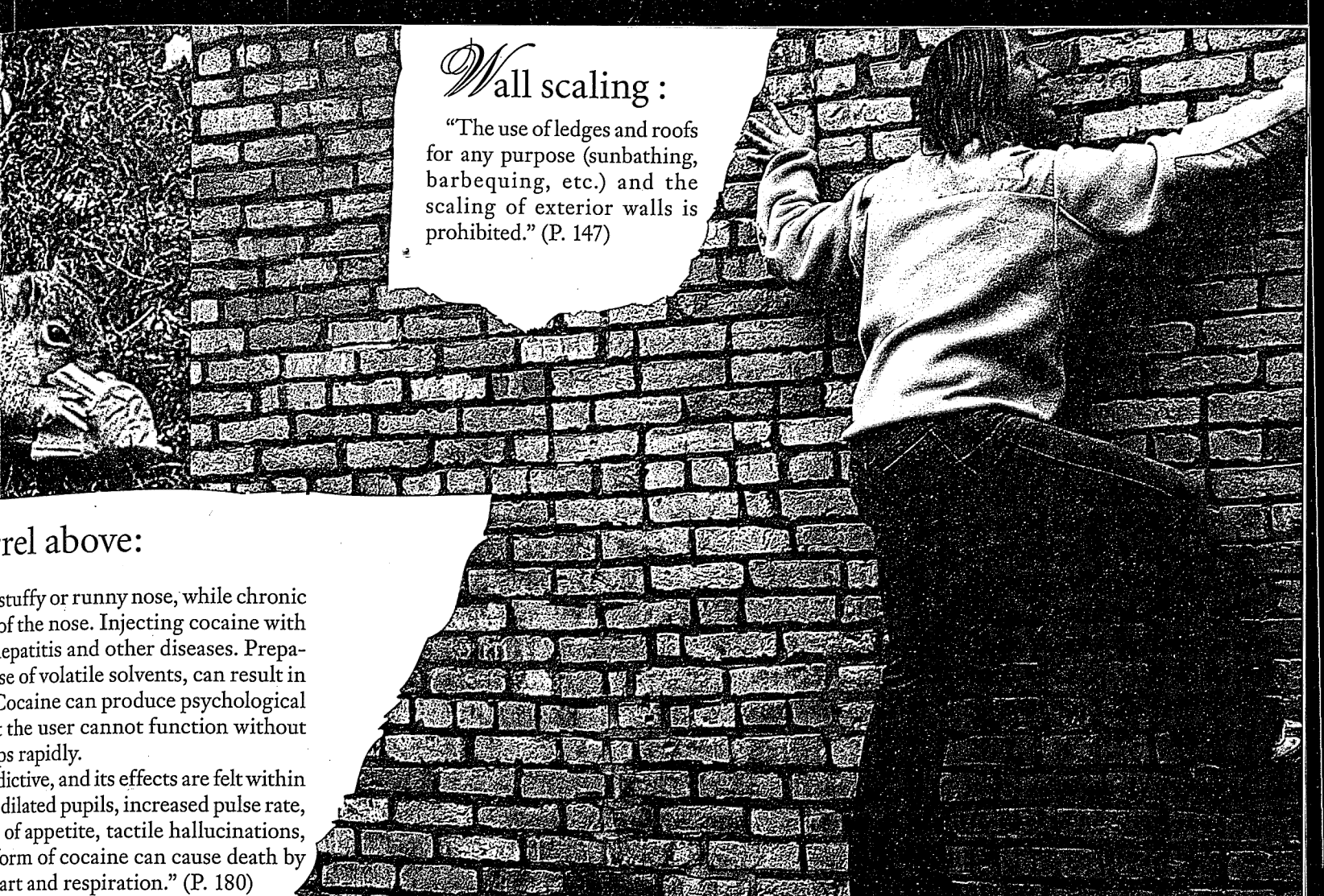
"Crack

Occasional use of cocaine can cause a use can ulcerate the mucus membrane unsterile equipment can cause AIDS, h ration of freebase, which involves the u death or injury from fire or explosion. C and physical dependency, a feeling that the drug. In addition, tolerance develop

Crack or freebase rock is extremely ad 10 seconds. The physical effects include elevated blood pressure, insomnia, loss paranoia and seizures. The use of any f disrupting the brain's control of the he

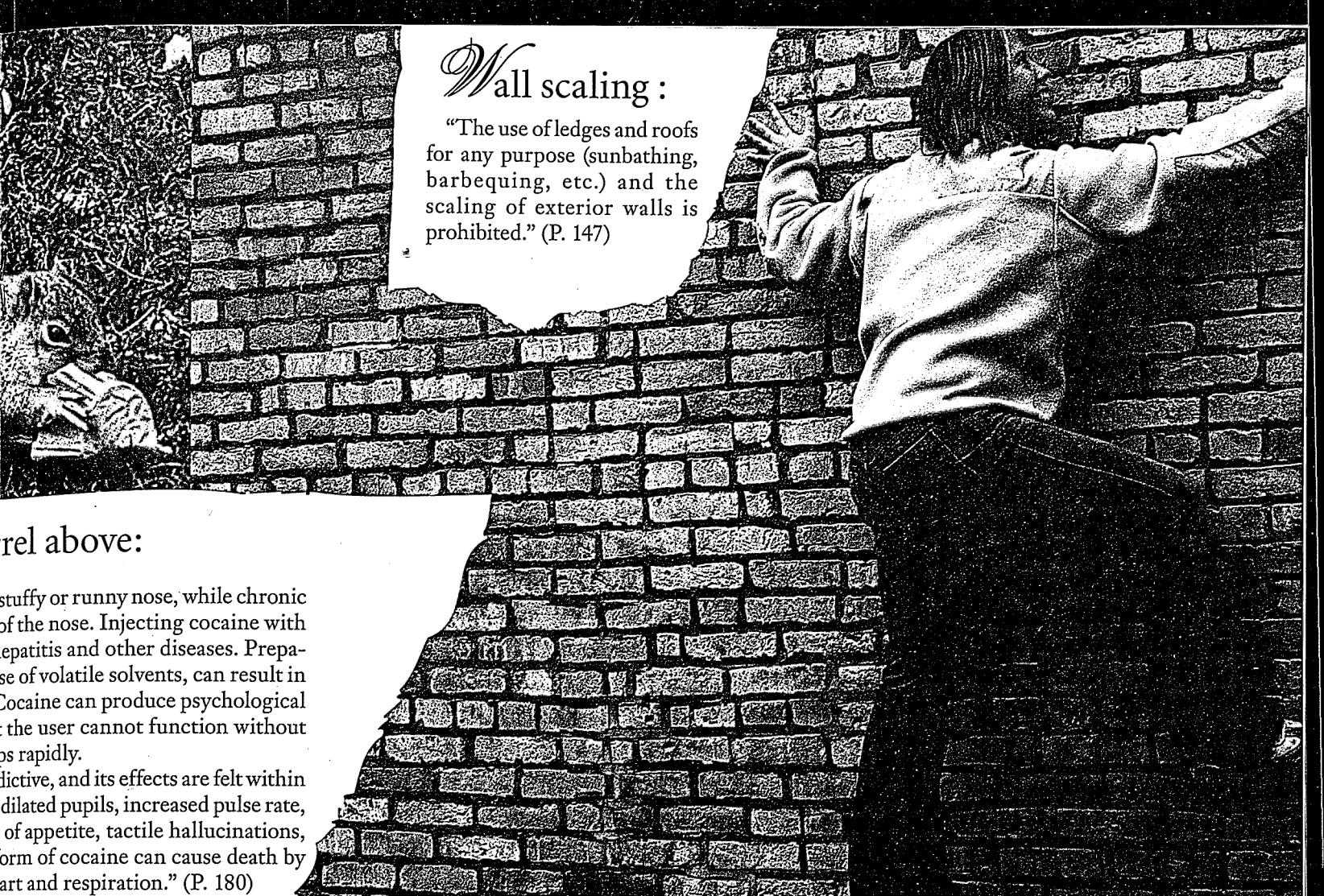
*B*anches :

"Natural evergreen branches or trees are not allowed in student rooms." (P. 145)

A black and white photograph showing a person from behind, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, climbing a brick wall. The person's arms are extended upwards, and they appear to be using the wall for support. The wall is made of dark bricks with light mortar. The background is dark and indistinct.

Wall scaling :

"The use of ledges and roofs for any purpose (sunbathing, barbequing, etc.) and the scaling of exterior walls is prohibited." (P. 147)

A black and white photograph showing a person from behind, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, climbing a brick wall. The person's arms are extended upwards, and they appear to be using the wall for support. The wall is made of dark bricks with light mortar. The background is dark and indistinct.

rel above:

stuffy or runny nose, while chronic of the nose. Injecting cocaine with hepatitis and other diseases. Preparation of volatile solvents, can result in Cocaine can produce psychological the user cannot function without ops rapidly.

dictive, and its effects are felt within dilated pupils, increased pulse rate, of appetite, tactile hallucinations, form of cocaine can cause death by art and respiration." (P. 180)

A black and white photograph showing a person wearing a cowboy hat and a dark jacket, standing in a hallway. The person is holding a long object, possibly a golf club or a telescope, and is looking towards the camera. The hallway has a door on the left and a wall with a picture on the right. The floor is dark and reflective.

Horseplay:

"Corridors and lounges are public areas and should not be used for sporting events or horseplay to avoid personal injury or property damage." (P. 152)

MM QUIZ

Was It Just a Hook-Up
...Or Something More?

①

How did you meet?

- A) One night at Legend's karaoke, your hands met as you both reached for Amy Grant's version of "El Shaddai."
- B) As he/she held the Franzia box over your head for a cannonball and the Sunset Blush met your lips, you knew it was fate.
- C) See, the problem with the word "meet" is that it implies both the exchange of names and direct eye contact.

②

How many drinks had you had before your tryst?

- A) One V-8 Splash and a few fingers of holy water
- B) Ummm, between three and however many hash marks can fit on a forearm
- C) About how many 8-ounce servings fit in a garbage can?

③

What did he/she look like?

- A) Like he/she was carved from the hand of Leonar ... no, Michaela ... well, if there were any not-gay famous sculptors, then sculpted by him.
- B) You can't really recall any details, though if the eye patch you found next to your pillow is any indication, one adjective could be "rugged."
- B) You presume the person had hair on his/her head. Other than that, it's a crashout.

④

What do your friends think of him/her?

- A) Once the gleam from his/her abstinence ring pierced their retinas, nearly blinding them, they've all been on-board.
- B) Though the conversation was limited to "spring," "break," "WHOOOOOOOOOO!" and "spring break WHOOOOOOOOOOOO!" they all seemed to get along with her/him.
- C) Some of them seemed pretty positive at first, but since they had to rescue you the next morning with you clad only in a straw hat and spats while tied with a rubber hose to a railroad track, there is now a pretty significant strain on most all of your friendships

⑤

Did you sustain any injuries during the evening?

- A) Well, if you count wounded pride from the Flipside Karaoke night ... then still no.
- B) Carpal tunnel and/or third-degree whisker burn, the latter of which was so bad that it earned you the moniker "Leif Erikson" from the sophomores downstairs.
- C) Depends on whether you consider a tapeworm an "injury" or an "awesome new pet."

⑥

But seriously, how was it?

- A) Eh.
- B) Eh.
- C) Eh. And now you have to have this life-sized tattoo of Mark Sumners' face lazered off your back. Again.

It's Sunday morning, and you wake up in someone else's loft with a thick film of shame and Boone's Farm Melon Ball coating your mouth. You remember what those stains on the sheets are ... but what about the stains on your soul? Could they be stains ... of love?

Well, kids, rest assured we've all been there. But how do you tell whether it was just a meaningless fling, or if it was just a meaningless fling that you can conflate into something more significant only to have it blow up in your face later on down the line? If you find yourself flip-flopping between true love and embarrassed ambivalence, just take our handy hook-up quiz. Find out if it's meant to be, or if it's meant to be wiped from your memory using elective electroshock therapy. Remember, keep track of how many As, Bs and Cs you score. Or, alternatively, don't keep track, because, let's face it: We have no idea what we are talking about.

If you answered mainly A:

Well, it looks like you've found real love. Might we suggest you chase after it with all of your might, even if this pursuit flies in the face of all reality. After all, you'd probably do anything to stave off the crippling fear of being alone.

If you answered mainly B:

Congratulations. Your answers suggest that you are 18 to 22 years old and attend a college on the North American continent. They also suggest you need to man/woman up, go on an actual date and stop indulging yourself in this masturbatory quiz.

There, I said it. Masturbatory.

If you answered mainly C:

My number is 574-339-9643. Give me a call.

S H A R I A S T I I
marie magdalene
presents:

How to get a ring by spring in four easy, psychotic steps

Is your love life a smaller, but somehow more tragic, version of the Hindenburg? Have all attempts at being fun, flirty and fabulous blown up in your face like so many Appalachian meth labs? Well, fear not, Ms. or Mr. Lonely Heart, for you still have almost two months until you walk across that stage and officially seal your fate as a dating leper. We here at *Sarcastic/marie magdalene* present to you these time-tested tactics toward ensnaring a spouse — protective orders and common human decency be damned.

Step The First: Finding "The One"

Some of you might have that special person in the crosshairs of your love rifle, while others of you are still seeking a mate-to-be. If you fall into the latter camp, here are a few tricks to help you find your perfect mate. Take a look at the lady or gent in front of you: Are they slower-moving, elderly or ill? Do they get separated from the herd? Do their faded jeans bunch on top of their giant white sneaks? Keep in mind that the headiest perfume is the stink of unadulterated desperation. What does your lab partner smell like?

Strive to have the strength and cunning of a lion as you descend on your prey romantic intrigue. Let the eviscerated body of an aged wildebeest being picked apart by jackals be a symbol for that ring that you so truly deserve. Perhaps you could have that image carved into an ice sculpture for the reception. Which you've already booked South Dining Hall for, right? RIGHT? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING?!?!? Get your head in the game, or you're going to end up spending every weekend for the rest of your life buying outfits for your concrete lawn geese and praying for death.

Oh, no, you're right. We're sorry about that. Sometimes we just get so worked up over how magical your special day will be, we just want to burst into a bridal expo and start peppering it with machine gun

spray. Metaphorically speaking. From here on out, you can't waste your time with "learning" or "friends." The only learning you will do is the art of the proposal; the only friend you have now is *Sarcastic/marie magdalene*.

Some people, like the ladies of "The Rules" or the writers over at *Cosmo*, emphasize the importance of having a life of your own so that your mate will see how fun and attractive your life is even when he or she is not around.

Wrong, wrong, totally wrong. We only have until graduation! WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR BULL\$#!+. Your attention should be focused into a laser of love, strong enough to make your potential spouse's head explode, but gentle enough to almost unnoticeably alienate yourself from all other aspects of your life.

Step the Second: Location, Location, Location

Constantly and, if necessary, forcibly steer your future mate to the Grotto to set the stage for a romantic proposal. Do not be fazed by inclement weather, the descent of night or the fact that your "future mate" is a terrified elderly clergyman that you abducted from the steps of Corby Hall. For the gents, the constant wearing of sporty, brightly-colored knee pads implies both a willingness to "assume the position" if given the slightest inclination by their companion, such as eye contact or being a woman, as well as the athleticism necessary to chase down any potential spouses attempting to make a break for it across the frozen St. Joe's.

Step the Third: Nothing Scary About True Love

Might we suggest a pregnancy scare? Thanks to the abstinence-only sex education in many of our nation's schools, there's a pretty good chance your loved one will have no concept of whether or not you could even be pregnant. Can't you get knocked up from a futon cover,

or from riding horses or something? We heard that on TV. Just tell them that. For you fellas out there, this might be a little trickier, but appealing to higher power might get you a few credibility points. We know it would work on us, and has!

However, if even this most compelling of ploys just doesn't work, might we suggest ...

Step the Fourth: Bear Traps!

During an emergency (and graduating alone would qualify as such an emergency), bear traps and other large animal snares usually can do your convincing for you. Some might want to start out simply, with a pie cooling under a large box propped up with a stick, the tantalizing smell of which will lure your prospective spouse close enough to entrap him or her inside. However, this is neither as cost-effective (the pie-filling fee for this venture alone can be astronomical) nor as comical as bear traps can be. And while the possibility exists that your lucky lady or gentleman suitor could gnaw through his or her own leg before you can descend upon him or her to shower him or her with kisses, even if your special someone can get through the bone, odds are he or she wouldn't be able to make it back to civilization. So at least you'll have that.

Remember, it doesn't matter whether you snag an unwitting, bespectacled underclassman or a 70-year-old math grad student. For just as the shifting of tectonic plates creates tons of pressure that eventually presses coal into the sparkling diamonds that nestle atop a wedding band, so must your future spouse feel the constant, overwhelming weight of your affection bearing down on them incessantly, squeezing them from an unrefined mass of a confused and often terrified stranger into the most stunning lump of love — physical and mental — that intimidation has ever produced. Good luck 'til May, and see you at the chapel!

THE OBTUSER

The Independent Newspaper that Gets Free Rent from the University

VOL. 281-330-8004

DOOMSDAY, FEBTOBER 32, 2006

HTTP://WWW.TUCKERMAX.COM/

Students, others react postively, negatively, indifferently

to what we're not exactly sure

By April O'Neil
Staff Amphibiophile

Student reaction to yesterday's events was largely positive, though a majority of students responded negatively.

Senior Brian Poluznitzky came out to show support for the cause. "At this university, some things are really important, really worth fighting for," he says. "This is the least I could do to give something back to Notre Dame."

But not every student was as optimistic as Poluznitzky. Sophomore Amber Tiffany says students must keep in mind that not everyone shares the same opinion. "A large segment of the population is not being represented, and that's a travesty," she says. "I can't believe this is going on at a Catholic university."

Opposition to the events was stiff. Led by Kathryn Bluemeadow and Raisewagesa Quarter, students clad in chartreuset-shirts — South Bend is completely sold out of orange and red — attempted a military coup on Main Building.

Other students tried to find a common ground between the factions. Student Body President Ty Wearin called for talk. And more talk. "I think the more dialogue we create, the more likely we are to bore ourselves to sleep and diffuse the tension," he says.

Spoiled students bitch about punishments they deserved

Administrators say boo-friggin'-hoo

By Philly Dell
Phat Beat Writer

When Paddy McGillicutty arrived at Notre Dame, he didn't expect to be burdened by "discipline" and "the rules." So McGillicutty was quite dismayed when, during his sophomore year, he received a stiff fine and community service hours from the Office of Residence Life and Housing for sneaking a keg into his dorm room.

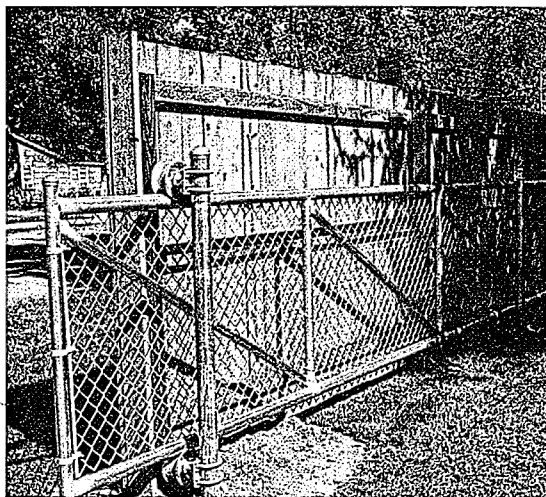
"Dude it was total coochie snorcher," McGillicutty says. "That would never happen at Michigan State." There, he says, "You can drink all you want, just out in the halls, plus the girls are so much hotter. Notre Dame sucks."

McGillicutty did not believe he should have been forced to go to ResLife, as the evidence his rector used against him was merely circumstantial. "I mean, it's not like he saw us drinking out of the keg," McGillicutty says. "He just saw the empty shell out in the hall the next morning. How did he even know there was beer in it?"

Dissatisfaction with the disciplinary process is not limited to alcohol policy violations. Freshman Lallie O'Hallihan feels that her being kicked out of her dorm for breaking parietals was unfair. "I mean, I was with my boyfriend," she says. "It's not like I'm a total slut who gets in trouble all the time." O'Hallihan suggests that her rector,

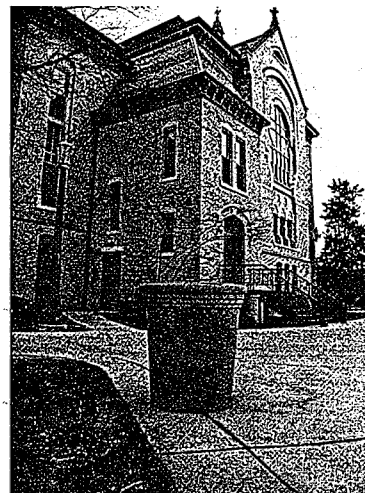
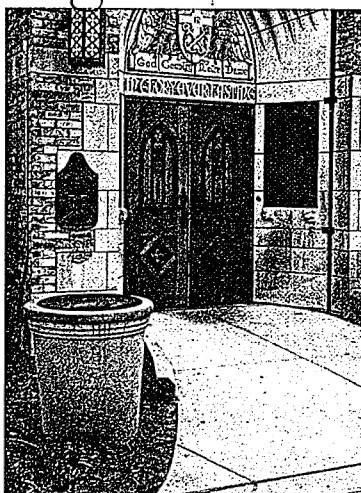
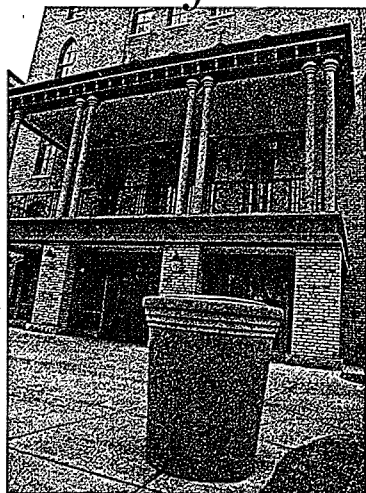
a nun, was not acting like a true Christian by sending her to ResLife. "We have to listen to all this talk about forgiveness, but nobody ever forgives us when we break the rules just a little bit," O'Hallihan says.

ResLife's Will Lurk says he frequently hears such complaints, and he couldn't care less. "We are infinitely wiser than the students, and when we punish them, we're doing them a favor," he says. "They'll thank us when they're older."



Here is a photo that appears to have nothing to do with this article.

Best of ... Garbage Cans



Question of the Day: Could this question be more inane?



Chastity Belter
Sarcastic
Editor



Kitten McNasty
Sarcastic
Editor



Ahneld Bigguns
Sarcastic
Editor



Mr. Bojangles
Sarcastic
Editor

"Ask the Big Man upstairs."

"It's the chronic."

"What?"

"cles of Narnia."

Viewpoint

Homosexuals will be smote. The Bible tells us so.

The Viewpoint section so often is filled with shallow, unsubstantiated and uninteresting arguments for or against the performance of "The Vagina Monologues," the color of The Shirt, the percentage of white people at Notre Dame, and the seniors' right to hurl marshmallows at football games. But one important topic does not get covered nearly enough: whether or not God hates gay people. I say that He does, and to support this claim, I turn to God's own words in the Holy Bible.

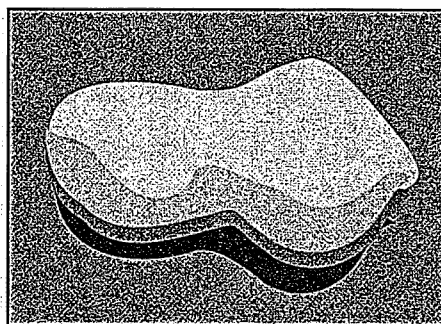
Leviticus 20:13 clearly states, "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own hands." Homosexuals would do well to heed this warning; after all, the laws in Leviticus have held our society together for the past 3,500 years. Where would we be today without this law: "Of birds these

are they which you must not eat, and which are to be avoided by you: the eagle, and the griffon, and the osprey." (Leviticus 11:13) I shudder to think of a society in which griffon is a delicacy.

Unfortunately, man has not always obeyed God's commands, such as this one: "Do not put on a garment woven with two different kinds of thread." (Leviticus 11:13) I think we all are aware of the disastrous consequences of wearing poly-cotton blends.

So it's time for gays to wake up and read the Bible. God has been telling them for three and a half millennia that they are detestable to Him. If they do not change their ways soon, well, let's just say that God's a crack shot with a lightning bolt.

Ima Rovereader
Class of 2007



Local Weather TODAY

It's cloudy. It's cold.
It will probably snow
again in April.

Note from the editors:
Mockular will not be run today because it is
offensive. Mostly to our intelligence.

You have lofty goals this week. Keep reaching for the stars, but, for the love of God, stop staring directly at the sun.

CLASS OF 2006*

REAL JOBS.

REAL EXPERIENCE.

REAL MONEY.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2006-2007 ACADEMIC YEAR
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ALBUM "Fox Confessor Brings the Flood" -Neko Case



It's convenient to compare much of the latest solo endeavor from Neko Case, vocalist of the Canadian super group "The New Pornographers," to the work of the blues and country warblers who reigned 40 years ago. Case's clear and emotive voice is a gorgeous surprise, controlled and modulated perfectly alongside her carefully constructed songs, an aspect that makes "Fox Confessor Brings the Flood" so old it's new.

Though her vocals are clearly influenced by the likes of Patsy Cline and Loretta Lynn, Case manages to incorporate and revamp many influential genres on "Fox Confessor." The only constant on the album is Case's lucid voice. Raised in Washington state, educated in Canada and introduced to gospel and blues as a teenager, Case's influences are widespread and varied. "Fox Confessor" provides interpretations of the formulaic pop of the 1970s, seen in the concise and guitar heavy "Hold On, Hold On," to the Supremes-esque "Lion's Jaws" with its throbbing keyboard intro and harmonies.

Case's lyrical style is as involved and erudite as much of "The New Pornographers" work, always telling a story. Case covers childhood jealousy on the unexpectedly jaunty "Margaret vs. Pauline," and makes a quasi-political statement on the title track.

Lyrical and musically, "Star Witness" and "The Needle Has Landed" are standouts on "Fox Confessor." With beautiful imagery — "nickels and dimes/of the fourth of July/roll off in a crooked line/to the chain-linked lots/where the red tails dive" — and the jazzy shuffle of a brush on the hi-hat, Case constructs a lilting story of an unspecified tragedy in "Star Witness." Case draws the listener in with the reverberating opening to "The Needle Has Landed," a look at love lost and returned, hinged on the uncommon metaphor of a needle of a record player — "the needle's the same that recorded and played/when you left me at the Greyhound the year I moved away/and if I knew then/what's so obvious now/you'd still be here."

Case's stripped-down vocals are an integral instrument in her compositions. The power of her voice is harnessed to amplify complex lyrical and musical arrangements. Though at times the listener wants Case to wail with emotion, there is a refined beauty to her carefully crafted songs.

— Regina Gesicki

SCHOLASTIC STAFF PICKS:

CSEM 23101 06

Faith, Doubt and Reason
Dean Mark Roche

While Arts & Letters students sometimes dismiss the College Seminar as nothing more than an annoying requirement to get out of the way, the class "Faith, Doubt and Reason" with Dean Mark Roche is everything that a course at Notre Dame should be. The syllabus is comprehensive and always intriguing, featuring works from Plato to Woody Allen, but what makes the class so worthwhile is the emphasis on participation: Students actively bring their own faith perspectives to the table, working together to tackle some of life's biggest questions. While the workload is on the heavy side, the results are incredibly rewarding.

ROSP 30310

Textual Analysis
Prof. Nancy Marquez

Most romance language majors dread taking textual analysis. It seems boring, the reading is heavy and the fact that it is a required class doesn't inspire one to be there. However, Marquez's textual analysis class manages to be both light and insightful. While the reading is substantial and bi-weekly WebCT postings are necessary, every class period is exciting and fresh. *Scholastic* recommends this class to both Spanish majors needing to complete the textual analysis requirement and non-majors who want to gain a deeper understanding of Spanish literature.

RESTAURANT Nueva Tijuana



Location:

1116 S. Main Street
South Bend, IN 46601

Phone:

(574) 289-6136

In a nation full of chain restaurants and fast food, authentic ethnic restaurants are becoming hard to find. Luckily for Notre Dame students seeking something different, Nuevo Tijuana is a hidden gem in the South Bend area.

With a modest exterior yet refreshingly quaint interior, Nuevo Tijuana is the perfect place to enjoy an authentic meal. Vibrant orange walls adorned with pictures of historical and iconic Mexican figures add to the genuine Mexican atmosphere. And the food that *Scholastic* sampled was clearly genuine.

The evening began with several cold glasses of horchata, a rice and milk drink similar in taste to rice pudding. Its mild sweetness combined with cinnamon spice was tantalizing and was complemented by tortilla chips and freshly made salsa.

The menu is diverse and promising, offering seafood, steak, fajita and chicken options that are served with chipotle, peppers and onions and a variety of Mexican spices. If money is a concern, don't be too worried — the prices are within college-student range. *Scholastic* decided to sample the fajitas

and the "Mexican Favorites" section of the menu, which offers burritos, tacos and enchiladas that would make ND students believe they are south of the border.

The two popular dishes of the evening were the fajita de camaron and the carne asada. The fajita dinner arrived sizzling in spices and juices, consisting of tender shrimp, diced tomatoes, robust green peppers, grilled onions and served with fresh tortillas. The savory shrimp, succulent vegetables and fresh sour cream and guacamole are a fresh alternative to the standard sea nuggets and grilled cheese at the dining hall on Lenten Fridays.

The carne asada also created quite a stir at the table. This well-seasoned thin steak was served with lettuce, tomatoes and other fajita necessities. The steak was tender and moist enough to be enjoyed alone but also was delicious when wrapped in a tortilla.

The gorditas and burrito Mexicano were also crowd pleasers, served with fresh and appetizing guacamole which was a popular accompaniment to these traditional Mexican meals.

Nuevo Tijuana is an experience that everyone should have at least once while at Notre Dame. During the visit, *Scholastic* encountered another group of students enjoying a meal. One member of the group even claimed the establishment to be the "most amazing restaurant in the world."

The restaurant is an experience of Mexican culture, from the ambience to the cuisine. The welcoming atmosphere, kind and obliging staff and excellent food are a refreshingly authentic spin to an otherwise dull and ordinary restaurant culture.

— Michael O'Connor

SOLVING THE DARTING DILEMMA

ACCT 40610 01

Federal Taxation

Prof. James Wittenbach

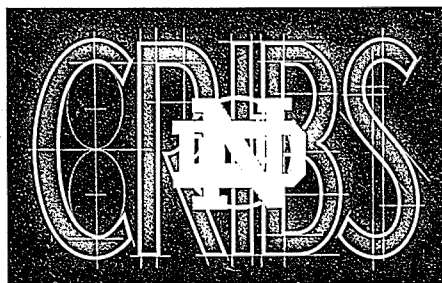
We are all familiar with the adage that the only things that are truly certain are death and taxes. We are not all aware, however, that the accountancy department offers a three-credit course that will help you tackle the latter. In Federal Taxation, the tax code is broken down into easily digestible blocks, making the IRC as simple as ABC. While this course could aid any student at the university, there are prerequisites of financial and managerial accounting, limiting the class to business majors. While many of the professors in the accountancy department are well-versed, *Scholastic* endorses Prof. James Wittenbach, C.P.A., because of his extensive background in tax.

ARST 11601

3D Foundations

Art Department faculty

If you're worried about fulfilling your fine arts requirement due to lacking or completely absent talent, 3D Foundations is your class. Though the class requires a significant amount of conceptual creativity, students are introduced to a wide range of sculptural techniques; everyone will find something they like working with, whether it's wire, plaster or found objects. From modeling in clay to finishing with a patina, 3D Foundations will give the adventurous student, regardless of talent, an amazing hands-on creative experience.



Practical Engineering

Notre Dame Seniors Create A Beer Garden in the Enchanted Forest

• Meaghan Garvey

Pre-med and engineering majors are well known for their endless amounts of problem sets, lab experiments and formulas. But the men of 1716 Enchanted Forest in Castle Point have dealt with more than their fair share of lab time and have decided to enjoy their senior year in style. And the most important elements of their off-campus apartment certainly do not pertain to chemistry or physics.

"I think the formula for living a good life is a bar within twenty feet of you at all times, a high definition projector television, a bunch of recliners, good food and a talking deer head," says Shane Kappler, one of the five housemates. Kappler, along with Evan Curatolo, Michael Wittman, Patrick Longenbaker and Tony LoGiudice share this haven for relaxing, partying and the generally excessive lifestyle that is a signature characteristic of this Castle Point apartment.

Upon entering the apartment's main room, the first thing that stands out is the 16-foot wrap-around bar, topped with a custom slate and granite pattern, that

conquers the space where a dining room would normally be. Even more impressive is the fact that the bar was entirely handcrafted by the housemates. "Building the bar was quite a journey," Kappler says. "Everything on the bar is handmade. We bought a lot of two-by-fours, borrowed some tools and basically built for a couple of days straight when we moved in. It's a great place for everyone to hang out and have fun."

Behind the bar sits the television, arranged cozily between shelves that boast an impressive collection of various drinks. The bar's TV is linked to a security camera over the apartment's front door, exposing all arrivals to those enjoying a series of libations. Clearly, the residents utilized their science and technology backgrounds to make this creative feature.

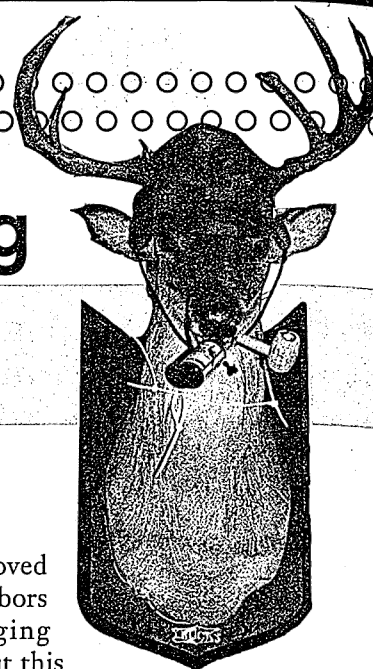
Also behind the bar is a kegerator, which is stocked with a different beer on tap each night. "The kegerator was the first item we bought after we got the apartment," Wittman says. "For a while, it was the only thing in our whole apartment.

When we moved in, our neighbors saw us bringing in nothing but this kegerator."

Another curious decoration is Buck, a mounted deer head that looms over the bar, which moves and talks when spoken to with a microphone. "People think we're kind of weird because we talk about Buck as if he were another roommate," Kappler admits.

Next to the bar is the living room area, where the housemates relax in their four coordinated recliners side by side (reminiscent of "Friends") and watch television on their 80-inch projector television, complete with digital cable and surround sound. The living room leads out to the apartment's Astro turf-carpeted balcony, home to an enormous gas grill, torches, lights and the occasional round of putting practice. The housemates grill out on their porch "pretty much straight through December," Kappler says.

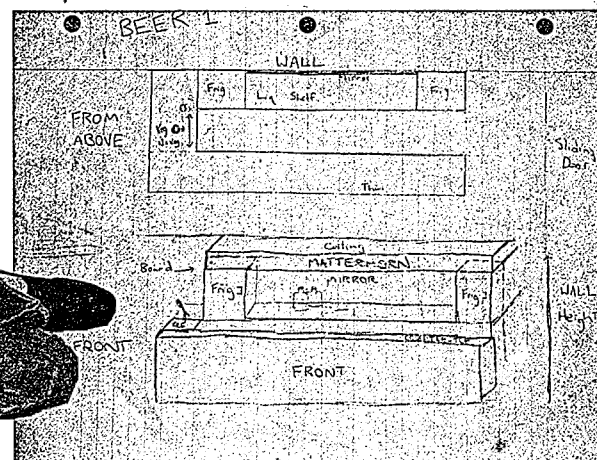
But these seniors do not just sit around all day. The spiral stairway leading to the



TAKING A YEAR TO KICK BACK They know how to lounge in style.



PLANS FOR GREATNESS The blueprint for the boys' bar.



upper rooms is complete with a hanging basketball hoop ready for a spontaneous pick-up game in the living room.

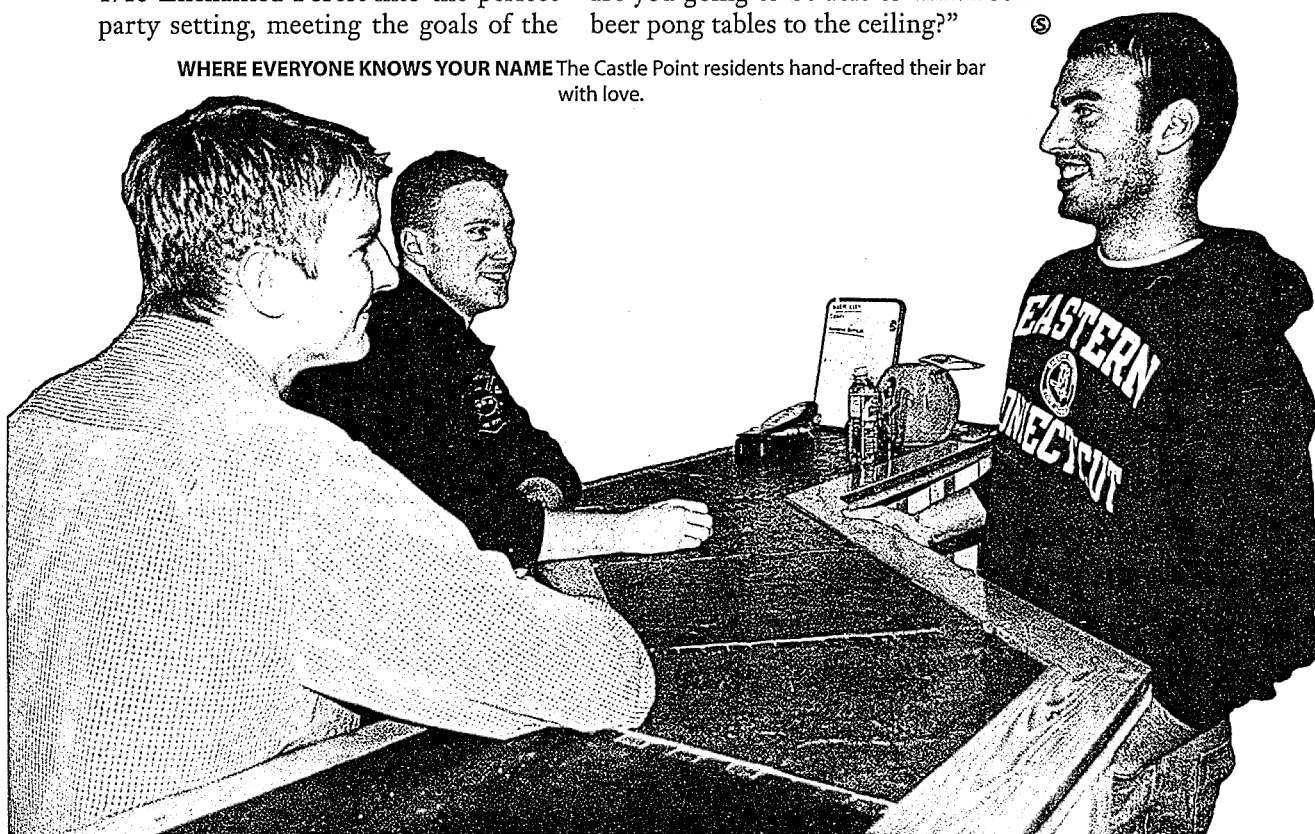
Arguably, the most impressive and unique part of the apartment hangs from the slanted ceilings above: two beer pong tables winched to the ceiling that can descend when needed. "Our physics professor taught us the dynamics of winches and pulleys, and we went a little crazy with it," Kappler says. "We thought the idea up for the beer pong tables during the MCATs last year. When we were supposed to be studying, we were spending our time drawing blueprints for how to make these tables work — clearly we're not really the poster children for pre-meds."

With elaborate accommodations for everyone's eating, drinking, lounging, TV-watching and socializing needs, the housemates seem to have transformed 1716 Enchanted Forest into the perfect party setting, meeting the goals of the

apartment and its residents' indulgences from the first encounter. "We wanted to make a place where all of our friends could get together, hang out, be comfortable and have a great time," Kappler says. "We also thought, what would our mothers definitely not want us to have? And then we basically added it. A full bar where the dining room should be? A basketball court in the house? It's very much a guys' apartment, and we like to have some disregard for common sense."

Although these lads were somewhat lacking in the social life department during their first three years at the university, the housemates are more than making up for it this year by creating and taking advantage of their entertaining and extravagant apartment. As Curatolo rhetorically asks, "When else in your life are you going to be able to winch some beer pong tables to the ceiling?"

WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR NAME The Castle Point residents hand-crafted their bar with love.



SPORTS

March Madness?

•Brittany Lash

“I think Notre Dame, at this point in March, is the number one team in the country.”

Be honest. For more years than most fans care to admit, these words were only taken seriously in the context of heated debates among the Irish football faithful — or at least after a few rounds with friends at the 'Backer. However, this particular quote does not happen to be a barroom bluster, but the March preseason prediction of ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit, run online on ESPN Motion. (As I'm sure many are wondering, the Irish rank above USC, Texas, Ohio State and Auburn on his list).

Regardless of whether fans might love him, hate him or could care less about any analysts at all, Herbstreit's statement points out a growing trend — analysts and pundits are jumping on the prediction bandwagon earlier than ever, drawing on heavy speculation and high potential to claim the ultimate prize: bragging rights for having predicted next year's national champion first.

While there's no reason at this point to state that it would be impossible for the Irish to win out, how accurate can a prediction be five to six months before the actual start of the season? To be frank,

there are too many intangibles that can only be understood within the context of the season itself.

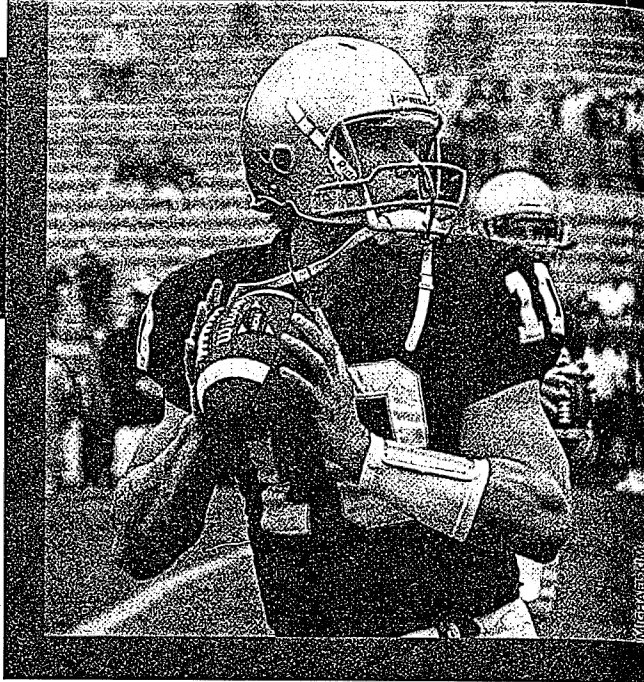
For one, how can spring pundits truly ascertain the impact of a recruiting class on a team? Granted, early enrollees can be evaluated in the spring, but they are few and far between. Highly touted prospects can burn out due to grades or pressure in the fall, while under-the-radar gems can emerge with the right coaching and support. Jeff Samardzija, I'm looking at you.

In addition, returning players themselves go through vast changes, both avoidable and unavoidable. Witness Michigan quarterback Chad Henne in his sophomore slump or Irish receiver Rhema McKnight's season-ending injury. How different would their teams have been with them playing at full potential? (Of course, it's nice for Irish fans to think that Michigan will never recover).

It is easy, though, to paint broad strokes when it comes to forecasting the future. Head Coach Charlie Weis, in his spring media day press conference on March 21, went so far as to make the following prediction about Brady Quinn: “Here's

my feeling — if he wins the Heisman Trophy, that probably means we win the National Championship.” After all, that worked for Reggie Bush, didn't it?

That's not so much sarcasm as it is realism. Without a doubt, many here at Notre Dame hope that Weis is right, that Quinn can achieve that goal and the team can succeed. The anticipation and hope is what pulls us through the offseason. Football (as well as sports in general) is one of the world's greatest unscripted dramas — where fans can one day watch a national-championship caliber team trounce a high-ranking opponent, only to see them fall the next week to some winless wonder. Here's hoping the pundits and analysts can leave a little room for the unpredictable and let the future victories speak for themselves. S



From the
Notre Dame
vs.
The Other Guys
Press Box

•Brittany Lash

LEVEL 1

Assigned to:
SCHOLASTIC

USE MEDIA ENTRANCE

After the departure of scholarship tight end Joey Hiben, Coach Weis moved his now-available scholarship to incoming dual-sport freshman Will Yeatman. Previously slated as a football walk-on with a lacrosse scholarship, he had to play a season of lacrosse in the spring before suiting up for any other Irish varsity sport. With Weis' offer of a football scholarship, Yeatman will have the chance to fight for playing time starting this coming season.

Megan Duffy has been named by *ESPN The Magazine* as a first-team Academic All-American, the first Irish player to

earn the elite distinction since Ruth Riley did so in 2001. In addition, she has received the 2006 Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award, awarded to the top senior women's basketball player 5'8" or under who has excelled in both athletics and academics.

Notre Dame has formed an agreement with the Big East and the BCS for the 2006-2009 bowl seasons. For each of the four



Irish Eyes On... Greg Rodgers

• Nick Gergen

An up-and-coming prospect with a controversial start to his career on the Irish men's golf team, sophomore Greg Rodgers has fought back to become a key monogram-winner. As the team driver to a practice in Michigan in fall 2004, Rodgers and the team were side-swiped by a semitruck, totaling the van. While this could have caused him to lose focus, he fought on. Last year he participated in 10 tournaments and compiled a 76.6 scoring average during the season, including a career low 69. He claimed the Maryland state title three times during his high school career. Greg and his Irish teammates will try to advance to the NCAA Championships later this spring.



What have you been doing in the offseason?

We lift three days a week and hit balls in Loftus three times a week. The team usually goes down south together, something we do independently instead of as an official team event. This helps us get the rust off from the offseason. When the new facility at Warren is completed we'll be able to practice there, which will be really good.

What has been your worst moment at Notre Dame?

Crashing a university vehicle while driving teammates to a practice round in Michigan. [...] Fortunately, no one was hurt. We were lucky.

How do you feel about your team's chances in the Big East Tournament and NCAA Championships?

All of us are expecting to win the Big East Tournament. Obviously, we're not taking it lightly, but we have high expectations going into the tournament. We'd like to take momentum from the Big East Tournament into the NCAA Regionals, where we came very close to advancing last year. I really think we're expecting a fair amount of success this spring.

What's your longest drive?

Conditions obviously affect every drive, but back at home there is a hole that's about 420 yards that plays very downhill. I've driven the green before, so that is probably my longest drive.

What do you enjoy about playing for Notre Dame?

It's fun to represent Notre Dame because everywhere we go people are familiar with the school. We get to play some amazing courses, and last year after competing in a tournament in Georgia, we were fortunate enough to attend Monday's practice round at The Masters.

years, the Irish have the option to be selected one time each by the AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic, the Toyota Gator Bowl, the Vitalis Sun Bowl, and the Houston Bowl if they do not earn a BCS berth.

The No. 2-ranked women's tennis team broke their previous record for



best start, going 16-0 after beating Iowa and extending their home winning streak to 14.

The current NACDA Directors' Cup Standings have Notre Dame in first place by a slim margin after the fall and winter point totals. Points are awarded for the athletic rankings and post-season appearances of varsity teams, rewarding the most successful overall athletic program. Notre Dame has never previously broken the top 10.

ND vs. D OUR CALLS

SPORT: MEN'S LACROSSE

OPPONENT: DARTMOUTH

WHERE: MOOSE KRAUSE STADIUM

WHEN: SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 12:00 P.M. EST

Brittany Lash

Assistant Sports Editor

In a nationally televised game on CSTV, the Irish have an opportunity to prove themselves on the main stage, making their case for inclusion in the NCAA Tournament in May. Falling 10-9 to Dartmouth a year ago to the day, the Irish will look to avoid their previous mistakes, including two late turnovers that resulted in the winning goals for the Big Green. This year, however, Dartmouth is riding a three-game losing streak into their games with Albany and Notre Dame, and they appear to be lacking confidence at 3-3. While the No. 11-ranked Irish men (4-2) had a tough loss to Hofstra to break their three-game winning streak earlier in the season, they still appear to be riding more momentum than the Big Green. Momentum coupled with home-field advantage will give the Irish the victory, 12-8.

Regina Gesicki

Executive Copy Chief

The Irish will need to start on the right foot in order to defeat the Big Green. Missing Taylor Clagett, their top ranked face-off man, the Irish didn't begin with the intensity needed to beat Hofstra, one of the strongest teams on their schedule. Though this contest against Dartmouth will be the last tough game on their schedule for some time, the Irish need to improve their defensive play in front of the goal and finish strong in the second half. Dartmouth lost a heartbreaker to Penn State earlier this month, while two weeks before that, the Irish defeated Penn State, 8-4. This could be a close game, but Notre Dame has the advantage of being one of the strongest and most balanced teams in the GWLL and will beat Dartmouth, 9-7.

180 Degrees

The Irish women's lacrosse team's amazing 2006 turnaround is only starting

• **Brittany Lash**

While it may have been chilly outside Loftus Sports Center on March 5, 2006, the No. 17 Irish women's lacrosse team certainly heated things up inside. The Irish's 17-15 win over then-No. 18 Cornell put them over the total number of last year's wins. Although one would assume such a feat would give the Irish an impressive number of victories, they were celebrating just their fourth win.

For those not inclined to make the calculation, the math boils down to a 3-12 season for the Irish in 2005, the lowest season winning percentage and number of victories since the program's Division I inception in 1997. Plagued by incalculable inconsistencies, unidentifiable to team members and coaches alike, last year's Irish squad did not beat a ranked opponent and lost six of its last seven games.

With the weight of 2005's disappointing season on their shoulders, the last expectation many had for the 2006 Irish (No. 10) would be for them to go 8-1 in their first nine games, beating three top-20 teams and losing only to the consensus No. 1 team in the country in defending national champion Northwestern. But Head Coach Tracy Coyne saw potential in her team from the beginning of the season.

"I think that the results that you're seeing, in terms of our record, started in the spring of last year. We really reevaluated our commitment," Coyne said after her team's eighth victory, an 18-2 trouncing of Canisius. While it was difficult to alter the momentum of last year, players returned in the fall with a more focused outlook, including a commitment to higher standards in physical training. If players did not pass predetermined benchmarks in strength and endurance trials (tests included the mile run and bench press), they were held out of fall lacrosse practice, focusing their entire efforts on conditioning.

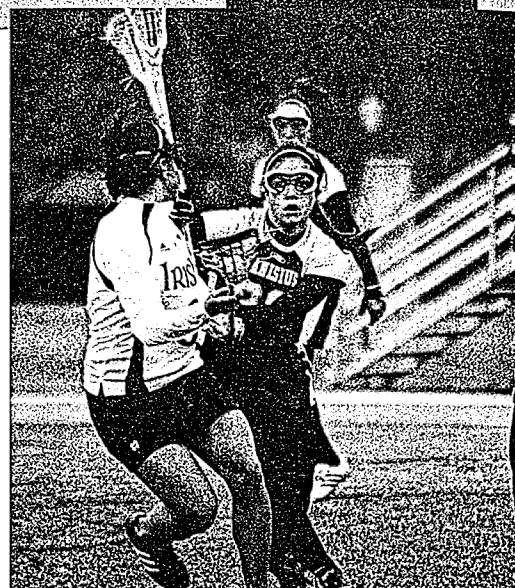
Coyne took the term "commitment" literally, signing the No. 1 recruiting class in the nation according to *Inside Lacrosse*, including five high school All-Americans. Pounding the recruiting trail paid off, as the 10 fresh faces brought new life to the team — including an offensive explosion by freshman Jill Byers, who is now second in goals and assists for the team.

With physical tenacity and personnel as a foundation, the Irish then faced their biggest challenge — winning the mental game. Confidence rose with victories over adversaries (Cornell, James Madison and Stanford) to whom the Irish fell last season, and the Irish felt confident that they had more than a fighting chance to extend that streak to No. 1 Northwestern. All signs pointed to "yes" after the Irish opened the game with a 9-8 lead in the first half, but shockingly, the Wildcats went on an 8-0 run in the opening of the second half, eventually handing the Irish their first loss, 21-12. Regarding the game, Coyne asserted, "I think when you're winning at halftime against a team like that, sometimes you will be a little pumped, but I think that [...] sometimes excellence is a little scary."

The Irish will have to temper their trepidation as they continue to face an onslaught of talented competition. With four ranked teams to come — No. 2 Duke, No. 4 Georgetown, No. 14 Syracuse and No. 19 Vanderbilt — and the pressure of Big East play, the Irish women must resist fearing the greatness of their opponents and just be great themselves.

"When you really only have one loss and you're winning at halftime [against Northwestern], you really only played one bad 30 minutes, you can get complacent and settle in," Coyne says. "We don't want to settle [...] We don't forget about [last season]. We don't dwell on it, but it's made us a better team."

Consider the lesson learned.



TOP: A Notre Dame attack tries to evade a defender in the Irish's matchup against opponent Canisius.

MIDDLE: Two members of the rejuvenated lacrosse squad make a move toward the ball.

BOTTOM: Stick raised, Notre Dame attempts to score against Canisius.

humor

Listening In ...

- "Nuclear weapons aren't my specialty. I'm a conventional weapons type of gal."
— political science student
- "I do have homework. I need to go home and sleep and eat Cheetos. And think. I'm a philo major."
— student in DeBartolo
- "Mike, what did you tell my mom about the strip club?!"
— overheard student on cell phone
- "I can't get with you, because you'll fall in love with me, and it will ruin your life."
— Corby's patron to female student
- "Rap artists — for example, 'Fifty Cent' ... wait, wait, it's 'Fiddy Cent,' isn't it?"
— English professor
- Visiting Parent: "Do you have to be Catholic to go to Notre Dame?"
Notre Dame Student: "No. You don't even have to be white!"

Forty-One Years Ago

Sometimes *Scholastic* whines about gender relations, but as bad as things may seem today, it is necessary to stop and look at the way things used to be. For example, should a man be able to marry a creature of ambiguous gender that he found underneath his furniture? Your intuition and common sense may say "no." *Scholastic* says "yes." Examine the May 21, 1965, issue of *Scholastic*, in which a man waxed poetically about the love he has for his wife:

"My wife is far from a little woman. She is, in fact, nearly seven feet high and mantled with rippling muscles [...] The little woman I referred to is someone we found crouching under the sofa when we moved to our apartment in 1928, and there she has remained ever since. She never speaks except to make a kind of guttural clicking sound when she is hungry. To tell you the truth, she's not much fun to have around the house."

Should I ever stumble upon an Amazon woman while I'm unpacking my bags in a new apartment, I'd hope my first reaction wouldn't be to propose. But then again, you can't choose the one you love. And if the one I love is a mute she-hulk who could beat me senseless, so be it. I just hope she spoons me after she's done slapping me around.
— Doug Schlarman

What exactly is the thought process that goes into a decision like this?
"Will one of you take this razor and shave an actual clover into my head?"
"Oh sure. This seems like a well-thought out, completely sober choice. I will assist you with it."



OSCAR GARCIA

the gipper

Howdy, Gippings. Your favorite creepy old guy by the keg, the Gipp, is back to regale you with tales of spring break debauchery and other assorted yarns of embarrassment. You may think that the dark days of wireless installation or a full-on fire at Reckers would stop you boys and girls from humiliating yourselves in front of those shady enough to report you to the Gipper; if anything, it appears that the lack of internet and barbeque chicken pizzas — like some sort of full moon — have brought out the beasts in your fellow students.

Turning 21 can be a proud day for any man, but with the way some people behave, it can be an even prouder day for the Gipper. This tale begins at that bastion of scabies and Hepatitis, Club Fever, where our young protagonist was delicately sipping cocktails with a small study group of friends to celebrate his 21st birthday. After this relaxing evening of conversation and classy, disease-free behavior, Birthday Boy and his girlfriend made their way to an off-campus residence. The Gipp is sure that they planned to end the evening with a rousing game of checkers and head to separate beds in accordance with *duLac*, but unfortunately, they were forced to change their plans when our young boy-genius regurgitated the night's beverages all over the sidewalk. In addition to this "stomach virus," he also must've had an inner ear infection, as he lost his balance and fell into the puddle of vomit, *pulling his date down with him*. The Gipp is sure she was charmed. For whatever reason, this late-night swim was a bonding experience, as within the hour, the two were in bed together. Our lovely lass locked on her chastity belt, refusing Birthday Boy's desires for some mattress

dancin', but Mr. 21st Birthday didn't take this rejection lying down. Instead, his girlfriend woke to find him standing atop her, pants unzipped, preparing to do something to her that one would hesitate to ask from a "professional." Acting quickly, she managed to punch our handi-capable friend in the babymaker and flee screaming into the night. The Gipp is sure that one day, Birthday Boy will find a girl with as little self-respect as he has intelligence.

Because one charming tale of drunken release is never enough, the Gipp would like you kiddies to gather 'round the Magic Circle Story Rug to hear about a man seen loitering next to a garbage can in a girl's dorm. Some thought he was looking for a cell phone signal. Some thought he was thinking about how a certain university administrator manages to keep his youthful, wrinkle-free visage. Our tipstress, believing him to be engaging in a match of hand-to-gland combat, went to investigate. Why she thought he would choose a hallway trash bin as opposed to the privacy of the 10th floor of the library is a mystery to the Gipp. After scaring the stranger away, our informant realized that this man had actually been *urinating* in the hallway of a girl's dorm. When this incident was reported to the dorm's rector, the rector responded by saying, "That's special." George Mason in the Final Four is special. South Dining Hall smores are special. A strange man confusing the two different kinds of "waste receptacles," my friends, is *not* special.

That's all for now, children. Our Gipp needs his beauty rest. But remember, the next time you need to pull a "Number 1," stick to the dorm shower drain. Until then, the Gipp remains,

TIP THE GIPP at gipper@scholastic.com

The Gipper

Starting Out on the Right Foot

Seeing the World in a Kinder, Gentler Way

• Mike Healy

Greetings, loyal reader(s) and welcome to the 2nd Edition of the Mike Healy *Scholastic Experience*: now non-racially provocative! If you don't know what I'm talking about, then let me just say it's good to be back. If you do, well then you're probably not reading anymore anyway, so that's something of a moot point.

That being said, some of you may remember the last column I wrote before my "hiatus," a little piece entitled "My Enemy List: The Things and People That I Hate." Needless to say, since that effort, I've grown a little older, a little wiser, and in all likelihood mellowed out a little. So, I think it's only fitting that I start this second fast-paced, titanium-reinforced, high-tensile journey through the pages of *Scholastic* with "My Love List: The Things and People That I Love":

The Darkness — In my opinion the greatest rock band to arrive on the music scene in at least the past 10 years. British rockers who know how to kick their power into high gear and won't take "no" for an answer. (No, I don't know what that means).

Syllabus Week — That magical time at the beginning of the semester where no one has any work to do because all you do in class is go over the course syllabus. For Arts & Letters majors, this is actually more of a "Syllabus Ramadan," as you really get a chance to settle in for almost an entire month before anything is actually due. I will admit this often leads to the unfortunate moment in the semester when you decide to sit down and actually do some reading, only to discover that your class is already 70 percent of the way through the course packet.

Emoticons — Who doesn't love those spunky little smiley faces that make talking on AIM such a joy? I love emoticons because sometimes I have feelings that words just can't convey and can only really be captured by a picture of a bald yel-

low head wearing sunglasses or sporting a dollar sign where his mouth should be. (Thinking about it, what does "8-)" even mean? "It's bright where I am!" "Hey, I'm blind! Want to chat?"

Kenton — Ah, Kenton Villano, my once and future roommate. Sure, he smells kind of funny and he cries a lot, but his mom sends amazing care packages and the kid can sing like a dove. Also, I got to make out with his sister (twice!).

R.E.M. — No, sorry, I hate R.E.M.

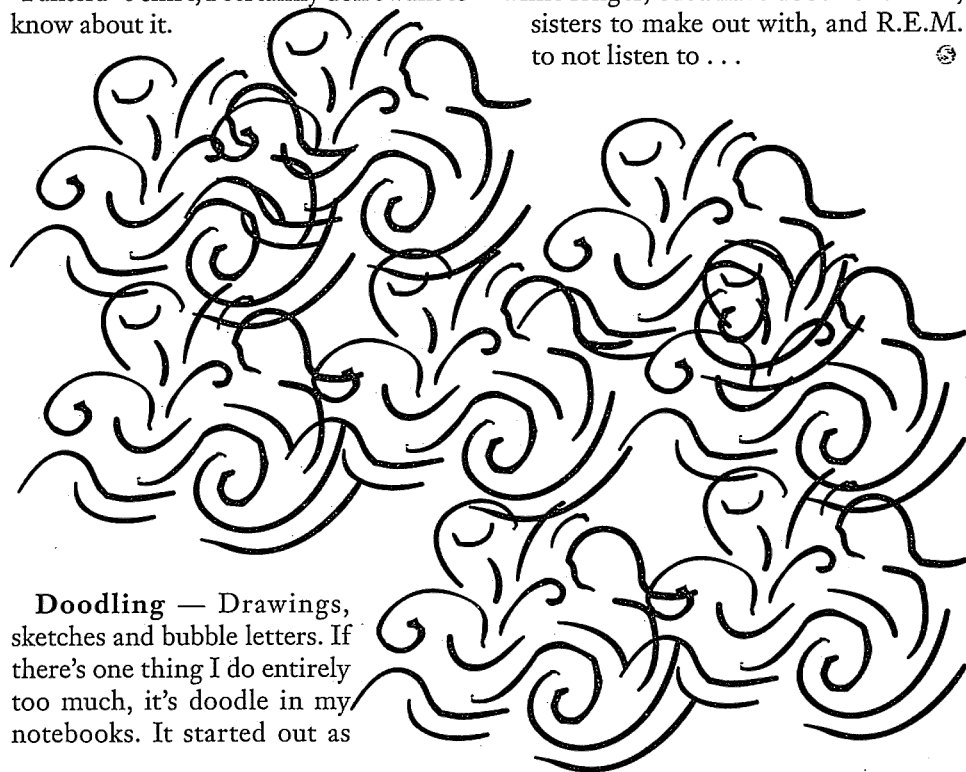
SCIENCE FICTION! — Well, not "Science Fiction" per se, but moreso my amazing "Philosophy and Science Fiction" class, where we tackle the tough questions, like "Can a bot love?" and "Is it wrong to phaser an unarmed droid?"

People Who Work Out in Jeans — Say what you will about iPods, energy drinks and nutrition bars; if there's something that pumps you up more than the sight of a guy wailing on the flat bench wearing a pair of Levi's and an old "Pantera" t-shirt, I certainly don't want to know about it.

random fare, like my name or a picture of a basketball, but now it's gotten so bad that I can fully and actively participate in class while making bubble letters spelling out random words (or even just collections of letters) or something bizarre like a picture of Sherlock Holmes holding a whip. In all honesty, I would say doodling has become one of my top three in-class activities, right up there with subtly checking out girls and clandestinely picking my nose.

And there you have it, the complete and unabridged list of the things and people that I love. Mom, Jesus, sorry you didn't make the cut, but I have an obligation to be totally honest with my readers. I really toyed with the idea of including *Reader's Digest*, because of the wildly erratic subject matter, but I decided not to, since they haven't sent me a free and totally unsolicited copy in *months*.

Let me close by saying that it's good to be back and I'd love to stay and chat a while longer, but I have doodles to draw, sisters to make out with, and R.E.M. to not listen to . . .



Doodling — Drawings, sketches and bubble letters. If there's one thing I do entirely too much, it's doodle in my notebooks. It started out as

Should preseason football polls be taken seriously?



AMY MEYERS

Erik Powers is a senior English and American Studies major living in Sorin College. He hails from Evergreen Park, Ill. and is one of the creators of "Jockular" for The Observer.

ESPN's Kirk Herbstreit picked the Irish at No. 1 in his preseason football prediction. That's about as intelligent a decision as a female high school senior choosing Saint Mary's over Notre Dame. On the other hand, a male student in the same position would be making the best choice of his life — think of the boob-to-Adam's apple ratio.

The nature of college football predictions is inherently flawed. Herbstreit said the Irish will be national champions, but a prerequisite for a national championship is that the school has to be part of the United States. With the current state of political insecurity, we don't even know where America's borders will be in January of next year. Mexico has had its eye on South Bend for a long time, although the latest rumor is that Queen Elizabeth II has discovered we're Irish and wants to assimilate the campus into the United Kingdom.

There's a saying that you shouldn't count your chickens before they're hatched. The same can be said if you compare football teams to a human fetus. When a female child is still in the womb, you don't buy a wedding dress for her. You don't know how tall she'll be, if her hair will be curly or straight or if she'll even have a date for her high school prom, which means she'll be more likely to wear white at her wedding, but also less likely to have a wedding at all because she might be as asexual as a houseplant.

Spring predictions are dangerous because you never know what kind of chemistry a team will have. For each team that feels fireworks every time its quarterback puts his hands between the center's legs, there are a dozen squads who feel like they're kissing their sister every time they go deep. ☺

Before I launch into this, let me clarify that I don't like Kirk Herbstreit. I'd put him one step below Lee Corso and one above Pete Carroll on my list of the top 10 people who make college football less enjoyable than it should be. That said, I have no problem whatsoever that Mr. Ex-Buckeye has recently released his picks for this coming season's top five teams on ESPN.com. Why is it OK to make predictions about the upcoming football season in March? Simple: It gets everyone fired up.

Fans of those teams that make the rankings now have bragging rights before anyone has even had a full contact practice. If Herbstreit is right, Charlie Weis and the Irish will be hoisting the national championship trophy come January, and that's reason enough for the likes of me to be excited (even if I personally don't think we'll win it all until 2008). On the other hand, fans of teams left off the list can now walk around with chips on their collective shoulders. This will inevitably lead to confrontations with fans of the ranked teams. Dialogue between the sides will occur, bar stools will be thrown, broken bottles will be used to stab people and everyone will become much more informed on the issue. All thanks to pure, unbridled speculation.

Now let's be clear that these rankings are not to be taken seriously. How do we have any idea what injuries will occur during spring practice, what impact each team's incoming freshmen and transfers will have, and how many Florida State players will be arrested before the season even starts? We don't. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't talk about it. And every discussion needs a starting point. Thanks, Kirk; I think you may have just moved above Corso on my hate list. ☺

Larry Bailey

is a senior economics major. He feels very strongly that in one play in the Fiesta Bowl, the Ohio State guy caught the ball, had possession, took two steps, and then fumbled. Seriously, he can't believe they reviewed and overturned that one.



AMY MEYERS

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