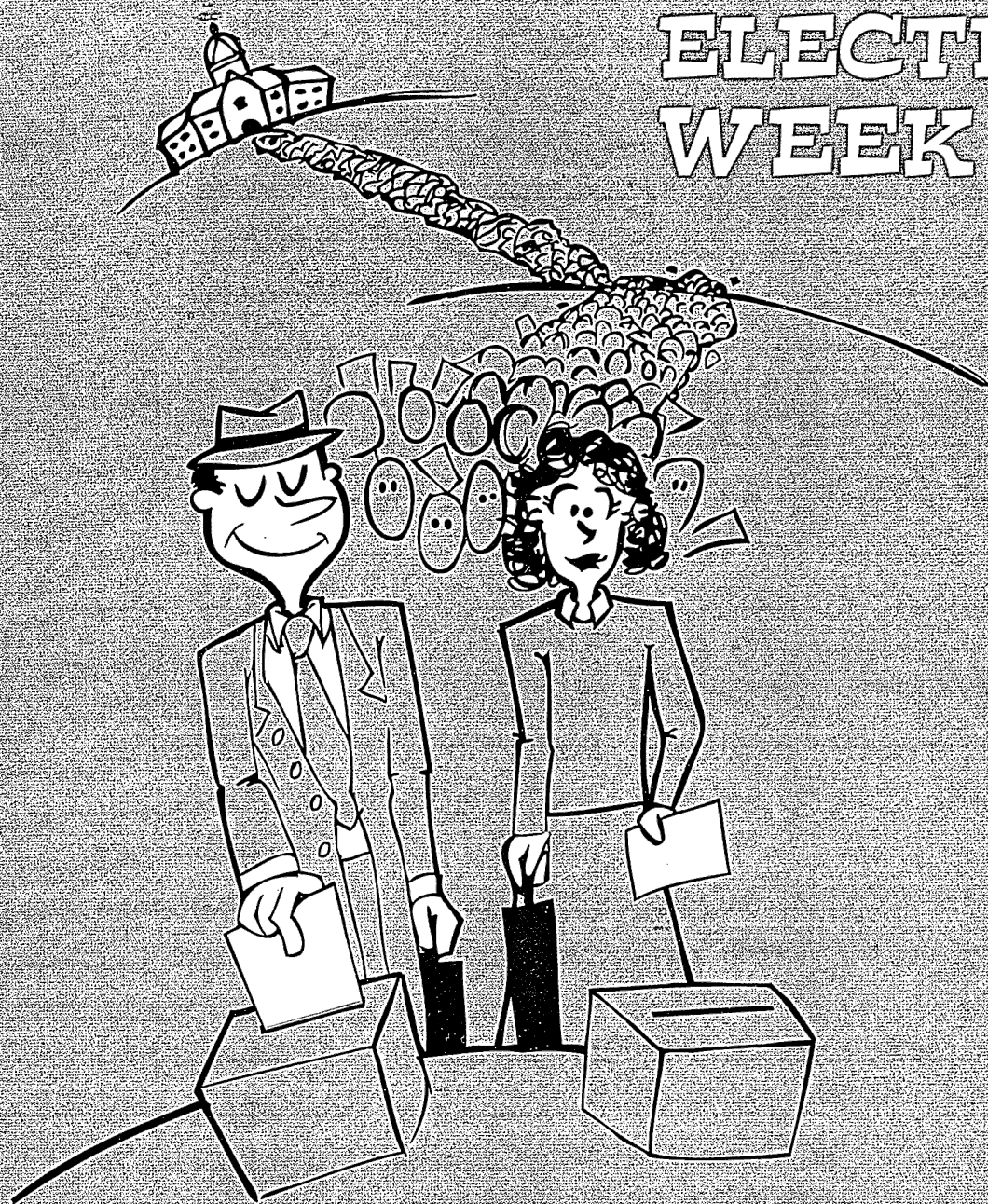


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# SCHOLASTIC

The Eighth of February 2007

## News 04

### DISJOINTED POLICY

Daric Snyder

News editor Daric Snyder explores how Notre Dame doles out punishments and how the university measures up to other institutions on this matter.

### COVER: CAMPUS ELECTION

Scholastic Staff

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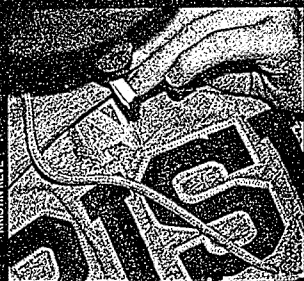
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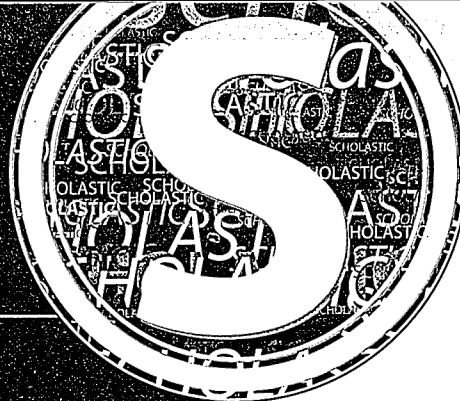


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# Ed Notes

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITORS



Vol. 148, No. 8 • 8 FEB 2007

## SCHOLASTIC

### TWO TICKETS TO PARADISE

Your vote counts! Yeah, I know it sounds cheesy and cliché, but that doesn't mean it's not true. Emphasis is added since this is such a highly centralized election, and each vote could be pivotal toward determining our next student leaders.

This year's student body election will be one of the closest in recent times, with two fairly strong tickets. Brown-Braun and Smith-Weiss bring similar campaigns with different approaches to student government. While Liz Brown and Maris Braun are veteran politicians at this point, they are products of the current administration, just as Lizzi Shappell came to power through Dave Baron. Although not as polished, Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss bring a fresh face and a "go-getter" attitude to the election. Focusing on technology, Smith and Weiss are dedicated to looking into Notre Dame's future.

With a pair of tickets this close, every vote — every opinion — counts. Make sure you make yours known.

### FOR THE RECORD...

A couple of minor mistakes have come to our attention over the winter break. Last semester, *Scholastic* printed that the university was creating a department of research, when in fact this department is just being relocated outside of the graduate program. We also stated that the university was creating a senior alumni game, when they are just allocating more tickets to an already existing senior alumni game. Lastly, we mistakenly attributed the cover photo for the football review to Juan Muldoon when it was actually taken by Courtney Sullivan.

With that out of the way, we hope you enjoy the issue.

Sincerely,

Christopher Meskill, Editor in Chief David Poell, Editor in Chief

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*Disce Quasi Semper Victurus  
Vive Quasi Cras Moriturus*

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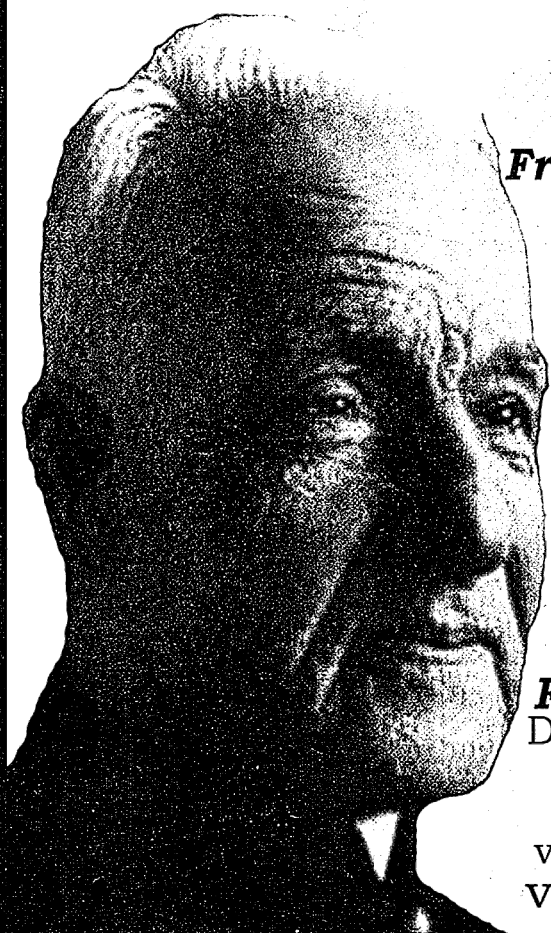
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# JUDGMENT CALLS

## Zahm Freshmen

We half expect you guys to run a joke student election ticket each year, but is Coggon-Padberg the best you could come up with? For shame!

## Arctic Winter Blast

Sure, it's unpleasant risking your life every time you leave your dorm, but if it gets bad enough, they have to cancel classes ... Right?

## The Departed

Where else are you going to see Jack Nicholson portraying the brutal boss of Boston's Irish mob AND sporting a Notre Dame T-shirt?

## Kaleidoscope McDaniels

Any up-and-coming comic strip that explores the exploits of a young Fr. Sorin is all right by *Scholastic*.

## Tailgaters Bar

Finally, a hospitable new pub with non-shady management and beer pong tables on the dance floor.

## K-Fed

After getting dumped by Britney "Who Stole my Panties?" Spears, it's good to know that Kevin can still laugh at himself. Unfortunately for him, he's still K-Fed.

## Why the Controversy?

Cases of marijuana use are not new at Notre Dame, but the student reaction is.

On the last day of Freshmen Orientation, the Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C., gives his infamous speech to close out the opening mass. Reciting *duLac*, Poorman makes it clear that drug use or possession is treated as a serious issue at the University of Notre Dame. Further, all freshmen are asked to certify that they have read *duLac* and agree to abide by it before even setting foot on campus. So why is there so much controversy surrounding sophomore Kyle McAlarney's suspension after being caught in possession of marijuana? The answer is, unfortunately, because he is an athlete.

As the point guard for the Fighting Irish basketball team, McAlarney led Notre Dame to an 11-1 record before his suspension. The enthusiasm for men's basketball, which was nonexistent early in the season, was rejuvenated much to the credit of McAlarney's play and Notre Dame's recent good fortune. While many students try to deny that Notre Dame is centered on athletics, it is hard to explain the flagrant defenses in *The Observer* by students who have never even met McAlarney. Skin deep, the protest was about the policy's harshness, but deep down, it seems driven by the desire to win and remain in the limelight of college athletics.

Dozens of drug usage and possession cases are brought before the Office of Residence Life and Housing each semester, but no outright public objection had been brought against the university prior to McAlarney's suspension. This does not necessarily mean that students believed the punishment fit the crime prior to McAlarney, but rather that marijuana usage and possession has never been a big enough issue to warrant a debate for any other student. Once again, this disparity in the student's hostility towards the policy leaves us pondering what is different about this case.

McAlarney's case is different in one respect — it has brought national attention to Notre Dame's drug policies. Every media outlet from *The New York Times* to ESPN has covered the suspension in detail. While some argue that this brings validity to McAlarney's case, it does quite the opposite. Integrity is standing in the face of adversity and upholding one's principles; Notre Dame has integrity. Notre Dame was faced with national criticism over this case but did not fold to the pressures of "letting the kid off the hook."

This stubborn resolve to "archaic" standards is a good thing. Imagine what would be said about Notre Dame's integrity had they allowed McAlarney to continue to play. Imagine what would be said about Notre Dame's integrity had they changed their policy when faced with hardship. Notre Dame is strict. It's as common knowledge as the sky is blue. This sternness arises from the vision of being an intellectually and morally enriching institution. If Notre Dame were to hold itself to a standard below that of the general populace, it would not attain any of these goals. In fact, allowing the severity of *duLac*'s policies to slide according to opinion outside the community would be a detriment to Notre Dame's character and integrity. This moral exactness entwined with academic zeal makes Notre Dame what it is — a place for complete education and maturation.

Yes, Notre Dame has lost four games since losing McAlarney, but is basketball worth more than the rigor and reputation of Our Lady's University?

STAFF EDITORIAL

# Brother, Can You Spare a Snow Day?

•Julie Putnam


The message streaking across South Bend Super Bowl viewers' television screens last Sunday grabbed Notre Dame students' attention almost as much as the Kevin Federline commercial — "ALL SOUTH BEND SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER TOMORROW." Yet the fire that lit up so many students' eyes and hearts was quickly doused by the frigid reality — Notre Dame simply does not shut down.

Despite urgent warnings that saturated weather.com and other news sites claiming that more than 30 minutes of skin exposure would result in freezing flesh, Notre Dame Provost Thomas Burish, Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves and Executive Vice President of Business Operations James Lyphout insisted the show must go on. Burish, Affleck-Graves and Lyphout together make the decision of whether the weather effects are detrimental enough to cancel classes.

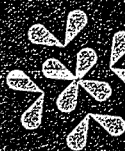
All other Michiana and South Bend schools closed their doors Monday, but professors and Domers alike packed on the layers and with heads down, hands stuffed in pockets, fought the minus 22 wind chill factor on a slippery and spine-chilling trek to class Monday morning. "It took me four hours to get here from Chicago," one professor sighed when his hour and a half commute transformed into a sluggish and precarious expedition.

However, local higher education institutions such as Indiana University, South Bend (IUSB), St. Mary's College and Holy Cross College followed similar reasoning as the Notre Dame administration. Classes continued as usual, despite the plummeting temperatures outside.

The bitter effects of the cold have not just impacted students — facilities are wilting under the unusually arctic weather blast. As of 10 a.m. Monday morning, frozen pipes that had burst in the Hesburgh Library caused flood damage and the closure of the entire building. The library was partially reopened six hours later. Subzero temperatures also triggered pipes to rupture in Keough Hall and Dillon Hall, and the basement of the Main Building experienced some flooding this week as well.

So what does it really take to cancel class? "I think we usually only cancel class if the professors or staff can't get in here," Sister Sue Bruno, 14-year rectress of Pasquerilla West, says. "It takes a lot to cancel class. The last time I remember was on 9/11." Such sentiments are widespread among administrators. "I've been here 20 years, and only two times come to mind that we closed down the school. And one time the students weren't even back from break yet," a university employee in the Provost office says. 

## TOP FIVE



Activities should Notre Dame actually have a snow day

1.

Watch all five seasons of "24" — that's like living five days in one!

2.

Order everything off the Dine-In Delivery menu.

3.

Build a snow fortress, or palace, or chateau.

4.

Call all your friends in California and brag.

5.

Go ice fishing on St. Mary's Lake.

NOTRE DAME



# DISJOINTED POLICY

Assessing Notre Dame's disciplinary process and community standards

• Daric Snyder

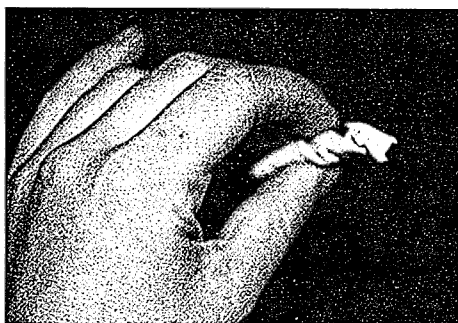
**S**ex, drugs and beer. God, country and Notre Dame. It's clear that a great deal is expected of Notre Dame students. Not only must students tackle rigorous academics, they must also live up to the standards of a community based on Catholic values. Yet, Notre Dame's traditional values often clash with stereotypical "college culture" seen in popular films like "Animal House" and "Old School." With the recent suspension of sophomore basketball player Kyle McAlarney following his December 29 arrest for marijuana possession, students, alumni and others have questioned if Notre Dame's disciplinary philosophy and process are fair and consistent. While university officials are barred from speaking about specific cases of student discipline due to federal privacy laws, there can be some clarification of how Notre Dame addresses student discipline.

parietals to restrictions on alcohol and drug use, students have to abide by the rules or face consequences. In addition to any legal penalties a student may encounter for violations, they will have to answer to Notre Dame as well. The university's response can range from warnings and small fines all the way to suspension and permanent dismissal, depending on the severity of the action and the nature of the situation. "Every sanction from a verbal warning up until disciplinary suspension for a couple of semesters, the university is hopefully educating through its response," Kirk says.

While certain regulations, such as parietals, apply only in residence halls, Notre Dame will hold students accountable for off-campus violations of the law and of university regulations. This watchful eye extends even when school is not in session: Behavior during

a certain violation, nothing is set until after the case is heard. Students are also given a few days to collect information to aid their defense. As such, the process may take some time to schedule and resolve, depending on the time of year. The disciplinary process is likely to take longer when suspension or dismissal are on the line, considering the higher number of administrators that must participate in the process.

Holidays and administrative vacations can further extend the process to resolve matters when school is out. Kirk says, "The process they go through itself is geared toward being administered during the academic year, although there are opportunities to do that outside of the academic year as well [...] If the university is not in session, it is difficult to bring together the involved parties [...] At the beginning of the semester, frequently there are



Notre Dame, in its role as an educator, feels that its duty extends beyond the walls of the classroom. A quick scan of *duLac* makes this evident. Bill Kirk, associate vice president of student affairs and residence life, says Notre Dame calls students "to standards and expectations that are not the same — that are higher than the minimum required for just good order." From

all breaks is subject to disciplinary measures. The Office of Residence Life and Housing (ResLife) responds to each incident with a deliberate, judicial process that allows students to gather information and argue their case. "[ResLife] considers the facts of each particular case," says Kirk.

Though students generally know what to expect when called before ResLife for

often matters from before the semester." While ResLife tries to resolve matters quickly, the process can take weeks to complete. A ruling can also be reviewed, possibly overturning or lessening the initial decision. The grounds on which a review can occur include the presence of a procedural flaw and the emergence of new evidence, according to Kirk. Procedural defects are rare but could

	Notre Dame	Georgetown	Brigham Young	U. of Florida	State of Indiana
<b>Alcohol in Dorms</b>	Under 14% alcohol content allowed, no kegs permitted	Some dorms permit alcohol, others are alcohol-free	Strictly Prohibited	Not Permitted	N/A
<b>Underage Drinking</b>	In dorm citation/fine, university citation/fine, community service	Small fine, citation, community service	Heavy sanctions, suspension, dismissal	Small fine, citation	Misdemeanor, up to \$500 fine, community service
<b>DUI</b>	Disciplinary Probation, alcohol assessment, fine/community service, suspension possible	Fines, probation, suspension possible	Permanent dismissal	Fines, probation, suspension possible	Misdemeanor, up to \$5,000 fine, license suspension, jail time
<b>Marijuana Possession</b>	Suspension, permanent dismissal possible	Fines, probation, suspension possible	Permanent dismissal	Fines, probation, suspension possible	Misdemeanor, up to \$5,000 fine, jail time possible, first offense can be deferred
<b>Sex</b>	Suspension, permanent dismissal possible	None	Permanent dismissal	None	None

## Disciplinary Policies Across the Board

take place if, for example, a student was not provided enough time to gather information that would help them plead their case.

The severity of Notre Dame's treatment of *duLac* violations has always been bemoaned by students. Peers at other universities, even Catholic institutions, often face lighter responses to violations of rules and laws on and off campus. Some schools even generally ignore off-campus legal violations that don't directly impact the college community. At the same time, Notre Dame's reaction to alcohol violations may appear relatively lax in comparison to violations for drug use or sexual activity.

*DuLac* appears to take a lighter stance on driving while intoxicated than on the possession of a small amount of marijuana. Driving while intoxicated will often land students with fines and probation, but students who possess marijuana are "subject to

disciplinary suspension or permanent dismissal." Kirk acknowledges this disparity but does not find it fair to stack these violations against each other. "There's a long history of the use of alcohol in this culture, and I think the rules and regulations of the university have to be considered in light of that history of use of alcohol and the way

it's used and abused here on campus and other places," Kirk says. Other universities, especially public schools, often take stances similar to Notre Dame's in response to DUI charges, but marijuana use is often treated more lightly, resulting in mere fines and probations.

Students hoping for major changes in university policies will probably pick up a diploma long before *duLac*'s drug and alcohol policies are lessened. No substantial changes or reviews of policy are underway, according to Kirk. While small changes are potentially made each year, no large changes have been made since revisions to the alcohol policy in 2002 tightened the on-campus alcohol policy, outlawing kegs and liquor.

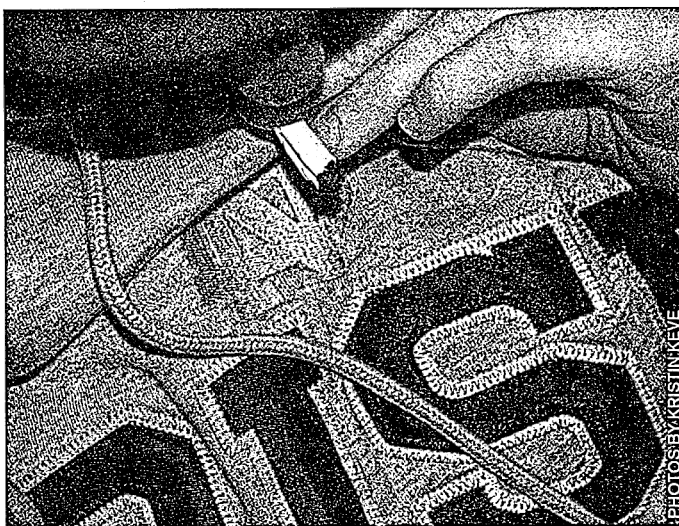


PHOTO BY KRISTIN KEVE



# Internship Blues

## Interns must pay their dues, like it or not

•Maggie Condit

Filing, pouring coffee and creating Excel spreadsheets, or sunbathing, sleeping and watching "Full House" reruns — what sounds more appealing? Many Notre Dame students are faced with this decision as they plan their summers. The pressure of getting a summer internship runs high at Notre Dame, as proven by the hundreds of students who traded their sweats for business suits to attend the 2007 Winter Career and Internship Fair last week. One hundred seventy organizations, 328 career opportunities and 473 recruiters made this fair the largest and most diverse career event in the history of Notre Dame. Before students begin researching these companies, writing their resumes and preparing for interviews, most assess the real value of an internship. Although they can create monetary problems and just plain boredom, summers as the office assistant still prove worthwhile in the eyes of many employers.

At the Notre Dame Career Center, Susanne Thorup works as the manager of Internship Development, matching employers and students up for a symbiotic internship. In an email, Thorup and career counselor Anita Rees wrote that internships are the "keys to the undergraduate experience. [Internships] help you compete for great future opportunities, learn what you like and don't like in the world of work, and network with professionals that can help you leap to the next work experience." Hill and Knowlton, a public relations firm, listed internship experience, networking skills and writing skills as the top three qualities in applicants for entry-level positions.

The high regard many employers hold for internships can be confusing for students who find themselves in a dull, unpaid position all summer. If this is the case, Hill and Knowlton encourage students to take every opportunity during their internship to gain experience

in the field. By offering assistance in random office assignments or by sitting in on meetings, students can ensure they are getting the most out of their internships.

Students can also overcome the financial issues that arise from unpaid positions and high housing costs in big cities. The Career Center encourages



**RIISING TO YOUR POTENTIAL** Some summer interns find that their duties are less than glamorous.

students to research the numerous scholarships and grants which can help cover these costs. To cut housing costs even more, universities such as NYU, Georgetown, Emory and Columbia offer summer housing in their residence halls. Since many companies target their paid internships at upperclassmen, part-time, unpaid internships are solid alternatives for freshmen and sophomores seeking valuable experience while still holding a paying job.

Although many companies value the

real-world experience of an official internship, other companies appreciate applicants who simply show that they have used their summers in a constructive way, rather than just sitting on the couch. Carrie Sweeney, a career fair representative from Starcom Worldwide, stresses the importance of using the summer to "develop the overarching skills sets of critical thinking, communication and creativity." She adds that "even if it is not an internship, do something during the summer that is worth talking about in an interview and shows that you've developed your skills for that particular industry."

Many students also value the internship experience itself more than the paycheck. Sophomore Katie Burns wants to get an internship "in order to narrow down what business field [she] would like to go into when [she is] older." Although students like Burns might make a few too many photocopies this summer, Joanna Galuszka reminds them in her article on the career information Web site Vault.com, that climbing the corporate ladder is not glamorous. "At your internship stage of career growth, you are akin to the plankton on the ocean's surface that subsist on dead bacteria and other scum. It's not prestigious, but it nevertheless fulfills an important function within the overall food chain. If you do your grunt work well, you may eventually evolve into a bigger fish," Galuszka writes.

By utilizing various Career Center and Internet resources, students can find internships that meet their expectations and needs. Even if students find their summer positions to be less than ideal, making the most of the internship will likely prove beneficial in the future. ⑤

# ELECTION COVERAGE 2007



## What's Inside:

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- 13 ... Rivera-Kane
- 14 ... Smith-Weiss
- 15 ... Staff Endorsement
- 16 ... Judging the Planks

## Helpful Hint:

Hymenoptera - n. pl.

A large and important order of insects (including the ants, wasps, bees, etc.), having four membranous wings (which are, however, sometimes caducous or absent); the females have an ovipositor, which may also serve as a sting. -OED.com



**EDUCATE YOURSELF**

# A RETROSPECTIVE Lizzi Shappell Bill Andrichik

• Nicole Garton

When seniors Lizzi Shappell and Bill Andrichik assumed their respective positions as student body president and vice president in April 2006, they already had a considerable amount of administrative experience. Shappell had previously served as the vice president to then-Student Body President Dave Baron, and as a sophomore she served as the Badin senator, chair of the Gender Relations Committee and a Sophomore Class Council representative. Andrichik was likewise no slouch; before being elected, he served as junior class president as well as sophomore class president, with Shappell as his campaign manager.

The Shappell-Andrichik administration hit the ground running in August after having laid the groundwork for their initiatives in the spring and summer. When Grab'n'Go opened its doors for the year, students were able to choose

from several new options, including popcorn and pudding snacks. The College Readership Program, another campaign promise, launched within the first week of classes. In designated locations across campus, 1,600 copies of the *Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times* and *USA Today* were made available to students, funded by an increase in the Student Activities tuition fee.

Improving relations between Notre Dame and South Bend was one of the key issues for Shappell and Andrichik, and they wasted no time in continuing the work started under Baron. Student government hosted the first-ever "Explore South Bend Tour" and the second annual Off-Campus Student Information Fair the day before classes began. The Shappell-Andrichik administration was successful in attaining most of its broader goals such as taking steps to strengthen student-alumni and student-community relations, which Shappell says are "greatly improved on both fronts."

According to Shappell, student government's interaction with the Alumni Board was "unprecedented" this year, and though the Student-Alumni receptions held during football weekends did not receive as large a student turnout as hoped, Shappell believes the receptions set a "promising standard" for future relations.

"Controversial issues such as student evictions and academic freedom demanded our attention over any platform initiatives in the previous administration," Shappell says. The ongoing battle against the Disorderly House Ordinance that enabled landlords to evict students after the first offense was finally resolved — perhaps the hardest-won achievement of the Shappell-Andrichik administration.

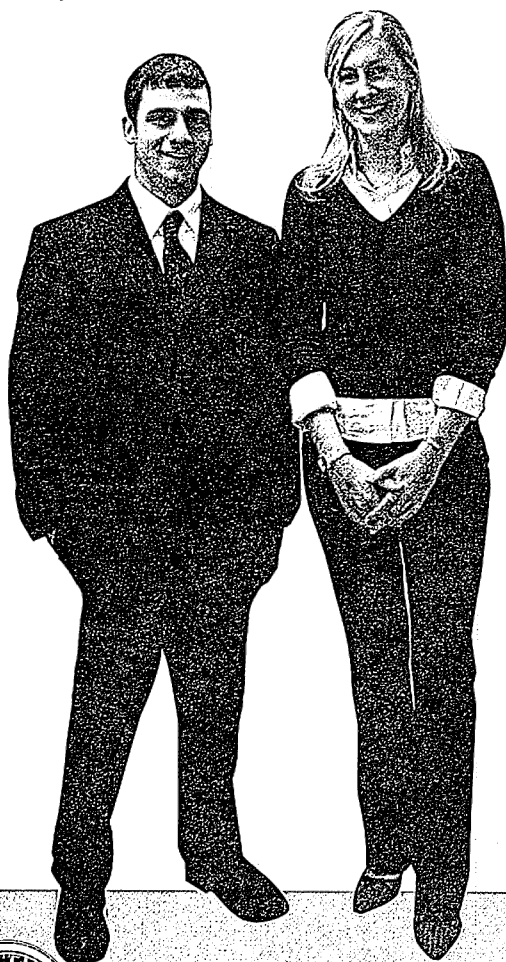
With only two months left in their term, Shappell and Andrichik are still proactive. Two major initiatives

still underway include the upcoming Eating Disorders Conference from February 8 to 10 and the Community Summit on March 2. Following the success of two previous Eating Disorder Weeks, the inaugural Eating Disorder Conference is an attempt to garner the issue more academic, widespread attention. "By bringing in experts from around the country, we are fostering an environment to discuss both the academic aspects of eating disorders and how we best address them on college campuses. I am excited for the opportunity for the Notre Dame community to take the lead," Shappell says.

Similarly, the Community Summit is also an effort to increase dialogue on campus, in this case between students and leaders of the South Bend community. Shappell says, "The event, while framed around the broad theme of better integrating students into the community and the community into local university and college campuses, is primarily to establish relationships and lines of communication to make future initiatives possible." Never before has there been such a formal gathering of students and community leaders.

These events reflect the mindset that Shappell and Andrichik adopted at the start of their term. Throughout their term, Shappell and Andrichik have responded to students' concerns with dedication and professionalism and took the necessary steps to meet their goals. "We have been fortunate to overcome most challenges in order to achieve the majority of our goals," Shappell says. "Out of around 35 initiatives, we have completed or are in the process of completing around 30 and still have two months left in office," she says.

9



# elizabeth **BROWN** maris **BRAUN**

• David Poell

**B**rown (right) and Braun both bring a high level of student government experience to their campaign. During this year's administration, presidential candidate Brown has served as the chief executive assistant to Student Body President Lizzi Shappell, in addition to chairing both the Executive Programming Board and the Campus Life Council Task Force on Student Voice and Input. Brown has also held positions on a number of other influential committees, including the Sexual Assault Advisory Committee and the Senate Gender Issues Committee. Braun is currently the Breen-Phillips senator, and during the past year she has served on the Senate Committee on Community Relations and the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs.

"I think that one thing that hasn't

been done effectively this year is getting enough student input to really get the right things going," Brown says. In order to help remedy this problem, Brown-Braun plans to increase accessibility to student government by placing all applications for senate committees online, which they hope will make the application process more user-friendly. Additionally, they want to be more in touch with what students would like their representatives to address. To improve this dialogue, Brown-Braun plans to create an online forum for student input and a "Research Report Series," which would be a monthly survey system designed to gain feedback from the entire student body.

In addition to focusing on greater accessibility to student government, Brown and Braun have developed an ambitious plan to implement

a "community-based curriculum" that they hope will facilitate a more positive relationship between students and South Bend residents.

According to Brown, they would like to build on the

achievements of Voice, a student organization at the Center for Social Concerns (CSC) that has focused on increasing community-based curriculum. Though the community-based curriculum is aimed primarily at fostering a better understanding between two disparate groups, they would like to make students more aware of South Bend's local perks as well. Brown-Braun hopes to work with local eateries and merchandisers to organize student discount days and a "Taste of South Bend," in which representatives from local establishments visit campus and advertise to students.

Perhaps the most audacious part of the Brown-Braun platform has to do with Food Services. Currently, Domer Dollars cannot be used at Notre Dame Stadium and the Joyce Center, but Brown-Braun aims to change this. After discussions with the Director of Food Services, Dave Prentkowski, Brown and Braun are confident that they can develop a way to make Domer Dollars a valid form of currency at both places. This initiative would be part of a long-range plan to make Domer Dollars legal tender at local establishments, especially the forthcoming Notre Dame "college town," which is still years away from completion.

Overall, Brown-Braun has engineered a well-researched platform that provides a sense of continuity with the current administration, given Brown's strong ties to Shappell. They pledge to continue student government's emphasis on making social concerns a priority and hope to foster greater dialogue between students and faculty through the formation of a student-faculty contemporary issues debate series. In the same vein, Brown-Braun wants to work with the university administration to make Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a university-recognized holiday. Notre Dame is currently among one of only a few American universities that does not officially recognize this federal holiday.

9



## **PRESIDENT**

Name: Liz Brown (Right)  
Class: Junior  
Major: Political Science & Peace Studies  
Dorm: Cavanaugh  
Hometown: Fort Wayne, IN

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Name: Maris Braun (left)  
Class: Sophomore  
Major: History and Finance  
Dorm: Breen-Phillips  
Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

## **PERSONALITY**

Use the word "hymenoptera" in a sentence: "I was passing these two guys the other day in LaFortune and the guy turned to the other guy and said, 'Man, that girl really hymenopteraed that other girl.'"

## **IDEAS**

Most Feasible: Domer Dollars in ND Stadium and Joyce Center  
Least Feasible: Student Discount Days at Local Restaurants



garrett **COGGON** michael **PADBERG**

## • Christopher Meskill

Freshmen Garrett Coggon and Michael Padberg are making a very clear distinction between running for student body president and being in the running for student body president. The pair from Zahm Hall has made no attempt to campaign for the student government position. The lone reminder that they are in fact in the election at all is their simplistic Web site, featuring their slogan and two pictures labeled "Juice" and "Padberg."

While *Scholastic* has tried to contact the two, the only response received was the rather snide quote from the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean," "We are currently disinclined to acquiesce with your request." As Barbossa further explains in the movie, "It means 'no.'"

Coggon and Padberg are not the first pair of Zahm freshmen to enter a joke ticket into the election. Two years ago, Will Marra and Pete Harig ran a mock campaign, made famous by their homoerotic remake of Eric Prydz's "Call on Me" music video. The year prior, Mark Healy (from Zahm) and

Mike Healy (from Keenan Hall) ran a freshman campaign based on having the same last name.

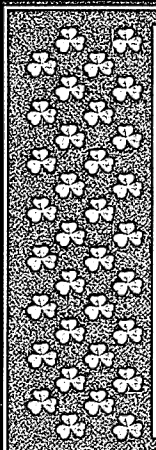
The paramount joke campaign in recent memory was launched by then-juniors Alec White and Eric Powers in 2005. The White-Powers ticket proclaimed that their height made them the best candidates for the job but had a campaign to back it up — one with over 100 policy changes ranging from changing the Dome from gold to platinum to installing

a labyrinth on South Quad, complete with a minotaur. White and Powers accumulated more votes than two serious campaigns.

The most infamous joke candidacy occurred back in 1972, when Robert Kersten ran for "King of Campus," with his illegal pet cat "UnCandidate" as the vice-presidential candidate. Kersten campaigned by speaking to his "minions" from a window in Walsh Hall and went to all lengths to keep his candidacy alive, which included getting a student ID made up for his vice-presidential feline. Kersten was such a fan favorite that he won the election in a landslide and served as king for more than just one day.

Unfortunately for Coggon and Padberg, it seems unlikely that they will have the same success as Kersten or White-Powers. For most students voting in this year's election, this article may be the first time they even notice Coggon and Padberg's ticket. For others, it may be the ballot itself.

9



<b>PRESIDENT</b>
Name: Garrett Coggon
Class: Freshman
Major: First Year of Studies
Dorm: Zahm
Hometown: Traverse City, MI
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>
Name: Michael Padberg
Class: Freshman
Major: First Year of Studies
Dorm: Zahm
Hometown: South Bend, IN

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# cipriano RIVERA & catherine KANE

• Daric Snyder

**F**reshman Cipriano Rivera may not be involved with student government, but he has plenty of leadership experience. Before attending Notre Dame, he spent four years in the Marine Corps, stationed in California. "Leadership can be adapted in various ways, and I think with my experiences I've learned leadership qualities and ways to adapt and deal with people," he says. With sophomore running-mate Catherine Kane, a fellow ROTC student, Rivera hopes to bring a fresh perspective to student government. The Rivera-Kane campaign is focused on enhancing student life by addressing the little things that frustrate students. The duo hopes to win voters with improvements

to meal plans, free tutoring services, an expanded Domer Dollar system and a new conference centered on current affairs.

Most students enroll in a 14-meal plan but are unable to fully use it, Rivera and Kane argue. They propose that students should be allowed to "roll over" unused meals from one week to the next, allowing the plan to better suit fluctuations in student schedules. "We're paying for them," Rivera says. "It's our right to have them." In addition, Rivera-Kane wishes to explore the addition of a new meal plan that will offer less meals and more flex points. The campaign has spoken with Food Services, according to Rivera, but Food Services told Rivera that new meal plans or rollover would be difficult to introduce. "We are willing to make compromises, obviously," Kane says. "They don't need to roll over for the whole semester." Rivera-Kane also supports

expansion of the Domer Dollar system to more on-campus locations, such as Student Union Board (SUB) movies and all campus vending machines.

In academic matters, Rivera-Kane wants to extend free tutoring to all Notre Dame students. Currently,

freshmen can receive free tutoring through the First Year of Studies, but Rivera and Kane believe the system is underutilized. They argue that it would not be difficult to extend the service to all students at a minimal cost to the university. Rivera says they haven't calculated the exact details but will develop a strategy once elected. The platform also includes the introduction of upperclassmen peer advisors. These student advisors from each major would assist underclassmen in picking a major that best suits them.

Rivera-Kane intends to raise social awareness by creating a new conference focused on current events, namely the ongoing War on Terror, U.S. military action in Iraq and the genocide in Darfur. While they supported the new Eating Disorders Conference, they feel they can create a more relevant conference focused on world events. "We didn't feel that [the Eating Disorders Conference] appealed to the majority of the student body," Rivera says. They would invite prominent scholars and military officials to speak at a weekend conference about conditions "on the ground" and related issues. In addition to the conference, the campaign also desires to increase student involvement in the community.

Other ideas from the Rivera-Kane camp include increasing accessibility to student government by positioning suggestion boxes in trafficked locations like the LaFortune Student Center and the dining halls. The duo also wants to examine changes to pep rallies, hoping to return student enthusiasm to the events. Rivera and Kane confess that, while many of their ideas haven't been thoroughly researched, they hope to pursue them aggressively if elected. "As long as you're someone who will carry through with what [you] say, that's what's important, and we can do that," Kane says. **9**



## **PRESIDENT**

Name: Cipriano Rivera  
Class: Freshman (4 years  
Marine Corps)  
Major: Accounting, Arabic,  
Marines ROTC  
Dorm: St. Edward's Hall  
Hometown: Fullerton, CA

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Name: Catherine Kane  
Class: Sophomore  
Major: History, A & L  
Preprofessional, Navy ROTC  
Dorm: Walsh Family  
Hometown: Arlington Heights, IL

## **PERSONALITY**

Use the word "hymenoptera" in a sentence: "I drank a little too much hymenoptera last night and can't remember a thing."

## **IDEAS**

Most Feasible: Current Affairs Conferences  
  
Least Feasible: New Meal Plans and Roll Over

# dannySMITHashleyWEISS

• Sarah Barnes

For candidates Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss, further integration of technology into student life is the main theme of their campaign.

The partnership they are working to form with Ruckus Network, Inc., is evidence of this approach. With Ruckus, students would be able to download music and movies for free. Ruckus is available for students using Microsoft Windows and some MP3 players that use Microsoft's PlaysForSure technology. While Ruckus is not available for use with Apple's iPods or Macintosh OS X, Smith says that students who have new Macs with Intel chips could run Windows to access the Ruckus Network.

Smith and Weiss also want to see ticket booklets for football seasons put onto student ID cards. Color coding by section and including row and seat number on ID cards will eliminate the need for ticket booklets. Weiss maintains that as well as added convenience, this will be more cost effective for students. "Right now a lost ticket booklet is \$210, and a lost ID card is only \$30," Smith says. "Putting tickets onto student IDs is on the horizon. We just need to push for it."

Off-campus Domer Dollars is another convenience Smith and Weiss are working to implement. While Domer Dollars are being considered for use in the future "college town" development, Smith

wants to apply them to students' favorite restaurants now.

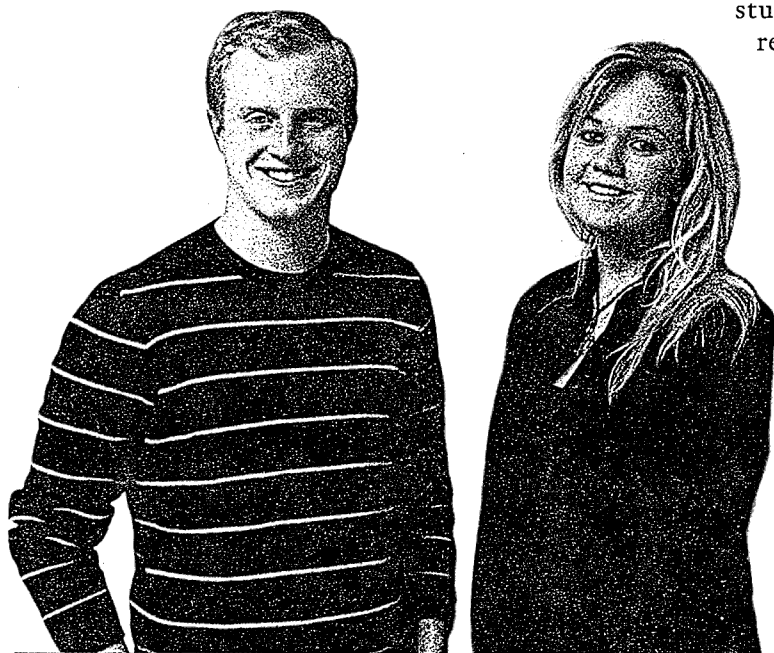
Smith says, "Forming a business relationship with local restaurants would be a great way to build community relations. We wouldn't go to Chili's or Friday's; it's important that it's not a chain. We want to find

something unique to South Bend, like Lula's [Cafe] and Nick's [Patio]."

While technology is important, Smith and Weiss also want to focus on gender issues at Notre Dame. The first place they want to start is Frosh-O. Smith says, "I think it's important to stress that you need to make your core group of friends in your dorm first. If you are starting to get shoved into situations with the opposite sex and haven't even established your friends yet, you're kind of getting ahead of where you're at." Taking the pressure off meeting someone of the opposite sex, focusing on dorm-to-dorm relations and emphasizing the group aspect of dating are three of their goals for improving gender relations at Notre Dame.

One of the loftiest goals for Smith and Weiss is to institute a fixed tuition rate for Notre Dame students. Smith and Weiss are optimistic about this proposal since it has already been implemented at other top-tier schools like Harvard University and Princeton University. With a fixed rate, it would be easier for parents and students to plan how to pay for tuition because the threat of an unknown cost would be eliminated. Smith and Weiss realize that this is the biggest hurdle to overcome in their campaign. "Can we say this is going to happen? I think it's unfair to say, 'Yes, we will get this done.' But it is something that we will address and bring to the proper venue, which is why we're there," Weiss says. "Our number one for this initiative is just to create dialogue. We know this can be done in the university."

While Smith and Weiss address an array of issues in their campaign, they believe their goals are attainable. Smith says, "We won't want to run on something that we just can't deliver. We want to run on something, deliver it and give it to the student body. That's really important." ☺



## PRESIDENT

Name: Danny Smith  
Class: Junior  
Major: Political Science and Philosophy  
Dorm: Alumni  
Hometown: Washington, DC

## PERSONALITY

Use the word "hymenoptera" in a sentence: "Did you see that beautiful hymenoptera on the quad today?"

## VICE PRESIDENT

Name: Ashley Weiss  
Class: Junior  
Major: English and Art History  
Dorm: Breen-Phillips  
Hometown: Rochester, NY

## IDEAS

Most Feasible: Expanding GRC  
Least Feasible: Fixed Tuition Rate

# SCHOLASTIC ENDORSEMENT

In thinking about the best candidates for student body president and vice president, one must look at a combination of important aspects, chief among them a breadth of experience, connections with student government officials, and relevant university administrators and feasibility of platform. Taking these points into careful consideration, *Scholastic* endorses Elizabeth Brown and Maris Braun as the strongest campaign ticket for the 2006-2007 student government election.

Together, Brown and Braun's credentials comprise a very impressive resume of student government involvement. As the chief executive officer to outgoing Student Body President Lizzi Shappell, Brown has been a central figure in developing and implementing the initiatives of the current administration. In addition to occupying this powerful position and cultivating the much-needed bureaucratic expertise that comes with it, Brown's placement on several influential student government committees has exposed her to a wide array of campus issues. Brown's running mate, Braun, complements Brown well, bringing her own depth of experience to the ticket. Only a sophomore, Braun also has the potential to bridge the gap between the next two student government administrations should her tenure with Brown prove successful.

Taken as a whole, Brown-Braun represents a platform that is the most promising

among this year's slate of candidates. Their planned initiatives for increasing involvement in student government and advocating an academic-based approach toward a renewed relationship between Notre Dame students and local residents are both impressive. These points indicate a commitment to challenging long-held assumptions about the apathy of the student body and the cynical perception of students toward the greater South Bend community. Better yet, there is no good reason why strong progress on both of these fronts cannot take place under their administration. Cultivating community relations has been a hallmark of Shappell's agenda ever since she served as vice president to Dave Baron last year, and Brown has been at the center of this strategy.

The rest of the Brown-Braun platform is well researched and sensible. It benefits from close contact with the Director of Food Services Dave Prentkowski, whose cooperation will be crucial in implementing the Guest Meal Exchange Program and other initiatives having to do with Domer Dollars. Their platform is bold and realistic, and they have chosen to place initiatives that stress better dialogue and increased understanding at the forefront of their platform.

The Smith-Weiss ticket is a strong first contender, but it ultimately puts too much stock in a platform that focuses on technological innovation.

This strategy sounds good on paper, but at the same time, we fail to see why these changes are essential and, moreover, how they would stand to benefit the student

body as a whole significantly. Ideas like placing the football ticket booklets on student ID cards and implementing the Ruckus network for all students would be more cumbersome to push through the necessary bureaucracies than their net results would be fruitful. Also, Smith-Weiss's pledge to address rising university tuition, while noble in its intentions, would not be a starter in student government debates. Ambitious issues like tuition policies fall under the Board of Trustees, and, unfortunately, we don't see how any student could effect change in this area. We recognize that Smith-Weiss shares several planks with Brown-Braun, such as expanding Domer Dollar use and standardizing academic advising. Still, by virtue of their superior experience and more moderate platform, we judge Brown-Braun to be a stronger ticket.

The Rivera-Kane ticket is a hodgepodge of generic initiatives that lack substance and a serious commitment to researching proposed ideas before explicitly advocating them. When pressed in an interview for the feasibility of being able to "roll over" dining hall meals from one week to the next, they admitted that they had faced strict opposition from Food Services, which is not encouraging. Other ideas on their Web site, such as "Community Service Night" and the advocacy of "Social Awareness," are already established parts of student life, and the candidates do not elaborate very much on any of their other proposals. As a freshman and a sophomore, Rivera-Kane also lack the necessary experience for a successful administration.

It is fair to say that the Coggon-Padberg ticket is really just a ticket in name only. This pair of Zahm freshmen declined an interview with *Scholastic*, and their Web site is devoid of any meaningful information. By historical standards, this ticket must rank at the bottom of the barrel even in the category of "humorous," which is presumably what these two were trying for.



## Scholastic breaks down the candidates' ideas

**MLK Day as a university-recognized holiday (Brown/Braun)**

A photo of Fr. Hesburgh and Martin Luther King Jr., arms linked in solidarity, hangs in LaFortune. King's work should be officially remembered by the Notre Dame community. Although students weren't in class on MLK Day this year, it's time for the university to formally acknowledge this holiday.

**Domer Dollars in the stadium** (Brown/Braun, Smith/Weiss)

Sometimes it's difficult to find a place to stash your cash on football Saturdays, especially if you're covered with body paint. With credit card payment coming to stadium concessions, Domer Dollars is a feasible addition.

### Guest Meal Exchange (Brown/Braun)

It doesn't make sense that visiting friends have to fork over 12 bucks to join you for dinner in the dining hall when five meals remain unused on your meal plan.

**Equal roles on Gender Relations Committee (Brown/Braun, Smith/Weiss)**

Currently, a male and female student co-chair the GRC. This arrangement must continue, as the Notre Dame student body can only hope to address long-standing gender troubles with men and women actively listening to each other.



### No platform (Coggon/Padberg)

Are n't joke campaigns supposed to be funny? If you're going to go through the trouble of getting on the ballot, at least come up with *some* kind of platform.

**Ruckus music network (Smith/Weiss)**

This sounds great — until you realize it's a red herring. Ruckus will not work with iPods, Mac OS X or Microsoft's new Zune player. In addition, any interested college student can already get free access to the service at [ruckus.com](http://ruckus.com).

**Ticket Booklet on ID cards (Smith/Weiss)**

While the ticketing process can sometimes be a hassle, this solution sounds like a nightmare to implement. How could assigned seating even work with ticket information stored in the card?

**Dormer Dollars Off-Campus** (Brown/Braun, Smith/Weiss)

This idea may be more useful when the long-heralded "college town" development actually materializes ... years from now. We're responsible enough to wrangle with real money for now.

[illegible]

## Rollover meals and new meal plans (Rivera/Kane)

Major reforms to meal plans are suggested each year — and each year Food Services has to shoot them down. If students used their meal plans to the fullest, costs would rise (or quality would drop). Most students don't eat 14 dining hall meals a week, so it's doubtful they'd ever utilize rollover.

**Access to student government** (Brown/Braun, Rivera/Kane, Smith/Weiss)

Each year, ambitious student politicians hope to get students interested in the workings of student government. Don't count on it. Blogs, online surveys and strategically placed suggestion boxes won't electrify the student body.

## Revamping Frosh-O (Smith/Weiss)

Notre Dame's gender issues may begin from day one — Wet'n'Wild co-ed Twister comes to mind — but student government hasn't influenced this.

## Addressing Tuition (Smith/Weiss)

Notre Dame's ever-inflating price tag is a rightful topic for debate, but don't expect student government to make a true impact here.

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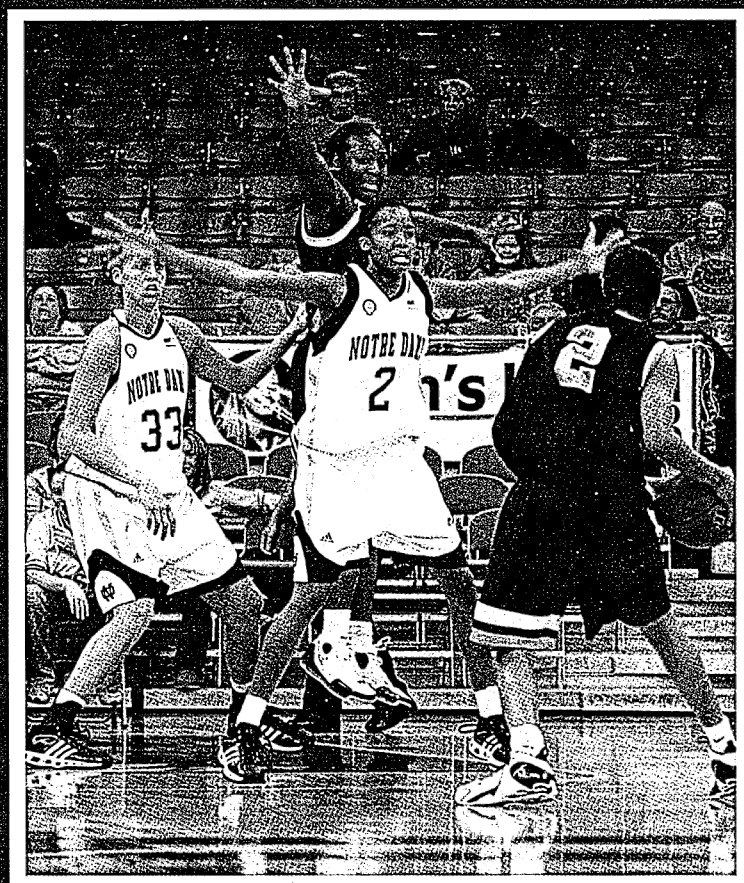
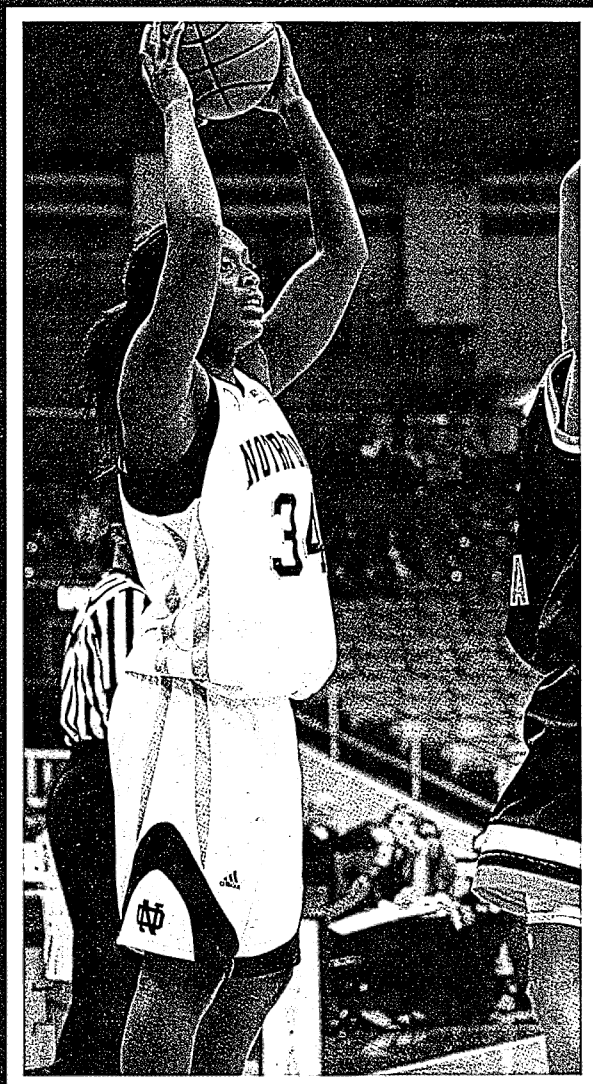
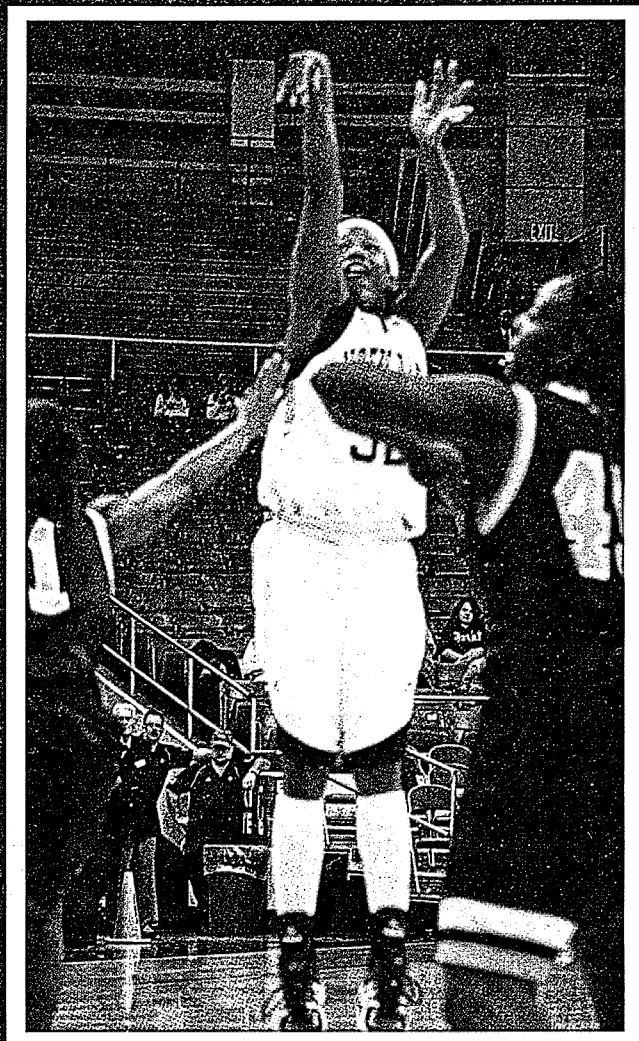
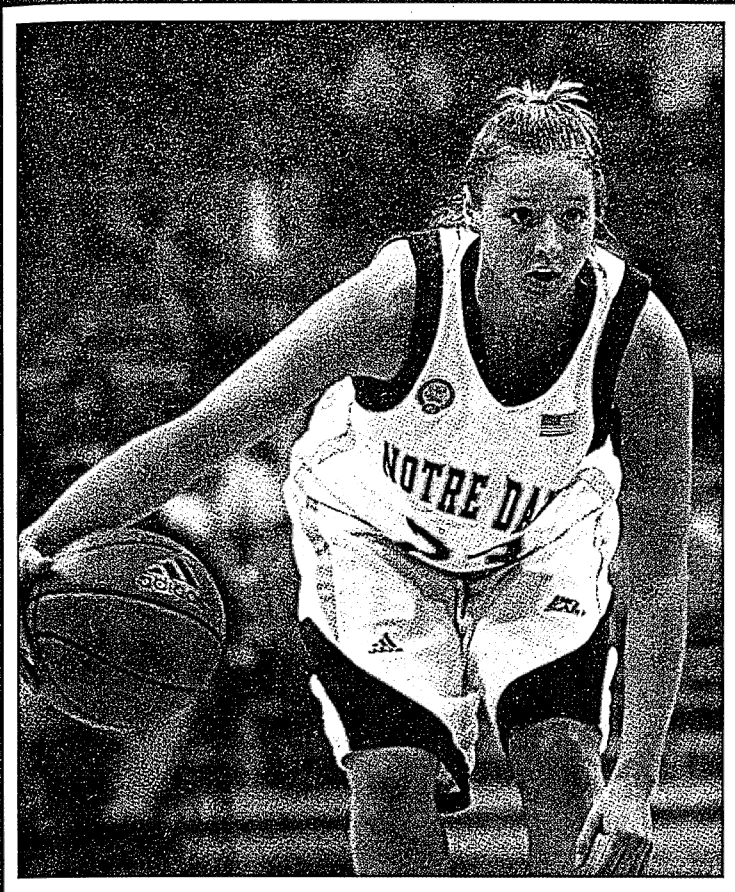


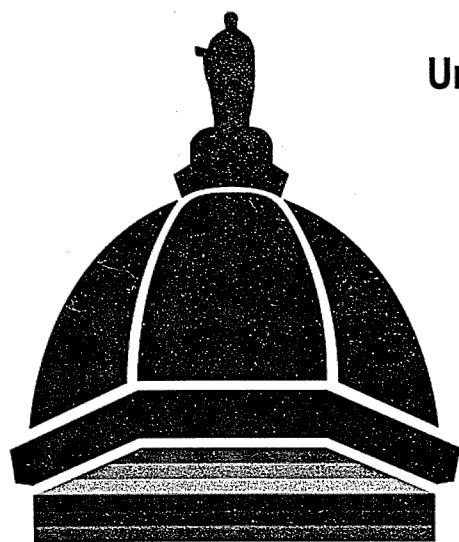
SCHOLASTIC

*SnapShot*

PHOTOS BY KRISTIN KEVE

Irish Women's  
Basketball  
2007





## CORE COUNCIL FOR GAY & LESBIAN STUDENTS

### University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students

**The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students**  
(Information, education, and resources)

**Contact:** Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, 1-5550, or Andy Magee,  
[amagee@nd.edu](mailto:amagee@nd.edu)

**Office of Campus Ministry**

(Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students  
and their friends; pertinent library resources  
in 304 Co-Mo; discussion and support)

**Contact:** Fr. Joe Carey, CSC, at 1-7800

**University Counseling Center**

(Individual counseling)

**Contact:** Dr. Maureen Lafferty at [Lafferty.3@nd.edu](mailto:Lafferty.3@nd.edu)

Visit our web site at

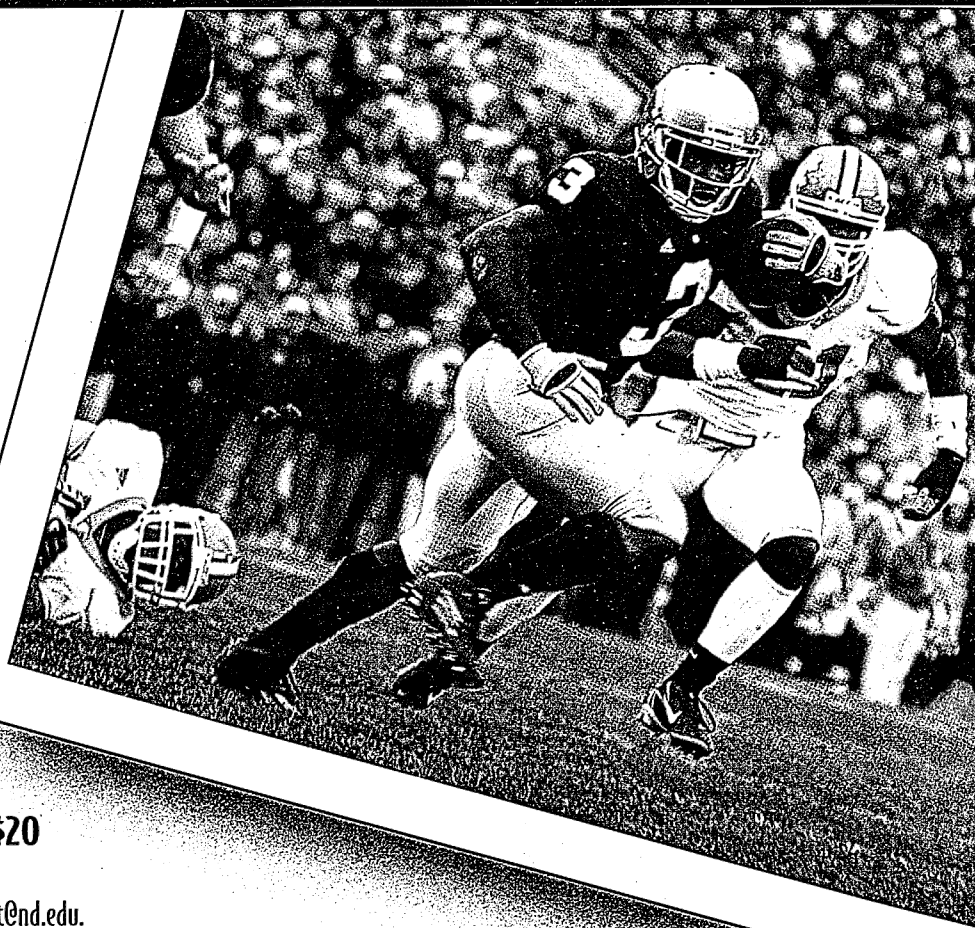
<http://corecouncil.nd.edu>

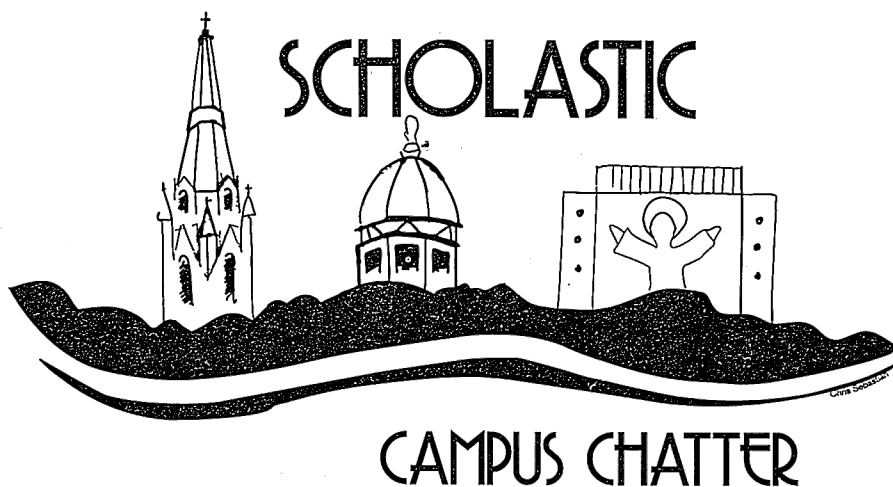
## Photo Reprints Available

What better way to celebrate the Notre Dame Fighting Irish's return to glory than with photos of your favorite players and plays from the 2006 winning season? Order reprints today of any of the student-photographed pictures from *Scholastic's* annual football review. Full-color prints are available in 5x7, 8x10, or 11x14 sizes.

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





### DEPT. OF LOCAL EDUCATION STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

**F**or me, the experience was unlike any other. For them, it was just another night. Last Wednesday evening, I drove down to Ewing Avenue, parked my snow-covered SUV in the last space, and ventured into the infamous PLS stomping ground — the Ewing Cafe. Once inside, I gradually adjusted to the dim lighting and haze of cigarette smoke as the smooth sounds of 1920s jazz abated the inscrutable gazes that had promptly settled on me.

After a quick once-over, I silently negotiated my next move. If I wanted to experience the culture and aesthetic experience of the cafe, I would have to quickly ease my own inhibitions and dissipate theirs. I was clearly a minority within the Ewing community. It is understandable why the faux-hippie PLS crowd enjoys frequenting this unique establishment. Reminiscent of a Prohibition-era speakeasy, the Ewing seems best suited for the gruff, streetwise crowd that Notre Dame students rarely associate with. Don't call it seedy though... clandestine is much more appropriate.

After ordering a dollar Amber Bock and a basket of frog legs, I ventured over to the jukebox with Kevin, the Wednesday night bartender, and introduced myself to Julie, the co-owner of the fine establishment. I offered her a few of my past articles, which she later said calmed her fears that I might be "whoring out [her] life as another school project." While she read, I explored the Tiki Bar, the cluttered wall-decor, the bar patrons and the two dozen "Support Our Troops" magnets on the refrigerator door. Spying Julie's

subdued smirk and overhearing her sporadic bursts of laughter, I walked around confident that I had been able to mute her fears.

Finished with the stack of articles, Julie grabbed my hand and pulled me over to the bar to introduce me to her friends: Chuck, Mickey and Joe — all bar owners, all with a story. We talked about property taxes and how "South Bend is toast." Julie began quoting Charles Bukowski, saying that her theory on life was contained in his novel "Mockingbird, Wish Me Luck." As it turns out, the theory is more the image of a playground. "You're on the monkey-bars, and you can hang there, and eventually you won't be able to hold yourself up anymore and will fall off. Or, you can keep pushing your arm out there to grab hold of the next bar and keep on

going until the end," she said.

As the smoke clouded my eyes, the sound of Bruce — the "heavy-hitter" as they called him — playing the Galaga video arcade filled my head, and my eyes narrowed in on the pegboard of colored lights that lined the ceiling. "Is anyone in your family in the army?" Kevin asked me from behind the counter. "No," I said sheepishly, eyeing the refrigerator door. Conversation coming from all sides of me, my mind slid from one question to another story. "Did I tell you about my bar down in Mexico?" Julie asked. "Well, the Tiki Bar over there is the closest I'm ever gonna come," she said.

Four hours later, on my way out the door, I was called over to one of the tables, dimly lit by the lamp overhead. As the four men at the table introduced themselves, the tentative notes of the piano bar rang a cheery tune. There was Bruce, "the local inventor," Robin, "the skippie who is there for the heavy-hitters to blame," John, the Notre Dame graduate (class of '76) who "can't get out [of South Bend] fast enough," and Jeff, the "great mechanic with a crack-whore mother."

An hour later I packed up my things and headed to the door, past the green plaid plastic tablecloths and towards the wooden Indian chieftain guarding the door. As the double doors swung behind me, voices called after me. "Be safe out there," "Come back sometime," "Give me a call, and we'll chat," they said. "Maybe next Wednesday — for frog legs and dollar Amber Bocks," was the reply.

— Sarah Barrett



# Ragtime:

## *A Musical Debate*

• Sarah Barrett

**T**his past weekend, Notre Dame's student-run Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCo) debuted its 2007 production, "Ragtime," in celebration of the company's 10th anniversary. While the performances signified the culmination of months of hard work on one of the most challenging musicals that PEMCo had yet to perform, it also marked the conclusion of an emotionally grueling debate among the Notre Dame black community.

The debate began when a group of black students heard about some of the musical's controversial content — the use of "n-----" and the negative depiction of blacks, in particular. Two black student groups, Wabruda and Shades of Ebony, came together to discuss their objections to such a production being performed on campus.

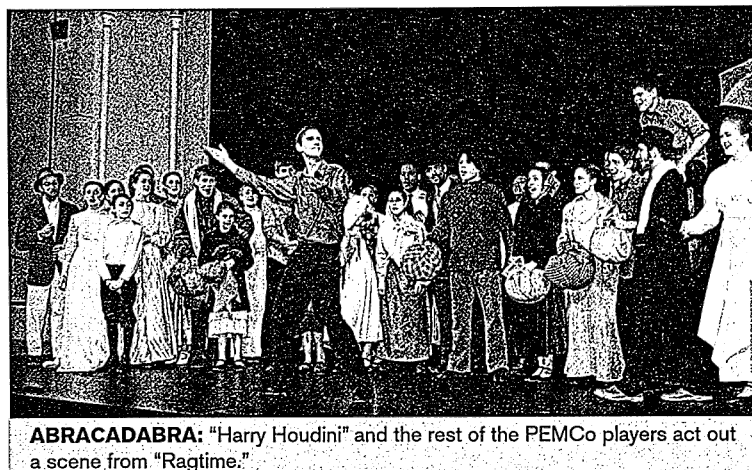
Wabruda Advisor David Moss, Ph.D., headed these discussions. Moss recalls the wide range of viewpoints held by the black student community. "We saw a full range of expression and experience with that discussion, which I thought was very healthy," Moss says. "You couldn't pigeonhole the black community into one way of responding to the play — it really ranged from 'let's not have it on campus' to 'leave it just the way it is.'"

As the debate went on, the director of "Ragtime," senior Program of Liberal

Studies major Jack Calcutt was brought into the discussion. Calcutt, surprised by the strong opposition the musical had sparked, did his best to articulate the aesthetic importance of "Ragtime." "We are trying to put on a slice of history for our audience, in its raw form — imperfections, mistakes, problems — so we can see a progression of where we were, where we are now, and then use

says. "We need to remember all of those brave souls in Mississippi back in the 1960s fight for voting rights — those little insignificant people who stood up and voted in a state where voting would get you killed are leaders, people to be respected. We cannot forget those people. Those are your mother and father, those are your grandparents, and you cannot forget the things they did to get you where you are today."

Carter was one of the leading advocates for the play at the start of the debate. He said that he would not be part of the production if the racial slurs were removed, as it would falsify history and remove the potency of this scar on black history in the United States. "I wanted to do it to remind people that this is where we came from, and we are blessed to be where we are



**ABRACADABRA:** "Harry Houdini" and the rest of the PEMCo players act out a scene from "Ragtime."

that progression to see where we can go from here," he says.

The members of Shades of Ebony and Wabruda, however, did not see the production in the same light. They raised objections that February is the celebration of Black History Month and that the way "Ragtime" portrays history conjures up the painful negative portrayal of blacks.

Lead actor and sophomore industrial design major Kyle Carter, an African-American, discusses this reaction. "We don't want to deprive our children of black history — specifically talking about the positive times in black history," Carter

today," Carter says.

Active Wabruda member and the main voice of objection among the black student community, senior science preprofessional major Frank Duerson felt differently. "It is 2007, and some people just don't need to be subjected to [those racial slurs] anymore," Duerson says. "There are just certain words that don't need to be in people's vocabulary, and passed down through 'art.' If you want to bring out a certain message, there are many ways you can do it. There's an easier way to show racial tension in the play without calling people certain names."

In discussing this sensitive subject,

Duerson brings to mind the terrible legacy of "the n-word" in American history, both distant and recent. "My parents, my great grandparents, lived through this thing, when n----- wasn't just a word. There were actions that followed this word. There was a reason why families were taken apart and towns were segregated. It just scares me that [PEMCo] wants to belittle this as just art. I understand it is art, but it is a bigger problem here than just this play. That is why we attacked this play so hard," Duerson says.

The attack Duerson speaks of was well received by Calcutt and Director of Acting and Outreach Anna Mazig, a junior psychology and preprofessional studies major. Two actions were taken to resolve the concerns the community brought forth; the first was the amendment added to the constitutions of PEMCo, Wabruda and Shades of Ebony, which was also included in the playbill given to all audience members (see sidebar).

The second action taken was the formation of the first-ever academic forum to accompany the production and address some of these potent issues. "One of the reasons why we are doing the forum and the preface is because some individuals understand that not everyone at Notre Dame understands the history [of blacks] as much as others do and don't have as much of a grip on it simply because of where they grew up or what they have dealt with in their lives, or lack thereof," Mazig says.

The experience of sophomore Andrew Reynolds, whose character uses the most racial slurs throughout the musical, projects what the members of the black student community hope that the audience will gain from the production: feelings of empathy for the actors on the stage. Reynolds says, "Theater has the pleasant consequence of forcing its cast members to literally walk a mile in each other's shoes — the shoes of all characters,

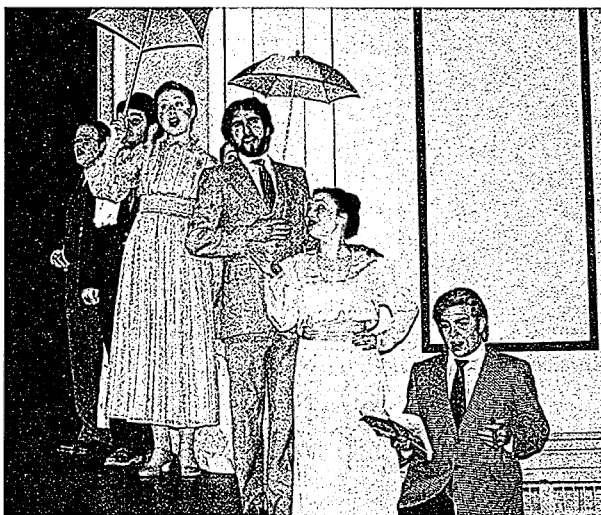
not just their own. Perhaps that might help me do the same in life outside the theater."

In the conclusion of her choreographer's note in the playbill, junior political science major and peace studies minor Andrea Laidman expresses her hopes for what the cast, crew and audience will take from the musical. "Knowing the members of the cast and watching them grow both as characters and people gives me hope for the abilities of our generation to truly move forward. Please, first and foremost, enjoy this production for its value as a piece of musical theatre. I ask only that later you consider the implications of the beautiful theatre you are about to watch."

6



**SOULFUL SONGS:** "Ragtime" participants sing a musical number in unison.



**A TASTE OF HISTORY:** Actors in "Ragtime" were dressed in turn-of-the-century costumes.

**"History is the present. That's why every generation writes it anew. But what most people think of as history is its end product, myth."**

— E. L. Doctorow, author of "Ragtime"

**PEMCo, Shades of Ebony and Wabruda stand in strong alliance against any acts, be it verbal or through action, that promote or display any form of racism, sexism or any other discriminatory beliefs. In signing this pledge, I personally hold myself accountable to never take part in any of the aforementioned actions, thoughts, or speech that degrades or discriminates individuals. Furthermore, I fully intend to stand against prejudiced acts and slanderous speech, encouraging others to do the same.**

# Letter from Abroad *Spain*

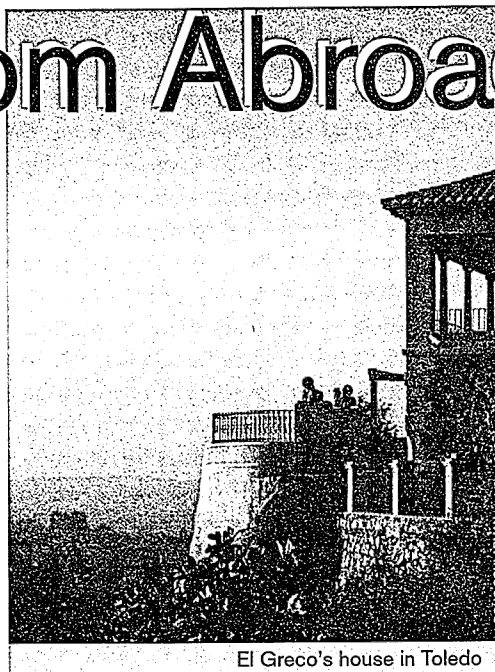
• Doug Schlarman

**I**n the first weeks that I've been out of the country, I've learned that it's impossible to adequately prepare for the abroad experience.

I'm writing this letter from an airplane headed to Amsterdam for the weekend; it'll be my first big trip outside of Spain. I'm thrilled to see the Van Gogh Museum, look at the beautiful parks and soak up the environment of a new city and a new country. Still, I haven't quite adjusted myself to the singularities of Toledo, Spain: the language, the currency, the schedule, the living arrangements.

My host family has been extremely accommodating with my transition to life abroad, which has involved a lot of questions, perplexed glances and awkward silences. This past week my host family sat down for dinner, and after we began eating, I noticed a grin on my host mother's face. When I asked her why she was smiling, she responded, "Do you like what we're eating? It's *conejito*." Rabbit. I was eating rabbit. And I have to admit, it really didn't taste that bad.

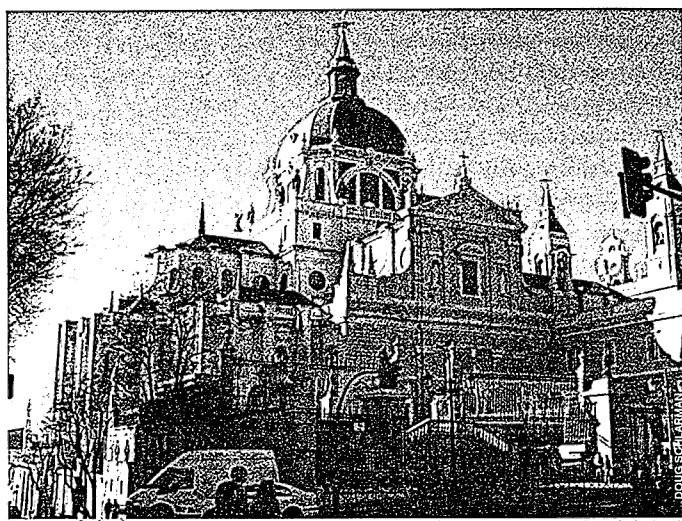
In fact, feasting on Thumper was easy when compared to our group's trip to Madrid, where we ate at "El Museo de Jamon" — "The Museum of Ham." Spaniards seem to love their ham, but Museo de Jamon took this to an extreme; every wall was literally covered in hanging legs of cured meat. The stench was ungodly, but we steeled ourselves, and we ate. As Will Farrell so eloquently says in "Anchorman," "When in Rome ..."



El Greco's house in Toledo

The Madrid trip overall was amazing. We went through the Reina Sofia — a modern-art museum filled with paintings by Dali, Picasso and Goya. Nothing can compare with standing face-to-face with "El Guernica," a Picasso piece that is the highlight of the Reina Sofia's collection. I could've stood there for hours, picking out every detail of the painting.

Notre Dame students don't have to leave Toledo to see amazing art. Every building in the city is hundreds of years old, with some dating back to the 13th century. On our guided tour of the city on our

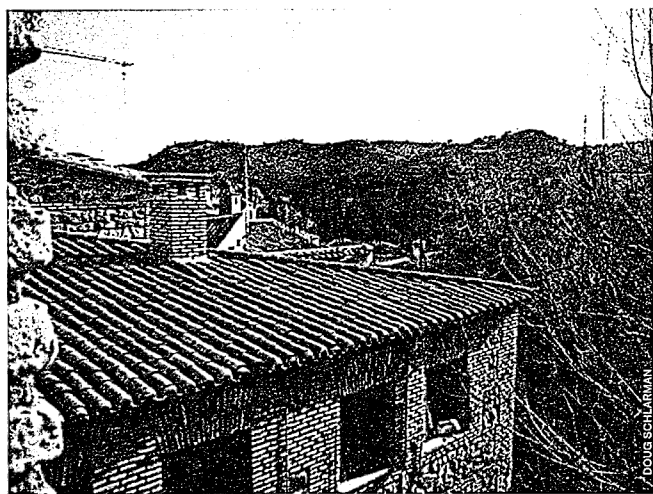


Church outside of the Royal Palace in Madrid

third day here, our tour guide emphasized how new the "Ayuntamiento de Toledo" (the city building) is. When asked when it was actually constructed, the tour guide responded "around 1850 or so." Every building is architecturally interesting, from the old brick walls to the tiny bay windows and the tile roofs. Even the bathroom window of our school — La Fundacion Ortega y Gasset — has a gorgeous view (see photo).

three guided trips through the Prado Art Museum in Madrid. I'll have the opportunity to personally experience more art here than I ever would have in the United States.

My abroad experience has just begun, but already I feel like I've had the time of my life here. Although I've spent much of my time feeling stressed, helpless and lost, I've also made amazing friends and been forced to learn a lot about myself, other cultures and the Spanish language. Sometimes the only way to grow is to be forced out of a comfort zone. While I definitely don't feel comfortable here yet, I hope I'm growing in the process. **5**



View from Fundacion bathroom window

# The Entrepreneurial Spirit

The Gigot Center aids budding collegiate entrepreneurs

•Andrea Borrego

**T**he impending question of what “life after college” entails often weighs heavily on students’ minds, especially those of graduating seniors. Recently, students in their best attire crowded into the Joyce Center during the Winter Career and Internship Fair in search of summer and full-time employment. Besides those preparing themselves for life after college, there is another category of students who have discovered the potential in their own ideas and have decided to apply their talent and entrepreneurial skills by establishing their own businesses.

Junior English and marketing major Alvin Reynolds is one of these select few. He set up his own publishing company in early 2006 — Luapatir Press. Reynolds’ mission is to “focus primarily on young authors while bringing authors who don’t have the opportunity or exposure into print.”

After extensive research in printing, patents and marketing, along with Notre Dame faculty guidance, Reynolds faced the challenges of building up his own press after returning to Notre Dame.

The work has been worthwhile. “I’m actually pleased at how hard I’ve had to work to accomplish what I have,” Reynolds says. Luapatir Press is now in the process of publishing its first title. With his own publishing company already established and plenty of ideas and expectations for

the future, Reynolds says, “With the right preparation and motivation, anything that you can dream of doing is possible.”

Still, it is hard to juggle student duties while managing your own company. Kathleen Butcher is a current graduate student who founded a freelance talent coordination, event management, strategic planning, consulting and marketing firm in Nashville, Tenn. Butcher, a music and marketing major, was a senior at Belmont University when she founded her firm, West End Enterprises.

During her graduate studies, Butcher relies on the assistance and collaboration of partner Deanna Mosher, who supervises the firm in Tennessee. Butcher attributes her success as both a student and CEO of West End Enterprises to the help of the people she works with. “I learned on day two that there was no way I could be successful without help, so in a way, it goes back to making sure you know the right people,” Butcher says.

Butcher’s firm began as a volunteer coordinator service and has expanded to offer services such as production functions, marketing strategies and administrative assistance. The firm’s clients presently include CMT (MTV Networks) and MJI Broadcasting, along with other leading companies in the music and entertainment industry. Despite the hard work and sacrifice required for the kind of tasks Butcher performs as

a student and CEO, the rewards for such effort exceed all the work required. “I love seeing my work on national television [...] we have people come up to us months afterwards and talk about what a great show it was. That kind of feeling keeps me going,” Butcher says.

Sometimes, however, the process of expanding a business results in much more

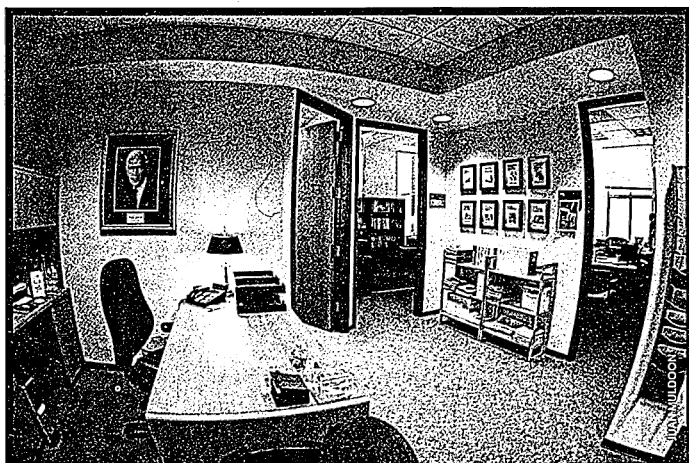
challenging obstacles. Senior political science and Chinese major Dave Hartung attempted to launch a franchise at Notre Dame that focuses on fabric printing, an offshoot of a business he started with a group of friends from Missouri.

The business, Genius Apparel, has flourished in Missouri, especially after gaining the approval of the State Board of Education to become a licensed fundraiser among the schools in Missouri. Hartung sought to bring the business’ services to South Bend. Unfortunately, the proposal has not yet passed through the appropriate authorities at Notre Dame. “I’m not too worried, though. Genius Apparel is doing really well right now,” he says. “I’m really proud of what they have done.”

Students seeking entrepreneurial opportunities find the Gigot Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at the Mendoza College of Business to be a great asset. Founded by Notre Dame alumnus Gary Gigot, a member of the Mendoza College of Business Advisory Council, the Gigot Center provides students interested in entrepreneurship with resources ranging from undergraduate classes in entrepreneurship to the mentorship of successful businessmen and accredited Notre Dame entrepreneurs known as the Irish Angels.

The center offers the annual business plan competition, where students submit business plans and receive suggestions and feedback from qualified mentors. “Our core is entrepreneurial education, encompassed in the curriculum, competition, activities and our relationship with the Irish Angels,” says Dan Buckenmeyer, an assistant director at the Gigot Center who is responsible for marketing.

The Gigot Center is open to all Notre Dame students, not simply business majors. “If you get a business idea, [the Gigot Center] is a great opportunity to put it to the test, to have real-world, experienced people take a look at it,” Buckenmeyer says to all those non-business majors who have thought of entrepreneurial activities. “I would not discourage students if they have an idea and need tutelage.”



The Gigot Center helps students cultivate their business ideas with feedback from other entrepreneurs. These services are not limited to students in the Mendoza College of Business.



# The Write Stuff

The Notre Dame Literary Festival continues to draw big-name authors to campus

• Jennifer Wulf

An aspiration for many is to one day become a professional writer. For students pursuing that goal, the Notre Dame Literary Festival is a chance to hone their skills. For the rest of the student body, it is a great opportunity to interact with accomplished authors and perhaps to learn a little more about literature.

Student Programmer Megan Baker is in charge of organizing the event and has been working on recruiting well-known authors since this past summer. "The greatest thing is that it allows students to access writers," Baker says. Under her direction, the festival lineup was finalized in November and included Dave Eggers, whose memoir, "A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius," ("AHWSG"), was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2000.

Student Union Board (SUB) Manager Patrick Vassel agreed with Baker, saying, "Offering students the opportunity to engage with some of the greatest literary

figures of our time is very rare."

Renowned authors headlining this event is nothing new. Past guests to the festival include Tennessee Williams, Kurt Vonnegut, Arthur Miller, Joseph Heller, Gwendolyn Brooks and Ken Kesey.

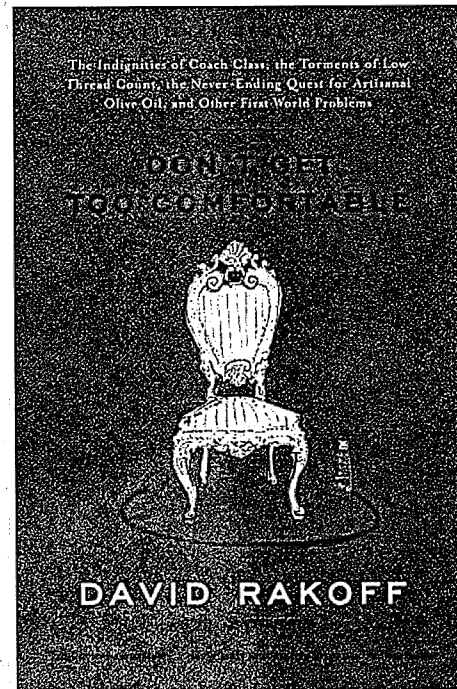
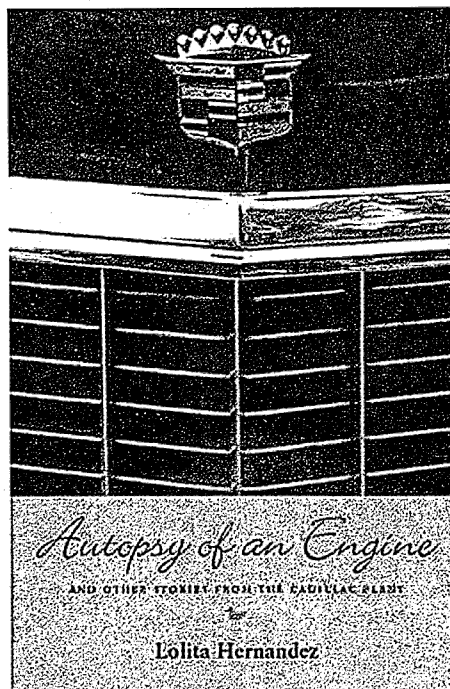
At its inception in 1967, the Literary Festival began as a tribute to William Faulkner and followed more of a symposium style in which several Faulkner scholars were brought in to speak. The following year, the festival took on a more recognizable form, and several authors were invited to speak, including acclaimed novelist Heller, author of "Catch 22." Baker was pleased that this year's event was able to

"'Now you're the metaphor' means sometimes it might be self-indulgent to gloss over your life with neat narrative, but if done objectively, you can really learn something about yourself in the process."

—Megan Baker

bring in several well-respected authors.

Another great aspect of the festival, Baker says, is its ability to accommodate a wide range of interests. "You don't have to read any of their work to go to these things and enjoy what they have to say," she says. For example, at the student



literary night on Wednesday, Jan. 31, in anticipation of the festival, many of the students who presented original pieces were not even English majors. Freshman Mychal Stanley was a participant in the readings and is planning to major in business. However, he also says "my dream is to get something published."

Stanley was excited about the festival, saying, "I'm interested in hearing what real published authors have to say and where their ideas come from. One of the hardest things is just figuring out what to write about."

Freshman John Minser also participated in the literary-night readings. He plans to major in English and Spanish and aspires to become a professional writer. "I would love to [pursue a writing career]. They say when you do what you love, you never work a day in your life," he says. Minser attended the Literary Festival to find out about literary opportunities on campus and to personally interact with the authors. "That's a really valuable thing, especially to people who are just trying to break into the literary world because it gives you the perspective of someone who's already been there and is doing what you're trying to do" he says.

Not only was the crowd multifarious, but the authors were as well. "One of the things that I'm most excited about is the diversity of authors we have. Every author that's coming has something different to bring, and it's all worthwhile," Vassel says. From Eggers, whose most well-known works are memoirs and biographies, to

poet Hal Sirowitz, to Anne Elizabeth Moore, a freelance writer and magazine editor, the lineup of authors represented a wide array of literature.

Every year, the program is funded and organized by SUB, and they occasionally get help from other groups like the Institute for Latino Studies, which is co-sponsoring the Latina author Lolita Hernandez. Vassel was excited about the collaboration, saying, "Latino studies is able to let us know who's up and coming among Latino authors."

This week, the events of the Literary Festival were available all over campus to students. Most authors contributed with both a writing workshop and a lecture. Attendance ranged from 20 to 500 people, with writing workshops having the fewest to provide a better teaching environment and, most importantly, personal contact with the authors. "The hallmark of the Literary Festival is giving students the opportunity to interact with authors," Vassel says.

While funding and planning were large parts of the Literary Festival operation, perhaps the most important was advertising. For those who could not make it to the festival, it is very doubtful that one could have missed all of the advertisements featuring the quote, "Now you're the metaphor" — a line from Dave Eggers' "AHWSG."

This line holds special significance for the theme of this year's Literary Festival, which urges people to view their lives as a story and to look for its meaning.

Baker explains the theme, saying, "Now you're the metaphor" means sometimes it might be self-indulgent to gloss over your life with neat narrative, but if done objectively, you can really learn something about yourself in the process." 9

## The Authors

Notre Dame Literary Festival 2007

**Nathalie Handal**

poet, playwright, director, producer  
[www.nathaliehandal.com](http://www.nathaliehandal.com)

**Lolita Hernandez**

short story author, poet  
[www.coffeehousepress.org/autopsyofanenginebio.asp](http://www.coffeehousepress.org/autopsyofanenginebio.asp)

**Hal Sirowitz**

poet  
[www.halsirowitz.com](http://www.halsirowitz.com)

**David Rakoff**

essayist, humorist  
[www.barclayagency.com/rakoff.html](http://www.barclayagency.com/rakoff.html)

**Anne Elizabeth Moore**

freelance writer, magazine editor  
[www.anneelizabethmoore.com](http://www.anneelizabethmoore.com)

**Dave Eggers**

novelist, essayist, editor, founder of McSweeney's  
[www.mcsweeney.net/authorpages/eggers/eggers.html](http://www.mcsweeney.net/authorpages/eggers/eggers.html)

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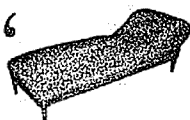
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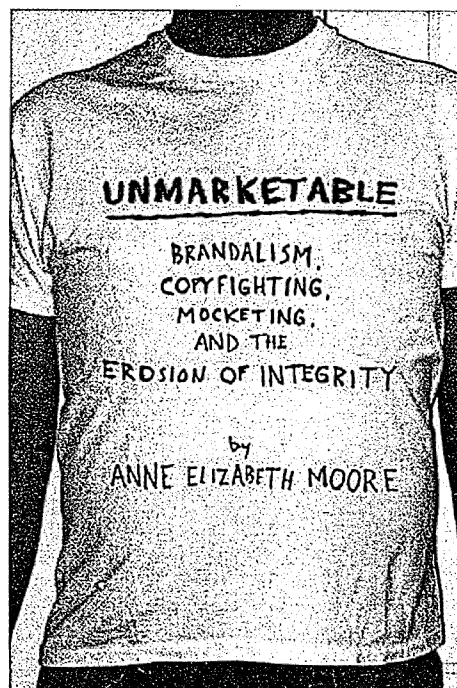
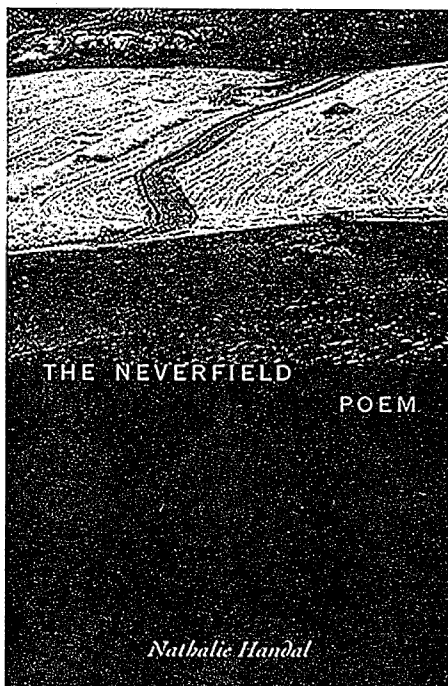
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# SPORTS

## MESKILLANEOUS REPRISE

A Coaching Change, A Style Change

### • Christopher Meskill

Everyone is gung-ho for Notre Dame hockey now, but I doubt they have the rich appreciation for and unique perspective on what has occurred over the last two years that I have. In my four years of writing sports at Notre Dame, I have had the opportunity to interview both Dave Poulin and Jeff Jackson, the most recent head coaches of the Irish hockey team. Both seem to be great people, but the difference in their personalities is drastic, and it is most evident on the ice.

In the early months of the hockey season my freshman year, I caught Poulin at the end of a mid-week practice to talk about one of his standout players that season. He glanced at me, then invited me to sit on the bench and "shoot the breeze." Poulin's personality put me at ease for one of my first interviews for the magazine, but I got the sense that he was very relaxed in his practice regimen judging by his demeanor with his players. When I asked about interviewing one of the stars, he bellowed across the ice to call him over. Their playful, back-and-forth banter demonstrated the close relationship Poulin had with his players. Unfortunately, this laid-back approach did not produce the needed results.

Early last September, I walked into the humble hockey office in the Joyce Center looking for an interview for a sidebar on new coaches at Notre Dame. The bulk of the spread was allocated to Charlie Weis, since the student body was eager for a turnaround with the football program, but it was appropriate to give some coverage to the slumping hockey team's new hire. As I entered Jackson's office, I saw that it was undergoing major architectural renovations, and the presence of a construction crew made the interview rather difficult. Nonetheless, he greeted me with a stern look and a solid handshake. He answered my questions forthrightly and requested that I emphasize the importance of filling the stands at the home games in my article. When I walked out of his office, I knew he was a no-nonsense kind of guy, but I had no idea how extensive an effect that would have on the hockey team.

My inclination following the interview was that Jackson would bring Notre Dame hockey to prominence. He certainly had the resume — two national championships, experience as an NHL coach and a few years as the coach of the U.S. Junior National Team. By his resume alone, Jackson's demand for success and ability to develop young talent was apparent. The only question that remained was if he could bring that attitude to Notre Dame.

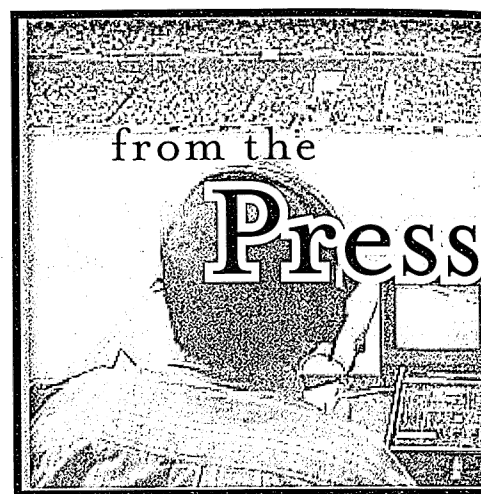
Jackson's first season as head coach of the Irish was rather turbulent. With a 14-19-4 record and an immediate exit from the CCHA Tournament, it seemed doubtful that Jackson would turn the program around, but he was simply adjusting the mindset of his team. Jackson, like that construction crew, was renovating the program from that first day in September. His first season was the foundation.

Since the substandard first year, Jackson's team looks disciplined and well-coached. From the freshman year team that resembled the Chiefs from "Slap Shot," the Irish have turned into a professional-looking team. In post-game interviews, the players seem to hold themselves accountable for each mistake. The attitude on the Joyce Center rink has evolved — it is no longer a matter of just playing hockey, but a matter of not missing any opportunities. As the Irish have climbed atop the college hockey world, the Notre Dame community can be grateful that we didn't miss the opportunity to hire this already legendary coach.

*The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily the views of Scholastic.*

## ND vs. MAVERICKS OUR CALLS:

**SPORT:** Hockey  
**OPPONENT:** Nebraska-Omaha  
**WHERE:** Joyce Center  
**WHEN:** Fri. Feb. 9, 2007,  
7:35 p.m.  
Sat. Feb. 10, 2007,  
7:05 p.m.



David Brown, goaltender for the No. 1 Irish hockey team, was featured in *Sports Illustrated's* Jan. 27 edition of "Faces in the Crowd." Brown was recognized for his nation-leading winning percentage and 1.72 goals against average. Immediately following this honor, Brown led the Irish to a 4-1 victory and a 2-2 tie in two games with then-No. 7 Miami(OH) and was named CCHA Goaltender of the Week ...

In a home match with No. 13 Florida State, the No. 11 Irish men's tennis team held serve with a 5-2 victory. The effort was led by the nation's No. 14-ranked singles player, Stephen Bass, with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Ytai Abougzir and the No. 11 doubles team of Sheeva Parbhu and Ryan Keckley, who cruised to an 8-1 victory in their match ...

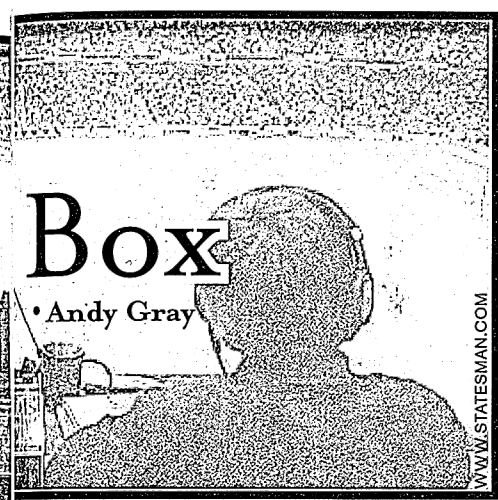
Women's fencing climbed to the No. 1 spot with a 4-2 showing at the NYU Duals on Jan. 28. The team defeated No. 5 Northwestern 14-13 on a sudden death victory by epeeist Amy

Notre Dame and Nebraska-Omaha met for the first time this season in a two-game series in late November. The Irish won the first game 4-2 and lost the second 3-2. Since then, they have gone 13-2-1 and moved to No. 1 in the polls. Led by goalkeeper David Brown and center Mark Van Guilder, both finalists for the Hobey Baker Award, and freshman standouts Kevin Deeth and Ryan Thang, Notre Dame is averaging just under four goals per game, while giving up only 1.7. With just six games left in the regular season, Notre Dame looks to finish strong, and a sweep of Nebraska-Omaha, 4-2 and 3-1, is a good start.

Megan Teigen  
Sports Editor

Nebraska-Omaha is a highly underrated CCHA opponent for the Irish, especially with the recent polls listing the Irish at No. 1. If Notre Dame is to win this series, they cannot let their recent success get to them, which is something second-year Head Coach Jeff Jackson is certainly capable of handling. I predict the Irish will do well in their second-to-last home series, but not quite as well as many would predict. The Irish will take one of the two and tie Nebraska-Omaha in the second, 4-2 and 2-2.

Christopher Mesall  
Editor in Chief



Orlando and lost by the same tally to No. 6 Ohio State. Star freshman epeeist Kelley Hurley went 17-1 on the day ...

Baseball's Feb. 12 opening night dinner will feature keynote speeches from Jim Leyland, 2006 MLB Manager of the Year, and Craig Counsell, former Notre Dame standout and current Milwaukee Brewer. In 1992, Counsell was selected to the All-Atlantic Regional team and was captain and MVP of the Irish baseball team that fell one game short of the College World Series.



# IRISH EYES ON... Katie Carroll

•Mary Kaminski

Senior anthropology major Katie Carroll recently led the Irish women's swim team to victory against three of four opponents in the Shamrock Invitational. In the process, she broke her own pool record by over 10 seconds in the 1,650-yard freestyle with her winning time of 16:27.48. She also finished first in the 200-yard individual medley, second in the 400-yard individual medley, third in the 200-yard butterfly and contributed to four Irish relays. The Irish completed the Shamrock Invitational with a 7-1 record on the season.



**As a senior with so much talent, what leadership role do you play on the team?**

I feel that I bring a lot of experience. My main focus is to help the freshman swimmers adjust to the college life and to be someone they can come to talk to. I think it has paid off — they've adjusted well.

**You recently broke your own pool record in the 1,650-yard freestyle. What effect do accomplishments like this have on your training as you continue through the season?**

It's definitely a step in the right direction. It makes me feel that a lot of hard work has paid off, and it is a good indication of what can happen at the Big East and NCAA Championships.

**Swimming, like most varsity sports, takes a lot of time and energy. What is your favorite stress reliever to help get you through the season?**

It would have to be getting rest whenever possible, although it is very rare.

**You have a chance this season to break Irish Head Coach Carrie Nixon's school record for All-Big East honors. What would it mean to you to be able to accomplish that?**

It's pretty cool because Carrie is one of the most decorated athletes at this university. To break one of her records would be pretty neat.



# The Team Behind

## Student Managers at Notre Dame

PHOTOS BY KRISTIN KEVE

• Megan Teigen

**O**n a clear mid-October afternoon, two teams of young men lined up to play some football. Gold helmets gleamed in the sun, and players ran around the field in game jerseys featuring such famous numbers as 10, 7 and 26. After extensive preparation and days of practice and play development, it was game time.

It was also a bye week for the Fighting Irish. The game was being played at Cartier Field, not Notre Dame Stadium, and the only Notre Dame football players present were there as referees. The annual student manager game, in which the juniors and seniors beat the sophomore managers 30-0 this fall, followed a women's flag football game as the managers celebrated their lightest week of the fall season. As the Irish football team took a week off the field, the student managers — the team behind the team — got a chance to step off the sidelines and onto the field.

Notre Dame's student manager program has been around since Knute Rockne employed students to schedule games and perform other tasks for his football team. While the largest component of the program serves the football team, all but two varsity sports have at least one student manager who works behind the scenes to ensure all practices, games and travel run smoothly. "We really do work as a team," junior psychology and marketing major Kristin Keve says. "The football organization, especially, demands so much attention that it couldn't function without us."

Student managers at Notre Dame, especially during their junior years, often put in more hours of work than the players and coaches they assist. Junior finance major Tim Flannery estimates that during football season he and the other junior managers spent at least 40 to 50 hours per week preparing for, assisting with, and cleaning up after every

practice and game. "Junior year, if you do managers, it's essentially all you do," Flannery says. "You basically sell your soul to the football team."

Perhaps their best-known responsibility is painting the gold helmets each Monday (see photo above), but most of the managers' responsibilities are less visible. They haul equipment, keep track of playing time and take attendance at meals. During fall camp, when equipment is stored in a tent outside O'Neill Hall, managers pull all-night shifts to guard the tent.

"Other teams' managers, stadium staff, even players couldn't believe some of the stuff we do," junior finance major Kim Murphy says. Junior finance major Sarah Lawless agrees. "It's hard to prepare anyone to devote that much time to something," Lawless says. "It was definitely a shock at first." While anywhere from 40 to 100 sophomores participate in the program, they play a

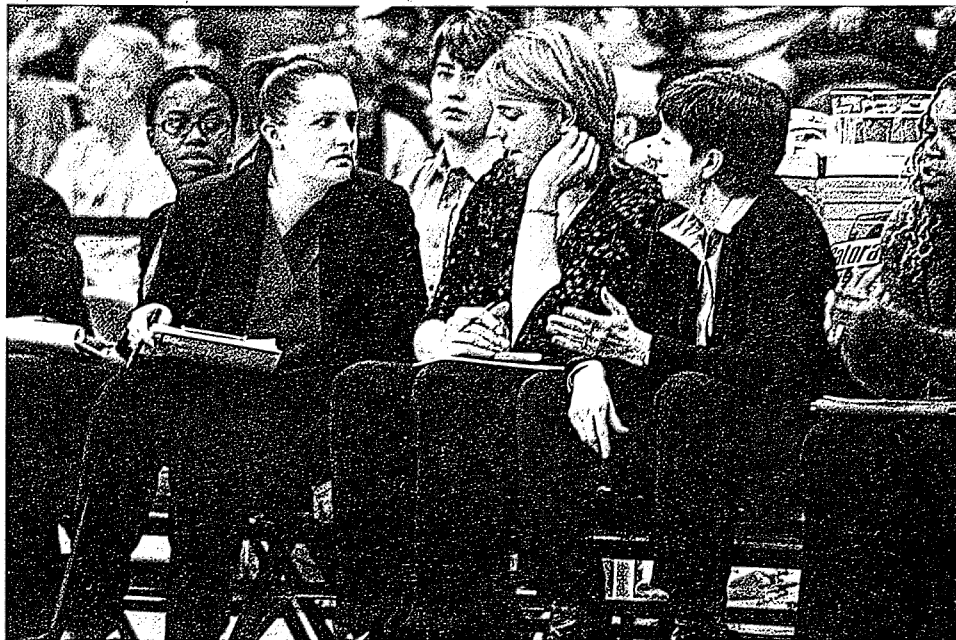
limited role, working just once or twice a week for a variety of teams.

At the end of the year, the sophomores evaluate one another, and only the top 21 continue as student managers. "The evaluation process is extremely competitive," Head Sports Manager Kathy Speybroeck says. "It's like 'Survivor.'" For the remaining 21, the challenges have just begun.

But while the hours are long, so is the list of rewards. After three years in the program, managers become part of the Monogram Club, and for all junior and senior managers the university covers between 65 percent and 100 percent of tuition costs. Not to mention, of course, the thrill of running out of the tunnel and onto the field to the cheers of over 80,000 fans at each home game or being on the field for some of the most thrilling games in college football. Flannery went to the Michigan State game this season. "I was supposed to record plays," he says. "I was trying to write on a piece of paper with this little pencil in the torrential rain. But when Terrail [Lambert] intercepted that pass, I lost it. I can look back and say I was on the field and part of that game."

After their junior football season, the managers write a second round of evaluations that determine which sport each will be assigned to for their senior year. Most end up working for a sport at the top of their list, doing more meaningful work in a business-oriented role. Instead of hauling equipment or folding towels, they fill out paperwork,

order apparel and arrange travel to away games. "For all intents and purposes, most of us end up being assistant-assistant coaches," Murphy says. Speybroeck agrees. "They're my right hand," she says. "To me, they are an extension of the coaching staff."



**UPDATES, STAT!** Seniors Cheron Wilson and Alison Guengerich update Coach Muffet McGraw on stats during the West Virginia game.

While the juniors' time commitment decreases after football season, responsibilities increase. "There's a definite change in the type of tasks they're responsible for," Speybroeck says, which is welcomed by most managers. "A lot of last year was just getting to this point," senior manager Bridget Trainor

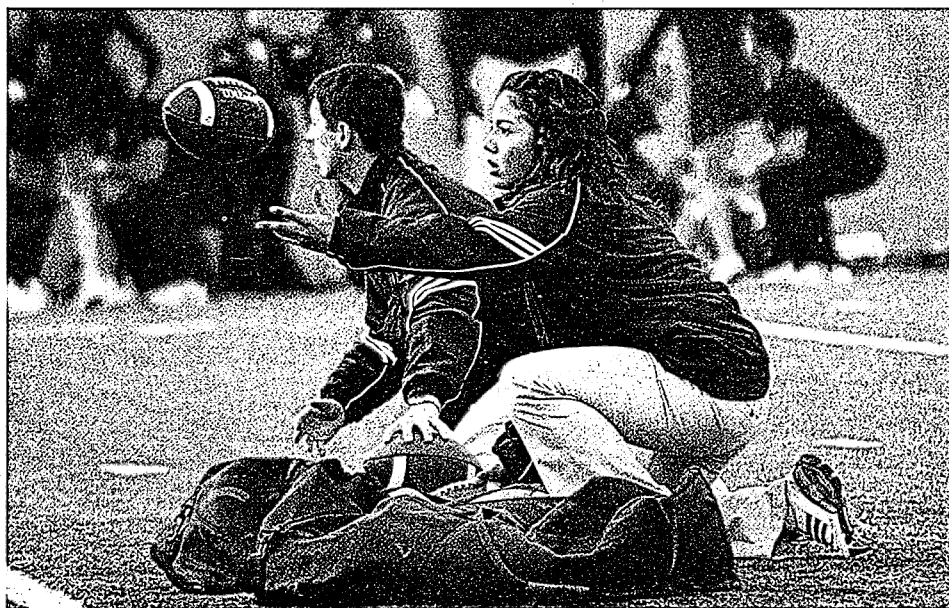
says. "I'm glad I was able to get to this position; it's a much better time now."

Managers must balance classes — they are held to the same academic standards as student-athletes — with what amounts to a full-time job. Often, Trainor says, she is there earlier and stays later than

the coaches she works for. In the process, however, managers develop a close working relationship with coaches and players. "The [men's basketball] team calls me mom," Trainor says. "I'm always nagging after them to sign this form or take care of that. They rely on me and respect me, especially on such a small team."

After so many hours spent behind the scenes, the managers agree it has been worth the commitment. "It's a lot of responsibility, but you get a lot of respect," Trainor says. "And it just captures the Notre Dame experience. You get to be part of not only the Notre Dame community but the athletics, too. You get an inside perspective most students never would."

9



**FIELDING THE BALL** Juniors Pat Starr and Catherine Costanzo help out during warm ups before the Air Force game.





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# humor

## Listening In...

- "Thomas Crapper invented the toilet ... you don't believe me now, but Google it later, and you'll see."  
— overheard professor
- "You know, when I drink, I like to say stuff."  
— overheard girl at SMC formal
- "I have a newfound appreciation for men and their privates."  
— grateful female student
- "I would never have sex with someone with a purple *stid* [STD]."  
— overheard male student
- Seriously, our defensive coordinator should be shot.  
— angry text message from the Sugar Bowl

I think the sign is pretty self explanatory. Although I have never tasted an "ass beer" myself, I would guess it's something in between Natty Ice and skim milk.

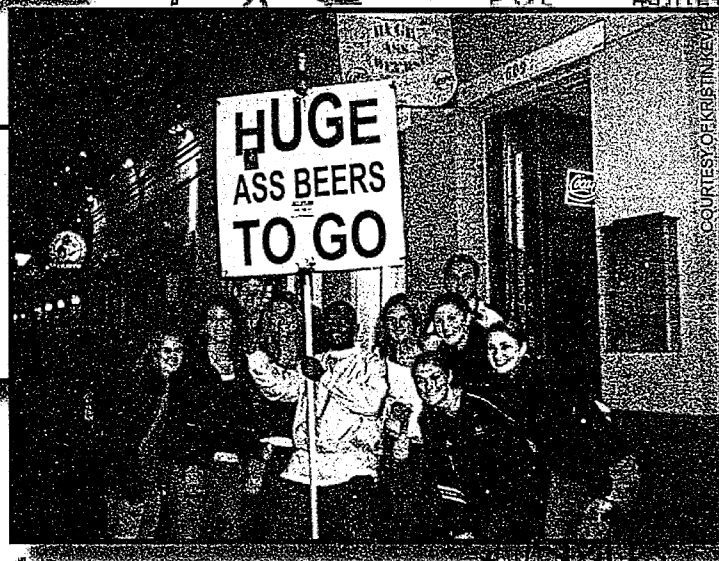
## Fifty-Eight Years Ago

Some things never change. Take, for instance, the general male opinion of women's skirts — the shorter, the better. While the Notre Dame gentlemen of today get to appreciate micro-minis (with or without leggings), men of yesteryear were not so privileged. When designers raise hem lines, Domers raise their eyebrows. Need evidence that men like women's skirts as short as possible? Take a nice, long look at the February 11, 1949 issue of *Scholastic*:

*"Christian Dior, the Parisian dress designer with the whim for tampering with the hem line of women's dresses, plans on raising the skirt hems on all of his spring creations until they are 16 inches off the ground. This is four and one-half inches higher than last year's New Look. Probably this is further proof that you can't keep a good man down, visually at least."*

So, boys, next time you're wishing that girl in your college seminar would reveal just another *inch* of thigh, remember that you get a lot more than your grandfathers did, visually at least.

— Kate Dresser



# the gipper

Howdy Gipsters, hope you're all enjoying the weather! You might suppose that subzero temperatures and ridiculous wind and snow could prevent ridiculous events around campus. But you might also suppose that if the library and the rest of the schools in a 100-mile radius were closed, an 8:30 a.m. class might be cancelled too. Well, never lose faith in the determination of keeping liberal studies majors in the classrooms and off the streets.

Our first story takes place at a lovely dive just south of campus during the first week of classes. A group of friends decided to down pitchers of beer (or "courage juice," as my Uncle Filbert likes to say) at one of the few tables in the establishment. The bar got so crowded that our loveable protagonists could not even get out of their chairs (although you can blame that on more than just the crowd). Ordinarily, this is not a problem until one of the sitting duck's toes would tingle with anxiety (yes, anxiety; that's it). Unfortunately, Captain Bladderless was experiencing such urges. The problem? The bathroom was a good 40 feet and a few stairs away, and the space in between was solid with people — big, drunken, raging, sex-crazed people. Luckily, we ND men are clever — so clever, we could make a car run on grain alcohol and sunshine. With pitcher in hand, Captain Bladderless created a Porta-Potty sans toilet. If he pulled the chair close enough to the table, no one would know. And he was right ... for a second. Inspector Gadget unzipped and released his unique draft into the pitcher with perfect form. The tricky part was passing the pitcher under the table to his friend who

now needed to top it off with his special pilsner. Like a track and field disaster, the baton was dropped mid hand-off. The courage juice was released all over the friend's previously dry slacks. The Gipper is unsure whether wetting your own pants or someone else wetting them for you is more embarrassing. But either way, the Gipp is never ordering a pitcher from that bar again; the last one was a little too warm for my taste. But the plot thickens. The one who suffered the moistened corduroys missed his alarm for class the next morning. Forgetting that the pants next to his bed were the ones previously soiled by his buddy, he put them on and rushed to class only to find they were still carrying a little extra water weight from the night before.

Our second incident takes place in everyone's favorite place in the dorm to talk on the phone or tape posters for student council campaigns ... or awkwardly make out with your roommate's 17-year-old sister that time freshman year — the stairwell. A resident returned to the dorm after a successful (read: very successful) night of drinking and apparently saved his shining moment for the nightcap. Mistaking the stairwell for another public locale, our hero decided to leave a little memento on the landing. It's sad to think that some residents lack the decency to use the elevator like true gentlemen.

Anyway, that will do it for this edition of the Gipper. Your Gipp sincerely wishes you luck with that special someone on Valentine's Day. And if the person turns out to be not so special, you can always pull an R. Kelly and order them a fresh pitcher of the home brew.

*The Gipper*

TIP THE GIPP at [gipper@nd.edu](mailto:gipper@nd.edu)

# An Idiot's Guide to Women

•Mike Healy

Well friends, my time here is coming to a close. Very soon I will be off to that big humor column in the sky, and I don't want to leave without having made Notre Dame a better place. I was trying to think of what I could leave as my legacy, and I got stuck. I'm not musically inclined, and I don't know much about science. I have a mysterious talent for fixing toilets, but one day there will be machines that can do that far better than any human. Then it hit me; the one thing I'm good at that I could impart to you dear readers as a gift that will keep giving far into the future, when you are still here and I am deep into my life in the "next world" of my parents' basement (and maybe a job at Blockbuster): how to get girls.

Whether it's my non-threatening good looks, disarming sense of humor or modest attempts at personal hygiene, picking up chicks has been the one thing I've found myself to be consistently great unusually skilled above average at most a lot some of the time. Now guys, I know what you're thinking: We're at Notre Dame. You all got good SAT scores, have bright futures and have seen "Anchorman" (giving you the jokes to be rip-roaringly funny in any situation), but I tell you this right now — to really bring your game to the next level, you have to understand there's more to women than wine, jewelry and acting like Val Kilmer. That being said, without further ado, I present Mike Healy's Three Rules to Wooing Women.

## 1 Be Persistent

I'm dating a girl right now who, when we first met, wanted absolutely nothing to do with me. In fact, she probably still doesn't. What works in my favor is that I have absolutely no fear of being annoying and trying to ruin her life. If you like a chick, go to her room every day. If she's not there then wait, or better yet, just go down the hallway and find a girl who is home (these tips will probably work for almost any girl). Constantly hound her to do things with you. If you can't think of anything good to do, it doesn't matter. I've pestered my current girlfriend into such "dates" as: going with me to get my hair cut, having an awkward meeting with my academic advisor and coming to meet me out on the quad for something called "Cowboy Friday" (which I actually just made up on the spot ... on a Wednesday).

## 2 Have a Ready Supply of Good Conversation Starters

On a recent Thursday, I spent the entire night at Club Fever introducing myself to girls by saying it was one of the best days of my life because I had just found out that my brother was going to go up in the space shuttle next month (yes, he's going to be an astronaut), and guess what, they loved it. Of course this wasn't true. My brother is only 16, and I don't even know the name of the real space

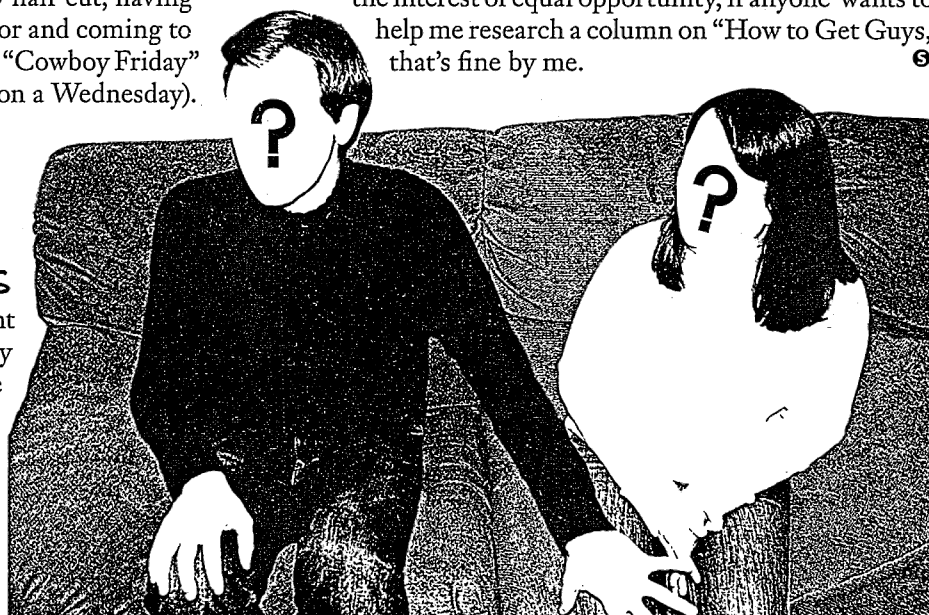
shuttle (I just told them the names of the ones from the movie "Armageddon"), but the point is that I had something interesting and novel to open the conversation with, which, as I understand, makes chicks think you're good in bed ... or an interesting person or something, I'm not really sure. The bottom line is that there's one thing in this world that every woman wants to go home with: an astronaut's brother.

(Oh, and to those of you who are thinking, "Wait, why is he writing a story about hitting on girls? Didn't he just write that he had a girlfriend?" Well, to that I say you should also remember that I said she doesn't like me, and now it shouldn't be difficult to see why.)

## 3 Embrace the Possibility of Failure

There's way too much of an emphasis on being cool. Everyone thinks that you have to be well-dressed, say the right things and not have huge sweat stains under your armpits to be successful with girls. I've got news for you: Not everyone is going to be able to be Joe Rogan. Just because you wet your pants at a bar doesn't necessarily mean you should be afraid of a girl seeing you (in fact, at the very least, it definitely falls under the "interesting conversation starter" rule above). Tell your crush you enjoy Transformers. Wear the same corduroy sports coat out every night. The long and short of it is that if it doesn't work, it isn't that big of a loss — it's really tough to try and "act cool" for an entire evening and especially through the following morning (oh God, I just realized that my mom is probably going to read this), and, more importantly, if you can hit it off with a chick when you're in one of your embarrassing but genuine "raw" states, then you might really be onto something (or else in some serious and very weird trouble).

So there you have it, everything I know about women, summed up in 847 words (now that's more than a little depressing). Ladies, sorry if this column wasn't particularly useful for you, but, in the interest of equal opportunity, if anyone wants to help me research a column on "How to Get Guys," that's fine by me.



# A Crisis of Leadership

• David Poell

**T**his past weekend, while Americans across the country made plans for Super Bowl XLI, Baghdad was burning. Although this state of affairs has remained fairly constant for the last three and a half years in both the Iraqi capital and other major cities within the newly "liberated" country, the wanton carnage seen last weekend was particularly devastating.

On Saturday, at least 130 people were killed and 343 were wounded when a suicide bomber detonated a truck filled with explosives in a crowded marketplace. Sunday brought more of the same, with another 20 souls perishing amidst the ever-present sectarian war being waged principally between Sunni and Shiite Muslims. According to estimates from the Iraqi Interior Ministry, approximately 1,000 people were killed during the week that culminated in the weekend's violent paroxysm. Given that Iraq is a nation of about 26 million people, percentage-wise this figure is the equivalent of over 11,500 American deaths in one week. Imagine four 9/11s in one week; this is Iraq in its current state.

Now only one month away from the four-year anniversary of the American military's invasion of Iraq, it has become close to impossible to comprehend the incompetence and lack of prudence on the part of the United States government in dealing with this occupied country. From insufficient troop levels, to the embarrassing Abu Ghraib prison scandal, to America's inability to understand the dynamics of occupying a predominantly Muslim, Arabic-speaking population, this misadventure has been nothing if not a hellish exercise in frustration.

These failures notwithstanding, as the war drags on with no end in sight, there remains another even more troubling phenomenon that threatens a basic tenet of American democracy: the willful manipulation of the population in a time of war by a President who does so with utter impunity and a blatant disregard for relevant facts. As the war has accelerated, so has this trend.

The past five years have borne witness to a litany of statements by the President

and his cabinet that were later shown to be false. We have been told that American officials never tortured terror suspects (military documentary evidence contradicts this), that the war would pay for itself (it is currently costing taxpayers at least \$2.5 billion per week), and even that the military found weapons of mass

*You that hide behind walls*

*You that hide behind desks*

*I just want you to know*

*I can see through your masks*

—Bob Dylan, "Masters of War"

destruction (empty aluminum tubes that could not accommodate nuclear weapons). In recent months, the administration has rolled out a slew of new zingers. Vice President Dick Cheney has dismissed criticism of the war as "hogwash," and Bush promised to hold Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to a series of political deadlines that he has already missed.

Such behavior would be comic if not for the tremendous loss of life involved. Yet as the sands of Mesopotamia continue to run red with the blood of Americans and Iraqis alike, Bush has continued to exhibit the qualities of someone who could care less about what his supposed "constituents" think of him. After his party lost its majority in both Houses of Congress — a clear repudiation of his war policy — Bush didn't miss a beat.

Dismissing the recommendations of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, Bush implemented a policy from the conservative American Enterprise Institute to send more troops to Iraq. As if the escalation weren't bad enough, Bush is sending only 21,000 new troops to Iraq, which, given the populations of Baghdad and the volatile Anbar province, still does not provide a sufficient ratio of troops to inhabitants as recommended by the U.S.

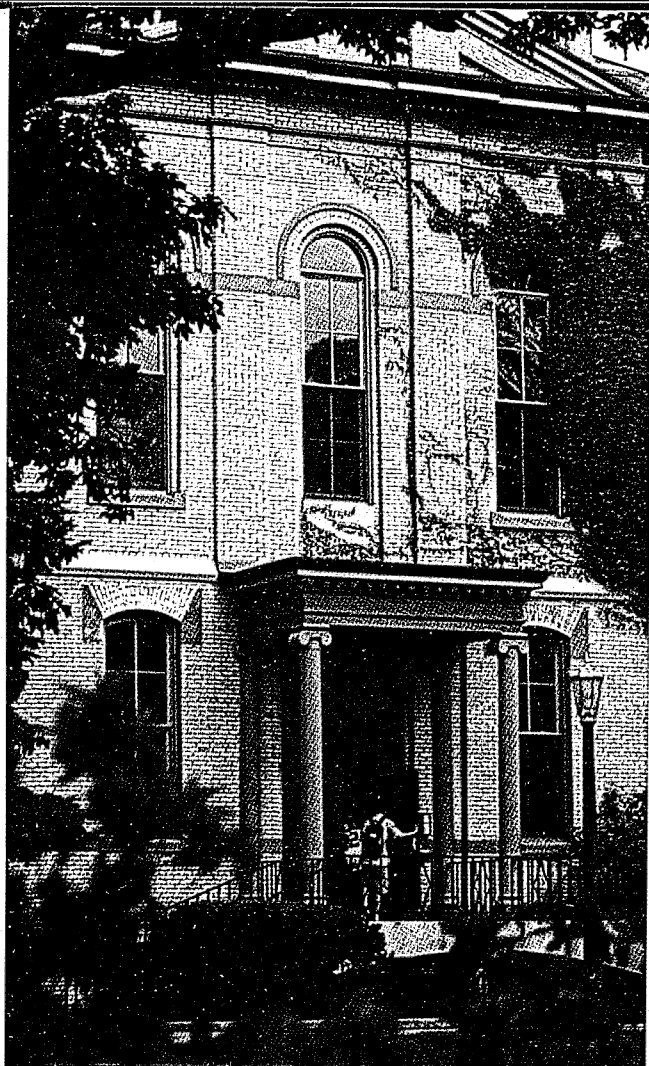
Military Counterinsurgency manual. Not surprisingly, the most recent Gallup Poll places support for his handling of the war at an all-time low of 26 percent, while 72 percent disapprove. That's right, after spending all of January selling his troop "surge" to the American public and claiming that it is the only way to avoid "failure" in Iraq, the people remain unconvinced.

In a recent interview with "60 Minutes" correspondent Scott Pelley, Bush once again made it clear that he chooses not to listen to the overwhelming calls for an innovative new policy. When Pelley reminded Bush that national support for the war is extremely low, Bush sidestepped the statement and remarked that he hoped the people would "want us to succeed before we get out [of] there." A noble hope for a President who staked his whole presidency on Iraq and lost, this wishful thinking exhibits a stubborn refusal to take seriously any proposed deviation from his already decided strategy (troops in the "surge" were already on their way to Iraq before the President delivered the speech unveiling the plan on Jan. 10).

Perhaps Bush is content to leave his legacy to the historians in the hope that they will vindicate him as another Harry Truman — another unpopular President who left office with low approval ratings but is now thought of as one of the better presidents of the 20th century. It is difficult to understand why else Bush would remain so obstinate to new suggestions. With less than two years left in office, and given the hyper-partisan environment of Washington, the nation needs pragmatism, not ideology.

Unfortunately, the people can only do so much. We vote. We express our disgust to congressmen and pollsters, and still nothing changes. One must wonder: What good is a democracy if it can't stop the machinations and deceptions of a single man who has more power in a war than he knows what to do with? ●

*The views expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Scholastic.*



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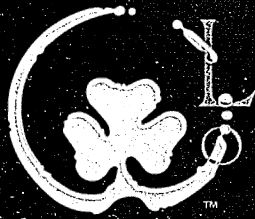


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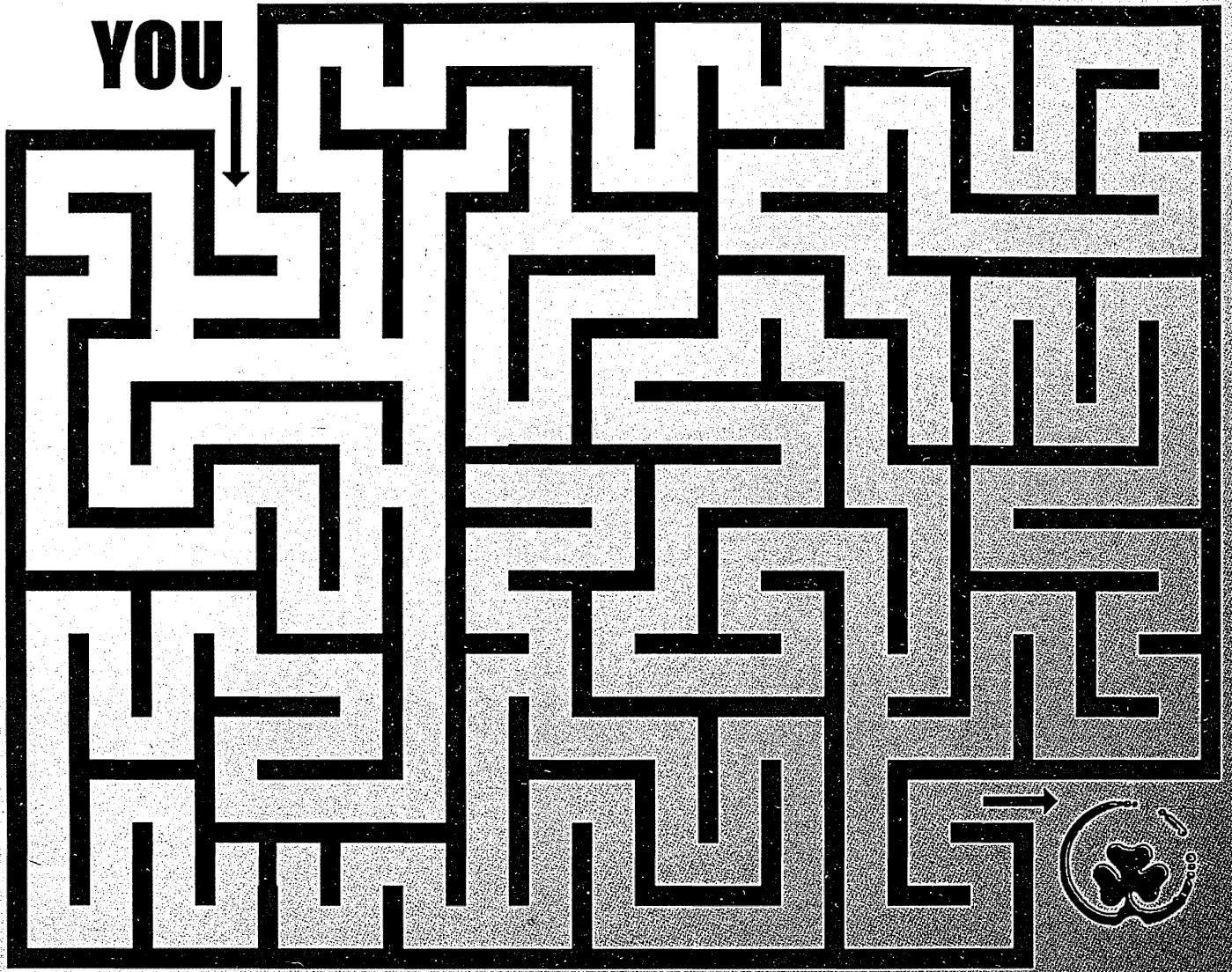
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