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Does a gregarious PLS major have any marketable strengths? Read on to find out.

EDNOTES

YES YOU CAN

As seniors on the *Scholastic* staff, we're entering our fourth student body election campaign season. We've witnessed student body leaders who kept their promises, candidates who failed to accomplish their goals, hilarious freshman Zahm tickets we'll never forget and more propositions to improve the dining halls than we care to remember. The names and faces change, but every year it boils down to more or less the same issues — do we want to vote for the more experienced ticket? Or do we want fresh faces in office? And does it really matter anyway?

The answer is yes, it does matter. As we are beginning to witness the effects of a new U.S. President, we are reminded that the individuals we put in places of power, at whatever level, can have very pronounced effects on our everyday lives. Get to know these individuals on pages 14–18, consider our endorsement on page 19, and, come Monday, Feb. 9, cast your vote knowing that the ticket you have chosen can and will effect change for the better.

SEX, DRUGS AND CUPID

Now that we've gotten the lofty rhetoric out of the way ... staff writer Jenny Hoffman relates her experience of the Pornucopia panel on page 20, along with a recap of what happened at a university porn conference back in 1969 (this one was a bit more exciting, as the local police and mace were involved). Associate Editor Maddy Zollo talks to ND students about their use of the ADD/ADHD drug Adderall as a study aid on pages 22–23. And whether you're in a relationship or not, Managing Editor Molly Slavin has you covered on a Valentine's edition of Reviews/Previews on page 21.

Thanks for reading,

TANHA

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February 27 Education Fr. Tom Eckert, C.S.C. Fr. Tom Blantz, C.S.C.

March 27 Mission Fr. Bob Dowd, C.S.C. Matt Kuczora, C.S.C.

April 3 Parish Fr. John DeRiso, C.S.C. Fr. Neil Wack, C.S.C.

5:30–7:30 p.m. beginning at Log Chapel with dinner to follow at the Coleman-Morse Center



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Shoulder to Shoulder

Faculty members join students on March for Life for the first time

Lisa Bucior

s over one million people were leaving the nation's capital after the inauguration of President Barack Obama, 220 students from the University of Notre Dame were just arriving.

The students were representing Notre Dame on the 36th annual March for Life — and for the first time, they were joined by university faculty and administrators.

The March for Life is a pro-life gathering in Washington, D.C., that takes place on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, a ruling that protected a woman's right to an abortion under privacy laws. Although the March has taken place for the past 35 years, Notre Dame only began sending students in 1997, according to junior Mary Daly, president of the Notre Dame Right to Life organization. Right to Life organizes campus participation in the march.

The entire staff of the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, as well as three other professors and administrators, was able to join the students this year, thanks to the newly-created Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life, which is managed by the Center for Ethics and Culture. Right to Life also invited the Rev. John Jenkins, C.S.C., the university president, and the Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C., the vice president of student affairs, to join the students in the protest. Both Jenkins and Poorman had scheduling conflicts and sent others to march in their places.

Students said they were glad to have university faculty marching with them. "It's a very positive thing," Daly says. "It is good for the image of the university and good for students to see professors who support what they do."

William Kirk, the associate vice president for residence life, agrees. "As a Catholic institution, it is important that we stand up for life," Kirk says. "It's true to our Catholic faith ... It sends exactly the right image of what is important to Notre Dame."

This year was Kirk's first time on the March for Life, and he says, "I would take some time off if necessary to go again."

Plans are already in the works for next year's march. Dr. David Solomon, director of the Center for Ethics and Culture, stayed after the march to meet with D.C.-area alumni and discuss ways to make the March for Life encompass even more of the Notre Dame community. The Center hopes to bring more faculty members and arrange events where Notre Dame students could meet alumni who work in the nation's capital, Solomon says.

Solomon says that while he does not believe protests solve issues, the March still gave him hope that abortion will one day be outlawed.

"I would like to think that when a bunch of articulate, intelligent students and faculty get together, we can change minds," he says.







JUDGMENT Calls,

Michael Phelps' pot-pipe pic Hey, now we know he's human.



Snow day for the London Program At least some ND students are getting time off for snow.

Octuplets in California

Sure, babies are cute, but can we really handle another reality show?

Blagojevich

We know you're a crook and all, but you've got a really sweet name.

The economy There's not even anything to say.

Honoring the King

Notre Dame observes Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Maria Sellers

ince Notre Dame students are graced with week-long fall and spring breaks, as well as having Good Friday and Easter Monday off, most other national holidays are spent in the classroom. Such was the case this past Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Jan. 19.

Many other institutions across the country are dismissed from class to celebrate the holiday. The administration had considered giving students the day off this year but ultimately decided against it.

Dennis Brown, assistant vice president for news and information, says, "The university requires 70 class days each semester ... [and certain standards for class days need to be met to maintain consistency]."

But students and faculty still observed the holiday in honor of the revered spokesman for the U.S. civil rights movement. On Jan. 15, 2009, former university President Father Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., spoke of his friendship with King and the story behind the well-known photograph that hangs in LaFortune Student Center and the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. Student government also sponsored a day of service in the South Bend area. On the holiday, a prayer service honoring King took place in the rotunda of Main Building.

The holiday took on even more significance this year, as Barack Obama became the first African-American to step into the office of the President of the United States on the following day.

Notre Dame will celebrate Black History Month this February by discussing Obama's impact on diversity and embracing black culture through events like Black Koffeehouse, a night dedicated to celebrating the African Diaspora.

NEWS





Keenan Revue Prevue

Students prepare for classic nights of sketch comedy

Josh Flynt

he Keenan Revue premieres tonight, Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. in the O'Laughlin Auditorium at St. Mary's College. This year's show is directed by junior Danny Wheeland and produced by junior Andrew Derksen. In addition to tonight's performance, the Revue will be showing Friday and Saturday night. The sketch comedy show has been an annual tradition since 1976 and is an extremely popular dorm-sponsored event. Performed and organized entirely by the Knights of Keenan Hall, this year's theme is "It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's the Keenan Revue!"

Last winter, the Revue was filled with memorable skits. "Ubiquitous"



became part of everyday vocabulary. Students' perspectives on Casper and Harry Potter would never be the same. Wheeland and Derksen explain that this year's Revue would not be lacking in hysterical performances. They cited "Chicks Pooping," "Pick Me Up" and "Holy Cross Bar Scene" as the skits to watch for this weekend.

Revue tickets are free, but "sell out" every year. For those who got tickets at the Jan. 29 distribution, or for those privileged enough to have generous friends in Keenan — enjoy the show.

TOP FIVE

Best Valentine's Day Songs



NEWS



Inauguration Day Brings New Possibilities Vanessa Adjel

know what history looks like. On Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009, I witnessed it firsthand. As I arrived at the National Mall on a cool morning, I did my best to absorb the energy in the atmosphere. After all, it is not every day that our nation swears in its first African-American president. It can only happen once.

It was a unique election year because for many Americans, this election marked the first time they felt a personal connection to a campaign. It was early in the morning, yet people were camped out, surrounded by mountains of food and water. Others inched forward to find a spot with the best view of the ceremony.

I stood unusually close to perfect strangers, and I could only think of my grandmother. At 79 years old, she wanted desperately to attend the inauguration, but her legs were not strong enough to make the journey. I felt a sense of privilege as I remembered all those who fought the battles against prejudice and discrimination that helped to make President Barack Obama's election possible.

People craned their necks and readied their cameras as the inauguration festivities

began. When President Obama approached the podium, a wave of anticipation washed over the crowd and chants of "Obama" rang out. I looked around at the diverse crowd. The salad bowl of America was represented on the National Mall, and it was refreshing to see the broad array of people gathered to

As I stood on the National Mall, I felt a sense of oneness with those around me, as well as a sense of optimism.

support the nation's new president.

While administering the oath of office, Chief Justice John Roberts mixed up the order of some words, but there was only a faint crowd reaction; the audience was more focused on the speech. During the Inaugural Address, the nation's 44th President expressed his plans for the challenges ahead to an electrified crowd.

"America, in the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship ... Let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come. Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested, we refused to let this journey end," President Obama said as the crowd erupted with applause.

The historical significance of the moment was difficult to process in a single day. Looking back, the inauguration ceremony was gratifying for so many reasons. As I stood on the National Mall, I felt a sense of oneness with those around me, as well as a sense of optimism. President Obama's victory broadened the perceptions of minorities and other marginalized people. Huddled together on that cold Tuesday afternoon, we all had a chance to witness history.



Reflection on the Inauguration

Jason G'Sell

Dim lights flicker on in a darkened bus. Yawns are heard as people awaken from their Nyquil-induced halfsleeps. As my pupils slowly adjust, I look at the time — it's 5 a.m. on Jan. 20, 2009. This is the day that I have been waiting for since President Barack Obama's victory in November's election.

Our group of seven takes the Metro downtown. Following the quick train ride, the doors open and reveal the utter chaos ahead. We are in the middle of the L'Enfant Plaza subway station, surrounded by hordes of people, all with the same destination. Metro workers regulate how many people can leave at one time, but this soon creates dangerous situations when new trains arrive.

People cannot walk off of their trains because the platforms overflow with bodies. The crowd begins shouting, "Let us out! Letus out!" Just as fears of riots peak, a new chant begins: "Obama! Yes we did!"

We try to make small talk with some strangers in the station. While people have come from all over, we all share one thing in common: support for Obama. I expect people to be rude, frustrated and short-tempered, but I find incredible kindness brought on by the sheer joy and excitement of experiencing such a historic event.

We finally make our way out of the station and onto the National Mall, about a mile east of the Capitol building. We wait eagerly in



the cold, intently watching the megascreens to see what is happening. People continue pouring onto the Mall for hours, creating an endless sea of bodies.

People from every race, ethnicity, class, religion, city and country have assembled to witness one man. To our right is a family from Canada and to our left, a couple from New Orleans. As we make friends, it becomes readily apparent that no one here is really a stranger; rather, we are all united under the "hope" of which Obama so frequently spoke. Cheers spring up in support of Obama, and the crowd rallies in anticipation.

Once the ceremony begins, the masses become silent. Then, as Obama is declared the 44th President of the United States, crowds erupt with shouts of elation. Strangers hug and applause rings out. This is why we are here.

People were celebrating, not simply because we have a new president, but because we have renewed hope. We have hope in an America founded on equality and rights for all. We have hope in our leader and hope in ourselves. This was not a victory of one man, but of a nation.

The inauguration had a way of unifying Americans like no other event. Whether black or white, Democrat or Republican, on that morning, in the bitter cold, on the field of the National Mall, we were one in hope. Do it for the children...

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No Sleep, No Problem

Competition keeps charity alive

Claire Reising

Swimmers in large innertubes entered the pool at the Rolfs Aquatic Center, preparing for a game of water polo. In the adjoining lanes, kayakers warmed up for a race to be held later that night. Not far away, basketball, volleyball and racquetball players got ready to rumble. Although this may not have looked like the typical weekend at Notre Dame, the Late Night Olympics combined three staples of students' lives — service, sports and lack of sleep — to raise money for the St. Joseph's County Special Olympics team.

The purpose of the event is to foster competition between dorms in an effort to provide funding for the Special Olympics team. RecSports intern John Beven, who organized the event, said that 13 brother/sister dorm teams participated.

Freshman Courtney Vargas, Lewis Hall representative, learned more about the Special Olympics through her participation in the Late Night Olympics. "[The Special Olympics athletes] have their own local events ... and they also go to state competitions, which is something they need the funding for. They need buses, uniforms and facilities to practice in," Vargas says.

One of the primary ways for teams to raise money was through the "Penny Wars." In the weeks before, the Olympics teams placed money jars in their dorms, in the Rockne Memorial and in the Rolfs Sports Recreation Center. Donations of pennies and bills added to the team's points, while donations of quarters, dimes and nickels subtracted points. Other means of raising money included entry fees, donations, T-shirt sales and an open-skate session.

The Keough Hall and Welsh Family Hall team continued their winning streak this year, raising almost \$450 in the Penny Wars and winning 60 out of the 84 games they played, according to Beven. Excluding donations and T-shirt sales, the Late Night Olympics raised almost \$4,600. The winning dorms will split the \$1,200 prize (from team contributions) with the Special Olympics, and Special Olympics will receive the rest of the funds.

The brother/sister dorm teams competed from 6 p.m. on Jan. 31 until 2 a.m. on Feb. 1 in 11 different events. Teams played volleyball and basketball and participated in other more unconventional activities, such as an obstacle course and inner-tube water polo.

Beven commended the competitive yet charitable spirit that students brought to the games and the athletes' time commitment.

"It says a lot when people come out on Saturday night and are still playing bags at one in the morning, when they could be doing plenty of other things," he says. '

Students were not the only ones who devoted their Saturday night to the Late Night Olympics. The St. Joseph County's Special Olympics team played a basketball game against Athletic Department staff at 9 p.m. in the Joyce Center field house.

"Everything stops for that game, and everyone comes and watches," sophomore Cari Pick, a Welsh Family Hall representative, says.

Coordinator of Student Welfare and Development Harold Swanagan, who played in the basketball game, says he enjoyed interacting with both teams.

"They [just] wouldn't let me dunk on anyone," Swanagan says.

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Campus Election

BURDICK-SANCHEZ LENNON-HARIG MCCAUGHAN-GORSKI SCHMIDT-WEBER Scholastic Endorsement

Just for fun, we asked the candidates to name the Britney Spears song that best represents their campaign.

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Highlighted Planks

APPROVE

0

Off-Campus Housing Network (Burdick-Sanchez) — Have a terrible landlord? Great location? Moldy basement but great for parties? Leave your thoughts and advice for future residents on an online database.

Good Samaritan Policy (Schmidt-Weber) — In place at other universities, this policy guarantees that a student assisting another student in trouble will not be punished for any rules they are breaking.

DISAPPROVE

Expanding the "Gold Rush" Program (Burdick-Sanchez) — Students who didn't already want to go to see watch men's golf aren't going to be seduced by potential football ticket price reductions.

Security Gates (Schmidt-Weber) — Sure, the student short film "Our Lady's Bouncers" was funny. But working with NDSP to allow students on campus for "reasons of merit" is vague. And it takes the fun out of sneaking beer on campus.

HEARD IT BEFORE

Dining Hall Improvements (Burdick-Sanchez, Lennon-Harig) — Is it *really* that difficult to walk across campus to the dining hall you prefer?

Arrest Reductions (McCaughan-Gorski) — We all want the police to lay off our drinking indiscretions, but we doubt that the kind of change necessary will come through student government.





Claire Reising

ormal" is how junior biology major Laura Burdick and junior political science and Spanish double major, Latino Studies minor Derek Sanchez describe their personalities. They see themselves as down-to-earth candidates hoping to increase communication between the student government and the student body.

"We feel like the connection between student government and the student body is basically nonexistent, and we feel we can make that connection a lot better," Sanchez says.

Burdick and Sanchez hope to contribute their experience with the Hall Presidents' Council, as both candidates are this year's athletic co-chairs. Burdick says they have built relationships with several departments and learned to see issues from a campuswide point of view — beyond their dorms' perspectives.

As athletic co-chairs, Burdick and Sanchez place Notre Dame sporting events at the top of their platform: establishing tailgating space for students and bolstering interest in low-attendance sports. They propose to expand the concept of a senior tailgating row to include space for all classes and providing activities and refreshments. Additionally, they plan to strengthen the Gold Rush Program by creating a point system for students who attend games other than football, basketball and hockey, and awarding more exciting prizes, such as discounts on football or basketball tickets.

The Burdick-Sanchez platform could also benefit students interested in pursuing public service careers after graduation, such as teaching or government jobs. With their proposed Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, graduates who pursue these careers would receive help paying off loans. Sanchez says this would be an alternative for students who have difficulty affording Notre Dame and do not want to enter a ROTC program.

They intend to model this program after the proposed U.S. Public Service Academy, an institution that, if established, will provide students with a federally subsidized education, in exchange for five years of public service after graduation. The candidates say they will investigate several options to finance this, such as the Alumni Association and government funding, and they recognize the program will take years to establish.

In addition to long-term goals, the candidates have ideas on how to improve campus life, such as a "Safety First Approach" with the Office of Residential Life and the Notre Dame Security Police. Sanchez says that students would benefit more from alcohol assessment classes than from punishment. Burdick adds that students should not be punished for making sure that intoxicated friends receive proper care.

Although Burdick and Sanchez have several propositions, they say that their agenda is flexible and that, if elected, they will take suggestions through *Scholastic* and *The Observer* for two weeks to help determine their plans.

"We present the things we want and listen to student responses, creating a dialogue with the student body where we're having a flood of ideas coming through," Sanchez says. "I can't believe that this doesn't happen every year."



Jessica Farmwald

f we had a thesis, it's pretty much: Get elected, and then go mad with power," Luke Lennon, a freshman from Zahm Hall aspiring to become the student body president, says.

His roommate turned running mate, freshman Charles Harig, says that once in power, the two plan to turn the office into a monarchy and stay as long as humanly possible.

Harig says, "Do you really want to elect someone that says, 'I only want to lead the country for the next four years,' or do you want to elect somebody who is confident enough in themselves to say, 'I want to lead the country forever?'"

They say that one of their major platform initiatives is to add to the diversity of the student body through a new affirmative action program — affirmative action for beautiful women.

"Candidates would be posted on NDToday. com, and anyone that got over a score of 10 would get a scholarship," Harig says. "The scholarship could of course be taken away,

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though, for possible violations ... wearing sweatpants two days in a row, frequenting the dining halls too much, stuff like that."

Late bloomers could become eligible for walk-on status. Lennon and Harig say they will head the committee to evaluate all photo, and possibly video, submissions. Lennon says, "There will be checks and balances because we realize that some people like blondes, some like brunettes ... "

Harig says, "Not so much redheads, though. We don't need checks and balances there."

Lennon and Harig also feel passionately that the concept of a "buyout," much discussed this past fall in relation to Irish football coach Charlie Weis, should be applicable to anyone.

Harig says, "So, if your teacher is being a real a-hole in class, a bunch of students pool money together, buy out his tenure. If a certain field goal kicker misses another field goal, buy out his scholarship. That kid in the corner keeps raising his hand? Buy out his tuition. Or his left arm. Things like that." Lennon and Harig are committed to addressing a perceived injustice in the dining halls on campus, as the two say they believe that South Dining Hall is superior to North. One of their suggested solutions is to have a "lube crew" put in place to make sure the blue bowls don't stick together.

On the frequently discussed topic of how to bridge the gap between student government and the student body, Lennon says, "The candidates that are running are in student government and say that they want people who are in student government to do a better job of getting people involved, but I would say that most people don't feel that."

"It's like they're just extending a reign of terror," Harig says. "I just feel like our issues as a whole, I mean, it's basically everyone's issues. So it's like everyone's having a say in student government. It's what everyone wants."

"We are running to draw more attention to the election," Lennon says. "And ourselves."



Molly Slavin

t's safe to say that junior history and economics double major James McCaughan and sophomore Information Technology Management major Tom Gorski are reform-minded. Their campaign is driven by the desire to improve the way the university administrators treat both students and alumni. Although neither have any experience with student government, they believe this is a positive thing because they can work with an outsiders' view and a fresh outlook.

This mentality has led the pair to formulate a platform that they are aware, in McCaughan's words, is "a break from the past," but that they believe "is really on students' minds." One of the driving forces behind McCaughan and Gorski's campaign is reforming the university's approach to tailgating and ending NDSP's searches of students' bags on campus. They are interested in reducing the amount of arrests because, as they say, "graduates with criminal records don't benefit the university." In regard to tailgating, McCaughan says, "Our main concern — especially after last football season — would be the arrests, not only of students, but also of alumni, and I guess even people who don't have any strong connection to Notre Dame other than being football fans. We just didn't agree with the

"We're not going to stop until we actually get what we want."

-JAMES MCCAUGHAN

way the university handled all this and the way student government handled it, and we want to run so that students and alumni are treated with more respect by the university."

As to the issue of bag searches, McCaughan says, "We believe it is unfair to expect students to comply with a search that can be very overbearing." The two say they believe that students bringing bags on campus do not pose much of a security issue and that the bag searches can infringe on students' privacy.

The other planks of their platform include "a promise to support DormBooks.com in any and every way possible," mint toothpicks in the dining hall, instituting interhall laser tag and moving the student government to the Sorin Room on the first floor of LaFortune. Although the interhall laser tag and mint toothpicks (Gorski says that one day he got a toothpick from North Dining Hall and thought, "Man, wouldn't it be nice if these were mint?") may seem a little silly, the two insist that they are very interested in "working for the students." Boiled down, their campaign's central theme is a desire to be treated with "respect and dignity" by university administrators.

McCaughan says, "We're gonna push and get as much for the students as we can. We're not going to stop until we actually get what we want."



Vanessa Adjei

ncumbent Vice President Grant Schmidt and his running mate, Sophomore Class President Cynthia Weber, are "rounding the Bend" in their bid to become student body president and vice president.

Junior political science and economics double major Grant Schmidt began his involvement in student government his freshman year. "I wanted to be a part of something that had the ability to work directly with the school, as opposed to the 'us-against-the-man' mentality present at other schools," Schmidt says. Sophomore theology and political science double major Cynthia Weber also entered student government as a freshman.

Taxi reform is one of the foremost concerns for Schmidt and Weber. They want to implement a system requiring cabs to have an identification number, which would serve as an extra safety precaution for student travel. Schmidt and Weber want to push for a \$2 flat rate on weekends and a prepaid ticket booklet that would function as cash with participating cab companies. "There are eight legitimate cab companies in South

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Bend ... but there is a place near Michigan where you can go and rent a cab without a cab driver license," Schmidt says.

Schmidt and Weber acknowledge some potential challenges with the system in its early stages. "There will be some instances where the cab that you pick is not using the system or is not a legitimate cab," Schmidt says.

Schmidt and Weber also want to implement a Good Samaritan policy and include it in DuLac. This policy would set in writing that a student will not be subject to disciplinary action when helping another student in need.

Schmidt and Weber also plan to address rising textbook prices. "Notre Dame allows eFollett to be the exclusive provider of textbooks and apparel. We are working to increase accessibility of ISBN numbers for textbooks [so students can get textbooks through other means]," Weber says. Schmidt and Weber also hope to provide students with more information during the textbook return process. "Before we get to the bookstore, we can publicize whether or not they will take the book back because the bookstore has agreed to put this information online. This gives students other options," Schmidt says. They hope to join with other Indiana schools to rally for tax exemptions for textbooks, similar to a measure that has already been enacted in Iowa.

Schmidt and Weber also cited the difficulty of getting onto campus through security gates as a concern for students. Students have expressed frustration with the seemingly arbitrary nature of campus security policies. The candidates want to work with NDSP to create a more specific set of guidelines for allowing students to drive on campus.

Schmidt says he believes his greatest failure during the Reish and Schmidt administration was a matter of communication. "My biggest failure is not relaying information. People do not know about the progress that we are making in the community, which sometimes leads to increased hostility," Schmidt says. The Schmidt-Weber ticket has high hopes for the future. "We want to push the limits of what we can do with student government this year," Weber says.

Grant Schmidt & Cynthia Weber

ORSEMENT

t may have been time for a change in America, but at Notre Dame, at least this election season, Scholastic believes that current Student Body Vice President Grant Schmidt is the best choice to step into office. Sure, he and running mate Cynthia Weber are polished politician-types. They name drop. They wear suits. Their Web site, GiveASchmidt.com, would blow those of most state-level politicians out of the water. And they have ridiculously good teeth. But they're polished because they have experience in student government and know the system inside and out. They name drop because they have done their research and have established relationships with people that will be key to achieving their goals. They wear suits because they're professional. They have a great Web site because they are willing to spend the time and effort to get their ideas out. And they have good teeth because ... well, you get the idea.

Laura Burdick and Derek Sanchez have a different style that is also extremely appealing. They are very forthright, earnest and down-to-earth people who seem, truly passionate about serving the average student. An online off-campus housing network so that students can find out what exactly they are getting into from students who have already been there (think NDToday.com teacher evaluations, but for houses and apartments) would be truly beneficial to students wanting to get the most for their money. But the rest of their proposals are either uninteresting to a wide student base or implausible. Their idea to implement a program that would grant student loan forgiveness to graduates entering public service fields is admirable, but the details of the plan are murky. And although Burdick and Sanchez have experience in student government, their platform reflects their primary interest and experience in athletics, something that doesn't necessarily excite the entire student body. They have made an impressive effort to start building contacts and a foundation, but it doesn't come close to the base that the Schmidt-Weber ticket has to launch a year in office.

On the other side of the spectrum, the freshman duo of Luke Lennon and Charles Harig is all charisma and no experience or research. Their proposal for a buyout option for anyone who is ticking you off made us laugh. Their idea to offer scholarships to attractive women instead of football players made us cry. The visual of dining hall workers lubing up our cereal bowls made us gag (although we agree that it is super annoying how they all stick together). But mostly, the idea of Lennon and Harig in office until they were removed by death or a bloody coup terrified us.

The ticket of James McCaughan and Tom Gorski, on the other hand, elicited very little emotional response

from us either way. They embrace their lack of experience but don't make up for it with an innovative, exciting platform. They seem to be on the fence about whether they want to be a joke ticket or not. Even if McCaughanand Gorski were able to navigate the student government system to accomplish their narrow set of goals, such as eliminating NDSP suitcase searches or getting mint toothpicks in the dining hall, we wouldn't really care. Student government may not always be able to stand up against the administration like we want them to, but McCaughan and Gorski likely would not get far with their aggressive attitude.

COVERSIORY

The Schmidt-Weber ticket offers the best of both worlds. They know the limits of student government and also its enormous potential. In between all of the clutter filling their extremely ambitious platform are great ideas that are actually plausible. They are not just passionate about their resumes; they really want to improve student life. We're especially excited about their plans for taxi reform, the Good Samaritan policy and a commitment to continued student input about Eddy Street Commons. If we let Schmidt and Weber know what we want, they are the ticket most willing and able to make it happen. Make your vote count, and give Schmidt-Weber your support.

CULTURE

Campus Chatter DEPARTMENT OF THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID

Jan. 22, 2009, was my first time. I'd never done it before in my entire life, but in one night, everything changed. My palms were sweaty as I entered the room with eager anticipation. What would we talk about? Could I ask questions? It's true: Before that night, I had never attended a panel on pornography.

Before attending "Pornucopia: Living in a Pornified Culture," in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium, I read this recollection from the 1969 edition of the Notre Dame yearbook, which chronicles the events following a decision to hold an unauthorized screening of a film titled "Kodak Ghost Poems":

Directly before the movie was put on the projector, in mid-afternoon of the seventh of February, the first violent confrontation between police and students in the bistory of Notre Dame took place. Deputies broke into the auditorium, threw students down the stairs and then desks on top of them. They knocked the projector off the table and pulled the girl who had taken the film itself up over the desks, knocking her to the floor and ripping the film from her hands. They then ran out of the building. It should be understood that at no time did they show a warrant or make any attempt to identify themselves. When they left the buildings, students gave chase and were maced in their efforts to recover the film. Police fell on students, and ground their faces in the snow and dirt of early February. Students made similar efforts, but no police suffered any appreciable injuries. Maced students, however, were severely shaken. And so the Pornography and Censorship Conference which started off as a good try ended as a miserable and highly-publicized failure.

And so it was after reading this almost unbelievable excerpt that I prepared to attend the Pornucopia panel. Finding partners in crime was key — there was no way I was going to be "that girl" who went to a pornography panel by herself (besides, who knew if mace would be involved?). When I asked two of my male friends to join me, their initial answers were less than enthusiastic, but after promising them that they could crack as many "that's-what-she-said" jokes as they wanted, they were quickly on board.

With my wingmen in tow, I entered the auditorium. The place was packed — students and professors filled every seat, and many resigned themselves to sitting on the stairs (my best guess is that students thought they were actually going to see a pornographic film). The crowd looked to be evenly split between boys and girls, with a few professors scattered throughout. Eyes darted nervously around the crowd as people checked to see if they recognized any of their peers (or if anyone recognized them).

The panel opened with an episode of "Seinfeld," which lightened the mood and elicited laughs (read: awkward giggling) from the crowd. Five members sat on the panel: history professor Gail Bederman; law professor Rick Garnett; gender studies professor Cristina Traina (via webcam — oh, the irony); Fr. Nate Wills, C.S.C., associate pastor at St. Joseph Parish; and Master of Divinity student Brian Vassel. Each person contributed to a different topic

of the panel and, together, they presented a thorough look at the world of pornography.

The panel agreed that pornography has become commonplace in today's society. Garnett explained that pornography is protected under the U.S. Constitution. He discussed the period between 1967 and 1973 in which over 50 obscenity cases were heard by the Supreme Court. The Court justices were "forced" to go down to the basement of the courthouse and, after watching the film in question, determine whether or not it was pornographic. Rumor has it that because one justice was blind, Justice Thurgood Marshall narrated for him.

Fr. Wills related pornography to religion and faith. "[Pornography] distorts a person's world view, ruins relationships and traps a person in a cycle of addiction and isolation," Wills told the audience. He said it draws people away from intimacy, isolates a person from God, and encourages sin.

I had been looking for action, anticipating an hour and a half of awkward yet entertaining dialogue that caused the college audience to squirm in their seats. On the contrary, the discussion was, in a word, mature. The panelists were knowledgeable in their areas of expertise and presented their issues thoroughly and effectively. Not surprisingly, the panel strongly supported the stance of the Catholic Church.

I heard several students grumbling about the bias of the panel. "They should have brought in Hugh with his robe to duke it out with the priest," one boy muttered to his friend, disappointed. Another girl suggested bringing in a porn star or director of a porn flick to sit on the panel. I wonder, though, if she would have made her suggestion had she known about the possibility of our good friend mace making a reappearance ...



CULTURE

reviewe

Molly Slavin

As the proverbial "loser in love," my editor-in-chief asked me to do a special Valentine's-themed edition of Reviews/Previews because (this is an exact quote), "You're really funny, and you'd be good at that whole 'bitter singles' thing." At least she called me "really funny." I'll take what I can get. Let's preface this with my stating that I hate people that are happy and in love, so if you're the mushy, feed-each-other-tater tots-at-SDH type (I SAW YOU TWO. YOU CAN'T HIDE.), you might not get a lot of appreciation out of this. For the rest of you, read on.

eview

Hyou're in a relationship:

My restaurant pick: Papa Vino's

Walentine's Ædition

I know, I know, gag me. It's the only "nice" (in quotes for a reason) place Notre Dame students ever go to. But I have to confess, as I am a) broke, and b) not particularly infatuated with exploring a ton of South Bend, it's my go-to place for a pretty good meal. And there's a reason — if you're taking your honey out in this godforsaken prairie outpost, you really can't go wrong with the free bread, extensive wine list and large menu. Plus, they have cozy private booths, an intimate atmosphere and cute little nooks. It's just perfect for those of you who insist on wearing red on the 14th, walking around on a cloud of happiness and basically making the rest of us feel like garbage.

My gift pick: the movie "Forgetting Sarah Marshall"

While it's hardly "Casablanca" or "Love Story," "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" is the perfect movie for the upcoming holiday. Why, you ask? Well, 1) Why would you ever not want to watch this example of pure cinematic genius? 2) It really does ultimately have a sweet storyline. You and your honeykins can snuggle and watch the endearing storyline of the boy who gets dumped and finds love again and 3) This movie actually made a couple I know break up. The two of them ... you know what, I don't want to talk about it, and you don't want to hear about it, but suffice it to say that this movie actually ends relationships. And this may be the aforementioned "bitter single" voice coming through, but seriously, the fewer people we have in relationships this V-Day, the better:

Plus, girls, there's a full-frontal shot of Jason Segel. Not bad.

My restaurant pick: K's Grill and Pub

If you've single:

I mean, seriously, could you get less sexy? If you don't feel like watching couples stare lovingly into each others' eyes and hearing them call each other ridiculous things like "smufflekins" and "Pooh Bear" on Saturday, K's is the place for you. Cheap beer, cheap hot dogs, horrid vinyl booths ... what more could you want? It's pretty much the exact opposite of romantic. The sign out front even says they're remodeling, although I haven't yet been in to verify this. Consider the new interiors a personal gift from the owners to you. And who knows? You might even score yourself a townie hookup. Cha-ching.

My gift pick: shots

Perfect for any time of the year, but especially for Valentine's Day. Helps numb the pain, but side effects may include crying jags and insistence on holding your roommate's shoulders while screaming, "WHY DOESN'T ANYONE LOVE ME?" It's completely adaptable to your own lifestyle and personality, with many different sizes, quantities, types of alcohol, etc. Get creative — anyone can give themselves a plain old vodka shot, but it takes a real master/depressed person to cheer themselves up with a homemade kamikaze. Best of all, it's the gift that keeps on giving (at least until the next morning, when you curse the gift you gave yourself). This gift is perfect for short-term cheer, which may be just what you need when confronted by all those shiny, happy people come Saturday.

CULTURE



Adderall Use at Notre Dame

Maddy Zollo

t's the Sunday before finals week, and Tyler* has let the previous study days pass by with only a glance or two at his notes. Knowing that he has a limited amount time to cram for all of his exams, Tyler, like many other Notre Dame students, fuels up with caffeine and makes Huddle runs in order to survive the hours he plans to spend tucked away in the library. Unlike other students, though, he has a little extra boost, aside from the numerous cups of Starbucks coffee or countless cans of Red Bull. He has Adderall.

Adderall, or amphetamine-dextroamphetamine, is a stimulant prescribed to those diagnosed with attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Adderall stimulates the central nervous system, resulting in increased levels of concentration. But Tyler has not been clinically diagnosed with either ADD or ADHD.

"I heard other kids say that I should use it to make cramming easier," Tyler says. Now a senior, he has been using the drug as a study aid since his sophomore year.

"For the most part, it makes me not distracted," he says. "If I try to sit down and study, it helps because my style of studying is by sitting down for a few days."

According to a recent report from *Time* magazine, seven percent of American college students have taken Adderall for "nonmedical" purposes, and up to a quarter of students in private, top-tier universities have used it for studying purposes.

"If they can get it, my friends use it," Tyler says, regarding the popularity of Adderall on campus. "Senior year, people don't even want to study, but in the past a lot of people used it."

Tyler gets the drug from his brother's friend at another university in Indiana, although he has heard of someone who faked an ADD diagnosis at Health Services. "If you really wanted to do it, you could get it," he says, concerning the availability of a prescription for the drug at ND.

Opening up America's Starbucks generation to intense over-the-counter amphetamines probably wouldn't be the best idea.

– Kyle

The prevalence of students using Adderall without a prescription to help them study raises the question of whether it is acceptable to use it as an aid or if it is, in fact, a form of cheating and a violation of the Honor Code.

"I don't know; it's a good question," Tyler says. "There are a lot more problems in academic dishonesty that you would consider more cheating."

Kyle*, another senior who admits to using Adderall for studying, agrees. "If someone is willing to make an effort to get diagnosed or to obtain the pills, it's at their discretion. Performance-enhancing substances have been used for studying for years, whether it be caffeine pills, speed in the '80s and '90s, or now specifically Adderall and other ADHD medications," he says. "There are positives and negatives to any substance used to keep awake/concentrated for studying, and you have to deal with the consequences as well as the benefits. It's basically a personal choice, as far as I'm concerned."

Kyle, like Tyler, started to take Adderall his sophomore year and has used it ever since to help with studying for tests or writing papers. One major difference between these two students, however, is that Kyle has always thought that he may have ADHD.

"It worked well to help me focus and curb my frequent desire to get up and walk around during studying," he says. Kyle says he believes that there is a fine line between those who "have to" use Adderall (clinically diagnosed people) and those who, like him, have a short attention span.

"Similar to many of my fellow students, I feel confident that I have exhibited a number of symptoms associated with ADHD," he says, "and with no sure testing methods, behavioral health professionals rely heavily on symptom reports from patients to develop a diagnosis."

Even though he has never been officially diagnosed with ADHD, Kyle says he believes that if he were to go for a professional opinion, he would be diagnosed with the disorder.

There has been an ongoing national



debate concerning whether or not there has been an over-diagnosis of ADD and ADHD. A report from the University of Pennsylvania describes how "the number of prescribed users has increased rapidly, and the increase in diagnoses has carried with it a rise in supply for users without prescriptions as well." This rising number of diagnoses may be why so many students believe that they might have an attention disorder when, in reality, they may just be more easily distracted than others — a belief that may lead ND students to self-medicate.

Although Tyler and Kyle both say that using Adderall has been an immense help in preparing for tests, each knows that there can be negative consequences. Adderall is a prescription drug for a reason, and its side effects can include a loss of appetite, insomnia and light-headedness, among others. Some studies suggest that the overuse or misuse of Adderall could lead to dependency, and Tyler says that he's heard of people at other universities taking Adderall in order to stay up late partying and to increase the effects of alcohol.

"Overusing is definitely a bad idea, taking either too much at a time or too much to stay up for days will definitely take a physical, as well as mental, toll," Kyle says.

When asked if everyone should have access to Adderall, both Kyle and Tyler agree that it shouldn't become an over-the-counter medication, although they currently treat it as such. "I think that Adderall still has too high a probability for abuse in its current form," Kyle says. "Opening up America's Starbucks generation to intense over-thecounter amphetamines probably wouldn't be the best idea."



University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Questioning Students

The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students (Information, education, and resources) Contact: Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, dunn.54@nd.edu, 1-5550, or Eddie Velazquez at <u>evelazqu@nd.edu</u>

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 mlaffert@nd.edu

Visit our web site at corecouncil.nd.edu



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College Gameday Irish fans show their support on ESPN

Matt Formica

On the morning of Notre Dame's matchup against the University of Connecticut, I woke up with a strong sense of excitement and unbridled anticipation for the upcoming events. Despite an unbearable urge to hit the snooze button and enjoy a few more precious minutes of sleep, I decided to seize the day and root for my basketball team on national television.

I trekked over to the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center with a group of friends and arrived at 8 a.m. As we took our place in line behind the 700 or so students who had arrived either earlier in the morning or the night before, my friends and I happened to stumble upon a discarded piece of poster board and a couple of markers. After collaborating for a few moments, we settled on an extremely hilarious yet highly unprintable message and scribbled it onto the sign, which would later receive some pretty solid airtime on ESPN.

Finally the line began to move as students were let into the building, though some were more aware of this minute detail than others. Two sleep-deprived gentlemen were in the midst of what seemed to be a pleasant nap when the doors were opened; I can only hope that they woke up in time for the game.

As the crowd continued to file in, former Notre Dame basketball coach Digger Phelps immediately began pumping up the crowd, as he had been doing for much of the week. On Wednesday, Phelps made an appearance in the dining halls, and on Thursday he visited some of the dorms to encourage students to support the Irish.

Throughout the broadcast, Digger repeatedly proclaimed that the student section would be the MVP of Saturday night's game, to which fans enthusiastically responded with cheers and chants of "Dig-ger!" Dig-ger!" Not only did Phelps play an integral role in generating school spirit and eliciting energy from the crowd, he performed dance moves that could be rivaled only by those of Michael Jackson.

When the broadcast concluded at noon, I departed from the JACC along with the rest of the students and headed straight to the comfort of my bed for a much-needed nap. As I slept, I dreamt of a glorious victory over the reviled UConn Huskies and awoke feeling invigorated and optimistic about the game.

My friends and I joined the line outside of the JACC at 4 p.m. Students utilized many methods to stay warm, ranging from sipping coffee to huddling together, and when the doors opened at 5 p.m., the crowd surged forward.

Fans went into a frenzy during pregame introductions, which featured a dramatic video montage of the team and bursts of smoke emanating from the top of the backboards. The atmosphere remained electric throughout the entirety of the game, perhaps even more so than at any of this year's home football games.

Even though the students tried their hardest to propel the team to a victory, it was the Huskies who ultimately snatched the 45-game home-court winning streak from our grasp and snapped it like a twig.

Despite the disappointing loss, the College Gameday festivities provided Irish fans with an opportunity to show the public that they are among the most spirited and passionate supporters in the nation.



IRISH EYES ON: Erik Condra

Mimi DiSipio

These days, senior Erik Condra, captain of the men's hockey team, finds himself leading a group that just won't quit. The nation's second-ranked team is in hot pursuit of the NCAA Championship title that eluded them last year. And no one is more determined to right the wrongs of last season than Condra, who was sidelined by a knee injury for last year's postseason. Now healthy and enjoying a successful season, the two-time Irish offensive player of the year is one of the Irish's leading scorers.

Until this season you shared the Notre Dame record of being 20th in assists with your uncle, All-American Kirt Bjork ('83). Now you have surpassed him to become only the 10th player in the history of the program to record 100 assists in your career. Does that make for any rivalry at family dinners?

[Laughing] No, he still actually has me in points so far. I think I need something like 19 or 18 more points this season to pass him. So he's still got that on me. But we joked around about it before the season started, so it's not too bad.

Was it your family that got you interested in hockey originally?

Yes. My mom's side of the family is big into hockey, and my grandpa lived on a lake, so I spent my winters growing up skating on the lake. That's how I first got into hockey.

You and your teammates recently had the opportunity to practice on the outdoor rink at Merrifield Park as part of the "Practice on the Pond" event. What was that like?

It was unbelievable. It was so much fun. It was just like being a little kid going out and skating on the ponds and messing around. We had a lot of fun with it.

What is the worst thing you have done to garner time in the penalty box? In juniors, a kid on the other team kneed a kid on my team, and I crosschecked him in the face and then jumped on him and started punching him in the face.

So then you have gotten in a fight on the ice? Yeah, back in juniors. You can't do it in college.

The number one atop Grace Hall has been lit up for quite a while now. How do you, as a captain, deal with the bull's eye on your team's back due to your number one ranking?

We have been here the last couple of years, so we know how to deal with it. We have good veteran leadership that knows what this is like. We look at the next game ahead of us, and we don't really look at the streak or being number one. We need to take each game as it comes.

We bear you are a movie aficionado. Have you seen "The Mighty Ducks"? If so, which character would you want to be?

Of course. I love that movie. I would definitely want to be Charlie Conway.

Have you ever shot the infamous "knuckle puck"?

No, that is a fantasy shot. That does not work. I wish it did.

What are your plans for next year?

I'm hoping to sign with an NHL team or maybe play in the AHL and work my way up. I want to keep playing hockey. I'm a pre-med major, so I am considering going to medical school though I haven't applied yet. I want to keep playing hockey for as long as I can, but I am definitely keeping my options open.



Josh Flynt

Heading into the spring dual-match tennis season, the Notre Dame doubles team of senior Kelcy Tefft and freshman Kristy Frilling is ranked first in the country by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). Tefft finished her junior season ranked third in the nation with doubles partner Brook Buck ('08). Tefft and Buck advanced to the semifinals of the 2008 NCAA Doubles Championship before losing to a doubles team from Fresno State. This past fall, Tefft and Frilling finished with a 10–1 record and reached the finals of the ITA National Indoor Championships. As a team, the Irish are ranked 17th in the nation. Seven ND singles players are currently ranked in the top 20 regional rankings, led by Frilling and Tefft, ranked fourth and fifth, respectively, and including other top 10 players junior Kali Krisik (sixth) and sophomore Kristen Rafael (ninth). ND opens play at home on Feb. 6 against Michigan.



The Irish baseball team was recently picked to finish third in the Big East for the 2009 season. The preseason poll, voted on by the league's 12 coaches, placed Louisville and South Florida in the top two spots. Three Notre Dame players were also voted to the 14-man preseason All-Big East squad. With junior pitcher Eric Maust, junior outfielder A.J. Pollock and senior shortstop Jeremy Barnes voted to the roster, the Irish tied Louisville for the most players to receive this recognition. This past summer, Pollock was named MVP of the Cape Cod League, a collegiate summer league that attracts many of the nation's best baseball players and Major League Baseball prospects. In December, Pollock was named to the 2009 Wallace Award Watch List, for the award to be presented to the nation's top collegiate baseball player. The Irish begin the 2009 campaign in Tampa, Fla., on Feb. 20 when they take on Ohio State as part of the Big East-Big Ten Challenge.



Since dropping their first two games in Central Collegiate Hockey Association play against Miami University (Ohio) this season, the Irish hockey team went on a tear. Following the back-to-back losses, the Irish reeled off a 20-game unbeaten streak before falling to Michigan at home on Friday, Jan. 30. During this streak, the icers were 17–0–3. Since Dec. 1, the Irish have been ranked first in the nation, marking only the third time that this feat has been achieved in the hockey program's 41-year history. In 27 games this season, the Irish have scored 90 goals, while allowing only 43. The Irish travel to Columbus, Ohio, this weekend for two games against Ohio State before returning home for another pair of games on Feb. 13 and 14 against Northern Michigan. The Irish are now 20–4–3 for the season and have dropped to number two in the national rankings.



INTO THE DEEP BLUE SEA A Notre Dame diver prepares to hit the water at the Shamrock Invitational held at Rolf's Aquatic Center on Jan. 24.



HOCKEY 101 The Irish hockey team teaches the basics of their sport to girls in Lewis Hall on Jan. 28.





Listening In...

Female Student 1: He is gorgeous. Female Student 2: Yeah, and he's really emotionally vulnerable and pathetic right now, too. Go for it!



Yeah, I can tell you work out after you slammed me against the wall on Thursday night." - male to female student

Twent through a womanizer phase." - boy in NDH

Freshman Girl 1 (just before the bun run): I'm scared. Freshman Girl 2: Why? Freshman Girl 1: I've never seen one before. Freshman Girl 2: Seen what? Freshman Girl 1: A WEEEIIINER!

Back In the Day ...

Imagine a brilliantly sunny football game day. You are leaving the tailgates to claim your rightful seat in the crowd before some drunken student moseys down and steals it. Then, something on the side of the stadium catches your eye. It's not obnoxious fans dangling limbs through wall openings and yelling obscenities; it is something magnificently shiny. No, you're not hallucinating. The glimmering object being hoisted over the wall is a keg, and it is the 1970s.

Back in the day, tailgating regulations and stadium rules were still around, but they operated under slightly different jurisdictions. The main difference was that undercover cops, strict drinking enforcement and hefty punishments didn't exist. Instead of facing ResLife and service hours, keg hoisters, if caught, would merely get kicked out of the game. If only we had all attended Notre Dame 30 years ago. Forget push-ups. Keg stand, anyone?

- Meg Kowieski



Welcome back, my little Gipplings! It's a new year, and the Gipp sees that you are all resolving to bring back global warming (not even a Snuggie can save you now), to alleviate squirrel poverty (note to Viewpoint: make those letters stop), and to use your ShamWow at least once a week (Gipp will NOT make fun of ShamWow). Gipp has also noted another interesting trend of 2009: more and more, my young sheep are venturing away from Our Lady's campus ... and finding themselves in physically and emotionally painful situations. If only you young ones would stay in the pasture of dorm parties, Sbarro and Reckers, perhaps these things would not happen! But these things have happened. Thus Gipp has no choice but to explain the dangers awaiting anyone who ventures outside of the 46556.

Our first tale concerns a swashbuckling lad sailing on the off-campus high seas of cheap beer and malt liquor. We'll call him Captain Chug. After an evening of organized competitive drinking, our protagonist emerged victorious and, following the closing ceremonies, navigated his way to another port and took his team's trophy along for the ride. Still in full costume, Captain Chug made quite a splash at the formal dress party that was his destination. One damsel in particular - Frida Kahlo, for our purposes - was in doubt of the authenticity of his earlier victory. "Arrrgh you going to make me prove it?" the Captain asked and took his skeptical new friend to the keg. Following a few contests, Frida warmed up to Captain Chug, perhaps in admiration of his drinking prowess or his blustery attire.

As the conversation continued, however, Frida had an epiphany — she'd seen this pirate before. "Have you ever done nude modeling?" asked Frida, and when he answered, "Ay, matey," she knew: not only had she seen him before, but she had measured his plank to be sure it was in proportion to his body. Twice. Now that's one for the Captain's log.

Our next story begins under a familyfriendly guise: bowling! What could be more fun than hurtling innocent balls into heavy, destructive, damaging pieces of metal? (We'll return to that analogy later.) To announce their arrival at the alley, some of our boys first decided to leave their lasses in the backseat. Our boys Batman and Robin jumped onto the roof of the car and proceeded to pop, lock and drop it, ride dirty and make it rain. Robin, always the spunky little daredevil, made his exit by rolling down the windshield and off the hood of the car, avoiding a pancaking as only a man in tights can. Batman opted for the side escape, but as he flew away, one of his ladies was simultaneously making her exit from the car. When she opened her door, Batman opened his legs - and straddled said door with a crushing blow. Luckily, liquid courage had been heartily ingested before the display, so the entire party entered the bowling hall feeling relatively fine.

To ensure that no permanent damage had befallen his jewels, Batman invited Robin into the bathroom for a second opinion. What Robin saw reminded him of the movie "Saw." To the Batmobile! To the emergency room! Escaping the bowling alley, our duo used the excuse of "appendicitis attack" to avoid any feelings of guilt on the part of the female maimer, but after arriving at the hospital, the truth could not be hidden. The female nurse could only exclaim, "Sweet Jesus!" and run away. When a doctor returned, he announced the need for five stitches (on the left, on the left) and an order to avoid climbing ladders, power walking and all strenuous activity for two weeks. Maybe a spare would have been better than that strike ...

The final tale finds us even further from our esteemed bubble of love, comfort and flex points — it takes us all the way to the land of pounds, hounds and the World's Naked Bike Ride: none other than Great Britain. Newly arrived on the continent, Jimmy and a group of American friends quickly lost themselves in the winding streets and overlapping neighborhoods of foggy Londontown. Losing one's way in any foreign city — ESPECIALLY one full of English speakers and English signs - is quite commonplace, but lucky for this crew, a display of interactive body language soon cleared up their whereabouts. One complete stranger helped the Americans realize that they were in London's most flamboyantly gay neighborhood. Our dear Jimmy was seduced by mobs of French girls, British men, stoic bartenders and even one neon-green wearing drag queen. Both women and men continued to be attracted by his "effervescent charm and purple plaid shirt." But ever the gentleman, Jimmy set his sights upon one lucky French lady and began his shy courtship. One friendly 40year-old man watched the scene and heartily gave Jimmy a thumbs-up. Encouraged by the bystander's support of young love, Jimmy returned his sign. The 40-year-old man then moved in and gave Jimmy a pinch on the tush, which Jimmy took as a cross-cultural way to encourage his coupling with Frenchie. Wanting to preserve international relations, Jimmy repeated the thumbs up sign to his new friend. And before you could say, "fish and chips," the 40-year-old man had pounced on Jimmy's neck, and, in what was becoming a theme for the evening, enthusiastically gave him a big lick. All Jimmy could think to do was give his new lover a big thumbs down and hope the translation made sense. Here's to the new King of England.

So, my dearies, Gipp can only hope that these shenanigans have shown you what happens when you leave the Bubble. On top of that, Gipp adds that you can never know when the Finny's ceiling will collapse or a riotous wedding reception will break out at the Backer. Perhaps for 2009, you Gipplings should stick to Hip Hop Nightclub, streaking naked through LaFun and nude modeling for kicks. Whatever you choose to do, know that the Gipp will be around, curled up in his Snuggie, ready to clean up any debaucherous messes you may make. With his ShamWow.

Valentine's Day Love,

The Gipper



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Best Weak Ever

Frances Thunder

o, over the joyous holiday season, I spent a lot of my time doing a typical senior activity: applying to jobs and preparing for interviews, all part of the terrifying concept called "my future." Now, being the business school dropout that I am, little did I know that I have to be familiar with not only my strengths, but also my weaknesses in order to discuss them with a potential employer. But let's be serious, it's not like I have any real weaknesses. I go to Notre Dame. So after I whipped out my handy Interview Checklist, I got to thinking about my "weaknesses" and realized how incredibly relative that whole concept is. I mean, after all, who's to define what a weakness is? I'm primarily thinking of Special K with Red Berries. I think that the dehydrated look-like-they've-been-sitting-next-tomy-kitchen-sink-since-last-month strawberries are disgusting and a huge weakness, but some people can't get enough of them. Like the random woman who approached me in LaFun during finals week because she saw me picking them out of my hugely convenient bowl of cereal purchased from the Huddle and asked if she could have them. In fact, she told me that she likes them so much she bought a dehydrator so she could dehydrate all of her fruit. The only thing I dehydrate on a regular basis is my body, after "too many" pitchers of beer at Finny's on Thursday (and Friday and Saturday) nights. Needless to say, I selflessly handed the berries over to her. Selflessness, plus the ability to rehydrate after Thursday night and go again — strengths.

I'm not a big planner (supposedly a weakness). Sometimes I have bursts of organizational frenzy, and that's when I pull out the black thing with the dates that I bought at Staples at the beginning of the school year when I was feeling all nostalgic about having school supply lists. Please note, however, that every weekend I do plan. If I'm not mistaken, the term "pregame" has evolved into a verb connoting preparation for an evening of drinking. Therefore, participation in said activity should technically keep anyone who enjoys alcoholic libations from being a complete slacker and one-ups those of us alcoholics from P.I.L.L.A.R.S. who don't partake in this specialized form of planning. So, HA! I'm a better planner than these so-called "socially appropriate" college students who supposedly have more promising futures than me. Behind those P.I.L.L.A.R.S.' fierce facade of strength, however, there's a plethora of weaknesses. Who else but someone (a.k.a. me) who needs to get a few packs of Bud before noon on a Saturday would get a shot of UV Vodka and a pair of panties for free? Or be asked on a date by the cashier at the liquor store? A P.I.L.L.A.R. might say borderline alcoholism is a weakness; I say I can work on my organization, start my evening then and there, skip the trip to Victoria's Secret, and work on finding an employed husband (beats ND boys) all at the same time.

Now that we've recognized a strength for the rest of us college students who do consume alcohol and knocked over the P.I.L.L.A.R.S. (Wit. Definite strength), I think it's only fair that we have a name that displays our strengths and abilities. We'll call ourselves P.I.M.P.S.; Peers Inspiring More Pleasurable Socializing, and we'll give out B.A.C. cards. Yet another strength: promoting time-management.



We'll be like the P.I.L.L.A.R.S.' fellows. Only not the evil ones.

Public school: that wonderful smorgasbord of intellectuals. Now, being at Notre Dame, this bustling center of diversity and private school matriculation, I know that y'all might think that public school is the bane of your existence. We're unwashed, we're uncivilized, we're taught STD prevention (weakness, weakness, weakness). But then there are the diamonds in the rough, like one girl who embodies why my public school has made me the strong person I am. In 2002, the D.C. sniper was affecting my area substantially. People were getting incredibly frustrated that the authorities were unable to track and capture him. Her response was, "If they know his last name is 'Sniper' why don't they just look him up in the phone book, find out where he lives and arrest him at home?"

What. A. Jewel. My honors physics class was a buffet of comments like these, including, "When did Middle Earth happen?" So just remember that while you were sitting in your stuffy classrooms wearing the same thing as everyone else and thinking you were better than public school kids, I had the priceless life experience of going to school with these people every day (strength). I survived the high-speed chase that went down in my parking lot before the senior field trip when a student tried to deal his dime bag to an undercover cop right before we headed off to the amusement park. I survived public school (s-t-r-e-n-g-t-h). And I'm more than positive that these classmates of mine will go on to make great contributions to society. It's just too bad that George Bush doesn't need a cabinet anymore, and Peter Jackson is done with the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Some people would say that being a PLS major is taking the road to failure or that the major is a weakness. Typical questions like: "What can you do with it?" or "What do you learn?", or "You guys are kind of like a cult" (not a question) — ERONNEOUS. In the words of the great leader of our country, Kanye West, WHY CAN'T YOU JUST LET ME BE GREAT? So, like the good PLS major that I am, I've come to the conclusion that the moral of the story is, don't judge. Because, let's be honest, if you think that it's a smart idea to give yourself an IV while intoxicated to avoid a hangover, you've got another thing coming.

Q&A with BOB REISH

Student Body President Bob Reish recently gave Scholastic a glimpse into his life. Staff writer Claire Kenney talked to the outgoing student government leader about his experiences, both at work and at play.

Scholastic: What sparked your interest in running for student body president?

Bob Reisb: I did student government in high school and thought it would be a good way to meet people in college. After freshman year, I decided it was something I wanted to do here at ND. Plus, one time I watched an episode of MTV's "Made" ... I was inspired.

S: What prepared you to be student body president? BR: I've had a lot of experiences at Notre Dame, but nothing has prepared me more than living with my roommate, Craig Wiborg, for the last two and a half years. If I can deal with him, I figure I can probably deal with anything.

S: Do you have any particular advice for those who will fill your position in the future?

BR: The job is a lot more than what it may look like in *The Observer*. It's a lot more work, but it's also a lot more fun. The most important thing to remember is that you represent the student body, and in every case, people will agree and disagree with your decisions. Have fun with the position and don't take anything personally.

S: Has this position taught you anything that you can apply to your life in the future?

BR: I think relating to different types of people and different personalities is one of the main things I have learned from this position. You have to know how to talk to different people, start a conversation with different people and how to work well both as a peer and as a leader.

S: What drink would you compare yourself to? *BR:* Rum and Coke. It's pretty basic, but it gets the job done.

S: What is your favorite bar in town?

BR: Finnegan's for sure! There is not usually a long line, Thursday nights included. It's not the RA hangout.

S: Do you have any role models?

BR: It may sound cliche, but my dad is my role model. He has inspired me to do what I want and pursue my interests. He has always told me, "You create your own destiny."



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