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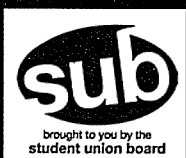
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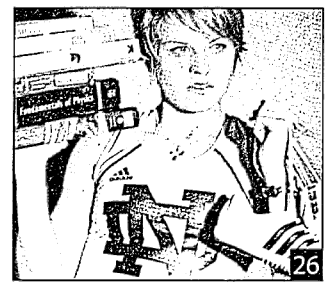
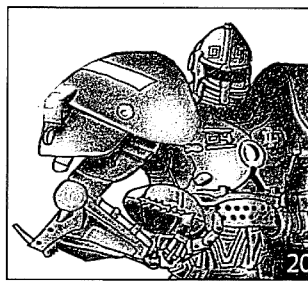
Stress Relievers

May 3, 2009

LaFortune Ballroom

7-10pm





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EDNOTES

On April 25, 2002, *Scholastic* published an issue entitled, "A Changing Face"—an issue that explored the problems with race relations on Notre Dame's campus. Coinciding with the publication of that issue was the beginning of the editorship of Sarah Childress, the first ever African-American editor-in-chief in the 135 year history of *Scholastic*. On April 23, 2009, at least for this one issue, I will have assumed the place as only the second African-American editor-in-chief in the magazine's 142 year history.

What is perhaps most ironic is that in the ensuing seven years after the publication of "A Changing Face," nothing much has changed — there are still many minority students who feel unsure of or uncomfortable with their place at this university; there are still laments of a general sense of complacency among the university administration and its student body; there still exists a widespread perception that, when it comes to diversity, Notre Dame is as white as it can get.

Such charges may perhaps be unfair; compare the university's culture today with that of 20 years ago, or even 10 years ago, and most will tell you that Notre Dame has come a long, long way in increasing its initiative towards making the institution more ethnically diverse.

What is also ironic, however, is the cyclical nature of campus news coverage. With a constantly overturning student body, history is quickly forgotten and re-packaged as a new, novel perspective of university life. Combing through issues of *Scholastic* dating back over 140 years, the stories are the same — controversy over "The Vagina Monologues"; Notre Dame's identity as a Catholic university; gender relations; sexual assault; and not least of all, diversity. Pick any issue that *Scholastic* has covered in the short time you've been here, and chances are that same issue was covered with the same amount of depth with the same cliched insights no more than three or four years prior to your arrival.

I would argue that this particular issue is no different — much like seven years ago, figures on this campus like Daniel Saracino in admissions and Iris Outlaw in MSPS have stories to tell. Much like seven years ago, there is a widespread concern among the minority community about issues of diversity and inclusion. Much like seven years ago, many say that Notre Dame is better than it used to be but still isn't where it needs to be.

So where does Notre Dame need to be, and how do we get there? How do we break the cycle so that it doesn't have to take another minority journalist seven years from now to delve into the problems of campus diversity? We simply need to remind ourselves that the whole of our Notre Dame history isn't confined to a four-year vacuum, and that we have the power to impact issues that will outlast our tenures at the university. We must not forget history, or else Notre Dame will forever become an absurdist embodiment of Groundhog Day.

Marques Camp
Interim Editor-in-Chief

VOL. 150, NO. 11 • 23 APRIL 2009

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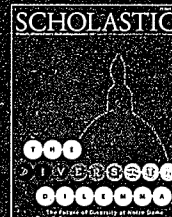
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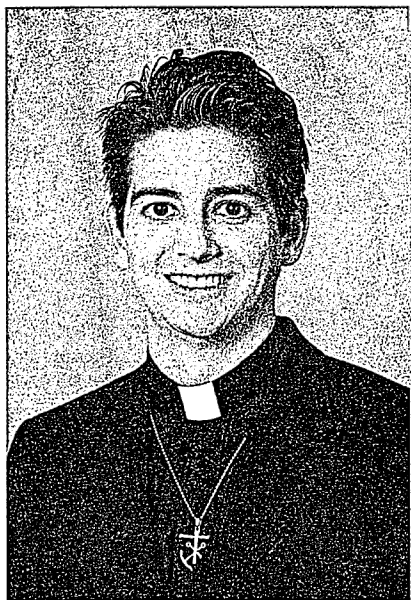
*Discite Quasi Semper Victurus
Vive Quasi Cras Moriturus*

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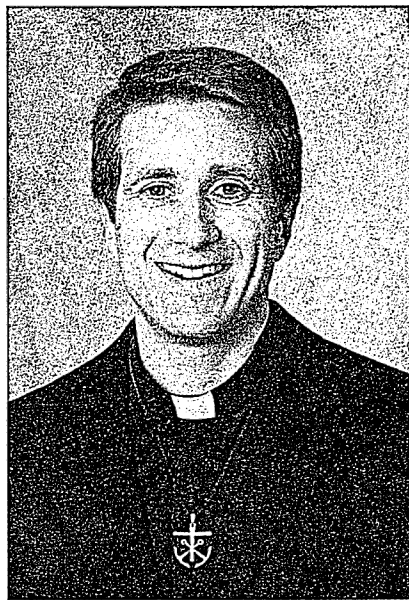


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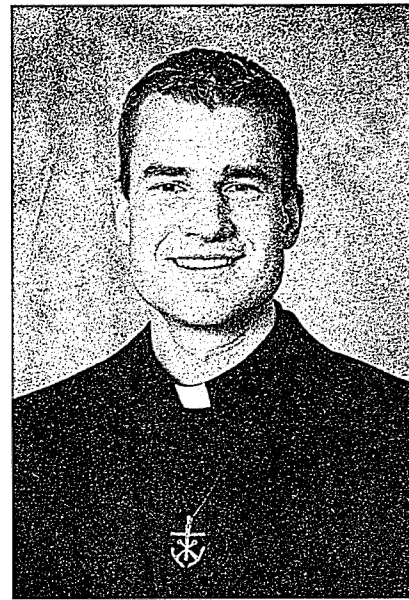
Congratulations to our brothers who were
ordained to the priesthood at the
Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Easter Saturday.



Rev. Vincent A. Kuna, C.S.C.



Rev. Charles F. McCoy, C.S.C.



Rev. Aaron J. Michka, C.S.C.

*“We heard a summons to give over our lives in
a more explicit way”
(Constitutions, I.3)*

vocation.nd.edu

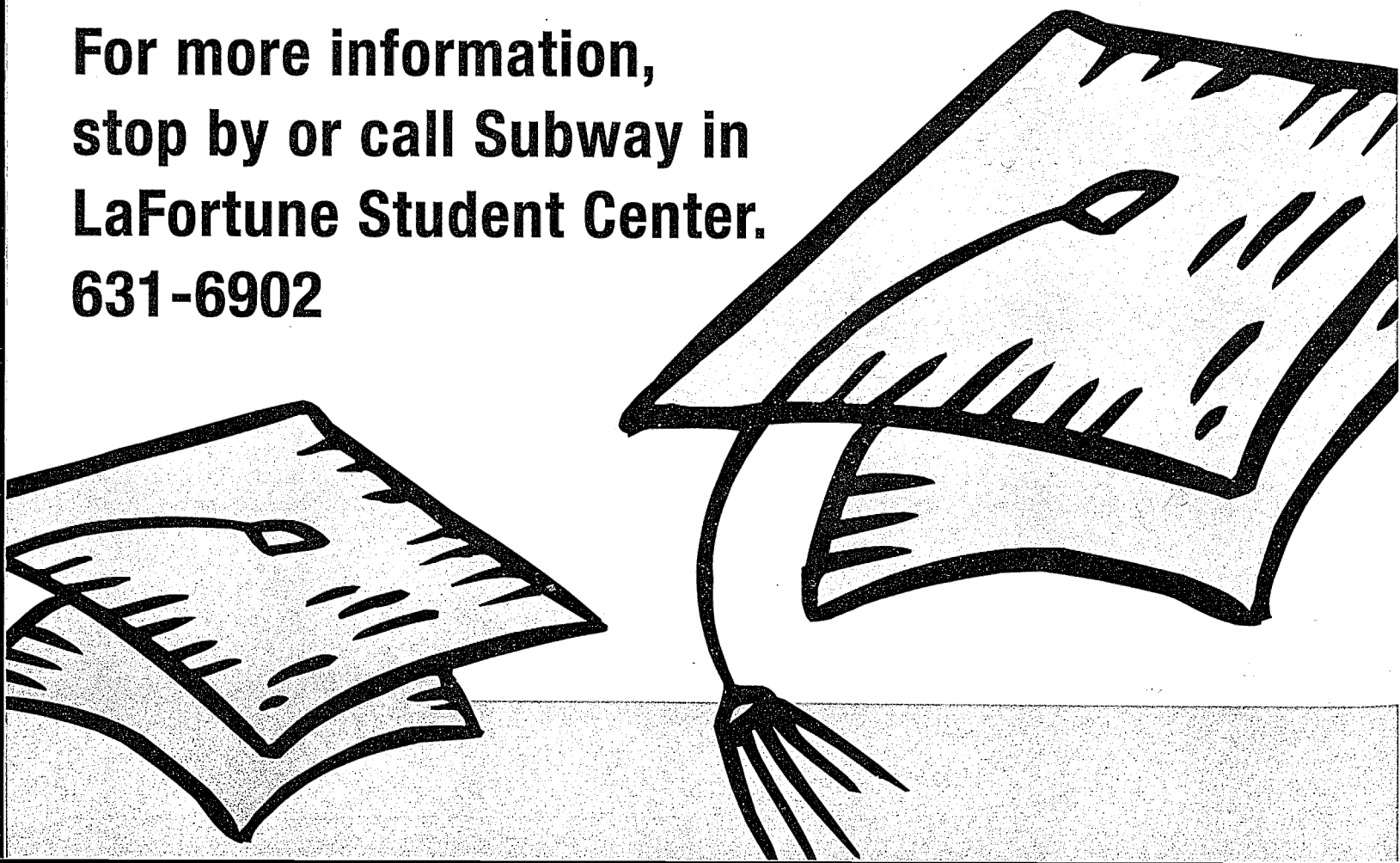
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It's Electric

General Electric earns Hesburgh Ethics award

Claire Reising

From energy-efficient light bulbs to a desalination plant in Africa, The General Electric Co. “promotes ethics across all parts of their company,” Notre Dame MBA student Heather Burns says. The corporation was awarded the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. Award for Exemplary Ethical, Environmental, Social and Governance Practices (the Hesburgh Ethics Award) in a ceremony on April 1 in the Mendoza College of Business.

Each year, the university honors a company that exhibits leadership in ethical and environmental policies. Patrick Murphy, marketing professor and co-director of the Institute for Ethical Business Worldwide, says that this year, the prize was awarded to the company as a whole, rather than to a single leader. The prize advocates a “Triple Bottom Line” business approach, in which the company addresses issues from “economic, social/ethical and environmental” perspectives, Murphy says.

To select the winning company, 20 students submitted nominations, and a committee, of which Murphy was a member, selected the winner. “GE met the criteria quite well, and people on the committee [rated] them first or second across the board,” Murphy says. Keith Sherin, chief financial officer of GE and Notre Dame alumnus, traveled to campus to accept the award on the company’s behalf.

According to Burns, who nominated GE, the company addresses several social concerns, such as aiding inner-city schools and becoming involved with the Hudson River cleanup. She says she is impressed with GE’s humanitarian use of technology for issues, such as desalination of water in Africa. “A lot of the water in Africa is unusable,” she says. “[There are] 50 million gallons of water a day that they’re able to change into usable and drinkable water.”

GE is also known for its “Ecomagination” program, which the company’s Web site describes as “a commitment to imagine and build innovative solutions that solve today’s environmental challenges and benefit customers and society at large.” Murphy cites the use of wind energy and energy-efficient light bulbs as two important Ecomagination initiatives.

Despite the struggling economy, Lisa Lanspery, Manager of Corporate Communications at GE, says that Ecomagination continues to succeed. “Last year, Ecomagination generated \$17 billion in revenue. We have a goal of \$25 billion in 2010, and even in this challenging economy, we’re continuing to invest in clean technology.”

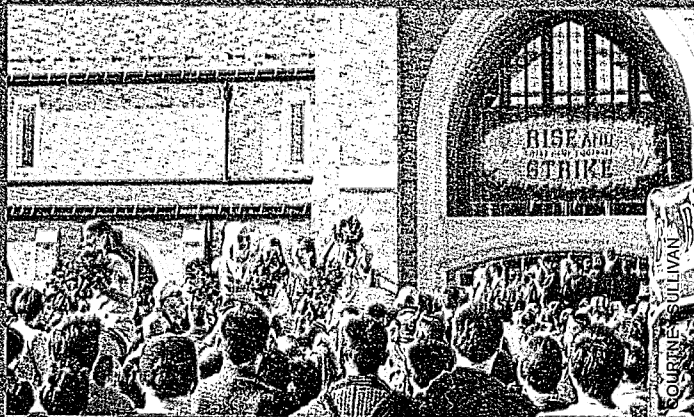
With President Barack Obama’s emphasis on green-collar jobs, Lanspery says that “now is the time to strengthen and expand.” According to a recent GE press release, the company is contributing to “Energy-Smart Miami,” a project that will give consumers more choices for how to “consume and conserve electrical power.” The project will generate demand for an estimated 800-1,000 jobs in two years.

In addition to environmental policies, the award recognizes a company’s ethical practices. Burns says that GE holds its suppliers to the same standards to which it holds its employees. “They’ve made their mission beyond profit,” she says. “A lot of good will come out of their brand.”

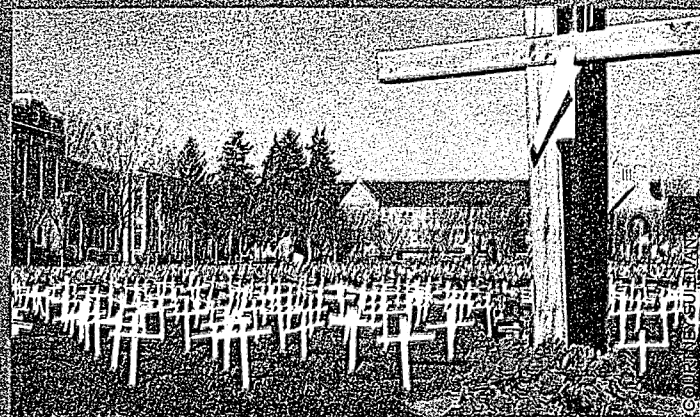
Murphy says that he hopes this experience increased his students’ awareness of ethical business policies and that they will “drill down and look at companies in more depth.” “I hope they go away with a great appreciation and [know that] no company is perfect,” he says. 5



ILLUSTRATION BY LIBBY



RISE AND STRIKE Irish fans gathered at the Bookstore on April 17 in anticipation of The 2009 Shrin' Unveiling. ©



RIGHT TO LIFE ND's Right to Life group organized a display on South Quad to alert students to the pro-life cause. ©

JUDGMENT CALLS

Madonna Falls off a Horse
And then she tried to adopt it.

Susan Boyle
We wish we were ugly enough to get appreciated for our talents

Miss California and Gay Marriage
Protecting the sanctity of Opposite Marriage, one contestant at a time

Lohan/Ronson Breakup
Lohan's quest to become the next Ellen put on hold

The Shirt
Get ready next season for a sea of flesh

The Road to Fondwa

Linking Notre Dame to Haiti

Vanessa Adjei

How many people travel down a dirt path in a roofless vehicle along streets lined with trash, only to pull up to a makeshift shelter? In some of the impoverished areas of Haiti, the experience is commonplace.

Filmmaker and Notre Dame alumnus Justin Brandon held two screenings of his film, "The Road to Fondwa," last Thursday, April 16, in the LaFortune Student Center.

In the film, 2004 graduate Brandon and 2005 graduates Brian McElroy and Dan Schnorr employ issues from the small town of Fondwa to illustrate the importance of education and community involvement to combat poverty in Haiti.

The Haiti Working Group is one of the main avenues through which Notre Dame students can get involved. The group is comprised of students and faculty members who work to raise awareness about human rights issues in Haiti.

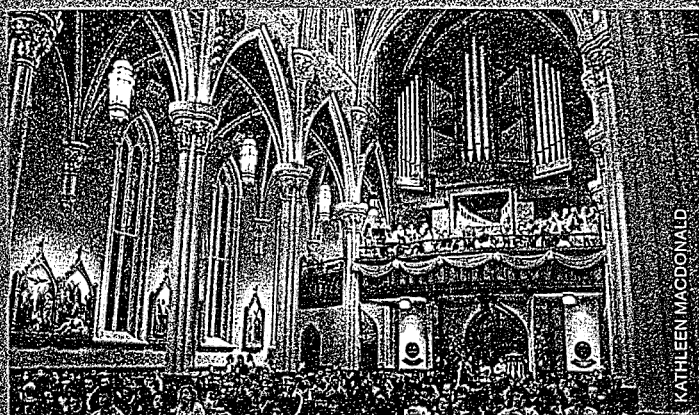
"The working group is more about building awareness and consciousness, but there are service and research components that have been part of the group's palette of activities," says Rev. Tom Streit, C.S.C., current chair of the group.

"I find it significant that our Haiti program has helped the Haitian government build a program to combat and even eliminate [some] infectious diseases. This way, we are teaching what we know about how to solve these problems," he says.

The group has faced issues with student travel. "One of the shortcomings in recent years is that the travel has been restricted by the State Department and by events in Haiti," Streit says.

These difficulties, however, have not kept all students from making the trip.

"I had the opportunity to travel to Haiti during my junior year, and of all of the trips I have taken within the United States or abroad, it was probably the most educational and the most inspiring, says senior biology major Megan Rybarczyk says. "I hope to make it back sometime soon. I firmly believe that the University should support the direct involvement of students within the country in any way possible as soon as it is able to do so."



EARLY EASTER NBC filmed Mass in the Basilica on March 28.



MUDDY VICTORY Students compete at Keenan Hall's annual Muddy Sunday on April 19.

The Year Easter Came Twice

NBC films Easter broadcast from Basilica

Alexa Shoen

To outsiders, those walking around campus in their Easter Sunday best on Saturday, March 28 were nothing more than terribly confused church-goers, perhaps overly ambitious to get a seat for Mass on Good Friday. Inside the Basilica, however, patrons lining the pews were absolutely right to attend Easter Mass two weeks early. If they wanted to be on television, anyway.

The Council Bishops selected Notre Dame as the location for a special telecast, aired by NBC at 5:00 a.m. both PST and EST, on April 12. Rev. Lou DeFra, C.S.C., along with Rev. Richard Warner, C.S.C. and Rev. Peter Rocca, C.S.C. celebrated the Mass.

Participants in the service, such as members of the Folk Choir, were not relieved of their duties for the actual Easter services — though each choir member received a DVD of the NBC taping. Aubry Skorich, who sings in the Folk Choir, says, “Anytime, that I can use music ministry to reach out to people, it’s a blessing.”

In the case of filming an additional Mass, there are “people who would not have the chance to experience the blessings the university has to offer.” Cameras are set up permanently in the Basilica, as Sunday Masses are taped and posted on the university website, so the NBC film crew was not particularly invasive.

“Everyone voluntarily came. The liturgy was just as special,” Skorich says. Both attendees and clergy understood the importance of allowing the Mass to reach out to those who could not make it on their own. Above all, the broadcast allowed for as many patrons as possible to pack into the Basilica — one way or another.

“They did make us redo one part, though, which was funny,” sophomore Lauren Tonon says. “We all started to leave and go out for the buffet, and the camera guys legitimately blocked us into the aisles and stopped us from leaving until some part could be re-filmed. We had to do the line all over again.”

TOP FIVE

Methods of procrastination for study days

- 1 Finally start that summer internship search
- 2 Spend three hours pushing buttons in Library elevators
- 3 Actually use the LaFortune arcade
- 4 Sign up for obscure social networking sites
- 5 One word: Sporcle

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A Springtime Opera

Opera comes alive in the student production of *Beatrice and Benedick*

Katie Buetow

Opera is not the kind of performance found on many college campuses. From the technical production issues to the challenge of appealing to a young crowd, the difficulties involved seem to deter most universities from staging performances. Opera Notre Dame, the university's opera company, however, has enjoyed widespread success by attracting talented casts and diverse audiences. This year's performance of Hector Berlioz's *Beatrice and Benedick*, which ran from April 16-19, was no exception.

"It's remarkable that opera is done here at all, and it's more remarkable that it's done on the level that it's done," director Mark Beudert says. Beudert says it is important to engage the audience as performers in the opera, likening a successful performance to a dinner party. "You can't just sit home and read recipes. A lot of the way we consume music these days is passive. It's much more fun and exciting when it's active."

The cast of *Beatrice and Benedick*, based on Shakespeare's play *Much Ado About Nothing*, was comprised of music majors as well as students from a variety of other majors and university staff. Rob Becht, director of budget operations for the College of Arts and Letters, made his opera debut this season. "Everything is new to me," Becht, who joined the *Beatrice and Benedick* chorus after watching his first opera last year, says. "I'm learning how to read music, keep up with the steps. But then watching the students perform — the talent is so incredible."

Louis MacKenzie, chair of the Notre Dame's music department, played Somarone, a music master with a trademark drinking song. "The thrill of being onstage with the orchestra is almost unimaginable. It's like running in the outfield with the New York Yankees," MacKenzie says. Like Becht, MacKenzie says he is privileged to be able to work with such a talented group. "It's thrilling to be singing with the students."

For last year's production of *Faust*, the university hired professional vocalists to sing the lead roles, but this year, students filled the roles. "The professionals were great role models, but they took away performing opportunities from the students," sophomore vocal performance major Dan Crupi, who played Don Pedro, says. Crupi also contrasted the content of *Beatrice and Benedick* with that of *Faust*. This year's opera was light and airy, as opposed to the dark drama of its predecessor. "It's a very light-hearted and fun show with music that isn't very well-known but is still great," he says.

Over the years, sold-out crowds have become routine for Opera Notre Dame. But packed houses and good publicity, while desirable, are not the performers' main priorities. Beudert says he hopes that the opera will open up discussion of "performance as a political act, performance as a sociological act" for the entire campus. "The more you look at it from a philosophical and professional standpoint, opera is a perfect fit [for Notre Dame]. We can talk about these things here, and they are amazingly effective."

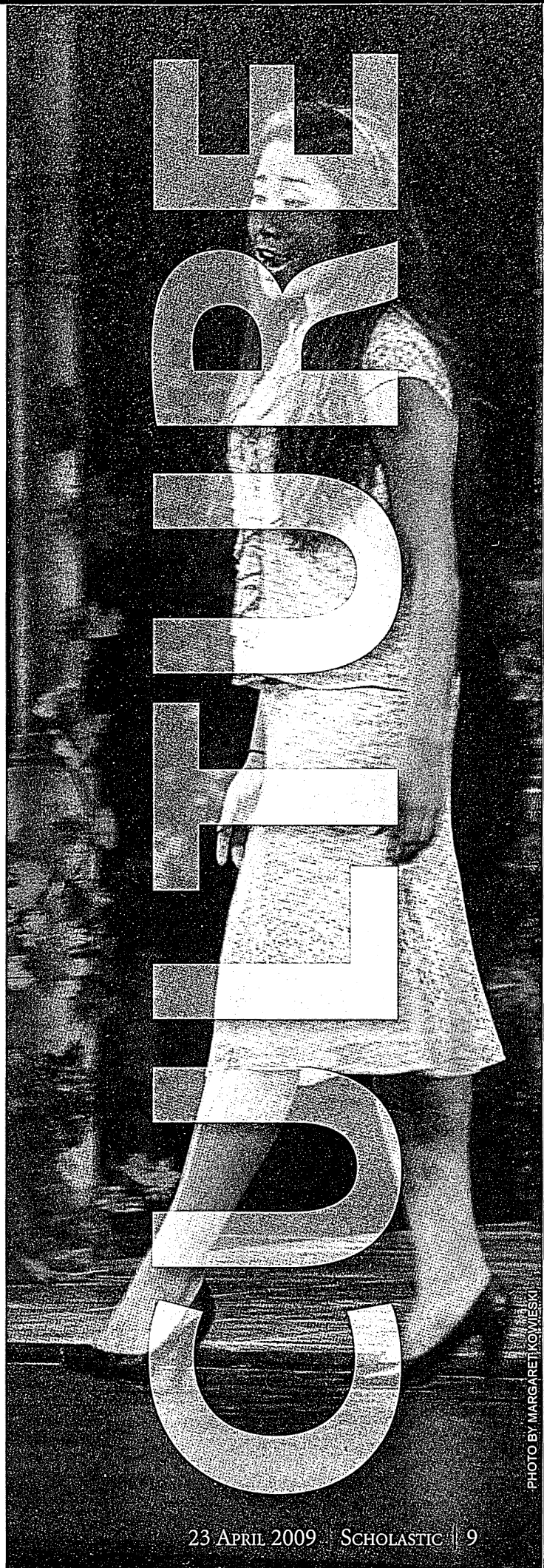
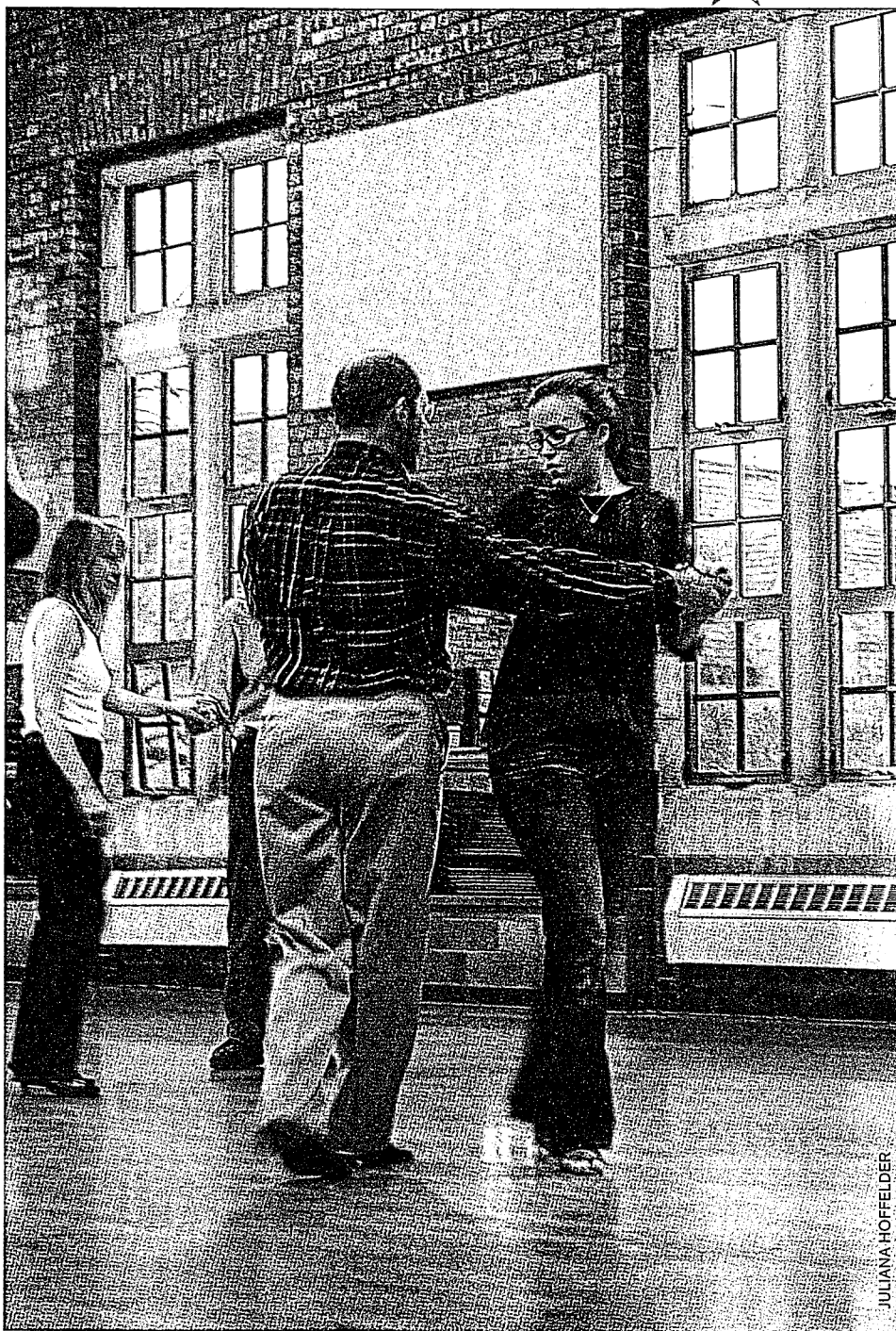


PHOTO BY MARGARET KOWIESKI

5

Dancing with the Stars: ND Style



Maria Sellers

Notre Dame legend Knute Rökne coined the phrase, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” The Ballroom Dance Club has taken a unique approach to his words, donning a similar version, “When the going gets tough, the tough go dancing,” on its club t-shirts.

The Notre Dame Ballroom Club president and fourth year architecture major Aimee Sunny remembers this phrase from her first year with the club. Many students are involved with the club because they believe that dancing is refreshing and uplifting.

The social club, which has been active at the university for more than 15 years, meets every Thursday from 7-8 p.m. in the Rockne Memorial. It grants students, faculty and staff the opportunity to learn an expressive art form while making friends and easing the day’s tensions.

“I love spending time with my friends in the club, improving my dancing and getting exercise. It’s a great stress reliever and it’s a lot of fun,” co-vice president Emily Lyons says.

Advisor Ramzi Bualuan, a computer science and engineering professor who has been a member of the club since he was a graduate student, demonstrates how the passion of dance unites all. As a dancer, instructor, judge and master of ceremonies (MC), he is involved in all expressions of dance — from the joy of dancing, to the impartiality of judging, to the fun of being the MC.

The club meets weekly to learn dances such as the cha-cha, waltz, rumba, tango and swing. It typically takes a semester to gain the basic skills for such dances, with a new dance taught every two weeks.

During a typical class, dancers are first separated into leaders (men) and followers

JULIANA HOFFELDER



JULIANA ROFFELDER

(women). The basic dance pattern is then demonstrated in slow motion. Once the leaders and followers understand their parts, they are placed together, combining their individual steps with the music. With experienced instructors present to assist, mistakes are mitigated, preventing bad habits and ensuring solid technique.

Although the dancers are challenged, many say that ballroom dancing is a useful and fun learning experience.

"I enjoy attending the social nights because it is great way to learn more about the timeless art of dancing rather than sticking to the random dancing gyrations of today," sophomore classics major Caitlin Carlin says.

The club currently boasts a membership of about 60 people. No previous dance experience is required to join the group. (About 95 percent of the club members have never participated in ballroom dance before.) Membership is set at \$35 a semester, or \$4 a session.

The social club extends into a competition team of about 20-25 students.

These dancers put on their dancing shoes anywhere from two and a half to 10 hours a week to prepare for competitions, which consist of opportunities to advance one's

personal and competitive edge. Competitions are "fast-paced and exciting," as social club and American competition instructor Clay Berkley says.

Typically, the competitors begin the weekend with a social dance. The following day, the competition extends from about 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., running in rounds by skill level with single elimination.

Dancers can compete in the beginner, bronze, silver, gold, novice, pre-champ and champ levels. Depending on their intensity and commitment to mastering the ballroom technique and steps, dancers rise in competition level every one to two years.

"Like anything of a competitive nature, winning can put you on top of the world and coming up short can leave you really down. What I try to emphasize to the dancers is that preparing for competition means working toward a goal that will push them to improve their dancing," Berkley says. "They should seek better and better performance from one competition to the next, quite apart from how well they place."

Lyons says, "Competitions are a great time to show off what you've learned, see some awesome upper-level dancing, and spend the day with friends."

On April 3 and 4, the ND Ballroom

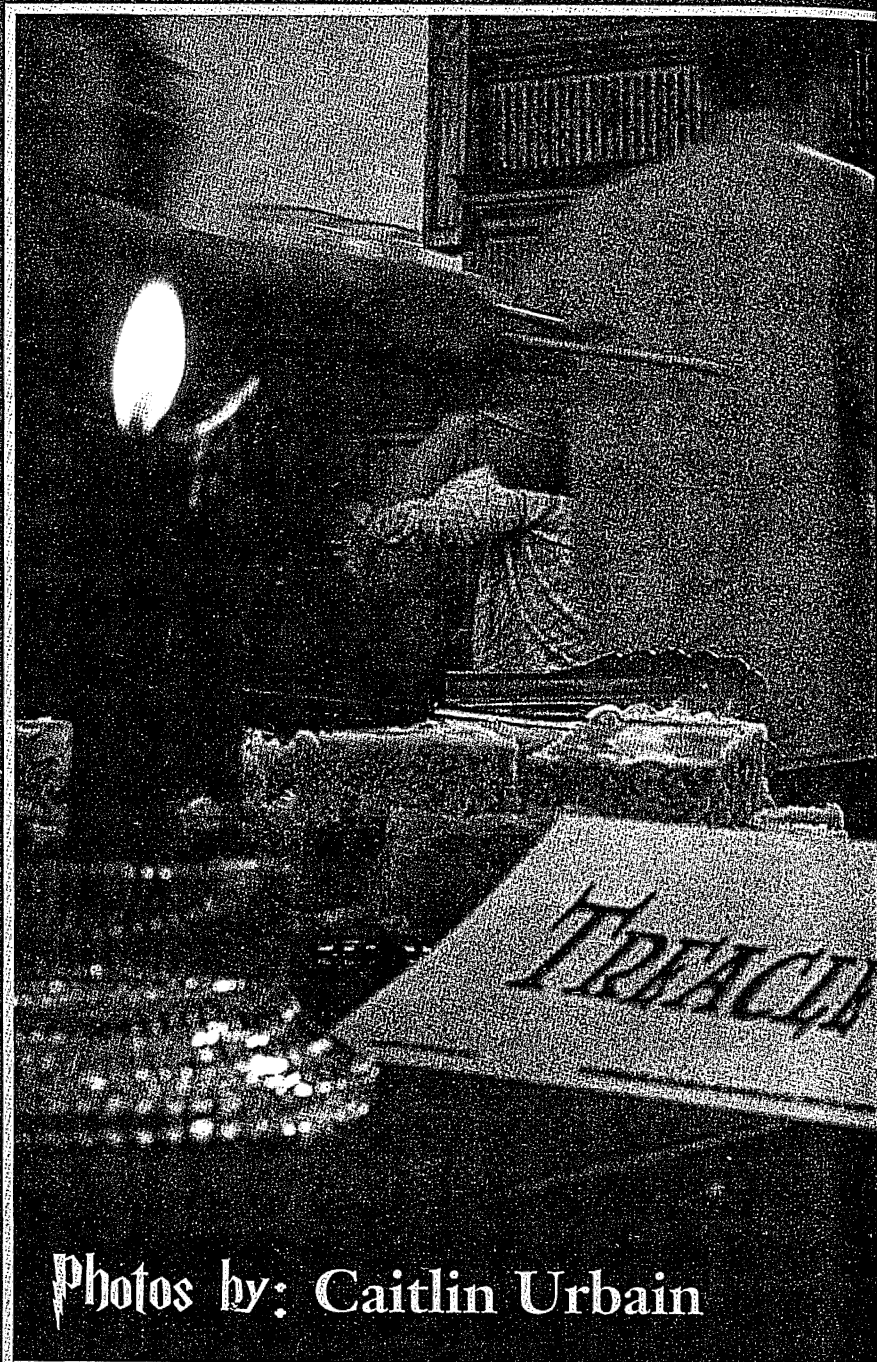
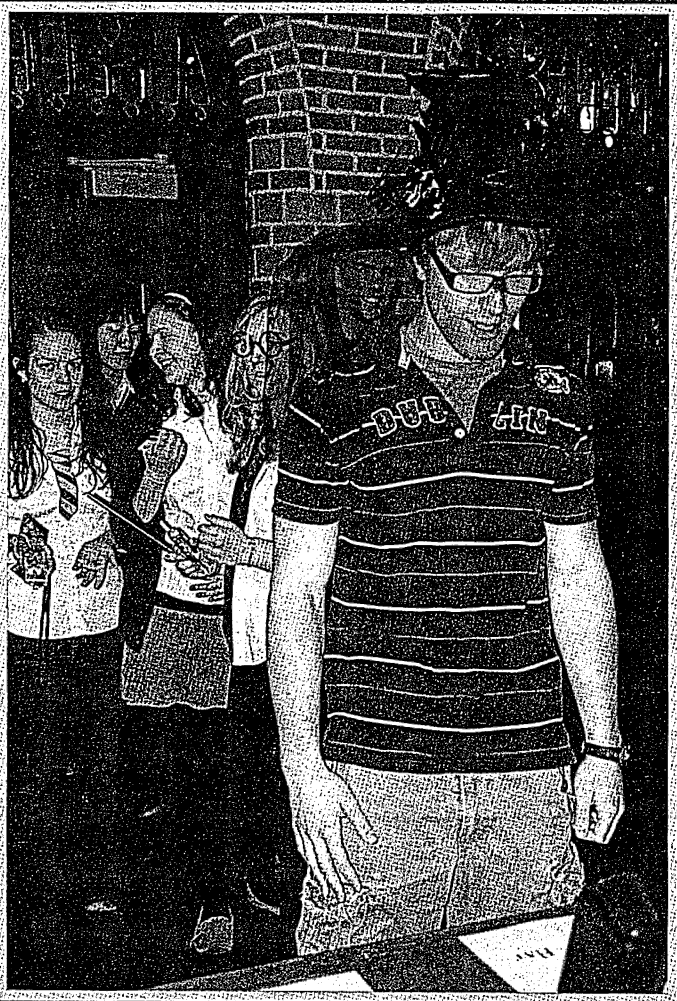
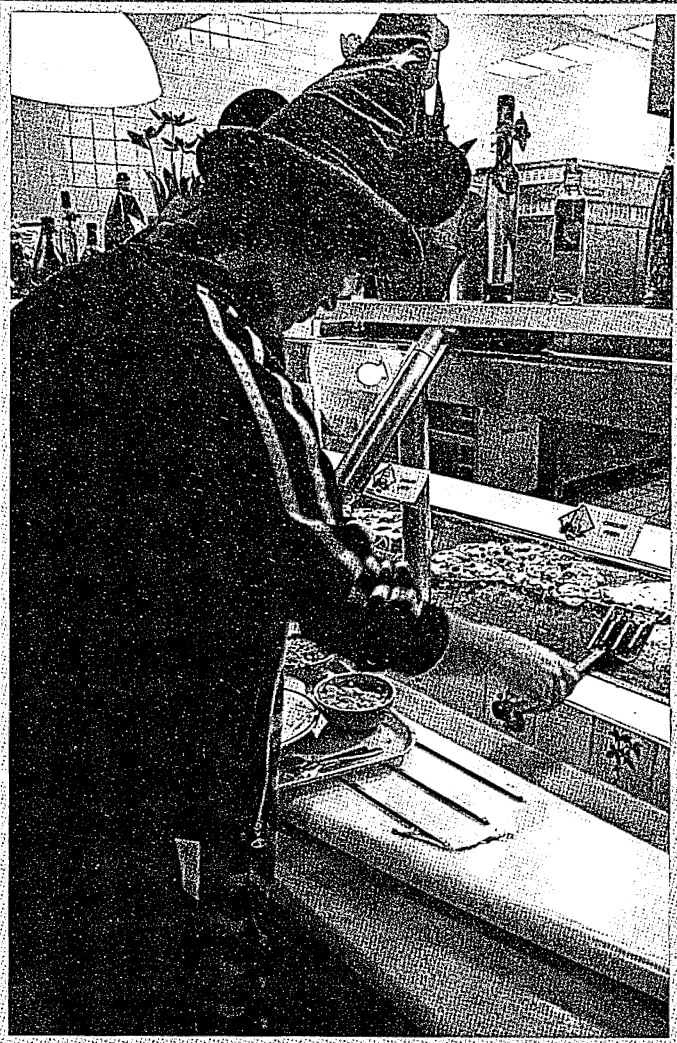
Dancing Club hosted the Irish Dancesport Gala at the South Bend Century Center, with 19 other schools in attendance. The event consisted of a four dance final with two smooth/standard dances, such as the waltz and tango, and two Latin/rhythm dances, such as the cha-cha and merengue.

"The team did pretty well," Bualuan says. "The team's improvement was apparent in their success at the intercollegiate competition."

Because the number of women exceeds the number of men in the club, co-vice president Alex Stuckey says there is extra incentive for men to join. "Dancing is a great social skill, and it is really impressive if a guy knows how to dance."

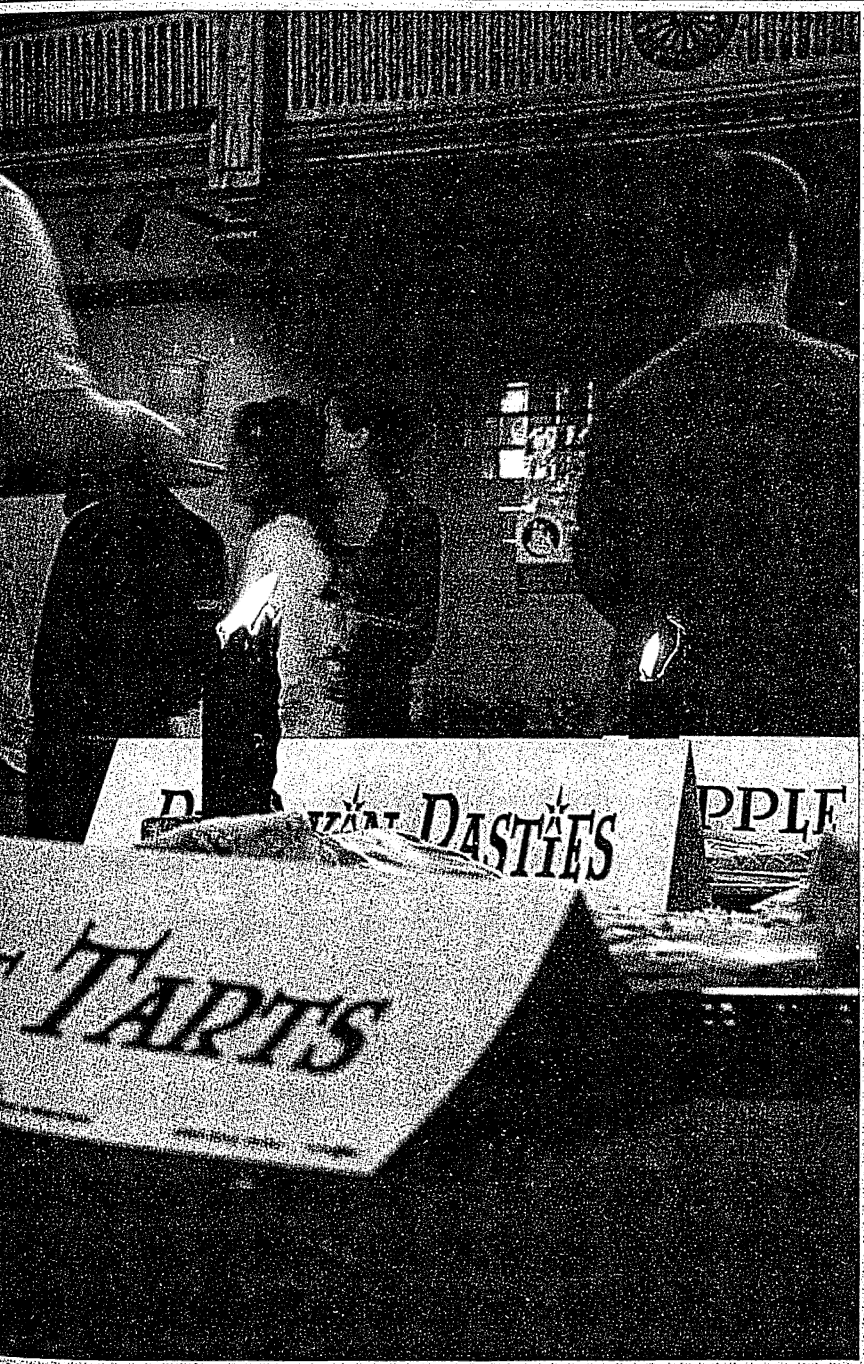
The Ballroom Dance Club prides itself on welcoming dancers of all levels and abilities; the only requirement is a desire to have fun. "All are welcome. People of all skill levels come together to learn how to dance, so don't be intimidated if you've never danced before," Lyons says. **S**

Harry



Photos by: Caitlin Urbain

Potter Night



Marques Camp

High school senior Juliana Partridge found herself at a dorm party one spring Saturday evening at the University of Notre Dame, her eyes slowly scanning the room for any serendipitous sign that the university was the right place to attend college.

What Partridge saw could be described as the typical atmosphere for a dorm party at Notre Dame: students awkwardly mingling, neither dancing to the music blaring out of the room and across the quad nor conducting any substantive conversation. "I was sort of worried that all anyone did for fun was drink, which at the time concerned me," she says.

Partridge, who is African-American, was one of the more than 200 admitted minority students invited to one of the university's three Spring Visitation Weekends, which are designed to allow students to visit Notre Dame's campus who may not have otherwise received an opportunity to do so. The three-day visit is an opportunity to sit in on classes, meet other Notre Dame students and faculty, and get a sense of the campus atmosphere.

Partridge was first attracted to Notre Dame when she was invited for a weeklong conference for 40 high-achieving African-American high school students the summer preceding her senior year. Impressed with the campus during the conference, she was excited to participate in Spring Visitation Weekend.

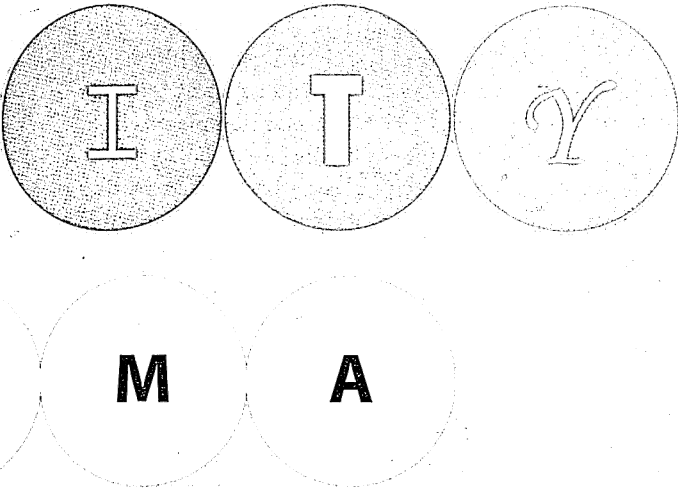
What concerned Partridge more than the drinking, however, was that she did not see any other students at the party that looked like her. Nor did she see many in the rest of her three-day visit to Notre Dame's campus. The minority students she did talk to did not express the enthusiasm for Notre Dame that she had expected or for which she had hoped. "I think I got more of a feeling of dissatisfaction from the black students I met, particularly socially," she says. When it came time a few weeks later to choose a university, Partridge decided that Notre Dame was not the right place for her; instead, she chose to enroll at Spelman College, a historically black women's college in Atlanta.

Partridge's brief exposure to Notre Dame illustrates a broader concern that lingers in the minds of many prospective minority students, as well as many minority students and alumni at Notre Dame: The diversity dilemma.

A Look Forward

The diversity dilemma is a vicious, cyclical problem that Notre Dame has spent many years trying to solve. On one hand, many prospective students like Partridge find themselves uncomfortable with the thought of attending Notre Dame largely because there aren't enough students who look like them. On the other hand, it is difficult for Notre Dame, and universities in general, to shore up diversity issues without minority students, like Partridge, who are willing to make a leap of faith.

According to the university's Admissions Office, for the class of 2012, 38 percent of Notre Dame's admitted African-American



the of diversity at Notre Dame?

COVER STORY

students chose to enroll at the university, compared to 54 percent overall. This disparity is not only evident in African-American students: 41 percent of Hispanics, 36 percent of Asians and 47 percent of Native-American students enrolled. Since the university began tracking such statistics, the percentage of admitted minority students enrolling at Notre Dame has been consistently lower than the overall percentage, in many cases considerably lower.

Though Assistant Provost for Enrollment Daniel Saracino proudly emphasizes the increase in minority applicants and acceptance rates, he recognizes the difficulty in producing a higher yield for accepted minority students.

"Once they're admitted, they have great choices," Saracino says. "The ethnic minority student who is admitted to Notre Dame wasn't admitted because [of his or her race]. They were admitted because they were talented and we wanted them here. That student then has choices that are very good, and what we must do, without saying anything negative at all about Stanford, Princeton, Harvard, Columbia, we need to get out a stronger story of what Notre Dame is."

Complicating Notre Dame's competition with other elite universities for talented minority students is the stance of its financial aid office against awarding merit-based scholarships to students. Despite the university's commitment to meeting 100 percent of a student's demonstrated financial need, the lure of academic scholarships and a reluctance to take on student loans leads many highly-talented ethnic minority students, especially those in the diversifying middle class, to shun Notre Dame in favor of elite universities with more favorable financial aid packages.

The university's long and arduous struggle to become a more diverse institution is also reflected in its senior year retention rates for ethnic minority students, which over the past 20 years have

consistently rated lower than those rates for white students. According to the university's Office for Institutional Research, the class of 2008 graduated 93.6 percent of the minority students who entered as freshman, compared to 96.3 percent of white students. Minority retention rates reached a low of 83.3 percent for the class of 1992, compared to 95.7 percent for white students in the same class, while reaching a high of 96.1 percent for the class of 2006, the only graduating class in the past 20 years to have retained a higher percentage of minority students than white students from freshman to senior year.

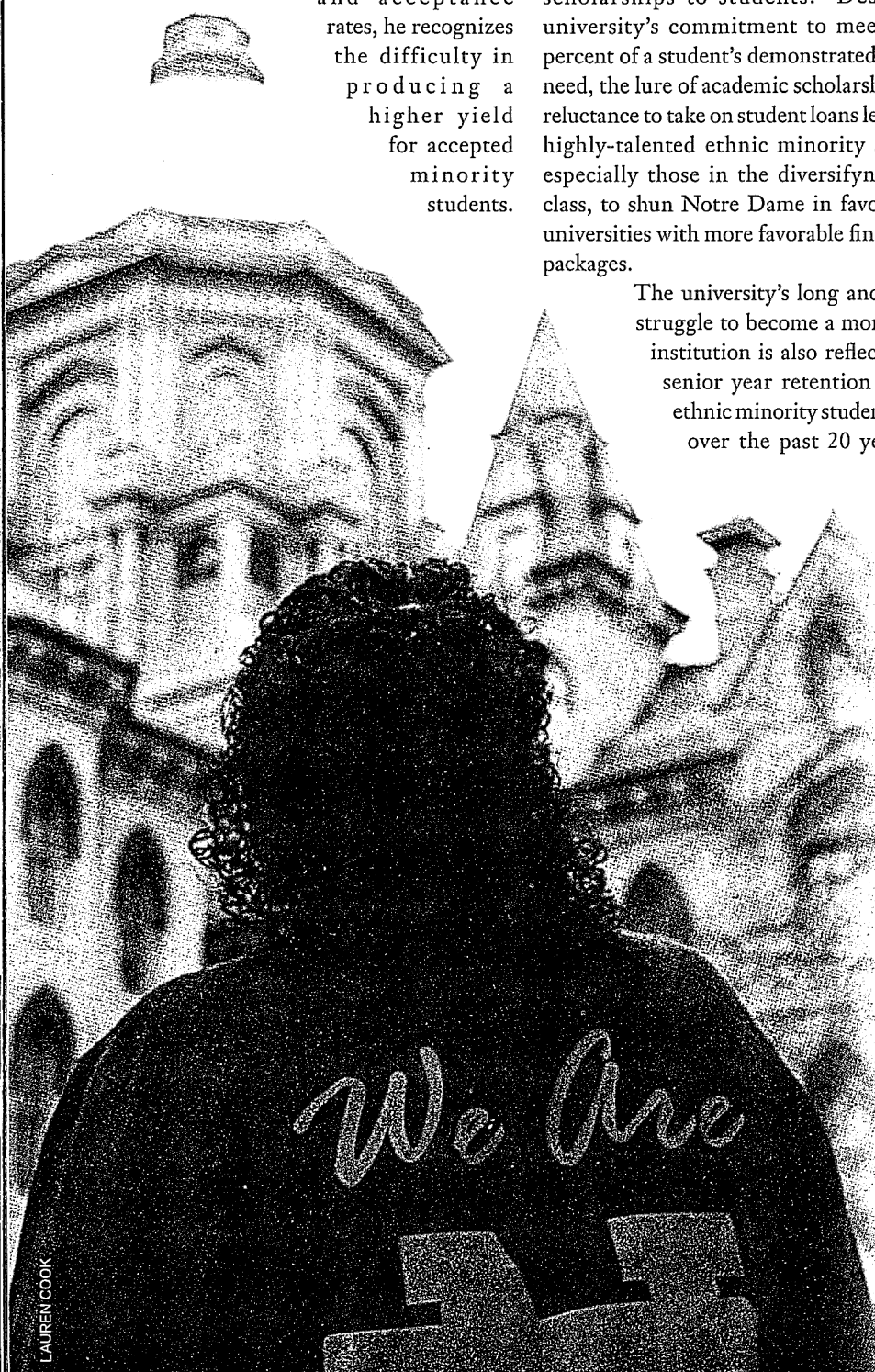
Coupled with the difficulty of attracting admitted minority students like Partridge to enroll comes the difficulty of addressing the common perception among prospective students and their parents that Notre Dame is not a diverse university. "There's a perception issue we try to fight against," Michael Wong, Chairman of the Asian Pacific Alumni Association of Notre Dame, says. "The Notre Dame experience for minorities has been different than for white students."

A Present Look

Earlier that same Saturday, Hoai Xuan Phan, another student visiting campus as a part of Spring Visitation Weekend, sat on a bench looking out at South Quad, reflecting on similar concerns about the lack of diversity on the Notre Dame campus. For the high school senior from Arlington, TX, it had not occurred to her that college life in general, and Notre Dame in particular, was not as diverse as she had believed it to be. "At the time, I just [assumed] all colleges were diverse," she says. Her sister, who had visited campus during Spring Visitation Weekend two years prior and eventually enrolled at Duke University, also shared reservations with Phan about Notre Dame, telling Phan it had left her unimpressed.

Unlike Partridge, however, the lack of diversity was not enough to dissuade Phan from enrolling at Notre Dame. Now a junior majoring in sociology and Chinese, Phan, perhaps prone to hyperbole, says, "It's the biggest mistake I've ever made in my life." Though her frustration with the university is exacerbated by the distance from her hometown boyfriend and her occasional academic struggles, she believes that many of her social frustrations result largely from the lack of a truly diverse culture on campus.

"I definitely think it would be different if



LAUREN COOK

Ethnicity of Entering First-Year Students

YEAR	TOTAL MINORITY	PERCENT MINORITY
1979	112	7.0
1980	140	8.3
1981	142	8.1
1982	177	9.9
1983	149	8.3
1984	149	8.8
1985	146	7.9
1986	162	8.9
1987	201	11.1
1988	254	13.9
1989	297	16.2
1990	272	15.1
1991	278	14.7
1992	261	13.9
1993	264	13.9
1994	312	16.6
1995	276	14.5
1996	300	15.6
1997	262	13.8
1998	274	14.1
1999	307	15.6
2000	324	16.5
2001	331	16.3
2002	320	16.4
2003	419	21.0
2004	429	21.6
2005	408	20.5
2006	483	23.7
2007	432	21.6
2008	400	20.0

** Statistics courtesy of the Office for Institutional Research*

there were more minorities here," Phan says. "I feel like I would go out more often. I would actually have a place in certain clubs. Because a lot of clubs I think I would be interested in, their minority representation isn't as high, so I mostly stick to cultural clubs, the clubs where I know people won't just look at me weird because I'm not white."

While Saracino emphasizes his office's efforts to aggressively reach out on the recruiting front to a larger pool of talented minority students, Gil Martinez, a Hispanic alum and an associate director for admissions, believes that the same aggressive attitude must also be directed toward providing support for struggling minority students, the lack of which is partially responsible for the university's historically lower minority retention rates.

"Notre Dame is a very, very strong culture," Martinez says, "and that can contribute to a profound sense of loneliness." Though Martinez notes the efforts of Multicultural Student Programs and Services (MSPS), he believes that the university must make a stronger push to formalize and institutionalize more comprehensive support and counseling systems, especially for minority students who may encounter academic or social difficulties while adjusting to Notre Dame.

MSPS Director Iris Outlaw, who first came to Notre Dame in 1991, says, "There are avenues available to historically underrepresented students, but a lot of times the pride is so strong that they don't want to utilize them. If they're struggling psychologically, you almost have to walk them over to the counseling center because per their culture if you go see a psychologist you're [considered] crazy."

Coinciding with aggressive diversity initiatives spearheaded by former university presidents Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C. and Rev. Edward "Monk" Malloy, C.S.C., the percentage of entering first-year ethnic minority students at Notre Dame (excluding international students) has risen from 7 percent in 1979 to 20 percent in 2008, reaching a high of 23.7 percent in 2006.

Ethnic diversity at Notre Dame is not, however, reflected wholly by its student body's demographics. Despite the significant attention the university has given to increasing the ethnic diversity of its student body, and despite the demographic gains for minority students, there still exists concern among Phan and many other minority students that the university may not be as truly diverse as the numbers indicate.

Phan, a member of the Asian-American Association and one-time performer in the cultural talent showcase Asian Allure, remembers performing on stage at Washington Hall, and, in a situation that conversely mirrors Partridge's experience, scanning the audience and seeing that too many of the people in the audience look like her.

"At cultural events, you don't see as many white people unless they're with another Asian person who has forced them to come or another black person who has forced them to come. It's not like they see it as an opportunity to branch out outside their circle and experience something new that they've never been able to experience before," Phan says. "I'm pretty sure many white people here haven't tried to do anything that's part of a real culture's experience. It just doesn't seem like a priority for them."

Phan's concerns echo the broader lament among minority clubs that multicultural events, such as Black Images or the Black Fashion Show, both organized by the Black Cultural Arts Council (BCAC), or Latin Expressions, organized by La Alianza, do not host as diverse audiences as they hope.

Though this perceived lack of integration of white students into multicultural events is a concern for some members of cultural clubs, many believe it rises less out of cultural hostility than out of complacency and, in some cases, apathy for cultural diversity.



Junior pre-med and psychology major Aaron Quarles, the former chairman of the Black Student Association, seems as equally perplexed as Phan by the lack of curiosity about minority cultures. “White students [seem] either unmotivated or uninterested in such events. They just [seem] indifferent to the importance of diverse experiences, or worse, see no value in them at all,” Quarles says. “I’ve actually asked some white students [about this issue], and what they always tell me is that they don’t see a need for diversity or multicultural events. Or they feel scared to leave their comfort zone and experience new ideas.”

Student body President Grant Schmidt says, “Students are generally welcoming of any background, race and ethnicity on Notre Dame’s campus. However, I also believe that often times there is a sense of complacency, where students feel as if they are already knowledgeable of particular cultures and not necessarily willing to take it a step further.”

Quarles has, however, sought to ensure that his experience with Notre Dame is not adversely affected by a lack of campus diversity. “The moment I want to complain about my experience here, I have to ask myself, ‘What are you doing about it?’ By carving out my own niche, by allowing myself to grow, by trying to learn from my peers, I have had a

fulfilling experience. It’s not perfect, and it could have been more fun or more comfortable elsewhere. But I feel that I am better for my time at Notre Dame,” he says.

Though Phan feels much less optimistic than Quarles about her experience at Notre Dame, she hopes that she will one day look back on it as a learning experience. “A majority of the time, I feel like it was the biggest mistake I’ve made in my entire life. But I always hope that it’s one of those things where people look back and say ‘You know what, God really wanted me to be there, everything happens for a reason, and I’m going to be a better person for this experience.’ And I hope that that’s what it’s going to be five years from now when I look back on my college experience,” Phan says.

A Look Back

Despite the struggles articulated by minority students, Wong still sees today’s culture of diversity at Notre Dame as much improved from that of his experience here in the mid-1990s. The same sentiments are echoed by 1984 graduate Martinez, who admits that little attention was focused on the concerns of minority students during his time as a student, and 1969 graduate Saracino, who

says there were only five African-American students in his graduating class.

When asked about the lack of diverse audiences at multi-cultural events, Wong says that, in some sense, it is a fortunate problem for today’s minority students to have. “We had nowhere near the type of programs that the campus has now,” Wong says. “It’s a much more diverse campus than when I was here.”

Outlaw came to Notre Dame amidst a storm of minority protest and discontent with the university’s policies. In the fall of 1990, the year before Outlaw arrived, a minority group named Students United for Respect (SUFR) formed to take the university administration to task on its lack of a racial harassment policy on campus. The group, along with other student groups, protested on the steps of the administration building and staged a sit-in in the Office of Student Affairs in January 1991. In April of that year, dissatisfied with dealing with the OSA, an estimated 150 students staged a sit-in in then-President Malloy’s office to voice their concerns. In an *Observer* telephone survey administered around that time, 46 percent of students replied that they did not believe the university was truly committed to cultural diversity, compared to the 32 percent who believed it was.

Outlaw recognizes that the relations



"White students [seem] either unmotivated or uninterested in such events. They just [seem] indifferent to the importance of diverse experiences, or worse, see no value in them at all."

- Aaron Quarles

between white and minority students have improved immensely since she first arrived on campus in 1991, but still sees the struggle with diversity as one that has just started. "I don't think diversity has truly been ingrained in the culture of Notre Dame," she says.

Much like Notre Dame's struggles to attract minority students to campus and diversify the demographics of its student body, its struggle to positively impact minority alumni has also been a significant concern. Various surveys conducted by the university indicate that for many minority alums, their Notre Dame experiences were less than ideal.

For example, a 1996 post-graduate survey of the class of 1986 revealed that minority alumni were less likely than white alumni to report that they were satisfied with their undergraduate experiences, and more likely to report that they were either generally or very dissatisfied with their experiences. Minority alumni were also more likely than white alumni to report that, given a chance to do it over again, they would not choose to enroll at the university.

"We have a lot of children of the [minority] alumni who came here in the '70s, and they would say that it was tough at Notre Dame then," Saracino says. "But then you'd ask them, 'Well, why do you want your child to come here?' [They say] 'Because it's the real

world.' They would tell me when they visited that this wasn't the same place it was before, and yet it's still not where it should be."

The Future of Diversity

The diversity dilemma is one that encompasses the past, present and future of Notre Dame's culture. The problem begins with concerned prospective minority students like Partridge and the commonly held perception that Notre Dame is not a diverse university. The perception is fueled not only by the racial makeup on campus, but also by the quality of life and struggles for minority students like them. For Partridge, student testimony played a significant role in her college search. "Black students at all these schools expressed that it could be pretty tough to be black there, both in social and classroom settings," she says.

"Perhaps if the minority students were happier, then they would attract other minorities," Princeton junior Clelia Douyon, an African-American who, like Partridge, visited Notre Dame during Spring Visitation Weekend and left unimpressed, says. "It is really obvious when a student is unhappy, and

[high school students] sometimes associate that with race relations on campus."

The key to breaking the cycle is putting the experience for current Notre Dame minority students in the context of a long and complicated history of diversity and race relations on campus, and reflecting on where the university has been and how future generations of minority students can improve the culture of diversity. Saracino says that part of the university's task in improving diversity is targeting the kinds of highly talented minority students who are proactive and willing to make a difference.

When asked what he would say to prospective students like Partridge or Douyon who might feel reluctant to attend Notre Dame because of a perceived lack of diversity, Saracino says, in an impassioned plea to future classes of prospective minority students, "If we cannot get young men or women like you to come here we're not going to get any better."

Martinez, deferring to the venerable Mohandas Gandhi for advice, says, "I would say simply — 'Be the change you wish to see in the world.'" **S**

Campus Chatter

DEPARTMENT OF ROBOTICS

Outlined against a blue April sky, the Stepan Center dome loomed in the distance. Anticipation radiated from the hulking edifice as I strolled in with a much-needed 10 a.m. Saturday morning Venti Iced Carmel Macchiato. Game day. But this was no ordinary game day at the University of Notre Dame. With battery-powered athletes and a field proportionate to the stadium end zone, a crowd quickly gathered to view the event.

I meandered through the crowd, enticed by the idea of a Blue and Gold robotic football competition. Days earlier, I observed the football practice. Controlled by their mechanical engineer creators with a guy-to-girl ratio of about 20:2, the robots perfected their throws, tackles, catches and secret plays. I was swept up in the thrill of competition as I wondered just how much progress was made by the dueling robotic football squads since Thursday's practice.

As an event, the robotic football game provided the Notre Dame community with entertainment. For 75 mechanical engineers, however, this was the moment of senior project truth after months of preparation and tireless work. If successfully executed, the event would serve as an example for college engineering programs nationwide.

The little robots seemed to have minds of their own, scurrying around the terrain of Stepan, dodging opponents and attempting to tackle, a feat accomplished by hitting with five pounds of force for at least one second.

The Blue team held a 27-16 halftime lead. The majority of the scoring, however, took place in the second half. Of course, the usual third quarter words of wisdom were delivered by Officer Tim McCarthy: "Remember, these robots have been driving with artificial intelligence. Don't you drive with genuine stupidity."

The game concluded with a nail-biting final play. With five seconds left, Blue fumbled the ball to lose the game, despite an open lane to the end zone. Final score: Gold 59-Blue 54.

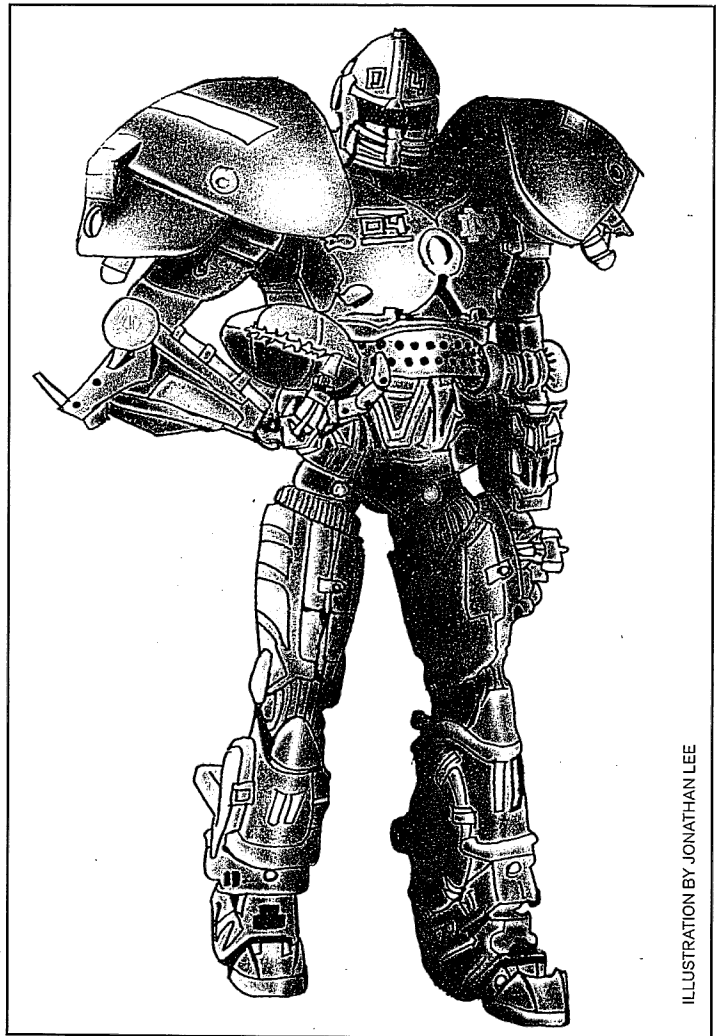
Both teams, however, experienced a sense of pride after completing the innovative game. "Even though the Blue Team lost, I still feel like we accomplished so much. We went from starting from scratch to having a team of robots in only 12 weeks," senior Mike Ouimet says.

Most sporting events declare a Most Valuable Player at the competition's conclusion; the Blue and Gold robotic football game was no different. When asked which robot he believed deserved this honor, senior Nathan Yanchak says, "Has to be Spanky. He played every down unlike any other robot." The lineman seems to have a

bright future ahead of him, despite only one robotic football game in his history.

Due to the overwhelming amount of enthusiasm, it looks as though next year's annual Notre Dame Blue and Gold football game will again be accompanied by a similar event played by Weis and Co.'s robotic counterparts.

— Claire Kenney



REVIEWS

PREVIEWS

Souled On Blues

Kate Zinsmeister

The 2008-2009 season at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center is going out with a bang — with blues musician Eric Bibb. On May 1 and 2, the Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter will bring his voice, guitar and soul to the Decio Mainstage Theater stage as the final performer in the Center's "Visiting Artist" series.

Bibb is hailed as one of blues' greatest storytellers, but don't be turned off if you are not a particularly bluesy person. His songs are infused with the distinctive sounds of folk and gospel and are sometimes reminiscent of the music of Bob Dylan. His sound is original but recognizable as he draws inspiration from many different musical styles.

Bibb's lyrics tend to be soulful and ballad-like. Lyrics like, "Sing your song / So that we remember / All the good times we've had" will make graduating seniors a little teary-eyed. On the other hand, the words to the song Shine On, "Keep on when your mind says quit / Dream on 'til you find you're living it / I'll be right by your side," might be all you need to get through finals week. But if you're the type who avoids inspirational tunes, love songs and rhyming verses, this may not be the concert for you.

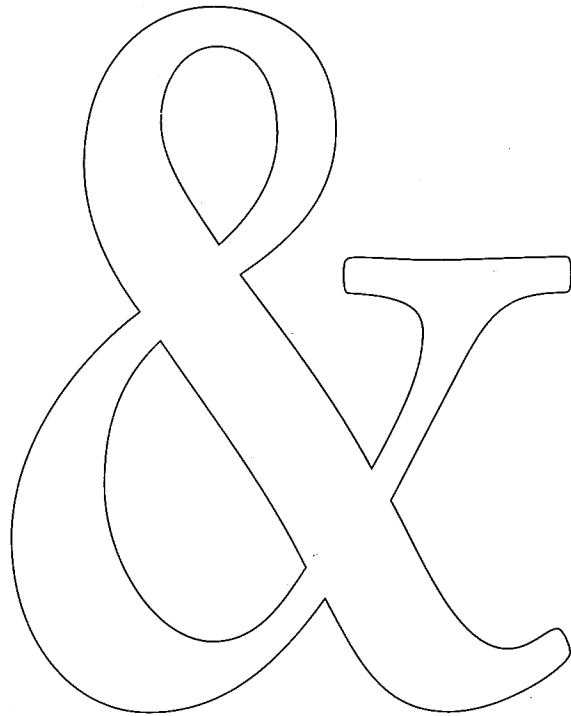
The concert promises to be fun, uplifting and light — a perfect way to spend the evening with a loved one, friend or roommate and a chance to become souled on blues. **S**

You'll Love "I Love You, Man"

Tim Hronick

A movie about a guy's desperate quest to find a best man for his wedding may not seem appealing to the average viewer, but the concept works in director John Hamburg's "I Love You Man."

The film exemplifies what a springtime comedy should be: Well-conceived and original, it does not require too much deep thinking, but provides enough one-liners and awkward interactions to keep it entertaining and engaging throughout the film's one hour, 45 minute run time. Paul Rudd (Anchorman, 40-Year-Old Virgin) stars as the friendless Peter Klaven and proves that he is more than simply a great supporting actor. Guys and girls alike will find Rudd's attempts at gaining a best friend a hilarious contrast to typical chick-flicks. If you are looking for a movie that you can be certain will not disappoint, I recommend "I Love You, Man." **S**

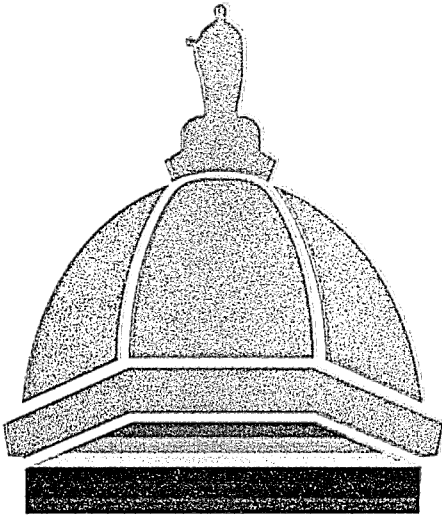


Il Teatro D'Italiano

Claire Kenney

Washington Hall will host an Italian theatrical performance on Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25. The performance is the product of the hard work of The Italian Theatre Project class. Over the course of the semester, students were required to communicate in Italian and were assigned to the various aspects of production, including acting, costume design, set design, publicity, lights, audio and stage management.

The production, directed by Professor Jenna Olson, includes two plays, *Il Castello dei Briganti* (*Castle of Thieves*) and *La Marcolfa*, both of which are dramedies, and the latter of which earned playwright Dario Fo a Nobel Prize for Literature in 1997. Formatted in traditional Italian commedia dell'arte fashion, *Il Castello dei Briganti* includes stock characters who depict a treasure hunt intertwined with romantic comedy in the one-act play. *La Marcolfa* is a tale of an indebted marquis who goes to great lengths to pay his debt in an attempt to win over his lover. **S**



CORE COUNCIL FOR GAY & LESBIAN STUDENTS

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 evelazqu@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)

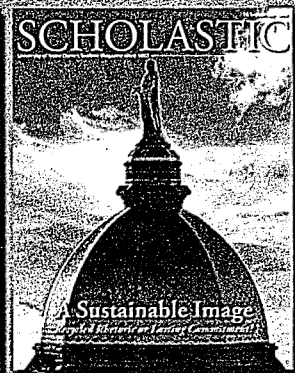
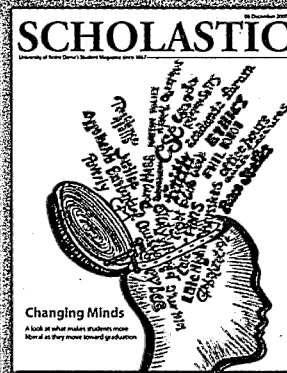
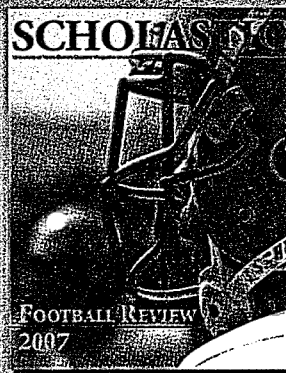
Contact: Dr. Maureen Lafferty at mlaffert@nd.edu

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The Work Behind the Blue and Gold

Offseason workouts continue for the Irish

Alex Hellmuth

Junior linebacker John Ryan has been waking up at 6 a.m. since returning from Christmas break. From conditioning to lifting weights to playing football, Ryan has been training for the football team non-stop for three months.

As Ryan explains, workouts began in January, with grueling “Coaches’ Stations” activities beginning in mid-March, followed by 15 practices for spring ball, and culminating in the Blue and Gold game on April 18. “It takes a lot of time, hard-work and devotion, but it’s all part of team development in preparation for the fall,” Ryan says.

Football at Notre Dame is associated with shining gold helmets, Rudy and thousands of cheering fans moving to the beat of the fight song, but junior wide-receiver Brian Coughlin, who walked onto the team last spring, says that a lot of work goes into suiting up in blue and gold. “The off-season practices are much more intense than when we are in season, especially the Coaches’ Stations, which are, by far, the hardest workouts that I have ever participated in.” The grueling mat-conditioning that characterizes the coaches’ practices involves intensive training, which Ryan calls a “gut-fest.”

While spring practices are vital for keeping the players in good shape, they also serve as a time to develop the team and form bonds among the players. “When there is no opponent and you are competing against your own team, you get to know your teammates really well and figure out who is going to be on the field with you in the fall,” Coughlin says.

Because seniors do not participate in the spring practices, the off-season allows the juniors to emerge as the new leaders and build the team that will follow them into the fall season. The leadership of veteran players like Ryan will be even more important after the team suffered a disappointing season last fall. “This spring, we are really trying to keep up the morale of the team and embrace the idea that we will be a legitimate contender in the upcoming season.”

Both Ryan and Coughlin say they believe the gold helmet is worth the time and dedication that go into Irish football. “This is my last year, so every time I go to practice or workout, it’s the last time I am doing it, and I don’t want to have any regrets after what has been an amazing four years,” Ryan says.

Coughlin says, “It feels good knowing that you have worked as hard as you possibly can to improve so that you can contribute to something bigger than yourself: the team.”

After the Blue and Gold game, the practices and workouts become less intense, but fall football camp starts in early August, and for Ryan, it cannot come soon enough. “We have been working really hard, and this fall is going to be a great year for the Notre Dame football team,” he says. **S**

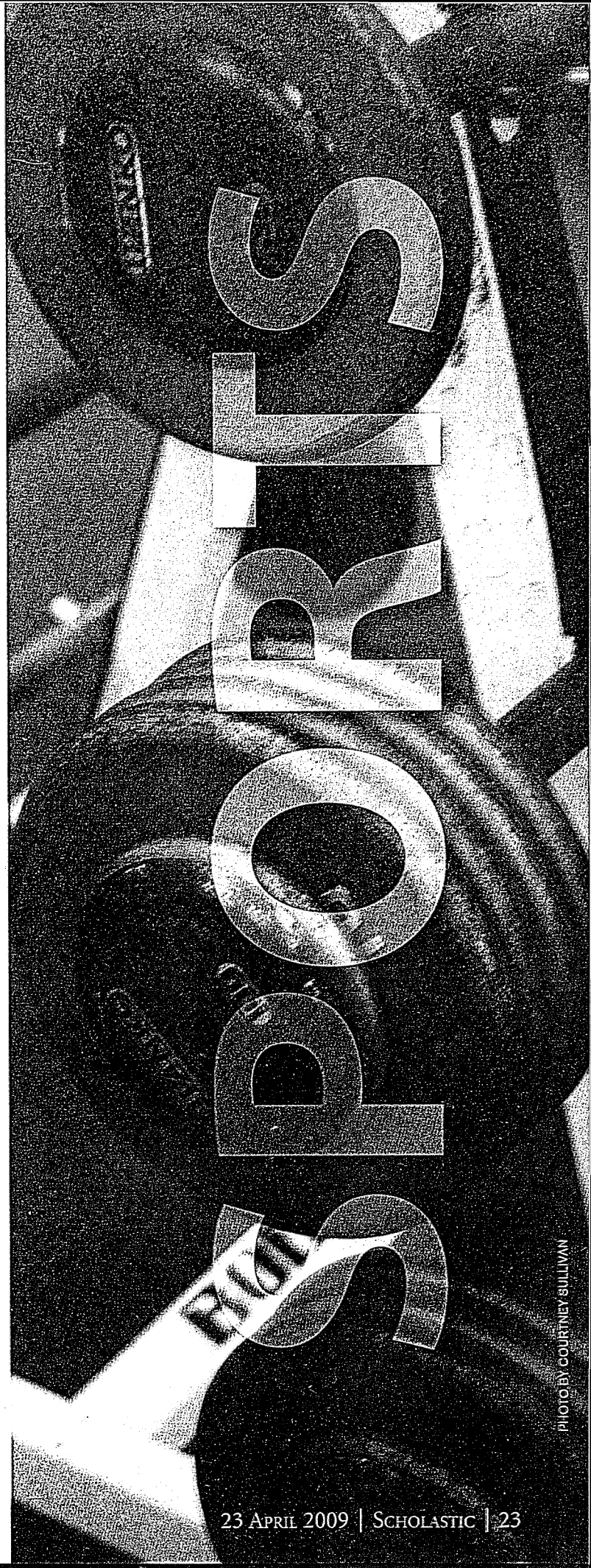


PHOTO BY COURTNEY BULLMAN

IRISH EYES ON: RYAN RICHTER

Tommy Krcmaric

Freshman pitcher Ryan Richter is off to a fast start for the Irish baseball team. His first career victory came on April 1, and he hasn't looked back since. The South Bend native has become an integral part of the pitching rotation, and on April 15, he recorded a career-high six strikeouts in his first start of the season.

You starred at centerfield in high school. Now you are solely a pitcher. How have you made such a quick adjustment?

It's tough sometimes during batting practice. I want to be out there hitting with the guys, but I'm just happy to have a role on the team and [to] be helping out with my pitching.

Coming out of high school, you were something of an unknown commodity in the national college baseball scene. Did that put pressure on you to perform, or have you used it as motivation?

I've definitely used it as motivation. I don't feel like I got snubbed, but I wanted to prove to the South Bend area that I could pitch at a high level. It's definitely been more motivation than pressure.

Have you had any typical "freshman duties" this year?

We're in charge of carrying the luggage. Each of the freshmen has luggage duty when we fly and we make sure the locker room is clean after team meals... and you should definitely give up your seat on the plane when an upperclassman asks for it.

You are 3-1 with a 2.04 ERA. Did you expect to achieve this much success so quickly in your first college season?

I am definitely happy with what I've achieved so far, but I'm not satisfied. I just want to help the team win, whether that means facing one batter or a whole bunch.

It's the bottom of the ninth inning, two outs and a full count. What pitch do you throw and why?

[Laughs] That's hard because I haven't pitched that much. But I'd have to go with my two-seam fastball.

You were a great all-around athlete in high school. What is it about baseball that makes it your favorite sport?

There's just something special about coming to the ballpark on a nice day with your buddies. You have so many opportunities in baseball, and it teaches you to overcome failure quickly. It's all about what you do next and not dwelling on the past.

Baseball players are known for being superstitious. Do you have any wild superstitions or rituals that you believe in?

I never touch the foul line when I go on and off the field. I had more that I used to do in the batter's box, but I've given those up since now I only pitch.

Growing up in South Bend, did you follow Irish baseball from a young age?

Yeah, I've always been a big fan and tried to get to a lot of games as a young kid. I was the little kid always asking for autographs.

You play baseball and grew up in the 90s. Therefore you're a fan of the movie *The Sandlot*, right?

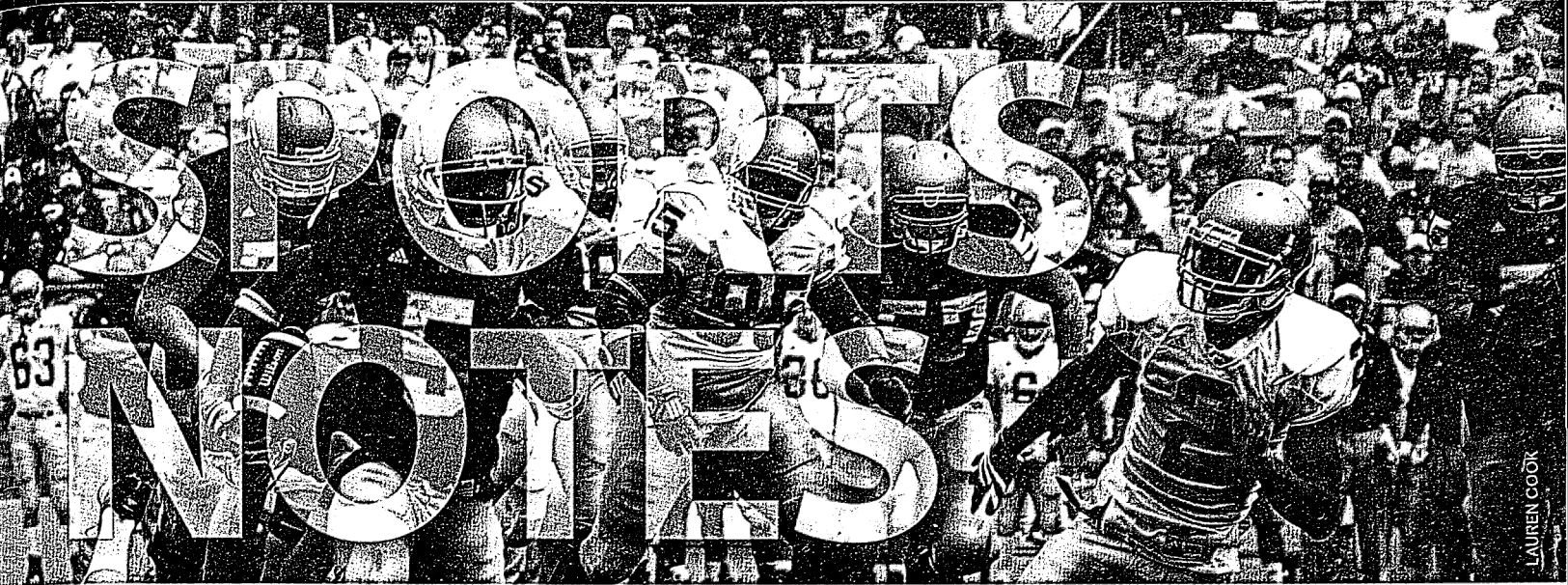
[Laughs] FOR—EV—ER. I've seen it so many times.

What are your personal goals for the rest of the season?

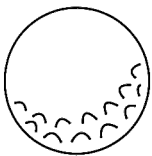
I just want to continue helping the team win — throwing strikes and getting people out, hopefully win the conference, get to the tournament, and do well in the tournament.

Is there a Major League Baseball player you model yourself after?

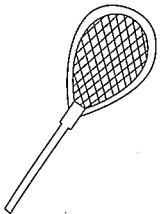
David Price minus 10 MPH on my fastball. [Laughs] Really, though, I don't model my game off anyone. I just try to get out every batter I face in any way possible. **5**



Mimi DiSipio



The Notre Dame women's golf team competed this past weekend for its second consecutive BIG EAST championship title. The team began its quest for the program's fourth conference title during the 2009 BIG EAST Championship on Sunday, April 19 at the Lake Jovita Golf Club in Dade City, Fla. The Fighting Irish entered the three-day, 54-hole event as the second seed in the seven-team field. This is the seventh BIG EAST women's golf championship and the second consecutive year in which the winner will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Championship Tournament.



Senior Irish lacrosse players Scott Rodgers and Jillian Byers have been nominated for the 2009 Tewaaron Trophy. The award is presented annually to the nation's top male and female collegiate lacrosse players. Rodgers, captain and goalkeeper for the Irish men, ranks second nationally with a save percentage of .649 and has been key to the team's success this season. This is the second time that Byers, midfielder and captain for the Irish women, has been nominated for the prestigious award, the most coveted accolade in collegiate lacrosse. Nominees were selected by coaches across all three NCAA divisions. The Tewaaron Trophy will be presented on May 28 in Washington, D.C.



Junior guard and basketball co-captain Melissa Lechlitner received the Notre Dame Monogram Club Most Valuable Player Award at the 2008-09 Notre Dame Women's Basketball Banquet on April 14. Lechlitner started at point guard in all 31 games this season after having started only once in her first two years with the Irish. She more than doubled her career averages across the board this year, averaging 10.6 points and 3.4 assists per game. Lechlitner also received the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley Rockne Student-Athlete Award.



FINISH ON THE 50 Students participate in a 5K run on the morning of the blue-gold game to support Hannah & Friends.



BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL The nation's largest outdoor 5-on-5 basketball tournament returned full force this season.

IT'S ALL ACADEMIC

Matt Formica

Academics and athletics are intricately intertwined at Notre Dame, creating a unique dynamic. It is one of a handful of schools that consistently demonstrates that rigorous academics and excellent athletics are not mutually exclusive; rather, that it is possible to fuse the two pursuits into a challenging yet fulfilling experience.

Notre Dame's stature as one of the nation's elite athletic programs is all the more impressive when coupled with the high academic standards that are an inescapable aspect of the Notre Dame experience. Such standards form an interesting paradox: They create an obstacle that coaches must overcome during the recruiting process, yet they also function as a persuasive recruiting tool.

"I think it can work both ways," head volleyball coach Debbie Brown says. "There are many student-athletes that don't have the academic qualifications for Notre Dame. However, when you find the athlete who has a strong commitment to academics, Notre Dame has a great opportunity to attract that student."

When considering a prospective student-athlete, Notre Dame coaches do not actively recruit a player until they know that he or she is academically qualified, while coaches at some athletic powerhouses may overlook a player's academic struggles and fixate solely on

his or her athletic talents.

"When we are recruiting a young man, we talk about the academics here as much as we talk about basketball in the Big East," men's basketball coach Mike Brey says.

Commitment to academics immediately reduces the pool of players from which Notre Dame's coaches can recruit, creating a numerical disadvantage. "I'd estimate that more than half of the most highly ranked junior golfers in the country do not qualify academically. That certainly makes it difficult to compete against the top programs, who draw from all ranked golfers," men's golf coach Jim Kubinski says.

Although the university's academic standards may act as an impediment during recruiting, they also attract many student-athletes to Notre Dame. While the prospect of attending a school at which one will have to devote as much time to studies as to athletics deters some of the nation's top high school athletes from considering Notre Dame, there are also countless student-athletes who value a balance between academics and athletics.

"The level of academics had a huge impact on my decision to attend Notre Dame," freshman lacrosse player Devon Dobson says. "Throughout the recruiting process I was always more concerned with the school's academics, rather than how good the lacrosse team was."

Many Notre Dame student-athletes plan for their futures after college and after sports. "I wanted to go somewhere where I knew I'd be challenged. I wanted a university whose degree means something after graduation," senior soccer player Matt Besler says. Throughout his college career, Besler embodied the concept of "student-athlete". He was named the 2008 Scholar Athlete of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and earned first-team All-America and first-team Academic All-America honors.

Notre Dame's student-athletes face the arduous task of balancing their academic workloads and their athletic responsibilities. These individuals' endurance of the recruiting and admissions processes, however, suggests that they have the requisite skills to succeed both in the classroom and on the playing field. "The interesting advantage is that prospects who are more accomplished academically generally exhibit certain skills, such as time management, that allow them to be successful even with the great demands placed on our student-athletes," Kubinski says.

Many Notre Dame students feel overwhelmed by the academic workload without participating in time-consuming extracurricular activities. Student-athletes must juggle studying for an important exam while preparing



ALL WORK AND ALL PLAY Notre Dame student-athletes maintain a high degree of athletic excellence alongside a demanding academic schedule

for the biggest game of the season. "Time management is the biggest tool for success. You must be on top of your schedule and try to get things done beforehand," Besler says. Additionally, communication with professors and classmates is imperative to compensate for the classes missed while traveling with the team.

The university provides additional resources for student-athletes to aid in striking a balance between schoolwork and athletic commitments. The student-athlete study center, located in the Coleman-Morse Center, for example, offers an environment conducive to completing coursework. Student-athletes may also meet with tutors throughout the week to catch up on their studies.

Despite attending several hours of practice each day in addition to devoting time to class and homework, Notre Dame's student-athletes are not asking for sympathy. Most agree that varsity athletes should be held to the same academic standards as other students. "Student-athletes make a choice to play athletics in college. No one is forcing

them to play. If they can't be held to these same standards, they shouldn't do it," Besler says.


It is attitudes like Besler's that allow Notre Dame's varsity athletes to maintain an effective balance between academic and athletic responsibilities. Three student-athletes, Besler, senior soccer player Brittany Bock, and senior track and field athlete Patrick Smyth, were awarded NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships for the fall season. The three scholarships have already matched the Notre Dame record for most NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships for a single academic year, and the accolades for winter and spring athletes have yet to be announced.

In addition to outstanding individual achievements, many of Notre Dame's sports teams boast strong academic records each semester. "The academic climate on the team is very good. We've been very successful in the classroom, and we've been one of the top teams in terms of G.P.A. every semester," Brown says.

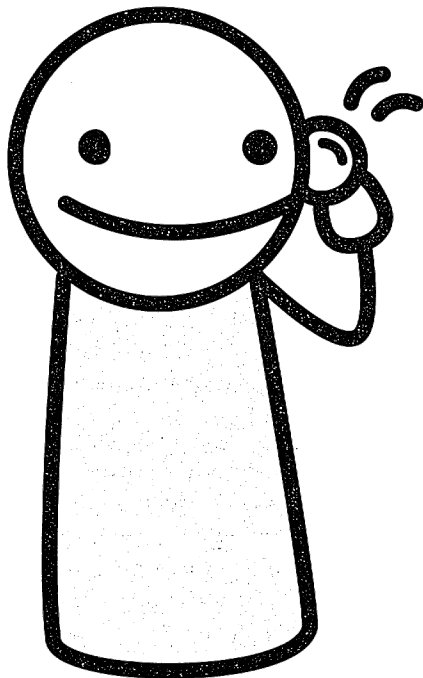
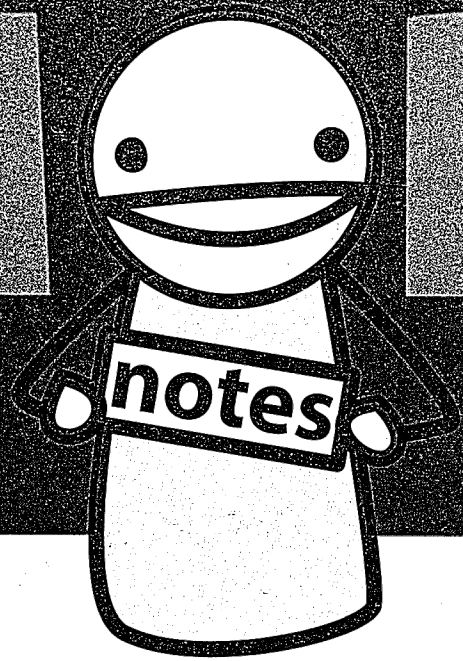
It is not just the varsity athletes who have to balance academics and athletics.

Notre Dame's student body is widely regarded as one of the most athletically talented in the nation. Students approach section sports, intramurals and inter-hall sports not only with enthusiasm but also with skill. The Princeton Review, in its annual college guide, ranked Notre Dame first in the "Everyone Plays Intramural Sports" category. "Everyone gets involved with sports in one way or another," sophomore Rolfs employee Ryan Schwab says.

Many Domers find time in their busy schedules to exercise on a daily basis. Although spending a portion of the day in the gym may seem to detract from academic commitments, doing so can actually have the opposite effect. "I go to the gym and blow off some steam, and when I get back to my dorm I'm able to concentrate better and work more efficiently," freshman Shu Hagiwara says.

Not only are academics and athletics at Notre Dame not mutually exclusive, they are inseparable. 

HUMOR



Listening In...

Female Student: "I don't know how to tell you this, but I have Chlamydia."

Male Student: "Well, that's probably my fault. We'll deal with this together."

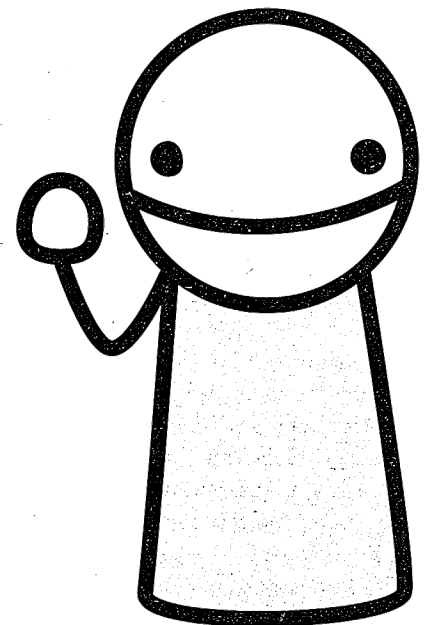
Female Student (picking at the frosted oat shapes in Lucky Charms cereal): "What are they trying to teach kids? This one's not even a letter!"

Freshman Girl: "I used to be shallow and only like him because he dressed so well, but then I realized that he was actually really hot!"

Back In the Day ...

It's 2:00 a.m. on Friday night, the beginning of that obnoxious reality of Notre Dame life, parietals. Where to go? What to do? Instead of hailing a cab and venturing off-campus like today's typical inebriated Domers, a group of students in the 70s had a different plan for the evening: scale the golden dome.

Heading toward God Quad wearing little-to-no clothing, a few Keenan men used their friend's janitorial job to their advantage. Upon managing to properly use keys in their distorted states of mind, they stumbled into the building to complete the task they had set out to accomplish. While some lagged behind, dubbing it an impossible feat, the rest persevered. Due to a construction project, scaffolds were scattered around the building, making the dream of these adventurous students somewhat obtainable. After they had made considerable progress up the interior of the dome, their ascent came to a halt, not due to NDSP, but to sheer laziness. Perhaps one day their legacies will live on, and the dome will finally be conquered.



- Meg Kowieski



Greetings, my muddy little piglets! After a year spent hiding in bedroom closets, peeking in dorm windows and hanging out at local dive bars to catch ND students at their best, the Gipp is sad to announce that this will be his last column. Despite Gipp's best efforts, it seems he actually amassed enough credits to graduate. Along with those of many of the subjects of this year's stories, "Pomp and Circumstance" is calling his name. That, and posters of aborted fetuses. It is only proper that our senior class has stepped up to take advantage of its last chance to immortalize its classmates' most shameful antics in the hallowed annals of *Scholastic* ...

With warmer weather comes a renewed sense of passion and adventure for many students, and our first two explorers — we'll call her Lewis, him Clark — were certainly no exception. Perhaps afraid that at three months, their blossoming relationship was losing that experimental fire, they embarked in search of a new frontier. As the sun sank in the sky, Lewis and Clark sunk more and more of that friend of all explorers, the natural aphrodisiac now known as beer. Upon leaving the watering hole, our adventurers traversed a pavement jungle until they stumbled upon a plot containing rolling dirt hills and three floors of uncharted territory, destined to become the habitat of future off-campus Domers who are too good for the apartment complex formerly known as TC, also formerly home to the biggest rager of opening weekend before the university decided to systematically kill all fun. But I digress.

Our adventurers climbed to the top of this metaphorical peak where Clark flung aside his hard hat and showed Lewis his purple mountain's majesty. Awestruck by the view, she quickly removed her travelling attire as well. The two proceeded to explore each other in addition to the rest of the semi-

finished building, navigating around nuts and bolts, rusty nails, and two-by-fours. Although the sun no longer lit their way (thankfully for any passersby) the electrical wiring had been completed, and artificial lighting likely made Lewis and Clark's journey visible from the street. When they completed their explorations and discovered what they came for, the two found themselves uncharacteristically disoriented. Although Clark's compass always pointed north, it was not enough to help the explorers find their way back to the room in which they left their clothes (at least not for the half hour or so spent frantically searching).

Our next tale also involves soon-to-be-graduating travelers, this time in search of territory familiar to most ND students on Thursday nights. Declining to forge or caulk and float, the group opted to hire a guide to ferry them across the river and to the bar. It seems that it was two-for-the-price-of-one in the middle-aged guide's wagon that night, as he shared the front seat with a much younger and bustier acquaintance. "Are you 21?" she asked two of the male riders, and when they answered in the affirmative, she proceeded to pass the peace pipe — in this case, two aluminum canteens — to the back seat.

Travel-weary and thirsty, the boys quickly consumed the contents and began scheming as to how they could charm their new friend, a pale-faced, blond-haired and tribal-pierced Sacagawea, into giving them another roadie before they reached their destination. Sure that Sacagawea would not abandon her wagon driver, the boys' flirting led to an invitation for her to accompany them into the oasis. To their surprise, she agreed. Although Sacagawea was a native of those parts, she insisted that it was new territory for her, filled with an unfamiliar tribe, and they must become her guides and not ditch her once inside. But since she no longer had

her supply of free, frenzy-inducing elixir, the boys decided to strike out on their own path as quickly as possible, leaving no trail. "Why do they always scramble away?" Sacagawea lamented.

Sacagawea recovered, however, when she saw the small tribal dance area in the corner of the bar. Reserved for only the most intoxicated participants, it is awkwardly elevated so that it becomes something of a stage for everyone else who is still aware that dancing is rare and a cultural taboo in this particular oasis. But Sacagawea seemed completely comfortable in this setting, performing surprisingly practiced and perfected ceremonial gyrations for both one lucky ND fellow and the surrounding audience. It was as if she did this often — a fact confirmed by some of the watching crowd, who identified her as belonging to the exclusive, south-side tribe of the Torch Lounge. It turns out that Sacagawea regularly shakes her tail feather. For dollar-dollar bills, ya'll.

Well folks, we've come a long, long way together, but now, just like Lewis and Clark, it seems we're at the end of our happy trail. Special thanks to the seniors who have frequented these pages: Rihanna, Gentle Blond Giant, Captain Chug, Buffy and so many more. You will be missed. But the Gipp has no doubt that future generations will continue to commit inappropriate acts of love, lose basic bodily function control and generally embarrass themselves on a regular basis. As always, when this happens: Be a friend. Tip the Gipp.

Peace out,
The Gipp

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It's been three hours and 22 minutes since you sat down in front of your computer to start your research paper. You've played more games of Tetris than you care to count and sent bumper stickers to every single one of your Facebook friends. A few short months ago, it would have finally been time to buckle down and start your paper. But never fear, procrastinators of Notre Dame, the World Wide Web of wasting time has devised yet another site guaranteed to keep you glued to the computer screen as your tuition money trickles down the drain. FMyLife.com has taken college campuses by storm, which got me thinking: What would an FMyLife site written entirely by Notre Dame students look like? Here are a few possibilities:

Today, I proposed to my girlfriend of two years by having friends serenade her with Taylor Swift's "Love Story." Apparently, these former friends saw the Keenan Revue one too many times and thought it would be funny to mess with my girlfriend. Needless to say, "It's a hookup story, baby just say yes" isn't quite as romantic as the original version. She walked away, annoyed, before I could even give her the ring. FML

Today, I got my dorm assignment for next year. I'm in Carroll. I was so upset at the news that I tripped down the stairs, breaking both my legs. I'm in a wheelchair for the next six months. FML

Today, I was studying for an orgo test and missed dinner in the DH. I only had 5 flex points left, but planned on getting a 12-inch sandwich for \$5 at a certain sandwich place on campus. Despite commercials assuring me otherwise, I found that the 12-inch sandwiches were actually much more than \$5. I couldn't afford anything for dinner and subsequently failed my test the next day. FML

Today, I got yelled at by a professor for using "recieve" instead of "receive" 39 times on my term paper. On the bright side, I was offered a position of copy-editor at The Observer. Unfortunately, I had written the term paper as part of an application to teach language arts at an elementary school and already sent in the application. FML

Today, I was hanging out with some guy friends in their room a few hours after parietals. Around 4:00 a.m., I put on a hooded sweatshirt to disguise myself as a guy and walked out the dorm right past the rector without him getting suspicious. I was pretty tipsy and so excited at making it out unscathed that I triumphantly blurted out the whole story to a random guy sitting on a bike outside the dorm. I didn't notice the letters NDSP on the back of his jacket until it was too late. FML

Today, I inverstigated of my roommate's stuff to try to find the source of the strange noises I've been hearing. Thank you ORLH for random rooming assignments. The pet squirrel I found under his desk explains my missing cereal and the random yellow spots I find on my towels. FML

-Kathleen Toohill



Daric
Snyder

Posed to Death

The stranger says, "SMILE!" The camera flashes.

"Is it good?" Katie asks.

The photographer shrugs and passes the camera back to my friend Katie, screen first.

She squints at the screen, the photo's a little fuzzy, and she's not quite happy with her smile. I'm probably blinking. I don't get to see the screen, so I'll have to trust her judgment.

Katie pushes delete and passes the camera back.

"Can we take another?"

"Sure, smile!"

I remind myself not to blink and switch on a smile. I can only hope it's the right one. I guess I'll find out online sooner or later.

Like any college student, I spend staggering amounts of time mindlessly distracted by Facebook. But recently, despite my best efforts, the squishy bits of my brain dedicated to higher reasoning have been focused on the never-ending stream of photos on the site.

I'm starting to feel a little uncomfortable at how posed all these photos are.

What's so upsetting about this? After all, people have been posing for pictures for centuries. Until recently, there was no other way to get an image. Early photography needed painfully long exposure times. Today, we have instant, digital snapshots, but we're still posing. With cameras that offer immediate feedback and nearly unlimited memory capacity, we're posing more now than ever before. Even the candid shots are mostly staged for the camera. We'll gladly interrupt whatever we're doing to chronicle

the events of our lives.

With point-and-shoots in hand, we're beginning to live in perpetual scrapbooks, idealized versions of reality that edit out both the mundane and the poorly lit. We upload them to Facebook in albums deceptively titled "RANDOM," as if they accurately represented any given moment of our days. Whoever said a picture was worth a thousand words should be accused of price gouging.

Welcome to our mediated future: a time where our experiences will be recorded and broadcast back to us, to be remembered and shared as we edit them. Reality is too dangerous to be trusted. While living increasingly public lives, we're gaining unprecedented license to edit our personas. If someone posts an unflattering picture of us, we can simply untag it.

This trend goes beyond online photo albums. Facebook and the newly popular website Twitter allow users to update their status from the web and from cell phones, broadcasting to friends and followers their every move. Used successfully, supporters claim, the innovation lets people share information quickly and foster serendipitous happenings – those rare moments when you find yourself in the right place at exactly the right time. In reality, this technology indulges a pornography of self, keeping the world updated on what your freshman year roommate ate for lunch. It's just more posing, via 140 characters or fewer.

This idealization of self faces inward, too. For years now, I've been able to plug into an iPod, ramp up the volume and soundtrack my life. Every mundane task takes on a new, profound importance from behind those little white earbuds. I can be the hero of

my own blockbuster, taking trips to Subway tantamount to a quest through Mordor.

I'm trying to find a use for it all. Maybe I'm not self-absorbed enough for the future.

I have a carefully crafted Facebook profile, well-stocked with pictures of myself looking like I'm having fun at interesting events. And, yes, I even tweet. But I'm not certain I'm enough of a narcissist to embrace what's surely coming: There's something unnerving about a phone with GPS. I'm increasingly hesitant about the impending techno-utopia where I can find out what my friends are up to without having to do something barbaric like sending them emails.

I doubt we're capable enough to edit our own lives for real-time broadcast in a meaningful way. With the growing pressure of living public lives, we're at risk of losing our ability to be mindful of the present and reflective on the past. By constantly answering the question "What are you doing?" we squeeze our lives into narratives suitable for broadcast, instead of experiencing life as it comes at us. I'd rather not end up on my deathbed thinking, "Well, at least I had a lot of good status messages along the way."

Maybe we should try to admit that we're all probably more boring and less attractive than the way in which we present ourselves on the internet. Keep that unflattering photo tagged! We should embrace new technologies, but also embrace our true selves. Let's actually get to know each other better. Just keep yesterday's lunch to yourself. **5**

The views of this author are not necessarily the views of Scholastic Magazine.

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