



AN ESSAY ON ANXIETY

COMEDIAN PROFILES

16 September 2010

SCHOLASTIC

University of Notre Dame's student Magazine since 1867

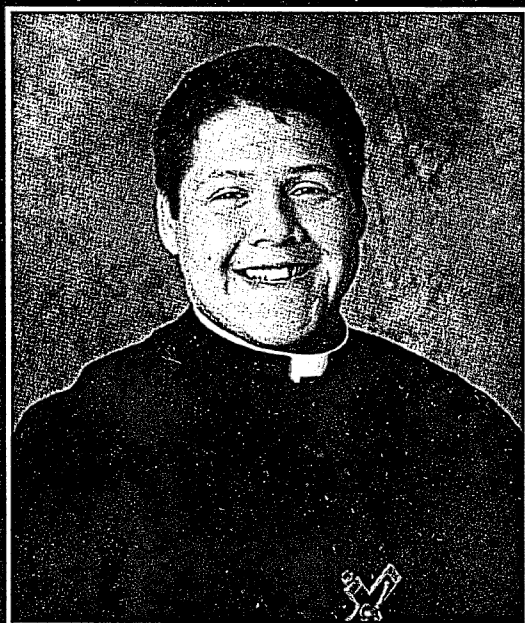


The Real Fightin' Irish

ROTC at Notre Dame

Congratulations
to our brother in
Holy Cross who
professed his
perpetual vows
and consecrated
his life to
Christ forever.

August 28, 2010
Basilica of the
Sacred Heart
Notre Dame, Indiana



Rev. Mr. Paul Ybarra, C.S.C.

We accept the Lord's call to pledge ourselves publicly and perpetually as members of the Congregation of Holy Cross by the vows of consecrated celibacy, poverty and obedience. Great is the mystery and meaning within these vows. And yet their point is simple. They are an act of love for the God who first loved us.

*Constitutions of the Congregation
of Holy Cross. V.43*

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16 SEPTEMBER 2010

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features

3 On Anxiety

8 New Rectors Find Home Under the Dome

Five new rectors come to campus

14 Will Work for Anyone

Notre Dame seniors struggle to find work

26 Irish Eyes On: Chris Stewart

Lineman and law student profiled

34 To Say Hello or No

How to handle greeting the kid that was
in your Calc class Freshman year that you
know knows you

sections

Opinion 3

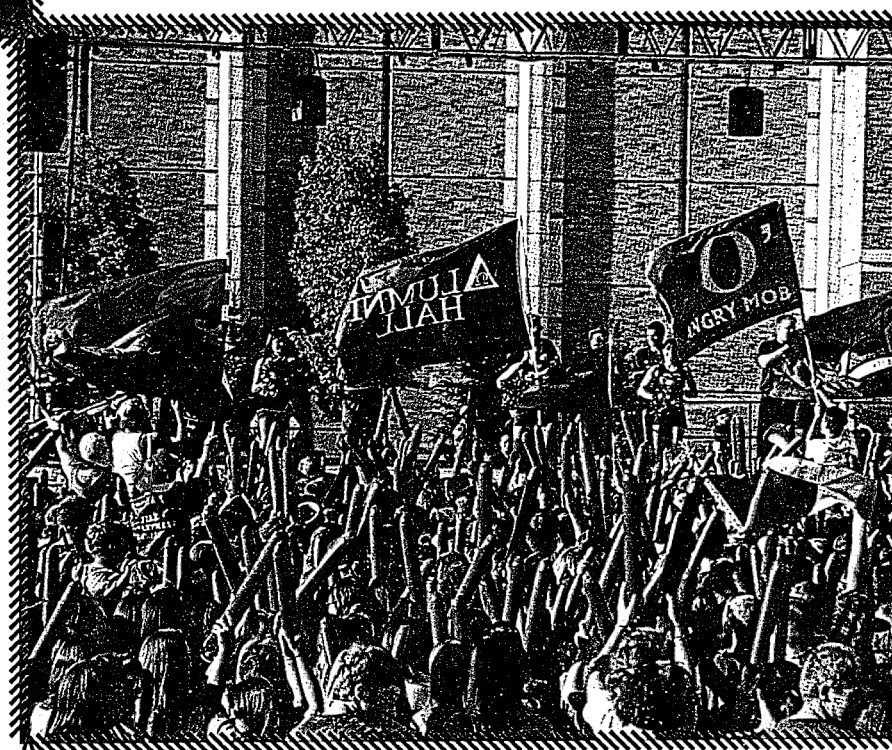
News 4

Culture 10

Cover 18

Sports 28

Humor 31



EDNOTES

I've never marked time by January 1 — you don't close any chapters when the calendar year changes. You close a door when you move out of your house and open a new one in your first dorm room in August, or get on a plane, terrified, for a semester abroad. Each fall semester has a different feel than the last.

For many students, especially seniors, this time of year brings worry about life after college, potential internships and graduate school applications. The career fair becomes so stressful that it is impossible to even enjoy all the men in suits. And, just for the record, studying English does not mean I have any interest in law school.

In this issue, staff writers Katie Corr and Kelly McGauley reflect on such stress in their essay "On Anxiety" (p. 3), providing a grounding reminder that our time in college is finite and the future will happen, no matter how many trips to the Career Center you make. Chris Milazzo's report on how last year's seniors are faring in the current economic climate (p. 14) provides at least a small ray of hope for future Notre Dame grads faced with sending out resumes to reports of downsizing.

This month's cover story, however, features a group of students who already know how they will spend the next several years: serving their country. Executive Editor Josh Flynt examines what it means to be a student soldier at Notre Dame (p.18). Though members of the ND ROTC program stand apart with their tactical and warfare training, they, like all students, are developing leadership abilities and skills they will use on a daily basis, the goals of higher education as a whole.

Welcome back

Those of us in the South Dining Hall basement would like to welcome you to another year of Scholastic, wishing you a safe and MIP-free start to the school year.

Erica Pepitone

Erica Pepitone
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*Disce Quasi Semper Victorius
Vive Quasi Cras Moriturus*

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ON Anxiety

An Essay by Katie Corr and Kelly McGauley




It seems that as seniors progressing in our academic careers, anxiety has become the status quo in students' emotional, mental and physical states, and we're not just talking about your run of the mill night-before-the-big-exam or have-to-write-a-full-Scholastic-article-in-one-hour stress. We are referring to the gray-hair-inducing, can't-sleep-at-night kind of anxiety that only the looming prospect of life outside of college induces. We're all going to get there one day, and darn it if all of us aren't acutely aware of it. Some of us have an incredibly specific plan for the next year — graduate schools, jobs, volunteering abroad. These, and all like plans, are wonderful goals, but we run the risk of developing anxiety around failure instead of being motivated by the prospect of achieving these goals. We have created an anxiety-driven regimen, giving us tunnel vision regarding our careers instead of valuing the time we have at Notre Dame.

We are not implying that you should quit trying now — stop studying, don't turn in those papers and move into Mulligan's — though it can sound appealing. But we run the risk of missing our college experiences because of anxiety about the future, whatever that

may entail. Sure, the graduate school you attend, the career you end up with or the person you marry will be important parts of your life, but if you spend all your time in college essentially living the stress of your future, then you might as well not be here. All the professional success in the world is empty without personal fulfillment. Functioning in a state of pure anxiety sets an early precedent for missing out on valuable opportunities.

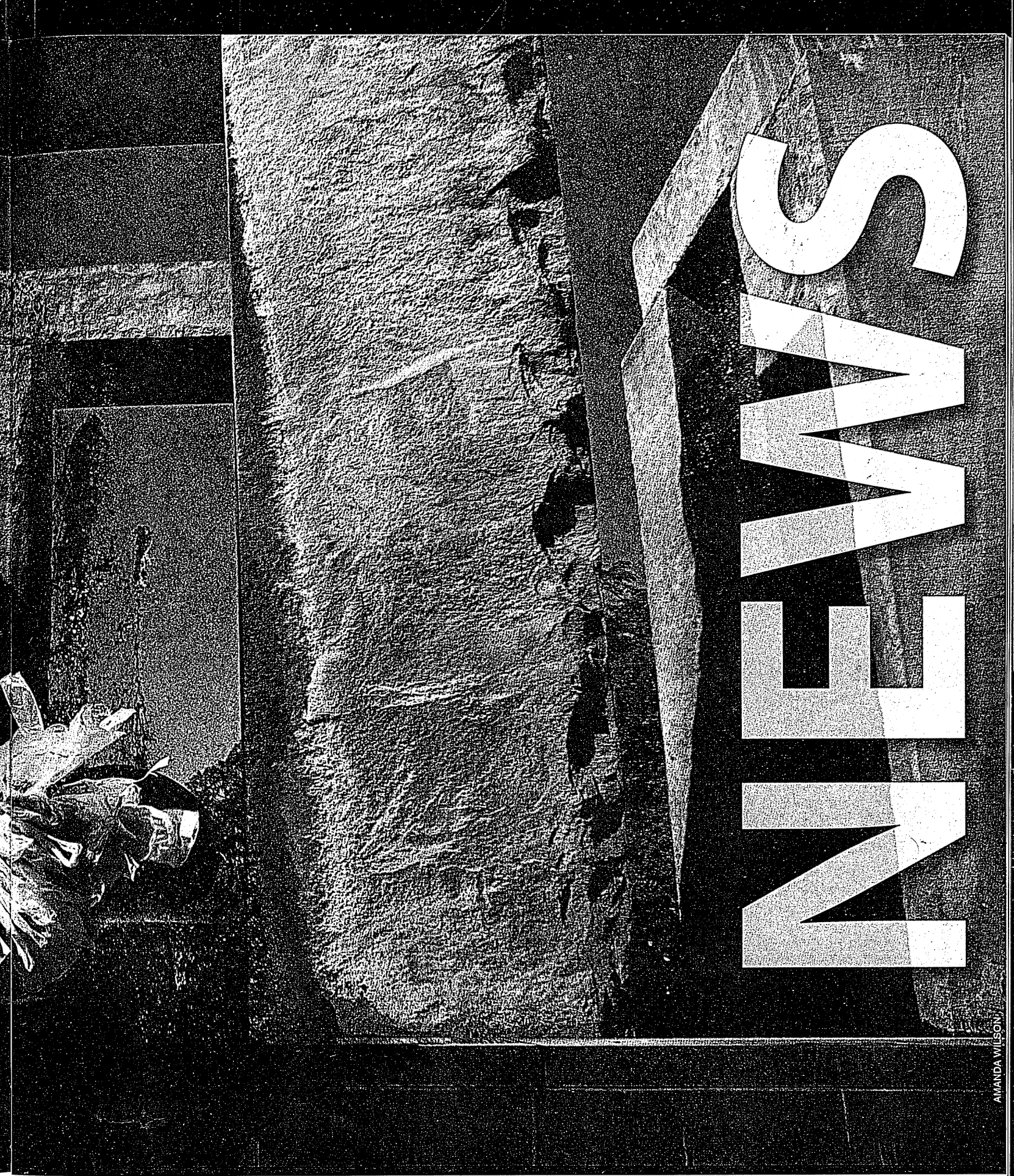
Since the day we arrived on campus, we've been building our resumes if only through daily life. Minimally speaking, the resume-building aspect of our college experience will take care of itself. What won't are our memories, friendships, personal growth and passions. Our academic and professional experiences should be motivated by those ideals, not by anxiety or paranoia about looming doom and failure. If the world really does end in 2012, would you rather have spent your all-too-short life incessantly worrying about the future — which, incidentally, will no longer exist — or enjoying the time you were given?

Plan. It's possible to be motivated and achieve things without anxiety. Figure out what you want to do with your life. Take LSAT courses, rock the GRE and apply

to graduate school. Apply for your dream job. It's not that we think you should ignore the inevitable, and at this point, intimidating future ahead, but don't get so wrapped up in planning the future that you forget where you are. We just might have an amazing football season this year. (It has to happen sometime.) We've got Hip Hop Night at Legends. We've got a good shot at a Taylor Swift concert (hint, hint, Taylor). A certain amount of stress is unavoidable — no one got into or got through this university by taking it easy. But devoting four years of your life to an all-encompassing, constantly overwhelming anxiety is excessive, counterproductive and does not make a well-rounded individual. Relax. And, if all else fails, you'll always have Plan B: move into Mulligan's. 

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





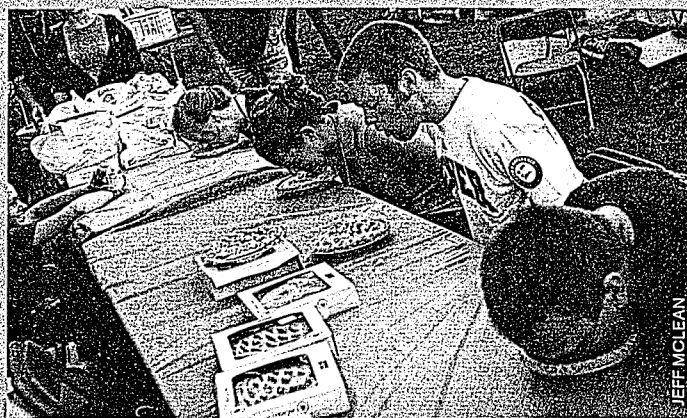
AMANDA WILSON

the stories we live

NEWS



RAISE THE ROOF Fisher Hall raises money for Haiti at its annual roofsit.



WELSH FAM COOKOUT So delicious, they couldn't wait for utensils.

JUDGMENT CALLS



Nelly back in the Billboard Top 10
It's not Just a Dream



Lil' rappers
You're almost 30. Be a Big Boi.



Facebook Liking
Do you really enjoy "hearing something that kills you inside and acting like you're fine"?



Modern Family
WTF. Why the Face?



Rich Cronin's death
He liked Kevin Bacon, but hated "Footloose"

HOW TO

Not Get Arrested

Tara Hunt and Katie Gabriel

It has come to the attention of the South Bend Police Department that students are partaking in illegal activities. For the safety of these students, they have abandoned their posts in dark alleys, conducting drug busts and preventing robberies to ensure that those who sip a little late night moonshine are immediately incarcerated for their own safety. *Scholastic* doesn't encourage breaking the law, but if you happen to find yourself in a sticky situation, here are a few tips for how to safely evade the slammer so you can get back to your dangerous escapades.

1 If you don't remember it, it didn't happen: If your intoxication overrides your memory and you can't recall the night's events, then they didn't happen. I'm pretty sure Plato or Socrates argued this exact point, and they, too, were probably referring to their late-night, intoxicated meanderings in the bath hall. This suggestion, however, is null and void if you come to consciousness in a jail cell. Working your way out of that philosophical debacle is up to you.

2 Wear the new "Sorry for Partying" tank: The gift of gab is a blessing, no doubt. The gift of drunken mumbling is valued less. In the event that the kind South Bend officer asks you about your festivities, stick out your bottom lip, give him your best puppy dog eyes and point two fingers (please use your pointer fingers) at your shirt. A built-in apology, and you get to ditch your staple "weekend polo."

3 Channel your inner flight attendant: Take note of the emergency exits located throughout the cabin/apartment. Don't limit yourself to doors: look for windows, crawl spaces, skylights or fireplaces.

4 Party with out-of-shape friends: "You don't have to outrun the bear, just the slowest person running from the bear." Same idea here.

5 Wear your sneaks: You may be rockin' stilettos, and you may look fly, but ain't no chance you're making it over that fence. **9**



BLOOD DRIVE Students give blood at the semi-annual ROTC drive.



DESERT TO DOME Friends and alumni signed the Desert to Dome van as Gregory and Renate Crawford biked across the U.S.

Serving Body & Spirit

Raising Heart Rates, Raising Funds

Meredith Durant and Calie Mohamed

Notre Dame students and faculty have long fostered a spirit of service on campus. Gregory Crawford is no exception.

Crawford, dean of Notre Dame's College of Science, and his wife, Renate, organized "Desert to Dome: Riding for the Lives of Children," for which they biked 2,300 miles from Tucson, Ariz. to South Bend, Ind. The event raised money and awareness for Niemann-Pick Type C Disease, a neurodegenerative disease that mainly affects children. They left Tucson on July 24 and arrived in South Bend on Aug. 23, where they were greeted by a pep rally in their honor.

The couple biked between 80 and 120 miles, or over six to seven hours each day, and passed through seven states. Crawford has friends in Tucson whose children died of Niemann-Pick Disease; this relationship inspired him to start "Desert to Dome" and raise awareness of the disease. A Notre Dame-sponsored van carrying the bike riders' food and belongings followed them on their journey.

For those still looking to get involved with various causes, the Biology Club's Vision Walk will take place on South Quad on Sunday, Sept. 26 at 1:30 p.m. and registration begins at noon. This fundraiser supports the Dr. Hyde and Foundation Fighting Blindness by raising research funding for children with retinal degenerative diseases. Foundation Fighting Blindness is the largest non-government funding source for non-embryonic stem cell research in finding the cure for degenerating eyesight. The walk will tour popular campus highlights and the registration is \$10 for students and \$15 for non-students. There will also be t-shirts sold at the event and prizes for those who collect the most money.

Senior managing and consulting major Maria Sellers is organizing the Biology Club's Vision Walk. Sellers says that she hopes to help individuals who suffer from degenerating vision. She worked with The Foundation for the Blind, the largest non-government source of funding in the United States, to put on the event. All proceeds from the Vision Walk will benefit research for the blind.

9

TOP FIVE

Thing Notre Dame Students Don't Like

1 Kids from Jersey.

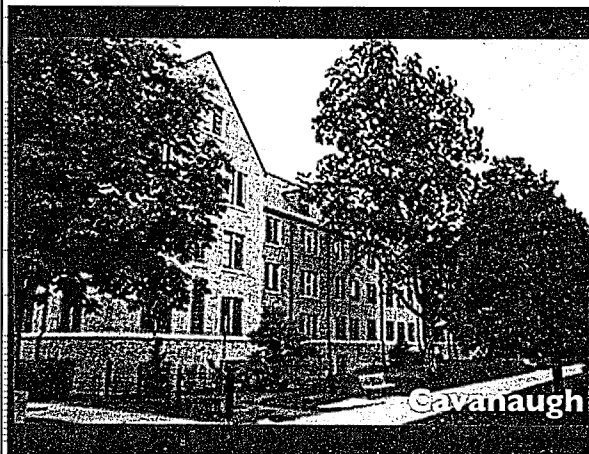
2 Being wrong.

3 Being single.

4 Cynical alumni bloggers.

5 Sinners.

New Rectors Find Home Under the Dome



Cavanaugh



Lewis



At Notre Dame, dorm living functions as a quasi-family. Students are like siblings and rectors serve as mentors, even close friends, greatly contributing to the overall on-campus living experience and to the lives of many students. The selection process for these residence hall rectors therefore requires an extensive amount of time and dedication on behalf of the Office of Student Affairs.

According to Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Sister Susan Dunn, O.P., advertisements for Notre Dame rector positions appear in October in Catholic periodicals and Web sites about administration. To meet the application requirements, an individual must have a master's degree and at least three years of

experience in a field such as education, student counseling or pastoral ministering.

"One of the most obvious qualities we look for in a rector is his or her ability to be a good role model and a person who values the place of faith in our lives. We also seek someone with humor, flexibility, an understanding of young adult development, compassion and good listening skills," Dunn says.

In January, current rectors indicate whether or not they plan to return the following academic year, at which point the Office of Student Affairs narrows down the applicant pool. Last year, the university received 75 applications, which were narrowed to 10 final candidate profiles, and then circulated around the senior staff for review.

"Once we have chosen the final group, we require each of the candidates to come in March for interviews. Interviews take place from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Potential rectors meet with administrative staff, current rectors, assistant rectors and especially student leaders," Dunn says.

After the interview weekend, the Vice President of Student Affairs makes the final decision and the new rectors are notified in May.

This year, students and administration welcome five new rectors to campus. For those who have not had a chance to meet the new group, here is an introduction to the mentors and friends joining our home.

Annie Selak Walsh Hall

Annie Selak, one of the younger rectors on campus, joins Walsh after completing her graduate studies at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. She is already used to the female dorm setting, as she spent the previous year working at an all-girls high school in Detroit.

"Last year was the first time I worked in an all-female environment. The job of rector entails just about everything I've learned in my previous positions, including pastoral ministry and liturgical obligations, although nothing can really prepare you for exterminating cockroaches and bats," Selak says.

Perhaps as a result of her love for *America's Next Top Model*, Selak says she is excited for the Walsh event Mr. ND, as well as the student-run liturgies this year.

Though her role as rector places her in an academic environment, Selak says that exploration and passion are the crucial components of college and of life. "If everyone in the world did what they loved, everyone would be living out his or her vocation."

Fr. Bob Loughery C.S.C. Sorin Hall

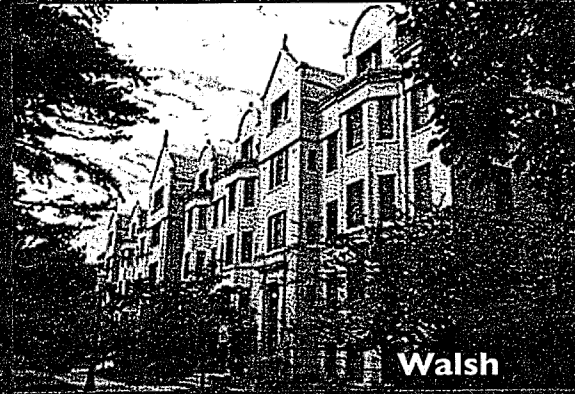
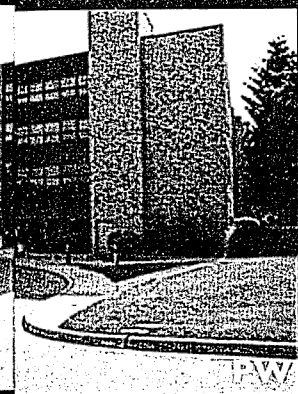
He might be the only male in the mix, but similar to other new rectors, Fr. Bob Loughery, C.S.C., received his undergraduate degree from Notre Dame. He even lived in Sorin Hall during his time here. Loughery graduated with a bachelor's degree in architecture and a Master's of Divinity.

"I am excited to get to know the men of Sorin Hall, to live, work and pray together. I would like to see even greater emphasis in the dorm on service opportunities in the South Bend community. Presently, we are looking at volunteer opportunities at the Center for the Homeless," Loughery says.

Sister Mary Jane Hahner Pasquerilla West Hall

Sister Mary Jane Hahner, who describes herself as "a small-town girl of Irish-German descent," joins the PW hall staff several months after receiving her Master's of Divinity from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. PW residents and hall staff refer to her as Sister MJ, known for her sense of humor and welcoming spirit. She was previously an elementary school teacher and principal in Chicago. Her loyalties, however, belong to the state of Pennsylvania.

"Some of my favorite things to do include watching the Philadelphia Eagles, Penn State Nittany Lions and Notre Dame Fighting Irish play football," Hahner says.



Maria Hinton Cavanaugh Hall

Though new to the job, Cavanaugh rector Maria Hinton is a familiar face around campus. Hinton, a Double Domer from Columbus, Ohio, graduated from the law school in May. As an undergraduate, she was the president of Lewis Hall and served as an RA during her senior year. She says she loved her residence life experience so much that she lived as an Assistant Rector in Lyons while working on her graduate studies.

"Even though I've done this for seven years now, I'm still not tired of it. There's something really special about living in community. There's really no other place where you can have Disney karaoke in the hallways or really great conversations with people. It's an amazing opportunity to share in people's lives in this way," Hinton says.

Layla Karst Lewis Hall

Another Notre Dame alumnus, Layla Karst received her Master's of Divinity in May and served as an Assistant Rector in Pasquerilla East for two years. "I decided to stay at Notre Dame after graduation because I wanted to be involved in campus ministry. The residence life at Notre Dame is a very unique, fundamental part of the educational experience of these students and I wanted to be a part of that," Karst says. No stranger to education, Karst studies Arabic in her spare time.

Prior to graduate studies, she was a high school youth minister in Washington, so she is familiar with getting to know and providing spiritual guidance to young adults. Karst says that she hopes to know all of the names of the women in Lewis by Christmas, with the help of flashcards.

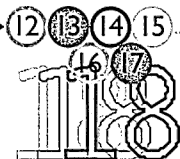




the things we do

SEPTEMBER

Need something to do this month?
Check out a few of these events!



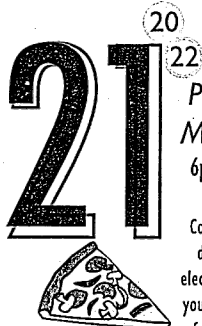
Bus trip to the Michigan State Game.

Tickets are on sale at the Lafortune info desk; \$35 for transportation to and from the game, does not include game ticket. Departs at 3 p.m.



It's not just football season; check out other sporting events on campus today to support all Irish teams.

Men's Soccer, 2 p.m. @ Alumni Stadium
Women's Volleyball, 2 p.m. @ the Purcell Pavillion at the JACC



Pizza, Pop and Politics: Midterm Elections 2010
6p.m. to 7p.m. in the Geddes Coffee House

Come listen to three Notre Dame experts discuss key issues in the 2010 Midterm elections. Enjoy pizza and pop while adding your own opinion. Sponsored by the Center for Social Concerns and co-sponsored by Multicultural Student Programs and Services.



Esperanza Spalding
Concert at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m.



Sub Movie: Toy Story 3

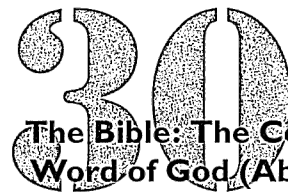
Playing in DeBartolo 101, Thursday the 23rd at 10 p.m., Friday the 24th and Saturday the 25th at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Admission \$3



Midnight: Salsa Night at Legends



CSC Postgraduate Service Fair
JACC Commons, 5 to 8 p.m.
Representatives from over 70 firms will present at this year's postgraduate service fair.



The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged)

Performed by the students of the department of Film, Television and Theatre. DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. Buy tickets on DPAC's website. Performances go through the 10th of October



The Anneberg Auditorium of the Snite Museum, 7:30

p.m.: presentation by Mark Randall and Andrea Pellegrino of WorldStudio about the role of design in affecting social change.



Best of Acousticafe at Legends, 10 p.m.

Behind the Scenes:

An Inside Look at Notre Dame's Unvisited Locales

My Fellow Domers,

As many of you know, Scholastic is the best publication ever created by college students. If you are looking for gossip, turn to the Cipper. If you want the inside scoop on athletes, sneak a peek at Irish Eyes On. If you can't remember why you love the Notre Dame bubble, refresh yourself with the news. But for now, you are in the culture section, where Scholastic presents one of its best new series yet.

Welcome to your journey into the unknown at Notre Dame.

Clara Ritger

The Glynn Family Honors Lounge

Aside from receiving the prestigious and coveted title of being an "HP student" (which, to their dismay, does not mean Harry Potter student), those in the honors program are entitled to spend their afternoons in the Honors Lounge. Located on the third floor of O'Shaughnessy Hall, the Honors Lounge is the center of HP life. On any given afternoon you can find students studying hard, making awkward social conversation (what did you expect?) and munching on the free food and coffee. During my stay, I overheard students comparing credit hours ("I have 19." "Oh yeah? Well I have 20."), debating the Brian Kelly "K" symbol ("Why isn't it the sign language one?" "Well, could you expect the cheerleaders to be able to do anything more complex?") and mulling over the best language to use with a police officer when caught drinking ("Refuse the breathalyzer." "I would use the fourth amendment and question probable cause."). Putting my intimidation aside, I asked an honors student if the large flat screen TV was often used for academic purposes. Shockingly, they're not as nerdy as they seem. They showed me the simulated fireplace, waterfall and fish tank which they put on the screen to create a cozy, welcoming atmosphere. And for all you curious Domers, there is an eel in the fish tank.

The Boat House

Not many visitors make their way out to the Boat House on St. Joseph's Lake. Home to the Sailing Club, the Boat House holds 13 boats, summer canoes and kayaks year round. According to senior Commodore Jessica Hedrich, "We're really the only ones who use the boat house. It doesn't get much traffic, aside from the summer beach access lifeguard." The Sailing Club members turned the boat house into a home, with the retro-inspired, purple LaFortune lounge chairs surrounding their meeting room. They also have a piano, a stereo system and other items the university has left for "safe-keeping." "We don't really know where the game day signs came from," Hedrich says, "but we also have a fridge whose origins are unknown, so that's OK, too."

The original boat house at the east end of St. Joseph's Lake was built in 1888. Initially, the building was used for both pleasure and racing boats, with facilities for crews to train and study during the winter months. "The water from the lake cools the power plant, so it never freezes, making it ideal for winter practices," Hedrich says.

Today, the boat house contains team photos and trophies that date back to the 1950s. George Ripley, class of 1965, recalled that the boat house had been boarded up when he was in school. "I came back with my family in the '90s for seminars, and we would swim after class," Ripley says. "It was great to see how it has changed over the years."

The Clean Room

The new facilities in the Stinson-Remick engineering building are the envy of other college campuses. The clean room allows nanofabrication research to occur in contaminant-free zones, which is crucial to the development of nano- and micro-electronic materials and devices. According to lab assistant Michael Thomas, "The facilities are mainly used by electrical engineers, but in recent years I've seen an influx of researchers from a number of other fields — physics, chemistry, medical, mechanical — simply because in today's world, everything we do is in a micro size."

Before I could get into the clean room, I had to stop in a staging area and suit up. Basically, I put on an astronaut-like suit so that the cotton in my clothes and the particles in my hair and on my shoes would not contaminate the air in the room. Thomas explained that "the facility is controlled by a complex air purifying system, which ensures that only a certain number of particles are allowed in each room." The clean room facility at Stinson-Remick has three different areas, each designed to only allow 10,000, 1,000 and 100.5 micron particles per cubic foot in the air. The smaller the device a researcher is working with, the higher chance of a large particle contaminating it and causing it to malfunction.

I toured the three rooms and saw some of the experiments that students conduct. I lifted the floor boards and crawled under the pipe systems which support the liquid nitrogen used to cool samples in the facility. Outside to the north end of the building, there are nitrogen tank pipes crystallized from the release of the gas. I then de-suited and re-suited upstairs to look at the air duct system. To save space, the air filtration system is housed above the room.

Interested in finding out more? The windows on the first and second floors of the Stinson-Remick building allow visitors to peek inside, so if you're still curious, take a look.

Chris Milazzo

Reading or watching the news can be a test of endurance for college students, particularly seniors. Reports of high unemployment and a shrinking economy dominate headlines, striking fear into many students hopeful for meaningful employment after graduation. Even at Notre Dame, where "success" in the workplace after graduation is often assumed, students are nervous about their employment prospects. Is there any hope for this year's graduating class? Examining the class of 2009's experience with the job market can indicate this year's prospects.

According to the United States Department of Labor, almost 10 percent of men and almost eight percent of women over age 20 were unemployed in 2009. As of August 2010, the numbers have slightly improved. If the class of 2009's experiences are any indication, however, then Notre Dame seniors have cause for cautious optimism. The annual survey of graduating seniors compiled by Notre Dame's Career Center reveals that 44 percent found full-time employment, while only four percent continue to seek it. The rest of the class was split between graduate school, volunteer work, military service and other plans.

Although most students who sought employment did find it, the job search was strenuous. "[A job] was absolutely hard to come by ... I felt the job market was extremely competitive when I was — and am — applying for jobs," Andrew Edwards, a class of 2009 journalism minor, says. Hogan Miller, a fellow alumnus, agrees, but says a Notre Dame degree can certainly help one's chances. "Hundreds of people applied for entry level positions where I will be working. When an employer saw Notre Dame on my resume, it was an instant discussion point and set things off on the right foot."

Will Work For Anyone

The Class of 2009's job search and the future of the job market

Even with a degree from Notre Dame, finding a job can be a lengthy and difficult process, Career Center director Lee Svete says. "We found it took graduating students more time to find opportunities than in previous years ... It is much longer of a process," he says. Svete describes 2009 and 2010 as "the most difficult job market in the history of college recruiting." Employers — with few job openings — were more critical of students' resumes than ever. For example, Svete says that GPA was particularly important in employers' decisions. "Notre Dame, top school in the country, GPA is not usually a big issue with the job market but this time it was. If you're under 3.0 it took a lot longer than if you're over 3.0."

In order to alleviate these pains, Svete encourages students to gain professional experience as early as possible. "More students who take advantage of early professional opportunities in the summer months are more successful than those that do not," he says. He recommends finding internships, even if they are unpaid. To assist students with their internship search and the financial burden they can incur, the Career Center offers a number of funded internships through its Global Internship Initiative (GII). "We put a lot of time into our internship program ... even if it's unpaid. We realize that it's a financial burden so that's why we created the GII. We offer to pay for \$300,000 worth of internship support for students," he says.

Regarding this year's job market, Svete says he sees a glimmer of hope. "[The university's] up 20 percent in recruiting ... We're seeing more employers ... and more have job opportunities than they had last year." For students, this is certainly welcome news.

Michael & Michael



Without Issues:



Michael Ian Black and Mike Birbiglia in brief

By Chris Milazzo

One might not expect geniuses to be dressed so modestly. They appeared unassuming in Notre Dame sweatshirts and jeans. They could have been mistaken for students, but these were not just any student look-a-likes: These men were the comedic geniuses Michael Ian Black and Mike Birbiglia.

On Sept. 3, they performed for hundreds of students on a windy night on South Quad. Before performing, they sat down with *NDtv*, *The Observer* and *Scholastic* for a joint interview.

Michael Ian Black

"I'm to be referred to as 'Mr. Black,'" Michael Ian Black says. This statement encapsulates his comedic persona: a sardonic, self-centered, sarcastic comedian who is beloved by fans. "Well, the lovable part certainly generated from within; the self-centered part, that's pure fiction," he says.

Son of a store owner and an executive from New Jersey, Black has built a career on short-lived, yet extremely popular television series that gain a cult following. Black says he feels a tinge of regret about his shows. "I don't so much care about mainstream success as I do about having a lot of money, and ... generally one follows the other. So I care about the

mainstream success inasmuch as I don't have a lot of money."

After leaving New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Black joined the comedy group *The State*, which later evolved into a successful show by the same name on MTV in the late '90s. From there, he has made appearances on several different comedy shows, most famously the *I Love the ...* series on VH1. Recently, he was the co-star of Comedy Central's *Michael and Michael Have Issues* with fellow comedian Michael Showalter; the show, however, was canceled after seven episodes. He has also written and directed several comedy shows and movies, and written a children's book entitled "Chicken Cheeks."

As for future plans, Black is keeping his goals reasonable: "I'm hoping for things that just have six or seven episodes."

Mike Birbiglia

The foil to Black's sardonic humor, Mike Birbiglia approaches comedy with a lighthearted earnestness that is difficult to resist. Birbiglia describes himself as a "storytelling comedian": "I'm pretty sure — I'm almost positive I'm a comedian. And I kinda evolved into being a storyteller because I was actually doing a lot of the college shows where I was doing an hour ... of material, and what I found is that if you're doing that much

stand up comedy, if it doesn't have some kind of ... build to it ... it can be directionless."

Deemed the "Funniest Man on Campus" at his alma mater, Georgetown University, Birbiglia spent his early career performing at improvisational comedy shows, which drew the attention of comedy greats such as David Letterman. His album, "My Secret Public Journal Live," was named one of the best comedy albums of the decade by *The Onion*. In addition to his stand up, Birbiglia has a successful movie and theatre career. His off-Broadway show, "Sleepwalk With Me," was critically lauded, and, most recently, he made an appearance as "Toby the Waiter" in the comedy "Going the Distance." "I've waited a lot of tables before, so it was very similar to my life," he says.

Despite their different approaches to comedy, the two comedians were happy to assist each other in their show preparations. "I stretch. That's what I do: a lot, a lot of stretching. So before we came down here to do this interview ... I brought my yoga mat, and I was just doing downward dogs for 40 minutes before this," Black says. "And I just stretch Michael," Birbiglia says. **9**

Campus Chatter

DEPARTMENT OF FORCED INTERACTION

I should have known from the sparkle in my RA's eye that Domerfest was going to exceed my expectations. As I questioned her about the event, she just smiled sweetly and said, "Don't worry about it; it's going to be fun!" Approaching the Stepan Center, I could see inflatables and volleyball courts filled with freshmen decked out in their Frosh-O gear. But it wasn't until I passed through the door that I fully understood what my RA meant by "fun."

Music. Loud, thumping, bumping, roaring music, worshipped by fist-pumping, butt-grinding freshmen eager to get their legacy at Notre Dame started with a bang. They were sweating and screaming under the swirling lights, high from sensory overload. My dormmates and I grabbed hands and started to shove our way to the center. I'm not sure which body parts I touched, or whether I was covered in sweat or saliva. I caught only momentary glances of faces, some giddy, some grimacing, all shouting. Everyone was closed off in his or her own world of sensual chaos, but the room jumped as one, sang as one. As my classmates jostled me away from my friends, my mind raced, at a loss as to what kind of fun I was supposed to be having while a Zahm freshman repeatedly jabbed me with his elbow.

I awkwardly picked my way out of the masses and stepped out of the curtain of steam and sweat. The night air felt glorious, but I was not a fan of the lonely, left-out sensation that soon followed. I did that little trick you do when you're embarrassed to be seen alone, the one where you walk around like you have some kind of purpose, all the while desperately searching for a familiar friendly face.

That's when I saw him. No, he was not the tall, dark, handsome prince come to save me from the throes of awkward college dances. It was an acquaintance, Brian, whom I had met once over the summer back in Massachusetts. Instead of a shining suit of armor, he sported the Knott Hall trademark neon-orange t-shirt and hunting hat. Salvation. I gravitated toward his peripheral vision, and then pulled the oh-no-way-I-totally-didn't-see-you-there hello. I was even more surprised when he greeted me with equal relief. Evidently grinding with strangers wasn't his cup of tea, either.

We started off with the usual, "Hey, how are you? How was move in? Do you like your roommate?" conversation. When all those pre-packaged options were exhausted, I sighed and said, "This is awkward." His eyes lit up and he let out an uproarious, "YES!" My hopes soared. "Do you want to just sit down?" I nodded wearily.

We sat on the edge of a volleyball pit, relieved of the burden of being alone and of participating in the dance. I noticed that his blank orange shirt had a few numbers scrawled on the back. "What's that all about, trying to prove who can get the most girls? Because you're totally losing." His face went blank. "Um, yeah, it actually is." Before I could stuff my foot in my mouth, he, gentleman that he was, chuckled, "No, it's fine, I think girls would be creeped out by some guy randomly approaching them and asking for their number. I don't care if I don't win." Now I was both a moron and an insensitive jerk

compared to chivalrous Sir Brian. I had to do something. I threw out a suggestion nonchalantly, "You know, I could help you talk to some girls from my dorm. I mean, whatever..." expecting this offer to help smooth over my bad first impression. I did not, however, expect another resounding, "YES!" in response.

Soon, I was Brian's wingman, lassoing in girls. I would introduce myself, nonchalantly pointing out Brian, and say something witty about him. Then he would do the rest. He had those numbers in less than a minute. Soon his shirt was covered in sprawling, black-Sharpie numbers, even some with little hearts around them. We laughed as we counted how many he had "scored" and soon Domerfest had flown by.

Strolling down the sidewalk back to PE, the silence wasn't awkward, but welcome. Before we said goodnight, Brian and I had agreed that we had "beat the system" and that we had way more fun than any of the people on the dance floor. As I heard my roomies regale me with their horror stories of grabbing, grinding and hooking up, I just smiled to myself. I may have missed out on what was supposed to be the "fun" part of Domerfest, but finding a way to fight the awkwardness and make a friend seemed like the best night of all. 9

- Meghan Thomassen

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

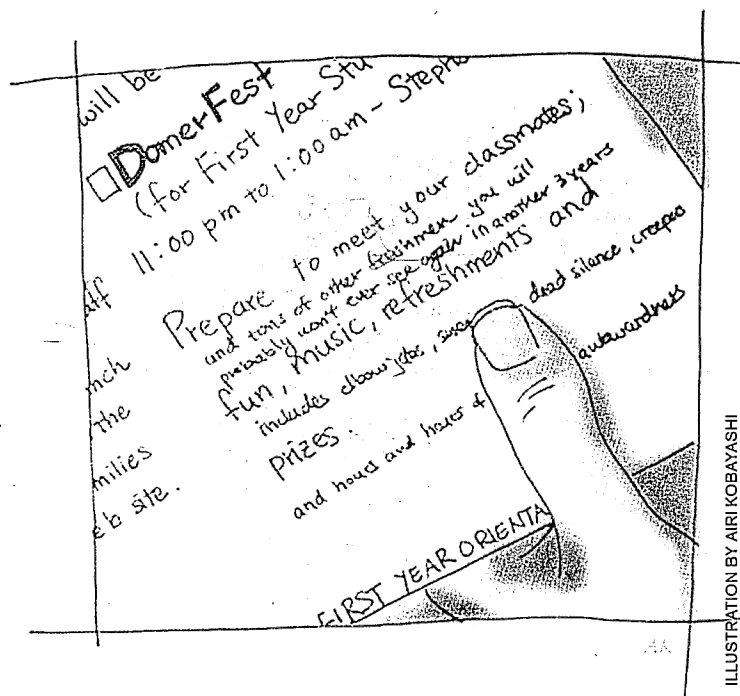
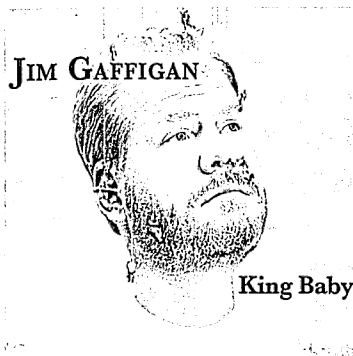


ILLUSTRATION BY AIRI KOBAYASHI

REVIEWS AND PREVIEWS

Shelley Kim

Jim Gaffigan - King Baby



After minor appearances in "The Love Guru" and HBO's *Flight of the Conchords*, Jim Gaffigan became a prominent figure in comedy with his most recent stand-up release, "King Baby." Prevalent themes include laziness, food and overall gluttony; anyone who has ever slept in an armchair because climbing the lofted bunk was too much effort will

find him- or herself laughing immediately.

Although his jokes deprecate his middle-aged habits of sloth, any listener will empathize with the "evil" discomfort of futons, the glory of the snooze button and his three-minute-and-15-second track on the supremacy of escalators to stairs. Although potentially offensive, "King Baby" succeeds in producing laughs and fresh material.

Whitney Cummings - Emotional Ninja



With track names like "Role Play," "Prostitutes" and "Gynecologists," subtlety is not Whitney Cummings' aim in "Emotional Ninja." I often found my mouth open in shock rather than in genuine laughter. Although her commentary on female habits is amusing, her humor often relies on

boldness and vulgarity rather than clever presentation.

One of the biggest problems I have with this album is discerning the jokes themselves. The muddy microphone reception is worsened by Cummings' lack of vocal intonation. Audience response is loud and blaring, yet the listener cannot join them in the entertainment. Due to her predictable delivery and questionable sound quality, this considerably short album is difficult to finish.

Madeline Stone

Mitch Hedberg - Do You Believe in Gosh?

If you have ever seriously considered the advantages of a screen door or wondered what a ride in a cold-air balloon would be like, Mitch Hedberg's comedic antics in "Do You Believe in Gosh?" are right up your alley. Hedberg's jokes are musings that we have probably all wondered about but are too strange to say out loud. Is a hippopotamus anything other than a really cool opotamus? Isn't a burrito really a sleeping bag for ground beef? Recorded only two months before his death from a drug overdose, this third and final album by the late comic does not fail to provide the random thoughts for which he is known and loved.

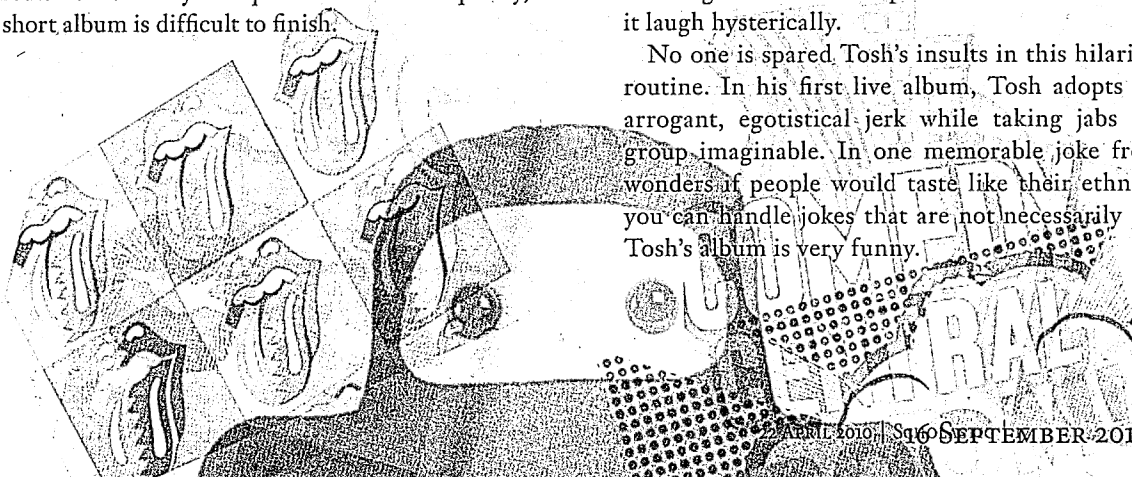
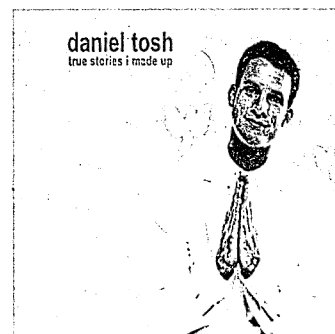
Part of what makes "Do You Believe in Gosh?" so hysterical is Hedberg's signature abrupt delivery. He matter-of-factly blurts out a series of irrelevant thoughts and jumps from topic to topic, discussing everything from the racing careers of seahorses to the life of the headless horseman. Although bizarre at times, Hedberg's collection of unrelated one-liners creates one hilarious album.



Daniel Tosh - True Stories I Made Up

Although he is best known for his pop-culture critiques on his Comedy Central show, *Tosh.0*, Daniel Tosh also happens to be quite a storyteller. As the title suggests, "True Stories I Made Up" is, in part, a collection of fake autobiographical accounts. Tosh leads the audience into believing some ludicrous story about his life only to turn it on its head a few seconds later. The effect creates a highly entertaining and original set that keeps the audience on its toes while making it laugh hysterically.

No one is spared Tosh's insults in this hilarious and irreverent routine. In his first live album, Tosh adopts the persona of an arrogant, egotistical jerk while taking jabs at every minority group imaginable. In one memorable joke from the album, he wonders if people would taste like their ethnic backgrounds. If you can handle jokes that are not necessarily politically correct, Tosh's album is very funny.





The Real Fightin' Irish



Josh Flynt

God. Country. Notre Dame. From participating in dorm Masses to teaching in under-resourced schools to cheering for the blue and gold on football Saturdays, Notre Dame students pride themselves on their commitment to the unofficial mantra of Our Lady's university. The second of three foundational values, a commitment to country, is embodied by the work of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). For students called to serve their country, ROTC provides an opportunity to earn a college degree while developing leadership skills, problem solving strategies and military tactics on the way to becoming commissioned military officers.

Into Formation: the History of ROTC at Notre Dame

The ROTC program at Notre Dame dates back to World War II, a time in which many college-aged students were tapped to serve in the armed forces. As student enrollment dropped, universities, including Notre Dame, struggled to sustain operations. Prior to that time period, during the days of Knute Rockne, Army, Navy and Notre Dame were among the elite football programs in the country.

With a well-established relationship between the university and the service academies, Navy proposed an officer-commissioning program. Under the proposal, students came to Notre Dame for a few months for their initial officer training. In 1941, the Naval ROTC program was founded with full-time Notre Dame students. "At any one time, upwards of 80 percent of the student body at Notre Dame was wearing Naval uniforms, and only a small core of these were ROTC students," Commanding Officer of the Naval ROTC Unit Capt. Dale M. Nees says.

In 1947, after its inception as a separate branch of the military, the U.S. Air Force established an ROTC program at Notre Dame. Shortly thereafter, the Army ROTC battalion became the newest addition to the university's officer-commissioning program in 1951.

During the Vietnam War era, Notre Dame was not exempted from the protests and outrage that swept the nation. Coupled with the anti-war sentiments of

ADRIAN LOPEZ/MEDINA

the generation, some also spoke out against the idea of ROTC at a Catholic institution. Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., the university's president from 1952 until 1987 and a strong supporter of the U.S. Armed Forces, however, defended ROTC when many other universities disbanded their programs. "He thought that if ROTC officers were going to be the leaders of men and women and, in combat, we should want them to do that in an ethical manner, and we should want them here at Notre Dame," Nees says.

Today, the Naval program, which includes Marine Corps students, is the largest unit at the university, with over 130 aspiring officers in the battalion from Notre Dame and St. Mary's College. Currently, 21 of these students are Marine Options, while the rest are on the Navy track. Thirty-three members of the class of 2011 are projected for commissioning next May, including 28 Navy and five Marine Corps students.

The Army ROTC program is a consortium, known as the Fightin' Irish Battalion. It includes students from Valparaiso University, Indiana University-South Bend, Bethel College, St. Mary's College and Holy Cross College. There are approximately 90 students in the program, including 52 from Notre Dame. Next May, 19 cadets will become commissioned Army officers.

Like the Army unit, Air Force ROTC Detachment 225 includes students from

several institutions. The Air Force program has 106 students, 17 of whom will become officers at the end of the academic year.

Joining the Fight

Getting involved with ROTC often begins in high school. Like the college admissions pool, students come from a vast array of backgrounds and experiences; they have a variety of reasons for their involvement in ROTC and dedication to military service. Seniors Alex Barbuto and Eric Leis, Army and Navy ROTC, respectively, come from military families. "My father was an Army officer for 23 years and two of my brothers were involved in ROTC," Barbuto says. "It's always something that's been in the back of my head. I knew that I was planning to do service [for] the country."

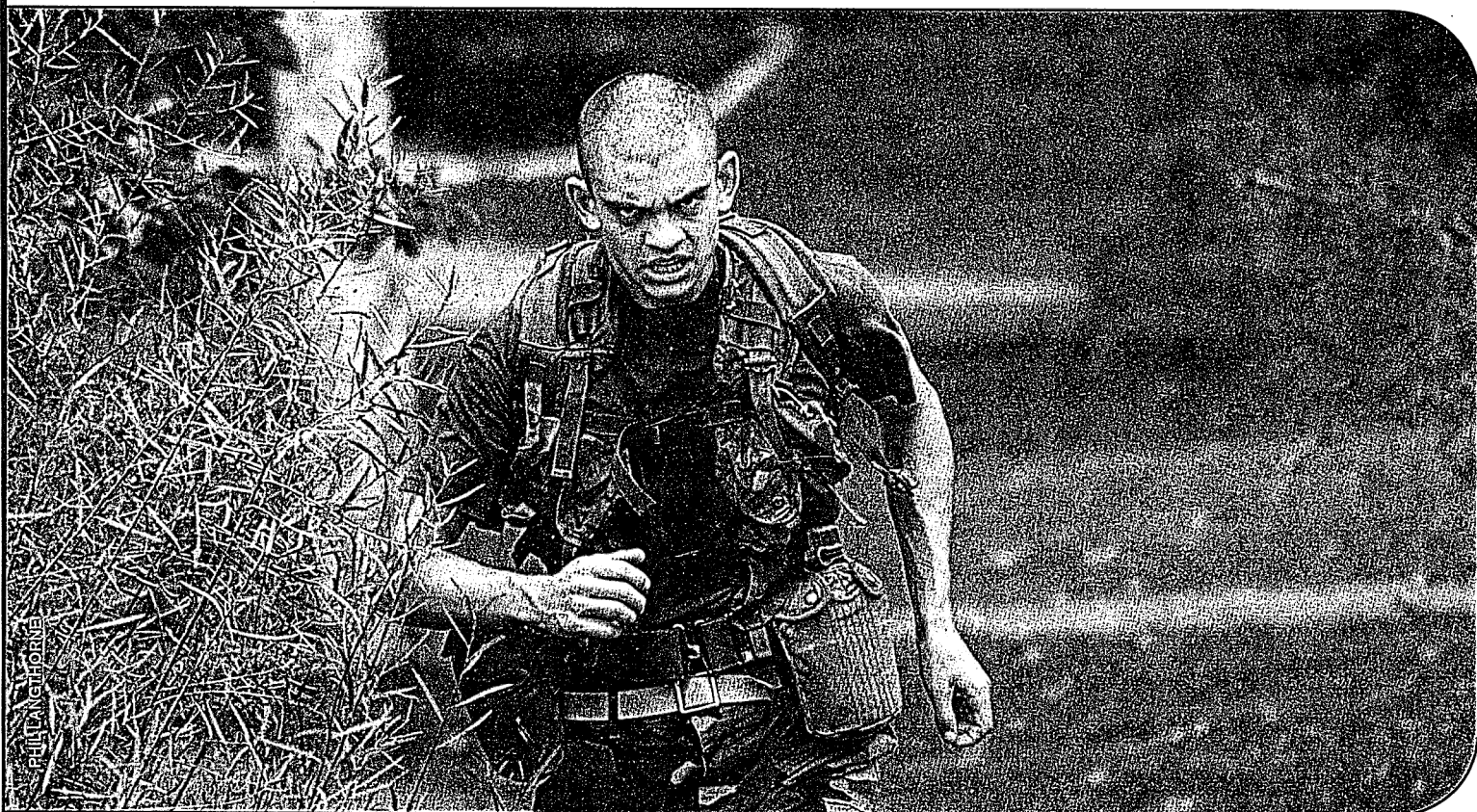
Leis remembers hearing Navy stories from his grandfather, uncles and cousins. As a high school senior, he considered filling out and returning a pamphlet the Army sent to him until his uncle convinced him otherwise. "He sat me down and spoke to me about how I was from a Navy family, and made me realize how Navy was the way I should go," he recalls.

Senior midshipman Nicholas Geraci became interested in the military as a seventh grader. "I did a report on Neil Armstrong and learned he was an Air Force test pilot before he was an astronaut, and I thought that was

the coolest thing in the world," he says. "I also was always interested in NASA, so I thought military was the best way." As he learned more about each of the branches, Geraci ultimately chose the Navy because it focuses on more than flight.

Some students wait to get involved with ROTC until after they have arrived on campus. Senior Air Force student Teresa Henisey had thought about the military before college, but it was not until she saw the other students in uniform and learned more about the program that she decided to join. "I didn't tell my parents until I had totally decided, so it came as a bit of a shock to them ... but they were very supportive," she says.

Those who apply for ROTC go through a rigorous scholarship application process. Vice President and Associate Provost Dennis Jacobs, who oversees ROTC at Notre Dame, says that students indicate a list of schools that they would like to attend and apply for the ROTC scholarships through the respective branches in Washington, D.C., not at the universities. When students receive word about whether or not they have been awarded a scholarship, they also receive a list of institutions where they are authorized to use it. "If, in the end, they get into a school that is not on the list, they may have to negotiate," he says. Balancing the number of cadets and midshipmen in ROTC programs throughout the country is essential to ensure that the U.S.



Armed Forces will have qualified leaders with a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences and expertise.

"Having said that, every indication is that Notre Dame is being held high as one of the top ROTC programs in the country," Jacobs says. Notre Dame's high graduation rate and reputation as one of the premier undergraduate institutions in the country have also helped the program. "Although there's a cost to attend Notre Dame, in many cases, it's well worth it for ROTC to pay that premium because the product of a commissioned officer out of Notre Dame is that valuable."

ROTC Responsibilities: More Than Just PT

A Commanding Officer (CO) who manages funds, uniform requirements and phone contracts and upholds each branch's policies and regulations, leads each ROTC unit. Nees, Lt. Col. Randy Crist and Col. Andrew Cernicky, are also the professors of Naval, Army and Air Science, respectively. As professors, their relationship with the university is similar to that of other faculty members: They teach courses, join committees such as Academic Council and Faculty Senate, and report to Jacobs.

For many students, the responsibilities and commitments of ROTC cadets and midshipmen remain a mystery. "When I tell people I'm in ROTC, they'll say, 'Oh wow, I could never do that,'" Henisey says. "I think they have this Hollywood-inspired idea that we are constantly in intense battle mode."

To some, ROTC students are those in sweat-drenched workout clothes eating breakfast together at 0700 (7 a.m.), but preparing to be an officer in the U.S. Armed Forces involves more than waking up early for physical training, or PT. "Obviously, we do have that a couple times per week, but there's a lot more to it. We actually do have a class time period. It's graded. We have homework. We have readings. We have essays," Barbuto says. ROTC students typically take one class per semester specifically devoted to their military training.

In addition, there is a weekly lab that involves more hands-on learning. Barbuto and his fellow senior cadets are responsible for planning and teaching the lab training, which presents students with an array of applicable lessons. "This week, we focused on radios and how to use them in combat," he says. Students learn procedures for giving reports



about the enemy as well as calling medics to treat wounded soldiers. Other lab exercises involve battle drills with squad- and platoon-sized units (approximately 10-25 cadets) led through tactical training such as setting an ambush or knocking out a bunker.

“We do a lot of PT because when you’re a leader, and in any branch of the service for that matter, your physical appearance is the first thing that your enlisted men and women are going to see.”

—NICK GERACI, SENIOR MIDSHIPMAN

In Army ROTC, the PT test consists of pushups, sit-ups and a two-mile run. Barbuto says, however, that the one-hour PT sessions involve a variety of physical activities, which include sprints while carrying each other, squat thrusts and many variations of pushups. "By the end of it, you have pretty much been going the entire time. There aren't many breaks. It's pretty much a smoke session," he says.

To prepare for the bi-annual Physical Readiness Test (PRT) conducted by the Navy, midshipmen do a similar variety of

exercises during a high-intensity workout. This year, Navy students do PT twice per week, while the Marine Options work out four times each week. Ultimately, passing the PRT is not considered the difficult part of ROTC, but to do their best, students must push themselves and maintain top physical fitness. Passing the test, however, is not the only reason for the PT sessions. "We do a lot of PT because when you're a leader, and in any branch of the service for that matter, your physical appearance is the first thing that your enlisted men and women are going to see," Geraci says.

"If you show up to a command and you have 20 people under you, and you look sloppy or out of shape, right away you've lost half their confidence and trust in you. They're going to think, 'Who's this guy? He's my leader? In a time of crisis I'm going to look to him for all the answers and he can't even keep himself fit physically?' You have to keep all that in mind when you do PT."

Henisey has had a similar experience in the Air Force program, where she and her fellow cadets prepare for a test which includes a 1.5-mile run, one minute of pushups and one minute of sit-ups each semester. To keep things interesting, they have also incorporated other games, races and exercises. "We have secondary PT sessions throughout the week. I lead a swimming one and have coordinated a few water polo games," she says.

Community in ROTC

Through spending time together in early morning PT sessions, labs and course work, a strong sense of community develops in each branch of the ROTC program. "In previous years, I would say I'm probably closer to folks in ROTC than even my own roommate," Barbuto says. "You party together, you train together and you study together. A lot of the guys have a house off campus together. We have a lot in common inherently based on the commitments we are willing to make."

"It's not like your typical class where you can work hard by yourself to earn a grade. It's so much more like a team," Henisey says.

"I've been [a Naval officer] for 31 years," Nees says. "I love it. I love it because of the people. There are no other leadership opportunities like that. Getting out there with men and women on the deck plates operating some of the most sophisticated equipment, going around doing humanitarian work and doing things to make this world a better, safer place, with a great team, much like a football team pulling together to win a game."

"When you're the Commanding Officer, it's like being the head coach. These guys are going to walk out there on day one and they're going to be assistant coaches," Nees says. "We give them the basic skill set to get them ready, coupled with what they're getting from Notre Dame: the academic and extracurricular challenges, as well as the moral development."



While some ROTC students are in the marching band, student government or on athletic teams, ROTC offers extracurricular opportunities, as well. Recently, the Trident Naval Society, a service organization, hosted its annual 24-hour run to raise money for the South Bend Special Olympics. Other activities include color guard, rifle team, and ushering for pep rallies, basketball and hockey games.

Training for the Future

While many seniors scramble to finalize their post-graduate plans in the tough economy, ROTC students have the security of knowing they have future employment. Not all senior cadets and midshipmen, however, will begin their military duties following graduation. Some students, such as Barbuto, who would like to become an army surgeon, are planning to continue their education. "ROTC is definitely something I can put on my [medical school] applications to make me a little more marketable, a little more

unique," he says. "It's certainly experience of leadership you can't necessarily teach in the classroom."

In addition to the specialized skills and training that Barbuto will develop in medical school, ROTC students are exposed to practical knowledge during their summer programs. Following their freshman year, Naval ROTC midshipmen attend Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID) where they spend a week with each of the four service options—surface warfare, submarines, aviation and Marines. Following their sophomore and junior years, students have an opportunity to do more specific learning related to their areas of interest. Geraci went on a two-and-a-half

 Everything we stand for, from human rights to freedom to liberty, it doesn't come cheap. It puts a bull's eye on your chest for the radicals that feel contrary to that way of life. 

—CAPTAIN DALE NEES,
NAVAL ROTC COMMANDING OFFICER

week submarine cruise from Washington to Alaska to Hawaii, where he learned about the weapons systems of a fast-attack submarine.

As Air Force students, Henisey and her fellow cadets participate in Field Training following their sophomore year. She describes it as similar to boot camp, with plenty of yelling and pushups, while living in a mock deployed bunker environment.

Like the Navy midshipmen, those enrolled as Marine Options attend CORTRAMID following their freshman year, but they participate in two to three weeks of mountain warfare training in Bridgeport, California prior to their junior year. Before their senior years, Marine Options attend Officer Candidate School (OCS). "This is where the rubber meets the road," Marine Officer Instructor Major David Hart says. OCS is essentially boot camp, where Marine Options will be screened and evaluated to see if they possess the leadership potential to serve as officers. "Students who pass OCS retain their scholarship for their senior year, and upon commissioning, go to The Basic School (TBS), where they are versed in doctrine, tactics and other training," he says.

Army ROTC students may also participate in a variety of training programs during the summer, including airborne school, air assault school, mountain warfare and northern warfare. The curriculum may involve anything from jumping out of airplanes to training in Alaska. Following junior year, most Army students participate in the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), what Barbuto calls the "Super Bowl of ROTC."

The LDAC is a 29-day program at Fort Lewis, Washington, where cadets from across the country gather to be assessed on leadership abilities, tactics and the skills they have learned throughout their ROTC careers. The program plays an important role in determining what students will be allowed to do in the Army. Cadets are ranked against their peers nationwide, based upon their performance during the LDAC and throughout their ROTC careers, and their placement in the Army is largely dependent upon these rankings. "Based on that ranking, you can make your preferences for what you want to do in the Army. There are obviously a certain number of slots for each job and, if you are towards the bottom of the list, you might not be able to get your choice of duty," Barbuto says.

These summer programs are essential in providing students with more information on each of the different service opportunities they may have after commissioning. "While our friends who want to be doctors get an internship in a hospital, or people who want to be bankers go to New York and work on Wall Street, our summers are spent with the operational fleet because that's our internship," Geraci says.

The Real World

Following graduation and commissioning, ROTC students will have a variety of responsibilities, depending on their branch and specialty. In the Army program, students are typically contracted for eight years, four years of active duty and four years in the inactive reserves, an "on-call" status. Since he plans to attend medical school, Barbuto is prepared to owe approximately 14 years of military service, which will include his time in residency.

In the Navy, commitments may range from four years for surface warfare to 10 years for aviation, which includes up to two years of additional schooling. Likewise, the Air Force commitments are generally four years, but vary based on responsibilities and schooling.

Class of 2011

Number of Commissioned officers



28



5



19



17

As many seniors prepare for the rigors of law school or the demands of corporate banking, ROTC students face a different reality of the stresses and dangers that life after Notre Dame may hold. As commissioned officers, Notre Dame ROTC graduates will be called upon as leaders in their respective branches. "It's definitely a little humbling when you know that legally you may be in charge of someone who has years of experience and battlefield wisdom that you just don't have," Barbuto says. "But when you are deployed and leading troops into combat, you're the one making the calls and ultimately responsible for your unit."

Many of these future officers say that they recognize that the learning process has only just begun. "We've gone through a few years of training, but we really don't know all that much about the operational side," Geraci says. "So to show up one day and start demanding these young sailors that are your age, all the way up to chiefs and senior chiefs ... They're all going to be calling you 'Sir.' They're going to salute you and say, 'Good morning, sir.' It is nerve-racking to know that there are very experienced people out there who are going to look to you for answers and to make the right decisions based on the best information available. It's scary, but it's also

really exciting."

As part of his class, Nees brings in senior enlisted sailors to talk to his students. The technical experts have often been in the military for more than a decade. "It's interesting because what they're told is, 'You're to come out here and be my boss. You're not here to be my friend.'"

"The natural tendency is to want to be friends with your sailors or Marines. You might graduate and find a 22-year-old petty officer that you went to high school with, but you have to learn and understand, 'I'm now an officer. I have to be his supervisor and leader.' It's a challenge and a learning experience. You have to get out there and listen," he says.

"Enlisted are trained to be experts in specific technologies and tasks. We're trained to be experts in leadership and people," Leis says. "It's important for us to understand that we need to rely on them."

Lead Like A Champion

Regardless of branch, the young graduates will encounter new and unavoidable challenges and be presented with difficult dilemmas in times of peril, but they say that their Notre Dame education and experiences in one of the country's top ROTC programs will go

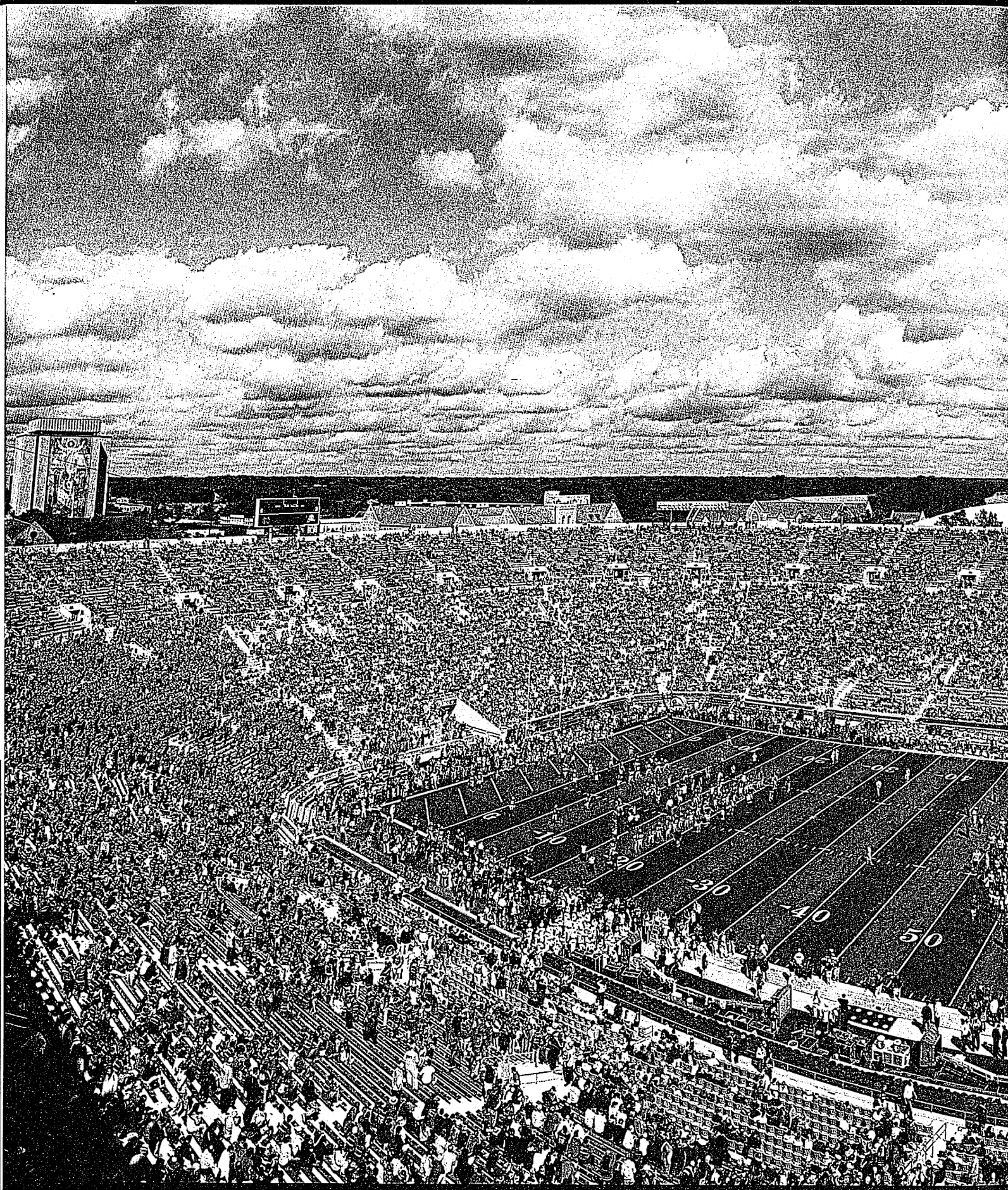
a long way toward preparing them to solve these issues.

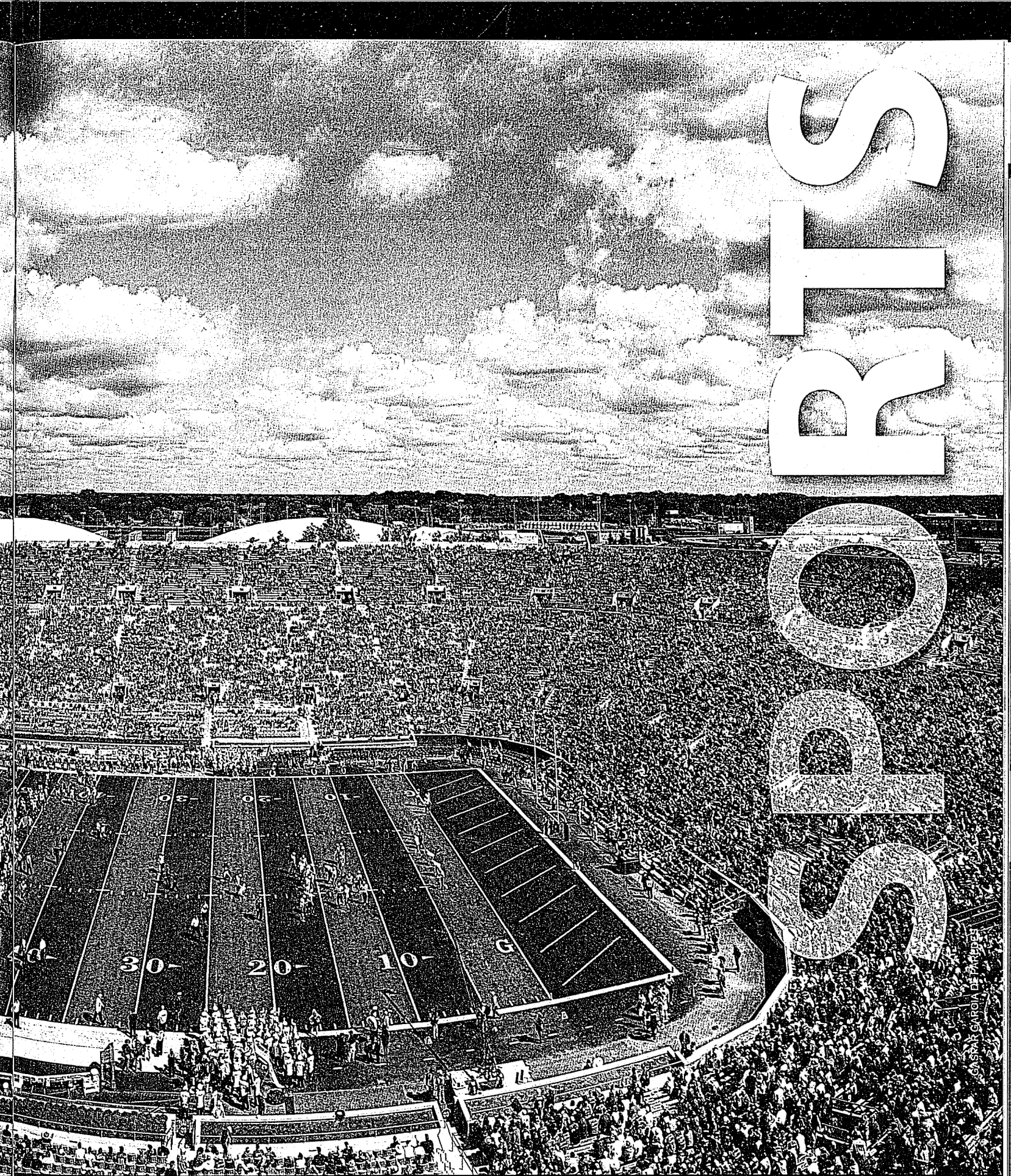
"The university aspires to create leaders. We do that in various ways and capacities. Some students develop as leaders because they're involved in student government or running a student organization," Jacobs says. "Attention here is paid to leadership. Forming individuals with convictions and commitments, who understand how to lead others, understand the responsibility and accountability of leadership, and exhibit characteristics such as valor and courage."

Defending the principles that our nation was founded upon more than 230 years ago has not come without a price. "Everything we stand for, from human rights to freedom to liberty, it doesn't come cheap. It puts a bull's eye on your chest for the radicals that feel contrary to that way of life," Nees says. For him and other ROTC commanding officers at Notre Dame and across the country, working with young people who feel called to stand up for what they believe in is one of the most fulfilling aspects of their work.

"To know that there's a price that comes with that freedom, and that these young men and women are willing to step up and assume that role is very refreshing and very rewarding."

6





the games we play

SPORTS

Irish Eyes On: CHRIS STEWART

Offensive Lineman, Law School Student

Matt Formica

For the past two seasons Chris Stewart has been an integral part of Notre Dame's offensive line, a unit that has improved markedly during that span. This year, the six-foot-five, 350-pound Stewart opted to return for a fifth year in hopes of leading the Irish to an elite bowl game.

Equally as impressive as his football performance, however, is Stewart's academic prowess. The Texas native graduated with a history degree in just three and a half years, finishing with a 3.54 GPA. Stewart is currently continuing his academic pursuits at Notre Dame's law school, making him the only college football player in the nation to take on this unique challenge.

Stewart boasts 24 career starts for the Irish, more than any other offensive player on the roster. Although he's currently focused on the 2010 season and his demanding studies, Stewart hopes to go to the NFL when his college playing days are over. Whether he's flattening his opponents, cranking out 23 pull-ups or hitting the books, Stewart always gives maximum effort. Irish fans can watch Stewart line up at left guard all season long as the quest for an elusive BCS berth continues.

How do you think you have changed as a person since you first arrived at Notre Dame in January '06?

I'm a lot smaller; I'm in shape; I'm the old guy. We've got a totally different team. I've gone from being one of the youngest players to the oldest player. I've matured a lot as an individual and a football player.

What mentality must you have as an offensive lineman knowing that when things are going well you generally won't get noticed?

That's just the position. It always has been. You have to be pretty tough and really smart in today's day and age because of the defenses, and you have to just keep working. Your payoff is touchdowns and scoring, and winning in the end.

Why is strength and conditioning coach Paul Longo's regimen so effective?

I think it's because he has a great system. He's smart and he knows when to push people

hard. He knows how to push you to the edge but at the same time how to give you the rest and nutrition you need. He has one of the best programs I've ever seen as far as making strides in the offseason, and, in season, continuing with those strides.

Describe what you eat on an average day.

I wake up in the morning and normally have a protein shake and an apple or orange. That's around 7 a.m. I eat every two to three hours. I eat fruit and protein throughout the day. Some carbs through fruits or whole wheat pasta. My goal is to eat six to seven times a day because I'm going all day every day from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., so three or four big meals won't cut it.

What do you think of the training table?

I think it's a great addition. It's really good for guys off campus. After practice, we don't have to go and cook food or go get fast food. It's great nutrition. And it's a whole lot easier.

"You have to be pretty tough and really smart... you just have to keep working. The payoff is touchdowns and scoring, and winning in the end."

How does law school compare to your undergraduate experience?

The classes have definitely been harder in the sense that the material you're studying is far more in-depth and far more dense than any undergraduate class. But in the same way, you're preparing for a professional degree whereas undergrad you're just learning about the world around you, especially since I was a history major, not a pre-professional major. In that sense, it's a very real degree; it's a very real study. What you're doing carries a lot of weight.

Why did you choose to attend law school?

The fact that I graduated early and decided to come back for a fifth year. It's been almost two years since I graduated. I'm still on scholarship and to have a chance to get a professional degree, or at least get a start on it — that was a unique opportunity. I knew I wanted to be a lawyer after football's done, so

it's something that I wanted to do.

Which of your law classes has been the most challenging so far?

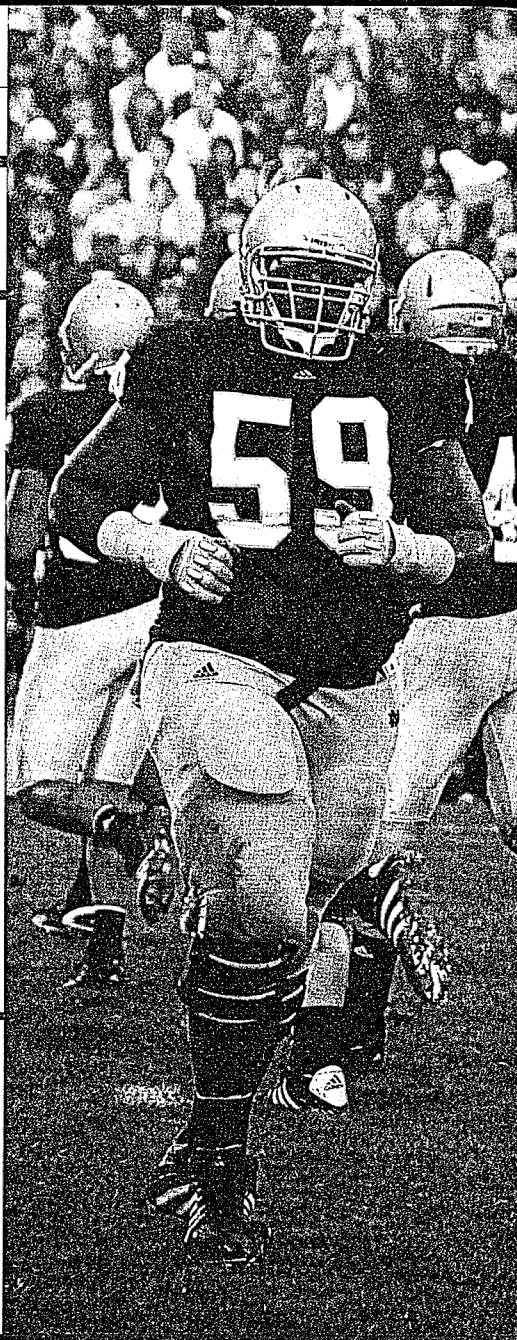
Definitely criminal law with Professor [Robert] Blakey. He's a renowned lawyer; he's done Supreme Court cases; he wrote the RICO statute. That's probably the most intense class I have had so far.

What are your future aspirations?

I definitely want to play football at the next level for however long is possible. You know, 10 years would be nice — that would be a good start. After that, get into the legal field.

How much trash talking goes on in the trenches?

It depends on who you play. Some teams don't talk much. Other times when you get in rivalries like Michigan, Purdue or USC, even, it can get up there a little bit. So, hopefully, there won't be too many mics on the field.



Do you get involved in that trash talking?
No comment. That's the one time I'll say no comment.

What's the best piece of advice you've received lately?

Probably the best piece of advice I've received is from Coach Kelly. Not only just in football but in life, you have to go hard all the time. You can't just decide when to go hard or when to be good. He says all the time, "People who are great champions learn how to be consistent." Consistency is their hallmark, so that's probably one of the best things I've heard.

What are your goals for this team in 2010?

Obviously we want to keep winning game by game and we'll see where we end up at the end of the year. Hopefully, that's with a bunch of wins and going to a very, very, very good bowl game.

Describe Coach Kelly.

Coach Kelly's tough. He has a very good program, a really intense program, a very smart program. The best way to describe him in a few words is he's a tough gentleman, like he always says he wants us to be. On the field, he's intense unlike any other person I've ever seen. Off the field, you can easily sit down and have a conversation with him over dinner.

What is your relationship with Dayne Crist like?

Dayne's one of my good friends. I think Dayne's a little bit too friendly with me, personally. He hugs me a little bit too much. I tell his girlfriend all the time that she needs to put him in check in that regard, but for the most part Dayne's a good guy. He's very intense and very focused on the field, wanting to learn the offense. Off the field, he's really low key and just likes to relax and chill around the house, so he's kind of boring.

Do you have any pregame rituals? Do you get really amped up before the games?




I used to. Now that I've gotten older, I've learned how to channel it the right way. I've learned how to stay grounded the entire time until the whistle blows for the first play, because there's no sense in wasting so much energy that you're going to need for the next three to four hours. So I used to get very, very intense, but now I just wait for that intensity on the field.

"Not only just in football but in life, you have to go hard all the time. You can't just decide when to go hard or when to be good."



Survey Says...

Brian Kaneb

ATHLETES IN THE ISSUE	TOP PLAYED SONG ON iPod	BRIAN KELLY IS...	INCEPTION WAS...	FAVORITE DINING HALL FOOD	YOU CAN'T GET ME TO STOP WATCHING...	PASSION NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT
 Brendan KING Soccer	"Bed Intruder"	The new Notre Dame football coach?	Mind-blowing. Amazing.	Apple slices that never turn brown. I don't see how it's possible.	The WPS on Fox Soccer Channel	My roommate and I like to get a good beatbox session in before we go to sleep.
 Andrea McHUGH Volleyball	"Club Can't Handle Me Right Now" by Flo Rida	Our new football coach!	Mind-blowing.	Fro-yo, and apples and bananas with peanut butter.	<i>Pretty Little Liars</i>	My love for African dancing.
 Kellie SCIACCA Volleyball	"Right Above It" by Lil Wayne and Drake	Going to lead ND back to glory.	Amazing.	Frozen yogurt with a banana.	<i>Jersey Shore</i>	Baking everything from scratch.

Time Travel

Calie Mohamed

September 16, 1989

Perhaps one of the most memorable Irish victories occurred 21 years ago when the No. 1 ranked Fighting Irish football team invaded Ann Arbor, Michigan to take on the No. 2 ranked University of Michigan Wolverines. This game marked the 25th time in history that the No. 1 and No. 2 ranked teams met during the regular season. Under Coach Lou Holtz, the Irish achieved an exciting 24-19 victory over the Wolverines. Leading the Irish was sophomore Raghib Ismail, better known as "The Rocket," who broke Michigan's 32-year streak of preventing any opponent from scoring on a kick-off return. The Rocket crushed Michigan's record twice in this game. "I said from the first day he walked out [onto the practice field] in shorts that he was something special," Holtz said of the previously underrated Rocket. Wolverine coach Bo Schembechler was so embarrassed by the Rocket's success against his team that he wouldn't acknowledge the Rocket's accomplishments as factors in the loss. "Probably the biggest reason for us getting beat was [that] our offensive line did not do a good job ... their line outquicked us, outplayed us." This monumental victory marked the third consecutive Irish victory over Schembechler's Wolverines. The Irish went on to have an 11-game winning streak that was broken in their last regular season game when they fell to the then-No. 1 ranked team, Miami. Notre Dame ended the season by winning a bowl game against West Virginia, making them the No. 2 college football team in the country. **S**

TOP PERFORMERS

- 1 KYLE RUDOLPH, FOOTBALL**
Rudolph tallied eight catches for 164 yards against Michigan, including a 95-yard touchdown reception that briefly gave the Irish a late lead. The junior tight end has already racked up 207 receiving yards in two games and is averaging 15.9 yards per catch.
- 2 STEVEN PERRY, MEN'S SOCCER**
Perry set a career high as he netted two goals in a win over No. 22 Drake last Friday night. The senior forward was subsequently named Offensive MVP of the 2010 Mike Berticelli Memorial Tournament, which his Irish won with a perfect 2-0 record.
- 3 NIKKI WEISS, WOMEN'S SOCCER**
Weiss was named the Big East Goalkeeper of the Week twice in the first three weeks of the season, as she helped the No. 3/4 Irish improve their record to 5-1. The senior goalkeeper has posted five shutouts in six games and has only conceded a single goal all year.

Eyes on the Irish

Matt Formica

Fans might not be surprised to learn that Notre Dame earned its last national title back in 2005. What may come as a shock, however, is that this championship was not won by the football studs or the soccer stars — it was the fencing team that earned the honor for the university.

Five years may not seem like a long time to endure a national title drought, but with so many of Notre Dame's teams consistently ranked in the upper echelon of their respective sports, it would be a surprise if the Irish did not garner another title soon. The only question is: Which team will be the one to bring the hardware back to Notre Dame?

Since the formation of the NCAA in 1910, Notre Dame teams have won 25 national championships. The football program is responsible for 11 of these titles, with the most recent in 1988 during the Lou Holtz regime. The aforementioned fencers, who are often overshadowed by the football and basketball teams, have contributed an

impressive seven national championships, including two in the past decade.

The women's soccer team, a perennial contender, has won two titles, most recently in 2004. Men's tennis also boasts two national championships, and women's basketball, men's cross country and men's golf have each earned the distinction one time.

So which team will be next to hoist the national championship trophy? Will it be the high-profile football program under the tutelage of Brian Kelly? Might it be the fencers, continuing to fly under the radar, never quite getting the credit they deserve? Or could it be a team that has never won a national title before, such as lacrosse or volleyball?

Although an Irish squad has not won a national championship since '05, there certainly have been close calls. A few months ago, the Notre Dame men's lacrosse team made a surprise run to the NCAA title game, where it was ultimately defeated in overtime by the Duke Blue Devils. While

it fell just short of its goal, advancing to the title match after a 10-6 regular season was an admirable feat. The accomplishment is all the more impressive, as the lacrosse program is a relatively new addition to Irish athletics, established just 30 years ago.

Back in 2008, the women's soccer team carried a perfect 26-0-0 record into the title match of the NCAA Women's College Cup. The Irish, however, were unable to finish the season with a perfect record, as the UNC Tar Heels netted the game-winning goal with under five minutes to play.

Also in 2008, the hockey team stunned top-ranked Michigan in the NCAA Frozen Four semifinals to earn a date with Boston College in the championship game. The Irish lost to the Eagles, 4-1, breaking the hearts of Notre Dame fans across the nation.

Who will win Notre Dame's next national title? If only fans knew ... but it seems the wait is almost over. **S**

2005

The year fencing won the National Championship, Notre Dame's most recent title

Total number of Notre Dame national titles

25

10-6

ND's 2010 lacrosse team record before entering the playoffs

Inaugural year of the NCAA

1910



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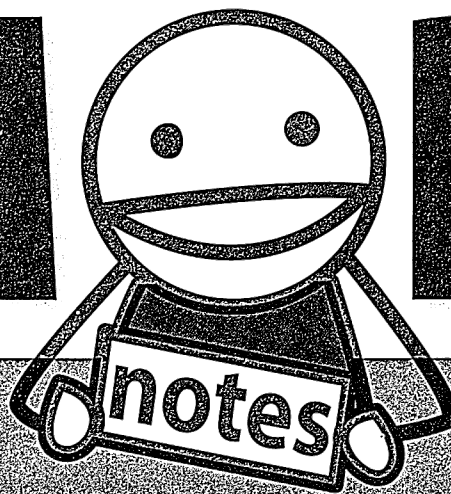
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HUMOR



Listening In...

Student 1, during the Michigan halftime performance: Where do you think they got all of those blonde wigs?

Student 2: I think they shaved the heads of the St. Mary's girls.

Student to alum at Purdue game: Will we see you here next week?

Alum: Do you go to church on Easter?

Student in NDH: I don't know much about General Tso's military exploits, but I do love his chicken.

Back In the Day...

As Notre Dame students, we have all had our own *Rudy* fantasies, but, let's face it, very few of us will ever realize that dream. Some lack the athletic ability, others can't match his work ethic or unwavering commitment, but maybe don't have to.

Only four years after Rudy's triumphant moment of glory, a senior *Scholastic* sports writer in October of 1979 found himself in the middle of a varsity soccer game against Valparaiso. With the Irish up 8-0 before the end of the first half, the admittedly rotund sports fanatic was enjoying the game on the sidelines along with two injured players, one of whom remarked that even the writer could take the field against the farce of a team. What started as a joke evolved into a plan, and, much to the writer's surprise, the coach agreed. After one of the larger players gave him a uniform, he took a few minutes for a quick tutorial and was then sent into the game at center-forward. Not only did he almost score a goal, but he also left the field with the greatest experience any sportswriter could hope for: a firsthand account of playing in a varsity game.

So next time you dream of bursting out of the tunnel in a gold helmet, don't be fooled into thinking it'll be a long and difficult journey to reach that moment. All you need is a pen and paper on the sidelines and a coach confident enough to put you in.

-Thomasina Domel

The friend crush is that person you've always aspired to become best friends with, but have never had the guts to actually make it happen.

This issue's friend crush is junior chemistry and Russian major Mitch Hemann, who describes himself as "incredible, charming, colorblind, stunning and full (of cereal at the moment)." His favorite place on campus is Badin Hall, where his good friend, junior Erin Hallagan, has lived for the past two years. She is, however, studying abroad this semester, which puts Mitch on the market for some new friends. Read on to see if you are his perfect match.



Even if you can't cook, Mitch might be the friend for you, especially if you like cereal for dinner.

"It started off with Frosted Flakes and then moved on to a spoonful of Reese's Puffs — just enough to cleanse the palate. Now I am eating some Lucky Charms and will move onto another spoonful of Reese's Puffs before finishing off with the best — Cracklin' Oat Bran that has been soaking in milk the entire time. Yum."

If you enjoy alone time once in a while and like to take long walks on the beach, Mitch is the perfect pal.

"I was born and raised in a lighthouse in Minnesota and when I grow up I am going to be a lighthouse keeper in Minnesota."

Looking to score extra friend points? Brush up on your Russian.

"I am a member of Chorale and Russian Club. Last night I dreamed in Russian! I consider Tetris a special skill of mine and I'm currently loving Celine Dion. If people really want to learn more about me they should follow me on my Twitter, MrHemann."

When Mitch isn't tending his lighthouse or belting out the lyrics to "My Heart Will Go On," you can find him working at Reckers. Stop by with a bowl of Cheerios to meet your new best friend.

-Courtney Devlin

University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning Students

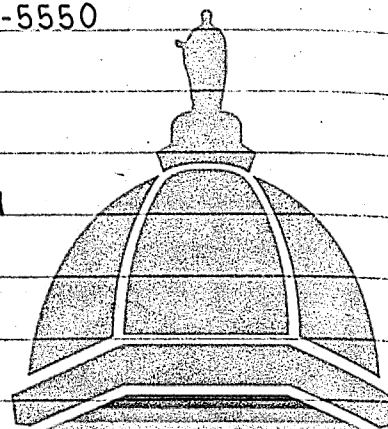
The Core Council for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Questioning Students

Provides information, education, and resources

Contact- Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, dunn.54@nd.edu, 1-5550

or Eddie Velazquez at evelazqu@nd.edu

Visit our web site at corecouncil.nd.edu



CORE COUNCIL
FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL
& QUESTIONING STUDENTS

← additional information

Office of Campus Ministry

Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students and
their friends, pertinent library resources in 304 CoMo,
discussion and support.

Contact: Fr. Joe Carey, at jcarey@nd.edu

University Counseling Center

Individual counseling

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

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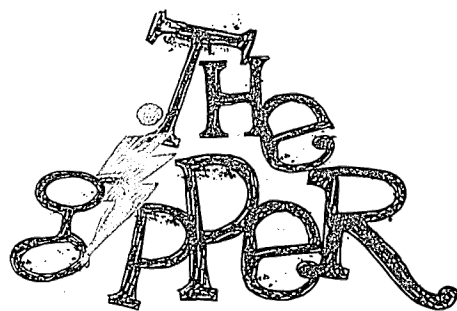
with Andy Corvino,
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and Nathan Corvino
and Steven Adams

with Victoria Williams,
Paula Burt, Chris,
and Thomas Corvino

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And so it begins. Another year of hilarity and humiliation brought to you by the master of mortification, the sultan of scandal, your one and only Gipper! For those of you unfamiliar with me, an introduction is in order. You see, my little Giplings, since the dawn of time, dimwitted Domers have been disproving their alleged intelligence in the most unimaginable ways. Whether waking up in peculiar places or abandoning articles of clothing all across the Bend, you tiny terrors are always leaving a trail of tales for old Gipp to pick up. I am everywhere and anywhere. From the shadows of your dismal dorm parties to the backseat of the excise police car, I see all and, most importantly, report all to the world. Gossip is my lifeblood. Rumors are my fuel. Without your mishaps and mistakes, I would promptly perish. So please, I implore, keep me alive, my shameful little shamrocks! Not sure which dirty laundry you should air first? Read on for some illuminating inspiration.

If Gipp were to have all of his Giplings write an elementary school essay on their summers, what would he get? Undoubtedly, there would be several selfless service projects, interminable internships and quite a few bros icing bros. But what saucy stories skulk beneath the surface? True to form, Gipp has caught wind of a tantalizing tale that comes to us from the campus offseason. After all, there's no statute of limitations for the likes of me, my foolhardy friends! For those daring Domers that decide to endure duLac for an extra three months, scandal and sin are certainly no strangers. Indeed, it often seems the summer heat brings out the most brazen side of my typically tame little tykes!

Our first feature takes place not far from the Dome, at what you crazy kids might refer to as a "rager." On the evening in question, several students found themselves flocking to the hot tub for a

bit of unsanitary, overheated relaxation. The gentleman (if you can call him that) in this saga was taking a break from a long day of arduous athleticism, and found himself on the prowl for a post-practice partner. From across the bubbly brew he locked eyes with a lovely lass and knew that it was fate. Surely this was the damsel of his dreams, the heroine of his heart, his ring by spring, if you will. And if not, she would surely do for the night.

With that sentiment in mind, the jubilant jock sifted through his mental playbook for the perfect plan to score. He eagerly enticed her to return to his locker room lair just down the road, offering up both his full name and address without any particular prompting on her part. Upon her rather rapid refusal, the (now jilted) jock became outraged. Back to the playbook he went, settling on a new strategy. Our persistent player declared a transaction of sorts — personal information for personal obligations. In his enlightened eyes, the exchange of home address surely necessitated some sort of services. Seeing right through his ramshackle reasoning, the little lady again abstained, and tried to change the subject.

Not to be outdone by simple logic, the assiduous athlete perused his playbook one last time, and pulled out all the stops by pulling off his shorts! He knew that there was no denying him and that the lady would be his. Sadly, she was not even slightly swayed, and the two were ne'er to speak again. Gipp hates to see a summer romance go wrong, but perhaps this player should keep his moves on the field where they belong.

If that saucy story didn't get your juices flowing, then take a gander at this next narrative. The start of a new school year means many things for my beloved Giplings: overpriced books, the humiliation of Frosh-O, nighttime hangovers from daytime tailgating and, of course, public urination. What's that, you say? The sophisticated students of this institution would dare to drop trou outside of a private, deadbolted stall?! It's true, my disbelieving Domers, and Ol' Gipp will prove it to you!

The first football game of the year can be a magical time, especially for recent duLac graduates who flock back to town in an annual attempt to relive

their glory days through the imbibing of watered-down well drinks. One such alum — a distinguished young lady with an established career, mind you — chose to spend her evening at a beloved downtown haunt with a distinctively disgusting floor (you know the joint). While standing in line with the droves of other Domers vying for the attention of the barman, the graduate found herself in a prickly predicament. Feeling a pressing sensation from below the belt, she wondered whether or not to abandon her newly won spot at the front of the line in order to seek salvation. She briefly weighed the pros and cons, as any sensible college grad would, and realized with a great sigh of relief that she was wearing a dress. Why walk all the way to the ladies' room when you can transform the floor into your personal powder room? This fine representative of our renowned institution did just that, providing her own unique addition to whatever it is that already coats this particular pub's floor. Ol' Gipp thinks it's safe to say that a few strangers' feet were victimized in the process, and his deepest condolences are extended their way.

You see, Giplings? It doesn't take long for the scandals and secrets to start streaming in. You can run, but you can't hide. This school year comes with a clean slate, and the Gipper is just dying to cover it in raunchy rumors. But remember, my whirling dervishes, I rely on you for all things shameful and embarrassing. So set down that homework and start tipping.

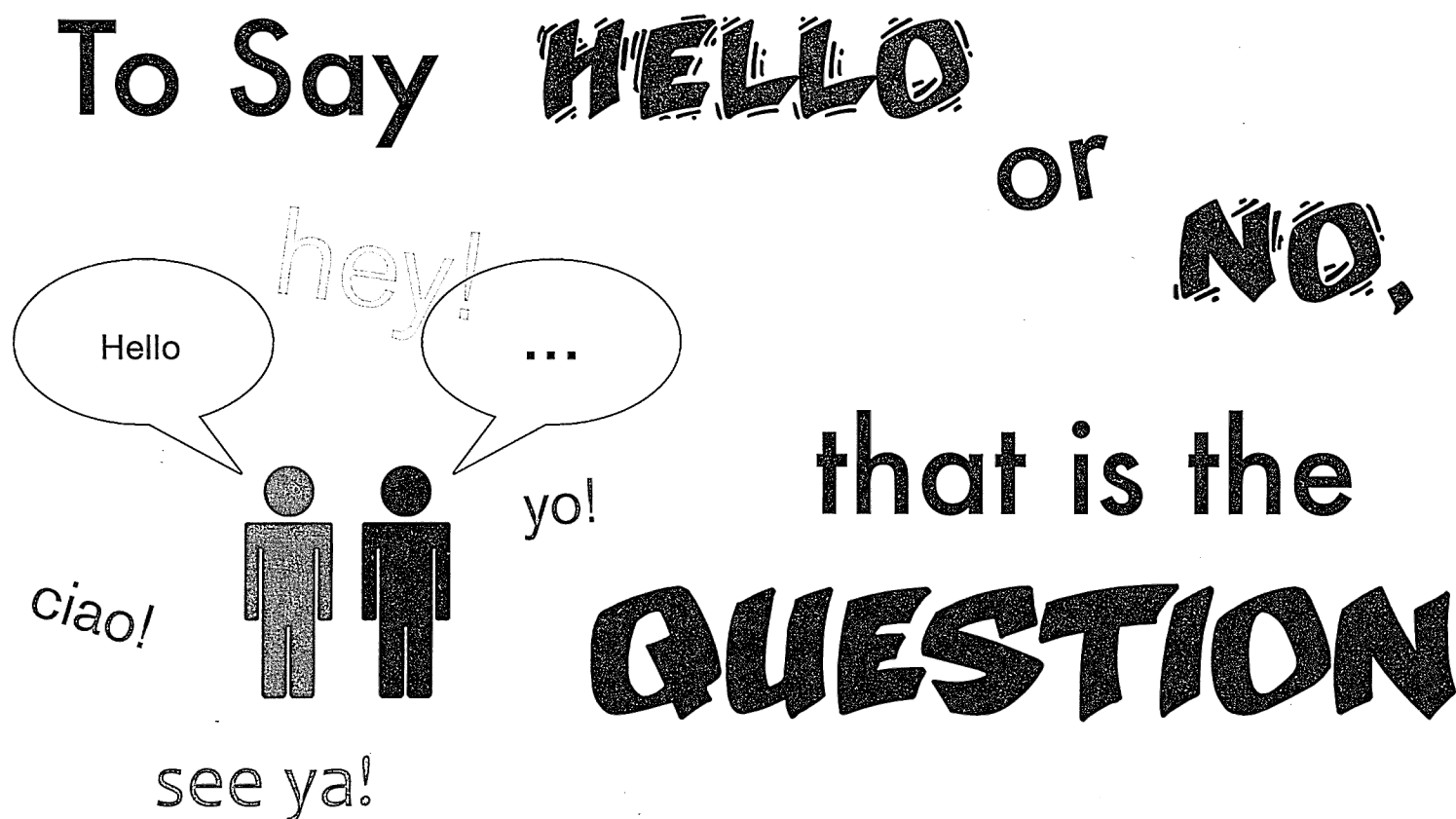
Waka waka,

The Gipper

P.S. If the fame and glory ain't enough to get you goin', what say a little fortune? Starting this year, if you tip the Gipp and your tasty tale makes it into an issue, expect a pretty little prize to come your way! Now start digging up a bit o' dirt, my mischievous miscreants!

TIP THE GIPP

• • • • at gipper@nd.edu



Sarah Ceronis

You've experienced it before. Maybe it happened yesterday, or maybe it happens every day, but there cannot possibly be even one out of 8,342 Notre Dame undergraduates who has not faced that great dilemma: Who is it socially acceptable to greet on the quad?


Haven't you ever wondered if it is appropriate to say hi to that girl you shared a cab with on the way home from Pigstotal last spring? You were best friends once, for the 10 minutes that the Jesus Cab careened toward Main Circle. How about the guy who had to pretend to attack you in your freshman year self-defense class? He had his arms around you in a chokehold every day for three weeks, so shouldn't a friendly wave be allowed these days? And then there is always the question of that random kid who is definitely in your major and definitely has been in at least one class with you each semester and you both know that you know this. But do you say hello when you and he cross paths in the library foyer, both holding the same textbook or do you gaze vacantly at the "Restrooms Located in the Basement" sign instead? Maybe if he says hi first.

Perhaps as a general rule, don't say hello unless you know the approaching person's name. This strategy, however, might be oversimplifying things, because there is that guy I had my hand tied to for breakfast during Frosh-O — we're Facebook friends, and he updates his status incessantly. Not only do I know his name, but I also know his LSAT scores and the location of his roommate's 21st birthday celebration. Does he get a hello? I also definitely know the name of the sophomore down the hall who apparently has a side job as an online shopper but is never home, because UPS is constantly knocking on my door to get the coveted delivery signature. I certainly know her name; I sign it about once a week, but do I say hi to her outside O'Shag, or do we pretend not to know each other out of context?

And we haven't even delved into that whole question of context; it is a crucial one. If you walk past Self-Defense Guy and he's with five friends and you're with your entire section, it's a no brainer that the hello can be avoided. But what about the 1:30 a.m., only-two-people-on-the-sidewalk type of encounter? You do the 10-feet-away, too-dark-to-identify-each-

other glance, and the five-feet away, maybe-I-do-know-you glance, and the last minute right-under-the-lamppost glance, which gives you no time to decide what to say when it is in fact Self-Defense Guy and now you have made direct eye contact. A joke like, "Don't attack, I know self-defense!" might fall flat if he doesn't remember you.

Another equally tough situation arises in the opposite context: the supremely crowded DeBartolo Superhighway at 11:25 a.m. on a Wednesday. You cross paths with that girl who studied abroad with your roommate and who you haven't seen in a while but she emailed you about CoRec soccer and you keep forgetting to reply. Do you give a half-smile, keep walking and suppress the feeling of guilt that you never replied? Or do you stop to talk, block traffic and exchange a few words, trying to have a non-awkward parting before you realize you have nothing more to say than, "HEY! I think I can do soccer ... And how 'bout this crazy weather?" So many questions, and so many hellos, or lack thereof. **S**



SYLLABUS

week

Justin Cullen

Each student comes back to school with a new lease on life. Incoming freshmen want to go to their first college parties, sophomores want to show the freshmen how cool they are, juniors want to turn 21 and avoid as many freshmen as possible, and new seniors want the excise police to stay away from their houses.

But coming back to school isn't all fun and games. Syllabus week is tolling — not because of the homework given during the period, but because it makes people realize that they actually have to take classes at college and can only drop so many of them before their schedules consist of 11 credits.

SURPRISE! You're a part-time student! Time to pick up German!

Another way you can tell that school is back in full swing is by what people wear. On the first few days of classes, everyone dresses to impress.

Instead of sweatpants, girls wear dresses

and spend hours styling their hair.

Instead of sweatpants, guys wear khaki shorts, polos and their nicest pairs of Sperrys.

Instead of sweatpants, athletes wear ... well ... sweatpants.

And when everybody is wearing the same thing at the same time, that can only mean one thing — football season is here.

Football is everyone's favorite part of the back-to-school festivities. Plans are made for gameday shenanigans, and every off-campus house that hasn't been ticketed yet will throw a "kegs and eggs" party (but don't be surprised if neither kegs nor eggs are available). Students won't be able to stand for the whole game because of their pre-game activities, and a lucky few will even be barred from entering the stadium.

That won't stop them, though, from playing the role of Kirk Herbstreit on Sunday. If, for some reason, Notre Dame

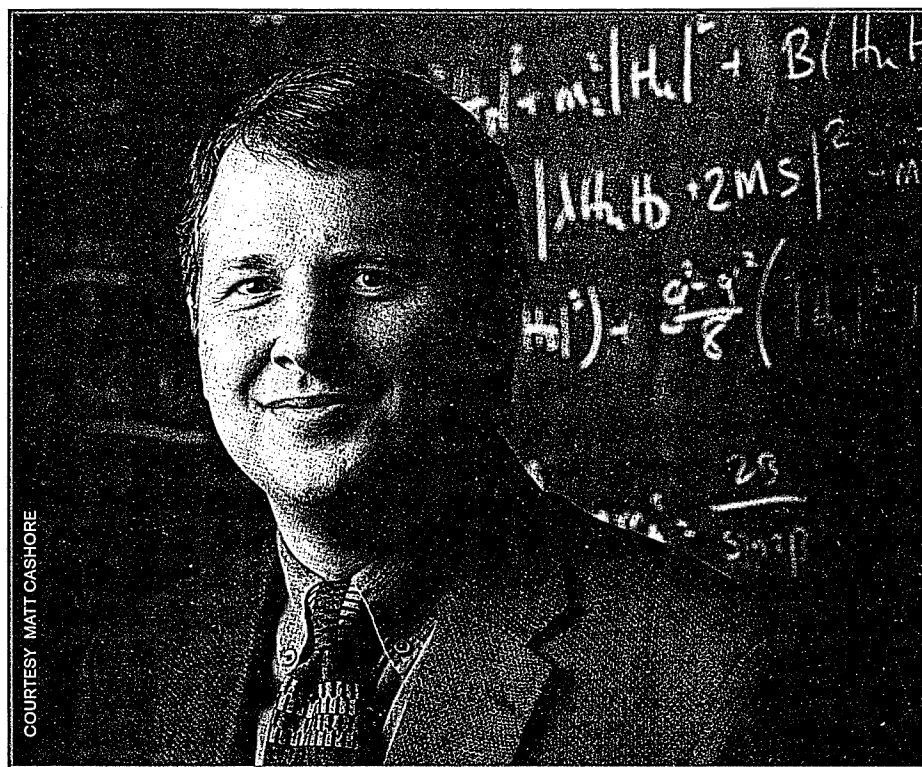
loses a football game, any one of some 8,000 undergraduates (both genders included, of course) would be happy to tell you why the Irish failed and how his or her personal playcalling prowess could have led them to victory. The fabulous athletes who played football in high school will also be happy to inform you about their previous motivational coaches and how this team "just needs more heart." *

If the team keeps winning and students don't have anything real to complain about, just look in *The Observer's* Viewpoint section. Showing your mastery of Notre Dame football student section cheers by telling the freshmen to stop doing "the chop" never goes out of style.

*Applies twice as much to students from Texas

9

Professor Christopher Kolda



Caitlin Wilson

Classes like “Mathematical Methods in Physics” and “Quarks to Quasars” may sound overwhelming, but professor Christopher Kolda’s welcoming personality makes physics less intimidating. Kolda researches theoretical particle physics, considering unsolved mysteries from the most fundamental elements of matter to the workings of the cosmos. He also advises undergraduate majors and is known in the department for his intellect and approachability.

Why did you choose to teach at Notre Dame?

I was doing research at [University California] Berkeley, my wife was pregnant with our first child and Notre Dame offered me a job. But more specifically, I really liked the way Notre Dame highly values both research and teaching. I wanted to live in a place where it’s easy to raise a family; it’s not too expensive, and there’s a great community.

What is your favorite thing about Notre Dame students?

My favorite thing is their generosity of spirit. They are extraordinarily generous with their time, attention and hard work in the classroom. They are generous with each other in the way they build community on campus and generous after they graduate with so many students going into ACE [Alliance for Catholic Education] and working with the CSC [Center for Social Concerns], for example. They seem to have a supernatural willingness to take risks and to put themselves out for others.

If you weren’t a physics professor, what would you be?

My other love in college was history, so I had to make a hard decision about which degree to pursue. Part of me would love to be a historian, especially of the Near East. That region has had such a huge impact, still today. But at least I get an outlet by telling my students lots of the history of physics, especially the funny and scandalous parts.

Why should students take your class?

I think everyone should take a modern physics course in college. So much of the modern world is based on 20th century physics, but few students learn any physics post-1800s. If you want to be a real participant in shaping the modern world, it’s as important to understand its scientific

foundations as it is its historical ones, and it’s a lot more fun than anyone thinks. It’s not all inclined planes and pulleys. It’s particle colliders and antimatter.

Tell us one physics fact that everyone needs to know.

At the core of modern physics is quantum mechanics. And even though it is responsible for one-third of our national economy, it tells us things that are still difficult for physicists to accept. For one, it seems to tell us that there is no real difference between somethingness and nothingness, which is hard to accept at face value. In some obscure way, quantum mechanics seems to tell us that it is impossible for nothingness to even exist.

What was the most useful thing you learned in college?

It seems strange, because my research is entirely mathematical, but how to read a circuit diagram. I’ve fixed more broken electronic appliances because of that one electronics course in college.

What are five things you can’t live without?

I can think of a lot of things I could live without, like email, computers, but let’s see. Caffeine. Snow — I need my snow fix. I’m a foodie, so I’d have to say good food. My family. And living in an intellectually stimulating environment. I wouldn’t want to live without that.

I know you went to Michigan for graduate school. Who do you root for during the Notre Dame vs. Michigan games?

This is hard. My wife and I both went to Michigan, and we have a deal: I get to root for Notre Dame, and she gets to root for Michigan. **6**

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