

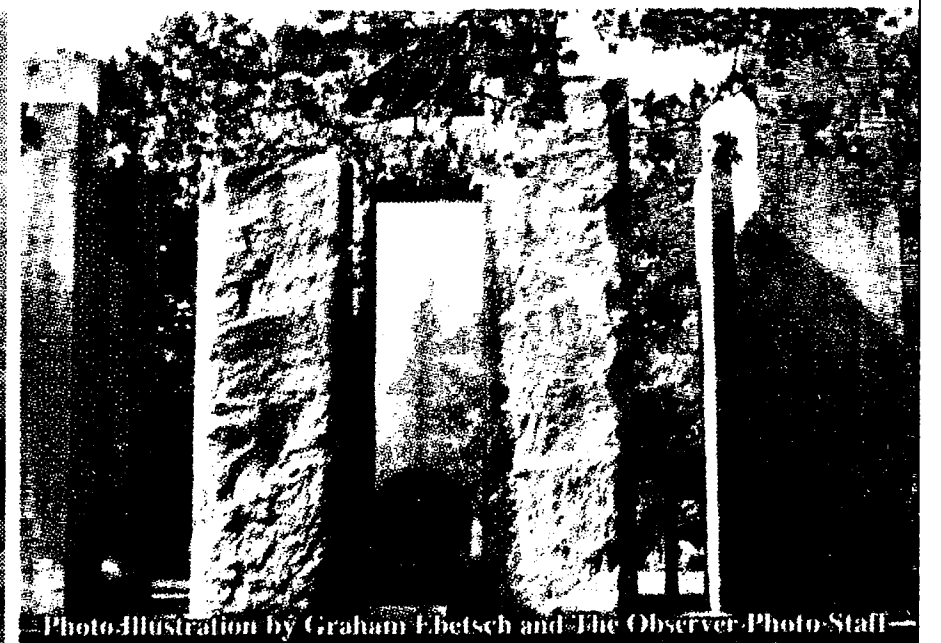
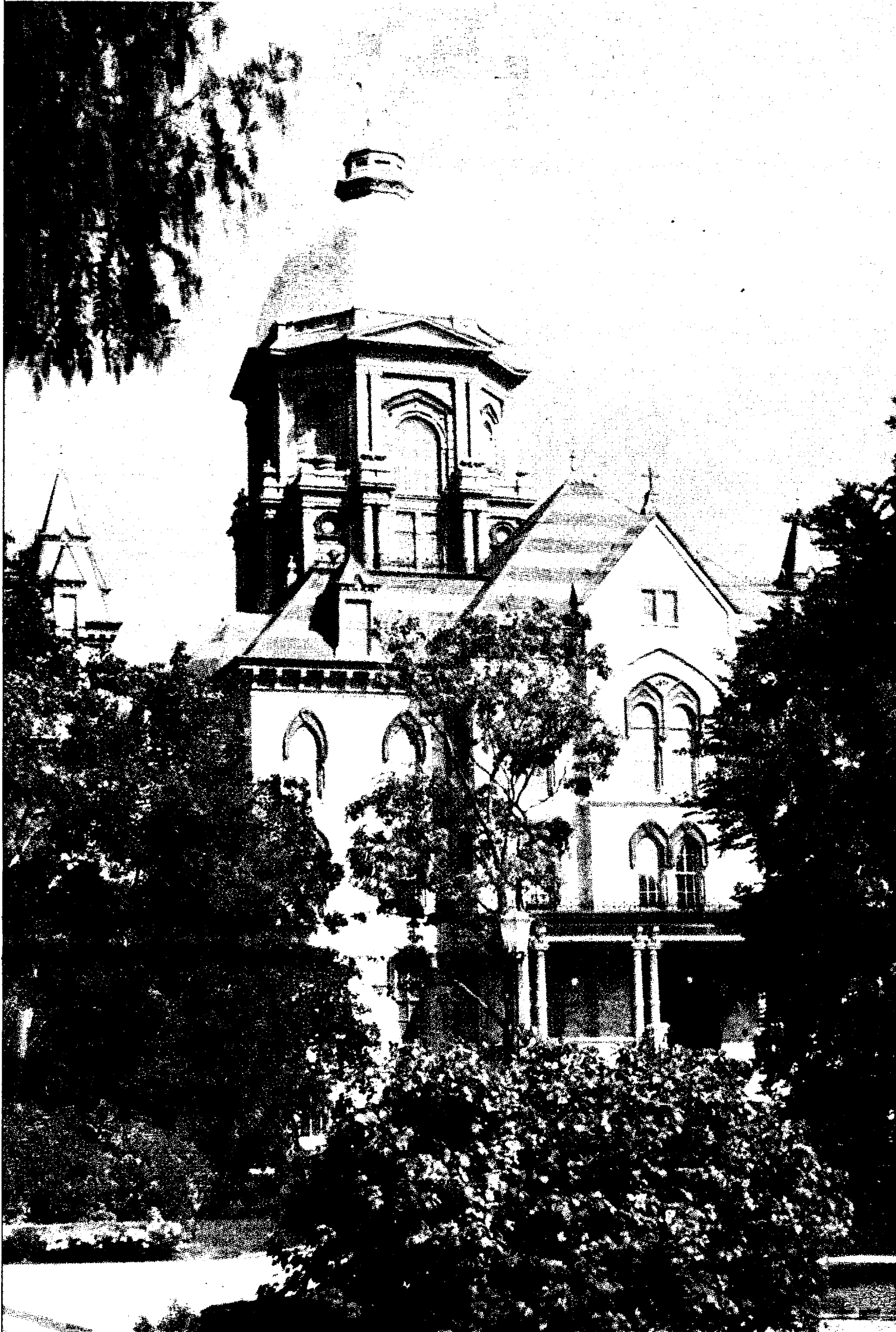
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—Photo-Illustration by Graham Ebertsch and The Observer Photo-Staff—

Honorary degrees given

Joining the more than 2,000 undergraduate and advanced degree candidates receiving diplomas at Notre Dame's 161st Commencement exercises Sunday will be 12 prominent visitors — including Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Harper Lee.

Honorary degrees are conferred in recognition of the accomplishments of various individuals. Students, faculty and staff

members are all allowed to nominate a person for an honorary degree. University officers, including University President Father John Jenkins, narrow down the pool.

Three women and 10 men, including keynote speaker and President of Ireland Mary McAleese — will be awarded honorary degrees

SEE STORY PAGE 15

Rectors leave positions

Six residence hall rectors will be leaving their posts at the end of the school year, the Office of Student Affairs said.

Last year seven rectors left. Some are leaving to pursue higher positions within the University, while others plan to further their education.

Sister Susan Dunn of Lyons, Anne Napoli of Badin, Katie Winikates of

Lewis, Father Peter Jarret of Keough, Mary Ann Mueninghoff of Pasquerilla East and Father Tom Eckert of St. Edward's will all be leaving. Student Affairs.

The Office of Student Affairs has already started accepting applications and interviewing candidates to fill the positions.

SEE STORY PAGE 12

INSIDE COLUMN

Nowhere
else

I'm so sick of lasts. They've bombarded me everywhere I've looked the past few months, weeks, hours — the last humbling stride through the Main Building, the last blurry Corby's Tuesday, the last tortured DeBartolo hour-and-fifteen. I can't bump into a long-lost acquaintance or fix my stare on Touchdown Jesus or even swing my car onto Juniper Road anymore without obsessing over whether I should catalog another last, just in case. It's practically become instinct. And it's badly fraying my nerves.

Don't get me wrong, some lasts — the triumphant ushers-defying, hell-no-we're-not-leaving senior section after our last home football Alma Mater, or the off-key, tear-soaked senior formal last rendition of Piano Man — are every bit worthy of the attention. But I'm afraid of getting so caught up in notching the last so-so Bookstore splurge or last ill-advised Casa del Rio margarita overdose that the trivial lasts will overshadow what truly made our Notre Dame experience: the firsts. The dailys. The alwayses. The nevers. The never agains.

I wouldn't trade my first Morrissey-to-Rally in the Alley stumble for a thousand last forgettable cab rides. Or surrender our spastic nightly rituals in Howard's freshman quint [don't ask] for a few more lazy College Park days.

No last worry-free bar trip is worth half the memories of squandering my cash and my innocence in the notorious Boat Club fallout. Surely no number of last football weekend celebrity sightings can match my first — stupidly oblivious to the University legend across the elevator — and second — floored by a post-interview kiss on the cheek — encounters with Father Hesburgh. And no last memory from our perfectly planned senior spring break can top the frat-infused never-again nightmare that was freshman year in South Padre. The freakishly overanalyzed IM conversations [hourly]. The intense friendships — and hilariously cruel nicknames — forged over South Dining Hall sludge [for three years, daily]. The procrastination-induced all-night paper-writing binges [weekly, if I was lucky]. The spur-of-the-moment Grotto trips [not nearly often enough]. All seemingly insignificant experiences that no one bothered to treat with a last's supposed importance — but all crucial to defining the past four years.

So yes, I'll savor the lasts — hugs, toasts, speeches, goodbyes — as they inevitably pile up during our last weekend as Notre Dame undergraduates. But I also won't lose in the lasts the Notre Dame moments that mattered most of all.

The nowhere elses.

Claire Heininger is graduating with a degree in American Studies and a minor in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. Nine days after graduation, she will start a reporting position with the Star-Ledger in Newark, New Jersey, and hopes to work in journalism forever after. She would like to thank her parents and brother for their constant love and support — and for not keeping her at the University of Michigan after she'd fallen head over heels for this place — Ashley for always, always being there, ever since our first day on campus, and The Observer staff for being wonderful colleagues and friends.

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The views in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Claire Heininger

Editor in Chief
Emeritus

Commencement Weekend Events

Friday, May 19

5:30 p.m. Commencement Band Concert,

DPAC, Leighton Concert Hall

8 p.m. Liturgical Choir Concert,

Basilica of the Sacred Heart

9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Graduation Dance, JACC North Dome

Saturday, May 20

9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. ROTC Commissioning, JACC South Dome

2 p.m. - 3 p.m. President's Reception, Eck Center

4:30 p.m. Academic Procession, JACC South Dome

5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Commencement Mass, JACC South Dome

6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m. Graduation Dinner, JACC North Dome and North Dining Hall

9 p.m. Glee Club Concert, DPAC, Leighton Concert Hall

Sunday, May 21

12:30 p.m. Distribution of Diplomas, JACC North Dome

1:30 p.m. Academic Procession, JACC North Dome

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Commencement Ceremony, JACC South Dome

Friday, May 19

1 p.m. Nurses Pinning Ceremony,

Church of Our Lady of Loretto

4 p.m. Baccalaureate Liturgy,

Angela Athletic Facility

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Baccalaureate Dinner and Senior Reception, Student Center

Saturday, May 20

8:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 10 a.m., 10:45 a.m. Graduation Brunch, Noble Family Dining Hall

Noon Commencement Ceremony,

Court of LeMans Hall

4:30 p.m. Sunday Vigil Mass, Regina Chapel

Sunday, May 21

9:45, 11:15 Sunday Mass,

Church of Our Lady of Loretto

SOURCE: University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College Web sites

GRAHAM EBETSCH/Observer Graphic

Notre Dame's highest honor goes to musician

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

Renowned jazz musician Dave Brubeck will receive the 2006 Laetare Medal — Notre Dame's oldest and most highly regarded award given to American Catholics — at Commencement exercises this weekend.

The honor is given annually to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

"The composed energy of Mr. Brubeck's art helps us apprehend the fullness of creation," University President Father John Jenkins said in a statement March 30. "His life and his music splendidly interweave the celebration of beauty with the imperative to worship."

The popular pianist has produced a number of popular jazz pieces, including "Take Five" and "Blue Rondo a la Turk." In 1954, the Brubeck's quartet graced the cover of Time Magazine following the release of their album, "Jazz Goes to College." The magazine called Brubeck "the most exciting new jazz artist at work today" and the creator of "some of the strangest and loveliest music" in the history of jazz.

Larry Dwyer, director of jazz studies at Notre Dame, said the

Laetare selection reflects Brubeck's "consistently high level of musical achievement" through his professional career, which has lasted more than half a century.

"Brubeck's music always swings and always includes interesting and profound levels of improvisation," Dwyer said. "Best of all, everyone — jazz fan or not — always enjoys listening to Dave Brubeck."

But Brubeck's repertoire extends beyond the realm of jazz. The esteemed musician has composed and performed ballets, cantatas, solo piano pieces, a musical, an oratorio and a Mass — a testament to his Catholic faith.

In a June 2005 National Public Radio interview, Brubeck echoed the words of a Nez Perce chief and said, "the Great Spirit made us all."

"Science through DNA knows this to be true," he said. "The very cells of our body know this to be true, and our great religions know it to be true. Our hope lies in the Great Spirit, the God of all Creation, that my particular faith calls the Holy Spirit."

Born Dec. 6, 1920 in Concord, Calif. and raised on a nearby cattle

farm, Brubeck first aspired to be a rancher — though the musical persuasion did not evade him for long.

By age four the young virtuoso had wowed his mother — a classical pianist and teacher — with his advanced keyboarding skills and simultaneously unnerved her with his unique improvisations.

A music major at the College of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., Brubeck met his wife of 63 years while playing jazz on a campus radio program. He graduated from the school in 1942 and was drafted into military service for two years during World War II.

After the war, Brubeck attended Mills College to resume his musical studies. He formed the now-famous Brubeck Quartet in 1951.

Notre Dame announces its Laetare Medal recipient each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent on the Church calendar.

The medal is inscribed with the Latin phrase, "Magna est veritas et prevalebit," or "Truth is mighty, and it shall prevail."

The first Laetare Medal was awarded in 1883.

Previous medal winners include President John F. Kennedy, novelist Walker Percy and death penalty abolitionist Sister Helen Prejean.

"Brubeck's music always swings and always includes interesting and profound levels of improvisation."

Larry Dwyer
Notre Dame director
of jazz studies

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News Brief: Flags will fly at half-staff during commencement weekend as part of a community-wide tribute to slain South Bend Police officer Scott Severns.

Notable facts of the Class of 2006

- About 95 percent of the 1,935 undergraduates who enrolled at Notre Dame in the fall of 2002 will receive a diploma Sunday (May 21) — a graduation rate exceeded only by Harvard, Princeton and Yale Universities.
- Some 80 percent of the graduates participated in volunteer and service-learning programs in the greater South Bend area, nationwide and around the world.
- About 10 percent of this year's seniors will continue in volunteer service to society, engaging in a year or more of work in programs such as the Peace Corps, Teach for America, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education and Holy Cross Associates.
- All 50 of the United States are represented in the senior class, making Notre Dame among the nation's most geographically diverse universities.

Information courtesy of Notre Dame News and Information

GRAHAM EBETSCH/Observer Graphic

McAleese will speak to grads

Ireland's president to also receive honorary degree at commencement

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Editor

The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, will be the principal graduation speaker and an honorary degree recipient at Notre Dame's commencement ceremony Sunday.

"As an attorney, journalist, scholar and now president, Mary McAleese is an inspiring model for women, a fierce champion for peace and a passionate voice within the Catholic Church," University President Father John Jenkins said in a statement. "The theme of her presidency is 'building bridges,' and she has done just that while staying true to herself."

The choice of McAleese as commencement speaker was finalized "a ways back," Senior Executive Assistant to the President Father Jim McDonald said Feb. 7 from Dublin, but she needed permission from Ireland's Parliament before arrangements could be finalized.

McDonald, Jenkins and other University officers were scheduled to dine with McAleese Feb. 7 in Dublin.

"She's a wonderful woman, accomplished lawyer and politician," McDonald said. "She'll be an excellent speaker."

McAleese is Ireland's eighth president and the first from Northern Ireland. She was elected to the Irish presidency in 1997 and ran unopposed for a second term in 2004. McAleese has been welcomed by both Protestants and Catholics during her frequent visits to Northern Ireland, despite predictions that her presidency would cause further division.

Born into a Catholic family in Belfast, Northern Ireland — a predominately Catholic city — McAleese has been an advocate for the Catholic Church, serving as a member of the Catholic Church Episcopal Delegation to the New Ireland Forum in 1984 and as a Church delegate to the North Commission on Contentious Parades in 1996. She was also a delegate to the 1995 White House conference on trade and investment in Ireland.

She studied law at Queen's University in Belfast and graduated with honors in 1973. McAleese was a professor at Trinity College and

later worked as a reporter for the national television network of Ireland, RTÉ, for two years.

In 1981, McAleese returned to Trinity and six years later moved back to Northern Ireland to become the director of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies at Queen's University. She was appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor there.

Her husband, Dr. Martin McAleese, received an honorary degree from Notre Dame in 2004.

McAleese is not the first foreign head of state to speak at a University commencement. An Irish prime minister, two Canadian prime ministers, two president of El Salvador have all served as the commencement speaker during the past 50 years.

Last year's commencement speaker was Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation.

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"As an attorney, journalist, scholar and now president, Mary McAleese is an inspiring model for women, a fierce champion for peace and a passionate voice within the Catholic Church"

Father John Jenkins
University president

U.S. Appeals judge will address SMC seniors

By KELLY MEEHAN
News Editor

Ann Claire Williams, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals, will be the commencement speaker at Saint Mary's graduation ceremony Sunday.

Williams was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois by Ronald Reagan in 1985, making her the first African-American woman to sit on the bench and one of the youngest federal appointees at the time.

Williams also became the first African-American woman to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit when President Bill Clinton appointed her to the position in 1999.

As the third African-American woman to serve on any appeals court in the country, Williams originally began her career in education. She worked as an elementary school teacher in her hometown of Detroit before graduating from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1975.

Although Williams did not graduate from Saint Mary's, senior Kathleen McMorrow said she believes Williams' ties to Notre Dame indicate her knowledge of the College's high reputation.

"She is an excellent choice,"

McMorrow said. "It is great to bring a woman with high credentials to a school that places such value on education."

Williams began her legal career as a clerk with Judge Robert Sprecher and she tried felony cases as an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago from 1976 to 1985.

She has also worked to create programs to aid scholars who wish to follow in her footsteps. In 1997, she co-founded Minority Legal Education Resources to assist minorities in their quest to pass the Illinois bar exam. In 1993, Williams co-founded the Just the Beginning Foundation in an effort to increase diversity in the legal profession through celebrating the work of African-American federal judges.

"Ann Claire Williams is an example of commitment, perseverance, and excellence," Saint Mary's College President Carol Ann Mooney said in a statement. "Judge Williams epitomizes the servant leader. She uses her professional expertise and her wisdom in service of her country and all of its people. Her careful analysis, encompassing vision, and moral courage have earned her widespread respect."

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THE OBSERVER

Expresses its deep *Thanks* to the following *seniors* for their hard work and *dedication* over the years.

Pat Leonard
Maureen Reynolds
Megan O'Neil
Jennifer Kenning
Nick Guerrieri
Damian Althoff
Paula Garcia
Heather Van Hoegarden

Jim Kirihara
Nicole Zook
Molly Griffin
Mark Bemenderfer
Mary Squillace
Matthew Smedberg
Aya O'Connor
Sarah Vabulas

Geoff Matteson
Kirsten Hoelmer
Sofia Ballon
Sam Pandolfo
Maureen Malloy
Joe Blatt
Claire Heiningner
Claire Kelley

And wishes them the
Best of Luck
in the years to come

Commencement Weekend 2006

Dear Graduates,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my prayers and best wishes to the members of the Class of 2006. I also want to express my gratitude for the rich contributions you have made to the University during your time here.

For those of you who are graduating seniors, I hope that we have achieved our goal of providing you with an education that your commitment to your faith in God and to the service of God's people match your dedication to your chosen vocation and profession. We have high expectations of our graduates. The tremendous contribution that our alumni make to society and to the Church is a testament to the importance of these high expectations.

For those of you leaving with graduate and professional degrees, I hope that you will carry with you the best of our traditions as they relate to your discipline. If you bring to your chosen field a strong set of ethical convictions and a commitment to justice, you will represent the very best of Notre Dame.

May Our Lady, Notre Dame, continue to watch over you in the years ahead. We are blessed to have you as members of the Notre Dame family.

Sincerely yours,



(Rev.) Mark L. Poorman, C.S.C.
Vice President for Student Affairs



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

ND valedictorian to graduate with 3.94 overall GPA

Distler will deliver address at commencement, attend Johns Hopkins University to pursue career in medicine

By MAUREEN MULLEN
News Writer

During the week of spring break — while most students enjoyed a vacation from academic rigor — senior Catherine Distler spent every free moment writing her valedictory address.

As one of more than a dozen exemplary seniors vying for the opportunity to give the class of 2006 commencement speech, Distler said each nominated student was given three and a half weeks to write and submit a valedictory address. On April 24, Distler learned her speech had been selected as the address for Sunday's graduation ceremony.

"I was thrilled to find out, but it's also a very humbling experience because with the honor comes the realization that so many people were instrumental," Distler said. "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for friends and professors who helped along the way. I'm incredibly grateful to them."

Distler, a double major in anthropology and pre-professional studies, will graduate with a 3.94 overall GPA and a 4.0 major GPA. She recently decided to attend Johns Hopkins

University for medical school following graduation. Distler said she wants to study medicine because it is "the pragmatic and compassionate practice of medicine that can bring about social change."

Her interest in medicine is very much connected to her dedication to social service, a devotion her time at Notre Dame reflects. Distler said she was a member of student government her first two years at Notre Dame and became very involved in the Center for Social Concerns (CSC) during her junior and senior years. She traveled to Calcutta, India in 2005 where she participated in an International Summer Service Project working for nine weeks at Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity home for the destitute and sick. She has also served as co-organizer of Notre Dame's World AIDS Day Campaign and as a member of VOICE, the CSC's student advisory board.

Distler said her experiences from student government and social service activities were largely "formative because of all the peers [she] has met."

"They have been such important parts of my education," she said. "I am impressed and lucky

to have met so many Notre Dame students who blow me away."

Distler's commitment to service and the relationships she formed with her peers have rooted her valedictory speech in a theme that calls her fellow graduates to further action.

"Everyone can make a change and leave something worthwhile behind," she said.

Distler said her speech centers on the special, unique Notre Dame education.

"It's about coming to Notre Dame and meeting peers and professors who change you and influence you," she said. "It's also about going out and encountering the world through the lens of Notre Dame, encountering the world and your community in a sincere way. Fundamentally, it's about the greatness and uniqueness of the Notre Dame experience."

Distler said she is more than prepared to give her speech.

"I think it will be such an exciting day," she said. "I'll be nervous, but I think more than anything I'll be caught up in the excitement and nostalgia of commencement weekend."

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ERIN VRANISH/The Observer

Notre Dame valedictorian Catherine Distler will graduate Sunday as a double major in anthropology and pre-professional studies.

Seniors reflect on changes, memories at Notre Dame

Class of 2006 sees bright future for University despite alterations in administration, campus during four years

By JOE PIARULLI
News Writer

At a University where history, tradition and consistency are said to reign supreme, the only person that has been here for it all is the one on top of the Golden Dome.

Though many changes will come after they leave, the members of the class of 2006 witnessed some of the most significant recent events at Notre Dame: a new University President and a new head football coach.

"A new president is probably the biggest transition that the University has faced since I was here," senior Ryan Finlen said. "It does usher in a new era with Father Jenkins more so than anything else."

Finlen said he remembers being around Jenkins during his freshman year in Sorin College.

"He used to sit down on the floor in one of the senior rooms where I used to watch some of the away games," he said. "A couple years later he becomes [University president]."

Senior Mary Ellen Botta said the inauguration of Jenkins as the University's 17th president is already showing some benefits.

"It was good, especially because all sorts of different dialogues were opened, even just with all the inaugural events," she said. "His willingness to talk to students and come out with public statements is a big step."

Finlen said the switch from Tyrone Willingham to Charlie Weis was not the defining event for the senior class.

"We switched from a coach that we only had for three years so it wasn't like Ty was settled in really," he said. "So even though it made headlines I don't think it was the biggest change that the University has seen."

Senior Sarah Sibley mentioned construction and physical changes at Notre Dame as something that sticks out in her mind.

"One thing is the expansion of campus, and that's something that's going to continue in the future," she said. "Even with the Jordan Auditorium, the [Guglielmino Athletics Complex]

and the road work done on Douglas [Road], campus has just gotten bigger."

Senior Vince Lyzinski said that some of the most defining transformations at Notre Dame were already in place for his class.

"A lot of the changes they made were right before I came, like the alcohol policy, and I think campus became a lot more chill," he said. "A lot more people went off-campus because Notre Dame had a successful war on fun."

Sibley said Notre Dame is as concerned as ever with how it is perceived.

"We are extremely concerned with our national image and how that might affect alumni contributions and national ratings," she said.

Predicting the future

Most seniors said they see a bright future for Notre Dame, one with expansion and many victories on the gridiron.

"The years ahead look pretty promising especially with the ten-year plan and talk of new dorms and a college town,"

Finlen said. "I think the University is only going to grow and get better in the next few years, especially under Father Jenkins."

Lyzinski said he looks forward to returning to Notre Dame, even if it's not the way he left it.

"The campus is going to get completely overhauled," Lyzinski said. "They're getting wireless Internet and everything. I won't recognize it in ten years, but I'll come back."

Sibley said she expects Notre Dame to grow to unprecedented heights.

"I think we are going to expand campus a lot and really improve our interactions with the community," she said. "I also think, with our emphasis on national ratings, we're going to increase our graduate programs and PhD programs."

Botta said she hopes the underclassmen will be able to keep up with the forthcoming changes.

"I think Jenkins will keep it interesting," she said. "Everybody who I know who is an underclassman seems really cool, so I hope it won't get any stricter."

Lyzinski said there is one change he cannot wait to see.

"We will win the National Championship [in football] next year," he said.

Memories

"Oh goodness, there's so many good memories," Sibley said. "Most of them are just things I did with my friends."

Finlen said his first memory of Notre Dame was the people.

"I remember everyone being so friendly and welcoming as soon as you step on and really that hasn't changed in four years," he said.

When recalling his best and worst times, Lyzinski remembers football games from his fresh-

man year.

"The Michigan game my freshman year was a highlight, we won on like a last second play," he said. "My worst memory is the Boston College game freshman year."

Senior Andrew Romano remembers a more recent football game.

"The USC weekend was like a perfect weekend, all except the last seven seconds of the game," he said. "The game actually lived up to the hype."

Though Lyzinski found joy in watching a game from the stands, he said playing on the field was much better.

"Playing in the stadium twice for Interhall football was one of the coolest things ever," he said. "Playing in Notre Dame Stadium has been a dream of mine since I was a little kid."

Botta expressed disappointment over "our basketball team's progressively downward funk," but said campus always promised a good time.

"There used to be this thing called craft corner that [Student Union Board] had when my friends and I were freshmen," she said. "We wore tie-dye T-shirts and random stuff like that, so that was always fun."

Lyzinski described seeing his dorm room for the first time as a "terrifying experience," but said Notre Dame offered him some unique opportunities, such as studying abroad in Hungary.

Lasting impressions

Despite an uncertain future, memories of big events and an ever-changing University, Finlen said the little things add up more than anything else.

"The big changes are important but the little things, like the extra effort that all the faculty give students here, are going to make a huge difference," he said. "I think that's why people choose Notre Dame — for the little things."

According to Botta, Notre Dame was not without its faults, but it will leave a positive impression.

"I loved it, but no place is perfect," she said. "It was really cool and I think the atmosphere ... really did help me find out what kind of person I am."

Finlen said the most important things he'll take away from Notre Dame are the friendships.

"I've met a lot of good people here and I've kept in touch with as many as I could," he said. "Those are people that are going to be around for the rest of my life."

Sibley, like Finlen, said the connections she has made at Notre Dame will never be broken.

"I've made the best friends of my life here who will stick with me until my dying day," she said. "I heard a story once where one gentleman went to an admissions counselor and said, 'you don't know, but you assigned my room and just picked my wedding party.'"

Down the road, when her kids ask her about Notre Dame, Sibley said she knows how to respond.

"I would say 'let's hop in the car, once you see it you will understand and you will love it.'"

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"A new president is probably the biggest transition that the University has faced since I was here."

Ryan Finlen
senior

"I've made the best friends of my life here who will stick with me until my dying day."

Sarah Sibley
senior

SMC valedictorian exhibits appreciation for family support

Senior Carrie Korf to graduate at top of class with degree in business administration, minor in mathematics

By LISA GALLAGHER
News Writer

With the motto "work hard, play hard," Saint Mary's senior and class valedictorian Carrie Korf will be graduating Saturday with a degree in business administration with a double concentration in marketing and management, and a minor in mathematics.

"I feel honored and blessed," Korf said of being named valedictorian.

While she did not seek out the honor, the two-time president of Toastmasters International III — a public speaking club on campus — said she wanted to get the most out of her education "in an effort to show appreciation to

my parents for the sacrifices they have made so that I could attend a private liberal arts college."

It is evident Korf has strong family ties; in fact, she said she has only grown closer with her family that lives 500 miles away in central Minn., calling this her greatest accomplishment throughout the past four years.

"Life is short," she said. "Stay in touch with those you care about."

The self-proclaimed product of "a town so small it defines the term," Korf said she attributes her upbringing with her strong sense of values and work ethic, both of which are evident in her past accomplishments and her plans for the future.

"After working for a few years, I aim to get an MBA at a top tier business school," she said. "My long term goal is to head a profit and loss business unit, start my own company, or be the president of one."

But first, Korf said she looks forward to relaxing and job searching. She said that Saint Mary's has helped her become more open minded and also taught her valuable and practical experiences in teamwork.

What will she miss the most? "My friends," said Korf, adding that her favorite memories are those that involved road trips with her roommates and Tuesday nights at Corby's Bar.

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DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Saint Mary's College valedictorian Carrie Korf said she feels "honored and blessed," to graduate at the top of her class.

Board of Trustees visits Washington D.C. for meeting

Members pass a resolution expressing confidence in President Jenkins, discuss alumni-student relationship

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Editor

In an effort to establish a higher profile for the University in the nation's capital, the Board of Trustees [BOT] convened in Washington D.C. May 4-5 for their spring meeting where some members shared coffee with President Bush and attended a reception with several Congressmen.

The BOT's Student Affairs Committee also heard from former student body president Dave Baron and former student body vice president Lizzi Shappell, who presented a report examining student-alumni relations at Notre Dame.

The BOT's Washington D.C. meeting comes after the their winter gathering in Rome, where University President Father John Jenkins — who sits on the Board — met Pope Benedict XVI and Trustee members met with various Vatican officials.

Typically the BOT meets at Notre Dame, but this year was different as the BOT used its meetings to better establish itself in the universal church and in the national political scene.

In Washington, the BOT passed a "vote of confidence" in Jenkins' April 5 closing statement on academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame. Jenkins' decision to not prohibit "The Vagina Monologues" came after 10 weeks of fierce debate on the interplay between Catholic teaching and controversial campus events that appear to conflict with it.

"The Board of Trustees ... passed a resolution expressing its confidence in [Jenkins] and its agreement in principle with the policies and the process developed for the evaluation of events at the University which touch upon the Catholic charac-

ter of Notre Dame," BOT chairman Patrick McCartan said in a statement.

Representing the interests of the student body, Baron and Shappell traveled to Washington to present the second of two BOT reports their administration delivered to the Board this year. The report examined the sometimes-strained relationship between current and former students, a problem that can be attributed to misperceptions, Baron said.

"We took into account three specific events that have taken place on campus over the past couple of years to analyze the relationships those two groups have had," Baron said. "We

took a look at the structures by which students and alumni relate, and offered suggestions on ways we can approve those."

The major campus events Baron and Shappell used to demonstrate the student-alumni relationship — the "Candle" advertising spot controversy last fall, the academic freedom and Catholic character

debate, and the Golden Dome re-gilding last spring — demonstrated the misperceptions that affect student-alumni relations, Baron said.

Baron said the Dome re-gilding controversy proved that "students and alumni have a perception of each other that's not necessarily accurate. Sometimes they are more on the same page than they think themselves to be."

Though Baron said the hour-long presentation and discussion was "received pretty well," Shappell said some Trustees wanted more evidence to back up the report's main points.

"Our goal was to start conversation between ourselves and the Board members," Shappell said. "It wasn't quantitative, it was more qualitative ... [Board members] expressed frustration that there was no quantitative data but it definitely incited a lively conversation."

Shappell, who was took over as student body president April



Courtesy of Notre Dame News and Information

Above, University President Father John Jenkins speaks in Washington D.C. Below, Jenkins, Board of Trustees chairman Patrick McCartan, far left, and Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN) pose at a reception.



1, said Board members were "more than willing" to help her administration address the issue next year. Shappell used the improvement of student-alumni relations as a key platform in her campaign.

"We discussed the possibility of...the student body president and vice president speaking to the Alumni Senate and/or the Alumni Board to give a state of

the student union to say what [the] student body has been doing throughout the year," Shappell said.

In addition, three student-alumni picnics are planned for certain football weekends next fall where students can "network and socialize and share stories with alumni returning back to campus."

"It's a concern for everyone,"

Shappell said. "There's an obvious disconnect with generational differences but if we claim to be the Notre Dame family, we should try to foster as amicable a relationship between students and alumni as possible."

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu

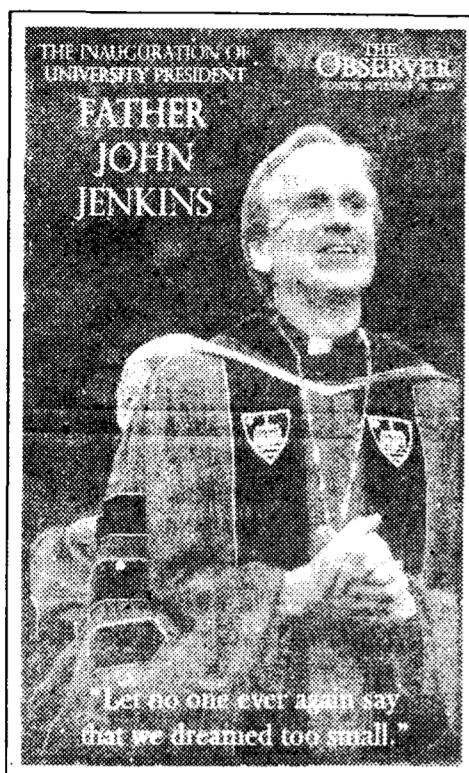
FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

Friday, May 19, 2006

The top 10 Observer news stories from the 2002-06 academic years.

page 7

1



Jenkins replaces Malloy as president

September 23, 2005

University President Father John Jenkins was inaugurated as the University's 17th president Sept. 23, 2006. Inauguration activities spanned two full days as afternoon classes were cancelled in order for students to attend an academic forum Thursday afternoon featuring Tom Brokaw as the moderator and a mass Friday morning.

Featured speakers at his inauguration included Board of Trustees chairman Patrick McCartan, Fort-Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy and Alumni Association president Timothy Brady.

At his inauguration ceremony Jenkins recalled the legacy of Notre Dame's founder, Father Edward Sorin, and spoke of his desire for Notre Dame to strive to be a top Catholic university in the 21st century for research and learning. Jenkins called for a "bigger and better than ever University."

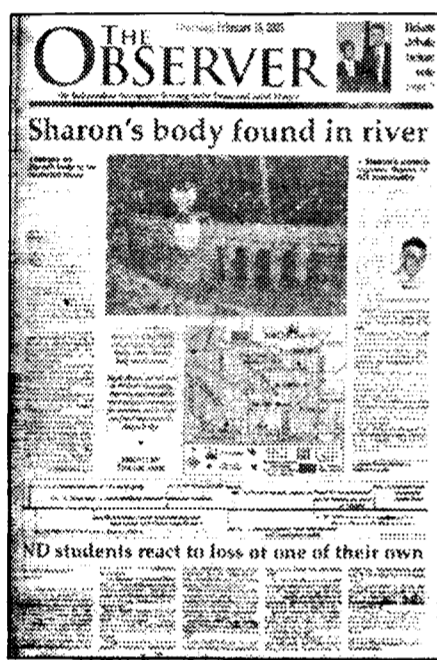
His promise to promote academic excellence and religious faith as "two indispensable and wholly compatible strands of higher learning" proved to be pillars of his presidency just months after he took office when he questioned the presence of controversial

events like The Queer Film Festival and "The Vagina Monologues" at Notre Dame. [The Queer Film Festival was renamed, and, after weeks of intense debate, Jenkins announced "The Vagina Monologues" would not be prohibited].

Jenkins replaced University President Emeritus Father Edward "Monk" Malloy who served at the University's helm for 18 years. University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh who served as president for 35 years, preceded Malloy.

2

Freshman's death stuns University

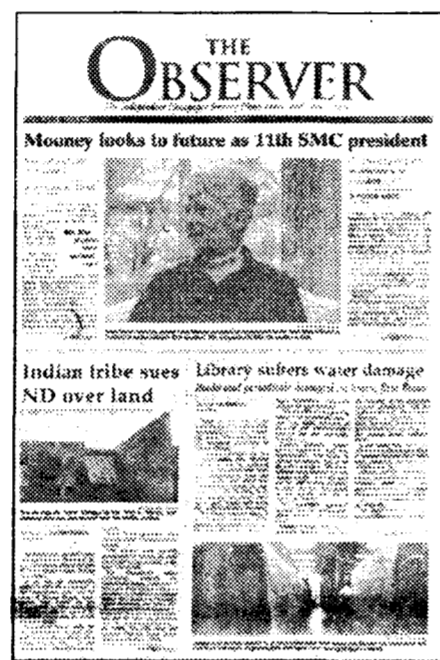


Chad Sharon, a freshman from Fisher Hall, disappeared Dec. 12, 2002 after attending a party on Corby Street. Following an extensive two-month search headed by Notre Dame Security/Police, construction workers found his body floating in the St. Joseph's River under the Angela Bridge.

February 12, 2003

3

Mooney chosen to succeed Eldred



The Saint Mary's Board of Trustees selected Notre Dame Vice President and Associate Provost Carol Mooney as the 11th president of the College on Dec. 26. College President Marilou Eldred announced her retirement in March 2003, which launched a nine-month search process for her successor.

December 26, 2003

4

Boat Club sunk by excise police

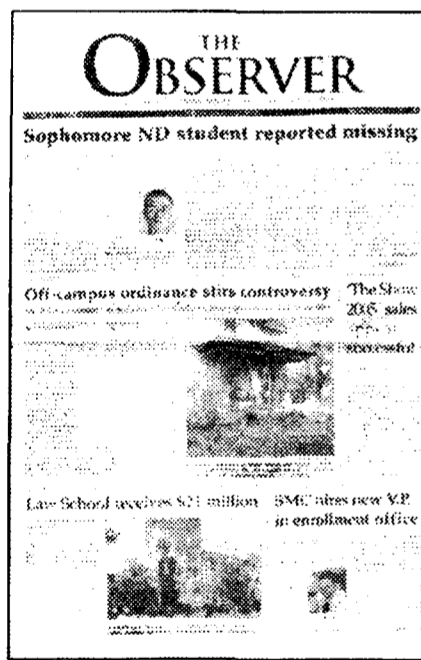


Police raided The Boat Club early in the morning Jan. 24. More than 200 citations were issued to Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. The bar was known as a popular underage drinking haven for students on both campuses. Many of those who were cited were also sued by the owner of the club.

January 24, 2003

5

Ordinance stirs controversy



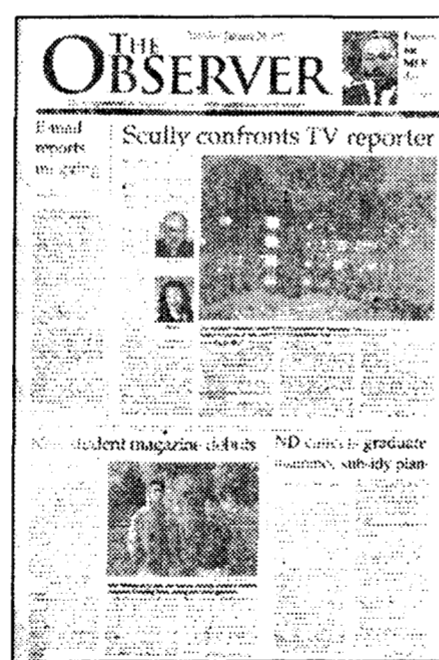
The South Bend Common Council's July 25, 2005 passage of a disorderly house ordinance amendment spurred campus backlash as students returned to Notre Dame and Saint Mary's in the fall.

The revised ordinance significantly increased the risk of eviction for students living off-campus.

August 25, 2005

6

Scully resigns as executive VP

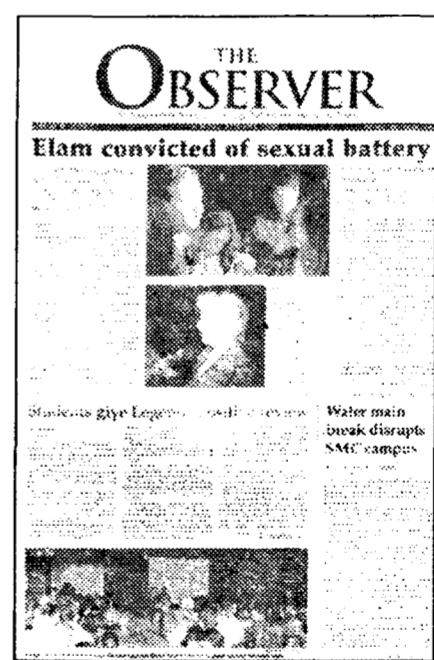


Executive Vice President Father Timothy Scully resigned in May 2005 due to an apparent power struggle in the University's leadership. A report investigating Scully's behavior, including his confrontation with a reporter, was to be delivered to trustees and would have cleared him of wrongdoing.

May 2, 2003

7

Elam convicted of sexual battery

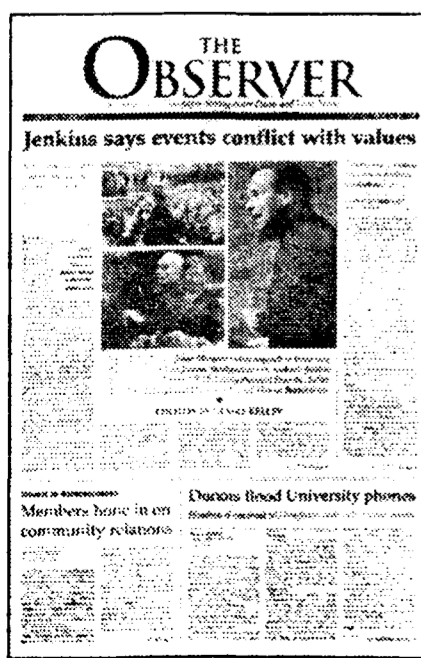


Abram Elam, one of four football players accused of sexual assault in March 2002, was found guilty of sexual battery on Aug. 30. However, he was acquitted of conspiracy to commit rape and criminal deviate conduct. Donald Dykes was found not guilty on all charges and the other two players' suits were dropped.

August 30, 2003

8

Jenkins questions 'Monologues'

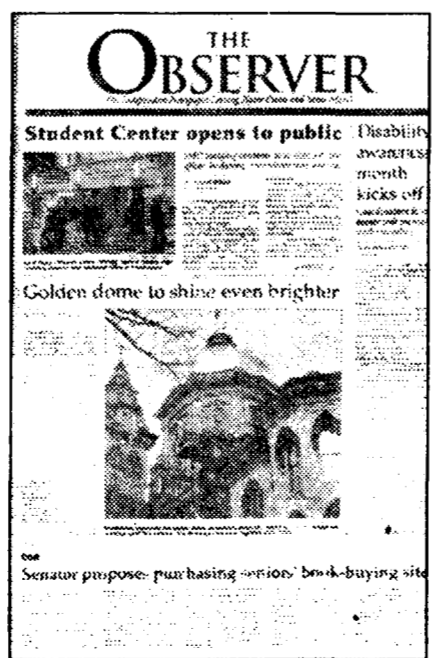


In a series of three speeches, Jenkins appeals to the Notre Dame community for feedback on the interplay between academic freedom and Catholic character. Vigorous campus debate followed. Ten weeks later Jenkins announced "The Vagina Monologues" would not be prohibited at Notre Dame.

January 25, 2006

9

New Student Center opens at SMC

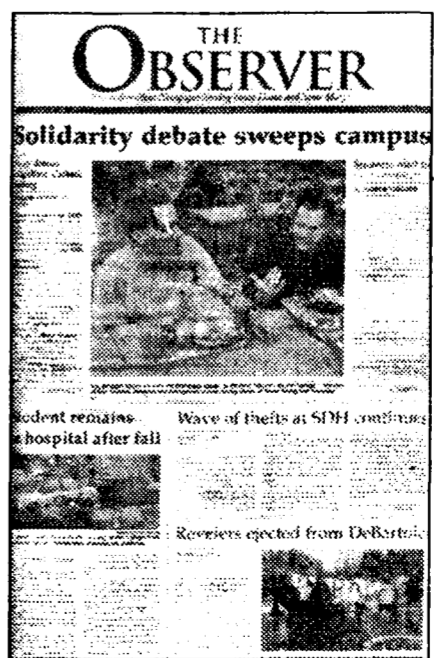


After more than year of construction the long awaited Student Center opened on Saint Mary's campus, which connected to the newly constructed Noble Family Dining Hall. The building serves as the center of campus life, containing many student organization offices, the College bookstore, an Internet cafe and a ballroom.

March 15, 2005

10

'Gay? Fine by Me' held on campus



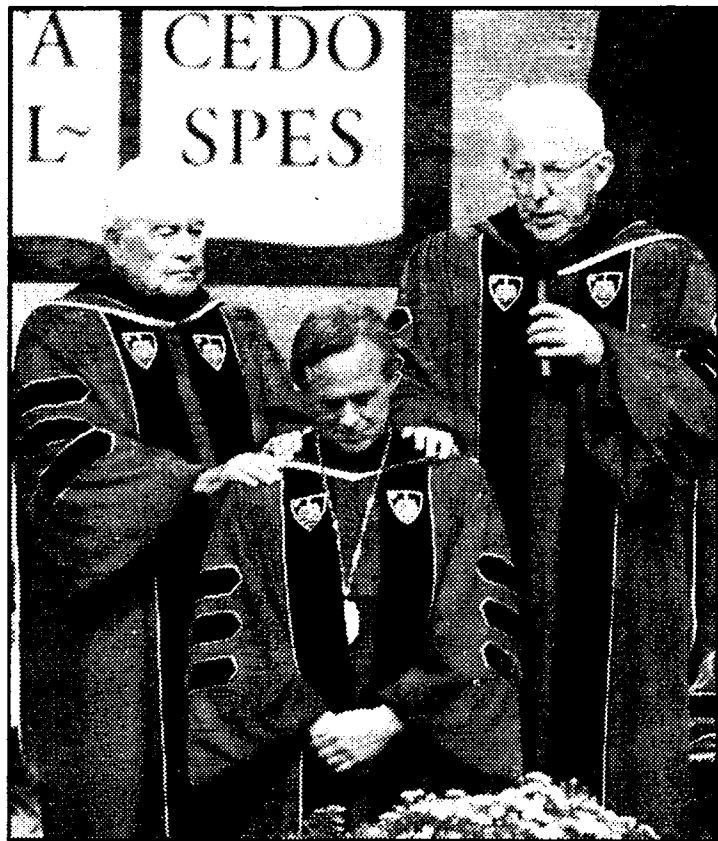
On March 18, approximately 1,700 blaze orange T-shirts with the message "Gay? Fine by Me" were worn by students and faculty members. Distributed in demonstration of solidarity with homosexual members of the Notre Dame community, the shirts prompted campus-wide debate.

March 19, 2004

Hurricane Katrina ravages Gulf Coast. Jenkins inaugurated as University President. Trustees travel to Rome.

The Year

2005 ♦



By AMANDA MICHAELS and KELLY MEEHAN
News Writers

Hurricane Katrina slams into coast

On Aug. 29, 2005, the most devastating storm in recent memory ravaged the Gulf Coast and tore through the levees protecting the city of New Orleans, killing thousands, leaving millions homeless and inflicting damages some total in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

Its name was Hurricane Katrina. As the country turned its attention and its aid to the areas affected by Katrina, the members of the extended Notre Dame and Saint Mary's family rushed to help not only its own, but all those stranded by the storm.

The student governments and other student organizations from both schools made strides to help those hurt by Katrina, including a large-scale University-sponsored stadium relief collection held during the Michigan State home football game Sept. 17. The preliminary total raised from that effort was over \$240,000, with money still pouring in from smaller collections.

A large portion of the funds went to Catholic Charities USA, the Congregation of Holy Cross in Louisiana and members of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) in the devastated areas.

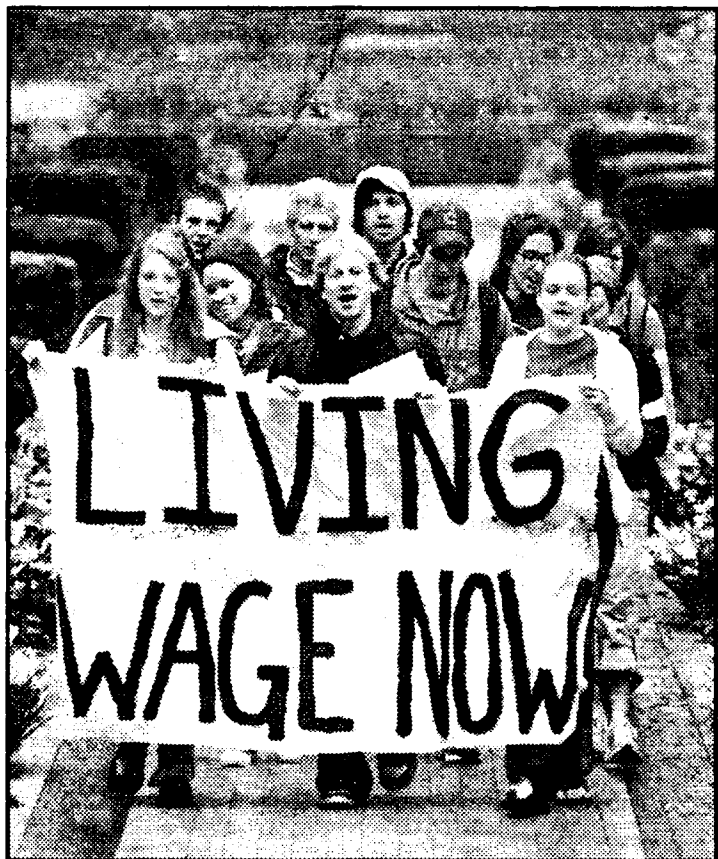
Twenty-five ACE instructors were in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, with several more Saint Mary's and Notre Dame graduates working in a similar area with organizations like Teach for America.

They stayed on even after many of their schools were closed to help rebuild, and to instruct refugees.

On Notre Dame's campus, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart held nine consecutive days of prayer, while the Center for Social Concerns organized Hurricane Katrina Response Day and an Academic Forum for Disaster Relief to both aid relief efforts and educate the community about the issue.

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's alumni from around the country pooled their resources to aid in disaster relief, while many University and College students spent their winter and spring breaks in New Orleans and other affected areas helping with the rebuilding effort.

Both institutions also went beyond donating money and supplies, as Saint Mary's took in several students whose colleges were closed by the storm. Notre Dame officials — including University President Father John Jenkins — went to New Orleans to view firsthand the destruction of Hurricane Katrina and meet with Archbishop Alfred Hughes and other community leaders.



Jenkins is inaugurated

On Friday, Sept. 23, 2005 University President Father John Jenkins was inaugurated as the 17th president of Notre Dame.

In his inaugural address at the Joyce Center, Jenkins spoke about the quest for knowledge, the unity between faith and reason and the role of community and call to service.

"With respect and gratitude for all who embraced Notre Dame's mission in earlier times, let us rise up and embrace the mission for our time," Jenkins said in his inaugural address. "This is our goal. Let no one ever again say that we dreamed too small."

Jenkins said his goal was for Notre Dame to be the top Catholic university in the 21st century for research and learning.

University President Emeriti Father Theodore Hesburgh and Father Edward Malloy blessed the incoming President after his address, and distinguished guests included Indiana governor Mitch Daniels, Provost Thomas Burish, Alumni Association president Timothy Brady, Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy, Faculty Senate chair Seth Brown and Holy Cross provincial superior David Tyson.

A picnic and fireworks followed Jenkins' address on South Quad.

Classes were cancelled for two days allowing students to partake in the inauguration events, including an academic forum featuring Tom Brokaw as the moderator on Thursday afternoon and a Friday morning Mass.

City passes housing ordinance amendment

A city ordinance passed over the summer of 2005 threatened not only the South Bend social scene, but could also cost students their home or apartment.

Campus-wide opposition swirled as students questioned the passage of the Public Nuisance Ordinance that allowed the city of South Bend to send a notice to abate the gatherings to both the tenants and the landlord after the first incidence of a noise violation. If neither the tenant nor residents respond and illegal activities continue, the tenant can be fined anywhere from \$250 to \$2,500. If the tenant, however, opts to evict the tenants within 30 days of notification the civil lawsuit will be dropped.

This threat led Turtle Creek Management to evict six students — who were notified of their eviction upon returning from fall break — for a party thrown on the weekend of Sept. 9-10, in which 100 minors were cited for underage drinking.

In response to the evictions, then-student body president Dave Baron along with the Student Senate's Community Relations committee, confronted the ordinance implications by presenting a

resolution to the South Bend Community Council meeting Feb. 27.

Council members said they would consider the propositions of amending the ordinance by sending a notice to abate after the second violation or allow landlords to pass their fines on to tenants to reduce the tendency to evict after only one violation.

Council members said they were impressed with Baron's desire to cooperate with them on meeting mutual goals and making community relations a priority at Notre Dame.

Student body president Lizzi Shappell and student body vice president Bill Andrichik have also verbally committed their administration to improving community relations.

SMC replaces two top administrators

In January 2006 Saint Mary's College found itself having to replace two top administrators as Vice President of Student Affairs Linda Timm and Vice President and Dean of Faculty Pat White each individually announced they would vacate their position at the conclusion of the semester.

After serving as vice president of student affairs at the College for 11 years, Timm announced she would be leaving at the end of the academic year to begin her presidency at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wis.

"This is the next move in my life," Timm said in an interview Jan. 17. "In lots of ways, this will be a new beginning for me — a new beginning professionally and a new beginning personally."

Like Timm, White will also leave his post as a Saint Mary's vice president to head another academic institution — Wabash College.

White — who had served Saint Mary's for 17 years — will begin his presidency at the nationally ranked men's college July 1.

College President Carol Ann Mooney has named business and economics professor

Jill Vihtelic as the interim vice president and dean of faculty until a permanent replacement is found — a position Mooney said Vihtelic might fill for the next two academic semesters.

Mooney said she hopes to fill the Vice President of Student Affairs position by the start of the 2006-07 school year, but has yet to release the names of any potential candidates.

Jenkins speaks on academic freedom

On Jan. 23 and 24, University President Father John Jenkins spoke to faculty members and students, respectively, about the interaction of academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame.

The address — almost the same for both groups — outlined Jenkins' concerns about the inconsistency of the University's sponsorship of certain

July 21, 2005

The Board of Trustees elects Thomas Burish to replace Nathan Hatch as University Provost, the second-ranking administrative post at the University.

September 17, 2005

Notre Dame student government organizes a massive Hurricane Katrina relief effort for the first home football game. Four-hundred-and-seventy-five students volunteer to help pass around buckets and collect donations from over 80,000 fans — raising over \$240,000.

October 12, 2005

The Student Senate approves the proposed \$15 student activities fee increase in a 22-5 majority vote. The increase reflects inflation and the added cost of implementing the College Readership Program.

November 20, 2005

University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh is released from St. Joseph County Regional Medical Center after suffering a fall that left him hospitalized for three days.

January 23, 2006

University President Father John Jenkins delivers an address to faculty about the interaction of academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame, calling the University's sponsorship of events inconsistent with Catholic teaching "problematic" and asking for continued dialogue on the

August 30, 2005

Hurricane Katrina slams into New Orleans. Many Notre Dame students from the region struggle to get in touch with family living in the path of the storm.

2005

September 5, 2005

Notre Dame airs a controversial advertising spot, "Candle", on NBC during the Pittsburgh game. The message of the commercial is sharply criticized by students and alumni.

December 18, 2005

Saint Mary's Vice President for Student Affairs Linda Timm announces she will leave the College in June in order to assume the presidency at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wis.

July 25, 2005

The South Bend Common Council passes the disorderly house ordinance amendment allowing the city to send a notice to abate the gathering to both tenants and the landlord after the first incidence of a loud and raucous noise violation. The stricter standards dramatically increase the risk of eviction.

September 23, 2005

University President Father John Jenkins is inaugurated as the 17th president of Notre Dame.

November 3, 2005

A Saint Mary's student reports she was sexually assaulted in a Notre Dame residence hall. The victim says she does not plan to file charges.

Campus debates academic freedom and Catholic character. CLAP demands living wage. 'Monologues' not prohibited.

in Review

♦ 2006

events in light of Catholic teaching. Jenkins asked for continued dialogue on the issue before a formal policy announcement.

Jenkins said events sponsored by the University or one of its units — including academic departments — that are deemed to conflict or appear to conflict with Catholic values “should not be allowed at Notre Dame.”

Under specific scrutiny was the controversial and sexually explicit play “The Vagina Monologues,” which had been performed on campus for five consecutive years as part of the anti-violence against women V-Day campaign. Though Jenkins praised the play for its goals, he criticized the “graphic” ways it attempted to achieve them.

“The Vagina Monologues” was held in an academic setting this year — performed in a classroom and followed up with a series of panels addressing the issue of sexuality — as part of an effort to address concerns like Jenkins’.

The wave of response to Jenkins’ speech — which he said was intended to open dialogue on the subject, and not be a final decision on anything — was massive, flooding dorms, classrooms, publications and student and faculty governments.

An e-mail account was opened for the opinionated to express their concerns to Jenkins — who promised to read every last letter.

The most outspoken were the opponents of Jenkins’ statements, who were opposed to any serious restrictions placed on what could and could not take place at Notre Dame. The student organization United for Free Speech was created primarily as a means to defend academic freedom on campus. There were many, though, who supported Jenkins, including South Bend-Fort Wayne Bishop John D’Arcy.

For over two months, the campus was embroiled in an often-circular debate, awaiting Jenkins’ final decision.

‘Monologues’ not prohibited

Ten weeks after his opening address on academic freedom and Catholic character, University President Father John Jenkins released a statement on April 5 detailing the conclusions he reached about the issue after listening to arguments from both sides of the debate.

Jenkins emphasized the importance of balancing Notre Dame’s Catholic values and its presence as an internationally recognized academic institution.

“The Vagina Monologues” — the controversial play at the heart of the discussion — would not be prohibited on campus, Jenkins said, but like any other performance, would undergo approval every year. He also praised the play’s new academic setting as appropriate, and suggested it could serve as a model for other such performances.

To further advance the goal of eliminat-

ing violence against women, Jenkins said he supports both the future production of a play written by student organizers of the “Monologues” entitled “Loyal Daughters” and the formation of an ad hoc University committee to address gender relations and sexual violence — to be composed of administrators, faculty and students, with Jenkins as chair.

Jenkins also said academic departments are “best situated to decide what events should or should not be sponsored,” and have the responsibility to make clear that their sponsorship of an event does not imply endorsement — a large point of contention during the academic freedom debate. Jenkins’ decision gave department chairs and College deans a large amount of responsibility in handling contentious issues, while setting up a process for dealing with any problems that go beyond the bounds of the department.

Many faculty members and students expressed their satisfaction with Jenkins’ conclusion — though the most enthusiasm came from approval of the University President’s open dialogue throughout the decision-making process.

Several loud dissenters disapproved of the decision, however, including law professor emeritus Charles Rice — who called for Jenkins’ resignation — several faculty members and Holy Cross priests and South Bend-Fort Wayne Bishop John D’Arcy. Jenkins acknowledged the opposition, saying the University benefits from a strong, two-sided debate.

Trustees convene in Rome

For the first time, Notre Dame’s Board of Trustees convened in Rome for its annual winter meetings on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, meeting with key Vatican leaders, participating in an academic conference and conferring two honorary degrees in the process.

The trip was touted as an opportunity to renew ties with the Vatican, as well as an avenue to improve understanding of how the University can better serve the Church.

A meeting in Rome had been on the Board of Trustees’ agenda for several years, and University President Father John Jenkins’ first year in office was deemed an appropriate time by members.

Trustees met with numerous Vatican officials, including representatives of the Congregation for Catholic Education, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Secretariat of State.

Jenkins and other members of the Notre Dame delegation were also personally greeted by Pope Benedict XVI after his public audience Feb. 1.

The conference the group attended, “Contribution of Catholic Universities to the Church and Culture,” featured

addresses by Jenkins, Rino Fisichella, auxiliary bishop of Rome and rector of St. John (Pontifical) Lateran University and Notre Dame Trustee Daniel Jenky, bishop of Peoria, Ill.

Honorary degrees were presented to Fisichella and L. Frances Rooney III, U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

The event marked Jenkins’ first major trip as University President and a new era in Notre Dame-Vatican relations.

Campus Labor Action Project mobilizes

This year, a new social action group made itself known at Notre Dame — the Campus Labor Action Project (CLAP). Formed by students in the fall of 2005, CLAP welcomed workers, students, faculty, alumni and others to join their effort to secure a “living wage” for campus workers.

The living wage — a movement instituted into policy at institutions nationwide, including Harvard University and Georgetown University — is the hourly rate of income that a worker in a specific area must make in a 40-hour workweek to support a family of four. To establish a living wage at Notre Dame, CLAP suggested a minimum \$12.10 per hour wage, or \$25,164 a year, for University employees.

On March 8, members of CLAP passed out copies of their 11-page report on the living wage and its implementation at Notre Dame to several University officials, including University President Father John Jenkins, Provost Tom Burish, Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves and Vice President of Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman.

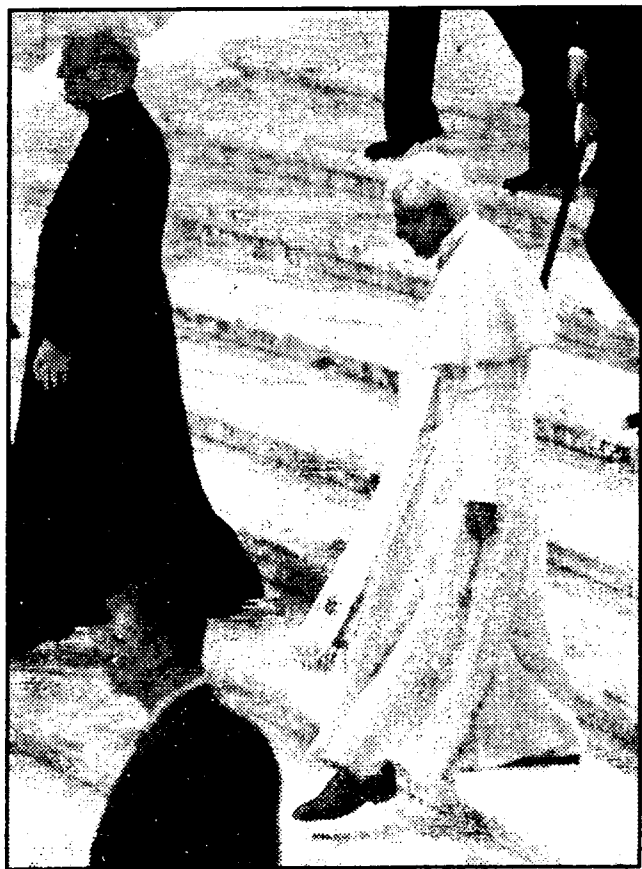
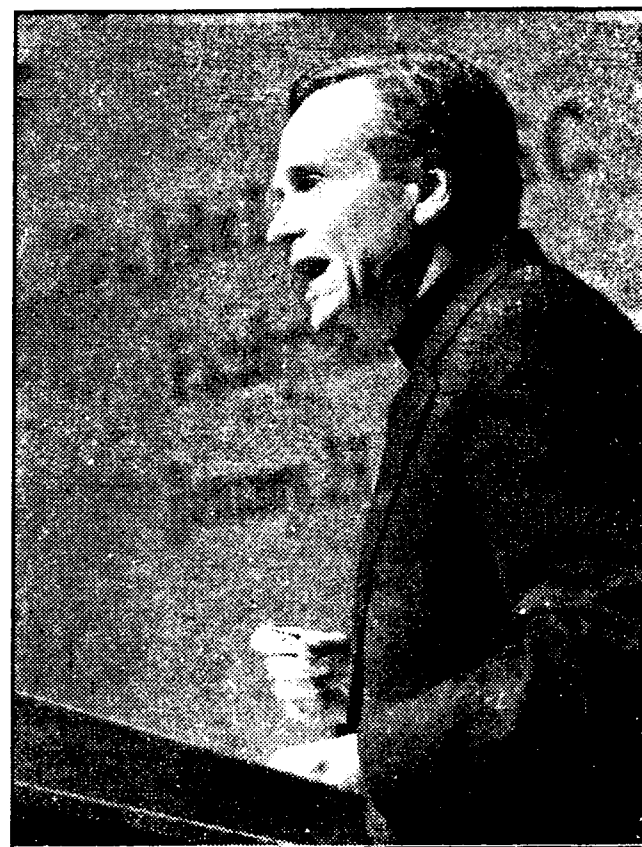
In the report, CLAP outlined three goals, which included meeting with Jenkins, Jenkins making a public commitment to the principle of living wage and creating a joint task force of students, workers, faculty and administrators to address worker issues and come up with a just policy.

CLAP supported its cause with several petitions and was backed by Notre Dame’s student government, arguing its efforts were part of Catholic social teaching. Affleck-Graves issued a statement April 19 responding to CLAP’s report, maintaining the University already provides a “fair and just wage” for its employees by including benefits on top of their base salary.

CLAP responded with a rally, and finally a sit-in in Jenkins’ office on May 2, still demanding the joint task force outlined in its earlier report. Jenkins issued a statement that day saying he entrusted the matter to Affleck-Graves, and the University was committed to paying just wages and benefits to its workers.

As the semester ended, members of CLAP were left unsatisfied.

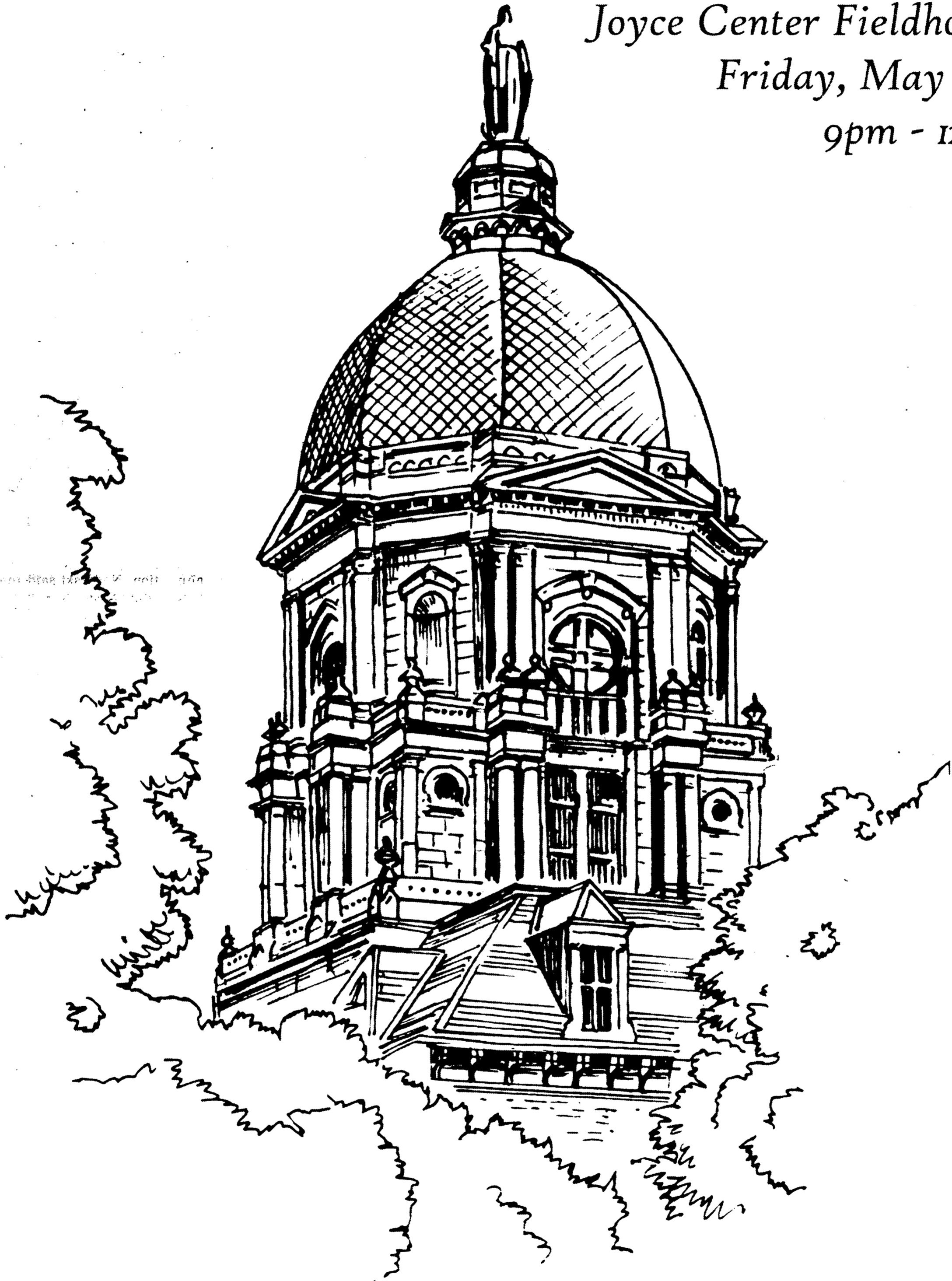
Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@ndedu and Kelly Meehan at keemha01@saintmarys.edu



<p>January 31, 2006 The University Board of Trustees convenes in Rome for its annual winter meetings to meet with key Vatican leaders, participate in an academic conference and confer two honorary degrees.</p>	<p>February 15, 2006 Jenkins attends the final performance of “The Vagina Monologues” saying he went to “listen and learn, and I did that tonight and I thank the cast.”</p>	<p>February 27, 2006 University officials announce the University Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs will become the Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students — a restructured group with increased student membership to better meet campus needs.</p>	<p>March 9, 2006 The Campus Labor Action Project presents a wage report to administrators suggesting the University implement a minimum \$12.10 per hour pay for its workers.</p>	<p>April 5, 2006 University President Father John Jenkins announces future performances of “The Vagina Monologues” will not be prohibited on Notre Dame’s campus — a conclusion to two months of impassioned debate about the complex relationship between academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame.</p>
<p>February 8, 2006 Two weeks after University President Father John Jenkins questioned the presence of controversial events on campus in a series of major addresses to the Notre Dame community, the event formerly known as Queer Film Festival begins under a new name — “Gay and Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Narratives and Spectatorship.”</p>	<p>February 16, 2006 Saint Mary’s stages SMC Monologues — its own adaptation of Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues,” which has not been held on campus since 2004.</p>	<p>March 29, 2006 After two years in the development stage, SMC-TV — an independent television station operated by Saint Mary’s — goes air as the first student-produced television program in Saint Mary’s history.</p>	<p>March 7, 2006 Gray Television, Inc. officially acquired WNDU-TV from the University for \$85 million — a purchase that will help inflate Notre Dame’s endowment, a University official said.</p>	<p>April 28, 2006 Saint Mary’s announces plans for a new three-story, 68,000 square foot academic building.</p>

Class of 2006 Family Commencement Dance

Joyce Center Fieldhouse
Friday, May 19th
9pm - 12am



Stop by after dinner and enjoy dancing, drinks, and desserts. A photographer will be present to take portraits of the graduate with their friends and family.

ROTC seniors prepare to accept military duties

Major General Scully will commission officers

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

After four years of service to God and Notre Dame, 64 ROTC cadets will be commissioned as officers Saturday and begin to directly serve their country through the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

The tri-military ceremony will take place Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Joyce Center. The senior cadets will say an oath of office and then receive a certificate of their commissioning. University President Father John Jenkins is expected to attend the ceremony.

Captain Amy Bellenbaum, the commandant of cadets for Air Force ROTC has supervised the training of this year's graduation class. She said the ceremony is marked by tradition.

"At the end, they all do three cheers and they get to throw their hats up in the air," Bellenbaum said.

The graduating cadets will be commissioned with a first officer rank. The Air Force will commission 19 second lieutenants, the Army will also commission 19 and the Marine Corps three. The Navy will commission 23 ensigns.

Lieutenant David McCaffrey worked closely with this year's graduating Navy and Marine cadets. He said the commissioning of an officer signifies that individual's continuous dedication to the service throughout the person's college career. He said those commissioned are "extremely driven individuals."

"It is a significant accomplishment and it reflects a

commitment to doing ROTC through all four years," McCaffrey said.

Major General John Scully — who retired as Commanding General of the 102nd U.S. Army Reserve Command in 1996 — will speak at the ceremony and will swear in the new officers. Scully graduated from Notre Dame in 1964 and received a Master of Arts Degree in English from DePaul University in 1966.

Scully entered the army through ROTC in 1964 as an Adjutant General Corps officer. He was deployed to Vietnam in 1967 and entered the Reserves in 1968. Scully has extensive leadership experience. He served as the commander of the 425th Transportation Brigade and also as Commanding General of the 86th U.S. Army Reserve Command.

Scully is highly decorated for his service, and his honors include the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

In his civilian career, Scully remains active in leadership roles. He is a group senior vice president in the Human Resources Department for ABN AMRO, where he is responsible for human resource services for the LaSalle Bank's Commercial Lending and Corporate Staff. Scully is currently a member of several community organizations, and he serves on the Notre Dame Alumni Board.

The graduating cadets will be sent to their respective assignments to learn their specialties. Army Captain Tom Dukeman said whether a student gets their first choice of assignment depends on how high they are ranked on a national merit list. Dukeman

said the Army ROTC is in the top 15 percent of programs nationally, and this year's graduating class continued the tradition and scored well nationally.

"Almost all of them got pretty much what they wanted to do, which is a credit to Notre Dame, with academics being what they are here, because we definitely had some really intelligent students coming out of this program," Dukeman said.

Army ROTC cadet Captain Patrick Nagorski received his first choice of assignment — in June he will enter the Michigan National Guard. Nagorski will also attend Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Nagorski said being a member of the ROTC at Notre Dame was a rewarding experience and the best thing he did in college.

"While most people do service here and there, you are training for four years to serve everyone in the nation," Nagorski said. "You give not just of your time, but you also give of yourself, your energy, your own personality and your soul."

McCafferty said the Navy graduates also overwhelmingly received the assignments they listed as their first preference. He said 91 percent of the seniors received their first choice of assignments, and 100 percent received their first or second choice. McCafferty said the Navy ROTC program, which historically commissions more officers into the Navy and the Marine Corps than any other source beside the Naval Academy, prepares cadets well for their leadership position in the Fleet or in the Corps.

"The reputation of Notre Dame naval officers in the



ANN KELLEY/The Observer

ROTC cadets performed at a ceremony for Veteran's Day last November. Sixty-four seniors will be commissioned officers Saturday.

Fleet is second to none," McCafferty said. "There are Notre Dame naval officers as admirals commanding ships over in the Gulf right now, maintaining a great name for Notre Dame and the ROTC unit right here."

Graduating senior and Navy ROTC cadet Bryan Kreller also said he has observed a difference between the Notre Dame cadet and cadets from other programs.

"Based on what I've seen from the people that I've met from other units ... around the country, the people in my class are a cut above," Kreller said.

Kreller will be attending Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, S.C. this summer to prepare for submarine service.

Bellenbaum estimates 16 of the 19 graduating Air Force ROTC seniors received their

first choice for their career and location. She called these students "the cream of the crop" referring to their involvement in extracurricular activities beyond the demands of school work and ROTC duties.

Soon after graduation, the newly commissioned officers from all three branches will be heading to places like Virginia, South Carolina and California to begin their specialized training or to continue their education. Nagorski said the leadership experiences he has had at Notre Dame have prepared him for his upcoming responsibilities.

"I could not ask for better preparation," Nagorski said. "It has challenged me in ways that I didn't even think I could be challenged."

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

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Six residence hall rectors opt to leave University posts

Turnover deemed normal as some will take on higher positions at Notre Dame, others decide to pursue further education

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

As the 2005-06 school year comes to a close, six rectors will leave behind their responsibilities for their respective residence halls to take up new positions at the University, to pursue further education or explore different job opportunities.

Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Sister Jean Lenz said this is not an unusually large number considering the amount of rectors employed at Notre Dame.

"When you have 27 residence halls, there's a turnover," Lenz said. "Almost every year there are a few people that leave."

Last year seven rectors opted to leave. This year, Sister Susan Dunn of Lyons, Anne Napoli of Badin, Katie Winikates of Lewis, Father Peter Jarret of Keough, Mary Ann Mueninghoff of Pasquerilla East and Father Tom Eckert of St. Edward's will all be leaving.

The University announced in February that Dunn would replace Sister Mary Louise Gude as Assistant Vice

President for Student Affairs. Dunn will officially begin her new position July 1 and will work under Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman supervising the University's health, counseling and career services.

Dunn said her five years as a rector will be helpful in aiding her transition into her new position. She will be dealing with many of the same groups she worked with as a rector, such as the University Counseling Center.

Dunn said she will miss the challenges and the joys that accompany the job of rector.

"I think being a rector at Notre Dame is just a wonderfully unique experience because of having the same hall system," Dunn said. "You really do get to know people, I think, at a deep level, especially after four years, and they also get to know you at that level too."

Jarret, after being a rector for five years at Keough, will replace Father Bill Seetch as superior of the Holy Cross community at Notre Dame. He will oversee the approximately 80 members of the Order who live and work at the University, as well as the religious services carried out at

Corby Hall. As part of this position, Jarret will become a Trustee and Fellow of the University to represent the Order of the Holy Cross.

"I'll miss most the one-on-one with the guys in the hall, people stopping by at all hours and just the spirit of the hall, which was very positive," Jarret said.

Winikates wants to pursue counseling so she will be leaving Notre Dame to pursue a doctorate in psychology. She is still waiting to hear from the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago. In the meantime, she will return to Dallas, Texas to spend time with her family. Winikates said she enjoyed the two years she spent among the women of Lewis Hall.

"I learned a lot from them and I also think the world of them and I know they will do great things with their lives," Winikates said.

She said people across campus helped her acclimate to Notre Dame and provided her with various resources while she was a rector at the University.

"The learning curve is huge for someone who comes in not having any Notre Dame experience," Winikates said. "It's a unique place and the challenge was definitely learning how things worked ... but there's a great support system."

Winikates said she is considering returning to the University to apply for a counseling position after she receives her doctorate.

Napoli lived in Badin Hall for four years as a rector. She

said the small size of the dorm fostered a close community with a strong identity.

"Some of the best experiences I have had are the masses, ... praying with the girls, ... praying for them at the Regatta or at our championship game at the stadium a couple of years ago," Napoli said.

She said she and some other rectors were talking about the impending shock of the transition from living in crowded residence hall to living alone.

"When we're in our apartments, it will be nice to have some more privacy, but

when you're alone on a Tuesday night you can't just wander down the hall to find someone to talk to," Napoli said.

Napoli remains undecided about her plans after finishing up her duties as rector. She has applied to some jobs on campus, but has also been accepted into a program at Indiana University, Bloomington to become a certified high school art teacher.

Mueninghoff has been the Pasquerilla East rector for 11 years and is leaving to take an administrative position at Dominican University in River Forest, Ill. as the promoter of mission and ministry for the University.

Mueninghoff said her service to Pasquerilla East for over a decade has been an honor and a privilege, but also an exhausting experience.

"It's all about walking with 18-22 year olds in the big picture — the big picture being 'what's the meaning of life and what's the contribution I'm

going to make in this world to make it a better place?'" Mueninghoff said.

After three years as the rector of St. Edward's Hall, Eckert will begin to study full-time at Notre Dame to obtain a Master's degree focusing on Latin American literature. He will also continue to serve as the Associate Director for the Office of Vocations within the Order of Holy Cross. Eckert said he will miss the camaraderie he was able to form with the residents of the dorm.

"My hope is that through it all, the gentlemen I've built community with in these three years will remember that their long term growth and development was always my number one priority, and that we were able to have a great deal of fun along the way," Eckert said.

Approximately 65 people submitted applications to be rectors next year, Lenz said. The applicant pool was narrowed through phone interviews and then through day-long campus interviews. By May 2, Lenz and the senior staff had chosen the rectors' replacements.

"Notre Dame is very fortunate because it attracts people that have had experience in other places," Lenz said.

The senior staff considers the personality and experience of the applicant and the character of the dorm in deciding which residence hall to place them in. Lenz said she is pleased with the new rectors they have selected for next year.

"I feel like each one of them brings really good experience," Lenz said. "They are so happy to be coming — thrilled to be coming to work at Notre Dame."

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu



Napoli



Jarret



Winikates



Mueninghoff



Eckert



Dunn

Administration vacancies at SMC leave room for change

College has yet to name replacements for former vice presidents Timm and White; Vihtelic will fill void for fall semester

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Just weeks apart this past January, two of Saint Mary's top administrators announced they would be resigning from their position at the College to head other academic institutions — leaving a major void within the hierarchy and a marked opportunity for change.

At the start of the spring 2006 semester vice president of student affairs Linda Timm would be leaving Saint Mary's to serve as president of Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wis.

The second announcement of position vacancy came from

Vice President and Dean of Faculty Pat White who announced Jan. 28 that he would depart Saint Mary's at the conclusion of the spring 2006 semester to begin his presidency at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind.

The resignation of these two administrators has given College President Carol Ann Mooney significant shaping power over the school's future.

In early April, Mooney and her search committee — comprised of College faculty, staff and students — invited the community to open forums to meet three candidates vying for the position of vice president and dean of faculty.

These forum discussions were

meant for the College community to meet with the three candidates — who, Mooney said, did not necessarily exhaust the College's options.

Although Mooney has not met her originally stated goal of naming a new vice president and dean of faculty by the conclusion of the spring 2006 semester, she has recently appointed business administration and economics chair and professor Jill Vihtelic as the acting vice president and dean of faculty until a replacement is found.

"The successful candidate must support our distinctive mission as a Catholic college and as a women's college and have a thorough understanding of the goals of a liberal arts education," she said.

Mooney said Vihtelic would serve as vice president and dean of faculty "for all of the fall semester and perhaps for spring as well."

The primary role of the vice president and dean of faculty, White said in a January interview, is to serve as the chief academic officer of the College

and to lead faculty to continue personal development through reviewing and improving academic programs and promoting quality teaching, scholarship and service — something Vihtelic said she hopes to fulfill during her interim term.

In a letter sent to all students in the department of business administration and economics, Vihtelic explained that Professor Mary Ann Merryman would take over as chair of the department on June 1 when her appointment as vice president begins.

Vihtelic's fall 2006 courses have been reassigned to other professors in the department.

"Following a short stint in administration, I expect to return to the department as a full-time member of the faculty sometime next year," Vihtelic said.

A search committee has also identified a group of finalists for the position of vice president of student affairs, Mooney said.

Vice President for Enrollment Management and head of the vice president of student affairs

search committee Dan Meyer said even though the search is taking place over the summer, students would still be involved in the process.

"Since most students are no longer on campus, we decided to solicit nominations from students from the local market and those who are participating in summer courses," Meyer said. "We have five to seven students recommended for interviews [with the candidates]."

On Wednesday, May 17 Meyer announced the names of four vice president of student affairs candidates confirmed to visit campus in the next two weeks. Jennifer Hanson will be the first candidate to address the community on May 22 followed by Eileen Sullivan on May 24, Karen Johnson on May 30 and Maureen Powers on June 2.

Mooney said in an early April interview that she hopes to fill Timm's vacancy prior to the start of the 2006-07 school year.

Contact Liz Harter at lhart03@saintmarys.edu

"The successful candidate must support our distinctive mission as a Catholic college and as a women's college and have a thorough understanding of the goals of a liberal arts education."

Carol Ann Mooney
SMC president

New statue reflects spirituality, education

By MAUREEN MULLEN
News Writer

A new campus icon is soon to join the ranks of Touchdown Jesus and First Down Moses. The "In Celebration of Family" statue — unofficially titled "The Holy Hand-off" — was scheduled to be erected Thursday behind the Coleman Morse Building, building manager Tony Vargo said.

The bronze sculpture — which has been in the works for three and a half years — depicts a portrait of the Holy Family and is nearly nine feet tall.

The sculpture was commissioned by the Brutoco family. Dr. Rudolf Brutoco is the father of two Notre Dame students and founder of the Brutoco Family

Foundation, a foundation which supports philanthropic endeavors, particularly those relating to issues of education, health, and spirituality.

Though the foundation does not usually commission works of art, "In Celebration of Family" combines aspects of education and spirituality along with the notion of family — all extremely important values to his foundation and his family, Brutoco said.

A. Wasil, who has created a number of religiously themed sculptures, worked with Brutoco to create the piece of art. His accomplishments include a larger-than-life bronze bust of Christ, which he produced in 1997 as part of the Vatican collection of the late Pope John Paul II.

"In Celebration of Family" presents an intimate composition of the Virgin, Christ Child, and Joseph. Mary is the prominent figure in height, Jesus is at the center and Joseph expresses paternal support and loving devotion toward both, Brutoco said.

Director of the Snite Museum Charles Loving and a committee of several others have been closely involved in sanctioning the sculpture and bringing it to Notre Dame. Brutoco dealt with various representatives of the University regarding the approval and the commissioning of the statue and said it was the shared goal to "capture a private family moment" and to "invite all who see the sculpture to share in reflective appreciation of society's core element: the family."

Brutoco said the sculpture is one which "every Notre Dame parent or Notre Dame parent-to-be, for that matter, will be able to relate to on some level."

The aim of the sculpture is to communicate the idea that "Mary and Joseph not only adored Jesus as the Christ, but loved him as their very own son," Brutoco said.

He said it only seems appropriate for such a sculpture to stand on Notre Dame's campus.

"Notre Dame has always inspired people," Brutoco said. "This sculpture is one more thing to relate to on this magnificent campus."

Contact Maureen Mullen at mmullen1@nd.edu

"Notre Dame has always inspired people. This statue is one more thing to relate to on this magnificent campus."

Rudolf Brutoco
founder of the Brutoco Family Foundation

Seniors enter post-graduate service

Over 130 students will begin volunteer work after leaving Notre Dame

By JOE PIARULLI
News Writer

A few months ago, senior Tommy Hayes would never have guessed he'd go to Puerto Rico after graduation.

Hayes isn't going there for vacation or to start a new career. He's not going to visit friends or practice his Spanish.

In fact, he doesn't speak any Spanish.

Hayes is going to Puerto Rico for a year to teach and tutor English and Math as part of the Puerto Rico Center for Social Concerns.

He is one of many graduating seniors going into post-graduate service.

According to Liz Mackenzie, director of senior transition programs at the Center for Social Concerns, usually 10 percent of Notre Dame's graduating class will commit to post-graduate service. This year, 126 graduates reported to the CSC that they will be going into a service program. But that number is skewed since only an estimated 70 percent register through the CSC.

Last year, for example, 160 students registered with the CSC. But in the fall, it was found that 211 students were involved in service. With that in mind, the actual number for this year is probably over 150, Mackenzie said.

Mackenzie said there are two main reasons why students choose service after graduation instead of graduate school or a career.

"A lot of folks, when they come talk to me, they talk about how they want to give back to the community and how they've had so many opportunities ... and they want to do something for others," Mackenzie said. "Others want to get some experience and do something a little bit different before they get a job."

On May 20, those going into post-graduate programs will be honored during Notre Dame's annual Senior Service Send-Off ceremony at 9:30 a.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

University President Father John Jenkins will address the seniors and their families. Every participating senior will be recognized by name and service program at the ceremony, and each will receive a journal with quotations and advice from members of the Notre Dame community.

This year, Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) and Teach for America are the largest post-graduate service programs with nearly 40 students each.

Senior Laura Feeney is one of five Notre Dame students who will travel to Houston, Texas in June as part of Teach For America's two-year program. She said she already knows all of her future coworkers.

"There are actually a lot of Notre Dame graduates that get in [to Teach for America] which is a testament to us because it's a very competitive program," she said.

Feeney will be paid a teacher's salary. She sees Teach for America as a great way to gain professional experience while helping a community.

"The focus on service here is so huge ... it just kind of seems like a natural way to give back after four years," she said.

Senior Kathy Peterson will be teaching at a Catholic school in Biloxi, Miss. starting in August for ACE.

Classes for all ACE teachers are held at Notre Dame over the summer before the individuals depart for their teaching sites.

Peterson said she has had an interest in the two-year program since freshman year and has received nothing but positive feedback about her post-graduation plans.

"I know a lot of parents are kind of wary about their children doing service programs because they don't tend to pay well ... my parents are very supportive especially since I'll be earning a Masters in education," she said. "My friends are very supportive too and in fact I have a lot of friends who are doing the ACE program."

Peterson will be living with six other ACE teachers, two of whom are from Notre Dame.

According to Peterson, her interest in teaching is a big reason why ACE seemed like a good fit for her.

"ACE gives me the opportunity to do service while gaining professional skills," she said. "We'll wait and see if teaching is the profession for me, but even if I decide it's not, I don't think it will be time wasted."

After ACE and Teach for America, the largest programs are as follows: Americorps (nine reported students), Peace Corps (eight), Echo (five), the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (five), and the Puerto Rico Center for Social Concerns (five).

Traditionally, more women go into post-graduate service programs than men. And this year is no exception with 91 women (72 percent) and 35 men (28 percent) committing to service after graduation. 2001 was the last year the percentage of women was less than 60.

Mackenzie said she isn't sure about why the numbers are so skewed.

"There might be some external reasons," she said.

When it comes to post-graduate service, Puerto Rico-bound Hayes is in the minority. Not only is he male and going into a relatively small program, but also he's the only one of the five Notre Dame students going to Puerto Rico without any knowledge of the Spanish language.

"I will be picking it up from scratch which should be interesting," he said. "That will sort of be a nice challenge I suppose."

Despite his unique status, Hayes' situation is a microcosm of post-graduate service as a whole, Hayes said.

"There are all sorts of varying degrees of sacrifices that students will be making," Hayes said.

The Puerto Rico Center for Social Concerns pays for rent and utilities for their volunteers. They will also provide health insurance and a monthly stipend of \$400 to pay for food and other necessities.

Hayes said he sees the program as an opportunity for reflection and a way to offer his time and skills.

"A lot of people feel a call to give back," Hayes said. "For a lot of these people it will be the first time that they leave the upper crust of society and live a much more simple life style."

Hayes said his parents are very understanding, especially since his mother had wanted to do the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

"Her parents wouldn't let her," he said. "She ended up going and working right away and she said it's something she has always regretted."

According to Hayes, post-graduate service is a very legitimate "next step." He said it will give him time to prepare for his future.

"You really get extra time to think about what you want to do," he said. "Doing this ... lets you take a step back and think things through."

Though he cannot predict what will happen in Puerto Rico or where his life will take him afterwards, one thing is for sure — Hayes will be moving far away from Notre Dame's notorious weather.

"I vowed pretty much the first semester of freshman year that I would move toward the equator as soon as I got out of Notre Dame," he said. "So I'm doing pretty well for myself there."

Contact Joe Piarulli at jpiarull@nd.edu

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Top seniors earn prestigious fellowships, scholarships

Peter Quaranto, Patrick Longenbacker, Julia Fitzpatrick and Mark Thomas selected for major national awards

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

Several members of the class of 2006 have received prestigious fellowships and scholarships that will allow students to obtain graduate degrees and gain career experience as they pursue their passions after they leave Notre Dame.

Senior Peter Quaranto received the Marshall Scholarship for Political Science and Peace Studies and will be spending two years studying in the United Kingdom. During this time, he will attend the University of Bradford which has the world's largest center for peace and conflict studies. Quaranto is one of 43 students across the nation who received this honor.

Quaranto said that during his time at Bradford, he will have the opportunity to go to graduate school while also advocating the issues he cares about.

"[This program] brings together people from 35 countries, and as London is the nucleus for discussion on global security, I will have the opportunity to interact with experts in the field from all parts of the world," Quaranto said.

After his two years of study in the U.K., Quaranto hopes to work on peace building in East Africa. Eventually he wants to expand his efforts and work with national governments to

merge peace-building and global security issues.

Quaranto said that his work in the Center for Social Concerns and the Kroc Institute has been influential during his four years at Notre Dame.

"Without the remarkable communities of people at the Kroc Institute and CSC, I would not be on the track that I am today," Quaranto said.

Senior Patrick Longenbacker received the National Flagship Language Initiative [NFLI] scholarship and will spend two years studying at Ohio State University and traveling to Qingdao, China. The National Flagship Initiative helps students gain proficiency in foreign languages so that they can work in federal government agencies.

Longenbacker will be continuing his studies in Chinese through the NFLI.

"U.S.-China relations are becoming more and more important," Longenbacker said. "There is a great need for people in the U.S. to understand China."

Longenbacker will be focusing his studies on international relations and once he is finished with the program he hopes to find a job in government involving U.S.-China relations.

While some fellowships offer graduate study programs, others prepare recipients for careers. Senior Julia Fitzpatrick received the Scoville



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

The Center for Social Concerns served as a major source of motivation for seniors like Peter Quaranto, who received the Marshall Scholarship earlier this year, an honor given to just 43 students nationwide.

Peace Fellowship, which will allow her to spend six to nine months in Washington, D.C. working for Outreach of Global Solutions. She said she will be doing research on U.N. reform and helping lobbyists who are trying to gain congressional support on international peace and security issues.

"This will be a great first step in learning how policy is formed," Fitzpatrick said. "I will enter as a full-time staff person — not as an intern — which means I will be given a lot of responsibility right away."

Fitzpatrick said her involve-

ment in the Kroc Institute at Notre Dame and supportive professors have prepared her for work in Washington.

Senior Mark Thomas, who will graduate with a joint-major in philosophy and theology, received the Javits Scholarship which provides him with full tuition and a stipend for his graduate study at Boston College. Thomas plans to earn a PhD in philosophy, focusing his studies on continental philosophy of religion. He hopes to pursue an academic career after his graduate studies.

Thomas said that his profes-

sors at Notre Dame helped him to pursue an advanced career and sparked his interest in philosophy.

Other fellowships that graduating seniors have received include French Government Teaching Assistantships, Fulbright Teaching Assistantships, Simon Fellowship for Noble Purpose, Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program and the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

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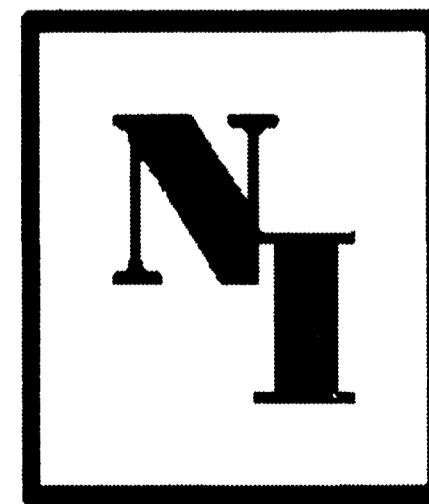
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|---|--|
| Samantha Alarie-Leca (France) | Conor McEvily (England) |
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| Kristine Nugent (Ukraine) <i>The Katie Murphy McMahon Grant for Russian and East-Central European Studies</i> | Jessica Winschel (Germany, language study) |
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And to graduate students:

- Marlene Daut (Haiti)
- Melinda Grimsley-Smith (Ireland)
- Andrew Irving (Italy)
- Glen Ryland (Namibia)

Graduate fellowship winners:

- Sean Brennan (The Dominica and Frank Annese Fellowship in Graduate Studies)
- Kate Hennessey (The Paul G. Tobin Dissertation Fellowship)



ND, SMC award honorary degrees

Leaders to receive diplomas at weekend commencement ceremonies

By AMANDA MICHAELS and KELLY MEEHAN
News Writers

Joining the more than 2,000 undergraduate and advanced degree candidates receiving diplomas at Notre Dame's 161st Commencement exercises Sunday will be 12 prominent visitors — including Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Harper Lee.

Along with keynote speaker Irish President Mary McAleese, the recipients — three women and 10 men, including McAleese — will be awarded honorary degrees from the University acknowledging their work in a wide spectrum of professional fields.

Honorary degrees are conferred in recognition of the accomplishments of various individuals. Students, faculty and staff members are all allowed to nominate a person for an honorary degree. University officers, including University President Father John Jenkins, narrow down the pool. Honorees do not necessarily need a connection to the University.

Landrum Bolling, a leader in higher education whose many former roles include president and chairman of the board of Lilly Endowment Inc., chairman and chief executive officer of the National Council on Foundations and president and rector of the Notre Dame-founded Ecumenical Institute in Israel, will receive a doctor of laws.

Kevin Cahill, an expert on tropical medicine who has worked internationally in disaster and crises areas and treated Pope John Paul II after the assassination attempt in 1981, will receive a doctor of science.

Anthony Earley Jr., chairman of the board, chief executive officer, chief operating officer and president of DTE Energy Company, will receive a doctor of engineering.

Norman Francis, president of the nation's only black Catholic college, Xavier University in New Orleans, who has worked to rebuild the institution since the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, will receive a doctor of humanities.

Lee, author of the widely-read and influential novel "To Kill a Mockingbird," which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1961, will receive a doctor of humane letters.

Gil Loescher, political science professor emeritus at Notre Dame and sole survivor of the August 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, which left him badly-injured, will receive a doctor of laws.

Francis Oakley, the president emeritus of Williams College and prominent medieval scholar, will also receive a doctor of laws.

Karen Rauenhorst, a Minneapolis-area community leader and philanthropist who serves on the boards of several Catholic charities and heads the Mark and Karen Rauenhorst Family Foundation with husband Mark, will also receive a doctor of laws.

John Sandner, the retired chair of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the chair of the new futures group of E*trade Securities, will also receive a doctor of laws.

Archbishop Michael Sheehan of the Diocese of Santa Fe, New Mex., recognized for his strong leadership in dealing with a sexu-

al abuse scandal existing in the archdiocese prior to his arrival, will also receive a doctor of laws.

Matthew Storin, a respected journalist who served as editor of the Boston Globe for nine years and is the former associate vice president for News and Information at Notre Dame, will also receive a doctor of laws.

Nationally-recognized trial lawyer Thomas Sullivan, who has worked to improve the criminal justice system, most recently in regards to death penalty reform, will also receive a doctor of laws.

In addition to the honorary degrees, jazz musician Dave Brubeck will be awarded the Laetare Medal, Notre Dame's highest honor.

Saint Mary's degrees

Longtime philanthropist MaryAnn Mathile and renowned judges Denise Cote and Ann Claire Williams comprise the 2006 recipient pool of Saint Mary's honorary degrees, which will be awarded during the College's May 20 commencement ceremony.

Executive Assistant to the President Susan Dampeer said the recipients are a "great group of amazing women" who serve as examples for what she hopes Saint Mary's students can become.

"Not only have each of these women reached a pinnacle of perfecting their careers, they are really committed to serve and understand the needs of our population," Dampeer said.

Mathile, a generous philanthropist from Dayton, Ohio, has focused her efforts on the Mathile Family Foundation, which was established in 1989 to give hope and change in the lives of needy children and families. Today the Foundation benefits Mercy Manor, Womanline and Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley.

Dampeer said Mathile — who specializes in hands-on volunteer work offered up to God — is an "extraordinarily generous woman who has a deep love for the College." Mathile's admiration for the College grew from her daughter's positive experiences while attending Saint Mary's, Dampeer said.

Cote, a 1968 Saint Mary's

alumna, is a United States District Judge who presided over the WorldCom Trial — one of the largest securities class action settlements in history. She has also served as a judge in cases involving sex discrimination suits, Wall Street, police brutality and immigrant smuggling.

Dampeer said Cote's successful law career has gained her national attention, which ultimately draws positive attention to the high caliber of undergraduate education offered Saint Mary's.

Before embarking upon her law career, Cote taught American history, black history and world history at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Manhattan.

Williams, who will also address graduates at the May 20 ceremony, serves as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals. She was the first black woman to sit on the bench for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the first black woman to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

All three recipients were chosen through the College's selection process, in which candidates are nominated by the Board of Trustees, advisory boards of the College, faculty, staff and students.

According to the selection process guidelines, nominees must exhibit significant achievements marked by "recognized intellectual and personal attainment," "significant contribution to the enhancement of Saint Mary's College" and "contribution to other recognized organizations in the city, state or world."

Nominations must be supported by significant information and then pass several reviews by College committees before the final decision is made by the College president.

Dampeer said it is a "great honor" to have all three recipients present at the 2006 commencement ceremony.

Each of these women show a sincere love for the College and have "done great work throughout the country," she said.

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Senior week changes increase participation

Events opened for all fourth and fifth-years

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary's Editor

Just weeks ago, attending senior week events was nothing but a distant dream for many seniors who would be returning to Notre Dame next fall to complete a fifth year of coursework.

Since they aren't graduating this year, fourth-year seniors were not originally invited to participate with their classmates in senior week events like the Chicago Cubs game and a Cedar Point trip.

But after seniors voiced their frustrations last week, organizers made changes to accommodate those who were originally turned away.

The impossibility of attending traditional senior week events had left many returning seniors like fourth-year architecture student Bonnie Gonzalez questioning the logic behind student government's seemingly neglectful decision.

"We came in as the class of [2006]," she said. "We just do one more year because our major requires us to. It didn't seem fair because we do have a lot of friends that we made during Frosh-O and from the dorm we came to know and become close with."

As the incoming president of the Notre Dame chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students, Gonzalez was prepared to meet with senior week organizers to fight for the class's ability to participate in the weeklong events — something that would soon become an unnecessary action.

"Somehow [senior class president] Emily Chin found out about us not participating, and she let us become involved," she said. "Student government was willing to have us be a part of senior week. The people from [the Student Activities office] were not going to let us because apparently you can only have one year you are allowed to participate. They assumed fifth year would be it."

Chin said senior week is official for students graduating in the year in which they attend the

events, however "there are always exceptions to the rule: fifth-year [architecture students], fourth-year [architecture students] who matriculated with our class and fifth and fourth-year Reilly students."

"[Student government was] unaware that the list we received from the registrar's office did not include those names," she said. "We have welcomed all those students to celebrate in the week."

Senior Class Council faculty advisor Amy Geist was unavailable to comment on Student Activities' official policies Wednesday.

Assistant Director of Student Activities Ryan Willerton said in an article that appeared in the April 24 edition of The Observer that senior class council members are primarily responsible for the planning of events and that all policies "may be stated on the class Web site."

Fifth year architecture student Kyle Reis, who participated in last year's senior week during his fourth year at Notre Dame, said it's important to allow those receiving their degree in five years to take part in events during their fourth year at the University — a time when, he said, one feels most connected to the graduating class.

"A lot of people participated as fourth years last year," he said, "and many were under the impression that that was the way it happened — no problem."

Although Reis was invited to participate again this year, he turned down the opportunity and said he "felt a little more connected to last year's class."

Gonzales said once the week was re-opened to non-graduating seniors there were still a few problems with meeting deadlines to sign-up for events, however senior week organizers gave an extension to incorporate seniors who were originally excluded.

She also said she hopes in future years all fourth year students can participate without it being a major problem or issue.

"At first not being invited to participate in senior week events was a pretty big problem," she said, "but in the end it turned out okay."

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

Deloitte & Touche USA LLP congratulates the University of Notre Dame Class of 2006 and welcomes our new hires and summer interns!

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Friday, May 19, 2006

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Gilloon.

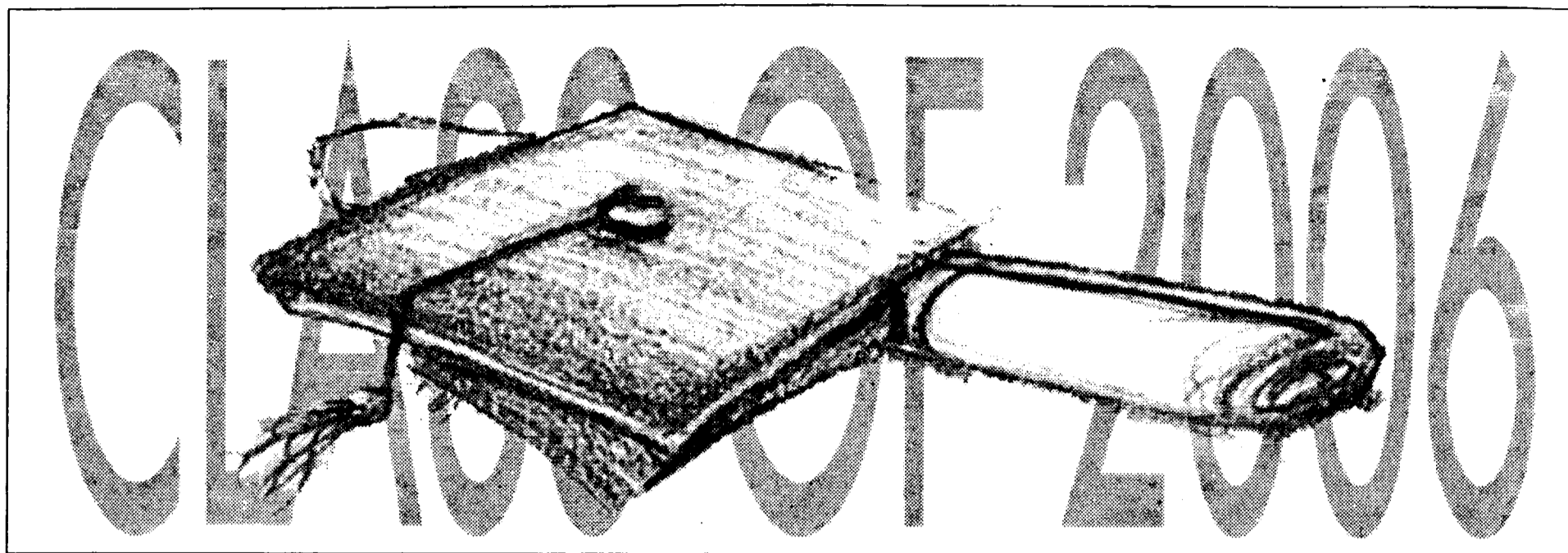
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Thanks, mom — for the rest of my family

My mom made me do it. My mom forced me to apply to Notre Dame and then when I was accepted, she convinced me it was the right place for me, despite the awkward visit I had as a prospect.

Sure I was a Notre Dame football fan — I wore number 44 in sixth grade basketball because I liked Irish fullback Marc Edwards — but I never thought I would go to school here.

But I did. And so this weekend things have come full circle. Sometime in the last four years, I fell in love with Notre Dame. I fell in love with the campus, the traditions and the people.

And I will always hold my experiences at Notre Dame close to my heart. Everything from winning a football game in Notre Dame Stadium to working for The Observer to falling in love for the first time to playing every intramural sport I could fit in my schedule — I will treasure them all.

Maybe your experiences are different. Maybe you were friends with the bouncer at Corby's, maybe you will graduate with honors. Or maybe you won't remember anything at all. But the one thing remains — these experiences are Notre Dame experiences.

Not everyone understands us Domers. They don't understand why we can walk in a room, be introduced to someone who is an alumnus and instantly ask, "Where did you live?" and suddenly have a new friend. Most people don't understand why single-sex dorms aren't the worst thing known to man, and why thousands of people apply to a place where boys

and girls aren't allowed in the same room after a certain hour. But that's what makes this place special — these rules and quirks are all part of being a student of Notre Dame, something an outsider cannot understand.

And never again will we be able to have this Notre Dame experience.

For me, that means no more intramurals, no more Bookstore Basketball, no more writing about Notre Dame football, no more SYRs, no more being in the student section. The late night trips to the Grotto, playing cornhole in my front yard, basketball at Rolfs, all things that are unique to Notre Dame, will never be the same. Because, for all of us, graduation means we are no longer students at Our Lady's University.

Our Notre Dame experience has come to a conclusion. This week has been a celebration — "last call," as everyone says. For the last time we do the things we love about Notre Dame. We'll say our goodbyes and go to a place where most will not fully understand our college experience.

For me, the past four years have been everything I've ever wanted and more. If you would have told me this is what Notre Dame was, I wouldn't have believed it. I didn't believe my mom at first when she told me Notre Dame was the place for me. After all, why would I want to go to the place my mom wanted me to apply?

Maybe you knew all about this place and so it fulfilled a dream. Maybe you are the first in your family to go to college and before you, a university the caliber of Notre Dame was an illusion. Or maybe you just stumbled in as a confused freshman like myself

thinking solely about intramurals and accidentally fell in love with everything Notre Dame.

But no matter why you or I came to Notre Dame, we all leave having completed our Notre Dame experience.

And so a new experience begins. We have jobs or graduate school plans. Some of us will move far away to return home. But no matter what our future holds, during this new experience, we will encounter an even bigger community of Domers for the rest of our lives.

We may leave the Golden Dome, Touchdown Jesus and the Basilica in South Bend, but Notre Dame never leaves us.

We're family. No matter what year you graduated or what dorm you lived in, once we leave Notre Dame we

have thousands of relatives waiting to help us.

Maybe that's why my mom was so right when she told me that Notre Dame was the best place for me. Thanks to her, I now have an even bigger family. I just hope she's not jealous.

Heather Van Hoegarden is graduating with a degree in accounting and a minor in journalism. She will be working for Deloitte and Touche next year in Chicago, where she will live in Wrigleyville, blocks from her other favorite team. She would like to thank her parents for enabling her to attend Notre Dame and her sister for tolerating the Notre Dame fight song the last four years. She would also like to thank her dad for making it possible for her to play cornhole all year — senior year wouldn't have been the same without the boards. She can be contacted at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

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



Heather Van Hoegarden

Assistant Managing Editor Emeritus

If you would have told me this is what Notre Dame was, I wouldn't have believed it.

"When you leave here, don't forget why you came."

Adlai Stevenson
U.S. politician

"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future."

Plato
philosopher

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QUOTES OF THE DAY

Having it all

I've been told Kenny Chesney said it best: "For a while, we had it all. We never dreamed it wouldn't last."

But let's be honest. We knew one day, sooner rather than later, it would be over. Why did I

spend most of my Wednesday nights at Rum Runners this year when I knew I had a 9:30 class the next morning? Why did my friends and I tolerate the absurd (a whole dollar!) increase in cover at the Backer? Because we knew the day would arrive when we wouldn't be students anymore, when this place would belong less to us than to those who will follow.

I remember how annoyed I was my first few football Saturdays when campus would be invaded by alums trying to relive their college days. Game days were always fun, of course, but those alums still thought they owned the place. What nerve! They had their turn, I thought, and now it was ours.

The passing years made me more sympathetic, and now I have to be one of those alums. I guess I always knew it was going to happen. Let's face it — we've seen this weekend coming since Frosh-O.



Maureen Reynolds

*Assistant
Managing
Editor
Emeritus*

While we're at it, let's admit something else: we knew what we had. Every time I walked across South Quad on that perfect fall day, every time I looked up at the Dome at night, every time I sat up with my friends until way too late, I knew how lucky I really was to be a Notre Dame student.

Of course I had those moments when I took this place for granted; five finals in four days doesn't exactly engender nostalgia. Neither does trudging to class in winds strong enough to knock you to the ground. But for the most part, I tried to remember that never again would I live 50 feet from my best friends in a place that can even look beautiful in the worst weather.

If not for Notre Dame, I wouldn't have met my amazing friends. These are the girls who chalked encouraging messages onto the sidewalk in front of my dorm and DeBartolo so I would see them on my way to take the LSAT, the ones who can make a trip to the dining hall an adventure, who can make me laugh when all I want to do is give up and who were never too far when I needed anything at all. They do all this and more because they know I would do the same for them in a second.

If not for Notre Dame, I would not have grown nearly as much in faith and confidence. It was my many trips to the Grotto that made me realize prayer actually works. And the dual nature of this University as a place of higher education and as a center of faith encourages

extensive soul searching, which allowed me to fully comprehend my abilities and envision my dreams for the future.

For this and so much more, I am deeply thankful.

This is why Notre Dame students are different. We know exactly how fortunate we are to be a part of this family. We know how much Notre Dame has given us and how much we have given each other. And we know that it really doesn't end here.

"For a while, we had it all." It's true. But it will last forever because we will always be a part of this legendary Notre Dame family, and we will never forget the bonds we forged or how this place and the friends we met made us better people. We are the lucky ones because we can continue the relationships we have begun and the lessons we have learned. We get the Notre Dame memories and the new, exciting adventures upon which we're all about to embark.

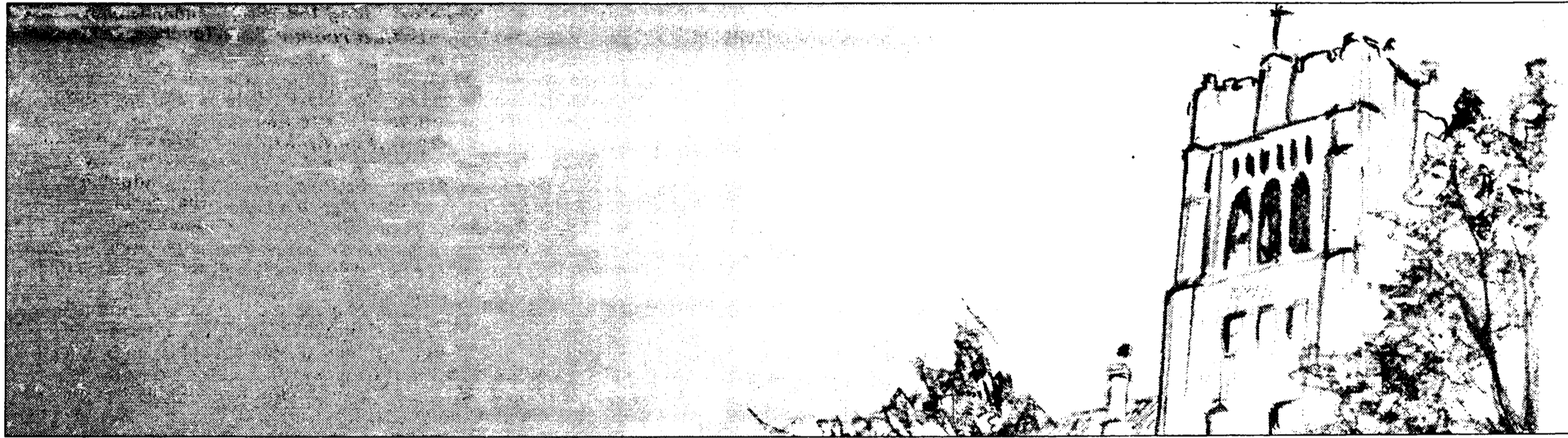
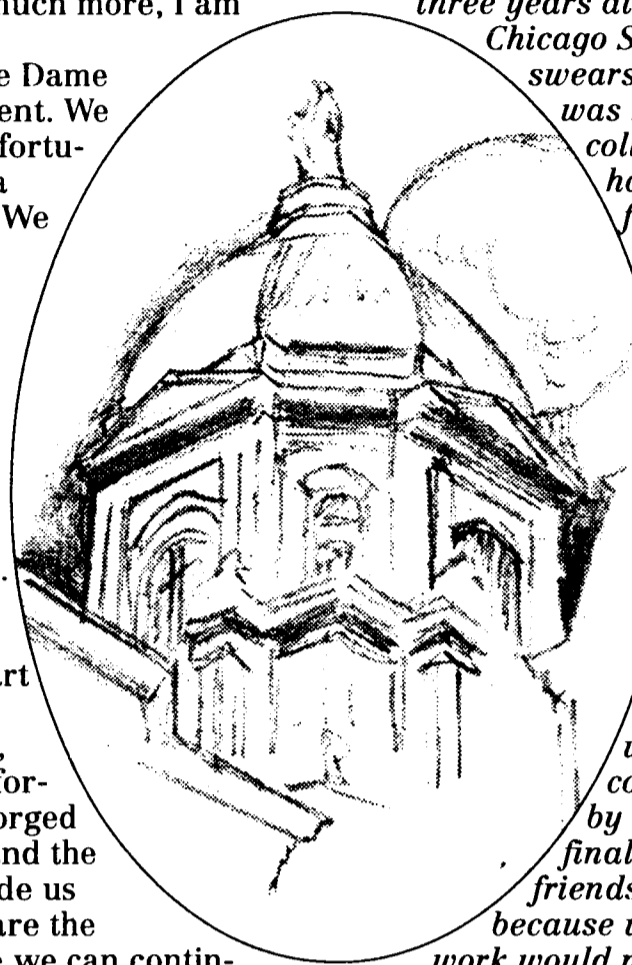
We still have it all, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Maureen Reynolds is graduating with a degree in accountancy and political science, and she will spend the next three years at the Loyola University of Chicago School of Law. She also swears writing this column

was more difficult than any college final she had. She has many people to thank for all their love and support, most importantly her parents and siblings, without whom moving back to Chicago would not be nearly as exciting. A special thanks, of course, goes to her 4B and PW friends who made senior year (and all the rest) unforgettable.

Additional thanks goes to Meg, because that was their deal, but if she could mention all of you by name, she would. A final thank you goes to her friends at The Observer, because without the people, the work would not have been fulfilling, and without this paper, her college experience would have been completely different. She can be contacted at mreynold@nd.edu

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



The hardest goodbye

I'm a firm believer in the fact that people come into our lives for a reason and change us forever. And I can honestly say that in my four years here at Saint Mary's, I was deeply changed in so many ways by so many people. Saint Mary's has been my home and I will miss it dearly.

This campus is the most beautiful and serene place in the world. Too many times I took it for granted and failed to absorb the beauty around me. Many of the buildings hold such history for our school — Le Mans Hall, Holy Cross Hall and the convent just to name a few. The Avenue is gorgeous and I will miss driving down it on crisp fall days, with leaves slowly falling to the tree-lined asphalt as I glide over them, so they float free once again.

While I will miss walking across campus at all hours of the day and night,

seeing Le Mans tower standing tall against the frigid winter winds and thick falling snow, I will miss the people I've met more.

It's always been difficult for me to say goodbye to people I love. People light my heart on fire — this amazing community accomplished this well throughout the last four years. Truly, I have been altered intellectually by my highly-gifted professors, spiritually by this wonderful Catholic community, but, best yet, personally by my friends — the best friends I could ever call my own.

To my professors: Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the education of young women. I could tell each lecture that you loved your jobs and that love helped motivate me to work harder. While much learning occurred inside the classroom, much also occurred outside. There have been many times when I have been able to apply what I learned from you in a classroom to the real world. That gift alone makes me smile. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To my classmates: In each of my classes, you never ceased to amaze me with your intelligence and wisdom

about things I would never imagine a college-aged person would have. But I believe that is the beauty of Saint Mary's — we are unique women who have had unique life experiences and we come together to form a family. Thank you for promoting my education with your life experiences. Know that you aided in my education just as much as reading any assigned book.

To my friends: I cannot find one word to describe the love and respect I have in my heart for each of you. We have been through so much together. We have supported one another, commended one another and loved one another. I will treasure our friendships for the rest of my life. Thank you for all the good times — and even the bad. Part of a college education is forming lifelong friendships and I know I found countless ones and I am so grateful. May you have many continued blessings in each of your lives. I will miss you.

There are so many stories to be told of moments here — both highs and lows. But at the end of the day, I have been changed by each of these moments. I have been transformed from a starry-eyed, would-like-to-think-she-knows-it-all young girl into a more

intelligent, more worldly young woman.

So as I walk across the Court of Le Mans Hall and receive my diploma, I will remember each of you that have touched my life. For as I may be physically leaving this place, it will forever have my heart.

Sarah Vabulas is a graduating communication studies major with a religious studies minor and former Assistant Managing Editor of The Observer. She thanks her parents for the wonderful opportunity to attend her dream college. She will miss looking at Le Mans tower and the Golden Dome as well as visits to the Grotto. She would like to thank The Observer staff for the many life lessons in leadership and struggle as well as the laughs and friendships. She has never been prouder to be a member of a hardworking and outstanding group of people. But most of all, she will miss the randomness that goes along with college friends and welcomes you to visit her in Atlanta. She can be contacted at svabulas@nd.edu

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Sarah Vabulas

*Assistant
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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Friday, May 19, 2006

Anticipating the best

I can vividly remember being in the backseat next to all my belongings as my parents drove onto campus on the first day of Freshman Orientation. This was a big day not only for me, but also for my family — my father went to Notre Dame, my mother went to Saint Mary's and they met studying abroad in Rome. As the road curved and we passed the bookstore, I remember my father saying, "My years at Notre Dame were the best years of my life."

For me, this was somewhat of a shock. How could his favorite years be before I was born?

But as I looked out the car window, I realized that my father was nostalgic for the times in college that he remembers as carefree — lots of time to read and learn, opportunities to travel the world, no monthly bills to pay, meals ready at the dining hall, no major responsibilities, and plenty of crazy and fun friends (they have reunions almost yearly to reminisce). Of course, meeting my mother was probably a major highlight. But I felt a heavy mixture of anticipation, fear and excitement press down upon me: What would Notre Dame be for me?

At that moment, I could not have predicted what now, looking back, the highlights of my Notre Dame experience have been. I never would have guessed that I would be a photographer for *The Observer* — a job that has let me see Notre Dame from top to bottom (literally) and around the world. Assignments have allowed me to climb the scaffolding of the Dome when it was being regilded last year, descend into the tunnels under campus, cover football games on the sidelines and travel to Rome for the Board of Trustees meeting. I took a camera when a group of about 30 students drove to New York City to protest the war in 2003, and



Claire Kelley

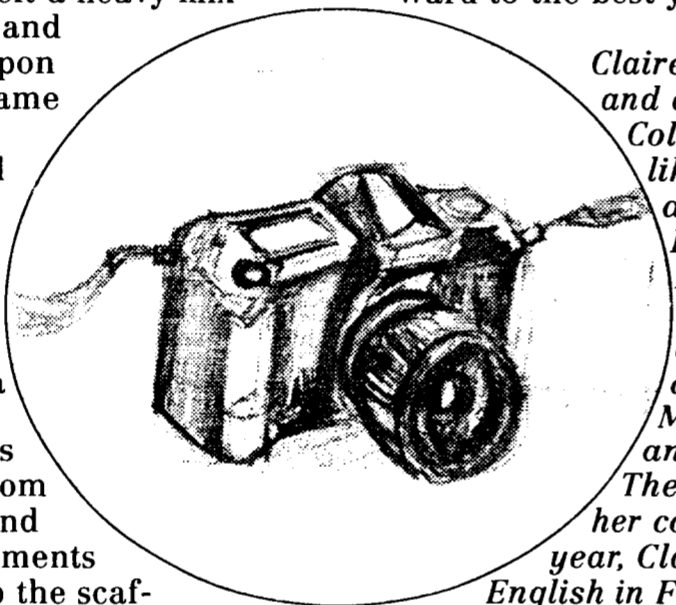
Photo Editor
Emeritus

I've photographed lectures and performances from Helen Prejean to the Chieftains.

In the midst of looking through my own camera lens, I've come to see that Notre Dame gives us a unique perspective — one that emphasizes a search for wisdom, an ethical viewpoint and a universal community. So while I definitely didn't find a husband, I have discovered a lot about myself. The complexities of my academic, spiritual and personal growth have changed me into a different person from that first day on campus, and in some ways my identity has become intertwined with this University.

I'm sure your Notre Dame experience was different than mine. But as the years go by, and we look back at the photographs of our favorite moments, our backwards glance will become clouded with a rosy glow of nostalgia — our time here will only get better and better.

In a few days, as I drive away with my belongings, I think I will actually feel a little lighter. I'll be thankful for all of the opportunities that my parents and Notre Dame have given me. I'll have happy memories of friendships, adventures abroad and some fantastic dance parties. But I'll also feel a freeing sense of independence that comes with new responsibility. And I'll look forward to the best years of my life.



Claire Kelley is an English and art history major from Columbus, Ohio. She would like to thank the fifth year architecture class, the English professors in the Irish studies department, the social activists on campus, the WVFI crowd, her brother Michael, her sister Ann, and of course, everyone at *The Observer* for enriching her college experience. Next year, Claire will be teaching English in France. After that she hopes to have more adventures in far away places, pursue a book publishing career, and one day live by the sea. She can be contacted at ckelley2@nd.edu

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

Looking back, ahead

Like for so many other people connected to the College, Saint Mary's has been a tremendous gift in my life.

It came first in the form of friends. When I stepped off my flight from California in August 2002 I felt more than a little skeptical about attending a Catholic women's college in the Midwest. I was quickly embraced by my roommates and neighbors in Le Mans Hall, however, and invitations for Fall Break and Thanksgiving came within weeks.

Indeed, at Saint Mary's I would meet the friends who keep me laughing until the early hours of the morning. These are the women who, sophomore year, filled my mailbox with cards after the death of a family member. These are the same friends that spent long nights with me in Trumper as I labored through my senior comprehensive and other such grueling projects.

The gift of Saint Mary's came in the shape of professors. The classrooms of this College are blessed with individuals who are passionate about their area of expertise and the quality of the relationships they maintain with their students. Every office visit I ever made over my four years here included not only solid advice about the course work but also genuine, personal conversation.

Further, I will never forget the emotions of hearing a professor's voice crack in the middle of a Pablo Neruda poem. Nor will I soon forget, I imagine, the experience of writing to a death row inmate as part of a lesson on capital punishment.

The gift also came through classmates. At an institution the size of Saint Mary's, it is not unusual to find yourself in a room wherein you are one of only a handful of students. This changes the dynamic of the education experience as you learn from your classmates as well as from the instructor. I was continually amazed at the intelligence and hard work put on display during discussions and peer editing sessions. I have no doubt that the women I studied with here will go on to be the trailblazers in their fields.

The gift came by means of teammates and coaches. Even after the most stressful day of classes or in the midst of a really tough practice they succeeded in motivating and energizing me. It was always with a strong sense of pride that I braced myself at the starting line of my cross country meets with the French cross emblazoned across my jersey. In addition, long rides to competitions in the Belle Mobile was the setting for some of the most hilarious and some of the most heartfelt conversations I had as an undergraduate.

At 22, it is difficult to know exactly what impact my four years at the College will have on my future. I can say without a doubt, however, that when I am handed my Saint Mary's diploma Saturday I will have received a gift that I will carry with me forever.

Megan O'Neil is a graduating English literature and Spanish major. She has no immediate post graduation plans, but is already looking forward to her five-year Saint Mary's reunion. She can be contacted at onei0907@saintmarys.edu

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



Megan O'Neil

Saint Mary's
Editor
Emeritus

Thank The Academy

It is graduation season: the sun is warm, the weather poetic, and the pages of *The Observer* full of celebration and (self-)congratulation. I do not need to add to this torrent; in the spirit of life in the real world "commencing," therefore, allow me a few remarks of a more pointed nature.

When the Oscars roll around every March, the actors, directors, craftsmen and techno-geeks who bring us the magic of the movies accept their little golden statues with speeches that begin by thanking the Academy. Their salaries are paid by the people who shell out ticket money, but it's the Academy who decides who gets honored for achievement in the art and craft of filmmaking. The Academy could award its prizes to the biggest moneymakers — show business is still business — but they usually choose not to. Instead, the awards go to films which serve the larger purposes of drama and art: making the audience think, posing hard questions, startling them and waking them up.



Matthew
Smedberg

Associate
Photo Editor
Emeritus

As it happens, a few thousand of us are gathered here to receive awards from the Academy. Not the Motion Picture Academy, of course, but some of the comparisons stand. Where we go from here is a question with as many answers as there are graduates, but judging from the tables populating Notre Dame's career fairs, it would seem that The Academy is most interested in as many of us as possible working at national or multinational corporations — and sending periodic and sizable remittances back to South Bend. This, it is said, is our way of thanking The Academy for giving us the tools to succeed.

Well, in my own case, the foreseeable future doesn't promise a job which will allow me to offer The Academy much monetary thanks. Even if it did, however, up until late this year I doubted that I could find it in my heart to donate much to this University unless things took a marked turn. But University President Father John Jenkins' statement on Academic Freedom, issued April 5, represented that turn, and if its realization is anything like its formulation, I still have hope for education at Notre Dame.

I have no intention of thanking The Academy for existing or for building attractive buildings for classes and events — Bob Jones University does that much — and I have no intention of thanking it for its dorm spirit or its athletic tradition. The Notre Dame that I thank or don't is one thing, or it

is nothing: it either is, or is not, a place where ideas are submitted to rigorous scrutiny, and where minds are enabled to engage in that scrutiny. It is a place where drama, art and literature are valued and engaged, where culture and upbringing are not the measure of all things, where viewpoints are not only voiced but heard and examined.

Jenkins has demonstrated to my satisfaction that he intends Notre Dame to be such a place. He did so by refusing to identify the voice of the teacher or department with the institutional voice of the University. He did so by visibly listening to students and faculty during the academic freedom debate, rather than what many feel is the standard M.O., hearing only the donors, trustees and ratings organizations. He did so by attending "The Vagina Monologues," and moreover being powerfully affected by them, despite his honest disagreement with their espoused moral prescriptions.

I have yet to meet the person honestly interested in promoting the welfare and equal rights of women in American society, who has attended "The Vagina Monologues" and not been powerfully affected. Thank you, Jenkins, for not letting me down.

It is my petition to all who read this, many of whom are now or will soon be in a position to thank The Academy monetarily, to ensure that their gratitude go where it is deserved. To a university which welcomes but a single perspective, let there be no

gratitude. To a university which reinforces the mental blinders which its students enter wearing, let there be no gratitude. To a university which discourages questioning, even of the core principles which support its very existence, yes, even the existence of God, let there be no gratitude.

Some have expressed fear that a Notre Dame where such plurality is welcomed will discourage Catholic intellectuals from seeking employment here. I say, if they are afraid to confront their ideas, we do not need them; indeed, the educational and scholarly goals of the University would be undermined by their presence.

There is much about Notre Dame not to love, and for some this Academy will not be the best fit. But Jenkins has made a significant move toward ensuring that Notre Dame will not be a one-idea town, that those who do come here for the football or the food or because their father went here will leave having been challenged and, if we are lucky, even excited by the ideas which they have engaged.

Matthew Smedberg wishes to thank The Academies, no, the departments of history, music and German. Upon graduation he will be teaching math in the Bronx with the New York City Teaching Fellows. He can be contacted at smedberg.1@nd.edu

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

EXCERPTS FROM PAST ISSUES

Four years in review

A look at the war from Cairo

Our study-abroad advisor from Notre Dame visited Cairo today, and she mentioned that there have been numerous letters in the Observer about worries for students studying abroad. Also, the office in Hurley Hall has received many phone calls from parents concerned about their kids in the different programs.

I always appreciate it when friends ask me how I am holding up and how safe I feel, but I wish I could bring all those people here to see what it's really like. My friend and fellow domer, Aaron and I, are doing just fine in Cairo. I assume the same is true for all the students abroad elsewhere.

On the streets, when people ask me where I am from, I refuse to hide and say I am from Canada. I always say proudly that I am an American. I hope, too, in several months time to have that same pride. Usually this leads into a discussion about Iraq. Yesterday, outside the mosque of Amr ibn al-As, I chatted in choppy Arabic with three old Egyptian men about the grave situation in the Middle East. They told me how they loved American people, and I told them how I loved Egyptian people. We decided that next week we ought to gather again outside the mosque and invite Saddam Hussein and President Bush to join us to discuss their differences. Not once did I feel uncomfortable.

Not once have I ever felt threatened ~~here~~ traveling or conversing, even in a section called "Old Islamic Cairo," whose name would probably scare many who have not been here. Insane traffic seems to be the only threat. I do not claim to have been to Iraq. Cairo is not Baghdad, I know, but Baghdad is not too far, nonetheless. I do not claim to have more perspective than anyone else at home. However, this experience inevitably shapes my perspective.

I hope some time to meet Aaron's two roommates who are from the Gaza Strip

and maybe find out what life is like as a Palestinian. I enjoy getting harassed and surrounded by little Egyptian kids, who probably are not that different from kids in Baghdad and who probably are not that different from kids in South Bend.

I am fascinated by the anti-war demonstrations that take place on campus, because there are hundreds of police in riot gear ready to suppress any freedom of expression. The government just renewed the "emergency laws" in order to prolong this police-state for another three years, to everybody's disappointment. You see, there is little freedom here — even in Egypt — and these students want freedom more than anything, but they also do not want war and they fear American intervention.

I do not buy stories that Bush is only in this for oil or to finish something his father started. Weapons of mass destruction and changing the Iraqi regime are serious, truthful matters. In trying to soak all this in, though, my only truthful conclusion is that war is not the answer in this case. I knew that before I came here. This area is too complex to fully explain in this letter, so this may be an unsatisfactory answer to many: But, full-fledged diplomacy is the only way now. My hope is that Bush (and his advisors) knows what war will mean for people in this area and for Americans. My biggest fear is that he doesn't know. No matter what happens here, I appreciate my friends' and family's concern. I am sure others abroad (and their families) are apprehensive, rightfully so, about what is going to happen in the world. But, please do not worry too much. If the war does happen, we will stay until the end of the semester because I am pretty sure we'll be fine.

Terence J. Fitzgibbons
junior
Cairo, Egypt
March 6, 2003

Homosexuals excluded once again

It should come as no surprise that Bishop John D'Arcy is once again condemning an attempt to bring a sense of inclusion to homosexuals at Notre Dame. In a Feb. 10 letter to the South Bend Tribune, the bishop blasted the Notre Dame Queer Film Festival, calling it "an abuse of academic freedom" and claiming that by sponsoring the festival, "the rights of others are violated." This response exhibits a lack of understanding of the film festival's purpose. The aim is to unite people of different orientations in dialogue to promote a sense of tolerance and acceptance between all people, regardless of their differences.

D'Arcy's past comments concerning homosexuals and the Church have reflected similar exclusionary views. This is the same man who has long lobbied for the exclusion of homosexual men from the priesthood. In 1979 D'Arcy chaired a committee and personally wrote the majority of a pastoral letter on priestly formation by the New England bishops in which the bishops state, in regard to the admission of seminarians, "Young men who are truly homosexual should not be admitted ... Young men who are excessively effeminate should not be admitted." This was also D'Arcy's response in the wake of the sexual abuse scandal that rocked the Church, and even as late as this past summer D'Arcy was once again calling for a ban on homosexual priests.

He has continued to make this call for a ban despite having produced no evidence the abuse scandal has any link to the sexual orientation of the abusers.

In his letter, D'Arcy claims homosexuals "belong in the mainstream of our Catholic life, not shunned." After his continual efforts to keep homosexuals from the priesthood and his current condemnation of the Queer Film Festival, this call for inclusion is most certainly a hollow one. While D'Arcy, in his role as defender of the Church's teaching, has focused on the opposition to homosexual acts, he has remained largely silent on the issue of respect and understanding toward homosexuals.

He has offered superficial words of acceptance to homosexuals but has neglected to support in a meaningful way the importance of Church teaching on respect, compassion and sensitivity toward them. We only wish D'Arcy would have the same zeal in accepting homosexuality according to Church teaching as he does in condemning it. Ours is a faith marked by Christ's love, and we must show that love in our acceptance and caring for all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

Joseph Wysocki
Brad Tucker
sophomores
Old College
Feb. 14

Academic freedom: problem?

Perhaps the ongoing discussion of academic freedom and Catholic character has reached the point where we should make an effort to ask, "What is really at stake in this dispute?"

Some of us agree that the basic question is simply, "To what extent and why must (or should) recognized student organizations, at Notre Dame or any Catholic university, refrain from discussions and performances of materials which question or challenge standard Catholic teaching concerning sexual morality?"

I have yet to hear a strong Catholic

voice explain why, or discuss whether, a Catholic university fully tolerant of student freedoms on such matters is on the slippery slope to secularization. Perhaps there are arguments of that kind, but no one, neither our President, Father John Jenkins, nor the Chancellor of the University of Dayton, Father James Heft, has produced such an argument in this discussion so far.

Edward Manier
professor
department of philosophy
March 9, 2006

A winning attitude

The firing of Tyrone Willingham, unless there was something behind it that we don't know about, was simply ridiculous. Let us remember the sorry situation of this football program when Ty took over. It was in complete chaos. He molded this team, in his very first year, to play with a new and winning attitude. He was also in the process of molding this team's philosophy as well as its heart — and in order to do this he had to recruit his kind of player, have time to mold this player and get that player needed experience.

Tyrone Willingham was fired just as this molding process, which was mainly taking place on the offensive side of the ball, was coming to fruition. Next year his quarterback would have been an experienced junior throwing to very experienced wide-receivers and tight-ends. The offensive line showed dramatic improvement over last year and would have been even better next year. He finally has a west-coast type tail-back and played now has a full-

year under his belt. The truth is that the offense was a machine the last part of this season — and was set to dominate next year.

Of course, this team's problem all year was the terrible recruiting of Bob Davie several years ago in the secondary. Despite having one of the best front sevens in the nation, this team was burnt, in all its losses, by teams that took advantage of that lone, yet glaring, weakness. Should Ty have been fired for the results of this weakness — something for which he was not responsible? Of course not.

Next year would have been the telling year. Not this one. Next year Ty would have had no excuses. And with an offense ready to dominate, a front seven largely intact and a secondary that had nowhere to go but up — I don't think he would have needed any. Now, of course, we will never know.

Charlie Camosy
graduate student
Nov. 30, 2004

Ty 'couldn't get it done'

Unbelievable.

Notre Dame realizes after three years of mediocrity that it doesn't have the coach that can get the program where it needs to be so it fires him. All of a sudden, according to all the so-called NCAA football experts, Notre Dame "panicked," Notre Dame "didn't give him a chance," the firing was "racially motivated," Notre Dame was exposed as "no different than all the other football factories."

That's reflective of the number one issue in America today — no one wants anyone to be held accountable for their actions or results (much less themselves). Poor performance is always someone else's fault, or can be blamed on one's abusive parents, broken home or ethnicity.

Coach Tyrone Willingham knew going in exactly what the job entailed and exactly what was expected ... put a consistent winner on the field. If he didn't think he could do it, he shouldn't have taken the job. Neither should Urban Meyer or anyone else take the job now and claim three, five or 20 years from now that the coaching environment at Notre Dame is brutal. Brutal schedule, brutal academic requirements, crappy weather, demanding alumni, etc., etc., blah,

blah, blah. If you aren't up to the challenge, don't take the job. If you are going to whine about the situation, don't take the job.

Unfortunately, Willingham was not doing the things that needed to be done to achieve the abovementioned objective (put a consistent winner on the field). He was getting blown out of games at an unprecedented rate. He wasn't recruiting enough impact freshmen. He couldn't win over the hearts of the alumni, students, etc. He lost to teams he clearly should have beaten. Worst of all, there was no momentum in the program ... no success trajectory ... things were not obviously getting better. Willingham was fired for the same reasons everyday Americans in challenging jobs get fired — not because he is a bad person, not because he is black, not because he can't be successful somewhere else. Because he couldn't get it done at Notre Dame and there was no convincing evidence that things were improving.

Go Irish!

Bill Lewis
alumnus
class of 1976
Dec. 1, 2004

REFLECTIONS ON NOTRE DAME

What was your favorite experience at Notre Dame?



Jenny Maccagnano

Chicago, Ill.

"Studying abroad in Rome."



Amanda Kelly

Chicago, Ill.

"Entertaining ten Navy boys all at once ... I was just doing my American duty."



Kelly Snyder

Celina, Ohio

"Mock Trial's Team Ramrod — you wrote it in the paper."



A.J. Lindburg

Albany, N.Y.

"I probably don't remember it."



Kathleen Kudia

Schaumburg, Ill.

"Assisting my friends with their bratwurst stand on game day."



Rachelle Galecki

Concord Twp., Ohio

"All of my very convincing fake names."

Describe your college experience in three words.



Danny Gibbs

Salt Lake City, Utah

"Drink, drank, drunk."



Ryan Hutchinson

Marion, Ind.

"I made it."



Cameron Raines

San Diego, Calif.

"What was college?"



Bill Kiobasa

Willowbrook, Ill.

"I'm not drunk."



Karen Daniels

Sioux City, Iowa

"I'm not sober."



Nick Kramer

Zionsville, Ind.

"Lack of memory."

IN A LIFETIME AT EDDAMME

What was your favorite class and who was your favorite professor?



Sarah Wright
Chula Vista,
Calif.

"Human Ethology with Prof. McKenna, because I like monkeys and babies."



Amy Yahn
Santa Rosa,
Calif.

"Professor Whitman's Autism Class, because it helped me find my passion."



Cecella Hilliard
Chicago, Ill.

"Aerospace design, because I got to build an airplane ... and work with her."



Erin Ainsworth
Houston,
Texas

"Aerospace design, because I got to work with her ... and build an airplane."



Stephanie Rosales
Rolling Hills
Estates, Calif.

"Clive Neal - physical geology, because he's a crazy British man."



Stephanie Smith
Hollister, Mo.

"Professor Yang, because he's a crazy Chinese man."

What are your plans after graduation?



Bobby Seus
Medford, Ore.

"I'm running the mountain gorilla exhibit in the Chicago zoo."



Brandon Harris
New Orleans,
La.

"Going to LA, taking film scoring lessons."



Brendan Delaney
Haupauge, N.Y.

"I want to orchestrate the merger between UNICEF and Smith & Weston."



Brian Redmond
St. Louis, Mo.

"Scaling Mount Everest."



Greg Boschert
St. Charles,
Mo.

"I'm touring Europe and will come back to try to be an acrobat."



Joe McCarthy
Novi, Mich.

"Working in the ever downward spiraling economy of Detroit."

FENCING

Irish swordsmen finish fourth at NCAA finals

Zagunis wins national title in women's sabre; Ghattas lands second place in men's sabre for second year in a row

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame failed to follow its 2005 national title with a repeat performance, as the team finished fourth in the NCAA Tournament, but individual honors for many of its top fencers and impressive regular season records made the season a success.

The men's and women's teams finished the season with identical 29-1 records and finished behind Harvard, Penn State and Ohio State in the championship held from March 16-19. The Irish fell 13 points shy of repeating their title.

"This competition showed the place we hold in the nation in reality," Irish head coach Janusz Bednarski said after the championship. "During the season we competed well in the format of three fencers per weapon but when you have to compete with two fencers, we

had some weak points."

In the NAAs only two fencers competed per weapon — epee, foil and sabre — whereas the Irish had competed with three to a weapon throughout their season.

Sophomore Mariel Zagunis captured the national title in the women's sabre over Columbia's Emily Jacobson — a former teammate on the U.S. National Team. Zagunis was the runner-up in women's sabre in 2004.

"I knew exactly what I needed to do to beat [Jacobson] so I didn't give her any room to breathe and just went out, got ahead from the start and kept the lead," Zagunis said after the match.

On the men's side, junior Patrick Ghattas finished as runner-up in the sabre for the second consecutive year. Ghattas was the seventh men's

fencer in Notre Dame history to make it to a title bout multiple times and Zagunis was the seventh women's fencer to make the same mark.

There were seven Irish fencers to earn All-America honors at the Championships, including Zagunis and Ghattas. The other five were freshmen Adrienne Nott and Madeleine Stephan, sophomore Jakob Jedrkowiak and juniors Valerie Providenza and Matt Stearns.

"This competition showed the place we hold in the nation in reality."

Janusz Bednarski
Irish head coach

the Joy Center Jan. 28 and 29.

Notes:

◆ Notre Dame assistant fencing coach Zoltan Dudas has left the Irish program to take the head-coaching job at Princeton. Dudas had just finished his fourth season as the assistant coach under Bednarski before accepting the position and is a specialist in the foil and epee weapons.

Dudas graduated from Juhász Gyula Teacher's Training College in Szeged, Hungary and spent seven years teaching physical education and tutoring fencers before coming to Notre Dame in 2002. He was a part of both Irish national championship teams and is credited with coaching his epee and foilists to 30 NCAA appearances out of a possible 32 and helping to mold 26 All-Americans.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Notre Dame can't rekindle 2004 magic, falls in quarters

Irish procure first Big East tourney title in five seasons with 5-0 victory

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

A year after capturing their second-ever national championship, the Irish couldn't find a way to top Portland in a national quarterfinal in Oregon that pitted the nation's top scorers over the past two years against each other.

"The first 10 or 15 minutes, we were all over them," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said after the game. "We had a couple great chances to score. ... The thing that really deflated us is the first time they got down, they scored, and it was a long-range shot that [Irish goalkeeper]

er] Erika [Bohn] typically handles pretty comfortably."

Notre Dame and Katie Thorlakson lost the game to Portland and Christine Sinclair 3-1. And two months later, Thorlakson finished second again to Sinclair, this time at the Hermann Trophy presentation for the top NCAA player.

But the season was not without its accomplishments for the Irish.

Notre Dame captured its first postseason Big East title in five years with a dominating 5-0 victory over Connecticut in the Big East Championship in Milwaukee, Wis.

The season began with second-semester freshman Kerri Hanks entering the college spotlight in brilliant fashion. Hanks scored three goals in Notre Dame's season-opening win over New Hampshire. Then she netted four in game two, a 6-0

victory over Vermont.

Hanks scored her eighth goal of the season in her third game — a 4-1 Irish victory over then No. 13 Florida — and two more against Maryland two days later to finish her first four games with 10 goals.

For her part, Thorlakson had had five goals and seven assists in the four games. Both Thorlakson and Hanks finished the season with 71 points, one short of the Notre Dame single-season record.

The Irish suffered their first defeat of the season at Santa Clara on Sept. 9 but went until Sept. 30 before losing again — a 4-1 defeat at Marquette in front of 2,034 boisterous fans.

But Notre Dame found its groove and entered the Big East tournament on a seven-game winning streak that included a 4-0 home win over the Huskies.

The Irish beat Georgetown 6-

0 in the first round of the conference tournament, then avenged the loss to Marquette with a 3-0 victory in the semifinals at Valley Field in Milwaukee, Wis.

The blanking of Connecticut continued a streak of three straight shutouts that would continue into the NCAA Tournament.

Notre Dame opened the Tournament with a 6-0 win over Purdue in the first round at Alumni Field. A 3-0 victory over Michigan State followed to cap Notre Dame's shutout streak at five postseason games.

The Irish then met Yale, which had shocked Duke the week before in the second round of the tournament.

"I think that Yale is a team that a lot of people are underestimating," senior Irish midfielder Annie Scheffter said before the contest. "And I think they

are looking forward to proving everyone wrong."

But Notre Dame's relentless attack proved too much for the Bulldogs. Hanks scored twice, and junior Christie Shaner, sophomore Amanda Cinalli and freshman Brittany Bock all added goals.

The Irish then traveled to Portland, with the winner earning a trip to the College Cup in College Station, Tex. Portland quashed Notre Dame's dreams of a repeat championship and captured the national championship a week later.

"As some time goes by, we'll look at and feel like it was a really successful season," Waldrum said after the game. "It's tough because I still think that we were good enough to win again."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 3 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. - WBV

I saw a fish all by itself, I said, "Dude, you should stay in school." - Mitch Hedberg RIP

School's out forever. - Alice Cooper

TRACK

Squads send 32 to regionals with championship hopes

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

With 32 athletes headed to the NCAA Regional meet in Knoxville, Tenn. May 26-27, Irish head coach Joe Piane is ready to cap off an already successful track season with an appearance at the NCAA Championships.

"Thirty-two is a very good number," Piane said. "Last year we had seventeen. I think we can get several people to the NCAAs."

The men's side won the Big East outdoor championship this spring, while the women took first in the indoor meet.

Piane said the women's squad, which also won the conference cross country title in the fall, was

disappointed it couldn't become the first Big East team to win all three championships since 1987.

"I think if we ran [the women's Big East championship] meet again we'd win it," he said. "It would have been nice to have won three championships in a year. Maybe we were being hogs, a little bit greedy."

The men, who also won the cross country championship and took third in the indoor meet, won their outdoor championship with a dramatic, second-day comeback using strong performances in the hammer throw and the 5000 meters.

"[After the first day,] we thought it was going to come down to UConn or Louisville," Piane said. "We were not confident at all. Then we ended up

doing better in [the hammer throw and the 5000-meter run] than we thought we would, and they ended up doing a little bit worse.

"In a championship meet, you have to find the kids that come to play."

One of the runners that led the Irish to victory in the 5,000 was junior Kurt Benninger, who has qualified for the regionals in the 800, 1,500 and 5,000 meter events.

Piane said it is rare for one runner to be successful at all three distances.

"[Benninger] has very good leg speed," Piane said. "There isn't another guy in the 5,000 that can run the 800 as fast as he can."

Benninger was also one of

Notre Dame's top cross country runners, finishing eighth at the NCAA championships with a 10,000-meter time of 29:50.2.

"You pick an event, he can run well in it — from the 800 to the 10,000," Piane said.

On the women's side, senior Stephanie Madia will look to cap off a stellar career by advancing to the NCAAs.

This season, Madia took third in the 3,000 meters at the Big East indoor championships, and fourth in the 5,000 at the outdoor meet. In cross country, she finished third at the NCAA Championships, crossing the line in 19:48 — the fastest 6,000 meter time at the national meet in Notre Dame history.

"Stephanie is a tribute to hard work," Piane said. "She came in

her freshmen year and was in seventy-fifth at the NCAAs and she just decided to work. That's what's great about this sport — what you put in is what you get out."

Madia actually finished No. 78 at the 2002 NCAA cross country championship.

Throughout her career, Madia has run side by side with fellow senior Molly Huddle. Huddle, who Piane called "the most decorated athlete in Notre Dame history" for her numerous victories, awards, and All-American selections, has one more year of track eligibility remaining but will not return to the cross country team in the fall.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

SMC SOFTBALL

Sullivan sparks Saint Mary's rapid turnaround

Belles end NCAA tournament chase with loss to No. 24 Hope in MIAA tournament; Amram wins conference MVP

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

What a difference a coach makes.

The entire Notre Dame and Saint Mary's student bodies learned that lesson watching football games last fall. This spring, the Saint Mary's softball team experienced the knowledge firsthand.

After suffering through a turbulent 7-23 (2-14 MIAA) 2005 campaign with first-year head coach

Kristi Beechy, the Belles found 2004 alumnus Erin Sullivan to take over a team that she had captained to a conference tournament championship two years earlier as a player with a league-best .455 batting average.

Sullivan found her groove as a coach in her first year at the helm, leading the Belles to school-record marks at 28-13 overall and 11-5 in the MIAA, as the squad earned a third-place regular season conference finish.

The Belles were led by freshman

phenom pitcher Kristen Amram, who went 15-2 in 22 appearances with a 1.08 ERA. Amram fanned 201 batters in 123 1/3 innings and yielded 20 walks, with 16 complete games and seven shutouts in her 19 starts. Already named league MVP and first-team Central Region selection, she awaits possible national recognition later in May.

Saint Mary's started its season with a customary weeklong trip to Florida, where the Belles played double-headers every day for five straight days and finished 7-3 with

three one-run losses.

By the end of the trip, Sullivan said she felt she had a squad that could make a run at the conference title.

"I knew then that we were going to be good, which we were," Sullivan said.

The Belles opened the MIAA schedule with two shutout victories over Adrian College, before their performance peaked taking three out of four against the top two league finishers No. 24 Hope 2-5, 1-0 and Alma 9-1, 8-0.

The wins over Alma were the high point in the Belles' season as they dominated the MIAA powerhouse who had won the conference championship the last eight years.

"Slaughtering them the way we did both games was huge," Sullivan said. "That really got the confidence in our game up."

The Belles rode that confidence and a six-game league winning streak on the road for two MIAA double dips. Saint Mary's finally faltered as it dropped doubleheaders at middle-of-the-pack MIAA foe Albion 3-0 and 6-2.

The Belles' toughened up on the road against Kalamazoo to close off the conference season with two victories running their record to the school-best 11-5 MIAA mark to take the No. 3 seed in the conference tournament, which the Belles missed in 2005.

"The motivation of making the tournament has really been carrying us through," Grall said before the Kalamazoo game.

The Belles appeared to have the ship righted for the four-team conference tournament as they knocked off No. 2-seed Alma for the third time this year in a 3-2 pincher on May 5.

In the second game of the double-elimination tournament, Saint Mary's fell the next day to regular season and eventual tournament champions Hope 5-2. After three innings of shutout softball by Amram, when the second-team all-MIAA Grall entered, the Belles

defense could not hold on to the 1-0 lead, as Grall surrendered four unearned runs, before Davidson gave up another run in the seventh.

The Belles turned right around that day to again face Alma who stayed alive in the loser's bracket. After surrendering one hit in four innings, Grall was pulled in the fifth after giving up one unearned run and leaving runners on first and second.

Amram got out of the jam, but walked two early batters in the sixth that led to a three-run Alma inning to put Saint Mary's down 4-0.

The Belles finally put two runners across the plate in the seventh with two more waiting on the bases, but the rally ended when first-team all-MIAA shortstop — and potential winning run — Sarah Miesle grounded out to the pitcher to end the game.

A win would have forced Saint Mary's to return the next day to win both games of a doubleheader against Hope clinch the conference tournament championship — which automatically qualifies the winner for the national tournament.

The season still ended as statistically the most successful in Saint Mary's history.

"Everyone's general attitude improved a lot," Sullivan said. "It was hard last year because everyone got complacent to losing, but this year we weren't going to accept that."

The attitudes of second team all-MIAA Grall and co-captain Audrey Gajor were essential, according to Sullivan, to helping her instill confidence to the rest of the team.

"They were excellent captains. They did everything the right way, did the stuff no one else wanted to do," Sullivan said. "They came in expecting to have the best years of their career. I'm really going to miss them as leaders."

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish drub Cornell to advance to NCAA quarterfinals

Attacks Foote and Byers belittle Big Red defense with four goals each; Notre Dame set for rematch with G'town

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is having the best season in the program's ten-year history — and it's not over yet.

The No. 7 Irish (14-3, 4-1 Big East) beat Cornell 16-8 behind a strong effort by attacks Crysti Foote and Jill Byers Sunday for the second time this season to improve to 14-3 and advance to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament.

Byers and Foote combined for 12 points, netting four goals and two assists each against the Big Red. The Irish also benefited from 12 saves by senior goalie Carol Dixon.

Foote has scored over 100 points so far this season, shattering Notre Dame single-season records with 68 goals and 34 assists. She has also set school records in many other categories including career points, goals, assists and draw controls, and she ranks first in the country with a four goal per game aver-

age.

And her superb season has not gone unnoticed. She was named the Big East attack player of the year and was nominated for the prestigious Tewaaraton Trophy, given annually to the best amateur lacrosse players.

Foote was also one of the few college players chosen to participate in the 2005 Women's Lacrosse World Cup. Foote played under Notre Dame head coach Tracy Coyne for Team Canada, and led the Canadians to a fourth-place finish. By playing against the best players in the world this past summer, Foote honed her game for this season.

But as Foote's college career is coming to an end with this tournament, another is just beginning in Byers, who has broken the Notre Dame freshmen records for goals, assists and points as the second-leading scorer on the team with 51 goals — the second highest total in Irish history only behind Foote — and 22 assists. Byers will be forced to lead this team after Foote's graduation.

Overall, part of the success of the Notre Dame team has been coach Coyne — the only coach the program has ever had. Coyne was honored this season as the Big East coach of the year.

The Irish rode their fourth best scoring offense in the country at 14.29 goals per game to win their first seven games this season, including dramatic conquests over No. 18 Cornell 17-15 and No. 16 James Madison 12-11, in which they overcame a five point deficit.

Notre Dame's only three losses on the year came against No. 1 Northwestern, No. 3 Duke and No. 4 Georgetown. The mid-April defeats to both the Blue Devils and the Hoyas came in back to back 11-10 heartbreakers, with the Georgetown loss suffered in double overtime.

Notre Dame will get a chance at a rematch against Georgetown Saturday in the NCAA quarterfinals.

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ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Notre Dame senior attack Crysti Foote challenges a defender in the 11-10 Irish win over No. 13 Syracuse April 29.

SMC GOLF

MIAA champion Belles snubbed from NCAAs

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

By the standards of almost any other program, it was a successful season.

But despite five tournament victories during the regular

season and an MIAA championship, the Belles were not selected for the NCAA Tournament, a snub head coach Mark Hamilton said was a major disappointment.

"We played the second toughest schedule in Division III golf and we had the third most

tournament wins," Hamilton said. "We traveled all over and played. We played who we had to play and beat who we had to beat, but unfortunately we didn't get selected."

Two teams from each of five regions are selected by a committee to compete in the

Division III championships each year. The Belles lost the Division III bid to DePauw and Southwestern.

The Belles faced the Tigers head-to-head once this season, in the Illinois-Wesleyan Spring Fling. DePauw won the tournament, finishing 27 strokes ahead of third-place Saint Mary's.

The Belles and Pirates did not face each other in the regular season.

Belles senior Megan Mattia qualified for the national tournament as an individual, finishing her Saint Mary's career with a three-round score of 328 and a No. 18 finish.

Saint Mary's won the MIAA Championship Oct. 8 at Thornapple Pointe Golf Club in Grand Rapids, Mich., beating second place Olivet by 36 strokes and reaching a goal set early in the season by Hamilton.

"Our goal for the fall is always to win the MIAA and begin to put ourselves in position to qualify for the NCAAs," Hamilton said.

Saint Mary's faced stiff competition throughout their season, facing mostly Division I teams in the Notre Dame Invitational at Warren Golf

Course Sept. 10-11 and the Shamrock Invitational in Tega City, S.C. over spring break March 18-19.

"It was a great honor to be invited to the Notre Dame tournament, so we had to play in that," Hamilton said of the decision to play in tournaments with larger schools. "As for [the Shamrock], over spring break you need to find the right tournament in the right location at the right time."

Hamilton said he liked the challenge of playing such tough opponents.

"You get better by playing with better players," Hamilton said. "You don't get better playing lesser opponents. Our attitude is that we'll go anywhere and play anyone."

Besides the sheer difficulty, there was another downside to the schedule. Hamilton said he was told that playing so many non-Division III opponents hurt the Belles when the NCAA selection committee met.

"I think it actually hurt us a little in our selection process," Hamilton said. "I'm not really sure why, but that was the word on the street."

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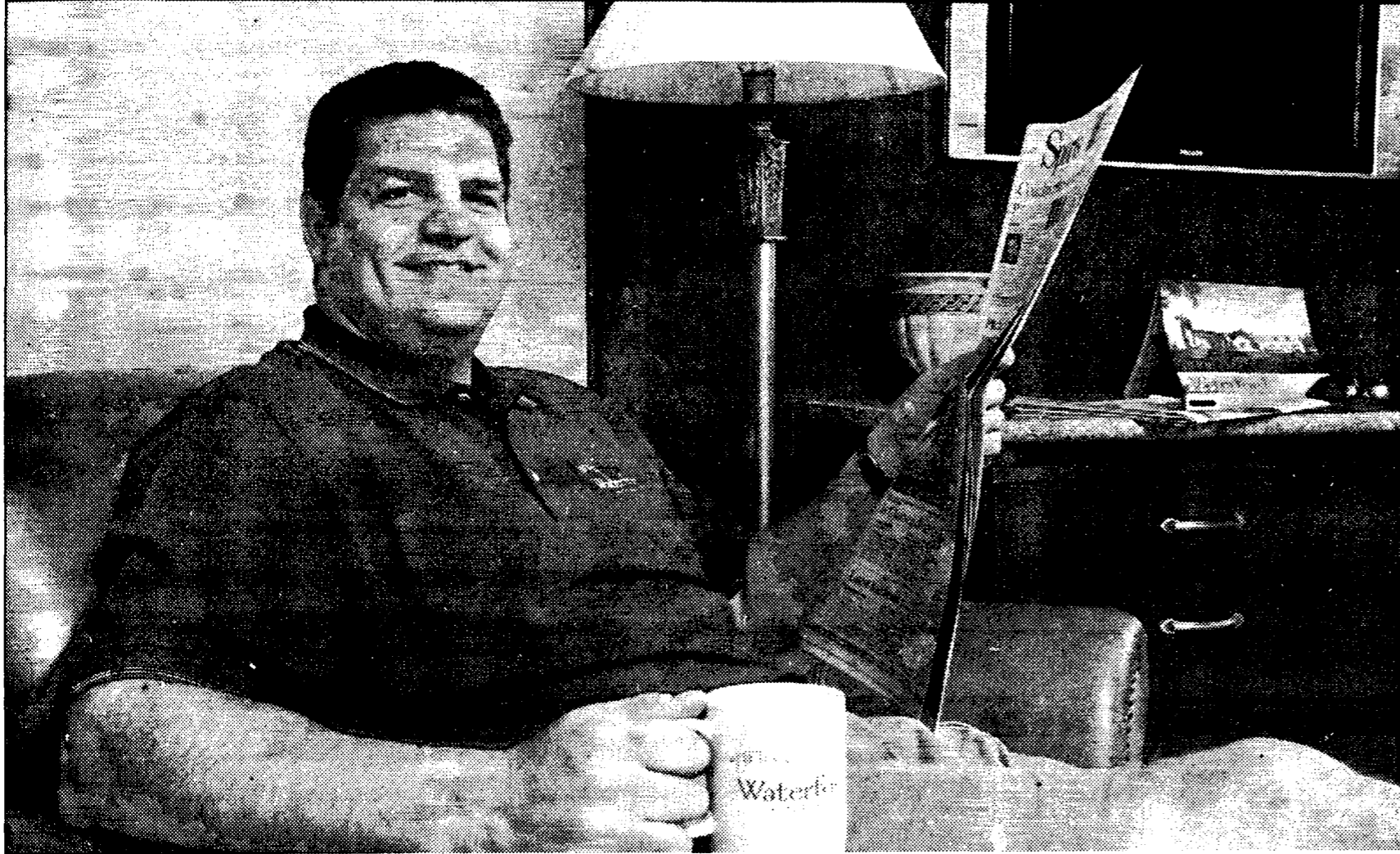
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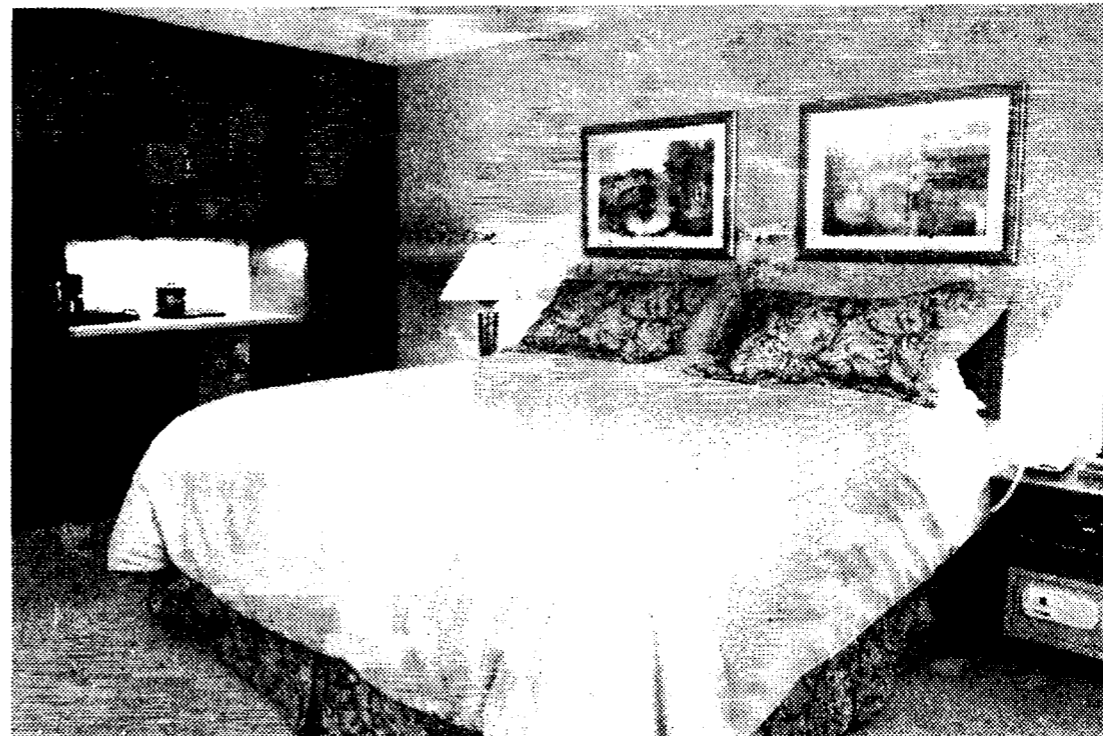
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MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish make long awaited return to NCAA Tournament

Undefeated No. 1 Virginia overcomes Notre Dame pressure to win first-round battle; Kemp snags 20 saves in loss

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

After No. 15 Notre Dame earned a surprise berth to the NCAA Tournament, the Irish challenged No. 1 Virginia with the Cavaliers' toughest home contest of 2006 in Charlottesville. But it was not enough to upend the nation's only undefeated team as Virginia cavandered its way to a school-record 14th consecutive victory with a 14-10 win over the Irish in their closest win at Klockner Stadium this season.

Notre Dame fell behind early when Virginia senior attack Matt Ward — the No. 17 rated scorer in the country — netted two of his game-high four goals to propel the Cavaliers to a 3-1 first quarter lead. In the second quarter, the Irish offense saw several good looks at the net, tallying three straight goals, including senior attack Brian Hubschmann's second of the day to tie the game at four with three minutes left in the first half.

However, Virginia freshman Daniel Glading netted the second of his game-high five points when he beat former Georgetown Prep teammate and Irish sophomore goalie Joey Kemp with 2:40 remaining to spark a late 3-0 run before halftime to take a 7-4 lead that the Cavaliers never relinquished — extending the advantage to 9-4 shortly into the second half.

But unlike most of Virginia's victims this season, Notre Dame refused to crumble, and senior attack Pat Walsh found freshman attack Ryan Hoff twice in a row to cut the lead to three. That was as close as the Irish would come to penetrating the consensus tournament favorite, which stretched their lead to 12-6 late in the watershed third period.

Despite hanging even with Virginia in shots for the first two

periods, Notre Dame only managed eight shots for three goals as the Cavaliers rattled off 18 shots in their five-goal third quarter.

"Defensively we panicked in the third quarter and made a couple of goals easy for them," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said in a phone interview Monday.

Virginia out shot the Irish 50-34 on the day, putting constant pressure on Kemp, who recorded a season-high 20 saves.

"He made some saves on some great shots," Corrigan said. "Anybody who watched that game knows we have one of the top goalies in the country."

Even down six, the Irish would not roll over. After Matt Karweck scored with 34 seconds left in the third, Notre Dame outscored Virginia 3-2 in the final period to close to 14-10 with 2:31. Junior midfielder Bill Livo aided the Irish effort with two goals, and Walsh (three assists), Hubschmann (two goals, one assist) and Hoff (three goals) led the team with three points each — but no one could find the net in the last couple minutes.

"We know we had to limit [Virginia's big runs], but we didn't," Irish senior captain defenseman D.J. Driscoll said Monday in a phone interview. "But we never gave up and hung in the game. They're not used to having anyone within four or five goals. Coach said if could keep it within four goals, we'd have a chance. We just didn't capitalize down the stretch."

Notre Dame's ability to stay in the game early came in no small part thanks to injury-riddled sophomore faceoff specialist Taylor Claggett, whose shoulder requires surgery next week. Claggett won four of five first quarter faceoffs en route to 16-12 advantage over Virginia, including four of six against Charlie Grazer, who ranks sixth in the nation in faceoff percentage.

"He was hurt pretty much all



Notre Dame attackmen Brian Hubschmann, left, and Pat Walsh celebrate after a goal in Notre Dame's 10-8 victory over Ohio State at Moose Krause Stadium April 29.

year," Corrigan said. "Amazingly he was able to play through that, and still able to beat the top players in the country. He's a great competitor and tough as nails."

In the loss, the Irish held the nation's top scoring team to a goal and a half below their season average, as well as scoring three more goals than Virginia's seventh-best scoring defense averages against them. Notre Dame came closer to executing its game plan than the likes of No. 8 Syracuse, No. 6 Johns Hopkins and No. 4 Maryland (twice), who lost by an average of 6.75 goals per game. Virginia noticed.

"Notre Dame may have been the last team selected, but they clearly were not the sixteen seed," Cavaliers coach Dom Starsia said in a phone interview Tuesday. "They had a great season and

gave us a stern test — more than we can handle."

Notre Dame snuck into the tournament for the first time since a semifinal appearance in 2001. After starting the year 7-2 and 1-0 in the GWLL with sky-high tournament expectations, the Irish found trouble at high elevation in Colorado, where they dropped two consecutive matches to No. 12 Denver and unranked Air Force, which removed them from conference championship contention for an automatic NCAA birth and seemingly shredded their at-large hopes.

But the Irish responded by rolling off three straight wins to extend their record to 10-4.

In its regular season finale, Notre Dame made GWLL newcomer Quinnipiac look like a summer camp as the Irish erupted for

their highest offensive output of the year with a 19-7 victory over the Bobcats in the first ever meeting between the two schools. That offensive outburst was the secret to Notre Dame's late surge and helped the Irish finish fifth nationally in scoring offense.

"You could definitely see [the offense] took a while to click all year," senior captain midfielder Drew Peters said in a telephone interview Monday. "At Quinnipiac it exploded, and we kept putting the ball in the net. It was a good game to have going into the tournament and we had a good week of offensive practice before Virginia."

Even after the Irish dismantled Quinnipiac, they needed No. 19 Delaware to upset No. 10 Towson and No. 16 Penn State to miss the automatic ECAC bid with a loss to No. 5 Georgia Tech. Both happened, and despite recording no top-20 wins, two of Notre Dame's losses came to the No. 2 and 3 teams in the country (Hofstra and Cornell) — and that strength of schedule presumably earned them the final tournament berth.

"When you get into the tournament it's about intensity. You're not looking for moral victories, you're looking to win," Corrigan said. "I would've taken not playing well and winning. But it's a great thing for our program to build on. It's something hopefully we can use to propel us next year into a great season."

As for the departing senior class, they entered Notre Dame with visions of Final Fours but persevered through three straight postseason-less seasons before finally making the field in their fourth and final year with the Irish.

"With a lot of people coming back, we expected to go pretty far," Driscoll said. "We thought we had the talent to be a Final Four team. Playing finally in the playoffs was an awesome experience. In the end, we played an awesome game against an awesome team."

Notes:

◆ Notre Dame led all GWLL teams with first-team all-conference selections with five: Walsh, Hubschmann, Karweck, Driscoll and Kemp.

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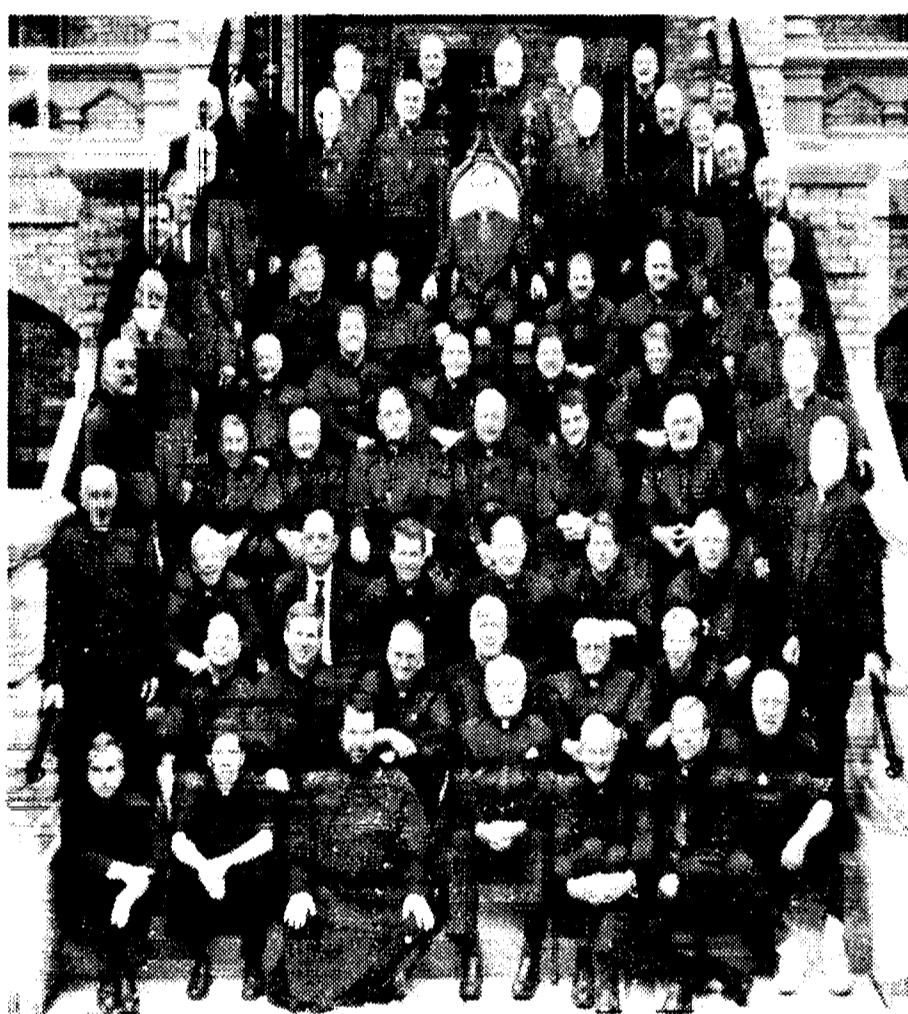
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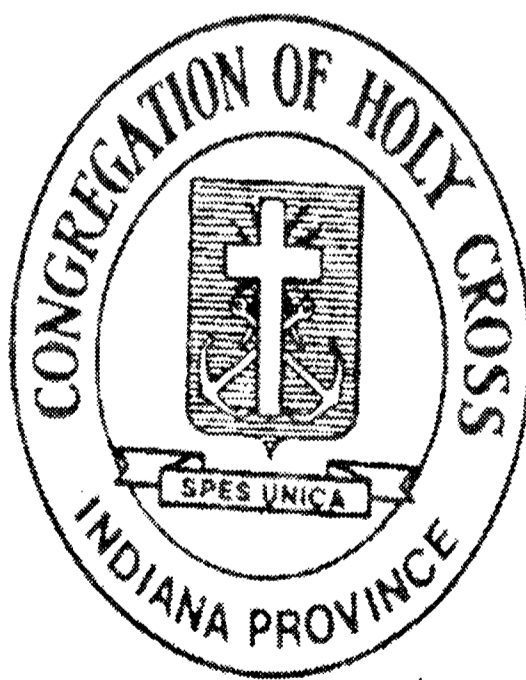
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish go to Big East tourney, hurt by close losses

Quinn leads team in season comeback

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

Following Notre Dame's Feb. 4 heartbreaking 89-86 overtime loss at Louisville after Cardinals guard Taquan Dean buried a 25-footer, the Irish dropped to 1-8 in the Big East.

The defeat was devastating. With the strength of the Big East and just seven games remaining on the conference schedule, the team's postseason prospects looked bleak. Notre Dame coach Mike Brey admitted later he would have been surprised if the Irish would be a position to make the Big East tournament one month later given the team's league record.

"If you would have told me [after the loss to Louisville] that we'd put ourselves in a position to play on senior day to get to New York, I would have thrown a parade," Brey said following Notre Dame's March 4 win over DePaul.

But Notre Dame found the strength to finish 6-10 in the Big East (16-14 overall), en-

route to the Big East tournament — the same event Brey stressed as the team's major goal at the beginning of the season.

The No. 12-seeded Irish ended up losing their Big East game 67-63 to No. 5-seeded Georgetown and would later drop its second round NIT game to Michigan 87-84, after defeating Vanderbilt in its first round contest.

It also failed to reach the NCAA Tournament for the third consecutive season after advancing to the Sweet 16 in 2003. But considering where the team was in early February, the resiliency it showed in putting together a strong finish (5-2 in its last seven games) and impressive individual season performances — the year was not a complete failure.

"We didn't hang a banner or play in the NCAA Tournament, but I truly feel this group was representative of this university," Brey said April 12 during the team's post-season banquet.

In order to reach the Big East tournament, Notre Dame beat Rutgers, South Florida and Seton Hall, before dropping consecutive games to Connecticut and Marquette.

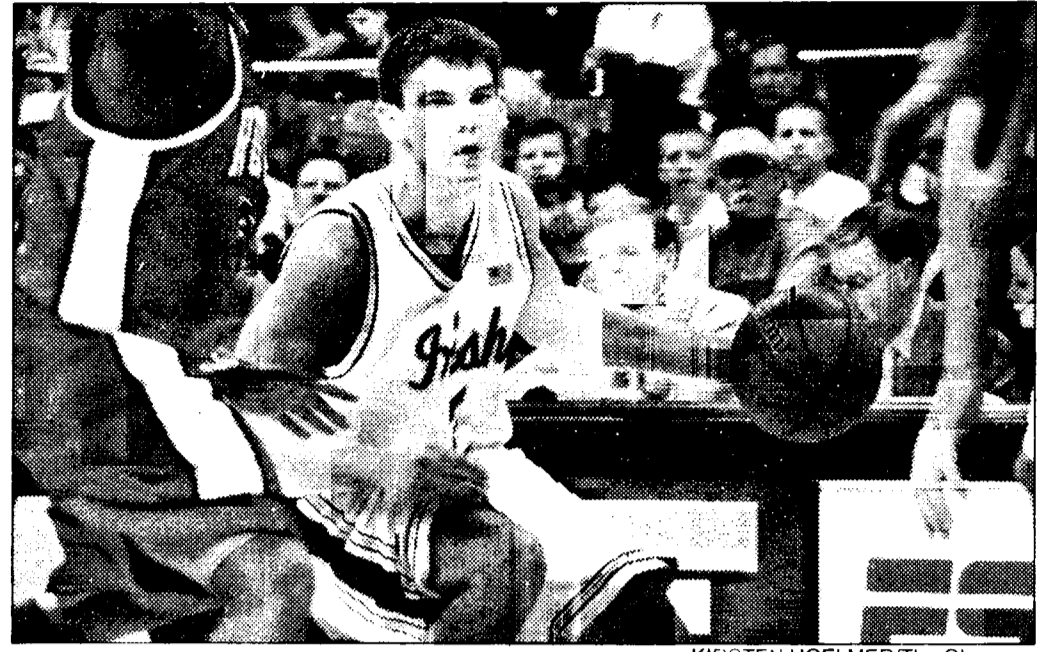
The Irish responded with wins over Providence and DePaul.

Irish guard Chris Quinn was a huge reason for the team's turnaround. The senior point guard finished the season with 17.7 points per game (fifth in the Big East), 6.45 assists per game (first in the Big East) and 42-percent shooting from 3-point range (second in the Big East).

Quinn's statistics and overall leadership were enough to make him a first team All Big East selection and CBS Sports line named Quinn a third team All-American. The Associated Press also named Quinn an All-American honorable mention.

"A lot of teams might have faded away," Quinn said in a March 6 press conference after being selected for the All Big East team. "Over the season, there have been tough times when we've really been down as a group, but we've had to battle back and get ready for the next game."

Some of the more memorable moments of the season came from Quinn as well. He scored 37 points in Notre Dame's 100-97 overtime loss to Pittsburgh, nailing 3-pointers down the stretch to force an overtime in a



Irish senior point guard Chris Quinn backs down a Rutgers defender during Notre Dame's 90-63 win Feb. 8 at the Joyce Center.

game where the Irish trailed by nine with under a minute.

Notre Dame forward Russell Carter also emerged as a legitimate scoring threat during the 2005-06 season, using his explosiveness as a change of pace in Notre Dame's predominantly 3-point shooting offense.

Carter averaged 11.5 points in 28.7 minutes per game. He led the team in scoring in the team's last three regular season games against Marquette (20 points), Providence (21) and

DePaul (22) — propelling the Irish offense to their postseason berth.

Notre Dame also got strong production from freshman point guard Kyle McAlarney, who will likely assume point guard responsibilities next season following Quinn's graduation. McAlarney averaged a Notre Dame-freshman high 6.6 points in 22.4 minutes per game.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame bows out in first round of Big Dance

Senior point guard Megan Duffy leads Irish all season, freshman shooting guard Lindsay Schrader ready to take torch

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

After starting the season with six straight victories, the Irish struggled for much of the rest of their schedule before losing to Boston College 78-61 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament in West Lafayette, Ind.

Senior point guard Megan Duffy led Notre Dame all season, averaging 15.6 points, 4.1 assists and 3.9 rebounds in 38.4 minutes per game.

Notre Dame finished the year 18-12 (8-8 Big East). The NCAA Tournament loss marked the second straight season in which the Irish failed to advance to the Sweet 16. The team lost 70-61 to Arizona State in the second round in 2005.

"Obviously, this isn't the way I wanted to go out, and this isn't acceptable for the Notre Dame program," Duffy said after the loss to Boston College.

Notre Dame began the season in the top-25 and moved

all the way up to No. 10 with its 6-0 start, which included a 55-45 victory over Michigan at the Joyce Center and a 74-61 win over Indiana in Bloomington.

But Notre Dame lost 65-54 to Purdue Dec. 7 and then fell 62-51 to perennial powerhouse Tennessee at

the Joyce Center Dec. 31 — a game which took the wind out of the team's sails.

"Obviously, this isn't the way I wanted to go out, and this isn't acceptable for the Notre Dame program."

Megan Duffy
Irish senior

Two-thirds of the way through the season, Notre Dame was still fighting for a spot in the NCAA Tournament. After losing three games in a row to Villanova, DePaul and Connecticut by a com-

bined 48 points, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the team needed to play with more urgency.

Notre Dame responded and secured a No. 9 seed by winning its last three regular-season contests and topping South Florida in the first round of the Big East tournament in Hartford, Conn., before losing to the Huskies in the quarterfinals.

The winning streak began Feb. 25 in Cincinnati when things were at their bleakest for the Irish.

Down 57-55 with 2.4 second left, Tulyah Gaines caught a tip from Schrader off Courtney LaVere's inbounds pass, drove to the lane, elevated and hit the leaning layup as the buzzer sounded.

"That's a play we practice a lot when we go through game situations," Gaines said after the game. "Lindsay did a great job of finding me [after] Courtney threw a great pass."

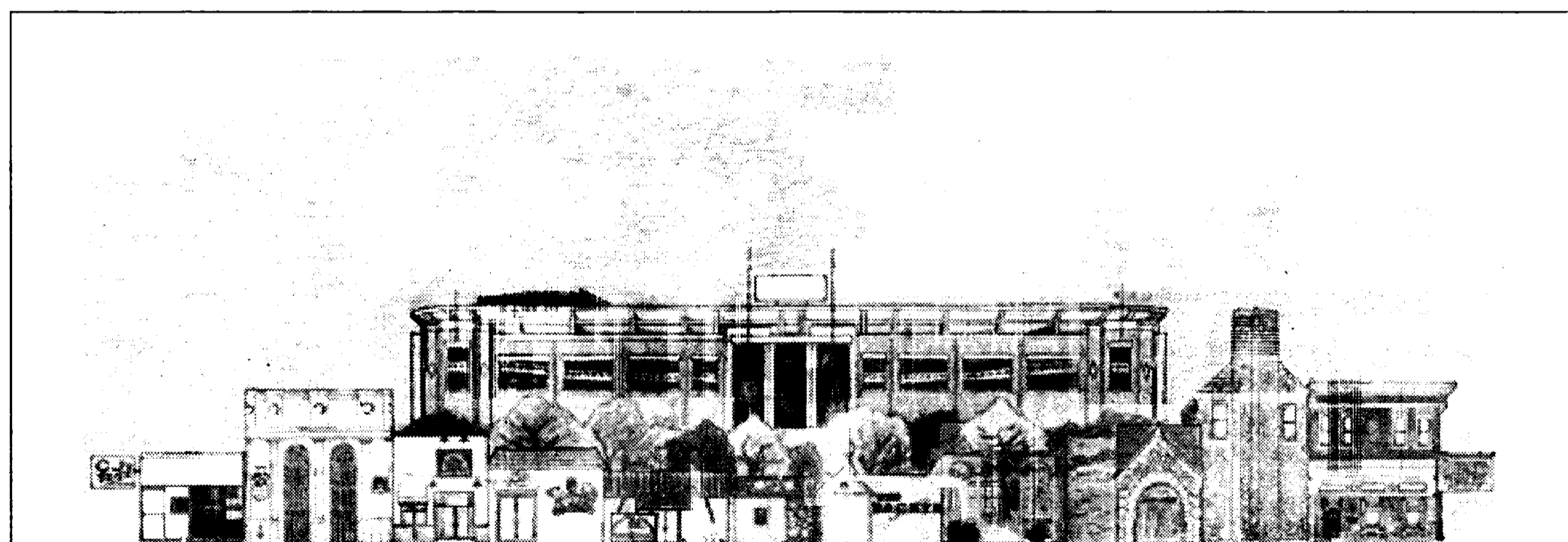
But Notre Dame's run ended with two straight defeats.

In the first-round NCAA Tournament loss, Irish freshman guard Lindsay Schrader scored 29 points on 12-for-23 shooting. Duffy said her performance marked a transition in the offensive leadership of the team.

Two months after the season ended, Schrader was one of 37 players invited to participate in the tryouts for the USA Under-20 national team.

Duffy was selected by the Minnesota Lynx in the third round of the WNBA Draft April 5. The Lynx will announce their roster for the upcoming season May 22.

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FOOTBALL

Weis brings new offense and success to Irish

Brady Quinn sets all major season passing records in 9-3 campaign

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame ended the season with a 34-20 Fiesta Bowl defeat at the hands of Ohio State.

But first-year Irish coach Charlie Weis furthered his reputation as an offensive guru as Notre Dame broke dozens of offensive records on its way to a 9-3 season and the program's first BCS berth since the 2000 season.

Even so, the season highlight might not have come in the Arizona desert — where Ohio State sprinted past the Irish for

the win — but in mid-October, when defending national champion and then-No. 1 Southern California faced the Irish in Notre Dame Stadium.

The campus presence of ESPN shows College Gameday and Cold Pizza, as well as a Friday night pep rally in the stadium that drew over 45,000 fans, hyped a game that lived up to immense expectations. The then-No. 9 Irish — sparked by a Tom Zbikowski-punt return touchdown and a game plan that gave Notre Dame a 17-minute time-of-possession advantage — almost upset the Trojans. But USC quarterback Matt Leinart snuck over the goal line with seconds remaining to cap an epic final quarter and give the Trojans a 34-31 win.

Notre Dame opened the season Sept. 3 with a 42-21 rout over

Pittsburgh at Heinz Field. Quinn set the season's tone by tossing a pair of touchdown passes — one to running back Darius Walker and the second to junior wide receiver Jeff Samardzija, who was named a consensus All-American after making 77 receptions for 1,249 yards and 15 touchdowns. Samardzija had only 24 catches — none of them for touchdowns — in his two seasons under former Irish coach Tyrone Willingham.

Weis joined Knute Rockne as the only Irish coaches to win their first two games on the road Sept. 10 when Notre Dame upset then-No. 3 Michigan in Ann Arbor. Quinn and the offense sputtered, but the defense — led by a Zbikowski interception for a touchdown and a goal-line fumble recovery from free safety Chinedum Ndukwe — held the Wolverines in check.

The Irish entered their home opener Sept. 17 ranked No. 10 in the nation. But the optimism in South Bend was temporarily halted as Michigan State quarterback Drew Stanton threw for 327 yards and three touchdowns to defeat Notre Dame 44-41 in double overtime thanks to a 19-yard, game-winning touchdown run by Jason Teague on an option pitch. The Spartan upset thwarted a 21-point comeback by the Irish as well as 487 passing yards and a then-school-record five touchdown passes by Quinn.

Notre Dame sailed through its next two contests — both on the road — defeating Washington 36-17 on Sept. 25 and Purdue 49-28 on Oct. 1.

The team then had a bye week before the matchup with USC.

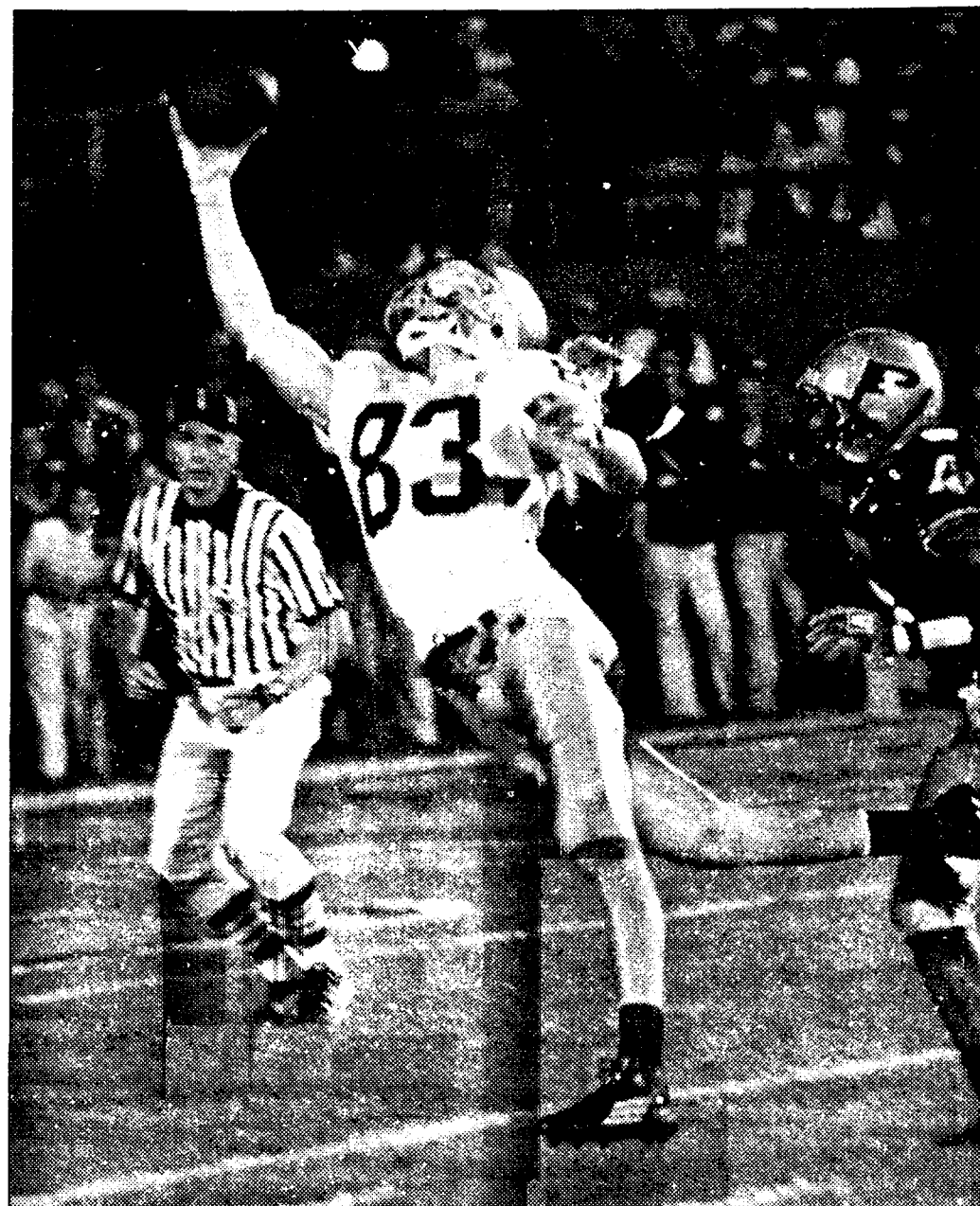
Quinn avoided any possible hangover from the loss to the Trojans a week later as he threw a school-record six touchdown passes — four to senior wide receiver Maurice Stovall — as the Irish trounced BYU 49-23 on Oct. 22 at Notre Dame Stadium.

Stovall's touchdown receptions — a Notre Dame record — helped him finish with 11 scoring grabs on the season to go along with 1,149 yards on 69 total



Irish quarterback Brady Quinn looks to pass during Notre Dame's 49-28 victory over Purdue Oct. 1.

CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish wide receiver Jeff Samardzija makes a diving catch during Notre Dame's 49-28 victory over Purdue Oct. 1.

receptions.

The season's second bye week preceded a three-game homestand for the Irish that began with a 41-21 win over struggling Tennessee Nov. 5 as Zbikowski returned both a punt and an interception for touchdowns. The junior finished the season with four scores — two on interceptions and two on punt returns — to help earn him third-team All-America honors from the Associated Press.

The Irish then defeated Navy 42-21 on Nov. 12 and Syracuse 34-10 on Nov. 19 to enter their Nov. 25 road matchup with Stanford with an 8-2 record. Despite two touchdown receptions and 191 receiving yards from Samardzija, the star of the day

was sophomore running back Darius Walker, whose six-yard touchdown run with 55 seconds remaining and subsequent two-point conversion gave the Irish a 38-31 win and catapulted them into the Fiesta Bowl. Weis fooled the Cardinal on the conversion attempt, as he called a direct snap to Walker, who trotted into the end zone.

Walker ran for a career-best 186 yards on 35 carries to help the Irish avoid an upset at the hands of a pesky Cardinal squad and ended the season with 1,196 yards on 253 carries and nine touchdowns.

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FOOTBALL RECRUITING

New Jersey wide receiver becomes fifth player in 2010 class

By BOBBY GRIFFIN and
CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writers

After the Tampa Bay Buccaneers drafted wide receiver Maurice Stovall in the third round of the 2006 NFL Draft, Irish head coach Charlie Weis needed an eventual replacement — and he might have found his man.

Duval Kamara, a 6-foot-3, 190-pound wide receiver according to Scout.com, from Hoboken, N.J., verbally committed to Notre Dame May 11 on ESPN News.

"He's a tall guy who can get up and make some of the miraculous, circus-type catches that Stovall made so many of last year," Mike Frank of Irisheyes.com said.

Frank also praised Kamara's quickness, which he said is better than Stovall's, and his ability to block downfield. Kamara's high school (Hoboken High School) is a

primarily run-dominated offense and Frank said the 6-foot-3 receiver displays an aggressive defensive mentality when it comes to blocking in run formations.

Kamara had 43 catches for 930 yards and 12 touchdowns last year as a junior for Hoboken High School. Frank said that while the wide out may compete for playing time his freshman year in 2007, he will have a lot of competition from his classmates and the wide receivers that will already be on campus.

Weis has also extended class of 2010 scholarship offers to wide receivers Arrelious Benn (6-foot-2, 205 pounds, Washington D.C.) Greg Little (6-foot-3, 205 pounds, Durham, N.C.) and Deonte Thompson (5-foot-11, 186 pounds, Belle Glade, Fla.). None of these three have given verbal commitments to Notre Dame.

"When it's all said and done, you're going to see three out-

standing receiver prospects in this class," Frank said. "In any other class, Duval might come in and play right away, but in this class you're going to have a lot of competition from the other members of his class plus the guys who came in last year."

Kamara becomes the latest verbal commitment in a class that already tight end Mike Ragone (6-foot-5, 230 pounds, Cherry Hill, N.J.), linebackers Aaron Nagel (6-foot-1, 215 pounds, Lamont, Ill.) and Kerry Neal (6-foot-3, 220 pounds, Bunn, N.C.) and quarterback Jimmy Clausen (6-foot-3, 195 pounds, Westlake Village, Calif.).

Many experts consider Clausen one of the top quarterback prospects in the

nation. Frank said Kamara took Clausen's verbal commitment into account, but it was not his deciding factor in choosing Notre Dame.

"He said the Jimmy Clausen commitment was something he considered, but he said

"He's a tall guy who can get up and make some of the miraculous, circus type catches that Stovall made so many of last year."

Mike Frank
Irisheyes.com

that with or without Jimmy, Notre Dame was the right place for him," Frank said.

Frank said Weis would probably continue his recruiting momentum with another commitment in the coming weeks. Justin Trattou, a 6-foot-4, 250-pound defensive end out of Ramsey, N.J., is scheduled to announce his college choice June 1.

"I would be very surprised if he did not choose Notre Dame," Frank said of Trattou.

This year's recruiting class follows on the heels of the 2006 signing class, which was rated No. 5 in the country by Scout.com. Weis signed 28 players after his first year at the helm.

"The talent level and skill level that Charlie Weis has brought in with these last two classes is definitely an upgrade from some of the guys that were being brought in before," Frank said.

Three members of the 2006 class — wide receiver George West, running back James Aldridge and offensive lineman Chris Stewart — enrolled at Notre Dame in January and went through spring practice with the team. Several others, including offensive lineman Sam Young, linebacker Toryan Smith and tight end Konrad Reuland, are expected to compete for playing time next fall.

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ND SOFTBALL

Irish squeeze out Big East tourney championship

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

Despite an up-and-down season and a frustrating three-game losing streak late in the season, Notre Dame rebounded to win the Big East tournament and earn a berth to the NCAA Tournament, which will begin today against UC-Santa Barbara in Evanston, Ill.

The Irish (40-19) won the conference championship with a 1-0 victory over No. 18 Louisville Sunday at Ivy Field. Notre Dame scored the only run of the game in the first inning on a suicide

squeeze by catcher Mallorie Lenn that drove in center fielder Stephanie Brown.

"We set goals throughout the year, but one of the biggest goals we set is to win the Big East tournament, because if we win that we go to the postseason," Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf said.

The Cardinals had beaten the Irish in two regular season meetings in Louisville, 10-3 and 2-1.

Those two games, a double-header on May 1 and a 6-4 upset home loss to Loyola-Chicago May 2, formed a Loyola-Chicago streak that Gumpf said forced the Irish to refocus in time for the postseason. "It was very frustrating because

it was at a crucial time in the year, but I think it made the girls realize how easy it is to lose focus and control of games," Gumpf said. "They worked their tails off to regain confidence and get control of the games again."

One of the players who refocused was starting pitcher Heather Booth. The senior won three games in the Big East tournament, allowing just two hits along the way.

Booth became Notre Dame's ace in April of 2005, going 23-8 with a 1.59 ERA her junior season and 25-10 with a 1.39 ERA her senior season.

"April of her junior year was

Heather's turning point," Gumpf said. "She's been on a mission to get us to the College World Series ever since."

Offensively, the Irish have been led in 2006 by Brown, Lenn and senior first baseman Meagan Ruffrauth. The three have combined for 26 home runs, 100 RBIs and 90 runs scored. Brown leads the team with a .396 batting average from her leadoff spot.

"They're seeing the ball well, they're having good at bats, and when you do that, good things will happen," Gumpf said of the three sluggers.

Freshman infielder Linda Kohan has also been a force at

the plate in her first season, hitting .287 with five home runs and 27 RBIs. Freshman pitcher Brittney Barger has also made a quick transition to the college game, going 15-9 on the season with a 2.99 ERA.

With the Big East title in hand, Notre Dame will begin its quest for the College World Series Friday with a three game series against the Gauchos. The winner will go on to play the winner of Southern Illinois and Northwestern May 26-27 in Evanston.

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HOCKEY

First-year coach earns confidence of team, more victories

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame earned eight more victories than its five-win 2004-05 season — finishing 13-19-4 after a 3-1 and 1-0 sweep at the hands of Alaska-Fairbanks in the first round of the CCHA playoffs, marking a distinct improvement in a one-year period.

Notre Dame compiled an 11-13-4 CCHA conference record — after winning just three conference games last season. The Irish secured home-ice advantage in

the playoffs with the eighth best record in the CCHA.

Perhaps the most noticeable change for the Irish this season was behind the boards. Those men were first-year head coach Jeff Jackson, new associate head coach Paul Pooley, returning assistant coach Andy Slaggert and fresh-from-the-pros volunteer assistant coach Jim Montgomery.

"There's not a better staff in college hockey," Irish senior alternate captain Mike Walsh said. "There could be a comparison between [Jackson] and [Irish

head football] coach [Charlie] Weis in commitment and being educated about the game and expecting a lot from his players."

Jackson joined the Irish after stints with the New York Islanders and U.S. National Development Team — after a successful tenure with Notre Dame's CCHA rival Lake Superior State, during which he won two Division-I national titles.

The Irish faced a tough early schedule in 2005-06, including a western road trip against two-time defending national champion Denver and nationally-ranked

Colorado College. Notre Dame dropped those games 6-3 and 3-1, respectively, but got its first win of the year two games later against Princeton at the Joyce Center.

Walsh said the team's first win was important as a boost for the younger players, but that the team really started to mesh with Jackson's new systems a weekend later — against CCHA powerhouse Michigan.

"Even though we ended up losing both games, you can ask anybody — we dominated," Walsh said of the 8-5 and 4-2 losses.

Irish senior Tim Wallace felt the team really started to roll in early January — the Irish collected a 7-6-3 record starting with a Jan. 6 series against Nebraska-Omaha and ending with the regular season series finale against Alaska-Fairbanks.

"I wouldn't necessarily say it was a specific series [that sparked a turnaround]," Wallace said. "Right after Christmas break everyone seemed to buy into their role and everyone was on the same page."

A 4-3 win and a 5-2 loss against Northern Michigan two weekends later — the first time the Irish came from behind to win — gave Jackson a better view of his team's progress.

"In general I think our players probably had time to go back and reflect over the break," he said. "They responded in a positive way when they came back. They showed they could play with the top teams in the country."

Despite the winning second-half record Notre Dame rode into the playoffs, it was not enough to earn a second round berth as the Irish lost to No. 9-seeded Alaska-Fairbanks. The Irish challenged Nanooks goaltender Wylie Rogier, but ultimately could not finish. Rogier made 61 saves in two games and surrendered only one goal.

After a season in which coaching staff and players spent time adjusting to one another, it is necessary to take a look towards the future.

The freshman class consists of eight players — one goalie, three defensemen and four forwards. A majority of the class verbally committed to the Irish prior to Jackson's hiring in May of 2005.

Goalie Tom O'Brien (Mokena, Ill.) and defensemen Brett Blatchford (Temperance, Mich.), Stewart Carlin (Pittsburgh, Pa.) and Kyle Lawson (New Hudson, Mich.) will join Notre Dame.

O'Brien had a 2.93 goals-against average and a .920 save percentage for the Bridgeway Bandits of the FJHL last season.

The forwards are Kevin Deeth (Gig Harbor, Wash.), Dan Kissel (Streamwood, Ill.), Christian Minella (Aurora, Colo.) and Ryan Thang (Edina, Minn.).

Deeth played for the Green Bay Gamblers of the USHL last year and collected the USHL, scoring 20 goals and tallying 34 assists — the second most points on his team and good enough for 12th overall in the league.

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Cooper

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he did when his swing was long. There's not any kind of pitcher that he faces that he can't hit."

The slugger was voted second-team all-Big East his sophomore season and was awarded a spot on the third team last year. His .432 batting average this season seems certain to secure an honor or two.

"I've said it many times that if Coop isn't Big East player of the year, there should be an investigation," Mainieri said.

Cooper entered 2006 in third place on the all-time Big East career batting average list at .420 (68-for-162). He credits his success to the confidence and discipline Mainieri has instilled in him while at Notre Dame.

"My confidence has grown just being here four years — coming to a program I knew was one of the top in the country [and] being able to compete with these guys," he said. "As you get older and play more games you get more patient and that has really helped me."

His time with Notre Dame has only been part of the formative process that has allowed him to strike fear in the eyes of pitchers across the Big East. In the summers of 2004 and 2005, Cooper played for the Brewster Whitecaps in the Cape Cod League — the premiere summer baseball

league in the country. Cooper was third on the Whitecaps with 17 RBIs and three home runs in 2004. He collected 12 runs and three doubles in 2005.

"Playing in the Cape has been the biggest thing that's helped me competition-wise," Cooper said. "Everyday we were going out hitting against someone in the country's No. 1 pitcher. By the end of the summer your confidence grows that you can hit against these guys." The 2006 spring season with Notre Dame has been one of change for Cooper, but change that has worked for the better.

He transferred from the outfield to take over first base for Matt Edwards — the lone departing starting position player from last year. And earlier this year he transitioned from the three-hole into the lead-off spot.

The first change has solidified an already strong infield complete with second baseman Ross Brezovsky, shortstop Greg Lopez and third baseman Brett Lilley. Mainieri considers Cooper "one of the best defensive first basemen I've

ever coached." And the second change eventually led to widespread attention for the political science and computer applications major — 21-game hit streaks tend to do that.

"I was afraid to move him out of [lead-off] because he found his groove," Mainieri said. "I don't know why he's so comfortable there. Maybe being the top of the order, pitchers don't want to walk a batter and they throw strikes." The hitting streak came tucked into

Notre Dame's record-setting 23-game winning streak and the hits stopped only a game before the wins did.

He has secured a hit in all but eight of his 46 games this season and has 35 RBIs, 32 walks and nine stolen bases so far.

But with both streaks now behind Cooper and the team, the senior can focus more on guiding Notre Dame deep into the Big East and NCAA Tournaments and toward his future beginning with the MLB draft in June.

"With his athleticism, strength, quality of swing, I feel he has a chance to progress to pro ball," Mainieri said. "He has a lot of the ingredients that pro teams look for. It's a tough grind to be successful in pro ball, but I wouldn't bet against Coop."

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

"Playing in the Cape [Cape Cod League] has been the biggest thing that's helped me competition-wise. Everyday we were going out hitting against someone in the country's No. 1 pitcher. By the end of the summer your confidence grows that you can hit against these guys."

Craig Cooper
Irish first baseman

"My confidence has grown just being here four years — coming to a program I knew was one of the top in the country [and] being able to compete with these guys."

Craig Cooper
Irish first baseman

BASEBALL

Recent losses threaten team's strong season



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer
Irish outfielder Cody Rizzo rounds third base in Notre Dame's 12-1 win over Cleveland State May 2 at Frank Eck Stadium.

Irish gearing up for Big East tournament after loss to Michigan

By **KYLE CASSILY**
Sports Writer

The 2006 campaign is not yet over for No. 19 Notre Dame — with the Big East tournament and an almost assured NCAA bid ahead — but the team has etched itself a permanent place in the Irish record books.

Starting with a 12-2 win against Georgetown in the nightcap of a March 25 doubleheader, the Irish won 23 straight games — surpassing the previous modern record of 18 set by the 1991 team — and took control of the Big East standings. The streak lasted a little over a month and ended with an 11-8 loss at the hands of Bowling Green.

The Irish collected wins over Pittsburgh, South Florida, Rutgers, Purdue and various non-conference foes during the span — including a dramatic 7-5 come-from-behind victory against St. Johns on April 15.

"The guys took turns being the heroes," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said of his team during the streak. "It's something we should be very proud of. That's something they can never take away from us."

One of those heroes on a consistent basis was senior first baseman Craig Cooper, who muscled out a 21-game hit streak within Notre Dame's win streak. His consecutive hit mark was snapped a game prior to the win streak.

Notre Dame (38-14-1, 18-5-1 Big East) still has a firm grip on the Big East regular season title with a final conference series remaining to be played this weekend against Villanova. Villanova holds an 8-15 record in conference play and resides in tenth place.

But the Irish have suffered from a recent string of close defeats, dropping four of their last six Big East games. Three out of the four losses were by a single run.

The losses came on the past two weekends to league rivals Louisville and Seton Hall, and Michigan took a 3-1 decision Tuesday from Notre Dame in non-conference play.

"We're in a lot of [tight games]," Mainieri said. "We're winning most of them but we've still lost some close ones. That's a little discourag-

ing at this time of the year — you have to win those games. I think you have to look at the big picture, nobody wins them all in baseball."

But this isn't the first time the Irish have struggled to mine wins from the diamond this season — they posted a 2-5 record on the road at the Service Academies and Dairy Queen Classics to kick off the year. Big XII powerhouses Nebraska and Oklahoma delivered two of the losses to Notre Dame, while Memphis, Minnesota and Arizona were responsible for the other three.

"Traditionally we have a great challenge early in the year because not only do we play great teams, but we're coming outdoors for the first time," Mainieri said. "We got out to a little bit of a slow start, but I never worried. Once we get to play on a more consistent basis our talent showed. We had a great game against Texas A&M and it kept going from there."

The big three in the Irish pitching rotation — Jeff Manship, Tom Thornton and Jeff Samardzija — have a combined 19-5 record and have been instrumental in Notre Dame's 18-5-1 conference mark. But sophomore southpaw Wade Korpi — a newcomer to the rotation — has had an impact on the mound on par with his older counterparts.

In nine starts this year prior to Tuesday's game against Michigan, Korpi boasts a 5-1 record with a 1.09 ERA and 72 strikeouts. Opposing batters have a .184 batting average against Korpi and have only 16 walks in his 57.2 innings as a starter.

"It's one thing to go on the weekend and have your top three pitch well in league games," Mainieri said. "But then when a guy comes out on Tuesday and Wednesday and pitches a good game for you, its bridges the gaps on the weekends."

The Big East tournament begins May 23 at Bright House Networks Field in Clearwater, Fla. — the Philadelphia Phillies' spring training complex. NCAA Regional play is slated to begin June 2 at campus sites. The Irish can earn a berth in the NCAAs either through an automatic berth via the Big East tournament or with an at-large selection.

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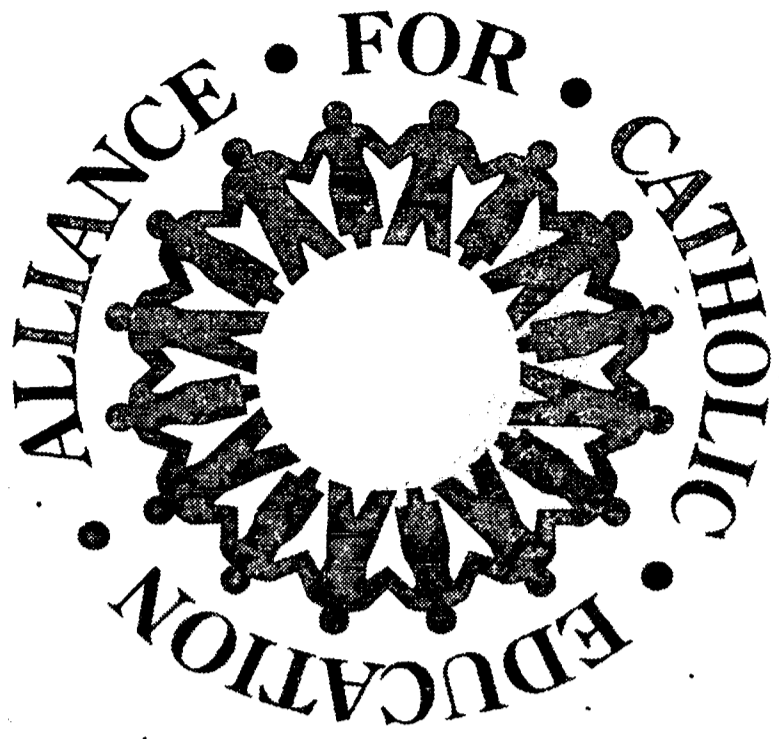
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Soccer

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became the locker room leader and the force behind second-semester freshman Kerri Hanks' emergence as the premier young goal-scorer in the country.

Besides being top-flight players, Thorlakson called the entire team "really good friends."

"And that's what makes it so special," she said.

Thorlakson finished her career with 55 goals and 73 assists for 183 points.

After a surprising snub to end her junior season, Thorlakson earned first-team All-America honors in 2005. Only Portland's Christine Sinclair kept Thorlakson from collecting the coveted Missouri Athletic Club Hermann Trophy, presented annually to the nation's top player.

Sinclair set an NCAA record with 39 goals while leading the Pilots to the national championship.

But Thorlakson was gracious in defeat.

"[Sinclair] is the type of player that will make anyone around her better," Thorlakson said after the Hermann Trophy awards ceremony in St. Louis. "She's a world-class type of player. She can create something out of nothing

every time."

Now, Thorlakson won't have to compete against Sinclair ever again.

The 5-foot-3 product of Langley, British Columbia, has rejoined the Canadian National Team on which Sinclair also plays.

Thorlakson made her national team debut July 30, 2004, against Japan. She already has accumulated 13 caps for the national team in her international career, including four since finishing her career at Notre Dame. She had 27 international caps for Canada's Under-20 national team.

Thorlakson tore her ACL last week during a practice and is on the mend, but it hasn't affected her excitement to be playing for Team Canada.

"I even look forward to watching the games now," she said. "I'm just looking forward to getting back and playing with [Sinclair] again."

At the end of the 2005 regular season, Thorlakson said she tried to play as hard and as aggressive as former Irish standout Melissa Tancredi. Tancredi served as the defensive centerpiece on Notre Dame's championship team in 2004 and now plays for the Canadian national team with Thorlakson.

Thorlakson said her youth in Langley kept her removed from the NCAA so much that she had

no idea what to expect when she came to Notre Dame.

"I didn't even know what conference we're in," she said. "I didn't even know we were playing for a national championship."

But watching the upperclassmen on the team during her freshman season — in which Notre Dame finished 13-8 — changed all that. And the national championship two years later changed the status of Notre Dame soccer.

"[2002] was a pretty rough season," Thorlakson said. "The seniors this year paved a pretty hard road that the upcoming freshman won't have to."

She said her favorite memory besides the national championship was Notre Dame's 5-2 victory over Santa Clara on Sept. 5, 2004 at Alumni Field.

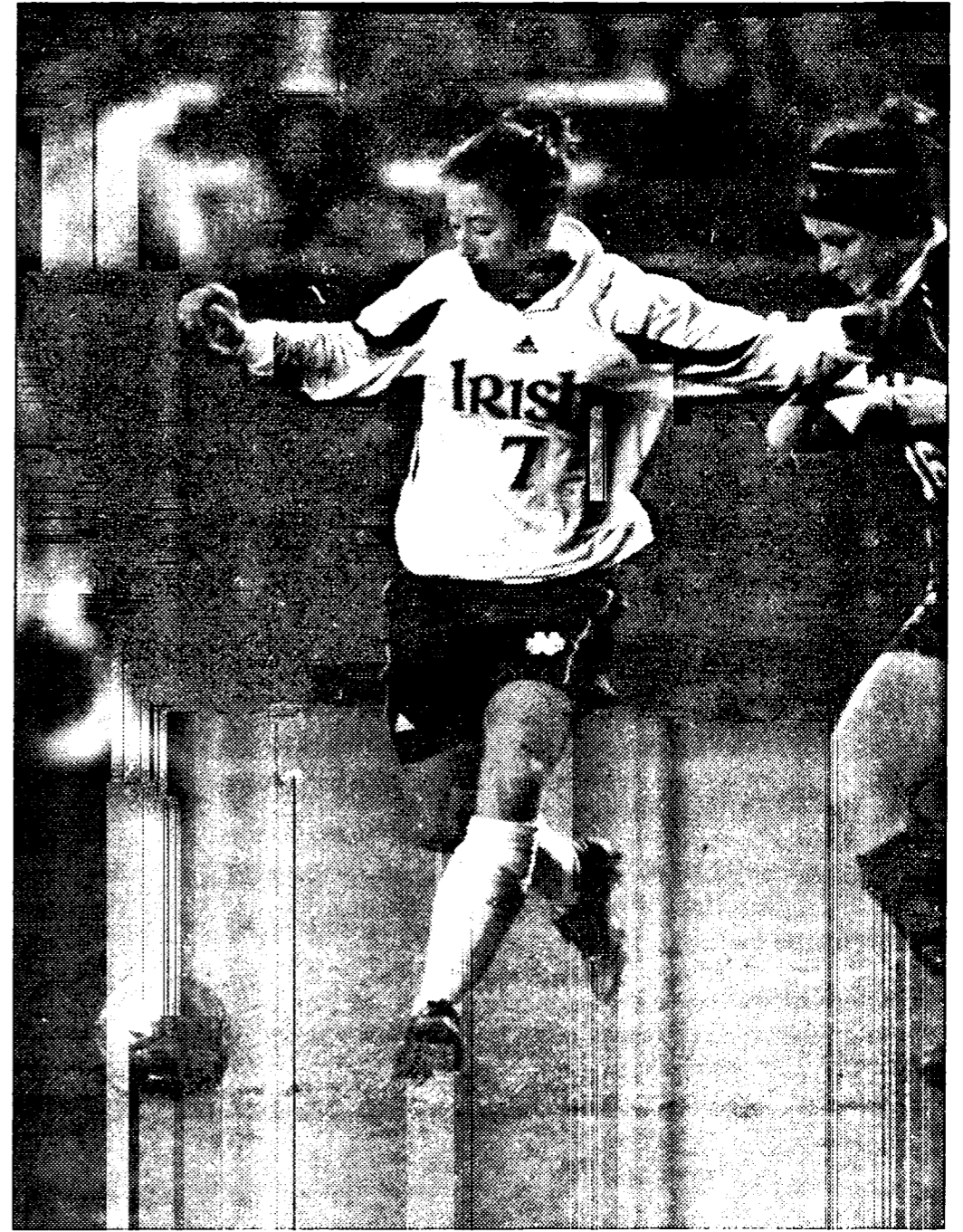
"It was my favorite game probably," Thorlakson said. "Notre Dame was so fun. I had never played with that type of [team]. I had the time of my life."

What Thorlakson did while having the time of her life was to re-establish Notre Dame as a perennial power.

"We're coming back every year with top-10 teams," she said.

"You can't really look at it as a bad year when you lose to the eventual national champions."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu



Irish forward Katie Thorlakson moves upfield in Notre Dame's 5-2 win over Yale Nov. 18. TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Mattia

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later, at the Hope College Jamboree in Holland, Mich.

Mattia carded a then-career low 160 over two

rounds to lead Saint Mary's to a victory in the three-team tournament. She ended the year with an 82.60 scoring average, lowest on the team and better than teammate and eventual national champion Stefanie Simmerman.

In her sophomore year,

Mattia posted an 84.60 scoring average in the fall semester. The Belles returned to the NCAA championships that spring, although this time without Mattia, who was studying abroad in Italy for the semester.

Returning to the United

States for her junior year, Mattia posted an 84.56 scoring average and shot 340 over four rounds to tie for 26th place as the Belles took sixth at the NAAs.

Mattia finishes her career with a personal best of 154 for two rounds. She set that

mark in the spring of 2005 at the Illinois-Wesleyan tournament.

Mattia will graduate from Saint Mary's with a degree in history and psychology.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

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AR: Kristen Hempstead

Plans

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the new hockey facilities. There will also be new offices adjacent to the hockey arena connected to the north dome.

"A stand-alone hockey arena ... is thirty to forty million [dollars]," White said. "We're looking to spend about 15 million [dollars]."

Other parts of the plan calls for softball's facility — currently Ivy Field — to move to the southeast corner of campus, adjacent to the southern end to Frank Eck Stadium. A new track and field facility is slotted for construction just to the west of the new softball field.

Men's and women's soccer, which currently play home games on the easternmost edge of campus at Alumni Field, will have a new 2,000 seat stadium adjacent to the east side of the Joyce Center. The lacrosse teams will have a similar new facility just east of the new soccer field. Both stadiums will include team meeting rooms, a lounge, locker rooms and restrooms.

The football team's practice fields will be altered as part of the plan so that all three are along the road that separates them from Guglielmino Athletics Complex. One of the three practice fields will then have artificial turf.

What's more, the outdoor tennis facility will be moved from its current location next to the Eck Tennis Pavilion to the current site of Ivy Field. The men's and women's soccer practice fields will be moved adjacent to that, where Alumni Field currently stands.

White said the fundraising for the improvements is well underway, and all but one new facility have at least one benefactor in line. He said Notre Dame would not contact or

negotiate with corporate sponsors for any of the building projects.

White also touched on a variety of other issues:

♦ White said Notre Dame is committed to playing seven home games four road games and an "off-site game" controlled by Notre Dame in the future. He said the off-site game will have ticket sales the same way a Notre Dame home game does, and that will increase the success rate of individuals who enter the ticket lottery on a yearly basis.

White also said that the pre-arranged game at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J., will be one of the four "road" games, not the "off-site game."

"In a way, that gives us access to nine games," White said, referring to Notre Dame's large fan base in the New York metropolitan area.

White said the "off-site" game will either be held in Jacksonville, Fla., Orlando, New Orleans or Dallas. He said Notre Dame will not negotiate with the stadiums what teams the Irish will play in those games.

He said the implementation of the off-site game will help national recruiting efforts.

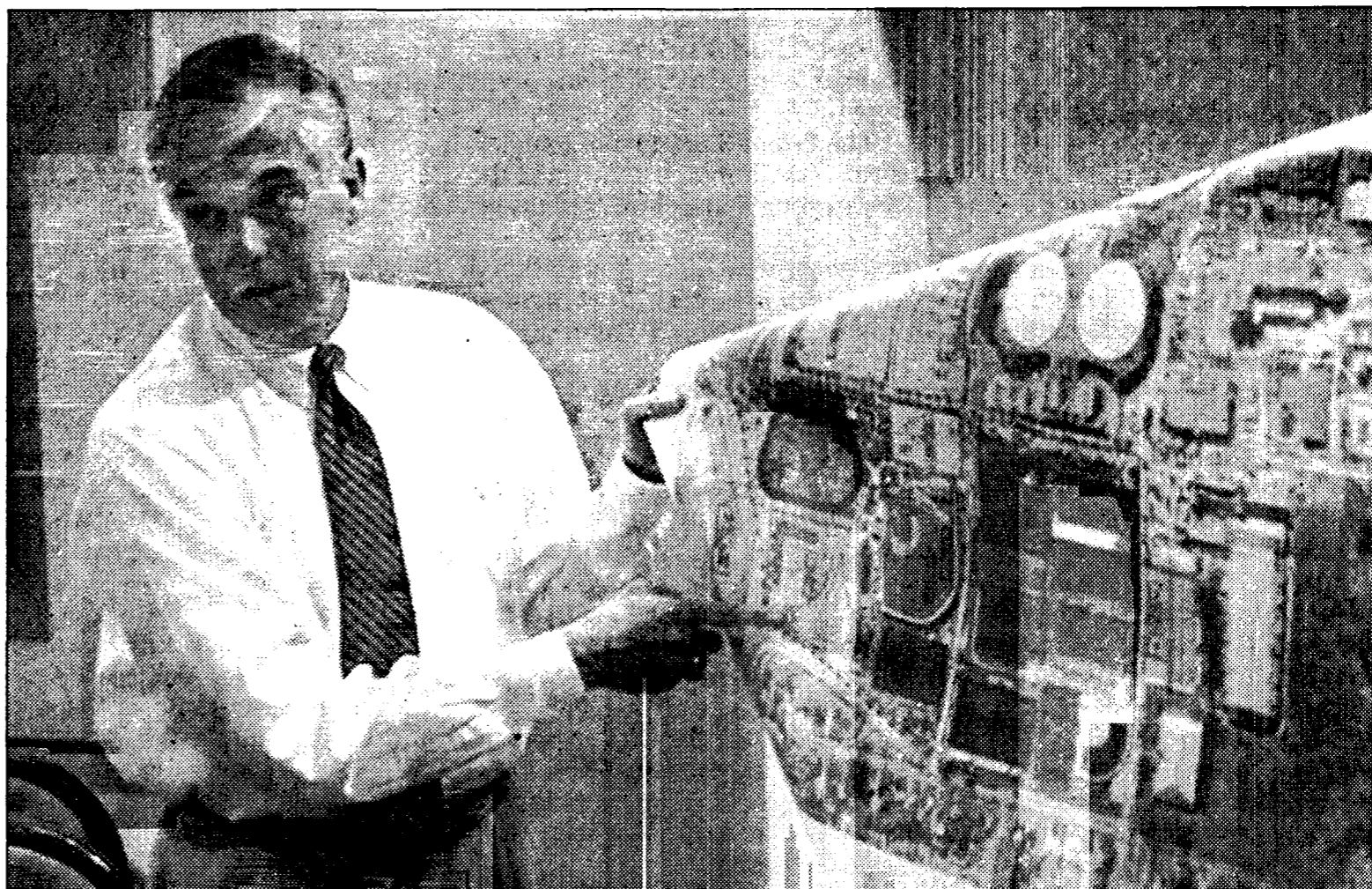
"What we're looking for is to grab the headlines in the area," White said.

White emphasized that this off-site game is just one more way Notre Dame is trying to move "further away" from conference affiliation and solidify its place as an independent.

"I think over time, we have really behaved like a wannabe conference member," he said.

♦ Though he said that he wants to return to the "barnstorming" era of Knute Rockne, White said that Notre Dame does not need to make its schedule any tougher.

"We need to schedule in a way it puts us in a position to



Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White unveils plans to renovate the athletic facilities on the east side of campus Tuesday. White also addressed football scheduling and basketball concerns.

win national championships," he said. "We could have a great football team and schedule ourselves out of a championship."

White said that having a top-five strength of schedule is not conducive to realizing the end goal of any football season.

"The last time I checked, the most important thing here is to try to win national championships," he said. "That's what we're trying to do."

♦ White said he was disappointed that radio-broadcasting company Westwood One will not use 26-year veteran Tony Roberts on their radio broadcasts of Irish football games next fall and that Notre Dame played no role in the decision-making process.

Westwood One chose to phase Roberts out of future broadcasts, but Roberts declined to come back after contract negotiations for what would have

been Roberts' final two years failed.

"I have great respect for Tony and am very disappointed that that outcome became a reality," White said.

♦ White quelled speculation about possible scenarios in which football coach Charlie Weis would leave Notre Dame. Declining to offer specific numbers, White called the buyout option is Weis' 10-year contract "Herculean" and said that no coach at Notre Dame has a "parachute clause" in which they can choose to leave the school for specific other institutions or professional teams.

♦ Addressing the men's basketball team's failure to reach the NCAA Tournament three straight seasons, White said he wants the program to rise to the status of "elite."

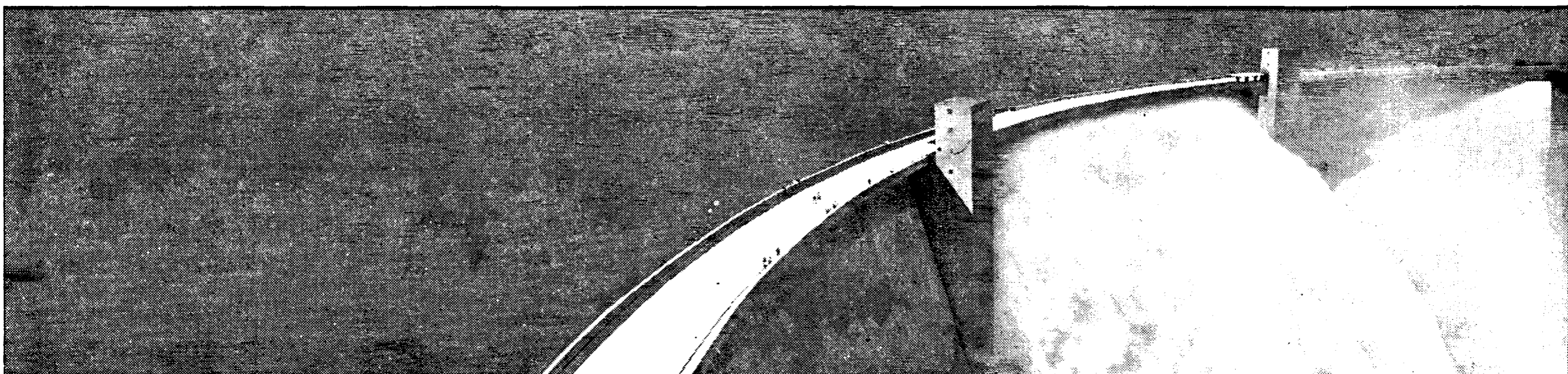
"Who isn't frustrated? The guy who is the most frustrated

is [Irish coach] Mike [Brey]," White said. "I think Mike is a very good basketball coach and I think we've got a chance [to become an elite program]."

♦ During the meeting, associate athletic director John Heisler said Notre Dame's football game against Air Force Nov. 11 likely will be televised only on College Sports Television Network because of Air Force's new contract with CSTV that gives the network exclusive rights to all home games.

White said he is concerned that many fans may not have access to the game. He said Notre Dame will consider the television situation in future negotiations to make "return" games after a team plays at Notre Dame Stadium.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu



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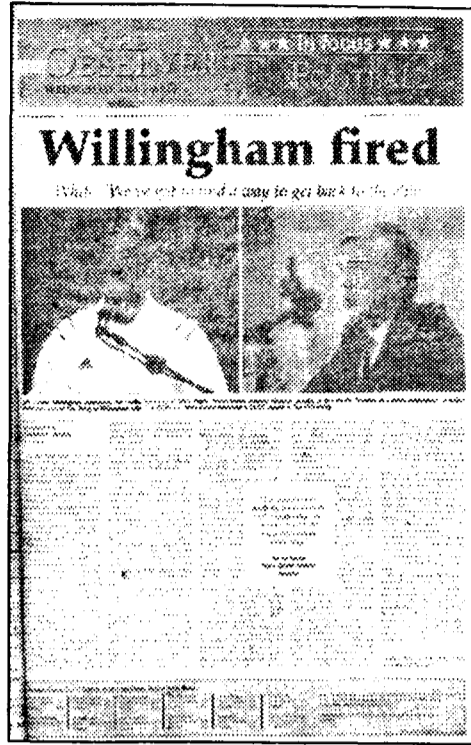
FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

Friday, May 19, 2006

The Top 10 Observer sports stories from the 2002-2006 academic years.

page 35

1



Irish move in different direction: Willingham fired, Weis hired

November-December, 2004

The news stunned a grey Notre Dame campus on the morning of Nov. 30, as head football coach Tyrone Willingham was fired after three seasons with the Irish. Willingham started 8-0 but finished his tenure at Notre Dame with a 21-15 record and three 31 point losses to USC. There was a large outcry in the media and on campus about the removal

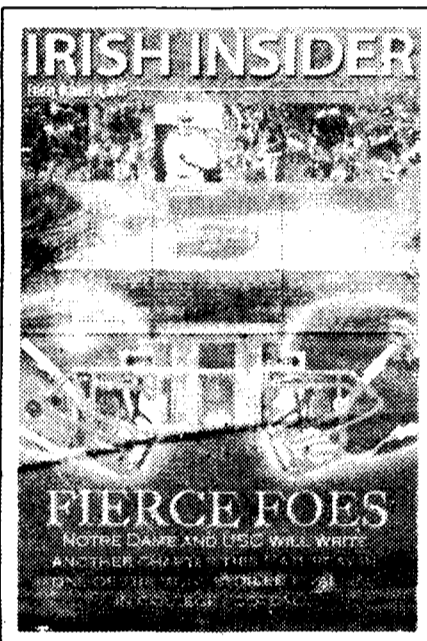
of Willingham having racial implications.

After rumors that Irish athletic director Kevin White was close to hiring former Utah coach Urban Meyer, Meyer spurned Notre Dame for Florida — leading to the eventual hiring of New England Patriots' offensive coordinator, and four-time Super Bowl winner, Charlie Weis

on Dec. 14.

Weis brought a pro-style offense to Notre Dame that shattered every major single-season passing record en route to a 9-3 season. His impact was felt immediately as the Irish jumped ahead of Pittsburgh 35-13 in the first half of the season. Weis led the team to credibility with a 34-31 loss against then-No. 1 USC.

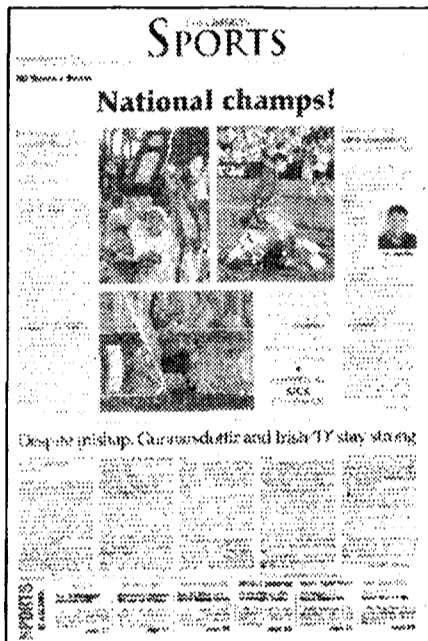
2 ND-USC lives up to pre-game hype



College Gameday came to campus as more than 40,000 fans attended the Friday night pep rally before a matchup between the No. 1 and No. 9 teams in the country. The game, watched by an estimated 30 million people, matched the hype, as Matt Leinart's touchdown won the contest with three seconds left.

Oct. 15, 2005

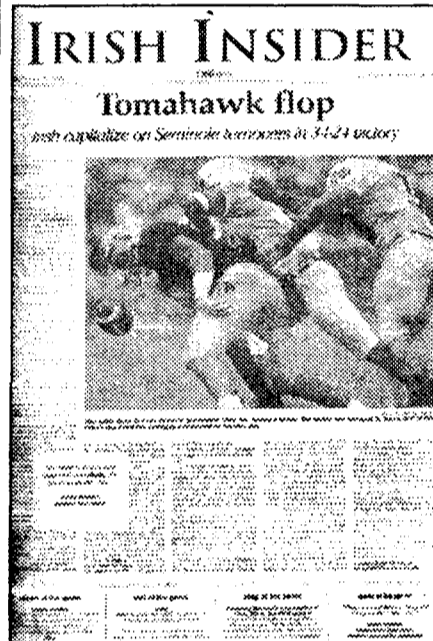
3 Women's soccer wins national title



After an impressive regular season that saw the women's soccer team finish with a 24-1-1 overall record, the Irish won the National Championship against UCLA on Dec. 5. It was the first national title since 1995, one that came after two overtime periods and penalty kicks.

December 5, 2004

4 Willingham leads Return to Glory



In his first year as head coach, Tyrone Willingham led the Irish to an 8-0 start. His 10 wins were the most by a first-year Notre Dame football coach.

The season's top wins included a defeat of No. 6 Michigan at Notre Dame Stadium and a win at No. 11 Florida State.

Fall 2002

5 Brey-coached Irish find Sweet success



As the No. 5 seed in the West Regional, Mike Brey led the men's basketball team to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1987.

Brey took over as head coach in 2000 and has steadily improved the basketball program. Under his guidance, his teams qualified for three straight NCAA Tournaments.

March 2003

6 Fencers win two titles in three years

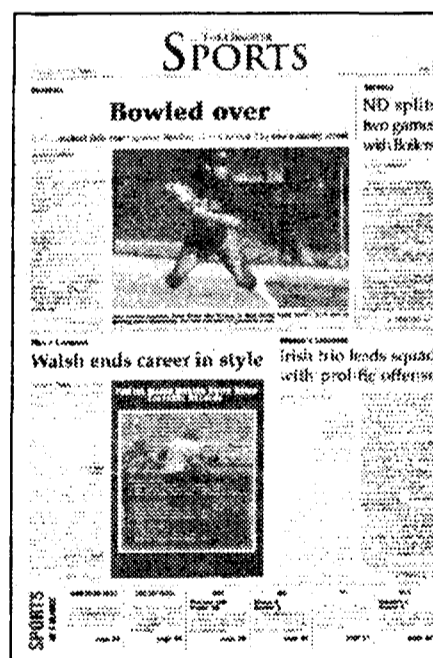


In 2003, Notre Dame won its first National Championship since 1994 — after finishing second or third every year since then.

In 2005, they proved victorious again, winning their second title. Since 2002, Irish fencers have won individual national titles, with senior foilist Alicja Kryczalo winning three.

March 20, 2005

7 Baseball team wins 23 straight games



First baseman Craig Cooper has a 21-game hit streak in the midst of the team's longest winning streak of the modern era.

Notre Dame's winning ways pushed the team all the way to No. 8 in the Baseball America poll. The streak ended with an 11-8 home loss to Bowling Green

April 26, 2006

8 Pilots stop women's soccer repeat hopes

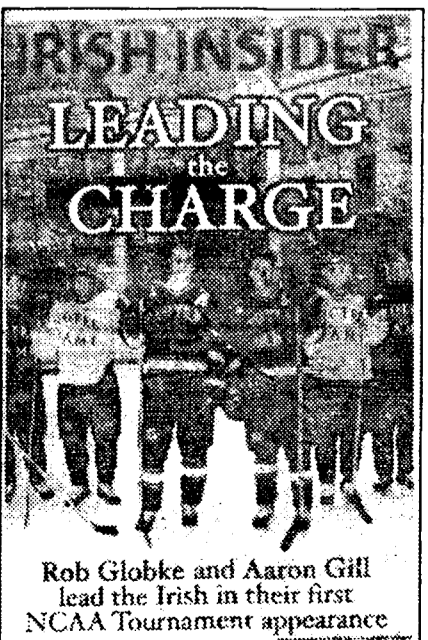


In the 2005 Elite Eight Portland squashed Notre Dame's dreams for repeat titles en route to winning a national crown of its own.

The game, held at Portland's Merlo Field, featured the top two players in college soccer — Pilots forward Christine Sinclair and Irish forward Katie Thorlakson.

Nov. 28, 2005

9 Hockey earns first ever NCAA bid

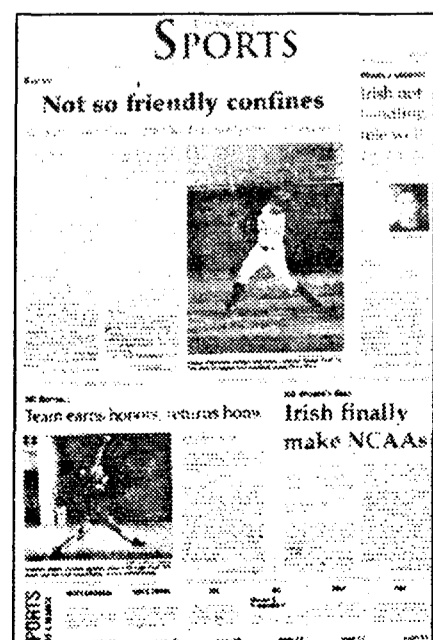


As the No. 4 seed in the Grand Rapids regional, the Irish advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the program's 36-year history.

Coach Dave Poulin's team played a difficult schedule during the regular season to earn the at-large bid, including a win over then-No. 1 Boston College.

March 2003

10 Women's golf makes NCAAs



For the first time in the 16-year history of the program, the Irish advance to the NCAA Tournament.

The Irish received the No. 19 seed at the Central Regional at Illinois State by winning a school-record four tournaments during the regular season, including their second consecutive Big East championship.

April 26, 2004

Notre Dame:

Men's soccer takes down defending national champions, women's

Observer Staff Report

Women's Tennis

With a 26-1 record on the season and a matchup with Kentucky in the NCAA round of 16 looming, the No. 2 Irish are still in the hunt for a national championship.

The Irish went 16-0 at home this season, with their only loss coming at Vanderbilt March 29, and, going into Thursday, had their second highest win total in program history.

Notre Dame was led by junior All-Americans Catrina and Christian Thompson, who played No. 1 and No. 2 singles respectively for most of the season. Catrina, the No. 30 player in the nation, had a 28-10 record in singles matches heading into the match with Kentucky.

If the Irish beat the Wildcats, they will take on the winner of the Miami and Fresno State NCAA quarterfinal match in Stanford, Calif. Friday.

Men's Swimming & Diving

Notre Dame (10-2) capped off a memorable 2005-06 campaign by beating out an

11-team field for its second consecutive Big East championship title on Feb. 18.

The Irish put up 809 points during the championships while second-place Pittsburgh tallied 584.5.

Sophomore Jay Vandenberg captured Big East titles in the 500-yard freestyle and 1,650-yard freestyle races while setting three different Irish time records in 500, 1,000 and 1,650-yard freestyles.

Senior Jamie Lutkus took the 400-yard individual medley crown while Brian Freeman, Ted Brown, Rob Seery and Louis Cavadini swam away with the 800-yard freestyle relay title.

"I thought we had a strong season with a 10-2 record," senior captain Patrick Heffernan said. "And I was pleased the team sent the seniors out on a strong note with our second Big East championship title."

The Irish also took home wins during the year over Texas A&M, Pittsburgh, Michigan State, St. Bonaventure, Evansville and Cleveland State. They earned first-place finishes at the Dennis Stark Relays, Notre Dame Invitational and

Shamrock Invitational.

Volleyball

Notre Dame compiled a 30-4 record in 2005, sharing the Big East regular season title, winning the conference tournament, and advancing to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament before bowing out to Wisconsin.

Led by senior All-American Lauren Brewster, who averaged 3.84 kills per game, the Irish finished the season No. 9 in the nation. Sophomore Ashley Tarutis was spectacular in her setter role, averaging 12.69 assists per game.

Notre Dame compiled a 13-1 conference record, its only loss coming at Pittsburgh Nov. 6. They shared the regular season Big East title with Louisville, but defeated the Cardinals in both of their meetings, once in the regular season and once in the Big East tournament championship game.

Men's Tennis

No. 18 Notre Dame (19-8) defeated No. 19 Texas A&M (16-11) 4-2 Saturday in College Station, Tex., to advance to the NCAA Tournament's round of sixteen — the sixth time in school history the team has reached the sweet sixteen.

Junior Ryan Keckley provided the Irish the clinching victory with his 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 victory over Brett Joelson

from the No. 4 singles position.

Sophomore Sheeva Parbhu beat out the Aggies' Bryan Wooten in straight sets from the No. 2 spot, while freshman Brett Hegelson knocked off Matt Bain in similar fashion, 6-2, 6-0. Senior Eric Lagenkamp got the win at No. 6 singles after beating John Nallon 6-3, 6-3 to account for all four Irish victories.

Doubles action went in the Aggies favor as Keckley and Lagenkamp fell at No. 1 doubles and Stephen Bass and Hegelson lost in the third position.

The Irish now travel to Stanford, Calif., to face off Saturday against No. 1 seed and undefeated Georgia at 6 p.m.

Men's Golf

Notre Dame won its third straight Big East championship April 25 by erasing a 12-stroke deficit in the final round of the tournament in Dade City, Fla., and beating Louisville on the first playoff hole.

Notre Dame earned Golfweek's national team of the week honors after the comeback.

The Irish will compete as the No. 16 seed of 27 teams this weekend in the NCAA East Regional at the Lake Nona Golf & Country Club in Orlando.

In the fall swing, Notre

Dame took sixth in the highly competitive Coca-Cola Duke Classic behind Mark Baldwin's career-best 210 (six-under) at the Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club.

The team's success continued in the spring.

After finishing sixth in the Administristaff Augusta State Invitational the year before, Notre Dame took 11th in the 2006 edition of the tournament with a three-round total of 889.

Before the Big East championship, Notre Dame's best finish was its third place at the Boilermaker Invitational April 9. Freshman Josh Sandman and junior tri-captain Cole Isban tied for second individually in the tournament with four-over-par 220s. Sandman's finish was the best by an Irish freshman in three years.

Women's Cross Country

A successful fall season culminated in a seventh place finish at the NCAA meet for the Irish.

Led by senior All-Americans Molly Huddle and Stephanie Madia and sophomore All-American Sunni Olding, the Irish won the Big East for the third consecutive season and finished in the top 10 at the NCAAs for the fourth consecutive year. Madia finished third overall at the national meet, the highest ever by a Notre Dame runner.

Freshman Ramsey Kavan

Aug. 28 — Freshman Kerri Hanks scores four goals in Notre Dame's 6-0 win over Vermont in women's soccer for a total of seven goals in her first two collegiate games.



Sept. 3 — Notre Dame football routs Pittsburgh 42-21 at Heinz Field in the team's first game under Charlie Weis.

September

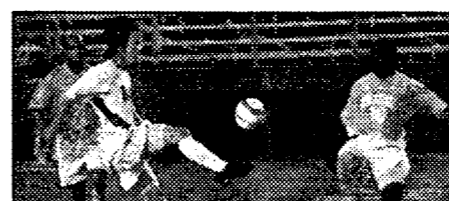
Sept. 17 — Michigan State blows a 21-point lead in football but beats Notre Dame in overtime 44-41 to spoil Weis' first home game.

Sept. 24 — Weis and former Irish football coach Tyrone Willingham meet as Notre Dame beats Washington 36-17 despite allowing 408 yards to the Huskies through the air.

Oct. 22 — Brady Quinn throws six touchdown passes and Maurice Stovall catches four to set program records in Notre Dame's 49-23 victory over BYU.

Nov. 6 — Five players score for Notre Dame women's soccer as the Irish beat Connecticut 5-0 for their first Big East postseason title in five years.

Nov. 21 — Notre Dame men's cross country finishes third and women's cross country seventh at the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind.



Nov. 22 — Notre Dame men's soccer tops defending national champion Indiana 2-0 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Dec. 6 — The Fiesta Bowl selects Notre Dame football for its first BCS appearance since 2000.



Dec. 7 — Chris Trick scores a goal with nine seconds left as Notre Dame hockey beats Minnesota State 3-2 in big non-conference game.

Sept. 10 — Charlie Weis becomes the first Irish football coach since Knute Rockne to win his first two games on the road as Notre Dame tops Michigan 17-10 at the Big House in Ann Arbor.



Sept. 11 — Notre Dame women's golf wins the Notre Dame Women's Invitational at the Warren Golf Course by nine strokes over Toledo.

October

Oct. 1 — The Irish post a 28-0 lead in the first half of a 49-28 win over Purdue in West Lafayette, Ind., as Brady Quinn throws for 440 yards.

Oct. 15 — No. 9 Notre Dame takes No. 1 USC to the wire, but the Trojans push their way to a 34-31 victory as an estimated 30 million people watch the game nationwide.

November

Nov. 8 — Notre Dame women's golf takes eighth place in the Lady Jaguar Invitational in Augusta, Ga.



Nov. 20 — All-American middle blocker Lauren Brewster leads No. 8 Notre Dame volleyball to a 3-2 victory over No. 7 Louisville in the Big East championship.

December

Nov. 25 — Portland defeats the Irish 3-1 in the quarterfinals of the NCAA women's soccer tournament to stop Notre Dame's quest for a second straight national title.

Dec. 3 — Michigan scores the final eight points to beat Notre Dame men's basketball 71-67 at the Joyce Center.

January

Jan. 3 — Ohio State wins the Fiesta Bowl 34-20 over Notre Dame in football.



Jan. 4 — Chris Quinn scores 37 points — including 30 after half-time — but Notre Dame men's basketball falls 100-97 to Pittsburgh in double overtime.

Year in Review

lacrosse turns the corner, men's golf wins third straight league title

burst onto the scene in 2005, emerging as Notre Dame's fourth runner and finishing in the top 15 in four of the five races she appeared in.

Notre Dame finished third or higher in every meet but the NAAs, and won the National Catholic Championship Sept. 16 for the fourth straight time and the twelfth time in the last 14 years.

Women's Golf

Notre Dame ended its roller coaster season with a third place finish in the Big East tournament in Dade City Florida April 25. Overall, the Irish went 80-47 against all opponents and took home one tournament championship — the Notre Dame Invitational Sept. 11.

Junior Noriko Nakazaki led the Irish with a 75.65 scoring average and won the individual title at the Notre Dame Invitational. Sophomore Jane Lee had the second lowest average on the team with a 76.41 average. Seniors Katie Brophy and Lauren Gebauer were also regulars in the Notre Dame lineup, combining for three top-10 finishes.

Freshman Lisa Maunu made an impact in her first year, competing in all nine tournaments and posting a 79.81 scoring average and two top-10 finishes.

Lee decided after the season to turn professional. She will

compete in the LPGA's juniors program this summer with a chance to make the regular tour in the later fall.

Crew

The Irish capped off a successful season with a Big East title and their highest-ever finish in a regional meet — taking third in the Central-South Regional Championships in Oak Ridge, Tenn. May 14.

Notre Dame's first varsity eight won the grand final at regionals, finishing first in the race for the first time in program history. The Irish finished in 6:26.00, edging out No. 4 Ohio State by .82 of a second.

On April 30, Notre Dame won the Big East championship meet in Worcester, Mass., taking four grand finals. Head coach Martin Stone and his staff were awarded the Big East Coaching Staff of the Year award.

Notre Dame's season concludes with the NCAA Championships May 26-28 in West Windsor, N.J. Rutgers will host the event. The Irish found out that they earned one of 12 bids to the competition Tuesday.

Women's Swimming & Diving

Notre Dame won its 10th straight Big East title in 2006, compiling a 3-2 record in dual meets over the course of the

season and taking first in four multi-team meets.

The Irish sent three swimmers — seniors Katie Carroll and Julia Quinn and freshman Claire Hutchinson — and a diver — sophomore Tara Hyer — to the NCAA Championship in Columbus, Ohio.

Hutchinson, who swam the 500 freestyle, 1,650 freestyle and 400 individual medley, became just the fifth Irish freshman to qualify for three events.

At the national meet, Carroll set the school record in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:00.48.

Men's Soccer

Notre Dame (12-8-4) upset No. 3 seed and two-time defending national champion Indiana 2-0 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament on Nov. 22 before falling to Clemson 1-0 in the Sweet Sixteen to end its 2005 season.

The Irish, who had lost to

Indiana 3-0 at home only a month before, got behind the goals from junior Justin McGeeney and sophomore Joe

"After a solid indoor/outdoor track season, the guys put in a solid summer and got right back to work on the golf course. Every workout and every race was a total team effort, and the result was a third-place finish against the best competition in the nation."

**Jamie Afridi
Irish cross country runner**

Lapira and a six-save performance from junior goaltender Chris Cahill to upset the Hoosiers.

Notre Dame defeated Western Illinois 2-0 at home in the first round to advance to play Indiana.

Lapira led the team in scoring with seven goals and five assists on the year while McGeeney tallied five goals for the Irish.

St. John's forced Notre Dame to bow out in the second round of the Big East tournament with a 1-0 loss on Nov. 5. The Irish faced the Red Storm after they defeated Syracuse 4-2 in penalty kicks in the first round of the conference tournament when regulation ended in a scoreless tie.

Men's Cross-Country

Notre Dame captured a third-place showing at the

NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Ind., on Nov. 21 behind the legs of junior Kurt Benninger, who crossed the finish line in eighth place for the 10,000-meter race.

Benninger posted a time of 29:50.2, while teammates Tim Moore and Kaleb Van Ort placed 31st and 41st, respectively, with times of 30:15.0 and 30:22.0. Benninger finished 34.3 seconds behind overall winner Simon Bairu of Wisconsin.

The Irish were beat out by Wisconsin and Arkansas for the NCAA title in the 31-team field.

"Everyone was pretty disappointed after last year's NCAA meet," Irish sophomore Jamie Afridi said. "After a solid indoor/outdoor track season, the guys put in a solid summer and got right back to work on the golf course. Every workout and every race was a total team effort, and the result was a third-place finish against the best competition in the nation."

The Championships were the finale of a season in which the Irish took first-place at the Valparaiso Invitational and Big East championships. The team earned second-place honors at the National Catholic Championships, Notre Dame Invitational, Pre-National Championship and the NCAA Great Lakes Regional.

Feb. 18 — Notre Dame men's swimming and diving earns its second straight Big East title, and the women's swimming and diving team tops Rutgers by 18 points for its 10th consecutive conference title.

March 5 — Senior captain Crysti Foote's three goals lead No. 17 Notre Dame women's lacrosse to a 17-15 victory over No. 18 Cornell as the Irish improve to 4-0 a year after finishing 3-12.

March 20 — Michigan guard Dion Harris hits a buzzer-beating 3-pointer in double overtime to beat Notre Dame men's basketball 87-84 in the second round of the NIT.

May 13 — Notre Dame men's tennis takes down Texas A&M in the second round of the NCAA Tournament after losing 4-1 to Louisville in the Big East finals.

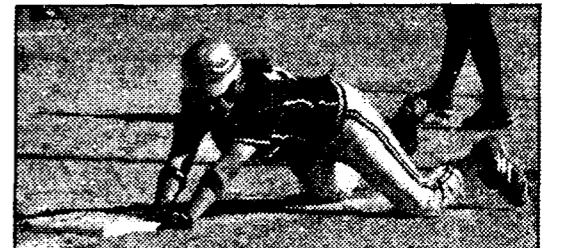
Feb. 19 — Irish sprinter Maryann Erigha wins the 200-meter dash at the Big East indoor championship with a time of 23.96 seconds as Notre Dame wins the women's competition.



March 8 — Georgetown tops Notre Dame men's basketball 67-63 in the first round of the Big East tournament in New York.



April 25 — Notre Dame men's golf collects its third straight Big East Championship by erasing a 12-shot deficit in the final round and beat Louisville on the first playoff hole.



May 14 — Heather Booth throws a one-hitter as Notre Dame softball wins the Big East championship 5-0 over Pittsburgh.

February

April

March

May



Feb. 25 — Tulyah Gaines hits a buzzer-beating layup at the end of regulation for Notre Dame women's basketball, and the Irish beat Cincinnati 75-66 in double overtime.



March 4 — Notre Dame beats DePaul 66-61 in men's basketball to earn the final spot in the Big East tournament.

March 19 — Notre Dame earns a fourth place finish in the NCAA fencing championship as junior Patrick Ghattas finished second in the men's sabre for the second straight year.



March 19 — Lindsay Schrader scores 29 points but Notre Dame women's basketball loses 78-61 to Boston College in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

May 5 — Irish women's tennis players Catrina and Christian Thompson earn — their third straight bid to the NCAA Championship as the No. 3 seed in the doubles draw as Catrina also earns a berth on the singles side.

May 7 — Notre Dame men's lacrosse earns its first-ever at-large berth to the NCAA Tournament after posting a 10-4 record.

May 16 — Crysti Foote is named one of five finalists for the Tewaaron Trophy, given annually to the best men's and women's collegiate lacrosse players in the country.



May 16 — Notre Dame women's crew gets its first-ever berth to the NCAA Championship by earning one of 12 bids.

Seasons for the Belles

Basketball earns best conference record ever, cross country finishes fifth

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE 2005-2006 RECAP

Basketball:

Saint Mary's had its best MIAA season in school history, winning nine games. But the Belles lost in the first round of the league tournament and the school did not renew the contract of MIAA coach of the year Steve Bender.

Cross Country:

The Belles earned their best ever finish at the MIAA championship meet, coming in fifth place at the event. Senior Becky Feauto and junior Sara Otto led the team throughout the year.

Soccer:

Saint Mary's posted six shutouts en route to another strong season in the MIAA. The Belles finished the year on a three-game winning streak.

Swimming:

Saint Mary's did not win a dual meet in the season but had several swimmers post personal best times at the league championship meet.

Tennis:

The Belles finished fifth in the MIAA as Kristen Palombo earned second-team all-league honors after leading Saint Mary's all season.

Volleyball:

Saint Mary's went 5-12 in conference but had three players earn All-MIAA honors this season.

Basketball

Saint Mary's proved it could play with the best in the MIAA.

A year after compiling an 11-15 record, including a 6-10 conference mark, the Belles earned their first winning conference record (9-7) and captured the No. 4 seed in the league tournament.

But the off-season for Saint Mary's has been rocky as the athletic department did not renew the contract of first-year coach Steve Bender after he won MIAA coach of the year honors.

After the decision, Saint Mary's officials declined to comment on the specifics of the matter, saying they could not discuss personnel issues. A replacement has not yet been named.

The Belles began the season with a 68-51 loss to Hanover but responded with a 65-61 win over Franklin.

Four consecutive losses followed — including one to conference foe Hope — but Saint Mary's righted its ship with consecutive wins over MIAA opponents Adrian and Alma to improve to 2-1 in the conference.

The Belles went 1-2 in the non-conference Clark College tournament during winter break and returned to league action in January with a 51-45 win over Tri-State.

After losses to Olivet and Calvin, Saint Mary's took league contests over Kalamazoo and Albion to improve to 5-3 in the MIAA.

The Belles then lost their second matchup with Adrian but won three in a row against Alma, Tri-State and Olivet to move to 8-4 in the conference. Saint Mary's lost to Calvin and then beat Kalamazoo in its third-to-last regular season game to reach nine league wins for the first time in history.

But the Belles' run ended there, as Saint Mary's lost its final two regular season games — against Albion and Hope — and fell 49-46 to Alma in the first round of the MIAA tournament.

Cross Country

Junior Sara Otto and senior Becky Feauto led the Belles to their best-ever finish at the 2005 MIAA championship meet, as Saint Mary's finished fifth in the six-kilometer race hosted by Kalamazoo College in Three Rivers, Mich.

Saint Mary's previous best finish in the conference championship was sixth. This year, the Belles' team score of 163 beat Olivet (170), Alma (183), Adrian (227) and Tri-State (257).

The meet capped a season in which Feauto and Otto finished first and second on the squad almost every week and led the team to several strong finishes.

Saint Mary's finished the 2005 season in style with several runners capturing personal bests in the Division III Great Lake Regionals at Voice of America Park.

Feauto achieved her personal goal of 24:00 for six kilometers on the dot at the regional race. The time bested her personal record by 17 seconds.

"It was great for her," first-year coach Jackie Bauters said after the meet. "That was her goal time, and she achieved it. She ran really well."

Otto did not compete in the event, but five of Saint Mary's seven runners in the meet improved their 6K times from the MIAA championship meet two weeks ago while three set personal records.

Soccer

Saint Mary's had another strong season in soccer, going 11-7-1 overall with a 10-5-1 record in the MIAA.

The Belles opened the season with a dramatic two-overtime 4-3 victory over SUNY-Brockport and finished with a 2-0 road victory over conference foe Kalamazoo. In between, the team captured 5-0 wins over Adrian and Alma and a 9-1 victory over Tri-State.

Saint Mary's shut out six opponents this year, and its worst loss — 4-0 to Illinois Wesleyan on Sept. 7 — came before the team went on a streak that included five wins in six games.

The Belles lost their conference opener to Hope 2-0 but rebounded to take down Albion by the same score in the second

MIAA match of the season. The pattern was repeated in early October, as Saint Mary's began its second go-around in the league with a 2-0 loss to Hope but responded with a 2-1 victory over Albion.

Swimming

Saint Mary's athletic director Lynn Kachmarik served as interim head coach for the Belles in the 2005-06 season before the team introduced Ryan Dombkowski as head coach Feb. 24.

The Belles' regular season came to an end Jan. 28, when they dropped two home meets to Albion and Calvin by scores of 119-60 and 143-59, respectively.

The team was guided by its senior captains Katie Dingeman and Kelly Nelis. Throughout the campaign, Kachmarik said Dingeman and Nelis were strong examples for the underclassmen. Dingeman recorded a time of 1:08.13 in the 100-meter butterfly at the MIAA Championship meet.

In the Belles' final regular season meet, Nelis recorded the team's best time in the 500 freestyle, coming away with a 5:34.74 and earning second place overall.

Against Kalamazoo earlier in the season, Nelis won the 200-meter and 500-meter freestyle events.

The Belles look forward to next year and hope that juniors Karla McGough, Sarah Budd and Mary Stancukas, all of whom specialize in the freestyle, will be able to step up to the plate and assume the leadership role for the Belles just as effectively as captains Dingeman and Nelis did this year.

Tennis

Saint Mary's went 10-10 overall but finished 5-3 in the MIAA en route to a fifth place finish in the league.

After losing 8-1 to both Calvin and Indiana Wesleyan in the team's final two regular season matches, Saint Mary's knew it had to turn its ship around quickly for the MIAA championship meet.

"We've learned a lot from the matches we've lost," Belles junior Kelly McDavitt said after the losses. "We're going to try to go in with an open mind, stay positive and try to get a big win to make up for the losses we've had over the season."

The Belles managed to finish fifth in the tournament — the same place as their regular season record.

Senior Kristen Palombo earned second-team All-MIAA honors, the fourth time she earned an all-conference distinction in her career.

McDavitt and Calie Mulcahy combined for a second-place finish at the MIAA meet in the No. 1 doubles competition.

Saint Mary's last team win came April 12 against Kalamazoo, a thrilling 5-4 victory in which the Belles captured the final four singles matches off the court to top the conference foe.

McDavitt sparked the rally with her 6-4, 6-0 victory over Kalamazoo's Laura Spencer for Saint Mary's first singles win of the match.

Volleyball

Three Belles earned All-MIAA honors after a tough season for Saint Mary's.

Junior Anne Cusack earned second-team All-MIAA honors, while junior Kristen Playko and senior Shelly Bender earned honorable mentions.

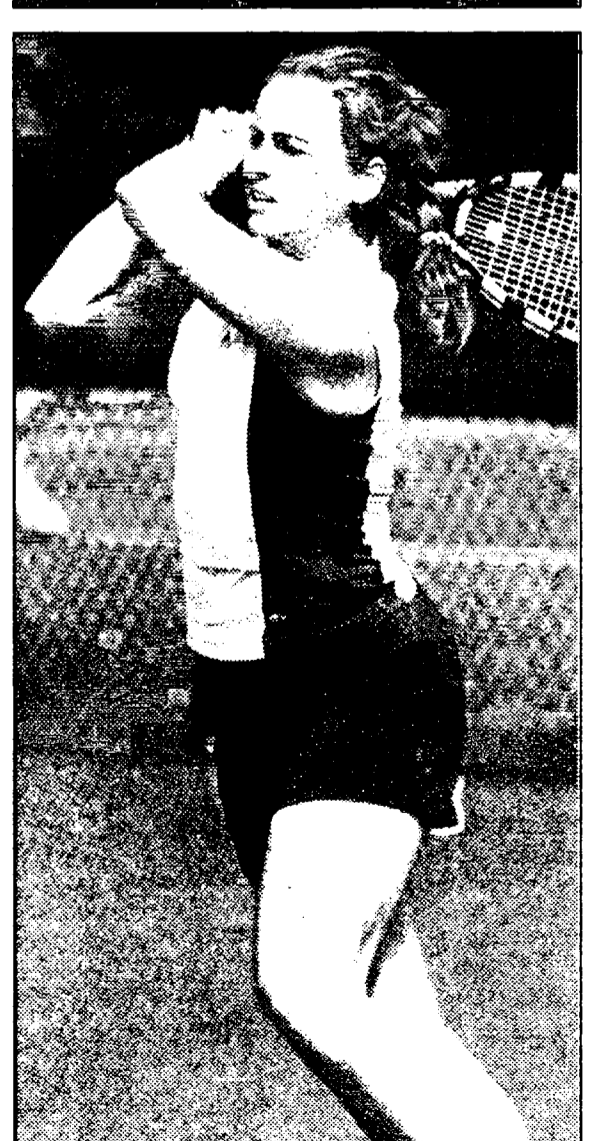
The Belles finished 11-18 (5-12 MIAA) after losing six of seven matches to begin the season.

At the Elmhurst College Invitational, Saint Mary's dropped its first nine sets against Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Elmhurst and St. Scholastica before rebounding with a straight-set victory over Blackburn.

The Belles then began their MIAA schedule with a 3-1 loss to Hope before taking three of five matches at the non-conference Wooster College Invitational.

The high point of the season came when Saint Mary's earned three straight wins in the middle of September against Concordia, Kalamazoo and Manchester. All three matches went to five sets.

But the Belles dropped both of their games at the SMC Triangular Sept. 24 and won just four more times in their final 13 contests.



CHELSEA GULLING AND KRISTY KING/The Observer
Top, Belles pitcher Kristen Amram delivers. Center, point guard Bridget Lipke drives. Bottom, junior Kelly McDavitt hits a backhand.

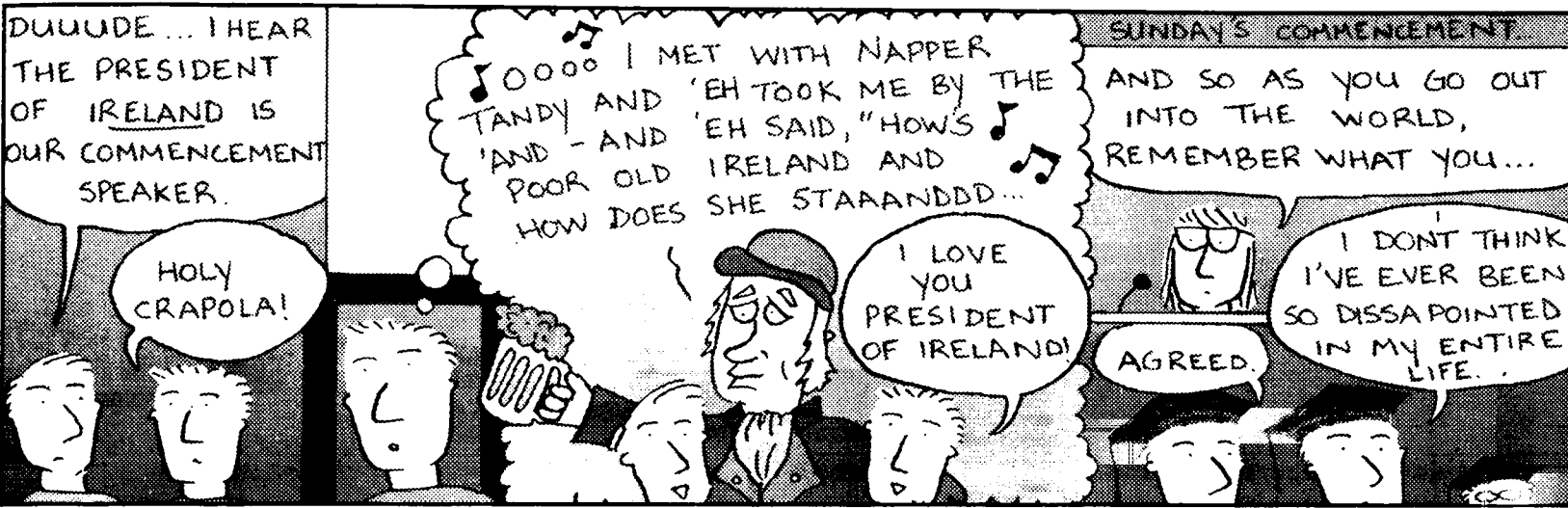
JOCKULAR

ALEC WHITE AND ERIK POWERS



CROISSANTWORLD

ADAM FAIRHOLM

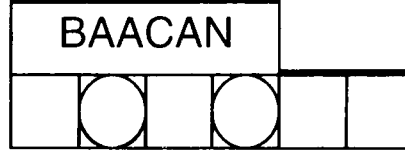
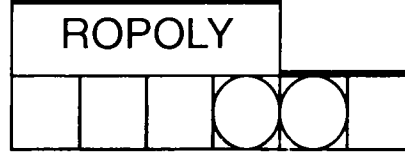
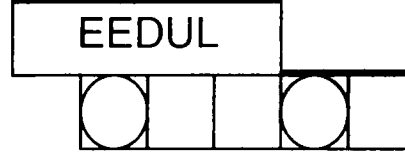
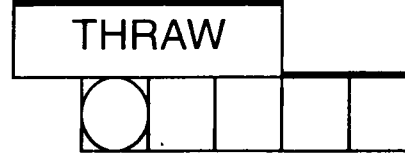


JUMBLE

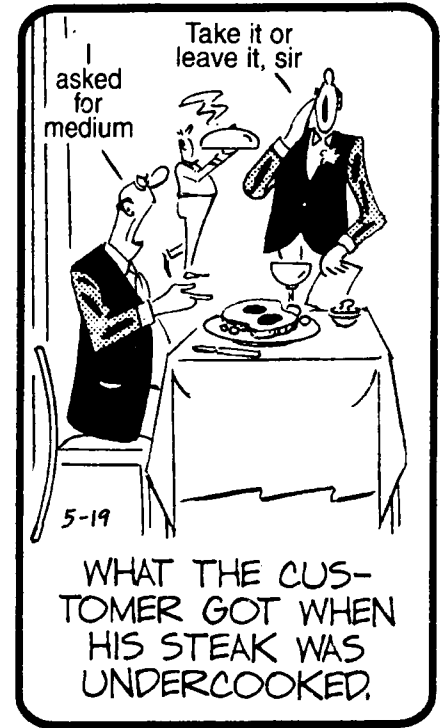
HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

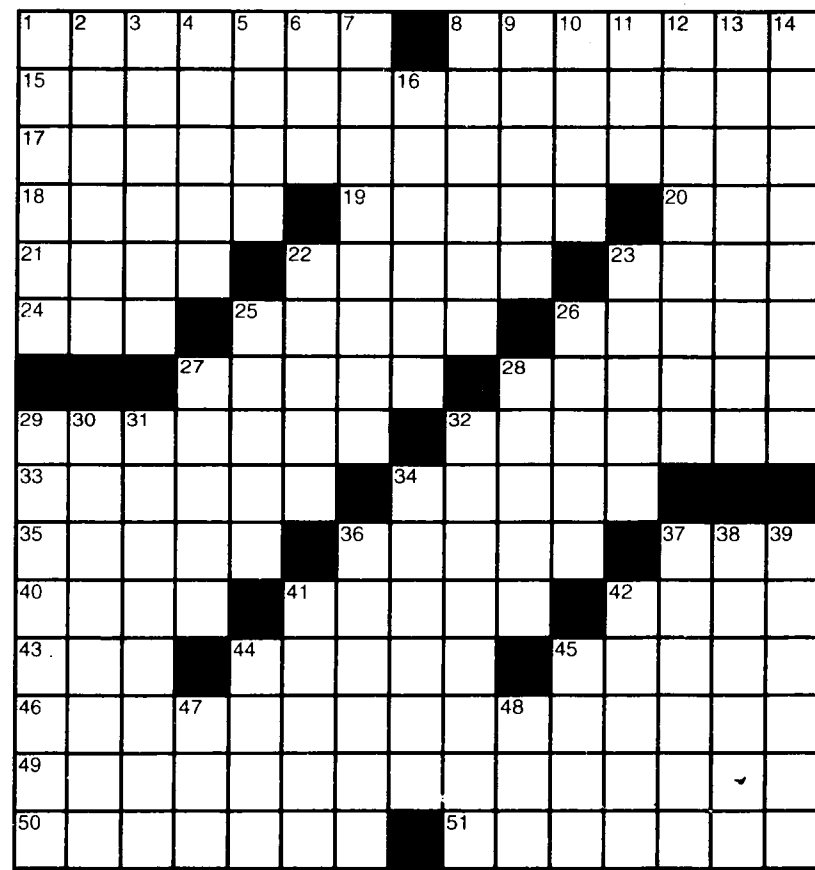
Answer here: A "O O O O" "O O O O" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BEGOT OWING FORKED BROKER
Answer: Why the student rock band didn't play at the party before finals - THEY WERE "BOOKED"

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

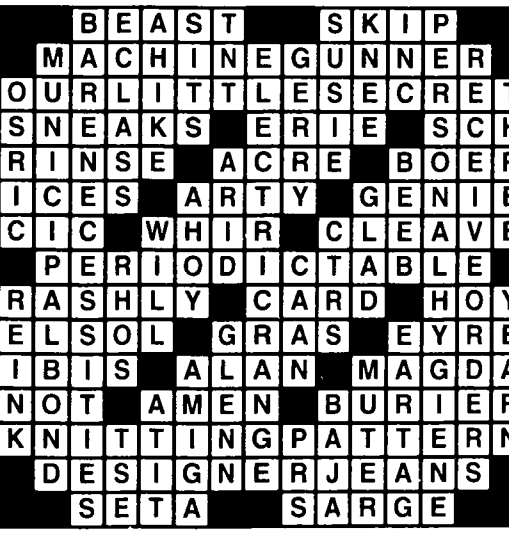
- ACROSS**
- 1 Flirts with
 - 8 Trying experiences
 - 15 Eastbound waves?
 - 17 "You and your conspiracy theories!"
 - 18 Hera turned Antigone into one
 - 19 Like the newspaper Al Shabiba
 - 20 Main contents
 - 21 Prefix with flop
 - 22 Sea of _____, south of the Cyclades
 - 23 Death to le roi
 - 24 Space ball?
 - 25 Six layers of a song?
 - 26 Met number, maybe
 - 27 Like arctic winds
 - 28 Lenny Bruce, famously
 - 29 Adjusts, as a magazine photo
 - 32 Neckwear
 - 33 Can't contain
 - 34 Flock
 - 35 Setting for Edward Hopper's "Nighthawks"
 - 36 Paley's successor at CBS
 - 37 Michelin guide no.?
 - 40 E.P.A. output: Abbr.
 - 41 Speed _____
 - 42 Duster, for one
 - 43 "Story _____" (Pauline Reage novel)
 - 44 "32 Flavors" singer Davis
 - 45 Dog topper
 - 46 Subjects of metaphysical research
- DOWN**
- 1 El Greco's "Bautismo de _____"
 - 2 Milliner
 - 3 Act on like a carbon filter
 - 4 Barbie accessory
 - 5 Buffet
 - 6 Tabloid subj.
 - 7 One of Chaucer's Canterbury pilgrims
 - 8 Mexican beer named for its hometown
 - 9 Marie, par exemple
 - 10 Cabriolet maker
 - 11 Portrait finish?
 - 12 Ferretlike carnivore
 - 13 Patriarch of the "First Family of Country Music"
 - 14 Reel
 - 16 Trammel
 - 22 The biggest part of a large belt
 - 23 Not pellucid
 - 25 Person with a crystal ball
 - 26 It was uttered in the past
 - 27 Trapper's stock
 - 28 Fashions
 - 49 "Picture Perfect" star
 - 50 Permission slips, e.g.
 - 51 Astrolabe alternative



- Puzzle by Byron Walden
- 29 1985 Arnold Schwarzenegger film
 - 30 Going rates?
 - 31 Regular settings
 - 32 Plants that are a natural source of cyanide
 - 34 One who holds a note
 - 36 "Sweet _____, run softly, till I end my song": Spenser
 - 37 Where to begin
 - 38 _____ Sea of California's Sonoran Desert
 - 39 Terse demurral
 - 41 Like the Rock of Ages
 - 42 Focus of many an X-ray
 - 44 Predisposed to fightin'
 - 45 Multiple of 11
 - 47 Georges Perec's 1969 novel "La Disparition" is written entirely without this
 - 48 Compass dir.

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Natasha Richardson, 42; Louis Farrakhan, 72; Mort Sahl, 78; Jonathan Jackson, 23

Happy Birthday: Everything you do this year will make a difference to your future. Financial gains can be made, but only if you are willing to do something unique. If there is something you want, realize that you will have to fight for it. This can be a great year -- but it will require effort on your part. Your numbers are 5, 18, 27, 34, 36, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Traveling to a destination that is inspiring and creative will get you moving in a whole new direction. Communicating with people in the know or who have experience you lack will help you make a decision. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The more you look back at your goals and aspirations from the past, the closer you will come to turning some of your dreams into a reality. Just because you may not be able to do exactly what you had planned doesn't mean you can't be a part of that industry, organization or culture in some way. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Things are heating up in your world. Stay calm and make the most of some good opportunities that are present. Plan some form of entertainment that will allow you to mix business with pleasure. A passionate evening is in order. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be feeling a little restless today. Make some changes to your surroundings. The more you can do to spruce up your living space, the better. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This will be a hectic day. You will be involved in a wide variety of projects. It will take organization and patience to get everything done the way you want. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let things get to you today. Being overly concerned about a problem you think you are having will cause the situation to escalate. Avoid being judgmental; listen and observe without taking over. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have some interesting ideas about your future and how to make changes leading to a better life. Personal alterations will turn out better than you expect. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's time to collect old debts and to clear up money matters. Once you start the ball rolling, you will feel much better about your future. A tighter budget or a solid investment will get you moving in the right direction. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Just when you think you've figured everything out, something will happen that will change your mind. Love is prominent, but make sure you stick to one person. Spreading yourself around or leading someone on will come back to haunt you. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your nose out of everyone else's business and you will do much better today. Arguments will not solve problems. Pushing your will on someone will lead to opposition. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your generosity may be welcomed and appreciated, but it may leave you feeling cash-poor. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may have the discipline to get things done, but you are likely to cause ill feelings with someone if you go about things without getting approval. **

Birthday Baby: You are changeable, versatile and very interested in everything and everyone. You are a good student and a wonderful teacher. You are inquisitive, competitive and always looking for a challenge.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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ND ATHLETICS

White unveils master plan for athletic facilities

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White unveiled an aerial rendering of what he called a \$100 million plan to renovate athletic facilities on the east side of campus Tuesday.

White did not announce a timetable for construction of

the new facilities, which will complement the Guglielmino Athletics Complex and 10,000-square-foot indoor golf facility slated to open by September as part of a "master plan" for athletic facilities on campus.

The blueprint White unveiled includes a 30,000 square foot addition to the south dome of the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center to be used

for ticket offices and a lounge from which fans could enter basketball games, revamped hockey facilities and a redesign of the existing athletic facilities adjacent to Ivy Road.

"I think the project we're most excited about is Joyce South," White said in the scheduled informal meeting with the media at Greenfield's Café that became an impromptu

news conference. "It will be all state of the art. ... We think this project — a twenty-five million dollar project — is a pretty substantial facelift."

White said the basketball arena will get all new seat-backs for the arena, and the lounge will include a "stadium club" type area for spectators.

The current hockey arena in the north dome will be completely

redesigned, according to the plan. White said the new facility will include approximately 4,000 full seats and a smaller lounge than the one planned for the south dome as part of a "boutique, high end" arena. He said the architectural design firm HNTB has already completed the schematics for

see PLANS/page 34

OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETES

Top of their class

Katie Thorlakson led Notre Dame to 2004 NCAA Championship

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Irish forward Katie Thorlakson started 37 of 43 games during her first two years at Notre Dame — but she really made her mark as a junior.

When Notre Dame captured its second-ever national championship in 2004, Thorlakson led the team with 23 goals and 24 assists (70 points) during the season en route to collecting national player of the year honors from Soccer America and Soccer Buzz. She was one of five finalists for the ESPY Awards' top female college athlete that season and was the College Cup offensive MVP after scoring or assisting on 18 of Notre Dame's final 22 goals of the championship run.

And then came her senior season.

Thorlakson posted 71 points (18 goals, 35 assists) as she

see SOCCER/page 33



Left, Irish forward Katie Thorlakson dribbles the ball in Notre Dame's 5-2 win over Yale Nov. 18. Right, Irish first baseman Craig Cooper makes a putout in the team's 4-3 win over Pittsburgh April 1.

Big East pitchers have feared Craig Cooper's hitting for four seasons

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

All year, opposing pitchers have feared coming back to the top of the Irish order.

Senior first baseman and leadoff hitter Craig Cooper has torn the cover off the ball in his four seasons wearing a Notre Dame uniform and is headed toward his third consecutive Big East batting crown with a .432 average through the team's 3-1 loss to Michigan Tuesday. He leads the league in runs with 67, is second in on-base percentage at .529, third in hits and slugging percentage with 79 and .678, respectively, and his nine home runs place him at eighth in the conference.

"[Cooper has] put in the time and the work and shortened up his swing," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "He hits the ball harder now than

see COOPER/page 31

Golfer Megan Mattia led Saint Mary's to five tournament wins this year

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

For her entire career, Megan Mattia has been near the top of the leader board.

The Saint Mary's senior finished a spectacular career Saturday by competing as an individual at the NCAA Division III championships in Howey-in-the-Hill, Florida.

Mattia shot a 328 over three rounds, finishing tied for 18th.

Belles head coach Mark Hamilton said Mattia, who has only carded one career

round that was not in the team's top five for the day, is one of the best players he's ever worked with.

"She's been solid from day one on campus," Hamilton said. "Without a doubt she's been the most consistent player that I've ever had or that Saint Mary's has ever had."

Mattia's appearance at the



Mattia

NCAAs was her third in four years, but her first as an individual. The senior worked out on the course by herself for most of the week leading up to the tournament.

"We played as a team right up until a week before nationals," Hamilton said. "That last week I worked with her a little, but she was mostly on her own."

With the performance, Mattia earned an honorable mention to the All-America team.

She was also named to the All-Region first team this

season.

Mattia was the low scorer for the Belles in every tournament they played this season, winning three tournaments, finishing second in another. Mattia was also named the MVP as Saint Mary's won the MIAA championship Oct. 8 in Grand Rapids, Mich.

On March 19, the third day of the Shamrock Invitational in Tega City, S.C., Mattia shot 74, tied for the lowest score ever by a Saint Mary's golfer.

Hamilton said he thought the round was unparalleled in school history.

"I feel that that's best round ever shot at Saint Mary's," Hamilton said. "It was a tough golf course and we were the only Division III team there."

Mattia made an immediate impact upon her arrival in 2002. She carded a two-round score of 183 in her first collegiate tournament in Big Rapids, Mich. That score was good enough for fourth on the team.

She had the low score for the Belles for the first time in her career four tournaments

see MATTIA/page 33

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

BASEBALL

Recent losses have brought the Irish back to earth after a 23-game winning streak in March and April.

page 31

HOCKEY

Notre Dame improved by eight wins under new coach Jeff Jackson but lost in the first round of the CCHA playoffs.

page 30

FOOTBALL

The Irish went 9-3 and earned a Fiesta Bowl berth in their first season under head coach Charlie Weis.

page 29

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame failed to make the NCAA tournament for the third straight year, falling to Michigan in the second round of the NIT.

page 28

ND WOMEN'S BBALL

The Irish ended a roller coaster season with a 78-61 loss to Boston College in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

page 28

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

The Irish fell to Portland in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament, ending Notre Dame's run at a second straight national title.

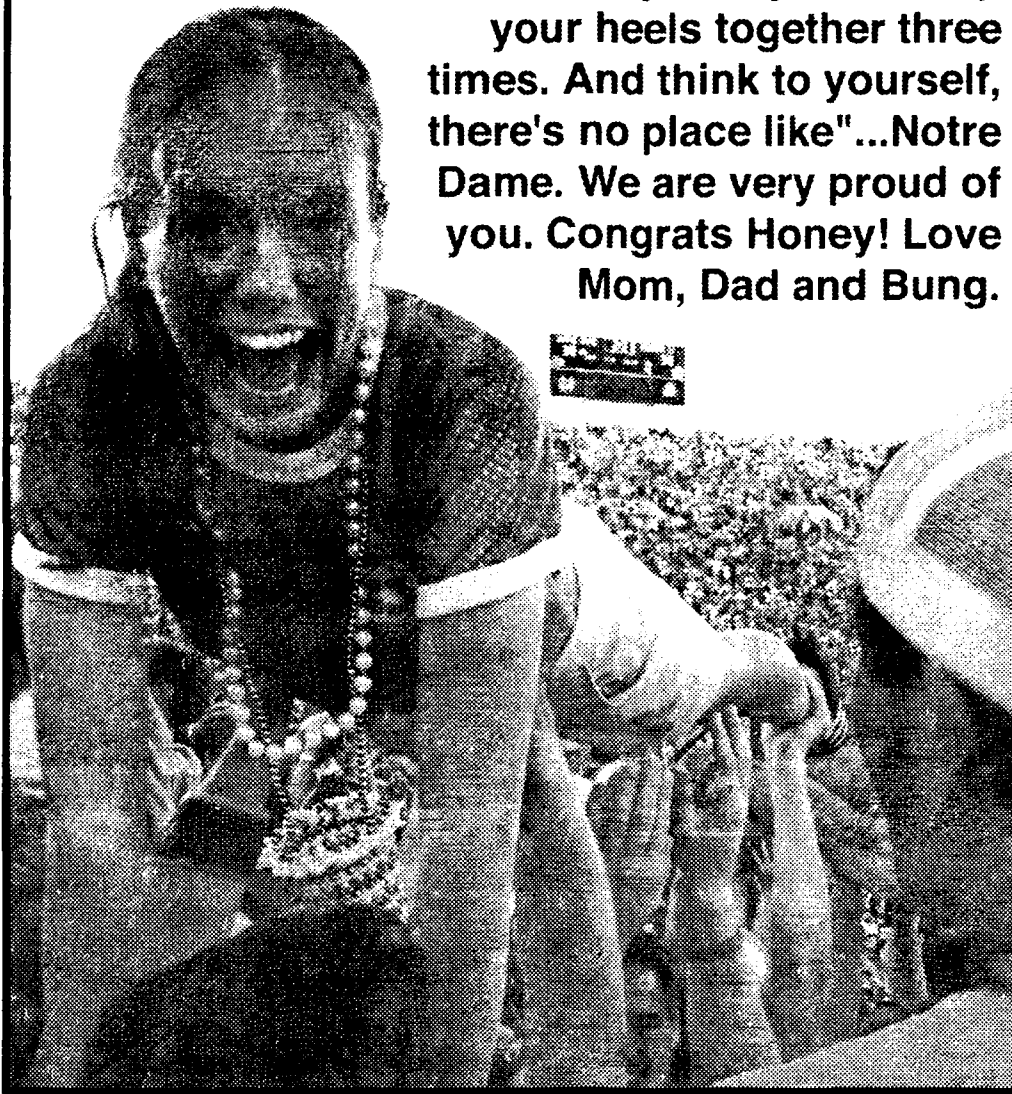
Page 22



CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2006

Pookster (aka Carly Jane),

"Close your eyes and tap your heels together three times. And think to yourself, there's no place like"...Notre Dame. We are very proud of you. Congrats Honey! Love Mom, Dad and Bung.



CONGRATULATIONS !

**Congratulations,
Allison!**



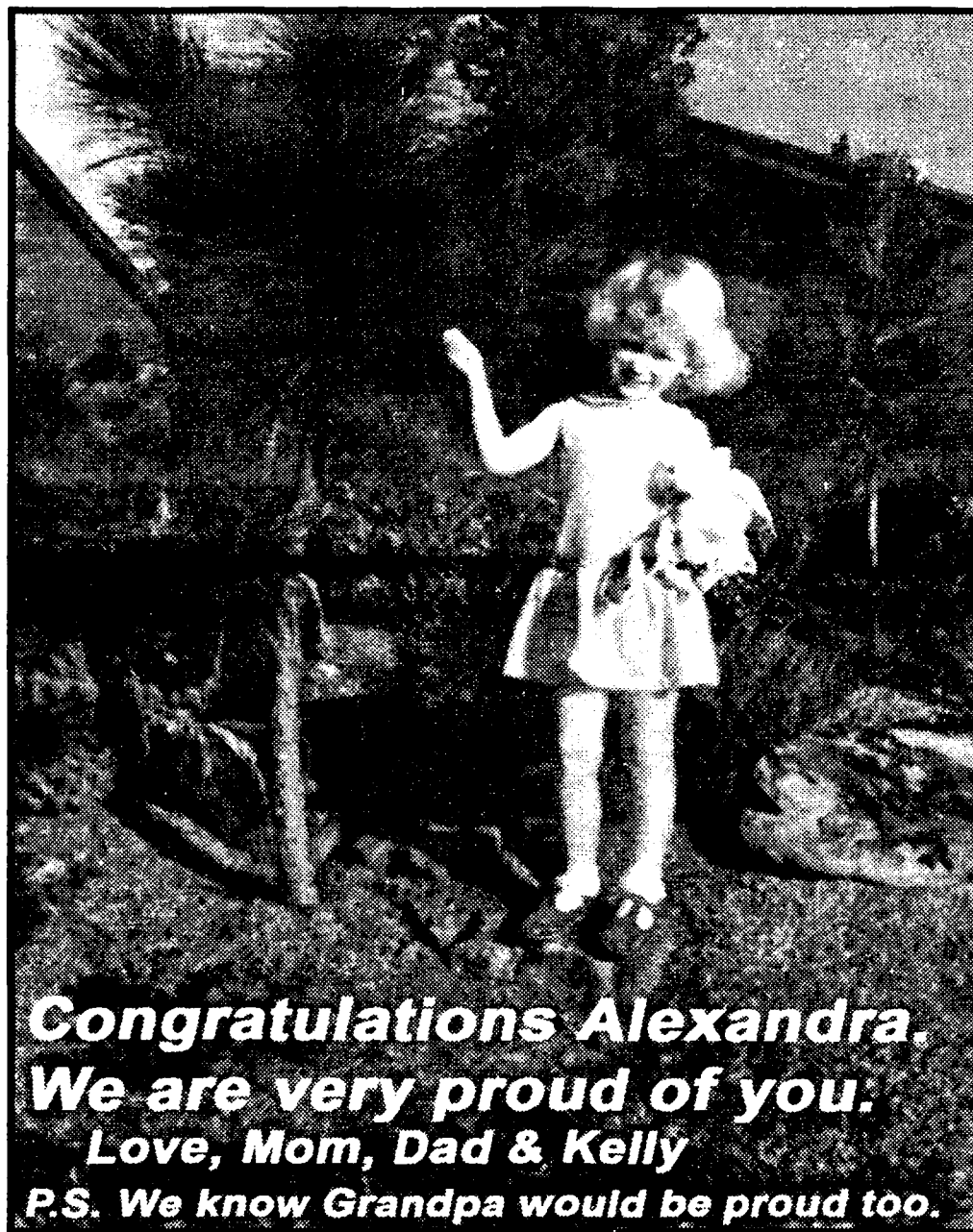
We celebrate your success and we will always treasure the beauty and traditions of Notre Dame!

We love you!
Dad, Mom, Christopher and "Biscuit"

**Angel Bunny,
We know you are
going to conquer
the world!!**



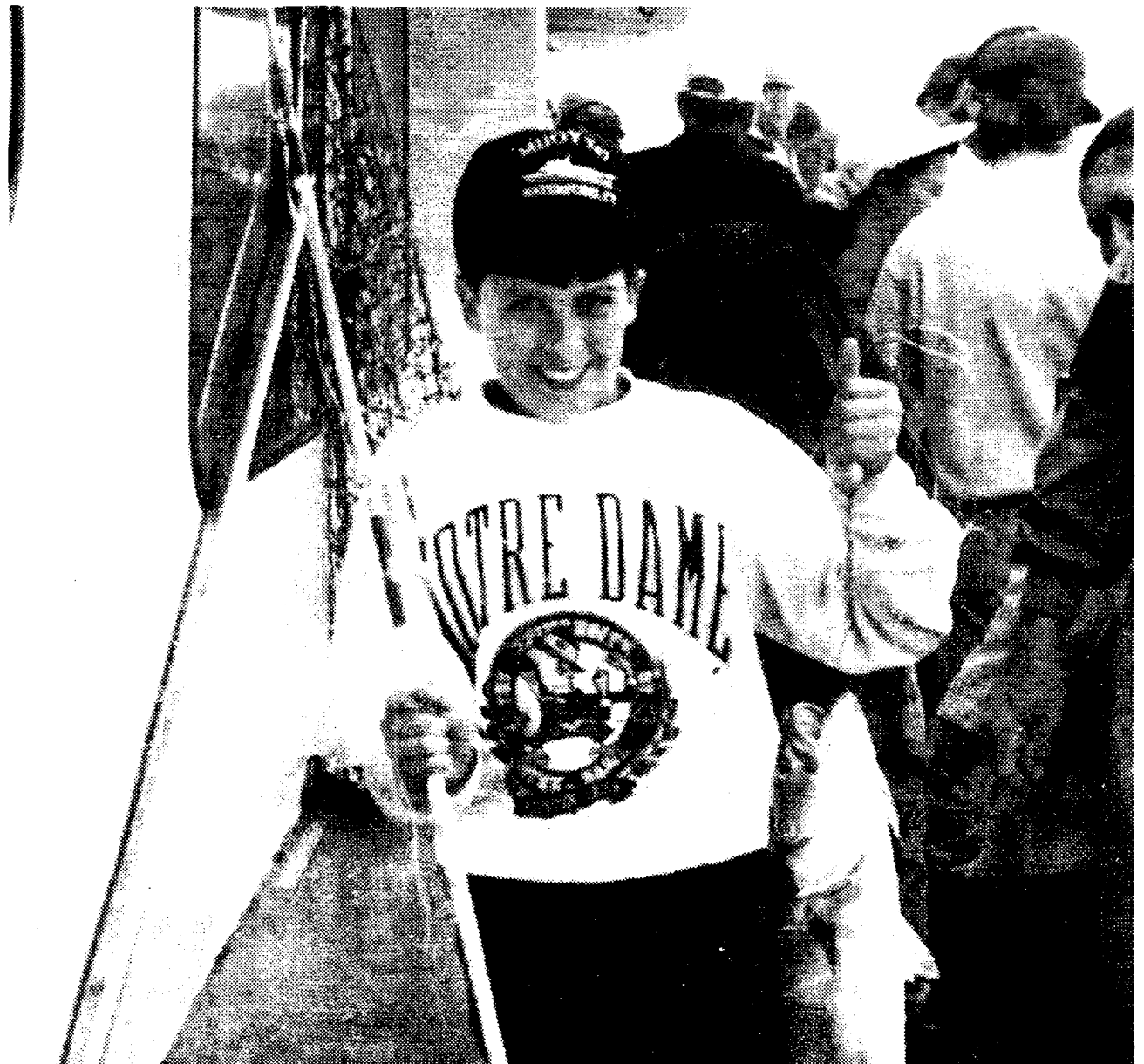
**We are so proud
Love,
Mom, Rocky &
Michelle**



**Congratulations Alexandra.
We are very proud of you.
Love, Mom, Dad & Kelly
P.S. We know Grandpa would be proud too.**

Ian: Congratulations !!!!

Your dream of graduating from Notre Dame is achieved. Hope is the great power that can move you to further success. God will give you the aspiration and enthusiasm to continue achieving your dreams. Hold nothing back to your life projects but give them all you've got.



Love you always, with all the pride that can be had,

Mom and Dad

**Congratulations,
Amy!**

From Kindergarten
to today...
What a ride!

Love -
Mom & Emily



It's deja vu all over again!



During the years ahead, when you come to a fork in the road, take it.
Love, Mom and Dad

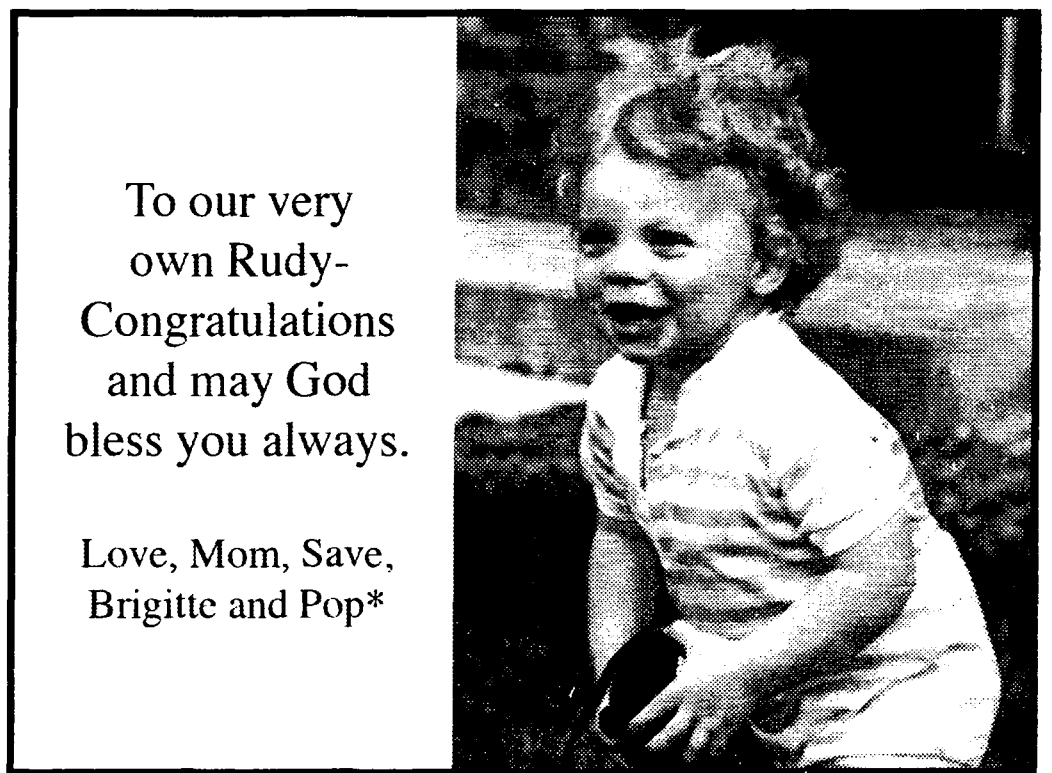
Class of '06



Congratulations Eddie! Be proud of all of your accomplishments!

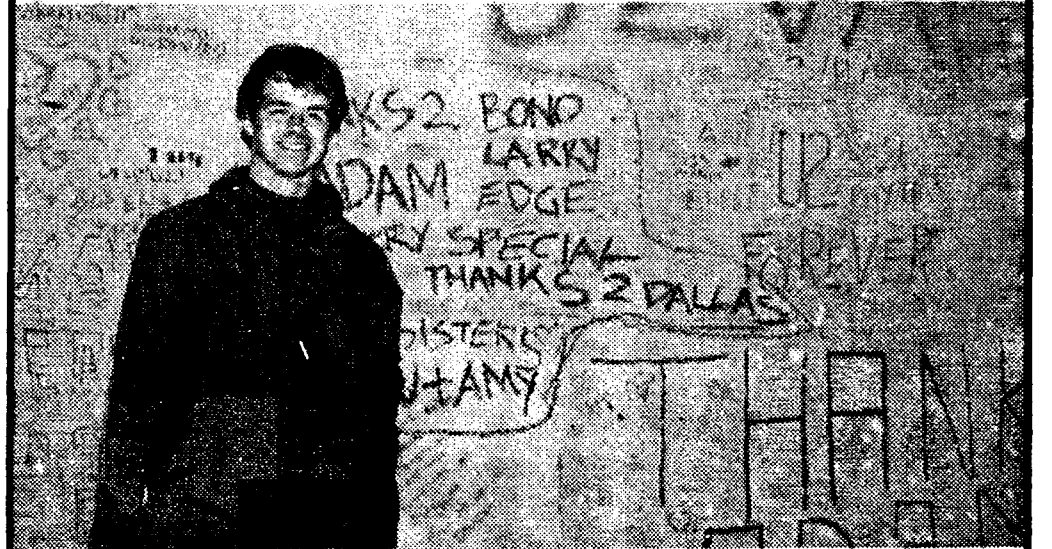


Diane, We are so proud of all your accomplishments -- from your first dance recital to your last performance at ND, and EVERYTHING in between. Congratulations! Love, Mom, Dad and Tracy



To our very own Rudy- Congratulations and may God bless you always.

Love, Mom, Save, Brigitte and Pop*



Congratulations Patrick! We are so proud of you! Love, Mom Dad, Katie & Meaghan

Congratulations- EAB. Thank you for being who you are! An awesome daughter & domer.



Congrats Class of 2006



Congratulations Ryan.
We are so proud of all your accomplishments!
Love, Mom & Dad

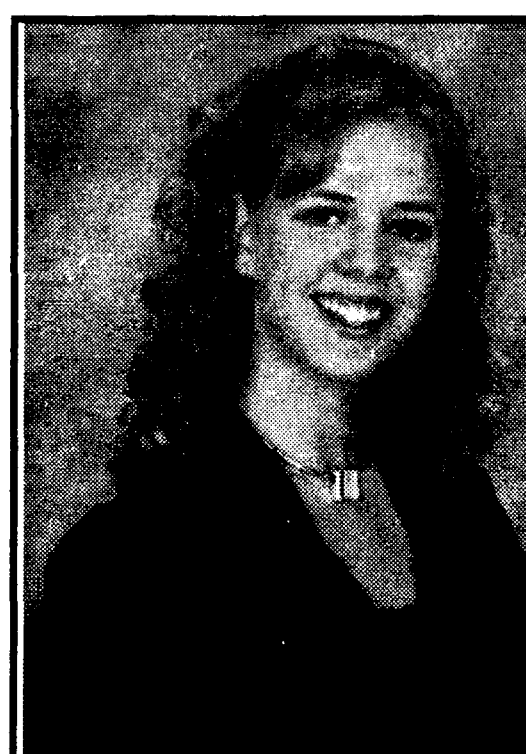


You've always been our Supergirl.
Love, Dad, Mom, & Katie

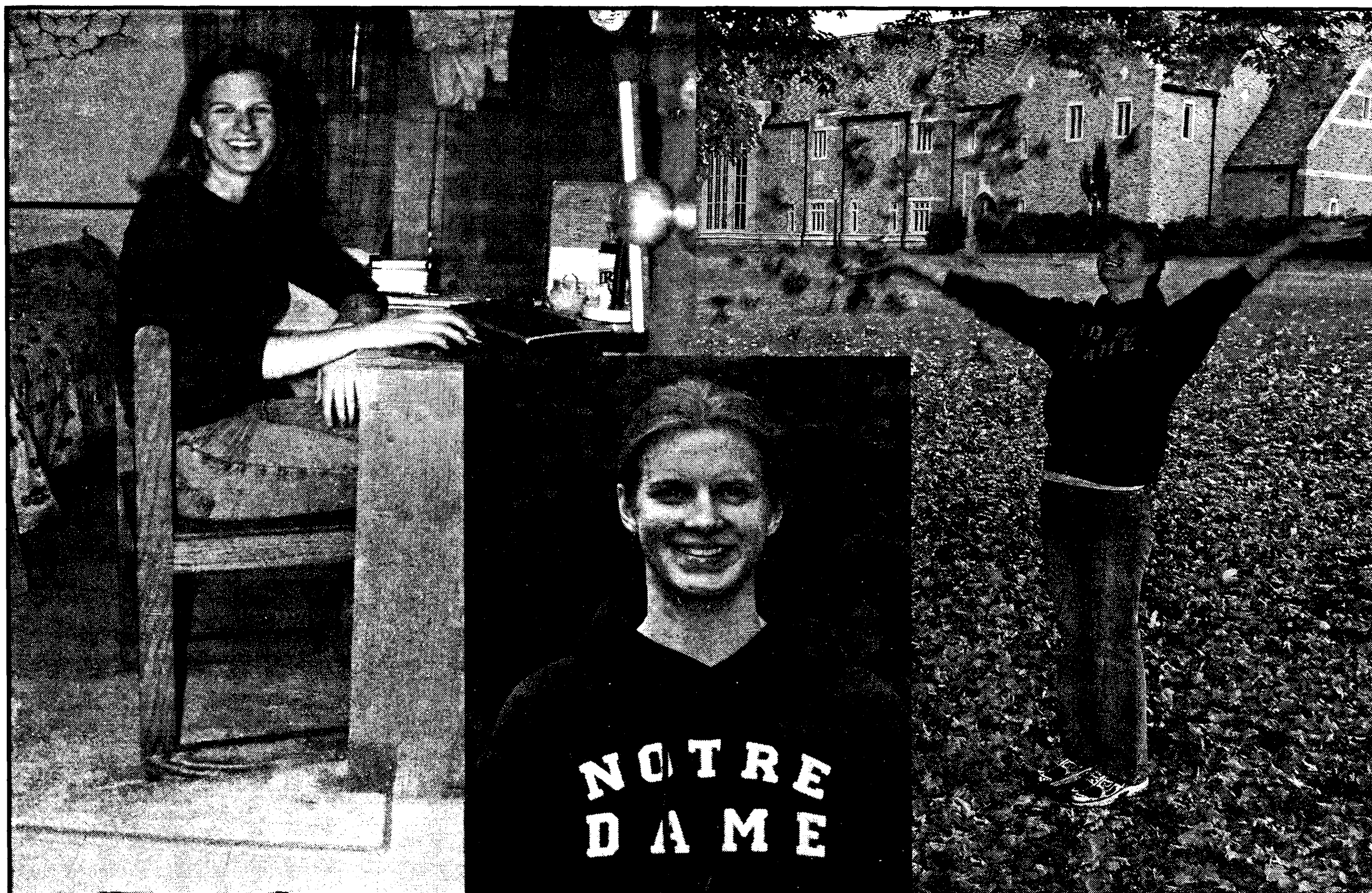
Your dream became a reality!! We are so very, very proud of you Laura! We wish you continued success in everything you do.



Love you! Mom, Dad, David, Brian



Congratulations, Kathy!
Love, Mom & Dad



You did it, Moo Moo! We are so proud of you!
Love, Greg, Rita & Michael

CONGRATULATIONS CLASSES OF 2006!

Natalie Noelle Cal

Natalie! Congratulations!

We are proud of you. A wonderful world in need of your talents and your heart and your soul awaits you. One day at a time, one person at a time, we know you make a difference.

**Love always from
Mom, Dad, Javy and
all your family**



**Snip -
You made the right
choice after all!
We are so proud of you!**

Love, your family

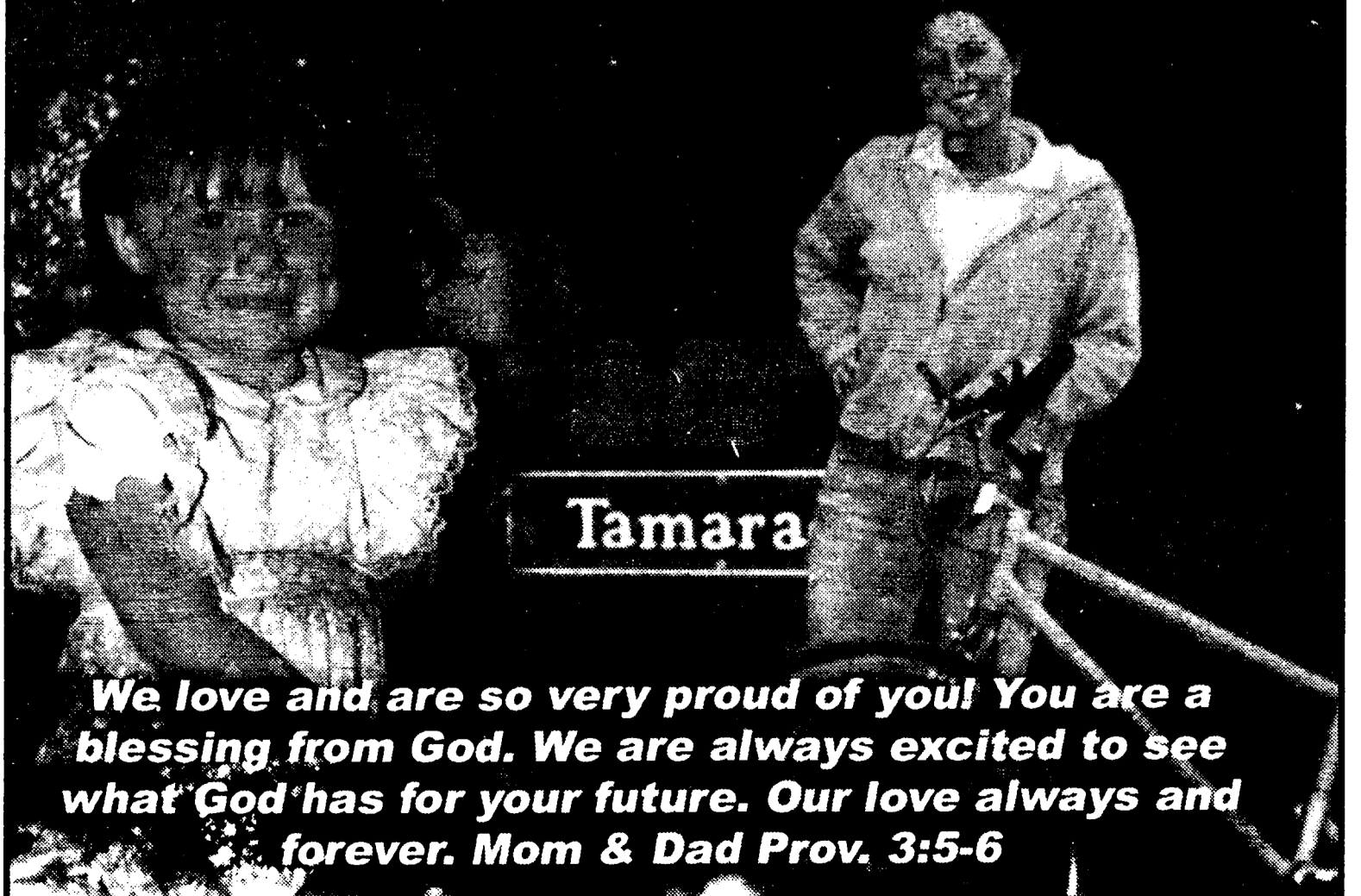


"The journey is the reward."

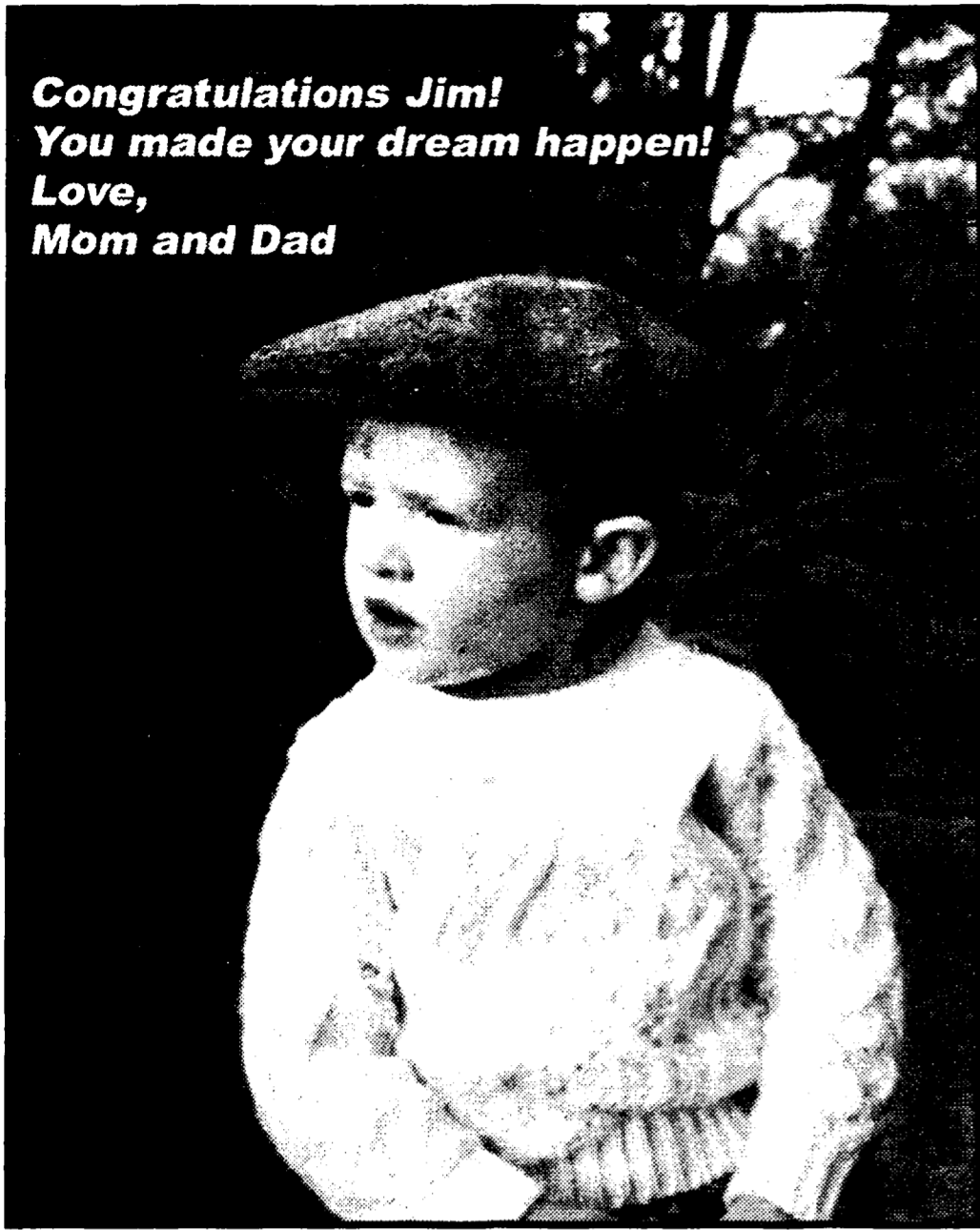
Congratulations Rory upon completion of the first phase of your journey. We wish you success and happiness in the next phase. We are proud to call you our son and our brother.

**Much love,
Mom, Dad, Maeve, & Kiera**

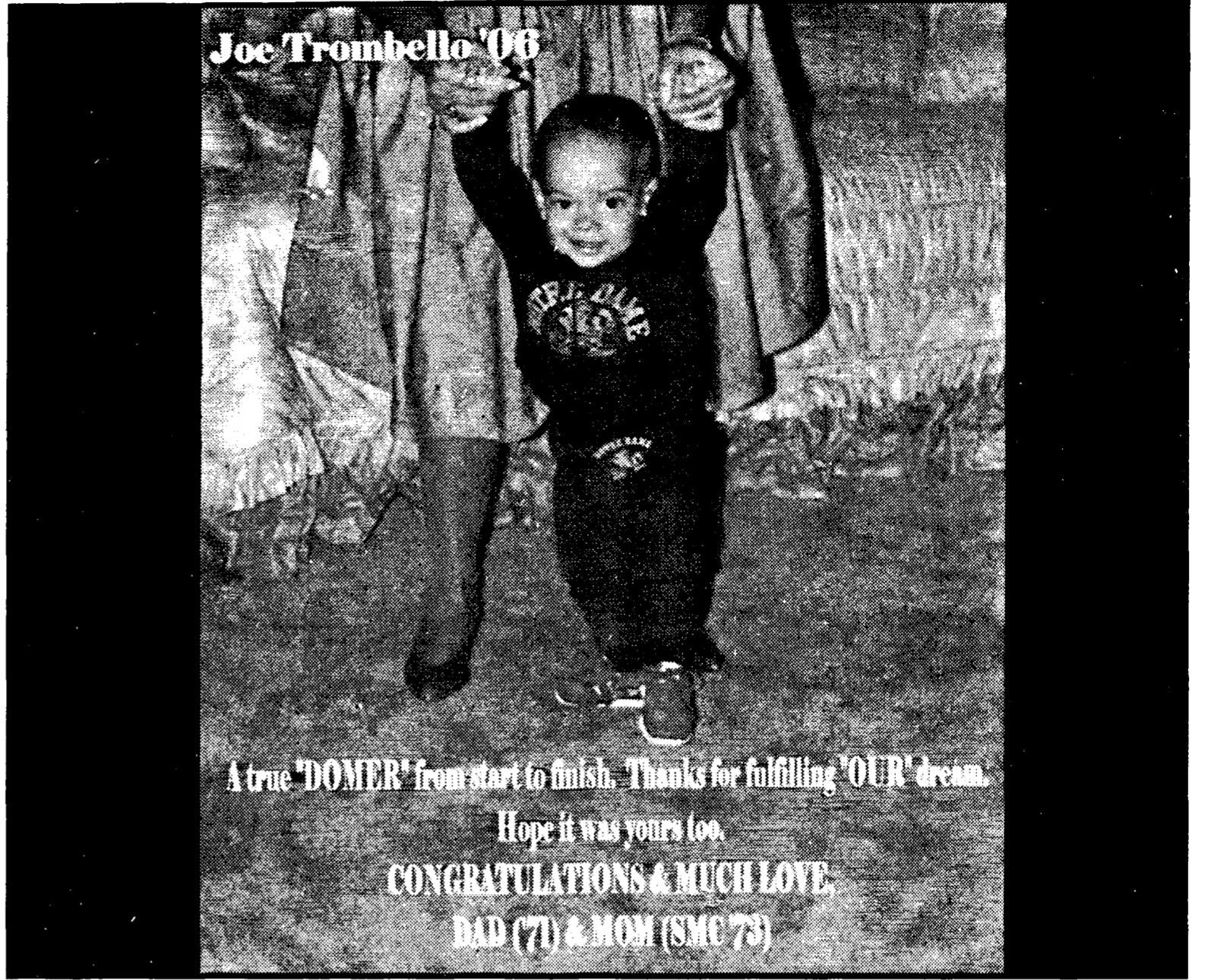
Congratulations Tamara Nicole (Tootsy)!



We love and are so very proud of you! You are a blessing from God. We are always excited to see what God has for your future. Our love always and forever. Mom & Dad Prov. 3:5-6

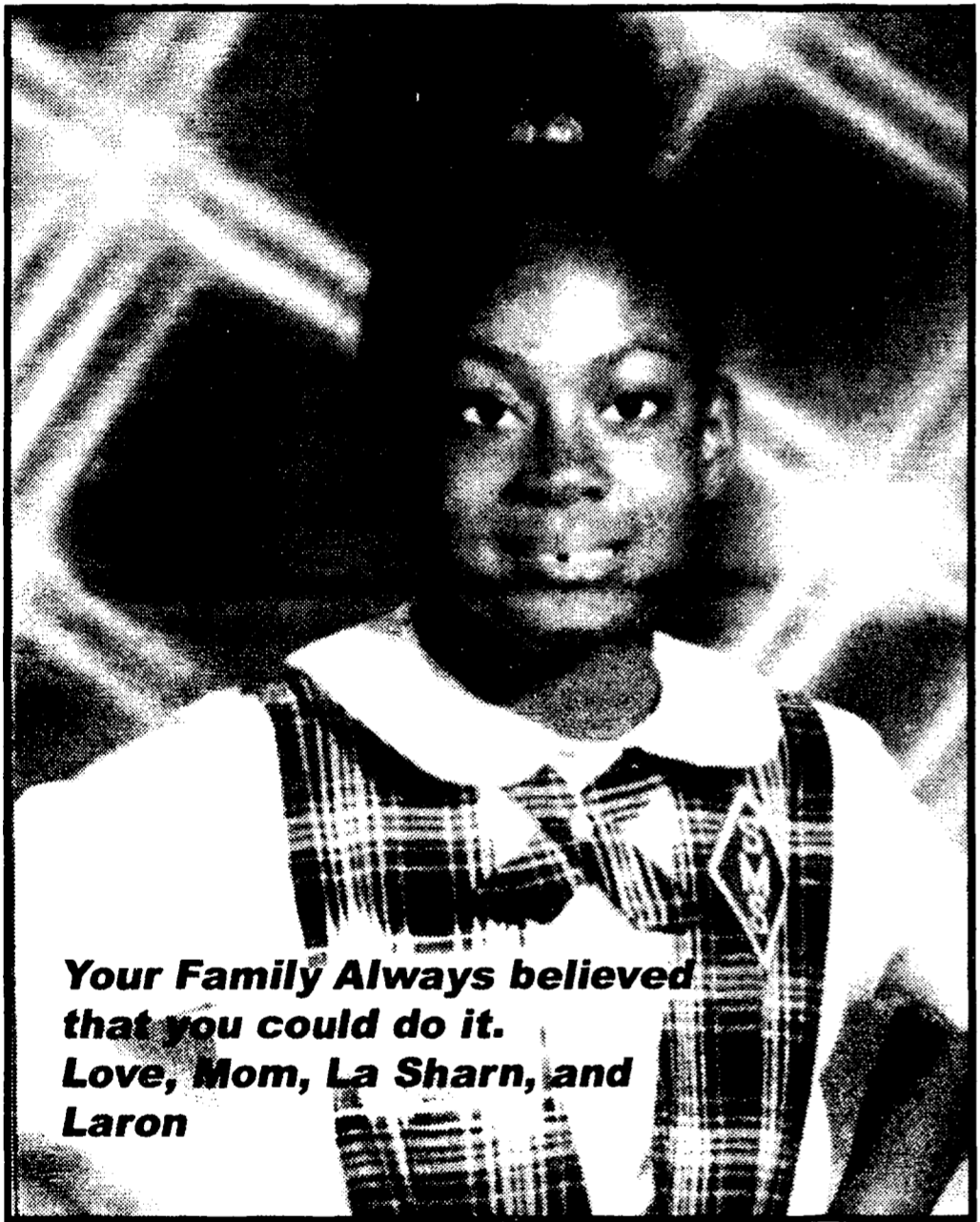


**Congratulations Jim!
You made your dream happen!
Love,
Mom and Dad**

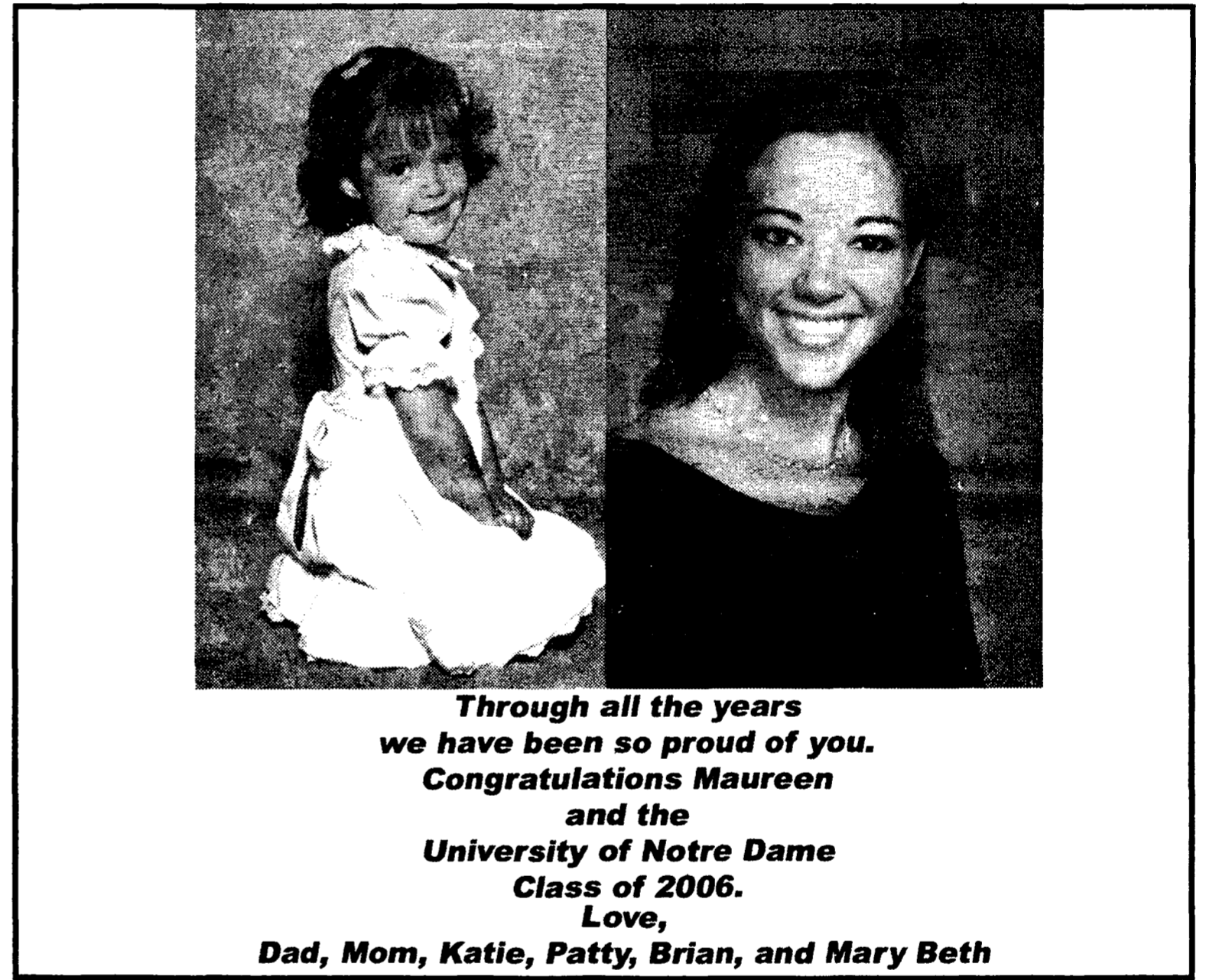


Joe Trombello '06

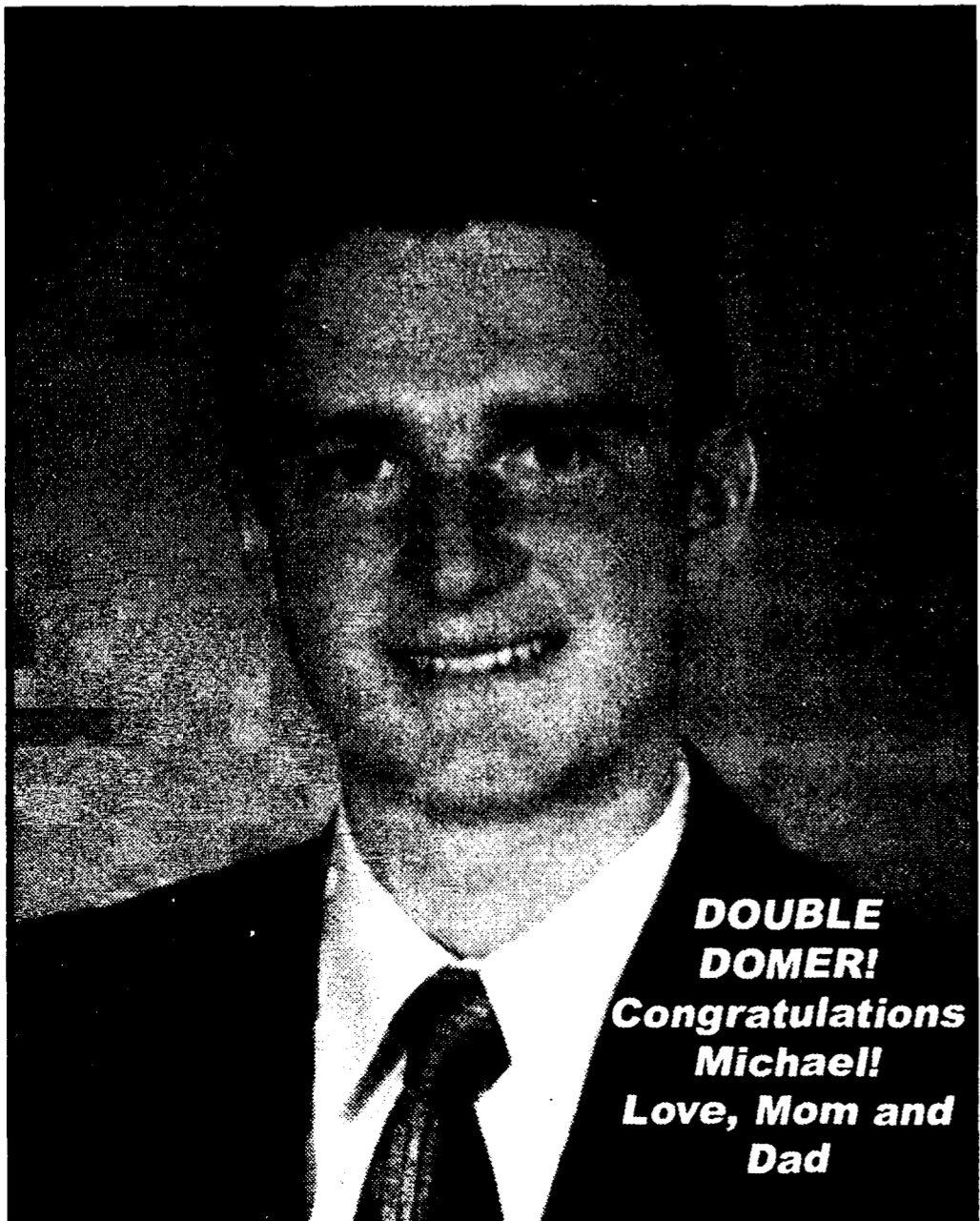
**A true "DOMER" from start to finish. Thanks for fulfilling 'OUR' dream.
Hope it was yours too.
CONGRATULATIONS & MUCH LOVE,
DAD (71) & MOM (SMC 73)**



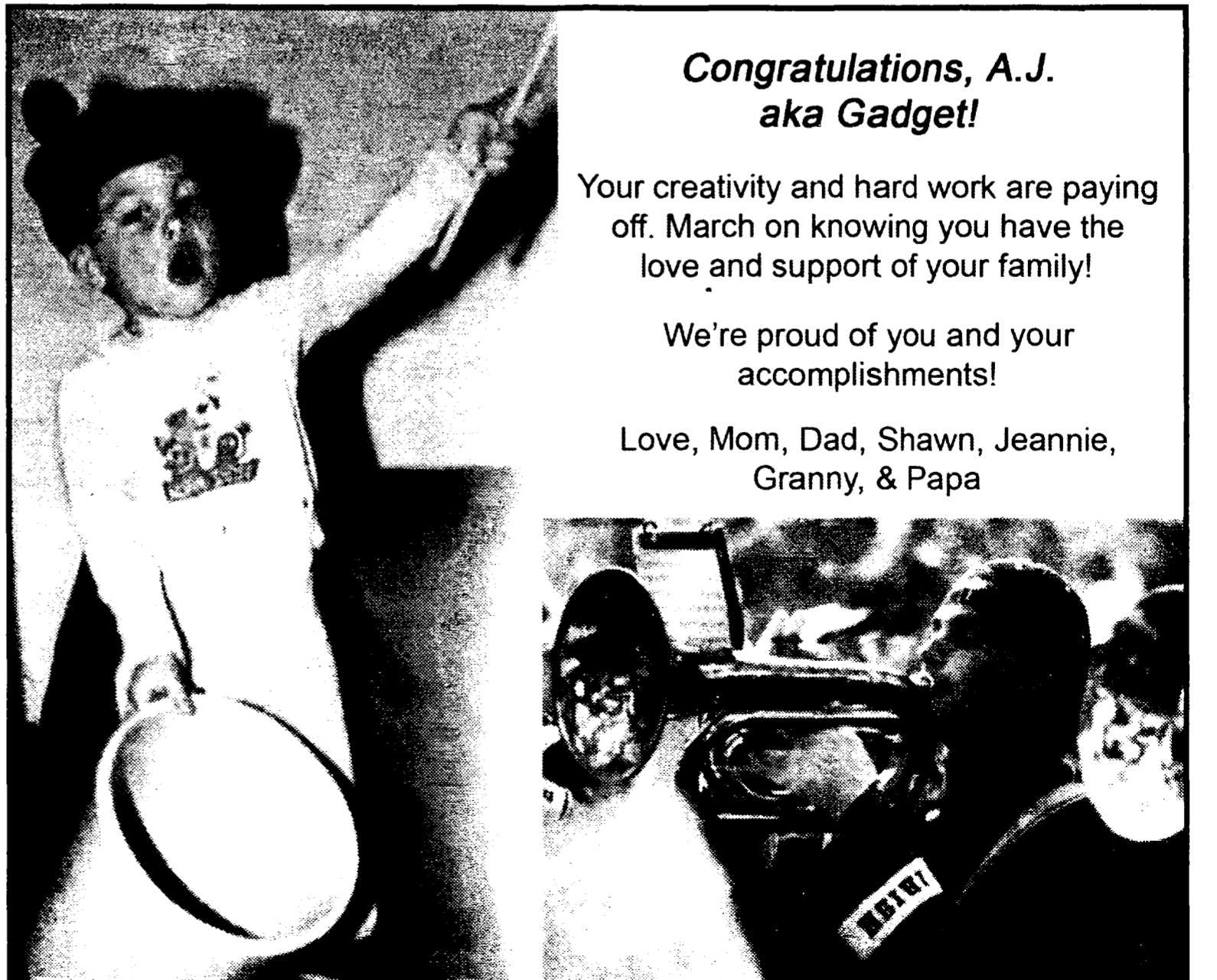
**Your Family Always believed
that you could do it.
Love, Mom, La Sharn, and
Laron**



**Through all the years
we have been so proud of you.
Congratulations Maureen
and the
University of Notre Dame
Class of 2006.
Love,
Dad, Mom, Katie, Patty, Brian, and Mary Beth**



**DOUBLE
DOMER!
Congratulations
Michael!
Love, Mom and
Dad**



**Congratulations, A.J.
aka Gadget!**

Your creativity and hard work are paying off. March on knowing you have the love and support of your family!

We're proud of you and your accomplishments!

Love, Mom, Dad, Shawn, Jeannie, Granny, & Papa

*May you feel proud
of all you've accomplished at Notre Dame*

*May your self-confidence
help you meet the challenges of everyday life*

*May your determination
help you overcome life's obstacles*

*May your creativity
stay with you forever*

*May you find success
in all you do*

*May life be an inspiration
to you everyday, as you are to us*

May you always find happiness and friendship

May you continue to follow your dreams

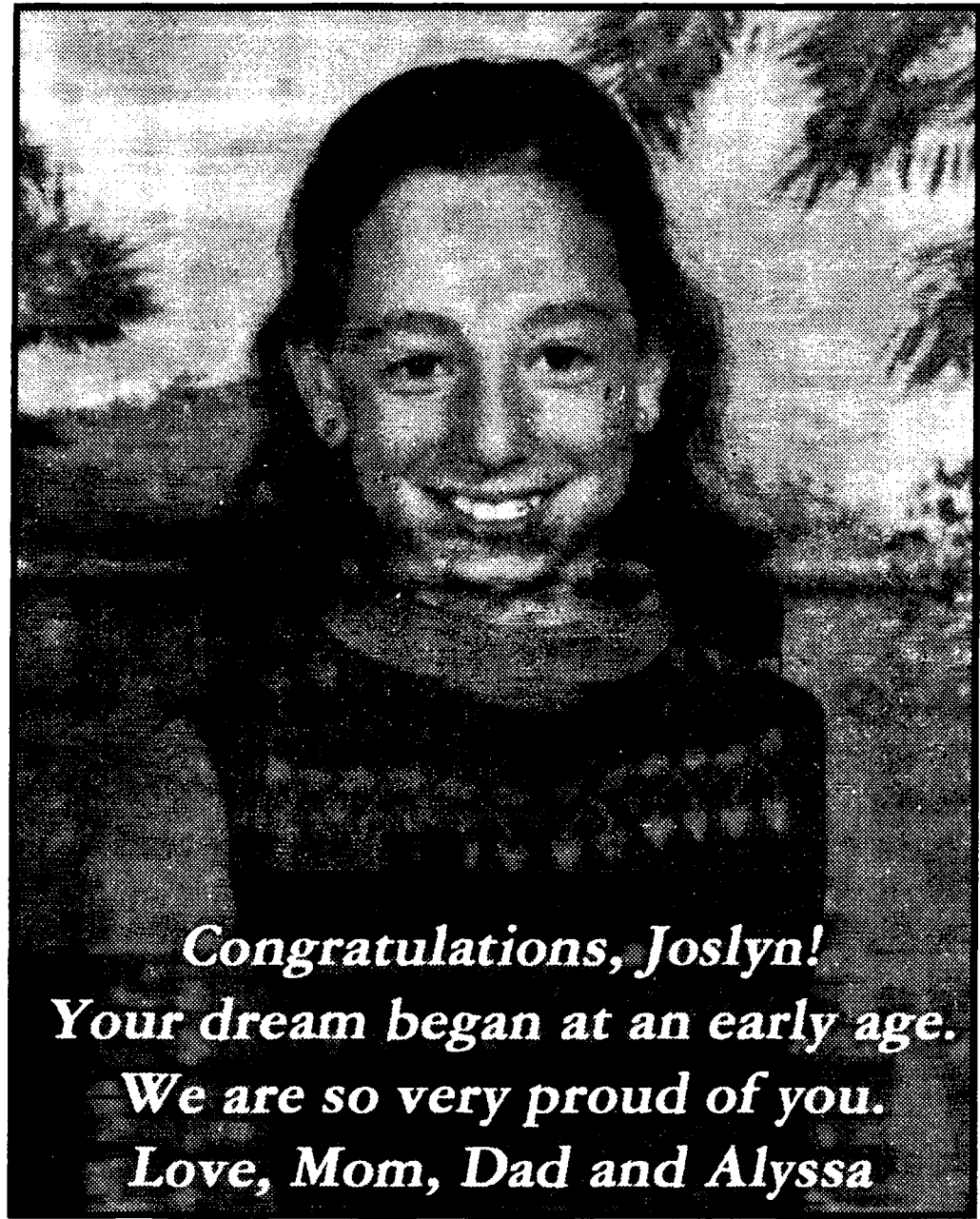
**J
E
NNY**

Mom, Dad, Jason

**Congratulations
Alpha!**

**Love, Loyalty, Licks
and Kisses**

Peanut & Family

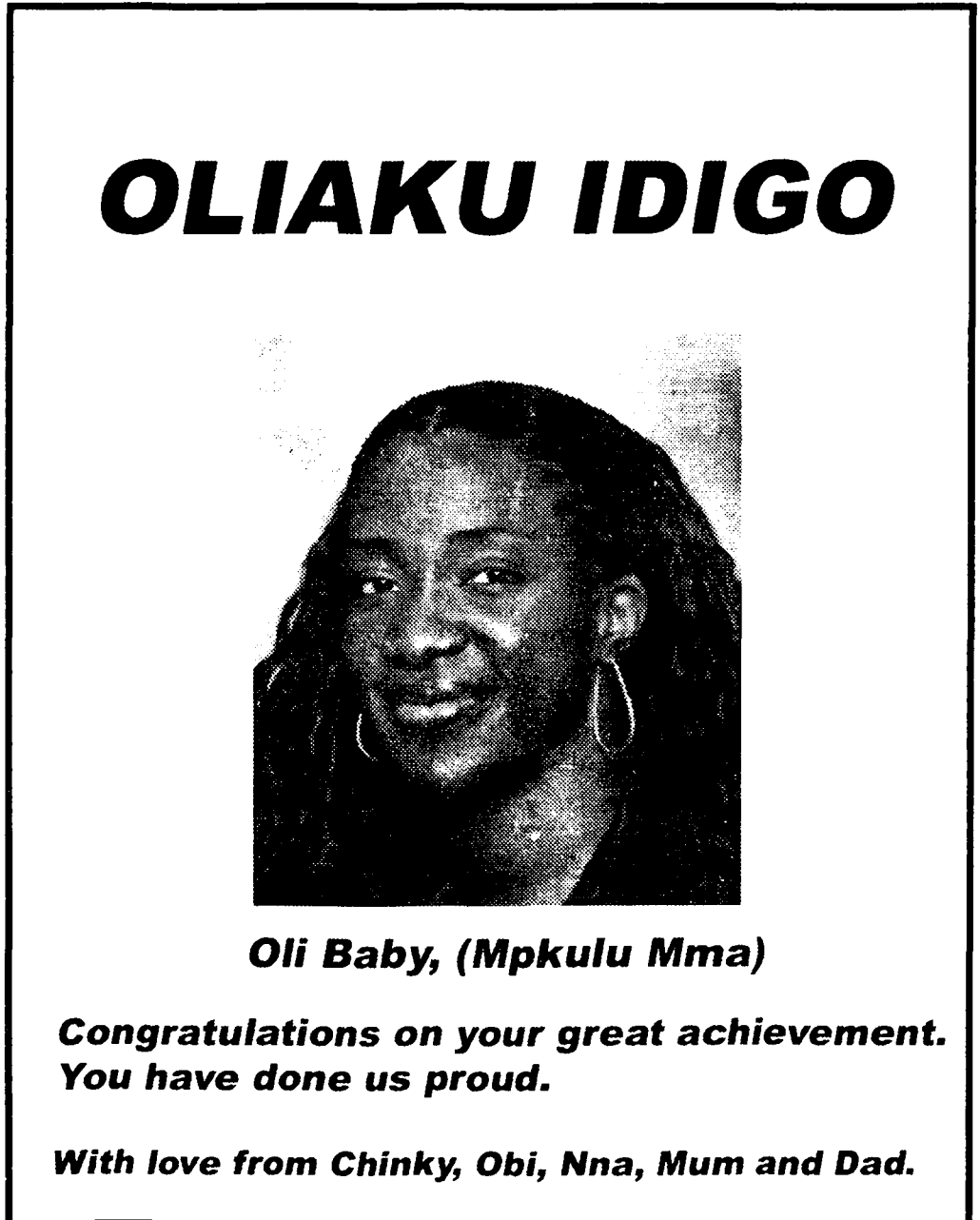


Congratulations, Joslyn!
Your dream began at an early age.
We are so very proud of you.
Love, Mom, Dad and Alyssa



Congratulations Mike!

Love, Mom, Dad, Sue and Peter



OLIAKU IDIGO

Oli Baby, (Mpkulu Mma)

Congratulations on your great achievement.
You have done us proud.

With love from Chinky, Obi, Nna, Mum and Dad.

**Congratulations
Matt!**
**Thanks for the
memories!!**
**Love,
Dad, Mom
and Ben**



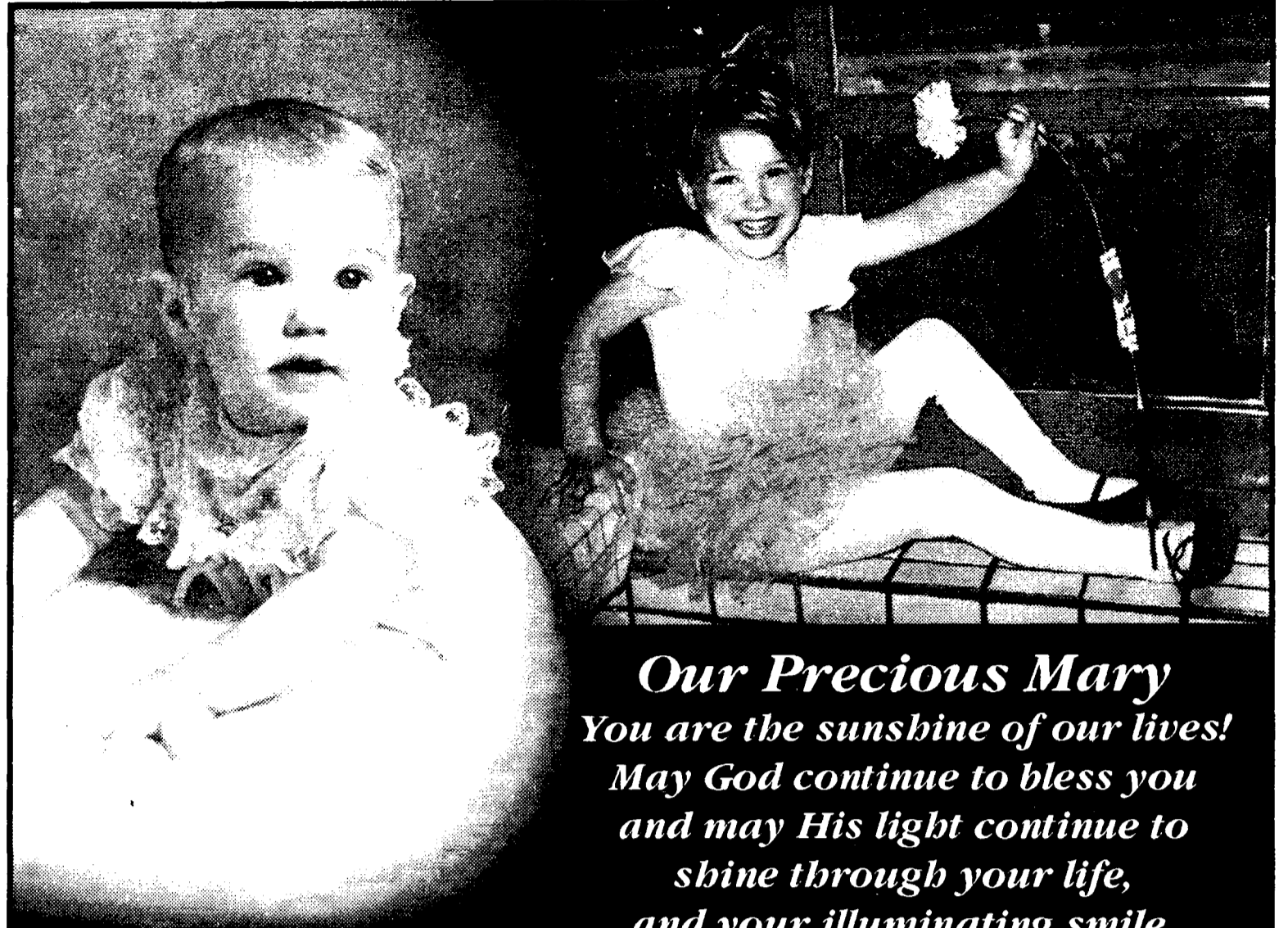
Congratulations, Christine!

You have delighted me with your achievements, impressed me with your insight and amazed me with your foresight. Continue to seek your passion, your journey has just begun! May God richly bless you today and always.



With love and admiration,
Mom

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."
~Archbishop Desmond Tutu




Our Precious Mary
You are the sunshine of our lives!
May God continue to bless you
and may His light continue to
shine through your life,
and your illuminating smile.

Our love and prayers are with you always, Your Most Blessed Family

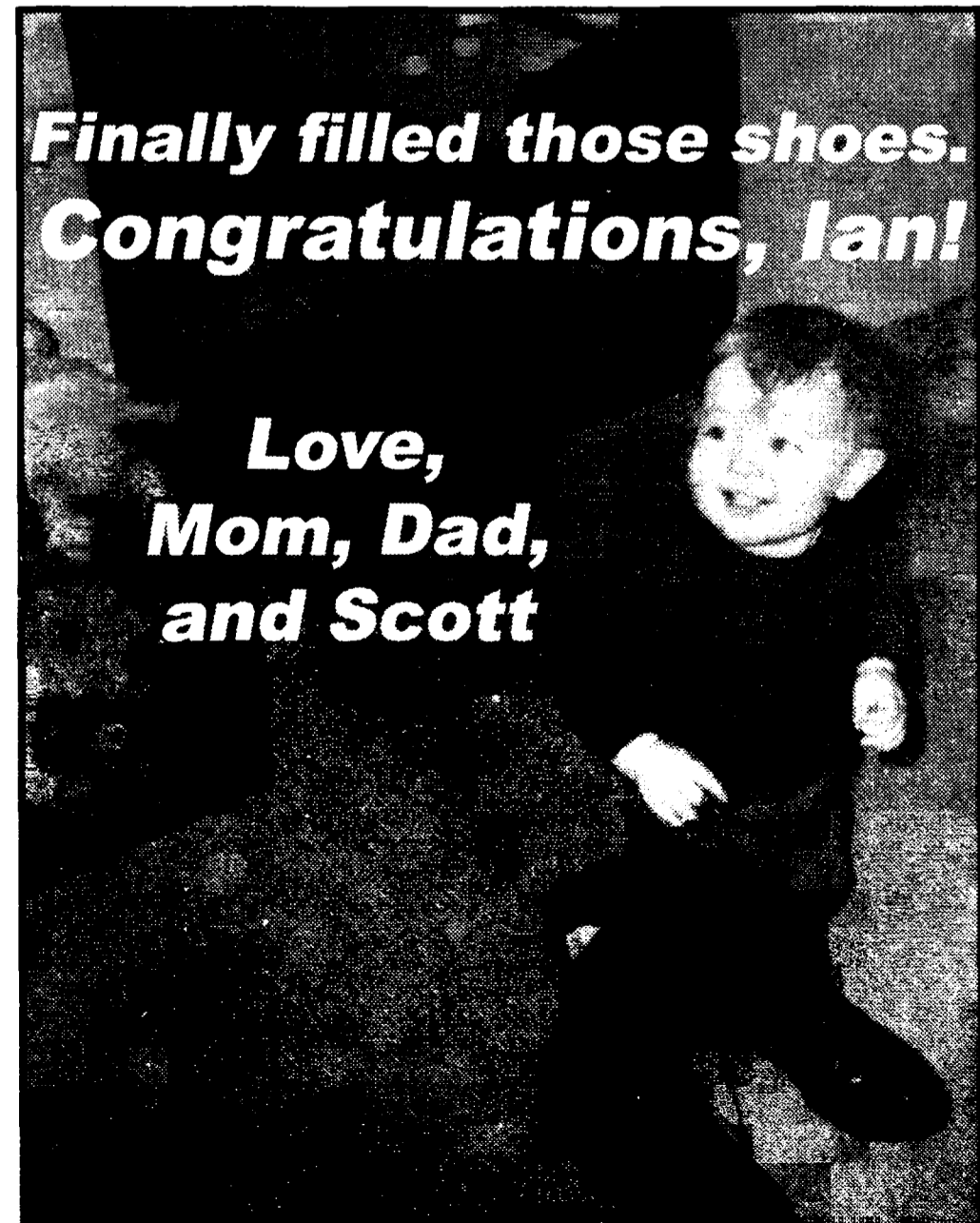


Our pride is immeasurable.
Congratulations!
Love, Mom and Dad



Your excellent decision and hard work have brought you to this big day. Congratulations on graduating from Notre Dame!
We are so proud of you!!
Love,
Mom and Dad

We are so proud of you... congratulations!!
Love,
Andrea Larsson and Staci McMullin



Finally filled those shoes.
Congratulations, Ian!

Love,
Mom, Dad,
and Scott



Bountiful Blessings, Baby 'Leen!
From Home to Dome—What a Trip!

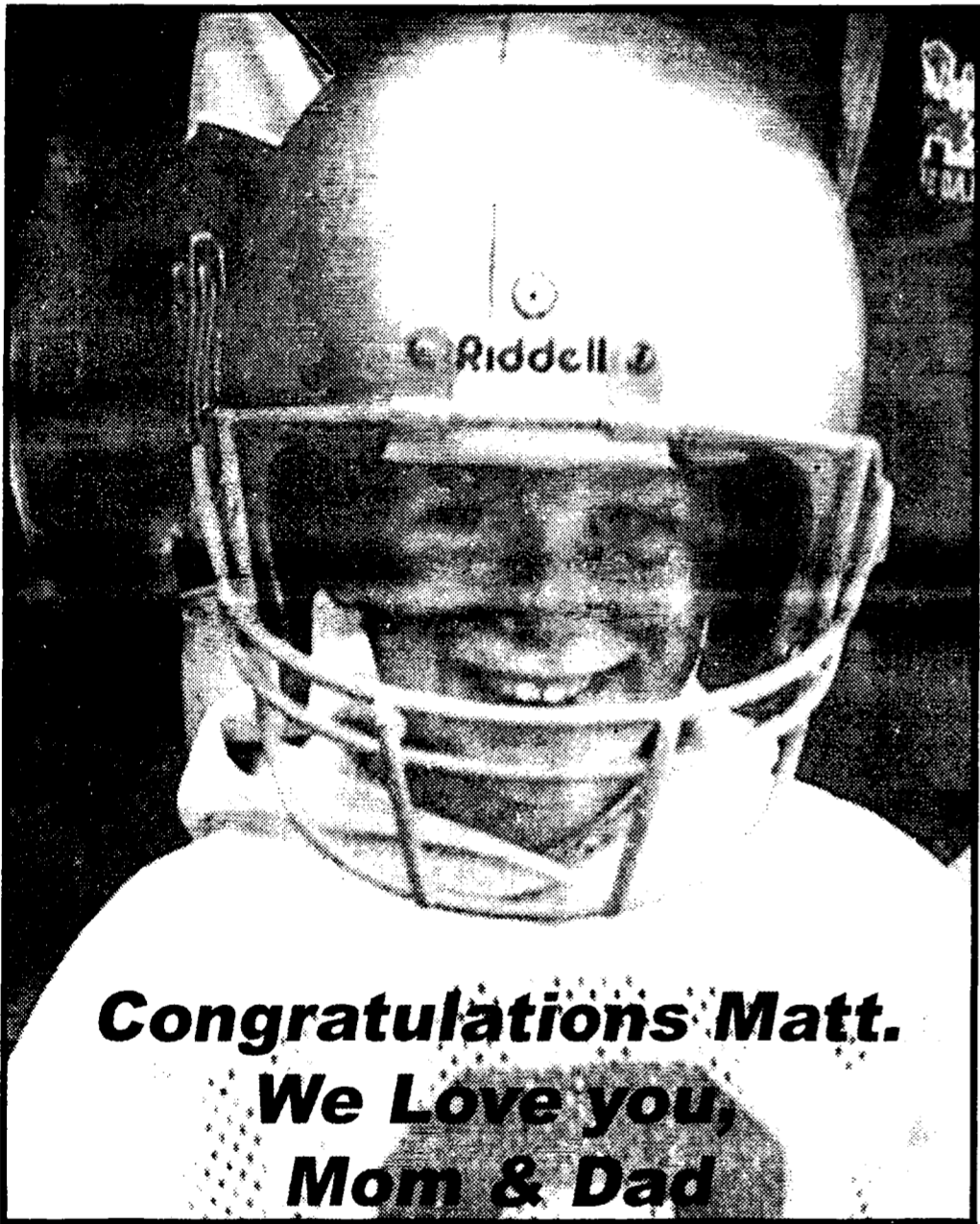
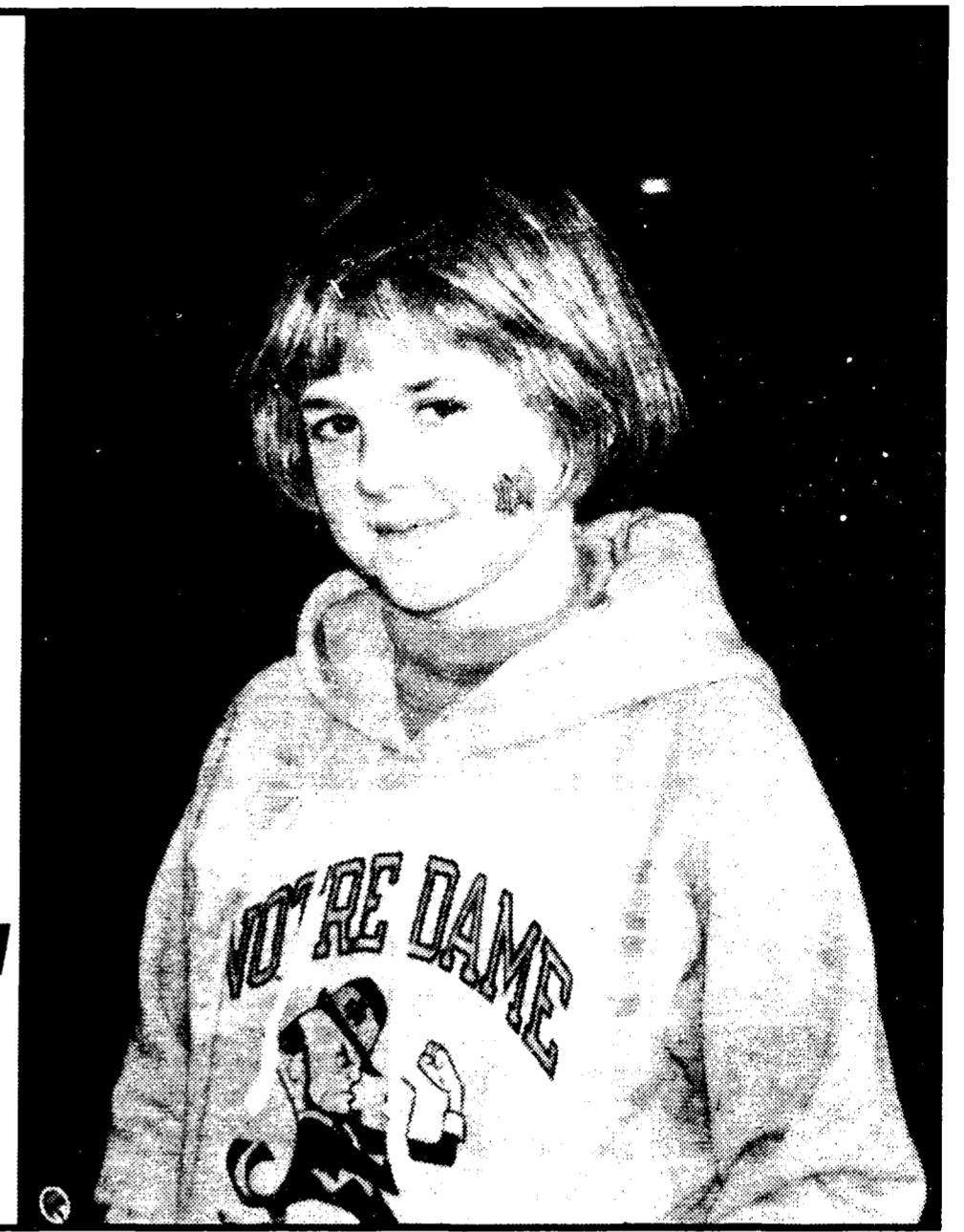
Love From Deep in the Heart of Texas,
Mom and Papa

ND CLASS OF 2006!

CONGRATS!

**Megan
Colleen
Wysocki,
our Domer
daughter!**

**Love,
Mom and Dad**

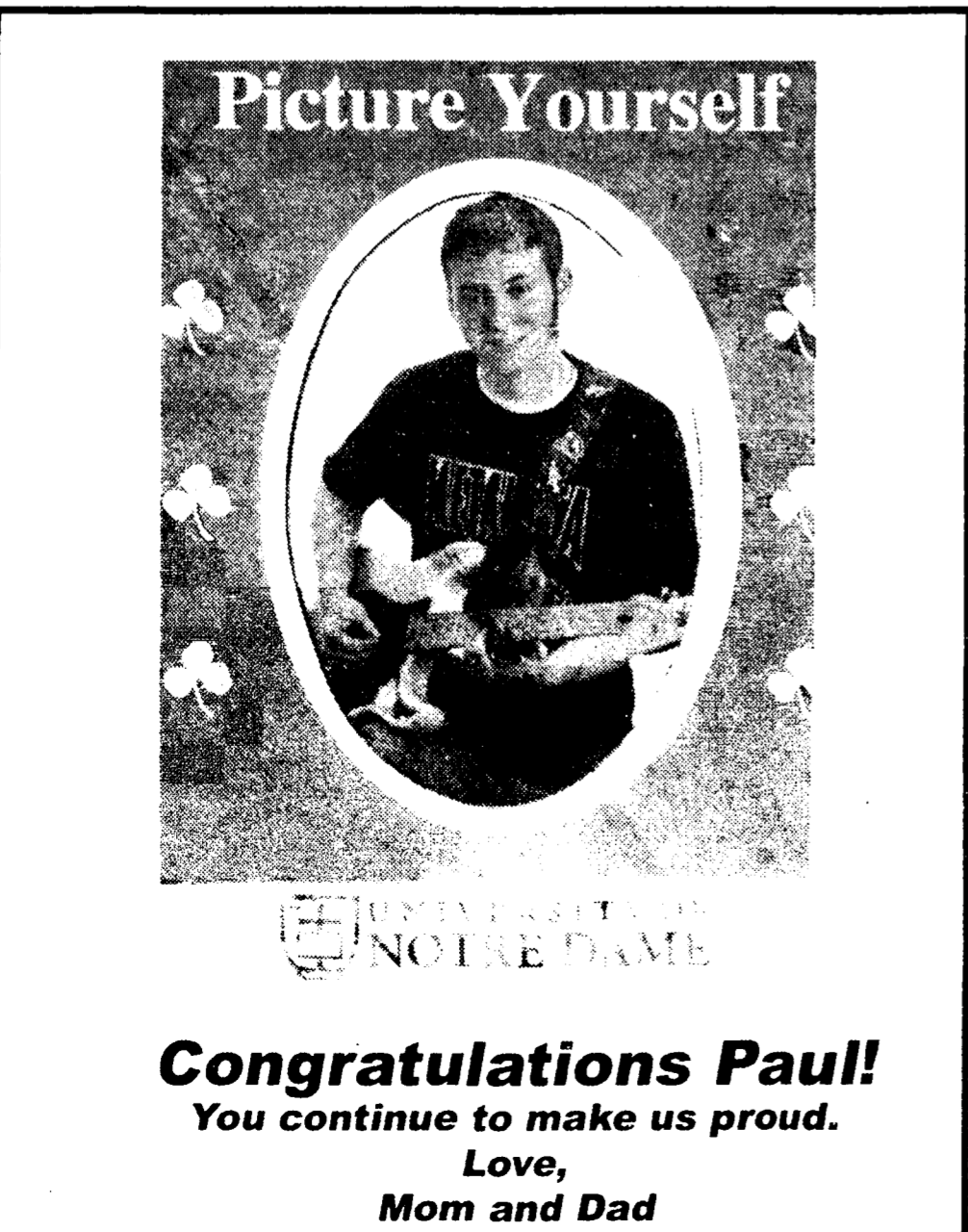
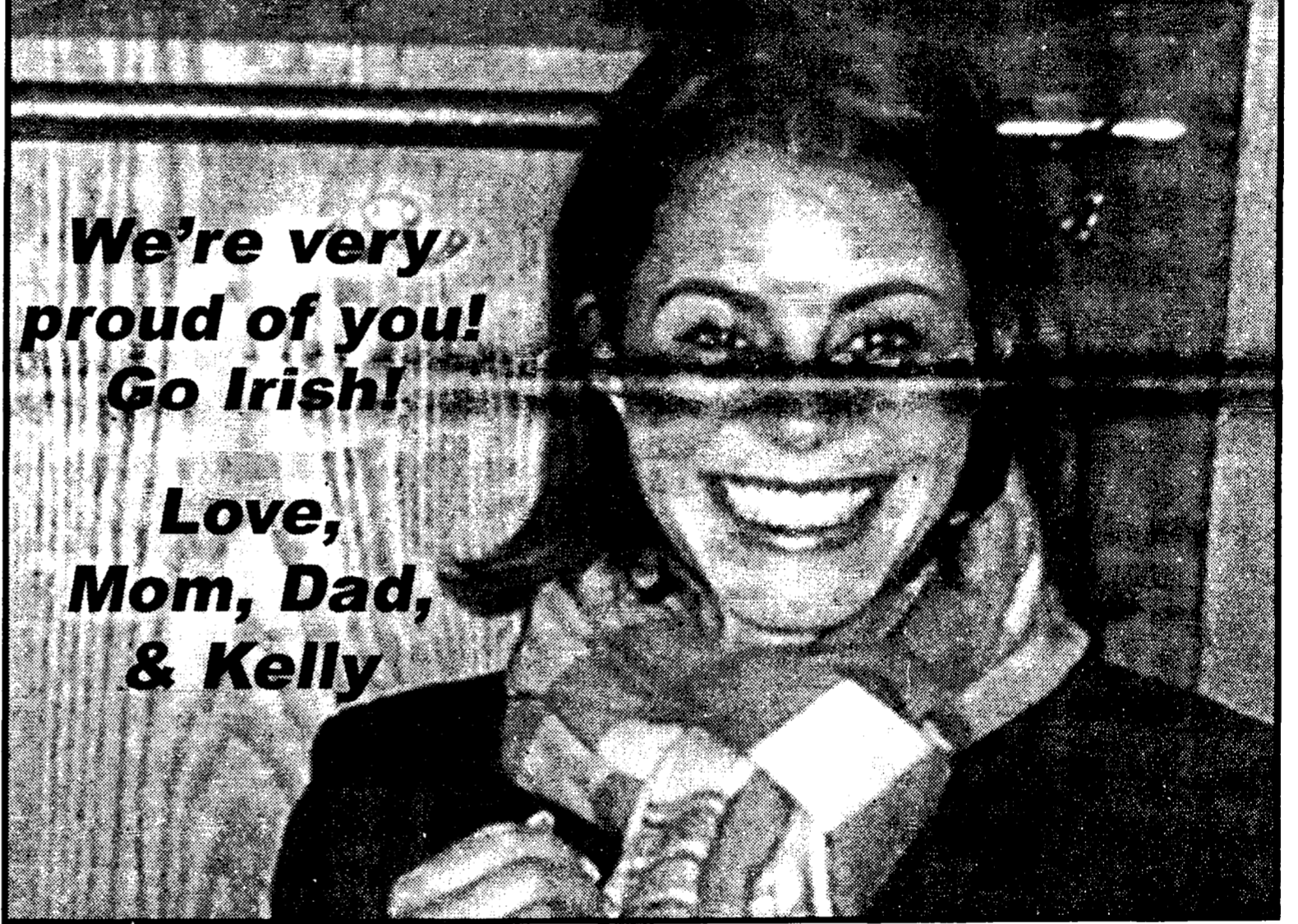


**Congratulations Matt.
We Love you,
Mom & Dad**

Congratulations Sam!

**We're very
proud of you!
Go Irish!**

**Love,
Mom, Dad,
& Kelly**

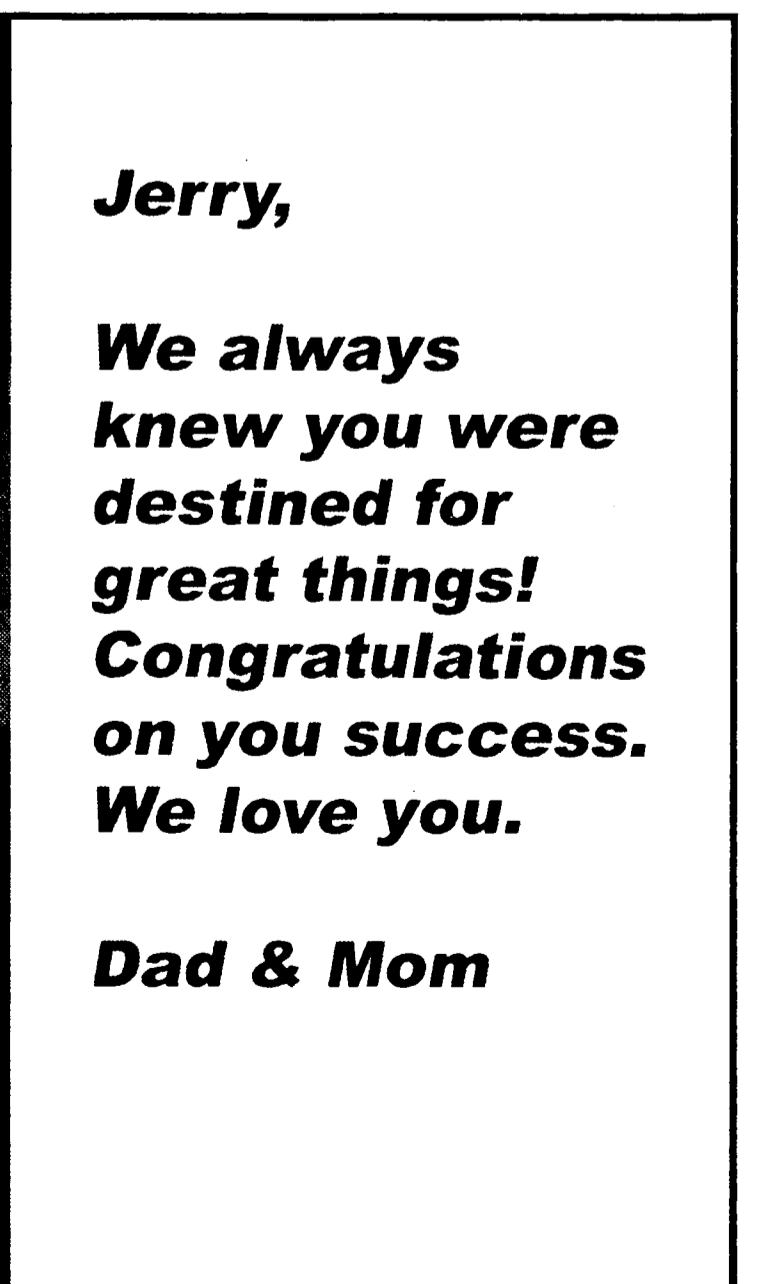
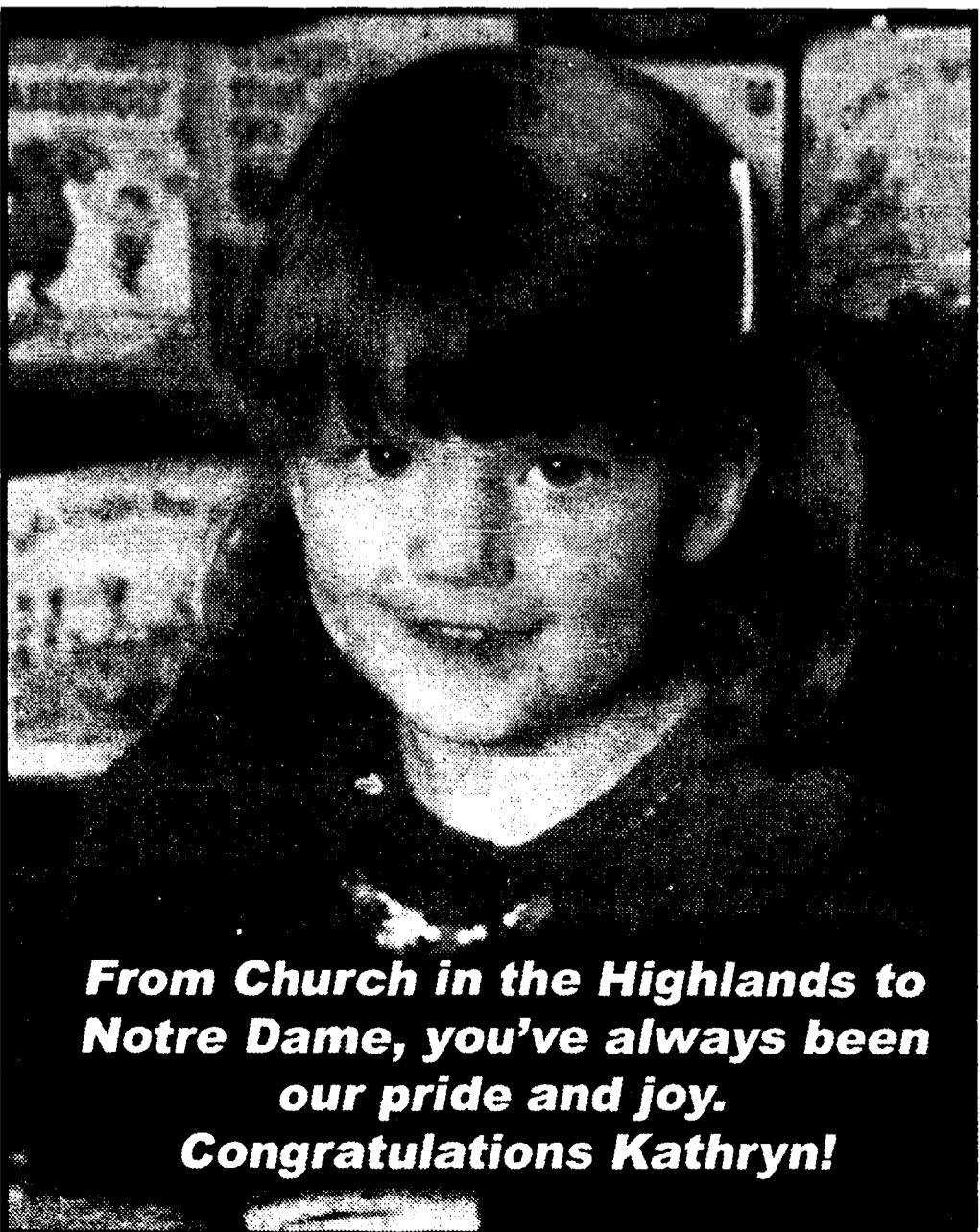
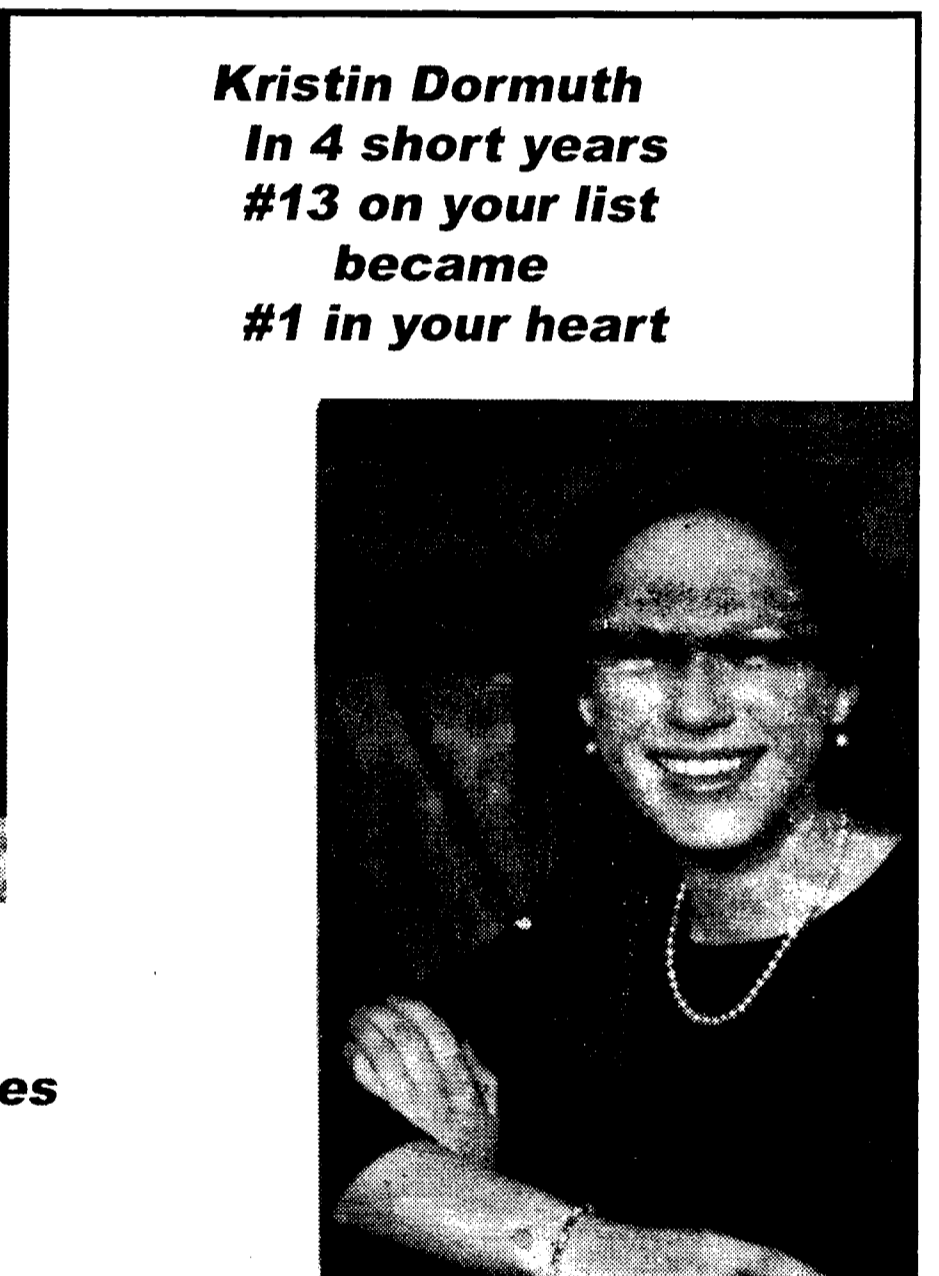
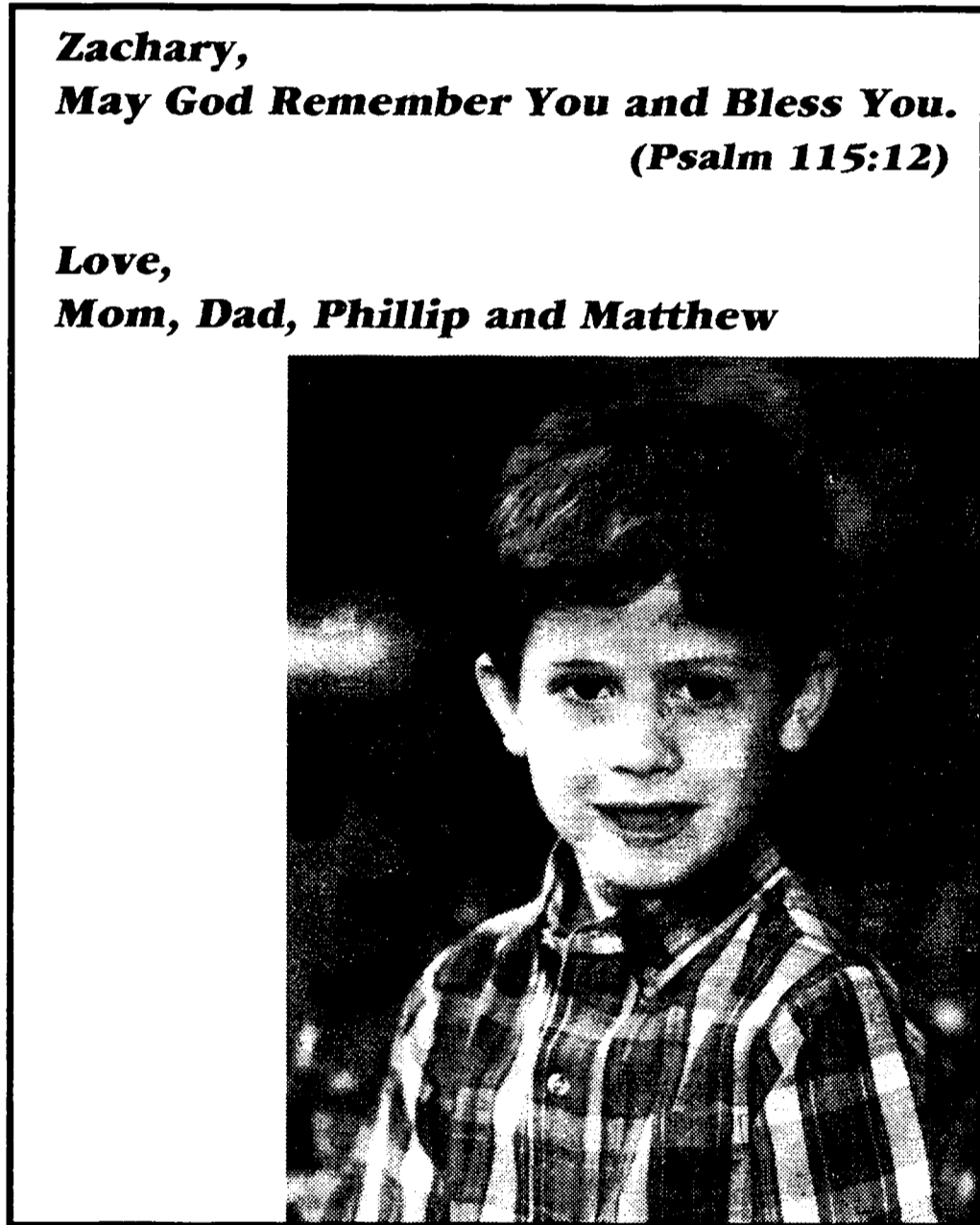
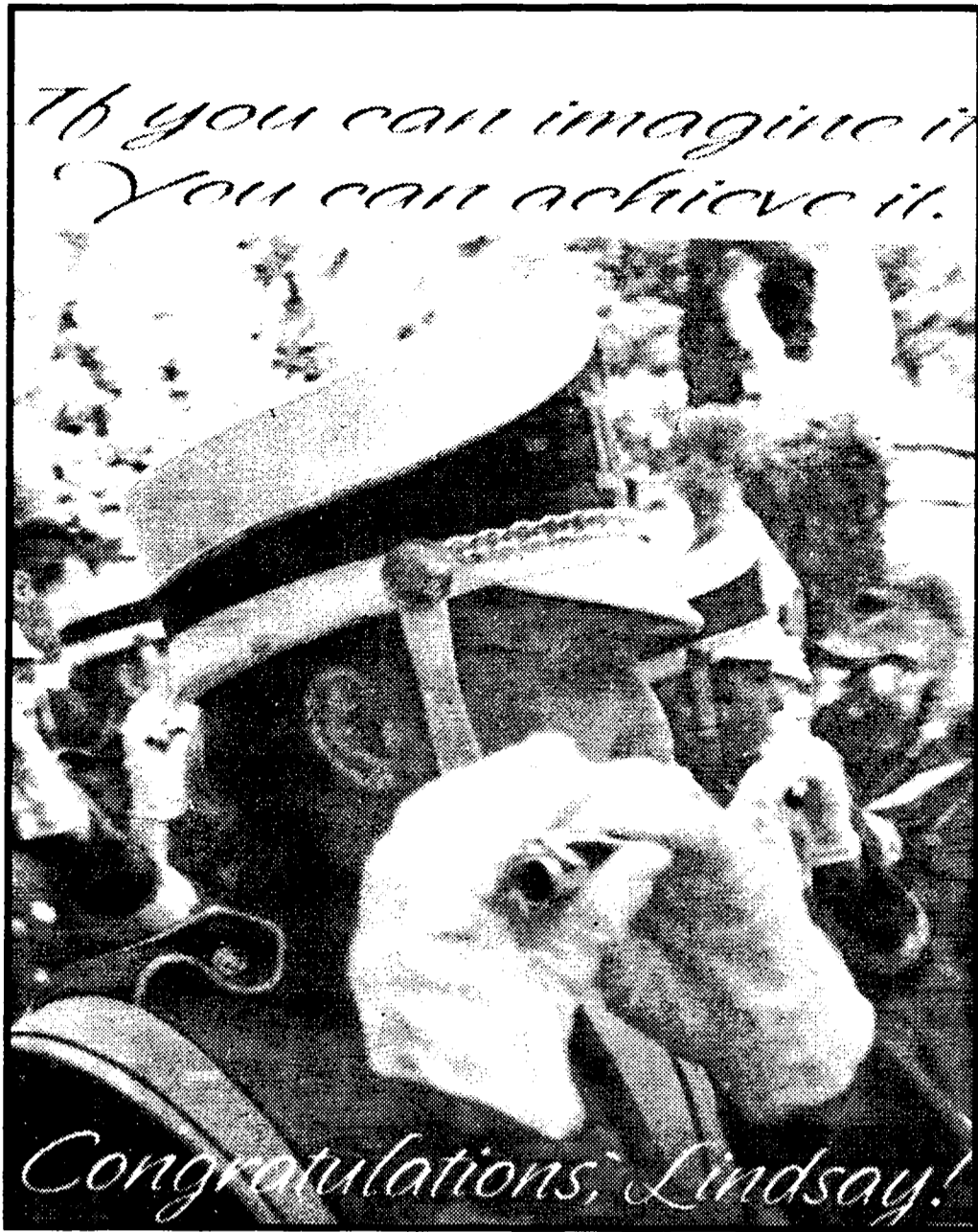


Picture Yourself

Congratulations Paul!
You continue to make us proud.
Love,
Mom and Dad



CONGRATULATIONS!
Love, Mrs. Christopher

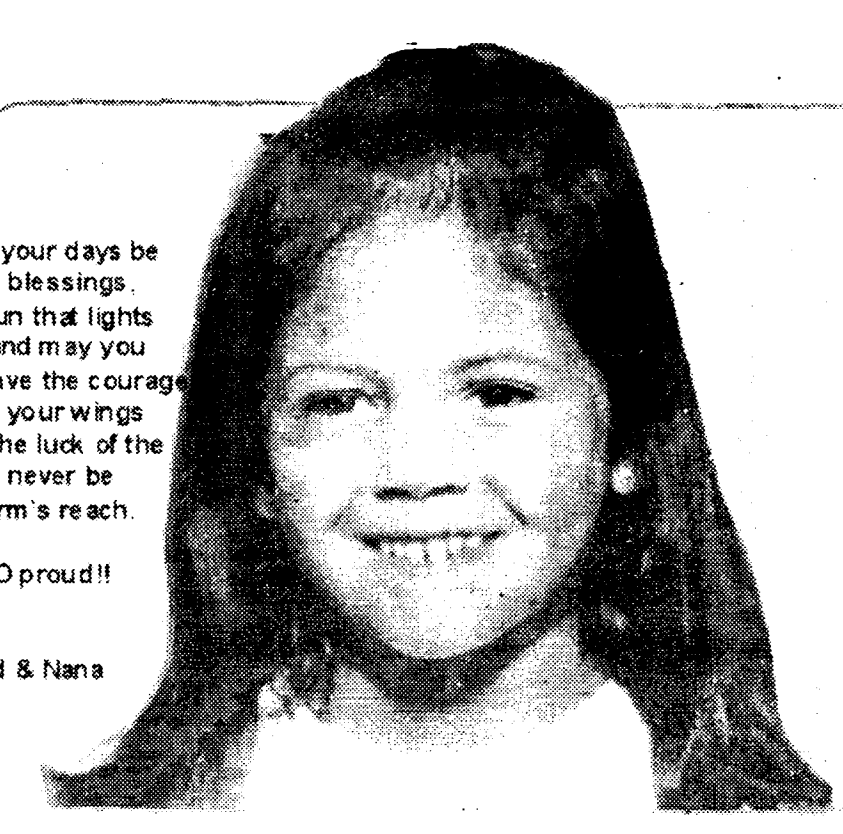


LACEY

May ALL your days be filled with blessings, like the sun that lights the sky, and may you always have the courage to spread your wings and fly. The luck of the IRISH will never be beyond arm's reach.

We are SO proud!!

Love,
Mom, Dad & Nana




**Congratulations
Lamb!
We're proud of you!
We love you!**

Mom and Dad



To Kourtney, the apple of our eyes,
Congratulations!

Love,
Mom and Dad,
Kelley and Mike,
Kristen and Alex,
and Brad



Jamie-Boy, CONGRATULATIONS!
We are always so proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad, Elizabeth and Priscilla

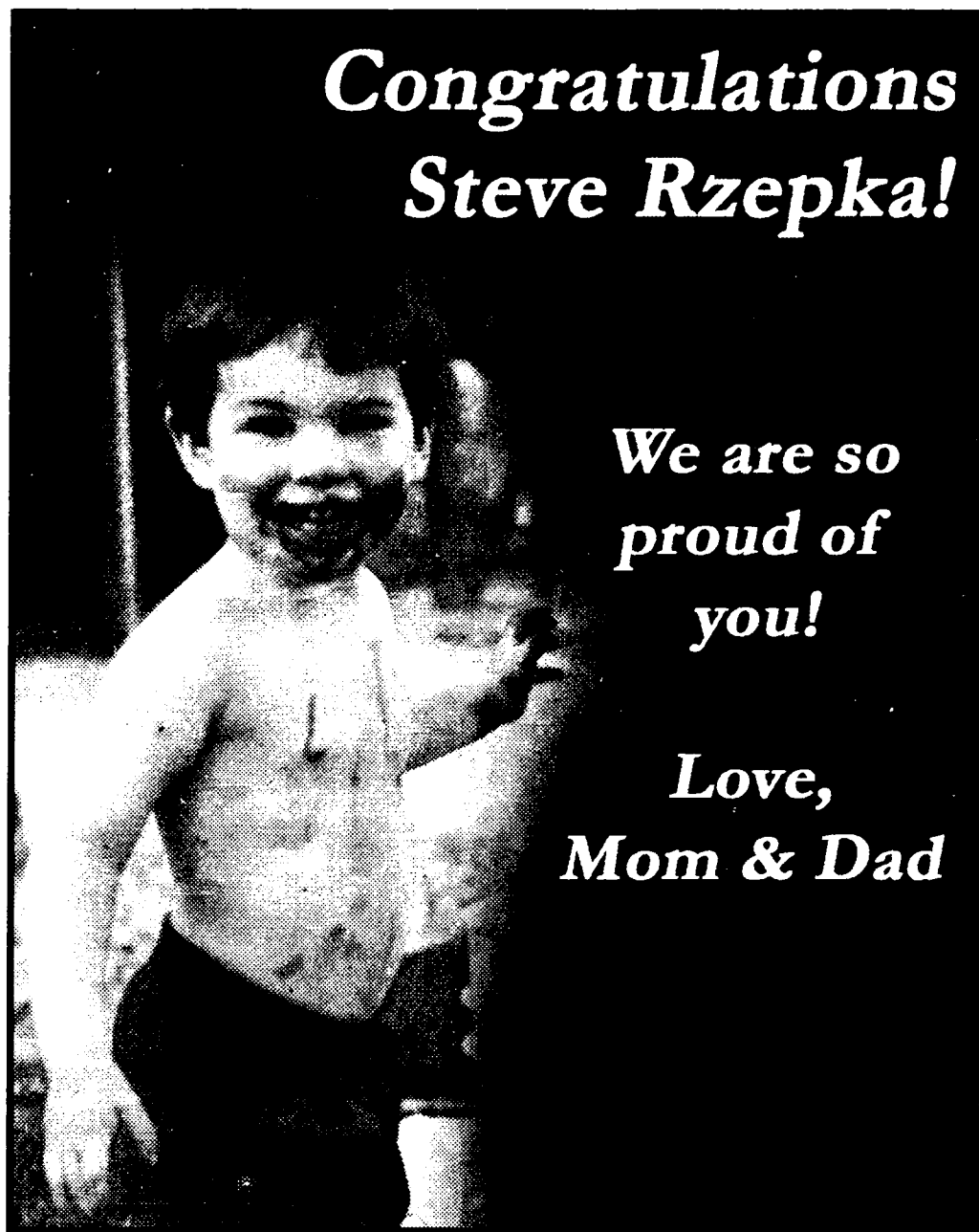
"...it's over, you did it!"
**Love,
Mom and Dad**



**Mi estrellita ya la hiciste!
Gracias por hacen
nuestros sueños una
realidad. Ojala que los
togos tambien se cumplan.**

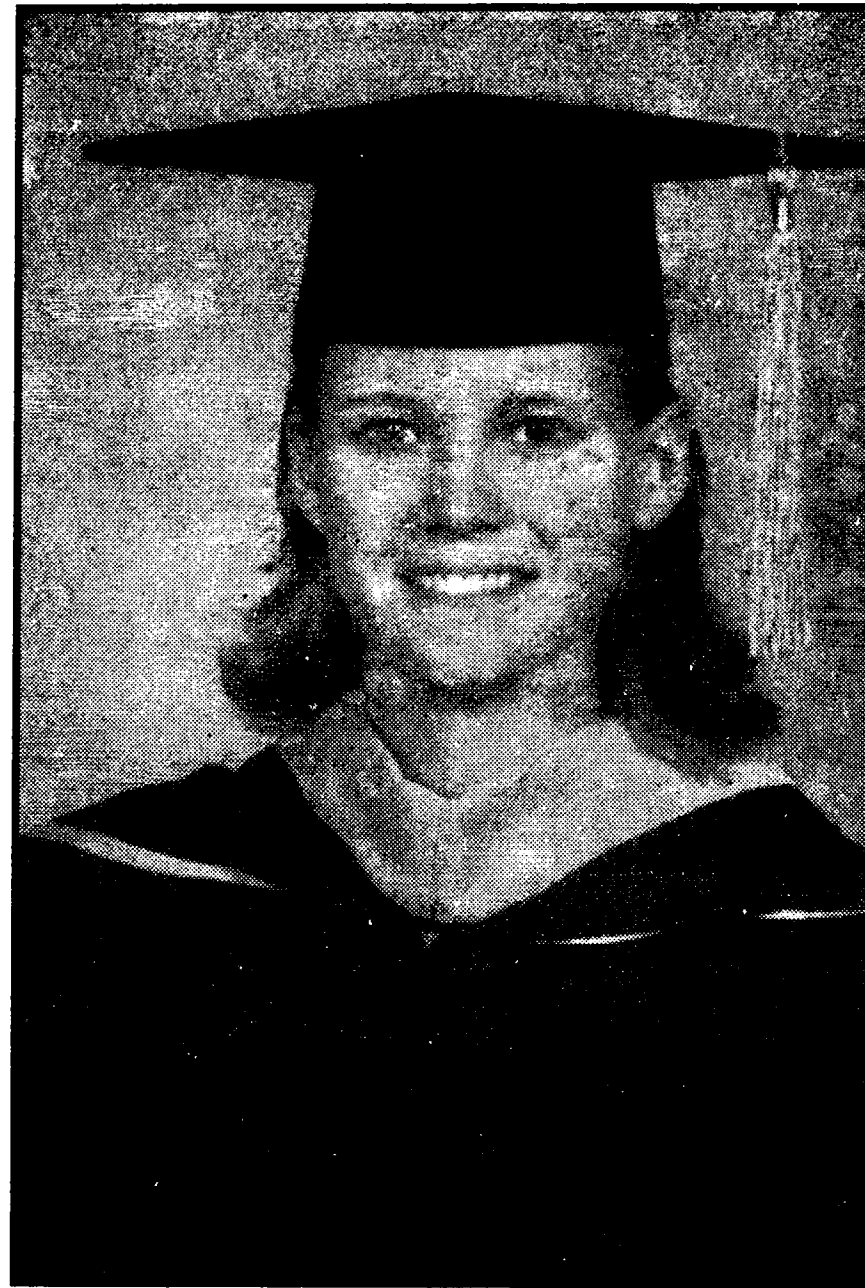


**Congratulations
Steve Rzepka!**



*We are so
proud of
you!*

*Love,
Mom & Dad*

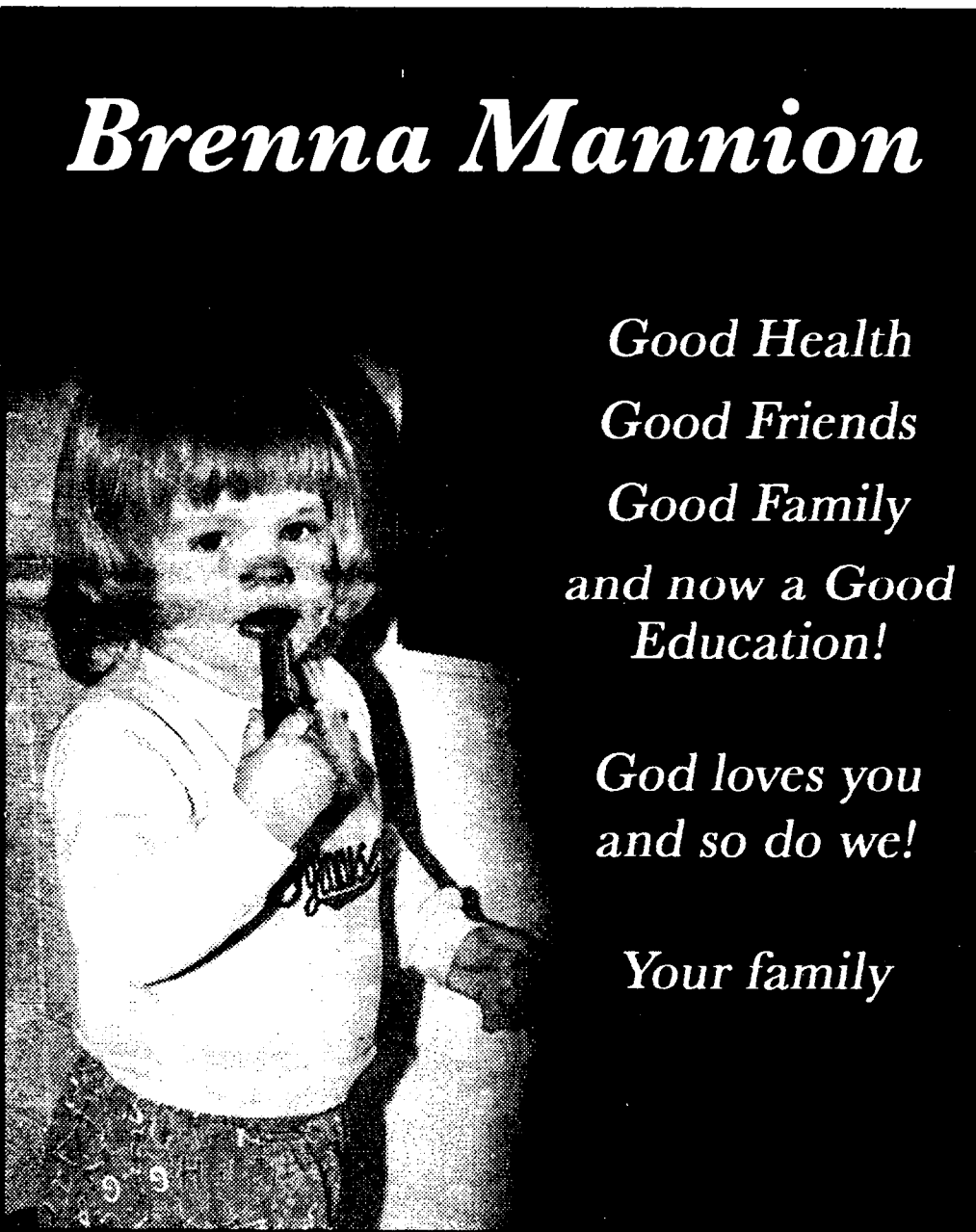


**Congratulations to our
Bio Belle!**

**Bye-O Saint Marys -
Hello PhD in Bio. We're
very proud of you!**

**Love,
Mom, Dad, Matt and
Dylan**

Brenna Mannion



*Good Health
Good Friends
Good Family
and now a Good
Education!*

*God loves you
and so do we!*

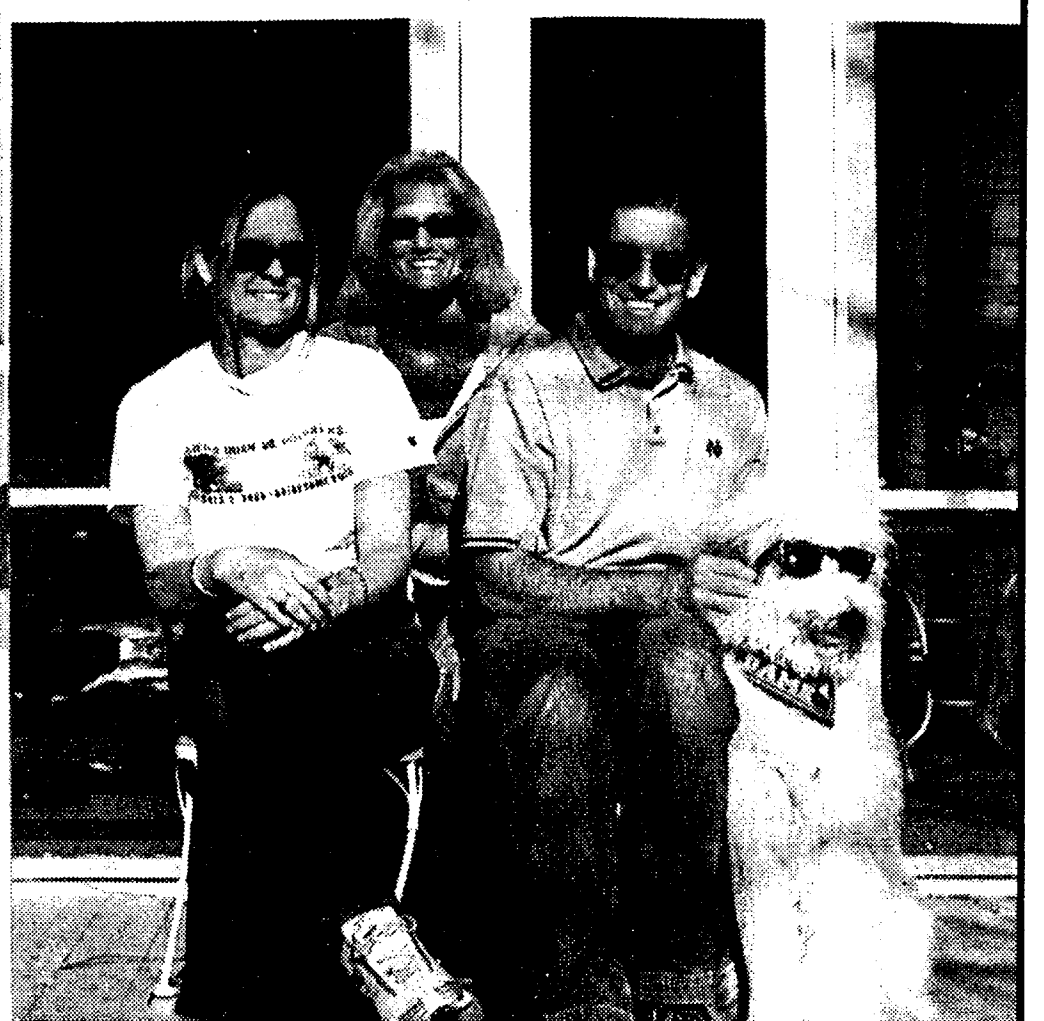
Your family



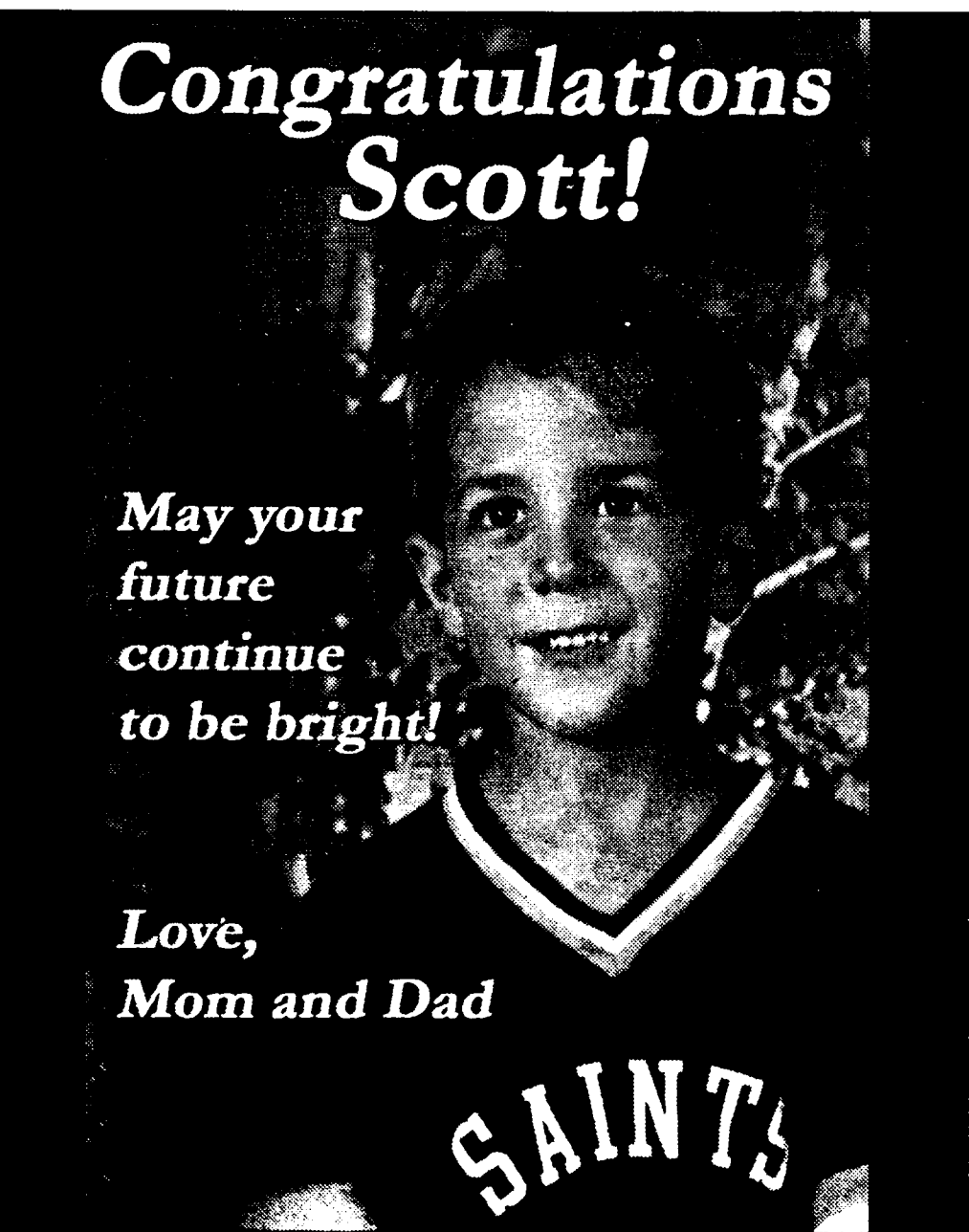
**Congratulations
Stephen!**

Your future's so bright,
we have to wear shades!!!

Love, Mom, Dad, Marta and Corby



**Congratulations
Scott!**



*May your
future
continue
to be bright!*

*Love,
Mom and Dad*

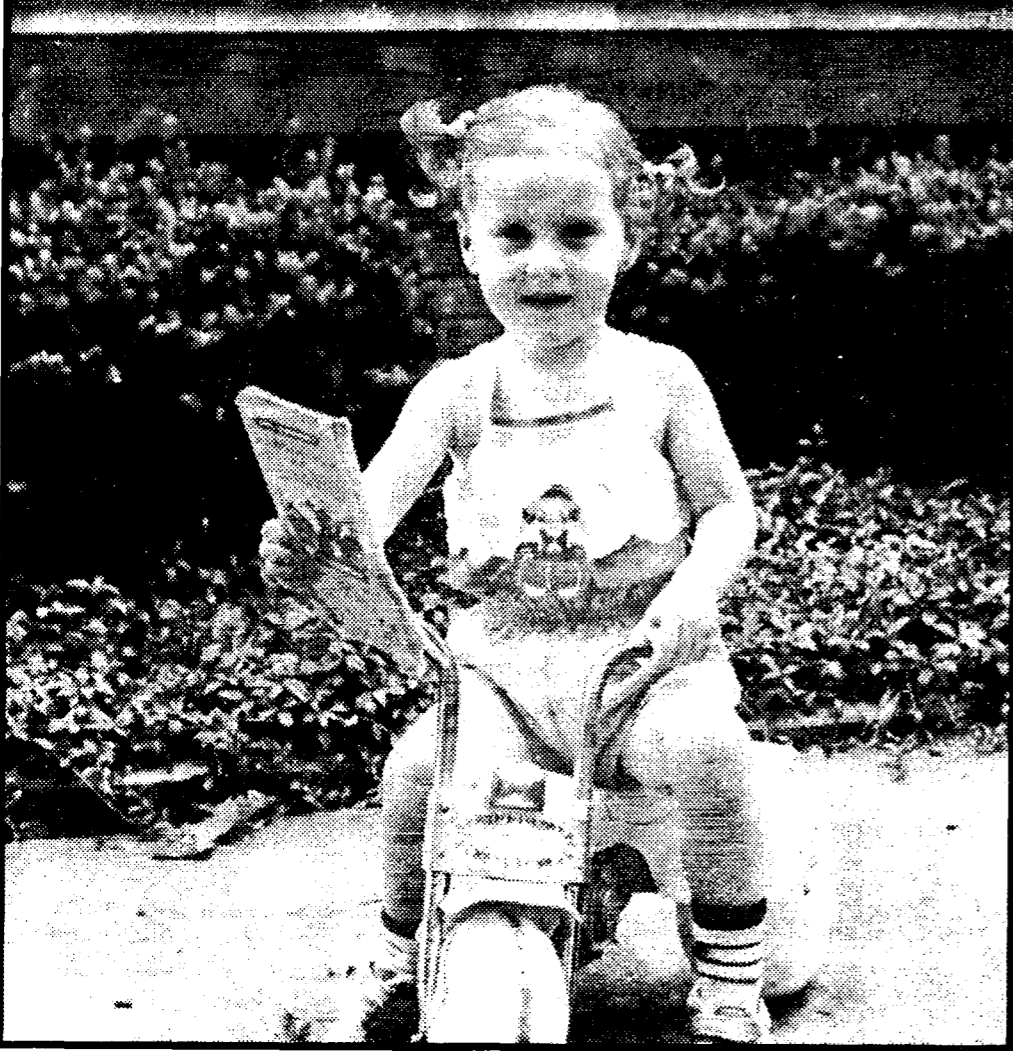
Clare-

*"A thing
of beauty
is a joy
forever!"*

*Love,
Mom,
Dad,
and
Mary*



**Congratulations Alexandra!
We love you and are so proud of you!
Love, Mumsy and Dad**



**Congratulations
Brittny Rose!**

**We are so proud
of you.
Love,
Mommy & Daddy**



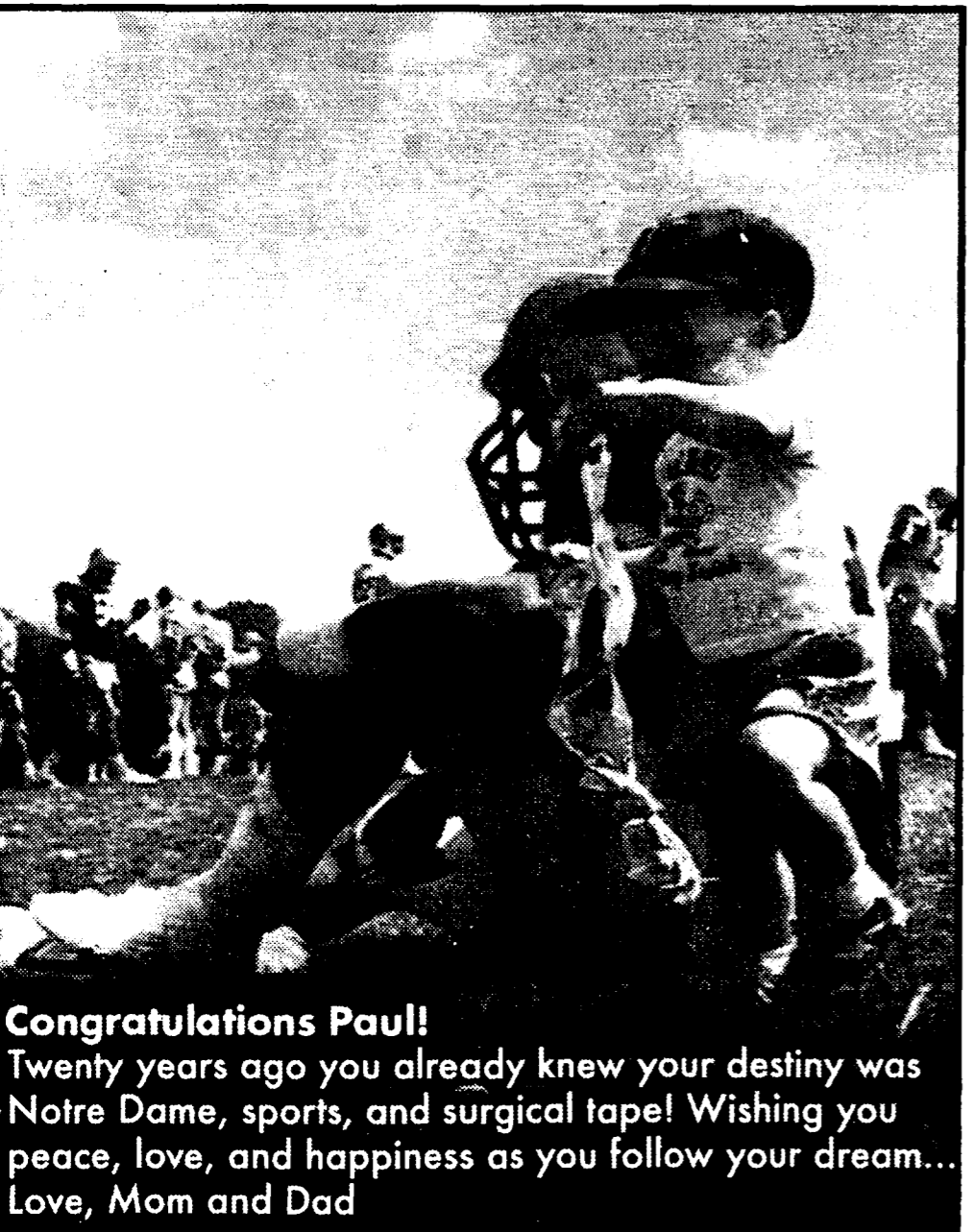
**Congratulations, Kim!
We are very proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad & Chrissy**



**Congratulations Kerrie!
From your first day of
school till your last - you've
made us so proud.**



**A domer at last!
Love,
Mom & Dad**



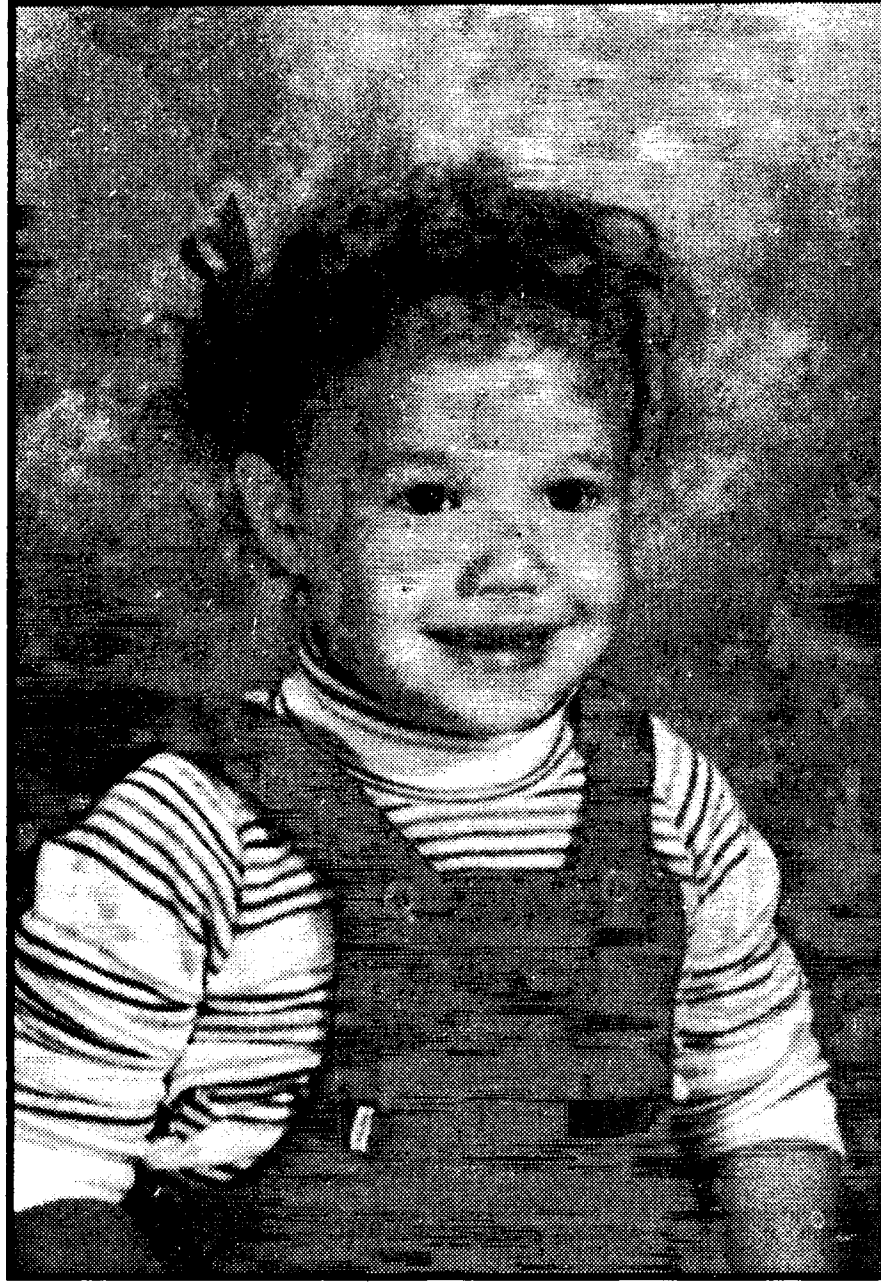
Congratulations Paul!
Twenty years ago you already knew your destiny was Notre Dame, sports, and surgical tape! Wishing you peace, love, and happiness as you follow your dream...
Love, Mom and Dad



**Congratulations
Matthew**

**We are all very proud of you.
Love,
Mom, Dad & Kevin**

CONGRATULATIONS CLASSES OF 2006!



Congratulations Amber

*You have always
made us very
proud.*

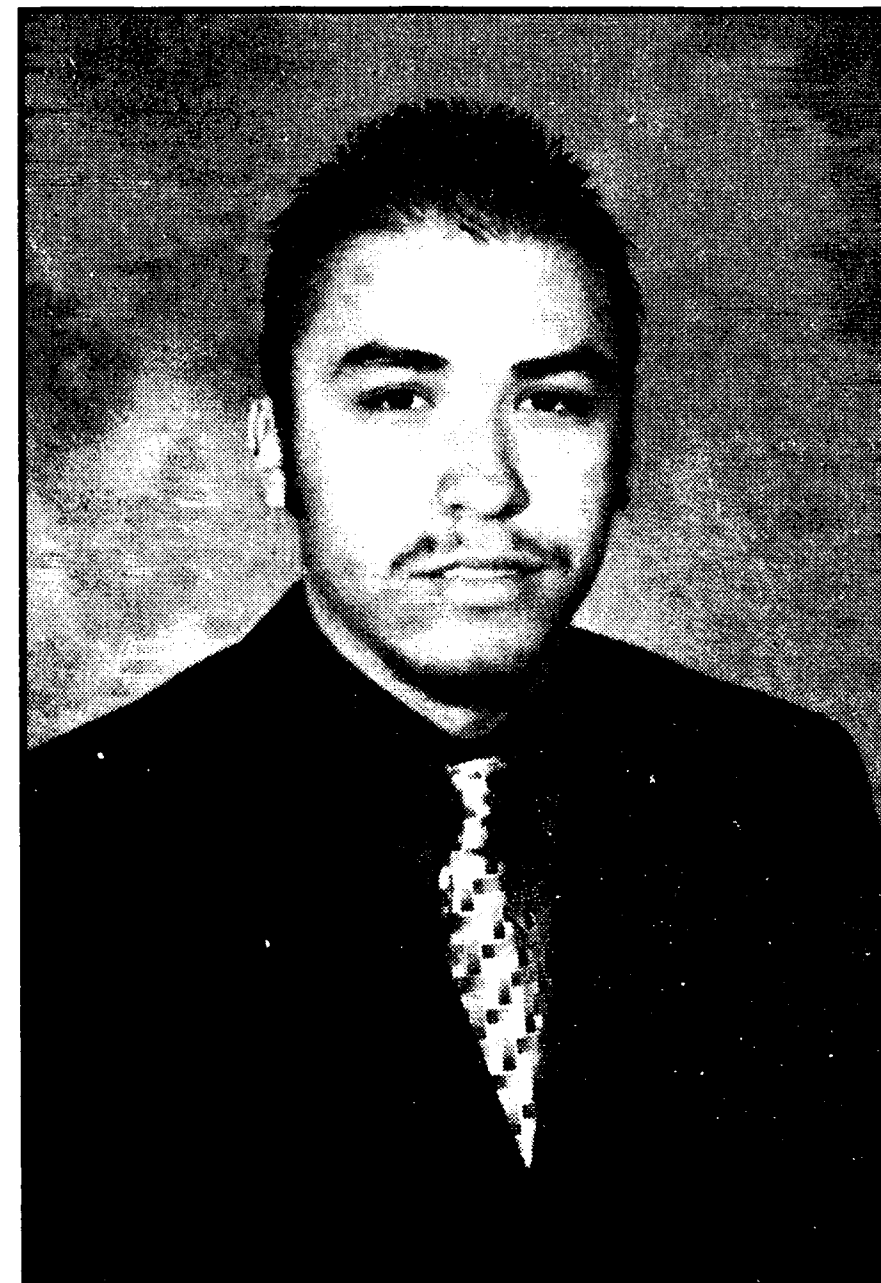
*Love, Mom, Dad,
Maya, Glenn, Judi,
Willy, Jack, Sam
and Grandmom
and Deda*

Congratulations Son!



*You are an
inspiration
to our family.*

*May God
keep you
happy, healthy
and successful.*



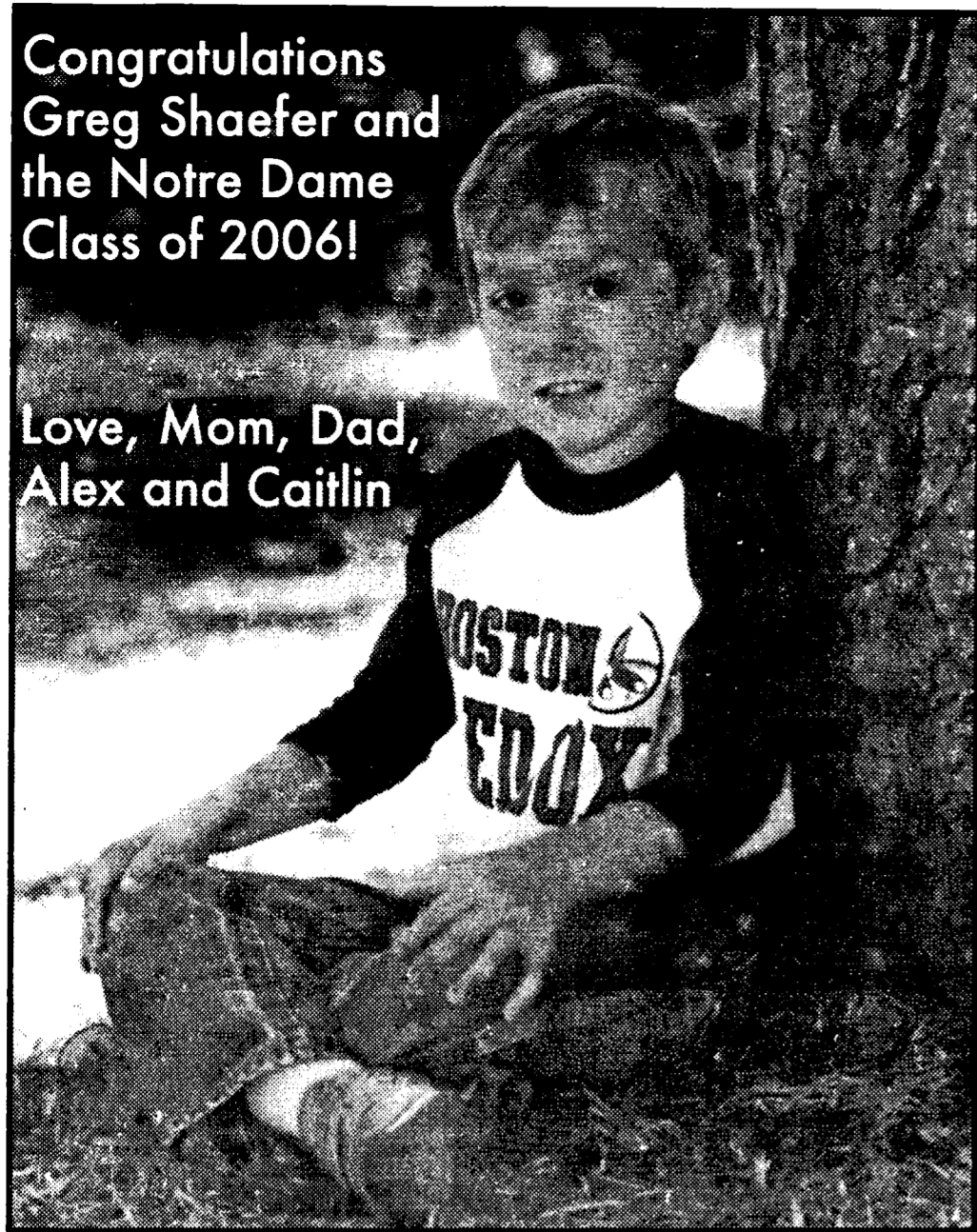
*We are very proud
of you and your
accomplishments.*

We love you!

—Your family

**Congratulations
Greg Shaefer and
the Notre Dame
Class of 2006!**

**Love, Mom, Dad,
Alex and Caitlin**



CONGRATULATIONS !

Congratulations Erica!

**We are very proud
of you.**

**Love,
Mom, Dad, Stephanie
and Melissa**



Congratulations Ryan!

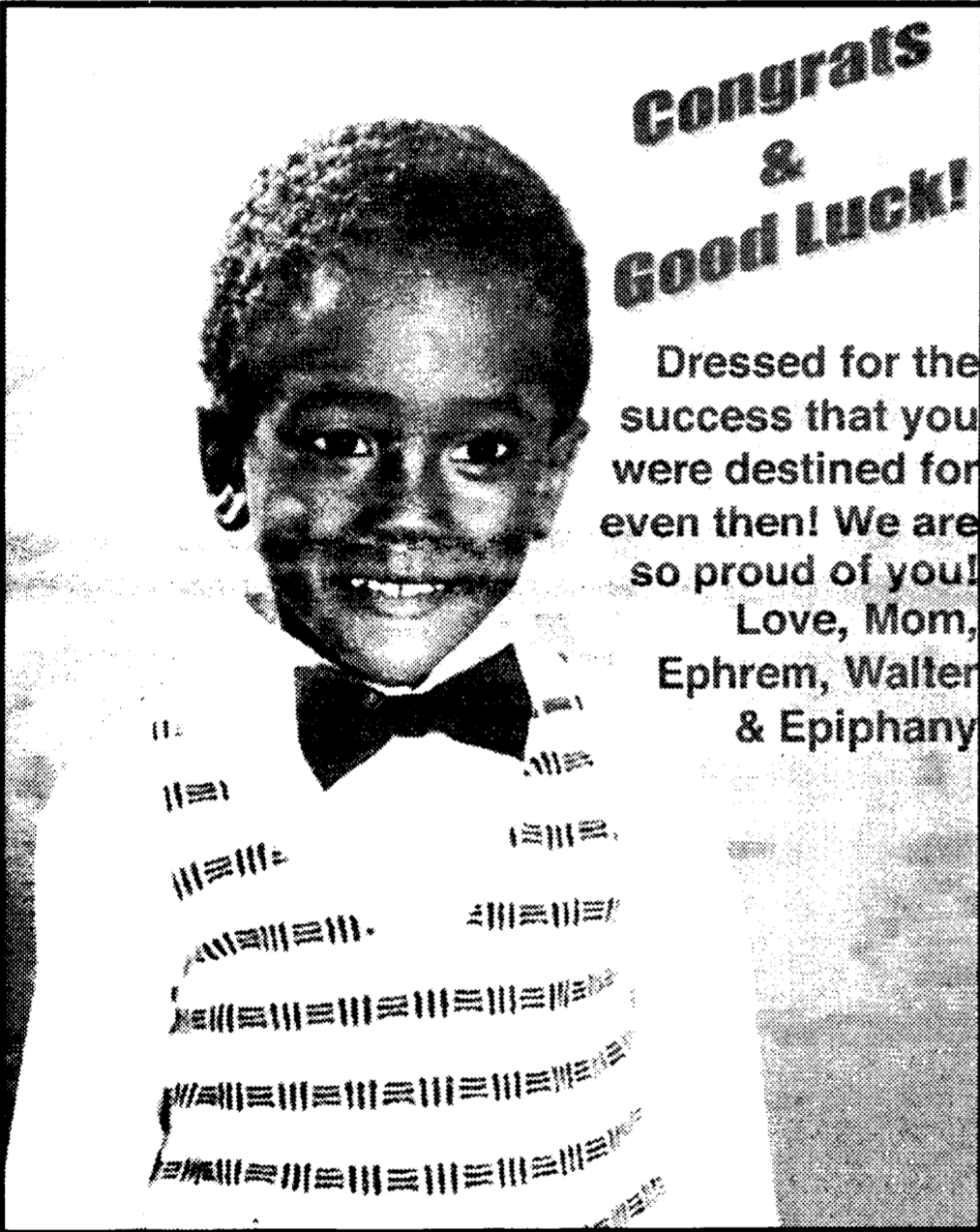
Your Dream Is Now Complete!

**Love, Mom, Dad,
Stacie and Shawn**



**Congrats
&
Good Luck!**

**Dressed for the
success that you
were destined for
even then! We are
so proud of you!
Love, Mom,
Ephrem, Walter
& Epiphany**



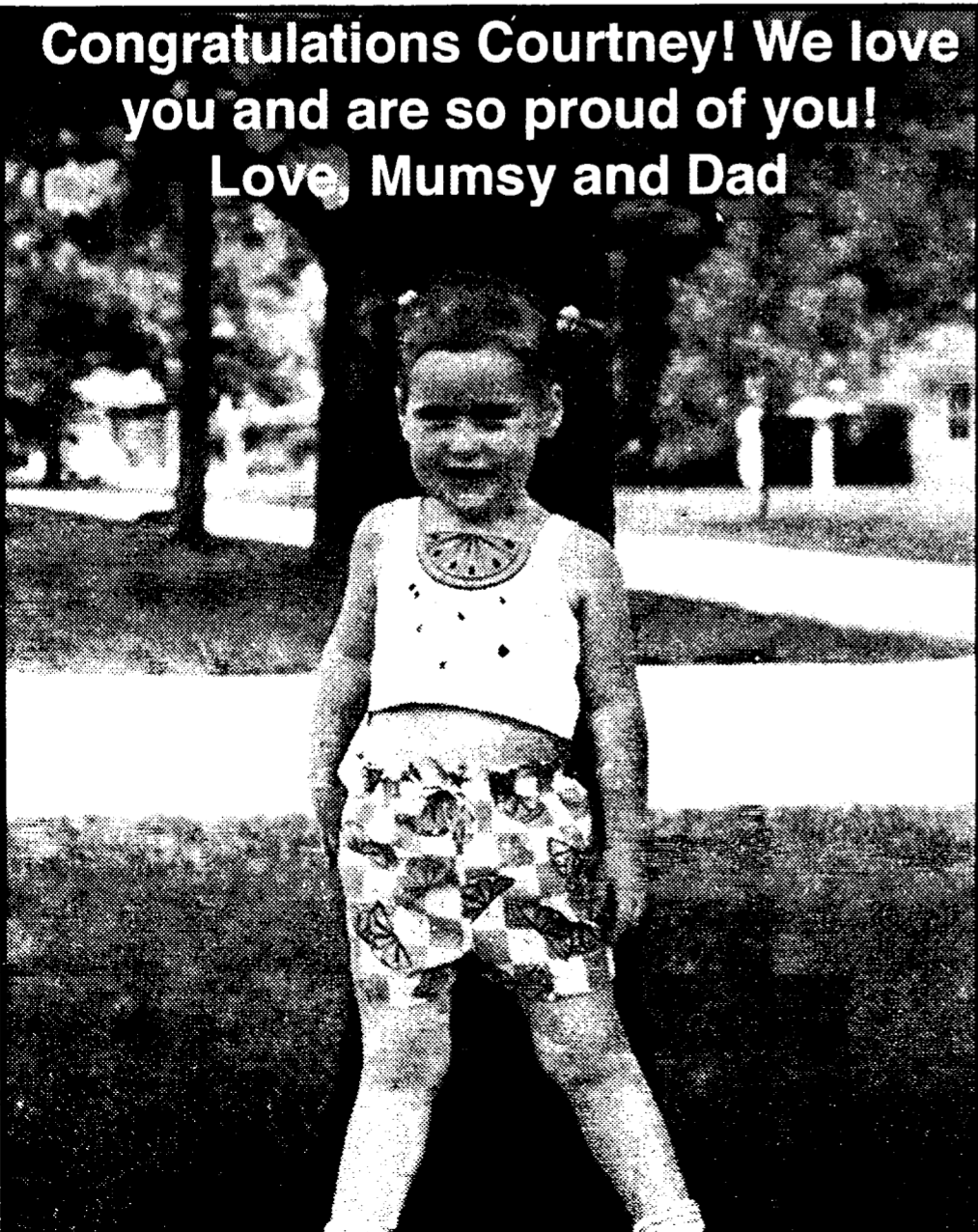
Congratulations Richie!

**You did great and we're
very proud of you.**

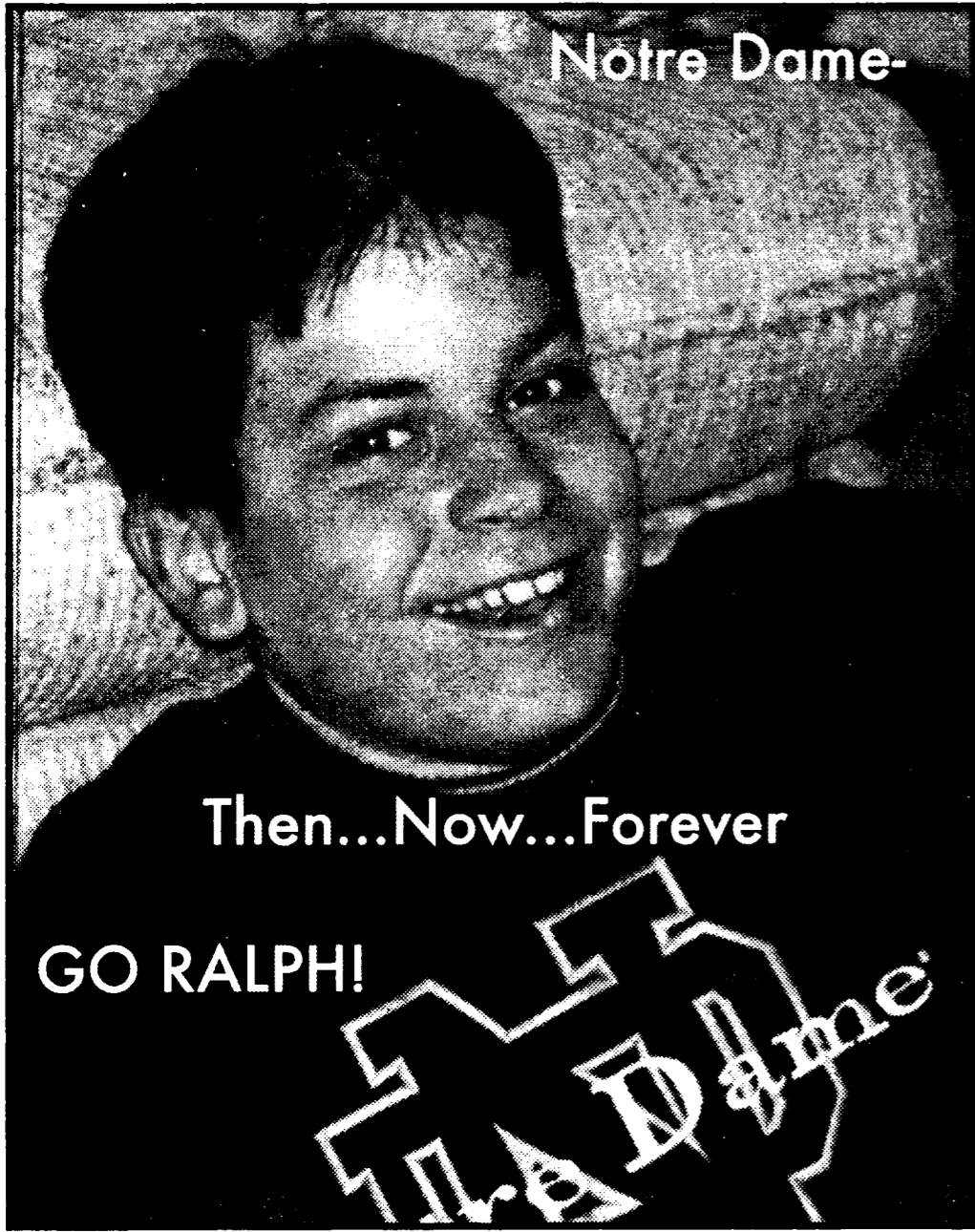
**Love
Mom, Dad, and Chris**



**Congratulations Courtney! We love
you and are so proud of you!
Love, Mumsy and Dad**

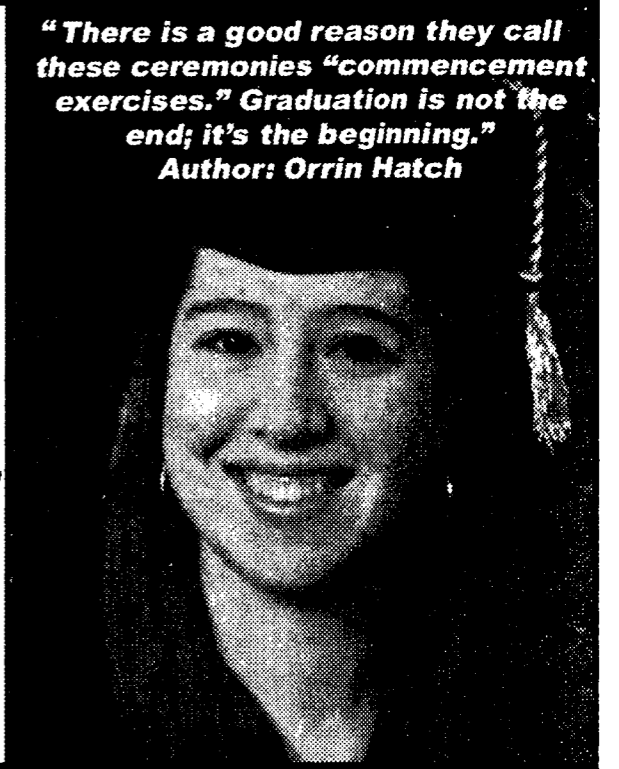


CLASS OF 2006!

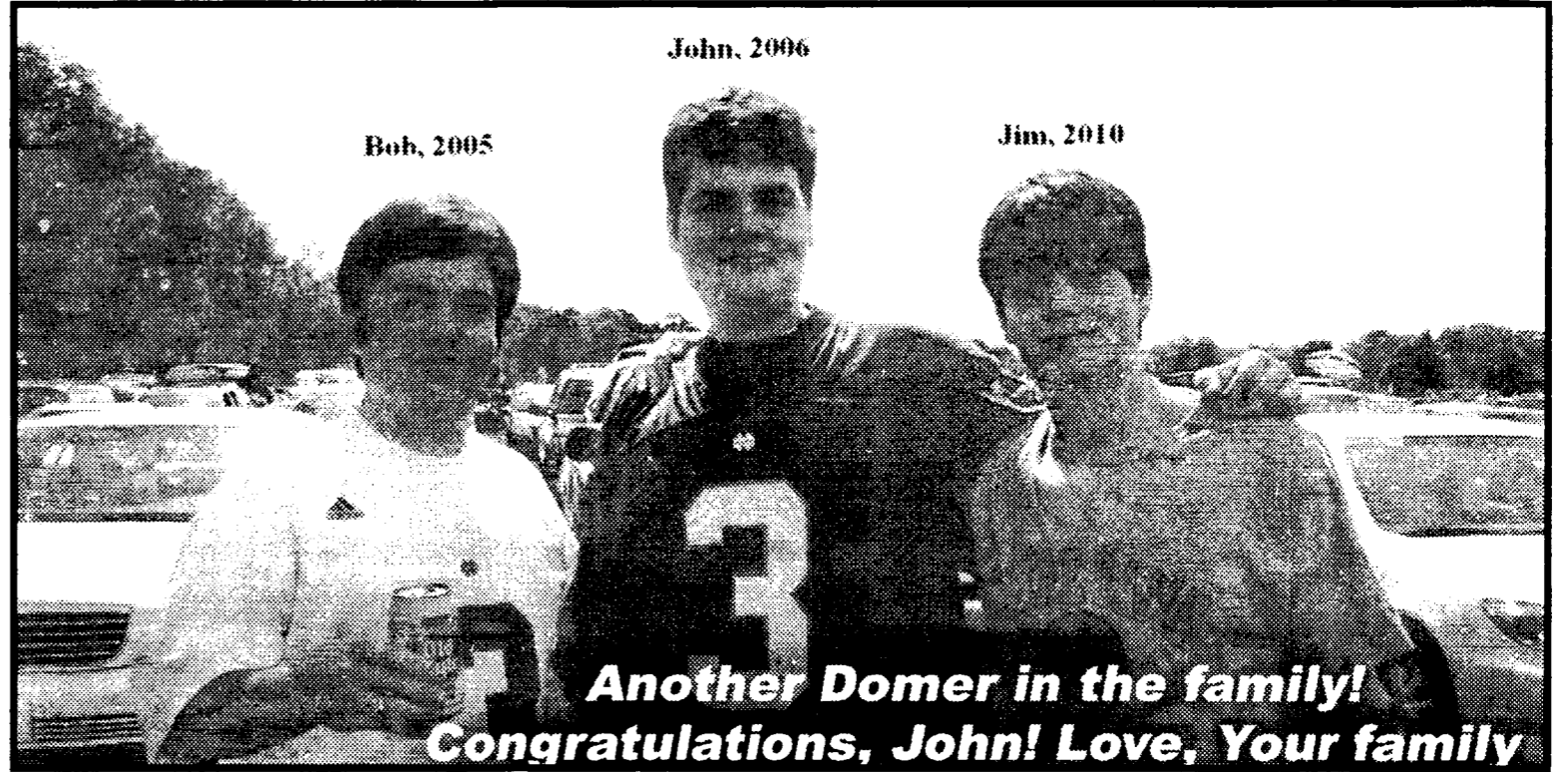


From your first Catholic School Graduation to you most recent Catholic School Graduation, you have remained true to your family, your faith, and your ideals. We are very proud of you! Congratulations on your graduation from The University of Notre Dame!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Stephanie,
Jennifer, Uncle Tony, and Mark



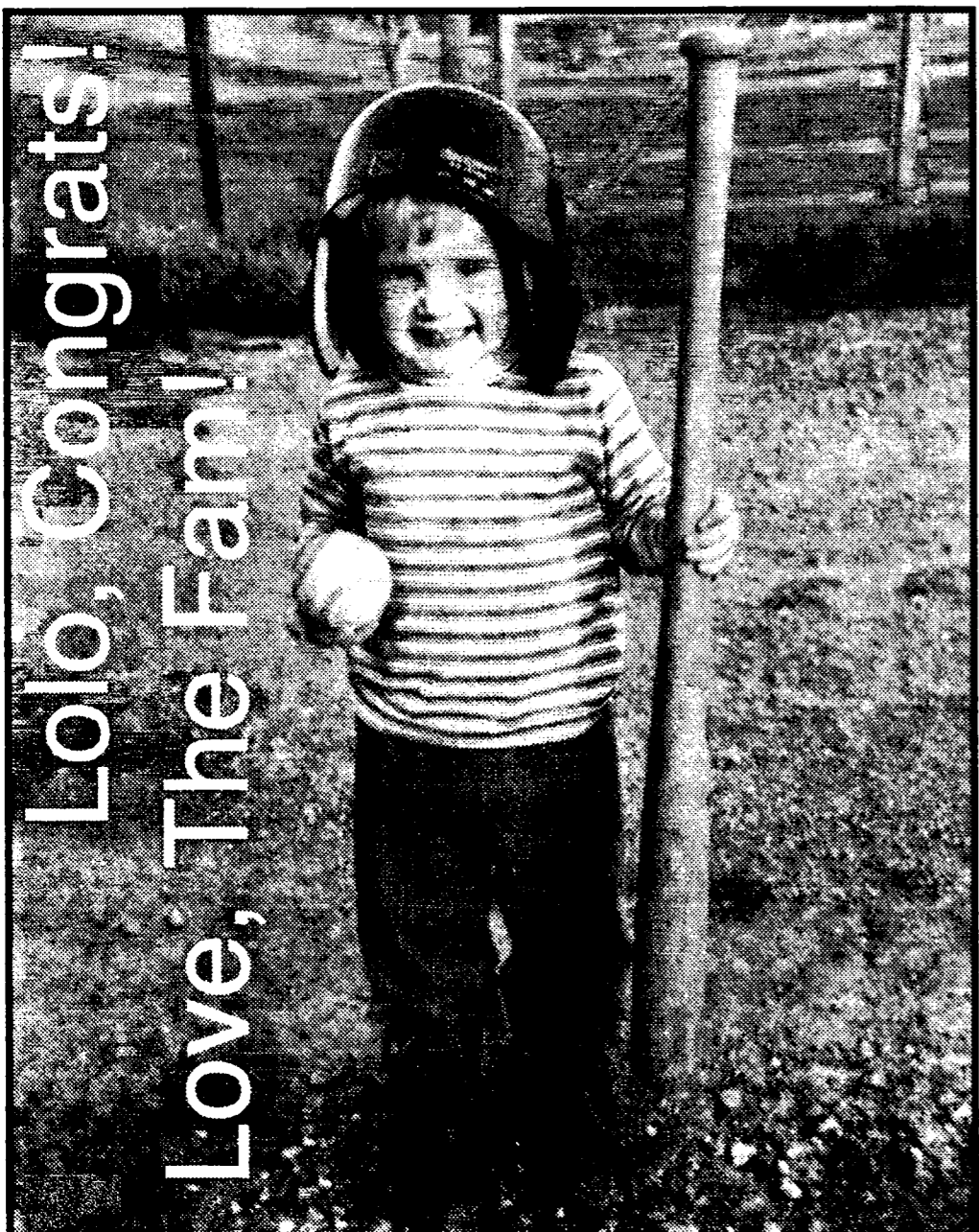
Congratulations Megs!
We're so proud of you as you fly into the next chapter of your life.
Love, Mom & Dad



*May God keep you safe as your dreams come to be.
May you remain close to your Mother, and also to me.
May your love of life, see you through good times and bad,
and may the times you are happy, far outnumber the sad.
may each magic moment be full of wonder for you,
and most important of all,
know we'll always love you.*



Congratulations & Love
- Mom, Dad, & Kenneth



Congratulations Sarah!
 We're so very glad to share this important time in your life. We're proud of you and all you've achieved. May God bless you and guide you. May all your days be filled with happiness.
 Love, your family.



CONGRATS!!

TO OUR MONTANA COWBOY,

"Choose to chance the rapids,
 Dare to dance the tide..."

For all you have accomplished we are beaming with pride!

So ride into the future,
 We're right there by your side!!

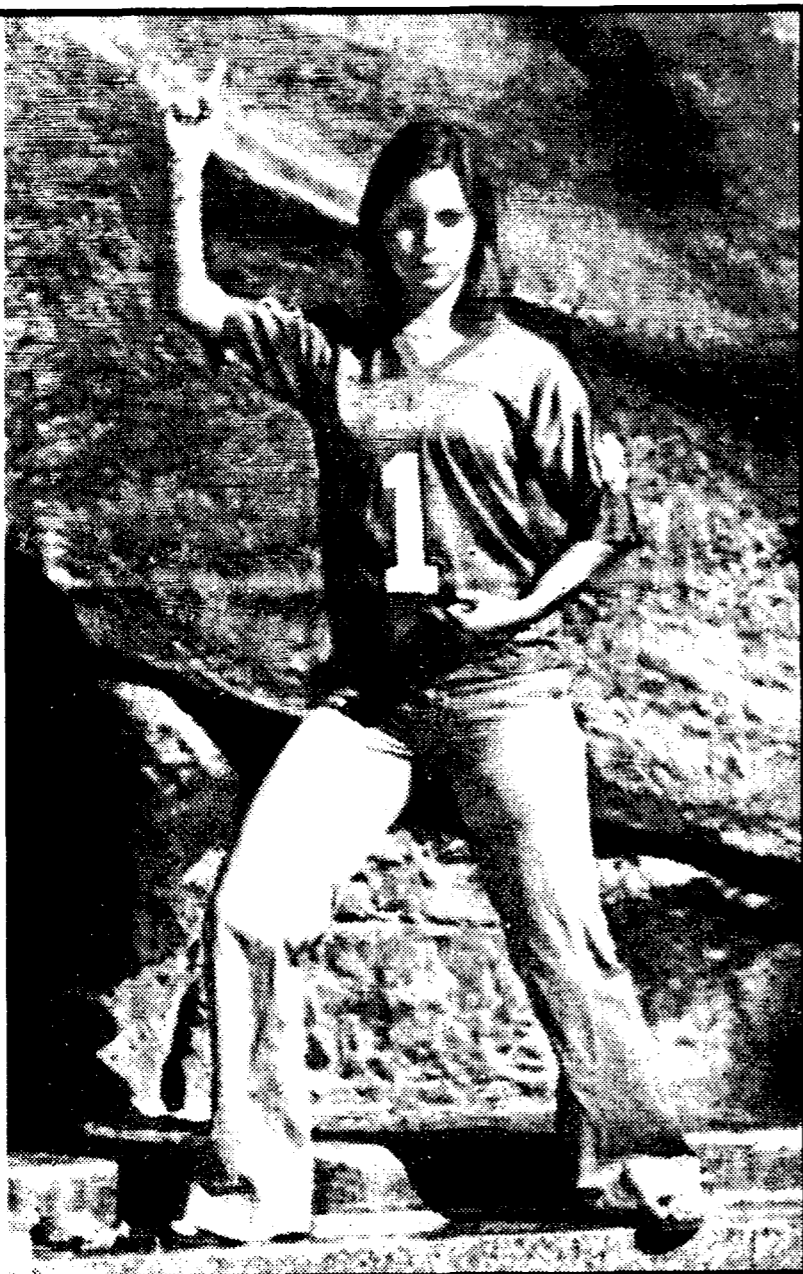
God Bless,
 Love
 Mom, Dad & Katie



Congratulations Karen!
 "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord... to give you a future full of hope."
 Jeremiah 29:11

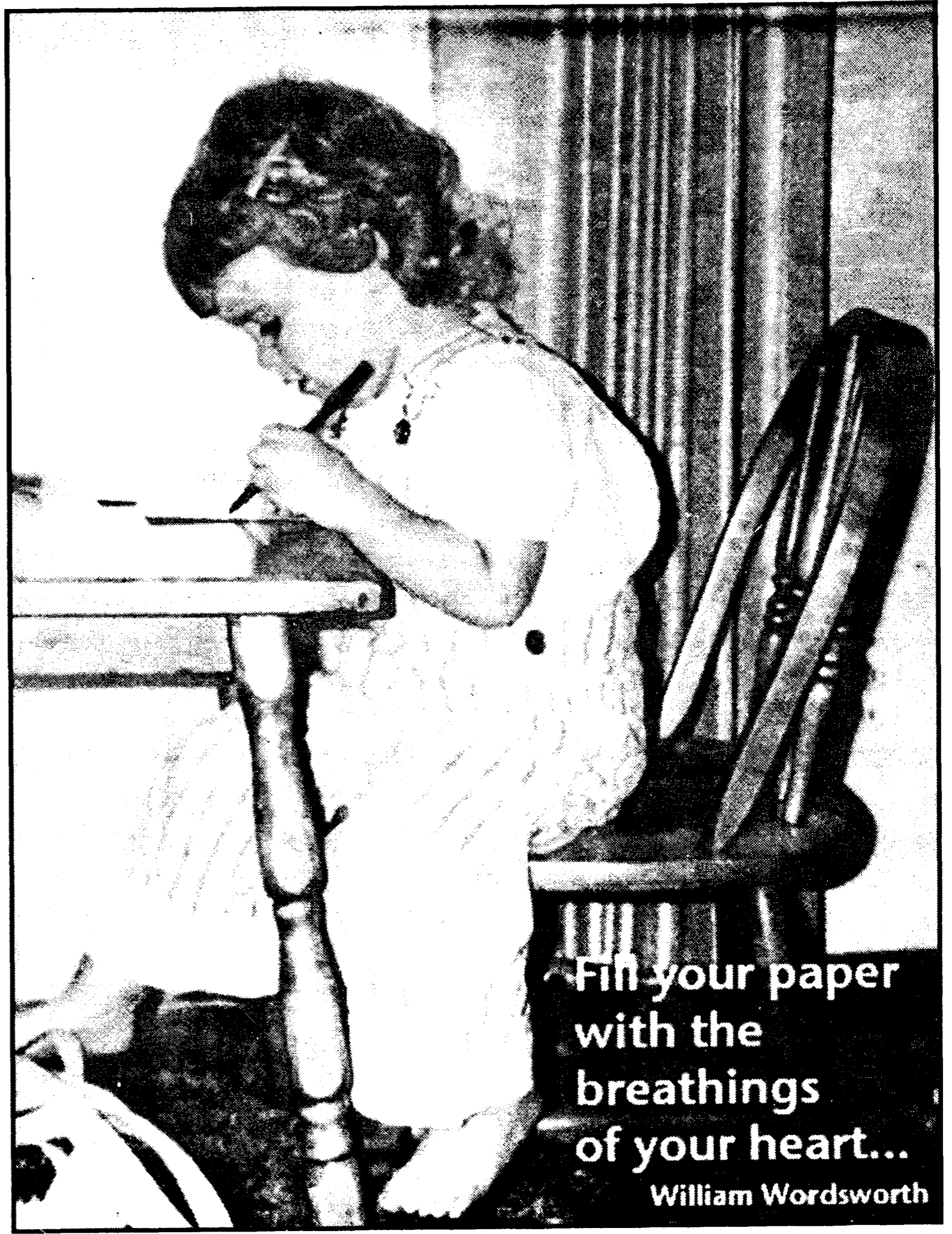


Christy Tabbit is #1!



Congratulations Andy! You've always loved swords! Your hard work has paid off. Now you have a REAL ONE!

Love, Mom,
 Dad, Erin,
 Marci and



Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart...

William Wordsworth



From cheering for the rams to cheering for the Irish, it has been a Great Ride. We love you and are so proud of you.

Love,
Dad, Mom, Katie,
Courtney, Eddie and Elliott



Congratulations Sunshine/Bunk!!

We are so proud of you! May you continue to live your dreams. Always remember to "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."

We love you.
Peace and Love
Momby and Dada

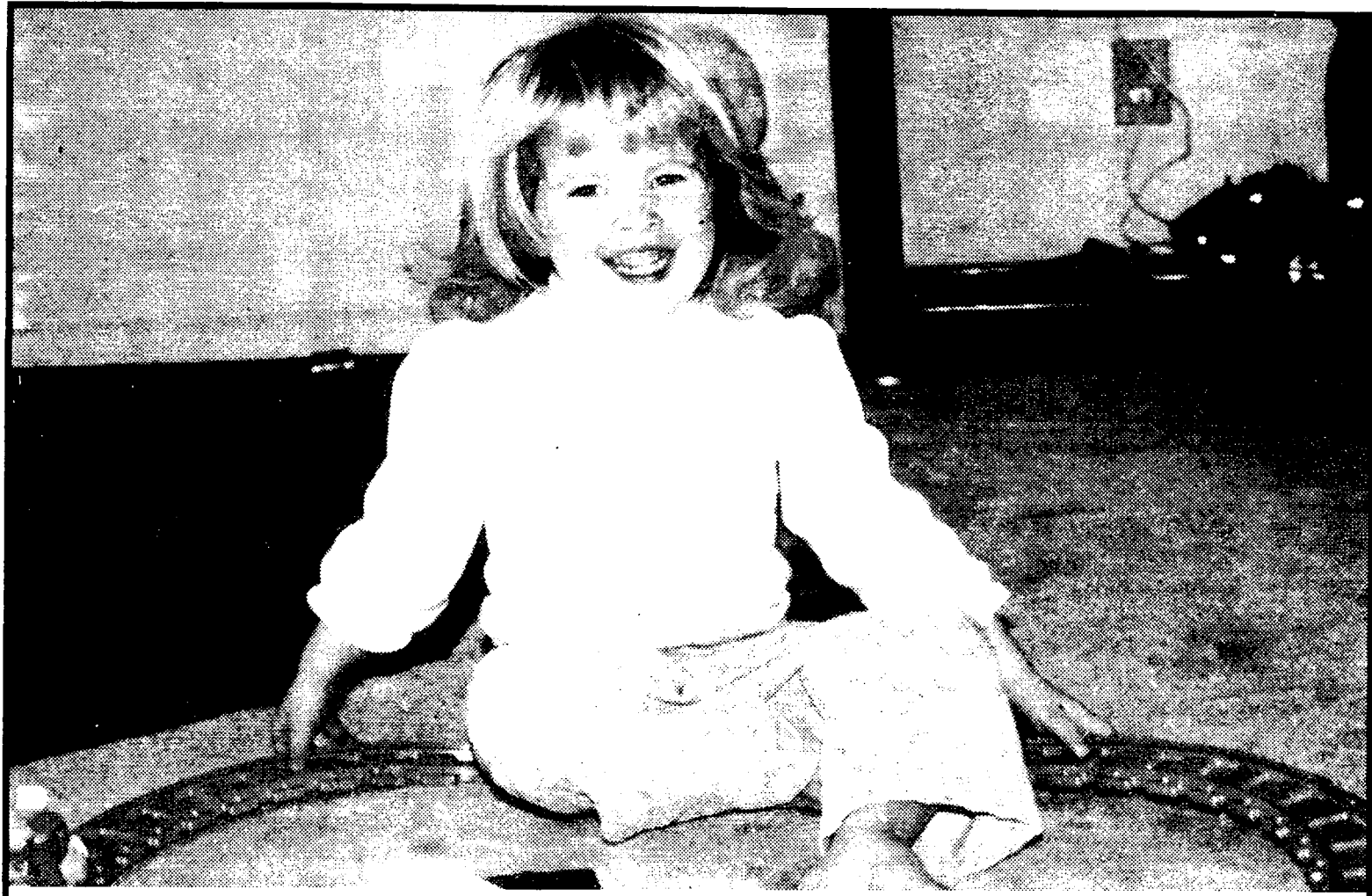
1989

2006

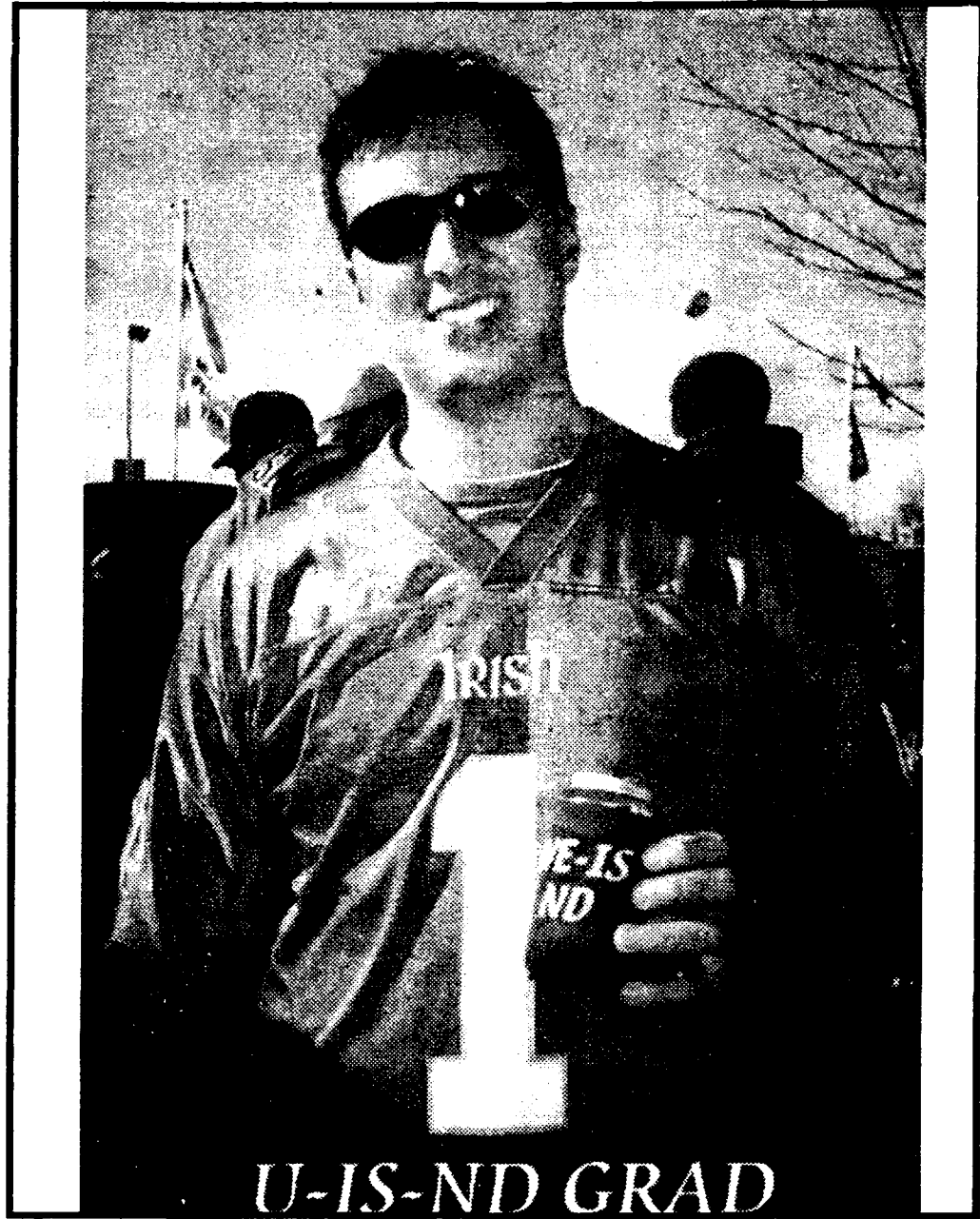


Congratulations, Laur! We are all very proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Brods,
Jenni, Zak, Nate, Evan Fedaks,
Auntie Ann, and the Mars.



**Congratulations Stephanie!
We are very proud of you.
Love, Mom, Dad, Brian and Stacy**



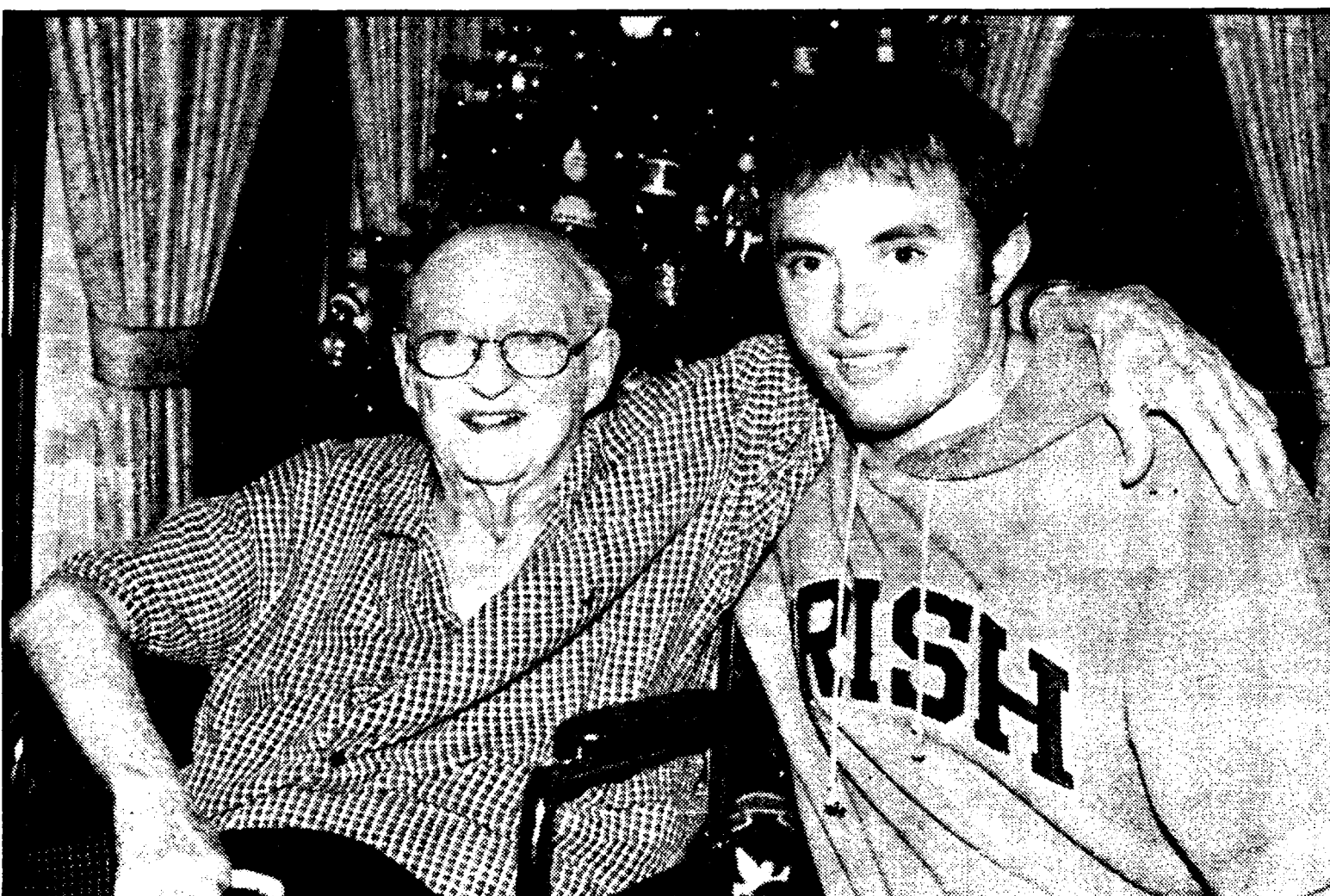
U-IS-ND GRAD



**Amy Leonard-
We've been proud
since the beginning!
Congratulations!
Love, Dad, Mom,
and Melissa**



**We are so very
proud of you!
Love, Mom & Dad ('75),
Chris ('04), and Ben!**

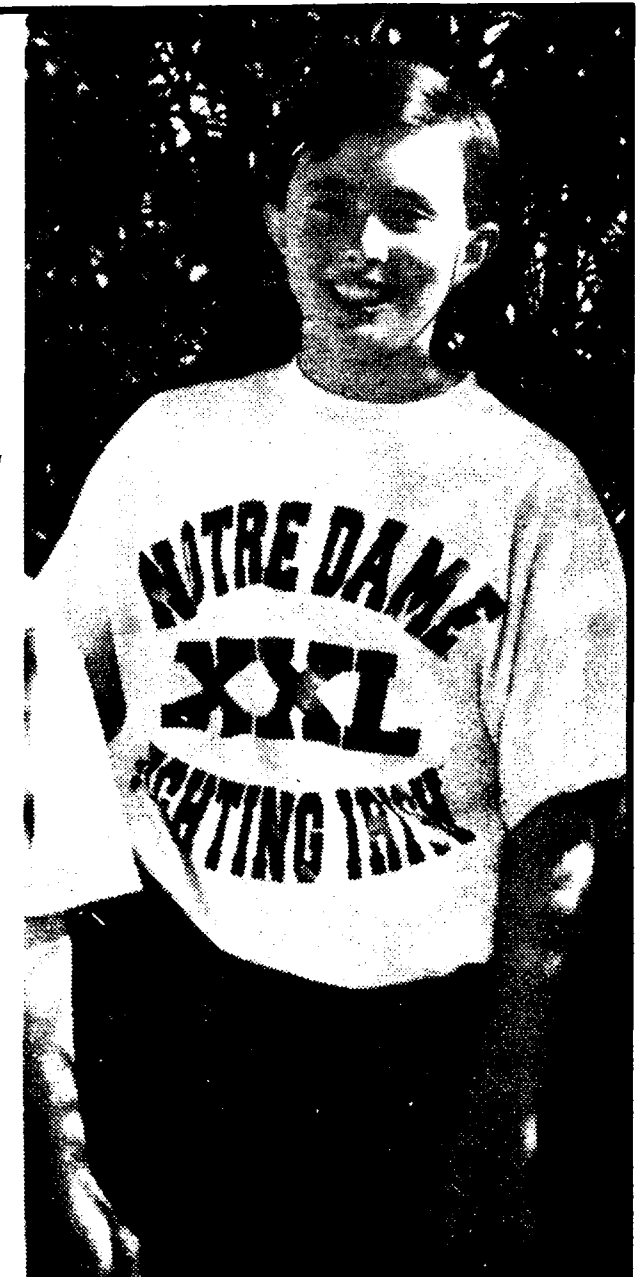


JAB '42

KGC '06

Go Irish!

**Kevin,
We couldn't
be prouder!
Love you,
Mom and
Dad**



CONGRATS CLASS OF 2006!



Then I was deep within the woods
When, suddenly, I spied them.
I saw a pair of pale green pants
With nobody inside them!

I wasn't scared. But, yet, I stopped.
What *could* those pants be there for?
What *could* a pair of pants at night
Be standing in the air for?

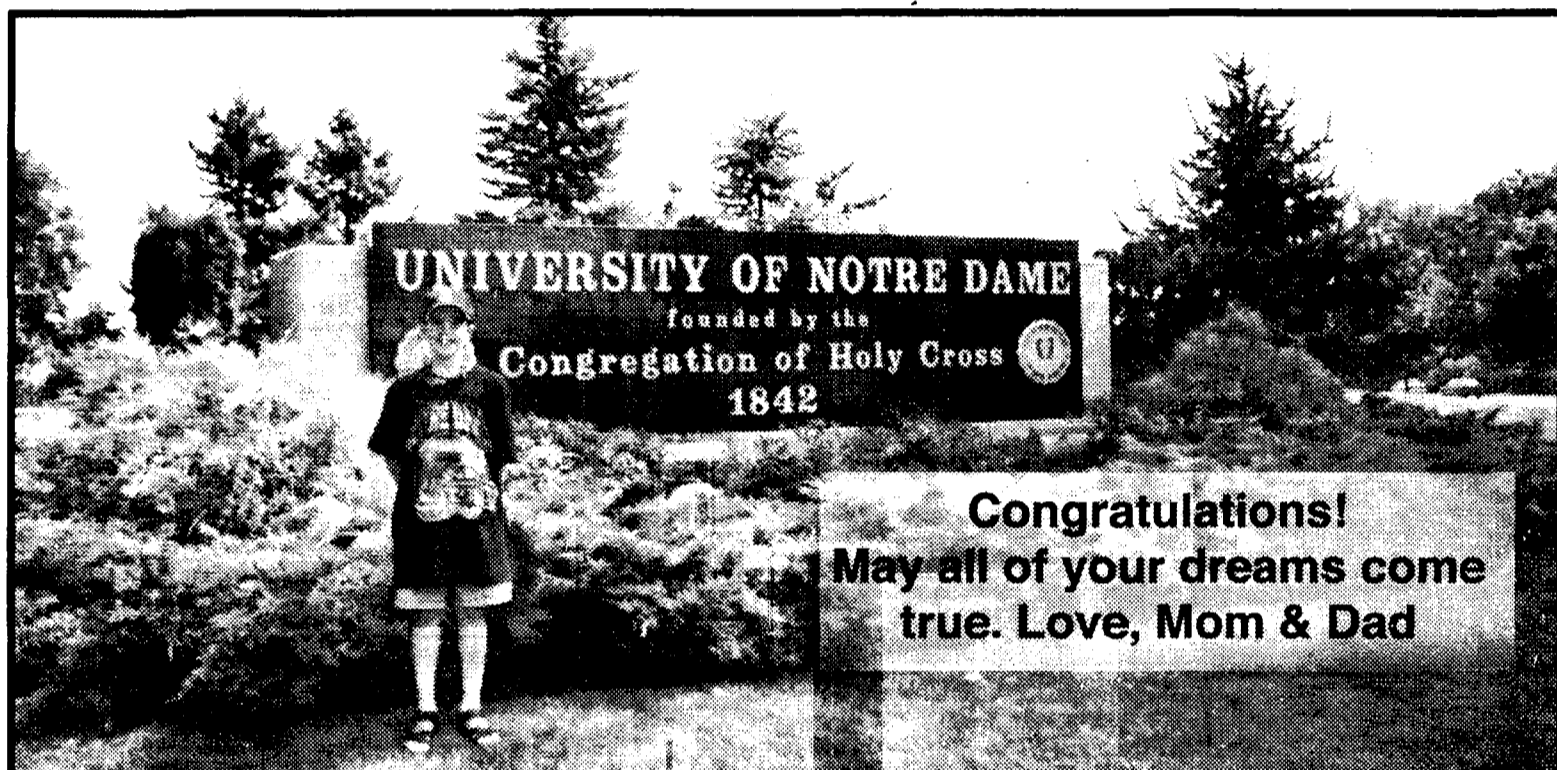
Way to Be, Christopher!
Love, Mom, Dad, & Kathryn



*You lived your
dream of the
Fighting Irish.*

We love you.

Mom & Dad



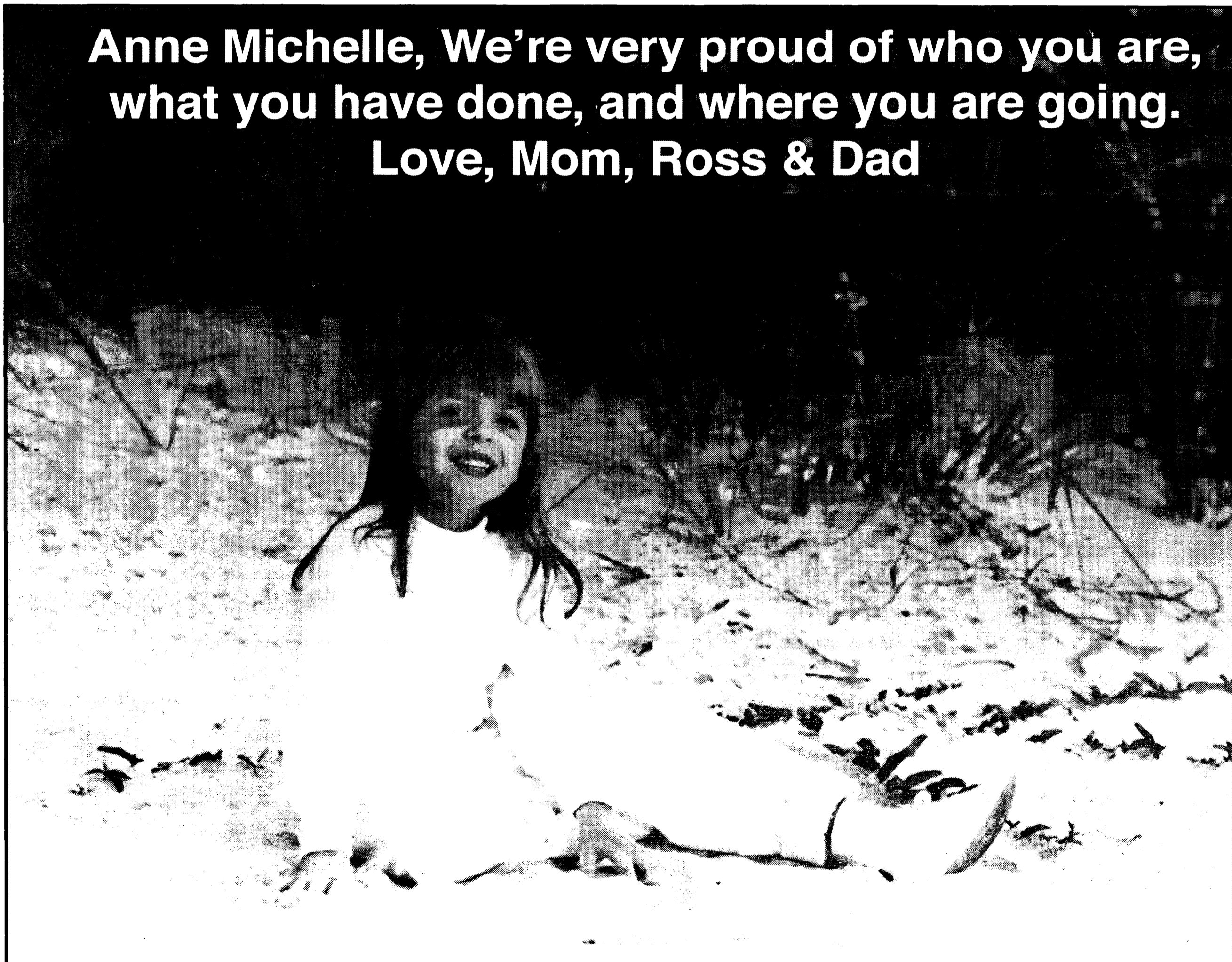
Congratulations!
May all of your dreams come
true. Love, Mom & Dad



Katie,
Congratulations on fulfilling
the dream you had since
you were a little girl. We are
so proud of your
accomplishments. You have
become a lovely young
woman and we are blessed
to call you ours. We love
you and may God bless you
always!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Sean

**Anne Michelle, We're very proud of who you are,
what you have done, and where you are going.
Love, Mom, Ross & Dad**



GOOD LUCK SENIORS!



You've come a long way, baby!

Lynn ~ You've grown into a beautiful person, and we couldn't be more proud of you.

*Love, Mom, Dad,
Karen, Steve & Nala*



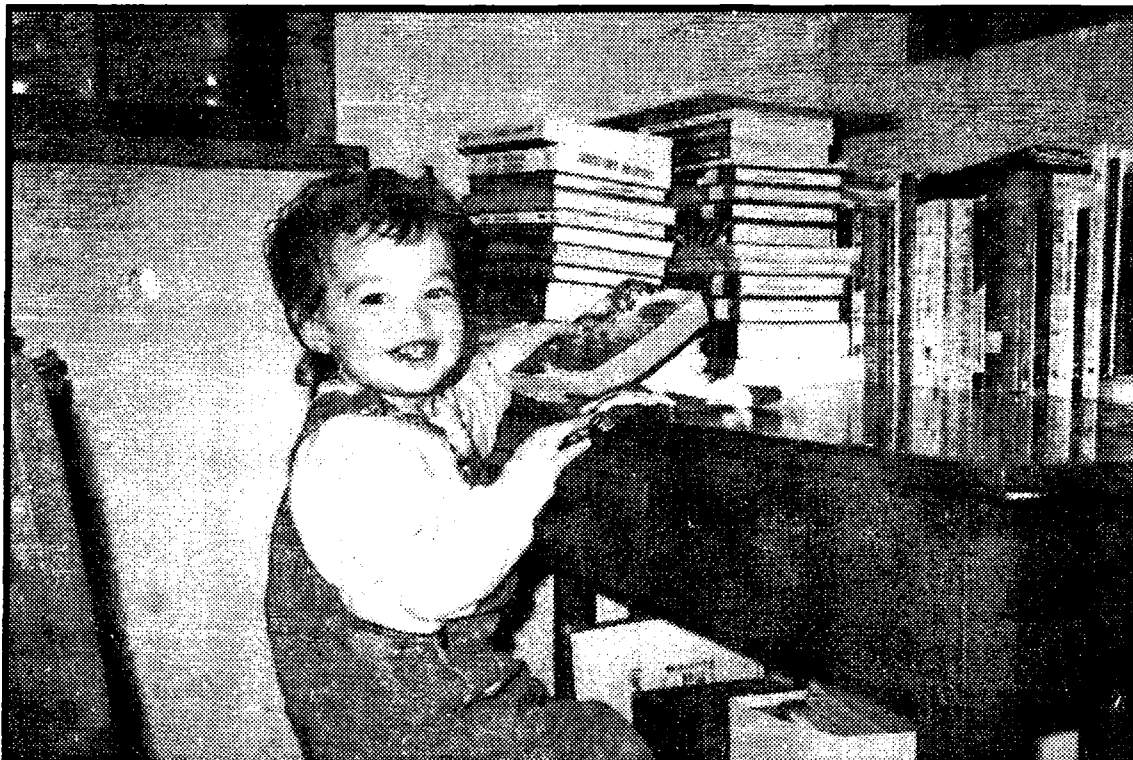
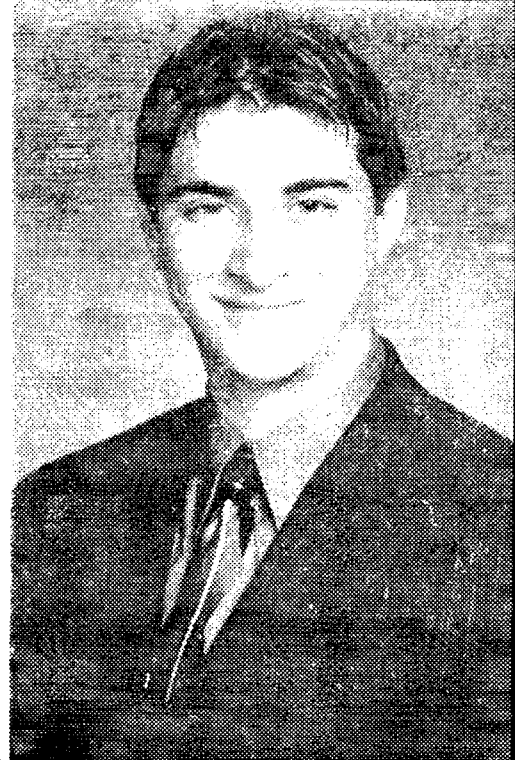
***Ryan,
You saved the best for last. Now your dreams are at your fingertips. Congratulations!***

***Love, Mom, Dad,
Bill & Jenny***

***Jordan Thomas Beissel,
aerospace engineering***

"May God guide your way as you reach for the Stars."

***Love,
Mom, Dad, Joy (ND '09)
and Christopher***



Congratulations, Claire...

Keep delighting in reading and writing!

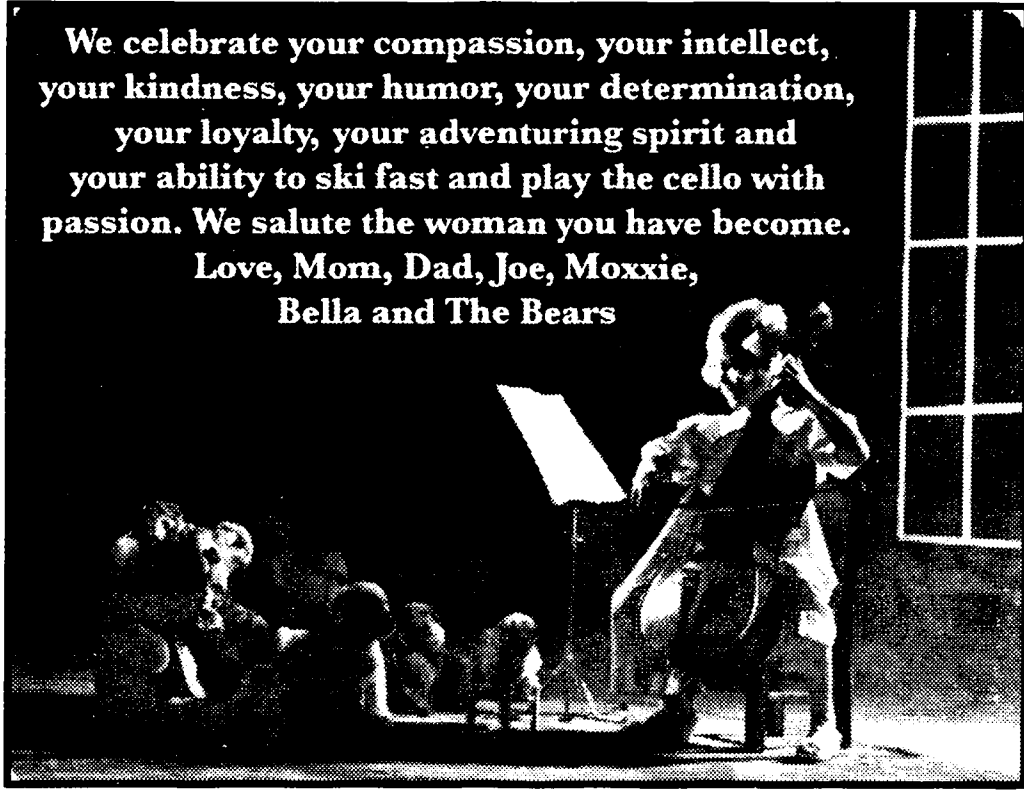
***Love,
Dad, Mom,
and Will***



***Elizabeth,
We are so proud of you. We love you very very much!
Love, Mom and Dad***

CONGRATS

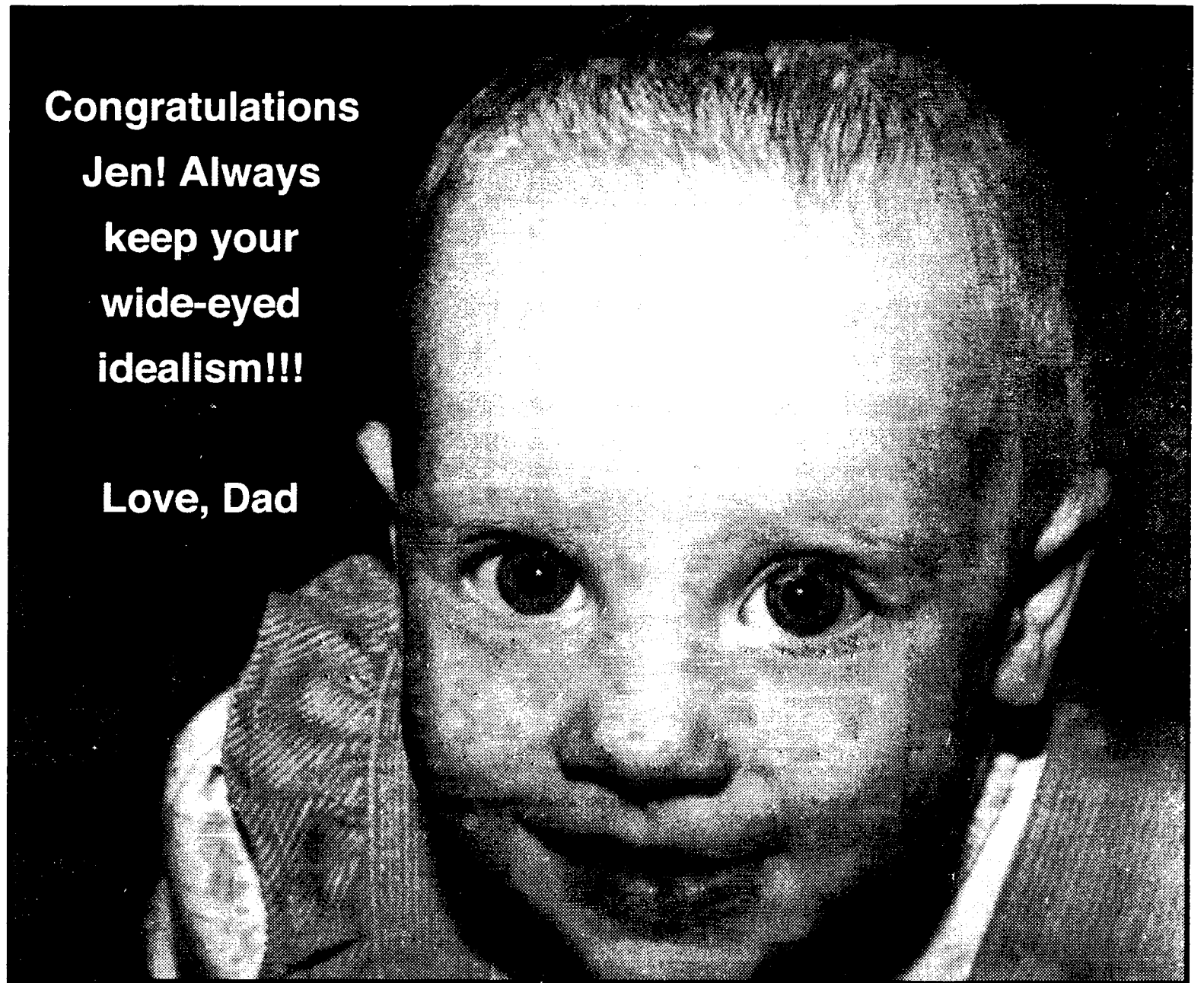
We celebrate your compassion, your intellect, your kindness, your humor, your determination, your loyalty, your adventuring spirit and your ability to ski fast and play the cello with passion. We salute the woman you have become.
 Love, Mom, Dad, Joe, Moxxie, Bella and The Bears



Congratulations

**Jen! Always
 keep your
 wide-eyed
 idealism!!!**

Love, Dad

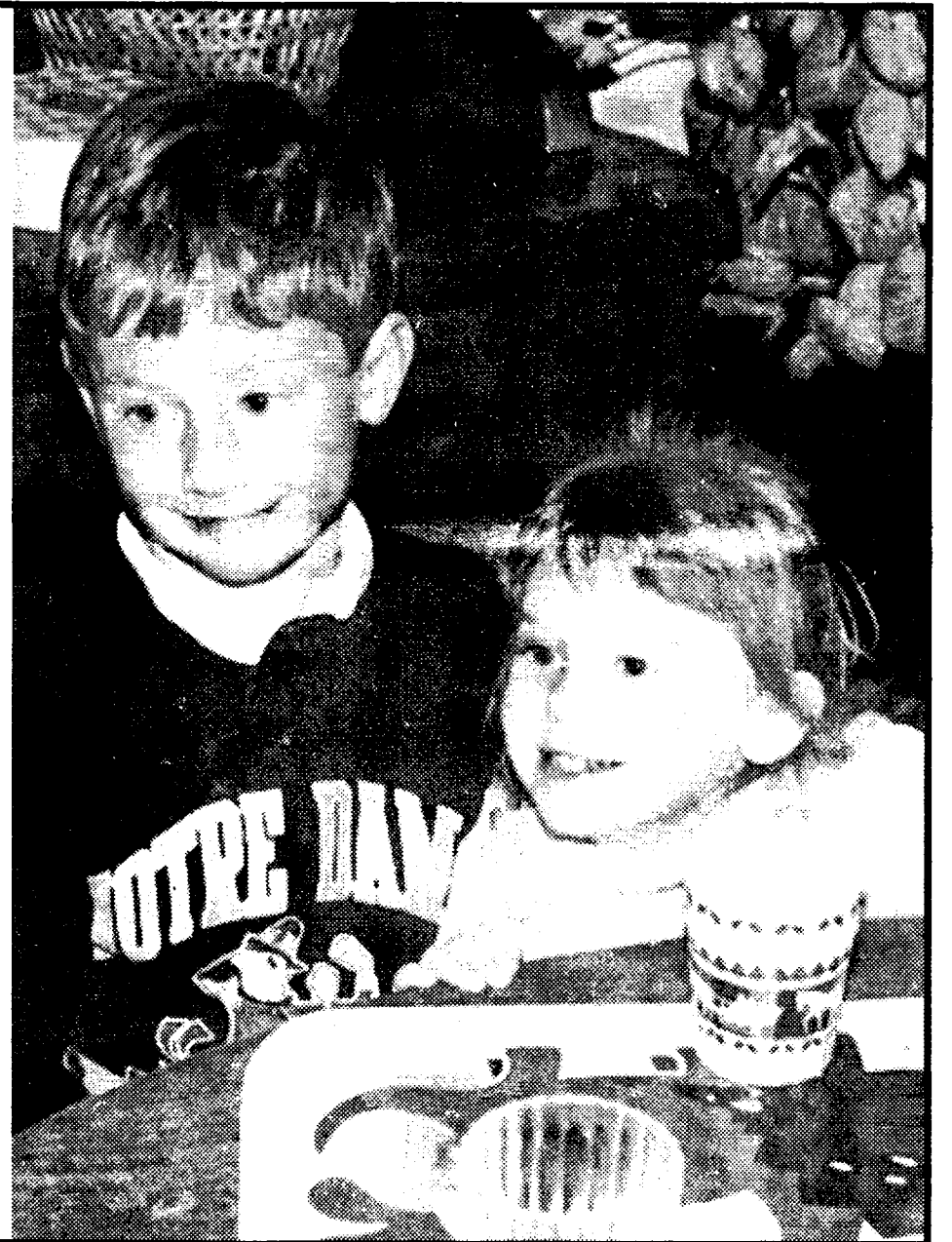


Marissa Elizabeth,
 Congratulations on all you accomplished and for enjoying to the fullest your four years at Notre Dame. You have given yourself and us many memories to cherish. Always keep that beautiful smile, trust in the Lord and remember your family loves you very much.
 Dad, Mom and Amanda

**Justin~
 "Delight yourself
 also in the Lord
 and He shall give
 you the desires of
 your heart."**

Psalm 37:4

**Love,
 Mom & Dad**



Congratulations Molly!

**To Our Favorite
 "Nobody Likes A Dumb Blonde"**

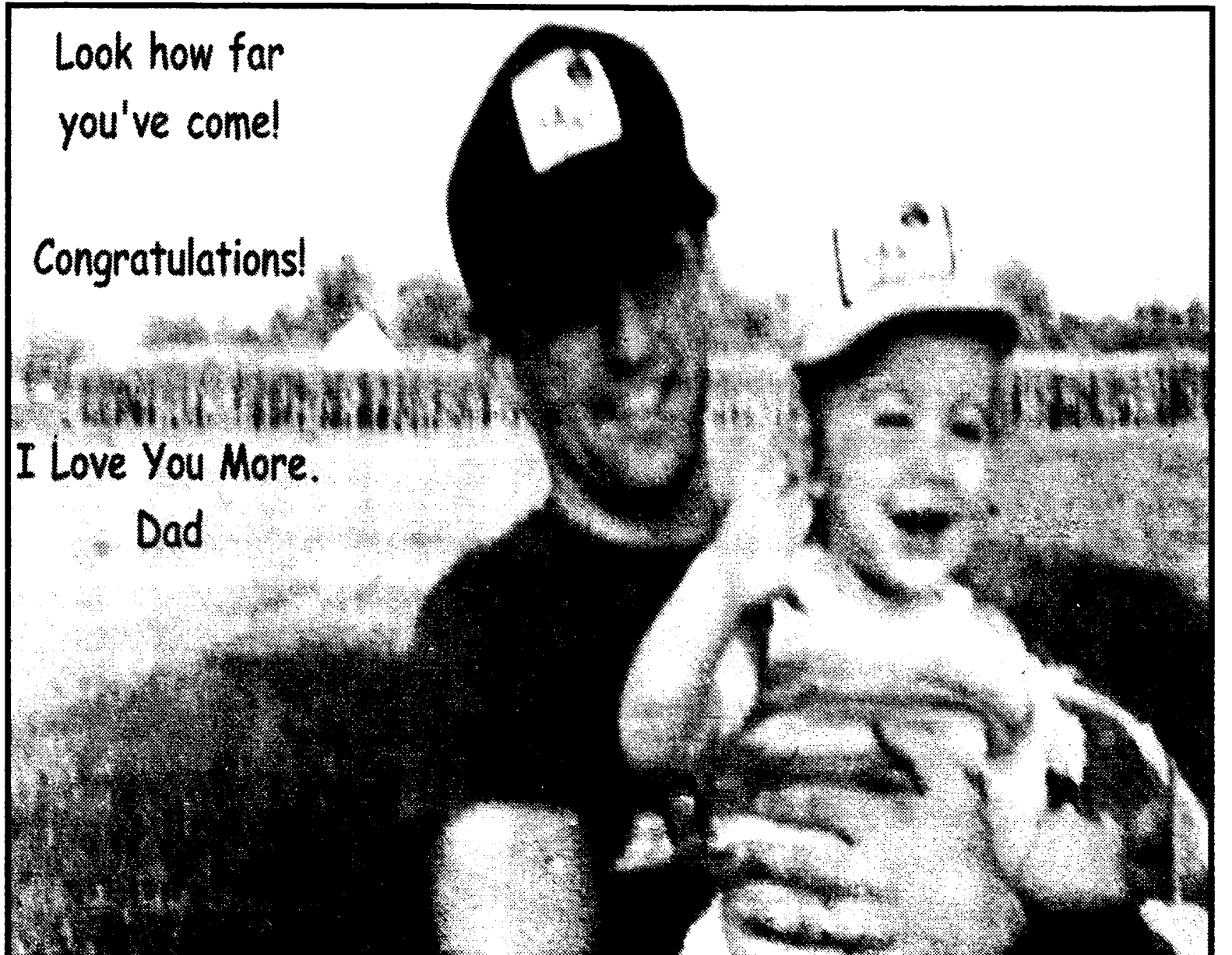
- Your Irish Fan Club,**
- Ann Acker SMC 1970**
- Edward Hogan ND 1970**
- Carol Collins Hogan SMC 1972**
- Laurence C. Acker ND 1973**
- John "Cal" Collins ND 1975**
- Jerome Klingen Berger ND 1977**
- Mary Acker Klingenberger SMC 1979**
- Laurence W. Acker ND 2003**
- John Collins ND 2006**

**Look how far
 you've come!**

Congratulations!

I Love You More.

Dad



Class of '06



Meggie-

We are so proud of you!

Love you and Saint Mary's

Papa & Grandma

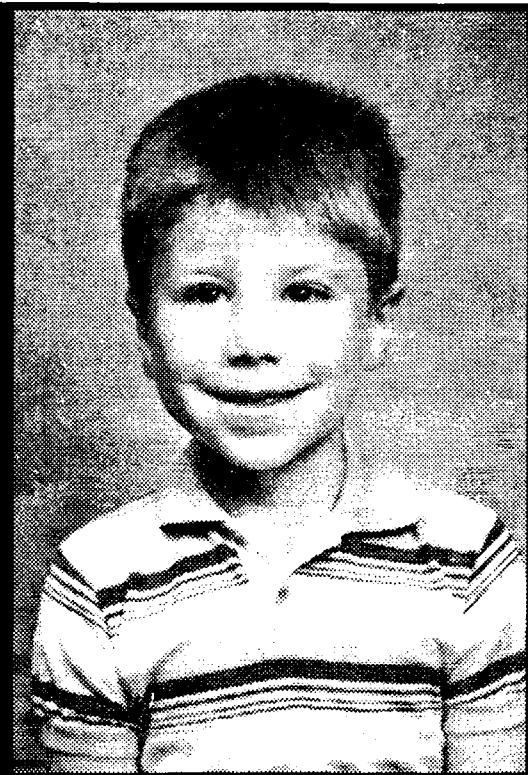


Congratulations Ashley! Good luck, God Bless, Irish Forever. We Love You, Mom, Dad, Lauren & Tyler

Congratulations Mark!

We're glad you chose ND!

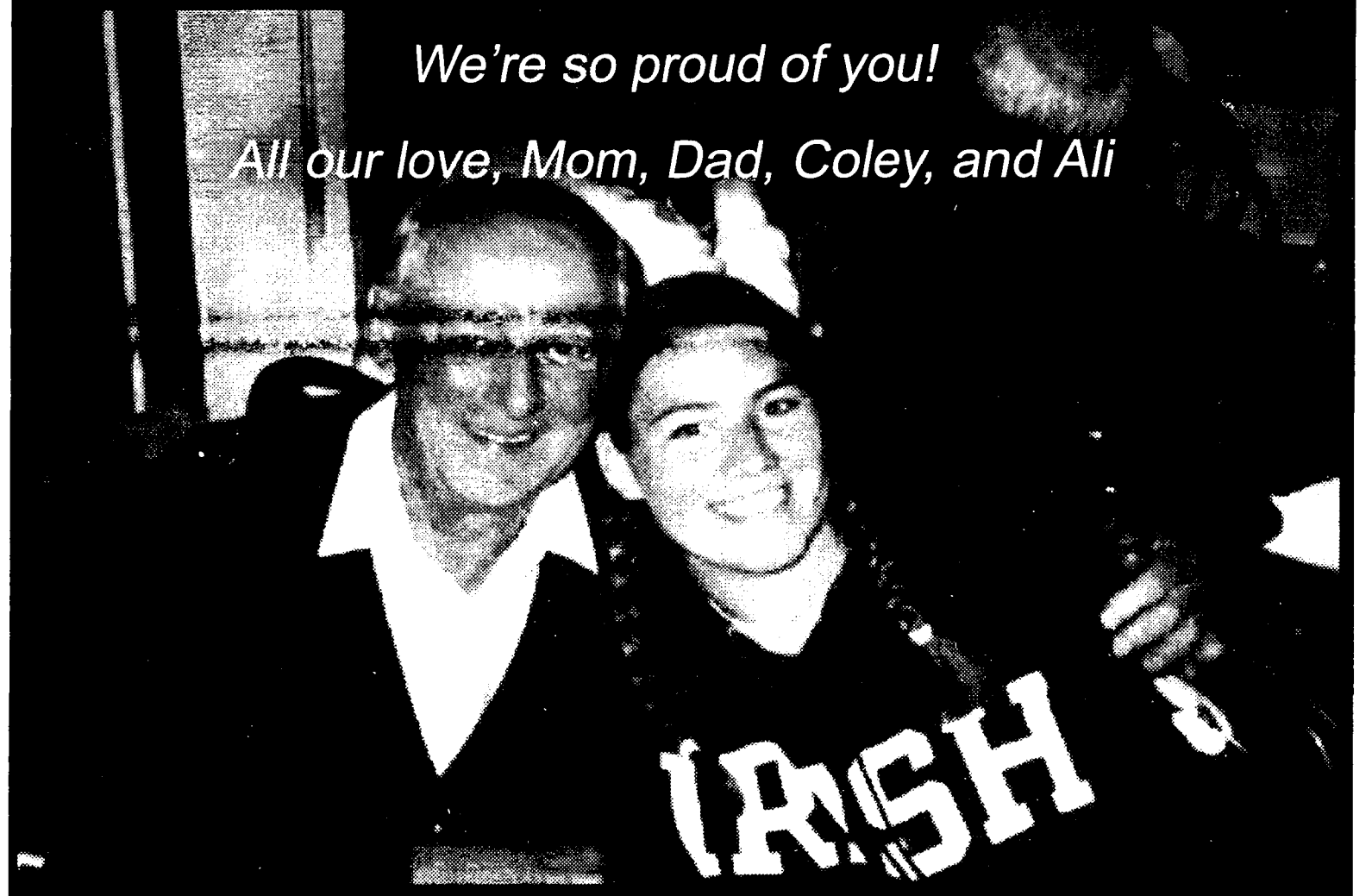
Love, Mom and Dad



Congratulations Erin! Cherish everything that your ND experience has brought your way in the past 4 years and keep reaching for the stars.

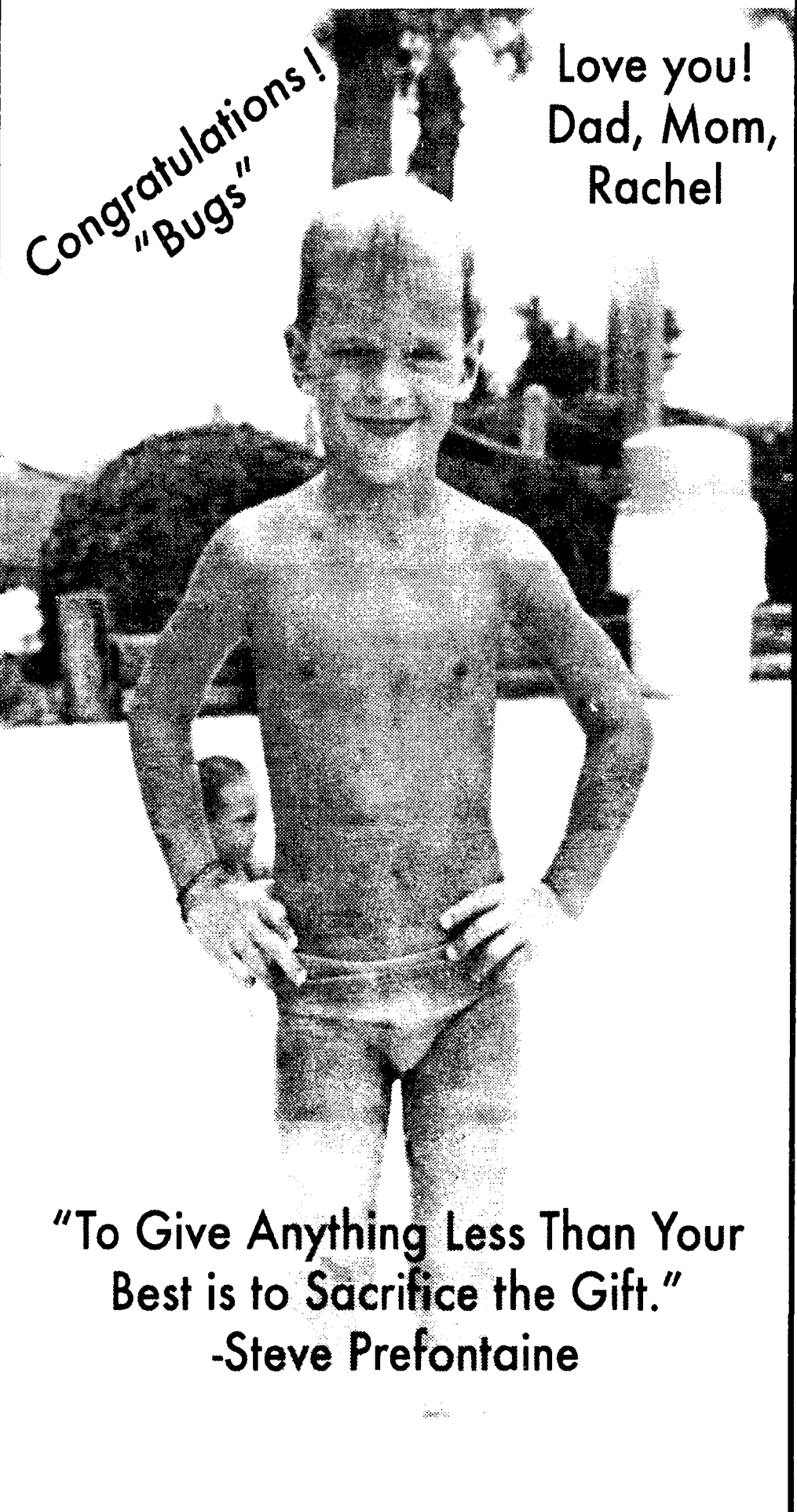
We're so proud of you!

All our love, Mom, Dad, Coley, and Ali



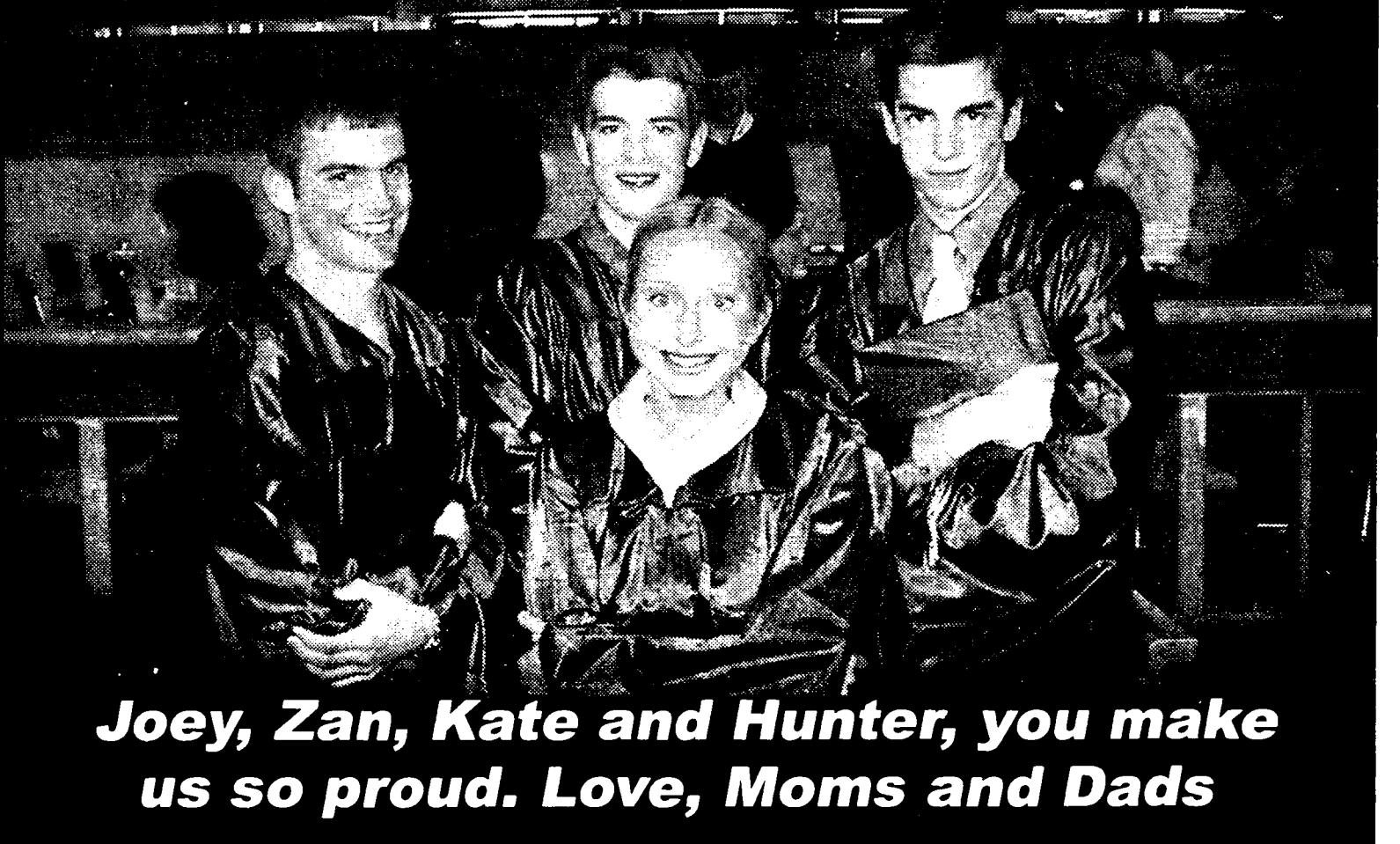
Congratulations! "Bugs"

Love you! Dad, Mom, Rachel



**"To Give Anything Less Than Your Best is to Sacrifice the Gift."
-Steve Prefontaine**

They came as the Mustangs from Blue Valley North—They leave as the Four Horsemen from Notre Dame.



Joey, Zan, Kate and Hunter, you make us so proud. Love, Moms and Dads

Congratulations John!



We are
so proud of
you!

Love,
Mom and Dad.

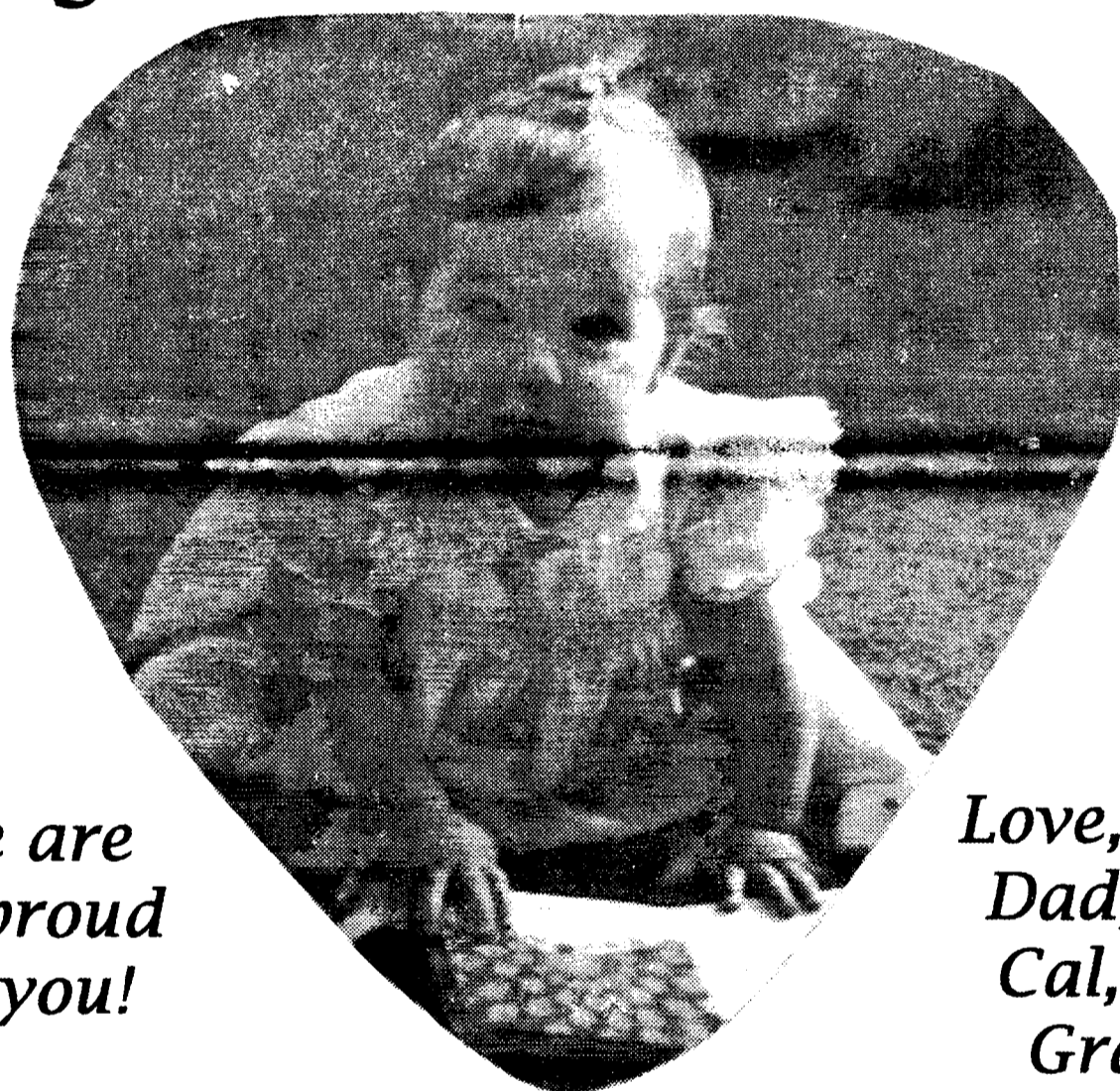
GOOD LUCK!

Congrats
Jimbo!

We love you!
The Fam



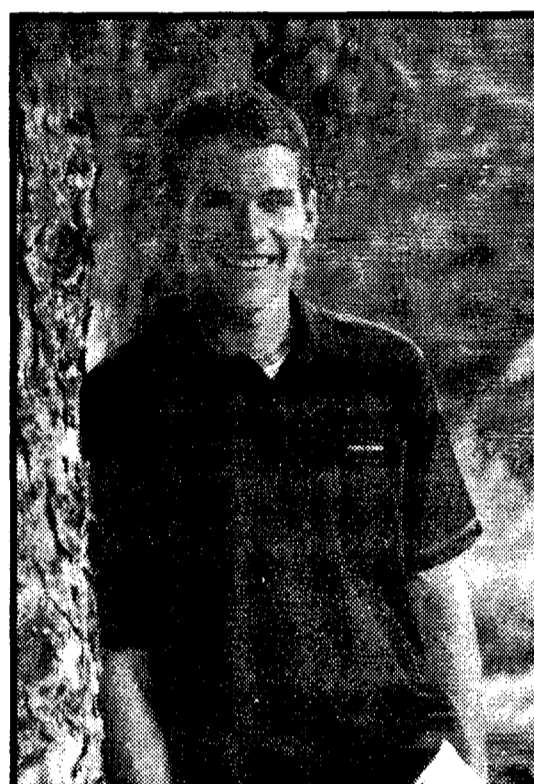
Congratulations Miss Cate!



We are
so proud
of you!

Love, Mom
Dad, Will
Cal, and
Gracie

*When
people say
dreams
don't come
true, tell
them about
Matt.*



We Love you Sarah!
Mom, Dad, Mary

What do you do
when you realize
all your dreams
have come true.

Congratulations
Dee Dee

Love,
Mom, Dad, Andy,
Robby & Blake




CONGRATS SENIORS!

Tim,
Congratulations!

We can't wait to see what comes next for you. We are so proud of you.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Anne & Bill




Congratulations,
Chelsea and Ryan.

The best
is yet to
come!

All our love,
Mom and Dad

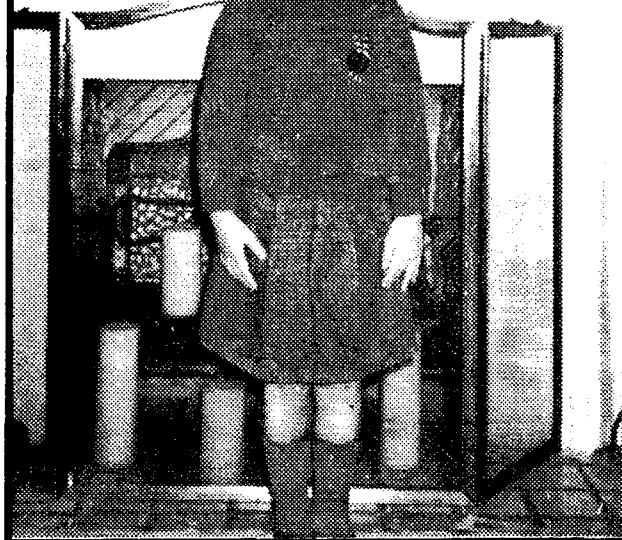


Congratulations Derek, our 2006 Graduate of Notre Dame!



This picture tells it all; athletic, hard worker, scholar, and funny guy! What's next? May all your dreams continue to come true.

--Love Ma & Dad



It seems like only yesterday...
Congratulations!
We love you!
Mom, Courtney,
Grandma &
Grandpa



Congratulations, Jeannie!
Always follow your dreams.
Love, Mom and Dad



Congratulations
Anne Kwiatt ('06)

We are proud
of you!

Love,
Mom & Dad
Jim ('00)
Katie ('00)
Mike ('04)



We're so
proud of you
Britta.

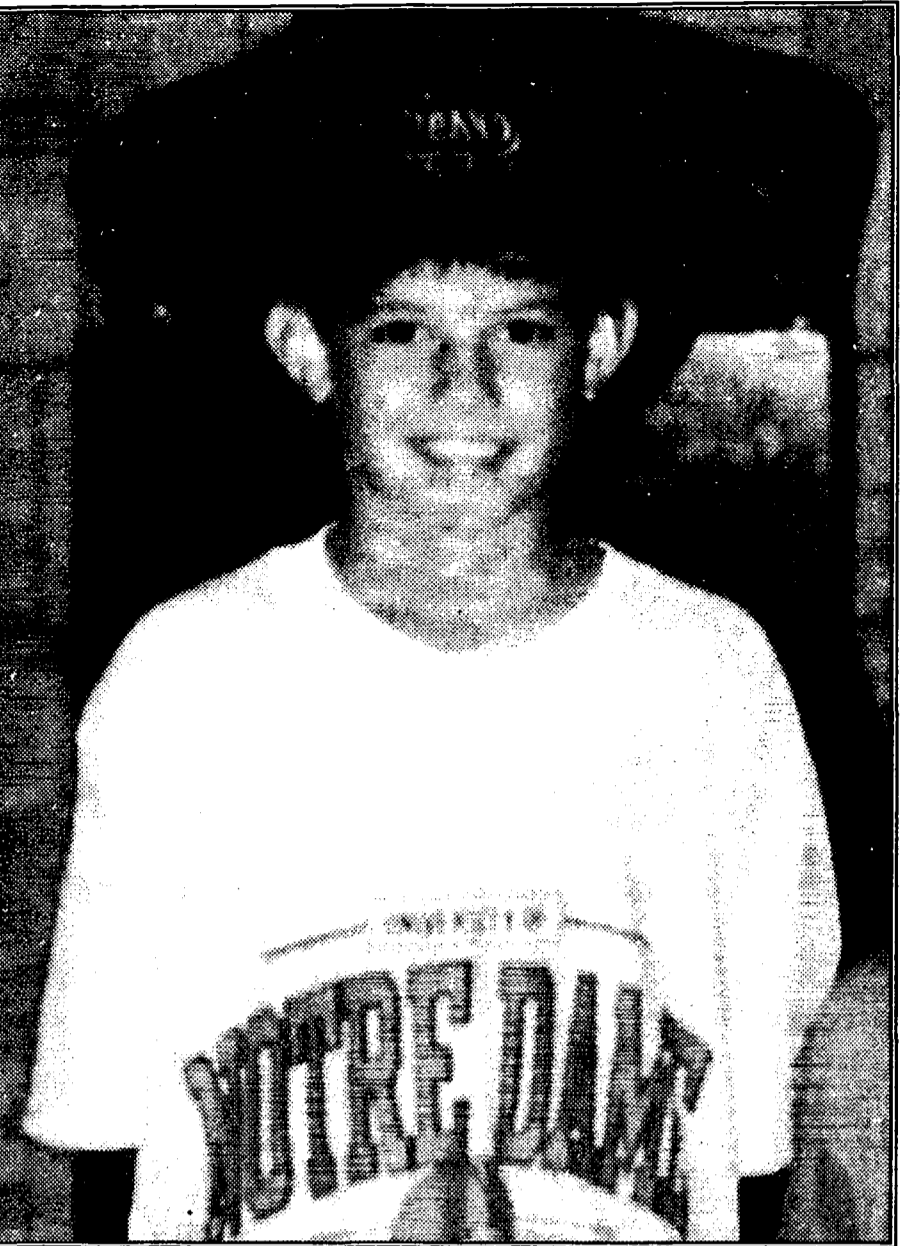
Love,
Mom & Dad

CONGRATULATIONS CLASSES OF 2006!

**Congratulations,
Stretch!**

**You lived a
dream.**

**Love,
Dad and Mom**



Hey Big Brother, Mom and Dad made me do it-



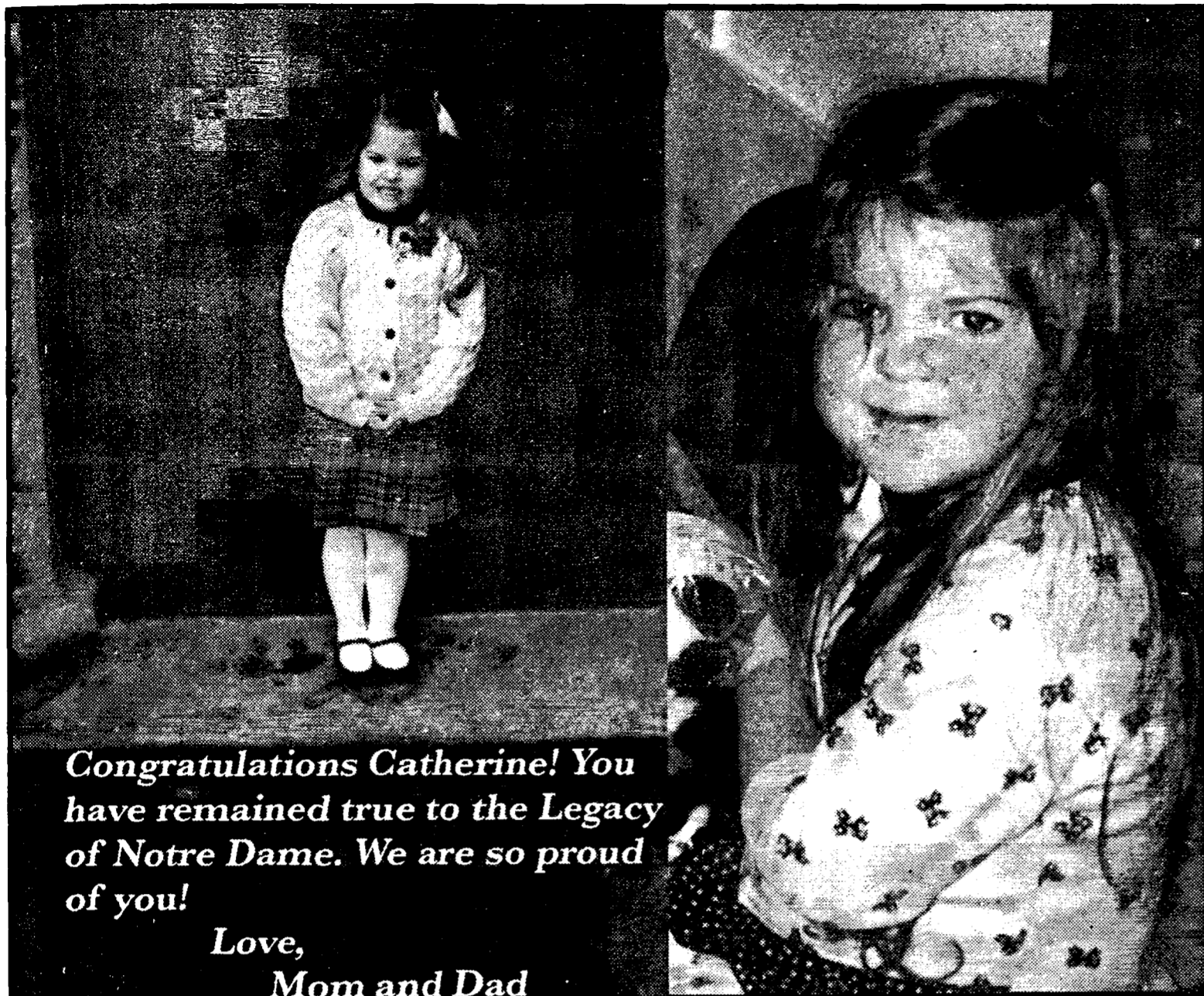
Congratulations!!

Congratulations Kevin!

**Touch down by
our Special "K".**

Love, Dad, Tim, Andy, Meg and Jake





Congratulations Catherine! You have remained true to the Legacy of Notre Dame. We are so proud of you!

*Love,
Mom and Dad*



*CONGRATULATIONS
KRISTINA*

*We are so proud of you!
You have become more beautiful than ever in
Mind, Body & Spirit.
We are truly blessed!
We love you very much.*

FELICIDADES

*Papi, Mami and your
three brothers
Christian, Ricardo &
Marcos Barrios*

**CONGRATULATIONS
AND GOOD LUCK!**




Class of '06



Sean,
 We are so proud of you.
 We love you.

Love,
 Mom, Dad,
 Mike, Bill,
 Joe, and Jen



*The prophecy comes true!
 Congratulations, Katie!*



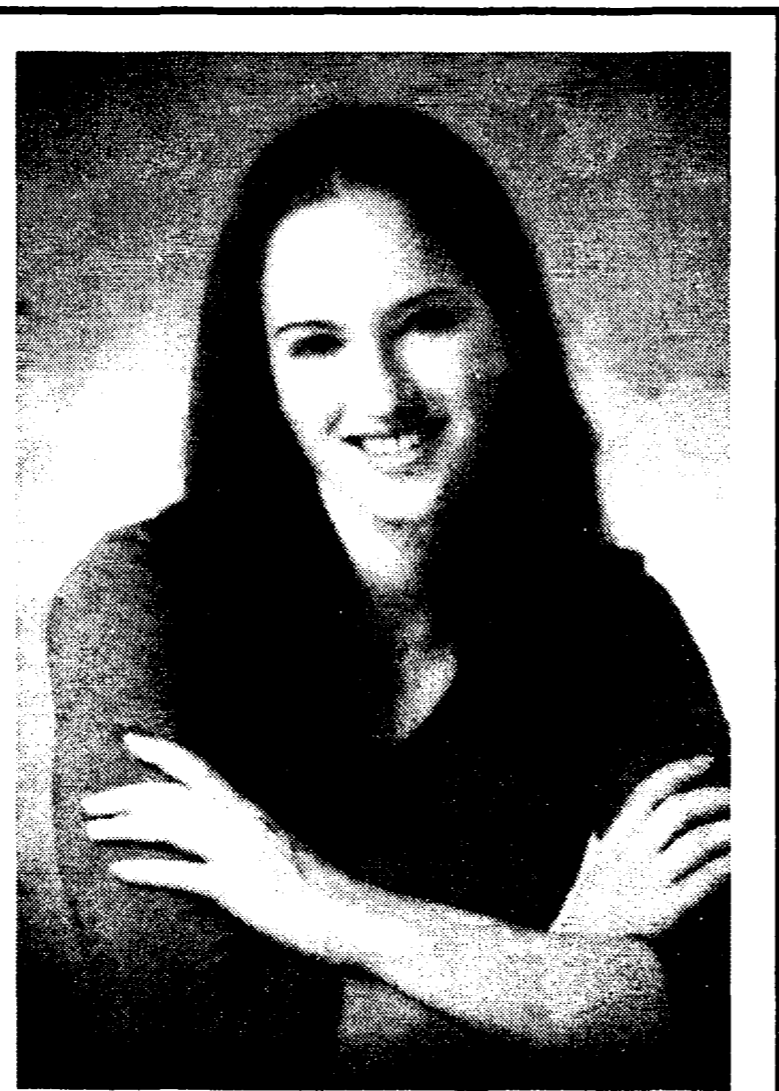
Love, the Mom, the Dad,
 Lazy J, IWU-D & Rusty



*Dear Katie:
 Congratulations to
 our loving
 daughter.
 We are so very
 proud of you!
 Love,
 Mom & Dad*

**We knew you would go places!
 We are so very proud of you.
 Look out Texas!**

Love,
Mom and Papa

Kirsten. You stepped out of our home at age 18 a completely independent adult. You must have been so proud. We were.
 Dad, Mom, Scott, Kate

Congratulations!

The only place for "MC" was "ND"

Love,
 Mom, Dad, Jen, Michael,
 Christine & Dominic

