

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 42 ISSUE 132

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM



SENIOR EDITION

INSIDE COLUMN

What we'll take

I went to a party last weekend and ran into a friend who graduated from Notre Dame a couple years ago.

"Never graduate," he ordered me. "Jagerbombs! No, seriously, never graduate."

While I hope that, two years down the road, I'm not scaring soon-to-be grads into clinging even tighter to this place, the words — drunken as they were — affected me. In a little more than a week, I thought, my friends and I would be putting on our caps and gowns and forced smiles and trying not to cry as our parents insisted on taking that group picture one last time, because someone's eyes were shut and my mom forgot where the zoom button was.

But — not counting the architecture students among us — would you really want another year? The freshmen would seem even younger, the bars, even older, and the classes — well, writing my last paper made me realize how lucky I am to avoid grad school.

The good thing about goodbyes is that nostalgia overwhelms the moments we'd rather forget. I won't remember finals weeks or sleepless nights, roommate dramas or ResLife hearings.

I'll remember our first home football game, rushing the field, then rushing into Stonehenge, then calling my friends and telling them how incredible Notre Dame was.

I'll remember how I used to think the Mary statue on top of the Dome was Father Sorin. (It gets worse: My roommate thought it was God.)

I'll remember my first SYR: Blind date, O'Neill Hall, three girls, one guy.

I'll remember how proud we were of illicitly obtaining alcohol before our first pre-dance "social gathering" and how we thought we were so cool for buying only Corona.

I'll remember how we thought it was cool to walk through men's dorms, knock on random doors and ask for beer. And how we thought it was cool to dance on dorm room radiators. And, later, when we realized none of that was cool.

I'll remember how disappointed I was that Bruce Springsteen did not, in fact, jump out of the Trojan horse during the USC weekend pep rally.

I'll remember that blue body paint was much easier to put on than it was to wash off.

I'll remember the trips: Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, the Caribbean, LA and Mexico. And no experience could top driving to Oklahoma in a pickup truck. (Or watching my roommate get banned from the state of Missouri.)

Warnings from still-can't-let-go alums aside, I'm ready to graduate. What matters is what we take with us. We didn't need to go to Notre Dame to make memories, but I wouldn't have wanted to anywhere else.

Maddie Hanna will graduate with a degree in French and a minor in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. She'll be writing for the Boston Globe this summer and, hopefully, for many more newspapers to come. She'd like to thank her friends, especially those who have always been there: Kim, who never fails to make her laugh; Katie, who lives with no regrets; and Megan, who is an inspiration. From Lewis Hall to Lafayette, from Carroll Street to Hill, they've given her the greatest memories. She'd also like to thank her parents, who have made everything possible.



Maddie Hanna

Editor in Chief
Emeritus

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 17

9:00 am ROTC Commissioning Ceremony
10:00 am Graduate School Commencement Ceremony
1:00 pm Service Send-Off Ceremony
5:00 pm Commencement Mass

SUNDAY, MAY 18

9:00 am Graduate Business Ceremony
1:30 pm Academic Procession
2:00 pm University Commencement Ceremony
4:00 pm Law School Ceremony

FRIDAY, MAY 16

1:00 pm Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Church of Loretto
4:00 pm Baccalaureate Mass, Angela Athletic Facility

SATURDAY, MAY 17

12:00 pm Commencement, Courtyard of LeManu

OIT begins switch to Google mail

Current students, alumni will get e-mail to migrate their accounts over summer, receive bigger quotas

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

Notre Dame's Office of Information Technologies has teamed up with Student Government to provide current students with a new e-mail system though Google Apps.

"We are hoping the system will be up and ready for students to migrate in the middle of the summer, so we can e-mail students and get them to migrate their accounts before they get back this fall," said Katie Rose, project manager of the OIT's latest initiative.

Graduating students will also be allowed to migrate to the new system and OIT will eventually open Google Apps at Notre Dame to all alumni. Rose said that the timeline for allowing alumni to use the service is uncertain at this point.

"Right now we are working to create incoming first year student accounts within the Google system, and after we

are done with that, we will be working to integrate existing accounts into the new system," Rose said.

According to Rose there is currently a team of about seven OIT professionals who are working to implement the new e-mail system.

"We know that students have not been satisfied with the existing system and have

"We are hoping the system will be up and ready for students to migrate in the middle of the summer, so we can e-mail students and get them to migrate their accounts before they get back this fall."

Katie Rose
Office of Information
Technologies
project manager

been asking for systems more like Google," Rose said. "Student Government has been voicing the same concerns."

Rose said that changing to a new e-mail system has been a topic of discussion for some time since the current

e-mail provider's plans to discontinue the current system by Dec. 1, 2008.

"A lot of other schools have been migrating to outsourced systems like Google and Microsoft, so we felt like now was the time to do this," Rose said.

According to Rose, Google Apps is provided to educational institutions free of charge, and even though the new serv-

ice will be provided though Google, it is still a Notre Dame service.

"The new system will use the Gmail interface that many students are familiar with, however students will still be using the nd.edu address," she said.

The new system offers several improvements to the old Webmail system, Rose said.

Students will have a much larger e-mail quota as the current system has 100 MG quota, and the new system will have a quota of 6.5 GB.

Additionally, students will be able to take advantage of some new features that the Google Apps system includes.

"There will also be a variety of other services [including] a calendar system and Google documents," Rose said. "This will allow students to create Word documents, Excel spreadsheets and PowerPoint presentations and share them with other students. They can collaborate and edit these documents online at the same time."

The new system will also include a chat utility, similar to AOL Instant Messenger or MSN Instant Messenger, and a portal page that students can customize to meet their own needs, Rose said.

While all student e-mail accounts will be migrating to the Google Apps system, University faculty and staff e-mail accounts will be changing over to Microsoft Exchange.

"Faculty and staff will be migrating to a different system — Microsoft Exchange for e-mail and calendaring and we will be starting that over the fall semester," Rose said.

Rose said that the University wants to see how students feel about the change to Google Apps before they make a decision about allowing faculty and staff to use it.

Student body president Bob Reish said that working with OIT is a priority of the current administration — and Google Apps at Notre Dame is its first initiative.

"Student Government will be working to get students aware of the benefits and features [Google Apps at Notre Dame] offers. It's not just an e-mail provider—it's definitely different from Webmail," Reish said.

Reish said that a new Student Senate committee called the Campus Technologies Committee will help spread awareness about the new e-mail system.

"We will be working on getting feedback from students on the migrating process as well as implementing an awareness campaign to get students to start using the new system," he said.

OIT will send students an e-mail this summer informing them of the new e-mail system and instructions about changing over to the new system.

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Construction continues on campus

Work progresses on Duncan Hall, new girls' dorm, Law School and Engineering build-

Observer Staff Report

Construction has been visible across Notre Dame's campus this semester, and with several projects currently in progress — including Duncan Hall, a new male dormitory, an unnamed female dormitory, a new Law School building and a new Engineering Building — work sites will continue to be major fixtures in the coming months.

Construction of Duncan Hall, a male dormitory west of McGlinn Hall, will be completed in time for students to move in this fall. The dorm will

reduce overcrowding in current residence halls while providing more on-campus living opportunities for transfer students, as well as juniors and seniors not wishing to leave dorm life. The new dorm features full kitchens on each floor and some larger rooms with private baths, to increase desirability.

The University broke ground for Stinson-Remick Hall, the new engineering building, in late November on the site formerly occupied by the University Club across from the Morris Inn on Notre Dame Avenue.

The new engineering building, set to open in 2010, will house a nano-technology research center, a new energy center, an undergraduate interdisciplinary learning center and a semiconductor processing and device fabrication clean room.

"This [new building] is just additional space for engineering. They will still continue to occupy the old buildings. It's not replacing anything, it's responding to additional needs we have," Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves told The Observer in February.

A second Law School build-

ing is also under construction on DeBartolo Quad. The building, Eck Hall, will be completed in January 2009. A covered archway will connect Eck Hall to the current Law School building, which will undergo renovations once the new building opens.

The University also began construction on an unnamed women's dorm in late March. The residence hall is scheduled to open for the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year and will be 74,600 square feet and house 248 female students, according to a University press release.

McCarrick to speak to ND graduates

By AMBER TRAVIS
News Writer

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington, D.C., will be the principal speaker during Notre Dame's 163rd Commencement exercises Sunday.

McCarrick will also receive an honorary doctor of law degree from the University, according to a news release from the University.

University president Fr. John Jenkins said he is looking forward to celebrating McCarrick's presence on campus after McCarrick presided over a Mass for Fr. Basil Anthony Moreau, founder of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, last Sept. in LeMans, France.

"He was an indispensable participant in our recent and joyful celebration of the beatification of Blessed Father Basil Moreau, whose witness paved the way for Notre Dame's foundation," Jenkins said.

As the archbishop of Washington, McCarrick emphasized the importance of vocation, education and meeting the needs of new immigrants, the press release said.



McCarrick

McCarrick has also taken part in many projects in support of a 2004 federal initiative for low-income families which gave them the option of choosing public or private schooling for their children and led to the enrollment of 1,000 scholarship recipients in Catholic schools within the D.C. area.

He was a member of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad and the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom.

McCarrick was also one of the 115 cardinals who participated in the conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI in April 2005, the press release said.

The University announced the Commencement speaker later than normal in early April. Assistant Vice President for News and Information Dennis Brown said the later decision had to do with this year's early Easter season. There was a close proximity between the announcement of the winner of the Laetare Medal, which is always announced on Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent and the announcement of this year's Commencement speaker.

"We wanted to give some time between that announcement and this one so as not to have too many announcements all at once," Brown said.

Contact Amber Travis at
atavis@nd.edu

Sheen to receive Laetare Medal

Actor will be honored with award at Commencement

By AMBER TRAVIS
News Writer

Actor Martin Sheen will be honored as the 132nd recipient of the University's Laetare Medal during the undergraduate commencement exercises Sunday.

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

It was first awarded in 1883 and is regarded as the most distinguished honor given to American Catholics, akin to the Golden Rose — a papal award dating back to the 11th century.

Sheen will rank among notable American Catholics like activist Dorothy Day and former President John F. Kennedy, who have previously received the award.

Last year, the Laetare Medal was awarded to the chair of Notre Dame's Board of Trustees, Patrick McCartan, who has been listed by surveys conducted by the National Law Journal as one of the most influential and respected lawyers in the country.



Sheen

Sheen, best known for his work in film and the NBC drama "West Wing," is a controversial recipient of the award due to his positions in favor of abortion and homosexual rights. However, University President John Jenkins said Sheen deserves the award because the way he has used his fame to influence Catholic social issues.

"He has used [his] celebrity to draw the attention of his fellow citizens to issues that cry out for redress, such as the plight of immigrant workers and homeless people, the waging of unjust war, the killing of the unborn and capital punishment," Jenkins said in a press release.

Jenkins also commended Sheen for his dedication to the Catholic faith.

"We welcome the opportunity to lift up his example for our Church, our country, and our students," he said.

University Associate Vice President, Counselor to the President and Chairman of the Laetare Medal committee Father James McDonald also supports

Sheen as the recipient of this award even though it may be controversial.

"No one who has distinguished themselves in a public way will be without critics, and Mr. Sheen has his share," McDonald said.

"I would invite even his critics to spend a few moments with him this weekend and I think they will recognize in him those values we hold dear at Notre Dame and that the seniors who graduate this weekend will remember him for a long time."

He said taking in the lifetime of

Sheen's commitment to the Catholic faith qualifies him for this award and outweighs anything he may have said contrary to Catholic teachings.

"No one phrase on a given day disqualifies him," McDonald said. "One needn't know too much about the environment of Hollywood and its pressures to notice a life-long happy marriage, a devotion to Mass and the sacraments and constant promotion of social justice to know that his example is worthy to be held up for recognition at Notre Dame."

Contact Amber Travis at
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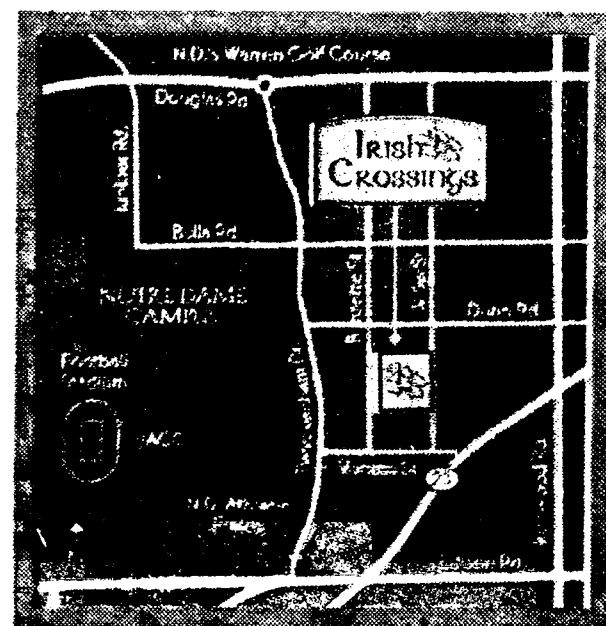
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Nearly 91, Hesburgh finds time for visitors

Former University president fills his days with prayer, appointments and by keeping up with current events

By JAY FITZPATRICK
News Writer

Sitting in his office on the 13th floor of the library named for him, Fr. Theodore Hesburgh has a busy schedule of meetings and appointments every day.

He sits with students, alumni and trustees — anyone who is willing to schedule time to meet with him. He reads — actually listens to books on tape or has students read to him due to his failing eyesight — and tries to stay up to date on current events. He fulfills his daily priestly duties and obligations.

But, as Hesburgh put it himself, his life is much simpler. All he does is "show up."

Hesburgh took the expression from former Dean of the College of Arts and Letters Fr. Charlie Sheedy, now deceased, who said, "Most of life is just showing up."

Now, as he approaches his 91st birthday on May 25, he makes sure to do just that every day.

While Hesburgh shows up every day, each day is always different from the last.

"I have very little schedule except that people make dates with Melanie and I have three or four sheets every day with people coming in," he said.

These sheets of paper usually contain two names of people — written in large enough print for Hesburgh to be able to read them — who scheduled appointments with him. In one day, these appointments were so varied as to include an alumnus and his daughter, a senior at Notre Dame, a member of the Notre Dame football team and three students who won lunch with Hesburgh at the annual Breen-Phillips Food Auction.

These daily appointments are run by Hesburgh's secretary and administrative assistant Melanie Chapleau, his assistant for around 20 years. Chapleau does more than manage his affairs; additionally, Hesburgh said, she "keeps me out of trouble."

But, like most senior citizens, Hesburgh has some health issues, but nothing serious. He recently had dental work done to fix 10 of his teeth, which makes eating more difficult for him. He can still eat foods with softener in them, but mostly because he is able to swallow them whole.

The other issue is his eyes. Hesburgh has macular degeneration in both eyes, making him completely blind in the right eye and half-blind in the left.

This condition most affects Hesburgh in his personal time, when he can partake in one of his life's passions: reading. Three years ago, Hesburgh hired a student, then-freshman Lisa Russ of Farley Hall, to be his personal reader. She was volunteering at Holy Cross House, where her mother Mary Pat Russ works, and was eating lunch with the priests there. She sat with Hesburgh, who asked her to read to him — something she has

done every week since then.

Even though Russ started off as a one-woman operation, she enlisted her friends from Farley, current junior Paula Alfonso and graduating senior Casey Bouskill, to join her in reading to Hesburgh.

"I used to read for three hours every Sunday, but that gets pretty tiring, so I had them [Alfonso and Bouskill] come in and we each do an hour every Sunday," Russ said.

The most important things for the students to read for him are the New York Times, The Observer and Time Magazine to stay up-to-date on current events across the world and at the University.

"I like to be up-to-date. News I can get on T.V., but for real news I go to New York Times, The Observer [and] Time Magazine," he said.

Hesburgh's goal is to have the week's newspapers and Time Magazine read by Sunday, regardless of the rest of his schedule.

He also reads books of various genres, but mostly he enjoys history. Russ said he receives a lot of books in the mail and always reads them.

Hesburgh said he has more than 200 books in his personal library signed by their authors, including "To Kill a Mockingbird" signed by Pulitzer Prize winner Harper Lee.

"He said she came to Notre Dame for a lecture and she only signed one copy and it was for him," Alfonso said.

Even though the students mostly read him newspapers, Hesburgh has his own method of reading books. He has a large collection of books on tape and a large variety of audio equipment — such as tape decks and CD players — for listening to them.

Bosukill said his favorite genres are World War II and the Civil Rights movement, in which Hesburgh was involved at the national level from 1957-1972.

In addition to the week's news and whatever books he can find, Hesburgh makes a point to answer the daily mail.

"By the time I get out of here at night, all the mail that has come in that day has been answered," he said.

Hesburgh's readers all agreed their time spent with him has been one of their favorite experiences at Notre Dame, mostly because of the little things he does for them.

Alfonso said she could not think of a specific favorite memory, but instead enjoyed the conversations they have had.

"Sometimes I feel I learn more

"To have that homily and to hear his thoughts one-on-one is just irreplaceable."

Casey Bouskill
senior

"I think all the blessings we've had as an institution are because the University is named for Mary. This is without a doubt the greatest Catholic university of all time and we should be proud of the name 'Notre Dame.'"

Fr. Theodore Hesburgh
University president
emeritus



Fr. Theodore Hesburgh delivers a speech during Father Ted's Inaugural Fun Run/Walk for Upward Bound on South Quad on April 17.

DUSTIN MENELLA/The Observer

from him just during that hour talking with him than during my classes that week," she said.

While Hesburgh carries an aura about him due to his years of public service to the United States and the University, Russ, Alfonso and Bouskill see him in a much different light.

Hesburgh's three readers described him as a "grandfather figure" at Notre Dame.

"We see him in such a comfortable atmosphere," Russ said. "Just him in his office, smoking his cigar, drinking his afternoon coffee. So it's really nice, but he's still really professional and has this air about him."

Bouskill agreed, saying he is actually very funny and can throw out wisecracks when appropriate during her time with him.

"He knows when to use humor and when to throw in a great zinger," she said.

Alfonso said that, for all his brilliance and wisdom, there are still some things he does not know. She described a time when she was reading a story in Time Magazine to him that mentioned spandex.

"He's the most brilliant man I've ever met and spoken with... and it's just so funny that probably the smartest man in the world is like 'What's spandex?'" she said.

Hesburgh also blesses the readers whenever they leave — just not always in English. He is fluent in seven languages, but is manageable in 12.

Regardless of the language, Russ said she greatly appreciates being blessed by Hesburgh each week.

"Every time we leave, he blesses us and that will definitely stay with me," she said.

Celebrating the daily Mass is when

Hesburgh's eyesight most affects him. As a priest, he must celebrate Mass and pray a different prayer every day, something that he is unable to do with his eyesight. To this end, he uses Chapleau or other aides to help with the Mass.

"I have the Mass by heart but it changes every day and I can't remember the whole year. So I have Mass, I have somebody alongside me, read me the parts like the Epistle and the Gospel that change every day and I can do the parts I know by heart," he said.

As for the daily priest's prayer, Hesburgh said he prays three Rosaries a day to Mary, the Mother of God, because, as he said, "I don't need to read to do the Rosary."

Bouskill said these daily, private Masses in Hesburgh's personal chapel in his office are her favorite memories from her time at Notre Dame.

"To have that homily and to hear his thoughts one-on-one is just irreplaceable," she said. "It's much more of a conversation,

but he has a really great way of relating what he knows through his faith into that pragmatic action and love for humans."

Even with his failing eyesight, Hesburgh has managed to keep his priestly obligations. He said he has missed only three Masses during his almost 65 years as a priest, excluding days when Mass is not said such as Good Friday.

"Overall, I would say I have said thousands of more Masses than days I have been a priest," Hesburgh said. "Mass is the most important thing in my life."

This feat is even more impressive when considering the things he has done, especially since his retirement. Shortly after he left office in 1987, he

and Fr. Edward Joyce, his executive vice president for 35 years, went on a 16,500 mile road trip across the United States and Canada, saying Mass every day in their van.

Hesburgh said the trip was one of his favorite experiences, and that his favorite places they visited were Alaska, "because not many people have been there," and the Rocky Mountains.

Even though he has traveled across the United States and the world, one of Hesburgh's favorite places is still Notre Dame. When asked where his favorite place on campus was, he jumped in before the question was finished to answer, simply, "the Grotto."

Before Hesburgh moved to Holy Cross House, the residence for retired members of the Congregation of Holy Cross priests at the University, he lived in a room overlooking the Grotto in Corby Hall. He said he asks his drivers to stop there whenever possible while on his way to or from his office.

Hesburgh's love of the Grotto started when he first got to Notre Dame. When he was studying for the priesthood at the University, Hesburgh lived in the now-demolished Holy Cross Seminary, which stood near where Columba Hall now stands. Even though it has such special meaning to him, Hesburgh could not remember his first visit to the Grotto because he has been there so often.

"Every day coming to any classroom building on campus I went by the Grotto on my way," he said.

One main reason for Hesburgh's love of the Grotto is its attachment to the Virgin Mary, who Hesburgh believes has always had an important influence at the University.

"I think we always must have special dedication to Mary, the Mother of God," he said. "I think all the blessings we've had as an institution are because the University is named for Mary. This is without a doubt the greatest Catholic university of all time and we should be proud of the name 'Notre Dame.'"

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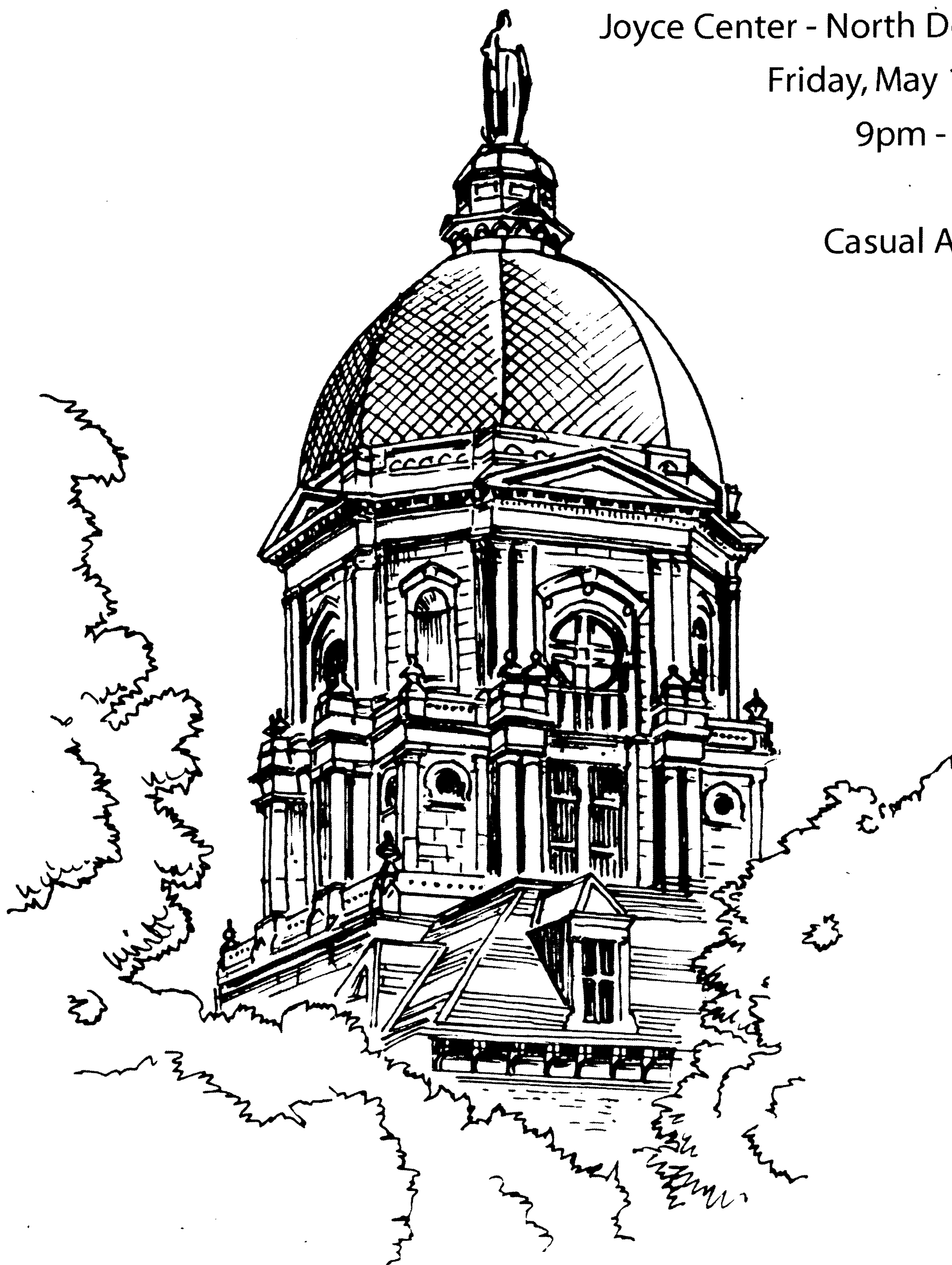
Class of 2008 Family Graduation Dance

Joyce Center - North Dome

Friday, May 16th

9pm - 1am

Casual Attire



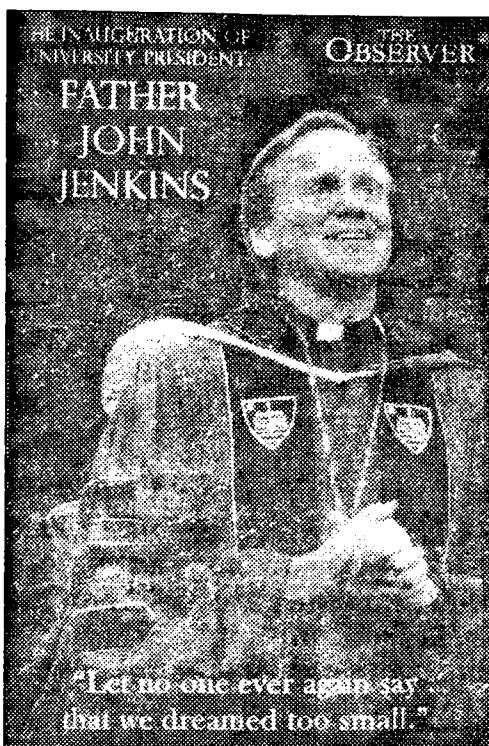
Stop by after dinner and enjoy dancing, drinks, and desserts. A photographer will be present to take portraits of the graduate with their friends and family.

FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

Friday, May 16, 2008

The top Observer news stories from the 2004-2008 academic years

page 7



Jenkins replaces Malloy as president

September 23, 2005

University president Father John Jenkins was inaugurated as Notre Dame's 17th president Sept. 23, 2005. 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 then-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. More recently, the University has announced a \$1.5 billion fundraising drive that could shape the campus' future — and much of Jenkins' legacy.

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.

Four students die during past two school years



Senior Caitlin Brann, 22, died in a car accident after her tire blew out on the Indiana Toll Road in November 2006. More than 200 students gathered a day later at the Grotto to pray and sing in her memory, and Brann's friends called her "a spark of fire."

Brann was a marketing major from Orland Park, Ill.

Three students died in unrelated cases in 2008. Connor McGrath, a sophomore in Siegfried from Oklahoma City, passed away on Feb. 17 in Dillon Hall. He intended to major in business.

Timothy Aher, a student in the Law School's London Programme, died at his residence in Ilford. Aher was from Brookfield, Conn.

Andrew Bunikus, a junior from Zahm Hall, died in a bus crash in Thailand on April 18. He took a semester off to teach English to students in Thailand.

According to an article in a Bangkok newspaper, Bunikus, an accountancy major from Phoenix, Ariz., was in a bus crash in the Phitsanulok Province at 11:45 p.m. local time. The crash killed seven others and injured 31 people.

Jenkins allows 'Monologues'



Jenkins appealed 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. The play was performed off campus last year before coming back to campus this year.

January 25, 2006

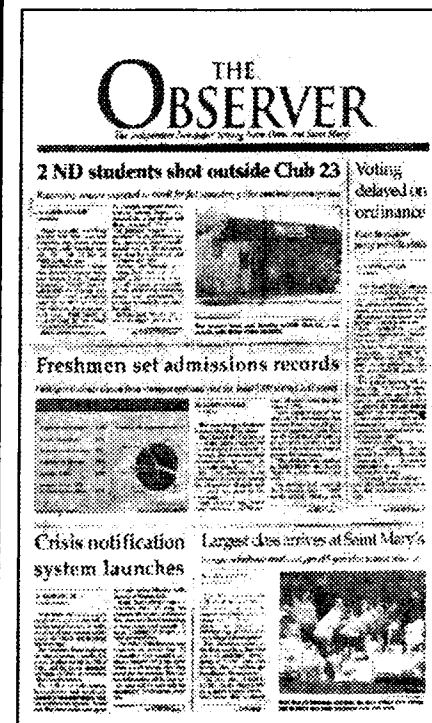
Jenkins meets Pope Benedict XVI



Jenkins and Pope Benedict XVI spoke for 30 seconds in Vatican City during the former's pilgrimage to the Holy See. Jenkins, University officials and the Board of Trustees travelled to Rome for a series of meetings and conferences with Vatican leaders. The Pope called Notre Dame "a great Catholic university."

February 1, 2006

Two students shot outside Club 23



Seniors Matthew Collins and Mitchell Depree were shot by a man in an SUV around 1 a.m. on August 21 following a conversation with the shooter. Collins was shot in the abdomen and leg, wounds that were originally considered life-threatening. A bullet remains in Collins' abdomen. Depree was shot in the leg.

August 25, 2007

Va. Tech massacre shakes campus



The Notre Dame community gathered in grief and celebrated a Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart to remember the 33 victims of the Virginia Tech shootings. A lone gunman opened fire on his professors and classmates, sparking nationwide debates about campus safety measures.

April 16, 2007

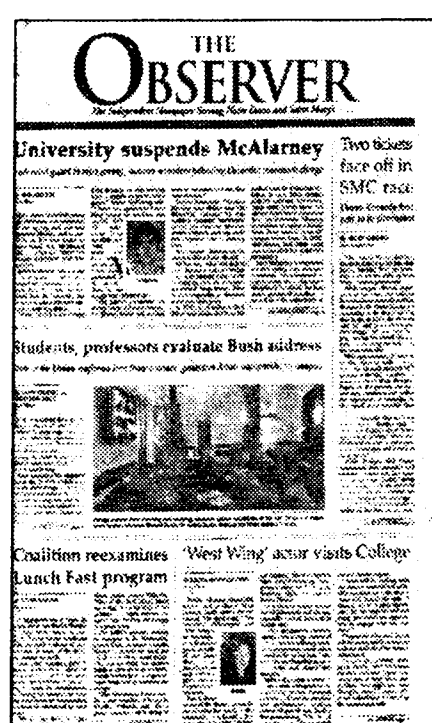
City council passes party ordinance



The South Bend Common Council passed an amended form of an ordinance that would require permits for parties. The ordinance lays out rules that, if enforced, would force residents of boarding houses to obtain a permit to have a party of 25 or more people where alcohol would be served. Future legislation could enact the ordinance.

September 25, 2007

ResLife suspends McAlarney



The University suspended sophomore basketball player Kyle McAlarney after the starting point guard was charged with possession of marijuana. His mother declared "the punishment does not fit the crime," and debate raged on whether McAlarney received an appropriate punishment.

January 23, 2007

Two students shot at Club 23. South Bend Common Council passes party ordinance, creates CCAC. Three students

The Year

2007 ♦

Observer Staff Report

Two students shot outside Club 23

Two Notre Dame seniors were shot on Tuesday, August 21 at approximately 1 a.m. outside of Club 23, Captain Phil Trent of the South Bend Police Department said. The students, Matt Collins and Mitchell Depree were taken to St. Joseph Regional Medical Center where Depree was treated for a leg wound and released while Collins' wound to the abdomen was initially classified as life-threatening and he requested last rights.

The confrontation followed a "harsh conversation with the shooter, who returned several minutes later in an SUV and fired five shots at the students," Trent said.

The shooter was described as a short-haired black male of average build wearing a clean, white T-shirt. The shooter drove away northbound on Notre Dame Avenue after firing five shots — two shots at Collins and one at Depree — and shouting expletives at the students.

A bullet will remain permanently in Collins' abdomen since any procedure to remove it would be too risky, hospital officials said.

Both students enrolled in the fall semester.

In the weeks following the shooting, owner Mahmoud Hussein feared that Notre Dame students were "boycotting" the club, located on 744 N. Notre Dame Avenue due to safety issues. Business was in an initial decline for the Monday night hotspot, Hussein said.

Four weeks after the incident, South Bend police were still searching for the shooter.

By December 2007, Club 23 was up for sale on Craigslist, however, Hussein claims the sale and the shootings were unrelated.

Hussein has owned 23 for more than 20 years.

Club 23 was set at \$695,000 and includes 2,500 square feet of space, the building, the 57-car parking lot, the furniture inside and the club's liquor license.

South Bend Common Council passes revised ordinance

After months of deliberation over the South Bend City Ordinance regarding alcohol and party registration, the Community Campus Advisory Coalition (CCAC) was created as a forum for city and college representatives to discuss

community relations. It was created in February and convened for its first meeting in mid-February.

The CCAC was formed after the South Bend Common Council decided not to implement regulations requiring students to pre-register for large gatherings with the city.

The ordinance was initially created in response to disorderly student partying off campus and eventually passed with rules that would require party permits that could be enacted in the future — an option the Council was offered to pursue.

However, the main objective of the Council and the ordinance was to increase dialogue about problems between South Bend residents and off campus students.

Former student body president Liz Brown represented the student body during the CCAC hearings in the summer of 2007 and acted as a liaison between the Council and the student body throughout the fall.

Since the ordinance was passed with only minor provisions on large gatherings, the main goal of the Council was to serve as a forum that will facilitate discussion about important issues within the South Bend community. The Council attributed much of the success of the revised ordinance to the work of Brown — responsibilities she passed on to current student body president Bob Reish in March.

"I'm just going to be taking more of a second role to see how this meeting can help for future meetings next year," Reish said.

The ordinance was the brainchild of Council member Al "Buddy" Kirsits and he currently serves as CCAC chairman and Councilman-at-large.

The ordinance and its provisions are contingent on student off campus behavior and future relations in South Bend, Kirsits said.

Three students pass away

Three Notre Dame students died during the 2007-2008 school year. Sophomore Connor McGrath, graduate student Timothy Aher and junior Andrew Bunikis died in three separate and unrelated incidents throughout the academic year.

Diabetes may have factored in Connor McGrath's death in the early morning of Sunday, Feb. 17, police said.

McGrath was a sophomore from Oklahoma City and died in Dillon Hall.

He was 20 years old.

McGrath was a former resident of Dillon, but lived in Siegfried this past semester. He spent the night in Dillon with friends. In the fall, he attended the University of Central Oklahoma before transferring back to Notre Dame.

Friends discovered McGrath's body at approximately 1:40 p.m.

McGrath was the first student to die on campus since Feb. 8, 1998, University officials said, when Justin Brumbaugh died after suffering from heart disease.

Timothy Aher, from Brookfield, Conn., received a Bachelor's degree in linguistics from the University of Chicago. He was currently enrolled in Notre Dame's Law School London Program and died in the town of Ilford, England.

Aher, 25, had developed a proficiency in Russian and studied German, French and Uzbek. He also served as a station manager at WHPK-FM, a student-run radio station at the University of Chicago.

After graduating from the University of Chicago in 2002, he worked for two years at the Bank of America Securities before applying to law school, where he hoped to study international law. He also held a summer internship in New York where he helped AIDS patients deal with their legal problems.

University President Father John Jenkins called the day he learned about McGrath and Aher's deaths as his "worst day as president of Notre Dame."

Andrew Bunikis, a junior from Zahm Hall, died in a bus crash in Thailand on April 18. Bunikis, 20, from Phoenix, Ariz., took a semester off to teach English to students in Thailand after working there briefly last summer through Notre Dame's Student International Business Council (SIBC).

According to The Nation, a Bangkok newspaper, the bus crashed in the Phitsanulok Province at 11:45 p.m. on Friday. Seven other people were killed and 31 injured.

ND Student assaulted, left seven mile from campus

On April 20, sophomore Timothy Clarke suffered a concussion and a broken right hand after he was assaulted by either two or three men and left on Primrose Road approximately seven miles from campus, St. Joseph County Police said.

Clarke, 20, said he got into a car on

Ironwood Dr. after he left Tailgaters Sports Bar around 3 a.m. on April 20.

Because he had been drinking and because he suffered a concussion, Clarke said he couldn't remember too many details from the night. The identities of the suspects are still unknown.

Clarke, a resident of Keough Hall, said he had phoned a friend who was serving as a designated driver to pick him up from Tailgaters. The driver was picking up other people at the time so Clarke declined the ride and began walking north on Ironwood Drive. After a few minutes he got into a car, thinking the passengers were heading back to campus.

Clarke said he wasn't sure if he got into the car voluntarily or was forced into the car, but St. Joseph County Detective Phil Williams said he wouldn't charge the men with kidnapping if he finds them.

Clarke said he realized he was in the car too long to be heading back to campus and made at least six phone calls to try and alert people to what was happening, but nobody answered his calls. The men took Clarke to Primrose Road where they likely hit him over the head with a beer bottle, took his wallet and cell phone, and left him on the side of Primrose Road. A passer-by discovered Clarke and placed a 911 call. Police responded at approximately 6:45 a.m. and took him to Memorial Hospital in South Bend. Clarke was then transferred to University Health Services where he was released on April 29.

Gruscinski and Falvey take over at SMC

After running unopposed for the highest position in student government, student body president Mickey Gruscinski and vice president Sarah Falvey officially took office on April 1.

They have begun working towards the goals they laid out in their campaign platform such as extending the Student Center hours, making an online calendar of College events for students to access and getting reliable wireless access in all of the dorms.

Reish and Schmidt win ND student body president and vice president

Junior Bob Reish and sophomore Grant Schmidt defeated Maris Braun and George Chamberlain to become the student body president and vice president on Feb. 14. The two took office on April 1.

The two began campaigning last

August 29

Saint Mary's breaks into the U.S. News and World Report top 100 liberal arts college rankings at No. 91. The Princeton Review also recognizes Saint Mary's as one of the best midwestern colleges for 2008. College president Carol Ann Mooney says she hopes to break into the top 50 liberal arts colleges in the future.

October 1

Saint Mary's launches a new identity initiative called "She's Saint Mary's" to help the College attract more applicants. It features personal stories from students about what their time at Saint Mary's means to them.

August

September

October

November

December

January

August 21

Seniors Matt Collins and Mitchell Depree are shot outside Club 23 after a conversation with the shooter. After refusing to give the shooter a ride, he later strikes past Club 23 and fires five shots, two of which drive Collins while one strikes Depree. Depree is treated for leg wounds and Collins for leg and abdomen wounds. A bullet remains in Collins' abdomen.

September 25

The South Bend Common Council passes, but does not enact, an ordinance requiring parties in boarding houses (homes where two or more non-related people live) to obtain a permit if 25 or more guests will be served alcohol. The ordinance can be enacted with further legislation and also creates the Campus Community Action Council to bring together students, South Bend residents and the town government.

January 29

Saint Mary's raises the full \$19.2 million for Spes Unica Hall, the new academic building. Donations pay for the entire cost of the building. The College broke ground for the building in the fall of 2006 and it's expected to be completed by the fall of 2008.

die. Clinton and Obama visit South Bend. Students report sexual assaults. College launches identity campaign.

in Review

♦ 2008

September on a platform that included more interaction with the student body.

As a way to better hear student requests, Reish and Schmidt created a Web site, bobandgrant.com, that allowed students to contact Reish and Schmidt with suggestions.

"Part of the campaign was connecting to the students and trying to make sure that we're not any better than anyone else," Schmidt said after the election. "The bobandgrant.com thing, a lot of people laughed at it, but it was something different — an informal way of presenting our ideas that was appealing."

The election broke a trend through the last four administrations in which either the previous year's vice president or executive assistant to the president became president the following year.

Law School Dean announces she will step down

Law School Dean Patty O'Hara announced she will leave the school next June after 10 years of service. O'Hara joined the law school in 1981 and became dean in 1999.

She said 10 years was "the optimal length of time to serve as dean," in a statement released on March 26.

"Like her predecessor, Dean O'Hara has been fully committed to this Law School's being recognized as both a top flight law school nationally and as one that, in the Catholic tradition, invites serious and sustained consideration of the normative dimensions of the law," associate dean John Robinson said in April. "She has invested an enormous amount of time and an equal amount of intelligence and imagination in achieving that objective."

Some students questioned O'Hara's capabilities after the law school dropped from No. 22 to No. 28 last year in the U.S. News and World Report Law School rankings. This year, however, the school was back up to No. 22.

"I was confident that [the Law School] would rebound, and we did, back to a very solid No. 22," she said in April. "I think that reaffirms the notion that no one person or dean was responsible for a temporary slump."

Clinton and Obama visit South Bend

Democratic presidential hopefuls Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton both visited South Bend as part of their campaign to win the Indiana primary. Obama spoke at Washington High School on April 9. He outlined his campaign

plan for supporters and cited Martin Luther King's "Fierce urgency of now" as the reason he decided to run for President.

Clinton spoke at Coveleski Stadium, home of the South Bend Silver Hawks, on April 26. She said she was disappointed that she had only met Obama four times in one-on-one debates and called for a revision of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

South Bend mayor Stephen Luecke announced his support of Obama before Obama spoke to supporters. He outlined new higher-education financial aid plan and tax cuts to help keep jobs in America.

Clinton said she would end the war in Iraq and allow uninsured Americans to buy into the Congressional health care plan.

"It's good enough for members of Congress, it's good enough for every Hoosier and every American, and that you keep insurance if you have it, but if you don't you will be able to buy into it," Clinton said.

"Monologues" return to campus

Students performed Eve Ensler's controversial play "The Vagina Monologues" on campus after moving off-campus last year. Jenkins allowed the play to be performed two years ago provided the play received sponsorship from two academic departments. The performances must also include discussions after the play, analyzing the play from a Catholic perspective. Jenkins reaffirmed his decision this year.

Students report laptop thefts

Cavanaugh, Howard and Lyons halls experienced burglaries of laptops, cameras and wallets during the spring semester. The suspect would carry a bag and walk into unlocked rooms to take the laptops.

NDSP director Phil Johnson said the suspect in those cases was identified by "several people" as a black male, between 5-foot-8 and 5-foot-11, with a thin build, "frizzy long black hair" in a pony tail or braid, possibly bad or missing teeth and possibly facial stubble.

Johnson said Valparaiso University has experienced similar burglaries with a suspect whose description matched that of the suspect in Notre Dame's recent campus robberies.

Saint Mary's security under scrutiny

Saint Mary's students expressed unease with the way the College's

security department deals with emergency situations after an unidentified man escaped after trespassing on the roof of Regina Hall.

When a student in Regina Hall reported the trespasser on April 5, it took the College's security department two phone calls and approximately 15 minutes to send a security guard to the scene and investigate the reported suspicious activity.

Director of Security Dave Gariepy and assistant director of security Stan Klimczak addressed student concerns in an open meeting with Regina Hall residents shortly after the incident to discuss an ongoing investigation of the way the incident was handled to ensure that a situation such as this does not happen again.

"That's not the way we would respond to the situation and that's not the way we want our officers responding to it," he said. "We want to make sure that security is responding adequately to [students] calls for help."

College launches 'She's Saint Mary's' campaign

The College debuted a new brand initiative in October as a continuation of the 2006 identity initiative.

The identity initiative is an ongoing process to better understand the image the College must present to gain the attention of prospective students and parents. The initiative was part of College President Carol Ann Mooney's inaugural platform to make Saint Mary's a nationally known institution.

The new tagline, "She's Saint Mary's," is now present on all College publications, ads, banners and Web pages.

The brand features the personal stories of students and what their time at Saint Mary's means to them.

"[The alumnae] love the stories and they love the fact that we're telling stories about what students experience here," Vice President for College Relations Shari Rodriguez said. "We're focusing on the rigorous academic experience and the relationships students have with each other and with faculty. Those are things that they felt really strongly about as they look back on their experience."

Part of the reason the Saint Mary's tagline of was changed from 'Educating Women, Transforming Lives' was to help better communicate the benefits of the College in an effective

manner, said Karen McDonald, then acting vice president of integrated marketing communications.

"We didn't have an issue with the benefits," she said. "Those have not changed. We just didn't communicate them correctly. This is a campaign to bring these characteristics and quality to the forefront."

Spes Unica funds raised completely

Fundraising for the College's new academic building, Spes Unica Hall, was completed over the winter and the building is set to open for classes in the fall.

The total cost of the project is \$19.2 million, making it the most expensive construction project in College history. The building was entirely paid for in donations, without putting to use any other college funds, said Saint Mary's spokesperson Gwen O'Brien. More than 600 donations came in from faculty, staff, alumnae, students and friends of the College, she said.

Ground was broken on this 65,000 square-foot building in the fall of 2006. Spes Unica will house 13 of the 20 academic departments at Saint Mary's, as well as the Center for Academic Innovation, the Center for Spirituality and the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership. The new building offers state of the art classroom, laboratory and office space. There are also a number of common areas where faculty and students can gather, such as a café, reflection room and patio.

SMC breaks into U.S. News and World Report rankin

Saint Mary's broke into the U.S. News & World Report's rankings of the top 100 liberal arts colleges, securing the 91st spot last Fall.

While the College was previously ranked the top liberal arts college in the region, it hadn't made the national rankings until this year.

The Princeton Review also recognized Saint Mary's as a "Best Midwestern College for 2008."

"We've long known we can compete on a national level and it is gratifying to see our quality recognized," College President Carol Ann Mooney said in an Aug. 17 statement.

On the heels of this new ranking Mooney set loftier goals for the College. She hopes Saint Mary's can break into the top 50 national liberal arts colleges in the near future.

February 14

Junior Bob Reish and sophomore Grant Schmidt are elected student body president and vice president, defeating Maris Braun and George Chamberlain in a run-off election. They plan to establish a nation-wide college council and allow for free DVD rentals in The Huddle.

March 26

Law School Dean Patty O'Hara announces that she will step down next June. O'Hara saw the Law School rankings drop from No. 22 to No. 28 last year, but watched them bounce back to No. 22 this year.

April 9

Illinois Senator and Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama speaks at Washington High School about his campaign and outlines his platform. He says he will eliminate tax cuts for companies who ship jobs overseas and provide service-based stipends for higher education.

February

March

April

March 11

Jenkins allows "The Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus after the Eve Ensler play receives sponsorship from academic departments. Academic panels that discuss the play in a Catholic light follow each performance. The decision draws criticism from some students, alumni and Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy, as it did two years ago.

April 5

A man finds his way onto the roof of Regina Hall at Saint Mary's. A slow security response causes students to question Saint Mary's security policies and leads security directors to investigate their security strategies.

April 26

New York Senator and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at Coveleski Stadium, home of the South Bend Silver Hawks, about ending the war in Iraq and allowing Americans to buy into the Congressional health care plan. She also calls for more one-on-one debates with Barack Obama.

Service important to ND valedictorian

Brother's battle with cancer provides inspiration for writing of senior's Commencement speech

By CLAIRE REISING
News Writer

Although Joshua Hammack, the class of 2008 valedictorian, earned a GPA of 3.99, Zahm rector Corry Colonna said he filled his college career with more than just academics.

"He's obviously well-rounded," Colonna said. "Everyone assumes [being a valedictorian] comes from your GPA, but in Joshua's case, it reflects the person he is."

While maintaining his grades, Hammack participated in a variety of activities, including Bengal Bouts, interhall basketball and soccer and the University admissions office's high school ambassador program.

Hammack said he made time for all of the activities that he enjoyed during his years at Notre Dame.

"You just end up making time for the things that you want to do," he said. "You just have to find the balance for yourself and force yourself to do the things that are really important to you," he said.

Senior Chris Izaguirre, who knows Hammack from Zahm and Bengal Bouts, said his dedication extends to his athletics, and that Hammack seems to have an unending source of energy.

"He seems to find energy somewhere and is never too tired," he said.

In addition to athletics, Hammack places service as a high priority and has worked on projects such as Relay for Life, mentoring and tutoring math at local high schools. At his home in Huntington, West Virginia, he volunteers at Nazareth House, where people can buy food and clothing that they cannot regularly afford.

Even with these time commitments, Hammack earned straight A's at Notre Dame, except for one A-, and worked as a teaching assistant for business professor William Sexton for two years. Hammack also expanded his academic interest beyond his accountancy major and said two of his most influential classes were Fiction Writing and Poetry Writing.

"They gave me a great opportunity to reflect on things that I believe and values that I hold and write about them," he said.

Hammack said he strove to achieve balance in college,

incorporating faith, academics, service and athletics into his life. He added that his perception of this balance in Notre Dame students is what attracted him to the University.

During Hammack's sophomore year, he experienced the strength of the Notre Dame community when his brother Sean, a current freshman in

Zahm, battled cancer. Hammack said it was difficult to be far from his family during this time and that he had to go home for a week.

Senior Doug Vranderic, Hammack's roommate from freshman through junior year, said he still maintained his

work ethic, despite the family crisis he faced.

"I was very impressed with how he handled his school work," Vranderic said.

According to Hammack, Sean's battle with cancer was one of the experiences he drew from to write his graduation speech, and he was inspired by "unrelenting faith and hope beyond hope that things were going to get better, in spite of what doctors were telling us."

After graduation, Hammack will serve for one year, possibly in a teaching position with AmeriCorps. He said he plans to eventually attend law school and become a corporate lawyer, but that he feels this is the best time in his life to work for a service organization.

"If I do end up going to law school, that's going to pile on more loans and more responsibilities," he said. "Service is very important to me, so I think I'm seizing the opportunity at its best."

In addition to law, Hammack said he also wishes to become a published author, and he is beginning a novel based off his experience of having a sibling with cancer. He said he hopes his story will encourage readers who are struggling through situations similar to his.

"If someone can see that someone has a relatable experience ... that's another source of hope," he said. "When you're fighting cancer, that's all you can ask for."

Contact Claire Reising at creisin@nd.edu

"You just end up making time for the things that you want to do. You just have to find the balance for yourself and force yourself to do the things that are really important to you."

Joshua Hammack
2008 valedictorian

"If I do end up going to law school, that's going to pile on more loans and more responsibilities. Service is very important to me, so I think I'm seizing the opportunity at its best."

Joshua Hammack
2008 valedictorian

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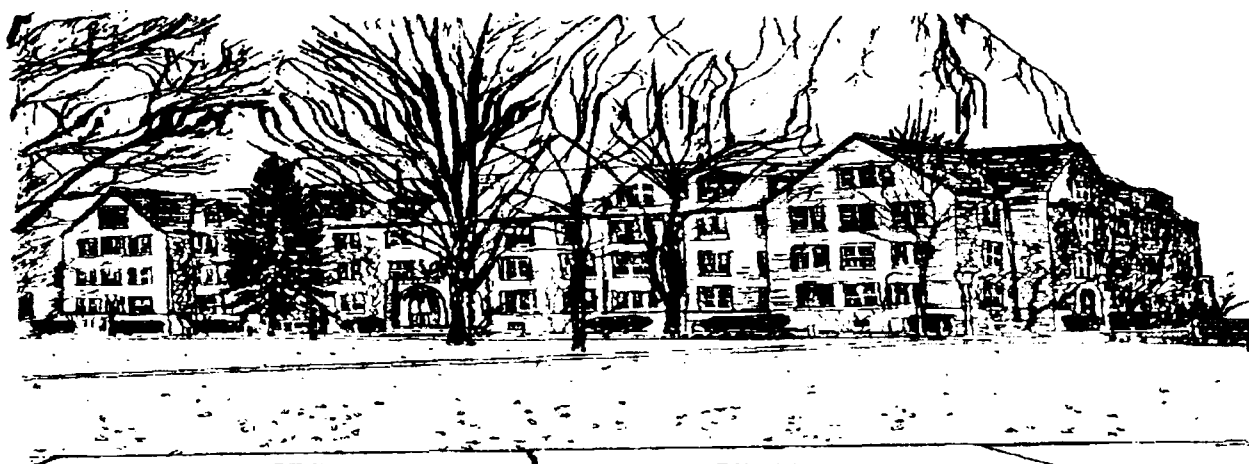
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**Please recycle
The Observer**

Seniors reflect on their brief four-year stay

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

When they first came to Notre Dame, seniors brought with them ideas of what to expect from the school and a few concerns about the experiences to come.

"I was afraid that I was going to be a little fish in a big pond," senior Michael Schaefer said. However, he found that dorm life made the transition to college easier and allowed him to meet people and find a "sense of community."

"I remember as a freshman, [Dillon Hall] did such a good job of having us go to the pep rallies together and play sports together," he said.

The reputation of Notre Dame's science department and the atmosphere of campus drew senior Julio Noriega to the school. As a South Bend resident, Noriega also said the fact that Notre Dame attracts students nationally and internationally appealed to him.

"I was very excited about being with people from all fifty states and

twenty countries," he said.

Tim Luebbert anticipated a good football season, along with friends that would be influential in his life.

"I expected to meet good people who could ... be a moral foundation, ethical foundation for the rest of my life," Luebbert said.

Surprises and Challenges

As they made their way through Notre Dame, seniors encountered surprising and challenging experiences both inside and outside of the classroom.

Noriega said after attending a diverse public high school, it felt strange to be in an environment that was less diverse. In terms of academics, students and professors impressed Noriega as well.

"Academically, I was really surprised by how smart people are here," he said. He added that he was generally surprised by the friendliness of professors.

Many seniors had heard about the spirit of the Notre Dame community before attending the school, and this has continued through their college experience.

Andrew Hartnett said the sense of community makes students feel part of something bigger than themselves.

"There really is kind of a pervading spirit in this place," he said.

Schaefer said the Notre Dame community stems further than campus.

"Even if you're away from Notre Dame and you see someone wearing Notre Dame stuff, you can automatically have a 10-minute conversation," he said.

Luebbert has been consistently taken aback by "how aggressive alumni are with getting to you know you."

"Every football game [alumni] stopped by our room. Freshman year, somebody left a case of beer outside our room and said 'I used to live here, have a good time,'" he said.

Many seniors agree that finding time to take advantage of all Notre Dame has to offer has been challenging.

"There's so many amazing things going on here, so many ways that you can fill a day," Hartnett said.

"The challenge would have been to make sure I was trying new things and trying to get new experiences both inside and outside of Notre Dame," Schaefer said.

Finding a place at Notre Dame

Since Notre Dame can at times be an overwhelming experience, some seniors have found particular quiet places on campus that have become important to them.

Schaefer said one of his favorite locations on campus is near the lakes, near Carroll Hall, where the dome is visible while he is running.

For Hartnett, the chapel in his residence Dillon Hall has become very important.

"It's just always been there, always right there down the hall," he said.

Alicia Burtner said the courtyard in Bronson Hall has become one of her favorites because there are not usually many people there.

One of Luebbert's favorite places is the center of Notre Dame Avenue, from which one can see four statues perfectly lined up, including Mary on the top of the Dome.

"One step to the right or left, you

feel off balance," he said.

Noriega said when he needs a break from the dorm or from studying at night, he usually walks up to the Fieldhouse Mall.

"I don't really know why. It's pretty well lit, I just sit down there for a while, maybe make a phone call," he said.

Memories

As they look back over the last several years, seniors remember important moments with family and friends.

Moran said one of her favorite moments was rushing Stonehenge after the UCLA game this past football season. She also remembered learning the dance to "Newsies" one night freshman year with one of her friends.

One of the memories that Hartnett recalled was a break during finals or study days during his freshman year. It was the first heavy snowfall of the year, and New Englander Hartnett was told to come outside for a snowball fight with some of his friends from warmer Latin American countries.

"They were bundled up like marshmallows, throwing chunks of snow," he said. "It was a blast."

Schaefer said a trip to the dunes last fall was one of the highlights of his college experience, along with a visit by some of his friends from home sophomore year. He said it was great to share a Notre Dame football game with someone from back home.

Noriega remembered meeting his roommate for the first time and the initial awkwardness that has now become humorous. He said they both had very different personalities, which made their relationship funny at first.

"Our first few days together were awkward as usual, but hysterical as well," he said.

Noriega also said he has enjoyed his birthday every year as well because since freshman year, his friends have celebrated with a party they call "Juliopalooza." The tradition started after Winter break freshman year, which has made it especially important to Noriega.

"It's really funny, just having a birthday with kids I had only known for a semester. In some ways, we've all done that for each other," he said. "It's humbling to know how happy your friends can make you feel by celebrating your birthday."

Faith

Whether or not students are Catholic, Notre Dame's Catholic identity has had an impact on the experiences of seniors and influenced their spirituality.

"Being at Notre Dame and being independent for the first time in my life, I actually grew a lot closer to God," Schaefer said.

He said the people that he met at Notre Dame helped him to develop a more personal relationship with God.

Hartnett foresees the faith that he has developed at Notre Dame remaining important long after graduation.

"It's quieter, but it's stronger," Hartnett said. "It's definitely become not just something I do, but definitely an aspect of who I am and sort of a foundation that, moving forward, life decisions will be based on."

For Burtner, who is not Catholic, Notre Dame's Catholic identity caused her to struggle at times. She said she was not always sure whether or not she was allowed to join certain clubs and activities that had a Catholic component.

"I wish I had known [clubs] don't actually care if you're Catholic," she said.

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SMC valedictorian to continue research

By MANDI STIRONE
Assistant News Editor

Saint Mary's 2008 valedictorian, Lesley Anne Weaver, said she began working towards the honor as a freshman, but was stunned when told she received it.

"At Saint Mary's I had the opportunity to know a lot of brilliant women so I was surprised," she said.

The political science and social work double major, with a minor in mathematics, earned a 3.97 grade point average over her four years at the College, according to a press release.

"I'm really happy that all my hard work paid off," she said. "I'm kind of nervous about my speech but I think overall I'm happy about it."

She was heavily involved in activities at Saint Mary's including being a writing center tutor, co-chairing service initiatives for the Residence Hall Association (RHA) and serving as treasurer of the Pacific Islander and Asian Club, according to the press release.

Her volunteer work with the Children's Dispensary and as co-coordinator of Friends with Sisters, as well as her Social Work Field Practicum internships at Senator Evan Bayh's Office and Covering Kids and

Families of Indiana, helped to reaffirm her "passion for healthcare and disability rights," she said.

She said the passion comes from people who she has met and spoke with.

"I think I've always been interested in politics," she said.

After graduation, Weaver is attending the University of Minnesota in the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs to pursue a Master's in Public Policy with a dual concentration in Social Policy and Advanced Policy Analysis Methods.

She then plans to pursue a doctorate in either Political Science or Public Policy. The main objective of the doctorate will be "in order to explore how social welfare policies affect social problems and how social problems shape the passage and implementation of policies," Weaver said in the press release.

She hopes to continue to do research on the topics of social inequality and social welfare regardless of where it might take her, she said.

"I really want to do research, if that takes me to [Washington] D.C. that's great if it takes me to a large university that's fine," Weaver said.

Contact Mandi Stirone at
astiro01@saintmarys.edu

College honors multiethnic seniors

Graduating students received gift from diversity clubs, Board

By MANDI STIRONE
Assistant News Editor

Saint Mary's held its first annual Multiethnic Celebration on Saturday, May 3 to commemorate the 11 graduating multiethnic seniors.

Alumna, faculty, members of the College's multiethnic clubs and some students attended the event held in Dalloway's Coffee House.

The graduating seniors were presented with a gift from the diversity clubs and a gift from the Student Diversity Board (SDB) and each wore a black stole with embroidered symbols in multi-colored thread over her graduation gown.

Junior Chrissy Romo presided over the ceremony and the gifts were presented by director of

Multicultural Affairs Larisa Olin-Ortiz. Speakers included Vice

president for Student Affairs Karen Johnson former student body president Kim Hodges and Tysus

Jackson, a 1999 African-American alumna and Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia

Tech.

In her opening speech, Johnson congratulated and thanked the seniors for their dedication and hard work over the past four years.

"I want to thank you for the courage that you've had," she said. "We're very proud of you."

Hodges reflected on her activities and projects at Saint Mary's.

"This event is truly a dream come true for me," she said. "It is a representation of community and even more so a celebration for people I consider to be family."

She also talked about the accomplishments of the other students being honored at the celebration and expressed thankfulness for her own triumphs at the College.

"It was all worth the sacrifice and I would do it all again," she said.

Jackson, a first generation college graduate, talked about

her time at the College and congratulated Hodges on being the first African-American student body president.

During her speech, she discussed her struggle to come to a decision to attend Saint Mary's, though she eventually realized her decision was the right one.

She came to appreciate her experiences at Saint Mary's during her time at the College, particularly those she took with professor of sociology Susan Alexander.

As a result of these classes, Jackson gave a \$1000 to the College in the name of Susan Alexander at the end of her speech.

The celebration ended with an invocation and a reception for everyone in attendance.

The graduating seniors honored were Jeanne Choquehuanca, Victoria Dominguez, Sarita Fritzler, Kimberly Hodges, Adriana Lopez, Michelle Sherman, Razio Stanikzai, Martell Cardy, Lesley Weaver, Vesela Yondova and Marie-Rose Semuhingu.

Contact Mandi Stirone at
astiro01@saintmarys.edu

"This event is truly a dream come true for me."

Kim Hodges
former SMC student body president

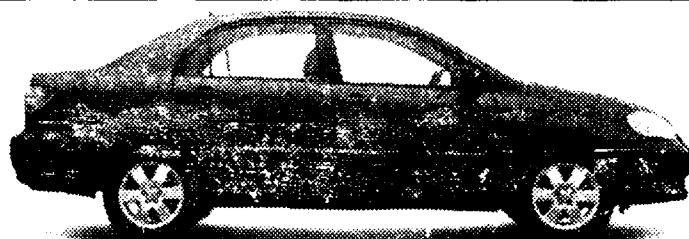
"It was all worth the sacrifice and I would do it all again."

Kim Hodges
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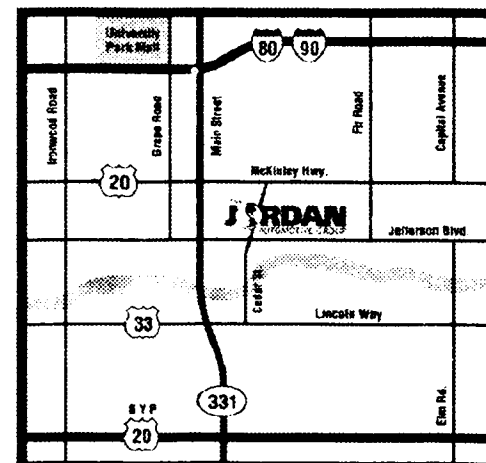
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The University of Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns wishes to honor the following graduates of the Class of 2008 who have committed a year or more to full-time postgraduate service. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you go forth.

Nicholas Albares
Matthew Anderson
Analisa Arizpe
Kevin Bailey
Meli Barber
Anne Bernat
Ryan Bolland
Laura Bradley
Alexandra Breuer
Michael Brosnan
Kaitlin Brown
Ryane Burke
Caitlin Cameron
Tara Lynn Carey
Michelle Carf
Caitlyn Caster
Meghan Chidsey
Benjamin Clarke
Allison Clements
Corey Collins
Jacqueline Collins
Mary Pat Collins
Kathleen Coverick
John Daly
Talia Daly
Andrew Digan
John Di Tillo
Alissa Donovan
Andrea Dreyfuss
Amanda Dunlavy
Erin Duquette
Mary Feighery

Matthew Flynn
Katie Galeone
Isaac Garcia
Valerie Garcia
Christina Ginardi
Katie Guida
Lauren Gulley
Peter Hadley
Laura Hale
Joshua Hammack
Erin Hankins
Cormac Harkins
Libby Hasse
Natalie Helfrick
Katie Helm
Saderia Nicole Hooks
Elizabeth Horan
Brittany Johnson
Calleen Jones
Patrick Kaiser
Tae Kang
Heather Keane
Robby Kiley
Daniel Klee
Heather LaDue
Brittany Lash
Michael Laskey
Claire Laurentius
Taryn Lewis
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Matthew Lucci
Jessica Luna

Kathryn Mancino
Garrett Mandeville
Andrea Martin
Ashley Mason
Kathleen McArdle
Steven McClure
Sean McGarvey
Andrea McGinley
Lindsay McQuaid
Corey Mehlos
Reid Merryman
Katie Meyer
Kelsey Montalto
Jennie Motto
Meghan Newcomb
Patrick O'Brien
Michael O'Connor
Gregory O'Donnell
Megan O'Hara
Kaitlyn O'Leary
Sarah Panzica
Dominic Pepper
Katherine Petersen
Sean Pillai
Elizabeth Pillari
Daniel Quandt
Natalie Rauch
Sarah Rauenhorst
Caitlin Regan
Je'Rell Rogers
Bridget Ronan
Joe Runde

Sarah Runger
Brendan Ryan
Brogan Ryan
Eric Sales
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Kristina Schliesman
Caity Schneeman
Mary Schubert
Rachel Sehgal
Brian Sheehan
David Shikada
Kelly Simon
Brian Smith
Sara Snider
Angela Spisak
Elizabeth Staten
Colleen Stehlin
Joel Steiner
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Crystal Truong
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Sarah Walorski
Denise Weber
Karen Wiborg
William David Williams
...and many more!



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Center for Social Concerns

Commencement Weekend 2008

Dear Graduates,

Prayers and best wishes to members of the Class of 2008. On behalf of the University, I would like to thank you for the many and varied contributions you have made to the University as students. By your presence among us, you have enriched this community.

For those of you who are graduating seniors, I hope that your time at Notre Dame has been fruitful, that you are leaving the University not only with a superb education but also with wonderful friends who will be part of your life long after Commencement. I pray also that your years at Notre Dame have allowed you to nurture your relationship with God and created in you the desire to turn your gifts to the service of God's people. Wherever life's journey may lead, you are likely to encounter fellow Notre Dame alumni who are working to improve their corner of the world, in every imaginable profession and field of endeavor. We take enormous pride in all of the ways our graduates contribute to and serve their families, the Church, and society, and I am confident that you too will be part of this rich heritage of service.

For those of you receiving graduate or professional degrees, I hope that you will carry with you the best of our traditions as they relate to your discipline. We are certain that you will represent Notre Dame well, not only through your professional accomplishments but also by your commitment to justice and adherence to ethical standards. I wish you much success in all of your endeavors.

May Our Lady, Notre Dame, be with you and watch over you always.



In Notre Dame,
(Rev.) Mark L. Poorman, CSC
Vice President for Student Affairs



ROTC seniors prepared to begin assignments

53 to be commissioned at tri-military ceremony Saturday; Commanding Officers say graduates have leadership skills

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Fifty-three officers from Notre Dame's Reserve Officers' Training Corps will be commissioned at the tri-military ceremony Saturday at 9 a.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Once the seniors are commissioned, they are considered active duty military and will join the military services full time, Lieutenant Michael R. Lipke, Assistant Professor of Naval Sciences said.

Vice Admiral Robert T. Conway, Jr. will be the commissioning officer and keynote speaker.

A total of 24 Navy Ensigns, four Marine Corps Second Lieutenants, 16 Air Force Second Lieutenants and nine Army Second Lieutenants will be commissioned.

The four seniors commissioned as Marine Corps Second Lieutenants will go to the Marine Corps, Captain Dale M. Nees, USM, Professor of Naval Science and Commanding Officer of the Naval ROTC Unit University of Notre Dame, said.

Of the Navy Ensigns, seven are going into aviation to be Navy pilots, eight will enter surface warfare, and six will be going working with nuclear submarines, Nees said. Two students are pursuing medical options and one will be entering a nuclear engineering program, Nees said.

Midshipman Jason Dodge will be attending Navy flight school in Pensacola, Florida after being commissioned as an ensign.

"I'm really excited about it,"

Dodge said. "It's a huge privilege and huge opportunity because I've always wanted to fly and the Navy's giving me a chance to do it."

Dodge said that while the Notre Dame ROTC program has prepared him as best as possible, he still expects aviation to be challenging.

"I feel like the Navy Notre Dame program did as best a job as they could to prepare me for the Navy in general, but for something as complicated and involved as aviation, it's intimidating because I'm going to be in school for approximately two years going through the various stages of flight training," Dodge said. "I'm very excited for it, but it's going to be a bit of a daunting task."

The commitment for scholarship Navy ROTC students is four years of active duty service and four years of inactive reserves, but this can change depending on what type of warfare special officers become involved in, Nees said.

Dodge said he does not foresee staying in the military after his commitment because there are other goals that he would like to pursue, including starting a family.

"I'd say after my initial commitment of 10 years or so I'd probably be about done, but

anything is possible," he said.

Midshipman Patrick Grainey will head to Kuroneko, Va., in June after being commissioned as second lieutenant to train with the marines for six months, but will not find out where he will go after training for some time. After his four-year commitment, Grainey is not sure whether or not he will choose to stay in the Marine Corps but would consider it.

"I'll have to kind of wait and see how I like what I'm doing," he said. "I'm definitely open to the possibility but haven't made up my mind yet."

Two Air Force second lieutenants will be in Intelligence, one in Logistics and two will be Weather Officers. Others will be in Air Battle Management, Space and Missiles, engineering or human resources and one will be attending law school, according to Colonel Dennis Mitchell, Professor of Aerospace Science and Commanding Officer of the Air Force ROTC Unit.

"They'll probably be supervising people and making decision on very expensive equipment at a young age ... the military is known for giving people a lot of responsibility very quickly and that is why we have the preparation training programs at ROTC," Mitchell said.

After being commissioned sec-

ond lieutenant, Jasmin Jones will be attending nine months of intelligence school at Goodfellow Air Force base in San Angelo, Texas. She feels both prepared for and excited about her assignment to intelligence, which was her first choice. Two weeks ago she went on a base visit with the Air Force ROTC program to Alaska where she was able to talk with current intelligence officers.

"I got to talk to intelligence officers about the career field and they told me what to expect, what you need to know," Jones said.

Cadet Margaret Lindley, a nursing student at Saint Mary's, will not be commissioned Saturday because she will be taking the nursing board exams later this year.

She will be commissioned after her exams and then will enter an Air Force nurse transition program.

Two Army ROTC officers will be going into the reserve side of the Army and the other seven will go to active duty posts worldwide, Lt. Cmdr. M i k e Wawrzyniak, a Professor of Military Science and the Commanding Officer of the Army ROTC said. Scholarship Army ROTC graduates also have a commitment of four years of active duty and four years in the reserves.

Wawrzyniak expects graduates to participate in combat soon after graduation.

"We can pretty much expect that most of these graduates will deploy to Afghanistan or Iraq within a year or two years after graduation," he said.

The Army ROTC program seeks to instill leadership skills in graduates, Wawrzyniak said.

"We focus on getting them ready to be a platoon leader out in the Army and to face some of the challenges that are part of the environment that we're cur-

rently in, so our focus is on leadership skills they need to be able to communicate and work with people," he said.

Soon after being commissioned as a second lieutenant, Chris Hippleheuser will be training in Fort Lewis in Washington and then to Oklahoma before leaving to spend a year in South Korea next February. He will be in field artillery for four years.

"I was excited [about my assignment]. It was my first choice, I really wanted to go to a different country," he said.

He said the leadership skills that he has learned as an Army ROTC officer will serve him well as he moves forward.

Cadet Hayden Piscal will be attending flight school to become a med-evac helicopter pilot after being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

"I'll be flying a Blackhawk [helicopter] but my job will be to pick up injured soldiers. So I'll fly them from wherever they are to a hospital," she said. ROTC officers agreed that their experience with

ROTC has influenced their college experience and their personal development because the program has allowed them to develop leadership skills, learn to manage time and meet and create friendships with other ROTC officers.

"It made my life a lot more regimented ... Navy created additional responsibilities that made me work more efficiently and effectively with the time that I had," Dodge said. "I wasn't lazy, I didn't waste my time. I had to make the most of everything. It made my time here at Notre Dame better and I can't imagine what it would have been like without it."

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscol@nd.edu

"We can pretty much expect that most of these [Army ROTC] graduates will deploy to Afghanistan or Iraq within a year or two years after graduation."

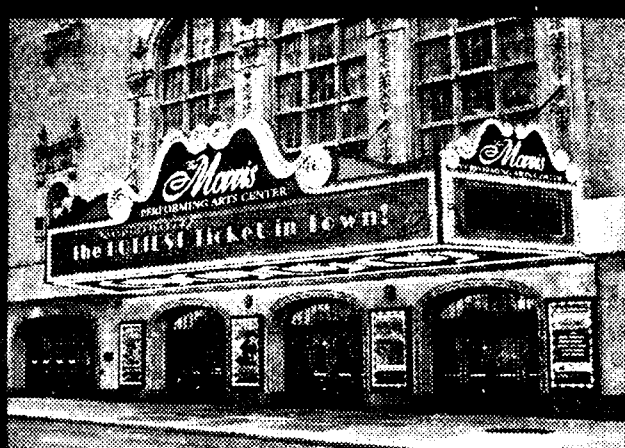
**Lt. Cmdr. Mike Wawrzyniak
Commanding Officer
of the Army ROTC**

"I had to make the most of everything. It made my time here at Notre Dame better and I can't imagine what it would have been like without it."

**Jason Dodge
Midshipman**

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Caitlin Regan
Kathryn Schmidt
Margaret Schramm
Marc Sordet
Margaret Welch
Victoria Whittenhall

Keenan rector takes new position

Father Mark Thesing served hall for six years, will be missed by dorm residents

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

Father Mark Thesing will step down as rector of Keenan Hall and will take a new position as Business Manager in the University's Office of Student Affairs.

Thesing said his new position as Business Manager is a full-time position, which necessitated that he step down as rector of Keenan Hall.

Thesing served as rector of Keenan since 2002 and said he enjoyed working with the men of Keenan Hall.

"I've had a wonderful time working with men of Keenan and being involved with all the things Keenan does from Frosh-O to... the Keenan Revue," he said. "I'm happy to be a part of it and happy to have worked with so many Keenan guys who have spent their years here."

Thesing said his years in Keenan were always filled with energy.

"Keenan is one of the best halls on campus, and I enjoyed all of the energy that the Hall staff had along with the Hall government in organizing and putting together activities and events to make Keenan a lively place to live where something is always happening," Thesing said.

Thesing also said part of being rector of Keenan meant that he had to help students as they faced the challenges of college life.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to be here as they continue to go through the challenges of being college student," Thesing said.

He also said there were some aspects of the position that were challenging to handle, especially when it came to disciplinary issues.

"There are lots of challenges to being a rector... I did not like having to deal with students who are unwilling to address issues in their lives... or who are unwilling to make changes that would be appropriate," Thesing said.

Senior J.J. Cappa said Thesing has been a mentor to him during his years in Keenan.

"Father Mark has been a mentor to me. There's really nobody who can help you develop your strengths the way he can," Cappa said.

Cappa also said Thesing was an invaluable asset to Keenan Hall's most celebrated dorm event — the Keenan Revue, an annual comedy show which pokes fun at campus life and pop culture.

"I was the Keenan Revue producer [in 2007] and that's something you can't do without Father Mark," Cappa said. "That was when I realized he is the unsung hero of the dorm — without him the great things that people do in the dorm wouldn't be possible."

As a resident assistant of Keenan Hall, Cappa said he got to know Thesing on a more personal level.

"This year as an RA working for [Father Mark], I realized how much he cares about everybody and that influences how you want to do your job. He is so careful and caring, and there for those who need a mentor," he said.

According to Cappa, Thesing is highly respected in Keenan Hall.

"Keenan wouldn't be same place without Father Mark... He's really respected for being a great rector," he said. "It's hard to pinpoint the one thing that is the best about him because he did so much."

Cappa also said that all of Keenan's current residents have only had Thesing as their rector, so filling his shoes will be a struggle for whoever replaces him.

"Everybody who is living in Keenan right now has only had Father Mark as their rector and I know that Keenan has been great for my four years. Everyone realizes how much of an influence he has and we're worried that someone else won't fill his shoes," Cappa said.

Sophomore Danny Wheeland said Thesing brought a welcoming spirit to Keenan.

"He has always been very welcoming and always made you feel like if you ever had any problem, you could go to him and talk to him about it," Wheeland said. "He always tried to give everyone the benefit of the doubt."

Wheeland also said Thesing played a major role in building community within the dorm.

"I remember the beginning of this year a freshman's father passed away and he made sure everyone knew about it. He set up a memorial service so the entire dorm could come together to show support for the freshman — that was a really cool thing he did," Wheeland said.

Additionally, Wheeland said the change in rectors will likely bring changes to dorm life.

"I feel like next year will be a learning process for everyone. The [Keenan] Revue might be different,

and it will be interesting to see if traditions that he has come up with himself will last," Wheeland said.

One tradition that Thesing kept alive during his time as rector of Keenan, Wheeland said, was that he made sure that he and the RAs took over pizza sales so that other Keenants could study during finals.

Senior Matt Casanova said Thesing helped to get many dorm projects underway.

"I was always involved in projects in Keenan — and he made it really easy to get things done and push [projects] along," Casanova said.

He said this was particularly evident to him during his position as captain of Keenan's soccer team.

"I was captain of the soccer team, and he told me not to worry about money for uniforms, to just get people signed up — he was a really big help for that kind of stuff," Casanova said.

Casanova agreed with fellow residents that one of the most remarkable things about Thesing was his influence on the Keenan Revue.

"He pushed it farther than it ever had been, especially in what we were allowed to do. Most people in Keenan end up getting involved in the Revue, and it's a big thing that everyone can rally around. He continued to make it better," Casanova said. "He gave us whatever we needed to make the show as great as possible."

Casanova said Thesing often went above and beyond the call of duty as rector.

"There's a lot Father Mark did I have never heard of rectors doing," Casanova said.

Casanova gave an example of Father Mark getting the hall ready to move into each year by making sure that any members of Keenan who had ordered carpets ahead of time had them laid down in their room before they arrived.

"I think everybody is going to miss him next year," Casanova said.

Officer Assistant of the Office of Student Affairs Carole Coffin said the OSA is still finishing up hiring new rectors for the 2008-2009 academic year, and some rector positions remain uncertain at this time.

Thesing said he did not know who would take over as rector of Keenan Hall.

Contact Becky Hogan at
rhogan2@nd.edu

ND, SMC award honorary degrees

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's will award professionals in diverse fields with honorary degrees to commemorate their achievements according to news releases.

"We try to have around 10 honorees each year, including the Commencement speaker," Dennis Brown, University spokesman and assistant vice president for News and Information said. "And these people are selected, generally speaking, for their contributions for society, and individually each would have particular attributes that would be worth of recognition."

Saint Mary's will award three honorary degrees, which is a normal amount according to Susan Dampeer, Executive Assistant to the President and Chair of the Commencement Committee. "We usually range between three and five," Dampeer said in an e-mail.

Notre Dame honorary degrees

Principal speaker Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington, D.C. will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree from Notre Dame.

IBM fellow emerita Frances E. Allen will receive an honorary doctor of engineering degree. Allen has been a leader in computer technology and has been successful in optimizing computer programs and computer systems that have become a basis for modern computing. Allen was both the first female IBM fellow and the first woman chosen for the A.M. Turing Award for the Association for Computing Machinery — the highest honor in her field.

Peter R. Brown will receive a doctor of laws degree. Brown is The Philip and Beulah Rollins Professor of History at Princeton University. He has written books about Christianity and about the fall of the Roman Empire, including a biography of St. Augustine, and is known for starting the field of study referred to as "late antiquity."

Marye Anne Fox, a physical organic chemist, will receive a doctor of science honorary degree. She is the chancellor of the University of California, San Diego, and has also been chancellor and university professor of chemistry at North Carolina State University. She is part of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

1949 Notre Dame graduate Samuel Hazo will receive a doctor of humane letters. Hazo founded and serves as the director of the International Poetry Forum in Pittsburgh and is the McNulty Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus at Duquesne University. Hazo, a novelist, poet, essayist and playwright, is a National Book Award finalist and the first State Poet of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 1993 to 2003.

Catherine L. Hughes, the founder of Radio One — the seventh largest radio broadcasting company in the nation

and the largest targeting black listeners — will be awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree. She is the first black female to own a publicly traded company and was appointed leader of WHUR, a Howard University-owned radio station, in 1975.

Judge Michael W. McConnell will be given a doctor of laws honorary degree. He is of the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals and teaches at the University of Utah's S.J. Quinney's College of Law. A prominent constitutional law scholar, McConnell is a known advocate of free exercise of religion and free speech and has criticized the Supreme Court's 1972 Roe v. Wade decision.

Michael L. Shuler — the James and Martha McCormick Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Samuel B. Eckert Professor of Chemical Engineering in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Cornell University — will receive a doctor of engineering honorary degree. He researches the application of chemical reaction engineering principles to biological systems that has led to pharmaceutical developments such as the chemotherapy drug Taxol.

John O'Shea will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree. A former sportswriter for the Irish Evening Press newspaper, O'Shea founded GOAL in 1977 — an Irish non-governmental organization serving the world's poorest people. While continuing to work as a journalist, O'Shea directed and volunteered at GOAL for 17 years.

John W. Thompson will be given an honorary doctor of laws degree. Thompson has been chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer of Symantec Corporation since 1999 and has overseen company growth from a small consumer software publisher to a global leader in security, storage and management systems. In 2002, President George W. Bush appointed Thompson to the National Infrastructure Advisory Committee, on which he made recommendations on the security of U.S. infrastructure.

Saint Mary's honorary degrees

Susan Peters, vice president of Executive Development and Chief of Learning Officer of General Electric (GE), will deliver the Commencement address and will receive an honorary doctor of humanity degree.

Mary Kay Kinberger, MSC, will receive an honorary degree for a lifetime of service to the Marianites of the Holy Cross community in New Orleans, the people of New Orleans, and those she taught and tended during her career as a nurse.

Colleen C. Ryan, member of the College Board of Trustees since 1998, will receive an honorary degree. Ryan, mother of eight, and her husband chaired the Saint Mary's Parents Council. She will retire this year.

Contact Emma Driscoll at
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Peters to deliver Commencement speech

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

Susan Peters, vice president of Executive Development and Chief Learning Officer of General Electric (GE), and 1975 graduate will be the commencement speaker at Saint Mary's graduation Saturday.

Along with delivering the commencement address, Peters will receive an honorary doctor of humanity degree.

Peters, who graduated with a degree in English Literature, has been active in the Saint Mary's community since she graduated, currently serving on the President's Advisory Council.

She also spoke at the College in 2005 as a Shannon Executive Scholar Lecture speaker. The Shannon lecture takes place annually with an outstanding alumna speaking to students.

Since Peters is an alumna,

many seniors, like Monica Mastracco, are excited to hear what advice she will give them in her speech since she knows what it is like to have attended the College.

"I've gone to the Commencement ceremony the last two years, and the speakers have been great and have had insightful things to say but it will be nice to see in a physical manifestation the actual quality of graduates that this College is putting out into the world," Mastracco said.

Peters said her ties to Saint Mary's will allow her to provide something special in her address.

"It is a true honor to be named as the commencement speaker for the class of 2008," she said. "It is particularly meaningful to come back to Saint Mary's and share some thoughts with the graduates, knowing that I was in their

shoes 33 years ago."

Peters was recently nominated to serve on the national Board of Directors of Girl Scouts U.S.A. and will begin her term in late 2008.

She joined GE in 1979 through the Human Resources Management Program and was appointed a company officer in 1997.

In 2007 she assumed responsibility for all leadership training and for GE's Management Development Institute.

"Susan Peters is an extremely accomplished alumna. I look forward to recognizing both her exceptional career at GE and her commitment to Saint Mary's," College president Carol Ann Mooney. "She is an engaging speaker and I know that she will connect with our graduates and their families."

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Chelsea Clinton campaigns at SMC on eve of Ind. primary

Daughter discusses mother's health care, education plans for presidential nomination during question-and-answer session

By BILL BRINK
News Editor

Chelsea Clinton discussed her mother's health care and education plans and told the audience that her mother would make a better president than her father did on May 5 in the Saint Mary's student center.

Speaking during a study break for students on the eve of the Indiana primary, Chelsea Clinton said her mother, Hillary, a New York Senator and Democratic candidate for president, was "more prepared" than her father, Bill, was when he was president.

"She's lived and worked in the White House and lived and worked in the Senate," Chelsea said. "She's experienced the unforeseen challenges."

Hillary Clinton won the Indiana primary as expected, but by a slim margin: she received 51 percent of the votes to Senator Barack Obama's 49 percent.

Although the event was a question-and-answer session, Chelsea steered most of her responses towards health care and education reform.

"The health insurance premium rose almost 100 percent over the last seven years," she said. "That's crushing people."

To combat this, Chelsea said Hillary wants to drop the price of health insurance premiums

to about 55 percent of what they are now. Hillary also plans to allow people to buy into the Congressional health care plan to lower the number of uninsured Americans.

"More than 100 million Americans, at some point in 2008, won't have insurance," Chelsea said. "[Hillary's] still fighting for what she knows we have to do in our country."

Chelsea said Americans were more likely to die without health insurance, and that risk grew if the uninsured person was a woman or a minority.

Aside from health care, Chelsea said, Hillary sees other problems in the medical field inhibiting the advancement of health care. The pharmaceutical companies, Chelsea said, have not taken the correct approach to children's medication. She gave the example of a 10-year old who pharmaceutical companies considered half the age of an adult and accordingly gave him half the medication an adult would receive. Hillary wrote a law that passed through a bipartisan Congress and "shamed" President Bush into signing it to rectify this problem, Chelsea said.

Safe and secure electronic medical records, Chelsea said, would also improve health care by saving the government as much as \$70 billion. The change could take six to eight years and would help pay for

health care coverage. Hillary also wants to double the research budget in the next 10 years, Chelsea said.

"President Bush has waged a war on science," Chelsea said. "Autism research needs more funding. Bush hasn't cut it, but he hasn't increased the budget. My mother is committed to fully funding areas that scientists say we need to."

To aid the funding of higher education, Chelsea said Hillary plans to double the size of Pell grants, which will max out at \$5,400 in 2012, and double the \$3,500 tax credit to families with students enrolled in higher education. Chelsea cited her mother's experience at Yale law school, where she paid for her education with federal loans at two percent interest alone. After Hillary graduated, she could easily pay back her loans with interest with her income, Chelsea said. "It enabled her to work for the Children's Defense Fund, something she wouldn't have done [otherwise]," Chelsea said.

Chelsea said Hillary plans to extend aid to students in exchange for public service to help pay off loans. Any loans left over after 20 years, Chelsea said, would be forgiven. To pay for this service, Chelsea said, Hillary plans to reinstate the tax on citizens worth over seven million dollars in family assets. This



LIZ HARTER/The Observer

Chelsea Clinton campaigns for her mother, Sen. Hillary Clinton, May 5, at Saint Mary's Student Center.

would affect 0.3 percent of the population, Chelsea said, but create eight billion dollars of revenue.

Hillary's revision of the education system, Chelsea said, focuses on public education as well. To start, Chelsea said, Hillary wants to get rid of the No Child Left Behind act on the grounds that it inspires lower standards in public schools.

"It incentivizes schools to lower standards because it awards money based on beating self-set standards," Chelsea said.

Hillary wants to start reform with three-year-olds, Chelsea

said, and expand early Head Start programs, which help educate children from underprivileged families. She hopes this will put children on a level playing field by the time they get to kindergarten.

As part of public education reform, Chelsea said, Hillary wants to improve school supplies such as textbooks. Chelsea said Hillary saw a textbook in a school in upstate New York with the sentence, "Someday we will send a man to the moon."

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Miller will be missed at commencement ceremonies

Math professor, softball coach dies after six-month battle with cancer; daughter will graduate from Saint Mary's



Photo courtesy of Kristina Schliesman

Don Miller performs as marshal at a recent SMC Commencement. He was the College marshal for the past two decades before his death in April.

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

The Saint Mary's community has continued to pay tribute to former chair of the department of mathematics and professor Donald E. Miller since he died Sunday, April 13, in his home after a six-month battle with cancer.

Miller, 67, taught mathematics at the College since 1967 and chaired the department since 1997. He was assistant coach of the Belles softball team, a position he took over in the 2000-2001 year. He also served as the faculty advisor for

the team, helping them to keep up with their majors, grades and other scholastic matters.

He also served as the marshal at Commencement ceremonies for more than two decades.

"Don was the ideal College marshal," Commencement Committee Chair Susan

"Don was the ideal College marshal."

**Susan Dampeer
commencement committee
chair**

Dampeer said in a statement. "[The event] is consistently beautiful, dignified and flawless because of his attention to detail. Don loved the ceremony and understood its significance in the lives of our students and their families. It is hard to imagine Commencement without him."

His daughter, Laura, is gradu-

ating with a degree in music education this year.

She said it will be hard that this is the first year her father won't be leading the Commencement procession and the year she will be walking in that procession.

"I have watched my dad lead the graduation procession for as long as I can remember, and not having him marching in front of me as I graduate may very well be the hardest part of Saturday's Commencement for me," she said.

Laura said even though her father won't physically be with her on her graduation day, she knows he will still be with her.

"I'm sure I'll be able to find comfort in knowing that even though he isn't marching on the ground, wearing the blue Saint Mary's marshal sash that my grandmother made for the school, he will be marching right along side me," she said.

She has been handing out purple ribbons, the symbol of pancreatic cancer, to her classmates to wear underneath their graduation robes since they aren't allowed to wear anything extra on top of them.

She said she hopes people realize that even though he is

not leading the procession he will still be there.

"I hope people realize that even though they can't see his white beard and smiling face leading the procession this year, he will be there, proudly watching over us, and in all of our hearts and minds," she said.

A Facebook group, "Donald E. Miller Memorial (and fan club!)," was created shortly after his death to honor him.

"I hope people realize that even though they can't see his white beard and smiling face leading the procession this year, he will be there, proudly watching over us, and in all our hearts and minds."

**Laura Miller
Miller's daughter, SMC senior**

Over 200 Saint Mary's students, alumnae and friends of Miller's family joined the group, leaving notes of sympathy and memories of Miller on the group wall.

"As a teacher, he was always doing something crazy," sophomore Theresa Earle said. "He called tests celebrations and he made sure that everyone talked in every class. He often said that a day in which you did not contribute to class was a day wasted."

Associate professor of mathematics Mary Connolly agreed with Earle.

"Don was the consummate teacher," Connolly said. "His students would all say that he chal-

lenged them and led them to levels they never thought possible. Students were always his first priority, whether working with them in class, in the office, on the softball field or in developing new or enhanced programs of study. His enduring legacy will be the students whose lives he changed."

She said many students and alumnae attended Miller's funeral, which was held Thursday at Little Flower Catholic Church.

"His record of service to the College is extensive, but his real legacy will be the students whose lives he changed," Connolly said. "The number of students who found his course tough as nails and ended up loving him is astounding."

She said the department has been getting notes of sympathy from everyone imaginable. There is a bulletin board in the mathematics hallway where students and members of the community can write remembrances of Miller. The math professors have been adding notes they have received from alumnae and faculty at other local colleges.

Miller often donned a red suit and transformed into Santa Claus during the holiday season and many students have written on the memory board "everyone already misses you dearly, Santa."

Miller's family asks any donations be made to the Donald E. Miller Memorial Fund at the College.

Contact Liz Harter at
eharte01@saintmarys.edu

Congratulations to all seniors in the College of Arts and Letters who are entering a Master's or Ph.D. program next fall.

Africana Studies

Milo Dodson

American Studies

Robert Costa

Anthropology

Kyle Bocinsky

Casey Bouskill

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Best
wishes in
your future
endeavors.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

THE OBSERVER

The Independent, Daily Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

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THE OBSERVER ONLINE

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The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame du Lac and Saint Mary's College. Editorial content, including advertisements, is not governed by policies of the administration of either institution. The Observer reserves the right to refuse advertisements based on content.

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.

Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Chris Hine.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$100 for one academic year; \$55 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779
Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

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Becky Hogan	Kara King
Emma Driscoll	Graphics
	Mary Jesse

Remember two things

We carp about parietals. We bemoan the limited quantities of food at senior week events. We grumble about the computer clusters and OIT. We even protest the placement of cheese in the dining hall.

If a scriptwriter came to Notre Dame on the wrong day, he'd have the title of a blockbuster movie in mind: "The Great Complainers."

For all that we have, we can be a bit selfish and annoying at times. The appropriate term may be self-centered. Not always, but certainly too much. And this isn't about the institution; it's about us.

And I include myself among the worst offenders.

But there are two things we can think about that can change us from relatively spoiled whiners to the positive forces that Notre Dame graduates should be.

One. We can make a difference. Every community has its problems; every place has its issues. But we can help effect change. It takes effort, it takes persistence and it takes time. But it can be done.

We can be a part of the solution to problems that annoy us, and we can be a force for good anywhere we work or live. It's easy to whine and complain about things that seem to be pointless and annoying. I know from experience.



Ken Fowler

Managing Editor Emeritus

It's harder to take the time to contact the people in charge of building services, maintenance, landscaping services, etc. Making something better rarely occurs without effort. If we all pitch in when we can — in a positive, productive manner — we can make changes that benefit everybody.

Two. Remember the answer to this question: Where would you rather be?

Where is professing your faith not just a First Amendment right but rather an encouraged part of life? We're at a Catholic school where a Muslim football player named Ryan Harris felt more comfortable living his religion than at secular schools because our ethos is to respect faithfulness, not shun it.

What colleges have not one, but two nationally recognized landmarks?

Where can you walk from a gorgeous basilica to a spiritual grotto to seek courage, strength, forgiveness or guidance?

Where does spring's first 60-degree day mean hundreds of students throwing Frisbees, footballs and baseballs on two quads?

There are many places that can answer affirmatively to one or two of these questions. But few are like this place; not many can say yes to all.

Sure, we complain about parietals being arbitrary. And they are. They are an arbitrary rule that guarantee that boyfriends and girlfriends don't get in the way of nine hours of possible sleep time on weeknights and seven on weekends.

They are much like the laws demanding that we drive on the right side of the road: totally arbitrary and a great way to avoid head-on collisions.

There are things we can complain about, things that should be changed about Notre Dame. There are things the administration could do better, things the class councils could organize much more efficiently.

But there's only one place where we graduate from college, one place where most of us have spent four tremendous years of our lives.

I dreamt for 18 years that I would come here, earn a degree and witness a football national championship as an undergrad. Two out of three ain't bad.

When I think of Notre Dame, I'm not going to think about where the condiments were in North Dining Hall. I'm not going to think about how construction made me lose my preferred exit from Siegfried while walking to DeBartolo. And I'm sure as heck not going to think about InsideND.

I'm going to think about friends. And football. And the Basilica. And professors who care about you and know your name. And service. And the Grotto. And Touchdown Jesus. And the Dome.

And how I was lucky enough to attend my dream school.

Ken Fowler wouldn't be graduating from Notre Dame without his mom and dad, Chrissie and Walter; his brother, Danny; his grandmother, Pat; and everyone else in his family.

Ken will be teaching special education in New York City next year as a Teach For America corps member. He can be contacted at kfowler1@nd.edu

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

The secret handshake

I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

I applied to Notre Dame on a whim, intrigued by a couple youth group friends' near-devotional tones when I said I didn't see myself at a "big Midwestern football school."

("But it's Notre Dame!" said one twin. "Maybe we need to show her Rudy again," said his brother.)

I was accepted to Notre Dame on a prayer, smitten with the place during a hasty late-March visit just days before Admissions mailed its envelopes.

And so, on one chilly August day nearly four years ago, I arrived as a student at Notre Dame. I had no idea who the guys were whose signs claimed their dorm had been "housing your daughters since 1937," no clue how to fit my belongings into the tiny triple I was to share with strangers, and no concept of the long-nurtured devotion many of my fellow freshmen brought to the school.

(I began to suspect the extent of that loyalty when my roommate told of how her parents had met at a Farley dorm party three floors above our new room.)

On that rainy orientation weekend almost four years ago, nearly two thou-

sand freshman arrived at Notre Dame from each U.S. state and countries around the world. Some of us come from historic Notre Dame legacies and spent our first autumn Saturdays toddling around campus in miniature cheerleader outfits. Notre Dame was in our blood.

Some of us planned and strove for years to become the first from our families to attend Notre Dame. Notre Dame was in our dreams.

And some of us stumbled across this University at just the right time. For us, Notre Dame was an unexpected blessing.

Years later, we've finished our undergraduate careers at this mid-sized college in northern Indiana. We've walked this meticulously maintained campus to and from lectures and exams, dorm parties and SYRs, matches and meetings and Masses. We've been given time to forge our own identities at a University that's always considering its own. Whether we support or critique Notre Dame's policies and practices, many of us have found inspiration in its best and boldest claims — that faith and reason can be mutually supportive; that serving others is not only a responsibility but a privilege; and that we are called to use our educations to bring positive change to the world.

We came here from many paths and places, but as one of my favorite professors once said, come graduation, we'll all be Notre Dame alumni doing the secret handshake.

This weekend, as I listen for my name

to be called, I'll listen also for those of the friends with whom I pulled all-nighters cramming for the big exam, plotted surprise birthday parties, pushed toward dawn talking over our lives and put out hundreds of issues of The Observer. I'll listen for the names of those with whom I traveled by car to Ann Arbor, by plane to Dublin, by train across Morocco and by boat to the Caribbean. Even if I hadn't fallen for Notre Dame, I'd do it all again just to know them.

And when we meet again, whether at the Backer next fall or in some far-flung locale, we'll give each other the secret handshake.

Karen Langley is graduating with a degree in English and minors in Anthropology and Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. She will begin an internship at the Philadelphia Inquirer two weeks after graduation and hopes to find a permanent reporting job before the summer's end. She would like to thank her parents for their untiring love and their support of an education as pricey as a small boat, Patrick for choosing Notre Dame and Michael for being not only her brother but her best friend. She would also like to thank the Farley girls, the Dublin Program and The Observer staff for the often quirky, sometimes ill-advised and always defining times and the unforgettable friendships.

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am careful not to confuse excellence with perfection. Excellence, I can reach for; perfection is God's business."

Michael J. Fox
U.S. actor

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present."

Marcus Aurelius Antoninus
Roman Emperor

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

Friday, May 16, 2008

page 20

It's still Notre Dame to me

Notre Dame is a great place. It's a place where mentally and/or athletically and/or parentally gifted high school grads can learn and grow a lot in four short years. Less interestingly, it's a place where I learned and grew a lot in four short years.

One of the important lessons was not to come across as such a ba**ard, so maybe my second sentence was a little much. But I could have learned this lesson at any university, or perhaps by just spending four years in the world beyond high school ... realizing that making good grades in high school does not necessarily imply a significant degree of worldly wisdom.

Some lessons, though, can only be learned at Notre Dame, which is why our "competitive" tuition increases may actually be a wonderful discount.

1. "Gender Relations" is a legitimate sociological term.

I never heard "gender relations" before coming to Notre Dame, but from day one on campus, this phrase was tossed around like it was a normal, everyday collegiate concern. Part of me

believes that other colleges have a much racier name and definition for "gender relations." I think they call it "getting laid," and no one writes Letters to the Editor complaining about it.

2. Gay people don't go to college.

Notre Dame's recognition of this fact offers the only explanation of its continued failure to amend the non-discrimination clause or give any degree of recognition to an on-campus club. The board of trustees should pat themselves on the back for having a level of insight that will one day be recognized for being as embarrassingly misguided as, say, geocentrism, or torturing people for translating the Bible into languages other than Latin.

3. Sexual assault can be stopped by asking people to promise not to do it.

Back to the intrepid work in gender relating going on right now under Our Lady's sponsorship — I remember a few dining hall trips being interrupted by someone asking me to sign off on my intention not to rape anybody. It worked.

4. The class average is always a B+.

Because we're all too special to be average. And we're paying too much.

Okay, the sarcasm stops here. I want to be perfectly clear that I loved my four years at Notre Dame. I really did learn a lot, even if most of it had to be gained by reflecting on the bad decisions. To be honest, I don't really feel there is a better way to learn (within reason). Notre Dame (this means you Pasquerilla West)

likes to tell people not to make bad decisions. I feel that, within reason, this is misguided.

I also learned a lot in my two years as editor of the Viewpoint section. There are plenty of "big deals" — things that are important to write about, editorialize on, et cetera. Then there are several non-issues that become perennial favorites for letter-writers. After seeing numerous arguments in both camps (at one time I was forced to create three separate folders for different flavors of Saint Mary's complaints), I'd like to make a bold suggestion. — nothing is offensive unless it is directly responsible for physical violence.

I know this isn't perfect and is subject to many exceptions. But these exceptions absolutely do not include "The Vagina Monologues," any comic strip or parietals.

I also humbly submit a campus action I think could be a force for good.

I'm generally skeptical about petitions. They're too complicated. Sometimes it's likely that not every signatory completely read what was signed.

But I think the University might react favorably if someone could get some signatures on a short, unambiguous declaration. "I don't hate gay people," for example, would be a great one. I can only imagine the shock in that boardroom if they were informed that this was true for many Notre Dame students. Some policies would have to change.

Reflecting on everything over the last four years, the dining halls will be my most missed establishment under the Dome. However economically uninformed the living wage movement may be, I think it would be easy to make a case for such superinflationary salaries for all those responsible for feeding us over the last four years. I recommend making and grilling quesadillas at the Mexican section.

When I review columnist applications, I always emphasize that every column needs to have one central theme, and that everything else in the column should serve to support that theme. In a reflective piece such as this one, even selecting a theme can be a challenge (a good reason I was never a columnist). If I had to pick one, I would say be nice to the employees at Sbarro.

Joey King is a mechanical engineer from Houston, Texas. He received cheers from the Irish Rover for "paraphrasing (sic) a dialogue from Plato's Republic," and would like to cordially remind the Rover of the difference between paraphrase and parody. He feels that Taco Bell offers the best combination of both delicious and competitively priced food, in addition to a surefire cure for even the worst hangover. He can be contacted at jking7@nd.edu

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



Joey King

Viewpoint
Editor
Emeritus

Keeping the faith

At 9:45 p.m. April 30, I signed off a journal entry: "Don't want to leave. Scared to go."

It was the last day of classes, and one of many moments in recent weeks when the thought of leaving Notre Dame made my heart ache.

It's happening again as I write this, and ask myself how I can possibly capture my Notre Dame experience in 450 words.

This feeling is not sadness — I have a store of wonderful memories with dear friends. And it's not fear — that will wait until after graduation.

It's the onset of uncertainty after four years of easily measured achievement, friends four steps away, and Mary's comforting gaze.

Of course uncertainty has not been absent during my time here. When I arrived as a freshman, I wondered if I could find happiness and health after a difficult senior year in high school.

As a sophomore, I scrapped Mendoza plans for American Studies, albeit hesitantly.

Junior year, uncertainty crept up on me in O'Hare Airport minutes before boarding my flight for London.

And senior year, not surprisingly, has been marked by questions about how to earn a living and find fulfillment after graduation.

In every case, I have found solace when I stopped seeking answers, and started accepting

the question marks.

Alums say you never really leave Notre Dame — that your heart stays here forever. Others have told me Notre Dame never really leaves you, remaining a part of every graduate.

But as seniors, we can't be certain this will be true for ourselves. Nor can we know if our jobs will be satisfying, if we'll have what it takes to do them well, or if we'll ever have as much fun, or find as much peace, as we did at Notre Dame.

So I suppose all we can do is have faith. It's the kind of faith you have on football Saturdays here, when you walk into the Stadium and are convinced, even against the mightiest opponent, that we have a fighting chance.

This lesson was the hardest and most valuable one I learned here: some matters, some questions, are best left to faith.

Dr. Seuss wrote an entire book about the places you'll go, making the future seem so lovely. It's unnerving, though, standing at the start of the rest of your life and having no way of knowing what awaits. But we are capable, talented, driven — and we all have a fighting chance.

So to Notre Dame's class of 2008, keep the faith.

We'll move mountains.

Mary Kate Malone is moving to Pittsburgh, Penn. after graduation to work for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for the summer (or, if she's lucky, forever). She would like to thank her parents, brother and sister for their love and support during the last four years. (I did it!)

She can be contacted at mmalone3@nd.edu

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



Mary Kate
Malone

Assistant
Managing
Editor
Emeritus

Like nowhere else

I'll never forget the cheers of the crowd as I ran into that end zone at the Rose Bowl last fall.

Of course, I wasn't wearing a football uniform, or carrying a ball — I was just trying to get from the crowd of reporters surrounding Charlie Weis to the foot of the stands where the Irish players were celebrating their first win of the season.

But seriously, I ran nearly the length of the field at the Rose Bowl with a cheering crowd in my ears — which is something I never dreamed I'd be able to do.

That wasn't the only once-in-a-lifetime event that happened to me over the last four years. When I graduated from high school, there's no way I would have believed what I got to do while at Notre Dame.

I sat courtside at two NCAA tournaments — and, after the first one, a Chicago sportswriter wrote a column speculating that Luke Harangody would take his frustration over losing to Winthrop out on me.

I got carried away during a live nationally televised football debate with a Boston College student — and it earned me two weeks of hate mail and made me infamous to the Notre Dame internet fan community.

Charlie Weis knows my face. Mike Brey knows my name.

I was so close to two straight undefeated home basketball schedules that my computer has a crack from where a ball hit it.

In the chaos after the 2005 USC game, Pete Carroll almost tripped over me. I got to stay dry in the press box while storms drenched Notre Dame's 2006 comeback against Michigan State. Hall of Famer Adrian Dantley called me on my cell phone once. I called Digger Phelps at home for a story and I'm sure I woke him up from a nap.

What did I do to deserve all this? Why did I get to go places and talk to people that I previously thought were out of

reach?

I was in the right place at the right time — and by that, I don't mean the basement of South Dining Hall during The Observer's Frosh-O open house in 2004.

I mean I was at Notre Dame — period.

Long before "What are you Fighting for?" and the ill-fated "candle ad," the University marketed itself with the slogan "Nowhere but Notre Dame."

When I was applying to college, I thought that slogan meant the obvious things that set Notre Dame apart — community, spirituality, work-ethic, football, etc.

Four years later, those attributes are certainly true, but they're not unique. Other schools have community, other schools are religious, other schools pursue excellence and far too many schools are currently better than us at football.

What's unique about Notre Dame is that it's small — but its reach is large.

This school only has 8,000 undergrads, but the 8,000 of us that go here have access to some of the country's best academic programs, best professors and best extracurriculars. When we graduate, we lucky few become "Notre Dame alumni," a group that stretches around the world.

And that is how I — basically by coming to this school and deciding to write for the newspaper — ended up on the field at the Rose Bowl, courtside at the NCAAs, and interviewed on ESPN. Because at this school, you can't leave your dorm room without tripping over an opportunity to do something special, to be someone important, to change the world.

There are very few other schools that have that combination. Some schools have a large reach, impressive programs and a far-reaching alumni base. Others are small and have easy access to professors and extracurriculars. This school has both, and that — in addition to all the cliché stuff — is why there is Nowhere like Notre Dame.

Chris Khorey is graduating with a degree in history. He is from Grand Rapids, Mich. and can be contacted at ckhorey@nd.edu

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



Chris Khorey

Sports Editor
Emeritus

EXCERPTS FROM PAST ISSUES

Four Years in Review

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

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, 2005

Ty 'couldn't get it done,' deserved to be fired

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 NCAAF 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!

"Willingham was not doing the things that needed to be done."

Bill Lewis
alumnus
class of 1976
Dec. 1, 2004

Belles — lighten up

Every day I get The Observer and flip to Viewpoint to see what debate is raging. The past few days, after reading the responses to the Jockular comic, I can only say that Jockular has been taken far too seriously. As many comics today, Erik Powers and Alec White are satirists, so obviously they use Jockular to poke fun at everyday events.

We've all seen The Simpsons, Family Guy or South Park. During every episode, they target a different aspect of daily life to laugh at, sometimes even things dear to us. But do we take offense? No. Those of us who can recognize and appreciate satire just laugh and turn up the volume. That's exactly what I'm calling all Belles to do: laugh and turn up the volume. Don't take it personally that Saint Mary's is this week's target of satire,

because that's all it is — a little sarcastic fun.

In no way do I feel that I am betraying my fellow Belles through this opinion. I love Saint Mary's; hence the reason I am here and not at Notre Dame. I am proud of this school and the women in it. But I feel that we should not take things so much to heart. Ethel Barrymore said, "You grow up the day you have your first real laugh at yourself." So lower your shields, put down your weapons, pick up today's Jockular — and have a good laugh.

Maggie Yancy
Andrea Beres
freshmen
Saint Mary's College
April 12, 2006

Original fight song cherished

At this point, I've grown accustomed to biting my lip and grimacing at certain times when Notre Dame students, faculty and alumni try to instill their opinions, viewpoints and beliefs into others. This has held true until I recently read Caity and Erin Schneeman's letter to the editor, "Reconsidering the Victory March" (Oct. 30).

While few people would refer to me as "old fashioned," I am still a firm believer that certain traditions should remain unscathed — above all, the "Notre Dame Victory March." I'm a proponent for equal rights, yet I can't help but ask myself the question: Can anything be left sacred anymore? The reason that most Notre Dame fans are fans is because of the traditions and pedigree associated with the University.

While people are on such a kick to appease the minority by making every tradition as politically correct as possible, they isolate the majority and forget about what most people care about. I've witnessed many great Notre Dame traditions die since I started as a student and the very mention of changing the lyrics to the "Victory March" fills me with the same sadness and rage I usually associate with watching Tyrone Willingham coach a football game.

What's next? Should we start redrafting the

Declaration of Independence because it doesn't state that "all men and women are created equal"? Words might just be words but like the Declaration of Independence, the "Victory March" has meant a great deal to a number of people and to change it now would be an injustice to every person who has walked the steps beneath the Golden Dome.

The thing that you must remember, Caity and Erin, is that this University was founded in 1842, not 1972. So, while I find Caity and Erin's family traditions to be "interesting" and "cute," I, along with the rest of the Notre Dame family, will continue to sing the original and real version of the fight song written by the O'Shea Brothers in the early 1900s.

Honestly, if Caity and Erin feel oppressed or shorted in any way by reading my opinion, then I would like to remind them that the beautiful gates of Saint Mary's College are always open. Last time I checked, there was no discussion of incorporating a male presence into its fight song.

Matthew Wrablik
Class of 2006
Los Angeles, Calif.
Oct. 30, 2007

Reflections on *Looking Back at the Und*

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE NOTRE DAME EXPERIENCE DURING THESE PAST FOUR YEARS?



Meghan Jebb
Cavanaugh
Ticonderoga, N.Y.

"Graduating."



Sachi Seille
Lewis
Bellevue, Wash.

"Dancing on top of the St. Ed's terrace, and getting gelled at by NDSP."



Alexandra Persley
Lewis
Kansas City, Mo.

"Waking up with mulch on my face after a night at Club 23."



Ashley Mason
Howard
Charlotte, N.C.

"Cross-country skiing on the golf course."



Elijah Pearce
Siegfried
Savannah, Ga.

"Watching her bite it in a sand trap, while cross-country skiing on the golf course."



Patrick Brown
Morrissey
Winter Park, Fla.

"The Zbikowski punt return, USC 2005"

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?



Joshua Kempf
O'Neill
Castroville, Texas

"Investment banking — saving the world one loan at a time."



Pat Reidy
Sorin
Greenwood Village, Colo.

"Trying to be Ted Hesburgh."



Pavan Sadarangani
O'Neill
Philipsburg, St. Martin

"I'm going to be a souvenir salesman in the Caribbean."



Sarah Waller
Pasquerilla West
Granger, Ind.

"Living on my friend's couches."



Josh Morris
Siegfried
Columbus, Ind.

"IU med school, South Bend campus. Two more years of Fever. I'll be the guy in a white coat."



Nate Serazin
Siegfried
Elyria, Ohio

"Med school at Northwestern, and coming back to see Josh at Fever every Thursday. See you there, ladies."

Notre Dame

Undergraduate Experience

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SOUTH BEND MEMORY?



Ji Yoon Sim
Cavanaugh
Seoul, Korea

"My volunteer work at the homeless shelter, because it was such an eye-opening experience."



Dustin Mennella
Keough
Seattle, Wash.

"Scotch eggs and Irish music at Fiddler's Hearth."



Peter Toeher
Morrissey
Norcross, Ga.

"Hearing Miley Cyrus come on at the Backer."



Dan Toler
Dillon
Philadelphia, Pa.

"Intramural baseball at Boehm Park, it was nice to get off-campus for something other than a party."

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR NOTRE DAME EXPERIENCE IN THREE WORDS??



Matt Lucci
Morrissey
Foxborough, Mass.

"Tender lovin' care."



Steph Lewis
Off campus
Darien, Ill.

"Finnie's dance parties."



Michael Lutkus
O'Neill
Hudson, Ohio

"Windchill, Frostbite, hypothermia."



Matt Menoch
Alumni
Anchorage, Ala.

"Father George Rozum."



Chris Babcock
Alumni
Cincinnati, Ohio

"God, country, Notre Dame."

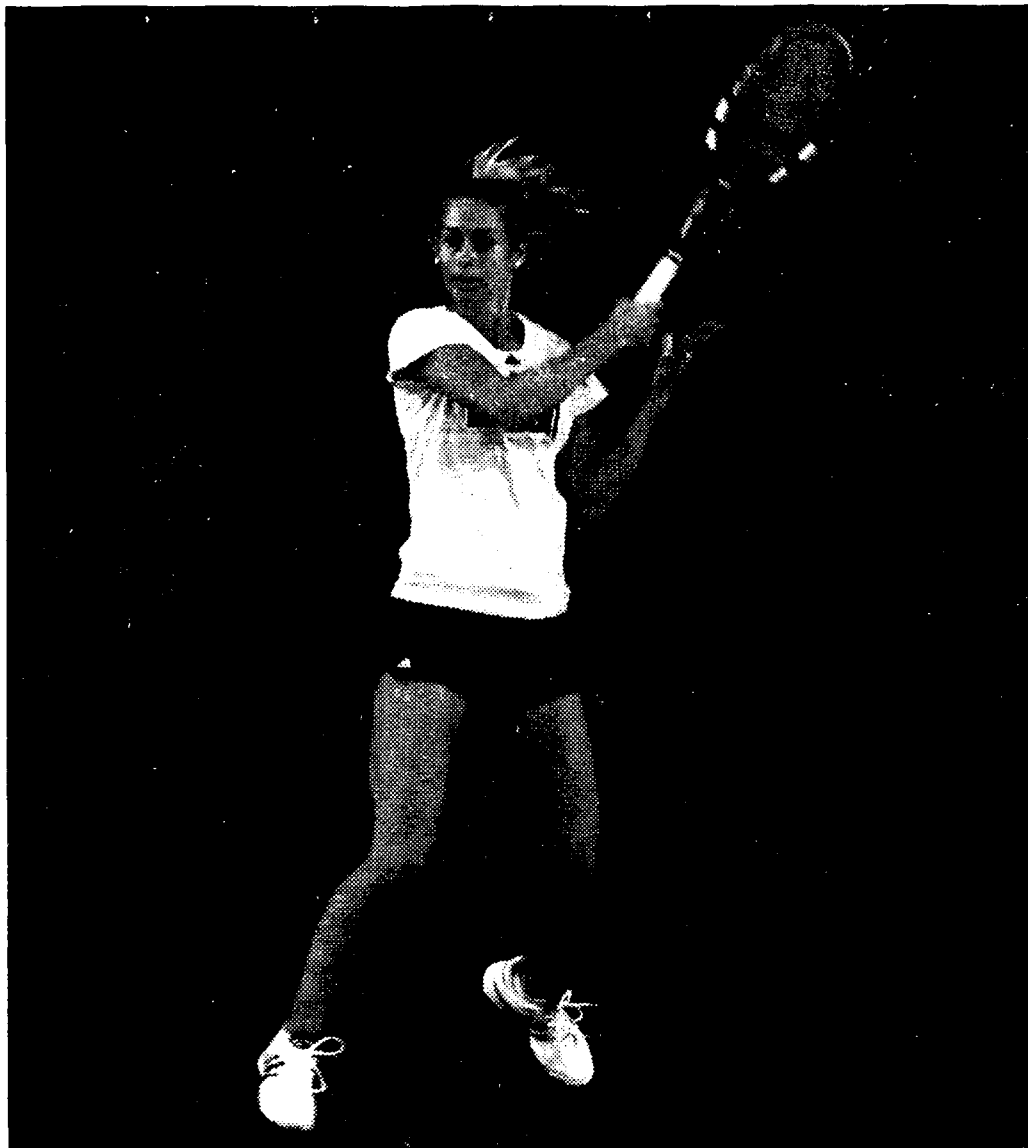


Nick Kluesner
Morrissey
Aves, Iowa

"Pants down Enrique."

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Squad falls to Miami, Buck and Tefft invited to NCAAs



Irish senior Brook Buck returns a shot during Notre Dame's 7-0 home win over Marquette on April 13.

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

By DAN MASTERTON
Sports Writer

The 2008 season ended for Notre Dame last week at the NCAA Tournament Regionals. Notre Dame (22-9) defeated Florida International in the first round but fell in the regional final to No. 1 Miami (FI).

The Irish battled through a tough test from FIU that included multiple rain delays and less than optimal court conditions. The Irish triumphed 4-1, winning the decisive fourth point over eight hours after the match's scheduled 2 p.m. start.

"FIU was a lot better than we thought they would be. They had six really good singles players, and we really had to play well to win," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "We got off the court Friday night at 10 and that did not help us a lot for Saturday [against Miami]."

Miami started strong by snapping Notre Dame's 17-match doubles point win streak.

Freshman Kristen Rafael earned her first career NCAA Tournament win alongside sophomore Kali Krisik in No. 3 doubles. But sophomores Colleen Rielley and Cosmina

Ciobanu fell 9-7 at No. 2, and the top pair of senior Brook Buck and junior Kelcy Tefft lost 8-6.

Miami scored three singles victories before any Irish players could take a match. Rielley, Buck and Tefft all fell in two-set matches to give Miami the 4-0 sweep.

Louderback wishes that his team could have taken the doubles point as Ciobanu and Krisik were leading in their singles matches when the Irish were eliminated.

"[Miami's] No. 1 [doubles] team is really good, but I was disappointed we couldn't take either of those top two doubles matches, especially after winning at No. 3. It was going to be a tight match, so not getting that doubles point killed us because you need to win it against the good teams," Louderback said.

Despite being eliminated early, Louderback was pleased with the effort and performance staying strong through the end of the season.

"We did a lot better than in previous years playing up to our ability at the end of the year," he said. "Our kids were really going after it in practice at the end. This year they didn't slack off in practice at all and that helped us finish

strong."

Even though the team's season is over, Buck and Tefft will play on. The pair was invited to play in the NCAA Doubles Tournament, and Tefft will represent Notre Dame in the singles tournament as well.

Buck and Tefft are seeded No. 3 in the 32-team tournament, and the pair won the national indoor championship this past fall.

"There's five or six teams in doubles that good to win, and [Kelcy and Brook] are definitely one of them," Louderback said.

Tefft goes into the 64-person tournament unseeded, but she has been ranked as high as No. 38 in singles this year.

"It will be good experience at that tournament because there's some really tough players. Kelcy had a bad blister and a sore wrist at the end of the season, so some rest before it will be good for her," Louderback said.

Buck and Tefft will finish the year at a neutral site but in front of a home crowd.

"They're both Oklahoma natives so it's a great spot to play for them. They'll both have lots of fans."

Contact Dan Masterton at
dmastert@nd.edu

MEN'S TENNIS

Parbhu, Helgeson lead young team to Tourney

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

With six freshman starters, the Irish continued the program's storied success this season under head coach Bobby Bayliss.

The Irish were led in singles and doubles by junior, Brett Helgeson, who teamed with senior Sheeva Parbhu as the No. 1 doubles team. Parbhu also was the No. 2 singles player that contributed to many wins.

"Helgeson and Parbhu are a strong doubles team," Bayliss said prior to the NCAA tournament. "They have adapted, and are learning to work better together and know that they can rely on each other."

While the Irish lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament this season, they finished with a 16-11 record in 2008, and an undefeated record against conference opponents.

The Irish were also able to

capture the Big East Conference Championship for the fifth time in six years.

En route to the Big East Championship the Irish defeated Villanova, DePaul, and the University of South Florida.

"We have a very tough schedule," Bayliss said. "We will face six out of the top-8 teams in the country this season."

Also early in the season the Irish were able to capture many 4-3 matches early in the season which helped boost their record and ranking. The Irish rose as high as No. 9 this season in the national rankings.

"We won many 4-3 matches early in the season," Bayliss said. "That is what helped our ranking. We had a rough patch later in the season, but still were able to maintain a good record."

One of the big 4-3 wins for the Irish came over the Duke Blue Devils on Feb. 3. The No. 11 Irish defeated the No. 15 Blue Devils.

Behind Helgeson and Parbhu

in the singles lineup was fellow senior Andrew Roth.

Roth who had battled injuries throughout his career was able to pull through the season and come up with some big wins for the Irish.

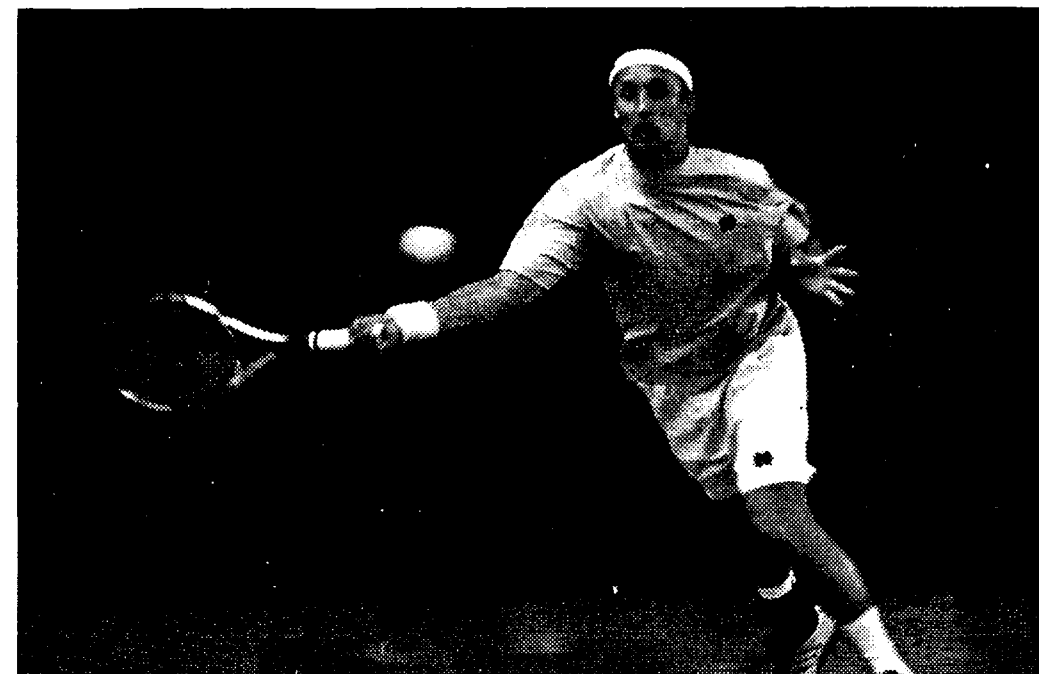
"Roth battles in all of his matches," Bayliss said. "Once he sets his teeth into a match he doesn't let go. He is a real fighter."

The Irish featured many freshmen in both the singles and doubles lineups.

Stephen Havens was a staple in the singles lineup at No. 4 singles. Also David Anderson, and Daniel Stahl were able to come up with big wins at five and six singles for the Irish.

"We are very young with six freshmen," Bayliss said. "Hopefully the experience will help us in the long run. Sometimes a coach wants the players to mature faster than they do. Hopefully we can end our talk with the Gerber people soon."

Junior Santiago Montoya also



JESS LEE/The Observer

Irish junior Santiago Montoya returns a shot during Notre Dame's 7-0 home win against Ball State on April 4.

played a large role at No. 2 doubles late in the season.

"We felt that a doubles change needed to be made," Bayliss said. "A doubles team is like a marriage. It can either go well, but after a while things can just fizzle out."

The Irish will only lose the two seniors, Parbhu and Roth. The team will look to continue the winning tradition at Notre Dame with more experience.

Contact Kate Grabarek at
kgraba01@saintmarys.edu

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GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO ALL MY OBSERVER FRIENDS. LOVE, SHIRLEY

You were all cute babies.

--Mary Jesse.
P.S. Except Ken Fowler (Teal and purple backpack? Really?)

Thank you Shirley!!!

If you missed out on Ring by Spring, The Observer is ready and willing.

The Observer apologizes for the absence of Joe McMahon

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.

Vintage Kaleidoscope McDaniels

P.S. The Badin 24-hour lounge will also be closed because a pipe burst there last night (if you know what I mean).

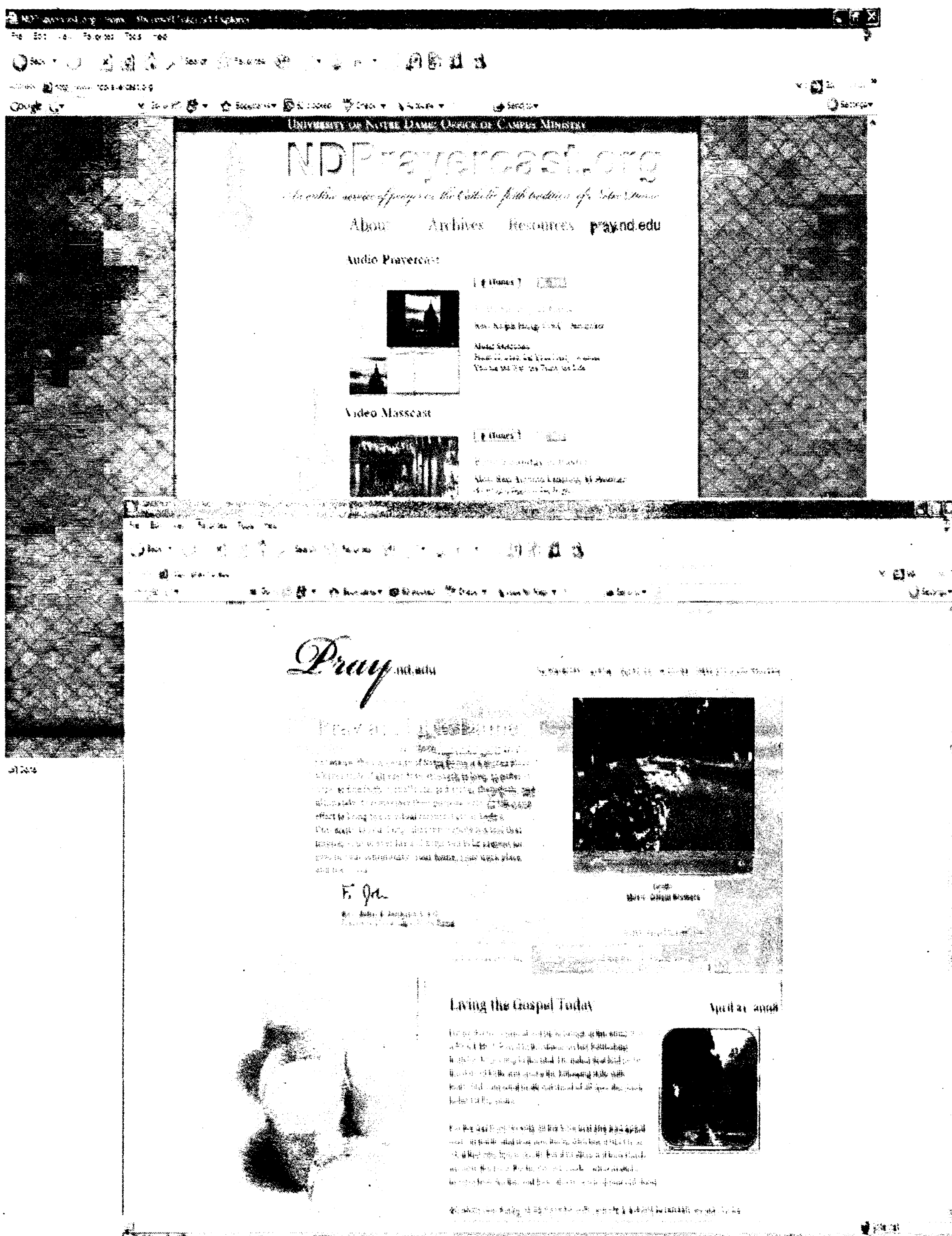
A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person's face, specifically the lower half including the mouth and chin. The person appears to be holding a small, dark object, possibly a mobile phone or a PDA, near their mouth. The image has a grainy, halftone texture. Overlaid on the image is large, bold, black text.

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The screenshot displays the NDPrayercast.org website, which is part of the University of Notre Dame's Office of Campus Ministry. The site features a navigation menu with links to 'About', 'Archives', 'Resources', and 'praynd.edu'. Under the 'Audio Prayercast' section, there are links for 'Prayercast' and 'Masscast', along with a 'Download' button. The 'Video Masscast' section also includes a 'Download' button. The main content area shows a 'Prayercast' section with a list of prayer requests and a 'Masscast' section with a list of mass readings. The website is designed with a clean, professional layout, using a combination of black and white text and images.

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish edge Colgate in OT to keep season alive

By GRIFFIN DASSATTI
Sports Writer

Though their season still goes on, the Irish still have a lot to be proud of in 2008.

The Irish (14-2, 4-1 GWLL) came into the year with a pretty simple agenda, according to head coach Kevin Corrigan.

"We wanted to win our league again and get back to the Tournament," Corrigan said. "We felt like if we got there we'd be a team to be reckoned with."

Though the GWLL championship in 2007 had been nice, there is little doubt that the 11-10 overtime loss to Johns Hopkins in the first round of the NCAA Tournament was lingering in a few memories. With that in mind, the Irish began the year hot, winning four in a row including victories over Penn State and Villanova.

Notre Dame's quick start to the season mirrored its game strategy. From the first face-off of every game, Notre Dame looked to go on the attack immediately, trying to establish strong momentum. The Irish outscored their opponents 53-21 in the first quarter as a part of a 197-109 overall margin.

Corrigan said this was not solely an offensive effort.

"Defensively we've established ourselves as a very solid group," he said. "Of the games we lost, one was by a goal, one by two goals, and we held every opponent but one under double figures."

Those two losses came in a close 8-6 game at North Carolina on March 8 and a heartbreaker against Denver at Toyota Park in Chicago, which

the Irish lost 9-8 on a Denver goal with nine seconds left. As for the double-figures win, it came in a must-win the last game of the GWLL season against Ohio State.

"We need to win this game," Corrigan said before the match-up with the Buckeyes. "If we win this game, we'll be the No. 1 seed going into the [GWLL] tournament this weekend. If we lose this game we're going have to beat [OSU] and Denver in the tournament next weekend."

Sure enough, with the 17-12 win over the Buckeyes, the Irish clinched the No. 1 seed in the tournament, which they won handily for their 11th GWLL

title. The win also earned Notre Dame a spot in the N C A A Tournament for the 13th time in program history.

This past Sunday, the N C A A Tournament came to South Bend, and the Irish welcomed

it in dramatic fashion. After being down 7-5 with 4:23 left, the team stormed back behind goals by sophomore attackman Neil Hicks, senior attackman Michael Podgajny and a thrilling goal by junior midfielder Peter Christman to seal the win with 1:28 left in overtime.

All year the Irish have been led by a strong group of starters, most of them upperclassmen. Junior attack Ryan Hoff led the team with 40 goals and senior attack Alex Wharton led the team in overall points with 49 (19 goals, 30 assists). Other than Wharton, Notre Dame had five other players with over 30 points: Hoff (44), junior attackman Duncan Swezey (39), sophomore midfielder Grant Krebs (34), and Podgajny and Christman (each

"We wanted to win our league again and get back to the Tournament. We felt like if we got there we'd be a team to be reckoned with."

Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior midfielder Taylor Clagett, right, fights for possession with Buckeyes defender Ricky Pages defender during Notre Dame's 17-12 victory over Ohio State on April 27.

with 31).

On the defensive side, senior goalie Joey Kemp, a two-time All-America Honorable Mention, made 171 saves for a 63.6-percentage, giving up just 6.41 goals per game.

"We had a terrific year," Corrigan said. "I couldn't be

happier for the seniors. It's not just about the results but [also] about the process and you how get there and this group has put in the work. They've put in the time in the weight room and in practice.... This is a great group of kids who love each other, love Notre Dame, and love play-

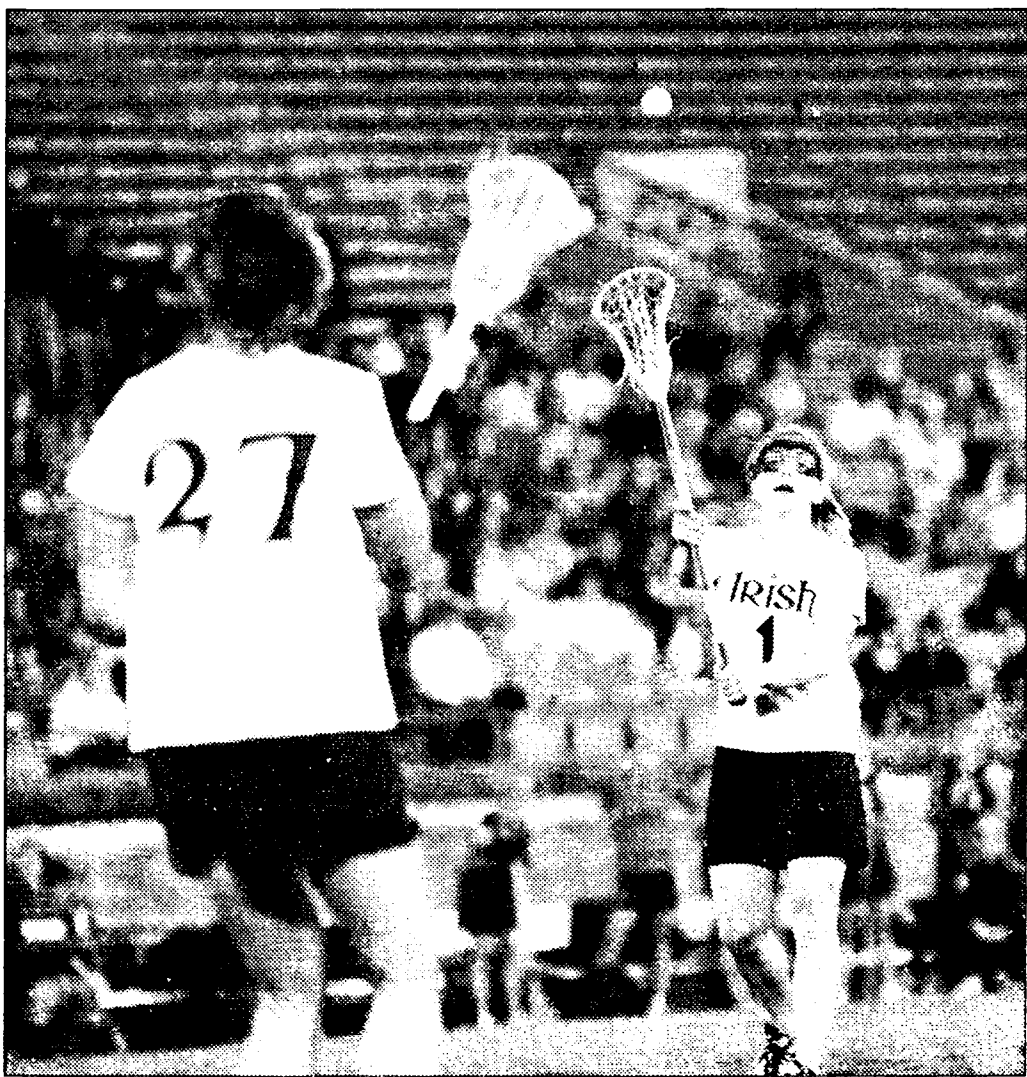
ing lacrosse."

The Irish now look forward to a game Sunday against Syracuse in Ithaca, N.Y., in the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals.

Contact Griffin Dassatti at glassatt@nd.edu

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Top-ranked Northwestern ends brief Tournament run



WU YUE/The Observer

Caitlin McKinney, right, sends a pass to Jane Stoeckert during Notre Dame's 15-14 loss to Georgetown on April 25.

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame's season made history, as junior Jillian Byers broke the program's career scoring record and the Irish became the first women's team to compete in Notre Dame Stadium.

But the nation's top team, three-time defending champion Northwestern, didn't care about any of that, ending Notre Dame's season Monday with a 15-7 victory in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

"We were excited to play Northwestern because we faced them earlier in the season," assistant coach Meredith Simon said of a 16-2 Irish loss on April 9. "They're the best team in the country right now, so it doesn't get much more exciting than competing against the top team. Even though it wasn't our ideal choice to play them in the first round, we knew we'd probably have to face them eventually,

so why not in the first round?" Head coach Tracy Coyne was not available for comment.

The Irish were fortunate to even qualify for the tournament after losing a heart-breaking 15-14 triple-overtime decision to Georgetown in the semifinals of the Big East tournament — held in Notre Dame Stadium.

Any awe or excitement at playing in the stadium the Irish had was replaced by the sting of allowing the Hoyas to overcome an 8-1 deficit and eventually win in sudden death. Notre Dame was determined not to let the defeat end its hopes of a NCAA berth, Simon said.

"Throughout the season, our team did a great job of bouncing back off tough losses," she said. "It was tough for them, but they came back together as a group and were ready to go right away. They were committed to make the last regular season game [a 15-11 win over Colgate on May 3] a good one."

Byers (67 goals, 14 assists) broke the previous record of

161 career goals against Duke and finished her junior campaign with 179. Byers was joined by senior captain Caitlin McKinney (38 goals, 25 assists) as a first-team all-Big East selection.

"Jill's awesome. We're excited to have her back because she's definitely the heart of our attack," Simon said. "Having her be a senior and step up into a leadership role next year will be awesome for us."

McKinney (38 goals, 25 assists) led a senior class that also received key contributions from Heather Ferguson (18 goals, 11 assists) and defensive stalwart and co-captain Becky Ranck.

"The senior class was great. They were the glue that kept the team together," Simon said. "They were very unified as a group and were always willing to put the team first to work together as a class to help our team through all the

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles finish even overall, in conference play

By GRIFFIN DASSATTI
Sports Writer

Coming off a 12-13 season and returning only one starter, the Saint Mary's basketball team came into 2008 with a large set of challenges ahead of it.

As the year wore on, road-blocks kept popping up for the Belles. Coach Jennifer Henley started the season on maternity leave, then they lost three key contributors at the guard position (sophomores Mary Lynn Carlson and Patty Duffy and freshman Liz Cronin) to injuries, and they had to play Hope, the nation's top-ranked team in Div. III, three times in the course of the year.

"I think this team learned how to keep their composure and how to handle adversity," Henley said. "There were a lot of times that things could have fallen apart, but this team stuck together. I give them all the credit, [and] I am very proud of how much our return[ing players] matured and our young athletes stepped up."

Despite these numerous obstacles, the team rallied together to a 13-13 overall record, including an 8-8 record in the MIAA.

To what did Henley attribute her team's triumph in the face of so many difficulties?

"I think we had great team chemistry this season," she said. "And that was the heart of our success. We normally found a way to score when we had to, but we did have some shortcomings in our team defense as the season went along. We saw big improvements in our rebounding efforts, which was one of the areas we needed to improve prior to the season."

Much of this rebounding came from junior forward Erin Newsom and sophomore forward Anna Kammrath. The two led the team with 229 and 203 rebounds, respectively, on the season, averaging 8.8 and 7.8 boards per game. The success on the glass was also reflected in the team's season stats: the Belles out-rebounded their opponents 1039 to 993 on the season, for a plus-1.8 per-game ratio.

All of these combined efforts became very important late in the year, as the Belles were forced to make a three-game run to clinch a spot in the MIAA playoffs, which they did with home wins over Kalamazoo, Adrian and Olivet. No. 1 Hope, who beat the Belles 82-65 in the tournament semifinals, ended Saint Mary's season.

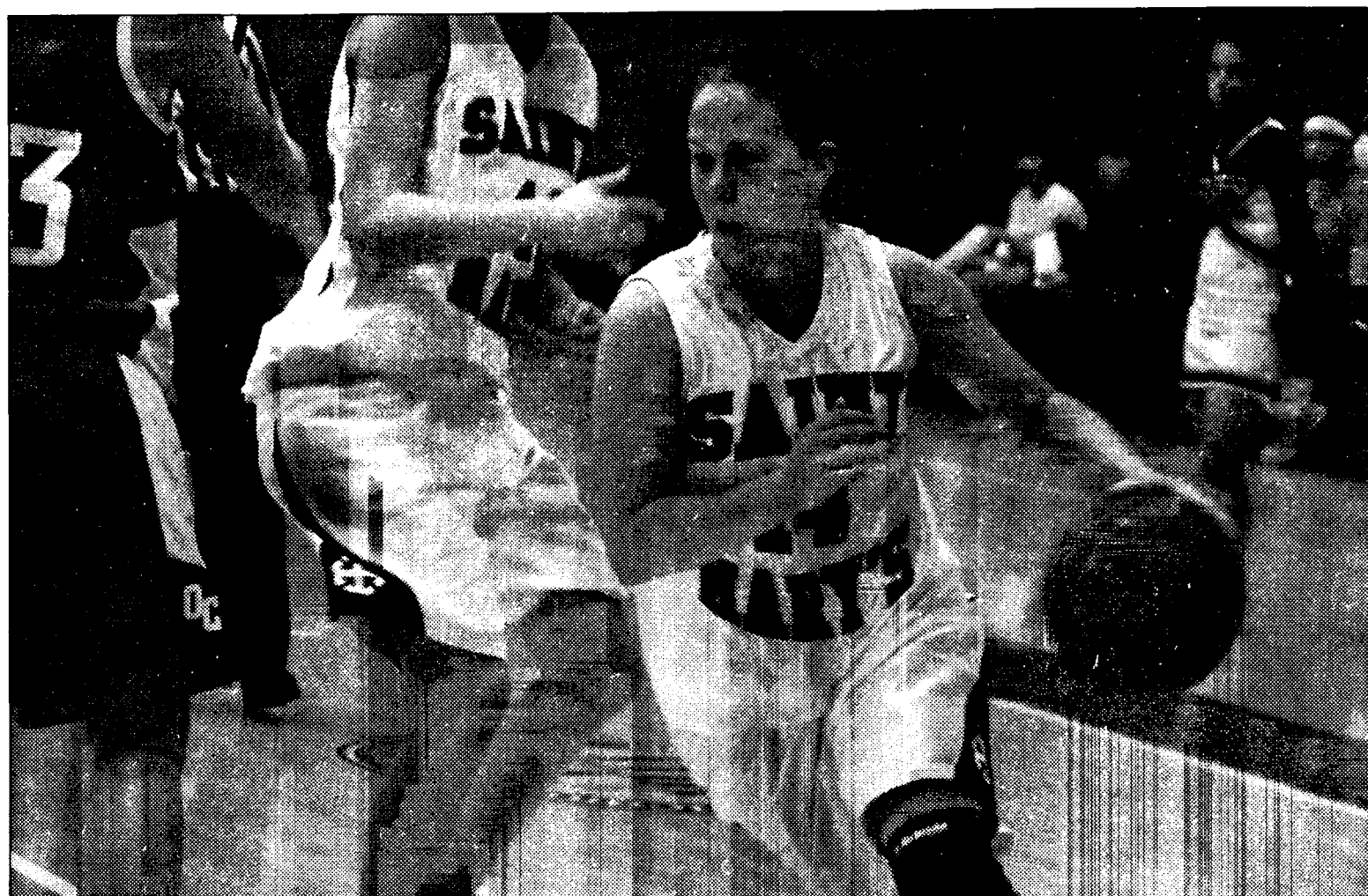
Senior guard Alison Kessler provided a strong and consistent presence for the team, averaging 20.9 points, 5.4 rebounds, and 3 assists per game. Near the

end of the year, Kessler broke the career scoring record, eclipsing 1996-grad Jennie Taubenheim's old record of 1,533 and setting the new mark at 1,628.

Kessler was recently named MIAA Most Valuable Player, Great Lakes Region Player of the Year and a member of the Second Team All-American by D3hoops.com, all firsts for a Saint Mary's player.

But Kessler's efforts, while stellar, were supported by equally strong performances from several other Belles as four Saint Mary's starters averaged over nine points per game in 2008 — Kessler (20.4), Newsom (11.3), junior guard Katie Rashid (9.9), and Kammrath (9.2).

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KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer
Saint Mary's junior guard Katie Rashid drives to the basket during the Belles' 71-62 win over Olivet on Feb. 26. Rashid was one of four Saint Mary's starters to average at least nine points per game.



THE GAY AND LESBIAN ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AND SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

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**Recycle
The
Observer.**

HOCKEY

Team's magical run ends in national title loss

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame's path to the best finish in school history, as national runners-up, could be summarized by the program's biggest win: a 5-4 overtime thriller over CCHA rival and top-seeded Michigan in the Frozen Four semifinals on April 10.

The Irish opened the season with a 16-4 start, including a nine-game win streak heading into Christmas break. Against the Wolverines, the Irish jumped out to a 3-0 lead with a dominant first period on goals from freshman Calle Ridderwall, senior captain Mark Van Guilder and sophomore Ryan Thang.

But as they did in the second half of the regular season, going 8-11-4 before the NCAA Tournament, the Irish relinquished their early momentum against Michigan, giving up three unanswered goals to tie the game before eventually trading tallies to send the game, at 4-4, to overtime.

And despite almost giving it all away, as the Irish nearly did before sneaking into the Tournament as the last at-large team, Notre Dame overcame its own shortcomings in beating the Wolverines 5-4 in overtime, thanks to Ridderwall's game-winner —

his second of the game and just his fourth of the season.

"I think that the way we finished is definitely the most important thing," third-year coach Jeff Jackson said. "It's not about the beginning or the middle, it's about the end, and getting there at the end is a real tribute to our kids... I think that the end is a good reflection on what we could be."

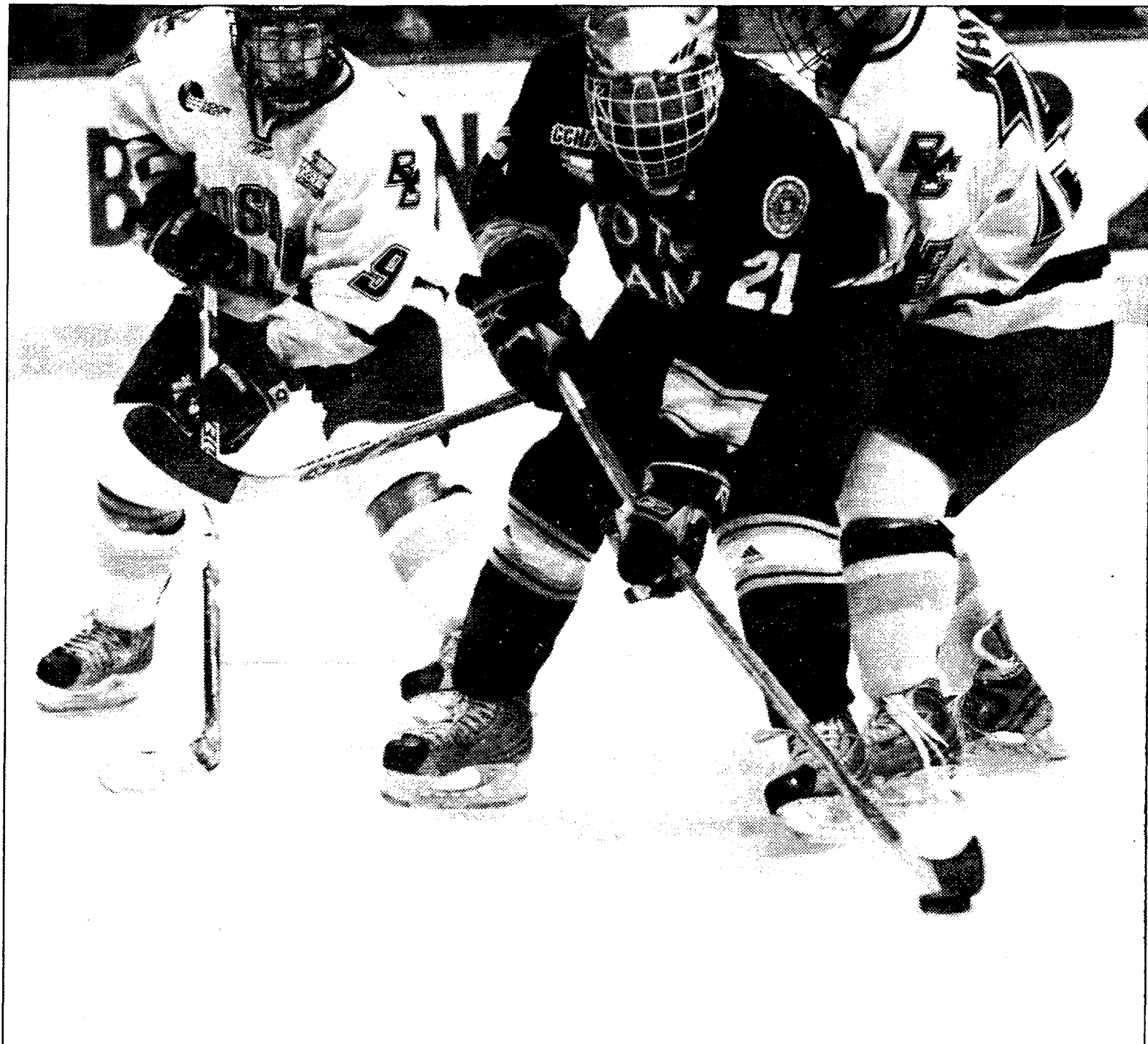
The Michigan win was huge for the Irish in that they were able to avenge not only a pair of regular season losses to the Wolverines, but also to overcome their struggles in overtime — they had lost or tied their previous six — and one-goal games — they had lost three of their last four.

Though Notre Dame's season ended with a 4-1 loss to Boston College in the national championship game, its journey to the Frozen Four in Denver, Colo. — the first in school history — sent a message to the rest of the college hockey nation: The Irish have arrived.

"We talk all the time about trying to build a championship-caliber team, and you've got to play well enough to get there. That's the key," Jackson said. "That's a real positive thing for our program, to go from the year we had the year prior, to this year, showing some level of consistency as being one of the best teams in the country, is a huge step for our pro-

"We talk all the time about trying to build a championship-caliber team, and you've got to play well enough to get there. That's the key."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach



WU YUE/The Observer

Sophomore center Kevin Deeth handles the puck between two Boston College defenders during the Golden Eagles' 4-1 victory in the national championship game April 12 in Denver, Colo.

gram."

The Irish had to overcome several challenges along the road to the Frozen Four, including back-to-back matchups with Michigan State and Michigan, two CCHA teams Notre Dame had gone 0-3-1 against during the regular season. And as the last at-large selection, few predicted Notre Dame would even give top-seeded New Hampshire much of a game.

The Irish responded by returning to early season form, scoring seven goals — something they hadn't done since the final game of their pre-Christmas win streak — in a 7-3 thrashing of the Wildcats.

"As a coach, you always have that belief that you can do it," Jackson said. "It's just a matter of playing at that level. We showed signs of playing at that level at times throughout the season, and it was just a matter of putting it all together."

The Irish did just that, getting all-star efforts from the likes of Van Guilder, who was named the NCAA West Regional MVP, and junior Christian Hanson, who scored three goals in the two regional games. Sophomore Kevin Deeth also scored a goal in each of the Frozen Four games.

Junior goaltender Jordan Pearce, who was named the CCHA's goalie of the year over standouts like Michigan's Billy Sauer and Michigan State's Jeff Lerg, quietly outdueled his counterparts as he had all

season while providing a calming presence between the Notre Dame posts.

"Our guys knew that their season was on the line. They quit worrying about whatever it was [holding them back in the second half]. They just put their mind to not allowing the season to end."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

guys elevate their games because they knew that we couldn't rely on Condra to lead us," Jackson said. "We had to do it ourselves. Guys

like Ryan Thang, Kevin Deeth, Christian Hanson and Danny Kissel played some of their best hockey of the season with the loss of Condra."

The Irish needed them to extend their season after Condra's injury. He went down midway through a tied game that the Irish went on to win 2-1, allowing them to advance to the CCHA semifinals at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit, Mich.

"Our guys knew that their season was on the line," Jackson said. "They quit worrying about whatever it was [holding them back in the second half]. They just put their mind to not allowing the sea-

son to end."

It seemed Notre Dame's season would die in Detroit, as the Irish headed into the weekend expecting that they needed to win at least once to secure an NCAA berth. They lost a heartbreaking 2-1 overtime game in which Miami (Ohio) tied the game with just three seconds to play in regulation. The next night, in the consolation game, the favored Irish fell to Northern Michigan by the same score.

But the next day, when the NCAA pairings were released, the Irish were headed to Colorado Springs with new life.

"You've got to make the tournament, you've got to get to Joe Louis," Jackson said. "You have to put yourself in position for that championship and our team did that... It's something we aspire to do every year, but things have to go in a positive direction."

And after Notre Dame's best season in school history, and with plans pending for a new state-of-the-art arena, there's reason to believe the program will continue in that direction.

"Just based on the returning guys, we should have a good hockey team, especially if we learn some lessons from how we played in the NCAA Tournament," Jackson said.

"If we could play that way on a consistent basis, we could have an extremely good team."

"Just based on the returning guys, we should have a good hockey team, especially if we learn some lessons from how we played in the NCAA Tournament."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach



WU YUE/The Observer

Senior captain Mark Van Guilder skates toward the net during Notre Dame's 2-1 win over Ferris State on March 16.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Irish move past slow start, advance to Final Four

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

After a slow start uncharacteristic of the Notre Dame program, the Irish caught fire and rode their hot streak all the way to the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament.

When the team dropped a home match to Penn State on Sept. 23, it fell to 3-4-1 and the No. 24 spot in the national rankings. In the loss, Irish junior striker Kerri Hanks scored for the fourth straight

game but it was not enough. After the Irish fell to Florida State in the College Cup semifinals to end the season, Irish coach Randy Waldrum said his team had realized it could not allow itself any more setbacks like the one against the Nittany Lions.

"It was to a point in the season when we could not afford to lose any more," Waldrum said.

Notre Dame displayed its sense of urgency by winning 12 straight contests after falling to Penn State. The streak began with a 1-0 victory

at No. 25 Louisville in a notoriously difficult venue for road teams. In that game, Irish senior captain Amanda Cinalli notched her 34th career goal. Cinalli was plagued by an injury for much of the season but still finished with three goals and six assists.

The win over the Cardinals was the spark the Irish needed as they rolled to the Big East title game with 11 more triumphs. Notre Dame's unbeaten string was finally stopped by West Virginia, who defeated the Irish in a shootout to take the Big East championship.

But the loss to the Mountaineers did not cost the Irish much momentum as they rolled through the early rounds of the NCAA Tournament. Notre Dame was awarded a No. 4 seed for the tournament, giving the squad home games for the first two rounds.

The Irish defeated Loyola-Chicago 3-0 at Alumni Field in their Tournament opener on Nov. 16. Irish junior Brittany Bock scored twice in the win and Hanks picked up three assists. The big game was another in a long line of dominant performances by the duo. Bock finished with 16 goals and Hanks tallied 14 goals to go with her 21 assists.

The Irish also cruised past their second-round opponent, downing Illinois 2-0 at Alumni Field.

But Notre Dame did not have such an easy path in its Sweet 16 contest. The team had to travel to face No. 1-seeded North Carolina, who had taken down the previously-undefeated Irish in the 2006

NCAA title game.

This time, the script played out differently as the Irish ended a dream season for the Tar Heels, marking just the seventh time in 26 years that North Carolina has fallen in the NCAA Tournament.

For an Irish team that had a losing record after eight games, the victory in Chapel Hill showed the players that there was no limit to how far their talent could take them.

"Going down to Carolina and beating Carolina there, I think our kids felt there was no way we were going to lose again," Waldrum said. "They had a lot of confidence going in and I thought we were playing very well at the end of the year."

Notre Dame dispatched Duke at home on Nov. 30 in the NCAA quarterfinals to earn a trip to College Station, Tex., for the College Cup. The Final Four appearance marked the ninth time in 14 years the Irish had made it so far. Still, the quarterfinals win did not feel ordinary for Notre Dame.

"I don't know that we've had any other team in the history of this program that has struggled with the won-loss results so much early in the season and regrouped in this fashion, making it all the way back to the College Cup for the semifinals," Waldrum said after the win over Duke.

The Irish headed to the College Cup with high hopes after drawing a semifinals matchup against Florida State.

But the team received a rude awakening when Seminoles attacker Mami Yamaguchi scored just 15 seconds into the contest. Notre Dame rebounded on a goal by defender Carrie Dew but was forced to play from behind for much of the contest as Florida State again took the lead. After Irish defender Elise Weber netted a goal to knot the game at two, Seminoles midfielder Amanda DaCosta's tally proved to be the game-winner for Florida State.

Both Waldrum and Seminoles coach Mark Krikorian said that Notre Dame outplayed Florida State despite the result of the game.

"The disappointing thing last year in the final versus Carolina is that I don't

think we really came out and played our game until the final 15 to 20 minutes

of that game," Waldrum said. "But this time we came out and played well enough to win. [But] at the end of the day, unless you win it all you are going to be disappointed."

Waldrum did put a positive spin on the bitter result, pointing out that the Irish will lose key cogs in Cinalli and goalkeeper Lauren Karas but will return most of their starters.

"We still have a relatively young team and we hope we're back [in the College Cup] next year," the coach said.

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Irish forward Kerri Hanks shields the ball during Notre Dame's 3-2 win over Duke on Nov. 30 in the NCAA Quarterfinals.

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

MEN'S SOCCER

Team falls short in NCAA quarters for second straight year

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

In 2007, Irish coach Bobby Clark must have often felt that he'd pushed the repeat button on the 2006 season.

For the second consecutive year, Clark watched his team hover around the top ten in the rankings, barely fall short of top-eight seed in the NCAA tournament, and follow an opening-game NCAA tournament victory with a road upset of a highly ranked and highly regarded team before falling one step short of the program's first ever Final Four appearance.

Yet despite the similarities between the past two seasons, Clark highlighted an important difference — expectations.

"Every time you get to a certain level, that's at least the expectations," Clark said. "In 2006, we got to the NCAA quarterfinals, so anything less than that would have been a disappointment in the 2007 season, but the expectations were to take it beyond even to some degree. [Our] final ranking of No. 6 was nice. There's the feeling of satisfaction of being a top-ten team, but we were disappointed not to get to the Final Four."

Notre Dame could hardly have had a tougher path to the Final Four in 2007. After a second-round victory over Oakland, the draw lined the Irish up with road games at No. 7 Santa Clara — which was unbeaten in its previous 18 matches — and No. 2 Wake

Forest, the eventual national champion.

Although Notre Dame stunned Santa Clara 2-0 in what Clark called his most satisfying moment of the season, the Irish were unable to pull off another road upset when they fell to the Demon Deacons 1-0 in overtime. Clark highlighted the difficulty of having to win multiple games on the road to reach the Final Four.

"[Wake Forest] was the best team left in the tournament at that point," Clark said. "If we had played Wake Forest at our place, we might have played them better, but that's the way the draw goes."

The Irish partially had themselves to blame for not securing an easier path to the Final Four. After victories over St. John's and DePaul, the Irish prepared for a showdown with Connecticut. Both the Big East title and a top-eight (possible top-four) NCAA tournament seed were on the line against the Huskies. Such seeds would have guaranteed Notre Dame more home games in the NCAA tournament, but the Irish fell 2-0 to the Huskies.

"If we had beaten [Connecticut] in the Big East tournament, we might have had an easier road to the Final Four," Clark said.

Despite the disappointing finish to its season, Notre Dame finished the campaign with a 14-4-5 record, a No. 6 ranking, and the program's second-ever NCAA quarterfinals appearance. The Irish also enjoyed a nine-game unbeaten streak during which

they ascended to the program's highest-ever national ranking of No. 2.

Leading the way for Notre Dame in 2007 was Joseph Lapira. Coming off a breakout campaign in 2006 that garnered him the M.A.C. Hermann Trophy, the senior forward led the team in goals (nine), assists (10), and points (28). Such play helped Lapira earn first-team All-American honors for the second consecutive season.

The unheralded performance of freshman midfielder Matt Armstrong was equally important to Notre Dame's success. Given the unenviable task of replacing two-time first team All-American Greg Dalby, Armstrong started every game on his way to earning All-Freshman second team honors from both Soccer America and College Soccer News.

"There's not many people that could have come in and filled Greg Dalby's shoes," Clark said. "We knew Matt could do it. That's why we put him in there from day one but I don't think we knew he would do it as well as he did."

Although Lapira won't be back in South Bend for the fall, Armstrong will. So will team captains Alex Yoshinaga and Matt Besler as well as four other starters. That's enough to have Clark optimistic that 2008 will be the year that his team finally takes that next step.

"We have talent on this team to take the next step just like the past two teams have had the talent," Clark said. "We



JESS LEE/The Observer

Irish midfielder Justin Morrow heads the ball during Notre Dame's 3-3 overtime tie with Connecticut on Oct. 13.

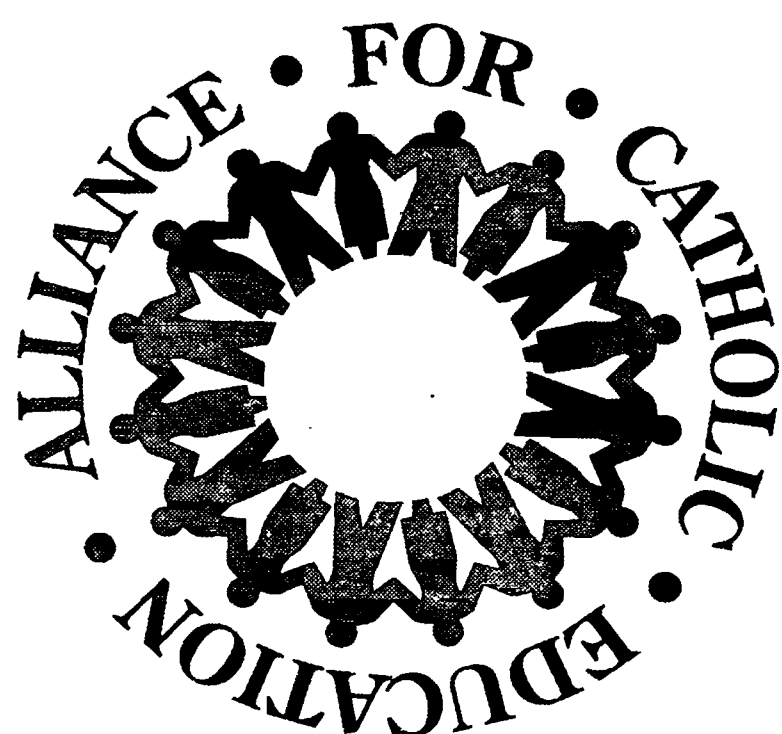
have the leadership, and we also have the experience.

But Clark also said his coaching career has shown him that the best teams do not always go as far as they are capable in the NCAA Tournament.

"It's a funny thing. I think

back to my three teams at Stanford, and it was probably my least-talented team that reached the Final Four," he said. "You also have to have a little luck."

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish fight through adversity to reach Sweet 16

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

After a three-year absence from the Sweet 16, Notre Dame returned to the NCAA regional final this season before falling to eventual national champion Tennessee 74-64.

The only thing is, the Irish almost didn't make it there.

On Feb. 10 in a home game against Pittsburgh, freshman forward Devereaux Peters — who had been one of the biggest surprises for the Irish up to that point at both ends of the floor — landed awkwardly after grabbing a rebound and fell to the ground. Later tests would show she had torn her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and would miss the rest of the

season.

"When Devereaux went down, that was kind of the big blow to us. So to make the Sweet 16 without her I thought was kind of a fantastic season," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Peters had been integral for the Irish defense, which operated almost exclusively in a zone during the second half of the season because she was the point of the Irish press. At that position, she was responsible for turnovers that led to easy transition buckets.

"When she went down, immediately what suffered was our press... Charel did a good job at the point, Ashley did some at the point of the press," McGraw said. "It was good, but we didn't have the depth. We weren't able to move people around as

much."

While Peters' production before her injury was a pleasant surprise (9.1 points per game, 5.6 rebounds per game and 2.0 blocks per game), McGraw said the surprise was more in how early this production came.

"I expected Devereaux to be a shot-blocker and a rebounder, and she definitely gave us that. She was leading the Big East in blocked shots, and I didn't expect her to do quite that well," McGraw said. "She scored a little bit more than I thought she would."

Coming into this season, Peters was only one of the three Irish freshmen to surprise McGraw. Guard Brittany Mallory came into Notre Dame as McGraw's 3-point specialist, but McGraw said the freshman became an important part of the team's defense. Forward Becca Bruszewski had a slow start trying to find minutes early in the season but became an impact player off the bench by the time the NCAA Tournament came around, winning the team's Most Improved Player award.

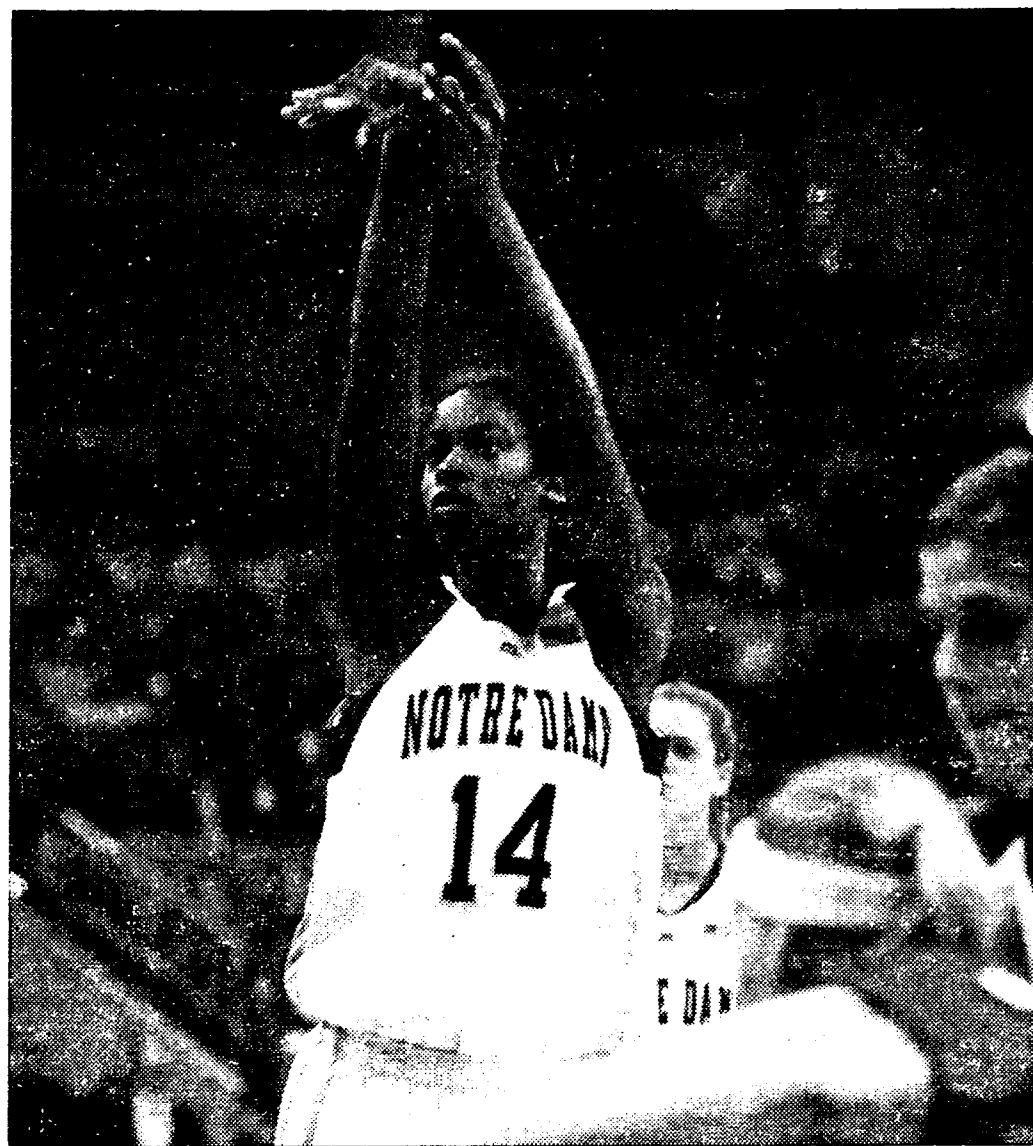
"When you saw her at the end of the year and you saw what she can do against teams in the NCAA Tournament, she had just a fantastic finish," McGraw said.

The season started off well for the Irish, despite losing its third game of the season to then-No. 3 Maryland 75-59 in the Preseason WNIT. But after that game, the team ran off 10 straight wins, something McGraw said was a big boost to its confidence.

"Our non-conference schedule really set us up for post-season play because we beat all the teams we were supposed to beat. Not only did we win, but we won big in a lot of those games," McGraw said.

That winning streak ended at the Joyce Center on Jan. 5 against top-ranked Tennessee. The loss was the start of a bad January for Notre Dame, when it would go only 5-4 — by far its worst month of the season. To their credit, the Irish did play much tougher competition during that run, including losses at home against then-No. 1 Connecticut and at No. 16 West Virginia.

"I think definitely the quality of our opponents was better. We expected to win a lot of those games, and when we didn't win — and really



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish guard Devereaux Peters watches her shot during Notre Dame's 98-50 victory over Miami (Ohio) on Nov. 9.

against Tennessee and Connecticut we weren't in those games as much as we wanted to be — so I think that was a little blow to our confidence," McGraw said.

McGraw called her team's 81-80 loss to DePaul at home on Jan. 22 "a low-point of the season," and said she was not pleased with her team's defense. This statement was much calmer than her immediate reaction to the loss, when she said in her post-game news conference her squad was "certainly the worst defensive team in the Big East."

Following that game, McGraw almost completely abandoned the man-to-man defense in favor of the zone, something she said led to Notre Dame's success later in the season.

"As it turned out, [switching to zone] was really important because I think we're good at it. Our press was effective, we ran well. Going back to the foundation of our success helped us string some wins together and get our confidence back," McGraw said.

One of Notre Dame's goals coming into the season was to earn a first-round bye in the Big East tournament, and after its rough January, it needed a strong February to accomplish that goal — and that's exactly what it got.

The Irish only lost once in

February, 57-51 on Feb. 19 at No. 5 Rutgers, and clinched the bye before the season ended. Notre Dame also exacted some revenge on the Blue Demons, winning 66-64 in Chicago on Feb. 24.

The Irish lost any momentum they had garnered with back-to-back losses against St. John's in the season finale and Pittsburgh in the Big East tournament.

"It was a big emotional let-down for us because we thought we were going to do well in the tournament, and we had really high hopes for ourselves," McGraw said.

McGraw gave her team what she thought was some much-needed rest in order to prepare for its first-round matchup with Southern Methodist in the NCAA Tournament.

After topping the Mustangs 75-62, the Irish moved on to face No. 4 seed Oklahoma. After battling the Sooners through the first 40 minutes to a 65-65 tie, Irish guard Charel Allen took over in overtime, propelling her team to a 79-75 win into the Sweet 16.

"That [win] was huge for our whole program," McGraw said. "We'd been there six out of eight years and then we hit a dry spell and we hadn't been there for three or four years. It was huge for us to get our program back to where our program expects us to be a Sweet 16 team every year."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at
jfitzpa5@nd.edu



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish guard Tulyah Gaines eyes the basket during Notre Dame's 77-46 victory over Michigan on Dec. 2.



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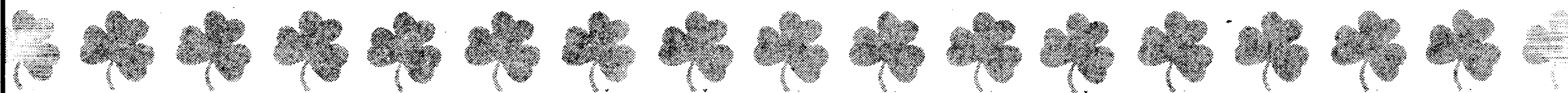
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BASEBALL

Irish look forward to Big East, NCAA tourneys

Squad attempts to improve on 33-16-1 record at end of season

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

After playing at an other-worldly clip during the middle of the season, Notre Dame has come back to earth in the past several weeks. But the team still sits in second place in the Big East and appears to be a lock for the NCAA Tournament.

The Irish won 11 straight

contests during April before finally falling to West Virginia. Notre Dame was able to take two of three from the Mountaineers to run its record to 25-10-1 but the loss cost the team some momentum.

The Irish have dropped their last three contests — most recently to Michigan Tuesday — to fall to 33-16-1.

Notre Dame is now 16-7 in Big East play and trails only St. John's in the conference standings. The Irish are one-half game ahead of third-place Cincinnati with one conference series left to play. They will head to South

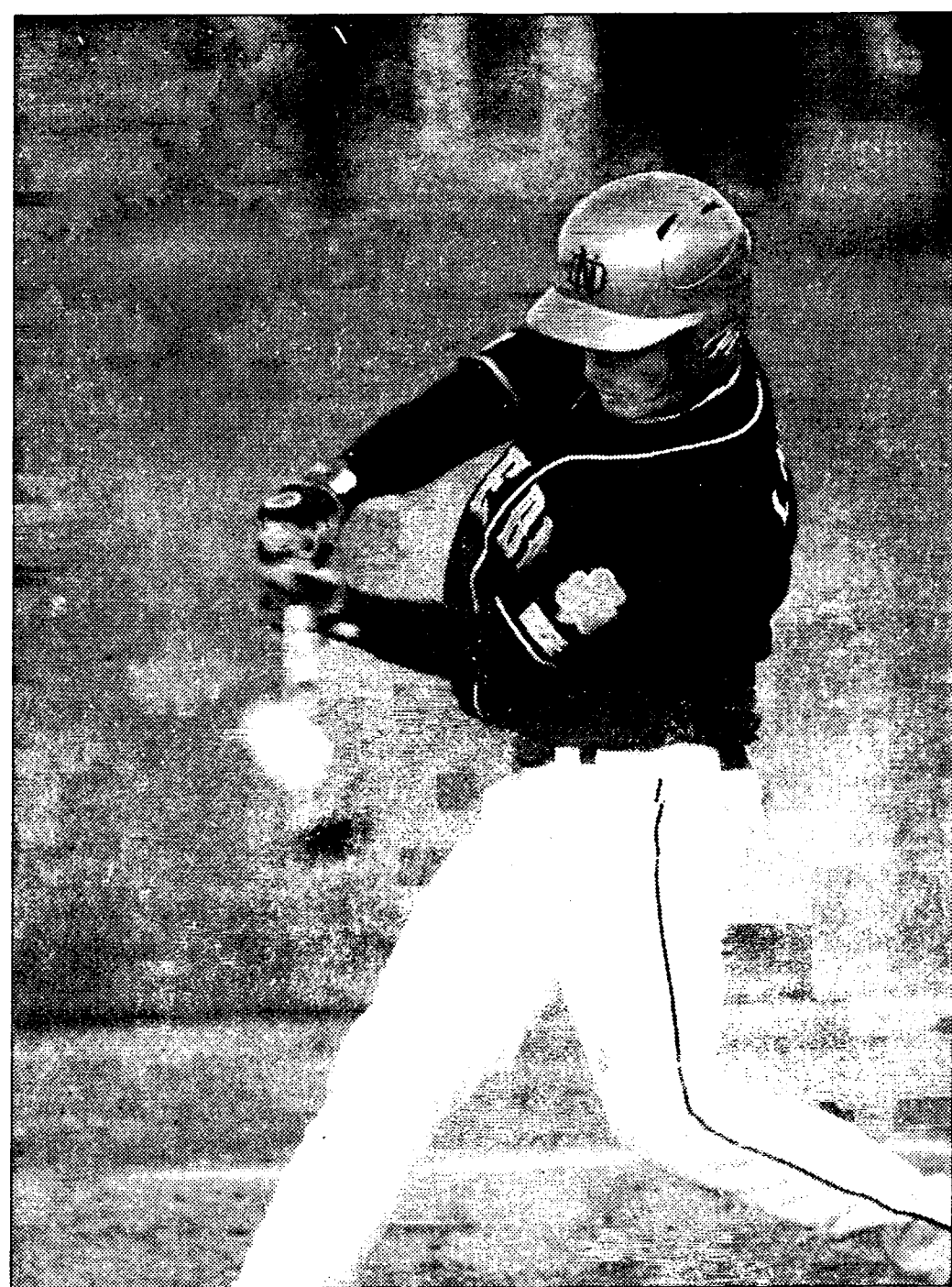
Florida for a three-game set this weekend before traveling to Clearwater, Fla., for the Big East championships on May 20-24.

The nice weather of Florida should be a welcome change for the Irish, who have had one game canceled because of rain, several delayed until later dates, and another called a tie when the field became unplayable.

Several of the Irish season highlights took place during non-conference play. On Apr. 2, Notre Dame took on the South Bend Silver Hawks in an exhibition contest at the minor league team's home field, Covalueski Stadium. The game was played as a benefit for cancer research in honor of Irish coach Dave Schrage's late wife, Jody, who died of liver cancer. The Irish lost the contest but Schrage said there was something more important on the line than the game's outcome.

"I just appreciate the Silver Hawks to give us this opportunity to play," Schrage said after the game. "[Silver Hawks President] Joe Kernan and [manager] Mark Haley are both very classy individuals. The people of Michiana got a chance to put baseball in the spotlight tonight, and raise money for a great cause."

Just two weeks later, Notre Dame again played a game that had added significance. On Apr. 16, The Irish faced off against Northern Illinois at U.S. Cellular Field, the home of the Chicago White Sox. The contest raised money for the families of the victims of the shootings that took place on Feb. 14 at Northern Illinois.



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior shortstop Brett Lilley connects with a pitch during Notre Dame's win over Mississippi Valley State on Apr. 29.



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Freshman hurler Cole Johnson delivers a pitch during Notre Dame's 4-0 win over Mississippi Valley State on Apr. 29.

"The hook about baseball is each of those teams and have it starts during springtime and spring is a time for renewal. And that's what this is about: renewal," Northern Illinois coach Ed Mathey said before the game against the Irish.

"The hook about baseball is it starts during springtime and spring is a time for renewal."

Ed Mathey
Northern Illinois coach

The Irish defeated the Huskies 5-4 for their tenth straight win.

However, the team has trailed off somewhat in recent weeks. The Irish have dropped games to Connecticut and Pittsburgh, both of which have losing records. The Irish did take two of three against

NCAA Tournament after missing it last year.

The Irish will look to improve their resume in their final Big East series and the conference tournament.

Contact Fran Tolan at
ftolan@nd.edu

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Defying expectations

Sophomore Harangody emerges as All-American, helps team to No. 2 conference finish, NCAA Tournament berth

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

It was a season of redemption, a season of great accomplishment, but a season that featured an ending that left a bitter taste in their mouths.

The Irish entered the 2007-08 season picked to finish ninth in the Big East preseason coaches' poll after losing their two main scorers — Colin Falls and Russell Carter — from last season. They ended up with a second place finish before falling in the second round of the NCAA Tournament to Washington State 61-41. Along the way, forward Luke Harangody pulled down Big East Player of the Year honors and guard Kyle McAlarney joined Harangody on the all-conference first-team as both helped Notre Dame replace the scoring prowess of Falls and Carter. Irish coach Mike Brey also earned his second consecutive Big East Coach of the Year award.

Harangody's performance turned the soft-spoken, shy kid from Schererville, Ind., into a national star. The second-team All-American averaged 20.4 points and 10.6 rebounds per game not only with his improved mid-range game and quickness, but did it with a lot of hustle and determination around the basket.

"Here's a guy who wasn't a McDonald's All-American. He's a throwback and great role model for all the guys that are grinders and hard-workers that special things can happen. For this kid to be Player of the Year in this league, it's just a neat story," Brey said. "I still think about that on a daily basis, I'm so proud of him. Certainly, he set the tone, his engine, his toughness and his drive. That became contagious with his teammates."

But before the season began, Harangody and his teammates were hardly a blip on the radar of college basketball and an early-season trip to the Virgin Islands

did little to raise their profile. The Irish dropped their first two games against major-conference opponents in the Paradise Jam tournament, losing 68-64 to a Baylor team that made the NCAA Tournament and Georgia Tech 70-69. But without those two narrow defeats, Brey said his team might not have learned how to win close games later in the year.

"It was a wake-up call for us coming out of there to be a little more serious and pay a little more attention to detail, be a little more mentally tough, especially in end game situations," Brey said. "As disappointing as it was, it helped us."

Notre Dame's next big test came against Kansas State at Madison Square Garden on Dec. 4 as part of the Jimmy V Classic. With Notre Dame up 59-57 and just over two minutes left to play, McAlarney took over, scoring the final nine points for the Irish en route to a 68-59 victory.

That night in New York was a long time coming for McAlarney, who nearly transferred after being suspended for the majority of last season after his arrest for possession of marijuana in December of 2006. McAlarney sat in his home at Staten Island last year as he watched — or sometimes couldn't bring himself to watch — his teammates make the semifinals of the Big East tournament and earn a trip to the NCAA Tournament. After spending countless hours keeping in shape in his high school gym, McAlarney returned to campus last summer, but struggled early in the year to find his consistent shooting stroke, especially in the Virgin Islands, where he went 4-for-19 in Notre Dame's two losses. But leading Notre Dame to victory in front of 200 friends and family members was the perfect way to jumpstart McAlarney's season, Brey said. McAlarney averaged 15.1 points per game for the season.

"To play that well, on national

TV in New York, in the Garden against an NCAA Tournament team, you felt, 'OK, he's ready to go,'" Brey said. "As much as you work out in your high school gym, and no one works harder — that's been documented — it's not the same as playing under the bright lights."

The Irish cruised through the rest of their non-conference schedule, breaking the Joyce Center record for consecutive home victories with a 108-62 win over Northern Illinois on Dec. 8. Notre Dame's next big test came the opening week of the Big East season, when it faced West Virginia and Connecticut at home within the span of three days. The Irish downed West Virginia 69-56 thanks to Harangody's then-career high 29 points. Against Connecticut, the Irish raced out to a 21-point first half lead, only to squander it in the second half and fall behind by one with just over six minutes left to play. McAlarney netted 32 in the game on 13-for-19 shooting.

"You had a chance to get two great resume wins and we did that. As important as Kansas State was, that three-day period made us feel more confident," Brey said.

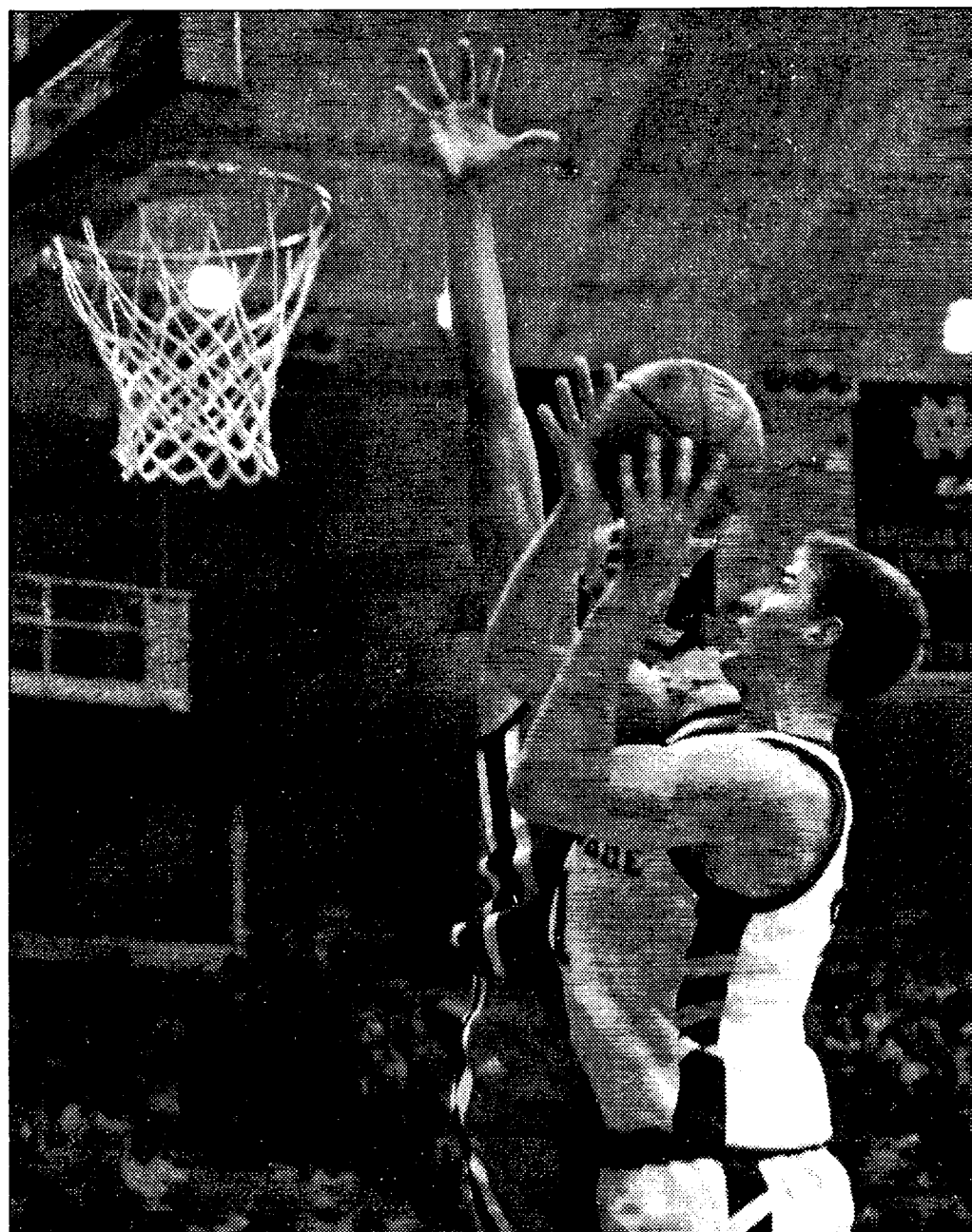
But that confidence was shaken with two blowout losses on the road to Marquette and Georgetown. The Irish lost 92-66 on Jan. 12 to Marquette and 84-65 to Georgetown on Jan. 19 with a 91-74 win over Cincinnati sandwiched in between on Jan. 15.

With a week to prepare for Notre Dame's next road tilt against Villanova, Brey decided to change things up a bit. He installed a 1-2-2 defense that Notre Dame used frequently for the rest of the year and he moved Hillesland into forward Ryan Ayers' starting spot. Even though Ayers' playing time didn't decrease because of the move, both players took the move as a wake-up call. The week of practice paid off. The Irish came out clicking on all cylinders against Villanova and won 90-80 behind 30 from McAlarney and 25 from Harangody.

"It's a win in a tough atmosphere after not being very good two road games in a row," Brey said. "... Then we kind of started getting in gear a little bit."

Notre Dame won its next four before traveling to Connecticut on Jan. 5 to face a much-improved Huskies squad from the two teams' first meeting. The rematch against Connecticut was an opportunity for Harangody to silence a lot of his critics who said he couldn't match up with taller post players like 7-foot-2 Roy Hibbert of Georgetown or 7-foot-3 Hasheem Thabeet of Connecticut. In the first game against Connecticut and against Georgetown, Harangody combined to shoot just 8-for-46 from the floor. But this time, Harangody used his mid-range jumper and quickness away from the basket against Thabeet to pour in 32 despite Notre Dame's 84-78 loss.

"That's what's great about having so many media outlets," Brey said. "Usually someone is going to doubt him, and then I kind of slip it in his locker and there's no motivational speech needed for that. He's undersized, he didn't play in a big enough high school conference, he should've been a football player, he can't run, he



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish senior Rob Kurz attempts a layup during Notre Dame's 108-62 win over Northern Illinois on Dec. 8.

can't jump, his shot looks funny. With this guy, all that drives his motor."

Harangody wowed the nation again in another Notre Dame defeat, this time a 90-85 loss at Louisville on Feb. 28 with first-place in the Big East on the line. Harangody scored 40 points, including three 3-pointers in Notre Dame's late comeback attempt.

"Those two games [against Connecticut and Louisville], you can talk about individual performances from Austin Carr, Adrian Dantley, and if there's 10 great individual performances in the history of our basketball program, one or both of those probably have to be in it. They were just unbelievable nights," Brey said.

Meanwhile the Irish never lost at home, brining their home win streak to 36 despite some close calls. The Irish defeated Providence 81-74 in overtime and overcame an 11-point second half deficit thanks to 16 points and 13 rebounds from 5-foot-11 guard Tory Jackson to beat Pittsburgh 82-70.

"The confidence of winning here, the mentality that 'We don't lose here,' kind of became a self-fulfilling prophecy," Brey said. "Our group was very confident about always getting it done here, no matter how tough it looked. Providence and Pittsburgh are two games where we probably should've lost the game if your guys don't really believe. That's where the streak has been a positive, not a burden."

After finishing the Big East regular season 14-4, the Irish lost to Marquette 89-79 in the first round of the Big East tournament, but had to shake off the loss quickly because the following week they would play George Mason in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. After falling to Winthrop in the first round of last year's Tournament, Notre Dame would not be denied, handling George Mason with ease 68-50.

But against Washington State, Notre Dame faced one of the toughest defenses in the country. Even Notre Dame's high-powered offense, which led the Big East in scoring, couldn't overcome the Huskies, who hounded Harangody and made every shot difficult. Notre Dame shot just 13-of-53 for the game, and scored the lowest amount of points in one game in the Brey era. The abrupt and brutal end to such a successful season came as a shock to the Irish and Brey said it provides motivation to keep his quad hungry for next season.

One thing Notre Dame won't have next season, however, is Rob Kurz. Brey said this year's senior captain set the tone for his teammates with the way he handled himself each day in practice.

"When we would come out to stretch, all of the younger guys learned to be more business-like about their preparation being around Rob Kurz," Brey said. "Again, I wish he smiled more, but what he did do was make some younger guys more business-like about preparing."

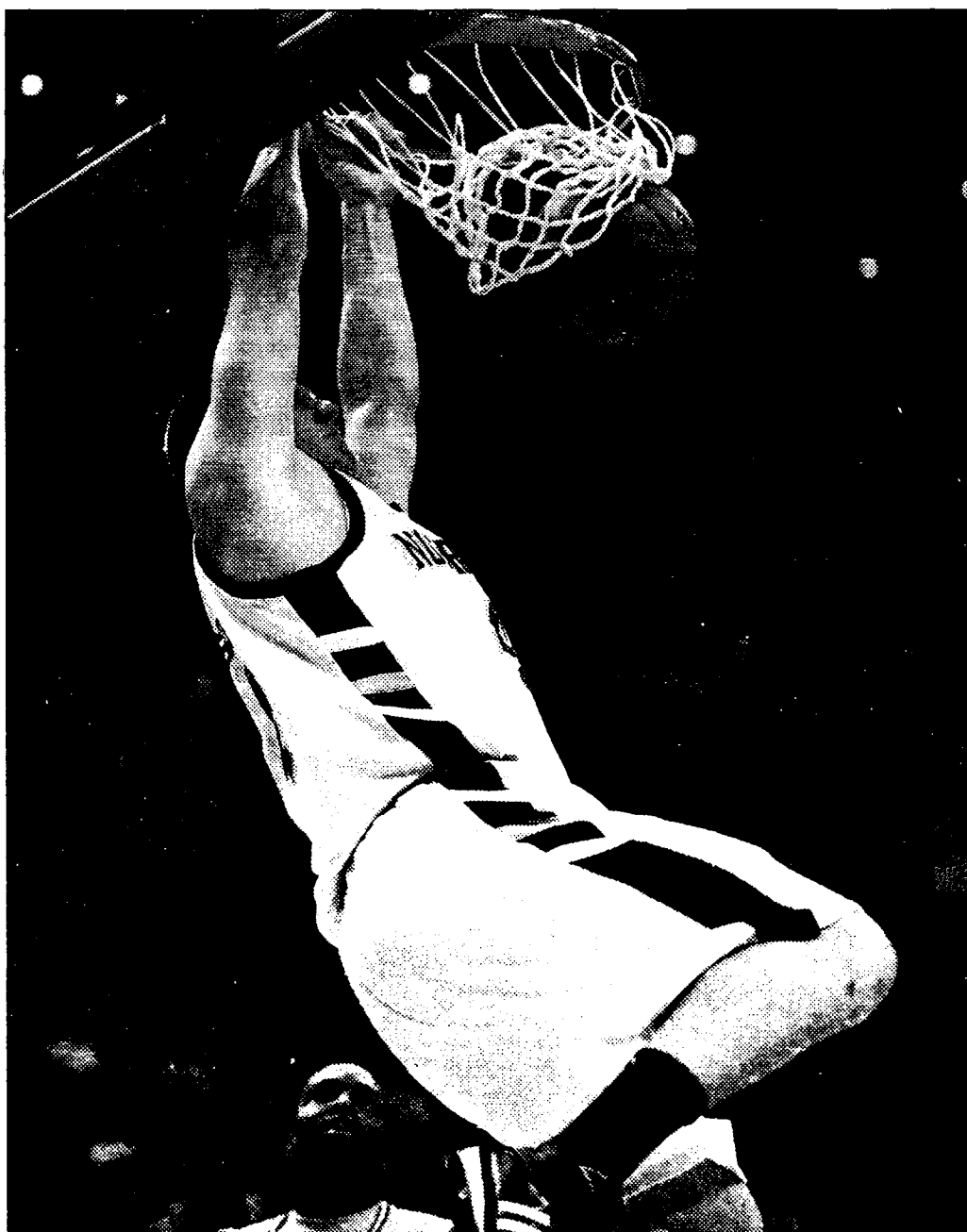
Kurz averaged 12.5 points and 7.1 rebounds per game in his final year and Brey said he'll miss some of the other things Kurz did on the floor for the Irish.

"[Kurz was always] guarding the best big man, rebounding, being our best screener, we lost our best screener and a lot of our shooters got open. Now, who's going to get them open?" Brey said. "And making big shots at key times."

At this year's banquet, his teammates voted him team MVP and ask any teammate or Brey and they'll all say that this team wouldn't be nearly as good if Rob Kurz wasn't here.

"There was just a maturity about him being a man that was always there as an example for all our younger guys," Brey said.

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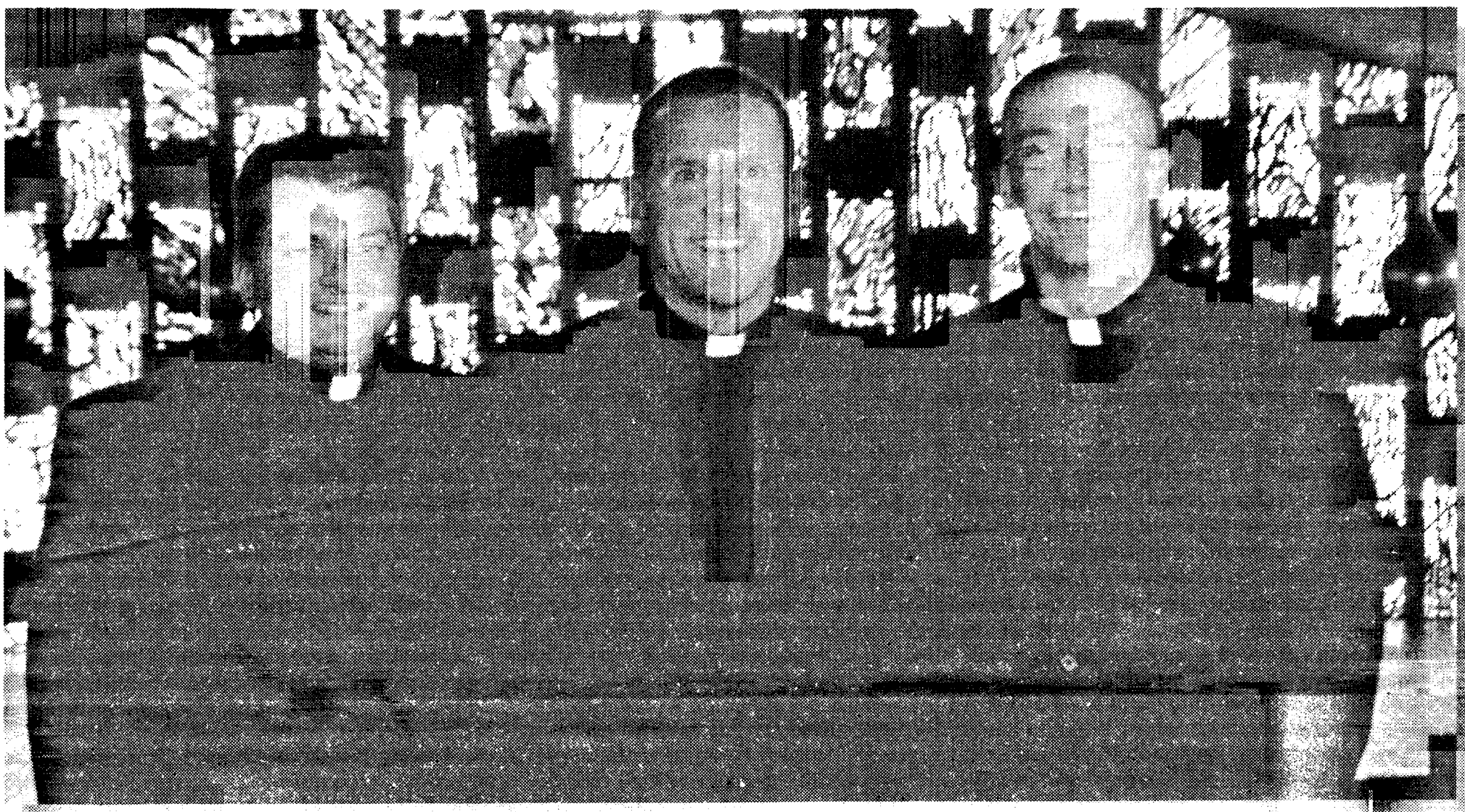
IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish forward Luke Harangody dunks during Notre Dame's 68-50 win over George Mason in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.



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FOOTBALL

A mighty fall

Team struggles to worst start in program history, finishes 3-9; offense proves anemic as defense gets abused

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's 2007 season was a record-setting one, just not with the kind of records fans want.

The Irish started the season 0-5 — the worst start in team history — before finally beating UCLA on Oct. 6.

They lost to 38-0 to both Michigan and USC — the largest shut-out margins in the histories of the two rivalries.

They lost 46-44 in triple overtime to Navy — Notre Dame's first loss to the Midshipmen since Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Roger Staubach beat the Irish 43 years ago.

They lost seven consecutive games dating back to last season, the longest skid in Notre Dame history.

The offensive line allowed 58 sacks last season — the most since the NCAA began recording the stat.

The nine losses were the most ever for an Irish squad.

The team's ineptitude started during the first week 33-3 loss to Georgia Tech on Sept. 1. Irish coach Charlie Weis played three different quarterbacks during the loss, starting with the dual-threat Demetrius Jones in a spread offense. Weis had met with former West Virginia head coach Rich Rodriguez over the summer to discuss the spread, which worked well against the Yellow Jackets in the Mountaineers' Gator Bowl win the year before.

Unfortunately, Jones fumbled twice and carried 12 times for only 28 yards in the first half before Evan Sharpley — Weis' two-minute specialist — came in at the end of the first half.

"We thought that going against Georgia Tech, especially with our experience level, we thought that the best way to go against them was to run the football," Weis said in his post game news conference after the loss. "And we felt that Demetrius as an additional runner could provide us

some plays where we would be able to move the ball."

Sharpley threw the ball better (10-for-13 for 92 yards), but was sacked seven times before being benched for freshman Jimmy Clausen.

Unfortunately for the Irish, this quarterback carousel continued all season, with Clausen taking the starting reins during the team's second game at Penn State. The Irish offense sputtered again, only putting up a field goal in the team's 31-10 loss. (Cornerback Darrin Walls returned an interception in the first half for the only touchdown).

Notre Dame continued to struggle offensively the next game against Michigan, after which Weis said he was going to reset how he would run the team for the rest of the season.

"We're starting training camp tomorrow. The team is heading in the wrong direction and when your team is heading in the wrong direction there is only one way I know to fix it; to come out swinging," Weis said after the Michigan loss.

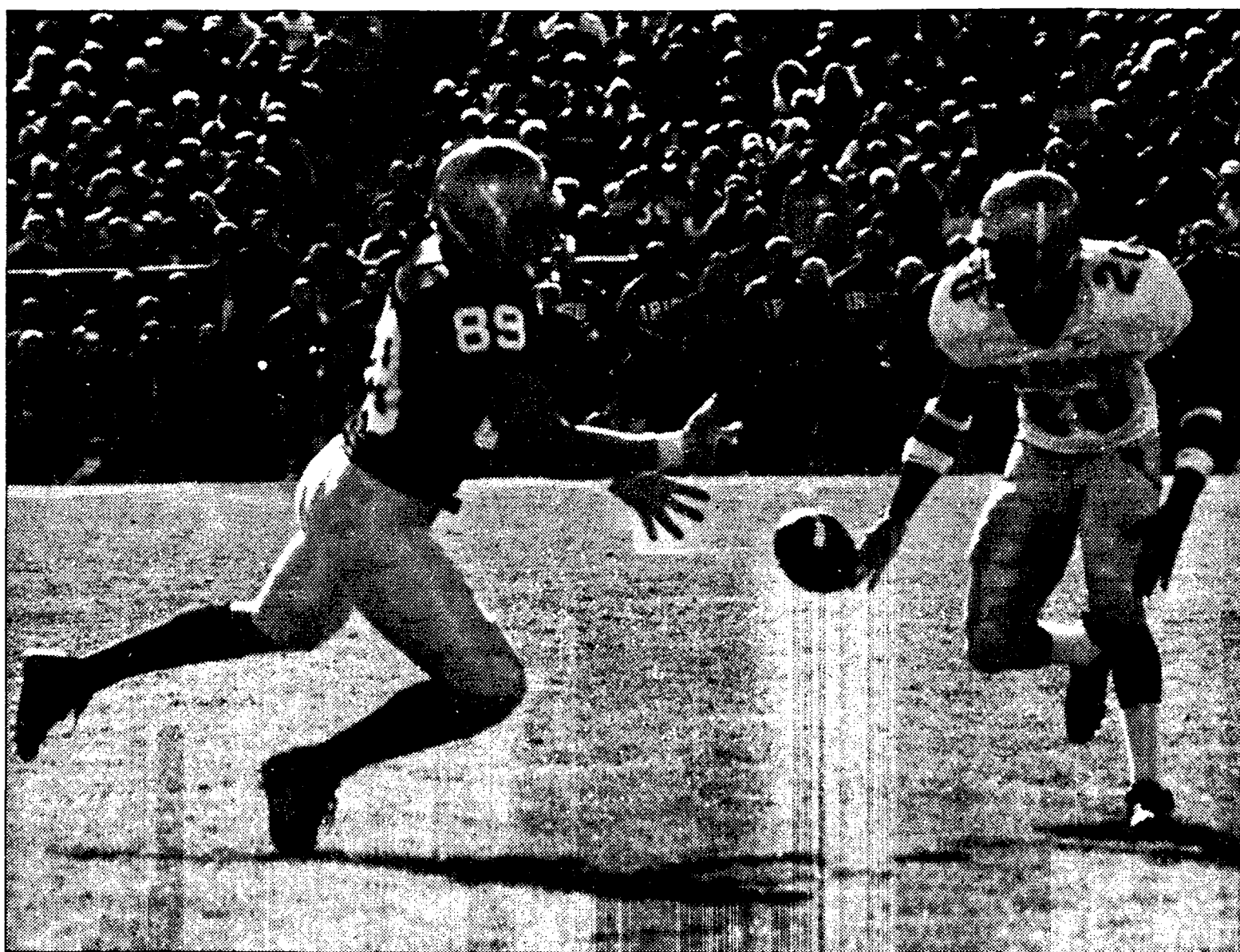
The training camp mentality helped a little for the Irish in their next game against Michigan State, when the team scored its first offensive touchdown. Running back Travis Thomas pounded the ball in from the 1-yard line after a Spartan fumble gave the Irish the ball at the Michigan State 9-yard line.

Freshman Robert Hughes also gave the Irish positive rushing yards for the first time all season with a 104-yard performance.

Despite the progress made against Michigan State, the Irish faltered again the next week at Purdue. Also, the quarterback controversy again came to the forefront after Sharpley replaced Clausen and went 18-of-26 passing with two touchdowns and an interception.

But after all the losing, things started looking up against UCLA — the team's first win.

The Bruins entered the game with their starting quarterback, Patrick Cowan, out with an



Senior tight end John Carlson watches a ball go through his hands during Notre Dame's 46-44 loss to Navy on Nov. 3. It was the first time in 43 years that the Midshipmen beat the Irish.

injury. In the first half, defensive end Trevor Laws and safety Tom Zbikowski combined to sack the second-string signal caller, Ben Olsen, and knocked him out of the game.

That left the Irish to deal with walk-on quarterback, MacLeod Bethel-Thompson, for the remainder of the game. Behind middle linebacker Maurice Crum's big day (seven tackles, one sack, two fumble recoveries, two interceptions and a touchdown), the Irish notched their first win of the season.

"I was hurting the first five games, but I could get used to this feeling," Laws said after the win.

The feeling didn't last long, and the Irish quickly found themselves in another long losing skid, this time four games.

The Irish lost back-to-back

home games to rivals Boston College and Southern Cal before getting a chance to right the ship against Navy.

The score stayed close throughout the game, and remained tied late. With a chance at a 41-yard field goal to win the game, Weis instead opted to go for the first down on a fourth-and-eight. Navy linebacker Chris Kuhar-Pitters leapt over Irish running back Armando Allen to sack Sharpley, ending the Irish drive.

Irish kicker Brandon Walker had missed a 40-yarder in the third quarter and Weis said he was not confident Walker could make this kick.

"It was going against the wind and in practice, he couldn't make it from there. That's why we didn't kick it from there. That was a pretty simple one. We had a position on the field that we had to get to going into the wind. And we hadn't gotten there yet," he said.

During the overtime periods, the teams matched each other score for score, with each getting a touchdown in the first and a field goal in the second.

Navy's offense took the field first in the third overtime, which ended with a touchdown pass on the first play of the period from quarterback Kaipo-Noa Kaheaku-Enhada to running back Reggie Campbell. The Irish responded with a Travis Thomas 5-yard run for the touchdown. After a pass interference call on the first attempt at the two-point conversion to force a third overtime, Thomas was stuffed trying to pound the ball in from the one-yard line.

Weis said after the Navy game that ending the 43-game winning streak never entered his mind.

"The streak they are worrying about is how many games how many games they lost on the road, at home. That's what they are worrying about. How many games we played since UCLA when last we won. That's what they are worrying about. They are worrying about the here and

now," he said in the post game news conference. "These kids are 17. Do you think they're worrying about 43 years? They are worrying about right now. They would like to beat Air Force. I think that's the streak they would like to beat on."

After losing to Air Force 41-24 the next week, the Irish finally got a home win on Senior Day against Duke, winning 28-7. The Irish offense struggled for most of the first half, but then exploded for two scores in the last 1:17 — both Jimmy Clausen touchdown passes, one each to wide receivers David Grimes and Duval Kumara.

"What was the difference [between this game and earlier games]? Playing good, knowing that, you know, we have one more chance out on the Notre Dame field and going out, making plays with my friends, getting a 'W' at home, finally, this season," Laws said after the game about getting a home win.

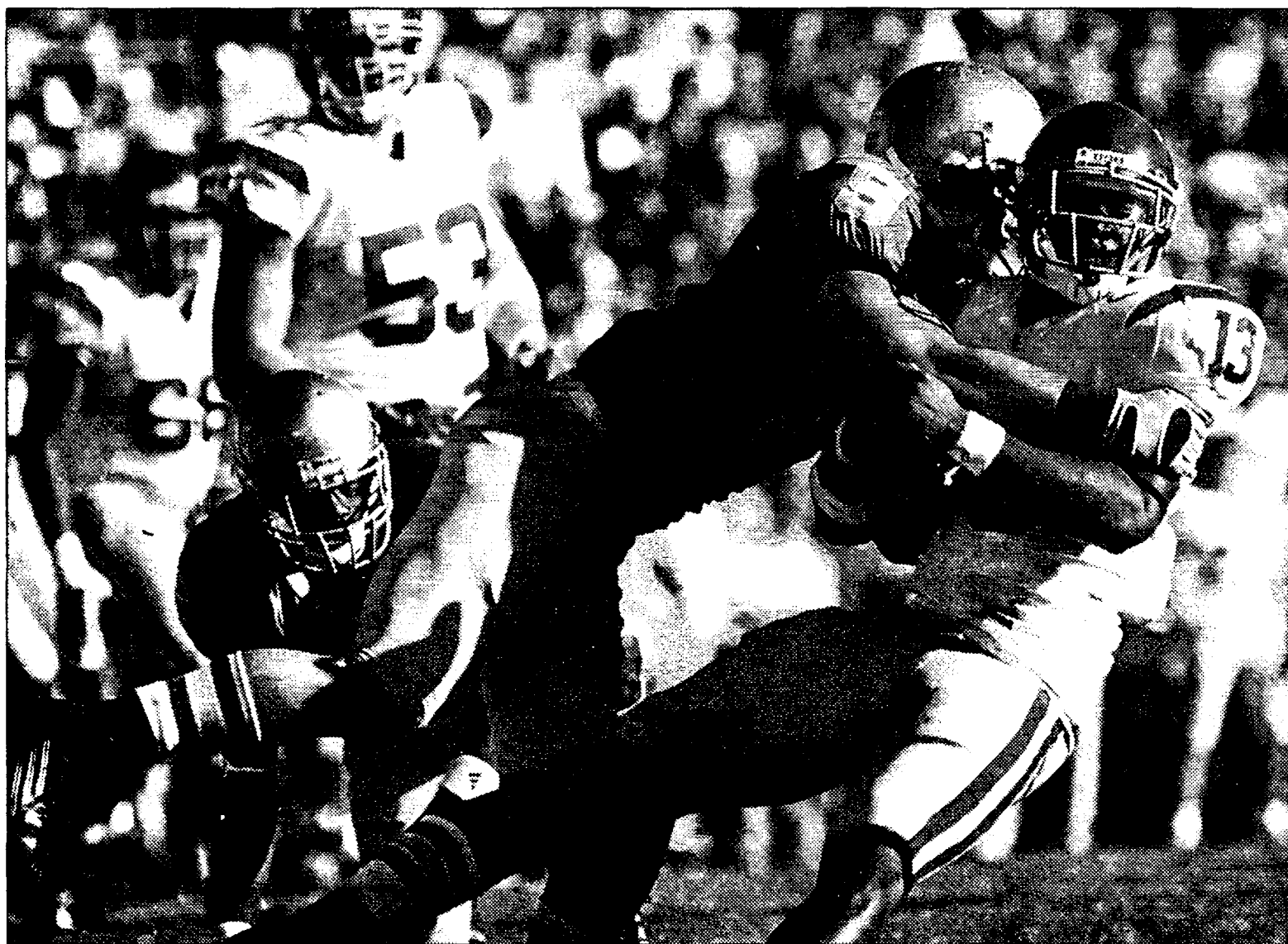
The Irish closed out the season with a second straight win, this time a 28-14 win at Stanford.

Despite the atrocious season, Notre Dame landed one of the top recruiting classes in the country, ranking No. 2 according to the recruiting Web site scout.com.

The Irish had top-five recruits at multiple positions, including quarterback Dayne Crist, wide receiver Michael Floyd and tight end Kyle Rudolph.

Overall, Notre Dame landed 23 recruits, including seven in the scout.com top 100, tied for fourth behind Ohio State (nine), USC and Oklahoma (eight each).

Even though next year's recruiting class is signed, the Irish have already gotten started on the 2009 recruiting class. After this year's Blue-Gold game, five-star running back Cierre Freeman and four star defensive lineman Tyler Stockton committed to Notre Dame. Four days after Wood announced his commitment, four-star running back Theo Riddick also committed to Notre Dame.



Senior safety Tom Zbikowski makes a tackle during Notre Dame's 38-0 loss to USC on Oct. 20. The Irish had lost by an identical score at Michigan on Sept. 16.

Saint Mary's: Year in Review

Swimming enjoys best season ever. Golf just misses NCAA Tournament. Gray helps redefine cross country program

Observer Staff Report

Swimming

The Belles finished off one of their best years to date with a fifth-place finish in the MIAA championship and hope to continue their success next season.

Coach Ryan Dombkowski will step aside next year and his wife Alicia will take over. Ryan will remain as an assistant coach, while continuing to teach biology at Saint Mary's.

Alicia brings her own swimming experience to the table as she was a Div. III swimmer at Saint Mary's where she helped set two Saint Mary's records in relay events and was also named the squad MVP. Dombkowski will be the squad's fifth coach to coach the Belles since they joined the MIAA in 1997-1998.

The team was able to set a school record this year with five dual meet wins, boding well for the team's future.

The Belles, however, do lose some major talent with the graduation of senior sprinter and freestyler, Kelly Tighe, as well as Tracy Kosmala. The rest of the team will be returning to improve upon the fifth-place finish.

The team was close multiple teams to pulling out league victories, but either missed it by a hair, losing by six points to rival Hillsdale College, or were hurt by an early start in the case of its meet against Olivet College, where its record setting 200-medley relay was called back due to an early handoff.

The diving team took major steps this year, in the first year that it has been reintroduced to Saint Mary's, and were able to win a couple of events, including Leah Bocinsky who won the one-meter dive against Hillsdale College.

With the return of 27 swimmers and divers from the team's record setting year, including the return of two-time 1650-freestyle champion Melissa Gerbeth, the Belles know that they will have a great chance to beat their record setting year.

Cross Country

Senior Megan Gray capped her record-setting career with a 38th-place finish at the Division III National Championships after leading the Belles to a school-best fourth place finish in the MIAA.

Gray finished first for Saint Mary's in every race she ran dur-

ing both her junior and senior seasons. She became the first Belles runner to be named to the all-MIAA first team and the first to qualify for the national meet — and she did both twice.

Gray also set school records in both the 5k and 6k races while capturing three individual meet titles.

"Megan has been a turning point for Saint Mary's cross country," Belles coach Jackie Bauters said before the national championship meet. "If you would have asked five years ago if Saint Mary's would ever make it to the national meet, people would probably laugh. We're on the map now."

A pair of freshmen — Sam Wieczorek and Catie Salyer — led a strong supporting cast for the Belles, who finished fourth at both the MIAA Jamboree and MIAA Championship meets. The two conference-wide competitions collectively determine the final conference standings, and Saint Mary's surpassed its previous school-best finish, fifth place in 2006, to earn fourth in the standings.

Golf

Saint Mary's entered the season hoping to prove it could compete with the best in the country this season, but came up just short in their hopes of qualifying for the NCAA Tournament.

Its second place finish at the MIAA qualifier for the NCAA Tournament was not enough for Saint Mary's to earn an at-large bid.

"Our two goals for this season and every season is to win the conference in the fall and make it to the NCAA's in the spring," Belles coach Mark Hamilton said. "Obviously this year we didn't reach either of those goals, but I feel we did very well."

Hamilton said the team came very close to earning an at-large bid but failed in the committee's eyes.

"I feel like we came up just one stroke short of getting that bid," Hamilton said. "We played very well during the last few weeks of the season, but it wasn't enough."

The most outstanding performance for the team this season in Hamilton's eyes was its last two rounds in the MIAA qualifier when they upended Div. III powerhouse Olivet.

"We outplayed and beat Olivet on their home course in those last two rounds," Hamilton said.

"If it wasn't for the first-round hole they put us in we could've won."

Sparking that solid play for the Belles was a very young team this year that featured the second most highly ranked freshman class in Div. III as ranked by Golfstat.com.

"The freshman have been great this year," Hamilton said. "I expect them to play very well down the road."

Senior Katie O'Brien wrapped up her career at Saint Mary's, the leader and most outstanding player of the team for most of her tenure.

"She has been a great leader and player for us, and really our moral compass throughout her four years," Hamilton said. "We hope her legacy will be with us for many years to come."

O'Brien had to overcome adversity throughout her career, coming back from knee surgery in her sophomore year and mononucleosis in her junior year.

Filling the void left by O'Brien's departure will be a tall order for the Belles, but Hamilton believes new leadership will rise up from within the team next year.

"We have a lot of good leaders just waiting on this team," Hamilton said. "I am confident that one will step up and emerge next year."

Softball

The Belles finished their season with many accomplishments, including a winning record, a trip to the conference tournament and several broken records.

Saint Mary's ended the year with a 23-8 record, good enough for the No. 2 seed in the MIAA tournament. The Belles lost both of their postseason games, to Tri-State and Hope.

This season marked the third straight time the Belles have qualified for the postseason — all of which have come under coach Erin Sullivan.

The Belles faced a difficult challenge this year in dealing with the passing of assistant coach Don Miller, who died of cancer on April 13. Miller, the players' academic advisor, had been with the program for eight years.

Saint Mary's 12 wins in MIAA play are the most since they joined the league in 1998.

Three Belles were named to all-MIAA teams, with senior McKenna Corrigan and sophomore Ashley Peterson earning first-team honors and junior

Cathy Kurczak making the second team.

Corrigan, the Belles' only senior, was a perfect 7-0 with a 3.72 ERA. She was also a contributor at the plate, leading the league with six home runs and 17 RBIs.

Peterson won the MIAA batting title with a league average of .580. She also led the league with 29 hits, tying the MIAA record for hits in a season.

Kurczak was one of 10 players in the MIAA to post a perfect fielding percentage. The second baseman started all 16 games and did not make an error in 59 chances.

Tennis

Saint Mary's went into its season with only two returning members, eight freshmen and an interim coach. With a young team and so much potential, the Belles were unsure of where the season would take them.

After going 13-13 (5-3 MIAA) and tying with Calvin for fourth place last season, Saint Mary's was looking to improve. It started by going 4-3 over spring break, overcoming first match anxieties early in the week and improving as the week progressed.

Following break, Saint Mary's wasn't able to keep up its momentum as the Belles lost their next five matches but pulled out a 9-0 win over conference foe Olivet to break the streak. After that match, they won seven of their last nine before heading into the MIAA tournament.

In the first round of the tournament Saint Mary's took on Kalamazoo, losing 5-1 and placing itself into the consolation tournament. A protest was eventually filed against Kalamazoo, however, and the match was later forfeited to the Belles.

The Belles then easily defeated Tri-State 5-1. In the third round, Saint Mary's took on Alma for the fifth place match, winning 5-2.

Overall, Saint Mary's had a very successful season, especially with a young team. At No. 1 doubles sophomore co-captain Camille Gebert and freshman Jillian Hurley went 12-10, 8-3 MIAA. At No. 2, freshman Betsy Reed and sophomore co-captain Lisa Rubino went 9-11, 5-6 MIAA.

In singles, Gebert went 14-8 (8-3 MIAA) at the No. 1 spot. Hurley went 20-2 (11-0 MIAA) at No. 2 and Reed went 13-8 (8-3 MIAA) at No. 3.

Saint Mary's ended the season ranked fourth in the MIAA, with

a record of 12-10, 5-3 MIAA. Both Gebert and Hurley received MIAA honors.

Gebert made the All-MIAA First Team, and Hurley made the All-MIAA Second Team.

Soccer

Saint Mary's started the season off strong and ended on a positive note, posting its fourth winning season of the last five years. The Belles went 7-5-5, 3-3-2 MIAA, ending their season fifth in the conference.

Saint Mary's started the season off with a championship at the Case Western Reserve Tournament Sept. 1-2. The Belles won over the host Spartans and Lawrence University, holding off the Spartans 2-1 and beating the Vikings 3-0.

The Belles continued their success as they won their home opener over Manchester College 3-0. Hope ended the winning streak as it beat Saint Mary's 3-1, the Belles' first loss of the year.

Saint Mary's continued its season with a 0-0 tie with Calvin before heading into North Central College's Sal Vaccaro Invitational, beating Mount Mercy 3-0 in the first round of the tournament, and winning 5-3 in a shootout victory over North Central to win the tournament on Sept. 16. Senior goalie Amy Mahoney posted her fourth shutout of the season. The game officially ended in a 0-0 tie, with the Belles capturing the ensuing shootout 5-3 after 110 minutes of play.

In its Sept. 22 conference opener, Saint Mary's defeated Kalamazoo 2-1. Senior Justine Higgins and sophomore Bridget Ronayne were named the MIAA offensive and defensive players of the week, respectively, after their performances in the North Central tournament and against Kalamazoo.

Saint Mary's continued conference competition with two consecutive ties, going 1-1 against Albion and 0-0 versus Olivet at the end of September, and a 3-1 loss to Hope on Oct. 6. However, the Belles came back with a 4-3 win over Adrian on Oct. 9, but fell 2-0 to Calvin on Oct. 13 before beating Tri-State 8-2 three days later.

Saint Mary's took on Illinois Wesleyan on Oct. 20 in a non-conference match-up, tying the game at 1-1 before taking on Alma for its last regular season conference game, which the Belles lost 3-2.

September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
September 25 Golf finishes fourth in final MIAA Jamboree of season at the Buck Run Country Club in Alma, Mich.	October 24 Cross country comes in fourth place at the MIAA Championships, the Belles' best showing ever in the event.	November 2 Volleyball falls to top-seeded Calvin at MIAA Championships to finish the season with a 13-18 record.	November 9 Soccer senior defender Justine Higgins earns spot on MIAA second team after helping the Belles notch six shutouts.	January 16 Basketball beats Kalamazoo as senior guard Alison Kessler scores an MIAA-best 41 points.	February 16 Swimming and diving finishes fifth at the MIAA Championships as Melissa Gerbeth successfully defended her 1650-meter freestyle title.	April 23 Softball sweeps doubleheader against Tri-State to run its record to 22-7 and earn a third straight trip to the MIAA tournament.	May 1 Softball falls to Tri-State and Hope in MIAA tournament to finish the season 23-10.	

Notre Dame:

Women's Golf earns NCAA bid. Rowing wins fifth straight league title. Cross Country sees mixed results.

Observer Staff Report

Women's Golf

No. 28 Notre Dame concluded its season last week with a 16th place finish at the NCAA Central Regional Tournament at the University of Texas Golf Club in Austin, Texas. The Irish shot a 61-over-par 925, 23 strokes away from the cut line to the NCAA Championship. Both the score and finish are program records for Notre Dame in NCAA Tournament play. Irish junior captain Lisa Maunu paced the Irish the fourth time this season. Maunu's nine-over-par 225 placed her in a five-way tie for 30th. Freshmen So Hyun Park and Katie Conway carded 231 and 238, respectively. Sophomores Kristin Wetzel and Annie Brophy rounded out the squad with a 236 and a 240, respectively.

This year's tournament marked the third time in program history Notre Dame has earned a bid to the NCAA Regionals. The Irish earned their No. 9 seed with a Big East Tournament win last month, the third conference title in six years for Notre Dame.

The conference title caps an Irish season distinguished by rousing success. Notre Dame, which opened the fall season with three straight

tournament victories, has finished in the top-five in nine of 10 tournament appearances this season — the Big East Tournament win is its fifth first-place finish.

The Irish collected honors at Golf World Magazine's mid-season awards banquet, being named the most surprising women's team, while freshman So-Hyun Park was named most surprising women's player.

Park, the No. 14 golfer in the country, has led the Irish with her scoring average of 73.12, a program-record. She also recorded two first-place finishes this season.

Junior captain Lisa Maunu contributed three podium finishes, including one first-place finish. In total, every Notre Dame golfer recorded at least one top-10 finish this year. Coach Susan Holt attributes her team's success to preparation and mental toughness.

"Golf is basically hitting shots and playing holes and managing our game," Holt said. "We have to get into our mode, that thought process, that comes with managing the course well."

Notre Dame's success led to Big East Coach of the Year honors for Holt. Holt has earned the award four times in her career.

"This is a great honor because it's a result of the team's performance," Holt said. "I'm grateful because

they are such a wonderful group and it's a privilege to coach them. This team is special and to get this award for their hard work is an honor."

Rowing

Notre Dame claimed its fifth straight Big East championship last month, sweeping all six grand final races on Melton Hill Lake in Oak Ridge, Tenn., as the Irish outdistanced conference rival Louisville. Notre Dame captured gold medals in the varsity eight, second varsity eight, varsity four, second varsity four, novice eight and novice four races. It was the first time in its five championship meets that the Irish swept all six races.

"We are obviously very pleased to win the conference championship again and to do so by winning all six races," Irish coach Martin Stone said. "This is the first time that we have won all six races. Today was a total team effort."

Behind Notre Dame (123 points), Louisville (105), Syracuse (92), Georgetown (85), Rutgers (67), Connecticut (64), Villanova (44) and West Virginia (28) completed the field. Stone said his team put together the dominant performance he expected.

"We knew coming in that we were going to face a strong challenge from Louisville. All of our races were hard-fought," he said. "I'm happy for our team and our coaching staff that we were able to come in here today and achieve our goal. To win it the way we did certainly was a great accomplishment for our rowers."

The Irish crew's five straight Big East titles is the school's second-longest active streak, behind only the women's swimming team's 12 straight titles. Stone and assistant coaches Joe Schlosberg and Marnie Stahl captured their fifth straight Big East coaching staff of the year honors, as well.

The Irish will compete next week at the Central/South Region Championships in Oak Ridge, Tenn. After the Big East win, Stone was relieved to have some time to train.

"After five straight weeks of being on the road and competing, this is going to be a welcome relief for us," Stone said. "It's going to be good to get back to training. This certainly will be one of the premier regattas of the season for all the teams competing. We're looking forward to...putting ourselves in position to do well."

The Central/South Region Championships will be the final tournament of the year for Notre Dame before the NCAA Championship in Sacramento, Calif., at the end of the month.

Cross Country

Notre Dame's season featured a mix of success and disappointment, and a blend of veterans and newcomers stepping up for the Irish.

For the women, coach Tim Connelly called the season "one of the most disappointing that we have had in many years." He cited the fact that key runners were not able to perform as a reason for the disappointment.

"We had numerous injuries and illnesses to several of our top runners which we were not able to overcome," Connelly said.

The season started out with a bang, with the team taking first place in the Crusader Invitational at Valparaiso, followed by another first place finish in the National Catholic Championships. Sophomore Lindsey Ferguson finished 14th overall at the Big East Championships, as the team took home a sixth-place finish. Connelly sees a brighter future for next season.

"We only graduate one runner [Ann Mazur] out of our top-five runners at the end of the year, so we are very hopeful that 2008 will be significantly more successful," he said.

The men's team had a more successful run, winning its first three meets and spending the season among the top 25 teams in the nation. The Irish took home fourth place in the Big East Championships, with junior Patrick Smyth leading the way with a third place finish. He was followed closely by senior Jake Watson, who took 12th.

Smyth would continue to

have success, winning the NCAA Great Lakes Regional meet, while leading the team to a third place finish. At the NCAA Cross Country Championship, Smyth received second-team All-America honors after finishing 15th. The team, making its 15th appearance at the Championship in the past 18 years, finished 21st.

Fencing

The men's and women's teams met similar fates as each finished as the runner-up to Ohio State at the NCAA Championships.

Five Notre Dame men garnered All-America honors but the team was unable to claim the prize it coveted most. The Irish mustered only 176 victories in the NCAA Championships and fell to Ohio State, who finished with 185 victories.

The finish was the men's team's best since 2005, when the squad won the NCAA title.

The Irish women missed an NCAA win even more closely than the men. The women's squad fell by just three victories to the host Buckeyes.

Two Notre Dame women were able to claim gold in individual competitions at the NCAA Championships. Kelley Hurley won in the epee competition and Sarah Borrmann claimed the top spot in saber.



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer
The Notre Dame cross country team leaves the starting line during the National Catholic Invite on Sept. 14.

September 15 In a battle of traditional powers off to 0-2 starts, football suffers its worst loss ever to rival Michigan, 38-0.	October 20 Its throwback green jerseys don't help football, as the Irish are blown out by No. 13 USC 38-0, the largest margin of victory of the 79-game series.	November 11 After playing West Virginia to a 1-1 draw, women's soccer falls in a shootout in the Big East championship game.	November 18 Connecticut beats men's soccer 2-0 in the Big East championship game.	November 24 Football concludes its season with a 21-14 win over Stanford but accumulates the most losses (nine) in school history.	January 5 Women's basketball falls to No. 3 Tennessee 87-63, ending a stretch during which the Irish won 14 of 15 to start the season.	February 23 Men's swimming and diving captures its third Big East title in four years.
September	October	November	December	January	February	
September 1 Football opens its season with a 33-3 home loss to Georgia Tech, the worst season-opening loss in school history.	October 7 Football beats UCLA 20-7 for its first win after a school-worst 0-5 start to the season.	November 3 For the first time in 44 years, football falls to Navy, 46-44 in three overtimes.	November 17 Football beats Duke 28-7 on Senior Day for its only home victory.	November 19 Men's cross country concludes its season by finishing 21st out of 30 teams at the NCAA championship meet in Terre Haute, Ind.	December 7 Women's soccer loses its NCAA semifinal match-up with Florida State 3-2.	December 8 Men's basketball beats Northern Illinois 108-62 to win a school-record 25th straight game at the Joyce Center. Men's soccer falls to Wake Forest, 1-0 in overtime, in the NCAA quarterfinals.

Year in Review

Women's Track, Swimming put together strong seasons. Men's Golf finishes fourth at Big East championship.

Volleyball

Though Notre Dame entered the Big East tournament as the No. 4 seed and defeated Cincinnati three games to one in the first round, the Irish did not go on to finish their season as they had hoped.

A subsequent loss to Louisville in three games ended the Irish season. Though the Irish defeated Tennessee only six days after in their season closer, the loss against the Cardinals prevented Notre Dame from earning a bid into NCAA tournament.

Upon entering the Big East tournament, the Irish maintained a 13-12 record that included a regular season ending four game winning streak.

"We finished really strong at the end of the regular conference season especially with our huge match against Louisville," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "We fell a little short with our goals by not making the NCAA tournament, but we finished strong this season."

Only a week before they fell to the Cardinals, the Irish defeated the top-20 team in their final match before the Big East tournament.

Despite an early-ending season, the Irish focused on improving their overall game and their defense during spring season competition where they competed against top caliber teams such as Purdue, Michigan, Texas, Illinois and Penn State.

"We are working on everything but our main goal is to improve our defense, expand our range, and develop a stronger attitude of not letting the ball hit the floor on our side," Brown said.

The Irish will lose two of their key senior leaders this year — outside hitter Adrianna Stasiuk and setter Ashley Tarutis. Along with five other athletes, Stasiuk earned Notre Dame's prestigious Kanaley award for exemplary leadership and scholarly achievement. The senior captain also collected her 1,000th career kill this season and was named to the Academic All-District V team. Tarutis consistently posted several assists per game to aid the Irish offense as the team's starting setter.

Despite the loss of two strong players, Brown has high hopes for next season.

"We want to improve upon what we did this year," Brown said. "As always we want to win the Big East, not just the regular season, but the tournament, and we want to have a strong season."

Women's Track

Notre Dame saved its strongest performance for the end of the season, placing third at the Big East championship meet May 4 at Villanova.

"The Big East outdoor meet was certainly our best team meet of the year," Irish distance coach Tim Connelly said. "We had a number of people who had struggled indoors with sickness and injury who performed well last week at Villanova."

Heading into the meet, Connelly wasn't sure that his team had enough depth to win, but with some strong finishes by top athletes, he thought that the Irish had a chance to finish in the top three.

"Going into the meet, we thought that with some outstanding performances, we had a good shot at being in the top three," Connelly said. "We were only a point away from second place and only about 20 out of first. We really didn't miss in too many areas that we thought that we had the potential to score big points. We just needed a few more 'depth' points, which we knew would be our problem."

Notre Dame's success can be partially attributed to junior Alyssa Hasan's record-breaking season. Hasan set both school and personal records this season in the heptathlon on her way to grabbing an automatic bid to the NCAA National Championship meet. Hasan had a strong Big East performance, finishing second in the heptathlon and scoring points in the 100-meter run with a fifth place finish.

The Irish notched many of their points on field events throughout the season and the field athletes again performed well in the Big East outdoor meet.

Junior Mary Saxer took first place and set a Big East meet record in the pole vault with a jump of four meters.

"Mary [Saxer] got better and better in the outdoor season after struggling during indoors," Connelly said.

In the throws events, junior Anna Weber and sophomore Jaclyn Espinoza had strong finishes for Irish. Weber grabbed a second place finish at the Big East meet in the hammer throw and scored top-eight finishes in the discus and the shot put. Espinoza took second in the discus and had a top-eight finish in the shot put.

Sophomore Lindsey Ferguson led the Irish runners with a third place finish in the 3000-meter

steeplechase. Her time of 10:29.63 was fast enough to break her own school record by 12 seconds.

The NCAA Mid-east regional meet will be held May 30-31 in Fayetteville, Ariz., and the NCAA Championship meet is June 11-14 in Des Moines, Iowa.

"We have several athletes who potentially still have a long season ahead of them with the NCAA meets," Connelly said.

The Irish will be in a great position to move up the Big East ladder next year as they will return nearly all of their top athletes.

"We only graduate one individual scorer from this year's team, so we are very excited about the future," Connelly said.

Swimming

The Irish men's and women's teams both maintained first-rate records to successfully earn the 2008 Big East Conference championship title.

With a score of 820, the Irish men dominated competition and won the tournament by over 200 points. Louisville came in second with only 615 points.

"We put all of our emphasis on how things were going to be at the end of the season and things were great," Irish men's coach Tim Welsh said. "We won the Big East title after being second the year before, and not only did we win, but the guys swam great."

After winning the tournament the Irish diving squad went on to make history at the NCAA Tournament.

Notre Dame sent six divers, the most ever, to the Zone C competition, and subsequently, junior Michael Bulfin became the first ever member of the Notre Dame men's diving team to earn points at the NCAA Championships. He secured top finishes in both diving events, finishing 28th in the one-meter board and 15th in the three-meter board.

Sophomore MacKenzie LeBlanc also earned top honors as a swimmer. As a Canadian citizen, LeBlanc placed third in the 200-fly during the Canadian Olympic Trials, earning himself a spot on the Canadian National 'B' Team.

Despite strong underclassmen, the Irish will lose four senior swimmers — Andrew MacKay, Rob Seery, Eric Swenson and Jay Vanden Berg — and three divers — Steven Crowe, Chris Kane and Sam Stoner.

"This is a big senior class and a powerful senior class we're losing, but we do have a good freshmen

class coming in. Things will be different but we hope to be just as strong," Welsh said.

The Irish women had similar success, winning the Big East championship for the 12th consecutive time. The Irish dominated, earning 767 points, while Louisville earned a distant second place finish with 239.5 points.

"We had a solid dual meet season," Irish women's coach Carrie Nixon said. "We always treat that as a stepping stone toward Big East."

Irish women's swimming and diving coach Carrie Nixon and her Notre Dame squad also sent three female divers to the NCAA Zone C competition — freshman Heidi Grossman, senior Tara Hyer, and sophomore Natalie Stitt.

Three Irish swimmers earned entry into the NCAA national meet. Junior Christa Riggins earned bids in the 50, 100, and 200-free events. Freshman Amywren Miller competed in the 50-free, 100-fly and 100-free, while freshman Samantha Maxwell earned spots in the 100 and 200-breast competitions.

All three went on to record Olympic Trial cut times during the meet. Miller recorded a time of 26.35 in the 50-free and 57.94 in the 100-free, while Maxwell earned a times in both the 100 and 200 breast. Riggins earned cut times in four freestyle events — the 50, 100, 200, and 400-free. The Irish women boast 12 Olympic Trial qualifiers who will compete in a meet at the end of June.

The Irish women lose six senior swimmers — Morgan Bullock, Natalie Burke, Kate Guida, Katie Hopkins, Caroline Johnson, and Georgia Steenberge — and two senior divers, Hyer and Laura Rings, this season.

"For me this is a pretty special class because I was an assistant coach their freshman year and I took over as head coach their sophomore year, so I've been with them since then beginning," Nixon said. "We're going to miss them. They're a great group of girls, and each has a bright future ahead."

Men's Golf

A young Irish team finished a strong spring season with a fourth place finish in the Big East Championship April 20-22 at the Traditions Golf Club in Hebron, Ky.

Notre Dame carded a three-round total of 889 (25-over par) in the conference championship, finishing two strokes behind Seton

Hall. Marquette won the Big East crown with a score of 874, defeating runner-up Louisville by two strokes.

The season finale featured some impressive individual performances for the Irish, who received two all-conference selections. Sophomore Doug Fortner earned his first all-Big East selection after finishing fourth in the tournament with a three-over 219.

Junior Josh Sandman made his second consecutive all-conference team, tying for seventh at four-over par. This is the sixth time in seven years that Notre Dame has had multiple selections to the all-Big East team.

With the strong showing, Sandman continued an impressive stretch of five straight top-10 finishes. His efforts were recognized with an individual selection to compete this weekend in the NCAA Central Regional at the Ohio State Scarlet Course. Sandman is the first Irish player ever to qualify for a regional as an individual.

"We're thrilled to have Josh join the elite field competing in Columbus," Notre Dame coach Jim Kubinski said. "Of course, as a program, it's pretty special to have a player earn the right to compete for a national championship."

Sandman was equally thrilled to have a chance to compete for an NCAA Championship.

"I'm excited to go and represent the team and the University at regionals," Sandman said. "Obviously, there are some mixed emotions because my teammates won't be out there on the course with me. But this is a great opportunity to build momentum going into next year and I'm confident that if I play my game, I can compete with anyone out there."

While Sandman's season continues, the Big East championship marked the last event for two of Notre Dame's captains, seniors Greg Rodgers and Eddie Peckels. Rodgers finished his Irish career with an average of 76.36 strokes per round in 31 tournaments. His top career finish was a fourth-place mark in last fall's Gopher Invitational.

Peckels finished with a 75.78 stroke average in 22 career tournaments, highlighted by a tie for first place in April's Irish Invitational.

Eight of the 12 players on Notre Dame's roster were underclassman on one of the youngest-ever Irish teams.

March 9	March 16	March 22	March 30	April 10	April 16	April 20	April 25	April 27
Women's basketball is upset by Pittsburgh 64-53 in the first round of the Big East tournament.	Fencing takes second place in the national finals behind only Ohio State.	Washington State ends men's basketball's season, 61-41 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament in Denver, Colo.	Tennessee drops women's basketball for the second time this season, ending Notre Dame's season with a 74-64 defeat.	Freshman Calle Ridderwaal scores the game-winner in hockey's 5-4 overtime victory over Michigan to advance to the national championship game.	Baseball beats Northern Illinois 5-4 at Chicago's U.S. Cellular Field in a game benefitting the shooting victims at NIU.	Both men's and women's tennis teams edge South Florida to win their respective Big East titles.	In the first women's varsity event ever held in Notre Dame Stadium, women's lacrosse loses a triple-overtime heartbreaker 15-14 to Georgetown in the semifinals of the Big East tournament.	Women's rowing wins its fifth straight Big East title.
March				April				May
March 11	March 25	March 29	April 6	April 12	April 19	April 22	May 4	
Men's basketball forward Luke Harangody is named the Big East Player of the Year. Coach Mike Brey also wins the conference's Coach of the Year award for the second consecutive year.	Charel Allen scores 35 points as women's basketball beats Oklahoma 79-75 in overtime to advance to the Sweet 16.	Hockey advances to its first-ever Frozen Four by beating CCHA rival Michigan State 3-1.	Softball completes its most successful Big East weekend of the season, sweeping doubleheaders with St. John's and Seton Hall.	Hockey falls to Boston College 4-1 in the national title game in Denver, Colo.	West Virginia breaks baseball's season-best 11-game winning streak with an 8-4 victory.	Men's golf finishes fourth at the Big East championship in Hebron, Ky.	Men's lacrosse beats Ohio State 9-2 in the GWLL championship game in Birmingham, Mich. Men's track wins the Big East outdoor championship while the women finish third.	

FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

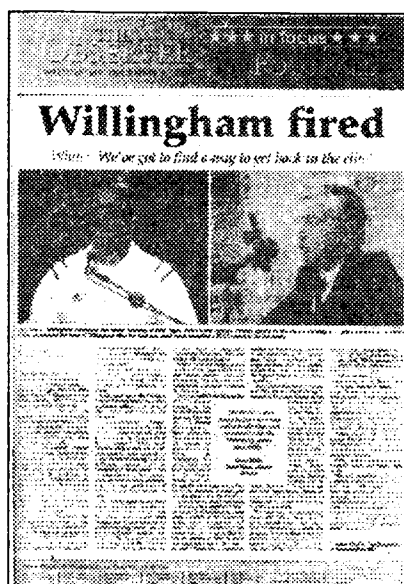
Friday, May 16, 2008

The top 10 Observer sports stories from the 2004-2008 academic years

page 42

1 After three years, Willingham out, Weis in

November-December, 2004



On Nov. 30, 2004, the news that Tyrone Willingham had been fired after three years as Notre Dame head coach sent shockwaves through the University and the nation. Willingham won his first eight games at the helm, including victories over Michigan and Florida State, but went just 13-15 over the next two-and-a-half seasons, including three straight losses to both Boston College and USC.

As the team prepared for the Insight Bowl against Oregon State under interim coach Kent Baer and

the media howled over the racial implications of Willingham's dismissal, Notre Dame Athletic Director Kevin White began searching for a replacement.

After a brief flirtation with Urban Meyer, who eventually ended up at Florida, White settled on New England Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weis. Weis was hired for his first head coaching job on Dec. 12.

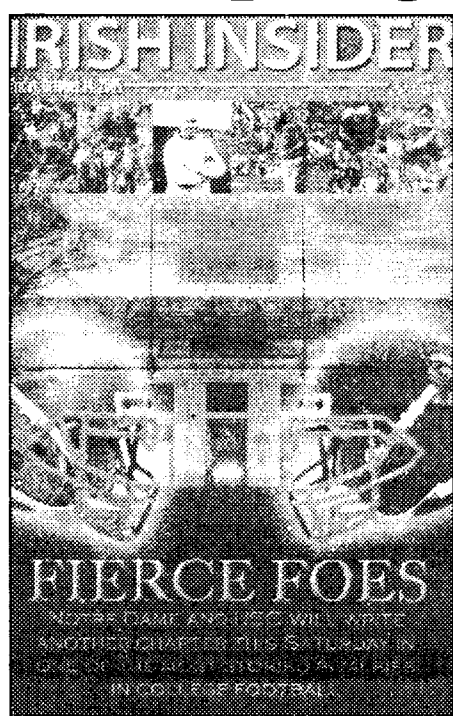
The next day, Willingham accepted a head coaching position at Washington, where his teams have

gone 11-25 over the past three seasons.

Weis brought a pro-style offense to Notre Dame that helped quarterback Brady Quinn set more than 30 school records. But after making a bowl game in each of Weis's first two seasons, the Irish struggled to a 3-9 record last season.

Under Weis, Notre Dame has gone 22-15, reaching two BCS bowl games but losing them both — 34-20 to Ohio State in the 2006 Fiesta Bowl and 41-14 to LSU in the 2007 Sugar Bowl.

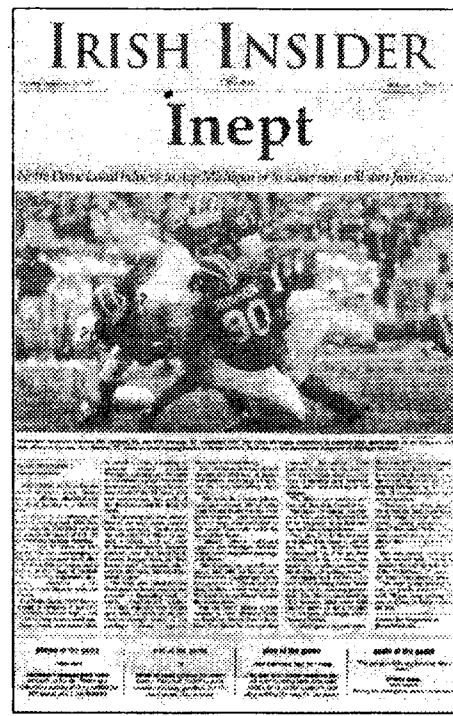
2 ND-USC lives up to pre-game hype



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 — which was watched by an estimated 30 million people — matched the hype as Matt Leinart's touchdown gave the Trojans the 34-31 win with three seconds

October 15, 2005

3 Football endures disastrous season



In the worst start to a season in Notre Dame history, the Irish limped to an 0-5 record. It all started with a 33-3 home loss to Georgia Tech. The debacle continued with identical 38-0 losses to rivals Michigan and USC. The Irish won their last two contests to finish 3-9 but did not come close to earning a trip to a bowl game.

Fall 2007

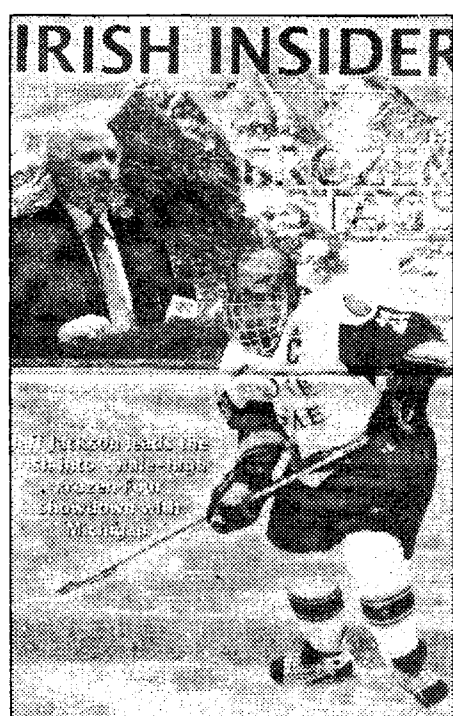
4 Women's soccer wins national



After an impressive regular season that saw the team finish with a 24-1-1 overall record, the Irish won the National Championship in penalty kicks following two scoreless overtimes against UCLA in the College Cup finals. It was the team's first NCAA title since 1995.

December 5, 2004

5 Icers go to NCAA title game

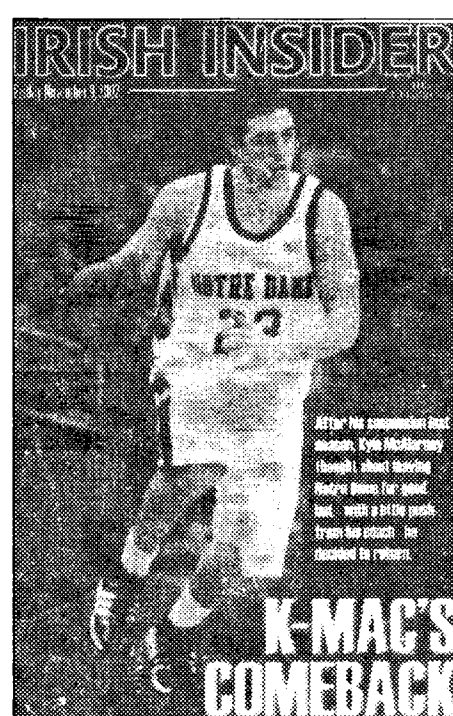


After winning its first CCHA title a year ago, the hockey program continued its resurgence under coach Jeff Jackson.

The Irish just sneaked into the NCAA Tournament but capitalized by qualifying for the first Frozen Four in school history. They then topped Michigan to advance to the title game, where they fell to Boston College.

April 10, 2008

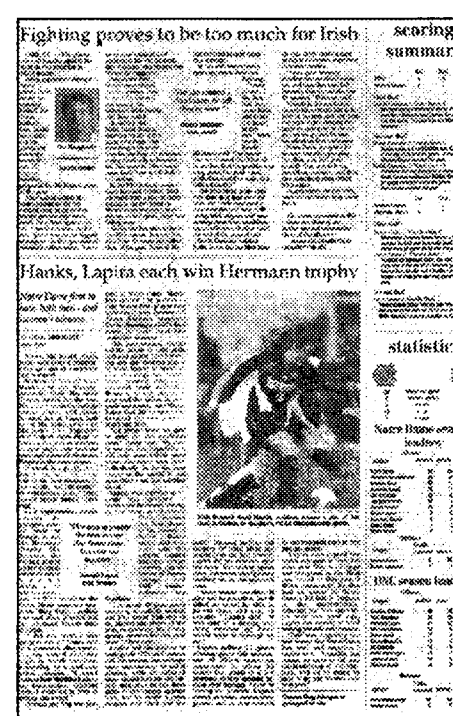
6 Guard returns from suspension



Irish shooting guard Kyle McAlarney was suspended during the 2006-2007 season for possession of marijuana. But the New York native came back to school as a junior and earned a selection to the All-Big East first team. McAlarney averaged 15.1 points per game as the Irish made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

November 9, 2007

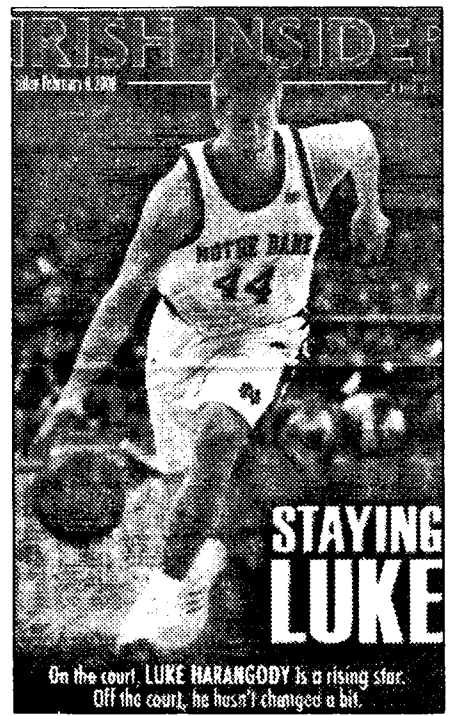
7 Lapira, Hanks win Hermann



Irish junior Joe Lapira and sophomore Kerri Hanks won the Hermann Trophies for men's and women's soccer, respectively. The award is given annually to the best player in the country. Lapira and Hanks each led the nation in scoring while leading the Irish deep into the NCAA Tournament.

December 4, 2006

8 'Gody named Big East POY



By leading the conference in scoring with 23.3 points per game and pulling down 11.3 rebounds in Big East play, Luke Harangody earned player of the year honors. Harangody improved upon a freshman campaign in which he netted 11.2 points per contest. He was also named a second-team All-American as a sophomore.

February 8, 2008

9 Fencing wins national title



In 2005, the Irish fencing squad won its second national title in three years, topping second-place Ohio State by just two points, 173-171.

The Irish also took home the national championship in 2003 — their first title since 1994 — although they finished second or third every year in between.

March 20, 2005

10 Hoops team sets JACC win mark



With a win over Northern Illinois, the Notre Dame men's basketball team set a Joyce Center-record by winning its 25th straight home game. The Irish extended their streak to 36 by winning all their remaining games at the Joyce Center. The team has not lost a home contest since Feb. 25, 2006, when it fell to Marquette.

December 8, 2007

Kessler

continued from page 44

as well as others, and became the strongest player the college had ever seen.

Kessler scored a total 544 points this past season, averaging 20.9 per game and breaking her own school record of 497 points, while leading the MIAA in scoring for the second consecutive year. Kessler's average of 20.9 per game made her for the eight-highest scorer in all of Division III. She hit 169 free throws and averaged 5.4 rebounds per game. Kessler also picked up 78 assists and 72 steals. On Jan. 16, she scored a school-record 41 points in a game at Kalamazoo, the most any Division III player had up until that point of the season.

Recalling the game against Kalamazoo, Kessler admits that she wasn't thinking about breaking any records.

"Honestly, when I scored 41 points ... I really had no idea that I did it until we were in the locker room and coach told me," Kessler said. "[It was more important to me] that we won that game and finished out my career undefeated [8-0] against Kalamazoo."

Kessler said she feels the

same way about the other records too; the team comes first and milestones are less important.

"Although it was a great accomplishment to break all those records, it was more important to me that our team has become respected in the MIAA. We have finished in the top half of the conference the past couple seasons and that was really unheard of when I first came to Saint Mary's," Kessler said.

Kessler was first in steals for the MIAA for the second year in a row, averaging 2.77 per game. She was also seventh in assists and sixteenth in rebounding. Kessler also had fourteen games in which she scored at least twenty points, more than any other player in the MIAA. She was named to the All-MIAA first team for the third straight year, and was named MIAA MVP.

All of this success, Kessler's coach Jennifer Henley said, is not solely a matter of talent but one of attitude.

"Alison was a very competitive basketball player. Most fans could see that during the games, but she also brought that type of intensity to practice," Henley said. "... I enjoyed coaching her over the last two years."

Henley added that Kessler is also a very well-rounded stu-

dent-athlete.

"For all the great things she accomplished on the court, she also accomplished [a lot] in the classroom," Henley said. "She was a very serious student [and made the] Dean's list every semester."

Kessler has consistently garnered academic recognition over her four years, and it seems the athletic awards are rolling in just as frequently. Kessler was recently named the D3Hoops.com Great Lakes Region Player of the Year out of players from 57 schools. She also made the D3Hoops.com All-American second team. She is the first Saint Mary's basketball player to earn All-America honors.

Kessler's records for Saint Mary's include most points in a game with 41; most free throws made in a game with 22 in the 2006-07 season; most points in a season with 544 in the 2007-08 season; most free throws in a season with 174 in 2006-07; most points in a career with 1628; most 3-pointers in a career with 149. She is also third in school history in steals with 196, and is third for 3-pointers in a season with 53.

Modest as ever, Kessler said Tuesday that she's happy not just for herself but for the present and future years of SMC basketball.

"I think this is just the



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Alison Kessler's 20.9 points per game led the MIAA this season and she now holds the Belles' all-time scoring title with 1628 points.

beginning of the success of our team and department," she said. "I'm not sure I would call it a legacy but I'm happy to have made a positive impact on the program. I'm very happy that I was able to see the program become more competitive and respected in

the MIAA. I'm confident that my teammates will continue to keep the program going in the right direction."

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

Allen

continued from page 44

had to score on this possession, and she was the one that always put the dagger in the other team's heart."

Allen's first clutch performance was during her freshman season at one of the biggest stages in women's college basketball — against Connecticut at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn.

Going into the game against the Lady Huskies on Jan. 30, 2005 Connecticut had won 112 straight home games. Allen came off the bench to score 11 points on 5-for-6 shooting — including two shots to help ice the victory.

The Lady Huskies had cut the score to 52-51 when Allen nailed back-to-back jumpers, including her only 3-pointer of the game, to help push the lead back to six.

"She's coming off a bench as a freshman and she's still the one making the big shots," McGraw said. "So I think we knew right away that she had that kind of poise."

While Allen continued with those kind of performances throughout her Notre Dame career, she was also one of the most consistent players in the program's history. She leaves the Irish as the only player ever to record over 1,500 points, 500 rebounds, 200 assists and 200 steals. Additionally, her 1,566 points rank eighth all-time in Notre Dame history.

This season, Allen was named first team all-Big East for the

second straight year.

She was also named one of the team's tri-captains, along with classmates Tulyah Gaines and Amanda Tsipis.

Gaines was the most vocal of the three captains and Tsipis did the little things to help keep the team in line. But Allen was more of a "lead by example" senior, McGraw said.

"[Allen was] coming off the bench as a freshman and she's still the one making the big shots. So I think we knew right away that she had that kind of poise."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

"You don't lose a player of that magnitude and not have some growing pains the next year."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Schrader and rising junior Ashley Barlow could help fill the scoring void Allen left, no one can fill the void Allen leaves in the program.

"I think she's going to leave a big hole," she said. "You don't

lose a player of that magnitude and not have some growing pains the next year."

Looking back at Allen's four years at Notre Dame, McGraw said Allen is right at the top of

the list of the best players she has coached in her 21 years with the program.

"[She is] easily in the top five," McGraw said. "Really, she's right up there with the best players that have ever played here. She has definitely left a huge mark on our program."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

Lapira

continued from page 44

"When Joseph got here, he was just a bundle of raw energy," Clark said. "He was somebody we identified with raw talent and tremendous instincts, but like all young strikers, I think he learned a few things."

"He learned how to pace himself, how to pick his moments to make runs, learning you don't have to make runs every single time. He also learned that even the best strikers go through dry periods and keeping your confidence in yourself and your ability [is important]."

It also helped that, from day one, Lapira was able to unleash some of that energy on the field. Injuries ravaged Notre Dame during Lapira's freshman season, allowing him to gain valuable experience while playing in all 19 games and starting five after an injury to upperclassmen Tony Menga. Lapira showed flashes of things to come, scoring three goals — all game-winners — as well as notching two assists in his first season.

Potential turned into production in Lapira's sophomore year as he led the team in points (19) and goals (seven) while tying for the team lead in assists with five. Lapira also began to show his penchant for important goals as his tally iced a 2-0 victory over defending national champion Indiana in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

If Lapira's sophomore campaign looked impressive in relation to his first season in South Bend, it paled in comparison to the spectacular numbers that the forward put up during his third year under Clark. In the fourth game of the 2006 season, Lapira found the back of the net four times in a 5-4 over-

time victory over Indiana. He didn't stop scoring for the rest of the season, notching 22 goals and 50 points — both tops in the country.

In addition to the Hermann Trophy, Lapira's efforts helped him garner unanimous first-team All-America honors, as well Soccer America's Player of the Year and Big East Offensive Player of the Year awards.

"It'll be very hard to ever forget his fabulous junior year," Clark said. "That was something special. He was scoring goals like they were going out of fashion."

Slicing up every defense in his path during his junior season, in his senior season, Lapira finally came up against an opponent that could slow him down — injuries. The senior forward pulled his calf at the end of July while training with English Premier League side Derby County, an injury that would linger until after the start of the season. During the season, Lapira also sustained a hamstring injury.

"His senior year will be remembered for me as someone who had a really tough start pulling his calf," Clark said. "Possibly because he pushed too hard to get back, he tweaked his hamstring. He wasn't really fully fit until the start of the [NCAA] Tournament."

Although he could not replicate the production of his junior season, Lapira overcame his injuries enough to manage nine goals and 10 assists in his last season at Notre Dame. He also scored two goals in the NCAA Tournament while helping

lead the Irish to their second consecutive NCAA quarterfinal appearance.

Such production was enough to help Lapira receive first-team All-America honors for the second consecutive season while also being named a finalist for the Hermann Trophy.

"I thought he did magnificently [his senior year]," Clark said. "It would have been real easy to go into a tailspin because things weren't going as well as the year before, but I felt he stuck to his task really well. He kept his character. He kept his personality, and when we came to the vital

games at the end of the season, he scored the vital goals."

Lapira's magnificent career at Notre Dame was enough to interest professional clubs on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Toronto FC drafted the ND forward with the 35th pick of the 2007 MLS

"It'll be very hard to ever forget his fabulous junior year. That was something special. He was scoring goals like they were going out of fashion."

Bobby Clark
Irish coach

Superdraft — Lapira likely would have been drafted higher had teams not known that his preference was to play in Europe — but Lapira spurned MLS for more frigid pastures. Norwegian ones, to be exact.

The former Irish standout is now plying his trade for Nybergsund of Norway's second division, where he's netted three goals in his first four games.

"I think his dream was always to play in Europe," Clark said. "He's made a good start. Hopefully, he'll look at this as an intermediate step [to a more competitive European league]."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETES

Carving a legacy



JESS LEE/The Observer

Joseph Lapira became the first Notre Dame player to win the M.A.C. Hermann Trophy, college soccer's top individual honor, as a junior in 2006.

Lapira wins Notre Dame's first Hermann Trophy in 2006

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Energy and goals. No two words could better describe Notre Dame's dynamo forward Joseph Lapira who became an irresistible force during his four years in South Bend under coach Bobby Clark.

By the time he hung up his Irish cleats, Lapira had terrorized opposing defenses to the tune of 41 career goals and 105 career points — both fifth-best in Notre Dame program history. Such goal-scoring prowess also helped the Lake Charles, La.,

native make new history for the Irish program.

Lapira's breakout junior season, in which he led the nation in both goals and points, netted him the program's first ever M.A.C. Hermann Trophy — college soccer's national player of the year award.

While Lapira will be remembered primarily for that spectacular 2006 season, it was the little-seen changes in the forward's game during his first two campaigns under Clark that made his breakout junior year possible.

see LAPIRA/page 43



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Charel Allen scored a career-high 35 points in her last Irish victory. Allen helped Notre Dame advance to the Sweet 16 in a 79-75 overtime win over Oklahoma.

Allen saves best for last in NCAA Tournament win

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Charel Allen saved the biggest game of her career until her time at Notre Dame was almost over.

The senior shooting guard dropped a career-high 35 points along with six rebounds and three assists against Oklahoma during Notre Dame's 79-75 overtime win in the second round of the 2008 NCAA Tournament. She led the Irish to victory with clutch shots late in the second half and during the extra period.

"She willed us to victory in that

Oklahoma game," coach Muffet McGraw said. "She took the ball and just said 'We are not losing this game.'"

The thing about that game is that it was nothing out of the ordinary.

Allen has been Notre Dame's go-to player late in games for the last four years, nailing key shots in the final minutes throughout her career.

"What she has done in her whole career is make big shots, play with poise under pressure. She has made the big play countless times, even this year," McGraw said. "So many times this year when we needed a basket,

see ALLEN/page 43

Kessler graduates as Saint Mary's all-time scoring leader

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Eight Saint Mary's records, three MIAA records, 2007-2008 MIAA MVP, Great Lakes Region Player of the Year and an All-America selection this year have made senior Alison Kessler the most successful athlete ever to come out of Saint Mary's.

Kessler may not have expected it four years ago when she joined a Belles basketball team that had gone 7-19 in the 2003-2004 season. Since then she has helped in

turning Saint Mary's from a cellar dweller to a competitive 13-13, including 8-8 in MIAA play. The Belles climbed into fourth place in the conference this season. Kessler has come a long way from being named Saint Mary's Rookie of the Year in 2005 to one of the top athletes in MIAA history.

In her freshmen season, Kessler's talent was evident in the numbers she put up. She was fifth on the team with 217 points, averaging 8.3 per game. Kessler also led the team in free throw shooting, making 89 of 100, and was third on the team in assists

with 1.7 per game.

Kessler's sophomore season was an improvement on the previous one as she continued to impress her teammates and opponents with her skill and numbers, helping Saint Mary's go 11-15 overall and 9-7 in MIAA play. She made 113 free throws, putting her at second in College history. She also scored a team-high 370 points and averaged 1.9 assists and 3.8 rebounds per game. Kessler was named to the all-MIAA first team for the 2005-2006 season. Kessler broke another Saint Mary's record as she scored 15 free

throws in one game that year.

Kessler's junior season was the one in which her real talent came out as she led Saint Mary's to the best season in college history until that point with a record of 12-13 and 10-6 in the MIAA. She scored 497 points, averaging 19.9 per game and breaking the previous Saint Mary's record of points in a season while leading the MIAA in scoring. She knocked down 174 free throws, breaking her own record from the '05-06 season, and averaged 5.2 rebounds per game.

As a junior, Kessler was

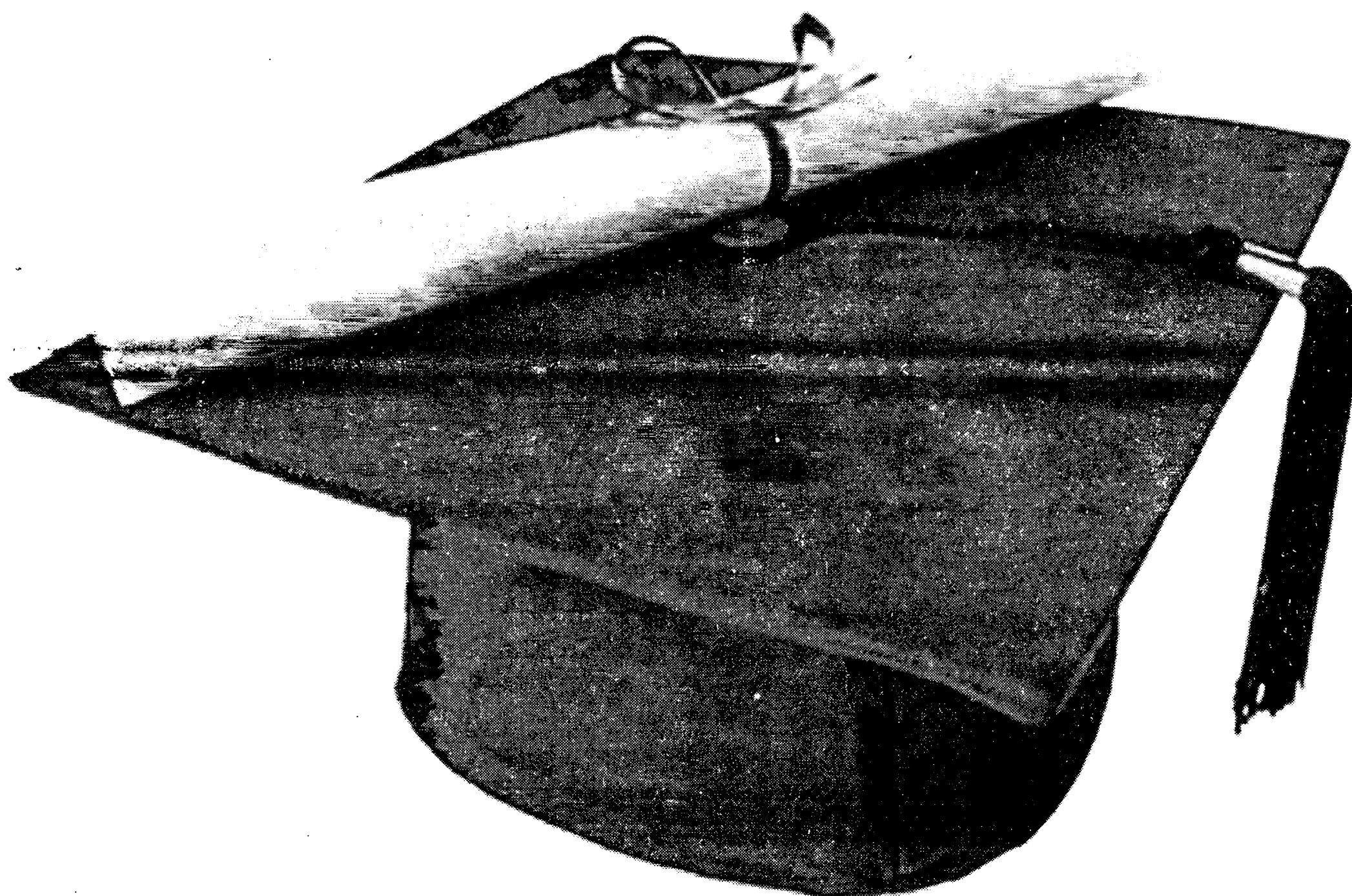
named to the all-MIAA first team for the second year in a row, and led the MIAA in steals.

Her success up until the start of her senior season was noteworthy, but this past season Kessler showed that she could be more than just noteworthy. Many people wondered if Saint Mary's would suffer after guard Bridget Lipke graduated in 2007, but Kessler quickly showed she could step up even more. She led the team to its best season ever, broke her own records

see KESSLER/page 43

Congratulations

Class of 2008





From Paperbag Princess to
Notre Dame Graduate!

So proud of you!

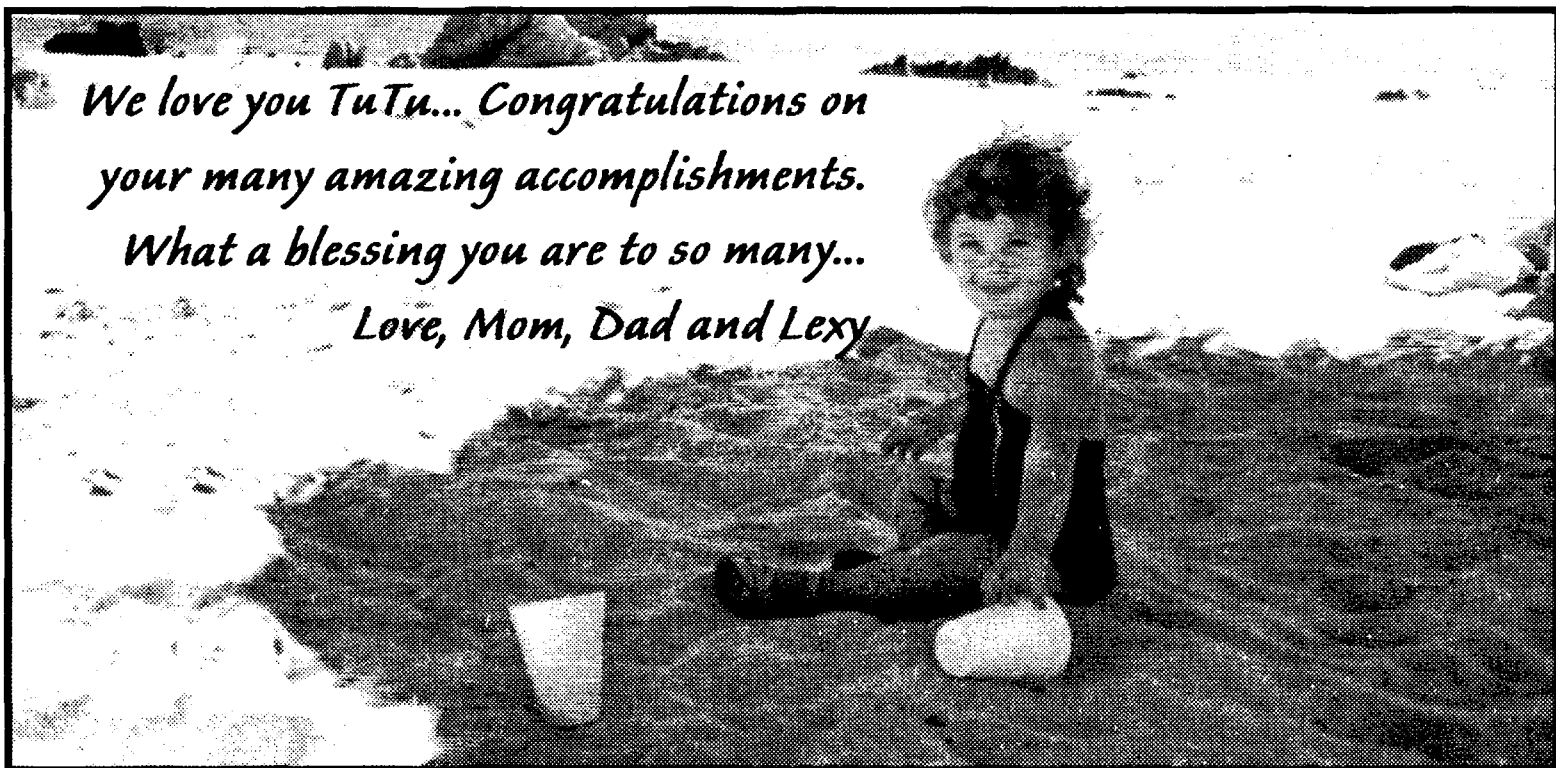
Love,
Mom & Dad



*Congratulations,
Rachel!*

*We are so
proud of you!*

Love,
Dad, Mom and
Justin



*We love you TuTu... Congratulations on
your many amazing accomplishments.*

What a blessing you are to so many...

Love, Mom, Dad and Lexy



*Congratulations,
Andrew!*

*We're so proud
of you.*

*Love and best
wishes from your
family.*



*You have
surpassed all our
hopes and dreams for you!
We are so proud of our
"domer"! Thank you for all
the fun, love and warmth
you share with us.*

*All our love,
Daddy and Mummy,
Vicky and Johnathan*



Congratulations Tara,

We are so proud of you. God Bless!!

XXOO

Mom & Dad

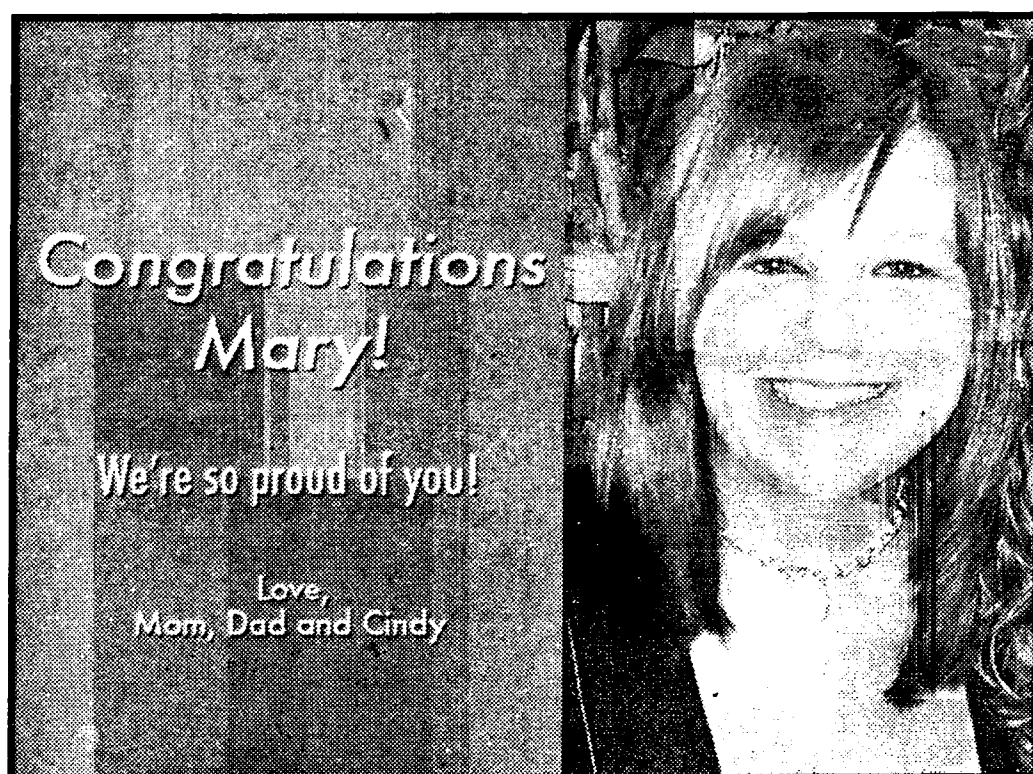
Ray, Anne, Keiran, Erin, Maeve, Gavin, & Devyn

Bobby, Christy, Kelly, Ryan & Brady

Sean, Tracy, Sean & Megan

Michael, Allyson, Caiden & Keane

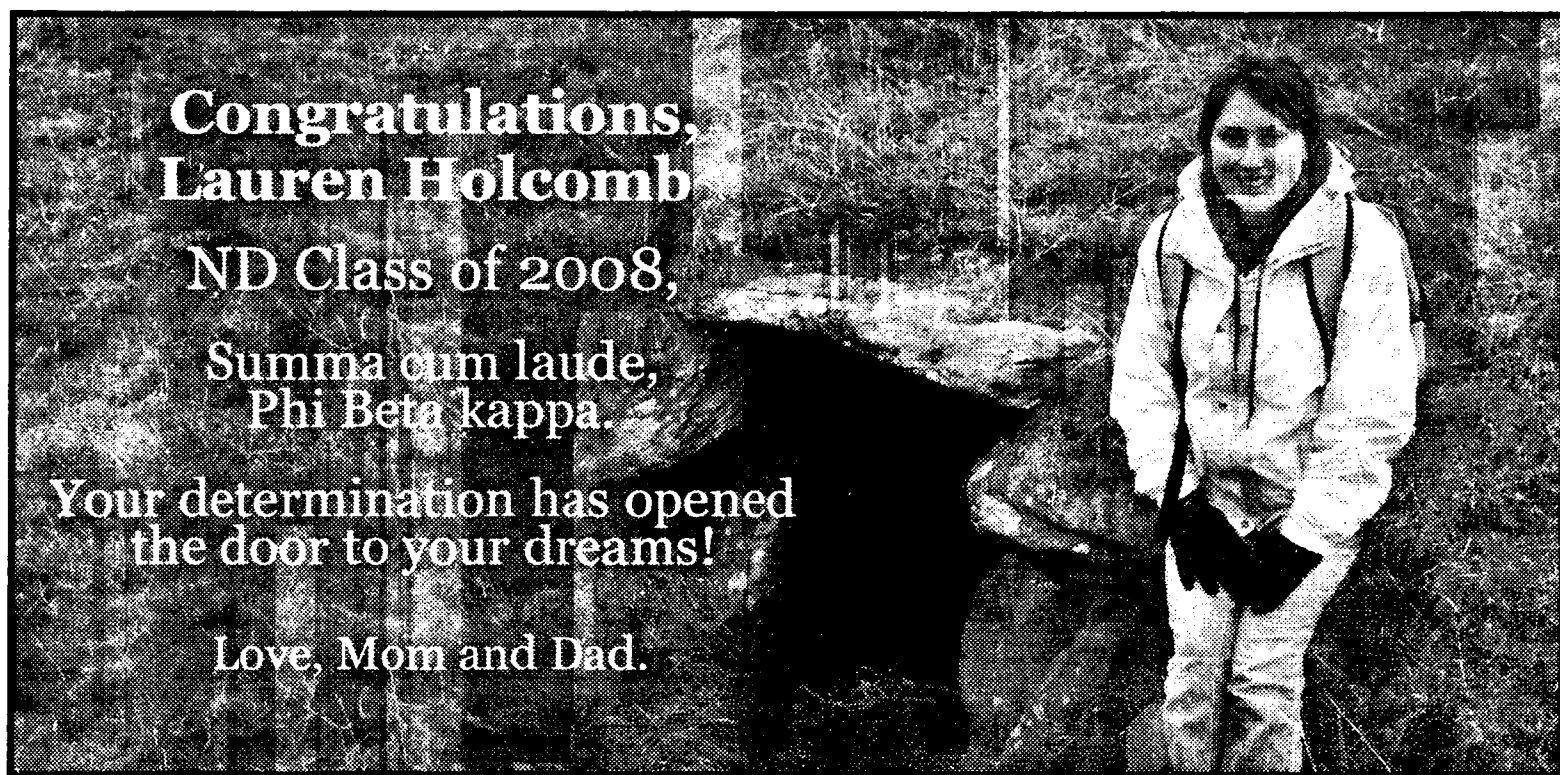
Timmy & Suzy



Congratulations Mary!

We're so proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Cindy



**Congratulations,
Lauren Holcomb**

ND Class of 2008,

Summa cum laude,
Phi Beta kappa.

Your determination has opened
the door to your dreams!

Love, Mom and Dad.



Congratulations Sarah!

Love,
Mom,
Dad &
Rachel

*Congratulations Ned! We are so proud of you and all
that you have accomplished. Enjoy this moment. GO IRISH!*

Mom, Dad, Sara, and Jenny





**CONGRATULATIONS
MEGHAN!**

We're so proud of you. Next
stop- med school!

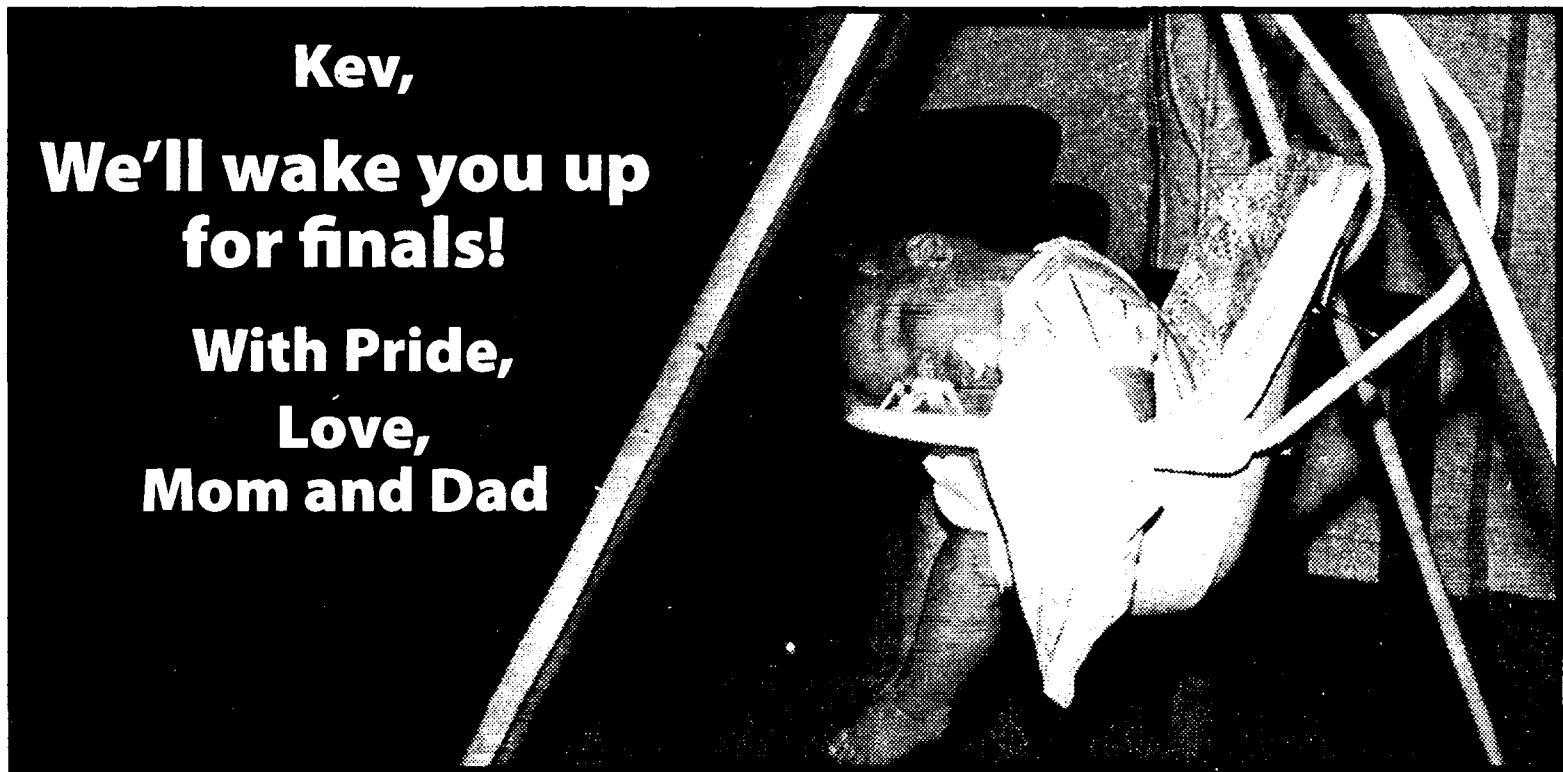
Love,
Mom and Dad



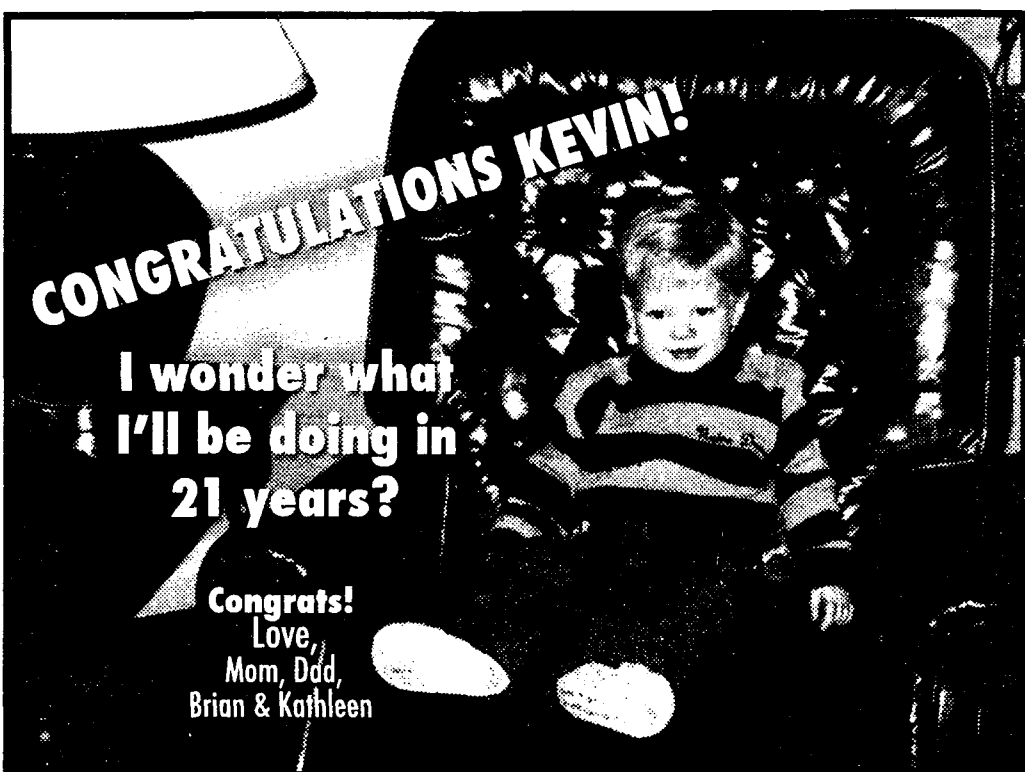
Kellie

CONGRATS!

Love -
Mom, Dad,
Ashley &
Kricky



Kev,
We'll wake you up
for finals!
With Pride,
Love,
Mom and Dad



CONGRATULATIONS KEVIN!

I wonder what
I'll be doing in
21 years?

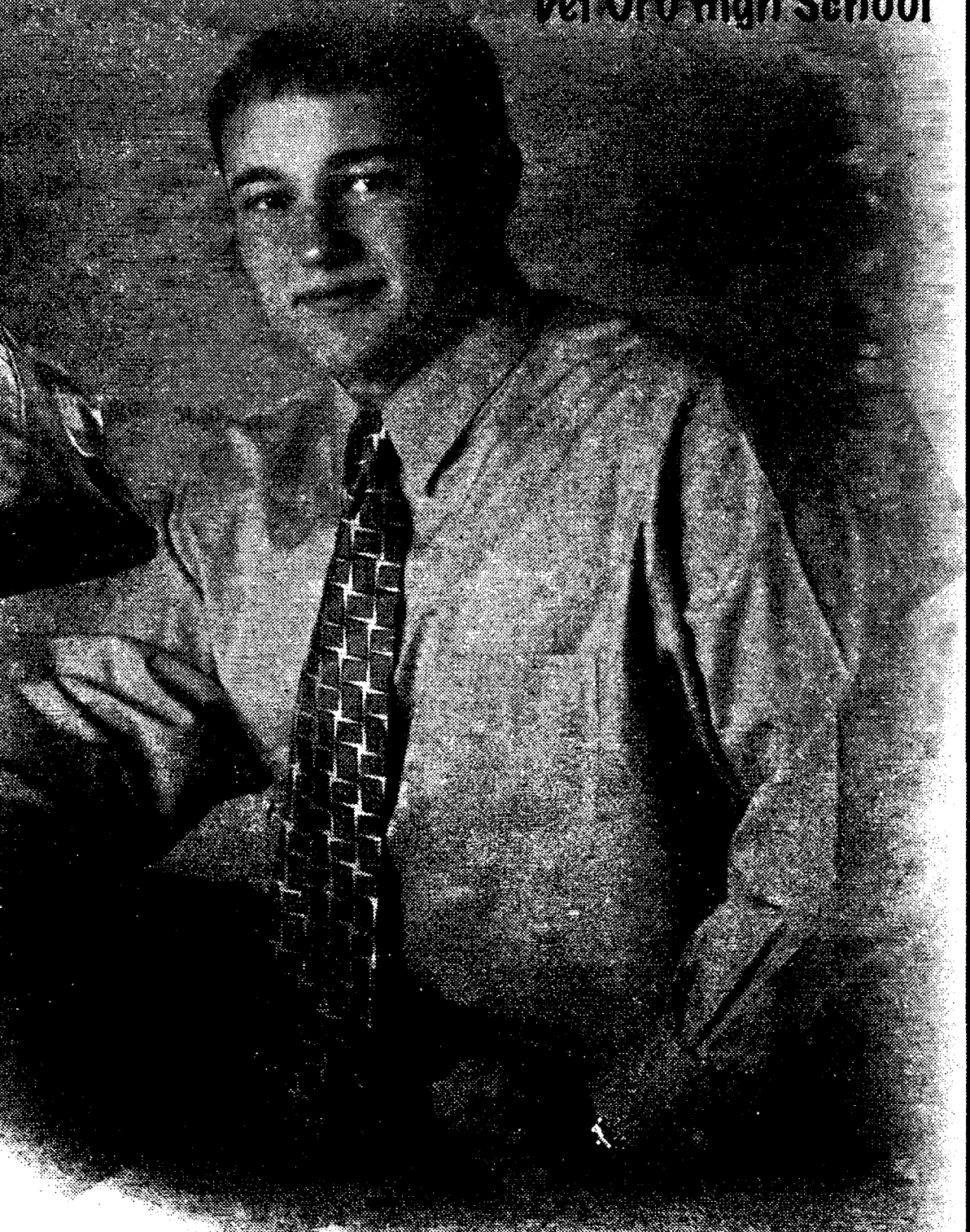
Congrats!
Love,
Mom, Dad,
Brian & Kathleen

*Congratulations
Spencer,*

Spencer D. Longhofer

Del Oro High School

From your first
day of school to
your last, you
have made us
very proud!



All our love,
Mom, Dad & Family

Loomis
Grammar School

Tony,

I can't tell you how proud we are of all your accomplishments. Remember to always use your gifts and talents. Congratulations and Go Irish.

All our love always,
Mom, Alessandra &
"Homer" 🍀



*Congratulations
Sweet Heart*

*We are so
proud of you!*

*Love,
Mom & Dad*

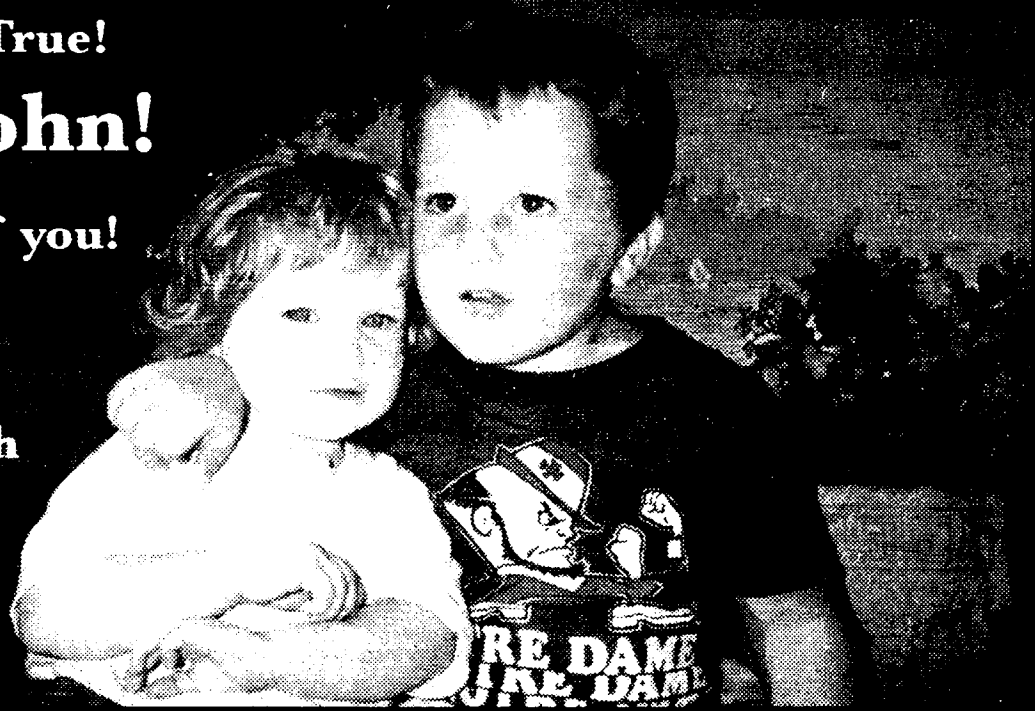


...A Dream Come True!

Congrats John!

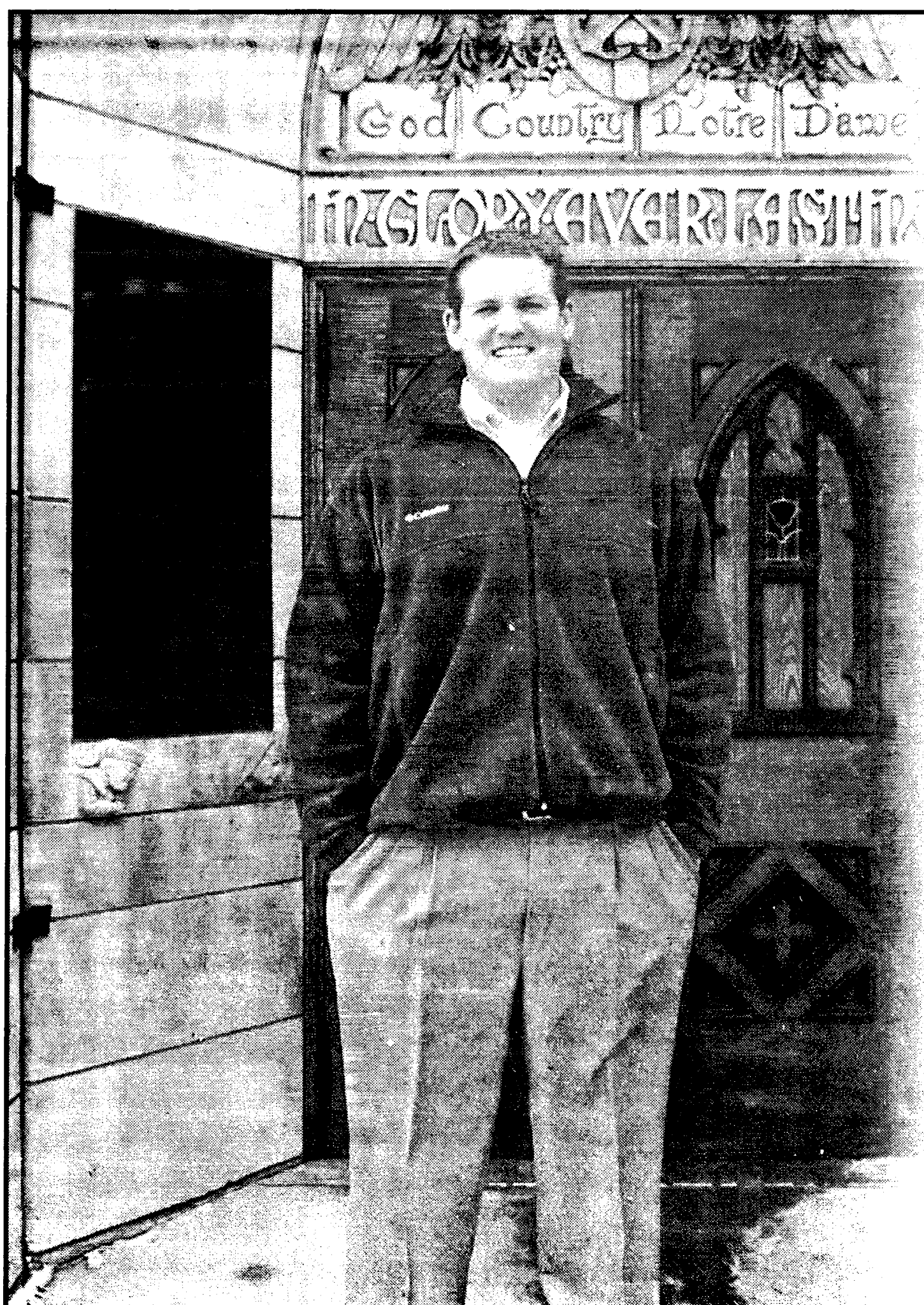
We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad,
Sarah, Hannah
& Matt



A Notre Dame Dream comes true!

Love,
Mom, Dad,
Colleen, & Mike



One terrific young man...

Two University Presidents...

Four ND addresses...

Eight undergraduate tuition payments...

Thirty-two flights to and from Dallas...

One hundred and twenty midterms and finals...

Fifteen hundred Domer Dollars...

Countless memories, friends, and experiences...

One hundred sixty-two credit hours...

Ninety-four hours camped out in Breytopia...

Twenty-eight tailgate parties...

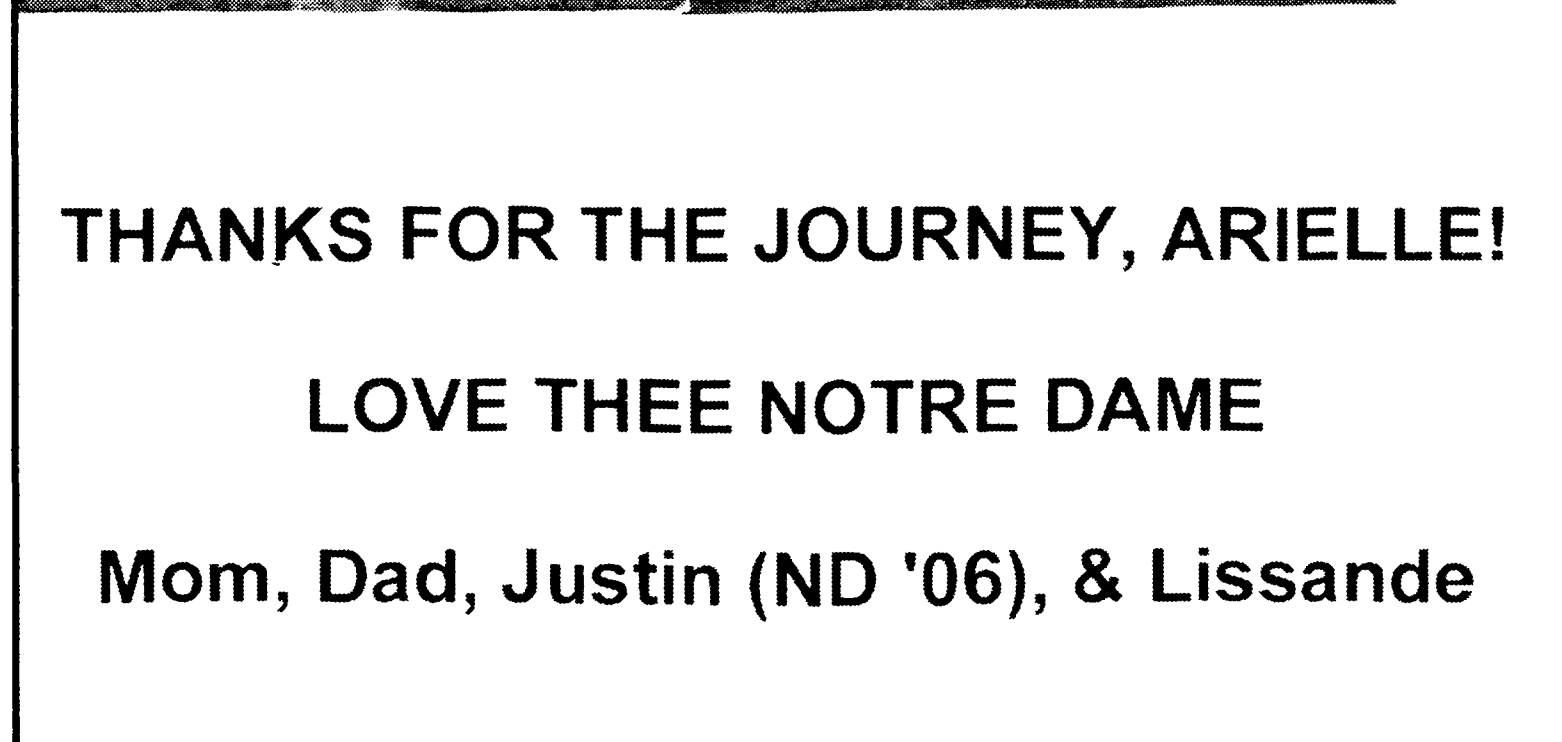
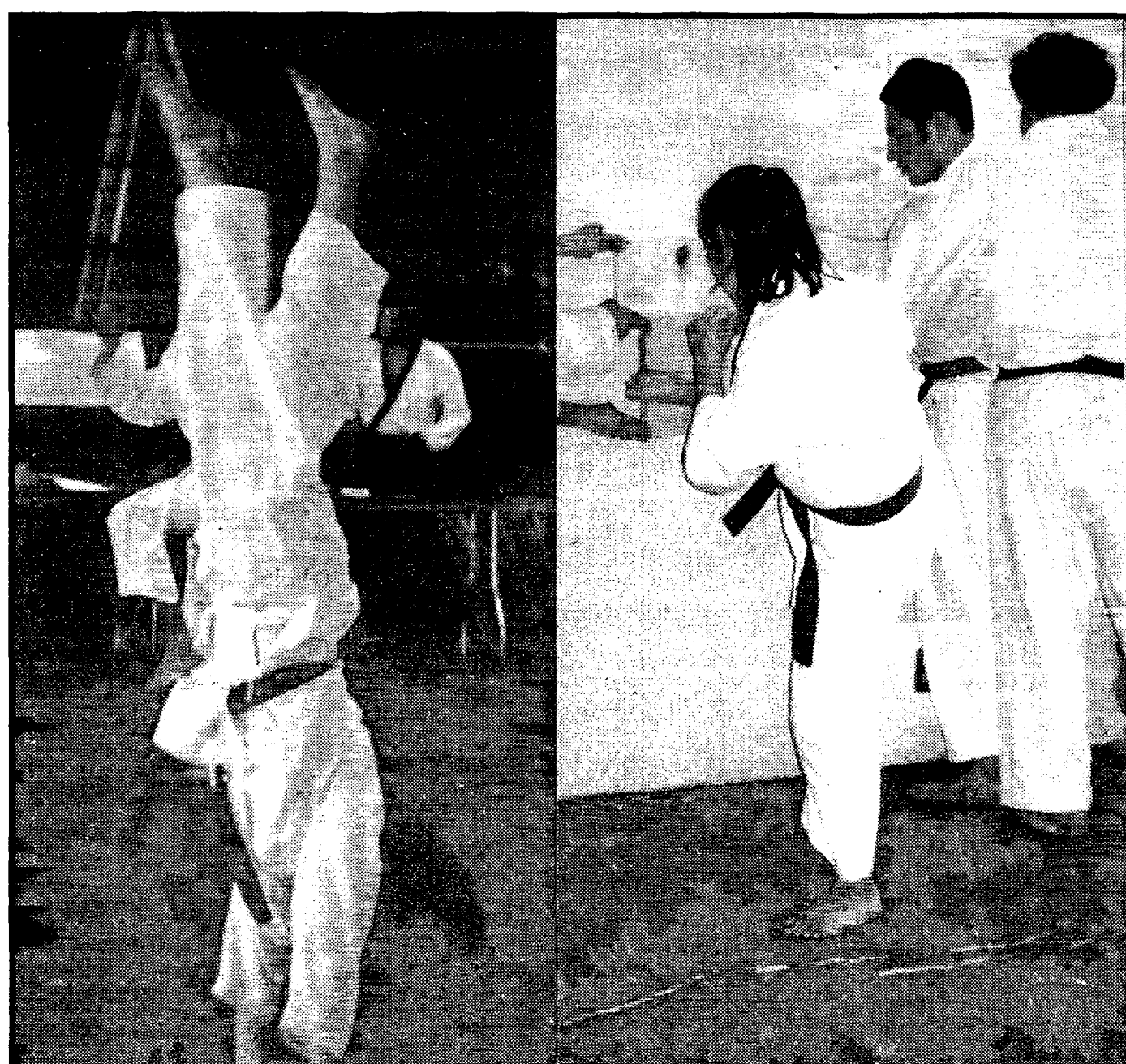
Eight Bookstore Basketball games...

Two summer internships...

One very special college graduate...

Congratulations Patrick McGowan

*and many thanks to
the priests, faculty and staff
of Notre Dame*



PE Girls – Sheila Says...Congratulations!



Congratulations Amanda

We are so proud of our Notre Dame grad!

Love,
your family



Congratulations Dom

We are so proud of you.

You've been a credit to yourself and Notre Dame

Love
Mom and Dad

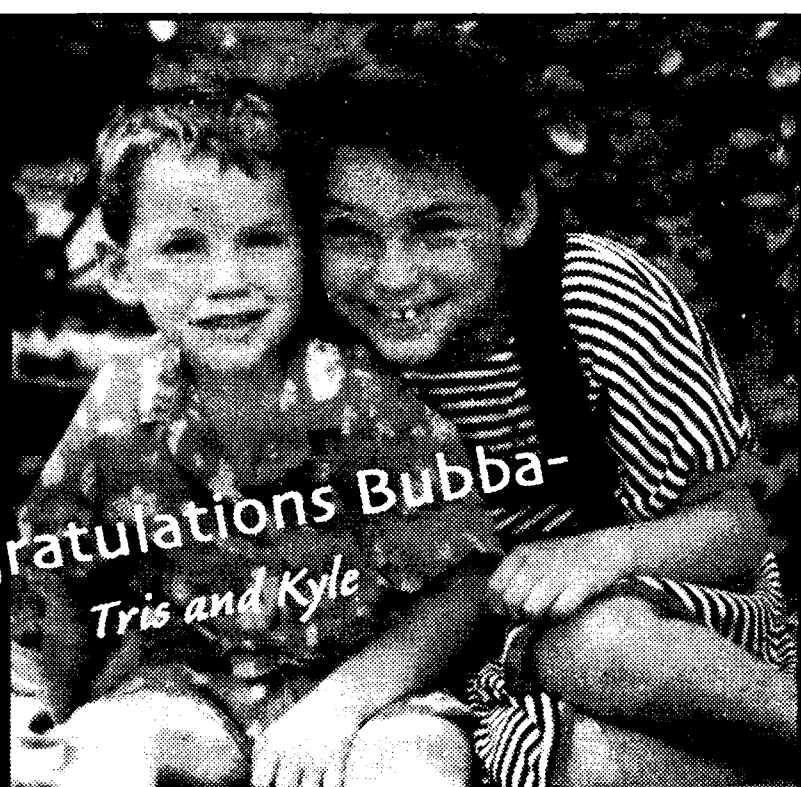


Congratulations, Tim. We are so proud of you.

*Love,
Mom, Dad,
Em and Jeff*



Congratulations Bubba-
Tris and Kyle



No words needed-
Aunt Kathy & Tyler



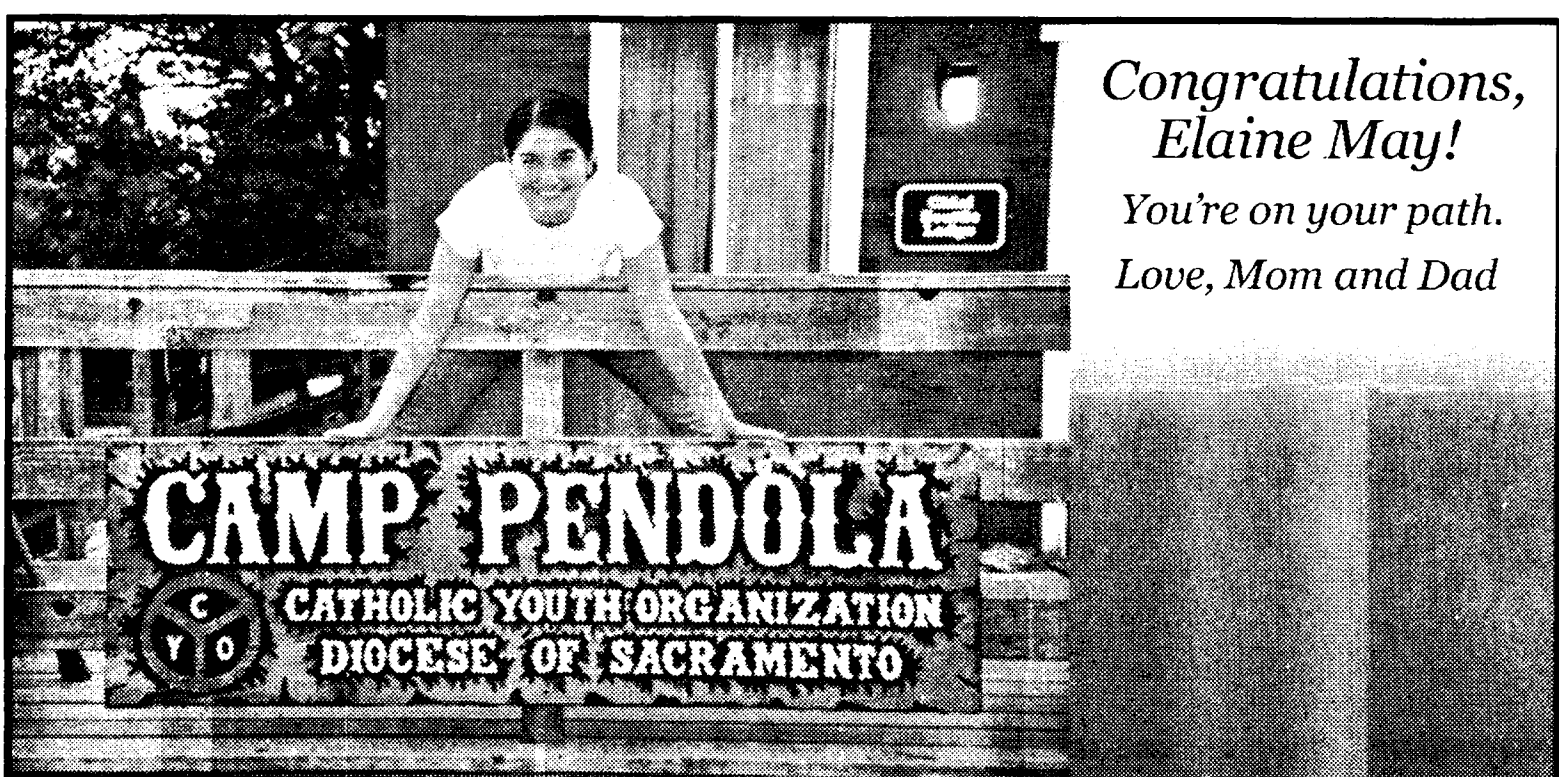
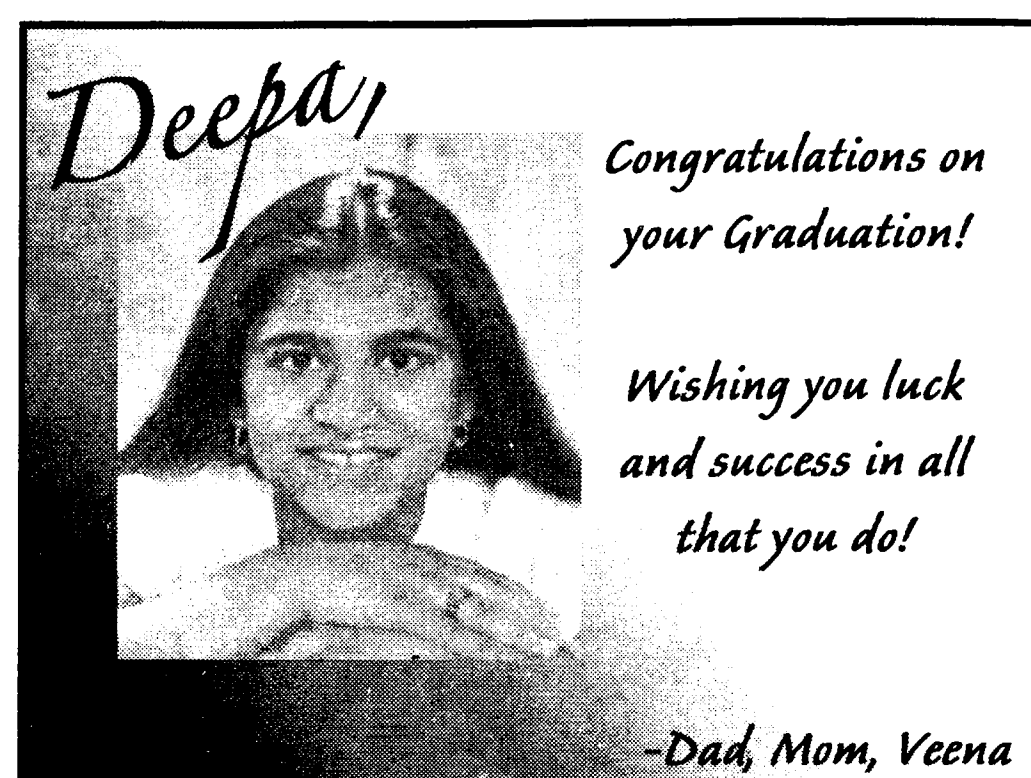
The future belongs to those that believe in the beauty of their dreams - Eleanor Roosevelt

Proud Grandparents



Family Pride-
Cousins





CONGRATULATIONS MEGAN!!!!!!

From your first day at Lyons Hall
With Leo and Sr. Sue
You had found your second home
Of that, we surely knew

Lifelong friends you have found and made
Memories woven into your heart
Dances, games, cheers and laughter
Are just the start

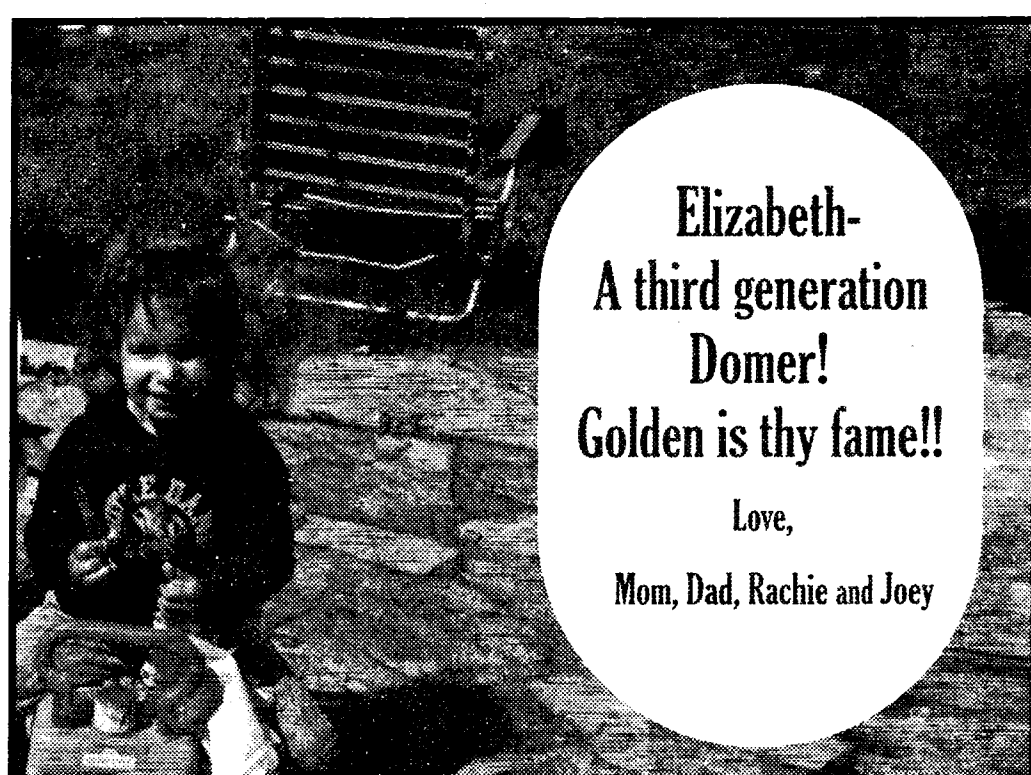
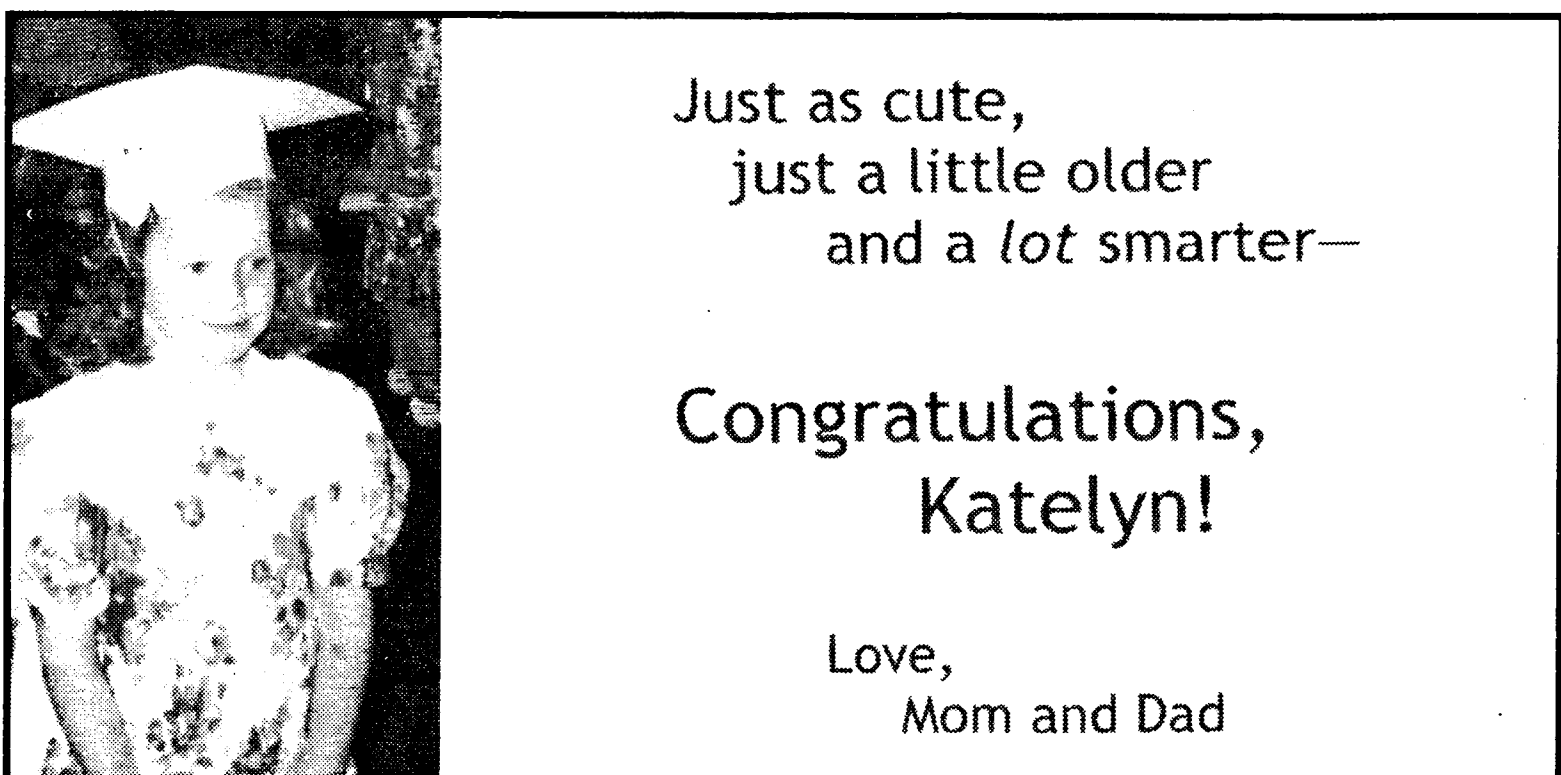
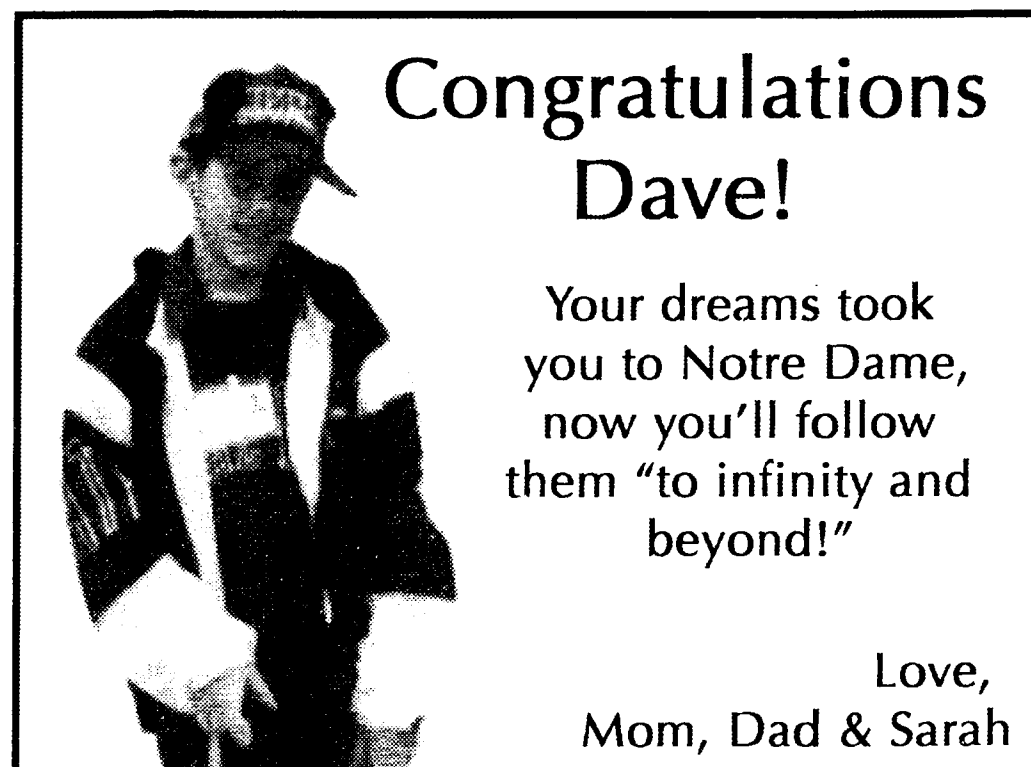
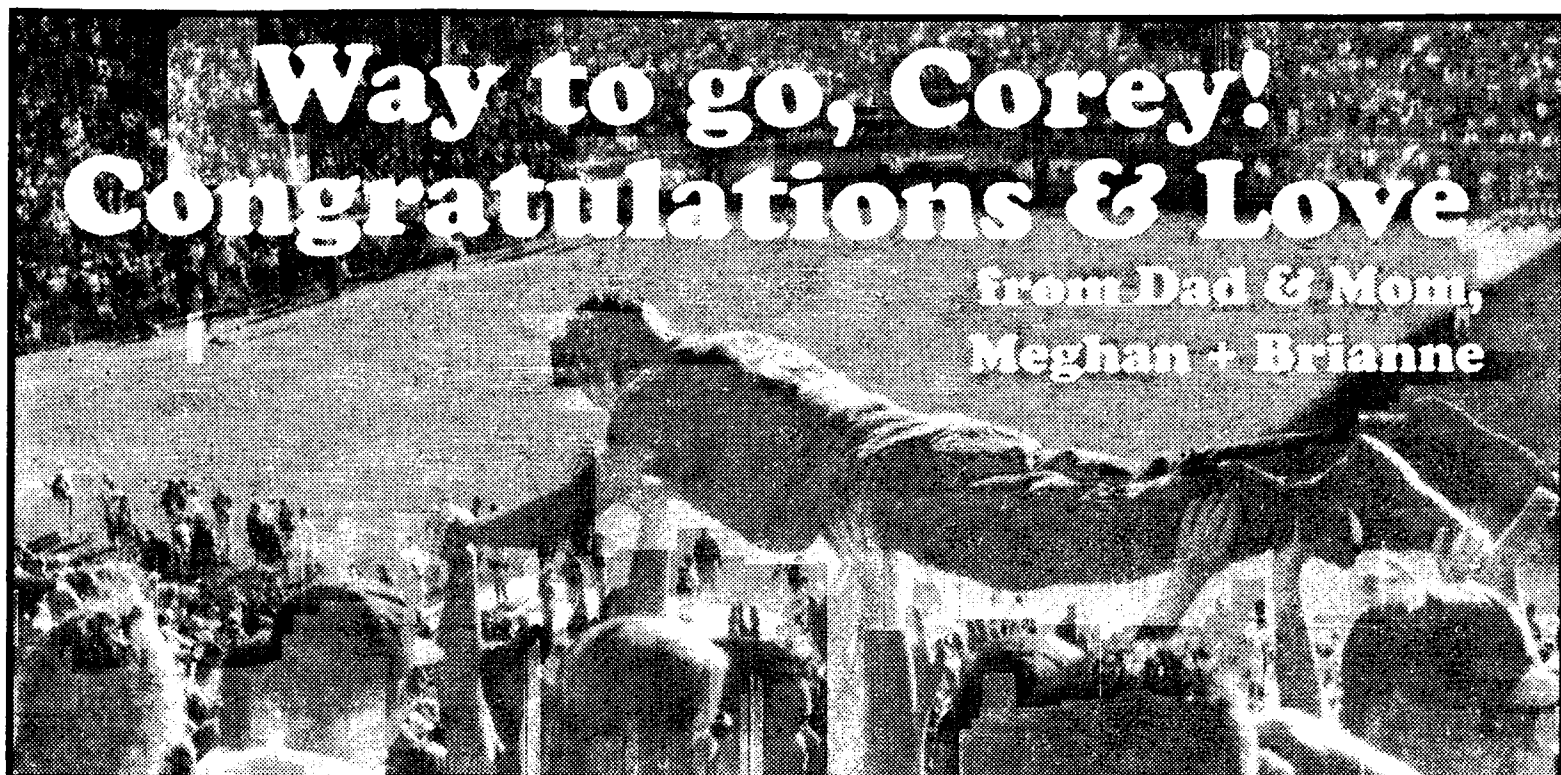
Wherever life takes you, be it near or far
And wherever you may roam
We know your heart will always draw you back
To that magnificent place under the DOME

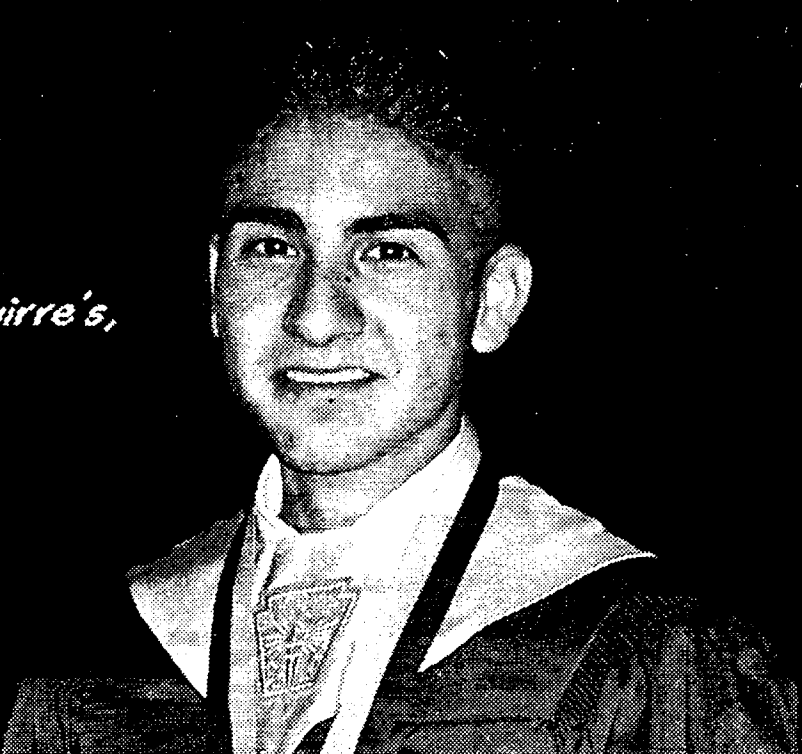
Thank you for allowing us to share in your special journey
Along with our love and pride we have one wish
That is to always know, wherever you go, your heart will be saying...

GO IRISH!!!!!!

WE LOVE YOU TONS,

Dad, Mom and Troy






Congratulations, Christopher!
Love
Mom, Jesse, Grandpa
The Martinez's, The Lara's, The Izaguirre's,
The Mendoza's & The Guerra's



Congratulations
Lauren!

We love you and we are so proud of you.
Love, Mom and Dad




Katie Marie Miller

"Nowhere else but Notre Dame."

Congratulations Katie!
We are proud of you.

Love you,
Mom, Dad & Gabe



We are so proud of
your accomplishments.
Your persistence,
determination and
hard work made your
dreams come true.

Love, Mom, Dad, and Bill



Congratulations Vince!!

You started out young
 Knowing where to find fame

It was your heart
 You knew the game

Hard work and dedication
 Were one and the same

Now you can say you did it
 You're a graduate of Notre Dame!

We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom and Dad



Cheer, Cheer for Nicole
to celebrate your graduation
from old Notre Dame

Love,
Mom, Dad,
Jeffrey, Susanne and Kristyn

Your family and friends knew you'd
DO IT and join the Domer family.

Congrats
you are on your way.



We love you, Mom and Dad



To Mary Kate, our
Favorite Observer
Editor

We will miss your
byline!

Love, Mom, Dad,
Maggie and John

CONGRATULATIONS STEPH!!



You came,
you saw,
you
conquered.

With Pride
and Love,
Dad, Mom,
Laura & Chris

**Look out!
Here she
comes!!
Jenna Moran**

**From
Dad, Mom
and Anna**



"It takes courage to grow up and
become who you really are."
-- ee cumings

Well done, Tae!

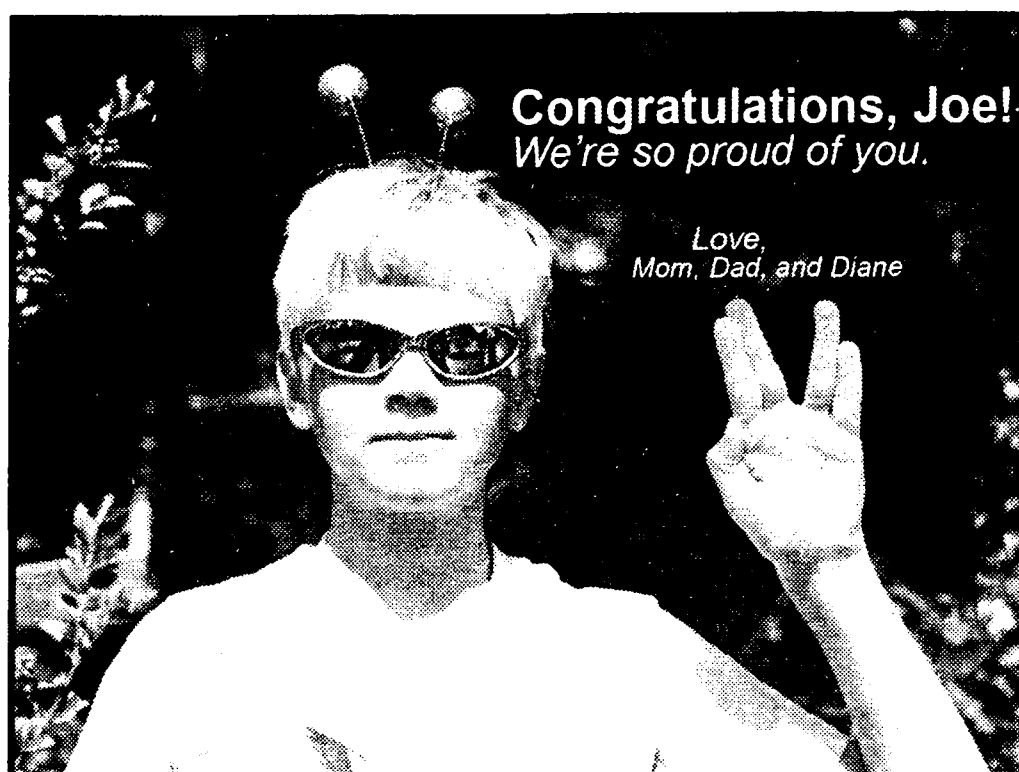
You have always been your own
person, a sweet smorgasbord of
wonder and kindness and
determination. Now we can't wait
to see where life propels you!

With love deeper than the ocean
and pride wider than the sky,
Mom, Tom, and the gang



Congratulations, Joe!
We're so proud of you.

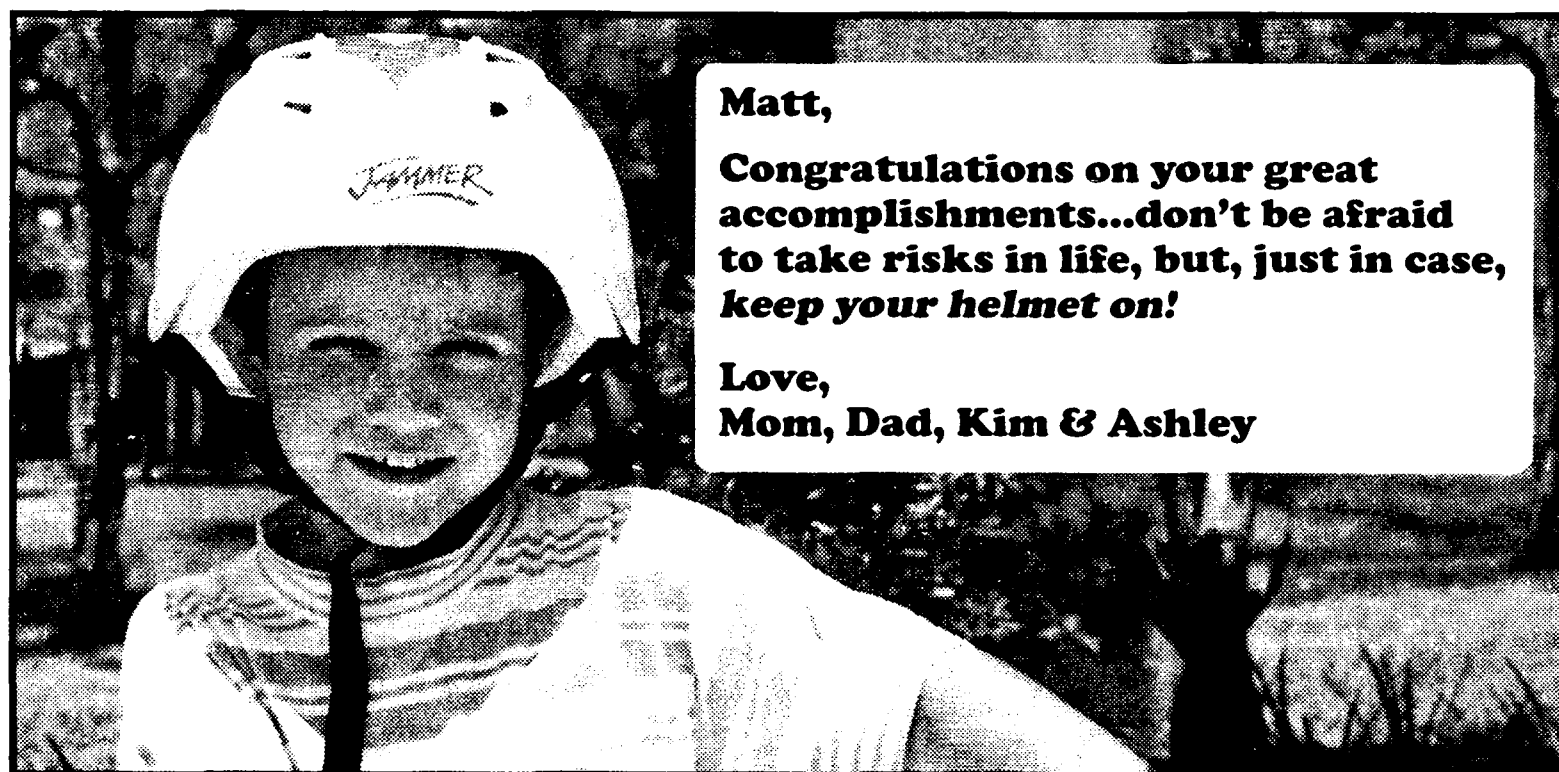
Love,
Mom, Dad, and Diane



Matt,

**Congratulations on your great
accomplishments...don't be afraid
to take risks in life, but, just in case,
keep your helmet on!**

Love,
Mom, Dad, Kim & Ashley



Anthony,

Way to go!
You did it!
We are very proud
of you!

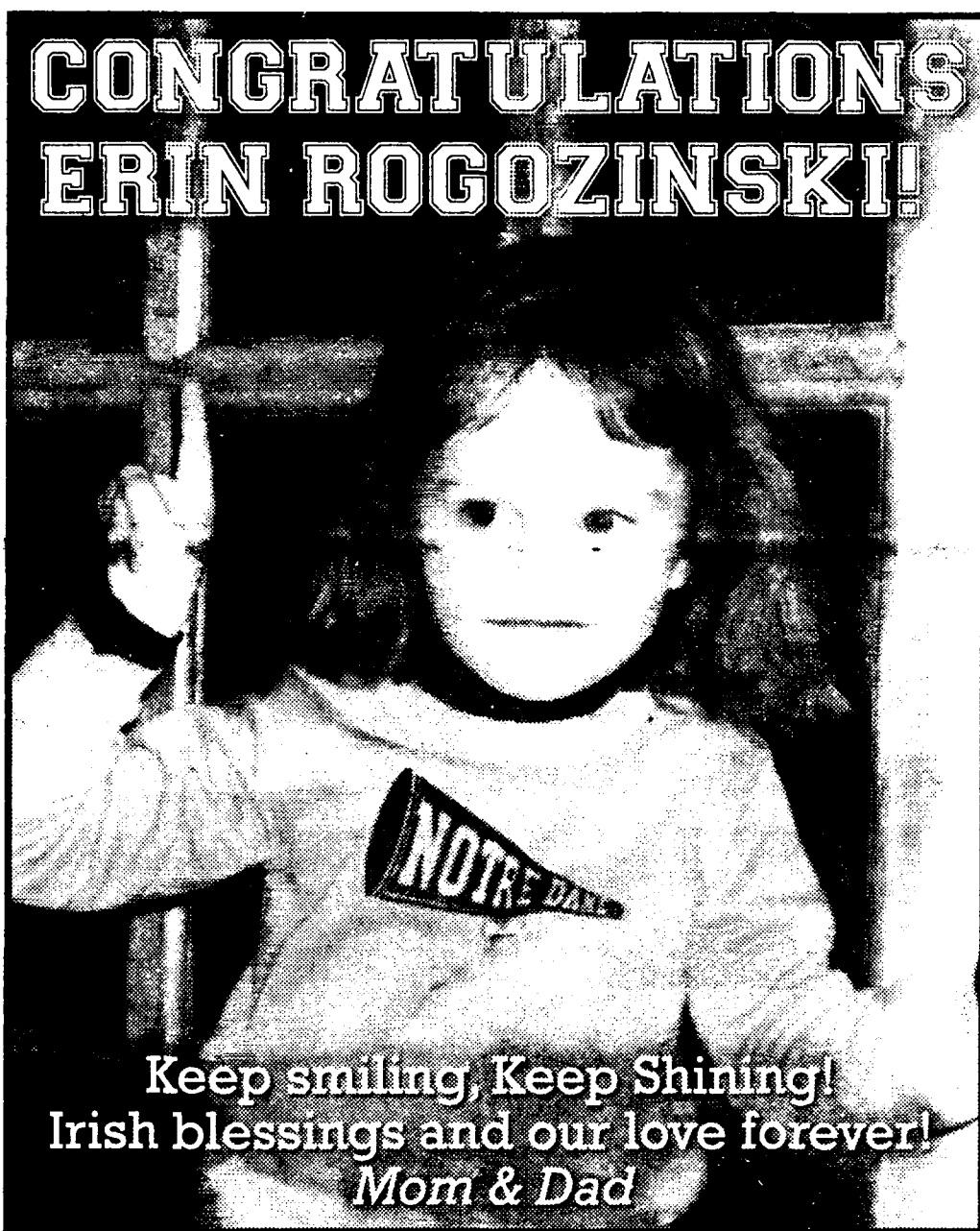
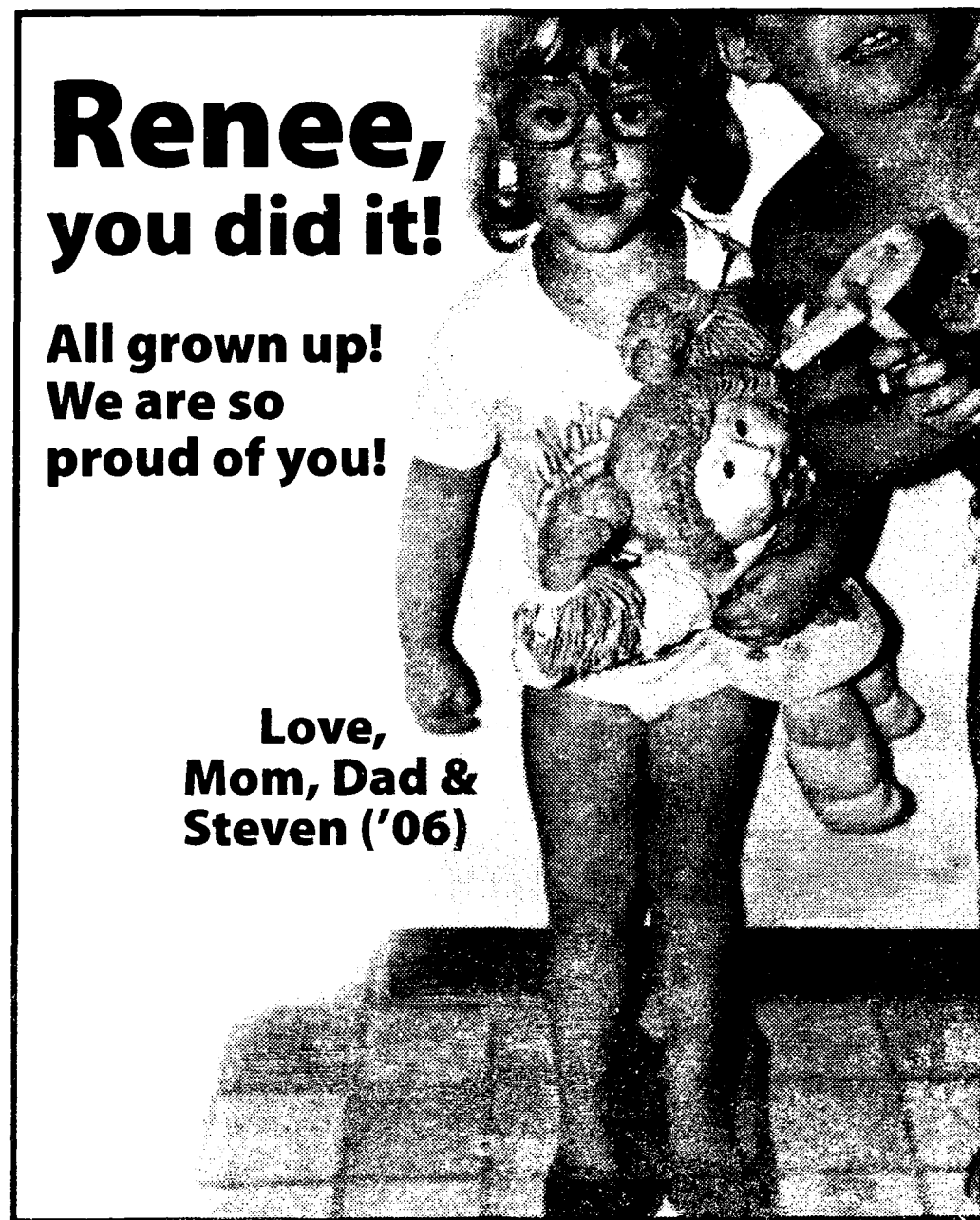
Love ya,
Mom and Dad



Muuwaaah!
Genevieve,

From Dad

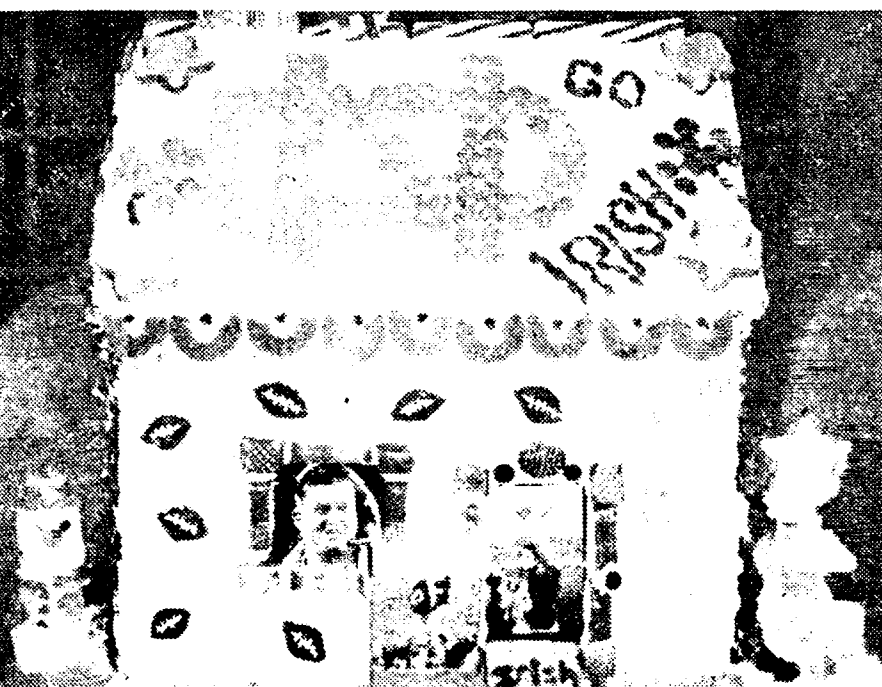


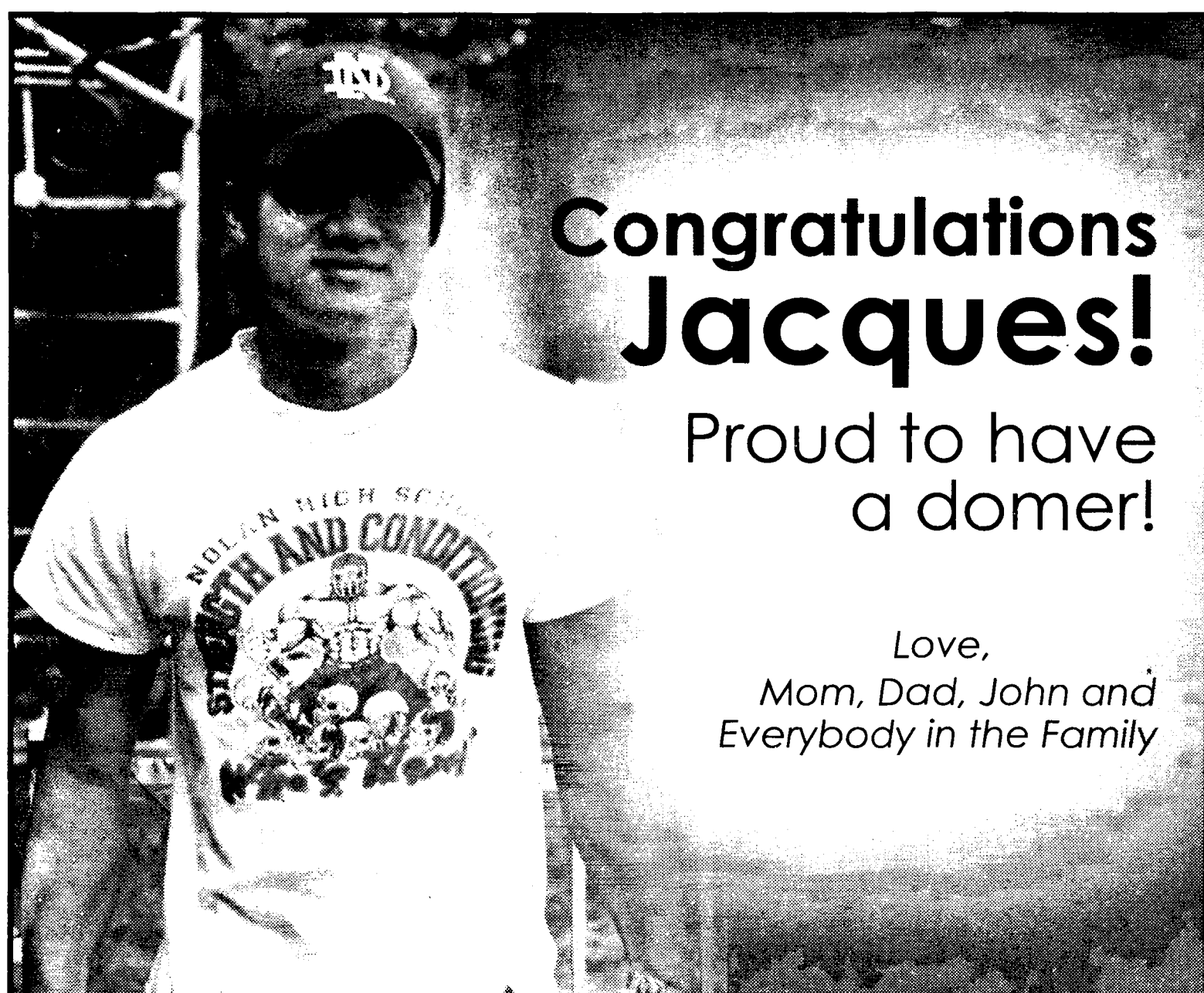


Time goes by in a blink of an eye

*Congratulations,
we are so proud of you*

Love, Mom & Dad

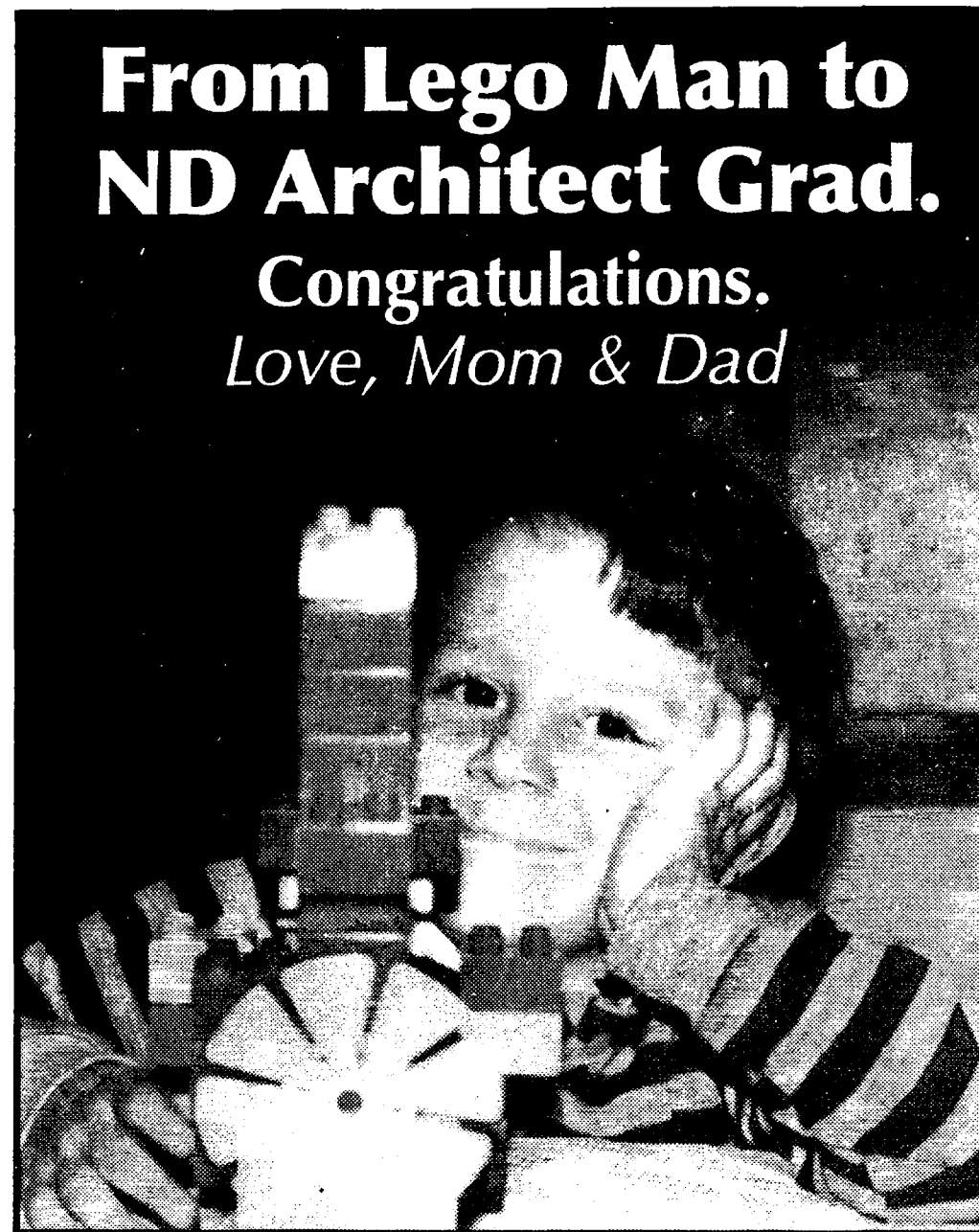




Congratulations Jacques!

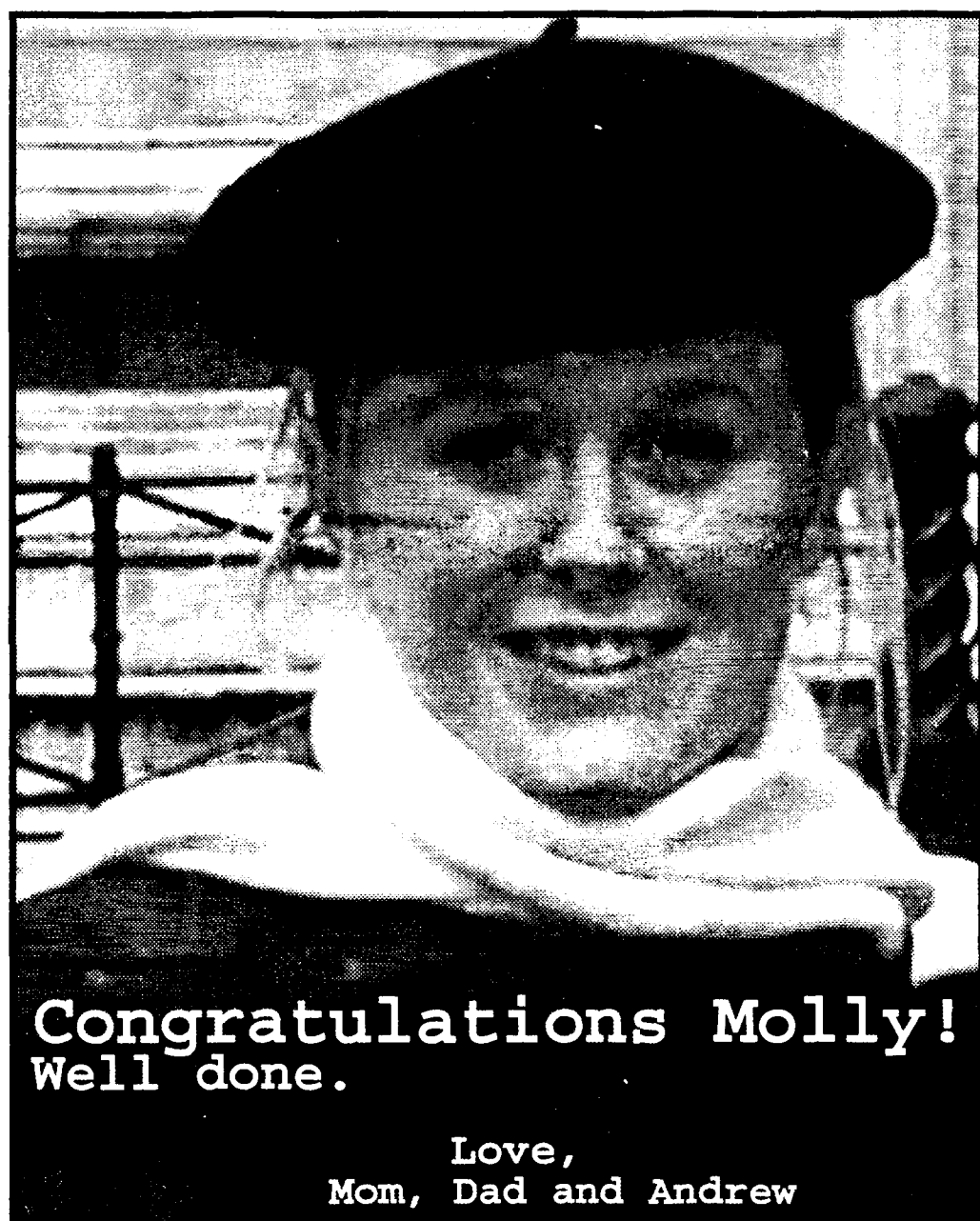
Proud to have
a domer!

Love,
Mom, Dad, John and
Everybody in the Family



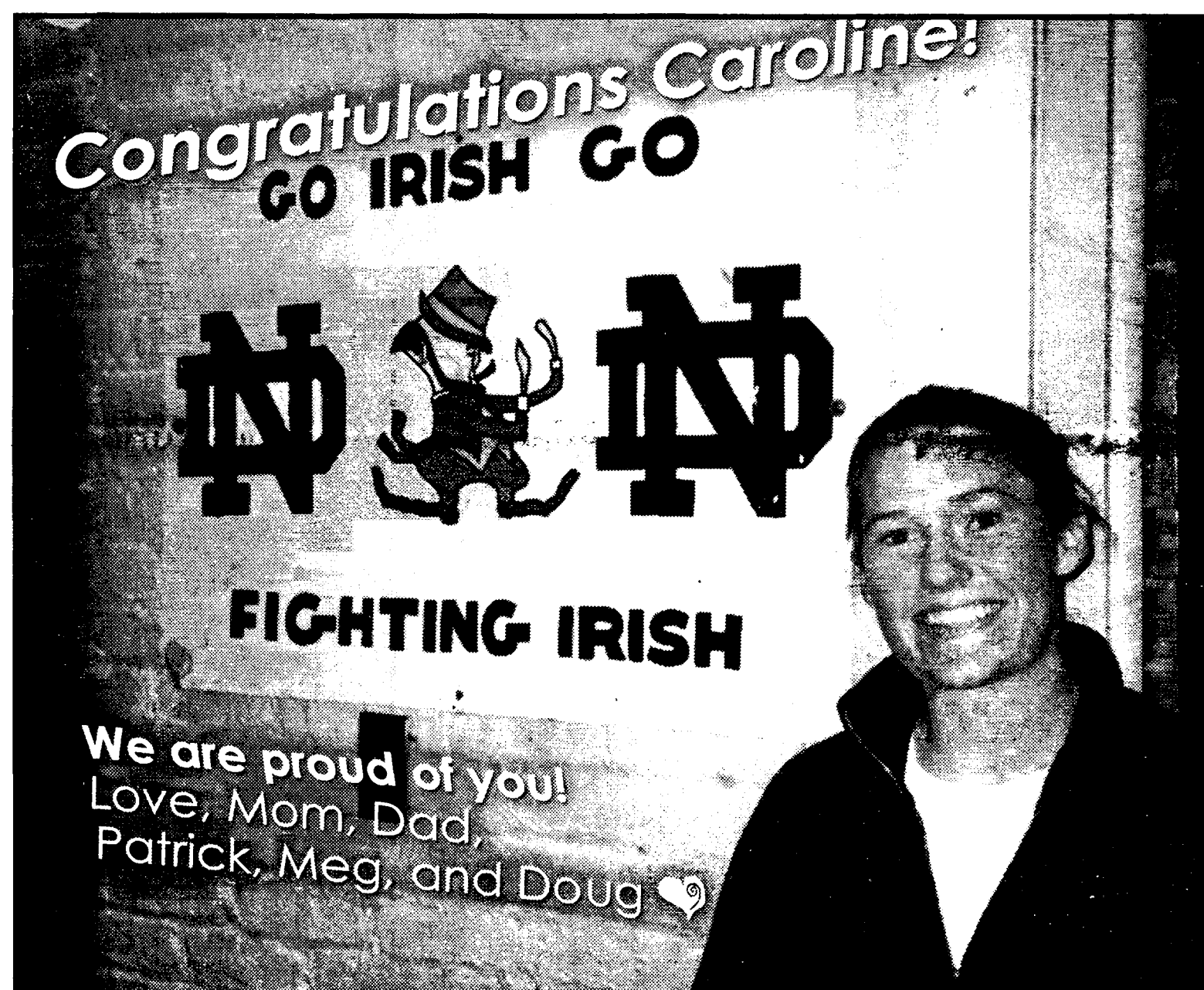
From Lego Man to ND Architect Grad.

Congratulations.
Love, Mom & Dad



Congratulations Molly!
Well done.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Andrew



Congratulations Caroline!
GO IRISH GO



FIGHTING IRISH

We are proud of you!
Love, Mom, Dad,
Patrick, Meg, and Doug

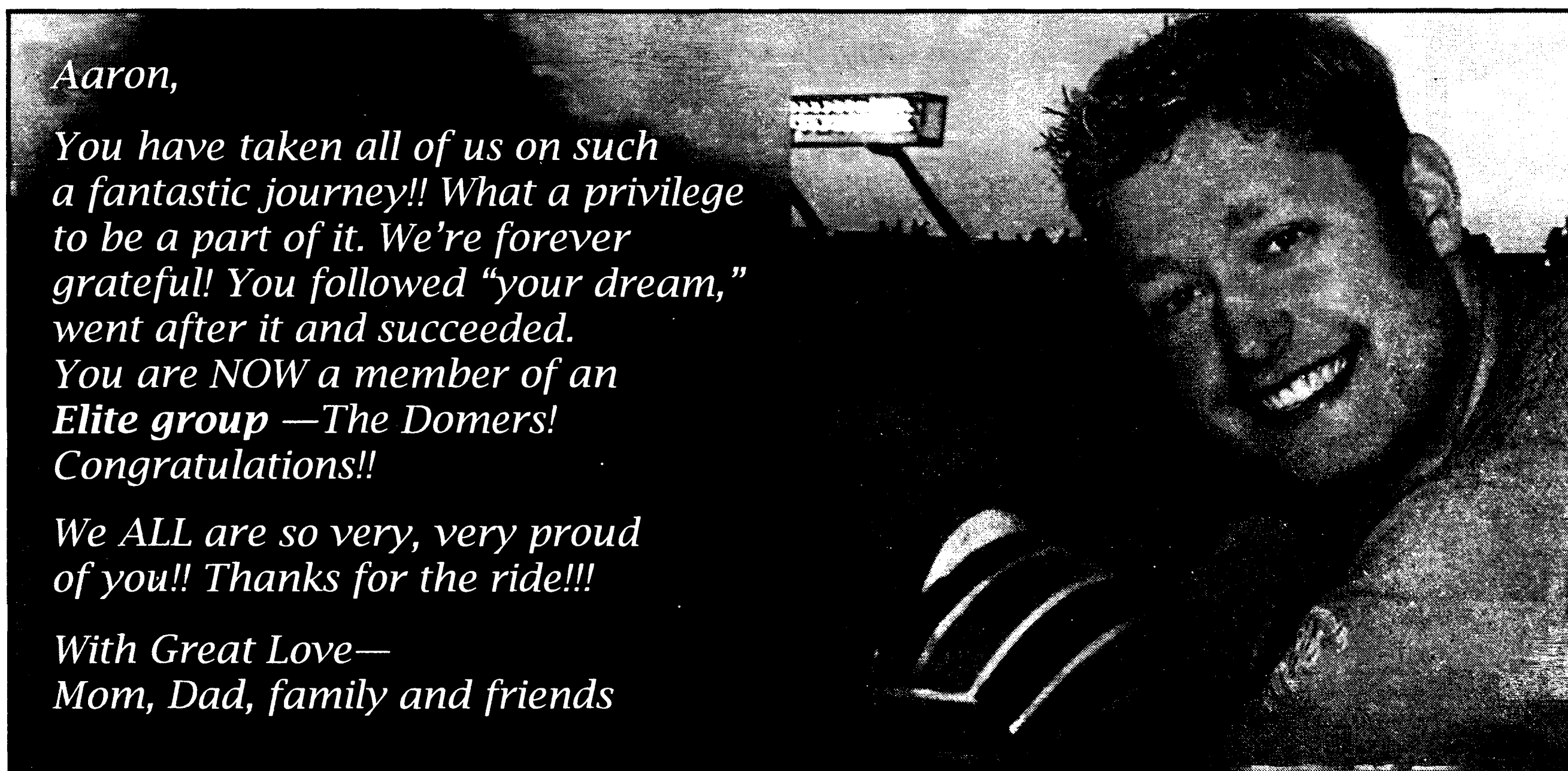
Aaron,

You have taken all of us on such
a fantastic journey!! What a privilege
to be a part of it. We're forever
grateful! You followed "your dream,"
went after it and succeeded.

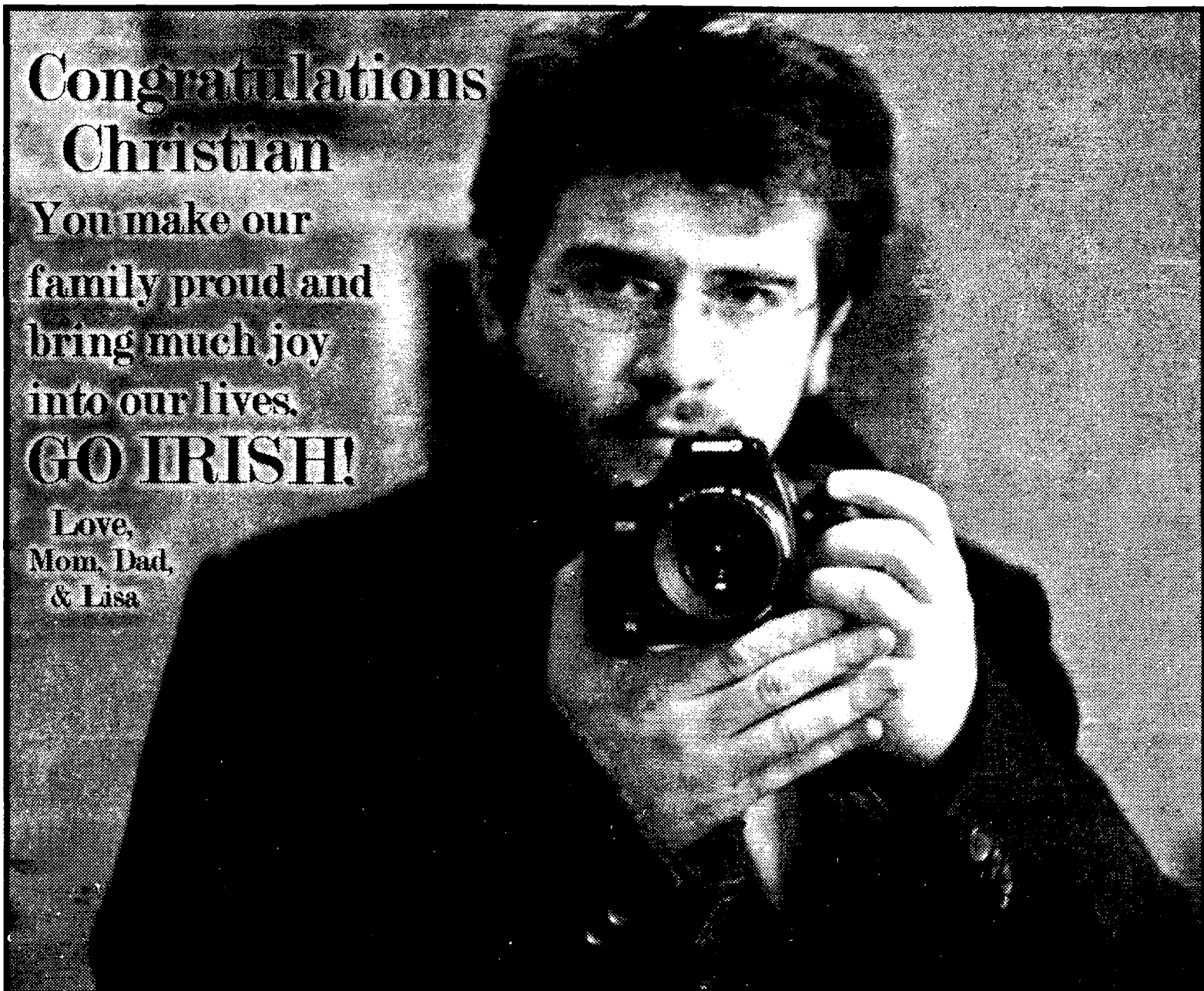
You are NOW a member of an
Elite group —The Domers!
Congratulations!!

We ALL are so very, very proud
of you!! Thanks for the ride!!!

With Great Love—
Mom, Dad, family and friends




Congratulations Christian
You make our family proud and bring much joy into our lives.
GO IRISH!
Love,
Mom, Dad, & Lisa



We are so proud of you
Love
Mom, Dad & Maureen




Congratulations Stacey



We are so proud of you. Good bye Notre Dame — hello Harvard.
Love Mom & Dad

Congratulations Rob
The World is Yours for the Taking.
Much Success in the Future
Love
Mom, Dad, Lauren & Caroline



Hold your memories in one hand but leave the other open for all your beautiful tomorrows.

*Congratulations,
Caitlin Miller*

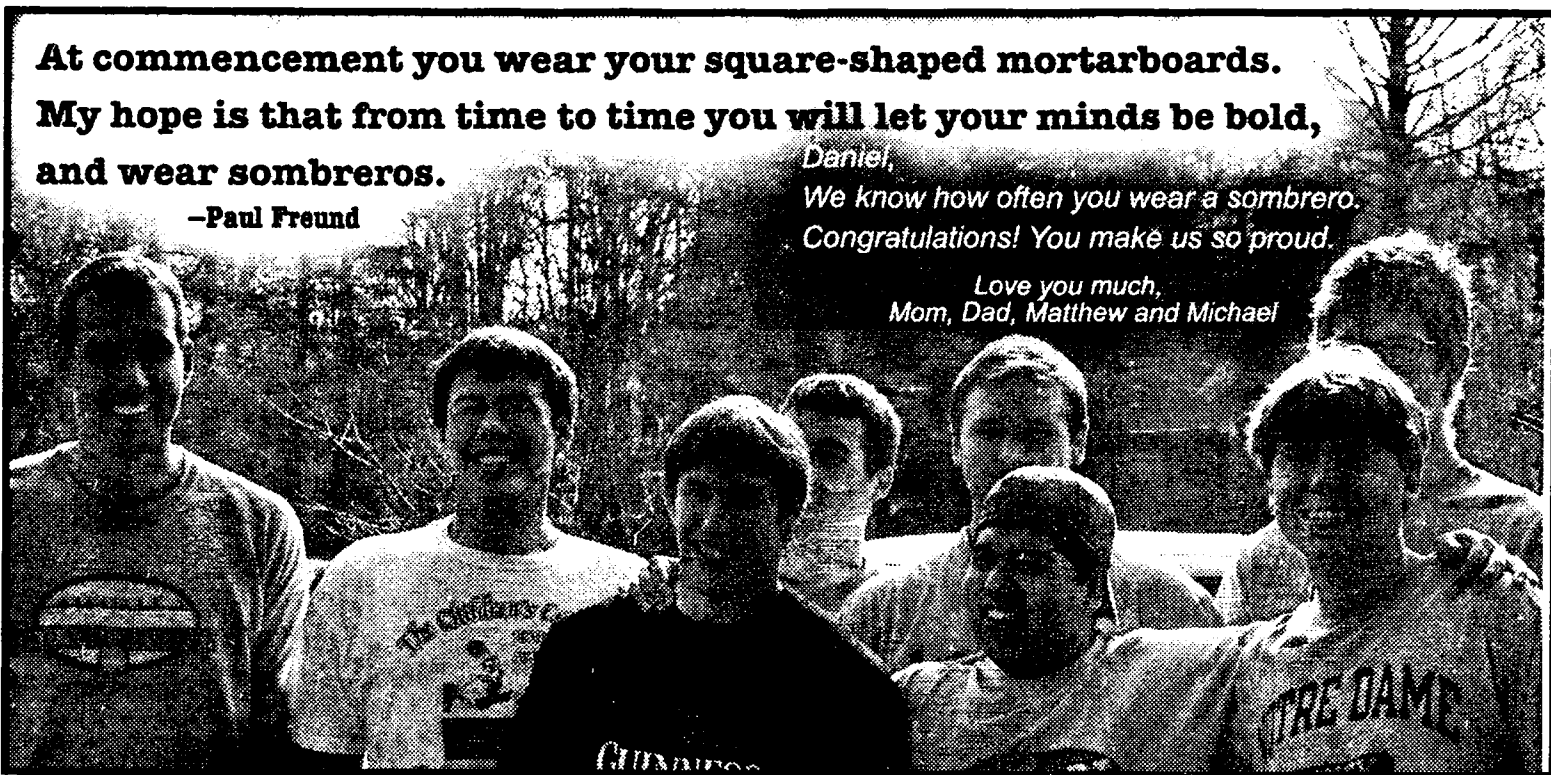
Love,
Mom, Dad and E.J.



At commencement you wear your square-shaped mortarboards.
My hope is that from time to time you will let your minds be bold,
and wear sombreros.
 —Paul Freund

*Daniel,
 We know how often you wear a sombrero.
 Congratulations! You make us so proud.*

*Love you much,
 Mom, Dad, Matthew and Michael*

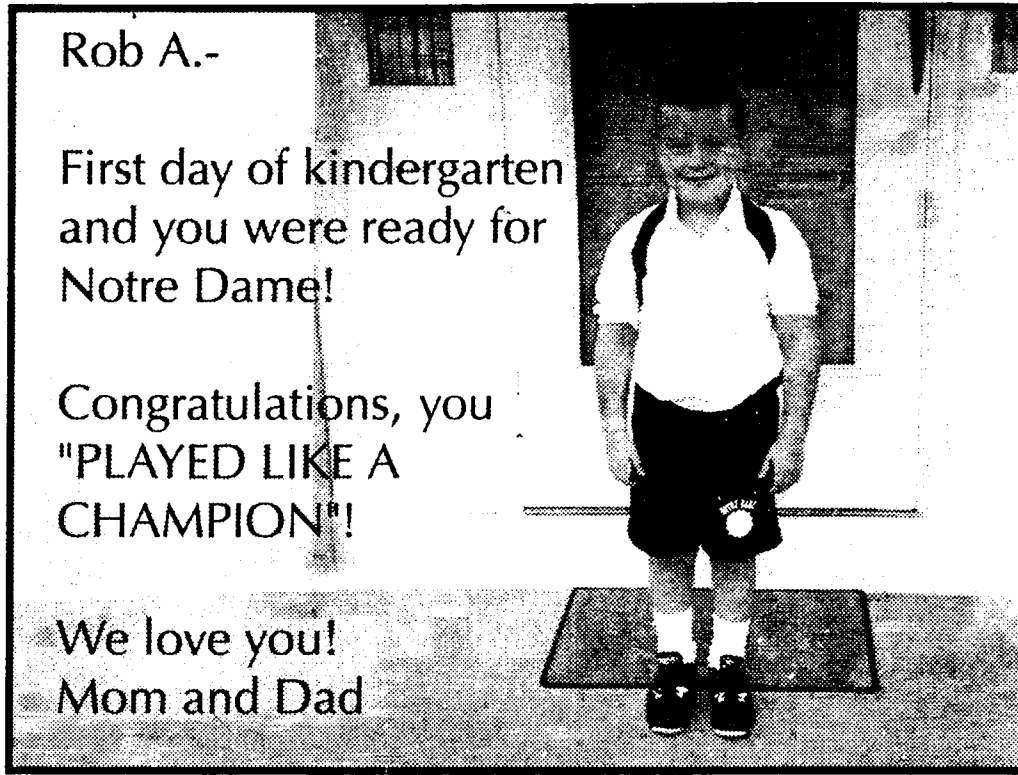


Rob A.-

First day of kindergarten
 and you were ready for
 Notre Dame!


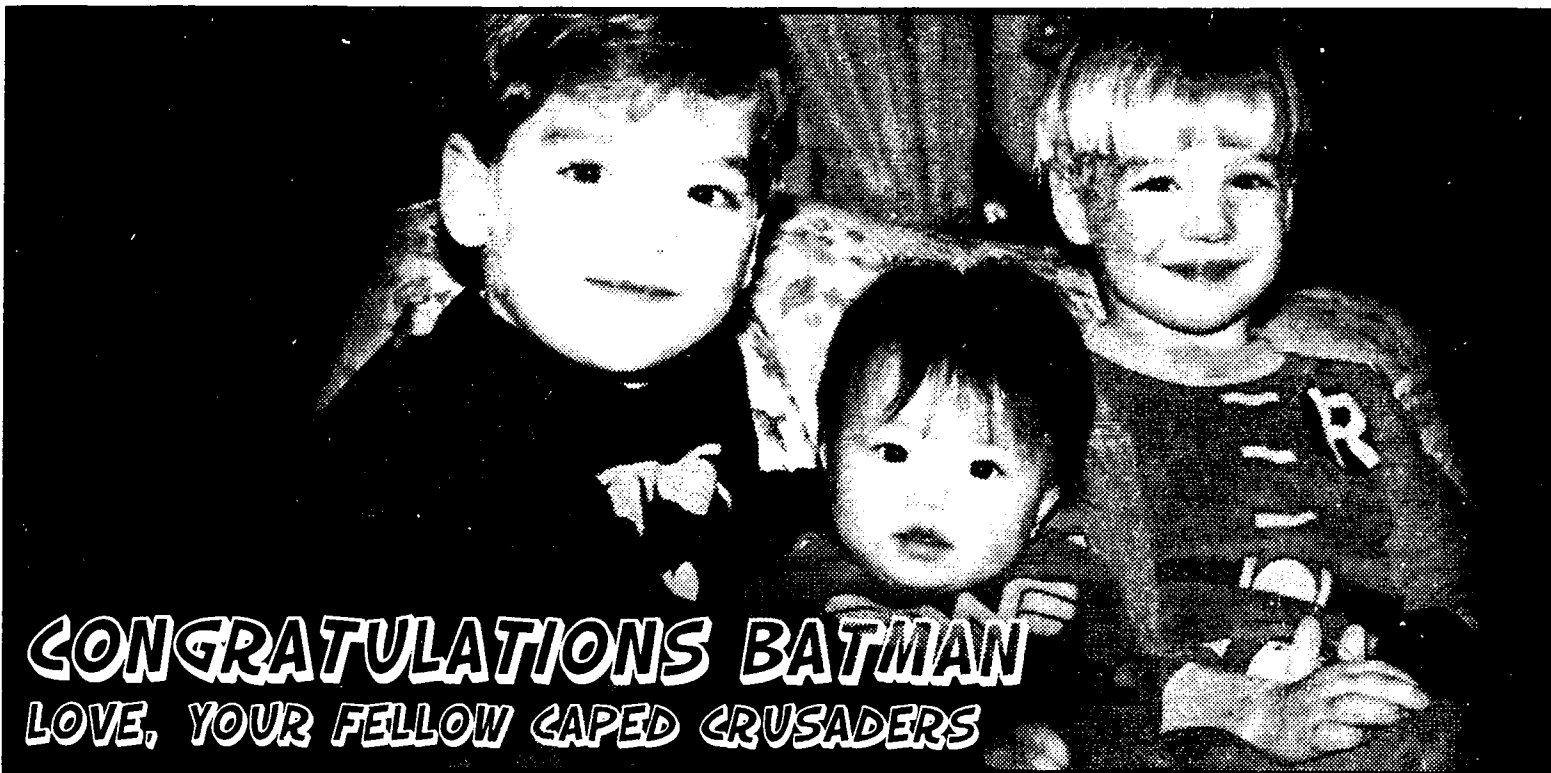
Congratulations, you
 "PLAYED LIKE A
 CHAMPION!"

We love you!
 Mom and Dad

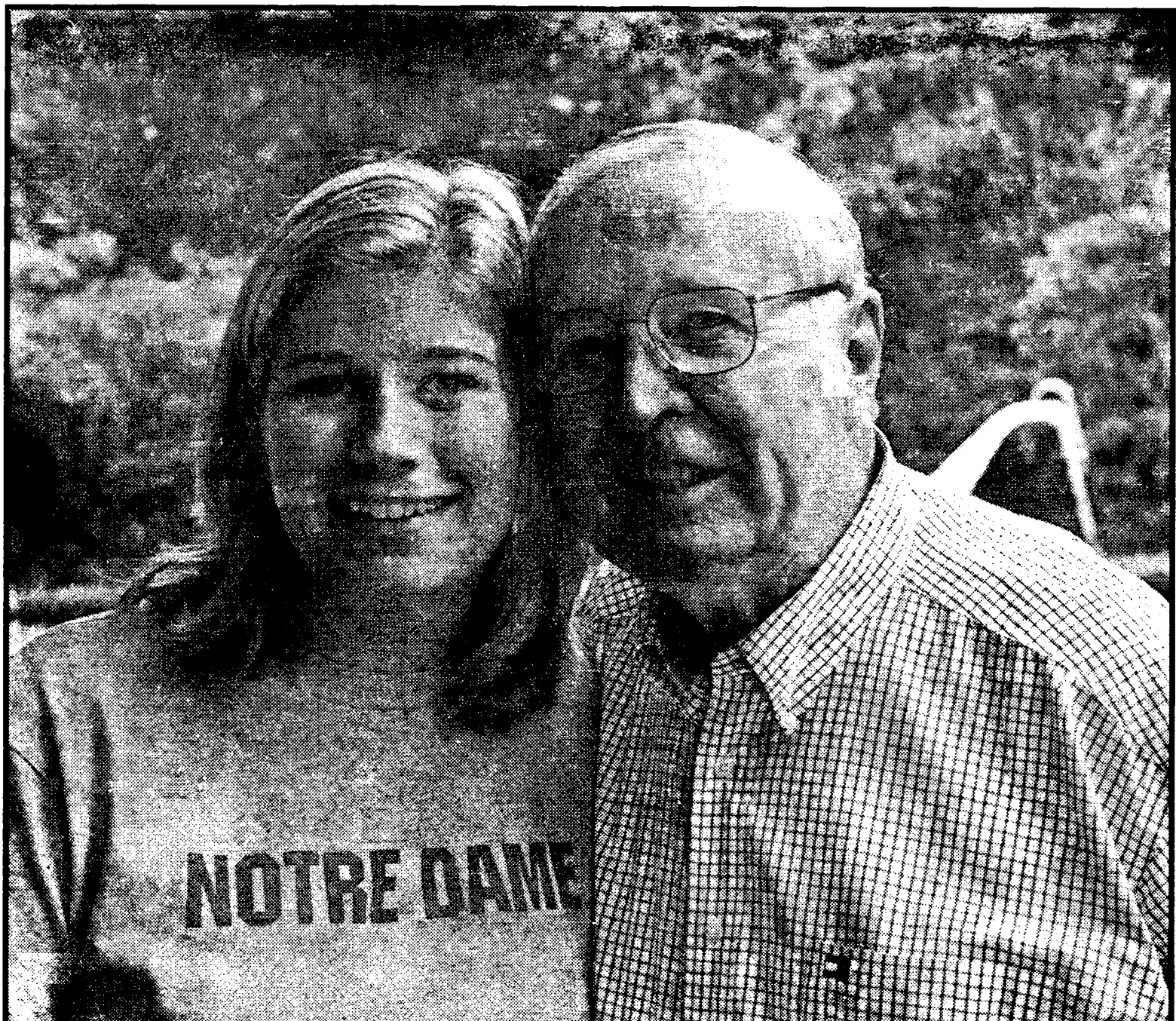


**Congratulations
 Scott Campbell!**

We always knew
 you'd be one of the
 Fighting ARRRR-rish!

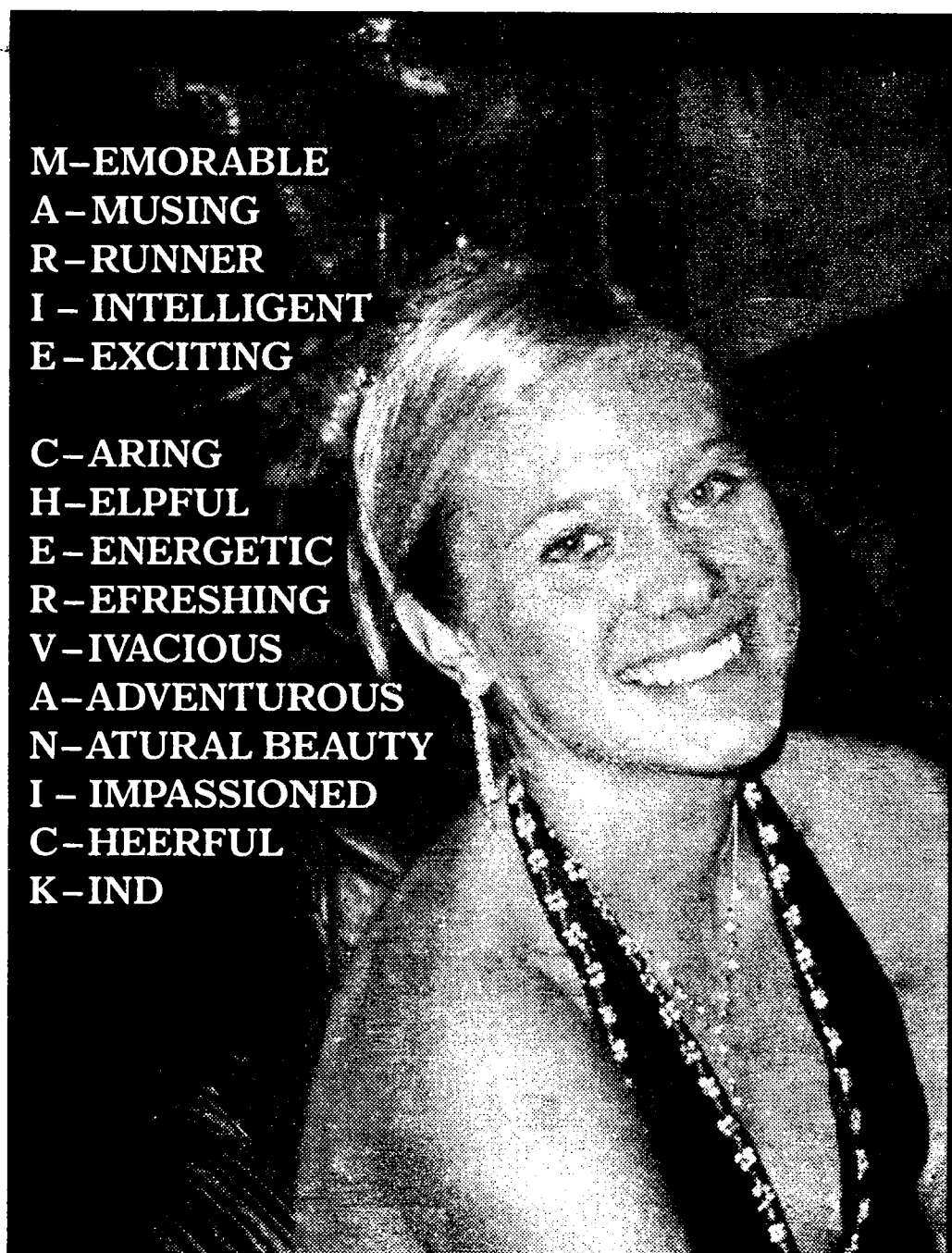
CONGRATULATIONS BATMAN
 LOVE, YOUR FELLOW CAPED CRUSADERS



Congratulations, Amy Meyers!

We are proud of you, our Third
 Generation "Domer"!

We love you,
 Grandma and Grandpa
 (Class of 1949)

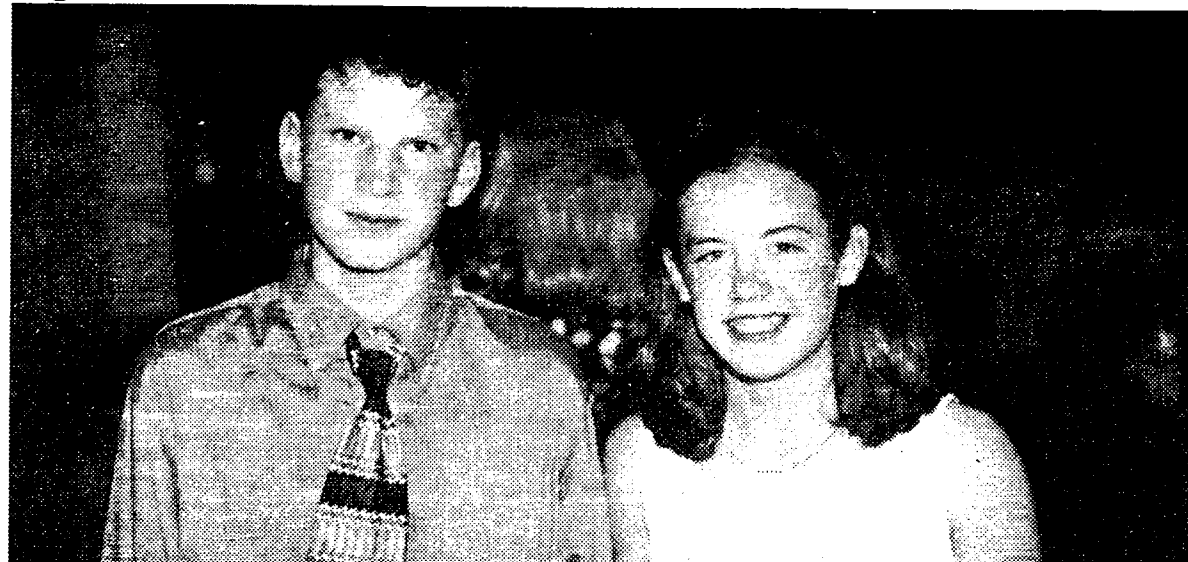


M-EMORABLE
 A-MUSING
 R-RUNNER
 I- INTELLIGENT
 E- EXCITING

C-ARING
 H-ELPFUL
 E-ENERGETIC
 R-EFRESHING
 V-IVACIOUS
 A-ADVENTUROUS
 N-ATURAL BEAUTY
 I- IMPASSIONED
 C-HEERFUL
 K-IND

It's been an incredible journey
 ...we are so proud of you!
 Love, Mom, Dad,
 Mike and Dan

Congratulations Bill and Anne Marie!



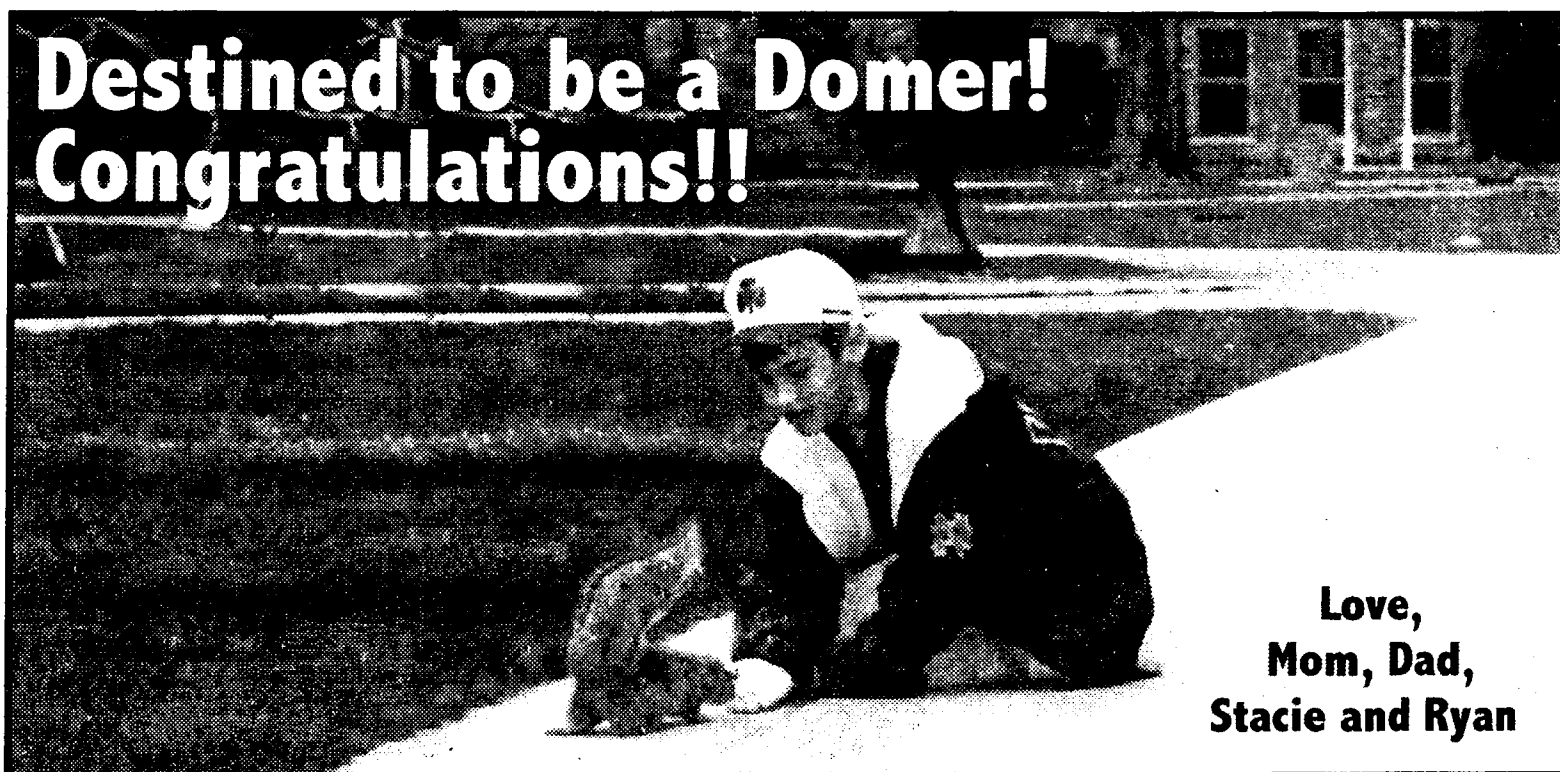
*Notre Dame Class of 2008 and
St. John the Evangelist, Silver Spring, MD, Class of 2000*



Nick

Congratulations Graduate!

**Destined to be a Domer!
Congratulations!!**



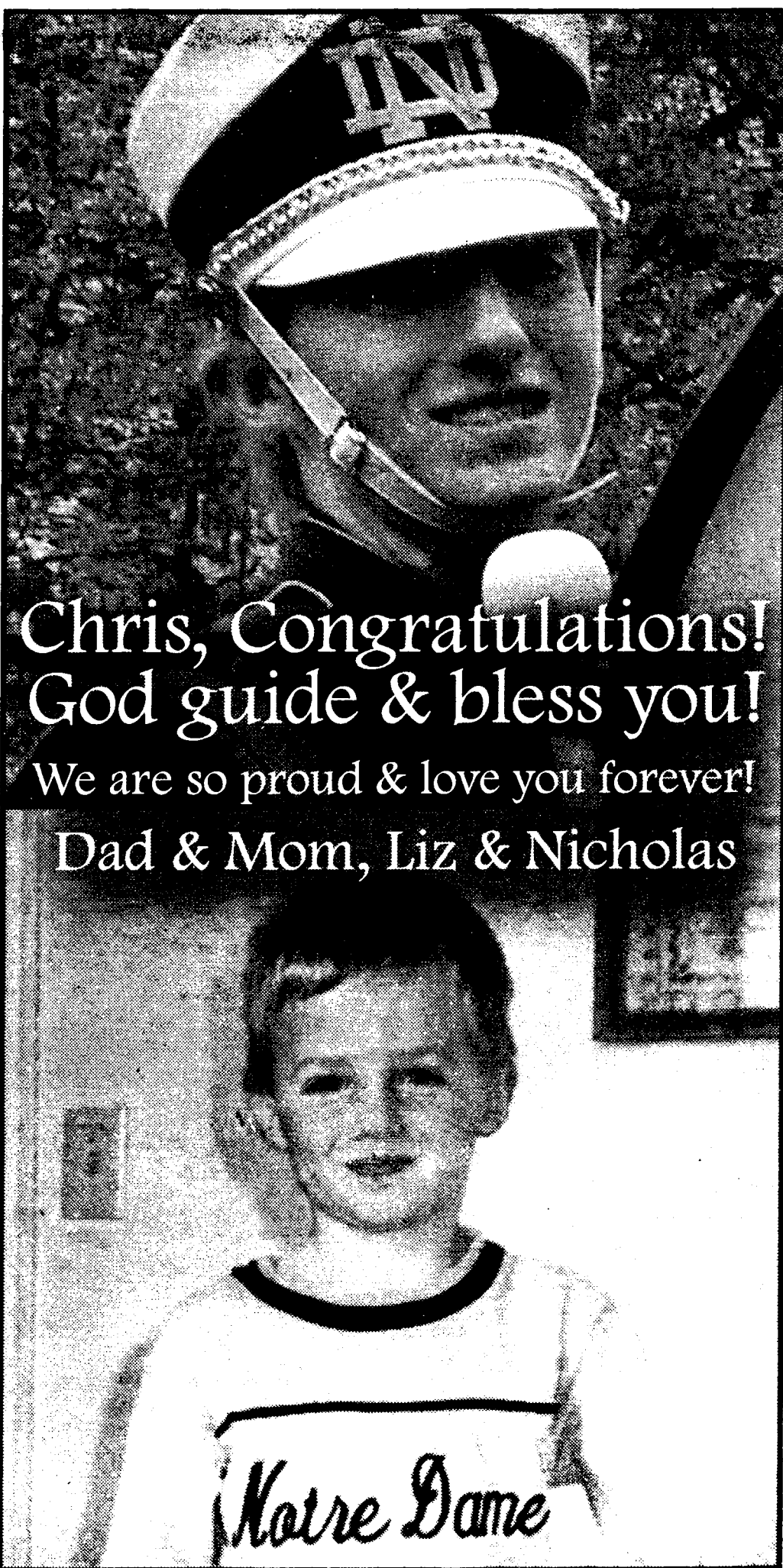
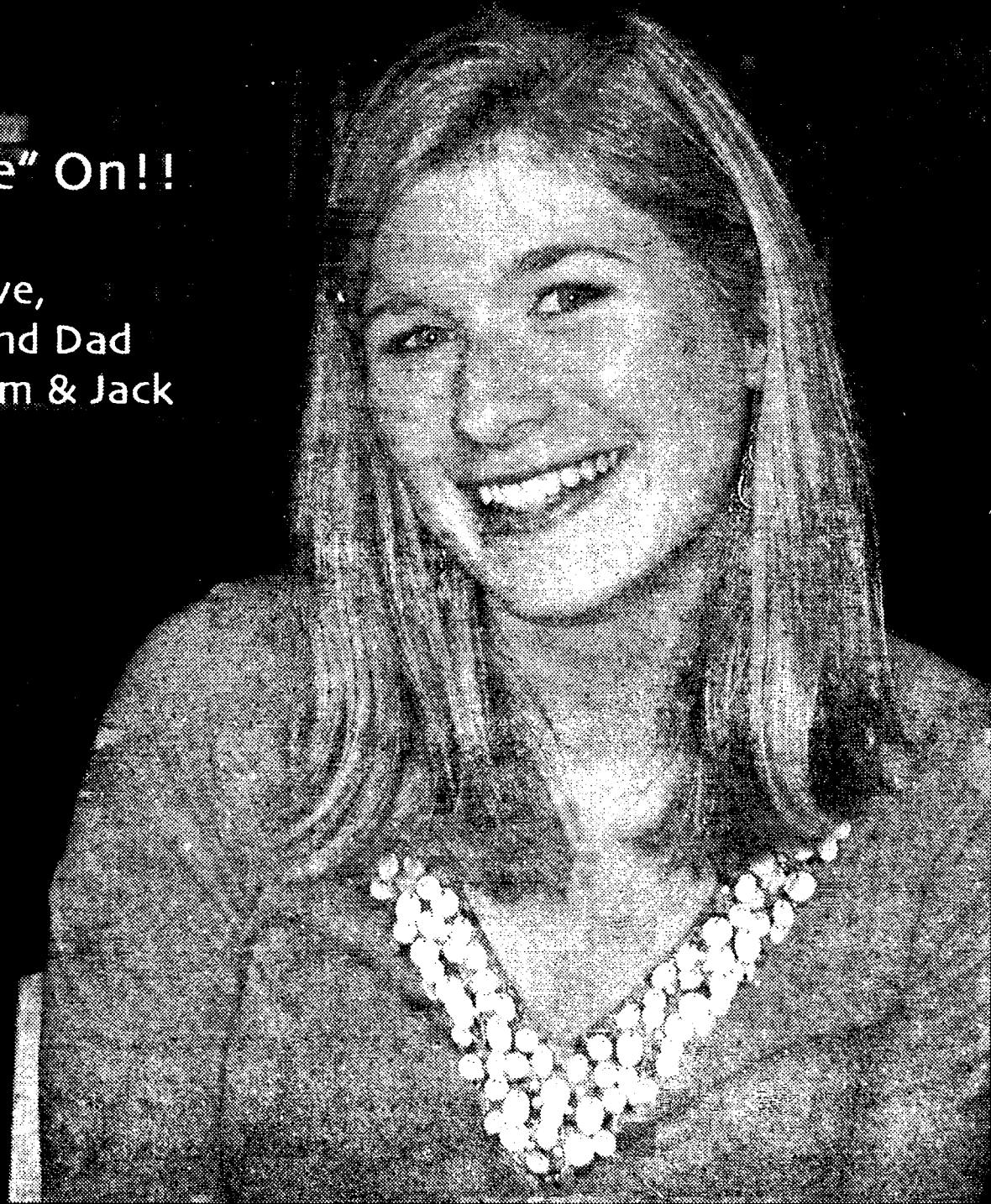
Love,
Mom, Dad,
Stacie and Ryan

*Congratulations,
Amy Meyers!*

We are so proud of you and your
accomplishments at Notre Dame.

"Bounce" On!!

Love,
Mom and Dad
Geoff, Tom & Jack



**Chris, Congratulations!
God guide & bless you!**

We are so proud & love you forever!

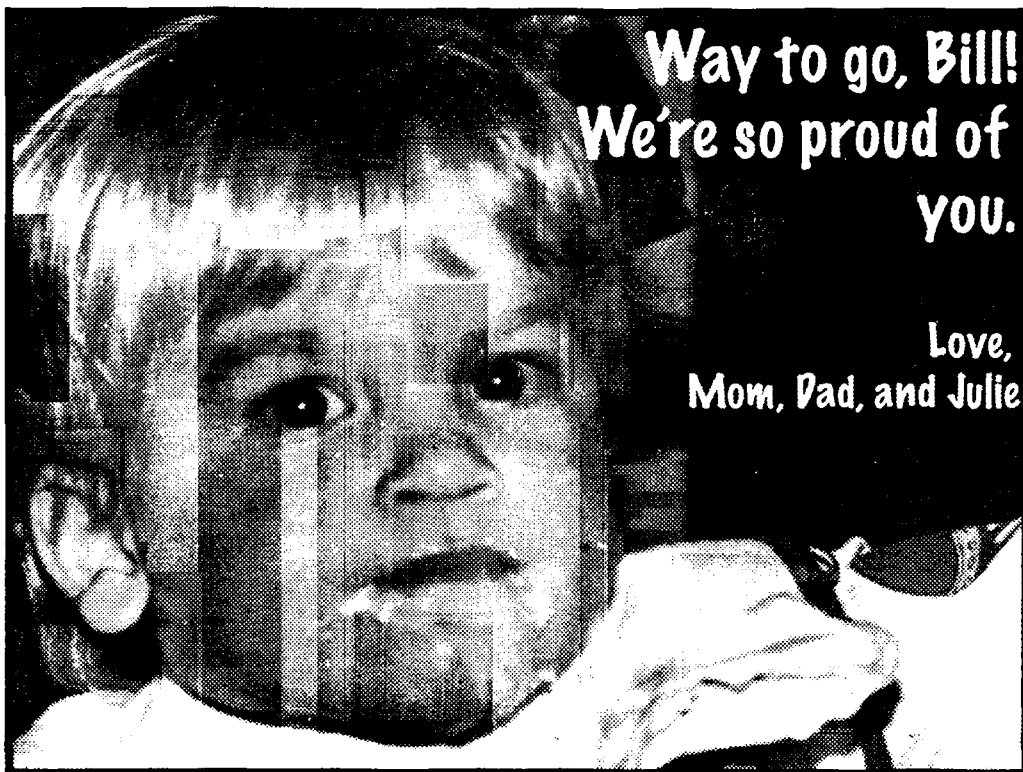
Dad & Mom, Liz & Nicholas

Congratulations, Sweet Angel!!!!

*Notre Dame and You were perfect together!
Love,
Mommy and Daddy*



DAN -- CONGRATULATIONS!



**Way to go, Bill!
We're so proud of
you.**

**Love,
Mom, Dad, and Julie**

Ryan,

**We are SO PROUD of you!
Now you can soar to new
heights.**

**Love,
Mom & Dad**






RDAY April 25, 2008 Grand Prairie, Texas © 1999 EFW Sebastian Newspapers Inc.

Determined

Truman seventh grader Brienne Davis breaks the finish line in the 100-meter dash at Tuesday's City Middle School Track Meet. The boys will get their turn on Thursday at Kennedy Stadium.

ED SALASKI/News



Brienne:

It has been a long journey. It was not always easy. Obstacles and challenges arose, sometimes when you least expected them. Yet, you overcame every obstacle and rose to every challenge. Your response to self inflicted wounds was growth. Your response to external ones was perseverance. You learned to trust the gifts you have, and to trust the giver of those gifts, who is God. You have matured into a woman of integrity, strength and character. Through it all, you were determined to succeed.

As you reach the end of this journey and begin another, we celebrate with you, thanking God for all that he has done and for blessing us with you. To God be the Glory!

**Love,
Dad, Mom, Allen, Sheridan, Grandma and Grandpa Lofton, Grandma and Grandpa Davis, and Miss Becky**

Brittany, you've always been "practically perfect in every way," from the runway to the goat show arena to the tennis court to the classroom. Congratulations on continuing your tradition of success at Saint Mary's College. We can't wait to see what you'll accomplish next. We know that great things await!!

Congratulations on graduating from SMC!

**Love,
Mommy, Roger, Chelsea, and Emmy**



Jana Blake

Congratulations on your Graduation
We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments

May God watch over you in all that you do
Love, Your Family

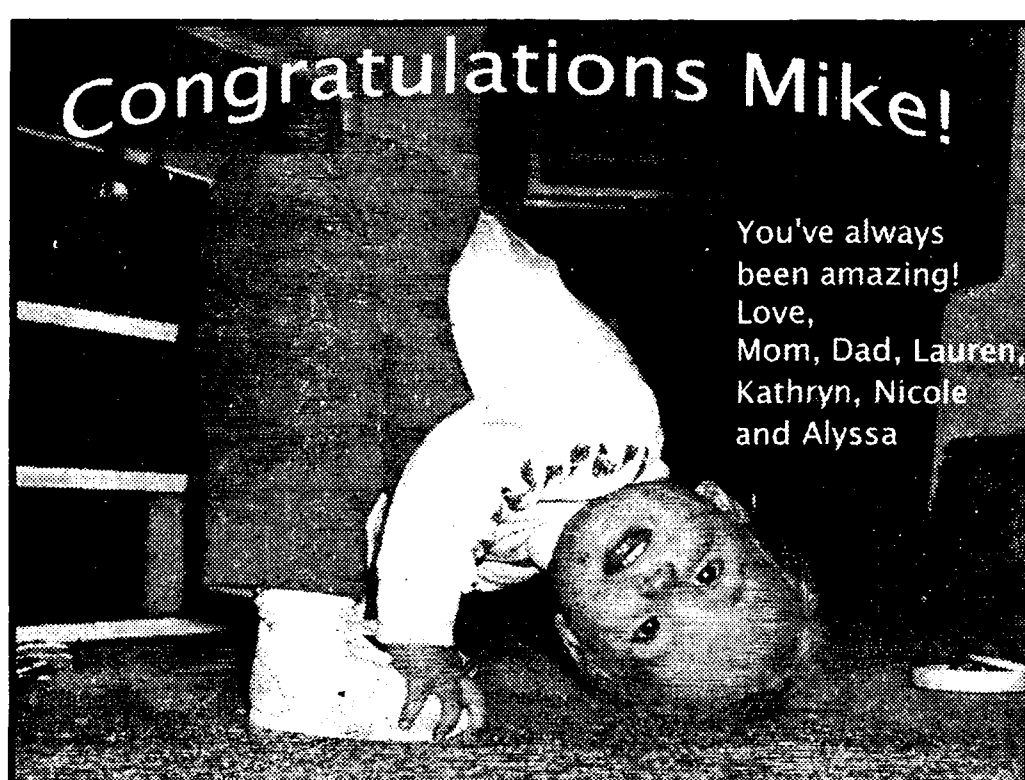


*From the moment we held
you, we knew we were
given a gift!*

*We were never prepared
for the amount of joy that
would grow with every
year that passes.*

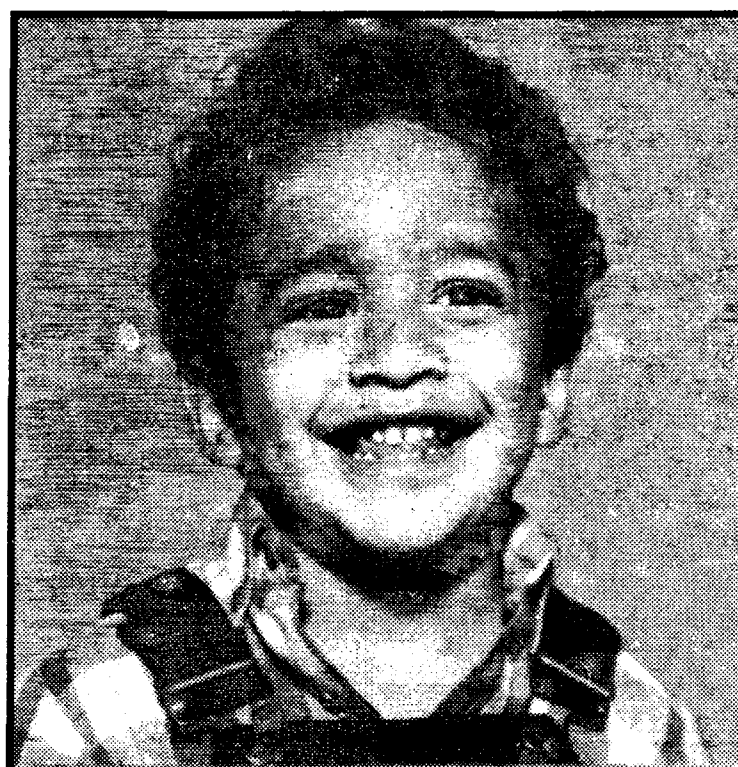
*We are so proud to call
you our son!*

*Our love,
Dad & Mom*

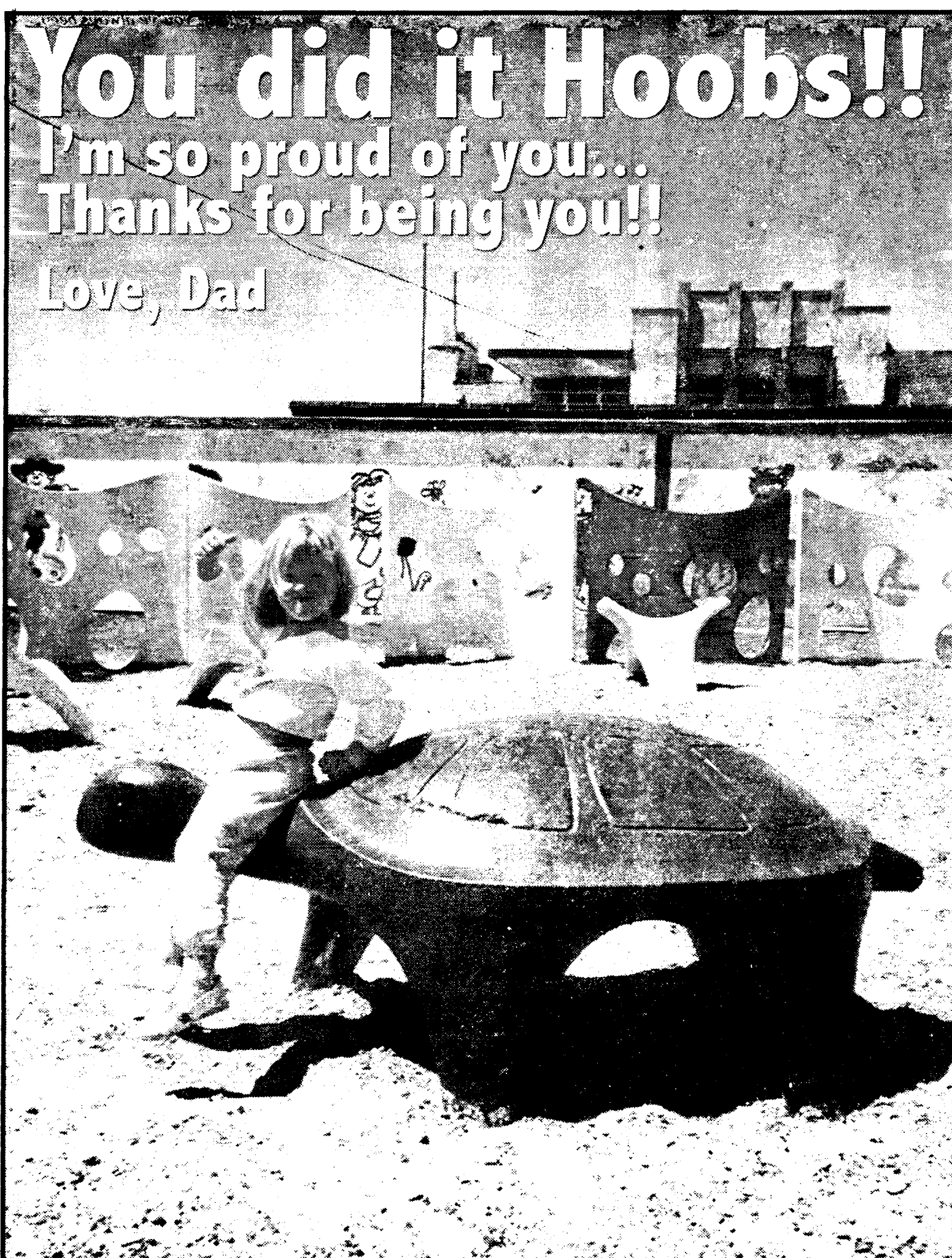


Congratulations Mike!

You've always
been amazing!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Lauren,
Kathryn, Nicole
and Alyssa



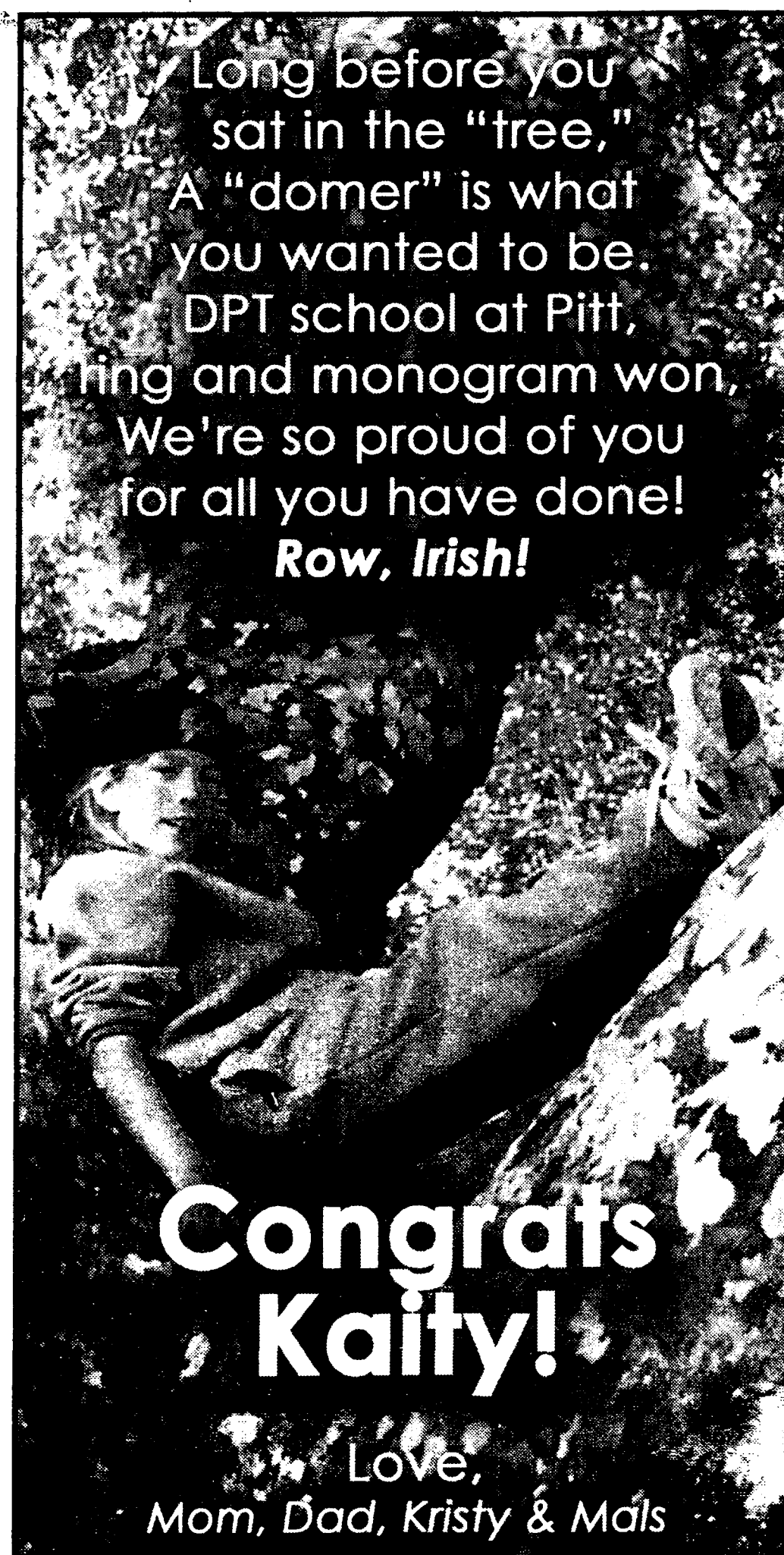
✿ YOU DID IT! ✿
YOU STUCK WITH IT AND
WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU
CONGRATULATIONS!!!
LOTS OF LOVE,
MOM & DAD
✿



You did it Hoobs!!

I'm so proud of you...
Thanks for being you!!

Love, Dad



Long before you
sat in the "tree,"
A "domer" is what
you wanted to be.
DPT school at Pitt,
ring and monogram won,
We're so proud of you
for all you have done!
Row, Irish!

**Congrats
Kaity!**

Love,
Mom, Dad, Kristy & Mals

Let's keep in touch after graduation!

Pat, Matt, Dave and Phipps



Our Belle, Alyssa

We are very
proud of you and
all you have
accomplished.

Love Mom '77,
and Dad.



Congratulations, Pat!

We always knew
you'd be a Domer!

Love,
Mom & Dad



One Family,
Two Domers
Many Blessings

Your Legacy
Begins!

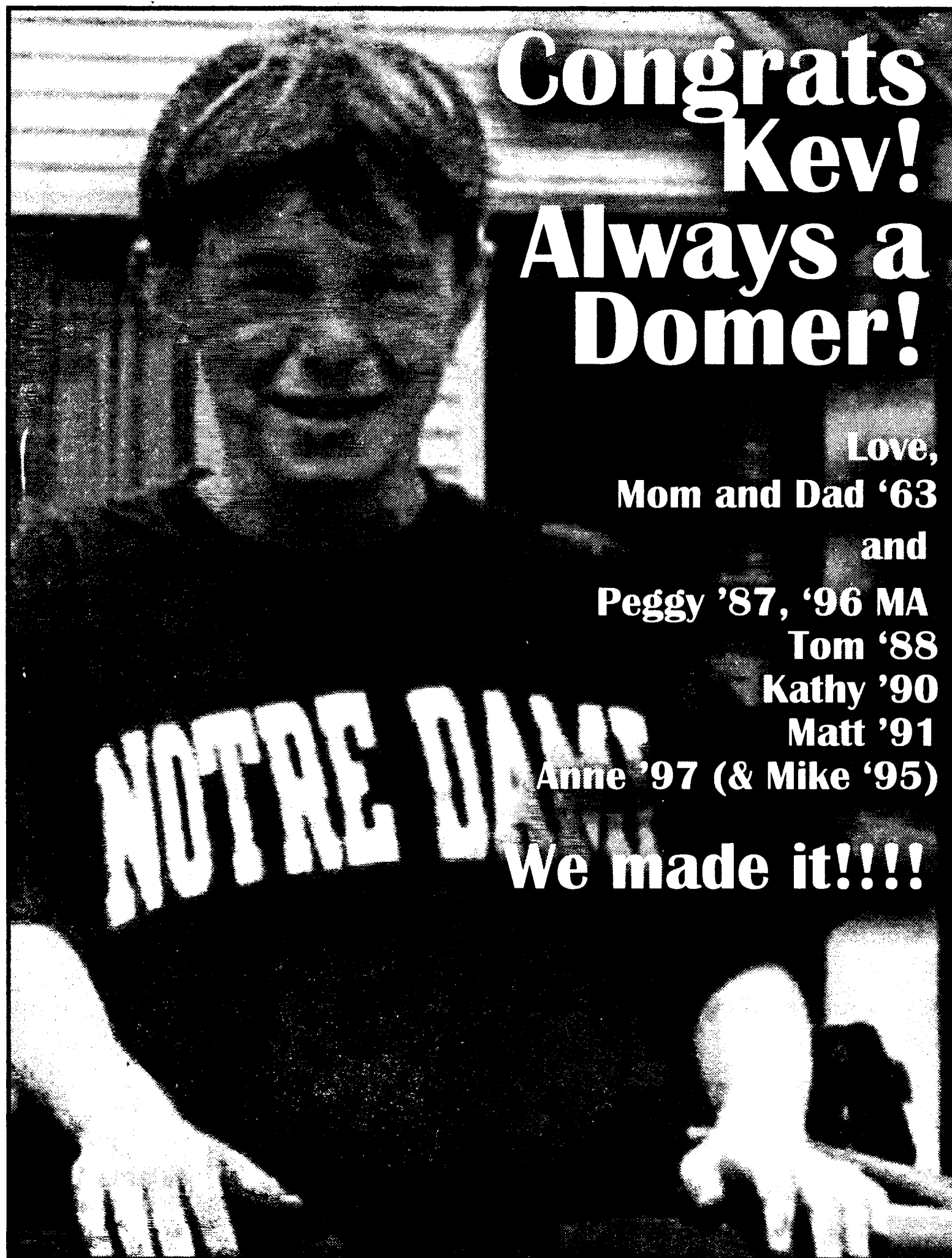
Love,
Mom and Dad



Congrats Kev! Always a Domer!

Love,
Mom and Dad '63
and
Peggy '87, '96 MA
Tom '88
Kathy '90
Matt '91
Anne '97 (& Mike '95)

We made it!!!!



Dearest Pavan,

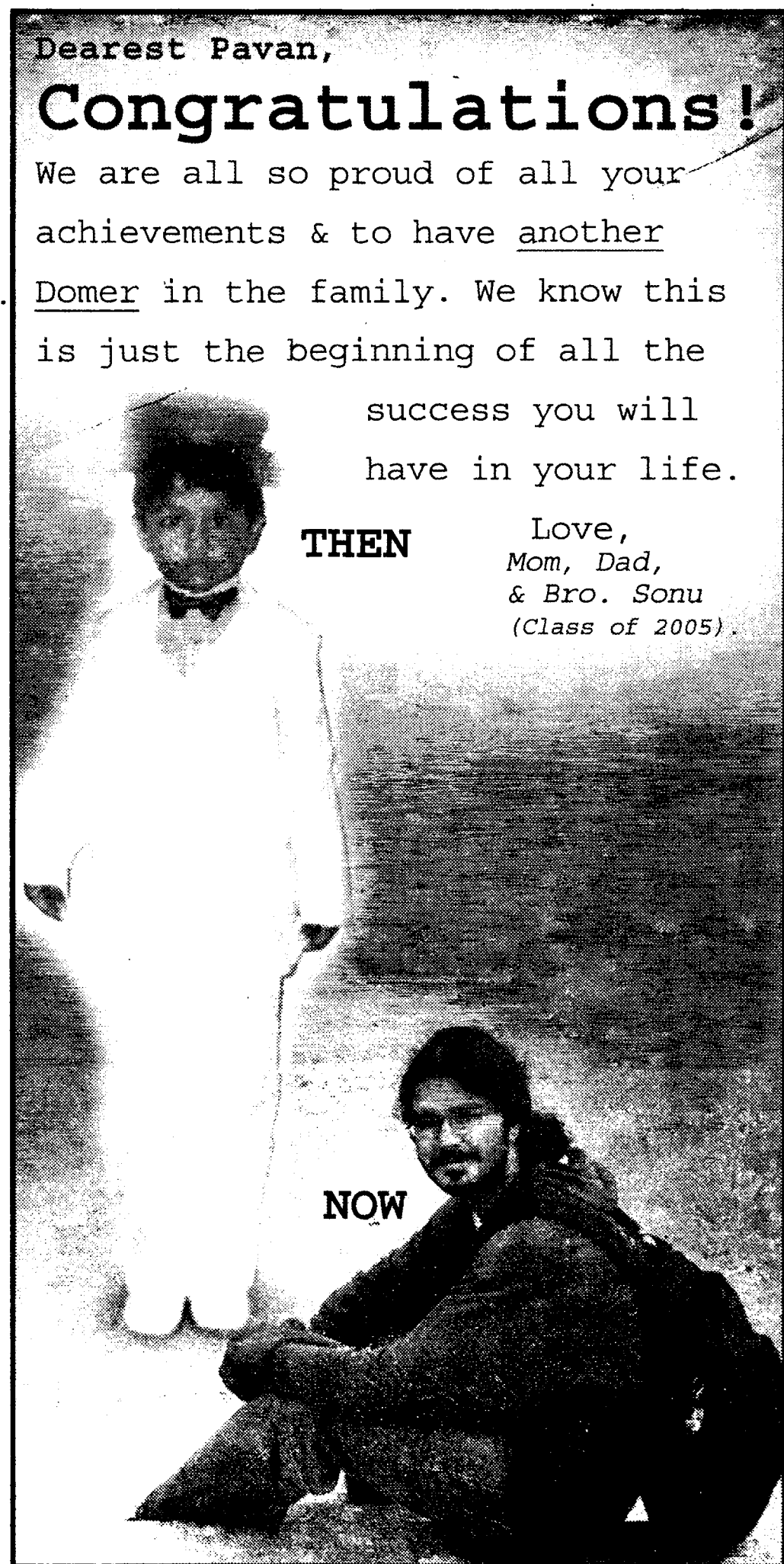
Congratulations!

We are all so proud of all your
achievements & to have another
Domer in the family. We know this
is just the beginning of all the
success you will
have in your life.


THEN

Love,
Mom, Dad,
& Bro. Sonu
(Class of 2005).

NOW



Congratulations



**Congratulations
Amanda!**

We are so proud of
all your hard work
and
accomplishments.

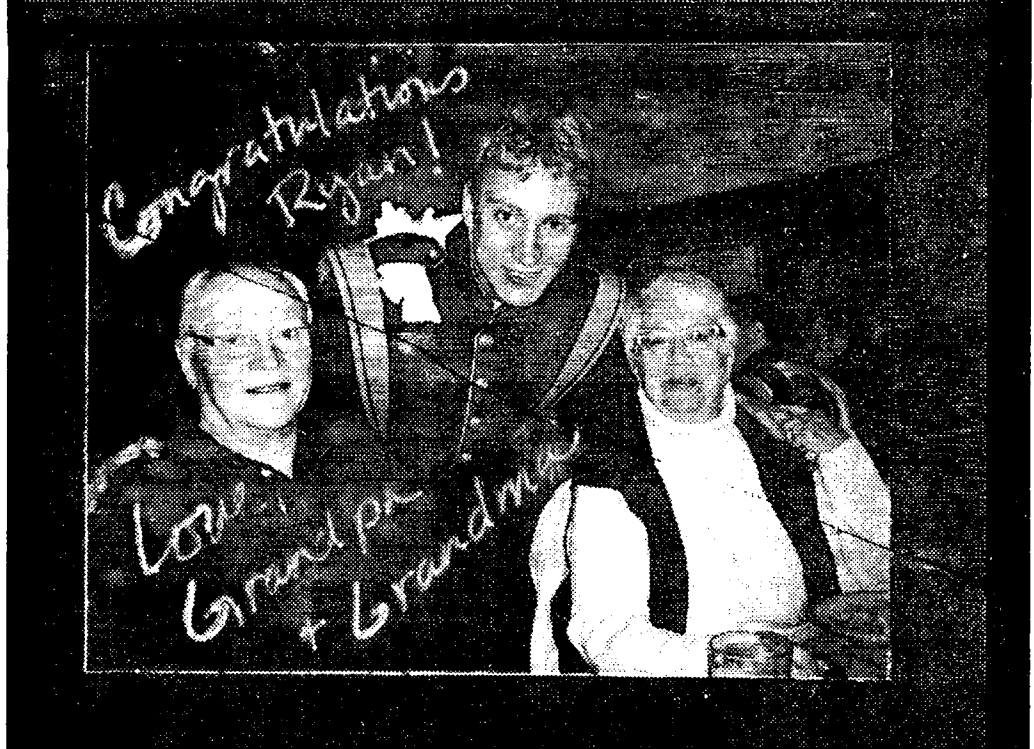
Love,
Mom and Dad
Gretchen and Olivia

Congratulations, Sal Michael, our Domer.
Thanks for carrying on the legacy.



We love you dearly, Mom & Dad

Ryan!
***We are so proud
of you!***
Best Wishes!
The Durkin's





Elizabeth,

***Congratulations on your graduation
after four awesome years at Notre
Dame! So many wonderful
memories... proud accomplishments...
cherished relationships...
Carry them all with you to Boston &
continue to dream big.***

You make us so very proud!

We love you!
Mom, Dad & Robert

Love,
Mom, Dad, Tyler & Cameron



CONGRATULATIONS!

Good Luck

2
0
0
8

Nicholas J. Houpt

Congratulations!

We are so proud of you
Follow your Heart

Love,
Mom, Dad & Jacob



From Schoolboy to Scholar
We are very proud of you, Patrick!

Congratulatons

on your Bachelor of Arts,
Bachelor of Business
Administration and
International Business
Certificate.

Love, Dad and Mom



ANTHONY DAYRIT
A DOMER
WRITING CENTER
TUTOR • PEER
ADVISOR • JUDICIAL
COUNCIL STUDENT
BODY ELECTIONS
& PEER ADVOCACY
PROGRAM • SOCIAL
CONCERNS SUMMER
SERVICE •
VOLUNTEER •
KNOTT HALL DANCE
COMMISSIONER
• MARATHONER •
& A BENGAL BOUTER!
CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU MADE IT!
LOVE, MOM & DAD



*"The Possible's light is fueled by
the Imagination."*

You have dreamed and imagined,
and made possible.

God bless you as you imaging,
and make possible,
a better future for all.

Congratulations, Jonathan, on
your Graduation and your Future.

Best wishes

C O N G R A T S

