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Notre Dame Abroad

Studying for a semester or year in some far-away land may sound intimidating. But most Notre Dame students enjoy their break from Bridget's and the 'Backer. stories by Katie Wild, Patrick Downes, Jennifer Campbell, Brian Lucas and Jeremy Slater

The Big Easy

By most accounts, the Big East Men's Basketball is experiencing an off year, but Pat Garrity and the guys might not find working their way through the conference schedule too easy. by Brian Lucas

A Movie Less Ordinary

Scholastic's film critic recommends five films that separate Notre Dame from the Animal House-like atmosphere of other universities. by Andrew Nutting

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Beyond the Bend

I was on a flight home from Europe when I decided to study abroad. After spending three weeks in Munich, I wanted to see more — in fact, I didn’t want to just see more, I wanted to see it all. So as I filed college applications during my senior year of high school, I carefully studied international study programs at various universities. During my freshman year, I debated the merits of the London program versus a year in Innsbruck. And when I finally received my acceptance to the London program as a sophomore, the decision to go abroad was a no-brainer.

Yet as my departure date for London approached, I wasn’t so sure about my decision. Would I regret missing a semester in South Bend? Would my friends change while I was away? Would I be able to survive in a foreign country for an entire semester?

In hindsight, I realize my fears were just pre-flight jitters. I gained so much more from my semester in London than I ever could have from an entire year in Innsbruck. And when I finally returned to America — and as much as I still miss London — I know I would go again in a heartbeat.

Scholastic examines multiple aspects of the international experience starting on page 14.

Also Inside

We all know it’s against the rules to have sex on campus, but many students don’t know where to go for advice or counseling on sexually related issues. Kate Jacques takes a look at the problem on page 9. Everyone also knows that business majors are supposedly shoe-ins for high-paying jobs, while Arts and Letters students will never see a paycheck, right? Katy Murphy and Lauren Winterfield investigate how the job hunt works for both business and Arts and Letters students on pages 4 and 7, respectively. And Andrew Nutting recommends movies about these and other aspects of life at Notre Dame on page 28.

Kristin Alworth
Editor in Chief

26 Years Ago: When In Rome...

In the October 29, 1971, issue, Scholastic devoted 10 pages to a cover story on the Notre Dame-Saint Mary’s foreign studies programs in Mexico, Rome, Tokyo, Angers and Innsbruck. In his piece on the ND-SMC Rome Program, writer Martin Linskey noted that while Sister Alma Peter called the program a qualified success, some felt otherwise.

The basic fault of last year’s program lay in its administration. Of the two nuns chosen to lead the program, neither understood Italian. Sister Monique Wagner was approaching her eighties and the other, Sister Catherine Tobin, was noted for her failure to relate with the students. The attempts by the nuns to enforce parietals, to punish offenders, thus clinging to the “in loco parentis” policy of Saint Mary’s, forced the students away from the administration. The bitterness became so intense that in the beginning of the second semester, Sister Alma visited Rome and spoke to the Notre Dame men. There was much wailing and gnashing of teeth and soon after her chat with the men, the hotel owner informed the men to look elsewhere for lodging. And the students began to look elsewhere for understanding (the two sisters are no longer administrators of the program).

Isn’t it nice to know that, 26 years later, some things haven’t changed? And isn’t it also nice to know that, even thousands of miles away, we can relate to international problems right here in South Bend?

—CM

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Cover photo by Gordie Bell
Dear Editor,

In view of the imminent reinstatement of the death penalty in the state of Massachusetts, I find the debate on this subject started by Tara Dix and Timothy McConville very timely. And, I am sorry to say, Tim, unlike the majority of the legislators there, I did not find your argument in favor of capital punishment the least bit convincing.

Looking beyond all the name-calling, your main argument seems to be that a murderer does not deserve to live. "At the moment when Mr. Gibson was convicted of plunging the knife into the store clerk he forfeited his right to be treated as a human being... he forfeited his right to life." I humbly beg to differ.

No matter what Ezavious Gibson did (and for those who didn't read Tara Dix's column, he killed a convenience store clerk during a robbery), he is a human being. Nothing and no one can change that. By being human, he has the right to be treated as such. Since the most basic of human rights is the right to life, it follows that society does not have the right to take it away. The right to life is not conditional, and it cannot be forfeited. For any human life, even a murderer's, is intrinsically valuable.

Another argument is that the victims' families demand it, society demands it and justice demands it. As cold-hearted as this may sound, whether the victims' families want the death penalty is irrelevant. For the justice system is not meant to be a tool for vengeance. The court has to decide what is just, not what is demanded, and the sentence has to be reasonable (which victims' demands often are not). Only in civil cases is the justice system meant to compensate the victims of a crime or their families. Besides, neither the victims nor their families profit in the least from causing the death of another human being.

Your second assertion, that society demands the death penalty, is debatable, but again, not everything "society" demands is necessarily right. We live by majority rule not because it is perfect but because it is the best alternative. Finally, justice definitely does not call for the death penalty. It is never just to take the life of someone who is not a threat anymore. That's right: A murderer condemned to life in prison is not a threat. He is no more likely to repeat his crime than a dead murderer.

There are other, more practical reasons to abolish the death penalty in addition to these. The death penalty is too final. There is no way to reverse it, no way to correct a mistake. And don't kid yourself, innocent people have been executed and are probably still being executed. (Outrage over such a case caused the repeal of the death penalty in Great Britain, by the way.) It is simply impossible to have 100 percent certainty. A criminal conviction is supposed to be "beyond a reasonable doubt." It cannot be "beyond any doubt." The small amount of uncertainty in any case thus admits the possibility of having convicted the wrong person. At the same time, our society is based on the principle that it is preferable to let a guilty person go than to punish an innocent person. Of course, there have to be limits to this, or we could never sentence anyone. However, in the case of the death penalty, the punishment is so drastic, so final, that it is always better to let a murderer live than to kill an innocent person.

I for one do not believe that society is any better off killing its criminals. One of the scariest stories from the trial of Timothy McVeigh was the reaction of some Oklahomans to the outcome. A death by lethal injection, they said, was far too humane. We should make this monster go through all the pain and suffering he inflicted on all his victims and his families. It scares me to think I am living next door to people who wish pain, suffering and death on another human being. Precisely this attitude that another human being deserves to die, that the suffering of another can be good, leads to the devaluation of human life and destroys one more inhibition to killing.

In closing, let me assure you that I do feel sympathy for the victims of violent crimes and their families. I do agree that they deserve my tears. But let me also tell you that I do see the human being in a murderer. I do recognize the fallibility of our justice system. And I do see the universal right to life. I hope that you will, too.

Helga Schaaffrin
Pasquerilla West

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Dear Editor,

In response to Timothy McConville's rather frightening letter to Scholastic, I can only say I hope McConville is never in a position of power. I wonder how he has gone to Notre Dame and yet mocks the concept of the sacred gift of life. What, then, is life? Mere physical existence, losing all value once the recipient of life misuses it?

Obviously, McConville is correct in his view that no one has the right to kill another human — well, actually, McConville says no one has the right to kill an innocent human. Once we sin, our lives are up for grabs. Where, Mr. McConville, do you draw the line? For exactly what crimes is murder fitting retribution? Rape, homicide, theft, what? Where does your version of "justice" stop?

People like you frighten me with your demands for "justice," when what you really want is revenge. Your bloodlust for those who have committed wrongs is almost fanatical, and your conviction that you would "absolutely" be an executioner makes me think God you are not in a position to do so.

Before you accuse me of being a "bleeding heart," I must say that I agree that murderers deserve no sympathy for their actions. Obviously, we are not safe when they are free, so we must protect society from them by confining them to prison. When people commit horrendous crimes, they forfeit their civil and social rights, but not their basic rights as humans: the right to life and the right to be treated humanely.

Life is sacred, even if you sneer at that concept. It is a gift given by God, understood fully only by God, and to be taken away only by God. For you to be so presumptuous as to pronounce a human soul worthless, and then to have the further arrogance to say you have the right to extinguish a life is beyond my comprehension. How can you be so short-sighted as to think that responding to horror with more horror somehow even the score? Has life, and a Catholic education taught you nothing? Even if Jesus' example is perhaps too subtle for you to grasp (read: Jesus did not strike back, Jesus was not judgmental or in support of your brand of "justice"), this one should ring a bell: "Thou shalt not kill."

So, Mr. McConville, before you go preaching about "justice" and "an eye for an eye," maybe you should remember this: "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

Emily Whelan
Walsh Hall
Many Arts and Letters students are unsure what they want to do when they graduate. And their experience with Career and Placement often leaves them feeling clueless.

"I don't know what I want to do," says senior government major Lori Mrowka. "I'm still trying to figure that out, but I felt like the counselor I saw in Career and Placement did not want to help me because I don't have a specific focus."

Arnold advises students in this position to research potential careers on their own. Once they identify companies that interest them, they can put in a bid to interview with them.

"It is mainly the larger, profit-making organizations and companies who come to Notre Dame," says Arnold. While some on-campus interviewing occurs, she estimates that 200 to 300 Notre Dame students every year get their jobs from one of these recruiting programs. "Many students prefer the visibility and flexibility of a smaller company and must seek out interviews off-campus," she adds.

Since many job opportunities exist through personal networks, some Arts and Letters students feel that Career and Placement has nothing to offer them. "The time I spend looking for jobs on my own is far more productive than the time I spend there," says senior American Studies major Beth Nolan.

Senior Matt Griffin agrees. "Business and engineering majors are all that exist for Career and Placement. Other than some consulting firms, I don't think that they have anything to offer me."

Despite negative perceptions, Career and Placement does offer services designed to enhance students' job-search skills. Workshops teach students to compose résumés and cover letters and how to refine interviewing skills.

Although the process of obtaining a job is difficult, most Notre Dame students are successful in finding employment. A survey of the class of '96 shows that 35 to 37 percent of Arts and Letters students went to graduate or professional school, 30 to 35 percent went immediately to work after graduation, 19 percent chose to do voluntary service, six to eight percent were still looking for a job and three percent were involved in the military. Only three percent of the class were still without jobs six months after graduation.

Senior Colin Thomas, a Government and International Relations major, laughs when asked about his post-graduate plans. But Thomas is not too concerned about the uncertainty of his situation.

"I don't know what the future holds, and I kind of enjoy not knowing. It makes it more exciting."

Arnold and Preacher emphasize that there is no need to doubt the value of a liberal arts education. As Preacher sums up, "Choose to do here what you love best. Do it because it's your last chance to absorb knowledge in this way. Almost everything after this will be specific. Don't limit yourself."
**FREEZER BURN**

**Power to the People**

Construction creates need for more power

From the expansion of the stadium to the renovation of the main building, one of Notre Dame's most visible trends during the last few years has been the construction taking place all over campus. The university has found that the amount of large-scale construction has created a need for the expansion of the power plant, a facility which is arguably even more important than the football stadium. Ironically, the need for the expansion stems from a shortage that most residents of South Bend's frozen tundra would never imagine exists.

John De Lee, director of Utilities, explains, "What we need is additional chilling capacity." The university plans to add two 4,000-ton chillers to the five that the power plant already has. "Right now, we have a total chilling capacity of 14,000 tons, and a peak load of 12,000 tons," DeLee says. The construction of the new RecSports building and bookstore, along with the renovations to South Dining Hall, Flanner Hall, the main building and Galvin, will create a need for more cooling than the current power plant can provide.

The university hopes to have the first chiller set up and operational by the spring of 1999, and the second functioning a year later. If some problem should arise with the current cooling system before the new equipment reaches its home in the building on the north side of campus that currently houses Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame will face a shortage of cold air—or at least the artificially generated variety. "We don’t have any spare capacity right now," De Lee says. "If we lose one chiller we don’t have the ability to back it up."

According to De Lee, the overhaul, which is expected to cost $28 million, should meet the university’s chilling needs for the next 10 years. DeLee says that the power plant expansion is a fairly routine undertaking, and notes that the university installed an additional chiller in 1983 and again in 1991. The current expansion, though, will be larger than the previous two combined. "They've been building quite a few new buildings, so there’s a bigger need than there has been before," De Lee says.

— Jake Mooney

**JUDGMENT CALLS**

Men About Campus

Matt Szabo

Beach Boys/Chicago Concert

The Football Team

The Observer has really laid down the law now—one more offensive comic and they're going to start rerunning Cream of the Valley Road.

Social space? Diversity? Eliminating Stepan? What will be the cause he fights for this week? JC missed his name in the Observer last Friday. No doubt he did too.

And we thought they’d never return after the administration’s flap over “Help Me Rhonda” back in ’79. At this rate, can Pat Boone be far behind?

They didn’t lose last weekend.

NOVEMBER 13, 1997

**1Questions with**

**Ryan Gee**

Mascot-stompin’ Cheerleader

He is recognized across the country as the symbol of Notre Dame, depicted on apparel in every sporting goods store imaginable. Children dream about becoming him some day, while Notre Dame students look to him as an icon of spirit. He is senior Ryan Gee, Notre Dame’s Leprechaun. Scholastic caught up with Ryan after his performance at the Navy game when he discussed some of his favorite memories of being the leprechaun for the past three years.

How did you get to become the leprechaun?

After finals my freshman year I had grown a beard and shaved it like the leprechaun. My friends said I should definitely try out because I looked like him. When ads for tryouts came out, they put them all over my door until I agreed.

What’s the most amount of push-ups you’ve ever had to do?

At the Pitt game last year I had to do about 60 at once. But since they’re progressive, I’ve never added up the total for a game.

Have the cheerleaders ever dropped you while doing a stunt or push-ups?

Yes, several times. My first game sophomore year against Vanderbilt the cheerleaders got a little excited. They put me up and decided to jog around with me.

Do you have to have any special training to become a leprechaun?

There are certain criteria that you’re judged continued on next page —

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**Q&A continued from previous page**
on, like public speaking, spirit and creativ­
ity, but you don’t have to have red hair.

**What’s your favorite cheer?**
“Let’s Go Irish,” because it’s simple and easy to get people into.

**What’s the roughest time you’ve had with another mascot?**
A substitute Seton Hall Pirate got pretty angry at me at a basketball game because I accidentally stepped on his foot. He then started stabbing me with his sword in the stomach.

**What’s the roughest time you’ve had with another fan?**
The BC fans can get pretty rough. While I was doing push-ups last year they threw beer cans, lighters and rocks at me.

**What is your favorite fan memory?**
When we went to Ireland last year with the football team, no one really knew how the Irish would react to me since it really isn’t an accurate description of them. Well, they were so welcoming and really friendly.

**What’s your most memorable road trip?**
The women’s soccer team’s national championship game and going to Ireland with the football team were the best two.

**How do you keep up your spirit, especially when the chips are down, like this season?**
The student body is so supportive that it’s easy. I don’t think you’d be human if you didn’t really appreciate the spirit this campus has.

—Kate Jacques

**SCRENNPLAYERS**

**Backdoor to Hollywood**

**Screenwriting students hope to put words into actors’ mouths**

When one thinks of breaking into the movie business, acting or directing usually come to mind. Eleven Notre Dame students are approaching the movie scene from a different perspective, however. Instead of acting or directing, they are writing the movies.

As part of their Screenwriting 403 class, taught by William Krier, these 11 students were required to show up to school on the first day with a 120-page script. Senior Mike Kogge, whose script is a coming-of-age movie, says he spent an entire two months of his summer writing the screenplay. “I spent five or six days a week [writing] for four hours,” says Kogge, who also spent time working in Southern California for a production company.

Senior Laura Patterson, who spent a similar amount of time on her screenplay, suffered a computer error, erasing her entire original. Her second screenplay was not as time consuming. “I wrote it in four days,” she says.

Now that the time-consuming task of formulating a draft is over, time is spent revising the scripts. Almost all of the feedback on the screenplays comes from other students, who help identify areas and scenes that are obvious to the writer but remain unclear to the reader. “It’s always helpful to have others read your script,” says senior Neil Zender, whose script This Side of Evil is a terrorist, CIA-type thriller. In the revision process, changes can be small or large.

Students change sentence structure, humanize dialogue and even make complete alterations in scenes.

Although all of the students in the class are English majors, learning how to write an effective screenplay is quite different from any other type of fiction. “It’s an entirely different language,” Zender says. “Dialogue becomes much more important.”

“Screenplays have to be 120 pages,” says Krier, “There is a specific set of values that don’t exist in other types of fiction.”

To some, the amount of work may seem overwhelming, but the writers think satisfaction that comes with having written such a large work is well worth it. “It’s great to have 120 pages in your hand and know it’s yours,” says Kogge. “It weighs a lot, so that’s cool.”

Patterson, who wrote a romantic thriller, says she will never look at movies the same way again. “Now you have something different to look for,” she says.

Kogge explains, “You see the screenwriter’s genius and not the director’s,” and adds, “After writing the script, you realize that actors are saying the lines a writer wrote.”

Some students may chalk up the experience of writing a screenplay to help with future writing, while others may send their scripts to a studio on the off-chance that it may be made into a movie. South Bend may not be Hollywood just yet, but these 11 students might be bringing it a little closer.

—Nick Grimmer

**IRISH 'R' US**

**Bring 'Em Young**

Young Irish fans get their own university-licensed fan club

Many of us grew up as Notre Dame fans, for varying reasons and to different degrees. Some children were decked out in Fighting Irish underwear since their birth. Others were simply mesmerized by the way Tony Rice ran the option and Rocket Ismail ran past everyone. Either way, we were all part of an unofficial Notre Dame fan club. For the first time, though, the athletic department has set up an official fan club for kids aged six to 13, called Team Notre Dame.

Members of Team ND are eligible for numerous benefits, including a Team ND T-shirt, Team ND membership card and free admission to Olympic sport events at Notre Dame. On top of those, the club has something for even special interests. If you’re a cheerleading fan, you’ll definitely enjoy the holiday cards from the Leprechaun. For those who live off-campus there are coupons from the sponsors, including Burger King and club cookouts at selected football games. All this and more is yours for only $10.

For more information, visit the Team Notre Dame website via the Notre Dame Athletic Department site at www.und.com.

—Brian Lucas

**SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINE**

NOVEMBER 13, 1997
Easy Street

Career and Placement offers business majors a straightforward plan for finding a job

BY LAUREN WINTERFIELD

Focused, grounded and career-oriented—that’s the common perception of students enrolled in the College of Business Administration. For 543 seniors, ideas of what to do after graduation are much clearer than they are for those whose minds are muddled by applications to graduate, law or medical school. And they are more directed than than the 400 Arts and Letters seniors who register with Career and Placement Services.

“Certainly, the job search is initially more focused for business majors than it is for students in Arts and Letters. They are in a more vocationally specific curriculum,” says Kitty Arnold, director of Career and Placement Services. According to Arnold, the job search for business majors is more specific because they have obtained tangible skills at Notre Dame that qualify them to perform specific jobs. Students in the business school will probably find jobs with titles that refer to finance in some way, while accounting majors usually find jobs that have the word “accounting” in their titles. “Anthropology majors do not usually find a job with the title ‘anthropologist’ right after graduation,” Arnold says.

In many respects, being focused as an undergraduate pays off when it comes time to look for a job. “Occupationally, the most heavily recruited students are those that have any kind of financial or computer focus,” Arnold says. “There is definitely an advantage if you are interested in doing that kind of thing.”

Probably the most clear-cut career path in the business school exists for accounting majors. Around 150 seniors went through the interview process with Big Six accounting firms (Ernst & Young, Price Waterhouse, Arthur Andersen, Coopers & Librand, KPMG and Deloitte & Touche) during their junior year and completed internships with those firms the following summer.

Those internships were often followed by a job offer, which typically eliminates much of the uncertainty experienced during senior year. “Most offers are contingent simply on that student successfully completing their degree,” Arnold says.

Senior Roy Gallagher signed with Ernst & Young last August and finds that already having a job secured for next year enhances his senior year. “They definitely told us to enjoy our senior year and not to worry about our grades as much as we have in the past. That allows us to have more fun, yes, but I also think it demonstrates their trust in the people they have hired,” Gallagher says.

Accountancy is an attractive major because a student who has two years’ work experience with an accounting firm is qualified to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Some students decide to stay with the accounting firm after that, while other students use the CPA as a credential to move on. “I don’t want to be an accountant forever,” says senior Tim Neagle, who is signed with Arthur Andersen, “but accounting is definitely the underlying language of the business world. You can go a lot of places with what you learn.”

Arnold thinks the marketability of a CPA is a big draw for accounting majors. “It is also a plus that most can go to work for a highly selective firm,” she says. Notre Dame accountancy students are highly recruited by the more selective and visible Big Six firms. “Historically, it has been the case that high numbers of Notre Dame students find work with these competitive firms. Notre Dame is a key school for all of these firms because our program is highly ranked,” Arnold says.

Recent developments in the business world may influence the future of the job market in the Big Six accounting firms. In the past month, the Big Six has shrunk to the Big Four due to mergers — Ernst & Young joined forces with KPMG as Coopers & Librand merged with Price Waterhouse. The firms have promised to honor the offers they have already made, but Arnold doubts the market will be as big in the future as it
The job search is initially more focused for business majors than it is for students in Arts and Letters.

— Kitty Arnold, director of Career and Placement Services

has in the past. "Although it's anyone's guess," says Arnold, "logic suggests that combining firms that do similar things is going to create job redundancy. In a cost-conscious society, it would be too expensive to pay two people to do the same thing."

This fall, however, all six firms recruited separately on campus. Gallagher, who signed with Ernst & Young before the merger, sees the development as a boon rather than a threat to his job. "It was never an issue that my job wouldn't still be there for me," he says. "And after the firm explained their reasons for merging, I can see that it really has the potential to create some good opportunities."

Not all business students have as clear a path as accountancy majors, though. Majoring in business does not necessarily mean that a student is focused on a specific career. Arnold has seen finance majors who were torn between going to work for an investment banking firm and entering the seminary upon graduation. "There are business students out there with wildly divergent goals," she says.

Career and Placement does not offer business students their only entrance into the job market. "What they have to offer isn't nearly all that's out there," says senior marketing major Jed Peters, who received an offer from a Chicago-based company after completing an internship there last summer. He found the company through a personal contact and feels that he is better off than he would be had he gone through Career and Placement. "I like it more because I'm doing what I really want to do as opposed to fitting into their job description."

Arnold is aware that not all students are placed in jobs through on-campus interviews and even encourages students to pursue their own contacts. "Networking is a very important skill to have in the business world," she says. In fact, only between 200 and 300 students of the 900 registered with Career and Placement find post-graduate employment through the center. The services that they offer, however, such as mock interviews and career advising, may enhance students' skills in the job search. "Regardless of how they found their jobs," Arnold says, "the important thing to note is the low number of Notre Dame graduates who are still without a job six months after graduation."
Let's Talk About Sex

Notre Dame’s Catholic character interferes with the services provided for students

BY KATE JACQUES

Sex: it’s in ads, magazines, and Oprah has a show about it at least once a week, but it’s not at Notre Dame—or at least it’s not supposed to be. Every day, sexually related issues, ranging from pregnancy to STDs to rape, confront thousands of college students across the country. Notre Dame students are no exception.

But Notre Dame’s Catholic character can be intimidating for students seeking medical advice or counseling on campus. Many students believe the rumors that contracting an STD or becoming pregnant are acts punishable by expulsion and that the university will notify parents about such confidential information. “I even heard that the administration, rather than forcing pregnant girls out of school, makes them live in a separate house called Mary’s House,” sophomore Jamie Kuhn says.

These myths are far from the truth. In most cases the administration finds it futile to discipline students after such serious effects have occurred. “There’s no disciplinary action, in the name of pastoral responsibility and care, that is taken against someone who is pregnant,” says Sr. Jean Lenz, assistant vice president of Student Affairs.

Pregnant women are not required to leave the university or their residence halls. In fact, many women who have found themselves in situations such as these have stayed in the dorms until their due dates. The university has numerous counseling services which are concerned with both the physical and mental health of both the pregnant woman and the father.

Campus Ministry is one group that guides students in the future direction of their relationships. Lenz advises students of their options and helps students deal with the shock of pregnancy and decisions about the future. “Many of the women who are pregnant do eventually graduate from Notre Dame,” Lenz says.

It is obviously difficult to deal with a pregnancy as a student, much less as a Notre Dame student. “It would be so different on our campus if there were different age groups [attending the university],” Lenz says. “At some other, larger universities it is not uncommon to see pregnant women or young people pushing strollers around.”

Pregnant women are primarily referred to off-campus counseling services because they tend to have more experience. On-campus counseling offered by the administration does not provide information about the option of abortion because it is not in keeping with Catholic teachings.

Many students agree with this policy based on the principle of Catholicism: “I don’t know what responsibility the university has with respect to providing any counseling services to its students,” graduate student Tom Crisp says.

Senior Laura Patterson agrees, but for different reasons. “I’m relieved to hear they won’t deal with it when they’re not experienced,” she says.

Beyond counseling, however, the university is prepared to meet the medical needs of students for sexual health problems. There are three physicians on staff at the infirmary who are each certified in family practice medicine, including gynecological services. Doctors diagnose and treat sexually transmitted diseases for both males and females, and the university has a lab on campus that allows for quick, confidential testing.

Yet there are restrictions as to the services the infirmary can provide, specifically regarding precautions for sexual activity. “The university does not support or advocate con-

IS ANYBODY THERE? Advice about sexual related issues is often hard to come by at Notre Dame.
traceptive medicine,” says Annie Thompson, Director of Health Services. Birth control can only be prescribed to treat other medical problems. Sophomore Jennifer Turner agrees with this practice. “With Notre Dame being a Catholic institution, they should abide by the teachings of the church,” she says.

Some students are concerned about this lack, though. “I think they should provide [birth control],” Patterson says. “They’re closing their minds to STDs and AIDS, a greater medical need.”

Others also feel that the lack of discussion about contraception is a disservice to the Notre Dame community. “I think women should have access to [contraception] on campus,” freshman John Micek says. “It’s a great benefit even though Notre Dame’s a Catholic school.”

Thompson is quick to add that although Health Services complies with university regulations supporting the Catholic doctrine, they in no way judge a student. “We’re not here to judge a student or their behavior,” Thompson says. “[We’re here] to support them.”

The Women’s Resource Center (WRC) is attempting to provide support where the university fails. The trustees and the administration have only granted club status to the WRC, however. They have a small space in the Student Government office rather than a full center equipped with counseling services. Their current goal is to attain university funding to provide more adequate services.

The WRC is concerned with issues such as gender relations, health and sexuality. WRC president Kelly McMahon stresses the need to reform support services for problems such as sexual harassment. “There is really no definite advocate to support a person and the policy is really small and inadequate,” McMahon says.

The office provides information about pertinent issues, but it cannot counsel people. The WRC primarily refers students to counseling services in the area. “Many students here don’t want to walk into the university counseling services,” McMahon explains. “I think it’s because students think their parents will be notified.”

The center’s library contains both books and pamphlets listing the many services available in the area. They also have some information on contraception and local abortion services. “We’re not out there telling people to have abortions,” McMahon says. “We’re just giving students the options.”

The WRC stresses that the group’s purpose is to provide help for students and that means making as much information available as possible.

“I don’t necessarily agree with those options,” Turner says. “But as a Women’s Resource Center, it would be logical to offer all resources.”

Micek also sees the importance of the work of the WRC. “It’s not like people don’t have sex on this campus,” he says. “It is an important issue that cannot be ignored.” Junior Robert Baron agrees. “Whether you believe it or not, [pregnancy] still happens and you have to take care of people,” he says.

Notre Dame provides health services and counseling to guide students in dealing with sexual health, but the system has its gaps. The Catholic character of the university restricts the extent of the services and information available, specifically concerning sexual health. Although little supported by the university and relatively unknown, the WRC is working to provide further information and options for needs that do exist, even at Notre Dame.

Do you enjoy taking photos?
Do you have a creative eye?

Scholastic is looking for photographers and an assistant photography editor

Informational Meeting:
Wednesday, November 19
7:00 p.m.
Scholastic office
303 LaFortune
Shakespeare says: Brevity is the soul of wit.

The Gipp says: Let’s begin!

Feel the Backlash

The Gipp thought everyone would ditch their costumes after Halloween, but apparently one “champion” of multiculturalism decided to remain two-faced.

Last week Matt Szabo, still wallowing in the tears he conjured up for Our Lady, walked into the room of a guy the Gipp will call Ben. Ben was born in Korea but is as American as apple pie. He’s lived in the States since he was a tyke and likes cheeseburgers just as much as the next guy. Ben was talking on the phone when Szabo came in and asked Ben’s roommate, John, “Umm … I was just wondering … I know you live with Ben, and does he, ah, have any chopsticks? I have some Chinese food and I wasn’t sure what to eat it with.” Ben turned around, gave Szabo a “what the @#!@?” expression, and John explained that Ben didn’t have any chopsticks, nor did he ever have chopsticks.

A little strange, Mr. Szabo, seeing as you put up those cute little fliers calling for Dan Sullivan’s suspension one day and make such a prejudicial request the next. The Gipp isn’t commenting on the humor of anybody’s jokes, be they in Men About Campus or Ben’s dorm room. But he does suggest that you consider (1) that all Asians are not Chinese and (2) that not all Chinese keep a spare set of chopsticks on their key chains for good luck. Heck, didn’t you ask him for some opium while you were in there, and then the Gipp could call for your suspension? But hey, if you didn’t mean any harm, the Gipp understands that you have a right to explain yourself — so in the same turn, don’t virtually ban Sullivan from speaking to your little backlash committee meeting to get rid of him. Consistency, Szabo, it’s all about consistency.

Don’t Blame the Gipp — He Voted for Valerie Bertinelli

Woe is the Gipp, and woe should you be, for your student body president had trouble with some basic issues a couple weekends ago. No one showed up to dispatch SafeRide, so he reluctantly did it himself. But he went with his own student government survival kit, consisting of gin, tonic and beer. Yep, the elected head of the student body was dispatching vans to pick up drunk kids while getting schnockered himself. When he returned home, he found himself locked out of his apartment. The Gipp doesn’t know if all resourceful presidents don’t have keys to their apartments, but maybe if he stuck to one residence long enough to change his mailing address that wouldn’t be a problem. He did manage to set off his alarm while trying to get in, though, and talked his problems over with the cops who arrived in four cruisers.

The Gipp wonders what’s worse, getting blitzed alone in the office on a Saturday night or locking yourself out of your place when you’re sober?

The Fire Down Below

One Domer almost got a little more than he bargained for at Coach’s the other weekend. He and four of his friends were huddled around a table, having a few drinks, when one of them decided to tell a dirty joke. The punch line, printable only in Hustler, was quite graphic and caught the attention of the guys at the table next to them. One of the guys nudged one of the students and, laughing, said he “had a video of this.” The Domers chuckled until they realized that these guys were indeed fronting pornography of all kinds. The Domers were not too surprised to find the underground pornography business thriving, but were shocked to find that these guys were members of the Notre Dame fire department.

This just goes to show what happens when people on this campus get a little too much time on their hands. Pornography has ensnared students, one former North Quad rector and now firemen. Why must this happen? The Gipp can only guess that since there aren’t any to put out on campus, they have to light their own fires. The Gipp just hopes they use protection.

Thanksgiving is coming up in a few weeks, and the Gipp can’t wait to talk to an entire family that refers to themselves in third person! But remember that winter is here, so dig out those coats, kids, get ready for the cold and look for three-headed snowmen near the radiation building. Ciao! ☹️

Penny Pitcher Problems

The Gipp has vowed never to return to Club Bridget’s at least a dozen times, and a dozen times he has ended up there — though most of these times he hasn’t remembered how. But as most of you with monetary problems know, the most bang for your buck can be found at the Club on Tuesdays. So the Gipp returned to the Club last week. The Gipp had forgotten, however, that penny pitcher nights always seem to lift Bridget’s revelry to a new level of debauchery. Let the Gipp just say that in a world of relaxed sexual mores, a Tuesday night at Bridget’s is to fornication as Flip Side is to enui.

Many members of the football team were in attendance, and boy could they dance! The Gipp was impressed by more than a few bruisers’ edifices of seduction, seeing multiple foggy windows in the Club’s parking lot. On his way out, however, the Gipp noticed that one lineman was having a bit of trouble holding his liquor. The Gipp walked toward him and inquired if everything was all right. He grinned, told the Gipp that he was fine and just might lay there all night, for he had had just a little too much beast that night.

And you didn’t believe that the sign said “Drink like a champion today.”
Someone to Watch Over Me

A fine line exists between rectors and RAs showing concern for hall residents and interfering in their lives

BY DAN MCDONOUGH

A student stumbles home after a night of bar-hopping in South Bend. His speech is slurred, his eyes half-opened and he barely remembers where he lives. He staggers into his dorm lobby and proceeds to get sick in the bathroom. Will he get into trouble? The answer to this question should be obvious, but in reality, the consequences may depend on which dorm he calls home.

From dorm to dorm, the personality of each hall staff varies greatly and so do students’ views of the staff. The truth of the matter is that rectors do not seem to have clearly defined roles for interacting with students. It is up to each rector to decide how to promote the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of students, as well as to lay a groundwork of discipline.

Director of Residence Life Jeffrey Shoup feels the position of a rector is hard to define because it encompasses many roles. “Basically, rectors are spiritual and administrators of the hall,” Shoup says. He defines RAs as an extension of the rector, the front line that connects with students. “The two roles can sometimes be hard for students to see together, but [the administration] sees the pastoral presence as a way to prevent the relationship from being cold.”

Sophomore Patty Froman sees two sides to the hall staff’s purpose. “Some residents need a friend in their RA or rector, while others need them to add structure and discipline,” Froman says. “Some need them for advice or counseling while others only need them to unlock hall storage.”

Many feel that rectors perform their jobs out of a sense of love and caring for the students. Freshman Charlie Ashbrook describes his rector, Brother Scully of Keenan Hall, as “a person who is there if you need to talk.” As a freshman, Ashbrook felt that the hall staff welcomed him into the dorm. “The staff really helped freshmen get adjusted to the system of college and look out for them,” Ashbrook says.

Likewise, RAs think that their primary objective is to act as a friend. “It’s most important to be a listener, friend and role model,” RA Molly Dunn says.

RA Anna Lou Tirol thinks the RA’s role varies. “It depends on the needs of the section,” she says. Tirol thinks some sections need a more nurturing RA while others want more independence.

But a fine line exists between hall staff showing concern for the safety of residents and interfering in their lives. Junior Colleen Bevevino does not understand the purpose of RAs sitting in the lobby, especially when they check IDs during football weekends. “I have no idea why RAs have to crack down on partiers during these weekends more than any others,” she says. “All of a sudden visitors need to produce all sorts of identification. The RAs asked my father for his driver’s license. He pays my tuition, he should be able to get into my room without the third degree.”

Junior Katie Keller agrees that this system seems pointless. “The party scene doesn’t really change during football weekends,” she says. “RAs just check your student ID and watch TV. They don’t end up protecting students from outsiders, it just makes rules that everyone already understands a lot stricter.”

Many students also believe that hall staff can become biased quickly, making it impossible to regain any form of trust or respect with the staff. Senior Tim McConville characterizes his relationship last year with his rector as a poor one. “He definitely seemed to cater to a certain segment of the dorm, giving preferential treatment to jocks,” he says. “If a rector is supposed to be a friend and set an example for others in the dorm, then he failed miserably.”

Many students who have been involved in incidents of violating the rules of residence halls feel that the hall staff targets students who aren’t really doing anything wrong. “After I got busted for getting drunk, my RA would always look at me funny on nights that I would go out,” says one anonymous student. “Meanwhile somebody is staggering down the hall with puke all over himself, but I’m still the bad guy or the drunk. [Hall staff] can’t seem to accept that they are subject to errors of judgement.”

Another difficult aspect of students’ interactions with hall staff is to do with the differing attitudes about enforcing punishments among RAs. While living in Flanner, senior Dave Notarangelo was involved in incidents for which he was never punished, unlike other students in the hall. “I guess it depends on which RA you get,” he says. “Obviously some are more liberal than others.”

Most RAs work against discrepancies in how different sections of the hall are run. “The staff really needs to act as a whole,” Tirol says. “The RAs all have different personalities but we work together.”

Matt Phelan, an RA in Siegfried, agrees. “We’re a team,” he says. “We back each other up.”

But even if RAs act consistently within their dorm, differences exist from dorm to dorm.
dorm, especially those of different genders. "Freshmen especially seem to question the differences [between male and female dorms]," Tirol says. Many students feel that the rules are more strictly enforced in girls' dorms. "This also moves most activity out of the girls' dorms and into the guys' dorms," she says.

The administration does not overlook these differences. "Rectors get together as groups on a regular basis to talk about consistent policies," Shoup says. He feels that the variations between staff roles in male and female dorms arise because of the types of problems each gender experiences. "The [male] RAs talk about dealing with alcohol, intoxication and parties, while the women have to deal with heavier emotional issues and the after-effects of parties," he says. "I don't know which one is worse."

Rectors across campus agree that dealing with disciplinary problems are the most difficult parts of their job. Many rectors want to be involved in the positive aspects of student life, not just the negative ones. Howard's Sue Hinderlider describes her job as a mentor for the women of her dorm. "[I serve] as a role model, a disciplinarian and a companion as young people transition into adulthood," Hinderlider says. "I find the most difficult part of my ministry is meeting with students to discuss their behavior and take appropriate action."

Zahn rector Fr. Jim Lies wants to be more than a policeman for his dorm. "If this position were primarily about policing or prosecuting, I simply would not do it, none of us would," he says. "Disciplinary cases that we confront can be some of the most teachable moments available to us, though. Although nearly always difficult, it is not contrary to our role as rector, but at the very heart of our role as educators."

Lies feels that the role of the hall staff is a positive one, even in terms of discipline. "Ultimately [our role] is to be with our students during the most important years of their young lives, to be of support and encouragement in all the ways that we can," Lies says.

But the specifics of these roles are not clearly defined, which leaves room for miscommunication between hall staff and students, and differences between the application of these rules in each dorm and section.

So when that student stumbles home, it's up to the hall staff on-duty to ultimately determine his fate: easy street or Student Affairs.

In Males We Trust?

Many students believe that a large discrepancy exists between the way hall staff operates in women's dorms as opposed to men's dorms. Scholastic asked a male and female RA to depict a typical night on-duty to look at the real differences:

On an average duty night during the week I try to make myself visible throughout the dorm. It is the best time for people to talk to me because distractions are minimal. While doing rounds, I check for quiet hour violations, but for the most part I just try to see how people are doing. If I'm in my room, my door is always open so guys can come in and out.

On the weekends, I check on parties frequently, making sure the halls are clear and that parties stay in the room. People tend to think they can walk around with open beers in the hall too. On game weekends, I check who comes into the dorm. It can be a little tedious but I get to meet a lot of people.

For the most part, being an RA is time consuming. Time management is key. I feel that anytime I'm in the dorm I should be available, even if I'm not on duty. The biggest problem I've found is trying to help those who don't drink find things to do.

— Ernie Villalobos, Zahn Hall

All on-duty nights start at exactly 7 p.m. I have to be in the dorm from this point until the next morning. I lock the front door, grab the keys and display my name on the board so people know who to bother. Then I begin the first round, checking all the stairwells and hallways every hour and a half from then on. People will come and ask for help with access to storage and movies. These nights are a great time to see people in the section and meet other Lewisites.

After ten-minute warnings for partietals, I sit in the lobby with a duty book, writing about the events of the evening and checking to make sure all boys are only in the 24-hour social space. On busy nights I end up staying up a while past partietals if people are sick or they come back from parties and need to talk with someone. There is also a security guard on duty who does final rounds after I have finished. She will call me if anything is wrong, but she acts only as back-up.

— Katie Pylak, Lewis Hall

NOVEMBER 13, 1997
Perspectives. There aren't too many of them on our small Midwestern campus. With its carefully manicured quads and its equally well-kept Catholic intellectual mission, Notre Dame presents a somewhat flat world view. But through international study programs students can discover the many dimensions that make up the thought landscape of our world — not just our university. All the while, students abroad figure out what to think of the rest of the world, and discover what the rest of the world thinks of them. They find there are more great landscapes than can be seen from a dormitory window, and more great ideas than can be housed in Hesburgh Library.
BY KATIE WILD

There are few disadvantages to studying in another country. Not only do students get to see new places, eat somewhere other than South Dining Hall and live even farther away from their parents than usual, but the drinking age is lower and bars stay open later. It’s a dream come true for Notre Dame students but for many, the dream, at times, became a nightmare.

For senior Colleen Phillips, trouble began before she even left the airport. Her matching green luggage set was missing in Rome. “Everyone else grabbed their [bags at the airport] right away,” she says. Phillips was worried because the suitcase contained everything she would need for the semester. “It was my most important stuff,” she says. For four days she was forced to wear the clothes of her fellow students until her suitcase arrived at the hotel.

Junior Jim Arkedis discovered the horrors of traveling abroad when he and a group of friends were leaving Venice for home in Angers, France. They had planned to leave Italy late Saturday night, but when they arrived at the train station they found a mad house. “It was totally insane,” Arkedis says. “The station was packed with people because of Carnivale weekend and then we heard rumors about a 24-hour train strike.”

The group did manage to catch a train out of the country even though they did not have tickets, but not without problems. “The conductor realized we didn’t have reservations, tickets or even enough money to buy them. He wanted us to get off the train at the next stop, leaving us stuck in Italy until the strike ended,” he says. Although Arkedis pleaded with the conductor, he refused to let them stay on the train. Arkedis remembers him saying, “I’m sorry, I’m not the president of the Republic of Italy, I can’t let you stay on the train.” Eventually the group was able to remain on the train due to a change in the conductor crew, but as Arkedis says, “There was high tension for a while.”

Arkedis and his friends were not the only ones to have troubles with trains. Senior Karin Ayer, who studied in London last year, chased a train during Oktoberfest. “We were singing with these Germans,” she says. “After a few beers we left, and then we remembered that we had no hotel room.” Ayer decided to catch a train and return to London, but she had to find the train station first. “We just assumed that the city we were in was identical to London, so we started walking in the direction [where] we thought the train was.”

Ayer asked for directions several times but most people were unable to help because it was Oktoberfest. Completely lost, Ayer and her friend finally decided to listen for the train and search for the tracks, hoping they would lead to the train station. The pair did make it back to London safely but not without a lesson in planning and geography.

Finding the way around a new place can be challenging, often leaving students in strange places at odd hours. Senior Katie Leary and her friends got lost looking for a specific restaurant in London one night. “We saw a British guy who had been talking to his friends, so I went up to him and asked if he knew where it was,” she says. But the man was surprised and angry that Americans would ask him for directions. “He said that he had laryngitis and that he was only going to tell us the directions one time,” she says.

Senior Mark Hagenbarth, who studied in Innsbruck, Austria, last year, found out the hard way that bars abroad are somewhat different from Bridget’s and the ‘Backer. “When my friend and I arrived at the club I noticed that the lobby was filled with old German men,” Hagenbarth says. “I was hanging out on the dance floor when this guy grabbed my butt and asked me ‘how much do you cost?’” Hagenbarth was shocked. “I told him I cost more than he could afford,” he says.

Adjusting to a new culture, a new school and a new home can be a frightening experience. Without the bumps along the road, time abroad would hardly be a character building experience. Most do survive and eventually look back fondly on their horror stories. “We had a great time,” Phillips says. “I even loved the scary parts.”

Students can read all the guide books in the world before going abroad and they’ll point out the great restaurants, sites and the best hotels in each city. But students also need to be prepared to experience the ups and downs of life abroad.

Somebody always forgets to mention them in the guide.
By Patrick Downes

Hamas guerrillas taking potshots at trains in Egypt. Much-frequented bus stops going up in flames. IRA bomb threats halting traffic for a day. While these incidents might seem a far cry from a mundane day in South Bend, where NDH's beef turnover is the greatest daily threat, such experiences are not uncommon for Notre Dame students in international programs.

Notre Dame students abroad are generally well-prepared for the potential of political violence, and often the threat of terrorism seems more immediate than it actually is. But that does not mean students in foreign countries are entirely isolated from such incidents.

Students who have spent time in the Middle East and British Isles, among other places, are quick to point out that they were never in any real danger, but they do admit that the dangers of the real world were not far away. "Where we lived was safe," says senior Maciej Mrugala, who visited in the fall of 1996. "Going downtown, there were people walking with machine guns."

Mrugala, for one, can attest to the program's proximity to violence. During the last Israeli elections, in which conservative hard-liner Benjamin Netanyahu defeated the incumbent Shimon Peres, there were four bus-bombings in Jerusalem. About a week after the first bombing, Mrugala remembers thinking, "That was terrible last week, I'm glad it will never happen again."

Unfortunately, it did happen again, and Mrugala has been standing on the very site of the explosion just 24 hours before the second bus went up in flames.

The situation in Jerusalem flared up again last spring when construction on a new Jewish neighborhood, Har Homa, was begun on Jerusalem's east end — near the occupied West Bank. The building project was the latest incident to provoke violence between Israelis and Palestinians. "The place they were building the settlement was right across the street from us. Notre Dame students had been hiking on it," Rose recalls.

Of course, Jerusalem is not the only potentially dangerous city where Notre Dame students find themselves. During his senior year, in Cairo, senior Lucas Livingston had to arrange his travel plans around militant Islamic fundamentalist activity in Middle Egypt. "There were sniper attacks shooting up the trains that went through the regions," he says. Livingston decided that flying back to Cairo from the south of Egypt would be a better idea than taking the train.

Senior Amanda Groner, who spent this past summer in Cairo, was particularly affected when terrorists intent on embarrassing the government shot and killed a group of Germans touring by bus soon after she returned to the U.S. The shooting occurred across the street from the building where Groner's classes were held. "It didn't scare me for my personal safety, but it made me feel sorry," she says.

While it might not seem that London is such a hotbed of violent political activity, Notre Dame students studying in England found that ferment was not absent from the city. "You don't realize until you get over there what a constant threat it is," says senior Maureen Lane, who spent the spring semester in London.

IRA bomb threats on London's underground railway system, known as the Tube, caused more than one student to be late for class. And for Lane, similar threats impacted her traveling plans. "One time I decided to travel up to the Lake District, in the northern part of England," she says. During her trip the British railway system was shut down when several bomb threats were received. Lane ended up spending most of her day stranded in the middle of
England.

With all these incidents, students might be expected to have had second thoughts about going abroad. Not so. “I wasn’t really apprehensive at all,” Rose says, “but that was foolish on my part.”

Dr. Claudia Kselman, associate director of International Study Programs, who has herself been to Jerusalem, agrees. “I felt perfectly safe, but maybe that was an illusion.”

But Groner saw nothing foolhardy about her stay in Egypt. “I knew it could potentially be dangerous there, but it could potentially be dangerous anywhere,” she says.

Whether safety was illusory or not, students’ families seemed to be the most worried. “My mother was constantly worried until I left the country [Egypt],” Livingston says.

Steinbeiser concurs, “Both parents were concerned, of course. What they saw on the news was their impression of the region.”

And the media’s aggressive reporting of the issues seems to have contributed to familial fears. “When they shut down sections of the Tube to bring in police dogs, my parents saw it on CNN. I got a call,” says senior Sarah Soja, who spent a semester in London.

Mrugala agrees that news programs didn’t help to ease the tension. “CNN scared us more than the situation,” he says.

But according to those who run the programs, students needn’t be so scared. “Statistically speaking, it’s safer to be there [Cairo] than to be in New York City or Detroit,” says Professor Muhammed Gad El-Hak, who helps to organize the trips to Egypt.

“We’re concerned about safety in all of our areas, and we monitor it quite carefully,” Kselman assures. Citing occasions such as the Gulf War crisis, she adds, “There have been times in the past when we’ve felt we had to cancel the programs.”

During the spring 1996 semester the Jerusalem program was cut short when the university decided that violence surrounding the election campaign was becoming too great.

In addition, countries where terrorism is more of a threat tend to be more security-conscious. Anastasia Gutting, director of the London Program, thinks that is certainly the case in England. “People in the U.S. don’t realize how well-prepared the British are to cope with terrorist threats. Trash receptacles, for example, are removed from London streets; there aren’t places to hide a package,” she says.

Lane adds, “If somebody left a bag behind on the train they automatically shut down the underground.”

Gutting assures that potential crises are monitored by those in charge of the Notre Dame programs as well. “Whenever there are terrorist activities, we maintain contact with both the American Consul and British police authorities to receive on-going professional advice,” she says.

Most students are also prepared through some sort of orientation prior to their departure. “During our orientation program in London, our hall directors discuss safety issues with the students,” says Gutting, who notes that a London police officer also gives a talk about safety in the city to the students during the orientation.

Rose recalls her orientation before her trip to Jerusalem: “They told us things like: ‘avoid political protests,’ ‘avoid crowded bus stops on politically tense days,’ and basically to pay attention.”

Common sense is generally the guiding rule. “You just have to be smart,” Groner says.

Lane adds, “Just try and stay away from the conflict and you’ll be fine.”

In London, students are warned to avoid clothing with the Fighting Irish logo. The logo could lead Londoners to wrongly associate students as IRA sympathizers. “The university warned us about it. They warned us up and down not to wear anything with the Fighting Irish logo,” Lane says.

Sometimes these messages were forgotten, however. Lane remembers one latenight trip on the Tube following a play when an exhausted student tried to start up the Notre Dame Victory March by calling for the “Irish fight song.” “A lot of people in the station looked at [her] and backed away,” says Lane.

But even with all these dangers and many necessary precautions, the consensus is that the trips were worthwhile. “It changes your life,” Steinbeiser says, “and not necessarily because you’re going to be physically injured.”

“My attitude is that you can’t let fear take over,” says Lane, who emphasizes that none of her experiences were threatening.

And, despite the danger, most students would go back. “I would go there in a heartbeat,” Groner says.
The opportunity to study abroad is open to everyone, but the experience is not without pre-requisites

BY JENNIFER CAMPBELL

Looking back upon his four years as a student at Notre Dame, Maciej Mrugala’s most enjoyable experience was ironically time spent away from the university during his semesters in Jerusalem and London.

"Notre Dame is a great university," Mrugala says. "But when you study abroad, you learn by going out, by traveling and by meeting new and interesting people. I have learned so many things from my studies abroad that I never would have remembered if I had only read about them in books."

Since the first international program was started in Innsbrook, Austria, in 1964, thousands of students have experienced their own version of Mrugala’s story. And while the semester abroad programs have gained the reputation of being the highlight of the Notre Dame experience, getting to Austria or Spain or anywhere else takes a little more preparation.

The increased popularity of an international semester or year abroad has resulted in the creation of 13 different international location options at Notre Dame and four at Saint Mary’s. With the number of applications received for each semester, however, competition has increased.

Last year, excluding the London Program, 233 Notre Dame students traveled abroad either for one semester or for the year. This year 192 students applied for a fall semester abroad and 118 were accepted. One hundred and seventy one applications have already been received for the spring semester but decisions have yet to be made.

The London Program, which operates a separate application and admission process than the International Study Program, is generally regarded as the most difficult program to gain admission to. Since 1981, over 2,000 juniors have spent a semester studying and living in London. While juniors can apply for both the fall and spring semesters, the spring semester is far more competitive for students who do not want to miss football season.

"The competitiveness to get accepted varies by program each year," says Claudia Kselman, associate director of the International Study Program. "Next year, for example, we are planning to send 70 students to Dublin, Ireland. If we get twice as many applicants, the program becomes more selective, and a student’s GPA, interview and application would become more important."

The International Study Program office accepts students based upon both an application and a subjective interview. The application includes a general information portion, a questionnaire that focuses upon a student’s interests, three letters of recommendation, an essay in which the applicant explains why he or she is interested in studying abroad and a parental consent form.

Despite the seeming rigidity of the application, the decision-making process is much more flexible once the interview is incorporated into the equation. "In assessing the competitiveness of each applicant we take a look at the freshman year transcript," says Juliet Mayinja, associate director of the International Study Program. "While applicants need a minimum GPA of 2.5 in order to step on the plane, many students may have had a poor first semester and then brought their grades up. We need to know this in the interview." Mayinja explains that interviewers often ask applicants what their
The opportunity to study abroad is open to students at the University of Notre Dame and the opportunities that await her if she studies abroad next year. In the creation of 13 different international programs, we are planning to send location options at Notre Dame and four at Saint Mary's. With the number of applicants, the program becomes more selective.

If I had only read about them in Mrugala's most enjoyable experience, getting to Austria, I would have missed football season. While juniors can apply for both the fall and spring semesters, the spring semester is far more competitive for students who do not want to miss football season.

Mrugala's most enjoyable experience of her semester abroad programs was being the highlight of the most difficult program to gain admission to. Since the first international program was started in Innsbrook, Austria, in 1964, the reputation of being the highlight of the most difficult program to gain admission to has increased. Since 1981, over 2,000 students have already been received for the spring semester abroad and 118 were accepted. One hundred and seventy one applications have been received for the spring semester, the spring semester is far more competitive than the International Program. The London Program, which accepts students based upon both an application and a subjective interview, the decision-making process is much more flexible once the interview is incorporated into the equation; while the university during his semesters in Jerusalem operated a separate application and recommendation, an essay is required to apply for a year-long experience.

While most students study abroad during the second-semester of sophomore year or sometime during junior year, it is never too soon to prepare. Deciding which country to travel to is usually the easiest part of applying. More difficult is making sure that the semester abroad program complements rather than complicates a student's academic requirements toward graduation.

"I can't give a blanket description of how to plan for traveling abroad," Kselman says. "Some, like the Dublin program, focus on students pursuing work that is major-specific. Other programs are designed for students looking to study only general requirements."

Although a student's primary focus while abroad is still academics, the new setting and culture allow for an equal amount of learning outside the classroom. "I remember traveling to a town called Broome," says Pete Blake, a senior who spent a semester in Fremantle, Australia. "We went to what was called one of the nicest beaches in the world and then saw the Australian outback region and lived with true Aboriginal people for a weekend. The experience was so great I can't even put it into words."

Many majors are encouraged and some, like the architecture majors, are required to travel abroad. But regardless of whether a student's major encourages a study abroad program, one way to beat the competition is to apply for a year-long experience. "If a student applied to the Toledo, Spain program for the year, he or she would most likely get accepted," Kselman says. "For the semester in Toledo however, we had 30 applications, which is nearly three times as much as we typically take."

The university does not offer study programs in all areas of the world. If a student wants to study in a country where there is no Notre Dame or Saint Mary's program, hundreds of other American programs are available through other colleges and universities. Students with sound academic reasons for participating in other programs can apply for a temporary leave of absence from the school to participate in alternate programs.

"Definitely leave and go abroad," Kselman says. "Do whatever it takes to get there. The experience will open your mind more than you will ever imagine. Students come back as changed people, more worldly and definitely more intelligent."

While not all students make the study abroad program part of their college experience, those who do will never forget it. "A lot of people think about going abroad but don't act on it," Mrugala says. "Going abroad anywhere is better than not having the experience. You will never be in the same environment again."

THINK IT THROUGH. Chiara Kruse considers both the challenges and the opportunities that await her if she studies abroad next year.
What would life be like without football? “Football” would be a good alternative

By Brian Lucas

Thank God it’s Sunday. After a long, hard week of schoolwork, all you want to do is sit back, relax and watch some football. You check the newspaper TV listings and sure enough, under the 1 p.m. listing, there it is: “Football.” You tune in to the desired channel and to your utter amazement, up pop slide tackles instead of body-crunching tackles. That’s right, it’s soccer. Where are the Colts and Bears you look forward to watching every Sunday? Unfortunately (or fortunately, considering the combined 1-15 record of the locals), you’re not in South Bend anymore. Welcome to England, where football (soccer?) is king.

For people studying abroad, gone are the American stalwarts of baseball, basketball and football (American style). In their place are football (soccer), football (the Australian variety) and cricket. Some of the sports, such as soccer and Australian Rules football (for anyone watching ESPN at 4 a.m. on Sundays), are familiar to travelers. Others, however, take some getting used to. “Some of the big sports were not what you would think, like snooker,” says senior James Gilmartin, who spent a semester in England. Snooker is a variety of pool that is played with colored billiard balls of different point value. The players must alternate between sinking red balls and other colors. The player who sinks balls with the highest combination of points wins.

Another sport unfamiliar to many Americans that draws a lot of attention overseas is cricket. “It’s got a lot of minor rules that are tough to grasp, but so do most of our sports,” says senior Mike Hudes, who lived in England during his high school years. “It’s a little like baseball, but the games are longer, if you can imagine that.”

While the actual sports may be different, the fans’ attitudes toward them are not. Soccer games in Europe are almost always sold out, no matter if it’s a battle for first place or a match to decide who stays in the Premier League. Oftentimes there are injuries — and in a few instances, deaths — in the crowd due to excessive celebrations in the stands after goals. But this threat dissuades few fans from attending the games.

“There is probably more passion in soccer in England than in most American sports,” says senior Brian Norton, who spent a semester in England.

That passion often turns into pride when natives are asked to compare their sports with the American equivalents. “Australians always thought that their football players were better than the NFL players, but there was no way these players could play in the NFL,” says senior Brian Lamb, who spent a semester in Australia.

Part of that pride stems from the inherent toughness involved in many of these non-American sports. Rugby and Australian Rules football are basically glorified games of “kill the carrier” in which almost anything goes. While American football players are heavily padded from head to toe, their counterparts in England and Australia battle without protection. “The rugby league was pretty brutal,” Gilmartin says. “It was kind of like old school football.”

Despite the many differences, some American traditions have seeped into the foreign sports culture. People around the world can be seen wearing New York Yankees hats, even if they haven’t heard of Babe Ruth. The NBA enjoys increasing popularity overseas — especially some guy named Jordan. More and more, foreign fans are also imitating the behavior of the fans they see in the States. “I went to see the Fremantle Dockers [an Australian Rules football team] play,” says senior Jeanine Velasquez, who spent a semester in Australia. “We all painted our faces and even had a tailgater.”

Now all you have to do is replace the Fosters with some good old American beer — preferably Natty Light — and close your eyes. Ahh, just like home.

Danny Easley contributed to this article.

NOVEMBER 13, 1997
Wherever Notre Dame students abroad go...

Funspotting

Entertainment isn’t far behind

BY JEREMY SLATER

The dilemma of the Notre Dame student: what to choose from the different entertainment offerings on a given weekend. Some students turn down all-night clubbing because they already have tickets to Phantom. Others figure out how to fit a trip to the Moulin Rouge and the Spice Girls concert in the same night. In case you haven’t already figured it out, these aren’t the normal Notre Dame social catch-22s. But for students studying abroad, it’s all in a day’s “work.” Students studying abroad have no difficulty finding imaginative and interesting ways to have fun.

A popular activity on the other side of the Atlantic, particularly in England and Ireland, is visiting pubs, the European counterpart to the American bar scene. Pubs are not only a place to find dinner and drinks, but also a social gathering spot where people share stories and songs. One unique aspect in Irish pubs is the Caille, where everyone in the pub takes a turn singing or playing a musical instrument. “Pubs are the absolutely essential thing overseas,” says senior Mary Statz, who studied in Ireland. “It’s how their entire culture is transmitted. It’s not just drinking.”

Those who took part in European programs found dance clubs to be one of the most exciting parts of the nightlife. Junior Courtney Keck says that the popular fad in Rome is ’70s-style disco clubs. The most popular of which was The Alien, where American women tend to get in for free. Senior Sarah Soja notes that the Hipodrome and Equinox are two popular clubs in London. She adds that the most interesting club in London has to be the Ministry of Sound, with its progressive techno music and unusual clientele. “Once a girl got us in for half-off the normal $30 price, and, once we got in, we saw that people weren’t dressed right,” Soja says. “Lots of girls didn’t have tops on, and the mesh-clothes-and-facepaint look was definitely in.”

As for live musical performances, European cities put Notre Dame’s concert scene to shame. When was the last time Sting, U2, Pearl Jam, Phish, Garth Brooks or Oasis came to the area? The students studying in London had the opportunity to see a variety of concerts, no matter what their musical preferences. Soja not only got to see her favorite band, J Church, play live twice in London, she also got to meet the band. “I was thrilled,” Soja says. “At the end of the show they came back and dedicated my favorite song to me. That was the highlight of my trip.”

Abroad students needn’t worry if their tastes run more toward movie theaters and McDonald’s. American entertainment is easy to come by overseas — for a price. Senior Kristi Roberts, who studied in Angers, France, says that Europe has almost everything America does, it’s all just a little more expensive. “Value meals at McDonald’s were around $7.50, and two large pizzas cost $35 dollars,” she says. “We had American movie theaters too, but they got all of their movies several months late. We all went to see Star Wars on opening night about three months after it came out in America.”

Still, students abroad did miss some American entertainment. “I missed getting to watch Notre Dame football games live,” says junior Sarah Shirey, who studied in Austria last year. “We would get the games on television, but because of the time difference they wouldn’t start until two in the morning.”

Junior Karen Housler, who studied in Angers, agrees. “Sometimes it was a little frustrating,” she says. She recalls Super Bowl Sunday when they looked all over town for a venue showing the game. They didn’t find a bar that had the game until about 5 a.m.

Still, everyone agrees that the positive aspects far outweigh the negative. “Everyone had fun just hanging out by the lake, playing CDs, partying with my friends, that kind of thing,” Housler says. “London had so much to offer,” Soja agrees. “There were always big name concerts, and there were also a lot of pubs on the outskirts of town where they had shows with smaller punk bands. It wasn’t hard to find ways to pass the time.”

Photos by Kristin Alworth

November 13, 1997
BY BRIAN LUCAS

In the mid-'80s, the Big East was the premier conference in the country, boasting superstars like Chris Mullin, Patrick Ewing and Derrick Coleman. In 1985, the league put three teams — St. John's, Georgetown and Providence — into the Final Four with St. John's and the Hoyas facing off in the championship game.

More than 10 years later, the league's strength has diminished, as has its place among the elite conferences. Conferences such as the ACC, SEC and the Pac-Ten now consistently place more teams in the top 10 than the Big East. In the latest polls, those three conferences have combined for seven of the top 10 teams. The Big East, on the other hand, placed only one team in the top 25: Connecticut which is 12th in the AP and 13th in the ESPN/USA Today poll.

"It wasn't that long ago that the Big East had a number of ranked teams," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said. "The league lost some talent to the pros, maybe more talent than any other league in the country. How do you replace a Ray Allen, an Allen Iverson, a (Kerry) Kittles? This is going to be a young league with some developing stars."

While this may not be good news for the conference as a whole, Notre Dame, in only their third year of Big East play, isn't pressed to win this year after losing point guard Alvin Williams, and averaging 9.6 points a game.

For probably the first time in history, the students at Miami must actually be looking forward to the beginning of basketball season. Not only is the football team struggling mightily, but the Hurricanes hoopers also have a Player of the Year candidate in Tim James. James, a 6'7" junior forward, averaged 14 points and 6.8 rebounds last year. The Canes also return 5'9" point guard Kevin Norris and forward Mario Bland.

Miami held opponents to merely 38 percent of their shots, and led the nation in fewest points scored per game last year after finishing just .500 in the conference and 19-13 overall. While the Orange-men lost their leading scorer, Otis Hill, to graduation, they return senior forward Todd Burgan and sophomore point guard Jason Hart. Burgan, a preseason second team all-conference selection who averaged 15.1 points a game last season, should be the go-to guy.

Two years after losing to Kentucky in the NCAA championship game, Syracuse wasn't even invited to the Big Dance last year after finishing just 19-13. The Orangemen will also lose their 6'8" forward, Isaac Hawkins, to the Panther taller than 6'3" though.

With the graduation of Matt Gotsch and leading scorer from a year ago, Pat Garrity, Notre Dame will go only as far as senior forward Derek Coleman can carry them. The senior forward is the first team all-conference selection, and averaged 14 points last season. Freshman Ron Artest, a 6'7" forward, came off the bench for either junior Boubacar Aw or senior Jahidi White to step up.

Three of last season's five starters return for Pittsburgh, including leading scorer Vonteego Cummings. The junior guard averaged 16.3 points a game last year and was a preseason first team all-conference selection. His backcourt mate, point guard Kelli Taylor, ranked second nationally with 101 steals and averaged 9.6 points a game. 6'8" forward Isaac Hawkins is the only returning Panther taller than 6'3". Though.

No one is sure this year. The Huskies are still waiting for him to live up to these expectations. Senior forward Derek Coleman, a preseason first team all-conference selection, was named preseason first team all-conference in the latest poll. He and Sanders combined to once again lead the attack.

After a trip to the NIT Final Four last year, Providence coach Pete Gillen had to face a harsh reality. His top two scorers, forwards Austin Croshere and Derrick Brown, graduated, and point guard God Shammgod opted for the NBA draft. The Friars do return junior Jamal Thomas, a second team preseason all-conference selection who averaged 14 points last season. 5'8" point guard Corey Wright is the next highest returning scorer at 3.3 points a game.

While Rutgers has all five starters returning from last year, one thing is different:
the Big East was the premier conference in the country, boasting superstars like Chris Mullin, Ewing and Derrick Coleman. In 1985, the league put three teams — Villanova, Providence and 6. Boston College — into the Final Four with the ACC, Pac-Ten and the Big East. In only the year after finishing last in the Big East, Villanova has won more than 20 games in four consecutive seasons but will be hard pressed to reach that figure this year. They return only one starter, junior guard John Celestand, from last year’s conference champion. After losing point guard Alvin Williams, forward Tim Thomas and center Jason Lawson to the NBA, the ’Cats have some major holes to fill.

First they lost their leading scorer to graduation, then their coach left for Ohio State and took their star point guard with him. For Boston College, a team that lost to St. Joseph’s in the second round of the NCAA tournament last year, serious rebuilding is in order. New coach Al Skinner does return an experienced backcourt, with seniors Duane Woodard and Antonio Granger both averaging in double figures last season. With the departure of Danya Abrams, senior Mickey Curley must pick up the scoring slack in the paint.

BIG EAST 6

After a trip to the NIT Final Four last season, Connecticut is looking for bigger and better things this year. The Huskies struggled to a 15-14 regular season record last year after opening the season 11-3. Coach Jim Calhoun returns his two top scorers from a year ago, sophomore Richard Hamilton and junior Rashamel Jones. Also returning is junior point guard Ricky Moore, who combines with Hamilton to give the UConn one of the best young backcourts in the country.

Felipe Lopez is the Ron Powlus of the Big East. The senior guard came to St. John’s amidst comparisons to Michael Jordan after gracing the cover of Sports Illustrated before playing a single college game. After three solid but unspectacular seasons, fans are still waiting for him to live up to these expectations. This could be the year. With fellow senior Zendon Hamilton, a preseason first team all-conference selection, anchoring the middle, the Red Storm hope to make it back to post-season play after missing out last year. Freshman Ron Artest, a 6'7'' guard from nearby Manhattan, should provide the Johnnies with another solid scorer.

Coming off a 21-10 season and a trip to
Junior Lindsay Treadwell's intensity and desire give the Notre Dame volleyball team an edge

BY JERRY BARCA

To be involved in college athletics, one has to possess great athletic ability. But in order to excel in college athletics, one needs to combine this athletic prowess with certain intangibles including intensity, leadership and determination. To find these qualities at Notre Dame, one need only look to volleyball player Lindsay Treadwell. “Here’s a kid who will never back away from a challenge,” Notre Dame head volleyball coach Debbie Brown says.

Treadwell, now a junior, came to Notre Dame in 1995 and made an immediate impact on Brown’s squad. “As a 5’10” middle blocker, I didn’t really expect to play my freshman year,” Treadwell says. “I thought maybe by my junior year.”

Far from sitting on the bench, Treadwell secured a place for herself in the Notre Dame record books during her first season. She posted a .367 hitting percentage, which ranks as the second-best hitting percentage for a single season. As her career has progressed, Treadwell’s success on the floor has continued. In 1996, she was named Big East Tournament MVP and is currently the all-time leader in hitting percentage with a career average of .293.

These accomplishments are largely the result of the determination of a young girl who originally had trouble with volleyball. Treadwell’s career started in seventh grade in Austin, Texas. “My mom got me into volleyball and I was the worst player on the team,” Treadwell says.

Coming from a very athletic family, Treadwell worked to find her niche. “In a way, she chose volleyball by default,” says Treadwell’s mother, Peg. “She had three older sisters who were good at sports and she wanted to do something different.”

Treadwell would persevere and become a dominant player on the volleyball court. She recovered from a lackluster seventh grade season to achieve athletic glory in volleyball. She was a Fab-50 selection by Volleyball Magazine as a senior at Austin High School and was also named first-team all-district.

Treadwell credits her success to the support of her family, especially her parents. “My family is very important to me,” Treadwell says. “The person I am today is due to the love and support of my family.”

On the court, Treadwell is known for her fierce competitiveness. “Lindsay brings a lot to the team, especially her fiery, competitive attitude,” Brown says. “She thrives on competition and she always rises to the occasion.”

Treadwell appreciates the praise for her style of play but credits her intensity on the court to a few role models. “My mom, she was never an athlete, but she is one of those people watching in the seats that really gets into the game,” Treadwell says. “She’ll move around in her seat and try to will the ball. She is so competitive.”

Treadwell’s father, John, was an All-American football player for the University of Texas. Like his wife, he has had a strong influence on the accomplishments of his daughter. “My dad always told me never to get down,” Treadwell says. “He said to always have your game face on.”

Treadwell’s competitive attitude and spirit is fashioned after her father’s athletic demeanor. “Of course her father was an athlete and his competitiveness was a deep, burning desire to be the best,” Peg Treadwell says.

As much as Lindsay emphasizes her par-
ents' contributions to her achievements, they believe their daughter is responsible for her own success. "She has done an awful lot of it on her own," Peg Treadwell says. "She really does deserve the credit."

This independence was present in Treadwell's high school career. As a teenager, she worked several jobs — lots of baby-sitting office work — in order to pay for her participation on her club team. That type of determination shows in Treadwell's accomplishments in the classroom as well. The American Studies major has a 3.23 cumulative grade point average and was a member of the Dean's List both semesters her sophomore year.

On the court, Treadwell often encourages her teammates. In a match earlier this season, the Irish were struggling against rival Illinois State. After winning the first game, the Irish dropped the next two. Between games, Treadwell could be heard chattering from the huddle, trying to get her teammates to regain their focus. She stepped onto the court and almost single-handedly led the Irish to a victory in game four, accounting for nine of Notre Dame's 23 kills and committing only two errors on 17 attempts. Notre Dame also went on to win game five and the match. "I had one of my teammates come up to me afterwards and say 'Thanks for bringing us through that,'" Treadwell says. "When things like that happen, it makes you feel good."

Treadwell's ability is displayed every time the volleyball team takes the court. Before each match, the Irish come together for a team meeting, during which Treadwell takes a few minutes to get focused. The center of these thoughts is her family. "In the team meetings, we have a few minutes to visualize about things," she says. "That is when I sit back and think about my family. I think about each of their game faces."

After the meeting, the Irish take the floor. That's when Treadwell puts on her game face and turns on the intensity that has so often led the Irish to victory.
Men’s Soccer • 1997 Record 10-8-2

Streaking: Before their regular season-ending victory against Boston College, the Irish had lost six of their last eight games. Last year they lost four of their last five games before a successful post-season run.

Prime Time Performer: Sophomore defender Alan Woods made a crucial save in the first half against Seton Hall as the Irish went on to shut out the Pirates 2-0.

Did You Know? Notre Dame’s 2-0 victory over Seton Hall marks their eighth shut out of the season.

On The Horizon: The Irish will be in Storrs, Conn., taking on St. John’s in the Big East semi-finals.

Women’s Volleyball • 1997 Record 19-6

Streaking: The Irish won their third straight Big East regular season crown.

Prime Time Performer: Senior captain Jaimie Lee continues to impress as she posted 21 kills in 37 attempts against Pittsburgh. With her solid play, Lee could capture her second consecutive Big East Player of the Year Award.

Did You Know? The Irish’s .271 hitting percentage, if continued, would equal the school record set in 1995.

On The Horizon: Notre Dame closes out its regular season with a trip to the great state of New Jersey as they take on Seton Hall and Rutgers.

You Think So?

“We kind of miscalculated a little bit. We shouldn’t have taken a knee quite so fast.” Offensive coordinator Jim Colletto on Notre Dame’s clock management at the end of the Navy game.

Fats’ Forecast

Pat Garrity once again has his way in the Big East, becoming the first player since Patrick Ewing in 1984 and 1985 to capture back-to-back Player of the Year honors. The senior all-American candidate heads Scholastic’s all-conference team which also includes Seton Hall guard Shaheen Holloway, Syracuse’s Todd Burgan, forward Richard Hamilton from UConn and St. John’s center Zendon Hamilton.

P.S. Congratulations are in order for the O’Neill men’s interhall soccer team who won their second consecutive championship, defeating Keough 3-1 last Monday night. Way to go Angry Mob!
Compleating His Training

Senior Mark Seamon is the first student ever to direct a Mainstage play

BY AARON J. NOLAN

A form paces among the shadows in front of a lit stage. The actors on the stage, running through a rehearsal, are momentarily interrupted by the figure, now identified as the director. "Try that again, but this time cut down on the corny jokes," he says. By now it is obvious that the director is not Reginald Bain, Mark Pilkington, Jr. David Garrick or any of the other usual faculty directors of the plays of the annual Mainstage Season. This director is a student.

For the first time in recent history, a Notre Dame student, senior Mark Seamon, has been granted the reigns of the season's second play, The Compleat Works of Wilm Shkspr (abridged). The play condenses the Bard's 36 plays into a two-hour comedy piece — a difficult undertaking for anyone, much less someone with a full coursework load to boot.

This is hardly Seamon's first position in the Mainstage crew. He began in his sophomore year as an assistant stage manager for The Imaginary Invalid, directed by Garrick, and Six Degrees of Separation, directed by Bain, whom Seamon cites as his theatrical mentor. "Dr. Bain has always deeply influenced my directing style," he says. Compleat Works is Seamon's fourth production as a crew member.

Through all of his hard work, including a number of directing projects, the possibility was there for Seamon to direct a Mainstage play. He first expressed his interest in directing to Bain during his sophomore year. It was ultimately the Communications and Theater Department's decision to accept a student as the director of one of the season's productions. "We [in the Theater Department] think very highly of Mark, or we wouldn't have had him do this," Bain says. "He's very committed, and his desire to learn more about directing made him a good choice to direct a Mainstage play."

Seamon is thrilled that he was considered for the job, and credits it to the department's willingness to give students these types of opportunities. "One of the best things about Notre Dame theater is that they believe that the best way to learn about theater is to do theater," Seamon says. "They mean that in all aspects: in acting, in design, in crew work and a number of other things ... and now in directing."

Getting the directing position was just the first step. Balancing his roles in the theater and the classroom, which is always a problem for students involved in theater, was next. Directing a play is a full-time job in its own right, so fitting in classwork has been a challenge — but one that Seamon has been willing to accept. "Any student who has been involved in a Mainstage production knows that it is extremely time consuming," he says. "But we know that going into it, and we wouldn't do it if we didn't love it."

He tries to keep things in perspective, though. "I'm not the only one working his [but] off," he says. "Everyone, the cast, the stage managers and the rest, is extraordinarily dedicated. We're all in it together and have been from day one."

Working as a student director among student actors is a new experience for almost everyone involved in the production. "Because I'm 21 years old, and I'm working with 20 and 21-year-olds as well, it's a different kind of rehearsal process and atmosphere than a lot of us are used to," Seamon says. "But the level of professionalism and commitment from everyone has equaled, if not surpassed, any kind of Mainstage production that Notre Dame has done."

For the most part, Seamon thinks that his roles as both director and peer to the cast has been beneficial to the play, especially considering the light-heartedness of the material. "It has a lot of young life to it. We tend to breathe our own breath into it," he says.

Regarding the fact that this is the single largest directorial undertaking to his credit, Seamon claims that directing Compleat Works has been both easier and more difficult than he expected. "I've had the chance to work with student actors before, so that hasn't changed," he says. "But I haven't had the chance to work with faculty designers and the kind of process that they're used to, so it was a bit different for me in that sense."

All told, Seamon believes the work that he and the others have put into the production is worth it. "The whole company has worked long and hard, and the hours are crazy," he says. "It's fun, and it's frustrating, but we've done solid work. We're all excited to finally share it with an audience."
Finding films that remind you of Notre Dame is like finding humor in a Jenny McCarthy sitcom: there isn’t any, and you’ll drive yourself bonkers putting forth the effort to find it. Actually, finding a video that accurately portrays any facet of college life is only slightly less futile. Nowadays, every reel filmed on a campus either belongs in a nauseatingly warm and fuzzy comedy featuring a too-attractive cast (With Honors), a nauseatingly hard-core anti-establishment manifesto whose improbable, contrived situations cause lots of unintentional laughs (Higher Learning) or a film whose relation to college is at best both incidental and irrelevant (The Nutty Professor, Necessary Roughness).

And at Notre Dame, let’s face it: we’re different — very different. Other colleges have buckets of condoms in dorm lobbies; we have Mass in dorm lobbies. If Hollywood makes anything catering specifically to the college crowd, the appeal will hardly reach Notre Dame students. When a string of early 1970s campus flicks made for “revolutionary youth” hit theaters, the best known of which is the 1970 Candice Bergen-Elliott Gould vehicle Getting Straight, Notre Dame was about as hip to the revolution as your average hunter or gatherer.

If nothing else, we can find films that parallel the average Notre Dame stereotype. An Observer columnist recently explained that every male on this campus is: A) a militant virgin; B) a misogynistic sex machine; or C) a misogynistic date rapist. Hmmm. Boldly using one’s knowledge of psychology, one might say that the writer thinks campus males are victims of the
KISS ME, I'M HARVEY. Settle down for an evening of Catholic guilt, Scorsese-style, with Who's That Knocking At My Door?

Madonna-Whore complex: the belief that a girl is sweet and precious and perfect until she loses her virginity, at which point she becomes diseased and degradable and worthless. Few movies have characters more stricken with the Madonna-Whore complex than Who's That Knocking At My Door? (1967), Martin Scorsese's first feature filmed in Little Italy. In the film, Harvey Keitel plays J.R., a young man whose primary—and conflicting—influences have been his religious family and his neighborhood tough-guy moral code. Wandering about with no long-range plans, he falls in love with an educated college girl, who later tells him an old boyfriend raped her. The hows and whys of her deflowering don't interest J.R.; he's just angry that she's not a virgin and therefore unworthy of marriage. But as it is Scorsese's debut is most interesting in its low-budget stylistics, especially the contrast between the couple's first conversation, documented with one long, winding shot, and the scene where the dark secret is unveiled, which features more cuts than many whole movies.

If a filmmaker took the Madonna-Whore complex to its illogical limit, he'd probably end up with something like the 1982 film Cat People, with a story and look that are more appropriate for Heavy Metal magazine than cinematic presentation. In Paul Schrader's legend/horror show, Nastassia Kinski plays Irina, a shy virgin who knows that she's a little weird, but doesn't understand why. She shuns booze, sex and medicine, fearing any vice may make public a suppressed wild side. Boy, do they ever. Irina belongs to an ancient race of feline beings (see the film if you want the zoned-out background story) who, after doing the wild thing, turn into lethal black leopards capable of dicing a human body if it comes within claws' reach. If that's not a convoluted enough life, as soon as they do kill someone they regain human form. I doubt even the Right Reasoners knew extramarital sex was this dangerous.

Easier than finding films paralleling the Notre Dame experience is finding films about the Notre Dame graduate's life. A good example of this is Naked, which could easily be subtitled The Life of a Pompous Arts and Letters Student In About Ten Years. English writer/director Mike Leigh, named "Britain's Resident Genius" by Neon magazine, composed this tale of Johnny (aggressively played by David Thewlis of Seven Years in Tibet), a drifter who visits some friends in London. Johnny apparently knows quite a bit. His working vocabulary is impressive and his quick mind can grant him victory in arguments with the best of them. Unfortunately, he has no practical skills and tends toward misanthropy. His life consists of stealing cars, soulless fornication and shouting his many philosophies to the few passersby who will listen. To one night watchman he spouts off about whether Nostradamus' predictions of doom will be fulfilled by some nut acting solely in order to fulfill them. He then goes on to explain how scanners at grocery stores are signs of the Apocalypse in the Book of Revelation.

In short, he's the eccentric philosophy major who never grew up. You may end up just like him—except for the meaningless fornication part, of course.

The College of Business Administration is an easy target for insults. This is the school that last year happily sponsored a cinematic double-bill showing how to turn your house into a brothel (Risky Business) and how to cheat at billiards (The Color of Money). Good to know those Business Ethics courses are keeping our kids on the straight and narrow. Seriously, though, Ikiru, made in 1952 by the legendary Japanese Akira Kurosawa, could be subtitled The Life of a Pompous Business Administration Major In About Forty Years. Kanji, a career bureaucrat who has never given much thought to anything, learns he has less than a year to live. It doesn't take him long to figure out his life, having been wasted sorting through papers with a rubber stamp and serving as a yes-man for the higher-ups, has amounted to nothing, even taking into account the substantial salary. Kanji spends the rest of the film playing catch-up with his life, giving his all to ensure he doesn't die some anonymous sprocket in a mighty and faceless infrastructure. Of course, COBA students often brag about one day being anonymous sprockets in a mighty and faceless infrastructure, so never mind.

Lastly, some films perfectly detail the life of the typical Notre Dame grad a few decades down the line. In Clean and Sober (1988), Michael Keaton plays Daryl Poynter, an alcoholic/cocaine addict who checks into a rehab center to escape both the police, who are wondering why a woman he did some coke with passed out cold in his bed, and his bosses at the office, who wonder what he's done with $92,000 of the company's funds. Costarring Morgan Freeman and M. Emmet Walsh, Clean and Sober details Daryl's realization of his problem and his growing willingness to leave his scratchy-nostriled, stoned individualism behind and accept others' help. Although director Glenn Gordon Caron never explicitly says that the Keaton character had a Michelob bottle on his lips 24/7 in his college days, well, some questions need not be asked.

While it may seem that, short of watching Rudy for the 28th time, it's difficult to find a movie that sums up the Notre Dame experience, Hollywood is full of them. There are countless films about losing teams, sexually depraved (and deprived) people and binge drinking. All you have to do is use your imagination.
To Protect and to Serve, Eh?

Most people have seen Cops, True Stories of the California Highway Patrol and Rescue 911. Now the bright boys in network programming have come up with a terrific idea: “Hey, let’s take the action out of the action show genre and see where it goes.” Jaywalkers beware! The country that brought you felony double-parking is fed up and won’t tolerate your disregard for public safety anymore. What could this brainstorm be? Why, nothing less than television’s own Mounties — True Stories of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

An average episode of Cops might include a couple of stabbings, a drive-by or perhaps a good ol’ American 7-ll heist ... you know, the usual. One recent episode of Mounties included (no joke) two counts of public drunkenness, an underage-drinking party bust and, most exciting of all, the shakedown of a nasty prank phone-call ring. In none of the cases were arrests made — just really stiff warnings.

It’s not that OOB has anything against Canada. It’s a beautiful country. But try watching just one episode of Mounties without shouting. “You call that crime, moose-lover? Come over to America, and we’ll teach you a thing or two about real crime.”

Though “exhilarating” may be the wrong choice of adjective for this show, it certainly is a novelty, just like watching WCW Monday Nitro after a few shots of JD. Give it a try. It’s humor of metric proportions.

Mounties — True Stories of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police airs weekdays at 3 a.m. on WBND.

When In Doubt, Pick On Canada

Like maple syrup, Canada’s evil oozes over the United States. The Canadians. They walk among us. William Shatner. Michael J. Fox. Monty Hall. Mike Myers. Alex Trebek. All of them Canadians. All of them here.

The preceding television warning might sound a bit odd to anyone remotely familiar with Canadian-American relations. Surely this Cold War-like propaganda couldn’t be referring to our polite northern neighbors. But since it comes from the crazy 1994 comedy Canadian Bacon, it’s understandable.

In the film, directed by Michael Moore (Roger & Me), the United States is in a dire economic situation, and the presidential approval ratings have hit an all-time low. The president (Alan Alda) and his chief advisor (Kevin Pollack) think a full-scale war is the only possible way to restore the U.S. to its former greatness. And who could be a better whipping-boy than friendly, harmless Canada? They concoct an elaborate anti-Canadian propaganda scheme that gets Americans, including Sheriff Bud Boomer (John Candy), to spit at the mere mention of the maple leaf.

The movie is full of good-natured humor mocking every Canadian stereotype imaginable: anything from Canadians’ friendliness and trust (“There’s not a locked door in the whole country”) to the way they pronounce “out” (oot). At one point General Panzer (Rip Torn) exclaims, “Canadians are always dreaming up a lot of ways to ruin our lives. The metric system, for the love of God! Celsius! Neil Young!” But in the end it’s the Americans who end up looking bad by making fun of Canada’s lack of pollution and crime and by laughing in disbelief upon hearing that Ottawa, not Toronto, is the capital of Canada.

The humor is politically incorrect but evenly placed. It is a definite must-rent the next time you kick back with an ice-cold Molson and a heaping stack of flapjacks.

by Aaron J. Nolan
LIFE IN Hell

Let's face it, we need to become more spiritual.

Because we spend so much time pursuing fleeting pleasures, we end up experiencing mostly pain and anxiety.

True joy is never found in material attachments.

True joy lies in the spiritual dimension, a place inside us where we always know that all is well.

We may encounter occasions of sorrow, but that should just lead us to a fuller understanding of the joy inherent in every moment.

Every setback in the material realm is an opportunity to turn toward the spiritual realm for happiness.

When we become one with the universe, we can forgive everyone and everything.

What are you trying to say to me?

I've been selling nude photos of you on the Internet.
Bad Church Music
And Other Liturgical Evils

BY MARY BETH ELLIS

I can’t ask God for anything anymore, because whenever I complete a silent petition, unbidden voices in the back of my mind screach, “Let us pray to the LOO0O0RRRRRD HEAR OUR PRAAYYYYYER!”

Have you heard these voices during the intercessions at a Mass near you? Have you realized how stupid it is? We sound like imbeciles. We interrupt ourselves, for God’s sake. I bet God takes special pains to not hear our prayer. I bet He flips on the Packers game instead.

Yet the overly-efficient “Let us pray to the LOO000RRRRRD HEAR OUR PRAAYYYYYER!” is less than a drop in the bucket compared to the great sea of Bad Church Music (BCM).

I first noticed BCM creeping into the church of my Catholic grade school. Here I was introduced to such gems as “Walk With Me, Talk With Me,” which includes the following deeply spiritual lyrics: I was a child once, I know it. / My mother has pictures to show it, / But she always knew I’d outgrow it. / I guess that’s what pictures are for.”

The composer of this hymn is currently damned to the ninth circle of hell.

BCM often springs from formerly non-annoying music. In high school, I was forcibly enlightened by the PC-Jesus version of “Let There Be Peace on Earth,” which substitutes “Neighbors all are we. / Let us walk with each other / In perfect harmony,” for the traditional “Brothers all are we. / Let me walk with my brother / In perfect harmony.” Listen, I graduated from a women’s academy. Brothers were hard to come by. I wanted to walk with as many as possible.

It was also about this time that I first heard “Song of Gathering.” The refrain contains the already-obnoxious line, “the Father of all, let it be,” but the last time the refrain is sung the words change to “the Mother of all, let it be.” If God were a woman, then cramps, pantyhose and ESPN2 would not exist.

But not until I came to Saint Mary’s did I discover the undisputed champion of Bad Church Music, “Voices that Challenge,” which was apparently commissioned by the ACLU in conjunction with Greenpeace. Its verses are a litany of fashionable social concerns. “VOICES THAT CHALLENGE!” it goes. “The people plagued with addiction! VOICES THAT CHALLENGE!” we sing. “The women who suffer the pain of injustice! VOICES THAT CHALLENGE!” Apparently the Christian concern of the challenging voices leaves the men who suffer the pain of injustice to fend for themselves.

What is the origin of this celestial crap? I have heard arguments that the music befits the spirit of Vatican II, embraces the community and generally makes people feel better about themselves as Catholics. The problem with this, of course, is that as Catholics we’re not supposed to feel better. We aren’t supposed to feel good about anything. “It’s All My Fault”— that, perhaps, would be a choice title for a Catholic hymn.

The other problem is that — and please don’t misunderstand me, far be it for me to offend — this music stinks. My friends and family are under strict orders that, in the event that I suffer some sort of tragic reaction to “E. coli Night” at North Dining Hall, they are under no circumstances to use any piece of music featured in Glory and Praise Volume III at the Requiem Mass.

Hear me, brothers. Bad Church Music

And you thought the Spice Girls were bad

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NOVEMBER 13, 1997
can strike anywhere, at any time. No one is safe, not even the Pope, who I imagine has at some point been subjected to "[Yahweh, I Know] You Are Near." I have included here the Official Index of Bad Church Music, each category of which contains actual songs which may be found in your local Gather hymnal.

Songs in which the congregation has evidently suffered some sort of identity crisis and is now under the impression that it is in fact God: "I Am the Light of the World," "My Peace I Leave You," "The Water I Give" and "I Am the Resurrection."

"No, Really?" songs: "Jesus Still Lives," "God Is One, Unique, and Holy" and "Love One Another."

Possible theme song for your next SYR: "What Is Your Name?" Songs apparently written by a person under the influence of illegal substances: "Come to Us, Creative Spirit," "Jesus in the Light Beams."

Song that sounds like a good name for a heavy metal group: "People of the Night."

Possible theme song for John Travolta and for the '70s in general: "We Who Were Once Dead."

Song I would like to sing to the Spice Girls: "Song of Farewell."

How can we stop the unholy plague of Bad Church Music? The only solution I can think of is to pray, neighbors, to the Mother of All.

Dear God almighty, please bring back "Immaculate Mary."

Let us pray to the LORD:

PRAYYYYYER!

This is a humor column. These views are not necessarily those of the editorial staff of Scholastic Magazine.

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**EASILY THE FIRST GREAT FILM OF 1997!**

Jeffrey Lyons, NBC-TV

INTERVIEW: Graham Fuller

“One of the Most Galvanizing Films of the Year!”

BRAPPED OFF!

PETE POSTLETHWAITE TARA FITZGERALD EWAN MCGREGOR

CINEMA AT THE SNITE FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT 7:30 & 9:45

Sponsored by Notre Dame Communication and Theatre

NOVEMBER 13, 1997
**Wanted: Sex-Type Thing**

With the help of a student from Creighton University, a 45-year-old Omaha man was recently arrested on a charge of soliciting prostitution. The student responded to an advertisement in *The Creightonian*, the university’s weekly newspaper, that read “Free Rent in exchange for light housekeeping.” When the student inquired, the man made clear to her that the free rent came in exchange for sexual favors. The student, who was the sixth to respond to the ad, notified the police and an investigation followed. A plainclothes officer arranged to meet the man in a parking lot, where he said he wanted “a single female who enjoys romance … in return [he’d] be happy to pay the rent and help with those expenses.” Officers arrested the man and cited him for soliciting prostitution, a penalty which, for a first offense, carries a fine of $500.

We here at On Other Campuses don’t know what to make of this story, except for the fact that we’ve looked at some of the rejected “personal” ads for the *Observer.* This one was particularly disturbing: “For sale: Brass bed, queen size with orthopedic mattress set and frame, inquire within.” We don’t know if the same guy’s involved, but we have a feeling this person isn’t after your football tickets.

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**Spearing Pumpkins**

Halloween has come and gone, but not without a few pranks played here and there at the nation’s universities. One at Cornell University, however, has attracted particular attention, for no one has been able to explain how a 60-pound pumpkin ended up on top of the university’s 173-foot-tall bell tower. “This is much better than a prank,” said former Cornell archivist Gould Colman. “This is first rate stuff, the best that I’ve seen.”

The pumpkin was speared atop the lightning rod connected to the apex of the 125-year-old bell tower. According to the Cornell’s daily newspaper, “There is a staircase leading to the tower’s chimes, open to the public at specified times, and a small service hatch above the bells that opens to the bottom of the slanted roof, the prankster would have had to scale an additional 20 feet of the very steep roof to reach the bottom of the lightning rod.” The process of removing the pumpkin will likely be equally challenging, for the university says it will either use a crane or erect scaffolding around the tower to remove it.

One student boasted that the pumpkin prank “required such a degree of skill and dexterity … and an equally successful prank would be impossible at any college or university.” Apparently this guy hasn’t seen the new inscription one Domer recently put above the tunnel at the football stadium:

*The House that Rockne built: Mi casa, su casa.*

---

**No, It’s not Sandpaper**

Apparently all is not well in the stalls of the University of Connecticut. After a rash of student complaints about the school’s toilet paper quality, the university decided to look into what goes on behind the closed doors of bathroom stalls. “This is a serious problem here at UConn,” said sophomore Esteban Duran. “I personally got chafed. [Toilet paper] is not supposed to be see-through.”

But according to Dr. Christopher J. Lahr in his book, *Shining Light on Constipation and Other Colon, Rectal and Anal Problems,* the university’s toilet paper is not at fault. Though the quality of the wiping agent is less than average, Lahr claims that any irritation or itching students might experience can be avoided by practicing water hygiene and consuming more fiber. “Fiber acts as a stool normalizer … [it] helps the bowel movements slip out more easily by making the feces less sticky.”

Dr. Lahr recently finished a similar case study at Notre Dame, concluding that overall bathroom hygiene was good — the only problems coming from students’ liberal use of *Right Reason* behind the stalls.

---

**They’re Watching Us**

Thinking about abducting someone at Duquesne University? Think again. Last month, the university took steps to improve campus safety by installing an eight-camera surveillance system. The cameras, which feature color imaging and 360-degree panning, tilting and zooming capabilities, have been mounted on various buildings around campus. The surveillance system is intended to lighten the load for patrolling officers on campus, enabling security to clearly identify perpetrators and pranksters with stunning accuracy. “We can even read license plates,” one officer said.

The always-proactive Notre Dame security force has followed Duquesne’s lead. In an attempt to make everyone feel more at home, six cameras have been installed in the *Observer* office to monitor “Men About Campus.”

by Zac Kulsrud

NOVEMBER 13, 1997
Feeling a little uneasy about your::

affluence? Consider attending:

today's lecture on "The Shared
Structure of Hell & Purgatory."

Because when you die you
should at least know what you're
getting into.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

- Lecture: "The Shared Structure of Hell & Purgatory," Marc Cogan, 4:45 PM, 102 Hesburgh
- Basketball: ND women vs. Zala Yolan, Hungarian Team, 7:00 PM, Joyce Center
- Comedy: "Bllithe Spirit," Little Theater, 8:00 PM, Moreau Center
- Symposium: "Campaign Finance Reform," Michael Dukakis, 9:00 AM-Noon, Auditorium, Center for Continuing Education
- Dancing to Live Big Band Music: "Tuxedo Junction," Sponsored by WSN, 7:00 PM, Monogram Room Conference, Joyce Center
- Brassoed Off, 7:15 & 9:45 PM, Suite
- Folk Dance: 7:30 PM, Clabhouse, SMC
- Comedy: "Bllithe Spirit," Little Theater, 8:00 PM, Moreau Center
- Concert: Collegium Musicum, 8:00 PM, Church of Loreto, SMC
- Conspiracy Theory, 8:00 & 10:30 PM, Cashing
- Brassed Off, 7:15 & 9:45 PM, Suite
- Conspiracy Theory, 8:00 & 10:30 PM, Cashing
- Comedy: "Bllithe Spirit," Little Theater, 8:00 PM, Moreau Center
- Concert: Schola Musicae, 9:30 PM, Basilica
- Play: The Compleat Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), 7:30 PM, Washington Hall
- Lecture: "From Zaire to Congo; from Mobutu to Kabila: Background and Implications," Leonard Gasugi, 4:15 PM, Hesburgh Auditorium
- Lecture: "Running the Film Backwards: Ethnicity & Whites in the Making of America," Noel Ignatiev, 7:00 PM, Hesburgh Auditorium
- Registration for Spring 1998 Semester (thru Dec. 4)

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Mad City* 1:30 4:20 7:00 9:50
Starship Troopers* 1:15 2:00 2:45 4:00 4:20
(select shows in
digital sound) 4:50 6:50 7:00 7:45 8:30
9:40 10:45
Seven Years in Tibet 1:45 4:40 7:30 10:30
The Naked Gun Fri & Sat at Midnight
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movies 10

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All Shows in Stereo
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Knew Too Little 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:25
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Boogie Nights 12:55 4:00 7:10 10:20
Devil's Advocate (DTS) 12:45 2:50 7:00 10:05
Red Corner (DTS) 1:00 4:10 7:05 9:45
The Pacemaker 1:20 4:15 7:30 10:15
I Know What You 12:55 3:00 3:45 5:40 5:20
Did Last Summer 5:50 7:25 8:45 9:50 10:30
Kiss The Girls 1:25 4:05 7:20 10:00
In & Out* 1:15 3:30 5:40 7:55 10:10
* Sneak Preview of The Rainmaker
Saturday Night at 7:55 (shown with In & Out)
Replaces scheduled 7:55 and 10:10 shows
Before I left for London, everyone told me that it would be the best semester of my years at Notre Dame. I would experience a different culture, they said, meet a diverse group of people, become more independent and, most noticeably, escape from South Bend.

It all sounded great and I made every possible preparation to ensure that my experience lived up to the stories I'd been told. I bought a *Let's Go Europe* guide book, enough black socks to last a lifetime in an attempt to escape "Spot the American" contests (since Europeans don't wear white socks), and a small but fully equipped backpack for those 12-hour train rides across the continent. I thought I was ready. Suddenly, I found myself saying goodbye to my friends at Notre Dame and hello to the friendly yet reserved English woman sitting next to me on my trans-Atlantic flight.

When I arrived I realized that I had just traded my small dorm room on an isolated campus for a bigger flat in the midst of a big-city neighborhood. Now I had one shower (if you could call it that) to share with eight people, windows that opened out to walls and a housekeeper who was prepared to throw away any of our belongings that got in her way.

There was food to be bought and food to be cooked. Pasta became the source of life — that is, if I could find any clean pots after my flatmates had allowed unknown substances to grow in them. I began to wonder how all of this fit into that "Best Semester of Your College Years" theory.

Going abroad is all about being uncomfortable. People looked at me in horror when I spoke in my best American accent. My brown shoes and blue fleece stood out in a sea of black wardrobes. Bouncers at clubs surveyed my personal appearance before deciding that I was acceptable clientele. Silent commuters stared at me as my friends and I conversed on the Tube, just slightly louder than a whisper. I was made to feel like exactly what I was — a foreigner.

Yet I soon found myself attempting to fool the natives. After a while, I learned what it takes to be inconspicuous in a crowded train station. I spoke more softly in public and my wardrobe took a turn for the dark. I started to say "sorry" rather than the American "excuse me." I wasn't trying to hide the fact that I was American, but rather, I was toying with the idea that I could pass as British.

Some of my best experiences involved meeting people who wanted to learn about my seeming oddity. Many actually viewed me as a novelty. And I appreciated their curiosity, as penetrating as it sometimes was. Some people simply asked me to repeat a number of words in my authentic American accent. For others, I presented a new point of view on some topics. For example, one young British teacher had never met a person who, like me, adhered to a religion. I never knew what about me would interest someone. One older Italian woman had never seen peanut butter before sitting with my friends and me while we enjoyed a snack on an overnight train. I was constantly prepared to be a spectacle, and I enjoyed the curiosity I provoked.

Being outside of America provided me with a perspective that I could never have obtained from the inside. People seemed to feel compelled to tell me everything that was wrong with my country. A common complaint was the rapid worldwide spreading of an American culture that they saw as materialistic. Many told me that America has no culture besides consumerism. Others, who had been to "the States," complained that Americans are friendly only because they are fake. After being bombarded with so many different viewpoints I felt as if I had finally escaped from a cave and was starting to see things that were hidden before.

While going abroad involved learning from the outside, it also included some lessons about myself. I learned a lot about my personal limits. In a city with millions of inhabitants who were vastly different than me, I often felt alone. Could I be happy in an environment where there were very few people like me? Being in a foreign culture, I was confronted with a thousand ideas that contrasted with those I had always held. I started to weed out those values and customs I had adhered to because they were all I knew from those which are fundamental to who I am.

In the end, I was actually sad to leave my prison-like dwellings for the comfort of the house in which I had lived since birth. I returned unexpectedly changed to an unaltered environment. The familiarity of being home soon seemed too comfortable. I wished I could be a foreigner again.

Marie Athaide is a senior finance and philosophy double major. After spending a semester in London, she no longer wears white socks.
Expanding Horizons by Marie Athaide

Marie Athaide is a senior finance and philosophy double major. After spending a semester in London, she no longer wears an American accent. My brown shoes and blue fleece stood out in a sea of black wardrobes. Bouncers at a flat in the midst of a big-city neighborhood. A housekeeper who was prepared to throw away any of unknown substances to grow in them. I began to wonder how all of this fit in an unaltered environment. The familiarity of being like exactly what I was—a foreigner. I wasn't trying to hide the peanut butter before sitting with my friends and me to feel like exactly what I was. I started to say "sorry." I wasn't trying to hide the "States," rather than the "Best Semester of My Life." I found myself saying goodbye to my friends at Notre Dame and hello to the friendly yet reserved English people who wanted to learn about my seeming oddity. Many actually viewed me as a novelty. And I times was. Some people simply asked me to repeat a story I'd been told. I bought a guide book, enough black socks to last a lifetime in an unaltered environment. The familiarity of being like exactly what I was. I returned unexpectedly changed. Being in a foreign culture, I was confronted with a thousand ideas that contrasted with those I had always held. I started to weed out those values and consumerism. For others, I presented a new point of view on some thing. After many complaints was the States." Americans also complained that I kept a regular biweekly issues plus the annual Football Review. You'll find:

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