LOST IN THE CROWD

new group takes steps to make notre dame a more welcoming environment for female faculty
Rides games prizes free food dances music djs booths clubs free food rides games prizes free food dances music djs booths clubs

Be there and it will burn!

What we were then
only tonight a sanctuary lamp was hung it'll tell us we want to all co-sponsors

S.A.F.E. student activities St. Ed's hall class of 2001 class of 2002 class of 2003 Coca-cola WVFI WHAT

Founders' Day 10.5.2003 4-10 pm in front of Rolf's the But Quad in

We are now

We are ND celebrate it

Sponsored by your student union
**Men in Green**  
*by Jeffrey Newcamp*  
It used to be a little doggie, now it's a little green man. A look at the history of Notre Dame's mascot.

**Camelot Restored**  
*by Kimberly Blackwell*  
*The West Wing's* Martin Sheen plays the president — and an ND fan.

**Try Walking in Her Shoes**  
*by Kara Zuaro*  
COVER: A new faculty group works to further equal treatment for women at Notre Dame

**Full-Contact Spirit**  
*by Brendan Barker*  

**Kicking Off a New Era**  
*by Gerard Meskill*  

**For Your Viewing Pleasure**  
*by Brigid Sweeney*  

**Rewriting Shakespeare**  
*by Carrie Sweeney*  

**Years and Years of Glee**  
*by Carrie Sweeney*  

**thedepartments**

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he British are not particularly well-known for their hospitality. While this may be a gross generalization — it is certainly not true of everyone — my professors in London delighted in pointing out the differences between the young, brash States and the regal, established country of England. Of course, most of the comments were made with tongue firmly implanted in cheek. But even those remarks meant as criticisms of the American way of life were blunted by the overwhelming presence of Americans in the classroom. With 120 of my fellow classmates in the Notre Dame London Program, it was easy to maintain a level of comfort in the classroom similar to South Bend standards.

When we ventured outside of the classroom and into the pubs and clubs of London, however, the mood shifted. We raised eyebrows and attracted notice whenever we went. Try as we might, we simply couldn’t blend in enough to avoid the notice of London natives. Although I doubt any of us wanted to completely shed our American identities and values, it would have been nice to walk into a pub without attracting at least a few unfriendly looks.

During one of our outings to a less touristy bar, some Londoners took notice of us and invited us to join their gathering. We followed them downstairs and into a party for British medical students. We peppered them with questions about life in London, the English university system and the best clubs to visit for a night out. They were more than cordial, answering our questions and giving us advice on how to get the most out of our time in England. During our conversation, one of the medical students made his way over to our group and looked on disapprovingly. Finally, he questioned us, “You know this is a private party, don’t you?” He teetered on unsober feet and waited for an answer. The students who invited us downstairs intervened and explained that we were their guests. Not completely satisfied with this answer, the man launched some choice words about Americans at us before others from the party calmed him down and pulled him away. Although things ultimately turned out fine, the knowledge that at least some people didn’t want us around made us uncomfortable.

Here at Notre Dame, it is no secret that some groups feel uncomfortable or even unwelcome on campus. While OUTreach ND and GALA-ND/SMC have been perhaps the most-discussed groups recently, there are other groups that have had uneasy relationships with the university. One of these groups — women faculty members — have formed a new organization aimed at supporting women and advocating equal rights at Notre Dame. In this issue, Scholastic’s Kara Zuaro takes a look at the issues surrounding the formation of the group and the nature of the university’s attitude toward women professors. Check out her cover story that starts on page 12.
Malicious television commercials, heated debates, catchy campaign slogans, passionate kisses between Al and Tipper — yes, along with turkey and pumpkin pie, November means election time.

The presidential race is tight this year, and every vote will count on November 7. Absentee ballots and the Internet have removed all excuses for neglecting one’s civic duties. In this Information Age, it’s easier than ever to stay informed and to participate.

Students who are registered to vote in their home states but who will be in Indiana on election day are eligible to apply for their home states’ qualifications and important deadlines. It also has the necessary forms and up-to-date contact information for state, county and local election offices.

Students who haven’t yet registered to vote may do so at www.voter.com. This site also offers many additional features. There is extensive coverage of campaigns ranging from the presidential race to the congressional and gubernatorial contests in all 50 states. Candidates’ stances on political issues big and small are also listed.

All four presidential candidates host official Web sites. Al Gore is at www.al gore.com, George W. Bush headquarters is www.georgebush.com, Ralph Nader hangs out at www.votenader.com and Pat Buchanan loiters at www.buchanan.org. Many other candidates also have Web sites.

Those looking for information other than the official propaganda should check out the Web sites for their favorite organizations, from PETA to the Christian Coalition.

With a point, click and a drag, you can have an effect on the course of America’s politics for the next four years. So hop to the nearest keyboard before it’s too late!

Story by Colleen Barrett
Art by Carol Wolf
Tahiti 80's *Puzzle* is the sonic equivalent to the lemon-drop cocktail at Club LaSalle. Sip from a cool martini glass, rim dipped in sugar, and bask in the serendipitous discovery of a posh little jazz club right here in South Bend. Or just listen to bittersweet lyrics and lounge-meets-disco melodies of *Puzzle*, the debut LP from a French quartet with a name inspired by a souvenir from a past Hawaiian holiday and a sound that hails back to the tunes of the British Invasion. Either way, it seems like kismet.

Xavier Boyer, Mederic Gontier, Sylvain Marchand and Pedro Resende of Tahiti 80 cannot escape comparisons to the lustful French pop star Serge Gainsbourg, but they claim that their biggest influences come from the era of the Beatles, the Zombies and the Kinks. Lead vocalist Boyer dedicates one track, "Mr. Davies," to Ray Davies, his idol and the Kinks' lead singer. This idolatry, nevertheless, comes with a hint of envy. "He gives me complexes," Boyer croons, "Because he's considered a songwriter / And I'm not at this time."

Tahiti 80 cites Olivia Tremor Control as one of its indie-rock influences. It's not just Boyer's shy Euro accent that connects Tahiti 80 to English-as-second-language label mates the Cardigans. The two bands also share the services of Swedish producer Tore Johansson.

The only problem with *Puzzle* is that, much like a $6 lemon drop on a tight booze budget, it seems to end far too soon. It's a stylish backdrop if you're meeting for drinks, but if you're looking to host a whole cocktail party, you'll need to build up your French pop soundtrack. So add a shot of Ivy, the New York-based trio led by Parisian dream girl Dominique Durand, top with a twist of *Pop Romantique*, a compilation of French pop classics covered by indie-rock favorites, and serve shaken, not stirred.

**What did you think of the Texas A&M band?**

Well, I've always had ... respect ... for the A&M band, but I'm an Orangeblood. My whole family went to UT, so I've been raised to despise the Aggies. They're still a very solid and, well, a unique band.

**Have you ever spilled something on your bright white uniform just before game time?**

If I did, I'd be dead. No spills yet, but I almost got some mustard on it from my Polish sausage. I always have someone get me a Polish sausage during the game, because it's just part of the game experience. But I guess that wouldn't be too bad if I did — the mustard would just blend in with the gold cords.

**Being from Texas, what's your take on Bush?**

I have a positive opinion about Bush; he's done a good job since he's been governor. But I don't follow politics much.

**Do you have a 10-gallon hat?**

No, but I do have two cowboy hats, and I wear one of them for pep rallies. I didn't wear one at the rally I spoke at, because I thought I'd have trouble getting people to take me seriously, but I do usually wear one for them. It's sort of a band custom to dress kind of off-the-wall for the pep rallies.

**Pebbles or Bam-Bam?**

Bam-Bam, definitely! That was actually my nickname for my roommate the past couple years, because when he got angry he liked to break things. He didn't know his own strength. I was always fearful he'd pick me up and break me ... he's a pretty strong guy.

**What was the worst date you've ever been on?**

Oh, one time I invited a girl for dinner and a movie. It was a blind date. When I picked her up at her house, the first thing she said to me was, "I'm Mormon, so I can't marry you — but we can still go out on this date, I guess." That was pretty frightening.

— Tina Zurcher
43 Years Ago
Sing Along

Follow the bouncing ball ....

Frustrated after a few bad dates, staff members of the November 22, 1957 issue of The Notre Dame Scholastic composed this song to improve the morale of “all the troops”:

I’m so young and you’re so cold,
Oh St. Mary’s we’ve been told,
We have heard just what they say,
Better Irish stay away.
Grads have told us what to do,
How to duck the barbs from you,
Oh please, stay away St. Mary’s.

To those mixers Friday night,
With our collars too darn tight,
We see you right by the post,
Can’t tell which we like the most,
After waltzing ‘round the floor,
We get a handshake at the door,
Oh please, stay away St. Mary’s.

My, how times change ....

— Sarah Childress

“I have no qualifications to talk about real life.”
— english professor

“Apparently, at 3:00 a.m. I decided to get naked in my barn. My parents weren’t too happy about that.”
— student

“Some of you will learn this by memorizing. Others of you will never learn this.”
— economics professor

“My brain cells are safer on a Saturday night than in the hour spent in Core class.”
— student

“Let everyone do what they want. Just no pornography, please.”
— CAPP T.A.

domelights

The nice folks at Card Services know how little you people sleep, even on school nights.

Number of student IDs swiped at Reckers between Saturday, 9/16/00, and Sunday, 9/17/00 (following the Purdue game):
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.: 456
2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.: 157

Number swiped between Wednesday, 9/20/00, and Thursday, 9/21/00 (an average weeknight):
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.: 418
2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.: 19

Source: Tina Durski, Card Services
43 Years Ago

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My, how times change ....

- Sarah Childress

"My brain cells are safer on a Saturday night than in the hour spent in Core class."

- Student

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MEN IN GREEN
A look at the history behind ND's mascot

JEFFREY NEWCAMP

You know everyone's ready [for the games] and it's keeping them going.
You're the ambassador — the Mr. ND — and you gotta be that every day," says Mike Brown, Notre Dame's Leprechaun.

Brown, a member of the varsity cheerleading squad, devotes more than 30 hours per week to practicing his motions and cheers. His one goal is to keep the students' spirit high.

Each football game, Brown can be seen jumping around the sidelines to encourage Notre Dame cheers. "The student body can't see us in down moments," he says. "We're just encouraging them more." If people see the Leprechaun reacting negatively to opponents' gains, then the overall spirit declines. People look to the Leprechaun to bring them up, especially in times of trial. In this sense, the Leprechaun embodies everything it means to be a cheerleader.

The Leprechaun also serves as a national figurehead for Notre Dame. He can be seen at nearly all of Notre Dame's varsity sporting events and is in the national spotlight at parades and benefits.

Dr. Brian Stark, the Leprechaun in 1987, explains, "Some of the stuff I did had nothing to do with sports. I went up to Chicago for a United Way meeting to get people fired up for the event. Another time, I was invited to San Diego, Chicago, Rochester and St. Louis to be in parades."
Despite the Leprechaun’s current prominence, it was not always the mascot for Irish teams. For years, Notre Dame teams were represented by a succession of Irish terriers. Charles Otis of Cleveland donated the first terrier, Brick Top Shuan-Rhu, and presented it to Knute Rockne the week of the 1930 Notre Dame-Pennsylvania game. Nicknamed “the Daredevil,” the Irish terrier earned the reputation of being loyal and spirited — an accurate mascot for Notre Dame. Both male and female dogs were mascots, and sometimes the mascot had a companion terrier. Some terriers had their own names, but “Clashmore Mike” seemed to be the most common. The dogs lived in the stadium and were cared for by the groundskeepers. The terrier mascots were so popular that they usually had their own column in football game programs in the 1930s and ’40s. They even had a book written about them in 1949, Mascot Mike of Notre Dame.

In the mid-1960s, the Leprechaun replaced the terrier as the mascot for Notre Dame. Two-time national champion coach Ara Parseghian could not recall the reason behind the change. “The Leprechaun is very visible during the course of the game and is a symbol of the Fighting Irish,” he says. “Clashmore Mike was only there on opening day when we took pictures and when we came out of the tunnel. I can’t remember if we even took him on the road with us.” Stark believes the Leprechaun is an improvement over the old mascot. “The dog was never going to represent the deep dedication of the student body for the school, for its institution. The Leprechaun represents the university and student body’s true dedication and fervent love of itself.”

While Stark was at Notre Dame, there was only one Leprechaun who performed at a variety of sporting events. Now, to ensure that all sports can have the Leprechaun present, the university has divided the position into two. Mike Brown, the varsity Leprechaun, performs at football and men’s basketball games and at pep rallies. CJ Lanktree, the Olympic Leprechaun, performs at men’s and women’s soccer, volleyball and women’s basketball games. “When one of us can’t do a game, the other can step in,” Lanktree says.

“We do the same basic cheers, and the two squads are pretty compatible,” Brown adds.

And what about the costume? Brown mentions that both he and Lanktree have two suits, complete with Leprechaun ties, green hats and Adidas tennis shoes. Leprechauns are permitted to wear the suit to any community service or school-related functions but not to personal activities.

To earn the right to wear the famed suit, candidates must complete a difficult tryout that involves two to three weeks of practicing with the cheerleading squad. The selection process is quite rigorous and begins in early April.

The first part of the process includes writing a one-page essay and attending a formal interview. The selection panel normally consists of an athletic department member, an alumnus, an administrator, a staff member, a former Leprechaun and the cheer coach.
Leprechaun hopefuls must then perform at a mock pep rally. Brown says that it was difficult to get the students pumped up at the mock pep rally because there was not a game to look forward to. After the rally, each candidate must act in two role-playing situations: one with a microphone and one without. The last two phases of the Leprechaun selection are a mock media interview and the Irish Jig.

Lanktree and Brown have both been the Leprechaun for two years, although they have to try out every year. Current Leprechauns are not given preference over other students, but they do have the advantage of being familiar with the selection process. There has never been a female Leprechaun because the Leprechaun traditionally has a beard. Both Brown and Lanktree, however, agree that a female would be quite capable of performing the duties of the Leprechaun and encourage any interested student to try out.

No matter who walks onto the field in the green suit, the fans react; the Leprechaun brings hope to the field. "When you’re on a high, the natural response of the student body is to be ecstatic," Parsheghian says. "When things aren’t going so well, the enthusiasm is not at the height as if you were going for the national championship." The Leprechaun helps increase the frequency and the duration of those highs. Those who wear the green suit love the responsibility of keeping the students pumped up. "You get out there, and the crowd goes nuts," Brown says. "You go numb."

"For one game, I remember the ride up, the tailgaters, the morning performances with the alumni club, but from the second the game started, I don’t remember anything because of all the adrenaline," Stark says. "It’s a really numbing experience to be the Leprechaun. The memories I have are lifetime memories."

Being the Leprechaun also provides the opportunity to make personal connections with Notre Dame fans, as the Leprechaun answers hundreds of letters from all around the world. Brown’s favorite letters have been from Dick Vitale and Regis Philbin, but his most interesting letter came from a young girl who wrote: "I just love a man in uniform. Could you write me back?" Lanktree once received a letter from a family that included Little League trading cards of the family’s kids.

Stark remembers a particularly moving experience he had as the Leprechaun. "I received a letter from a woman in Albany, N.Y. She took a picture of me with her husband at the Air Force game. She wrote me a letter telling me the picture didn’t come out and asked me to send a picture so she could frame it. I sent her a Christmas card with another picture." Later, the family returned Stark’s kindness. "I applied to medical school in Albany and needed a place to stay during the interview," Stark says. "I ended up staying with the family and learned how the woman’s husband was a prisoner of war in World War II. Stories of Notre Dame football with fellow POWs helped him survive the time."

Brown and Lanktree enjoy the many benefits of being the Leprechaun. "It’s on my resume," says Brown. "Being the Leprechaun strengthens my love for Notre Dame. I’m so proud to be a student here." Lanktree echoes Brown’s comments: "Being the Leprechaun has completely changed my ND experience. It has strengthened my love for the school."

Lanktree says that he loves his position as Leprechaun. "I have everything that Notre Dame strives for, and I attempt to embody that."

Despite all of the benefits, the position presents a number of challenges. Neither Brown nor Lanktree is on scholarship for his position. Additionally, a Leprechaun must participate for three years on the cheer squad in order to attain a monogram, while many sports give monograms for playing only one year—or even one play. The service component can also take the Leprechaun away from his family during breaks. "Instead of eating with my family on Thanksgiving last year, I served dinner to 500 homeless [people] at Coney Island," Lanktree says. "Travel’s a benefit, but also an obligation."

Opposing fans can also prove less than friendly. Stark remembers a bad experience he had in Michigan. "I was on my way to the game through the parking lot, and some drunk fans began beating up on me. My dad was 50 years old at the time and jacked one of the guys up." Another time, Stark needed to get stitches after trying to defend the school’s shamrock from being stolen at a game. "The culprits were Air Force cadets," he says.

Stark embodies the mindset of the Leprechaun. "Coming to Notre Dame was different [from high school]," he says, "it was a different game in a hell-of-a-lot bigger ballpark. You could not effect change or the common good as easily as before." He says that he could not justify leaving Notre Dame with so much while having given back so little. "My funny-looking beard, Irish drinking habits and hard-core desire to always see Notre Dame win were clues from God Himself," adds Stark. "I tried out for the Leprechaun with the hope that through that character, I could make a difference."

Being the Leprechaun is difficult and is not always glamorous. For many, however, the Leprechaun symbolizes all the good that Notre Dame embodies. At game’s end, Brown can be seen joining arms with the varsity cheer squad to sing the alma mater. Brown says, "In the end, no schools are as valiant in what they stand for as Notre Dame. Being both a student and the Leprechaun has taught me that."
CAMELOT Restored

Martin Sheen mixes politics, religion and Notre Dame on The West Wing

KIMBERLY BLACKWELL

We all know God favors the Fighting Irish. Now it turns out that the president of the United States does as well — the president, that is, as portrayed by veteran actor Martin Sheen on the Emmy award-winning NBC drama The West Wing.

Sheen's character, President Josiah 'Jed' Bartlet, is, among other things, a former governor of New Hampshire and a Nobel prize-winning economist. He is so personable, intelligent and principled that a recent New York Times poll showed that he would win 75 percent of the vote were he a real candidate in the current presidential race. Bartlet, however, is also unapologetically Catholic, which makes him unique among television characters. In one episode, for instance, he must decide whether to grant a last-minute pardon to a minority inmate on death row. Though most of his staff advises him to grant the pardon, Bartlet ultimately allows the execution to proceed because the public is in favor of capital punishment. In the last scene, the president is seen staring out the window, holding a rosary. He receives counsel from his old parish priest and kneels on the floor of the Oval Office for confession and reconciliation.

Of course, as a Catholic intellectual and statesman, this president could be a fan of only one school: Notre Dame. It's somewhat ambiguous whether the character actually is a Notre Dame graduate, but it has been suggested by show creator Aaron Sorkin (who also wrote The American President and A Few Good Men) that Bartlet is indeed a Domer.

His choice of apparel certainly seems to imply it. Several first-season episodes showed Bartlet strolling through the halls of the West Wing or holding informal Oval Office meetings wearing Irish sweatshirts. In scenes that call for the president to be resting in bed or about to go to sleep, he is usually wearing an ND T-shirt. Bartlet may be the most prominent supporter of the Irish in prime-time since Regis.

Who decided to make Bartlet partial to the blue and gold? "Well, certainly, the writer, Aaron Sorkin," says West Wing costume designer Lyn Paolo. "And Martin loves Notre Dame — he follows the football games. He requested that the president be a fan."

Paolo, who also works on the popular ER and newcomer Gideon's Crossing, recently received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Costumes for her work on The West Wing. She is responsible for finding all the ND apparel in which the president is frequently seen relaxing.

According to Paolo, a good deal of research went into creating the characters for The West Wing, including a trip to Washington to scope out location settings and wardrobes of White House staffers. "Obviously, we're not from Washington," says Paolo about the cast and crew (Paolo herself is English). "So we went to the White House and toured it. I did some online research and read several books."

Meetings were also held to discuss character backgrounds. "I have to ask who he or she is, what he might wear and how we will dress him," she explains. "The challenge for me is to make each character stand out when
eight people are standing around in a room at once.”

All of the West Wing characters are usually dressed in professional clothes, but they have distinctive styles and relax in different types of clothes. The president seems to be a jeans-and-sweatshirt kind of guy. “If the president’s in residence — in the West Wing but not at work — we keep him in casual clothes,” Paolo says. “People like to see the president being casual.”

The Emmy-nominated Sheen clearly loves his job, judging by the enthusiasm he brings to the role. However, Sheen, born Ramon Estevez (he chose his stage name because of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, the famous host of Catholic inspirational television series in the 1950s and ‘60s), is usually careful to stress that this character is only that: a character. Sheen is, after all, known not only for his current role and those in such films as Apocalypse Now, Wall Street and The American President, but also for his strong commitment to social justice.

He rarely talks about his Catholicism or his causes unless asked, preferring to let his actions speak for him. In a USA Today article earlier this year, he explained, “This [acting] is what I do for a living and that [what he supports] is what I do to stay alive.” Over the years, the Dayton, Ohio-born father of four — Emilio, Ramon, Carlos (Charlie Sheen) and Renee — has protested such things as nuclear proliferation, the School of the Americas and political oppression in Central America. He volunteers at a soup kitchen once a week, and his West Wing contract allows him freedom in his shooting schedule to attend protests.

“Martin’s always going off and getting arrested,” Paolo says affectionately of the actor, who has been arrested several dozen times. “When we see he’s going to be at a protest at the beginning of the week, we know he might not be available for the rest of the week!”

Sheen, 60, is also very gracious about his success and generous with his fans. This sometimes creates minor problems for Paolo, who has found she can’t reuse any of the Notre Dame shirts the actor wears on the show. “Martin keeps giving them away as gifts, that dog!” she says, laughing. “We gave a few of them to him at the end of the season and he signs them and gives them away. He’s a great guy.”

Paolo says she orders all her Notre Dame apparel from the bookstore online. “The bookstore changes the clothes fairly frequently, so we can’t reorder old shirts. I have to keep ordering different ones,” she says. Some episodes for the new season, which was scheduled to premiere on October 4, have already called for Notre Dame shirts, so fans can expect the trend to continue.

And fans haven’t failed to notice that Sheen’s character is a Notre Dame aficionado, confirms Paolo. “We get a lot of mail about it,” she says. “People send us [Notre Dame] things all the time, and we try to work them into the show.”

The West Wing currently has no plans to shoot on location at Notre Dame. However, given that the university has extended invitations to the real presidential candidates to speak on campus, it seems reasonable to assume that if “President Bartlet” ever wants to make a campaign stop here, he would certainly be welcome. In the meantime, Irish West Wing fans can continue to keep an eye out on Wednesday nights for a certain popular president making his way through the halls of the White House dressed in his favorite blue and gold.

ALL THE PRESIDENT’S Men and Women
A guide to the characters on the year’s Outstanding Drama

KIMBERLY BLACKWELL

The West Wing may revolve around the man in the Oval Office, but he’s not the only one in residence. For those who are new to the show, here’s a quick guide to the intelligent and endearingly quirky staffers who keep this fictional White House running smoothly.

Leo McGarry (John Spencer), chief of staff. Leo, the president’s best friend, manages the zoo that is the West Wing. Leo is coming off a rough personal year: his wife left him, and an intern leaked his past struggles with alcoholism to the press.

Josh Lyman (Bradley Whitford), deputy chief of staff. Always slightly harried, Josh, with degrees from Harvard and Yale, can’t run a press conference — but he can quote from Alexis de Tocqueville.

Donna Moss (Janel Moloney), assistant to deputy chief of staff. Donna’s job consists largely of harassing Josh to keep him on schedule.

C.J. Cregg (Allison Janney), press secretary. C.J. is adept at handling the press but not always as good at staying off reporter Danny Conconan’s advances. She doesn’t understand the census, has been known to dance at office parties and hates when she’s left out of the loop.

Toby Ziegler (Richard Schiff), communications director. The dour speechwriter supports PBS and opposes the death penalty. He helped to get Bartlet’s nominee to the Supreme Court, Roberto Mendoza, confirmed.

Sam Seaborn (Rob Lowe), deputy communications director. Sam used his law degree to defend Leo from congressional inquiries and joined Toby in his fight to get Mendoza appointed to the Supreme Court. He has caused C.J. headaches by sparring with the First Lady’s (Stockard Channing) staff and by his relationship with a call girl/law student.

Charlie Young (Dulé Hill), personal aide to the president. Besides keeping the president on top of his schedule, Charlie is also dating Bartlet’s youngest daughter Zoey, a freshman at Georgetown.
TRY WALKING IN HER SHOES

An in-depth look at what it’s like to be a female faculty member at Notre Dame

KARAZUARO

One of the things students don’t know is that this university, because it’s private, is able to operate in privacy about a great many things,” Jill Godmilow, professor of film, television and theater, says. “State universities, funded with taxpayers’ money, have to have what’s called ‘sunshine.’ Rules for tenure are published, people’s raises are published, people’s salaries are published, and everybody gets used to it and there’s less hanky-panky and there’s less manipulation. At Notre Dame, it’s probably one of the worst cases. Everything is private.”

Godmilow is the coordinator of WATCH, a one-year-old, independent, voluntary organization of Notre Dame women faculty. (It is not an acronym). According to WATCH’s mission statement, the group was formed “because many faculty at Notre Dame report a ‘chilly climate’ for women, and because official university committees are limited in scope.”

“Notre Dame simply does not value gender and women’s studies, but UND is following something of a trend in religiously affiliated universities,” says Suzanne Marilley, a government professor who was denied tenure at Notre Dame. She now teaches at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.

Some women at Notre Dame, however, do not feel uncomfortable with the climate for women on campus. “In my whole professional life, as well as when I was here, I have never felt discrimination … I’ve never felt unwelcome,” says Dean Carolyn Woo, one of the 17 women professors among the 90 in the Mendoza College of Business. “There are more benefits to being a woman than there are costs — when I perform, I stand out more than a man.”

College of Engineering Dean Frank Incropera oversees a department in which 4 of the 92 professors are women. “I don’t think any of our women faculty feel unwelcome or unappreciated,” he says. “They are valued. I’d be surprised if there were prob-
lems or issues and would want to know about them.”

Certainly, there is nothing cut-and-dried about the issue. Dian Murray serves as the associate dean of the College of Arts and Letters, where 97 of the 345 professors are women. Murray recognizes the concerns of women faculty as “a very interlocking and complex problem.”

Part of the complexity arises from Notre Dame’s historical relationship with women. In 1972, the university first admitted female undergraduate students. “Notre Dame felt it was important to integrate the student body,” explains Teresa Ghilarducci, associate professor of economics. “Women in the university meant increased SAT scores and GPAs, because there was a wider range of students to pick from. Now there is nearly a 50/50 split of men and women in the student body.”

The amount of women professors has increased at a much slower rate. According to the Annual Report of the Academic Affirmative Action Committee, “Across the four colleges and the schools of law and architecture, 63 new teaching-and-research faculty were hired [in the 1998-99 academic year]. Of that number, 20 are women.” The report notes the appointment of Patricia O’Hara as the first woman dean of the Law School “sends a positive message to the academic community that Notre Dame is a welcome place for female faculty and students.” The report also commends the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Engineering for the steps they have taken.

Despite these gains, however, the numbers indicate that Notre Dame has a long way to go. Overall, the amount of women on the faculty increased from 25.3 to 26.2 percent between 1997-98 and 1998-99 — an increase of just under one percent. “We have woeful numbers in business, engineering and the sciences,” Ghilarducci says. “We are nowhere near where we should be in our numbers of women faculty.” The number of women professors at Notre Dame continues to lag — sometimes by a significant margin — the number of women available in each discipline across the nation. The percentage of women with doctorates in a given field is consistently greater than the percentage of women present in the corresponding departments at Notre Dame.

Valerie Sayers, professor of English, wants this fixed. “In our department, it’s getting to the point where almost 60 percent of the faculty available to hire are women,” she says. “Even though our English department is seen as this very progressive department with all these women, we’re still way under that number. This is partly because you always have to play catch-up. It was all male before, so it’s understandably going to take a couple of generations to pick up and get to be at the spot where 60 percent of the Ph.D.s are female and 60 percent of the faculty is female, but you see those numbers and it just makes you want to weep. We are so far behind. It’s really shameful.”

The number of women in positions of power poses another issue. The statistics show that male professors generally make up the top ranks of each department and college, while women tend to be clustered toward the bottom. “Stacking the top [with white men] means that we hire women and minorities,” says history professor Kathleen Biddick, “but we don’t allow that to transfer any issue of power, and the culture doesn’t change.”

The Committee on Affirmative Action, formed to address issues of race and gender, is looking to balance the numbers. Joan Brennecke, the first tenured female professor in engineering, was a member of the committee from 1996 to 1999. “The committee took a very proactive role in identifying potential candidates and going out and seeking them instead of just expecting them to come to us,” Brennecke explains. “The process helped the university as a whole take tremendous steps forward by pushing and prodding each department to work harder and think more creatively about increasing the number of women — but it is not something that is going to be fixed immediately.”

Sayers, who also served on the committee, agrees. “I think it’s doing good work,” she says. “It makes wonderful recommendations every year. The problem is with the energy to follow-up, but one of the things it has recommended, and that was put into place, is that every college have an affirmative-action person. In Arts and Letters, every department has a person like that, who is actually supposed to engage the departments very actively and say, ‘Well, what are...
you doing? What efforts are you making?"

Though the university Committee on Affirmative Action is working to resolve gender problems, some women faculty have decided to take action on their own. The Women’s Caucus, consisting of all of the women in the history department, was formed to deliver a report on gender to an external group examining the department. This critical report addresses the impact of gender on faculty and student life and recommends steps to remedy the gender-related problems. Biddick believes that the gender report voiced some issues that are essential to making progress. “This is very painful for our department,” she continues. “It was like a boil, but we lanced it.”

While the report addressed only the concerns of the history department, the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools evaluates the entire university every 10 years. An accreditation report produced during the 1993-94 evaluation advised: “The university should develop and implement a plan for filling the projected new 150 faculty positions that is sensitive and responsive to ethnicity and gender concerns. The absence of such a plan or an affirmative-action office questions the seriousness of the university commitment to increasing faculty diversity. Specific plans need to be developed to attract female and minority faculty.”

The Women’s Caucus report sees this recommendation as a “challenge because so many university policies are not gender-friendly: for example, there is no university policy on parental leaves, no adoption of a gay-lesbian nondiscrimination clause, no policy on spousal hiring, little institutional support for the hiring of non-academic spouses, medical insurance policies which exempt reproductive issues including contraception, and a student health service without a gynecologist on its permanent staff.”

The Women’s Caucus is not alone in its push to develop an affirmative-action plan. On December 7, 1999, WATCH asked the Faculty Senate to call upon the administration to develop such a plan, to publish the new the plan in the Notre Dame Report, and to report on its implementation by May 2000.

The Faculty Senate passed the resolution, but some say they’ve seen little action. “As far as I know, the university is not responding,” Godmilow says. “It’s doing things slowly, like molasses.”

The university’s slow response is one of the factors that led to the formation of WATCH. Godmilow recalls a potluck dinner about a year ago. “We were kvetching about what keeps on happening to women at Notre Dame,” she says. “I said what was probably on everyone’s mind, ‘We need a volunteer, unofficial, activist women’s organization on this campus to protect ourselves.’ And everybody agreed.”

Although WATCH started among a small group of friends, it quickly picked up 100 members from all ranks and colleges at university. Members understand the value of an informal, social network. “We choose to meet off-campus in our homes,” Godmilow says. “You get to know your colleagues as people who grow plants and chat, and people have told me that’s a pretty important aspect. Socially, there are ways in which men collaborate on campus, say, ‘Let’s go play golf and talk about your thesis,’ and that tends to exclude women.”

According to some, this exclusion of women is probably not a conscious action, but merely a simple oversight. When asked what the engineering department has done to make women feel more welcomed, Dean Incropera replied, “I can’t say we do anything special, but I believe we treat them in a collegial fashion.” It is clear however, that this failure to do “anything special” has affected some women. Sayers says that when she served on the university’s affirmative-action committee, “We asked women what they felt they were left out of and the answers were really interesting. Some people said, ‘They go to breakfast and nobody ever thought to ask me to breakfast,’ or, ‘They play sports together,’ and those were just the social informal networks.”

Even Dean Woo acknowledges the presence of male bonding on campus. “What do

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Information courtesy of the Office of the Provost.
Of the 63 new teaching-and-research faculty hired this past year, 20 were women. The College of Arts and Letters added 13 females out of the 34 new hires.

While the College of Engineering's female faculty percentage, 4.2%, is still less than the national average of 8%, it is the highest representation of women in the history of the college.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE ACADEMIC AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

guys do well?” she asks. “They organize golf and baseball games. If you don’t play either, you’d feel excluded.”

Murray echoes Woo’s comments: “I think sometimes women feel isolated — especially women in the senior ranks because there are even fewer of them,” she says.

Provost Nathan Hatch also recognizes that the university needs to take steps to make its women faculty more comfortable: “We need to make it a more hospitable place for women,” he says.

One of the core ideals of WATCH is simply to provide a friendly network for women on campus. The group encompasses a large and diverse group of women with varying perspectives on feminism and the university at large. For this reason, not every member may agree with or participate in everything the group says or does. “We found a way to be an organization where WATCH could send a letter and it doesn’t mean that everybody in WATCH has read every paragraph and agreed to every line,” Godmilow says.

Ghirarducci believes the group will provide benefits for the entire university. “WATCH is organized to promote the quality of education here,” she says. By making the university a more comfortable place for women, the group hopes to provide a wider range of applicants from which the university can hire faculty. Just as the 50/50 split of men and women in the student body accounted for higher standards in scholarship, equality in gender on the professorial level should, theoretically, have the same result.

Ghirarducci believes that the university should aim for 33 percent of the faculty to be women. “We need to hire disproportionate numbers of women,” she says. “In Arts and Letters, well over 50 percent of new hires should be female, or you don’t get 30 percent of faculty to be women. I’m not talking about differentials in promotions. You get your numbers when interviewing eight women and two men.” Ghirarducci hopes that the university will encourage this process by rewarding departments that hire more women.

Once the women are hired, WATCH plans to aid them in the tenure process. “Mentoring happens informally anyway,” Godmilow says, “but WATCH sets out to institutionalize that, to make senior faculty available to junior faculty help them through the tenure process.” According to members of WATCH, the burden of the administrative work that comes with the graduate student advisor position should not get in the way of a woman’s tenure. “Every graduate student in the department comes to this person when they have a problem, and the position is almost always given to a junior female faculty, even though the provost has written officially that junior faculty should not be given large departmental responsibilities because they’re trying to write a book, they’re trying to develop courses, and they’re trying to get articles published for tenure,” Godmilow says. WATCH assures junior faculty members that they’re not obligated to take the position.

Appointment to a university committee is another time constraint that some say particularly affects women. “If there’s a university committee on something, there’s got to be one woman on it, right?” asks Godmilow. “Well, that woman comes out of a much smaller pool than the men do, so we end up on more committees than men. And it’s hard for most women to turn down an appointment because they feel they should be there to speak from a certain place that’s not getting represented.”

If a woman is denied tenure, there is an appeal procedure which dates back to the legal action taken by English professor Dolores Frese in the.eary ‘80s. “All in all, it was a very bad working environment for women at that time,” Frese recalls. “They had been hiring women on faculty for over 10 years, but none of these women were good enough for tenure. They found something wrong with each and every one of them.” When Frese’s request to be considered for tenure was denied, she filed a class-action lawsuit under Title VII, which prohibits employee discrimination based on gender. “Eighty-some women joined the suit. Just weeks before the trial, we settled out of court,” Frese recalls. “The settlement agreement included provisions for women who felt they had been unfairly treated and that gender bias had played a part. Basically, it set up an appeal procedure. Without this provision, each woman after me would have had to go through the exact same procedure from the start and that would be a lot of wasted time and energy.”

Even when women successfully receive tenure at the university today, salary inequities still pose a concern. On June 13, 2000, WATCH wrote a letter to the provost about this issue. The letter proposed establishing a permanent, elected faculty committee to oversee the salary-setting process, and making all salaries public knowledge. “Openness and accountability have many salubrious benefits,” it reads. “Good faculty are rewarded; faculty know the criteria by which they are being evaluated; the process is viewed as legitimate; there is an appeals process; and lawsuits are avoided.”

“Obviously, our goal is to have salaries that are fair and equitable, and hopefully we
Changing landscape
Since 1972, female students have become an integral part of the university

KATIE CASPERSSEN

Since co-education began at Notre Dame, each decade has brought new challenges to the women of the university. From their initial admittance to Notre Dame in 1972 to today’s ongoing gender issues, women have worked to rewrite many traditions.

The percentage of women has grown from eight percent to 46 percent over the last 27 years. Women have distinguished themselves in many areas. In 1999 alone, five Notre Dame women were awarded Fulbright Grants for graduate study and teaching abroad. Even within traditionally male-dominated majors, women are making their presence known. Women comprise 138 of the College of Engineering’s 660 students, a higher female-to-male ratio than the field’s national average. Also, nearly 46 percent of Notre Dame’s math majors are women.

Such majors as gender studies — a multidisciplinary program that focuses on the past three decades of groundbreaking work in women’s studies, feminist theory and the new gender studies — have developed, bringing new perspectives to the university community. This major involves over 70 women and men faculty members from nearly every department in the College of Arts and Letters. It offers 65 courses per year — a huge number in comparison to other programs. Although the majority of gender studies majors are female, the number of male participants continues to rise.

The female presence at Notre Dame has also made quite an impact on athletics. The women’s swimming, basketball and track teams have risen to national prominence, and the women’s soccer team is currently No. 1 in the nation.

While working to establish themselves academically and athletically, female students have also worked to become a part of other campus traditions. They have entered student government and ROTC, but even today — as seen by the recent controversial admittance of a woman into the Irish Guard — gender relations are still an issue. And although many women have participated in student government, there has never been a female student-body president.

“Lots of women aren’t running and losing, they’re just not running,” said presidential candidate Michelle Costello in a Sep-
the faculty wrote me and e-mail to say she had a little incident,” Godmilow says. “She was finding herself named on various students’ Web sites and talked about as a ‘babe.’ She didn’t know how to handle herself in class, whether to acknowledge it, talk about it in class, or pretend it didn’t exist, so she was asking for help. ... It’s certainly an issue of sexual harassment.”

One member suggested WATCH invite a speaker from the American Association of University Women to speak at Notre Dame on the topic of sexual harassment. “So we’re going to co-sponsor two big presentations this semester with a woman from AAUW,” Godmilow says, “one for students and one for faculty, and we’re co-sponsoring with the Women’s Resource Center and gender studies [department] exactly because we shouldn’t be so isolated from the students and the university.”

Since many of the barriers women face are difficult to pinpoint, WATCH must branch out in different directions and face each situation separately. “There could be times—we haven’t had one of these yet—where some kind of disobedience or some kind of civilian action, let’s say, is called for,” Godmilow says. “We’re not about to blow up the dome or anything—although I’ve thought of it. But that’s just me.”

Of course, there is a very good chance that women will not need to take radical action in this campus. Many faculty members—particularly women in powerful positions—have been supportive of the concerns that women faculty have expressed. “Just having Carol Mooney very active in the provost’s office, just having women in positions where they decide how money and fellowships are divided up, having Jean Porter running the Faculty Senate—this is probably why WATCH started up last year,” Godmilow says. “There were some people to work with who could actually help us and it’s been able to affect some change.”

Professor James McKenna, another member of the committee on affirmative action, says, “Not just the committee but all of the faculty have taken ownership of the importance of increasing female faculty and I am very proud. It’s not just university-driven; it’s a faculty-driven process. ...Of course, one will always need to be proactive in this area—when you rest your laurels is when you lose numbers.”

“In some ways,” Hatch says, “it’s continuing to live out what we profess to make sure we do away with barriers to equity and fairness—in this case, barriers to women.”

Despite the many complaints about the treatment of gender issues at Notre Dame, there seems to be a great deal of optimism that the university can and will, with group and individual efforts, make progress. Though Biddick has taught at other, arguably more progressive schools including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California at Santa Cruz and Los Angeles, she does not seem eager to trade in her Notre Dame experience for another. “It’s been interesting being here because it’s so quirky and gender-embattled. I’ve been lucky. I’ve been here for 17 years, and I love my students. They’re great.”

Godmilow also draws inspiration from her students. “It’s important for students to know that faculty—who may seem to be in another world or seem like different kind of human being—are struggling,” she says. “There’s struggle everywhere—sometimes around gender, sometimes around race, sometimes around all kinds of things, and to have a publicly functioning group of women here who appreciate this place and their jobs but who thinks there’s a lot of work to be done on it, theoretically, anyway, could inspire all kinds of action, student level and faculty level. Dreamy, but I guess in some way it’s my operation principle.”

tember 1998 Scholastic. “They’re not interested.”

“Students pay attention to what other students say, and women tend to hear that they can’t possibly win,” says Ava Preacher, Arts and Letters associate dean and faculty representative on the Campus Life Council. “The women who are really good and successful naturally won’t do things that are self-defeating.”

Dorm life is also affected by many gender issues. Single-sex dorms are often cited as the source of many gender problems on campus, and some claim that enforcement of rules within the dorms illuminates unequal treatment of the sexes.

“I think there’s definitely a double-standard when it comes to dorm-life,” says senior Katherine Utz. “If you live in a guys’ dorm, you can get away with a lot, while in a girls’ dorm, you have a security guard knocking at your door.”

Most argue that strides have been made over the past three decades, but as many feel that there is still work to be done. One group that hopes to continue to address the issue is the Women of Notre Dame.

Launched in March 2000, the Women of Notre Dame is a new program in the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts. Its purpose is to raise the awareness of the important contributions of Notre Dame’s women students, alumni, faculty, administrators and supporters. It has started a network of interested alumnae of the College of Arts and Letters to serve as mentors for students and as resources for faculty. So far, the response has been remarkable.

An alumnus remembers his experience at Notre Dame in 1972: “[Women] were not wanted here,” he says. “If you asked most men at the time, they would have said that letting women into the university was a big mistake. Of course, now I can’t say the same thing, but it was a very hard time for women to enter the campus.”

Now, there appears to be enthusiasm regarding future opportunities to make the campus more welcoming to women, and to ensure that Notre Dame’s traditions embrace both genders.
The Gipp’s back after a tough bye-week of avoiding the cops at Washington Street and holding his own big-house Olympics. If you missed out on this weekend’s festivities, don’t feel bad because the Gipp’s got the goods. Nudity, urine, fruit and more fruit — it’s all in this edition, so let’s get to it.

Organic Fruit

There’s nothing funny about organic chemistry — unless, of course, a guy shows up with a singing telegram for the professor. Apparently, the poor saps taking orgo were treated to quite a spectacle last week, when the banana-suit-clad man interrupted the class to announce that he had a message. The guy in the fruit suit broke out into a sing-songy birthday greeting sent courtesy of the prof’s daughter. When it was over, the professor tried to get back to the serious business of cataclysmic-cyclic chain reactions — or whatever it is they do in orgo (hey, the Gipp’s never had to suffer through the class). He couldn’t stifle his laughter long enough, however, to get on with the lecture. Then the class got what Coach Davie deserves: an early dismissal.

Is that a Banana in Your Pants?

There’s nothing funny about organic chemistry — unless, of course, a guy decides to strip in front of the class. Apparently, the poor saps taking orgo were treated to quite a spectacle when one student decided to end his Notre Dame career with a bang. About 10 minutes into the class, he burst into the room, ran to the stage at the front of the lecture hall and announced it was his last class at ND. With that, he ripped off a pair of tear-away pants and took off his shirt to reveal ... well, the Gipp thinks you can see for yourself. Stripped down to underies and a bra, the chemist-turned-exhibitionist danced around for a while and then paused. “Who’s hungry?” he asked, pulling two muffins out of his bra and throwing them to the class. He finished his farewell performance by promptly reaching into his crotch, producing a banana and two kiwis, and throwing them to the class as well. After this fiasco was over and the class had calmed down, the professor could only mutter, “Fridays just keep getting weirder around here.”

Ultimate Frisbee

It seems that stripping isn’t reserved just for organic chemistry class. Some girls at Turtle Creek decided to have a sleepover (don’t get too excited — they weren’t the ones who stripped). Their male neighbors found out about the gathering and decided to have a little fun. In the early morning hours, they went outside to play Frisbee in front of the girls’ apartment ... naked. Unfortunately, the boys’ efforts failed to get the attention of the girls, who had already gone to sleep for the night. One quick-witted fellow came up with an ingenious solution: throw the Frisbee against the window to make some noise. That way, the girls will wake up, come outside and get an eyeful of nudity. The boy launched the disc at the window and got his wish: there was plenty of noise as the glass shattered and the Frisbee sailed into the house. The guys scrambled to pull on their boxers before the rest of the neighbors got an eyeful, too.

Our Frisbee-tossing friends would have fit right in at the two-piece party that took place over the weekend. The rules of the party: only two pieces of clothing allowed. As expected, many people showed up in boxers and T-shirts or stripped down to their bra and panties. Others, however, were more creative, including one guy who covered himself with the barest of essentials: a rubber band and a sock. Banana anyone?
I chose to come to Notre Dame because: I was recruited while in Florida practicing at the Adidas Soccer Academy. When I visited, the people were really nice, and I felt really comfortable here.

The hardest thing about being an athlete is: there need to be more hours in a day!

My favorite aspect of soccer is: all of them. There are so many aspects — speed, endurance, skills, brains — you need all of them to play. It is the greatest sport!

To prepare for a game I: don’t even think about it. It makes me nervous. I have no real routine. Relax, eat right, get a good night’s sleep. No tricks.

The biggest challenge for the soccer team this year is: staying mentally ready to play through the middle part of the season to the end.

The most disappointing game was: when we lost to UConn in the semiinals my freshman year after having an awesome season.

My most memorable experience is: last year’s finals, even though I was injured.

Playing with the Finnish national soccer team was: a great experience. I was able to play with the best players in the world and to represent my country.

What I miss most about Finland is: my family and friends.

In the spare time that I have I: relax, watch movies and go out. I also like hiking, camping and other outdoor activities when I am at home.

After my senior year I: don’t know what I am going to do. Right now all things are open. I am taking it one day at a time and enjoying it.

— Jennifer Morgan

Football (2-2)

Key Stat: Notre Dame has not beaten Michigan State in the last four contests.
Prime-Time Performer: Julius Jones rushed for 126 yards and two touchdowns in the 27-21 Irish defeat in East Lansing.
Next Game: Notre Dame hosts the Stanford Cardinal Saturday at 1:30 p.m. EST.

Women’s Soccer (11-0)

Key Stat: The No. 1 Irish have outscored opponents 38-4 this season.
Prime-Time Performer: All-American Anne Makinen scored her team-leading ninth goal in the 2-0 victory over Rutgers on Sunday.
Next Game: Notre Dame visits Georgetown on Friday for the contest at 3:00 p.m. EST.

Men’s Soccer (3-5-1)

Key Stat: The Irish won for the first time since September 19.
Prime-Time Performer: Freshman Justin Detter scored both of Notre Dame’s goals in its 2-1 victory over Northwestern on Tuesday.
Next Game: Providence hosts the Irish on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. EST.

Senior midfielder Anne Makinen of Helsinki, Finland is one of the three captains of this year’s No. 1 women’s soccer team. Since her freshman year, the three-time All-American has been recognized for her abilities numerous times. She has already played a pivotal role for this year’s team, including scoring both goals in Notre Dame’s 2-0 win over the University of Tulsa.
Notre Dame earns its reputation for toppling No. 1 teams in a last-minute win over Oklahoma.

NOTRE DAME: 7
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA: 0

Throughout its history, Notre Dame has had many not-so-stellar football seasons, but the 1956 season might be the worst in school history. The team had compiled a meager 2-8 record, defeating only Iowa and North Carolina. Irish hopes for the 1957 season did not look much brighter. “We will have more experience than a year ago but still lack the depth so necessary to play the type of schedule attempted by Notre Dame every year,” said Irish Coach Terry Brennan at the beginning of the season. “All in all, it is not a year to be making predictions.”

Notre Dame opened its season on September 26 against Purdue, defeating the Boilermakers 12-0. The Irish then went on to defeat Indiana 26-0, Army 23-21 and Pittsburgh 13-7. Notre Dame rose to fifth in the national polls and looked next to beat Navy at home. Navy, however, had other plans and defeated the Irish 20-6. Michigan State handed Notre Dame its second loss, scoring 34 points to the Irish’s six.

Next, Notre Dame faced the virtually unbeatable University of Oklahoma. The Sooners had not lost a game since 1953, when Notre Dame defeated them 28-21. Since then, Oklahoma had won 47 straight games, including the past two national championships. When Notre Dame met Oklahoma during the 1956 season, the Sooners had pounded the Irish 40-0 at Notre Dame Stadium. The Sooners were heavily favored to hand Notre Dame another loss, this time at Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.

In fact, many Sooners fans were so confident of their team’s imminent victory that they traveled to South Bend for the sole purpose of taunting Notre Dame students. From Tuesday until Thursday the week before the game, “groups of about 50 or 60 Oklahoma fans marched through the quads, drinking beer and chanting, ‘Notre Dame is too weak to break the Sooner streak,’” said P. Richard Ciccone ’61. The students jeered back and shouted profanities in attempt to save face, but the students “didn’t have a lot of vocal confidence,” said Ciccone. “Oklahoma was considered invincible.”

Notre Dame entered the game against Oklahoma as 19-point underdogs. The Irish and the Sooners battled fruitlessly back and forth throughout the game, and by the end of the third quarter the score was still 0-0. Three minutes into the fourth quarter, the Irish found themselves with the ball on their own 20-yard line. Notre Dame worked its way up to the Oklahoma three-yard line. On fourth down, quarterback Bob Williams faked the ball to the middle and then threw to halfback Dick Lynch, scoring the first touchdown of the game. The extra point was good, and the Irish led 7-0.

With only 3:50 left in the game, the Sooners attempted to even the score and brought the ball as far as the Irish 36. But Williams extinguished all Sooners hopes with an interception in the Irish end zone. The Irish then held the ball to run down the clock. The Irish had defeated Oklahoma 7-0, ending the Sooners winning streak and pulling off one of the biggest upsets in Notre Dame history.

Sooner fans were stunned. “They stood in the stands for a long time,” Joe Bride of The Notre Dame Scholastic reported. “Most of them had never seen their heroes lose. They stamped their feet nervously, punched each other to see if it was true, and even cried a little.” The Oklahoma locker room was just as quiet as the reality of defeat slowly hit the team.

The scene in the Notre Dame locker room was quiet as well. “There was no thought of rejoicing until the three Hail Marys were said,” Bride wrote. Then Coach Brennan stood up. “I can’t thank you enough,” he said. “You know what this victory means to me, to you and to Notre Dame. I’ll never be able to forget this game or this team.” Only then did the team start celebrating.

The Irish lost their next game to Iowa but defeated Southern California and Southern Methodist in the last two games of the season, compiling a season record of 7-3 — much improved over last season’s 2-8 campaign. The highlight of the season by far, however, was Notre Dame’s stunning upset of Oklahoma.
Full-Contact Spirit
Students’ passion for football spills over to interhall play

BRENDAN BARKER

Saying that Notre Dame is synonymous with football is like saying that the Dome is gold — everyone knows it, whether or not they’ve been here for a game. But the mystique of Notre Dame football extends far beyond gold helmets and the stadium. The passion for football at Notre Dame can also be seen on Stepan and McGlinn fields, where students gather for the phenomenon known as interhall football.

Interhall is unlike any other intramural program in the country. The service academies are the only other schools in the country that even offer an organized intramural football program that plays the game in full pads with real officials. “Kids really like to make it organized,” says Knott Hall wide receiver/safety Jonathan Smith. “We have a lot of complicated offenses and defenses.”

“Many students played football in high school,” says Rich O’Leary, director of club sports. “That enables the game to be played at a higher level.”

Legendary coach Knute Rockne believed that football had a positive impact on Notre Dame students, so 80 years ago he founded the men’s interhall program. Although the basics have not changed much since Rockne’s time, other aspects of interhall have.

For the first 60 years, the teams played with old helmets and pads handed down from the varsity team. This practice changed when helmet manufacturers began to put expiration dates on helmets. This meant that most of the helmets that were already in use had long since expired. In a November 1968 story in The Notre Dame Scholastic, one coach noted that the face masks would bend on contact. Much of the other equipment was also past its prime, and, because it came from the varsity team, it was already beaten up. RecSports furnished all-new equipment in the ‘80s and continues to cover the cost of equipment each year, although this year a $20 fee was instituted for the first time.

The referees and rules also have been fine-tuned. In the mid-‘70s, interhall began using high-school referees — instead of Notre Dame students — to call the games. Shortly thereafter, high-school rules were officially adopted. This was not a dramatic difference, but it improved compatibility with the officials.

Despite these changes, the players’ intensity remains. “The enthusiasm of the dorms has always been at a high level,” says Tom Kelly, an associate athletic director. “[Students] are extremely competitive. For some kids, this is their last chance to play competitive football, so they’re really serious about it.”

Notre Dame’s interhall-football world was shaken up again in the ‘70s, when women were first admitted to Notre Dame and an interhall football program was established for them. The women’s league was created as — and still is — a flag-football program. In the program’s early stages, women played 11-on-11 with full-contact blocking. “The women’s game was extremely physical,” O’Leary recalls. “We needed to lessen the physical aspect of the game.”

To do so, the official rules of flag football were adopted, which outlawed full-contact blocking and pared down the players on the field to eight per team. Current Pangborn Hall captain Erin Piroutek says that although it continues to be “very competitive,” the women’s game is somewhat limited. “It’s very hard to develop a running game,” she says, as screen blocks are the only legal kind available to the women now.

While the women may not have the tradition that the men do, they are not lacking in intensity. “The girls are very aggressive,” Kelly says, noting the need to tone down the contact in their league.

Despite the differences in the leagues, both men and women agree: when you play interhall, you’re playing for a chance to play the championship game at Notre Dame stadium. “Every little boy can dream of playing football for Notre Dame,” Piroutek says, “but with interhall, girls can aspire to play in that stadium as well.” Smith, who played in the championship game last year, also realizes the unique opportunity this presents. “It’s every kid’s dream to run out of that tunnel into the stadium,” he says. “Even though there aren’t 80,000 people there, it’s still an amazing experience.”

The interhall program has gained national notoriety, having been featured on ESPN and NBC as well as in Sports Illustrated and USA Today. The time, effort and cost of running such a full-scale football program as interhall is extraordinary.

Kelly remembers talking to an official at an Ivy League school about the end of its football intramurals. When told that there was simply a lack of interest, Kelly replied, “If they ever tried to shut down our interhall program, the students would probably march on the Main Building.” And for those students out there every Sunday, running and hitting their way towards college football’s greatest venue, they would not have it any other way.

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INTENSITY Notre Dame interhall players compete to make it to the stadium.
Kicking off a new era

Chris Apple takes the reins amidst difficult circumstances.

by Gerard Meskill

There are some things for which one cannot possibly prepare. Case in point: the January death of Mike Borticelli, the beloved men's head soccer coach for the last 10 years. Assistant Coach Chris Apple hardly had time to catch his breath before duty drew him back into the world of soccer — and he found himself the next skipper of the soccer helm just two months later.

The appointment was bittersweet.

"It's the greatest opportunity I've ever had in my life professionally, [but] under the worst possible circumstances," says Apple, a four-year Notre Dame veteran. "To lose a friend, to lose a head coach, and then from that to have an unbelievable opportunity ... there are very polar things going on there."

After the shock subsided, Apple says that one of his first priorities was to assume the same lofty goals that Borticelli set for the Irish.

"Our goal is to be nationally competitive," Apple says. "We want to compete for the Big East Championship every year and compete for a National Championship."

These championships go hand-in-hand. With two top-five teams among its ranks — No. 3 Connecticut and No. 4 Saint John's — the Big East is arguably the strongest conference in men's soccer. To compete for a Big East Championship is also to compete for the NCAA title.

Prior to coming to Notre Dame, Apple spent one year playing professional soccer in Germany. This experience helped Apple recruit two key players from that country: Erich Braun and Andreas Forstner. Though his familiarity with German was helpful, Apple notes that his was not the sole influence in the players' decision to come to Notre Dame.

"Those guys are here as much because of Notre Dame as because of me," he says. "Notre Dame is one of those schools that its such a great place that people want to come here."

Braun agrees. "It definitely was very important that he spoke German, since my English wasn't too good a year ago," he says. "When Coach Apple came over to recruit us, I had heard of this university, about Notre Dame, but I definitely couldn't imagine. He came over and told us everything; he showed us a little video. At the beginning I came [to Notre Dame] because of soccer, and once I saw this place I was like, 'All right, this is where I want to stay and make my degree.'"

After his stint in Europe, Apple spent one year as an assistant coach at Harvard before serving as the head coach at North Carolina Wesleyan for two years, where he compiled a 12-20-1 record in Division III play.

Apple admits that ambition might have pushed him into the head slot before he was ready. "I was young; I was eager. I wanted to be a head coach, probably prematurely at that point, but I wanted to have my own team and run my own program."

Now, Apple has his own program once again — this time on the center stage of
Notre Dame’s emotion was evident on the field as the Irish dominated the offensive game. They held a 26-7 shot advantage, including a lopsided 16-1 advantage in the second half. However, great teams find ways to win — though firing only seven shots against the Irish, Bradley netted three of them. Notre Dame, despite showering the Bradley net with a flurry of shots, only managed one goal, scored by Howard. “We certainly had our chances tonight,” said Apple after the game, “but I think we need to create more dangerous scoring chances.”

After this tough loss to one of the nation’s best soccer teams, the Irish moved north and east to battle Boston College in the Big East opener. Unfortunately, the Irish fell behind early and never recovered. The Eagles walked off with a 2-0 victory; Notre Dame had lost two straight.

This defeat dropped the team to 1-2-1. The Irish did manage to win two out of their next three games, but then they dropped a tough game 1-0 to Seton Hall.

Notre Dame had the opportunity to redeem itself two days later, but vengeance would not come easy: the No. 2 Connecticut Huskies opposed them on the other side of Alumni Field. In their best-played game of the year, the Irish held Connecticut scoreless on only six shots through the first 80 minutes of very physical play — the game saw forty-seven fouls and five yellow cards. However, the final 10 minutes broke 26 hearts. Connecticut netted a late goal and avoided a huge upset, winning 1-0.

Despite the tough loss, the Irish were not disappointed with their performance. “We felt bad in that they scored so late in the game,” Tait says, “however, we felt confident in how we played the game, holding our own against such a highly ranked opponent.”

But Notre Dame was not done playing highly ranked opponents; the Irish hosted No. 15 Pittsburgh later that week. Although the game began ominously — the Panthers’ first goal came just 5:39 into the contest — the Irish rallied in the second half. Braun tied the game with his first goal of the year, and Howard tallied his fourth score a minute later, giving the Irish the lead. However, the Irish game went downhill from there. Pittsburgh scored twice more and secured a 3-2 victory.

Yet again, the Irish peak quickly sagged into a valley.

“We’re in a bit of a roller-coaster season,” says senior fullback Dustin Pridmore. “We’re at the position now where we can go either one way or the other. We can give up, call it quits and play out the rest of the games not caring much what happens, or we can get our focus back, start playing well again and really end up having a strong season.”

Coach Apple agrees with Pridmore. “Our No. 1 goal coming into this season was to put ourselves in a position at the end of the year where (a), we can make the playoffs, and (b), we’re peaking, and we’re still in a position to do both of those things. I still think we have high goals, and I expect to achieve them.”

With just eight games left on the schedule — almost all of them conference games — Notre Dame has little time to waste if Apple is correct.

“it’s the greatest opportunity I’ve ever had in my life professionally, [but] under the worst possible circumstances.”

— coach chris apple

his first collegiate start, notching five saves and the shutout, while freshman Devon Prescott and Howard scored the Irish goals in their collegiate debuts.

In the final, Notre Dame’s underclassmen claimed the spotlight for the second straight game. Neither team managed to solve the other’s defense, and the contest ended tied 0-0. Tait was named the MVP of the tournament, recording two straight shutouts over 210 minutes of work. Forstner, a sophomore, was declared the tournament’s most outstanding defensive player.

The Irish bade Las Vegas farewell uplifted by a successful season start. However, the return to South Bend rekindled the emotions of January. No. 21 Bradley was slated for the Irish home opener in a game dedicated to Berticelli.

“[Berticelli] was working with us for so long,” Howard says. “To look and see he was not there ... it was a pretty emotional time.”
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Directed by Wendy Arons

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For Your Viewing Pleasure
A look at some flicks to catch over fall break

BRIGIDSWEENEY

I don’t do very well with movies, a problem I blame entirely on my mother. This is a woman who pronounced Good Will Hunting “ridiculous” and, upon exiting the theater after Life Is Beautiful, rolled her eyes and said, “I just don’t understand all the fuss.” In fact, the only two movies she has ever actually admitted to liking are The King and I and, logically, Enemy of the State.

Sadly, I seem to have inherited her weird aversion to cinematic efforts. My friends refuse to watch movies with me because I tend to pick one offensive aspect of an actor’s appearance and fixate on it for the entire film. In I Know What You Did Last Summer, I couldn’t quite deal with the fact that Jennifer Love Hewitt’s character wore tapered jeans. Similarly, You’ve Got Mail posed a huge problem for me because of Meg Ryan’s eyebrows. Even worse, I constantly lean over to the person next to me and whisper, “Wait… I don’t get it. What just happened? I missed something….” This is most likely because my attention had been directed at some actor’s eyebrows instead of the plot.

But, inexplicably, I keep trying. I figure if I watch enough movies, I’ll eventually find The One that I absolutely love. In that spirit of perseverance, here are a few films to check out over fall break:

Meet the Parents — In this comedy due out October 6, Ben Stiller reprises his There’s Something About Mary role of an earnest, well-meaning guy who gets entangled in all sorts of ridiculous predicaments while trying to win the girl. Already saddled with the unfortunate last name of Focker, Stiller’s character, Greg, runs into much larger problems when he heads to the New York home of his girlfriend Pam’s family to pop the question. Inside the picturesque home, he finds an apparently perfect family. Greg soon realizes, however, that all is not perfect. His future father-in-law, Jack Byrnes (Robert DeNiro), an ex-CIA agent posing as a retired florist, is a condescending, overly protective and not endowed with a particularly developed sense of humor. He also happens to be trained in mortal combat and has access to everyone’s movie rental history. While valiantly attempting to make a good impression, Greg suffers disaster upon disaster.

The quirks of this movie (Greg also happens to be a male nurse who has a penchant for milking anything with nipples; Pam’s ex-boyfriend is a very religious multimillionaire who refers to Jesus as “the big J.C.”) should appeal to the same people who enjoyed There’s Something About Mary and the Farrelly brothers’ other films. Unless there’s a character who wears unattractive tapered jeans, Meet the Parents looks like a good bet for stupid-but-funny jokes.

Bedazzled — A remake of the 1967 romantic comedy, Bedazzled features a suicidal technical adviser (Brendan Fraser) who sells his soul to the devil in order to be granted seven wishes that will make the object of his obsession notice him. Things become complicated when each wish doesn’t produce exactly the intended results. For instance, his wish to become rich and powerful turns him into a Latino drug lord (seeing Brendan Fraser playing a Latino drug lord seems reason enough to me to run to the theater). When his wishes obviously fail to attract the girl, Fraser’s character again turns to the devil for the “surprising solution.” A random point of interest: Satan is played by none other than Elizabeth Hurley.

Due out October 20, Bedazzled could go either way. The ridiculous results of the wishes might provide a lot of comic material — or they could flop badly. The previews emphasize the evil sexiness of Hurley, which will most likely get old quickly to anyone who is not an adolescent boy. While the idea of selling one’s soul to the devil seems rather trite, the idea of a female Satan could prove too curious to resist.

The Contender — In the tradition of political thrillers such as All the President’s Men, The Contender goes into Washington and deals with seedy cover-ups and complicated power-plays. The story begins when the sitting vice president dies and Senator Laine Hanson (Joan Allen) is nominated as the first female to fill the office. When sordid details of her past come to light, Hanson’s personal life, in addition to her political future, are threatened. The film introduces moral questions evocative of the Clinton scandal, such as the debate over public versus private life and the idea of presidential legacies.

The Contender features an impressive cast, including Gary Oldman as an evil Republican resolution to thwart Hanson’s career; Jeff Bridges as a casual, beloved president; and Christian Slater as a young House member who crosses party lines to sit against Hanson. Due out October 20, it has “big movie” buzz written all over it.

And there you have it. I recommend going crazy and seeing all three. If you’re still not satisfied, you can always run to Blockbuster for Enemy of the State.
Most people don’t leave productions of Romeo and Juliet or Othello with grins on their faces — witnessing double suicides and murders isn’t all that conducive to a cheerful attitude. However, on Wednesday, October 4 through Sunday, October 8, Washington Hall will present two of Shakespeare’s most famous tragedies with a rather unusual slant — namely, as comedies.

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) tells an imaginative tale of Constance, a Shakespearean scholar desperate to prove a unique doctoral thesis — namely, that Othello and Romeo and Juliet are rewrites of earlier comedies that have since been lost. Facing the scorn of her academic colleagues and ready to give up, she is mysteriously transported back to the Middle Ages of Othello and the Elizabethan period of Romeo and Juliet. She interacts with the characters, altering their romances and the plots of the famous plays while finding proof for her thesis and insights into her own love life as well.

The comedy by Ann-Marie MacDonald premiered in Canada 1988 and has since been performed over 40 times and earned several awards.

The play marks the directorial debut of Wendy Arons, a Film, Television and Theater professor. Arons suggested Goodnight Desdemona to the board that selects Washington Hall’s plays in response to their request for a comedy.

The cast obviously approves of the selection. Senior Katie Sise, who plays Juliet, explains that the script’s appeal is in its unique interpretations of well-known characters. “The first time I read the script, I fell in love with the characters,” she says. “Romeo, Juliet, Othello and Desdemona maintain many characteristics of Shakespeare’s work, yet we have the opportunity to observe them in a new light and as Shakespeare I’m sure had not originally intended them to be. I love what the playwright has done, because I think the audience will really enjoy the comedy of these once-tragic characters.”

The play also explores the “what if” questions that inevitably arise at the fatal ends of Othello and Romeo and Juliet. “When Constance enters the world of Romeo and Juliet, she manages to save them from their tragic deaths.” Sise explains, “what you might not suspect is how rotten the two young lovers feel about each other after spending their first night together and realizing they are stuck, married to each other for the rest of their lives.”

In light of their considerable experience, the five-person cast didn’t have a problem reinterpreting an author as revered as Shakespeare.
Shakespeare. Sise is a film, television and theater major and, as she explains, has "been involved in many shows, ranging from more traditional plays like Macbeth, to more experimental theater performed in the lab at Washington Hall."

Other cast members honed their Shakespearean skills this summer, as junior Liz Cenova (Desdemona) and senior J.J. Area (Romeo) both participated in Notre Dame's first Summer Shakespeare Festival this past August. "I've enjoyed this play a lot because I'm really interested in Shakespeare, especially after this summer," Cenova says. "I used a lot of the skills I acquired from the festival." The two also had a chance to meet Arons during the summer festival. "She dropped by our discussions this summer, and you could just tell she seemed really interested in Shakespeare," states Cenova. "I think she really enjoys the comedy aspect of the play, too."

Sise has also appreciated Arons' enthusiasm for the play. "Working with Wendy was great because as actors we could all trust her, and this is probably the single most important thing when you are working with a director," she says. "She pushed us to explore our creative abilities."

This admiration is mutual. Arons claims the cast is the main reason her first directing job at Notre Dame has proceeded smoothly. "In a lot of ways, this play was easier than I expected, in large part because the cast is so talented, and they worked so hard," she says. "They always gave 150 percent and made my job very easy. Most of what's in the play is theirs, and during most rehearsals I just kept saying, 'Yeah, keep that, do more of that.'"

The cast has rehearsed for approximately 30 hours each week since the end of August, every day except Saturdays. Members have cemented their friendships along with their lines. The ludicrous situations that arise in the plot — including a take on the famous balcony scene that involves Juliet, dressed as a man, calling up to Constance to profess her love — made the long hours bearable.

The backdrop design for all this action was a task that fell to set designer Bruce Auerbach. Arons worked with him to highlight the surreal aspect of Constance's journey back in time and to create scenes that effectively convey that her adventures are influenced by her real-life experiences.

"The idea behind the set is that when Constance tumbles into the Shakespearean world, it's a world that her memories and her experiences help form," Arons explains. "It's a journey into Constance's psyche as much as into Shakespeare, so the set isn't too realistic. We really focused on the idea of making it a collage of images from other well-known Shakespeare productions. There are a lot of fun playing spaces and neat entrances, with different levels and platforms. There's kind of a combination of stone turret castles and Elizabethan things going on."

The set's attempt to connect the Shakespearean world to Constance's world is supported by the characters. "The whole play is taking place in my mind," explains senior Kathy Koch, who plays Constance. "The idea is that the characters are portrayed as I picture them."

Constance's impressions of people in her life are transposed onto the Shakespearean characters she meets in the play. Mark Scheibmeir, who plays Othello, also plays Professor Knight, a colleague of Constance's in her "real life" whose negative characteristics later appear in Othello. Similarly, Cenova plays Desdemona and Ramona, the woman who is going to marry Professor Knight, and whose bold manner is also evidenced in Desdemona. Finally, Sise plays both Juliet, who is infatuated with Constance, and a student of Constance who compliments her earlier in the play.

These subtleties are what Koch hopes the audience will appreciate. "There are so many little things in this play that I don't know if audiences will get, but that we are so aware of after going through the script so many countless times," she says. "For example, some of the script is written in iambic pentameter [the meter in which Shakespeare wrote his plays], which is not easy to do. The script is just so good and clever."

"There are definitely a lot of don't miss parts of our production," Sise adds. "We have Romeo and Juliet dressing in drag to win the affections of Constance, whom they both believe to be a man, and Desdemona entering the world of Romeo and Juliet and trying to bring Constance back home with her. There'll be pyrotechnics, fabulous costumes — altogether a fun show."

And, altogether not exactly what you'd expect in a Shakespearean tragedy.
Years and Years of Glee

The Glee Club celebrates a long history of singing and brotherhood

CARRIE SWEENEY

Notre Dame’s Glee Club originated in 1915 with 12 members who liked to sing and figured they’d be better off doing so together. Eighty-five years later, the group, which now consists of 75 singers, has emerged as one of the premier collegiate all-male a cappella groups in the nation.

The idea behind collegiate glee clubs sprung from a tradition in Europe. In the Middle Ages, travelers stopped at inns along their journeys to sing songs that almost everyone knew. These songs were a form of oral history as well as entertainment.

Today, the Glee Club studies vocal technique and various musical styles. Its repertoire includes the national anthem at sporting events and Christmas carols in traditional rounds to the dorms during December. The club performs more than 100 concerts each year and has traveled from coast to coast, singing in venues ranging from small churches to large concert halls. It will travel this fall to the Southeast to perform in Georgia and Florida; later in the year, it will head to Texas.

To celebrate this growth and distinguished history, the members of the Glee Club began hosting reunions in 1977 — about one every three years — for the group’s 2,000 alumni. This year, the festivities will kick off with a concert at 8 p.m. at Stepan Center on Friday, October 6. “It will be a great chance to have all the guys back together singing again,” says junior Peter Bell, who is coordinating the reunion. “The current group will sing the first half, and the alumni will sing the second half. We’re doing our standard repertoire, which every member from the 1940s and on knows.”

That repertoire includes “Ave Maria,” the Notre Dame victory march and the alma mater, as well as lesser-known songs such as “Ride the Chariot,” “Got a Mind,” and “Notre Dame, We Hail Thee,” the Glee Club’s alma mater. The story behind the writing of this song is a component of the club’s lore. The club, having just been informed that it would not be allowed to perform the university’s alma mater at its upcoming show, depended on the improvisational skills of a frantic singer who penned the song on the bus ride to the concert.

The returning alumni will honor the club’s history rich with such stories as these on Saturday morning. As is traditional before every home game, the club will perform at 11:30 a.m., two hours before the start of the Stanford game.

However, instead of singing in the JACC as usual, the club will perform near the library’s reflecting pool. “We’re hoping it will be a nice day and we’ll get a lot of students to turn out,” Bell says. “As usual, we’ll be singing the fight song of everyone we’ve played so far this year, starting with Texas A&M, up to Stanford, and then we play our songs.” After their performance, the past Glee Club members will head to the game with tickets reserved by the Alumni Association.

Later that night, Bell has planned a banquet at the Marriott, which will feature speeches by past and present leaders of the club. David Clark Isele, club conductor from 1973 to 1979, and Carl Stam, conductor from 1981 to 1991, will speak, as will Daniel Stowe, the current conductor of the club. Also speaking will be Helen Pedtke, the wife of the late Daniel Pedtke, the club’s influential director from 1938 to 1973. “Helen still comes to our concerts and has the club over to her house for barbecues,” Bell says. “She’ll also be hosting a tailgater for the returning alumni before the football game on Saturday morning.”

The club has also made great strides under Stowe. Its members have recorded three CDs, including From the Heart (1995), Music from the Basilica (1996) and Under the Dome (1999). “Under the Dome made past CDs we’d done sound like they were recorded in the bathroom or something,” Bell says. It was so good, in fact, that Stowe decided to re-master From the Heart to make it sound equally professional.

To draw their weekend of nostalgia to a close on a more somber note, on Sunday morning there will be a memorial Mass in the Keenan-Stanford Hall chapel for Father Robert Griffin, a former Stanford rector and Glee Club chaplain who passed away last October. The group will dedicate a tree to the man they affectionately knew as “Griff.”

The weekend promises to be emotional for the 190 alumni who have registered to attend. “We have one alum coming from the class of 1940, so we’ll have representatives from 60 years,” Bell says. “It’s going to be a great way to really focus on where we’ve come from and what we’ve done. We have a great history to celebrate.”
The décor of 329 Keenan goes where no dorm room has gone before

Ooh, that’s creepy!” squeals Scholastic photographer Kate Foster upon her entrance into 329 Keenan. “Ooh, this is so highly entertaining!”

Kevin “Perk” Hennessy and Arun Rodrigues pose for a picture in their ball pit. The “pit” is not a trench but an above-ground structure that encompasses 146 cubic feet and contains 9,000 balls mail-ordered from Great Northern Playground Supply. A toy vulture perches on its perimeter. A smoke machine pumps an aromatic cloud into the air, masking the scent of chlorine that wafts from the newly cleaned waterfall that flows behind a small botanical garden. A giant flag blankets the ceiling; a molecular-beam epitaxial head sits humbly under a shelf.

Perk and Arun, the inhabitants of this den of absurdity, dress in luminous threads. Kate asks if they got spiffy on account of her. “It’s the year 2000,” Perk says matter-of-factly. “We should all be wearing shiny clothing.”

It’s important to note that 329 Keenan doesn’t have the common setup of a normal suite — it’s a one-room double, and there don’t appear to be any beds. Perk gets his beauty sleep in a wooden structure on the right side of the room that is concealed by a 24-square-foot Dead Kennedys poster on a shade that can be lifted and lowered via remote control. Arun either sleeps on the floor, in the computer lab or right in the ball pit. Could that possibly be comfortable? “You’re fully supported when you’re floating in there,” he explains.

Well, then, I think the next question is obvious: “Do you have much luck seducing the ladies in a ball-filled boudoir?”

Perk, who perhaps misheard my inquiry over the roar of the waterfall and the hiss of the smoke machine, replies, “There’s nothing more American than a ball pit.” He introduces me to OmniPenguin, the blow-up mascot of the pit of balls.

“When you have a lot of parties in here?” I ask.

“We had one party where we turned on the smoke machine and everyone cleared out,” Arun says.

“Turns out they preferred oxygen,” Perk adds.

Arun nods. “People are picky that way.”

They present Kate and me with a copy of the “329 Keenan Press Information Packet” that they have tacked to a bulletin board outside their door. In its FAQ section, it addresses the one question that was plaguing me all along: “Why?”

“We’re engineers,” the press packet explains.

Oh. Well, that explains everything.

Of course, if you’d like a little more enlightenment on the ways of 329, feel free to check out Perk and Arun’s Web site: www.theabsurd.org.
God Bless America
Because it’s clear that Canada has it beat

JOE HOWARTH

Ladies and gentlemen of America, I write to you today in hopes that my full conviction and sincerity will enlighten you with the goodness and truth with which I, fortunately, have been blessed. I must humbly apologize that here, in my senior year, I have already let many semesters pass without sharing it with each and every person. In truth, I hesitated before waking his friends from a dogmatic slumber. I was not willing to drink the cup of hemlock prescribed to those who doubt the gods of the city, especially yours, the most powerful city. Today, I will drink the cup. I will drink despite the consequences, in hopes that the truth about my beloved country, a land flowing with moose and hockey, will be told for infinite generations to come.

I come before you today because I, and all my fellow Canadians, are sick of being stereotyped.

Today I want every American to know the truth. Today Americans must learn that although there are over one million uses of the word “eh” in the Canadian language, we do not use it in every sentence, and we can proudly say it only appears in our constitution 14 times. I want every American to know that we do officially love and respect all 10 of our provinces, despite what may seem a constant battle to rid ourselves of Quebec. But, most importantly, I want every American to know that despite the recent push in our northern territories to have the Canadian government officially recognize the marriage of man and penguin, it is still illegal. Look at your own history, America. You know of the damaging effects of prejudices and stereotypes. It is only when you toss away the painful and destructive associations so pervasive in your culture that our nations will be united in friendship and understanding. Stop believing that all Canadians are sweet people! Stop believing that Canadians live in igloos and need to use snow shoes for more than six months of the year! Stop believing that Canada is really as clean and perfect as everyone who has ever been there finds out! Only by destroying the old stereotypes will new ones be created: new and proper generalizations about Canada.

Today I also feel the need to address the continued American neutrality to what is internationally regarded as the greatest country in the world. It simply makes no sense. Perhaps Canada does not have a well-endowed culture, Pamela Anderson, who spreads herself across your media like milk spilled on the kitchen floor. It has been replaced by the schwinging schwing of the cutest and craziest king of classy comedy, Mike Myers, who will continue to make you laugh until the end of time. American brilliance has been replaced by Canadian brilliance. Clearly, you must learn that until you respect the Canadian people and culture as a superior race and system, shame will continue to rain upon your land.

With all due respect, as both pioneers and oldest siblings have learned, the first to create the path always ends up with the most scratches and bruises. Canada honors you in your leadership, America, your brave political experiment and your cultural identity.

Nevertheless, Canada winces at the wounds that continue to bloody your country. What you invented, we then perfected. What you once lead, we followed, but improved every step of the way. Today, I thank you, America, for teaching us much, but ask that now, for your own benefit and for the benefit of the entire world: respect your northern neighbor, love your northern neighbor and learn from your northern neighbor. A new empire has risen in the West, and that empire’s name is Canada. The people are called Canadians, and the leader, well, his name doesn’t really matter, since you probably couldn’t pronounce it anyway, ‘cause it’s French. Still, he’s pretty cool.
This summer I went to the dentist’s office to have a cavity filled. A routine procedure… or so I thought, until my dentist grapevined in and broke into the first few dance steps featured in the video for Britney Spears’ “Sometimes,” which was being piped in over the office’s PA system. It was as if he had just been watching Sisgo’s Shakedown on looped replay while sampling the laughing gas. “Man, I’m in the wrong profession,” he said as he gazed into my mouth.

Later I found out that the hygenist had told him about my overwhelming fear of needles, and he thought dancing around might lighten things up. And as much as it shocked me, it did make me feel a little better.

There is something to be said about flailing one’s appendages about in an attempt to keep time with the music, especially when one knows that one will never, ever be able to keep time with the music. It is the ability to laugh at oneself elevated to an art form. Why not take full break to muster your courage and come back and take a rumba, tango or swing class? The ND Swing Club’s Web site advertised that “skill and coordination” are not required. And if you’d rather go for Latin dancing, remember what Al Pacino said in Scent of a Woman: “The tango is the easiest dance: if you make a mistake and get tangled up, you just tango on.”

— Cristin Fenzel

**editor’s choice**

**festivals***

**literary events***

**lectures***

- Thu 05 “300 Years of German-American History: A Look Back, A Look Forward,” 11:30 AM, 20th Century Gallery, Snite.
- Fri 06 “Elshatyn’s Maternal Thinking — How Maternal and with What Political Implications?” 12:30 PM, 307 Brownson Hall.
- Sat 14 Members of the Committee on Notre Dame’s Position on the Ordination of Women: “Religion and Intellectuals,” 7:30 PM, Faculty Lounge, Hesburgh Library.

**cinema***

- Fri 06 All About My Mother, 9:00 PM, Snite.
- Mon 09 Trust, 7:00 PM, Snite.
- Tue 10 Burnt By The Sun, 8:00 PM, Montgomery Theater, LaFortune.
- Mon 23 Out of the Past, 7:00 PM, Snite.
- Tue 24 Life is Beautiful, 8:00 PM, Montgomery Theatre, LaFortune.

**the arts**

- Thu 05 thru Sat 07 Good Night Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet, 7:30 PM, Washington Hall.
- Sun 08 Good Night Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet, 2:30 PM, Washington Hall.
- Sun 08 Maria Stablein, piano, 2:00 PM, Snite.

**student life***

- Tue 10 Rumba Lessons, 8:30 PM 301 Rockne Memorial.
- Mon 23 Intermediate East Coast Swing Lessons, 9:30 PM, 219 Rockne Memorial.
- Tue 24 Rumba/Intro to Tango Lessons, 8:30 PM, 301 Rockne Memorial.

**sports**

- Fri 06 Cross Country: Notre Dame Invitational, 4:15 PM.
- Fri 06 Soccer: ND women at Georgetown, 3:00 PM.
- Sat 07 Football: ND vs. Stanford, 1:30 PM.
- Sat 07 Volleyball: ND at West Virginia, 1:00 PM.
- Sun 08 Volleyball: ND at Pittsburgh, 1:00 PM.
- Sun 08 Soccer: ND women at Villanova, 12:00 PM.
- Sun 08 Soccer: ND men at Providence, 1:00 PM.
- Wed 11 Volleyball: ND at Illinois State, 7:00 PM.
- Fri 13 Soccer: ND women vs. Boston College, 7:30 PM, Alumni Field.
- Sat 14 Soccer: ND men vs. St. John’s, 7:30 PM, Alumni Field.
- Sun 15 Soccer: ND women at Syracuse, 12:00 PM.
- Tue 17 Hockey: ND vs. Wayne State, 6:05 PM, Joyce Center.
- Tue 17 Soccer: ND men at Georgetown, 3:30 PM.
- Wed 18 Soccer: ND women at Yale, 6:00 PM.
- Wed 18 Volleyball: ND at Michigan, 6:00 PM.
- Fri 20 Volleyball: ND vs. Rutgers, 7:00 PM, Joyce Center.
- Fri 20 Soccer: ND men at Villanova, 3:00 PM.
- Fri 20 and Sat 21 Hockey: ND vs. Northeastern, 6:05 PM, Joyce Center.
- Sat 21 Soccer: ND women at Connecticut, 12:00 PM.
- Sun 22 Volleyball: ND vs. Seton Hall, 2:00 PM, Joyce Center.
- Tue 24 Soccer: ND women at Michigan, 2:00 PM.
April 9, 1999, 4:35 p.m.

Sitting in a closed room with a panel of six judges made up of the director of the Alumni Association, an Academic Services representative, two cheerleading coaches, and a former Leprechaun.

Question: “Michael, what would you think if we told you that next year we were going to put a ‘head’ on the Leprechaun? Most schools have mascots with large costume heads, and we are one of the small number who don’t. What would you think about that?”

Answer: “Well, first of all, I think putting a head on the Leprechaun would hurt the university more than it would affect me. One of the things that makes the Leprechaun position so special is that it is one that is made personable by not requiring someone to wear a head.”

For the past year and a half, I’ve had the opportunity to serve as the University of Notre Dame’s mascot, the Leprechaun. One of the things that makes the mascot for this university so special is that I don’t have to wear a huge costume with a big mascot head. There are lots of practical advantages. While wearing a big costume doesn’t sound like a bad idea for the late home games in November, I’m truly thankful I don’t have to wear something like that in the early part of the season.

I am also able to show my spirit and love for the university not only through various gestures and energetic motions during games, but also by being able to speak directly to fans and express that spirit and love in actual words. I get a chance to meet and interact with fans from all over the world and establish somewhat of a personal relationship with them. I do more than just jump and dance around during the games. I actually communicate with fans by saying, “How are you feeling? Are you fired up?” or, “I can’t hear you!” There are some fans that I talk to at every home and away game. There are some fans that I’ve seen this year whom I met last season. I’ve been told that some children watch me throughout the entire athletic event, and that when they cannot find me because I’m on the opposite side of the stadium or arena, or taking a water break, they panic and ask, “Where’s Michael?” Bucky Badger, the Nittany Lion and Purdue Pete are not able to establish relationships such as these with their schools’ fan base.

Don’t worry about the quarterback situation, I’ll just eat me Lucky Charms and play quarterback myself!

Mike Brown, a senior management information systems major, is originally from Milwaukee. He lives in O’Neill Hall and has been the Leprechaun for the past two years.

With my face right there in front of the crowd, I also have the chance to show how emotionally engaged I am in whatever I’m doing. Most mascots can be thinking about other things during the games, or looking off into la-la land, and still look as though they are focused and cheering for their team.

Interviews with the media are an additional bonus that comes with not having to wear a head since I don’t have to worry about a costume that makes it difficult for me to speak on camera. Reporters often ask how many push-ups I plan on doing or if I think we’ll bounce back from our quarterback situation. I simply reply, “I’m going to do 1,000 push-ups because our team is going to score 1,000 points, and don’t worry about the quarterback situation, I’ll just eat me Lucky Charms and play quarterback myself!”

Additionally, the networking that stems from being a “headless” mascot is amazing. I’ve met Dick Vitale, Regis Philbin, Joe Montana and Tiger Woods. Everyone knows the Leprechaun. No matter where I am, in the dining halls, classrooms, in the South Bend community, throughout the country and even throughout the world, people know me as the symbol of Notre Dame.

Two weeks ago, I spoke with Michigan State’s mascot, Sparty, concerning the idea of the mascot being symbolic of the university. He said that 99 percent of the student body does not know he is Sparty. The only people who know he is one of the people who dress up in the mascot costume are his close friends and family members. He said this is one thing that makes him and other mascots who wear big heads so special: people rarely know who is really underneath all of that equipment and padding. This is positive because people can focus on the actual mascot as embodying school spirit as a whole rather than the individual wearing the costume.

The same does not hold true for Notre Dame’s Leprechaun. As mascot, I may be seen a symbol of the ideals and spirit of this university. But the fact that I am also a regular student and everyone knows it enhances this. Even the regular students here could be considered “high profile.” Many of them graduated in the top five percent of their high-school classes and are involved in positions of leadership, athletic teams or student organizations. Moreover, as students, we live together, eat together and study together. We work together, just like the teams we cheer on. In this way, my real face there in front of the crowd makes me a more real symbol of the university: I am but one representative of the students who in fact embody the true spirit of Notre Dame.
Unmasked Spirit
by Mike Brown
April 9, 1999, 4:35 p.m.
Sitting in a closed room with a panel of six judges made up of the director of the Alumni Association, an Academic Services representative, two cheerleading coaches, and a former Leprechaun.

Well, Michael, what would you think if we put a head on the Leprechaun? Most schools have mascots with large costume heads, and we are one of the small number who don't. What would you think about me being symbolic of the university, not only the student body, but the entire community? I've been told that some people don't even know who I am because of the size of the mascot costume. People rarely know who is one of the top five percent of their high school, yet people know me as the symbol of Notre Dame. The only people who know he is one of the students who live together, eat together and study together are close friends and family members. He said this is true of the only things that makes him and other mascots who are considered more personable by not requiring someone to wear a head.

I'll just eat me Lucky Charms and play quarterback. Don't worry about the quarterback situation, I'm truly thankful I don't have to wear something like that in the midst of a personal relationship with them. I do more than just jump and dance around during the games. I don't have to wear a huge costume with a big mascot head, and we are one of the small number who don't. What would you think about me being the mascot for this university so special is that it is one that is made personable by not requiring someone to wear a head. The Leprechaun position is so special is that it is one that you as a mascot, the Leprechaun, is made personable by not requiring someone to wear a head.

Michael, are you fired up? How are you feeling? Are you fired up?
Acoustic Cafe Thursday 9pm at La Fortune (free)

also this weekend...

SUB Movies
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Thursday 10:30pm
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