After apprehending one of the campus's biggest drug dealers, the administration has cracked down on drug users, forcing their activity further underground.
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Goody Two-Shoes

Two cigarettes: That’s all it took to lose my two best friends in eighth grade. I was with them that day for the first time on one of their regular trips around back of the brown-brick school. (They hadn’t wanted to bring me along because they knew I wouldn’t smoke. And they were right; I didn’t like the way it smelled.) But they were my friends and I was happy to be with them.

So, we leaned coolly against the wall, and I watched them drag on the white sticks one had snagged from her multi-pack-a-day dad. I looked down at the uncut grass and breathed the dry smoke, wondering whether I could learn to like it.

It took about five minutes for a school official to sweep in and nab us. We saw him coming and my friends discreetly smashed their cigarettes against the wall, but he already had seen enough. He ushered us inside, past the baseball diamond and the little kids playing in the dirt, down the hallway — my friends looked down, ashamed, while I, my cheeks equally hot, tried smiling to mask the disgrace — and into the headmaster’s office.

We shared the humiliation, but the headmaster decided that I would not share the punishment with them. Although they were ultimately let off with a warning, they never spoke to me again. While it’s an extreme case, my disinterest in drugs — even those as mild as cigarettes — often has marked me as an outsider, at least a goody two-shoes.

Except at this university.

“There isn’t a drug problem here,” my tour guide announced to me and other high-school seniors on my campus visit. “Alcohol, maybe. But no drugs, not really.” And at face value, there isn’t. Not really.

There are not hordes of students using illegal drugs in dorms or at off-campus gatherings. Why? Because campus culture revolves around alcohol, not drugs. And, although university action rarely serves as an accurate barometer of student behavior, the administration has made relatively few arrests regarding drug use. That’s why officials were shocked last spring when they apprehended four students in a dorm room for drug use and realized there were several more involved.

While the university’s drug culture certainly doesn’t rival that of other schools, it still exists as a little talked-of subculture. And now that the administration has begun to vigorously, well, weed out everyone and anyone associated with any and all illegal substances, the subculture that ran underground to begin with has burrowed further beneath the administration’s radar.

Scholastic’s Christopher Kelly unravels the story of how the administration uprooted one of the campus’s main drug lines, and how that student’s arrest has affected campus life for drug buyers, sellers and users. Our reporter spoke to many sources to gather the details of this story, many of whom could face serious consequences should their names be revealed. For this reason, we have changed the names and identities of all students involved.

Sarah Childress, Editor
Goody Two-Shoes

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So, the administration has made relatively few arrests regarding drug use. That's why officials were shocked last spring when they apprehended four students in a gathering. Why? Because campus culture revolves around alcohol, not drugs. And, still exists as a little talked-of subculture. And now that the administration has begun to vigorously, well, weed out everyone and anyone associated with any and all illegal substances, the subculture that ran underground to begin with has burrowed further while I, my cheeks equally hot, tried smiling to mask the disgrace - and into the headmaster's office.

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It never spoke to me again. While it's an extreme case, my disinterest in drugs - even those as mild as cigarettes - often has marked me as an outsider, or at least a goody-two-shoes.
License to Thrill
Alum adds his own twist to the Notre Dame license plate

AISLNNDOYLE

Since fans invade campus decked out from head to toe in Notre Dame gear on football Saturdays, it seems only natural that their cars should follow suit — all the way down to their license plates.

The Notre Dame license plate, available through the Alumni Association, has been given a new look. With the goal of increased marketing appeal in mind, Chuck Lennon, associate vice president of University Relations, proposed that the plate, which brought in approximately $50,000 last year, be redesigned.

Lennon and the Association approached Notre Dame professor Richard Sedlack’s junior-level typography class and asked them to redesign the plate. After researching, discussing and critiquing license plates and license plate iconography, they were given free reign to design and submit a plate to be voted on by members of the Alumni Association. The winning design, which places the interlocking ND of the current design in the shadow of the Golden Dome, was created by Joshua Rich, a 2002 Notre Dame honors graduate in fine arts from DeKalb, Ill. Sedlack felt that some students shied away from the interlocking ND altogether while designing their entries due to its strong association with athletics, while others felt that the Golden Dome was too abstract to render well on a license plate. Rich’s design, however, involved both. “Josh came to the conclusion that using both elements would strike the appropriate chord, and there was agreement from the Alumni Association,” says Sedlack.

The Association unveiled the new design in May. Indiana motorists can apply for the plate through the Notre Dame Alumni Association. Each plate costs $25, not including a $12 processing fee and an excise tax.

Six other states — Delaware, Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland — also offer their own Notre Dame license plates. Proceeds go to Notre Dame’s Alumni Community Service Program which, through the University’s 200 alumni clubs, sponsors activities such as Habitat for Humanity and Alumni/Student Appalachia service trips and projects.

We all have our hidden talents — those mysterious and bizarre skills we practice during the wee hours of the weekend mornings (after a long night of studying, of course), those we choose to divulge only to our most trusted friends or even those that we keep entirely to ourselves. Then, there are people who display their talent with fiery pride. Scholastic caught wind of some truly unique students and their rather gutsy talent: Breathing fire. Sophomore Darren Luft and senior Dan Crowley of Zahm Hall told us about their burning contribution to a dorm tradition and why it’s always better to spit.

OK, so how did you guys learn to, um, tame the flame?
Dan: From a guy in the Juggling Club my freshman year. Then, Student Activities told us there were too many dangers. Now we just do it at Torquemada [Zahm’s annual festivities before the first pep rally]. Darren: Basically by trial and error (laughs). We were just sitting around a campfire over the summer and thought, “Wouldn’t it be fun?”

Has it ever backfired on you?
Dan: If you hold it too long or if the wind blows.
Darren: Yeah, sometimes it comes back. At the Torquemada, I definitely singed my eyelashes, and now they’re all nice and curled.
LISTENING

"I'm not looking to get drunk. I'm just taking it one beer at a time."
— student, on what he would say at a Halloween party dressed as Tyrone Willingham

"I'm going to fall! I'm going to fall! If not in your class, then at some point I am going to fall!"
— marketing professor, commenting on the wires along the floor of a DeBartolo classroom

"Theology makes me hot."
— theology professor

"Beers are supposed to be drunk. Just like people."
— overheard Steak 'N Shake patron, telling his friend not to worry about drinking his beer in the restaurant

"Wow, you must be a botanist or something!"
— overheard student to another student who was explaining how bees fly

28 Years Ago

Educational Reading

In the September 22, 1974 issue of Scholastic, a student attempts to enlighten his "intellectually deficient" classmates with descriptions of what really lies between the two covers of some great masterpieces of literature.

Paradise Lost — the epic journey of a student from his home to a university. The Sun Also Rises — an optimistic weather speculation for the greater South Bend area. To Have and Have Not — a comparison and contrast of senior students' postgraduate plans. Catcher in the Rye — daring expose of how booze ruined the career of a famous baseball player. The Wasteland — story behind a major university's refusal to build more student housing. House of Mirth — a guide to bars and taverns in the Michiana area. Grapes of Wrath — yarn about a student wino who goes mad. The Book of Job — the who, what, where, when and why of securing employment.

Suddenly, many of you are much more interested in reading the classics, right?

— Jennifer Osterhage

Were you guys always into fire? Like, are we talking closet pyros?
Dan: Yeah, I was never the little kid with matches, but in chemistry I had fun!

How do you "breathe" the fire?
Darren: You just spit [lighter fluid] all out of your mouth and use a lit torch.

Do you know many others that do this?
Dan: Just a few of the people who picked it up in the Juggling Club.
Darren: I don't really know of anybody else here.

So, does it taste funny?
Darren: Weird thing is, I use lighter fluid and you can't taste it at all. You don't even know how much you put in your mouth.
Dan: I use paraffin. It's kind of oily but a little less harmful if you swallow it.

Do you have to do anything special afterwards?
Dan: Drink a lot of water, just to rinse out. Darren: One time, my friend got real sick, so I make sure to have a jug of water with me at all times.

Do you frequently display your talent to get girls or anything?
Darren: Most times that I do it I'm really, really bored, and the party's pretty awful, and then I decide, ya know, what the hell, let's blow some fire ... just to lighten things up, literally.

Do your parents know you do this?
Darren: Yeah, my dad was really pissed, so I decided to not tell my mom. She found out a year later and was not a happy camper.
Dan: My mom spent a good time trying to talk me out of it, ya know, "It's dangerous, you're too cute to do this."

So do you like spicy foods, too?
Darren: I can't stand them. I think pepper is spicy.
Dan: Yeah, I'm not a fan.

— Tracy Evans
**Judgment Calls**
Opinions and observations

**SIXTY-DEGREE WEATHER**
Don't let the weather deceive you — we're still in South Bend. Normally by now we're buried under three feet of the white stuff.

**INSECTS**
It's mid-November. Shouldn't they all be dead by now? One of the few negative consequences of the above call.

**REPUBLICAN CONTROL**
Now they've got the Presidency, the Senate and the House. Eh, we never really believed in that whole "separation of powers" thing anyway.

**ELECTIONS**
Despite the above result, at least they're over, which means no more ads. We won't miss scary pictures of politicians glaring at us between *Friends* and *Scrubs*.

**THE FIESTA BOWL**
Hey, Oklahoma just lost! Oh, wait, it doesn't matter...

**SIDEWALK CHALK WARS**
What's next — pigtail-pulling at recess?

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**ENTERTAINMENT FORTNIGHTLY**

### Scheduling Gridiron

This season, TV's best shows must do battle in the hardest time slots

**MATT KILLEN**

No one ever said there were too many good shows on television. There's enough *Yes, Dear* and *Drew Carey* out there to ensure that no one will complain about the networks carrying too many quality shows. At the same time, though, the networks always seem to bury the best shows in impossibly stiffing time slots, forcing viewers to choose among several excellent shows in a single time slot.

ABC's *Push, Nevada* already has fallen prey to this network epidemic. The show was cancelled recently after it failed to garner an audience at 9 p.m. Thursdays. Airing opposite a behemoth like *C.S.I.* and a youthful audience-friendly *Will & Grace*, *Push*'s ratings went from poor to abysmal in a matter of weeks. The show tried to be a bit too *Twin Peaks* without that show's eerie charm and detached creepiness, but *Push* had a lot of potential.

At least ABC's *Alias* is holding its own in another impossible time slot, Sundays at 9 p.m. Easily one of the top five shows on television, *Alias* must do battle each week with *The Sopranos*, *Angel*, *Malcolm in the Middle* and *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. All of these shows compete for that key 18- to 49-year-old demographic, making it even more difficult for a complex show like *Alias* to grab any decent ratings.

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### DomeLights

**COMPILED BY MEGHAN GOWAN**

Source: Bill Thistlethwaite, Landscape Services

At this university that is notorious for terrible weather, fall is perhaps the most tolerable season with its crisp air, bright skies, football and, of course, the changing foliage. These leaves, once fallen and piled, tempt even the most reserved student to jump in and flail about like a young child. The leaves don't sort and remove themselves, however: That's the job of Landscape Services.

Approximate amount of leaves removed daily: eight to 10 tons.
Approximate number of men required to clean leaves daily: eight to 10.
Total hours worked by men cleaning leaves daily: 80.
Equipment used to pile and dispose: four to five power leaf blowers and one large truck with a large vacuum.
How long until fallen leaves are reborn as compost for flowerbeds: three years.
It's hard to put a price on good taste. How does $2.99 sound?
The Bacon Cheeseburger Value Meal.
London, England

Social Scene: There's a lot to do in London in your free time. Activities range from going to a play or concert to hanging out in pubs. According to senior Becky Lucket, who spent the 2001 spring semester in London, "the bar scene [abroad] is a lot more low-key." And while students are in London to take classes, "[professors] don't give you a lot to do outside of class, so people have more free time."

People/Location: The Notre Dame classroom building is in the heart of London, located next to the National Gallery and a minute's walk from Trafalgar Square. "You were so close to everything," says senior Katie McCarthy, a fall 2001 LonDomer. Lucket agrees: "You could walk to school a different way every day because there are so many little neighborhoods. It's beautiful and safe. The proximity [of student housing] to Hyde Park was a major perk," Lucket says.

Food: "British food itself isn't fine cuisine, but there's usually good Indian food in London ... it was nice to try different types of ethnic foods," says McCarthy. The apartments that house ND students are in a Middle Eastern neighborhood, and restaurants there are particularly good.

It's Important To: Go to Camden Market, Lucket says. The sprawling bazaar houses several individual markets.

Toledo, Spain

Social Scene: Grace Choi, a senior who spent her junior year in Toledo, says "The nightlife is insane! It gets busy around 12 or 1 [a.m.], the clubs go until 6 or 7 in the morning ... it's pretty amazing." Lesha Zielinski, a senior who spent the fall of 2000 in Toledo, says, "There's tons of bars. The whole culture, staying out super-late ... there's a lot of variety even though it's a small city." More clubbing opportunities exist in Madrid, which is only an hour away by train.

People/Location: "It's the most gorgeous little town ... an ancient city in the middle of agriculture. It looks exactly as it did in the 1400s. You can see shepherds in their pastures," says Choi.

Food: Zielinski describes the food in Toledo as "bland. Every family was different, but when we think of Spanish food, we think of Mexican or Mexican-American food. They don't even have salsa there, and a tortilla is a totally different thing."

It's Important To: Stuff a backpack and hope on the train — to anywhere. "Don't surround yourself with Notre Dame the entire time you're abroad," says Zielinski.

Dublin, Ireland

Social Scene: Amanda Rubio, a senior who spent the 2002 spring semester in Dublin, says, "The nightlife's really cool, it's really different because the pubs are kind of down-home, not pretentious. You can find people from age eight to age 80. There are some clubs, but it was more popular to go to pubs instead."

People/Location: Rubio describes the Irish as "so friendly, unbelievably friendly. If you get lost, I had a couple people actually walk with me to the place [I was trying to find]." Kristen Caponi, a senior who spent last year in Dublin, says, "The people who were friendliest were first- and second-year students. Third-years already had established friendships."

Food: According to Rubio, "They have a lot of Americanized food. Pizza, Burger King, McDonald's ... Irish
food's pretty good, it's just high in calo-
ries. We had meat and potatoes, potato-
toes, potatoes, potatoes."

It's Important To: "Go to Galway and the Aran Islands. You have to climb two ancient forts that are on the islands: Dun Aengus and the Blackfort. They're on cliffs that are hundreds of feet from the water," says Rubio.

Rome, Italy

Social Scene: Rome is host to lots of bars that cater to Americans, as well as numerous dance clubs, says senior Elizabeth Van Westen, who studied there all of last year.

People/Location: Rome is full of life and great shops and restaurants, Van Westen says. It's also very easy to travel from Rome to other European countries on the weekends.

Food: Van Westen describes the food simply as "fabulous."

It's Important To: "Go to Trastavere ... it's one of the older parts of the center of Rome," says Van Westen. It's an interesting neighborhood right along the river with lots of shops and restaurants.

Monterrey, Mexico

Social Scene: Monterrey is a very small program, so there's really no ND social scene. However, the local social scene is huge, according to Jamie Solis, a senior who studied in Monterrey last spring. There are bars and clubs, with many places offering live music and dancing. "It's a really socially oriented culture," says Solis.

People/Location: Monterrey is two hours south of the Texas-Mexico border. It is a large, industrial city. Solis describes the city as "very safe," but "borderline chaotic" because of traffic problems.

Food: According to Solis, the food is all homemade, rich and very fresh. Monterrey is famous for its goat meat, or taqueria.

It's Important To: See the Cola de Caballo, or Horsetail Waterfalls, says Solis.

Athens, Greece

Social Scene: Jason Klocek, a senior who spent the spring of his jun-
ior year in Athens, describes the nightlife as similar to Spain's, in that it doesn't start until after midnight.

People/Location: Klocek describes Athenians as having "a gruff exterior that gives way to a very friendly side." Though the city is crowded and con-
gested, Klocek says "the fun part is exploring and finding the little things. There's always something to do in Ath-
ens."

Food: The food in Athens is "great and cheap," according to Klocek. There is lots of meat and potatoes, and French fries are very popular. Meals are typically long, especially on weekends and in the evening.

It's Important To: Go to the Acropolis in the morning because it has a great view all around Athens, and then just walk through the historic part of town in the afternoon, Klocek says.

Fremantle, Australia

Social Scene: There's a big em-
phasis on the nightlife in Fremantle, but "it's not such a big deal to go out like it is here [at ND]," says Andrew Polaniecki, a senior who studied in Fremantle last fall. Because the drinking age is 18, alcohol is a significant part of the social scene, but it's more of a quiet social scene.

People/Location: The people in Fremantle are "much more laid-back — it's not such a busy life-style," says Polaniecki.

Food: The students have a cook who makes them traditional meals two times a week, and they cook on their own the rest of the week. There's a big em-
phasis on seafood, as well as Indian and Asian food.

It's Important To: Simply enjoy "being where you are at the time," says Polaniecki.

Paris, France

Social Scene: "Dress up, hop on the metro and go out clubbing. Paris has the best nightlife, but be ready to drop several euros. Covers can run as high as 20 euros, and a pint can go as high as eight euros. On the other hand, clubs are open until at least six and sometimes eight in the morning. Take a nap beforehand!" says Patrick Dunnigan, a senior who studied in the city all of last year.

People/Location: "Learn the lan-
guage quickly, or you'll get frustrated very easily in the big city. You need to stick up for yourself," says Dunnigan. He calls the ND program's location "the best of any program, bar none. Right in the center of Paris, everything is at your fingertips. Trains leave for everywhere.

DOME AWAY FROM HOME The Sacre Coeur Basilica (below), built from 1874 to 1919, is a Paris landmark.

SARAH RUSSELL/COURTESY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAMS
in Europe, and the metro is great. Airports are so accessible. You can’t get any better.”

Food: Students are responsible for finding their own food. According to Dunnigan, “There are student cafeterias that are subsidized by the government all over the city. A full meal from two euros 50, you can’t beat that.”

It’s Important To: Travel, Dunnigan says. “From Paris everything is so accessible. The Notre Dame trip to Austria for Christmas is a blast.”

Nagoya, Japan

Social Scene: “The city’s got two million people in it. There are four or five clubs and just a ton of bars everywhere,” says senior Gavin Hagens, who studied in Nagoya all of last year.

People/Location: Hagens describes the relationship between American students and local people as split generationally. The younger generation, he says, is much more welcoming than older people. “The kids you go to school with will be very receptive to you,” he says.

It’s Important To: Go to Tokyo, “because it’s a world unto itself, basically. It’s just so different from America,” Hagens says.

Santiago, Chile

Social Scene: According to senior Margaret Laracy, who spent the spring of this year in Santiago, it is “definitely a metropolitan city. There are a couple of fun areas: there’s a neighborhood called Della Vista, which is kind of more bohemian, but we liked it and spent a lot of time there. Another place was Providencia — there were some fun bars there.”

People/Location: “It was beautiful when we got there. But they have really bad smog problems in Santiago, and no central heating,” Laracy says. The smog problem was sometimes so bad that students would be advised not to do too much outdoors for a few days.

Food: Says Laracy, “The food is pretty good. It’s not what you would expect of Latino food. It’s not really spicy. They use a lot of salt and they really like mayonnaise.”

It’s Important To: Go to Macchu Picchu, in Peru. “That was the single most incredible thing I did,” Laracy says. “It’s a four day hike to the [Incan] ruins, and the city where you start from is a beautiful city layered with history. The ruins are set against incredible backdrops.”

Innsbruck, Austria

Social Scene: “It was fun. We would go out to bars, and we wouldn’t interact much with other people, but we had a lot of fun among ourselves,” says junior Anne Lauinger, who spent last year in Innsbruck.

People/Location: “Picture this: turn around 360 degrees, and it’s all mountains,” Lauinger says. “It’s one of the most gorgeous places I’ve ever been.” She describes the local people as “friendly, and courteous, but they’re not going to start a conversation with you.”

Food: “Oh my gosh, the food is the best! It’s really rich. The chocolate! We got a stipend, so we could pick our own food,” Lauinger says.

It’s Important To: “Make friends and practice your German as much as you can, even though you’ll feel stupid and out of place. You’ll regret not doing it when you get back,” says Lauinger.

Shanghai, China

Social Scene: “Though I’ve never been to New York, the international pals that I went out with said the nightlife was a lot like New York’s,” says junior Adam Krenn, who spent the spring of last year in Shanghai.

People/Location: “It’s a beautiful city,” says Krenn. But if you don’t like cement, you might not agree. Krenn also says, “Shanghai is a developing city with construction in every direction you look.”

Food: According to Krenn, “The food was delicious, plentiful, and dirt cheap. I miss it.”

It’s Important To: Interact with the locals, especially when “discussing similarities and differences and views. The best part of it was just meeting people,” says Krenn.

These are only some of the abroad programs Notre Dame offers. Others are located in Angers, France; Puebla, Mexico; Xalapa, Mexico; Berlin, Germany; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Vladimir, St. Petersburg, and Moscow, Russia; Perth, Australia; Jerusalem, Israel; Tokyo, Japan; and Cairo, Egypt.
University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Students

The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs
(Confidential information, education, and resources)
Contact: Sr. M.L. Gude, CSC, 1-5550, or student members (see web site for student contact info.)

Office of Campus Ministry
(Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students and their friends; pertinent library resources in 304 Co-Mo; confidential discussion and support)
Contact: Fr. J. Steele, CSC, at Steele.31@nd.edu

University Counseling Center
(Individual counseling)
Contact: Dr. Pat Utz at Utz.1@nd.edu, or Maureen Lafferty at Lafferty.3@nd.edu

For more information, check out our web site: http://www.nd.edu/~scglsn/

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Junior Class Council
For more information visit: www.nd.edu/~class04
As the university continues to seek out suspected users, Notre Dame's drug culture retreats deeper into the shadows. Has shaken up this "secret world."

Last spring, four freshmen — Nick, Gordon, Timothy and Bryan* — were named as drug users by Cliff, an alleged drug dealer, who was allowed to withdraw after complying with the university's request to name the students to whom he had sold drugs. (Cliff declined to comment for this article.) This year, other students that Cliff named still are being summoned by the Office of Residence Life to face punishments for alleged drug use last year. These ongoing investigations will continue to distort the blurry lines that define the Notre Dame drug scene.

*Editor's Note: The names and identities of students in this story have been changed for their protection.
All four students met Cliff, a fellow freshman, during their first semester at Notre Dame. Nick was introduced to Cliff early last fall through a mutual friend, but did not learn that he was a drug dealer until around Thanksgiving. A drug user himself, Nick soon developed a close friendship with Cliff.

Also a drug user, Gordon first met Cliff when he went to his dorm with a friend to purchase marijuana. He had never seen Cliff prior to their first meeting, but had heard that Cliff had been giving out his number at parties to potential clients. “He liked good music and good bud and so did I,” says Gordon.

Timothy also began to buy drugs from Cliff, who he came to know through the on-campus job they shared. Bryan heard of Cliff through another drug user in his residence hall, and called Cliff one day to ask for marijuana.

These four only were a few of the many students who bought and used drugs from Cliff during the school year.

At first, Nick smoked marijuana with Cliff a few times each week, but they soon began to use it more frequently. “During the second semester, we smoked together almost every day unless I had a test or paper that I had to work on,” Nick says.

The pair usually smoked marijuana outside Cliff’s residence hall. But as it grew colder: “We became braver, and we just smoked in his room,” Nick says. Other users recall using marijuana with Cliff in his room, near his dorm, at secluded places on campus and at off-campus parties.

Nick and other sources who knew Cliff say that he changed from a casual user to a major dealer over the course of his freshman year because he realized the large amount of money he could make. The simple economics presented an irresistible equation: extremely high demand plus unusually low supply equal a profiteer’s paradise.

“Cliff was the dealer on campus,” Nick alleges. He estimates that Cliff earned between $500 and $1,000 per week from his few dozen clients. Nick says that many people, including some staff members of Cliff’s hall, were aware of his activities but looked the other way. Nick and Gordon say that Cliff often showed off the money he had earned from drug sales. On two occasions, “Cliff pulled out a rubber-banded wad of cash to show me,” Gordon says.

“Everyone I knew at Notre Dame who smoked weed knew Cliff,” says Gordon. He also alleges that Cliff sold marijuana at roughly double his purchase price — and he wasn’t selling small amounts. “It was common for him to unload an ounce in a day,” Gordon says. Calls from students looking for drugs were common and consistent in Cliff’s room, says one anonymous source.

Timothy alleges that Cliff claimed he had smoked marijuana earlier that evening. At one point, the assistant rector walked by, and stopped because there was a suspicious smell coming from the room; he observed Cliff behaving as if he were under the influence of marijuana. Cliff ran to the door to try to convince his AR that he had been smoking cigarettes in the room, and had lit incense to cover up the smell. However, the assistant rector also noticed a glass bowl in the room that obviously was designed for drug use.

At midnight, Cliff’s rector called his room and asked him to come downstairs. Nick remembers seeing two Notre Dame Security/Police cars in front of the dorm as he waited in the dorm’s lobby around 12:45 a.m. According to the NDSP blotter, a police report was filled out at 3:08 a.m. on March 26 for a “drug abuse violation” at Cliff’s residence hall.

William Kirk, assistant vice president of Residence Life, came to the hall that night to search Cliff’s room, and he talked briefly to Nick and Cliff’s roommate outside of the hall. (Kirk declined to comment on Cliff’s case due to federal regulations and the nature of his position.) Around 1:30 a.m., Nick and Cliff’s roommate were asked to write statements concerning their knowledge of his drug use.

Hoping to stay out of trouble, Nick wrote

The simple economics presented an irresistible equation: extremely high demand plus unusually low supply equal a profiteer’s paradise.
that he was not involved with any drug use. "I stated that I deduced that Cliff was smoking pot, but that he did not do it around me or really talk about it with me," he says. He also claimed that he had no knowledge of Cliff dealing marijuana or using other drugs.

Because he was under the influence of marijuana and apparently stressed by the situation, Cliff was taken to the infirmary. Before leaving, however, he handed over some of his marijuana, his drug paraphernalia and the bottle of ether.

When Cliff returned from the infirmary, he was told that his room had been searched again, and that pharmaceutical antidepressant pills and more marijuana were found. Timothy says that after the second search, a Residence Life official suggested that Cliff remove a bulletin board from his wall that contained photographs of Notre Dame students using drugs. Cliff did not take down the pictures.

The next day, Cliff's room was searched for a third time, and authorities found the thousands of dollars he had collected from his drug sales. Also in this third search, according to Timothy, Residence Life confiscated the pictures from Cliff's room.

Nick's room also was searched that afternoon, and the administration had summoned his cell phone. Sources say Cliff also turned over his letter by asking that Notre Dame allow him to withdraw rather than face expulsion. Kirk sent a letter to Cliff that contained his entire experience with drugs, starting with his use in high school. Scholastic obtained a copy of the March 29 letter, in which Cliff wrote that he abandoned his drug habit and turned to God. Cliff ended his letter by asking that Notre Dame allow him to withdraw from the university instead of face expulsion.

At one point in his letter, Cliff listed 22 names of students with whom he had used marijuana and other drugs. Gordon, Timothy, Bryan and Nick all were named in this letter. Sources say Cliff also turned over his cellular phone records to Residence Life. Timothy says that he saw a handwritten list that Cliff also provided to Residence Life containing the names, addresses and phone numbers of his client base.

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"Even though [Notre Dame drug use] is modestly lower than the national average, we still consider it a problem."

- Rev. Mark Poorman

university vice president of Student Affairs

suggested that Cliff remove a bulletin board from the administration had nothing of note. Not wanting to be expelled from the university, Cliff began to cooperate fully with the administration. As students are requested to do by duLac, he wrote an initial statement about his experience with drugs. While back in his hometown awaiting Residence Life's decision, Cliff sent a letter to Kirk that recounted his entire experience with drugs, starting with his use in high school. Scholastic obtained a copy of the March 29 letter, in which Cliff wrote that he abandoned his drug habit and turned to God. Cliff ended his letter by asking that Notre Dame allow him to withdraw from the university instead of face expulsion.

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Sources say that after he was caught us-
ing drugs, Cliff appealed to his relative at the university. Sources who knew Cliff disagree on whether the administrator played a role in his withdrawal process. Some say the administrator did not support Cliff at all, and wanted to see Cliff receive a fair punishment. But some sources strongly disagree; Gordon says that Cliff bragged about his relative successfully “calling in the big guns.”

While the exact terms of his withdrawal are not known, Cliff was allowed to leave Notre Dame and avoid expulsion.

Once he starting cooperating with the administration, Cliff told the university that Nick had stolen the ether found in his room. Nick was scheduled for a Residence Life hearing on April 12 for the allegations that he had stolen ether and used drugs.

As permitted by duLac, Nick read the university’s information about his case. He learned the administration had summoned an expert to investigate the possibility that “crystal meth,” a synthetic amphetamine, had been produced in Cliff’s room. According to a document in the file, crystal meth can be produced with ether and antihistamines, the latter of which Cliff apparently kept for his allergies. Nick says that they had no intention of creating crystal meth.

Two days before his hearing, Nick received an e-mail from Residence Life telling him that new information had been added to his case: the letter than Cliff had written to Kirk. In it, Cliff wrote that Nick and other students had used mushrooms and ecstasy with him. Cliff also accused Nick of using the ether as a narcotic with him, a claim that Nick denies.

After reading the letter, Nick decided to withdraw rather than face expulsion. Kirk signed the necessary paperwork, but not before Nick agreed to write a statement naming those with whom he had used drugs. In his statement, Nick admitted to using marijuana, mushrooms, ecstasy and Vicodin, and named some drug users. He says he fully complied with Kirk’s request. The day before the scheduled hearing that he never attended, Nick officially withdrew from Notre Dame.

Nick returned to campus twice after his withdrawal. On his second visit, his former rector told him that he had been banned from campus. A few weeks later, Kirk informed Nick that he would never be allowed on campus again. Nick feels he was treated unfairly. “I was not the main source of drugs at Notre Dame, I was merely a user…” he says.

Nick also was frustrated by the university’s handling of the entire situation. “They had to find out everyone who used, and that just doesn’t seem right,” he says. “They did not just kick out those they blantly found using drugs, but anyone who was connected to them. They knew people were using drugs at Notre Dame, but it scared them that there was a big ring.”

While Nick was preparing for his trial, Timothy received a call on his cell phone from Residence Life. He was informed that Residence Life had “an envelope” for him, meaning he would be given a trial as well. He believes that Residence Life received his cell phone number from Cliff’s handwritten list. Timothy was named by Cliff as a user and was also seen in one of the pictures on Cliff’s wall. He was convicted of possession of drug paraphernalia and fined $300, but was neither expelled nor forced to withdraw.

Around the same time, a Residence Life employee brought a package to Bryan’s room. The package, like the one given to Timothy, contained a copy of duLac, a letter explaining to Bryan that he should meet with Residence Life, and other materials. At his Residence Life trial, Bryan says he was found guilty of “violating the school’s drug policy” and expelled from the university. Bryan also believes he was treated unfairly. “Notre Dame assumes that since drugs are bad, therefore any kid who uses them is bad,” he says.

In a meeting with Kirk, Cliff also named
Gordon as someone who had used marijuana and ecstasy. Gordon was scheduled to have a hearing for these charges, but instead decided to withdraw from the university, acting on advice from Kirk and Residence Life and Housing director Jeff Shoup.

During a meeting with Shoup prior to his withdrawal, Gordon was informed that because he currently was on probation for an unrelated offense, he would almost certainly be expelled. Like Nick, Gordon had to write an affidavit before he was allowed to withdraw. He listed two students that he knew had used drugs, but says that both were students he already knew were leaving the university.

Gordon has his doubts about the overall Residence Life system. "In a ResLife hearing, suspicion is on the same level as proof of guilt. The results in this case were definitely unfair."

Cliff’s withdrawal and the subsequent punishment of those implicated have had a significant effect on the drug culture at Notre Dame. Many drug users were afraid to comment for this article, even anonymously, for fear of a backlash from the administration.

Along with a new sense of fear, drug users have experienced a reduction in the supply of drugs. "Almost everyone on campus ran out of pot last year after he [Cliff] got busted," says Jen *, a student drug user. Nick also learned from Austin *, another user, that it was difficult to get marijuana the first few weeks of school without Cliff. Another student believes that Notre Dame users have begun to depend on local residents for their supply. Other say that many minor dealers have taken control of the market once dominated by Cliff.

Nick also believes that because the administration did not catch everyone who regularly used drugs last year, there are many drug users who still attend Notre Dame.

But compared to the estimated drug use at other universities, activity at Notre Dame is relatively low. The Office of Alcohol and Drug Education (OAD) performs yearly surveys of randomly selected Notre Dame students. According to the most recent survey, just over three-fourths of Notre Dame students have never used marijuana. Also, nine out of 10 students said they had not used marijuana in the 30 days prior to the survey. Use of cocaine, amphetamines, hallucinogens, opiates, and other hard drugs by Notre Dame students all are estimated at extremely low percentages.

"The drug-use level here is much lower than at other universities," says OADE director Gina Firth, whose office exists to help students with alcohol and drugs problems and is not involved with the discipline end of campus drug use. While she declined to comment on Cliff’s case, Firth says that students caught using illegal drugs besides marijuana immediately face more serious punishment and do not pass through her office. "Notre Dame students have a strong moral value against illegal drug use," she says. "It's the type of student that we draw here that is kind of turned off by [drug use]."

Low numbers of student users have not affected the university's hard-line stance on illegal substances. "Even though [Notre Dame drug use] is modestly lower than the national average, we still consider it a problem," says Rev. Mark Poorman, university vice president of Student Affairs, who declined to comment on Cliff’s case.

Despite its relatively loose alcohol enforcement policy, the university has tradi-
tionally upheld stricter rules concerning student drug use. Some students have theorized that the school’s recent changes to the alcohol policy, designed to decrease high alcohol consumption on campus, will increase the likelihood that a student will experiment with drugs.

Firth and Poorman don’t think so. “It’s my understanding that those who engage in high-risk alcohol abuse will be more likely to use drugs,” says Poorman. “I don’t know of any evidence to support an inverse relationship.”

Although duLac’s rules regarding drug use have not changed, Firth believes that the university’s attitude toward marijuana is different this year. “The awareness level is increasing. We’ve increased our training with the residence hall staff significantly to try to let them know about trends and things to look for,” she says.

Poorman, whose office is responsible for the language of duLac, does not see any difference from last year in the manner Notre Dame handles drug cases. “Both the policies and the enforcement of drug use have remained constant,” he says. He also believes that drug use at Notre Dame and colleges across the country has remained fairly constant over the last five years.

Firth says she is concerned that students often will jump to conclusions about the university’s treatment of a particular student without knowing the complete story. “You might get a slant on something,” she says. “You can’t see the background information. People get these really confused perceptions but there’s a reason behind that.”

The reason is that Residence Life and other branches of the administration must hold all information about a student’s case as confidential, and therefore the public never receives all of the information used by Residence Life to determine a student’s punishment.

Firth also worries that if an “underground” subculture exists at Notre Dame, students might hesitate to seek assistance from her office out of fear that their names would be leaked to the administration. Firth stresses that any student who comes through her office is granted complete confidentiality.

Still, Firth is not sure if this subculture actually exists. However, students who use drugs at Notre Dame firmly acknowledge the existence of a small underground community. “All the kids who smoke on campus know each other,” says Jen, who says she enjoys peaceful walks around the lakes and in-depth conversations with other users. She also believes that it’s a different type of student who is involved in the drug scene at Notre Dame. “I think we’re just more laid-back than the other students here,” she says. “Good friends get together over a mutual acceptance of marijuana. I have met some really amazing people here through it.”

Drug users at Notre Dame experience a different way of living than their peers. One student says that “dorm life” is not favorable to drug users. Poorman’s beliefs support this, because he says that students who use drugs are more likely to be attracted to off-campus living. Some students say that on-campus drug users have to make significant attempts to hide their activities. One source noted that when he was in Cliff’s room, he saw only clothes and record players, instead of the liquor bottles and beer posters that other students display. Apparently, Cliff made some efforts to prevent any suspicions of illegal behavior on his part.

“The drug scene is definitely taboo. No one talks about it or wants to have anything to do with it,” says Dyson *, another user. “I think the average Notre Dame student is too naïve to even realize that there’s a drug scene here.”

The police investigation of this incident was closed on June 3, 2002 and referred for administrative review. Currently, Nick and Gordon study at other universities. Timothy still is at Notre Dame, and Bryan, who is working a full-time job, will continue his education at another college next semester. Nick says that Cliff plans to continue his education at a small college in his home state.

However, the investigation into drug use at Notre Dame is far from over. The information Cliff provide is still being used by the administration to help prosecute students he named last year. Residence Life has yet to contact some of the students named last year in Cliff’s letter, so some students might not even be aware that they were named.

With Cliff willing to testify against many of his former clients, perhaps the university’s search into the drug scene has just begun. Already under-discussed and under investigation, drug use at Notre Dame only will be pushed further underground.

The Office of Alcohol and Drug Education surveys a random group of students each year on their drug activity. According to the most recent survey, the following percentages of students have never used these drugs:

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<th>Drug</th>
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<td>marijuana</td>
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<td>cocaine</td>
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<td>hallucinogens</td>
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<td>inhalants</td>
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Howdy, Gipplings. Before tucking in to this week’s tips, the Gipp would like to commend FlipSide for their latest excellent alternative creation: Board Game Night. That’s right, ladies and gents, there is something to do on the weekends. Be on the lookout for other ultra-hip FlipSide activities, such as “Section Knitting” and “Sit Around by Yourself and Look at Internet Porn Night,” coming soon. Now, some tips.

Fireworks

Our first tip takes us back to rural Tennessee, to a roadside fireworks stand where a gang of tipsters decided to stock up on combustibles. But bottle rockets and black cats were not enough for these pyros. They went for the biggest thing they could find: a 21-shot, artillery-sized Roman candle.

Knowing full well that you can’t waste good fireworks, these young gents decided to plant their beast in the middle of South Quad, so that everyone could share in the festivities. Our tipster tells it best:

“We recruited a friend who was ballsy enough to light it and quick enough to book it should NDSPD decide to take in the colorful display as well. He put the bad boy in a duffle bag and casually walked onto South Quad smoking a cigarette. He took a little stroll around and placed the gigantic can of destruction on the concrete circle in the middle of South Quad … lit the fuse with the cigarette, casually walked away, and proceeded to watch the show for himself while sitting on the bench in front of Alumni.”

Perhaps the most impressive part of their story: the NDSP never showed. Something really serious — like human sexual contact — must have happened in order to have diverted the attention of our entire police force from a fireworks display on South Quad.

Give Me a Sign

Here are a couple of quickies from a vast collection of tips the Gipper has received, all concerning the same guy, whom the tipsters insist on calling “Joe.”

Joe had been living it up at Finnegan’s, as he is purportedly wont to do, and he decided to steal something large and functionless, as he is also wont to do. This time, he selected a large aluminum sign off the barroom wall, which had to be folded down to size. Like any expert thief, he shoved the package under his shirt, leaving it sticking out above and below, and casually exited the bar.

Once he got outside, he was approached by a policeman, who asked him if he was stealing something. Joe replied, “It’s my shield, officer.”

And, magically, the cop let him go without another word.

Not too long after, Joe and his buddies, who seem to thrive on their friend’s stupidity, were at an off-campus party together. After plenty of celebration had been had by all, they headed outside to find a cab. Joe was instructed to flag the next one down, but for some reason he thought it would get the cabby’s attention better if he hopped up on the bumper, strutted the length of the hood, and took his place atop the cab.

The driver, evidently unamused, floored it and sent our friend flying off the roof of the taxi. Joe lay still on the pavement for a moment, while everyone took in what had happened. But then, as someone approached to feel his pulse, Joe sprang back to life, flailing wildly and swearing vengeance on the malicious cabby.

Unfortunately, some concerned citizen had called the police, and the fellows were forced to vacate the scene.

There are a few other stories about Joe circulating around, such as the time he tried to attack a bird-feeder and ended up with a bleeding forehead, or the time he provoked an armed townie. The point is, this Joe guy is a consummate ass, and the Gipper wishes there were more like him.

The Gipp did receive one other tip, but it was all bodily fluid and no plot, and since the Gipper has fed you all enough bodily fluids lately, he’s going to give this one a rest.

Have a good one, tipsters, and help the Gipp to warm up everybody’s winters by sending in your creamiest tips.
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The Rant

When it comes to NFL overtimes, are quarters more important than quarterbacks?
by Gerard Meskill — respond to the king of sports at gmeskill@nd.edu

Almost all major professional sports in America use a sudden-death system to determine contests that are undecided after regulation time. The NFL employs such a system, and, frankly, it stinks.

When two NFL teams are tied after four quarters, they play a 15-minute sudden-death overtime period. A coin toss decides who begins the period on offense. This means the winner of the toss can defeat its opponent without playing defense, a scenario that occurs often enough to warrant criticism.

Since this overtime system was adopted in 1974, a whopping 25.5 percent of overtime games have ended after just a single possession. Even when games progress beyond the first possession, teams that win the toss win the game about nine percent more often than those that lose the toss.

Prior to the 1994 season, the NFL moved kickoffs from the 35-yard line to the 30-yard line. Since that change, almost one-third (32.6 percent) of overtime games have been won on the first possession. The problem has been most evident this year. In 2002, 77 percent of the teams that won the overtime coin toss also won their overtime contests, with 46 percent winning on the opening possession. So in essence, the most important decision of anNFL overtime period might be in guessing which side of a tossed coin will be facing up when it hits the ground.

Absurd doesn’t even begin to describe the NFL’s current overtime system. On top of being stupid, it also is unfair and strategically limiting. I’ve already covered stupid and unfair, so let’s focus on why this system hurts football strategy. When both teams are guaranteed at least one possession, as in the college football overtime format, the team with the first possession must run its offense not knowing what its opponent will do once they change possession. In the NFL overtime system, both offenses need only to push itself into field-goal range, since any score ends the game. NFL overtime finishes reflect this mentality, as nearly 70 percent have been decided by a field goal, while only 26 percent have ended in a touchdown (ties make up the rest of the percentage).

Looking at all of the above statistics, you don’t have to be John Madden to figure out that a failure to ensure each offense at least one opportunity to take to the gridiron unbalances the playing field. So, why doesn’t the NFL have a system that allows both sides an equal number of possessions? There is no good answer to this question, because the NFL should have a format that ensures both teams the opportunity to score.

One solution to this dilemma is to adopt the college football scheme. In the NCAA, each side is given one possession to score, starting from their opponent’s 25-yard line. If these two possessions do not determine a winner, the process is repeated. Once teams reach the third overtime, they are required to attempt two-point conversions on all touchdowns, a rule designed to reduce the number of overtimes.

While this system is vastly superior to the NFL’s, there are a few arguments levelled against it. First, it eliminates most special-teams play. Since the ball is placed on the 25-yard line for each possession, there is no need for kickoffs or punts, and consequently, there also are no returns. Since special teams are a fundamental part of football, many purists see this omission as a glaring problem with the college format. Second, it often takes too long. In several college games that reach overtime, the extra periods become a battle between kickers, the direct result of starting both offenses within field-goal range.

In 2002, 77 percent of the teams that have won the overtime coin toss also have won their overtime contests.

FOOTBALL: In Saturday’s 30-23 win over Navy, junior corner back Vontez Duff became the first ND player to return a punt, interception and kickoff for touchdowns in the same season.

VOLLEYBALL: On Saturday, the Irish beat Syracuse (21-5, 11-0) to clinch the Big East regular season title. Freshman middle blocker Lauren Brewster ranks fifth in the nation in blocks per game with 1.63.

MEN’S SOCCER: The 15th-ranked Irish (11-5-3) suffered an early exit from the Big East Tournament on Saturday as Georgetown won a 2-1 overtime game in the quarterfinals. Senior forward Erich Braun scored Notre Dame’s only goal.

WOMEN’S SOCCER: On Friday, the team faces Ohio State at Alumni Field in a first-
The job of the middle linebacker is: When the other team runs the ball, it’s to stop the run. When the other team passes the ball, it’s to play intermediate or underneath routes mostly dealing with the tight ends, running backs, slot receivers. I’m responsible to get the plays called in the huddle, get everybody lined up, make the correct checks and be a leader on the field.

The attitude of the team after the Boston College game: was frustration, because we thought we should have played better to win that game. During the week, we were more just urgency of trying to get better and correct the things we did wrong against Boston College so we could go out there and win against Navy.

The biggest game of my career (so far) is: the Michigan game this year. The way we won that game, and how close that was. That will be a special part of this season if we finish it out the way we should.

**My favorite all-time player is:** Randall Cunningham. He was a great quarterback and a great athlete. That’s the reason I wore No. 12 in high school. Now, being a linebacker, I like Ray Lewis [of the Baltimore Ravens] a lot because I think he’s the best at the linebacker position.

**My favorite Notre Dame tradition is:** the pep rallies, the way that people come out regardless of whether you’re 3-3 or 6-0. There are still a lot of people that come out, and the fans are always there.

**Why I came to ND:** For the history and tradition. I just wanted to be a part of the Notre Dame tradition and make a difference.

**The loudest stadium I’ve been in:** Michigan [Stadium] wasn’t that loud. Tennessee [Neyland Stadium] was loud my freshman year.

**What I do to get motivated for a game:** I just think about the opportunity that we have when we go on the field. I don’t need much more motivation than that. That we have the chance to go out and play and win and put ourselves in the situation to be the best team in the country is enough motivation for me.

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**Jimmy Atkinson**

round NCAA Tournament game. The winner of that game will play the Purdue-Eastern Illinois winner Sunday, also at Alumni Field. **HOCKEY:** The Irish split their weekend series against Miami (Ohio), losing 3-1 on Friday night and winning 2-1 on Saturday night. In Saturday’s win, sophomore goaltender Morgan Cey stopped a career-high 44 shots. ND’s two goals came in the third period from sophomore center Cory McLean and junior right wing Rob Globke.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL:** The Irish defeated the EA Sports All-Stars 81-64 in an exhibition game. Senior guard Matt Carroll led the squad with 18 points.

**WOMEN’S TENNIS:** Junior Alicia Salas and freshman Kelly Nelson each won singles titles at the Eck Classic on Sunday. The tournament featured teams from Indiana, Louisville, Purdue and Syracuse. **MEN’S GOLF:** Freshmen Tommy Balderston, Mark Baldwin, Eric Deutsch and Scott Gustafson have been ranked top in the country according to Golfstat’s Freshman Class Impact Rankings following the fall season.

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**Jimmy Atkinson**
Last season, the Irish depended heavily on a talented but inexperienced freshman class. This season, with a year of experience bolstering them, the Irish look to...

RISE TO THE TOP

PETERKEEFE

Frustrating.
Last year's opening month of play for the Notre Dame women's basketball team was frustrating for players, coaches and fans alike. The then-defending National Champions began the season with a dismal 2-4 record, a stretch that included a humiliating loss to Michigan — a team they had blown out during their National Championship season — and a double-digit loss to Purdue in a rematch of the championship game. The Irish were juggling many different lineups, dealing with early season injuries and a roster that included six freshmen. Tears were shed, bad shots were taken and the Irish dropped out of the rankings for the first time since 1998.

"It was a wake-up call," says sophomore center Teresa Borton, a freshmen thrust into the lineup for injured Amanda Barksdale. Even coach Muffet McGraw was frustrated: "I miss my old team," she said at the time.

But as the season progressed, the quality of the team's play increased. Then-freshman forward Jackie Batteast started to find her niche as the Irish went 13-2 through a stretch of Big East games including a nine-game winning streak. Although the Irish won 20 games, they were blown out by three of the top teams, losing by 15 points to Purdue, nearly 30 points to UConn and almost 40 points to Tennessee in the last game. If the Irish want to be serious contenders for a national title this season, they will have to be able to play competitively against these top teams.

In order to do that, this year's sophomore class — which includes three of the team's five starters: forward Batteast, center Borton and forward Katy Flecky — must stay healthy and continue to improve, especially Batteast.

Batteast, who played at Washington High School in South Bend, Ind., anchors the Irish offense and is arguably the best pure athlete and most complete player on the squad. A versatile scorer, Batteast is able to take the ball inside or step back and take the three. She scored 13.8 points per game and led the team in rebounding with 7.8 per game last year, while also taking home the United States Basketball Writers Association National Freshman of the Year award.

"She's a smoothest player I've ever coached, and she can get to the basket and rebound as well as anyone I've ever seen," says McGraw. With her rebounding and shotblocking abilities, Batteast is able to dominate the game without even scoring. Her long arms break up cross-court passes — in the recent exhibition game against the Houston Cougars, she also recorded three steals. Batteast's versatility was also displayed in the same game when she grabbed a rebound on the
defensive end and then took it coast-to-coast for a layup.

Batteast must remain healthy for the Irish to live up to their potential as a team — last year, her late-season injury neutralized the Irish offense, which had a hard time scoring without her. After her stellar freshman year, opponents will be looking to double-team and put increased pressure on Batteast. If Borton can continue to develop her potential as another scoring threat, however, the Irish could burn teams who double-team Batteast. Borton was extremely impressive in the exhibition game against the Cougars, dropping 20 points and grabbing nine boards. “She runs the floor so well,” says McGraw. “She has a lot of strengths and is going to play a big part in our team’s success at both ends of the court this year.”

Forward Kat Fleck, who started the last seven games of last year when Batteast went down with an injury, rounds out the frontcourt for the Irish. In the exhibition game, she had four steals, knocking the ball away when the Cougars tried to pass to the low post.

A strong backcourt will also be vital to the Irish as well if they hope to compete for the Big East title. Guard Alicia Ratay is the senior captain and is coming off a season in which she averaged a team-high 15.4 points and 5.5 rebounds per game and was named to the All-Big East Conference first team. She is the Iron Woman of this Irish squad, playing in every game since her freshman year. Junior point guard LeTania Severe led the Irish in assists last season, averaging 4.9 per game. She is one of the fastest players in the country and paced the Irish on their European tour this summer, with 13.5 points, 5.3 assists and 3.3 steals per game. “LeTania’s a great leader,” says Borton. She will run the team’s new triangle offense, which McGraw implemented over the summer.

The triangle offense is NBA-tested and has been used successfully by the Jordan-era Chicago Bulls and, more recently, the Los Angeles Lakers. By positioning three Irish players on the perimeter, three-point opportunities will open up if the Irish can swing the ball and catch their opponents off guard. However, the first option of the triangle offense will be to get the ball down low to the post players, who will be cutting to the hoop and popping up to the foul line as well as setting screens for each other.

The fact that McGraw implemented a complex new offense shows her confidence in her starters. However, a key to running the triangle offense will be the team’s ability to run it with many different combinations of players when the starters are on the bench. McGraw has faith in her team: “We’ll pretty much be able to sub for anybody, and that’s something we really need. We’ll be able to play a lot of different combinations.” The new offense is designed to draw on the strengths of the Irish personnel, but the Irish have had trouble running the offense effectively without the starters. The offense stagnated when Severe, the starting point guard, left the game during the exhibition against the Cougars, leading to two shot-clock violations.

The Irish players who will see the most off-the-bench minutes are sophomore Kelsey Wicks and freshmen Megan Duffy and Courtney LaVere. Wicks can play either shooting guard or small forward, and she is a solid passer who also can knock down the outside shot. Duffy will be able to give either guard a rest and run the offense. Although she had five turnovers in the exhibition game, she found her niche and is coming off a season with the potential as another scoring threat, however, the Irish could burn teams who double-team Batteast. Borton was extremely impressive in the exhibition game against the Cougars, dropping 20 points and grabbing nine boards. “She runs the floor so well,” says McGraw. “She has a lot of strengths and is going to play a big part in our team’s success at both ends of the court this year.”

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The Irish players who will see the most on the court. She’s vocal and, for a freshman, you don’t always expect that.” On one of her first plays in the game, the southpaw stole the ball and took it in for an easy layup. “I’m just trying to come in and do anything they need me to do,” says Duffy.

LaVere also played well in her first game at the JACC, recording 12 points and six rebounds. Lavere is 6 feet, 3 inches and mostly will be relieving Borton at center, though she also was used at power forward in the scrimmage. The roster is rounded out by Karen Swanson, Jill Krause and Jeneka Joyce.

The Irish are ranked No. 10 in the preseason AP poll. In the Big East preseason poll, they tied for the first place ranking with Connecticut, and therein lies the challenge. Two years ago, the Irish took two out of three from the rival Huskies and wound up with the National Championship. Last year, the Irish were blown out when they traveled to the Gampel Pavilion and ended up losing in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

In order to successfully make it out of the Big East tournament, the Irish must challenge the Huskies. This year, the Irish and the Huskies meet twice in the regular season with the possibility of meeting again in the Big East tournament and in the NCAA tournament. Luckily, one of the two regular season games is at the Joyce Center where the luck of the Irish nearly always prevails. (A 51-game winning streak at home was broken by a loss only late last season.)

The success of this Irish team will hinge on how they play in their games against UConn and the other ranked opponents, whom they play early in the season: No. 2 Tennessee, and No. 8 Purdue and No. 19 Colorado State. Though it is easy to look forward to those leviathan battles, “Every team will be tough,” Borton says. “We can’t overlook anyone.”

With solid team basketball and a balanced offensive attack, this year it is the Irish who hope to frustrate their opponents in the opening month of play.

"[Batteast] is probably the smoothest player I've ever coached, and she can get to the basket and rebound as well as anyone I've ever seen."

— Coach Muffet McGraw
The ugly side of Notre Dame’s two-faced football team has surfaced. The downward spiral began in the waning moments of the Florida State game and continued throughout the next two weeks until the final minutes of the Navy contest. The Irish team that used to get the better of teams by winning the turnover margin after week now is finding itself turning the ball over and struggling to earn victories against even the most meager opponents.

The problems of the last two weeks appear to be mental. It is a difficult task for any coaching staff to get a football team up to the level that it needs to play at every week. “You can’t turn on focus and concentration like a light switch,” says coach Tyrone Willingham.

In college football, any team can beat any other team on any given day. One or two big plays can make all the difference. Couple that with a mental lapse or two, and you have the recipe for an upset.

Case in point: Boston College. Against Boston College, two failed fourth down conversion attempts, two turnovers and a botched field goal snap resulted in the Irish being turned away empty-handed from the red zone five times in six trips. The team’s inability to finish and hold onto the ball was the only aspect lacking in its game that afternoon. The result was a 14-7 loss and the end of almost any chance at the National Championship. The bottom line is that the Irish were not mentally prepared to play the Boston College game. They came out flat and unfocused.

Against Navy, complacency took hold. Notre Dame had won the previous 38 contests. Navy’s only win of the season came against SMU in their first game of the season. Navy’s run defense was ranked 109th in the nation. Navy ran an option attack, which Notre Dame had thoroughly shut down in the Air Force game just a few weeks ago. But history doesn’t win football games. And Notre Dame, unable to execute properly for most of the game, nearly discovered that the hard way.

“I was very concerned about the fact that we had played the option before and that may have worked against us because you can get complacent,” said Willingham after the game.

[The Navy game] was just a matter of not executing and waiting for that spark to come,” says quarterback Carlyle Holiday. They almost waited too long, needing a late fourth-quarter comeback to avoid losing to Navy for the first time since Heisman winner Roger Staubach was the Midshipmen’s quarterback in 1963.

Despite winning the game, the Irish felt as though they under-achieved. “Guys were happy to win,” says middle linebacker Courtney Watson, “but guys weren’t happy with the performance. The last three weeks, we haven’t performed up to our abilities, and that’s something we need to worry about. We need to focus on that.”
Another problem was that safety Gerome Sapp and defensive lineman Cedric Hilliard were out of the Navy game nursing injuries. Fortunately, the Irish have a bye this week to refocus and get healthy.

"We've always said that anytime a bye week shows up," says Willingham, "we'll find a way to use it to our advantage. We have a couple of guys we need to get healthy, so it's great timing."

The bye week also should provide players with ample time to mentally regroup. For nearly an eight-quarter stretch, going back to the end of the Florida State game through the first third quarter of the Navy game, the Irish have been outscored 51-22. Hopefully for Irish fans, the end of the Navy game is a sign that the Irish can regroup and return to midseason form.

An equally, if not more daunting opponent than Navy comes to South Bend a week from Saturday. Rutgers, although 1-8, led Miami going into the fourth quarter before the Hurricanes pounded the Scarlet Knights with a 28-point outburst. If the Irish are lackluster again next week, the result would be devastating. A loss to Rutgers likely would end any shot at a BCS game.

November 23rd vs. Rutgers (1-8)
Series Record: Notre Dame leads 3-0-0

On paper, Rutgers looks horrendous — but then again, so did Navy. In analyzing the statistics, one finds that Rutgers ranks 40th in pass defense, allowing 199.56 yards per game, 95th in run defense, allowing 190 yards per game, and 109th in turnovers, averaging a -1.22 takeaway-giveaway margin per game.

However, one cannot overlook the fact that the Scarlet Knights gave the defending National Champions the scare of a lifetime when they led Miami 17-14 going into the fourth quarter two weeks ago. Well aware of Miami's hardships two weeks ago, Willingham cautions those who take Rutgers lightly. "[Rutgers] played one of the better teams in this country almost toe to toe so that means when they're playing their game, they are very difficult to deal with," he says. Special teams have come up with big plays for the Scarlet Knights this season, as they have had six kicks blocked, including a punt block that was returned for a touchdown against Miami.

Offensively, Rutgers spreads the ball around to many players, and there is no clear-cut leader. They platoon two quarterbacks, Ted Trump and Ryan Cubit, who have combined to complete 127-of-273 passes for 1,338 yards, nine touchdowns, and 16 interceptions. Seven different receivers have over 100 yards on the season with tight end L.J. Smith leading the way with 280 yards on 25 catches. At the running back position, Markis Facyson and Clarence Pittman have shared time to combine for 614 yards on 213 carries and two touchdowns. Through nine games, Rutgers's offensive line has allowed 37 sacks. All signs indicate that the Irish defense should have a field day, as long as it can keep focused.

November 30th at USC (7-2)
Series Record: Notre Dame leads 42-26-5

Earlier this week, Willingham indicated that his coaching staff would use this bye week not only to prepare for Rutgers, but also to begin initial preparations for USC.

"The last three weeks, we haven't performed up to our abilities, and that's something we need to worry about."

— Courtney Watson, middle linebacker

The players themselves will prepare only for Rutgers, but coaches will use this week as an opportunity to look at additional film and take extra notes on USC.

After falling in overtime to Washington State, the Trojans are on a hot streak, winning their last four games going into this weekend's match-up against Arizona State. An at-large BCS berth could be on the line for both Notre Dame and USC when these two clash on Thanksgiving weekend in Los Angeles.

The Trojans should prove to be the toughest opponent that Notre Dame will face this season. They are stocked with a high-powered offense (ranked 17th nationally) that averages 420 yards per game and a tough-as-nails defense (13th) that allows only 295 yards per game. Undoubtedly, the leader of the Trojans offense is quarterback Carson Palmer, who ranks 12th in the nation in passing efficiency, completing 217-of-346 passes for 2,746 yards, 22 touchdowns and eight interceptions. In his last three games alone, Palmer has thrown for 1,113 yards and 13 touchdowns. Freshman sensation receiver Mike Williams also has come on strong in the last several games for USC, gaining 913 yards on 58 receptions.

Defensively, the Trojans are led by linebacker Matt Grootegoed, who has 59 tackles, including 11.5 for loss and five sacks, and safety Troy Polamalu, a Jim Thorpe Award semifinalist who has 54 tackles, including six for loss and two sacks, despite missing two games with an ankle sprain.

A loss to Boston College and an subpar win against Navy might be all the motivation that the Irish need to prepare to step up and return to winning as usual. "Even though we're winning, our guys expect more and I really like that," says Willingham. Notre Dame knows it still has much to prove in its final two contests.
Ask about the Notre Dame music scene, and kids in the know will tell you the same thing: "The music scene at ND," Neil Carmichael of Static says, "is sorely underappreciated."

It's a sentiment shared by most of ND's student bands and performers. "I don't know that the general population of ND is too aware of the music that is getting made around here, but there's some great stuff going on," Patrick Brennan of The Choir Invisible says. "I think the diversity of the music being made is pretty impressive."

In the hopes of shedding a little light on the oft-overlooked world of student bands, NAZZ will kick off its 15th annual contest Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Alumni-Senior Club.

Despite being billed as a battle of the bands, NAZZ tends towards celebration instead of competition. "NAZZ is all about supporting the local scene, showcasing new bands, and having fun," says WVFI station manager and NAZZ participant Tim Bradley.

Featuring a host of performers whose sounds range from folk rock to hip-hop, the Student Union Board-sponsored event provides a "rare opportunity to play in front of a respectful audience," says Luke Nueller, a two-time veteran performer at NAZZ.

Scholastic heard from some of NAZZ's bands and solo acts on their origins, inspirations and aspirations.

COMPLETING THE SQUARE

Northern Indiana experienced its own British Invasion of sorts when Completing the Square first performed as the Alpha Bet at LaFortune Ballroom last spring. Seniors Tim Bradley, Jesse Fa and John Fanning all

Band members Jesse Fa and John Fanning

invade Irish country with their own special brand of British flair.
on flexibility and variety. In addition to Brennan and fellow seniors Leo O’Connor, Kieran Moriarty and Ben Dillon, the band includes a fifth, “ever-evolving” member.

“Our drummer is possibly the most invisible choir boy, as we’ve played with three already,” Brennan says. Senior Pat Bayliss, bass player and singer for Clark, fulfills those duties often.

The Choir members cite characteristically varied influences, from the Beatles and the Who to the Clash and Elliott Smith. Brennan notes that the Choir’s music is more or less pop with a punk rock delivery.

The band’s NAZZ debut follows last week’s performance at WVFI’s QuadRock and countless basement shows.

**THE KINKY BOOTBEASTS**

The Kinky Bootbeasts had a somewhat unusual beginning, the result of a last-minute schedule change at a 2001 event called ND@Nite. When another performer suddenly couldn’t make it to perform his acoustic set, junior Dave Lodewyck and senior Joe Andrukaitis stepped in. According to Andrukaitis, the two “grabbed their guitars, threw together a setlist 20 minutes before the performance, and the Bootbeasts were born.” Freshman drummer Nate Origer became a fellow Beast earlier this year.

The Bootbeasts’ dedication to their music definitely is well-grounded. When asked to describe the group’s sound, Andrukaitis simply responded, “We rock. Hard.” Influences include the similarly intense Andrew W.K., a solo artist out of Detroit’s punk and metal scene, and Spinal Tap.

This year, the Bootbeasts already have played at various house parties around South Bend. Lodewyck and Andrukaitis both bring two years of experience to NAZZ. Andrukaitis praises the laid-back nature of the event, noting that “anyone trying to be competitive about NAZZ is just kidding themselves.”

**STATIC**

Certainly the only campus band whose members include sibling rappers, Static lays claim to a sound uniquely its own. Citing influences such as Bone Thugs-n-Harmony, Soul Live and Linkin Park, the six members blend hip-hop and jazz fusion into their own eclectic mix.

Senior guitarist Neil Carmichael, who has been playing guitar for nearly eight years, went to high school with senior emcee Pooya Ghiaseddin. Ghiaseddin and his brother Parham, a freshman, have been rapping since middle school. Senior Brian Flanagan plays conga drums for the group. Sophomore bass guitarist Paul Kellner and senior drummer Daly Barnes, previous bandmates of Carmichael, round out the group.

Static has begun recording its first album, which will be out in the spring.

**TOM SCHRECK**

At 18, Schreck already possesses an impressive musical resume. The Bismarck, N.D. native started playing piano at age six, percussion and harmonica at 11, guitar at 13 and pennywhistle at 17. His songwriting efforts began at 14. In high school, Schreck performed with a jam band called Ten Cent Haircuts and recorded his own solo album this past summer.

Though wary of the cliche now attached to the band, Schreck attributes much of his musical inspiration to Dave Matthews, among other influences. “Most of what I do musically goes back to hearing ‘What Would You Say’ on the radio as a 10-year-old,” he said.

Schreck appreciates the fact that Notre Dame’s musical scene is down-to-earth. “At a more artsy school, people get stuck up and worried about a certain scene or image,” he said. “It’s so pretentious. Here, people just want to hear music.”

**JORDAN LINVILLE**

After winning an Indiana statewide competition for original piano composition a high-school junior, Linville nearly wound up a music major at Indiana University. Boasting 13 years of piano experience and six on the guitar, his sound combines complicated chords with an emphasis on lyrics.

Linville, a senior, notes the difficulty of a career in music, especially coming from Notre Dame. “It’s really tough to let yourself try and be a musician or some kind of struggling artist when you’ve just dropped $120,000 on an education,” he said. “This school’s reputation and alumni network is great for some career paths, but a job at Columbia Records is not one of them.”

Nonetheless, the already-published composer, who claims Adam Duritz, Cole Porter and Billy Joel as inspirations, has not given up hope. After graduation, he says, “whatever I do, I’m going to make a go at playing on the side.”

**LUKE MUELLER**

Mueller began playing guitar four years ago, as a freshman at Notre Dame. After beginning to write his own songs a year later, he brought his folk-rock sound public, regularly performing at Acoustic Cafe and the past two NAZZ shows. A fan of Pearl Jam, Bruce Springsteen, Radiohead and Bob Dylan, Mueller doesn’t have to worry about losing motivation for his art.

“Music doesn’t ever stop,” he said, “and life never stops providing me opportunities to write.”

While this year’s NAZZ offers a diverse grouping of student talent, all the performers are members of ND’s much-ignored music scene. Take it from the artists themselves: The music is here, but the listeners aren’t. “There are some incredibly talented musicians walking around this campus,” Linville says. “You’ve just got to stray away from the keg a little to find them.”

The following artists round out NAZZ’s performance list: Shuger in the Raw, The Olivia Newton John Project, Karma, Poor Yorik, Station One, Kevin Leicht, and Chris Trice.

Tickets are $5 in advance and $8 at the door.
Satisfying the Irish appetite

BRIGHT LIGHTS AND LOUD MUSIC The inside of Pat's Pub in Mishawaka is stacked wall-to-wall with Notre Dame items, right down to the leprechaun wallpaper. The pub even plays the Notre Dame fight song while blue-and-gold lights blink throughout the room.

TRACY EVANS

Pulling into the isolated parking lot of a small, barn-style restaurant off the main streets of Mishawaka, customers looking for Pat's Pub might question whether they have found the right place. Once they open the door, however, and see layer upon layer of classic Notre Dame paraphernalia, all doubts are put to rest.

For the true Irish fan, Pat's reputation as a virtual museum of football folklore has made it a coveted find. The cozy atmosphere and familiar treatment unfold to exceed even the highest expectations. And though the pub is touristy, this doesn't detract from the dining experience.

Signed footballs, black-and-white game photographs and leprechaun wallpaper cover every inch of the room. I smiled at a recent addition: the 34-24 score sheet from this season's victory over Florida State. Individual photographs of the football team are tucked beside pictures capturing moments in Irish sports history, reminding diners of those glory days students hearken back to with their kelly green shirts.

“It's amazing, the loyalty, and how deep that goes for a lot of people. They will go around and look ... We've actually had people genuflect in front of things,” says Maury Cocquant, Jr., owner of Pat's Pub since 1990. Fans young and old have been coming to take in the pub's atmosphere since the mid-1970s. He estimates his collection to be an investment of roughly $10,000.

The more venerated attractions were donated. One of the most notable pieces, Cocquant says, is a football given to him by former Notre Dame quarterback Paul Hornung signed by 26 Heisman Trophy winners. Hornung donated the prize, and then its value doubled when additional trophy winners visiting the College Football Hall of Fame, including ND's own John Lujack, dropped by to add their own signatures.

Cocquant, who tracks his 13 years at Pat's by football seasons, grew up in the shadow of the golden Dome, eating at the restaurant with his own family of eight. With a full house almost any night of the week, he can count on seeing the faces of both local and seasonal regulars. Customers can count on a familiar wait staff, too: Some employees have worked at Pat's for more than 20 years. For Notre Dame families looking to

>> The cozy atmosphere and familiar treatment unfold to exceed even the highest expectations.
Pat's Colonial Pub

What: Pat's Colonial Pub
Where: 901 W. 4th Street Mishawaka, Ind.
(574) 259-8282
Price Range: Typical entrees run from about $12 to $20, including choice of soup/salad and potato/vegetable.
Why should you go: It's an experience that affirms your ND pride, and you can count on a decent piece of meat.
What you should watch out for: Make reservations in advance, and be prepared to strike up a conversation with anyone in this snug dining room; not recommended for dates or light eaters.

Pat's does not discriminate among customers. Although the majority of diners are avid Irish fans, 95 other school songs are on file to meet special requests. Often, the room will be divided between groups of fans visiting for the game, making for an even more lively dining experience. But Cocquant says that Pat's clearly is loyal to its hometown heroes.

The lights only flash for Notre Dame, and Notre Dame is always played first,” he says. “And, we always play Notre Dame right after to sort of cleanse the system.”

As a tempting portion of crab dip and toasted French bread floated in front of our noses, people at the next table dug into a thick steak and plate full of fried chicken with mashed potatoes. Selecting a meal at Pat’s isn’t easy. The restaurant has been lauded as serving the best seafood in the Michiana area for the past three years. Its menu boasts an entire page of selections ranging from the popular walleye, coated in a signature mustard-prezel dipping, to striped bass, swordfish and shrimp. Cuts of meat are offered with a choice of dressing — marinated, blackened or literally smothered with a wine-enhanced mushroom sauce. Appetizers include onion rings, escargot, and a decidedly cheesy Caesar salad. A variety of styles of potatoes add weight to the already hearty home-style portions.

While servers are attentive and prompt, customers don’t feel rushed, and parties take advantage of the family-friendly atmosphere to linger over conversation. Our food was spaced between miniature cones of orange sherbet, a classy and fun touch to the service. Portions are presented in a simple yet appetizing manner, and students can rest assured that a Styrofoam box will accompany them back to their dorm rooms.

Our table was satisfied with the range of menu favorites, from marinated steak to Italian-seasoned chicken with fettuccine alfredo. I opted for one of the pub’s more famous entrees: The thick-sliced pork chops. Served with applesauce and cooked to order, the tenderness of the meat belies its near-inch thickness. Daily specials introduce even more choices, adding ribs, pasta and meat specialties to the menu. Late-night offerings, served from 10 to 11 p.m., include a more casual selection of hot sandwiches and burgers. Homemade fruit pies and cheesecakes are on the pub’s list of tempting desserts.

When dinner was over, we regretted having to leave this haven of Domer pride. Maybe it was our bulging stomachs or that we couldn’t help but find more and more unique wall-hangings to admire. As we lingered in the doorway, I noticed the collection of photographs Cocquant had taken with celebrities and ND athletes of the past and present. The charm of Pat’s Pub lies somewhere between these photos and the sounds of the marching band playing the Notre Dame fight song. Smiles and clapping replaced conversations as diners took the chance to immerse themselves in Notre Dame revelry. This is one of the pub’s more unique traditions since its beginning, and the song contributes to the high-energy atmosphere for fans.

“You’ll think you’re at a wedding party during those game weekends,” Cocquant jokes. “Occasionally, if someone gets too insistent, we have to give them a plastic cup so they don’t break the glass.”

Everybody knows your name. With 13 years on the job, Pat’s Pub owner Maury Cocquant, Jr. mingles in the dining room with some of the restaurant’s regulars.
I Coulda Been a Contender
Why you should always look at least two hand-grips ahead

Our government would have us believe that Saddam Hussein represents the single greatest threat to the American way of life the free world has ever witnessed. As such, those in charge of our military have tried to drum up support from both the American people and our allies overseas for a full-scale invasion of Iraq. While no doubt feasible, this plan is far more expensive and time-consuming than the plan for the elimination of Saddam that I now propose:

We need Nitro, Laser and Gemini to go kick some ass.

As I was recently informed, my game-show column neglected to tell the reading public of a very important contributor to the competitive universe. I speak, of course, of the only slightly jingoistic '80s classic American Gladiators. Correctly assuming most viewers had gotten tired of screaming answers at their televisions, American Gladiators fulfilled our primal need to watch mildly pumped accountants get the ever-loving hell whipped out of them by people whose names belonged on shampoo or car oil bottles. As the TV executives saw it, answering questions is all well and good, but there's something about having a monosyllabic, steroid-fiend named Turbo grab you by the ankles and fling you from a 50-foot climbing wall that gets the blood pumping in a way Richard Karn just can't duplicate.

For those of you unfamiliar with the show, the premise ran more or less like this: Two "contenders" (typically white-collar guys who had been hitting the gym and felt as though they had really accomplished things, muscle-wise) competed against each other in a series of events leading up to the glorified obstacle course that was The Eliminator. The contenders would not just be competing against each other, however, but also against the gladiators — behemoths with veins in their arms bigger around than my thigh. The fact that these guys are now hawking used cars in Reno or nursing the man-breasts they acquired from years of steroid use at a Remaining Men Together seminar is somewhat beside the point. To a 10 year-old kid, Ice and Atlas were the peak of physical development, and the grueling endurance trials they put the contenders through were often duplicated in backyard wrestling matches that my parents would later term "the worst idea in the long, sad history of bad ideas."

Which brings us to the events themselves. While there were numerous ways to punish the contenders, space constraints dictate that only the most famous or ludicrous deserve mention. The first, and perhaps most well known, was The Joust. Contenders would battle against gladiators with oversized Q-Tips until one of the participants was backed into a trap door and sent flailing to the mats below. In all honesty, the event was ridiculous enough that any sarcastic comment I could make would actually lend credibility to it. Just to recap, the event was grown men in spandex beating each other with giant foam Q-Tips. The only way we could make this more asinine is to somehow involve The Rock.

On to mettle more attractive. The Human Cannonball was exactly what it sounded like, and it was ultimately more tragic than entertaining. The gladiator stood on a pedestal and the contender, swinging on a huge rope, would let go at the point he believed his trajectory would send him flying into the gladiator and carry them both to the mats below. While this undoubtedly taught us valuable lessons about falling into things, I still don’t see what use a star in this event could be to anyone, beyond getting me a drink at the Backer on a Saturday.

The real trial-by-fire, however, was The Wall. Essentially a climbing wall with the additional fun of life-threatening injury, The Wall required contenders to scramble to the top and ring a bell before a gladiator pulled them from The Wall and sent them tumbling (all together now) to the mats below. The thrill came from watching the contender soar effortlessly up The Wall, only to see him hesitate at a point where he had not planned out his route. Slowly, he would retrace his steps until suddenly Nitro (it's always Nitro) grabbed his ankle and flung him like a fish in a Seattle market. This had the obvious benefit of teaching kids about the futility of toil in the face of adversity, but The Wall's biggest asset comes in the simple message it conveys: You make damn sure you have your route planned out, or Nitro's coming, and he's bringing the pain.

Word to your mother.

The anachronisms of Vanilla Ice aside, I'm glad American Gladiators was around for me during my childhood. It showed me that only the physically able were worthy of praise, thereby setting a standard of perfection that I could never hope to live up to. And if that's not healthy for a young child's psyche, I'd like to know what is. (The answer, as it turns out, is not Rocky Road ice cream. Believe me, I've been down that road, and it only ends in tears.)
A walk across campus
What: Mystery Theatre
When: November 16, 9:30 p.m.
Where: LaFortune Ballroom
How much: $2
Why: It's elementary, my dear Watson! And at that price, it's almost complimentary. The Mystery Shop from Chicago will perform a short, three-act play during which characters reveal clues about a murder that has taken place. Between acts, audience members can examine evidence and talk with characters. Spend the night unraveling this Flipside-sponsored whodunit. After all, it's not often that you get to play Sherlock Holmes.

A short drive
What: Turning Over a New Leaf
When: November 16, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Where: Robinson Community Learning Center
How much: Free
Why: You'll be helping local residents by cleaning up the leaves in their yards while spending quality time with your friends. To sign up, contact your dorm service commissioner or send an e-mail to slonjenb@nd.edu.

Another walk across campus
What: Road to Perdition
When: November 14, 10:00 p.m.; November 15 and 16, 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
Where: 101 DeBartolo
How much: $3
Why: It's a Tom Hanks movie. No, seriously, Roger Ebert says that Road to Perdition, which tells the story of the mob's effect on a family living in 1930's Chicago, is wonderfully acted and praises its cinematography. Apparently the film is soaked with scenes involving rain, snow and other forms of wetness. Maybe it will make you think South Bend's damp dreariness isn't so bad in comparison — at least for a few hours.

A trip across US 31
What: "An American Paradox: Justice and the Practice of the Death Penalty"
When: November 21, 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; November 22, 12:00 p.m.
Where: Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall, St. Mary's College
How much: Free
Why: Since Illinois reinstated the death penalty in 1977, 12 men have been executed and 13 have been exonerated based on innocence or lack of evidence. Here's an opportunity to explore this controversial issue. Listen to a lecture by Sheila Murphy, retired presiding judge of the Sixth Municipal District Circuit Court, Cook County.

A two-hour drive
What: My Kind of Town
When: Fridays, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., through December 20
Where: Chicago Water Works Visitor Center, 163 E. Pearson
How much: Free
Why: Take advantage of these few away football weekends and experience the hustle and bustle of a buzzing metropolis. In celebration of the city's musical history, the Chicago Office of Tourism presents leading Chicago performers in concert at the historic pumping station across from Water Tower Place. After the concert, you can wander down Michigan Avenue or State Street and enjoy some fine dining. You might even start checking items off your holiday shopping list before Thanksgiving.
Think Globally, Live Simply

by Amanda Rothey

A block away from the Notre Dame student office in Innsbruck, the Leokino theater offers a taste of cinematic flavors from across the globe. Each new release promised a peek into an exotic culture, from New Delhi to Newfoundland and anywhere in between.

Like these films, my abroad experience in Innsbruck allowed me a unique chance to view the world from another perspective. But instead of sipping a Coke and munching on popcorn, I was in front of the camera and inside the scene. Lost in an exotic culture, from New Delhi to Newfoundland and anywhere in between.

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I always have been rather high-strung in an American, Burger King sense: I want it my way, right away, with little room for substitution. While demanding that things be perfect all the time because of these experiences, and I continued to cut back throughout the year in Innsbruck.

When I returned to the U.S., with my downsized attitude and material wants, I felt reverse culture shock. I longed for the romantic Altstadt and spicy kebab. Amongst the Expeditions and Tahoes, I wanted to hop on the O-bus or glimpse one dopy Peugeot. At restaurants, I barely could eat half of a meal. Immersed in my own super-sized American culture, I missed the smaller scale of European life. My relation to size and time in both cultures has influenced my philosophies on everyday life. Being a college student at a competitive university, I have to stay on the ball with classes and assignments, but I refuse to be too stressed out about anything related to school. After experiencing many diverse challenges while in Europe, I have confidence that I can handle whatever a professor will assign. My self-assurance has grown, and I embrace challenge more readily than in the past.

As my sense of self has become more defined through the challenges of living abroad, I also have found my American identity strengthened. For all of our faults and relatively young cultural traditions, I believe that Americans are blessed to have inherited our unique democratic and capitalistic tradition. As a still-maturing society at the fore of world political power, we must continue to bear in mind that our influence and reputation precedes us wherever we travel in the world. People around the world recognize the American ideal; we now must increase our own global awareness in order to appreciate and integrate into the world community completely.

If you have any desire whatsoever to study abroad, take advantage of the amazing opportunities offered through the university. Get out there and savor every minute you spend overseas.
Off Campus

Sean Dudley

As I found that I could deal with less-than-perfect circumstances with my own ingenuity and character, I began to worry less and less about material possessions, and my list of things I could not live without became shorter and shorter. After living out of a large backpack for a month, I realized that I have way more stuff than I can ever use. I went through the challenges of living abroad, I also have learned to leave my imagination and in real life, these situations were not the most pleasant ones, but I dealt with them, and feel that I am much less pretentious at the door.

While I still love to shop, I control my spending much more responsibly than I did before last year. Traveling to a country where I could pay for a meal with three Euros for one night! We're not in London, for sure a taste of cinematic flavors from across the globe. Each new release promised a peek into the main story, and there and savor every minute you spend overseas.

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My relation to size and time in both cultures has definitely brought out the cheapskate in me: I want it my way, the plot of my life, I only now am beginning to realize how my abroad experience has affected the direction my story will take.

Amanda Rothey is a junior history and political power, we must continue to bear in mind our influence and reputation precedes us wherever we travel, and I, or that I would share a bunk with a home-shock. I longed for the romantic Altstadt and spicy kebab. Amongst the Expeditions and Tahoes, I found my American identity strengthened. For all of our faults and relatively young cultural traditions, as my sense of self has become more defined, my relation to size and time in both cultures has definitely brought out the cheapskate in me: I want it my way, the plot of my life, I only now am beginning to realize how my abroad experience has affected the direction my story will take.

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THURSDAY NOV. 14

FRIDAY NOV. 15
Funny Man Eric O'Shea
LaFortune Ballroom
9 pm, FREE
Movie "Road to Perdition"
DBRT 101
7:30 & 10 pm, $3

SATURDAY NOV. 16

NAZZ, Battle of the Bands
Alumni Senior Club
8 pm-1 am
Tickets $5 in advance/$8 at door
Movie "Road to Perdition"
DBRT 101
7:30 & 10 pm, $3

UPCOMING EVENTS
Greek Festival 11/21
"My Big Fat Greek Wedding" 11/21-23
ND Unplugged 12/5
X-Mas Stress Relievers 12/15

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