## Fair-weather Friends

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Are inconsistencies in the residence life system damaging the student community?
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PHIL ABRAMS HALL

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Ready for Action by Mike Iselin

Soccer player Devon Prescod is tearing it up on the field.

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A Tale of 27 Halls

In the summer of 2000 I was getting ready to enter into my first year as a student at the University of Notre Dame. Like any incoming student, I got countless packets of information, all gearing up to that momentous August move-in day. One of these packets listed my dorm: Carroll Hall.

The name sounded good, but that was about all I knew about the place.

That summer, when I came on campus to take a language placement exam, my parents decided to hunt down my dorm and check it out. I emerged from the DeBartolo exam room, and my parents were waiting for me with odd-looking smiles on their faces.

"Let's go see your dorm," they told me.

As we headed out of DeBartolo, turning down South Quad, I naively pointed at dorm after dorm, wondering which one would be Carroll. But we kept walking, and we approached the Lyons arch, which I assumed to be the edge of campus.

But, of course, it wasn't.

We kept walking, past the lake, down Carroll drive, and an old, large mansion appeared at the end of a small grassy field. It looked like something out of a Scooby-Doo mystery. We had to be well off-campus at this point, I thought. But that was it: Carroll Hall, right before my eyes.

While the isolation of Carroll Hall seemed strange to me at the time, after I moved in it quickly became a great characteristic of a wonderful community, something that set it apart from the rest and made me feel at home.

That's the essence of the Notre Dame dorm system — each and every dorm is a unique place with its own history, traditions and characteristics. The diversity created by the dorm system, its ability to produce unique homes for the university's students, are its greatest assets.

But there are times when this diversity can become something else — inconsistency. The individuality of each dorm seems to extend to the freedom each has in setting its own rules and regulations. This freedom, however helpful it may be, can sometimes cause conflict and confusion for residents. In particular, the structure of power among rectors, assistant rectors and resident assistants has given rise to questions about varying policies in dorms.

In the last year, two major cases of AR and RA dismissals have once again highlighted the questions and consequences surrounding Notre Dame's dorm system. In this Scholastic, Carolyn LaFave looks into how this issue is affecting students (p. 12).

Correction: On page 10 of Issue 04 (10/09/03), the students shown in the picture were incorrectly identified as student managers. They are student trainers.

Clarification: The story "Field of Irish Dreams" on page 16 of Issue 03 (9/25/03) should have listed Domaine Vonanda's Notre Dame: The Official Campus Guide as a source for the article.
Afraid of commitment?

Holy Cross priests and brothers at Notre Dame.

Come anyway.

www.nd.edu/~vocation

Be Not Afraid!
AFS is So 2002

OIT changed AFS ID to NetID. Did you notice?

EMILYPALADINO

When students returned to campus in August, they were welcomed by a change in that all-too-familiar Webmail page. Over the summer, Notre Dame’s Office of Information Technology abandoned the term “AFS ID” (Andrew File System ID) and replaced it with “NetID,” leaving many students to wonder how the decision will affect their Webmail, Irishlink, WebFile, and WebCT services.

Previously, when students logged on to such programs, they had to enter an AFS ID and password. Now students are instructed to enter their “NetID”—the exact same ID as under preceding AFS system, combined with the same password.

The change is essentially “cosmetic,” says Dewitt Latimer, Deputy CIO and Chief Technology Officer for OIT.

OIT made the change because authentication technology used by AFS was no longer unique to the AFS system, which was developed in the 1980s. This technology, called Kerberos, was once only used in conjunction with AFS, but over time other campus programs also began to use it.

“The name change represents the fact that many computer systems and services outside of AFS now utilize the same Kerberos user ID/password pair,” Latimer says. In other words, the term “NetID” is more appropriate because it is inclusive to all programs that require a username and password for use.

While the change affected approximately 30,000 IDs, some students haven’t even noticed the switch. “I had no idea,” says junior Katie Poholek.

Junior Matt Mooney was dumbfounded by news of the change. “I don’t even know what it means,” he says.

While the switch is minor, it does affect nearly everyone on campus. Most campus programs have made the change, but some are still using the old AFS terminology. OIT said there is no deadline for the switch.

Thus, it seems that even at OIT, the old adage rings true — the more things change, the more they stay the same.

The Top Ten List
Not-so-tasty treats

Worst Halloween Treats

There is a certain unspoken assumption amongst all trick-or-treaters. If you’ve gone through the effort of preparing and wearing a costume to wander the streets seeking candy, then you deserve either a fantastic trick or a worthy treat. Unfortunately some people just haven’t got a clue. Scholastic reflects on the ten worst “treats” to receive while trick-or-treating.

Cheap Novelty Toys
Candy, you fools! No one wants idiotic finger traps or itchy, plastic spider rings. At best, they offer as much fun as it takes to break them; at worst, they waste precious sugar-scarfing time.

Anything in a “Bubbling” Cauldron
It’s not creepy, because everyone knows it’s just dry ice. Making kids fish out their own candy simply presents the unnecessary hazard of fantastically painful carbon dioxide burns. A treat, indeed.

Religious Tracts
Maybe some folks didn’t get the memo. Halloween is a pagan holiday. Bible-themed handouts are unwelcome on so many levels. Trick-or-treaters dress up as devils and French maids not to learn about the saving power of Jesus, but to revel in the quasi-bacchanalian frenzy of the youthful sugar high.

Apples
Fruit is not candy. Fruit is nutritious and regularly packed in sack lunches. Candy is bad for you but tastes
LISTENING

"I need to procreate with Brady Quinn to create the master race. He needs my eggs and womb." — overheard student at the USC game

Student #1: I heard Carson Daly's coming to the pep rally!
Student #2: Why?
Student #1: Because he's, like, Catholic! — overheard students

"Note to Food Services: Calling it '24-hour Fruit Salad' does not whet one's appetite." — overheard dining hall patron

"Some things are so pathetic that even irony and parody cannot save them." — PLS professor, on NASCAR fans

"Don't you feel like a biscuit?" — one Subway worker to another, context unknown

too good for anyone to care. Except for the square who's handing out apples. Or oranges. Or bananas. Or raisins.

6 Jum-Blo "Chewing" Gum
More reminiscent of a chunk of granite than a piece of candy, this stuff's neither blowable nor chewable. Oh, and you look like a constipated horse when attempting to do either.

5 Pennies
One should remind the stingy folks who give leftover pocket change to young, colorfully dressed children that they are not really impoverished waifs seeking charity. They are children and want candy. If they really wanted pennies, they wouldn't go through the trouble of dressing up and wandering door to door. They'd simply sit on the street corner with a small pan in front of them.

4 Empty Basket on the Doorstep
By leaving a basket full of candy with a short note appealing to the non-existent integrity of trick-or-treaters, people effectively give the same middle-schoolers on Roller blades who will later egg their house a special, early evening reward for their depravity.

3 Black Licorice
Short of licking a freshly-laid driveway, this so-called "candy" is about as close as you can get to eating tar. It lacks the taste and visual appeal of the Twizzler and even smells like crap. Why not just offer mud on a stick?

2 Pencils
I'm sorry, did I wander into Staples? Do I, dressed as I am in a Spider-Man costume, look like I want some school supplies? Don't mess with me, man. Candy. Give. Now.

1 Toothbrushes
If anything qualifies someone as a terrible person, surely it must be handing out dental hygiene products to trick-or-treaters in lieu of candy. It's annoying. It's tacky. It's a waste of time and money. All sense of irony is lost in the wake of blinding rage and disappointment. Thanks for ruining Halloween. Jerk.
Judgment Calls
Opinions and observations

ND WOMEN’S SOCCER
The Fightin’ Irish girls have not given up a single goal in their past 10 games.

SELF-CONSCIOUS SMOOTHIE ORDERERS
Hi, I’d like a Triple Mocha Brownie Fudge Lard Milkshake please. Oh, with a free Fat-Burner shot, of course.

STAINLESS STEEL SALAD BARS IN NDH
If you wait long enough, all the food in North will be moved from the serving rooms and into the seating area.

RETURNING TO CLEAN DORM ROOMS AFTER BREAK
Toothpaste goop gone from the sink and a vacuumed floor. Oh, it’s so nice being spoiled.

PEBBLE THROWERS
Next time you attend a football game, leave all pebbles, pennies and other small hard objects on the ground and far, far away from Bob Costas’ and Joe Theismann’s faces. Remember, we’re not Michigan fans.

ENTERTAINMENT FORTNIGHTLY
An Electronic Obsession
Some online gamers spend countless hours a week immersed in a fantasy world

RHYANGREENE
This is a story about love. Meet Ramm. A 20-year-old sophomore in college, he is just getting over a rather abrupt breakup with his first wife.

Enter Emylie. She is a beautiful, witty young woman, several years Ramm’s senior. Smitten, Ramm wins her heart in no time. Theirs is a storybook romance. They spend all their free time together. They laugh about situations that would make other couples argue. They get married in a famous castle.

But what’s a good story without a twist? Ramm and Emylie, loving husband and wife, have never met. They have never held hands, never kissed, never even seen each other in person.

Their relationship has taken place completely within the confines of an online fantasy game called Everquest. “Ramm” is the name of a half-elf paladin and “Emylie” is the name of an elf druid (a kind of witch). Controlled by real people, they are electronic proxies in a video game world.

Online games like Everquest, The Sims Online and the just-released Final Fantasy XI host hundreds of thousands of players on a daily basis. The players, ranging from exclusive 10-year-olds to bored housewives, spend hours in these “worlds,” fighting monsters, interacting with friends and participating in complex, free-market economies.

But are these games a harmless hobby or a ridiculous, yet crippling, addiction? Can a person have a healthy social life when he’s never met many of his best friends?

But are these games a harmless hobby or a ridiculous, yet crippling, addiction? Can a person have a healthy social life when he’s never met many of his best friends? This is a question of degrees. Just as there are thousands of players who balk at the idea of being “addicted” to a computer game, there are just as many who spend upwards of ten hours a day on “Evercrack,” as Everquest has been oh-so-lovingly dubbed.

Within the game world, these prejudices run rampant. Casual gamers ridicule hardcore gamers for wasting their time when they could be out leading “normal” lives. It’s like going to a Star Trek convention and hearing the guy dressed as Captain Kirk make fun of the guy dressed as a Klingon for spending more time on his makeup.

Granted, Trekkies don’t obviously destroy lives in the process of memorizing lines from The Wrath of Khan. Online gamers have let marriages rot and jobs go sour. More tragically, one player actually committed suicide over troubles he was having in a game. A mother recently left her infant child to die of exposure while she snuck some time on Everquest.

Of course, these are extreme examples of what is usually a fairly benign phenomenon. It may seem pointless to spend 60 hours a week slaying orcs and hunting dragons, but everyone has his or her own guilty pleasures. Maybe you love Care Bears or quarterbacks’ biceps with a passion that borders on the frightening. Either way, you know what they say about throwing the first stone.

So let online gamers like Ramm and Emylie have their fun. For the geeks shall inherit the earth.

DomeLights
COMPIL BY MIKE HEALY
Equipment is vital to success. You wouldn’t ask Michelangelo to sculpt with Play-Doh, and you wouldn’t have Jeff Foxworthy give his hilarious perspective on rural living over a shoddy sound system, so why let first-rate athletes be handicapped by second-rate materials? At Notre Dame, we wouldn’t dream of debilitating our fine athletic representatives in such a way, which is why we have an athletic contract with adidas, perhaps the world’s best athletic outfitter. This is a contract that supplies all of our varsity sports, not just football (although they do a fine job there, as well). Don’t believe me? Take a look:

5,956 Pairs of athletic shoes supplied to our varsity teams
772 Wristbands for the men’s and women’s basketball teams
30 Pairs of goalie gloves for the men’s and women’s soccer teams
75 Pairs of kneepads for the volleyball program
400 Baseball caps for the Band
79 Pairs of cleats for softball
180 Practice T-shirts for cheerleading

Source: Liz Muir and John Heisler

5 October 2003
The Battle for a Smoke Free Society

Join the fight at a presentation by Patrick Reynolds, grandson of tobacco company founder R.J. Reynolds. Patrick Reynolds turned his back on the family business after losing his father and brother to lung cancer. He is now a nationally known speaker, combining tobacco education with motivational speaking in his quest to achieve a smokefree society.

Wednesday, November 12
7:00 pm
McKenna Hall Auditorium

Open to the community

Door prizes will be raffled off, including a DVD player, gift certificate to the Morris Center for the Performing Arts, and a gift certificate to a health spa

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE OFFICE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG EDUCATION, 631-7970

Healthy Communities Initiative of St. Joseph County
The university clears the air regarding the future of smoking on campus

TOM TIBERIO

Recent confusion concerning the smoking policy at Notre Dame may have caused smokers to light up an extra cigarette.

But despite some discussion as to whether an entirely smoke-free campus lies in the near future at Notre Dame, there is no apparent move afoot on the part of the administration to head in that direction.

The cause for perplexion may have been a clause in *du Lac*, which states that two years after introduction of the stated regulations, the Environmental Issues Committee will reevaluate the smoking policy and determine “whether the University should become completely ‘smoke-free.’”

This was written in 1992, with the enactment of Notre Dame’s first smoking policy. But it was never removed, even after the policy had been reevaluated. The policy permitted smoking in dormitory rooms where all roommates consent, but specified that residence halls may adopt more stringent guidelines as they see fit. As a result, all residence halls currently prohibit smoking.

The policy also originally allowed smoking to take place in private offices as long as non-smokers were not present, but this was banned in 2002, as a result of inadequate ventilation systems.

The Environmental Issues Committee, which is comprised of faculty and staff, met again in March of 1995, when, according to Dan Skendzel, director of Administrative Services, they determined that the current policy “seemed to strike a balance between smokers and non-smokers (sic).” Thus they did not see a reason to make any changes.

No current plans for change have been made public either.

*du Lac* clearly states, “The rights of non-smokers (sic) to a smoke-free environment always take precedence over the desire of smokers to smoke.”

A decision to ban smoking on all grounds would affect students, faculty and staff alike. It would raise the question of individual right - a debate as old as the evidence showing that smoking is unhealthy. It is framed by the traditional clash of smokers defending their “right” to smoke, with those nonsmokers defending their “right” to clean air.

For such a policy change to take place, then, there would have to be reason to believe that the rights of nonsmokers are being infringed upon. Associate Vice President of Residence Life Bill Kirk says that, presently, this is not the case.

“If that was the perception of the reality,” Kirk said, “then we’d have to address it. I don’t have any sense of that.”

This does not mean, however, that smoking is not an issue on campus.

Aside from having to face the occasionally inclement South Bend weather, most people on campus don’t seem to mind making the trip outside to smoke, especially as it is becoming more and more commonplace around the nation. Within the last few years, states like California and New York have even banned smoking in restaurants and bars.

“I don’t mind the policy here really,” said Phil Lem, a junior from Kansas City.

“But some people here will go out of their way to tell you that it’s bad for you when you know it already.”

Lem, who has been smoking since he was 15, says he gets dirty looks more than anything else.

Smokers’ congregating outside the entrances to buildings can sometimes create controversy. For some people, especially those more sensitive to cigarette smoke, such as asthmatics and those allergic, having to walk through the haze of smoke can be a problem. As can smoke that finds its way through residents’ open windows.
But besides the occasional exaggerated cough, there isn't that much commotion over smoking at Notre Dame.

Michael McCauslin, assistant director of Risk Management and Safety, the department which handles problems regarding smoking among faculty and staff, said they typically receive only five to eight complaints a year — this for a campus of 4,500 employees and 140 buildings.

"We were concerned when this policy was enacted," said McCauslin, "that since we were identified as the people who would investigate complaints through members of our staff, that this would be a very time-consuming problem for us, and a significant issue. And it really has not turned out to be that."

Many feel that the fact that problems are minimal can be attributed to the kind of people at Notre Dame.

"It just goes to show through the number of complaints that people who do smoke are considerate of people who are concerned about secondhand smoke," said Student Body Vice President Jeremy Lao.

Nevertheless, it is the goal of people like Gina Firth, the director of the Office of Drug and Alcohol Education, to further restrict smoking on campus — even if relatively few students smoke.

According to findings by the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education at Notre Dame, 5.9 percent of Notre Dame students have smoked three times a week or more within the last year. This number is down from last year by 3.15 percent, and compares to a national average of 24 percent among college students. This survey was part of a social-norming campaign intended to "de-mythicize" students' perceptions regarding how many of their classmates partake in the habit.

But the relatively low number of smokers does not deter Firth from trying to help them quit. Highlighting the nonsmoking campaign this year will be nationally known speaker Patrick Reynolds, who will come to campus on Nov. 12. Reynolds, grandson of tobacco company founder R.J. Reynolds, started speaking publicly after losing his father and brother to lung cancer. Reynolds now advocates for a smoke-free society.

Firth is a member of the St. Joseph County Tobacco Quit Project (STQP), a coalition that works toward getting area businesses and organizations to become completely smoke-free. By "completely smoke-free," Firth says that smoking would not be permitted anywhere on the premises of the organizations that adopted the policy.

This will soon be the reality for workers and visitors at Saint Joseph Regional Hospital and Memorial Hospital, where officials recently decided to prohibit smoking on hospital grounds. Dr. Alan Snell of Memorial says that most of the response that STQP has received from people, including smokers, has been quite positive. Snell is also active in STQP and was very involved in bringing about this change in policy, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2003. He hopes the movement, which they have labeled "Fresh Air Partners," will spread to universities, businesses and corporations in the area.

"We want to get everybody up to that same level," Snell said.

Banning smoking on a university campus, however, would raise other issues. Enacting such a policy might interfere with attracting potential students, faculty and staff.

For students like junior Chris Fischer of O'Neill Hall, this could be a major issue.

"It depends on how determined you are to come here," Fischer said. "I think most people are so headstrong in coming here anyway that they're not going to care if they say, 'No smoking, no drinking, no sex.' They'll figure, 'Either I won't do it, or I'll get around it.'"

Smoking has also been an issue in Notre Dame Stadium. While not an enclosed area, smoke can still be a problem. Prior to the stadium's renovation in 1997, smoking was permitted inside.

"I think there was a real strong push and a real desire to go smoke-free in the stadium," said McCauslin of Risk Management. "It was just obvious that it just wasn't going to work."

Fans are now permitted to smoke in the concourse area, but not while in their seats. But this is only an issue at home football games.

As far as the rest of the year, school officials are concerned primarily with the general well-being of those on campus and less focused on governing the behaviors of individual students.

Although Kirk personally discourages students from smoking (he once paid a $100 to a student who stopped smoking for a semester), he does not feel that the mere act of smoking is something the university ought to further restrict.

"You know your smoking harms those in the building that don't smoke," said Kirk. "You'd be hard-pressed to make that argument out in the air, out in the open."

Advocating against smoking does seem to be in accordance with the university's mission, however, as demonstrated by the stance taken to prohibit the sale of tobacco products on campus. In addition, smoking cessation programs are offered for employees who want to quit, through the Department of Human Resources. According to Work Life Consultant Jessica Brookshire, 13 people took advantage of this option this past year. Services for students are accessible through the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education.

"I think that being smoke-free is somewhat part of a larger mission that this university has for its students," says Lao. "But when it comes down to it, smoking is a personal choice. It is something that, when you want to do it, you should be able to do so, as long as it affects the least amount of people."
When Alissa Mendoza arrived at Notre Dame Health Services with an infection, she thought her experience would involve a simple diagnosis, a quick dispensation of some pills and brief medical advice. It turned out to be a tedious, time-consuming and expensive ordeal for the Notre Dame junior.

After taking the medicine as prescribed, she read through the hefty packet provided by Health Services. It listed possible side effects of the prescribed medication and warned against consuming specific foods and performing certain activities. She continued taking the medicine for two days, but her symptoms did not abate.

Early on the third morning, Mendoza received what she describes as a rushed and panicky call from a Health Services nurse. The nurse told Mendoza that recent lab results indicated that the prescribed antibiotics were virtually useless for treating her infection. Mendoza had been prescribed the wrong medication. She then returned to Health Services to pick up a new antibiotic, only to discover that she would be charged for both the new antibiotic and the previous ineffective antibiotic. Not wanting to drag out an already unpleasant and frustrating situation, Mendoza chose not to voice her complaints to Health Services staff specifically.

Mendoza’s experience is far from isolated. Many students at Notre Dame have voiced concerns about the quality of care they have received at the Health Center, an establishment created to serve the medical needs of the Notre Dame community. The preservation of good health is a major concern anywhere — but particularly on a college campus, which teems with close physical interaction and breeds weak immune systems with its high-stress environment.

Patricia Brubaker, RN, and assistant director of clinical services, describes misdiagnoses as a “learning process.” Brubaker says that student complaints are investigated and reviewed by the director of Health Services. However, she says that clinical services has not had a problem with misdiagnoses, since doctors who are unsure of how to approach a particular malady encourage students to get second opinions through referrals. She also says that although the center sends out surveys to the students, the return rate on surveys is only about 10 percent, and those who do return surveys tend to be the students who have had negative experiences. Brubaker attributes much of this negativity to the fact that many students, being first-time health care consumers (without the aid of their parents), are unaware of what questions they should be asking while being treated, and hence are poorly informed.

University Health Services, located next to St. Edward’s Hall, behind Main Building, is open 24 hours and provides service to both walk-ins and to students with appointments. According to Brubaker, it is better to have an appointment in order to avoid a long wait. Brubaker says that the Health Services staff always leaves the daily schedule half open by booking appointments for only four out of eight available slots per hour. While several interviewed students have complained of excessive waits at the center, Brubaker says that waiting periods vary day to day. Brubaker says
wait rarely exceeds an hour to an hour and a half, particularly after typically hectic Mondays.

The start of the week is the center's busiest time, due, in part, to the influx of students who were unable to see a doctor over the weekend. Brubaker says that the clinic treats about 80-100 cases per day, and that last school year the clinic saw 17,500 patients. On weekends, a registered nurse is in charge of the clinic and a doctor remains on call. If the nurse deems their cases serious, students can see on-call doctors during the weekend or are referred to a hospital emergency room. However, most cases are told to return for further examination by a doctor during the coming week. The anonymous student describes the experience as emotionally and financially draining.

Some students feel that the quality of care provided at Health Services is substandard. Notre Dame sophomore Patrick Buchanan, a member of the men's tennis team, sought treatment from Health Services last spring for a painful bump on his wrist.

Buchanan says that a Health Services doctor took X-rays of his wrist and diagnosed the bump as a cyst. Buchanan says the doctor then attempted to pop the cyst with his fingers, but after several minutes of excruciating pain, the cyst was still intact.

The doctor then recommended Buchanan see a hand specialist. Buchanan followed this advice, and the hand specialist examined the same set of X-rays from Health Services and determined that the bump was a result of inflammation due to tendinitis in his wrist. After a week's worth of antibiotics, Buchanan's wrist was back to normal. "It was a horrendous experience," Buchanan says of his experience at Health Services. "The doctors [at Health Services] do not know what they are doing in there," Buchanan says.

Brubaker says that all doctors at Health Services are certified as both family doctors and sports medicine practitioners, and all have been in practice for at least 15 years. This setup is similar to that of the health services at other universities across the country. Because all Health Services doctors specialize in health care services for college-age students, none operate an outside practice. The doctors refer any cases requiring either surgery or a second opinion to local specialists, and the center provides transportation for referred cases.

Most injuries treated at Health Services result from interhall sports, and other common maladies include anything from strep throat to the flu virus. Doctors are able to prescribe a variety of medications, and Health Services's pharmacy can procure any medication within 12 hours of prescription time. Health Services can also fill orders as prescribed by students' home doctors. A 14-bed inpatient clinic is also available on the second floor of the center for students who are recovering from surgical procedures or require observation or the use of IVs.

The lack of availability of doctors on the weekends has led to further complaints regarding the center's inability to treat cases that typically occur on weekends, such as alcohol poisoning and sexual abuse. Instead of being treated by the center, students need to be treated at a local off-campus hospital emergency room. One student, who wishes to remain anonymous, says that when she believed she might have been raped, she was forced to visit the emergency room at St. Joseph's Regional Hospital in South Bend. She says she waited for several hours before receiving the "Rape Kit" examination from the emergency room staff. The student later paid nearly $600 because, in order to ensure her privacy, she wished to be billed individually rather than provide the hospital with her parent's insurance information.

Despite a large number of unsatisfactory reports, some interviewed students say that they received prompt service and positive results at the center. Some theorize that others' bad experiences stem from dissatisfaction due to the overwhelming influx of students needing healthcare, particularly in the winter. Since some students do not receive the personal attention they are accustomed to from their hometown doctors, an inordinately busy health center might be mistaken for negligent care. It is clear that anxiety concerning dissatisfaction is heightened, and that much of our campus is facing insecurity regarding the institution they not only want, but also need, to be reliable.
Real Life Inside Residence Halls

Conflicts might tarnish the traditional image of dorm communities

CAROLYN LAFAVE

Residence halls are considered to be one of the University of Notre Dame's greatest strengths. Students live together, study together and learn from one another under the leadership and guidance of caring individuals. Many students graduate with a nostalgic attitude toward the dorm they screamed for during pep rallies, fought for during interhall games, and lived in with their best friends.

This is the common image of the university's residence hall system. And, in many ways, the system lives up to its reputation: The dorm community keeps most students on campus, and even in the same dorm, for all four years of their time as undergraduates.

But in other ways, the system does not meet expectations. In the halls, students live under the hierarchy of authority that descends from the rector to the assistant rectors (ARs) and finally to resident assistants (RAs). While these hall staff members work to fulfill their dual roles as both friend and regulator, their actions and how they affect dorm residents are sometimes the subject of controversy.

Several issues about dorm life have arisen in the last year, bringing concerns and questions into the minds of students and the administration. The typical perception among students that authorities in women's dorms are stricter than those in men's dorms is one such concern. Last fall, a Pasquerilla West AR, Cynthia Phillips, was fired amidst controversial circumstances. And this summer, two students who were hired as RAs in Sorin Hall lost their positions. Meanwhile, the trend toward off-campus living is becoming increasingly appealing for many students. All of these issues conflict with the notion of a praiseworthy dorm community. So what is the real story behind residence halls?

The hall staff is the foundation upon which each residence hall is built. The process of forming that staff is intensive and meticulous. It begins with a rector, who will be the leader and the ultimate authority in his or her dorm. Bill Kirk, associate vice president of the Office of Residence Life, says that many of the rectors are priests from Holy Cross or sisters...
from religious communities who had heard about the positions through university-issued publications. Some rectors are also lay people who are Masters of Divinity students. "What you're really looking for in a rector is to understand the residential tradition and mission of the university ... and to foster it," Kirk says. In addition to background checks, prospective rectors go through an extensive application and interview process.

Sr. Carrine Etheridge, I.H.M., who is in her 11th year as rector of Farley Hall, recalls that her experience included meetings with the Office of Student Affairs, the Office of Residence Life, human resources personnel, and an interview panel that consisted of students, other rectors and assistant rectors. "It was quite extensive, I was surprised," she says. "But it ought to be."

The rector takes on several responsibilities for the dorm and deals with any and all university departments, including security, counseling, maintenance, Student Activities and Campus Ministry. Disciplining students is just a minor part of a rector's responsibilities. "Everyone thinks rectors do a lot of discipline, but I'd say discipline is about five percent [of the job]," Etheridge says.

Rectors also monitor and assist the rest of the hall staff, including RAs and ARs. And because a rector is the head of his or her dorm, he or she has the power to establish rules that are unique to that hall.

Perceived inequalities between the female and male dorms regarding security and rule enforcement are the results of this power. Many students are under the impression that women's dorms are stricter than men's, but all of the dorms operate under uniform university standards to an extent.

"There needs to be some consistency. There's really a professional discretion that everyone exercises," Kirk says. "There's an obvious difference between men and women. They have different things they'll need to do." He cites eating disorders as something that might be a more pressing issue in a women's dorm and drinking as more prevalent in men's dorms, as male residents tend to host more social gatherings. "Those issues are going to involve different expertise," he says. "It's easy to make these blanket statements [about gender inequalities], but I think they fall down pretty quickly when you get to the real world."

Etheridge sees the variation in residence hall rules as a strength. "I like the way the dorms have their own personality. They have their own flavor. It's always been that the women's halls adhere more to du Lac. But I think that's changing."

Rector of Carroll Hall, Rev. Father James Lewis, O.Carm., says that even though differences exist, the hall staffs all operate according to certain principles. "Fairness and consistency are ideally the hallmarks," he says.

RAs are aware of the differences as well, but also do not see these differences as problematic. "There are definitely dorms that are more strict than others," says Knott Hall RA Brian Borchard. "I'm not sure it's a male-female case. It just depends on the dorm."

"Inequalities definitely do exist for a variety of reasons," says Mary Mullen, an RA in Pangborn Hall. "Stories of extreme harshness and stories of extreme laxity get talked about a lot. It's just stereotypes."

Many students agree that hall staff members do a good job and treat their students. One student says her rector is "very condescending. She makes us feel like preschoolers. She needs to realize that she's dealing with college students and that we are not trying to intentionally create problems."

Another student says that her hall staff is too much of a parental authority: "A lot of people in my dorm are afraid of getting in trouble, so they don't come home at night."

In response to students' concerns with dorm authorities, RAs and rectors alike say that they are aware of the level of discretion they have, as well as their boundaries when it comes to dealing with rule violations.

"We have to enforce all of the rules and we do enforce all of the rules," says Mullen. "It's the manner in which you do it that I think the authority comes from."

Katie Mitchell, an RA in Pasquerilla West, describes her job as, "a big-sister role — a resource and a facilitator, somebody who's done before what they're doing now. It's a dual role — always balancing being their friend with someone who has to remind them of the rules."

"All of us are trying to build a Christian community, foster it and develop it," says Dillon Hall rector, the Rev. Father Paul Doyle, C.S.C. "That doesn't mean 'make everybody Christian.' It means 'make everybody welcome' ... There are a lot of things to building a Christian community besides 'don't do that, don't do that, don't do that.'"

But the establishment and enforcement of rules is not the only element of dorm life that rectors control. Their role as the hall's ultimate authority over hall staff can lead to significant conflicts that, inevitably, affect their residents.

Last fall, Pasquerilla West lost its assistant rector, second-year law student Cynthia Phillips. At the time, there was little mention of the circumstances that led to the termination of her status as PW's AR, but rumors began to circulate about the relationship between Phillips and PW's rector, Sr. Susan Bruno, O.S.F. (Bruno declined to comment.)

As an AR, Phillips' role in PW was to work closely with Bruno and to be
responsible for the hall when the rector was not present. As Lewis says, “After me, [the AR] has ultimate responsibility for the dorm and he is to act in my stead when I’m not there.”

Though the tasks of each dorm’s ARs vary, ARs generally do a lot of programming work in residence halls. They collaborate with hall staff and assist with dorm duties, including dorm events. Some ARs also have a large role in the liturgical elements of the hall. Most importantly, the AR is just that — an assistant to the head of the dorm. “Where my weaknesses are, I try to hire somebody who’s strong,” Etheridge says. “Your assistant rector is really important because it can make or break you. It’s really important that the rector and assistant are on the same page.”

ARs also strive to connect with the RAs in their hall. “As an AR, you’re more of an older brother to the guys in the dorm and to the RAs themselves,” says Jason Linster, currently an AR of Dillon Hall and a former resident and RA in Dillon.

“The rest of the students have us to go to, and we have the ARs and the rector to go to if we have problems,” says Knott Hall RA Drew Donovan.

Kirk says that most ARs are professional students — in law school or business school — or graduate students who have completed their course work. Because their time as students is short, most ARs hold their position for two years. Unlike RAs, assistant rectors cannot specify the dorm in which they want to work. Rectors review applications after the Office of Student Affairs has performed its screening process. Rectors identify students they would like to interview, depending on who would best fit their hall. “Father Doyle offered me the job [of assistant rector] the first day he could,” Linster says. “So I just called him and took it.”

Phillips had similar luck in easily securing a job. She says Bruno interviewed her and offered her the position immediately.

Phillips says she felt comfortable in PW right from the start of her job as AR. “I loved the dorm and the staff. I had an excellent working relationship with the RAs and loved the girls in the dorm.” Phillips recalls that after she had spent about a month in the dorm as AR, Bruno requested that she make more of an effort to form a close relationship with her. “There was never a conflict or disagreement between me and Sister Sue,” Phillips says in an interview via e-mail. She tried to meet Bruno’s request, but those attempts were fruitless, says Phillips.

She also made repeated attempts to meet with the administration and discuss the situation, she says. “Student Affairs gives 100 percent deference to the rector and so they backed up Sister Sue’s demand,” says Phillips. “I actually went to the administration for advice about how I could make Sister Sue happy. They understood that I had not done anything wrong, but told me to just ‘do whatever [it] takes’ and left it to my discretion to figure that out.”

Phillips says her efforts did not satisfy Bruno: “In October, Sister Sue demanded that I get out of the dorm.” Phillips left PW, much to the sadness and disappointment of her fellow hall staff and residents.

Elizabeth Kuck, an RA in PW last year, says that the dorm was never the same after Phillips left. “Cynthia did nothing but exceed our expectations,” she says in an interview via e-mail. “She put so much time and heart into the dorm and we worked well with her as an AR ... After we found out about Cynthia’s situation, it was almost impossible to work with Sister Sue. The trust we had in Sister Sue had been shattered.” Kuck says that she felt it was difficult to try and discuss the matter with the rector.

While Kuck and the other RAs maintained their unconditional support of Phillips, their relationships with their rector became strained. The RAs say that they tried to talk to Kirk and other administrators, and sent a letter to the university’s then-executive vice president, the Rev. Father Timothy Scully, C.S.C., in Phillips’ defense. But Kuck says their efforts were not addressed. “[The administration] all supported Sister Sue’s decision without hearing from Cynthia or us,” Kuck says. “The administration never listened to us, the six girls who knew exactly how this was affecting our dorm.”

PW residents also publicly displayed their support for Cynthia. “The signs outside the dorm said it well, ‘PW needs Cynthia,’” Kuck says.

Phillips herself was aware of how the entire situation was affecting the RAs and the other students. Phillips said she was disappointed with the way she thought the administration handled her situation.

Based on their experiences, Phillips and Kuck point out errors in the administration and the residence hall system, particularly with regard to a rector’s authority. “I do believe there needs to be some check on rectors,” Phillips says. “The students don’t have a say, the RAs don’t have a say, the AR doesn’t have a say, alumni don’t even have a say. The unchecked power of a rector is extremely dangerous.”

“If the AR can be fired without question, then ... the rectoress has too much authority,” says PW resident Ashley Benzlin-Smith.

The situation in PW is one indication that an evaluation of the residence hall authority system may be necessary. Student Body President Pat Hallahan would like to see a “self-evaluation and a look in the mirror” in order to address issues like this one. “To have a situation like that come
up and no real reason for why she was removed from her position — it makes people wonder,” he says.

After the rector and the AR, resident assistants have the fundamental roles of assisting and guiding students in the dorm. They are friends and neighbors, resources and even counselors. Being an RA is an honor for many students, so when that honor was taken away from two students this summer, more questions about the authority of the rectors inevitably arose.

Students who are interested in becoming a resident assistant usually apply at the beginning of second semester of their junior year. Their applications, which include a personal essay and three recommendations, are due in the Office of Student Affairs during the week after winter break. Student Affairs performs a background check on all of the applicants to make sure they are properly qualified. Kirk says they prefer students who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. “We do approve students below that, but we want some indication of an effort to bring grades up,” says Kirk.

Student Affairs then compiles the application materials for each applicant and presents these packets to the rectors. From this point on, the decision process is in the hands of the rectors, but most rectors include their hall staff in the interview process for prospective RAs. For example, Doyle, who has been a rector for seven years, explains that each RA applicant has three 20-minute interviews in the dorm, one on each floor, with a combination of current RAs, ARs and Doyle himself. The interviews cover spiritual issues, case studies and university and dorm involvement.

Once a student is hired, he or she undertakes a great responsibility for the dorm and the students living in it. “It’s a full-time job,” says Paty Hinojosa, an RA in Farley Hall, during an information session for Farley residents who are interested in becoming RAs. “It’s what the university wants. It’s not about just yourself anymore,” she says.

“The main job of an RA is to be present in the dorm,” Pete Lively, an RA in Siegfried, says. “It’s not that an RA has a checklist to fulfill each day, but rather, he needs to be around and available to the residents for anything that arises.”

Amidst all the daily responsibilities, rectors make a concerted effort to establish a collaborative work environment among all hall staff members. “I try not to do anything without all 12 present,” says Doyle. “I don’t call the staff a team. I want them to understand that ultimately I have to make the decision. I like to come to a consensus. I like the collegiality.”

And in Farley, Etheridge says she needs and appreciates the opinions of her staff members. “They know people in a way I don’t,” she says.

Douglas Pope, who lost his position as an RA in Sorin Hall in August, says he was ready to take on all of these responsibilities. He learned that he had earned a spot as an RA while he was abroad in Australia. “I felt like the community gave me a lot and that serving as an RA would be a good way
two days before RA training would begin. After finding out which presentations he would miss if absent on the morning of Aug. 16, he met separately with each of the presenters from those groups. "They were really nice to sit down and spend that time with me," Pope says. He then met with Kirk and the Rev. Father Mark Poorman, C.S.C., vice president for Student Affairs. (Poorman declined comment on the situation.) Pope said he felt the administration was unwilling to compromise.

But Pope continued to attend training because he had not yet been officially fired. On Aug. 13, Pope went to one last meeting with Kirk, at King's request. Pope says he told Kirk, "I'm still 100 percent committed. You're going to have to fire me." He asked that Kirk put his termination in writing. King then told Pope that there was no need for him to continue to attend training. Pope moved out of his room in Sorin, went home for the weekend, and found the apartment that he now shares with Student Body President Pat Hallahan and senior BJ Craig, who resigned his post as a Sorin RA in August after discovering that the administration would not allow him to miss RA training to attend an academic orientation. Pope eventually received a letter from Kirk, stating the termination of Pope's position.

Looking back, Pope says he was less cynical about the administration before this conflict. Pope feels exasperated with the way the situation was handled. "These events completely changed my view [about Notre Dame]," he says.

As a close friend of Pope, Hallahan sees incidents like this one as a serious concern to address. "Problems continue coming up and the ones getting affected are the students," he says. "When do we all sit down and say 'what can we do to make it better'? Why not have that dialogue? What can it hurt?"

Hallahan sees the many positive elements of residence hall life, but he also sees room for improvement. "Students trust staff in a lot of cases. People love their rectors. [But] more and more there are pockets of mistrust. People are starting to ask more questions. It might not be a serious issue yet, but if it continues, it's going to be," he says.

Though Kirk declined to comment specifically on the Sorin RA case, he did speak in general about the requirements of an employer-employee relationship. "We ask students to live up to obligations, and when they're unable to do that, we ask them to evaluate which of the options they want to partake in. We would have presumed they'd live up to their obligations,"
he says.

When one considers issues like these in tandem with dorm policies and regulations, it is relatively easy to understand why upperclassmen want apartments or houses off-campus. The general feeling among students is that more juniors and seniors, are moving out of residence halls.

Pope, for one, is happy with the living arrangements in his apartment. “Students want to have a year to do what they want to do and not have someone looking over their shoulder,” he says.

Rectors acknowledge that some students may feel the desire to break away from dorm regulations. Doyle cites two reasons why he thinks students move off-campus: cable TV and the lack of surveillance, the latter being the more prevalent issue. “People just don’t want someone watching who they have in their place, or what they consume, after a certain hour,” he says.

“If everything about dorm life aggravates them and they feel like they’re being oppressed, then go off campus, by all means,” says Etheridge.

Hallahan says that conflicts between students and the administration are “slowly pushing more and more students off campus. It really changes the way ND is.”

University of Notre Dame Institutional Research reports that in the last eight years, the percentage of upper-graduate students who live off campus has risen from 16 percent in 1995 to 19 percent in 2003. In the past year in particular, there has been an increase in the number of juniors who have moved off-campus: from 10 percent of all juniors to 12 percent. But the percentage of seniors has actually gone down one percent from last year, much to the delight of rectors who hope to see a return to on-campus living in the future.

“We love seniors,” Etheridge says. “Seniors add a very stable presence to the dorm. It’s like having three or four RAs [on every floor].”

Doyle says, “I hope that the one percent ... will be the beginning of a trend. I would love to see seniors stay on campus because they’re tremendous assets to the dorm.”

This past week, the Campus Life Council passed a resolution that calls for a task force to be formed in order to analyze RA training. While Hallahan hopes to foster a group discussion about residence hall issues, he is aware that others on campus do not agree. “Some members, particularly of the administration, don’t feel it’s our place to be looking at this,” he says. “It would make sense if we all sat down and did it together. This place is built for students and the best thing to do is involve students as much as we can.”

Increased dialogue between the administration and students will further highlight the stark differences of opinion on campus. To Etheridge, “The residential life here at Notre Dame is one of the most satisfying aspects. I don’t think there’s anything like it anywhere as far as consciously building a community.” To one off-campus student, who wished to remain anonymous, “I never really felt comfortable talking to my rector or my RA. I don’t think hall staff has too much authority when it uses that authority benevolently.” Balancing these extreme viewpoints and incorporating them into policies might prove to be the most daunting of tasks.
A Trip Across the Pond
A new program is immersing Notre Dame students in the Oxford experience

MEGHANGOWAN

Want to study abroad in Britain, but the London Program is not your cup of tea? Beginning next year, Notre Dame will offer an official study abroad program at New College, Oxford. Selected Domers will enroll for a full year at the first English-speaking university in the world.

"There are very few programs like ND's Oxford Program in which students are enrolled as full-time Oxford students, live in the College, and take tutorials with Oxford faculty just as any Oxford undergrad would," says current director of the Oxford Program, Anastasia Gutting. While at Oxford, Notre Dame students can participate in any club or extracurricular activity, and can have Student Union memberships.

The University of Oxford is not a single college, but a loose conglomeration of approximately 35 colleges in the town of Oxford, about 50 miles west of London. Last year was the first experimental year of the ND program. Two students were selected from the Political Science, Philosophy & Economics majors and the Honors Program. The program was a success, and invitations to apply for six available spaces for the current academic year were e-mailed to Science and Arts & Letters students with a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher, an eligibility criterion set by New College. Though the academic year operates on trimesters, Notre Dame students continue to pay Notre Dame tuition and room and board, while grades are transferred based on credit hours earned.

"The Oxford academic system is very different from Notre Dame's," explains Mary Komperda, one of the two Notre Dame students to attend Oxford last year. "Instead of attending lectures and seminars, you meet one-on-one with a tutor every week and discuss your reading assignments." A tutor is always an Oxford faculty member with expertise in the area the student wishes to study. The tutor gives reading and paper assignments and meets once a week to discuss the topic in greater detail. "By the end of last year, I was reading over a thousand pages of assigned reading and writing an average of 24 pages per week," Komperda says.

Students are required to enroll in two tutorials each trimester and attend lectures based on the suggestion of professors. Tutorials are arranged after each student submits several topics that he would like to study in depth. "The tutorial is a form of education custom-designed to enable students to pursue their particular intellectual interests in depth and detail," Gutting says. Math and science are taught through a combination of tutorials accompanied by regular lectures.

The intense academic work is arranged in three eight-week-long trimesters separated by six week long breaks. Tests are cumulative and given near the end of the undergraduate education. None of the Notre Dame students will be required to take any exams while studying at New College.

Notre Dame students are housed next to each other in singles with private baths in New College dorms which are separated by sex. "Compared to Notre Dame dorm rooms, these rooms are veritable palaces," says Alexandra Stewart, a current Notre Dame student at Oxford. John Skakun, another Notre Dame student at Oxford, agrees: "The rooms are not expansive, but still quite nice, although the pastel green and yellow color scheme complemented with hideous drapes could use some work."

The private living arrangements and small classes make it more difficult for Notre Dame students to become integrated into the student population. "It was very difficult to meet people socially at first because you don't take classes with anyone else and because we lived at the top of an extremely tall stone tower," says former participant Komperda. Contributing to the initial social isolation are socially conservative British students. "Whenever we tried to just meet people when we were standing in line, waiting to check out a book, walking to a lecture, they seemed slightly uncomfortable," says Margaret Doig.

A popular way of overcoming this social barrier is participation in sports teams and club activities. Last year, Notre Dame student Beth White played soccer on the New College team and this year all six Notre Dame students play basketball with the New College.

Outside of college activities, a great deal of the social life at Oxford revolves around local pubs. Pubs serve as a place for social gatherings and for dining outside the college. "Pub food is cheap and traditional and pretty good," Doig says. Many eat off campus at the pubs and nearby ethnic restaurants because the in-college food is limited. The only beverage available is water, and no one is allowed seconds, explains Darren Luft.

The new Oxford Program allows Notre Dame students to become fully integrated into the British academic and social life at New College. Students assume a great deal of responsibility for independent study and are rewarded with a flexible social schedule. "The best part of Oxford life is the incredible options — depending on what you're feeling like, you can either attend a lecture or seminar, go to the pub, play a sport, go to a concert — you can do almost anything, at any time here," Skakun says.

Applications are no longer being accepted for the 2004-2005 school year. Selection will begin early next fall for the 2005-2006 school year. All applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.7 in order to be considered for admission. Interested students should contact Anastasia Gutting through the London Program.
Let's Face a Reality
Even in the land of Rockne, it's possible to get a bit too attached to football

Alright Domers — everybody needs to slow down and take a collective deep breath. Now, I like to think of myself as a sort of ombudsman to the student body here. And as the self-anointed truth-teller, I must go to work now and put into writing what most of us have known for a month or two by this point: We're not going to win the National Championship this year. I'm sorry, fellow seniors. It had to be said. I know it sucks to have a bad season our last year, but them's the breaks. Florida State marks the beginning of the three-week countdown to the end of our football spectating careers here. Cherish it.

Now with that out of our systems, I'd like to speak of a syndrome that afflicts many of my friends. These friends, whose judgments I'd normally trust otherwise, have this weird thing wherein they get angry when our football team loses. I'm not talking about disappointed — I'm talking straight-out, punch-the-walls, renounce-God angry. I'm here to plead for sanity. I know this may sound crazy to those of you who bleed gold, cry blue and urinate kelly green, but, win or lose, IT JUST DOESN'T MATTER.

Sorry about my use of all-caps there, but if I could jump out of the page and yell at you, I would. Because it cannot be reiterated enough. Notre Dame has some of the best and brightest kids in the country, yet a large percentage of them stake their emotional well-being on the travels, one yard at a time, of an air-filled leather sac. Let it go.

On game days when we lose, a quick perusal of Instant Messenger away messages usually reveals something following this formula: "Dammit, we lost again! [The team that beat us] can [explicative] my [body part]!" Now, my main problem with this type of away message is merely logistical in nature. Can you imagine 80-odd football players performing an intimate act with one computer user? No? Well, I can, but that's probably why I'm going to hell.

I fear that my impassioned entreaty for students to not care about football will be mostly ignored, so let me take this opportunity to explain my position. I don't care about football. Now a lot of this might come from the fact that I hail from Cincinnati. Our NFL team, the Bengals, have systematically lowered Cincinnatians' expectations. To give those who don't follow football some perspective, the last time the Bengals were in the playoffs, I had yet to grow pubic hair.

While you're recovering from that unsavory mental image, I should tell you that I'm not exactly your stellar archetypal Irish fan. While Rudy was "gold and blue, through and through," I'm wearing a gold and blue poncho, at the most. The last time I saw a game in the stadium from start to finish, the number one song on the radio was "It Wasn't Me" by Shaggy, the fateful, idyllic fall of 2000.

At this point in my senior year, all the games blur together so much. And, due to NBC's exorbitant use of TV time-outs, the games are so long that I just can't take it. To me, the ideal Saturday in Notre Dame stadium involves waking up at 7 a.m., getting blind drunk, entering the game near the end of halftime, and leaving after the third quarter. This year, I briefly considered showing up before half-time for marshmallow fights, but our amazingly rational stadium usher staff put an end to that.

If I may digress, does anyone else find the usher staff's explanation for ending the marshmallow tossing to be more than a little bit comical? The usher staff claims that people are stuffing marshmallows with sharp and/or heavy things and winging them at their friends' eyeballs. That would make sense if we were a sociopath convention, but last time I checked we were the Senior Class. They also claim that it's disrespectful to the Band. I would venture that the marching band is plenty used to being disrespected; remember, these were the same people who did band in grade school and high school. And as far as the Irish Guard goes, if they survived their old-school beat-down by townies, surely they can survive a little confectionery tossing amongst the seniors in the stands.

Some of you (okay, all of you) may find my laissez-faire attitude toward the "W" column to be disrespectful to the student-athletes whom I'm sure try their hardest every week. Well, in response, I give members of the football team my express permission to not be disappointed when I fail a test in a film class.

So, to those of you who live and die with our beloved Irish, I say, give it a rest. It's only a game. That, and you really should get that kelly green urine thing checked out.
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, 1-5350, 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. Maureen Lafferty at Lafferty.3@nd.edu

For more information, check out our web site: http://www.nd.edu/~scglns/
Howdy-ho, Gipplings. The Gipp truly hopes your mid-semester siestas left you rested and ready to cause some ruckus back here on campus. The Gipp is in especially good spirits, mainly because this week's installment finally brings us a deed that didn't rely on courage induced by the good spirits. So, without further ado...

You've Got IMs

As we all know, the Gipp receives his fair share of tips. But with so many tales involving the Holy Trinity of Fluids (two yellows and a white) it eases the Gipp's mind to be able to tell a jovial, fun-loving, quasi-innocent tale.

We've all had to say the line, "Sorry, wrong number." But would you be polite enough to say "Sorry, wrong screen name"? According to a recent report, one Irish senior sure wasn't. Due to serious similarities between his IM screen name and that of a Michigan high school boy (Let's call him ... Joe — real names are much funnier), our digiphile, over the course of a couple weeks, managed to court, ask out and break the heart of Joe's crush, Emily, without ever saying a word to her in person.

Now, this one was complicated, so pay close attention as the Gipp gives his best summary. One day, Emily accidentally IMed the senior about a Friday night football game. The senior began on an information-gathering quest, and soon the clues started to fall into place for him. After realizing he was talking to a high-school girl who mistook his screen name for that of one of her classmates, the self-promoting tipster says he proceeded to ask Emily to "be my girlfriend." So poor Emily planned for a hot date with clueless Joe. Of course, the lack of conversation between the two at the lockers between study halls started to confuse Emily's cronies.

Senior: (5:49:29 PM): so what do you think about me and emily?
Emily's Friend (5:49:43 PM): its very cute
Senior: (5:49:56 PM): yeah, i think so too
Emily's Friend (5:50:15 PM): but why don't you talk to her at school?
Senior (5:50:51 PM): i get nervous about things like that
Emily's Friend (5:51:40 PM): well most people do
Senior (5:51:58 PM): so, it's understand-able (sic) then.
Emily's Friend (5:52:07 PM): yes it is

Fortunately, the senior, still aliasing as "Joe," managed to placate Emily with some online schmoozing. Their relationship appeared to be headed toward cyber-heaven. But, alas, not all Gipp love stories have a happy ending.

So, to make a long, sketchy story short: Somehow, Emily and the real Joe were tipped off as to these ongoings (supposedly by an insider at ND), so our senior's fun died. But somewhere north of us, a male wasn't to blame: Sleeping Beauty had some nocturnal discharges (but not the cool kind).

Wet Dream

We can only absorb so many incidents of drunken male urination. But drunken female urination opens up a whole new set of floodgates. So the Gipp was more than happy to investigate this next tip, which shows us that the Y chromosome is not a prerequisite for late-night leaks.

Our scene is an off-campus living complex, and our time of occurrence is unknown. But due to the nature of this report we can only pray it was a pre-patrietals party. One unidentified male and one unidentified female were probing each other's bodies as a third bystander party lay innocently in a nearby bed. Detective Gipp has been informed by the bystander that after the thug's few good minutes were up, he and his lady partner-in-crime passed out on their cot. (Blood-alcohol levels were not reported.) Later on that night, the sinner's slumber was suddenly interrupted as he realized he had been sleeping in a pool that our witness described as "the size of Rhode Island." Apparently, the ultimate party foul had been committed, and this time a male wasn't to blame: Sleeping Beauty had some nocturnal discharges (but not the cool kind).

A free case to anyone who dresses up as the Gipper this holiday weekend. And since the upcoming interscholastic tilt might not be pretty, be on the lookout for ways to pleasantly avert your eyes. Speaking of which, that brings the Gipp back to the subjects of the Internet and high-school girls ...

30 OCTOBER 2003
**Jimbo’s Jabber**

When Notre Dame takes the field against Florida State this Saturday, it will mark the third time this season that a top-five team has lined up against the Irish. In fact, Boston College is Notre Dame’s only opponent so far this season that has not been ranked in the Top 25. The combined win-loss record of the first seven Irish opponents is 44-12, giving Notre Dame the top-ranked schedule in the country.

What would life be like if the Irish had, say, Virginia Tech’s schedule? Would the Irish still be suffering a losing season? Virginia Tech, enjoying a successful 6-1 season and a No. 10 ranking in the AP Poll, has the 69th strongest schedule in the nation. Sure, it’s only a dream, but let’s take a look at how the Irish would do against the Hokies opponents anyway.

On August 31, Central Florida takes an early 7-0 lead, but are subsequently squashed by an invigorated Irish defense. Both Carlyle Holiday and Julius Jones rush for over 100 yards in a 31-7 Notre Dame win.

After an easy 44-0 defeat over James Madison, things get interesting on September 18 when Texas A&M heads into South Bend for the first Thursday night game ever at Notre Dame Stadium. The Irish are looking for revenge against the Aggies, who defeated Notre Dame 24-3 in College Station two years ago. After a scoreless first quarter, Ryan Grant breaks the tie late in the second quarter to make it 7-0. The Aggies respond with 14 points in the third, but a scoring barrage by Notre Dame in the fourth put the Irish on top for good, 28-14.

September 27: Notre Dame struggles against Connecticut. The Huskies go ahead 10-0 midway through the first quarter, but Brady Quinn Mountain, who gave Miami all they could handle just a week earlier.

After falling behind 13-7 at the half, Notre Dame roars back in the second half to take a 20-13 lead courtesy of two Nick Setta field goals and an 80-yard touchdown pass from Quinn to Rhema McKnight. The Mountaineers score a touchdown with under a minute in the fourth to force overtime. On the first overtime play, Jones bursts through the middle of the line, cuts to the right, and scatters down the right sideline for a 25-yard touchdown run. The Mountaineers throw incomplete passes on first and second down. On third down, Justin Tuck wraps himself up a quarterback sack. On the final play of the game, a desperation pass is intercepted in the end zone by Glenn Earl to preserve the 27-20 overtime win.

Third-ranked Notre Dame now heads back home this weekend to host No. 2 Miami in what should be the “Game of the Year.”

Not including James Madison, which is a Division I-AA program, Virginia Tech’s opponents’ combined win-loss record is 23-24. There is no doubt in my mind that Notre Dame would be ranked highly if they played the Hokies’ schedule. The Irish have a strong football team this season, handing Washington State its only loss of the year and also defeating Pittsburgh on the road. Unfortunately, they have run up against the seemingly insurmountable wall that is their difficult schedule.

College football is not the NFL. There is not enough parity for one to be able to look at win-loss records to determine the strength of a team. Central Florida and James Madison are not exactly Michigan and Southern Cal. While Notre Dame plays three top-five teams this season, the Hokies likely will play that many top-five teams over the course of three seasons.

While it is frustrating for any Irish fan to sit through a 2-5 season with the Seminoles on the horizon, while teams like Virginia Tech or Nebraska seem to have it so much easier, I commend Notre Dame for scheduling quality opponents each year. Big games are what make college football Saturdays special. So Virginia Tech can have its games against the Dukes and the Knights. I prefer classic Notre Dame match-ups against the Wolverines, Trojans and Spartans.

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**Hockey (3-2):** The Irish hockey team recorded one of its most impressive wins in recent history up in Chestnut Hill against Boston College (3-2-1).

Led by freshman goaltender David Brown, the Irish knocked off the top-ranked Eagles 1-0. The next opponent for the Irish is Nebraska-Omaha this Thursday and Friday in the Joyce Center.

**Women’s Soccer (18-0-1 as of 10/28):** The Notre Dame women’s soccer team is on a tear. They have not given up a goal since September 28 against North Texas. They will head into the Big East Tournament this Sunday 6-0 in conference play and will face Miami (9-8-1) in the quarterfinals.
Freshman goaltender David Brown joined the Notre Dame Hockey team this season looking to prove that he could make it at the collegiate level. This Ontario, Canada native has done just that, going into tonight’s game against Nebraska-Omaha with back-to-back shutouts, including a 1-0 victory over top-ranked Boston College last Friday. In four games played this season, Brown leads the team with a 1.51 goals against average and a 95.7 save percentage.

At the goaltender position, you are called on to lead, especially in the back. Has that been difficult for you in your limited experience at the collegiate level? I got used to it pretty quick; the first few games we had a lot of shots on net, and I was able to adjust to the pace of the game and how I’m supposed to react. I changed my game up to the new tempo and I don’t find it difficult now just getting in the flow, getting behind the guys, and it’s working out really well right now.

What would you say is the biggest difference between the hockey back home in Canada and the collegiate hockey you’ve played here at Notre Dame? The collegiate level is a lot faster. The speed of the players, how hard and how fast the shots are coming, and the whole play in general is a lot faster.

You went into the Boston College game coming off the first collegiate shutout of your career; what were your expectations and the expectations of the team going into Boston facing the number one team in the country? We knew if we put our mind to it and came together as a team, we could accomplish what we set out to do — and that was to win the game. We knew it was going to be a sold-out arena, and it was going to be broadcast live on TV, but we tried not to let that influence us at all and just go in there and play our own game.

What are some of your interests off the ice? I’m into music. I like to listen to all types of music; it helps pump me up before the game. I’m also an athlete. I like to play football and road hockey and just hang out with my friends when I have free time.

What is the biggest difference between Ontario and South Bend? There’s a big difference in the cultural background. People find some of the things that I do and say really appalling, and the same when I hear certain things from them.

— Mike Iselin

Men’s Soccer (10-3-3): The men’s soccer team knocked off the 9th-ranked Hokies of Virginia Tech (11-4-1) last Saturday to move back into a battle for home field advantage in the upcoming Big East Tournament. With a victory over Villanova (9-6-1) on Friday, the Irish can clinch home field advantage in the first round of the tournament.

Volleyball (17-2 as of Tuesday 10-28): Sophomore Lauren Brewster was named Big East Player of the Week for the third time in four weeks after helping the Irish chalk up three more road victories over fall break. The Irish beat Boston College (15-6), Rhode Island (10-14), and North Carolina (16-8). The women played on Wednesday against Illinois State (11-12) and will take on Syracuse (16-11) on Sunday in the JACC.
Emerging Role
Sophomore tight end Anthony Fasano has found his niche in the Notre Dame offense

JIMMY ATKINSON

With the Irish's talent and depth at the tight end position, it seemed unlikely that anyone could contend with senior Gary Godsey for the starting job at the beginning of the season. The opportunities certainly were limited with Godsey, senior Billy Palmer, junior Jared Clark, sophomore Anthony Fasano and freshman Greg Olsen all vying for playing time in the Notre Dame offense. But with the sudden departure of Godsey due to injury and Olsen due to transfer, Fasano was given the opportunity to step into a more significant role and has taken full advantage of it.

Fasano, a 6-4, 253-lb. sophomore from Verona, New Jersey, was a highly touted tight end coming out of high school. "Last year when he first came to campus, we saw somebody who had the potential to develop himself into a very solid football player," Tight Ends Coach Mike Denbrock says. "He has continued to get better and better at what we're asking him to do."

Fasano did not see any action in his freshman season and did not expect to receive significant playing time this season. But with Godsey out, his ability to step quickly into action has allowed him to be Notre Dame's leading receiver for three consecutive games. Fasano now leads all Irish tight ends with 12 receptions for 130 yards. In the game against Southern Cal two weeks ago, he temporarily tied the game with a leaping catch in the back of the end zone. He finished that game with a career-high four receptions for 33 yards. Last week at Boston College, Fasano continued to shine, bringing in four receptions for 48 yards.

Fasano credits his success to hard work on the practice field and his knack for improving with each game. "I worked hard and Coach [Denbrock] put faith in me and has given me the opportunity," he says. "I'm just trying to make the best of it."

After receiving only limited playing time in the season opener against Washington State, Fasano caught two passes for a combined 34 yards against Michigan and Michigan State and earned the starting job at Pittsburgh in the fifth game of the season. Freshman quarterback Brady Quinn, in his second career start, struggling to complete passes to Irish wide receivers, turned to Fasano instead. By

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UNEXPECTED CONNECTION Fasano has filled the void left by Gary Godsey and Greg Olsen.
Sophomore tight end Jimmy Atkinson is vying for playing time in the Notre Dame offense. But with the sudden departure of Godsey due to injury, anyone could contend with senior Andre Olsen, more significant role and has taken opportunities certainly were limited given the opportunity to step into a position, it seemed unlikely depth at the tight end position, Ends Coach Mike Denbrock says. 

Effective tight end, to be one that we can lean on in the running game, but also has the ability to be involved in our passing game,” Head Coach Tyrone Willingham says. “He seems to be stepping forward more and more into that each week.”

Denbrock echoes Willingham’s sentiments, citing Fasano’s versatility as his greatest strength. “He gives us a chance to not be predictable offensively,” he says. “We can run and pass it equally well with him in the game.”

Fasano has become Quinn’s favorite target in the last three games, as he has led all receivers over the last three-week period with 10 receptions for 96 yards. A major reason for the emergence of the Quinn-Fasano connection might be that Quinn, a young quarterback, finds comfort passing to a tight end whose routes are typically shorter check-down routes, which are easier to complete, Fasano says. “Knowing that we’re going to catch the ball and run the right routes, I think that’s [also] a big confidence boost for him, especially him being young.”

Fasano says, “I think he feels comfortable throwing to us [tight ends].”

Quinn acknowledges the contributions Fasano has made to the offense thus far. “He’s been in some key situations and making big plays so really he’s just stepped up a bunch,” Quinn says. “He’s definitely a good target to throw to.”

Denbrock, too, has noticed something between Quinn and Fasano. “There’s a certain amount of chemistry that exists between quarterbacks and receivers,” Denbrock says. “[Quinn and Fasano] seem to have a connection that works.”

Despite the departure of Olsen and the season-ending knee injury Godsey suffered, the remaining tight ends have done a fine job stepping up their play to fill in the gap. Fasano now seems to have secured a prominent role in the Notre Dame offense, according to Offensive Coordinator Bill Diedrick. “I think that Anthony’s progress is where he’s basically kind of won the position so I think he’s in a position where he is going to catch more balls,” Diedrick says.

But the job is not done yet. Despite Fasano’s recent success as a receiver and run blocker, he knows that winning is the most important thing. Everyone on the team has one common goal: they all want to win. A starting point for the team’s success is the offensive line, of which Fasano is a vital component. The relationship between the offensive linemen and the tight end is crucial to the teamwork along the front line. “I think we’re real close,” Fasano says. “Right now, we’re not doing that well, so we have to come together as a unit. That’s the only way we’re going to get better.”

Most crucial is to come together at this time, to salvage a season that is quickly spiraling down the drain. Heading into the game against Florida State, Fasano understands that as his role has increased, so have expectations of him. “Every opportunity I get, I try to take advantage of it,” he says. “I’m working on my routes, my pass catching and blocking most importantly. I’m getting more comfortable every time I get on the field and making plays.”

Come Saturday, and throughout the remainder of the Irish season, he and the rest of the Notre Dame offense will be looked to make those big plays more and more.
Ready for Action
A healthy Devon Prescod leads the Irish attack

MIKEISELIN

Four co-captains lead the Irish men's soccer team this season. One of these players is senior forward Devon Prescod. Devon was a highly-recruited player from Georgia, where he was two-time Player of the Year. He came as a freshman to Notre Dame and made an immediate impact on the team.

His career took off his sophomore year as he started 18 matches and scored six goals. As a junior, injury hindered Devon's abilities on the field, but he battled through it and still played in every match. Now, in his final season, he is making the most of his opportunities and is one of the major reasons why the Irish are 10-3-3 and are looking to head into the Big East Tournament with some momentum.

Men's soccer head coach Bobby Clark, hired in January 2002 to replace interim Head coach Chris Apple, inherited in Prescod a bright young prospect who was only halfway through his freshman year.

"[Prescod is] a player who really handles the ball under pressure very well," Clark says. "He's a great player who can handle the ball in the hole. He can come in and take balls with his back to goal and he just handles the ball so well under pressure in what we call the hole, the little bit in the middle of the front line."

Prescod started two matches his freshman year and played in 10 others. He netted his first of many collegiate goals in the final minute of the season opener against New Mexico. His ability to handle the ball well under pressure, coupled with his ability to find the back of the net, was enough to earn Prescod a start in 18 of the 19 matches the Irish played his sophomore year. As a sophomore, Prescod was the second-leading scorer for the Irish and earned Big East Player of the Week honors for the first time in his career. His potential continued to grow and his future looked bright.

Unfortunately, after his sophomore year, Prescod suffered from an injury. "We thought it was shin splints, but I think it was possibly even a stress fracture, it bothered him really badly. He was limited last year, but this year he is looking very fit and doing well," Clark says.

"It did hold me back a little bit; I wasn't as mobile as I would like to be," said Prescod. He fought through the injury during his junior campaign and managed to play in all 21 of the contests. In those 21 matches he tallied three goals and two assists but was not nearly the player that Clark and
the rest of the collegiate soccer world had seen the previous year.

Free of injury, Prescod worked hard during the off-season to get back in physical shape and, more specifically, soccer shape. "This summer I was able to actually play out on the field," he says. "The summer previous to that I was just doing training in the pool and worked my way up to the bike and running outdoors, [but] I got to actually play this summer, which was good."

As a result of his hard work and ability to get on the field, Prescod came back this fall ready to return to and even surpass his level of two years ago. Last spring, he was voted "[Prescod is] a starter, but you want [him] on at the end of games, not at the beginning of games," Clark says. "There is more space at the end of the games, and he's a person who's going to be a lethal player for us. We want the top players on at the end."

The games are usually won at the end of the game, not at the beginning of the game. Clark knows what he is doing in getting Prescod on the field at the end of the games, as is evident by his four game-winning goals this season. He has netted the deciding goal against California, West Virginia, Georgetown and Cleveland State.

Prescod is quite happy with the rotation that the team currently has up front. "We've got a nice system worked out this year with four forwards that are playing a line share, it takes a little pressure off each of us," he says. It must have taken a lot of pressure off Prescod because through 16 matches he leads the team with nine goals, a career high. Three of those goals came in the same match against Cleveland State two weeks ago, which was the first hat trick recorded by an Irish player in nine years. The last player to accomplish that feat was Konstantin Koloskov against LaSalle on September 24, 1994.

"It felt good but it was definitely surprising to find out that I was the only person in nine years to do that. I know a lot of good players have gone through the program and I thought one of them had done that before," Prescod says. Prescod has been able to achieve a great deal of success this year, most of which he attributes to his teammates. "It's purely a result of what the team has been doing. It's one of those things where my position always gets the glory because we are positioned closest to the opponent's goal. I hardly take any credit because most of my goals have come as a result of everybody else doing hard work."

Prescod's hard work and perseverance have allowed him to grow into the player that many people felt he would be coming out of high school. He has recovered from his injury-plagued junior year, is feeding off the play of his teammates and is putting balls in the net left and right.

one of the team's four assistant captains. His leadership has been a great asset to the Irish this season and has even surprised his coach. "I came in halfway through his freshman year, and I wouldn't have seen him as a leader, but he's really done a great job," Clark says.

Through the 16 matches that Notre Dame has played this season, Prescod has only started in three of those matches. However, this year it is not because of shin splints, or lack of skill on the field, but rather a new substitution rule, which states that a player who is removed from the match may not re-enter play. This means that if Prescod were to start the match and then come out early in the second half he would not be able to play in the late, critical stages of the match.
Rock Behind the Clock
From the top of O'Shag straight to your dorm room, WSND lets the good tunes roll

RYANGREENE

Megan Olive is nervous. "This is WSND news from the Associated Press ... Associated Press," she says as she rehearses.

The clock on the wall reads 4:20 p.m. At 4:30, Megan will be reading her first WSND 88.9 FM newsbreak. And she is nervous.

"I'm excited," she insists as she bounces slightly on one foot, then the other. "This is my excited dance."

4:25 now. Cheryl Turski, one of the campus radio station's two news directors, shows Megan the tiny room in which she will read her assorted news stories. Shelves upon shelves of classical CDs line three walls. A small desk along the fourth wall holds a microphone just below the small window next to the door. Through this window she will receive the "go" signal from Dave Hayob, chief announcer at WSND.

"It's like I'm awaiting death," Megan says.

"You're just reading the news," Dave reassures her.

"Take a stab at it and be confident," Cheryl reminds her.

And then it's 4:30. Dave, reading from the back of the CD case in front of him, closes out the piece that has just ended. As the recorded news intro starts, he waves to Megan through the window. It's go time.

"This is WSND news from the Associated Press, brought to you by the students and volunteers of WSND-FM."

For over 50 years, WSND has brought the "sound of Notre Dame" to students, faculty and the surrounding community. Primarily a student-run organization since its inception, WSND employs dozens of students and local residents and offers as many as 18 hours of daily programming.

"We serve Notre Dame," Station Manager Stephanie Rochel says. "That's what the name is and that's what we do."

Headquartered in the clock tower of O'Shaughnessy Hall, the station's foremost mission is to offer an alternative to "what you hear everywhere else," Rochel adds. For the most part, this means classical music. Because the Notre Dame campus and South Bend community had no real access to a classical station, WSND staffers stepped in to fill the void. With a library of well over 5,000 CDs of everything ranging from Bach and Tchaikovsky to contemporary composers, they've proven themselves to be more than up to the task.

Programming typically starts at 7:00 a.m. and runs classical music and opera until 6:00 p.m. Within that span are several shows that offer different types of classical music. Dave Hayob's Tafel Musik features light, eight- to 12-minute pieces; morning and afternoon concert programs offer full-length pieces for the devoted connoisseur; and the noon hour Classical Cafe focuses on quick, lively, three- to five-minute pieces.

The alternative offerings do not stop there. In the evening hours, WSND offers over a dozen different programs that offer everything from jazz and blues to Broadway musicals and traditional Celtic music.

"We give that different flavor," Rochel says. "It's all about the sound of the music."

Still, contemporary popular music has
its own niche within WSND's eclectic mix. Each night for the last 35 years, now from midnight to 2:00 a.m., Nocturne rolls out the latest in "college rock" and obscure, older songs generally forgotten by classic rock stations.

"We target the students then because that's who's listening," says Rochel. "And we let our DJs play what they genuinely like. We play the new stuff, not the typical, commercial songs."

Following a Federal Communications Commission regulation for public, non-profit FM stations, WSND offers several news sources each day. These range from the syndicated "News Hour with Jim Lehrer" weekdays at 6:00 p.m. to a handful of student-presented news briefs.

All this programming is pumped out via one of the nation's most powerful college radio transmitters. At 3,430 Watts (the typical college radio wattage is around 200), WSND is able to reach a primary range of 35 miles and a secondary, less reliable range of up to 50 miles.

With such a far-reaching base of listeners, Rochel and WSND's executive staff recognize the opportunities the station offers and the responsibilities it undertakes.

"We're a definite face to those who may not have anything to do with the university," she says. "Just as we serve Notre Dame, we're working on stronger relations with the community and community service."

Service plans include blood drives and work with South Bend's Robinson Community Learning Center. WSND will also be promoting and participating in Locks of Love, in which volunteers have 10 inches of their hair cut off to help make wigs for children who have lost their hair to incurable diseases.

The station is also working on other exciting, on-campus activities. On Nov. 4 and 5, WSND hopes to present "DJ in the Dining Hall." Staff members will set up some broadcast equipment and play music for one night at North Dining Hall and one night at South, while giving away some free CDs and T-shirts.

"We want to get our name out there," Rochel says. "And it's going to be fun."

Though it thrives today, WSND's humble beginnings hail as far back as 1935, with the formation of the Notre Dame Radio Club. Through the club, students produced radio shows for several South Bend stations. But as interest in the club grew, so too did interest in a student-run station.

In 1947, carrier-current technology made the hope a reality. By linking an AM transmitter to the university's electrical system, students were able to bring their own station, WND, to campus. Programs focusing primarily on news and music aired two hours a day, five days a week. Unfortunately, carrier-current technology was extremely unstable. Any fluctuation in the power system, no matter how small, meant the signal would be lost. Listening to WND became an exercise in patience and luck at times.

WND ran into another major problem at the time: finding facilities. In 1947 WND moved its headquarters from Walsh Hall to Washington Hall. Then from Washington Hall to the press box of Notre Dame Stadium. Then from the press box to the Fieldhouse. Eventually the university took notice, and in 1952 offered WND space in the tower of O'Shaugnessy Hall, which was still under construction at the time.

The station moved to its new home in 1954, one year after its call letters canged to WNDU. But because the university wanted to reserve those letters for its future television station, WNDU adopted a new name: WSND ("We Serve Notre Dame"). Programming, which on average ran a bit over 12 hours a day, consisted of music, news, sports and a variety of other features.

The next big step came in 1962, when WSND-AM gained an FCC broadcasting license and a spot on the FM dial at 88.9 mHz. Sept. 30 of that year, WSND-FM was on the airwaves with programming from 5:00 p.m. to midnight.

WSND made two big moves in 1971. First, with FCC permission, the station upgraded its broadcast power from about 10 Watts to 3,430 Watts. Practically overnight, broadcast range and listenership expanded from strictly on-campus to its current 30- to 50-mile radius.

Second, WSND moved from 361 O'Shag to its current home in the fourth floor tower. The move was hotly contested by the university's growing secretarial population, who had been promised that area as a lounge. Eventually the rooms were divvied up, half going to the station and half to the secretaries. As WSND-FM's head engineer Edwin Jaroszewski says, "WSND-FM, as you know it, was born."

Much has changed over the years, but at least one aspect of WSND has always remained the same.

"It's just a good way to get involved with the university and the community, and have fun doing it," Dave Hayob says.

"Whatever your style of music is, we have a show you'll enjoy," Rochel adds. "And if you want to be creative, that's perfect. Whatever your talent is, you can find a way to express that in Notre Dame student media."

"So jump on the bandwagon," she says, "because you'll have a lot fun."
Giving Chills and Giving Back
The Niles Haunted House entertains patrons while providing for local charities

JIM RYAN

For those looking to have a truly frightening Halloween, the Niles Haunted House is a must-see. More than just a haunted house, it offers six spooky attractions — three indoor and three outdoor — on 44 acres just west of US 31 in Niles.

But this “scream park” provides more than just good scares. It also raises thousands of dollars for local charities each year.

The Niles Haunted House traditionally has received strong reviews from haunted house critics. Hauntedhousechicago.com rated the park an A+ in the categories of organization and “bang for the buck,” and the park received an A- for entertainment factor. MSNBC called the Niles Haunted House one of the 20 “must-see” national haunted attractions, and Playboy.com rated it one of the top 13 haunted houses in the nation in 1999.

The park will even be the subject of a documentary by Chuck Williams, a well-known filmmaker in the terror genre.

The park’s main attraction is the traditional Haunted House, which changes its layout and theme every year. This year’s theme is “Pirates of the Scaribean,” and among the house’s new wrinkles is the Cemetery Swamp, a moat that patrons must traverse before entering the house.

Along the routes, patrons will encounter scary scenery, actors, special effects such as fog and neon lighting, and animatronics.

Volunteer Coordinator Marty Smith promises that the Haunted House is scary. “We don’t recommend the Haunted House for kids under 10,” she says. She adds that the house is not, however, full of blood and guts. “We don’t do gore,” she says. “We just distract and scare.”

Another indoor attraction is the Realm of Darkness, which Smith describes as a dark maze. The Realm of Darkness has several themed rooms that include fog, tiki torches, fluorescent artwork and a host of scary characters.

The Field of Screams, a new offering last year, will return for 2003. This outdoor attraction sends patrons through a frightening maze in a fabricated field. At one point, patrons must even crawl through a hearse.

New for this year is Grim’s Scary Tales, a smaller house that adds what Smith calls “a demented twist” to traditional fairy tales, including the Three Little Pigs, Humpty Dumpty, and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Also new for 2003 is Sean’s Seance Room, a theatre in which audience members participate in a humorous, but frightening, 15-minute show.

For the fainter of heart, the park offers the Dark TERRORtory Haunted Hayride. This 20-minute ride takes patrons past more than 20 eerie scenes. There is also a midway with several Halloween-themed games and food.

For $20, patrons can purchase the Frightful Nightfull, which provides admission to all six of the park’s attractions. For $15, patrons can purchase the Triple Dog Dare, which provides admission to the three indoor haunted attractions.

Patrons may also pay for admission to individual attractions, with prices ranging from $2 to $7. Midway tokens cost $1 apiece. Groups of 20 or more can receive $1 off of the combination tickets or 50 cents off of tickets to individual attractions.

Smith says that the Niles Haunted House is special to Michiana residents for reasons other than its rave reviews. “There are other haunted attractions in the area,” she says. “I think the fact that the [Niles Haunted House] is a fundraiser for more than 50 non-profit groups is probably the most unique thing about it. It’s a way for causes to earn money without having to sell candy bars.”

Smith says volunteering is well worth the work, as all groups combined raised approximately $76,000 last year. She adds that the park is always looking for more volunteer groups.

In addition to benefiting the community, Smith says, the Niles Haunted House offers people a venue to enjoy good, clean Halloween fun. “I think some people like to be frightened,” she says. “You can come out and spend $20 for six attractions. It’s a nice, safe environment where you can bring your kids.”

The Niles Haunted House is open October 30 from 7 – 10 p.m. and October 31 to November 1 from 7 – 11 p.m. For directions, prices, and other information call (269) 687-FEAR or visit http://www.haunted.org/old-index.htm.
The Niles Haunted House entertains patrons while providing for local charities. Volunteer Coordinator Marty Smith says she doesn't recommend the "gore," but this year, the haunted house for kids under 10, is scary. Along the routes, patrons will encounter unique scares, to reach the house's exit. Among the house's new wrinkles is the Cemetery Swamp, a moat that patrons must traverse before entering the house.

Frightful Nightfull, which provides admission to each of the three indoor haunted attractions, also a midway with several Halloween-themed rides. Other frightening attractions, once you get on the "Haunted L," you cannot escape until the ride has come to a complete stop. Tickets for this menacing meander above and around Chicago by getting spooked on the "Haunted L.

Tickets for admission to the Niles Haunted House are $20 on Thursday, October 30 and Friday, October 31 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Washington Hall. Tickets are $3 at Lafortune Box Office. She adds that the house is not, however, "a frightening maze in a fabricated field."

The Niles Haunted House is a must-see. More than just good scares, it's a way for causes to earn money. It's a "scream park" organization and provides more than just good scares. More than just good scares, it's a way for causes to earn money.

Another indoor attraction is the Realm of Darkness, which Smith describes as a "humorous, but frightening, 15-minute show." There is also a midway with several Halloween-themed rides. Other frightening attractions, once you get on the "Haunted L," you cannot escape until the ride has come to a complete stop.

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Living Through Changes

from the time I began living on campus, friends have asked me, “How can you live in a dorm?” After 20 years and four residence halls — Breen-Phillips, Farley, Knott and Cavanaugh — my response has not varied, “Well, I’m not sure I could live anywhere else.” That recurring question and my inevitable response make me realize that 20 years is indeed a long time. What changes have I seen? Why has my answer remained the same over all these years?

On one level, the changes are many. In 1983, I became the assistant rector in Breen-Phillips, just before the university began its regular cycle of hall renovation. Furniture was scarce in those days. The BP lounge was a crazy quilt of unmatched pieces, and a kindly administrator unearthed a brown couch for my sitting room. Since students had the option of painting their rooms, spills in the hallways were not uncommon. The first Notre Dame student I met emerged from her newly painted room with speckled hair. BP still had fuse boxes, resulting in the morning ritual of changing a fuse after 40 hair dryers had done their work. This involved unloading the second floor luggage closet to replace the offender and restore power. When BP was renovated for the first time in 1985, I cleaned out multiple store rooms and unearthed odd items, including a set of truck tires. In other tasks since, I have organized Easter vigils, mopped up floods, sorted and delivered boxes for the homeless, and spent nights in the emergency room.

Over time, hall renovation brought less spartan living for everyone. In Sept. 1987, as the new Farley rector, I received news that a shipment of new furniture was about to transform the basement lounges. More women meant more women’s halls. Siegfried and Knott went up behind Farley; then Howard, Pangborn and finally Cavanaugh became women’s halls. With North Dining Hall’s renovation came a balcony, a great spot to check out the dating potential of those below. Chapels and lounges acquired air conditioning; hall clerks had offices. There were fewer one-room triples.

Yet these changes have seemed almost imperceptible when set against the ongoing rhythm of hall life and the relationships that have ensued. I grew to treasure those relationships and the changes that resulted, not only with students, assistant rectors and resident assistants, but also with those who made life in the halls possible: housekeepers, security staff and maintenance personnel. New buildings, new furniture and new rules provided markers for memory, but relationships are at the core of hall life and the reason why, in 1993, after stepping down as rector of Farley, I opted to remain “in residence” in a hall.

My experiences reflect those of others, repeated many times over many years. I think of the first-year student who started packing one October and left a phone message for her parents: they were to bring her home because she couldn’t stand the place; the following Aug. she was a member of Frosh-O. Memories return of the various roommate matches and mismatches, from four women who lived together for four years to the engineering student and swim team member who wondered at her roommate’s squabbles, “I just don’t have time for all that.” Parallels of the Farley-BP football rivalry of my time exist today. How many groups play together at Sunday liturgy, like the one I knew that stayed together for three years? And how many students search out “that special music we sang on Sundays” for their wedding?

No two years are ever the same in a hall; some would say that no two days are the same. One can deal with crisis and comedy in the space of an hour. Some constants remain: the ups and downs, the joys and sorrows, the fun and hard work of students growing up and growing together, honing intellect and spirit, and creating friendships to last a lifetime. Students complain about the university’s location in a small town with harsh winters and limited entertainment outlets. Yet, because students in a hall deal with each other in multiple ways during their time together, I have come to believe that it is this very reality that helps create enduring bonds that can span a lifetime. A wedding several years ago makes the point. The bride, a doctor, was surrounded by friends from her present job, her residency and medical school years, and, at one large table, from her hall at Notre Dame. One woman asked me, “How different are the students today?” I replied, “Some things don’t change; students will always learn and grow together at Notre Dame.”
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living Through Changes from the time I began living on campus, I have come to believe that it is this very reality that helps create enduring bonds that can span a lifetime. A set of rules provided markers for memory, but relationships were the strongest. I grew to treasure those relationships and the exchanges that resulted, not only with students, but with housekeepers, security staff and maintenance personnel. New buildings, new furniture and new residents had offices. There were fewer Chappels and lounges acquired air conditioning; new furniture was about to transform the base.

One large table, from her hall at Notre Dame. What changes have I seen? Why has my answer remained the same over all these years? My experiences reflect those of others, reflected in my response to questions. Students have asked me, “Well, how long have you lived in a hall?” “That’s a good question and my inevitable response make me realize that that is this very reality that helps create enduring bonds that can span a lifetime. Some things don’t change; students will always learn and grow together at Notre Dame.”

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