Blueprint For The Future

Notre Dame's plans for developing an off-campus college town.
KICK THE WINTER BLUES WITH WSND 88.9 FM
### THE NINETEENTH OF FEBRUARY

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**Our Town**
by Jim Ryan
A look at Notre Dame's plans to spearhead a massive revitalization of the neighborhood south of campus.

**A Break From Tradition**
by Anna O'Connor
Find out about some alternatives to spending spring break at the beach.

**All in the Family**
by Jimmy Atkinson
Forest and Kerry Walton are sibling fencers that are making history.
Monster Campus

Giant yellow machines are pushing mounds of dirt around. Cement mixers are more ubiquitous than students. Cranes are visible from any vantage point on campus.

Yes, things are back to normal around here.

After an unnervingly quiet break last year from never-ending construction around campus, the university's crews are back at it this semester. Work continues on the new performing arts center and the new security building, while ground has been broken on a new science building and an expansion to the athletic facilities.

If the university has its way, the construction won't end anytime soon. In the works for the benefit of future students are plans far more ambitious than just a new building or a new quad.

Notre Dame is planning to build a town.

The long-term plans for the university include a visionary design centering around a series of mixed-use buildings that will replicate the small-town feel that has put so many other campuses on the map. The university hopes this will not only help revitalize the community surrounding the campus, but offer a convenient and attractive place for students to venture through on their constitutional.

Imagine: A place filled with outdoor cafes, streetside shops, trees shading the walkways and plenty of pedestrians populating the promenade. In other words, a campus that isn't isolated from the city. The days of cars-only access would be only an unpleasant memory.

It's an lofty project — years away from realization — but it would be one of the largest expansions ever supported by the university. Too bad none of us will be around to see it. On page 8, Scholastic investigates what it will eventually look like, and how it will effect the South Bend community.

Farewell

This magazine consumes the lives of all who work here, but it is nonetheless enjoyable, thanks to the tireless and hardworking staff that has put up with this editor's moments of seething rage and that has politely smiled at his embarrassingly unfunny jokes. They are the backbone of this magazine, and it has been my privilege to work with them. They are the reasons that this magazine makes deadline, and I will miss being awake at 4:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings.

As the seniors bid farewell on the opposite page, Scholastic welcomes its capable new staff, taking over next issue. They don't need it, but we wish them good luck anyway.

Matt Killen

Correction: In the previous issue, reporter Alisa Finelli's name was misspelled. Scholastic regrets the error.
2004-2005 EDITORS IN CHIEF ELECTED

Juniors Annie Robinson and Michael Borgia were unanimously elected editors in chief for the '04 - '05 school year.

Annie and Mike, both of whom are abroad this semester, were thrilled at the announcement. "Since my freshman year, I've dreamt of running Scholastic," Annie said. "Mike and I have been extremely dedicated to the magazine and can't wait to take over. However, our former EIC will be a hard act to follow."

Annie and Mike plan on getting more students involved in the magazine, as well as working to enforce those ever-elusive deadlines. They also hope to increase communication among the many departments at the magazine.

Though many of the proposed changes will be internal, the pair hope they will translate to visible improvements for the publication.

THANKS & FAREWELL

Matt Kilien, editor in chief, somehow tricked everyone else on the staff to do work and managed to slack off for 12 consecutive issues. He thanks them for that. Next year, he'll harness his skills at obnoxiousness as he attends law school somewhere. "Crippling loneliness, here I come!"

Kelly Faehnle, copy chief, is feared by split infinitives and dangling prepositions everywhere. She hopes to work with a book publisher or magazine after graduating with a degree in English and French. She will continue to go honky-tonkin' and clubbing and to sing along with the radio. And she will live happily ever after. Fin.

Ryan Greene, assistant managing editor, is perhaps the most caustic, cynical individual to have ever graced Scholastic's staff. An aspiring journalist, he desperately hopes to find a job soon. Any job. But chances are, he'll be living in a cardboard box and subsisting on dirt and leaves come August.

Carolyn LaFave, campus life editor, would really like to write a book after she graduates with an English degree. But until you see her book on the shelves, she'll be working for some worthy cause, hoping to be successful one day.

Jimmy Atkinson, sports editor, was unsuccessful in his attempt to seize control of the editor in chief position for next year, discovering at the last minute that he was indeed going to graduate and move on to bigger and better things. Like watching Notre Dame football with communist penguins.

Jessie Potish, business manager, is terribly sad to be leaving after four years of Scholastic fun. She is graduating with a degree in Spanish and Gender Studies. Next year, Jessie is heading to North Carolina to teach Spanish through Teach for America.

Tracy Evans, entertainment editor, would probably not survive journalism without restaurant reviews. An English major, she is looking to do something with words in Chicago next year. She will be spending the rest of the year losing at card games and modeling the great philosopher Jessica Simpson.

Tom Tiberio, assistant news editor, plans to keep his options open for next year. Grad school may be a possibility, or working at a daily newspaper, or perhaps even delivering daily papers. As an English major, he will spend the better part of spring fending off potential employers.
Don't Be Alarmed
The story behind those annoying dorm fire alarms

MICHAEL P. BARRETT

It happens all too often. The shrilling and buzzing sends you bolt upright in bed, expletives and griping ensue, and you ask, even in your groggy state: could this be an actual fire or is it just a poorly timed drill? For those who have ever experienced a situation similar to this one — or for those who only have had the pleasure of hearing about it all day long the next day — here is a quick look behind the scenes of the Notre Dame Fire Department and what's going on with the sleep-stealing signals.

The NDFD, located on the corner of Holy Cross and St. Joe's Drives just behind Haggar Hall, houses two fire engines, two fire rescue squad SUVs, an alarm technician SUV and a long metal boat complete with buoyancy devices, ropes and an ice-rescue sled. The building is also the workplace and second home of 12 professional full-time firefighters, a fire chief and an alarm technician. An additional 19 on-call firefighters complete the squad and are called to fill in for the full-timers and provide extra manpower when major incidents occur.

Captain Tim Hoeppner says that there are an average of 1,200 fire and medical calls per year, which breaks down to about 25 calls per week. And give yourself extra points if you guessed that smaller fires involving food — especially popcorn — are the most prevalent. Although most fires on campus are minor, there have been a few major fires in the university's history. The most recent was a fire and explosion at the power plant in the spring of 1999. Another one burned the campus laundromat to the ground in 1988 — now the A9 parking lot behind Lewis Hall. A huge fire also ruined the third and fourth floors of St. Edward's Hall in 1980. Even the Golden Dome has been tarnished: A fire destroyed Main Building over 100 years ago.

So what about the annoying alarms? Captain Hoeppner says that there are two required fire drills — one per semester — for each dorm. However, a dorm may schedule a special drill with the NDFD, possibly resulting in a unequal distribution of fire drills. He says the most common case, though — such as that in Dillon Hall, which has had many alarms go off in the past year — is a student's pulling the alarm for "fun." But one still might wonder if there is a conspiracy to rack out overnight parietals-breaking partners. When asked about this, Hoeppner just laughed and denied the claim. Regardless, the alarms do go off too late in the night and too often; Hoeppner says the best advice is to not play practical jokes and to be careful when using microwaves or ovens. Oh, and don't even attempt to pop popcorn after 3:00 a.m.

— Kelly Faehnle contributed to this article

Ten Questions
with ND's Eating Machine

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Two Sundays ago, Juan Alba, a 6-foot 2-inch, 285-lb senior thrower on the Notre Dame track team, became only the second person ever to eat three extra-meat Boracho burritos in one sitting. The mark he matched was set by former Irish football center Jeff Faine, who now plays for the Cleveland Browns. When Alba was finally able to talk again, he spoke with Scholastic about his burrito-eating ordeal.

How did you prepare for the big day?
Two weeks before, I went to Boracho and had two extra-meat burritos. A week before, I ate as much as I could every meal. A few days before, I went to Boracho and just watched everybody, to get my hunger up. It was a long training process, and I hired a personal coach [his girlfriend, junior Mona Lisa DellaVolpe]. She had a whistle.

When will you tell Jeff Faine?
I didn't plan on that. I have so much respect for that guy now, I don't want to rub it in his face. He's already said he doesn't care if he doesn't hold the record, because he wouldn't want anyone else to have to go through that pain. Three burritos really screws with your world.

There has been some controversy from people at Boracho about whether you took too long to finish (an hour and a half, finishing after close at 2:00 a.m.). How do you respond to that?
They usually close at 4:00 a.m., but they
I Don't Be Alarmed

The story behind those annoying dorm fire alarms

MICHAEL P. BARRETT

It happens all too often. The shrilling, sleep-stealing signals.

- Sean Dudley

**Stats provided by Della Volpe.**

The story behind those annoying dorm fire alarms

The NDFD, located on the corner of Sour and Haggar Hall, houses two fire engines, two SUVs, and a long metal boat complete with buoyancy devices, ropes and an alarm technician. An additional fire rescue squad has experienced a situation similar to this when using microwaves or ovens. Although these are minor, there have been a few major fires in the past year - is a student's fire and medical calls per week. And give yourself extra points if you guessed that smaller fires involving food - especially for that guy now, I don't want to rub it in. Captain Tim Hoeppner says that there are two required fire drills - one per semester for each dorm. However, a dorm may have two extra-meat burritos. A week before, I ate as much as I could every meal. I matched was set by former Irish football junior Mona Lisa Della Volpe. I've seen that girl match me in hot dog- and oatmeal cream pie-eating contests. And she beat me in a pancake contest at IHOP.

The Church says gluttony is a deadly sin. How do you feel about that? If I was really hungry, is that gluttony? I don't think it's a sin to eat when you're hungry.

**Who is your food-eating inspiration?**

Mona Lisa (5-foot 5-inch, 125-lb)**. I've seen that girl match me in hot dog- and oatmeal cream pie-eating contests. And she beat me in a pancake contest at IHOP.

The Church says gluttony is a deadly sin. How do you feel about that? If I was really hungry, is that gluttony? I don't think it's a sin to eat when you're hungry.

**What food could you eat the most of in one sitting?**

Hamburgers, especially if they're from McDonald's, because they're greasy and go down easier.

**What food will you eat massive amounts of next?**

I still need a long time to recover; I still have trouble with the taste of hot dogs and oatmeal cream pies, and I'm scared to death of pancakes now.

**What are your fast food favorites?**


If you had to eat one late-night fast food, would it be Boracho, Papa John's, Golden Dragon, Taco Bell or Steak 'n Shake?

Definitely Boracho. I hate Chinese food. I'm Mexican, so I can't like Taco Bell. I live outside Chicago, so I hate Papa John's, cuz it's not real pizza. And Steak 'n Shake burgers are too expensive.

Is there a record-breaking mark for four burritos in sight?

No. When you're eating three extra-meat burritos with sour cream, there's just something that takes over your mind and says you should never eat burritos again. Four would mean 10 pounds of meat inside you. I'll go [back to Boracho], but I'll just eat pizza puffs.

- Sean Dudley

**Stats provided by DellaVolpe.**
Judgment Calls
Opinions and observations

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
The tickets may have been similar, and the issues may have seemed dull, but at least we got a nifty constitutional crisis out of it. Too bad the courts didn’t get involved.

UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Who cares about the issues when we can prattle on endlessly about infidelity and guard service? The national media’s almost making us miss the Dean Scream.

SEX AND THE CITY
The final episode airs this weekend. Will Carrie choose Mr. Big, or will she stay in France? Scholastic doesn’t have any inside information, but the end of City must mean that The Sopranos are just around the corner.

MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM
UConn, Seton Hall, and now Syracuse? Looks like the Irish are on a roll. Maybe a strong showing in the postseason will drown out certain alumni’s dissatisfaction

SPRING BREAK
It’s just around the corner! Scholastic plans on skipping the actual break and watching the MTV version instead. Because that, friends, is reality.

DomeLights
Compiled by Mike Healy
Source: Notre Dame Alumni Association and University Alumni Web site

You’ve probably noticed the letter signed by alumni expressing their discontent with the current state of Notre Dame football. The depth and intensity of the letter’s concern necessarily leads one to pose the question: What do these people do with themselves when they are not watching, discussing or reading about ND football? Well, as it turns out, the university actually has some very accomplished alumni. Don’t believe me? Take a look:

Morgan Stanley, Marriott, Corp., Hershey Food Corp. Three of the many companies headed by alumni.
Chicago Tribune, ABC News, Sports Illustrated Three of the prestigious media outlets at which alumni hold senior positions.
15 The number of colleges and universities with alumni serving as their chief executive officer.
5 The number of states in which Notre Dame grads serve as federal judges.
7 Number of graduates serving on staff to U.S. Congressional Committees.
3 Number of astronauts to have matriculated at Notre Dame.
1 Number of Nobel Prizes won by grads.

Reliving the Past
The ’80s are back, and they’ve brought everyone’s favorite toys along for the ride.

RYAN GREENE
It is the end of an era. As the shifting of the continents, the death of the dinosaurs and the first slicing of bread changed life on earth forever, so, too, does this latest event herald a new age of the world. Let it be known far and wide: Barbie and Ken are a couple no more.
They’ve been together since 1961. They’ve played dress-up and undergone makeovers with millions of fashion-conscious children. They’ve held practically every position and dabbled in nearly every profession known to humanity. And now they’re calling it quits.
Okay, so the end of Barbie and Ken’s marital bliss is not quite earth-shattering news. It might not even warrant a faint tremor. But it speaks to a larger shift in popular culture, a shift that promises a lot of people a heaping helping of deja vu.
This change in American entertainment might seem subtle at first, but chances are you’ve noticed some of its symptoms. Transformers and GI Joe are re-appearing on television and in theaters. Strawberry Shortcake and My Little Pony are re-invading toy stores. Care Bears are popping up on T-shirts everywhere and Barbie, who reached unparalleled heights of popularity in the ’80s, is making it into celebrity news columns across the nation.
See a pattern?
As if VH1’s mind-bogglingly popular shows were no indication, the sad truth can be denied no longer: the ’80s live again.
Not only is that silliest of decades alive once more, it’s absolutely thriving. With more and more long-forgotten icons being snatched up and remade into toys, television shows and movies, the childhood diversions of yesteryear are fast becoming more recognizable to today’s kids than Pikachu and SpongeBob.
This trend is attributable to adults’ nostalgia for bygone amusements like cartoons and toys. The children of the ’80s are now in a position to resurrect their favorites in ostensibly exciting new forms.
Like so many trends birthed by fond memories, this one also is symptomatic of laziness and greed in the entertainment industry. Rather than go to the lengths of creating enjoyable new characters, the brains behind American fun would prefer to churn out mindless, sub-par, embarrassing rehashes of our beloved childhood companions.
What makes matters worse is the fact that these return visits to ’80s cultural icons are just the tip of the iceberg. This unoriginality is the reason Saturday morning television is dominated by the latest Japanese imports, and why Hollywood loves to produce awful remakes of classic films just to turn an easy profit.
And this is why the dissolution of Barbie and Ken’s holy union is being touted as big news. Sure, the ’80s were fun, but we should leave that decade and its culture where it belongs, before the entertainment industry ravages our most cherished childhood memories beyond all recognition.

Source: Notre Dame Alumni Association and University Alumni Web site

Morgan Stanley, Marriott, Corp., Hershey Food Corp. Three of the many companies headed by alumni.
Chicago Tribune, ABC News, Sports Illustrated Three of the prestigious media outlets at which alumni hold senior positions.
15 The number of colleges and universities with alumni serving as their chief executive officer.
5 The number of states in which Notre Dame grads serve as federal judges.
7 Number of graduates serving on staff to U.S. Congressional Committees.
3 Number of astronauts to have matriculated at Notre Dame.
1 Number of Nobel Prizes won by grads.

SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK
The number of states in which Notre Dame grads serve as astronauts to have matriculated at Notre Dame. For more information, check out our web site: http://www.nd.edu/~seglsn/

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/~seglsn/
Our Town

Notre Dame hopes to bring College Town, U.S.A. to South Bend, Indiana

Just a stone's throw away from campus, a vintage clothing store rubs elbows with a piano bar, and down the street a sandwich shop sates shoppers famished from lugging bags of roll-neck sweaters and rare vinyl records. At the burger joint on the corner, lunchtime conversations about the nominations for president and the nomenclature for carbonated beverages are interrupted only by the pony-tailed kid with $5.75 in his guitar case and a sad rendition of "Mr. Bojangles" on his lips.
Such images may call to mind classic “college towns” like Austin, Boston and Ann Arbor. But South Bend, despite a smattering of off-campus hangouts like Boracho Burrito and The Salvation Army Store, does not exactly fit that bill.

The image of South Bend may be nearing change, however, as the university plans the development of a combination of commercial and residential space south of campus in an effort to create a college town. Scholastic examines the current plans for the proposed development and considers its potential significance for students, the local economy and the relationship between Notre Dame and South Bend.

Creating a College Town

The idea for the proposed multi-use development south of campus was first articulated in the Campus Master Plan, approved by the Board of Trustees in the fall of 2002. One of the distinguishing features of the plan is an “enhanced connection between Notre Dame and the surrounding community.” To facilitate this enhancement, the university seeks to build a public park directly south of the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts, near the mixed-use commercial and residential space itself, which will run along Eddy St. on property currently owned by the university.

James Lyphout is the university’s vice president for Business Operations, the office overseeing the implementation of the campus plan. He says the university feels the need to redevelop the area south of campus because Notre Dame, unlike many universities, lacks a lively college town adjacent to campus. Potential university employees are quick to point out this deficiency.

“When we try to recruit faculty and other senior level people to the university,” Lyphout says, “what is often mentioned is the lack of a place where the community and the students and faculty come together for coffee or at a bookstore or common points of interest.”

Jackie Rucker, a lifelong resident of South Bend and the director of Notre Dame’s Office of Community Relations, has several ideas as to why a college town never developed around Notre Dame. She says that since the university is so self-contained, students have never been dependent on South Bend for amenities such as housing, dining or entertainment. Conversely, South Bend was once a bustling manufacturing town thanks to companies like Bendix, AM General and Studebaker. As such, Notre Dame was not such an integral part of its identity.

Urban sprawl also contributed to the lack of a college town, Rucker says. In the past, university faculty and staff commonly lived in the neighborhood directly south of campus; in fact, Notre Dame Avenue was once referred to as “faculty row.” Over the years, however, people who ordinarily would have bought in that neighborhood have moved to Granger and other, newer communities. This decline in residential development near campus has been accompanied by a decline in commercial development, as well.

Through the proposed multi-use development, the university will bring both new residential space and new commercial space near campus. Lyphout envisions a series of three-story buildings. Apartments or condominiums for students, faculty and other South Bend residents would occupy the third and second floors of these buildings. The street level and some second floor space would be for commercial use.

Lyphout hopes the retailers in the development will appeal to students, though he says they will not be “big box” retailers like Target or Meijer. Instead, he envisions private businesses and moderately sized chain stores: “My concept is it’s going to be things like a bicycle shop, a coffee shop, maybe a kind of Gap store, a small bookstore, a branch bank, a dentist’s office, a doctor’s office, an Irish pub.”

No specific businesses have agreed to occupy the development yet, because it is still in the very early stages of planning, according to Lyphout. The university is currently searching for someone to fill the position of real estate professional, whose job it will be to call a developers’ conference. For this conference, the university will invite several pre-qualified developers to campus to gauge their interest levels in developing the university’s property and to examine their concepts for development. The meeting will allow the university to create relationships with people who can bring capital to the project.

Once developers agree to build on the property, they can proceed with architectural plans for the buildings. Douglas Marsh, the university architect, says that most developers use their own designers, but his office, which was instrumental in creating the Campus Master Plan, will also have significant say in the appearance of the proposed multi-use development. For example, the university will develop design standards, guidelines for the appearance of the development, such as what streetlights must look like and what building materials may be used. The city of South Bend will adopt these design standards for the college town and make developers adhere to them while constructing the proposed multi-use development.

Despite the university’s emphasis on adhering to its traditional architectural styles for new buildings on campus, the university will not attempt to impose this look on the proposed multi-use development. “We don’t want people to think Notre Dame is sprawling into the surrounding community,” Marsh says. Therefore, the appearance of the proposed development will reflect the scale and the materials of the existing buildings in the neighborhood south of campus and will be the result of collaboration between the university, the city, the developers, and the residents of the surrounding community.

When these groups might see some actual buildings is still up in the air. “It’s a moving target right now,” Lyphout says. “It might be as little as 18 months; it might be as long as three or four years, depending...
on what kinds of developers we can interest in the project, and how quickly they can direct their resources to the project." He adds, "All I can say is that we're working on it very diligently, and we want to bring it to fruition as soon as possible."

In addition to new buildings, the plans for the proposed development call for improvements to surrounding streets. The university wants to create a "pedestrian friendly environment" between the development's park and its commercial and residential space. Edison Rd./Angela Blvd. will separate the park from the new buildings, but according to Rucker, the road's current configuration is too "foreboding."

"People just don't think of walking across [Edison/Angela] to hang out on the campus," Rucker says. "We want to make that more pedestrian-friendly so that people feel invited to come and hang out on the campus, to spend time, to use it like a park."

The Campus Master Plan calls for the straightening of Edison/Angela between Notre Dame Avenue and Eddy St. The straightening will move the intersection of Edison/Angela and Eddy to the south. It will create more space for the park south of the Performing Arts Center and, after the closing of Juniper St., it will create a less intimidating, three-way intersection with Eddy St.

Lyphout adds that improvements to the "five-points" intersection of South Bend Ave., Corby Blvd. and Eddy St. will also be necessary, as that intersection will mark the south end of the commercial and residential development. Smaller improvements like tree-lined sidewalks, on-street parking and landscaped medians will also serve to make the proposed development more appealing to pedestrians.

**Financial Implications**

Constructing the proposed multi-use development will be a collaborative effort, and financing the development will be no different. The university, the city of South Bend and developers will all contribute capital to the development, which they feel will serve the interests of all involved.

The university currently owns the property upon which the proposed multi-use development will be built, including the land where the Logan Center is located and two large lots near the five-points intersection. The university will not, however, raise money to construct the new buildings, as it does for on-campus buildings. Rather, the university will sell the land to developers or establish long-term leases with them. The developers will then build on the property and charge tenants for space in their buildings.

Lyphout says that the university will not gain financially from the development. "I don't think the university wants to own and operate businesses," he says. "We just want to facilitate a process that will result in desirable business development in that district." The university hopes that such development will improve the somewhat impoverished neighborhood south of campus.

Economic leaders in the community approve of the university's plan and think it will be successful in revitalizing the neighborhood. "I think all the concepts are sound," says Mark Eagan, President and CEO of the St. Joseph's County Chamber of Commerce. "Some of the neighborhoods around the university [...] have been on the decline," he says. "My hope is that [this new investment] will be a catalyst for other development."

Donald Inks, director of the City of South Bend's Division of Economic Development, shares this positive outlook. He says the university approached his office approximately one year ago with their plans for developing the area south of campus. "We thought they had done
some good work,” he says. “I think it will have a positive effect for both the university and the neighborhood.”

Rucker says that the development will address basic needs of the neighborhood. “You can’t buy a loaf of bread in that neighborhood,” she says. “That’s a problem.” Rucker also says development will make the neighborhood a more appealing place for university faculty and staff to live. If more university employees move into the neighborhood rather than to newer communities like Granger, it will create a greater tax base for South Bend.

Lyphout says the city also stands to benefit from the additional businesses, jobs, and attractions that the proposed multi-use development will provide. As a result, the city has cooperated closely with the university in the development. The city created a mixed-use, residential and commercial zone for the Eddy St. corridor. Such zones previously did not exist in South Bend. In December 2003, the city officially declared the neighborhood south of campus a redevelopment area, which allows it to be declared a tax incremental financing (TIF) district. When a TIF district is developed and improved, any resulting increase in property taxes in the district can be recycled back into the district to be used for further improvements.

Once the property is developed, both community leaders and the university envision shops and services that will cater to both South Bend residents and people affiliated with the university. “We’d like to see shops that will bring character and help complement the neighborhood,” Eagan says. Lyphout says, “[South Bend residents’] participation, their support of the businesses there, will be critical to the project.”

Neither Lyphout, Inks nor Eagan is concerned that the proposed multi-use development will have an adverse effect on businesses that Notre Dame students and staff currently frequent, such as restaurants downtown and on Grape Rd. or.
shops in University Park Mall. “I don’t think it’s going to cannibalize any of that business,” Lyphout says. “It’s just going to create new business.”

The effect on Grape Rd. and the mall will be negligible, Inks says, because they attract a regional market and are not dependent on student business. He adds that there are few retailers downtown that students frequent, so the proposed multi-use development will not hurt business much there, either.

Eagan thinks the proposed multi-use development will have a much different draw than Grape Rd., the mall or downtown. “I think it’s a totally different kind of business,” he says. “[The proposed multi-use development] will be a little more unique.”

Lyphout agrees. “It’s not going to be something that competes with University Park Mall,” he says. “I think it’s going to be something that’s a much smaller scale and of a much different appeal. It’s going to be a place where people browse and relax, are entertained. People tend to go to malls on a mission: they need a pair of jeans; they need a new coat, etc. This will be a place where people can go to interface with the community, meet friends, relax.”

Dan Staufer, owner of Buffalo Wild Wings, a popular student eatery on Washington St., also does not fear a tremendous drop in his business. He estimates that 75 percent of his business comes from non-students and that that portion of his clientele will be relatively unaffected by the proposed multi-use development. Staufer thinks that most of the remaining 25 percent of his clientele will remain loyal to his restaurant. He says that since students are drawn to his restaurant for reasons such as quality and ambience, the convenience alone of the restaurants in the proposed multi-use development will not prevent students from going to Buffalo Wild Wings. Staufer adds that as a student at Indiana University, he lived in the vibrant college town of Bloomington, and a similar development in South Bend is “long overdue” for Notre Dame students.

**Community Building**

While it is true that the proposed multi-use development will have a significant impact on student life, the university has a much larger scope in mind while planning the development. “It’s our intention to improve the neighborhood, create something that’s of interest to the South Bend community, as well as our students,” Lyphout says.

The university’s desire to improve the community surrounding campus is evident in its participation in the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Organization (NNRO), a resident-run group working to strengthen and reinforce the neighborhood directly south of campus. The NNRO is comprised of people who live in the neighborhood and represent one of five organizations: the university, the City of South Bend, the Madison Center, St. Joseph’s Hospital or Memorial Hospital. These organizations contribute money to studies on ways to improve the neighborhood and provide services to residents. For example, the university, through the Robinson Community Learning Center, provides educational services for neighborhood youths and adults.

Lyphout says the proposed development of a college town will be an “integral part” of the NNRO’s effort to revitalize the neighborhood. Rucker agrees: “Some of [the NNRO representatives] are second- or third-generation in the neighborhood, so they know what the neighborhood was like in its heyday, and they also know what it needs to make it function properly.” Their input will enable the university to cater to the desires of neighborhood residents when designing the development.

Marguerite Taylor is a 60-year resident of the Northeast Neighborhood and sits on the NNRO. She is excited about the commercial development south of campus. “It can do nothing but bring prosperity to the neighborhood,” she says. Taylor says that commercial development is not the only thing the university is doing to revitalize the neighborhood. She
says the university's encouragement of its faculty and staff to build homes and live in the Northeast Neighborhood has improved the relationship between the university and the neighborhood.

Rucker, too, cites the return of university faculty and staff to the Northeast Neighborhood as an important step in reviving the area. She says the university has facilitated this movement by selling land in the area to faculty and staff who have agreed to build or buy a home there. The university still wants to maintain the traditional character of the neighborhood, though, so it set architectural standards for construction to ensure that the new houses in the neighborhood resemble the older ones. Rucker says this effort has been successful: "One of the things I've been hearing from people is, 'There's these houses, and I don't remember them being there a few years ago, and it looks like they've been there forever.'"

Increased single-family housing near campus is, in fact, one of the focal points of the university's college town development. According to a written response to frequently asked questions at a community meeting last December, the university owns 120 parcels of land in the area surrounding campus. The university has amassed these properties in an effort to maintain stable, single-family residential communities in those areas. The university is interested in maintaining these communities in part because it does not want an influx of inexpensive undergraduate student housing on the fringe of campus, as is common at many other universities. The university feels that this would be detrimental to the undergraduate experience at Notre Dame, which depends heavily upon the residence hall system.

The university also seeks to increase single-family housing near campus because university employees like to live near their place of work. "[University employees] want to be able to walk to work, to ride bikes, that sort of thing," Rucker says. "And that's because of the nature of the work. If you're a faculty member and you're teaching, but there's a lecture that night, you don't want to have to drive a long drive and then turn around and have to drive a long drive back."

While the university would like more of its employees to live in the area south of campus, it does not want to displace any of the neighborhood's current residents, particularly low-income residents. "What we want is a diversity of incomes in the neighborhood," Rucker says. South Bend Heritage, an organization that works closely with the NNRO, facilitates this goal by providing affordable housing south of campus. The organization also rehabilitates dilapidated houses in the neighborhood. Rucker says the result is a diverse neighborhood with personality, which is something that appeals to employees of a university.

The proposed multi-use development will need to appeal to a wide variety of patrons, including neighborhood residents and university students, faculty and staff. Rucker believes this is possible. She envisions the area between the Performing Arts Center and Edison Rd. as a "small central park" that will host activities appealing to many demographic groups. She says, "It would not be uncommon to have musicians performing or drama troupes or some sort of activity going on — in warm weather of course."

The attractions in the performance arts center and at the park would then draw people to the commercial area across the street. "One thing that we purposefully did not do was to put an eating area inside the performing arts center, because then that makes it necessary to have [external] restaurants," Rucker says. "What people would normally do, if we are having a performance, would be to go to dinner before, go to the performance, and then afterwards go to bars, clubs, restaurants, and sit and talk about the performance that they just saw."

Lyphout thinks the performances and the amenities of the college town development will help bridge the gap between South Bend residents and people affiliated with the university. He says, "I think [the development] is going to give more opportunity for the community and university students, faculty and staff to interface, to interact, to bring them together."

The university hopes that this interaction will redress the perception that the university is isolated from the community. "For some people, the university is still perceived as kind of an island," Lyphout says. "I think this will create a common ground on campus borders where everyone feels comfortable."
Heaven, Hell and the Garden of Eden

630 PE takes divine inspiration to a whole new level

WELCOME TO THE GARDEN Don't let the racy pics fool you, Eden lies just beyond this door.

Hell is much cozier than one would think. At least, that is the first impression when walking into the common room of 630 Pasquerilla Hall East. Bathed in a soft red glow with the aroma of cinnamon wafting through the air, the room invites residents and guests to recline on one of the futons, positioned in an “L,” to make the room as comfortable as possible.

The residents of 630 PE — Kara Whitaker, Jacquie Dammann, Teresa Tumbaga and Stephanie Aberger — have chosen three supernatural themes to fit each of their quad’s rooms: Heaven, Hell and the Garden of Eden.

Original planning for the room, which began last April, had Purgatory slated for Eden’s spot. “But,” as Aberger explains, “it’s really hard to decorate Purgatory.” With the motivational slogan “Cribs or Bust,” the four teamed up to create a truly unique living experience.

Hell, the common and center room, provides all the comforts of home with more than a hint of naughtiness. “Sinful and passionate in an ND sort of way,” as Dammann says. Hell’s crimson hue has many contributors: red light bulbs in the standing lamp, the red curtains filtering the daytime sun, red candles, red monogrammed pillows (specially made) and red and orange “fire” and dancing devils decorating the heater. A multicolored ball of Christmas lights (referred to as the “monsters’ ball”) hangs from the center of the room to diversify the color a bit.

Mischievous posters adorn the walls. Marilyn Monroe and a giant bottle of Jack Daniels hang overhead and stare across the room at front pages from the Observer’s Irish Insider section, each featuring a different athlete. A mechanical sliding door, easily the most entertaining
of the room's features, slides shut with the push of a button to expose another wall of male pin-ups and magazine cut-outs. The residents are now accepting applications from ND men and other wall-worthy hopefuls.

Heaven, ironically right next door, has been unjustly described as "the weakest room," belonging to "people who suck at decorating." But as Heaven resident Tumbaga points out, being abroad set them back a semester. And besides "With a picture of Prince William on the wall, how can it not be heaven?"

Touche.

Heaven's overall blue theme is accentuated with hanging angels, stars, posters of tropical paradises and a print of the ever-popular "Footprints" story.

On the opposite side of Hell — the Bible never discusses geography, does it? — one can stroll through, or at least lounge in, the Garden of Eden. A plush serpent coils around one of the loft's poles in the center of the massive double (the room is handicap accessible, hence the sliding door). Posters of idyllic gardens hang on the walls, as do several different portrayals of Adam and Eve. Flowered garlands hang in nearly every nook and cranny. A fiber optic bonsai tree, the "Tree of Knowledge," stands in the window next to an appropriately tempting basket of apples. Plush animals, birds on sticks and giant pink sunflowers add to the room's outdoor appeal.

Visitors to this ethereal quad are frequent, and students have been known to stop in with their families. Guests can be assured a warm welcome into the hellish surroundings, but if asked to sign their names in the room's guestbook, they shouldn't be surprised to see a bra hanging proudly over the windowframe.
Notre Dame students are choosing to or just home-sweet-home for a week of ordinary spring breaks, as most college students see the very rich very close to the very poor. It is such an amazing experience to learn about first-hand the realities of growing up in poverty. A trip to Immokalee, a city in one of the southern-most parts of Florida, inspires you to change. It gave me the inspiration to start on another bucket. I would see some people pay a dollar for a Gatorade, chug it quickly, then throw it down and run back to their stations to keep working.

"It changed my life," says Kate Kennedy, a sophomore who participated in the Migrant Experiences Seminar last year and is a student coordinator for the seminar this spring. "The experience inspires you to change. It gave me the push I needed to work for these issues and continue to question and to ask why these [social injustices] are happening."

The Migrant Experiences Seminar brings 12 students to Immokalee, a city in one of the southern-most parts of Florida, to explore the cultural and social issues surrounding migrant farm labor. The trip falls in the early part of the tomato harvest, allowing the seminar participants to join in the farm labor. "It is an inspiring, chilling and earth-shaking experience," says Loesch. "These workers earn $7,500 [annually] on average, and to experience this back-breaking work first-hand is so powerful."

Participants work for two days in the fields and donate the wages they earn to charity. Workers are required to wear long sleeves and pants because of the pesticides sprayed on the plants. The buckets used to collect tomatoes weigh about 33 pounds when full. "The workers get paid by the bucket, so you pick as fast as you can and don't take breaks," says sophomore Alicia Lachiondo, another student coordinator for the migrant seminar this spring. "As soon as you fill up a bucket you have to throw it up to the truck, and then you start on another bucket. I would see some people pay a dollar for a Gatorade, chug it quickly, then throw it down and run back to their stations to keep working."

"It is the toughest job in the country," Kennedy says. "We did one day of work and
some of them do it every single day without stop. And they are treated so poorly.”

Seminar participants also spend two nights with host families who are or were migrant laborers. “The people are very open,” Kennedy says. “They were so willing to answer our questions. We would eat dinner with them, and we took their grandchildren to the park. We got to see how they really live.”

For the final two days of the seminar, the participants work on such issues as health care and immigration with local agencies, like the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW). The CIW is a group of low-wage workers who fight the abuses they face in the agricultural industry. For example, they are behind the Taco Bell boycott for the unfair treatment of tomato pickers.

The Children and Poverty Seminar immerses students in inner-city New York, to learn about domestic and international issues concerning children challenged by poverty. The focuses are on education, early intervention, resilience, violence prevention and foster care.

“The Children and Poverty Seminar is a unique opportunity to look at the issue [of children in poverty],” says senior Tim Ducey, a student coordinator for this spring’s seminar, and a participant in the seminar in the fall of 2001. “New York City is a city of disparities. You will see the very rich very close to the very poor. It makes you want to create change to equalize the opportunities for these children.”

Participants stay at the Trinity Lutheran Church near Thompson Square Park, which enables them to experience first-hand the realities of growing up in poverty. The week is divided into four areas: international and national issues, housing and advocacy, family, and education. They visit a number of community-based organizations, including the United Nations and UNICEF.

“Poverty is a vicious cycle that children are born into," Ducey says. “They lack good role models to demonstrate the importance of education. They see a lot of gang violence, and carousing, drinking, drugs. These children see it at a young age and they fall into it.”

Participants in the seminar explore ways to help children who are trapped in poverty. “Education is very important," Ducey says. “Family life is another influence. Strong parental support, especially a male figure in the children's lives can make a big difference for them. Opportunities for extra-curricular activities give kids a place to go after school, which could keep them off the streets. The government can provide funding for these activities.”

Post-immersion, the CSC hopes that

Lachiondo, an ALPP major, would like to do medical work with migrant workers in the future, and is currently taking an applied anthropology class in Migrant Labor Studies. Ducey plans to teach at an underprivileged inner-city school after he graduates in May. “Teachers who are strong role models are very important for these children," he says. “They give alternatives to the gangs and the violence and show them the importance of education and going to college.”

All CSC seminars are open to students in good standing at Notre Dame or St. Mary’s College. Students earn one hour of credit for their participation. All participants are required to attend orientation sessions before the trip and follow-up meetings afterwards. They are also required to write a five- to six-page reflection paper as part of the experience.

Many former participants encourage others to spend their next break in one of the seminars. “I cannot imagine doing anything else for spring break,” says Lachiondo. “It is such an amazing experience.”

For more information about CSC seminars, visit their web site at http://centerforsocialconcerns.nd.edu, or call 631-5293.
C

eers! The Gipp hopes everyone had a (re)productive Valentine’s Day last weekend. Remember that Lent is right around the corner. Still not sure what to give up for 40 days and 40 nights? Make it FlipSide events, DeBartolo Hall, dining hall meat on Fridays ... or ever. Anything, but just please don’t give up alcohol. The Gipp fears this page would come to an end if this were to occur. And with that public service announcement aside, on to the good stuff.

**Foul Revenge**

This begins as a typical SYR story. Boy meets girl. Couple makes out while friends take photos. Only after the incident, however, does our dashing dude discover that his dame was none other than the little sister of his dorm’s president. When photos later arrived on the president’s door, Il Duce was less than pleased, to say the least.

A pungent pile of excrement was found several days later outside our dude’s door. One report indicates that Il Duce was seen fleeing the scene of the crime while pulling his pants up. So far, Gipp has been notified that no disciplinary action has been taken yet, but hopefully this at least will spark a healthy dialogue among the residents in this particular dorm.

**Pyromania**

What would college be without a couch fire? One evening at Turtle Creek, a few gentlemen came to this very conclusion. With the hosts of a party wanting to dispose of their couch anyway (it was really ugly, after all), the gentlemen’s dreams were about to come true.

After heaving the sofa out the door, many a passersby began kicking the old thing in the alley. This continued for many minutes, until our hero came into the picture. Enter “Tom,” an aspiring pyrotechnic who had always wanted his own fireworks show. After a good deal of drunken thought, our hero decided it was in everyone’s best interest to douse the couch with a bottle of lighter fluid. What else was there to do, after all?

Suffice it to say that the next logical step was to light the couch ablaze, which Tom and his cronies were delighted to do. As the flames got larger, the crowd, laughing initially, began to disperse rather hastily. By the time the fire truck arrived on the scene, our hero had fled, thinking he had just burned down Turtle Creek.

Well, Tom, no such luck.

Swigs were awarded for hits (two swigs for blows to the face). After an hour, our fearless, fuddled foursome decided to call it a night, with feet already numb with frostbite. “But what to do with the Baileys?” the two gentlemen thought. After all, a good amount was still left in the bottle.

Sure, downing the rest was a possibility, but then they wondered why they should not just bury their treasure in the North Quad snow for another night. It would be concealed and kept cool at the same time, so why not? Just find a good landmark, a thick patch of snow, and screw the cap on tight.

Our two snow warriors went back a few evenings later to discover their bottle of Baileys still well-concealed under the same tree where they had placed it so cautiously. Unfortunately, it seems as though they had been too late. The last several swigs of the Irish cream had been swindled. With the cap tightly screwed back on, one thing is certain: the contents had not spilled out into the snow, but rather had been consumed by a wise third party. This may explain why the Gipp, on his way to the dining hall last week, saw two squirrels stumbling and laughing uncontrollably.

But if anyone has any information as to the whereabouts of our friends’ misplaced liquor, do not hesitate to inform the Gipp.

That’s all for now, Gipplings. Sad as it may be, this is the Gipp’s last issue until after spring break. The good news is that there should be plenty of stories from those far-off lands of debauchery to tell by mid-March. So whether your time off leads you to Miami or the Vegas Strip, be sure to remember your loyal pal and tip the dear old Gipp.

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**Missing: Bottle of Bailey’s**

Here’s the situation: it’s after parietals and two gentlemen wish to continue the evening’s festivities with two ladies outside in the snow. But a good snowball fight is sure to make one chilly. Best to bring out a bottle of the good stuff to warm up. Technically, this liquor is prohibited by the new 14 percent rule in duLac. So we’ll use a code name, say “Baileys,” to refer to it.

And thus a good old-fashioned drunken snowball fight on North Quad began.
heers! The Gipp hopes everyone had a (re)productive Valentine's Day last weekend. Remember that Lent is right around the corner. It's a matter of time before they break into the big time. Doors TBA.

http://www.legendsofnotredame.org

Some friends take photos.

Boy meets girl. Couple makes out while the incident, however, does not just burn down Turtle Creek. By the time the fire truck arrived on the scene, our hero had fled, thinking he had done his job. As the flames got larger, the crowd, laughing and his cronies were delighted to do. As dancing pictures of cherry bombs and smoke filled the air, our hero decided it was time to light the couch ablaze, which Tom and his cronies were pleased, to say the least.

The Gipp's last issue until mid-March. So whether your time off leads you to Miami or the Vegas Strip, remember your loyal pal and tip a pungent pile of excrement into the dear old Gipp.

That's all for now, Gipplings.

Missing: II Duce

The Singles
This four-piece rock group just recorded their debut album at Ghetto Recorders with Jim Diamond (The White Stripes, The Sights) twiddling the knobs. It's a matter of time before they break into the big time. Doors TBA.

http://www.legendsofnotredame.org

ND Humor Artists
Do you like Whose Line is it Anyway or Second City? If so, then you’ll love these guys! The Humor Artists are Notre Dame's very own improv and sketch comedy troupe.

February 19

February 20

Bryan McCree
Now’s your chance to catch this hilarious comic. His astute observations on life will astound you and his infectious giggle will win you over. 10:00 pm.

February 21

The Singles
This four-piece rock group just recorded their debut album at Ghetto Recorders with Jim Diamond (The White Stripes, The Sights) twiddling the knobs. It's a matter of time before they break into the big time. Doors TBA.
One Brief, Shining Moment
Notre Dame media turns out to be very hard to please

MIKE HEALY

Originally, I was going to use this column to introduce a write-in feature in which my loyal readers (all 11 of you) would send in thought-provoking questions, and I would answer them to the best of my ability. In retrospect, this was a very bad idea, thanks to the fact that nobody on campus likely cares about my opinions on most issues.

In lieu of this, my editor suggested that I write a column concerning my recent political exploits. For the sizeable number of you who may not have actually paid attention, yours truly recently made a bid for Student Body vice president, with fellow freshman Mark Healy heading the ticket. We did not win. In fact, we finished in last place, which is the opposite of winning. While Mark is very skilled in matters of politics and, undoubtedly, has a bright future in student government, I, apparently, do not. I was not even able to provide the Healy/Healy campaign (Yes, we are identical twins. In fact, I am not even typing this, I am just thinking it) with the proper platform. Mark is sitting at the computer taking endorsement interviews with nearly all the student media outlets on campus, and the breakdown of this process is as follows:

Scholastic — As you may have noticed, I actually work for Scholastic, which I had hoped would provide our campaign with the inside track to gaining their coveted endorsement. Sadly, I was mistaken in this. My lackluster interview, combined with the many personal vendettas held against me by the Scholastic staff, resulted in Scholastic’s endorsing the Ebersol/Leito ticket, citing something stupid like a most unqualified and personally offensive ticket we have ever had the displeasure of coming into contact with." Or something like that (I am paraphrasing).

NDTV — Of all the interviews we participated in, I would have to say NDTV’s was the most enjoyable. The segment producer, Bailey Ertel, was very accommodating and graciously asked us the types of questions that best suited our campaign persona. Also, I think I performed particularly well in the NDTV segment because I have that “it,” that unmistakable camera presence that only the great possess. James Dean had it, Bill Bel- lamy has it, and I have it as well.

NDToday.com — I must say, the staff of NDToday.com had, by far, the most professional appearance of any group of four people I have ever encountered. Impeccably dressed and intent on taking copious notes, the NDToday.com writers had the most imposing presence of any of the journalists that evaluated us. I did not dare lie or distort the truth in speaking to the representatives of NDToday.com, for I had no doubt they could see into my very soul. Also, I think it bears mentioning that in their candidate evaluation, NDToday.com referred to Mark and me as “irresistibly attractive, with the potential to become sexual dynamos of a frightening degree.” Again, paraphrasing.

Taking into consideration the fact that I got to meet a variety of interesting people, and Mark established himself as a future force in student politics, one cannot help but deem our campaign a success. However, in another, more traditional way, by citing our last-place finish, others may not be able to help but consider it a failure.

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I, apparently, do not. I was not even able to get in the room to present our platform to the representatives of ND Today.com, which I had hoped would provide our campaign with the inside track to gaining their coveted endorsement. Sadly, I was mistaken in thinking that we would be given the same amount of attention, yours truly included, as the other candidates. It is frustrating to see that I write a column concerning my ticket, citing something stupid like a segment producer, Bailey Ertel, was very helpful in the development of our campaign.

For instance, I got to partake in rigorous interview coaching, which I had never even attempted before. I got the sense that these people had it in for me, and I was hoping our campaign could at least be noticed, but we never were. In the end, I did not feel like I had anything of value to contribute to my campaign, and I was more than a little concerned about the possibility of us getting beaten down via our twin connection.)

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MIKE HEALY
endorsement interviews with nearly all the most unqualified and personally offensive people I have ever met. I got to partake in rigorous interview coaching, which I had never even attempted before. I got the sense that these people had it in for me, and I was hoping our campaign could at least be noticed, but we never were. In the end, I did not feel like I had anything of value to contribute to my campaign, and I was more than a little concerned about the possibility of us getting beaten down via our twin connection.)

I, apparently, do not. I was not even able to get in the room to present our platform to the representatives of ND Today.com, which I had hoped would provide our campaign with the inside track to gaining their coveted endorsement. Sadly, I was mistaken in thinking that we would be given the same amount of attention, yours truly included, as the other candidates. It is frustrating to see that I write a column concerning my ticket, citing something stupid like a segment producer, Bailey Ertel, was very helpful in the development of our campaign.
Jimbo's Jabber

A
nd just when you thought it was safe for the Boston Red Sox. Think again. With the New York Yankees' signing of Alex Rodriguez, they have proved once again that they truly are a cut above the rest and will now be favored over the Sox going into spring. Is it fair that the Yankees are able to stack their infield like this? Doesn't matter. What does matter is that those are the rules. The Yankees were able to acquire the best player in baseball (and won't even use him at his position) because of the size of the organization's wallet.

With this new acquisition, the Yankees now have six of the 12 largest salary packages in Major League Baseball. In a recent ESPN survey of 100,000 baseball fans, 74 percent said that the Yankees' financial domination of baseball is bad for the game. A mere 26 percent like the idea of having a powerhouse team. So isn't it about time baseball took a swing at disparity?

Still, one has to acknowledge that a loaded payroll does not always guarantee results in any sport. As the last three World Series Champions — the Diamondbacks, Angels and Marlins — have shown, it is possible to win without breaking the bank. In short playoff series, anything can happen.

Big Ten May Use Instant Replay in 2004

Under a proposal submitted by the Big Ten Conference to the NCAA Rules Committee, instant replay would be used experimentally in all games between Big Ten schools in the upcoming 2004 season. While the Rules Committee has recommended the proposal, it still must be approved by the NCAA championships/competition cabinet for Division I before any change can take effect. Unlike in the NFL, only a technical adviser assigned to each game would be able to request a replay and make a ruling.

Is it fair that the Yankees are able to stack their infield like this? Doesn't matter.

Instant replay, however, not only slows down the game and sparks controversy, it essentially undermines the authority of the officiating crew. This may very well do nothing more than open up another can of worms in a sport already suffering from recruiting irregularities, Maurice Clarett and an inconsistent means of crowning a national champion.

Certainly, instant replay in the NFL has proven to have the ability to overturn some calls. And according to the Big Ten, about 25 of the approximately 10,080 plays during the 2003 Big Ten season would have been changed. But is it worth it to undermine the authority of the officials? Call me stubborn, but I see the officiating crew as the first and final source of authority on the football field. If they err, so be it. The human error element is just part of the game. To put a system in place that would aim to correct this would prove to be inefficient and controversial, at best.

Swimsuit Issue

Well sports fans, Sports Illustrated's famed swimsuit issue is back on newsstands for the 40th time, in case you didn't already know. But honestly, haven't we had enough of Anna Kournikova yet? It was bad enough that she made the June 5, 2000 cover of SI. (For crying out loud, she's never won a tournament!) Okay, maybe we haven't had enough yet. But at least now she's teased on the cover of the issue that shows what she's really good at: "[She] may be retired, but she's still the hottest player in tennis," the caption reads.

Last Issue's Trivia Answer

As promised, here is the answer to last issue's trivia question: The teams are Illinois Fighting Illini, Marshall Thundering Herd, Navy Midshipmen, NC State Wolfpack, Nevada Wolfpack and (of course) Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

Men's Basketball (13-9): In one week, the Irish have raised their faithful fans' spirits with three underdog wins. Last Monday, the Irish defeated No. 5 Connecticut, 80-74. The Irish then narrowly edged Seton Hall, 71-68. In their most convincing win of the season, the Irish toppled the Orangemen, 84-72. Chris Thomas has been the key to winning each of these games, averaging 28.5 points, 5.5 rebounds and 4.5 assists over the past three games. On Saturday, Notre Dame will play the Connecticut Huskies at the Hartford Civic Center.

Track and Field: The Irish saw some success at the Windsor Team Challenge last Saturday with both the men's and women's divisions finishing third at this meet that is comparable in size to the Big East Championships. On the
**IRISHEYESON**

**LISA GARCIA**

Senior Lisa Garcia from Denver, Colo., is co-captain of this year’s women’s swimming team. She was voted last season’s MVP by her teammates after earning her second-straight Honorable Mention All-American accolade. She has been to the NCAA Championships in each of her last two seasons and won the 200m butterfly title last year. The women’s swimming team will be in East Meadow, NY this weekend in an attempt to win its eighth-straight Big East title.

### Why did you start swimming?

I started swimming when I was nine years old. My best friend decided she wanted to start so I joined her. Also, my mom wanted to get us out of the house. We were driving her crazy. My sister swims also. She’s a freshman at Boston College.

### What has been the biggest challenge in your swimming career?

Balancing swimming, school and my social life has been a big challenge, but also incredibly rewarding. Being captain of a top-20 team in the nation is a pretty prestigious thing.

### What has been your most memorable swimming moment at Notre Dame?

My most memorable moment was last year at the NCAA Championships. My parents were planning on coming out, but there was a huge snowstorm back home in Colorado and my parents weren’t able to make it. But somehow, they managed to come out for the very last day, barely making the flight, and they were there to see my last race, which was the 200m butterfly that I had made All-American consideration in. It meant a lot to me that they were able to see me swim and that I was able to swim fast for them.

### What are your goals for this season?

I would like to go to NCAAs and I would really like our 800m freestyle relays to make the NCAA meet. They take 13 teams in the entire nation. In the past, that relay has been our weakest relay, but this year has been the strongest we’ve ever been in my four years swimming on it. I would also like to defend my 200m butterfly title. As a team, I would like to win our eighth-straight Big East title.

### Who is your favorite athlete?

Michael Jordan. He was the very best at what he did, but he was also very classy. That means a lot to me.

—Jimmy Atkinson

women’s side, sprinters ruled supreme, taking first through fifth places in both the 60-meter dash and the 300-meter dash. Ayesha Boyd won the 60-meter, while Kristen Dodd won the 300-meter. On the men’s side, the Irish won four very different races, sophomores Ryan Pastel, Alex Fortunado and Vincent Ambroico winning the 300, 600, and 1,000-meter dashes, respectively.

### Softball (4–1):

After Sunday’s victory over Portland State, Notre Dame finished 4–1 in the UNLV Classic. The Irish opened the UNLV Classic with an 8–7 win over Hawaii off of a walk-off, two-run homer by sophomore Kellie Middleton. The Irish then lost to the No. 2/3 California Golden Bears in a close 2–1 game. However, the Irish bounced back, beating No. 8/9 Nebraska, 6–4. Junior Liz Hartmann hit two homeruns in the game, including the game winner. Next, the Irish defeated host UNLV, 3–1, as junior pitcher Steffany Stenglein recorded a ten-strike out game. The tournament came to a close with a 4–1 win over Portland State. On Friday, the Irish face Utah at 12:30 p.m. to open the Palm Springs Classic in California.
All in the Family

Forest and Kerry Walton are leading the men's and women's fencing teams

JIMMY ATKINSON

When it came time for Kerry Walton to make a college decision, it was simple: she would go to Notre Dame to fence alongside her older brother Forest. After all, the two siblings, separated in age by one year, had been fencing together since the very beginning, when they were about eight years old.

Now at Notre Dame, the Walton siblings have made quite a name for themselves. By virtue of winning the NCAA women's epee championship in her sophomore year, Kerry, currently a senior, joined her brother Forest, currently a fifth-year senior foilist, as an All-American. The Walton siblings became the first brother-sister pair to earn All-American honors in any sport in Notre Dame history.

Kerry and Forest picked up the sport of fencing while growing up in Londonderry, N. H. Their parents had both started the sport when they were in college. Kerry and Forest joined their two cousins, Scott and Kevin Eriksen (All-Americans at University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University, respectively) in training at Seacoast Fencing Club in nearby Manchester. Known as the “Four Amigos,” the Waltons and their cousins fenced at local events for their first few years in competition.

Eventually, as their talent grew, Forest and Kerry began looking to the national and even international levels for more advanced competition. The two flew to Canada for fencing tournaments and to South America for the Pan-American Games. As the two began to focus more and more on fencing, traveling to competitions became more frequent. By the time they were about 16 years old, they had both decided to focus solely on fencing.

“We understood that we were best suited to fence,” Forest says, “so that’s what we decided to stick with and that’s what our coaches and parents pushed us to do.” With the decision to focus solely on fencing, however, Forest and Kerry had to make sacrifices. Kerry eventually gave up playing soccer and softball, while Forest gave up soccer and baseball. “My only gripe was that I couldn’t play other sports because fencing took up so much time,” Forest says.

Perhaps more challenging than the fencing tournaments for the siblings was the amount of schoolwork they had to miss during high school. Kerry remembers that during high school she used to miss several weeks of school per year. “[My classmates] would joke and say, ‘Are you really in my class? I never see you,’” she says. Fortunately for the two, their teachers were always accommodating of their schedules and the missed schoolwork was never a big issue. As Forest points out, they were still able to get into Notre Dame.

And this is probably their most significant accomplishment: that they are able to compete at the same university. “This is what we wanted from the beginning,” Forest says. “We had fenced side-by-side from the beginning. This was the logical next step. Things couldn’t be better, to tell you the truth.”

“It works out well for the family, too,” Kerry adds, “because they know we’re together.”

It was in a time that they weren’t together, however, that the family witnessed the most rewarding achievement to date: Kerry won the NCAA Championship in the epee in 2002, her sophomore year, while Forest — enrolled in Notre Dame’s architecture program — was studying in Rome. Not only did Forest not fence while abroad his junior year, but he also was unable to witness his sister’s crowning achievement. Word came via telephone from his parents, followed by a flood of e-mails from the rest of the family back in the U.S.

“I was jealous that I wasn’t there to see her and I was also jealous that I wasn’t there to compete in NCAAs with her,” Forest says. Kerry jokes about Forest missing her title. “Good timing,” she says sarcastically.

When Forest returned to Notre Dame last year for his third fencing season, he noticed immediately that his time off in Rome had put a bit of rust on his game. “Definitely last year, there was a lull in my performance,” he admits. “My fifth year now [fourth fencing season], I’m back on track.” This season, Forest boasts a 36-8 record in foil, while sister Kerry has posted a 39-11 record in the epee.

But the ultimate goal for both fencers is nothing short of NCAA titles. Kerry has been there before, and after returning to top form following a disappointing 2003 season, Forest is prepared to challenge anyone. While this is Forest’s last year with the Irish, Kerry will be back for a fifth year in 2005.

After college, both plan to continue fencing, if not competitively, then recreationally at least. Kerry even has a chance, albeit slight, to make the Summer Olympics. Currently, she is the alternate epeeist on the U.S. Fencing Team, but it doesn’t seem likely that the team will qualify for the Olympics this time around. Kerry is no stranger to international competition, winning a bronze medal as an epeeist at the World Junior Championship in Turkey in 2002. That same year, their mother Yvonne placed third at the World Veterans Championships, making Yvonne and Kerry the first parent-child duo ever to medal concurrently at World Championships.
Domers Hit the Slopes
A Notre Dame club is making a name for itself on hills and mountains

MEGAN CONNELLY

While many Domers complain about the weather, the Notre Dame ski team couldn't be happier when the forecast calls for flurries or the dreaded lake-effect snow. The ski team may not be the biggest or most visible team on campus, but it certainly has enjoyed its own fair share of success.

“Our team has a lot of fun. We all get along really well and we're not competitive even among one another, but we push each other,” says the women's captain senior Leslie Schmidt. “We're out there doing something we love, so we're all very fortunate.”

The Irish ski team has 24 members total, split evenly with 12 guys and 12 girls. The success of the team is even more impressive, given is that the Irish don't even have a coach. However, the Irish ski team doesn't need a coach to maintain team discipline or hard work. Once the team returns from winter break, they practice every Wednesday at Swiss Valley in Michigan.

“Binge able to practice at Swiss Valley is great since we go and compete in a race league there and then, after that, they let us set the course however we want to and ski till the mountain closes,” Schmidt says.

The Notre Dame ski team is a member of the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSA). Over 150 colleges across the nation compete in races governed by the USCSA. The teams compete each weekend in January and part of February, and these weekend races lead up to regionals and then culminate with the nationals in March.

The USCSA is the only collegiate-level national sports association that has competitions between schools with varying affiliations; at any given race, the Irish team can compete against another club teams, Division I, II or III schools, junior colleges and other fully funded programs.

The USCSA awards national championships in alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and snowboarding. Notre Dame participates in the alpine races where the Irish ski both the slalom and giant slalom. Each team fields five racers, and the top three performances are calculated into the overall team score. There are 11 conferences total in the USCSA and the Irish compete in the Midwest conference's Michigan division against 37 other teams, including Michigan State, University of Michigan and Ohio State University.

This season the Notre Dame team traveled to compete at Crystal Mountain and Schuss Mountain in Michigan, as well as Searchmont, in Ontario, Canada. The divisionals were held Feb. 7 and 8 at Crystal Mountain. The women came in second overall at divisionals behind Michigan State, while the men's team came in fifth. Notre Dame took two out of the top three places in the women's division individually, with senior Leigh Hellrung coming in second overall and senior Alanna Lungren coming in third.

The regionals were held in Michigan at Marquette Mountain this year. The top three teams qualify for nationals as well as the highest-placed individual who’s not a member of the top three teams. The team placed fourth overall, one place away from qualifying for nationals. Northern Michigan won the women’s team competition, and the men’s competition was won by Michigan Tech University. The team had great individual success, however, as senior Leigh Hellrung qualified for nationals, which will be held March 1–6 in Sugarloaf, Maine.

This is the second time Hellrung has been to nationals, as the entire ski team qualified for nationals her freshman year. “Making nationals is really the last thing that I expected to happen this year, so the pressure is off,” said Hellrung. “I'm just looking to have a good time.”

Besides the time each member dedicates to the team, a fair amount of the work goes into fundraising projects, as well. Each member pays $300 yearly in dues. One of the ways that the team raises money is through T-shirt sales.

“If we sell all our T-shirts, then it works out to only being about $15 a person, so there's a lot of emphasis on selling the T-shirts!” said Hellrung.

Skiing in Indiana? The Irish have shown, from the modest beginning of the team in the 1970s to the national stage on which it currently participates, that skiing in the Midwest can be done — and very well at that.
John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics & Democracy offers a five-course minor (or concentration) for students interested in careers in print and broadcast journalism.

First step: Apply for admission to "Journalism" by noon on March 10. This class is often closed, so please apply now!

For application information, contact Lisa Yates, 147 Scholastic, or e-mail yatesl@nd.edu. For more information, call 631-7316 or visit the Associated Press/ND Scholastic office in 303 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Deadline for all submissions: Wednesday, March 17th
Gone Country
A group of friends brings the taste of country to Notre Dame

LAUREN KIEHNA

So did you hear the one about the political science major and the two engineers who started a country band? It’s no joke.

Emily Hawthorne, Jessica McQuaide Leibowitz and TJ Mathieson might seem like a strange combination of people to form a musical group, but the three seniors share a strong friendship and a deep love of music. With solid musical experience and several original songs already in their repertoire, the trio seems ready to become an important musical act on campus. Now, all they need is a band name.

All three have been interested in music since childhood and began honing their skills long before coming to Notre Dame. Leibowitz, who is the group’s lead singer, has been singing and playing the piano since she was young. “I grew up singing country,” she says. A political science major from San Antonio, Texas, she completed her first recording project at the age of 16. Since then she has been helming her own music publishing company in Nashville — Gate to Gate Music, Inc. — living and working in Nashville during the summer. “I’ve learned a lot about the business, especially the songwriting aspect,” she says.

An up-and-coming artist in the country music business, Leibowitz plans to head to Nashville full-time after graduating in May. “I’m working with a new producer,” she says, “and all three of us are working on songs to finish out my new album.” In the meantime, she has kept busy singing on campus at AcoustiCafe and sporting events.

Leibowitz’s performance of the national anthem at a campus hockey game helped to begin the formation of the group. Mathieson, a varsity Notre Dame hockey player and aerospace engineering major from Maryland, had befriended Leibowitz when they were prospective students, but hadn’t known that she was interested in music until he heard her version of the anthem. A guitar player, Mathieson also grew up in a musical environment. “My dad played in bands while I was growing up, so there were always guitars around the house,” he explains.

After gaining musical experience by playing the trumpet in high school, Mathieson became interested in the guitar and taught himself to play. His guitar, a 1963 12-string aptly named “Tallulah, the 12-String Wonder,” is a gift from his father. After hearing about Leibowitz’s interest in music, he began to set some of her original lyrics to music, and the two of them began to think about starting a musical group of their own.

Hawthorne was just the person to fill the second guitarist spot for the group. A mechanical engineering major from Ohio, she had been looking for opportunities on campus to explore her interest in music. “My mom was a piano teacher, and I’d played several instruments as a child,” she says. “I’d been looking forward to doing something musically, like this.” When Leibowitz and Mathieson asked her if she’d like to play with them, she was excited about the project, and the three began to rehearse together as a group.

On a campus where most computer speakers play Dave Matthews Band, John Mayer and the like, the group is excited about bringing their own brand of country music to the campus music scene. “It’s fun to be a little different,” Leibowitz says.

Hawthorne agrees. “You’ll be surprised how many students come out of the country ‘closet,’” Another aspect that sets the trio apart is their interest in original music. “Our songs are like a combination of Sheryl Crow and Michelle Branch,” Hawthorne notes.

Most of their original material is based on ideas from Leibowitz’s journals; Mathieson provides the music. “I’ll read a poem or something out of my journal to TJ, and he’ll come up with a really cool chord progression to accompany the words,” Leibowitz says. “We just go with the flow,” Mathieson adds. They describe their songs as thoughtful, with lyrics that capture the emotions of life. “But it’s not fluffy,” Leibowitz emphasizes.

“We’re all pretty deep thinkers,” Mathieson says. “If you listen closely to the lyrics, we think you’ll find something you can relate to.”

The energy among the three musicians is palpable as they discuss their upcoming performances. “We’re playing an hour-long opening set for a band at Legends after spring break,” Mathieson says. Leibowitz adds, “We want to have some more originals done for that performance.” The three are taking advantage of future AcoustiCafe appearances to practice their new material beforehand. Also, they plan to play as part of Best of AcoustiCafe on Feb. 26. Even though these sets include some covers, Hawthorne emphasizes that the songs still have an original spin. “Everything they hear has something original included, whether it’s a guitar part or a different melody added in. It’s not made to sound just like the recording.”

All three plan on continuing with music after graduation. “It’s definitely something I’m going to keep up with,” Hawthorne says. When Leibowitz heads to Nashville after graduation to demo some new music, she hopes that Hawthorne and Mathieson will continue to collaborate with her even as they begin their new careers. “It’s rare to find someone you can really write with and be comfortable with,” Leibowitz explains. If only they could decide on a band name. “Lately we’ve been using ‘36 Strings,’ for the combined total of all of our guitar strings. We’re still working on it,” Hawthorne laughs. “And we’re looking for a bongo player, too!” Leibowitz adds. Any bongo-playing Notre Dame students looking to join an upbeat group of country music enthusiasts: Here’s your chance.
Afraid of commitment?

Come anyway.

www.nd.edu/~vocation

Be Not Afraid!
Casa Deliziosa
Delectable Italian dining on the weekends

TRACY EVANS

The front page of the menu at Papa Joe's Casa de Pasta on Union St. in Mishawaka reveals a lot. A personal welcome to customers is steeped in tradition, but provides the pleasant warning that the restaurant is "not fast food style." So come hungry and come patient. The wait is long, but the massive portions of quality, homestyle cooking soon help the stomach forget the delay.

The Nove family opened their Italian restaurant in 1973 and have been welcoming locals, students and other pasta-lovers ever since. Shirley Nove, one of the owners, shares her vision for the business: "I searched for a specialty to offer to patrons and was reminded of my family and my background, so I decided on pasta specialties." The Italian flavor that permeates the menu follows through with homemade charm, and Nove's specialization is apparent.

Dining in Papa Joe's might feel like being transported to an evening on a bustling Italian patio. The combination of latticework, roses and leafy greenery provides an almost overwhelming den of dimly lit tables. Plenty of candlelight adds warmth to the atmosphere, however, and provides the majority of the lighting. While the sheer abundance of decoration may seem a bit over the top, whimsical umbrellas hung upside-down from the ceiling are certainly charming, unusual additions.

"We wanted to create a delightfully cozy atmosphere with a lot of red accents in every nook and cranny of the dining area," explains Nove, acknowledging the surroundings that flavor the tightly arranged clusters of tables.

The salad, served family-style with every dinner, rivals chain restaurant signatures in the unique combination of antipasti ingredients such as pepperoni, olives and cheese. Dressings conveniently can be found right on the table and sopping garlic bread sets the tone for an excellent meal.

When it comes to entrees, Papa Joe's has one rule: good food and lots of it. The menu is decidedly lopsided, as all the dishes favor pasta as the central ingredient. Whether chicken marsala, mostaccioli or mix-n-match gnocchi, the dishes are so heaped with the al dente treat that the other ingredients literally disappear. The sauteed broccoli alla siciliana is a mishmash of both red and white sauces, cheese and vegetables, which are all hidden somewhere beneath the overwhelming mound of linguini. Although the cheese sauce is a bit rich and its almond garnish is a bit out of place, somehow Papa Joe's satisfies the hungry diner.

The key is to please everyone's preferences. Nove gushes: "The menu is filled with mouthwatering combinations of vegetables, meats, pasta, seafood and sauces." While many of the ingredients appear in several dishes, a few of them seem unnecessary, like the mushrooms that frequently pop up, whether they're garnished in marsala sauce or not.

Though the food takes a long time to prepare, the attentive wait staff remains concerned with meeting the special tastes of their customers. Our waitress was even willing to combine two favorites, as well as to provide a sampling, for a specialized meal. Many of the dishes allow for substitutions and combinations of sauces, sauteed vegetables and sides of hot sausage and meatballs.

Even better than the pasta is the sauce in which it sits. Rumored to have simmered all week on the Nove family stove, the marinara is delightfully flavorful and not a bit weak or fake-tasting. The Alfredo sauce is as rich and thick as expected, almost a little too much when paired with the abundance of cheese. While pasta dishes are surely the regulars' favorites, chicken is the second most popular menu item. Selections also include veal and an underrepresented section devoted to seafood on the back of the menu.

Desserts are equally indulgent, ranging from the Italian staples of tiramisu and spumoni to a fudgy cake with plenty of ice cream toppings. Of course, most diners couldn't possibly consider a third course after such a waistline-expanding meal.

Papa Joe's provides surprisingly reasonable prices (dinners range from $11 to $16) for food that would cause even an Italian grandma to call it a molto bene effort. The long waits for food are understandable once the steaming plate hits the table. And when the bottomless pit of pasta leaves you thoroughly satisfied, only one thought remains: Thank goodness for doggie bags.
Remembrances of JPW
On navigating the pratfalls of Junior Parents Weekend … with the flu

It’s that special time of year again. The sun is peeking its head out of the clouds. The snow is starting to melt. Love is in the air. And thousands of adults are flocking to campus this very moment.

Welcome once again to Junior Parents Weekend.

For those of you unfamiliar with the tradition, an explanation is in order. As a reward for three years of enrollment in this illustrious institution, juniors (and seniors who spent their junior spring semester abroad) and their parents are invited to spend exorbitant amounts of money on absurdly fancy dinners and photo ops.

Sounds exciting, doesn’t it?

Not so much. I vividly recall the details of my own JPW experience one year ago, and let me tell you this: It was no picnic.

Dating back to those campus tours my parents took before I had even graduated high school, my mom had been avidly looking forward to this particular weekend. Don’t ask me why; I’m sure they make everything seem wondrous on those strolls about campus.

Fast-forward three years. JPW has, at long last, arrived. My parents have made it to the Bend, I’ve bought my very first tie (or maybe borrowed one of my dad’s, who knows), and we’re all set for a fantastical weekend of bonding and fun.

Except that I’ve got a crippling case of the flu. Oh, and I hate fancy dinners and stuff.

So yeah, things were not looking up for me from the get-go. And, as I have found is generally the case for a cynical pessimist like myself, things quickly went from bad to worse. Let’s take a look at the weekend’s key events and how super they were. It’ll be fun and educational, I promise!

Friday Night: The “Star-Spangled” Gala

JPW’s grand opening salvo comes in the form of the traditional “gala.” Taking up the vast majority of the Joyce Center, it features areas with dozens of themes from the tinSEL of Hollywood to the gondolas of Venice. Each area features appropriate hors d’oeuvres and bothersome attractions. Highlights: bad swing-dancing and frighteningly aggressive limbo promoters. Oh, and the hors d’oeuvres tastes like crap. On the plus side, I’m not yet too ill to walk.

Saturday Afternoon: Carroll Hall Luncheon

Nothing says, “Welcome to our dorm, the best on campus,” like lukewarm Fazoli’s and forced conversation. The most tedious half hour of my life? Quite possibly. On the plus side, the flu guarantees that I can’t taste the mediocre meal.

Saturday Night: JPW Mass and President’s Dinner

Hurray! A massive, impersonal Mass in the none-too-comfortable seating of the Joyce Center stadium! There’s nothing I love more than waiting in line for half an hour for the body of Christ. On the plus side, I had just about enough tissues to keep my airways clear enough to draw breath. But just barely.

The dinner, also in the Joyce Center, directly follows the Mass. Luckily we’ve built up something of an appetite standing in line. Unluckily, the organizers have decided to bombard us with a string of uncompelling, long-winded speakers. Oddly, 9/11 seems the topic of choice for pretty much all of them. Don’t know why. It just is.

Predictably enough, the food is awful. And only slightly above room temperature. And it’s filled with raisins. Raisins in the salad. Raisins in the dessert. There are probably raisins in the main course, but at this point I am so thoroughly diseased that I can’t taste anything at all and feel no desire to eat anyway.

At this point, it’s official: There is no plus side. My life is, at least temporarily, a living hell.

Sunday Morning: Closing Brunch

So close, and yet so far. The weekend’s final event is upon us. Too bad it’s disgustingly early in the morning. And too bad my flu has co-opted and corrupted all five senses and filled every fiber of my being with aching despair.

But hey, the brunch isn’t half bad! The juice is cold and the apple strudelly is halfway decent. And half the guests who bought tickets don’t show up, so I get four or five helpings of the dinner, which is halfway decent. Completion of the one-two punch of pleasant surprises, Mike Brey turns out to be a humorous, energetic speaker. Best of all, he keeps it short and simple, to the effect of, “Notre Dame is good and basketball is fun. Whee!”

Now, don’t all you juniors get discouraged. Word on the street has it that my opinion isn’t worth the paper it’s printed on. It could be that I just went out of my way to spew out 800 words of hateful vitriol to make up for the fact that OOB’s usual writer is a shiftless layabout.

Seriously, though. It’s 4:18 a.m. So forget everything you just read and enjoy the three-day trip into unparalleled joy that is JPW.

Suckers.
Remembrances of JPW
On navigating the pratfalls of Junior Parents Weekend... with the flu

It's that special time of year again. The sun is peeking its head out of the clouds. The snow is starting to melt. Love is in the air. And, as I have found is generally the case for a cynical pessimist like myself, things quickly went from bad to worse. Let's take a look at the weekend's key events and how super they were. It'll set for a fantastical weekend of bonding and fun.

Welcome once again to Junior Parents Weekend. For those of you unfamiliar with the tradition, an explanation is in order.

SCHOLASTIC CALENDAR

SCHOLASTIC OUT OF BOUNDS

EDITOR’S CHOICE

Spring Break

Mar. 6 – Mar. 14
Spri-i-ng Break, Yeah! Enjoy the break from classes! Fly off to some exotic locale and party like your life depends on it. Or, head home and relax with friends and family, that is, unless you are committing your break to a spring service project.

CATHARTIC

Free Food and Massages
February 23–24, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Sorin Room, LaFortune. Will also feature a raffle with exciting prizes for those of the gaming persuasion.

ATHLETIC

Siegfried Rambler Scrambler
Feb. 27 in North Dining Hall. Compete in a 19-hole miniature golf challenge with all proceeds going to research for a cure to Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Men's Basketball vs. Georgetown
Mar. 4, 7:00 p.m. JACC. Free admission with ticket booklet and student ID. The Hoyas come to Notre Dame with fab freshmen Matt Causey and Kenny Izzo, hoping to stifle Chris Thomas and the Irish attack.

HEARTWARMING

Junior Parents Weekend
February 20–22, featuring an evening gala, collegiate workshops, and brunches galore. For further information contact JPW Student Committee at (574) 631-0128.

SUSPENSEFUL

Mid-Semester Grades due March 5.
Deficiency reports to be sent home, so make sure you pull out all the stops the week of Mar. 1–5.
This past fall break, I went on an Appalachian Seminar service trip to Harlan, Ky. I spent a week there working with COAP (Christian Outreach with Appalachian People, Inc.), an organization that builds new homes for needy families. Nine other students, one alumnus and I roofed, painted and installed insulation. We had many chances to interact with the community during an experience that ranks among the best of my short college career. It was a “you had to be there” experience, and I really hope many more people get to have such a great adventure. It has inspired me to seriously consider a life of service.

If you’ve made it this far down the page, you deserve to know what else I think about when I recall my week as a stranger in a strange land. While my college chums were back home enjoying the company of their old high school cohorts, I was introducing myself to yet another group of people on campus. We didn’t really meet each other until 5:30 a.m. on that fateful day of departure. The trip officially started with a historic 11-hour car ride.

I’ve just set the scene for a thrilling adventure, but I slept most of the way down; I was running on only three hours of sleep from the night before. The longest delay on the trip came while waiting for our alum leader to meet us at a roadside Holiday Inn in Lexington. To make a long story short, we didn’t meet him there, and God knows we were scared. I hadn’t seen more trepidation since our first dorm party. Our dreams/nightmares were fulfilled when we finally got to Harlan and met up with our alum. Things settled down after a while, and we finally moved into our cozy little homeless shelter.

I would say that the week comprised the worst six nights of sleep I’ve ever had, but I’ve now woken up disoriented on enough futons to disprove that. The days started early and went till three in the afternoon. We were split up into two groups. One group spent the week roofing, while the other did odd jobs. The Great God of Probability laughed at me as the group that was randomly selected to do the odd jobs consisted of the four girls on our trip, and me. You may ask, “But James, do you not revel in the company of females, and do you not also look kindly upon a substantial girl-to-guy ratio?” Maybe I was enjoying them — until they drove the minivan through town blasting “Barbie Girl” and then got into paint-fights, and even I, the most masculine man there (note: the only guy there), joined in.

The people of Kentucky, however, apparently are suspicious of guys singing and dancing to old Disney tunes (don’t judge, you weren’t there). I spent the week ruining clothes with paint and getting fiberglass insulation in my eye. Meanwhile, the real workers gave me weird looks, and the rest of the guys enjoyed roofing.

Now, if you’ve made it this far, you deserve a bad analogy. I would like to compare my experience in Appalachia to Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie’s experience in The Simple Life. Both programs took well-off kids and submerged them in rural America in the hopes of encouraging moral and personal growth. Both were full of kooky adventures and cultural faux pas. We, however, did not have a delightfully precocious Chihuahua and a production van filled with mascara. Now some Q&A:

Q: Would you do it again?
A: Yes, no doubt in my mind, whatsoever.
Q: Do you think it made you a better person?
A: Yes, we all need to commit some of our lives to the service of others.
Q: Did you enjoy the local people?
A: Yes, from the hard-working boss to the kind Canadian carpenter to the hilarious bigot, all the people I worked with in Appalachia were the most generous and inspirational I have met while in college.
Q: Do you apologize for bringing Paris Hilton into this article?
A: Yes ... yes I do.

I’d like to thank all of you who went on the trip with me, especially if I didn’t give you that impression earlier. I have a great deal of respect for you all, and you helped show me what happens when you’re a Barbie girl, but not in a Barbie world.
As Senior VP of Financial Planning at a major movie studio you could:

O.K. a $93 million budget

Hire 7,500 extras

Rent 273 palm trees
(and 1 big fan to make them sway)

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Van Morrison

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