SARCASTIC

NOTRE DAME'S STUDENT MAGAZINE

SPECIAL REPORT:
ABSTINENCE FANATICISM
SWEETS THE COUNTRY!

BUSTED!
Profiling ND Security Cops
All-Stars in animated form

EXCLUSIVE:
The man behind the movement
Up close and personal with campus C-list celeb Craig Smordjian
Mike Birbiglia
Friday, March 30 at Legends @ 10pm
FREE with ND/SMC/HCC ID

A Comedy Central Top 5 Comic to see
Performed on Letterman

"I used to think I was a little unstable until I met every girl I've ever dated."

Battle of the Bands
Now Accepting Applications

Bands MUST turn in recorded material (on CD, original or cover songs to the Student Union Board Office (201 LaFortune) along with a contact person and email address by Friday, April 6th. The submission should also contain the band name and a list of all its members. The Battle of the Bands will be held Friday, April 27th at Legends.
# News

### FIT CONFERENCE
Jennifer Wulf
FIT is hosting the Undergraduate Midwest Film Studies Conference, the first of its kind at Notre Dame.

### TRIPPED UP
Molly Slavin
Student satisfaction with the Office of International Studies is not particularly high. Who is complaining and why?

# Culture

### FINE ARTS
Sarah Barrett
*Scholastic* previews the BFA and MFA theses exhibit, going on this weekend.

### I ♥ HIP-HOP
Maggie Condit
Hip-hop gets revamped at the Black Cultural Arts Council Fashion Show, helping children and enticing potential students.

# Sarcastic

### SCHOLASTIC STAFF
Nothing is sacred in *Scholastic*’s yearly farce on all that makes Notre Dame go ‘round.

# Sports

### A DREAM DEFERRED
Marques Camp
*Scholastic*’s Assistant Sports Editor analyzes this year’s Notre Dame hockey team.

# Humor

### I GOT 99 PROBLEMS ...
Elisa Suarez
The humor columnist waxes poetic on all things that chagrin, large and small.

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| Staff Editorial | 4 |
| Checking the Email | 8 |
| Spring Break Service | 12 |
| Campus Chatter | 14 |
| Sports Notes | 24 |
| Humor Notes | 29 |
| Gipper | 30 |
| Final Word | 32 |
DON'T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY...

Life at Notre Dame is absurd. Our university is like its own small nation, with strange local customs and a fanatical state religion — two if you count Catholicism. It's amazingly easy to take the things that happen at ND too seriously, as can be seen in the amplified stress level of, well, everybody here. Even the squirrels look tense. Relax, Notre Dame. Our time here is too short to be freaking out all the time. Deep, calming breaths. Kick back and laugh a little. For our yearly Sarcastic issue, our outgoing seniors take a hilarious jab at some of the things that make Notre Dame unique... so frustratingly unique. But hey, we love it anyway, right? We hope you enjoy it. And like what happens here at Notre Dame, don't take it too seriously.

With this issue, we must sadly say goodbye to our outgoing seniors. We already miss working with them and appreciate all the hard work and long hours they put into Scholastic over the past four years. Thank you. We packed this issue with great content, and plenty more is on the way in the year to come. Read on!

Daric Snyder, Interim Editor in Chief
Men of Notre Dame…
Is God calling you? Join us.

Think you might have a vocation to serve as a priest or brother?

vocation.nd.edu

Questions? Call 1-6385
Less is More

Students, not OIT, falling behind technology curve

Though many thought the installation of wireless Internet and cable television in the dorms was long overdue, the Office of Information Technologies' (OIT) effort to place these services in the dorms was a substantial undertaking that went relatively smoothly. Some students resisted the related loss of landlines in the dorms, but, according to OIT, less than 75 students actually opted for a room phone this year. So, what's the next campus upgrade?

OIT is now in the process of adjusting computer clusters to the needs of students. Students who use the Mendoza Hall lab may have been surprised to find that recently a large fraction of the lab's computers were taken out for the reorganization of the lab. OIT officials explain that the change reflects student usage patterns, as only a quarter or less of the lab's machines were in use the majority of the time. A similar change will take place when the Hesburgh Library cluster is moved from the 2nd to the 1st floor in the near future. Other labs may receive the same sort of treatment depending on the success of these changes.

Any student who has ever been late for class after getting stuck in line at a computer cluster will wonder why OIT would be removing computers, but the change makes sense. Campus computer labs were implemented when students were unlikely to have personal computers constantly connected to the Internet. While students may pack the labs between classes to print papers or check e-mail, it is rare to find a general-use lab full at any other time. It is now possible for students to print directly from their own computers. It simply does not make economic sense to pack labs with expensive, high-end, electricity-draining computers when they sit unused most of the time. Mendoza's lab was reorganized to provide better workspaces for group collaboration. Ideas like the new Mendoza lab and the quick-access computers outside of the DeBartolo Hall cluster are a more efficient use of space and computers. In time, no one will miss the bloated labs. Today's packed labs are tomorrow's landlines.
Coming Soon

Notre Dame to host first-ever undergraduate film conference

*Jennifer Wulf*

To date, the Film, Television and Theatre (FTT) department has not received a significant amount of outside attention, but on April 13 and 14 that will change. On those two days, Notre Dame will host the first Undergraduate Midwest Film Studies Conference.

The conference signals the rise of more widespread recognition of Notre Dame as a college of the arts in addition to academics and athletics. Students from 10 different colleges will participate, and there is talk of the conference becoming an annual event to circulate between schools.

This is the first film conference at Notre Dame. Even though the university has hosted film festivals before, a conference does not feature films but rather highlights academic papers about films. Associate film professor Pamela Wojcik says, “As far as I know it is the only thing of its kind in the country.” This type of forum is typically reserved for graduate students and professors, but, thanks to the collaboration of Wojcik and her students, undergraduates will soon be able to test their skills as well.

“To have the opportunity to do this as an undergrad is really getting a step ahead of the game,” senior English and FTT major Jonathon Retartha says. Retartha participated in a conference in New Hampshire that was mainly composed of the work of graduate students and professors. The paper he presented at the conference was a re-worked version of a five-page paper that he wrote his freshman year.

“I was nervous. I didn’t know how I would be treated because undergrads don’t usually participate in conferences,” Retartha says. But his fears were soon allayed. “Everybody was very encouraging, so I felt totally comfortable.” Retartha’s experience was the inspiration for Notre Dame’s own conference. “I was taken unaware and found myself doing something I never thought I would do,” says Wojcik. She accompanied Retartha on his trip and, with her class, came up with the idea after discussing Retartha’s presentation at the conference in New Hampshire.

The conference will consist of two days and about 30 presentations total. They will be given by undergraduate students from Notre Dame and other Midwestern schools including Ohio State University, University of Southern Illinois and University of Tennessee and will take place in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Lectures will be limited to 20 minutes per student, which is equivalent to about 10 pages of written text. Clips and stills are also allowed to demonstrate points in a student’s argument.

A wide variety of topics will be covered during the forum, ranging from national identity to children in horror films to rap videos. “I think that in general it will raise awareness of the FTT department and show that it really is a powerful force on campus,” junior FTT and anthropology major Breana Leader says. “Notre Dame isn’t really well-known as a film department, and by inviting other schools, it gives name recognition to the Notre Dame FTT department.”
For many Notre Dame students, the opportunity to spend a summer, a semester or a year abroad seems almost too good to be true. Each fall, hundreds of students work hard to submit well-polished applications to the Office of International Studies (OIS) in hopes of being accepted as one of the lucky few who will have the opportunity to spend time in a foreign country. Many are thrilled with the results of their hard work and are satisfied with the way the process worked out for them.

But what about the students for whom the process did not end favorably? When students are not selected or are placed into a semester other than the one they requested, OIS gives them no specific explanations as to why.

Claudia Kselman, director of OIS, explains that everything on a student’s application is considered during the intensely competitive selection process. This includes a student’s GPA, essays, statement of purpose, letters of recommendation from professors and rector and, for some programs, coursework relating to the country in question. She also says that, while it varies by program, a student’s major might play a very large role in the process. The office sets quotas for how many students from each college can attend a particular program. But Kselman says there are no absolute “hard and fast rules,” as the office tries its best to respond to students from all of the colleges, and in order to do so, the quotas and guidelines must remain fluid.

A sophomore, on the condition of anonymity, expressed her frustration with OIS. She is an Italian minor who wanted to go to Rome in the spring of 2008 — for reasons other than football season. Her sister’s wedding was scheduled for the fall of 2007, and she is the maid of honor. She says, “I made it very clear in my application that this wedding was very important to me. When I got my notification letter, I had gotten into Rome, but in the fall. I didn’t understand why someone like me, who had a valid reason for needing to go a specific semester, had been left out in the cold.” The date of her sister’s wedding was recently changed to the summer of 2007, so she won’t miss it while she is abroad. Nevertheless, she says, “I’m ok with going in the fall now that it won’t be a problem, but I’m still angry that they put me into a semester with the knowledge that there is no way it would work for me. I am just confused as to why the office makes the decisions it does.”

When asked about why students might get bumped from one program to another, Kselman says that it has been historically easier to get into most programs for the fall semester rather than the spring — mainly because students don’t want to miss football season. She added that in the last few years, the office has been telling students that if they really want a specific program, they should apply for the fall semester. Consequently, there has been
a significant rise in applications for studying abroad in the fall — such that the number of fall applicants has become equal to or, in some cases, surpassed the amount of applicants for the spring. Because of the differences among programs and the relative amount of people it needs to take from each college, OIS may shift students to a semester different than the one they requested — not because they are not qualified to be in the "more competitive" semester, but because a balance must be obtained among the different colleges.

Additionally, OIS offers a great deal of guidance to help students select the right program for them. Kselman says she hopes that with the many resources available to students, they can apply for the semester and program that best suits them and thus mitigate any disappointment. There are descriptions of each site on nd.edu/ois. OIS also sponsors informational meetings each fall in order to better acquaint potential applicants with the different programs. Kselman hopes that by attending these meetings and talking to returning students, the applicants can get a sense of each program and discover if it is the right fit for them.

While many students have legitimate frustrations and confusions about the office and its policies, the fact remains that, just like gaining admission to Our Lady's university, acceptance into Notre Dame's study abroad program is a highly competitive process which necessarily involves comparison of one applicant to the next. Kselman says that OIS must make difficult decisions.

And when students are selected, the process is hardly over. OIS arranges orientation meetings with abroad-students-to-be to inform them on further requirements, immunizations, paperwork and other arrangements they will need to make, as they must quickly make decisions regarding acceptance, internships and other opportunities. This too can be stressful for anxious future travelers. Kselman suggests that the OIS Web site can help these students find what they need before breaking loose from South Bend. But once all the tedious paperwork has been completed, they can begin their exciting journeys across the globe.
Filtering the Junk
Investigating a campus rumor

*Sarah Barnes

In an age when we are constantly connected to one another and everything imaginable is at our fingertips via the Internet, it is easy to be blinded by convenience. Yet from time to time, something highlights the importance of being careful about Internet use. Much like concerns over privacy on facebook.com, murmuring around campus warn students to perhaps be cautious about e-mails sent to and from their Notre Dame addresses.

The rumor goes something like this: When Notre Dame switched to the Barracuda spam filtering system in 2005, the Office of Information Technologies (OIT) set the system up to detect certain key words and phrases (like "liquor," "beer pong," or "fake ID") and set those e-mails aside for investigation by the office of Residence Life and Housing (ResLife). If the e-mail hits a student’s inbox with a "[SPAM]" flag in the subject line, it may have been read by curious university officials. It is a sensational story, but is there any truth to it?

First, it makes sense to check the Acceptable Use Policy that students agree to when setting up their Notre Dame network account. According to the policy, "computing resources may be used for legal purposes only." Impermissible use includes posting or sending material that is immoral, unethical, dishonest, damaging to the reputation of the university or inconsistent with the mission of the university. Specifically, posting or sending obscene, pornographic, sexually explicit or offensive material is deemed impermissible. For student academic matters, decisions of whether use violates university policy are made by the Office of the Provost. For student non-academic matters, the Office of Student Affairs makes such decisions. Students caught breaking the law using Notre Dame’s network may also be susceptible to criminal prosecution.

More importantly, the Acceptable Use Policy states that the university reserves the right to inspect and examine any electronic content on any Notre Dame communications system, computing resource or other electronic device at any time. In short, university officials have the authority to read student e-mails. But do they actually use it?

Simply put: no. According to officials at OIT and ResLife, university administrators do not read student e-mails.

Assistant Provost of OIT Dewitt Latimer says, “the spam filtering system is used to protect students from the outside, not for monitoring behavior.” Key words in e-mails do not “set off” the filtering system. Rather, the system tags messages based on how they were sent and who sent them. Any mail sent by someone on the frequently-updated list of spam senders is caught by the spam filtering system. Additionally, Latimer says that OIT does not monitor internal e-mails. Instead, they are concerned with examining external mail sent to members of the Notre Dame community.

Director of ResLife Jeff Shoup says, “The OIT office has the ability to look at individual e-mails, but with tens of thousands of e-mails coming and going every day, it is really not a practical issue.”

While the spam filter, which sometimes catches personal e-mails too, may have fueled this rumor, this is not the first time it has emerged. Two years ago, before the current Barracuda spam filtering system was implemented, Scholastic ran a story confirming with ResLife that student e-mails are left undisturbed.

Despite these denials and reassurances, urban legends persist in circulating through campus, leaving students with a sense of paranoia. After all, you never know when ResLife could be watching.
WHAT ARE **YOU** DOING TONIGHT?
MAY WE MAKE A SUGGESTION?

**TIEMPO LIBRE**
FRI, MAR 30 AT 8 PM

**RAVI SHANKAR**
THU, APR 12 AT 7:30 PM

**PARSONS DANCE COMPANY**
THU, APR 26 AT 8 PM
FRI, APR 27 AT 8 PM

HTTP://PERFORMINGARTS.ND.EDU
FOR TICKETS CALL 574.631.2800
Each spring the clouds of ceramic dust clear up a bit and the paint stains are washed away from the wardrobes of senior art, art history and design majors as they end their grueling late-night hours in Riley Hall. After finally completing their Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) theses, the notorious "Rileyites" celebrate the coming of spring in more ways than one. With their elder counterparts, the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) candidates, they will display their mastery of various mediums on April 1 in the Annual BFA and MFA Candidates' Thesis Exhibition in the Snite Museum of Art. The theses will be showcased in the O'Shaughnessy Galleries and Milly and Fritz Kaeser Mestrovic Studio Galleries until Commencement on May 20. The collection of works will include a variety of forms: from installations, videos and industrial and graphic design projects to more traditional studio art forms such as paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, ceramics and sculptures.

As the culmination of their undergraduate or graduate careers, the artists' theses are the products of intricate thought and planning and the implementation of skills and techniques they have acquired during their academic careers. Each piece demands reflection as it puts forth challenging and often provocative subject matter. This year's collection will include themes of self-discovery, spirituality, sexuality and contemporary social issues, among others.

For the artists, their theses represent the fusion of their artistic aptitude with their identities and social interests. BFA candidate in graphic design Graham Ebetsch articulates how his thesis is saturated with meaning. "It ties in bits of things I have learned through my years. But more than anything, it is one step closer in the long journey to becoming a professional designer," he says.

Ebetsch's thesis is an installment of nine life-size figures from various ethnic backgrounds framed within the context of immigration. "The installment has an intended message about humanizing immigration. It is meant to have people, regardless of their political or ethical views on immigration, give it a second thought," he says. Ebetsch decided to focus his thesis on immigration because of its place at the forefront of the United States' current political situation. Like politics, the message and medium of his thesis evolved from the research and prototype phase to its completion. "The form of it has changed drastically from a poster series, to a book, to finally the installment. The message also evolved over this time. After it became apparent to me how fierce a topic immigration is, my message became less preachy," he says. "I wanted to make sure to give a more fair assessment and the chance for it to be appreciated by a wider audience."

Ebetsch's digitally-rendered installment is one of many works that examine controversial issues. BFA candidate in graphic design Mac Russell's thesis, "L'Ascensione" (The Ascension), is a photographic altarpiece that consists of three images — Jesus and Mary ascending to heaven in the two exterior images, gazing benevolently upon a homosexual couple in the central image. "The piece to me is essentially just asking people to rethink their stance on sexuality and the natural beauty of it. For me, God loves you regardless of your actions ... [something I took] most from my Catholic upbringing," he says. "I would hope that [my audience] would go back and re-think their views on sexuality within the church and think of the relationship between sexuality and Catholicism as a much more intricate and beautiful thing, regardless of whether they think homosexuality is right or wrong."

As a graphic design major, Russell's chosen medium of communication is photography. For Meaghan Fitzpatrick, another BFA candidate in graphic design, film was the medium that she felt was...
most appropriate for her thesis, “OLR” (Online Relationships). Inspired by her curiosity about Internet communication, Fitzpatrick chose to create a didactic video “to reveal the positives and negatives of the Internet,” she says. “I hope that my audience walks away from this video and thinks about the ways in which they use the Internet to communicate to people.”

The problem of communication in society was both important and challenging for many MFA and BFA candidates, as were the questions raised by that problem’s aesthetic representation. One BFA candidate in printmaking, Meeg Conroy, struggled greatly with this feat. Her thesis, “The Heartbeat of Humanity,” was first inspired by her time in India on her semester around the world with St. Mary’s College. “With all of the things I saw, it was really discouraging to realize how little people cared,” she says. The next semester, in a global crime and corruption lecture, she was intrigued by a discussion on drug trafficking and poaching and asked herself, “What is that [it that] prompted the few who tried to stop such enormous issues? What pumps the heartbeat of humanity?”

not until she heard spoken-word artist Saul Williams perform in Washington Hall that she found her answer. “People with a passion — with something they believe in, regardless of a paycheck, pump the heartbeat of humanity,” she says.

Conroy’s thesis developed from there, and she took off running the next summer interviewing individuals. Conroy’s “Heartbeat of Humanity” took the form of a large-scale book (of sorts), she says. A seven paneled, 6.5’x2.5’x2” accordion-fold book to be exact. Each panel is carved with text and blind contour portraits of her interview subjects from the summer. Alongside her physical work will be ‘zines for observers to take that will illuminate the lives of the people she has carved into the panels.

MFA candidate in photography April Wilkins traced her question about the purpose of existence in her thesis, “Submerged.” Transcending established mediums of photography, Wilkins takes her subject underwater to explore the unpredictability and distortion inherent in liquid form. “I photograph people underwater to capture the chance physical and psychological effects that arise and to provoke the disengagement of self-representation that can be reached through them,” she says. “There’s a deep human desire to understand life and death, to assign some meaning for existing. This search for meaning is intriguing and necessary, and by searching for it, we ourselves are creating it. This leaves everything open to amazing possibility.”

The themes of eternal possibility and distorted perception pervade the MFA exhibition. Stepping beyond reality and into fairy-tale world, MFA candidate Steve Foutch challenges perception and predictability. His printmaking thesis, “The Pinnacle,” represents a multi-faceted realm of childhood tales. Inspired by his upbringing in southwestern Illinois, Foutch juxtaposes a skull-laden door to hell with a flowery, mirrored door to heaven. On the surrounding walls there is a gigantic figure of the devil smoking a cigarette and vignettes of mystical, occultist and scenes of debauchery. This image is challenged by the oppositional figure of Boone — the representation of Huckleberry Finn, a rural, good-natured, yet socially-conditioned boy — surrounded by vignettes of log cabins, elderly women and farmers. Foutch insists, quoting Mark Twain in “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,” “Persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished; persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot.”

“When I remember my time at Notre Dame, I won’t remember the football games, Touchdown Jesus, or even the Golden Dome. I’ll remember Riley Hall,” Meeg Conroy says.

Admission to the Snite Museum is free of charge and open to the public.
Service and Sunshine

While students take a break, some give back

• Courtney Ball

Walking to class on the Monday following spring break, one could not help but notice something very different about the student body. The exhausted, winter-pale students had been replaced with excited individuals, some sporting impressive new tans. After several stressful weeks of midterm projects and exams, lounging on the beach and soaking up sun was a well-deserved reward for many. However, not all students spent their spring breaks at tropical locations. Some sacrificed a week of warmth to participate in various service project trips, and others simply went home for the week.

Those students who did travel to more traditional spring break destinations found them rewarding. Freshman Jackie Spengler went on a cruise to many exotic locations including the Bahamas. “It was unique in that I think it is probably the last real family vacation we are ever going to have,” Spengler says. Freshman Duda Cardoso went to Saint Petersburg, Fla., for spring break with a group of her friends. “It was the perfect time to relax and spend some time with friends away from the sometimes overwhelming and stressful school setting,” Cardoso says.

Many Notre Dame students were involved in Appalachia Seminar and other service trips over spring break that proved equally rewarding in their own way for participants. “I definitely think service trips are something everyone should do at least once at Notre Dame. It was a hands-on way to see that you are actually physically helping people,” freshman Chris Tillett says. Tillett worked at Nazareth Farm in West Virginia over spring break. Volunteers at Nazareth Farm woke up every morning around 6 a.m. and completed repair work on houses in the area, including painting, dry-walling and deck construction.

“They focused on the four cornerstones of prayer, community, service and simplicity,” freshman Paula Olivieri, who also visited Nazareth Farm, says. This simplicity was achieved by eliminating cell phones, watches and make-up and allowing a maximum of three showers during the trip. Despite these restrictions, volunteers enjoy the experience. “I made some really great friends. In just five or six days we became really close, and it was surprising to see that I have had some friends here [at Notre Dame] for months, and I wouldn’t even say I am as close to them as I am with the girls and guys that I spent that week with,” Olivieri says.

Senior Eddie Kane also participated in a service trip, spending his spring break in Appalachia cleaning up, building where needed and interacting with the people of the Appalachian mountain range. He feels that it impacted the way he thinks of the pressures in his life. “It makes you think twice about how you’re always stressed out at school and helps put it all into perspective,” he says.

For those who wanted less grunt-work and a more educational focus, Sacred Heart Parish offered an alternative site. Freshmen Joy Hwang and Joe DeMott volunteered at the Sacred Heart Elementary School through Sacred Heart Parish in West Virginia. “Everyone that I knew told me Appalachia was so much fun, and I wanted to do a service project, so I went,” Hwang says. They helped with the parish’s annual spaghetti dinner, serving almost 6,000 plates as well as assisting in the classroom and playing with the children at recess. “It wasn’t all work, and the work that we did was constructive and generally fun. We got to go for a couple of hikes in the foothills and play games,” DeMott says.

The trips also provided the students with the opportunity for spiritual growth. Hwang and DeMott both commented on the Sacred Heart region’s negative perception of Catholicism and how Notre Dame volunteers attempted to change it. “Part of our mission there was to show that there are responsible, hardworking and intelligent Catholic youth who are socially conscious and who really have a passion for their faith,” says DeMott. Olivieri and Tillett encountered the opposite at Nazareth Farm, where attitudes toward Catholicism were positive. “The retreat atmosphere surprised me. There were daily prayers and a lot of focus on personal reflection,” Tillett says.

Whether students spent the break working with their hands, playing with kids, bonding with their families or lying on the beach, spring break served as a hard-earned reprieve from tests, papers and projects. Now that they are back on campus, students can once again focus on school, only maybe this time with a better tan.
**Maggie Condit**

As an inquisitive prospective student, sophomore Sade Murphy attended the annual fashion show sponsored by the Black Cultural Arts Council. The show’s display of dancing, acting and modeling not only entertained Murphy but helped convince her that Notre Dame was the right college for her. “I was impressed because it takes a lot of work to put on a show like that, and even faculty members were involved in the performance. It gave me a sense of the community we have here at Notre Dame and how the faculty really cares about the students,” Murphy says.

This year the 30th Annual Black Cultural Arts Council Fashion Show takes place on March 31 at the Century Center. Once again, it showcases the talent of the Notre Dame community, incorporating St. Mary’s College (SMC) students, Notre Dame faculty and local performers. Performers will model the latest fashions donated by local and New York retail stores in dances and skits centered around the theme “I ♥ Hip-Hop.” Unlike traditional modeling, the show tells a story, expressing various aspects of the black community. “Hip-hop has had a great impact on not only music and fashion but on the overall culture of the African-American community,” senior director Jason Laws says.

The first part of the show covers the gradual progression of hip-hop during the ’80s and ’90s. The second part covers aspects of hip-hop culture in movie clips, music videos and interviews with students around campus about their personal experiences. Brightly-colored clothing and music by artists ranging from Salt ‘n’ Peppa to Kanye West help demonstrate the impact of hip-hop on American culture.

SMC junior Rocky Krivda saw a facebook.com advertisement for the fashion show and was interested in the mix of fashion, diversity and pageantry it promised. She was one of 35 students who tried out and made the cut. Krivda has had a great deal of experience in performing, but she says this fashion show has really made an impact on her. “Putting on this show has been one of the most rewarding experiences,” Krivda says. “The personalities of each of the models and directors make the show what it is. The directors are great leaders and are positive and professional in all they do.”

The directors of this year’s show include Laws, Keyanna Hartley, Brittany Flint, Michelle Clayborne and DeAnna Colvin. They have worked together with the Black Cultural Arts Council, which sponsors various multicultural events throughout the year, including Black Images and the Blak Koffee House. Performer Amber Travis says, “The practicing and planning has been time consuming but fun because there is a family atmosphere between everyone in the show.”

While showcasing the talent and fashion of the performers, this year’s show will raise money for Touching Tiny Lives, a non-profit organization committed to the care of children with HIV/AIDS in Lesotho, Africa. Over Spring Visitation Weekend, prospective minority students and current students are encouraged to attend both the fashion show and Latin Expressions to support the diversity and talent of the Notre Dame community.
SAFETY IN NUMBERS DEPT.
THE SAFEWALK ESCORTS

It's all in a day's work, out there on the mean streets of Notre Dame," Lawrence Denson, junior finance major and SafeWalk Escort extraordinaire, says as he sits in LaFortune waiting for his next call. "When I hear 'Thank you for SafeWalking me,' it makes it all worth it ... it makes it all worth it."

Lawrence and his partner, junior mechanical engineering major Mike McConnell, are part of SafeWalk. They make sure that everyone gets home safely late at night. The group was started about 15 years ago after a rash of rapes on campus spurred several large men to post their phone numbers on fliers in case any women wanted a walk home. The group was so popular that NDSP absorbed it, making the SafeWalk Escort team a part of the Notre Dame Safety Department. They now are SafeWalk, an escorting group within NDSP.

Lawrence and Mike spend their Monday nights making themselves available to anyone on campus who needs someone to walk him or her home. And even though they joke around, they take their jobs very seriously. When I caught up with them last Monday, they were seated in LaFortune with their SafeWalk badges proudly displayed, ready for a call to come in at any moment. They carry walkie-talkies on their 8:30 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. shift and maintain constant communication with NDSP in the event that someone needs an escort. Together, the two men represent six years of combined SafeWalk experience ("We ain't new to this, we true to this," Lawrence says), with stories ranging from the mundane to the extraordinary.

On some Fridays before football games they are assigned to "Stadium Duty," which means that they spend their shift in the pressbox, guarding the field from intruders. One eventful evening, they radioed in to NDSP with four separate groups of prowlers. Mike even had to chase some troublemakers across the field to put an end to their tomfoolery. NDSP makes the arrests, but the SafeWalk Escorts take great pride in "protecting the Notre Dame tradition," Lawrence says.

But not every night involves hot pursuits of stadium intruders. They usually average one call per night, though no one called during our talk in LaFortune. Mike and Lawrence have noticed that the number of calls go up markedly after a call to NDSP Crime Report, with the majority of calls coming from graduate students. Mike estimates that he has done the most walks from Decio Hall to various parking lots or to Fischer Graduate Residences.

They have never been frightened in the least on their walks around campus; knowing that NDSP has a response time of less than 30 seconds anywhere on campus puts them at ease. They are not trained in Kung Fu since SafeWalk is a peaceful activity. "If approached, we'd just walk away or say that we've already called for backup," Mike says.

SafeWalk Escorts are not vigilantes roaming campus looking for a fight. "It's more of a 'safety in numbers' kind of thing," Lawrence says. Most of their rounds are uneventful, although Mike did catch a Peeping Tom crouched outside of a girls' dorm once.

They do not always walk females, either. Although most calls do come from women, Lawrence and Mike have each walked men home — one a former SafeWalk Escort with a broken leg who wanted to catch up on old times. And despite popular belief, Escorts are not always men. They both remembered a very petite but strong woman who was part of the SafeWalk team their freshman year.

"There are about 20 SafeWalkers right now, and six patrol every night," Mike says. They spend their shifts in "accessible places" like LaFortune or other 24-hour spaces. They say they each have been approached and asked if they were on SafeWalk, but their offers of a walk home were denied with embarrassed giggles each time.

"There's no reason to be embarrassed," Mike says. "There's no fraternizing on the walks." They both say that the walks involve timid conversation at first, but their skills in various forms of small talk put the caller at ease as quickly as possible. After hearing that, I worked up my courage to ask for a walk home.

As we left LaFortune, Mike radioed the walk in to NDSP so they could keep track of him. What was usually a rather lonely walk through a nighttime campus turned out to be full of small talk, and I felt very safe all the way home.

— Kate Dresser
sometimes when you see a lot of text in a magazine ad your first reaction is to read it. this isn’t going to be one of those times. this is just the ad for WSND-FM. sure, you might just say radio is old school, but so is chuck norris. give it a chance. now think about it, where else can you find a radio station that greets you with CLASSICAL music in the morning, go to classes, come back at night, and what is playing? nocturne, the place to find new college ROCK. follow me here, i have a feeling jeff tweedy of wilco (are you still reading?) and bach would’ve probably been friends. and that is what the SOUND is all about. all you need to do for musical awesomeness is find 88.9 FM on your radio, and take off the knobs, because everything is in one place. but wait, there’s more. NEWS? SPORTS? JAZZ? CELTIC? BLUES? you ask? we have those too. so what are you waiting for? TUNE IN.
The Joys of Abstaining
(a day in the life of a renegade senator)

plenty of time
to make copies

so many points
to address at student gov't

my girlfriend
believes in abstaining too

I abstain from alcohol...

... and you should too

Sharro? No, my good sir. Do not tempt me!
Addicted to Nicotine?

Try Kyle McOrnery's new and improved herbal cigarettes.

100% Natural to achieve that perfect Notre Dame alternate state of being.

Introducing Uncle Charlie's Malt Liquor

250 Proof!

Distilled 4 times from my local South Bend still to give you that special blackout Irish buzz

Uncle Charlie says, "Listen fellas, my $&*! new product is so @#$%^&*! good you'll $!@%^&* flip $%&!@! when you try it! I s*** you not!"
That's right, boy ... just pour it all out ... but do it slow ...
You know, as a member of Notre Dame Security Cops, I do a lot of public events — church picnics, talking to grade-schoolers, addressing Women’s Leagues, things like that. Everywhere I go, I always get the same question. People ask “Don’t you get scared chasing criminals every day for a living?” and “Isn’t it dangerous to serve as a member of a police force in a place as fierce as Notre Dame?”

Do you know what I say when they ask me these questions? Do you know what I do when they ask me if this is a dangerous job? I stand straight, wipe the spit off my chin, look them in the eye and say, “You’re damn right it is.” Then all the children burst into applause.

I remember the first time I really got into the s** out there, out in the big-time game. You think that your training in the cadet academy will prepare you for everything, but in reality, there’s only so much you can cover in those six hours.

It was a warm November day. A warm November Friday, as fate would have it. I was making my rounds past D2 when I caught the perps out of the corner of my eye. Three of them, walking in tight formation — Caucasian, about 5’10”, 150 lbs. each. They might have had guns; I had no way of being sure. One thing did tip me off though. They had backpacks — no, not backpacks, huge hiking packs. A bead of sweat dripped down from under my cap as the wheels turned in my head. My cop intuition told me that no good guy would be coming back from a camping trip on a Friday afternoon — something was going down.

I called for backup and shouted out to them. They pretended they didn’t hear me and started walking a little faster. That’s just what Scarface would have done, I thought to myself — there was every likelihood that these punks were cop-killers, but hey, I had a community to protect.

Getting a bead on the perps, I kicked my ride into high gear. The 4-Wheeler handled the curb, no problem. Before these crumb-bums knew it, they were looking at yours truly — six feet, two inches of Officer Butch Fox, staring them down from the seat of my ride, something I hope I never run into in a dark alley. I called for more backup and decided I was going to give these lowlifes a lesson they’d never forget. “All right, bags on the ground, NOW!”

They started to put their bags down — put them down a little too quickly if you know what I mean.

“Slowly.” They knew who was boss now.

“So, you guys wanna tell me what you’ve got here? Practicing for Santa Claus tryouts?” (Thought of that line on the spot.)

“Sorry officer, my friends and I just have some beer here. Two of us are 21, and we know tha—”

“Any of you kids 21?” I wasn’t about to listen to them try to play their mind games with me.

“Um, yeah, we just said that. Listen, you can have the beer, could we ple—”

“You might want to learn a thing or two about shutting your trap, joy boy.”

The backup wasn’t showing up, and I was outnumbered. I knew I had to play it cool or it was my ass.

All right, here’s what we’re gonna do, we’re gonna sit here and pour these beers out, one at a time, and then you’re gonna deal with the consequences of breaking the law.”

“Um, actually I don’t think we broke any law, officer. Like I said, I’m 21, and I—”

“LISTEN GOON! You might go on to be some big-shot lawyer, but until then, I’ll tell you what the rules are around here,” I said as I shined my flashlight right in his face. It wasn’t that dark out yet, so it might not have looked like it was on, but they knew I meant business.

They kept their mouths shut as I had them pour out the beers on the ground, one by one. We drowned a lot of plants, but that was peanuts compared to the number of lives these maniacs might have taken had they had their way with those twelve-packs of Red Dog. I wrote them up and filed a report, but the very next week I saw them walking around campus, as free as the day they were born. As a cop, the revolving door of the ResLife system can make you sick. I know the type, though. I know they’ll plot something again. And I’ll be there waiting, the mounted officer of justice, ready to ride them down. Over any terrain.
Abandoning all attempts at humility

OMG, OMG! I think I have found the secret to the meaning of journalism!

After a long night jumping out of bed at 4 a.m., sharp and completing my morning routine before going to a meeting of self-obsessed coterie of truth-seekers who know that the power of the written word is tantamount to that of God Himself. Even now, as I envision the impending power and beauty that will characterize my forthcoming prose, peace be upon it, my fingers shake with anticipation of the fruits of my written creation. Ahh, there it is! That preceding sentence! See what I mean? It's so well-written and so grammatical! And judging by the queasy feeling in my stomach, it implies that I have once again proven that I am a true gift to college journalism, peace be upon it.

Yeah, with writing ability like that (and mind you, haven't even seen me copyedit a sports article about SEPATION SUNDAY), I figure, what's the use of pretending to have any sense of humility? It's such a drag on my participation in the general society. According to sources present at the episode, I was born with it, my fingers shake with anticipation of the fruits of my written creation. Ahm, there it is! That preceding sentence! See what I mean? It's so well-written and so grammatical! And judging by the queasy feeling in my stomach, it implies that I have once again proven that I am a true gift to college journalism, peace be upon it.

So why not say, “Oh S***, dammit (wasn’t the placement of that semi-colon perfect?!).” Therefore, I think I'll abandon all pretensions to humility forever and never reconsider my decision. Oh yeah, did I mention my super-duper THRILLED about this?

The opinion expressed in this column is my own; the newspaper disclaims any responsibility for it.

The Delusionally Independent Newspaper

The Musical Journalist

HALL - Last Saturday night during Welsh Family Hall's annual spring episode.

By JINGLEHELMER DOMER

The Musical Journalist

OAK ROOM, SOUTH DINING HALL - Last Saturday night during the annual spring formal, Maj. Julie O'Connor collapsed in a chair near the refreshments and proceeded to brake down and weep. She'd been eating her way around the hall, with hands outstretched in search of something good, and the realization that there is something better than that. I figure, what's the use of pretending to have any sense of humility? It's such a drag on my participation in the general society. According to sources present at the episode, I was born with it, my fingers shake with anticipation of the fruits of my written creation. Ahm, there it is! That preceding sentence! See what I mean? It's so well-written and so grammatical! And judging by the queasy feeling in my stomach, it implies that I have once again proven that I am a true gift to college journalism, peace be upon it.
MARCH 29, 1977

THE OBSCURER
The Delusionally Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's with Crosswords and Comics... now for two during their 45-minute play-date. "She sure seemed to be fine the day after she lost it," Dahlia observed.

Includes $850 Bazillion Project

leader.

Included in the proposal are a new building for the School of Architecture, a $60 million renovation and expansion of the campus IT center, and $183 thousand earmarked for the newly-founded Villano Institute of Anime Studies. Also slated is an effort to deepen St. Mary's Lake and build an atmospheric domed environment on the lake bottom. The building will house mostly classrooms.

"We realize that our graduates are heading into a world with a changing economy, and being able to learn things while underwater may possibly be very important. The university has a serious commitment to its students, and we simply can't risk leaving them high and dry," Affleck-Claves concludes.

Non-AP News Shorts...

Minor Gas Leak Evacuates ALL of Campus
Minor gas leak hit campus Friday afternoon, forcing all students to evacuate. The gas leakage was caused by a broken pipe in the basement of the main building, which burst due to an earthquake. The fire department arrived on the scene within minutes and successfully extinguished the fire. The university has assured students that no injuries were reported and that they are currently working to restore power to the campus.

Joseph Trump named Nobel Peace Prize winner for his contributions to world peace.

With Peace Prize...

Joe Trump was named Nobel Peace Prize winner on Monday morning for his contributions to world peace. Trump was awarded the prize for his efforts in promoting peace and understanding between various nations. The prize was presented by the Nobel Committee, which praised Trump for his "unique ability to bring people together and promote dialogue." The university has expressed its pride in having a member of its community receive such an honor.

St. Mary's student named Poet Laureate

St. Mary's student named Poet Laureate

A St. Mary's student has been named the Poet Laureate for the 2017-2018 academic year. The student, who is a junior English major, was selected by a panel of judges for their "outstanding contributions to the literary arts." The university has expressed its pride in having a student receive such an honor.

Vampirism rampant at Notre Dame

Vampirism rampant at Notre Dame

Vampirism has been on the rise at Notre Dame, with reports of students being "infected" by the vampire virus. The university has set up a special task force to investigate the situation and has advised students to be cautious. The university has assured students that they are working to contain the situation and has encouraged students to seek medical attention if they suspect they may be infected.

Three Dead in Marshmallows Fight

Three Dead in Marshmallows Fight

Three St. Mary's students were killed in a marshmallow fight on Saturday afternoon. The students, who were part of a fraternity, had been drinking heavily and were involved in a fight that turned deadly. The university has expressed its grief and is working to investigate the situation.

Since, I didn't even yell at her or anything... she's probably a little unstable," Mittsushime said.

O'Connor could not be reached for comment, but several persons report seeing him on South Quad the following Sunday holding hands with a random senior who copped a feel or two during their 45-minute play-date. "She seemed to be fine the day after she lost it," Dahlia observed.

Annika, Madison, and Manda were in a humping date and Connor fell back into a humping date down in her a pathetic little any provocation. to strange things in the battlefield all and J'erry, but this since. I mean, she was dancing in her time and then the watersheds Currin recollects. "I think what's her friggin' name..."

is claimed to call the seriousness of O'Connor's attacks and being "a bit of a Witness. the date, Johannes and McGullucyidd, had been ignoring her for extended periods of time throughout the dance, especially when Julia drooled on about last Thursday's ABC drama series "Grey's Anatomy."" No, Julia knows I hate that stupid show, with all its estrogen-infused melodrama and what not. I guess I'll have to listen closer the next time she just has to tell me who's blowing who on last week's episode," an exasperated McGullucyidd said.

"Oh, don't get me started on Saturday, should I say, Dramas-Queen Extraordinarie," said Dahlia Mithez who attended the dance and confesse...
Hot ND Personals

Holier-than-thou virgin seeking husband
Beacon of cherubic virtue on a divine quest for her Biblically-mandated soulmate. If you are all about sweaty hand-holding, pecks on the cheek, and vows to renounce Satan in all his forms, search no further, white knight in shining armor! Special quirks include speaking flawless medieval Latin, chanting Gregorian hymns in my sleep and saying the Rosary in six minutes flat. If and when we do get to know each other in the "Biblical sense," bring a sheet with a hole in it. Agnus Dei, qui tolis pecatumundis!!

Hey Fellas, looking for a Domer?!
SW Domer looking for that special someone to live the ND Dream with! If you enjoy watching "Rudy" and can quote it verbatim, buy large expensive photos from the Bookstore ($500 limit per visit) and fantasize about proposing marriage at the Grotto, I am the girl for you! Clean-cut, athletic, sensational high-school resume a plus. GO IRISH!!!

Won’t you be my blueprint for a perfectly geometric union?
Male, sophomore architecture major seeking woman with subdued personality and 3-5 hours of free time per month. Must adore Vitruvian principles and have a strange fascination with right angles and T-squares. Serious inquiries only, as I have 10 minutes to invest in personal matters each week. All interested parties can drop by my studio desk any time of any day — that’s right — I’m talking 24/7 access. It’s the one in Bond Hall with the poster of the Palace of Westminster ... not of Westminster Abbey.

Let’s Make Love, Not War
SW progressive student looking for someone to drive away conservative fascist tyranny from the ND campus. Cogs in the corporate capitalist machine need not apply. Prospective mates must not be sheep to the corporate media; eat meat or cheese or anything made from living, breathing organisms; or take showers. Prior to the first date, a comprehensive quiz will be administered on the complete works of Marx and Lenin. Peace. Love. Dope. Viva the proletariat!! Email at BushEqualsHitler@aol.com

In the mood for superficial conversation and no-strings-attached amorous meetings?
Buxom blonde looking to get her freak on with the most masculine of men. Enjoys the scent of jerseys after a long summer-afternoon workout, thinks gag reflexes are a negative mutation of nature, and hasn’t read a novel since the Boxcar Children. This is one hollaback girl you won’t be disappointed with. Call me fo show kew!! 555-CHIC

Campus prep on the prowl for an appropriate mate
Exeter prep alum seeks the fairest of maidens with whom to copulate at a time yet to be determined. Dates and their fathers must have attended Yale, come from a family of noble Episcopal blood, and be willing to engage in high-falutin’ conversations about dialectical materialism at a moment’s notice. Hardbody a must. Harvard tramps need not apply.

BMOC hard up for some easy ass
SPRING BREEAAAAAK 2007!!! Zahm resident pining for campus hootchie who can tolerate super-intense workouts, a limited vocabulary and frequent use of the word ‘douche.’ If you’re looking for that one-night stand type of guy who’ll forget your name the next morning, gimme call or hit up the Sidekick. Ph: 897-FIST; SN: IrishBarebackinIT. Oh yeah, no fat chicks.

ROTC commando in need of some sweet jungle love
Battle-tested soldier of fortune hunting for that perfect Miss America who can assist in occasional needs to blow off steam and engage in ceremonial battle cries. Must be a card-carrying GOP member, disavow global warming as a bunch of hooey, and pay fealty to the soul of Ronald Reagan. I enjoy Dave Barry comics, missionary only and the occasional Ann Coulter fantasy. God bless America. F--- Osama!

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Don’t battle the trauma alone. If you or someone you care for has been unintentionally impregnated recently, inform them of our services. Call 1-800-NO-ABORT. Our counselors are ready and willing to listen to how you got knocked up and offer our best advice as to how to proceed ... without resorting to infanticide. Call TODAY!!!
(or how I learned to stop worrying and love ResLife)

Partying too much? Afraid the alcohol-centric ND culture is causing you to kneel in front of too many open toilets between 1 and 5 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings? Aspiring to be that perfect Clockwork Christian!? 

Introducing the patented new 12-step program that will transform your most debased, fun-induced impulses into fuel for the model of virtue and all-around banality!

Using the latest advances in Soviet mind-control technology, FLIPMIND will make sure you behave to the best of your Scripture-mandated ability ... Not because you want to, but because you have no other choice.

All hail, Big Brother Kerle!

"Thanks to FLIPMIND, I am no longer plagued by desires to pound Jaeger, beat up the homeless or coerce bar chicks into fulfilling my weirdest S&M fantasies! All hail, Big Brother Kerle!"

Brought to you by the Notre Dame Ministry of Love and MTV's "Scared Straight"
FAILURE TO LAUNCH

Why can’t the Irish win the big one?

• Alex Hellmuth

On March 24, as I watched the seconds on the clock slowly count down to zero signaling the end of the Irish hockey team’s season, I asked myself, “Why is it that Notre Dame cannot win the games that matter?” From the long history of bowl game losses to the most recent NCAA first-round disappointments in basketball and hockey, perhaps the Irish are lacking the fundamental ingredients to great success. An analysis of both the Irish basketball and hockey teams shows that each squad was primed to advance further through the NCAA tournament and change Irish history.

The hockey season was all about firsts. In February, the Irish celebrated their first-ever CCHA regular season win over Alaska-Fairbanks and proceeded to capture the CCHA championship with a 2-1 victory over the University of Michigan. They were ranked No. 1 in the nation in March, and, for its biggest first in program history, the team advanced past the opening round of the NCAA tournament with a win against Alabama-Huntsville. Senior goalkeeper David Brown led the nation in wins (27), and his five shutouts placed him fifth in the nation. His quick and aggressive style intimidated shooters, and with forwards like freshmen Ryan Thang and Kevin Deeth, the Irish were perfectly poised to beat Michigan State.

The Irish basketball team headed into the NCAA postseason ranked fourth in the final Big East regular-season standings (after being picked 11th of 16 in the Preseason Coaches’ Poll) with an 11-5 record. Averaging 81.5 points during the regular season, the Irish earned a No. 6-seed in the NCAA tournament, matched up against No. 11-seed Winthrop. Winthrop was 0-6 in previous tournament tries and, despite being labeled as a potential George Mason for this year’s tournament, had trouble beating strong, physical teams. But the Irish had senior guard Colin Falls, one of the best three-point shooters in the nation, along with the freshman combination of Luke Harangody, an excellent rebounder, and Tory Jackson, one of the quickest ball handlers in the game. These factors alone should have been enough to propel the Irish to the second round. But in the opening round, the Irish fell to Winthrop 74-64 and ended what could have been their most successful season yet.

Both the hockey and basketball teams went into their postseasons after having possibly their very best seasons in Notre Dame history. Overconfidence might have played a role in their downfalls. The hockey team was ranked No. 2 overall, yet was especially worn down by underdog Alabama-Hunstville, leaving the Irish with little energy left for Michigan State. In the Big Dance, Winthrop’s players stepped up and made the big plays to lead their team to an upset over the Irish. Despite being favored to win in both cases, the Irish fell far short of expectations, and it appears that an elusive missing piece outweighed other factors in Notre Dame’s favor. So all awards, firsts, personal bests and victory marches considered, what is the essential piece of the puzzle that Notre Dame’s teams are missing?

Ultimately, it is up to the players and coaches to determine just what it is that they are missing, but until the lost luck of the Irish is rediscovered, loyal fans will just have to wait a little longer.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily the views of Scholastic.
for this year’s Final Four. Four teams, the toughest tests of the seasonubble ahead. In a high-scoring game, the reigning champion Florida Gators will dominate the UCI Bruins in a double-digit victory on their way back to the championship. In the other match-up, an aggressive Ohio State team will lead Georgetown through most of the game, but Buckeyes will not trouble late in the second half, giving the Hoyas an opportunity to surge ahead for the win. In the days after the loss, Ohio State’s freshman phenomenon Greg Oden will announce plans to head to the NBA. In the championship game, Georgetown will score 11 unanswered points heading into halftime and Florida will never fully recover. Georgetown will take the national title, 73-68.

Darin Snyder
Interim Editor in Chief

EYES ON...

Brian Hubschmann

Marques Camp

Brian Hubschmann is a fifth-year senior majoring in computer applications and Film, Television and Theatre. The co-captain of the Irish men’s lacrosse team, Hubschmann was recently named the Great Western Lacrosse League Player of the Week after he notched seven goals and two assists in contests against Drexel and Dartmouth. He was also tabbed as a preseason honorable mention All-American pick by national lacrosse Web site, InsideLacrosse.com.

At what age did you start playing lacrosse, and what drew you to it?
I started playing when I was about 10. My two older brothers had gotten me interested in lacrosse, and I liked the fact that it wasn’t a traditional sport in a sense. Also, a bunch of my friends had joined our local town team, so it was another way to hang out with them outside of school.

Did you play any other sports growing up?
I grew up primarily playing soccer and basketball and playing some lacrosse on the side. But when I got a little older, I found that I liked playing lacrosse much more than the other two, so I began to focus more on that. In high school, I stopped playing basketball and joined the bowling team.

Describe your most memorable experience as a member of the team.
One of my most memorable experiences as a member of the team was when we took a team trip to Prague, Czech Republic, two summers ago. My father is from there, and I am a dual citizen, so it’s always great to go back there. But this trip was memorable because it was with 35 of my best friends, and we got the opportunity to visit a lot of great places and have some fun adventures.

What are the main keys for the team to have a successful season?
The main key for our team to have a successful season is to remain focused on the task at hand and not to worry about things that are out of our control. As of right now, we control our own fate, in terms of making the NCAA tournament. If we take each game one at a time, then we will find what we are looking for at the end of the year.
A Dream Deferred

THE HOCKEY TEAM MAKES A "TRANSITION TO TRADITION"

Marques Camp

So it is here that the dream dies. March 24, 2007, 11:14 p.m. at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich.

One night after a grueling — yet joyous — victory over the Alabama-Huntsville Chargers in the NCAA tournament, the top-seeded Irish failed to advance to the first Frozen Four in the program's history. A 2-1 loss to Michigan State tears at the heart of the Irish men's hockey team — not so much for the loss, but because they had toiled and overcome so much adversity, only to come up one game short of collegiate hockey's Mecca and two games short of being able to call themselves national champions. This dream died a noble, tragic death.

We can say the dream was born at this very place, Van Andel Arena, on March 27, 2004. The Irish, fresh off a 20-15-4 record and a pending appearance in the first NCAA tournament game in program history, were set to face the third-ranked Minnesota Gophers. "Being part of the first-ever NCAA tournament appearance for the Notre Dame hockey program my freshman year was a great honor and a great experience," senior captain TJ Jindra says. After scoring two first-period goals in a somewhat surprising start, the Irish failed to score the rest of the game and lost to the Gophers 5-2. Despite the loss, the Irish had hoped that the 2003-04 season would be the birth of a tradition: the kind of tradition that the Irish football team has monopolized, and, to a lesser extent, the men's and women's basketball teams have also experienced.

What then-coach Dave Poulin and the team did not expect, however, was the experience that was soon to follow. The Irish suffered through the worst season in program history, finishing with an embarrassing 5-27-6 record. The team needed change if it was going to erase the 2004-05 season from its memory and start anew on a different chapter in the story of Notre Dame hockey.

Jindra recalls with fondness Coach Poulin and his influence on the program. "I always felt Coach Poulin was more of an NHL-style coach. He was very laid back with his players and really seemed to have the approach that his players at the collegiate level were self-motivated. [But] sometimes that doesn't always work when you don't have a group of players who are self-motivated like he was." On the other hand, Jeff Jackson "is very up-front and honest with his players as far as what he expects from them, both personally and as a team," Jindra says. On May 6, 2005, Jackson was named to succeed Poulin in what would be the start of a new era in Notre Dame hockey.

Jackson, well-respected and admired in hockey circles, knew what it took to build a program and a tradition. He had led the Lake Superior State Lakers to six consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and, from 1992-1994, to three consecutive title game appearances.
Jackson wanted a “transition to tradition” for the Notre Dame hockey program. At his introductory press conference, he said, “My immediate objective is to take the players that are here and accelerate the transition and convince the players that are here that they fit into the mission.” During the 2005-06 season, Jackson’s influence on the players was very visible as they improved to a 13-19-4 record. The transition was underway.

Which brings the team to this year. Despite the marked improvement during the 2005-06 season, the team was not yet on the national radar. But an early-season 7-2 drubbing of then-No. 1 ranked Boston University and a 6-1 victory over Providence College the next night secured their status as a team quickly on the ascent to college hockey’s elite, perhaps faster than many expected. “I think a lot of us on the team felt we had a special group of guys,” Jindra says. “Apart from our great goaltending, our great defense, our great forwards, I always talk about the X-Factor in this group and how well we get along. This team gets along so well, and anytime you get a group that likes to be around each other so much like we do, you are going to be successful.”

This newfound chemistry helped vault the Irish to the first No. 1 ranking in school history following a sweep of Bowling Green. But as Jackson noted at the time, “We still have a lot of hockey to play this season, and our team has a lot of room for improvement, but we appreciate the recognition for what we’ve done so far.” The team, heeding Jackson’s advice, staked a strong hold on their top ranking and held it for the last seven weeks of the season, in large part thanks to contributions by senior goaltender David Brown, a finalist for the Hobey Baker Award, given to the nation’s top player, and sophomore center Erik Condra, who led the team with 48 points this season. The Irish carried that momentum and captured their first CCHA playoff title in program history and the No. 1 seed in the Midwest region in the NCAA tournament.

If there was ever a top-seeded team that deserved to carry the moniker of “Cinderella,” the Irish would certainly have been that team. Their first test in Grand Rapids was that of another Cinderella, the Alabama-Huntsville Chargers, owners of a 13-19-4 regular-season record. After scoring two goals in the first five minutes of the game, the Irish allowed the Chargers to come back with two goals, and the score remained tied at 2-2 at until the end of regulation. After a scoreless overtime period and more than 15 minutes into the second overtime, the Irish finally wore the underdog Chargers down as freshman forward Ryan Thang scored the winning goal.

And here we are, March 24, 11:14 p.m. Two power-play goals by the Spartans are enough to overcome the weary, battle-tested Irish. The dream has certainly died. No Frozen Four. No national championship.

But on this night, there blossomed something greater. The death of one dream led to the birth of another. Despite the dream ending for Jindra and seven other seniors, another dream was born for all the returning and incoming members. No longer are the Irish outside the consciousness of collegiate hockey. After the loss, Jackson said, “It means a lot more to play for Notre Dame now.” Twenty years from now, perhaps, the next generation of Irish hockey fans will look upon March 24, 2007, and remember the date when the “transition to tradition” signaled a new era at Notre Dame.
University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students

The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students
(Information, education, and resources)
Contact: Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, 1-5550, or Andy Magee, amagee@nd.edu

Office of Campus Ministry
(Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students and their friends; pertinent library resources in 304 Co-Mo; discussion and support)
Contact: Fr. Joe Carey, CSC, at 1-7800; or Fr. Dick Warner, CSC, at 1-9704

University Counseling Center
(Individual counseling)
Contact: Dr. Maureen Lafferty at Lafferty.3@nd.edu

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University Counseling Center (Individual counseling)
Contact: Dr. Maureen Lafferty at Lafferty.3@nd.edu

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Forty-One Years Ago
Years ago, in 1966, football was truly a matter of life or death. Don't want the opposing team to win? The solution is obvious: just kill 'em! Read on:

"Last Saturday, a fan in Ames, Iowa, topped everything. Apparently fed up with the unexplosive attack of Iowa State University's Cyclones, he took matters into his own hands. While rolling the field shortly before the State-Nebraska game, stadium workers unsuspectingly triggered a land mine planted on the 46-yard line, squarely in the center of the field. Somewhat less than enthralled with the prospect of scraping up pieces of football players from its field each week, the school called in the FBI. A disgruntled twenty year-old chemistry student was discovered to be the culprit."

Muah-haha, I know! I'll just put a landmine on the field! Landmines are such a funny practical joke. That'll stop those evil football players. Next week I think I'll take out the chemistry department with some pipe bombs because they give out things like "tests" and "homework."

— Elisa Suarez

Listening In...

- "So, was it awkward that you tried to steal his girlfriend?"
  — overheard gossip outside SDH
- "No, I hooked up with his friend yesterday."
  — not-so-secretive student
- "Marriage is just a ceremony that proves you love someone enough to let your parents know you have sex with him."
  — female student philosopher
- "I'm always really paranoid that I'm going to be put in the random quote section."
  — unsuspecting victim
- "Try to work the phrase 'monopolistic nerophilia' into everyday conversation."
  — overheard professor

"She wants me to watch Baby Einstein? AGAIN?! I've seen this one, like, five billion times!!"
Hola, Giplings! Ideally, I would write to you from the decadent beaches of Cancun, and, considering my physical disposition, I admit my best shot at hot young tush would be at MTV Spring Break, buying some lucky co-ed drinks while lying about my recent Real World Zimbabwe bid. But nay. Gipp's SB '07 was uneventful.

As we all know, the Gipp tends to honor those who devote their lives to Venus (god of love) and Bacchus (god of drinking), and this next farce involves the intense idolatry of both. Two of our very own domers and one of our beloved pubs establish the setting. What began as a lovely evening out on the town resulted in bartender.com's newest drinking game. A devoted couple unknowingly seized the attention of AN ENTIRE BAR as what should have been private festivities made their way into public scrutiny. Onlookers, some disgusted, some amused, some aroused and an ingenious few motivated, all stared as these two took PDA to a new level. Fair game in the bedroom became fair game in public, and it all became fair game for the crowds as a few brilliantly inspired imbiber capitalized on the happenings and created a drinking sport loosely based on duration and location of kisses AND duration and location of hand placements. As with all games of this sort, there were winners and losers. The harshest penalty involved the downing of an entire drink once a canoodler's touch wandered downtown for a lengthy period of time. One unlucky player was holding a newly-purchased giant drink as the two frolickers took their friendliness to the point of no return. YES, the entire bar got involved. YES, the interactive component of the game was unbeknownst to the violators who needed no more alcohol anyway. And YES, the young lovers were bewildered by the mixed reaction of applause and boos as they quietly stumbled from the bar to go home and take the game into overtime.

The next story explores the confusion of birthday wishes, bi-curiousity and misplaced affection. Since we only toast Solo cups after our 21st birthdays, this setting, of course, takes place at a party celebrating that particular occasion for our victim. In summary, the night digressed from educational board games to heavy drinking, and by “heavy drinking” I mean the reversal of shots and chasing to shots of chasing chased by gulps of liquor. It ended badly as our crowd turned OFF “Fergalicious” and turned ON the famous musical scores of John Williams. Shirtless and dancing to the “Jurassic Park” theme song, the birthday boy and his roommate embraced and wandered into an “I love you, man,” “No, I love you” confabulation. Following the awkward-for-everyone-else moment, the two engaged in a celebratory dance-off, acknowledging that the morning-after recap would involve remembering the near bi-curious moment. This horny hoedown resulted in bouncing off of each other, stumbling and colliding with a desk corner. Six stitches and no regrets later, ResLife punished them accordingly as dulcet-condemned them mixing their mixing of alcohol and orchestral scores. Their mothers, whose decision to toss their babies from the nest is debatable, can still view evidence of this night on several college Web sites. Search for “idiots.”

Pew. Have you ever let out that exhausted sigh after delivering what you thought was the experience of a lifetime, only to hear, “It’s OK, I was getting bored anyway”? If something like this has happened to you or someone you know, e-mail me. I can help you get through these tough times ... or sell you out to my readers.

TIP THE GIPP at gipper@nd.edu
Elisa Suarez

Okay. We all have problems in our lives. The cat got sick, your mom won’t stop calling you about that money you borrowed for plane tickets to Amsterdam, you missed Tom Petty’s last tour, and no one in your life realizes that you’re just a dancer on the inside waiting to express your emotions though the last true art form: ballet. Typical. But it just so happens that my problems are more important than yours, and I can write about whatever I want as long as it stays PG-13 and isn’t about pigeons. They’ll probably cut that out. Anyway, read this.

**Problem 1: I Hate Animals.**

Yes, I hate animals. When my mom got me that goldfish in first grade, I saved myself the trouble of a lot of half-hearted bowl cleaning and fish feeding and just flushed it down the toilet immediately. I mean, Goldie was gonna get there eventually. Seriously though, animals aren’t cool unless they’re animated. Even flushed it down the toilet immediately. Typical. But it just so happens that my I mean, Goldie was gonna get there

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**Problem 2: I Like Pepsi Products.**

Yes, I like Pepsi better than Coke. I know they’re the black sheep of the beverage industry, but hey, I like that. Yes, I’m the jerk who changes their drink order because “NO, Coke products AREN’T fine, ma’am.” Would you go to an orthodontist if you needed a root canal? Nu-uh. All orthodontists do is put wires on your teeth and let you choose your retainer color. Would you buy candy when you want cake? NO, it’s CANDY, you soul-less FREAK. Is there a difference between Rockefeller, the oil baron, and Roc-A-Fella, Jay-Z’s record label? My history teacher seems to think so. I hope you’ve caught on to my illustrious argument that small differences matter. Euthanasia, youth in Asia. I’d party in a club with one of those. Real ID, fake ID. One will get you fame and glory on the dance floor at Club Fever while the other ... nevermind, they both will. Anyway, drink Pepsi. Do you think it’s a coincidence that one of the former muckety mucks of Coke went on to become president of Mexico? Google that. Schello! It’s a conspiracy!

**Problem 3: A Serving Size of Hint of Lime Chips is Only 6 Chips.**

Listen. If you like Hint of Lime, this is a problem. I adore Hint of Lime. Unfortunately, there are approximately 14 servings per container at 150 calories a pop. Also unfortunately, I’m not good at fractions, and I just ate three quarters of this bag in about 15 minutes. I mean come on USDA, six chips? Eating six chips out of a bag of Hint of Lime is like saying you’re going to drink the ocean and then calling it a day after swallowing a teaspoonful. If the lime powder is calorie free, they should just start packaging that on its own. I’d sprinkle it on my chicken. Anyway, none of this matters to me because I’m naturally fat. At least this is what my contemporary topics teacher told me freshman year. Needless to say, that was a bad day. Too bad gym teachers don’t get teacher course evaluations. I would’ve slammed her so hard (verbally) that to this day the secretaries would still be laughing about that one time the fat girl got pissed.

**Problem 4: There Are Too Many Hot People Around.**

If everyone in the world were blind, I’d be the coolest person you know. Unfortunately, it’s not la-la-land, it’s the real world: Bambi’s mom is dead, and I’d be laughing about that one time the fat girl got pissed. Unfortunately, it’s not la-la-land, it’s the real world: Bambi’s mom is dead, and I’d be laughing about that one time the fat girl got pissed.
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A Final Word

by Brian Sheehan

As a former Notre Dame varsity athlete, it’s easy to see how blinding the precedence given to the university’s sports programs can be. However, working for Denver’s Road Home (a municipal government effort to combat homelessness) last fall allowed me to step outside the frequently over-dramatized realm of sports and see what is most important.

For instance, during a semi-annual event held as a part of Denver’s Road Home called Project Homeless Connect, multiple agencies from around the city gather together to provide services to the homeless in one location. Aside from practical services, the event strives to make the environment uplifting and accommodating for clientele and volunteers alike.

The day naturally involved long lines, lots of standing and plenty of waiting. Warm bagels, fresh fruit and coffee by the gallon poured into hundreds of paper cups were a few of the items served to keep the atmosphere from going sour. But even good food and caffeinated drinks can have a difficult time suppressing the fatigue produced by tired backs and achy knees.

Fortunately, a mass sense generously situated a massage station on the premises that day to help ease tension.

After getting all of the practical help possible, a homeless man saw the therapists delicately working their hands over the backs and shoulders of old and young alike. After politely asking his guide for permission to visit the station, he approached the oddly-shaped massage chair, found a comfortable position, and began to unwind as the therapist carefully “undid” the knots in his back. When finished, he returned to the company of his escort with tears rolling down his cheeks. When asked what was wrong, the man replied, “That’s the first time anybody has touched me in two years.”

Two years! To me, that is an unfathomable amount of time to have no physical contact with others. It must have been hellacious to watch thousands of people pass by without so much as a hug or a handshake. It’s unfortunate that people become blinded by their own personal interests, failing to recognize how profound these small gestures can be in the lives of despairing people.

Mental investment in sports can be one of these blinding influences. I, too, once held sports in exaggerated esteem. It was not until freshman year that I realized, from an athlete’s perspective, the shocking number of people who place high-level athletics on an idolatrous pedestal. Domers are especially prone to this mindset because we are directly exposed to the school’s powerful ambiance, which, to the unvigilant perspective, can foster an immature sense of nostalgia. It’s time for Notre Dame students and alumni to evaluate our priorities honestly. Have we mistaken the attention the university receives from the glamour of its sports programs for the true glory God gives this school by subtly working through people devoted to serving the least of us?“

Especially at Notre Dame, sports can be a wonderful thing. They are a fun release for burdened students, create a good context for introductory conversation and provide a mutual rallying point that helps community take root. But, without a healthy perspective, the seminal moments of communion created by the excitement of athletics will rarely become sustained joy.

Truly lasting joy is only found when we become Christ’s. We are all called to cooperate with the Holy Spirit’s grace and be transformed into compassionate men and women who create unity by striving to eradicate the injustices inhibiting communion in our human family.

Presently, poverty is the injustice looking us in the eye, and the increasing gap between rich and poor is the rift needing unification. However good and wholesome sports are, prioritizing them while limiting the dictates of justice in our lives to a minor role of charity will not allow our consciences to rest easy for long. Eventually people will come to realize that, as a university, our collective contributions to the common good are far less than what we are capable of giving. Bringing faith, hope and love to the neglected is where true fulfillment lies.

Working with the poor will inevitably expose ugly realities we would rather not see. Racism, sexism, religious hatred and other shameful things exacerbated by poverty seldom express themselves explicitly in this country but survive by weaving through the public’s subconscious fabric. But, however bad things may seem, I am confident that Providence will see to it that Notre Dame has its head pointed the right way: For many of us, this means acknowledging that Notre Dame’s sports programs can be. However, to the school’s powerful ambiance, which, to the unvigilant perspective, can foster an immature sense of nostalgia. It’s time for Notre Dame students and alumni to evaluate our priorities honestly. Have we mistaken the attention the university receives from the glamour of its sports programs for the true glory God gives this school by subtly working through people devoted to serving the least of us?“

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily the views of Scholastic.
Brian Sheehan

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However, to the school's powerful ambiance,

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