Notre Dame's Non-Discrimination Clause: What's Missing?
THE STARTING LINE

WITH OPENING ACT ACE ENDERS
(FORMERLY OF THE EARLY NOVEMBER)

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GAY? FINE BY ... WHO?

In the past two weeks: Progressive Student Alliance members stood in front of both dining halls, asking for signatures in support of adding sexual orientation to Notre Dame’s non-discrimination clause. Stand Against Hate week featured an academic forum on Homosexuality and Catholicism and a prayer vigil at the Grotto. The “Gay? Fine by Me” T-shirt solidarity event flooded the campus with orange.

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On page 14, Assistant Culture Editor Courtney Ball follows the history of this debate, from the origins of gay rights student groups, to the attempt to change the non-discrimination clause in 1998, to where this issue may (or may not) be headed in the coming years. In a second section of our cover story, beginning on page 18, in-depth interviews with gay students describe their experience of Notre Dame. Some students explain how they are trying to reconcile their sexuality with their Catholic faith.

What is “Fine by” students? “Fine by” the administration? “Fine by” alumni? “Fine by” the Church? Though the answers to these questions often intersect, none agree completely, and the debate is likely to continue.

WE GOT A WEB SITE!

Well, technically we’ve had one for awhile. But since it’s been stuck on the 2006 Football Review for over a year, we’re excited to announce that from now on, our brilliant and talented Webmaster Phil Langthorne will be making our stories and photos immediately available online at nd.edu/~scholast. Now you can e-mail links to the Gipper to your high school friends, stories about ND’s rich academic environment home to the parents, and articles on our unyielding Catholic character to grandma and grandpa. Be on the lookout for additional features such as reader response forums, bonus interview material and issue archives coming next fall!

CONGRATULATIONS, SENIORS

If the football team doesn’t give you a reason to come back next fall, maybe the recent addition of health foods in the Huddle and new game-day recycling initiatives described in News Notes, pages 6–7, will. And as a special goodbye present, your longtime friend the Gipper has put together a list on page 31 of the top five best tips from your years at ND. Enjoy, and thanks for reading.

See the rest of you in the fall,

Jessica Farmwald
Editor-in-Chief
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SCHOLASTIC
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That's What She Said

"A Festival of Our Own"

Meghan Drapalik

Chick lit. Not to be confused with Chiclets, those little pieces of gum that somehow lose their taste before you even start to chew them. But for some writers like Alice McDermott, chick lit is equally flavorless.

"Chick lit is to some people's tastes," she says, "but it has a pejorative echo, especially for young women writers who find themselves pushed into this category."

While the heroines of chick lit stereotypically live in the city, flaunt high-powered jobs and celebrate single life, the characters of McDermott's writing are subtler and more complex, haunted by memories more troubling than a Starbucks run-in with an ex-boyfriend and battling problems bigger than the fashion police.

The typical depiction of women's writing as shallow, formulaic and wholly defied by the author's gender is one of the reasons English Professor Valerie Sayers says women writers are often unrecognized in literary circles.

"Men are often considered more serious, more important, more ambitious. Women writers get lost," she says. Sayers, therefore, joined with her colleague Katherine O'Brien O'Keeffe and the Creative Writing Department to help correct what O'Keeffe calls the "woeful under-representation" of women writers, especially in collegiate circles.

Their solution morphed into Notre Dame's first annual Women's Writers Conference, "A Festival of Our Own," which ran from April 15-16. The conference featured three authors - McDermott, Lily Hoang (pictured at right) and Katherine Vaz - who held readings of their work and participated in a culminating panel discussion.

"Writers at the conference have a terrific range. They create a wonderful balance between the experiential and conceptual," Sayers says. Each of the women's writing is infused with Catholicism or in some way addresses the Catholic experience. McDermott, however, does not see her writing as distinctly religious and says that the sisters from her high school would be "just rolling in their graves" if they knew she was viewed as a Catholic writer. Instead, McDermott finds herself drawn to writing about Catholics for reasons other than the typical religious motivations.

"Catholics already have a language for things, those things my characters yearn for, that is given to them by the Church," McDermott says. Just as McDermott does not feel pressured to write as a woman or as a Catholic, she is similarly not interested in writing cultural commentary.

"I want to connect with readers about things true to us at all times, at all places, more than, passing observation," McDermott says. Yet, these women still write within a culture where, despite the universal appeal of their work, McDermott fears men shy away from her books with their feminine covers. Even J.K. Rowling abbreviated her name in order to attract a larger audience. This conference, then, provides a special acknowledgement of women's writing that defies being branded as merely chick lit.

McDermott jokes at a reading of "Our Girls," her new short story, that a festival for women writers at Notre Dame is only the beginning. "How about a presidency of our own? A papacy of our own?" she says. "You know what they say about women; once you let them in ... +

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Eating Healthy at the Huddle
LaFortune adds organic foods to its offerings

Sarah Angle

The home of the quarter dog now has an entire section devoted to organic and natural foods.

According to Jim LaBella, manager of the Huddle Mart, the section was added to fill increasing student demand for healthy foods, as well as to replace the dying video rental section. “Basically, what I have going on there is vegan things, gluten-free items, some dairy free items and then just some organic natural foods,” he says.

LaBella checked out health food stores in the area to see which items were popular. The variety in the Huddle Mart ranges from Asian noodle entrees, assorted health bars, dried fruit and wheat-free crackers, to espresso chocolate chunk cookies. So far, he says, “Student response has been phenomenal.”

For some, the section was long-awaited. Sophomore Lindsey Hough says she is happy with the new addition and likes to periodically browse for new items. She hopes that the next step will be to for the university to begin to offer more organic choices in the dining hall. “The locally grown produce is a step in the right direction, but the university could definitely add more,” Hough says.

The new selection appeals to a wide base of students. Even a slightly inebriated student was found enjoying some multigrain pita chips on a recent Friday night. When asked how he liked the new section, he replied enthusiastically that it was great he could find a healthy snack for late nights. “When you’re up at 2 a.m., you don’t want to be eating food that’s complete s*** for you. What most people have to eat that late is the s***tiest food ever, and not what you should be eating that late.”

One complaint has been that the new foods are more expensive, but that is not uncommon to hear about organic products. LaBella reassures students that the foods are being sold at suggested retail, which is much cheaper than at other health food specialty stores.
Blue+Gold=Green
Recycling initiatives tested on football weekend

Vanessa Adjei

In an effort to make strides toward a greener Notre Dame, a new recycling initiative debuted at the university’s annual Blue-Gold football game on April 19. The initiative was prompted by the student group Recyclin' Irish, a subgroup of GreeND, which is a “comprehensive student organization comprised of a leadership core and seven committees that organize and facilitate energy, environment and sustainability activities at Notre Dame,” according to the group’s Web site.

The efforts of Recyclin’ Irish and student volunteers were to ensure that the day’s activities did not result in wastefulness. “Around eight students worked to hand out blue recycling bags to people tailgating and inform tailgaters what items they could recycle,” Ann Kelley, president of Recyclin’ Irish and GreeND member, says.

Recycling bins were distributed throughout the stadium but may have been overlooked amid the excitement surrounding the game. Junior Gabby Miller says she didn’t notice the new recycling initiatives at the game. She did, however, describe a “noticeable change on campus” in the push to go green. “I know the dorms have had competitions and stuff to see who can recycle more, and I’ve noticed posters,” Miller says.

These new efforts are, in part, a response to Notre Dame’s grade of D- in the Sustainable Endowments Institute’s 2007 College Sustainability Report Card.

“The green initiatives will continue and will be larger and more widespread next year, especially because the topic of the [2008 Notre Dame] Forum is ‘Charting a Sustainable Future,’” Kelley says. “Game-day recycling will also be back next year and will expand to all tailgating lots.”
A three-hour drive back to his hometown, door-to-door canvassing in freezing rain, fundraising efforts—all in a suit and tie. Not your typical Notre Dame student's Saturday. But then again, sophomore political science and classics major Tom Pappas (or Thomas Konstantine Pappas, as the ballot will say on May 6) is not your typical Notre Dame student.

"I've always had a deep sense of public service," Pappas says. "I was looking around, looking to see how to become a state delegate to the Indiana Democratic Party convention, and I noticed that no one was running against Bob Behning [16-year Republican incumbent running for the District 91 seat in the House of Representatives]. So I thought, well, I'll file against him, because there should be a choice. There should be democracy, and I think this is a job I can do."

Pappas thought he would face off against Behning in the election in November. A challenger for the Democratic nomination in the May 6 primary, however, arose in the form of Democrat Timothy Huber, a local carpenter who ran against Behning in 2006. "I was like, 'Game on, Mr. Huber,'" Pappas says, grinning.

And game on it was. Pappas has traveled home most weekends since he announced his candidacy on March 8. He participated in debates, held a pizza meet-and-greet for constituents and, most importantly, engaged in some good, old-fashioned "retail politics"—door-to-door canvassing, pavement pounding and flier distribution to make his name, face and message known to the voters.

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— on to the next constituent.

We notice a freakishly high number of broken doorbells in the neighborhood; they are cracked and tend to stick if you aren't careful. We approach one with a working doorbell, and Clayton expresses hope: “Maybe this one will be a Democrat.” Pappas eyes the unbroken doorbell and says, “Probably a Republican; they can afford to have their doorbell fixed.” Clayton yelps, “Tom!” and shoots me the look.

Soon we’re playing this game at almost every house. Energy-saving light bulbs? “Democrats!” Pappas and Clayton say gleefully in unison. We encounter more unanswered doors with raucous dogs rather than people inside, and Pappas struggles to shove a flier in the crack of a door with brand new weather stripping (Republicans). “Weather stripping is our worst enemy,” Pappas says.

As we walk back to the car, Pappas and Clayton get into a discussion about home ownership that I barely follow, and it concludes as Pappas sighs and says, “But, that’s a federal issue.”

“You’ll get there,” Clayton says, and I ask Pappas about his eventual aspirations. He says he’d like to serve in the state legislature for two years and then go to law school, so he can learn “to serve in a greater capacity.” He says in 10 years, he’d like to be representing Indiana in the U.S. Congress or serving as the governor of Indiana.

We go back to the Pappas household to get directions to a house where Pappas needs to pick up a campaign contribution. They are working on raising the $600 needed to purchase 250 yard signs.

Pappas has Clayton call his high school government teacher who has said he might contribute. “When’s the last time you called him?” Pappas’ mother says from the living room.

“About three hours ago,” Pappas says, grinning. “Oh, Tom!” his mother says in exasperation. Pappas shrugs. “I’m persistent.” His mother shows, however, that she is proud of her son’s dedication. “He’s always been ambitious. He’s much better than any of the other candidates, we know that,” she says. “Not that I’m prejudiced.”

We leave, pick up a check, and then head to Pappas’ high school German teacher’s home. She and her husband invite us in to sit down, and immediately she and Pappas start chattering in German. All I manage to catch is “wunderbar,” and she’s pulling out her checkbook. Clayton and I exchange a make a difference.” She also says to keep her posted, and she will consider making a contribution to his campaign.

All in all, it’s a successful day on the campaign trail. I make the drive back to campus around 6 p.m., but Pappas and Clayton keep working and tell me that they ended up with $800 in campaign funds at the end of the day.

Later in the week, I sit down with Political Science Professor Peri Arnold to discuss Pappas’ chances. “When I first heard this, I thought, ‘that’s bizarre,’” Arnold says. “You think most students are more concerned about their academic performance, or, in a worse case, having time to drink beer, than having time to run for office.”

If Pappas wins the primary on May 6, he will have to juggle classes in the fall with a campaign season for the general election. If he wins in November, he will have to take a leave of absence from the university during the spring semesters of 2009 and 2010 to attend the legislative sessions. But Arnold says he thinks it will be a great learning experience for Pappas, win or lose.

“People who win office tend to have lost races before that,” Arnold says. “The former Congressperson in this district, Tim Roemer, did a Ph.D. at Notre Dame, and I was his director. It was his second or third year in grad school, and I remember he told me he was going to run for the state House in Indiana. I told him he was crazy. Why are you wasting your time? And he lost. And he finished his dissertation, and he went to Washington, came back a few years later, and ran for this congressional seat and won. So, in other words, you begin, typically, by losing the race, and so I think this would hold Tom in good stead, if in fact he gets a taste out of this for wanting to do more.”

Maybe Pappas’ choice of how to spend his Saturdays isn’t so bizarre after all. +
German legend celebrates in campus-wide campaign

Dave Murren

Good, evil, immortality, knowledge and repentance: How close is man to the best and the worst of the finite world? These, and many more themes, were seen everywhere this spring as the "Faust at Notre Dame" campaign invaded campus through numerous academic and artistic mediums. Faust's story tells of a man who sells his soul to the devil in exchange for infinite earthly power and knowledge. It also portrays a man's quest for immortality in a world in which the body must eventually die and the soul is left for either God or Satan.

Mark Roche, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, says, "The university's Faust campaign fosters community. The Faust theme is all-encompassing because scholars from every field of study can find an affinity with Faust's own widespread studies."

Faust was introduced as both a play and as an opera this spring, and was also discussed at an academic conference and in classrooms across campus.

"The Faust theme has many intellectual and religious themes," Roche says. "The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus," Christopher Marlowe's theatrical version of the Faust story, was performed at DeBartolo Performing Arts Center April 8-13 and 17-19, and was directed by Film, Television and Theatre (FTT) professor Anton Juan. The majority of the play's performers were current Notre Dame students majoring in FTT. Extensive sets, costumes and props highlighted the performances. Juan also integrated modern forms of the Faustian theme. One such instance came at the end of the play when a screen showed Second Life (an Internet-based virtual world) "avatars" - a computer user's virtual incarnation of himself or herself. These digital representations interact with one another in a virtual and immortal world in which anything is possible.

Stephanie Peters, a junior Program of Liberal Studies (PLS) and Pre-Professional studies major who read Marlowe's play, "Faust," in a PLS class this semester, says of the production, "It was interesting to consider hell on Earth through time and use consumerism today to symbolize the temptation of man in the 21st century, but the words and meaning of the play may have been lost in the pageantry." When considering differences between Marlowe's text and the recent production, Peters says, "The idea that Faustus' fate is sealed at the beginning of the play may deviate too far from Marlowe's intentions, which allow the audience to battle with the idea of predestination over ..."
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Sexual assault, domestic abuse and rape. For generations, women have been working to end the cycle of violence by talking about women, with women. These women have been extremely influential, but the reality is still that sexual assault and rape still occur, even at Notre Dame.

In the fall of 2005, a group of Notre Dame men decided to take responsibility and add to the conversation in partnership with women. Out of this idea arose Men Against Violence (MAV), which is currently a task force of the Gender Relations Center. Notre Dame alumnus Alex Chapeaux, one of the group's founding members, says the mission of MAV is “to educate men on how to prevent sexual assault and domestic violence by rethinking the way they view themselves and their male peers in our society.”

Chapeaux recognized a demand on campus for a group in which men could feel comfortable discussing such personal issues. “We are trying to provide a way to talk to guys about sexual assault, as well as the deeper meanings of masculinity — what makes us men,” Chapeaux says. Today, masculinity is “twisted by our society, twisted by the media, by the shows we watch,” he says. MAV provides a setting in which Notre Dame men can feel comfortable discussing their masculinity, talking about sexual assault and encouraging each other to be role models for other men.

MAV is currently running one of its biggest initiatives of the year: the “No Matter What You Do ... Be a Man Against Violence” poster campaign. MAV hung posters all over campus that feature photos of Notre Dame men, including members of Bengal Bouts, Hall President’s Council, the lacrosse team and the football team. In the past, posters have also featured groups such as the Glee Club or the men of student government. “We tried to find males on campus who are visible, most well-known,” says senior Michael Redding, MAV’s current president. “Seeing football posters that say ‘I am a man who stands up against violence, sexual assault and rape,’ is a very powerful thing.”

The posters also include statistics on rape and violence from the U.S. Department of Justice, with the intention of making people aware of the reality and the seriousness of sexual assault and violence. The statistics are so appalling that MAV members said that students in the past assumed the statistics were exaggerated. “Sexual assault is a crime that nobody likes to talk about,” Redding says. “You don’t see it happen, so the stats don’t seem to be happening.”

As part of this campaign, MAV volunteers encouraged men to sign the “Real Man’s Pledge Against Violence.” Their signatures represent their pledge to “never rape, abuse or exploit a person.” They pledged to “be aware,” to “be receptive to issues of violence” and to “be strong enough to do what is right even if that means challenging the social norm.” Men also pledged to be role models for others and to “never allow someone to be raped, abused or exploited” if they can prevent it. MAV is hoping to reach as many people as possible with this positive message by creating a pattern of men encouraging
other men.

MAV was very satisfied with the student response to the pledge campaign. “The turnout was similar to or slightly above the turnout from last year,” Chapeaux says. Freshman MAV member Jim Ogorzalek says, “I was excited to see so many people take the time out of their day to sign the pledge.” As for the posters, MAV members were stunned and thrilled to see posters from last year’s campaign still on the walls of both male and female dorms across campus. “This speaks very highly to the message that we bring across, and the students’ and faculty’s acceptance of it,” Chapeaux says.

When MAV was first getting off the ground, there was a concern that women might not understand or support the group. Heather Racokzy, the director of the Gender Relations Center, says, “There can sometimes be resentment among women who feel that men are stealing their thunder. [But when it comes to] actually keeping women safe, women and men must be equal participants in the struggle.”

Chapeaux says, “Women were the pioneers, and we are proud to stand next to them to fight with them.” Chapeaux, Racokzy and Redding all vouch for the fact that Notre Dame women have been very receptive to MAV’s message.

A big part of MAV’s efforts have to do with reversing the stereotype that sexual assault, rape and domestic violence are only women’s issues. “It is very important for men to understand that these issues are not gender specific,” freshman MAV member Flynn O’Neill says. “Men need to know that showing that they care doesn’t have to contradict their masculinity.”

Redding says, “Ninety-nine percent of the perpetrators are male. This is commonly called a women’s issue, but that doesn’t make a whole lot of sense.”

Notre Dame is not immune to sexual violence. Three sexual assaults were reported by students to the Notre Dame Security Police within the last month, two of which were reported to be perpetrated by acquaintances. One specifically reported that the assault was committed by a male who was an invited guest in the female’s dorm room, according to the NDSP Crime Bulletin. These were not the first cases of sexual assault at Notre Dame, and they will likely not be the last. Members of MAV know that they have a tough fight ahead of them. But they also know, as Redding says, that being persistent in “getting people to talk about these issues” is the best way to reverse the current statistics. The goal is safety and equality for everyone.
When they came for the gays and the minorities and the utopians and the dancers, I turned away.
What’s Missing?

The debate over adding sexual orientation to Notre Dame’s non-discrimination clause continues with a new generation

Courtney Ball

In the Dec. 4, 1986, issue of Scholastic, Steffanie Keller wrote a cover story entitled “A Struggle for Recognition” about homosexuality at Notre Dame. That year marked the first time a gay student group openly contacted the administration for official recognition. Now, 22 years later, the struggle continues.

Today, the issue has sparked the interest of homosexual and heterosexual students alike. Members of the student body have been campaigning to add sexual orientation to the university’s non-discrimination clause for 10 years with little success to date.

Notre Dame’s non-discrimination clause currently reads: “The University of Notre Dame does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, veteran status or age in the administration of any of its educational programs, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs or in employment.” – DuLac, pg. 4

While many prominent Catholic universities, including Georgetown, Loyola University (Chicago), Boston College, Holy Cross (IN), and even Notre Dame’s sister school, Saint Mary’s College, have added sexual orientation into their non-discrimination clauses, Notre Dame has yet to do so.

The History

The Progressive Student Alliance (PSA) was founded in 1970 to advocate for equal rights and to end discrimination against gay, lesbian and bisexual students. The movement gained momentum in March of 1998 when Holy Cross Father David Garrick resigned in protest of the university’s failure to legally protect homosexuals from discrimination. Garrick claimed to have been suspended from his role as minister in the Basilica as a result of his coming-out as a celibate gay priest in the April 4, 1996, issue of the Observer.

Father Richard Warner, current Director of Campus Ministry, denies that Garrick’s sexual orientation was a factor in the dismissal. “This is a complicated matter. I don’t know on what basis he actually thought he was being discriminated against. He resigned his position as a faculty member because of what he assumed was the reality of the situation. I am not certain that was exactly the case,” Warner says. Garrick’s resignation sparked a landmark student protest on Notre Dame’s campus with a two-hour “speak-out” in support of his actions.

On April 8, 1998, inspired by the activism on campus, the Faculty Senate voted in favor of amending the non-discrimination clause to include sexual orientation with a 33-3 vote. This was closely followed with an affirmation by a 18-6 Student Senate vote, with two abstentions, in favor of changing the clause. The student body responded with more protests in support of the change, and PSA collected over 1,300 signatures in favor of the addition.

The Academic Council did not see the issue so clearly. Despite strong support from faculty, student government, and the student body, the Council delayed their decision on the matter until November of the next semester. PSA responded to the administration’s hesitation by bringing Phil Donahue, a Notre Dame graduate and well-known talk show host, to campus and hosted numerous other guests who spoke in favor of the change. The day after the speaker series, the Council passed the motion by one vote. It seemed Notre Dame was united in resolve to change the clause.

On December 1, 1998, however, the Board of Fellows unanimously voted against adding sexual orientation to the non-discrimination clause. One hundred and twenty students protested this decision with a three-day fast. Regardless, on February 5, 1999, the Board of Trustees affirmed the Fellows’ decision, and the amendment was officially defeated.

Instead of adding sexual orientation to the clause, the university responded by creating the “Spirit of Inclusion” statement which welcomes all persons into the Notre Dame community without providing legal protection on the basis of sexual orientation. The statement embodies the Catholic perspective on the issue, condemning harassment of any kind and calling students to follow Christ’s example in the treatment of others. The statement reads: “We value gay and lesbian members of this community as we value all members of this community. We condemn harassment of any kind, and university policies prescribe it.” Dennis Brown, assistant vice president for News and Information, says, “We wanted to make it absolutely clear that we want to be an environment characterized by inclusiveness derived from mission-driven assumptions.”

The Current Climate

Almost a decade after the initial defeat of the movement, students are speaking out again on this issue.

Sophomore Craig Ford, a gay student, says he is confused by Notre Dame’s failure to amend its non-discrimination clause. “What Notre Dame is saying is different than what other Catholic universities are saying,” Ford says. “What does Notre Dame see that Boston College and Loyola don’t see? They should make this knowledge known to enlighten the other universities and the student body. I think Notre Dame does not want us to know the answer to that question.”

The university has continually explained its theological reasoning in adopting the Spirit of Inclusion statement rather than changing the clause. The Church makes a distinction between sexual orientation and sexual conduct that is not recognized by society at large. The university is concerned that a court might not understand this
distinction between a “homosexual person” and “homosexual conduct,” which could result in legal issues. Warner says, “Instead of the institution embodying and carrying out Church teaching in every instance, the institution would be subject to the interpretations of others not from the perspective of what the Church teaches.”

Heather Rakocy, director of the Gender Relations Center, says that it would be a disconnect to enter into a legally-binding document that conflicts with the Church’s teachings.

Senior Brad Mattan, a gay student and a member of CORE Council, an organization for GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning) students on campus, recognizes the dilemma Notre Dame faces as a prominent Catholic institution. “What is going to happen if they get sued?” Mattan says. “They will have to stick to that clause, and maybe then they might have to give benefits to same-sex partners. Where would that leave them and Notre Dame’s Catholic identity? I can sympathize with it. They would have deep trouble from the Vatican if that was to happen. I don’t know where they would even begin to defend that to the Church, who is very clear on their stance on same-sex partnerships.”

Many students say they understand the administration’s position, yet they still express feeling that there is an obligation to add sexual orientation to the clause. Ford says he wonders why both homosexual persons and those who participate in homosexual conduct are not protected from discrimination. “How does knowing the difference between homosexual conduct and homosexual persons influence whether I should be admitted to the university or have access to educational programs, scholarship and loan programs, etc.?” Ford says. “Notre Dame needs to open itself up to those situations and determine where they come into conflict.”

Sophomore Eddie Velazquez, a gay student and a member of CORE Council, says, “We can’t consider ourselves an institution of higher learning if we are willing to discriminate against certain groups of people.”

**The Student Response**

Multiple groups on campus have gotten involved in the current movement. At the end of the 2006-2007 school year, the Student Senate passed a resolution encouraging the addition of sexual orientation to the non-discrimination clause, but due to a miscommunication, the resolution was never sent to any office, and dialogue was temporarily halted. Under the leadership of sophomore Pangborn Senator Denise Baron, this year’s Senate reopened the issue.

“We wanted to have the resolution from our current Senate to bring it to the administration to continue the dialogue that totally dropped off the year before. We thought it was really important to bring this Senate’s opinion,” Baron says.

The resolution passed with only one objection, sophomore Fisher Senator Stephen Bant, and one abstention, junior Sorin Senator George Chamberlain. “I thought on the whole that it would not accomplish anything,” Bant says. “I did not agree with it for many of the same reasons the university would not pass it.” He emphasizes the importance of respecting Notre Dame alumni and traditions when evaluating the resolution. “The older alumni would strongly oppose this measure. The majority of people would agree discrimination is horrible, but inclusiveness can be achieved without this. I am a big fan of the Spirit of Inclusion that we have,” he says. “You cannot change the fundamental issue by changing the clause. It takes a lot more than a policy change.”

Baron agrees that more than a resolution is necessary to achieve the desired change. “What is really needed is a dialogue between the administration and those of us who have taken this up as an issue. There needs to be a discussion of why this is not in there now,” Baron says.

Baron worries that the timing of the resolution will diminish its impact. There will be new student government officials next year who might not show the same commitment to the issue. “However, there is an opportunity to begin next year at full throttle. There is that perspective now that can really lead to a huge push next year,” Baron says.

Newly-elected student body President Bob Reish says that he will respond to the student
body's needs when addressing the resolution on the non-discrimination clause. "We recognize the history that comes with this clause, as it's been debated in many different venues within the university. Everyone will have their own opinion on this issue, but it's our job to represent the interests of the student body. If there is a demonstrated concern from students regarding this clause, then it will be something we pursue," Reish says.

PSA has also revived its interest in the movement by circulating a petition to the student body. Senior Mike McCann, a member of PSA helping to organize the petition signing, says, "We saw a role for us in this campaign. The petition is just a starting point. It is meant to get the issue brought up among the student body and get the conversation started." McCann estimates that the petition, which will be collected, consolidated and presented to the administration at the end of the semester, will have as many as 1,000 signatures.

McCann also co-founded a Facebook group promoting the petition which has about 700 members. "It is pretty unbelievable, the power of Facebook. It can do a lot of good about getting the word out for a social movement," McCann says.

Sophomore Patrick Tighe, co-chair of the Gender Relations Senate committee, says he believes it is necessary for student government to continue their involvement if anything is going to change. "I don't feel there is enough momentum built up from the petition. That is why we need a big student government initiative," Tighe says. "We need to reach alumni and educate them on what is going on on-campus. I think if we can show that people have been discriminated against, they will be supportive of it."

The Administration's Response

Despite the initiative of various student groups throughout the years, the administration's reasons for not changing the clause remain the same. Brown says, "For Notre Dame to change our non-discrimination clause to include sexual orientation would expose the university to a judicial interpretation of the clause in ways that could jeopardize our ability as a Catholic university to take action and make decisions necessary to support Church teachings on sexual orientation and conduct. The Fellows of the university, who reviewed the officers' decision, did not believe the university should leave to civil courts the interpretation and application of Church teaching to the internal affairs of the university. In addition, unlike other categories protected against discrimination under federal law, Congress has not extended such protection to sexual orientation, nor is there any state or local law in Indiana that requires this. We wanted to avoid a situation whereby decisions in the area of sexual orientation and/or homosexual conduct could be adjudicated by civil courts using criteria arising from a changing and often political social milieu."

Warner believes the Spirit of Inclusion is a more appropriate statement for a religious institution. "It is almost like a mission statement of how we should treat each other and our fellow students, and why we do it, which is even more important," Warner says. "I am not belittling the legal protection, because that has been helpful for many classes of people. But when you are dealing with something that has theological connotations, you have to look at it even more carefully."

The Spirit of Inclusion allows Notre Dame to maintain control over its affairs while still not tolerating harassment or discrimination of any kind. "It has stood the test of time and goes beyond a legal document to talk about our expectations as a Catholic university, that we are all brothers and sisters in God," Warner says.

The university has taken a stance against intolerance, but what about real legal protection? "If we discriminate against somebody in terms of tenure because their orientation is different, we are liable to the laws of the land," Warner says.

The Future of the Movement

Might student efforts eventually be recognized? Brown says he thinks it is unlikely. "When the question of whether to add sexual orientation to the non-discrimination clause was raised a decade ago, it was considered very carefully with a full analysis from both legal and theological perspectives. Nothing has happened from a legal or theological standpoint since that time that would lead the university to reconsider that decision," he says.

Junior Sade Murphy, a bisexual student, says she hopes the students can turn the tide of this decade-long debate. "If more people truly care about this issue and believe that sexual orientation should be part of the non-discrimination clause, then they should speak out," she says. "It's about knowing what is right and being a part of the voice that speaks out for it."
Notre Dame: Ally or Enemy? Students reflect on what it means to be gay at Notre Dame

Courtney Ball

Only one of the gay students interviewed for this story said that he would still choose to attend Notre Dame after experiencing what students say can be an unwelcoming atmosphere. This is not surprising, as Notre Dame was recently ranked fourth in the category “Alternative Lifestyles Not an Alternative” by the Princeton Review. The ranking is an improvement from five years ago when Notre Dame held the top position. Despite significant strides made by student organizations, however, Notre Dame is still struggling to balance its Catholic identity with openness to all students.

Though some say that there is no open hostility on campus, many gay students say they feel that the culture is apathetic. They say it seems as though there is an unspoken agreement that as long as gay students are not too vocal about their identity, they are accepted into the Notre Dame community. Eddie Velazquez, a gay sophomore and future co-chair of the CORE Council, says, “There really are gay people on campus, even if we like to pretend that there aren’t.”

The lack of any student-run GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning) organization on campus demonstrates Velazquez’s point. Though both AllianceND and OUTreachND have
applied for official university recognition, they have been denied approval. As a result, the groups cannot officially organize events on campus or advertise their existence.

Brian Coughlin, assistant vice president of Student Activities, cites the following excerpt from letters sent to “United in Diversity” prospective club leaders in 2004 and 2005: “It remains the perspective of the Student Activities Office that the dual goals of supporting gay and lesbian students and educating the larger campus community can best be accomplished through the structures already in place. Continued collaboration between administrators, pastoral ministers and students is essential.”

Many students say, however, that they feel the refusal to officially recognize a Notre Dame gay-straight alliance is an injustice that is indicative of the apathetic culture of the university.

Making Progress

Heather Rakoczy, director of the Gender Relations Center, says she was disturbed by Notre Dame’s ranking in 2003 as the top university in the “Alternative Lifestyles Not an Alternative” category. She says that Notre Dame is taking steps to improve the atmosphere on campus. “I think there has been progress made. Back in the late ’80s and early ’90s there would never have been a ‘Stand Against Hate’ week. There would not have been very much, if any, conversation on this issue,” she says. Senior Brad Mattan, a gay member of CORE Council, also disagrees with the ranking. “We are not the worst university in the country, we are just the worst top-ranked university. It is not as bad as people might think,” Matton says.

While the university still fails to officially recognize any student-run gay and lesbian groups, they have supported many initiatives in recent years. The Standing Committee for Gay and Lesbian needs, now the CORE Council, was created in 1996 under the leadership of Sister Sue Bruno as an advisory group for the Vice President of Student Affairs. Sister M.L. Gude took over the program in 1998 and helped to expand the committee to include heterosexual “allies.” “I lived on campus for 22 years and saw several generations go through the school. The climate changed drastically,” Gude says.

Today, CORE Council serves not only the administration in identifying the needs of gay and lesbian students, but it also educates the student body and provides a supportive community for gay students. Council programs include Coffee and Conversation at the Coleman-Morse Center, where students meet to discuss issues and learn about resources available for GLBTQ students, and office hours in the Green Room in LaFortune to answer questions. CORE Council hosts network sessions where resident assistants are educated on psychological and theological aspects of sexual orientation. All incoming freshman are required to attend the CORE Council CommUnity presentations to inform them of Catholic teachings on homosexuality and to encourage them to help foster an atmosphere of acceptance on campus.

Stand Against Hate week is another important indicator of Notre Dame’s refusal to tolerate discrimination. This week-long event is designed to remind students that they are called to honor the dignity of all human beings. To help promote awareness, the Spirit of Inclusion statement is passed out to students, and they are asked to sign a pledge against intolerance. “Yes, its focus is on homosexuality, but it also focuses on what happens when any group is marginalized. It is a reminder of hate crimes and how terrible they are,” Rakoczy says.

Students agree that progress has been made in recent years. Senior Mike McCann, a member of Progressive Student Alliance (PSA), says, “This place has definitely changed in the last decade ... There wasn’t the Spirit of Inclusion. This place is definitely different, which makes me more optimistic that people can be accepting.”

Some students, however, still feel that more needs to be done before Notre Dame can truly become an accepting campus. Students express worry that the university’s progress has become stagnant because of its struggle to balance a Catholic identity with openness to all students.

A Closed Door?

Craig Ford, a gay sophomore, says he thinks that the administration is not always open to dialogue. “It would almost be a no-win situation to discuss it with the administration ... That is because of the impression that the Church has closed the door on the issue,” Ford says.

The official Catholic stance on homosexuality is that sexuality is a gift from God which is reserved for marriage and is intended to be both unitive and procreative. Because homosexual unions can not produce children, homosexual acts are considered disordered. Rakoczy says, “For heterosexual people there is a way out in marriage. For
a homosexual person that is never possible, so they are called to chaste friendship which translates to lifelong celibacy." She emphasizes that a homosexual act is no worse than any heterosexual one committed outside of marriage.

How does Church teaching affect the attitude toward gay students on campus? "It's very possible to feel as a homosexual at Notre Dame that you are accepted as a person with unacceptable ideas," Ford says. "It's a very interesting dynamic to experience here. To the extent that one defines himself by his ideas, that determines the extent he is offended. I think the gay person at Notre Dame has to be a strong person. He has to be willing to value himself as a person who is distinct from his ideas, willing to engage a culture which is opposed to his own and emerge from that with a personal strength and integrity that allows him to still think he is a good person."

For many gay students, this often translates to uncomfortable situations. Velazquez says, "We don't have an atmosphere that is conducive to being an 'out' person. They are good enough with the balance to create an atmosphere which isn't really hostile, but at the same time, it doesn't really support them either."

Finding A Balance.

Several gay students on campus identify themselves as devout Catholics. "We have several members of the [CORE] Council who make a point to live their lives according to Church teaching and doctrine," Velazquez says. "They try to find that balance, and I definitely know people who have made it work."

Father Richard Warner, Director of Campus Ministry, says he respects the faith of all members of the Church equally. "I think there are many gay students for whom the Church and their religion is very important, and they are very good Catholics, just like the other students around here. Their relationship with the Church is just as important to them as anyone else," Warner says.

Senior Brad Mattan (see sidebar) and Sade Murphy, a bisexual junior, are members of an unrecognized gay Emmaus group on campus. Murphy thinks the spiritual resource is an important source of support in her religious struggles. She says, "Approaching God, especially when you are homosexual or bisexual, can be such a scary thing. No one should have to try to figure out alone how to be in a relationship with God and gay at the same time because those are tough questions."

Murphy was confirmed as a Catholic earlier this month and feels that it is an important part of her identity. "When you go up and take the Eucharist, you are becoming more one with God and becoming one with this great community of believers too. If we could embrace that part of Catholicism which says 'love,' I think other things would fall into place, and it wouldn't be a question of what the Church teaches, but more of a question of what God would really have me do," Murphy says.

Ford also describes himself as very religious and says he is devoted to the theological study of homosexuality. He says he believes that Notre Dame gives him a unique challenge and opportunity in his faith. "To follow Christ despite all of the hatred and the ill will, to still love through all of those negative feelings is what Christianity is all about," Ford says. "To be a homosexual on this campus allows me to do what Christians are called to do."

Gay? Fine By Me

Since the debut of the "Gay? Fine by Me" shirts on Notre Dame's campus in March of 2004, on designated dates each semester, students can show solidarity with the GLBTQ community by collectively
acknowledging and welcoming gay students on campus. Though the groups of students do not necessarily form a solid sea of orange, hundreds and sometimes thousands of students wear the bright orange shirts each year in support of GLBTQ students. While most gay students appreciate the message and proudly wear the shirts in solidarity with the campus, they acknowledge that it can also create a tense atmosphere. “Unfortunately, there are people who are adamantly against the shirts, and it causes a lot of opposition on campus,” Velazquez says.

Perhaps the most controversial instance of this occurred this past fall when two juniors staged a protest outside of LaFortune Student Center, wearing shirts which read, “Gay? Go to Hell.” The individuals responsible for the demonstration did not respond to Scholastic’s request for an interview. Velazquez says, “I think they were in poor taste, but I really hope that in the future instead of resorting to insulting T-shirts we can find a happy medium where they can come to us and tell us that ‘this is our logic, and this is what we think.’ I cannot expect everyone to be OK with homosexuality, but it is something we can work towards.” The Facebook group “Wrath of God? Fine by Me,” with over 60 members, is another example of open hostility in reaction to the “Gay? Fine by Me” shirts.

Murphy says she thinks it is unfortunate that the shirts seem to be a necessary statement. “I don’t think there is anything wrong with the shirts themselves. The fact that we need something like that may be a problem,” she says. “It should go without saying that you are OK with the way other people are. I don’t think the attitude on this campus should be such that we have to purposefully take note of other people being gay and say ‘Oh, we are OK with it.’”

The consensus among gay students and supporters, however, seems to be that anything that promotes awareness is a positive thing overall. They say they believe that the most important thing in continuing to achieve progress is an open dialogue among students, faculty and the administration. “As long as it maintains dialogue, I think there is some hope,” Murphy says.

The Notre Dame Experience

Despite what some gay students say is a history of intolerance at the university, GLBTQ students continue to apply and enroll at Notre Dame and utilize the unique opportunities and experiences the university offers them.

“I really believe that there is no place else where you can get a great education but at the same time be forced to really take a stand on what you believe in. Notre Dame is a great place to do that,” Murphy says. “It is a special and spiritual place. It has that going for it too. When things get tough, sometimes you just need to go to the Grotto. It’s nice to have a priest living down the hall from you. You can’t get that anywhere else. There is definitely something special about Notre Dame. Even though it can be really hard, it is still one of the best places you can be.”

Mattan agrees that Notre Dame offers him a unique chance to reconcile his religious beliefs and sexuality. But it has not been an easy path. “It’s hard. This place wears you down,” Mattan says. “I am ready to graduate because you just become bitter with it.”

“I identify as Catholic, a practicing Catholic. It has characterized my life. My identity as a gay man has rubbed against my identity as a Catholic. At one time, I had been trying to live a chaste and celibate life. I had been trying to change my sexual orientation since junior year of high school. To accomplish this, I had been attending a group that is part of Exodus International, where they advised me to develop a regular prayer life and to try to reclaim my supposedly crucial deficiency in masculinity in order to, by the grace of God, be restored to heterosexuality. By the time I came here, I had shifted to being celibate rather than changing myself. I became depressed and unhappy even though I wasn’t doing anything wrong; yet I had this profound sense of lack of fulfillment. Shortly after that, I met a guy who ended up challenging a lot of my beliefs in a personal way, and opened my heart to the possibility that these attractions I had to other men had some value. I didn’t feel I could say it was wrong. That ended up shifting my whole view on things. What does this mean for my faith? I thought I needed to leave the Church for a while. I visited some friends who were studying abroad in Rome, and I was able to go on a tour under Saint Peter’s Basilica. When we got to that place directly under the altar of the Basilica, I said my own prayers asking Saint Peter to help me figure this out. It was one of the most intense spiritual moments in my life: When I was leaving, I had this profound feeling of remorse for wanting to leave the Church, because there is more to it than rules and systems of beliefs; it is made of people. I couldn’t leave it, it wouldn’t be right. I knew if I intended to stay with the Church, I was obligated to figure out what about it was wrong. I am not a theology major so this was kind of a foolish endeavor on my part, but I did a lot of research and read several important books on Catholic sexual morality. The attitude that I took that I was going to fix everything was unhealthy. All I was trying to do was justify what I already felt was right, which is not a good way to go about morality. I resolved to follow my conscience, and what it kept telling me was that you don’t know if same-sex activity is going to be helpful in leading two people to God, but what you do know is something is not right about what the Church is teaching. There is some value in these attractions that you have. I was created this way. What do I do? Live as good a Christian life as I can, receiving the Sacraments and doing service. I keep questioning my beliefs: I live in a creative tension; I don’t know where it is going to end. I am taking seriously what the Church says and what my experience says. I hope one day I can integrate them better.”

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Campus Chatter

DEPT. OF HOUSING

I sit quietly at a desk in the basement of Howard Hall waiting for a dramatic narrative to unfold before my eyes. It's room-pick day for the dorm’s sophomores-to-be, certainly an invitation for backstabbing, hair-pulling, lying, cheating and all other sorts of heart-racing conflict. My hypothesis: Girls + picking rooms and roommates + two hour time limit = a wildly entertaining story.

Plastered on a peach-colored wall in the basement is a white, 3x3 dry erase board; on the wall directly across from this board is the dorm layout, with many of the rooms already claimed the previous night by upperclassmen. I notice colored magnets clinging to the board, along with written vertical rows of available rooms. I then read the rules for this process, taking particular notice of the last one, concise, yet simple: NO FUNNY BUSINESS. I secretly hope that Howard houses some civilly-disobedient residents, else it’s back to the drawing board for this story.

“I was sitting with 11 or 12 rectors at dinner,” Howard rector Katherine Collard says, “and it seemed there were 11 or 12 different ways of doing [the room pick process].” As with all dorms on campus, room picks are decided by a randomized numbered lottery system. Some dorms, such as Carroll, do their own lottery; other lists, like Howard’s, are assigned by the Office of Residence Life and Housing. Some dorms have residents pick rooms by drawing out of a hat. Others merely have residents line up according to their lottery number.

Howard’s scheme figures to be one of the more diabolical, as it requires the girls to place their magnets next to the particular room they desire, only to leave the possibility that a girl with a better lottery number could “steal” the room by “bumping” off her magnet.

Which leaves Jena Doom, dead last on Howard’s rising sophomore lottery list at 33, in an entirely unenviable position. Doom, however, seems to recognize the wisdom in numbers, as the blonde freshman plans to room with three blonde friends in a second floor quad — hence the group’s nickname, “The Blondetourage.” “Luckily, one member of the Blondetourage is number two in the lottery, so she pulled me out of a possibly devastating situation,” Doom says. “I am confident that her number is high enough to avoid any conflicts, so there are no back-up plans if things go awry.”

Meanwhile, Michelle Gaseor, 25th in the lottery, hands me a purple slip of paper with research and contingency plans scribbled on both sides. She says that she and her future roommate started thinking about potential rooms right after spring break.

As the minutes tick toward the 8 p.m. start time, more and more girls arrive down in the basement, ready to make their selections. Soon, a mass of 25 to 30 girls has converged around the board, waiting for someone to make the first move. “Who’s that guy over there?” a girl whispers to her friend, obviously underestimating my keen sense of hearing. For 15 to 20 minutes, a stalemate seems to settle in. “I’m not even putting a magnet down now. There’s no point,” another girl says. I am surprised that more conflict isn’t brewing, but then again, I figure, (so the stereotype goes) female drama is more secretive and behind-the-back anyway. “It might get iffy when the last couple [of people] come,” the assistant rector says. An RA suggests that the girls just come down later. Most of them, in turn, go back upstairs, hoping to engage in more productive endeavors, like studying for tomorrow’s exams or watching American Idol.

I sit ... and sit ... and sit ... and unfortunately, do not witness any backstabbing, hair-pulling, lying, cheating or any other conflict throughout the rest of the night. Apparently, this just happens to be the year in which the supply of available rooms in Howard went up, and thus the demand, and any interesting anecdotes to go with it, went down. I am severely disappointed. It looks like I will have to find some way to entertain readers with a virtual non-story, but for Collard and other rectors, an unusually smooth process is a sign of a very successful night.

— Marques Camp

The views of this author are not necessarily the views of Scholastic Magazine

Note: Room picks are actually nothing like this.
Zahm Gets a Facelift

Molly Conaty

Rumors abound at Notre Dame, but those about the men of Zahm Hall seem to circulate a bit more frequently and ferociously than most. Maybe it’s because of their refusal to join in the traditional fist pumps that accompany the “Celtic Chant,” their “Kiss the Moose” tradition, or their tendency to run naked in public around finals time. Whatever the source of these raucous rumors, Zahm rector Corry Collona says that they do not reflect reality and that Zahm Hall, in fact, has a strong sense of community.

One recent expression of community building is the new and improved version of their famous dorm banner that reads, “HERE COME THE IRISH.” The banner has hung in front of the dorm every home football weekend for the past seven years and attracts fans across campus, as well as nationwide. The banner is also known among Zahm residents for creating an infamous “Green Glow” indoors when the sun streams from North Quad into the 26 dorm rooms the sign spans.

After an incident involving non-Notre Dame students during the past football season, the banner was badly damaged and subsequently taken down. In response to overwhelming interest in building another banner, a “Bigger, Better Banner Committee” (BBBC) was formed to plan the replacement of this university staple and symbol of Zahm tradition.

The new banner boasts stronger seams and more durable fabric than the original. Zahm’s rector and a Harrisburg, Pa., family completed the banner during spring break. This production was more organized than that of the original banner. According to Collona, the first banner was completed by a group of St. Mary’s students armed with sewing machines. This time, he says, the “sewing team” had the advantage of getting tips from a crafty 79-year-old neighbor.

The painting process was also improved this time around. The Student Activities Office granted Zahm permission to use the Stepan Center overnight to paint the 10-foot tall letters and allow the banner to dry safely. The original banner was painted outside in the St. Joseph High School parking lot, and a student stayed up all night to ensure nothing happened to it.

During a BBBC meeting, some freshmen suggested painting a Zahm “Z” on the sign, but the upperclassmen quickly shot down their request. Collona says, “It’s not about Zahm — it’s more than that. It’s about Notre Dame.”

Zahm donated the damaged sign to alumni, who then repaired it. The banner was resurrected at the nation’s second-largest St. Patrick’s Day parade in Mt. Holyoke, Mass., on Sunday, March 30. The city celebrated the centennial birthday of the Notre Dame Victory March; town natives, brothers and Notre Dame alumni Michael and John Shea composed the fight song in 1908. Zahm’s original banner hung proudly as the University of Massachusetts Minutemen Marching Band honored Notre Dame, the Sheas and Mt. Holyoke by playing “the greatest of all fight songs.”

Zahmbies and others flocked to North Quad on Thursday, April 17, as Zahm Hall unveiled their new and improved “HERE COME THE IRISH” sign in time for the Blue and Gold spring football game. Collona says, “The guys are proud of it, and I am proud of them.”

The whole nation is getting a taste of Zahm’s sweet side. Six hundred thousand visitors saw their old banner in Mt. Holyoke and even more watched on the Internet. Countless visitors to campus request to see “the big sign on the ND applications.” So make sure to join them and go check out the 90-by-30 yard banner next fall. As if you could miss it.

I SAW THE SIGN Zahm’s new banner went up at 4:30 p.m. the Thursday before the Blue and Gold game.
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, Melanie (Mel) Bautista, Bautista.5@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

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

Visit our web site at http://corecouncil.nd.edu
Pedal to the Medal
ND athletes train for the Olympics
Mary Margaret Skelly

"One World, One Dream." It is the official slogan of the 2008 Olympic Games, and it rings true for the Notre Dame athletes who share the dream of qualifying for this summer's games. Fencer Kelley Hurley and track and field sprinters Balazs Molnar and Miklos Szebeny aim to compete in their respective sports in Beijing this August.

Hurley, a sophomore, can breathe a little easier than her Notre Dame counterparts — she is already an Olympic qualifier. Not only is she ranked second in fencing in the Americas, but by outperforming her competitors in her "zone" — including the United States, South America and Canada — she has earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic team.

Sophomore Molnar and freshman Szebeny are two sprinters who are not hoping to trade in their Notre Dame blue and gold for the United States' red, white and blue at this summer's Olympic Games. Instead, they are looking to sport a different country's jersey. Molnar, who hails from Hungary, aims to drop his 400-meter hurdle time from his current best of 51.38 seconds to his country's Olympic qualifying time, 49.50 seconds, by July.

Molnar has a lot of work ahead of him, as he has not equaled his best time since 2005. "Last year I came to Notre Dame, a really big change for me, so my time remained the same," he says. "But this year I improved my time by almost a second in the 400-meter dash, so I am looking to improve my hurdles time too. Hopefully during the summer I can improve my hurdles time by a lot."

Hungary does not hold Olympic trials. Athletes must instead meet a certain time in their event at any official meet to qualify. Szebeny, who is also from Hungary and specializes in the 100-meter and 200-meter sprints, will attempt to qualify for the games in the same way.

One Notre Dame athlete is already looking ahead to 2012. Senior rower Amanda Polk hopes to represent the United States on the Under-23 national team that will compete in a world championship later this year. Rowing Head Coach Martin Stone says that four more years of intensive training and making the Under-23 team would give her "a good shot" at a position on the 2012 Olympic rowing team.

The Olympic hopefuls manage to balance heavy training with rigorous academics. Hurley says keeping up with her schoolwork was "pretty tough at first." She changed her major from pre-med to psychology and found that it was a better fit. "It's mostly reading homework, which I can do on the road. The professors are really great about it," she says.

Molnar, a finance major, says that balancing workouts and school is difficult. This was especially true when he was also dealing with culture shock. "It was really hard to get used to being here, but now it's getting better, and my team supports me," he says. Molnar wants to return to the United States after the games and use his experience to promote his country. "If I could come back here after the Olympics, I could talk more about Hungary here and people would be really interested in it," he says.
SPORTS

A DREAM DEFERRED
PART DEUX

The Irish hockey program continues to make history

Marques Camp

With about three minutes to go, sophomore fan David Fairburn sits lugubriously behind the glass at The Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo., slowly realizing that the Irish hockey team will make no more history this season. No more miracle comebacks, no more momentum-changing goals, no more sliding on the ice in celebration, no more naive hope. The team, it seems, is as powerless as he is at this point to change their fate. The flame of the Irish miracle season has finally flickered away.

Boston College 3, Notre Dame 2. Fifteen minutes left to play in the championship game and in the season. Irish freshman defenseman Ian Cole sends a pass toward sophomore defenseman Kyle Lawson, who is waiting by the goal. Lawson reaches out with his stick to nudge the puck, but the puck has already ricocheted off his skate and into the goal. Boston College 3, Notre Dame 2. The crowd of Irish fans watching the game back at the JACC at Notre Dame erupts in euphoria. The Irish, despite the deficit, seem primed for one last comeback.

In what seems to be an infinitely long and painstaking deliberation process, however, the referees disallow the goal, ruling that Lawson’s skate had directed the puck into the goal by virtue of a “distinct kicking motion,” (the rule, of course, ever so arbitrary, only adds to the controversy). The crowd at the JACC hurls boos and berates the referees, as if their intense show of emotion is enough to transcend the two giant projector screens hanging over the Irish home ice and transport them into the Pepsi Center. Alas, they are powerless as well. Irish Coach Jeff Jackson smirks, the team’s balloon of momentum deflates, play resumes, and then seconds later the Eagles push another goal past Irish goalie Jordan Pearce to put the game out of reach. And so it is bere that the dream dies.

A little more than one year ago, the No. 1-ranked Irish, after being challenged to a thrilling double-overtime duel by Alabama-Huntsville in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, fell 2–1 two days later to eventual national champion Michigan State. The loss was a disappointing finish for a team that was expected to reach the program’s first Frozen Four. “We were definitely motivated after the loss to Michigan State,” junior left-wing Garrett Regan says. “We hoped to go further than last year, and we just tried to learn from the experience so we could be more successful the following year.”

High hopes abounded for the Irish at the beginning of this season, and they initially lived up to the hype, beginning the season with a 16-4-0 record. A second-half swoon during which the Irish struggled mightily on offense, however, left them with a 24-15-4 overall record and on the bubble for the NCAA Tournament. The team was dealt further bad news in March when it learned that junior right wing Erik Condra, the talented offensive playmaker and the Irish’s leading scorer for three consecutive seasons, would miss the rest of the season with a knee injury.

Sports sometimes lead to the most ironic situations. Who would have thought that the Irish, arguably the nation’s best hockey team in 2007, would fall in the second round of the 2007 tournament? Who would have thought that the Irish, the last at-large team selected for the 2008 tournament, a No. 4-seed, and a team playing without its leading scorer, would plow through the first two rounds with a 7–3 victory over No. 1 New Hampshire, and exact revenge on the Spartans with a 3–1 victory in round two? Who would have thought that the Irish would be David to Michigan’s Goliath in the Frozen Four, jumping out to a 3–0 first period lead, allowing the Wolverines to storm back and tie the game at four with 14:38 left, and eventually breaking the collective heart of Wolverine Nation with freshman Cale Ridderwall’s winning goal in overtime? Who would have thought that this was the Irish’s year to make history?

“I think our team was in a totally different position this year than last year. Last year we were in as the No. 1-ranked team and felt a lot of pressure like we had to win. This year we went in with an underdog mentality and just went out and played like we had nothing to lose,” sophomore center Kevin Deeth says. Despite many proclamations from experts that the Irish should have been happy with just making it to the Frozen Four, the team was undeniably hungry for the title. Regan
the Irish hockey program continues to make history.

Marques Camp

With about three minutes to go, realizing that the Irish hockey team will make no more history this season. No more celebration, no more naive hope.

The crowd of Irish fans watching the game to change their fate. The flame of the Irish game and in the season. Irish freshman minutes left to play in the championship sophomore defenseman Kyle Lawson, who is his stick to nudge the puck, but the puck has already ricocheted off his skate and into the goal. Boston College 3, Notre Dame 2.

The Michigan Wolverines had 23 Frozen Four appearances and nine titles. The North Dakota Fighting Sioux had 18 appearances and seven titles. The Boston College Eagles had 20 appearances and two titles. The Irish, meanwhile, were the history-makers. Zero appearances, zero titles. It seemed as though Jackson’s five-year plan begun in 2005 to rebuild the Irish program had instead been accomplished in three.

With much success comes much adulation. The energy on Notre Dame’s campus prior to the Michigan game, and more so prior to the championship game, was palpable. Some fans, like Fairburn and his travel partner Paul Pokaski, decided that they would make the trip out to Denver to witness history in person. “It has always been my dream to go to the Frozen Four, and since tickets in general are so hard to come by and my team was in it, I couldn’t pass up the opportunity,” Fairburn says. “It was the best sporting event I ever attended.”

The team started to garner a larger following and greater fan attendance at home games during its record-breaking 2007 season. This season, every home game drew at least 2000 fans. According to Matt McCormack, the marketing director for Notre Dame’s athletic department, Frozen Four tickets were in high demand following the second-round victory over Michigan State.

“The buzz around campus this year for us has been awesome,” Deeth says. “The student section and band make the JACC an awesome place to play, regardless of the below-par facility. Anytime you get the support like they gave us really makes playing college hockey for Notre Dame a special thing.”

The Irish returned to campus the day after the 4–1 loss and were greeted at Main Circle by hundreds of fans. Cheerleaders cheered, the band played the fight song, and Jackson and the team’s four captains spoke to the crowd. With all the enthusiasm, one might have thought that Lawson’s goal was allowed and the Cinderella Irish seized the momentum to make one last thrilling comeback for the program’s first title. At the astonishing rate at which the Notre Dame hockey program is growing, perhaps this dream, and this history, will be realized soon enough.
IRISH EYES ON... BROOK BUCK
Malisha Samarasekera

Senior women's tennis player Brook Buck has earned her share of accolades while playing for the Irish. From being part of the nation's No. 1-ranked doubles team to winning the university's first Intercollegiate Tennis Association's (ITA) Sportsmanship Award since former Irish player Jennifer Bell in 1999, Buck made quite an impact on the team during her four seasons. Buck qualified for the Big East All-Tournament Team four times for her play in both singles and doubles and currently boasts a perfect 6-0 record against conference opponents. Along with doubles partner Kelsey Tefft, Buck hopes to play far into the NCAA Tournament, which begins on May 10.

How did you first find out that you had been named the No. 1 doubles team in the country by the ITA?

We were in Hawaii on spring break and after practice one day, Kelsey looked at her phone and her mom had text messaged her, and then she came over and hugged me and I didn't know what for. Then my parents called, and I saw it on my computer after the computer rankings came out.

What was your reaction when you saw your name with the No. 1 ranking next to it?

My doubles partner and I obviously were very excited whenever it happened. That was in the middle of our season, so we still had a long way to go. It seemed exciting, but you can't really think about it that much.

Even if you aren't thinking about it, I'm sure other teams are. What has the added pressure been like?

At first, after we found out, I don't know if it was a subconscious thing or not, but for the next couple of matches we weren't playing quite as well as we had been. I don't really know if we were thinking about it too much, but we've played around 10 matches since then and got back into the groove and playing with confidence. Whenever you step into that number one spot, you feel pressure that wasn't there before. Everyone's after you and everyone is playing to best you, but we've started to play better than we were for a short time after we found out.

How do you develop a sense of team unity with a sport that is so reliant on the individual?

All growing up in juniors, you always win for yourself. It's really fun to come into a team atmosphere, where all of sudden it's not just for you; you are playing for the other girls on your team and for the coaches. It gives you more meaning — winning and losing is not so self-centered, there is so much more that goes into it. It takes an adjustment, but I think it's a really good adjustment. It's not really just about me anymore; all of sudden, everything that we do is for the team, for each other.

We've played together since we were 11 and 12. We're both from Oklahoma, so we grew up together. I really wanted her to come to Notre Dame, figuring we would play doubles together when she got here because we played all through juniors together. She is like my sister, so that adds to the chemistry of the court. We understand each other really well — I have full confidence in her 110 percent of time.

You are a senior — would you consider playing professional tennis after finishing this level?

It's so hard to say. The professional circuit is a whole other level. Kelsey is a year younger than me, so as far as doubles goes, I would have to wait a year for her to graduate. I love playing with Kelsey and I think it would be fun to try, but at the same time it depends on where we are a year from now. There are so many amazing players and doubles teams. If anything, I think it would just be for the experience to see where we match up.

Before you leave, you still have to compete in the NCAA Tournament. What is your mindset going into postseason play?

I'm just really excited. I think our team is playing a lot better tennis than we were in the beginning of the season, which is ideal. If we keep playing how we've been playing, I think we could do really well.
FROM THE PRESS BOX

Andy Gray

Charel Allen, a senior guard for the women's basketball team, will soon take her game to the next level. The Sacramento Monarchs selected Allen 43rd overall in the third round of the WNBA Draft on April 9. Allen, selected as an AP Honorable Mention All-American, leaves Notre Dame after she led the Irish to the Sweet Sixteen in this season. Her career statistics include more than 1500 points, over 600 rebounds and two First Team All-Big East selections. Allen is the seventh Irish player to be drafted to the WNBA in the past eight years, joining the likes of Megan Duffy and two-time WNBA champion Ruth Riley as former female Irish athletes playing professional basketball.

Sophomore outfielder A.J. Pollock and junior pitcher David Phelps earned recognition on April 14 as Big East Player and Pitcher of the Week, respectively, for their performances in a week capped by a road sweep of conference opponent Villanova. This was the second time Pollock, who leads the Irish in batting average at .410, had earned this title in as many weeks. He scored eight runs and collected two doubles, two triples and a home run during the week while committing no errors in the field. Phelps allowed no earned runs and just five hits in a 2-1 victory over the Wildcats, coming within an out of a complete game.

Sophomore fencer Kelley Hurley recently added a bit of hardware to her growing trophy collection. She earned a gold medal in women's epee at the Junior World Championships on April 10, defeating Romanian Simona Dec 15-10 in the title bout. Hurley defeated Irish teammate Ewa Nelip in the round of 16 en route to the championship. Nelip, a freshman from Katowice, Poland, finished the competition in ninth place. Hurley was also a member of the U.S. junior women's epee team that earned gold on April 15. The two gold medals come as part of a series of successes for Hurley, who captured the individual NCAA title in women's epee on March 14, and also recently earned the right to represent the United States in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

WAKE UP THE ECHOES On April 18, "The Shirt" for the 2008 football season was revealed in front of the bookstore, kicking off Blue and Gold Weekend.

HEY BATTER BATTER Senior outfielder Ross Brezovsky helped propel the Notre Dame baseball team to a record of 12-3 in the Big East and 26-10-1 overall.
The big mound of snow on North Quad has finally melted, and summer is just around the corner. Only one thing stands in the way of three months of blissful brain inactivity: finals. So it's time that we all finally get our acts together and make an attempt to do all the work we've been putting off since mid-January. And just as we start to make serious progress on our academics, a good number of us find ourselves losing ground to debilitating fatigue. Lack of sleep or serious illness? Thanks to the scientific advances of 1966, there's a test for that.

In science's never-ending crusade to take all romance out of life, the alleged "kissing disease" has now become nearly instantaneously detectable in those who find themselves "listless and tired, with other hard to pin down symptoms," according to Wample Labs of Stamford, Conn. Recent studies done at Tulane University show that students under emotional stress are especially susceptible to the disease ... At about a dollar a test, it is now possible to screen an entire university if the need arises.

Hmm ... emotional stress ... "kissing disease" ... connection perhaps? And did they really think that there would be a need to test the entire campus for mono? Let's keep in mind that at the point this great discovery occurred, Notre Dame was still only admitting those of the male persuasion. But if this really was a major epidemic, fine by me.

-Natalie Kratz
Yeah, I know, I know. You just opened directly to your favorite article of Scholastic, “The Gipper.” And it’s not here. It turns out that there are lines even Gippy is not allowed to cross. Figure out who he (or she) is, and maybe you’ll be let in on what was too risqué, even for this magazine.

As a result, we at Scholastic have compiled a list of our favorite Gipps from years past. So while you are being denied a new story of embarrassment and humiliation, just revel in the fact that the following individuals are being burned ... again. In no particular order, we give you the best of the worst:

One of the Gipper’s favorite themes is something we can all relate to: the intense urge to urinate while intoxicated. Unlike most of us, however, Gipper’s victims seem to have serious issues controlling said urges. Take our friend from the February 2007 issue. He found himself stuck in a corner of a bar and too lazy to force his way across to the nearest restroom. No problem, this guy had a pitcher. Too bad he didn’t have the dexterity to pass the pitcher to a friend who wanted to contribute to the collection of pale ale. What’s worse than wetting yourself in public? Wetting yourself with someone else’s urine.

Sex. Most of us aren’t having it. Which is good because most of us probably wouldn’t know what to do if we could. That is probably the reason why so many of Gipper’s subjects have such traumatic sexual encounters. In October of 2005, he told the tale that would make every Sex Ed teacher in the nation cringe. A certain freshman was rounding third and heading for home with an oh-so-lucky lady, when both parties remembered the importance of birth control. Now, most people on campus believe that you cannot acquire contraceptives on campus, but freshie will tell you that they have them in the Huddle Mart. In the form of plastic trash bags. To his dismay, the object of Hefty’s affection knew better (maybe she went to a public high school?) and bailed.

As long as we’re on the topic of awkward sexual experiences, let’s look at last September’s Gipper. We all know the famous Dazed and Confused line, “That’s what I love about these high school girls, man. I get older, they stay the same age.” While these may be the words to live by for sketchy townies, they really shouldn’t define the standards of Notre Dame students. I guess one of our boys missed that memo. Luckily, the girl’s parents were able to meet him in the morning to deliver it.

As Notre Dame students, many of us are sports fans and wannabe athletes. Also, many of us are alcoholics. So why not put two of our favorite activities together? That said, why stop at things like tossing around a football at a tailgate? And let’s throw in the fact that the vast majority of us are sexually repressed. When these powers combine, we get the rousing game of strip baseball reported in April of 2006. Maybe these fellas should have taken into account the fact that double vision is detrimental to one’s batting average. Maybe then they would have left the field with more than just their bats and balls.

Our final Gipper Hall-of-Famer from November of 2005 receives his award, not only for his level of drunken confusion, but also for his persistence. Like a good Catholic boy, after a night of partying, he did not attempt to go back to the room of a young lady, hoping for some premarital action. Rather, he sought spiritual guidance from his rector. Oh wait, no. He went to his rector’s room, thinking it was his own, and rumbled through his closet for PJs. Confronted by said rector, our student repeatedly refused to believe he was in the wrong. It’s a shame for him that ResLife took the side of the rector.

Well, we hope you all enjoyed reliving the humiliation of your peers. The Gipper will return this fall, so try to stay sober enough to send in epic events from the summer.

Catch ya on the flip side,
The Gipper
I'm sure everyone else already knows this, but the other day I found out that Notre Dame managed to snag the No. 5 spot on the Princeton Review's list of “Top 10 Dream Colleges.” Being a curious person (i.e. a person desperate to not actually do my homework), I decided to check out the Princeton Review Web site to verify this. I found the list of dream schools and discovered that this ranking isn't 100 percent true. We only made the list of parents' dream schools, not students'. Figures. After all, my mom was the one who wanted me to go to Notre Dame. I wanted to go south, because I hate snow. Seeing as she obviously won that debate, I suppose Notre Dame made the more important of the lists.

After that monumental letdown, I got ambitious with my procrastination and perused the site to see where Our Lady ranks in other departments. Some of the lists are pretty straightforward — we're second in “Best Career/Job Placement Services.” That's legit; you can determine our employment rate pretty easily, although not by looking at my record of summer employment. Then there's our No. 11 on “Future Rotarians and Daughters of the American Revolution.” I don't know if that one is based on actual numbers, or if they are stereotyping us as socially conscious elitists. I'll accept it, though, because that really isn't too wild of an accusation.

I'd like to know exactly how the Princeton Review compiles its more obscure lists. I can't fathom how they managed to figure out that we are sixth in the “Students Pray on a Regular Basis” category. Are there cameras at the Grotto? (That wouldn't surprise me, actually.) Maybe there's a head count at Masses. Not that going to Mass always counts as praying. I know that I spend the first half figuring out how I can keep people (especially the ones I don't even know) from hugging me at the sign of peace. Most of the second half involves an internal debate about whether it's hypocritical that I do not drink the wine at Communion even though I partake in that particular beverage in social situations on a regular basis.

We've locked in No. 20 on “Happiest Students.” I don't recall ever talking about my feelings to officials from the Princeton Review. Maybe that one is gauged internally by the amount of anti-depressants prescribed by health services. Considering that Prozac neither treats mono nor tests for pregnancy, I doubt much of it gets dished out.

Some of the rankings are legitimate, others are debatable and then there are straight-up lies. Notre Dame is No. 19 on “More to Do on Campus.” I guess they consider things like “Salsa Night” at Legends and SUB movies exciting activities for 18–22 year olds. Or it could be that this ranking is a reflection of the fact that we actually allow parties in dorms, while other schools force kids to go off campus for such shenanigans. And No. 11 for “Best Campus Food.” I'm sorry, what? OK, I've yet to get food poisoning from the dining hall, but let's be serious. Have you ever noticed that the bananas in North Dining Hall somehow manage to be both under- and over-ripe simultaneously? Because I have, and it disgusts me.

So, you may ask, is there any category on which Notre Dame managed to top the charts? Why, yes, because it turns out that “Everyone Plays Intramural Sports,” which is also a lie, because I don't. But I'm not about to argue about our lone No. 1 slot. After all, I am an avid fan of intrahall football parties, where I celebrate the athletic abilities of my dorm mates in a completely drug-free zone. There's a reason we are No. 13 on “Don't Inhale.”

The views of this author are not necessarily the views of Scholastic Magazine.
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