National safety discussed at annual lecture

By Bill Press

The Honorable William S. Cohen, appointed in 1997 as President Clinton's Secretary of Defense, marking the only instance of a president choosing an elected official from another major party, was the featured speaker at the Twenty-First Annual Rev. Thomas J. Furphy Lecture on October 14, in Belleria Hall at 7:30 p.m.

The evening began with a greeting from Rev. Bernard O'Connor and an introduction from Rev. Mark Plaushin, a member of the military and recent addition to the Theology faculty at DeSales, who highlighted the former Defense Secretary's "unique privilege to serve the public and shape the community."

Cohen addressed the issue of hypothetical "threats, diseases and weapons," which comprise part of the "president's daily briefing," to show the magnitude of possible dangers the United States can be faced with any day. He discussed the issue of "preemptive action," which has been debated in the current presidential election, openly welcoming Americans "to the brave new world of terror," that according to Cohen and many current government figures requires action before attacks can be put into motion.

The lecture included a reflection on the "9/11 question," namely, "How did it happen? What can we do?" Cohen provided no direct answers, but provided some of the steps that have been taken to prevent another catastrophe. "Extending our efforts in the Middle East to countries where goods are shipped from and becoming tougher restrictions" leveled upon unfriendly nations and suspected terrorists. He also touched on "the shock," the average American, who believes his or her country to be a humanitarian and thus well loved, went through after the attacks. Cohen believes a majority of the blame lies with, "certain people who have American ideals."

In discussing the differences in cultures throughout the world, Cohen specifically views "moderate Islam," as a possible candidate to accept democratic capitalism. It is precisely in the power that accompanies America's economic and governmental system that problems result, according to Cohen. He proposed "the paradox of American power," with one possible result being a situation much like "(Swift's) Gulliver being re-stranded by the Lilliputians."

As both a former defense secretary and educated citizen, Cohen is aware of the United States policy of "deter, defend, and defeat." Such statements are fall during the Cold War, he noted, but "deterrence doesn't work" with extremists. Cohen pointed again to preemptive action as a security measure, leading him to the issue of the U.S. in Iraq, a highly criticized result of such tactics.

"It doesn't matter if a war is right or wrong," he claimed, because "we're there so we need to fix the problem." Leaving Iraq is out of the question according to Cohen, because it would create destabilization and compromise "the other countries [who] have a stake in our efforts in the Middle East."

Cohen stressed the need "to build alliances," in such an unsure world of terrorism. He reminded the audience that even though Timothy McVeigh carried out the Oklahoma City bombing with little more than fertilizer, there is an "intersection between technology and terrorism" today. He added, we "cannot let the Furphy," page 4

A chance to see who students support Mock 2004 presidential election results

By Jen Petzo

As part of a joint effort, the office of Student Activities and College Republicans held a mock presidential election on October 5, 2004, in which the participating students of DeSales University voted primarily for the re-election of President George W. Bush. Final results showed President Bush leading with 58.24% of the vote, Senator John Kerry in second place with 37.91%, and Ralph Nader in third place with 3.83%.

Polling took place in the DeSales University Center from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. at a booth just inside the main entrance. A colored banner announcing the mock election and presidential candidates to choose from were designed to attract potential voters. Members of the election staff consisted of work study students from the office of Student Activities, as well as members of College Republicans.

Elections checked in with members of the election staff, who crossed their names off of a master list of undergraduates and signed them in an effort to prevent voter fraud. Students then received an official ballot from which they could choose one of the three presidential candidates: President George W. Bush (R-TX), Senator John Kerry (D-MA), and Ralph Nader (I-CT). Once the ballots were marked, they were placed inside a secure box, which remained unopened until approximately 6:30 PM. At that time, the box was opened and the votes were counted at the same table where the voting took place. Three bipartisan members assisted in the tabulation of the votes during the university dinner hours while the public watched.

When asked to comment on the results of the student election, Josh Lee, chairman of the College Republicans at DeSales University, said, "I am very pleased with President Bush's overwhelming victory in the mock election. The results demonstrate the fact that tomorrow's leaders have faith in our president and the plan he is laying out for their futures. I strongly believe the outcome of this election will be mirrored in the nation's vote on November second."

Jason Strauss, a Senior Law & Society and Criminal Justice dual major, commented, "I voted for President Bush because regardless of which candidate is elected, the war will still be with us, and therefore looking at the other issues I choose a president who is morally strong and doesn’t waffle, who endorses the right to life instead of endorsing the murder of innocent babies, and who upholds the sanctity of marriage publicly instead of just saying that it’s not his place to make his “religion public.”"

Freshman Biology Major Rachel Coleman participated to find the results, saying, "I voted in the mock election. I wanted to find out whether or not our campus is as conservative as I think it is."

As with any election, there is a margin of error that must be taken into account. "I had no idea this was even going on, so I didn't have the opportunity to vote," commented Elizabeth Solt, Junior Nursing Major.

If DeSales’ mock election is at all indicative of what November will bring, it is possible that George W. Bush could be back in office for a second term.
Giving the words ‘science club’ a different image

By Peter Magnire

It might be surprising to learn that The Natural Science Club doesn’t have weekly carbon dating sessions or offer bonus Immunology lectures to highly academic students. Rather, the school’s haven for science majors is known more for its popular monthly coffee houses, laid back attitude, and expanding membership.

Under the leadership of president Brad Bauer, a junior chemistry and math major, the club has already held one open mic coffee house in The Pa, had a club picnic and began selling candles to raise funds for a trip to the American Chemical Society (ACS) Conference in California in April.

Upcoming Hallows Eve, the Science Club will be hosting its first Haunted House, a Pre-curricular Event of Delousing Hall.

Students and the public are invited to walk through the halls that terrify broadcast beneath those seemingly placid halls of our key academic edifice. Admission will be $3 for students and children, and $4 for adults. Half of the proceeds will benefit KidsPeace, an organization dedicated to helping children in crisis.

The monthly coffee houses are a popular gathering for students. Held on Thursday nights, the coffee house provides a relaxed atmosphere for people to perform or listen to music, chat, or even study. The science club raises money by selling baked goods and beverages to students. The next Coffee House will be held Oct 28th from 8:00 PM to 12:00 AM, although people have already known to stay and jam into the wee hours of the night.

At this month’s event, there will be a pumpkin painting or carving contest. Attendees are invited to show their flare and ghoulish creativity, as there will be $30 in prizes. Some $200 students, not all science majors, were involved in handing out their brisk schedules to teach and interact with the children who came from schools all over the Lehigh Valley.

At this point if it is that brings the members of the science club together? Is it a common interest in the workings of the physical world? Is it the friendship that has developed in the last few years? Or is the food, the wine, the pizza that was so graciously offered at the event, not to mention the musical performance? It’s hard to say what is at all these things.

Like most major oriented clubs on campus, the science club is open to anyone interested in being a member, not just science majors. If you are someone who wants to have a lot of fun, do something good for the community, and maybe laugh all night, then you too could be a part of this club.

During the event, the club hosted several activities throughout the night that included recycling, enjoying nature, and education on the seven dimensions of wellness: Physical, Social, Spiritual, and Environmental.

For more information about the event, contact Bill Farina (x 6319) or any other member of the science club. While you RA wouldn’t appreciate you lighting one up in your residence hall, they can make great gifts for family and friends.

Wellness and well-being

By Jonathan Andrews & Tina Losi

Remember all the commitment in the DUC awhile ago? There were Cops, Dragons, Oranges, Giveaways, and Shoutout to the 5 in the Journey to Wellness Fair 2004.

The Fair was part of a University sponsored program on Emotional Management in memory of Gerald W. Guth in cooperation with the Health Center, Counseling Center and the QuitSmart Smoking Cessation Program. Funding was also made available through a grant from the Allentown Health Bureau to support smoke cessation on campus.

The event held on Thursday nights, the coffee house provides a relaxed atmosphere for students and presenters at different activity stations include: recycling, enjoying nature, rainforests, and sources of energy. This year, the event even received more coverage from the local PBS station. Some 30 students, not all science majors, were involved in handing out their brisk schedules to teach and interact with the children who came from schools all over the Lehigh Valley.

The 2004 Wellness Fair demonstrated what valuable resources lie at the fingertips of the Health and Counseling Centers. From student based assistance like PACE, to professional contacts like the Smoke-Free Coalition, they have the pragmatic tools to guide anyone on their journey to wellness. Both Centers welcome smoke cessation on campus.

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Jim Breuer packs Billera during Homecoming

By Bill Press

In a change of pace from recent music acts Reel Big Fish and Raised Roots was the unexpected combination of Center Valley for Homecoming weekend, actor and stand-up comedian Jim Breuer was chosen to perform this year on October 4 at 8:00 p.m. at Adams. Breuer opened things up with his audience-insulting antics and Star Wars remembrances. After picking on a few unsuspecting students and received a mixed response from the audience, he then went on to do his usual stand-up routine.

Breuer, who has a reputation for coloring the audience, made his presence known, and Adams eventually asked him to make his way to the stage. It was an unusual sight (unlike the comedian’s attempts to crack jokes about him, but the crowd’s laughter was evident either way.

After the warm-up from Adams, Breuer continued with his usual stand-up fare, hitting the gym floor, sporting a DeSales hockey team jersey, which he claimed was to remind everyone to support the team by purchasing the cotton candy they were selling after the show. Unlike the opening act, Breuer was obviously a familiar and beloved face to many students, who did not hesitate to cheer and encourage the former “Saturday Night Live” member and star of 1998’s “Half Baked.”

All of Breuer’s trademarks were present, but there was nothing repetitive or redundant about his act. Instead of simply doing the “goat boy” bit, the origin of the voice (a way to freak people out in bars) was described. His Joe Pesci impression remained routines, but did not surface until the end of the act when the topics of baseball and the dominant New York Yankees, not brought up by an audience member.

The act was both humorous and educational in nature. Stories of trying heavy hallucinogenic drugs for the first time and last time as a teenager allowed for ridiculousness and words of warning to the largely young, adult crowd. Breuer’s father, who had no knowledge of the type of material Breuer was performing, was not aware that the humor was inappropriate. Breuer showed himself to be a father re-learning to appreciate the joys of playing with his kids after the distractions of adulthood and growing up. While maintaining his goofy persona and crude ditty into schoolyard humor.

While your RA wouldn’t appreciate you lighting one up in your residence hall, they can make great gifts for family and friends.

The FAC crew were taking a break during their duty to the DUC community. Photo by FAC.
An American liberal and the far east heroes: an argument

By Christopher Hafer

I am a Republican. But a few months ago, I was seriously considering voting for someone other than the Presidential election, had Senator Lieberman or Wesley Clark been nominated. But being that I consider myself a fair person, I decided to go at least some day to express his views on me, a twenty-year-old conservative, as much as I would vote President Bush the time of day to be an educated vote. Abortion is a very important issue, but it is not the only issue facing America.

As I read and listened closely to the two campaigns during the summer, I noted the key aspect of the Kerry campaign was to make America stronger. After all, that is the main slogan he is running on. "Kerry Edwards. Making America Stronger." Again, because I felt that it was far to give him the time he deserved, I listened intensely on his plan to make America stronger (before I continue any further, let me tell you something clear to the liberal crowd. Not only do I think John Kerry is deep down trying to be a candidate's stance on those three issues affect who I would support and volun-

According to Senator Kerry, the United States of America has to ensure old alliances in the Western nations, particularly France and Germany. But the problem with John Kerry is that he bancan get allies--is either purposefully or un-aware of the fact that he is calling forty-nine countries weak. Why do this say? Well, during the summer, there are currently forty-nine countries in the Coalition of the Willing against the dictatorial regime that once ruled in Iraq. None of these countries include Great Britain (in Eu-rope), Turkey (in the Middle East), and Japan and South Korea (in the Far East). According to the Kerry campaign, all of these countries are making an un-educated vote. The Pope also disagrees with the fact that John Kerry is calling these countries weak.

This past summer I frequented a magazine called "Prophecy in the 21st Century." This is a brilliant ex- clant Christian professor named J. R. Church and its message is to associate biblical prophecy with the worldwide news. It struck me interesting one day to read a story that was conducted by an independent, nonpartisan, unbiased group of scientists. In the study, the scientists found that, with the mass abortion that takes place in our country, adding the prospect of legalized homosexual assault, our country could face a massive decline in population in less than ten years.

I am not here to perform C.S. Lewis tricks and prove to everyone that one of you that there is a moral right and a moral wrong, but I want to interject and say-something right now. If you are into politics and you believe that there is nothing morally wrong with the threat of a "politically correct" genocide of the American people, that supposedly gives us more freedom, then you need to be aware of the moral and safety of the American people in our country and adjust some philosophical nuts and screws that are completely out of place in your head.

Anyway, the truly interesting part of the article was the part that started countries in the Far East, such as China, Japan, and South Korea are becoming increasingly pro-life. Compared to the West, these countries, the study claimed, are also significantly against legalization of homosexual unions. And what's happening in those countries? The percentage of population is either staying the same or increasing. There is absolutely no threat of degenerate genocide in any of those countries. As the nephew of a South Korean, I am frequently concerned for the well-being of Egyptians run by a President that is politically correct. I know, des lippered Policing Services (COPS) programs are making an un-educated vote. The Pope also disagrees with the fact that John Kerry is calling these countries weak. Moreover, John Kerry is calling these countries weak? I leave a question that needs to be thought over by con-servatives and liberals alike. Even if John Kerry is elected President, after the mid-terms, he has made to towards certain countries in the Coalition of the Willing as being weak, will he be able to make America stronger?

My guess is no! I want to understand the reasoning behind this. First understand, if you do not already know, that President Hussein, while he was in power, frequently would send members of his army militia out onto the Iraqi public life and public to rape women simply for the sport of it. This is the kind of heinous crime that people tremble on and spit on. And saying that America or other countries such as Japan and South Korea, who were able to help people, should just sit back and say "it is not my business," is moral degeneration. Senator Kerry has made it perfectly clear in my mind that, not only is he claiming that the Japanese and South Korean military are weak, but he's also claiming that they are morally wrong. So even people pride themselves on is weak. This is why I believe John Kerry will have inconsistent, hard relationships with several countries in the East. Do you think these countries that have fought hard, alongside American forces, will overlook the fact that John Kerry has adventurously made many enemies in the East? Do you decide for yourself whether it is worth giving up on good relations with Japan and South Korea, who have kept our people safe, for a every country such as France who does not give a damn about our people?

And then there is Iraq. Bush has sent over a 1,000,000 American troops to their deaths in Iraq. Over 20,000 Iraqi people, the people who we are "helping" even though they did not ask of our help, have either been killed or seriously injured in this war. That does not sound like a candidate who is pro-life.

But while Bush makes America "safer" by establishing a democracy in Iraq, the President is taking cops off the streets at home. The Community Or-ganized Policing Services (COPS) program has helped fund more than 100,000 police officers and contributed to one of the largest declines in crime since the war. The COPS program in the United States of America has to ensure the safety of our people.

A few years ago, my country faced problems with regards to our economy, gun control and foreign policy. People were dying because of these issues. If a person is dying at all the issues, they are making an un-educated vote. Abortion is an extremely important issue, but it is not the only issue facing America.
Rights and safety, globally and on campus: who is to say far is too far?

By Regina Ward

The following situations provoke feelings of injustice in anybody:

Under Hitler’s Third Reich of Germany, the Nazis killed, tortured, and experimented upon millions of human beings. Meanwhile in America, President Roosevelt gave the go-ahead for over 120,000 Japanese-Americans to be held in detention camps.

Sixty years later, the September 11 terrorist attacks provoked government officials to demand that Americans with Muslim heritage volunteer for interrogation, then deported almost 25% of those who came forward without a single charge of terrorism. In addition, reported acts of racism increased 70%.

In addition to such sickening disembowelment of human rights, these situations appall us for another, albeit lesser, reason. We have decided that they are pre-established, pre-accepted by society, obvious and extreme portrayals of injustice. It is safe to say that Hitler was a maniac, who’s going to argue that?

It takes a closer analysis to find another common threat—one that is applicable to many other less obvious, extreme, less visible, yet comparable situations. I believe one such common element is the attempt to treat a complex problem with an oversimplified solution. The attempt to repair Germany’s economy, win a war, or combat terrorism by blaming and punishing one group of people has been proven to be futile and counterproductive.

I’ve chosen examples of the highest degree of severity to demonstrate a point. My intention is to show how that principle is overlooked in everyday situations, even though such situations place us nowhere near that level of severity, especially because they come nowhere near that level of severity.

Over-simplifying of situations can be seen everywhere, but I chose to address that which is immediately relevant to us, as students on this campus.

Our recent homecoming celebration passed by as most do: current students, alumni, and anyone else who loves and cares about a school come together to laugh, reminisce, eat, watch sporting events, catch up on news and lives of people they know or once knew.

Fortunately, everyone enjoyed our homecoming with the blessing that all people arrived, stayed, and returned home safely, without any accidents, fights, injuries, or arrests. What an unclesanitary. Sometimes emotions and blood-alcohol levels run a bit high and things happen regardless of safety precautions. Homecomings naturally create a lot of emotion, and people often enjoy a celebratory drink or two. Our homecoming was no different. The beer-and-beer behind Bitter1 Hall provided one small aspect of festive drinking. Later on, inside Bitter1, alumni enjoyed conversations in a cozy corner, and an open bar while the Copperhead Grille enticed students to enjoy their nearby enterprise, and many students gathered with friends both old and new to catch up on news, swap some laughs and a case of beer.

In case you were unaware, out of these celebrations, a number of people who stayed on campus, and either consumed or found themselves in the vicinity of alcohol, were reprimanded for violation of the school’s alcohol policy.

That hundreds of people engaged in the exact same behaviors that only a few people now face consequences for, is this fair? That these “offenders” suffered more for being in the wrong place at the wrong time than for outlandish lapses in judgment, is this right? That among all who have been in trouble at this school, some receive second chances, some pay fines, and others lose their university employment or place of residency, is that just?

Okay, I relent. The fairs and unfairs, the rights and wrongs, the just and injustices are all a matter of opinion and perspective, and therefore disputable until death.

But let’s talk effectiveness.

I strongly advocate safety and discernment when it comes to consumerism and alcohol. I’ve seen too many of my friends in comas, unconscious, vomiting violently, in accidents, in bad situations, and dead. Experiential and out of control drinking are issues that need attention. That is a fact. The problem is that they are dealt with; there are understandable to complex array of situations. The attempts to deal with it, both on a national level and on our campus, are too often oversimplified, and therefore permanently flawed.

Regarding this campus in any case, there is a possible solution, or at least, a step in the right direction. Students, you must speak up.

Faculty, secretaries, students, administration, maintenance, cafeteria workers, security tell me which of these groups is disposable if a university is to continue working? Then why doesn’t every group have an equal voice in the making of decisions regarding the university?

The necessary action will not be instantly gratifying; nor is it militant, radical, rebellious, or simplistic. I’m saying that you need to talk to each other, find what you are unhappy with and possible. Again, I’d like to re-emphasize that the comparisons I am making are in principle, and not the degrees of severity. Alcohol prohibits an extremely intricate and complex array of situations. The attempts to deal with it, both on a national level and on our campus, are too often oversimplified, and therefore pre-dominantly futile.

Meanwhile in America, President Defense, Cohen does not know any more about the student body of these occurrences. Nonetheless, right? None, right? You find out by word of mouth if at all. So this is not a clear demand to deter students from drinking by using others as an example. May it be from the reasoning that since the rules exist, and the punishment exists, and students are aware of both, then students should simply follow the rules. Well, I have to cite Prohibition as precedent here. For some reason, human beings who want alcohol find a way to have it, regardless of truth, rules, or consequence.

Rules must exist. Whether we like it or hate them, our less-than-ideal society would erupt into chaos without. I’m sure everyone is familiar with Lord of the Flies, right? Rules are made to under the principle, and not the degrees of severity, of punishment and consequences cannot be excluded. A working system of rules must include preventative action. Should we punish the teenager who overdoses and dies from drinking by using others as an example? I hope everyone is also familiar with 1984 or Loss Lowry’s The Giver. Pretending that certain aspects of life do not exist, focusing on what should be, and not what is, believing in the possibility of permanent, complete control of life brings the same amount of danger as a society without rules.

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What wasn't said that night: a student's response to the William Cohen Furphy Lecture

By Michael J. Rowland

Former Secretary of Defence William S. Cohen served on the United States Senate for nineteen years. His credentials are something to be applauded and he seems to be well experienced with the current terrorism problem and how to combat it.

But that's it. He only talked about how to fight terrorists, not terrorism. Unfortunately for Mr. Cohen, he, like too many politicians today, looks at such problems much too superficially. A wise man once said that killing and imprisoning terrorists to win a war on terrorism is about as logical as killing and imprisoning [the poor] to win a war on poverty.

Mr. Cohen asked a lot of the right questions and addressed a lot of the right matters. But I don't think he ever really broke the surface of the problem. Mr. Cohen first started to discuss how foreign nations view the United States. He explained that, in many ways, the U.S. is viewed as an 'imperial power.' He then went on to ask the big question of, 'why do terrorists hate America?' Instead of asking the big question of, 'why do terrorists hate America?'

Mr. Cohen brought up the case of Morocco. He explained that the bulk of the Moroccan population lives under extreme poverty. More of these Moroccans are finding themselves turning to terrorism. But Mr. Cohen made little connection between the two.

Morocco's population is obviously very poor. As a result, more and more of Morocco's poor are finding that turning to terrorism is a more desirable future than starving to death. It makes sense that if the poverty problem was solved, it would probably help to solve the growing terrorism problem.

Perhaps instead of flexing our imperial muscles, we should prioritize our foreign policies to devotion through more mutually beneficial economic projects. Helping the Third World to develop their own infrastructures through massive international projects would be the best way to go about it. Fighting down and killing every terrorist is not going to do anything but create more hatred and anger towards the United States. Granted, the terrorists in function now must be stopped and brought to justice. But, if we are to really combat this terrorist problem, we must look at the roots of it. That first requires looking inward at ourselves as a nation and rethinking our own policies.

What wasn't said that night: a student's rehearsal to the quizzes can be found in this issue. We swear.

It's easy, all you have to do is read the articles!
Statue of Salesian significance graces hill

By Christopher Boyer

Bishop Edward Cullen dedicated the seven-foot bronze statue of Mary located at the scene area across from the University Heights, October 7, 2004. The statue is a contemporary version of the famous Marian statue, Our Lady of Deliverance, which has been in Paris since the 1400s.

The weather was as warm as the welcome given by Rev. Bernard O’Connor, OFS, President of DeSales University. “When one journeys to Mary, one quickly will get to God,” said Father O’Connor, in respect to the statue.

Following the welcome, the Most Rev. Edward Cullen, D.D., Bishop of Allentown, reflected on the Virgin Mary’s importance in the Church: “Mary, the model of the Church here on Earth, is a role model to us all. This place (the site of the statue), will be a peaceful haven for students dealing with their difficulties,” said Bishop Cullen.

After his reflection, the statue was unveiled to a unanimously pleased crowd. He then blessed the statue with holy water and incense, accompanied by the talented singing of the Schola Cantorum, led by Mr. Paul Summerrin.

Ben Fortunado Marcune, a native of Brooklyn, NY, created the statue in only 18 months. Now a resident of Bethlehem, PA, Marcune is a nationally acclaimed sculptor and painter. “I wanted to give the students a contemplative place, which could create a restful escape from the stressful nature of their college lives”. According to Marcune, he used the Renaissance version of the Black Madonna, and the Renaissance-style patina on a modern sculpture.

DeSales University plans to close the road located near the statue, while providing another access road to the campus located near the Lawless Center, in an attempt to significantly decrease noise and auto pollution around the site of the statue.

During the spring of 2003, Marcune, Father O’Connor and Father Alexander Pocett, senior vice president at DeSales, took a ‘spiritual journey’ when they traveled to Paris, where they located the original statue.

Statue of Salesian significance was dedicated in 1955 by the late Rev. Francis de Sales. While in search of his own education and vocational development, the young Francis de Sales spent several years in Paris, where he attended the college of Clermont, the first Jesuit institution. Upon returning from classes, he would stop at the church and pray before the statue of the Black Madonna. According to historical sources, Francis was like any other young man aged around 19. He had certain urges, and, even though he often tried to overcome them, often he found himself giving in. But, as stated by many biographers, Francis de Sales, while reciting the ages-old “Memorare” prayer from memory, experienced a spiritual conversion and true understanding of divine mercy on one of his many trips to the statue. This event drastically impacted Francis’s life.

The hour-long ceremony was followed by a mass at Wilts Hall, presided by Bishop Cullen, and a dinner for some of the honored guests, including Ben Marcune and his family, Bishop Cullen, and dignified others.

When reflecting on the dedication, Jay Tavarez, a freshman, said, “The ceremony was made more beautiful with the warm, almost summer-like weather, and the beautiful autumn foliage.”

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Writer's Block

Nikki

by Mali Zoe

Diamonds in the haze.
Put you in my face.
Let me everyday.
Show me all the ways.
Turning my head.
Sitting on the bed.
Lock the doors.
Close the shades.
She's coming.
Grandfather's Rifle

by Nathanael Verbeke

Grandfather's rifle was German
with a brown stock and leather strap
adjustable sight of a snipers rifle
and a black steel bayonet.

My great uncle found it
during the Battle of the Bulge
clutched by an enemy soldier
bunched in frozen blood.

My father refused to shoot it
even though Grandpa pleaded
for it was carved with a scratch
marking each man it had defeated.

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Sportswriter Jack McCallum entertains and educates

By Nathanael Lee Verbeke

Jack McCallum is a recognizable name for any avid reader of Sports Illustrated. A senior writer for the publication with 23 years under his belt, he shared his expertise with the DeSales student population last Tuesday, Oct. 19 in the McShea Student Center Gallery Lounge.

For a man whose experience includes countless interviews with notable sports figures, numerous travel articles for VIA, The AAA Traveler’s Companion, as well as larger works including Unfinished Business: On and Off The Court with the 1990-1991 Boston Celtics and Shaq Attack, he was surprisingly straightforward and approachable. The audience was immediately comfortable, enjoying his witty remarks.

As a part of this year’s Humanities Reading Series, which most often hosts poets, Mr. McCallum’s attendance provided student writers interested in journalism and sports writing the opportunity to listen to a master articulate the tone and rhythm of his style, which was entertaining; straightforward, but capable of eliciting a strong internal response. Mr. McCallum, understanding the nature of the reading to be a learning experience, was also very eager to embellish upon the development of a feature sports story, saying, “Part of the job is the art of being creatively repetitive.”

The works read included an upcoming feature on Shaquille O'Neil's move from LA to Miami, being published in the next issue of Sports Illustrated, a column on Mr. McCallum’s Halloween disposition, published in the Morning Call; and an essay published in the September 18 Sports Illustrated issue following

Need a venue for your short stories, essays, or poetry? Send your creative writing to minstrel@desales.edu and gain some exposure.

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Entertainment
Fluff, and The Little Foxes
By Nathanael Lee Verbeke
I've come to expect fluff in my day to day life. (Let me define this fluff. Characteristic one: fluff is anything "arty" that attempts to please everyone- i.e.; it has no potential to offend. Characteristic two: fluff is anything "arty" that you easily forget you experienced. Characteristic four: fluff is anything that tells you exactly what you want to hear.)

I presume fluff will impose itself upon me each waking moment in the form of advertisements, television, political jargon, and whatnot to infinity. creating a feeling of perpetual numbness that permeates my day to day existence as a senior college student who has no particular incentive to care other than this strange sensation in his chest yelling, "Give me something substantial!"

C'est la vie.

However you define it, the cure for this melancholic stupor has been and will always be, for me at least, this little human endeavor called Art with a capital A. But unfortunately Art has not been uncathed by this evil fluff. In fact, if Art and fluff were in a knife fight, I would put my money on fluff.

Which brings me, finally (I know you've been waiting), to my first point-Theatre, being for me at least, one of the most engaging and exciting forms of Art that cherishes its relationship with its audience, has been forced to keep the bandwagon, ride the fluff bus, in many ways to get on the fluff train. The theatre possesses beautiful literary eloquence and thematic realism as it simulated the rising sun shining through the drapes into the living room. All blended well with the costume design of Amy E. Lobmeyer and the work of music coordinator Nathan Diehl.

Notably, director Anne Lewis, member of the acting faculty, whose credits include Girl Interrupted, was herself a graduate of DeSales.

I guess, with my introduction in mind, I have to recognize that there is a lesson in everything. I was reminded after seeing this show that there are always artists making real Art somewhere, you just have to find it and cherish it when you can.

This doesn't mean the malignant fluff isn't scary. It's really scary. Protect your children.

But anyway, thanks Act 1, and thanks to the cast and crew, for another exceptional show.

Cole! playing until Oct. 24

Tickets are still available for this year's Second Stage season opener, the musical revue Cole! Devised by Alan Strachan and Benny Green, the show features the famous songs of Cole Porter. Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

For tickets call the Act 1 box office at 610.282.3192

The impact upon the audience was honest and powerful.

In the end Alexandra learns from her father's death and declares that she will leave the family forever. Her mother, surprised at her daughters resilience, comments in perhaps the most haunting, loveless, line of the play, "Why. Alexandra. You have spirit after all. I used to think you were all sugar water."

From the framework of this grim piece of writing the cast and crew of The Little Foxes constructed a beautiful, yet dark, world. Each actor added something unique to the performance- but in an example of excellent unity, none stole the show. Because of this the impact upon the audience was honest and powerful.

The two brothers, in an attempt to bypass Regina's involvement with the new enterprise, and thereby make themselves more profit, convince Oscar's son Leo (Brian Tangradi) to steal bonds from Horace. They then use this money to finance the mill. Unlucky for them Horace finds out about the theft and tells Regina, planning to use this opportunity to punish his wife for her overzealous ambition. Unfortunately he dies when his wife refuses to give him his medicine and, in a cruel twist of fate, Regina uses her knowledge of the theft to blackmail her brothers into giving her a 75% interest in the mill.

The only hope the play offers is within the contrasting characters of the four women, Oscar's wife Birdie (Kate McConnell), the maid Addie (Courtney Mitchell), the young Alexandra, and her mother. All of them have been molded into a certain, nearly desperate, role. Birdie, an innocent victim of aristocratic idealism, is rendered helpless by her domineering husband; Addie is forced to watch the dysfunction of the family around her, but is unable to voice her opinion; Regina is so obsessed with living the life of a tycoon she destroys her own family; and Alexandra can feel herself molded into a puppet to be married off and inwardly corrupted like Birdie.
By Mike Vigil

The men's and women's cross-country teams competed at the Dickinson Invitational held at Carlisle High School in Carlisle, PA on Saturday, October 2. The men's meet featured two races: an 8,000-meter and a 4,000-meter competition. The men's team finished in a combined 10th place of 16 teams. Senior Mike Vidumsky finished first for the second consecutive weekend. His time of 26:35 was 23 seconds ahead of the third-place finisher. Finishing second for DSU was senior Jon Diluzio, 49th place in 26:49; third place was sophomore John McHugh, taking 53rd place with a time of 29:12, and rounding out the top five for the Bulldogs were freshmen Keith Onimus, 54th in 29:13 and senior Russ Susko, 57th in 29:19. Sophomore Nick Reinert was DSU's top finisher in the 4,000-meter race, taking 31st place in a time of 13:46. "Today was definitely a step in the right direction, especially considering the hard work that we put in this past week," said head coach Al Weiner. "We will be working very hard the next two weeks, since we don't have a meet this weekend, and hopefully our team will be ready for the upcoming home races in two weeks," noted Weiner.

For the DSU women, the meet featured both a 6,000-meter race and a 4,000-meter run. In the 6,000-meters, sophomore Gina Lucrezi was DSU's top finisher, taking third place with a time of 23:14. In next for the Bulldogs was sophomore Desi Symons, 32nd in 25:18, and following behind was freshman Colleen Gibbons, taking 45th overall in 26:05. In the 4,000-meters, sophomore Tara Barlow continued her impressive season, taking first place overall for the third time this season with a time of 14:41, the second-fastest time ever on the course. Barlow won the meet by a full 10 seconds over the next competitor. The DSU women finished a combined seventh of 13 teams in the meet.

Freshman Dodgeballers make most of McShea

By Erin Maquire

They stand against the wall, six on each side, talking their prey. Eyes focused on the middle of the floor: they wait, tense, ready to pounce. The whistle blows. Chaos is unleashed. Blinded movement as the quickest leap to the middle, grab the rubber balls and begin the attack. Survival of the fittest.

On Monday, September 28, approximately 24 freshmen guys crowded into the Commons room in McShea to play dodgeball. Initiated by Josh Koopman, assistant director of Residence Life and organized by Ian Kearns, Resident Advisor in Conney Hall, the dodgeball tournament served as a recreational program for Residence Life.

Koopman explained that rather than playing in the gym, McShea was a smaller space which made it easier for the balls to fly back and forth, making the game faster in pace. Residence Life obtained permission to conduct the game and reserved the room. People were also stationed at the doors to prevent passers-through from becoming casualties of the game.

The night started with two teams playing and devised into a captain-selected four team tournament. Shane Corley, sophomore and Economics major and member of the winning team, described the play as "friendly competition."

Nate Conrad, on the opposing team in the championship game, had a slightly differing view. "My team got screwed!" There were two guys left, one on each side and our guy stepped on the line...but you're allowed to step on the line." Nate feels that two "bad calls" cost his team the championship title and revenge. "We'll get them next time." Conrad also commented on the turnout. In contrast to Krisza, he said, "I was disappointed. There should have been more guys there."

In response to the suggestion of women playing, Conrad warned that "an inner-gender game would kind of be a bad thing because it hurts when you get hit in the face." Anitas, on the other hand, thinks "it would be great if girls played," but they "would definitely be intimidated." His advice for those who play the game is, "don't be afraid of the ball. Be prepared, learn to work together, and throw hard."

Although originally planned as a recreational program to fulfill one of the required programs of Residence Life (others being spiritual, educational, social outreach, wellness, and fire safety), the enthusiasm for the game has inspired ideas of its return. Said Koopman, "Since nothing broke, hopefully we can do it in the winter too."

Corley, Conrad Antipas, and Krisza are also advocates of playing again. Corley said, "It has become a suggestion that we will play more." He added the idea of inviting other people to play, including upperclassmen. Conrad agreed, "Bring on the upperclassmen. Nate can take on anyone."

On one on one, the last two are left standing. Slow motion, their teammates cheer them on, "Zing! Dodged. Slam! Just missed. Hit! And the last one falls to the ground. A game of teamwork, and individual skill, dedication, and force competition—down to the last person.

Women's tennis star creates MAC magic

By Mike Vigil

Freshman Courtney McClurkin made history by becoming DSU's first-ever individual MAC conference champion by winning the #3 singles match in Madison, NJ on Sunday afternoon. October 19th. McClurkin advanced to the semifinals on Saturday, and continued her undefeated season on Sunday by defeating Rita Kalushiv of King's 6-1, 6-0 in the semifinals and Melanie Parenteo of Elizabethtown 6-0, 6-0 in the finals, completing a perfect 14-0 season in which she did not lose a set.

McClurkin also teamed with fellow freshmen Mary Kate McEwan and in the #2 doubles match and almost won a 2nd title, but fell short to Scranton's Danielle Red and Kristin Bellino, 8-4.