

THE OBSERVER

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■ AND IN THIS CORNER...

Starting fresh

Last year, there are those of you who might have known me as the Antagonizer, the rabble-rouser, or even the "weirdo." Well, no more. Yes, I, having journeyed to the Emerald Isle (courtesy of generous funding from the Graduate School; pay attention, kids, this is what happens when you study Modern Irish Language), have decided to mend my ways and return to the fold, a chastened sheep.

Matthew Apple

Yes, no longer will I wickedly attack organized religions or semi-legally funded borderline-fascist monthly magazines. No more! Good-bye to the old me, I say! I have been enlightened by the world-renown Shrine at Knock, been humbled by the awe-inspiring Horse Races of Galway, been through many a transcendent stage by the bottomless pint. Lo, I am one with you, my brothers!

But enough about myself; let me describe the new wonders of the Notre Dame campus to those of you who were home alone over the past few glorious summer months:

Now, you, too, can travel along the cemetery to get to campus! Simply turn up Notre Dame Avenue and veer left, say a prayer the car diving headlong out of the visitors parking lot doesn't forcibly extract your back passengers, and enjoy the drive along Interstate ND. The view is lovely this time of year! Don't forget to stop and say hi to Knute. I'm sure he won't mind. Oh, won't Football Saturday traffic be simply smashing this fall!

Be sure to admire all the new itty-bitty trees scattered randomly across campus! After all, they ripped down plenty of older, potentially dangerous trees just to make room for the young striplings!

Give thanks that our splendid university fathers have access to a virtually unlimited supply of concrete and blacktop! Imagine, if it weren't for all these new sidewalks, we might be forced to look at grass all day long! In fact, I can't wait until the whole place is paved; it'd serve those tree-huggers right, interfering with progress!

Stare in confusion at the Brand New Maps™ on the ground floor of beautiful DeBartolo Hall! Now it looks just like the UP Mall! Neat! And gawk in stupefaction at the progress of the Stadium construction! Just take a look at it — no more small crowds for Notre Dame football, no way. Take that, Michigan! We'll have just as many seats as you! Nyah!

Last, but certainly not in the least, I'd like to add a small note to my new FRESHMEN in English 109, section 17: What are you doing, reading this silly column? You've got Joyce to read. Grrrr.

"Professor" Matthew T. Apple is a graduate student in creative writing who terrorizes local god-fearing members of the community on a bi-weekly basis. Receive more enlightenment at matthew.t.apple.1@nd.edu or <http://www.nd.edu:80/~mapple>.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opening the book on a new year

Dear Notre Dame Students:

I would like to extend to you a warm welcome on behalf of all of us who work in the Division of Student Affairs — the Offices of Residence Life, Security, Student Residences, Alcohol and Drug Education, Student Activities, International Student Affairs, Multicultural Student Affairs, Counseling Center, Career and Placement Services, Health Services, Campus Ministry and the staffs of your residence halls. Although we provide a variety of services, we share a common desire to so everything we can to help facilitate your intellectual, spiritual and personal growth in your lives outside the classroom.

We welcome back the sophomores, juniors and seniors, as well as the returning graduate and professional students. We extend a special wel-

come to our new students — the freshmen, transfer and new graduate and professional students. You join a proud community with a rich tradition that dates back more than one hundred and fifty years to a vision of our founder, Father Edward Sorin, C.S.C. We hope that all of you — those who are new and those who are returning — will be able to achieve the academic, spiritual and personal goals you set for yourself this year.

I hope that I will have the opportunity to come to know as many of you as possible in the months ahead. Until I am able to greet you in person, please know that you have my very best wishes for a year filled with all God's good blessings.

PATRICIA O'HARA
 Vice President for Student Affairs

CBLD keeps a safe distance

Dear Editor:

Once again it's time for everyone to return to the rigors of academic life. The fall is also a time when thousands of students begin racking up long-distance phone bills by calling family and friends.

Once again CBLD is there with the free t-shirts and the outrageous long-distance rates. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for the free market which forms the basis of the United States economy but the operative word is freedom. Freedom to choose a long-distance phone company among those with the most competitive rates. Here are the facts about CBLD's monopoly with Notre Dame:

On-campus students have their long-distance phone company chosen for them; oh, how convenient!

On-campus students who desire another phone service cannot receive residential rates because someone (Notre Dame or CBLD) has placed an unequal access block on the

Notre Dame prefix.

Students who do use another phone card pay an operator's fee if calling from their residences (not on a pay phone).

The rates on average are four cents more per minute. Doesn't sound like much? Let's do some math. Say the average student spends two hours a month on long-distance calls; that's \$4.80 more per month per student. For a nine-month academic year, that comes to \$43.20. Assuming about 8,000 students live on campus, that brings the total to \$345,600 more that Notre Dame students are paying for long-distance service for living on-campus.

What exactly is the relationship between CBLD and Notre Dame? Other than the fact that there are undoubtedly many alumni working for the company, including the vice president. Why CBLD and not Sprint, MCI or AT&T? It won't take a reasonably intelligent individual long to figure out why. The price of those free t-shirts are

more than compensated for by higher rates the on-campus students pay to call home. This brings about another question; how much does CBLD pay Notre Dame for allowing them to corner the long-distance market on campus? Get real, eliminating the competition has got to be worth paying for. At least put our minds at ease by letting us know the money CBLD pays Notre Dame for the exclusive contract is going back to the school, perhaps to scholarships. I always get a laugh when I read the last sentence on the CBLD statement of long-distance charges which reads: "Thank you for choosing CBLD."

I'm sure the majority of the families of Notre Dame students would want their children to get the most for their money. Shouldn't the University administration take care of the Notre Dame family by doing the same?

JONATHAN DINITTO
 Graduate Student

■ DOONESBURY

GARRY TRUDEAU



■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are two days in the week about which and upon I never worry. Two care-free days, kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is Yesterday ... And the other day I do not worry about is Tomorrow."

—Robert Jones Burdette