



The Gates

ACADEMY OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR

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Shopping for a Social Conscience?

by Anne Marie Crinnion ('16)

During the busy holiday times, it is easy to want to simply purchase the cheapest and easiest gifts available. However, it is the responsibility of the shopper to make an informed purchase to support companies that honor fair trade and pay their workers what they deserve. Many stores label their items so the buyer can tell where the purchase was made. However, in today's world, many Christmas shoppers are looking to buy their gifts online. So how are we supposed to know how the companies operate?

One website that helps is *goodness500.org*. This website ranks companies all over the world by how much they donate, equality in the workforce, and how environmentally friendly they are. Another good website is *roozt.com*. This is a clothing and fashion website that only advertises brands that give back to their communities. Each item description identifies who benefits by the purchase. Also, for every member that joins the site, a hungry American receives a meal. Even *eBay* has a green section of their website that promotes fair trade.

All in all, there are many websites available that give back to the community and treat the earth and their workers with respect. Each of us has the duty to shop responsibly this holiday season to spread the joy of Christmas to others, remembering to protect the rights of all God's people.

For the Best in Socially Responsible Shopping, try...Lush?

by Margaux Steltz ('15)

During the Christmas Season people are in a rush to find the perfect present for their friends and family but often neglect to think about the environmental effects their presents had. Many of the items in today's market are made of environmentally damaging materials and are often tested on animals. On the other hand, if you look in the right places you can find great gifts for your friends that are 100% environmentally friendly. The store *Lush* has numerous items in this category. They sell everything from bath bombs to shampoos in various colors, shapes and sizes. All products are handmade--with 100% vegetarian ingredients, including vegetarian fruits, vegetables, fine essential oils and safe synthetic. Also, none of their products are tested on animals and they try to limit packaging of their products to minimize the waste of resources. They also offer specialty items like the charity pot: when you buy it, Lush donates the money to smaller charities to help them develop and grow. Lush is a great place to get your holiday shopping done without any guilt of hurting the environment. Tell your parents about it! Their products would make perfect stuffing stuffers too. Happy Holidays!

The Gates is the newspaper of record for The Academy of Notre Dame de Namur in Villanova, Pa.

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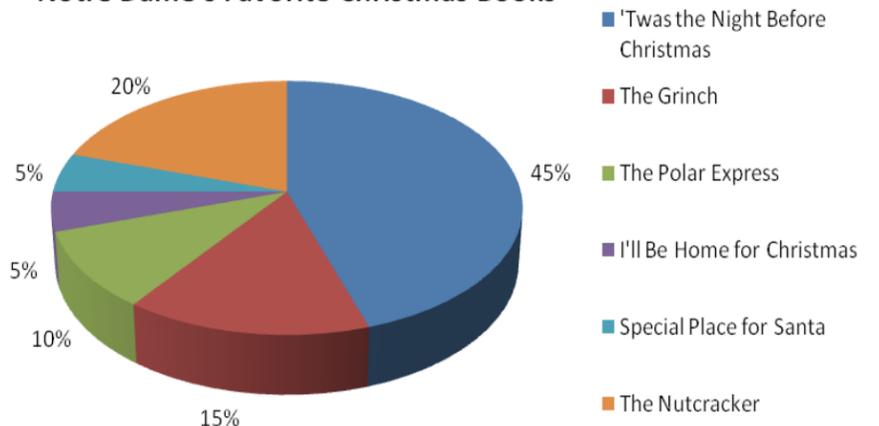
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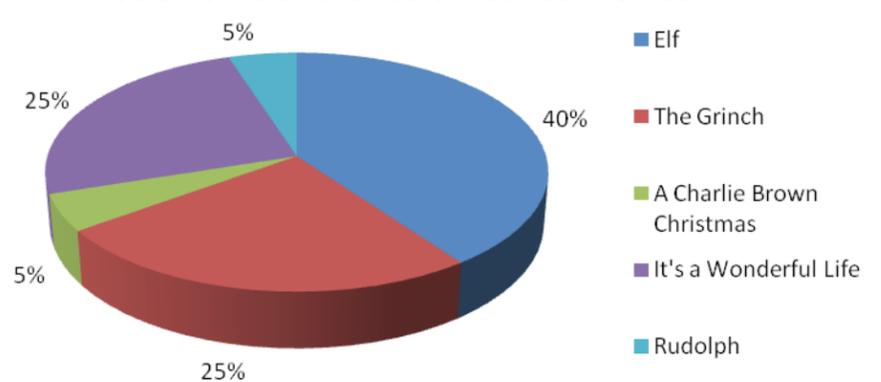
ND Christmas at the Polls

Intrepid Gates reporter Rachel Weber tabulates your holiday comments from our recent schoolwide Christmas surveys of favorite books, songs and movies for the holidays. As for "worst Christmas present"? It's hard to say whose worst gift was best, but next year, avoid giving socks to Catie Cullen and Caroline Clancy (especially if Caroline's grandma has been wearing them), and skip the hugs for Josie Fagan and Lizzie Devenney. No picture frames for Caitlin Livesey, no sticks of cheese for Alexa Scavetti, no clip-on blonde hair extensions for Courtney Donovan, and no "kitty-cat raincoats with big ears" for Danielle Lorenz (she already has one). Expecting a gift from Caroline Manion? Could be a rock.

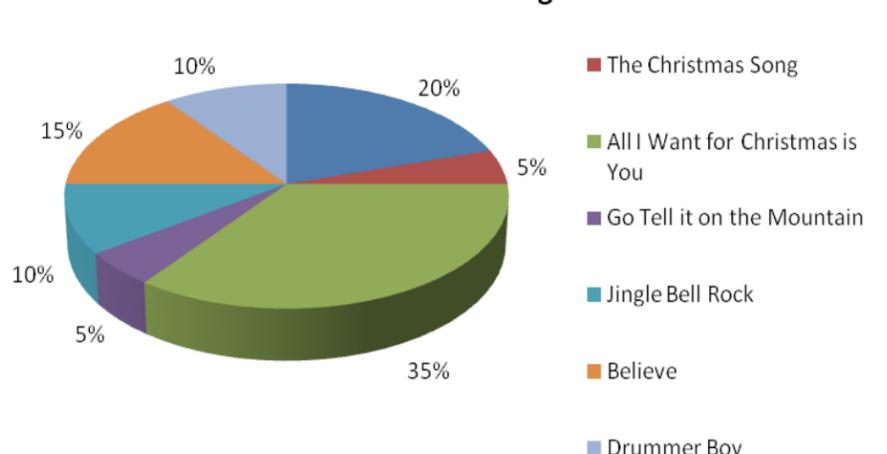
Notre Dame's Favorite Christmas Books



Notre Dame's Favorite Christmas Movies



Notre Dame's Favorite Christmas Songs



Our holiday coverage continues on p. 3

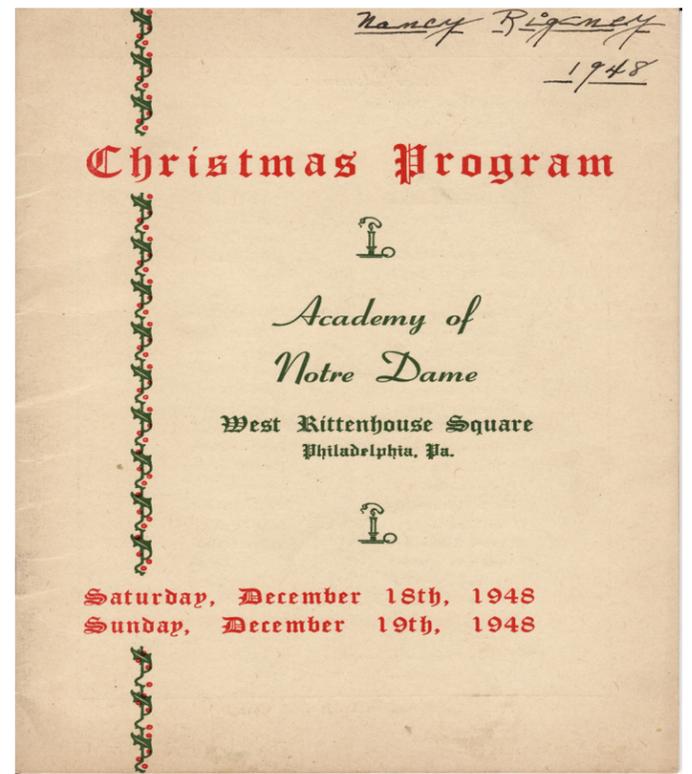
From the Mansion Archives *Marissa Baum '14*

The program at right was published for the Christmas Pageant of 1948, back when ND was located in Rittenhouse Square. It shows how differently we celebrate the coming of Christmas at Notre Dame was located in Rittenhouse Square. It shows how differently we celebrate the coming of Christmas at ND now, with Advent Angels and Jolly Holiday. What a difference from 60 years ago!

Below the program, an image of an ND senior wearing a beautiful winter gown recalls the days when the Senior Ball was a New Year's event, celebrated in the mansion. The festivities lasted until 2 AM! It was the highlight of winter break. Prom sure has changed since then.

In the photo below, a peaceful snowy landscape shows the beauty of the mansion. Remember when we used to actually get some real snow during the winter? Good times.

Finally, in the image at the bottom of the page, the table is set for the Christmas Mothers' Tea, complete with cookies and refreshments for their daughters and classmates. Looks like ND girls have always enjoyed healthy appetites, especially around the holidays.



ONE WEEK before prom time, Senior Mary Bordogna radiantly models her new formal before the Great Hall mirrors.

in recitation. There is also greater rapidity in her speech. The intonation and rhythm are also much better because the language is in her head instead of in her note-

Prom Set for Warwick; Mike Pedicin Will Play

Junior and Senior NDites will dance to the music of Mike Pedicin's nine piece band at the annual Junior-Senior Prom in the main ballroom of the Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia between nine and one on Tuesday, December 29.

"Wonderland by Night" is the theme of the prom and the Senior Class song. The Junior Class prom song is "The Way You Look Tonight."

Barbara Genest is chairman of the senior prom committee. Senior committee members are Margaret Boyle, Christine Somers, Dorothy Cannon, Juanita Beall, Karyn McCullough, Barbara Hrabrick, Jennifer Lovatt, and Lynda Scalise.

Junior prom committee head is Mary Ann Scott; her committee includes Kathy Forte, Rosemary Foy, Carolyn Carey, and Linda Dethlefs.

Do you have an image of ND past you'd like to see reproduced in The Gates? Email us your old photographs--or your mom's, or your grandmom's.

Or, if you'd rather, send us your suggestions for items from the Archives--and we'll try to run some pictures just for you in an upcoming issue.

Write us at thegates@ndapa.org





Merry Christmas, from *The Gates*. (Art by Mandy Lafferty)

Editorial: Like Giving Diamonds to a Rich Man

by Devyn Nickens ('15)

What would you say to me if I asked you, "Where do you go to buy things that you want and need?" There are other legitimate answers, but the general answer is about the store. But, if I were to ask you, "Where were the products you have purchased at the store manufactured?" I wonder how you would answer.

I am sure most people have experienced a shopping trip with a family member. But when is the last time that you have turned over the item that you are buying and had a good look at the label? Let's take a shirt for example. When you buy a shirt, inside of the shirt there is a piece of fabric with the name brand and instructions for how to wash the shirt. But there is one crucial thing embedded in that fabric, and all this lies in three little words: "Made in _____" The blank in this case is a country. Popular fillers for this blank space are countries Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, Taiwan, and my own favorite, China.



A big thing in this whole Made in America issue is that so many of the name brand companies of America are manufacturing products overseas. Companies like GAP, Polo, Old Navy, Hollister, and even the fleeces we wear to school are made overseas! (The kilts we wear were manufactured in the Dominican Republic.) The statistics for the imports vs. the exports of the U.S. reveals that our imports are significantly larger than the amount of total exports we make as a country. Not only is the problem apparent in the numbers, you can see it on the news. Just last year in Miami, Florida, there was a discovery of a warehouse of hazardous and likely lethal toys stocked in a poorly maintained warehouse. The imports that we are allowing into our country are a threat not only to our economy, but to our health as well. All the companies manufacturing outside of our country are taking away possible job opportunities for the "folks back home."

More jobs would mean more money. More money equals more opportunities, if the money is in the right hands. All we need for success is an effective battle plan.

All right, we have our information. Now let's get to work. But, there is a problem. The American-based businesses do not have much to choose from on their websites. I went on a website for an American-made manufacturer that was only offering two pairs of pants. That is a problem. So many small businesses fall short of the bar against the big businesses of the U.S. There has to be a way to encourage the small businesses in America. It is not fair to expect people to make that change at the drop of a hat. It takes time to transition into anything, and with this it is just as well.

This is the problem in a nutshell. We are supporting companies that are not supporting us. People in foreign countries are making product that cost little money to make, but slap on whatever price they see fit. Is this fair? No. Yet is it a reality? Absolutely. Tell me. What do you get out of giving diamonds to a rich man? All you are doing is making him richer and digging yourselves your own personal ditch. But that is just what we are doing every single day. Let's invest in ourselves. That statement begs the question, "But how can we invest in ourselves?" Just look out for those three magic words.

Am I telling you to sit in a corner and feel bad because every little thing you buy was not made in the U.S.? Not at all. Am I telling you to throw away everything that wasn't manufactured in the United States of America in your possession? Absolutely not. But am I asking you to take ten to twenty seconds to look at a tab of fabric for three little words? Possibly. Have a quick look-see. You might be surprised at what you discover.

Pictured at left: Respect Life members pose with a bonanza in baby stuff collected in the annual Fall drive.

The Sports Pages

by Kathleen Fitzpatrick ('13)

This fall, eight seniors made Division One college commitments. Megan McGurk and Kathleen Fitzpatrick will continue shooting hoops next year for Bucknell and Saint Joseph's University (respectively). Meanwhile, in lacrosse, Delaney Tuite will play for Rutgers, Kaileen O'Donnell for Fairfield, Courtney Donovan for the College of William and Mary, and Nora McCallion for Saint Joe's.

In other news, all of our fall teams made us proud.

Cross Country (pictured, top) had a tough but successful year while losing two Division One runners, Maria Seykora and Caroline Powers. However, we had some strong freshmen and returning seniors who helped us place 4th at Inter-Acs and 3rd at states. Senior Captain Siobhan Dougherty says, "This year I would say my favorite race was our independent school states championship race." Two weeks prior to the team's Independent Schools race, they placed fourth in their league meet and weren't expecting to place well because they were competing against the same schools and even more schools all around the state. When they received the great news they had finished 3rd, they were very excited and happy as a team that they had finished the season on such a great note.

Overall Record: 3-4 Senior Captains:
Siobhan Dougherty, Caroline Mannion

Player Achievements:

2012 Second Team All-InterAc: Siobhan Dougherty, Darcy Curtis, Bridget Malloy

2012 All-Delco Honorable Mention: Siobhan Dougherty, Darcy Curtis

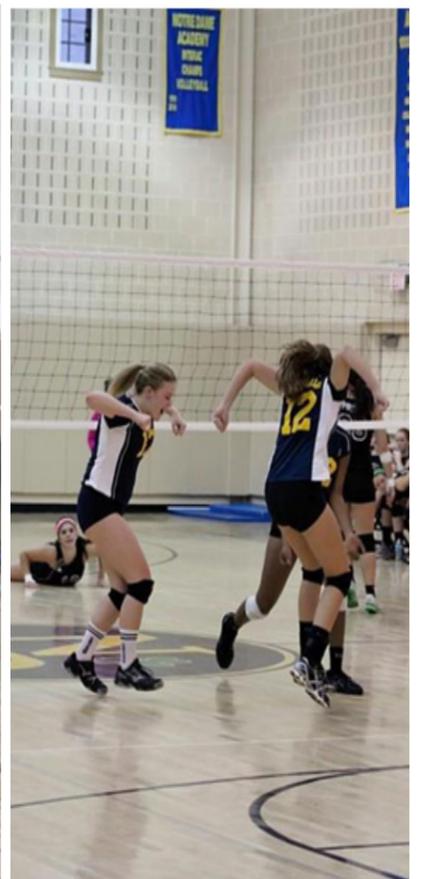
2012 Second Team All-State: Darcy Curtis

Finishing in 2nd place in the PIASSA States tournament and tying for 1st in the Inter-Ac against Episcopal Academy, the **Field Hockey** team (pictured, second from top) had a fantastic season. Senior Captains Emily Faught and Katie Roe lead their team to a phenomenal record of 21-2 beating some of the best teams in the Philadelphia area including: Archbishop Carroll, Cardinal O'Hara, Villa Maria Academy and Episcopal Academy. The team has lots of fun creating memories that will last them a lifetime with their Nockey Scavenger hunts and exciting team dinners. The success of the team is led by two great players who will continue Field Hockey at the Division One level next year. Emily Faught will be going to the University of Virginia and teammate Katie Roe will be heading to William and Mary. Juniors Maggie Fitzgerald and Moira Putsch are two Division One Field Hockey players that greatly helped their team out this fall. Moira was named Delaware County Player of the Year. The girls should be really proud of a tough and exciting season they had this year.

Overall Record: 21-2

Senior Captains: Emily Faught, Katie Roe

Says senior Barb McHugh of her beloved **Soccer** team (pictured, third from top), "This was not our best season; however, everyone still had a lot of fun playing together! No matter what, everyone gave it their all every minute of every game." Sometimes in sports, things don't go the way we hoped, but as long as a team keeps fighting, playing hard and having fun, there is nothing else to worry about, and that's what this team did. In one of their last games of the year, they played against Episco-





kept them in the game and allowed them to be very successful this season. It was an exciting year for everyone!

Overall Record: 14-9

Senior Captains: Kelcy Mackell, Brianna Williamson

Player Achievements:

2012 First Team All-InterAc:

Colleen Donnelly and Alex Quigley

2012 Second Team All-InterAc: Brianna Williamson

2012 All-Delco Honorable Mention:

Colleen Donnelly, Kelcy Mackell, Alex Quigley, Brianna Williamson.

The **Tennis** team (pictured at top left) finished the season 6-7 this year. Jessie Graham received the Inter-Ac 2012 sportsmanship award and was first team all Inter Ac.

She will continue her career at the Division One level at Lehigh University next year.

Jessie also made it to the Inter-Ac semi finals. The Irish tennis team fought hard this season--and had a lot of fun doing it!

Overall Record: 6-7 Senior Captains:

Nikki Callahan, Rachel French

Player Achievements:

2012 First Team All-InterAc:

Jessie Graham

2012 InterAc Sportsmanship Award:

Jessie Graham

Bouncing Back from the Post-Holiday Blues

Maria Biancaniello '14

Christmas is a holiday celebrated all over the world--and by "celebrate," we mean, for many people, basically a very good reason to buy presents and eat. Now that Christmas 2012 has come and gone, you might be feeling the heaviness of holiday withdrawal. True, there won't be a chance for Christians to celebrate Jesus' birth for a while, but perhaps we

can horn in on a bit of everyone else's holiday cheer. Start by planting a tree on January 26 for the feast of Tu B'Shevat--that's Jewish Arbor Day, for those in the know.

On the twelfth day of the third month in the Islamic calendar, rabi' al-awwal (رَبِيعِ الْأَوَّلِ), Muslims mark the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (this year it falls at the end of January). There is a debate, however, as to whether the event, called Mawlid (for "birth"), should be a time of festivity. Evidence suggests that the Prophet and his companions did not celebrate his birthday. In fact, Muhammad was careful to warn his people not to imitate other faiths, whose followers elevated their prophets and added to the religion what was not in the original teachings, including new "feast days." Others say that, although it is not practiced in the early years of Islam, the remembrance of the Prophet's birthday is a "good innovation," to be observed not with some elaborate soiree but by recalling the Prophet's life, teachings, and example.

On the other hand, if the elaborate soiree is up your alley, join the one billion plus Chinese people who will ring in the Year of the Snake on February 10. Special New Year's dinners abound in our area, and Yang Ming is offering theirs until March 9.

Congratulations to Jenny Starrs, who took 2nd place in the Poetry division to qualify to compete in the District Tournament on Saturday, February 23 at Harriton High School. Go, Jenny!



Pictured above: seniors **Kathleen Fitzpatrick** and **Megan McGurk**, ND's two newest members of the 1000-point club!

pal Academy, one of the top teams in the league. The Irish lost 1-0, but they were expected to lose by a lot more than that. They fought and played with pride, and in the end they may not have won, but they did the best they could and never stopped trying.

Overall Record: 6-15-1

Senior Captains: Caroline Shoemaker, Haley Curtin, Mackenzie Abate

Player Achievements:

2012 InterAc Honorable Mention: Caroline Shoemaker

2012 InterAc Honorary Recognition: Haley Curtin

The **Volleyball** team (pictured in action at bottom left) had a successful season, only losing one game in the Inter-Ac league play and having a record of 14-9 overall. Having a young team didn't stop the Irish from finishing the season from winning the Inter-Ac championship and coming in second place at the PIASSA State tournament. At the Germantown Academy match the team was down 0-2 sets. They came back with a surprising two wins in a row to tie the game 4-4. Notre Dame was losing in the fifth match with a score of 11-4. Being down 7, the team stayed in the game and ended up walking away with the win. This shows what a great team they had and how their perseverance and strength