



ACADEMY of  
**NOTRE DAME**  
de NAMUR

INSPIRING YOUNG WOMEN  
SINCE 1856

# The Gates

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## ND Rises to the Occasion... and Walks Out

By Katie Liebeskind ('18)

Twenty-eighth President of the U.S. Woodrow T. Wilson once said, "We cannot be separated in interest or divided in purpose. We stand together until the end." There is something astounding about the idea of being united. Unfortunately, the one pitfall of unity is that too often it only comes as a result of tragedy or danger. On March 14, thousands of students across the U.S. were united by one thing: change. For them, it wasn't just a normal day; it was the day that they, for 17 minutes, would walk out of school and allow their voices to be heard. The symbolism behind the event was clear; each of those 17 minutes represented a life lost in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida just 28 days prior. Since that terrifying tragedy, students across our country have ensured that their protests in favor of better gun control are heard. But it remains to be seen whether those urgent pleas will be answered.

## Guns by the Numbers

By Anna Miranda ('19)

As the school year began, the Las Vegas mass shooting was making headlines as one of the deadliest on record, and gun violence was in the news everywhere. Four deaths to guns over a single October weekend in Baltimore, which by December had broken records in per capita homicides in a single year (343 of them). Over that same weekend, in Kansas City, there were more victims of gun violence, three of them fatal. Already by October, Wilmington had broken its record of shooting victims (154) by one. By December, that city had suffered more fatal

## Now on Stage

By Rose McDonald ('19)

ND girls charmed audiences with their singing, dancing and grace at three shows, including Devon's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Malvern's *Spamalot*, and Notre Dame's *Alice in Wonderland*, a charming musical chronicling Alice's adventures when she follows the white rabbit into an imaginary world. Not only did the cast sing, act, and dance well, but their enthusiasm leapt off the stage. *Spamalot* takes a humorous approach to the story of King Arthur and the knights of the Roundtable as they seek the mystical Holy Grail. The show is a comedy, but the audience was amazed by the superb vocals and impressive dancing. Devon's *Joseph* incorporates multiple musical genres to present the Biblical story of Jacob's favorite son, sold into slavery by his jealous brothers only to rise to fortune as Pharaoh's righthand man. While all three shows delighted audiences, they also showcased the resilience of the actors and crew. With so many Nor'easters, shows were canceled left and right and the actors had to adapt quickly and creatively. Yet even with a Tuesday closing night for Devon and an additional Thursday performance for Malvern, the show(s) went on--making them not just good but downright incredible.



shootings than ever before (32 of them). In September alone there were 74 shooting victims in Chicago, 12 of them fatal--and by year's end, 650 people had been killed in that city, which was actually a decline from the previous year. Overall, these intimidating statistics characterized the headlines of our entire first semester, and regardless of opinions on gun control as the year began, many people were already yielding to outrage even *before* the landmark shooting in Parkland. Perhaps that's why student voices nationwide are finally making themselves heard. Let's hope they continue to be.

# Op/Ed

Let Them Kneel, or Respect the Flag (or Both...)  
By Meredith Lauzon ('19)

Recently, NFL players have been kneeling for the national anthem at games. I interviewed two ND students on opposing sides of the issue (they have asked to remain anonymous). These are their responses to the same series of questions.

## Let Them Kneel!

*How do you feel when you see players kneeling?*

It reminds me of the tension in our country and in our political system. I think about how it is supposed to be 2017 and we are supposed to be beyond this; moving towards an equal future. I grew up with this image of America as this utopian society, above everything bad. Seeing players kneel reminds me that we are not, and for all the progress we talk about being made, we still have many more issues to face.

*What does the American flag represent to you?*

It represents patriotism, unification, and respect for the country. I don't think that their kneeling during the anthem is contradictory to the unification of the flag. I think the flag is about having rights and freedoms to peacefully protest the things you don't like.

*Do you have a family member or friend in the military?*  
My grandfather served in the military.

I don't think that military service has any correlation to this issue directly. Kneeling is not a direct attack on my grandfather's service. My grandfather fought for people to do this kind of thing. Telling people not to kneel is taking away the freedom my grandfather fought for.

*If you previously tuned into the NFL, prior to the controversy, did the kneeling affect your watching games?*

No, it did not make me more or less interested in watching the game.

*How do you feel about the President's response to the controversy?*

I think he made the situation worse. He unnecessarily preyed on the deep division in our country. After his response it was all more about him and less about protecting individual rights. Had he not commented, I think

the situation could have been avoided. But maybe it is actually good that the President made these comments, because that sparked a conversation that needed to be had by everyone.

## Respect the Flag!

*How do you feel when you see players kneeling?*

I know and respect that it is a first amendment right to protest, but I feel they are not getting their message across. I believe that a majority of people think that the flag stands for soldiers who have died for our country. If they want their message to be more meaningful they should not choose this way to protest. I think I saw a poll that 50% of Americans are offended by the kneeling; I am one of them.

*What does the American flag represent to you?*

It represents our freedom. When we sing the national anthem we are singing for those who died for the lives we have.

*Do you have a family member or close friend in the military?*

No.

*If you previously tuned into the NFL, did the kneeling affect your watching games?*

Not really, I was annoyed at first seeing the kneeling but it did not make me turn off the game.

*How do you feel about the President's response to the controversy?*

I did not agree with his responses. I think he is aiding in polarizing opinions, when he should be bringing us together. I understand what he is trying to do, but he should have approached the situation with less of an attack on the players. The personal attacks on players and coaches and the NFL in general was uncalled for, he should just say to respect the flag. I know they are kneeling for something bigger, but it portrays the image they are disrespecting the flag.



*Spirited sophomores bask in the glow of the Eagles' victory over the Patriots at Super Bowl LIII.*



# Winter Ball

February 16, 2018



# Setting the Stage

By Ella Canavan ('20)

An Introduction to the World of Broadway Introduction to Performing Arts, taught by music teachers Ms. Laura Holman and Ms. Kate Shealy, is an intriguing, hands-on freshman class, now in its fourth year, about the world of Broadway. The course dives into the exciting songs and dances of Broadway through creative projects in which students have the freedom to explore their theatrical side. In recent classes, ninth grade students have been adding their own touch to Broadway shows by designing their own costumes, brochures, posters, sets, and cast lists. Prior to this project, students looked into how Broadway shows have affected American history by creating a timeline of events that were impacted by the shows. For example, the Broadway show *West Side Story* (1961), about star crossed-lovers from opposite gangs in New York City, was a hit not only because of its captivating on-stage fights, but because of its eye opening message about racism and diversity. This show is one example of the many that students researched in order to learn more about how Broadway productions have affected American history.



Despite one of the coldest and snowiest winters on record, Notre Dame's Respect Life club found a way to celebrate life! Here they are at the 2018 March for Life, the annual event in Washington, D.C., to protest the legalization of abortion in 1973.

# Winter Sports Recap

A fabulous winter season for all of our athletes kicked off in high gear, with high-school varsity basketball coach Mary Beth McNichol celebrating her 500th career victory with ND's win against Mount St. Joseph's on Sunday January 14th, 2018.

**High School Varsity Basketball** team captains Maddie Lynch and Marissa Mycek led the girls through a wonderful season, highlighted by Mandy McGurk and Maggie Pina's selection for First Team All InterAc and First Team All Main Line, First Team All Delco (McGurk) and Second Team All Delco (Pina). Emma Kichula and Caitlyn Mullen received Honorable Mention All Delco, with Kichula, Mullen and Allie Lynch also receiving Honorable Mention All Main Line. **Middle School Varsity Basketball** toppled the competition with a stunning 20-1 season record, making them the 2018 Catholic Academy League Champions!

Freshman Mia Abruzzo (below left) scored big for the **High School Swimming** team, setting (at press time) six ND swimming records: 50 Freestyle: 24.20; 200 Freestyle: 1:53.53; 500 Freestyle: 4:54.81; 100 Butterfly: 56.23; 100 Breaststroke: 1:06.85; and 200 IM: 2:04.46. ND's **Crew** winter program saw 14 athletes achieve their personal best times in the 2k distance at Drexel's Center City Slam, where 7th grader Olivia Mulligan set a Middle School record and took home a bronze medal. **High School Indoor Track** competed at Lehigh, where Monica McGinnis triumphed in the 300 meters and Jess Schneider in the mile. The 4x200 relay of Alessandra Ciampi, Monica, Jess and Dani Falcone (below right), placed second out of 50 teams and qualified for the Meet of Champions.

