



THE MEDALLION



Notre Dame Academy

1073 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

January 2009

Thoroughly Modern Millie



A Thoroughly Marvelous Millie

Allison McIntyre '12

NDA's production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (directed by Abigail Russell) began eagerly with splashy wind instrumentals punctuated by percussion and trilling reeds. A group of students a couple rows ahead bounced along in excitement while the guy next to me tapped both his feet. The whole mood felt promising and irrepressible, rather like the play's protagonist, actress-hopeful Millie Dillmount. Lauren Burke's punchy, determined depiction of Millie flawlessly illustrated the trials of a small town to New York transition—even portraying Millie's inexperience with graceful technique. Still, Lauren's success extended past acting. She sang every song, straight through her nose with an agreeable Judy Garlandish purr. Lauren did not need her enormous loop of pearls to shine. Her voice expressed particular emotion in every word, and easily carried over the orchestra to my mid-theater seat.

Millie's meets her first hitch in her new, modern life when she cannot afford rent at the Pricilla Hotel, run by Mrs. Meers (Corinne Manning) and her lackeys Ching Ho (Dustin Kenyon) and Bun Foo (Kylie Koch). Corinne injected hilarity into her otherwise sinister role with a seedy accent and convincing vanity, while Dustin and Kylie preformed their entire parts perfectly in Chinese (a teleprompter spelled out for us non-Chinese speakers what they were saying/singing). Also introduced in this scene was Miss Dorothy Brown (Rebecca Dickinson), Millie's future best friend. Rebecca's sky-high vocals were reminiscent of Kristen Chenoweth (Glinda in the Broadway production of *Wicked*), as her voice had chirpy flair and demure vibrato. Her sweet and perky innocence warmed her scenes nicely.

Millie, forced to get a real job to earn money, takes one as a secretary in the office of Trevor Graydon (George Bixby). I'm giving George some serious props not only for very believable acting, but also because in "The Speed Test" song, he shot out words like a BB gun and still managed to hit each note. Colleen McGillivray as Millie's old-fashioned supervisor Ms. Flannery, is fun and gutsy despite her character's cynicalness. Millie's life is not all typing though; she goes to a club on what she believes to be an outing between friends with new acquaintance Jimmy Smith (Michael Walsh). Later (in prison), Michael does heartfelt acting in "What Do I Need With Love?" communicating his confusion over his growing love for Millie. Michael sang throughout the performance vibrantly and precisely, never faltering in any scene. On one of Jimmy and Millie's dates, we meet Muzzy von Hossmere (Alex Nuesse). Alex's voice has rare, unclouded strength that built to the end of her song "Only in New York." Besides this talent, Alex gave a soft, steady portrayal of the old beauty star.

Act Two starts with the most dynamic number in the production, "Forget About That Boy." It features powerful vocals from Lauren and amazing tap dancing from the company. At points, the girls were actually dancing in their seats, in high heels, no less. Each dancer's metal shoes stamped the floor at the exact same moment, making for a snappy, exciting beat.

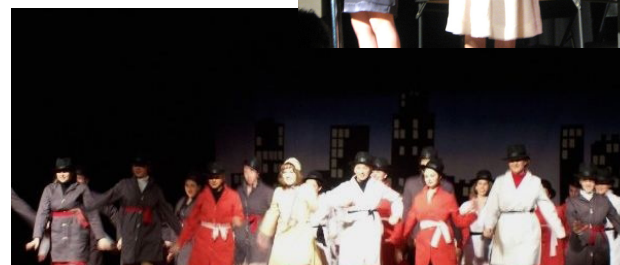
My only regret when I left the auditorium last night was that I did not get George's autograph - since he was absolutely gorgeous from twenty yards away, what would he look like up close?

Hard Work Pays Off

Raleigh Norris '11

On January 16 and 18, 2009, the NDA players will present *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. The show, which takes place in the 1920s, is about a young woman (Millie) who moves to New York City to become rich. Upon arriving in the Big Apple, she moves into a hotel run by the evil Ms. Meers, played by Corinne Manning '10, gets a job as a stenographer, and eventually falls in love.

The show started in October with auditions, and the cast and crew have been working hard on it ever since. *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is fun and exciting, but it is not a very easy production. Lauren Burke '10, who plays Millie, has had to memorize many lines, songs and dances. Both Kiley Koch '10 and Dustin Kenyon, B.C High '11, speak and have a musical number in Chinese. The show also includes many complicated tap and other dance numbers that the cast and Ms. Leonard, the choreographer, have been working on since day one. Ms. Gentile, the music director, spends each day going over songs and playing accompaniment. The director, Ms. Russell, has also spent every day not only directing but also putting together other elements of the show, such as ticket sales and posters. And even though they're not on stage, the tech crew has spent many hours painting sets and organizing costumes. To get all this work in, practices are 3-4 days a week for 2 hours or more. Now as the rehearsal process is ending, the show is really coming together. The three months of rehearsal have paid off. *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is sure to be one of NDA's best productions.



Sleep and School

Emily Kaczynski '11

As high school students, most of us do not get as much sleep as we should each night. On average, teenagers are supposed to get 8-9 hours of sleep daily. Not getting the proper amount of sleep affects all our bodies for the worst and is a problem that should be resolved sooner rather than later.

Sleep deprivation is associated with memory deficiency, impaired alertness and delayed responses. In addition, the loss of REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep can result in increased irritability, anxiety and depression, decreased socialization, reduced concentration and decreased ability to handle complex tasks and to be creative. Studies have also shown that sleep deprivation increases the potential for drug and alcohol use, as well as vulnerability for accidents.

According to one study, 20% of all high school students fall asleep in school. Additional research has shown that over 50% of students report being most alert after 3:00 p.m. In other words, most students are in school during the period they are least alert and are released from school at the time they are reaching their peak alertness.

Survey results showed that students with higher grades obtain more sleep and go to bed earlier on school nights than students with lower grades. Therefore, despite our busy schedules and amount of school work, all of us should strive to achieve the recommended eight to nine hours of sleep each night. If we achieve this much needed sleep, we will notice a change in our grades and our bodies will thank us.

SHINE Bright

Colleen Sharry '09

Every day before school, after school and during study halls, a couple of seniors are in the guidance office eagerly awaiting the arrival of underclassmen. Sitting with binders open and pencils waiting, ready to share their knowledge, the seniors are usually disappointed.

The National Honor Society provides an opportunity for underclassmen to be tutored in any subject by a student who has taken the same classes as they have with the same teachers. Need some help with freshmen biology? There will be someone available who has taken freshmen as well as AP biology. Need someone to read your English paper before handing it? Seniors are hanging out in guidance who had to write the same exact assignment a couple of years ago (and know how to get an "A" on it).

Please take advantage of the resources available to you in guidance through the SHINE program. Before hiring a tutor or accepting a "C" in math, come to SHINE and see if a senior can help you out. We've been through all of this before and we know what it takes to make it through successfully.

Eva the Harp Player

Sara Corben '10

While most young instrumentalists were taking their first lessons in flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, or drum in their school bands, Eva Schroll was learning to play a very different kind of instrument. Six feet tall with forty-seven strings, the classical harp isn't an instrument you come across often in a school band. Eva admitted that the rarity of the instrument is part of what makes playing the harp so much fun. "I've had people ask me 'What's a harp?'" she laughed. "It's rare."

Eva, whose Irish heritage is obvious in her curly red hair, has been spending her summers in Ireland for most of her life. It was in Ireland, about five years ago, that a neighboring harp teacher recommended that Eva learn to play the harp. As the national symbol of Ireland, the harp has allowed Eva to form a greater connection not only with her heritage, but also with her mother, who has always loved harp music.

Eva's skill at the harp has begun to open up numerous opportunities for her. So far, she has played at churches, banquets, weddings and funerals, and the future looks bright for this talented and dedicated musician. Sometimes Eva simply plays her music in the background, creating and carrying a mood for banquets and gatherings. Other times, as the featured entertainment, Eva sings and plays the harp at the same time. Despite all of her success with the harp, Eva maintains that she still has much to learn.

Although she spends a lot of time practicing the harp, Eva also finds time to pursue other interests. She had a role in the recent musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and she enjoys playing lacrosse, tennis, and golf.

Eva says that although she hopes to minor in music in college, she doesn't want to rely on music as a full-time profession. She'll always have music to fall back on, but Eva hopes to have a more predictable, steady job.

When asked if she had any advice to give to other students, Eva simply said, "I encourage people to try out music." Eva's success playing the harp illustrates what dedication and hard work can achieve, but music isn't all about finding success and opening opportunities. Music can also be a way to relax, have fun, and connect with other people.

Mr. Bianchi: Your Questions Answered

By Kerry McCabe '11 and Olivia Adkins '11

Q. What is your most embarrassing moment?

A. When I hit a parked car at my friend's wedding.

Q. If you could be any animal, what would you be and why?

A. I think I'd say an eagle. First of all, nothing could see me, and second, I could fly and see things the way other animals on the ground can't.

Q. What is your least favorite subject?

A. I like all subjects, but I didn't overly like biology in high school. I didn't like dissections or classifications.

Q. What is your favorite holiday?

A. It's a three-way tie between Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Q. Where did you go to college?

A. I went to Boston University where I got my master's degree in math and English. Then I went to UMASS for a secondary degree in teaching math.

Q. What is the lowest grade you have ever gotten on a math test?

A. I don't think that I've ever gotten lower than a B.

Q. How many siblings do you have?

A. None, I'm an only child.

Q. What is your favorite movie?

A. Well, it's hard to say, and I can't think of a favorite, but the movie that I've seen the most number of times is "Independence Day."

Q. What is your favorite TV show?

A. My favorite current TV show is "Two and a Half Men" and my favorite TV shows of all-time are "The Cosby Show" and "Married with Children."

Q. What is your favorite food?

A. I like a good burger, chocolate, and chicken stir-fry.

Q. If you couldn't be a math teacher, what would you do?

A. I would be a school principal, a weatherman, an English teacher, or a novelist.

Q. What is your favorite book?

A. My favorite book is Lord of the Flies.

Q. Who's your favorite author?

A. My favorite author is Stephen King and my favorite poet is A.E. Housman.

Q. Did you play any sports or belong to any clubs in high school?

A. I belonged to the American Field Service club, which was a multicultural club that supported foreign exchange students. I also belonged to the National Honor Society junior and senior year, the writing club, and the math team for one meet.

Q. What are your pet peeves?

A. Interruptions to my teaching time, people being late and people who lie. I hate lying.

Q. What's something that most people don't know about you?

A. I have written three novels, climbed Mt. Washington, and I record the temperature twice a day in a weather journal that I started nine years ago.

Missing Items

Several students are still missing items that were last seen in the locker rooms and the cafeteria.

If you see a brown Longchamps bag, an iPod or a set of car keys, please return them to the office as soon as possible.

Around the World

The Dark Side of Fashion: What You Need To Know About Fake Designer Goods

Sarah Shaughnessy '09

Think purchasing imitation designer goods is simply an easy, cheap and harmless way to avoid paying the hefty designer price tag while still getting to sport this season's hottest Prada bag? Think again. Not only does the sale of fake designer goods hurt the American economy, it also supports such illicit activities as human and drug trafficking, gang warfare and even terrorism. It is estimated that the sale of counterfeit materials, including fake designer wares directly results in the loss of 750,00 American jobs and about \$512 billion dollars in global sales annually.

Perhaps the most harmful consequence of the booming fake luxury goods industry is its perpetuation of child labor. In her book Deluxe: How Luxury Lost its Luster, Dana Thomas reports the horrific sights she encountered during raids on sweatshops that produced imitation designer bags and clothes. In one particularly harrowing incident, she recalls walking into a plant in Thailand where young children under 10 years old sat on the filthy ground sewing fake designer leather handbags. Their legs were broken and their lower legs tied to their thighs so the bones would not mend. The owners did this; it was their punishment because the children had simply wanted to play outside.

Though the vast illegal enterprise of counterfeit goods is stronger and more professional than ever, recent government crackdowns have resulted in greater consumer awareness. Louis Vuitton recently won a suit against eBay for \$63 million dollars; 90% of the clothes and accessories sold on the website in 2006 that claimed the name of the French fashion giant were fake. The Trademark Infringement unit of the New York Police Department has issued more search warrants and raids to expose warehouses that store fake designer goods than ever in the past five years. Though of course, purveyors of these illegal items are cleverly evading the authorities by forgoing giant storehouses and instead leading customers through city streets in order to peddle goods out of the back of a traveling van.

Although the temptation to buy fake designer goods is greater than ever in these tough economic times, their sale only robs our country of thousands of legitimate jobs and millions of tax dollars. The only way that the expansive and lucrative business of phony designer goods will ever be shut down is if consumers stop supporting it. So please, do your part to close down this harmful and illegal industry; don't buy fakes. For more info on how to spot a fake and the consequences of purchasing phony designer items visit Harper's Bazaar's website [fakesareneverinfashion.com](http://www.fakesareneverinfashion.com).

Thomas, Dana. "The Fight Against Fakes." Harper's Bazaar Jan 2009: 69-72.

www.fakesareneverinfashion.com

Paula Lerner: Photographer of Hope

Katy Litka '11

Terrorists, bombings, fear; these are some of the words that immediately jump to one's mind when Afghanistan comes up in a conversation. The image frequently in our media is of a country war torn, hopeless, and sometimes even as an enemy of the United States. Most Americans do not attempt to see past these stereotypes. However, photojournalist, Paula Lerner, makes it her goal to capture the overlooked parts of Afghanistan. By focusing on scenes of hope and joy, she intends to bring Afghanistan into a new, positive light. In her presentation at NDA on January 7th she expressed her fascination and love for this far away country through her words and inspiring photographs.

Paula Lerner has visited Afghanistan multiple times through an organization called BPEACE, Business Council for Peace. This non-profit organization's mission is to help woman in conflict-ridden or war-stricken areas of the world. They operate off the premise that more jobs equals less violence and their mission is to help women find employment. Lerner traveled to Afghanistan mainly to document the life of women there. She strives to show how their lives are improving, but also bares testimony to the ongoing need for change. Woman in Afghanistan are highly restricted in all areas, from how they dress to who they can be seen in public with. Since the Taliban has been largely removed from power, women's lives have been far improved. Through her powerful and moving photographs, Lerner wants to show that Afghanistan is a country that is still full of hope and still worth improving. It's been a privilege and a truly moving experience to hear her stories and view her work in our art gallery at NDA.

"We're Lucky!"

Gina Stadelmann '11

On November 27, 2008, the Taj hotel in India was attacked. That night my family and I received news that my great uncle, Willy, and his wife, Gerry, were in the hotel. I got to spend some time with my great uncle and talk to him about how he felt during the time he was trapped in his room.

Q. Why India?

A. It was a place we always wanted to see...it was the best tour we've ever been on!

Q. What was the hotel like?

A. It was beautiful, old, but remodeled
It was top of the top hotels.

Q. What was your first reaction?

A. We thought it was fireworks.

Q. What floor were you on?

A. The 3rd floor, but height-wise it was like the 4th...room 322.

Q. How did you know what was going on?

A. The hotel called the room and said don't let anyone in, there are terrorists in the building; stay and your room, security is taking care of it.

Q. How long were you in your room for?

A. When it started we were in the room for 16 hours, but the total time was 21 hours.

Q. What did you eat and drink while you were in the room?

A. Gerry is diabetic, so she had some bars in her purse. We had ordered room service right before and we took some things from the mini bar.

Q. Did your window break from everything going on?

A. No, but we cracked the window open to get some air in the room.

Q. Did anyone try and open your door?

A. No, thankfully, but we heard yelling and shots through the door.

Q. What did you do to keep yourself busy?

A. We hid and kept quiet. Gerry repeated saying the rosary. I was on the computer e-mailing family and watching what was happening on CNN. I tied all of the sheets together in case we needed to escape another way, but I was hoping it wouldn't come to that.

Q. What were your thoughts on this whole situation?

A. This isn't good! Well, I hoped the army would come.

Q. Did you see people jump out of their windows?

A. Well...people were trying to crawl down the walls, but that was impossible...so they ended up jumping and not surviving.

Q. Did you expect anything like this to happen?

A. God No!

Q. How did you know to open the door?

A. It sounded like the army walking down the hall, whereas before they were just screaming and shooting.

Q. How did you feel while you were escaping?

A. Wow...I'm pretty lucky!

Q. How was your flight arranged?

A. Once we got to the police station, I called the Admirals Club in Boston and they took care of everything for us.

Q. Would you go again?

A. Yes! I might not stay in the luxury hotel, but yes, I would go tomorrow. If I hit the terrorists again, I'll get out.

Q. You wouldn't be afraid?

A. No, if I stop going to places I want to see, then they win.

Entertainment

Passion, Revenge, Ambition and Cathedrals

Colleen Sharry '09

The Pillars of the Earth, by Ken Follett, is a 900-page historical fiction novel about building a cathedral that was published in 1989 but did not gain recognition until it became one of Oprah's Book Club books in 2007.

By far Follett's largest career success (originally an author of espionage thrillers), *Pillars* is set in mid 12th century England and centers on the construction of a cathedral in the small market town of Kingsbridge. However, the majority of the book is devoted to the lives of the characters working on and living near the cathedral. Spanning a large portion of the main characters' lifetimes, *Pillars* follows them through ambition, passion, revenge and parenthood, all with the Kingsbridge Cathedral as a backdrop. Rich with minor characters and subplots, the novel successfully conveys what life was like during the time period in addition to developing realistic characters with relatable problems.

All of the main characters in the novel are completely fictional, however realistic, but they are surrounded by historically accurate events of the period referred to as "The Anarchy," when English royals battled to determine who would become Henry I's successor. Follett also included a brief history of the movement from Romanesque to Gothic architecture that took place all throughout Europe during this time period.

Though it may seem daunting at first, *The Pillars of the Earth* is a quick read that, once you pick it up, you cannot put it down until it is done.

After enjoying the success of his novel that earned distinctions such as being number one on the *New York Times* trade paperback list and the 60th book in Oprah's book club, Follett released a sequel, *World Without End*, in October 2007.



Wii Fit

Gabrielle Ferro '11

Have you played the new game Wii Fit? If not, you're missing out on fun and burning calories. This was a very popular game for the past Christmas season. A lot of Nintendo's success over Christmas can be attributed to this game. Its popularity made it a must have, but hard to find present.

Nintendo's response to the gaming industry being blamed for America's obesity was genius. It started out as the Wii which involved getting off the couch, and now its expanded to the Wii Fit game. Unlike the other Wii games, Wii Fit really is about moving. It tracks your weight loss, or gain and makes suggestions for ways to meet your weight goal. Its no replacement for a run or trip to the gym, but it turns your gaming time into a very manageable, fun workout. You even have a trainer or the Wii balance board to instruct you during your exercise. From experience, I can say its very possible to work up a sweat and be sore the next morning if you work hard enough.

Although the games can make you sweat and sore, they are a ton of fun! A lot of the games are unique, like tight roping or hula hooping. Games that are based off of sports, such as soccer, are presented very creatively. In soccer, there is no match, its heading practice. The games are designed to improve your balance, flexibility, strength, and/ or aerobic fitness. If played correctly, the games do develop these parts of you.

Wii Fit is a must have game for anyone with a Wii. Even though its a one-player game, competitions can be had between friends or family. It gets everyone a little exercise at the same time as entertaining. The games are short, so its easy to take turns. Get your Wii Fit game and invite your friends over for a night of fitness fun to start the new year.

Interview with Gregory Maguire

Cat Speranzini '11

Gregory Maguire is the author of the best-selling novel *Wicked: The life and times of the Wicked Witch of the West*. A friend of my mother, Karen Butcher, met Gregory during a car ride from Philadelphia to Boston. They had both been flying in from London stopping in Philadelphia to take a flight to Boston. Unfortunately, the flight to Boston was canceled. Gregory and another man approached Karen and asked her if she would like to drive to Boston with them. She happily agreed, and they headed back home. Gregory and Karen got in the front seat while the third man slept in the back. When they finally reached Boston they all exchanged email addresses and promised to keep in touch. Karen was nice enough to contact Gregory Maguire and set up a short interview for me. Below you will find the result of my interview with this famous author.

Q. Did Karen prove to be good company in a long car ride?

A. I had never met Karen before but she and another passenger, similarly stranded, were very chatty and welcome company on the long and arduous trip from Philadelphia to Boston that snowy night.

Q. A lot of authors experience writers block during the process of writing a novel. Have you found ways to overcome this and do you have any tips for young writers?

A. I have seldom experienced writer's block, but to the extent I have, my personal tricks are:

--Read some poetry. Poetry turns everything on its head and restores your ability to look at anything freshly, which is often what is needed.

--Go for a walk. You don't have to think about your problems as you walk, but very often you come home finding you have sorted something out without realizing it.

--Write a note for yourself before you go to sleep, something specific, like: "Why does Large Marge leave the home without her pocketbook that morning?" Very often your subconscious, if given a job, will do the work overnight for you and the answer will be on your desk in triplicate waiting for your signature in the morning.

Q. *Wicked* became a very popular musical. How involved were you in the transition from book to musical? Were you pleased with the final result?

A. I was not very involved, by design (my own design). I decided the musical play would have a better chance of succeeding if the artists had as free a rein with my material as I had had when I borrowed from L. Frank Baum. I think I made the right choice. I love the musical, deeply and permanently.

Q. You've mentioned before that part of your motivation for writing about the *Wicked Witch of the West* was that no one cared enough to sympathize with her. If you had been placed in Oz how do you believe you would have reacted to Elphaba?

A. I am sure she would have scared me as much in real life as Margaret Hamilton did in the film. However, I hope I might have learned from her nerve. She is still my hero even if I wrote her up.

Q. Elphaba and Glinda have an interesting relationship in *Wicked*. Where did you find the inspiration for the formation of this relationship?

A. I think that the seeds of the relationship must have been there. If the Wizard has a terror of the Witch at the beginning of *The Wizard of Oz*, he must have a reason. If Glinda gives Dorothy the shoes that belonged to the Witch's sister, she must have a reason. Why did Large Marge leave the home without her pocketbook that morning? It all comes down to reasons, doesn't it?

Q. *Wicked* revolves around the nature of evil. Do you believe, as a religious person, that it is important to question the nature of good and evil?

A. I believe that all people must examine the question of the nature of good and evil, for it is a belief common to the devout and the skeptic alike that we know and recognize things (abstracts as well as concretes) through their natures primarily. It is as important for an atheist not to murder as it is for a saint, especially to the potential victim and his or her families and friends.

I'd Like to Thank the Academy

Doubt

Mrs. Pepe P'07

Many of you have heard stories about time spent in Catholic elementary school back in the sixties. The tales you have heard are most likely similar to the events in the movie *Doubt*, starring Philip Seymore Hoffman and Meryl Streep.

This powerful story is set in the Bronx back in 1964. St. Nicholas Church is the backdrop for this tale about a battle of wills that threatens the peaceful sanctuary of the church and the elementary school affiliated with it. You've probably heard stories about a principal like Sister Aloysius, who runs the school with the power of fear and discipline and whose stern look would give you goose bumps. You may have heard about a time when someone was called into the principal's office for some small offense that warranted punishment that is engraved in their memories. *Doubt* is steeped in those old world Catholic convictions that created a battle between Sister Aloysius and the new priest, Father Flynn, who is looking to institute change in the parish.

The battle is old versus new, male versus female, pride versus justice. Without a single ounce of evidence, Sister Aloysius accuses Father Flynn of paying too much attention to the school's lone African-American student. Her accusation is flatly denied, yet the accuser will not bend in her quest to win this battle and in the process, ruin Flynn's reputation.

The question of doubt remains throughout the movie, as you never know whom to believe. Streep and Hoffman are perfectly cast for these roles, staying true to the memories of former Catholic school students. Go see this movie if only to see what Catholic schools used to be like, and then thank the dear Lord you go to Notre Dame!



An Insightful Look Into the Mind of a Disgraced Man

Joanna LeRoy '09

It's strange how in recent years one of the most disgraced presidents in our history seems, well, presidential next to our recently departed commander in chief. Richard Nixon is the subject of *Frost/Nixon*, a compelling look into the post-Watergate interviews that took place between the ex-president and British talk show host David Frost.

When Nixon showed no signs of remorse and gave nothing resembling an apology after the Watergate scandal, the American people wanted more. Many thought they were entitled some kind of public confession of his involvement in the scandal and an apology for these actions. Talk show host David Frost (Michael Sheen) was just looking for more fame. When the film starts, Nixon (Frank Langella) has just resigned and is living out his golden years in a beachside villa in California, showing no signs of regret or sadness for the way he left the presidency and the American people. David Frost is hosting, among others, an Australian talk show and is known mainly as a "lightweight" celebrity interviewer. When he gets the idea to interview Richard Nixon, Frost's producers think that he's crazy and is reaching way out of his league. The majority of the film is told from Frost's point of view, which is important because otherwise we would not care about Frost.

The beginning of the film takes the audience through a fascinating look at the TV business then gradually progresses into a suspenseful thriller. We see Frost partying, picking up girls and so on, but these scenes turn out to be important to establishing his starting point. Frost is weaseled into offering Nixon \$600,000 for a series of four interviews, which mostly ends up coming out of his own pocket. Frost and his producer, John Birt (Matthew Macfadyen, who played Mr. Darcy in the 2005 *Pride and Prejudice*), recruit two journalists to help with research and creating questions. One of the researchers, James Reston, Jr. (Sam Rockwell), insists that these interviews have to be the trial that Nixon never had.

When the interviews start, Nixon takes the upper hand by going on long, banal anecdotes and endless digressions in order to distract Frost from getting the real dirt. As the interviews go on, it becomes more of a battle between two minds to see who will come out victorious. Frost and his team are determined to get out of Nixon the confession and apology that they feel the American people deserve.

Frost/Nixon is an extremely entertaining film that turns out to be surprisingly suspenseful, making the audience constantly wonder who will be the victor of the interviews. Will Frost be able to get the confession, or will Nixon use his great intelligence to outfox his interviewer and once again evade punishment? The film's ability to draw in the audience in this way is a testament to how well-made it is. Frank Langella as Nixon and Michael Sheen do an incredible job of not necessarily mimicking their characters but rather becoming them. Though the interviews have been partially fictionalized for the purpose of the film, the story is still a fascinating one that every American should see.

Slumdog Millionaire

Molly Burke '09

The movie *Slumdog Millionaire* is (A) Charming, (B) Romantic, (C) Exciting, or (D) All of the above. When my mom and I trekked through the snow and into the theater at the adamant recommendation of my sister, I was in search of the answer to that question. I had high hopes for this breakout movie, hailed by critics as one of the best films of the year. After a slow start I was a bit disappointed, but by the end of the story, the movie's charm had won me over. The story focuses on 18-year-old Jamal Malik, an orphan making a living in the slums of Mumbai, India, and his miracle run on the Hindi version of the game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* After successfully answering all of the questions up to the last one, Jamal is accused of cheating; after all, how could an uneducated slumdog like him know the answers to all of these obscure questions? The movie flashes back to each situation in which Jamal obtained all of the information throughout his tragic life running away with his brother and trying to find Latika, his childhood love interest, from whom he was separated. The film, though heartbreakingly sad at times, is absolutely charming and the rest of the world seems to agree. Peter Travers of *Rolling Stone* says "One of the year's best films. What I feel for this movie isn't just admiration, it's mad love." It was nominated for ten Oscars, including Best Motion Picture of the Year and Best Achievement in Directing, as well as winning four Golden Globes and two Screen Actors Guild Awards among many others. *Slumdog Millionaire* is a movie that I would certainly recommend seeing; my advice would be ignore the hype, just go and enjoy it.

Oh, and the answer is (D) All of the Above. Final answer.



Opinion

From the Editor's Desk

Since the Christmas liturgy, liturgical dance has been the topic of much debate at Notre Dame.

The dancers were first introduced at the Heritage Day liturgy in October. The original goal was to add to the prayerful atmosphere and to express faith in a creative way.

Liturgical dance is not uncommon. However, at NDA this part of the liturgy was unfamiliar. It was somewhat unexpected and no one knew exactly how to react.

The liturgical dancers performed again at the Christmas liturgy a few weeks ago. The response was not much better: the laughter rang through the auditorium, nearly drowning out the music and certainly diminishing the positive effect the dancers could have had on the mass.

As Dissatisfied with Dancing points out, the reaction to the dancing lacked respect and was not in line with the goal of the performance.

The reaction to the dancing was wrong. However, this reaction could have been prevented and should be prevented in the future.

Information about the new piece being a part of the celebration of mass would have been helpful. Everyone expects to hear the choir, to see the cross bearer and altar servers and to listen to the priest and lectors. Very few people, however, expected to see the liturgical dancers. Informing everyone of this change to the liturgy would have prevented the surprised laughter and confused chatter.

As with other campus ministry programs, such as lecturing and altar serving, liturgical dancing should be opened to all grade levels in the future. Each dancer should take their job seriously, as it is part of the celebration of faith and therefore should be treated as such.

While the dancers did spend time learning and practicing the dances, and it is unquestionable that they did put hard work into the performances, more time should have been spent thinking the program through. The reaction to the dancing should have been considered, as should have ways to prevent laughter or disruptions during the mass. To help communicate the fact that the dances are part of the liturgy, religion classes should have perhaps discussed the value of dance as a way to express faith, as Sister Mary Janice's classes did after the fact. Easing into the program with information maybe would have lessened the probability of an occurrence of a disrespectful reaction.

Despite the hard work of those who help coordinate the program and the dancers themselves, liturgical dancing should be put on hold for the rest of the year. Time should be taken in order to consider how best to once again employ dance as a method of prayer. Taking the time to rethink aspects of the program will help insure that liturgical dance will be accepted as a way to celebrate faith at our liturgies.

Have your own opinion?
Submit your letter to the editor today
medallionletterstotheeditor@gmail.com

To the Editor:

Every day on my way to school I can't help but glance at the gas prices at the Stop & Shop gas station near my house. It's my way of getting a good idea of what is going on with our economy and within our government. For what seemed like ages, Americans felt the burden of the ridiculously high gas prices as they made several trips to the gas station in a single week. During the presidential election, gas prices reached record high prices and no one really knew who to blame.

Since the election, there has been a significant decrease in the prices; some days, when I drive past the Stop & Shop gas station on my way home from school I notice that the price has gone down since the morning! I personally think that this decrease is somewhat of a relief. However, what still baffles me is why the cost of lunch at NDA is still so expensive! One of the main reasons for the new \$4.50 lunches was due to the sky-rocketing gas prices, because (according to my dad...maybe not the most reliable source) it cost more to pay the companies that delivered food to NDA in large vehicles. However, gas prices are extremely low right now, and with our weakening economy, shouldn't we pay less for lunch?

Strapped for Cash

To the Editor:

Winter in New England is a time of difficult commutes and harsh weather, including precipitation referred to as "wintry mixes." A "wintry mix" is the phase between rain and snow and is often called freezing rain. This kind of weather brings about nasty driving conditions. On January 5, 2009, all of the students are supposed to return to the corridors of NDA, but the aftermath of a "wintry mix" startled morning commuters and prevented many students from arriving on time. There were reported accidents with NDA students involved, a scary reminder of accidents in the past. Thankfully, nobody was hurt. Many stayed home and returned to school with notes the following day reading "Due to yesterday's weather..."

Following the difficult morning commute on Monday, many NDA students, faculty and staff hoped for a snow day after hearing a forecast of inclement weather and a difficult morning commute. In the morning the girls raced out of bed to the nearest TV set. They sat flipping through stations and watched the names of many local schools with delays and cancellations scroll across the bottom of the screen. Gripping the couch cushions, crossing their fingers, hoping, wishing with anticipation growing ... Notre Dame Academy Worcester is listed, but Hingham is missing from the list. An extra twenty minutes of snooze time lost and a sunken heart later, the girls began to prepare for the day. Then, the stress set in. "I didn't finish my homework!" "I didn't study enough for that test!" Also, the safety of transportation was questionable and many parents would not let their children come into school. Thursday morning comes with more notes with the familiar opening line "Due to yesterday's weather..."

Kristen Kennedy '10

To the Editor:

After the Christmas Liturgy there has been much discussion about the Liturgical Dancing. Most of the conversations centered on teachers chastising the audience for their behavior during the dancing. As a student in the audience I also felt that the laughing was unnecessary, the students who partook in the laughing should have attempted to restrain themselves. Though I do not agree with some students' behavior, I resent being yelled at for mocking a sacred ritual that is a joke to some of the performers. Many of the students felt free to laugh because of the tone that was set by some of the dancers themselves. Even some of the dancers feel that the program should end because they are disrespecting the liturgy.

Liturgical Dance is a beautiful way for people with a talent to express their faith. I just do not believe that Notre Dame is the place to do it. It is too foreign to us and we do not understand. It also disrupts the flow of the liturgy. Many of the students probably did not realize that the Liturgical Dance is as much a part of liturgy as Prayers of the Faithful. As a student who is in a state of reflection and prayer during a liturgy I am offended by the liturgical dancing. I will be very disappointed to see it repeated in forthcoming liturgies.

Disappointed with Dancing

To the Editor:

I was shocked this week when, casually inquiring about sophomore retreat, I learned they did not get retreat shirts this year. Of course there is more to a retreat than the t-shirt, but it is a nice piece of apparel to add to the Notre Dame wardrobe. When the sophomores asked why they did not receive shirts they were told there was not enough money. This is not the first time I have heard there is not enough money for a school activity. The newspaper is unable to print more than three papers a year because the school will not give them enough money. This year's physics classes will not be making Balsa Bridges because there is not enough money in the budget. The crew club is not allowed to form a varsity team because the school will not help the students to buy boats.

It makes me wonder where all my tuition money is going. Maybe the money went to the new Smart Boards that our school proudly has in every class room. Many of the advanced boards hang unused in class rooms, collecting dust. In English we watch the occasional movie in class. My math teacher attempted to use the smart board but gave up after one class. Smart Boards are most commonly used to put up power points, which is entirely possible with white boards.

I understand that it takes money to run a school and we are still paying for the new addition to our school. I assume this is why my tuition increases every year but that should secure funding for important things, like physics labs, not unnecessary devices. If I am paying to go to this school the least they can do is throw in a free t-shirt.

Sick of School Stinginess

Coffee House



Nose

Maggie Powers '12

Barney

Gabrielle Ferro '11

I stop my work,
To observe the affects of my affection.
The long, thin, purple and green, awkwardly shaped body,
Has many marks of my love.
The green stomach is like the everglades,
The green separated not by water,
But white spots from time and hugs.
The round, hard eyes
Were at our beginning, character eyes with personality.
But from what I assume is the work of the washing machine,
They are now black.
Age has brought him slimness,
And possibly the gymnastic routines I helped him perform long ago
His stubby tail,
Could have served as a ramp for a boy who liked toy cars.
Although his face lacks a smile,
He smiles.
For he agrees,
There aren't too many silent relationships like ours.



London Eye

Maggie Powers '12

Remedy

Courtney Culhane '10

What is the cure for the bitterest of cold?
Azure blossoms of a fledgeling winter romance
For there is no greater remedy for winter's chill
Than being in the arms of the one you love

**Submit art or poetry of your own to
newspapernda@yahoo.com**

Elephant

Maeve Luken '11

A movement stirred the jungle leaves to lift into the air and dance back towards the floor where they rested among thick twisting vines. Shooting up from the hard packed ground they entwined themselves around tall shoots of trees and bushes. Exotic leaves dangled from the vines like a lion's mane, covering the jungle in a lush, green canopy.

The movement came again. It was a hollow sound of heavy thuds, crushing brambles and twigs as it made its own path through the deep jungle wilderness. The sound paused as a huge grey creature hesitantly moved forth from the greenery into a small clearing. Bright oranges and reds stitched into the elephants blanket splashed violently against the peaceful scenery. The ribbing of the cloth was etched in gold and fine details and jewels hung down from its cap and around its eyes. A copper skinned boy slid down from its back and drew the elephant to a nearby stream. Suddenly energized the elephant trot forward briskly, taking the boy by surprise as it made its way to the water's edge. Stretching, the elephant sucked in the cool, clear water before curling its trunk and squirting it onto its pink tongue, seeming to smile. The boy chuckled as he scratched the animals' wrinkled side, watching the elephant become relaxed and reassured under his touch.

A thin white tunic hung familiarly on the boy's skinny waist and rips scarred his mud soaked pants. Raven hair, infested with lice fell into his small face, but he could only brush it away and smile at his precious elephant. Resting his bony arm on the elephant's side, the two friends continued to walk through the wide jungle.

After many hours they finally came upon what they were searching for. A huge clearing filled with exotic wildflowers, bubbling brooks, tall grasses and a large herd of wild elephants. The boy beamed with happiness but his dark eyes shined wet with sorrow as well. Turning towards his friend, he leaned against its leg, crying softly. The elephant lowered its head and gazed at the boy with gentle brown eyes. Hugging the elephant one last time the boy undid the royal red garments the elephant wore and released it into the wild.

Valentine's Day Poetry Contest

**Do you love to write poetry?
Do You Thrive For Competition?
Is Valentine's Day your favorite (or least favorite)
holiday?**

If so then this contest is for YOU! We are currently taking submissions for the best Valentine's Day poetry. Be creative! If you can't stand this holiday make sure to tell us about it. If you happen to LOVE Valentine's Day, then tell us all about that too. There are no guidelines just creativity at work! Get started today and submit your favorites!