The Great Mr. CASAnova

On Thursday April 16th, the Cafeteria was transformed into something that looked as if it was straight out of The Great Gatsby. It was not part of an April Fool’s joke that ARAMARK was playing on the campus. It was for the 6th annual Mr. CASAnova, sponsored by the ladies of Kappa Alpha Theta, and it was a night to remember!

This year’s male beauty pageant featured ten contestants, representing different fraternities, athletic teams, organizations and classes. The night got underway with an opening dance with all contestants, and then jumped right into the swimsuit portion of the competition. Speedos, lifejackets, and even a full scuba suit made their way on to the stage as we learned more about each participant from Louise Lloyd Owen and Elizabeth Zink, the Theta hosts for the night. Then the talent portion started. There was dancing, singing, gymnastics, and even a police officer impersonation. The final judged event was formal wear which varied from business casual to a full penguin suit. Contestants also answered an interview question on stage after a dance with their Theta escort.

Before the winners were announced, we were all treated to some stomping. The Mr. CASAnova contestants performed the “Reppin Theta” scene from the movie Stomp the Yard. The 2010 Mr. CASAnova runner-up was Mr. South Campus, Kevin Payne. The big winner of the night, though, was Mr. UBA, Kaneja Muganda. Zakea Boeger, who was in attendance at the event, said, “I am happy that I didn’t have to be a judge. They all did an amazing job, and I am sure that the scores were really close.”

And they did an amazing job for a great cause. All proceeds from the event went to Kappa Alpha Theta’s national philanthropy, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Founded in 1977, CASA provides children who are the victims of abuse or neglect an advocate while they go through the court system. Today there are over 1,000 CASA offices helping children throughout the nation. Kappa Alpha Theta also hosts a kickball tournament in the fall to help raise money for the organization.

The motto of Mr. CASAnova is “Charity never looked so good!” and the contestants lived up to that this year. There was a lot of laughter and cheering, and it was all for a great cause. Gabie Sonnier, one of the Theta sisters, said, “It was the best show we’ve ever had!” We should all be getting excited for what the ladies of Kappa Alpha Theta are going to bring us next year!

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News Briefs:
4/8- Alpha Phi Blood Drive from 2:30-7:30 pm in the Pierson Rooms
4/8- ResLife Room Reservation from 4:8-30 pm in the Mohr Student Center
4/8- Ravinia Festival 2010 Season Preview at 7:30 pm in the Lily Reid Holt Chapel
4/8- Opening of the new Sports Center. Events throughout the afternoon
4/9- Zumba from 4:30-5:30 pm in the Buchanan Hall
4/9- Drag Show from 9 pm-1 am in the Mohr Student Center
4/10- Men’s Tennis vs. Beloit College at 9 am on the tennis courts
4/10- Gates Leadership Scholarship Series: “Ethics and Leadership: Making Choices for Social Justice” from 1-4 pm in the Pierson Rooms
4/10- Men’s Tennis vs. Knox College at 3 pm on the tennis courts
4/10- ARAMARK appreciation dinner from 6-8 pm in the MSC
4/10- Club Spice ACP from 10 pm -2 am in the MSC
4/11- ResLife Room Reservation from 9 am-8 pm in the MSC
4/11- Lake Forest Lyrica: Quintet Attacca-Ensemble-in-Residence at 3 pm in the Lily Reid Holt Chapel
4/12- Arts panel: Lake Forest alumni talk about their careers in the Arts from 4-5 pm in the Center for Chicago programs
4/12- “The Public Trust: Chicago’s Role in One of the Most Important Doctrines in Environmental Protection” with speaker Zyg Plater; Professor, Boston College Law School at 7 pm in the Lily Reid Holt Chapel
4/14- Not Just Girl Talk from 3:30-5:30 pm in the Skybox
4/15- Yoga from 6-7:15 in Buchanan Hall
4/16-4/17- Relay For Life in the new Sports Center
Lake Forest College says farewell to a teacher and friend

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“Never let hate take you over.” These inspiring words, spoken by Professor Clayton Gray Jr., have been heard repeatedly for years, both throughout his class lectures and in friendly conversations. During Professor Gray’s thirty-three years affiliated with Lake Forest College, not many people can argue that he is a uniquely appealing man. While walking through Carnegie Hall, it is hard to miss his delicate smile or his booming voice subconsciously singing a sweet hymn. Beloved by his colleagues and entertained by his students, Professor Gray never fails to mention his gratitude towards his family. Growing up in North Carolina with fifteen brothers and sisters, he remarks that “it was no picnic growing up in the South as an African American.” Professor Gray claimed that if it were not for his parents’ respectable values passed on to him, he might not have overcome the psychological effects of segregation in the South. His mother, who lived to be the age of one hundred and two, stressed the fact that “people are people; therefore, there is no reason to judge race or economic status.” The professor strongly states that his success was accomplished alongside many white people and continues to “hate no one.”

His accomplishments include his Bachelor’s degree from Fisk University, his Master’s from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and his P.H.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. He has traveled abroad to places such as Berlin and the Netherlands, and he is also the author of many book reviews, translations, and articles. Professor Gray also taught at the University of Illinois Champagne-Urbana for eleven years prior to Lake Forest College. During his time here at the college, the professor has served with great distinction on the Academic Appeal Board, the Academic Honesty Board, the Modern Languages Chair, and has taught numerous language classes including German, Russian, and Italian. He also has been overheard speaking to students in French, Spanish, and Swiss.

When asked what his favorite memory of Lake Forest College was, he replied, “People are so warm and cordial. Students are fair in critiquing my teaching style and are stunned with the amount of learning that is accomplished while having so much fun in the classroom. My goal in life has always been to help as many people as possible, and I find that if I can make learning fun, not only are my students learning but they are enjoying themselves.” Some anonymous student evaluations describe Professor Gray as a “great instructor who makes the course fun, interesting, and entertaining.” Most students say that he is “always happy, cheerful, light-hearted, eager to help, and really does make learning a fun and memorable experience.”

“His personal anecdotes make the students comfortable as well as helpful in learning the material.” Dean of Faculty Janet McCracken comments that Professor Gray is “the most delightful colleague [she] has ever worked with and is truly loved by everyone. He is also a fantastic baker.”

Professor Gray returns the appreciation towards the dean by saying, “I cannot imagine in my wildest dreams anyone better for her position. She is kind-hearted, pleasant, and really knows what she is doing.” After successfully completing over forty years of teaching, his advice to all future graduates of Lake Forest College is one that will be remembered, even as we say farewell to a marvelous teacher and mentor: “give to the world the best that you have, and the best will come back to you.”

Photos from The Future of Secularism and the Public Role of Religion in Iran: An International Conference

Photo contributed by Harry Bastermajian

Danny Postel and Abdolkarim Soroush of panel two discuss the effects of secularism in Iran.

The speakers and contributors of the conference pose for a photograph to commemorate the event.
DIY Biology for the scientific amateur

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Do-it-yourself biology experiments are not something to which everyone can gain access. For many students who are not science majors, the going-ons in the laboratories of Johnson A can seem a mysterious and random collection of beakers, lab coats and murky, unidentifiable substances. And for those science majors who have never taken a biology class, just walking through the second floor can raise questions as to just what goes on in those labs. But at Wednesday's Student Symposium, Lake Forest's Tri-Beta opened up the world of biology to all who were interested.

Tri-Beta members prepared a variety of experiments, all of which gave students something hands-on to work with in the lab, and touched on topics that weren’t too abstract or difficult for the non-science major to grasp. Students could smash up strawberries in an attempt to extract some strawberry DNA, perform a gel electrophoresis, participate in blood cell hemolysis, and explore the various effects of chemicals on plants. Those who chose to try and extract some strawberry DNA even walked away with a free souvenir: a plastic vial full of genuine said strawberry DNA.

Tri-Beta President Claire Conlisk, ’10, said that she felt the Tri-Beta event “went really well” and that “the people who came really enjoyed seeing the diversity of experiments.” Conlisk also said that she thought the symposium event was great for students to be able to see and participate in “the types of experiments that their biology major friends engage in on a daily basis.” Conlisk also felt good about the variety of experiments offered, saying that the “Strawberry DNA [experiment] was nice, because students got to leave with their own vial of DNA,” and that “blood hemolysis was also great because it is something we do in class that people always want to see firsthand.”

Tri-Beta’s presentation was a great way for students to able to recognize us,” Appelhans said. “We've had a tough season, we've been going since September.”

For the Dance Team, Appelhans said she thought the performance was a good “tool for recognition on campus, and a way to the campus exited about dance.” And it’s safe to look out for more showcase work from the Dance Team in the future. “We’ll probably do [a showcase] again next year,” Appelhans said. “It’s such a great way to propel ourselves forward…right away next year the campus will be

Last Wednesday, the Dance Team held their first ever Retro Hip Hop Showcase, an event that packed the Student Center with students and parents alike, eager to see what the Dance Team had in store. The dancers began and closed the showcase with numbers that included the entire Dance Team, and the performances in between the two large numbers were filled with a variety styles and presenters. The showcase was open to students not on Dance Team as well, and there were several outside performances. International Dance Club performed a dance entitled “Fusion,” which was reminiscent of old school swing dancing. Lubomir Ivanov and Lulu Ke also took part, performing a dance entitled “A Traditional Bulgarian Dance of Happiness.”

“I think it went really well…we had a pretty good turn out,” Dance Team Captain Kate Appelhans said of the showcase. Kate said the team estimated that “about 150 people attended the performance…with some going in and out of the Student Center” for the various performances. It’s no surprise that so many people were interested in the showcase – the Dance Team made use of a variety of props and kept the energy up with lively attire for each dance. Dance Team didn’t take the performance lightly, either. “We’ve been preparing for this for a long time,” Appelhans said. “We’ve had a tough season, we’ve been going since September.”

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Photos courtesy of Zakea Boeger

The Dance Team showcases their work for the 2010 schoolyear

First annual Dance Team showcase a hit

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Photos courtesy of Lauren Bailey.

Tri-Beta students demonstrate how a gel electrophoresis is used.

The Dance Team showcases their work for the 2010 schoolyear

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Photos courtesy of Lauren Bailey.

Tri-Beta students demonstrate how a gel electrophoresis is used.
LFCMUN meets ChoMUN

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Where can you find Vikings, Democrats, and the Japanese Mafia all in one room? The Lake Forest Model United Nations Team (LFCMUN) knows where: The University of Chicago’s Model United Nations Conference (ChoMUN)!

LFCMUN was strategic in networking from the very beginning of the conference. The team was able to meet ChoMUN’s keynote speaker (a UN official, Gillian Sorenson), who gave them advice about attaining a career in international affairs. ChoMUN is known for inventing the concept of small continual crisis committees. To understand what a committee of this nature involves, please refer to Mary-Kate and Ashley’s fine performance in the film “Winning London.”

Anyway, crisis committees often deal with historical events where the body of delegates has to respond to surprise problems. LFCMUN learned how to react to issues such as rioters at the 1968 Democratic National Convention, warring families of Yakuza (the Japanese Mafia), and missing money from the treasury of the Clique of Cyrus the Great, just to name a few. The committee of the Congress of the Confederation encouraged the wearing of powdered wigs, and the Filmmakers and Actors Guild of Mumbai gave their members dance lessons. The situations in the committees are mostly historical, but delegates are given the opportunity to rewrite what might have happened during times of crisis. For example, the Congress of the Confederation went to war with Great Britain and Spain and lost, abolishing the newly formed United States.

How do these weird and random events tie in to Model UN, you ask? Model UN conferences often deal with repetitive issues—a person can only discuss nuclear proliferation so many times. The historical reactive committees force delegates to stay on their toes while simultaneously harnessing all of their debate and reasoning skills. And if all else fails in negotiations, committees can vote to assassinate or expel their opposition (such as in the British Secret Service Committee, creating a James-Bond-like experience for one delegate, complete with takedowns and smoke bombs). Debate continued for four days, or a total of eighteen hours, with a dance on Saturday, consisting of six hundred tired nerds in a dark room with loud music. ChoMUN closed with the Democratic National Convention of 1968 being invaded by the Kremlin (another committee represented at the conference), who pelted them with Easter eggs and shot them with fake guns.

LFCMUN is looking forward to continuing their participation at other conferences and will hopefully be returning to ChoMUN next spring.

Classifieds:

Peanut butter searching for my jelly. Want to make a great sandwich.

Opinionated voice with the body of a Trojan War herald seeks a brainy special someone who enjoys long walks on the beach and writing articles on various topics.

Are you a pro with the pen? Creative on a computer? Al-literate master? I like those things.

Try something new.

Example: Me.

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Photo courtesy of Kjerstin Besser.

LFCMUN poses with the keynote speaker, Gillian Sorenson.

LFCMUN takes a break from the competition to enjoy downtown.
Possibly interesting musing of the week: Opinions about opinions

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“What’s your opinion on opinions?” I asked my cousin Michael this past weekend.

“Hmm,” he responded, “Well, they are pretty good until you ask someone for an opinion, they give it to you, and you get mad at them... because you had asked for the opinion in the first place.”

I chuckled at his reply and nodded my head in agreement. Then, being me, I entered into a few minutes of contemplation on opinions, what they are, and what they really mean.

Merriam Webster Online Dictionary says that an opinion “is a belief stronger than impression and less strong than positive knowledge.” This in itself makes me want to laugh, especially the “less stronger than positive knowledge” part. When someone disagrees, it’s natural for me to whimper this exact definition from Merriam Webster in my head (and I think the majority of the world would have to admit they do the same thing if they were honest). “They’re so stubborn they wouldn’t admit they were wrong even if it turned our they were,” I can think. And so I have not only managed to have an opinion on whatever subject we might be arguing about, but I also now have formed an opinion on their sense of judgment and personhood.

And perhaps this brings me to my next meandering point: just how many opinions, big and small, well-informed and poorly understood, justified and assumed, real and fake, that we each walk through life holding. Every person has an opinion on just about everything. It can be something that doesn’t really affect much else besides the person himself, but it’s still an opinion, regardless. Whether or not someone thinks the actor Christian Bale is talented is an opinion. It doesn’t have an impact on the greater good of society, but it’s still an opinion and two girls I’m sure have gotten in an argument about it before.

It’s inconsequential in comparison to all the other things that could be debated, like the health-care bill that hasn’t lost any hype since it was passed, the financial deficit which grows while each president says he’ll lower it, the wars which we are ending while sending over more troops, the freedom of speech guaranteed by the bill of rights which has constantly been infringed and then un-infringed, or Tiger Wood’s behavior these past few months which could be blamed on his wife’s possibly abusive attitude (yeah, theoretically I could say that in my opinion he slept with thirteen different sluts because he just couldn’t protect himself from his wife).

But my point right now isn’t the absence of my own opinions. It’s simply that everyone has them, even about the small things that we really don’t have to ponder. And often it seems the small issues are given just as much thought process as the larger, really meaningful ones. (Of course, an example of a truly meaningful issue is up for debate as well).

But then since there are so many insignificant debates out there with so many different opinions floating around, it seems almost impossible to understand how almost any argument could be any more important than another. Whether or not you take his or her side doesn’t mean you’ll take the same side next time, and whether or not you decide that both are wrong doesn’t mean another person will agree or disagree with you. In fact, all it means is just that: that you did or didn’t take a certain stance. And when forming my own opinion, I probably don’t really think your opinion is all that important... unless of course, I happen to agree with you.

But if I do hypothetically agree with you, then chances are we will get along. After all, we have the same opinion, so what would there be to disagree on besides perhaps the degree to which we agree: (Okay, you took Jennifer Aniston’s side rather than Angelina Jolie’s too, but do you think Brad cheated on Jennifer?) Once again, the debate really isn’t important despite the attention that the media and just about everyone in America gave it. But its own insignificance in everyone’s life but the three actually involved doesn’t necessarily stop it from being a topic that can make me and someone else a friend or a foe when we smile and nod, or shake our heads. In that moment we just decided that we either had opposing views in part of life or that we had something in common.

And that is what I suppose saves the over-said, overdone, and overcooked opinions under the sun and makes them have value. It is people’s opinions that make them who they are. A person’s likes and dislikes and favorite things and worst memories are all based on his opinions.

Yeah, a person’s opinions can be mixed up like his feelings toward the girl who laughed at him one day and then yelled at him the next, and each of us has to admit that we have some uncultured opinions we willingly ingest like the Twinky we sometimes eat instead of the apple. But in the end, they are still yours, mine, and ours and one of the few things that can’t be taken away from us. Someone can say to shut up; a government can take away a person’s freedom to share his opinions. But no matter what, no one can truly take away another’sinternal outlook. I think maybe that’s the reason they say a mind is a terrible thing to lose... if it were lost, you would lose your ability to form your own opinions and make your own decisions and to, therefore, in reality, be yourself. But fortunately, that’s not something that can really happen.

So often we get angry at others for the opinions they offer us as my cousin said (and often when we did ask for their thoughts in the first place), but to a certain extent when we get frustrated with someone for not agreeing with us, aren’t we really just getting frustrated that they aren’t us? If opinions are largely what make us unique and individual, it seems when we say we don’t care to hear someone’s thoughts, we are really just saying that we don’t care to hear him.

I know that reasoning can only be taken so far. But then if you really read this whole rant of an opinion (perhaps ill-founded itself) on opinions, it only seems fair that I be willing to listen to you next time, even if your opinion is wrong and ill-founded (in my opinion, of course). It’s not that a person’s opinions should have to change after hearing someone else’s; it’s more about being willing to hear what someone else has to say. After all, chances are they really do know just as much in the subject as you anyway. And the chances are even larger that both of you are both wrong and right. You might not think he has anything to say, but then he’s probably thinking the same about you.

Perhaps the real reason freedom of speech has constantly been infringed is that people who have nothing to say can say it safely and easily, and it gets old. But if freedom of speech causes freedom of opinions that are freely spread, even when someone else doesn’t want to hear them, this whole article might just be a prime example of just that.

It’s almost the end of the year...

Don’t you want to end this fine semester with your thoughts splashed across the beautiful opinions page?

Maybe you want to deny the sheer brilliance of a piece on this very page. Maybe you had a great or terrible experience in the lake, the forest, or some dark dormroom of debauchery.

Either way, you know you want to see us editors stop filling up our own page, and all the sadness that implies. So, do something about it.

If you’re awesome, send your writing along to opinions@lakeforest.edu.

Thanks!
Pedophilic priests, and their systemic acceptance clarifies the dangers of absolute power in society

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Whether it’s priests molesting kids or Tiger screwing all those women, the last weeks, and arguably most of our recent history, has been marked with rampant moral hypocrisy. Of course, Catholic priests are bound by duty and holy contract to forego the temptations of the flesh. Tiger is bound by our odd moralistic expectation of saintliness in our celebrity figures. Also, and obviously, pedophilia is illegal. Adultery isn’t nice, but it isn’t against the law.

Tiger’s offense is, then, understandable, and, frankly, none of my damn business. Touching kids, meanwhile, as figures of authority and power, is despicable and cannot continue. The Vatican’s obstinacy on this issue, its continual silent acceptance (seen most clearly in Pope Benedict’s past inaction on guilty priests and currently in the refusal to admit fault), is a mockery of the supposed values of any religious organization.

But I will not spend six hundred words attacking the Catholic Church, no matter its organizational failures. Instead, I want to examine this crisis in morality. It seems that those we place highest often act in the lowest ways. Why?

Perhaps it is abuse of power. Some smart guy once said something close to “complete power corrupts completely.” Actually I know it’s some other adjective/adverb combo, but I refuse to Google it. The point is, absolute (oooh, that’s the word!) power, power without any avenue for doubt or dissent, power over all, makes us humans go all crazy. Benedict doesn’t think he can be tried. But in a criminal case, he certainly can. It is this assumption of impregnability that is so dangerous. With it comes implicit infallibility, a feeling that one can do no wrong, that one is outside of morality.

This is the power that has drawn most of the Western world away from monarchs and toward some form of representative government. The Pope, even though he has been stripped of much of the power the position held mere centuries ago, is one of the few remaining monarchs. And, priests themselves, the actual perpetrators, are microcosmic monarchs themselves, their power derived not from public accord, but from ritual appointment and apparent divine grace. When kept within the limits of religious practice, this situation is tenable. But its abuse is too easy, and perhaps too likely when one gives a man so much power but requires him to use it so sparingly, that this failure may be less a sad exception, and more a symptom of this grand sickness of power.

Or, is this possibly just a part of human nature? Though hundreds of thousands of years have passed since Homo sapiens marked its genetic signature, we are still animals. We still derive more instantaneous pleasure from fighting and screwing than thinking and helping. Trusting moral purity to any person, then, could be inherently mistaken. Perhaps it is not the priests at fault here, but we who place such false hope in their denying human urges.

Ah, but this option ignores the essential illegal and immoral quality of these acts. Looking for sexual pleasure in children is a completely selfish, harmful act. No matter what rationalization is given about the happiness or comfort of the child, the only true pleasure derived is that of the adult. Couched in the terms of religious protection and the care of God, this act revolts us all the more. Yes, great ancient philosophers participated in such acts, but, like the debilitation of women or the enslavement of blacks, this is an act that we have deemed an error of the past, a crime. Nothing can justify it, no matter how it acts in human history.

I use the indiscretion of Tiger Woods as an illustrative example of understandable and acceptable lapses in morality. I do intend to create a straw man argument based around anyone justifying the priests through comparison to Woods. I think, instead, that the fundamental truth towards which these horrible acts by supposedly holy men drive us is that all systems must be constantly examined. When abuse such as this is not just rampant, but downright accepted in a system, it is the obligation of its followers, and of the rule of law, to step in and change it.

As long as men are allowed to act like gods, as long as dictators, monarchs, and, yes, holy men are allowed to act above the law without consequence, tragedies like these will occur. No matter the intensity of faith, one must always be able to question and reject the proprietors of that faith if they act with disdain for common morality.

Rather than punish simply the priests that have been caught, leaving the true issue for another year and more hurt kids, we must eliminate the unjust powers given to all involved. This is not reserved for Catholic abusers. Fundamentalist Protestants damning gays or screaming “baby killer” in crowded halls (or killing the “baby killer”), fundamentalist Muslims using holy script to justify murder and destruction, Scientologists abusing the poor and manipulating the rich, Israelis justifying occupation and settlements with Torah history—all use the powers of religious faith for personal and political gain and do so to the harm of others. Evil is not found in religious faith itself, but in the misuse and corruption of that faith.

Caring for people, helping the sick, giving people a feeling of community and love, giving meaning, setting an apolitical moral compass—these are the great powers of religious men. That is where their focus, and ours, should tend. Belief must unite and build, not divide and destroy. These goods must be tangible and definitive, not the excuses called up whenever moral turpitude occurs.

The Stentor asks... What are your thoughts on the Student Symposium?

“I didn’t go to any so that I could get a lot of work done.” - Taylor Ball, ’12

“I went to hear Professor Dlabay and other speakers talk about microfinance, since I did research on the same topic and he’s my advisor.” - Deepika Ramachandraa ’11

“Having an ACP before the symposium didn’t help with participation. People were up late and drinking the night before. I only attended one on inter-racial dating, but wish I could have gone to more.” - Kaitlyn April ‘13

“Last year’s seemed more interactive. I also went to the inter-racial dating presentation, and it was good, but this year’s symposium felt dumbed down.” - Tanner Senter ’12

“I think symposium went really well. I gave a presentation on John Woo’s The Killer. Also, the quiz bowl was huge—it was ridiculous. Everyone was there.” - Nick Makinster ‘11
It’s hard to imagine a college campus these days without countless Frisbees lofting effortlessly across the campus green. Frisbee has long been the “unofficial” sport of colleges across the country, a certain expectation of students as they arrive for their first day with their duffle bags and suitcases. There is nothing discriminatory about the game of Frisbee. You don’t have to come from money, needing endless expensive equipment in order to play. It is a game for anyone who has a love for sports, the outdoors, and a sense of team bondage one can find by simply throwing a Frisbee around with a friend in between classes.

At Lake Forest “Ultimate” (as it is now officially called ever since the toy company “Wham-O” decided to call its discs, “Frisbees”) is an intramural sport. It is not listed under the “main sports” categories on the website like football, basketball, and hockey are. There are capt-

ains (Ed Brown, Daniel Alfredson, and Walter Baum) but no coaches. Anyone is welcome to play, both men and women. As present as it is everywhere you seem to go, it still remains a largely unknown sport on campus. Many are unaware that there is more to Frisbee beyond the seemingly relaxed games on the quad on Middle Campus.

Despite being male dominated, the Frisbee team on campus is co-ed. The men and women practice together, but do not play together. A shortage of girls this year has led the women’s team to join up with other schools when playing in tournaments, as they are this weekend at NIU. The men’s team however is a different story, with Daniel Alfredson, Ed Brown, and Walter Baum all serving as captains. The team competes in numerous tournaments throughout the season, playing teams like Northwestern and NIU.

As popular as it is on college campuses across the country, the actual rules of the game are not as well known. Ultimate, a relatively modern sport shares similar aspects to that of American Football and Rugby. While the rules vary based on the particular version of the game being played, the main objective is to score by reaching the end zone, much like in football. Teams reach the end zone by passing the disc to teammates in any direction, but are challenged by the fact that they cannot run with the disc and have only ten seconds to complete a pass. If a pass is dropped or intercepted, possession turns over to the other team. After scoring the disc is thrown off or “pulled” to the other team and another drive to the end zone takes place. The first team to score 15 points by a margin of two or greater, or the first to 17 wins the game. There are many in-depth rules and strategies to the game and ways of throwing the disc, but the most basic rules are those stated above.

The great thing about Ultimate is that although it can be dissected into a complex game with endless strategies, it at the same time is one of the more simple and beautiful sports in the world. Much like having a catch with a baseball, throwing a disc around with friends requires only an open space and at least two people. American youth has often been portrayed through kids throwing a baseball or football around with their friends, but as time goes on Ultimate will most likely join baseball and football as an equally prominent sport among youth. 

Flying saucers spotted on campus as weather warms

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Flying saucers spotted on campus as weather warms