Gates Day of Service makes minor changes and improvements

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Saturday, February 6th marked the third year for the Gates Day of Service. Around 300 participants gathered in the Mohr Student Center bright and early and set off for a morning of volunteer work around the greater Chicago area. Armed with t-shirts, granola bars, and bottles of water, volunteers loaded buses to sites such as the Neal Math and Sciences school, Waukegan Public Library, and Winchester House. Some returned to Lake Forest College with paint all over their bodies, others with wisdom bestowed upon them by the elderly, but all returned with the good feeling that only comes from doing something to benefit others.

With two years under the belt, the planning of this year’s Gates Day of Service saw some changes. The school partnered with the Gorter Family Foundation, allowing for a larger number of volunteer sites, many of them in the North Chicago area. Director of the Gates Center for Leadership and Growth, Chris Waugh anticipates an even larger connection with the Gorter Foundation next year.

Another change the event saw was the actual timing, both the timing of the season and of the day. “In the past, Global Fest was in the fall, but it made it really impossible for the Global Fest to do the things it was trying to do. It was a lot of outside kind of carnival and music events,” Waugh said. “There were probably only 30 or so volunteers this past weekend outside, so when looking at who needed to be outside more, Global Fest did.”

This year the Gates Day committee decided that to make the day a lot cleaner and easier, logistically, all
Spain and Tunisia trip an exciting possibility

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The summer of 2010 will hopefully mark the first ever Lake Forest College Study Abroad trip to Spain and Tunisia. The trip will spend time in Granada and Cordoba, where students will study in places including the Alhambra palace. Trip goers will also get to go on day trips to Cordoba to see the Great Mosque and Medinat al-Zahra. Spain’s amazing architecture and historic Islamic art will be at the disposal of the students while they are in the country, free to learn about what they want. Students will also get to go on a two-day trip to Seville.

Following the journey to Spain, students will hop on a plane to Tunisia, where they will stay with a Tunisian family in Tunis. The students will be introduced to the Arabic language, as well as some French, while living with the families.

“The idea behind the program is to expose students not just to the cultural heritage of Islam, but also to the cultural exchange between Islamic and European society,” says Harry Bastermajian, Lecturer and Program Coordinator for Islamic World Studies. “The trip is also an opportunity, especially the Tunisian portion, for students to experience and understand dynamics of a contemporary Islamic society specifically in North Africa which has a shared heritage with Muslim Spain,” adds Bastermajian. Lake Forest College contracted with IES Abroad (formerly the Institute of European Studies) to arrange the Spain portion of the trip, and SIT Study Abroad to arrange the Tunisian portion.

However, the trip is purely a Lake Forest College study abroad, and all participants will receive two credits. In Tunisia, students will have daily Arabic lessons ranging from beginning to advanced, but there is no language requirement for the trip. The overall cost of the trip is $6,700, not including airfare. Private student loans are available.

“This is an integral part of the College’s interest in expanding study abroad opportunities to students. It is exclusively a Lake Forest College program and part of the Islamic World Studies initiative,” says Bastermajian. “This is an opportunity for students to steep themselves in Islamic cultures and society… and help lead cultural awareness of the rich heritage of Islam.”

For more information contact Professor Bastermajian at bastermajian@lakeforest.edu or ext. 6180.
projects should take place in the morning. While in the past buses of volunteers were leaving at all times of the day, this year all buses left and returned at roughly the same time. This allowed for less confusion and delays. It also allowed for volunteers to all gather for lunch in the Hart Dining Hall after their return to share stories and discuss their work.

The committee this year really worked hard to fix anything that did not run smoothly last year and did all they could to make the day a great experience for both the volunteers and the sites that they worked at. “The committee was amazing. We had faculty, staff, and students, and the work that they did was remarkable. I’ve not enjoyed a committee as much as I have this one. It was just an outstanding team effort,” Waugh said. As for next year, Waugh is interested in getting more of the campus to participate. Thoughts of making the day a competition are

Volunteer

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Michael Jordan scored 32,292 points in his career, including his time with the Washington Wizards, but not counting his short-lived baseball days. Kobe Bryant, as of February 1st, 2010, has scored 25,208 points. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar holds the record for the most points scored in the NBA with 38,387. And now our fellow Forester Lisa Nassin is right up there with them.

On Tuesday, February 2nd, 2010, Lake Forest Women’s Basketball played Monmouth College. When the ball went into the air for tip off Nassin had 998 points to her name and within five minutes she had hit the 1,000 mark. By the end of the game she had 1,011 points, and at the time of print she has 1,035 points with three more regular season games to come. Nassin is only the sixth Forester to reach this accomplishment, and the first player that Head Coach Tamlyn Tills has had in her 15 years as a collegiate head coach.

While this is a huge personal accomplishment for Nassin, she didn’t let it distract from the goal of the game, winning and making it to Conference. “I was a little bit nervous before the game started but as soon as the ball was tipped off and the game started, I really wasn’t even thinking about it,” Nassin said. Coach Tills, who is in her second season with the Foresters, said, “I know that Lisa’s focus was on winning the game. It is very exciting and quite a tremendous accomplishment that does not happen very often anymore.”

However, this was not something that Nassin did on her own. “I am also proud of her teammates since they all played an integral part in her success,” Coach Tills said. In fact, in the same game that she scored her 1,000th point, Nassin also had the game record for the most assists. And while she got to take home the game ball, the whole team celebrated with cake afterwards.

The Lady Foresters have three games left before the Midwest Conference Tournament. The only home game of those three is on Saturday, February 20th, when they will be playing Illinois College at 1 p.m. This is not only the last game of the regular season, but it is Senior Day. Only time will tell how many points Nassin finishes the season and her Lake Forest College career with, but after you hit 1,000 it’s probably hard to keep count.

1,000 is a pretty big number. There are 1,000 years in a millennium. There are 1,000 grams in kilo, and 1,000 pounds in half-a-ton. There are 1,000 dollars in a grand. And after the Women’s Basketball game on February 2nd, there are 1,000 points to Lisa Nassin’s name. Look out Lebron, and Congratulations Lisa!

Continued

News Briefs:

2/16-Majors/Minors Fair from 11 am- 1 pm in the Mohr Student Center
2/16- Author Talk: Matthew R. Kelley, Associate Professor of Psychology, discusses his latest publication Applied Memory in the Donnelly and Lee Library room 002 at 4 pm
2/18- Science Panel in the Center for Chicago Programs at 4 pm
2/18- Yoga Group from 6-7:15 pm in Buchanan Hall
2/18- “Tartuffe” at 8 pm in Hixin Hall

PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDSAY BELLER

Volunteers paint at the Neal Math and Sciences Academy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Volunteers play Table Ball with the elderly at the Winchester House
Don’t play Cupid’s Fool:
This Year, Get Smart About Valentine’s Day in Lake Forest

Candy is quite possibly one of the easiest Valentine’s Day staples to obtain, on or off-campus.

The popular Sweets of Lake Forest offers a variety of candies, milkshakes and ice cream, all fit to satisfy any sweet tooth. If you walk to and from the store, you can even assuage any guilt you feel over the excess of calories.

Gerhard’s Bakery, located near The Bootery, is also a great place to look for sweets other than just chocolate or candy hearts. Pick up some cupcakes or cookies, or even a custom-ordered cake. They’re even open on Sunday for last-minute needs.

If you prefer to take a shorter walk, mosey over to Boomer’s (or any other on-campus cafe, really) and scope out their array of candy. The cafes are always stocked with sweets, and Valentine’s Day has seemingly exploded all over Boomer’s -- check out the solid, three-pound chocolate heart! If you haven’t used up your Flex Dollars, you don’t even have to spend your cash for a quick gift, or a chocolate fix.

Movies
The newest installation of the Twilight saga, *New Moon*, will be screening twice on campus in McCormick Auditorium. It shows Thursday (the 11th) at 8 PM, and again on Sunday at 1 PM. Whether you’re feelin’ romantic or cynical, this free showing suits all moods.

Catch the shuttle on Saturday and head to the Showplace 8 for a movie -- student tickets start at $4.75, and the shuttle is free. The shuttle also goes to Evanston on both Saturday and Sunday.

There’s a Blockbuster located in town as well. Membership is free, and movie rental costs vary. Pick up a few titles and spend a cozy night in from the permanent blizzard that has descended upon campus.

Romance
With e.Team’s “Winterfest” scheduled for this weekend, pick up some hot chocolate or tea and take advantage of the free carriage rides offered. What better way to get your sweetie in a romantic mood than a quaint ride through a snow-covered Lake Forest?

Winterfest will also be holding “bear-making,” Build-a-Bear style for those who want a unique, handmade gift.

Dancing
For those not inclined to Argentinian dance at the Deer-path Inn...
On Saturday the 13th, gather your friends and head over to the Red Light/Green Light ACP! Green clothing means you’re single and red means you’re taken -- so dress accordingly and plan for an interesting time.
If you’re inclined to buy your sweetie (or yourself) some version of a floral arrangement for Valentine’s Day, try the following:

Lake Forest Florists offer specials starting at $17.95. You can complete your entire order online, and save yourself a walk to town!

For flowers on a budget, try Jewel-Osco. Jewel-Osco offers a variety of styles and sizes of bouquets, with single stem roses starting at just $2.99, and larger arrangements starting at $4.99.

And if it’s single stem roses that you’re looking for, look no further than on-campus. Multicolored roses that you can send signed for $1.99, or anonymously for $2.99, are being sold outside the caf.

If you’re feeling of the amourous (and pricier) sort, the Deerpath Inn is offering a Valentine’s Day special, in addition to their normal room packages. You and your sweetie can enjoy dinner and dancing, along with Argentinian tango lessons, followed by a night spent in one of the Inn’s romantic old-world feel suites. The package, which will run you $329.84, also includes 10% off of brunch at the Inn in the morning.

Depending on what sort of Valentines you may wish to give out, there are many options in town.

If you find yourself longing for the days of elementary school, when those small, cartoon valentines were distributed to everyone you knew, try hitting up Walgreen’s. You can buy boxes of these classics (Ninja Turtles!) for around $2.00. (At print, Walgreens still had an entire aisle full of candies, cards, stuffed animals and other trinkets, so if you find yourself with a last minute Valentine, this is probably the place to go.)

If you’re looking for an update on the classic or feeling inclined to make your own valentines, look no further than Helander’s Stationers. Helander’s offers not only new, somewhat interactive versions of those cartoon valentines (think fortune-tellers and paper airplanes), but also offers all the supplies to make your own, personalized cards as well. Here you can find thick paper in all sorts of colors and sizes, along with matching envelopes, starting at just $0.05 - $0.10! Helander’s also offers online shopping for some items.

It goes without saying that there are a ridiculous amount of possibilities for a meal on Valentine’s Day.

If you’re looking for something classically romantic and a little tucked away, try Francesca’s Intimo – a casual place that offers casual dining with dinners starting around $15. Carry out is also available, and the menu is online, if you’d rather order-in.

Claiming “The Best Burger in Town,” The Lantern can sometimes be taken for granted by those who frequent it or walk by it often. But did you know that on Sundays the “Balloon Lady” comes from 5:30-7:30 and makes various balloon shapes? Since Valentine’s Day falls on a Sunday this year, perhaps stop by the restaurant and also pick yourself or another up a unique memento of the dinner.
Best Picture nominee reviews: Of imagery, meaning, and the tragedy of reality

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The problems with Avatar are almost wholly embedded within its storytelling, characterization, and thematic elements—you know, that stuff that movies inherited (some begrudgingly) from the art forms that came before. All the technical stuff—pacing, cinematography, effects, directing, shot composition—range from acceptable to inspired. Yes, the issues here are with the substance, not the style. That’s true of most action flicks, but Avatar aspires to be something more, a message movie, a cultural event, and thus I will judge it as such.

If you’ve heard the first word on Avatar from anyone with any ounce of cynicism, you’ve heard the obvious comparisons to Pocahontas, Dances with Wolves, and Fern Gully. Those are all true. At the risk of destroying my street cred, remember Grandmother Willow from Disney’s Pocahontas? How she judged John Smith fatalistically worthy with her spirit-infused leaves? Yeah, the Tree of Souls totally does that to Jake Sully, in an almost shot-for-shot sequence. Add to this “homage” the rather blatant naming convention of the Na’vi, translated as “The People,” as compared to the Navajo, also “The People,” and we begin to see how Director James Cameron wrote this screenplay in three weeks.

But near-plagiarism is of less import than the implications of these comparisons. Avatar, like the above films, The Last Samurai, Glory, and others, tells a formulaic story, a fable, with a messianic white boy inserted to lead the Algonquin, Lachot, Japanese, and black soldiers to their historically or thematically important end. It’s a rather cynical combination of liberal guilt, western colonialism, and cultural appreciation, and it rides off the assumption that we, the ignorant, uncaring audience, won’t care about these different cultures if the charming pale-skin isn’t helping out those silly people. Avatar is massively guilty of this as the battle becomes not human colonists vs. Na’vi, but evil militaristic human colonists vs. good naturalistic human colonists with the Na’vi as an accessory.

My final critique is for this opposition. The film contains not one iota of ambiguity. There is no sympathy for our twenty-something hubristic executive Parker Selfridge, or our drink-coffee-while-destroying-nature, veins-popping-like-he’s-on-a-HGH-bend colonel Miles Quaritch; there is only contempt. The most “complex” character is Mr. Sully, whose turn from military spy among the Na’vi to freedom fighter for justice is so simplistic it barely deserves mention. All other turns, twists, and dramatic moments are unearned and unaffectionate. I don’t care about these characters.

The funny thing is, Avatar is shilling messages I totally agree with: respect nature, use resources sparingly and carefully, military might should never be used for shock-and-awe, and science is cool. The imagery of the planet of Pandora, of its interconnected bio-botanical neurology, being threatened by the cold steel of human machines, is worthy. The characters and events within this world are not. The message is important, but the film cheapens it and dumbs it down to the point of patronization. Also, dude, it’s totally Pocahontas.

The problems with Avatar are almost wholly embedded within its storytelling, characterization, and thematic elements—you know, that stuff that movies inherited (some begrudgingly) from the art forms that came before. All the technical stuff—pacing, cinematography, effects, directing, shot composition—range from acceptable to inspired. Yes, the issues here are with the...
The Tebow Superbowl ad advocates loving families, so what's the controversy?

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There was a thirty-two second ad aired during the Super Bowl. It sparked substantial controversy leading up to its airing. But considering how tame the commercial was, I’m pretty sure the controversy drew more attention to it, than the ad itself did when finally played. So now that I saw the ad featuring Tim Tebow (the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner) and his mom last night, I have to wonder why the controversy even began.

While watching the ad, I could barely tell it was pro-life. It showed Tim Tebow’s mom coming out with a phone and calling her “miracle baby.” Mrs. Tebow talked of almost losing him many times before he was born and still worrying about her son’s health today, while others treated him as a star. The ad ended with the two saying “I love you” to each other... and then that was it: no discussion on being pro-choice or pro-life, no statistics on abortion, no graphic images, not even the mother or son’s opinion on the issue. In fact, even after going to the website (focusonthe-family.com) that was advertised in the commercial, it wasn’t obvious that the commercial was “pro-life.” On the website, I found links to marriage, parenting, and life challenges—not links to anything pro-life. The only time it could even be stretched to being a pro-life ad would be when Mrs. Tebow said that almost losing her son “so many times” was hard. The commercial seemed to promote more of a healthy family relationship than anything else. There was nothing even questionable in the ad—unless we want to censor the promotion of loving families.

Therefore, the attention given to the ad leading up to its airing seems highly over dramatic. After all, there was nothing offensive—or even controversial in it. Of course, it will be said that no one knew the commercial was going to be so laid back. But if the content wasn’t fully understood by those, such as Women’s Media Center, criticizing CBS for its choice to air it, then they shouldn’t have been criticizing CBS anyway. Before the ad was run, Tim Tebow said it was simply promoting traditional family values.

While Jenu Greene, the President of Women’s Media Center, was telling Fox News in an interview that Focus on the Family was “using the super bowl to fool America into believing their agenda wasn’t controversial when it actually is.” (You can see the interview on youtube by typing in “Tim Tebow defending ad”). If Greene believes that having a loving family is controversial, I would have to agree with her one hundred percent. If, on the other hand, Greene wanted us to be offended by a blatantly pro-life agenda present in the ad, I think she should find another commercial to attack. In fact, now that the ad as been played, I would say Women’s Media Center created hype over an ad which, in all likely-hood, would have otherwise barely been noticed. It seems Women’s Media Center did little more than to make themselves seem over-sensitive, drawing attention to what they wanted ignored.

But even if the ad had been truly controversial, why should CBS or any other television station not play it? We live in the U.S. where we are supposed to believe in free speech. Of course, this is the argument we’ve had since our nation was founded. But if the ad had been more pro-life, why would the TV station be expected to refuse to give the thirty-second airtime to a group willing to pay the million-plus dollars to run an ad during the super bowl? CBS wouldn’t have needed to refuse the commercial, even if it had been truly controversial. If Women’s Media Center is truly concerned that Focus on the Family will manipulate millions of Americans with a half-minute commercial, they should pay the money for one with their own message, not tell the station it shouldn’t play the other.

The real controversy isn’t whether the ad is offensive, or whether it should be played. It is whether people should be allowed to think and decide this on their own. Maybe someone will find the avocation of families to be offensive, but they should be able to come to that decision after having watched the ad—not before the ad has had the chance to play. A pre-conceived judgment is rarely fair, and the Tim Tebow commercial is a prime example. Everyone doesn’t need to agree with what is said in Focus on the Family’s preview; people have every right to disagree. But the agreement or disagreement should be reached after watching the ad. Then, if someone wants to disagree what the ad has said, he has every right to do that; just as Focus on the Family had every right to play the ad. Women’s Media Center could present their differing opinion. But asking any TV station to not give out a thirty second spot worth thousands of dollars because you disagree with it is neither fair, nor even politically correct, as long as we live in a country which promotes free speech.

So now that I saw the ad, the hype seems like an unfair overreaction to an organization simply presenting its beliefs.

Cubs spring training calls up complex emotions

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In an effort to satisfy the opinion editor’s request for material, I have decided to write about something that has been sadly lacking in most of the Chicago area newspapers: baseball. Now, I know that baseball’s still technically in its offseason, but since pitchers and catchers report to spring training next week, why not jump start the fun now?

I have been a Cubs fan for almost seven years, and while that doesn’t hold a candle to the fans old enough to remember the last Cubs World Series, I’ve still experienced my fair share of agonizing screw-ups. The Bartman Ball alone is worth three or four blown games, and as every Cubs fan knows by now, agonizing screw-ups don’t get any worse than Milton Bradley.

But even after last year’s spectacularly average performance, I’m ready to start watching again. I feel deprived and empty inside, like I’m being consumed by some horrific existential turmoil. (Of course, this could be because I haven’t eaten in five hours, but for the sake of argument, let’s assume my internal chaos is baseball related.)

Not all of my friends understand my enthusiasm, especially when it comes to spring training. And I suppose they’re right. It doesn’t make much sense to get so excited about games lineup. After all, when I shell out fifty bucks during the regular season, I’m hoping to see Derek Lee at first base, not Joe Blow from Hicktown, Arkansas.

For me, spring training is like the salad you get before a meal – we only put up with it because we know something better is on its way. Of course, there’s often too much time between the appetizer and the entree (Do the players really need six weeks to get ready?), but at least it’s something to tide me over. And spring training gives me time to debate starting lineups, trade consequences, and contract extensions. Should Theriot lead off instead of Fukudome? (He should.) Will Marlon Byrd be a good replacement in center field? (Who cares? He’s not Milton Bradley!) Should Lou Piniella retire after this season? (Who cares? Bradley’s gone!)

Alas, the first exhibition game isn’t televised until the first week of March, but I’ve dusted off my jerseys, tried on my rally caps, and booked an advance appointment with my therapist. Cubs baseball is coming, and Milton Bradley’s gone. Bring it on! 
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The men’s basketball team started an incredible winning streak in January, including a huge upset over 9th ranked St. Norbert’s College. This continual success has elevated the team in Midwest Conference standings, which improves their chances of having a strong seed in the conference tournament. In January alone the team went 6-2 and sophomore Travis Clark led the conference in scoring percentage. He is ranked 5th in the nation in scoring.

Women’s basketball went 7-1 in January and now have a record of 14-6 overall and are 10-3 in Midwest Conference play. Senior Lisa Nassin hit the 1000 career point mark, just one of the few women players in the history of the school to do that. She currently has the sixth best shooting percentage in the nation. The women's team has lost two games in a row but look to revive themselves this weekend and climb back to being a dominant factor in the Midwest Conference.

On the ice, the women's hockey team has had an incredible year and looks to be getting better week after week. They are 15-2 right now (the highest win percentage for the school ever) and are 1st in the NCHA with a record of 9-1-2. Sophomore Kim Herrington has shined on the ice this year. She is ranked 1st in the nation with scoring goals this year and has a career and school record of 36 goals. Goal tender Alyssa Wintermute recorded her 27th victory on January 30th.

The men’s hockey team went 4-3-1 in January. Marc Rubino led the team with 10 goals in January and is tied for first on the team with 18 for the year. Trent Brown and Chad Thompson were named MCHA Defensive Players of the week on January 18th. The team overall has clinched a spot in the six-team MCHA Tournament and, with a strong finish, could host a quarterfinal playoff series.

Lake Forest’s Swimming team had a successful January. Both the men and women’s squad went 4-0 in dual meets. Kelsey Hooper broke the school 50-meter freestyle. Becky Shaak ’13 has set school and Midwest Conference records in the 500-meter, 1000-meter, and 1650-meter freestyle. She ranks among the top 20 in the nation in all three events. Forester swimmers own the fastest times in the MWC in 21 different events.

Finally, the men and women’s handball team had a successful January also. Suhm Lee ’10 won the Open Singles and Open Doubles with Nikolai Nahorniak ’11 at the Circle City Tournament. Victor Perez ’11 was the champion at the H.H.A. Contenders Tournament. The Foresters will look to defend their men’s, women’s, and combined team titles at the United States Handball Association (U.S.H.A.) Collegiate National Championships at Texas A & M University February 24-28.

These are impressive stats that many schools dream about achieving. As a member of the school, you should be proud for the accomplishments the student athletes have achieved. The season for these teams is winding down as the weeks progress, so go out and show your Forester pride because all of these athletes deserve it. They have upheld the Tradition of Excellence our athletic program strives for.

A special thank you to Mike Wajerski, Sports Information Director at the college, for all of the stats he provided for this article.

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As the Lake Forest community packed the Student Center on Sunday night to watch the New Orleans Saints capture their first ever Super Bowl title (some pleased by it, others not), a sense of community was formed, even if it was only for a couple of hours. Sports have always had the unique ability to bring people together like nothing else. No clear distinctions were evident among the students in attendance on Sunday night, watching the game on the big screen. There were athletes, non-athletes, males, females, students, faculty, etc. Aside from the small portion of people with personal interests at stake regarding the game, most were there simply to have a good time, eat some food, and watch the game.

Perhaps that is what Lake Forest needs to do in order to increase attendance at sporting events on campus. Maybe we need to find a way to advertise games, matches, and meets not so much as sports-related events, even though they are, but more as community events. Why were there so many people in the Student Center that night? Many of them were not Saints or Colts fans, let alone sports fans for that matter. I watched as countless people came walking by and were struck by the popularity and seemingly “cool thing to do at the time” atmosphere that was in existence. They were overtaken by it and decided to at least temporarily delay whatever it was they were on their way to do and take some time to watch the game.

The issue at hand is not the actual advertising of events. Posters, emails, website updates, etc. are constantly being posted regarding athletic events on campus. The Men’s Basketball schedule can even be found on the back of napkin holders in the cafeteria. The success of our teams is also not the issue. With the dominance displayed by the Women’s Hockey team and Handball teams, as well as the sudden surge by the Men’s basketball team, success has become something of the norm here at Lake Forest.

What then is left as a way to draw larger crowds? The Super Bowl party in the Student Center may have answered that question, whether or not it was intentional. While one could argue that Super Bowl Sunday is in a sense an unofficial holiday in this country centered around football, celebrity halftime shows, and amusing commercials, one could also argue that a small community like ours, let aside the people from New Orleans and Indianapolis, should have no reason to watch the game at all. They did so because there is something more to Super Bowl Sunday than just football. We don’t need to make sporting events equivalent to Super Bowl Sunday, nor can we, but if we can begin a tradition in which athletic events are more socially oriented than they have been in the past, then perhaps it will make a difference one day.