

The Leprechaun

A Publication of the Harper Woods Notre Dame Alumni Association

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Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!

SUMMER 2013 EDITION

Pat O'Keefe '72 One of the Country's Best Negotiators

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Plus...

Mark Binelli '88

Carl Marlinga '63

John Blum '77

Gary Dederichs '63

Dave Muczinski '90

Jim Mandl '90

Notes From You

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Reunions



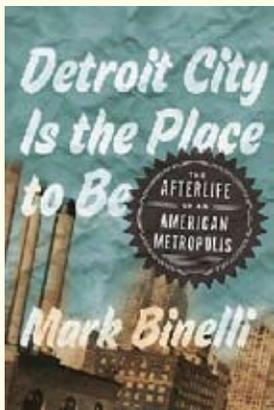
The Leprechaun

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The Leprechaun is a newsletter devoted solely to the alumni and friends of Notre Dame High School of Harper Woods, Michigan. It is produced and distributed free of charge. For more information, please see the Notre Dame Alumni Association's official website: www.friendsofnotredame.com.

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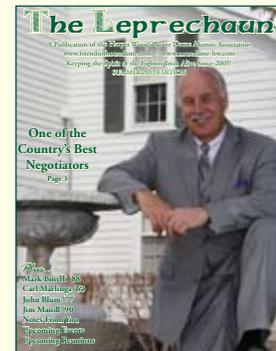


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Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!

Second Annual Fr. John Bryson Memorial Golf Outing

All Alumni and Friends of Notre Dame High School are invited to Join us
Friday, June 28, 2013 for a shotgun start at 8am.

Sycamore Hills Golf Club

48787 North Avenue, Macomb, MI 48042

Cost: \$100 Per Golfer (Limited to 100 Golfers)

Includes

- 18 Holes with Cart
- Hot Dog, Chips, and Pop on the Turn
- Two-Meat Dinner Buffet After Golf
- Two Hour Open Bar After Golf
- Two Drink Tickets for Each Golfer

Prizes

- Closest to the Pin
- Longest Drive
- Skins
- Raffles
- Misc. Golf Items

Sponsorships

Sponsor a hole for just \$75.00 Includes Sign at the Tee.

Yes, I would like to Sponsor a Hole at the ND Golf Outing!

Name: _____ Class: _____

Company: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Website: _____

Dinner Only Option - \$25

Don't golf? Join us for dinner and social hour!

Yes, I would like to attend the golf outing for dinner and social hour only.

Name: _____ Class: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Submit Your Foursome No Later Than May 28, 2013

(Don't have a foursome? Individual Golfers, Duos and Trios Welcome! We will round out your foursome.)

Name: _____ Class: _____ Email: _____

Mail to:
Friends of Notre Dame
Alumni Golf Outing
34322 Brookshire
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Make Checks Payable to: *Friends of Notre Dame*

For More Info Please
Contact Alumni Golf
Outing Chair Person,
Jim DeWinter '87
jamespdewinter@yahoo.com



A portion of the proceeds will go to a scholarship for a student attending a catholic school.

Interview with Pat O'Keefe '72

Pat O'Keefe '72 is a gifted negotiator. He is recognized as an expert in the fields of corporate reorganization, debt restructuring, turnaround consulting, refinancing solutions, due diligence support, valuation and litigation support. Pat's company, O'Keefe and Associates, is recognized for its creative financing strategies for middle market companies and, in the last 24 months, has received national awards for debt refinancing, turnaround, and sale financing transactions.

What, exactly, is the official way to describe your line of business?

It's a strategic financial advisory firm.

And what does that mean?

We help companies that are going through some trauma or unusual circumstances and need some assistance. They either don't have the experience or the depth and breadth in management to deal with their particular issues.

What sorts of issues?

We get involved with companies who are having a hard time paying their bills. They need some help developing a strategy to deal with creditors, which could be their bank. And we help them figure out how to get cash flow positive so their business has the ability to sustain. We do business valuation work for companies who want to sell off or share ownership. We do litigation support for companies that have business disputes - if they are fighting over dollars, we quantify the dollars. We help companies find money, so everything revolves around the dollar. Typically... the bulk of our business... there is an issue with cash flow. We handle 100 different industries and 90% of the problem doesn't necessarily have to do with the business itself, it's really the blocking and tackling (fundamentals) that allow a company to flourish. We come in usually because there is a shortfall of cash - the company can't make payroll, they owe creditors money. The initial push is always cash and profitability.

Can you talk about the process you employ?

We go into a company and figure out which products are profitable and which ones are not. We determine if the company is right-sized in terms of operations for the type of company they are. We look for excesses that could be cut out, in terms of the operations, that wouldn't negatively impact the business. We really help people run their companies, from a financial standpoint, more efficiently. Through the course of doing that, we also identify other potential problems like inefficient production in a plant. Usually those things stick out and are easily identified because of our experience in doing business valuation. We have a great database of information that we've created over the years that allows us to quickly benchmark operational performance to its peers both in the particular industry and with the size of the company. Through that benchmarking we are able to quickly identify issues and we can peel

back another layer of the onion to see what's really driving it.

Are you able to talk about some companies you've helped?

Most of our transactions are confidential. I'm sure you can appreciate that companies who do business with troubled companies don't like to extend credit to them, so I wouldn't want to get into that. I can tell you that we've handled many well-known and long established family name brands in the metropolitan Detroit community. Many of them you'd recognize and I'm sure they produce products you've used.

You've won quite a number of awards. Can you tell us about some of them?

Just in the last 12 months, our firm was recognized for two great transactions. One was for work we did with a 160 year old mint flavoring company out of Kalamazoo, Michigan. It was started by a family and they ran into some financial difficulty. It was still a highly profitable company - a company that makes many of the products you've used. They put mint in mouthwashes and Cadbury chocolates and the like. They had a little hiccup and needed some strategic planning advice to help them be internationally competitive. They sell their mint all over the world. There is a lot of pressure from India now in that industry. They had a constant need for cash for research and development. We helped the company get focused on what their core business activities were - where they were making the most money - and we got them in a position to where they were able to sell the company to one of their customers in a pretty big transaction. So we took a company who was struggling to pay its bills and had a great return to the equity.

And the 2nd?

Up in northern Michigan, we worked with a dried fruit company. It was started by about 25 or 30 cherry farmers in a co-op. They were looking for a product or products to put their

cherries in aside from pie filling or selling on roadside stands. Over the years, they had developed a cran-rasin for Ocean Spray by basically extracting the natural fruit juices and replacing it with a sucrose. That could be either Michigan beet sugar or a cane sugar. As you know, salt and sugar are preservatives so that would give it a three or four year shelf life. Their products were going into cereals, trail mixes, baked goods, and a whole host of products that we use on a daily basis. They had some difficulty. They had a Japanese partner and they were expanding into some areas that were unprofitable for them. They were making over 100 products and we helped them get focused on their four main fruit products which were cranberries, apples, cherries and blueberries. Their production



Carol and Pat O'Keefe '72.

lines were set up for long runs and they kept interrupting their production line to drop in a product that they didn't sell a lot of. We discovered they had too much inventory because they were making things they couldn't sell and their machines were down a lot. We were able to introduce a metric where they were able to get 2 more months of productivity out of the existing machines - no new capital investment. That quickly helps the bottom line. We ended up saving almost 300 jobs and the company is flourishing

today. We gave them a strategic and financial plan to execute and they are knocking the cover off the ball right now.

That must make you feel pretty good?

Really with transactions like that... they are heartwarming in a number of ways. Just to see a company survive and people's jobs get saved... This company was the 2nd largest employer in the area. Losing this company would have been catastrophic to this northern Michigan town.

How do you secure clients? Do they come to you? Do you seek them out?

100% of our business is referral. So we have no existing clients, but we do have common

referral sources. They come from three areas: bankers who might be creditors to a troubled company, attorneys who are advisors to the company and see that there is trouble and know they need to bring in some outside help, and previous clients who now have another need. Those are the three typical areas where we get our clients.

By “another need” do you mean they are in financial trouble again or they literally need you for another type of service?

We don't just help companies who are financially troubled. We also help companies plan for strategic profitable growth for the future. We work with acquisitions and sales of companies. Sometimes a company will be looking to launch a new product and we can help them from the standpoint of financial advisory.

How long have you been doing this?

I've been doing this about 25 years now.

How did you get into it?

Baptism by fire. I was a partner at Deloitte, Haskins, and Sells. I left there to work with one of my clients. He had great growth ambitions as a CFO and part owner. We had great financial difficulty right out of the chute back in the late 80's when the savings and loan industry had some hiccups. There was a lack of liquidity in the market, similar to where we were a couple years ago. We were a real estate development company and had a lot of financing. Money is the oxygen for development and the whole market was constrained. I learned my debt restructuring skills by restructuring close to three quarters of a billion dollars of our own debt in all of our projects. I developed an expertise in really focusing on win-win strategies both for us as equity holders and for our lenders in terms of enhancing the asset.

So how did a real estate development company lead to what O'Keefe is today?

Well, what I found over time was that if you have a plan and you're performing at or better than the market, and you're honest in the process, you'll get some financial runway to get a good result. That was the model for our business and it's one I've stuck with over the last 25 years. One of my former partners in the accounting firm started a firm much like the one I have today. He asked me to join him and shore up some of their clients that they had in the real estate industry. At that time I didn't even know that this was even a business. But I found that a lot of people needed counsel in dealing with these life or nonrecurring issues they were having. They had no resource for it and I had just experienced the baptism by fire over the four years of being in the development business. I found that I was a great resource to

people who were often pillars in the community.

People often look at business owners as people who have it made. How would you comment on that?

What people don't understand a lot of the time is that business owners take a lot of risks. With that comes, sometimes accolades and status in the community, but they also impact, sometimes hundreds of other families - employees of the company and their families. The burden of knowing what is at stake can be very daunting for a business owner. Many business owners, especially of family owned companies, don't really have an outsider that they can confide in and talk to about the issues their business may be facing. They need help developing strategies. They don't have an outside board of directors. They don't have any confidants outside their own industry and may need someone who can objectively provide the cold, unemotional, fact-based assessment of where they are and what the solutions may be.

And that's where you come in?

We provide a tremendous resource to a company. What you find out over time, and I have a great respect for ownership, is that business owners sometimes make business decisions based on bad information. We're there to gather the facts and present them in an objective manner. This allows them to make good business decisions. We often say “there is only one version of the truth.” We present the facts in a very unvarnished fashion. If we can agree to what the facts are, then we can collectively figure out a solution. And again, it's a tremendous resource to business owners.

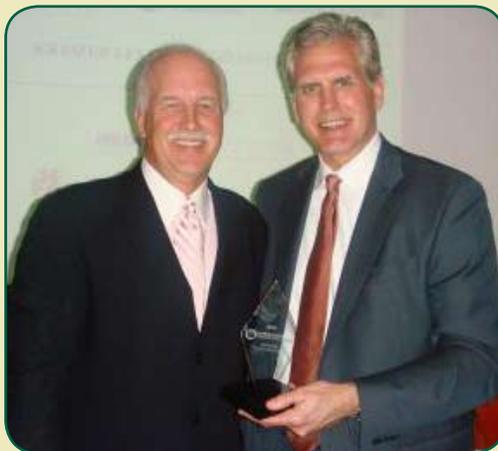
How many people do you employ?

I have thirty-five employees. I have offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Grand Rapids, here in Bloomfield Hills and one in New Jersey.

You're a national company? Can you tell us about your recent expansions?

We are. We have excellent brand recognition in the mid-west - we've had a lot of success. The Atlanta expansion was really strategic for us. Going back to what I said about business owners making decisions from bad information, we

felt that business owners often cheat themselves in terms of investing in technology. So we had a chance to pick up two individuals who spent most of their careers developing cloud-based solutions for companies. We wanted to bring that resource to the middle market to really help companies make a strategic investment in information technology and do it in a cost effective manner so they could operate their businesses more efficiently. We now have the



O'Keefe's turnaround efforts with Double JJ Resort were recognized as The M&A Advisor's top real estate transaction of 2009.

state of the art computer applications and hardware to go along with it. This is of tremendous value to middle market companies. Our expansion to Chicago was interesting because a lot of the banks in Michigan have somewhat red-lined in Michigan in terms of loan growth. They've moved their resources, in terms of credit administration, outside of this marketplace. You've got Huntington now making decisions in Columbus, Ohio, Bank of America is in Chicago, Comerica runs

their credit department out of Dallas, Texas, and PNC is out of Pittsburgh. A lot of the decisions that used to be made here locally are now made in other parts of the market so we find ourselves having to get out and maintain presence in some of these other markets.

Want to talk about Notre Dame for a bit?

Sure.

What sorts of influences can you draw back on that contribute to who you are and what you do today?

You know, that's a great question. I started my career in public accounting after getting a degree in accounting from Michigan State. I can honestly say that a teacher I had at Notre Dame, Bob Stark, who was a book-keeping teacher, seemed to know a lot of things that were outside of the books. I was intrigued by that. Early in my career as a student, I was interested in where this information came from. I was always pretty good at math and with numbers, but as a teenager you really don't know what you want to do with that. Being exposed to somebody who had a great zest for knowledge in other areas outside the books opened my eyes to that. To answer the other part of your question, the discipline and the integrity that you get being in a Catholic institution are life skills that really build strong foundations. When you look at some of the great teachers at Harper Woods Notre Dame...

guys like Hal Rice, Conrad Vachon, Brother Ken Parent... These were people of very high integrity who really forced discipline on you whether you wanted it or not. At that age I didn't understand the value of it. When I look at today, I believe those are still attributes that carry throughout the Catholic League.

How do you place a value on that?

I think today in the changing world it's easy to overlook the value of a Catholic education. It has gotten very expensive and fewer and fewer people can afford it. At Notre Dame the tuition might have been \$200 per year when I started there and it was still a struggle for my parents. They had three boys in Catholic schools and a daughter at Dominican. Those were big sacrifices. Today, when I look back, and you see where people have ended up with that type of education, I know it was well worth it in terms of building future leaders. I look around and see people who head up accounting firms, law firms, or are business owners and they are all successful and they all have a very high degree of integrity and credibility. And I like to think that some of those DNA fibers attached through the education that we got from the teachers who really spent the time to really mold the men of Notre Dame. They showed great dedication and they really knew how to do it. It's because of that Notre Dame education that I can tell you that when I'm done consulting, I want to get involved in a school for boys to help teach them what it is to be a man, teach them how to be responsible and help them develop plans for the future.

In your business dealings or in your personal life, do you run into many other Notre Dame grads or other graduates of Catholic Schools?

Some of my key relationships and people I do business with are either guys who went to Notre Dame or Brother Rice or De La Salle or U of D. There is a certain common thread or DNA that you get from coming out of those schools that attract you to want to do business with them. They are typically some of the more successful people and they are people who have the

same moral fiber that you do. You get a certain comfort level from that.

So as a business owner and being someone who gets unique access to the businesses of others, can you talk about what you see from a societal aspect?

Yeah... I'll tell you a story. I have been giving a seminar on business ethics. Being on the boards of the universities, I have been suggesting that they develop a set of business ethics to teach to their students. The reason I feel this way is because I had two partners in an international accounting firm who were Harvard graduates and they went to jail for fraud and misrepresentation. That stuck with me. Like the USDA stamps meat to show it's been inspected and meets a certain criteria, the business schools ought to develop a code of ethics that students can follow and that stamp of approval would be given to the student. The story... There is a professor from Arizona State University by the name of Marrayanne Jenings. She conducted a study over a long period of time regarding ethics of high school students. She asked a very simple question of very high level students - you had to have a 3.5 GPA or higher. The question was "have you ever cheated on an exam or on homework?" The study started in the early 80's and 17% of the students answered that they had cheated. By 2004, almost 85% of the top students responded that they had cheated. She did some follow-up to determine what was causing this. Students had all kinds of rationalizations as to why their actions were appropriate - everyone was doing it, or they needed a good grade to get ahead, college is competitive and they had to do it because the stakes were so high. They all developed some sort of justification as to why their poor behavior was alright. She then asked them if they considered themselves to be

ethical and 95% of them said they did. Her next question posed to female students was "if you had the opportunity to commit a felony to get some medicines to save your child's life, would you?" Almost 100% said that absolutely they would. When asked if they would do the same thing for their husbands, only 45% said they would. While that is funny, what it showed was that everybody had a threshold and that there was some rationale or some reason that they'd be willing to break the law in order

to accomplish something. It really showed how our society has developed a big grey zone - things aren't so black and white anymore. People think they can operate in this grey zone and do bad things with some justification. Where we miss the boat as educators and as parents is that we no longer define those lines of authority, of right and wrong. We're doing an incredible disservice to our kids and to our society when people can't figure out that you shouldn't steal things from other people for nay reason. There are things that used to be taught in kindergarten that today, we've completely blurred over.

Is there one of those particular attributes that you've mentioned that you can say you emphasize with your own company?

I often tell people that our only sustainable, competitive advantage that we can control is our reputation. Being at a school like Notre Dame emphasized how important it was to honorably represent yourself in all aspects of your life. That is my sustainable personal business model.

Can you talk about some of your influences?

One of the things that I've been blessed with over my career is having good mentors - people who were willing to spend time with me. Walt Gorski provided me with my first accounting job. He really took me under his wing and showed me the ropes. Dick Gabries was another mentor when I was at Deloitte. Joe Slavik was almost 50 years my senior. He flew 52 bombing missions in World War II. He only had an 8th grade education but was a hall of fame builder. He was shot down three times during the war and faced the face of god and looked death in the eyes. He was interesting because he wasn't educated but he had some sayings that were really life lessons. One was that you can live your life perfectly for 75 years, but if you steal something, you will always be known as a thief. That reinforced to me that you are really known and remembered for your worst acts. That keeps you on the straight and narrow. It's because of those experiences that I devote a lot of my time to mentoring.

Can you explain?

I devote a lot of time to mentoring college students who are looking for a chance - an opportunity to learn and see what goes on in an office or business environment. Fifty percent of our Bloomfield Hills staff is college interns. It's a way of giving back to the community. I also serve on numerous university boards. I'm on the accounting advisory board at Oakland University. I just rolled off a stint on the board at Cleary University. I'm on the board at Michigan State University, my alma mater, in



Pat O'Keefe '72 (left) and sons walking in the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit.

the accounting department. Another mentoring organization that I've spent a lot of time on and offered financial support to is Winning Futures. It was started by a gal who graduated from Warren High, Chris Marshall, and she happened to be the tenant next door to me when I started my business. Winning Futures provides mentoring to high school students who are typically at risk or just need some direction with their own personal business plan on how they are going to get ahead in life. We support a number of their charity events financially and we also supply them with quite a number of mentors to spend time with these high school kids. We help them get through whatever they may be dealing with and help them navigate the sea of life. We really give back to people in the form of guidance.



Pat' O'Keefe '72 sponsoring Winning Futures.

Most business owners are also incredibly charitable people. What types of charities might you be involved in?

In addition to Winning Futures, we really love Detroit. **Sean Moran '89** got me involved with and exposed me to the Thanksgiving Day Parade, more specifically the Big Head Corps. Until you are part of it, you really don't know or understand the energy of Thanksgiving Day in Detroit. It was a real eye opener and I've got all my kids involved in it now. They walk with me in the parade with the big heads, they love it, and they come from all over the country to do it. One of my sons is in Grand Rapids, one is in Scottsdale, Arizona, and the other is in Lewiston, Washington. When they come in for thanksgiving, one of our big family things is to participate in the tradition that is the Thanksgiving Day Parade. There is a certain energy that you feel when you're part of a community activity like that and it really makes you proud to be a Detroiter.

Those things don't look very easy to maneuver in.

It can be tricky. Some of those heads weigh about 30 pounds. Once you figure out what you're in for, you can figure it out.

You're a pretty active and athletic guy so that must help. You have played in some of our Alumni basketball tournaments. Were you an athlete at Notre Dame?

I was not. I was a jock through grade school.

I actually got recruited by Austin to play quarterback. I was the only person from my parish, St. Gertrude's in St. Clair Shores, who ended up at Notre Dame. I had to take buses to get to and from school so staying after school for practices was a bit challenging. At Notre Dame I played basketball on a rec basis and played in three or four city leagues. I'm an avid golfer today and I still play a lot of basketball. I played in the ND basketball tournament for years and we won it when I was 40. That tournament is always a good

draw for getting people back together.

Any closing thoughts?

Yes, there is something that is of great interest to me. There is a real lack of communication skills and interaction skills among young people today. I mentioned to the professors at Michigan State that we teach the kids to be good accountants, but we really don't teach them how to use the tools that we've given them to get ahead in life - how to network, how to attract business. Early in my career, one of my mentors, Dick Gabries said that it wasn't important that I brought in new business. He told me it was more important, at the level that I was at, that I built a foundation. He said I needed to get to know people and as they moved up in their own organizations they could influence the buying of my services. Over time these people may become business owners, CEO's, etc. Today, kids are not prepared to invest long-term so they don't see the benefit in these types of relationships. They also think interacting through social media is not only cool, but the way you're supposed to build a social network. I will tell you that in my business, there is nobody who is allowing me to handle their transactions - their most important transactions - over the internet. They want to press my flesh. They want to look me in the eye. They want to see how I act. This builds a confidence level - a level of trust - in getting to know the person. They need to be willing to trust me in handling a big transaction. Young people today just don't know how to communicate with each other and just talk. It really is a lost art. And again, youth is disadvantaged in preparing themselves for the future. Everybody thinks more is better. I wish they understood that it's not the quantity of interactions that is important; it's the quality of that interaction

that matters most. They overlook the fact that having key relationships can really drive things faster for them. In a lot of ways in education, we give kids a lot of skills, but it's like giving a fish a bicycle. We've given them something that they don't know how to use effectively. And again, one of the strengths of a Catholic education is that we were forced to interact. People were very disciplined with reading, writing, and math but we also communicated. We've gotten away from that in our society and it's definitely to the detriment of the next generation. They will not be in a position to be as successful as they could be.

How do you explain this to the students you mentor?

The joke is always that a good attorney knows the law, but a great attorney knows the judge. There is value in social interaction and stepping out of your skin once in a while to get to know people. I tell them about my mentor, Dick Gabries, and what he'd always say was that you only have to stick out of the line this far (holding fingers about 2 inches apart). We'll notice the guys who are doing a little more than the average guy because they'll actually stick out a lot. We only hire smart people. Everyone we hire is smart so that's to be assumed. But it's those people who know what to do with what they have which will determine their success. And people take that for granted. I tell everyone who comes through here that Einstein, arguably the smartest man who ever lived, died a pauper. But he wasn't able to capitalize on his great knowledge through social interaction.

So how does this influence your hiring decisions?

When I was at Deloitte, we hired the top 10 or 20 percent from Michigan and Michigan State. The problem with that was they weren't trainable and didn't accept failure very well. They just didn't know how to handle it and pick themselves up. What we've found over time is that we're better off dealing with people who have better social interaction skills, and even in a lot of cases, athletes - they were used to people yelling at them; used to people criticizing them. Athletes a lot of time have to figure it out on their own, pick themselves up, and try to do better the next time. Those people tend to learn a lot more than someone who is crushed because they didn't get an A on what ever work assignments they had. There are ups and downs in everything. You don't go through life pitching a shutout. What determines your character is how you handle adversity. How do you act when things aren't going so well? How you deal with the bumps in the road is really what determines your character. 🍀

Newly Elected Marlinga '63 Now Sole Probate Judge

The move to one judge at Macomb County Probate Court has been completed as part of a total overhaul at probate and to ease the crowded circuit court docket.

Judge **Carl Marlinga '63**, elected as probate judge last fall, this week became the sole judge at the court for both probate divisions: will and estates, and mental (commitments and developmentally disabled guardianships). "It's going to be a lot of work, but I think I can handle it," Marlinga said.

Former Probate Judge Kathryn George, who previously presided over mental division cases, has been reassigned to a 100-percent family docket, handling divorce, custody and juvenile cases, among others, in Macomb County Circuit Court. She remains classified as a probate judge and could substitute for Marlinga.

Marlinga, elected to the court last fall, said he was chosen for probate in large part due to timing and convenience. "I just got elected to probate court. Why move me to circuit court?" Marlinga said. George could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Last year, George's assignment changed to only handle mental division cases, representing about 15 to 20 percent of the probate docket, and one-half of a family circuit court docket. Her courtroom was transferred from the county complex at Dunham and North Rose roads on Mount Clemens' outskirts to the circuit court building in downtown Mount Clemens. Her mental division staff of four, including division attorney and former judicial candidate Debra Lux-Roland, have moved back to the Dunham and Rose location. Probate court falls under the jurisdiction of the circuit court.

The move helps relieve circuit court caseload, which is the busiest court in the state for cases per judge, according to state figures. Macomb Circuit, which this week went from 11 to 12 judges, excluding George's seat and including the seat vacated by David Viviano. Circuit court, which three years ago voluntarily reduced one of its judgeships, is short four to five judgeships. "This will help the circuit bench deal with an overloaded docket," said Viviano, former chief circuit judge appointed to the state Supreme Court.

Marlinga in general will handle a mental docket Tuesdays and Thursdays, and wills and estates three days per week. His first day was busy, as he conducted a long video hearing involving Chiumbo Henry, a former Mount Clemens man who last October was declared not guilty by reason of insanity for a murder, from the State Center for Forensic Psychiatry near Ypsilanti.

Probate court has operated with two judges the past decade, with George elected in 2003 to replace a retiring judge. George and now-retired Judge Pamela Gilbert O'Sullivan handled both divisions, but the pair had a rocky relationship resulting in a state-commissioned audit that found dysfunction at the court.

O'Sullivan chose not to run for re-election last fall, and Marlinga was elected to replace her. O'Sullivan said that studies have shown that Macomb didn't need two probate judges. State figures have alternated between showing a need for one to two judges, Court Administrator Jennifer Phillips said. "I always believed that one hardworking, competent judge, with the support of a staff, could handle it," O'Sullivan said.

Viviano, commenting prior to his appointment, also said he was "excited" about the move because it's part of a total overhaul of Macomb Probate Court. The revamp is being done to improve efficiency and save money. "It'll end up being a total overhaul," Viviano said. "But we have to do it in stages. In the end, we want to have a model court for improving services for its citizens."

Staffers in the two divisions previously operated independently but will be cross-trained so all workers can process both types of cases, Viviano said.

Probate Court Administrator John Brennan, who was moved last year from the circuit court to probate, and chief attorney Robert Szalka visited other probate courts in the state and are "working to make things more streamlined," Marlinga said. The long-range plan for Macomb Probate Court is to move to the circuit court building, officials said.

Marlinga, 65, took the bench following a long legal career. He served as Macomb prosecutor for 20 years until 2005, and handled several high-profile cases in recent years as a criminal defense attorney. He said he "loves" his new post. "I feel like I've been dropped into a little corner of heaven," he said. "Some days you're dealing with high powered attorneys and complex legal issues, and other days you're dealing with people on a very emotional level ... where you can make their life as easy as possible by answering questions about guardianships and estates. You get to do it all." ✎



Carl Marlinga '63 with wife, Barbara, at the Fieger Law Holiday Party.

Congratulations are in Order..

Congratulations to Emily Karas, daughter of **Brett Karas '95**. Emily placed 3rd in the Macomb County Chemistry competition.



Congratulations to Fr. Ron DesRosiers! He recently celebrated his 50th year of priesthood. He is currently an assistant professor of philosophy and religious studies at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan. If you would like to send him a congratulatory card or note:



Rev. Ronald G. DesRosiers, s.m.
32509 Scone Street
Livonia, MI 48154-4165
rdesrosiers@madonna.edu

Congratulations to **Joe Borri '80!** One of Joe's "tweets" was featured on Let it Rip on FOX 2 News. The show features fellow ND alum **Charlie Langton '79**.



Congratulations to Rob Zeweke '83.

Rob successfully completed the Corktown 5K at the 2013 St. Patrick's Day parade on Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Congratulations to **Ricky Winowiecki '04!** Ricky received his very first movie credit this year. Unfortunately, they spelled his name *Winowacky*. The movie, a 2013 romantic drama film, is called *Love and Honor*.



Congratulations to Joe Ricci '67!

Joe won a special election on February 26 to fill a vacant city council seat in Grosse Pointe Farms. The long-time Grosse Pointe resident and semi-retired auto dealer defeated 30-year-old Liz Vogel. Joe emphasized his desire to give back to his community. "Most importantly, I am not a politician. I am not looking to use this position as a 'spring board' for bigger things. I do not have a personal agenda. I'm committed to serving our city," Joe said.



Congratulations to Mariah Zeweke!

She is the daughter of **Rob Zeweke '83**. Her jazz solo *Sweet Dreams* scored a Platinum award, scored 2nd overall out of 10, and got the Judge's Amazing Energy award for the night.



Congratulations to Chris Havrilla '97!

Chris and Elisabete Carlesimo are engaged. The couple will marry in October 2013.

Congratulations to Jake Hargrove '99! Jake married Sarah Maniaci on Friday, March 1, 2013.



Congratulations to Matt Servitto '83!

Matt is starring in the first season of Parenting.com's comedy web shorts that, for better or worse, present a dad's-eye view of the playground.



Congratulations to Joe Kotzan '70!

Kaylee Jordan Paul was born December 18, 2012 to Kathy (Kotzan) Paul and husband Sean Paul. Joe is a proud grandfather!

Congratulations to Dan Marchese '02!

Luke Charles Marchese and Noah Samuel Marchese, identical twin sons were born December 27, 2012 to Dan and wife Anna Marchese.

Congratulations to Mike Lesnau '72!

Emma Belle Sturgill, was born February 13, 2013 to Sarah (Lesnau) Sturgill and husband Norman Sturgill. Mike is a proud grandfather!

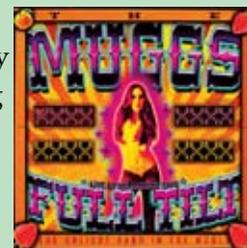
Congratulations to Dave Muczinski '90 aka David Shelby!

Dave is a country music artist. He celebrated the release of his new single and video on Saturday, April 6, 2013. The new video is for his single 'Kick a Little Dirt Around.' It is available for purchase through iTunes and Amazon.com. The nation's largest music retailer thought so much of it that they added it to their new and noteworthy country front page section. The single also debuted at number 2 on the new and active list for Billboard's Country Indicator chart on Wednesday, May 22.



Congratulations to Danny "Muggs" Menthric '90 and Tony "Muggs" DeNardo '90!

The Muggs won Outstanding Rock/Pop Artist/Group & Tony won Outstanding Rock/Pop Instrumentalist at the Detroit Music Awards on April 19, 2013. The Muggs also celebrated the release of their 4th full length album - *Full Tilt* - on April 26th with a sold out show at the Magic Bag in Ferndale.



Interview with Mark Binelli '88

Mark Binelli '88 is a writer. He's a contributing editor for Rolling Stone Magazine and Men's Journal. He grew up in St. Clair Shores in the 1970's. The Detroit he knew was in rapid decline. The city used to embody the American dream: the auto industry, consumer culture and Motown. When he was offered a magazine assignment to write about the Detroit auto show in January 2009, Binelli jumped on it. But he didn't stop there. He moved back to his hometown to chronicle the city. He put it all into a book called *Detroit City Is the Place to Be: The Afterlife of an American Metropolis* - One of Publishers Weekly's Top 10 books of 2012. Mark was in town for a series of book talks and sat down for an interview with us on May 8th, 2013.

You grew up just outside of Detroit in St. Clair Shores. When did you move away?

I moved away in 1993, when I was 22, though my parents and brother remain in the area, so I've never let much time lapse between visits.

What inspired you to come back and write about Detroit?

I always thought I would write a novel about Detroit one day. But when the economy collapsed in 2008 and I saw Detroit becoming the poster city of, and all-purpose metaphor for, recession-era America, I started thinking about nonfiction - partly, I think, because the stories coming out of Detroit tended to be so tediously one-note. Detroit isn't just a tragic city of ruins; it's a deeply weird place, filled with the sorts of characters you'd have found in Joseph Mitchell's New York a century earlier. I hoped to discover something new about the city - specifically, what happens to a once-great place after it has been used up and discarded. Who sticks around and tries to make things work again? And what sorts of newcomers are drawn to the place for similar reasons?

Where did you live when you were writing the book?

I rented an apartment in the Eastern Market district, where my neighbors included the founder of the local chapter of the Black Panthers and a couple who had moved, inexplicably, from Hawaii.

How long did you live in Detroit while you wrote the book?

I moved back in 2009 and stayed until early 2012.

What did you find when you returned to Detroit?

When I got here, I realized Detroit had become this poster city for the recession. I mean, reporters were coming from all over the country, all over the world, really, to look at the place, and I felt like, as someone who'd grown up there, I could really bring a little bit more nuance to the story, and not tell the same stories that are being told over and over - and that includes things like humor. I mean,



Mark Binelli '88

Detroit is a very surreal, weird place, and I thought a lot of that was being missed by reporters who were just coming in for an afternoon or a day or two. There is a huge swath of land - 190 acres - that had been a residential neighborhood once upon a time. It was razed by the city, and was supposed to become an industrial park. The idea was lots of factories would move in, and nothing happened. So, it's hard

to really convey what it is like. You're basically five minutes from downtown of a major American city, but you are standing in these fields, that, I mean you could be in rural Arkansas, and you can still see traces of the old neighborhood. The sidewalks are so overgrown, they are almost invisible, but if you look carefully you can see the sidewalks... You will notice a glimpse of red, and it turns out to be an old fire hydrant that is covered with grass that is 3 feet high. It's a surreal place.

Is the story of U.S. manufacturing the clearest reason for Detroit's decline, the same way it caused the city's prosperity in the early part of the 20th century?

I'd say it's up there, but the abandonment of the city began long before the collapse of U.S. manufacturing. And that abandonment had far more to do with race. An American city as important as Detroit

would have never been essentially discarded if it had been 85% white instead of 85% black.

Do you see any way for the city's firm racial segregation to change?

That's actually one reason for cautious optimism I express in the book: that historic segregation is slowly changing. The most recent census found Detroit's population had plunged nearly 25% in the 10 years since the last census, from just under a million to just over 700,000. Everyone read this as one more nail in Detroit's coffin, and of course, the numbers were bad news for the city. But many of the black residents leaving Detroit ended up in the surrounding suburbs, which had been more or less entirely white when I was growing up. Likewise, Detroit's white population rose for the first time in 60 years. One would hope that such increased diversity, however tentative, could lead to more regional cooperation, which both the city and the suburbs, also hurting in this recession, sorely need.

Coleman Young and Kwame Kilpatrick, two former mayors of Detroit, have taken a lot of criticism for the city's problems. How much of the blame would you place on a broken political system?

Young's successes and failures are debatable; Kilpatrick's failures are well-documented and worthy of condemnation. And there's certainly been a general level of political dysfunction over the years that has not been helpful to Detroit. That said, I think it's also been wildly overstated, and there's sometimes a tinge - occasionally a generous dollop - of racism inherent in the critiques. Detroit's main problem is that it has no tax base, and so it can't provide basic city services to its remaining residents - who, quite sensibly, continue to leave the city in droves, further eroding the tax base. You could make Mike Bloomberg the mayor of Detroit tomorrow and he wouldn't be able to change that math... Unless he started writing personal checks.

Urban agriculture has sprouted on some of the city's abandoned land, but you write that it isn't a practical way forward for most people. I got the sense that the positive things Detroit is now best known for - farming, art collectives - are closer to hobbies than real solutions. How do you see that?

"Hobbies" is a bit harsh, but yes, some of the positive Detroit stories that have gotten the most ink are more attractive metaphorically - gardens blooming from the wreckage of post-industrial America! - than practically. Detroit is not going to return to an agrarian economy and conceptual art projects and artisanal coffee shops won't really dent the entrenched problems facing much of the city's population: crime, failing schools, chronic unemployment. Still, positive activity of any sort in Detroit can only be a good thing, and I think many of these projects embody the bottom-up, DIY energy that will be a crucial part of Detroit's next chapter.

The city had success for a while drawing Hollywood productions to town via tax breaks. Why did that decline?

If you remember, there were huge tax credits being offered and there was a brief period where lots of movies were being filmed in the area. It was kind of a controversial program because it wasn't clear if the money being spent by the film crews outweighed the tax credits that were being given. Governor Snyder eventually reduced the tax credits substantially. When I first arrived, there were lots of movies being filmed, including this remake of the movie Red Dawn. I found out they were filming scenes at Notre Dame. The New York Times ran a great piece on the failure of a massive movie studio built in Pontiac. The article focused on the potential shadiness of certain of the investors, but I think somewhat underplayed why things really went south: Michigan's new Republican governor, Rick Snyder, reduced the tax credit policy when he was elected in 2011, because he thought the state should make itself generally attractive to business, as opposed to picking favorites. Part of me agrees with him: that sort of racing to the bottom that states are forced to engage in, just to lure huge corporations, is repugnant. On the other hand, the studios do claim film shoots provide subsidiary economic benefits - catering, hotel rooms, etc., - so long-term, the investment might

have proved worthwhile.

You write extensively about "ruin porn" - photographs of the area's crumbling and abandoned structures. Does this trend of taking aesthetic pleasure from Detroit's troubles offend you as a native of Detroit?

I'm not offended by photographers like, say, Andrew Moore, even though he's not from Detroit and spent very little time in the city - technically his work is stunning, and when you see some of these buildings up close, or sneak inside, there is a majesty and an aesthetic validity. I also sympathize with the point of view of people who have lived among these ruins for years, sometimes decades, and would happily see them all bulldozed tomorrow. I just hope a balance can be struck.

of the great stories of the 20th century, I mean, this wilderness city, basically, rising up out of nowhere, creating modern life in the 20th century as we know it in many ways: mass production, consumer culture, suburban sprawl, and in many ways, the American middle class. Then it fell from such great heights. It's classical tragedy in lots of ways. In this case, the character is the city. You see the seeds of the character's destruction. You see those tragic flaws early on, and it's completely undone, and now we are at the third act. We'll see what happens.

What signs did you see that Detroit City really IS currently the place to be?

The urban farming has been really big in Detroit and has been getting a lot of press. You look at some of these ren-



Mark Binelli '88 returned to his native Detroit to write his new book.

Some of the industrial history, especially, is worthy of preservation, and could become tourist attractions - as opposed to, say, strip malls or stadium parking lots. Outside the old Packard plant, a German college student told me he came to see what the end of the world looked like.

Once upon a time, Detroit really WAS the place to be. Do you really think it can ever get back to the place it once was?

You read some of these old guidebooks and Detroit was called "The City of Tomorrow." When business was booming, when the Model T plant was really at its peak, Detroit was the city, it was the city everyone was looking toward. It's one

derings that people make of potential Detroit, in say, 2030, and it's astounding. The big problem, of course, is that there is no money. I listened to a lecture by a titillated visiting developer called "But what a canvas!" who conjures visions of Detroit as the next SoHo. I also met two 24-year-old Detroiters - one a graduate of Harvard, the other of Morehouse College - who work for Charles Pugh, the president of the City Council. They both came home after college, passing up the Peace Corps and a New York investment bank, for one simple reason: They missed Detroit. In these young men I saw signs of hope amid the ruin - reasons to believe that Detroit may yet have a future, and not as a post-apocalyptic tourist attraction.

How did you become interested or inspired to become a writer?

I always loved to read. I think that's where it started. I read and loved books at a very early age. So reading is what drew me in the direction of wanting to somehow be a part of this thing that I loved so much – books. By the time I got to Notre Dame, it was already there.

Did it begin to develop at Notre Dame, then?

I can't remember what year I started working at the school news paper – The Shield – I think I was a sophomore.

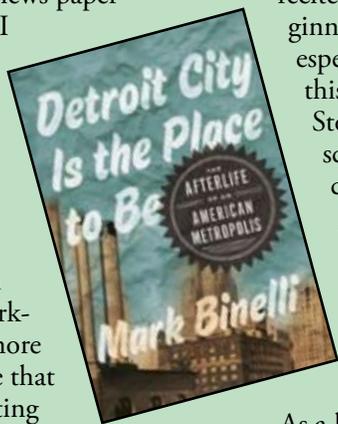
So, pretty early on I was going that route. There was an English teacher there – Mr. Petrovich – he ran the school newspaper. He was a great teacher and inspiration. I'd say working on the paper was more of an influence because that was real, hands-on writing experience. You could be creative and I wasn't stuck writing essays about the Great Gatsby or some other thing the teacher wanted you to be doing. You got to write for an actual newspaper and could take it in whatever direction you wanted. That was pretty valuable.

Did you continue to write in college?

I went to the University of Michigan. I worked on the newspaper there as well. I majored in English and was doing a lot of creative writing. I continued on parallel tracks of journalism and literature writing.

So if you had to choose between writing books and writing for periodicals, which would you choose and why?

It's sometimes hard for writers to maintain both. You're kind of pushed to choose one or the other in a certain way. But, I find the two styles of writing to be very complimentary. You use different parts of your brain for each. I'm glad I really don't have to make that decision because I really like both. Having just finished the Detroit book, I'm very happy just doing shorter magazine pieces. There is something really great about getting to pitch an idea for a story and being done, start to finish, in maybe three or four weeks and it comes out shortly thereafter. You get a really nice, sort of instant



gratification. I never get bored with anything because I'm always jumping from topic to topic. At the same time, working on this book was a completely different experience, but equally gratifying. I guess I'll just duck the question and say I love both.

You had Conrad Vachon as a teacher?

Yes, yes... he was also a big influence. That was 12th grade A.P. English class. He did lots of the things he became sort of famous, or infamous for. He had us recite and memorize poems at the beginning of every class. Looking back, especially, I remember he had us read this collection of Raymond Carver Stories called Cathedral. For high school students, it's pretty sophisticated and he wasn't just trying to give us the "must-read" classics. That book wasn't very old. He was giving us really contemporary stuff.

What role did that play in your career?

As a high school kid, that's where it sort of clicked for me. I realized that you could actually do all sorts of different things with the form – writing. Vachon was really a helpful and influential guy.

Believe it or not, there are a rather large number of N.D. grads who never had Vachon as a teacher. Can you explain to those who never had him what made him a legend?

He was a character. I'll share a story about the very first day of class. Normally, you come into class on the first day and the teacher is there, the bell rings and he or she tells you to quiet down. In Vachon's class, we all filed in, there was nothing in the room, and everybody was talking. The bell rang he still wasn't there. We all continued to talk and wonder where the teacher was. Then, sort of dramatically, he entered a couple minutes late and slammed a book down. Silence fell over the whole room. He slowly and dramatically walked to the front of the room. You can sort of picture this older guy with very stern, hawk-like face, bald, glasses... he sort of marched to the

front of the room looking really pissed off. Then he just looked around at us and said: "Now this is power!" Meaning look at my power – I can literally make you guys shut up by doing nothing. That set the tone for the class. He was unlike any other teacher in so many ways. Later, I heard that he did a version of that entrance for every class. It was sort of his shtick. Another thing he did, and I mentioned it already, was to have us stand at the beginning of every class and recite memorized poems as if they were prayers or something. I thought that was just a really unusual thing to do. But it turned out to be a great way of hard wiring these poems into our brains. We memorized everything from Tennyson to parts of the Canterbury Tales in Middle English.

In the book, you describe visiting Notre Dame. How would you describe the feeling of going back to the old school, seeing it closed and being used for something other than education?

It was really very strange. I knew Notre Dame had been closed since 2005, but I hadn't been by there since it closed. I drove by at some point prior to the start of the Red Dawn film shoot. It was, of course, a little sad seeing the school looking frozen in time. It really didn't look any different than from when we went there. But, there was that big sign out front – for sale. Normally there would be a sign giving information about a basketball game or something, but not anymore. That was a bit of a bummer. When I heard they were filming Red Dawn at the school, I just had to get back there. Part of me knew it would be a great theme for the book and, to tell you the truth, I was really just curious.

And what did you find?

I found that, to me, the school felt a lot smaller than what I remembered. I guess that would be

the case with anything from your childhood that you revisit. It just felt kind of small. There was a very strange aspect to the place that I found – they just sort of moth-balled the place. The school cafeteria was being used as a mess hall for the movie cast and crew. The disco ball



Notre Dame's football scoreboard during the filming of Red Dawn.

was still hanging in the there, some of the concession machines were still there. I half expected Fr. Bryson to emerge from the back to sell shakes and slushies. I wasn't supposed to be there at all. People weren't really walking the school. I wandered back there, kind of like I was lost. I went into one of the classrooms where I remembered having math class with Mr. Johnson. There was just a bunch of stuff still in there. I've been in abandoned buildings in Detroit where you find the stuff that people left behind – files, old books, etc. I always wondered why people left stuff like that behind. It was really odd to see the same thing at my old high school. There were boxes and boxes of old books, papers, academic records, etc. I was very surprised that stuff got left behind. Then I thought maybe they cleared it all out once the sold the school. And then there was the movie... Needless to say, it was a strange experience seeing a bunch of guys pretending to be Chinese soldiers marching around with guns on the football field. It was pretty surreal.

My dad and I went back to the school, before and after it closed, on about eight different occasions and rescued as much of the history of the school as we could - a lot of it was in dumpsters. We have two storage facilities full of yearbooks, alumni news, trophies, wall of fame plaques, etc.

So they were just going to toss it all?

Yep.

That's interesting.

There's a whole story there that we'll just save for another day. Let's shift gears to talk about the book itself. Can you take us through the process of writing it?

I knew I wanted to do a pretty broad look at the city. I could have focused on just one aspect like politics or crime. For some reason I liked the idea of writing one big book covering everything – all the big topics. I started by writing a very detailed outline of everything I thought I wanted to cover in the book. In my case, I was looking at the history of Detroit and the problems the city faces now and how they relate. The topics were pretty obvious so I knew I had to talk about crime, political culture, abandonment, the auto industry, and race. Once I had the topics in place and then moved back to Detroit, the challenge for me became writing the big themes in a way that's

fresh and without the usual suspects turning up in the book. A lot of this stuff has been written about before. I wanted to really come at it from a new perspective and introduce readers to a new cast of characters that maybe they hadn't seen before. For example, for the crime chapter, I found this murder trial and went to that. For politics, I was going to debates and spending time with city council candidates. It was really a process of trial and error and that's sort of how it shaped up.

When the book came out, what kind of feedback did you receive? Good? Bad? Did you take any flack over anything you wrote?

Surprisingly, it has been very positive. As you know, Detroiters can be a tough crowd. I really didn't expect bad things necessarily, but people are very sensitive about the way the city gets portrayed. I wasn't sure what people would think of the book, but the response has been overwhelmingly positive for the most part. People coming out to events in the Detroit area, like the book talk you attended at the Harper Woods library, are saying really positive things. I also get emails from people from all over the country who are former Detroiters who are very appreciative and happy about the book. And, the reviews have been very positive.

How are sales of the book?

Surprisingly well when you consider that the book market is really down these days with the internet and e-readers. The publisher is very, very happy with what has been happening with the book so far. I think we just finished our 8th printing of it. It has also been getting a lot of good press across the country and that's really good to see.

How would you describe your writing style?

I like dark humor. Beyond that, in terms of non-fiction, I emulate writers I really admire like Ian Frazier, Joe Guideon, and Joseph Mitchell. I think I borrow or steal from their styles.

Do you have a favorite book?

It changes all the time. I just read a book

by Richard Ben Cramer called *What it Takes*. It sounds like a very boring topic – the 1988 presidential campaign. I understand... who cares? But it is really amazing. It's 1,000 pages and he is a great, great writer. He follows six or seven candidates and gets so deep into their psyche. Even though you know how it's going to turn out, it's entertainingly written and I was completely riveted. It was really a great discovery.

Do you collect books at all?

I buy a lot of books. I actually have more books than I'll ever read in my lifetime. I don't collect rare or first editions or anything like that, but I do buy lost of books.

A lot of artist, bands in particular, will finish a work like an album and then not want to listen to it after it comes out. Have you sat down and read your book cover to cover since it came out?

I haven't and that's a great question. I read it so many times during the writing and editing process that I just haven't sat down and read it again. Seems weird, but I think it's actually common that you get kind of a sick of it by the time it comes out. Don't get me wrong – I'm very proud. But I'll have to wait a few years to wade through it again.

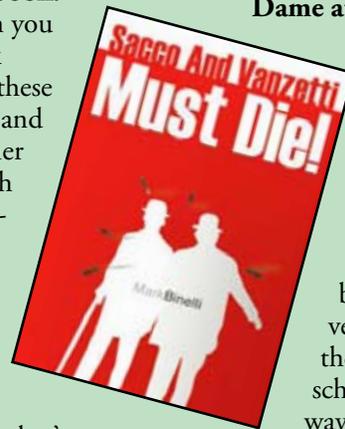
Any closing thoughts?

Since this is specifically for a Notre Dame audience...

I think anyone who went to Notre Dame will really find the book interesting. It's about Detroit, but it's also about how the city and suburbs have interacted over the years and Notre Dame was right across the street from Detroit being in Harper Woods. It's a very interesting case study in how the whole region has changed. The school declined in much the same way that the city did and I hope my fellow N.D. grads will check it out.

Mark Binelli '88 is also the author of the novel *Sacco and Vanzetti Must Die!* and a contributing editor at *Rolling Stone* and *Men's Journal*. He now lives in New York City.

www.markbinelli.com



We Heard From...

Stephen Kosmalski - Class of 1969

I recently moved from Chicago to the Memphis, Tennessee area with my wife, Laura who graduated from Regina in 1969, and my son, Logan. I have four other children who are all married and living in different states. We have three grandchildren. I am currently working as CEO of a consumer products company called SteinWorld. It is tough being a Michigan fan down here in SEC country!

Nick Pelachyk - Class of 2004

I recently graduated from the University of Michigan and the UCLA Dental School. I am a captain in the United States Air Force stationed in Washington D.C. I am working on an advanced degree in the general dentistry program at Bolling Air Force Base.

Mark Chmura - Class of 1988

I have been living in Chandler, Arizona, for the past 6 1/2 years with my bride, Angela, and our three wonderful children. I work in the wireless telecommunications industry for a company called Crown Castle USA, Inc. It is a very rewarding career.

Gary Popiel - Class of 1964

I am alive and well and living in the Villages, Florida during the winter months and in Tobemory, Ontario in the middle of a national park during the summer. All three of our kids are married and making grandchildren. Our oldest son, Paul, conducted at Carnegie Hall in March of this year.

Chris Giannetti - Class of 1977

I am a senior project engineer at General Motors. I live in St. Clair Shores with my wife, Yvonne.

Tom Thompson - Class of 1993

I am a designer for Proper Tooling. I live in Clinton Township with my wife, Delores, and my two sons, Anthony (13) and Thomas (10).

Ed Zobeck - Class of 1972

I am the chief administrative officer for Delta Dental. I live in Haslett, MI with my wife, Rosemary, and have three children: Jacob, Ariana, and Mikayla.

Tom Dokianos - Class of 1971

I really enjoy seeing the newsletter. Thank you for your dedication.

Frank Guastella - Class of 1970

Thank you for your efforts to keep the spirit of Notre Dame alive. Enclosed is a donation for the association. Please give my best to your father and let him know he is in my prayers.

Rob Kollar - Class of 2006

I am the owner of 3D's Party Store in Roseville. Come up to 3D's! The Address is 19371 10 Mile Road, Roseville, MI.

Jon Bozich - Class of 1993

I work as an emergency medical technician for the City of Detroit's Fire Department.

Chris Gajewski - Class of 1990

Thanks for putting this together (The Leprechaun) and for sharing your dad's story. I hope everything works out for him and I hope you both know all the support you have out there. Thanks again.

John Pelak - Class of 2003

Thanks again to you and Tom for putting the basketball tournament together. Everyone had a great time this weekend. It was nice seeing your Dad and I hope he liked the signed basketball. We'll continue to pull for his recovery.

Chris Henness - Class of 1989

Thanks again, Jim, for organizing the alumni basketball tourney.

John Czoykowski - Class of 2002

Why is next year the last year (for the basketball tournament)? Can someone else take over running the tournament if you've reached the end of your term as commissioner? I think Mr. Parent might want to step up and run it. At any rate, thanks for all your work putting this together all these years.

Editor's Note: Interest has started to wane, so we are taking the basketball tournament on a year-by-year basis. Our best guess is that we'll be running it for at least a few more years.

Pam Bourlier

Larry Kauchek was kind enough to send along this link. I was NDHS Development Director from 1989 thru 1996. I started the Class Chair group and the Development Board with Larry, Maynard Buszek, Frank Migliazzo, etc. I remain friends with many ND alums and would like to keep in touch. Please put me on your mailing list and I hope to help when I am able.

Gary Lytle - Class of 1961

Dave Bonior told me about the pics on the athletic hall of fame for ND grads and that I could have my pic if I asked? If so I would like to have it. I can give you the address - Arlington Va. - if it is still an option. You should get a medal for your efforts. Lots of good memories from the old ND. Glad you were able to save some of them!

Don Dugal - Class of 1960

Dear Jim Mandls (both!), I wish to thank you for **ALL** the hard work that you put into reviving and continuing the collegial spirits of 'ole Notre Dame. Though I have been a rather non-participant (in all these years I've only attended one event - the Class of '60 reunion) I have, from the side, watched and admired the way your letters and magazines grew and became formidable 'voices' for many of us. It is obvious how the monthly missive formats were a labor of care & love and took considerable time to write and do the layout for. The sincerity of your purpose and your willingness to do all this **FOR FREE** is most appreciated! Unlike the missives from the new (ahem!) Notre Dame - yours were not laced with appeals for more and more money. Last month, disgusted by the smarmy PR coming from this new institution, I wrote the 20-something authoress of this phony newsletter and told her off. (Not very Christian of me!) I basically told her that she would not have a job as pseudo-editor if it were not for the Mandls and that it was about time she & her organization recognized your contributions. I received a strange response from her husband (?) who is also an employee of the new ND written in a clinical manner, annoyed that their reach-out to you has not been fruitful. Thank you for your years of good reading and for the sense of place you created in the community of minds that are the real Alumni of Notre Dame High School.

Todd Driscoll - Class of 1992

Thanks for all your continued hard work on this. I look forward to reading the monthly Leprechaun. Not sure if you saw the latest hard copy mailer from Prep, but they are claiming in it again that they are the "Alumni" for Harper Woods ND. It upsets me and makes me appreciate your effort more.

Joe Opolski - Class of 1986

Thanks for all that you guys do to keep the spirit of *THE REAL ND* alive and well.

Mike Atzenhofer - Class of 1983

Thanks again for all you do to keep the memory of our great school going. Have a great day!

David Bonior - Class of 1963

Enclosed is a check for the "Friends" and for shipping my wall of fame plaque. Thanks for all your hard work! And congrats to you and your students "design" success!

Mandl '90 Leads Students to Championship Again

Jim Mandl's '90 pre-engineering/computer-aided design class at the Warren Career Prep Center in Sterling Heights has won a state award for designing a drone.

For the fourth consecutive year, Mandl's students went on to capture first place in the Michigan Real World Design Challenge, a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and Parametric Technology Corp.

After a handful of setbacks Mandl's seven pre-engineering students managed to design an unmanned aerial vehicle, more commonly referred to as a drone. "Every year it's a difficult challenge and for the past four years these students have been coming through," Mandl said. "The students had to design the entire system and what controls it (the drone)."

Sophomore Matt McAllister, a student at Cousino High School during the morning hours, said he started working on the design with a program called VSP. He said it allows students to design aerial vehicles. "We then put it into MathCAD (computer aided design) sheets and it calculates all of the information," McAllister said. "It then tells us whether we're going in the right direction."

Lindsey Hogan, a senior who intends to study biomedical engineering at Lawrence Technical University, was in charge of documenting the project. She entered all of the data into a note book.

Lindsay said she documented all of the problems the students ran into and had to do a lot of research before recording it in their design notebook.

McAllister, who wants to attend the University of Michigan and enter the aerospace technology field to build airplanes, said if the facts the students entered into the computer were wrong, they had no alternative but to fix it and do it again.

He said the class started the project in late October and finished it in mid-January. "We submitted the CAD data and an 80-page report on the work we did," McAllister said. "I am most proud of us putting all of the information we got together to get it done at the last minute."

McAllister said a snafu near the end of the project nearly cost the class valuable

points. But they managed to get the right information into the computer and finish the project on time. The students earned the right to represent the State of Michigan at the National Real World Design Challenge in Washington, D.C. April 19-22.

Five of the CPC students in the competition are boys and two are girls. Six are seniors. "We worked very hard on this," McAllister said. "Our design was more of a search-and-detection drone rather than one that shoots people down," Hogan said. "I just love this class and Mr. Mandl, who does an exceptional job teaching it." ✪



From left: Mathew McAllister, teacher Jim Mandl Mickey Blair, Jeremy Kostusyk, Sarah Sexton and Alex Jarbo; back row, Jackson Solomon and Lindsey Hogan.

FROM FOX 2 NEWS

Srodek '97 Serves up an Easter Tradition

If you enjoy Polish food, you know about Srodeks owed by *Rodney Srodek '97* and his family. The Hamtramck market is known for its sausage, pierogies and other tasty treats, but every Easter, one of their best-sellers is the butter lamb. This popular tradition of Poland and other eastern European countries is Michigan-made by Srodek's.

"The butter lamb signifies the resurrection of Christ," said Maggie Srodek, a part of the third generation of Srodeks working at the family store. The lambs are made by bringing real butter to room temperature and placing it in a two-piece mold. The butter is then put in the freezer overnight and finished off with a red ribbon and two black peppercorns for eyes.

Why butter? "On Easter Sunday, you make a meal and butter becomes an intricate part of your meal," Srodek said.

Every year, Srodek's produces 50,000-60,000 butter lambs. Soon you won't have to drive to Hamtramck to visit Srodeks as they are in the process of building an additional location on Mound Road north of 17 Mile Road. The location will feature a Polish restaurant, a massive store, a bakery, and a meat processing facility. "It's going to be like a little Hamtramck plaza," said Srodek. "The Germans have Frankemuth. We want that here, locally, for Polish culture." ✪



Srodek's Easter Butter Lambs.

Blum '77 Home But Only After Hitting Rock-Bottom

A 1994 Column By Mitch Album

The funny thing is, he wasn't even drinking when he hit bottom. He was too depressed, too twisted. He got on a bicycle, wearing nothing but a pair of shorts, and he rode to the hockey office and burst through the door. "I am God!" he hollered. "I am God!" Then he went into the street, and ran back and forth like the lost soul he'd become. "I'm rich . . . ha! Hee! I'm a rich man!"

The office staff stared in disbelief. Someone called the police.

They say this kind of thing happens around the holidays, depression and alcohol and a sense of loss. *John Blum '77*, yelling that he was rich, was anything but. It was Christmas time, and in the previous 11 months, he had lost his wife, his children, his reputation, his home. Now -- as he climbed atop his boss' van and lay there, spread-eagle, as sirens whirred in the distance -- he was about to lose his freedom.

Welcome to the last drop. This is the deep end of that giant beer bottle that hockey players suck on from their junior days, imitating their heroes, guzzling cold ones and going home sloshed. John Blum had been a hockey success story, a kid who made it all the way to the NHL, earned the six-figure salary, played alongside Wayne Gretzky, went to the playoffs, married Mark Messier's sister, lived the life.

Now he was semi-naked on top of a van. Welcome to the last drop.

"I am God! I am God!" They threw the cuffs on God and took him to a hospital. "Next thing I knew, it was New Year's Eve," Blum says now, softly, dumping a packet of sugar into his black coffee. He wears his workout clothes and no shoes, sitting in the simple office of a small hockey arena. He has the body of an aging athlete, a face between handsome and howling, and he speaks quickly, remembering last year as if retelling a bad movie. "I was in that psychiatric hospital with people who were really crazy. At midnight, there were guys sticking light bulbs in their ears, or putting ribbons on their heads. One guy just kept mumbling, 'I wanna go home, I wanna go home,' for like 12 hours straight. 'I wanna go home. I wanna go home.' . . . 'I kept telling the doctors, 'Let me out. What am I doing in here?' . . . 'That's how I rung in the New Year.'"



John Blum '77 as a Red Wing.

He shakes his head, pushes a hand through his thinning brown hair, and smiles the smile that has always gotten him in trouble, the Good-Time-Johnny smile, the "Aw, hell, let's do it" smile. You put this smile in pro hockey and toss in a bottle of booze and, forget it, the party never stops. Until it explodes.

Which is sort of how John Blum landed back here, Fraser Ice Arenas, a local rink just down the road from where he grew up in Warren. He plays for the Detroit Falcons, Colonial League, riding the buses to Flint and Thunder Bay, dressing with kids who can only dream of going where John Blum has been.

Of course, they dream of what they see in his scrapbook, the photos from the Oilers, the Bruins, the Capitals, the Red Wings -- "Look, Ray Bourque, Kevin Hatcher, Yzerman, Gretzky, you played with those guys?" The hard lines around Blum's eyes -- the kids don't want to know about those. The lessons he has learned? Well, in sports, you don't preach. He is 35, nearly twice their age, yet they still shout out "Blummer! Yo, Blummer!"

Hockey does that. Gives you kiddie nicknames -- Stevie, Jonesy, Blummer -- and that is part of the problem. One day you wake up and you're not a kid anymore. But you're still acting like one.

"Who's that girl?" Blum had asked once, looking at a photo in his coach's office. This was in Moncton, New Brunswick, 1982, the minor leagues, and Blum, cocky and lovable, was on his way up. Anything seemed possible. Even the girl in the photo. "That's Coach

Messier's daughter," he was told. "She's coming to visit here next week. You better stay away." Blum grinned. "Betcha 20 bucks I'm dating her before she leaves."

And he would win the bet -- but never collect the money. For Blum, it was always more about fun than money anyhow. He charmed Jennifer Messier the way he charmed everyone, made her laugh, got her to stay. Soon Blum, the life of every party, was in the NHL, playing with the Edmonton Oilers, then the Boston Bruins. Less than a year later he was walking down the aisle with the girl from the picture, and the biggest stars in hockey were wearing tuxedos and shaking his hand. Gretzky. Coffey. Mark Messier, his new brother-in-law. "I was an NHL player," Blum recalls. "I felt invincible."

Why not? He had risen from the Detroit suburbs, gone to Michigan without a scholarship, walked on the hockey team, become a star defenseman. Now he was trading hits with the NHL elite. True, he was hardly an All-Star, more like a journeyman, back and forth from majors to minors. But he would last eight years in the NHL, four teams, reach the playoffs several times, including 1985, when the Bruins played the Canadiens in the hallowed Montreal Forum. "The best game we ever played. I can still see it, Game 4, we were losing, 4-1, in our building, and we came back to win, 7-6. Nobody gave us a chance. But we fought back. Then we went to the Forum and had it 0-0 until the final minute . . ." He pauses, his eyes so far-away you can hear the blades scraping ice. "And then they scored with 51 seconds left. Naslund to Tremblay back to Naslund . . . goal. We lost, 1-0." He sips his coffee. "Yeah," he sighs. So much for the thrills.

Now for the agony. When the NHL no longer needed him, Blum still wanted what most players want, to hang around the game, somewhere, somehow, to coach, even at the lowest level. He would go to Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat, the ends of the Earth. But his wife, used to the comforts of the NHL -- and, according to some acquaintances, used to measuring success by brother Mark's high standards -- wanted no part of the nomadic, carry-your-own-bags minor league life. "She wanted me to take a 9-to-5 job, be a salesman, stay in one place," Blum says. They had a daughter, Rachel, who was 3 years old. So Blum tried. Telemarketing. Real estate. He didn't last long. And his drinking didn't help. He had been fairly disciplined about alcohol in the NHL -- meaning he didn't drink before games. Never mind that he saw teammates throwing up during practice, still hung over from the night before. Never mind that he'd been stopped many times on the roads, swerving, under the influence, but cops would recognize him and wave him on.

Back then he was in *The Show*. You can play? You're excused. The great lie hid inside the dark glass bottles. Until one night, in January 1993, less than a year after he'd retired from hockey. He went to a Boston party with a woman he'd met in a bar. By this point, he and his wife were separated -- even though she was three months pregnant. And the woman in the bar treated Blum like a star. He missed that. She wore a mini-skirt. He liked that. They went to the party, they drank. They went to a bar, drank some more.

He was driving home in his Chevy van, it was dark and cold and he was woozy and he sped around a curve on Storrow Drive, which snakes along the Charles River, and . . . bang! He plowed into the back of a police car. Glass smashed. Metal crunched. "It happened so fast . . ." Blum says, like they always say when life goes to hell, *Good-time Johnny's Got the Blues*.

A police officer, sitting in the car, was injured. TV crews arrived. Blum and the woman in the mini-skirt were all over the news. He was arrested, humiliated. Two days later, his wife left with their baby girl -- "She said she couldn't take it any more" -- and returned to the sanctuary of the Messier family in Hilton Head, S.C. And Blum began his fast slide down the rainbow. He found work in a bar, a stupid move. He'd drink an entire bottle of vodka in one evening. On some nights he'd down as many as 15 beers. When hockey players were around, he drank to remember. And when he wasn't welcome for the birth of his second child, he drank to forget. "That really hurt me. I wanted to be there so badly. But the (Messier) parents were pretty ticked off at me. And I didn't want to do anything to hurt the health of the child, you know?"

It wasn't until three weeks later that he got to see his newborn daughter. He flew to South Carolina, and his wife drove to his hotel. "I told her I was sorry. She said thank God you're all right and the baby's all right. She was such a beautiful kid. We named her Kathleen. We had a couple hours together." He sighs now, takes another sip of coffee. "That was a pretty good day." And then came the rest. 'Then came the . . . incident'

Blum bounced around. Worked some hockey camps. Kept pouring alcohol -- for others, for himself. Separated from his children, and denied visitation, he was desperate to stay with hockey, the only thing that gave him a sense of self-worth. He went to Florida and took a job as player-coach with the Daytona Beach Sun Devils, in something called the Sunshine League. "He was a good coach," admits Doris Delannoy, the executive secretary and wife of one of the owners. "Everybody liked him. But then came the . . . incident."

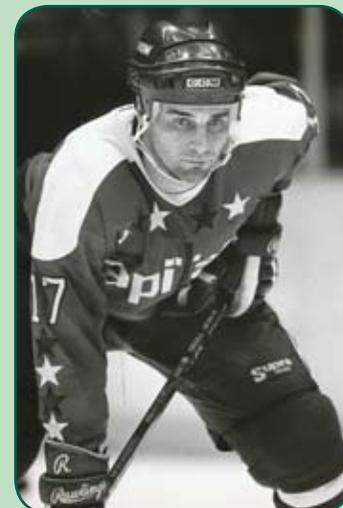
It was December. The holidays. Blum had actually stopped drinking, briefly, trying to clean himself up, bury himself in his coaching. But the same way he capped the bottle, he also capped his depression. Hockey players, NHL players, aren't supposed to cry. "I never allowed myself that. I never allowed myself to talk about it with anyone." "You gotta understand," says Mike Rataj, a Detroit lawyer and Blum's best friend since childhood, "not seeing his kids was killing him. We all come from neighborhood families where you go over to each other's houses at Christmas. And here's Blummer, all alone, in Florida."

This is the other side of the pro sports high life. You're 34, your glory is behind you, your marriage is dust, your children are out of reach. Seeking comfort, you go to church, midnight mass, and you see all these normal families, holding hands. John Blum snapped. "I am God! I am God! I am God! . . ."

When he got out of the hospital -- after two weeks -- he tried once again to see his children. But his wife asked the NHL to get involved. Before he knew it, Blum was whisked to Hazelton, a rehab facility in Minnesota which has housed many a famous athlete -- including Bob Probert, the hero to so many boozy Red Wings fans. There, roomed with a former banker, in a small space that looked out

on snow and trees, Blum began to face life after the cheering stops. "The first meeting, where you stand up and say 'I am an alcoholic'? I stood up and said I'm a hockey player, and I'm here because I got to do whatever the bleep I wanted to. It was *carte blanche*. You go to bars, people buy you drinks. You get pulled over, they let you off. You're invincible."

He said this word, "invincible" in a room full of addicts. When the irony echoed off the walls, he had taken the



John Blum '77 as a Capital.



John Blum '77 as a Bruin.

first step toward recovery.

Which brings us to where he is today. Back home in Warren. Living humbly in the basement of his old house on Palomino Street. Once he made \$140,000 a year in the NHL. Now he gets \$350 a week, and bus trips that take up to 17 hours. And yet, a new start is a new start. Blum -- who never figured to play again -- loves being a Falcons defenseman, teaching the kids the NHL tricks, being the inspirational leader of the team, even if they do call him "Grandpa."



**John Blum '77
as a Michigan
Wolverine.**

He leaves tickets each night for his father and his sister, which lessens the sting of not leaving them for his wife and children. Although the Blums officially divorced in July, he writes to his oldest daughter, Rachel, and she sends him drawings of giraffes. He saw his kids four months ago, and plans to see them again soon. "I've come full circle," he says. "I've come home."

Understand this: John Blum is not alone. There are countless former athletes out there, left spinning when the sport is yanked from under them like some magician's tablecloth. And every wink at their drinking, every excuse made for their behavior when they were big time, is like a weight on their ankles now. Many end up broke. Many end up divorced. Some end up dead. "It's funny, I really did used to feel like I was a God," Blum says.

And now? "Just a man. A humble one."

What's that old expression? Good to the last drop? Blum, who has been sober since February, lifts his cup, then, perhaps practicing a new habit, lowers it and throws it away. Good-time Johnny Pays His Dues. Sometimes, the good can't start until the last drop is really gone. ✨

REUNIONS

Upcoming Reunions

Class of 1963 - 50 Years

September 14 and 15, 2013. Dinner on Sept. 14 at Sterling Inn, Sterling Heights, Mich. On Sept. 15, 10 a.m. Mass at Old St. Mary in Greektown, Detroit, followed by a Detroit Tigers game. Contacts: John McCabe, (586) 822-5153; Don Herman, (586) 781-0220.

Class of 1973 - 40 Years

Friday June 21:
Afternoon golf scramble & 19th hole meet & greet.
Saturday June 22:
Evening dinner dance
Sunday June 23:
Detroit Tigers game
Frank Coppola at (586) 295-9375 or taxmanfj@yahoo.

Class of 1989 - 25 Years

Reunion is in the early planning stages for a TBA date in 2014. Reunion committee in formation. If you would like to help, contact:
Gregory Simon at gsimon@ndpma.org or
Frank Castronova at fcastronova@ndpma.org.

Class of 1978 - 35 Years

Reunion is in the early planning stages.
Contact: Ron Yanik, ronald0812@aol.com

Class of 1965 - 50 Years

The committee is looking for up-to-date e-mail addresses and contact information.

Reunion Committee:
Dennis Berger
dennisberger@aol.com
(909) 223-4483

Class of 1983

Will be planning a 30-year reunion for 2013. Committee is in formation.
Contact Mark Gaynor at mgaynordds@comcast.net.

Class of 1986

Will be planning a 30-year reunion for 2016.
Reunion Committee:
John Kaminski jkaminski1700@yahoo.com
H: (612) 822-4759 C: (952) 261-5546
Dan O'Brien (248) 840-8391
dobrien734@comcast.net
Paul Arnone paul.c.arnone@gm.com
Stephen Schultz stephen2000_fl@yahoo.com
Jonathan Zaidan jkmzc@sbcglobal.net

Dederichs '63 Loses Life While Visiting D.C.

A Denver man's body was found in an alley on April 24, 2012. It was that of **Gary Dederichs '63**. Gary worked for many years as a registered nurse at a hospital in the Denver area and was taking a vacation in Washington, D.C.

Units from the Fourth District responded to the 800 block of Emerson Street, Northwest, for the report of an unconscious person. Upon their arrival, they found Dederichs, suffering from blunt force head trauma. Metropolitan Police Lt. Robert Alder says Dederichs was killed near the rental property he had been staying in for the past two weeks while on vacation.

Alder says the murder did not occur in a tourist area. "We are looking into the potential that it was an attempted robbery," Alder said. "I cannot remember the last case that we had ... where any tourist was the victim of a homicide in Washington."

D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel responded to the scene and Dederichs was later pronounced dead by a member of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. Dederichs lived two blocks from the University of Denver, in a well-kept home on a corner lot. "Yeah, it's a little quaint house. If you look at the way he kept his house and his yard, he had a lot of self worth," friend and neighbor Chris Razzazian said.

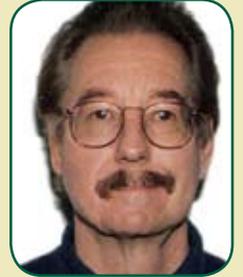
Dederichs was a retired registered nurse who worked at Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, according to friends and a background check. "Gary lived his life as well as any person could," Razzazian said. Gary's life ended in northwest D.C., a few miles from the national landmarks he was there to visit as a tourist. "He was definitely a very well-traveled man," Razzazian said.

Dederichs gave his time to A Little Help, a nonprofit in Denver that empowers senior citizens to stay in their homes as they get older, just like he did. Executive Director Dr. Paul Leon Ramsey says clients would request Dederichs, known for his kindness and compassion as a volunteer. "After he retired as a nurse he spent a significant amount of time caring for his neighbors and folks who didn't live right in his own neighborhood," Ramsey said.

Neighbor Danny Beckett says he'll miss having Dederichs around. "I think it's a tragedy. It's just not fair," Beckett said. Razzazian says his friend, 40 years his senior, was always out in yard and waving hello no matter who was passing by him. "He never let a generational gap get in between a conversation or communication. We always talked about how nice it was that we could see over the fence so that we could see each other," Razzazian said.

Metropolitan Police asked Denver Police for help notifying Dederichs's next of kin. Neighbors never saw family or visitors stop by the house. "He was really a very private person," Razzazian said. Neighbors described Dederichs as an asset to the neighborhood and someone they're sad to see go. "The people that you live around are the people that you live your life with. And you need to know your neighbors," Razzazian said.

Neighbors say Dederichs was never married and had no children. They were not aware of any memorial plans. The Metropolitan Police Department is offering a reward of \$25,000 for information which leads to the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for Dederichs's murder. Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the police at 202-727-9099. Additionally, anonymous information may be submitted to the department's TEXT TIP LINE by text messaging 50411. 🌟



Gary Dederichs '63

FROM ABC 7 DENVER

Brother of NFL Players Found Incompetent for Trial

The younger brother of NFL players Vernon and Vontae Davis has been declared incompetent to stand trial in the slaying of a man visiting the nation's capital from Colorado. Nineteen-year-old Michael Davis is charged with first-degree murder in the death of 66-year-old **Gary Dederichs '63**. Police say Dederichs was walking alone in a residential neighborhood when he was struck on the head with a hammer or similar weapon.

Davis has also been charged in two nonfatal attacks and is suspected in two additional assaults. All occurred over three days less than a mile from his home.

D.C. Superior Court Judge Robert Morin declared Davis incompetent to stand trial Friday based on a psychiatrist's recommendation. Davis will be treated at a psychiatric hospital in hopes of restoring his competency. 🌟



Michael Davis

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brother of NFL Player May be Mentally Ill

D.C. Superior Court Judge Robert E. Morin said at a hearing Wednesday that a report from doctors at St. Elizabeths Hospital is complicated and unusual. The Washington Post reports that doctors found Davis capable of helping his attorneys prepare his defense. However, they also said they were concerned that mental issues could return or worsen. Davis has been diagnosed with mental disorders including schizophrenia.

Davis is the brother of NFL football players Vernon and Vontae Davis. He's charged in the killing of Colorado tourist **Gary Dederichs '63** and with assaulting two others. 🌟

Muczinski '90 Featured Act in New Nashville in the Neighborhood Concert Series

A new free outdoor country music series made its debut in the heart of downtown Mount Clemens on Wednesday, May 8, 2013. Titled Nashville in the Neighborhood, the six-date series is presented by WYCD-FM (99.5) with financial support from several sponsors. The radio station, which also presents the Downtown Hoedown in Detroit, rolled out a brand new stage for the bands to perform on. Featured performer for the inaugural event is Notre Dame's own **David Muczinski '90**, also known as Country music singer David Shelby.

"As is always the case with WYCD, we like to spread country music around the area," said WYCD Program Director Tim Roberts. "We are a big believer in the local music scene here in Detroit. And we love your downtown; this is a perfect area to present free music for our listeners."

Nashville in the Neighborhood replaces the long-running Bud Light River Sight and Sound concert series that Petitpren Inc. had brought to the banks of the Clinton River since 1987.

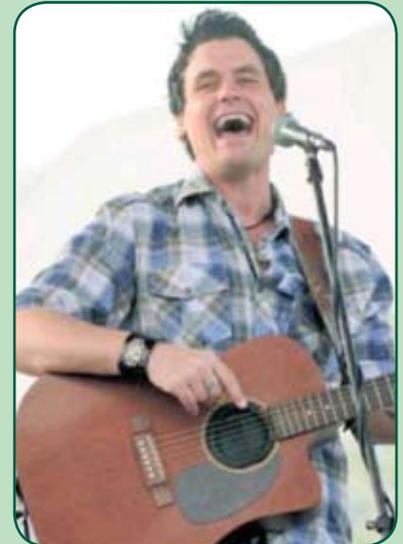
Petitpren started a free outdoor music series initially as a lunch-hour series in the downtown area and later moved over to a riverfront stage for Friday night shows. A number of business owners recently asked the Budweiser distributor to move the concerts back to the downtown district. That's when the decision was made to launch a new country music series featuring up-and-coming acts.

Wednesday's debut show featured Alabama singer Weston Burt, with his hit, "Lucky Sometimes." The opener was singer-songwriter **David Shelby**, a Clinton Township native, performing songs from his new record on Highway South Records, "Rust Belt Cowboy."

The concerts are held on Macomb Place near the Anton Art Center. On Wednesday night, people sat on the patios at John Barleycorn's and Orleans Billiards to enjoy the music, while others brought their own lawn chairs. A number of tailgate parties were underway in the nearby municipal parking lot.

Fans gave the series a thumbs-up. "I am obsessed with country music," said Dana DiPiazza, 20, of Harrison Township, who attended the event with her friend, Courtney Priemer, also 20. "The downtown here is really nice," Priemer said. "It's a really cool atmosphere."

The series is sponsored by Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority, Bud Light, Tim Horton's, Oakland University and Mike Riehl Roseville Chrysler Jeep. "We really want to embrace Mount Clemens and be part of the community," said Julie Trube, OU's director of enrollment and community outreach. Roberts, the program director, said the series will focus on up-and-coming acts that are about to take the next step up to stardom. "At the Hoedown, we've had artists like Luke Bryan and Jason Aldean before anyone knew who they were. We had the Band Perry for a Tigers opener a few years ago and look at how well they've done. We don't bring in anyone we don't believe in," Roberts said. 🐾



David Muczinski '90, also known as Country music singer David Shelby.

Notre Dame Alumni Association On-Line Store

www.friendsofnotredame.com



ND HATS and NDHS Limited Edition bricks are now available in the NDAA store!

In Memoriam

Bucci, Paul R. - Class of 1982

Age 47, passed away on March 18, 2013. Beloved partner of Rosie for 26 wonderful years, 10 as husband and wife. Loving father of Jessica (fiancé, Greg Fekin) McKenzie and Chad McKenzie. Adored son of Maryanne and the late Russell Bucci. Dear brother of Russanne (Richard Faria) Bucci and Kathleen (Bobby) Bergeron. Loving nephew of Kathleen (George Claussen) Brown-Askar, Pete (Virginia) Bucci and Josephine (John) Hunt. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Interment, Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guest Book" at WujekCalcaterra.com.



Koppsch, Ronald R. - Class of 1964

Age 66, died December 15, 2012. Retired after a long career with Michigan Bell. Mr. Koppsch served in the National Guard and the Detroit Riots in Detroit. Beloved husband of Donna. Dear father of Kimberly (Jeffrey) Woods of Bancroft, Mich., and Kelly Slone of Eastpointe, Mich. Grandfather of Aaron, Sean, Danny, Bobby and Ashley. Son of Virginia and the late Richard Koppsch. **Brother of Richard (Kathleen) Koppsch '69.** Uncle of Michael, Alaina and great-uncle of Maddy. Survived by many nieces and nephews.



Fabick, Mike - Class of 1962

Age 68, a longtime resident of Detroit, died February 1, 2013. Mike was born on June 14, 1944 to the late James and Marcia Fabick. He was the loving father of Jeremy, Jennifer, Amy, Marcus and Brian. Dear brother of Stephen, Laurette, Madelyn, Mari and Suzanne. Mike was a devout Catholic. He believed strongly in social justice. The love and care for his own children carried over into his work, where he helped many children working for Children's Protective Services. Memorials to CARE House of Oakland County are appreciated. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Richie, David K. - Class of 1978

Passed away Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at the age of 52. Beloved husband of Terri. Loving father of Lauren. Dear son of the late William and Maria Ritchie. Dear brother of the late Dennis and Lawrence Ritchie. Dear uncle of Melissa (William) Tharp, Michael Ritchie and Rachel, Alec and Christian Johnson. Dear son-in-law of Clarence and Ellen Johnson and brother-in-law of Tom and Holly Johnson.



Witkowski, Carlton - Class of 1959

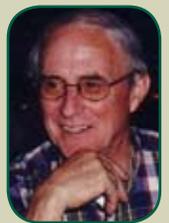
Of Macomb Township, passed away Thursday, March 19, 2013, at the age of 71. Carlton was born on July 31, 1941, in Detroit, Michigan. Beloved husband of Joyce. Loving father of Rhonda (Geoffrey) Bunce and Brian (Meghan) Witkowski. Dear grandfather of Maddison, Kurtis, Brayden, Sydney, and Kaitlyn. Dear brother of Ruthanne (Anthony) Kudela. Predeceased by his brother Vincent Witkowski.

Dederichs, Gary - Class of 1963

Gary was murdered while on vacation in Washington D.C. Please see page 18 for complete details.

Verlinden, Jr., John Henry "Jay" - Class of 1962

Passed away on May 4, 2013 at the age of 68. Beloved husband of the late, Judy. Loving father of Jay (Julie), Kristen Nevin, and Michael. Cherished grandfather of Jay Jay, Benjamin, Marabel, Amber, Michael, Sumner, Michael, and Ruby Rose. Dear brother of Joanne, Karen, Loren, and Michael (Sarah) Verlinden. Donations may be made to the American Lung Association, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004. Light a candle and share a memory at www.verheyden.org



Extended Family

Edward Olinzock, father of **John Olinzock '74, Dale Olinzock '75, Paul Olinzock '78** and **Alan Olinzock '80** passed away February 3, 2013.
Matteo Leone, father-in-law of **Joseph Borri '80** passed away February 5, 2013.
Janet Wesley, mother of **Michael Wesley '72** passed away February 8, 2013.
Johanna Goralski, mother of **Normand Goralski '73** passed away February 9, 2013.
William Korte, father of **William Korte '68, the late Gary Korte '70, Timothy Korte '75** and **Terrence Korte '80. Uncle of Michael Korte '71** and Great-uncle of **Ryan Korte '97** passed away February 16, 2013.
Mary Kouri, mother of **James Kouri '69** and **Robert Kouri '70** passed away February 22, 2013.
Melvin Ellison, father of **Steven Ellison '82** passed away February 22, 2013.
JoAnn Schleicher, mother of **David Schleicher '70, Glenn Schleicher '72, and James Schleicher '74** passed away February 27, 2013.
Mary Gerbino, mother of **Joseph Gerbino '67** passed away February 28, 2013.
Pauline Wojcinski, mother of **Robert Wojcinski '65** passed away February 28, 2013.
Anthony Trupiano, father of **Anthony Trupiano '85** and **James Trupiano '87** passed away March 3, 2013.
Michael Cleland, father of **Michael Cleland '86** passed away on March 4, 2013.
Ethel McKeogh, grandmother of **William McKeogh '01** passed away on March 7, 2013.
Kenneth Cummins, father of **Michael Cummins '71** and **Timothy Cummins '75** passed away on March 12, 2013.
Annette VanLacken, mother of **Daniel VanLacken '92** and **Michael VanLacken '95** passed away on March 15, 2013.
Edward Trantowski, father of **Edward Trantowski '82** passed away on March 18, 2013.
Suzanne DeVoll, mother of **Jason DeVoll '02** passed away on March 19, 2013.

