

letter from the editor

When I think about getting mail, I think about three things: care packages from mom, the Blue's Clues song and money on my birthday. That's why when someone tells me I have mail, I practically pee my pants with excitement.

When adults think about getting mail, they think about three things: bills, advertisements and Christmas cards. No one — let's be honest here — really wants to look at any of those things.

So when I think about graduation, it comes with the reservation that I'll be getting less fun mail and more responsibility mail. It won't make me wanna wag my tail — it will make me wanna wail because I have bills to pay.

It is so easy to forget how to budget money when we live in a culture of Flex Points, Domer Dollars and meal swipes. Starbucks every day? Yeah, right — like I'll be able to afford a four dollar breakfast cocktail seven days a week. But the mentality of starting my mornings right just might give me the urge to splurge, and the ability to satiate that with a card swipe can be a slippery slope into debt (p. 20).

Personal finance management is not just a skill overlooked on the Notre Dame transcript. It's a problem the federal government faces every day. How do we get ourselves out of debt once we're in it? And isn't it a lot easier just to not dig the hole in the first place? These are some of the questions I wish our politicians had asked years before our borrowing led to a broken financial system. Now the only question I can ask is: Who has the plan to economic recovery? Because whoever you are, you have my vote (p. 10).

Time for a moment of truth: I don't know who I am voting for this November. I honestly don't. Which is why *Scholastic*, NDTV, the College Democrats and the College Republicans have banded together to sponsor a student-run mock presidential debate (p. 26). Come out on Oct. 24 to hear your peers offer their persuasive arguments for Obama and Romney and then make your own decision by casting a ballot on Nov. 6. Make this election about the issues that matter most to college students. Maybe your vote is about religious or personal freedom and the Affordable Care Act. Or maybe it's as simple as wanting financial security after graduation. But if you don't vote, then you've said the next four years don't matter to you at all.

And in the next four years, every one of us will be out in the real world. And I have a feeling that then, it will matter.

Happy reading,

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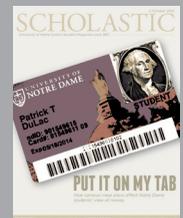
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