



CONOR BINDNER

**A LIGHTBULB MOMENT** Energy executive T. Boone Pickens conducts a town hall meeting to discuss U.S. energy independence from foreign oil.



COURTNEY SULLIVAN

**SILVER LINING** The Irish faithful persist in tailgating for the BC game despite inclement weather.

# Serving it Up

*The CSC extends its fall break opportunities for students*

Claire Kenney

Revolutionary and groundbreaking are certainly two words that come to mind concerning the Center for Social Concerns' Fall 2009 activities.

Each year, the CSC organizes Fall Break Seminars to foster educational awareness of social problems through proactive work and service. This year brought growth to the center's mission. Fall 2009 saw the greatest student involvement and interest in the Appalachia Seminar yet. Connie Mick, Director of the Appalachia Program, says this seminar is familiar among the student body.

"I hear students tell students that this has become a Notre Dame tradition, one of those experiences you have to have before you graduate," she says.

This fall the CSC also offered a new seminar in Chicago entitled "Cultural Diversity: Latino Community Organizing for Violence Prevention and Intervention." Cynthia Toms-Smedley, Director of Educational Immersions, worked closely with this seminar which educates its participants on violence through hands-on experience.

"Students visit organizations working to prevent violence in the community and rehabilitate youth affected by violence, and other organizations to learn about the cycles of poverty as well as influence that lead to gang violence," Toms-Smedley says.

Toms-Smedley says there are additional components to the program.

"Students also learned about the CSC outreach to this community through the St. Ann's parish, as well as visited Cristo Rey school, a non-conventional school where students work and volunteer as part of their high school education," she says.

Senior Katie Weber's college career has included active involvement with the CSC. For her, this involvement is something of great influence.

"It is really an experience I will carry with me through the rest of my life," she says.

5

## TOP 5 FIVE

reasons to see "New Moon"

1 Because they never violate DuLac

2 All of South Bend's giddy 15-year-old girls in one place

3 Makes you feel better about your permacloud-induced paleness

4 Suddenly ND relationships seem healthy by comparison

5 Robert Pattinson's tousled locks