



**And the winner is ...**  
*Four dorm rooms are featured as the campus' best for neatness, atmosphere, freshmen, and overall excellence.*  
 Scene ♦ page 12

**Grading the government**  
*Finals may be approaching, but student government is just hitting midterms. The Observer looks at our leaders and issues a report card.*  
 In Focus

**Friday**  
 DECEMBER 1,  
 2000

# THE OBSERVER

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## The crime she can't remember

### ◆ One student tells her story of a date rape drug, experts caution others

By COLLEEN McCARTHY  
 Associate News Editor

*Editor's Note: Katie is an alias.*

In recent years, rapists have a new way to overpower their victims in the form of a drug. Now commonly known as the date rape drug, Rohyphnol ("roofies") or GHB has emerged.

The drug is colorless, odorless and may be tasteless and is normally slipped into drinks where it then dissolves.

For 17-year old Katie, a visitor to Notre Dame's campus, that horror became reality during a weekend of what was supposed to be filled with the fun of football tradition. Instead of memories of tailgating and rushing the field, she will remember the weekend as the one that changed her life — the weekend that she may have been raped.

Accompanied by a friend who attends Notre Dame, Katie went with a group of college students eager to party to an off-campus apartment that was the home to several Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. While not a frequent drinker, the social atmosphere grabbed her, and she made the decision to drink.

"I never really drink because it isn't worth the trouble," Katie said. But the high school junior consumed about three beers in three hours, drinking conservatively in the new college environment.

Feeling in control and not intoxicated, Katie left her group of friends midway through the party to go to the bathroom. Before she went to the bathroom, a stranger took her cup from her and refilled it.

"I lost track of [the cup] for a minute, but

then the person gave it back to me," she said, adding that if she had been intoxicated, her friends would have never left her to go to the bathroom. But in the hazy recollections of that evening, after Katie left the bathroom, she remembers nothing.

Katie says she woke up in the original apartment hours later, with a hazy, confused feeling — and a strange man lying next to her.

"I didn't recognize where I was and there was this person who I had seen earlier in the night next to me," she said. "I asked him who he was and asked him not to leave me because I didn't know where I was."

But beyond the terror of not knowing where she was, more terrifying to the high school junior was that her clothes were disheveled, and some removed.

"I had more clothing off than on and this isn't like me at all," she said. "It was very scary because it's not like when you go to bed at night and dream but wake up and don't remember things ... because at least you know when you wake up nothing bad could have happened to you even if you don't remember."

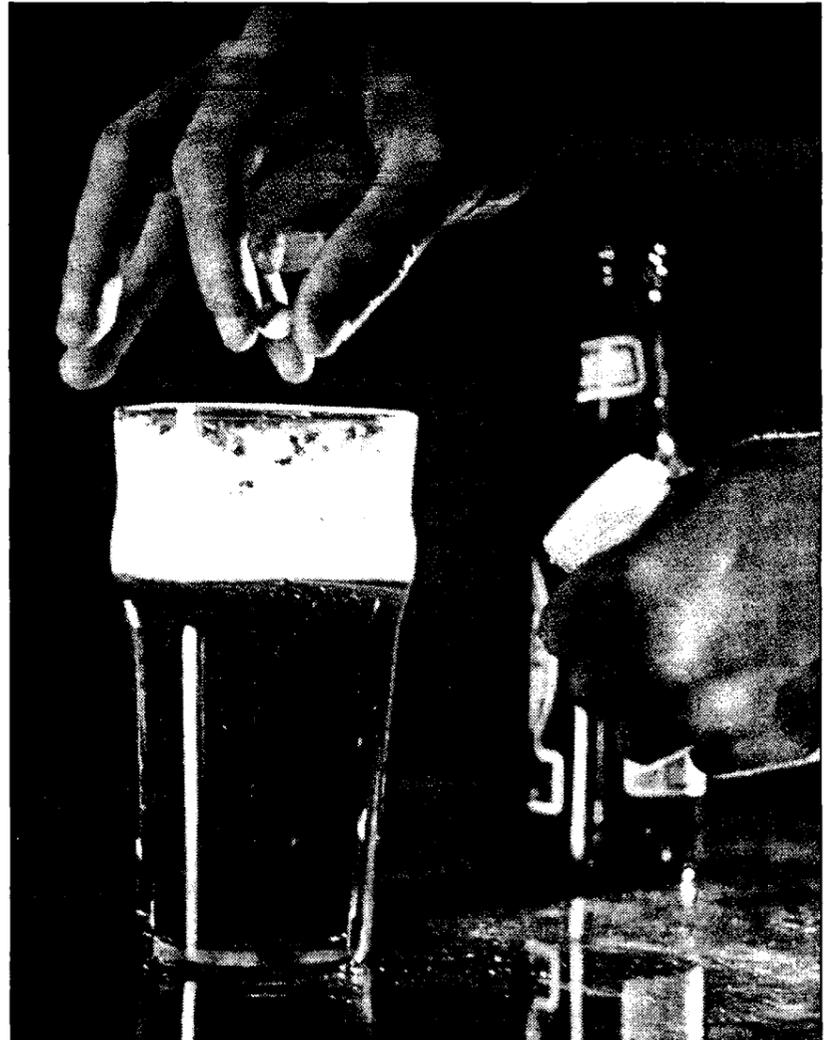
But Katie had the feeling that something bad had happened to her, and this wasn't a dream. But even so, her normally conscientious character abandoned her, and at no time did she say to the stranger to take her home.

Katie finally made it back to the dorm where she was staying — although she doesn't remember how — just before sunrise. Her friend later described told Katie she was confused when she returned, still obviously under the influence of the drugs. She said she was "like nothing, she said I just sat there," Katie said.

What confuses Katie most about the night is her whereabouts the hours after leaving the bathroom.

"What doesn't make sense is that [my

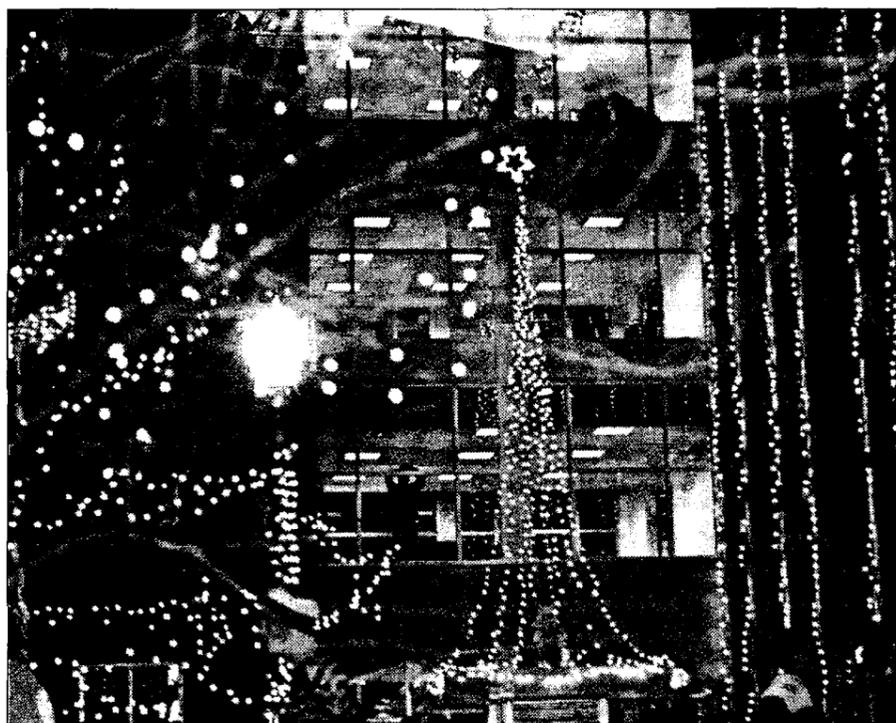
see DRUG/page 4



PETER RICHARDSON/The Observer

**Date rape drugs often endanger bar-hoppers or party-goers without their knowledge. South Bend Sex Offense Services stresses the importance of awareness and caution when drinking.**

### LET THERE BE LIGHT



AMANDA GRECO/The Observer

Keough Hall kicked off the Christmas season Thursday night after two days of work hanging nearly 10,000 lights. The festivities were organized by Ryan Olander.

## Election reforms proposed

By LAURA ROMPF  
 Assistant News Editor

Last year's student body elections began with a suspension and ended with a disqualification. Throughout the election season, there were appeals made, cases heard, appeals granted and appeals denied.

Because of these complications and a need to improve the overall election process, the judicial council and senate oversight committee revised the student union constitution, making several election reform amendments. The revised document was presented to the student senate for approval at Wednesday night's meeting.

"The effort to make election reforms has been around a while," said oversight co-chair Audra Hagan. "There were problems in the past and the changes seek to provide for unknowns in the future. We wanted to put a few more checks and balances in the whole process."

The judicial council and oversight committee met six times starting in September to discuss possible amendments. After fall break, the final revisions were decided

upon and given to Hagan, who put them into constitutional format.

"It was definitely a group effort," said Tony Wagner, judicial council president. "We wanted to work with senate instead of having two different groups working against each other."

### Structural Changes

The reform included several structural changes, including the creation of an election committee, an executive committee and executive liaisons.

"I think the most important thing we did were structural changes," said judicial council vice president of elections, John Bauters. "This year, there is a definite process instead of handling issues as they come."

The J-council representative from each dorm will make up the election committee, chaired by the vice president of elections. These representatives will monitor voting stations and ensure dorm residents are informed about elections and rules.

The executive committee will be made up of members from the election committee, four will be elected by the committee,

see ELECTION /page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

# Identities of a college grad

Five hours. After having spent more than 1650 hours in class over the past three and a half years and who knows how many hours studying, it all comes down to the five hours of class left in my college career. And in those five hours I will be turning in two 15-20 page papers, presenting one and taking two finals.

Kate Steer

Associate News Editor

And in the tradition of scripted questions for college students' conversations, I have answered the question, "Are you sad about almost being done?" a multitude of times recently. If I'm feeling honest, my answer is, "Not so much sad as I am excited." If I feel like pandering to sentimentalism, I say, "Yes! I feel like there's so much more that I want to do before I leave Notre Dame." If I'm reflecting on the future, I say, "No way — I'm scared!"

While the differences in these answers would point to dissociative identity disorder (yeah, I'm a psych major), they're all true to some extent.

But at the end of a major stage in one's life, this is normal. Or at least that's how I rationalize it. I mean, how can I not be excited to have earned a diploma in less than four years with a double major from a national University? It's impossible to not feel overwhelmed about such an accomplishment.

At the same time, though, I have met some incredible people here, from the women I have lived with in Pangborn to the people I spend so much time with at The Observer to the mentors I have worked with academically. And it would be unreasonable to not feel sad about leaving these friendships, even though they will continue after graduation.

There are things I still want to do and things I probably won't be able to do before I leave, but whether I can accomplish them or not is not important, because of the huge number of things I have been able to do here. The good and bad episodes have contributed to my college experience in irreplaceable ways.

Yet what I will be doing next semester, next year, in a few years is completely unscheduled. Any senior will tell you that that is scary. "So what are you doing next semester?" everyone asks. This one is easy, no optional answers: "No idea." Most likely I'll be adjusting to life as a college graduate and maybe making some money before I head off for a year of service or graduate school. Even if I'm doing something menial, I wouldn't trade that for another semester of school, especially at somewhere around \$1000 a credit hour. I'm looking forward to not having 12 things to do at any given time, being able to sleep seven nights a week and maybe more than 4 hours a night and reading a book for fun.

So yes, I'm glad I'm almost done with college, and yes I'm sad to be leaving and yes I'm scared about the future. But isn't that the point?

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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## THIS WEEK IN NOTRE DAME/SAINT MARY'S HISTORY

WSND implements new policies  
Dec. 3, 1979

In response to the controversial broadcast, "Sex at Notre Dame," new policies were implemented at WSND. The station submitted eight proposals to James Roemer, dean of students. Among other restrictions, WSND would tape delay all future talk shows, restrict the two station employees involved in the show from appearing on any future talk shows and cutting these employees' air time by half.

Pangborn turns into women's dorm  
Dec. 4, 1991

Pangborn was converted into a women's dorm to accommodate an anticipated increase in female students. The announcement came after a May 1991 decision by the Board of Trustees to lift the 37 percent cap on female enrollment that had been in place for the past several years. The new target for a freshman class of 44 percent female, 56 percent male was set for 1992.

## OUTSIDE THE DOME

Compiled from U-Wire reports

# Riot discipline: A tricky science for Ohio State

COLUMBUS, Ohio

In the wake of the early morning riots on Nov. 19 that produced fires, a stabbing and a quick reaction from Ohio State University's president, legal questions have arisen relating to the disciplining of students.

President William "Brit" Kirwan has said Ohio State will consider punishing students for their crimes committed off campus during rioting that followed OSU's football game with the University of Michigan.

All 10 of the OSU students who were arrested on the night of the riots have been suspended in abeyance, which means that they will be able to continue attending classes and go about their normal



routine until they meet with Student Affairs. Recommendations will then be made for each student's status, said Bill Hall, interim vice president of Student Affairs. He has said that punishments may include probation, suspension, dismissal or even being barred from attending any school in Ohio.

The existing Code of Student Conduct makes no mention of pun-

ishing students for off-campus misconduct. However, a revised version of the code is being considered in the University Senate. If the revised code is passed, it would allow the university to discipline students for violent crime committed off campus or for destruction of property.

Elizabeth Conlisk, a university spokeswoman, said the rules which permit Kirwan to discipline students are located outside the Student Code of Conduct.

"Put aside the code of conduct, [Kirwan's] disciplining the students by taking the faculty rules into consideration," Conlisk said.

However, the possible penalties or punishments for students who are involved in off-campus misconduct are not detailed in the faculty rules.

## TUFTS UNIVERSITY

### Undergraduate students end sit-in

MEDFORD, Mass.

Tufts University president John DiBiaggio sent out a mass e-mail to the Tufts community Wednesday affirming specific sections of Tufts' nondiscrimination policy, in particular areas covering self-acceptance of identity. The statement prompted the 20 students who staged a 35-hour sit-in on campus to end their protest and claim victory in their battle to get the administration to address the issue of discrimination. During the protest, the students, most of whom are members of the group formerly known as Tufts Students Against Discrimination [TSAD], demanded that the administration affirm two aspects of the nondiscrimination policy: self-acceptance of one's identity and the applicability of the policy to external organizations operating at Tufts. DiBiaggio met with a team of student negotiators during the day and released a statement meeting those conditions at 5:15 p.m. "I want to state clearly and succinctly, for the record, that Tufts has a rigorous and comprehensive nondiscrimination policy that has worked well for many years," he wrote.

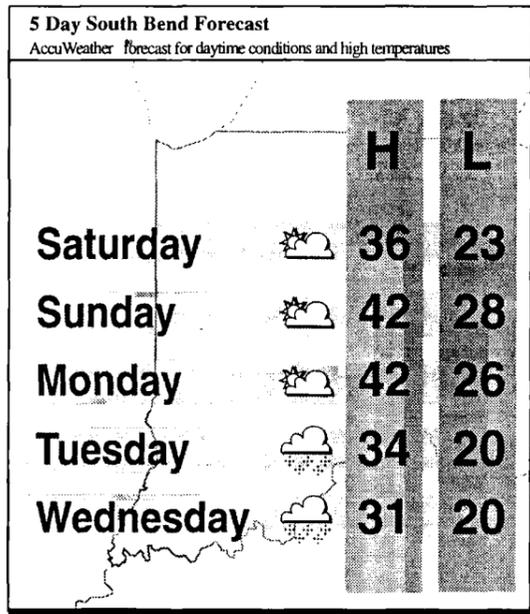
## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

### Presidency not likely to go to dad

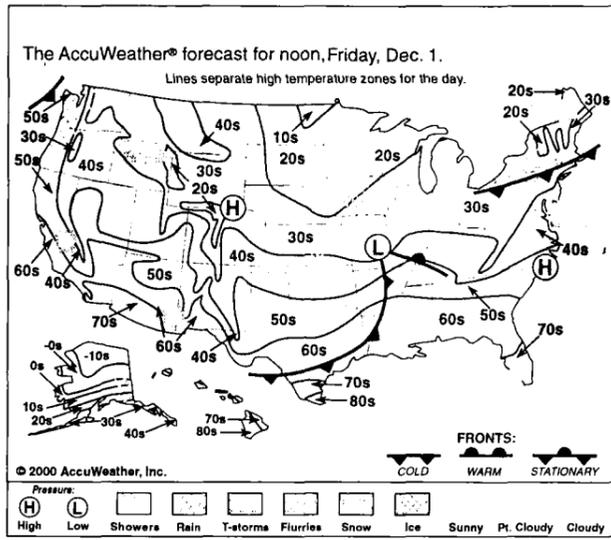
CHAMPAIGN, Ill.

University of Illinois senior in commerce Ethan Hastert thinks the presidential election is over. "At this point, we have a president-elect, and it would be a good thing for the country to move on, and for everybody to get to work," Ethan said. His dad, who happens to be third in line for the presidency, thinks the same thing. Ethan's father is Dennis Hastert, Illinois congressman and speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. If the battle for the presidency continues, at this time next year, Ethan Hastert might find himself living in the White House. If January comes and the presidency is still undecided, Hastert is next in line for the presidency. But his son, Ethan, shares a belief in the improbability of this scenario taking place. After reviewing the conditions that would have to occur in order for Hastert to become president, Brian Gaines, professor of political science, said, "It's a minute chance that anyone other than Bush or Gore will be president."

## LOCAL WEATHER



## NATIONAL WEATHER



Atlanta	57	39	Las Vegas	49	22	Portland	52	43
Baltimore	41	26	Memphis	59	38	Sacramento	59	39
Boston	41	24	Milwaukee	33	23	St. Louis	39	30
Chicago	37	22	New York	39	27	Tampa	77	54
Houston	67	45	Philadelphia	41	25	Wash DC	43	27

## STUDENT SENATE

## Women's Resource Center plays educational role on campus

By LAURA ROMPF  
Assistant News Editor

Diana Simpson of the Women's Resource Center told the senate Wednesday night that the center currently has three main functions: to serve as an information source, a coordinator and an awareness organization.

"We have a substantial library right now where people can come look up information or check out books," Simpson said. "We also hope to coordinate resources for organizations both on campus and in St. Joe County. ... We don't offer counseling at the Center, but we can send people to the appropriate places."

Simpson told the senate that the Center sponsors events throughout the year, starting with Freshman Orientation. The center is currently planning several programs.

"We are looking to have a speaker on eating disorders, and we're currently talking to Tracy Gold of Growing Pains," Simpson said.

She also said the Center is looking for service opportunities and planning a forum about women in sports.

Simpson said the Center's main concerns are its budget and reputation. "Because of our small budget, it's hard to dedicate money to our day-to-day functions," she said. "We're looking at good ways to allocate our funds."

"A lot of people have a negative reaction to the Women's Resource Center because they don't know what it's about," she said. "We just want people to see what we're doing and what's going

on."

**In other senate news:**

◆ Senate passed a revised copy of the student union constitution, which included election reform amendments.

In order to prevent violations that occurred in last year's elections from happening again, several changes were made to the original document. A detailed explanation of all election reforms will appear in Friday's Observer.

◆ Senate approved a letter to be sent to Bill Kirk, assistant vice-president of residence life, and Dean Eileen Kolman, dean of First Year of Studies, asking for their support of the Healthy Living Guide for Incoming First Year students. The packet would include information about various services available to Notre Dame students.

"We want their support before we go further in planning the packet," said Lewis senator Luciana Reali. "Eventually we want to distribute the book to more than freshman so all students can use it as a reference in the future."

◆ Student body vice president Brooke Norton informed the senate that tickets will be available for the BCS football bowl game if Notre Dame participates. However, they will be distributed in the form of a lottery, so if students want a better chance at winning tickets, they should also enter into the parent lottery, for which an application was already sent home.

◆ Zahm senator Ryan Becker informed



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

Diana Simpson stood before Notre Dame's Student Senate Wednesday night to describe the Women's Resource Center's role as a provider of information for students.

the senate that there will be mail service available in LaFortune. If students give mail to the LaFortune Information Desk, it will be mailed out the next morning.

◆ Senate unanimously approved professor Stuart Green as the faculty advisor to the student senate.

◆ Senate unanimously approved Scott

Palko as The Shirt Coordinator for 2000-2001.

◆ The office of the President encouraged senators to urge their dorms to join in the hall-decorating contest. They also informed the senate of "Finals Fun," or events sponsored by student government during finals week.

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## DeBartolo to remain open all night for exams

By MIKE CONNOLLY  
News Writer

Students looking for a large, quiet place to work during study days will have one more option this year.

Beginning Wednesday at 10 p.m. DeBartolo Hall will be open 24 hours a day to accommodate students' studying needs. All the seminar rooms and classrooms without computers will be unlocked and available for use by students.

"It is very beneficial to students trying to meet deadlines and complete projects," student government chief of staff Jay Smith said. "Student schedules are not always typical of most of society."

If the 24-hour availability of DeBartolo runs smoothly during study days, student body vice president Brooke Norton said DeBartolo might be permanently open 24 hours in the future.

During finals week, DeBartolo will be open from 9:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. so that students can prepare for their exams. DeBartolo was chosen as the new study area because of its size, according to Jenny Monahan, assistant to the vice president of student affairs.

"It provides the most amount of space for students," she said.

The auditoriums will not be available for student use during these times. Classrooms with computers will be locked but any students that

wishes to use one of the computers can request that the door be unlocked. The DeBartolo computer cluster will continue its normal hours.

Some classrooms will be unavailable for student use if professors have reserved them for review sessions. The times when these classrooms are reserved will be posted outside the door to the classroom.

The Office of the Provost, Student Affairs and student government started looking into the possibility of 24-hour access to DeBartolo Hall soon after Father Mark Poorman took charge of Student Affairs last May.

The biggest concern in opening DeBartolo 24 hours was security — especially theft by non-students.

"It wasn't from a student standpoint," Norton said. "But if all the doors are open to DeBartolo, that's a big building with a lot of equipment."

Locking the doors to classrooms with computers will hopefully eliminate some security concerns and will assure that students who really need to use the computers will be allowed to use them. Only students who need to use the computers will be allowed into computer rooms.

"They want to make sure only students are using it and students who need to use it, like business students preparing projects, get to use it," Norton said.

## Drug

continued from page 1

friends] were all over looking for me," she said. "They would have seen me at the apartments or where I ended up outside if I had been there because they searched the whole area."

The details that don't make sense that are most troubling to Katie. Upon returning home that weekend, Katie began to fathom the occurrences of that evening.

She became more and more confused about the events that transpired during the fateful night. After talking to her parents, she decided to see the doctor.

"I've never had sex before and so I was embarrassed because I was going to see a doctor and have tests for STDs, AIDS and a pregnancy test," said Katie. "I didn't realize anyone could

have done this to me. I was just thinking the whole time, 'what if I have an STD or AIDS or if I am pregnant? It can't be, it can't be. I have a future ahead of me with so many plans and I want to go to college.'"

Although she learned she wasn't pregnant immediately, it took a week for the other tests to come back. All of the tests for AIDS and STDs came back negative. Her doctor told her he couldn't tell if she had been raped. Although the covering in the vagina that is normally broken during intercourse was intact, the doctor said that it does not break for everyone who has intercourse.

The doctor was also unable to test to see if Katie had been given the date rape drug since it would have processed from her system by that time.

"My doctor said it was more than likely from everything I had told him. [My story was] very similar to another case he had seen where the girl had been given the date rape drug," she said. "He said that he was 99 percent sure I had been given 'roofies' in my drink that night."

For several years Laurel Eslinger, director of South Bend's Sex Offense Services (SOS), has been hearing from women like Katie who suspect that they have been given the date rape drug — but cannot remember all the details.

"We began hearing about incidents involving the drug about five years ago," she said. "We average about one case a month where a woman thinks

she has been given the drug and was raped."

"People would come in and say a chunk of time had elapsed that they had no memory of or were confused about and we kept seeing this pattern

emerge for about four years. This led us to believe they had been drugged in some way."

However, Eslinger said there is no way to verify when one has been given the drug in some situations.

"One of the problems is that samples need to be collected quickly after ingestion of the drug so by the time the victims wake up, realize what has happened, and want to take action, it is too late, so it is hard to conclusively prove what the person was given," she said.

And it's not just college students who are being given the drug, Eslinger said.

"This drug is being given to everyone," she said. "We need to see it as everyone's problem not just one that is specific to college campuses." GHB, con-

tained in "roofies" acts as a depressant on the central nervous system and can even account for amnesia for a period of time after ingestion.

Therefore, victims given the drug often cannot account for events that happened to them after ingesting the drug. It can take effect as quickly as 15 minutes after ingestion. Eslinger detailed signs that might indicate whether a person has been given the date rape drug.

"If you feel more intoxicated than usual from the amount of alcohol you have consumed, if you wake up and feel really hungover or can't account for some period of time, or if you feel someone has had sex with you but you can't remember any or all of the incident, these may be indications you've been given the drug," said Eslinger.

She has suggestions to prevent from being given the drug.

"One of the big things to remember is not to drink a beverage that you didn't pour or open yourself," she said.

"Also, don't share drinks, take drinks from a big punch bowl or a container that is being passed around and don't take drinks from stranger. If you are dancing or go to the bathroom, take the drink with you," she said.

Eslinger warns that everyone needs to be aware. "It's something everyone needs to be conscious of and unfortunately, it really does exist. It's very sad," she said.

Today, Katie is still coping with the experience.

"To tell you the truth, I don't think I feel the way I should feel," she said. "I'm grateful that everything was okay and I was so relieved when the tests came back and there was nothing wrong with me. I'm looking at it as a learning experience and especially after I got the test results back, I decided I was ready to move on."

## ROTC reaches out to help community

### ♦ Arnold Air Society hosts Field Day for needy children

By SHEILA FLYNN  
News Writer

Committed to both national and local service, the Arnold Air Society of Notre Dame's Air Force ROTC will host its annual Field Day, Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in

Stepan Center to provide local underprivileged children with a day of Christmas activities and entertainment.

Field Day has been held on the Notre Dame campus for over a decade, winning the Benjamin D. Foulois Squadron national acclaim in both 1996 and 1999, when the project earned them a Willie B. Mays Award. This year, over 100 children from organizations such as El Buen Vecino, YWCA, Girl Scouts, South Bend Center for the Homeless, Boys and Girls Club and the Charles Martin Youth Center have been invited to campus.

"It's a great service project," said Matt Murphy, president of the Arnold Air Society. "The kids have a great time, and so

does everyone else."

The scheduled activities include face painting, crafts, cookie decorating and games such as holiday musical chairs.

The highlight of the event is expected to be the arrival of Santa, who will present each child with a gift.

However, Santa and Air Force ROTC are not the only ones contributing to the event. A number of dorms including, Keenan, McGlenn and Dillon, have collected gifts by asking residents to donate a Christmas present in place of exchanging gifts at their dances.

Refreshments were donated by local pizza places, sub shops and Food Services.

In addition, the children will be entertained by a variety of Notre Dame performance groups. Members of the marching band, the Irish Guard, Troop ND, the pom squad, Stars and Stripes and the Air Force ROTC rifle team will be appearing.

"I have a great staff working with me and have received a lot of support from the squadron staff members and the Notre Dame community," said Kim Milford, event organizer.

She said, "Pulling off an event like Field Day is really all about teamwork and using your resources."

*"It's a great service project. The kids have a great time and so does everyone else."*

**Matt Murphy**  
president of the  
Arnold Air Society

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## Xaverian Brothers Volunteers

Brother Bonaventure Scully will be at the CSC on Friday, December 1st recruiting volunteers for Haiti, Kenya, and other sites.

Drop in from 9am-12pm or 2-5pm.



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## WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

**Guerillas kill 16 in India:** Suspected separatist guerrillas killed 16 people and wounded 20 Thursday in three attacks in India's northeastern Assam state, police said. Insurgents demanding a state have killed more than 10,000 people in the last decade. Seventy have been killed this month — most Hindi-speaking minorities who settled in Assam.

**Indonesia takes military action:** President Abdurahman Wahid ordered tough military action in far-flung secessionist provinces of Indonesia on Thursday, fearing that the world's fourth most populous country could break apart. In scenes uncomfortably reminiscent of the 32-year reign of former dictator Suharto, more than 1,000 troops and riot police paraded Thursday through Jayapura, capital of Irian Jaya province, on the eve of a big independence rally here.

## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**Kindergartner killed in bus crash:** A bus packed with children overturned within sight of their Kentucky elementary school Thursday, killing a 5-year-old kindergartner. More than 30 other children were taken to hospitals. State Police Trooper Chuck Robertson said the bus carrying 47 children apparently ran off the shoulder of the road and the driver overcorrected, sending the bus across both lanes before it overturned.

**Soccer mom guilty of assault:** A woman was found guilty of assault for her part in a brawl involving parents at a boys' soccer game. Jacqueline Lenon was ordered Tuesday to complete 20 hours of community service and was fined \$405. Municipal Judge Michael Dowgin also recommended that Lenon enroll in an anger-management program. She refused. Police said the fight Sept. 19 began after the two teams, one from New York City, the other from North Hunterdon, N.J., were about to begin a shootout to break a tie.

## INDIANA NEWS BRIEFS

**Lawsuit seeks roadblock arrests overturned:** A lawsuit filed in a Marion County court seeks to have potentially thousands of criminal convictions thrown out because they resulted from unconstitutional sobriety checkpoints. The lawsuit was filed this week after the Indiana Court of Appeals ruled that the police roadblocks violated the state constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against drug roadblocks conducted by Indianapolis police. The lawsuit against the state seeks to have an Indianapolis man's public intoxication conviction expunged because it resulted from a January 1997 roadblock by Marion County police.

## GERMANY



**A worker completes veterinarian tests at a Russian meat processing plant that all meat passes through before it is allowed to be processed. In Russia not a single case of mad cow disease has been reported to the Department of Stock Breeding of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation. The Veterinarian Service is preventing any infected animals from Europe from entering Russia.**

## Mad cow disease sparks new tests

Associated Press

**BERLIN**  
Anxious to calm public fears in Europe's mad cow crisis, German officials said Thursday they will introduce mandatory beef testing, check whether pastures spread the disease and possibly burn up huge stocks of animal feed in power plants.

German lawmakers late Thursday approved an immediate blanket ban on meat and bonemeal feed after the first German cows tested positive last week for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, as

the disease is formally known. The measure is to take effect Saturday.

Feeding animal meal to cattle has been banned in Germany since 1994, but officials want to help regain public confidence by extending the ban to other animals raised for slaughter.

Contaminated bone and animal meal in cattle feed are believed to cause mad cow disease. Some scientists suspect the disease causes a similar fatal brain-destroying ailment, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, in people who eat infected beef. Two people in

France and 80 in Britain have died from the human form of the disease.

In Brussels, Belgium, a European Union veterinary panel Thursday backed proposals for further testing of all cattle over 30 months of age in all of the union's 15 countries.

Illustrating the spread of the scare, non-EU countries also took new measures against the disease.

Switzerland said it will ban animal products in all livestock feed by March. The Czech Republic announced it will widen an existing ban on beef

and cattle imports from some EU nations to cover Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain.

Germans, long told that their beef was safe, were shaken by reports about the first mad cow cases in the country. Media reports say beef sales have decreased up to 50 percent.

"It's pretty drastic," said Marcus Girnau of the German Association of Food Retailers, which represents supermarkets. "Everyone is selling less beef, some none at all."

## NIGERIA

## Fire kills dozens after pipe burst

Associated Press

**LAGOS**  
Dozens of adults and children collecting gasoline from a gushing pipeline were burned alive Thursday when the pooling liquid exploded into flames, witnesses and oil company officials said.

There was no official figure for the number of victims, but witnesses and reporters estimated the dead at between 30 and 60.

The fire also destroyed shacks in nearby squatter camps at Atlas Cove near the Lagos port of Apapa.

The pipeline, owned by the state Nigerian National Petroleum Corp., carries refined fuel from the port to a depot where it is loaded on trucks and taken to Nigerian cities.

A state oil company official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there were many dead — people of all ages and both sexes — in the blast and fire, which he blamed on oil thieves.

Company spokesman Ndu Ughamadu said the number killed may never be known because relatives were collecting bodies to avoid prosecution.

The practice of "scooping," the name for the process of vandalizing and gathering fuel from pipelines, is common among impoverished Nigerians despite the risk of fire or harsh punishment.

Some government critics have accused corrupt officials of turning a blind eye to the practice in return for a share of the profits from fuel sales.

Residents said the pipeline began spouting fuel about a week before the blast, causing large pools to form on the ground.

Ughamadu said unidentified criminals were responsible for the leak.

### Market Watch 11/30

**DOW JONES** 10,414.49 -214.62  
 Same: 497  
 Composite Volume: N/A

**Nasdaq:** 2597.93 -109.00  
**S&P 500:** 1314.95 -26.96

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS			
COMPANY/SECURITY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	-7.37	-3.80	47.88
MICROSOFT CORP (MSFT)	-11.81	-7.68	57.38
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	+15.85	+3.62	26.50
INTEL CORP (INTC)	-10.97	-4.69	38.06
NASDAQ 100 SHAR (QQQ)	+0.07	+0.04	62.98

# Debt forgiveness policies changing

By EMILY ORR  
News Writer

According to the Nov. 2 edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education, the Department of Education passed new regulations regarding the responsibility of family members to repay loans after a student becomes disabled or dies. These regulations were created to help the department crack down on people who file false claims of disability or death to avoid repaying federal student loans.

Changes were made due to the large number of such claims made in the past, including a department study, which, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education, found that \$70 million in student loans were forgiven under fraudulent claims between July 1994 and Dec. 1996.

Under federal rules a disability refers to medical impairments, expected to continue indefinitely, that prevent a borrower from working and earning wages. A student cannot be considered totally and permanently disabled on the basis of a condition that existed at the time he applied for a loan, unless his condition substantially deteriorates.

Under the new regulations, department officials will conditionally approve a discharge for a loan borrower who becomes permanently disabled and then monitor the borrower's financial status for up to three years to ensure that the person does not begin to earn "significant" wages. If at the end of three years the borrower still meets requirements for receiving forgiveness of his loan, the department will permanently discharge the loan.

On tightening the regulation, senior Brian Dixon said it makes sense. People shouldn't be abusing the system and cheating others out of financial aid. Fellow senior Maureen Sullivan agreed with him.

"Suppose it's good because people who take advantage of it are just hurting other people. It takes away from people who really need [financial aid]," Sullivan said.

Under these new rules, colleges will be independently responsible for determining whether borrowers in the Perkins Loan Program, a campus-based program that provides low-cost loans to students, qualify to have their loans discharged. Due to the operational changes that will take place for lenders, colleges and the Education Department itself, the provisions will not go into effect until July 1, 2002.

However, as a result of falsification of death certificates that has taken place in the past, families will have to provide an original death certificate or a certified copy before a loan can be forgiven as of July 1, 2000.

The policy changes should not significantly affect Notre Dame's policy on debt forgiveness. According to Brenda Wardlow, the loan manager for Notre Dame students, there is no specific Notre Dame policy. Instead the school follows federal regulations regarding the forgiveness of debt for students with disabilities and the families of those who die.

Wardlow said that in the 30 years she has worked for the school, maybe half a dozen cases have been brought before her. This miniscule number of students attempting to gain debt forgiveness at Notre Dame demonstrates that the new policies will indeed have very little impact upon the school. As for the policy for students who die, Wardlow said, "As far as death, death certificates are pretty final. No one is trying to scam you."

# Election

continued from page 1

and two will be appointed by the chair. The vice president of elections chairs the body, making its total membership seven. The executive committee is responsible for voting, ballot distribution and other functional aspects of the election.

The final structural change will be executive liaisons, the president of the judicial council and a member from the student senate. These liaisons will keep the two bodies updated on all violations, hearing and appeals.

"I think there is a real difference in the organization," said Wagner. "There will be greater communication between the two bodies. It will be more efficient and this should help the candidates more than us."

## Hearings

Last year's student body election ended with one ticket being disqualified, declaring the remaining ticket the winner. Eventually the vote totals were announced and designated the same winner as the forfeit, but the event brought to the forefront the need for formal hearings.

"The new hearing process is more disciplined," Wagner said.

In the reformed system, allegations of misconduct must be reported to the vice president of elections, the election committee reviews the allegation and votes on its merit. If a majority of the election committee feels a hearing is necessary, both sides of the allegation will present their case, and a judgement will be made.

An appeal can be heard by the senate one week after the hearing. The senate should submit its decision in writing to the judicial council.

"By putting it in writing we can set a precedence for the future," said oversight co-chair Jessie Flores. "This will give some consistency because people will be able to go back and see what we did."

If the election committee disqualifies a candidate or the candidate forfeits after the primary election, a re-election will be given to the student body.

"You can't have a president by default," Bauters said. "You can't give the election to one person without looking at the ballots ... Ultimately, you should give the students a choice."

The two top remaining tickets will run for election and each may have a budget increase of \$35.

## The Campaign Process

In previous years, a single debate was held with all tickets. Because last year's debate contained few serious questions and answers, the oversight committee and judicial council proposed a new system that would allow each ticket to host a debate. The ticket would be required to invite a minimum of two other tickets, and judicial council would help facilitate the debate.

"People will be able to have more serious debates where they can cut to the heart of the matter," Hagan said. "They can make a debate as serious as they want."

When the proposal was presented to the senate Wednesday night, several senators felt this system would exclude some tickets and make the election process unfair.

"When I look at the new system, I see the spirit as solely to exclude," said Badin senator Shannon Bennett. "It means that we are naming some tickets joke tickets, and that is exclusive."

"I don't think it's up to us to decide, it is up to the student body," said Sorin senator Kevin Berchou. "What if someone gets lost in the shuffle?"

Stanford senator Curt Roberts proposed a compromise of having the large debate prior to the primary with all the tickets, and then a second debate following the primary election between the two run-off tickets.

"This will allow for each ticket to participate in one debate and also allow for a serious debate after the

primary," Roberts said.

The senate agreed and passed the new amendment calling for two debates. Bauters said he is happy with the compromise.

"The beauty of government is one group doesn't have all the power. When we sent the changes to the senate, I didn't expect it all to fly through without concerns," he said. "What we have now is a step in the right direction."

"I wasn't disappointed with senate," Wagner said. "Because they had concerns, it meant they read the document carefully, and that is important."

The election reform also changed other parts of the campaign process. The spending limit was increased to \$200 from \$150 and the campaign period is extended. Petitions for candidacy will be available the first Tuesday of next semester. As soon as a candidate has 300 signatures and is approved by the judicial council, they may begin campaigning.

Although e-mails were prohibited last year, they can be used this year with the exception of listserves.

Candidates are encouraged to create web sites and the judicial council will send an e-mail to all students with links to each ticket's web site.

Student will still vote in dorms, and all campaign material around polling station must be taken down 24-hours before the election.

"Nothing to do with the actual physical voting has been changed," Hagan said. "The way you cast your vote will remain the same."

## The Future

Overall, Hagan said the changes proposed to the senate came from a collaboration of several outside sources who had both new opinions and suggestions about how to avoid last year's problems.

"We had four different groups' input on this," Hagan said. "I think these changes are a very positive advancement which will have a positive impact on the election process from now on."

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## XXX

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE  
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

**GUATEMALA**

# For Guatemalan Mayans, mob killings were only answer

Associated Press

LAS CONCHAS, Guatemala  
When it came time to burn the five teen-agers alive, the gasoline flew in from all directions.

"I didn't know so many people had brought it," said Alfredo Coy, the self-proclaimed "president" of this sweltering Guatemalan mountain hamlet of 37 metal-roofed houses. "The public came ready to do what had to be done."

He was referring to the events of Tuesday, when 500 area men, women and children converged on this Q'eqchi' Indian village and did the only thing they thought would guarantee the safety of their families: They burned five suspected murderers to death, setting them on fire one by one as they begged for their lives.

Today, the charred remains of five

boys between the ages of 16 and 18 lie in blood-red heaps inside morgue lockers — vile reminders both of Guatemala's losing battle against common crime and of its horrific inclination toward vigilante violence.

The teens, whose bodies are so charred they will probably never be identified, rode a bus to this remote, mountainous corner of central Guatemala, looking to kill. What they didn't count on was that the normally peaceful villagers were just as ready for violence.

Before dawn Tuesday, police say, the teens ambushed a local man and his 8-year-old son, shooting the man to death to steal the 400 quetzales — \$52 — he was carrying to buy meat and salt at a local market. The killers disappeared into the mountains.

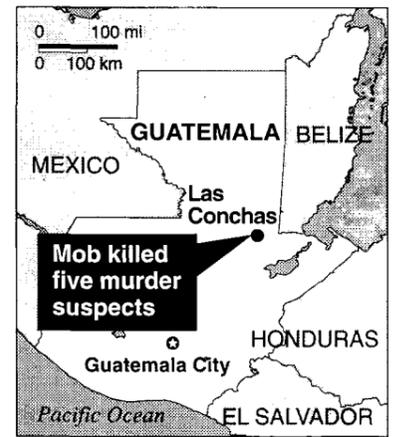
As news of the slaying spread, locals

from dozens of nearby villages congregated outside a small shop of mud-caked wooden walls and plotted what would soon become a murderous man-hunt.

"The peasants were not going to rest until those responsible were dead," said Julia Sic, 21, owner of the shop, who watched the burnings from her store. "There was no excitement. There was calm and there was planning."

When the mob found the boys in a nearby forest, they beat them, confiscated their two pistols and three plastic toy guns and escorted them back to this village, 200 miles northeast of Guatemala City.

The locals sat their captives in a circle and staged a public "trial" during which each of the teens fingered another for the killing.



AP

died. About 500 of us understood that this was necessary because these men committed such a terrible crime."

Barely a day later, life was back to normal in this valley of banana trees, rare tropical orchids and head-high cornfields. Barefoot children chased chickens through tall weeds, and roosters — confused by the highlands altitude — crowed all day long.

The red-clay ravine where the locals burned their victims might be a nice place to picnic under different circumstances. But today, huge yellow-and-black butterflies drift listlessly over piles of ashy evidence of death.

A blood-soaked collar lies beside a charred shirt with a traditional Mayan stripe pattern. A melted phone card and a blackened Kansas City chiefs baseball cap lie a few feet away.

Mob violence has now claimed 28 victims this year in Guatemala, a figure that pales in comparison to last year's tally of 48 deaths and to the 52 Guatemalans who were killed in vigilante violence in 1998.

When it became clear that the public saw no room for clemency, the locals doused the five boys with gasoline. Seconds later, matches were lit.

"I didn't feel anything. I wasn't happy, I wasn't sad," said Francisco Cau, a 36-year-old corn farmer who said he only watched. "But lots of people applauded as the criminals



**VEHICLE TRAINING DATES FOR SPRING 2001**

The Following dates are the **ONLY** dates vehicle training will be offered. No exceptions will be made. If you were trained Fall 2000 you do not need to be retrained.

- Sunday January 28, 2000
- Sunday February 4, 2000
- Thursday February 8, 2000
- Wednesday February 14, 2000
- Sunday March 4, 2000

All sessions will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Room 124 at the CSC

**REMINDERS:**

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# Anthrax vaccine program to dwindle, supplies running out

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Because of dwindling vaccine supplies, the Pentagon will cut back further on its plan to immunize all troops against the deadly anthrax virus, officials announced Thursday.

Under the change, only troops that will serve in the Persian Gulf for at least 30 days will receive the shot, said spokesman Kenneth Bacon. Forces deployed in South Korea, the only others currently receiving the vaccine under a program curtailed to preserve scarce supplies, no longer will be vaccinated.

"Given the fact that Saddam Hussein has used chemical weapons in the past against Iran and against the Kurdish minority in his own country, we assess the risk to be greater in Iraq than we do right now in the Korean Peninsula," Bacon said.

"This is in order to conserve supplies while continuing to protect the people going to the highest-threat area," he said.

The Defense Department's only vaccine supplier, Bioport of Lansing, Mich., has experienced delays in obtaining certification and starting up its new manufacturing plant, which may not be operational for another year.

The Pentagon at first wanted to vaccinate all service members but cut back in the summer to only those serving in the Persian Gulf area and in Korea. Usage is running at about 17,000 doses a month.

The supply has since fallen to about

60,000 doses, meaning there is enough to give 5,000 shots a month to Gulf troops for a year, Bacon said. He said officials hope Bioport will have approval and be producing more vaccine by the third or fourth quarter of next year, and the Pentagon is working to find an alternate supplier as well.

Bacon said the military will save some 12,000 doses a month by temporarily discontinuing the program in South Korea, where the United States has helped maintain an armistice with North Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean conflict.

He also asserted once again that the program is safe.

A relatively small, but vocal, number of military members have refused to take the vaccine, saying they fear potentially dam-

aging side effects.

"We continue to believe that that anthrax vaccine is the best protection against a biological threat that is 99 per-

cent lethal. It is safe," Bacon said. "And we will continue our program at the current level in the Gulf, and then ramp it up as soon as we can."

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WHERE: CSC Coffee House  
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# Gore seeks court-ordered recount, Bush sees flaws in system

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. Al Gore's lawyers framed their arguments to Florida's Supreme Court Thursday as an appeal for the ages, one that could save the right to vote from an assault that would undermine its very foundations.



Gore

George W. Bush's legal team saw the issue differently.

In Florida, said attorney Barry Richard, the law "has been followed. There has to be an end point."

While a truck brought 462,000 ballots — the first batch of 1.1 million ballots — to the state capital, Gore's lawyers implored the state Supreme Court to step in and get the votes recounted immediately.

Republicans, meanwhile, asked Sauls to order an additional 1.2 million ballots brought to Tallahassee from Volusia, Broward and Pinellas counties, said Bush campaign spokesman Scott McClellan. The judge has not yet considered the request.

"We believe there were a number of illegal votes for Gore in those counties," McClellan said.

While saying the Bush campaign believes that "the manual recount is fundamentally flawed," McClellan said lawyers filed the motion because "if there is to be another manual recount, it should not be another selective one designed by and for the vice president."

Unless the ballots are counted before Dec. 12, they said, it will be too late.

"No legal judgment can correct any error found after the electoral votes are cast," their appeal said. "Only the judgment of history will be left to be rendered on a system that was unable or unwilling to ascertain the will of the vot-

ers." The 50-page legal brief repeatedly quoted from the justices' own decision that allowed vote recounts and said the right of voters to be heard was paramount.

If votes are not recounted by the time Florida electors need to be chosen — Dec. 12 — the briefs said, "the resulting controversy about the legitimacy of the presidency would be destructive for our country."

Republican Bush's lawyers said at a news conference that county and state officials were correct in certifying election results, even though machines had rejected many ballots.

"It doesn't matter how many times somebody says everybody's ballot should be counted," said Richard. Gore's lawyers "haven't asked for everybody's ballot to be counted in the first place," he said.

"And in the second place, we're not talking about ballots that were not counted, other than ballots that were rejected because the machine determined they weren't

properly marked."

As Gore's lawyers filed their papers, a truck loaded with ballots was zooming along Florida highways in a 400-mile trip to deliver Palm Beach County's 400,000 ballots to the state capital. It was the first of two road trips ordered by Circuit Court Judge Sanders Sauls. On Friday, Miami-Dade County officials planned to send their 600,000 ballots in another convey.

Bush supporters mounted a noisy demonstration around the Florida Supreme Court, driving around in trucks, cars and a Batmobile with loudly beeping horns and signs such as, "Al Gore Go Home!" Helicopters whirred overhead, adding to the din. An unaffiliated prayer group gathered outside the court, singing hymns, wailing for help from Jesus and bowing their heads in prayer.

The state's high court closed down for the day without a decision.

"We're putting a lid on the rest of the day," court

spokesman Craig Waters told reporters at about 6:30 p.m. "There will be no further action from this court."

He said the justices continued to deal with their regular schedule of oral arguments during the day, but added: "This case is on an expedited track."

The Gore lawyers have criticized Sauls for not moving fast enough. He has refused to rule on the recount issue until he hears legal arguments Saturday. But in their Supreme Court brief they said they felt "respect and empathy" for the judge whose actions would be considered speedy in normal circumstances.

"However," said the brief, "these are not normal circumstances."

"We do not casually seek such intervention by this court," the lawyers said. "We are here because we believe that this is the only way to ensure that the precious right of Floridians to vote and have their votes counted will be protected."

## Florida's lawmakers urge special session

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. Florida's Republican Legislature is ready to jump in and do what an election so far hasn't been able to — make George W. Bush president. Al Gore's camp says the lawmakers could cause a constitutional crisis.

A legislative committee voted Thursday to recommend to state House and Senate leaders that they call a special session "as soon as practicable" to name Florida's

presidential electors. Top lawmakers said it would probably happen early next week.

The vote brought a strong reaction from Democrat Al Gore's running mate, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, who said it was "just wrong and sets a terrible precedent" for other states' lawmakers to meddle in future presidential elections.

"It threatens to put us into a constitutional crisis, which we are not in now by any stretch of the imagination," Lieberman said. He accused the Florida Legislature of trying to make an "end run" around the election.

Republicans say the U.S. Constitution allows them to step in because the legal wrangling over who won Florida could drag past the Dec. 12 deadline for naming voters to the Electoral College, putting in jeopardy the state's participation.

Democrats challenge that notion, saying the state has certified Bush the winner and the only thing that could put that in question would be if Gore won his court challenge.

Bush, asked in Texas about the situation, said simply: "I've won three counts and I think it's time to get some

finality to the process."

House Speaker Tom Feeney and Senate President John McKay would have to call for a special session and could do so as early as Friday. The session could begin Monday, but staff members said Tuesday was more likely.

Bush's younger brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, was still holding out the possibility that Gore's court challenges might be settled in the Republicans' favor, making legislative intervention moot.

"I don't believe it should be done unless there is uncertainty," Jeb Bush said. "If this could be cleared prior to Dec. 12 then, clearly, the Legislature doesn't have to act."

But he said he was willing to sign into law a bill creating a slate of electors "if the bill is acceptable."

"I can't recuse myself from my constitutional duties as governor of the state and I can't recuse myself, frankly, of being my brother's brother either," Bush said.

Meanwhile, both candidates turned to the U.S. Supreme Court, Republican Bush defending the lawmakers' power to get involved and Gore challenging it.

"It is not self-evident that such direct legislative appointment is even available" under federal law, Gore's lawyers argued.

But Bush's lawyers said in their filing that "the Constitution specifically assigns the power to determine the manner of appointing presidential electors to the state legislature."

Republicans outnumber Democrats 102-58 in the Legislature and Democrats accused them of charging into a session to protect Bush's 537-vote win in Florida from the possibility that Gore would be found in a legal contest to have won.

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 ~Your Roommates

# VIEWPOINT

THE  
OBSERVER

page 10

Friday, December 1, 2000

## THE OBSERVER

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about The Observer to meet the editors and staff

### POLICIES

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame du Lac and Saint Mary's College. Editorial content, including advertisements, is not governed by policies of the administration of either institution. The Observer reserves the right to refuse advertisements based on content.

The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editor and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Connolly.

## Res Life prevents student responsibility

When minor students were cited in the Finnigan's bar raid in October, they faced court dates, community service, fines and the task of telling their parents that they had been arrested.

Students seemed ready to own up to the mistakes they made. However, by sending letters to the parents of cited students and automatically adding the \$100 fine from their student account, the

University interfered and failed to let the students take responsibility for their own mistakes.

Most student account bills are paid by their parents. Adding the fines for the Finnigan's incident from students' accounts is a near guarantee that their parents, not the students themselves, will be fielding the consequences for these violations. Students were not given any options for payment of the fines by any other option

on their own.

All other fines issued by the University, such as those assessed in conjunction with parking tickets, alcohol in hallways and other duLac violations, come with payment options. The same measures should be adopted by the Office of Residence Life in regard to the fines issued in the Finnigan's bust. Placing the responsibility for the repercussions of the Finnigan's incident on the students assures the students the opportunity to exercise the responsibility and judgement they were initially lacking.

## The Observer Editorial

## Putting different spins on the election

Last night I sat a block from the White House at McPhearson Square, waiting in the rain for a friend. Two dozen homeless persons began lining up along the sidewalk waiting for a soup truck to feed them. Eventually, more than seventy men and women of all ages and races had been feed, oblivious to who should or will win the White House located just around the corner.

A "Friends Don't Let Friends Vote Republican" sticker is proudly displayed next to the Gore/Lieberman sticker on the rear of my van. It was my attempt to put a little humor and create a tongue-in-cheek atmosphere around my personal involvement in the presidential campaign. In fact, I got a kick out of driving in front of Texas Senator Phil Gramm's car in October, but the humor has since subsided.

Many Democrats believe, and every top Gore official I've spoken with agree that on election day more voters went to the polls in Florida and cast what they thought were votes for Al Gore. Republicans obviously believe that the total is the total and George W. Bush won. But it is the nasty turn of rhetorical rancor that has poisoned the post presidential contest.

Initially, the Republican T-shirts with "Enough is Enough" and "The Count is the Count" adequately summarized their opinions. Some other cute phrases included, "My child is an honor student at the Electoral College," "Don't blame me, I voted for Gore twice" and "Thank me, I meant to vote for Gore!"

However, the tone quickly changed with such signs and bumper stickers that personally attacked Democrats.

For example, "Daley Like Daddy," a Wheaties cereal box with Gore's picture and the word "Cheaties" on it and "Sore/Loserman" signs with the Gore/Lieberman logo on it clearly implied that Democrats were less than honorable. Disrespect for the elderly and certain counties in Florida were evident in "Eye graduated from Paum Beech Elementree," and "Vote for Gore: at least three times."

The bitterness escalated when House Majority Whip Tom Delay and Republican Conference Chairman J.C. Watt both flatly said that Democrats were trying to steal the election. The rancor continued to rise when a mob of Republican protesters stormed the Miami-Dade County room where the recount board was meeting. Interestingly, a staff member from Tom Delay's office was in the second row chanting and firing up the troops.

Most Democrats were absolutely livid when Republicans suggested that Democrats were against the military's rights to vote by trying to void overseas ballots. One high ranking Democrat pointed out that the bitterness has exceeded the level during the President's impeachment in 1998. He pointed out that Republicans first quoted statistics that indicated that more than 70 percent of Broward County's absentee ballots were rejected by Democratic challenges and then implied that all of those were military ballots. The fact was that only six military ballots were rejected, some because they were postmarked after election day, which is a clear violation of the law.

Democrats believe that the fiasco with the so-called "butterfly" ballot was a fate that went against them, but was not the deciding factor. The discourse could have gone on about how to count ballots and could have remained somewhat civil. However, when the Bush team challenged the validity of hand counts, and portrayed the Florida Supreme Court as a partisan Democratic tool, they focused their rhetoric not on the rule of law,

but at the attempt of stealing the election.

As a result, the old scorch-the-earth approach to politics we thought had ended with New Gingrich's departure was the business as usual. Should Bush become president, the Delays and Watts of the congressional arena have done no favors for him in extending across the aisle to Democrats. Ironically, it did not have to become such a spin of rhetoric over the recount. Until the Florida Supreme Court ruling, it was a matter of waiting for the judicial process to decide.

Another irony in this saga is the reversal of the party's support. Usually, Republicans believe in states' rights, until now. They want a federal standard to overturn the local and state laws that purposely leave wide discretion to the county recount boards. Democrats usually support federal standards in favor of a universal, across-the-board leveling of the field. Yet Republicans have chastised Democrats about using the Florida election law which relies on local decisions.

We are truly witnessing an historical period. The election recount had been keeping the nation transfixed, but is now slowly losing that level of attention. Regardless of who eventually wins the contest, public opinion is not the deciding factor, the law is. Soon we will know the outcome of Florida according to the law, and half of us will not like the decision.

The next couple of years are going to be difficult for everyone.

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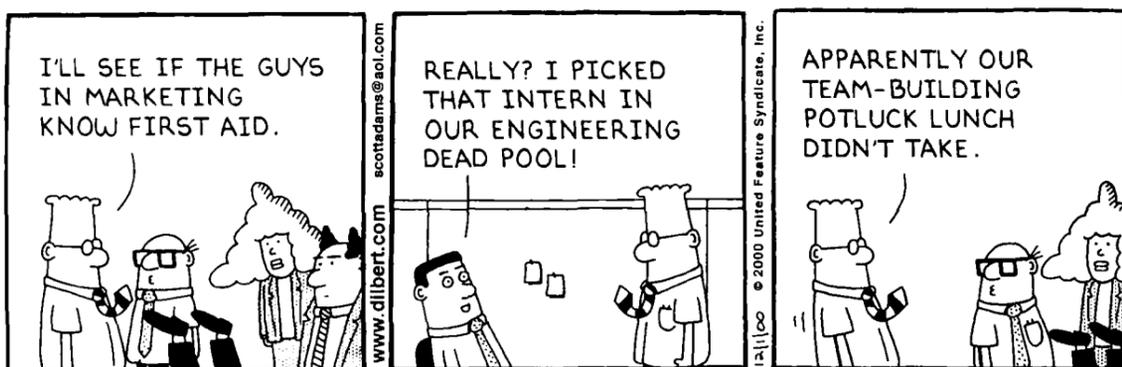
*The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer*



Gary Caruso

Capital  
Comments

### DILBERT



SCOTT ADAMS

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You've gotta lose 'em some time. When you do, lose 'em right."

Casey Stengel  
baseball manager

## Curtailing domestic disputes

Living with someone can often be difficult. After freshman year, there should be no roommate problems. After all, when you pick your roommates, what can go wrong? Right? Well, somehow, squabbles manage to surface among even the best of friends. That is, unless you follow my manual.

You see, there is only one thing to fight over in a dorm room or any other co-existing relationship. Garbage. That's because more people under the same roof should translate into less work; but it never does. Psychologists have come up with an explanation to this phenomenon. It is called "social loafing."

According to this theory, every member of the living unit believes that he gets the mail, cleans the dorm, and takes out the garbage every single day, but the place is never clean, the mail is never gotten, and the garbage piles up to unsanitary levels.

After a recent argument with my roommate over trash procedure, I decided to consult the Constitution. Nowhere in this "all-encompassing" document is there a reference to private trash removal. Frustrated and helpless, I decided to make my own Constitution. What follows is a step by step explanation of the procedure by which the garbage is emptied. If used correctly, this document should settle all trash disputes and therefore, prevent all non-financial roommate disputes from now until the end of time.

Step one: recognition.

The key is to recognize that the garbage needs to be taken out. This is very important, as there are varying degrees of "need." The first stage of need is when the highest level of refuse reaches above the rim of the can.

Step two: notification.

At this point, the person who realizes the trash situation has reached level one, must, in a voice that is loud and intelligible enough for at least one other resident to hear, call out, "The garbage needs to be taken out." This accomplishes two things. First, it moves the process from the recognition to the notification stage. Second, it absolves the "notifier" from any further obligation in the trash-removal procedure. Recognizing and sharing the problem is work enough, and for that one person to do the whole job himself would undermine the character and fabric of communal living.

Step three: cornering.

Post-notification, the pile of juice boxes, banana peels and Ramen wrappers will reach a point where it becomes unsteady. To stabilize the heap, a person must slowly drag the can along the floor into the nearest corner. The two walls will serve as a crutch, buying the inhabitants crucial study and Sega time before step four.

Step four: compaction.

Josh Kirley

Swift's  
Confederate



After cornering, it becomes increasingly important to follow rubbish protocol. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in severe penalties. For an egregious infraction, the offending party will be designated as the one to go down and meet the pizza delivery guy. He will have this duty for a specified period of time not to exceed six weeks.

Level four of trash removal involves compaction. Compaction should not occur until a piece of garbage cannot be placed on top of the existing stack without falling off itself, or dislodging another portion (Jenga rules apply). After three unsuccessful attempts to add one more piece of garbage, this same person must (as a penalty for their incompetence) compact the existing pile.

In a proletariat domicile, you will have a garbage bag or liner. In this case, you will stretch the plastic, using it as a glove, then press down on the trash until you can safely balance more on top.

Many people are not fortunate enough to have such a luxury. These blue-collar masses will pull the cleanest, widest thing out of the can and place it on top. Empty cases of beer, Grab and Go bags, or Observers work well. Using the clean trash as a sanitary barrier, push down, increasing the density of the garbage.

In later stages of compaction, it may become necessary to step on the sanitation barrier, using your body weight as a compaction device.

Step five: reinforcement.

After several compactions and three more unsuccessful places, it is time to take out the garbage. For this, a trash bag (or reasonable facsimile) is required. Extra trash bags are stored between the existing liner and the trash can in the nearest public restroom. To empty, you place the inverted bag over the precarious pile of trash and slide it down over the bin, turning the bin upside down, and shaking it violently while you, the shaker, jump up and down.

Step six: finale.

After a knot is tied with the bag, the reinforcer sets the sealed bag down in a place where no person can walk into or out of the front door without tripping over it. In doing so, he is exempt from any further role in the trash removal procedure. This also serves as a message to others to, well, to do something. I'm not really sure what. I think that's what the argument was about. But, anyway, the next person knows what to do, and it goes somewhere from there. I think that this is where the cycle repeats itself.

Disclaimer: This manual will only prevent disputes in an all male-environment. Female disputes tend to be more arbitrary and difficult to pinpoint.

Josh Kirley is a '99 graduate of the University. He currently lives and teaches in Cape Coral, Florida. He can be reached at MrKirley@aol.com.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Recognizing all our faults

Marc Echeveste's Nov. 29 letter addresses the alienation he feels from the Catholic Church's teachings on homosexuality. Being gay himself, he struggles very much with the idea that he has been picked out from the rest of the Church as objectively disordered, and that it could possibly be that God "made a mistake" with him and other gay people.

I write this letter to simply point out that this is a serious misunderstanding of the Church's teaching and to set the record aright, as this reaction to the Catholic Church's thoughts on this subject is very common among the gay community.

The fact of the matter is that neither Mr. Echeveste nor any other gay person has been picked out by the Catholic Church as disordered. Rather, the Catholic Church professes that every single person, every human who has walked the earth since the beginning, has been objectively disordered. (With the notable exceptions of Mary the Mother of God and Jesus himself).

I have many, many disordered passions inclining me towards sinful behavior. Every one of us does. God has not "made a mistake" with us; rather due to original sin all humanity has suffered under the burden of disordered passions. That the homosexual inclination is one of these passions for many sincere Christians is simply a painful fact of life.

It is essential for the Catholic Church to point out the defects in human character that are the disordered passions. If it did not do so, it would not be fulfilling its role as a prophetic witness to the life of Christ.

It is up to us individually with our confessors and God to work out how we can live with these passions and still be good Christians (And here, of course, my own confessors who are reading this nod their heads and weep at the thought of what we deal with together).

In the modern era, psychiatrists counsel us to be a sort of least-common-denominator "normal." In past days people did not visit their headshrinker but rather their priest, and (for free!) people worked out with their confessors how to live lives of holiness. We are not called to be "normal." We are called to be holy.

Indeed, we are all called to be saints. Saints are not people who have never sinned. They are sinners just like us who have kept trying in spite of their weaknesses. The Church defines itself when it names saints. We are then, corporately, a pilgrim people, broken and shattered by each of our objective disorders, made whole again in the Body of Christ.

It is only however through the cross of dealing with our individual inclinations to sin that we make good our promise and our Baptism.

Nathaniel Hannan

junior

Dillon Hall

November 30, 2000

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Debating the possible ordination of women

#### Questioning papal infallibility

I am writing in response to Carolyn Torson's letter in Thursday's Observer ("Keep the Pants on Priests").

I cringe whenever I see someone introduce papal writings into a dialogue as if they are fact rather than interpretation. Ms. Torson's letter implies that she believes in papal infallibility, which as a rhetorical device proves extremely weak. Papal infallibility is, by all objective reasoning, a political tool used by Rome to secure power among her followers.

There are two problems with infallibility.

First, it is a circular argument. How do we know that the Pope is infallible? Because he said so as a matter of doctrine, and the Pope is never wrong about doctrine. Any philosophy professor will point out the faults of this reasoning to you.

Secondly, the Pope has been wrong before. The Church, as a matter of infallible doctrine

under Urban VIII, held that the earth was at the center of the universe and arrested Galileo for it. Obviously we aren't the center of the universe. Now here's the thing about infallibility: If you're wrong just once, then you aren't infallible. Simple as that. You can't base infallibility on a high rate of accuracy; you have to be right 100 percent of the time. The Pope was wrong, hence the papacy is not infallible.

God gave you a good brain; use it and don't depend on someone in Rome to think for you. If you seriously consider the issue, there is no reason why women cannot perform priestly duties just as well as men.

Chris DesBarres

sophomore

Sorin Hall

November 30, 2000

#### Upholding the Church's teachings

Since Pope John Paul II, the Vicar of Christ, has made it clear (to anyone using even half their brain to listen) that the Catholic Church is not in the business of ordaining women because Christ did not give it authority to do so, I see no harm in the Commission on Notre Dame's Position examining the possibility of ordaining them, whatever that is supposed to mean. Maybe it will keep the members of the Commission who dissent from the clear teaching and tradition of the Church from engaging in more harmful examinations of other impossible positions. God bless.

Rev. John Patrick Riley, C.S.C.

Pastor

Sacred Heart Parish

November 29, 2000

## My room's better

*Scene searched high and low to find the most creative and impress*

photos  
and  
text by

AMANDA GRECO

Determining a winner is never an easy task — look no further than the presidential elections for proof of that. But selecting the best dorm room around was a different challenge altogether.

The final decision was difficult not because of faulty vote tallies or the voters, inability to punch a card. Each contestant showed such true merit that while only one room will receive the title of "Best on Campus," each of the following rooms is commendable for the character exhibited by both the furnishing of the room and its inhabitants. Few students were brave enough to put their room to the test in this competitive race for prestige (Note: There was a disappointing lack of nominations for females, rooms on either side of US 31.) Here they are, some of the top rooms on campus.

### 457 KEOUGH HALL

#### Best Room on Campus

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, this room takes the cake. Nominations for this room came from both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. Scene even received an e-mail from a student at Hope College who was so impressed with this room that, upon hearing of the fierce competition taking place, felt she had to let us know just how unique this room is.

Juniors Ed Marks, Joe Feehan, Will Bruckert, Joseph Dwyer, Anhtuan Do and Shane McIlhenny, the men of 457 Keough, were intent on impressing the judges, and success is theirs. The focal point of their six-man arrangement culminates in their social room.

Upon first approach, one sees a regular West Quad door framed by garland, with a standard issue bulletin board on the side.

The bulletin board is the only standard feature to be found in this room, however. Adorning the bulletin board is an odd box covered in blue plush carpeting.

Upon closer inspection, one sees that this is a lock box. Because of the nature of the room set-up and rules regarding the copying of University keys, this box

holds the two keys issued for room 457. Each of the six men who take credit for the room has his own key to allow access to the lock box.

Open the door and it is hard to see what separates this room from any other. Yet with the push of a button, insta-Christmas is beheld. All powered by a remote control, Christmas lights around the doorway and ceiling — along with two small Christmas trees and candles in the window — begin to glow. With the help of a satellite dish, a never-ending supply of holiday music is channeled through the speakers.

The floors of this room are covered in the same blue carpeting seen on the lock box. Floors, you ask? Yes. Floors. There are, in all, three levels in 457 Keough and what some might consider a basement.

On the first floor sits two couches and one heck of an impressive entertainment center. Equipped with a 36-inch television, DVD player, two VCRs, satellite television, several video game systems and a five-disc compact disc changer, it's easy to see why there are nine remote controls on the table — a table the boys built themselves to match

the rest of the room.

In the corner stand two refrigerators built into their own cubby with cabinets on top, a counter and a built-in terrarium housing a chameleon above it all.

The mini blinds were hand painted by the residents of 457 to display a blue "ND" outlined in gold, surrounded by green shamrocks.

All of the additions in this room — cabinets, table, separations between floors — were hand-built by the residents using a lovely color of wood paneling.

The second level is separated from the floor by a mobile staircase, featuring the signature blue carpet and wood paneling that gives the room its class. This level is perhaps the most ingenious display of carpentry seen in any dorm room.

Comprised of several sections that allow for easy disassembly, the floor of the second level disguises what the men estimate to be 150 square feet of storage. Lift the center section of the floor or move the stairs and open the paneling and one will see the "basement" feature — arguably one of the most practical facets of this room. Here, the residents store golf clubs, boxes, suitcases and a subwoofer for their entertainment system.

Atop this floor rests yet another couch. Next to this couch stands another hand-built cabinet center with a built-in aquarium, home to five fish and a crab.

Set in the paneling on either side of the aquarium are two of the seven speakers comprising the massive, theatre quality sound system showcased in the room.

Above the aquarium sits a projector that displays DVDs or videos on a 94-inch screen hanging in the opposite corner of the room. This screen can be raised or lowered all by the spin of a boat steering wheel hanging on the wall.

The multi-level lights beneath the aquarium provide entertainment for the men as they challenge their guests to turn them on. With no visible switches, the lights, function may seem an enigma. All one has to do, however, is touch the screws in the paneling beside the lights to turn them on.

This same lighting feature is seen on the bunk-futon that also sits on the second level. The underside of the top bunk houses four of these lights, one for each person seated on the lower level. The futon is fully functional as a bed, as most futons are, but being a bunk-futon, it also creates the third level in the room.

The top level of the futon, accessible by ladder, has been equipped with paneling and carpet and holds a beanbag, throw pillows and the cushion from a circular chair. There is not a bad seat in the house for viewing movies, and rumor has it that as many as 31 people have fit "comfortably" in this double.

One cannot overlook the tasteful décor of the room. The men never stray from their theme of blue plush and panel. From the posters on the wall, to the classic cabinet-encased dart board, to the six blue and gold stockings — one for each resident — hand-made by Joe's mom, to the lava and bubble lamps and fiber optic light displays — this room is a designer's dream come true.

The men of 457 worked hard through the first weeks of school to create their masterpiece. The initial unveiling took place for the viewing of the first away football game in late September. However, it is a continual process of improvement as they strive to create their own Nirvana.

Having constructed the most high-tech, classy and comfortable yet practical space in any dormitory, it is with honor that we bestow upon the residents of 457 Keough the honor of Best Room on Campus.



Anhtuan Do, Joseph Dwyer, Shane McIlhenny, Ed Marks, Joe Feehan and Will Bruckert (left to right, top to bottom) have the best room around — all three levels of it!



From the top of the third tier, one can take in the whole room, from double fridges, to terrarium, to the entertainment system — complete with DVD and CD player, two VCRs and several video game systems.

# Inside

continued from page 1

sponsoring a Christian rock concert in the spring, but the scale and cost of the even have proven too much for the group to handle.

University funds are often not great enough for government to afford bigger venues to visit campus, said Jay Smith, student government chief of staff. The group has since reformed its concert planning and downsized the program to ensure its production.

Student government plays a game of political hokey-pokey, with one hand in students' needs and the other in administrative concerns. When students want something, it's often government who goes straight to the top to "shake it all about."

The group has always had an advisor, according to Edgington, who has overseen the group since early July. The director of Student Activities has usually been that advisor. Edgington tries to meet with O'Donoghue and Norton in person at least once a month, but keeps in casual contact with them on a regular basis through e-mails and phone calls. She also sees Norton every week when she oversees Student Senate meetings.

Whether it's getting a thumbs-up on a new diversity panel or an OK on Gravitron in front of Rolfs, the group heads to Edgington and fellow administration for advice.

"[I work with government] hopefully helping get things passed," said Bill Kirk, vice president of Student Affairs. Kirk, whose most visible student government role is as member of the Campus Life Council, acts as a sort of guide in getting things done.

On occasion Kirk serves as head of a smaller scale Congress, aiding government with "constituent

interests" and meeting with student senators to facilitate student needs.

Like Edgington, Kirk pushes the group in the right direction when it comes to planning projects and proposing new government initiatives. When there are cotton candy Founder's Day issues, Kirk sends government to Food Services for help. Programs like the new Rector's Endowment Fund go through many steps of administrative approval, O'Donoghue said, including those by the Office of Student Affairs.

According to Smith, Father Mark Poorman, vice president for Student Affairs, has been a big advocate for more 24-hour space on campus. Student government has engaged in talks with him to extend DeBartolo Hall hours until 4 a.m. during finals week, with hopes of a future 24-hour extension.

With all this contact with administration, it makes one wonder when government has the time to talk with students. It seems their greatest input comes from familiar sources: friends.

Smith says that he likes to "pick friends' brains" on topics like du Lac revisions and a possible weekly student e-mail of campus events. Student government members come from different backgrounds, he added, noting that this helps when getting a greater consensus of student input.

What about the students who don't know Smith, or O'Donoghue or even their hall senator? How are their concerns heard? This is something Smith says the group is working to improve.

According to Smith, about 500 — 1,000 people attended the Founder's Day event throughout the course of the day.

The event was a failure because of overall low attendance, Smith said, but "everyone who went

thought it was a great thing." Student government, however, has not yet gathered responses from students.

There was a follow-up meeting regarding the event with administration and groups involved in the planning. There was no meeting, though, to learn student reaction. Smith says the government is also looking to form student focus groups beginning in January. Norton and O'Donoghue also have met with the Office of Student Affairs and students will now for the first time be allowed in the Board of Trustees winter meeting in Washington.

Student Senate serves as the most visible mediator between student concerns and the main branch of government. According to Smith, there is not a great deal of interaction between the Senate and the Office of the President. While there is a weekly report from the office at every meeting, Smith says that the branches run independent of each other.

"It seems that Senate has had its own agenda," he said, and the same is true for the Office of the President. Because of this, he added, there can be a great deal of overlap between the two groups. Some topics do reach both avenues, including the University alcohol policy, an issue the government hopes the Board of Trustees will address at their winter meeting. The Senate offered help and support after the Board approved student involvement in the spring semester meeting.

Edgington, though, disagrees. There is "a lot of communication between the two bodies," she said. If there are disagreements between the Senate and the Office of the President, they aren't aired at Senate meetings, Edgington added, but behind closed student government doors.

# Opinion

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here," said Rothrauff.

However, Rothrauff said student government was making an effort to branch out to many students and provide events.

"I think they're making a better effort to do more and to find out what students think about things but I still think it's difficult with all the red tape in the University," said Rothrauff. "There could always be more but I think they make a really good effort."

She added that one advantage to being involved with student government was that she knew what was going on, but at the same time, she said that perpetuated an "inside group."

"There definitely is the select group ... especially when you go beyond freshmen year, you're kind of in it until you graduate," said Rothrauff, who decided to leave student government after her first year.

Sophomore Christine Bryant never had an interest in getting involved in student government, but said student government makes a good effort to appeal to students who do want to become involved.

"I think [student government does] a good job since there are so many students that you never can please all of them," said Bryant.

Bryant has joined clubs that target a more specific interest group such as the

Society of Women Engineers, Asian American Association and the Texas Club. Bryant also volunteers.

Because of these other time commitments, Bryant, like Romero and Rothrauff, cannot fit the events into her schedule.

"Another reason I don't attend student government events is sometimes they are just at bad times," said Bryant.

However, Bryant also said student government could work on making it more known to the students what it actually does.

"I can't think of many student government events even though I know there are a lot ... they need to distinguish themselves more."

Bryant did attend an event that involved movies and dinner and said that was a more effective way to catch her interest.

"I don't enjoy or don't care for some of what they do, so I don't show up. I like food and movies, so I showed up for that ... and I was free that night," said Bryant.

On the Notre Dame campus there are a variety of student organizations to join, including student government. Students like Romero and Bryant by choice or lack of information about student government decided to commit their time to other organizations.

However, for these three, at least, time constraints form the main roadblock to student government involvement.

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STUDENT SENATE

# Committees see successes, hope for future

By LAURA ROMPF  
In Focus Writer

At the halfway mark of their term, student senators have completed a handful of projects and now have their hands full with new ones.

"From the implementation of sexual assault programs and the posting of a 24-hour space policy in all residence halls, to honor code reform and food service changes, we have really taken positive steps to making Notre Dame a better place for the students," said Zahm senator Ryan Becker. "And I promise, there is a lot more to come. We're not done yet."

While some senate committees have been more active than others, each of the seven outlined ambitions in August and have been working to accomplish these goals throughout the year.

### Committee on Gender Issues

In the past, the senate's Committee on Gender Issues rarely brought forth resolutions, but this year it has been very active.

"Gender Issues used to be an idea and issues-oriented committee, but now we're focused on projects," said co-chair, Maggie Clarke, Lyons senator.

In August, the committee said its main goals were to address 24-hour space issues and create a packet for first-year students to introduce them to campus.

Clarke and fellow co-chair Luciana Reali, Lewis senator, said the 24-hour space resolution, which guarantees social space around-the-clock in all residence halls, and the packet, which will include various resources available to students, were large accomplishments.

"We think if it is all the information is together in one large book for the freshman, they will go to it all the time. It will sit on their shelves as a reference - almost like the 'dog book,'" Clarke said.

After accomplishing both of

these, the committee has moved on to several other projects, including working with Student Affairs to create Sexual Assault Programs in the dorms, creating Freshman Orientation focus groups to study the weekend, researching a new student center and parietals and meeting with Campus Ministry, and researching the gay and lesbian community on campus.

"We set seven goals at the beginning of the year and we've met them all," Reali said. "Now we're deciding what to work on next."

### Committee on Residence Life

In August, the Committee on Residence Life set five main goals: to examine dining hall issues, provide more 24-hour space, deal with maintenance and security issues, and improve LaFortune Student Center.

Two of those projects have been completed and the other three have been researched and are on the way to completion, said Zahm Hall senator and co-chair Ryan Becker.

The committee co-sponsored a resolution to ensure 24-hour space for all students and passed resolutions to have discounted-meal packages. "The 24-hour space resolution was by far the most ground-breaking thing senate has done all year," said committee co-chair Kevin Berchou, Sorin senator.

Berchou said the committee met with food services to work on LaFortune improvements. "We recommended that there be better lighting in the basement," Berchou said. "We also suggested putting a snack bar down there."

Finally the committee met with maintenance to inquire about putting clocks in O'Shaughnessy Hall, but were informed clocks were stolen frequently in the past, and it is not practical to replace them.

Becker said the committee will turn its efforts towards dorm improvement and maintenance issues for the second half of the term. The committee also hopes

to lower the meal plan rate for students staying over fall and spring break.

### Committee on Oversight

Because the Committee on Oversight's main duty is to ensure all Student Union organizations adhere to their Constitutional duties, the only objective the committee set in August was to make constitutional updates.

The committee accomplished this goal by passing several "housekeeping" amendments.

"The constitution is not a perfect document and it is our job to make it as user friendly as possible and the best document for all students to use," said co-chair, Audra Higgins, Pasquerilla West senator.

The committee recently completed a study of election reform. After several violations occurred in last year's student body elections, the committee looked to revamp the entire process.

"Election reform is a big deal and has been our prominent issue," said committee co-chair Jessie Flores, Carroll senator. "We definitely want to avoid what happened last year."

### Committee on Diversity

In August, the Committee on Diversity said its three main goals were to investigate the International Student Orientation, to distribute a survey to determine the feelings about diversity on campus, and research why a students' ethnic background is questioned on Teacher Course Evaluations (TCE's).

At the halfway mark, one of those goals has been accomplished while the other two are still in the works.

"Our main goal this semester was planning the Celebrating Diversity workshop for the senate," said Nikki McCord, co-chair and Pasquerilla East senator. "Now that we've focused internally, second semester we can go out to the entire student body. You have to have yourself in the right mindset before you can go out and change other people's attitudes."

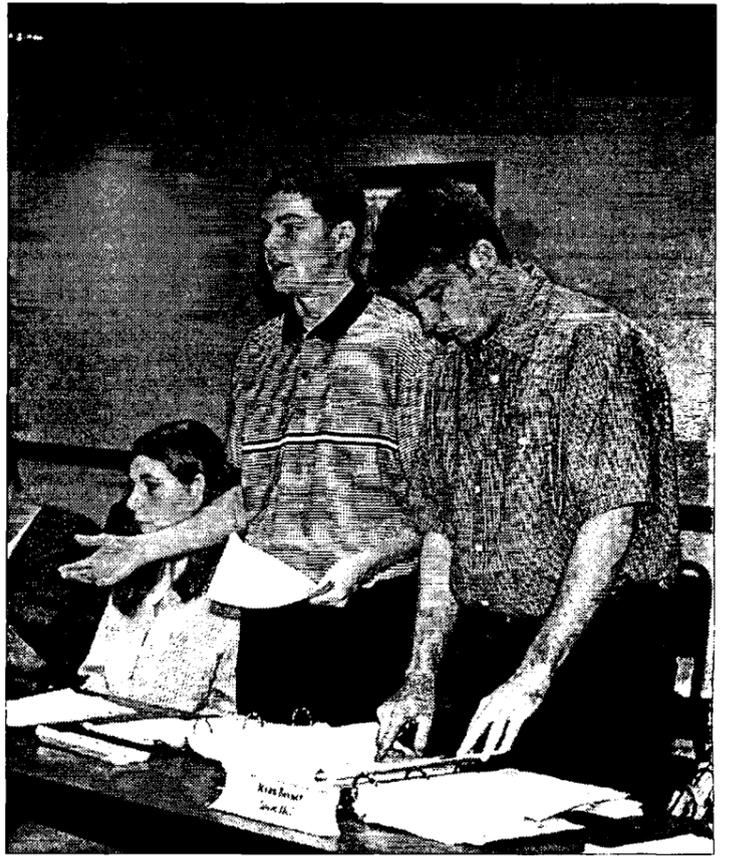
McCord and fellow chair, Dillion senator Brendan Dowdall, said the committee investigated the International Student Orientation and determined it has been successful.

McCord and Dowdall said they are working on removing the ethnic background question on TCE's. Because only one or two minority students are often in a class, identifying race on the TCE's essentially identifies who filled out the form, McCord said.

Dowdall said the committee is working with the Office of the President to distribute the survey about diversity and compile evidence about campus attitudes.

"When you tell the administration there are problems and you need things changed, they ask for specific examples," Dowdall said.

McCord said the committee now hopes to add a theology elective where students could travel to local churches of different faiths. "We feel students should be allowed to know what's available to them. Our goal is to open people's minds to different experiences," McCord said.



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

Sorin senator Kevin Berchou speaks at a recent Student Senate meeting. The senate has seen mixed results this year, but some committees have been effective.

### Committee on Academic Affairs

The Committee on Academic Affairs sponsored one of the most significant resolutions of the senate's year which stated several reasons why students need four study days next Fall, instead of the proposed three.

"Our biggest project has been the study days resolution," said McGlenn senator and co-chair Melissa Rauch.

"It wasn't part of our original plan because we weren't made aware of it until a few weeks into the year, but it has taken over as the primary objective."

Because the committee focused on this resolution, their projects outlined in August of establishing on-line DARTing, having out-of-class assignments included in the DART book and creating faculty mentoring are not completed.

Rauch said DART is currently in the hands of Office of Information Technology (OIT) and research is being conducted about guidance for upperclassmen.

Rauch said the committee is working on a new project of consolidating all scholarship and grant information into one office where students could find information.

"We did a little research and found out that the Academic Council had made suggestions to do this years ago, but no one ever picked up the ball," Rauch said. "I would expect some legislation in the next couple weeks regarding implementing this new office."

### Committee on University Affairs

When the new senators took office last April, the University Affairs Committee elected Phil Dittmar and Chris Clement as co-chairs. Around a month later, Clement resigned because he was accepted into the London program, and then in September,

Dittmar resigned for personal reasons.

"We were definitely set back at the beginning," said current co-chair Bethany Barker, Welsh Family hall senator. "But we are still trying to put forth effort."

In August, the committee said its main goals were to investigate the surplus of the Generations Campaign, establish centralized tutoring, determine the quality of long-distance telephone service and investigate Health Services.

Besides researching Broadwing, the committee focused on resolutions from last year rather than those new projects.

The committee worked with Sophomore Class Council to create a sophomore signature event, kept contact with Rec Sports to ensure revamping of The Rockne Memorial and worked with student government to provide funds for Transfer Orientation.

The committee also combined with the committee on Academic Affairs to form and Honor Code committee that has been meeting with faculty members and researched other school's honor codes.

"Students should know what to expect when they go into an Honor Code Hearing," said Brogan. "We want to compile a log of past cases and educate students about all the policies. Overall, we want consistency."

### Committee on Ethics

Although the Committee on Ethics main purpose is to ensure Student Union members act ethically in accordance to the constitution, they said in August they hoped to reform the election process. But the Oversight Committee took initiative and investigated election reform and brought forth an amended constitution Wednesday in senate.

Last year's committee on ethics researched old test files and how they could give students unfair advantages, but this year's committee has not followed up on this issue, nor has it brought any new business to senate.

## Report Card

Gender Issues:	A
Residence Life:	A
Oversight:	A-
Diversity:	B+
Academic Affairs:	B+
University Affairs:	B
Ethics:	C-
Total Grade:	B+

In August, the senate seemed too ambitious, but has fulfilled several promises. Some committees have been very active, but others have done little, hurting the body's productivity. Overall, the Senate handled large issues and did things that will benefit the student body.

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

# Group tries to change with new task force structure

By HELENA PAYNE  
In Focus Writer

Under the direction of a reform-minded chair, the CLC has abolished committees and set up a new task force structure to increase productivity.

"This year my personal goals for the CLC were to see the formation of a new structure which would raise the quality of work being done by that body, while at the same time quelling concerns by those within the membership and outside about the quality of work being done by that body," said student body president Brian O'Donoghue.

The CLC, which usually meets every other week, is a resolution-drafting body of 23 students, rectors, and faculty and an administrator who discuss campus from alcohol to academics. Eighteen of the 23 members have voting status, the other five fill advisory capacities.

In years past, the CLC has written many resolutions to the Office of Student Affairs to address concerns about drivers parking on outdoor basketball courts or the installation of an ATM machine at North Dining Hall, among other issues. These issues were addressed by committees that met in some cases infrequently to create surveys or write resolutions for the entire CLC's approval.

This year, though, the group has directed itself towards more sweeping reforms.

"Whereas past bodies would pass resolutions that made small incremental changes," O'Donoghue said, "This body is

much more directed toward sweeping reforms. This is what I feel the duty of the CLC should be."

However, O'Donoghue, along with student body vice president Brooke Norton and other CLC members, agreed to change the committee structure because of the attendance problems and lack of interest in some committees. These difficulties hindered output from the group.

"I know in the past they had problems with committee meeting attendance and having people being excited about it," said Norton. "CLC has changed for the better this year and has become a more productive body."

The committees have been replaced by task forces, which

*"CLC has changed for the better this year and become a more productive body."*

**Brooke Norton**  
student body vice president

O'Donoghue and Norton said have more explicit, narrow, goals. One, for example is the Task Force for Consistent Residence Hall Policies, recently changed from the task force for the disparity between male and female residence halls. Last year, this topic was covered under a Gender Relations Committee with less tightly-defined purposes. The new task force system, however, encourages more in-depth research to get to the root of campus issues.

"The task force system as a general whole has helped the CLC in many ways. Many of the Task Forces are meeting more often than their committees ever did. I have heard of certain Task forces meeting up to three times in a given week. That never used to happen," said O'Donoghue. "Furthermore, inside those

**B-**

The new task force structure encourages focus, but "task force" is just a more proactive synonym for committee. During the fall semester, the CLC has passed few resolutions, but members show enthusiasm. Perhaps, once all the task forces adjust to the new structure, they'll speed up production in the spring.

groups good hard research is being done to make sure that they are certain about their facts."

The Task Force for Consistent Residence Hall Policies, along with the Student Senate, was responsible for surveying dorms regarding their 24-hour space policies. Thus far, this CLC has not passed as many resolutions as last year's, but O'Donoghue claimed they have been just as productive and the task forces have allowed more time for thorough analysis of campus issues.

"Currently, the Task Forces are working on some of the most controversial issues ever seen by the CLC at one time," O'Donoghue said. "We simply cannot afford to make a mistake."

Norton said the CLC plans to examine issues such as the Honor Code and students moving off campus. She said that the task force system has boosted the CLC's output, but she would like to see some improvement.

"I just hope that we can kind of speed up the process a little body," said Norton.

Even with fewer CLC resolu-



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

**24-hour social space has been a big item on the CLC's agenda this year, as they deal with campus issues.**

tions this semester, O'Donoghue said the new body functions well and is committed to serving the University.

"Before, it seemed like folks were working just to have something done for the next meeting. As a result the product sometimes lacked the full research it could have had. The result of such past half-hearted efforts was a body which was losing respectability and frustration

membership," said O'Donoghue. "Sure there are disagreements on the floor, but that, to me, just shows a passion on the part of the membership to see the best possible product. This body cares about how it represents itself to the University Community, a concern which used to not be given such high priority. The result is better work is being done for the Notre Dame community."

# The uninvolved say they weren't hooked early enough



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

**Students play carnival games at Founder's Day in October. The day-long celebration was one of many events sponsored by student government to entertain campus, and to recruit new members.**

By HELENA PAYNE  
In Focus Writer

While student body president Brian O'Donoghue and vice president Brooke Norton urged students to "Believe" in student government, some students don't have time to believe and others have found interests elsewhere.

Sophomore Kevin Romero was once highly active in student government during his high school years in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Romero was elected as a class president for three consecutive years and became the student body president his senior year. Like Notre Dame, the student government in Romero's high school sponsored service projects and other student events and activities. The one difference is that in Romero's school, student government was also a class that offered elective credit.

As a freshman at Notre Dame, however, Romero opted not to get involved with student government because he didn't receive information about it until he felt it was too late.

"When the freshmen elections come up I don't think it's very clear that in order to run for a class office, you have to be

elected in your hall," Romero said.

Freshmen elections, which occur at the beginning of the school year, determine the freshmen council, which consists of freshmen representatives from each residence hall.

"Generally the people who get involved early ... those are people who will probably be involved actively their entire career here," said Romero.

He said that this deterred him from getting involved in student government.

"My impression of student government ... I feel like not a lot of people have access to it," said Romero. "The system is not really clear to those who aren't directly involved in it."

Since freshmen year, Romero has joined three vocal groups at the University including the Glee Club, the Undertones, and Voices of Faith Gospel Choir. He is also a student manager for Recker's.

"I just pursued things that interested me and things that I felt I had enough time to involve myself in," Romero said.

Now, Romero said he doesn't have a clear definition of the purpose of student government.

"To be honest, I can't tell you exactly what student government does," said Romero.

When he does hear about events, he usually unable to attend because of conflicting activities.

"Generally it's not because I don't want to [attend student government-sponsored events] but it's because I already have something to do," Romero said.

Like Romero, junior Rachel Rothrauff also had an initial interest as a freshmen in student government, but unlike Romero, she heard about freshmen representative elections soon enough to participate in her dorm's elections. Although she won and spent her first year active in student government, she has since decided to pursue other activities as well.

Currently, she teaches a step aerobics class for RecSports and she works at the phone center.

"With time constraints, you can only do so many things here and the stuff I'm doing now is stuff I enjoy more," said Rothrauff.

Rothrauff said that while in student government as a Notre Dame freshman she felt that she had done more in high school on student government.

"I did a lot of stuff in high school, way more than do I

## SAINT MARY'S STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

## Bouncing Back

*After a controversial election, Crissie Renner and Michelle Nagle had to unite a fractured student body. What they didn't know was that it would take another controversy to actually do it.*

By NOREEN GILLESPIE  
In Focus Writer

The presidential election of 2000 was not Board of Governance's shining moment.

Crissie Renner and Michelle Nagle won an election that is reminiscent of the current presidential campaign. After failing to secure a majority of votes in the initial election, the race went to a run-off, where the votes cast ended in a first-ever tie. After another revote declared their opponents, Emily Koelsch and Rachele Rodarte the winners, a last-minute appeal by Renner that called attention to improper runoff procedures gave the Renner/Nagle ticket the presidency.

But the newly-elected duo did not have time to celebrate their victory last February, as a greater task laid ahead: the task of uniting a student body, half of whom did not support their ticket in office. As the student body stormed a Board of Governance meeting shortly after the decision was announced, a tearful Renner and Nagle admitted they had reluctance to enter their offices.

"I never thought we would assume office after the complaint was filed," Nagle said that evening in an interview with The Observer. "It makes me doubt how much I wanted this position when I hear how adamantly students are opposed to what the Elections Commission and Election Appeals Board decided."

The ticket did assume office last spring, and after a year that has produced both successes and challenges for the Board of Governance, the ticket that once sat in a BOG meeting apprehensive to lead the student body has emerged as a brilliant administration. But so much of that has to do with the circumstances under which they were elected, both women will admit.

"We heard when the election happened, that students will move on," Renner said. "We were told that students' eyes would be opened to us as leaders, and if we led, the student body would follow."

But finding the strength to lead had to come from inside, and after a tumultuous election, the ticket was forced to find the motivations that led them to run for office



MONICA HRITZ/The Observer

**Saint Mary's student body president Crissie Renner holds up the controversial Junior Class Shirt. The furor over the shirt was the chance the ticket needed to prove their leadership after the election debacle last February.**

in the first place. That meant trusting their leadership abilities, Nagle said.

"[The election] had a very humanizing effect on us," Nagle said. "We know how we came into office. But if we had doubted ourselves for a minute, we would have never run for office. We know that we want to be connected to the women that we represent."

Constructing an administration that prides itself on its open-door policies, the opinion of the student body has been an element that is central to every decision that Board of Governance has made this year. Stressing the need for communication and education among board members before decisions can be made, the interests of the student body are something that is central to every decision the board makes, Renner said.

"My mother always told me that you can't listen with your mouth open," Renner said. "I have learned to listen. I have learned that the student body speaks when they knock on your door — and when they're not knocking on your door. I wake up each morning knowing that I am student body president, and that I represent 1500 women who I care deeply about."

Renner's commitment to fairly representing each student at Saint Mary's draws a line between her role and vice president

Nagle's role on the board, however. While Nagle is a voting member in the body, Renner said that her role as president forces her to keep a more unbiased position on controversial issues to allow her to fairly represent all women's viewpoints.

"While there is nothing in writing that says I have to remain neutral, realizing that I do represent each of these women can make me feel that way," Renner said.

But it is not always possible for a president to remain neutral, as Renner learned when the Junior Class Board designed the infamous "Girl of Choice" T-shirt and outcry from the student body over the shirt's inappropriate theme resulted. As the student body divided into pro-shirt and anti-shirt camps, Renner and Nagle's role began to merge, Renner said. Announcing the decision to purchase the shirts from the board and prevent their sale, it was the first time the student government had ever sanctioned a class board.

"I don't know if the T-shirt decision counts as one of our successes," Renner said. "But it was a chance for BOG to shine. It truly opened the door of student government to the community — whether students were in support or not in support [of the shirt], we heard so much feedback."

After the fracture in the student body caused as a result of the 2000 election, the decision presented a united picture of stu-

dent government to the student body.

"It was definitely a chance for student government to demonstrate what they stood for as a whole," Nagle said. "It was a powerful educational tool for a lot of different reasons ... I think it really showed the student body that student government does have an affect on their lives, and that their voice counts."

While both political crises have defined an atypical term for the ticket, the year has taught both Renner and Nagle how to mature as leaders. And being leaders means learning that no matter how badly they want to receive consensus among their constituents, they know that they can't be everything to everybody.

"You learn so much about what Saint Mary's is as an institution, as a community, and as a family," Nagle said. "But there is a constant pressure to be something to everybody."

"I have personally learned that if I'm seeking to please, then I am setting myself up for failure," Renner said. "I've learned not to walk out my door every morning feeling that I have to please everybody. The student body will stand behind me no matter how I was elected."

As their term comes to a close with the onset of the campaign season again in January, the lessons and leadership learned could be enough to carry one half of the Renner/Nagle ticket into the presidency next year.

But it's too soon to make those decisions, Nagle said.

"[Student body president] is a possibility," she admitted. "But I really try to take each day as it comes, and for now, that means living each day as vice president."

## A-

The Renner/Nagle administration has proven itself as strong leaders in trying times, including the 2000 election debacle, the Junior Class T-Shirt and the Keenan Revue decision. The year of trials has produced two student leaders who exemplify what student leaders should be.

## Renner

continued from previous page

able.

Both women acknowledge that their platform goals were minimal.

"Our platform was a student platform," Nagle said. "We tried to make our best effort to meet the students' needs."

They agreed that they keep the platform small because they could not foresee the future concerns of the student body.

"We couldn't foresee what the year would hold," Renner said.

"At times we had to unbind ourselves from the platform [to meet the needs of the student body.]"

The Renner/Nagle term has been anything but void of controversy, however. They wrestled with the junior class T-shirt, which stirred up controversy with its suggestion of rivalry between Notre Dame and Saint Mary's women.

The event made Renner look at her job a little differently.

"It was a time when I realized that I could not please everyone," she said.

The shirt was the first in Saint Mary's history to be sanctioned by the Board of Governance. The

board had different opinions about the shirts, but ultimately, they were all purchased and destroyed.

"The junior T-shirt was an opportunity for BOG to shine," Nagle said. "It was a time when the student body got educated about their student government."

Despite the controversy, both women believe that the shirt ordeal made them better leaders.

"It was an outlet to show what we can really do," Nagle said.

Renner and Nagle have also progressed in security on campus.

*"We tried to make our best efforts to meet the students' needs."*

**Michelle Nagle**  
student body vice president

"Security Walk" in which BOG members, security officials and other students surveyed the campus and addressed areas that

were not well lit or appeared unsafe.

Next semester, Renner and Nagle will also be addressing the issues of abroad student voting, the Study Days proposal and the Keenan Revue debate.

The Renner/Nagle platform may have been minimal, but both women have performed well under pressure and appear passionate about their roles.

"This is my life," Renner said. "It is a twenty-four hour job. I am a figure for this campus and yes; it's overwhelming at times. I would do it again in a second for our campus and for my personal character."

# Kahn bridges gap between students and trustees

By MOLLY McVOY  
In Focus Writer

The opportunity to directly influence what the Board of Trustees decides is a unique one afforded to the student trustee at Saint Mary's. The student trustee is a full voting member of the Board, a situation not found at many other schools.

"Most of the major decisions on campus happen on the Board, and for us [the student body] to have a voice is a really important situation and a sadly unusual one," said Molly Kahn, this year's student trustee.

Because of the unusual role the student trustee plays in the College's decision-making process, the trustee's primary responsibility is to serve as a voice for the student body on the Board of Trustees.

"I think the purpose of the trustee is really to be a voice of the students to the Board of Trustees," said College president Marilou Eldred. "Their job is to bring issue of the students to the Board."

Part of the job of the trustee is to have an understanding of the issues that concern the student body. Kahn hopes that a reinstatement of "office hours" this year has allowed students to approach her with their concerns.

"I try to be really accessible and open," Kahn said. "Sometimes people come to me with problems and concerns they have. A lot of students came to me telling me about Dalloway's or security. This allowed me to go to the Board and direct the next step."

At the fall meeting, aside from the dedication of the two newest additions to campus, Dalloway's and the Welcome Center, many student issues were on the agenda. Kahn also plans to bring more such topics to the next meeting in February.

"The Board discussed the issues with new facilities, athletics, personal safety and student diversity board," Kahn said. "In February, I'm looking to talk to



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

Molly Kahn, Saint Mary's student trustee, serves in a variety of capacities and works on a range of issues representing Saint Mary's students. One topic she has worked on is the Master Plan, giving student input on development and construction project at the College.

the Board about what Saint Mary's does to help seniors with plans after graduation."

Aside from bringing student concerns to the Board, the trustee often acts as the student voice in any questions the Board has about issues at the College.

"Molly clearly brought an important perspective when we [the Board] talked about Master Plan and the student center dining hall project," Eldred said. "She was able to be very articulate as to why that was so important to the community life of the students and college in general."

The student trustee is appointed by a committee of faculty, administrators and students. When asked whether an elected trustee would more accurately represent the student body's needs and opinions, Eldred said she feels that the current system

of appointment is the most suitable method.

"I like the process as it is now," Eldred said. "I think an appointed position is appropriate. The faculty and administration have a broader view of the college. We want to choose the student who we think will best represent the student body."

Linda Timm, vice president for Student Affairs, supervises the selection of the student trustee. Timm explained that the appointment process looks specifically for a person who will accurately represent the student population.

"We're looking for a student who has a sense of what the students voice in the Board of Trustees would be, someone who has given thought to the major agenda items for students," Timm said. "She also needs to have a plan for how to

*"I try to be really accessible and open. Sometimes people come to me with problems and concerns they have."*

Molly Kahn  
student trustee

solicit student input so she is not just representing student government views and her views, but the student body's views."

In addition to being a student voice to the Board, the

trustee acts as a representative of the Board to the student body. Both Eldred and Kahn felt that both responsibilities were equal-

ly important; the trustee not only represents the student's interests, but the Board's as well.

"As a student on the Board of Trustees, it is my responsibility to express student concerns, ideas, questions and comments, but it is also my responsibility to educate students about the Board of Trustees," Kahn said.

The part of her job that involves informing the students about the Board's activities is one that Kahn is constantly working on, she explained. Aside from the e-mail sent to the student body, Kahn is looking for ways to communicate the Board's plans to the students.

"There's a lot of interest in what the Board does," Kahn said. "Right now, I'm at the point of trying to hammer out how best to inform everyone."

And of providing a bridge between both sides.

## BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

# Renner/Nagle focus on opening up communication

### ◆ Duo works with administrators and student leaders

By AMY GREENE  
In Focus Writer

When Crissie Renner and Michelle Nagle ran for student body president last spring, the main focus of their platform was to increase communication between the administration, student government, and the student body.

Since taking office, that's what they've spent most of their energies on that effort.

Renner and Nagle worked with the administration to develop the new Dalloway's and also collaborated with the Strategic Planning Committee in their planning.

"I am very impressed with the staff for approaching the Board of Governance and extracting the students' input. We now have students sit on all the planning committees," Renner said.

The Board of Governance also distributed a survey to all students for their input for the

strategic planning.

To increase communication between the five different governing boards, Renner and Nagle encouraged the co-sponsorship of events. According to Renner, the co-sponsored events, such as the Athletic Recognition Pep Rally, are bigger and better attended than they were before. Both women believe that this synergy between the boards is their greatest success.

Renner and Nagle also focused on communication between students and the Board of Governance. BOG newsletters have been available in certain areas on campus in the past, but not all students knew the newsletter existed. Renner and Nagle ensured that the newsletter was distributed to all students in their personal mailboxes each month. The newsletter allows students to become aware how the Board of Governance votes on certain issues and also what events are being planned on campus.

The Board grew when Callie Kusco was named as the first Programming Commissioner. She assists in organizing Pride Week,

# B+

Board of Governance has successfully executed Pride Week, co-sponsored events, and streamlined communication between leaders and students. Renner and Nagle's "synergy" campaign promise has come to life.

Midnight Madness, Winter Carnival, and assists the Communication Commissioner.

The Renner/Nagle platform also attempted to extend hours at the library and the post office. Both Renner and Nagle approached the Library Committee, as well as, the post office, but administrators decided not to keep those offices open longer.

Renner and Nagle also were unable to increase the amount of Munch Money for students, but complimentary guest passes to the dining hall were made avail-

see RENNER/next page



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

Michelle Nagle (left) and Crissie Renner (right) sit at a Board of Governance meeting. The pair has dedicated itself to keeping students up to date on BOG happenings through a monthly newsletter.

NOTRE DAME STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

# Working for the future

*O'Donoghue and Norton focus on a mix of student services and new programs*

By LAURA ROMPF  
In Focus Writer

Although students may not realize the impact of the current office of the student body president, several programs it has implemented are designed to benefit students for years to come.

Student body president Brian O'Donoghue said the Rector's Endowment Fund was a campaign promise and a great accomplishment for the office. One-third of the profits from The Shirt sales goes into a separate fund, available for students to use for medical school applications, football tickets, section dinners or other costly items.

Although only \$906 of the fund's allotted \$34,000 had been used as of Nov. 15, O'Donoghue said he expected the slow start.

"We've established the fund for the future," O'Donoghue said. "What's important is there is money out there to help students... It's early and it's young. These things need time to develop. People need to be aware its out there."

O'Donoghue, student body vice president Brooke Norton and chief of staff Jay Smith said the fund has not been highly publicized because of its personal nature.

"We want to recognize the dignity of the program," Smith said. "It's more about support for the students than publicizing our accomplishment."

A-

The Office of the President has fulfilled almost every campaign promise with only a few exceptions. Compared to recent administrations, the office has gone above and beyond expectations, achieving goals few thought possible.

The office said they are also proud of the Founder's Day carnival, even though rainy weather caused a low turnout for the event. Smith said he hopes the next office will build on Founder's Day so it will become an annual event.

"It was the first for that type of operation," Smith said. "Next year, hopefully, it will continue. We've paved the way, did the work and proved it can

*"A lot of folks say students are apathetic, but we proved them wrong beyond a doubt."*

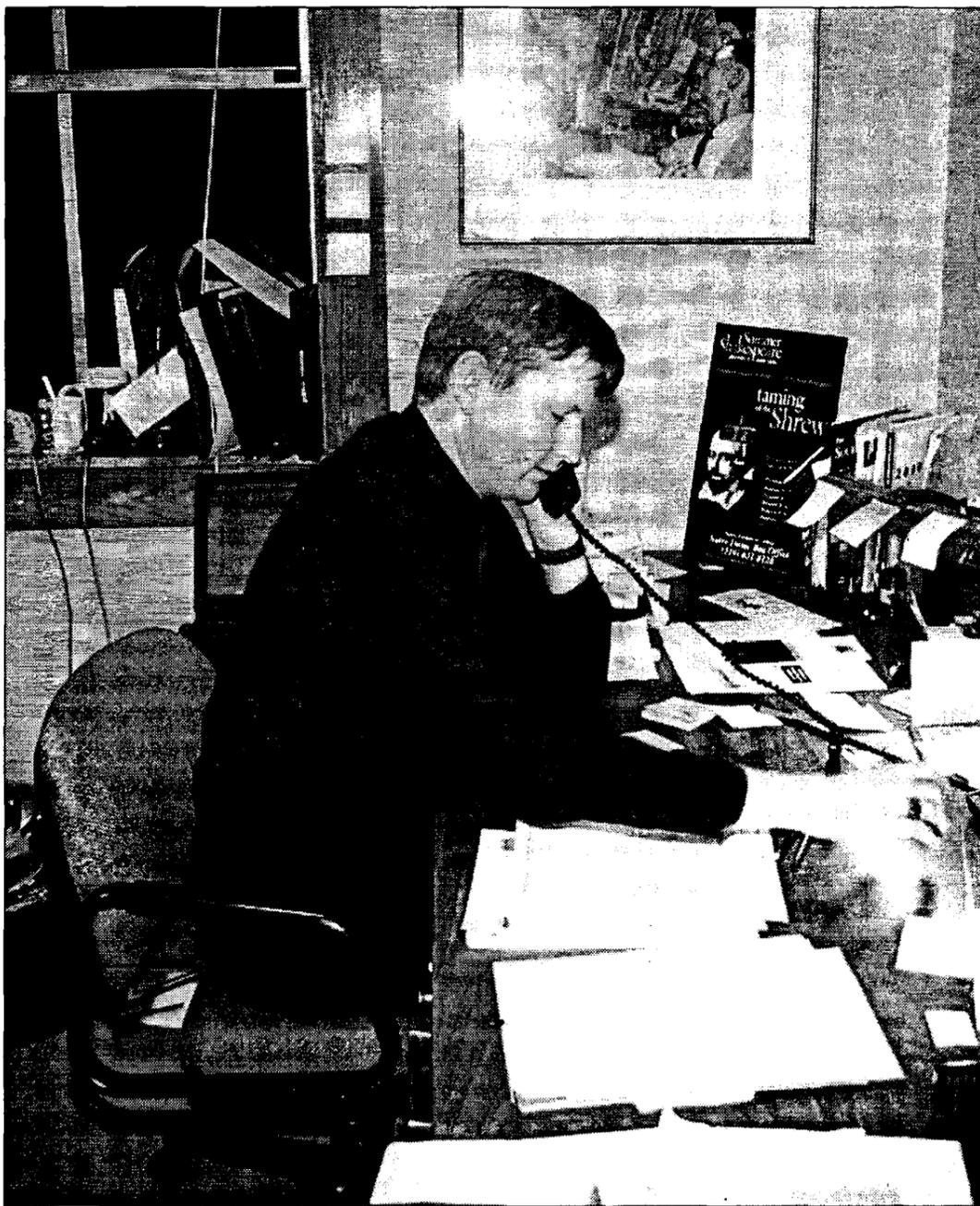
**Brian O'Donoghue**  
student body president

be done."

"We got 30 different groups involved instead of normal events that are just planned by one body," Norton said. "The students who did go said they liked it and were happy with it."

The third significant accomplishment the office completed is sending students to the Board of Trustees winter meeting.

"This has never happened before," Smith said. "Students



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

Student body president Brian O'Donoghue works the phone in his office. O'Donoghue has spent much of his term thus far trying to advance his major campaign priorities.

will be going to the meeting in Washington, D.C., in February."

The office played a large role in the report to the Board of Trustees in the fall focusing on alcohol use and sexual assault.

"We got a great response from the Board," Smith said. "The issues were taken very seriously. They are often not talked about and we felt they needed to be addressed."

The office contributed to organizing the sale of The Shirt for Basketball and hopes to finish a project called the Greatness Grant, which will provide funds for students who want to do service or other works of ministry.

Hoping students would become active in Election 2000, the office planned debate and election watches in LaFortune which were well attended. They also helped register 1000 voters, gave away 1500 absentee ballots and helped plan a Congressional debate in South Bend.

"The students' voice in elections is absolutely necessary. A lot of folks say students are apathetic, but we proved them wrong beyond a doubt," O'Donoghue said.

During the campaign, O'Donoghue and Norton said they would work for student discounts at local businesses and a scholarship service. O'Donoghue said they have communicated with local businesses and soon will have a discount card available, primarily for use at restaurants. The scholarship search is currently available online.

Although the office wanted to

expand the Internet book-swap, they were unable to work with some organizations, so Smith said they hope to run a book-swap at a location where students can exchange books with each other.

"There are always signs around the dorms and campus where students are trying to sell books," Smith said. "We are looking to provide a centralized location where those selling and those buying books can come together."

O'Donoghue and Norton campaigned saying they would establish a satellite Grab'n'Go site in DeBartolo and a Recker's-like café in North Dining Hall. O'Donoghue said these issues are now being handled by Student Senate.

The office does have a full list of current projects in the works, which includes hosting an off-campus information session for students moving out of dorms, revamping the diversity program by first educating and training the commissioners in the dorms, revising the Safe Ride program and hosting a community mentoring program that will bring eighth graders from the area to Notre Dame for an all-day conference on life and leadership skills.

The office is also helping to plan a celebration of Martin Luther King week, including a forum for students, and Blessing Unto Others, a Christian rock concert whose proceeds will go to an orphanage in Chile. All these endeavors, plus several other projects, have kept the office busy, and enthused, even after the midway break in their term.

"Last year at this time, we had 12 people tops still in this office working hard," Smith said. "This year we still have 50 to 60 people who are dedicated towards their goals."

O'Donoghue, Smith and Norton said they still want to hear students' suggestion for new projects they could work on until April.

"Every person who has made a suggestion to our office, we follow through with it,"

O'Donoghue said. "We determine the feasibility and try to make it work."

"I have a lot of friends who fit into the 'critical of student government' group," Norton said. "It helps to reassess what we should be doing here. We want to know what would make the most students happy. We still want suggestions."

*"Last year at this time, we had 12 people tops in this office working hard. This year we still have 50 to 60 people who are dedicated towards their goals."*

**Jay Smith**  
chief of staff

## Cheers and Jeers

### Cheers

**O'Donoghue's optimism:** Backed by his ambitious personality and significant amount of time and energy, O'Donoghue has accomplished twice as much in half a term than the previous student body president did the entire year. Only suggestion: sleep.

**Founder's Day:** The Gravatron on campus? Felt like a country fair right here at Notre Dame. However, it pointed out one important fact: Odie is not God. While he's accomplished a lot, he can't control the weather.

### Polite Applause

**Rector's Endowment Fund:** Good idea, just not useful. If only \$1000 of the \$34,000 is used, can't that money be put to a better use? Maybe add it the \$3 billion endowment because it's not big enough yet.

**Student to Board of Trustees:** A major goal is accomplished. The students' voice is heard. But if students won't voice their opinion or more accurately, don't seem to care, how can representatives go to board with "student opinion?"

### Jeers

**Changing SafeRide's name:** News flash, it's not the name, it's the program. It has been revised, and changed and revised again. Putting more time and effort into the program probably won't change the number of volunteers to drive drunk students around.

**Promised Grab'n'Go in DBRT:** Got votes. Now the office claims it is the Senate's duty. As a former senator, shouldn't Odie have known not to promise something that was a "senate duty"?

ONE PERSON'S VIEW

# Let's open the doors

For the first time in recent memory, the Notre Dame student body has a leader. Brian O'Donoghue sincerely wants to make this University a better place; he wants to take the talent and potential of the students of Notre Dame and realize a vision of a greater University.

But the students he wants to lead don't know that. And that is a problem.

In preparing this special section, Observer staffers talked to hundreds of students about their government. And the most frequent thing people said about it was "I don't know."

Students don't know what their government is doing. They don't know that O'Donoghue and vice president Brooke Norton created a fund to help them when they need a plane ticket home in an emergency. They don't know that the Student Senate is trying to expand sexual assault education on campus.

They don't know because they don't hear about it. And they don't hear about it because so much of what O'Donoghue's administration does is done behind closed doors.

Student government has always had a reputation as something of an insider's club. This year that reputation is deserved. While small sections of the student body are consulted when our leaders are deciding what to do, too many decisions are made with not enough consultation.

And once the decision has been made, and our student leaders sit down to talk with each other and the administration, to hammer proposals into reality, everyday students are even more removed. They aren't told what's going on; often they're not even told when something is accomplished.

Student government is not the only side to blame for this, however.

If our representatives are insiders, most of the represented are indifferent. Students mock their senate and they ignore their president. And they don't give them a chance.

Student government held open forums about the alcohol policy at the start of the year, and attendance was low. Last December, the Student Union Board had a forum about campus concerts, and just a few people showed up. If we expect student leaders to act as our spokespeople to the administration, we need to tell them what to say.

Granted, student government has an image problem. Some past presidents have seemed to do little more than talk a lot and throw barbecues, attended mostly by other student government members and their friends.

O'Donoghue wants to do more than that. He wants to use his office to make life better for Notre Dame students (and not just by supplying them with occasional free hamburgers). But, at the same time, he and his staff have a problem communicating with those students, to find out how they want their life bettered and to tell them when things change.

Effective student government requires steps in two directions. It requires the governors to take a step towards the students, and it requires the governed to take a step towards the leaders.

Let's take those steps. Let's talk to each other. Let's open the doors.

*The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.*



Tim Logan

In Focus Editor

IN FOCUS STAFF

Editor: Tim Logan

Photography: Tony Floyd

Graphics: Katie Annis

# Trying to make a connection

## ◆ Government describes attempts to find student concerns

By FINN PRESSLY  
In Focus Writer

Perched just feet above the HuddleMart, Notre Dame student government has long been accused of keeping itself too far removed from mainstream campus life. Student body president Brian O'Donoghue claims he has worked this year to break down those barriers by maintaining the channels of communication in the dorms and around campus.

"It's safe to say that Brooke, Jay and I aren't hiding up in the second floor of LaFortune," he said, referring to student body vice president Brooke Norton and chief of staff Jay Smith.

Though all three have extensive background in student government, they feel that O'Donoghue's campaign for president exposed them to the broadest slice of student life.

"We went door to door and talked to every single student on this campus," O'Donoghue said.

He also credits the mix of personalities in student government for helping to expand the office's scope.

"There's no three more divergent personalities on this campus," he said of himself, Norton, and Smith. "We come from very different groups ... we don't hang out together

er on the weekends."

Smith echoed a similar sentiment. "It's not like the three of us are inseparable and we hang out," he said.

With their term now past the halfway mark, members of student government rely mainly on the mechanisms of campus government to gather information from students.

"We go through our division heads, and the heads of our committees. They're mostly freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, with some seniors," said student government director of public relations Dave Zachry. "I assume they speak with the students in their dorms."

The nexus of interaction between students and government, he said, are the hall council meetings within the residence halls.

"Hall Council is where most of the action should take place," he said. Ideas and concerns brought up at Hall Council are then radiated to student senators, hall presidents, and then on to the Office of the President.

Outside the meetings of the Hall Council, members of the student government try to make themselves available to input from their neighbors.

"In my three years, I've always

tried to ask people in the dorm what's going on. Some people say 'I don't care,' and some people give me an idea, and I go with it," Zachry said.

O'Donoghue also said that dorm life heightens awareness of campus issues.

"Brooke and I both live in residence halls, so we gain input through that," he said.

Campus media also functions as a forum for suggestions and comments.

"I personally read the Viewpoint page [of The Observer] religiously, and I know most people in student government do, too," Zachry said.

With all these avenues of input, however, some students concerns are still not addressed. According to Smith, decision making also takes into consideration those students who have not brought forth their issues.

"In our thought process, we have to think about them. We can't just think about students who are active ... we have to think about everybody," he said. "That's why we strive to be responsive to as many students as possible, because that's who we try to serve."

*Tim Logan contributed to this report.*

*"It's safe to say that Brooke, Jay and I aren't hiding up in the second floor of LaFortune."*

Brian O'Donoghue  
student body president

# Student Opinion

## Notre Dame Students

## Saint Mary's Students

Do you think student government is effective?



61% Yes  
27% No  
12% NA/Unsure



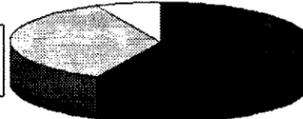
75% Yes  
21% No  
4% NA/Unsure

85 % of ND freshmen said yes but just 63% of ND seniors

Do you think Student government represents your concerns?



56% Yes  
31% No  
12% NA/Unsure



57% Yes  
36% No  
7% NA/Unsure

83% of SMC sophomores said yes but just 27% of SMC seniors

Can you name your student senator/BOG rep.?



43% Yes  
48% No  
8% NA/Unsure



48% Yes  
46% No  
6% NA/Unsure

Can you name your student body president?



63% Yes  
31% No  
6% NA/Unsure



62% Yes  
34% No  
4% NA/Unsure

Just 26% of SMC freshmen said yes, but 100% of SMC seniors did

Results based on random telephone survey of 333 Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students on Nov. 29 and 30.

Describe student government in one word or phrase:

- "effective"
- "a sham"
- "puppets"
- "a voice for the students"
- "they're there"
- "stratategy"
- "dedicated"
- "I don't know"
- "responsible"
- "effective"
- "trivial"
- "you can't print that word"
- "huh?"

# IN FOCUS

Friday, December 1, 2000

A regular feature of The Observer's News Department.

## Grading the government

Finals may be approaching, but student government is just hitting midterms. The Observer looks at our student leaders, and issues a report card.

## On the inside



## Student leaders must cooperate with administration

By CHRISTINE KRALY  
In Focus Writer

Rain poured down on game booths and the stuffed animal prizes afforded to the winners. The hard ground turned to mud, and the echoing sounds were not of music and laughter but of raindrops hitting dormant carnival rides.

Student government's Founder's Day carnival drew praise from government members and administration, but few everyday students. Was it just the rain, or was something amiss in the government's planning?

Unlike Student Union Board (SUB), student government is a body that does not function solely to sponsor campus events and programs. Student government, though, has taken steps this year to organize such events, like the campus-wide Founder's Day carnival in October.

Founder's Day, a day of campus outdoor activities including carnival rides and game booths,

was a sort of pet project proposed by student body vice president Brooke Norton at the beginning of the 2000 school year. Norton first brainstormed with student body president Brian O'Donoghue and fellow government members and then took the idea to advisor Mary Edgington, director of Student Activities.

"[We wanted to do] a fun thing for students ... that would be different," Norton said. She and government staff held informal talks with the Office of Student Activities and Office of Student Affairs who were "really receptive to the idea." It was then that the project planning really took off.

Norton and other members wrote a proposal outlining format ideas for the event to

Edgington. The idea was then sent to Peggy Hnatusko, head of the Financial Management Board (FMB), a division of Student Activities.

Groups like student government who wish to sponsor an event or program exceeding \$5,000 must send a proposal to FMB, whose funds come from student activity fees. Founder's Day was approved and government members moved to bring in the clowns.

"I wouldn't say it's necessarily easy," Edgington said of getting proposals approved. Problems occur, she said, when the group does not have the time or funding to sponsor an event. Founder's Day, for example, was produced with the help of nearly seven campus clubs, 11 dorms and 20 groups like Food Services

and WVFI.

After all the planning and all the groups involved in the production, Norton said, many people were left wondering "whose jurisdiction is it under?"

Planning events usually doesn't fall under student government jurisdiction because large events are usually SUB sponsored.

"Most of all it comes down to time," Edgington said of planning campus events. "You want to make it successful," she added, noting that the success of events like Founder's Day take months to prepare.

Finding the money to make the cotton candy flow is often a difficulty, too. The student body president and vice president know their budget, Edgington said, and they know the limits it puts on their event spending. Some initiatives, in fact, don't work because the money isn't available.

Government had planned on

### Inside

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## Man your room ...

*the arrangements possible in the closet-like cubbies we call home*

### 215 DILLON HALL

#### Best Atmosphere Award

What in the world is a Bootsy Hooten Flughafen anyhow? Just ask juniors Tim O'Connor, Paul Ricketts and Logan Foley in 215 Dillon. Taking its name from a small getaway in Austria that specializes in schnitzel and large containers of beer, the Bootsy Hooten (phonetic spelling, not proper German) was a restaurant the boys visited on spring break in Innsbruck.

This hole-in-the-wall favorite of the boys sits secluded atop a hill in the Austrian Alps with no roads to its door. One might assume that the men in this Dillon triple are attempting to recreate the feel of that Austrian restaurant. Flughafen, the German word meaning "to fly" comes from the bus the men rode in Austria. In honor of their trip, the men commemorated their room. For this, the men receive the Best Atmosphere award.

The coziness of the room is certainly a sentimental throwback to the Austrian venues they so fondly remember. Chock full of tradition, the Bootsy Hooten trans-

forms into the "Theatre Foley" every Thursday for movie night, when as many as 14 people — allowing for moderate stacking — can be jammed into the room.

With the accommodation of their massive DVD powered "Hooten Entertainment Center," attendance was so high that it seemed only fitting that they convert their window box to provide supplementary seating arrangements.

Most notable though is the array of posters and pictures in the room. Adorning one wall is a 40 square-foot movie poster advertising — in German — the movie "An Ideal Husband." Hardly any space on the wall is left empty in this small room. The Hooten Wall of Fame showcases pictures of the Hooten members worldwide.

The men welcome visitors to the Bootsy Hooten Flughafen, where what they lack in square footage they make up for in personality, and where nothing is on tap ... because there is no tap.



Logan Foley (sitting) along with Tom O'Connor (top) and Paul Ricketts (not pictured) proudly take the helm at Bootsy Hooten Flughafen, their Austrian-accented room for fun.

### 236 ZAHM HALL



Dan Maguire (left) and Nick Shumacher are lucky freshmen with their own bathroom that they don't even have to clean themselves.

#### Best Room ... For Freshmen

Dan Maguire and Nick Shumacher may be the two luckiest freshmen on campus. Destined to reside in a triple at 236 Zahm, the boys were delighted to find that their third roommate decided against attending Notre Dame.

With no other student assigned to their room, Dan and Nick were granted the largest room in Zahm all to themselves. With an extra bed, they were able to create a day bed, complete with throw pillows, for comfortable television viewing.

The extra closet serves as a pantry of sorts, holding their refrigerator and food. Perhaps the most enviable feature of this room is the bathroom, complete with shower. The lucky guys don't even have to clean it themselves; the house keeper comes once a week to do that for them.

The view from their window is one of the most breathtaking

angles of the hallowed golden dome. But there is something even better just beyond their window — a small balcony that they intend to put to good use in warm weather. Currently, the balcony holds the Zahm Christmas tree. But the boys have dreams of cookouts and such on their personal porch.

Again, we must mention the décor of the room, filled with interesting signs and posters — most taken from girls' dorms or the library, according to the boys — spider webs that glow when the black light is on and an interesting monkey lamp. Is it unfair that these freshmen have such a nice room?

Indeed.

But rest assured that they will be cramped into a real freshman double by the time they are juniors. Fortune has smiled upon them, and so we don the award of Best Room ... For Freshmen.

### 408 SIEGFRIED HALL

#### Neatest Boys' Room

Boys are notoriously messy. Strange odors are almost synonymous with a boy's dorm room. So it is with great honor that 408 Siegfried receives the Neatest Boy's Room award. We challenge you to find a more immaculate, spacious and well-organized double in any of the male residence halls.

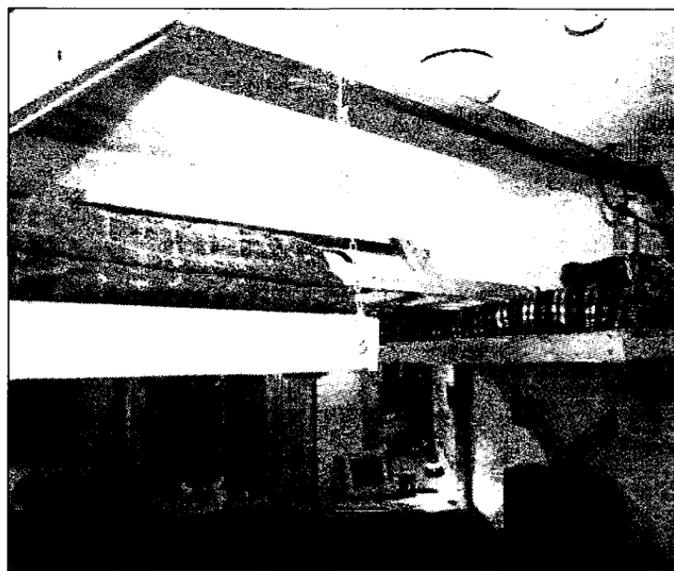
Juniors Joe Gleason and most especially Mike Walsh take pride in the cleanliness. Mike is responsible for seeing that the room is vacuumed at least two to three times per week. It is doubtful that most boys, rooms ever even see a vacuum. But as Joe tells, it was a ritual in Mike's family to vacuum frequently.

Where some families stress the importance of washing hands before dinner, Mike's family tradition was to vacuum before dinner. Every day. Some habits are hard to break.

Being on the fourth floor, this room boasts a higher ceiling than most other Siegfried rooms. The extra two vertical feet facilitated the construction of the most elaborate loft system yet to be seen. The beds, rather than resting on supports that reach to the floor, are suspended from above by a series of supports on the outer walls and chains from the ceiling.

The loft also doubles as a bike rack. With a full six feet and two inches of space beneath the beds, this design leaves the floor of the room extremely spacious. Also hanging from the loft is a hammock chair to accommodate guests who may not fit on the couch or inflatable sofa.

The room is well lit with several floor and



Joe Gleason (right) and Mike Walsh boast the most spacious and well-organized room to be found in any male dorm, aided by their variation on the traditional loft.



desk lamps. Books and papers are neatly stacked and desktops are clear. The walls display tasteful posters. There isn't a scantily clad woman to be found in the room.

Again, a rare feat for a male dorm room. Congratulations, 408 Siegfried.

## MEN'S SWIMMING

## Irish swimmers enter weekend competition in fourth place

By COLLEEN McCARTHY  
Sports Writer

Although final exams are more than a week away, men's swimming head coach Tim Welsh told his team that they should consider this weekend's Notre Dame Invitational meet their final test of the fall semester.

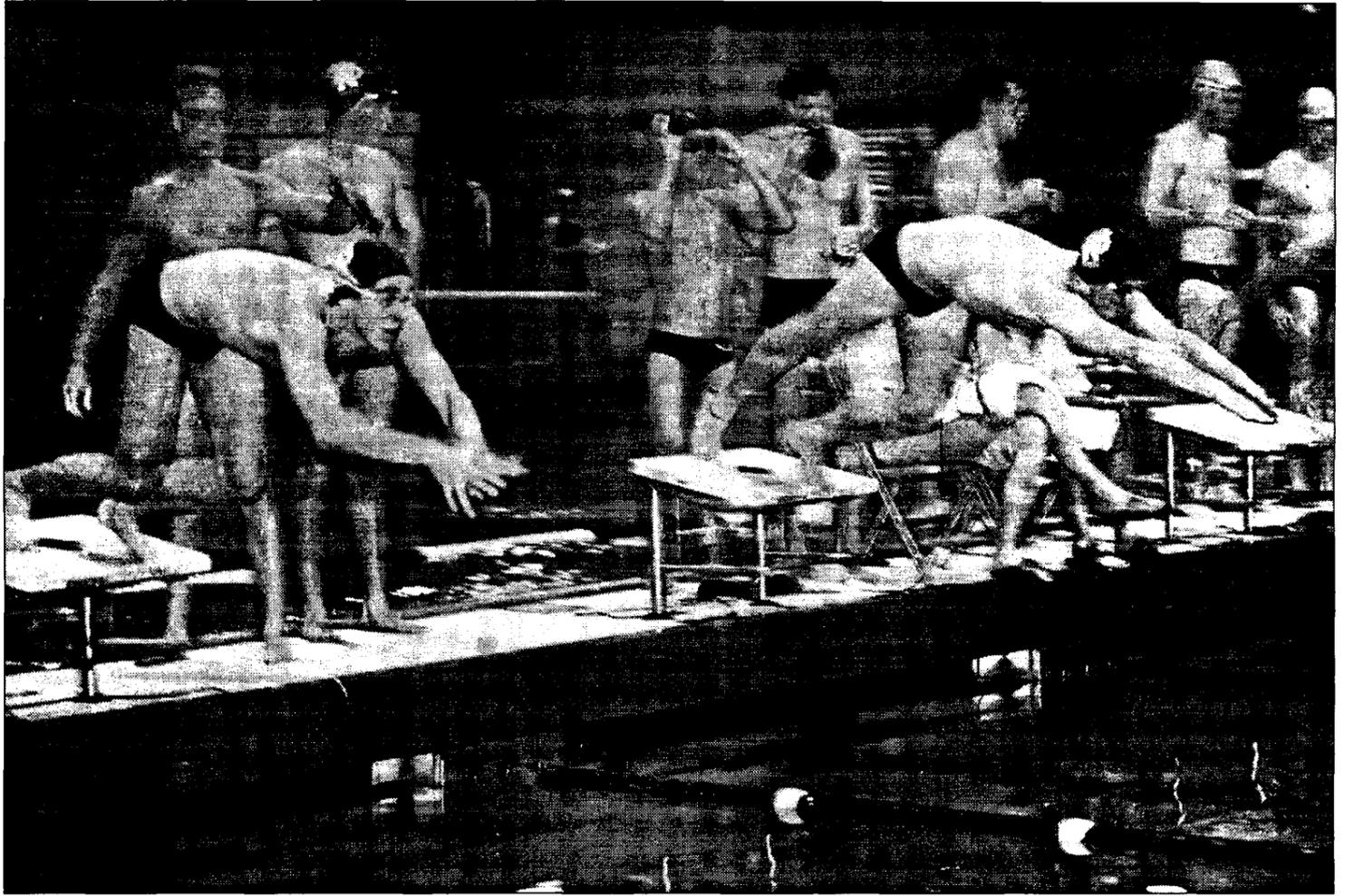
"Our objective coming into this meet is to look at it as the focal point of the fall semester," said Welsh.

"The team's focus this year has been to seek improvement in each meet and swim faster," said Welsh.

Thursday's close competition ended with the Irish in fourth place with 305 points. Denison University was in first place with 372 points followed by Michigan State with 365 points and Western Kentucky University with 321 points. The team lost their second place standing after being disqualified in the final event of Thursday's meet, the 400 medley relay.

Going into the rest of meet this weekend, Welsh said the team expects that Thursday's portion of the meet is a good indicator of how the rest of the Invitational will end: in a very close competition.

Besides seeing a vast improvement in times and following closely behind third place Western Kentucky in the overall standings, the team is using the Invitational as an opportunity to achieve qualifying times in events for the Big East Championship in



Two Irish swimmers dive into the water at the start of an event Thursday afternoon. The Irish are in fourth place after one day of competition.

February. This is the first year qualifying times will be required for the Big East Championship.

The Irish fared well with six swimmers posting qualifying

times in individual events.

Senior Jonathan Pierce and freshmen Matt Obringer and J.R. Teddy made qualifying times in the 500 yard freestyle event. In the 200 IM,

senior Ryan Verlin and sophomore Clay Miller had qualifying times along with junior Austin Anderson posting a qualifying time in the 50 yard freestyle.

Welsh was pleased with the results.

"Across the board, person to person, we have been faster today than we have been all year," said Welsh.

LISA VELTE/The Observer

## CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 3 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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LOST: MAN'S WEDDING RING IN SOUTH DINING HALL AREA ON MONDAY, NOV. 13. PLEASE CALL KEITH AT 1-6147. REWARD!!!

LOST: GOLD HEART & C.Z. BRACELET AT ND-BC GAME, SECTION 32. GIFT TO MY WIFE, HUGE SENTIMENTAL VALUE. IF FOUND, PLESAE CONTACT ME @ DUBE.1@ND.EDU

LOST: Black pea coat w/Pentax camera in pocket. Please call Kristin @ 2871 or return to Lyons Hall rec-tress, no questions asked.

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Semester Break Employment: PT & FT Temporary Opportunities, 2 min. from Notre Dame. Start Jan. 2. Excellent customer service skills. Will train. Please send resume to Weight Watchers Business Office (Phone Center) 2202-B South Bend Ave., South Bend, IN 46635, ATTN: Melanie. OR to schedule an interview, please email Melanie at mwagner@www-wmi.com

CHILDCARE NEEDED: ND prof needs childcare in home T-TH mornings, ideally 9-2 pm but at least 9-1. Three great kids, ages 5, 3, 1. Large comfortable home about 1 mile from campus. Own transportation required. Please call 631-3654 (days), 289-3865 (evenings) or email meissner.1@nd.edu.

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## PERSONAL

Wanted: Pimp Call Katie Mono? Ha-ha-HA!

Knott 46 Zahm 24

Game highlights: "Check it up?" "You were actually playing good tonight - what went wrong?" Timmy with 3 blocks and 3 missed layups Doherty takes one for the team

Some basic rules about baseball:

- Make contact first
- Don't play when it's raining
- Watch out for second base - it may be muddy
- Don't be a batboy
- Don't ever play for the other team

May the Force be with you, Krevda

Room 419 is tripping

Don't talk so loud - you're not hot

Puss n' boots

Everybody loves Chele

Does April ever sleep? 9 out of 10 say no

Sorry I couldn't distract you and make you lose more sleep tonight : )

# **“What Do We Want From Story?”**

Conference and Inaugural Lecture

*Includes:*

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Rev. Edward A. Malloy, Vilsoni Hereniko, Michael Rose, John S. Dunne  
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University of Notre Dame \* November 30 - December 2

## WOMEN'S SWIMMING



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Irish diver competes in the Notre Dame Relays. Diving takes place tomorrow at Rolfs Aquatic Center.

## Irish sprinters pace team in competition

By ANDREW SOUKUP  
Sports Writer

Even a stripped-down women's swimming team was good enough to grab first place in the Notre Dame Invitational after one day of competition.

Although several Irish swimmers did not compete Thursday because of conflicts with classes, the Irish still lead the seven team field with 374 points. Denison University is in second place with 356.5 points, and Harvard University is a distant third with 269 points.

"We feel pretty comfortable right now," said Irish women's swimming head coach Bailey Weathers. "A bunch of our swimmers didn't go today because they had class. We don't want to use up all our misses right away."

It didn't seem to matter that injured sprinter Carrie Nixon wasn't in the lineup for the Irish. Freshman Danielle Hulick turned in another strong performance in the 50-yard freestyle, finishing fourth. Junior Brooke Davey finished sixth, and Kelly Hecking won the B final to finish ninth overall.

"I thought the sprinters Kelly, Danielle, and Brooke had their best swims of the year," Weathers said.

Notre Dame also had two strong performances in both relays. In the 200-yard freestyle relay, the team of Hecking, Hulick, Sarah Bowman, and Davey won a tight battle for second place, finishing with a time of 1:37.29. Hecking and Hulick also teamed up with Allison Lloyd and Lisa Garcia to win the 400-yard medley relay in 3:52.71.

"Our relays have really put us in a good spot heading into the weekend," Weathers said.

The Irish also performed well in the 200 individual medley. Freshman Marie Labosky won in 2:04.71. Garcia finished in third place, two and a half seconds behind Labosky, and sophomore Amy Deger took ninth.

"We did a great job in the 200 IM," Weathers said. "Marie, Lisa and Amy all had great races."

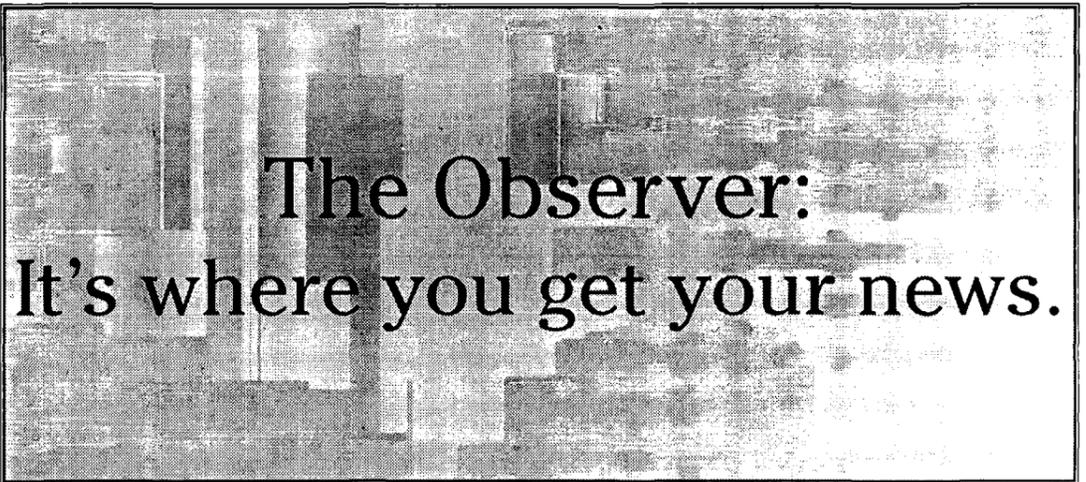
Senior Kristen Van Saun turned in a second place effort in the 500 freestyle. She finished in 4:58.42, losing to Denison's Tamara Carty by only .11 seconds. Sophomores Lindsay Moorhead and Nicole Kohrt finished seventh and eighth, respectively.

Notre Dame's talented freshman class stole the show once again. Of the 13 swimmers who scored points, six were freshmen.

"Our freshmen have done pretty well for us so far," Weathers said. "They've responded well to class and to training. They're a very special and talented group."

The Notre Dame Invitational resumes action today at 10:00 a.m. with preliminaries. Finals will be held later tonight, starting at 6:30 p.m. In addition, Notre Dame's elite diving corps will begin competing on the 1-meter springboard.

"We're going to do the same thing on Friday that we did today. Some of our swimmers are not going to compete because they've got class," Weathers said. "But on Saturday, we'll have everyone and we'll really be ready to go."



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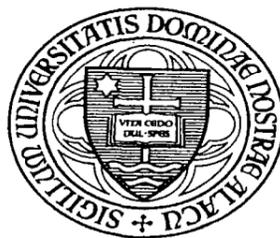
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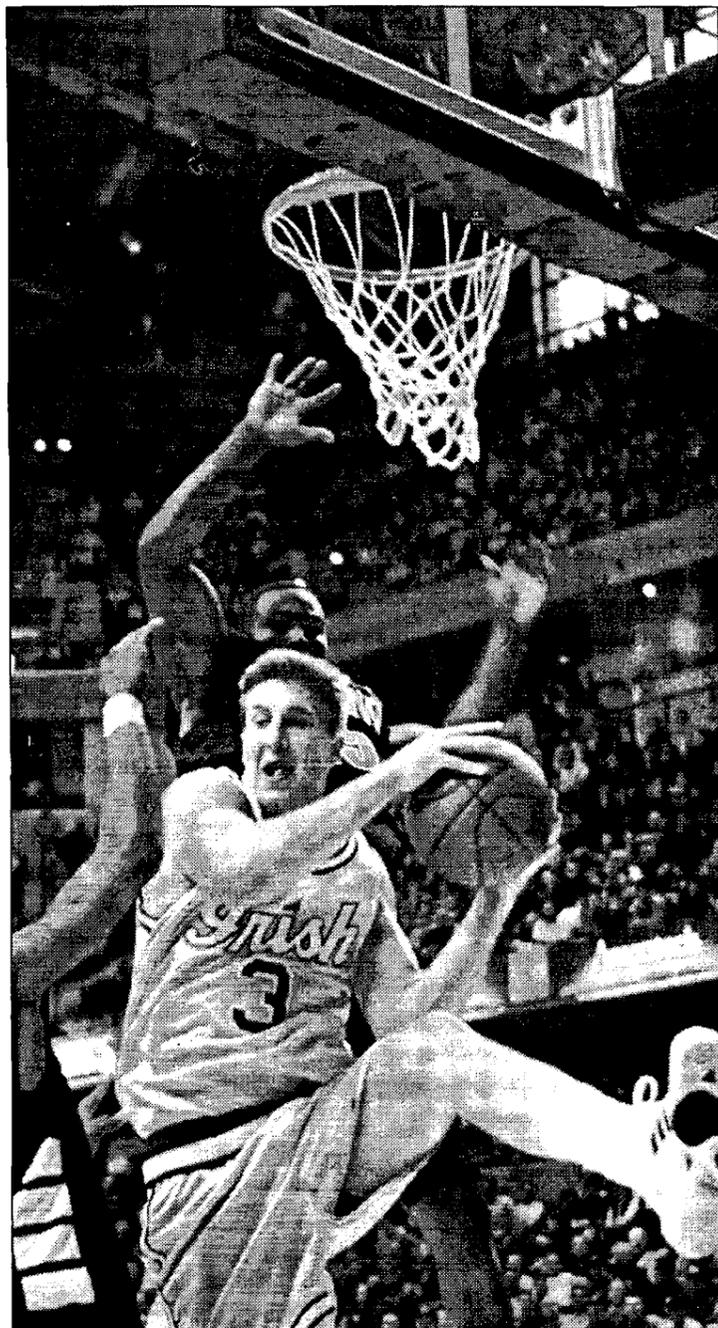
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LISA VELTE/The Observer

Junior Troy Murphy rips a rebound away from a Cincinnati player earlier this season. A pre-season favorite for Player of the Year Honors, Murphy will lead the Irish into tonight's game.

**Basketball**

Cincinnati last Saturday helped Notre Dame pull out the victory. Humphrey and Murphy, Notre Dame's power tandem down low, average 9.3 and 8.3 rebounds apiece, respectively.

continued from page 24

"I think our No. 1 key is going to have to be our defense in shutting down their shooters," Irish guard Matt Carroll said. "They've got a lot of big guys, and we're going to have to play consistent defense the whole game."

While the Commodores 3-point shooting percentage is well below Notre Dame's nationally leading 54 percent; the Commodores are still averaging about eight 3-pointers per game. Notre Dame sharp shooters Carroll, David Graves and Martin Ingelsby have fans expecting the ball to drop through the net every time they let one loose from behind the arc, but 3-point shooting won't be enough for an Irish victory.

"We really have to be able to defend their 3-point shots," Irish head coach Mike Brey said. "That gives them momentum and gets their building going, their home court crowd."

"I hope we just don't come down and shoot 3s on each other because we certainly want to get touches to our big guys down low, Troy [Murphy] and Ryan [Humphrey] and Harold [Swanagan]."

Vanderbilt should challenge Notre Dame on the boards with five players on its roster who are 6-foot-7 or taller. Williams averages nearly 10 boards per game and is helped by LaPointe's contributions.

Defensive rebounding in the second half against No. 17

"Rebounding and defense are the keys to winning any game," Humphrey said. "When we play defense, our offense will take care of itself."

Notre Dame fell short in its last two matches with Vanderbilt, despite Graves going for a career-high 33 points a year ago. The Irish would like nothing more than to strike back at the Commodores.

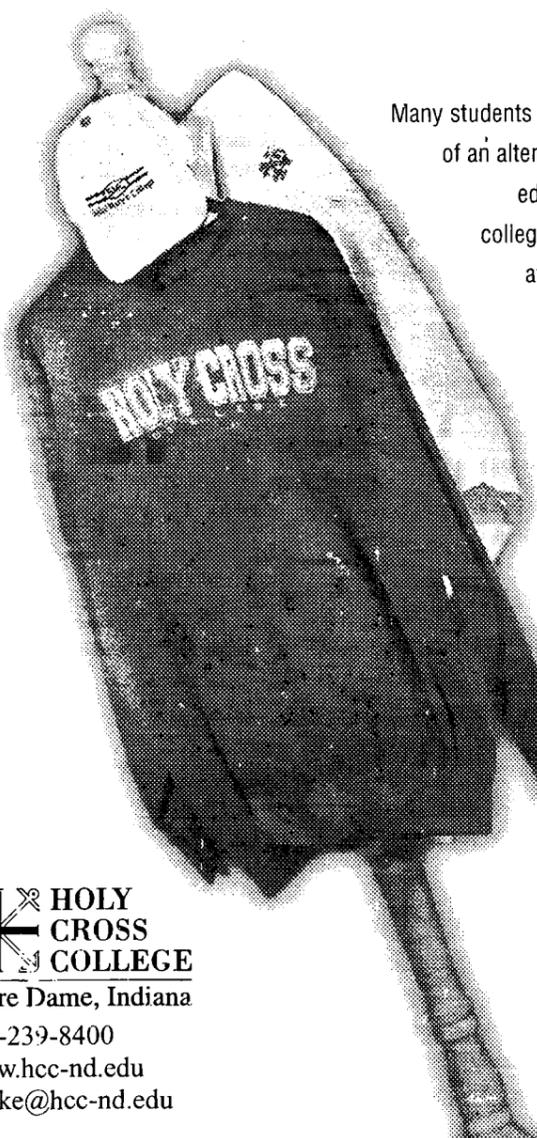
"Whenever you lose to somebody the year before," Carroll said, "you always want to go out and beat them. Especially losing to them in the way that we lost to them, that makes you just want to beat them even more."

The Vandy homecourt advantage won't make the Irish search for revenge any easier.

Memorial Gymnasium is the only Division I arena that has team benches beneath the baskets instead of along the sidelines. The arena, with a seating capacity of 14,100, is a loud one that throws opposing teams off balance.

"This is going to be a tougher challenge than Cincinnati," Brey said. "People don't really understand that, but we're going to have to play on their homecourt. Our demeanor and our communication is going to have to be excellent, because we're not going to be able to hear."

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WOMEN'S SWIMMING

# Saint Mary's faces Calvin, Olivet in MIAA matchup

By JANEL MILLER  
Sports Writer

There is a point in every season when you know that your team is ready for the competition. The Belles swimming and diving team is at that point.

Coming off a sixth place finish at the highly competitive Wabash Invitational, a win over

University of Western Ontario and a slew of record breaking swims, the Belles look to Saturday when they finally go

head to head in a MIAA contest against Calvin and Olivet Colleges.

Saint Mary's caught some action against the Calvin women at the Wabash Invite and have a rough idea of the competition. "They're a tough team. It's gonna be a tough meet," said Belles head coach Gretchen Hildebrandt after the Wabash Invite. The Belles haven't seen the Olivet women as of yet.

The Belles originally planned to swim both teams at home on separate occasions. Their first conference meet was to be at Rolfs Aquatic center on

Nov. 14 versus Olivet College but was cancelled. Because of the Notre Dame Invitational the schedule was changed, and the Belles sacrificed their home turf. Because of scheduling conflicts with both teams, the Belles are now on the road for their first conference meet. But instead of swimming one team, the Belles are going for two.

The Belles will experience their only home meet against Alma College Jan. 13, while the majority

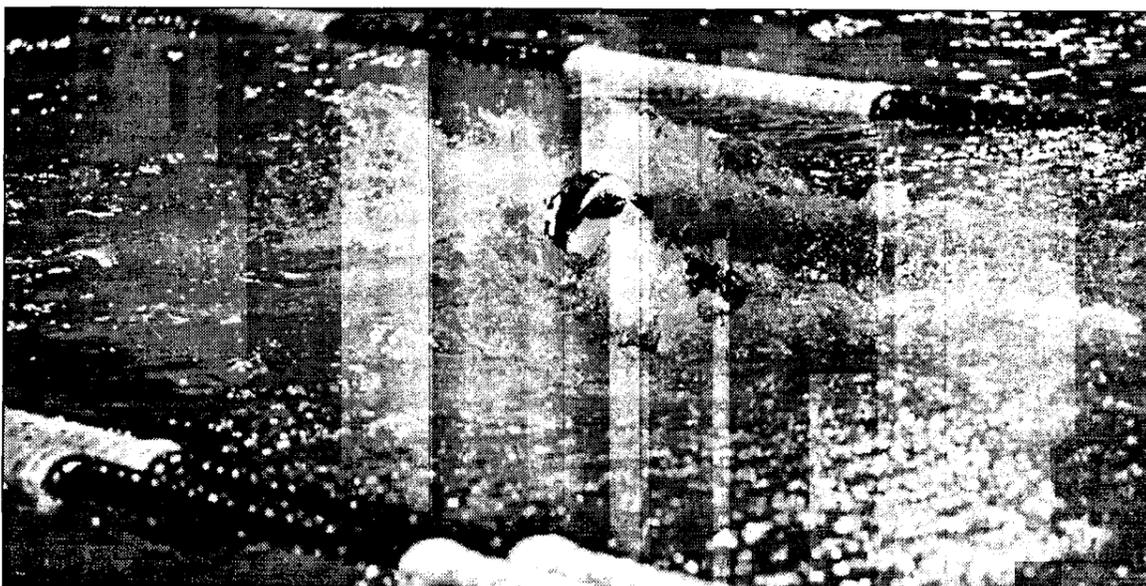
of their "would be fans" are gone for winter break.

Saint Mary's enters the meet with a clean conference slate. Calvin is 1-0 after a close win over Albion College in early November. The Calvin women are coming off a 1999-2000 second place finish in the MIAA and a 5-1 record.

Olivet, having faced Hope College and Kalamazoo College, reflect a 0-2 start in the conference meets. The Olivet women placed below the Belles fifth place finish in the '99-'00 Championship meet.

*"They're a tough team, it's going to be a tough meet."*

**Gretchen Hildebrandt**  
Saint Mary's swim coach



Freshman Chloe Lenihan competes in the 400-yard backstroke relay at the Notre Dame relays earlier this season.

LISA VELTE/The Observer

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# No. 4 ranked Irish take on Tarheels in Disney World



JOSE CUELLAR/The Observer

Irish forward Meghan Leahy shoots a free throw during Notre Dame's 89-44 victory over Fordham Monday night. Notre Dame takes on North Carolina at 1:30 Sunday afternoon.

By NOAH AMSTADTER  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Irish are going to Disney World.

Ruth Riley and the fourth-ranked Notre Dame women's basketball team take on North Carolina at 1:30 Sunday afternoon in the first game of the Honda Elite Classic. The game will be played at the Walt Disney World Wide World of Sports facility in Orlando, Fla. The game will be televised on ESPN2.

The Irish come into the game riding high with a 5-0 record after doubling up Fordham 89-44 Monday night. In that game, forward Meghan Leahy came off the bench to lead the Irish with 16 points and 14 rebounds. The previous Friday, Notre Dame topped then No. 5 Georgia to win the Coaches vs. Cancer classic in Madison, Wis.

"We've opened up the season and been able to play better than we've ever have at this point in the season," said Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw. "I think that we are really on a roll right now."

The key for the Irish thus far this season has been an inside-outside game that is very difficult to defend against. With All-American Ruth Riley down low, teams often leave guards Alicia Ratay and Niele Ivey open down low. Either Ivey or Ratay has been the leading scorer for the Irish in all but one game this season.

"They have the whole package," said Tarheels coach Sylvia Hatchell. "They have the three key things that you must have to be a final four team or a national championship team. They have a point guard, a shooter and a center. They're all as good as anybody in the country."

North Carolina enters the weekend with a 3-2 record. After being upset by Buffalo in their season opener, the Tarheels have regrouped to record victories over Syracuse and North Carolina A&T.

Hatchell utilizes a fast-paced offense that generally results in high-scoring games. "People like to see teams that get up and down the court," said Hatchell. "I don't like to play those 40 and 50 point games."

The key player for North Carolina thus far this season has been LaQuanda Barksdale, who scored 23 points and pulled down 13 rebounds to lead North Carolina to an 81-68 victory over Syracuse on Nov. 19.

"Barksdale's really the key to the team right now," said McGraw. "She's played extremely well."

The matchup between the Irish and Tarheels takes place almost one year to the day after Notre Dame topped a North Carolina team that was then ranked No. 9 in the country. Notre Dame won 99-86 in the opening round of the Wachovia Women's Invitational in Richmond, Va.

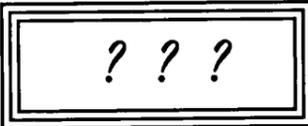
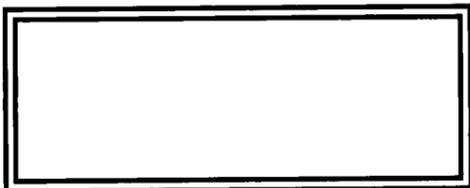
"They were a very good team last year when we played them," said Irish head coach Muffet McGraw of North Carolina.

The Irish were led last year by the strong shooting of guard Alicia Ratay. Ratay scored 32 points, including six three-pointers, to lead Notre Dame.

"She made every shot she took against us last year," said Tarheels coach Sylvia Hatchell. "We couldn't stop her. She was just popping shots all over the court."

Forward Ericka Haney had one of her better games of the year, scoring 18 points and pulling down 14 rebounds.

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# 2000 NCAA Women's College Cup



vs.



## IRISH INSIGHT



Freshman Amy Warner penetrates the Michigan defense during NCAA tournament action earlier this season. Today, Warner will make her first start since her injury in early October.

## 5 Irish Keys to Victory

### 1) Believe

North Carolina's mystique is unavoidable. They've won 16 of the 19 titles contested. The Irish must avoid getting caught up in history to score a victory over a team that has had their number in the past. Notre Dame enters this game as the favorite on the field. They need to ignore the tradition and focus on just playing the game.

### 2) Hang in There

The Tar Heels will have their chances, their offense is potent and shots are inevitable. The Irish must keep their wits early, weather any potential storms, and then find a rhythm from there. The Irish defense will have to be especially tough. Santa Clara outshot the Irish 18-4 last week. If Notre Dame wants to win, it has to cut down North Carolina's shot opportunities while at the same time taking advantage of every scoring opportunity of its own.

### 3) Anne Makinen

College soccer's best player can change games singlehandedly. This is one she might need to alter. Makinen has been involved in 39 percent of Notre Dame's goals. She needs to use her leadership to organize the offense. Makinen doesn't want to end her collegiate career with a loss — her competitive instincts need to take over and dominate the game.

### 4) Midfield to Warner Connection

With Warner starting her first game since early October, the Irish will have more speed up front. The midfield must control play and feed Warner. She converts the opportunities she gets. It's up to the Makinen-led midfield to get her the ball.

### 5) Liz Wagner

The Irish goalkeeper has played her best in big games this season and tonight's game is the biggest of them all. She may need to make the clutch save. Wagner played her best game of the season against Santa Clara. Tonight, she has to play even better.

-Kevin Berchou and Andrew Soukup  
The Observer

## Top ranking means little against UNC

Look carefully at the No. 1 sign at the top of Grace Hall. You may not notice at first, but at the very bottom of the sign there is a little tiny asterisk. Next to that asterisk it says:

"But they haven't played the Tar Heels yet."

Notre Dame's undefeated record and No. 1 has one tiny little flaw — the Irish haven't beaten the best yet.

For the first time since 1996, the Irish and Tar Heels did not face each other in the regular season.

It doesn't matter what the polls say. It doesn't matter what the records are. North Carolina is the favorite to win the national title every year.

"Their history says enough, and it's no different this year," Irish head coach Randy Waldrum said. "Until someone beats them,

they're the team to beat, it doesn't matter where they're ranked."

The Irish should be commended for their 23-0-1 record. Notre Dame is the only team to finish the regular season undefeated and the only top seed in the tournament to make the final four.

But all that doesn't mean squat to North Carolina — even if Tar Heels have three more losses and four less wins than the Irish.

The Tar Heels just know how to win when it matters. No matter what their regular season record — and it's usually pretty close to perfect — coach Anson Dorrance always has his team playing its best in the tournament.

He has 16 national championship trophies to his credit — 15 more than the Irish who are tied for second in all-time championship with just one. In the 11 meetings between the two teams, the Irish have won just twice and managed only two ties. The other seven meetings all ended in Tar Heels celebrations — including last year's championship game.

So throw the previous 24 games out the window. They don't matter.

Ignore the 6-1 and 1-0 victories against Santa Clara.

Forget about the sixth straight

Big East Conference tournament title.

It doesn't matter that the Irish seniors have won 88 games in their careers.

The entire season comes down to just one game. Ninety minutes decide how the 2000 Irish will be judged.

Taking nothing away from the two other semifinal teams — Portland and UCLA — but the national champion will be decided in the semifinals.

Three times in the 90s, the Irish and Tar Heels met in the finals. All three times the Tar Heels won — including last year's 2-0 North Carolina win.

This will be the third time the Irish have met in the semifinals. The Irish beat the Tar Heels in 1995 to advance to the finals and win their first and only national title.

Just 90 minutes stand between a very good regular season and a season to remember. Beat the Tar Heels and that No. 1 sign will blaze a little bit brighter and without that annoying little asterisk.

*The views expressed in this column are solely those of the author and are not necessarily those of The Observer.*



Mike Connolly

Outside looking in

### 2000 Women's College Cup

### Starters

<p><b>Forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12-Amy Warner</li> <li>10-Meotis Erikson</li> <li>9-Ali Lovelace</li> </ul> <p><b>Midfield</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8-Anne Makinen</li> <li>11-Ashley Dryer</li> <li>4-Mia Sarkesian</li> <li>7-Monica Gonzalez</li> </ul> <p><b>Defense</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-Kelly Lindsey</li> <li>15-Kerri Bakker</li> <li>16-Lindsey Jones</li> </ul> <p><b>Goalkeeper</b> 0-Liz Wagner</p>	<p><b>Forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11-Anne Remy</li> <li>28-Meredith Florence</li> <li>32-Alyssa Ramsey</li> </ul> <p><b>Midfield</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9-Jena Kluegel</li> <li>16-Jordan Walker</li> <li>25-Maggie Tomecka</li> </ul> <p><b>Defense</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4-Julia Marglender</li> <li>10-Kalli Kamholtz</li> <li>30-Danielle Borgman</li> </ul> <p><b>Goalkeeper</b> 1-Jenni Branam</p>
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## 5 Heels Keys to Victory

### 1) Stop Anne Makinen

Makinen, one of five finalists for the Hermann Trophy, has scored or assisted on 39 percent of Notre Dame's goals. She needs four assists to become just the sixth woman in Division I soccer to record 60 goals and 60 assists for her career, and a goal like that is just the motivation a player of her fierce competitive nature needs for extra intensity.

### 2) Mind the Middle

Because the Irish play with three central midfielders, the Tar Heels will need to help each other out defensively in the middle of the field. They handled that scheme well in the final last year, but they had Lorrie Fair, Lindsay Stoecker and Rebekah McDowell back then. A less experienced UNC defense could have problems.

### 3) Score Early

The Tar Heels have been at their best and most dominant this season when they have scored early and put games out of reach before they barely have a chance to begin. In their three losses, they outshot their opponents 66-25 but couldn't find the back of the net when they needed to. The longer teams hang with UNC, the more confidence they build.

### 4) Meredith Florence, Please Stand Up

Florence's 25 goals are tops in the nation, and her 58 points place her fifth. Her 1.14 goals per game average leaves her at third in the nation. She has been UNC's most consistent and reliable scorer this season and can't afford a slump against Elizabeth Wagner and an Irish defense that leads the nation in goals against average at 0.325 per game.

### 5) Keep On Rolling

Ever since the regular season ended, North Carolina has looked like a different team. The Tar Heels gave up one goal in three games in winning their 12th straight ACC title and have maintained that intensity throughout the NCAA tournament. The players have frequently said that they feel they have something to prove after being doubted following the regular season. This is certainly not the most dominant of UNC teams but it still has that extra level it can kick into in the postseason.

-James Giza  
The Daily Tarheel



# 2000 NCAA Women's College Cup



## Soccer

continued from page 24

season.

"She seems tough. She's tall, and she's strong and she's got good hands so I think she'll be tough to go up against," said Tar Heel midfielder Anne Remy.

"They're such a high pressure team, so we have to be more patient," said Waldrum. "Our defense will have to be at it's best, and it's been good all year, while our offense will have to help take some of the pressure off the defense."

Offensively, the Irish will receive a boost as Waldrum plans on starting freshmen sensation Amy Warner — who has played only in spurts recently while recovering from a knee injury. Her speed should allow her to team with sophomore Ali Lovelace and senior Meotis Erickson to create plenty of chances.

Knowing the relentless style that the Tar Heels play, Waldrum is aware that his team must do a better job of possessing the ball and controlling play than it has in past outings against North Carolina.

"They're a pretty direct team. We're not going to stop them from playing the ball forward, we just have to limit their opportunities," he said. "We're going to have to work hard to win the ball, and we're going to have to control their forwards. They're a dangerous group."

Though both the offense and defense will play equally important roles in a potential Irish victory, perhaps the biggest key — the one that will unlock

the door to the national championship game — lies in the play of the midfield.

Since the host field is somewhat smaller than a normal pitch, the midfield will play a more important role in controlling the flow of play and working the ball forward.

"The game will likely be won or lost in the midfield. Last year, that was the case. We have to be more dominant in controlling the ball and keeping it," Waldrum said.

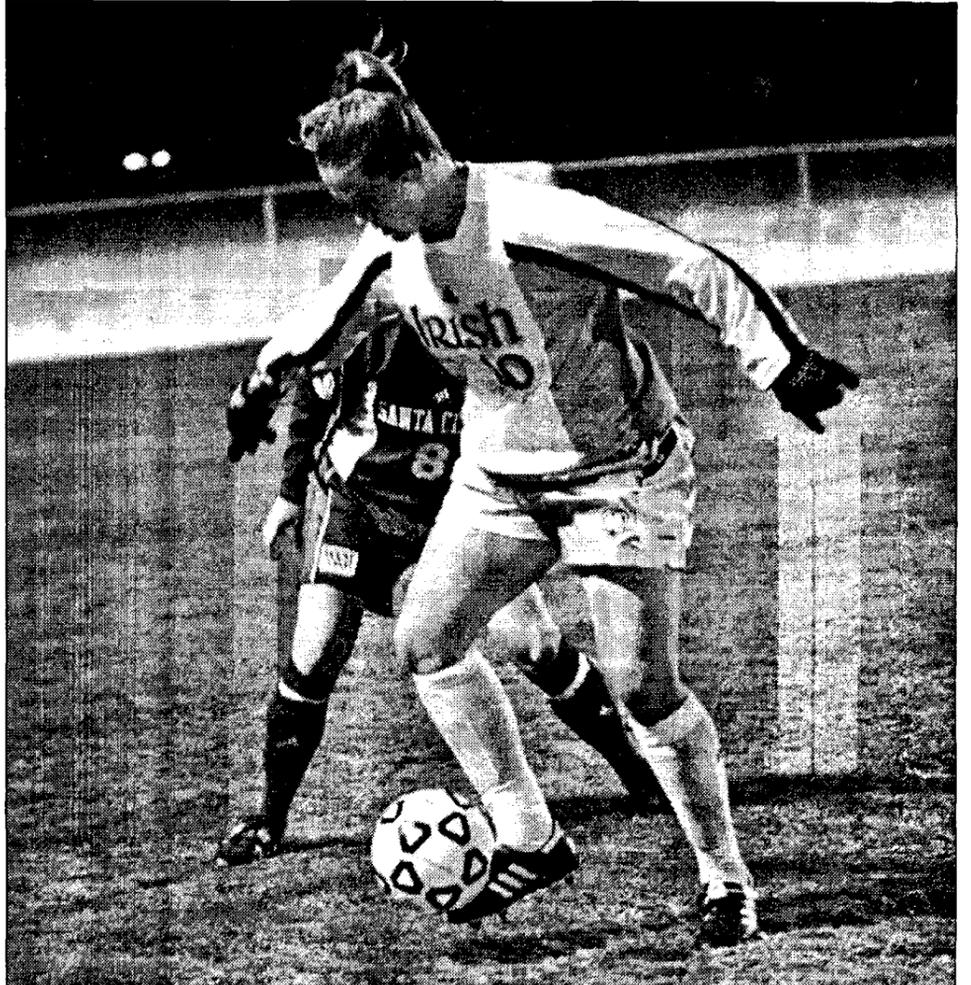
Since the Irish have one of the nation's best midfielders in Anne Makenin, they figure to have the edge in the midfield. Makenin didn't play in the second half of last year's finals loss to the Tar Heels and her presence this year will make a world of difference in the Irish midfield.

"She's one of the best players to ever play collegiate soccer. She'll be their attacking midfielder, and we've got to some how contain her," UNC head coach Anson Dorrance noted.

While Waldrum concedes Carolina's forwards are likely slightly better than his own, he feels his team's strong midfield gives his squad an edge in one of the biggest games they'll ever play.

"I think we're better in the middle, but they probably have the edge out wide," he said. "We don't have to prove anything, our record speaks for itself, I don't think we feel any outside pressure. We know what we have to do."

The winner, or maybe the survivor of this war, will go on to play the winner of the Portland-UCLA game in the final Sunday afternoon. But Waldrum knows that this game is most important. The two best teams remaining will play each other tonight.



Senior Meotis Erickson dribbles past a Santa Clara player during last Friday's semifinal game. Notre Dame plays North Carolina at 8 p.m. EST later tonight.

LISA VELTE/The Observer

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## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

## Irish face Buckeyes in 1st round of NCAA tournament

By RACHAEL PROTZMAN  
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame volleyball team heads to Ohio State this weekend as it participates in the first round of NCAA tournament play against Cincinnati on Friday.

The No. 19 Irish stand at 25-6 with all six losses being to ranked teams: Nebraska, UCLA, Michigan, USC, Michigan State and Colorado State.

Notre Dame led the Big East regular-season at an undefeated 11-0 this year as well as earning the 2000 conference championship title with three-game sweeps over Connecticut and Rutgers. Senior Denise Boylan earned the Big East Player of the Year, Setter of the Year and Championship Most Outstanding Player awards while compiling a .286 hitting percentage which ranks first in Notre Dame history.

Senior co-captain Christi Girton and Junior Kristy Kreher were also named to the all-Big East first team while junior Marcie Bomhack was a conference second team selection. Freshman Kim Fletcher earned the all-Big East rookie of the year title. Notre Dame rounded out the awards banquet with head coach Debbie Brown earning the 2000 Big East coach of the year.

The Irish ended Big East play with the fifth of six years in which they didn't give up a game. Notre Dame will look for its second historical win over Cincinnati. The two teams have

faced each other only once in 1987 when the Irish edged over the Bearcats in five games. Cincinnati is currently 24-9 and 14-2 in Conference USA play. Shaunte Miller will look to pose a threat to Irish defense by increasing her 491 total kills in 2000 at Cincinnati's second consecutive NCAA appearance.

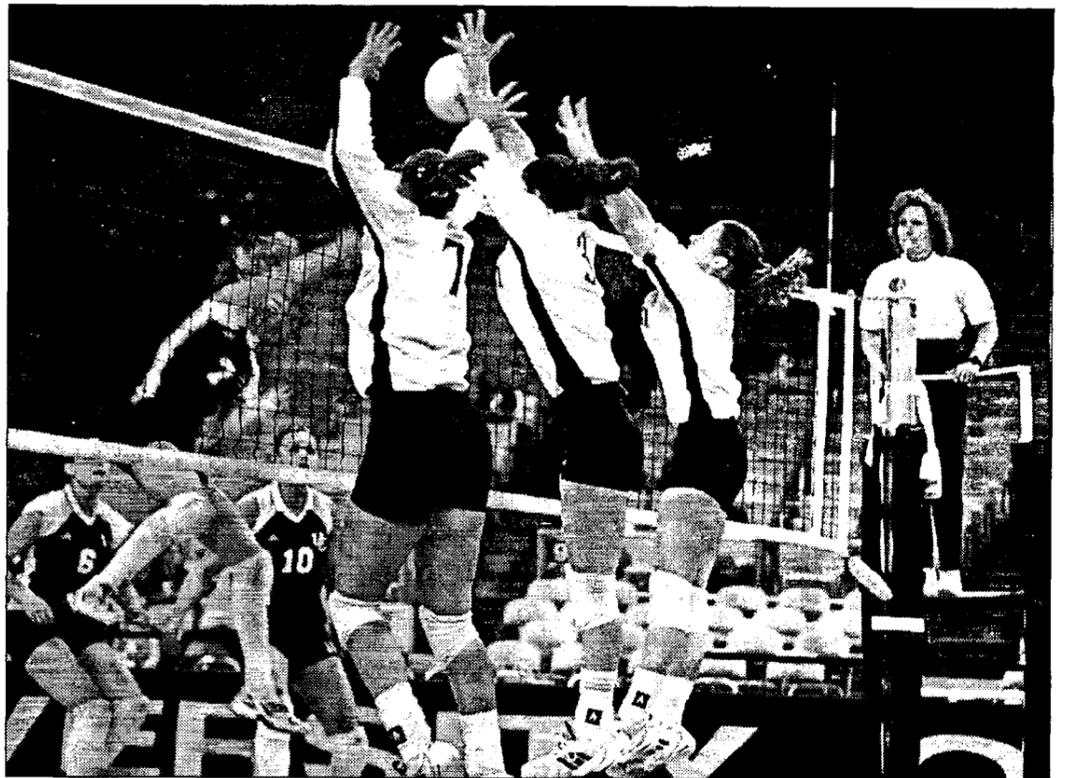
With a win, Notre Dame will move on to face the winner of the Ball State vs. Ohio State game to be played later Friday night. Ohio State is currently 24-6 with a fourth place finish in the Big Ten and will host its seventh NCAA tournament. The Buckeyes ended Irish tournament play last year in a four-game win.

Ball State is 25-6 going into its second consecutive NCAA tournament. Megan Hammons leads Cardinal offense with 551 kills this season. Notre Dame is coming off an end to an 11-game winning streak with a five-game loss to No. 3 USC. Game five summarized the match as both teams were back and forth, neither gaining more than a three-point advantage.

until USC racked up a 13-9 lead which led to its victory.

Kreher will look to put a stop to opponent offense this weekend by increasing her team lead of 250 digs while Girton will hope to execute a stellar offensive performance, leading the Irish with 418 kills in 2000.

The Irish will look to edge over their 500 NCAA tournament history, a 9-9 record in their ninth consecutive appearance.



DUFFY-MARIE ARNOULT/The Observer

Senior Christi Girton, left, and Junior Malinda Goralski defend against Connecticut during the Big East Semifinals on Nov.18.

## Seminoles' season ends at ACC Tourney

By DAN WESTGATE  
FSUView & Florida Flambeau

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.

The No. 4 Florida State Seminoles ended their season after losing in four games to the No. 5 Duke Blue Devils (14-16, 10-15, 15-4, 10-15) at the ACC Tournament in Winston-Salem, N.C.

"Losing to Duke in the (ACC) tournament was a real disappointment for the team," FSU head coach Dr. Cecile Reynaud said. "Duke blocked tremendously well in the game, and we just couldn't break through."

Junior middle hitter Norisha Campbell posted 16 kills, six blocks, and a .364 hitting percentage in the four matches against Duke. She was named first-team all-conference by the ACC the day prior to the match.

Lone senior outside hitter Jennifer Werrick contributed a match-high 25 digs and 10 kills in the match after being named second-team all-conference.

The FSU offense was run by setter Jennifer Anderson. The freshman had 49 assists in the match. She was named to the ACC All-Freshman team.

And topping the list of awards was Reynaud who was awarded the ACC Coach of the Year for the second time. The last came in 1992 when she finished first-place in the regular season.

The fourth-place 'Noles finished their season with a record 21 wins and 11 losses and a conference record of nine wins and eight losses.

Reynaud hopes that the early signing of two student-athletes will improve the team and help them in the 2001-2002 season.

Aisha Carr, a 6-foot outside and middle hitter from Dallas, Texas and Ashley Meyer, a 6-foot middle hitter from Luling, Louisiana, will be joining the Lady Seminoles next season.

"Aisha Carr was a nationally recruited player," Reynaud said. "She is well developed with the experience of playing for a top club. Aisha is also an excellent student-athlete and a dedicated volleyball player."

"Ashley will quickly develop into a dominant force at the net. She has a competitive personality which also helps her to excel in the classroom."

Reynaud is very excited about the future of Lady Seminoles volleyball with these two additions. However, they will have some big shoes to fill with the graduation of Werrick. Reynaud is confident that the new recruits will have opportunities to perform.

"Jennifer Werrick is the only player that we are losing from this year's team," Reynaud said. "These two women [Carr and Meyer] will have an opportunity to compete for a starting spot on a young returning team."

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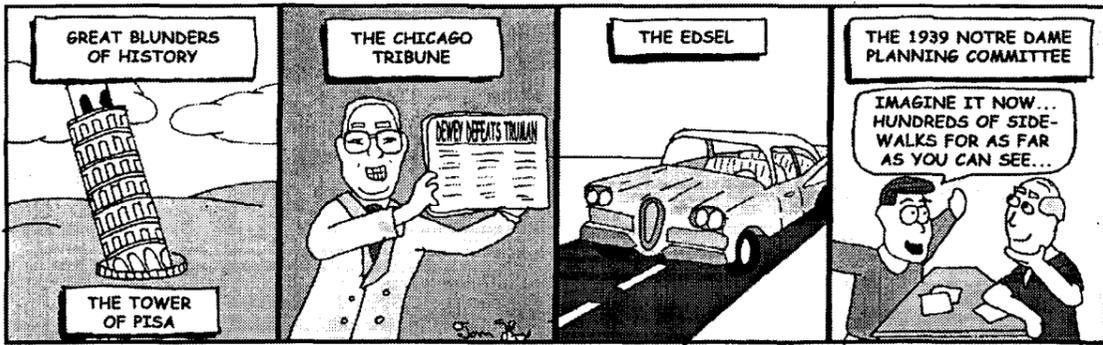
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FOURTH AND INCHES

TOM KEELEY



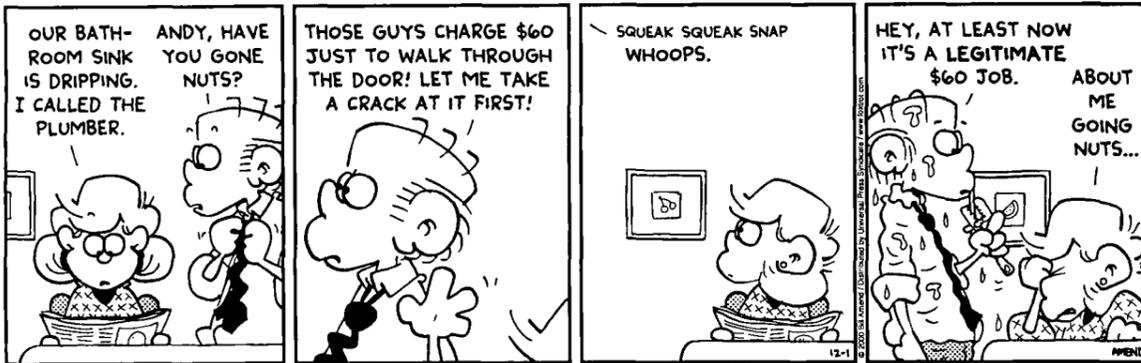
THINGS COULD BE WORSE

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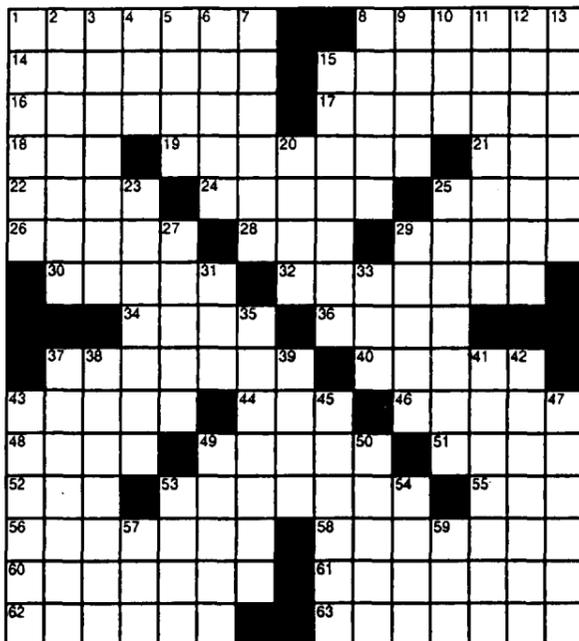
FOX TROT

BILL AMEND



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Adam Dalgliesh's creator
  - 8 Notch cut into a board
  - 14 Blast furnace input
  - 15 Target of a deadly attack
  - 16 I may be replaced by it
  - 17 Encouraged by others, in a way
  - 18 Visa statement abbr.
  - 19 Makes a scene?
  - 21 "\_\_\_-ching!"
  - 22 Not rouge
  - 24 Tie
  - 25 It requires 32 cards
  - 26 "Musée des Beaux Arts" poet
  - 28 Mozart's "L'Oca \_\_\_ Cairo"
  - 29 Drunken
  - 30 Obsolescent communication
  - 32 Paleontological study
  - 34 Some club members
  - 36 Jazz bit
  - 37 Bit of gunpowder
  - 40 Vegetable sponge
  - 43 Heart's-ease abbr.
  - 44 It may be corny
  - 46 \_\_\_ body (cell part)
  - 48 Old character
  - 49 Crusade
  - 51 "My Heart Will Go On" singer
  - 52 Word before while
  - 53 Shacks
  - 55 Spain's Victoria Eugenia, familiarly
  - 56 Grand master?
  - 58 Strands, perhaps
  - 60 Direction for a 56-Across
  - 61 Stunned
  - 62 Approvals
  - 63 Company in a prominent 2000 lawsuit
- DOWN**
- 1 Amazonian menace: Var.
  - 2 Classless one?
  - 3 It might be done 17-Across
  - 4 Suffix with Shakespeare
  - 5 It's found in a foundry
  - 6 Gen. Rommel
  - 7 Fume
  - 8 No big babies
  - 9 "What \_\_\_!"
  - 10 Frost victim
  - 11 Less cheery
  - 12 She never reached Howland Island
  - 13 Place for signatures
  - 15 Facetious
  - 20 Inc. reader, perhaps
  - 23 Opener
  - 25 Crab, e.g.
  - 27 Poet Sachs



Puzzle by Brendan Emmett Quigley

- 29 Blur
  - 31 Jaguar model
  - 33 Disney's Cruella De \_\_\_
  - 35 Oversupply
  - 37 Bully?
  - 38 The planets and others
  - 39 Warm Alpine wind
  - 41 Charges
  - 42 Go through hell
  - 43 Settle beforehand
  - 45 Has a quiet dinner, say
  - 47 Comparatively cockamamie
  - 49 Is 15-Down
  - 50 Andrews of the L.P.G.A.
  - 53 Bank sight
  - 54 Cake composition
  - 57 "If I Ruled the World" rapper
  - 59 Logophile's love: Abbr.
- Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2000

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Woody Allen, Richard Pryor, Bette Midler, Charlene Tilton, Gilbert O'Sullivan, Carol Alt

**Happy Birthday:** Set your sight on your goals and don't stray. You will want to try everything that comes your way, which would lead to mediocre results. If you have tunnel vision, you will do far better. With determination and hard work, you will find success. Your numbers: 9, 13, 27, 31, 44, 48

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You must complete unfinished projects if you wish to keep everyone around your home will surface if you have not spent enough time with family. ☉☉☉

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You can expect fireworks at home if you have been spending too much time with your friends or on the road. Delays in shipments are likely. Make your claims quickly. ☉☉

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You will be the life of the party. Your quick retorts will keep everyone in stitches. Theft or losses are evident, so keep track of your wallet and other possessions. ☉☉☉

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You will take things the wrong way today. Extravagance will be a key issue. Refrain from trying to buy someone's friendship. You're the one who needs to change, not your partner. ☉☉

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Your colorful exaggerations will bring you popularity, but it may be at the expense of someone's feelings. Think twice before you make someone else the brunt of your good fun. ☉☉☉

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Too

much too fast will be the issue. Don't expect anyone to come to the rescue. You will have to solve your problems alone. Financial changes will be favorable if you have budgeted wisely. ☉☉☉

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You can count on others to help you achieve your goals. Your tactful persuasion will ensure the necessary backing to follow through on your ideas. ☉☉☉

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You will be in a highly creative cycle. Get busy and work on ideas or hobbies that you had put aside. You express yourself well when dealing with those close to your heart today. ☉☉☉

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You desire to travel. Don't hesitate to plan your vacation early. Just the thought of going away should improve your emotional well-being. ☉☉☉

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You can become involved in financial ventures, but must not overextend yourself. Be sure you put some extra cash aside in case of an emergency. Older family members may need help. ☉☉

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You can expect an emotional push-and-pull with your lover or family members. Try not to be too cool in your actions. Put your differences aside and return to being kind to loved ones. ☉☉

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You can ask co-workers to help you finish up your work. Don't allow anyone to goad you into spending more than you can afford. Children may be emotionally draining. Ask for advice. ☉☉

**Birthday Baby:** You are fun-loving but also have relentless courage and a practical outlook that will always help ground you. You are lucky in life and should reach the goals you set.

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## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Clash of traditions

### ◆ Irish must ignore Tar Heels past successes in order to advance in tourney

By KEVIN BERCHOU  
Sports Writer

All season long the Notre Dame women's soccer team has known the way to San Jose.

The nation's top defense, a big game goalkeeper and an offensive arsenal led by one of women's college soccer's best players have had the Irish banking on an appearance in college's soccer's final four. However, one more thing was also certain — the Irish knew that to win the title they would have to topple the Tar Heels of North Carolina, a foe that

has tormented the Irish and the rest of the women's game since its inception.

North Carolina's dominance speaks for itself. The Tar Heels have advanced to the NCAA semi-finals each year they have been contested — their streak of 19 consecutive appearances date back to 1982. Those annual trips to the final four have yielded 16 national titles, including wins over the Irish in 1996 and 1999. Though on paper the undefeated, top-seeded Irish may be a favorite over the Tar Heels — whose fifth seed is their lowest ever — Notre Dame head coach Randy Waldrum knows that until someone slays the giant, the giant still rules.

"Their history says enough, and it's no different this year. Until someone beats them, they're the team to beat, it doesn't matter

where they're ranked," Waldrum said.

Though they have lost three times this year, the Tar Heels' mystique has not been dulled. Since the regular season ended nearly a month ago, North Carolina has been on a tear, its game-by-game improvement culminating with a 3-0 win over Connecticut — the same team that played Notre Dame to a scoreless tie earlier in the year — in the quarterfinals.

When college soccer's titans clash tonight in San Jose, it will be a battle of two teams with few discernable weaknesses.

"I think it'll be an exciting game," said North Carolina junior midfielder Jen Kluegel. "They have probably one of the best defenses and I think we have one of the best offenses, so we'll see what happens. It's going to be a

tough game, but we're going to do everything we can to win and be playing on Sunday. It'll be a battle."

The Notre Dame defensive corps will be charged with containing a high octane UNC attack that is led by senior Meredith Florance — who has already amassed 25 goals this season. Notre Dame fans will remember Florance well, as she scored the game-winning goal against Notre Dame in last year's final.

Additionally, the Irish will have to be watchful of speedy freshman Alyssa Ramsey, who has 14 goals and as many assists this season.

If the Tar Heels can penetrate the Irish defense, they'll still have to contend with junior Liz Wagner — who has been arguably the best goalkeeper in the nation this

see SOCCER/page 19

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Belles host Roundball Classic

By KATIE McVOY  
Assistant Sports Editor

Focus will be the key word for the Belles after coming off of a big win at the Turkey Shoot Classic last weekend as they open their home season.

The Saint Mary's basketball team will open its home season tonight at Angela Athletic facility as it hosts the SMC Roundball Classic. The Belles enter the tournament with a 3-2 record but don't want to let the overconfidence from last weekend's win get the best of them.

"We're working on staying focused and setting our goals," sophomore Kristen Matha said.

"It's our first home game," head coach Suzanne Smith added. "It's easy to stay focused on the road, but we will have to stay focused at home."

"Right now we're focused on Alverno," Smith said. "We can't start looking past it if we want to win."

Alverno comes into the tournament as a newly formed athletic program. The all women's college will prove to be interesting competition for the Belles.

"We really don't know too much about Alverno," Smith said. "They've been hard to get information on."

If Saint Mary's ends up facing off against Defiance in the second game, it will be an interesting combination of a competition and a reunion. Defiance transfer Junior Kelly Jones wore a Saint Mary's jersey the last time she stepped on the Angela court. This year she is will be donning a Defiance uniform.

"The women are really excited to see her, and I think they would really like to play Defiance," Smith said.

The Belles will be looking to step up their defense and be sure the get under the boards. They've been focusing on both of these areas all week in practice.

"Defense and rebounding have always been our focus," Smith said.

With a win this weekend, the Belles will tie their victory total from last season. The improved team is heading into this weekend planning to set some people straight.

"Everyone expects us to lose," Matha said. "We are playing to win."

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Irish face Commodores in battle of unbeatens

By KATHLEEN O'BRIEN  
Associate Sports Editor

The Commodores aren't the same basketball team they were when they edged the Irish 87-85 in overtime last year.

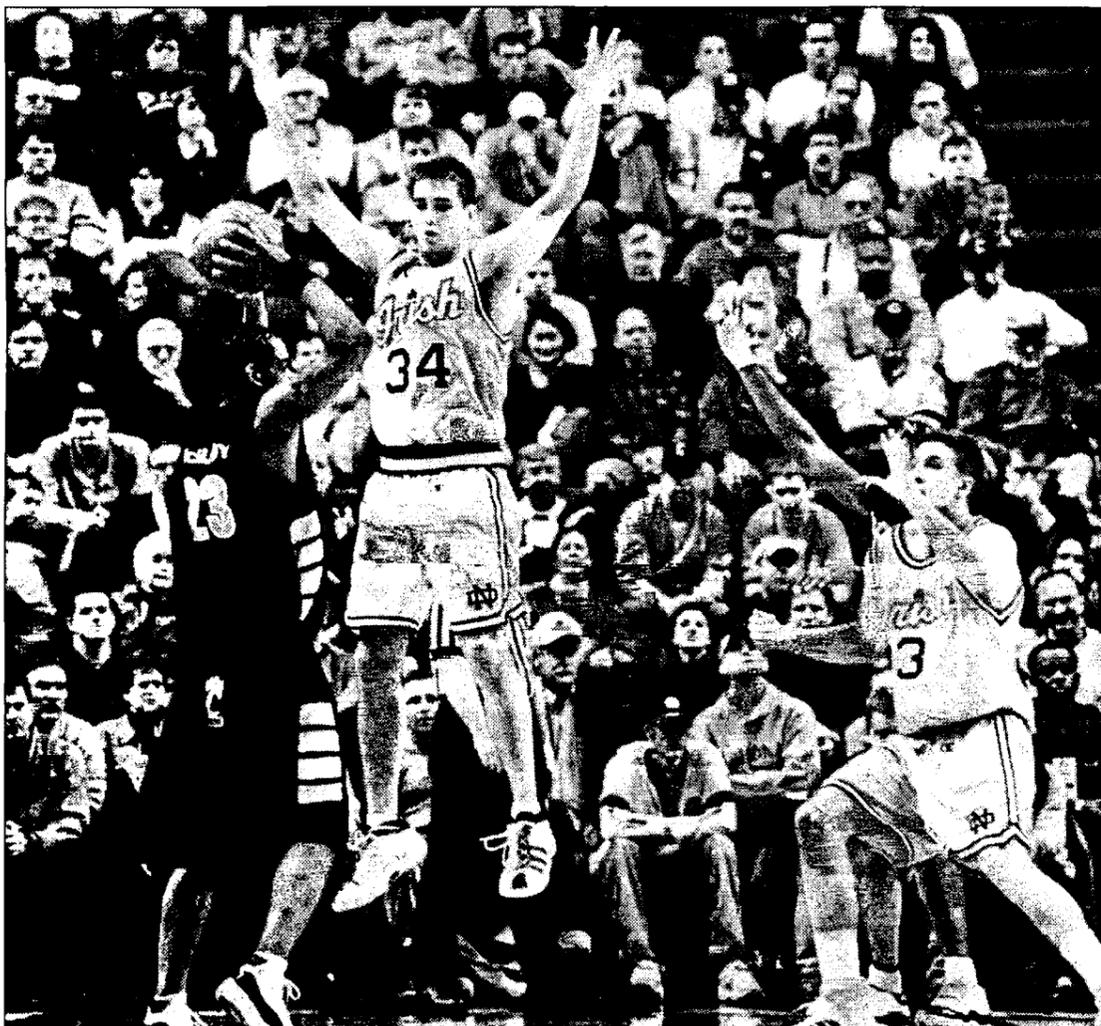
Vanderbilt lost leading scorers Dan Langhi and James Strong to graduation. The Commodores entered the season unranked with only two starters back from a team that lost in the first round of the NIT.

But Vanderbilt's 6-0 record indicates the Commodores are more than capable of adapting to the team's new make-up.

Senior center Greg LaPointe has tripled his scoring from a year ago, leading the Commodores with 15 points and nearly eight rebounds per game. Returning veterans Sam Howard and Anthony Williams, along with transfer Chuck Moore, all are scoring in double digits.

"They have weapons inside and outside," Irish forward Ryan Humphrey said.

Vanderbilt's strengths are perimeter shooting and rebounding.



LISA VELTE/The Observer

David Graves, left, and Troy Murphy play tough defense during Saturday's 69-51 win over Cincinnati. Undefeated Notre Dame will play Vanderbilt on Saturday night.

see BASKETBALL/page 17

## SPORTS AT A GLANCE



Women's Swimming  
Notre Dame Invitational  
Today-Saturday



vs. North Carolina  
College Cup semifinal  
Today, 5 p.m.



vs. Alverno  
Roundball Classic  
Today, 8 p.m.



Men's Swimming  
Notre Dame Invitational  
Today-Saturday



at Lake Superior State  
Today, 7:05 p.m.



at Vanderbilt  
Saturday, 8 p.m.



Volleyball  
vs. Cincinnati  
NCAA tournament  
at Columbus, Ohio  
Sunday, 7 p.m.

# IN FOCUS

Grading the government

Finals may be approaching, but student government is just hitting midterms. The Observer looks at our student leaders, and issues a report card.

Friday, December 1, 2000

A regular feature of The Observer's News Department.

## On the inside



## Student leaders must cooperate with administration

By CHRISTINE KRALY  
In Focus Writer

Rain poured down on game booths and the stuffed animal prizes afforded to the winners. The hard ground turned to mud, and the echoing sounds were not of music and laughter but of raindrops hitting dormant carnival rides.

Student government's Founder's Day carnival drew praise from government members and administration, but few everyday students. Was it just the rain, or was something amiss in the government's planning?

Unlike Student Union Board (SUB), student government is a body that does not function solely to sponsor campus events and programs. Student government, though, has taken steps this year to organize such events, like the campus-wide Founder's Day carnival in October.

Founder's Day, a day of campus outdoor activities including carnival rides and game booths,

was a sort of pet project proposed by student body vice president Brooke Norton at the beginning of the 2000 school year. Norton first brainstormed with student body president Brian O'Donoghue and fellow government members and then took the idea to advisor Mary Edgington, director of Student Activities.

"[We wanted to do] a fun thing for students ... that would be different," Norton said. She and government staff held informal talks with the Office of Student Activities and Office of Student Affairs who were "really receptive to the idea." It was then that the project planning really took off.

Norton and other members wrote a proposal outlining format ideas for the event to

Edgington. The idea was then sent to Peggy Hnatisko, head of the Financial Management Board (FMB), a division of Student Activities.

Groups like student government who wish to sponsor an event or program exceeding \$5,000 must send a proposal to FMB, whose funds come from student activity fees. Founder's Day was approved and government members moved to bring in the clowns.

"I wouldn't say it's necessarily easy," Edgington said of getting proposals approved. Problems occur, she said, when the group does not have the time or funding to sponsor an event. Founder's Day, for example, was produced with the help of nearly seven campus clubs, 11 dorms and 20 groups like Food Services

and WVFI.

After all the planning and all the groups involved in the production, Norton said, many people were left wondering "whose jurisdiction is it under?"

Planning events usually doesn't fall under student government jurisdiction because large events are usually SUB sponsored.

"Most of all it comes down to time," Edgington said of planning campus events. "You want to make it successful," she added, noting that the success of events like Founder's Day take months to prepare.

Finding the money to make the cotton candy flow is often a difficulty, too. The student body president and vice president know their budget, Edgington said, and they know the limits it puts on their event spending. Some initiatives, in fact, don't work because the money isn't available.

Government had planned on

### Inside

- ◆ Connecting with students pg. 2
- ◆ Student opinion poll pg. 2
- ◆ ND President pg. 3
- ◆ SMC student trustee pg. 4
- ◆ Board of Governance pg. 4
- ◆ SMC President pg. 5
- ◆ Campus Life Council pg. 6
- ◆ Students uninvolved pg. 6
- ◆ Student Senate pg. 7

ONE PERSON'S VIEW

# Let's open the doors

For the first time in recent memory, the Notre Dame student body has a leader. Brian O'Donoghue sincerely wants to make this University a better place; he wants to take the talent and potential of the students of Notre Dame and realize a vision of a greater University.

But the students he wants to lead don't know that. And that is a problem.

In preparing this special section, Observer staffers talked to hundreds of students about their government. And the most frequent thing people said about it was "I don't know."

Students don't know what their government is doing. They don't know that O'Donoghue and vice president Brooke Norton created a fund to help them when they need a plane ticket home in an emergency. They don't know that the Student Senate is trying to expand sexual assault education on campus.

They don't know because they don't hear about it. And they don't hear about it because so much of what O'Donoghue's administration does is done behind closed doors.

Student government has always had a reputation as something of an insider's club. This year that reputation is deserved. While small sections of the student body are consulted when our leaders are deciding what to do, too many decisions are made with not enough consultation.

And once the decision has been made, and our student leaders sit down to talk with each other and the administration, to hammer proposals into reality, everyday students are even more removed. They aren't told what's going on; often they're not even told when something is accomplished.

Student government is not the only side to blame for this, however.

If our representatives are insiders, most of the represented are indifferent. Students mock their senate and they ignore their president. And they don't give them a chance.

Student government held open forums about the alcohol policy at the start of the year, and attendance was low. Last December, the Student Union Board had a forum about campus concerts, and just a few people showed up. If we expect student leaders to act as our spokespeople to the administration, we need to tell them what to say.

Granted, student government has an image problem. Some past presidents have seemed to do little more than talk a lot and throw barbecues, attended mostly by other student government members and their friends.

O'Donoghue wants to do more than that. He wants to use his office to make life better for Notre Dame students (and not just by supplying them with occasional free hamburgers). But, at the same time, he and his staff have a problem communicating with those students, to find out how they want their life bettered and to tell them when things change.

Effective student government requires steps in two directions. It requires the governors to take a step towards the students, and it requires the governed to take a step towards the leaders.

Let's take those steps. Let's talk to each other. Let's open the doors.

*The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.*



Tim Logan

In Focus Editor

IN FOCUS STAFF

Editor: Tim Logan

Photography: Tony Floyd

Graphics: Katie Annis

# Trying to make a connection

## ◆ Government describes attempts to find student concerns

By FINN PRESSLY  
In Focus Writer

Perched just feet above the HuddleMart, Notre Dame student government has long been accused of keeping itself too far removed from mainstream campus life. Student body president Brian O'Donoghue claims he has worked this year to break down those barriers by maintaining the channels of communication in the dorms and around campus.

"It's safe to say that Brooke, Jay and I aren't hiding up in the second floor of LaFortune," he said, referring to student body vice president Brooke Norton and chief of staff Jay Smith.

Though all three have extensive background in student government, they feel that O'Donoghue's campaign for president exposed them to the broadest slice of student life.

"We went door to door and talked to every single student on this campus," O'Donoghue said.

He also credits the mix of personalities in student government for helping to expand the office's scope.

"There's no three more divergent personalities on this campus," he said of himself, Norton, and Smith. "We come from very different groups ... we don't hang out together

er on the weekends."

Smith echoed a similar sentiment. "It's not like the three of us are inseparable and we hang out," he said.

With their term now past the halfway mark, members of student government rely mainly on the mechanisms of campus government to gather information from students.

"We go through our division heads, and the heads of our committees. They're mostly freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, with some seniors," said student government director of public relations Dave Zachry. "I assume they speak with the students in their dorms."

The nexus of interaction between students and government, he said, are the hall council meetings within the residence halls.

"Hall Council is where most of the action should take place," he said. Ideas and concerns brought up at Hall Council are then radiated to student senators, hall presidents, and then on to the Office of the President.

Outside the meetings of the Hall Council, members of the student government try to make themselves available to input from their neighbors.

"In my three years, I've always

tried to ask people in the dorm what's going on. Some people say 'I don't care,' and some people give me an idea, and I go with it," Zachry said.

O'Donoghue also said that dorm life heightens awareness of campus issues.

"Brooke and I both live in residence halls, so we gain input through that," he said.

Campus media also functions as a forum for suggestions and comments.

"I personally read the Viewpoint page [of The Observer] religiously, and I know most people in student government do, too," Zachry said.

With all these avenues of input, however, some students concerns are still not addressed. According to Smith, decision making also takes into consideration those students who have not brought forth their issues.

"In our thought process, we have to think about them. We can't just think about students who are active ... we have to think about everybody," he said. "That's why we strive to be responsive to as many students as possible, because that's who we try to serve."

*Tim Logan contributed to this report.*

*"It's safe to say that Brooke, Jay and I aren't hiding up in the second floor of LaFortune."*

Brian O'Donoghue  
student body president

# Student Opinion

## Notre Dame Students

## Saint Mary's Students

Do you think student government is effective?



85% of ND freshmen said yes but just 63% of ND seniors

Do you think Student government represents your concerns?



83% of SMC sophomores said yes but just 27% of SMC seniors

Can you name your student senator/BOG rep.?



Can you name your student body president?



Just 26% of SMC freshmen said yes, but 100% of SMC seniors did

Results based on random telephone survey of 333 Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students on Nov. 29 and 30.

Describe student government in one word or phrase:

"effective"

"a sham"

"puppets"

"a voice for the students"

"they're there"

"stratergy"

"dedicated"

"I don't know"

"responsible"

"effective"

"trivial"

"you can't print that word"

"huh?"

## NOTRE DAME STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

## Working for the future

*O'Donoghue and Norton focus on a mix of student services and new programs*By LAURA ROMPF  
In Focus Writer

Although students may not realize the impact of the current office of the student body president, several programs it has implemented are designed to benefit students for years to come.

Student body president Brian O'Donoghue said the Rector's Endowment Fund was a campaign promise and a great accomplishment for the office. One-third of the profits from The Shirt sales goes into a separate fund, available for students to use for medical school applications, football tickets, section dinners or other costly items.

Although only \$906 of the fund's allotted \$34,000 had been used as of Nov. 15, O'Donoghue said he expected the slow start.

"We've established the fund for the future," O'Donoghue said. "What's important is there is money out there to help students... It's early and it's young. These things

need time to develop. People need to be aware its out there."

O'Donoghue, student body vice president Brooke Norton and chief of staff Jay Smith said the fund has not been highly publicized because of its personal nature.

"We want to recognize the dignity of the program," Smith said. "It's more about support for the students than publicizing our accomplishment."

A-

The Office of the President has fulfilled almost every campaign promise with only a few exceptions. Compared to recent administrations, the office has gone above and beyond expectations, achieving goals few thought possible.

The office said they are also proud of the Founder's Day carnival, even though rainy weather caused a low turnout for the event. Smith said he hopes the next office will build on Founder's Day so it will become an annual event.

"It was the first for that type of operation," Smith said. "Next year, hopefully, it will continue. We've paved the way, did the work and proved it can

be done."

"We got 30 different groups involved instead of normal events that are just planned by one body," Norton said. "The students who did go said they liked it and were happy with it."

The third significant accomplishment the office completed is sending students to the Board of Trustees winter meeting.

"This has never happened before," Smith said. "Students

*"A lot of folks say students are apathetic, but we proved them wrong beyond a doubt."*

**Brian O'Donoghue**  
student body president

## Cheers and Jeers

## Cheers

**O'Donoghue's optimism:** Backed by his ambitious personality and significant amount of time and energy, O'Donoghue has accomplished twice as much in half a term than the previous student body president did the entire year. Only suggestion: sleep.

**Founder's Day:** The Gravitron on campus? Felt like a country fair right here at Notre Dame. However, it pointed out one important fact: Odie is not God. While he's accomplished a lot, he can't control the weather.

## Polite Applause

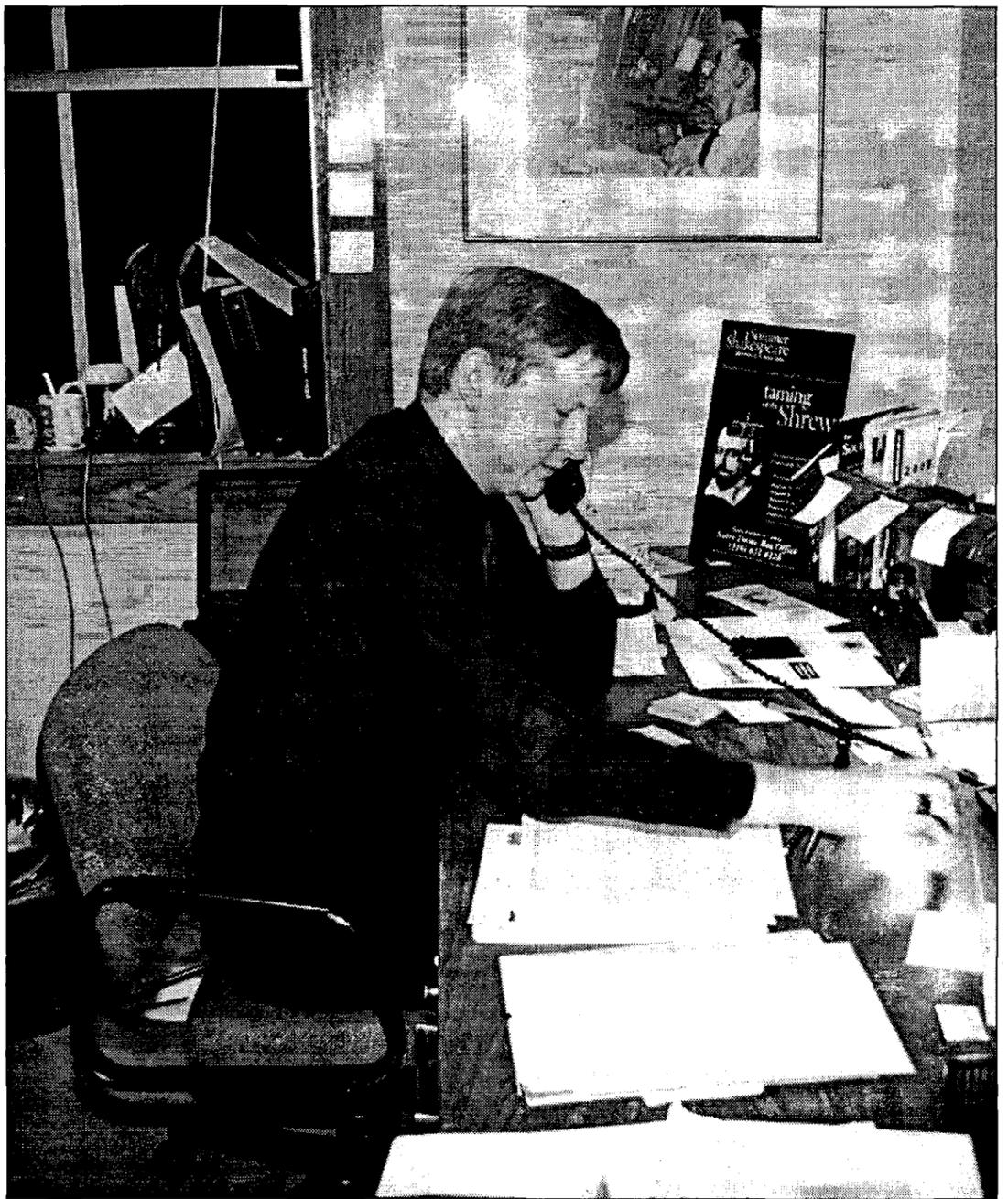
**Rector's Endowment Fund:** Good idea, just not useful. If only \$1000 of the \$34,000 is used, can't that money be put to a better use? Maybe add it the \$3 billion endowment because it's not big enough yet.

**Student to Board of Trustees:** A major goal is accomplished. The students' voice is heard. But if students won't voice their opinion or more accurately, don't seem to care, how can representatives go to board with "student opinion?"

## Jeers

**Changing SafeRide's name:** News flash, it's not the name, it's the program. It has been revised, and changed and revised again. Putting more time and effort into the program probably won't change the number of volunteers to drive drunk students around.

**Promised Grab'n'Go in DBRT:** Got votes. Now the office claims it is the Senate's duty. As a former senator, shouldn't Odie have known not to promise something that was a "senate duty"?



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

**Student body president Brian O'Donoghue works the phone in his office. O'Donoghue has spent much of his term thus far trying to advance his major campaign priorities.**

will be going to the meeting in Washington, D.C., in February."

The office played a large role in the report to the Board of Trustees in the fall focusing on alcohol use and sexual assault.

"We got a great response from the Board," Smith said. "The issues were taken very seriously. They are often not talked about and we felt they needed to be addressed."

The office contributed to organizing the sale of The Shirt for Basketball and hopes to finish a project called the Greatness Grant, which will provide funds for students who want to do service or other works of ministry.

Hoping students would become active in Election 2000, the office planned debate and election watches in LaFortune which were well attended. They also helped register 1000 voters, gave away 1500 absentee ballots and helped plan a Congressional debate in South Bend.

"The students' voice in elections is absolutely necessary. A lot of folks say students are apathetic, but we proved them wrong beyond a doubt," O'Donoghue said.

During the campaign, O'Donoghue and Norton said they would work for student discounts at local businesses and a scholarship service. O'Donoghue said they have communicated with local businesses and soon will have a discount card available, primarily for use at restaurants. The scholarship search is currently available online.

Although the office wanted to

expand the Internet book-swap, they were unable to work with some organizations, so Smith said they hope to run a book-swap at a location where students can exchange books with each other.

"There are always signs around the dorms and campus where students are trying to sell books," Smith said. "We are looking to provide a centralized location where those selling and those buying books can come together."

O'Donoghue and Norton campaigned saying they would establish a satellite Grab'n'Go site in DeBartolo and a Recker's-like

café in North Dining Hall. O'Donoghue said these issues are now being handled by Student Senate.

The office does have a full list of current projects in the works, which includes hosting an off-campus information session for students moving out of dorms, revamping the diversity program by first educating and training the commissioners in the dorms, revising the Safe Ride program and hosting a community mentoring program that will bring eighth graders from the area to Notre Dame for an all-day conference on life and leadership skills.

The office is also helping to plan a celebration of Martin Luther King week, including a forum for students, and Blessing Unto Others, a Christian rock concert whose proceeds will go to an orphanage in Chile. All these endeavors, plus several other projects, have kept the office busy, and enthused, even after the midway break in their term.

"Last year at this time, we had 12 people tops still in this office working hard," Smith said. "This year we still have 50 to 60 people who are dedicated towards their goals."

O'Donoghue, Smith and Norton said they still want to hear students' suggestion for new projects they could work on until April.

"Every person who has made a suggestion to our office, we follow through with it,"

O'Donoghue said. "We determine the feasibility and try to make it work."

"I have a lot of friends who fit into the 'critical of student government' group," Norton said. "It helps to reassess what we should be doing here. We want to know what would make the most students happy. We still want suggestions."

*"Last year at this time, we had 12 people tops in this office working hard. This year we still have 50 to 60 people who are dedicated towards their goals."*

**Jay Smith**  
chief of staff

# Kahn bridges gap between students and trustees

By MOLLY McVOY  
In Focus Writer

The opportunity to directly influence what the Board of Trustees decides is a unique one afforded to the student trustee at Saint Mary's. The student trustee is a full voting member of the Board, a situation not found at many other schools.

"Most of the major decisions on campus happen on the Board, and for us [the student body] to have a voice is a really important situation and a sadly unusual one," said Molly Kahn, this year's student trustee.

Because of the unusual role the student trustee plays in the College's decision-making process, the trustee's primary responsibility is to serve as a voice for the student body on the Board of Trustees.

"I think the purpose of the trustee is really to be a voice of the students to the Board of Trustees," said College president Marilou Eldred. "Their job is to bring issue of the students to the Board."

Part of the job of the trustee is to have an understanding of the issues that concern the student body. Kahn hopes that a reinstatement of "office hours" this year has allowed students to approach her with their concerns.

"I try to be really accessible and open," Kahn said. "Sometimes people come to me with problems and concerns they have. A lot of students came to me telling me about Dalloway's or security. This allowed me to go to the Board and direct the next step."

At the fall meeting, aside from the dedication of the two newest additions to campus, Dalloway's and the Welcome Center, many student issues were on the agenda. Kahn also plans to bring more such topics to the next meeting in February.

"The Board discussed the issues with new facilities, athletics, personal safety and student diversity board," Kahn said. "In February, I'm looking to talk to



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

**Molly Kahn, Saint Mary's student trustee, serves in a variety of capacities and works on a range of issues representing Saint Mary's students. One topic she has worked on is the Master Plan, giving student input on development and construction project at the College.**

the Board about what Saint Mary's does to help seniors with plans after graduation."

Aside from bringing student concerns to the Board, the trustee often acts as the student voice in any questions the Board has about issues at the College.

"Molly clearly brought an important perspective when we [the Board] talked about Master Plan and the student center dining hall project," Eldred said. "She was able to be very articulate as to why that was so important to the community life of the students and college in general."

The student trustee is appointed by a committee of faculty, administrators and students. When asked whether an elected trustee would more accurately represent the student body's needs and opinions, Eldred said she feels that the current system

of appointment is the most suitable method.

"I like the process as it is now," Eldred said. "I think an appointed position is appropriate. The faculty and administration have a broader view of the college. We want to choose the student who we think will best represent the student body."

Linda Timm, vice president for Student Affairs, supervises the selection of the student trustee. Timm explained that the appointment process looks specifically for a person who will accurately represent the student population.

"We're looking for a student who has a sense of what the students voice in the Board of Trustees would be, someone who has given thought to the major agenda items for students," Timm said. "She also needs to have a plan for how to solicit student

input so she is not just representing student government views and her views, but the student body's views."

In addition to being a student voice to the Board, the trustee acts as a representative of the Board to the student body. Both Eldred and Kahn felt that both responsibilities were equal-

ly important; the trustee not only represents the student's interests, but the Board's as well.

"As a student on the Board of Trustees, it is my responsibility to express student concerns, ideas, questions and comments, but it is also my responsibility to educate students about the Board of Trustees," Kahn said.

The part of her job that involves informing the students about the Board's activities is one that Kahn is constantly working on, she explained. Aside from the e-mail sent to the student body, Kahn is looking for ways to communicate the Board's plans to the students.

"There's a lot of interest in what the Board does," Kahn said. "Right now, I'm at the point of trying to hammer out how best to inform everyone."

And of providing a bridge between both sides.

*"I try to be really accessible and open. Sometimes people come to me with problems and concerns they have."*

Molly Kahn  
student trustee

## BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

# Renner/Nagle focus on opening up communication

## ◆ Duo works with administrators and student leaders

By AMY GREENE  
In Focus Writer

When Crissie Renner and Michelle Nagle ran for student body president last spring, the main focus of their platform was to increase communication between the administration, student government, and the student body.

Since taking office, that's what they've spent most of their energies on that effort.

Renner and Nagle worked with the administration to develop the new Dalloway's and also collaborated with the Strategic Planning Committee in their planning.

"I am very impressed with the staff for approaching the Board of Governance and extracting the students' input. We now have students sit on all the planning committees," Renner said.

The Board of Governance also distributed a survey to all students for their input for the

strategic planning.

To increase communication between the five different governing boards, Renner and Nagle encouraged the co-sponsorship of events. According to Renner, the co-sponsored events, such as the Athletic Recognition Pep Rally, are bigger and better attended than they were before. Both women believe that this synergy between the boards is their greatest success.

Renner and Nagle also focused on communication between students and the Board of Governance. BOG newsletters have been available in certain areas on campus in the past, but not all students knew the newsletter existed. Renner and Nagle ensured that the newsletter was distributed to all students in their personal mailboxes each month. The newsletter allows students to become aware how the Board of Governance votes on certain issues and also what events are being planned on campus.

The Board grew when Callie Kusco was named as the first Programming Commissioner. She assists in organizing Pride Week,

# B+

Board of Governance has successfully executed Pride Week, co-sponsored events, and streamlined communication between leaders and students. Renner and Nagle's "synergy" campaign promise has come to life.

Midnight Madness, Winter Carnival, and assists the Communication Commissioner.

The Renner/Nagle platform also attempted to extend hours at the library and the post office. Both Renner and Nagle approached the Library Committee, as well as, the post office, but administrators decided not to keep those offices open longer.

Renner and Nagle also were unable to increase the amount of Munch Money for students, but complimentary guest passes to the dining hall were made avail-

see RENNER/next page



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

**Michelle Nagle (left) and Crissie Renner (right) sit at a Board of Governance meeting. The pair has dedicated itself to keeping students up to date on BOG happenings through a monthly newsletter.**

## SAINT MARY'S STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

## Bouncing Back

*After a controversial election, Crissie Renner and Michelle Nagle had to unite a fractured student body. What they didn't know was that it would take another controversy to actually do it.*



MONICA HRITZ/The Observer

**Saint Mary's student body president Crissie Renner holds up the controversial Junior Class Shirt. The furor over the shirt was the chance the ticket needed to prove their leadership after the election debacle last February.**

By NOREEN GILLESPIE  
In Focus Writer

The presidential election of 2000 was not Board of Governance's shining moment.

Crissie Renner and Michelle Nagle won an election that is reminiscent of the current presidential campaign. After failing to secure a majority of votes in the initial election, the race went to a run-off, where the votes cast ended in a first-ever tie. After another revote declared their opponents, Emily Koelsch and Rachele Rodarte the winners, a last-minute appeal by Renner that called attention to improper runoff procedures gave the Renner/Nagle ticket the presidency.

But the newly-elected duo did not have time to celebrate their victory last February, as a greater task laid ahead: the task of uniting a student body, half of whom did not support their ticket in office. As the student body stormed a Board of Governance meeting shortly after the decision was announced, a tearful Renner and Nagle admitted they had reluctance to enter their offices.

"I never thought we would assume office after the complaint was filed," Nagle said that evening in an interview with The Observer. "It makes me doubt how much I wanted this position when I hear how adamantly students are opposed to what the Elections Commission and Election Appeals Board decided."

The ticket did assume office last spring, and after a year that has produced both successes and challenges for the Board of Governance, the ticket that once sat in a BOG meeting apprehensive to lead the student body has emerged as a brilliant administration. But so much of that has to do with the circumstances under which they were elected, both women will admit.

"We heard when the election happened, that students will move on," Renner said. "We were told that students' eyes would be opened to us as leaders, and if we led, the student body would follow."

But finding the strength to lead had to come from inside, and after a tumultuous election, the ticket was forced to find the motivations that led them to run for office

in the first place. That meant trusting their leadership abilities, Nagle said.

"[The election] had a very humanizing effect on us," Nagle said. "We know how we came into office. But if we had doubted ourselves for a minute, we would have never run for office. We know that we want to be connected to the women that we represent."

Constructing an administration that prides itself on its open-door policies, the opinion of the student body has been an element that is central to every decision that Board of Governance has made this year. Stressing the need for communication and education among board members before decisions can be made, the interests of the student body are something that is central to every decision the board makes, Renner said.

"My mother always told me that you can't listen with your mouth open," Renner said. "I have learned to listen. I have learned that the student body speaks when they knock on your door — and when they're not knocking on your door. I wake up each morning knowing that I am student body president, and that I represent 1500 women who I care deeply about."

Renner's commitment to fairly representing each student at Saint Mary's draws a line between her role and vice president

Nagle's role on the board, however. While Nagle is a voting member in the body, Renner said that her role as president forces her to keep a more unbiased position on controversial issues to allow her to fairly represent all women's viewpoints.

"While there is nothing in writing that says I have to remain neutral, realizing that I do represent each of these women can make me feel that way," Renner said.

## A-

The Renner/Nagle administration has proven itself as strong leaders in trying times, including the 2000 election debacle, the Junior Class T-Shirt and the Keenan Revue decision. The year of trials has produced two student leaders who exemplify what student leaders should be.

But it is not always possible for a president to remain neutral, as Renner learned when the Junior Class Board designed the infamous "Girl of Choice" T-shirt and outcry from the student body over the shirt's inappropriate theme resulted. As the student body divided into pro-shirt and anti-shirt camps, Renner and Nagle's role began to merge, Renner said. Announcing the decision to purchase the shirts from the board and prevent their sale, it was the first time the student government had ever sanctioned a class board.

"I don't know if the T-shirt decision counts as one of our successes," Renner said. "But it was a chance for BOG to shine. It truly opened the door of student government to the community — whether students were in support or not in support [of the shirt], we heard so much feedback."

After the fracture in the student body caused as a result of the 2000 election, the decision presented a united picture of stu-

dent government to the student body.

"It was definitely a chance for student government to demonstrate what they stood for as a whole," Nagle said. "It was a powerful educational tool for a lot of different reasons ... I think it really showed the student body that student government does have an affect on their lives, and that their voice counts."

While both political crises have defined an atypical term for the ticket, the year has taught both Renner and Nagle how to mature as leaders. And being leaders means learning that no matter how badly they want to receive consensus among their constituents, they know that they can't be everything to everybody.

"You learn so much about what Saint Mary's is as an institution, as a community, and as a family," Nagle said. "But there is a constant pressure to be something to everybody."

"I have personally learned that if I'm seeking to please, then I am setting myself up for failure," Renner said. "I've learned not to walk out my door every morning feeling that I have to please everybody. The student body will stand behind me no matter how I was elected."

As their term comes to a close with the onset of the campaign season again in January, the lessons and leadership learned could be enough to carry one half of the Renner/Nagle ticket into the presidency next year.

But it's too soon to make those decisions, Nagle said.

"[Student body president] is a possibility," she admitted. "But I really try to take each day as it comes, and for now, that means living each day as vice president."

## Renner

continued from previous page

able.

Both women acknowledge that their platform goals were minimal.

"Our platform was a student platform," Nagle said. "We tried to make our best effort to meet the students' needs."

They agreed that they keep the platform small because they could not foresee the future concerns of the student body.

"We couldn't foresee what the year would hold," Renner said.

"At times we had to unbind ourselves from the platform [to meet the needs of the student body.]"

The Renner/Nagle term has been anything but void of controversy, however. They wrestled with the junior class T-shirt, which stirred up controversy with its suggestion of a rivalry between Notre Dame and Saint Mary's women.

The event made Renner look at her job a little differently.

"It was a time when I realized that I could not please everyone," she said.

The shirt was the first in Saint Mary's history to be sanctioned by the Board of Governance. The

board had different opinions about the shirts, but ultimately, they were all purchased and destroyed.

"The junior T-shirt was an opportunity for BOG to shine," Nagle said. "It was a time when the student body got educated about their student government."

Despite the controversy, both women believe that the shirt ordeal made them better leaders.

"It was an outlet to show what we can really do," Nagle said.

Renner and Nagle have also progressed in security on campus.

*"We tried to make our best efforts to meet the students' needs."*

**Michelle Nagle**  
student body vice president

"Security Walk" in which BOG members, security officials and other students surveyed the campus and addressed areas that

were not well lit or appeared unsafe.

Next semester, Renner and Nagle will also be addressing the issues of abroad student voting, the Study Days proposal and the Keenan Revue debate.

The Renner/Nagle platform may have been minimal, but both women have performed well under pressure and appear passionate about their roles.

"This is my life," Renner said. "It is a twenty-four hour job. I am a figure for this campus and yes, it's overwhelming at times. I would do it again in a second for our campus and for my personal character."

## CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

## Group tries to change with new task force structure

By HELENA PAYNE  
In Focus Writer

Under the direction of a reform-minded chair, the CLC has abolished committees and set up a new task force structure to increase productivity.

"This year my personal goals for the CLC were to see the formation of a new structure which would raise the quality of work being done by that body, while at the same time quelling concerns by those within the membership and outside about the quality of work being done by that body," said student body president Brian O'Donoghue.

The CLC, which usually meets every other week, is a resolution-drafting body of 23 students, rectors, and faculty and an administrator who discuss campus from alcohol to academics. Eighteen of the 23 members have voting status, the other five fill advisory capacities.

In years past, the CLC has written many resolutions to the Office of Student Affairs to address concerns about drivers parking on outdoor basketball courts or the installation of an ATM machine at North Dining Hall, among other issues. These issues were addressed by committees that met in some cases infrequently to create surveys or write resolutions for the entire CLC's approval.

This year, though, the group has directed itself towards more sweeping reforms.

"Whereas past bodies would pass resolutions that made small incremental changes," O'Donoghue said, "This body is

much more directed toward sweeping reforms. This is what I feel the duty of the CLC should be."

However, O'Donoghue, along with student body vice president Brooke Norton and other CLC members, agreed to change the committee structure because of the attendance problems and lack of interest in some committees. These difficulties hindered output from the group.

"I know in the past they had problems with committee meeting attendance and having people being excited about it," said Norton. "CLC has changed for the better this year and has become a more productive body."

The committees have been replaced by task forces, which

*"CLC has changed for the better this year and become a more productive body."*

**Brooke Norton**  
student body vice president

O'Donoghue and Norton said have more explicit, narrow, goals. One, for example is the Task Force for Consistent Residence Hall Policies, recently changed from the task force for the disparity between male and female residence halls. Last year, this topic was covered under a Gender Relations Committee with less tightly-defined purposes. The new task force system, however, encourages more in-depth research to get to the root of campus issues.

"The task force system as a general whole has helped the CLC in many ways. Many of the Task Forces are meeting more often than their committees ever did. I have heard of certain Task forces meeting up to three times in a given week. That never used to happen," said O'Donoghue. "Furthermore, inside those

# B-

The new task force structure encourages focus, but "task force" is just a more proactive synonym for committee. During the fall semester, the CLC has passed few resolutions, but members show enthusiasm. Perhaps, once all the task forces adjust to the new structure, they'll speed up production in the spring.

groups good hard research is being done to make sure that they are certain about their facts."

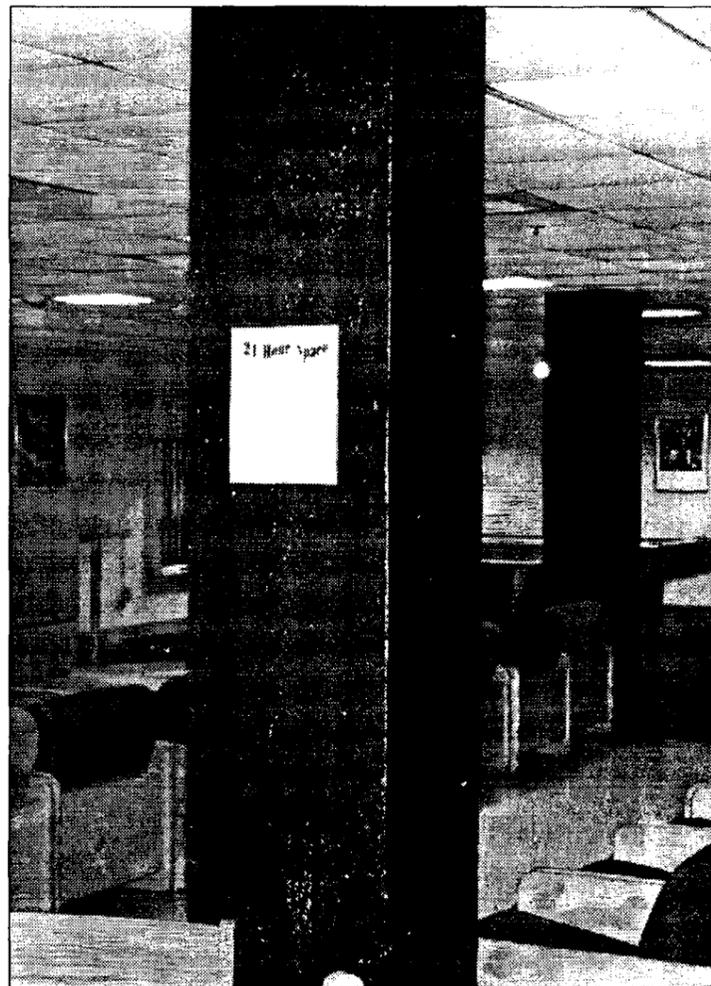
The Task Force for Consistent Residence Hall Policies, along with the Student Senate, was responsible for surveying dorms regarding their 24-hour space policies. Thus far, this CLC has not passed as many resolutions as last year's, but O'Donoghue claimed they have been just as productive and the task forces have allowed more time for thorough analysis of campus issues.

"Currently, the Task Forces are working on some of the most controversial issues ever seen by the CLC at one time," O'Donoghue said. "We simply cannot afford to make a mistake."

Norton said the CLC plans to examine issues such as the Honor Code and students moving off campus. She said that the task force system has boosted the CLC's output, but she would like to see some improvement.

"I just hope that we can kind of speed up the process a little body," said Norton.

Even with fewer CLC resolu-



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

**24-hour social space has been a big item on the CLC's agenda this year, as they deal with campus issues.**

tions this semester, O'Donoghue said the new body functions well and is committed to serving the University.

"Before, it seemed like folks were working just to have something done for the next meeting. As a result the product sometimes lacked the full research it could have had. The result of such past half-hearted efforts was a body which was losing respectability and frustration

membership," said O'Donoghue. "Sure there are disagreements on the floor, but that, to me, just shows a passion on the part of the membership to see the best possible product. This body cares about how it represents itself to the University Community, a concern which used to not be given such high priority. The result is better work is being done for the Notre Dame community."

## The uninformed say they weren't hooked early enough



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

**Students play carnival games at Founder's Day in October. The day-long celebration was one of many events organized by student government to entertain campus, and to recruit new members.**

By HELENA PAYNE  
In Focus Writer

While student body president Brian O'Donoghue and vice president Brooke Norton urged students to "Believe" in student government, some students don't have time to believe and others have found interests elsewhere.

Sophomore Kevin Romero was once highly active in student government during his high school years in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Romero was elected as a class president for three consecutive years and became the student body president his senior year. Like Notre Dame, the student government in Romero's high school sponsored service projects and other student events and activities. The one difference is that in Romero's school, student government was also a class that offered elective credit.

As a freshman at Notre Dame, however, Romero opted not to get involved with student government because he didn't receive information about it until he felt it was too late.

"When the freshmen elections come up I don't think it's very clear that in order to run for a class office, you have to be

elected in your hall," Romero said.

Freshmen elections, which occur at the beginning of the school year, determine the freshmen council, which consists of freshmen representatives from each residence hall.

"Generally the people who get involved early ... those are people who will probably be involved actively their entire career here," said Romero.

He said that this deterred him from getting involved in student government.

"My impression of student government ... I feel like not a lot of people have access to it," said Romero. "The system is not really clear to those who aren't directly involved in it."

Since freshmen year, Romero has joined three vocal groups at the University including the Glee Club, the Undertones, and Voices of Faith Gospel Choir. He is also a student manager for Recker's.

"I just pursued things that interested me and things that I felt I had enough time to involve myself in," Romero said.

Now, Romero said he doesn't have a clear definition of the purpose of student government.

"To be honest, I can't tell you exactly what student government does," said Romero.

When he does hear about events, he usually unable to attend because of conflicting activities.

"Generally it's not because I don't want to [attend student government-sponsored events] but it's because I already have something to do," Romero said.

Like Romero, junior Rachel Rothrauff also had an initial interest as a freshmen in student government, but unlike Romero, she heard about freshmen representative elections soon enough to participate in her dorm's elections. Although she won and spent her first year active in student government, she has since decided to pursue other activities as well.

Currently, she teaches a step aerobics class for RecSports and she works at the phone center.

"With time constraints, you can only do so many things here and the stuff I'm doing now is stuff I enjoy more," said Rothrauff.

Rothrauff said that while in student government as a Notre Dame freshman she felt that she had done more in high school on student government.

"I did a lot of stuff in high school, way more than do I

STUDENT SENATE

# Committees see successes, hope for future

By LAURA ROMPF  
In Focus Writer

At the halfway mark of their term, student senators have completed a handful of projects and now have their hands full with new ones.

"From the implementation of sexual assault programs and the posting of a 24-hour space policy in all residence halls, to honor code reform and food service changes, we have really taken positive steps to making Notre Dame a better place for the students," said Zahm senator Ryan Becker. "And I promise, there is a lot more to come. We're not done yet."

While some senate committees have been more active than others, each of the seven outlined ambitions in August and have been working to accomplish these goals throughout the year.

### Committee on Gender Issues

In the past, the senate's Committee on Gender Issues rarely brought forth resolutions, but this year it has been very active.

"Gender Issues used to be an idea and issues-oriented committee, but now we're focused on projects," said co-chair, Maggie Clarke, Lyons senator.

In August, the committee said its main goals were to address 24-hour space issues and create a packet for first-year students to introduce them to campus.

Clarke and fellow co-chair Luciana Reali, Lewis senator, said the 24-hour space resolution, which guarantees social space around-the-clock in all residence halls, and the packet, which will include various resources available to students, were large accomplishments.

"We think if it is all the information is together in one large book for the freshman, they will go to it all the time. It will sit on their shelves as a reference - almost like the 'dog book,'" Clarke said.

After accomplishing both of

these, the committee has moved on to several other projects, including working with Student Affairs to create Sexual Assault Programs in the dorms, creating Freshman Orientation focus groups to study the weekend, researching a new student center and parietals and meeting with Campus Ministry, and researching the gay and lesbian community on campus.

"We set seven goals at the beginning of the year and we've met them all," Reali said. "Now we're deciding what to work on next."

### Committee on Residence Life

In August, the Committee on Residence Life set five main goals: to examine dining hall issues, provide more 24-hour space, deal with maintenance and security issues, and improve LaFortune Student Center.

Two of those projects have been completed and the other three have been researched and are on the way to completion, said Zahm Hall senator and co-chair Ryan Becker.

The committee co-sponsored a resolution to ensure 24-hour space for all students and passed resolutions to have discounted-meal packages. "The 24-hour space resolution was by far the most ground-breaking thing senate has done all year," said committee co-chair Kevin Berchou, Sorin senator.

Berchou said the committee met with food services to work on LaFortune improvements. "We recommended that there be better lighting in the basement," Berchou said. "We also suggested putting a snack bar down there."

Finally the committee met with maintenance to inquire about putting clocks in O'Shaughnessy Hall, but were informed clocks were stolen frequently in the past, and it is not practical to replace them.

Becker said the committee will turn its efforts towards dorm improvement and maintenance issues for the second half of the term. The committee also hopes

to lower the meal plan rate for students staying over fall and spring break.

### Committee on Oversight

Because the Committee on Oversight's main duty is to ensure all Student Union organizations adhere to their Constitutional duties, the only objective the committee set in August was to make constitutional updates.

The committee accomplished this goal by passing several "housekeeping" amendments.

"The constitution is not a perfect document and it is our job to make it as user friendly as possible and the best document for all students to use," said co-chair, Audra Higgins, Pasquerilla West senator.

The committee recently completed a study of election reform. After several violations occurred in last year's student body elections, the committee looked to revamp the entire process.

"Election reform is a big deal and has been our prominent issue," said committee co-chair Jessie Flores, Carroll senator. "We definitely want to avoid what happened last year."

### Committee on Diversity

In August, the Committee on Diversity said its three main goals were to investigate the International Student Orientation, to distribute a survey to determine the feelings about diversity on campus, and research why a students' ethnic background is questioned on Teacher Course Evaluations (TCE's).

At the halfway mark, one of those goals has been accomplished while the other two are still in the works.

"Our main goal this semester was planning the Celebrating Diversity workshop for the senate," said Nikki McCord, co-chair and Pasquerilla East senator. "Now that we've focused internally, second semester we can go out to the entire student body. You have to have yourself in the right mindset before you can go out and change other people's attitudes."

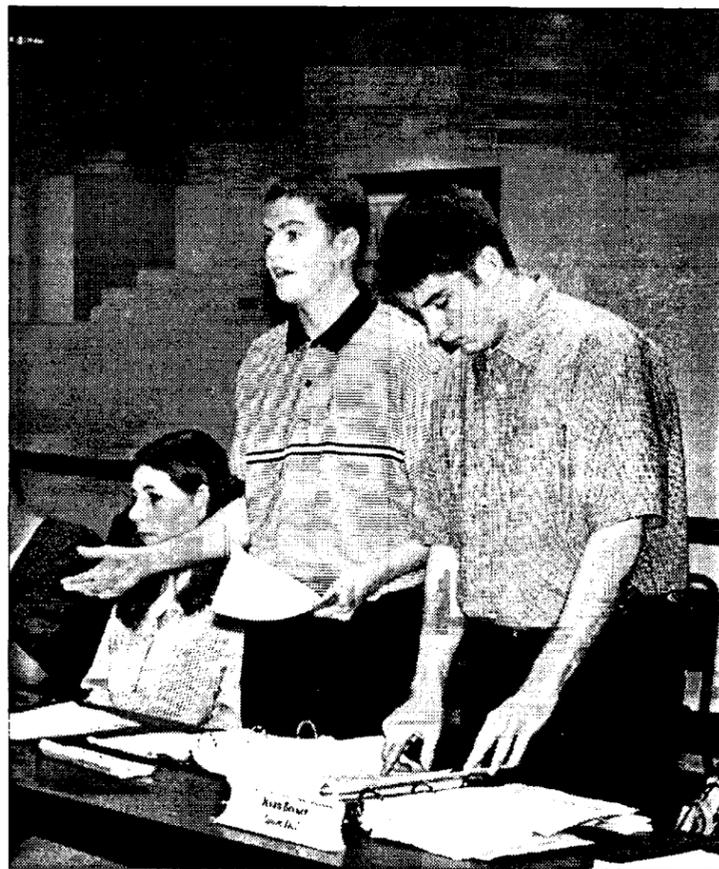
McCord and fellow chair, Dillion senator Brendan Dowdall, said the committee investigated the International Student Orientation and determined it has been successful.

McCord and Dowdall said they are working on removing the ethnic background question on TCE's. Because only one or two minority students are often in a class, identifying race on the TCE's essentially identifies who filled out the form, McCord said.

Dowdall said the committee is working with the Office of the President to distribute the survey about diversity and compile evidence about campus attitudes.

"When you tell the administration there are problems and you need things changed, they ask for specific examples," Dowdall said.

McCord said the committee now hopes to add a theology elective where students could travel to local churches of different faiths. "We feel students should be allowed to know what's available to them. Our goal is to open people's minds to different experiences," McCord said.



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

Sorin senator Kevin Berchou speaks at a recent Student Senate meeting. The senate has seen mixed results this year, but some committees have been effective.

### Committee on Academic Affairs

The Committee on Academic Affairs sponsored one of the most significant resolutions of the senate's year which stated several reasons why students need four study days next Fall, instead of the proposed three.

"Our biggest project has been the study days resolution," said McGlenn senator and co-chair Melissa Rauch.

"It wasn't part of our original plan because we weren't made aware of it until a few weeks into the year, but it has taken over as the primary objective."

Because the committee focused on this resolution, their projects outlined in August of establishing on-line DARTing, having out-of-class assignments included in the DART book and creating faculty mentoring are not completed.

Rauch said DART is currently in the hands of Office of Information Technology (OIT) and research is being conducted about guidance for upperclassmen.

Rauch said the committee is working on a new project of consolidating all scholarship and grant information into one office where students could find information.

"We did a little research and found out that the Academic Council had made suggestions to do this years ago, but no one ever picked up the ball," Rauch said. "I would expect some legislation in the next couple weeks regarding implementing this new office."

### Committee on University Affairs

When the new senators took office last April, the University Affairs Committee elected Phil Dittmar and Chris Clement as co-chairs. Around a month later, Clement resigned because he was accepted into the London program, and then in September,

Dittmar resigned for personal reasons.

"We were definitely set back at the beginning," said current co-chair Bethany Barker, Welsh Family hall senator. "But we are still trying to put forth effort."

In August, the committee said its main goals were to investigate the surplus of the Generations Campaign, establish centralized tutoring, determine the quality of long-distance telephone service and investigate Health Services.

Besides researching Broadwing, the committee focused on resolutions from last year rather than those new projects.

The committee worked with Sophomore Class Council to create a sophomore signature event, kept contact with Rec Sports to ensure revamping of The Rockne Memorial and worked with student government to provide funds for Transfer Orientation.

The committee also combined with the committee on Academic Affairs to form and Honor Code committee that has been meeting with faculty members and researched other school's honor codes.

"Students should know what to expect when they go into an Honor Code Hearing," said Brogan. "We want to compile a log of past cases and educate students about all the policies. Overall, we want consistency."

### Committee on Ethics

Although the Committee on Ethics main purpose is to ensure Student Union members act ethically in accordance to the constitution, they said in August they hoped to reform the election process. But the Oversight Committee took initiative and investigated election reform and brought forth an amended constitution Wednesday in senate.

Last year's committee on ethics researched old test files and how they could give students unfair advantages, but this year's committee has not followed up on this issue, nor has it brought any new business to senate.

## Report Card

Gender Issues:	A
Residence Life:	A
Oversight:	A-
Diversity:	B+
Academic Affairs:	B+
University Affairs:	B
Ethics:	C-
Total Grade:	B+

In August, the senate seemed too ambitious, but has fulfilled several promises. Some committees have been very active, but others have done little, hurting the body's productivity. Overall, the Senate handled large issues and did things that will benefit the student body.

## Inside

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sponsoring a Christian rock concert in the spring, but the scale and cost of the event have proven too much for the group to handle.

University funds are often not great enough for government to afford bigger venues to visit campus, said Jay Smith, student government chief of staff. The group has since reformed its concert planning and downsized the program to ensure its production.

Student government plays a game of political hokey-pokey, with one hand in students' needs and the other in administrative concerns. When students want something, it's often government who goes straight to the top to "shake it all about."

The group has always had an advisor, according to Edgington, who has overseen the group since early July. The director of Student Activities has usually been that advisor. Edgington tries to meet with O'Donoghue and Norton in person at least once a month, but keeps in casual contact with them on a regular basis through e-mails and phone calls. She also sees Norton every week when she oversees Student Senate meetings.

Whether it's getting a thumbs-up on a new diversity panel or an OK on Gravitron in front of Rolfs, the group heads to Edgington and fellow administration for advice.

"[I work with government] hopefully helping get things passed," said Bill Kirk, vice president of Student Affairs. Kirk, whose most visible student government role is as member of the Campus Life Council, acts as a sort of guide in getting things done.

On occasion Kirk serves as head of a smaller scale Congress, aiding government with "constituent

interests" and meeting with student senators to facilitate student needs.

Like Edgington, Kirk pushes the group in the right direction when it comes to planning projects and proposing new government initiatives. When there are cotton candy Founder's Day issues, Kirk sends government to Food Services for help. Programs like the new Rector's Endowment Fund go through many steps of administrative approval, O'Donoghue said, including those by the Office of Student Affairs.

According to Smith, Father Mark Poorman, vice president for Student Affairs, has been a big advocate for more 24-hour space on campus. Student government has engaged in talks with him to extend DeBartolo Hall hours until 4 a.m. during finals week, with hopes of a future 24-hour extension.

With all this contact with administration, it makes one wonder when government has the time to talk with students. It seems their greatest input comes from familiar sources: friends.

Smith says that he likes to "pick friends' brains" on topics like du Lac revisions and a possible weekly student e-mail of campus events. Student government members come from different backgrounds, he added, noting that this helps when getting a greater consensus of student input.

What about the students who don't know Smith, or O'Donoghue or even their hall senator? How are their concerns heard? This is something Smith says the group is working to improve.

According to Smith, about 500 — 1,000 people attended the Founder's Day event throughout the course of the day.

The event was a failure because of overall low attendance, Smith said, but "everyone who went

thought it was a great thing." Student government, however, has not yet gathered responses from students.

There was a follow-up meeting regarding the event with administration and groups involved in the planning. There was no meeting, though, to learn student reaction. Smith says the government is also looking to form student focus groups beginning in January. Norton and O'Donoghue also have met with the Office of Student Affairs and students will now for the first time be allowed in the Board of Trustees winter meeting in Washington.

Student Senate serves as the most visible mediator between student concerns and the main branch of government. According to Smith, there is not a great deal of interaction between the Senate and the Office of the President. While there is a weekly report from the office at every meeting, Smith says that the branches run independent of each other.

"It seems that Senate has had its own agenda," he said, and the same is true for the Office of the President. Because of this, he added, there can be a great deal of overlap between the two groups. Some topics do reach both avenues, including the University alcohol policy, an issue the government hopes the Board of Trustees will address at their winter meeting. The Senate offered help and support after the Board approved student involvement in the spring semester meeting.

Edgington, though, disagrees. There is "a lot of communication between the two bodies," she said. If there are disagreements between the Senate and the Office of the President, they aren't aired at Senate meetings, Edgington added, but behind closed student government doors.

## Opinion

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here," said Rothrauff.

However, Rothrauff said student government was making an effort to branch out to many students and provide events.

"I think they're making a better effort to do more and to find out what students think about things but I still think it's difficult with all the red tape in the University," said Rothrauff. "There could always be more but I think they make a really good effort."

She added that one advantage to being involved with student government was that she knew what was going on, but at the same time, she said that perpetuated an "inside group."

"There definitely is the select group ... especially when you go beyond freshmen year, you're kind of in it until you graduate," said Rothrauff, who decided to leave student government after her first year.

Sophomore Christine Bryant never had an interest in getting involved in student government, but said student government makes a good effort to appeal to students who do want to become involved.

"I think [student government does] a good job since there are so many students that you never can please all of them," said Bryant.

Bryant has joined clubs that target a more specific interest group such as the

Society of Women Engineers, Asian American Association and the Texas Club. Bryant also volunteers.

Because of these other time commitments, Bryant, like Romero and Rothrauff, cannot fit the events into her schedule.

"Another reason I don't attend student government events is sometimes they are just at bad times," said Bryant.

However, Bryant also said student government could work on making it more known to the students what it actually does.

"I can't think of many student government events even though I know there are a lot ... they need to distinguish themselves more."

Bryant did attend an event that involved movies and dinner and said that was a more effective way to catch her interest.

"I don't enjoy or don't care for some of what they do, so I don't show up. I like food and movies, so I showed up for that ... and I was free that night," said Bryant.

On the Notre Dame campus there are a variety of student organizations to join, including student government. Students like Romero and Bryant by choice or lack of information about student government decided to commit their time to other organizations.

However, for these three, at least, time constraints form the main roadblock to student government involvement.

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