



25th annual Keenan Revue
The Revue opens tonight for the 25th time,
under close scrutiny in Saint Mary's
O'Laughlin Auditorium.
pages 6 & 14

Looking for leadership
The Nagle/Matha ticket has a solid platform,
but lacks definitive stances on critical
campus issues.
Editorial ♦ page 10

Thursday
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Pax Christi opens talks with ROTC

Editor's note: This is the third in a three-part series looking at the discussion concerning the place of ROTC at a Catholic university.

♦ Pacifist club attempts to open dialogue with ROTC

By TIM LOGAN
Senior Staff Writer



PETER RICHARDSON/The Observer

A student wanders by Pax Christi's prayer service last Friday. The club gathers weekly at the Peace Memorial to pray.

Over the last two years, Pax Christi has beat a steady drum against the presence of ROTC at Notre Dame. The Reserve Officer Training Corps isn't leaving any time soon, but Pax Christi, through a persistent and concerted effort to reach out to the very students whose organization they oppose, has started a dialogue that is helping people on all sides to understand each other's perspective, and keeping the issue on the front burner of campus debate.

It began again one day in September 1998, when Sheila McCarthy went to a lecture. McCarthy, then a sophomore theology major, was interested to hear what Father Frank Cordaro had to say. Cordaro is a pacifist and self-avowed Catholic radical who, a few months earlier, had been arrested for pouring a vial of his own blood on a B-52 bomber at an air show. Sheila had heard about the Plowshares Movement, as Cordaro's group was called, and was intrigued. So she went to meet him.

Before the lecture, Cordaro and Sheila talked, and the activist had a question for the student.

"Well, why aren't you doing anything about ROTC on campus," Sheila recalled. "He was very direct. I

made some excuse about how I was taking a War, Law and Ethics class, and he just cut me off and said 'you just need three people: two to hold a banner and one to pass out flyers.'"

Before they finished talking, Cordaro had convinced McCarthy to do something, and he made her follow up. The priest put the sophomore on the spot, asking her to stand and invite the small audience to a protest against ROTC.

The next day, McCarthy and two others stood in the rain outside the Pasquerilla Center, where the military training program is headquartered. The

three held signs and prayed the Rosary, but they did not get much response.

"It was exciting," said Mike Griffin, a seminarian

see ROTC /page 4



Murphy succumbs to leukemia

♦ Friends and family mourn the death of Notre Dame student Conor Murphy

By FINN PRESSLY
Senior Staff Writer

With family and friends at his bedside, Notre Dame junior Conor Murphy passed away Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. following a year of intensive treatment for leukemia.

The Notre Dame community joined together in prayer Tuesday with a special Mass in Zahm Hall to bring together those on campus touched by Murphy. In preparation for his bone marrow transplant last April, a campus-wide bone marrow drive attracted hundreds of students.

The response from the Notre Dame community has overwhelmed the Murphy family, and has reaffirmed their faith in the spirit of family here, according to Father Jim Lies, a former rector of Zahm Hall who kept in close contact with Conor and the Murphy family during his illness.

"When [Conor's mother] came to Freshman Orientation at Notre Dame, she was a little skeptical of all the talk about the Notre Dame family," said Lies. "But she said that in the last year she has come to know what that means, and values it nearly as much as her own family."

"I think they will always take pride that Conor went to Notre Dame and met so many fine people there," he said. "They will always be incredibly grateful for all that Notre Dame has done for him and all that they have done for the family."

The Zahm Hall community in particular has been profoundly affected by him, according to current rector Father Tom Bednar.

"Zahm has a great spirit of brotherhood, and there's sense of the loss of a brother," he said. "But the same time, there's a pride in being able to comfort each other



Murphy

see CONOR/page 9

Nagle, Matha run unopposed on SMC presidential ticket

By KATIE MILLER
News Writer

Current student body presidential candidate Michelle Nagle almost didn't run for office.

But it's a good thing she did. Running uncontested with runningmate Kristen Matha, the Nagle/Matha ticket marks one of the only times in Saint Mary's history that a presidential ticket will run for office without opposition. Following an election debacle last year that witnessed four tickets vying for government seats, this year's election is a stark contrast to the over-

whelming interest in last year's election.

Both Matha and Nagle are concerned that the uncontested ticket could deter students from coming to the polls Monday, and are adamant that the student body still has a choice to make.

"We're very passionate about student government; if students don't support us I'd hope they would vote and abstain," Nagle said.

Should more students opt to abstain and keep Nagle/Matha from securing a majority of the student body vote Monday, the election would result in a vote of no confidence, and the election process would start over again.

The election process didn't start off with only one ticket interested in declaring candidacy, however. Three tickets

attended the informational meeting mandatory to declare candidacy in November, but only Nagle/Matha chose to run.

One ticket decided to run in senior class elections instead, according to student body president Crissie Renner. The other ticket simply took other avenues of getting involved at Saint Mary's.

Renner can't completely explain why there is only one ticket running. Part could be voters' satisfaction with Nagle, current student body vice presi-

dent, Renner suggested. Another factor could be time.

"A lot of people are happy with [Nagle], but people do enjoy fresh faces, it's hard to say," said Renner. "It's a very demanding position."

Campaigning tactics haven't changed for the unopposed duo, who are attacking the campaign as if they were running against

other tickets. In their minds, the race is against losing their potential seats in Board of Governance to abstentions.

"Nothing's changed," said Nagle. "We're running against abstentions."

"This is a very humbling experience; this is not how I wanted to come into office."

Michelle Nagle
student body
presidential candidate

See Also
"SMC Platform"
page 8

"We still need to rally the student body," said Matha.

Both Nagle and Matha will admit that more than one ticket would be in the best interests of the school, and will aim to incorporate more student opinion into how they run their administration if they secure office Monday.

"I think it's unfortunate for the student body," said Nagle. "This is a very humbling experience; this is not how I wanted to come into office. We'll make a point to say to the tickets that didn't run, 'What would you have done?'"

Some believe that student apathy is the reason there is only one ticket. After four tickets ran for office last year, resulting in the first-ever tie in Saint Mary's history, many are

see UNOPPOSED /page 8

INSIDE COLUMN

Finding the words

I can't pray anymore. It's not that I don't try. I've sat in church. I've kneeled at the Grotto. I've laid in bed. But the words don't come. My heart is empty.

Three and a half months ago, one of my best friends from high school was killed in a car accident. During Christmas break, I visited his parents several times, took his younger sister out to dinner, and visited Adam's grave three times.

I longed for Notre Dame, where I could lose myself in work and friends — and forget. I tried to pray at home, but I couldn't. I went to Mass only once over break, on Christmas, and felt hypocritical. How could I be there, praying to a God, I thought might not exist?

Last night, I went to Mass for Conor. I thought back to freshman year when he came to an SYR with my friend Mary. I remembered when he and his friends would come over on Wednesday nights to watch Party of Five. They would complain about little Owen and his stupid, whiney character. Conor had a wonderful sense of humor.

In Zahm's chapel, I watched Conor's best friends sitting in the pews, receiving communion, and quietly sobbing to themselves. I could see how much they missed him. I thought of Adam and what it felt like to be them. I tried to pray. But I couldn't. My heart was empty.

I had a conversation with Adam's dad over Christmas. He said to me, "Life is a trial. God keeps knocking you down, and you just have to have faith through the entire thing, and know in the end, it will be worth it."

Then he said something that rings in my ears to this day: "I prayed every time Adam walked out the door, that God would keep him safe. What good did that do? I just don't know how to pray anymore."

Last night, I wished for a miracle. I tried praying that Conor would live, so his friends would not have to go through the pain, the hopelessness, the depression. But like Adam's dad's prayer, mine went unanswered.

When I heard Conor passed away, I immediately went to the Grotto, lit a candle and kneeled. Once again, I tried to pray, but I couldn't. My heart was still empty.

I hope someday my faith will return, my heart will feel peace, and I will pray. If you're lucky, if your heart has not been hardened, and if you can find the words — please PRAY.

Pray for Conor's mother and father.

Pray for his sisters.

Pray for his friends.

Pray for Meghan.

If my experience rings true, they might have a hard time praying this weekend.

When I returned from the Grotto, I sat down at my desk to write my mother an email. My little calendar with daily advice had fallen and was flipped open to Nov. 12. It said, "God understands our prayers even when we can't find the words to say them."

Tears flowed down my cheeks. It was the little sign I needed to know God is here.

So please, pray to Him, for all of us who can't.

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 ON CAMPUS

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
♦ Performance: "Keenan Review 25th Anniversary Spectacular," 7:30 p.m., O'Laughlin Auditorium	♦ Performance: "Keenan Review 25th Anniversary Spectacular," 7:30 p.m., O'Laughlin Auditorium	♦ Comedy Night: "They're Back for More," 2nd annual Multicultural Comedy Night, 8 p.m., Reckers	♦ French Film Festival: "Rosetta," 2 p.m., Annenburg Auditorium
♦ Event: "Meet the Candidates," 7 p.m., Haggar College Center, Saint Mary's	♦ Film: "American Psycho," 7:30 p.m., Annenburg Auditorium	♦ Event: Harlem Globetrotters, 7:30 p.m., tickets available at ND ticket office, JACC	♦ Faculty Recital: Sonja Mihelcic, mezzo soprano, and Jeffrey Jacob, piano; Little Theater, Moreau Center, Saint Mary's

OUTSIDE THE DOME

Compiled from U-Wire reports

Yale health services to offer RU-486

PROVIDENCE

In a controversial move, Yale University announced this month that it plans to offer the abortion pill RU-486 under its standard health plan.

The new abortion drug, also known as mifeprax, induces a miscarriage when taken in the first seven weeks of pregnancy.

Yale University Health Services already offers the "morning after" pill and offers surgical abortions under its health plan for students and staff.

Some students and activist groups like the Yale Pro-Life league have already complained that RU-486 should not be offered through the University's health plan, which draws funds from student tuition.

Yale spokesman Thomas Conroy dismissed these concerns as unrealistic, stating "health insurance patients who are receiving care through a health facility through an insurance plan do not pick and choose which services are available from that provider."

"A male patient is never going to need the services of the obstetrics and gynecology ... but that's the whole philosophy of insurance — that the group supports it so that no single person is

burdened," Conroy added.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved RU-486 — available only by prescription — in September because it is thought to be safer than surgical abortions. The drug has been available in Europe since 1988.

Other schools will soon be offering the drug to students. Harvard will reimburse students who receive the abortion drug at local hospitals, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. Also, Brown will continue to facilitate making appointments for students seeking an abortion and provide counseling both before and after the procedure.

Conroy said Yale has all the necessary resources to carry out its procedures safely.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Off-campus bonfire group disbands

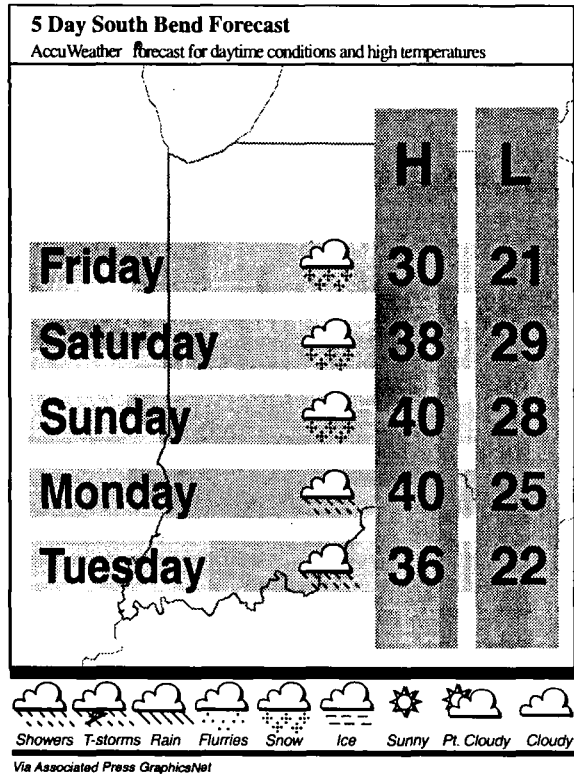
Facing mounting bills, lack of support and a few regrets, Keep the Fire Burning (KTFB) will disband at its next meeting in March, said board member Joe Dyson. The group, which canceled its plans to build an off-campus bonfire last fall, has returned donations to contributors, will close out its bank account and will remove itself from the state's list of nonprofit organizations. "We're trying to end this quietly — hopefully no damage was done," said Dyson. KTFB was originally formed in defiance of the two-year hiatus imposed on Bonfire after the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse. The organization claimed the support of thousands of students and alumni in its effort to build an off-campus bonfire against the wishes of university administration. However, a lack of funding for safety insurance ended the plan. "People have a big misconception that we had money," Dyson said. "In reality, there wasn't enough interest to have enough money. What we probably should have done is called for an end — the stack we saw before it fell in '99 was the last Bonfire we're going to see."

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

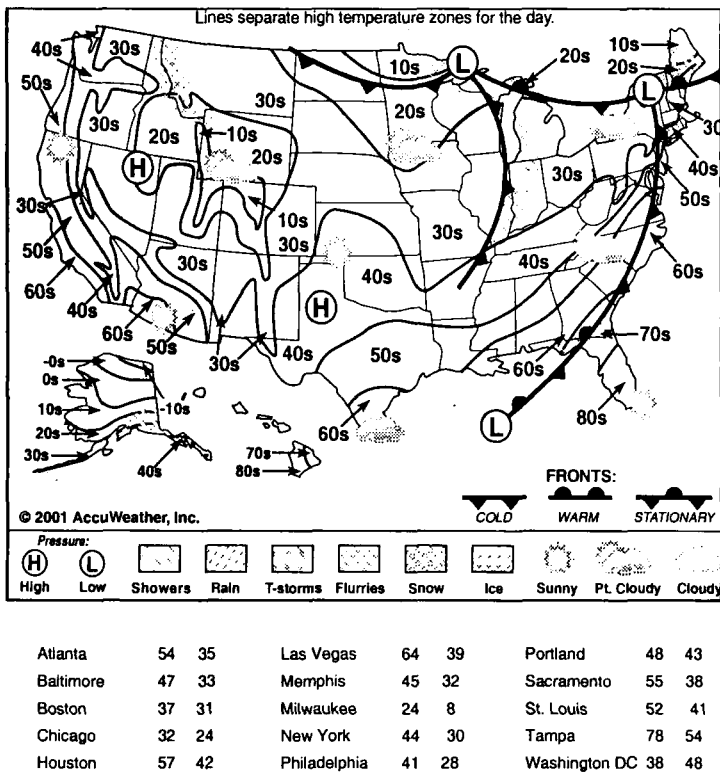
Student's death brings concern

University of Southern California freshman Jared Chesser died Monday night at Good Samaritan Hospital from what may have been meningitis, said Michael Jackson, vice president of Student Affairs. Chesser was admitted to the hospital Monday evening and died shortly thereafter. Hospital officials, however, were unable to release the exact time or cause of death. Even the thought that Chesser's death may have been from meningitis has many students concerned, but university officials are calling for students to remain calm, saying there is no imminent threat of a meningitis outbreak. "At the moment, there isn't an epidemic," said Student Health Center Director Larry Neinstein. In fact, Chesser may not even have died from meningitis. The actual cause of death may not be clear for a week, Neinstein said. Nonetheless, Jackson said Chesser showed some symptoms of the brain disease that afflicts slightly fewer than 100 college students per year and kills a small percentage of them.

LOCAL WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER



Malloy announces new committee

♦ The University creates a new committee to address academic and student life

By JASON McFARLEY
Assistant News Editor

University President Father Edward Malloy recently announced the nine appointed and elected representatives who will head up the new Academic and Student Life Advisory Committee (ASLAC).

ASLAC members include Notre Dame students, faculty and staff members. University provost Nathan Hatch and vice president for student affairs Father Mark Poorman serve as co-chairs for the committee.

The ASLAC was established by Malloy in the fall at the recommendation of the University's Ad Hoc Committee on Academics and Student Life. Some members have held their positions on the ASLAC since late last semester.

According to Sister Pat Thomas, the new body will continue exploring the relationship between academics and student life on campus.

"These are two parts of [the students'] world that really do belong together. They don't have to be separate," said the Walsh Hall rectress, who was elected by her colleagues to a three-year term on the committee.

Junior Holt Zeidler and sophomore Phil Slonkosky believe working on the ASLAC will provide an opportunity for different segments of the campus community to communicate with each other.

They said the committee will effectively bring together views from students, faculty and administrators.

Both Zeidler and Slonkosky think their primary function on the committee is to represent student concerns.

"I hope to be representative of any concerns that students may have," said

Slonkosky, who was appointed by Malloy to a year-long term on the ASLAC.

Zeidler, who was elected by the Hall Presidents Council to a

one-year term, noted several issues he plans to highlight once the committee's work begins.

One of his concerns involves improving the on-campus scene for students inclined to venture off campus on weekends.

"We need to look at ways to integrate off-campus activities on campus," he said.

Zeidler also hopes to make job fairs and Career Center endeavors more effective, possibly by utilizing Notre Dame

alumni and their resources.

Last year, amid talk that the ASLAC would replace the Campus Life Council (CLC), University officials announced that the bodies would have separate tasks and functions.

On Tuesday, Thomas, who also serves on the CLC, was hesitant to discuss what the differences between the two organizations will be.

"It's going to take time," she said. "We [ASLAC] members need to establish our ground rules."

The committee's first meeting is March 5.

Two other meetings are planned before the end of the semester.

Thomas, Zeidler and Slonkosky will serve with six other ASLAC members: physics professor Ani

Aprahamian and psychology professor George Howard, elected by the faculty to three-year terms; Keenan Hall rector Father Gary Chamberland, elected by Notre Dame rectors to a three-year term; junior Luciana Reali, elected by the student senate to a one-year term; and Dean of the College of Engineering Frank Incropera and director of the University Counseling Center Patrick Utz, appointed by Malloy to one-year terms.

"These are two parts of [the students'] world that really do belong together. They don't have to be separate."

Pat Thomas
committee member

Hesburgh travels aboard nuclear sub

By MEG DADAY
News Writer

What can you give a man that has said mass within a mile of the South Pole and broken the world speed record aboard an SR-71?

The United States Navy responded to the challenge by giving Father Theodore Hesburgh the opportunity to travel aboard the USS Portsmouth, a nuclear submarine.

He accepted, and from Jan. 16, when the boat departed from San Diego, Cal., until Jan. 22, when it arrived at Pearl Harbor, the hatch was closed and Hesburgh never saw the sun.

"It's just like getting into a dark cave. There's no communication with the outside world," said Hesburgh.

After leaving San Diego, the boat submerged to 500 feet and occasionally dropped to 700 feet, but, according to Hesburgh, it never rose to less than 60 feet and that was only to receive satellite commands.

"A new president was inaugurated while we were in there, but we were totally cut off from the world."

In addition to the roughly 130 crew members aboard the submarine, Hesburgh's brother who is a naval officer, and Pat Casey, the commander of Notre Dame's ROTC program accompanied him on the trip.

The three of them slept in bunks that were stacked on top of one another. Hesburgh described the beds as "the size of a child's coffin. You had to get in sideways and you couldn't really sit up or

even bend without hitting your head. You had to be fairly acrobatic to even get in, but we all slept well."

Not only were the sleeping conditions small, Hesburgh said, "The quarters were so tight you had to turn sideways to pass someone. And there were a lot of ladders."

Despite the closeness, Hesburgh described the meals aboard the submarine as "terrific. We never had a duplicate meal. They have to do something for those guys; they can be under as long as three months."

In addition to saying mass everyday and hearing confessions, Hesburgh was granted unlimited access to the entire submarine.

"We saw everything on that ship; there were no restrictions. Normally, the whole engineering space is out of bounds to anybody except naval officers. They said we could go anywhere and we did," the former University President said.

One thing that struck Hesburgh was the quality of the officers and crew aboard the boat. Instead of a 24-hour day, the schedule on board was 18 hours long, allowing them six hours to sleep, six hours to work and six hours to eat and relax. Instead of unwinding, however, the members of the crew studied maneuvers during their free time.

Comprised of African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians, "The crew was a very good slice of America," he said.

Mostly in their 20s and 30s, he believes about half are married.

"It's tough on families," he said. "There's no communication for long amounts of time."

There was one thing that particularly surprised Hesburgh during his trip. "Having spent considerable time on board naval ships, I know the language gets pretty rough," he said. "I was very surprised; I only heard one very mild cuss word the entire week."

got news?
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e-Commerce and Beyond Lecture Series

<http://www.nd.edu/%7Ekmat/mgt648/speakers.htm>

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 2 | Khalil Matta (Director, MIS Program, University of Notre Dame)
"Overview of the Lecture Series" |
| February 9 | Allen Hammond (CIO and Senior Scientist, World Resources Institute)
"Impact of Globalization" |
| February 16 | Joe McCarthy (Researcher, Accenture - Ctr. for Strategic Technology)
"Awareness and Collaboration in the Workplace of the Future" |
| February 23 | Mike Mazarr (President, Henry L. Stimson Center)
"Sociology and Psychology of People in the Electronic Workplace" |
| March 2 | Greg Hedges (Partner, eBusiness Risk Consulting, Arthur Andersen)
"Privacy Concerns in the Electronic Age" |
| March 23 | Bob Reilly (President, DHR International)
"New Age Leadership Skills" |
| March 30 | Gary Reiner (Senior VP and CIO, General Electric)
"Technology and E-Commerce Organizations: Future Directions" |
| April 6 | Bob Buckman (Ret. Board Chairman and President, Buckman Labs)
"Knowledge Management in the New Millennium" |
| April 20 | Dan Hesse (Chairman, President, CEO, Terabeam Networks)
"Wireless and Optical Technologies and their Implications" |

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All Lectures held from 10:35am-12:05pm
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All Notre Dame faculty, staff and students
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Feb. 1-3 7:30, Washington Hall

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ROTC

continued from page 1

who demonstrated that day. "But it was a bit underwhelming."

No one confronted them. Few seemed even to notice. But the trio decided to do it again the next week. This time, six more people came. The next week, another six showed up and, from there, the vigil grew into a regular weekly event. Gradually, a club took shape.

More than two years later, Pax Christi still gathers every Friday afternoon to pray for peace, although they have moved to the more centrally located Peace Memorial Fountain in order to be more visible.

In the last year, the group has held several open discussions about ROTC from a Catholic perspective. To these, they have invited ROTC students and professors, and in September, a Marine student even presented at one.

These dialogues have helped to build a bridge, but there are

still deep divisions.

"I hate that there exists this us vs. them mentality, but it can't be denied there's tensions," said senior Shawn Storer, a founding member of Pax Christi. "People hold fast to certain things."

Pete Sweeney, a junior Air Force cadet, said that despite efforts on both sides to start dialogue, each still has misconceptions about the other.

"Both sides are ignorant of each other," he said. "I think people are still trying to figure each other out."

For one thing, Pax Christi has an image as "the anti-ROTC group;" that was how it began, after all.

As the club has grown, it has taken on a wide range of issues, but most of its public events still concern

the military.

Also, it has sponsored talks such as one last year entitled "Ten reasons why ROTC should be banned from Notre Dame's campus." This understandably angered the ROTC community. Some people say that the peace movement on campus could be more diplomatic.

"The awareness they seek is awesome," said Andrew

DeBerry, a sophomore Air Force cadet who is also involved with Pax Christi. "The way they go about it needs to be awesome, too."

Storer and his companions in Pax Christi understand this, and in their events this year, they have worked to involve ROTC students more, and make the programs more about dialogue and finding common ground than about politics and disagreement. They hope the shift will prove successful, and more effectively reach students of all stripes.

"Maybe it's personal," Storer said. "ROTC is made up of people, you can't talk to ROTC on an institutional level; you have to talk to people."

The cadets and midshipman training at Notre Dame and the officers who train them say they are more willing to listen to, and participate in, respectful dialogue, rather than the kind of protest which initially inspired some of Notre Dame's pacifists.

"Don't scream and yell. Don't throw blood on my airplanes about it," said Capt. Pat Casey, commanding officer of the Naval detachment. "Come and have a serious discussion about it."

Having that serious discussion is what Pax Christi has trying to do. And even though ROTC is here to stay, the peace group will keep talking, praying and persisting, hoping to make people think about what that means.

"I hate that there exists this us vs. them mentality, but it can't be denied there's tensions."

Shawn Storer
founding member of Pax Christi



PETER RICHARDSON/The Observer

One member of Pax Christi closes her eyes to pray for peace at the club's weekly gathering last Friday. Club members hope their prayers will help their club to better understand ROTC's mission.

Visit The Observer Online.

<http://observer.nd.edu>

Celebrate Black History Month 2000!

February is Black History Month

Americans have recognized Black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." What you might not know is that Black history had barely begun to be studied-or even documented-when the tradition originated. Although Blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

**The 2nd Annual
Multicultural Comedy Night**
Featuring Owen Smith and
Eric Nieves

8 p.m.
@ Reckers

Saturday, February 3rd

sponsored by MSPS, BCAC and the Athletic
Department

*SOUL FOOD
SUNDAY*

DINNER AND A MOVIE

5 p.m. Keenan Hall Basement
Sunday, February 4th

sponsored by BCAC, the NAACP,
and MSPS

"Killing Cool"
Igniting the Soul of Society
Derrick Ashong

6:45 p.m.
LaFortune Ballroom
(Call MSPS for reservations)

Wednesday, February 7th
sponsored by MSPS, Student Affairs,
and Student Government

**The Annual
NAACP FORMAL**



9:00 p.m.
LaFortune Ballroom
Saturday, February 10th

sponsored by the NAACP Chapter of ND

The Black Cultural Arts Council
presents:

**BLAK KOFFEE
HOUSE**
talent showcase

Friday, February 16th
8 p.m. LaFortune Ballroom

(tickets available in advance at the LaFortune
Box Office)

**"What Brothas
Think, What
Sistahs Know"**

Forum Discussion with Nick
Chiles and Denene Milner

Thursday, February 22nd
8 p.m.
LaFortune Ballroom

sponsored by the NAACP and MSPS



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Programs & Services

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WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Charges filed for Air India bombing:

The Crown of India intends to proceed by direct indictment against two British Columbia men charged in the bombing of Air India Flight 182 in 1985. The decision was revealed during a provincial court appearance by Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri. Lawyers for the two men, who face possibly years in custody while the case works through the courts, say they have no objection.

Britain to pay Ex - WWII POWs:

Thousands of British servicemen held prisoner by the Japanese during World War II will begin receiving payments Thursday of \$14,500 each, the government said. Payments from the British government are part of a landmark plan announced in November that will ultimately cover up to 16,700 ex-prisoners or their widows.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Child imitates MTV show:

The father of a 13-year-old boy, hospitalized with second- and third-degree burns after mimicking an MTV personality who set himself on fire during a stunt show, blames the network for his son's injuries. Jason Lind was severely burned Friday night when he and a friend poured gasoline on his feet and legs and lit him on fire while imitating a stunt on MTV's high-rated show "Jackass," police said. The fire grew out of control and burned the boy's legs and hands before it was extinguished, officials said.

Democrats collect votes against Ashcroft:

John Ashcroft's confirmation as attorney general a virtual certainty, Democrats were trying to muster enough "nays" to dissuade President Bush from trying to fill any Supreme Court vacancy with a candidate who shares his views against abortion and for states rights. The Senate agreed Wednesday night to hold a final vote Thursday afternoon on the nomination.

INDIANA NEWS BRIEFS

Drug distributor sentenced:

A Rockport man was sentenced Wednesday to 14 years in federal prison for his role in a methamphetamine trafficking ring based in California. William Short, 41, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute and distribution of the drug, federal prosecutors said. Short was charged with transporting methamphetamine from California to Indiana and receiving the drug by mail.

NETHERLANDS



Lockerbie relatives Suse Lowenstein, Peter Tsairis, Aphradite Tsairis and Peter Lowenstein hug each other outside the court at Camp Zeist in the Netherlands after hearing the verdict of the Lockerbie trial Wednesday.

Libyan convicted for Pan Am bombing

Associated Press

CAMP ZEIST

In a verdict that linked Libya to terrorism, a Scottish court gave a life sentence Wednesday to a Libyan intelligence agent for the murder of 270 people in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 but acquitted a second Libyan.

Tears and jubilation from victims' relatives greeted the guilty verdict read out by presiding judge Lord Randal Sutherland. The three-judge court convicted Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, 48, and sentenced him to a minimum of 20 years in a Scottish prison before he would be eligible for parole.

Finding that al-Megrahi "was serving a foreign government," the court said it accepted "the evidence that (al-Megrahi) was a member

of the JSO, occupying posts of fairly high rank." The JSO is the Libyan intelligence service.

The statement bolstered claims of victims' relatives that Libyan Col. Moammar Gadhafi and his government are responsible for the bombing of the New York-bound flight over Lockerbie, Scotland on Dec. 21, 1988. The conviction could also give impetus to civil actions that the relatives have filed against Libya.

"Al-Megrahi being found guilty, that to me shows and points all the evidence to Gadhafi's feet," said Bert Ammerman of Riverdale, N.J., the brother of victim Tom Ammerman. He watched the telecast with about 85 others in New York.

The verdict was the climax of an \$80 million trial

and nearly nine months of hearings at a special court in the Netherlands. The White House said U.N. and U.S. sanctions on Libya would remain in place, and U.S. and British officials said they will keep investigating the bombing.

President Bush said at a Cabinet Room meeting with members of Congress that Libya should remain isolated until Gadhafi agrees to "accept responsibility for this act and to compensate the families."

Jeremy Greenstock, the British U.N. ambassador, said the main focus of coming discussions between the United States, Britain and Libya will be on compensation and the Libyan government's accepting responsibility for the actions of its officials.

Libya stuck to its denials of official involvement. State

television cast the trial as a triumph for the Libyan people "over arrogance, aggression and imperialism and all attempts to make them bow down." Many people in downtown Tripoli, Libya's capital, sat around television and radio sets.

Abuzed Dorda, Libya's ambassador to the United Nations, said Libya respected the verdict. But in an interview with The Associated Press, he added that the case in no way implicated the government, saying Libya "has nothing to do with the Libyan officials."

Prosecutors said the two men smuggled a bomb-laden suitcase onto a flight from the Mediterranean island of Malta, tagging it for transfer in Frankfurt, Germany, and then to the doomed jetliner in London.

Student said to plot mass killing

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif.

A college student who allegedly assembled an arsenal of guns and explosives in his bedroom and plotted a mass killing at his school was fascinated with the 1999 rampage at Columbine High School and "hated everyone," police said Wednesday.

Amid the 30 pipe bombs and 20 Molotov cocktails stashed under clothes and in duffel bags in Al DeGuzman's messy bedroom, investigators found magazine articles about the Columbine killers, writings wor-

shipping them and pictures of them on the wall, Sgt. Steve Dixon said.

DeGuzman, 19, allegedly planned for two years to kill fellow students at De Anza College and follow the example of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, who killed 13 people and wounded 23 others in Littleton, Colo., before committing suicide.

"He was going to kill as many people as possible before he died," Dixon said. "He seemed to think the more people he killed, the better it'd be, the more media attention."

Deputy Police Chief Mike Miceli said DeGuzman talked a lot about

Columbine, according to his friends. "He was fixated on Columbine," Miceli said.

"Eric Harris is God," DeGuzman allegedly proclaimed on one Web site. "He's my savior." The site has been taken down by its administrator.

While a specific motive remained unclear, investigators found angry writings on DeGuzman's computer. DeGuzman, who is of Filipino descent, lashed out against politicians, social classes and people of all ethnic groups — including his own, police said.

Market Watch 1/31

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INTEL CORP (INTC)	unch	unch	37.00
NASDAQ 100 SHAR (QQQ)	-3.67	-2.45	64.30
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	-3.93	-1.20	29.12
WORLDCOM INC (WCOM)	-5.23	-1.20	21.56

Revue prepares to open tonight amid controversy

By NOREEN GILLESPIE
News Writer

The Keenan Revue will take to a bigger stage than O'Laughlin Auditorium this weekend, as the Saint Mary's student body prepares to voice their opinion over the controversial variety show in a ballot initiative in Monday's student body president election.

The pending vote, however, has not put a damper on the efforts of the show's organizers, who displayed their antics onstage Wednesday night in their final dress rehearsal before the production opens tonight. As the men of Keenan mocked everything from boy bands to South Bend's brother-sister news team to The Observer, it was clear that any pending threat the show could be moved off Saint Mary's campus was not weighing on their minds.

"Compared to past years, the show is considerably tamer," said Chris Martin, the Revue's producer. "[Moving off-campus] isn't really a concern. If we're voted off campus, the show's still going to go on."

The controversy over the Revue's future on campus was evident in the production's opening monologue, as the hosts joked openly onstage about "paying through the nose" for the use of O'Laughlin and then being subject to heavy scrutiny over what they were permitted to perform. Thanking both Saint Mary's and Board of Governance in jest, the men of Keenan Hall forewarned the audience that the show isn't for viewers "under the age of 18."

While most skits made the final cut, the "Saturday Night Live" style humor still gener-

ated some concerns from the censorship board, comprised of representatives from Keenan Hall, ResLife, and Saint Mary's. While Saint Mary's student body president Crissie Renner sat visibly amused during Wednesday's dress rehearsal, she did have to pull the plug on one Saint Mary's joke early in the program.

Regardless, Renner said, the overall show is done in good taste.

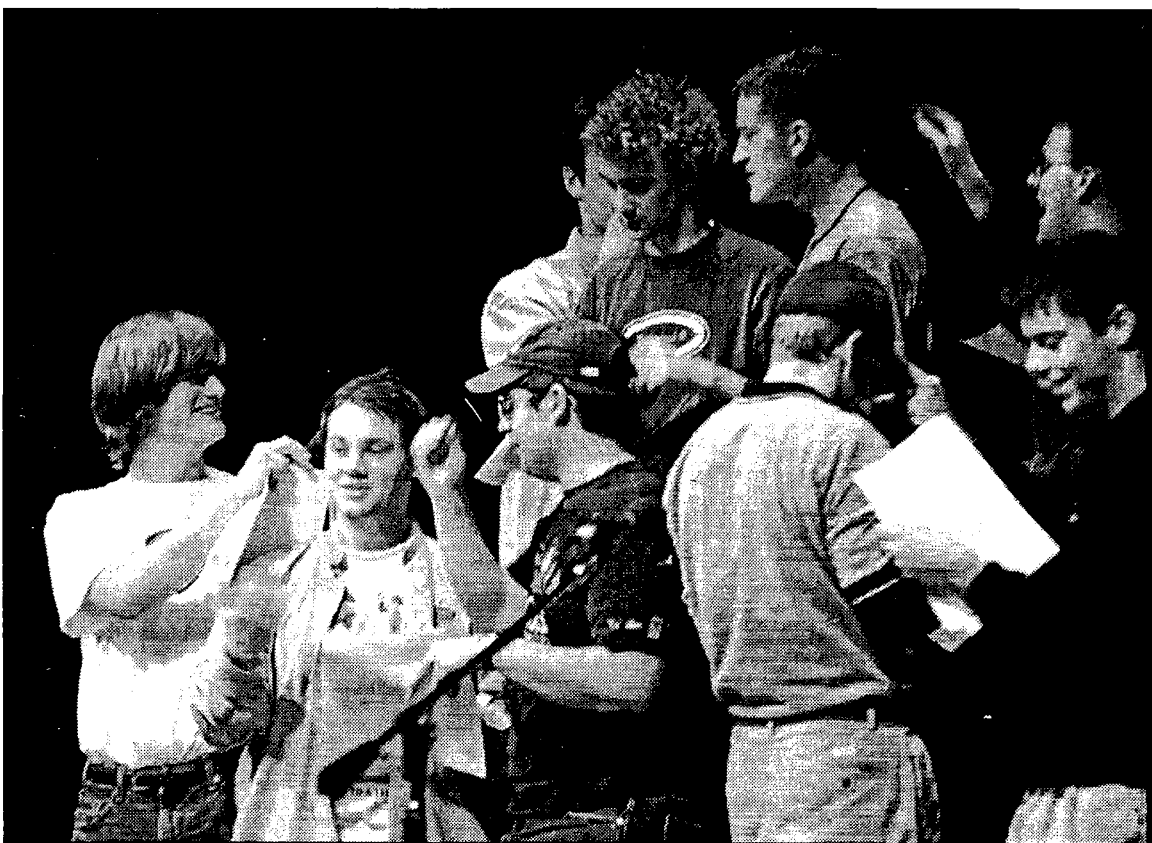
"I laughed," she admitted. "It's appropriate and funny. I'm thankful that Keenan has been so cooperative, and at the same time, they haven't lost their humor."

Father Gary Chamberland, rector of Keenan Hall, said that the censorship board is extremely important to the production, and the board does take into consideration the type of humor that is being presented to the audience.

"What is most important is the guys at Keenan get an idea of what people who are not guys in Keenan might find offensive," he said. "Saint Mary's has been kind enough to host us for 21 years, and recently expressed concerns. We're trying to work with them."

The show's producers teamed up with Board of Governance early this year to conduct a student poll in the dining hall to gauge student opinion towards the Revue. Because results showed that 93 percent of students polled approved of the Revue on campus, the show's organizers believe that Monday's results will reflect their initial tallies.

"A minority is so vocal," Martin said. "Even if one percent of the campus thinks it's offensive, they're



JOSE CUELLAR/The Observer

The residents of Keenan Hall practice for the 25th annual Keenan Revue Wednesday night. The show will open Thursday at O'Laughlin Auditorium on Saint Mary's campus amid controversy about the appropriateness of the show's humor on campus.

going to get the news. There's nothing wrong with [the Revue] at all. If you don't like it, don't go."

The results of Monday's initiative will be tallied and presented to the administration by the Board of Governance, but do not have any substantial power to remove the Revue from campus.

The initiative is at the request of Saint Mary's administration, who requested that the Board assist them in measuring students' feelings towards the Revue. It is merely a

different means of assessing student's opinion, Renner said.

"This is not a vote, and there is no finality in it," Renner said. "There were a lot of people who wanted to have a voice in this and didn't [in the survey]."

For the meantime, however, the show's organizers do not

feel any additional pressure to keep the show "toned down" to stay on campus going into the weekend.

"I just want people to laugh," said Revue director Grant Gholson. "If it's done perfectly and no one laughs, that's worse than if it's not done perfectly and people laugh."

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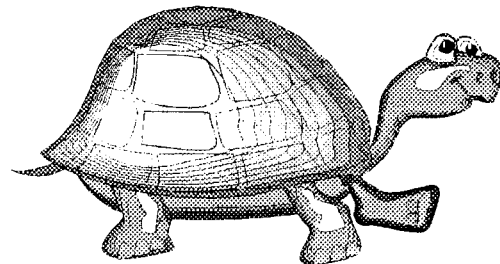
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Baxter speaks on conscientious objection in Gulf War

By LIZ ZANONI
News Writer

As part of ongoing dialogue of Catholic Perspectives on ROTC started last spring, Father Michael Baxter, associate professor of Theology at Notre Dame, gave a talk Wednesday night at the Center for Social Concerns (CSC) entitled, "Conscientious Objectors and the Persian Gulf War."

On the 10th anniversary of the United States' involvement in Operation Desert Storm, Baxter reflected on his experiences working with Conscientious Objectors (CO) in Germany after the U.S. and allies launched the largest air assault in military history in retaliation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Jan. 16, 1991.

"This war has never really come to an end for the Iraqi people," Baxter said. Since the cease-fire on Feb. 27, 1991, Baxter said that the U.S. has placed Iraq under an economic embargo and continues to use fighter planes to patrol Iraq on a regular basis.

In the fall of 1990, the U.S.

deployed 500,000 troops in the Gulf region, many from Germany and other places in Europe where they had been stationed during the Cold War, said Baxter.

A Mennonite couple working with COs in Germany discovered they had more requests than they could handle and contacted Father Baxter for help. Father Baxter, who had been working on his Ph.D. in Theology and Ethics at Duke University, worked in draft registration in the early 1980s by helping to inform registries of the possibility of filing as a CO. At Notre Dame, Baxter set up a draft counseling center under Campus Ministry and served as Counselor of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO).

After accumulating donations to raise the necessary money, Baxter and his colleges decided to go to Germany and disperse to various military bases to explain the legal process the department of defense requires of soldiers preparing to come forward as COs.

One important aspect of the registration process occurs when

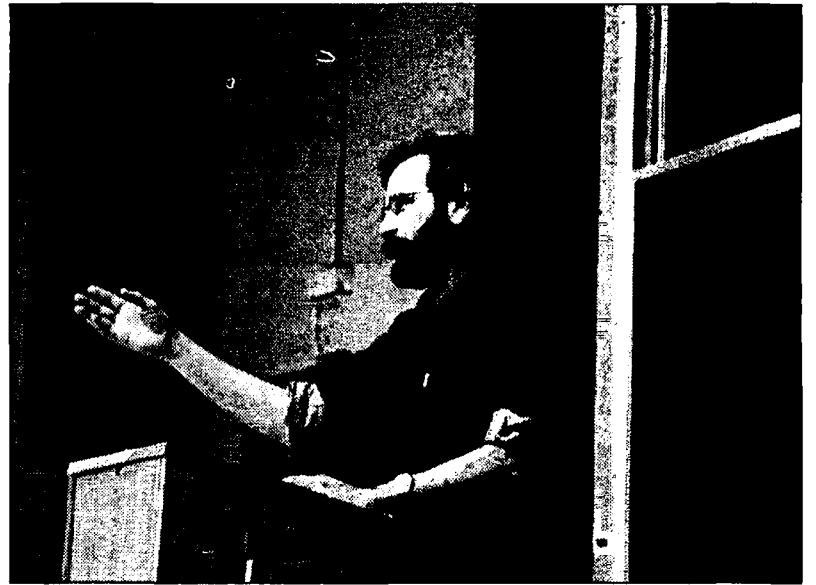
applicants are asked if they have ever applied for CO status before, said Baxter. The applicant must show, "not that he or she has always been a CO but has become one since signing the enlistment contract, thus having to show that there has been some kind of change or crystallization of conscientious after joining," said Baxter.

Baxter and his colleagues faced several critical questions about why COs would agree to enter military service knowing that there is a possibility of active combat.

Baxter said it was important to keep in mind that the soldiers, many of whom came from disadvantaged homes, were entering the military without an awareness of the realities and manifestations of war.

"The military was to them an opportunity for employment," said Baxter. "They weren't Just War people, they weren't pacifists, they weren't anything when they enlisted. They were just out of a job."

During the Gulf War, COs were



NAOMI CORDELL/The Observer

Father Michael Baxter, Notre Dame theology professor, spoke to students at the CSC Wednesday on the 10th anniversary of the Gulf War.

forcibly deployed to the Middle East, some in handcuffs and leg irons, said Baxter. Once in the Gulf region, many COs were arrested without even the right to receive letters from their families. Reports after the war showed

that of the near 2,500 CO applications submitted, almost none of them were processed in the correct manner. Many COs were prosecuted and brought to trial for unauthorized absence and desertion, said Baxter.

"During the Gulf War no CO applications were processed even though military regulations provided for the rights of COs," said Baxter.

Baxter and his colleges returned to the U.S. and started the CO support network, which encouraged military personnel to write objections to commanding officers, Congressional representatives, and the Pentagon.

Baxter said he wanted to let the military know that people were well aware of the army's treatment and failure to recognize COs.

Baxter concluded his talk by focusing on what rights ROTC students should have at Notre Dame. Not only should they be informed about their options as COs, Baxter said, but also the University should challenge them on their own moral convictions of war.

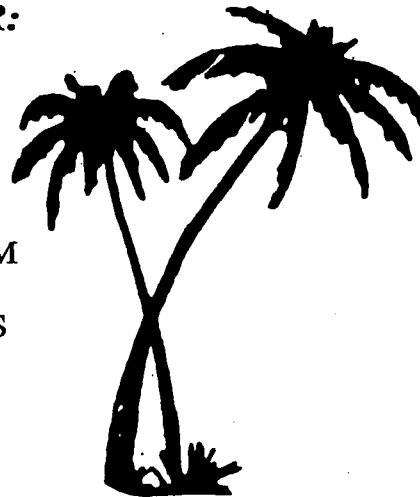
Similarly to the soldiers in Germany, Baxter said many ROTC students join under economic pressures, haven't seriously considered their personal stands on war, and often view their work in the military with certain abstractness as they train for positions as officers.

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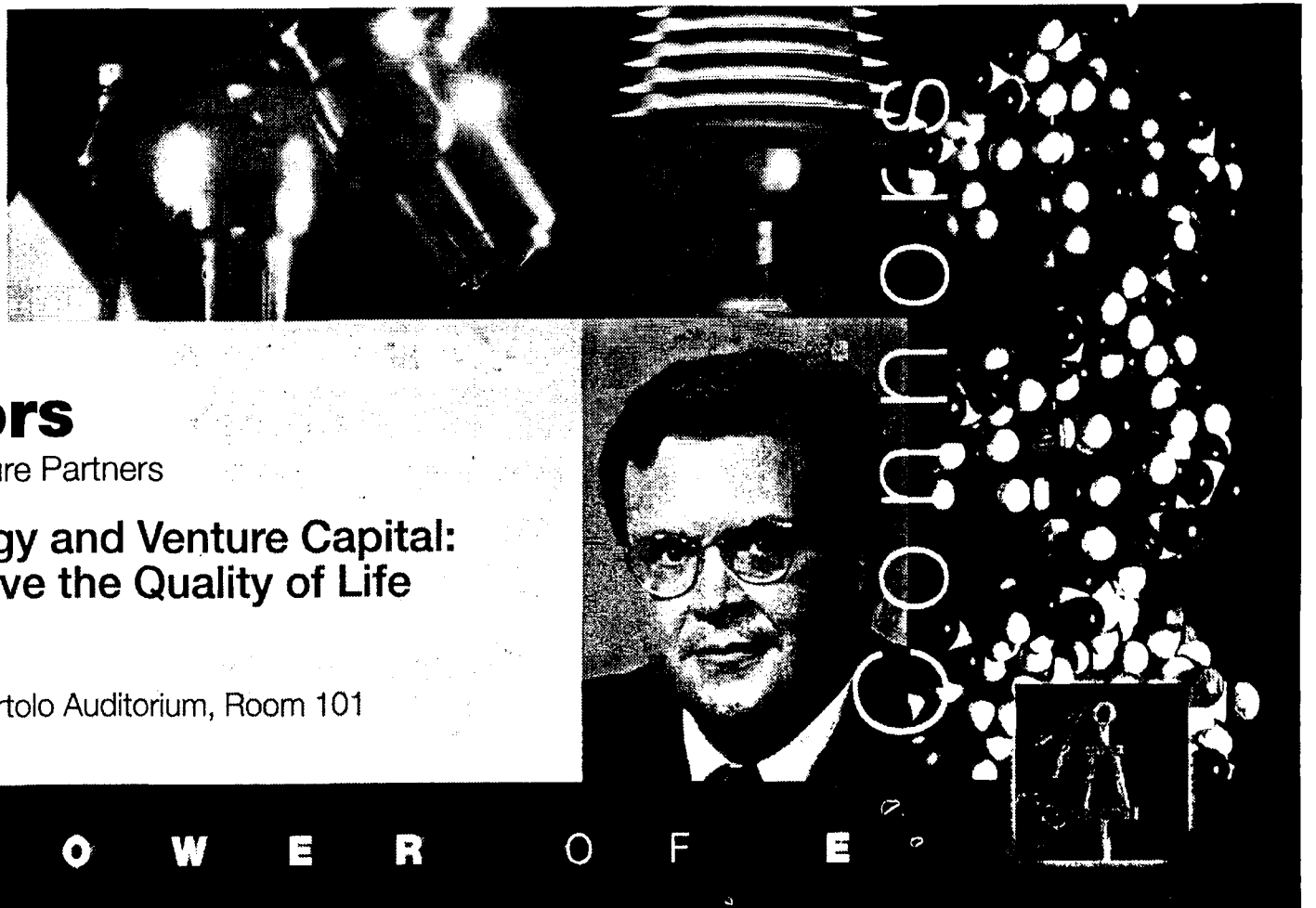
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T H E P O W E R O F

SMC candidates take on communication as platform

By MOLLY McVOY
Saint Mary's Editor

Communication is the focal point of the platform for Michelle Nagle and Kristen Matha, the one and only ticket running for Saint Mary's student body president/vice president.

"Accountable and accessible are the two words that sum up our platform," Nagle said.

Nagle and Matha hope to increase their accessibility to the student body with the goals laid out in their platform. One of their goals is to institute a State of the Student Address at the beginning of each semester. Nagle and Matha hope this will give the student body the opportunity to understand what student government is accomplishing each semester.

"What happens now is that candidates come out with a platform at the beginning of the year and then the student body forgets about it," Matha said. "We hope this changes that."

In addition to the State of the Student Address, Nagle/Matha are planning to put up a bulletin board where they will post the agenda of the upcoming Board of Governance meeting. They also hope to update the student government Web page and hold breakfasts in the dining hall where students can meet with their administration.

"Things like this would be very powerful to give students a voice," Nagle said.

Nagle and Matha hope to reopen the student government office and hold office hours to increase their availability to the student body.

"We're trying to have uniform ways for the student body to know what's going on," Nagle said.

In their new administration, Nagle and Matha want to include a Holy Cross representative on Board of Governance.

"They're just picking up a student government and we want to do what we can do to mentor Holy Cross in forming a student government," Nagle said.

The ticket also hopes to institute a welcome back event for students returning from abroad.

"We want to give abroad students a way to get involved," Matha said.

If elected, Nagle and Matha will come into office in the wake of

several major issues between the student body and the administration. The campus is currently debating whether to host both the Vagina Monologues and the Keenan Revue. The students will be asked to give their opinion on the Keenan Revue on the ballot during Monday's elections.

Nagle and Matha said that both are tough issues but they are unclear as to what steps should be taken. They said that voices outside the student body, including the administration, alumnae and donors need to be heard before any decision can be made.

"As a student body, we need to understand what role the administration has," Nagle said. "As a private institution, we have to look at donors, the Board of Trustees and the Parent's Council."

"We have to take into consideration how alumnae feel," Matha said.

Student body elections will be during the day on Monday.



Nagle



Matha

Meet the Candidates

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Unopposed

continued from page 1

surprised that there is not a greater turnout this year.

"I've noticed a general apathy among students. Fewer people turn out for events," said junior Kathleen Nickson, LeMans Hall council vice-president.

The situation came as a mixture of surprise and disappointment to Nagle, who initially believed that she would be a hindrance to Matha's winning the election. A three-year veteran of student government, Nagle was concerned that her experience could be a negative in a tight campaign. She seriously considered not running because students may need a new face in student government, she said.

That wasn't the case, however.

"The fact that only one ticket is running is not a horrible thing," said Georgeanna Rosenbush, Director of Student Activities. "In my 18 years at Saint Mary's, it's happened three or four times — it's all part of a cycle."

Time constraints could be another reason that students shy away from running, where a small campus finds

many students involved in multiple activities.

The time commitment of student body president is something that has to be exclusive to other activities.

This could be deterring some students, Rosenbush said.

"At Saint Mary's, we give our study body leader a lot of power, and this comes with a great deal of responsibility," she said. "This fall, I had many students approach me about running in the elections, but they also wanted to do other things; student body president is a full-time job."

"I am honest with students when they ask about the level of commitment. Many student body presidents have ended relationships due to the immense time commitment," Rosenbush continued.

Some students believe the responsibility of the job is deterring some potential candidates.

"It's hard to be a representative for every group and personality on campus," said Julia Fletcher, junior and LeMans Hall council treasurer.

"It brings a lot of conflict, there are only a select few that can take on that feat. Those are the ones who are on the ticket and deserve the position."

ND hosts visiting sculptor

Special to The Observer

International ceramic sculptor Peter Voulkos is an artist-in-residence at the University of Notre Dame this week and will present a lecture on his work at 4 p.m. today in the Annenberg Auditorium of the Snite Museum of Art on campus. Sponsored by the Notre Dame Department of Art, Art History and Design, the Snite and the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, the lecture is free and open to the public.

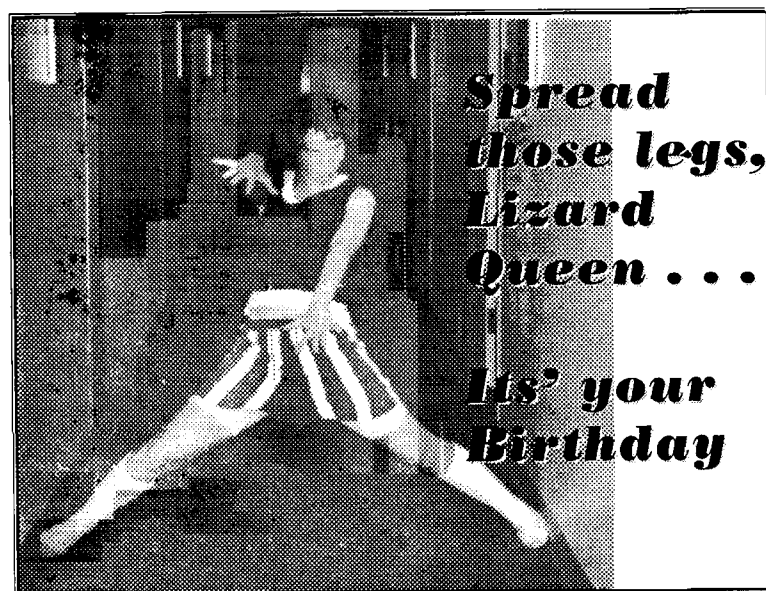
A professor emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, Voulkos has been creating ceramic sculpture for 50 years. His visit is providing Notre Dame art students with the unique opportunity not only to

observe his work, but also to assist him by wedging clay as he creates large abstract expressionistic sculptures.

"Having Peter Voulkos at Notre Dame is a wonderful experience. He has an international reputation and it's wonderful to have our advanced undergraduates and our graduates rubbing shoulders with him," said Rev. Austin I. Collins, C.S.C., department chair and associate professor of art at Notre Dame.

Voulkos' sculptures will be wood-fired this spring and exhibited at the Snite Museum of Art. Following the exhibit, Voulkos will give one sculpture to the museum for its permanent collection.

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The Observer.



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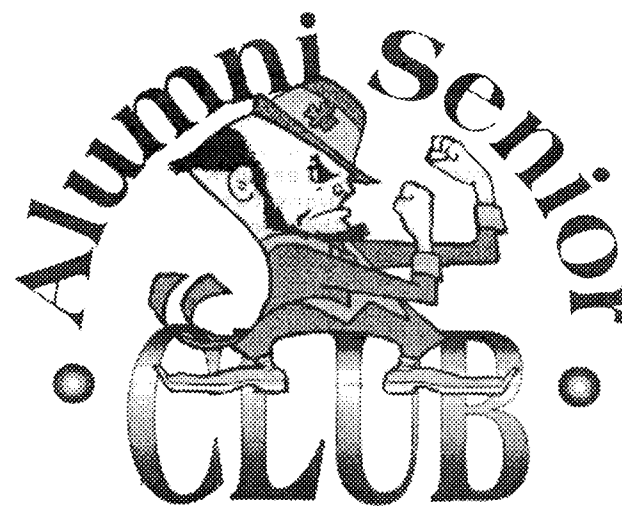
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Senate panel endorses lower Ind. drunken driving standard

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS

After years of being stalled at the starting gate, legislation to lower Indiana's standard for drunken driving is now on its way to both chambers of the General Assembly.

The proposal has lingered in a Senate committee for more than a decade, but this week lawmakers from both chambers endorsed similar measures that will soon be considered by the full House and Senate.

Members of the Senate Public Policy Committee voted 7-3 Tuesday to advance a bill that would reduce the level at which drivers are considered drunk from a blood-alcohol content of 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent. A day earlier, a House committee advanced a similar proposal.

Prospects for the legislation appear to be improving during this legislative session, thanks in large part to a new federal mandate that threatens to withhold highway dollars from states that don't adopt the reduced standard.

Sen. Tom Wyss, R-Fort Wayne, has introduced the bill in 10 of the last 11 years. His bill reached the floor of the Senate just once. That was in 1990, when the measure died later in the House.

Testimony at Tuesday's three-hour Senate committee hearing mirrored remarks made Monday to House members. Supporters urged passage of the bill to improve highway safety, while opponents questioned whether there was sufficient evidence to prove the proposal would save lives.

John Livengood, a lobbyist who represents the Restaurant and Hospitality Association, said statistical studies have not shown lowering the threshold for drunken driving arrests will reduce traffic crashes.

"The arguments for this are emotional and political. I don't believe they are factual," Livengood said.

He and other industry representatives were

concerned that similar measures in other states have cut alcohol sales by 10 to 20 percent, hurting small family-run businesses. Some opponents suggested lawmakers wait two years to give the issue additional study.

Critics of the bill also questioned whether it was necessary because current state law already permits authorities to seek drunken driving charges against motorists with blood-alcohol levels below 0.08, if police officers can prove they were impaired.

The lower threshold would allow prosecutors to obtain a conviction based solely on a person's blood-alcohol content.

Since 1999, St. Joseph County Prosecutor Chris Toth has followed a policy of using that rule to pursue charges against greater numbers of drivers, but he wants the law to be stronger.

"Many of the arguments I've heard (against the bill) are strangely reminiscent of some of the arguments set forth by the tobacco industry trying to argue that cigarettes do not cause cancer," Toth said.

Sen. Charles "Bud" Meeks, R-Leo-Cedarville, a former Allen County sheriff, recalled that people began to drink more responsibly after 1967, the last time Indiana lowered its drunken driving standard.

Meeks said he dreaded patrolling on Christmas Eve because drunken drivers often were returning home from holiday and office parties.

"In 1965, I buried two people and sent five to the hospital, four of those critical. Then we went from 0.15 down to 0.10, and we did have a behavioral change," said Meeks, who voted for the proposal.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon has expressed support for the measure and in his State of the State address urged lawmakers to pass it this year.

Congress enacted a law last fall that will begin penalizing states that don't adopt the 0.08 percent standard by 2004. Indiana is among 31 states that have a 0.10 percent standard or do not set a specific standard.

ND student fondled, report not published

Observer Staff Report

A Notre Dame student was forcibly fondled by another student Nov. 3, according to Notre Dame Security Police.

The sex offense occurred in a residence hall on campus and was reported to Residence Life shortly after the incident, director of security Rex Rakow said. The student also reported the fondling to Security on Nov. 13 but the incident was not entered into the police log until Jan. 22 when Security concluded their investigation and passed the case on to ResLife, Rakow said.

Rakow could not explain why the incident was not recorded in the log in a timely manner of Nov. 13 as required by law.

"For some unexplained reason, it didn't get bloated at that time," Rakow said.

Rakow did not believe the fondler posed a threat to the community so press releases were not issued and posters were not placed around campus.

"[Whether or not to publicize acquaintance sexual assaults] is always widely interpreted," Rakow said. "We don't report acquaintance rape as danger in that we post flyers. We don't send out a flyer in the middle of the night because that's not going to do any good."

Conor

continued from page 1

and console each other."

The wake is scheduled for Friday afternoon from 2 to 8 p.m. at McGorray's Funeral Home in Lakewood, Ohio. The viewing will take place Saturday morning from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the gymnasium of Saint Ignatius High School, followed by the funeral mass at 11:30 a.m., which will also

take place at Saint Ignatius.

The Office of Student Affairs is sponsoring bus transportation to Cleveland for a limited number of students. Buses will depart Notre Dame early Saturday morning and return that night. Complete information will be made available in Friday's Observer.

In lieu of flowers, Murphy's family requested that donations be made to scholarships in his name at either Saint Ignatius High School or the University.

THE OBSERVER

is now accepting applications for the following positions:

MANAGING EDITOR

Applicants should have strong editorial and journalistic skills and be comfortable in a management position. A basic understanding of newspaper production and experience with the Macintosh system is helpful.

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Any sophomore or junior business major at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's or Holy Cross interested in valuable work experience is encouraged to apply. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and organizational skills and a basic understanding of accounting principles.

Applicants should submit a résumé and a five-page statement to Mike Connolly by 5 p.m. Friday, February 2, 2001. For additional information about the position contact Business Manager Tim Lane a 631-5313 or Editor in Chief, Mike Connolly at 631-4542. Applicants are also encouraged to stop by the office in South Dining Hall with any questions.

VIEWPOINT

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THE
OBSERVER

Thursday, February 1, 2001

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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.

Nagle/Matha miss the issues

Michelle Nagle and Kristen Matha want to improve communication between the Board of Governance and the student body. Through breakfast meetings, bulletin boards and Web pages, Nagle/Matha intend to make student government more responsive to the needs of the students in the coming year.

Unfortunately they lack any idea of what the student body wants now. None of the critical issues currently facing Saint Mary's students are addressed in their platform. There is no mention of the Keenan Revue; no stance on the Vagina Monologues; no concern for the censorship of student groups by the administration and the lack of an open speaker's policy on campus.

While they developed their platform and prepared for their campaign, Nagle/Matha say they met with many administrators to find out what the Saint Mary's administration would like to see accomplished in the next year.

Through those meetings Nagle/Matha came to one conclusion: "There is no need for big initiatives this year."

Nagle and Matha both have the best interests of Saint Mary's at heart. They both want to do what is necessary to help the students at the College. But what they really need to do is spend more energy voicing the opinions of the students to the administration rather than voicing the administration's demands to the students.

Nagle and Matha believe they have a responsibility to the administration, the alumnae and the donors. They need to better understand their greater responsibility to the students.

Their communication platform will probably help them better understand the needs of the student body and give the student body a clearer picture of how student government operates.

What remains to be seen, however, is if they will act on behalf of the students. If Nagle/Matha stand up for students and refuse to bow to administrative pressure, the Nagle/Matha administration will be a success. If they continue to only listen to the administration, they will continue to believe "there are no specific issues facing Saint Mary's right now."

Once they start listening to students, Nagle/Matha will find that is entirely not true.

The Observer Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reflecting on a lost brother

The mass at 10:30 on the night of Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2001, was quite an oddity. The music was thrown together at the last minute, the Nicene Creed was skipped and 10 percent of the congregation was forced to stand due to lack of sitting space.

It was the most beautiful mass I had ever attended.

Allow me to begin afresh. In the Zahm Hall Chapel, a mass was held for Conor Murphy, a Zahm brother who was diagnosed with leukemia some time ago. As of Tuesday night, Conor's condition had worsened and the men of Zahm were informed that Conor was not expected to make it through the night.

A freshman, I do not know Conor personally. I had not met him and I was familiar with him only through the brotherhood that members of Zahm Hall share; the brotherhood often mocked on this campus, but the brotherhood that all people wish to know and possess. As an active member of the Zahm choir, our rector asked me to try and pull some music together for a mass for Conor.

Before the choir began to rehearse its first song of the night under my direction, the chapel began to fill. By the time the choir finished rehearsing its last song

before mass, the chapel was filled to overflowing with supporters, friends and acquaintances of Conor and people like me: people who had never met Conor before.

Mass was said. As of that night, I had never cried before and I will never cry again.

As the tears left from my eyes, I wondered at the sheer stupidity of it all. It is only at times of tragedy that we stop to ponder life, its purpose, its wonder and its frailty. Every other week in our lives we walk around without a deep thought in our heads. This is true and everyone knows it. I went to LaFortune after the mass, hoping to be shocked back into the reality I knew and could be comforted by. I saw it there, on the face of every person who had not attended the mass, but I was not

reassured. I saw how ugly it was, and how cheap it was, and how shallow it was. I hated it.

We get so wrapped up in all of the little things that cause us irritation or lead our lives. People continue to gripe about the last election, I receive weekly e-mails from an Iranian friend regarding the injustice of Jews in the Middle East and I hear young lovers quarrel over petty matters like misunderstood phrases and unappreciated looks.

Infrequently do we ever put our lives on hold and reflect on what is really going on: How have we grown? Are we happy? Is happiness defined in an ever-increasing set of goals? What are we doing with our time?

I do not know if Conor Murphy pulled through on Tuesday night, because I write this that very night. But I pray for him, as I pray for my parents, my sisters, my cat and the rest of my family. And I go to the grotto that night, light a candle, and sing "Notre Dame, Our Mother" with the rest of the students and others gathered there. And I look up and I see a leaf on the limb of the tree. It holds on, fearing the fall of letting go, knowing that it should be with the tree. The leaf is Conor. The leaf is me. The leaf is all of us. The leaf is everything.

The walk back to Zahm was cold.

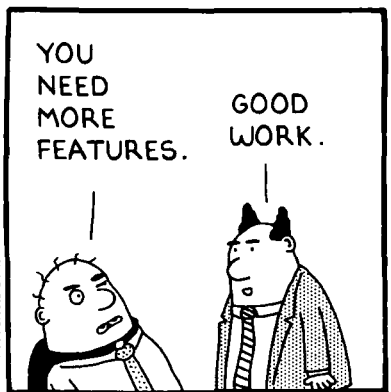
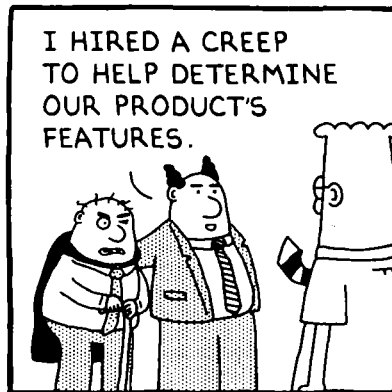
Wm. Taylor Palfrey, Jr.
freshman
Zahm Hall
January 30, 2001



DILBERT

SCOTT ADAMS

QUOTE OF THE DAY



*"Do not go gentle in that good night,
Old age should burn and rave
at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light."*

Dylan Thomas
poet

VIEWPOINT

Thursday, February 1, 2001

THE
OBSERVER

page 11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defending an MVP

Lately, Observer articles have pointed to Ray Lewis as an evil, treacherous and murderous thug. As far as The Observer seems concerned, he might as well have played the Super Bowl in the orange jumpsuit with which we are so familiar. It seems only fair that the Notre Dame community hear the true facts and not the decidedly biased opinions of Kevin Berchou.

The truth about Ray Lewis is simple. He was in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong people. Recognizing this, Lewis became the prosecution's star witness against Reginald Oakley and Joseph Sweeting who were seen with knives that night. If there is a fight outside Boat Club and you happen to be there and picked up by the South Bend police, I'm sure you'd be telling Res-Life the same story. It is time to realize that Ray Lewis is a victim of coincidence and ignorance.

To think of the MVP as evil is preposterous. ESPN says he spends Friday nights with his family. This is true. But he also spends his summers with them and his fiancé in Orlando and flies his three children to every home Ravens game. Not to mention, how he was abandoned by his father, took care of his four siblings while his mom worked two jobs and has since bought each member of the family a home.

Lewis has taken the lesson of this incidence to heart. He counsels incoming NFL players about the danger of association with the wrong people. He is involved in several service programs in the Baltimore and Miami areas. Ray Lewis has overcome the type of prejudice, criticism and ignorance that seem reserved for after-school specials to become a great football player. For all he has been through and achieved, when he is announced on sports largest stage, let the man dance for joy.

Tony Griswold

junior
Knott Hall
January 30, 2001

Women's empowerment not expressed in 'Monologues'

The last time I checked, rape and child molestation were not women's empowerment issues. They were considered violence against women issues. Apparently, all those who wrote to The Observer in defending "The Vagina Monologues" believe otherwise.

I consider myself a feminist. I worked at a feminist organization over the summer, Feminists for Life of America. None of the women I have ever met, around town or on the job, would willingly support the publication of "The Vagina Monologues" as great women's empowerment literature.

Here are a few little-known facts that I wonder if any of you who are protesting the cancellation of the show are aware of:

One of the central messages of the show is that "great sex is possible between people who have absolutely no emotional commitment to each other."

One of the inspirational high points in the show is a monologue from a 13-year old girl who is seduced and raped by a 25-year old woman. The 13-year old's reaction? "I say, if it was a rape, it was a good rape, a rape that turned my vagina into a kind of heaven."

The show's final result is that it has condoned and glorified rape, child molestation, pornography and prostitution.

In a world where feminists and all those who fight for women's justice have worked so

hard over the years to gain respect and admiration for the way we manage our lives, I find it hard to see how this show could further that cause at all, other than giving someone untold opportunities to say the word "vagina."

Rape is rape, no matter how someone spins it and the unlawful rape of a child is particularly heinous. One of our great opportunities at this University, as I understand it, is to educate, not pidalate. However, in dealing with these sensitive issues, i.e., women's rights and equal opportunity, this play validates the very things which we have fought so hard to overcome; namely, the subjugation and objectivity of women.

In terms of the play helping people come to terms with their sexuality, dealing with these matters in shock-jock language doesn't resolve or mitigate them; it simply produces giggles and crude slams at the play and the actors performing it.

This play, in its language and its subject matter, is not women's empowerment, it is a cheap way of getting attention and an excuse to act immature. Thank you, Saint Mary's, for not giving in!

Katherine Hoppe

sophomore
Lyons Hall
January 31, 2001

Fielding feedback on sport utilities

One of the benefits of writing columns is that I often hear and learn from readers. In my last column, written half in jest and wholly serious, I argued that sport utility vehicles or "SUV's" violated Catholic social teaching in a number of ways.

Their wasteful gas mileage, excess emissions and threat to both others and the vehicle's own passengers appeared to be in conflict with human dignity, solidarity and the common good in those instances — which is most of the time — when other vehicles would do. I also indicated that the posturing inherent in most ownership of SUV's was part of a consumer society that so pursues image that it divorces freedom from truth.

I received more responses to that column than virtually any other and those against SUV's outnumbered those in favor by a ratio of eight to one. On the wasteful gas mileage, I learned from one reader that changing from an average car to a 13 miles per gallon sport utility vehicle for one year would waste more energy than if one left the refrigerator door open for six years or had the television on for 28 years. Regarding emissions, I learned that while a Honda Civic produces 40 tons of carbon dioxide over 124,000 miles (itself a lot), a Chevy Suburban releases one 115 tons and a Ford Excursion 134 tons, well over three times that of the Civic.

On the point regarding danger to others, a number of people reported difficulty seeing around SUV's, making pulling out into traffic — say, taking a right from the right-hand lane when the SUV is to the left of you and blocking your ability to

see traffic coming from the left — much more hazardous. In other words, the extra visibility that SUV drivers seek denies others the ability to see at all in critical situations. Other people reported that the height and bulk of SUV's actually work against the extra visibility that their drivers seek: these people said that SUV drivers often seemed not to see them but rather to see right over them.

One commenter provided additional information regarding the use of car phones. It seems that studies have shown that drivers using car phones are sufficiently distracted that they are as likely to get in accidents as someone who is legally drunk. The most dangerous vehicle, this respondent said, is the SUV with a car phone.

Another person made an interesting point with respect to the danger to those in the SUV itself. He said that although SUV's, because of their greater mass, cause more destruction to other vehicles, when they collide with things bigger than they are — for instance, a bridge abutment — the threat to passengers in the SUV itself is accentuated. This is because SUV's are listed as trucks, not as cars and so do not have to have the same safety standards. They therefore do not have what is called a "compression zone" between the mass of metal and the passengers that is required of cars. This particular respondent called it the bully syndrome: SUV's threaten (as they are designed to do) those objects smaller than they are, but do not stand up when what is in question is an object as big or bigger.

A number of comments came in regarding the issue of the SUV image in a consumer society. Again, Charles Wheelan, whose horrible one-vehicle SUV rollover I recounted last time, admits that he bought the SUV because it "projected a different image than a minivan or a station wagon." I left out the final lines of his own column: "I should never have put my family in that truck or any other like it."

One respondent pointed out that the zenith — the nadir? — of such image seeking is "that oxymoron, the luxury sport utility vehicle." Lexus and Mercedes now make vehicles of this type. In these cases, he pointed out, "the press for image is so strong — going for two at once — that it is lost on the owner that the activities that the images convey are incompatible."

A number of people tried to give me solace when reading that my car was hit by two SUV's in a month. The comment of one stands out: "Look, I get mad too. But this is what I do. I think back. To 1988 to be exact. Remember the presidential election then? Bush vs. Dukakis. Bush was 17 points behind when running against nobody, just anybody the Democrats might put up. It was Bush against anyone and he loses. Then the Democrats put up Mike Dukakis. Now, people point to this and that as to why Dukakis lost."

But I know what turned it in favor of Bush. It was that ad that had Dukakis riding in that tank. Bush had a war record; Dukakis thought that he had to look tough. So he turns out this ad with him and his head in a helmet sticking out of a tank smiling and bobbing like those figures with heads on a spring that people put in the back windows of their cars. But everyone knew what a crock it was. So I know they get you mad, but when you think of those SUV drivers and the tanks they buy for image, think Dukakis '88."

One writer in favor of SUV's argued that in the mountains of Montana and Wyoming they are necessary, and are not just for image. Indeed, these are examples of where such vehicles aid travel where other vehicles may not.

This is why I said that SUV's are fine when there is a "specific need" for them and, "There may well be places and times where high carriage on a vehicle is helpful." The tougher cases are those where the region is not mountainous, but receives a lot of snow (again, Indiana does not count).

In unplowed areas after a storm, the high carriage can be of help. The trade-off is that the narrow wheel base in comparison to the height of the vehicle makes the SUV a liability when the roads are cleared of snow, but ice may remain. My wife lived in New York 30 miles from the Canadian border for two years. There the vehicle of choice was the Subaru because of its all-wheel drive and wide wheel base relative to height. In most cases, however, the situation is like that which one respondent reported from New Jersey: the SUV's are only put into four-wheel drive at the Mall in order to facilitate driving over curbs.

A writer defending the vehicles suggested that the reason that people who actually rock climb do not drive SUV's is because they would rather spend their money on climbing gear or work less and go on a climbing trip. And that was exactly my point: while generalizations must be made with caution, it can be ventured that most of those who actually rock climb would rather partake in the activity itself than look like they might be someone who partakes in that activity.

Todd David Whitmore is an associate professor in the theology department. His column runs every other Thursday.

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



Todd David Whitmore

The Common Good



MOVIE REVIEW

'Snatch' will attract male audiences

By JEFFREY Q. IRISH
Scene Movie Critic

"Snatch" is young, chic and energetic. It looks like it belongs on MTV with its gangsters, quick cuts, fast zooms and killer soundtrack.

The title is a bit misleading in that only four women share minimal screen time during the entire film. The original (and more appropriate) title was "Diamonds," but a Kirk Douglas film was released in 1999 under the same name. The brains in marketing came up with "Snatch" to target the young male audience this movie was made for.

The film is Guy Ritchie's sophomore effort after his debut independent film "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" became a cult hit in 1999. "Snatch" seems like a more expensive sequel to "Lock," so much so that a few critics have called it "A Few More Barrels."

The claims are valid; Ritchie employs much of the same cast in a similar story line involving guns, robbery and evil characters with long names like "Bullet Tooth Tony."

The only noticeable difference is the addition of Brad Pitt as a wiry pikey (British trailer-trash) named "One Punch Mickey." The character is a cross between Tyler Durden and a leprechaun, and Pitt brings a great deal of comedy with a daffy "orish" accent. It is interesting to see how Pitt's increasing ugliness has made him more appealing to male audiences.

The plot begins when bare-knuckle

boxing promoters Turkish (Jason Statham) and Tommy (Stephen Graham) get into debt with Brick Top (Alan Ford). Brick Top is a local crime don and occasional pig farmer. If anyone cannot repay a debt owed to him, they are fed to his pigs.

Meanwhile, the Hassidic gambler Franky Four Fingers ("Traffic" star Benicio Del Toro) steals an 84-carat diamond and is en route to meet his Jewish Mafia boss Cousin Avi in New York when he finds a casino in London. But Cousin Avi (Dennis Farina) doesn't want to lose his diamond to a casino, so he flies to London before all hell breaks loose.

As everyone well knows, Ritchie is the new husband of pop icon Madonna. And like Madonna, Ritchie is dedicated to his art.

"Snatch" is a very courageous exercise in film style. The entire movie feels like a music video. For 2 1/2 hours the camera never stops moving and cutting. The plot changes so much that if you blink for a second you might be lost for 30 minutes.

The amount of planning that must've gone into so many shots at different angles is mind-boggling. The scenes of Cousin Avi flying across the Atlantic are cool and happen so quickly that, in a matter of two seconds, we see him buy a plane ticket, board a plane, sit down, do a shot and declare at customs, "don't go to England."

The bare-knuckle boxing matches are somewhat reminiscent of "Fight Club," but the adrenaline brought out to sounds of Oasis' "F---in the

"Snatch"



out of five shamrocks

Director: Guy Ritchie
Starring: Brad Pitt, Jason Statham, Stephen Graham, Alan Ford, Dennis Farina and Benicio Del Toro

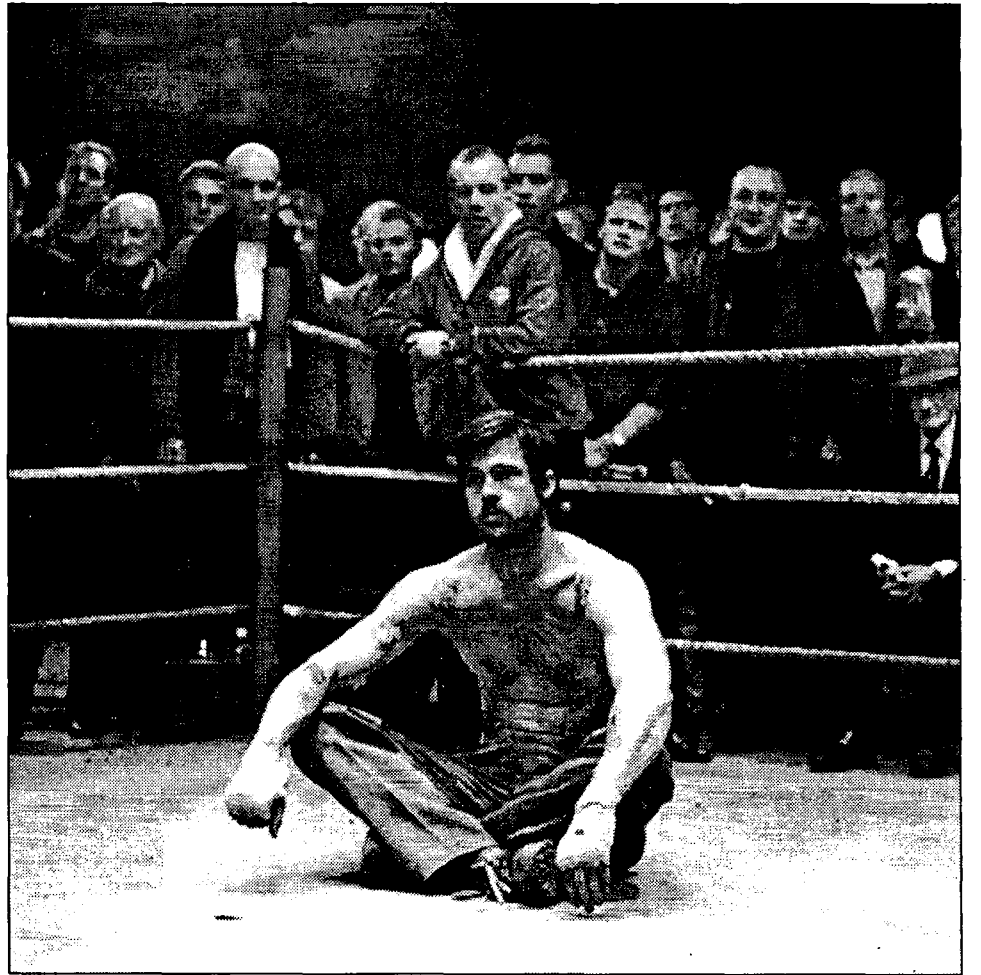


Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Brad Pitt stars as Irish, bare-knuckle boxer "One Punch Mickey" in Guy Ritchie's kinetic new film "Snatch."

Bushes" as Mickey enters the ring surpasses even David Fincher's censored masterpiece. It makes everyone — even pacifists — want to jump into the ring.

"Snatch" is probably more of what Ritchie originally wanted for "Lock." It

surpasses "Lock" in that it is quicker and louder, but the similarities of the two films are what keep this film from perfection. It's time that Ritchie discover a lesson that his elder bride learned long ago: you must reinvent yourself to stay on top.

MOVIE REVIEW

Make a 'Pledge' not to see this movie

By LIAM DACEY
Scene Movie Critic

The crime thriller "The Pledge," directed by Sean Penn, stars Jack Nicholson as a retiring cop in Northern Nevada whose last case involves the murder of a young girl. Based on Friedrich Durrenmatt's

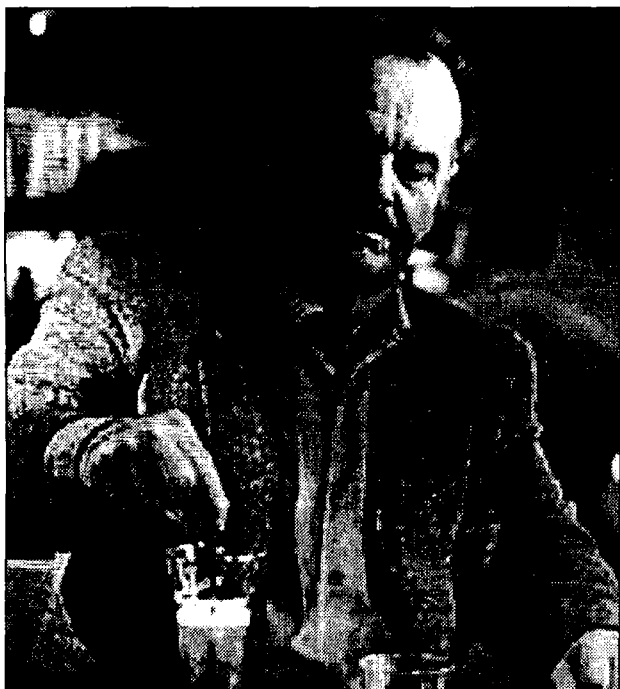


Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Sean Penn directs Jack Nicholson in the heavy, plot-twisting drama "The Pledge."

1957 book, Nicholson makes a histrionic "pledge" to the victim's parents to capture the murderer of their child. The lead suspect, a mentally challenged Native American (Benicio Del Toro) who was seen near the area of the murder, is subsequently apprehended. After this suspicious character commits suicide in a rage behind bars, the case is closed and Nicholson leaves for retirement.

If the movie had ended there it could have saved some sense of decency. However, before Nicholson leaves for retirement he "gets a feeling" (as characters often do in these situations) that the killer is still at large. From here the movie's clichés grow exponentially as it loses all credibility in its increasing outrageousness.

Nicholson becomes completely obsessed with the case and believes (after hearing the account of a 17-year-old girl) that there may be other similar killings committed in the same area.

Nicholson bases this hypothesis on the circumstantial evidence that there were three blonde-haired, 8-year-old girls who were killed within the same proximity. Coincidentally, they were all wearing red dresses. Nicholson moves to the town of the killings and shortly thereafter meets a mother (Robin Wright Penn) and her young daughter.

Of course, Nicholson and Wright Penn fall in love, and the daughter is put in danger of being killed by the serial killer, who only Nicholson believes is still at large. For the rest of the film, the daughter is seen only in a red dress to heighten the suspense. The movie takes unnecessary, laughable twists and introduces characters who have no relevance to the

overall plot.

For example, Nicholson is "thrown off" the hunt by a Christian preacher believed to be the killer. This sidetrack only leads to an unfulfilling dead end that does not relate to the rest of the film in the least.

Another example of "The Pledge's" lack of cohesiveness occurs when Nicholson finds a link behind the killings that consists of the porcupines given to the victims by a "Wizard" prior to their deaths. These pieces of the mystery are juxtaposed in a laughable manner. It fits together like a bad episode of "Murder, She Wrote."

Surprisingly, the ending is atypical for a crime thriller, but it fails to add closure at a time when it is much needed. At the end of a long journey, the film only brings out Nicholson's personal failure. Is he more upset that he could not fulfill the pledge to the victim's parents, or is he disappointed with his own inner self?

The film should have focused on this question more and avoided the unnecessary plot twists. The opportunity was sorely missed to make this a much more profound movie.

The only bright spot in the movie is Nicholson's vivid performance, which some could argue is one of his best. It is unfortunate that it had to go to waste on such a disappointing film.

Sean Penn tries to go into the mind of an obsessed man who is struggling with his inner demons. Sadly, "The Pledge" is too uneven and embellished to accomplish Penn's goal. Perhaps he should stick to acting.

"The Pledge"



out of five shamrocks

Director: Sean Penn
Starring: Jack Nicholson, Robin Wright Penn and Benicio Del Toro

MOVIE REVIEW

Elements of 'Vampire' don't add up

By CHRIS BANNISTER
Scene Movie Critic

Vampire films have been a staple of the film industry since its infancy. They have ranged from comical to sexy to terrifying and everywhere in between. "Shadow of the Vampire" meditates on the making of vampire films, and films as a whole, by exploring a fictional premise based on the filming of "Nosferatu," a vampire film created by premier German director F.W. Murnau in 1922.

In "Shadow of the Vampire," Murnau, played by John Malkovich, is obsessed with making a realistic vampire film and, to that end, has secretly obtained Max Shreck (Willem Dafoe), a real vampire, to play the part of Nosferatu. Murnau hides the vampire's true identity by stating that his rather eccentric behavior is a result of his practice of never coming out of character while making the film.

However, as the film progresses, the tenuous bargain struck between Murnau and Shreck begins to collapse as the vampire's blood lust leads him to make victims out of the crew.

Separately, the various elements of "Shadow of the Vampire" are each superb; however, the film ultimately fails to bring the elements together as a whole and ultimately flounders.

The performances, the monologues of the characters and the photographic style are each elements worthy of praise. Both Willem Dafoe and John Malkovich turn in great performances as their respective characters.

The make-up effects used to transform Dafoe into Nosferatu makes him almost wholly unrecognizable; yet, he is able to communicate a person within the vampire that entices a mixture of fear and sympathy.

Meanwhile, Malkovich is able to communicate Murnau's artistic hunger that pushes him towards

mania.

Both Malkovich and Dafoe shine during their respective monologues, which are well written and explore the darker limits of filmmaking, reality and the human soul. For example, the monologue in which Murnau elucidates the sacrifices required for art creates an interesting debate over what the true nature of art is.

These debates are further explored in the film's photographic style and camera work. In particular, the use of extreme contrasts in lighting and shadows follows and re-evaluates the Expressionist style of the original "Nosferatu."

Thus, with these core elements accomplished with such skill, how can "Shadow of the Vampire" ultimately flounder? The film fails because it becomes too concerned with accomplishing the elements that it forgets to create a whole. Basically, it forgets that, at its heart, it is a vampire film. It is never able to effectively accomplish the most basic goal of a vampire film: to create fear and suspense.

Also, there are too many characters begging to be explored more thoroughly. For example, the second film director and the star actress are both interesting characters, but we are only given hints of their inner workings. The film takes time away from creating suspense or examining its main characters by dabbling in sketches that lead nowhere.

There are so many episodes in "Shadow of the Vampire" that it does not have time to really lengthen its most important moments to create suspense. If the film had pared down its scope, examining only a few characters and episodes, it would have functioned more effectively as a whole.

As it stands, "Shadow of the Vampire," although intriguing, is only slightly above mediocre, and thus creates a rather lukewarm response.

"Shadow of the Vampire"



out of five shamrocks

Director: E. Elias Merhige
Starring: John Malkovich and Willem Dafoe

MOVIE REVIEW



Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures, Inc.

In "Finding Forrester," Sean Connery plays William Forrester, a reclusive author who helps a young teenage basketball star develop his writing talents.

'Forrester's' tired formula still resonates

By CHRISTINE KRALY
Scene Movie Critic

When a movie character is hiding something, the screenplay usually focuses on an interesting, entertaining way to find out his dirty little secret.

Usually the secluded person is just waiting for someone to break down the walls he's built around himself and bring him out of seclusion. In "Finding Forrester," Jamal Wallace (Rob Brown) is the young man with the sledgehammer, ready to demolish William Forrester's (Sean Connery) fortress of solitude.

Jamal is gifted, on and off the basketball court. His impressive test scores catch the attention of one of the best private high schools in New York. Jamal leaves the comfort of friends and his inner-city school to attend the privileged institution.

His new school brings out all the challenges of making new friends, meeting higher academic standards and playing for a competitive basketball team. What it does not bring out are any truly new elements to the my-school-and-life-are-changing plot. When a movie character changes schools, there is always one person of the same sex who offers friendship and another who, for some reason, automatically hates the main character.

With his newfound enemy — a wealthy basketball teammate — and friend and guide Claire (Anna Paquin), Jamal struggles to fit in socially and academically. Little screen time is spent dealing with his social life in the new school; much more is devoted to Jamal's English class. It is in this class that he discovers that the strange man in the window across the basketball court is the once-famous writer William Forrester.

Tucked away in seclusion, William is unable to cope with life outside his apartment doors and the fame of the Pulitzer-prize winning talent he showcased four decades earlier. Already a

gifted writer, Jamal seeks William's help in becoming even better. William agrees as long as he doesn't tell anyone that he's "found Forrester."

"Good Will Hunting" director Gus Van Sant creates some terrific scenes between Connery and Brown, and the actors fall into their roles with charm. The funniest moments come when Jamal proves himself worthy of William's sarcastic ribbing and writing challenges.

Much like Van Sant's Matt Damon-Ben Affleck tear jerker, "Forrester" is predictably heroic. The audience knows William will befriend Jamal because it is an old story: boy needs guidance; boy meets older man; older man becomes boy's friend and teacher.

The chemistry between Brown and Connery, though, is entertaining and genuine — even enough to make viewers forget that they essentially know what's going to happen.

The movie doesn't get overly psychological. Incidents in William's past cause him to shut himself off from society, and this prevents him from doing the thing he loves best: writing. But the film spends just enough time addressing William's personal problems, avoiding clouding the importance of the film: his relationship with Jamal.

Funny and dramatic, Connery delivers one of his best performances; but it's the new faces who deliver the unexpected surprises. Sixteen-year-old Brown makes an amazing film debut as Jamal, and there is even an impressive appearance by rap star Busta Rhymes as Jamal's rap-aspiring brother.

Near the end of the film, audience members find themselves wanting Connery as their teacher. Impatient and entertaining, erratic and unconventional, Connery's William is motivational and caring. The Scottish-accented wit he delivers throughout the movie has everyone wishing James Bond were teaching them the do's and don'ts of better writing.

"Finding Forrester"



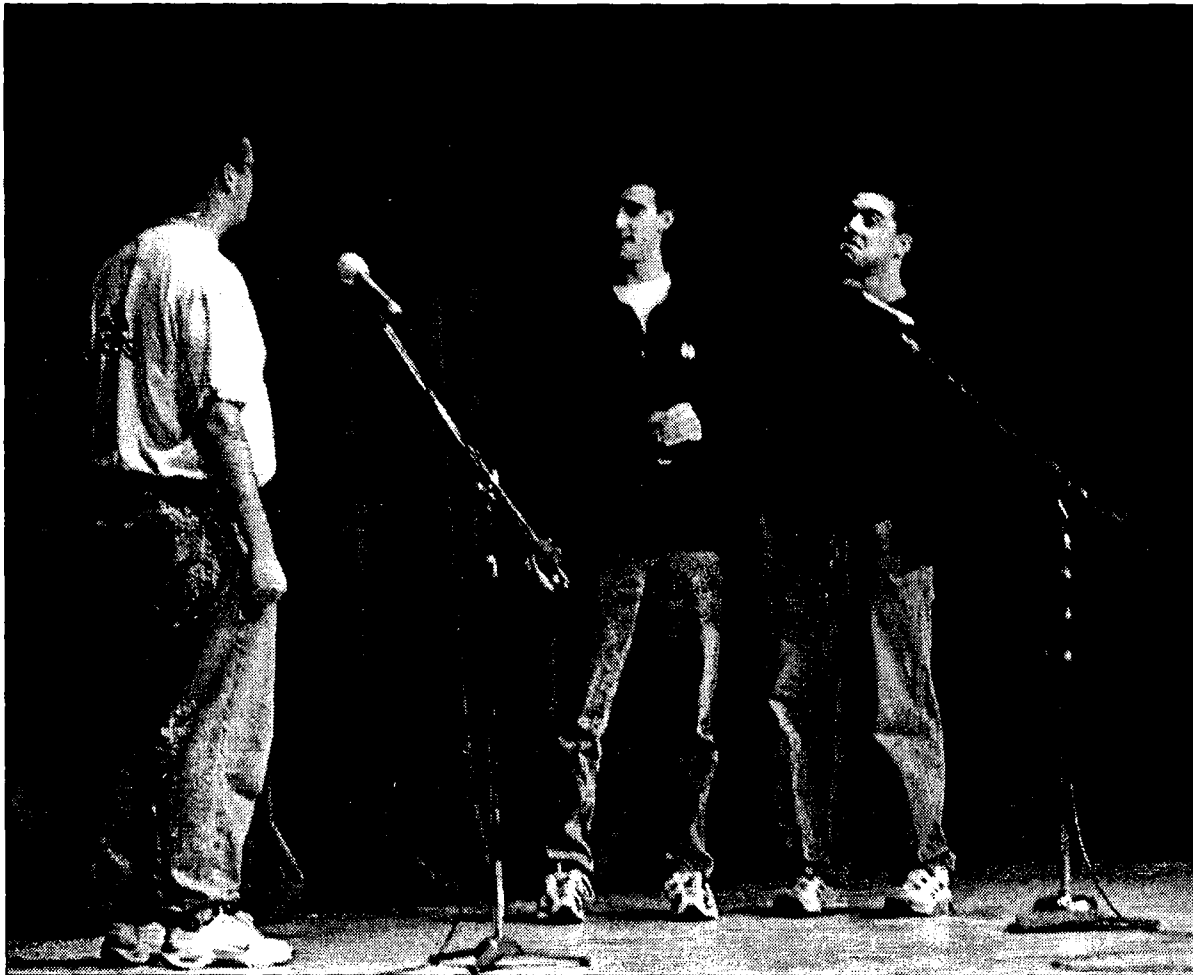
out of five shamrocks

Director: Gus Van Sant
Starring: Sean Connery, Rob Brown, F. Murray Abraham, Anna Paquin and Busta Rhymes



Photo courtesy of Lions Gate Films

"Shadow of the Vampire" gives a fictional account of the making of "Nosferatu," an old German film starring Max Shreck, played by Willem Dafoe.



JOSE CUELLAR/The Observer

Three Keenan Hall residents prepare for the big opening night of their annual comedy event, "The Keenan Revue." The show premieres tonight at 7:30.

Keenan's kings of comedy

Like its predecessors, this year's "Keenan Revue" is offensively funny

By MERIDETH PIERCE
Scene Writer

It might be surrounded in controversy, but it is here, and ... It is funny.

The 25th anniversary of the "SMC-Tacular Keenan Revue" will be held in the newly renovated O'Laughlin auditorium tonight, Friday and Saturday at 7:30. If you do not already have your tickets for the popular and controversial show, you will have to hear about it from your friends. Last week 500 tickets were freely handed out to students at Saint Mary's in 10 minutes. The remaining 1,500 tickets were handed out at Notre Dame in less than 30 minutes.

The 2001 Keenan Revue required much more planning than many would think. The Revue demanded that the planning process begin at the end of last school year.

The boys of Keenan wrote roughly 2,800 letters to alumni asking for donations. They still came up about \$5,000 short of the \$11,500 cost of the production.

The real crunch time for the group came after Christmas break when 75 skits auditioned for the show and under 25 were chosen to actually perform.

Originally formed in 1976 by Keenan RAs Tom Lenz and Rick Thomas, the Revue was meant to be a fun, non-alcoholic alternative to partying in Michigan where the legal drinking age was 18. Today, director Grant Gholson says the revue serves to "entertain students, and to make fools of ourselves."

After seeing the Revue, it does exactly that.

One of the main writers, Ryan

Cunningham, guarantees the "same quality of Keenan Revue humor" as seen before.

For those who did not see the show in previous years, the Keenan Revue humor could be defined as witty but asinine, where no joke is too low and the source of censorship is from the good rector himself. This was obvious in the opening song, which is quoted "recycled old bits, guys in fake tits." The words are complemented with a surprisingly coordinated dance routine that ends with the dancers in less clothing than they first appeared wearing.

There are many popular topics of humor this year in the revue. In a skit called "Behind the Music," the steps of the Notre Dame Marching Band are traced through history. This hysterical historical telling comes complete with huge projected pictures accompanied by clever captions from the storyteller.

In another skit, the audience is deceived by the sweet piano player who plays and sings sensitively. It is very important to pay attention to the words here for you will find the entire song is about a cross-dressing man named Barry who loves his velvet underwear. The humor in this skit is found in the seriousness of the performers, and it makes for a very good laugh.

Many times the funny side of the skits is found in its scary-likeness to real life. Whereas you may never really see something as extreme as the stuff on the stage, your finishing thought is, "that is so true."

This is found in "Defense of Honor" as two guys beat each other for no apparent reason. It is also found in the especially

funny "DART 2001." One can only imagine the venues for humor with DART.

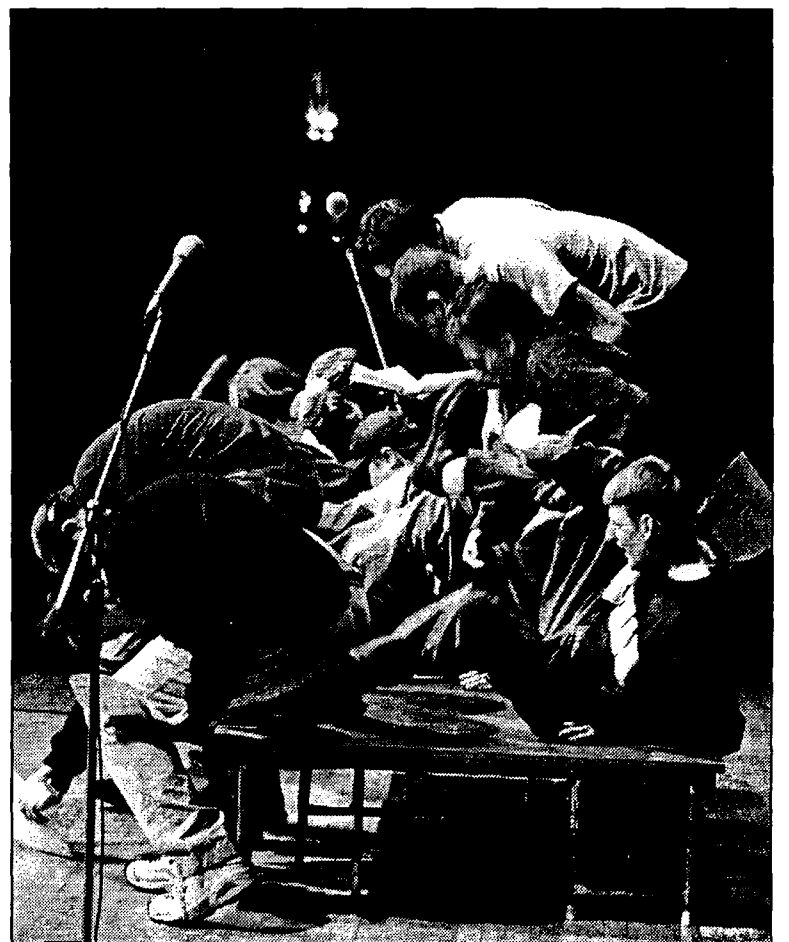
Because they reach for every angle, some skits are slightly questionable. But some skits are just so stupid that they become, in turn, quite funny. This category would include the short "Wheel Chair Bit" and "The Happy Warbler Impressions Troupe." The Keenan members leave the stage while you laugh wondering, "what in the world...?"

Even if you are a tough audience member, the uncontrollably funny "Why Keenan Men Shouldn't do Ballet" will at least crack a smile on your face. Without ruining the surprise of the skit, just imagine four men sharing their secret love of ballet, and then performing it in tight leotards.

Next to Keenan boys doing ballet, two other skits stand out as the most humorous. One called "Natural 5" is Keenan's own traditional boy band. It really is something you need to see. It is performed complete with cordless head mikes and pre-recorded music.

The final skit of the evening, called "Uncomfortable Situations," provides a way out for anyone who has felt mocked or ridiculed in the course of the evening. If at any point in the show you have found yourself offended in any way, shape or form, just wait. This last skit uses all forms of cheap and dirty humor. The entirety of Keenan Hall might as well be on stage begging you to laugh at them, not with them.

If you think you will attend the Keenan Revue not for its humor but for its talent, you



JOSE CUELLAR/The Observer

One of the most anticipated events of the year, Keenan Hall's "Keenan Revue" sold out in a matter of minutes.

just might find some of that in the bands that play at the beginning and end of the acts. The music is a refreshing addition in comparison to the crass skits. The boys rendition of "Run Around Sue" is in fact very cute and a good end to the first act.

However, the main idea behind the Keenan Revue is its low-balled "Saturday Night Live" type of humor. It is not

about the entire dorm of Keenan bashing all the aspects of their college lives that have any potential for humor. Almost everyone and everything is mocked in some form in the course of the evening. If you are a person to laugh with the people on stage, then the Keenan Revue is for you. You might even love it so much that you will want your very own \$10 Keenan Revue T-shirt.

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Connecticut-Tennessee matchup loses edge

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.
The Connecticut-Tennessee saga takes a twist Thursday.

Neither is ranked No. 1 and each has a loss.

The Lady Vols' Tamika Catchings will sit on the bench while UConn's Svetlana Abrosimova appears to be back at full speed heading into the game, the second meeting of the women's basketball powerhouses this season.

"This is one of the few times that the free world is not riding on the outcome of this game," the second-ranked Huskies' coach, Geno Auriemma, said.

Maybe the teams are not playing for the national championship, but No. 3 Tennessee's 24,535-seat Thompson-Boling Arena will be near capacity.

The teams, who have combined to win five of the last six national titles, meet for the 13th time since Connecticut vaulted to No. 1 for the first time after beating Tennessee on Jan. 16, 1995.

"Great battles have come out of this game," Lady Vols senior Semeka Randall said. "It's a great game period for women's basketball."

Connecticut (17-1) won the season's first meeting, 81-76 on Dec. 30 in Hartford, to take a 7-5 lead in the all-time series.

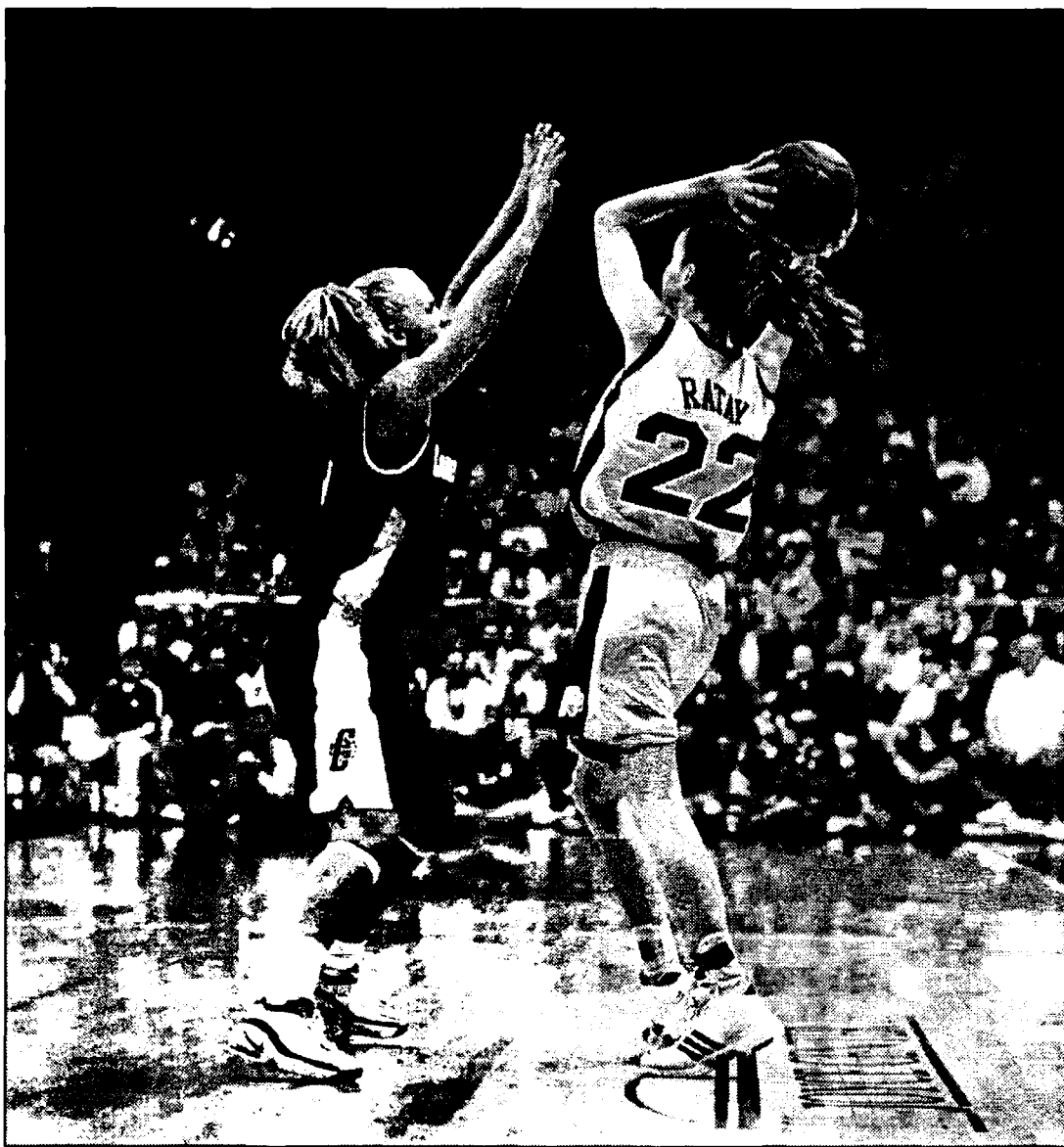
Tennessee (21-1) has won 10 straight since the loss, even though Catchings' season came to a halt Jan. 15 when she tore a ligament in her right knee.

On the very same day, the Huskies were overpowered in a 92-76 loss at Notre Dame, ending a 33-game winning streak.

Lady Vols coach Pat Summitt is looking forward to the matchup not just to even the score but to evaluate her team.

"It's a great way to measure our progress from the last time we played and also to see how this team will respond in front of a packed house, playing against a team that has had a lot of success against us of late," she said.

The game won't be the same without Catchings, who scored 17 points in the last game as the Lady Vols came back from a 17-point deficit. The first 1,000 fans at the arena will get



LIZ LANG/The Observer

Connecticut's Shea Ralph defends Alicia Ratay during Notre Dame's Jan. 15 upset at home. The Irish catapulted over Connecticut and Tennessee to earn the No. 1 ranking.

light blue headbands like Catchings wore in games.

"I'm disappointed Tamika is not playing. The kids are too, [and] disappointed, too, for her. It takes a little bit away from the game," Auriemma said.

Randall, always known for her emotional leadership, has made it hard to miss Catchings. She has averaged 12.6 points in the last five games and has thrived against UConn, scoring 17.2 points a game in her four-year career.

"We're not asking any one or two players to make up for the loss of Tamika. We're challenging this basketball team by committee," Summitt said. "I have seen individuals improve play since the time she went down."

UConn has changed, too. Abrosimova, the Huskies'

main scoring threat, scored just four points in 11 minutes in the last game against Tennessee due to back spasms. But she appears recovered after a 25-point performance against Syracuse on Saturday.

"I'm ready to go. The whole team is ready to go. We've passed through some tough times. We just really want to play against them," Abrosimova said.

Connecticut's other All-America, Shea Ralph, who scored 15 points in the first game, is in a scoring slump. She has made three of 15 field-goal attempts in the last three games.

But "come Thursday night, she'll be out there like she always is and she'll be playing 110 percent," Auriemma said.

This game completes a two-

year deal for a home-and-home series.

The coaches are mulling over how many games they want to play next year.

Last season, the teams met three times — a win for each in the regular season and the national championship won by the Huskies.

Summitt said it would be hard to fit in a second game again.

For Auriemma, the home-and-home series is just getting tiresome.

"I think it causes more headaches that it solves, but I think it's fun for the fans. It's fun for the players," he said. "It's gotten to the point where everybody treats it like we have to go through this again. It's probably not worth it anymore."

Say that before tipoff.

Thousands honor crash victims

Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla.

Thousands of people gathered at Oklahoma State Wednesday to remember what was lost in a snowy field in Colorado.

Ten people, including two reserves on the school's basketball team, a popular TV sports anchor and five others in the team's traveling party, died when their small plane crashed 40 miles east of Denver on Saturday.

Students and fans of the Cowboys joined family and friends in mourning the victims. They placed flowers under the school statue of a rider on horseback and placards on a nearby fence.

Students lined up outside Oklahoma State's athletic complex three hours before a memorial service was to begin. Many said it was time to begin the healing process.

"I think maybe this will start bringing some closure," senior Laura Downing said. "Everyone has been walking around campus lately kind of in a daze."

Afternoon classes were canceled so students could attend the memorial or watch it on TV.

Families of the victims and other special guests mingled among hundreds of bouquets of flowers before the memorial service started. Some stopped to write messages on an 8-foot tall board.

Many of the notes, scrawled in the Oklahoma State colors of orange and black, were written to all 10 victims.

Inside the gymnasium were large photographs of those who died — players Nate Fleming and Dan Lawson; sports information employee Will Hancock; director of basketball operations Pat Noyes; trainer Brian Luinstra; student manager Jared Weiberg; broadcast engineer Kendall Durfey; KWTU sports anchor Bill Teegins; pilot Denver Mills; and co-pilot Bjorn Fahlstrom.

They died aboard the twin-engine plane returning from Oklahoma State's game against Colorado. It crashed in a remote field less than 20 minutes into the flight.

"Will, we feel so cheated to have lost you so soon — and yet so fortunate and blessed to have you in our lives," said one note on the message board signed by Julie, Ed, Sarah, Kyle and Holly.

Another was to "10 special angels." "You gave so much and brought happiness to so many," it said. "Thanks for all the memories. You will not be forgotten."

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.

LOST AND FOUND

Found:
Watch at DeBartolo Hall
Must identify to claim

Found:
Glasses at DeBartolo
Must identify to claim

Lost: SMC Ring
Fri. Night 1/26, b/w Lafayette 28
and 720 Washington St.
Call 284-4378
\$5 Reward

FOR RENT

3-5 bedroom homes
close to campus 232-2595

Houses for Rent

1) 5-br \$900/month
2) 4-br. \$1000/month
3) 3-br. \$600/month
We'll make almost any changes to the houses.
Call Bill at 675-0776

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4/5 bedrooms.
3 blocks to campus.
773-486-8822

All the good houses are not gone!
We have 2, 4&5 bedroom homes 5 minutes from campus.
Dave 291-2209.
Macos@michiana.org

WANTED

Cooks and delivery drivers wanted.
Call Boracho Inc. at 258-9834.

Parents who are ND grads seek older female babysitter to care for two girls ages 7 & 9, one or two weekend evenings & occasionally weekdays or evenings in our home. Must have own care.
Call Judith & leave message: 287-0260

Summer jobs!
Camp Tecumseh YMCA is now hiring for cabins, equestrian, aquatics and support staff.
We are a Christian camp located near Lafayette, Ind.
Season is 10 weeks.
Salary \$1900-\$2300.
Representatives will be on campus on Feb. 8.
Call for an application today!
Call 1-800-382-2267
(www.camp Tecumseh.org)
It's an experience that lasts a lifetime!

Pet Refuge, a no kill animal shelter just 10 min from campus needs volunteers and fosters
Please call 256-0886
or visit www.petrefuge.com and email us

The Early Childhood Development Center, located at Saint Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame, is looking for volunteers who enjoy young children.
If you would be interested in spending 2 hours a week reading children's books, buildings with blocks and singing songs with children, please call:
Kari Alford at 284-4693 (ECDC-SMC)
or Debbie Hart at 631-3344 (ECDC-ND)
Please join our fun filled days.

FOR SALE

Beautiful brass bed, queen size, with orthopedic mattress set and deluxe frame. All new, never used, still in plastic. \$235 219-862-2082

Phone cards \$20 — 2601 min with .49 cent surcharge or \$20 — 362 min with no fees 634-4210 Sara or 634-1146 Claudia

TICKETS

Need tickets to ND v. Seton Hall on 2/18 Call 243-9306

2 tickets for the 2/18 men's basketball game vs. Seton Hall.
Please call 4-3593.

PERSONAL

JUNIOR PARENT WEEKEND
Have your parents stay in real "Irish Comfort" at more affordable prices than area hotels.
Gourmet breakfast brunch included.
Call The Wild Irish Rose Inn at 277-4303
Or visit our site:
www.irishrose.com

Twin - my sweatpants are suffocating me!

Chiste.
Cheese Steak.
Chiste.

Hey Mark. Temptation Island ... tempting, but .. unfortunately work calls.

Calendar of Events

Monday-Friday, January 29-February 2
112 Badin Hall and 103 Hesburgh Library
Sign-up for Emmaus

Beginning Monday, January 29
through February 19
Sign-up for Freshman Retreat #34
(February 23-24, 2001)
Pick up applications at 103 Hesburgh Library
or print one out online at:
www.nd.edu/~ministry/freshmanform.html

Friday, February 2
Log Chapel, 5:00 p.m.
Día de la Candelaria Mass
Dinner to follow in Faculty Dining Room, 6:30 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, February 2-3
Sacred Heart Parish Center
Senior Retreat #4

Friday-Saturday, February 2-3
Lindenwood Retreat Center
Learning to Talk About Race Retreat

Sunday, February 4, 1:30 p.m.
Zahm Hall Chapel
Spanish Mass
Presider: Fr. J. Steele, c.s.c.

Sunday, February 4, 10:00 a.m.
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune
RCIA Class
Mass at 11:45 a.m.

Monday-Tuesday, February 5-6, 11:30 pm-10pm
St. Paul's Chapel, Fisher Hall
Eucharistic Adoration

Beginning Monday, February 5
through February 23
Sign-up for Senior Retreat #5
(March 2-3, 2001)
Pick up applications at 103 Hesburgh Library
or print one out online at:
www.nd.edu/~ministry/seniorform.html

Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 p.m.
Siegfried Hall Chapel
Confirmation -Session #8

Tuesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.
134 Zahm Hall
Information meeting for the Coachella Seminar
(March 10-17) in California

Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 p.m.
Badin Hall Chapel
Campus Bible Study

Wednesday, February 7, 10:00 p.m.
Momssey Hall Chapel
Interfaith Christian Night Prayer

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend Presiders

• Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Saturday, February 3 Mass
5:00 p.m.

Rev. David S. Scheidler, c.s.c.

Sunday, February 4 Mass
10:00 a.m.

Rev. J. Steele, c.s.c.

11:45 a.m.

Rev. Thomas P. Doyle

Scripture Readings for this Coming Sunday

1st Reading Is 6:1-2a, 9-8

2nd Reading 1 Cor 15:1-11

Gospel Lk 5:1-11

Searching for God.com

by Frank Santoni

The other night I made up my mind that I was going to find God. So I did what anyone looking for unlimited information on any topic does these days. I turned to the Web. I have become convinced during the last few years of the Internet boom that if I can not find something on the web, then it must not exist. So I set off into cyberspace confident that my efforts would be fruitful and enlightening.

First stop, God.com. Much to my surprise, no such site exists. My computer told me to check the address and try again. So I did, thinking, surely God must have paid the 75 bucks to register a domain name. Nope. So, I tried God.org. God, after all, despite what some may claim, is a not-for-profit enterprise and would qualify as a dot.org. Still no luck. All I got this time was an offer to buy the rights to the name myself. Thanks, but no thanks. I am not about to cyber-squat on one of God's potential net addresses. Then, I thought maybe God was trying to be ahead of the web-naming curve and set up shop at God.net. Wrong again. That just tied up my computer as it searched, without results, for the site. I was beginning to get worried.

I punched in iGod.com, myGod.com, Godonline.com. Nothing. I even tried bigguyupstairs.com. Zero. I saw a glimmer of hope at Dios.com, but all I found there was a blinking eye accompanied by a flat rendition of the 2001: A Space Odyssey theme music. I didn't even consider God.gov at the time, though who knows what could happen under President Bush's new proposal. God is the *original* faith-based organization. Empty-handed, I was determined not to press on.

AltaVista, my search engine *du jour*, would certainly produce more useful results, I thought. I typed "god" in to the blank field at the top of the page. Almost instantly it generated 3,947,355 links to web pages with references to God. That's more like it. Among the matches most looked like home pages for various religions and churches. Close, but not quite

God. Worse yet, I located more options even farther off the mark at the bottom of the page.

"Shop the web for god," one link offered. "Find Yellow Page listings for god," another promised. Then there was my favorite: "Find god and millions of other cool items at eBay!" After some consideration, I concluded I had neither the time nor the money to spend outbidding anyone for God or any of the millions of other cool item, for that matter.

I punched in iGod.com, myGod.com, Godonline.com. Nothing. I even tried bigguyupstairs.com. Zero. I saw a glimmer of hope at Dios.com, but all I found there was a blinking eye accompanied by a flat rendition of the 2001: A Space Odyssey theme music.

AltaVista's 3.9 million matches did little to move me closer to my goal. I was getting nervous again. I needed something that could give more order to my findings.

I tried my old standby: Yahoo. Its categories and sub-categories have an old-fashioned Dewey Decimal system feel to them. This time, my search for "god" generated matches in 111 different categories and 2099 unique sites. Now, we were getting somewhere, I thought. But a cursory review of the results suggested otherwise. Among the top matches, "God & Computers: Minds, Machines, and Metaphysics," "God Defend New Zealand," and "God Hates Figs."

Perhaps, I just needed to be a bit more direct about the whole thing.

Ask.com and you shall receive. This site allows visitors to type in a question in natural language. So I asked it, "Where can I find God?" Among the results this time: a menu of more than 30 religious traditions listed in alphabetical order, inexplicably topped, however, by a link to paganism. But just below the list, I hit paydirt. There it was: The Homepage of God. In no time, I found myself on an odd little German website, the point of which I never quite determined. It cited time as God's greatest invention, Santa Claus as God's brother and then just got more bizarre from there.

The web was getting me no where in my search for God. I was getting desperate. My theory about information on the web, or the lack of it, was calling into question God's very existence. The web had never failed me before. I had always been able to find any type of information I needed in minutes.

That's just it. In an age of instant information, God is anything but. God takes time with us. God defies our information-on-demand sensibilities, even though we may grow impatient or frustrated. There is nothing new about God's economy. Authentic relationships are still its hottest commodity and grace its currency. When we seek God out, we rarely look in the right places and when we catch glimpses of the Divine, the answers are not always clear.

This is the challenging reality we face: while our minds learn to download and access information at an ever-quicken pace, our spirits are still nourished by a timeless Creator. If we ever hope to find God, we must quit demanding the same instant response we demand from our computers and ourselves. We must be able to unplug ourselves from the everythingnow.com expectations of the world we live in and embrace God's timeless rhythm of life.

That's deep stuff. Maybe, I should pay a visit to contemplate.com....

student union HAPPENINGS

THURSDAY

Kennan Revue 8pm O'Laughlin Auditorium

Acoustic Cafe 9pm LaFortune

SUB Movies 10:30pm DeBartolo 101
DeBartolo 155

**Charlie's Angels
Bring It On**

FRIDAY

Track and Field Meyo Invitational Loftus Fieldhouse

Men's Swimming vs. Cleveland State 2pm

Awadagin Pratt- piano master class 2pm Annenburg Auditorium

Downhill Ski Trip to Swiss Valley Library Circle 5pm (register by 1/31)

Kennan Revue 8pm O'Laughlin Auditorium

Snite Movie 7:30 & 9:45 Annenberg Auditorium **American Psycho**

SUB Movies 8 & 10:30pm DeBartolo 101
DeBartolo 155

**Charlie's Angels
Bring It On**

Alumni/PE Formal College Football Hall of Fame

McGlinn, Walsh Hall Dances

SATURDAY

Track and Field Meyo Invitational Loftus Fieldhouse

Harlem Globetrotters Game 7:30 JACC

Comedy Night 8-11pm Reckers

"They're Back For More"

Kennan Revue 8pm O'Laughlin Auditorium

Snite Movie 7:30 & 9:45 Annenberg Auditorium **American Psycho**

SUB Movies 8 & 10:30pm DeBartolo 101
DeBartolo 155

**Charlie's Angels
Bring It On**

SUNDAY

Women's Tennis vs. Illinois State
Women's Tennis vs. Western Michigan

9am Eck Tennis Pavilion
2pm Eck Tennis Pavilion

Spanish Mass 1:30pm S/K Chapel

Soul Food Sunday 5-9 pm ND Room in LaFun

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Ex-Giants admit cheating in 1951

Associated Press

NEW YORK

The Giants stole the pennant! The Giants stole the pennant!

For a half-century, fans of the old Brooklyn Dodgers claimed that's what Bobby Thomson and the New York Giants did in 1951. Now, there's evidence that maybe it happened just that way.

The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday quoted Hall of Fame outfielder Monte Irvin, catcher Sal Yvars and pitcher Al Gettel as admitting they stole catchers' signs to overcome a 13 1/2-game deficit and win baseball's most famous pennant race.

"Every hitter knew what was coming," Gettel said. "Made a big difference."

Irvin said the Giants have nothing to be ashamed of.

"Everything we did was on our own," he told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "Our accomplishments were true and genteel."

The AP reported the sign stealing on March 22, 1962, citing an unidentified source who was with the Giants.

Stealing signs by players and coaches is a long-standing tra-

dition in baseball. Opponents suspected New York Mets manager Bobby Valentine of employing cameras to do it in 1997 and Boston manager Jimmy Williams accused Cleveland of doing it in 1999.

Valentine, by the way, is the son-in-law of Ralph Branca — the pitcher who surrendered Thomson's homer that ended the 1951 pennant playoff.

Thomson's three-run drive in the bottom of the ninth inning at the Polo Grounds lifted the Giants over the Dodgers 5-4 in the deciding Game 3.

The "Shot Heard 'Round the World" became the most

replayed moment in baseball history, with Giants announcer R u s s H o d g e s screaming, "T h e Giants win the pen-

nant! The Giants win the pennant!"

Thomson said he didn't take stolen signs when he connected off Branca.

"It would take a little away from me in my mind if I felt I got help on the pitch," he was quoted as saying. "My answer is no."

"Stealing signs is nothing to be proud of," Thomson said.

Several players said the

Giants stole signs during home games in the last 10 weeks of the 1951 season. New York trailed the Dodgers by 13 1/2 games on Aug. 11 before making up the deficit in only 53 days.

The Journal said infielder Henry Schenz and coach Herman Franks relayed signals from the Giants' center-field clubhouse — the wall was 483 feet from home plate — to the bullpen with a buzzer system created by electrician Abraham Chadwick. Yvars said he then relayed signals to hitters.

"My wife never liked me to talk about it," Yvars told the Journal. "She gets embarrassed"

Franks refuted the account. "I haven't talked about it in 49 years," he said. "If I'm ever asked about it, I'm denying everything."

Irvin contradicted him, saying: "He's sitting there with a telescope and he'd relay it to the bullpen."

Thomson homered with one out. At the time, Whitey Lockman was on second base and Clint Hartung was on third.

Lockman said he was unable to pick up the signs by Brooklyn catcher Rube Walker, who was playing in place of injured Roy Campanella. With a runner on second, as is the practice, Walker switched the signs and made them more elaborate.

PEBBLE BEACH NATIONAL PRO-AM

Woods injures knee in incident with fan, may not play in tourney

Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH

Tiger Woods sprained a ligament in his left knee Wednesday when he stepped awkwardly on a man's ankle while leaving the 18th green at Pebble Beach.

He said he was not sure if he would be able to play this week.

Woods, still limping two hours after the accident, was asked what the odds were that he would be unable to defend his title in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

"They're up there," he said. "We'll see what happens."

Woods was swarmed by autograph seekers as he left the 18th green, walking briskly and trying to sign whatever programs and hats where thrust in front of him.

One man, who had been hounding him for autographs during his practice round, tried to position himself in front of the pack, and Woods' inadvertently stepped on his ankle, hyperextending his knee.

"A lot of fans just kind of came down on top of me," Woods said. "One guy ran in front. I stepped on his ankle, and my weight going forward and his weight coming back ... I hyperextended my knee."

Woods winced immediately, glowered at the man and grabbed the back of his leg as he hobbled up a hill. He tried to hit balls after lunch, but couldn't.

"No way," Woods said.

Woods, the No. 1 player in the world coming off a record-breaking season that included three straight major championships among his nine PGA Tour victories, is often swamped by fans after rounds.

A security detail was with him, but some fans went under the ropes and tried to get close.

"People get aggressive. That's the way it is," Woods said. "That's one reason we have security. Some of you say, 'Why do you have so much security?' It's for instances like this, so they don't happen. Unfortunately, it happened today."

The man never did get his autograph and "he yelled at me for not signing," Woods said.

NEW SEMESTER...
NEW POSSIBILITIES

PICTURE
YOURSELF
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THURSDAY

YOU NEVER KNOW
WHAT WILL DEVELOP
WHEN 1200 MEMBERS
OF THE CLASS OF 2001
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XFL

Bets starting small for league opener

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS
Las Vegas bookmakers are betting on Saturday's debut of the XFL — but not in a big way, at least not yet.

The XFL, in turn, is hoping the mere fact that bets are taken gives it the look of real sports.

The maximum bettors can lay down on this weekend's opening four games is \$500 to \$1,000, depending on the sports book.

So far, few are lining up to throw their money down on the Chicago Enforcers or the Orlando Rage, with some wagering the minimum \$5.

Regardless of the light early action, some think that Las Vegas' sports books have given the fledgling league much-needed credibility.

That's because the World Wrestling Federation's Vince McMahon is the league's co-owner along with NBC.

"With Vince McMahon heading it, it has brought a lot of skepticism and recognition," said Joe Lupo, manager for the Stardust hotel-casino's sports book, the first to hang the opening line on the XFL last week.

But just because McMahon is associated with the scripted WWF, doesn't mean the XFL will be comparable in any way, Lupo said.

"I believe McMahon is intelligent enough to know this sport won't be successful if there's a predetermined outcome," he said. "It would be another staged event. It might as well be football on Broadway. And we don't put wagers on events that have a known outcome."

Nevada law prohibits betting on events in which the outcome

"I believe McMahon is intelligent enough to know this sport won't be successful if there's a predetermined outcome. It would be another staged event. It might as well be football on Broadway. And we don't put wagers on events that have a known outcome."

**Joe Lupo
bookmaker**

already is known.

If the XFL is looking to Vegas for validation, the league must have integrity, Lupo said.

"We can lose a lot of money," he said.

Andy DeLuca, sports book manager at the Sahara hotel-casino, said sports betting will enhance the eight-team league.

"The bottom line is people like to gamble," he said. "It makes a game a lot more interesting."

The 10-game regular season begins less than a week after the Super Bowl, with NBC televising the New York/New Jersey Hitmen at the Las Vegas Outlaws at 8 p.m. The majority of Las Vegas Strip sports books put odds on the new football league before the Super Bowl with the hope of attracting some action over the busiest sports betting weekend of the year.

But it didn't take, DeLuca said.

"We have some little, teeny bets. Nothing to brag about yet," he said. "I think the action will pick up when people start watch-

ing the games."

Lupo hasn't seen a lot of money come in on the XFL, either, although none of the sports book operators is ready to take the \$100,000 bets they accept on some NFL games.

"People haven't seen these teams," Lupo said. "And the typical bettor doesn't bet in advance. We'll see more money come in."

Little data about the teams and the players coupled with no historical information made it difficult to set odds, Lupo said.

"These lines are about as unpredictable as any we've ever hung," he said. "It's a little scary. That's why we're taking the conservative approach and just booking straight bets."

The only road team favored Saturday is the Xtreme, by four points at the San Francisco Demons. The Outlaws are favored by 4 1/2 over the Hitmen, while the Rage is favored by as much as nine points over the Enforcers. The Birmingham Thunderbolts are favored by 2 1/2 over the Memphis Maniax.

While there are no proposition bets or over-under totals, the Imperial Palace sports book already has the Los Angeles Xtreme favored 2-1 to win the April 21 XFL championship, called "Big Game At The End."

Las Vegas sports books managers say they were under pressure to accept bets, due to the combination of the league's games being televised on a major network and having a team in town. "Had it not been on a major network, we would have waited," Lupo said. "There's been much more attention than I anticipated."

"I'm kinda excited about the XFL," Cunningham said. "I hope it will be a big, big hit."

NFL

Culpepper plans to watch Bowl from field

Associated Press

HONOLULU

More than 131 million people watched the Super Bowl on television, with another 72,000 in the stadium.

Daunte Culpepper wasn't among them.

The Minnesota Vikings' quarterback says it will stay that way until he plays for the NFL title himself.

"I'm not going until I'm playing," said Culpepper, whose team fell one win short of meeting the Baltimore Ravens in last Sunday's championship game. "I promised myself that in my rookie year."

Culpepper spent the week leading up to the Super Bowl in Tampa, Fla., but left a day before the game to go home to nearby Ocala, where he passed for 6,107 yards and 57 touchdowns in three seasons at Vanguard High before attending Central Florida.

The 11th overall selection in the 1999 NFL draft, Culpepper played briefly in one game as a Vikings rookie, but was given the job this season and made the most of it, passing for 3,937 yards and 33 touchdowns and being selected as the NFC's starting quarterback in Sunday's Pro Bowl.

"I knew I had the ability to make plays," Culpepper said. "With the team we had, I thought I was a good fit, I knew the system. My main goal was to get out there, gain the respect of my teammates, show them I

could do the job."

It's difficult to imagine the 6-foot-4, 266-pounder playing better than he did until Jan. 14, when the Vikings were blanked 41-0 by the New York Giants in the NFC Championship game. He completed only 13 of 28 passes for 78 yards that day.

"That's the first time in my career that's happened to me, I had never been on any team that was shut out at any level," Culpepper said. "That was the first time, I hope that's the last time."

Despite the crushing nature of the loss, Culpepper said he was over it 24 hours later.

"Life goes on," he said. "They just outplayed us that day. No excuses. We'll be back. You've got to let it go."

Minnesota receiver Randy Moss, who is sitting out the Pro Bowl because of bruised ribs, said after the loss to the Giants that he would win a Super Bowl ring someday, but doubted it would be with the Vikings.

"If he feels that way, that's the way he feels," Culpepper said. "Randy and I are close friends. I don't think he meant it. I think he was blowing off steam. I think he'll be with us for a while."

And so will Cris Carter, the Vikings' other standout receiver, who announced last week he'll play at least one more season.

Carter, the second-leading receiver in NFL history with 1,020 receptions, said Culpepper did everything he could do as a first-year starter.

"Tremendous player, tremendous attitude," said Carter, who will play in his eighth straight Pro Bowl. "He's handled everything thrown at him. With the right supporting cast and staying healthy, he can be as good as anyone playing the game right now."



Culpepper



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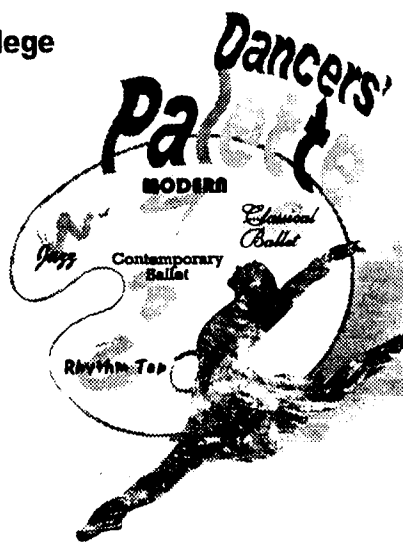
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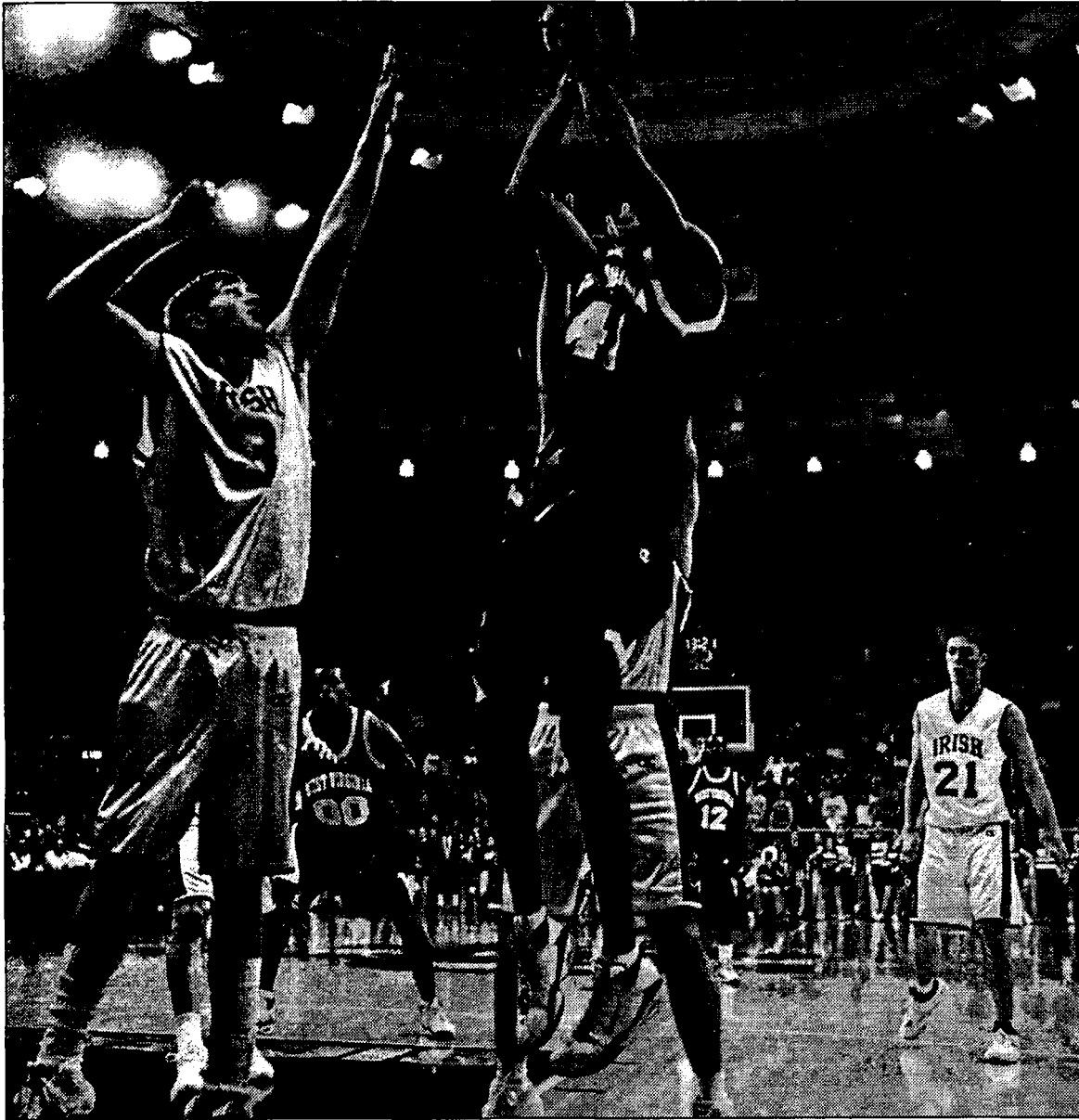
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Murphy earns conference player-of-week honors



Troy Murphy defends the basket in Notre Dame's win against West Virginia. The Big East named the junior the conference player of the week for the ninth time in his career.

PETER RICHARDSON/The Observer

Special to The Observer

Junior forward Troy Murphy has been named the Big East player of the week for the third time this season.

Murphy, who averaged 25 points and 10 rebounds in leading the Irish to consecutive wins over top 10 opponents Syracuse and Georgetown last week, shares the honor with Troy Bell of Boston College.

Murphy earns the player-of-the-week honor for the ninth time in his career. He registered

his 40th career double-double in Notre Dame's 74-60 win over Syracuse as he scored 34 points and grabbed 16 rebounds. The Irish All-American shot nine-for-17 from the field and converted 16 of his 19 free-throw attempts, both career-highs.

Against Georgetown in the 78-71 road victory, Murphy scored 16 points and grabbed four rebounds before fouling out of the game with 4:28 remaining in the contest.

Murphy is averaging 23.1 points and 9.4 rebounds for the 23rd-ranked Irish.

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MEN'S SOCCER

NSCAA pegs Irish for 2000 academic award

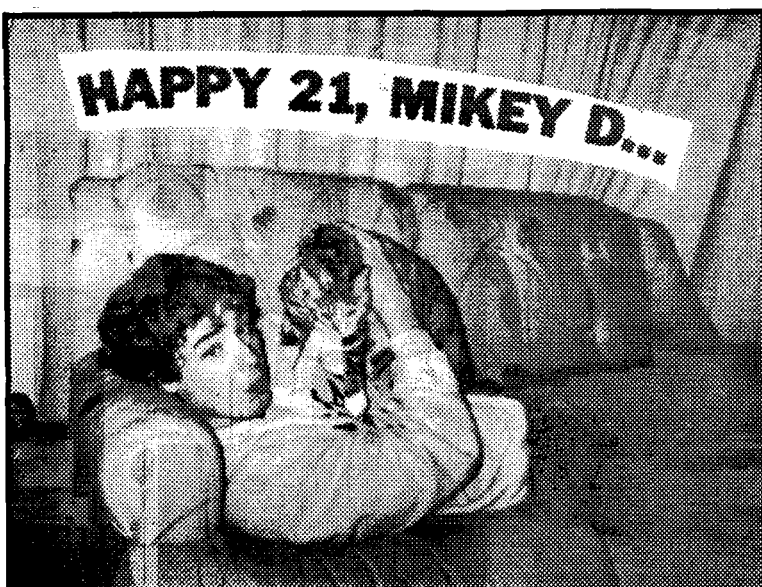
Special to The Observer

For the second consecutive year, the Notre Dame men's soccer team has been recognized by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America with the NSCAA College Team Academic Award for exceptional performance as a team in the classroom during the 1999-2000 school year.

Notre Dame was one of 13 Division I schools honored with the award for achieving a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 and higher. The Irish earned a 3.22 grade point average during the past academic year, the second highest among the other schools recognized with the

honor. Twelve players from the team were named to the Dean's List following the 2000 spring semester, while 10 earned Dean's List distinction after the '99 fall semester.

Along with Notre Dame, the other schools to earn the award were: Bowling Green State University (3.12), Bucknell University (3.13), Coastal Carolina University (3.23), Davidson College (3.14), Duquesne University (3.14), Georgetown University (3.09), Southwest Missouri State University (3.02), University of Akron (3.13), University of Dayton (3.09), University of Pennsylvania (3.28), University of South Carolina (3.07) and Western Kentucky University (3.04).



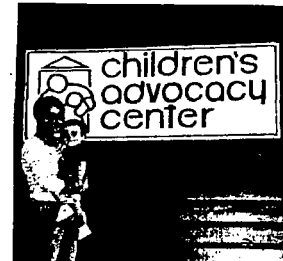
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Irish

continued from page 24

points in the final 20 minutes. She also added 14 rebounds and five blocks.

Providence double-teamed Riley in the first half so at half-time McGraw decided to spread the court and give her All-American more room down low. Notre Dame's perimeter players also made better passes to the post, resulting in easy baskets for Riley. Her second-half performance was typical for games against the Friars. As a sophomore, Riley scored 36 and 41 points in Notre Dame's two easy wins over Providence.

"She told me she was graduating on schedule," Jabir said. "I was very pleased with that."

Another senior, Niele Ivey also turned in her normal night's work on the defensive end. The aforementioned steal

(the 309th of her career) gave Ivey a new Notre Dame record and the Irish never trailed for the rest of the game. She finished with four steals, six rebounds and four assists but shot just 4-for-12 from the field for 12 points.

Ericka Haney added 17 points and nine rebounds, while seldom-used freshmen Le'Tania Severe's all-around play (7 rebounds, 2 assists and solid defense in 26 minutes) impressed the coaches. With forward Kelley Siemon likely out again for Saturday's Boston College game, McGraw said Severe will practice with the starters during the next few practices.

"She was player of the game," McGraw said of Severe. "That's what we need her to do [play defense and

rebound]."

The unexpected contribution from Severe was a microcosm of the Irish's night. Against the conference's worst team, they struggled for their 33rd straight win at home. And as the winning streak continues, the attention and criticism will increase, not an ideal situation for McGraw.

"It's been overwhelming," McGraw said. "There's been a

"It's been overwhelming. There's been a lot of phone calls and a lot of talking, just a lot more interest nationally from people."

Muffet McGraw
women's basketball head coach

lot of phone calls and a lot of talking, just a lot more interest nationally from people. We've not been in that position before. Initially, we were just so excited about it. I would talk to anybody. Now, it's time to get back to business."

Track

continued from page 24

"From a facilities standpoint, we have nothing to offer [the team]," Kachmarik said. "We'd have to put hundreds of dollars to even have a team."

The team lacks practice facilities, sufficient coaching and a track to hold meets.

The addition of a four lane track suitable for running would cost the College \$350,000 alone.

In addition to the cost of the track, the team would need a total of three coaches — one each for long distance, sprints and field events.

Currently head coach Larry Szczcho leads the team alone.

Practice facilities were another consideration taken into account when making the decision to dissolve the team. The team has no facilities to practice, making use of facilities at the Loftus Center at Notre Dame or Saint Joseph's high school. This year, the team's practice time at Loftus was cut from two hours a day to one hour. Kachmarik never approached Notre Dame administration about increasing practice time.

"We had to look at the liability of the athletes travelling back and forth," Kachmarik said.

Recent participation in track and field was also a consideration. Last year, after a large early season turnout, most players abandoned the team, leaving a core of only three or four regular competitors.

"Three or four women could be as important to this department as 30 or 40," Kachmarik said. "But we had to make the cut somewhere."

The administration guaran-

teed Kachmarik that the \$13,000 saved by cutting track would be used to improve the overall athletic department.

"Much of [the money saved] will be used to improve salary," Eldred said.

Saint Mary's currently only employs two full-time coaches, basketball coach Suzanne Smith and swim coach Gretchen Hildebrandt. Both coaches also work as athletic administrators. Kachmarik hopes to increase the number of full time coaches.

"The program is dropped. We would have to raise a lot of money to consider bringing it back."

Lynn Kachmarik
athletic director

For Kachmarik, Eldred and the rest of the Saint Mary's administration, this is a step in the right direction to improve Saint Mary's athletics and put them on par with the rest of the teams in the MIAA.

The members of the team feel differently.

"We understand [Kachmarik's] points," Bergeman said. "But we don't think the team had to be eliminated. She had to make a tough decision, though. We respect that."

"We want to raise the money to keep the team next year," Burket said. "We're going to contact alumni and parents and hold fund raisers for the team."

Despite high team efforts, it seems unlikely that the program will return in the spring of 2002.

"The program is dropped," Kachmarik said. "We would have to raise a lot of money to consider bringing it back."

Both Kachmarik and Eldred are optimistic that the team will return at some point in the future of Saint Mary's athletics but not 2002.

"I don't want to say that track and field is gone forever," Eldred said. "It is definitely a sport we would like to bring back."

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WOMEN'S TENNIS

Dasso, Varnum hit road; Irish look to make racket at home

By STEVE KEPPEL
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's tennis team has its plate full this weekend as Michelle Dasso and Becky Varnum travel to Dallas to compete in the National Rolex Indoor Championships and the rest of the women stay home to take on Illinois State and Western Michigan.

The Irish are looking to perform well after a difficult tournament in Florida last week, where Dasso and Varnum lost in the early rounds.

The team wants to put the losses behind them but it still has to come out and play well this weekend.

"I don't think that we really played badly," said head coach Jay Louderback. "They were all really good teams and we played against some good players and did well. I told the team to not even worry about last weekend because it was such a tough tournament."

Dasso and Varnum hope to get back to their winning ways this weekend as they both head down to Dallas. Dasso is participating in both singles and doubles and is ranked third in the singles bracket. Varnum will be joining her for the doubles and they hope to make up for a second round loss in Florida.

Since it is a national tournament the pair will be taking on some tough competition but

they both have high hopes for victory.

"Both can do really well I think," said Louderback. "Michelle and Becky didn't play very well outdoors [last week] and playing indoors this week will help out a lot."

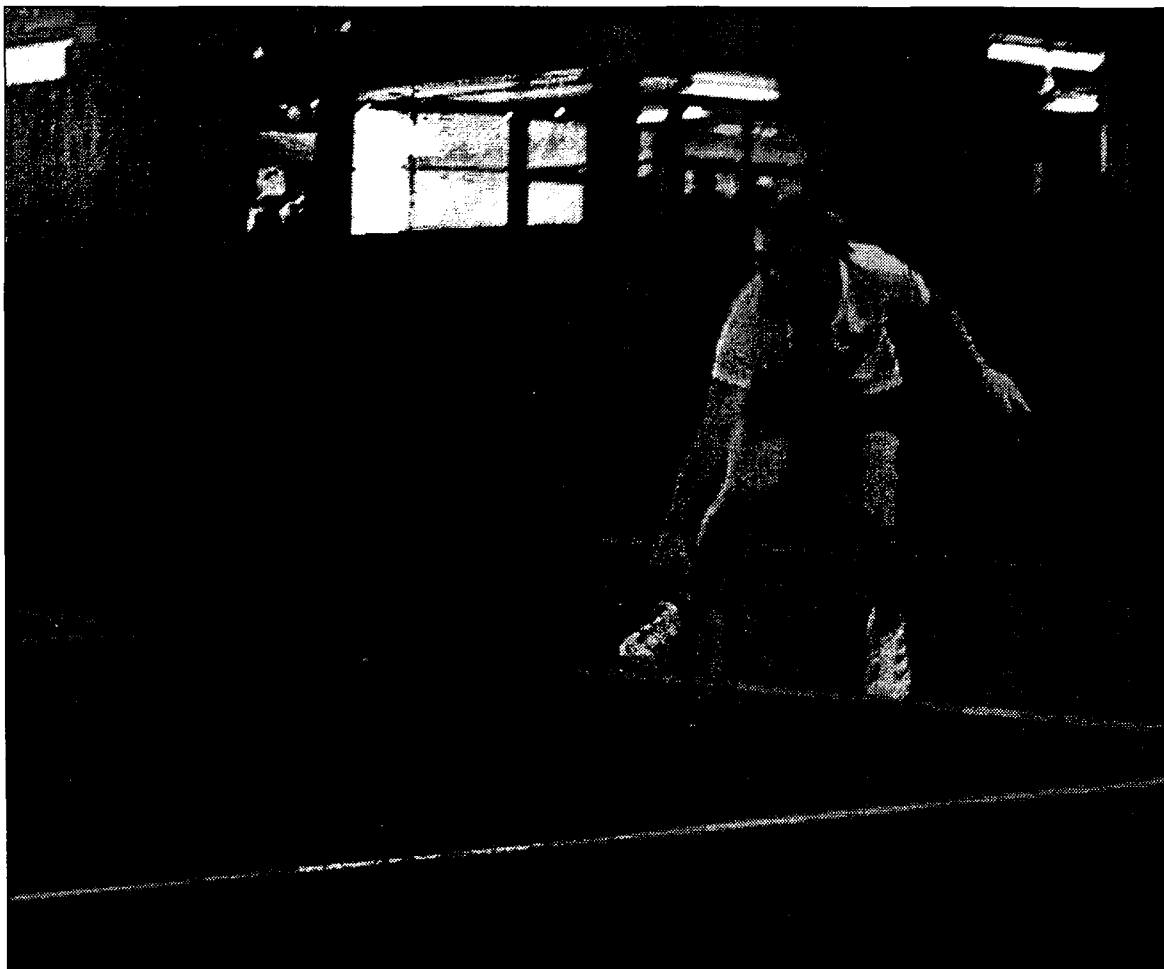
While All-American Dasso and Varnum are in Dallas, the rest of the team will remain in South Bend to go up against Illinois State and Western Michigan in dual matches.

With the top players out, the Irish will get a chance to show off some of their younger and less experienced players and have some players compete up a higher level than they normally do.

It is still to be decided who will play in the one and two positions vacated by Dasso and Varnum but Louderback thinks that it will be good for the team to compete without their two top players.

"This will give our girls a chance to play higher, whoever is one or two will really have to play well," said Louderback. "Things should be okay. It will be interesting but I am very confident in our play."

One thing that Louderback has reason to be confident about is the recent play of Kimberly Guy. After an impressive performance against Duke she went out last week and blew away the competition in Florida by going undefeated and winning the Flight-B singles.



SHANNON BENNETT/The Observer

Junior Lindsey Green trains indoors this season. She will stay in South Bend this weekend to help the Irish in their matches against Illinois State and Western Michigan.

"She played very well the whole weekend," said Louderback. "She's gotten older and more mature and has improved her game a lot.

In the past she has played well but not consistently, last weekend she played four great matches in a row and she will be a big key for us this week-

end."

The Irish will take on Illinois State on Sunday during the morning and Western Michigan in the afternoon.

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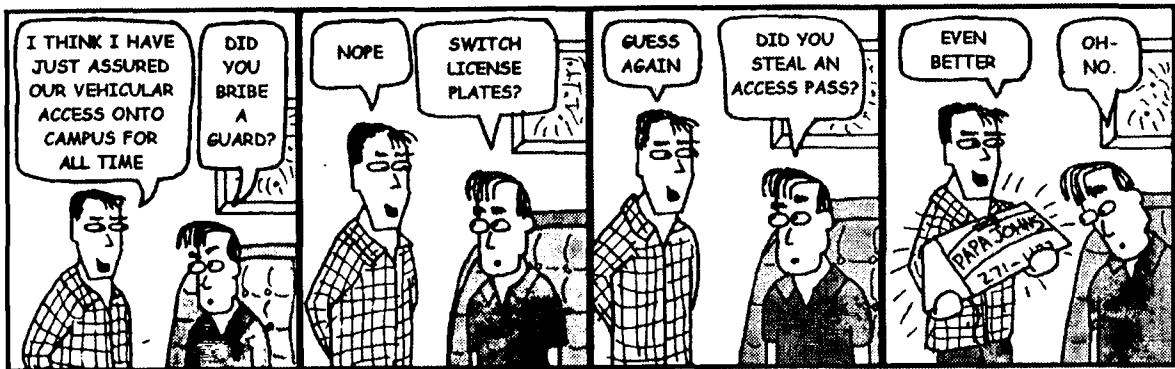
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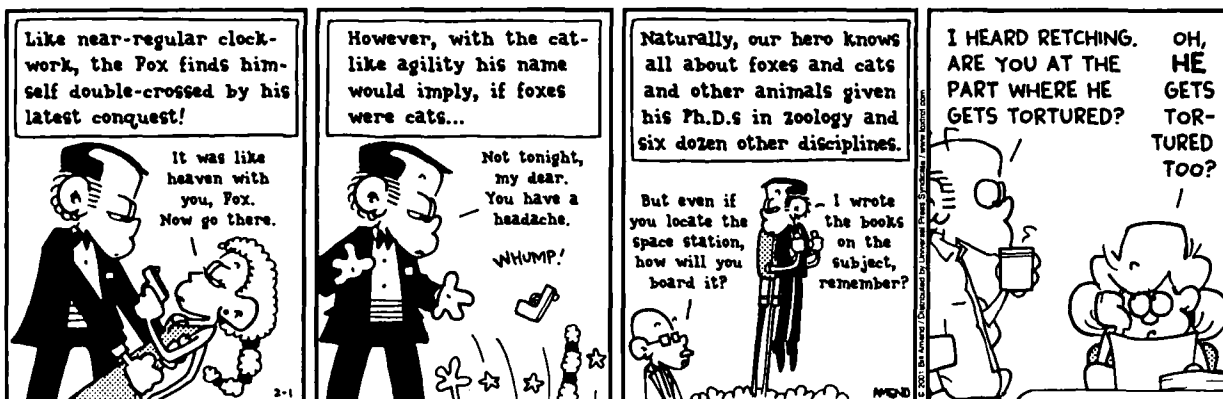
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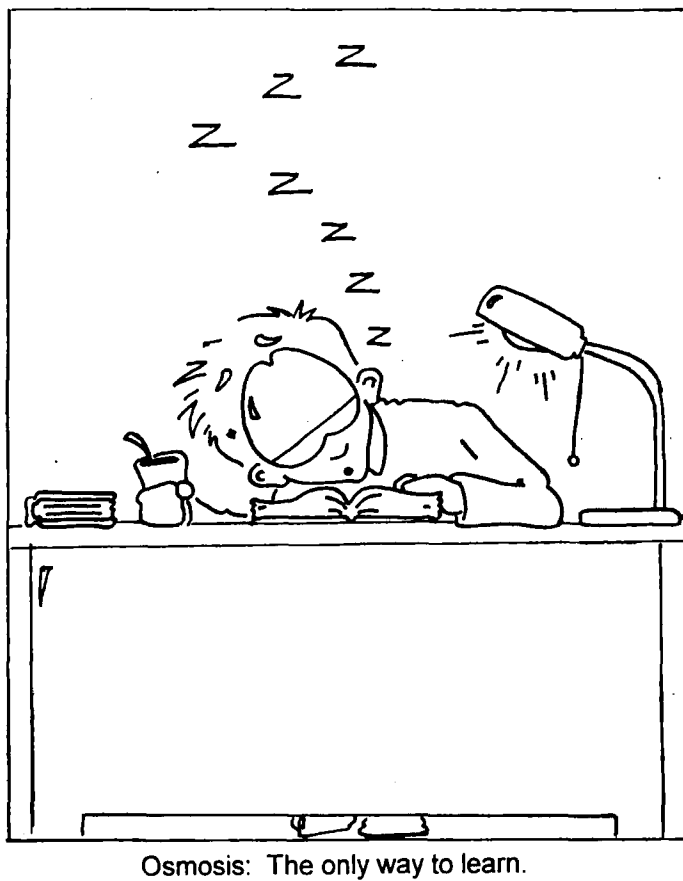
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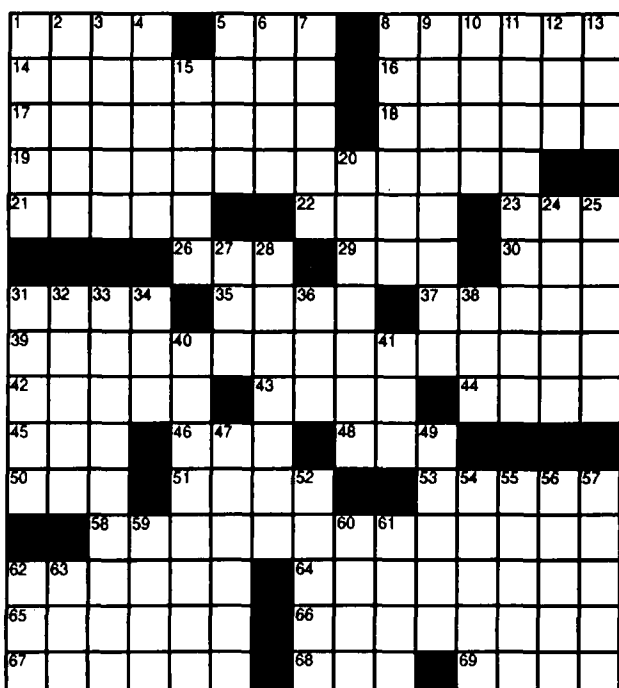


CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 French registry listings
 - 5 Rule opposed by Gandhi
 - 8 "Gesundheit!" evoker
 - 14 Before long
 - 16 Dover neighbor
 - 17 Drop in
 - 18 Govt. investments
 - 19 Big-shouldered game bird?
 - 21 Inspiration for Yeats
 - 22 Money in China
 - 23 It's tied at the back
 - 26 Woebegone
 - 29 Inn serving
 - 30 Pocketful of dough
 - 31 Challenge authority
- DOWN**
- 35 Greenish-yellow pear
 - 37 Artful Dodger?
 - 39 Select speedy news-gatherers?
 - 42 Pianist Claudio
 - 43 Shoelaces
 - 44 Gray area: Abbr.
 - 45 21-Across, for one
 - 46 Period in the earth's history
 - 48 Artful Dodger, e.g.
 - 50 Subj. for skeptics
 - 51 "... maids all in"
 - 53 Smidgens
 - 58 Is not apt to write right?
 - 62 Picturesque
 - 64 Mistreatment
 - 65 "... be the day!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Cubbyhole
 - 2 "We're way!"
 - 3 Bambino
 - 4 Thoroughly searched
 - 5 Horse-racing Hall-of-Famer
 - 6 1960's P.M.
 - 7 Uneven
 - 8 De facto
 - 9 Slow Cuban dance
 - 10 Mid-2nd-century date
 - 11 Frightening time
 - 12 Standard stuff
 - 13 1940's spy org.
 - 15 Wanderers
 - 20 Relative of "honked"
 - 24 Port on the Shatt-al-Arab
 - 25 Explanation preceder
 - 27 Egypt's Simbel
 - 28 "Stop procrastinating!"
 - 31 Digger
 - 32 Buenos
 - 33 Dump
 - 34 Relative of reggae

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- ACROSS**
- 36 Poli
 - 38 Smog-regulating grp.
 - 40 How a stomach might react to strange food
 - 41 Kind of particle
 - 47 Answer giver
 - 49 Ballet step on tiptoe without bending the knee
 - 52 "One Touch of Venus" composer
- DOWN**
- 54 Bumps
 - 55 Pageant wear
 - 56 Popular early serials writer
 - 57 Well-groomed
 - 59 Money to play with
 - 60 Others, to Octavian
 - 61 J train?
 - 62 Fuel additive brand
 - 63 Comedienne Margaret

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Happy Birthday: You will be disciplined, competitive and innovative this year as you strive to turn your intentions into reality. You will be creative in your pursuits and will not let the trivial things bother you. You will view the big picture and do whatever is necessary to make this the best year ever. Your numbers: 5, 19, 26, 31, 36, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your tendency to overindulge will result in weight gain or minor illness. You will have to be careful not to overreact emotionally with your mate. ○○○

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your secretive nature will cause problems for you if you won't share your thoughts with your mate. Be careful not to neglect yourself. Rest and good dietary habits will be a must. ○○○

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Romantic relationships will suffer if you try to face important issues that are driving you crazy. Your partner will take offense and you'll spend the day alone. ○○

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be too eager to talk about your feelings today. You need to discover what others are thinking before you put your own beliefs on the line. ○○○○

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel will open up new avenues that will enhance your knowledge and bring about important friendships. You should be thinking about signing up for a course or seminar. ○○○○

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Extravagance and overindulgence will be tempting. Be careful not to place unreasonable demands on others. Don't follow the crowd. You need to make up your own mind. Avoid getting involved in joint ventures. ○○○○○

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Difficulties will surface if you haven't paid enough attention to your partner. Financial limitations may cause frustrations in trying to achieve goals. ○○○○

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be careful not to divulge secret information. You will have to trust your own instincts. Expect friends to exaggerate and overreact to situations. It's best to keep your thoughts to yourself. ○○

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will have ample energy to get involved in competitive activities that interest you. Your creative talent and ability to work with youngsters will come in handy. ○○○○

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can expect opposition from those you live with. Don't argue; just make your own plans to do things with friends. Don't make changes to your living quarters unless everyone is in favor of your plans. ○○○○

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will get along much better with your friends than you will with your family. Try to get your household duties out of the way before you take off for the day. ○○

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will have the discipline to get odd jobs completed. Don't let children be too demanding. You may have difficulties if you make unreasonable promises. ○○○

Birthday Baby: You are a bit stubborn but only when you feel that you are right. You will never back down and will always be able to find a solution to any problem that faces you. You are a thinker and a doer.

(Need advice? Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com, eugenialast.com, astromate.com.)

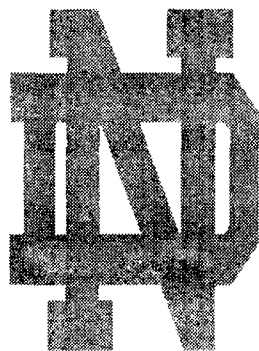
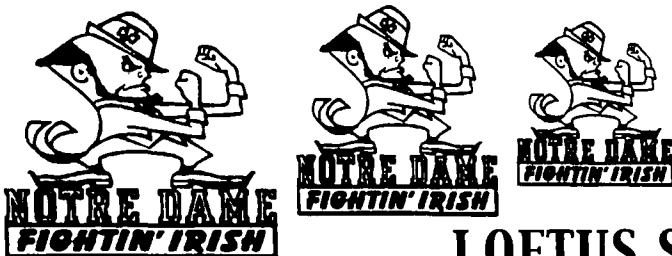
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LOFTUS SPORTS COMPLEX

SPORTS

Lone Star Pair
Tennis players Michelle Dasso and Becky Varnum travel to Dallas, Texas for the National Rolex Indoor Championships.

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page 24

THE OBSERVER

Thursday, February 1, 2001

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Saint Mary's eliminates track and field program

By KATIE McVOY
Assistant Sports Editor

At a meeting late Tuesday evening, Saint Mary's athletic director Lynn Kachmarik announced the Belles track and field team will be discontinued following the 2001 season.



Kachmarik

"Some may feel that this is a

step backward," Kachmarik said. "But it truly will give us the opportunity to improve our department as we continue to move forward."

Kachmarik called a special meeting of the varsity team Tuesday at Angela Athletic Facility to announce the decision and then publicly released information Wednesday morning.

The decision to eliminate the program was a presidential decision made by President Marilou Eldred upon Kachmarik's recommendation. The decision was a difficult one for the administration.

"We wish that we had been informed of the decision before [Tuesday]. We were caught totally unaware."

Kara Bergeman
team captain

"It was a hard decision," Eldred said. "You never want to have to discontinue a sport."

Senior, team-captain Kara Bergeman spoke for the team early Wednesday.

"There wasn't a dry eye on the team [during Tuesday's announcement]," she said. "We're going to do as much as we can to keep the program. I'm not letting this go away. I'm not letting this end."

The decision to eliminate the funding came after a long process that began last spring. The decision was finalized Monday, the cut-off for notifying the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Despite the long decision process, athletes were unaware of the possible elimination of the program until

Wednesday.

"We wish that we had been informed of the decision before [Tuesday]," team member Erica Burket said. "We were caught totally unaware."

Following Saint Mary's entrance into the MIAA, the athletic department agreed to move towards full-time coaches and improve athletic facilities. In order to do this, the first thing the department needed was money.

The track and field team was in desperate need of money for coaches and facilities.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

No. 1 Notre Dame gets brief scare from Providence

◆ Irish shoot 9-for-28, commit a dozen turnovers in first half

By TIM CASEY
Assistant Sports Editor

Niele Ivey extended her hand, deflected the ball from Providence's Brooke Freeburg, gained possession, dribbled over half-court and threw a one-hop bounce pass to Ericka Haney for an easy right-handed lay-up.

The steal, with 2:58 remaining in the first half, broke current assistant coach Coquese Washington's career record. But more importantly, it led to a 21-20 advantage, Notre Dame's first lead of the night.

That's not a misprint.

For over 17 minutes on Wednesday, Providence (7-11 overall, 1-7 in the Big East) combined an aggressive defense and patient offense to frazzle the nation's number one team. The Irish (20-0 overall, 9-0 in the Big East) ultimately rebounded for a 64-44 win but their dominating performance over Connecticut seemed a distant memory.

"We scared them a little bit, didn't we?" Providence coach Jim Jabir said. "I think that there's not just talent on their side but a lot of swagger. If that announcer said 'your No. 1 team in the country' one more time, I think I was going to choke him."

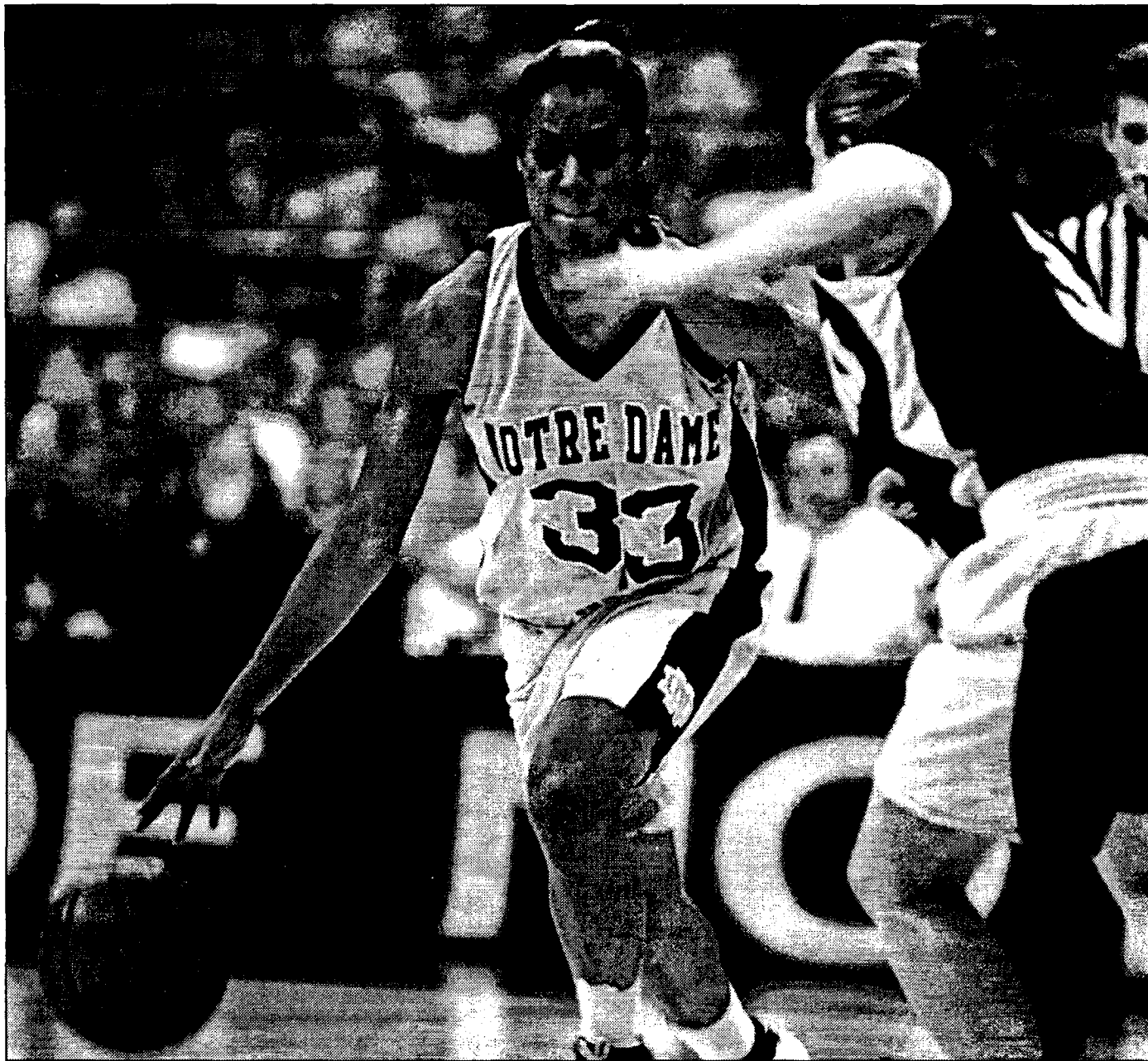
The swagger was replaced by shock for the first 20 minutes.

In the half, the Irish shot 9-for-28 (32.1 percent), committed 12 turnovers, had 4 assists and played the final eight minutes without Ruth Riley. With 6:16 left, Notre Dame trailed 18-11, its largest deficit of the season.

"I wanted to go home right there," Jabir said. "Time couldn't go fast enough."

Notre Dame went on a 17-2 run to close the half but led by only six with 8:10 remaining before scoring 16 straight points. The Irish turned to Riley in the second stanza. The senior center scored 17 of her game-high 19

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ERNESTO LACAYO/The Observer

Senior guard Niele Ivey drives on a Providence defender. She broke the Notre Dame career steals record on Wednesday night, with her 309th theft. She also tossed in 12 points in the Irish win.

SPORTS
AT A
GLANCE



National Rolex Singles and Doubles Indoor Championships
Thursday-Sunday



Men's Swimming vs. Cleveland State
Friday, 2 p.m.



at Ohio State
Friday, 7:35 p.m.



Track and Field Meyo Invitational
Loftus Fieldhouse
Friday-Saturday



at Pittsburgh
Saturday, 7 p.m.