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General Electric CEO to address grads

By KATE ANTONACCI
News Editor

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of General Electric Co. Jeffrey R. Immelt will be the principal graduation speaker and an honorary degree recipient at Notre Dame's May 20 commencement ceremony, University officials said Thursday.

"During his five-plus years as second largest company, Jeff Immelt has demonstrated the innovative philosophy, leadership traits and person-

al integrity that make him a business executive worthy of emulating," University President Father John Jenkins said. "We are delighted that he will join us in May to speak to our graduates and accept an honorary degree."

Immelt, 50, took over at GE, a Connecticut-based company, on Sept. 7, 2001 when he became the company's ninth chairman in its 128-year his-



Immelt

tory. Immelt previously served as President and Chairman-elect beginning in Nov. 2000 before he succeeded legendary CEO Jack Welch.

Born in Cincinnati, Immelt has been widely regarded recently for his "Ecomagination" initiative, GE's plan to make more earth-friendly products.

General Electric — a company which employs over 300,000 people and whose revenue reached \$163.4 billion in 2006 — makes and sells products ranging from home appliances to jet engines.

Since taking over as CEO,

Immelt has committed to more-than-doubling the company's budget for developing environmentally-friendly technology. He has also pledged GE to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one percent and to increase energy efficiency 30 percent by 2012.

Immelt studied applied mathematics at Dartmouth College and later earned a masters of business administration from Harvard University.

He began his career at GE after graduating from business school in 1982. Over his

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University tuition hits \$44,477

Increase marks the sixth in 6 years

By KATE ANTONACCI
News Editor

The price of a Notre Dame education just got a little steeper — \$2,340 steeper to be exact.

The University announced Thursday that tuition for undergraduates will increase 5.4 percent for the 2007-08 school year — up nearly \$2,500 from the current academic year's bill.

Decided at the winter Board of Trustees meetings, the total cost for a year of undergraduate education will be \$44,477, including \$35,187 for tuition and \$9,290 for average room-and-board rates.

Tuition increases for the other schools connected with Notre Dame are 5.4 percent as well, bringing costs for the Graduate School to \$35,580 and both the Law School and Master's of Business Administration Program to \$35,490.

This year's increase signals a small percentage decrease in comparison to year's past. While the 2006-07 academic year saw a 5.8 percent increase, the 2005-06 academic year saw a 7 percent rise, slightly higher than 2004-05's 6.9 percent and 2003-04's 6.5 percent increases. The 2001-02 and 2002-03 rises, however, were

see TUITION/page 8

No winner decided by run-off election



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer
Presidential candidate Liz Brown, right, and her running mate Maris Braun listen to the election results being read in LaFortune Thursday.

Student Senate to choose new president, vice president at Sunday meeting

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Notre Dame will have to wait a little longer to find out who will be the next student body president after results from the run-off election proved indecisive Tuesday night.

As the two tickets — Liz Brown and Maris Braun, and Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss — listened, members of the Judicial Council announced that Brown/Braun received 48 percent of the 3,352 votes and Smith/Weiss received 46 percent, neither a 50 percent majority. The remaining six per-

cent abstained from voting.

In the event that no ticket receives 50 percent plus one of the votes, the decision falls into the hands of the Student Senate. Each member will vote according to their dorm's majority vote. The Student Senate will hold a closed meeting Sunday at 6 p.m. to determine their votes.

For the candidates, the indecision is almost too suspenseful.

Weiss described the last 48 hours as "crazy."

"It makes it hard because both Ashley and

see ELECTION/page 4

Parents, Holtz arrive on campus for JPW

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Former head football coach Lou Holtz will be in town this weekend to speak to the parents of more than 1,200 juniors arriving in South Bend for the 55th annual Junior Parents Weekend (JPW).

Holtz will be speaking at Sunday's closing brunch, the culminating activity of the three-day event designed for junior



Holtz

parents at Notre Dame.

"We're particularly excited for Lou Holtz," Associate Director of Student Activities Brian Freneau said.

Freneau said the organizing committee was fortunate to get a speaker who is "so loved" by the Notre Dame community to speak at JPW, an event intended to give parents the chance to learn more about the "people and places that comprise [their] son or daughters home away from home," JPW 2007 chairperson Kerry Carroll said in a letter to junior parents.

Focused on the Notre Dame family, JPW enables parents to "become part of

see JPW/page 4

Monologues return to College

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary's Editor

For the third consecutive year, the Saint Mary's community will gather to share stories of hope, sexuality and femininity during two weekend performances of the SMC Monologues.

Modeled after Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," the SMC Monologues will tell personal stories submitted by members of the College's community — addressing issues that affect women on a daily basis, Monologues producer and director Renee Woodward said.

"Our monologues don't just scratch the surface of issues facing Saint Mary's women," she said. "They dive head-first



KATE FENLON/The Observer
Fifth-year senior Tiffany Gilliam rehearses for the SMC Monologues Monday in the Carroll Auditorium.

see SHOW/page 8

INSIDE COLUMN

Mom, Dad, welcome to college

Today, yesterday and tomorrow, parents are streaming onto Notre Dame and Saint Mary's campuses, dorms, classrooms, dining halls and anywhere else they can go. Every hotel room within a 10-mile radius is most likely booked solid for this weekend. There are probably no more reservations available in any restaurant in town, and the waits will be ridiculously long. It's pretty sweet to think about, though. Mom and Dad are coming here to see what their baby girl/boy is doing all the way out here in (very) snowy South Bend.

Mandi Stirone
News Wire Editor

My own parents came in from central New Jersey around 11 last night complete with bulky luggage, various items I left at home when I came back from Christmas Break and hopefully some quarters so I can do more laundry. Between the rushing to clean and vacuum my double-turned-single room, trying to get all my homework done for Thursday and Friday before they got here, and actually going to my classes, I'm about ready to collapse. Too bad the festivities start tonight. There is a pretty easy solution to that. I'll gulp down an energy drink (or two, or three), throw on my best stiletto heels (hope I don't fall), and prepare myself to spend the entire weekend with my mom and dad.

I'm not going to lie I'm excited, despite the always-imminent snowfall. Being from Jersey, my parents don't really get to come visit me often. It really is a pretty rare thing to have them out here for a whole weekend, especially one that isn't during football season. I don't even really know what activities there are planned, other than the dinner that I still don't know what I'm supposed to wear to. That's okay though, we'll improvise. The point is getting to spend time together, whatever we're doing. It should really be a fun weekend.

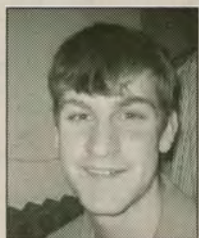
So, Mom and Dad, strap on some snow boots, grab some gloves and a warm hat and bundle up. It's cold out there (not that it isn't probably cold inside too). This weekend is going to be interesting for the three of us. Get ready for horrible dining hall food, some messy dorm rooms, strange but somewhat intriguing activities and a tiny glimpse into what being out here is like for us. Mom, Dad, welcome to Saint Mary's!

Contact Mandi Stirone at astiro01@saintmarys.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: IF YOU COULD GIVE A GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY, WHERE WOULD THE MONEY GO?



Dan Behrens
sophomore
Dillon

"To the Office of Residence Life and Housing, so somebody would buy curtains that actually cover the shower stalls."



Sean McGarvey
junior
Stanford

"Funding a campus aesthetics program."



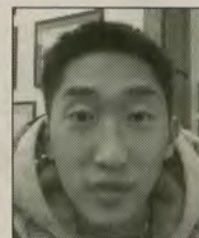
Zyra Cortez
sophomore
Pasquerilla East

"The tunnel fund in order to avoid this crappy weather."



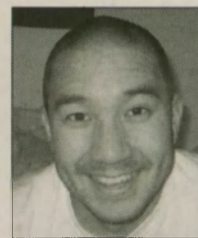
Christina Marzo
junior
Walsh

"I would give it to the energy board to make the campus a greener place."



Paul Kwak
senior
off campus

"My future medical school application expenses."



JohnPaul Lichon
campus ministry
off campus

"The Brett Perkins Bacon and Icon Fund."



ERIC SALES/The Observer

The Filipino American Student Organization (FASO) practices a cultural dance called "tinkling" but with a slightly modern twist Thursday.

IN BRIEF

The **Second City Comedy Tour** will perform at **Washington Hall** at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. today. Student tickets are \$5 and are available at the LaFortune Box Office.

Junior Parents Weekend begins today with the **Opening Gala** and will end Sunday with the **Closing Brunch**.

The **SMC Monologues** will take place today and Saturday at 7 p.m. in **Carroll Auditorium** at Saint Mary's College. A donation of \$3 is suggested.

The men's lacrosse team will play **Loyola** Saturday at 1 p.m. in the **Loftus Sports Center**. Admission is free.

Indie rockers **Spitalfield** of Chicago will perform live at **Legends** Saturday at 10 p.m. The event is free of charge and open to all ND, SMC and HCC students.

Sister Teresa Okure, a professor at the Catholic Institute of West Africa in Nigeria, will be giving the lecture **"Salvific Option for the Rich: A Gospel Challenge for Mission in the Twenty-First Century"** Sunday at 7 p.m. in the **Moreau Seminary auditorium**.

The women's tennis team will take on **Wake Forest** Sunday at noon at the **Courtney Tennis Center**.

To submit information to be included in this section of *The Observer*, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu

OFFBEAT

Man grabs shark with hands, blames alcohol

SYDNEY, Australia — A man who caught a 4-foot shark with his bare hands off an Australian beach said on Friday he only tried the feat because he was drunk on vodka.

Phillip Kerkhof was fishing off a jetty at Louth Bay, a town on South Australia state's Eyre Peninsula 870 miles west of Sydney, when he spotted the bronze whaler shark swimming in the shallows, the Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported.

"I just snuck up behind him, and eventually I went for the big grab and I fluked

it and got him," Kerkhof said.

"He was just thrashing around in the water ... starting to turn around and try to bite me and I thought 'well, it's amazing what vodka does,'" Kerkhof said.

Turtle eaten by retriever survives

BRANDON, Fla. — A palm-sized pet turtle and the golden retriever that gobbled it up survived the misadventure thanks to the quick actions of a 12-year-old girl, a veterinarian said.

The saga of Pepper the red-eared slider turtle and Bella the golden retriever

started last week. Shelby Terihay, 12, moved her pet pond turtles indoors to protect them from a cold snap — a plan that worked well until Bella found some of the turtles in a bathtub, The Tampa Tribune reported.

A quick headcount confirmed Bella had swallowed one of the turtles. Shelby insisted on a rescue mission and, on the advice of a vet, her parents made Bella vomit. Out came Pepper, still alive despite a shattered shell and an estimated 10 minutes inside Bella's belly.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 18 LOW 13	HIGH 10 LOW 0	HIGH 25 LOW 13	HIGH 18 LOW 2	HIGH 20 LOW 13	HIGH 27 LOW 25

JPW brings business for local hotels, inns

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Despite the feet of snow covering the South Bend community, parents still have their eyes on the Golden Dome as they arrive for Junior Parents Weekend (JPW) today — and those traveling from a distance made sure they reserved a warm hotel room far in advance.

Although the amount of people arriving for the event is not quite as large as the masses that arrive for a typical football weekend or for graduation, there was still a need to make arrangements in advance.

"We started receiving calls from parents the Monday after last year's [Junior Parents Weekend]," said Pat Walsh, vice president of business services at Anthony Travel. "A lot of parents, especially those who have had older children attend Notre Dame know the drill and call early."

Walsh said his office deals with a "couple hundred" parents each year for JPW arrangements, many of whom are "repeat customers."

"They know calling [Anthony Travel] is a one-stop phone call — hotel reservations, rental cars and airline tickets," he said.

Walsh said he expects parents looking to reserve rooms for next year's JPW to begin Monday.

This year's most popular hotel

destinations include the Inn at Saint Mary's, the Varsity Club located near Grape Road and downtown the Marriott Hotel.

Although rates can triple during football weekends, Walsh said he isn't aware of any raises in rates this year for JPW.

The Morris Inn, located on Notre Dame's campus, is a popular option that does not allot rooms through Anthony Travel, but rather gives a certain number of rooms to the JPW Committee who then holds a lottery drawing in late November.

Though the number of people arriving this weekend is relatively low, Bill Beirne, the director of the Morris Inn, said he "feels probably the same pressure."

Beirne said that the Morris Inn does not raise rates for JPW despite the high demand for hotel rooms. Rooms not allocated to the junior class for JPW are available for the University to use for guests and speakers visiting the University for other events.

While hotels around campus fill up with junior parents, many non-junior students plan to leave campus for the weekend.

"I don't think there's going to be much happening on campus this weekend," said freshman Casey O'Halloran, who plans to spend the weekend in Chicago with friends from her dorm.

Contact Eva Binda at
ebinda@nd.edu

Parents arrive at College

By KATIE KOHLER
Assistant News Editor

During the spring semester, students often use their only substantial vacation — spring break — for a week of sitting on the beach with friends instead of going home to see their families. Fortunately for sophomores at Saint Mary's, they'll have the opportunity to do both this weekend.

The winter months will bring familiar faces as parents from across the country arrive on campus for Sophomore Parents Weekend.

The weekend events — which are coordinated by the sophomore class and Student Activities — will revolve around the theme

"We are so Classic" to emphasize the deep-rooted traditions at Saint Mary's, said student coordinator Sarah Dalton. Over 200 people are expected to attend the weekend events.

"We have all been working hard since the beginning of this year for the big weekend," she said.

The planning of the event went smoothly, Dalton said, and she promises a "lot of special touches throughout the weekend" dedicated to

past Saint Mary's women.

Events start Friday with an academic open house in the Student Center at 5 p.m.

"This is a great chance for parents to get to meet our teachers now that we are more familiar with them than we were at freshman orientation," Dalton said.

Tours of the South Bend Chocolate Factory, the Snite Museum and the College Football Hall of Fame are all offered for sophomores and

their families beginning Saturday morning. The Hall of Fame is the only activity which requires a fee, but a discounted group rate will be available for Saint Mary's sophomores and their parents.

The signature event is the dinner and dance at the Century Center beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday.

"Sophomore Parents Weekend is such a tradition at Saint Mary's and it's going to be a memorable time to spend with each other and our parents," Dalton said. "We tried to focus a lot of effort into the dinner."

Prior to dinner, there will be raffles, appetizers and music, Dalton said. The Sophomore Board is raffling

off approximately 25 gift baskets and all of the proceeds will go toward future class events.

"Our love for this school has really developed over the past year and a half and it will be really exciting for our parents to experience that with us," she said.

A sophomore Mass will precede dinner at 4 p.m. in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto.

Students and their families are also encouraged to attend the final home basketball game on Saturday at 3 p.m. in Angela Athletic Facility.

Many sophomores are looking forward to seeing their parents, especially those who live far away. Mary Beth Harris, who lives in Iowa, is using this weekend as an opportunity to spend some quality time with her parents.

"I am really excited to see my parents because last semester I was an ocean away in Rome," she said. "It will be great to show my parents the campus."

Megan Ryan is anxiously anticipating the weekend for another reason.

"I am the first one in my family to ever attend Saint Mary's, so this is the first parent-event my parents have the chance to come to," she said. "I think it's going to be a great time."

Contact Katie Kohler at
kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

"I am really excited to see my parents because last semester I was an ocean away in Rome."

Mary Beth Harris
sophomore

What is the Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative &

what is the Millennium Villages Project?

Are you wondering what the Millennium Development Initiative is all about? Are you wondering how Notre Dame intends to make a difference through its participation in the Millennium Villages Project?

Are you willing to think about and discuss how Notre Dame might most effectively promote human development?

Come to an information session and discussion about the Millennium Development Initiative conducted by Fr. Bob Dowd, CSC and Tim Lyden.

Friday, February 16, 4pm

Hesburgh Center Auditorium, Hesburgh Center for International Studies

Refreshments to follow in the Great Hall of the Hesburgh Center.

JPW

continued from page 1

the academic, spiritual, social and residential life of the University," Carroll said.

Many students are looking forward to the opportunity to spend time with their parents on campus for a weekend and show them around Notre Dame.

"JPW is an opportunity for Notre Dame parents to come to the school and really get a feel for the accomplishments of their child. It's also an opportunity for them to feel proud of their children," said junior Ryan Daniels.

Daniels said he and his parents planned "on touring the campus and going to the Bookstore," in addition to attending several of the planned activities such as the cocktail party Friday night and the Sunday morning brunch.

Though there isn't a named theme this year as there was in years past, Fremeau suggested that "Love Thee Notre Dame" is a theme surrounding the events of the weekend.

Fremeau said there will be plenty of Notre Dame imagery in decorations and events intended to evoke the Spirit of Notre Dame. JPW 2006 held the theme of "Traditional Notre Dame," while 2005 organizers used a "Passport Abroad" theme.

Parents and juniors have a busy few days ahead of them, as events kick off tonight with an Opening Gala at 9 in the Joyce Center. According to the JPW Web site, the event — which requires tickets — includes music, dancing, hors

d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Saturday morning parents and students are invited to participate in workshops hosted by each of the colleges — the College Arts & Letters, College of Science, College of Engineering and the Mendoza College of Business — with presentations by various speakers from within the respective college.

Following these workshops, residence hall luncheons will be held. Visitors then have the option of attending a JPW mass at the Joyce Center with University President Father John Jenkins presiding. Saturday night is centered around the President's Dinner, which also requires tickets.

Fremeau said planning for the event began in April 2006 when the core executives, such as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, were chosen.

Planning has been "steady since the middle of the fall semester through this weekend," said Fremeau, who also plays a role in advising the JPW Committee.

University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh began the tradition of Junior Parents Weekend back in 1952 in order for parents to spend time with their children on campus before the hectic activities of commencement.

Parents were required to submit ticket applications by Dec. 4, 2006 and students could pick up tickets on Feb. 13 and 14.

Parietals will be at midnight both Friday and Saturday this weekend.

Contact Eva Binda at ebinda@nd.edu

Address

continued from page 1

24-year career at the company, Immelt has "held a series of global leadership roles in GE's Plastics, Appliance, and Medical businesses," according to the GE Web site.

Immelt has been named one of the world's best CEOs by Barron's magazine and has been praised for the way he has led GE, named the "World's Most Admired

Company" in a poll conducted by Fortune magazine.

Immelt serves as chairman of The Business Council and sits on the boards of the New York Federal Reserve Bank; Robin Hood, an organization which addresses New York City poverty; and Catalyst, an organization focused on advancing women in business.

Immelt currently resides in Connecticut.

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu

Election

continued from page 1

I feel that we really just want what's best for the student body and no clear majority makes it difficult to determine what students really want," Smith added. "Either candidate would do a great job."

Braun acknowledged that the vote is out of the candidates' hands.

"At this point, whatever's supposed to happen now will be," Braun said.

Even in the hands of Student Senate, the process

can be stressful.

"Whenever the vote goes to the Senate it gets a lot more personal because everyone knows the candidates a lot better," Braun said. "But [votes according to dorm majority] will determine who's fit to be the next leader."

Of the student body, 1,067 freshmen, 1,046 sophomores, 761 juniors, 474 seniors and three fifth-year students cast their ballots.

Despite the seemingly unclear outcome, Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow said Thursday represented "a successful run-off election."

Voter turnout remained rel-

atively stable from Monday's election, which had 3,492 ballots, she said.

"I hope that we raised awareness [about elections] and the debate had a very good turnout," Kozlow said.

Whatever happens on Sunday, both tickets feel that the process has been excellent experience.

"It's nice to see hard work pay off," said Smith. "We pushed really hard."

Braun said that looking back, it is nice to know that "you couldn't have done anything more."

Contact Sonia Rao at srao1@nd.edu

Come and Listen

Come and Read

Come and Play

Lectio@Eleven

A Late-Night Cabaret for the Soul

11:00 pm every Tuesday at Recker's
Free pizza supplied by First Year of Studies!

February 20 featuring:

Music by d'Oscar

Readings by Prof. Henry Weinfield (PLS)

(Program postponed from February 13)

Lectio@Eleven brings a cabaret of great music and great writing, read aloud, for the Notre Dame community. Come to Recker's and hear it with your own ears!

We are always looking for more readers and musicians. If interested, contact Jonathan Couser at jcouser@nd.edu or call 631-3923.

Sponsored by First Year of Studies

Want to
write
for
News?
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Kate at
631-
5323.

He questioned the Lord: "I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

Never Alone

An inclusive retreat for gay, lesbian,
bisexual, and questioning students, and
friends

Feb 23-Feb 24

Applications available in 114 CoMo
Email vtorres1@nd.edu for more information

Sponsored by Campus Ministry & the Core Council



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Al-Qaida leader wounded in Iraq
 BAGHDAD — The leader of al-Qaida in Iraq was wounded and an aide was killed in a clash Thursday with Iraqi forces north of Baghdad, the Interior Ministry spokesman said.

The clash occurred near Balad, a major U.S. base about 50 miles north of the capital, Brig. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf said.

Khalaf said al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Ayyub al-Masri was wounded and his aide, identified as Abu Abdullah al-Majmaai, was killed.

Khalaf declined to say how Iraqi forces knew al-Masri had been injured, and there was no report on the incident from U.S. authorities.

Al-Masri took over the leadership of al-Qaida in Iraq after its charismatic leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was killed in a U.S. airstrike last June in Diyala province northeast of Baghdad.

Putin elevates defense minister

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin promoted his hawkish defense minister to a top government post on Thursday, a move that puts Putin's two heirs apparent on equal footing before next year's election to replace the popular leader.

Both Sergei Ivanov and the more liberal Dmitry Medvedev have received lavish coverage in the Russian press, which is strongly influenced by the Kremlin, and are seen as the chief rivals for anointment by Putin as his favored successor in the March 2008 election.

Each man now holds the title of first vice-premier, formalizing a rivalry that is never mentioned officially but is played out daily on state-run television. News broadcasts prominently feature them struggling to look presidential in government meetings, speeches and closely choreographed visits to farms and factories.

NATIONAL NEWS

Advocates push tobacco regulation

WASHINGTON — Seven years after being rebuffed by the Supreme Court, anti-smoking advocates rejoiced Thursday as lawmakers renewed a push for federal regulation of tobacco, a step they say is needed to deter children from lighting up and to get smokers to quit.

"Congress has the opportunity to take a major step and grant the Food and Drug Administration the meaningful and long-overdue authority to regulate tobacco, which kills 440,000 people and costs our nation \$96.7 billion in health care bills every year," said John Seffrin, chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers reintroduced legislation Thursday that would give the FDA the same authority over cigarettes and other tobacco products that it already has over countless other consumer products.

CDC studies salmonella outbreak

ATLANTA — Government scientists struggled Thursday to pinpoint the source of the first U.S. salmonella outbreak linked to peanut butter, the kid favorite packed into millions of lunchboxes every day.

Nearly 300 people in 39 states have fallen ill since August, and federal health investigators said they strongly suspect Peter Pan peanut butter and certain batches of Wal-Mart's Great Value house brand — both manufactured by ConAgra Foods Inc.

LOCAL NEWS

Adult, 2 children killed in house fire

GOSHEN — A northern Indiana house fire killed an adult and two children on Thursday, authorities said.

A passer-by spotted smoke coming from the house and reported the fire about 2:30 p.m. The blaze was extinguished quickly, but the bodies were found inside, Fire Chief Dan Sink said.

The fire did not appear suspicious, but investigators were on the scene in the city about 25 miles southeast of South Bend, Sink said.

Authorities did not immediately identify the victims. Sink declined to immediately provide additional information.

IRAQ

Security forces face insurgents

U.S., Iraqi troops push into Sunni neighborhoods, struggle to stabilize Baghdad

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. and Iraqi forces pushed deeper Thursday into Sunni militant strongholds in Baghdad — where cars rigged with explosives greeted their advance — while British-led teams in southern Iraq used shipping containers to block suspected weapon smuggling routes from Iran.

The series of car bomb blasts, which killed at least seven civilians, touched all corners of Baghdad. But it did little to disrupt a security sweep seeking to weaken militia groups' ability to fight U.S.-allied forces — and each other — as Iraq slips further into factional bloodshed.

The attacks, however, pointed to the critical struggle to gain the upper hand on Baghdad's streets. The Pentagon hopes its current campaign of arrests and arms seizures will convince average Iraqis that militiamen are losing ground. Yet each explosion is another reminder of the militants' resources and resolve.

Most of the latest resistance has come from Sunni factions, which perceive their Saddam Hussein-era influence slipping away as the majority Shiites extend their political muscle and bolster ties to powerful Iran.

In Baghdad's Dora neighborhood — a longtime Sunni militant hotbed — two explosives were wired together as a joint U.S.-Iraqi patrol rolled past. The convoy was unharmed, but the blast killed at least four civilians and wounded 15.

Control of the Dora district, a once upscale neighborhood favored by Saddam's regime, is important as a gateway between Baghdad and the Shiite-dominated south. Two other car bomb blasts came as security forces moved through the capital, killing at least three civilians.

Outside Baghdad, troops



Iraqi soldiers ride in an armored vehicle near a Baghdad checkpoint in Sadr City, Iraq as U.S. and Iraqi forces confront Sunni resistance Thursday.

also faced Sunni ambushes. In Buhruz, about 30 miles northeast of the capital, Sunni gunmen and soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 12th Cavalry Regiment engaged in a 20-minute firefight.

U.S. Bradley fighting vehicles fired 25mm rounds into homes shielding the gunmen, said an Associated Press reporter traveling with the unit.

No U.S. casualties were reported, and the militant toll was not known. Separately, however, a U.S. Marine was killed in combat in Iraq's western Anbar province, a Sunni militant stronghold.

Even the first steps of the security operation display the sectarian divides complicating any plan to calm

Baghdad — which is key to begin stabilizing the rest of the country.

A leader of the main Sunni bloc in parliament, Adnan al-Dulaimi, claimed the U.S.-led sweeps have "started to attack" mostly Sunni areas. "It should concentrate on those who are perpetrating the violence and terrorist acts in all districts," he said — an apparent reference to the Shiite militia stronghold of Sadr City.

Around the capital, U.S. and Iraqi soldiers set up dozens of roadway checkpoints and conducted top-to-bottom searches of vehicles and motorbikes. Waiting in a snarl of traffic at one blockade, Mohammed al-Jubouri said people are willing to

put up with delays so long as the security sweep shows some results after bombings that have killed hundreds of civilians this year.

"We are fed up with these stalling words," al-Jubouri said. "We want only the security and stabilization."

Mohammed Ali Jassim, a 40-year-old Sunni owner of a spare parts store, was hopeful the security plan will work. Jassim said he was forced to abandon his business in one of Baghdad's commercial areas, Sinak, where more than 50 people were kidnapped by gunmen disguised in military uniforms late last year. Jassim's brother was among the victims.

Pelosi warns against Iran invasion

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday that President Bush lacks the authority to invade Iran without specific approval from Congress, a fresh challenge to the commander in chief on the eve of a symbolic vote critical of his troop buildup in Iraq.

Pelosi, D-Calif., noted that Bush consistently said he supports a diplomatic resolution to differences with Iran "and I take him at his word."

At the same time, she said, "I do believe that Congress should assert

itself, though, and make it very clear that there is no previous authority for the president, any president, to go into Iran."

Pelosi spoke in an interview in the Capitol as the House moved through a third marathon day of debate on a nonbinding measure that disapproves of the military buildup in Iraq while expressing support for the troops.

Passage of the measure was expected Friday, and across the Capitol, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid unexpectedly announced plans to hold a test vote Saturday.

Partisan bickering has prevented a

Senate vote on the troop increase, with Republicans insisting on equal treatment for an alternative rules out the "elimination or reduction of funds for troops in the field."

Pelosi and other Democrats have said approval on the nonbinding measure would mark the first step in an effort by the new Democratic-controlled Congress to force Bush to change course in a war that has killed more than 3,100 U.S. troops.

Bush administration officials and their allies are resigned to House passage of the resolution and have worked in recent days to hold down defections by GOP lawmakers.

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks		
Dow Jones	12,765.01	+23.15

Up: 1,911 Same: 139 Down: 1,342 Composite Volume: 2,497,497,968

AMEX	2,168.14	-1.72
NASDAQ	2,497.10	+8.72
NYSE	9,434.96	+7.65
S&P 500	1,456.81	+1.51
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,844.98	-52.25
FTSE 100(London)	6,433.30	+12.10

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	+2.28	+1.00	44.86
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.13	+0.19	145.80
ONYX PHARM INC (ONXX)	-0.40	-0.10	24.70
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-1.41	-0.09	29.46

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.51	-0.024	4.706
13-WEEK BILL	+0.20	+0.01	5.02
30-YEAR BOND	-0.46	-0.022	4.804
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.61	-0.029	4.687

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.01	57.99
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-0.60	671.40
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-2.35	104.70

Exchange Rates	
YEN	119.395
EURO	0.761
POUND	0.512
CANADIAN \$	1.164

IN BRIEF

Chrysler restructures, cuts jobs

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — For 13,000 Chrysler workers, Feb. 14 will now be known as the Valentine's Day massacre.

On Wednesday, Chrysler announced its long-awaited restructuring, which included a 16 percent reduction in its work force, shift reductions, a plant closing and a surprise hint that the plan could lead to a DaimlerChrysler divorce.

The Chrysler plan calls for closing the company's Newark, Del., assembly plant, and reducing shifts at plants in Warren, Mich., and St. Louis. A parts distribution center near Cleveland also will be closed, and reductions could occur at other plants that make components for those facilities.

Chrysler blamed the wrenching restructuring on poor sales after a shift in consumer taste from SUVs and trucks to more fuel-efficient vehicles. Workers blamed management.

Aside from the job cuts, Chrysler's German parent, DaimlerChrysler AG, said it is looking at all options to revive its fortunes, including partners for the troubled Chrysler. Its chairman wouldn't rule out a possible sale of the U.S. operation.

Companies accommodate investors

NEW YORK — Shareholder activists are used to making noise, but not necessarily to being heard by corporate America. This year companies may begin to listen.

A surprising trend at the start of the proxy season is that companies like Applebee's, Aflac and Home Depot are doing what they can to avoid public fights with investor groups targeting them on issues such as executive pay and board elections.

That doesn't mean all corporate chieftains are going to buckle to investors' demands, but many certainly seem more willing to engage in dialogue and quash potential controversy as quickly they can.

Historically, this hasn't been the time of year where shareholders and corporate executives come together. The springtime proxy season — when both sides advance their agendas ahead of companies' annual meetings — often is when their differences are most clear.

Domestic companies restructure

Auto manufacturers announce job cuts to concentrate on competitive models

Associated Press

DETROIT — Shrink to grow. That's the message from Detroit, where all three of the traditional domestic auto companies have announced thousands of job cuts in the hopes of turning red ink to black.

But they all know they can't cut their way to profitability. In the end, they have to build more cars and trucks that people want to buy. These days, that means smaller and more fuel efficient vehicles.

"There's no doubt that the easier part of the two prongs of restructuring is cost-cutting," said Efraim Levy, senior industry analyst with Standard & Poor's. "The hard part is getting the vehicles that consumers want."

With Chrysler's announcement Wednesday that it will cut 13,000 jobs and shut down one plant and some assembly lines, all the traditional domestic manufacturers have downsized considerably in the last two years. Ford Motor Co. will cut up to 38,000 blue-collar jobs and another 14,000 salaried positions. General Motors Corp. has trimmed its salaried ranks and about 35,000 production jobs.

GM alone says it has cut about \$2,000 from the cost of building each car.

All three lost billions last year and were forced to shrink as expensive gasoline shifted demand from trucks and sport utility vehicles to smaller, more fuel efficient models, sending the Big Three on a scramble to come out with new models to try to recapture buyers who fled to Asian competitors.

The domestic brands' market share dropped from more than 70 percent in the 1980s to 53.7 percent last year, and Toyota likely will unseat Ford as the No. 2 auto seller in the U.S. this year.



Ford puts its 2007 Edge vehicles on display at a company dealership in Detroit Thursday. Ford, General Motors and Chrysler announced job cuts in hopes of restructuring.

With many of their new products already in the market, several industry analysts say the jury is still out on whether the automakers can recover.

"There are some new products that have taken hold and there are others that are questionable," said Tom Libby, J.D. Power and Associates' senior director of industry analysis.

Among the successes he points to is the Pontiac Solstice, a niche car that sits only a short time on dealer lots and has sold roughly 1,000 to 2,000 per month since its introduction in October 2005. The sleek two-seat roadster is priced around \$20,000.

"You have a combination

of this sexy appeal of a car with this low price," Libby said. "You have to have both, and that proves itself with the Solstice."

GM and the others have to duplicate that success with higher-volume vehicles like Ford's Fusion, the Saturn Aura and Dodge Caliber, Libby said.

Ford sold 142,502 Fusions last year, gradually growing its share of the midsize market to around 7 percent. The midsize Aura, on the market for only six months, is selling between 4,000 and 5,000 per month, while the Caliber small SUV, introduced in February 2006, sold just over 92,000 last year. Demand for it has been so high both in the

U.S. and overseas that dealers are complaining about shortages.

Early sales of GM's new pickup trucks, the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra, also have been good, Libby said, although the full model line is just now reaching the showrooms.

All of those are bright spots, Libby says, but they fall far short of Toyota's Camry, the largest-selling car in the U.S. with 417,104 sold.

Chrysler's new Sebring midsize car, introduced in October, got a bit of a slow start and will have a tough go because Chrysler has had few successful entries in the midsize market, Libby said.

Stocks rise after Bernanke's forecast

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street extended its February rally Thursday, growing confident that interest rates will hold steady even as Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke tempered his forecast of slowly cooling growth and inflation with a reminder that price pressures remain a concern.

The Dow Jones industrial average stretched its three-day advance to more than 200 points, the first such jump since August 15-17 last year, and had its second straight record close. The rally, triggered Tuesday by signs of an uptick in mergers and acquisitions, was given new life

Thursday by a report that the world's two largest beer makers, InBev SA and Anheuser-Busch, are considering joining forces.

The bustle of takeover talk coupled with Bernanke's testimony to Congress have helped send stocks soaring. Bernanke's comments Thursday were similar to a day earlier, but he added that inflation could once again pick up, which reminded investors that a rate increase isn't out of the question. That note of caution limited the market's climb.

The prospect of a rate hike looked pretty dim, however, after most of the economic reports released Thursday. The reports showed a big

jump in unemployment claims last week, a huge drop in industrial output in January due to large cutbacks and layoffs in the auto industry, and weaker-than-expected manufacturing in the Philadelphia region.

"The Fed is still data-driven, so we will be looking at the data in the ensuing months," said Jim Herrick, manager of equity trading at Baird & Co. "There's a strong possibility we'll continue this uptrend."

Also boosting the market were a stock buyback by Caterpillar Inc., an analyst upgrade of chip maker Qualcomm Inc., and Boeing Co. finalizing an order from United Parcel Service Inc. for 27 cargo planes.

Show

continued from page 1

into them and make a big splash."

While the event has the beginnings of a campus tradition in its third year, Woodward acknowledges that not all members of the campus community embrace the annual performance — something she said she hopes to change.

"I would like those who may not embrace this type of performance and dialogue to come with an open mind and heart and truly see this production for what it is," she said.

SMC Monologues faculty advisor Catherine Pittman mirrored Woodward's mission of promoting the necessity of the Monologues within the community — a production she deemed more powerful than "The Vagina Monologues."

"On this campus there is no better way to learn about the diversity of Saint Mary's women's experiences with their own sexuality," she said.

While Pittman stressed "The Vagina Monologues" are not banned on the College campus, she said the SMC Monologues' unique approach has received praise from both Saint Mary's administration and Enslar.

This powerful performance has received a lot of

national attention, she said, and has been presented at academic conferences in New York, California and Wisconsin.

"We have been directly contacted by colleges interested in following our model," she said. "In fact, one college even requested that we allow them to perform some of our monologues."

As the monologues highlight the diverse experiences of Saint Mary's students, both Pittman and Woodward said the performance also works to demolish stereotypes.

"The production has a potential to open one's eyes to what a Saint Mary's woman is really all about and debunk the stereotypes," Woodward said.

The SMC Monologues were the perfect way for Woodward to channel her interest in women's issues, she said, and those involved with the production are "doing nothing wrong or immoral. We're telling the stories written by the community."

Although Pittman acknowledged "the vast majority of individuals on campus are supportive or neutral about the Monologues," it is the skillful writing of the student submissions that has gained the SMC Monologues respect amongst the faculty, she said.

"Faculty have seen it as a production reflecting

women's leadership and academic freedom," she said — the exact issue that has drawn the Vice President of Student Affairs Karen Johnson to attend the weekend performance.

"College campuses are the most appropriate places to share ideas and exchange points of view," she said. "It's all about learning."

The learning process began when College faculty, staff, students and alumnae anonymously submitted their personal stories during November, December and January.

A panel comprised of faculty, staff and students evaluated the 15 submissions and chose eight new monologues for this year's performance, Pittman said.

While the audience anticipates eight new monologues, Pittman said some of the "classics" from past years will be included in the performance.

"We couldn't do without the famous 'Valerie Vagina,'" she said.

The performance — sponsored by Feminists United and the Women's Resource Center — will take place Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium. There is a suggested \$3 admission donation for the S.O.S rape crisis center at Madison Center in South Bend.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

Tuition

continued from page 1

the lowest the University had seen in 40 years at 4.5 percent.

University President Father John Jenkins announced the tuition hike to parents and guardians of students returning next year in a letter mailed last week. In the letter, he explained that Notre Dame needed to deal with the "fiscal challenges" faced by all universities.

He explained that Notre Dame needed the revenue from higher educational costs to address the "wages of more than 4,000 University employees" and the "acceleration of technological change."

Jenkins also attributed the increase to the University's commitment to maintaining existing facilities and opening new ones, such as the new Jordan Hall of Science.

In the letter, Jenkins also affirmed that the University "strives to negotiate these obstacles while continuing to provide the unique educational

experience so widely admired by our peers and so keenly cherished by our graduates."

While addressing the continuing concerns parents, University officers and trustees have about finances, Jenkins said that the success of Notre Dame graduates and the high retention rate points to the high performance of the University.

The University has a retention rate of 98 percent from freshman to sophomore year. Ninety-six percent of students graduate on time and 99 percent of graduates pursuing "jobs, graduate school or volunteer service are able to find career opportunities within one year or less of graduation," according to a University press release.

"Beyond graduation, our success is further demonstrated by the fact that 92 percent of our alumni indicate that they are pleased with their time at Notre Dame and found great value in the experience," Jenkins said.

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu

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African nations agree with France

Associated Press

CANNES, France — Looking to end the crisis in Darfur, France won agreement on Thursday from three involved African nations that they would not support armed rebel movements on each other's territories.

Sudan, Chad and Central African Republic made the commitment in a declaration signed Thursday night, on the sidelines of an African summit that France hosted in the Riviera city of Cannes.

There were still no signs that Sudan was any closer to agreeing to a key international demand: that it accept the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur, its western region where fighting has killed more than 200,000 people since 2003.

However, French President Jacques Chirac's spokesman hailed the African nations' pledge and their call for continued United Nations and African Union involvement as an indication that they don't want the crisis to worsen.

"We hope that all those who took part in this meeting did so because they don't want the status quo to establish itself," said the spokesman, Jerome Bonnafont.

France and other powers fear the Darfur violence is spilling over and could engulf the entire region. Tensions have mounted as Sudan, Chad and Central African Republic accused one another of supporting each other's rebels.

The mere fact that presidents Omar al-Bashir of Sudan, Idriss Deby of Chad and Francois Bozize of Central African Republic met was in itself seen as noteworthy.

"There is clear suspicion between the three countries and a clear willingness from African countries, in particular the African Union, and the interna-

tional community to dispel it," said Bonnafont.

Whether their pledge would have real significance was open to question. Deby and al-Bashir signed a similar agreement a year ago to normalize diplomatic relations and deny refuge to each other's rebel groups.

Chad has accused Sudan of backing rebels in the country. Central African Republic also has alleged that Sudan supported a rebellion there. Sudan denied both charges and has accused Chad of backing rebels in Darfur.

More than 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million have fled their homes since 2003, when Darfur tribes took up arms against the Sudanese government, accusing it of long neglect and discrimination. The Arab-dominated government responded with a military offensive in which the janjaweed militia have committed widespread atrocities. The U.S. government has described the violence as genocide.

A 7,000-strong African Union peacekeeping force has been trying to quell the ongoing violence, but the force is underfunded and ill-equipped. Al-Bashir rejected a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for 22,000 U.N. peacekeepers to replace the AU force in Darfur. But he also has sent mixed signals about a joint U.N.-AU force.

The United Nations and African Union envoys to Darfur said on Thursday that they were "encouraged" about prospects for peace in the country's troubled region after two days of talks with factions in Sudan.

The two — U.N.'s special envoy tasked with re-energizing the Darfur peace process, Jan Eliasson, and AU's Salim Ahmed Salim — have been in Sudan this week for meetings with Khartoum officials, rebel leaders and stops in Darfur.

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After debate, inaction can't continue

When questions arose last spring about sponsorship and endorsement of potentially controversial student productions, debate erupted. Outraged faculty members spouted off against the University administration, vehemently defending academic freedom and the right of academic departments to sponsor events like the "The Vagina Monologues."

Ten weeks later, University President Father John Jenkins released a statement intended to close the charged and often polarized discussion that he began. That statement said the "Monologues" would not be banned on campus, as long as they were performed in an academic setting with departmental sponsorship. Faculty members — at least those willing to comment publicly — widely regarded Jenkins' decision as moderate, expressing satisfaction that academic freedom was preserved.

So one year later, why are academic departments so slow to jump on board with the upcoming "Monologues" and "Classics," last weekend's follow-up to both "Gay and Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Spectatorship and Narratives" and, before that, the Queer Film Festival?

This year's installment of "The Vagina Monologues" will be performed off campus because organizers say they can't get sponsorship. And "Classics," while supported financially by the Film, Television and Theatre department and the Gay and Lesbian Alumni of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, underwent a name change because faculty warned organizers

against using the words "gay" and "lesbian" in its title.

At this point, it's unclear why departments seem hesitant to sponsor. It's possible student organizers just got a slow start in asking for support. It's possible other priorities are taking precedent. It's also possible department chairs are engaging in a form of self-censorship, tired of arguing with the University about the place of Eve Ensler's sexually explicit play on a Catholic campus.

Whatever the case, it comes off as strange that departments wouldn't fully exercise the right they fought so hard to protect. And if that's the future for these productions — off campus, or just unnoticed — it will hurt the entire University community.

As he issued his closing statement last spring, Jenkins commended students and faculty members for engaging in thoughtful, concerned debate. Unfortunately, that debate now seems to be lost. Maybe the campus is tired. But if Notre Dame lets these sources of contention slip under the radar — if departments aren't willing to sponsor events that generate discussion — everyone loses.

Without dialogue and dissent, Notre Dame lacks vibrancy. It doesn't matter what people think of the "Monologues," or "Classics," or any other student-run event that presents ideas in opposition to Church teaching. It just matters that they think about them.

That starts with departments, however. And if they don't remember why academic freedom is important, no one will.

The Observer Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Relationship' controversy

Relationship based on tradition, history

In response to the Feb. 13 column "Saint Mary's — we need to talk", Jonathan Klingler does make a valid point. But I have come to wonder what his intentions were. Yes, I would agree that the relationship between Notre Dame and Saint Mary's can be considered "friends with benefits." With that being said, this relationship has lasted many years and has operated in a seemingly peaceful co-existence. I believe that this relationship has even become part of the tradition of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's. Since both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's emphasize the importance of tradition, my one question is, why attack this historical aspect of our schools?

Laura Mullen
freshman
Le Mans Hall
Feb. 13

Don't discuss independence, prove it

In response to the responses to Klingler's thought-provoking article, I would like to applaud the women of Saint Mary's for taking a stand for the integrity of a prestigious women's institution. I believe that Saint Mary's is an upstanding college that produces amazing women. I can vouch for this statement because I have a Saint Mary's roommate of my own, who is absolutely one of my best friends and a fabulous woman.

In the spirit of these letters, however, I am moved to support Klingler's article, in that it addresses some serious questions that plague most Notre Dame

women. There have been many "unfounded" accusations against Saint Mary's students, claiming that they are able to take advantage of Notre Dame resources that they may not have been able to otherwise, while we as Notre Dame students do not reap the same benefits, i.e.: Notre Dame classes, football ticket access, men, dining halls, concerts, clubs, etc. So, in order to resolve this conflict of opinions, I propose an amiable solution.

I agree with Anne Mahoney that Saint Mary's should focus on its own unique strengths and build a strong foundation on them. In that spirit, I believe that to be something that most Saint Mary's students would want to uphold. Why not attempt a change?

I challenge the fall class of 2007 to try something new. Show your pride. Take advantage of all that Saint Mary's has to offer: refuse Notre Dame football tickets, limit access to your study abroad programs and O'Laughlin Auditorium, and show the strength of your own sports and clubs.

Don't get me wrong, I respect Saint Mary's. But if you really advocate for "separate and proud," prove us Domers wrong. I know you can.

Cristina Munoz
senior
off campus
Feb. 15

Football tickets worth extra fee

In reading yesterday's responses, I was most irritated at the football ticket debate. Here is a team that, regardless of national ranking or record, sells out every game. For every person sitting in

that stadium there are countless who would gladly pay double or more for the opportunity. We are extremely lucky to be given the privilege to buy season tickets, a luxury that many other universities don't offer students. Of course, Notre Dame students do pay a (constantly increasing) price for the privilege of a Notre Dame education. Perhaps this is why I find it a bit aggravating that there are Saint Mary's students with much better seats than my own.

What really gets me is that Saint Mary's students act as if they are not being done a generous favor, and if a \$60 additional fee is the price they pay for the chance to see Notre Dame football, they should be willing to pay it and not try and use this policy against Notre Dame. It really bothers me that they would bring up this issue, of all things, in an argument over their contributions to this "partnership." If they don't want to pay the fee, I am sure there are thousands of alumni who can fill these seats.

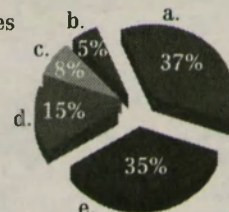
On a personal note, as a resident of Keenan Hall, I am grateful that Saint Mary's allows us use of O'Laughlin Auditorium for one week each year. We are charged a fee (which I believe is in excess of \$60) and the College maintains the right to censor material it deems unreasonable. Fair enough — we don't complain. But all hard feelings aside, we cannot allow us to lose sight of the fact that they are "separate but proud". I guess they are just less "separate" during football season.

Matt Lind
sophomore
Keenan Hall
Feb. 14

OBSERVER POLL

What was the most important factor in your vote for student body president?

	% of votes	# of votes
a. Student Life	37	96
b. Community relations	5	12
c. Student government experience	8	20
d. Other	15	40
e. I didn't vote.	35	92



This poll is based on the result of 260 votes at <http://www.ndsmcobserver.com/>

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Egotism is the anesthetic that dulls the pain of stupidity."

Frank Leahy
former Notre Dame football coach

A winning strategy for both Hillary, Rudy

Americans have become as outrageously fickle with political specifics as they are forgetful of generalities. This primary presidential election cycle is rampant with negativity. More often voters cling onto insignificant impressions of candidates while ignoring the overall breadth of a candidate's character and background. Pollsters call this the beer choice — which candidate would you prefer to be with to drink a beer.



Gary Caruso

Capitol
 Comments

Ironically, the primary system is as fickle. Retired General Wesley Clark lost the Democratic nomination in 2004, simply by entering the campaign late and missing the Iowa caucuses. Conflicted Iowa Democrats sought a nominee with strong military credentials to combat terrorists, but also wanted someone who opposed the invasion of Iraq. Before Iowa, Senator John Kerry's campaign floundered on virtual life support while former Governor Howard Dean had yet to implode. As the nation's first contest, Iowa voted for the only military choice on the ballot which gave great momentum to Kerry's lifeless campaign. The rest is history.

As the U.S. House of Representatives concludes its debate today with a vote to disagree with President Bush's new military "surge" tactic, Senator Hillary

Clinton finds herself on the defensive against hard-core antiwar Democrats. Similarly, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani fends off Republican conservatives who oppose his co-called "liberal" stands regarding abortion and gay rights. Coincidentally, both Clinton and Giuliani have an identical yet perfectly legitimate answer — they are New Yorkers.

New Hampshire Democrats recently peppered Clinton in search of an apology. They wanted her to admit that her vote in favor of authorizing the president to go to war with Iraq was a mistake. Clinton replies that she "regrets" her vote and "takes responsibility for her vote," but that the president "misled and mismanaged" the war effort. She further proclaims that if she was president at the time, she "would not have gone to war."

Clinton's firsthand experience in the White House gives her a view of presidential reality from the other side of the looking glass. In her mind, a president needs and deserves the authority to fight aggression. She is correct to assert that as president she would not have marched to war because she would have no neo-conservatives masaging intelligence to invade Iraq. However, to the dismay of staunchly antiwar Democrats who fixate on nothing less than an apology, she will not admit that her vote was a mistake.

Clinton need not apologize. Other senators whose votes reek of cowardly personal political expediency fell prey to the patriotic orgy whipped up by the

White House. Clinton, on the other hand, had no choice but to rally New York with her vote. None could criticize her when she represented the land which cradled the World Trade Center's human remains and smoldering wreckage.

Giuliani faces a similar Republican onslaught of criticism and cynicism, but over his domestic stands on gay rights and a woman's right to choose an abortion. His critics come primarily from the Jerry Falwell self-proclaimed social conservative wing of the party who high jacked the party a quarter century ago by defining "conservatism" with a Baptist-twisted political bent. Yet Giuliani is not the only Republican in their cross hairs. They also distrust Senator John McCain's motives and harbor negative feelings that stem from his 2000 campaign.

Interestingly, the godfather of modern conservatism, the late Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater whose seat ironically McCain currently holds, never ascribed to Falwell's type of conservatism. Rather, Goldwater's sensible beliefs lie in limited government — so limited that it recognizes everyone's personal equality and freedom, including gay rights and a woman's right to an abortion.

Giuliani, however, can use Clinton's exact response. Giuliani is a New Yorker who presided over an inclusive and tolerant city. He became America's mayor when his city and our nation survived a tragedy. Republican voters should not ignore Giuliani's evenhand-

ed administration, nor the immense breadth of his skills by foolishly following Falwell's narrow rhetorical red herrings.

No candidate, nor anyone in this nation who advocates equality, will force Falwell to marry same sex couples. Luckily, today's generation of college students will within 20 years ultimately squash the narrow-minded tactics of the Falwells in this country. Students today accept domestic rights for gays as well as interracial dating and marriage. Moreover, they flock to Senator Barack Obama's presidential campaign because they hold little of the prejudices of older generations.

New Yorkers Clinton and Giuliani need never apologize for representing a progressive constituency who cherish freedom, tolerance and acceptance. Democrats should focus on Clinton's experience and ability to sidestep on-the-job training. Republicans should weigh their candidates' experiences without patronizing the fringes of their party. It is true that if you make it in New York, you can make it anywhere. Clinton and Giuliani both have the right stuff.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a political strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotline@aol.com

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kaleidoscope McDaniels proves its poor taste

I am happy to be living in a country where one's freedom of speech is closely guarded. Yet there comes a point when a publication must decide which speech must be permitted and which speech simply does not advance any good but rather is harmful. In the case of one comic strip featured in The Observer, I feel this time has come.

I am referring to Kaleidoscope McDaniels, the comic strip by Liam Moran which debuted this spring semester. The strip often toes the line of acceptability, and it is in fact this very pushing of the envelope that provokes shock and therefore laughter. Readers cannot help but recall Jocular, the comic by Erik Powers and Alex White which often pushed this same envelope. Many readers took offense at this strip, and its very offensiveness became its comic drive.

Yet readers deserve something more. The comic strip is a kind of incidental, bonus feature of the paper, but it does serve an important role. It can poke fun at the goings on of student life on campus in a way few other genres can. Some may remember Fourth and Inches, a strip from a few years ago, which often struck a chord with students because of its careful observation of life on campus. The truly talented artist's work is capable of being humorous in such a way that draws upon the reader's experience and "tells it like it is."

I and many others feel that Kaleidoscope McDaniels simply does not do this. Its use of concepts and refer-

ences bordering on the obscene or — at the very least — illegal or immoral seeks to draw a laugh through its shock value. For example, on Jan. 25, I saw a girl in the South Dining Hall lobby point to the comic and say, "I can't believe they'd print that." Picking up a newspaper, I noticed Kaleidoscope McDaniels which was depicting a character obviously representing Fr. Jenkin smoking a joint of marijuana in Uganda, referring to the recent McAlarney incident. Is this humor, or simply the theatre of the ridiculous? What is the difference between shock and libel?

The recent comic about the Eating Disorder Conference is another example, which Eleanor Bradley responds to in her Feb. 9 letter, "Conference appreciated, jokes aren't." I assume the author did not intend to attack people who have eating disorders, or even to make fun of them, but when playing with fire, one often gets burned. A publication must ask itself if this kind of humor is really helpful to the Notre Dame-Saint Mary's community, or if it rather does more harm than good. It is really a matter of what kind of publication the Observer aspires to be and what standards it wishes to set. Tabloids, of course, publish things far worse than this comic strip. Is that where our student newspaper is headed?

Vu Nguyen
 freshman
 Alumni Hall
 Feb. 14

Klingler, let's talk

As committed members of the Saint Mary's College community, we feel it is necessary to respond to Jonathan Klingler's article. ("Saint Mary's — we need to talk," Feb. 13) Aside from the article's factual inaccuracies, we are confused by the author's spiteful attitude toward Saint Mary's autonomy. While we recognize the resources Notre Dame offers to the South Bend community, the endeavors and accomplishments of Saint Mary's should not be slighted nor depreciated.

The Princeton Review recently ranked Saint Mary's a top Midwestern college. U.S. News and World Report has ranked Saint Mary's the No. 1 Comprehensive College in the Midwest for 12 of the past 13 years. There are currently three Saint Mary's alumnae serving in the United States House of Representatives. Last year, Saint Mary's offered nearly \$27 million in scholarships to ninety percent of the student body.

The average class size of 15 fosters intellectual collaboration between students and professors, including SSTAR grants for shared summer research. Our nursing, education and social work programs are nationally recognized and accredited. Saint Mary's offers unique academic courses such as medicinal chemistry, humanistic studies and women's studies.

In addition to our enriching academic environment, Saint Mary's is dedicated to social awareness and community involvement. Student leaders organize and host the annual Dance Marathon fundraiser for Riley Children's Hospital. The Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership offers funding for study abroad programs, self-designed student projects and Bridging Grants with the South Bend community. The Office of Civic and Social Engagement facilitates volunteer work with S.O.S., The Women's Care Center, YWCA and St. Margaret's House, giving Saint Mary's women a heightened social consciousness of the needs and talents of all women.

A healthy relationship includes both individual expression and mutual respect. To avoid perpetuating the cycle of fruitless articles that fail to wholly represent either institution, we would like to propose a forum where we could dialogue in greater depth. We have only one question: your place or ours?

Grace Guebert
 Kirsten Kensingler
 Rachael Stowe
 seniors
 Saint Mary's
 Feb. 13



TOM HANCULAK/Observer Graphic

'THE QUEEN' PAINTS SUCCINCT PORTRAIT OF MODERN CONTROVERSY

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

Editor's Note: This is the fifth in a five-part series on the 2007 Oscar nominees for Best Picture.

"The Queen" is much like the British Royal Family itself — elegant and old-fashioned, but with an air of importance and respectability that makes it impossible to ignore. It has been an overwhelming critical success (it rests among the best reviewed films of the year), and is a legitimate contender for the Best Picture Oscar.

While Princess Diana never appears as a character (except through archive footage), the pall of her shadow hangs heavily over "The Queen." The film explores the days after the death of Princess Di, deeply examining how the royal family dealt with the tragedy. Though the royal family believes that private mourning is appropriate, the public demands an outward display of emotion. Protocol and tradition clash with the need for progressive modernity, and it is up to Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren) to compromise with Prime Minister Tony Blair (Michael Sheen) in order to maintain the family's respectability and relevance.

The Queen



Director: Stephen Frears
Writer: Peter Morgan
Starring: Helen Mirren, James Cromwell and Michael Sheen

"The Queen" is not, primarily, a film about politics. Instead, it is a simple (though not simplistic) story about the fear of change. In abandoning the political for the personal, director Stephen Frears provides great insight into a woman whose entire life revolves around tradition, and the anguished struggle she faces in potentially breaking that tradition. It is this focus that elevates "The Queen" and allows it to transcend its origins — many films like this feel like award fodder, but "The Queen" has more on its mind, and its breadth in expressing itself is remarkable.

Helen Mirren has essentially already locked up the Best Actress Oscar race with this film, as she gives a pitch-perfect performance as Elizabeth II. Balancing her loyalty to tradition with an understanding for the need to change and modernize, Mirren manages to humanize Elizabeth and give dimension to the Queen's seemingly impenetrable exterior. Michael Sheen is quite good as Tony Blair, and James "That'll Do, Pig" Cromwell is memorable as the curmudgeonly Prince Philip.

Frears' directing is excellent, and he intercuts real-life footage with the film quite well. There is very little flash to his directorial style, but his restraint and control are remarkable. There are several occasions in which he seems to instinctively know that the writing and acting will carry a scene, letting the material guide itself.

"The Queen" is a bit heavy on symbolism, but its understated style fits the material quite well and prevents it from feeling too overwrought. It is to the filmmakers' credit that they never let the film drag, which may account for its relative brevity. At 97 minutes, "The Queen" is a lean and



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Helen Mirren, foreground, stars in Stephen Frears' "The Queen" as British monarch Elizabeth II. The film poses difficult questions regarding tradition, pomp and emotion.

effective picture that doesn't overstay its welcome. It would be easy for a film like this to become ostentatiously bloated, but Frears is smart enough not to let it get bogged down — it remains focused throughout, and the director is smart enough to allow Mirren to dominate almost every scene. Thus, thankfully, the film feels much less pretentious than might be expected. The characters are fully fleshed out, and none of them feel like caricatures. Screenwriter Peter Morgan has an ear for dialogue, making even the most formal of language sound natural and comprehensi-

ble, and the acting is top-notch throughout. A film like "The Queen" is difficult to make, if only because the event is still so recent. Yet Frears' film hits all the right notes — it's a human story about a person struggling to accept a changing world, and the filmmakers and Mirren clearly understand this. That "The Queen" is a good film is itself a feat, but that it is a great film is nothing less than an extraordinary accomplishment.

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FILM, HISTORY MAKE COMPLICATED BEDFELLOWS

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

Princess Diana's passing was less than a decade ago, yet already "The Queen" is in theaters. All of the principle characters in the film (Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Tony Blair) are all still alive, which gives the film a much different historical feel than it might otherwise maintain. Because the event is so recent, it's almost impossible to give "The Queen" a fully historical perspective, especially since we equate "history" with events that occurred long ago.

Though numerous films are made

about real-life events, they often feel much different when made so soon after the event has taken place — this is perhaps why they often strike a chord with audiences. A film like "United 93," made only five years after 9/11, resonates much differently to a contemporary audience than it would had it been made years from now.

Similarly, a movie like "All the President's Men," which follows the Watergate investigation, was made in 1976, only a few short years after the scandal itself — for American audiences in 1976, the event itself was still very fresh. This contextualizes the film in a much different way than it would with a more detached audience.

Thus, it becomes much more difficult to judge such films based on their cinematic merits alone, and it becomes even more difficult to discern how audience reactions are affected by time and context.

For example, would "Titanic" have been as successful, or perhaps even more successful, had the film been made only a few years after the boat actually sunk? Or did the passage of time radically change our perception of the event, allowing the love story between Leo and Kate — rather than the sinking itself — to dominate the film?

Fifty years from now, audiences will look at films like "The Queen" and "Black Hawk Down" much differently. Without the context of an event so close to our time, they simply become historical movies, without contemporary perspectives weighing them down.

This detachment allows for much greater critical clarity — today's audiences can easily see that both "Triumph of the Will" (a 1933 Nazi propaganda film) and "Birth of a Nation" (a 1915 film that celebrates the Ku Klux Klan) are technical marvels, but morally reprehensible.

"The Queen" is no doubt a great movie, but its contemporary subject matter and modern content make it a

difficult film to assess on its cinematic merits alone. Like "Schindler's List" or "Saving Private Ryan," to criticize the movie seems to be criticizing the content, which is especially difficult considering the sensitive (and rightfully so) nature of the stories and history associated with those films. It is important to detach from the context and judge the film itself, because different movies can approach the same topic from a variety of angles.

For example, both "United 93" and "World Trade Center" deal with 9/11, but each does so in its own way. The former takes a stark, almost documentary-style approach to the subject matter, while the latter is more characteristic of traditional Hollywood-style storytelling. While the strengths and weaknesses of each film may be categorized within the context of the tragedy, this is not, ultimately, how we should assess a picture.

History grants clarity, and distance from an event will allow us to see it much more clearly. As Elizabeth II makes clear to Tony Blair in director Stephen Frears' film, time will tell how history views Her Majesty — so too will time tell how history views "The Queen."

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Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Director Oliver Stone's "World Trade Center" is one of several films to chronicle recent events. The contemporary subject matter complicates the film's perspective.

DPAC SPOTLIGHT

'Rashômon' showcases complex storytelling

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

A twisting narrative that retells the same story from several different perspectives, 1951's "Rashômon" ("In the Woods") was notable for its innovative storytelling style. The first of legendary director Akira Kurosawa's major works, "Rashômon" was a huge international success and, essentially, put the filmmaker on the global map.

The film follows three men in 12th century Japan — a woodcutter (Takashi Shimura), a bandit (Toshiro Mifune) and a priest (Minoru Chiaki) — who take refuge during a rainstorm. As the men begin talking, they retell of a bizarre trial that involves a murdered man and a rape victim — and, as it turns out, the bandit is the accused. All three involved in the trial retell their version of the story (the murdered man through a psychic medium), each of which is equally plausible, though the truth seems to lie somewhere in between. The woodcutter, however, has secrets of his own, which are slowly revealed over the course of the film.

An intriguing rumination on human nature, "Rashômon" is a deeply philosophical piece, matched only by Kurosawa's "Ikiru" in terms of elegant humanism. Kurosawa has a lot to say

regarding the complexities of the human condition, especially in the wake of World War II, but he cloaks his ideas in the film's plotting, which is fascinating and engaging throughout the work.

"Rashômon" is anchored by the performance of Kurosawa muse Toshiro Mifune, who remains the ultimate interpreter of the director's narratives. Kurosawa's energetic directorial style meshes synergistically with Mifune's strong performance, lending to some truly powerful scenes.

The director's style and sense of composition are both on full display here, and the story is among the most intriguing and humanistic in Kurosawa's oeuvre. At a mere 83 minutes, "Rashômon" moves at a remarkably quick and energetic pace,

especially when contrasted with some of the director's later works, which tend to be much lengthier. Kurosawa's famed "The Seven Samurai," for example, runs 204 minutes. Kurosawa co-wrote, directed and edited the film him-

self, adapting it from a short story by Ryunosuke Akutagawa.

The influence of "Rashômon" is incalculable, with its long-lasting impact being felt in a wide gamut of films, from "The Usual Suspects" to "Hero." Those two films in particular, for example, elect to use a similar twisting narrative style to



Photo courtesy of en.wikipedia.org

Famed Japanese director Akira Kurosawa's 1950 film "Rashômon" profiles the murder of a samurai from four different points of view in 12th century feudal Japan.



Rashômon
Director: Akira Kurosawa
Writers: Ryunosuke Akutagawa (short story) and Akira Kurosawa
Starring: Toshiro Mifune, Takashi Shimura and Minoru Chiaki

that featured in "Rashômon." As a director, Kurosawa's influence is felt by almost every major figure in modern filmmaking, to the extent that Sergio Leone's "For a Fistful of Dollars" is based on "Yojimbo" and George Lucas' "Star Wars" is loosely based on "The Hidden Fortress." His particular brand of swashbuckling swordplay and elegant philosophy, however, remain nearly unparalleled.

Kurosawa would go on to do bigger and arguably better things — among them the masterpieces "Ikiru" (1952), "The Seven Samurai" (1954), "Yojimbo" (1961) and "Ran" (1985) — but "Rashômon" was the

director's critical breakthrough. It won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival in 1951, bringing a new global awareness to Japanese cinema. Along with Yasujiro Ozu, Kurosawa remains one of the great Japanese directors. His skills are in rare form throughout "Rashômon," which is inarguably his first masterpiece.

"Rashômon" will be screened on Saturday at 3pm in the Browning Cinema of the DPAC as part of the PAC Classic 100.

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CD REVIEW

Mitchell's latest appeals to fans of modern folk

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

Some music rocks, some displays brilliant composition and some is perfect for spending a rainy day sitting and looking out a window. Anais Mitchell's latest album, "The Brightness," is definitely of the third variety.

With her girlish, innocent voice, complemented by piano and folk melodies, her songs calm listeners and remind them that electric guitars are not always the best option. Appropriately released on Ani DiFranco's Righteous Babe Records, Mitchell presents an authenticity and quiet passion absent in so many modern records.

The two opening tracks on "The Brightness" tweak the listening process by slowly delving into emotional catastrophe and then ending abruptly. Any form of catharsis is denied, a tactic that keeps ears perked and leaves the listener wondering what comes next when the final emotional release is expected. The sound may create an auditory experience simi-

lar to listening to any random folk recording out today. However, Mitchell does delve into cliché at times, as she calls herself a "beautiful fly on the wall" in the album's third track, "Namesake." Contradictions like this abound throughout the album, making it a prime example of first-class song writing that is both familiar and alien at the same time.

Songs such as "Shenandoah" lilt through their melodies as guitars are gently plucked and notes are sung. Bringing to mind an association with nature that melds perfectly with folk melody chains on the album. This may sound like some form of hippie-minded technique from New England (Mitchell is a Vermont native), but the sincerity inherent in Mitchell's vocal style quickly discounts any political haranguing except to the most cynical.

One track in particular, however, challenges modern political situations. "Song of the Magi" makes references to the birth of Jesus in what is now the West Bank. Pulling imagery from both the Bible and the modern reality of the West Bank today, she weaves a story about

shepherds praying and passing by checkpoints. Mitchell does crawl meanderingly on top of her soapbox with a political message decrying violence in the region, but she alludes to a general belief in non-violence that mostly refrains from taking sides.



Photo courtesy of anaismitchell.com

Singer-songwriter Anais Mitchell further develops her folk stylings with her latest release, "The Brightness." The album exemplifies folk's characteristic simplicity.

Rather, Mitchell calls for a return to the concept of nonviolence that many say Jesus delivered.

"Hobo's Song" is the most energetic track on the album — if any of the tracks can be labeled "energetic" — that adds a bluegrass mix to the pervasive folk aesthetic. The lyrics are well wrought, but Mitchell's vocal stylizations don't mix as well with the song's bluegrass elements. Her voice is far more conducive to the album's overall neo-folk feel. Rather than trying to sound punchy, Mitchell would do well to keep to her folk-minded warbling and leave the bluegrass to those with the graver voices.

Mitchell thrives with a style of acoustic strumming and singing that trickles

across the notes like a stream over pebbles. Those of more rock-minded musical persuasions, however, might want to look elsewhere. For listeners seeking to expand their horizons and explore music that may never see a radio dial (because it's too good), "The Brightness" is an excellent choice. The first half of the album is for the melancholy in us all, and the latter half piques intellectual interest as the songwriting delves into more complex and complicated themes and images. "The Brightness" is a well-made album from this rising folk star.

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Anais Mitchell
The Brightness
Righteous Babe Records




Recommended tracks: 'Song of the Magi,'
'Shenandoah,' 'Namesake' and 'Your Fonder Heart'

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Langhorne leads No. 6 Maryland over FSU

Top-ranked Duke has no trouble with BC; UGA wins in overtime

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Crystal Langhorne scored 14 points and grabbed a dozen rebounds and sixth-ranked Maryland defeated Florida State 74-60 on Thursday night.

Marissa Coleman and Kristi Toliver also had 14 points to pace Maryland's balanced scoring attack. Shay Doron adding 12 and Laura Harper had 11 points and 12 rebounds.

With the win, the Terrapins took sole possession of third place in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Maryland (25-3, 9-3 ACC) took the lead for good at 38-35 on Toliver's 3-point basket 2:35 into the second half and built it to double digits with 10:02 left on a mid-range jumper by Toliver, who leads the country in 3-point shooting percentage.

Florida State, which lost to No. 2 North Carolina 80-59 on Monday night, led 30-29 at the half. Maryland made just 2 of 8 tries from 3-point range and missed 6 of 7 free throws before the break.

The Seminoles (18-8, 7-4) had their last lead at 35-33 on a jump shot by Alicia Gladden, who led Florida State with 13 points. Britany Miller added 12 despite being in foul trouble all night.

Maryland's losses are all to ACC opponents — unbeaten, top-ranked Duke, once-beaten No. 2 North Carolina and Georgia Tech.

Duke 73, Boston College 52

Freshman Bridgette Mitchell scored a season-high 20 points to lead top-ranked Duke past Boston College.

Wanisha Smith added 13 points for the Blue Devils (27-0, 12-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), who have won at least 12 conference games for 10 straight seasons, an ACC record.

The Blue Devils now turn their attention toward a challenging final week of the regular season. Duke travels to sixth-ranked Maryland on Sunday, then returns home to face second-ranked North Carolina on Feb. 25. All three teams made the Final Four last season.

Kathrin Ress scored 16 points for the Eagles (12-13, 2-9).

The Eagles had ended a four-game losing streak with a win against Miami last weekend, but trailed the entire way in this one and never threatened Duke's perfect record.

By halftime, Mitchell had 14

points — the freshman's first double-figure game since December and just her fourth all season — on 7-for-8 shooting in 10 minutes. At one point, Mitchell scored 10 straight points for Duke, helping the Blue Devils take a 36-19 lead on a putback with 5:55 left in the half.

Middle Tennessee State 66 Florida International 59

Chrissy Givens scored 17 points and had nine rebounds to lead No. 17 Middle Tennessee to a victory over Florida International.

The Blue Raiders (24-3, 16-0 Sun Belt Conference) won their 21st straight game, the second-longest active streak in the nation behind No. 1 Duke, which is 27-0.

MTSU was able to hold off several Golden Panthers' runs in the second half after building a 21-point lead with 17:47 remaining.

Marquita Adley scored a game-high 23 points to lead Florida International (15-9, 9-6). Adley hit 10 of 11 from the field and grabbed seven rebounds. She scored eight points as part of a 26-11 run, cutting the Blue Raiders' lead to 55-49 with 6:37 left.

Middle Tennessee used a 9-3 run over the next three minutes to push its lead back to 12.

Givens led three Blue Raiders in double digits. Amber Holt scored 15 and Krystle Horton added 12, including 10 in the second half, and nine rebounds.

Middle Tennessee never trailed in the game. The Blue Raiders hit their first five 3-point attempts, building a 24-11 lead with 11:32 remaining in the first half.

Georgia 82, Kentucky 72 (OT)

Tasha Humphrey had a game-high 28 points and 10 rebounds as No. 11 Georgia survived with an victory against.

Humphrey had 12 points in the first half and scored 10 of Georgia's first 13 points.

Five different Bulldogs scored in double figures and in overtime as Georgia outscored Kentucky 16-6 in the extra period.

Georgia's Janese Hardrick finished with 12 points, six of them in overtime.

The Bulldogs (22-5, 9-3 Southeastern Conference), who led by as many as 11 points in the second half, have won three straight games.

The Wildcats (16-11, 5-7) took their only lead in overtime, 70-69, when Sarah Elliott made a jumper, but the Bulldogs answered with seven straight points.

Tied 64-64 in regulation,



Duke forward Bridgette Mitchell, left, battles for a loose ball with Boston College forward Kaydia Kentish during the second half of Duke's 73-52 win Thursday night.

Kentucky's Sam Mahoney missed a jumper and Hardrick was fouled grabbing the rebound, sending her to the line for two free throws with 10.4 seconds left.

Hardrick made both giving Georgia a 66-64 lead before Kentucky's Carly Ormerod made a driving layup with 5.1 seconds left to tie it at 66-66.

On the Bulldogs' last possession in regulation, Hardrick missed a turnaround jumper forcing overtime.

Mahoney finished with a team-high 23 points and Elliott had 17 for the Wildcats, who had four players score in double figures.

Michigan State 68 Northwestern 63

Victoria Lucas-Perry had 19 of her 25 points in the first half and Michigan State held on to beat Northwestern.

Lucas-Perry hit seven of her first eight shots, including four 3-pointers, but the 24th-ranked Spartans (20-6, 11-2 Big Ten) let a 20-point lead dwindle to two twice in the final minutes.

Allyssa DeHaan added 12 points and three blocks for the Spartans, and Aisha Jefferson had 10 points.

A.J. Glasauer led the Wildcats

(7-20, 1-13) with 18 points, and Kristin Cartwright, Beth Marshall and Julie Bielawski added 10 apiece.

Lucas-Perry had scored three more points than the Northwestern team late in the first half. But the Wildcats scored the last eight points of the period to get to 36-24 and dominated the last 20 minutes by shooting 64 percent from the field.

Northwestern cut the Spartans' lead to 60-58 and 62-60, only to have Lucas-Perry hit a pair of free throws each time to help Michigan State win its fifth straight game and remain unbeaten in February.

Purdue 59, Michigan 54

Katie Gearlds scored 21 points and Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton added 19, leading No. 16 Purdue to a victory over Michigan.

Gearlds' 3-pointer with a minute remaining gave Purdue (22-5, 11-2 Big Ten) a 55-50 lead after Wisdom-Hylton had broken a 50-50 tie.

Carly Benson, who led Michigan (10-16, 3-10) with 15 points, drew the Wolverines to within three with a late basket, but FahKara Malone's free throws with 21.7 seconds

pushed Purdue's lead back to five. Wisdom-Hylton blocked Benson's 3-point attempt before Gearlds capped the win with two free throws.

Michigan, which led by one at halftime, led 47-45 with 4:03 remaining after Ta'Shia Walker broke a tie with two free throws. But Gearlds and Wisdom-Hylton scored the next four points, giving Purdue a two-point lead.

Ohio State 83, Wisconsin 57

Jessica Davenport hit her average with 19 points and Ashlee Trebilcock broke out of a slump with 15 to lead No. 4 Ohio State past Wisconsin.

Marscilla Packer added 15 points and Star Allen had 14 for the Buckeyes (24-1, 13-0), who lead the Big Ten race by two games with three games remaining.

Davenport, a two-time All-American and two-time Big Ten player of the year, and Packer did most of their damage in the first half as the Buckeyes overcame a sluggish start to build a double-digit lead at the break.

Wisconsin's Jolene Anderson came in as the reigning Big Ten player of the week and the second-leading scorer in the conference.

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, February 16, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
New Jersey	35-16-6	76	7-2-1
Pittsburgh	30-17-9	69	9-0-1
NY Islanders	27-22-8	62	5-1-4
NY Rangers	27-24-5	59	4-5-1
Philadelphia	15-33-8	38	4-2-4

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Buffalo	38-15-4	80	6-4-0
Ottawa	33-22-3	69	6-3-1
Montreal	29-24-6	64	2-7-1
Toronto	27-22-8	62	6-2-2
Boston	26-25-4	56	4-6-0

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Atlanta	30-21-9	69	3-6-1
Tampa Bay	32-24-2	66	8-2-0
Carolina	29-23-7	65	4-4-2
Florida	22-26-11	55	5-4-1
Washington	23-26-8	54	3-6-1

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Nashville	39-16-3	81	6-4-0
Detroit	37-16-6	80	7-2-1
St. Louis	23-26-9	55	4-5-1
Chicago	22-27-8	52	5-4-1
Columbus	22-30-5	49	5-5-0

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Vancouver	32-21-4	68	5-2-3
Calgary	30-19-8	68	4-2-4
Minnesota	31-22-5	67	6-2-2
Edmonton	28-25-4	60	5-5-0
Colorado	27-25-4	58	4-5-1

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Anaheim	33-16-8	74	3-7-0
San Jose	36-20-1	73	4-5-1
Dallas	34-21-2	70	6-3-1
Phoenix	25-30-2	52	4-6-0
Los Angeles	19-31-9	47	3-4-3

NCAA Tennis

Div. I Women's Standings

	team	points	prev.
1	Stanford	748	2
2	NOTRE DAME	736	3
3	Georgia Tech	724	1
4	Florida	722	4
5	USC	720	5
6	Northwestern	699	6
7	North Carolina	684	7
8	Miami	672	9
9	California	667	10
10	Baylor	653	11
11	Duke	647	12
12	William & Mary	640	25
13	Clemson	631	15
14	VCU	628	13
15	UCLA	622	16

MLB



Giants' outfielder Barry Bonds signed a one-year, \$15.8 million contract Thursday after more than two months of negotiations. Bonds, who needs 22 more homers to tie Hank Aaron's 755 record, will attend the Giants' first workout Tuesday.

Bonds, Giants agree to one-year deal

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Barry Bonds finally signed his \$15.8 million, one-year deal Thursday, ending more than two months of wrangling between the slugger and the San Francisco Giants over contract language.

With both sides satisfied, Bonds is scheduled to report Monday to spring training. He is likely to participate in the Giants' first full-squad workout Tuesday.

"I expect he will be ready to go," general manager Brian Sabean said.

The 42-year-old Bonds is 22 homers shy of breaking

Hank Aaron's career record of 755.

Bonds' deal was approved by the commissioner's office. His agent, Jeff Borris, and the Giants reached a preliminary agreement on Dec. 7.

The team announced the deal Jan. 29 and Bonds did an interview via conference call. But he never signed the contract, and problems developed.

At issue were specifics about what would happen if Bonds were to be indicted or face further legal trouble, along with details about a personal-appearance provision that was rejected by the commissioner's office.

The Giants sent revised documents to Borris, which Bonds signed Thursday. Only the personal-appearance provision was deleted from the deal, two baseball officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

A federal grand jury is investigating whether Bonds perjured himself when he testified in 2003 in the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative steroid distribution case that he hadn't knowingly taken any performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds long has denied knowingly using steroids.

Bonds will fill the final spot on the team's 40-man

roster, which had stood at 39 after catcher Mike Matheny went on the voluntary retirement list with a concussion.

The seven-time NL MVP has been working out all offseason at UCLA and appears as healthy as ever, according to the Giants, Bonds' trainer and his agent. He had arthroscopic surgery on his troublesome left elbow after the 2006 season.

After missing all but 14 games in 2005 following three operations on his right knee, Bonds batted .270 with 26 homers and 77 RBIs and drew 115 walks in 130 games last year.

IN BRIEF

Yankees' general partner arrested for DUI

LARGO, Fla. — George Steinbrenner's son-in-law and designated successor to run the New York Yankees was arrested early Thursday for suspicion of driving under the influence.

Yankees general partner Steve Swindal was arrested by the St. Petersburg Police at 4:26 a.m., according to a copy of the charge report posted on the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office's Web site. He was booked for a misdemeanor and released at 9:53 a.m. on \$250 bond.

"Mr. Swindal apologizes profusely for this distraction during the Yankees' spring training and no further comment will be made until this is resolved," said Steinbrenner's spokesman, Howard Rubenstein.

The 52-year-old Swindal, who lives in Tampa, is married to Steinbrenner's daughter, Jennifer, and has taken an increasingly active role in running the Yankees. In June 2005, Steinbrenner said Swindal would eventually succeed him.

Gasquet, Baghdatis advance to quarterfinals at Open 13

MARSEILLE, France — Sixth-seeded Richard Gasquet and No. 7 Marcos Baghdatis won second-round matches in straight sets Thursday at the Open 13 and reached the quarterfinals of the indoor tournament.

Gasquet of France — the highest remaining seeded player — had four breaks of serve in his 7-6 (2), 6-2 win over countryman Marc Gicquel, while Baghdatis of Cyprus beat Cyril Saulnier of France 6-4, 6-3.

The 20-year-old Gasquet, a semifinalist at Sydney and a quarterfinalist at Adelaide in Australia last month, is wary of his quarterfinal opponent — Robin Soderling of Sweden.

"Soderling plays super well indoors," Gasquet said. "His game is made for quick surfaces. If the match was being played on clay, I would be more serene. He is a player who is very hard to maneuver ... I will need to vary the game as much as possible to win."

Holyfield's out of retirement, will fight Vinny Madd

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Evander Holyfield will look to stay perfect since coming out of retirement when he fights Vinny Maddalone on March 17.

The 44-year-old former heavyweight champion has won both fights since returning from a two-year layoff, improving to 40-8-2. His first comeback fight was a second-round knockout of Jeremy Bates in Dallas in August. In November, Holyfield won a decision over Frez Oquindo in San Antonio.

The 33-year-old Maddalone (27-3, 19 KOs) is from New York City.

The fight will mark Holyfield's third professional fight in Corpus Christi. In his previous fight in Corpus Christi, he knocked out Jesse Shelby in 1986, and captured his first world title two fights later.

around the dial

PGA TOUR

2007 Nissan Open
3 p.m., GOLF

NCAA BASKETBALL

Cornell at Princeton
7 p.m., ESPNU

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If found, please contact Animal Hospital of South Bend (MILO'S VET) 282-2303

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles bid farewell to leaders Lipke, Broderick

Team looks to avenge early season loss to Hope on senior night

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

A Saint Mary's win over Hope Saturday would do two things — average a loss to the Flying Dutchmen earlier this season and give the team's two seniors, Bridget Lipke and Stefanie Broderick, a final memorable moment at home.

However, it won't change MIAA tournament seeding for either team.

Saint Mary's (11-11, 10-5 MIAA) locked up a No. 3 seed in the league tournament after its 71-63 overtime victory Wednesday against Albion. Hope (20-3, 12-3 MIAA) clinched a No. 2 seed in the MIAA tournament after defeating Alma Wednesday.

The only two teams still competing for postseason seeding are Albion and Olivet — tied for fourth place in the

conference with 8-7 records.

Hope defeated Saint Mary's 67-42 on Nov. 28. But despite the 25-point loss, Belles head coach Jennifer Henley said her team has progressed in the last few months.

"We're both different teams now," Henley said. "There's definitely some motivation to prove that we can play with and beat them."

Lipke and Broderick will be honored before the contest — the last regular season game of their careers. Lipke, a guard from Hinsdale, Ill., averages 12.4 points and 4.5 assists per game, good for first and second on the team, respectively. Broderick, a forward from St. Clair, Mich., has fit into a role coming off the bench and has provided the team with invaluable leadership and communication.

"Our seniors have been the rock of this team all season long," Henley said. "They're both very intelligent players and great leaders we're going to miss a lot."

In Saint Mary's win over Albion Thursday, a jumper by Albion guard Jessica Babcock forced overtime and Saint Mary's scored on six of its last 10 possessions to put the game away.

The Belles were led by guard Alison Kessler, who scored a game-high 23 points to go along with her eight assists. Sophomore Erin Newson crashed the boards for her fifth double-double of the year with 13 points and 15 rebounds. Lipke also put up 18 points in the winning effort.

"We're both different teams now. There's definitely some motivation to prove that we can play with and beat them."

Jennifer Henley
Belles coach

Contact Michael Bryan at
mbryan@nd.edu



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer
Saint Mary's guard Allison Kessler passes past Albion in a 71-63 overtime victory Feb. 14.

TRACK AND FIELD

Big East tournament culminates season for ND squad

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has focused the entire season for this weekend's Big East tournament in Akron, Ohio, and now that it has finally

arrived, Irish coach Joe Piane has one goal in mind.

"We're going there to try to win in both the women's side and men's side," he said.

The Irish will send 31 men and 22 women to compete in the conference championship.

The middle distance runners, led by senior all-American Thomas Chamney — the No. 1 seed in the 800-meter and 1,000-meter races — anchor Notre Dame's male contingent. On Feb. 3 at the Meyo Invitational, Chamney cemented his place atop the Big

East by running the 800 in 1:47.82, the second fastest time in school history.

Notre Dame's sprinters and distance runners are also strong. Four Irish runners rank in the top eight in the conference in the 400 — seniors Ryan Postel and Jordan Powell, junior Austin Wechter and freshman Balazs Molnar. Postel ranks first in the Big East in the 400 and also qualified for the 200.

Leading the distance team is junior Jake Watson, who won the mile at the Meyo Invitational in 4:00.71 to provisionally qualify him for the NCAA Tournament in addition to the Big East. Sophomore Patrick Smyth will run the 5,000 after running the Big East's third-best time at 13:58.10.

"We have a pretty broad based track team on [the men's and women's] sides," Piane said. "We're going to have good people everywhere. And it's the same on the men's side. We're not a one-dimensional team."

Piane also feels that he is sending a very well-balanced team on the women's side of the Big East championship.

Heading the Irish effort will be the sprint team, including senior Maryann Erigha, who double qualified in the 60 and 200 meters.

The Irish distance squad is paced by senior Amy Kohlmeier and freshman Lindsey Ferguson, both of whom could run in the mile or 3,000. Kohlmeier will also run in the 5,000-meter event.

In the field events, the Irish will be best represented in the jumps. Senior Cassie Gullickson will lead the jumpers as the No. 2 high jumper and No. 4 triple jumper. Notre Dame is also sending sophomore pole vaulters Mary Saxer and Kate Mattoon, who have matching season-highs of 12-feet-5.5-inches. Sophomore Anna Weber will man the throws, competing in both the shot put and weight throw.

Even though Piane is confident in his team's ability, he recognizes the challenges facing his team in the difficult Big East. On the men's side, Piane expects the most trouble out of Louisville. The Cardinals' strength is one area where the Irish are not as deep — jumps.

"Louisville has some of the best long jumpers and triple jumpers in the country and they are going to score major points in those two events," he said. "Their squad probably isn't as deep as ours in some areas, but in others — i.e. the long, triple — they're as good as anybody in the country."

On the women's side, Piane sees Connecticut as the biggest threat to his team's success.

"They've got some pretty good sprinters and they are developing the distance program, but they have a lot of very good field event kids," he said of the Huskies. "It'll be interesting to say the least."

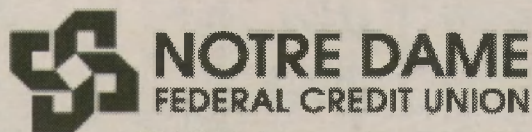
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**ND WOMEN'S
LACROSSE**

Irish take on JMU in opener

*No. 5 Notre Dame
travels to Virginia*

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

No. 5 Notre Dame begins its quest for a national championship Sunday as the Irish face No. 12 James Madison on the road.

The Irish enter the season with high expectations after a 15-4 campaign in 2006, highlighted by a trip to the NCAA semifinals. The team wrapped up its preseason with practice and scrimmaging this week, highlighted by an exhibition match with No. 6 Dartmouth.

Notre Dame fell 14-13 to the Big Green in the exhibition last Sunday afternoon, after a morning of controlled offensive and defensive scrimmages between the two teams. Despite the close loss, Irish coach Tracy Coyne was impressed by her team's performance.

"For the first game of the year, it was a very high-caliber and fast-paced scrimmage — what you would expect from two final four teams," Coyne said.

The team will try to use the experience gained by that exhibition match to defeat the Dukes in Harrisonburg, Va.

"I feel like the Dartmouth exhibition definitely has helped us focus in practice on things to attack and cover, as well as exposed areas that needed improvement," Coyne said.

The team will be led by a talented group of returning starters, including three members of the preseason All-Big East team. Junior midfielder/attack Caitlin McKinney and sophomore midfielder/attack Jillian Byers were unanimous selections to the team, joined by senior defender Meaghan Fitzpatrick.

In addition to their No. 5 preseason ranking, the Irish were also picked to finish second in the conference. The inaugural Big East championship will be held this May, and stands near the top of the long list of goals for the Irish this season.

Notre Dame has a tough task, however, with No. 12 James Madison, who the Irish beat 12-11 at home last season.

"They're a very competitive team that plays a very physical, hard-nosed game," Coyne said.

Senior Meghan Murphy said the team felt very prepared and confident for Sunday's game.

"Our goal is to improve with every competitive opportunity, whether it be a scrimmage, game, or practice," Murphy said. "We want to come out strong from the opening whistle very strong and show what 2007 Notre Dame lacrosse is capable of."

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

MEN'S LACROSSE

Team faces off against Greyhounds

*Loyola (Md.) is 5-0
all-time against ND*

By PAT R. O'BRIEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame starts the 2007 regular season by hosting Loyola (Md.) at 1 p.m. Saturday. This is the first of six home games for the No. 11 Irish as the team faces off against the No. 13 Greyhounds.

The Irish finished last season 10-5 (3-2 GWLL) and earned an NCAA Tournament bid. Six returning starters, including preseason honorable mention Inside Lacrosse All-America picks — goalie Joey Kemp and attack Brian Hubschmann — lead the team entering the season.

The Irish open with two new assistant coaches — defensive specialist and Notre Dame MBA

graduate Gerry Byrne and face-off specialist Brian Fisher.

"I love the experience that both coaches bring," Irish head coach Kevin Corrigan said. "Brian [Fisher] is a graduate from Rutgers and he has talent. Gerry [Byrne] is professionally developed and highly motivated."

The players also had good reviews of the additions to the coaching staff.

"Coach Byrne has come in and done a great job," Irish defender Ross Zimmerman said.

"It is the first time that I've had a defensive specialist as a coach."

Kemp thought the combination of offensive and defensive expertise had benefited the team as well.

"Coach Fisher is an expert on

faceoffs, and Coach Byrne adds a different dynamic on defense for our team," Kemp said.

The match against highly-touted Loyola will be a good indicator of how far this team has worked during the off-season. Although the Greyhounds finished 6-6 last season, they are 5-0 all-time against the Irish.

"We're ready to play," Corrigan said.

"We've had five weeks of preparation. [Loyola] has a lot of juniors and seniors. It's a building process, where they have most of their guys back."

Loyola returns nine starters and 29 letter winners from last season's squad. Midfielder Andrew Spack, attack Dan Bauers, midfielder Steven Hess

and faceoff specialist Dan Kallaugher were 2007 preseason All-America picks by Inside Lacrosse.

"[Saturday's game] should set the tone for the beginning of the season," Kemp added. "The first four games are tough, and they will tell us a lot about our team. I play each game as a must win."

Zimmerman also felt the excitement of the opening match.

"I'm pumped," he said. Corrigan also said that he looks to his senior and junior classes for leadership this year.

"The entire senior class has done a tremendous job. I look for them along with the junior class to set the tone and be in important roles this season," Corrigan said. "We also have many great underclassmen."

Contact Pat R. O'Brien at pobrien2@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Softball looks to defend Big East title in 2007

*Irish to compete in
Tiger Invitational*

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame begins its quest to defend last year's Big East title this weekend at the Tiger Invitational. The Irish return 13 letter winners to their 16-player roster from the 2006 squad that finished 42-21 overall and 17-5 in conference play.

This year's team was selected to finish third in the Big East in a coaches poll taken Jan. 10.

Senior captain Stephanie Brown will lead the way offensively for Notre Dame this year after being named a second team All-American in her junior season. Brown hit .343 with 42 stolen bases in the leadoff spot last year.

The Irish pitching staff will need to fill the gap left by second team all-conference pitcher Heather Booth (27-12, 1.71 ERA) in order to live up to its billing.

Sophomore Brittany Bargar will take over as the team's ace after winning 15 games in her rookie season. Bargar will be joined by senior Kenya

Fuemmeler and sophomore Christine Farrell, who missed all of last season due to injury.

Bargar will likely take the mound this afternoon for the first game of the season against host Auburn. The Tigers (1-5) got off to a slow start by dropping four one-run games at the Hawaii Paradise Classic last weekend.

Fuemmeler will make her season debut in the second game of the day against the UAB Blazers. This will be the second meeting in two teams' histories, the Irish won the first battle 9-1 in Chattanooga, Tenn. six years ago.

Notre Dame will play another double dip Saturday afternoon against the Golden Eagles of Tennessee Tech and the Golden Hurricanes of Tulsa. Both teams will be playing in their second tournaments of the year.


Tulsa freshman Ashlee Lubiewski is already making headlines with a 6-for-12 start

and a home run against Pacific.

The busy weekend wraps up Sunday afternoon as the Irish look to continue their domination over Virginia Tech. Notre Dame has taken 10 of 11 games against the one-time Big East foes. The Hokies should be able to compete this year, as they started out the season by winning the Georgia State First Pitch Classic last weekend. Junior pitcher Angela Tincer started her year 2-0, striking out 35 batters in 14 innings on the hill.

The Tiger Invitational is the first of five early season tournaments Notre Dame will play in the next month. The team, led by head coach Deanna Gumpf, will travel to California three times and Florida once before playing its first home game against IUPUI March 22.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

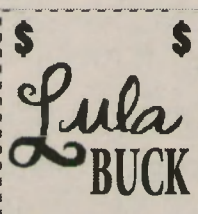


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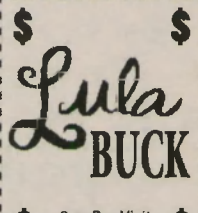
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MEN'S TENNIS

Irish look to make a statement in tourney

ND takes on Pepperdine in the first round of the National Team Indoor Championships



RYAN KECKLEY/Observer
VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer
Ryan Keckley celebrates a doubles win en route to a 5-2 upset over Florida State Feb. 2 at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

It may have been five years since the Irish have seen the courts at the National Team Indoor Championships, but Notre Dame is ready.

"You are playing every match as a dual match and we have already seen a lot of the teams that are here," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "We have seen these guys, we now what is out there."

The trip back to the tournament will be a familiar event for Bayliss. The Irish last played in the tournament in 2002, and were ranked No. 10 nationally when they upset No. 7 Pepperdine 4-3.

No. 9 Notre Dame will take on No. 10 Pepperdine again in the first round of the indoor matchup.

The team will compete alongside many opponents it has already seen in regular season play. Notre Dame practiced alongside Pepperdine and Duke on Thursday in the 18-court Midtown Tennis Club in Chicago.

"We had a look at Pepperdine and I think we had a good workout, we have prepared for this pretty well," Bayliss said. "They looked aggressive, they hit the ball clearly and decisively."

Pepperdine, the 2006 NCAA Champion, enter the tournament after a 5-2 win over the University of Nevada- Las Vegas. Pepperdine dropped the doubles point but responded with wins in five out of six singles matches.

Bayliss is confident that the team will perform well come match time, and the Irish will continue to focus on improving their doubles game. Notre Dame dropped the doubles point in their last match to Wisconsin

but rallied to take the 6-1 win. No. 33 Andre Begemann defeated Elliot Wronski 6-2, 6-0 at No. 1 singles.

Irish senior Stephen Bass will take on Begemann at No. 1 singles today. Begemann, a strong server and volleyer will present Bass with a challenge, but Bayliss feels that the senior is ready.

Bayliss knows that the Irish will be facing many top opponents and players, but he feels them team is prepared to make a strong showing.

"We want to show some poise under pressure," Bayliss said. "We are at a point where we can make a dent in this field."

If the Irish knock off Pepperdine they will take on the winner of the Georgia and University of Pennsylvania. No. 1 Georgia is the defending ITA National Team Indoor Championships and was the top seed in last season's NCAA Tournament, eliminating the 18th-seeded Irish in the Sweet 16.

Even with their sights on the possibility of playing Georgia, the Irish are focused on their matches today.

"Sunday's opponent is a way off and is not worth speculating about right now," Bayliss said.

No matter what the outcome of the weekend, Bayliss said that the team is grateful to get an opportunity to play against top opponents — every team is guaranteed three matches in the tournament.

Notre Dame will look to further their six-game winning streak starting with Pepperdine.

"I think we are ready to go," Bayliss said. "We are prepared and we have done everything we need to do and we are anxious to be in play."

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

Texas

continued from page 24

shine, but said that the Loftus Center provides a solid location for winter infield drills.

"Our hitting will probably struggle," Schrage said. "We'd better pitch it well and we'd better play [defense]. That's what will keep us in games at the start of the season. Also, we haven't seen the ball in the air, so pop ups could be an adventure."

Outfielder Danny Dressman said that the lack of outdoor practice probably will not affect his play.

"You've got to roll with the punches," he said. "Hopefully it won't be too big of an issue."

Junior Wade Korpi, sophomore David Phelps and sophomore Sam Elam are expected to start this weekend for the

Irish, but Schrage said that he wants to get several pitchers action with each on a pitch count.

"Right now, our pitchers are going to be limited to about 75 pitches," Schrage said. "Hopefully that gets them five innings."

Sophomore closer Kyle Weiland will not pitch this weekend. He is still recovering from a broken collarbone suffered when he slipped on ice in December.

"We'd better pitch it well and we'd better play [defense]."

Dave Schrage
Irish coach

"He's fine," Schrage said. "He actually threw a little bit today, but he's not full speed yet."

Fifth-year senior Matt Weglarz, a transfer from Missouri State, won the starting catching job in the opener after returning starter senior Sean Gaston was lost for the year with an injury. Weglarz is enrolled in Notre Dame's MBA program.

Schrage said he remembered Weglarz from when his old

team, Evansville, played Missouri State.

"I remembered his name from playing against him," Schrage said. "He has some power and he puts the bat on the ball pretty consistently."

In the infield, sophomore Jeremy Barnes will start at first base, junior Ross Brezovsky at second, junior Brett Lilley at shortstop and freshman A.J. Pollock at third base.

Dressman will start at center field, with freshmen Billy Bookford, Michael Wright and Brayden Ashdown rotating into the other two spots.

"We'll be playing a lot of guys [in the corner outfield] this season," Schrage said.

Schrage said he isn't as concerned with wins and losses from his young team this weekend as he is with getting into the swing of the season.

"I'll never tell my team, 'we have to win today,'" he said. "I just tell them to execute the things that we work on and, if we do that, we'll win."

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Tar Heels

continued from page 24

with three really good doubles teams."

North Carolina enters Friday with a 9-2 record in dual match play, suffering losses to No. 4 Florida and No. 3 Georgia Tech. The Yellow Jackets also handed the Irish their lone loss this season.

"[North Carolina] is like a mirror image of us," Louderback said. "They're solid at the top of the lineup and very deep. Their Nos. 4, 5, and 6 are very good and they have good doubles teams. It'll be like playing ourselves on Friday."

Four Tar Heel singles players are ranked in the top-75 of the country, led by No. 7 senior Jenna Long. Long carries a 22-4 overall and 9-1 dual match record into the Eck Tennis Pavilion Friday.

"She's having a really good year, and we've struggled against her in doubles, too," Louderback said.

North Carolina is also a young team. Two Tar Heel singles players, No. 19 Katrina Tsang and No. 73

"They're just all good. They all scare me."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach

"[North Carolina] is like a mirror image of us."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach

Sanaz Marand, are freshman while No. 33 Austin Smith is a sophomore.

"They're just all good," Louderback said. "They all scare me."

No. 41 Senior Catrina Thompson and freshman Cosmina Ciobanu lead the Irish on the singles side.

Thompson has played No. 1 singles for the Irish most of the year and has won three straight matches. Ciobanu will try to keep her perfect 8-0 dual match record intact this weekend.

After North Carolina, Wake Forest will travel to the Eck Pavilion Sunday.

"They're better at the top of the lineup," Louderback said. "At the bottom, they're not as deep as some of the teams."

The Demon Deacons feature three ranked singles players led by No. 29 junior Alex Hirsch.

"Last year we played them, we beat them 4-3 and we lost to them at Nos. 1, 2, and 3. And those kids are all back this year. They're a better team this year," Louderback said. "They're good, they just haven't played any tough matches yet."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

ND MEN'S GOLF

Irish start with high hopes

ND looks to improve on promising fall at John Hayt Invitational

By **FRAN TOLAN**
Sports Writer

After a fall season in which the Irish recorded the second-best team scoring average in school history, coach Jim Kubinski hopes the team will continue its strong performance in the John Hayt Collegiate Invitational in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Sunday.

In the offseason, the team practiced daily in its brand-new indoor practice complex, the \$2.1 million Robert and Marilyn Rolfs Family All-Season Varsity Golf Facility.

The added winter practice has led to marked improvement.

"I'd imagine each guy will have dropped a few strokes from his average," said Kubinski. "[The new facility] has been such a help to us."

But despite the productive winter practice sessions, Kubinski said that his team must continue to improve with each tournament. Last weekend, the Irish Alumni Matches gave the squad an opportunity to get on the course with former Notre Dame golfers at the Saddlebrook Resort in suburban Tampa.

"It was a very good weekend for us," Kubinski said.

The team again heads to the Sunshine State this weekend. The John Hayt, which is hosted by the University of North Florida, will be the first intercollegiate tournament of the spring season for the Irish. The field for the event includes 10 of the nation's top 50 teams, according to Golfweek.

"This weekend will be a great starting point for us," said Kubinski. "Hopefully we can get the ball rolling against the strong field."

The Irish are currently ranked 51st by Golfweek, which would be good enough for a berth in the NCAA Tournament. However, Kubinski said he wants his team to improve on a

weekly basis.

"I think that to finish in the top half of the field [this weekend] would be a good start for us," he said. "Obviously we want to continue to get better up until the Big East tournament and the NCAAs."

The Irish, who have won the Big East the past three years, have six tournaments to play

before the conference tournament in April.

At the John Hayt, the Irish lineup will include senior co-captains Cole Isban and Adam Gifford, junior Eddie Peckels, sophomore Josh Sandman and freshman Doug Fortner.

Contact Fran Tolán at ftolan@nd.edu

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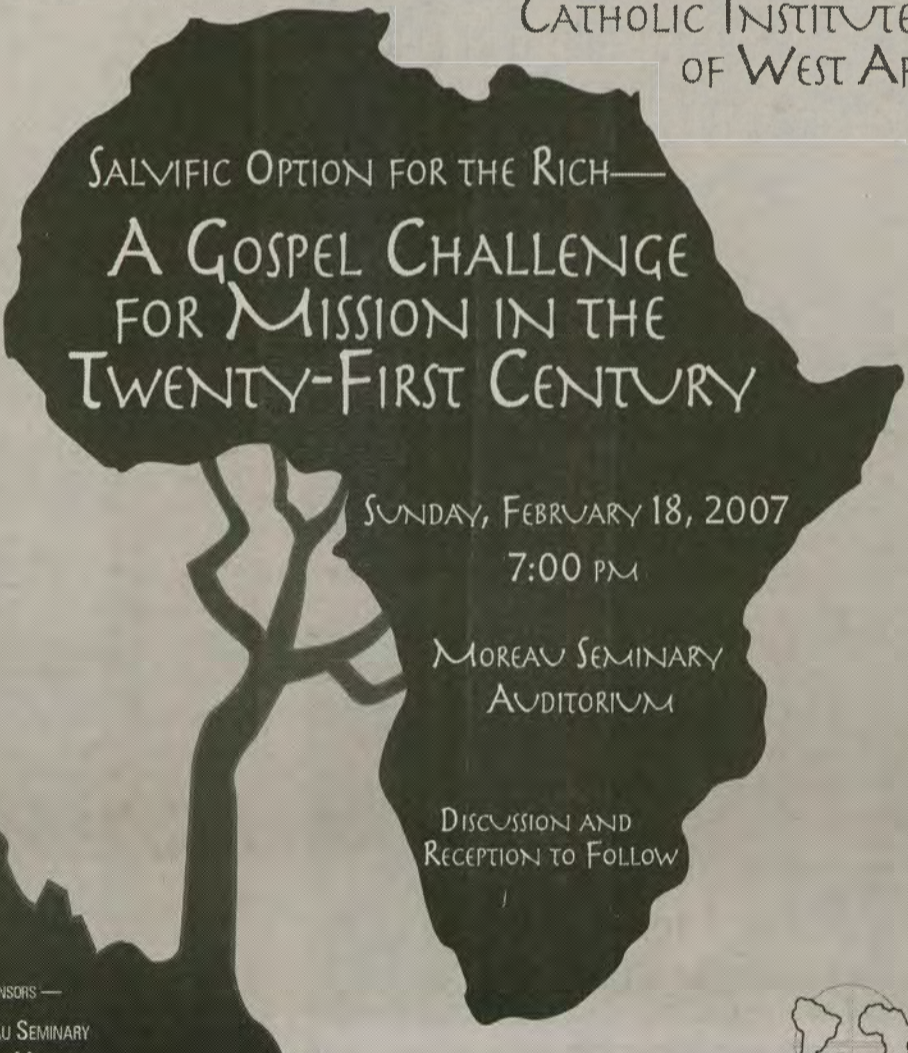
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Irish

continued from page 24

East) has had success in its home gym this season, despite losing eight of their last nine games. Irish coach Muffet McGraw believes that the game will be tough, but that her team will be ready.

"This game is really important to us because they beat Louisville at home, and took Marquette to a two- or three-point game," she said. "It's going to be important for us to be focused on them."

McGraw also stressed the difficulty of playing Providence, who is 8-5 at home, on its own floor.

"They've played a lot of teams close — at Providence," she said. "They have a big home-court advantage, so we're gonna be ready for them."

Providence guard Chelsea Marandola averages 16.2 points per game on 43.8 percent three-point shooting. Marandola will be one of the toughest tests Notre Dame will face this season.

"They have really good guards," McGraw said. "They're very good at penetrating to the basket, and they have good shooters."

The Irish are in good position to challenge Providence's guard play behind the imposing play of guard Charel Allen, who has scored 25 points in her last two

games and averaged 22.4 points in her last five. Allen leads the team with 17 points per game on the season and is sixth in the Big East in scoring.

"Offensively, she's been playing really well," McGraw said of Allen. "She's been looking for her shot a little bit, and going with the flow of the offense. We're really starting to peak right now. We're playing well together, everyone's doing what they can do."

Right there with Allen is freshmen guard Ashley Barlow, who at 11 points per game is second on the team in scoring. Receiving a lot of playing time but not starting until recently, Barlow brings a good deal of skills to Notre Dame's offense.

"What I'm looking for from her is to continue to rebound," McGraw said. "She's a really good offensive rebounder, that's probably her strength. She does a lot of little things well."

Role-player guard Breona Gray, who hit two of Notre Dame's three 3-pointers against Villanova, rounds out the Irish backcourt.

"I think Breona Gray has made some big shots for us," McGraw said. "We have a lot of weapons."

Finishing the games may be a problem for Notre Dame. Against Villanova, the Wildcats brought the game to within three points in the second half. Providence is capable of similar production — against St. John's



DAN COOPER/The Observer

Irish guards Amanda Tsipis, left, and Tulyah Gaines fight for a loose ball in a 78-70 win over DePaul Feb. 11.

Feb. 10, the Friars erased an 18-half-time deficit and won 93-77. Forward Catherine Bove, who is second on the team in scoring, averaging 14.1 points per game, scored 14 of her 17 points in the second half.

The team has been in those situations before, however, and McGraw cited execution as the difference-maker.

"It's a game of runs. We're gonna make runs, and then the other team's gonna make a run, and we have to kind of withstand that," McGraw said. "We have to be solid defensively and we have to work on our rebounding. Offensively, we have

to continue to execute. We've had a lot of games where we've had leads, and a lot of games that have been close, and we've had a lot of poise and a lot of confidence."

Although intensely focused on the game at hand, McGraw acknowledged the importance of the outcome in the future.

"It's a great time for us," she said. "And it's a great time for our resume for the NCAA Tournament, because resumes are so important."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Clinch

continued from page 24

to accomplish," senior goaltender Dave Brown said.

Brown stopped 38-of-41 shots against Alaska (9-15-6, 7-12-5 in CCHA) earlier in the season, earning two victories at the Joyce Center. The Nanooks came into that weekend ranked No. 14 in the country, but have won only three of their last 16 games since coming to South Bend. They currently sit in ninth place in the CCHA standing and will be battling for a home playoff series this weekend.

"It's hard to say what has happened since [we played], but they still scare me from a coach's perspective," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said.

Alaska coach Tavis McMillan has a great deal of respect for Jackson and the rest of the Irish.

"Top offense, top defense, top goalie, top coach in the country — what else do you want to bring at us?" McMillan said. "To compete against [the best] is what makes sports not only exciting, but valuable to society. I want to play Notre Dames every weekend. Otherwise you would be playing intramural volleyball."

In the 2006 playoffs, Alaska was forced to make the trip to Notre Dame for its first round matchup. The Nanooks swept the Irish in a series that developed bad blood between the two teams.

"Those guys play a really chippy style of hockey, not necessarily a clean style of hockey — which is sort of like me — so it will definitely be a good series up there," junior defenseman Brock Sheahan said.

Sheahan, who lives in Lethbridge, Alberta, is the team's only native of Western Canada — an area the Nanooks recruit heavily. He has played with all but one of the members of the Alaska club, Brandon Knelsen, since he was in peewees.

"Most of them are good guys, but they can be a little different on the ice," he said. "They won't be my buddies on the ice, that's for sure."

The ice surface at the Carlson Center, Alaska's home rink, is slightly larger than what Notre Dame has played on all year long. They play on an Olympic-sized sheet, which is 200 feet by 100 feet, as compared to the standard NHL-sized rinks used in most college hockey arenas (200 by 85).

Notre Dame will step up the intensity on its forecheck throughout the game in order to take advantage of the different size ice, as well as the passive style of play that Alaska has adopted this season.

"We are going to be a little more aggressive, because they can kind of lull you to sleep," Sheahan said. "We just want to make sure we play our game."

The games will be held at 7:05 AKT both nights, but Friday night's game will be broadcast on tape delay on WHME 46 in South Bend at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

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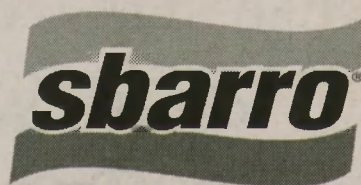
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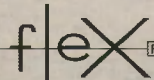
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Win

continued from page 24

Poll. "There has been no bigger win this year than this one after the two losses," Irish coach Mike Brey said after the game.

Providence dominated the first 10 minutes, leading 24-12 with 10:52 left in the half.

Sensing the game — and a possible NCAA Tournament bid — slipping away, the Irish quickened the tempo and fought back. Keyed by eight points from forward Zach Hillesland and nine from Falls, Notre Dame trailed 42-38 at the half.

Hillesland, who tied a career high with 14 points, positioned himself near the free throw line for most Irish offensive possessions and helped break down Providence's 2-3 zone.

"It was nice to be able to catch and turn and have a little space," Hillesland said of the offensive scheme.

The sophomore finished the game with eight rebounds, three assists and two steals to go with his points.

"Once I got going, the juices started flowing," he said.

Notre Dame opened the second half with a 7-2 run and took the lead, 53-52, on a 3-pointer by Carter with 18 minutes left.

Carter did not start the game due to a hip flexor injury and scored just two points in the first half, but he lit up the Friars' defense for 13 points on 4-of-5 shooting after the break.

"I was a little cold in the first half, but I felt better in the second half," he said.

Brey said the decision not to start Carter helped the senior

see the flow of the game better before he entered the contest with just under 16 minutes left in the first half.

"I think sometimes when you let a guy step back and come off the bench, he gets to see the game a little bit and that helps," Brey said.

The lead changed hands six times in the first 10 minutes after the half, but the Irish pulled away with a 15-4 run to go up 70-59 with 3:30 remaining.

During the run, Providence went more than five minutes without a point.

"I think the key was the five-minute stretch of getting stops," Brey said. "We made sure they were one and done. We didn't allow them any offensive rebounds."

Falls said Brey stressed defense in the locker room.

"We were so much better on defense [in the second half]," the senior guard said. "That's something we talked about at halftime — were we going to stop them?"

The Friars made a late run, closing to within 78-75 with seven seconds left, but a Carter free throw and a Hillesland steal sealed the win.

Falls hit two free throws and Friars guard Brian McKenzie hit a three to provide the final margin.

Notre Dame has to turn around and play Cincinnati on the road Sunday. The Bearcats are struggling at 10-15 overall and just 1-10 in the Big East. The Irish, however, have faltered on the road this year — they are just 3-6 away from the Joyce Center this season. Sunday's game tips off at 2 p.m.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL COMMENTARY

Big men step up on defense

Notre Dame's improved post play could lead to NCAA tourney bid

Something had to change in the second half of Notre Dame's game against Providence if the Irish wanted to avoid slipping down the Big East standings. Something had to change if the Irish wanted to increase their chance of receiving their first NCAA Tournament bid in five years.

Chris Hine
Sports Writer

That something was post defense. Throughout Big East play this year, Notre Dame has had trouble keeping opponents' big men from scoring inside and grabbing the rebounds. In their losses against Villanova, St. John's, DePaul and South Florida, the Irish lost the battle on the boards and gave up high percentage shots to opposing post players.

The story was the same for the first half Thursday night.

Providence big men Herbert Hill and Jonathan Kale combined for 25 points and the Friars entered the locker room with a four-point lead.

Then something changed. The Irish tightened their inside defense in the second half.

Hill and Kale netted only 10 points in the second stanza and Notre Dame was able to win the rebound battle. What was the difference? A couple of feet.

"I think we did a better job of pushing Hill and Kale off the post so the post move was coming about four feet deeper," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "The jump hook was

outside the paint instead of inside like the first half. That was the key."

A couple of feet means the difference between a lay-up and a tricky seven-foot jump shot. By keeping Hill and Kale away from the basket, the Irish were able to affect their rhythm and force some missed shots.

Thanks to Notre Dame's post defense, nobody from Providence was in the paint to collect the rebounds off these missed shots. The Irish were able to cut down on Providence's second chance opportunities — something they had trouble doing earlier this season — and get their transition game going off the defensive glass.

"Once we tightened the defense, we were able to get out and run a little bit more, pass and cut, and make plays," Irish forward Zach Hillesland said.

This allowed Notre Dame to build a lead and earn the victory.

The Irish play DePaul again Tuesday night and if they hope to advance deep into March, post defense is going to be the difference. Odds are they will run into one of these teams again at the Big East tournament, not to mention a possible Big Dance matchup against Ohio State, Texas or North Carolina.

It's no coincidence that the Irish scored under 70 points in their last three losses.

Notre Dame's offense works best when it can push the ball up the floor and score before the opponent is set (see: Syracuse, Alabama). If opposing offenses can work the ball inside and earn layups or trips to the free throw line, they can slow the pace of the game down and force the Irish to face set defenses.

Notre Dame's season does not rest on Colin Falls' and Russell Carter's shooting touch. Falls scored 26 in the loss at South Florida while Carter scored 32 against St. John's. Falls and Carter are the type of

players that will get their points, so long as they are healthy. The season does not rest on Tory Jackson's shoulders. The freshman point guard has done an outstanding job defensively all year, while his offensive game matures with each outing.

The post defense of Luke Harangody, Zach Hillesland and Rob Kurz can make or break the Irish in the coming weeks.

All it takes is a couple of feet.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

"Once I got going, the juices started flowing."

Zach Hillesland
Irish forward

"Once we tightened the defense, we were able to get out and run a little bit more."


Zach Hillesland
Irish forward

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Deep fried

Five players end with double figures in win

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

Colin Falls scored 16 points and Rob Kurz and Russell Carter each added 15 as Notre Dame erased an early 12-point deficit and kept its hopes for a first round bye in the Big East tournament alive by beating Providence 81-78 Thursday at the Joyce Center.

The Irish (19-6, 7-5 Big East) were coming off a two-game losing streak that dropped them back to sixth in the conference and out of the top 25 in both the AP and Coaches

See Also

"Big men step up on defense" page 22



CHRISTIAN SAGARDIA/The Observer

Notre Dame's Rob Kurz stretches for two of his 15 points Thursday against Providence at the Joyce Center. The 81-78 Irish victory improves the team's record to 7-5 in Big East play.

see WIN/page 22

HOCKEY

No. 1 Irish can lock up conference

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame makes the long trip to Fairbanks, Alaska this weekend with the opportunity to lock up the program's first ever CCHA regular season title in a two-game series with the Nanooks.

With two wins the No. 1 Irish (24-5-3, 18-3-3 in CCHA) will increase their point total to 43 on the season, putting them out of the reach of second place Miami. The RedHawks have 34 points with four conference games (eight possible points) remaining on their schedule.

"Our main focus is going up there and getting four points and that's what we're looking

see CLINCH/page 21

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Two more ranked teams coming up



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Senior Christian Thompson, above, and teammates face two highly ranked clubs in Wake Forest and UNC this weekend at home.

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's schedule will not let it rest. After defeating No. 23 Michigan 6-1 Wednesday, the No. 2 Irish square off against two more top-25 opponents in No. 7 North Carolina Friday and No. 20 Wake Forest Sunday. Notre Dame coach Jay

Louderback has emphasized to his team to not look too far ahead and to take this week one match at a time. Right now, the focus is on defeating the Tar Heels, he said.

"They're one of the fifteen teams that could win the whole thing this year," Louderback said. "They're very good — well-coached,

see TAR HEELS/page 20

BASEBALL

Schrage era starts in San Antonio

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

As winter weather continues in South Bend, Notre Dame heads to a warmer climate.

The Irish will open their season this weekend in San

Antonio, Texas against Prairie View A&M Saturday and Texas State Saturday and Sunday in coach Dave Schrage's first games with Notre Dame.

"We're focusing on this weekend and hoping to play well," he said.

Saturday's game against the Panthers will be the first time the Irish have played outdoors this season. Schrage expressed concern about Notre Dame's hitting and catching fly balls in the sun-

see TEXAS/page 20

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

4-game streak on the line

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Although Tuesday's performance at Villanova would indicate otherwise, Notre Dame has struggled on the road this season. But the Irish can reverse that trend Saturday when they travel to Providence.

The Irish (17-8, 8-4 Big East) are 4-7 on the road this season, including a three-game road losing streak between Jan. 23 and Jan. 31. They broke the streak against the Wildcats with a 75-58 victory Tuesday.

Providence (13-12, 3-9 Big

see IRISH/page 21



DAN COOPER/The Observer

Irish guard Charel Allen elevates for a layup in a 78-70 win over DePaul Feb. 11. Notre Dame heads to Providence Saturday.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MEN'S GOLF

John Hayt Invite Feb. 17-18

Notre Dame kicks off the spring season with a tournament in Florida.

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MEN'S TENNIS

National Team Indoor Championship

ND makes its first trip to the NTIC in five years.

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Loyola at Notre Dame

Notre Dame looks for first program win over the No. 5 Greyhounds.

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame at James Madison

The Irish open their 2007 season in Virginia.

page 18

SMC BASKETBALL

Hope at Saint Mary's

Two seniors play final home game at SMC.

page 17

ND TRACK & FIELD

Big East Championship

The indoor season closes in Akron, Ohio.

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