



SNOW

HIGH 35°
LOW 26°

Seminarians on Stage

The Moreau Seminary-sponsored production of "The Odd Couple" debuts this weekend at the Moreau Seminary Auditorium.

Scene 16

Thursday

FEBRUARY 21,
2002

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOL. XXXV NO. 94

HTTP://OBSERVER.ND.EDU

Eldred won't fight monologues

By SARAH NESTOR
News Writer

Amid the speculation and rumor as to whether "The Vagina Monologues" will be performed at Saint Mary's, a word of mouth campaign was started Wednesday revealing that students will read "The Vagina Monologues" Feb. 25 in Regina North lounge at 9 p.m.

Unlike last year when College President Marilou Eldred demanded an apology

from leaders of C.A.R.E. whom she accused of organizing the performance, Eldred said she will not sanction student performers this year.

"I have not seen the advertisements, but there will be no repercussions if the play is performed," said Eldred.

The latest issue of the Marie Claire magazine already had the College listed as holding a performance of "Vagina Monologues," and the V-day Web site also has Saint Mary's listed as holding

a performance, but does not give a date, time or place for the performance.

The students involved with "The Vagina Monologues" reading at Saint Mary's Monday refused to comment.

Administration reaction to students performing or reading "The Vagina Monologues" has been positive this year. Students and the administration have been able to talk about the situation so that dissension does not occur on campus as it did last year.

"They have worked together

the way women should work together, sitting down over a cup of coffee and talking," said Karen Ristau, vice president and dean of faculty.

In a letter to the student body from the Board of Governance, the board voiced its support of the administration and the steps that have been taken this year to incorporate new programs in response to the controversy concerning "The Monologues" last year. The letter commended such events as the Sexuality Series, "Womyn

with Wings" and Katie Koestner, "Sex Signals."

The events will continue next year.

"The sexuality series will continue next year, with programming as recommended by the anti-violence task force that is composed of faculty, students and staff," Eldred said.

Some Saint Mary's students expressed their approval of "The Monologues" return to campus in addition to the

see ELDRED/page 7

STUDENT SENATE

Senators continue activity fee debate

By ERIN LaRUFFA
Associate News Editor

For the third consecutive week, debate at the Student Senate's Wednesday meeting centered on whether senators should recommend raising the student activity fee which all Notre Dame undergraduates pay.

Amy O'Connor, whom the senate recently confirmed as club coordinator of the Club Coordination Council, spoke on behalf of campus organizations that would stand to benefit from increased funding.

"Recently, we've seen an increase in demand while our resources have remained static," said O'Connor. "Not all clubs need more funding, but the majority do."

The money collected through the student activity fee goes to fund a variety of campus organizations, including undergraduate clubs, the Student Union Board and the office of the student body president.

Last week, the senate rejected, by a vote of 14 to 13, a resolution calling for the University to increase the student activity fee from \$65 to \$75. The resolution also called for \$5 increases every other year following the initial increase.

Since the senate rejected the resolution, the body has formed a committee to draft an alternative resolution that would increase the fee but perhaps would not include the provision involving the \$5 increases. The committee consists of several senators, as well as O'Connor, Student Activities director Brian Coughlin and student body vice president Brian Moscona.

O'Connor described several organizations as examples of



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

Amy O'Connor, newly confirmed club coordinator of the Club Coordination Council, continues the debate over increasing the student activity fee. The senate rejected the proposed increase during their last meeting but discussion continued during Wednesday's meeting.

groups that would benefit from increased funding.

The Architecture Club, for instance, had to take on the responsibility and expense of organizing a career fair when the School of Architecture stopped holding one, O'Connor told the senate.

Other academic clubs, such as the Physics Club, frequently use their funds to purchase pizza —

an activity several senators questioned at previous senate meetings — to attract members, according to O'Connor. Students are originally drawn to a club meeting for the free food, but then stay in the club when they discover what it is like.

Another club O'Connor mentioned was Best Buddies, which brought actor Chris Burke to campus two years ago and again

tonight. Burke drew a significant crowd the last time he was here, but Best Buddies and other clubs do not have enough money to bring such well-known speakers to campus more often.

"[With more money] they could bring speakers that everyone wants to go see, not just someone only a few people have

see SENATE/page 7

Trustees arrive at SMC

◆ Group will consider approving student center as part of Master Plan

By SARAH NESTOR
News Writer

The Board of Trustees arrive at Saint Mary's today and will begin work in its separate committees.

The Administration has been compiling data for the Board to update them on what has happened since the Board's last meeting in the fall.

A major issue for the Board is whether they will approve the ground breaking of the new student center to be built as part of the Master Plan.

"I really want to see the approval for groundbreaking of the student center project by the Board. I don't expect it will be a problem and the Board should approve it," said Karen Ristau, vice-president.

After the student center is built it will house everything that is currently in Haggar. Additionally, it will include a cyber cafe, campus ministry, several lounges, a copy shop, a small theater and a dining hall. The new dining hall will have to be built first and will jut into the LeMans parking lot next to the current dining hall. Noble Family Dining Hall will be demolished so that the new student center can be built, connecting the two buildings. There is also talk about connecting the new student center/dining hall to the tunnel

see TRUSTEES/page 8

INSIDE COLUMN

Poetic Expression

Expression is something that manifests, embodies and symbolizes an emotion, an idea or a state of being to someone who did not participate in the same experience.



Angela Campos

Lab Tech

We all express ourselves in our daily lives. Whether it comes across in bitter, sardonic cynicism, in friendly flirting or in keeping quiet and to yourself, we all partake in self-expression.

Some of the ways I have used to express myself include singing out as I walk across the quads, being very animated in how I interact with my friends and strangers and in prayer.

Stories written as fiction and creative non-fiction, describing the world as it is, create worlds and are wonderful ways to describe locations and situations.

With poetry, on the other hand, I have found allows for me, as the writer, to pick specific, distinct words that focus on emotion, feeling, situation and purpose.

This evening, from 7-9 p.m. I will be joining readers for an open mic session in the Ballroom of LaFortune. We will each be presenting readings that help us to express ourselves to the audience.

Contact Angela Campos at campos.2@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In a letter from Robert Hohl in the Feb. 20 Observer, the letter should have read "it crosses the line that rightfully should separate the two different, if complementary, governing bodies of the College," not complimentary. The Observer regrets the error.

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.

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THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

- Thursday
◆ Conference: "Ecology, Theology, and Judeo-Christian Environmental Ethics," McKenna Hall, all day
◆ Lecture: "Crisis in Latin American Labor?" Hesburgh Center, 4:15 p.m.

BEYOND CAMPUS

Students protest Laura Bush as commencement speaker

LOS ANGELES, Cal. Despite being 3,000 miles away, Laura Bush fueled debate between administrators and students who objected to the possibility of having the first lady speak at this year's University of California-Los Angeles commencement ceremony.

Students in the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies met with Dean Aimee Dorr on Friday to demand that she rescind the invitation to Bush.

Critics cited Bush's "shallow credentials" and complained they were not allowed to participate in the selection of their commencement speaker.

"We're disappointed that the selection for a student event had no student input," said Estela Zarate, a

"She was selected for her political celebrity. The commencement speaker should speak to us based on achievements in the field. [Bush] has no merit."

Tara Watford
doctoral student

doctoral student in education. Carnesale, who sent off the invitation in early February under the recommendation of the school, said Tuesday that "it is extremely unlikely" he would rescind the invitation.

said. "Having had a career in education and information studies, she's been dedicated to those areas, as has been demonstrated by her actions," he added.

"I'm really sorry there is this much agitation," Dorr said Friday, promising to increase student involvement in future selections.

Many students warned Dorr of the political implications of inviting Bush to speak at the commencement.

"She was selected for her political celebrity," said Tara Watford, a doctoral student in education.

"The commencement speaker should speak to us based on achievements in the field," she said. "[Bush] has no merit."

Daily Bruin

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Scientists find possible cancer vaccine

During the past five years, Dr. Johannes Vieweg and fellow immunotherapy researchers at Duke University have witnessed a fledgling prostate cancer vaccine become a clinical trial with recent, very positive patient responses: vaccine acceptance and a decrease in tumor growth rate.

The Chronicle

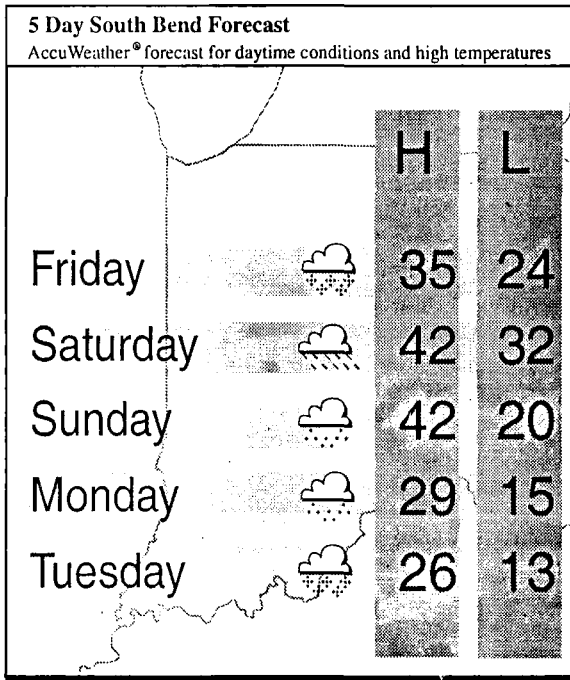
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

Nursing school faces cuts

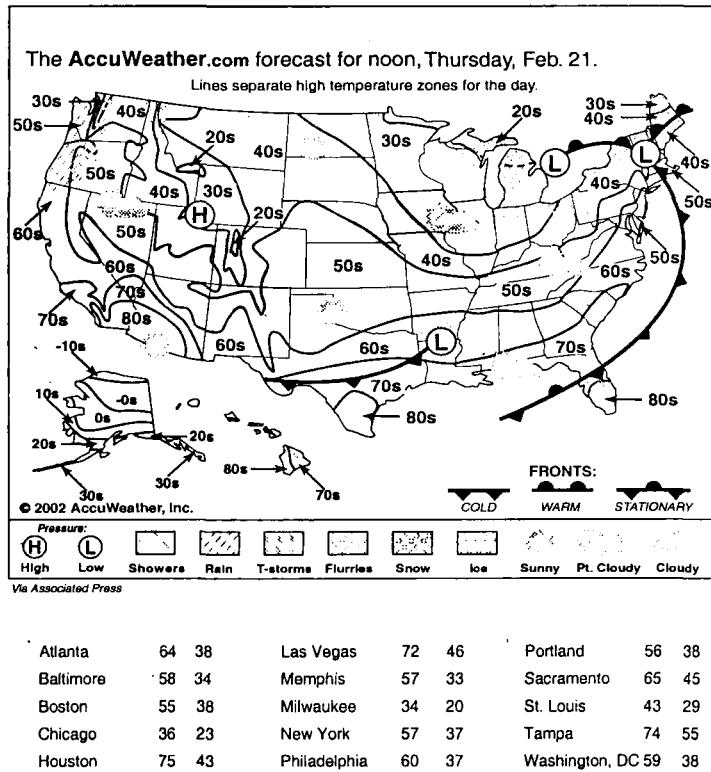
With budget cuts imminent and enrollment beginning to increase for the first time in six years, the San Jose State University school of nursing is doing all it can to avoid a full-blown crisis situation, said the director of the nursing program at SJSU.

Spartan Daily

LOCAL WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER



Experts gear up for ecology conference

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Writer

Experts from a broad range of academic disciplines will be convening this weekend on campus for the "Ecology, Theology, and Judeo-Christian Environmental Ethics" conference. The conference, sponsored by the Lilly Fellows National Research Conference, will address how ecology, history, philosophy and theology are interrelated.

"I hope that by bringing these different disciplines approaches together a conversation will begin that will move from multi-disciplinarian to one that addresses the concerns from one to another," said David Lodge professor of biological sciences.

Specifically, the scholars will investigate how the separate disciplines possibly affect and shape environmental policy and ethics. Scholars are challenged to conduct an environmental discussion combining these disciplines while applying contemporary scientific attitudes.

The conference will highlight a range of topics that are related to the interruptions between

humanities and ecology.

Scholars will examine how recently ecology has been evolving its view on species interaction and ecosystem function from a "balance of nature" to "flux of nature." Then the effects of these changes on social thought will be examined.

Within the framework of a Judeo-Christian discussion, scholars will examine how human action and nature is affected by contemporary ecology.

Lodge and Chris Hamlin, professor of history, are organizing the conference, which was initiated by a group of faculty members from the College of Arts and Letters

and the College of Sciences.

The participants include ecologists, biologists, historians, philosophers, ethicists, and Christian and Jewish theologians from prominent universities. The conference will consist of a series of talks, responses, and breakout discussions.

The conference will take place in McKenna Hall beginning Thursday evening and ending Sunday afternoon.

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdownes1@nd.edu

"I hope that by bringing these different discipline approaches together a conversation will begin that will move from multi-disciplinarian to one that addresses concerns from one another."

David Lodge
professor of biological sciences

LECTURING ON AQUINAS



KATIE LARSEN/The Observer

Marie George, professor of philosophy at Saint John's University of New York, lectures on Thomas Aquinas at Saint Mary's Wednesday. The lecture focused on natural virtues and personalities.

ND AFTER FIVE

Thursday, Feb. 21

- 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer, Coleman-Morse Center Chapel
- 5:15 p.m. Daily Mass, Basilica of the Sacred Heart
- 7:00 p.m. Film: *Time and Tide*, Hesburgh Library Carey Auditorium
- 7:00 p.m. College of Engineering Chemical Engineering Departmental Open House for First Year Students, Cushing 303
- 7:00 p.m. Exhibition Tour, Masks and Figures, Form and Style: The Christensen Family Collects African Art, Snite Mestrovic Studio Gallery
- 7:30 p.m. Play: *Macbeth*, (featuring Actors from the London Stage), Washington Hall*
- 7:30 p.m. "Corky" (Chris Burke) from *Life Goes On*, Stepan Center
- 8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Drop-In Lacrosse, Rolfs Sports Recreation Center
- 9:00 p.m. - Midnight ND Express Pool Room open, LaFortune Student Center Basement
- 9:00 p.m. Acousticafe, LaFortune Student Center Huddle
- 10:00 p.m. Movies: *Spy Game* and *Austin Powers*, DeBartolo 101/155*

Friday, Feb. 22

- 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer, Coleman-Morse Center Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. 2002 Bengal Bouts Preliminaries, Joyce Field House*
- 5:15 p.m. Daily Mass, Basilica of the Sacred Heart
- 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Drop-In Badminton, Rolfs Sports Recreation Center
- 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross, Basilica of the Sacred Heart
- 7:00 p.m. Winter Carnival Bonfire, Holy Cross Hill
- 7:30 p.m. Play: *Macbeth*, (featuring Actors from the London Stage), Washington Hall*
- 7:30 p.m. Movies: *Spy Game* and *Austin Powers*, DeBartolo 101 /155*
- 7:30 p.m. Play: *The Odd Couple*, Moreau Seminary Auditorium
- 8:00 p.m. 807 Mass, Coleman-Morse Center Student Lounge
- 8:00 p.m. Alan Jackson in concert, Joyce Center Arena*
- 8:30 p.m. - Midnight ND Express Pool Room open, free billiards, LaFortune Student Center Basement
- 9:00 p.m. Crafting Corner: Soap Making, LaFortune Student Center Dooley Room
- 9:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Swing Dance and lessons, LaFortune Student Center Ballroom (dance begins at 10:00 p.m.)
- 10:00 p.m. Movies: *Spy Game* and *Austin Powers*, DeBartolo 101 /155*
- 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Tournament Fridays: Checkers, LaFortune Student Center Notre Dame Room

Saturday, Feb. 23

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass, Basilica of the Sacred Heart
- 6:30 p.m. Fiestang, Stepan Center*
- 6:30 p.m. No Greater Love Closing Mass, Morrissey Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Student Open Skate, Joyce Center Ice Rink*
- 7:30 p.m. Play: *Macbeth*, (featuring Actors from the London Stage), Washington Hall*
- 7:30 p.m. Movies: *Spy Game* and *Austin Powers*, DeBartolo 101 and 155*
- 7:30 p.m. Play: *The Odd Couple*, Moreau Seminary Auditorium
- 8:30 p.m. - Midnight ND Express Pool Room open, free billiards, LaFortune Student Center Basement
- 9:00 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. Discoteca and Dance Lessons, Alumni Senior Club (Fiesta begins at 10:00 p.m.)
- 10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Open Karaoke, LaFortune Student Center Huddle
- 10:00 p.m. Movies: *Spy Game* and *Austin Powers*, DeBartolo 101 and 155*
- 10:00 p.m. Late Night Co-Rec Volleyball Tournament, Rolfs Sports Recreation Center

This ad is published by the Student Activities Office. Programs are subject to change without notice. All programs are free to Notre Dame students unless marked by an asterisk (*).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: www.nd.edu/~sao/

CHINA

Bush meets with Zemin

Associated Press

BEIJING

On the final leg of his Asian trip, President Bush said Thursday that China is lending "steady and strong support" to the U.S.-led war on terrorism as it worked toward striking a deal with the United States on controlling the flow of nuclear technology.

High on Bush's agenda with Chinese President Jiang Zemin is preventing the sale of missile and nuclear technology to nations such as Iraq and Pakistan. The two leaders hoped to complete an agreement during their meetings in Beijing, a senior White House official said Thursday on condition of anonymity.

Jiang greeted Bush at the Great Hall before a contingent of 40 uniformed Chinese soldiers. They reviewed the ceremonial honor guard and shook hands with members of each others' delegations, then went behind closed doors for their talks.

Under the potential nuclear deal, China would meet U.S. demands to publish a list of items prohibited from export and enforce the ban if the administration agreed to lift sanctions barring U.S. companies from launching satellites on Chinese rockets.

The meetings between Bush and Jiang were unlikely to be contentious, in part because of their new alliance against terrorism. China has provided the United States intelligence and other help that has gone a long way toward muting differences, and Bush also was extending an invitation for Jiang to visit Washington next fall.

But there are also sticking points. Bush wants to encourage Jiang to respect religious freedoms and consider the Vatican's plea to free Catholic



AFP Photo

President Bush reviews an honor guard with Chinese President Jiang Zemin during a welcoming ceremony in Beijing.

bishops. He said he hoped that Jiang "would understand the important role of religion in an individual's life."

In addition to human rights, Bush and Jiang are at odds over U.S. missile defense plans, the fate of Taiwan, trade and Bush's claim that North Korea, Iran and Iraq form "an axis of evil." Bush intended to raise World Trade Organization requirements that China allow U.S. soybean shipments, a \$1 billion-a-year market for American growers, said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer.

Before leaving South Korea, Bush told troops at Osan Air Base that despite their regional differences, the three Asian leaders he has met on his six-day tour are united in backing his coalition against the al-Qaida network and other terrorist groups.

"All three governments are lending their support in our

war against terror," Bush said. Each stop of his journey, Bush said, gave him a chance "to look the leaders in the eye, to thank them on behalf of a grateful nation, for their steady and strong support as this nation leads a coalition to defend freedom."

China agreed in November 2000 to stop the export of sensitive nuclear equipment and know-how to countries like Pakistan and Iran. But U.S. officials say Beijing has not begun formulating export control rules and a list of sensitive technologies, nor has it cracked down on export deals struck before the November agreement.

Attorneys dispute time limit in rape case

◆ Priest's attorney asks court to enforce 10-year statute of limitations

Associated Press

BOSTON

Child rape charges filed against a defrocked priest do not exceed the state's 15-year statute of limitations for the crime, a prosecutor argued Wednesday.

Attorneys for former priest John Geoghan say the charges should be dismissed because the alleged victim made a molestation accusation in 1986.

The court should apply the 10-year statute of limitations that existed then, argued Geoffrey Packard, Geoghan's attorney. The current 15-year time limit on child rape charges took effect in 1996.

Prosecutor David Deakin said the charges, which were filed in 1999, are based on specific allegations that were made in 1989, well within the 15-year limit he said applied to the case.

The hearing is scheduled to continue Friday. Geoghan's trial had been set to begin

Wednesday but was delayed after the defense motion was filed last week.

Geoghan, 66, was convicted last month of fondling a 10-year-old boy in 1991. He is to be sentenced Thursday, and could face up to 10 years in prison.

The victim in the current case testified Wednesday that he told his mother details of the alleged abuse at age 11, in 1986.

"I recall telling her everything," he said. "About the sex abuse, fondling, and oral sex."

The specific allegation of oral sex, the act on which the rape charges are based, wasn't made until 1989, the prosecutor said.

Since 1995, more than 130 people have claimed Geoghan fondled or raped them during the three decades he served in Boston-area parishes.

Under pressure following Geoghan's conviction, Cardinal Bernard Law gave prosecutors the names of more than 80 active and former priests accused of abuse during the last four decades.


The Archdiocese of Boston said Wednesday it was suspending a pastor in Abington following allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor. Nine priests have been suspended since the archdiocese's new policy was announced.



GREAT WALL

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Dinner Starting at \$6.45
Sunday - Thursday 11:30 AM - 10:00 PM
Friday - Saturday 11:30 AM - 11:00 PM
Sunday Buffet Brunch - Every Sunday
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
\$8.95 for Adults
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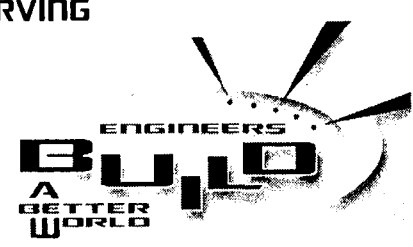


College of Engineering
Spotlight Nights 2002
for First-Year Students

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING OPEN HOUSE FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21
6:00 TO 7:30 P.M.
303 CUSHING HALL



**HAVE SOME FOOD TOO,
WE START SERVING
AT 6:00 P.M.**



NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAM IN

BRAZIL – Spring 2003



RIO DE JANEIRO SÃO PAULO

INFORMATION SESSIONS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH
5:30-6:30
125 Hayes-Healy

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST
5:30-6:30
125 Hayes-Healy

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Queen completes Jamaican visit:

Queen Elizabeth II wrapped up a visit Wednesday that energized debate about why an independent nation should retain a European monarch as head of state. Jamaica was the first of four countries on the royal itinerary in the jubilee year celebrating the queen's 50 years on the throne. She now heads to Australia and New Zealand and visits Canada in October.

Storm devastates Bolivian capital:

Rescue workers found more bodies in the rivers around Bolivia's capital Wednesday, bringing the number of dead to 52 in the most destructive thunderstorm in the city's history. The storm, which began about 3 p.m. Tuesday and lasted nearly an hour, flooded streets in the city center, turning the main street into a muddy river.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Copyright office targets online radio:

A government panel proposed Wednesday that organizations that broadcast music and other radio content over the Internet pay royalties based on each Web user that listens in. The recommendations are the latest step in a struggle between the record industry, broadcasters and the government to determine the price of music in the Information Age.

Raids stop illegal money transfers:

Money-transfer agents in 14 states were raided in an effort to stop the illegal wiring of millions of dollars to Iraq, the government said Wednesday. U.S. Customs Service Commissioner Robert Bonner said 29 search warrants on businesses and individuals were used, allowing law enforcement agents to seize documents and records. The identities of the businesses and individuals were not disclosed and no one was arrested.

INDIANA NEWS BRIEFS

Applicants flood graduate programs:

Graduate degree programs across Indiana are seeing a surge in applications from prospective students hoping to broaden their career options in a weak job market. Notre Dame Law School has seen a 51 percent increase in enrollment applications compared with last school year, with graduate programs at Purdue University seeing a 27 percent rise. Indiana University's Kelley School of Business has experienced a 15 percent increase on top of a 30 percent jump last year. The Indianapolis Star reported in a story published Wednesday.

EGYPT



Egyptian rescue workers walk through one of the burnt out train cars that caught fire February 20, 2002 at the village of Reqa Al Gharbiya, located approximately 44 miles south of Cairo, Egypt.

AFP PHOTO

Hundreds die in Egyptian train

Associated Press

CAIRO

A train crowded with Egyptians leaving the capital for a religious holiday caught fire and sped on in flames for miles Wednesday, killing 373 people, including some who died as they jumped from the burning cars, police said.

The fire was reportedly started by a cooking gas cylinder that burst and it swept through the last seven of the train's 11 cars. Workers in gloves and masks pulled charred and twisted bodies from the wreckage. Firefighters

said some of the corpses were found curled up under seats and dozens more lay alongside the train tracks.

It was the worst disaster in 150 years of Egyptian railroad history.

Maher Abdel Wahid, who led a team of state investigators to the scene, said he did not expect the toll to rise much beyond 373.

Officials called it the worst train accident here in decades.

"There has been nothing in the recent or distant past like this," Ahmed al-Sherif, director of the state-owned

Railway Authority, said at the scene. "I've been with the railway for 32 years and never seen or heard of an event of this size."

President Hosni Mubarak, who was in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el Sheik, was quoted by the Middle East News Agency as expressing his "deepest regret and profound sorrow" to the families of the victims.

The news agency said the cause of the fire was a burst gas cylinder used for cooking in the dining car. But al-Sherif said the cause was still under investigation. He said the

train had no dining car, but that passengers often brought gas cylinders and small stoves aboard despite regulations forbidding it.

The train cars had metal frames with wooden seats. Each burned car was jammed with passengers whose clothing and belongings would have been flammable. Some passengers apparently had portable gas cookers.

The cars were separated, but witnesses saw passengers running from car to car, including one woman who was on fire. People were likely smoking on board, as well.

Market Watch February 20

Dow Jones 9,941.17 +196.03

Up: 1,899 Same: 217 Down: 1,218 Composite Volume: 1,403,842,944

AMEX: 849.16 +2.34
NASDAQ: 1,775.57 +24.96
NYSE: 569.14 +7.06
S&P 500: 1,097.98 +14.46

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS

COMPANY/SECURITY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ-100 INDEX	+1.36	+0.47	35.15
CISCO SYSTEMS	-0.71	-0.12	16.69
NEXTEL COMM-A	+23.38	+0.83	4.38
SUN MICROSYSTEM	+1.08	+0.09	8.42
INTEL CORP	+0.32	+0.01	31.44

Israel retaliates against Palestine

Associated Press

GAZA STRIP

Israeli tanks and troops entered Gaza City from two directions early Thursday, the first such incursion in nearly 17 months of violence, witnesses said.

Tanks went into Sejaieh neighborhood, which straddles the main north-south road through the Gaza Strip, near another road used by Jewish settlers and the scene of several recent attacks by Palestinian militants, according to witnesses.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

mediate comment.

Then tanks approached Beach Camp, a sprawling, poverty-stricken refugee camp, firing machine guns and shells, witnesses said. Also, Israeli warships fired machine guns from the sea, they said.

Loudspeakers on mosques called on Gazans to come out and confront the Israeli invaders, and police and gunmen raced to the scene of the incursions. The sound of heavy gunfire reverberated all over the city of about 300,000, witnesses said.

In southern Gaza, Israeli tanks and bulldozers entered the Rafah

refugee camp and destroyed the house of a militant who killed an Israeli woman and two soldiers on Monday, before he was killed by troops.

The incursions came after a day of Israeli air strikes, reprisal for a series of Palestinian attacks, including a surprise assault on a West Bank checkpoint in which six Israeli soldiers were killed on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, Israeli forces targeted Yasser Arafat's Gaza headquarters for the first time. Warships fired machine guns and a missile at the building, killing four guards.

Bass may go from 'N Sync to 'n space

♦ Band member negotiates travel on Russian Rocket for November mission

Associated Press

NEW YORK

Lance Bass could be going from 'N Sync to 'n space.

The boy band member is negotiating to travel on a Russian rocket for a mission in November, according to MirCorp, the Amsterdam-based space travel company.

Bass said in a statement Wednesday that he was "completely overwhelmed."

"I'm looking forward to completing this lifelong dream," he said.

The plan still requires the approval of the Russian space agency, Rosaviakosmos, according to MirCorp, which also plans to build the first private space station. The partners in the international space station program — the United States, Russia, Japan, Canada and Europe — also would have to approve the trip.

The 22-year-old Bass attended space camp near Titusville, Fla., when he was

12. He said Wednesday that he would have to undergo five or six months of training at Star City, the space training center outside Moscow, before blasting off.

A Los Angeles TV production company, Destiny Productions, is one of several corporations offering to sponsor Bass' journey, and hopes to document it for a television special, "Celebrity Mission: Lance Bass."

Bass' voyage would follow that of California investment banker Dennis Tito, who reportedly paid \$20 million to visit the International Space Station last year. South African tycoon Mark Shuttleworth reportedly is spending the same sum to fly to the space station on a Russian rocket in late April.

Russia's space chief, Yuri Koptev, has said his agency is mulling over several tourist candidates to visit the station in October. "The earnings provide serious support for the industry, the cosmonauts' training center and mission control," he said Wednesday.

Bass expects to start training in May, after the pop group's "Celebrity 2002" tour, which begins March 3 in Portland, Ore.

Bass' film debut, "On the Line," didn't exactly skyrocket in October. Critics panned the romantic comedy, co-starring Joey Fatone of 'N Sync, and it sank at the box office.

"I'm looking forward to completing this lifelong dream."

Lance Bass
'N Sync band member

ABC stars deny rift over story

Associated Press

NEW YORK

ABC News stars Barbara Walters and Diane Sawyer on Tuesday denied any rift between them over an interview in which talk-show host Rosie O'Donnell is expected to discuss her homosexuality for the first time publicly.

Walters said, however, that she should have been more sensitive to any public perception that she was trying to undermine Sawyer.

Sawyer landed the much-sought interview with O'Donnell, which is to air on ABC's "Primetime Thursday" on March 14. O'Donnell will reportedly talk about her sexuality in the context of opposing a Florida law restricting the adoption of children by gay couples.

Last Thursday — the day Sawyer taped her interview with O'Donnell — Walters and her co-hosts on ABC's "The View" talked briefly about the case. In doing so, they publicly asserted that O'Donnell was a lesbian.

"What concerns Rosie is not just this case but that she has three adopted children and a foster child herself, and she, because she is gay, would not be allowed to adopt this child," Walters said on "The View."

Walters said she had not competed with Sawyer to land a prime-time interview with O'Donnell. She was aware Sawyer would be speaking to O'Donnell, but Walters said she didn't have that interview in mind when the subject came

up on "The View."

"This had nothing to do with getting an interview with Rosie, but I am sensitive enough now as I look back to see how it could be interpreted that way and how, if one didn't know the story and wanted to create a story, it could look as if I was trying to harm Diane," Walters said on Tuesday.

"This is not the evil axis," she said. "This is a little misunderstanding."

"The View" hosts decided to talk about the subject because of newspaper stories about O'Donnell, Walters said. She said she called O'Donnell that morning to ask if it were OK to talk about her sexuality, and O'Donnell said yes.

A week earlier, Fox News Channel talk-show host Bill O'Reilly had talked about O'Donnell's sexuality during a guest appearance on "The View," angering the show's hosts.

Sawyer said she and Walters talked Tuesday about "The View's" discussion and she was satisfied there was no attempt to undermine her work. She had been most concerned that it had occurred without O'Donnell's knowledge, which she believed would be wrong, Sawyer said.

"Barbara and I talked about that and I am now completely

relaxed about it," Sawyer said.

ABC's announcement of the March 14 special frames it as a look at gay adoption featuring an O'Donnell interview. A second special, to be broadcast in April, will be about her upcoming autobiography, "Find Me."

O'Donnell's spokeswoman, Cindi Berger, said O'Donnell agreed to speak to Sawyer because "it was a political issue that was near and dear to her. For that reason, she was compelled to speak and speak openly."

O'Donnell is ending her run as a daytime TV talk-show host in May.

The timing of Sawyer's interview and Walters' discussion on "The View" revived stories about competition between the two. The New York Times, in a story last week, said ABC News President David Westin had to sit the "ferocious" rivals down in fall 2000 and strike a truce after they competed over interviews with Yasser Arafat.

"I cannot tell you how much we hate this story," Walters said Tuesday, adding that she and Sawyer have bumped heads on stories far fewer times than one would expect, given their respective roles.

It doesn't mean the two news stars can't have fun with it. Both dined separately at the Four Seasons in Manhattan on Tuesday, where observers could notice a scratch on Sawyer's face. She got it when she ran into a tree while walking her dog over the weekend.

"I'm going to tell everybody that I did it," Walters said.

"Barbara and I talked about that and I am now completely relaxed about it."

Diane Sawyer
ABC anchorwoman

"This is not an evil axis. This is a little misunderstanding."

Barbara Walters
ABC TV personality

Assistant Student Union Treasurer Applications Are Now Available

Here's an opportunity for you to gain valuable accounting experience and possibly become the next Student Union Treasurer.

As an Assistant Treasurer you will:

- Become an integral part of the Student Union Treasurer's Office, the primary controlling body of student activities funds
- Be responsible for managing, consulting, and maintaining various student accounts
- Serve as financial liaison for "The Shirt" Project (\$200,000+ revenue operation) or for the Student businesses (Adworks, Irish Gardens, Dome Designs)
- Sit on the Financial Management Board, which is responsible for allocating over \$600,000 in student activities fees among various student body organizations


This commitment requires approximately 5-6 hours per week and further it is a possible two-year commitment, as one assistant shall take over the role of Student Union Treasurer the following year.

Applications are now available outside the Treasurer's Office (3rd floor LaFortune, in the CRC) and are due no later than 5pm Monday, February 25th

Interviews will be held Tuesday, February 26th (Please sign up for an interview upon submitting your application)

Questions? Contact Jennifer Wolfe at jwolfe@nd.edu or the Office of the Treasurer at 631-4557

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Eldred

continued from page 1

programming already sponsored by the College.

"I think that it's great because I think "The Vagina Monologues" raise an awareness about women's bodies," sophomore Cyd Apellido said. "Those students who are participating are really brave and they show that they really care to take that risk of possibly getting in trouble. Hopefully other students will see that it is not about controversy but about consciousness."

Contact Sarah Nestor at nest9877@saintmarys.edu

Visit The Observer Online.
http://observer.nd.edu

Senate

continued from page 1

heard of," O'Connor said.

She added that many clubs use all their financial resources to plan one major event that benefits the whole campus, but leaves the club without money for other activities, such as community service in South Bend.

"The club loses on an interpersonal level, and it can't go do service," O'Connor said.

While she conceded that clubs can hold fundraisers, it would be impossible for many organizations to raise all the money they need on their own.

"Fundraising can only cover so much," said O'Connor.

The committee set up to consider the example hopes to have a resolution ready for the senate to consider at its next meeting on Feb. 27.

"I'll be very disappointed in the senate if we don't pass this eventually," said Morrissey senator Padraic McDermott. "Five years down the line, when SUB is crumbling and they can't bring any

speakers all year, they're going to look back at our senate. We deserve the discredit."

However, two students who came to the meeting voiced concern over raising the student activity fee.

"I'm not completely opposed to raising the fee," said freshman Cole Barker. "I think it's ridiculous that we would raise the student activity fee so people can go get free pizza at the Physics Club."

"If an academic club has trouble attracting members maybe they shouldn't be a club anymore," said junior Chris Zimmerman.

However, the office of the president's representative to the Financial Management Board Audra Hagan said that it was important to maintain clubs, both for incoming freshmen to enjoy and for the overall benefit organizations have on the campus community.

"There is an intrinsic value to every club and organization on campus," said Hagan, who originally proposed the resolution.

Zimmerman also pointed out that only 75 percent of students belong to a club, and therefore he said clubs should have to pay more themselves so that the other 25 percent of the student body does not have to pay a higher activity fee.

"The majority of that [other] 25 percent still enjoys that money," said Jesse Flores, the senator from Carroll. Flores pointed out that student activity fee money also goes to SUB movies and to help dorms purchase items such as DVD players.

In addition, Zimmerman questioned the fact that student groups must pay to use certain campus facilities.

"It's our facility. It's our University. We paid for it from the beginning," he said.

In other senate news:

♦ The senate unanimously approved a letter from Cavanaugh senator Lindsay

Zika and the senate's gender relations committee to Sister Mary Louise Gude, assistant vice president of student affairs.

The letter called for improving the University's Women's Resource Center, currently located on the third floor of LaFortune. Specifically, the letter requested that the University hire a full-time staff member for the center, improve the quality of information available at the center and move the center to the Counseling Center.

As she submitted the letter to the senate, Zika told senators that the WRC could become a much more valuable resource for students.

"All they can give you is information, and even that's outdated," she said.

However, student body president Brooke Norton questioned

"I'm not completely opposed to raising the fee. I think it's ridiculous that we would raise the student activity fee so people can get free pizza at the Physics Club."

**Cole Barker
O'Neill Hall Senator**

Let's go to the third floor of LaFortune," said Zika. "We want to get it moved to the counseling center so it's closer to where the students are, and it's a place they'd probably feel more comfortable going to."

The WRC often refers students to the counseling center anyway, added Pangborn senator Mary Mullen, who chairs the gender relations committee.

♦ The senate unanimously approved four students for SUB positions: Stephen Christ as board manager, Lauren Fowler as director of programming, Andrew Lam as chief controller and Connie Quinlan as director of operations.

Contact Erin LaRuffa at elaruffa@nd.edu

GREAT BRITAIN

Students protest tuition

Associated Press

LONDON

Shouting slogans and blowing whistles, thousands of university students marched through the capital Wednesday, demanding the government scrap tuition fees which they claim are plunging them into debt and barring the poor from higher education.

The streets of central London, normally choked with traffic, had a carnival atmosphere as the students marched toward Prime Minister Tony Blair's Downing Street office and into Trafalgar Square. Police, who estimate the crowd at some 4,000 people, watched closely but didn't intervene.

The National Union of Students, which organized the annual rally, claims Blair's government has betrayed students by ending means-tested living allowances in favor of loans and introducing fees of up to \$1,500 a year for university courses.

The student union says students now graduate with an average debt of \$14,300 and in college must survive on \$40 a week after paying rent, meaning they would be better off claiming unemployment benefits.

"We are appalled that a government which claims its No. 1 priority is education is forcing thousands of young people to live below the minimum threshold that it believes a single person can live on," NUS national president Owain James said Wednesday.

Education Secretary Estelle Morris said it was shortsighted to suggest students were better off on unemployment benefits.

"Do they really think that their life chances would be improved if they had no qualifications, didn't do the degree and stayed on job-seeker's allowance?" she asked.

Ministers insist the fees are fair, as payment is means-tested, and defend the loan system, which allows students to borrow up to \$5,700 an academic year, with interest rates linked to the inflation rate. Students only start repayment once they have graduated and earn \$14,300 or more a year.

Although tuition fees in Britain are small compared with countries such as the United States, opposition to them has been intense in a country that had a strong tradition of free education.

It came as a shock to many students when Blair's government, which campaigned hard on the education ticket and was seen as more friendly to youth, introduced tuition fees four years ago and phased out and finally abolished student grants in the academic year 1999-2000.

Blair has come under increasing pressure to revise the policy, after the regional governments in Scotland and Wales restored grants. Scotland has also ended tuition fees.

Student Government Positions Still Available

Off-Campus Senator
Junior Class Officers

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- ~ All Cans Will Be Delivered Over The Weekend. And Crushees Can Match The Amount Paid By Their Crush On Monday And Tuesday, Feb. 25 and 26.



Yates jurors to see photos

♦ Jurors will view more than two dozen photos taken at the crime scene

Associated Press

HOUSTON

Jurors in the Andrea Yates child-killing case will be allowed to see more than two dozen photos taken at the crime scene, a judge ruled Wednesday.

State District Judge Belinda Hill admitted 29 of the photos of the dead children and contents of the Yates home after the state agreed to withdraw 10 others.

Hill said the photos' relevance outweighed any prejudice they might cause the jury.

The court recessed early because of an emergency unrelated to the trial. A male juror was returned to the jury room, where he was joined by Hill.

"It causes us not to be able to proceed today. It has nothing to do with the case," Hill said when she re-emerged.

She did not elaborate.

Yates, 37, could face the death penalty. She has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity.

At issue during the trial is whether Yates suffered from a mental illness and knew the difference between right and wrong at the time of the drownings.

Testimony was to resume Thursday when prosecutors likely will display the pictures taken after Yates was arrested last June.

One of the photos shows 7-year-old Noah Yates floating face down in the bathtub with his arms outstretched, submerged beneath the water.

Others detailed bruising on the children and how the bodies of Noah's four younger siblings — John, 5; Paul, 3; Luke, 2; and Mary, 6 months — were laid out on a bed in the back bedroom.

Prosecutors also plan to show photos taken during the children's autopsies. Prosecutor Kaylynn

Williford said it is never easy to present evidence such as pictures of the dead children.

Defense attorney George

Parnham appeared bothered by some of the photos that flashed onto a computerized monitor as attorneys discussed them.

Yates was removed from the courtroom before the pictures were shown.

It isn't clear whether she will be in the courtroom when the photos are viewed by jurors.

Also admitted was a videotape Houston police crime scene unit officer Glenn West made of the Yates home, a one-story Spanish style brick house, after he arrived June 20.

West testified Wednesday that he found one of Luke's socks in the soggy hallway between the home's back bedroom and the bathroom where he and his siblings were drowned.

"As I stepped out of the living room into the hallway, there was a water trail all the way from the bathroom back into the bedroom," West said.

Bowls and a box of cereal were on the kitchen table, he told jurors.

A baby carrier was found in the bathroom next to the tub.

Trustees

continued from page 1

system, but this is not for certain.

"Once ground breaking on the student center project is begun the plan calls for a period of 18 months to complete, but this project could be completed in less than 18 months," said Marilou Eldred, president.

While there are no definite plans for what will happen to Hagger College Center after the new student center is built, there is talk that it will become part of the Administration building.

"Many of the offices in LeMans are crowded and they barely have enough room for everyone. It is not absolutely sure but Hagger could possible house administration offices," Eldred said.

Along with voting on whether or not to begin work on the student center the Board will also be examining data the finance office has accumulated.

"The Board will decide on budget approval that would include decisions on student fees and faculty salaries for

next year," Ristau said.

The Board of Trustees is composed of nine different committees that will be meeting separately today and Friday and the full Board will meet to have a final vote on issues raised. The Board will also be voting on the student representative for next year. Applications have already been turned submitted and the Board will review these and make their selection. The student representative is a voting member and informs the committee about student life.

"The board will decide on budget approval that would include decisions on student fees and faculty salaries for next year."

Karen Ristau
vice-president

"All the administration prepare data to update and gather all the information so the Trustees can have the knowledge to make their decisions," said Akmaral Omarova, the current student trustee. "It is my job to inform the Trustees about the day to day concerns of students."

The Board of Trustees will be on campus today and Friday, holding conferences in Stapleton Lounge and meeting with the different vice-presidents and Eldred.

Contact Sarah Nestor at Nest9877@saintmarys.edu.

University of Notre Dame

BOXING



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March 1
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Ecology, Theology, and Judeo-Christian Environmental Ethics

February 21-24, 2002

A Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts
National Research Conference
at the University of Notre Dame

Friday Morning Plenary Session:
Changing Scientific Conceptions of Nature

8:30 a.m.: *From the "Balance of Nature" to the "Flux of Nature"*
Stuart Pimm, Columbia University

10:30 a.m.: *Rates of Change of Natural Ecosystems: The Impact of Humans*
Gary Belovsky, University of Notre Dame

Friday Afternoon Plenary Session:
Changing Conceptions of Nature in Historical Perspective

1:00 p.m.: *Changing Metaphors and Concepts of Nature*
Elspeth Whitney, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

3:00 p.m.: *Ecology and American Social Thought*
Eugene Cittadino, New York University

Saturday Morning Plenary Session:
Changing Theological and Ethical Conceptions of Nature

8:30 a.m.: *Theology and Ecology in an Unfinished Universe*
John Haught, Georgetown University

10:30 a.m.: *Ecology and Society: The Challenge to and from Christian Ethics*
Larry Rasmussen, Union Theological Seminary

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COLOMBIA

President breaks off peace process

Associated Press

BOGOTA

President Andres Pastrana broke off the peace process with leftist rebels Wednesday night, hours after guerrillas hijacked a jetliner and kidnapped a prominent senator.

In a nationally televised address, Pastrana gave the Revolutionary Armed Forces until midnight, three hours away, to abandon the vast safe haven he granted them at the beginning of the process.

The military began immediate preparations to retake the safe Switzerland-sized area of jungle, mountains and cattle ranches in southern Colombia. Gen. Euclides Sanchez, the second in command of the army, was named to head the operation.

There was no immediate reaction from the 16,000-strong rebel group.

But the rapid moves indicates Colombia's 38-year-old civil war — which pits the U.S.-backed military and a brutal right-wing paramilitary group against the FARC and smaller guerrilla factions — will intensify.

Pastrana's announcement was greeted in Bogota by some drivers honking their horns.

"This peace process didn't make sense because of the

actions of the guerrillas," said shopkeeper Jaime Tapia. "It doesn't matter if there is a war. We are already at war."

The highly organized hijacking angered a nation already fed up with peace talks that have gone nowhere, and appeared to be the last straw for Pastrana.

"It's not possible to sign agreements on one side while putting guns to the heads of innocent people on the other," Pastrana said.

In one of the most brazen attacks in a 38-year battle against the government, four rebels dressed in civilian clothes and armed with handguns seized control of the Aires airlines flight, forcing it fly into southern Colombia.

Camouflage-clad rebels met the plane as it landed on a narrow road near the town of Hobo, clipping small trees before it came to a stop. The waiting rebels then whisked away the four armed hijackers and Sen. Jorge Gechen Turbay, 50, president of the Colombian Senate's peace commission.

Gechen Turbay is a member of a prominent political clan that has had several of its members killed and kidnapped by the FARC. Four other members of Congress are also being held by the rebels.

States seek cremation reform

Associated Press

The ghastly discovery of scores of bodies discarded in the woods near a Georgia crematory has illustrated what consumer advocates say is a lack of state regulation and oversight of the industry.

Eight states have no laws at all, and most of those that do, including Georgia, lack adequate enforcement, consumer advocates say.

"Other than EPA emissions regulations, crematories are seriously under-regulated," said Lisa Carlson, executive director of Funeral Consumers Alliance, based in Hinesburg, Vt. "It's clear something needs to be done."

Georgia lawmakers moved quickly this week to tighten rules for crematories and treatment of the dead after rotting corpses were found near the Tri-State Crematory in Noble. The bodies had been taken there for cremation but were left in garages, vaults or the woods.

Ray Brent Marsh, the operator, is charged with theft by deception for allegedly taking payment for cremations not performed and giving families wood chips or cement powder instead of ashes.

One proposed law in Georgia would close a loophole that allowed crematories like Tri-State that do not open to the public for memorial services to operate without a license or state inspections.

The bill would also broaden the definition of mistreating the dead to include abandoning or throwing away a body intended for burial or cremation.

The Georgia case has highlighted the disparities in state laws at a time when cremations are on the rise. Twenty-five percent of the 2.3 million people who died in the United States in 2000 were cremated, according to the Cremation Association of North America. The group estimates that figure will double by 2025.



AFP Photo

Law enforcement personnel confer on top of a state emergency response vehicle outside tri-state crematory. State investigators have discovered more than 100 decomposing corpses. The find has prompted national dialogue on cremation reform.

Twenty-three states license their crematories, according to the association.

Florida and California have the most comprehensive laws because they require inspections, according to association executive director Jack Springer. He said California also requires that crematory operators pass training programs.

In most of New England and Texas, state laws require crematories to be located at not-for-profit cemeteries.

"In New England, where the majority of crematories are on cemetery grounds, you're not into the problems like in Georgia," Carlson said. "It's much more out in the open. It's not hidden in some remote countryside location or warehouse."

Eight states — Alabama, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Utah,

Vermont and West Virginia — have no laws, Carlson said. Ohio has a 1998 law requiring crematory inspections but it has not been used because licensing of inspectors has not been completed.

Also, unlike funeral directors, crematory operators are not subject to Federal Trade Commission consumer protection laws mandating disclosure of consumer rights in writing. Carlson's group, which has 120 branches in 44 states, wants the same rules applied to crematory operators.

Lawmakers in several states have said there should be stricter rules for punishing negligent crematories. In Michigan, for example, a lawmaker who is also a funeral director wants to make negligent disposal of human remains punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine. Such an act is not currently a crime in Michigan.

Springer said problems of the sort seen in Georgia are rooted in the subcontracting system. In the Georgia case, about 25 to 30 funeral homes in Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama sent bodies to Tri-State for cremation instead of doing it themselves.


"He said he was doing it. He wasn't doing it. Nobody checked him," Springer said. "What we need is people to be trained and be responsible for people they hire to do their cremations."

Bob Fells, general counsel of the International Cemetery and Funeral Association, based in Reston, Va., said most states have good guidelines but do not enforce them.

Congress has not debated crematory legislation in eight years. Fells, whose group has 6,000 members and lobbies on Capitol Hill, said he hopes the federal government stays out of the issue.

"We've always found that state regulation is more efficient and effective than federal oversight," he said. "As bad as it is, the Georgia authorities are there on the scene."

In Massachusetts, where there are 15 crematories, a state medical examiner must first visit the facility and inspect paperwork and view the body.



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w/ Katie Badridze, piano
5 pm, Hesburgh Library Auditorium
- Sun. Feb. 24: Aimee Szewka, voice recital
w/ Mark Scozzafave, piano
2 pm, Annenberg Auditorium
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McCain decries donations

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Sen. John McCain said Tuesday he had been "tainted" by donations from Global Crossing, but never acted improperly on behalf of the troubled telecommunications firm.



McCain

The Arizona senator has received more money from Global Crossing than any other member of Congress.

"I am tainted by this because I received money from them," McCain told reporters after addressing a luncheon in Los Angeles about the need for campaign finance reform.

"All politicians are under a cloud," he said, referring to campaign finance rules that allow corporations to give millions of dollars to both parties.

Global Crossing filed the fourth-largest bankruptcy case in U.S. history last month. The Securities and Exchange Commission and the FBI are investigating the company's accounting methods.

Global Crossing has made political donations of about \$3.5 million during its five years of existence.

McCain collected \$31,000 from the firm's employees in March 1999 for his presidential campaign. The same month he urged the Federal Communications Commission to open the market for laying undersea fiber optic cable, a market controlled by AT&T that Global Crossing was trying to penetrate.

McCain said he never mentioned Global Crossing specifically to the FCC, but knew the firm would be the beneficiary of any reform.

McCain said his request to open the market, made when he was chair of the commerce committee, was in line with his long-standing goal of industry deregulation.

"My whole record has been for competition in telecom," he said. "I've written hundreds of letters to the FCC on behalf of firms that have never given me a dime."

The senator said he had never provided any favors to Global Crossing.

Global Crossing, which filed the fourth-largest bankruptcy case in U.S. history last month, has made political donations of about \$3.5 million during its five years of existence.



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States may raise cigarette taxes

Associated Press

Squeezed by the recession, nearly half of the states are looking at raising cigarette taxes to generate revenue and discourage people from smoking, too.

"We've never seen as many states looking at increasing cigarette taxes as a way to make up for fiscal deficits as we're seeing right now," said Janis Borton of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Twenty-two states are considering proposals by governors or legislators to boost cigarette taxes, according to the group.

In Oregon, for example, Gov. John Kitzhaber is advocating a 50-cent-a-pack increase, despite protests from the tobacco industry that it would balance the state budget on the backs of smokers.

Kitzhaber spokesman Jon Coney said the governor — a former emergency room physician — views the tax increase as a "two-fer" for Oregon.

"It's a good way to bring in more money in the face of the recession," he said. "There is also a public health benefit. The higher the price of a pack of cigarettes, the fewer the people who will buy them and smoke them, particularly young people."

Already this year, legislators in New York state have approved a 39-cent-a-pack

cigarette tax increase. Beginning April 1, New York's cigarette tax will become \$1.50 per pack, the highest in the nation.

Also, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants to raise his city's tax on cigarettes from 8 cents per pack to \$1.50. Combined with the new 39-cent state cigarette tax increase, the average cost of a pack of smokes in New York city would approach \$7 — the highest anywhere in the country.

The tobacco industry has been waging a state-by-state lobbying effort to try to snuff out the proposed increases.

"We characterize what's going on as tax profiling," said John Singleton, spokesman for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. "You're taking a small percentage of the population and singling them out for an additional tax burden that ultimately benefits the entire state."

Since 1993, the American Medical Association has advocated higher taxes on cigarettes as a way for states to raise hundreds of millions of dollars for state budgets while discouraging smoking. The idea picked up momentum after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks damaged the already weakened economy.

Health officials have attributed the drop in the U.S. adult smoking rate during the 1990s to a combination of high taxes, no-smoking laws and public service campaigns.

States that raise cigarette taxes not only generate more revenue but stand to save money in the long run because health care costs associated with smoking diseases will go down as more people quit.

"If you don't want to pay for it, don't smoke."

**Jesse Ventura
Minnesota Governor**

Dr. Thomas Houston, head of the A M A ' s Smokeless States program.

Supporters of raising the cigarette tax have tried to sell it as a kind of voluntary tax.

"If you don't want to pay for it, don't smoke," said Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, who wants to raise his state's cigarette tax by 29 cents.

So far, the Republicans who run the Oregon Legislature have rejected Kitzhaber's proposal to raise the cigarette tax, saying they are against any tax increases. Kitzhaber also wants to increase Oregon's beer and wine tax.

"Why not have a latte tax instead?" House Speaker Mark Simmons said. "It's very unfair to target one segment of society for tax increases. It's very demoralizing."

HP workers oppose merger with Compaq

Associated Press

An independent poll commissioned by the son of Hewlett-Packard Co. co-founder David Packard found that almost two-thirds of HP employees in Oregon oppose the company's vigorously contested acquisition of Compaq Computer Corp.

The survey, released Wednesday by Field Research Corp., challenged the company's assertion that most workers support the \$21 billion purchase and gave the sons of HP's founders fresh ammunition in their increasingly acrimonious fight to sink the deal.

HP dismissed the poll, saying it represented just one small set of its 88,000 workers. The company also said the results might have been skewed because many respondents knew the poll was sought and paid for by David W. Packard, who has spoken out against the deal.

Packard, who had said he commissioned the \$100,000 survey in hopes of getting an unbiased measurement of employee sentiment, did not return a message seeking comment Wednesday.

From last Thursday through Monday, researchers at Field called randomly generated telephone numbers in and around Corvallis, Ore., where HP's printing division employs 4,200 people, mainly engineers and technicians.

The 671 respondents — 445

identifying themselves as HP workers and 226 as former employees — were asked about the deal and the leadership of chief executive and chairwoman Carly Fiorina.

The poll reported that 63 percent of current employees oppose the deal, while 31 percent said they favor it. Six percent had no opinion or no comment. That section of the survey had a margin of error of five percentage points.

Among retired employees, 59 percent were opposed and 20 percent in favor, with 21 percent offering no opinion. That category had a six percentage point margin of error.

Although opposition among employees was widespread, older workers and those who have been with the company for more than 10 years tended to express greater displeasure with the deal.

The survey is a statistically accurate reading of HP employees in Corvallis but should not be considered representative of HP's entire work force, said E. Deborah Jay, president and CEO of San Francisco-based Field Research.

The workers opposed to the deal had many of the same objections as its chief opponent, HP board member Walter Hewlett.

Thirty-one percent of those against the deal said it didn't add enough value or they were worried about Compaq's profitability.

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Saturday, April 20th, 2002

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Notre Dame

When: February 19-21

Where: LaFortune Student Center

Time: 11 AM - 2 PM and 7 PM - 9 PM

Saint Mary's

When: February 19-21

Where: Noble Family Dining Hall

Time: 4:30 PM - 7 PM

Holy Cross

When: March 4-8

Where: Dining Hall

Time: During lunch and dinner hours

Where: The Max

Time: 12 NOON - 3 PM

For more information: <http://www.nd.edu/~stdntaff/christmasapril.html>

VIEWPOINT

Thursday, February 21, 2002

page 13

Catholicism versus footballism

I received an e-mail asking, "If football is not the heart and soul of the University, then what is?" This raises the issue of the relation of theology and football, and it might be an interesting experiment to try to map out the options.

One: Notre Dame football is evil. One view is that football has a negative effect on the academy that is so pernicious that the game ought to be eliminated, or at least scaled down in the manner of the University of Chicago, once the home of the original "monsters of the midway" and the first Heisman Trophy winner, but now a Division III afterthought.

Holders of this view may or may not be religious. The key is that the criticism accrues until it is understood that what is wrong with Notre Dame football is that it is a thing-in-itself evil, and so is at least a quasi-theological problem. Whatever gods there may be are against Division I football in general and Notre Dame football in particular.

Two: Notre Dame football is theologically irrelevant. This view holds that football is an interesting game perhaps (and perhaps not), but God has little if anything to do with it, whether it is played at Notre Dame or not. There may be criticisms of how attention to the sport at Division I schools negatively impacts the quest for learning and involves exploitation of young men, but there may also be recognition of how in some cases it makes higher education available to people who could not otherwise afford it. Adherents of this view may go to games, but may also find ethnographic observation of the crowd when outside

the stadium more interesting.

Three: Notre Dame football is part of a larger sacramentality. One of the claims made about Catholicism is that it is a "sacramental" faith.

Catholics believe that because God made the world, the world can be a visible sign of God's ongoing activity. In the case of football, the solidarity, spirit and athleticism displayed on the field can be a sign, however imperfect, of God's presence among us. Because in this view football is part of a larger sacramentality, there is no claim that God is invested in who wins. It is the theological version of, "It does not matter (in any ultimate way) whether you win or lose, but how you play the game."

Four: Notre Dame football is uniquely sacramental. There are two inflections of this view, and they are usually held together. The first inflection emphasizes the fact that it is Notre Dame. There may be football at Florida State, and in recent years they

may have won more games than Notre Dame, but God is clearly on our side. If, as happened in the 90s, we beat Florida State but then lose to

unranked Boston College on a dying quail field goal as the clock expires, this is not a sign that God favors Boston

College (a false prophet), but that God either does not hear our cries ("How long?") or is punishing us for our pride following the Florida State victory.

The second inflection emphasizes the fact that it is football. Within Notre Dame, football is unique.

Evidence of this is in the fact that in any given year football receives more ink in the South

Bend Tribune than women's basketball even when the latter is national champion. Other sports and activities may be interesting, but if they are sacramental at all, they are not so the way that football is.

Football at Notre Dame is the eighth sacrament. This is footballism.

Like with many issues, the two ends of the spectrum often seem to presuppose that the middle two options do not exist.

One e-mail in response to an earlier column charged that because I questioned football's status as the heart and soul of the University, I must also simply not care about extra-curricular activities at all. But I am really mostly of the third type. Notre Dame football, among other things, is part of a larger sacramentality. I remember Ron Powlus' first touchdown pass. It was long, but because it was towards the corner of the end zone, it required touch. It was beautiful, even inspiring. To paraphrase Freud, however, in most cases a forward pass is just a forward pass. I may want Notre Dame to win, but God, I think, is invested in other things.

There are problems with footballism in addition to the fact that adding an eighth sacrament makes it a faith other than the Catholicism it claims.

The first is that it can be a sign of (and mask for) a spiritual malaise. When footballists live and die vicariously through Notre Dame football, it raises the question of whether there is a lack of fullness in their own lives. The second problem is the use of the family metaphor by footballists as a marker for who is and is not a member of the University community. In this view, as one e-mail made clear, all who are not footballists place their membership in the "Notre Dame family" in doubt.

It is good that more expansive understandings of membership in the community exist.

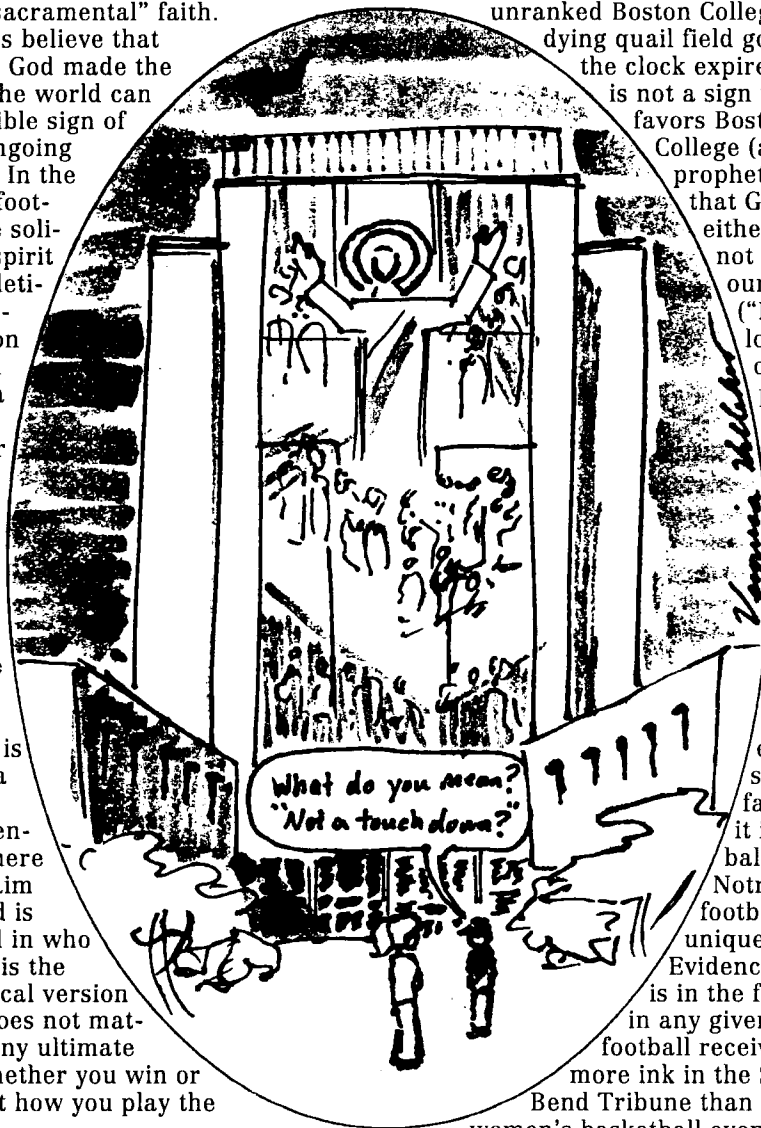
Todd David Whitmore is an associate professor of theology and the director of the program in Catholic social tradition. His column appears every other Thursday. He can be reached at whitmore.1@nd.edu.

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



Todd Whitmore

The Common Good



Bare in mind Jesus' humanity

"What's the difference between Jesus and a picture frame?"

When my friend followed with the punchline to this joke at a party, everyone in the room groaned or looked around nervously. They had trouble accepting a joke about their chosen savior. But why does humor about the Son of God make people uncomfortable? Who is this man that we ritualistically eat every Sunday and Holiday? And why does he taste like unsalted crackers?

Well I think that my 15 years of Catholic school education more than qualify me to answer these questions. So you theology professors with your fancy "degrees" and "knowledge" can just back off.

The Jesus of "fact" is the one from the Bible. I don't know if anyone has actually read this obscure piece of literature called the New Testament, but what it gives is pure, uncut Christ. It's the Christ of history, the one that existed before the Catholics started making stuff up off the top of their heads (for example: "Okay, for Jesus' sake, let's not eat meat on Friday. Oh, also Jesus said that fish isn't meat, for some reason. Amen.").

This Christ is intense. This is a Savior who rocks. He hangs out with prostitutes. He can change water into liquor at will. He talks to the devil all the time. I love this Jesus. I want to hang out with this guy. Actually, half my friends are this guy.

Joe Muto

Livin' on a Prayer

But of course, as soon as the Church grabbed hold of him, they took all the bite out of him. He was no longer the Jesus who helped wedding guests get drunk. He became the Jesus who loved you, despite having no idea where you've been. Instead of being the living, flawed Jesus, he became the dead, hanging-in-the-back-of-the-Church-with-surprisingly-nice-abs Jesus.

I'll digress here to take issue with this. I don't have many details offhand about the second coming, but I'm relatively sure that if and when it happens, the last thing that Jesus wants shoved in his face for an autograph is a crucifix. It's just common sense that a returned dead person probably does not want a constant reminder of his own death. If Elvis came back to earth, I bet he'd be pretty miffed if all his fans were wearing little silver toilet bowls around their necks.

Also, as far as idolatry goes, we're all going to hell. The image of the Jesus that we worship looks nothing like the actual Jesus. This may be partially forgiven, however, as it is primarily a sin of the commemorative plate industry. Think about it: Jesus the blonde, blue-eyed, gentle, bearded hippie looks a lot better above the fireplace than Jesus the sand-blasted, toothless Arab. The Franklin Mint is just going with what sells.

Other images of Jesus are deceptive too. I'm sure you've all seen the picture of him sitting on a log stump, preaching to a crowd of white kids in modern clothing. This image is misleading at best. Most modern parents, if given the choice, would not allow

their son to sit on the lap of a thin, single man in his mid-30s, especially if his traveling companions were 12 other men.

So why do all these skewed perceptions of the original Jesus exist? My hypothesis is that we're just trying to make the whole Jesus myth more personal and relevant. The whole shebazz is hard enough to swallow as it is, so the powers that be saw no benefit in constantly reminding people that our Lord and Saviour is not white at all, but a Jewish Palestinian.

That's why the people who scoff when Jesus is portrayed as a black man or as a woman make me angry. It's a big enough leap of faith to decide that Jesus existed at all, so anything people do to personalize the guy should make other Christians happy that the faith is expanding.

The Church teaches that Jesus is both human and divine, but the humanity often gets lost in the shuffle. All you humorless Catholics who write in to Viewpoint to complain about everything from "The Vagina Monologues" to the fans at basketball games, remember this: Jesus was a human, and unlike certain RAs, he had a sense of humor. Lighten up a little.

And next time you walk into a Church, look at the abs you could grate cheese on and remember one thing: It only takes one nail to hang a picture frame.

Joe Muto is a sophomore FTT and English major. Contact Joe Muto at jmuto@nd.edu.

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

SCENE
MOVIES

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Thursday, February 21, 2002

MOVIE REVIEW

'I'm not a singer, not yet an actress'

By C. SPENCER BEGGS
Scene Editor

"Crossroads" is abysmally bad. The trite MTV-hyped movie delivers little more than lame fairy tales for teens that can't even deliver a remotely coherent message.

The movie begins by introducing three friends in

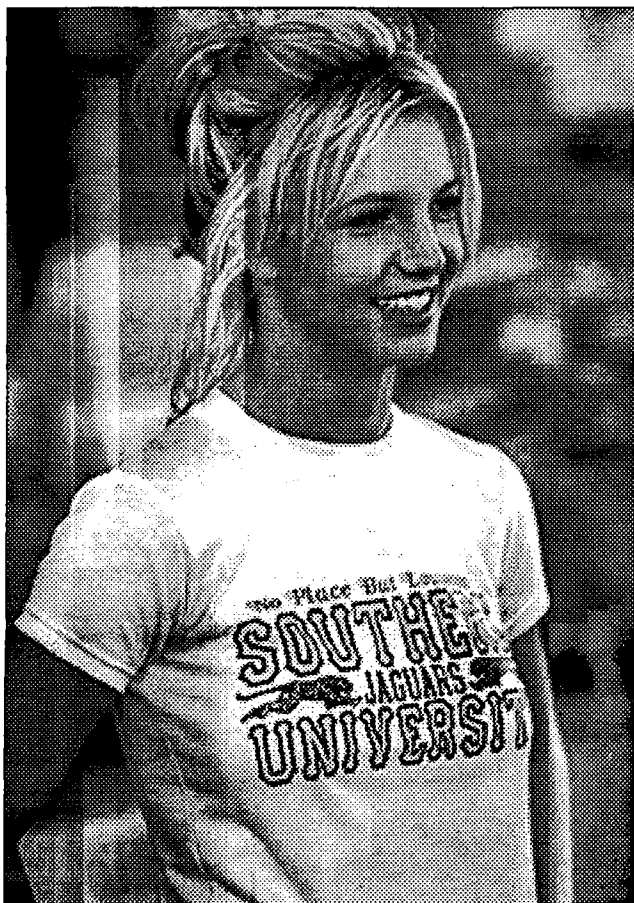


Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

"Crossroads" is Britney Spears' first major motion picture.

sixth grade burying a shoebox of mementos that signify their aspirations for the future; the girls make a pact to dig it up at midnight on the day of their high school graduation. Flash forward, six years and the three friends, the nerdy and sexually curious valedictorian virgin Lucy (Britney Spears), prom queen perfectionist Kit (Zoe Saldana) and pregnant trailer-trash tough-girl Mimi (Taryn Manning), have drifted apart and are barely speaking to each other.

After Lucy makes an unsuccessful attempt to lose her virginity, the three meet up to fulfill the pact (after Spears prances lithely around in her underwear for two scenes). When Mimi reveals that she is heading to California with the mysterious Ben (Anson Mount) to participate in an MTV open music audition, the other two girls put their differences on hold and come along to fulfill their childhood dreams: Lucy wanting to reunite with her estranged mother who lives (conveniently on the way) in Arizona and Kit wanting to see her suspiciously absent fiancée at his college in Los Angeles.

Of course, following in the footsteps of every teen road trip movie, the girls are required to use their wit and wit to make it to Cali: hilarity ensues — at least that's what it seems the film intends. In fact, "Crossroads" either has depressing subjects or it is simply not funny. Most of the laughs come from smart-ass comments audience members yell at the screen.

The movie mostly takes place in conversations in hotels and in Ben's '70s cruiser (an automobile that apparently has a magic radio that always tunes in at the beginning of all pop songs and in which nobody, including the pregnant woman, ever needs to wear a seatbelt). And even with cockamamie excuses to have two musical numbers and two sex scenes with Spears (scenes that conveniently cut away before anything interesting happens), the movie drags its entire 90 minutes to a lack luster conclusion.

The real problem with "Crossroads" is screenplay writer Shonda Rhimes' atrocious script. While the

characters have relatively complex, albeit predictable, relationships and motivations, Rhimes throws so many issues into the mix that they can only be addressed by the bluntest delivery possible. Every line contains far too much background information to be remotely believable as a real piece of dialogue.

After the arduous and conveniently reoccurring "singing along to the radio in the car" scenes, the plot can only be advanced by jump cutting to scenes in which the characters have been involved in a conversation for a number of hours, but the audience enters at the crucial moment.

The producers of "Crossroads" seem to think that this technique gives them license to start scenes with overly philosophical lines. The characters appear to be all too willing to tell their whole life stories at the drop of a hat, a convention that leads to some jarringly cumbersome and unrealistic lines.

Of course, audiences shouldn't be surprised by the movie's blatant disrespect for their intelligences. After all, the theme song of "Crossroads" is Spears' "I'm Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman." MTV Films couldn't have been more literal with the image they are attempting to force feed the pre-teen to teen target demographic.

Further, "Crossroads" fails to make an intelligent or touching point. In the end, all the girls have a perfect resolution to their problems, which remarkably degrades the significance of the heavy issues the movie wishes to address such as rape, teenage pregnancy, fidelity and chastity.

Incidentally, Spears proves herself to be an adequate actress; after all, she does play Britney Spears everyday. But even Spears' perky "not so innocent" breasts (which drastically change size throughout the movie) cannot save "Crossroads" from forever being referred to as Britney's biggest bust ever.

"Crossroads"

out of five shamrocks

Director: Tamra Davis
Starring: Britney Spears,
Zoe Saldana, Taryn
Manning and Anson Mount

Contact C. Spencer Beggs at beggs.3@nd.edu.

MOVIE REVIEW

Comedy 'Super' team needs backup

By MATT NANIA
Scene Movie Editor

In an age when a teen comedy film is released every other week and the kind of toilet humor made famous (or at least re-invigorated) by the Farrelly Brothers has uncomfortably found its home on Hollywood Boulevard, "Super Troopers" seems to have a lot going for it.

Not the product of some major studio, "Super Troopers" is the work of the Broken Lizard comedy troupe (think Kids in the Hall but less bizarre) and was picked up by Fox Searchlight after being screened at last year's Sundance Film Festival.

While the potential is there for perhaps another "Caddyshack," the movie falls way short of the mark, quickly resorting to the over-the-top nature that teen films generally adhere to.

The opening scene of the movie is taken right out of the trailer. Three stoned college kids are heading to Canada when they are pulled over by the local Highway Patrol.

This segment has to rank as the best scene in the movie, with a close second

being the flashback clip shown as the credits are rolling. As for the stuff in between, it's mostly hit and miss.

The story is of the shallow "Police Academy" variety: Broken Lizard's cast members (Jay Chandrasekhar, Kevin Heffernan, Steve Lemme, Paul Soter and Erik Stolhanske) play Vermont highway patrolmen who seem to enjoy their job only when they pull stunts on unsuspecting civilian drivers. They're more willing to see how many times they can say "meow" during their interrogation of the driver than actually hand out a ticket — that is, until the governor threatens to shut down the patrol and hand over their duties to the corrupt local police force.

But don't get too bogged down by the plot, since enjoyment of the movie hinges on everything but logic. The story itself is just a premise to string

along a series of gags that amount to not much more than high school-style pranks and hazing exercises.

Like their adolescent brethren, Broken Lizard dive head-on into jokes ranging from rampant drug and alcohol abuse and masturbation to bestiality (pretending to have sex with a bear is pure cinematic genius).

"Super Troopers"



out of five shamrocks

Director: Jay Chandrasekhar
Starring: The Broken Lizard
comedy team, Marisa Coughlin
and Brian Cox

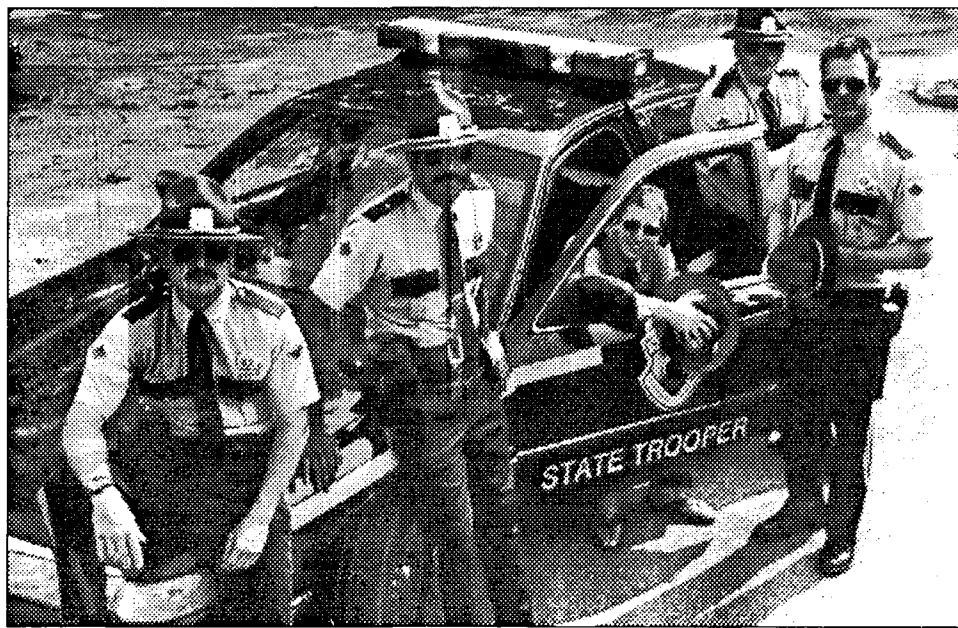


Photo courtesy of Fox Searchlight Pictures

Broken Lizard started as a group of friends from Colgate University. "Super Troopers" is its second full-length feature.

Yes kids, there is a bit of gratuitous nudity, but most notably the full-frontal male nudity of the Chris Farley-esque Heffernan. It's not pretty.

And while there are moments that will have you laughing out loud — the bullet proof jock strap is particularly amusing —

Broken Lizard seem more suited to the world of sketch comedy than attempting to piece together a full-length feature for the silver screen.

Contact Matt Nania at mnanian@nd.edu.

IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, February 21, 2002

THE
OBSERVER

In the Fast Lane



Women's Preview p.2 Men's Preview p.3 Rankings p.4

Photo: Rowing team by NEIL OR WILKINS. IRISH PREVIEW: AUL ARDY DE VRIES

Biggest in the East

For 5 years, the women's swim team has dominated the Big East Championships. Now, the Irish want to take on the nation.

By NOREEN GILLESPIE
Sports Writer

Sitting around their house late one weekend, Carrie Nixon and Tara Riggs decided to play a game.

Coming off a 201-99 dual meet slaughter of Northwestern, a Big Ten and NCAA powerhouse team, their confidence was flying high. Just for fun, Nixon and Riggs decided to see if the Irish could measure up — or even beat — the fastest teams in the country.

After all, if Northwestern wasn't a challenge, someone had to be.

So they looked up the results of a match-up between USC and Stanford, and compared them to the results of the Northwestern meet.

The result? If both teams swam the same times in the fictitious meet, Notre Dame would have come out on top of the ninth-ranked USC.

The outcome ignited the team.

"The next day at practice, they came in and said if we had swam them, we would have beaten them," said senior Kelly Hecking. "Everybody was like, 'Wow ... we could be ranked [higher].'"

It may have been a fantasy competition, but the results told the Notre Dame squad what it already knew — that they had the capacity to compete on a national level.

Since landing a No. 13 national ranking at the beginning of the season, the women's swimming and diving team has been on a mission to command the respect of national-caliber programs.

At a goal meeting at the beginning of the season, the team aimed to place in the top 10 at the NCAA meet at the end of the season.

Working toward that goal meant shifting the focus of team goals towards the NCAA meet rather than putting the season's emphasis on the Big East conference meet.

It's a goal that has been casually tossed around on the team since the current senior class came in to Notre Dame in 1998. But this year, the pieces have begun to fall into place. Instead of just dreaming, they want to make it a reality.

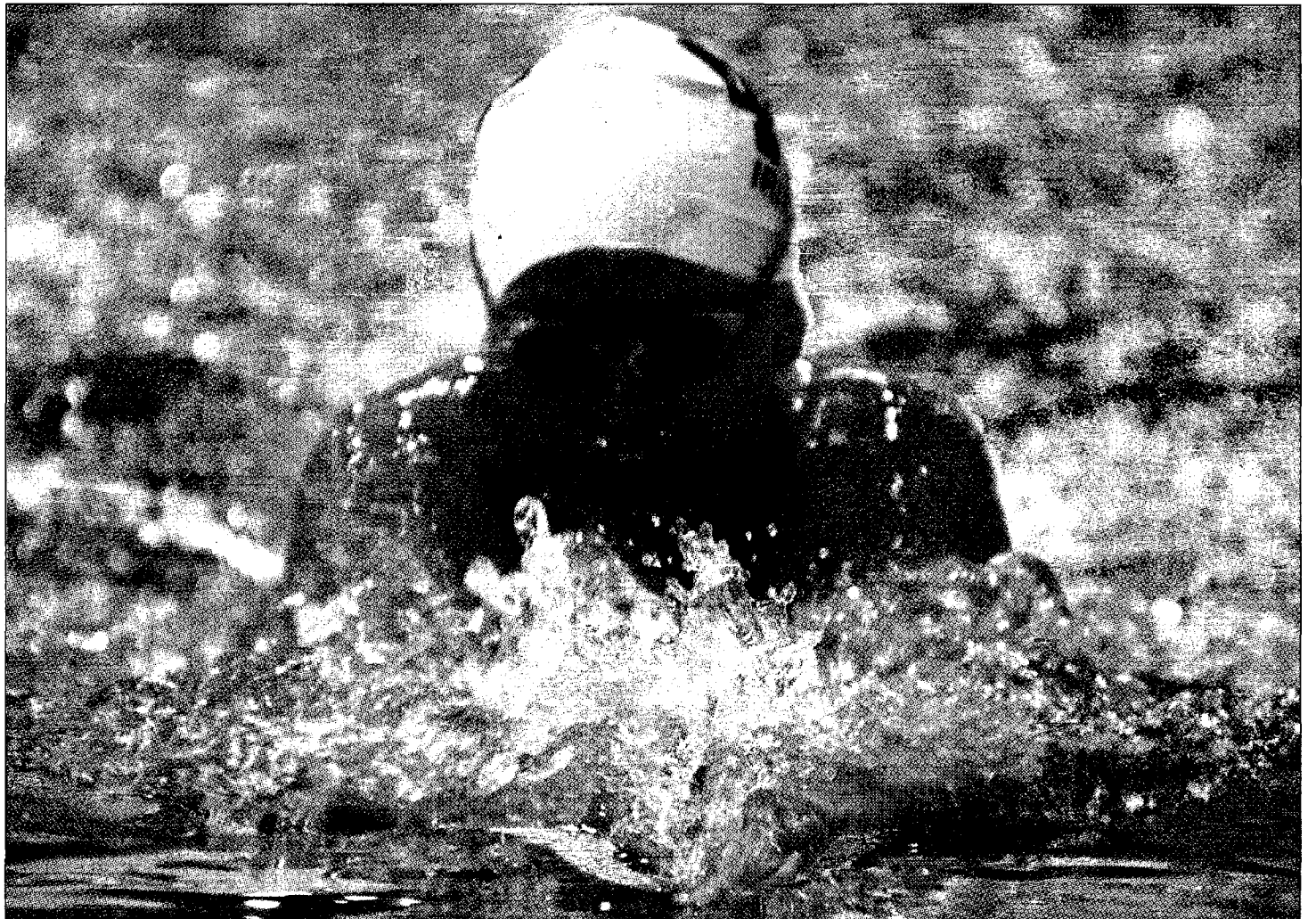
"Since my freshman year, we've wanted to move to be an NCAA-focused team," co-captain Riggs said. "Each year, we become that a little more and more. This year, we saw the talent in our team, and the coach saw the talent in our team. We just needed to see it in each other ... and we have."

"We really believe that we belong in NCAAs," Nixon said. "We've said that is our meet, we belong with those girls, we belong in finals. Before we just said that we hope we make the meet. It's a huge mental difference."

Biggest in the East

They may dream of being among the best in the country, but to get there, Notre Dame has had to be the big fish swimming in a small pond.

Capturing its first Big East Championship



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Sophomore Laurie Musgrave surges through the lane in the 100-yard breaststroke earlier this season. Musgrave will team with senior Allison Lloyd in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events at the Big East Championships this weekend.

in 1997, Notre Dame has quickly established its dominance in a conference that hasn't been a top contender at the NCAA Championship.

And on the brink of adding a sixth consecutive championship to Notre Dame's list this weekend, the swimmers know that it's getting to be a familiar feeling.

"It is comfortable," said co-captain Maureen Hillenmeyer. "It's hard for me to say that, but that's how it's been all of my years here. We've just known it's going to be pretty easy for us to win."

Notre Dame's consistent dominance in the Big East meet is a relatively new trend, however. Despite five titles, the Irish don't hold the Big East record for most conference titles. Pittsburgh has the most team titles with eight.

After the Irish stepped onto the top of the podium for the first time in '97, Nixon remembers stepping on deck with a team in 1998 that wasn't sure it could repeat. The thought of making a team presence at NCAAs wasn't even an afterthought.

"It was a big thing for them to win," said Nixon, the only fifth-year senior on the 2002 squad. "They weren't sure if they could do it again."

The shift in attitude on the team since then has been apparent, Nixon said.

"We've evolved from being in a competition where it's anyone's meet to this year where it's totally dominating," Nixon said. "We're going out to win the meet, but it's not our ultimate goal."

Despite Notre Dame's comfortable victories, a more competitive meet has emerged in the past two years after conference administrators decided to change the qualification standards for the meet.

Since women began swimming at the meet in 1983, teams were allowed to bring set numbers of swimmers and divers to the meet. Now, athletes have to make time cuts — eliminating dead weight from the competition.

"It's not really increasing the quality, but focusing the quality," said Jim Siedliski, assistant commissioner for sport administration at the Big East. "The quality has always been there. If you look at a meet that has 500 entrants, the 350 who make the cut are still going to be there. The 150 who are there for a participatory aspect are not."

Virginia Tech's debut at the meet last year — highlighted by a runner-up performance — has also made the meet more competitive. But it was the entrance of Notre Dame eight years ago that changed the tone of the conference meet, Siedliski said.

"It changed the intensity of the meet," Siedliski said. "Pittsburgh were the big guys on campus. Once ND came in there was a run for the money. Now when you step in the aquatic center, it's just amazing."

The conference has yet to make the shift to competing seriously on the national level, although the swimmers that have gone from the conference have been successful, Siedliski said.

"We don't send a lot of swimmers, but the ones we do send make a lot of noise," he said.

Many of Notre Dame's swimmers hope that if they do earn a top 10 team finish at NCAAs, it will make a statement for the conference.

"It's not known as a swimming conference, but it's definitely headed in that direction," Nixon said. "It takes one team breaking out, one team being on the NCAA level."

Staying in the Fast Lane

The ultimate goal for the championship this weekend is getting as many people qualified as possible for the NCAA meet in March.

Eight swimmers — seniors Hecking, Nixon, Allison Lloyd, sophomores Lisa D'Olier, Laurie Musgrave, Lisa Garcia and freshmen Kristen Peterson and Kelli Barton — have all made consideration times for the meet, and sophomore Marie Labosky has already earned an automatic time in the 400-yard individual medley.

It's the most cuts the Notre Dame squad has ever had going into the conference meet, and that will give the swimmers aiming for automatic cuts something to fight for.

"The thing that's different this year is that we have potential to take a dozen or more girls to NCAAs," Hillenmeyer said. "It forces us to focus more on making our NCAA cuts."

The swimmers who have consideration

times will have to swim automatic times to be guaranteed a spot at the national meet, making this weekend's competition critical.

Maintaining focus throughout the meet has been something head coach Bailey Weathers has tried to emphasize to the team.

"We've talked a lot about staying focused through all three days of the meet," Weathers said. "It's the only chance we have to prepare for NCAAs. If you're going to feel comfortable at the NCAA meet, you have to feel comfortable on the conference level."

While the goal this weekend is making the times for the national meet, the team does have to keep its eyes on the team scores.

"We certainly want to win the meet, and we know what we have to do to win the meet. The danger is if you're ahead halfway through the meet, you don't ever want to take it for granted," Weathers said.

But even with five straight titles behind them, this weekend's meet will not be all easy races for the Irish. Labosky will face another tight race with Sydney Olympian and Villanova swimmer Maddy Crippen, who edged Labosky by a hundredth of a second in the 400-yard individual medley at Rolfs Aquatic Center earlier this season.

Nixon, the conference record holder in the 100-yard freestyle, will be contested by Miami's Manon Van Rooijen, currently ranked ahead of Nixon by more than a second.

But if they can bring home another trophy, they know that even though it's a familiar feeling to win, it never gets old.

"Each race is a different race, each year is a different year," Nixon said. "You feel different, you race different, every time. To stand up there you say, 'I overcame the problems this year.' It really never gets old."

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Strength in numbers

By sending the most swimmers of any Big East team, the Irish look to reclaim their runner-up finish

By SHEILA EGTS
Sports Writer

The Irish swimmers are pulling out their razor blades and shaving cream this week to trim more than just the hair on their faces. Like all the competitors headed to the Big East Championships in Uniondale, N. Y., the Irish are shaving their legs in strategic preparation.

The shaving process — a ritual for male swimmers — is done once a season, right before the championship meet. By making the skin sleeker, it can trim valuable fractions of seconds off race times.

But with a deep team of 20 swimmers and three divers traveling to compete at Big East, the Irish have a greater advantage than just silky smooth legs.

According to head coach Tim Welsh, the Irish appear positioned for a strong showing at Big East.

Although none of his swimmers are seeded first in any event, the team qualified more swimmers and one more diver than any other team.

Since the Irish returned to campus in January after training in Florida, the men have accumulated four consecutive dual meet victories and posted consistently faster times each week.

"Our training camp was a springboard to increase our momentum," said sophomore freestyler Matt Obringer. "We bonded and we have really been working as a unit since then."

The Irish will ride this momentum as they attempt to race their way back to the No. 2 spot in the Big East. They will focus on battling closely-ranked Virginia Tech, while closing the gap on Pittsburgh, the defending champion.

The Irish placed second in 1999 and 2000, but they walked away with an unexpected fourth-place team finish last year, only a half a point ahead of Rutgers.

"The fourth-place finish really took us

by surprise last season," said senior freestyler Austin Anderson. "We felt we gave the meet away in areas that we shouldn't have."

According to Welsh, the Irish face a tightly packed field of competition from second place down to seventh, and scoring the meet on paper right now would give second place to Virginia Tech.

But the meet won't be won on paper. It will be determined in the water this weekend.

"We've been over this meet so many times and the other teams are clearly seeded ahead of us in the relays," said Welsh. "So that is an indicator of how the season has gone, but in real life it just means the race is on."

The competitive entry times have not flustered the Irish, who are feeling up to the occasion after a team meeting for motivation and goal setting on Feb. 11.

Senior co-captain Mike Koss said the team voiced nothing but positive comments and concerns, emphasizing its strength in numbers.

"We ended our meeting with the typical Irish cheer and I remember it being resoundingly loud," said Koss. "We've got no injuries, no sickness and nothing holding us back."

In addition to depth, the team is looking towards standout swimmers Andy Maggio and Jason Fitzpatrick

for major contribution to the scoreboard. Maggio has led the team with consistently high scores all year, and set University records in the last several dual meets.

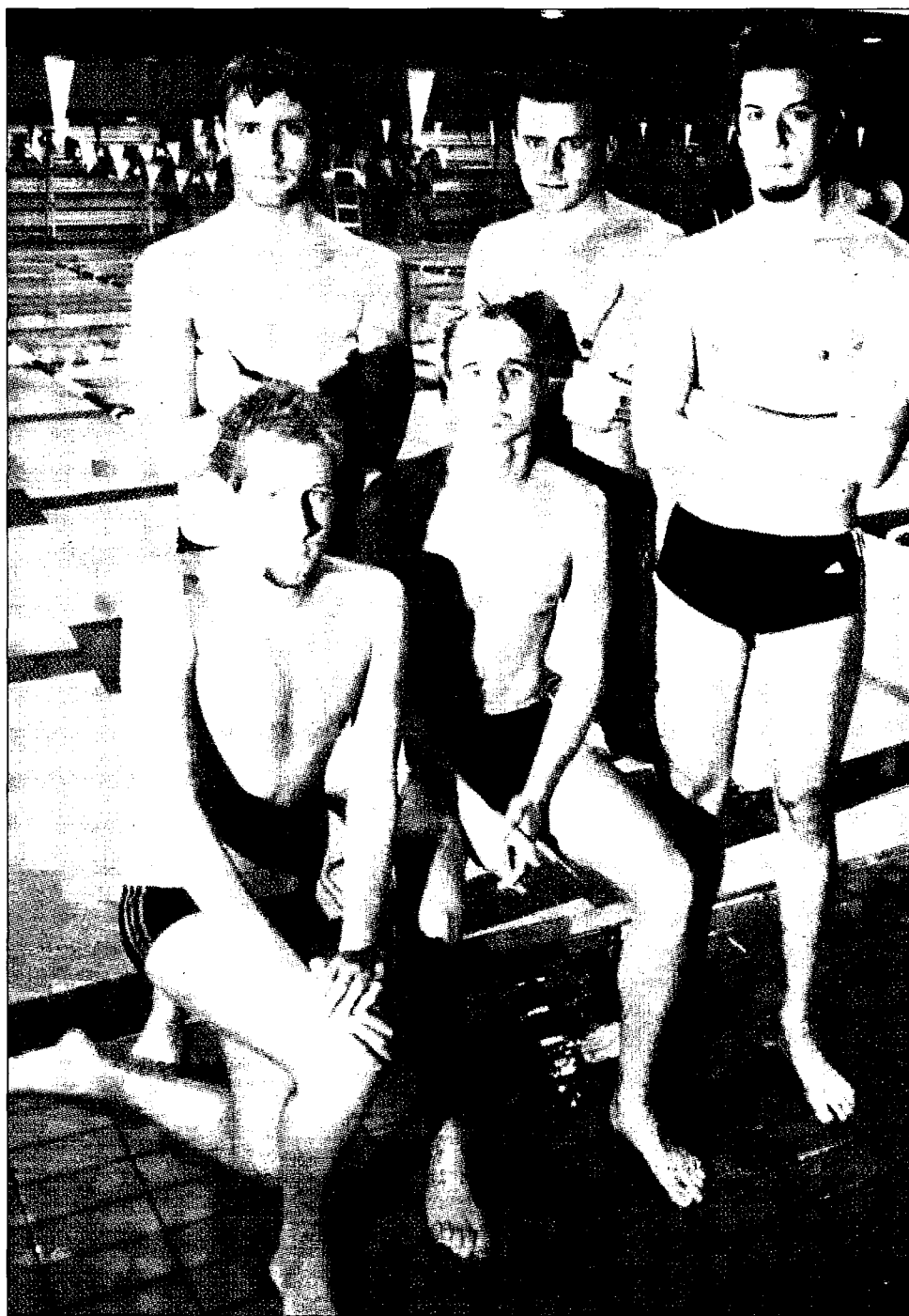
Based on his improved times over the past three years, Fitzpatrick is confident that he will also be considered for a possible NCAA invitation in the 100- or 200-yard breaststroke.

Obringer scored points for the Irish last year with eighth-place finishes in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle, but he is looking to place in the top five coming back as a sophomore.

The outcome will also rely heavily on

"We've been over this meet so many times and the other teams are clearly seeded ahead of us in the relays. So that is an indicator of how the season has gone, but in real life it just means the race is on."

Tim Welsh
Irish head coach



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

The senior members of the men's swimming and diving class of 2002 hope to lead the way for the team at the Big East Championships. Clockwise, from left to right, are David Horak, Mike Koss, Jonathan Pierce, Austin Anderson and Elliot Drury.

the team's strength in the relays and distance events with big performances from senior co-captain Jonathan Pierce.

Pierce will challenge defending champion Eric Limkemann of Pittsburgh in the 1,650-yard freestyle Saturday to reclaim the first-place title he held both freshman and sophomore year. Pierce is seeded third in the event, but he has an entry time less than a second shy of Virginia Tech's Greg Kubovcik.

"I think I became complacent after winning both my freshman and sophomore year, but I am really gunning for first this time," said Pierce.

The Big East race also marks the last shot Pierce has to gain an invitation to the NCAA Championships in late-March. Pierce has been within consideration time for the 1,650-yard freestyle for the past two years, but not close enough to make the automatic cut.

"Qualifying [for NCAA] has been a huge goal for me since my freshman year," said Pierce. "I think the best way to get there is to focus and keep doing it for the team. You feel so much faster is you are doing it for the team rather than for individual times."

After four years of coaching Pierce, Welsh praised him for the disciplined work ethic he has maintained throughout his entire senior season and hopes Pierce will swim a lifetime best time at Big East.

"It would be a wonderful tribute to his career if he could qualify," said Welsh.

Pierce is the only one of Notre Dame's five seniors who has this opportunity for an extended season with an NCAA invitation. For the rest, this last career swim is a nostalgic experience.

Senior David Horak, seeded third in the 100-yard backstroke, was sick with mononucleosis last season and was not able to race at Big East. Horak said the pressure from a fast, condensed group of swimmers will make the race exciting and hopes to finish his career on a high note.

"It was hard watching my teammates and not being able to swim myself [last year]," said Horak. "It's been two years since I've had a big meet and I just want to show everyone on the team, in the Big East and back home that I can still do it."

The realization of this last meet has not set in for senior Elliot Drury, who has family traveling to New York from the West Coast to support him at Big East.

"During my three years, I never thought about what it would be like to be swimming my last race," said fellow senior Anderson. "I don't think it will hit me until I step out of the pool for the last time on Saturday."

Koss will be competitive in the 200-yard breaststroke, but emphasized that the team goals are more important to him as he leads his team in this final meet.

"This is a culmination of all my training and all of my experiences," said Koss. "As senior captain, it's about more than just fast times. It's about getting the team involved, pushing other guys and seeing our team do well as a whole."

The meet begins this morning with preliminaries at 10:30 a.m. and with finals at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Sheila Egts at
egts0236@saintmarys.edu.



RICO CASARES/The Observer

Freshman Frank Krakowski should contribute solid performances for the Irish in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly events.

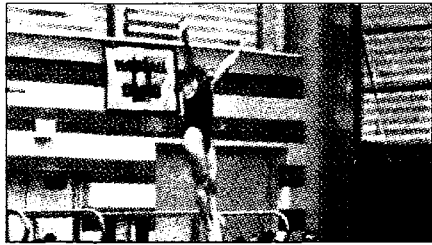
Performances to watch

WOMEN'S TEAM



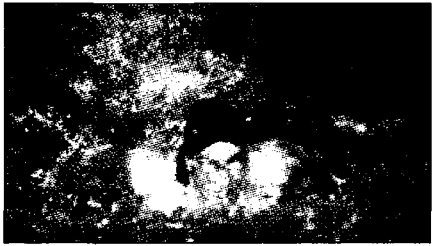
Carrie Nixon

Nixon returns to conference competition to reclaim her sprint titles after sitting out last year with a shoulder injury. But the fifth-year senior faces a challenge in the 100-yard freestyle, seeded second after Miami's Mann Van Rooijen.



Heather Mattingly

The most decorated diver at Notre Dame, Mattingly looks to crack into the top places of Big East diving competition. After a fifth place on the 3-meter board and a sixth place on the 1-meter board last year, the senior wants to end with a high finish.



Marie Labosky

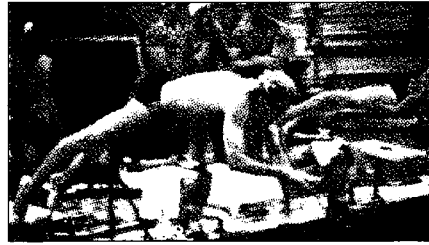
Labosky earned her ticket to the NCAA Championship in the 400-yard individual medley swimming against Olympian Maddy Crippen. Losing to Villanova's Crippen by a hundredth of a second, Labosky will look to defeat her at the championship.



Kelly Hecking

The senior hopes to defend her title in the 100-yard backstroke. Hecking is seeded first by more than a second, but she'll race the clock to drop fractions of seconds to earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

MEN'S TEAM



Jonathan Pierce

After Pittsburgh's Eric Limkemann defeated Pierce in the 1,650-yard freestyle at Big East last season, Pierce is taking a last stab at winning his champion title in the event. The senior will attempt a lifetime best time to qualify for the NCAA in March.



Andy Maggio

Seeded first in both the 1- and 3-meter diving events, Maggio will draw attention and points for the Irish. He has led the team in diving all year and set Notre Dame records in several of the final dual meets of the regular season.



Jason Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick's main focus is his performance in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke where he is approaching NCAA qualifying times. He will be racing in a total of five events to contribute team points across the board.



Relays

The Irish relays will be a crucial component at Big East because relay events are scored higher than individual races. To place high in team standings, the Irish will have to be a force in the relay events.

Do it all
night long
one more
time.



The Observer's 35th Anniversary Reunion

April 20, 2002

South Bend Marriott
e-mail obsreunion@hotmail.com for
more information or to RSVP

SCENE.

Movies

Thursday, February 21, 2002

page 15

TWO TICKETS FOR: "JOHN Q"

Hollywood healthcare

This week, Melissa Rauch (MR) and Paul Camarata (PC) bring you "John Q," a story about a hostage situation in which the really crazy people are the ones surrounding the guy with the gun. Yeah, we're talking to you Anne Heche — or should we say, Celestia?

MR: The premise of "John Q" is simple. A desperate father with an inadequate HMO policy will do anything to keep his dying child alive, in this case, taking a hospital emergency room hostage until the powers that be agree to give his son a heart transplant. The previews prepare viewers for some clichéd melodrama, plenty of schmaltzy taglines and a farfetched plot, but most, like myself, probably assumed that the gifted cast could pull it off anyway. So now I'm left to wonder how, with such talent involved, could this film have gone so wrong?



Melisa Rauch
and
Paul Camarata

Scene Movie
Critics

PC: It's called bad direction. "Q" cannot be taken seriously because director Nick Cassavetes takes a good premise and in moments that are rife with tension, drowns the drama in lame jokes from cartoonish characters. Cassavetes is a wild pitcher, whose imprecision is a direct result of over-consciously aiming when he should be instinctively throwing.

MR: From the film's opening sequence set to off-putting opera music that doesn't match the onscreen action, he never finds the correct tone to tell his story. These stylistic errors, however, nicely compliment the poor editing and implausible plot from which the film also suffers. For instance, the critical scene in which John single-handedly seizes control of the emergency room is jumpy and hard to follow. The lack of establishing shots and minimal verbal explanation make it impossible for the viewer to understand where John and his captives are in relation to the rest of the hospital, which presumably includes his family.

PC: Taking over an entire hospital shouldn't be as easy as chaining two doors and getting an obese rent-a-cop to shut down the elevator. Most hospitals are like mini-cities, with a network of corridors, exits, back-up power supplies and insufficient parking. Except for Cassavetes Memorial, which has all the complexity of a Lego lemonade stand.

MR: We could spend all day nit-picking the logistical blunders; let's turn to the thematic problems. The injustices of U.S. privatized health-care seems to provide more than enough fodder for dramatic rhetoric and social commentary (which the film takes advantage of), yet Cassavetes feels it necessary to comment on every social ill currently plaguing the country. The filler scenes where John and his hostages wax philosophic about all these problems are particularly annoying. The screenwriter, John Kearn, is largely to blame for this overall failure.



Photo courtesy of New Line Cinema

After his son is refused medical treatment, John Archibald (Denzel Washington) takes the hospital hostage.

PC: Cassavetes may not have written the sappy outbursts and divergent ideological diatribes that pop up throughout the dialogue, but he certainly allowed them to make the final cut. About the only thing that Cassavetes did capably was keep race out of the issue. The trials of a black family against the evil American bureaucratic infrastructure are always going to have the whiff of subliminal racism, but Washington's John Archibald never seems racially motivated. The Archibalds' best friends are white; they worship with whites; John is turned down for a second job by a black man, pursued by a black policeman and holds both blacks and whites among the hostages. The race card is about the only one Cassavetes leaves in the deck by the movie's end.

MR: I don't know about that. Maybe he didn't play the card, but he certainly flashed it a little. He keeps the minor characters racially balanced in both positive and negative lights, but it seems like he purposely did that to blur the situation and make it OK that all the real villains of the film are rich, privileged whites.

PC: Yes, the different races are there, but their characters are otherwise so stock that any implication is never really fulfilled. They're bland enough, in fact, that Washington and Liotta could arguably swap roles without drastically altering the plot.

MR: Please. Denzel is a well-respected actor. Liotta has become a complete caricature of the presence he once commanded as an actor. His recent acting choices, most notably his role in "Hannibal" and his pitiable guest appearances on "Just Shoot Me," have turned him into a Hollywood joke.

PC: What you fail to acknowledge, Mel, in a glaring injustice to the artist and the man, is his contribution to the pantheon of phraseology. The quip, "Yeah, he had that Ray Liotta look in his eye," is the stuff of eulogies and tombstones. There's a reason that all they ever ask him to do is be a pompous, impulsive, cackling quasi-lunatic who throws around the term "ball-breaker:" because no one in Hollywood does it better.

MR: Well since you're in the mood to defend casting decisions, riddle me this: Why did they cast Gary Coleman as John Q's son?

PC: That wasn't Gary Coleman, Mel. It was Webster.

MR: Au contraire. You've mixed up your diminutive, adopted '80s TV children. Little Mikey Archibald (Daniel E. Smith) is the spitting image of Coleman, star of "Different Strokes." I kept expecting him to say "What you talking 'bout John Q?" Despite this distraction, the kid actually does some of the better acting in the movie. With a cast that features Washington, Robert Duvall and James Woods, that's pretty pathetic.

PC: I went in expecting Denzel to pull one of his "pick-up-Plymouth-Rock-and-chuck-it" routines, but he never approached that fury. He's the headliner among these titans but still came out looking half-baked.

MR: I thought Washington actually did a decent job of mixing subdued determination and fierce outrage. He's great at playing the everyman driven to extraordinary measures. He is believable in his desperation to

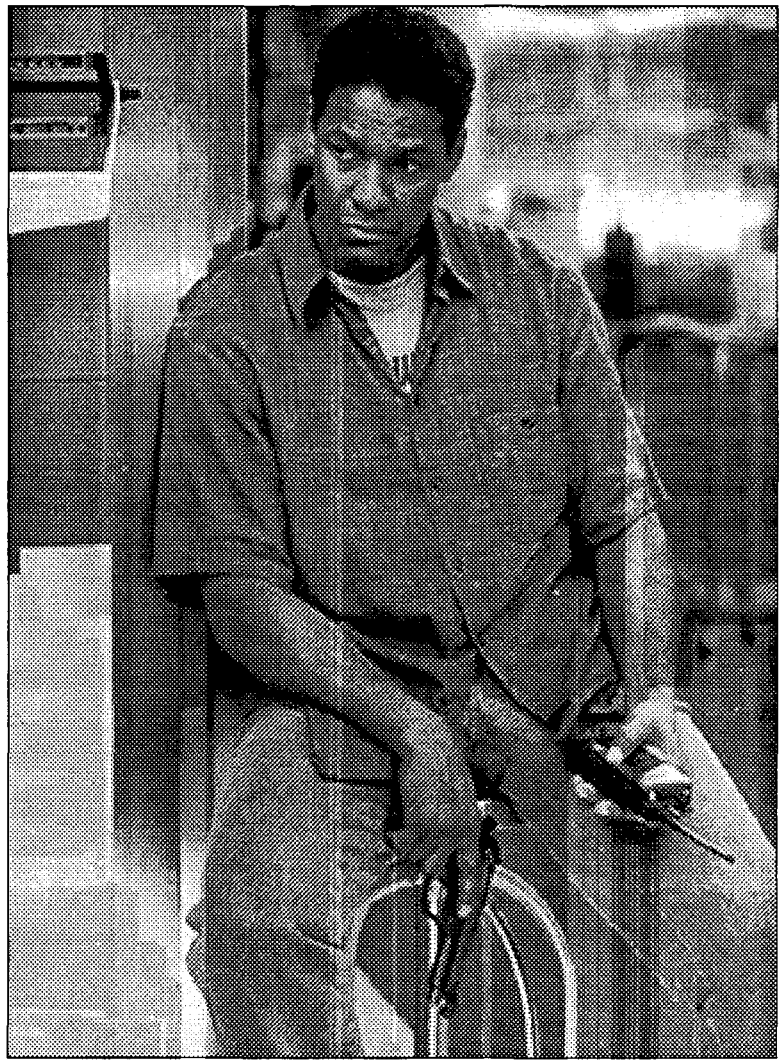


Photo courtesy of New Line Cinema

Denzel Washington plays a desperate father in the manipulative hostage drama "John Q."

save his son and his portrayal is as realistic as the flawed script allows. In my opinion, the biggest acting disappointment came from Duvall, who normally excels in the sharp, supporting character role. Rather than act, he chooses to mug for the camera worse than Jim Carrey. What would Don Corleone say?

PC: How about, "You're outta the family." As Lieutenant Frank Grimes, Duvall is supposed to sound like a grizzled Windy City cop but uses an inexplicable accent to deliver lines that are thin crust when they should be Chicago deep dish. His bickering is half-hearted, his concessions come easy and, for a supposed hostage negotiator expert of 35 years, he shows all the poise of a space monkey. Name value or not, all of the actors under-

MR: They probably realized their movie had become a mess and just started phoning it in. I really wanted to like "John Q" and was willing to overlook a little implausibility and even accept some preaching in return for a gut-wrenching or heartwarming drama, of which "Q" is neither. It had the potential, but gets lost along the way.

PC: The images suggest a film about the boundaries in society: a hospital curtain; conflicting parties on opposite sides of tables and telephones; a reflection of a challenged and contemplative John; the cruel realities of crunching numbers. Cassavetes' agenda is clear and acceptable, at least until its subtle political undertones become loud and schizophrenic. The director uses good footage of George W. Bush, Senator Hillary Clinton, Bill Maher and even a background tune from rising rocker Pete Yorn, to anchor his piece in the immediate present. Were it not for his reckless direction—and the volatility of international politics since this film presumably went into production — "Q's" theme might actually raise the muck it was clearly intended to.

Mel and Paul remind you that guns don't kill people, but movies like this one might. Contact them at mrauch@nd.edu and pcamarat@nd.edu.

"John Q"

Melissa's rating



Paul's rating



out of five shamrocks

Director: Nick Cassavetes
Starring: Denzel Washington,
Ray Liotta, Robert Duvall and
Anne Heche

SCENE

theatre

Thursday, February 21, 2002

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A play in strange company

The Moreau Seminary produces 'The Odd Couple' this weekend

By KATIE RAND
Scene Writer

By watching co-directors Nate Farley and Matthew Vereecke observe their actors during a rehearsal, it is easy to see why the pair chose this production. Farley, up-front and not hesitant to speak his mind, makes Vereecke look quiet and reserved. It is fitting then, that the production being put on by the Moreau Seminary Players this year is "The Odd Couple."

The Seminary picks up the cost of the play out of its yearly budget, so every penny earned at the door is donated directly to the missions.

"The play doesn't cost much to put on," Farley, a Moreau Seminary candidate, said. "The scripts were cheap, the rights were inexpensive, and we made the set ourselves. We were pretty frugal with our budget."

The budget did not have a negative effect on the play however because the set only needs to resemble the living room of a twelfth floor apartment; a task that did not prove to be too difficult. The director of maintenance at the Seminary built the set's walls, and the two red doors are from last year's Pasquerilla East Music Company's production of "Guys and Dolls,"

a play with which Farley was involved.

"We did all the set design ourselves," Vereecke said. "We only used props and furniture that we found around the Seminary."

The table and chairs came from the dining room, the sofa was picked up from a lounge and the bookshelves were "borrowed" from friends' rooms.

The script for "The Odd Couple" was written in the late '60s by playwright Neil Simon and has since been adapted by other writers into two television series, two films and a version of the play in which the main characters are women.

The plot revolves around the lives of two men, Oscar Madison and Felix Unger, who hold a weekly poker night in Oscar's apartment with four other friends. One night the group is stunned when Felix does not show up and they are shocked to discover that he has been thrown out by his wife and is now a divorcee like Oscar. Oscar, feeling badly for his long-time friend, allows Felix to move into his apartment. The only problem is that the men are as different as day and night. Felix is precise, extremely neat and anal retentive while Oscar is sloppy and carefree. Their clashing lifestyles lead to inevitable conflicts as well as a hilarious road to resolution.

Old College sophomores Jeff Drocco and Tim O'Malley play Felix and Oscar, respectively. Both men agree that the production has taken a lot of time and effort, but they are pleased with how the play has turned out.

"It's been pretty impossible," O'Malley said. "We have a lot of late night rehearsals since we all

have such busy schedules, but it's been worth it."

Drocco agrees with his onstage roommate.

"Just because you're in the Seminary doesn't mean you can't have a sense of humor," Drocco said. "Up until recently, plays were very common among seminaries. It was thought to be good for public speaking."

In fact, hosting a play is a newly rekindled tradition for the Seminary. For a time it was held annually, but was put on hold until last year.

"It used to be more or less a tradition, but it has kind of fallen off in recent years," Farley said. "Last year we revamped the Moreau Players and did 'Twelve Angry Men,' a production that raised around \$2,000 for Holy Cross Missions."

Prior to "Twelve Angry Men," (starring Vereecke) the last play put on by the Seminary was none other than "The Odd Couple," a production in which Father Gary Chamberland, the rector of Keenen Hall, played Felix.

"Last semester Matt and I poured through scripts. We looked at play after play," Farley said. "Finally we came across 'The Odd Couple' and thought it would be great for us to do."

Auditions were held in the middle of the fall semester, with rehearsals commencing shortly thereafter. Six of the actors are in the Seminary, including Drocco and O'Malley as well as Brian Flaherty, Mike MacDonald, Tom Prall, and Robby Davidson. Stage manager Charles Ritter is a freshman in Old College.

Notre Dame sophomores Gabby Sopko and Krista Seidl play the two female roles, sisters Gwendolyn and Cecily Pigeon.

"We chose people we were already

familiar with and who we knew would be able to keep up with our weird practice schedule without being easily intimidated," Vereecke, an Old College sophomore, said. "Gabby and Krista have been absolutely excellent and very flexible. They've been roommates for two years so they work well together and already get along like sisters."

The girls, friends of O'Malley and Drocco, joined the production for something fun to do in their free time.

"It's a pretty low pressure production and seemed like a lot of fun," Seidl said. "I thought it would be a good way to get acting experience and I already knew the guys really well."

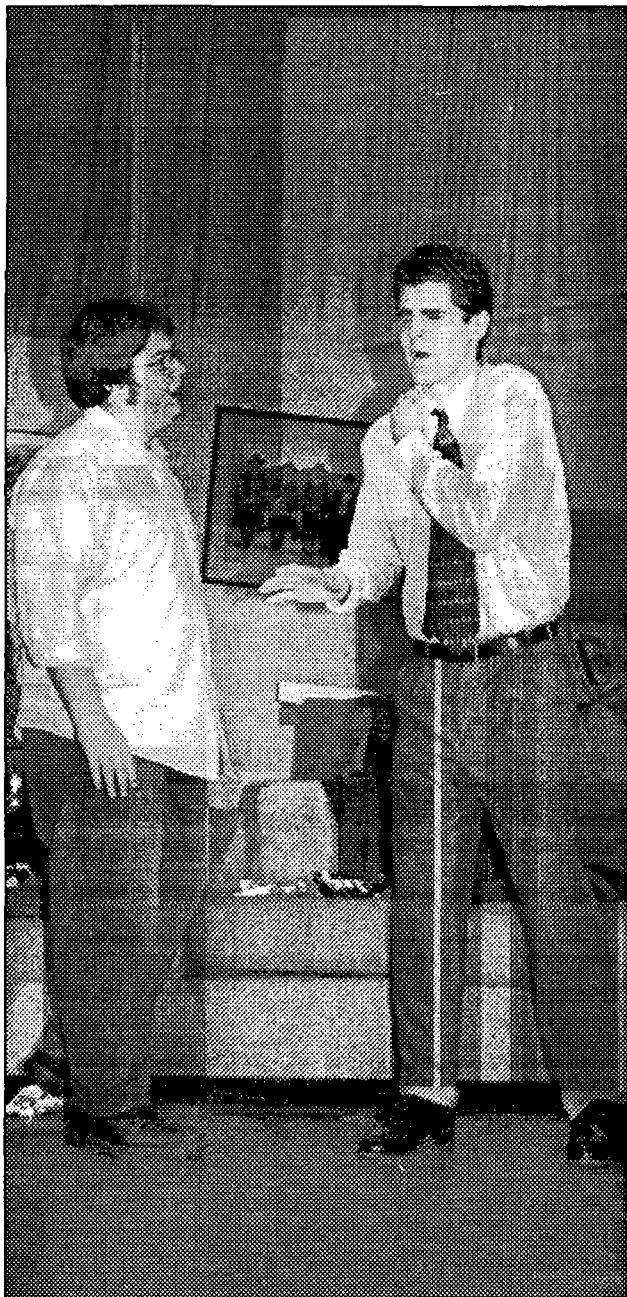
Sopko auditioned just for fun as well, although she already has some acting experience under her belt. She took a theatre class last semester and is currently a member of the University of Notre Dame Humor Artists. Experience, however, is not a requirement to put on a successful show.

"One of the strengths of the production is that we don't have formal training," Farley said. "We put a lot of work into this and in the end we're pulling off a great show."

The Moreau Seminary production of "The Odd Couple" is being described as the funniest show you'll ever see in a seminary, but that is up to this weekend's audiences to decide for themselves.

Performances are tomorrow and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Moreau Seminary Auditorium. Admission is free, with a freewill offering for Holy Cross Missions.

Contact Katie Rand at
rand8903@saintmarys.edu.



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

"The Odd Couple," Felix and Oscar are two contentious and unlikely roommates.



TONY FLOYD/The Observer

When Felix shows up at the guys' poker night after being kicked out of his house by his wife, the sloppy bachelor Oscar takes him in.

NBA

Jackson expands trade list

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA Golden State center Marc Jackson expanded his trade list Wednesday to include Utah, New Jersey, Milwaukee, and Seattle, while the Boston Celtics pulled off a trade with Phoenix and acquired Rodney Rogers and Tony Delk.

Jackson has the right to veto any trade, and he has expanded his original list of three acceptable teams — Memphis, Indiana and Orlando — to include New York, Philadelphia and Phoenix, along with the Jazz, Nets, Bucks and Sonics.

"I would think there's a good chance he'll probably get traded. That's what he wants, and to a certain degree that's what we want," Golden State coach Brian Winters said.

So while it appeared that Jackson would get his wish before Thursday's 6 p.m. NBA trading deadline, the prospects of Nick Van Exel getting traded were dealt a serious blow when he refused to waive enough guaranteed money to satisfy the Boston Celtics, who were prepared to make a deal with Denver.

Van Exel had said he would forfeit some of his guaranteed \$26.5 million over the final two years of his contract, which runs through the 2004-05 season.

"What I can confirm is accurate is that Nick is not willing to give up what Boston is asking — guaranteed salary protection for two

years," said Van Exel's agent, Scott Botman. "It's getting to the point where I'm doubting whether anything will get done."

With that door closed, the Celtics made a deal with Phoenix and acquired Rogers, a forward, and Delk, a guard, for rookie Joe Johnson, veterans Randy Brown and Milt Palacio and a Boston's No. 1 pick in the upcoming draft.

The deal gives the Celtics a pair of players who can score from the outside, one of whom, Rogers, also is a muscular addition to Boston's frontline.

Johnson, a rookie from Arkansas selected 10th overall in last June's draft, had seen his role reduced in recent weeks.

The surprising Celtics are in second place in the Eastern Conference with a record of 31-23. They are five games behind the Nets, whose president, Rod Thorn, has acknowledged that the team would like to add another big body.

That body could belong to Jackson, who sat out his 16th consecutive game Wednesday as the Warriors played Philadelphia. He was hoping it would be his final night in a Warriors uniform.

Jackson signed a six-year, \$24 million offer sheet with Houston before the start of this season, but he was a

restricted free agent and the Warriors matched the offer. Jackson has the right to veto any deal for one calendar year.

"I'm ready, I'm ready now. Let's get it done," said Jackson, who spent much of the day on the phone with agent Joel Bell. "I told him don't call me anymore until you tell me which team it is."

Jackson said he added the Nets, Bucks, Sonics and Jazz to the list because all are contending teams with needs at the center position.

"I want to play somewhere they can utilize my skills, and I wouldn't mind playing alongside Karl Malone and [John] Stockton," Jackson said. "Milwaukee may need a big man who can play with his back to the basket."

The Warriors are known to have discussed larger deals that would include Jackson as one of the pieces, and teammate Larry Hughes was wondering whether it might also be his final night with Golden State.

He also spend time on the phone with his agent, Jeffrey Wechsler, who told him his name had been floating around in trade rumors for the better part of two weeks. Hughes listed the Miami Heat as one possible team that was inquiring about his availability.

The Nuggets have received numerous calls from teams wanting them to include center Raef Lafrentz in a Van Exel deal, but the Nuggets have been trying to find a team that will take Van Exel by himself.

"It's getting to the point where I'm doubting whether anything will get done."

Scott Botman
agent

"I just haven't left the office trying to make something happen."

Kiki Vandeweghe
Nuggets general manager

MLB

Twin's owner promises to sell

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS

Signaling that baseball was prepared to back off its attempt to fold the Twins, owner Carl Pohlad said Wednesday he intended to sell the team and commissioner Bud Selig gave the plan his blessing.

"I believe that our fans in the Upper Midwest want the Twins to continue to play here," Pohlad said. He added that "may best be achieved" by a sale, which would require the buyer to keep the team in Minnesota.

While Pohlad has been open to selling the team in the past, its future was thrown into doubt when baseball owners voted Nov. 6 to eliminate two teams.

The Twins and Montreal Expos turned out to be the targets, but baseball's contraction plan was stopped by a Minnesota judge who ordered the Twins to fulfill their Metrodome lease this season.

"I encourage the process and am hopeful it will produce a number of potential investors who are dedicated to preserving major league baseball in Minnesota," Selig said in a statement released in coordination with Pohlad's.

Pohlad, a Minneapolis banker who has owned the team since 1984, has been sharply criticized for going along with the contraction plan, or at least not opposing it publicly.

He has been an unpopular figure in Minnesota through several failed stadium plans, and the Twins' statement Wednesday acknowledged that by saying new ownership could help land public funding for a stadium.

Jim Pohlad, the owner's son and a member of the team's executive board, said friends,

lawmakers, and advisers told the family that selling the team would help the stadium effort. He said the decision was difficult for the family.

"It may not be the outcome everybody wants, to see somebody else throwing out the first pitch in a brand new stadium," Jim Pohlad said. "But at least baseball will be in Minnesota."

After the contraction plan was announced, doubts grew about the ability of potential bidders to match the price — perhaps \$150 million or more — Pohlad was expected to get to fold the team.

Two bidders have emerged: Alabama businessman Donald Watkins and a group of Twin Cities lawyers and businessmen.

Watkins said Pohlad stands to benefit from a new stadium by fetching a bigger price for the team, and so setting up the process makes sense. He's still interested in buying the team, he said.

Mike Ciresi, a leader of the Twin Cities group, didn't immediately return a call seeking comment.

In his statement, Selig credited Pohlad for saving baseball in Minnesota when he bought the franchise in 1984, and for operating the franchise through a difficult period when skyrocketing salaries made it difficult for small-market teams to compete.

"This course is in the best long-term interest of the Twins franchise, as, perhaps, new ownership can succeed in securing financing for a new ballpark, which would allow the club to generate enough local revenues to keep the Twins in Minnesota for decades to come," Selig said.

But St. Paul voters rejected a sales tax increase to pay for part of the stadium and the sale never happened.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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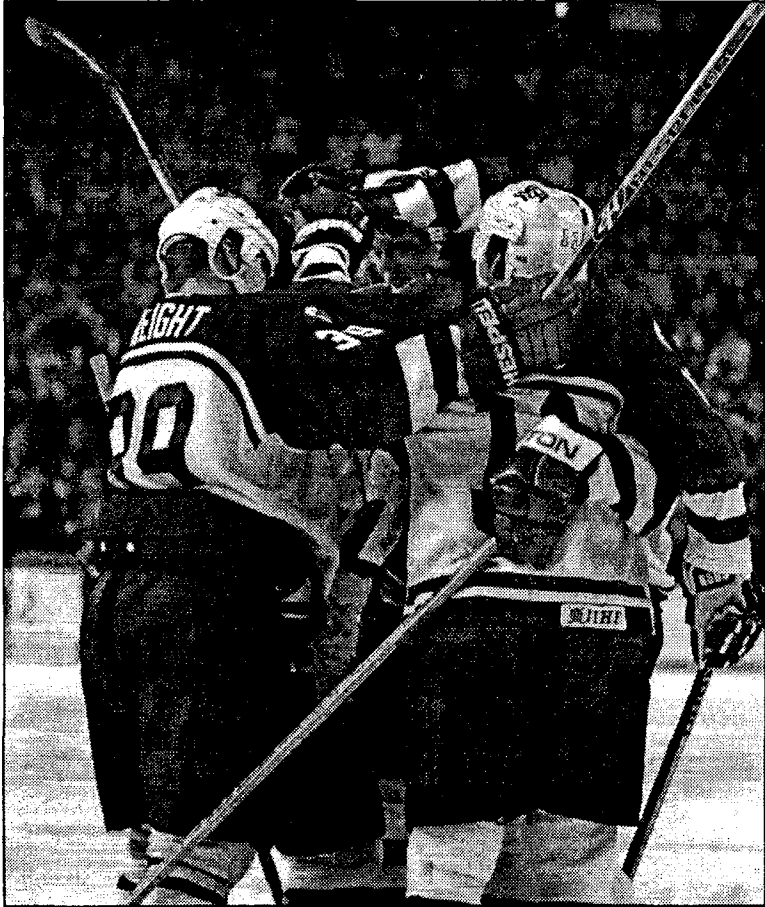
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. LUTZ



HOCKEY

Americans win 5-0, prepare for Russia



American hockey players celebrate a goal in their 5-0 victory over Germany. The team advanced to the next round with the win.

Associated Press

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah Now, the rematch.

John LeClair, losing a tooth but not his scoring touch, and linemate Brett Hull each scored a goal and the United States closed within a victory of its first Olympic hockey medal since 1980, beating Germany 5-0 Wednesday.

Mike Modano, the third member of the productive U.S. top line, had two assists, while Jeremy Roenick, Chris Chelios and Tony Amonte also scored to back Mike Richter's 28-save effort in goal.

The United States plays Russia on Friday in a semifinal rematch of their 2-2 tie Saturday that drew the largest U.S. TV audience for hockey since the 1980 Olympics.

And how's this for coincidence: Not only is Herb Brooks again the U.S. coach, just as he was in 1980, but Friday is the 22nd anniversary of the "Miracle on Ice" — America's 4-3 Olympic upset of the seemingly unbeatable Soviet Union hockey machine.

There was an upset of historic magnitude in Wednesday's quar-

terfinals but, this time, it didn't involve the United States. Just before the Americans took the ice, Belarus stunned previously unbeaten Sweden 4-3 to eliminate a potential finalist.

If nothing else, that upset further focused the Americans' attention on Germany, which, just as Belarus, played its way through the preliminaries into the round of eight before going 0-3 in round-robin play.

Just as they have throughout their 3-0-1 Olympic run in which they've outscored opponents 21-3, the Americans moved the puck well to generate plenty of scoring chances without relaxing defensively. It's the kind of teamwork that was missing when they failed to win a medal at the 1998 Nagano Olympics.

German coach Hans Zach, who played on the 1980 West German team that lost 4-2 to Brooks' gold medalists, talked beforehand about welcoming the chance to play the Americans. And the Germans came out playing aggressively and physically, so much so they drew 33 penalty minutes in the first period.

LeClair lost a tooth when struck by Erich Goldmann's wayward stick in the first period,

with Goldmann drawing a high-sticking penalty and a game misconduct. LeClair was rammed in the face again by a stick in the second period, causing him to slam his own stick into the glass in frustration.

Still, that didn't prevent LeClair from scoring one of three U.S. goals in a span of 2:05 of the second that made it 5-0 and caused Zach to pull goalie Marc Seliger. The goalie Zach preferred to play — Olaf Kolzig of the Washington Capitals — sat by himself in the stands, out with a pre-Olympics injury.

It took awhile to get it, but Roenick scored the first American goal at 13:06 of the first, or 5 1/2 minutes into an extended power play that included two 5-on-3 advantages. Roenick broke his stick, rushed to the bench to get a new one, then returned to put a one-timer of Brian Rafalski's pass through Seliger's pads from the right circle.

Chelios, the team captain and the oldest U.S. player at 40, scored on a shot from inside the blue line in the first minute of the second period. Amonte and LeClair later scored 32 seconds apart.

SKELETON

Shea captures gold, extends family legacy

Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah

Jimmy Shea is convinced that Gramps had something to do with this.

There's no doubt in his mind.

He was trailing by the slimmest of margins, the skeleton gold medal slipping away. Then, in the final yards — somehow, some way — he made up the time and zoomed to victory.

"I think my grandfather had some unfinished business down here," Shea said. "Now he can go up to heaven."

With his grandfather's funeral card tucked inside his helmet, Shea did indeed win the gold, finishing the two runs at Utah Olympic Park in 1 minute, 41.96 seconds.

Thus culminated an emotional two months for Shea, the youngest member of America's first three-generation family of Winter Olympians.

His 91-year-old grandfather, Jack, who died last month, was the first double gold medalist in the Winter Olympics, winning two speed-skating events at the 1932 Lake Placid Games. He was also America's oldest living Winter Olympian.

Shea's father, Jim Sr., was also an Olympian and competed in three cross-country events at the 1964 Innsbruck Games.

He watched with tears in his eyes as his son beat defending world champion Martin Retzl of Austria, who won the silver in 1:42.01. World Cup champion Gregor Staehli of Switzerland, the 1994 world champion who came out of retirement to compete, won the bronze in 1:42.15.

Dad also had a theory:

"I think his Gramp was there giving him that little extra push."

Shea's victory gave the United States a record seven gold medals with four days to go in the games. Americans have won six golds four times at the Winter Olympics, most recently at the 1998 Games.

Skeleton, in which competitors race head-

first down the ice at about 80 mph on a sled that looks like a large lunch tray, made its first appearance in the Winter Olympics since 1948 and only its third ever.

Wearing a gold medal his grandfather won in 1921, Shea had the fastest first run on a snowy morning and then did just enough on his second one to hold off Retzl.

When his sled slowed after his final run, Shea couldn't wait to celebrate. He was so excited he fell off. He then pulled out his grandfather's card and waved it as fans chanted "U-S-Shea! U-S-Shea!"

Another American, Lincoln Dewitt of Park City, rallied for fifth in 1:42.83 after a bad first run. Chris Soule of Trumbull, Conn., was seventh in 1:42.98.

Shea was thrilled when he qualified for the U.S. team in December, and so were his father and grandfather. The three were featured in national TV commercials and publications.

But just when the family was preparing to go to Salt Lake City together last month, Jack Shea died after a car accident just a few blocks from his Lake Placid, N.Y., home.

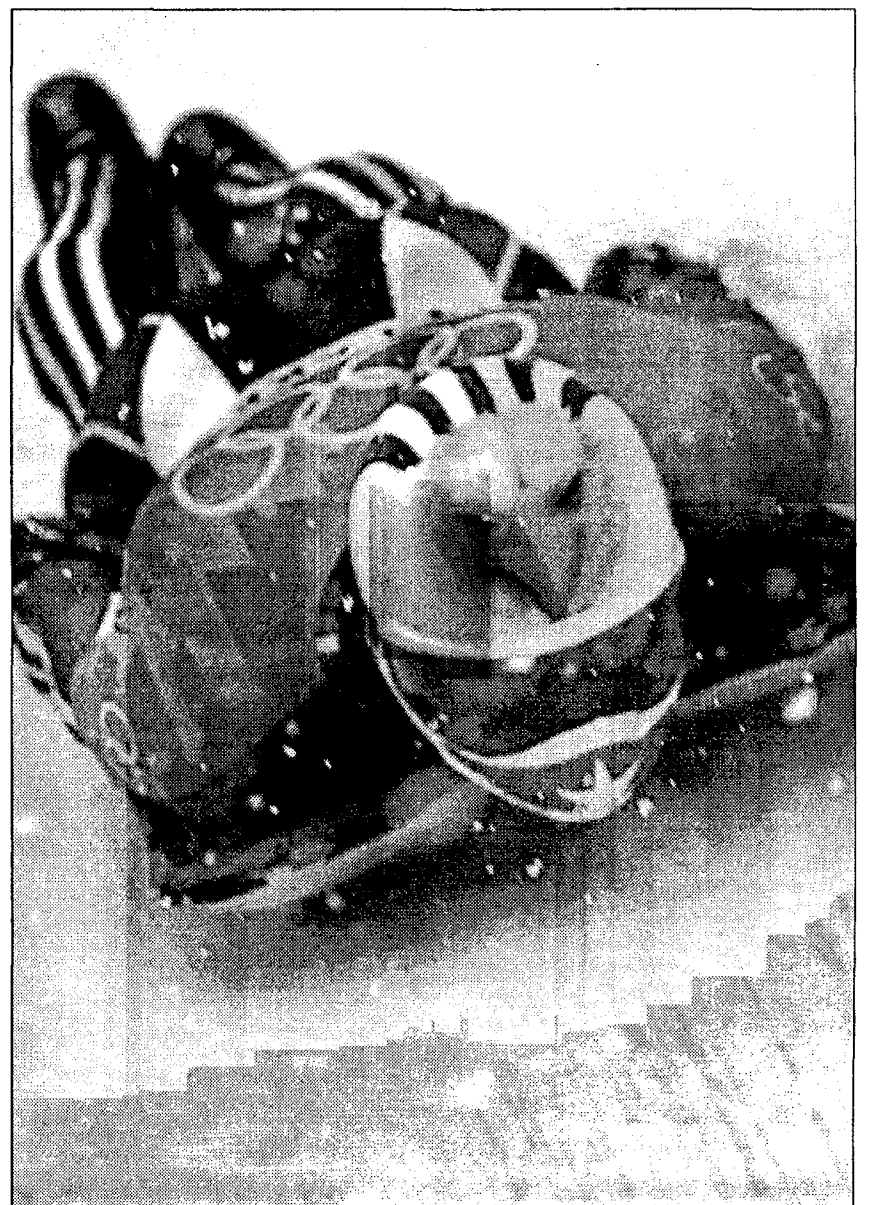
Shea's triumph almost seemed predestined. The steady snow meant that those sliding later in the first run would have tougher sledding.

Staehli, who won all but one of the five races during the World Cup season, slid first. But when he finished in 51.16 seconds, the opportunity was there.

Retzl was next, and he zoomed into first place in 51.02. After Duff Gibson of Canada went down in 51.40, Shea came to the line for the first time.

If an injury to his left leg was bothering him, it wasn't evident. At the start house, feeling the energy of the moment, Shea jumped up and down and ran in place. Fans roared their encouragement, holding signs aloft that read "Go Jimmy."

"I just tried to concentrate on the basics," said Shea, whose mother, Judy, was waiting at the finish line. "There's so much going on. There were 15,000 screaming people. I was just having a blast."



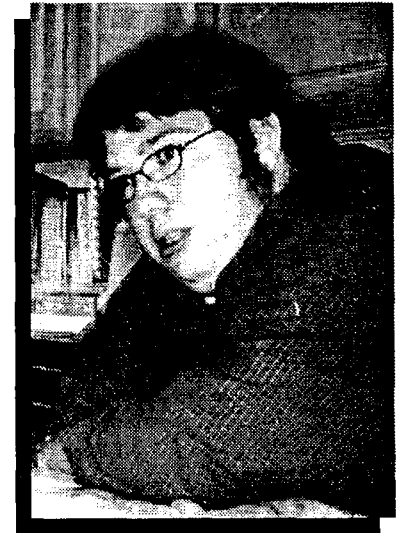
American Jimmy Shea races down the track in the skeleton event Wednesday. The third-generation Olympian won gold in the event.

◆ The Odd Couple ◆

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as
Felix Unger*



*Tim O'Malley
as
Oscar Madison*

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This Week in Campus Ministry

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Retreats signups

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 Pick up applications:
 Monday, Feb. 25 - Monday, Apr. 8
 114 Coleman-Morse Center

Notre Dame Encounter Retreat #70

Retreat Date: March 22-24, 2002
 Pick up applications:
 Monday, Feb. 18 - Friday, Feb. 22
 114 Coleman-Morse Center

2/21 thursday

San Egidio Community
 6:00 p.m.
 Sacred Heart Crypt

2/22 friday

Eucharistic Adoration
 11:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
 Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Freshman Retreat #40

Friday-Saturday
 Sacred Heart Parish Center

Bible Study (in Chinese)

7:30-9:30 p.m.
 Call 631-5653 for information.

807 Mass

8:00 p.m.
 Lounge, Coleman-Morse Center

2/23 saturday

No Greater Love
 Check-in begins at 10:00 a.m.
 Closing Mass at 6:30 p.m. (Morrissey)
 Coleman-Morse Center

2/24 sunday

RCIA-Purification & Enlightenment
 10:00-11:30 a.m.
 330 Coleman-Morse Center

2/25 monday

Morning and Evening Prayer
 Monday-Friday during Lent
 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 Coleman-Morse Center Chapel

The Way Bible Study

8:30 p.m.
 331 Coleman-Morse Center

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday through Tuesday
 11:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
 Fisher Hall Chapel

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Feed Your Soul

■ by **Nadia Stefko '04**
 English & Government Double Major

Most of us, when we sit down to eat, or at least when we remember to, begin by praying, "Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts..." Think about that. We don't say "Bless us, O Lord, and this thy food" for a reason. Because God's gifts to us reach so far beyond the dining table. From the classroom to the weightroom to the dormroom, we can see the fruits of God's love for us in our relationships with ourselves, our loved ones, and even complete strangers. Yet our Christian faith is centered around the very table that Jesus shared with His disciples at the last supper, which we re-enact and celebrate every day in the Eucharist.

With how busy our lives are, and how rapidly and unpredictably our schedules shift from day to day, eating is one of the few rituals we engage in on such a regular basis. How blessed we are to have the opportunity three times a day -- often more -- to nourish our bodies and minds as we prepare to take on the next few hours of the day.

Now, how enriching would it be if we could just pause to give thanks for all the gifts he has given us today, and to ask him for strength in what lies ahead, three times a day, or more? We know that our bodies will suffer if we neglect our physical hunger. Will not our souls, too, then suffer if we deny ourselves the chance to refuel spiritually throughout the day? Whether we take the time to acknowledge it or not, God is present in our lives on a pretty consistent basis, too.

Now I suggest to you: what if every time we ate, we took a minute to recall all the blessings our lives have seen since the last time we ate, and all the occasions for God's grace we will encounter before we sit down to eat again? What a beautiful opportunity to become more aware of God's presence in our lives. Because after all, isn't that what prayer is all about? From now on, every time we sit down to a meal, let us thank God for walking that last leg of life's journey with us, invite Him to sit down, take off His sandals, and share this meal with us, and then ask Him if He wouldn't just love to get up and accompany us on the rest of our journey, or at least until we next sit down to share another meal.

From now on, every time we sit down to a meal, let us thank God for walking that last leg of life's journey with us, invite Him to sit down, take off His sandals, and share this meal with us, and then ask Him if He wouldn't just love to get up and accompany us on the rest of our journey, or at least until we next sit down to share another meal.

Nadia's reflection on praying before meals is a great illustration of the creativity people of faith have employed through the centuries to discover ways of encountering God in our daily lives. A prayer can be as simple as "Hey, God, it's me." It can be as rich and choreographed as the Basilica liturgies during Holy Week. Ultimately, however, God speaks all of these prayer "languages" and more. He is capable of hearing a sincere prayer in any form at any time.

This Saturday, in effort to nurture a mature life of prayer, No Greater Love will give each of us an opportunity to experience a wide range of prayer styles. Some of these prayer forms, like lectio divina and Ignatian meditation, have been practiced by Christians for centuries. Others have taken on contemporary elements like Taize and Adoration with "praise and worship" style music. Others still are traditional prayers of the Church, such as Liturgy of the Hours and praying the Rosary.

Campus Ministry welcomes everyone to take part this Saturday, beginning at 10:00 am at the Coleman-Morse Center. If you seem never to be able to find time for a weekend-long retreat, No Greater Love is designed for you. If you're looking to re-energize your faith life during Lent, No Greater Love is the place. If you want to find new ways to encounter God and express your faith in authentic and mature ways, No Greater Love will help. Come experience something new.

Second Sunday of Lent Mass Schedule

■ **Basilica of the Sacred Heart**
Saturday, February 23
 5:00 p.m.
 Rev. Robert H. Moss, c.s.c

Sunday, February 24
 10:00 a.m.
 Rev. John A. Steele, c.s.c.
 11:45 a.m.
 Rev. Peter D. Rocca, c.s.c.

■ **Around Campus**
 Sunday, February 24
Spanish Mass
 1:30 p.m., Zahm Hall Chapel
Law School Mass
 5:00 p.m., Law School Chapel
MBA Mass
 7:00 p.m., Mendoza COB Chapel

■ **Sunday's Scripture Readings**
 1st Rdg Gn 12:1-4a
 2nd Rdg 2 Tm 1:8b-10
 Gospel Mt 17:1-9

■ **Mark your Calendar**
 March 1-2
 Sacred Heart Parish Center
Women's Retreat
 Pick up applications in Room 114 of the Coleman-Morse Center
 Call 1-6633, for more info



CONSIDERATIONS...

OLYMPICS

Belarus stuns Sweden in hockey upset

◆ **Late goal helps make unthinkable comeback reality**

Associated Press

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah
The shot couldn't possibly go in, but it did. Sweden couldn't possibly lose, but it did. And the kind of upset that couldn't possibly happen with NHL players now dominating the

Olympics is a reality. Vladimir Kopat scored on a 70-foot shot that bounced wildly off goalie Tommy Salo's head with only 2:24 remaining and Belarus scored one of the greatest upsets in Olympic history Wednesday, beating Sweden 4-3 in the hockey quarterfinals.

Yes, Belarus believes in miracles, too.

"For sure, it is a miracle for us," Belarus goalie Andrei Mezin said. "But sometimes a gun without bullets can shoot,

and that was us. We've made our place in history."

In a stunning game reminiscent of the United States' "Miracle on Ice" over the Soviet Union in 1980, Belarus won despite being outscored 16-2 in its previous two games and being a 10-million-to-1 shot to win the gold medal.

The only comparable upsets in Olympic hockey history were the United States' 4-3 victory over the Soviets in 1980 and Great Britain's 2-1 win over Canada in 1936.

"I don't understand how we could lose against this team," Swedish captain Mats Sundin said.

As the game ended, the stunned Swedes — easily the best team in the Olympics until now, with a 3-0 record and impressive wins over Canada and the Czech Republic — stood silently as the Belarusian players swarmed Mezin, who stopped 44 shots.

Mezin played for five U.S. minor league teams before giving up on any chance at the NHL and now plays for Berlin in the German elite league.

"He played the game of his life," Sweden coach Hardy Nilsson said. "For some reason, we did not have the strength to beat them."

Belarus, which survived a week of preliminary round play just to reach the field of eight and then was outscored 22-6 in its three pool-play games, had lost its two most recent games by 8-1 scores, to the United States and Finland.

During practice Tuesday, Belarus coach Vladimir Krikunov reminded his players

of the 1980 U.S. victory, although he didn't realistically think a team with only one NHL player could beat a team as good as Sweden. After the preliminaries, Krikunov said he only wanted a respectable showing as the still-developing former Soviet republic builds a sports program.

How's this for respectable: Belarus will play the winner of Wednesday's Canada-Finland game in the semifinals Friday.

"For sure, it is a great holiday for our country," Krikunov said.

In Sweden, however, the TT news agency called the loss "Sweden's worst ever Olympic fiasco," comparing it to the Swedish national soccer team's loss to Japan in the 1936 Summer Olympics.

"It's a devastating loss for us and our country," Swedish forward Markus Naslund said.

Sweden, which didn't play with any desperation or fear until the third period, had tied it at 3 on Sundin's goal at 7:56 of the third. But Kopat's game-winning shot, which will be replayed countless times, came from the Olympic rings along the right wing boards near midice and ricocheted off Salo's headgear, bounced behind him and scooted into the net as he looked d frantically behind him for it.

"It was just a shot from the red line and ... well, that's what happened," said Kopat, who seemed as incredulous about the goal as anyone.

Even Ruslan Salei, Belarus' only NHL player said afterward, "It was a lucky goal."

"The shot hit me somewhere around my neck, and I thought

I could get a glove on it," Salo said. "I didn't feel it hit my back, but somehow it went in."

Despite Nilsson's prophetic admonition that "it's a quarterfinal and you never know," the game started predictably with a Nicklas Lidstrom power-play goal at 3:10 of the first period.

But Sweden, so fast and efficient before, got sloppy and careless after that, once almost allowing a goal while on a 5-on-3 advantage.

"We should have put this team away in the first or second period," Sundin said.

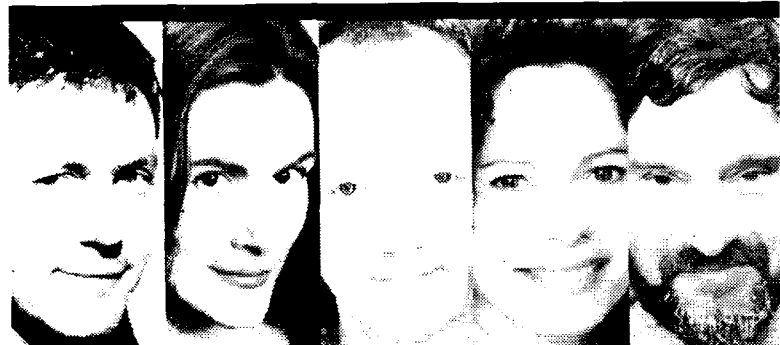
Oleg Romanov tied it with Belarus still down a man, scoring short-handed on a slap shot from the top of the right circle at 7:47 of the first. Dmitry Dudik scored during a two-man advantage later in the period to give Belarus a 2-1 lead.

Right about then, Belarus began to play as if it thought it could win. To counter Sweden's dynamic "torpedo" system, Belarus counterattacked aggressively to take advantage of the Swedes' reliance on one defenseman as an extra forward.

Michael Nylander tied it for Sweden later in the period, but Belarus regained the lead when Andrei Kovalev stole the puck at midice and beat Salo — the hero of Sweden's 1994 goal medal shootout victory over Canada — on a break-away at 2:47 of the third period.

It is the second quarterfinal upset loss for Sweden in as many Olympics. Finland beat the defending champion Swedes 2-1 in 1998.

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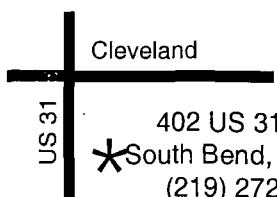


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SMC

continued from page 28

either. In addition to helping their team to a top three finish, the Belles' strongest swimmers could also find themselves in a place where they would qualify to compete in the nationals competition in March.

Junior Lauren Smith, with a few seconds knocked off her time, could take home a first place finish and a bid for nationals in the 200-meter breaststroke.

"I think Lauren Smith has a shot in the 200 breaststroke," Petcoff said. "She needs time to drop, but I've seen time drops from tapers of four seconds."

The class of 2004 will also send in two threats this weekend. Megan Ramsey and Maureen Palchak could also find themselves as champions by the end of the three-day meet on Saturday. Palchak has a chance to win in her sprint events, but Ramsey is really the most likely to finish in a top spot.

"I think Meg Ramsey has a very legitimate shot, if not two, possibly even three, in the 500 free and both butterfly events," Petcoff said.

Wednesday night the team had a chance to get into the pool and get used to host school Hope's facilities. After spending four months getting used to facilities in South Bend, Petcoff gave his team some valuable advice on Tuesday night.

"Get in, take your time, get to know the gutters, get to know the blocks," he said. "Take your time getting to know the blocks, get to know the walls. You've swum for four months on these gutters, now you're going someplace different. Make it familiar."

Competition kicks off today at 10 a.m., with preliminaries in the 200 free relay, 500 freestyle, 200 individual medley, 50 freestyle, 400 medley relay and 3-meter diving. Finals in those events will be tonight at 6 p.m.

Contact Katie McVoy at mcvo5695@saintmarys.edu.

Ty risks youth for a shot at pros

Ty Tryon won't be competing in the Byron Nelson Classic this May. He was forced to turn down an invitation from one of the game of golf's most revered legends because he has "other obligations." Tryon, a 17-year-old high school junior won't play that week-end because he wants to attend the prom.



Kevin Berchou

Sports Columnist

Now every high school kid wants to go to the prom.

Tryon can't be blamed for that. What Tryon can be blamed for is his much-debated decision to join the PGA Tour at an age where he's just old enough to drive, and just young enough to still have a stubborn acne problem.

However, ability is not the issue. Tryon's game is beyond his scant few years. At the pressure-packed crucible that is the six-round PGA Tour Qualifying School, Tryon shot a dazzling 66 to capture a Tour card and the exempt status that comes with it. He's armed with 300-yard drives, a reliable putter, and well over \$1 million in endorsement contracts from the likes of Calloway and Target.

Tryon, however, paid dearly for his bounty; he sacrificed his youth, and no matter how many titles he wins, he'll never be able to get that back.

Tryon did more than miss the cut in his professional debut earlier this month at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic. He missed the point. Golf is not about how good you are now; it's much more about how good you can be.

Every golfer on the planet, from Tiger Woods to the

hacker in the stall next to you at the driving range, believes he can get better, that his best swings lie ahead. Jack Nicklaus won his sixth Masters at the age of 46.

You can play great golf for a long time and history has shown us that most players don't peak until they turn 30. Ben Hogan didn't win the first of his plethora of majors until he was 35. So why is Tryon in such a hurry?

That same Tiger guy was a pretty decent 17-year-old just nine years ago, but he didn't join the tour until he was 20. Instead Tiger honed his game against stern competition at the amateur level, winning three consecutive amateur crowns as well as an NCAA Championship as a member of the Stanford Cardinal.

Woods, though he may have been able to compete at 17, recognized the immaturity of his game, and as he worked on it embraced his youth and

went to college.

Tryon apparently knows better than guys like Tiger, though he's won almost nothing of importance in the junior ranks. He'll never get to go an SYR or sit in a dorm room with his buddies sipping a lukewarm Natty Light.

For Tryon, 40s at four won't be a cause for Friday celebration, but rather a bad number on the back nine in the second round. He's made the quantum leap from precocious teenager to full-fledged adulthood, and there's no crossing back. Guys on the tour play for keeps and for their livelihoods.

These guys are fathers, playing to send their kids to college. Tryon is playing to avoid it. While Tryon calls his girlfriend, the other members are calling their investment gurus. How's a high school kid going to fit in with those guys? What do they talk about to bridge the age gap?

He's Britney Spears and they're Barbara Streisand.

In order to retain his tour membership, Tryon must finish in the top 125 on this year's money list. If he doesn't, he'll have to re-enroll in Q-School, where the odds of qualifying for a second consecutive year are about as good as my chances of competing in this April's Masters.

If Tryon falls flat on his face this year, and many think he will, there is no safety net. By playing in just one event as a professional, Tryon would forever forfeit his amateur status, eliminating his ability to play college golf. His time is now, and unless he plays with the big guys, he may not have a later.

Contact Kevin Berchou at kberchou@nd.edu. The views of this column are those of the author and are not necessarily those of The Observer.

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WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish shoot best round of tourney

◆ **Final round 311 moves team into seventh place**

Special to The Observer

The Notre Dame women's golf team shot a final round 311 (21 strokes better than their previous best round of the tournament) to finish in seventh place at the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Spring Invitational in the season opening tournament for the Irish.

The final round 311 gave Notre Dame a 54-hole total of 979 (332-336-311) and left the Irish 27 strokes behind the tournament's team champion Texas-El Paso. UTEP shot a final round 296 to come from 12 strokes behind to edge Texas A&M-Corpus Christi by four strokes and the tourney win.

UTEP finished with a 952 (329-327-296) on the 5,796-yard, par 72 Kings Crossing Golf and Country Club course. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi shot a closing round of 312 after opening rounds of 324-320 for a 956 mark.

The University of Kansas finished third with a 963 (338-319-306), Kansas State was fourth with a 964 (325-334-305) and McLellan Community College was fifth with a 969 (323-334-312).

Notre Dame was led by freshman Karen Lotta, who

was tied for ninth after her final round three-over par 75 that gave her a 54-hole total of 239 which was nine strokes behind tournament medalist Ashlie Simmons of McLellan CC. Simmons final round of even-par 72 gave her a 230 total and a two-stroke win over defending champion Melissa Newman-Gillespie of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Besides Lotta, who had opening rounds of 84 and 80, the Irish had two other golfers finish in the top 20. Junior Terri Taibl and sophomore Rebecca Rogers tied for 20th with 244 totals. Taibl fired a four-over par 76 after rounds of 81 and 87 for her 244 while Rogers, playing as an individual entrant turned in rounds of 82-82-80 on the way to her best 54-hole mark of the season.

Shannon Byrne tied for 24th with a 246 (84-82-80) to finish fourth among Irish golfers. Freshman Casey Rotella tied for 39th as an individual entrant with a 251 (85-83-83), Kristin McMurtrie tied for 44th with a 253 (83-87-83) and Lauren Fuchs tied for 51st after shooting rounds of 89, 88 and 80 for a 257 total.

The Irish return to action in two weeks when they travel to the Tulane Green Wave Women's Golf Classic on March 4-5. The tournament will be played at the Lakewood Country Club in New Orleans, La.

NBA

Iverson drills Warriors for 46

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA

Allen Iverson scored 46 points, reaching 40 for the fifth time this season and the 38th time in his career as the Philadelphia 76ers defeated the turnover-prone Golden State Warriors 114-107 Wednesday night.

Matt Harpring tied his season-high with 25 points, Dikembe Mutombo had 18, and Eric Snow added 12 assists and 11 rebounds for the 76ers, who never led by more than four points in the fourth quarter until the final 2 1/2 minutes.

Danny Fortson had 18 for the Warriors, who kept the game close for much of the fourth quarter but repeatedly made mistakes, including sloppy turnovers and ill-advised shots after coming up with defensive stops and blocked shots on several Sixers possessions.

Golden State blocked three shots in the span of a minute with less than four minutes left, each leading to a possession that ended with a turnover or a miss.

Iverson shot 14-of-36 from the field and 16-for-20 from the line in reaching 40 points for the first time since Jan. 25 when he had 47 at Boston. He capped his night with a breakaway dunk with 17 seconds left.

Harpring tied his season-high by making two free throws with 1:56 left for a 103-97 lead, and Iverson drove for a three-point play with 1:44 left after the Warriors committed their eighth turnover of the quarter. Golden State finished with 22 turnovers.

Harpring shot 11-for-21 and added nine rebounds.

Golden lost its fourth in a row overall, its ninth straight on the

road and its 19th in 22 games.

The game stayed close until Iverson and Harpring led a 17-5 run that gave Philadelphia an 84-75 lead. Iverson had 34 points by the end of the third quarter, but missed his first three free throws in the fourth as Golden State came back.

Larry Hughes had a chance to tie it at 90-all, but missed the second of two free throws with 8:15 left. Philadelphia maintained a lead of between one and four points for the next six minutes.

Bucks 115, Rockets 76

Michael Redd scored a career-high 29 points, 26 in the fourth quarter, as the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Houston Rockets.

Redd made 9 of 13 shots from 3-point range, doing most of his damage after Milwaukee built a big lead. Sam Cassell returned from a toe injury to score 16 points and hand out seven assists in three quarters.

Glenn Robinson added 21 points, and Ray Allen had 17 for the Bucks. Kenny Thomas led Houston with 21 points.

Milwaukee set a season high, going 16-of-26 from 3-point range. The Bucks led by as many as 49 points in the second half, so coach George Karl was able to rest Cassell and the rest of his regulars.

The biggest lead came after Redd replaced Cassell and made five straight 3-pointers.

But, it was the veteran point guard who sparked the Bucks to their best performance in two weeks. Cassell had five assists in the first six minutes.

He scored five points and got the ball to Robinson, who had nine points in the early going.

The Bucks made nine of their

first 11 shots, and had eight assists in the first six minutes to build a 21-12 lead. They maintained a comfortable margin for most of the first half and led 54-41 at halftime.

Milwaukee outshot Houston, 53.3 percent (24-45) to 36.8 percent (14-38) in the half. The Bucks were 6-of-10 from 3-point range in the half.

Clippers 81, Heat 71

The Los Angeles Clippers turned to their bench once more, but mostly to Quentin Richardson. That was enough.

Richardson had 25 points and 11 rebounds as the Clippers won in Miami for the first time in eight years, beating the Heat.

Richardson led a strong effort by the reserves as the Clippers snapped a six-game road losing streak against the Heat. The victory was the first for Los Angeles in Miami since Jan. 19, 1994.

The Clippers' bench, the third-highest scoring unit in the NBA, outscored the Heat's reserves 41-16. Richardson did most of the damage, making 9 of 19 shots to help the Clippers begin their five-game road trip on a winning note.

Miami lost for only the fifth time in its last 18 games and for only the second time in seven home games.

Former Heat player Harold Jamison, filling in for the injured Elton Brand, had 14 points and 10 rebounds. The Clippers also got 14 points and 11 assists from Jeff McInnis.

Brand, the Clippers' leading scorer, missed only his second game of the season because of a stretched tendon on his right ring finger.

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Men's

continued from page 28

with his decision to reinsert Graves into the starting lineup for the first time since Notre Dame's loss to Georgetown on Jan. 21.

"I didn't want there to be any doubt. I just wanted to come out and play well," Graves said. "This needs to be the lineup. I've invested a lot of time in bringing this program back to where it needs to be."

Coming into Wednesday's contest, the Irish knew where they needed to be: back in the winning column.

And the Irish had little trouble making that happen against a struggling Mountaineer team.

"We were real solid tonight," Thomas said. "Our backs were against the wall and to come out and play so well speaks so highly of our coach and three captains."

Notre Dame jumped out to a 12-point lead 14 minutes into the half before the Mountaineers whittled the deficit to just five.

But quick transitioning on offense and strong defense from the Irish gave the home team a 10-point edge at the half.

"I think we've found success when we run the ball," Thomas said. "We're so much more dangerous when we run."

Bolstered by five quick points from Graves, the Irish ran out to a 15-point lead just minutes into the second half, and pushed it up to 25 points on a Thomas reverse dunk with six minutes left to play.

The Mountaineers, who own an 8-17 overall and 1-12 conference record struggled all night on both ends of the court.

Defensively, the Mountaineers had trouble slowing down the Irish run.

"The problem with the team this year is the problem we had tonight: we just don't guard," Catlett said. "We have not been able to improve. [The Irish] beat us at — zone and man."

Freshman guards Jonathan Hargett and Drew Schifino led the Mountaineers with 15 points a piece, but interim coach Drew Catlett was not pleased with Hargett's performance in his match-up with Thomas.

"Jon thinks he can score and play against anybody," Catlett said. "One problem Jon has had all year is that it's five-on-five. He needs to get his teammates involved. I think he got caught up in [the match-up with Thomas]."

The win against the Mountaineers marks the second time Notre Dame has topped West Virginia this season.

The Irish are back in action Saturday when they travel to Miami in a key Big East battle.

Note:

♦ Irish guard Matt Carroll suffered a foot strain in the first half of play, falling after a 3-point attempt. The junior did not play for the remainder of the game and according to Brey is "questionable" for Saturday's contest in Miami.

Contact Kerry Smith at Smith.387@nd.edu.

FENCING

Irish take top spot in polls

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Sports Writer

The expected was finally made official Tuesday, as the Notre Dame men's fencing team earned a No. 1 ranking in the latest United States Fencing Coaches' Association poll.

The men assumed the top ranking after knocking off then-No. 1 St. John's on Jan. 27 by a 14-13 margin.

St. John's falls into the No. 2 spot, while Penn State remains No. 3. Notre Dame's chief Midwest competition made the biggest jump in the polls, as Ohio State moved up

four spots in the poll into a tie with Columbia for No. 4.

Princeton remained No. 6 in the poll, and was followed by Pennsylvania, Stanford, Yale and NYU.

Stanford dropped the furthest in the poll. The Cardinal fell from No. 4 to No. 8.

The Irish women dropped a spot in the poll to No. 3, after losing to No. 1 St. John's and splitting two matches with No. 6 Northwestern.

Penn State overtook Notre Dame for the second spot. The Ohio State women followed Notre Dame with their No. 4 ranking, and were followed by Princeton,

Northwestern, Yale, Temple, Columbia-Barnard and Pennsylvania.

Although the coaches vote separately for men's and women's squads in the polls, the national championship is awarded to a men's and women's combined squad. The national championship will be held March 21-24.

The Irish return to action Saturday at the Wayne State Duals against Detroit-Mercy, Lawrence, Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State.

Contact Mike Connolly at connolly.28@nd.edu.

USFCA Men's College Fencing Coaches Poll

rank	team	previous
1	NOTRE DAME	2
2	St. John's (NY)	1
3	Penn State	3
4	Columbia	5
tie	Ohio State	8
6	Princeton	6
7	Pennsylvania	9
8	Stanford	4
9	Yale	7
10	NYU	NR

other teams receiving votes: Air Force, Duke, Rutgers, MIT, Brandeis, North Carolina, Harvard, Brown, Wayne State (MI)

USFCA Women's College Fencing Coaches Poll

rank	team	previous
1	St. John's (NY)	1
2	Penn State	3
3	NOTRE DAME	2
4	Ohio State	6
5	Princeton	5
6	Northwestern	6
7	Yale	8
8	Temple	10
9	Columbia-Barnard	9
10	Pennsylvania	NR

other teams receiving votes: Stanford, North Carolina, Rutgers, Air Force, Duke, MIT, Cornell, NYU



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Lacrosse

continued from page 28

Notre Dame advanced to the Final Four last season.

While there are many question marks circling around this year's team, Irish head coach Kevin Corrigan is confident that Notre Dame will rise to the challenge.

"I think it is going to be an exciting year," said Corrigan. "I am looking forward to seeing what we can do with this group.

I hope we can surprise some other people who don't think we are going to be able to rebound and have a great year on the heels of last year."

In many respects this season could be characterized as a rebuilding year because the Irish are such a young team. The Irish feature 12 sophomores and 15 freshmen on its the roster of 45.

Although there is definitely a youth movement on this year's team, senior captains John Flandina, Chad DeBolt, Devin Ryan and A.J. Wright are expected to answer many of the question marks surrounding this team. All four captains will be responsible for building team unity and cohesiveness as the season progresses.

Midfielders Flandina and Ryan are Notre Dame's top returning scorers. Flandina scored 20 goals and dished out seven assists last season. Ryan came on strong at the end of the season, and finished with 15 goals and two assists. Both players are considered leading candidates for Player of the Year honors in the Great Western Lacrosse

League. Departed All-American attackman Glatzel won the coveted award last year.

The answers to many of those marks on offense could come from senior midfielder Flandina and senior attackman Devin Ryan. Junior Travis Wells, sophomores Steve Clagett and Owen Mulford, and freshmen Chris Richez and Brian Giordano are all expected to compete for playing time at the midfield positions alongside Flandina and Ryan.

"John is going to be a really important guy for us this year," said Corrigan. "He is going to get a lot more attention than he has gotten the last couple of years. Devin Ryan is certainly in the mix as well. We really

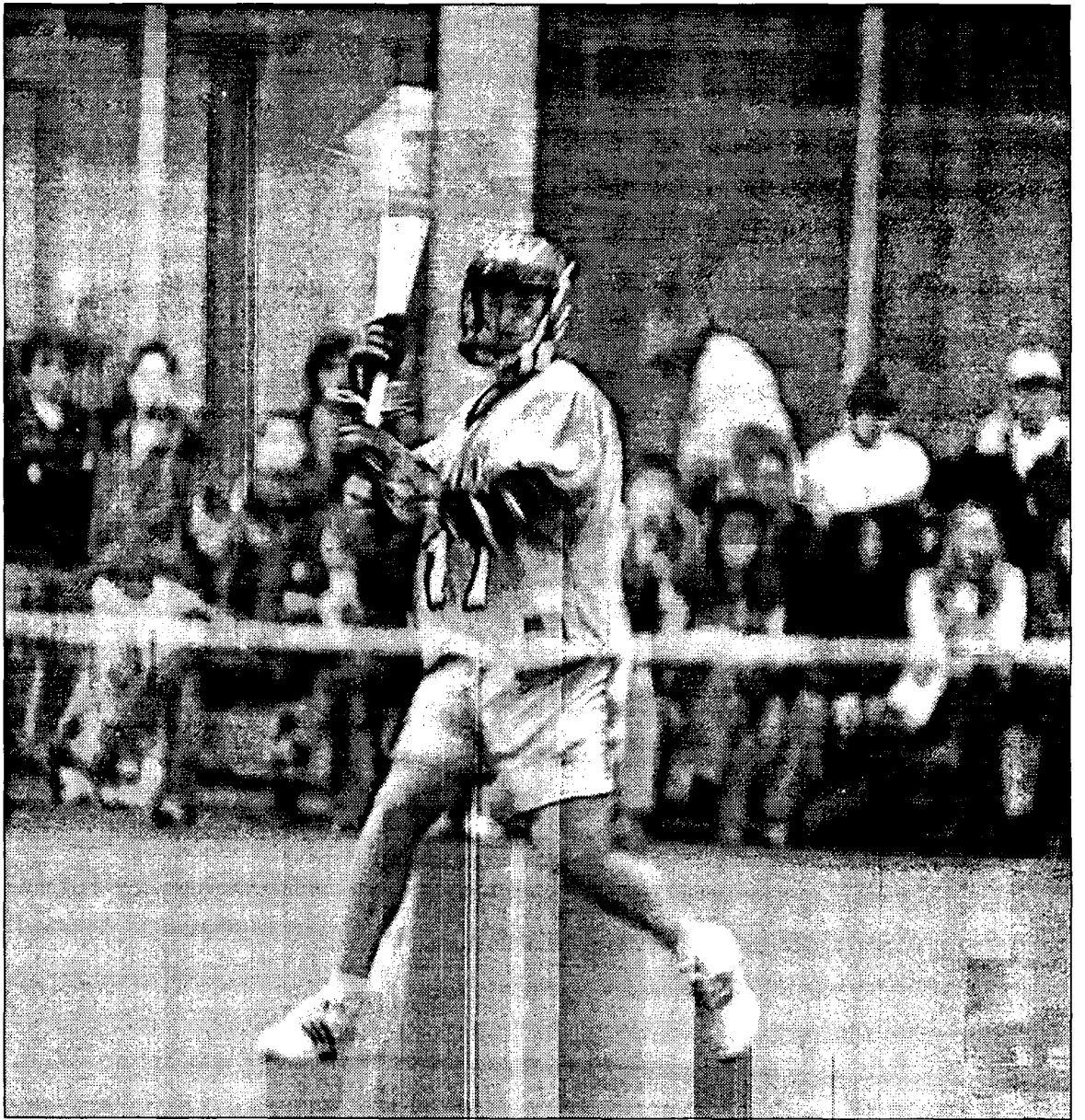
value guys who can play at both ends of the field at the midfield position. Owen Mulford, Steve Clagett and Travis Wells are all capable of doing that. We also have a couple of young guys Chris Richez and Brian Giordano who are going to play some as well."

Strong defense has been the trademark of Notre Dame lacrosse under Corrigan, and this year is no different. With the Irish having to replace their entire starting attack unit, the defense will set the tone early in the season. Senior captains Wright and DeBolt are expected to be this year's leaders on defense. Juniors John Souch and Eric Simon, along with sophomore Mickey Blum round out the rest of the defense.

All of these players must continue to exhibit the aggressive play they demonstrated last year in order to ease the transition for junior goalie Nick Antol to

"I think it's going to be an exciting year. I am looking forward to seeing what we can do with this group."

Kevin Corrigan
head coach



ERNESTO LACAYO/The Observer

Irish sophomore Stewart Crosland hurls the ball in a match last year against Pennsylvania. The Irish begin their quest for another Final Four appearance in lacrosse against Penn State Sunday.

replace Howell. Antol appears to have the inside track for the starting position right now, but he is facing stiff competition from sophomore Stewart Crosland.

Corrigan understands how crucial the defense will be for the Irish to get off to a strong start at the beginning of the

year. "The defense is going to be extremely important," said Corrigan. We are going to have to play good defense to keep ourselves in position to win early in the year and allow our offense to develop without the pressure of having to come from behind."


Heading into the season, Notre Dame's offense appears to be the team's biggest concern. "This year, we won't have as many proven weapons as we go into the season so we will want to be a little more deliberate about our approach," said Corrigan. "We

are not going to play slow-down but it may take us longer to generate the opportunities like we did last year. We are going to have to be patient and smart about what we are doing."


This year's Irish team may not feature the same players as last year's squad, but their goal remains the same.

The road back to the Final Four begins Sunday at 1 p.m. when Notre Dame takes on Penn State.

Contact Joe Licandro at Licandro.1@nd.edu.

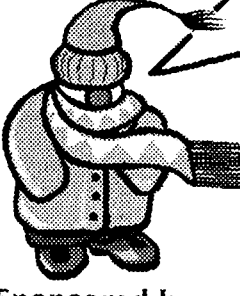


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MEN'S TENNIS

7th-ranked Irish crush Spartans 7-0

Special to The Observer

The seventh-ranked Notre Dame men's tennis team registered a 7-0 victory over No. 60 Michigan State Wednesday in the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The Irish did not drop a match in singles or doubles for the second straight match and improved to 10-3. Michigan State lost for the second time in nine matches this season.

For the sixth time this season, Notre Dame swept the doubles matches. Seniors James Malhame and Ashok Raju finished first with an 8-3 victory at No. 2. Classmates Casey Smith and Javier Taborga, the sixth-ranked doubles team in the nation, clinched the doubles point for Notre Dame with an 8-3 win at No. 1. Senior Aaron Talarico and freshman Brent D'Amico completed the sweep with a 9-8 (7-2) victory at No. 3.

The Irish won all six singles matches to gain the victory. Senior Andrew Laflin completed his match first, winning 6-2, 6-2 at No. 6. Sophomore Matthew Scott gave the Irish a 3-0 lead with a 6-3, 6-1 win at No. 4 before Smith clinched the victory with a 6-4, 6-4 triumph at No. 2. After the outcome was determined, sophomore Luis Haddock-Morales won 2-6, 6-3, 6-1 at No. 3, junior Brian Farrell won 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) at No. 5 and Taborga gained a 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 6-3 victory at No. 1.

The win for Taborga improved his record to 9-1 at No. 1 singles and helped his bid to make a big jump from his No. 95 position in the national singles rankings when they are released again Friday. He is 11-2 in dual-match play and 18-7 overall, including victories over defending NCAA singles and doubles champion Matias Boeker of Georgia (No. 1 in preseason singles rankings), No. 20 Jeremy Wurtzman of Ohio State, No. 21 Alex Hartman of Mississippi, No. 24 Michael Yani of Duke, No. 37 Danny Westerman of Wisconsin, No. 74 Jonathan Endrikat of UC-Irvine, No. 99 Ben Cox of Michigan and then-No. 97 Prakash Armitraj of USC N with all eight wins coming in straight sets. He has won 14 of his last 17 singles matches and all three of his losses in that span were to ranked players (No. 2 Harsh Mankad of Minnesota, No. 7 Al Garland of Pepperdine and No. 78 Aleksey Zharinov of Minnesota). Out of his seven defeats this season, five came to nationally-ranked players and three were in match tiebreakers.

Haddock-Morales is 19-4 this season in singles, while

Scott remained perfect this spring with his 13th consecutive victory, improving to 21-2 in 2001-02. Laflin holds a 9-0 singles mark this season and has won 24 of his last 26 matches.

The doubles team of D'Amico and Talarico won its sixth consecutive match, while Smith and Taborga have been victorious in six of their last seven doubles matches.

The win was the 13th in a row for Notre Dame over Michigan State. It also marked the third straight year the Irish shutout the Spartans.

Notre Dame will return to action Sunday, taking on No. 35 Miami in the Eck Tennis Pavilion at 1:00 p.m.



Seniors Casey Smith (left) and Javier Taborga await a serve in a recent match against Michigan State. The men's tennis team swept the Spartans 7-0.

BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

No Greater Love

...a Notre Dame day of prayer, music and renewal

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Rosary

Adoration

Stations of the Cross

Praise & Worship

Mass

Walk around the Lakes

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Music led by Danielle Rose

Other contributors include: Fr. J. Steele, csc & Fr. Nick Ayo, csc

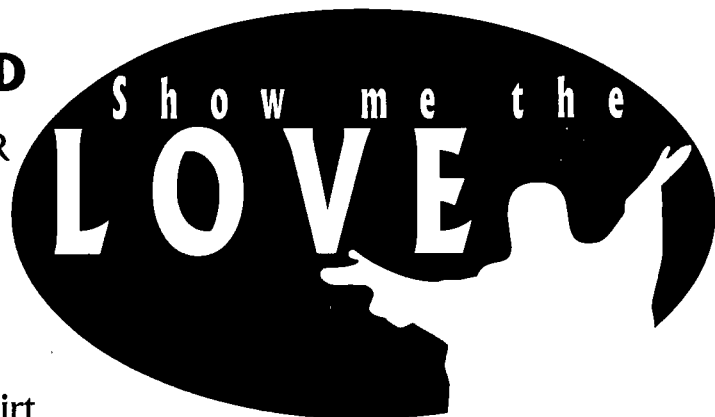
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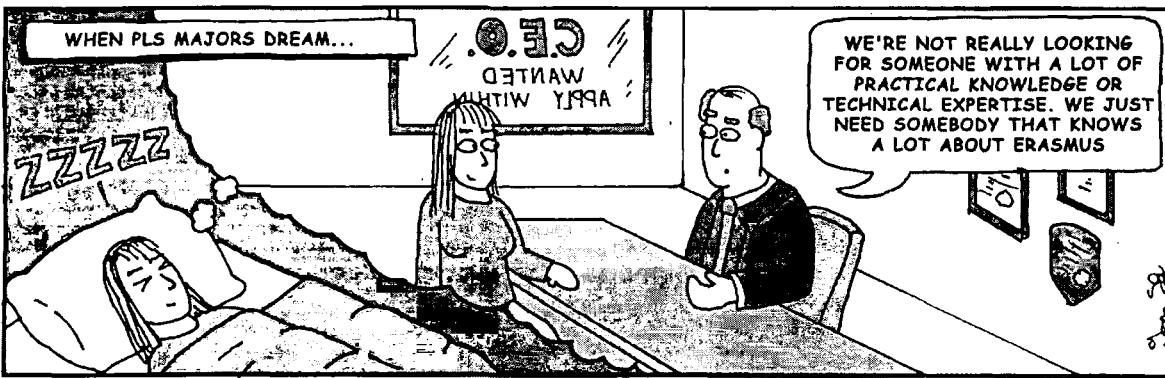
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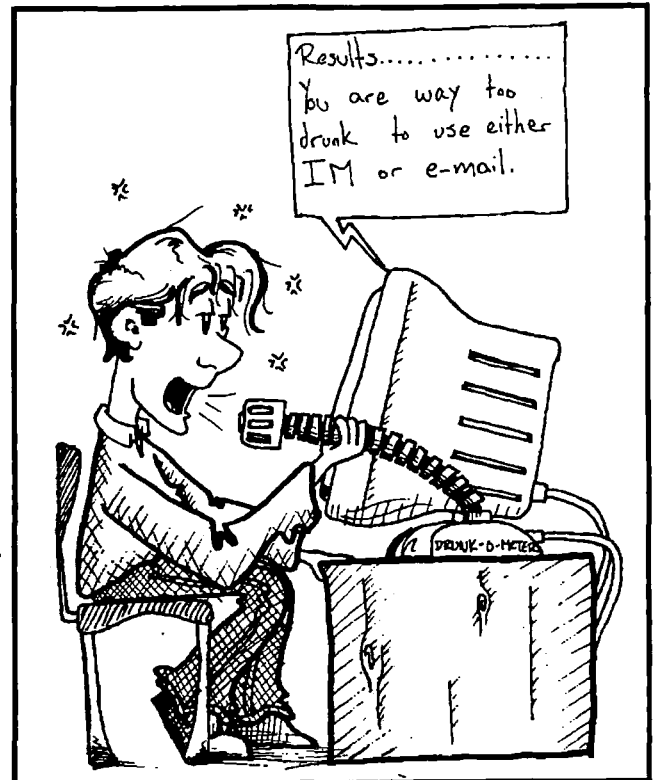
FOURTH AND INCHES

TOM KEELEY



BEFUDDLED AND BEMUSED

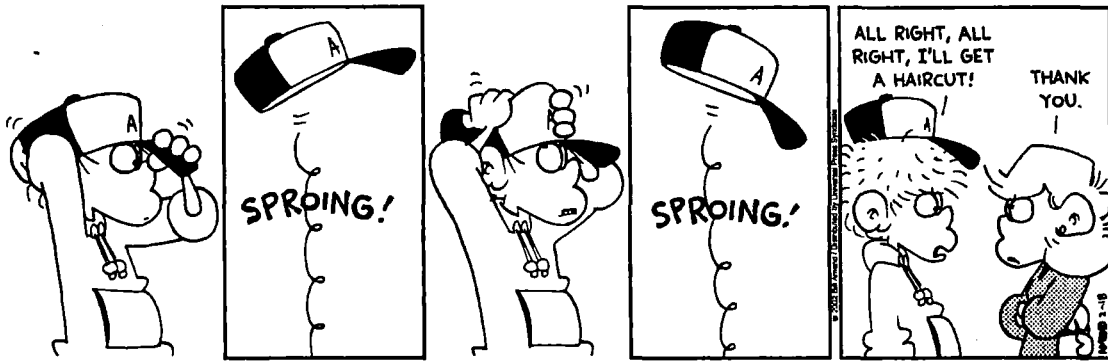
RYAN CUNNINGHAM



The drunken-email-breathalyzer-security-device should be mandatory for college students everywhere

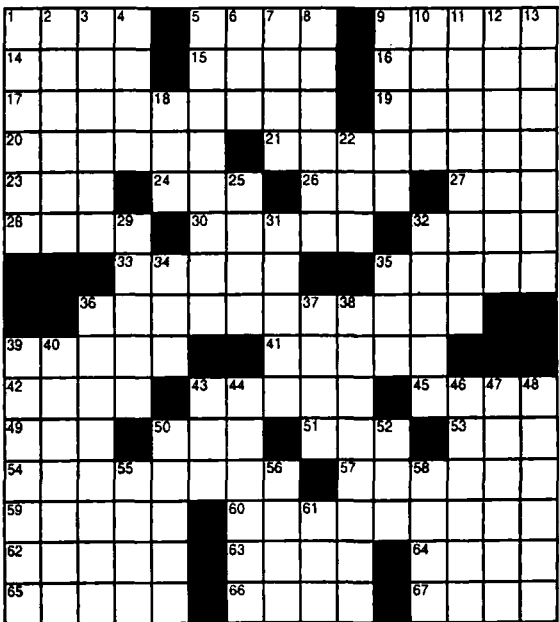
FOXTROT

BILL AMEND



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 It may follow U
 - 5 Leather, essentially
 - 9 Scales up?
 - 14 Year in dates
 - 15 Lepton's locale
 - 16 Wind section
 - 17 Historical zenith
 - 19 Puppy protests
 - 20 Barely hit
 - 21 What "there's gonna be," in a "Funny Lady" song
 - 23 Body of eau
 - 24 Warriors' grp.
 - 26 "Purty" one
 - 27 Cone source
 - 28 Stretches, with "out"
 - 30 Tattered Tom's creator
 - 32 Legal scholar Guinier
 - 33 Dragon puppet
 - 35 Rulings
 - 36 What people in relationships need together ... or this puzzle's title
 - 39 Spring
 - 41 Cat's comment of understanding
 - 42 Geraint's wife
 - 43 React to a really bad pun
 - 45 Smelter stuff
 - 49 Big Apple ave.
 - 50 Hottie's asset
 - 51 On target
 - 53 Word before long or now
 - 54 Big Akron employer
- DOWN**
- 1 Wrangle
 - 2 Arctic cover-up
 - 3 Loosen, in a way
 - 4 Polish birthplace of Arthur Rubinstein
 - 5 Off-the-wall pastime?
 - 6 Spanish female suffix
 - 7 Rapper Snoop
 - 8 Come forward
 - 9 Not running
 - 10 Skeptic's remark
 - 11 Dark characters?
 - 12 Brighten up, maybe
 - 13 Semiramis's domain
 - 18 Sundown, in sonnets
 - 22 A hoop may hang from it
 - 25 Et ____
 - 29 Ping or pong
 - 31 Be admitted
 - 32 Barely gets (along)
 - 34 Cub scout, say
 - 35 Sixth-century date
 - 36 Hardly practical
 - 37 Pool provider, often
 - 38 Proverbial payee
 - 39 King Albert II's land
 - 40 City on the Susquehanna
 - 43 Trouble
 - 44 Some spuds
 - 46 1831 Poe poem
 - 47 Work up
 - 48 Sci-fi and mystery
 - 50 Bit of internal governance
 - 52 Tax
 - 55 Numerical prefix
 - 56 It has 11 "Robustol" flavors
 - 58 Expressed surprise
 - 61 Affix with fix



Puzzle by Alex Vaughn

Answers to any clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-285-5656 (\$1.20 per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BOLO VIAL E KING
 EMIL ISNO NOSEE
 TOOMUCHOF SWINE
 HONEST STRUTTED
 CHORE CRO
 QUESERA MAEWEST
 URN RINKY DELTA
 EINE AGOOD DION
 SAUNA EPIE AOK
 THINGIS ISLANDS
 ONT GALAS
 LAMBASTE OTTAWA
 EXULT WONDERFUL
 ALLEE ADOG ORSK
 DEEDS SEVE SOSA

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2002

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelsey Grammer, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Alan Trammell

Happy Birthday: You'll be ingenious when it comes to making your money grow this year. You'll have an eye for good investments, and the ability to make your move at precisely the right moment. Your good ideas coupled with your heightened intuition will lead to success. Your numbers are 7, 15, 26, 32, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be in a sociable mood today, possibly even looking for love. Consider getting out to an event that will have some influential people attending. Your outgoing nature will attract attention and should lead to meeting someone spectacular. ○○○○

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may be feeling some limitations if you have been reluctant to make a decision regarding your future employment. Don't hesitate to take the advice offered by friends. ○○○○

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may find yourself up and down emotionally today. Chill out and believe in yourself. You can discover a way to improve your life and yourself if you take a closer look at your past. ○○○○

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may have a lot to deal with today. Be careful not to reveal secret information that could hurt someone you befriended. People you have to work with and for may be less than cooperative today. ○○○○

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you get involved in a fund-raising group you will find that you will make a lot of new friends who can offer you support and help in the future. ○○○○

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have to make a few changes in your life in order to hold on to what you've got. Focus on your work and your professional future. ○○

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The more you can learn, the better today. You will be open and receptive to what others have to say and you will make new friends who can contribute to a new lifestyle. ○○○○○

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may want to lock up your cash. Deal with other people's money and possessions but don't risk the chance of losing what you've worked so hard to obtain. ○○○○

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are moving through a make-it or break-it period within a partnership. Be careful not to make a rash decision or statement that will be difficult to reverse. ○○○○

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make a difference if you are diligent about your work. Jump at any chance you get to do things with clients or colleagues. ○○○○

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be in a party mood. Your ability to come up with some great ideas should add to your popularity today. Entertainment should include the whole family or several of your friends. ○○○○○

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You should try to keep busy or at least out of the way today. Idle time will lead to problems at home. You need a change in order to lift your spirits. ○○

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): If you get involved in a fund-raising group you will find that you will

Birthday Baby: You are truly family-oriented, taking all your family responsibilities very seriously, no matter how young you are. You are a team player and can put others at ease just by taking charge. (Need advice? Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com, eugenialast.com, astromate.com.)

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Here Come the Irish
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ND Men's Lacrosse

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- * Chance to win authentic ND Lacrosse **JERSEY**
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NOTRE DAME VS PENN STATE

Loftus Sports Center

- ◆ NBA, p. 23, 17
- ◆ Olympics, p. 21, 18
- ◆ MLB, p. 17

SPORTS

Thursday, February 21, 2002

- ◆ Men's Tennis, p. 26
- ◆ Fencing, p. 24
- ◆ ND Women's Golf, p. 23

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish snap losing streak

By KERRY SMITH
Sports Writer

Chris Thomas broke out of a two-game slump to lead the Irish to an 89-76 routing of West Virginia Wednesday at the Joyce Center.

After shooting a dismal 3-25 in Notre Dame's two previous outings, the point guard scored a game-high 26 points and dished out 12 assists, as the Irish snapped a two-game losing streak and improved to an 18-8 overall record and 8-6 in the Big East.

Irish head coach Mike Brey pumped his freshman up before the outing with a highlight reel from some of Thomas' past games.

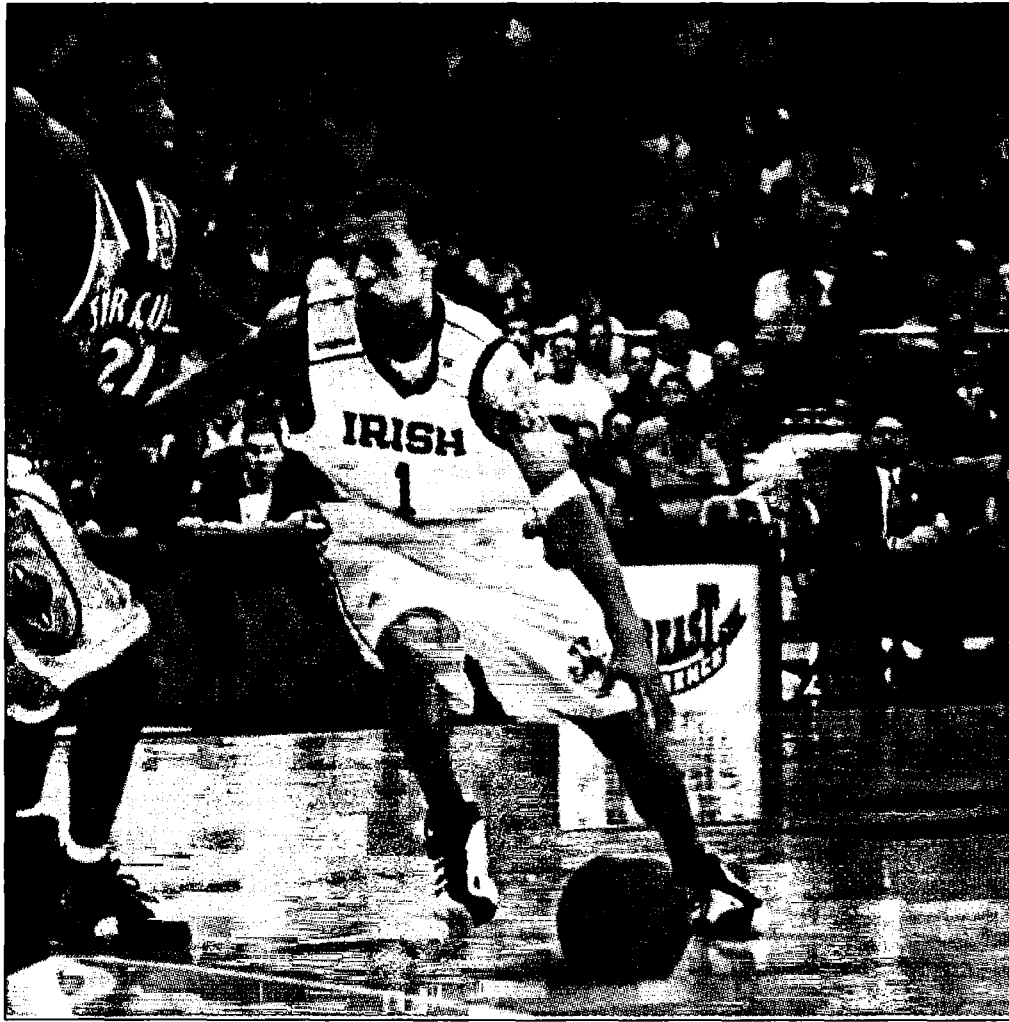
"It showed him attacking. It was the Chris we have seen for 95 percent of the season and I think he responded to that," Brey said. "He knew there was a sense of urgency for us."

Brey also relayed that sense of urgency to his senior captains before the game, and they responded, as David Graves scored 20 points, Ryan Humphrey added 19 and Harold Swanagan, still nursing an injury, logged quality minutes on the court.

"[Brey] told us how many games we have left at the most and we want to make the most out of every game," Humphrey said. "I don't want to go out with a bad memory or bad taste in my mouth."

Brey also hinted that it was time for the seniors to take the team by the reigns

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Freshman point guard Chris Thomas drives to the basket against Syracuse last Sunday. The Irish defeated West Virginia 89-76 Wednesday.

DUFFY-MARIE ARNOULT/The Observer

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish begin quest for Final Four

By JOE LICANDRO
Sports Writer

Last year, the Notre Dame men's lacrosse team shocked the lacrosse world by advancing to the NCAA Final Four for the first time in school history.

This year's Irish squad would like nothing more than to make a repeat trip to the Final Four, but the Irish know their work is cut out for them. The journey begins this Sunday when the pre-season 11th-ranked Irish host the Penn State Nittany Lions.

This year's Irish squad will have a completely different look. Gone are last year's top three leading scorers at the attack position: Tom Glatzel, David Ulrich and Todd Ulrich. The Irish also must somehow figure out a way to replace the leadership of midfielders Steve Bishko and Chris Young.

Replacing departed goalie Kirk Howell will not be an easy task either. Howell had been a fixture in net for the last four seasons, and his strong play was one of the primary reasons

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SMC SWIMMING

Swimmers dive into tough competition



Saint Mary's junior Meghan Harrass competes in the 1000-meter freestyle earlier this year against Albion and Hope.

NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

◆ Upsets earlier in season make Belles marked opponent

By KATIE McVOY
Associate Sports Editor

At the beginning of the season, they were a nameless team that belonged to "that all women's college somewhere in Indiana".

But today they are marked. Today teams will be looking to beat them, hoping for revenge from losses earlier this season. Today they will head into a championship event with hopes set much higher than last place.

The Belles, who started off the season at the bottom of the pack in the MIAA, will head into this weekend's MIAA tournament with a new confidence after defeating

three MIAA opponents this season. But with the confidence of those wins also brought a loss with it — a loss of the element of surprise.

"I think the biggest thing is, the women now understand, especially after the second win, in a way, there's not element of surprising anyone anymore," said head coach Greg Petcoff. "So while they have confidence, we've talked about the fact that everyone now understands that with Saint Mary's it's going to be a little bit of a battle."

Earlier this season, Saint Mary's defeated Albion, Olivet and Kalamazoo. Heading into the tournament, which starts today at 10 a.m., the Belles will have their sights set on outswimming Kalamazoo, Albion and Alma.

"I'd say I'd love to see us finish third, but it is so tight between Alma, Albion, Kalamazoo and us," Petcoff

said. "Alma beat us. We beat Albion and Albion beat Alma, so we could finish sixth or we could finish third."

While the Belles have some solid competitors for top spots in several events, the strength the team needs to take home a third place finish will come from the fifth through 12th swimmers. With such tight competition between the four schools competing for four spots, how low all the team's swimmers, not just the stars, can finish is key.

"The big battle is what's happening in places five, six, seven through twelve," Petcoff said. "Take the rest of the roster, we need them. You know who your stars are, but it's your unsung stars that set things up."

If the battle could be won in places five through 12, some top finishes couldn't hurt

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SPORTS
AT A GLANCE

- ◆ ND Women's Swimming at Big East Championships, Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m.
- ◆ Men's Swimming at Big East Championships, Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m.

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