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Friday

MARCH 8,
2002

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOL. XXXV NO. 105

HTTP://OBSERVER.ND.EDU

Chiefs of staff play key role in student government

By MEGHANNE DOWNES
News Writer

Behind each good student body president and vice president lies a great chief of staff. This person, unknown to most, is the glue of the staff who works behind the scenes to make sure that the office is running smoothly.

"I am a stunt double for Brooke and Brian. If they have a couple of meetings conflicting, they will send me," said Jonathan Jorissen, current chief of staff under student body president and vice president, Brooke Norton and Brian Moscona. "My job is to organize and run the divisions of the office in an efficient and effective matter, that is essentially what I do."

Norton and Moscona appointed Jorissen last spring following their election.

When a ticket is elected to office, voters are not electing two people to lead the student government

but three, the third being selected by the president and vice president elect. The chief of staff is the third extension of the student body executive and the next in charge behind the vice president. In many ways, this person is accountable to students because the Senate must confirm the appointment.

This individual is an integral person in the Office of the Student Body President. This individual acts as an intermediary between staff members and the president and vice president. In many ways the president, vice president and chief of staff work as a team, supporting and communicating with each other.

The chief of staff has the responsibility of running the office and ensuring that the different divisions within the office are kept on task and accomplishing the administration's platform goals.

He attends executive cabinet, Campus Life Council, Student Senate and staff meetings.

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SONIA WALLACE/The Observer

Chief of staff Jonathan Jorissen (standing) and student body vice president Brian Moscona consult on a project. Jorissen serves as a "third brain" for Moscona and the student body president.

Destinations on discount

Students turn to Internet, professionals for convenient, quick spring break travel

By SARAH RYKOWSKI
News Writer

Annunciata seniors Alissa Blair, Jen Wyatt, Jaime Mortens and Kara Tirimacco will pack their bags and pile into their cars for a 30-hour road trip to catch a cruise for spring break today.

"We're driving to Miami and taking a boat to Jamaica and to Grand Cayman Island, and then back to Miami, and then driving back," Blair said. "[Driving down] was a way to save money, and the road trip is a trip in itself. This is my last spring break to do something like that, take a road trip with my friends."

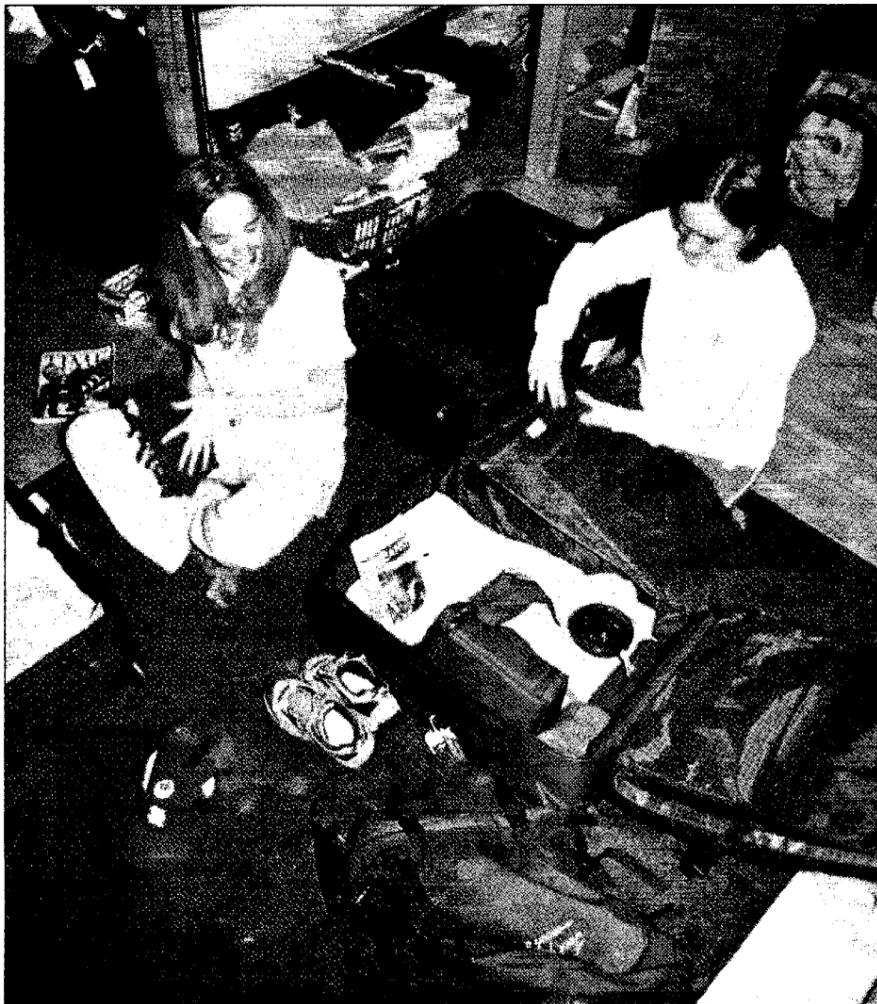
Blair and her fellow road-trippers are leaving at midnight on Thursday, and must be at the port in Miami at 4 p.m. Saturday. They plan to drive straight through on the way down, but take breaks on the drive back to Saint Mary's, stopping in Atlanta, Nashville, and Indianapolis to stay with friends.

"The bummer about driving for 30 hours after a cruise is that we will be very tired when we come back," Blair said. "We're hoping the adrenaline will kick in and that we'll make it."

Blair and her friends will join several Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students this week in the biggest trend in this year's spring break travel, according to Kayleen Carr, assistant manager for Notre Dame's Anthony Travel office who handles spring break packages.

"The number one thing this year was cruises, then the Bahamas and Acapulco," Carr said. "Many students chose Key West, Cancun, Puerto Vallarta and Jamaica. People were also going to Mazatlan and Colorado. Most people want to go someplace warm. It is typical."

The trend this year, according to



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Saint Mary's juniors Rachael Benkert and Meghan Lafferty pack for their spring break trip to Ireland. They studied abroad in Ireland last year and found cheap tickets to the locale through Council Travel on the Internet.

Carr, was to drive to the cruise point of departure, saving airfare. Carr reported that more than 150 Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students

booked cruises through Anthony Travel, and most of them were dri-

see BREAK/page 4

SMC security chief Chlebek to leave office

By EMILY FORD
News Writer

Richard Chlebek, director of Saint Mary's Security will retire this year after 18 years of service to the College.

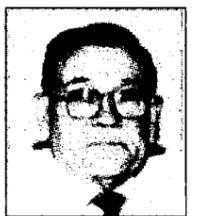
Chlebek, a member of the South Bend Police Department for 23 years, came to Saint Mary's in 1984 to broaden his horizons.

"I completed my career there and I looked for other avenues to enhance my area of interest, which was law enforcement, and ended up applying for the position here when it became open," Chlebek said.

Chlebek had a wide range of duties at Saint Mary's, originally heading the fire safety committee and reporting incidences. He is responsible for the addition of lights on campus, card access system and changes to the fire alarm system.

Chlebek will leave this year on the tail end of the Department of Education's investigation into Saint Mary's crime statistical reporting procedures. The investigation began as an inquiry into rape reporting procedures in summer 2001. If Saint Mary's is found out of compliance with federal law, the College faces up to \$35,000 in fines. A decision is expected before the end of the semester.

"I hope that someone in the near future is going to fully finalize the legislation because there are a lot of colleges and universities that probably aren't totally compliant," Chlebek said. "I think there has to be some common sense application and good judgment in complying with the legislation ... at the present time it's confusing and not clear as to what gets reported and what shouldn't be reported," Chlebek said.



Chlebek

see CHLEBEK/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Senior Baggage

In a duffel bag in the corner of my bedroom, every essential item is packed for the perfect spring break. Sunglasses, a bikini with the store tags still attached, sunscreen and even aloe for the inevitable burn my fair Irish skin will suffer.

There are tank tops and skirts and tiny-heeled shoes, a New York Times bestseller and an oversized beach towel. On top of the bulging zipper there is a road map, a guide for the road trip that will commence Saturday morning.

I always overpack. It is an unfortunate consequence of what my friends like to call my "worst-case scenario" syndrome. I want to be prepared for every situation, every consequence, everything that I could never imagine happening.

There is nothing I've forgotten. But somehow, even with my careful planning, I can't ignore the feeling that I'm headed into some sort of terrain where no amount of planning will help me predict what will happen.

It's not the trip, really. There's only so much unpredictability that could happen on a week of spring break debauchery. It's more a feeling of what will begin to happen when I step back onto campus, for the final weeks of what's been an epic collegiate journey.

I've always hated uncertainty. I hate it now, even with everything prepared and in place. My friends and family keep telling me I have nothing to worry about; everything will be fine after I graduate. I've got a job, I've got a decent salary. I'll be near family.

I've got great opportunities ahead. But I'm not ready to face all that yet, or leave the place I've struggled to carve into a home. I'm not ready to start saying goodbyes, or to let reality hit me like a freight train and start contemplating the unknown.

In some ways I feel like that kid moving from middle school to high school, worried that the cafeteria's going to be bigger, that his locker combination won't be the same, that all the cool kids won't like him. That his classes will be hard. That he won't get the good seat on the bus anymore.

Really, though, it's just the thought of leaving the people around me. It begins tonight, when I walk out of the Observer office for the last time after two years in this position. It begins when I have to start thinking about leaving the people who have inspired me, challenged me, laughed with me and made college worth it. It begins when I check off the last page, shut the door and pick up my duffel bag for the first of many unpredictable adventures.

I guess I can't stop it. I know I can't. I suppose the only comfort I can take this week, is I've got the road map. I've got something telling me where to go.

Beyond that, it's anyone's guess. Maybe that's what makes it fun. Maybe that's what makes it worth it. For now, I'm going to pick up my duffel bag and head for the car because I need to enjoy the journey while it lasts. I'll worry about everything else later.



Noreen Gillespie

Managing Editor

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

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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 IN NOTRE DAME/SAINT MARY'S HISTORY

Morrissey men brave cold for charity

Monday, February 10, 1992

In a campaign to raise money for the Megan Beeler and Colleen Hipp Scholarship Foundation, shirtless men from Morrissey Manor participated in a mile and a half "Polar Run."

Nicaraguan students worry over war

Friday, September 22, 1978

Nicaraguan students at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's were concerned over developments in their homeland where bloody fighting erupted in opposition to President Anastasio Somoza.

BEYOND CAMPUS

Compiled from U-Wire reports

Stanford researchers say cancer drug combats HIV

STANFORD, Calif.

Researchers at the Stanford Medical Center have discovered that a drug used to treat cancer — called Gd-Tex — may also be effective in combating HIV. The drug could help AIDS patients by targeting HIV-infected cells, without harming healthy cells that defend the body against disease.

HIV weakens the body's immune system by killing white blood cells with CD4 receptors, particularly a class of white cells called CD4+ T-cells. These cells normally coordinate the body's defense system by stimulating immune system cells and natural killer cells to attack foreign invaders. HIV destroys CD4+ T-cells, leaving the patient susceptible to common infections.

Stanford University researchers have found that low doses of Gd-Tex



— or motexafin gadolinium — kill HIV-infected CD4+ T-cells, while still leaving healthy ones intact.

"Gd-Tex selectively killed the HIV-infected cells when they were in a mixture of healthy white blood cells," Genetics Prof. Emeritus Leonard

Herzenberg, the senior author of the study, said. "To our surprise, only the infected CD4+ T-cells were killed."

"Our findings were extremely unexpected," Omar Perez, a pharmacology graduate student at the Medical Center's Nolan Laboratory, said. Perez is the primary author of the study reported in the Feb. 19 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Gd-Tex is currently undergoing clinical trials in brain cancer research. The drug is manufactured under the brand name "Xcyclin Injection," and is produced by the Pharmacyclics company in Sunnyvale.

In radiation treatment of cancer, Gd-Tex has been shown to cause glutathione levels to drop. This process induces apoptosis, a kind of "cell suicide" in cancer cells.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Grad student union talks stall

PHILADELPHIA

The on-again, off-again negotiations between Temple University and the Graduate Students Union have stalled once again after a deadline passed Feb. 28. Contract talks have been postponed until March 20 by Temple's chief negotiator Robert Birnbauer. The postponement came after three days of talks, Feb. 26-28, at the Holiday Inn in Center City between Temple's negotiators and those of the Temple University Graduate Students Union. The talks were scheduled to last 10 hours each day. "The negotiators spent most of [the 10 hours] waiting for Temple's team to show up," said union organizer Rob Callahan. "The meetings were nowhere near as productive as they could have been." Birnbauer suggested that talks resume on Saturday, March 2 to give the Temple negotiators time to work on proposals. On Friday, March 1, he notified the TUGSA negotiators that he was leaving for a vacation and would not be able to meet with them until March 20.

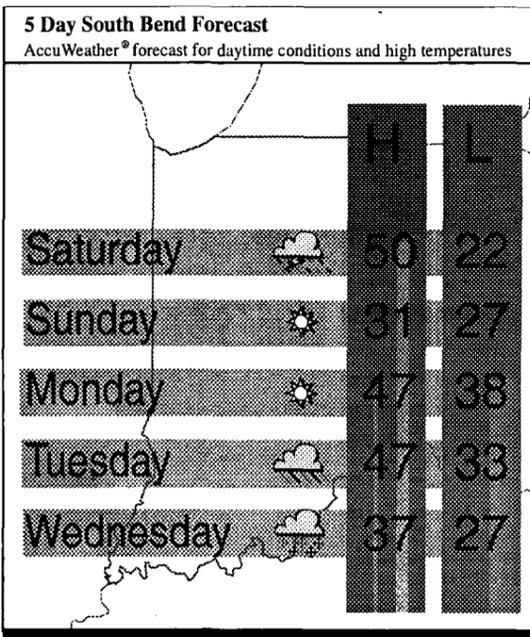
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Committee investigates plagiarism

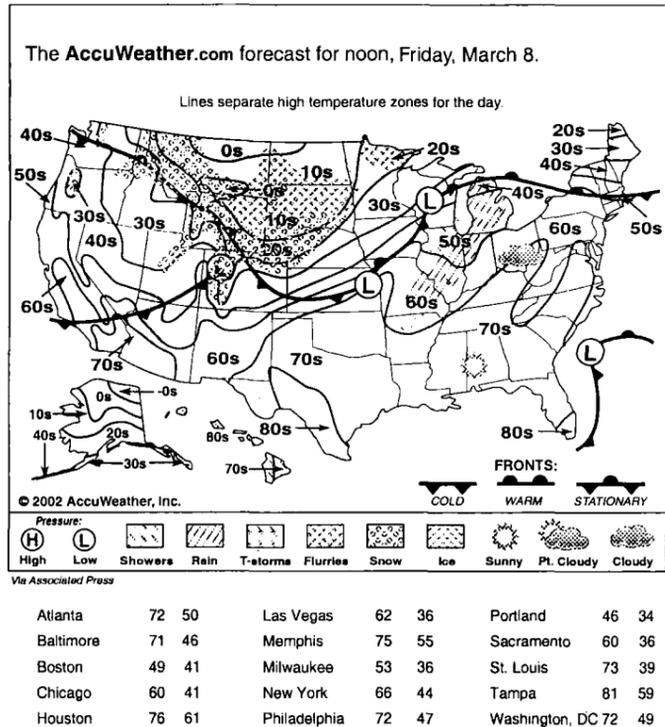
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.

Eleven months and 158 charges later, the University of Virginia Honor Committee has finished all the investigations for the Bloomfield plagiarism cases. So far, 38 students who took the Physics 105 and 106 courses, How Things Work, have been dismissed from the University, including those who admitted guilt before and after their investigation panels. Of 59 cases referred to trial, 20 still are pending, and Committee Chairman Thomas Hall estimates they will not be completed until the end of the semester. "We obviously are glad to have the investigation stage completed, and the process has been quite smooth," Hall said. Hall said he expected the trials to be finished last semester but now is confident they will finish by the end of the semester. "The cases may have moved slower than anticipated, but the truth has been found in every case," he said. "I don't think there is anyone out there who would want to sacrifice truth for speed."

LOCAL WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER



OIT plans outage during spring break

By MEGHAN MARTIN
News Writer

In a campus-wide e-mail sent out last week, the University's Office of Information Technologies announced plans for a temporary Internet connection outage on Sunday.

Internet Outage

- ◆ Sunday
- ◆ 4 to 10 p.m.
- ◆ Notre Dame network will be inaccessible from outside

During the outage, all Internet connectivity outside of the Notre Dame network will be unavailable between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. Additionally, the network will not be accessible from outside sites, such as America Online or cable modem services.

This temporary disabling of the University's Internet system is the result of OIT's plan to install a second, backup ISP connection to the campus network. This will double the amount of bandwidth available to the Notre Dame community, making for more rapid Internet access.

Prompted by a number of unintentional outages, including one that occurred last year and lasted nearly 27 hours, the Office of Information Technology has been vying for project funding from the Board of Trustees for years. Just before the 2001 fall semester, the ISP-addition project was given the green light. Preparations began immediate-

ly, set to culminate this Sunday.

In addition to the Internet outage, the OIT has scheduled an access outage on the same day for all campus Macintosh computers from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Mac servers are dismantled and reorganized within the Data Center Operations area.

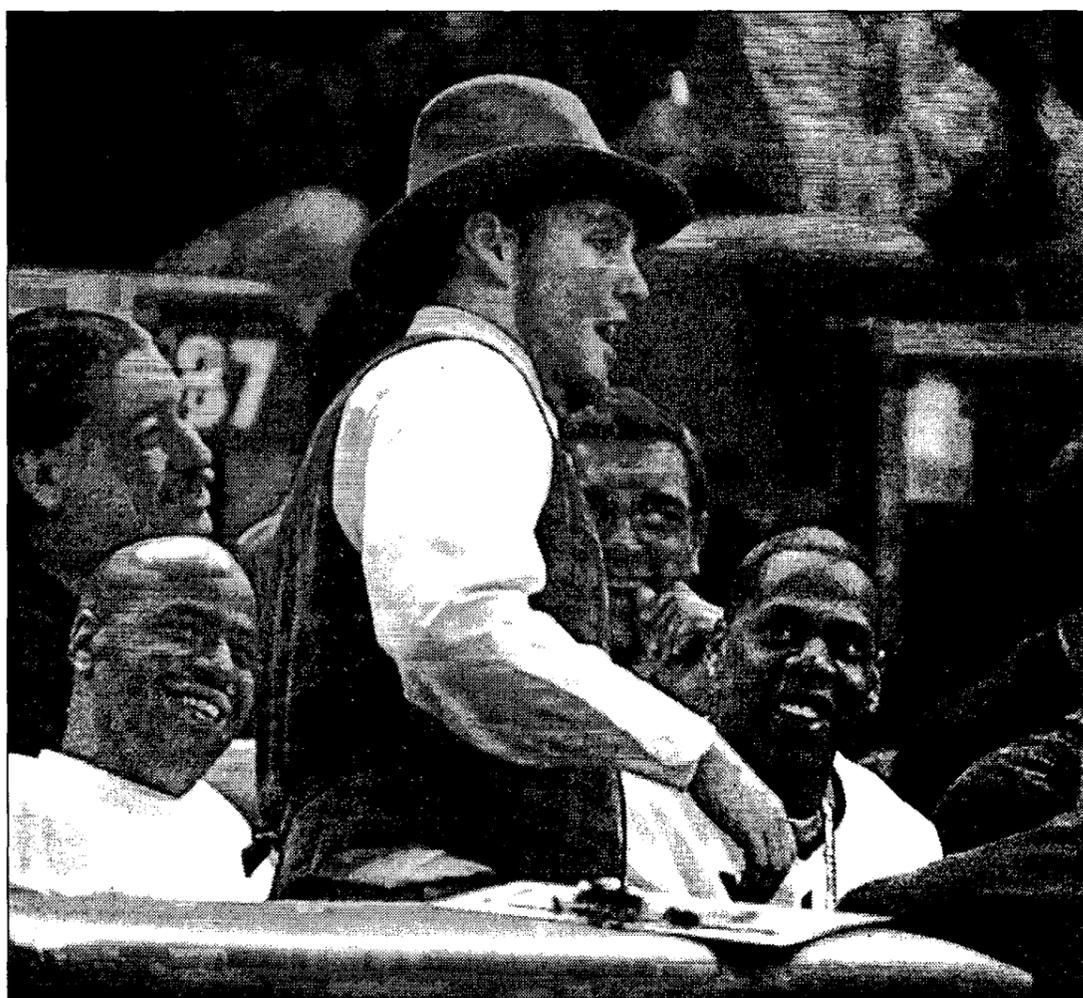
According to Denise Moser, of Data Center Operations, "there will be a very minimal impact" on University computer users during the outage, and as a result of the concurrent network outage, the impact will be reduced even further by the fact that "people will not be doing work at the clusters anyway."

Those students and other computer users who will remain on campus for the duration of the outage should be aware that they will additionally be unable to access or send e-mail outside of the Notre Dame network, use Instant Message applications, and visit websites outside of the University system. OIT official Katie Christman reiterated Moser's contention that students should remain unaffected by the temporary projects, but stressed the importance of one precaution in particular.

"Students need to be sure to protect their computers appropriately" by using virus protection software, as an increased amount of access leaves individuals increasingly vulnerable to viruses, Christman said. "The Internet is a dangerous place."

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BIG PIMPIN'



PETER RICHARDSON/The Observer

Notre Dame Leprechaun Adam Urra raps with rap star Jay-Z (right) during Notre Dame's Big East tournament quarterfinal game against St. John's Thursday. The Irish beat the Red Storm 83-63.

SMC class runoffs yield winners

By KATIE VINCER
News Writer

Saint Mary's classes of 2003 and 2004 elected class officers for the 2002-2003 school year

Thursday. The class of 2003 elected Rachel Finley's ticket while class of 2004 elected Nicole Haeberle's ticket.

Finley's ticket earned 55 percent of the class vote. Finley's ticket includes Candace McElligott as vice president, Erin Moran as secretary and Torie Cox as treasurer.

"We will have student surveys which will be the basis of everything we do. Basically, we need all the input from seniors to formulate our class activities," said Finley.

Opponent Nickey Prezioso's ticket had 45 percent of the class votes. Prezioso's running mates were Kara Harms for vice president, Nina Ready as secretary, and Katie Erchick for treasurer.

About 48 percent of the class voted.

The class of 2004 decided to

"Spring into Junior Year" with Nicole Haeberle's ticket for class council. Haeberle's ticket includes Erika Kozlowski as vice president, Kelly Viater as secretary, and Jenny Burke for treasurer. The ticket earned 57 percent of the class vote.

"We plan to hold frequent class forums which will provide a casual atmosphere for the class to gather and speak their minds," said Haeberle.

Haeberle's ticket defeated Jamie Belcher's ticket. Belcher's running mates were Becca Doll for vice president, Annelise Woolford for secretary and Bitsy Doro for treasurer. Belcher's ticket received 43 percent of the class votes.

About 33 percent of the class voted.

Contact Katie Vincer at vinc0858@saintmarys.edu

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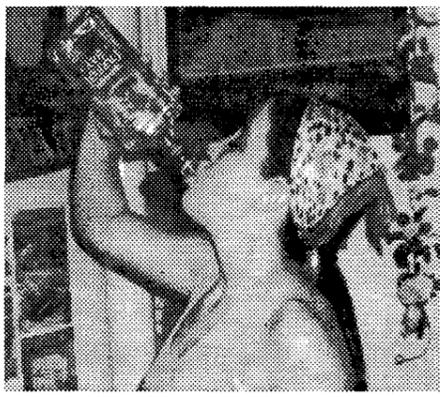
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"Some things never change"



Happy 21st Midge! Love, the PQ

Have a safe and fun break.

Break

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ving.

"It's hard to know why [people are choosing to drive]," Carr said. "I think a lot of seniors don't necessarily have a job lined up for next fall. The economy is down, people are not spending."

Carr did not say the events of Sept. 11 impacted students' decision to drive, nor were they responsible for the lower fares being offered. "Sept. 11 didn't really impact what the fares are right now," Carr said. "This is the slowest year as far as the bookings go. I've worked here for seven years. People usually book early, because stuff isn't left. This year there is so much still available. Students can still find a great deal."

Even if the number of people choosing to travel is down, the number of destinations is not.

"Where you see the shift is the number of people doing different things. This year Nassau is probably the biggest. Last year we sent 180 people to Mazatlan, this year only 20. The cruise is the biggest, and seniors do the biggest trips. It doesn't seem that we have people go out of the ordinary. They go where they can find a deal."

Although many students still use travel agents to plan their spring break jaunts, the Internet is fast becoming a students' best friend when it comes to vacations. In some cases, students at both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's used the Internet to plan their entire trip, including everything from airline tickets to hotel rooms.

Alumni sophomore Nick Gaeke and several of his hall mates used the Internet to get themselves to Aruba and back.

"One of our friends, Wes [Aull], really wanted to go do something for spring break," Gaeke said. "He subscribed to a bunch of travel discount notification systems."

At first, Gaeke said, it was difficult to get the whole group together and decide on a particular deal before the time limit ran out and the deal was gone. And then, they hit the jackpot.

"[Aull's] family also has a time share in Utah, so he put that on an exchange program," Gaeke said. "A week or two after we got back from Christmas break, a condo in Aruba popped up. We were excited about it because we would only have to pay for airfare. He got us discounts on that too. We found tickets for \$325 apiece."

Gaeke and fellow Alumni sophomores Wes Aull, Michael Kwiat, Joel Hein and Toben Cocklin, will leave Notre Dame early Saturday morning to catch a flight at Midway airport for Aruba.

"We are leaving from Midway at 10 a.m., which means we have to leave from Notre Dame at 6 a.m.," Gaeke said. "That should be a fun little drive. We'll get into Aruba at about 5 p.m. and it'll be nice and warm."

While Aruba is on Anthony Travel's list of most popular student spring break destinations, Gaeke and his friends needed to do a little research on the Net to find out more about it. Then they had to convince their parents. "The neat thing about Aruba is that the crime rates are really low," Gaeke said. "It is a very safe, very rich little island. Every day we get on the Internet and check the weather in Aruba, and it is always 85 degrees out and beautiful. It didn't take my parents a lot of convincing. None of us really had any problems. This thing was just too good to pass up."

While the boys plan to have lots of fun in their condo on the beach, they will also take a small piece of Notre Dame with them on their travels. "We bought an Aruban flag on eBay, and we are going to bring that and an ND flag to hang on our condo on the

beach," Gaeke said. "Hopefully if anyone else from school is there we can meet up with them."

According to Carr, March is also low season in Europe, and flights are cheap to go overseas.

Several students on both campuses plan to visit friends studying abroad. A large number of Saint Mary's students plan to visit their classmates in Maynooth, Ireland.

Holy Cross juniors Maura Kennedy, Kelly Rizzi, Rachael Benkert, Mary Brown, Rachel Finley and Allyson Palombaro are among 17 traveling to Maynooth, Ireland to visit where they studied abroad last year.

According to Lafferty, the group found inexpensive tickets on the Internet, through Council Travel.

"We're staying there until the 18th," Lafferty said. "We're leaving tomorrow. Some of the larger group left today, and another group will leave Saturday. Rachael Benkert lives just outside of Chicago, so we are driving to her house first and her mom is driving us to the airport."

Still others, though, will just vacation at home or with relatives.

A group containing both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students plans to stay at a relative's beach house in Newport Beach, California. Meghan Vandewater, Anna Lentz, Jake Teske, Pat Sluka, Stephen Christ, and Tim Ponisciak will spend their spring break relaxing on the beach and visiting famous places in southern California, including Disneyland, California Adventure, Hollywood and Beverly Hills.

Vandewater and Lentz are juniors at Saint Mary's. Teske, Sluka, Christ, and Ponisciak are juniors at Notre Dame.

"We want to go this year because the house is being sold this summer, so we want to take advantage of it while it is still available," Vandewater said. "I am looking forward to a week away from school work and cold weather."

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Chlebek

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He appreciates Saint Mary's commitment to continual improvement, though he has learned through experience that some changes can bring difficulties. Chlebek has remained hopeful throughout his career that such challenges can be overcome.

"There are times when it's trying and those particular occasions would probably be the

ones that I least enjoy, but there's always been light at the end of the tunnel," Chlebek said.

For Chlebek, the rewards outnumber those trying times. He values not only his ability to protect, but also those whom he is protecting.

"I think I've always been concerned about the safety of the community and that was my number one priority. [I was] ... hired to provide a safe environment. I think we did a very good job in doing that," Chlebek said.

Chlebek said he has enjoyed his career at Saint Mary's, and

will maintain a connection with the College. He plans on spending time with family, including his daughters who graduated from Saint Mary's.

"I plan to catch up on my fishing and ... I live on a lake in Edwardsburg, so I'd be spending a lot of my time there. My relaxation is watercolors and then projects around the home, traveling with the wife, being with the grandkids," Chlebek said.

Contact Emily Ford at ford6504@saintmarys.edu

Chief

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According to Norton, the Student Union would be inoperable without Jorissen. He is responsible for keeping the office organized, arranging meetings and listening to staff concerns. He must facilitate communication between the president and vice president and ensure that the office is staying on task to accomplish its goals.

This year, Jorissen oversaw 14 divisions with the help of his three assistant chief of staffs. He trusts the capabilities of his staff members, and prefers that they keep him informed but use their best judgments to make decisions instead of constantly seeking his approval.

"I have a laid back attitude in my chiefdom," said Jorissen.

Without Jorissen, the office would not be organized, meetings would not be arranged and the staff concerns wouldn't be heard, according to Norton.

"J.J. [Jorissen] is involved in pretty much everything. It is invaluable to me to have a third brain in there. It is great because he is a philosophy major and thinks of things in a different manner," said Norton.

Jorissen said, "I am a resource for Brooke and Brian because they are so busy that when the division co-chairs have a problem they can come to me. I don't actually organize events, I help them out and direct them to other people and useful resources."

Besides accomplishing many platform goals, including the culture fest, "Last Lecture" series, Blessing Onto Others and student discount cards, Jorissen helped to initiate and commanded the Stadium collection for the Michigan State football game, raising about \$271,000 for the victims of Sept. 11. This past winter after working extensively on the Board of Trustees report on freshman orientation, Jorissen was able to present it with Norton to the Board in California.

"It is very nice to have someone like J.J. who cares so much for students and loves both Notre Dame and what he is doing, and doesn't mind helping out with everything," Norton said.

The position of chief of staff is a thankless job. Norton believes that this individual has to be a selfless person. The chief of staff works just as hard as the president and vice president, but rarely receives the gratitude that he deserves or the recognition that the other two positions receive.

"When there is something that is really important and needs to be done and I can't fit in, J.J. always pulls through for me," said Norton.

When deciding upon a chief of staff last spring, Norton and Mosconna were looking for someone who was personable, responsible, and passionate;

cared about students and was fun to be around. Norton realized that Jorissen, who was then the junior class president and had worked on her campaign, would be her choice because of his approachable and diplomatic personality.

The new administration

On April 1, the new administration under the leadership of Libby Bishop and Trip Foley will be entering the Office of the Student Body President. Each administration has its own style and is allowed to structure their office as they choose. Jorissen has been meeting with next year's leaders to ease the transition and to both answer questions and provide advice.

During the campaign, Bishop and Foley were not consciously thinking of whom they would appoint as their chief of staff, but they knew they would be looking for someone who was a strong leader, commanded respect, upheld honesty and made others feel comfortable. A week after being elected, without any hesitation, they appointed sophomore Pat Hallahan.

Hallahan recalls when Bishop and Foley asked him to accept the position, they said it would be beneficial to the office for him to join them because of their ability to work together.

Hallahan is a friend of Foley's and took an active role in the campaign last fall as one of the campaign managers, while Bishop was studying abroad in London. Upon returning this semester, Bishop noticed his devotion and realized that he would do a good job.

"I became impressed by his work ethic and his dedication to what Trip and I want to accomplish. He has had those two years of experience both on class council and senate, and I think he knows how things work," said Bishop.

Currently, Hallahan is preparing for the transition and finalizing the structure of the staff with Bishop and Foley. The new staff structure will be similar to Norton's; however, there will be eight divisions with a handful of liaison positions.

"We are going to run a productive office because we realize that we only have a year to accomplish our goals," said Hallahan. "I am going to have a hands-on approach and be involved in different positions - making sure that everything is going smoothly, we are on schedule and resources are available."

He believes that one of his most important roles will be as the relay person between the staff and Bishop and Foley.

"I would hope that if people on our staff have problems and are wondering how to go about doing things, that they would come to me and then I could point them in the right direction," said Hallahan.

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WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Voters defeat Ireland abortion bill:

By a razor-thin margin, voters rejected a government plan to close a gap in Ireland's tough abortion laws, official returns showed Thursday. The result from Wednesday's referendum left in legal limbo a decade-old Supreme Court judgment that sought to legalize abortions for women whose pregnancies threatened their lives.

Judge denies Canada torpedo site:

A federal judge has ruled the Canadian government improperly seized ownership of a torpedo testing site off British Columbia used by the Canadian and U.S. navies. The ruling means the Nanoose Bay range on Vancouver Island reverts to ownership by the provincial government of British Columbia, igniting a dispute over whether nuclear-armed vessels can use it.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Schwarz free on \$1 million bail:

After nearly three years behind bars, a white former police officer whose conviction in the torture of Abner Louima was thrown out on appeal was freed on \$1 million bail Thursday to await a new trial. U.S. District Judge Reena Raggi agreed to release 36-year-old Charles Schwarz but restricted him to New York City. The bail was secured with his mother's house.

Ex-priest won't face rape charges:

A judge dismissed two child rape charges against the former Roman Catholic priest at the center of the Boston Archdiocese sex scandal Thursday, saying prosecutors had not filed them in time. The defrocked priest, John Geoghan, had argued the 1999 indictment alleging he twice raped a 10-year-old boy between 1980 and 1984 came after the statute of limitations had expired. County prosecutors said they had made no decision whether to appeal.

INDIANA NEWS BRIEFS

Man dies in train yard accident:

A Lafayette man working in a train yard died after being pinned between a 90-ton railroad car and a wheel assembly, police said. David Fleischauer, 47, died about 1:40 p.m. Wednesday when the railroad tanker he was repairing shifted and pinned him between the train car and the wheel assembly. Fleischauer and two other Norfolk Southern employees were changing the wheel assembly on the tanker, which contained an estimated 180,000 pounds of vegetable oil.

ISRAEL



AFP Photo

Israeli soldiers stand in front of the forced-open window of a Palestinian home as they conduct house-to-house searches in the refugee camp of the West Bank town of Tulkarem.

12 Palestinians die in strikes

Associated Press

JERUSALEM

Israel pressed its campaign of intense strikes throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Thursday, conducting sweeps in refugee camps and killing 12 Palestinians.

A Palestinian suicide bomber attacked a West Bank settlement, while a gunman killed four people and wounded 20 in an Israeli settlement.

The attack on the Atzmona settlement came shortly after President Bush announced he planned to send his

Mideast envoy back to the region.

A Palestinian gunman infiltrated the Gaza settlement late Thursday and killed four people, before soldiers shot him dead. The attacker wounded 20 people, five seriously, the Israeli military said.

Israel Radio reported the military wing of the militant Hamas organization claimed responsibility.

The station said the infiltrator entered the Atzmona settlement from the south, near the Palestinian city of Khan Younis, and threw grenades as well as

shooting.

Bush said he was sending Anthony Zinni to the troubled region next week in hopes of halting widening violence and called for both sides to end the fighting.

The president said the Israelis had to show "a vision for peace. There's got to be more than security," Bush said, however, he fully supported Israel's right to defend itself from Palestinian attacks.

He called on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to make a "maximum effort to end terrorism against Israel."

Israeli troops stormed

through two West Bank refugee camps before dawn and rocketed a police station after nightfall in one of Gaza's most crowded camps, sending Palestinian civilians running for cover.

In the biblical West Bank town of Bethlehem, Israeli airstrikes on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's local headquarters hit so hard they blew open bolted doors in nearby homes.

Israeli leaders said the campaign was aimed at forcing the Palestinians to stop terror attacks, but there was no sign of that on Thursday.

Market Watch March 7

Dow Jones 10,525.37 -48.92

Up: 1,598 Same: 192 Down: 1,564 Composite Volume: 1,510,378,347

AMEX: 880.56 -0.84
NASDAQ: 1,881.63 -8.77
NYSE: 600.90 -2.21
S&P 500: 1,157.53 -5.23

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS

COMPANY/SECURITY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SUN MICROSYSTEM (SUNW)	-2.10	-0.19	8.84
NASDAQ-100 INDEX (QQQ)	-0.35	-0.13	37.47
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	+1.13	+0.19	16.69
SEPRACOR INC (SEPR)	-58.90	-27.84	19.43
INTEL CORP (INTC)	-0.79	-0.26	32.70

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Ending months of gridlock on recession relief, the House overwhelmingly passed legislation Thursday combining tax cuts intended to spark business growth and a 13-week extension of benefits for millions of unemployed people.

Senate Democrats said after the 417-3 vote in the House they would bring the bill to the floor first thing Friday for a vote there. The White House said President Bush would sign the measure into law.

Three previous economic stimulus bills passed by the Republican-led House that contained much bigger tax cuts had languished in the Senate.

"The Senate needs to act and get the bill to my desk, and I look forward to signing it," Bush said at the White House. "We've had too much non-movement on this important issue, and it's time to go."

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said, "I am very pleased they have chosen to follow a path that many of us were suggesting long ago."

Added House Speaker Dennis Hastert: "We think this is the right prescription."

The House vote coincided with a Capitol Hill appearance by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, who gave a more upbeat economic forecast than he had a week earlier. Given the size of the U.S. economy, Greenspan told the Senate Banking Committee, the relatively modest stimulus package would have little impact on recession recovery.

"I doubt very much that the economy, if it didn't get a stimulus, would sag," Greenspan said.

House extends jobless benefits

Judge awards former Playmate Smith \$88M

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif.

A federal judge awarded former Playboy Playmate Anna Nicole Smith more than \$88 million in damages Thursday in the latest ruling in a bitter legal fight over the estate of her late husband, Texas oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall II.

U.S. District Court Judge David Carter ruled Thursday that Marshall's son, E. Pierce Marshall, had interfered with Smith's attempt to get part of her late husband's oil fortune, estimated at hundreds of million of dollars.

"The evidence of willfulness, maliciousness and fraud is overwhelming," Carter wrote.

He found that E. Pierce Marshall and others spied on the couple and controlled his father's access to money to deny Smith the sums she was promised.

E. Pierce Marshall released a statement saying he would appeal and that his father "would be appalled that the district court continued to ignore his clearly stated wishes."

Thursday's ruling came after E. Pierce Marshall challenged a previous federal bankruptcy court decision that awarded Smith \$475 million of his father's money.

Smith, 33, has fought lengthy court battles in California and Texas over the fortune of her late husband, who died at age 90 in August 1995, 14 months after they wed.

The former Playboy Playmate, whose real name is Vickie Lynn Marshall, met her husband in 1991 when she was working as a stripper. The couple married three years later when she was 26 and he was 89.

Before his death, his estate went into a trust that divided his fortune among charities, a foundation, his son and other individuals, but gave nothing to Smith. She sued E. Pierce Marshall to get part of it.

Carter's ruling said Smith had a reasonable expectation that she would receive a portion of her husband's estate and that she would receive it without interference.

"J. Howard made numerous promises to Vickie that she would receive half of what he owned," Carter said in his ruling.

He said Smith was entitled to \$44.3 million in punitive damages and the same amount in compensatory

damages against E. Pierce Marshall, who controls the trust established by his late father.

"This is a complete victory for my client, and I think it's a victory for a husband's love for his wife," said Smith's attorney, Philip Boesch.

He said his client "was subjected to the worst kind of legal maneuvering by her son-in-law."

Marshall and Smith were absent when the ruling was issued.

A year ago, a Texas jury concluded Smith had no right to any money.

"This is a complete victory for my client, and I think it's a victory for a husband's love for his wife."

Philip Boesch
attorney for Anna Nicole Smith



AFP Photo

Model Anna Nicole Smith arrives at a Santa Ana, Calif., federal court in January with her attorney for closing arguments. A judge on Thursday awarded Smith \$88 million in her battle with her former stepson for her share of her late husband's estimated \$2 billion estate.

Bush film debuts

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas

Alexandra Pelosi came to the Texas capital as an NBC News producer to cover Gov. George W. Bush's bid for the White House in 1999. This week, she returned as a documentary filmmaker with "Journeys with George."

The 77-minute movie, debuting Friday at the South by Southwest film festival, shows a silly side of the man who would

become president. Some Bush aides have been apprehensive it might make him look un-presidential.

"Stop filming me. You're like a head cold," an irritated but smiling Bush tells Pelosi in one scene. "This is going to be a lousy documentary."

By the end of the movie, though, Bush has grown into a more comfortable, confident candidate. During one heart-to-heart, Pelosi asks how the 18-month campaign has changed him.

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Crews may finish Pentagon repairs by Sept. 11

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Workers are rebuilding the Pentagon so quickly that by Sept. 11, Defense Department employees will be working at the spot where a hijacked airliner crashed into the building a year earlier.

"We want them sitting at their desks, doing their work" on the anniversary of the attack, said Walker Evey, program manager of the restoration project.

The back-in-business symbolism of that image inspires hundreds of workers laboring long hours to restore the Pentagon's western flank and the offices inside. So far, the project is months ahead of schedule, Evey said.

"They have tremendous motivation," Evey said Thursday.

"Some lost family members" in the crash.

"The Phoenix Project" is already rising fast, but Evey is careful to say that the work will be far from finished by the tragedy's anniversary.

Unlike the outermost "E Ring," home to the offices of the most senior Defense Department employees, the "C" and "D" rings that also were damaged will likely not be completed by Sept. 11, he said.

That could happen as early as next year, when the new facade

will blend seamlessly with the original, near an outdoor memorial planned by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Evidence of recovery has edged out signs of disaster.

Gone from the western flank is the jagged hole of blackened concrete ripped open by a rogue jetliner traveling 350 mph, six feet above the ground. In its place is a 100-yard-wide rectangular gap partly filled with five stories of floors in various states of construction. Looming overhead are two 140-foot-tall cranes.

Pentagon officials did not predict such quick progress given the damage and the unique challenges

facing rebuilders of the massive building.

American Airlines Flight 77 and its 20,000 gallons of fuel spread destruction, fire and death over 2 million square feet, killing 189 people

in the plane and on the ground.

The fire was so hot, Evey said, that it turned window glass to liquid and sent it spilling down walls into puddles on the ground. The impact cracked massive concrete columns far beyond the impact site, destabilizing a broader section of the building than contractors had originally thought.

Several challenges confronted the contractors. Poisonous mold in kaleidoscopic colors climbed the interior walls, fed by millions of gallons of water that had been



AFP Photo

An aerial view of the Pentagon released Feb. 28 shows the building under reconstruction. Work continues nearly around-the-clock as crews repair damage from the Sept. 11 attack.

sprayed at the fire over two days. Gloved, gas-masked workers pumped hot, dry air through the windows to remove it.

New security measures — from fortifying the structure's windows and walls to improving air flow, sprinklers and escape routes — drove up the price from around \$700 million to about \$740 million, Evey said.

And a few employees faced, then cleared, the more personal

hurdle of putting a grinding sadness behind them and digging into the renovation.

"Sept. 11 was Sept. 11. It's in the past," Evey said. "Our eyes are all on the future."

A month and a day after demolition began on Oct. 18, workers had cleared a huge rectangular hole down to the concrete floor four weeks ahead of schedule. They filled spiral support columns with concrete to

strengthen the structure against future attacks. Workers are now completing the fifth and final floor and preparing to begin work making the new exterior walls match the originals, Evey said.

Of the 4,600 Pentagon workers who were displaced by the attack, some 1,500 are back in their offices while others work elsewhere in the Pentagon or in rented space.

Do it all night long one more time

The Observer's 35th Anniversary Reunion

April 20, 2002

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



Come
back and
do it all
night
long one
more
time.



*The Observer's
35th
Anniversary
Reunion*

April 20, 2002

*South Bend Marriott
email obsreunion@hotmail.com
for more information*

VIEWPOINT

Friday, March 8, 2002

page 9

GUEST COLUMN

U.S. attitude is reminiscent of colonialism

MADISON, Wis.

At the height of British imperial dominance throughout much of the world, the British adventurer and writer Rudyard Kipling wrote one of his more controversial poems, "The White Man's Burden." His philosophy of noblesse obligation toward other races had a profound impact on colonial thought and still influences most of the discourse concerning developing nations to this day.

Braden Smith

The Daily Cardinal

Kipling's words were certainly racist, but they are not yet an anachronism. Kipling's philosophy is having a rebirth in certain intellectual circles in this country under a new guise: international security. The result has been an extension of U.S. power throughout the world, with little regard for the effectiveness of justifying military action based on moral obligation.

In many ways, the new colonialism is much like the moralist arguments made in the late 19th century to justify intervening in places like the Sudan, which allowed the slave trade to flourish until a British expedition routed the forces of an extremist Muslim leader. The British General Gordon, who led the expedition to the Sudan,

felt it was his duty to force the Sudanese to end slavery.

Of course, once the British left Sudan, the country descended into warlord violence once again. In fact, Sudan is one of the few places on Earth where one can still buy or sell slaves. Apparently, the "white man's burden" was too much for the British colonial administrators.

But, will the Bush administration want to shoulder this same burden in Afghanistan? By all indications, Afghanistan can barely be called a nation. If improvements are going to be made, it will take years of support from Western governments and require forces on the ground enforcing the peace between rival warlords.

The responsibility sounds a lot like colonial administration. There is pressure being applied by various human rights organizations for the United States not to abandon Afghanistan after the Taliban are thoroughly routed. This could mean a commitment of more than 20 years and certainly billions of dollars.

In a sense, arguing for the United States to accept the burden of bringing Afghanistan into the 21st century in terms of living standards and moral behavior is like accepting the "white man's burden." It is assuming that the United States and other Western nations could change Afghanistan and its culture if it wanted to. Gordon

failed; what makes Bush think he can succeed?

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman has been arguing in his column that the United States needs to become more involved in spreading democracy to the Middle East. He has been urging policy makers to stop supporting autocratic and corrupt rulers in the Middle East, who siphon their countries' wealth into private jets and palatial mansions.

Part of Friedman's argument is correct. Strategic interests such as oil sometimes play too large a part in formulating American foreign policy. There is rarely any acknowledgement of the danger to U.S. interests that come from supporting rulers who base their popularity on anti-Americanism. The U.S. government could take simple steps like reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and removing U.S. military bases from countries like Saudi Arabia that would de-emphasize our connection to Middle Eastern oil and Saudi Arabia's corrupt rulers.

Yet, we cannot begin to believe that by meddling in Middle Eastern politics, the United States will "convince" countries to accept democratic principles or embrace religious diversity. Just look at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for a good example. The Oslo Peace Accords are the closest the region has come to a peace agreement, but they relied too heavily on U.S. pressure.

The region's prejudices and hatreds are too firmly implanted in the minds of the average West Bank or Israeli resident. It seems absurd to think that only two years ago President Clinton proclaimed that peace in the Middle East was just over the horizon. That burden was too great for the United States to support, and now it is painfully obvious that no amount of U.S. intervention could halt the violence.

Kipling's burden was not a literary invention. It was an arrogant assumption of the white man's superiority. Now it appears as if the United States is poised to be just as arrogant by assuming a similar burden to purge the world of Islamic extremism. The result may just be the rebirth of colonialism, with all its ugly assumptions of superiority and responsibility.

This column originally appeared in The University of Wisconsin campus newspaper, The Daily Cardinal, on March 7, and is reprinted here courtesy of U-WIRE.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defining feminism

Someone should buy Lt. David Sauve a dictionary.

Feminism is a movement whose ultimate goal is equality (essentially, equality of opportunity) between men and women. The "Marxist and Communist" agenda of Lt. Sauve cites in his March 5 letter is purely of his own invention. Feminism doesn't sound too bad unless, like Lt. Sauve, you are a misogynist who makes assumptions about a belief system other than your own without first researching the goals and principles of this ideology. Feminism has arisen out of self-loathing based on monthly periods? If this were true, I guarantee there would be far more feminists on this campus.

Lt. Sauve makes a number of unfair assumptions about feminism. I consider myself a feminist, yet I hate neither men nor myself. According to Lt. Sauve, this is a contradiction. Meanwhile, not all feminists subscribe to the idea that only when babies can be grown outside the womb will we be able to have true equality with men. Lt. Sauve has quite obviously not done his research, and his critique of feminism therefore cannot be taken seriously.

By spreading anti-feminist propaganda that strives to denounce ideas that aren't even necessarily connected with feminism, Lt. Sauve is contributing to an unhealthy divide between the sexes, the negative effects of which manifest themselves every day in the sad state of gender relations on our campus.

If Sauve is going to criticize feminism, he should first be sure that the behavior he condemns is in fact consistent with feminist views. Perhaps next time Lieutenant McCarthy will do his research before blacklisting feminists.

Kathleen O'Leary
sophomore
Farley Hall
March 5, 2002

Rethink popular culture

On February 28, the NAACP held an event entitled "Music, Sex, and You." The forum addressed the impact of music, films and videos on relationships.

American culture has undergone drastic changes in the past decade. We are a society that thrives off of capitalistic exploitations of groups of people. For instance, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade reiterates this point. Africans were abducted from their native homeland and sold as a commodity, property to European traders. The pattern continues today but is shaped in a different median.

With the advent of modern forms of communication, our perceptions of society have been significantly influenced by entertainment. For example, in the early 1900s, we did not have access to cable or satellite television for 24 hours a day, seven days per week. However, depending on our own socio-economic status, we have the capability of tuning into our favorite television show at our own dispense. The impact of television is evident through the growth of music. In 1981, a small station known as MTV began broadcasting music videos that spanned a variety of musical genres.

During this same period, the art of hip-hop was evolving in economically disadvantaged communities in New York City. This new form of music expressed the hardships and struggles of a sector of people that lived in conditions which resemble a ghetto.

In "Sketches of My Culture," Dr. Cornel West calls hip-hop, "The greatest creative breakthrough of the last 25 years of the younger generation fusing linguistic virtuosity with rhythmic velocity."

Mainstream America began to take notice and saw the possibilities of developing hip-hop into a multi-million dollar market. In 1985, Russell Simmons launched Def Jam Records that legitimized hip-hop as a culture that could be a reputable form of entertainment. Hip-hop has evolved with the ever-changing societal norms. Music videos viewed on cable television are evidence of this change.

Sex as a marketing tool is becoming more and more acceptable in an ever-growing society. Every day we see advertisements with a partially dressed individual attempting to sell us, the consumer, a product. Music videos, and in particular, hip-hop videos, resonate this form of sensationalistic exploitation by portraying women as sexual objects. They are displayed for the disposal of hormonally driven males. Men, especially African-American males, are seen as overindulgent individuals whose sole purpose is obtaining a piece of the "American Dream" pie.

Youth are imitating this form of entertainment because many lack emotional and moral support from their families. After the final bell rings at 2:45 p.m. and class has ended, a number of children levitate to the television screen and watch the latest music videos while learning about the newest fashion trends. A child's moral and value system is being influenced by the images flashed across the television screen. As a result, adolescents severely lack a honest perception of reality.

In saying all of this, it is our responsibility to establish a creative and intellectually based culture that will stimulate the minds of our youths.

Most youths have high aspirations to make a difference in the world. The process has to begin with each individual. People need to undergo a spiritual cleansing of the soul. The cleansing will assist people in defining their roles as an individual within this complex society.

Next, there needs to be action taken that puts an end to these exploitative practices. If enough of us take a stand then these music videos will no longer exist.

Finally, we have to educate the youth in order to ensure a society that we can all appreciate. If people fail to educate their children, the societal norms will still exist.

Jourdan Sorrella
sophomore
Siegfried Hall
February 28, 2002

SCENE
food

Oh My Thai

*Scene reviews the newest Thai restaurant in South Bend*By LAURA KELLY
Associate Scene Editor

As one of only a handful of Thai restaurants in the greater Michiana area, My Thai makes a valiant attempt to offer South Bend customers a diverse and extensive menu.

However, the restaurant's unfortunate lack of atmosphere and its uninspired presentation overshadow what could otherwise be a unique or memorable dining experience.

Located at 1620 Ironwood, My Thai is situated near established favorites like La Esperanza and infamous late-night eateries like Boracho Burrito and Nick's Patio. This convenient and accessible location gives the restaurant a boost in patronage, as seen in the comfortably filled dining room on a typical weekday night.

The creation of an interesting and sensually-pleasing atmosphere is where My Thai needs to focus more of its efforts.

With stark fluorescent lighting overhead and plain white walls, the single dining room is reminiscent of a small-town community center or grade-school cafeteria. A few tapestries and hand-crafted decorations give the walls some color, but there is no sense of an intimate dining experience.

As any restaurant should, My Thai focuses on the food. The large menu offers many varieties of stir-fries, noodle dishes, curry and other entrees. Soups, a selection of mostly deep-fried appetizers (which a strong young heart should always indulge in) and unusual salad combinations like papaya-carrot round out the meal.

As expected, standard dishes like pad thai are found here, and the kitchen does a predictable job with the popular rice noodle and vegetable mix. For the adventurous, an offering of daily specials provides changing and creative options for those already familiar with the style of Thai cooking.

Generally speaking, the food is solidly, if not inventively, prepared. The portions are large — generous enough for all to bring leftovers home — but the delicate spices and flavorings so important to Thai food seem to be lost in the sacrifice for quick, large meals.

Even the menu items marked with a red dragon to indicate their spicy taste are not noticeably hot or



C. SPENCER BEGGS/The Observer

Located on Ironwood near popular college haunts such as Nick's Patio and Boracho Burrito, My Thai appeals to a variety of guests. The prompt arrival of meals is convenient, but not enough to divert attention away from the bland flavor and harsh interior.

exceptionally flavorful. Perhaps this is the curse of trying to please a Midwestern sensibility that considers even the mildest spices too hot, but it is a shame not to have a greater range of options for those who like to shock their taste buds.

Customers in a rush will appreciate the quick preparation of the dishes, but the practice of serving the plates in shifts as they become ready is disrupting to the overall experience of the meal. The kitchen would do better to keep dishes warm until they can all be brought out and enjoyed together.

For the prices charged, a customer should expect slightly more from the overall dining experience than what My Thai offers.

Appetizers, soups and salads cost around \$5 on average, and main dishes range from \$9 to \$12. While sizes are satisfactory, the quality of cooking does not seem to equal the prices charged.

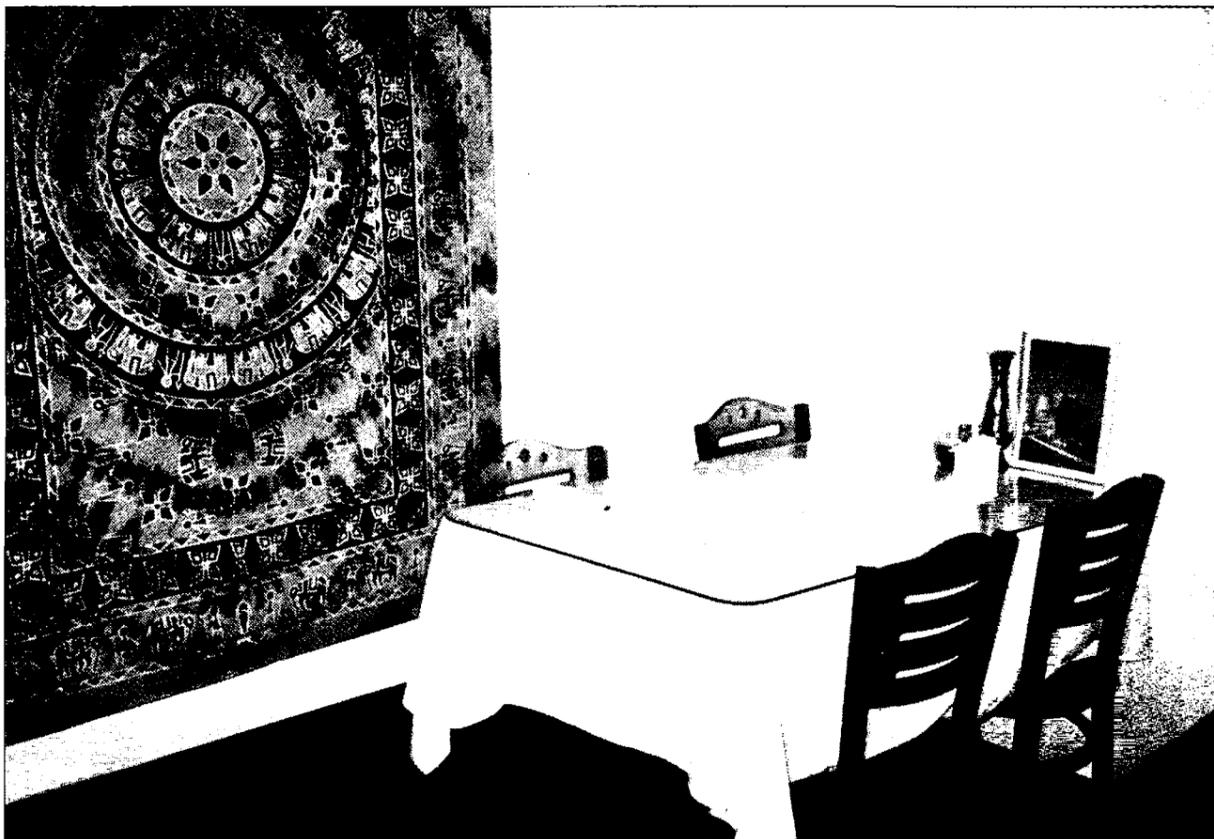
The small wait staff is friendly and attentive, however, which always improves a restaurant's ambiance.

Judging from the wide range of customers — groups of elderly couples, young people on first dates and friends gathered for a meal — My Thai has a broad appeal, perhaps because of its dependable service and prime location.

While room for aesthetic improvement can be seen, such as the addition of screens to partition off the single dining room and the overall addition of more decoration, the restaurant still seems to enjoy a successful operation, which will hopefully translate into greater attention to the delicacy of Thai cuisine.

Until then, the Ironwood establishment will continue to work to establish itself not only among the ranks of neighboring Nick's and Boracho, but also among other popular Oriental restaurants in the greater South Bend area.

My Thai is open for lunch and dinner from Tuesday through Sunday. Reservations are accepted at (574) 272-8872.



LAURA KELLY/The Observer

With simple tables in a stark white dining area lit by harsh fluorescent lighting, the atmosphere in My Thai leaves much to be desired. This wall hanging is one of the few, sparse decorations adorning the walls. This lack of comfortable dining environment detracts from the overall dining experience.

Contact Laura Kelly at LKelly@nd.edu.

SCENE
food

Friday, March 8, 2002

page 11

The Big Easy is perhaps too easy

*South Bend's premiere nightspot for Cajun food, blues and slow service*By C. SPENCER BEGGS
Scene Editor

Straight from Bourbon Street to South Bend, a piece of Creole culture has landed near the University. The Big Easy, South Bend's premiere hotspot for live music and exotic food, offers patrons culture and culinary clout in one place. Of course, the culinary part may take a while to get to the table.

Co-owners Rick Weaver and Bob Miller opened the Big Easy because they wanted to give South Bend a break from the hum-drum sports bars and family-themed restaurants all too prevalent in the area.

"I saw the need in South Bend for something different, a change from all the cookie-cutter restaurants," Weaver said.

Weaver and Miller wanted a restaurant that offered its patrons an escape from the work-a-day world. The result: The Big Easy, a slice of colorful New Orleans life in the gray Midwest.

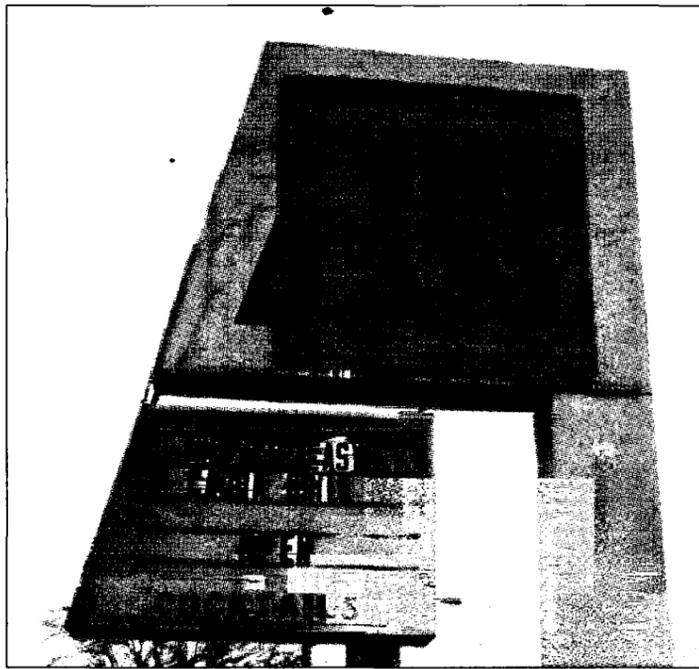
"Good food, good drinks and good entertainment ... It's a fun place to be, just like in New Orleans: It's all about enjoying life," Weaver said.

The Big Easy, located at 1516 North Ironwood Drive between Edison and SR 23, is South Bend's newest hotspot for live music. With bands playing four nights a week, The Big Easy is on track to claim the title of the now closed Mickey's as the city's outlet for local and traveling professional blues, jazz and swing bands.

Frank Krakowski, or "Little Frank" as he is known on stage, has been playing at The Big Easy since it opened last November. Krakowski had been looking for steady work in South Bend and The Big Easy fit the bill perfectly. Little Frank, his band and guest performers are featured at the restaurant every Thursday night.

"I was looking for a steady gig. The Big Easy provided that for local musicians like me," Krakowski said.

The live music is top quality and really gives the renovated low-life bar a unique Cajun atmosphere. The patrons are enthusiastic about the music, loudly hollering and urging the bands on. The Big Easy has an obvious crowd of regulars that makes the scene feel homey. The scene at The



C. SPENCER BEGGS/The Observer

Near My Thai, The Big Easy is another new South Bend restaurant bringing ethnic diversity to please the palette.

Big Easy is hopping from Thursday through Sunday night when live bands play and the kitchen is open until midnight. The live music begins at 9 p.m.

But the easygoing atmosphere is not the only good feature at The Big Easy: The food is great too. The chefs serve authentic Creole dishes that ooze New Orleans flavor through and through.

Must-haves on the menu include the Louisiana frog legs, which are lightly breaded and tossed in a house butter sauce; the succulent legs (which, in fact, do not taste like chicken) are a delightful appetizer and are well worth their \$7 price tag.

Patrons will also enjoy the crispy fried gator tail. The juicy morsels of alligator are fried and then tossed in a tasty molasses

"Good food, good drinks and good entertainment ... It's a fun place to be, just like in New Orleans: It's all about enjoying life."

Rick Weaver
co-owner

barbecue sauce and served with cornbread croutons and a spicy corn relish. Although the dish is fried, the gator tail is very tender and moist and has a particularly delicate flavor.

The gulf grouper is particularly good. Herb-crusted and served with a side of horseradish mashed potatoes, this dish competes nobly with the portabella burger, a large marinated portabella mushroom topped with spinach, foccacia, provolone cheese and served on a foccacia roll.

For lunch, the fried catfish sandwich, is a hearty Cajun meal. Patrons, of course, can slather all of their entrees in The Big Easy's fine assortment of hot sauces.

The prices at The Big Easy are definitely not for the spendthrift college student; expect at least an \$11 per plate lunch and \$20 per plate at dinner. The food and the atmosphere are definitely worth the price, however.

For the not so adventurous, The Big Easy also provides a meager selection of American grill standards like sirloin and ribeye steaks, as well as chicken breasts.

The Big Easy also features a full-stocked bar and a fine assortment of domestic, imported and specialty beers.

Unfortunately, the service can be grievously slow at The Big Easy; it can take up to an hour and a half to get a meal after being seated. Of course, the relaxed atmosphere is enjoyable, but patrons wanting a quick meal will not be satisfied with the restaurant's despicably slow service. Perhaps the waitstaff takes the restaurant's name a little too seriously.

In the end, The Big Easy has a wonderful atmosphere, hip music and great food (that is, if it ever makes it to the table).

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



C. SPENCER BEGGS/The Observer

The Big Easy co-owners Bob Miller (left) and Rick Weaver opened their restaurant to provide a reprieve from the mundane work days and typical eateries available to South Bend residents.



C. SPENCER BEGGS/The Observer

Guitarist Frank Krawkowski (far left) plays with "Little Frank" bandmates (from left to right) Robert Carter, Craig Ridout and Brian Cook. Little Frank performs at The Big Easy every week.

BIG EAST MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Georgetown still on bubble after OT loss

♦ **Hurricanes Panthers, Huskies advance to semis**

Associated Press

NEW YORK
Miami is in the Big East tournament semifinals again. Georgetown must wait to learn its next postseason stop.
Marcus Barnes scored five of his career-high 27 points in overtime, and the 20th-ranked Hurricanes beat the Hoyas 84-76 Thursday to reach the semifinals for the third time in four years.

Big East Semifinals
♦ **Game 1**
♦ **Pittsburgh vs. Miami**
♦ **7 p.m.**
♦ **Game 1**
♦ **UConn vs. Notre Dame**
♦ **9 p.m.**

ESPN will televise both games today

The Hurricanes (24-6) will play No. 7 Pittsburgh — which beat Boston College 76-62 — on Friday for a berth in the title game.

"This tournament is like a family reunion, and you always want to show the family you're pretty good," Miami coach Perry Clark said. "I just thought you saw two basketball teams going after each other, playing as hard as they could, and we were fortunate enough to come out with the victory."

The loss might have dealt a severe blow to the Hoyas' chances of receiving an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

Georgetown (19-11), which beat Providence 68-67 in the opening round, has one victory over a non-Division I team this season and, despite having won four straight entering this game, doesn't fare well in the computer rankings.

The Hoyas are 0-4 in overtime games this season, including a loss to Notre Dame

in four OTs.
"This is the same feeling I've had too many times this season," Georgetown coach Craig Esherick said. "We're going to have three long days until Sunday. We have put our destiny into someone else's hands. It's a helpless feeling and for three days that is all we're going to be thinking about: 'Is the committee going to pick us?'"

"I certainly think we played well enough to deserve a bid, but I also know that I would have felt a whole lot better about that decision if we had won this game."

Wesley Wilson led the Hoyas with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Barnes, a 6-foot-2 sophomore, finished 6-for-10 from 3-point range. The last of his 3s came with 12:42 left and gave Miami a 52-48 lead.

Georgetown took advantage of a sudden cold spell by the Hurricanes to go on a 10-0 run and take a 63-53 lead with 7:44 left on two free throws by Harvey Thomas.

"Coach teaches us to stay in the game and keep focused. You know it's going to come back around," Miami's Darius Rice said. "I wasn't worried."

Rice, who finished with 18 points, became Miami's offensive key down the stretch, hitting three of his four 3-pointers in a 2 1/2 -minute span, the last tying the game 68-68 with 2:31 left.

The score was 70-70 entering the final minute of regulation and it seemed neither team wanted to win.

Georgetown called a timeout with 51 seconds left, but John Salmons intercepted Thomas' inbound pass and was fouled with 36 seconds left. He made both free throws.

Kevin Braswell converted a spin move in the lane with 27 seconds left to tie it. Salmons was tied up inside by Mike Sweetney with 16 seconds left and the possession arrow was in favor of Georgetown.

The Hoyas didn't take long to turn it over, though, as Courtland Freeman's cross-

court pass went off Tony Bethel's hands and out of bounds.

Miami's last chance at a win in regulation was an airball 3-point attempt by Rice at the buzzer.

Barnes gave Miami the lead for good at 76-74 with 2:58 to go, and the Hurricanes closed it out by going 8-for-10 on free throws. Georgetown failed to score on its last six possessions.

"I thought Marcus Barnes' play throughout the course of the game was critical," Clark said. "In the second half, late in the game, Darius came alive and put us in a position to come back and win."

Salmons finished with six points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Gerald Riley had 15 points for the Hoyas, while Sweetney added 14, and Braswell 12.

Esherick wouldn't blame any players for the late turnovers in regulation.

"We were up by 10. There were all sorts of plays that permitted Miami to get back into the game," he said.

Pittsburgh 76, Boston College 62

Another game, another scoring drought for Boston College.

This time, the Eagles had trouble on offense against Pittsburgh and the No. 7 Panthers didn't let them off the hook, turning the dry spell into a victory.

Next for Pitt (26-4) is a Friday night semifinal against Miami, which defeated Georgetown 84-76 in overtime in Thursday's second game.

A day after shooting 15 percent and making just five field goals in the first half against Rutgers — the worst shooting half in Big East tournament history — BC came out fast, seemingly intent on erasing the memory of that game.

The Eagles (20-11) had six field goals in just over six minutes, one more than they managed in the first half of their tournament opener and moved

to a 20-15 lead with six minutes left in the first half. And then suddenly, they went dry.

Pitt went on a 21-4 run, shutting BC out from the field over the last six minutes of the first half and charging out to a 12-point lead at 36-24.

BC never really challenged after that.

"In a game when you're down, you have to do damage in the first six or seven minutes of the second half," BC coach Al Skinner said. "We didn't. We didn't execute well and they got transition baskets and built the lead."

Pitt never panicked at BC's early surge. The Panthers just waited for their opportunity and when it came, they took advantage of it.

"We don't get concerned when we're down," Pitt coach Ben Howland said. "We defended and rebounded and did what we wanted to do."

It's a formula Pitt has used in winning eight straight games and 11 of the last 12. The Panthers wore down BC off the boards, holding a 40-23 rebounding edge.

"Our players are strong and physical," Howland said. "We don't get pushed around. We have depth. We're nine or 10 deep and all of them are good."

BC had recovered from an 11-point halftime deficit against Rutgers but could not duplicate that effort against Pitt, which reached the Big East semifinals for the fifth time.

Pitt's lead grew to 21 points as Donatas Zavackas scored 16 points and Chevon Troutman added 15. BC's Uka Agbai led all scorers with 25.

Connecticut 72, Villanova 70

Freshman Ben Gordon scored a season-high 23 points, including the winning 3-pointer with 11.8 seconds to play, and No. 19 Connecticut beat Villanova in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament.

The Huskies (22-6) won their seventh straight game and advanced to Friday night's semifinals against Notre Dame.

Connecticut, making its ninth semifinal appearance, has won 10 of its last 12 games in the Big East tournament.

Gordon, second on the team in scoring at 12.7 points per game, hit the 3-pointer as the shot clock wound down to give Connecticut its first lead since 56-54 with 9:40 left.

Villanova (17-12), which beat Syracuse 78-64 in the opening round, had a final chance, but Gary Buchanan's 3-pointer, with 6-foot-9 Ekema Okafor heading right at him, bounced off the rim at the buzzer.

It was the fifth straight year the Wildcats lost in the quarterfinals of the tournament and the third time this season they lost to the Huskies.

Caron Butler had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Connecticut, while Okafor, whose free throws with one minute left brought the Huskies within 70-69, had six points and 10 rebounds.

Brooks Sales had 13 points and 13 rebounds for Villanova, while Buchanan, Ricky Wright and Reggie Bryant each had 13 points.

After Villanova took a 58-56 lead with 8:30 left on a shot in the lane by Buchanan, the Wildcats could never pull away.

When they did take a five-point lead, Gordon hit consecutive jumpers to get Connecticut back within one.

Villanova went up 67-62 with 5:07 left, but Johnnie Selvie scored down low and later added two free throws to get Connecticut back within one.

Derrick Snowden, who finished with 12 points, hit a 3 with 2:50 left to make it 70-66, but those were Villanova's final points.

Gordon's free throw with 1:26 left got the Huskies within 70-67, and after Wright missed a shot down low, Okafor made his two free throws.

Bryant missed a 3 from the corner with 48 seconds left to set the stage for Gordon's game-winner.

CLASSIFIEDS

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NOTICES

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Soukup

continued from page 20

The No. 1 quality Irish head coach Mike Brey values in his players and fears in his opponents is experience. He would probably coach for free if he could have a team composed entirely of battle-tested seniors.

For Brey, finding experience in a player is like finding gold in California.

"Our program has taken the next step and we're back on the map," Brey said. "And that's a credit to these seniors."

This year's team acts like grown men who have been through a war. Last year's team acted like 5-year olds in a candy store.

That shift in attitude is due to the leadership of Humphrey, David Graves and Harold Swanagan. They helped the team recover from the loss of Troy Murphy. They kept the young players focused on team goals. And most importantly, they backed up their words with their play.

When the Irish flew into New York for the Big East tournament last year, they barely had time to unpack their bags before they flew back home after a first-round loss. With Murphy wavering between NBA and college, the Irish had a multitude of distractions to handle and no dominant leader.

The instant the Irish stepped into the favorite role, they stepped out of the postseason.

That can't happen again this year. Not if Humphrey, Graves and Swanagan want to leave Notre Dame with a smile on their faces. Not if they want to hang a Big East championship banner from the rafters. Not if they want to make a serious run in the NCAA tournament.

That's why tourney time often equals senior time. It's the last chance for a senior to leave his mark on a program. And with the way the three seniors have helped Notre Dame's program do a complete 180, you can bet they're itching to put one final stamp on Irish basketball history.

Say all you want about Chris Thomas' sensational freshman season. He's good, but he's still a rookie at heart. He has three more years of basketball. He doesn't understand what it means to have only one more game left to play.

And that's what Humphrey, Graves and Swanagan are feeling. When the Big East tournament is over, it's down to one-and-done. One bad game, one mental error, and three more seniors will be finished with their college basketball careers.

When a reporter asked Brey a question after Thursday night's game, he turned to Thomas for the answer. That might be one of the few times Brey will go to his young point guard this late in the season.

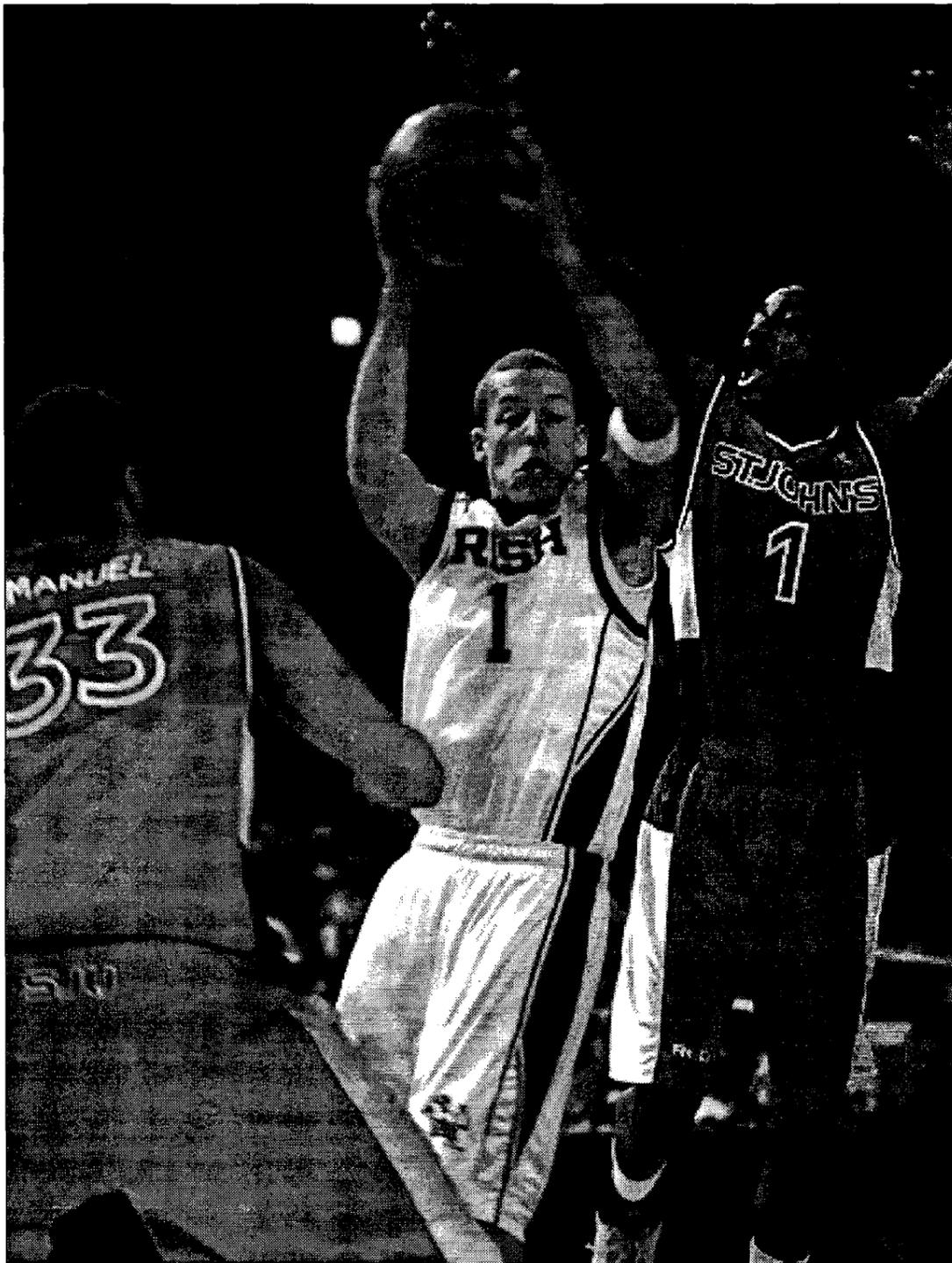
When games, seasons and years are on the line, Brey will turn to the seniors. They've been there. They've delivered. And they're ready to do it again.

Because everyone knows they don't have another chance.

"Whenever I go out on the court, I leave everything out there because I know it might be my last game," Humphrey said. "And when I leave, I'm ready to pass the torch onto Chris."

But Humphrey isn't ready to leave yet. He's too busy holding onto that torch.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily The Observer.



PETER RICHARDSON/The Observer

Irish point guard Chris Thomas maneuvers around the Red Storm defense Thursday night. The Big East Rookie of the Year scored 15 points and dished out 11 assists in the win.

With Gratitude...



During the One Year Celebration of the Robinson Community Learning Center, two awards which were presented are:

MR. ARTHUR QUIGLEY, PHD AWARD

This award honors the Notre Dame Faculty or Staff whose "service and education in the Northeast Neighborhood exemplifies the mission of the University to exercise 'leadership in building a society that is at once more human and more divine.'"

"...the first annual recipient of the Arthur Quigley Award is Jim Paladino, from the Center for Social Concerns...his passion for the development of (the RCLC) clearly went far beyond his responsibilities at the CSC, and far beyond anyone's expectations."

REV. DON MCNEILL, C.S.C. AWARD

This award honors "a Student volunteer whose commitment to service has strengthened interaction between Northeast Neighborhood residents and the academic community by reducing learning obstacles and building relationships with youth and adult participants."

The recipient of the Rev. Don McNeill Award is Kathleen "Katy" McCoy (ND '05)

Congratulations to
Jim Paladino and
Katy McCoy!



Irish

continued from page 20

pushed that lead to 12 at the 10:40 mark. St. John's was unable to whittle away at the lead, despite shooting 38 percent from the field before heading into the locker room.

A clean 3-pointer by Carroll gave the Irish their biggest lead of half at 14 with 3:30 left to play.

But Notre Dame's double-digit halftime lead wasn't a big enough cushion for a comfortable second half. Led by Red Storm guard Marcus Hatten, who scored 19 of his 25 points in the second half, St. John's cut a 16-point Irish lead to only five with just under 11 minutes to play.

"Coming in, I knew what my role was — to get the team started," Hatten said.

But unlike Seton Hall Wednesday, Notre Dame refused to cave to the pressure of a scrappy team and a hostile crowd.

"We knew they would go on a run in the second half like they did in the first game and we just had to counter that," Humphrey said.

The Irish buckled down on both ends of the court and went on a 21-2 run to jump out to a 71-50 lead with four minutes left to play, sealing the win.

"We came back strong," Thomas said. "We got down in

a defensive stance and starting guarding again like we were in the first half."

With poor shooting to end the game, the Red Storm was unable to weather the Irish attack.

"We certainly had a chance," Red Storm head coach Mike Jarvis said. "But then we proceeded to make a lot of mistakes and they proceeded to turn all of our mistakes into baskets. They played a very efficient offensive game."

The Irish were on fire from the floor, shooting 63 percent in the first half and 43 percent in the second.

Unlike the Red Storm, whose only player in double scoring figures was Hatten, Notre Dame played a team-oriented offense, with eight players putting points on the board and amassing 25 assists in the game.

Thursday's win pits Notre Dame against Connecticut in the third round of the tournament. The Huskies held off Villanova earlier in the night with a 72-70 win to advance.

"I think it's going to be hard to stop us from putting points on the board," Brey said. "It's just defending and us defensive rebounding that's going to be a key for us advancing in either one of the tournaments — this tournament or the next one."

Contact Kerry Smith at ksmith2@nd.edu.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish head west to Stanford

By CHRIS COLEMAN
Sports Writer

The women's lacrosse team travels to Stanford this weekend to face the 3-2 Cardinal. Head coach Tracey Coyne said this is an important game for the Irish because Stanford's program is on a similar level nationally. "Stanford is huge," said Coyne. "They were ranked ahead of us for so long last year, and we felt that we should have been ranked ahead of them. It's exciting to have them on the schedule."

The Cardinal's two losses this year came against opponents from the east that are also on

Notre Dame's schedule. Big East rival Syracuse beat Stanford 15-9 and Cornell beat them 20-6. Stanford needs this game to prove that they can play on the level of the stronger East Coast competition.

The Irish on the same note need to prove that they are they deserve to be the 17th-ranked team in the country and that they can beat the same teams that Syracuse can.

If the Irish can carry the offensive potency that they showed against Ohio all the way to California they should be able to attack the relatively weaker Stanford keepers. Starter Virginia Solomon got pulled during the Cornell game after sav-

ing only six out of 21 shots. With the speed and depth of the Irish attackers, combined with a more aggressive midfield, Solomon can expect to field a lot of Irish shots.

Tina Fedarcyk should be back at full strength for the Irish on Saturday, and the return of the All-Big East defender should sure up the already stingy Irish backfield.

The women's lacrosse team then travels to Florida to face George Mason, March 14 at 7 p.m. It returns home March 17 to face Big East opponent Boston College.

Contact Chris Coleman at
ccolmal@nd.edu.

MAC MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Kent State extends streak

Associated Press

Kent State is close to home. The Golden Flashes just aren't ready to go back there yet.

With Trevor Huffman scoring 24 points and Antonio Gates 23, Kent State extended its winning streak to 16 games and advanced to the Mid-American conference semifinals with an 82-70 win Thursday over Marshall.

Kent State became the MAC's first No. 1 seed in three years to avoid getting knocked out in the quarterfinals. And Kent State enhanced its chances of making the NCAA tournament even if it doesn't win the conference tourney.

The top seed hasn't won the MAC title since 1996.

"I wouldn't be surprised if it didn't happen again," said Marshall coach Greg White. "That's nothing against Kent."

Kent State, which shot 63 percent in the second half and closed with an 11-2 run, will play No. 4 seed Toledo in Friday's semifinals.

The Rockets advanced with a 62-54 win over Central Michigan.

In Thursday night's quarterfinals, seventh-seeded Miami of Ohio plays second-seeded Ball State and No. 11-seed Akron plays third-seeded Bowling Green.

**Ball State 62
Miami of Ohio 50**

Theron Smith took over in the second half, scoring 19 of his 29 points Thursday night to lead Ball State to a 62-50 quarterfinal win over Miami of Ohio in the Mid-American Conference tournament.

Smith added 11 rebounds and Patrick Jackson had 12 points for the Cardinals (20-10), the MAC's West Division champion who earlier this season upset Kansas and UCLA on consecutive nights in Hawaii.

Ball State, the tourney's second seed, will play either 11th-seeded Akron or third-seeded Bowling Green in Friday's second semifinal.

In the other semifinal, top seed Kent State will play fourth-seeded Toledo.

Alex Shorts had 17 points to lead seventh-seeded Miami (13-18), which had made it to the semifinals 10 straight years and had been in the past five MAC title games.

**Toledo 62
Central Michigan 54**

Keith Triplett scored 22 points, Terry Reynolds got 12 in the second half and Toledo moved into the semifinals of the Mid-American tournament with a 62-54 win Thursday over cold-shooting Central Michigan.

The fourth-seeded Rockets (16-13) scored just two field goals in the final 10:10 but that was enough to hold off the

Chippewas (9-19). Central Michigan managed just one field goal over the final 16:37 and made only four baskets in the second half.

Toledo will play top-seeded Kent State in Friday's first semifinal. Trevor Huffman scored 24 points to lead the Golden Flashes to 82-70 quarterfinal win over eighth-seeded Marshall.

In Thursday night's quarterfinals, seventh-seeded Miami of Ohio plays second-seeded Ball State, and No. 11-seed Akron plays third-seeded Bowling Green.

Bowling Green 60, Akron 58

Keith McLeod hit a fadeaway 3-pointer with six seconds left and Bowling Green survived a late Akron rally for a win in the quarterfinals of the Mid-American Conference tournament.

McLeod scored 29 points and showed why he was the league's MVP during the regular season by hitting the shot after missing his five previous 3s and four free throws down the stretch.

The Falcons (23-7) will play Ball State (20-10), the tourney's second seed, in Friday's second semifinal. The Cardinals advanced with a 62-50 win over Miami of Ohio.

In the opener, top-seeded Kent State (25-5) will play fourth-seeded Toledo (16-13). The championship is Saturday.

Track

continued from page 14

Watson will be running the 3,000-meter this weekend, riding on the momentum of a spectacular mile time in the Wilson Invitational last weekend. He is also ranked second in the nation, in the 3,000. He ran a 7:54.02 in the Meyo Invitational earlier this year.

Overall, the Irish are looking

for a record setting weekend. For the women, they are sending the most individuals than any other year. In 1999, the Irish sent three individuals, and this year they are sending four. Watson and Shay have a good chance at bringing home two victories. It is the last indoor track meet for Watson, Shay and Grow, and they are hoping to make it a good one.

Contact Dave Cook at
dcook2@nd.edu.

ACC MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Struggling Seminoles send Tigers packing

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Delvon Arrington scored a career high 24 points as Florida State salvaged what has been a disappointing stretch run with a 91-84 overtime win against Clemson in the first round of the ACC tournament Thursday night.

The Seminoles (12-16) upset then-No. 1 Duke on Jan. 6, but had done little since in the Atlantic Coast Conference, going 3-11 the last two months before holding off the Tigers and advancing to play top-seeded Maryland in one of four quarterfinal games Friday.

Eighth-seeded Florida State fell behind by nine with 6:48 left in regulation, but went on a 14-2 run to take the lead late. The Seminoles then watched Tomas Nagys tip in a missed shot by Jamar McKnight with 0.6 seconds left in regulation to send the game into an extra five-minute period tied at 67.

However, the Seminoles wasted little time turning the momentum around. Monte Cummings sank a free throw and Michael Joiner hit a 3-pointer in the first 1:02 of the overtime and the Seminoles never trailed.

Nagys, who had a season-high 18 points and matched his career-best with nine

rebounds off the bench, missed two free throws to start Clemson's slide in OT, and the ninth-seeded Tigers (13-17) missed their first six shots from the field to fall behind 79-69.

Florida State, which struggled most of the night at the foul line, made 14-of-18 over the final 1:36 to nail down the win after losing nine of 10 coming in.

Arrington's previous best was 23 points against Virginia in January 2001. Cummings added 17 points and Joiner 15.

Nagys was forced to play more minutes because of foul trouble against Clemson inside men Chris Hobbs and Ray Henderson — and the junior responded. He was 5-for-6 from the field and 7-of-10 from the foul line to add punch to an offense that struggled most of the night.

Clemson led 55-52 before Scott hit a 3-pointer and two 18-footers in a two-minute span to put the Tigers up by nine.

But the Seminoles came charging back as Cummings, who had missed 11 of his first 15 shots, hit a banker with 1:34 left to give Florida State the lead and Arrington added a 10-footer a minute later to set up a hectic final seconds of regulation.

The Tigers fell to 13-49 all-time in the ACC tourney.

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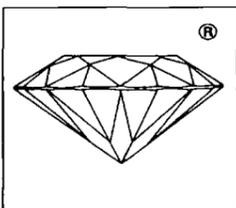
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BIG 12 MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Knight friend falls in win

◆ Biographer Hammel suffers diabetic seizure

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo.

Bob Hammel, Bob Knight's closest friend who helped write his autobiography, collapsed at courtside Thursday while Knight was coaching Texas Tech in the Big 12 tournament.

In the first moments after Hammel, the former sports editor of The Herald-Times newspaper of Bloomington, Ind., collapsed, a paramedic said the writer had an apparent heart attack.

Dr. Larry Cordell, the physician on duty during the game, later said Hammel was breathing on his own by the time he was taken by ambulance from left Kemper Arena.

"The clinical appearance looked like a seizure," Cordell said.

WDAF-TV in Kansas City, broadcasting the tournament, said the 66-year-old Hammel had a low blood-sugar diabetic seizure and was expected to recover.

Play was halted as paramedics attended to Hammel late in the second half of Tech's victory over Texas A&M.

Knight, in his first season at Texas Tech, went across the court at several times to watch closely. After the game, Knight jumped into a waiting patrol car and went immediately to St. Luke's hospital.

Knight's autobiography,

'Knight: My Story' is scheduled for nationwide release in late March.

"He was shook up right away when he found out who it was," said Texas Tech assistant coach Pat Knight, who appeared at the postgame news conference in place of his father.

"That's the closest friend he has. It's ironic that he's also in the media, but that is the closest friend he has. He left immediately and didn't have time to talk to the team."

Hammel was the sports editor for The Herald-Times for 30 years before retiring after the 1996 Olympics.

The Red Raiders, who have made a remarkable turnaround in Knight's first season, almost let a 12-point lead get away before finally beating the Aggies 80-71. Center Andy Ellis said Knight had a special message for the team after Hammel was stricken.

"He just said that was one of his really good friends who came down from Indiana and if there was any time to play hard, that would be the time," Ellis said. "He didn't want us to lose that game."

Andy Graham, a sports writer at The Herald-Times, said Hammel was not covering the tournament for the newspaper, but was attending to "lend support" to Knight.

Graham said Hammel remains on the newspaper's staff as an editor, maintains an office there and edits the paper's Sunday edition, The Hoosier Times.

"He's really only semiretired. He never really has retired, he's here in the office every day," Graham said.

◆ Red Raiders top Aggies, 80-71

Associated Press

Andy Ellis scored 27 points and Andre Emmett added 24 as Texas Tech beat Texas A&M 80-71 Thursday in a Big 12 tournament game.

Texas Tech (22-7) led 68-66 when Emmett, a first-team All-Big 12 selection, hit two field goals and one free throw and blocked an Aggie shot to put the Red Raiders on top 73-66.

After another Texas A&M miss, Kasib Powell put in a stick-back for a 75-66 lead. Then with 31 seconds left, Nick Valdez hit two free throws to make it 77-68.

In Friday's quarterfinals, the Red Raiders will meet No. 12 Oklahoma State, which they split with in the regular season, winning by 24 at home and losing by 2 on the road.

Texas A&M (9-22), the tournament's 12th seed, had its last lead at 39-38 on Jesse King's 10-footer, then Ellis dropped in two free throws and started a 9-0 run that put the Red Raiders in command.

The lead reached 11 before Bernard King, who had totaled 40 points against Texas Tech in two previous games this year, hit two 3-pointers and two free throws to make it 53-50.

King finished with 26 points. Jesse King had 11 for the Aggies. Texas Tech trailed the entire first half but never let the Aggies get a bigger lead than 7 points.

Ellis hit a 3-pointer to make it a 1-point lead with about two minutes to go in the first half and the Aggies finally settled for a 30-32 halftime edge.

PAC 10 MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Trojans topple No. 16 Cardinal

Associated Press

Despite what the rankings say, Southern California has proven it's a better team than Stanford this season.

The 22nd-ranked Trojans built a 23-point lead in the first half and never looked back, beating the No. 16 Cardinal 103-78 Thursday night in the first round of the Pacific-10 tournament.

It was USC's third victory over the Cardinal (19-9) this season. The Trojans won the first meeting by eight points in Los Angeles, then won the second by 19 points in Stanford's worst loss at home since 1993.

Sam Clancy led five USC players in double figures with 25 points. He was voted the Pac-10 player of the year Wednesday.

Brandon Granville added 20 points and 11 assists, Desmon Farmer 19 points, David Bluthenthal 17 points, and Jerry Dupree 10 points.

The fourth-seeded Trojans (21-8) will play top-seeded Oregon in Friday's semifinals at Staples Center. The Ducks (23-7) defeated eighth-seeded Washington 86-64 earlier Thursday.

Casey Jacobsen and Curtis Borchardt each scored 17 points to lead fifth-seeded Stanford, which added to its history of blowout losses in the tournament.

Before the tournament took a 12-year break in 1990, Stanford lost to Arizona by 22 points in the 1989 final, and by 24 points to Arizona in the 1990 semifinals.

USC's 25-point win was one shy of the tournament record for largest winning margin, set by Arizona in a 93-67 win over Oregon in 1988.

Stanford shot 38 percent and committed 19 turnovers in the game.

Jacobsen, the Pac-10's leading scorer with a 22.2-point average, picked up his third foul with 10:55 remaining. Borchardt, the 7-footer who led the conference in rebounding and shot blocking, had 14 rebounds as Stanford controlled the boards, 51-31.

Oregon 86, Washington 64

Regular-season champion Oregon played like an also-ran for most of the first half in the first Pacific-10 Conference tournament game in 12 years.

The second half was a different matter.

Luke Jackson scored 16 of his 27 points after halftime, and leading scorer Frederick Jones also got going in the final 20 minutes as the ninth-ranked Ducks beat Washington.

The win was Oregon's sixth

straight and gave the top-seeded Ducks (23-7) their most victories in a season since 1945, when they won 30 games.

Jackson, who also had eight rebounds, made all of his career-high four 3-pointers in the second half, which began with the Huskies leading 42-35.

The Ducks, who trailed by as many as 13 points in the first half, moved within one on 3-pointers by Jackson and Jones to begin the second half. Jones' field goal was his first of the game.

A steal and dunk by Jones with 13:59 left gave Oregon its first lead since the opening eight minutes, and a 3-pointer by Jackson 35 seconds later snapped a 47-all tie and put the Ducks ahead for good.

A 3-pointer by Mark Michaelis and a three-point play by Jones with 10:02 remaining extended Oregon's lead to 61-51, and two foul shots by Jones a little over two minutes later made it 68-55.

The Huskies didn't threaten after that.

Jones scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half, and Luke Ridnour had 11 points and six assists for the Ducks.

Arizona 73, Arizona State 56

Twelve years later, and Arizona still remembers how to win in the Pacific-10 Conference tournament.

Luke Walton had 25 points and eight rebounds as the 15th-ranked Wildcats beat archrival Arizona State in the opening round of the first Pac-10 tournament since 1990.

The conference held a tournament for four years before calling it off 12 years ago, and resumed it this season. Arizona won the last three championships after UCLA took the first title, and now has a 10-game winning streak in tournament games.

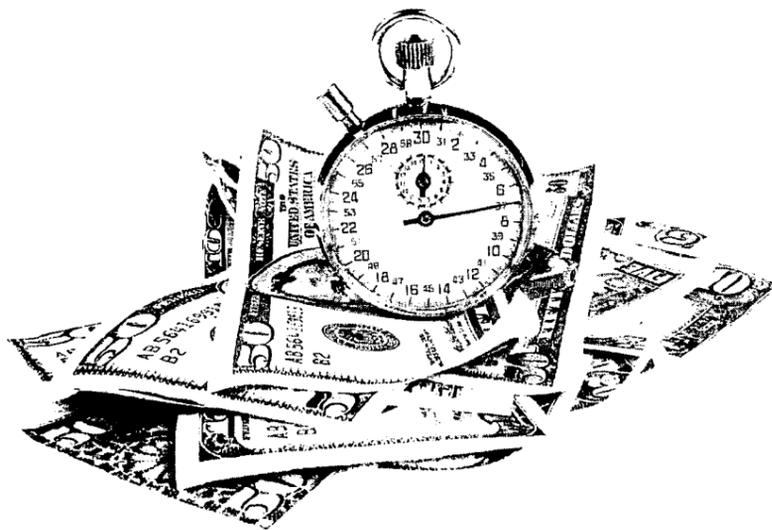
The second-seeded Wildcats (20-9) meet the winner of the UCLA-California game in Friday night's second semifinal matchup N after top-seeded Oregon faces fourth-seeded Southern California.

Jason Gardner added 22 points and Salim Stoudamire and Will Bynum scored 10 each for Arizona, which lost three of four before a stunning 99-53 season-ending victory over Cal.

Jason Braxton scored 12 points and Chad Prewitt and Curtis Millage added nine each for seventh-seeded ASU (14-14), which finished its season by facing six straight ranked teams N the most in school history.

The Sun Devils were 1-5 during the stretch, beating only UCLA on Feb. 16.

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C-USA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Marquette pushes past Louisville

Associated Press

CINCINNATI

Cordell Henry wouldn't let himself get trapped.

The slick point guard scored 24 points and repeatedly darted through Louisville's full-court press for soft jumpers and layups, steadying No. 13 Marquette to an 84-76 victory Thursday in the Conference USA tournament.

The Golden Eagles (25-5) will play in the semifinals Friday against Houston, which upset Memphis 80-74.

Marquette wasted most of an 18-point lead against Louisville (18-12), which went to its press and forced Henry to dribble the length of the floor through a dizzying array of traps.

Soaked with sweat and gulping breaths, Marquette's best ball handler hit a pair of floating jumpers down the stretch to finish off the Golden Eagles' third win over Louisville this season.

"When you're in a game, you can't think about fatigue," Henry said. "You have to play above everything else. I just tried to get into the lane and make something happen."

Henry played 39 minutes, grabbing rest a few seconds at a time, and had only two turnovers in a repeat performance. He scored 23 points and had only two turnovers in 35 minutes of a 75-63 win over Louisville on Feb. 16.

"We gave it everything we had, and it wasn't enough," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said. "Their point guard probably gave us more trouble than anyone else this season."

Houston 80, Memphis 74

Marcus Oliver scored a career-high 26 points Thursday and Houston hit just enough free throws in the closing minutes to upset Memphis 80-74 in the Conference USA tournament.

The Cougars (18-13) will play No. 13 Marquette in the semifinals on Friday, their third game in three days.

Memphis (22-9) never led and never figured out how to stop the Cougars' patient, highly accurate offense, which shot 55.6 percent from the field and pulled away at the free-throw line.

Houston scored its last 14 points from the line, hitting 14-of-24 in the final 3:57 to keep Memphis at bay.

It was a stunning loss for Memphis, which nearly won the regular-season championship on Cincinnati's court last Sunday. The Bearcats pulled it out in overtime, leaving Memphis with a No. 3 seed and a first-round bye in the tournament.

Oliver, who had never scored more than 15 points in a game, anchored an efficient offense that spread out the Tigers, passed for open shots and made them. Houston is one of the conference's best shooting teams, making 47.6 percent from the field.

Oliver was 8-of-13 from the field and 5-of-7 on 3-point tries.

Anthony Rice scored 15 points, leading five Memphis

players in double figures. The Tigers played without Kelly Wise, their best front-line player, who is hobbled by a strained knee.

The Cougars hit 10 of their first 13 shots as they pulled ahead 26-17 and led the rest of the way. Oliver made a pair of driving layups during a 9-3 run that gave Houston its biggest lead of the half.

Memphis, which missed its first six shots, tied it at 29 on Earl Barron's two free throws and his jumper with 1:30 to play. Dominic Smith banked in a 3-pointer as the shot clock wound down, and Bryan Shelton hit a floating jumper with 2 seconds left to give Houston a 34-29 halftime lead.

Cincinnati 79

South Florida 57

Steve Logan scored 15 points in a brief appearance as No. 5 Cincinnati brushed aside South Florida and moved into the semifinals of the Conference USA tournament.

The Bearcats (28-3) have won all seven of the conference's regular-season championships.

Feeding off the energy from a hometown crowd at an arena 15 minutes from campus, the Bearcats quickly rattled the Bulls (19-12), who took their most lopsided defeat of the season.

South Florida fell behind by 29 in the first half, its biggest deficit of the season, and never got closer than 18 the rest of the way even though Cincinnati rested its regulars for most of the second half.

Charlotte 78, Tulane 69

Jobey Thomas scored 22 points and matched his season high with six 3-pointers, steadying Charlotte to a victory over Tulane in the Conference USA tournament.

Charlotte (18-10), the defending tournament champion, will play No. 5 Cincinnati in the semifinals. Charlotte lost both of its regular-season games against Cincinnati.

Cincinnati coach Bob Huggins sat courtside, munching on pretzels while doing a little firsthand scouting after the Bearcats easily handled South Florida 79-57 in the earlier game.

Thomas, the conference's career 3-point leader, made 6-of-11 from behind the arc and set a school season record with 108. He also made four free throws in the final 1:40 as Charlotte held on.

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BIG TEN MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Recker leads Iowa over Purdue

Associated Press

Luke Recker scored 25 points and Reggie Evans added 19 and a career tying 18 rebounds as Iowa opened defense of its Big Ten Tournament championship with an 87-72 victory over Purdue on Thursday.

The Hawkeyes (17-14), the tournament's ninth seed, advance to Friday's quarterfinals against No. 1 seed Wisconsin (18-11).

Recker and Evans combined for 24 points in the second half, as Iowa led by as many as 20. Recker hit a fadeaway 3-pointer that saw him tumble into coach Steve Alford for a 69-54 lead with 8:37 to go.

Chauncey Leslie gave Iowa a 19-point lead with a 3, but Purdue, the eighth seed, scored six straight points to make it 80-67 with 3:31 left.

But a basket by Leslie, two free throws by Pierre Pierce and a 3 by Recker made it 87-67.

Iowa, which a year ago became the first Big Ten team to win four games to win the title, shot 57 percent. Leslie and Pierce each scored nine points.

Big Ten scoring champions Willie Deane led Purdue with 16 points, Maynard Lewis had 15 and Rodney Smith 13 for Purdue.

The Boilermakers (13-18), who narrowly avoided their first last-place finish since 1965-66, tied the school's single-season record for losses. The 1952-53 team went 4-18.

Michigan 72, Northwestern 51

LaVell Blanchard hit a career-high five 3-pointers and

scored a season-high 26 points as Michigan beat Northwestern in the first round of the Big Ten tournament.

The Wolverines (11-17), who lost in the tourney's first round each of the past two years, advanced to Friday's quarterfinals against Ohio State (20-7), the No. 2 seed and one of four regular-season co-champions.

Blanchard, whose previous highs this season were 20 points against both Eastern Michigan and Northwestern, had 17 points in the first half, when the 10th-seeded Wolverines led by as many as 13 and never trailed.

The Wildcats (16-13), whose No. 7 seed was their highest in the five-year history of the conference tournament, were hurt by poor starts in both halves.

They missed their first six shots at the beginning of the game and fell behind 18-6 in the first six minutes. Blanchard had nine of those points, including his first two 3-pointers.

Led by Winston Blake and Tavaras Hardy, however, Northwestern pulled within four late in the half before two more 3-pointers by Blanchard put the Wolverines up 36-28 at the break.

Then Northwestern hit just one of its first seven shots at the start of the second half as Michigan again began pulling away. Two baskets by Blanchard, including his fifth 3-pointer, gave the Wolverines their biggest lead up to that point at 47-30 before the final Northwestern comeback.

Hardy, who led Northwestern with 17 points, hit two 3-pointers and Jason

Burke hit another 3 to help pull Northwestern to 49-44, but the Wildcats couldn't come any closer. Michigan outscored Northwestern 18-2 over a five-minute span and took its biggest lead at 70-48 with under two minutes to go.

Minnesota 85, Penn State 60

Dusty Rychart scored a season-high 23 points and Rick Rickert added 21 as Minnesota beat Penn State in the first round of the Big Ten tournament.

The Golden Gophers (17-11) advanced to Friday's quarterfinals against Illinois (23-7), the No. 3 seed and one of four regular-season co-champions.

Rickert, the Big Ten Freshman of the Year, scored 12 points in the first half as the sixth-seeded Gophers led 38-23 at the half.

Penn State (7-21) shot only 26 percent in the first half, missing 16 of its first 20 shots. A 3-pointer by Sharif Chambliss pulled the Nittany Lions to 19-14 before the Gophers closed on a 19-9 run.

Rickert scored 10 points during the run, and finished 9-for-12 overall.

Chambliss scored 16, Brandon Watkins had 12 and Tyler Smith 10 for the Nittany Lions, who had advanced to the semifinals each of the past two years.

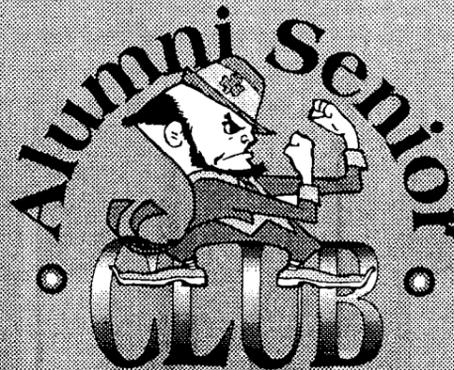
Minnesota opened a 20-point lead 6 1/2 minutes into the second half.

Rychart went 11-for-12 from the floor, scoring 17 of his points in the second. His previous high was 22 points against Wake Forest in November. He had failed to reach double figures in four of the last five games.

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SOFTBALL

Irish face 9-game California trip

By AARON RONSHEIM
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame softball team will play nine games in eight days during spring break.

"I think they enjoy it. We get to visit a lot of great places. Every sport takes up time over one of the breaks. For us it's spring break," said head coach Deanna Gumpf.

The Irish will not just be playing softball. There a few actives planned, such as viewing the taping of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

"It is a lot of fun. This is one of the times where we actually have some down time and aren't playing softball the whole time," said captain Jenny Kriech.

The Irish will start out their road trip with two games in Las Vegas, then a single game against Long Beach State. They will conclude the trip with the Kia Classic at the University of California-Fullerton.

In Las Vegas the Irish (5-7) will play UNLV (11-13) and Oregon (11-7). The Irish pitchers will have their hands full with Oregon's Andrea Vidlund, Kristi Hall and Alyssa Luax who all have batting averages over .400.

Half of the Irish softball team will get the chance to play in their home state of California and spend some time with their family.

Freshman pitcher Steffany Stenglein is one of the seven California natives, who will get a chance to play in front of her family and friends.

"I am looking forward to playing and going back home. It is cool that we get to play in California," said Stenglein.

Notre Dame will try to improve on last year's

semifinal loss at the Kia Classic. The Irish are scheduled to play No. 1 Arizona, University of California at North Ridge and Texas Tech in the round robin games. Notre Dame then will play three more games in tournament play.

"This is a big tournament for us this year. It is a good measuring stick for us, especially after each team has played a few games," said Kriech.

It will be a tough task for the Irish to beat Arizona this weekend, especially if they see Jennie Finch on the hill. Finch was 32-0 last year and was named the national player of the year. The Irish have already faced Finch in the first game of the year, in which Finch shut them out 3-0.

"She was the only pitcher to be undefeated last year. I would love to be the team to end her streak," said Gumpf.

This time against the Wildcats the Irish will be fully healthy and have few games under their belt.

"Not all of our players were healthy the first time we played them. Plus it was our first game of the year and they had already played in two tournaments. Hopefully it will be a different game this time," said Kriech.

These will be the last games for Notre Dame before they start their Big East schedule against Rutgers March 23.

"Our goal is to get better every game. I don't think we are a great team yet. We still have some work to do, but as long as we continue to improve we will be fine," said Gumpf.

Contact Aaron Ronsheim at aronshei@nd.edu.

FENCING

Teammates fight for NCAA spots

◆ Regionals will determine 12 Irish NCAA qualifiers

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

This weekend's Midwest Fencing Regional Qualifier is the last chance for senior foilist Steve Mautone to qualify for the NCAA Championships. Although this is his final season, he does not feel any extra pressure.

Last year, Mautone came very close to qualifying for the national championships after finishing second at the regional competition. But, since the criteria for the national meet is more than just results from the regionals, Mautone was passed over by the NCAA selection committee for a pair of teammates, junior captain Ozren Debic and Forest Walton.

"I was a little upset [last year]. I was trying as hard as I ever had at the end of last season," Mautone said. "But, I needed to win the competition to make the team so it was my fault and I could live with that."

This season, Walton is studying abroad. But, Mautone has other competition for the second spot on the national championship squad. Freshman Derek Snyder, the No.2 foilist, has been at prac-

tice this week after missing last weekend's conference championships and will make the trip to the regionals. Mautone looks to help ease the expectations placed on Snyder by performing well.

"I don't have any more motivation because this is my last year," said Mautone. "But I do feel some pressure so Derek doesn't feel any extra pressure on him."

The other men's weapon where there is a race for the second spot is in epee. Captain Jan Viviani, with an individual title at last week's conference championship, should take one of the spots. But competition for the other spot will be between senior Brian Casas and freshman Michal Sobieraj.

Casas qualified for the NCAAs in his first three seasons. Sobieraj is returning from a fractured bone in his foot and has not fenced since the Air Force Duals during the first weekend of February. His foot has been improving this week allowing him to practice and Sobieraj will fence this weekend.

In men's sabre, senior captain Andre Crompton and senior Andrzej Bednarski should be the top finishers for the Irish. Crompton finished second at last year's regional competition to qualify for his first NCAA competition. Bednarski was third last year and has been to the NCAAs in his three other seasons.

On the women's side, every fencer that qualified for the

NCAAs returned, but that does not mean the team is set.

In foil, Liza Boutsikaris has qualified in each of her first two seasons. Standout freshmen Andrea Ament and Alicja Kryczalo look to qualify for their first NCAA Championship after impressive seasons. Kryczalo won the conference championship last weekend.

Maggie Jordan switched from foil to sabre to give the Irish more depth in sabre. She looks to return to the NCAAs after making the championships in foil as a freshman. Senior Carianne McCullough and sophomore Destanie Milo, who both qualified last year, will compete with Jordan for the two spots.

Epee will also see competition among team members for the two NCAA spots. Juniors Meagan Call and Anna Carnick have qualified for the national championships in their first two seasons. Sophomore Kerry Walton, fresh off defeating Carnick for the conference championship last weekend, gives Notre Dame three strong epeeists to qualify for the NCAAs.

The Midwest Regional Qualifier takes place at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio on Saturday.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu.

MEN'S TENNIS

Seniors push Irish past No. 5 Illini

Special to The Observer

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.

Irish seniors helped the sixth-ranked Notre Dame men's tennis team register its third victory over a top-10 foe this season by edging fifth-ranked Illinois 4-3 on Thursday.

The Irish won the doubles point and split the six singles matches to improve to 12-3 on the season. The doubles point came down to a tiebreaker in the decisive match, while four singles matches were deter-

mined in three sets, with each team winning two.

Illinois, who was ranked No. 1 in the nation last week, dropped its second match in a row to fall to 8-3.

"It's special to beat a team that was No. 1 in the country yesterday morning [before the new rankings were released]," said Irish head coach Bob Bayliss after the victory. "I'm pretty excited to see these seniors play so well."

For the second time this season, senior captain Casey Smith was the final match on-court in a 3-3 tilt, delivering an Irish upset of a top-10 team on both occasions.

On Thursday, Smith withstood a number of rallies to defeat 92nd-ranked Brian Wilson 7-5, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4 at No.

2. The Irish captain performed a similar feat against then-No. 7 Pepperdine last month.

Wilson came back from a 4-0 deficit in the second set to force a tiebreaker and then rallied from a 6-1 margin in the tiebreaker to win seven straight points to force a third set. In the final set, Wilson trailed 5-1, but ran off three straight games. Smith, down love-30 in the ensuing game, delivered four straight points to clinch the victory.

"I was real proud of the poise Casey showed," said Bayliss. "He was on the verge of winning a couple of times and had to hold off Wilson, but he got it done. That is the second time he has been the decisive match in a win over a top-10 team this season."



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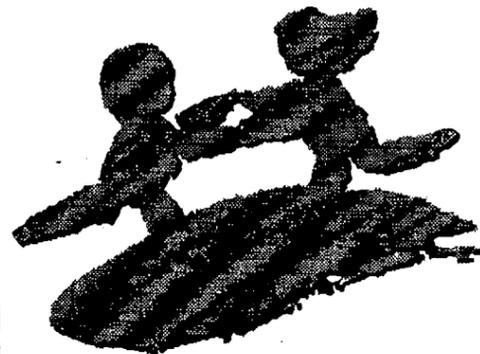
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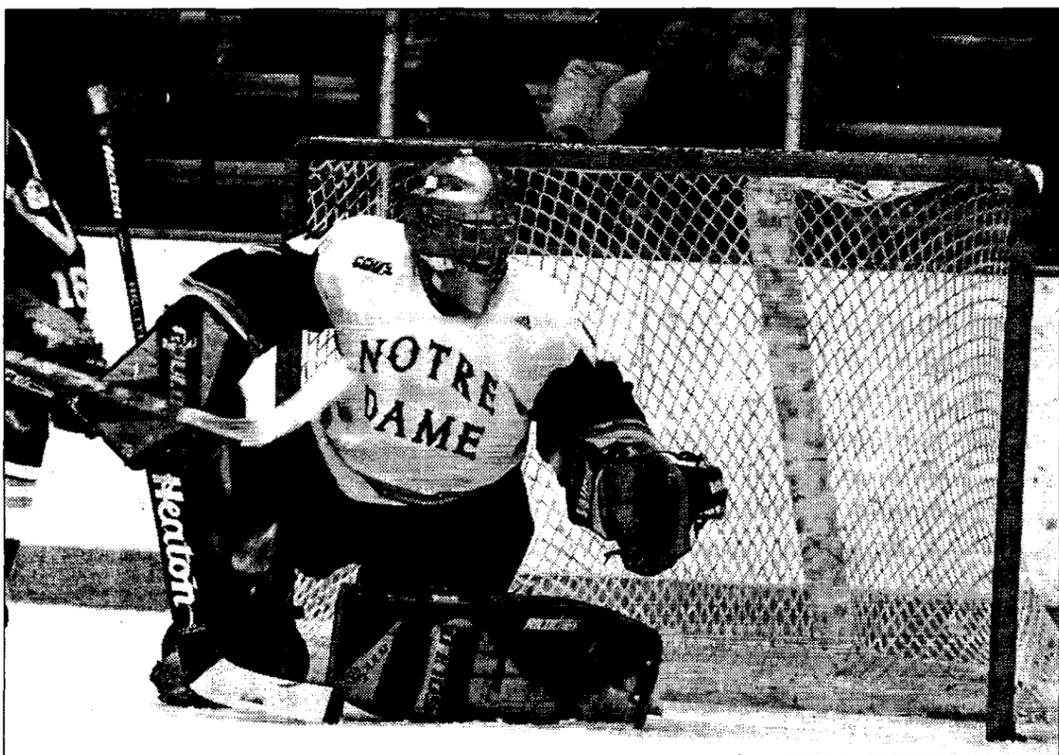
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HOCKEY

Irish ride new D-scheme



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Irish goalkeeper Morgan Cey stops a goal in a game earlier this season. Head coach Dave Poulin expects the freshman to play well in the CCHA playoffs this weekend.

◆ Notre Dame faces Neb.-Omaha in first round

By MATT ORENCHUK
Sports Writer

After being swept by Alaska-Fairbanks 7-5 and 6-5 on Feb. 1 and 2, Notre Dame's coaches knew they had to make some defensive changes. Most of Alaska-Fairbanks' goals came from the transition game in the middle of the ice.

When Notre Dame coaches came into the office the next Monday, the discussion was on how to fix Notre Dame's sagging defense. The plan the coaches came up with was to designate one of the two defensemen as a fore checker to sit back in the defensive zone. Then, the other defenseman is allowed to roam freely in the middle of the ice, pinching up to help on offense or falling back to help on defense.

"The D knows to come up in the neutral zone," said Irish head coach Dave Poulin. "That really helps us work on the transition game."

Now six weeks later, the Irish are riding a five-game win streak into the opening round of the CCHA playoffs at Nebraska-Omaha this weekend.

It is no coincidence that the winning streak has come since the Irish changed their defensive scheme. The five-game win streak is the longest since January 1999 for the Irish.

The streak started when the Irish defeated highly ranked Michigan State on the

Spartans home ice 3-2 the weekend after the Alaska-Fairbanks losses.

After taking a weekend off, Notre Dame picked up right where they left off against Lake Superior State. The Irish swept the Lakers 3-1 and 6-0. Finally, last weekend Notre Dame swept Bowling Green 4-3 and 4-1.

The recent win streak is giving Notre Dame high confidence heading into the playoffs.

"Everybody is feeling good right now (about the win streak)," said Poulin. "Not only do we have high confidence, but other teams know that we are playing well."

Things will not come easy this weekend against Nebraska-Omaha. The last time the Mavericks and Irish met was in early December. That weekend was a frustrating one for Notre Dame. Despite out-shooting Nebraska-Omaha 90-46 on the weekend, Maverick goaltender Dan Ellis kept the Irish offense in check. Nebraska-Omaha swept that weekend series, winning 3-2 and 4-2.

For Notre Dame the spotlight will be on its own goaltender, Morgan Cey. Despite his freshman tag, Cey is no stranger to big events. Last year he led his Canadian Junior team to the Junior League Championships.

For the Irish to play well and advance, Cey will have to be at the top of his game, but he has a vote of confidence from his head coach.

"Cey will thrive," said Poulin. "Last year he played the Championship game in his hometown. So he knows pres-

sure."

The first round of the CCHA is a best-of-three format, with all three games being played at Nebraska-Omaha. Should the Irish advance they would then have a single-elimination play-in game for the right to play in the CCHA semifinals at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. The puck drops tonight Saturday, and if necessary Sunday at 8:05 p.m.

Contact Matt Orenchuk at morenchu@nd.edu.

BASEBALL

Irish headed to Texas for break

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame baseball team will play eight games in nine days during a spring break road trip in Texas.

The Irish (4-3) won three of four games at the Homestead Classic last weekend, despite being without five starters who were out with injuries.

"Overall I thought it was a good weekend," said head coach Paul Mainieri. "We had our freshman pitchers throw very well again, especially [Grant] Johnson and [Chris] Niesel. Some guys that haven't played consistently really stepped in and did a nice job."

Captain and centerfielder Steve Stanley was pleased that reserve players have stepped up to fill in for injured starters.

"The fact of the matter is that we've got a lot of guys hurt right now," Stanley said. "That's no excuse. That just means that some of the other guys that we didn't count on to play starting roles in the beginning have had to step up and they've done a great job."

Notre Dame has consistent solid outings with Niesel and Johnson's appearances in the early-season campaign.

Niesel picked up his first career victory last weekend, going six innings for the victory. The young right-hander has struck out 19 batters and walked only one in 12 innings

of work.

Johnson gave up only two runs in 5 1/3 innings of work against Florida International last weekend in getting a no decision.

"They've been playing really well," said Stanley. "They've been playing like veterans. They've jumped right into the thing and done a great job."

The Irish seniors, particularly Matt Bok and Stanley, have provided a much-needed spark to the club as well.

"Matt Bok had a tremendous weekend for us," said Mainieri. "I think he's

leading the team in hitting right now. Steve Stanley had a phenomenal weekend. What tremendous leadership he showed to our team last weekend. With all those guys out, all he did was have two four hit games."

The Irish hope to beat some very good teams this weekend and more importantly gear themselves up for the Big East schedule that looms around the corner.

"We know we're going to play in two beautiful stadiums, we have some great opponents, and the weather, hopefully, will cooperate and be really good and it's fun," said Mainieri. "It's really a time to make the big push so we can get ready for the Big East schedule."

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu.

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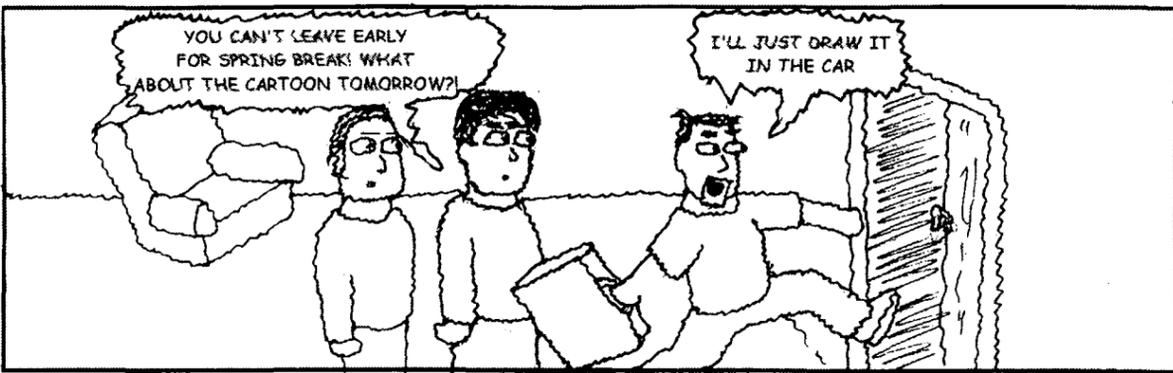
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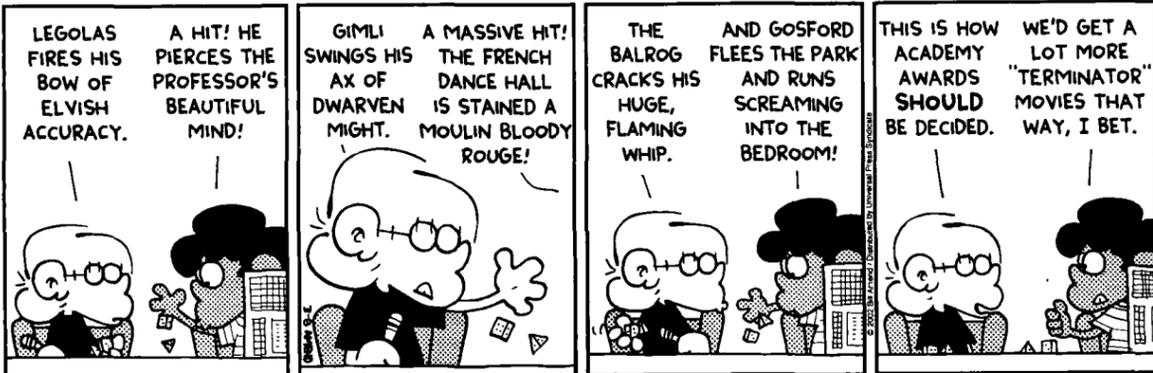
FOURTH AND INCHES

TOM KEELEY



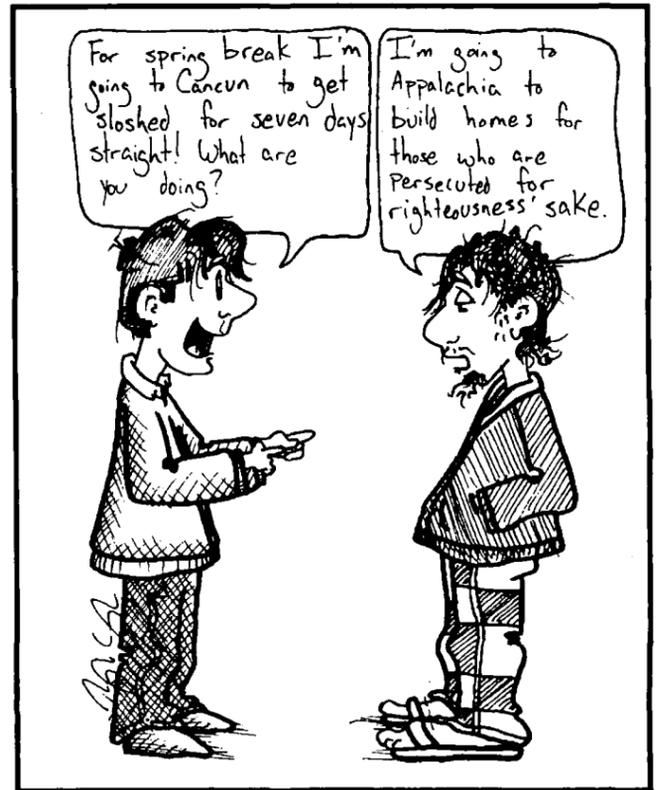
FOXTROT

BILL AMEND



BEFUZZLED AND BEMUSED

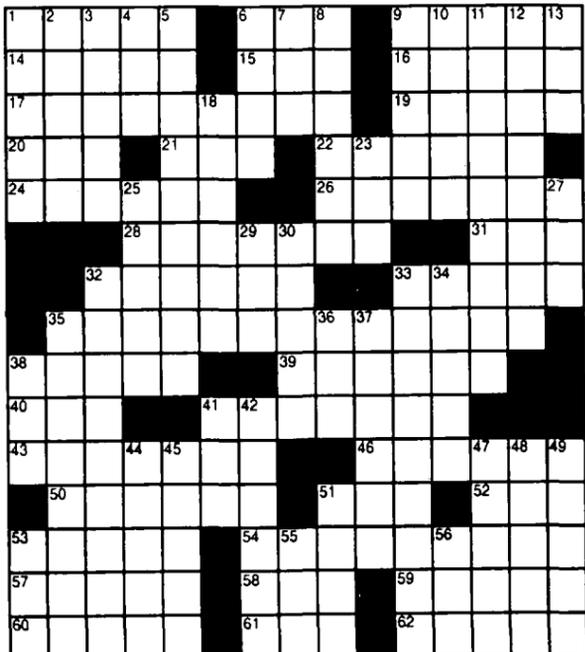
RYAN CUNNINGHAM



Sometimes God has his own little ways of saying, "You are a bad person."

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Soap" family
 - 6 Belt piercer
 - 9 ___ friends
 - 14 Make ___ (get rich)
 - 15 Green stretch
 - 16 One who serves long?
 - 17 Area
 - 19 Gather
 - 20 Biblical judge
 - 21 They may be parked in a park: Abbr.
 - 22 Still available, in a way
 - 24 Actor Brad of "The Client"
 - 26 ___ Lumumba, Congo's first P.M.
 - 28 Driving need
 - 31 Stomach
 - 32 Locate on the dial
 - 33 Up
 - 35 Area
 - 38 Makes shakes, maybe
 - 39 Fall collection?
 - 40 Pole's cousin
 - 41 Really bad
 - 43 Washer setting
 - 46 Missouri feeder
 - 50 Line feeder
 - 51 Asian leader?
 - 52 Funny guy
 - 53 Like a 27-Down
 - 54 ___ area
 - 57 Like otologists' tests
 - 58 Alley ___
- DOWN**
- 1 It may be stunning
 - 2 Not meager
 - 3 Marketing ploy
 - 4 Business letter abbr.
 - 5 Onset of wakefulness
 - 6 Whittier poem "___ Well"
 - 7 Believer in spirits?
 - 8 Shots off the backboard
 - 9 Elite ones
 - 10 Like some keys
 - 11 ___ area
 - 12 Attention-getting question in a small ad
 - 13 Sound that might deter a burglar
 - 18 Relative of a stilt
 - 23 Aberdeen denial
 - 25 Keep back
 - 27 Kind of lamb
 - 29 Biblical suffix
 - 30 How a prince is born
 - 32 Area
 - 33 Competitive
 - 34 Forster's ___ Quested
 - 35 Emerges suddenly
 - 36 What a nod may mean
 - 37 Money that's shelled out?
 - 38 Alcott book "___ Boys"
 - 41 Part of S.A.
 - 42 "Later"
 - 44 "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" family name
 - 45 Longtime Strand writer
 - 47 Bundling aid
 - 48 Uncle's wife
 - 49 Actress Samantha
 - 51 Make out
 - 53 Is in the past?
 - 55 Cry at a circus
 - 56 It might help you get started



Puzzle by Gilbert H. Ludwig

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PAUL ALAW PLEBE
 ANNE LALA RIVAL
 SOCIALDARWINISM
 TIL SEISMIC LST
 ENO END UNE DIR
 LTGOV AMPS HOSE
 REO OTT BETE
 PARTYPOOPER
 SILL HEE NRA
 OPUS ESSA EMBED
 FAN DLI GAS RIM
 ANG ELKHART ALI
 BEEINONESBONNET
 EMIRS ORSO ODERI
 DANSE WEIR TONI

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2002

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bob Moffatt, Freddie Prinze Jr., Lynn Redgrave, Cyd Charisse

Happy Birthday: You'll have an instinctive knowledge about future trends this year. You can do well investing in art objects or in items that have the potential to grow in value. You will have the opportunity to get involved in joint financial deals but don't feel obligated to put your cash on the line. Your curiosity about love will be heightened. Your numbers are 2, 16, 25, 28, 32, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get emotional about something happening at work. If you are professional and do your job to the best of your ability you will get ahead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You've been on the go for some time now and you should be giving yourself the day off just to do the things that you enjoy doing. A little time to catch up on reading or tuning into the radio will make your day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be tempted to get involved in a moneymaking scheme. If you decide to go that route be sure to go it alone. Joint ventures are not likely to pay off.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your feelings will be close to the surface today. Develop an open relationship with someone you care about; talk about the way you really feel.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put in a hard day's work and you will feel good about yourself and your accomplishments. A serious minded group will be more entertaining than you anticipate.

Birthdays: You are a born leader who has the courage to undertake ventures that most would shy away from. You are also impulsive, extravagant and a little careless. You are always willing to take a chance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Social events will be entertaining and exciting. You are likely to meet someone interesting but don't move too fast. Find out all you can before you decide to become close.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you haven't been getting along well with someone at home go straight out with friends today. You will have an imaginative mind and some creative ideas today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You should be entertaining the thought of going on a trip. Check out cultural events in your community if you don't get the chance to travel. You will have a greater interest in finding new ways to do things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be considering changing your professional direction. Take a look into your options. Don't limit yourself because someone is against your making changes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be a little confused regarding your personal life. Try not to let things get to you. If you back up a few steps you will have a much clearer picture.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have to be discreet about what it is you are doing. Being secretive today will enable you to follow through with your plans with fewer obstacles.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can persuade others to take part in something that you believe in. The possibilities are endless if you are determined and dedicated to your cause.

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THE OBSERVER

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SPORTS

Friday, March 8, 2002

2002 BIG EAST MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Red Storm Calming

◆ Notre Dame outlasts St. John's rally, wins 83-63

By KERRY SMITH
Sports Writer

NEW YORK

Notre Dame played St. John's type of game Thursday. And won.

Just as the Red Storm weathered a run by Seton Hall Wednesday to advance to Thursday's quarterfinal round, the Irish staved off a second half burst by St. John's. The Irish earned a berth against Connecticut in Friday's semifinal of the Big East tournament with an 83-63 win.

Irish forward Ryan Humphrey dominated in the paint, scoring a team-high 21 points. Matt Carroll added 20 and Chris Thomas chipped in 15 to lead the Irish.

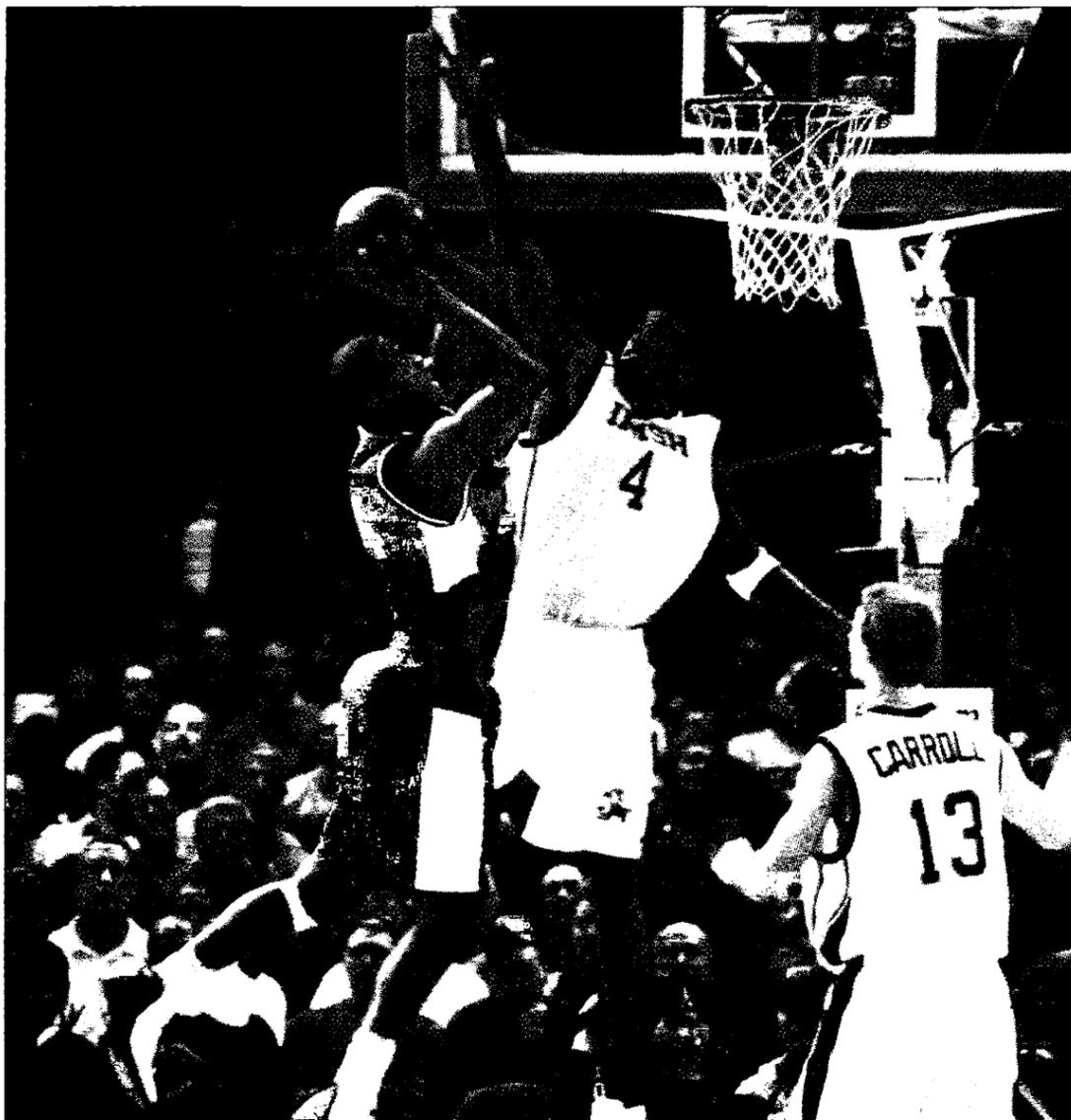
"I want to leave everything out there," Humphrey said. "I'm playing every game like it's my last."

Playing in their first tournament appearance after sitting out Wednesday's opening round with a bye, the Irish used stingy defense and hot shooting to take an early control of the game.

The Irish quickly quieted the predominantly St. John's crowd at Madison

Square Garden with a 7-0 run to open the half and

see IRISH/page 13



PETER RICHARDSON/The Observer

Irish senior Ryan Humphrey prevents a Red Storm player from scoring during Notre Dame's 83-63 win over St. John's Thursday night. Humphrey scored a team-high 21 points in the win.

◆ Humphrey isn't about to miss this year's dance

NEW YORK

All season long, Ryan Humphrey has made it crystal clear that he has never missed an NCAA tournament in his four years of college basketball.

He has shown he will do anything and everything possible to make sure he reaches the tournament again. He'll throw down rim-shattering dunks.

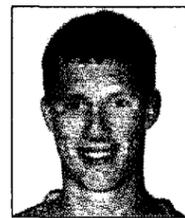
He'll send enemy shots into the third row.

And if a stop sign could talk, he said he'd talk trash with it.

The way Humphrey played Thursday night, he looks like he's playing for an NCAA championship, not the right to move onto the Big East semifinals.

Notre Dame better hopes he plays like that next week, too, because the Irish desperately need a senior presence in order to be a presence in the NCAA tournament.

see SOUKUP/page 13



Andrew Soukup

Associate Sports Editor

NCAA INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Women's relay heads to Arkansas ranked 3rd

By DAVE COOK
Sports Writer

Since the end of the outdoor season last year, the Notre Dame women's mile relay team has kept one goal in mind: win the national championship. The goal was the focus of the off-season, and they have come closer and closer to it during this year's indoor season.

When Liz Grow, Ayesha Boyd, Kristen Dodd and Kymia Love head to Fayetteville, Ark. for the NCAA championships this weekend, it marks the first time any Irish women's squad has made it that far. The team enters the national championships ranked third in the nation.

"We knew when we came back this [indoor] season, we had to come back strong. We knew that we had a reputation to live up to because last year we

qualified provisionally. So this year we knew we had to qualify automatically," said Love.

Under the leadership of senior Liz Grow, the relay team has set several meet records, a new track record both indoor and outdoor, and a school record. Nevertheless, they are still looking to improve.

"We're No. 3 right now, and we have a chance to actually become All-Americans and actually win the meet," said Boyd. "We're all happy. We have a chance to knock off a couple seconds off our time."

The squad posted a school record time of 3:36.84 last weekend at the Alex Wilson Invitational. It is also the time that automatically qualified them for nationals and spurred them to its third-place ranking.

"We were all hyped about the mile relay [for the Wilson Invitational]. We

just came to the meet excited and ready to run," said Love.

More important than their achievements on the track, though, is how close the four women have come over the past one-and-a-half years. And for Grow, this is her last season running for Notre Dame, and this weekend marks her last indoor collegiate race.

"We're like sisters," said Dodd. "We all went out to get our hair done [on Wednesday]. Liz and I got our hair braided the same, and Kymia got her hair done."

Grow and Boyd will be competing in events other than the mile relay this weekend. Grow has qualified in the 400, and is currently ranked seventh in that race, and Boyd was able to sneak into the championships in the 200.

Rounding off the women's squad is freshman Lauren King in the mile, and junior Tameisha King in the long jump.

It is the second time Tameisha King made it to the indoor championships since qualifying in her freshman year.

"I know there's a lot expected of me. I'm a junior, an upperclassman. I don't have any excuses," she said. "This year I'm way more confident in myself and my abilities. My freshman year I was intimidated. Now I'm there, and I'll be doing the intimidating."

On the men's side, the two qualifiers come as no surprise: seniors Ryan Shay and Luke Watson, two seniors who have had strong indoor seasons.

Shay will be running in the 5,000-meter and the 3,000-meter, something he has never done in his career at Notre Dame. He has just made it in the 5,000 in previous years. His 5,000 time of 13:46.80 is his personal best and also the second-best time in the nation.

see TRACK/page 14

SPORTS
AT A GLANCE

- ◆ Baseball vs. Texas Christian, today, 3 p.m.
- ◆ Hockey vs. Nebraska-Omaha, today, 7:05 p.m.
- ◆ Men's Basketball vs. Connecticut, today, 9 p.m.
- ◆ Track and Field at NCAA Championships, Fri-Sun.

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