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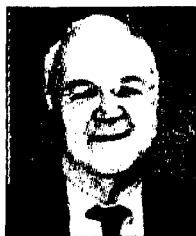
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McBrien cleared of plagiarism complaint

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

A complaint of plagiarism against theology professor Father Richard McBrien was recently dismissed by theology department chair John Cavadini, according to an article in the National Catholic Reporter published today.

"Although I did not release the University investigator's report to the National Catholic Reporter, nor do I know who



McBrien

did, I can verify the accuracy of the story in this week's issue," McBrien told The Observer in an e-mail Thursday.

Though Cavadini spoke to NCR, he did not return Observer phone calls seeking comment Thursday.

The complaint, which originated with the Catholic group the Cardinal Newman Society, was dismissed "on the grounds that the alleged copying constitutes 'carelessness' rather than unethical behavior; that statements of regret and apology for oversight have already been issued; and that there is no previous instance to indicate a pattern requiring investigation," according to a letter obtained by the NCR, from Professor Cavadini to Jeffrey Kantor, vice

president for graduate studies and research.

The Cardinal Newman Society — an organization Cavadini called "a militant right-wing Catholic interest group" — requested in a Jan. 19 letter to University President Father John Jenkins the University investigate similarities in structure and language between a column written by McBrien for the Jan. 6 issue of The Tidings of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and an op-ed piece by Eileen McNamara for the Dec. 11 Boston Globe.

The two publications criticized protests of a Catholic Charities fundraiser benefiting Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, a supporter of abortion rights and gay marriage.

McBrien cited McNamara's piece in his column, but sent letters of apology to McNamara and to the Globe for too closely paraphrasing a sentence. He also agreed to add a formal statement in a future column "admitting and regretting the oversight," according to the NCR.

"I am pleased that the review process within the University is now officially over, and I am, completely satisfied with its outcome," McBrien told The Observer.

McBrien said he would neither release the report to anyone nor conduct further interviews about the matter.

Contact Karen Langley at
klangle1@nd.edu

Bishop speaks on just war

Focus is Catholic teachings on peace

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

Catholics who wish to be true disciples of Christ can never accept war as a solution to the world's problems — no matter the circumstances.

Detroit Bishop Thomas Gumbleton told members of the Notre Dame and South Bend communities Thursday night.



Gumbleton

"That's the challenge I leave you with tonight — say 'no' to war, 'yes' to peace, to justice, to love," Gumbleton told the approximately 60 audience members in DeBartolo 141.

Gumbleton's challenge was based on a statement made by the late Pope John Paul II, whose teachings he drew from heavily throughout the address.

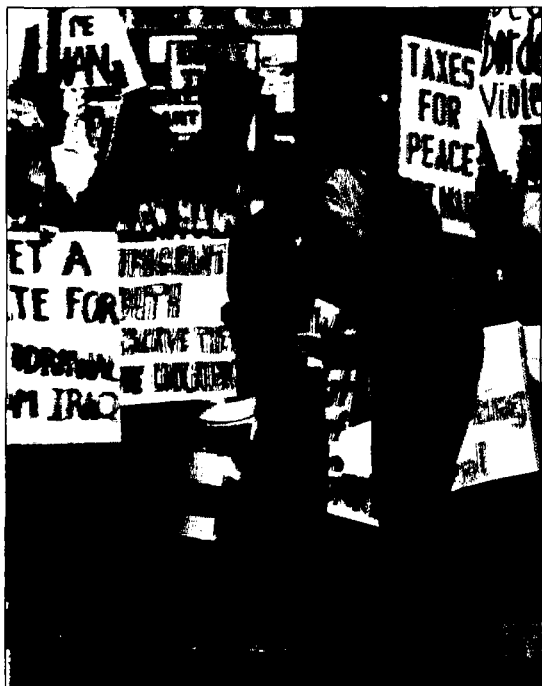
While Gumbleton has been the target of national attention after recently coming forward as a childhood victim of sexual abuse by a priest, he spoke Thursday on a much different topic — "Religion and War."

He broke down the Church's teachings on war into the theology of just war and the theology of nonviolence.

Both theologies are based on the premise that Jesus

see THINK/page 6

Presidential visit conjures emotion



Protesters gathered Thursday in Mishawaka to oppose Bush's economic and Iraq policies.

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

When Air Force One landed in South Bend Thursday, Notre Dame students and Michiana community members greeted President George W. Bush as people generally do — with either open arms or cold shoulders.

Bush spoke at Bethel College as part of a fundraising luncheon for U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, R-2nd District. The exclusive event — open only to those who purchased tickets at \$500 each — included a speech by the president and a private reception. Bush also posed for snapshots with supporters, a pricey photo opportunity that cost \$4,000 per person or \$6,000 per couple.

White House officials arrived nearly a week early in order to prepare the logistics for Bush's

see BUSH/page 6



President Bush spoke in Mishawaka Thursday at a fundraiser for Rep. Chris Chocola, left.

Injured ND senior released from hospital

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame senior Brian Cardile was released from Memorial Hospital in South Bend Wednesday, according to an e-mail sent by Keenan rector Father Mark Thesing to current and former dorm residents.

Cardile, 21, was hit by a car early Sunday morning. The South Bend Tribune reported Monday that witnesses told South Bend police officers Cardile walked into East Edison Road in front of a moving vehicle driven by Chicago resident John Schoenwetter at approximately 2:30 a.m.

Schoenwetter is a second-year law student at Notre Dame, according to the University directory.

The e-mail, a copy of which was obtained by The Observer, said Cardile will stay at the health center on campus for "awhile."

"I stopped by to see him this afternoon and he seems to be doing well," Thesing said in the e-mail sent Thursday afternoon. "He is still sore and stiff."

Cardile, a former Keenan resident who now lives at Turtle Creek Apartments, was

see CARDILE/page 8

Student play explores sex, faith

'The Primrose Path' documents diverse experiences, perspectives

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

Less than two weeks after the curtains fell on this year's hotly-debated "The Vagina Monologues," another set of monologues exploring sexuality will take the academic stage at Notre Dame. But "The Primrose Path," a student-written documentary, infuses its discussions of sexuality with perspectives of love and faith — a distinction that playwright Anna Nussbaum says will test whether Notre Dame's traditionally volatile reaction to the "Monologues" is truly a result

of the performance's lack of religious character.

"If the concern is there is no religious perspective in 'The Vagina Monologues,' come to my play," she said. "If what we're really squeamish about is issues of sexuality, that will become clear."

Included in its assortment of monologues on sexuality — researched and collected during Nussbaum's junior summer, courtesy of a UROP (undergraduate research opportunity) grant — are explorations of both female and male sexuality, religion, morality, love, marriage, transgender issues, abortion, celibacy, virginity, pornog-

raphy and pregnancy.

"These are issues that really interest our community but are always talked about in theory," she said. "These [monologues] are about practice. These are actual people, and there's something so powerful about that."

Nussbaum's interviewees include "everything from [her] parish priest to [her] ex-boyfriend to people [she] met on the street or in the phone book."

Most monologues are based on a single interview, but a few are a compilation. In selecting

see PRIMROSE/page 8

INSIDE COLUMN

Agreeing with Shirley

I couldn't really even stand up to a seal, I don't really deserve a medal or a party!

I bet you're wondering what kind of column would follow a statement like that. But why keep you in suspense? I'll just come right out and tell you — one that has nothing to do with the opening line.

Peter Ninneman

News
Production
Editor

Now that I have you hooked, you have no choice but to continue reading.

Last night was pancake night at South Dining Hall. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to experience such a miracle, take my word for it when I tell you that it is a night not to be missed.

However, the delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs, and tater tots (thank you, dining hall cooks) that I feasted upon are not what stick out in my mind about my dinner last night.

As I started applying syrup to my flapjacks, a dining hall employee, whom I shall call Shirley, asked me what year I was in.

"I'm a freshman," I told her.

"How do you like it here? ... What is your major? ... Psychology? I have a daughter who has two master's degrees in psychology. I like psychologists, but not psychiatrists; sometimes people do need medication, but a lot of the time they've got them drugged up like zombies ..."

Shirley told me I'm blessed to be here, and wanted me to work hard and never give up.

She is right — I am blessed to be here. Settle down, gentle reader, this column isn't becoming a Lifetime movie. To be honest, there are definitely days when I don't want to be here and would much rather be home working at Pizza Hut by day, wasting time with friends by night.

Blasphemer! Burn him! Hang him! Rip his face off! Notre Dame is the single greatest thing to happen to mankind since the Resurrection!

Again, settle down, gentle reader — there are also times when I couldn't imagine wishing to be anywhere else.

Notre Dame is often idealized. I've heard it described by an alum and distant relative as being more of a "lifestyle," rather than a school. Chuckles of affirmation rippled through the room.

Sure, there are nights when students are putting off their studies to drink Natty Lights and play video game rugby deep into the night; when it reaches 30 degrees, shorts are donned and the footballs come out; dorm parties are thumpin' till dawn ... errr ... make that parietals.

People on the outside or who are far removed from their schooling here only see those things. It's almost an inversion of the Notre Dame bubble.

When all is said and done, though, I agree with Shirley. I'm glad I'm here.

Contact Peter Ninneman at
pninnema@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 23 edition of The Observer, in the article "Fight Club," Bengal Bouts fighter Tommy Forr's name was spelled incorrectly.

Adam "Steel Ghost" Burns defeated Frank Ragukonis Wednesday night in the 170-pound division of the Bengal Bouts. The outcome was reported incorrectly in the Feb. 23 edition of The Observer.

A news article in the Feb. 23 edition of The Observer incorrectly referred to a potential change in Club Coordination Council funding as a "budget cut." Rather, the group would receive a lower fixed allocation of the higher student activities fee.

The Observer regrets these errors.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: IF YOU COULD BUILD A NEW DORM, WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE?



John Paul Lichon

senior
Morrissey

"The Bel-Air Mansion cuz I'm the Fresh Prince."



Hajime Sargent

freshman
Dillon

"Combination of Pizza Hut and the White House."



Erin Hung

junior
Howard

"I'd evict the guys in Stanford and make it a girls' dorm. It'd be great to frolic with Keenan!"



Yurianna Kim

sophomore
Lyons

"Like Disneyland."



Charlie Horn

sophomore
Dillon

"I hear the Pangborn mascot used to be 'The Violence.'"



Adam Hipp

sophomore
Dillon

"Co-ed?"



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Bond Hall's lobby was decorated by fourth year architecture students to mimic familiar Roman destinations for the annual "Expo Roma." The exhibit shows work completed by architecture students while spending their third year abroad in Rome.

OFFBEAT

Zoo hog finds companion in antelope

LOS ANGELES — Shortly after his mate went to hog heaven, Willy the Red River porcine spied a new mud-pen pal in what officials are calling one of the oddest pairings at the Los Angeles Zoo.

Willy is a 10-year-old, 187-pound hog and his new mate is a 16-year-old bongo named Nicole, the largest member of the forest antelope family. The couple shares a muddy zoo exhibit where they nap and cuddle together — even nuzzling snout to nose.

"It's adorable. Wherever

that bongo is, the hog is usually nearby," zoo spokesman Jason Jacobs said.

Willy's previous mate Ruby died last summer of cancer and within a week the hog turned to Nicole for companionship.

Nicole wasn't interested in Willy at first, but the persistent pig eventually won her over. They now share breakfast, groom each other and take walks together. Nicole leads, and Willy trails closely behind.

Ill. Governor confused by 'Daily Show' bit

ST. LOUIS — Gov. Rod

Blagojevich wasn't in on the joke. Blagojevich says he didn't realize "The Daily Show" was a comedy spoof of the news when he sat down for an interview that ended up poking fun at the sometimes-puzzled Democratic governor.

"It was going to be an interview on contraceptives ... that's all I knew about it," Blagojevich laughingly told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in a story for Thursday's editions. "I had no idea I was going to be asked if I was 'the gay governor.'"

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Cavanaugh Hall is holding a **Dance-A-Thon** tonight from 5 p.m. until midnight in the LaFortune Ballroom. The event aims to raise money and awareness for Hannah and Friends.

Haiti Awareness Week concludes Friday with a **Haitian-American Mass** at 5 p.m. in Pangborn Hall and a **Haitian-African Dinner** at 6:00 p.m. in CoMo Lounge. Both are free and open to the public. A \$5 suggested donation for the dinner will be collected in support of the four Haitian orphans who work with Notre Dame's Haiti Program.

The Robinson Community Learning Center will celebrate its fifth anniversary with an open house from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 tonight. The staff will honor community volunteers and ND faculty, staff and students whose efforts support the center's programs. The RCLC is 921 North Eddy Street.

U2 tribute band **Elevation** will play tonight at 10 p.m. at Legend's. Admission is free to ND, SMC and HCC students with an ID.

The Kellogg Institute hosts its annual **Brazilian Carnaval** tonight at 8 p.m. in the east wing of South Dining Hall. Admission is free and the public is invited.

The Irish men's basketball team will square off with big East rival Marquette Saturday at the Joyce Center. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 35 LOW 27	HIGH 30 LOW 27	HIGH 33 LOW 15	HIGH 22 LOW 8	HIGH 18 LOW 2	HIGH 22 LOW 15

Atlanta 64 / 41 Boston 42 / 30 Chicago 35 / 17 Denver 58 / 22 Houston 63 / 54 Los Angeles 71 / 48 Minneapolis 31 / 11 New York 42 / 35 Philadelphia 46 / 30 Phoenix 73 / 44 Seattle 46 / 34 St. Louis 57 / 29 Tampa 75 / 62 Washington 49 / 32

Professor explains his hurricane engineering

By PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

The Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning's "Scholars in the Classroom" lecture series kicked off Thursday with a talk by professor of civil engineering and geological sciences Joannes Westerink on "The Impact of Hurricane Katrina and Predicting Storm Surges in Southern Louisiana."

Westerink holds a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and plays a leading national role in understanding and modeling hurricanes, as well as in preventing catastrophic damage like that caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Westerink was one of the principle researchers and scholars who helped develop the Advanced Circulation Model (ADCIRC), which is an authoritative computer modeling system currently used by the U.S. Army and Navy, as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In the beginning of the lecture, Westerink showed aerial shots he took of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

"What we're going to do is

actually take a little helicopter ride," Westerink said.

The pictures showed barges pushed up onto land, totally demolished residential areas and the remains of levees.

"Essentially, there's water everywhere," Westerink said.

In 2004, Westerink's ADCIRC system predicted the levees protecting New Orleans could not prevent flooding of the city during a slow-moving, large category three hurricane.

ADCIRC was developed at Notre Dame, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Texas at

Austin and the University of Oklahoma and uses 256 processors to write and solve nearly six hundred billion algebraic equations, he said.

Even so, Westerink said he and his associates

are looking to improve it.

"Our goal is to develop accurate, efficient, robust and usable computational models of the coastal ocean that can be applied to real engineering problems," Westerink said. "We have to keep on adding detail to make more accurate models."

Contact Peter Ninneman at
pninnema@nd.edu

"We have to keep on adding detail to make more accurate models."

Joannes Westerink
engineering professor

SMC dorms to be modernized

College plans to revamp interior environment of residence halls

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

The notably spacious residence hall rooms Saint Mary's students have enjoyed for years may become even more appealing in the near future. Saint Mary's Vice President for Finance and Administration Laurie Stickelmaier recently attended a conference in Chicago entitled "The 21st Century Project — The Residence Hall of the Future," where she learned ways to improve the conditions of campus residences.

"The main conclusion we came to as a result of intensive team discussions was that residence hall structures will not change that much — it's the environment within and around the structures that will be different," Stickelmaier said.

"We anticipate more of a community-based setting with groups of residences set around common social, eating and retail areas."

Stickelmaier said the building itself is not the only focus

of the new halls.

"Recycling, effective waste disposal and even internal gardening areas will also be integrated into residential planning," she said.

Technology that is pervasive and virtually invisible is another planning element that received a great deal of attention at the conference.

Residence Hall director Michelle Russell said Stickelmaier's attendance at this conference does not indicate Saint Mary's will be building a new residence hall in the near future.

"At this time, the College is focused on the new academic building and continuing the renovation of our current halls," she said.

Students are excited about the new academic construction as well.

"The new classroom building is supposed to be more technologically advanced than

what we have now," said freshman Katie McInerney.

Freshman Beth D'Aurora said she liked the idea of the new buildings, as long as Saint Mary's keeps the architecture historic-looking to "preserve the historical aspect of our campus."

Despite the fact the College is not currently anticipating the construction of a new residence hall,

Stickelmaier said during the next few years Saint Mary's plans to renovate and remodel existing residence halls one-by-one.

"Meanwhile, we continue our ongoing replacement of carpets and furniture as needed," she said.

She also said a new residence hall is not a priority because the College has enough space to comfortably house all students.

"We currently have enough beds to accommodate our student population," Stickelmaier said. "When enrollment increases to the point where we need more rooms on campus, we will use the information gained from the 21st Century Project."

Contact Katie Kohler at
kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

"The new classroom building is supposed to be more technologically advanced."

Katie McInerney
freshman

"The College is focused on the new academic building and continuing the renovation of our current halls."

Laurie Stickelmaier
vice president for finance
and administration
Saint Mary's

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Journalist speaks of experiences in Sudan

By RYAN SYDLIK
News Writer

In front of a rapt audience and a C-SPAN film crew, author Gabriel Meyer spoke Thursday about his experiences with the faith and determination of the people of the Nuba Mountains in Sudan, which he chronicled in his non-fiction book, "The Gift: War and Faith in Sudan."

Law professor Jerry Bradley introduced Meyer as one of the first Western journalists to write about the war in Sudan, going where foreigners were banned and where few would dare go.

Meyer then took up the podium and began his part of the presentation with a traditional story describing the origins of the Nubian peoples. The mythical story told of a time when childbirth was believed to have required men with knives to cut the mother open. But then, a woman from above showed killing was not how one should give rise to the child and the violence stopped.

"This is how the Nuba came to be, when they stopped cutting the women," Meyer said.

Meyer said he found himself in Sudan after interviewing Bishop Macram Max Gassis of Sudan during his visit to the United States. Meyer was moved by Gassis' "remarkable relief effort," which included setting up schools and training centers for women who had escaped slavery.

One year after the meeting, Meyer got a call from Gassis saying, "We are leaving on the 21st." Ten days later, they were both in the Nuba Mountains, he said.

Meyer said Sudan was "a religious tectonic plate," where Arab Africa meets traditional Africa. The Nuba Mountains happen to lie in the middle of this crossroads where the Christian and Animist south meet the Islamic north of the country.

Meyer explained the dangers posed by the area.

"In 1992, this area was put off limits by the government to all visitors for very good reason — the government was launching an extermination campaign," he said.

"We were always on the brink of famine," Meyer said. "We never knew when a tremendous crisis could occur."

Meyer said his book is intended as "an elegy and tribute to a remarkable people." He wrote not only about the Nubians' horror and plight, but also their rich spiritual and faith life and their diverse cultural traditions.

Meyer, who was crucial in bringing the conflict into the eyes of the Western media, said he "always believe[d] that it is the goal of journalists to bring out what is hidden."

Meyer said the conflict in Sudan has killed 2.5 million people and displaced half the total population of southern Sudan.

Meyer viewed the crisis as one of political identity.

"It is an irony that the result of the civil war is a result of its progress," he said.

Meyer explained the unique position of Nuba in Sudan, where they side with the southern part of the country while being situated in the north. This stirred violence from the north, which led to the criminalization of Nubian cultural customs and the appearance of governmental death squads.

Meyer went on to speak about the children victimized during the Sudanese conflict — starved to death or bombed in their schools.

"Modern wars always turn out to be wars against children, for the death of children strikes at the possibility of hope," he said.

Meyer ended his lecture by telling the story of Bishop Gassis' catechist. The catechist was beaten, lashed and then offered money and a house to give up his way of life. He did not give in and was forced into a mock crucifixion pose as a punishment. Then, for reasons he cannot explain, he was released.

Years later, while doing work to codify tribal codes into a legal system, he was killed. But his mourners included both his fellow tribesman as well as Muslims, who joined together to mourn and praise the man's life, seeing his death as a loss for all, Meyer said.

Contact Ryan Sydlík at
rsydlík@nd.edu

SMC candidates share responses

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's students had the opportunity to listen to platforms presented by class board executive hopefuls and ask questions while they ate in the Saint Mary's dining hall Thursday night.

The tickets for sophomore, junior and senior board were presented and then questioned by elections commissioner Danielle Lerner, and their responses were broadcast over the dining hall's PA system.

"They have all worked really hard and they are really excited and I think they deserve to have as many people possible listen to their ideas," Lerner said.

Question and answer sessions for elections were previously conducted in an isolated portion of the dining hall and voters were invited to attend if they wished. Lerner said the move was an effort to increase participation.

Seniors Kat Kindt, Meghan Mackinnon, Erica Antonucci and Laura Baumgartner are running for class president, vice president, secretary and treasurer respectively and are campaigning under the slogan "Got MELK? We're utterly great and we'll do your senior year good!"

Kindt said their top goal is to unify the class by securing fun events students want to attend.

The opposing ticket, composed of Heidi Goepfinger, Christin Molnar, Maggie Wickstrom and Bridget Gorman, also said giving their classmates a great senior year at Saint Mary's was an important priority.

Goepfinger, who is currently serving as junior class president, said her board has had a successful year and has raised \$4,000 for the class. She said she would like to see that money well spent and intends to plan future fundraising to keep the costs of senior formal and senior week to a minimum.

One of the things Kindt and her running mates proposed was moving senior formal to Chicago.

Baumgartner said the details have not been completely explored, but the plan is feasible.

"Right now we just need to look at places where we can have the dance, and we have some ideas in our head," she said.

When asked what they would do if they lost the election, every candidate on both tickets responded they would still seek to be a member of class board in a different capacity.

"I don't think I would be here running for senior class vice president if I didn't want to be on board," Molnar said.

There were also two tickets for the junior executive board positions.

Presidential candidate Michelle Michalak, vice presidential candidate Brooke Trudeau, secretarial candidate Katie Soller and treasurer candidate Cailene Pisciotta promised voters exciting class events, including a memorable Junior Mom's weekend.

Michalak said her experience as freshman class president and sophomore board fundraising and activities chair has prepared her well to lead the junior class.

"I think this has helped me to improve my leadership skills because [I have worked] with not only many people at Saint Mary's but off-campus, too," Michalak said.

Their opponents, Colleen Kieley, Erin Hogan, Elizabeth Bush and Shawn Redington said the best idea on their platform is "The Real OC," a fundraising walk to raise money to find a cure for ovarian cancer.

cer. "We have already talked to people in the South Bend community about it and we are really ... excited about this event," Hogan said.

Sophomore class president hopeful Francesca Johnson, along with her ticket mates Pauline Kistka, Sarah Voss and Maggie Johnson, are running unopposed.

Johnson and Kistka are currently serving as freshman class president and vice president, respectively, and were responsible for initiating a dance marathon fundraiser that will benefit Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis, Ind.

"I want to run again for vice president of the sophomore class because I think student government is one of those things that keeps you coming back," Kistka said.

"One thing I know a little better this year is that Francesca and I really know what we want to do and we

are motivated to meet those goals."

When asked her favorite thing about the College, Johnson did not hesitate.

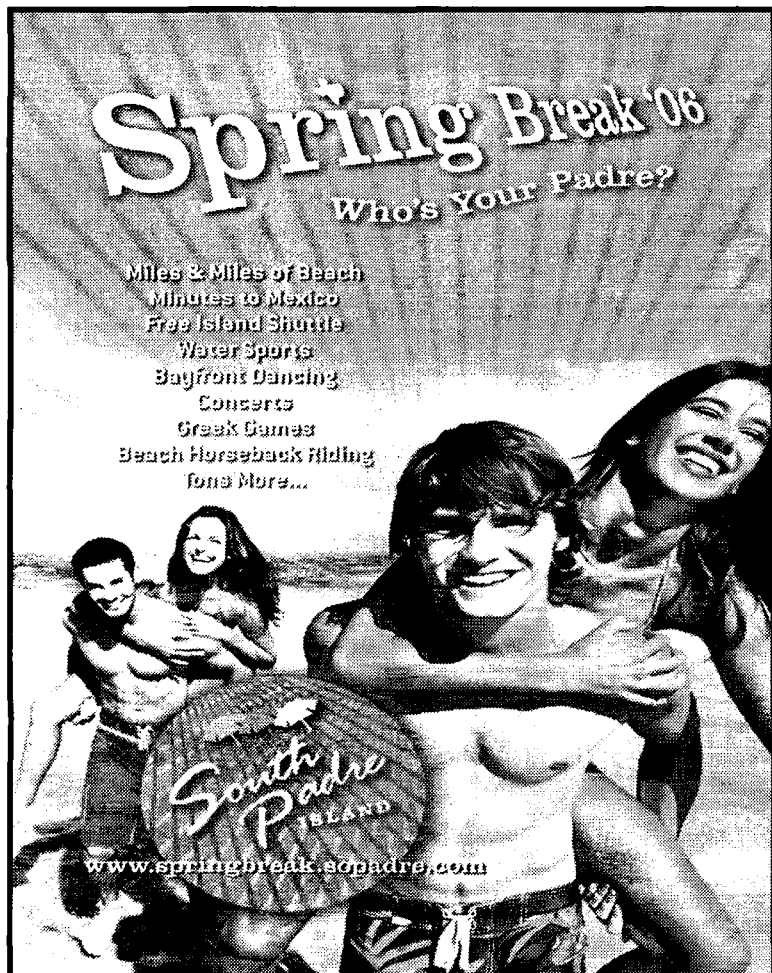
"My favorite thing about Saint Mary's is its being an all women's atmosphere," Johnson said. "I think it allows us to be more confident."

The ticket also said they will work hard to keep classmates studying abroad connected to campus.

"I think it will be really different with people leaving and coming back all year long, and I think it is really important to make people know [when they leave and come back] they are still a member of our class," Voss said.

Voting will take place on PRISM from midnight Sunday to midnight Monday.

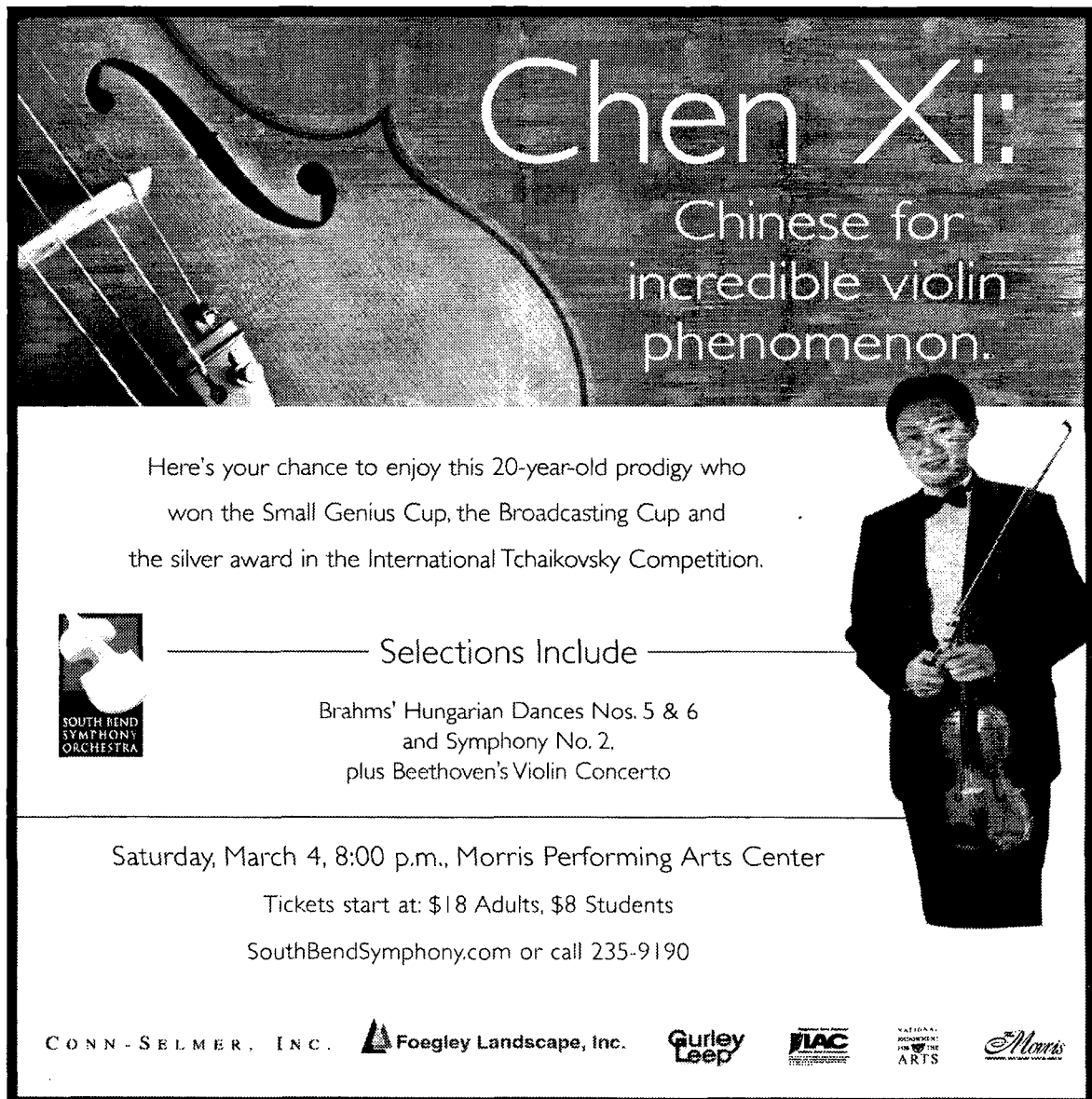
Contact Megan O'Neil at
onei0907@saintmarys.edu



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WORLD & NATION

Friday, February 24, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Roof collapses on Moscow market

MOSCOW — Tearful men and women — many wearing fur hats or scarves against the bitter cold — cradled cell phones to their ears as they tried desperately to find loved ones trapped under the snowy rubble after the roof collapsed on one of Moscow's biggest markets.

At least 56 people were killed and 32 injured when the circular building caved in Thursday, and rescuers worked furiously to clear concrete slabs and metal beams to reach survivors.

Cries and shouts rang out from the crowd near the devastated Basmanny market as emergency workers read the names of the injured. One woman was pulled away, wailing, after hearing her brother was killed.

"I have a cousin there. I've been calling him since morning but at first there was no answer, and now the phone does not ring," said Eshkin Mekhvaliyev, a young man from Azerbaijan.

Five Palestinians killed in West Bank

BALATA REFUGEE CAMP — Israeli troops on Thursday killed five Palestinians, including a top militant who said just a day earlier that he would never be caught, in Israel's largest military sweep since pulling out from the Gaza Strip last summer.

Three of the dead were gunmen from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades — a violent offshoot of Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Party — killed during a shootout in their hideout in the Balata refugee camp in the West Bank.

The deaths brought to eight the number of Palestinians killed by army fire since the Balata sweep began Monday. More than 50 have been wounded by live rounds and rubber-coated steel pellets, Palestinian hospital officials said. The military said 15 fugitives have been arrested.

NATIONAL NEWS

New Orleans still far from whole

NEW ORLEANS — Six months have passed since Katrina ravaged this city. For a half a year, its people have counted the dead (officially, 1,080 in Louisiana and 231 in Mississippi) and struggled mightily to keep their city among the living.

A slimmed-down Mardi Gras is testament to their success; a tour of the devastation that remains is testament to how far they have to go.

Hurricane Katrina created an estimated 60.3 million cubic yards of debris in Louisiana, 25 times as much as the ruins of the World Trade Center and enough to fill the Superdome more than 13 times. Of that, only 32 million cubic yards — a bit more than half — has been removed.

Four charged in human tissue case

NEW YORK — The owner of a biomedical supply house was charged along with three other men Thursday with secretly carving up corpses and selling the parts for use in transplants across the country.

The case was "like something out of a cheap horror movie," Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes said.

Prosecutors said the defendants obtained the bodies from funeral parlors in three states and forged death certificates and organ donor consent forms to make it look as if the bones, skin, tendons, heart valves and other tissue were legally removed. The defendants made millions of dollars from the scheme, prosecutors said.

LOCAL NEWS

Mom, son arrested on crack charges

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis police have arrested a mother and her teen son who they say were dealing crack cocaine from a Near Eastside house.

Police raided Shaneeta Civils' home in the 2000 block of New York Street at about 5 p.m. Wednesday. The 34-year-old mother of three told officers she sells drugs "and that she usually uses her 16-year-old son to conduct her drug dealing efforts," Detective Stephen Krieger said in a police report.

IRAQ

Violence in Iraq kills over 100

On the brink of civil war, a daytime curfew is implemented to keep people safe

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gunmen killed dozens of civilians Thursday and dumped their bodies in a ditch, as the government ordered a tough daytime curfew of Baghdad and three provinces to stem the sectarian violence that has left at least 114 dead since the bombing of a Shiite shrine.

Seven U.S. soldiers died in a pair of roadside bombings north of the capital, and American military units in the Baghdad area were told to halt all but essential travel to avoid getting caught up in demonstrations or roadblocks.

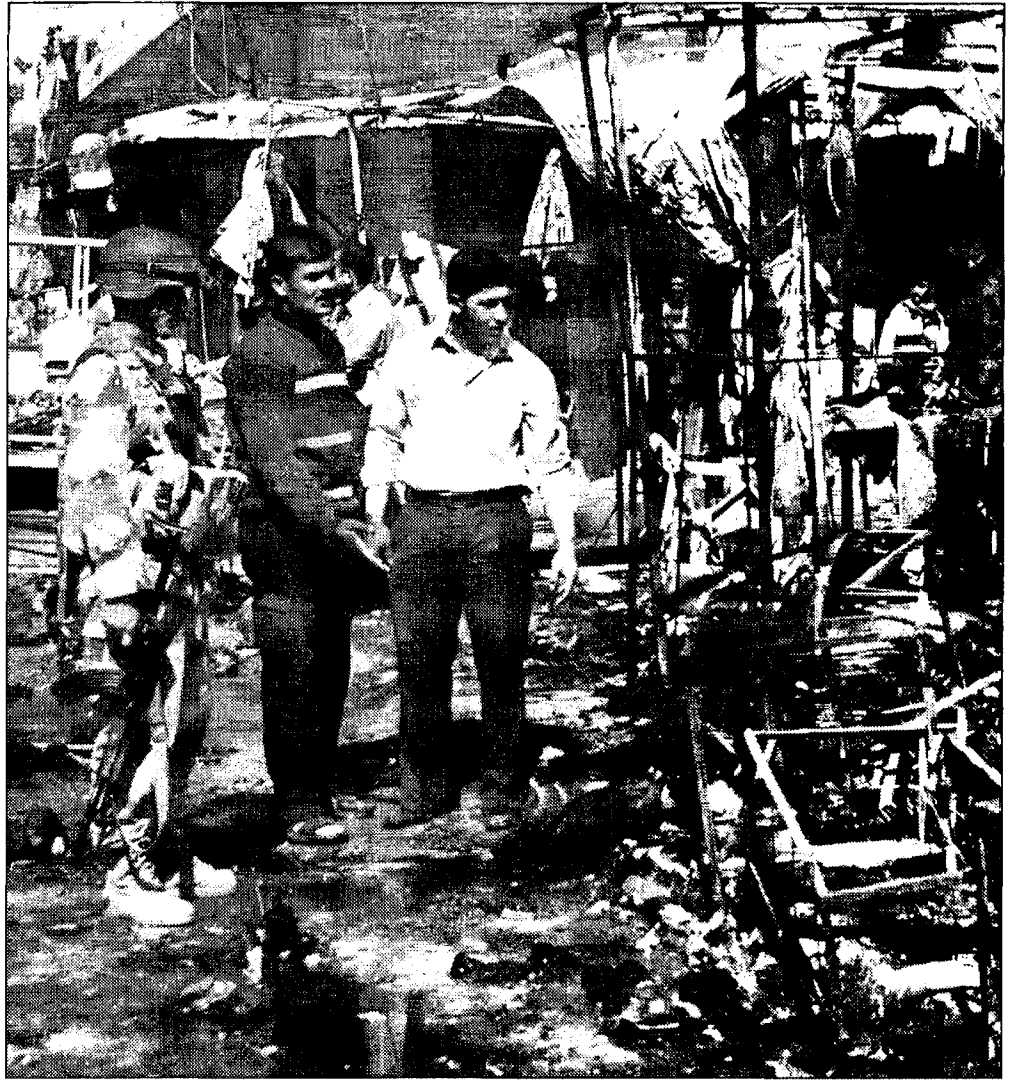
As the country careened to the brink of civil war, Iraqi state television announced an unusual daytime curfew, ordering people off the streets Friday in Baghdad and the nearby flashpoint provinces of Diyala, Babil and Salaheddin, where the shrine bombing took place.

Such a sweeping daytime curfew indicated the depth of fear within the government that the crisis could touch off a Sunni-Shiite civil war. "This is the first time that I have heard politicians say they are worried about the outbreak of civil war," Kurdish elder statesman Mahmoud Othman told The Associated Press.

Most of the bloodshed has been concentrated in the capital, its surrounding provinces and the province of Basra, 340 miles to the southeast.

Among the victims was Atwar Bahjat, a widely known Sunni correspondent for the Arab satellite television station Al-Arabiya.

Gunmen in a pickup truck shouting "We want the correspondent!" killed Bahjat along with her cameraman and engineer



Iraqi soldiers and civilians inspect a scene following an explosion Thursday in Baqouba that killed eight Iraqi soldiers.

while they were interviewing Iraqis about Wednesday's destruction of the famed golden dome of the Shiite shrine Askariya in her hometown of Samarra.

Shiite and Sunni leaders again appealed for calm Thursday following the wave of reprisal attacks on Sunni mosques, and the number of violent incidents appeared to decline after the government extended the curfew.

Iraqi television said the curfew would extend until 4 p.m. Friday, preventing people from attending the week's most important Muslim prayer service.

Officials feared mosques could be both a target for attacks and a venue for stirring sectarian feelings.

President Bush said he appreciated the appeals for calm, and called the shrine bombing "an evil act" aimed at creating strife. Despite strident comments from various Iraqi leaders, U.S. officials said they believed mainstream politicians understood the grave danger facing the country and would try to prevent civil war.

"We're not seeing civil war igniting in Iraq," Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, a spokesman for the U.S.

command, told reporters.

Nevertheless, sectarian passions were running high.

A Shiite cleric was shot dead Thursday night in Tuz Khormato, a mostly Kurdish city 130 miles north of Baghdad, and another Sunni preacher was killed in the mostly Shiite city of Hillah 60 miles south of the capital.

Two Sunni mosques were burned Thursday in Baghdad and another in Mussayib to the south, police said. A Sunni was killed when gunmen fired on a mosque in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Law possibly ignored in port deal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The senior Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee angrily accused the Bush administration Thursday of ignoring the law by refusing to extend an investigation of a United Arab Emirates company's takeover of significant U.S. port operations.

Clashing with a Treasury Department official on a mission to calm a political uproar, Sen. Carl Levin said the law has language specifically requiring a longer review than the one that an interagency committee conducted, if a business

deal could affect national security.

"Is there not one agency in this government that believes this takeover could affect the national security of the United States?" the Michigan Democrat asked at a committee briefing. Chairman John Warner, R-Va., in a very unusual procedure on Capitol Hill, allowed reporters to question the administration witnesses.

The Treasury official, Deputy Secretary Robert Kimmitt, and officials from other agencies said a multi-agency group spent three months reviewing the port deal and said that all concerns about security were satisfied.

"We're not aware of a single national security concern raised recently that was not part of" the three-month review, Kimmitt said.

Levin insisted that the law that established the multiagency panel specifically said that any such review should be lengthened by 45 days if it could have an impact on national security.

Just hours before the hearing, President Bush declared that "people don't need to worry about security" in the deal.

Levin, raising his voice at the briefing, told Kimmitt, "If you want the law changed, come to Congress and change it but don't ignore it."

Think

continued from page 1

rejected violence for any reason, Gumbleton said. But the distinction arises when those in favor of nonviolence say this position is always the case, while those who support just war argue exceptions exist.

He explained the two major criteria just war proponents evaluate when debating the merits of war, the principles of discretion and proportionality.

"You must be able to wage that war in such a way that you can make distinctions between combatants and non-combatants," Gumbleton said. "[And you must have] moral certitude that the good you hope to achieve surpasses the evil you know will happen."

But Gumbleton said war could never be justified.

"Jesus taught us how to die — not how to kill," he said. "That was the understanding of the Christian community for over 300 years."

Delving into the history of the Church's attitude toward war, Gumbleton said the idea of just war is rooted in the second half of the 4th century. The theory later developed into the predominant theology of the Church for the next 1500 to 1600 years.

But Gumbleton said that theology began to shift as a new form of warfare rocked the world — total war, beginning with World War II.

"It's a whole people, waging war against another people," he said.

World War II also saw the first devastation wracked by nuclear weapons, Gumbleton said. He focused on the estimated 80,000 to 100,000 civilians killed instantly by the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

"This bomb is a challenge to God," Gumbleton said. "We say to God, we have the power to destroy everything you made ... [it is] a blasphemy that's immeasurable."

The next landmark in the Church-war relationship, Gumbleton said, was the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. The "very tense time" influenced then-Pope John XXIII to produce an encyclical entitled "Pacem in Terris," or Peace on Earth.

"In this atomic era, it is irrational any longer to think of war as an apt means to vindicate violated rights," Gumbleton said, quoting John XXIII.

This irrationality, he said, means there must be "a whole new attitude toward war."

The Church's official stance was further developed in John Paul II's 1991 encyclical "Centesimus Annus," where the Pope said he repeated the cry, "No — never again war," after watching the Persian Gulf War unfold.

"To me, this [response] sums it up," Gumbleton said.

In the encyclical, Gumbleton said John Paul II also gave two "very compelling reasons" against war — the first being war "destroys the lives of innocent people."

"Since World War II, every war has brought about the death of ever larger [numbers of non-combatants]," said Gumbleton, who attributed this to the spread of total war.

Civilian deaths have been multiplied exponentially by the use of nuclear weapons,

Gumbleton said, discussing uranium's association with cancer and "horrible birth defects."

"I visited hospitals in Basra and I saw with my own eyes some of these things I've described," he

said, his voice close to a murmur. "The suffering and tragedy is incomprehensible ... The proportionality [of outweighing the bad with good] is totally gone."

John Paul II's second argument against war outlined in his encyclical is war "throws into upheaval the lives of those who do the killing," Gumbleton said.

He quoted Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who served in Vietnam and was taken as a prisoner of war: "I hated my enemy even before they held me captive, because hate sustained me in my devotion to their complete destruction."

"Listen to what he's saying," Gumbleton said. "I hated them' — not after they shot him down, not after the six and a half years [McCain spent] in prison."

"What does that do to us? We're made in the image of God ... We're destroying the image of God, we're destroying our humanness."

And war makes it more difficult to achieve any resolution or stability — especially regarding the problems that

drove the sides to fight in the first place, said Gumbleton, again quoting John Paul II.

"[War] always leaves behind a trail of hatred and resentment," he said. "That makes it very hard to resolve the problems that led to war."

"How do we restore the moral and social order subjected to such horrible violence?"

Gumbleton said this restoration must be accomplished with love and justice, with special concern for a just economic system.

"We have to bring about dramatic change in the world in which we live, where some people have so much and so many people have so little," he said. "[We must] transform our world with the fascinating power of love."

But not everyone in the audience was sold on the message. Freshman Jon Heintz asked Gumbleton several questions about what the United States could have done differently in handling Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Gumbleton said it all came down to a lack of adequately directed efforts by the United States.

"Peace requires genuine, respectful negotiation, and it can work," he said. "The largest nation in the world [acting] with the largest army in the world — that's not negotiation. That's intimidation."

Gumbleton was the second speaker in this spring's Catholic Think Tank lecture series, a student government-coordinated effort to bring prominent Catholics to campus. William Pryor, Jr., U.S. Circuit Judge for the 11th Court of Appeals, spoke Jan. 24 in the first installment of the series.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

Bush

continued from page 1

visit, including which route the president's motorcade would take and where protesters — like members of Notre Dame's Progressive Student Alliance (PSA) — would be permitted to congregate.

Armed with signs and fliers, approximately 10 PSA members lined up with members of the Michiana Peace Coalition, local unions and other individual protesters outside of Bethel to protest Bush's arrival on the campus. PSA president Joe Murphy said "400 to 500" total people gathered.

PSA members were namely protesting the War in Iraq and the immigration policies of the current administration, Murphy said.

"It seemed like there was a lot of support for protesters, people driving by and honking horns in the middle of the workday. There was a lot of [positive] feeling," he said.

The protest was marked by heated debate between supporters and opponents of Bush administration policies.

"There were lots of signs and people were chanting," Murphy said. "There were a couple groups — maybe 10 people — supporting Bush. There was some intense debate [between the groups]."

An e-mail this week to PSA members said despite the money poured into the event, the cities of South Bend and Mishawaka were not compensated for the cost to local taxpayers of increased security, road closings and other provisions made for the presidential visit.

"There were tons of police everywhere blocking off the street and surrounding area," Murphy said.

Notre Dame College Republicans co-president Jonathan Klingler said instead of being a financial burden, the event benefited the area economically.

"The event ... [brought in] hundreds of thousands of dollars to the community — not only to Mishawaka and South Bend — but to Roseland and Niles as well, through hotel bookings and entertainment for the hundreds of extra people that [were] in the community for the event," he said.

The presidential visit was a "tremendous honor," Klingler said — an event that "will be remembered for years come." The inconveniences of a "few blocked roads" and a day's worth of overtime for local area police officers were worth a visit by a two-term president, he said.

Klingler said he did not believe the PSA objected out of concern for the citizens of Michiana, but rather "out of the desire to take a cheap shot at a U.S. president with whom the organization happens to disagree."

"Even if the PSA objected to the visit on purely economic grounds, for consistency's sake they should argue against any community which hopes to host the Olympic Games or an international peace conference because of the cost to the taxpayer," he said.

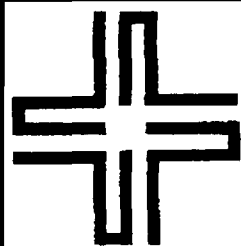
Bethel is an evangelical Christian college located in Mishawaka with 1,971 students. The appearance marks the president's seventh visit to Michiana in seven years.

Joe Murphy
president
PSA

"It seemed like there was a lot of support for protesters."

"Jesus taught us how to die — not how to kill."

Thomas Gumbleton
Bishop of Detroit



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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 10,673.79 +62.59

Up: 2,122 Same: 153 Down: 1,216 Composite Volume: 1,499,545,984

AMEX	1,489.54	-12.03
NASDAQ	2,031.25	+0.93
NYSE	7,243.28	+32.11
S&P 500	1,190.80	+6.58
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	11,500.18	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	4,988.50	-44.40

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100TR SER I (QQQQ)	+0.14	+0.05	36.94
INTEL CP (INTC)	-1.89	-0.45	23.31
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.12	-0.03	25.20
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	-0.17	-0.03	17.28
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	+2.29	+0.29	12.95

Treasuries

30-YEAR BOND	-0.49	-0.23	46.61
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.40	-0.17	42.68
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.23	-0.09	38.62
3-MONTH BILL	+2.02	+0.52	26.25

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.25	51.17
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+0.30	436.10
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+1.78	86.58

Exchange Rates

YEN	104.9600
EURO	0.7569
POUND	0.5241
CANADIAN \$	1.2482

IN BRIEF

Wal-Mart to offer improved benefits

BENTONVILLE, Ark. — Wal-Mart Stores Inc., under attack for its health care coverage for its employees, plans improvements that would include expanding the availability of its lowest cost plan and shortening the waiting periods to enroll part-time workers and their children.

At the same time, Wal-Mart Chief Executive Lee Scott said Thursday that employers cannot continue to meet the rising costs of health care and urged a government-business partnership to find an answer.

The announcement marks the second time in six months that the world's largest retailer has moved to improve health benefits and comes ahead of Scott's speech Sunday about the issue to the nation's governors, who are looking for ways to cap rising costs for taxpayer-funded health plans that cover the uninsured. Details of the new health benefit plans are expected to be unveiled in the coming months.

Scott is also expected to renew Wal-Mart's criticism of bills filed in at least 22 states that would force the retailer to spend more on health care. Maryland has become the first state in the nation to require Wal-Mart to spend more on employee health care or pay the difference into the state's Medicaid fund. The Retail Industry Leaders Association has challenged the law in court.

Fannie Mae finance scandal thickens

WASHINGTON — An extensive investigation of embattled Fannie Mae points to its former finance chief and controller as mainly responsible for the accounting failures at the mortgage giant now struggling to emerge from an \$11 billion scandal, said a report released Thursday.

The report by a team of investigators led by former Sen. Warren Rudman of New Hampshire also found that former chairman and CEO Franklin Raines, while not sharing direct responsibility, contributed to a culture of arrogance at the government-sponsored company. The report comes about 17 months after the revelation that federal regulators had discovered violations of accounting rules and earnings manipulation by the company to meet Wall Street targets.

Inflation concerns Wall Street

Volcom produces disappointing earnings as investors collect profits; oil prices drop

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street slid lower Thursday, with inflation concerns and a disappointing earnings report from Viacom Inc. prompting investors to collect profits. A drop in oil prices failed to mitigate the losses.

Investors grew jittery as the latest unemployment figures showed strength in the labor market. First-time jobless claims fell by 20,000 from the previous week to 278,000 — a far sharper drop than economists had expected.

While a strong labor market is generally good news, Wall Street remains concerned that the additional buying power that comes with steady employment could push prices higher and spark inflation, prompting the Federal Reserve to keep hiking interest rates.

Still, investors were pleased with a drop in oil prices, which fell below \$60 per barrel at one point after the Energy Department reported a rise in crude oil stockpiles. A barrel of light crude settled at \$60.54, down 47 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"Certainly the move in oil is good, and the market certainly perked up somewhat after that inventory report," said Peter Cardillo, chief strategist and senior vice president at S.W. Bach & Co. "For the intermediate term, there doesn't seem to be a supply/demand problem out there. But you don't know when that'll change."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 67.95, or 0.61 percent, to 11,069.22.

Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 4.88, or 0.38 percent, to 1,287.79, and the Nasdaq composite index dropped 3.85, or 0.17 percent, to 2,279.32.

Bonds fell, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbing to 4.56 percent from 4.53 percent late Wednesday. The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday as inflation concerns and disappointing earnings prompted investors to collect profits.

prices rose.

Stocks jumped to fresh 4 1/2-year highs over the past few weeks as strength in the economy encouraged investors. Yet concerns remain, including whether the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes will cut off economic growth. With little news Thursday to keep momentum alive and uncertainty about the state of the economy later in the year, profit-taking ate into the rally.

"It's very difficult for investors to extrapolate anything from these short-term moves in the market," said Christopher Conkey, chief investment officer at Evergreen Investments. "Don't get too excited about

days like yesterday, and don't get too excited about days like today, either."

In its first earnings report since spinning off CBS Corp., Viacom Inc. said its fourth-quarter profits fell due to poor performance at its Paramount movie studio arm as well as one-time charges related to the company's reorganization. Viacom fell 96 cents to \$41.

Home builder Toll Brothers Inc. rose \$1.05 to \$33.54 after the company said fourth-quarter profits jumped 49 percent and that its backlog of building projects rose 22 percent by the end of the quarter. However, the number of new contracts fell 21 percent, raising new concerns about a

softening housing market.

Clothing retailer Limited Brands Inc. said Wednesday its fourth-quarter earnings climb 36 percent on strong sales at its Victoria's Secret stores and a continuing turnaround at its Express stores. Limited Brands, which beat Wall Street forecasts by 4 cents per share, added 68 cents, or 2.9 percent, to \$24.09.

Mortgage broker Fannie Mae jumped \$1.23 to \$57.14 after investigators implicated the company's former chief executive and chief financial officer for its \$11 billion accounting scandal. Investors showed relief that no current executives were named in the investigation.

Average family income rates falling

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After the booming 1990s when incomes and stock prices were soaring, this decade has been less of a thrill ride for most American families.

Average incomes after adjusting for inflation actually fell from 2001 to 2004, and the growth in net worth was the weakest in a decade, the Federal Reserve reported Thursday.

Many families were struggling in the aftermath of the 2001 recession and the bursting of the stock market bubble in 2000, the Fed's latest "Survey of Consumer Finances" showed. The comprehensive look at household balance sheets comes every three years.

Average family incomes, after adjusting for inflation, fell to \$70,700 in 2004, a drop of 2.3 percent when compared with 2001. That was the weakest showing since a decline of 11.3 percent from 1989 to 1992, a period that also covered a recession.

The average incomes had soared by 17.3 percent in the 1998-2001 period and 12.3 percent from 1995 to 1998 as the country enjoyed the longest economic expansion in history.

The median family income, the point where half the families made more and half made less, rose a tiny 1.6 percent to \$43,200 in 2004 compared with 2001.

Economists said the weakness in the most recent period was understandable given the loss of 2.7 million jobs

from early 2001 through August of 2003, when the country was struggling with sizable layoffs caused by the recession, the terrorist attacks and corporate accounting scandals.

The weak income and the stock market decline in the early part of the decade, which wiped out \$7 trillion of paper wealth, had an adverse impact on family balance sheets.

Net worth, the difference between assets and liabilities such as loans, rose by 6.3 percent in the 2001-2004 period to an average of \$448,200, after adjusting for inflation. That gain was far below the huge increases of 25.6 percent from 1995 to 1998 and 28.7 percent from 1998 to 2001, increases that were fueled by soaring stock prices.

Primrose

continued from page 1

the monologues, Nussbaum attempted to represent various perspectives within the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish traditions, as well as nonreligious views.

"[In 'The Primrose Path,'] there are conservatives, liberals, atheists and orthodox believers all onstage together," she said. "It gives them a chance to speak with dignity and be not just labels but human beings."

Like "The Vagina Monologues," "The Primrose Path" will be performed in an academic setting — in this case, the Mendoza Auditorium.

Nussbaum said if productions involving sexuality are downplayed at the University, even orthodox believers risk sacrificing the broadcasting of their views.

"The problem is that the Catholic perspective is squashed as well," she said.

Though issues of sexuality are often politicized, Nussbaum said at its core, sexuality is simply "a human issue."

She expressed uncertainty about how the campus would react to her production.

"I hope well," she said. "I have no idea. I hope people come with open minds and hearts. I think it's different from what they've seen before."

Approaching controversial issues with an open mind is essential to intelligent discourse, Nussbaum said.

"I don't have an agenda about what is the right way to live your life," she said. "I think the right way to live life is to think seriously about it, and that's what the play encourages people to do."

Throughout the production's development, Nussbaum received writing advising from English professor Valerie Sayers and staging advising from theology department chair John Cavadini.

Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu

Cardile

continued from page 1

struck by a car "while walking home [from] the Linebacker [Lounge]," Thesing said in an e-mail sent Sunday night.

Thesing said in Thursday's e-mail that Cardile's parents

arrived in South Bend on Monday and would be staying "a few days as he continues on his road to recovery."

"He hopes to get back to classes soon, maybe even [today]," Thesing said in Thursday's e-mail.

Cardile was a sports writer for The Observer during the 2004-05 school year.

Haiti group shown on Adobe software page

Special to The Observer

A group of Notre Dame graphic design students who used Adobe software in their collaboration with the University's Haiti Program, is currently featured in an article in the education section of Adobe's main Web site.

The principal goal of Notre Dame's Haiti Program is to eliminate lymphatic filariasis (LF) from the impoverished Caribbean nation. LF, which causes the grotesque swelling of body parts known as elephantiasis, can be treated by adding nutrients to salt, a key ingredient in the Haitian diet. However, the salt is often discolored as a result of the primitive conditions in which it is harvested, so

Haitians often wash their salt before using it, which washes away the nutrients and renders it useless for combating the disease.

In an effort to keep Haitians, 65 percent of whom are illiterate, from washing their salt, the design students used Adobe Creative Suite and Adobe Illustrator to design logos and visual concepts to help market the healing effect of the fortified salt.

The Adobe article details the efforts of the design students, who graduated last year, as well as those of industrial design and MBA students working alongside Father Thomas Streit, a Notre Dame biologist and director of the Haiti Program.

New Orleans anticipates festival

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — They're throwing Mardi Gras beads again — so many strands, they're landing in tree branches and getting snagged on the trellised balconies of the French Quarter.

You'll find them adorning the arms of Spanish statues. Tourists are wearing them, but these days so are contractors and the National Guard. It's hard to walk on Bourbon Street without stepping on them. You're likely to crunch them underfoot, long necklaces of plastic pearls brightening the asphalt.

At the corner of Bourbon and St. Peter, Pat O'Brien's is once again serving its syrupy, yet potent Hurricane cocktail. At Tropical Isle, you can get an equally potent Hand Grenade in a tall, plastic go-cup.

But walk to the end of Bourbon Street, take a left on Esplanade Avenue, a right on Rampart Street and head east. At first, the debris comes in bits: A small pile of siding. A rusted box spring. One taped-up refrigerator. At first, you find them in neat piles, in the front yard or outside on the curb.

There's still a semblance of order. But keep going. It gets worse.

You pass an elegant sofa, the kind you might imagine a grand dame reclining in, sipping her mint julep. It is lodged in the middle of an intersection. A few miles farther, the innards of rotting houses spill out on both sides of the road.

Six months have passed since Katrina ravaged this city. For a half a year, its people have counted the dead (officially, 1,080 in Louisiana and 231 in Mississippi) and struggled

mightily to keep their city among the living.

A slimmed-down Mardi Gras is testament to their success; a tour of the devastation that remains is testament to how far they have to go.

Hurricane Katrina created an estimated 60.3 million cubic yards of debris in Louisiana, 25 times as much as the ruins of the World Trade Center and enough to fill the Superdome more than 13 times. Of that, only 32 million cubic yards — a bit more than half — has been removed.

Meanwhile, there are just under 2,000 people listed as missing. Some are not missing at all — they turned up, but their families never notified authorities. Hundreds of others, though, were very likely washed into the Gulf of Mexico or swept into Lake Pontchartrain or alligator-infested swamps, according to Dr. Louis Cataldie, Louisiana's medical examiner. Still more may be buried in the rubble.

At a hurricane morgue near Baton Rouge, 86 bodies remain unidentified. State officials are trying to reach relatives for another 74 who've been identified but have no place to go.

Mayor Ray Nagin says a comparison to New York City should be a favorable one. "Let me remind you that after 9/11 in New York, it took them six to eight months to get out of the fog of what happened to them. And to date, there's still a big hole in the ground. So when I look at everything that's going on, I think we're right on

schedule," he said.

Indeed, in the French Quarter and on St. Charles Avenue, on Magazine Street and in the plantation-style mansions of Uptown, life has moved on, though protective blue tarps that serve as roofs for many are a constant reminder of the work left to be done.

In the Quarter, uber chef Paul Prudhomme is blackening his signature redfish again. Bourbon House is shucking oysters, and Antoine's, the 166-year-old dining icon, is dishing up plates of P o m p a n o

Pontchartrain with slices of tart lemon.

Yet even here, Katrina has left her mark. All three restaurants are short-handed. Antoine's, which lost its \$200,000 wine collection in the storm, is shifting its wine list away from French staples, embracing New World wines instead.

And look closely at the brass band playing outside Prudhomme's K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen: The golden sheen on the tuba is gone, lost in the deluge at the musician's house.

But in the flood zone, the destruction is not so subtle. Leave the French Quarter on Rampart and head east, toward the devastated Ninth and Lower Ninth wards and East New Orleans.

All around are the carcasses of flooded houses. Katrina laid waste to more than 215,000 homes. Many are abandoned, their doors wide open.

"After 9/11 in New York, it took them six to eight months to get out of the fog."

Ray Nagin
New Orleans mayor



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Average family incomes rising, fewer investing in stocks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — American families who own their homes have enjoyed strong gains in home values in recent years, but the other parts of their balance sheets haven't been doing as well.

A bursting stock market bubble at the beginning of the decade, a recession and a prolonged period of job losses have all taken their toll.

Average incomes, which had been posting double-digit gains during the boom of the 1990s, actually fell, after adjusting for inflation, in 2004 when compared with 2001, the Federal Reserve said Thursday.

And Americans' net worth, despite the gain in home prices, rose at the smallest rate in a decade during the 2001-04 period.

The central bank's "Survey of Consumer Finances," a comprehensive look at household balance sheets, depicted in stark terms the contrasts between the 1990s and the economic troubles of the current

decade.

Average family incomes, after adjusting for inflation, fell to \$70,700 in 2004, a drop of 2.3 percent when compared with 2001. That was the weakest showing since a decline of 11.3 percent from 1989 to 1992, a period that also covered a recession.

The average incomes had soared by 17.3 percent in the 1998-2001 period and 12.3 percent from 1995 to 1998 as the country enjoyed the longest economic expansion in history.

The median family income, the point where half the families made more and half made less, rose a tiny 1.6 percent to \$43,200 in 2004 compared with 2001.

Economists said the weakness in the most recent period was understandable given the

loss of 2.7 million jobs from early 2001 through August 2003, when the country was struggling with sizable layoffs caused by the recession, the terrorist attacks and corporate accounting scandals.

The weak income and the stock market decline in the early part of the decade, which wiped out \$7 trillion of paper wealth, had an adverse impact on family balance sheets.

Net worth, the difference between assets and liabilities such as loans, rose by 6.3 percent in the 2001-04 period to an average of

\$448,200, after adjusting for inflation. That gain was far below the huge increases of 25.6 percent from 1995 to 1998 and 28.7 percent from 1998 to 2001, increases that were fueled by soaring stock prices.

"These statistics show why, even though GDP is rising, most people do not feel better off."

Charles Schumer
U.S. senator

The 2001-04 performance was the worst since net worth actually declined by 9.9 percent in the 1989-92 period.

The median family net worth, the point where half the families owned more and half owned less, stood at \$93,100 in 2004, a rise of 1.5 percent after adjusting for inflation from 2001.

The report showed that the slowdown in the accumulation of net worth would have been even more sizable except for the fact that homeowners have enjoyed big gains in the value of their homes in recent years.

The gap between the very wealthy and other income groups widened during the period.

The top 10 percent of households saw their net worth rise by 6.1 percent to an average of \$3.11 million, while the bottom 25 percent suffered a decline from a net worth in which their assets equaled their liabilities in 2001 to owing \$1,400 more than their total assets in 2004.

"This is the continuing story of the rich getting richer," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York. "Clearly, the gains in wealth are going to the top end."

Democrats used the new report to blast President Bush's economic policies, contending it would be wrong to make permanent his tax cuts which primarily benefited the wealthy.

"These statistics show why, even though GDP is rising, most people do not feel better off,"

said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

The Fed survey found that the percentage of Americans who owned stocks, either directly or through a mutual fund, fell by 3.3 percentage points to 48.6 percent in 2004, down from 51.9 percent in 2001. Analysts said this was an indication that investors burned by plunging stock prices in the decade's early years have been leery about getting back into the market.

The share of Americans' financial assets invested in stocks dipped to 17.6 percent in 2004, down from 21.7 percent in 2001. But reflecting the housing boom, the share of assets made up by home ownership rose to 50.3 percent in 2004, compared with 46.9 percent in 2001.

The Fed survey found that debts as a percent of total assets rose to 15 percent in 2004, up from 12.1 percent in 2001. Mortgages to finance home purchases were by far the biggest share of total debt at 75.2 percent in 2004, unchanged from the 2001 level.

There was concern that families may start to feel even more squeezed as the cost of financing their debts increases along with rising interest rates.

While surging home values have supported consumer spending in recent years, analysts worry about the economic impact if, as expected, the home price surge begins to slow this year.

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GUINNESS

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Friday, February 24, 2006

THE OBSERVER

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P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

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WEB ADMINISTRATOR: Damian Althoff

OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO

(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF

(574) 631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 obsmc@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4324

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.1@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports.1@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 scene.1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

smc.1@nd.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@nd.edu

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS

(574) 631-8839

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Mooney well on her way

Slightly more than two years ago, the Saint Mary's Board of Trustees announced Carol Mooney as the 11th president of the College, and as the trustees wrap up their meetings on campus today they have every reason to be proud of that decision.

With an English Literature degree from Saint Mary's, a law degree from Notre Dame and a distinguished administrative career, Mooney might have seemed like the shoo-in candidate for tradition-proud Saint Mary's, and perhaps she was. Nevertheless, Mooney walked into LeMans Hall carrying strong ideas for inspiring growth at the College and has since proved she has the leadership capabilities to see them through.

During a year with an unusually small first year class, Mooney told audiences attending her Jan. 17, 2005 inauguration weekend that increasing and stabilizing enrollment at Saint Mary's would be a top priority. Mooney created the position of Vice President for Enrollment Management and hired Dan Meyer to head recruiting efforts. While it is much too early to declare the campaign over, the Office of Admissions has at least proven progress with a 22 percent increase in applications received thus far this year, the most at Saint Mary's in 17 years.

Mooney also said she wanted to stabilize Saint Mary's finances by doubling the College's \$100,000 endowment fund and therefore rendering it less dependent on tuition. As promised, Mooney has traveled extensively to meet with friends and alumnae of the College and as of Monday the endowment stood at \$107.5 million. In addition, the president is close to securing the funds needed to break ground on a new academic building, scheduled for this fall.

One recurring and controversial topic of discussion at Saint Mary's since Mooney's arrival has been diversity, and Mooney has made it clear she is committed to diversify not only the College's student body but also its faculty and staff. Mooney implemented a policy requiring that a member of a traditionally underrepresented ethnic group be among the final pool of candidates for any position at Saint Mary's, and if this aim is not fulfilled then it must be explained in writing. Meyer has demonstrated he is on the same page as Mooney, attending a Student Diversity Board (SDB) forum and speaking frankly about the need for the institution to

attract and retain minority students.

Furthermore, the president is highly regarded by the student body. Her Saint Mary's diploma and her successful career earned her their respect, but her visibility at student performances and hall events earned her their affection.

Having defined herself as a driven leader, Mooney must now act on similar principles to further growth at the College.

While Saint Mary's rejoiced this past month when two of its vice presidents were hired to head other institutions, the announcement nevertheless meant serious holes in the Saint Mary's administration. Linda Timm, Vice President of Student Affairs and newly appointed President of Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wisc., has been at the College for 11 years and has built close work-

ing relationships with student government officers. Vice President and Dean of Faculty Pat White, who will take the helm at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind., brought millions of dollars in grants to the College. Mooney must hire replacements who will live up to the example set by Timm and White and who believe in the value of a liberal arts education.

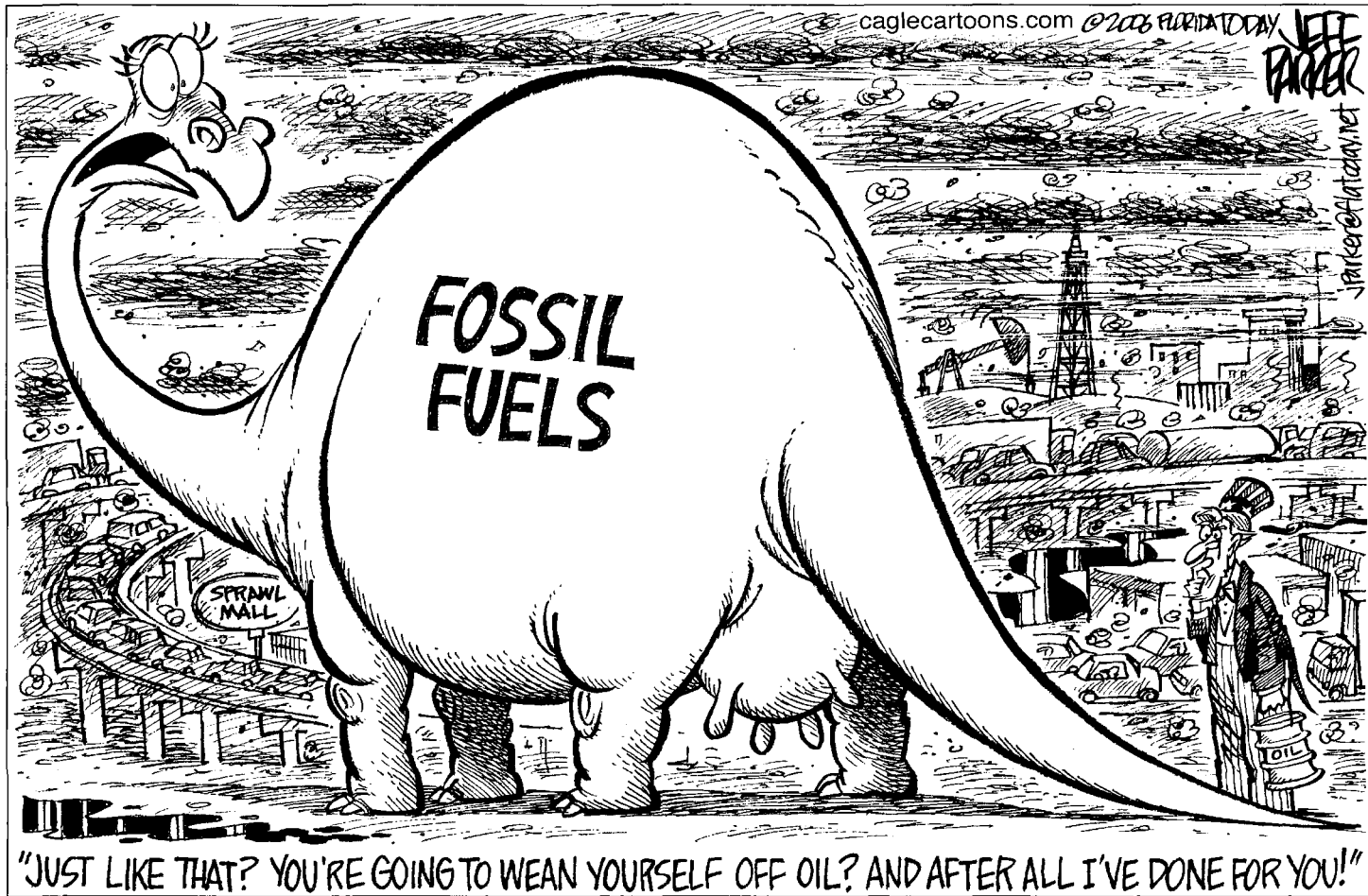
In her early months, Mooney stated she would like to see the College break into the top 50 nationally-recognized liberal arts colleges. Mooney should strive to elevate the academic standards and reputation of Saint Mary's as a liberal arts institution while respecting its burgeoning nursing and education programs.

Another aspect of the school that deserves the president's attention is athletics. On Tuesday Saint Mary's hosted its first-ever MIAA tournament basketball game. Belles basketball, soccer and cross country had their best seasons in the history of the programs this year. If the athletic department can produce results on a tight budget with minimal facilities, imagine what it could do with generous financial and administrative support.

The progress Mooney has initiated at Saint Mary's is a tangible testament to her abilities as a leader. Her performance during the last two years has earned her the admiration of her colleagues and the student body. It is now up to the president to feed that momentum and drive Saint Mary's into the future.

Editorial

EDITORIAL CARTOON

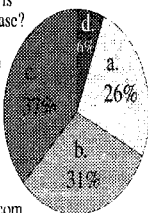


"JUST LIKE THAT? YOU'RE GOING TO WEAN YOURSELF OFF OIL? AND AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU!"

OBSERVER POLL

Do you think the College Readership Program is the right use for the student activities fee increase?

- a. No, the money should go to campus clubs instead
- b. Yes, because that's why the student activities fee was passed
- c. Yes, because I think the program is good for Notre Dame
- d. No, the money should go to some other purpose



*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 36 responses.

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"All that we are is the result of what we have thought."

Siddhartha Gautama
philosopher and religious leader

This Lent, try looking at the chalice half-full

This time of year one often overhears people discussing what kinds of things they are giving up for Lent. Of course you have the little kids giving up something they dislike to begin with such as peas. Then you have the kind of people who give up chocolate. You will sometimes hear really ambitious people give up something like any kind of dessert or television or instant messenger. Once in a blue moon you may even hear a college student say that they will give up alcohol for 40 days (for you second semester seniors, I'll believe this when I see it). In my family we take a slightly different approach to the Lenten season.

Though many people would not guess this about me, I am far from optimistic. I think I have inherited this less-than-sunny outlook from my father. If the phone rings at home after 10 p.m., he immediately assumes the worst and

says "Who died?" or a personal favorite when things are grim, "Stop the world. I want to get off." The past few years around Lent, he and I have decided that rather than giving up something tangible we should give up our pessimistic attitudes. We try and look at the brighter side of things and become "glass is half-full" kind of people for at least 40 days.

Despite our valiant efforts and the encouragement we give one another on our quest for positive attitudes during this season, it is sometimes difficult to do so. It is at these times, when optimism does not seem to be enough, that my dad always says, "Just say a little prayer." No matter what time of year, this little saying is a constant comfort to me. The power of prayer is something that all of us can turn to no matter how insignificant or grave a worry of ours may be.

It seems to me that many of us lose sight of why we chose to go to Holy Cross, Saint Mary's and Notre Dame to begin with. Sure there are the obvious reasons such as great academic reputations or legendary athletic teams to cheer on, but what about the fact that

these are great Catholic institutions? I don't doubt that many of us decided upon these schools because we wanted to be a part of an environment that embraces the morals and values of the Church. Nevertheless, we all get stressed from time to time about our grades, futures and relationships, be it with friends, family or significant others. Though it's normal to worry or complain to anyone who is willing to listen, why not say a little prayer? We are all lucky enough to be a part of community that embraces the Catholic tradition — a tradition that teaches us that there is always someone we can turn to.

It is not surprising that these four years can be overwhelming at times when one considers the fact that we are on our own for the first time and trying to plan for our futures by declaring majors, finding jobs or getting accepted into graduate schools. On top of this, many of us have to deal with greater tribulations such as the loss of loved ones or failed relationships. It is at these times that a prayer can be the greatest comfort of all. There comes a time when ambition and positive think-

ing only goes so far. When no matter how much we may want to help or succeed, there is nothing we can do. These are the times when one should turn to the power of prayer.

Of course this is not to say that one should stop studying and just pray to do well on a test. Nor should you pray that you get a convertible for your birthday. It is just that with our hectic lives it is easy to lose touch with what's important. In this season that is meant to be a time of reflection and repentance the role of prayer plays a very significant part. No matter what it is you are praying for, if you have a little faith then you can trust that everything will be okay. Take it from a pessimist, when things seem hopeless there is no greater comfort than knowing that you've got God on your side. After all, he is the Almighty.

Molly Acker is a senior communication studies and humanistic studies double major at Saint Mary's. She can be contacted at acke6758@nd.edu

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



Molly Acker

Nobody Likes a Dumb Blonde

Ignored, reviled

Long before University President Father Jenkins made his famous speeches about this event and "The Vagina Monologues," we participated in discussions with the University administration in which the

University asked us to change the name of the event, which had previously been called The Queer Film Festival. Their rationale was that "queer" was too inflammatory and "festival" too celebratory. (One of the organizers asked whether the administration would also be advising the organizers of upcoming "The Asian Film Festival" to change their name. This query was not appreciated.) We emphasized that the event was driven by student desire, and reflected a felt need among students, gay and straight, to have spaces to discuss and explore issues like homosexuality in a Catholic context. From the University's perspective, this was less important than the public nature of the event and the attention it would draw from alumni and critics outside the University.

Despite our misgivings about participating in the culture of the closet, we decided to run the event within the University's parameters. We felt it was important to have the event and to make it as successful as possible in the hopes that it, and other events like it, could find a place on campus in the future.

Unhappily, we negotiated the name change, checked all our publicity and advertising through the administration, and accommodated other restrictions. We even fired a poster designer whose design for the poster seemed to have an almost subliminal "Q" lurking in the image. Nonetheless, we felt it was important to engage in some form of protest or critique. We thought about ordering T-shirts that say "Queer? Not Here!" or "This is Not a Festival." Finally, we decided to write and distribute an "audience survey."

Our "survey" began with a series of questions aimed at the

University's assumption that only people who were themselves gay and lesbian would attend the event. This included multiple choice questions such as "Do you listen to Judy Garland: a) daily b) occasionally or c) never." Then we moved to slightly more pointed critiques such as "I did/did not (circle one) attend the Asian Film Festival because a) I was afraid I would 'go' Asian afterwards; b) I felt that the Buddhist viewpoint of the films would conflict with my faith; or c) I wanted to see quality films from a culture other than my own." The survey ended with a question about whether the festival should be held again and whether it should be called "The Rock Hudson Memorial Festival," "The Festival That Dare Not Speak Its Name," or "The Don't Ask, Don't Tell Festival."

The survey was intended to introduce some levity into the discussion, and to poke fun at some of the absurd and offensive assumptions we had encountered. To our surprise, people filled them out — earnestly. In the last week or so, we have received a few dozen. Most telling, though perhaps not surprising, are the answers to question five: "As a staff/faculty/student (circle one) member of the University, I feel that my sex/gender/identity (circle one) is a) welcomed; b) ignored; c) reviled." Not a single response we got answered "welcome." Regardless of whether they circled "sex," "gender" or "identity," all felt "ignored" or "reviled."

We asked ourselves, who are these people? Leaving aside racial and ethnic identities, since the tenor of our questions was geared more to issues of sex and gender, we considered the options. Gays and lesbians? Certainly, since their presence on campus is ignored, and since their student organization has been refused official club standing. Heterosexual women? Quite possibly, especially as the name of their body parts are deemed offensive, and they are caught in a culture of date rape and hook ups. What about straight men? Could they also feel ignored or reviled? To the degree that heterosexual male desire is

also caught between the twin social poles of parietals and hook-ups, maybe straight men might also feel that their sex/gender/identity does not fit exactly with the dominant ideal. Ultimately, we thought, unless you are straight, anti-gay or asexual, you might not feel completely at home in your sex/gender/identity here.

In Alexander Doty's lecture "Gay and Lesbian Film, Queer Theory and the Academy," which he presented during the "event," he put forth a definition of "queer" that captures the strong sense of marginalization and difference that we read in the surveys. For Doty, queer is distinct from gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered identities. Queer can function as a shorthand for those identities but is not limited to or simply a reflection of one's sexual identity. Instead, Doty argues, queer can be a flexible subject position for the expression of all sorts of non-, or anti-, or contra- straight cultural production and reception. And, he suggests, even straight people can have queer moments, like the straight male athlete who finds himself sympathetic to the plight of the lovers in "Brokeback Mountain," or the straight girl who discovers a sympathy for lesbians during a performance of "The Vagina Monologues." In this broad sense, perhaps all the students who feel ignored or reviled at Notre Dame are a little bit queer, and maybe we are, too.

And, in this spirit, maybe we need more "queer" festivals and events of all kinds that enable students to create spaces where they feel less marginalized and more welcome at Notre Dame.

Pamela Robertson Wojcik and Jill Godmilow are faculty members in the Department of Film, TV and Theatre and served as official and unofficial advisors to the student organizers of "Gay and Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Narratives, Spectatorships." They can be contacted at Pamela.Wojcik.5@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Supporting Readership

I am writing in support of the College Readership Program, which was discussed in Thursday's issue of The Observer ("Readership stirs controversy," Feb. 24). I am glad to see that the increase in the student activities fee will be used for something beneficial by providing major newspapers to our students free of charge.

The article mentioned that those who oversee the distribution of financial assets to various student organizations on campus were upset that their budgets were being cut. Mac Russell said that students should know that their money is being sent off-campus. This complaint is ridiculous for a number of reasons.

First of all, there are over 300 student-run organizations on campus. It is impossible for an individual student to participate in any more than a handful of them. Yet, money from the student activities fee is used to fund all of them. With the introduction of the College Readership Program, every student will be given the opportunity to read one of the newspapers provided. In fact, the money will now be used more fairly than it has in the past. Funds will not be sent off-campus. They will remain on-campus and be utilized in a better way than in the past.

Finally, however, it is critically important that student activities money actually be used to benefit students. The College Readership Program does this directly by making news readily available. The Club Coordination Council merely provides funds to a plethora of student run organizations, the majority of which no one cares about. Most of these organizations do not benefit more than a handful of students in any way. If these organizations are concerned about finances, they should raise money on their own to supplement the support they receive from the University.

However, for what it's worth, I feel that the activity fee all of us are required to pay should be used for something that can benefit all of us. I think the College Readership Program is the best way to accomplish this.

Joe Brutto
junior
Carroll Hall
Feb. 23

DPAC SPOTLIGHT

ArtsFest welcomes 'The Merchant of Venice'

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Assistant Scene Editor

Actors From the London Stage will perform William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" this weekend in the Decio Mainstage Theatre of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts (DPAC). The production will feature the acting talents of Christopher Staines, Louise Yates, Gregory Cox, Isabel Pollen and Tim Hardy.

Actors From the London Stage is now in its 30th year, making it one of the oldest established touring Shakespeare groups in the world. The group (which features a rotating cast of actors) tours semi-annually, with stops at over a dozen universities across the United States. In previous years, the troupe has performed "A Midsummer's Night Dream," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Othello" at Notre Dame. They have performed in the Decio Mainstage Theatre the past two years — a venue so well-suited to performance that the actors do not need to use microphones. Though their repertoire is primarily Shakespeare, they have performed works by other playwrights.

What makes the Actors From the London Stage particularly unique is the

way in which they perform. Utilizing a cast of only five, the troupe covers all of the parts, splitting roles and performing as multiple characters. This becomes particularly challenging in scenes in which a single actor must play two or more characters. The style and mannerisms that actors employ help differentiate between them, which also shows off their acting chops.

Additionally, props, set design and costuming are relatively sparse, allowing the acting and the words of Shakespeare to take center stage. These stylistic tendencies have been a staple of the Actors From the London Stage and have served them well over the past several years. Most of their performances have sold out and been extremely well-received by the Notre Dame community.

This semester's program, "The Merchant of Venice," is one of the Bard's more controversial plays. Described as "a tale of betrayal and revenge," though nominally one of Shakespeare's comedies, it follows three characters — Bassanio, Antonio and Shylock — as they plot and scheme over a loan of 3,000 ducats. The moneylender Shylock agrees to the loan on the condition that if the loan is not repaid in three months, he gets to exact a pound of flesh from



Photo courtesy of AFLTS

Actors From the London Stage, one of the oldest touring Shakespeare groups in the world, brings "The Merchant of Venice" to Notre Dame this weekend.

Notre Dame Spring ArtsFest

Actors From the London Stage presents
Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice

Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m.
DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts,
Decio Mainstage Theatre

Antonio.

Though not as famous as some of the playwright's other works, "The Merchant of Venice" is still one of Shakespeare's better comedies. As with most of the Bard's work, it still has its share of notable scenes, particularly a well-known monologue by Shylock defending his Judaism that asks, "If you prick us, do we not bleed?"

Yet what makes "The Merchant of Venice" problematic is in its presentation of Shylock, a Jewish moneylender. Shylock's wickedness is indicative of anti-Semitism, a particularly rampant problem in Shakespeare's contemporary Elizabethan England. As with films like director D. W. Griffith's "Birth of a

Nation," the technical aspects of "The Merchant of Venice" are impressive, though the content of the work itself is often deplorable.

"The Merchant of Venice" has undergone various incarnations, most recently a film version starring Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons and Joseph Fiennes.

The Actors From the London Stage's performance this weekend ties in with the annual Spring ArtsFest. If the troupe's previous performances are any indicator, their rendition of "The Merchant of Venice" should be an excellent addition to the festival.

Contact Brian Doxtader at
bdoxtade@nd.edu

DVD REVIEW

B-list superheroes make 'Avengers' nostalgic, flawed

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Critic

The storyline of "Ultimate Avengers: The Movie," is standard comic book fare — a plot revolving around Nazi-sympathizing extraterrestrials bent on global domination. In response, General Nick Fury, leader of S.H.I.E.L.D. — an acronymic military organization designed to save the world — decides to activate a team of superheroes to save the day.

It would appear that the good general's philosophy on choosing superhero leadership is akin to selecting Cap'n Crunch as a quality breakfast cereal — "you and the Cap'n make it happen!" But in this case, there can be no doubt that picking Captain America to lead any superhero squad is always a wise decision.

Fortunately, after serving his country valiantly in World War II, Captain America was conveniently frozen in time in a huge slab of underwater ice. After being rediscovered, the Captain is popped in the microwave and unfrozen from stasis, allowing him to save America and act as a symbol for a whole

new generation.

The Captain's patriotic get-up practically bleeds Americana. In fact, his red-white-and-blue wardrobe appears to have been fashioned by FOX News' graphics designer. Fortunately, Captain America has at least managed to shed the tufts of bald eagle feathers that adorned his temples in the comics. But he still looks ready for a cameo appearance during the opening montage of the Colbert Report.

The main problem with the Avengers is that the team is made up of B-list Marvel superheroes, which could explain the film being animated rather than shot as live-action, or perhaps more tellingly, its straight-to-DVD release.

The members of the Avengers range from failed live-action movie characters (the Incredible Hulk) to the criminally underappreciated (Iron Man), to the just plain bizarre (Thor). Believing himself to be the Norse god of thunder, Thor speaks softly but carries an absolutely massive hammer, conveniently allowing him to play whack-a-mole on bad guys with impunity. Watching Thor in action practically begs for a soundtrack by MC Hammer — evildoers simply "can 't touch this" when it's "hammer time."

The rest of the squad is rounded out by various flotsam and jetsam from the Marvel world, including Giant Man (exactly what it sounds like), the Wasp and the Black Widow. Unlike some of Stan Lee's more successful brainchildren, such as Spider-Man or the X-



Photo courtesy of marvel.com

Captain America, above, leads a team of Marvel superheroes, including the Hulk and Iron Man, in the new straight-to-DVD feature, "Ultimate Avengers: The Movie."

Men, the common thread here is that all of these superheroes are chronic under-achievers in terms of fan reaction.

The Marvel animation team has done a splendid job here, as the characters are all very well rendered. Overall, the film has a very polished aesthetic. Unfortunately, the film also features dialogue clunkier than Iron Man's tin suit and the general interaction between its characters is pained at best. Like Captain America battling aliens, the film does its best when it stays on the move. When it stops between action scenes to attempt an appeal to emotion, it falls flat on its face.

The plot of the movie is also chock-full of obscure references that only the most ardent of comic-book fans will appreciate, such as a cameo appearance by Bucky (Captain America's sidekick of

antiquity) and a reference to Giant Man's previous status as Ant-Man. In addition, the film's penchant for the bizarre — for example, when we are first introduced to Thor, he is moonlighting as an environmental activist trying to "save the whales" — renders the entire experience somewhat an exercise in one's ability to suspend disbelief, even for a superhero movie.

Despite its flaws, "Ultimate Avengers: The Movie" is still a fun, if mindless, watch. The film may not move anyone to don spandex and become a caped crusader, but it may be enough to make college students wax nostalgic about childhood Saturday mornings spent glued to their television screens.

Contact Tae Andrews at
tandrew1@nd.edu

Ultimate Avengers:
The Movie

Lions Gate



DPAC SPOTLIGHT

Allen's best charms with wit



Photo courtesy of triviana.com

Woody Allen and Diane Keaton each recieved an Oscar nomination for their portrayal of a couple with complicated issues in the 1977 film, "Annie Hall."

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Assistant Scene Editor

"Annie Hall" is probably writer-director Woody Allen's best film and — considering the overall quality of the prolific comedian's output — that says a lot.

As funny and insightful as anything committed to celluloid, the film explores the differences between sexes and the trials and tribulations of a relationship. "Annie Hall" was Allen's biggest critical success and one of his biggest commercial successes, catapulting the comedian to stardom.

Though he may have made subsequent films almost as good as "Annie Hall," he would never again make a film as archetypal and as reflective of its era. Like many great pictures, "Annie Hall" stands both firmly within its time and yet still manages to somehow transcend those same origins.

The small, low-budget film won a boatload of awards, including the New York Film Critics Circle Award and the 1977 Best Picture Academy Award, beating out another small, low-budget film called "Star Wars." It will be screened this weekend in the Browning Cinema of the Center for the Performing Arts (DPAC) as part of the Spring Arts Fest.

"Annie Hall" follows Alvy Singer (Allen), a comedian who becomes involved in a relationship with the folk singer Annie Hall (played a wonderfully effervescent Diane Keaton, who won an Oscar for her role in the film). It examines their relationship with all the uncertainty, anxiety and problems that come with it.

Along the way, both Singer and Hall work on their careers, with Hall finally getting a big break with manager Tony Lacey (singer-songwriter Paul Simon). Unable to put up with Alvy's neuroses, Annie eventually leaves him for Tony, which forces Tony to reexamine some aspects of his life — even as he pursues her to California.

The film is funny because it's so biting-ly insightful and true. Though Allen

basically plays himself (as he often does), his witty script and the surprisingly filmic direction — for which Allen also won the Oscar — keep the film as fresh today as it was three decades ago. The deterioration and ultimate demise of Singer and Hall's relationship is neither mawkish nor overly sentimental. Most of this is due to the absolutely brilliant script, which is as witty as the Marx Bros. and as clever as a Wilder comedy.

"Annie Hall" is filled with classic and enduring moments — in particular, a scene in which Hall and Singer stumble through their first meeting (which contrasts what the characters say with what they actually think) and a scene in which Annie's spirit leaves her body and talks to Alvy during sex. The film is filled with funny touches throughout its relatively brief 93 minutes.

In every way, "Annie Hall" is a superior film — its acting, directing and writing aspects are all impressive. Allen, himself a great cinephile, takes advantage of the medium, using subtle (and some not-so-subtle) cinematic tricks to weave his story. Voice-over narration, direct addresses and odd cuts keep the film from feeling too "stagy" and numerous cinematic references — particularly, a great scene involving a snobbish critic and the films of Federico Fellini — are scattered throughout.

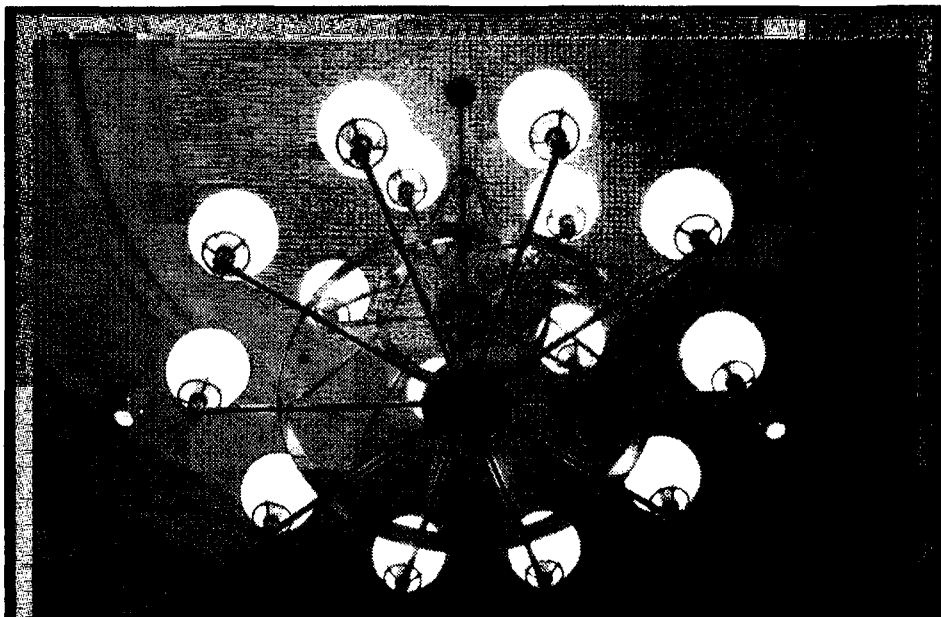
Allen, whose latest film "Match Point" opened last year to critical acclaim and a Best Original Screenplay nod, is still an active writer and director. "Annie Hall" was his first real masterpiece, though he would follow it up with several other classic films, including 1979's "Manhattan," 1986's "Hannah and Her Sisters" and 1989's "Crimes and Misdemeanors."

Yet "Annie Hall" remains Allen's finest film and will likely continue to hold that position. Its insights are bold and funny, but ring out with the kind of truth that makes it universal and enduring.

Contact Brian Doxtader at
bdoxtade@nd.edu

NOTRE DAME'S BEST... *Lights*

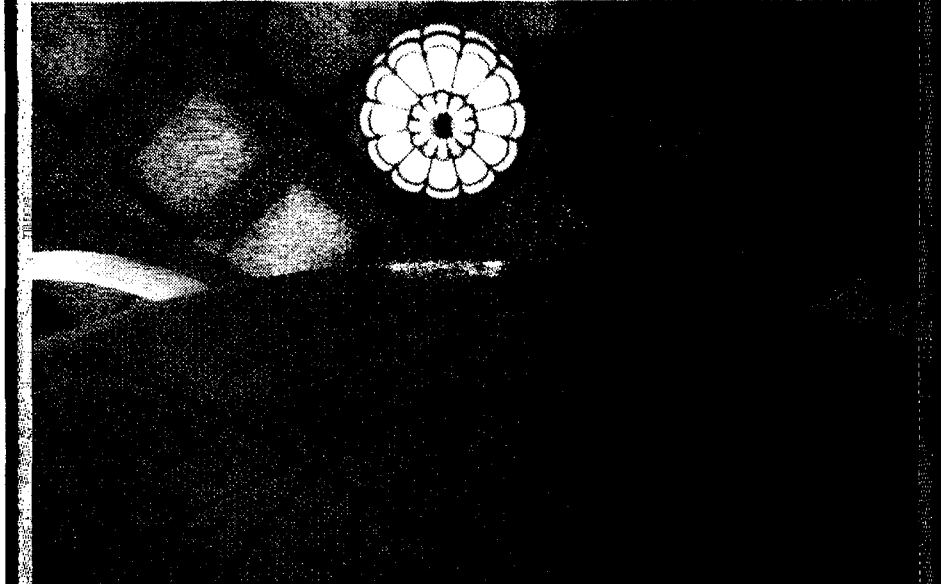
BY OBSERVER PHOTO STAFF



The architecture of Notre Hall, a chandelier hanging across the room.



Oh, the stories they'd tell: tens of thousands of 7 a.m. sessions; thousands of "Notre Dates." They will not, however, tell you about the millions of blazing sex magnets they've seen. Some things one should remain silent.



Hundreds of students study abroad every year, and for many it's a life-changing experience. Watching over them all is this iconic Huxley Hall, spreading its radiant beams over — well, half the globe, anyway.

For next week: What are the best sunrises and sunsets on campus? Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Villanova holds on to beat Cincinnati, 74-72

Hofstra defeats No. 25 George Mason to tie Duke for second longest home win streak in the nation at 19 games

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Pick. Pass. Layup. Villanova's winning basket came just that easy.

Nothing else did.

Randy Foye had 25 points and Dante Cunningham scored off an inbounds play with 3.2 seconds left, leading No. 2 Villanova to its 11th straight win Thursday night, 74-72 over Cincinnati.

The Wildcats (22-2, 12-1) wasted a 12-point lead down the stretch before pulling out a win that kept them in control of the Big East and gave them a taste of what comes next.

Playing with a No. 2 ranking for the first time in 10 years, Villanova also extended a few notable streaks. The Wildcats matched the best start in school history — they also did it in 1937-38 — and set a school record with their 11th straight win in the Big East.

"Teams play at another level against us, and we're learning to handle that," coach Jay Wright said.

They had to fight off the temptation to look past this one. The Wildcats go to Connecticut on Sunday for a rematch with the third-ranked Huskies, the team they beat on Feb. 13 to take control of the Big East.

Their rematch shapes up as a game to decide the regular-season title, and the Wildcats know what to expect.

"Cincinnati plays as hard as any team in the Big East, and this environment is as difficult as any in the Big East," Wright said. "We're going to see the same thing Sunday. It's like we set this up for perfect preparation."

On the other side, this one meant a lot to Cincinnati (18-10, 7-7), which went into a nosedive after forward Armein Kirkland tore a knee ligament on Jan. 9. Four wins in the last six games put the Bearcats back in the running for an NCAA tournament berth.

A victory over Villanova — the highest-ranked opponent to play in Cincinnati's 17-year-old arena — would have underscored their worthiness.

With a late 16-4 run led by power forward Eric Hicks, the Bearcats showed they had enough to keep up, not quite enough to pull it out.

"Either they're overrated or we're underrated, one of the two," Cincinnati point guard Devan Downey said.

Hicks, playing on two sprained ankles, made a pair of free throws and a putback that gave Cincinnati its first lead

since the opening minutes, 72-70. Foye's free throws tied it with 53.9 seconds left, and Downey was called for a charge on Shane Clark.

On an inbounds play under the basket, Cunningham broke free and made an uncontested layup from the right side for only his second basket of the game.

"That's a play we run all the time," said Foye, who added a career-high 14 rebounds. "We have plays for 7 seconds left and plays for 4 seconds left. We just ran the play, and they left Dante wide open."

He came off a pick and had no one guarding him.

"It was a simple screen and we handled it poorly," interim coach Andy Kennedy said. "All five guys mishandled it and, as a result, we gave up a layup."

Hicks' 3-pointer at the buzzer was too hard. He finished with 21 points. Allan Ray added 19 points for Villanova.

For most of the game, it didn't figure to be so close. At the outset, the Bearcats struggled under the pressure — some self-imposed, most of it from Villanova's energetic, four-guard lineup. Cincinnati made only three baskets in the first 12 minutes, going 3-for-17 from the field while Villanova pulled ahead by 11 points.

Foye and Ray had 13 apiece in the first half, which ended with Villanova up 40-34.

Cincinnati started taking advantage of Villanova's defense by hitting pull-up jumpers in the second half. Muhammad's floater cut it to 40-36 at the outset.

Ray's fall-away 3-pointer — his back hit the floor as the ball met the net — blunted the comeback and set up a back-and-forth pace that held until midway through the half.

Foye made a three-point play and a 17-foot jumper that helped Villanova pull ahead 66-54 midway through the half. Forward James White, Cincinnati's top scorer and defender, picked up his fourth foul on Foye's three-point play, leaving the Bearcats in deep trouble.

Down, but not yet out.

Hicks' three-point play sparked an 11-0 run that cut it to 68-67. Moore's 3-pointer from the right corner made it a one-point game with 4:07 left.

Both teams lost key players to fouls — Cincinnati's White and 6-foot-8 forward Will Sheridan, the only big man in Villanova's lineup. With Sheridan gone, Hicks asserted himself and brought the Bearcats the rest of



Villanova guard Randy Foye drives past Cincinnati forward Devan Downey in the Wildcats 74-72 win Thursday. Forward Dante Cunningham hit a layup with 3.2 seconds left for the victory.

the way back.

With the Bearcats' makeshift lineup staying close in the second half, fans stood and cheered "Hire Andy!" during a second-half timeout. Kennedy has held the Bearcats together throughout a chaotic season that started with Bob Huggins' ouster in August.

Hofstra 77, George Mason 66

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Loren Stokes scored 26 points and Hofstra extended its home winning streak to 19 games with a victory over George Mason (No. 25 ESPN/USA Today; unranked AP) on Thursday night.

The Pride (21-5, 13-4 Colonial Athletic Association) tied No. 1 Duke for the second-longest home streak in the nation behind only No. 5 Gonzaga, which has won 36 straight at home.

Hofstra's starters all scored in double figures and accounted for all the points for the Pride as they won for the ninth time in 10 games. The win clinched a first-round bye for Hofstra in the CAA tournament.

Jai Lewis had 23 points for the Patriots (21-6, 14-3), who had an eight-game winning streak snapped. George Mason has won 20 of its last 24, with all the losses coming on the

road. This one was by two more points than the other three combined.

Hofstra used an impressive first half to take a 41-33 lead. The Pride shot 54.8 percent (17-for-31) in the half and that was against the league's best field-goal percentage defense. The Patriots entered allowing opponents to shoot 37.8 percent, sixth-best in the country.

Even though their shooting cooled off, the Pride still led 59-51 with 10:38 left on a basket by Adrian Uter.

The Patriots went on a 7-2 run capped by a 3-pointer by Folarin Campbell with 7:36 left. It was the first of three times George Mason would get within three points.

The first two times, Stokes scored to restore the lead to five, and the third time it was a drive by Antoine Agudio that made it 67-62 with 3:02 left. That basket started Hofstra's game-closing 12-4 run that the Pride capped by going 6-for-8 from the free throw line over the final 1:06.

Aurimas Kieza had 17 points for Hofstra, while Uter and Agudio each had 12 and Carlos Rivera added 10.

Lamar Butler had 14 points for the Patriots, whose starters all average in double figures.

Only Lewis and Butler were above 10 on Thursday.

Washington 75, Stanford 57

SEATTLE — Forward Mike Jensen made six 3-pointers and scored a career-high 18 points, leading No. 17 Washington past Stanford on Thursday night to keep its hopes alive for a Pac-10 regular season title.

The Huskies (21-5, 10-5) remained one game back of California and UCLA in the Pac-10 and host the Golden Bears in their final home game on Sunday night.

Brandon Roy continued his outstanding play of late with 23 points, six rebounds and seven assists. The back-to-back conference player of the week scored at least 20 points for the eighth straight game.

Roy was efficient, making 7-of-13 shots and was 8-for-8 on free throws. Jamaal Williams added 10 points off the bench for Washington, which won its fifth straight.

The loss dealt a serious blow to Stanford's hopes of making a 12th straight appearance in the NCAA tournament. The Cardinal (13-11, 9-6) lost for the fourth time in their last five games and have beat just one ranked opponent this season — Washington on Jan. 29.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, February 24, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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NCAA Men's Basketball RPI Rankings

	team	record	previous
1	Duke	25-1	1
2	Villanova	21-2	2
3	Connecticut	23-2	4
4	Tennessee	19-4	3
5	Memphis	24-2	5
6	Pittsburgh	20-2	6
7	Ohio St.	19-4	8
8	Michigan St.	19-7	10
9	Gonzaga	23-3	12
10	Iowa	20-7	9
11	Texas	22-4	7
12	Illinois	22-4	13
13	Wisconsin	18-7	16
14	UCLA	20-6	11
15	Oklahoma	18-6	14
16	LSU	18-7	15
17	Arizona	16-10	20
18	North Carolina St.	21-5	22
19	North Carolina	17-6	23
20	George Mason	21-5	27
21	Marquette	18-8	35
22	Florida	22-4	18
23	UNI	22-6	17
24	Wichita State	21-7	21
25	Missouri St.	18-7	25

NCAA Women's Basketball RPI Rankings

	team	record	previous
1	Tennessee	24-3	1
2	North Carolina	25-1	5
3	Duke	24-1	4
4	Connecticut	24-3	2
5	LSU	23-2	3
6	Oklahoma	23-4	6
7	Maryland	24-3	7
8	Ohio St.	23-2	9
9	Rutgers	21-3	8
10	Baylor	19-5	12
11	Arizona St.	22-5	11
12	North Carolina St.	16-10	10
13	DePaul	22-5	15
14	Virginia Tech	18-7	16
15	Georgia	18-7	18
16	Brigham Young	20-3	13
17	Old Dominion	16-7	24
18	Michigan St.	20-8	20
19	Stanford	19-6	14
20	Kentucky	19-6	17
21	St. John's (N.Y.)	19-6	23
22	Boston College	19-8	19
23	Western Ky.	20-5	25
24	New Mexico	18-7	22
25	Utah	19-5	26

Women's NCAA Basketball Big East Conference

team	conf.	winning pct.	overall
Rutgers	14-0	1.000	22-3
Connecticut	13-1	.929	25-3
DePaul	9-5	.643	22-5
St. John's	9-5	.643	19-6
Pittsburgh	9-5	.643	18-7
Louisville	8-6	.571	17-8
Marquette	8-6	.571	17-8
Cincinnati	7-7	.500	17-8
USF	7-7	.500	17-10
Villanova	6-7	.462	15-9
NOTRE DAME	6-8	.429	15-10
West Virginia	4-10	.286	12-13
Seton Hall	3-10	.231	6-18
Georgetown	3-11	.214	10-15
Providence	3-11	.214	8-17
Syracuse	2-12	.143	9-16

around the dial

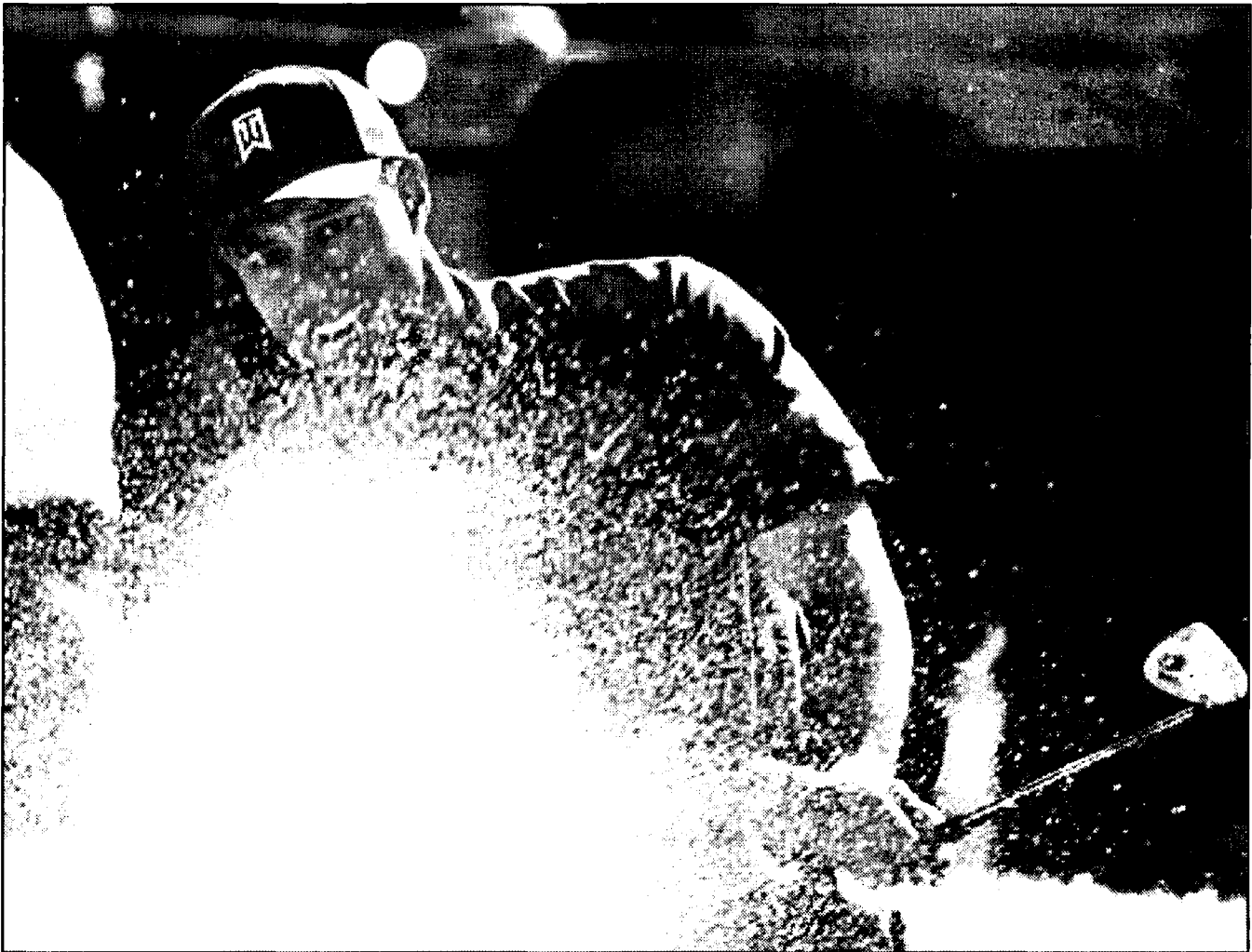
NBA

Nets at Knicks 8 p.m., ESPN
Lakers at Clippers 10:30 p.m., ESPN

PGA TOUR

WGC-Accenture
Match Play Championship, 2 p.m., ESPN
Chrysler Classic, 6 p.m., USA

PGA



Tiger Woods hits his bunker shot on the 18th hole to set up his match-winning birdie putt against Robert Allenby in the second round of the Accenture World Golf Championship Thursday.

Woods squeaks by with birdie on 18

Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Tiger Woods didn't remove his cap and shake hands on the 10th green Thursday.

This time, he was lucky to be leading.

One day after he shattered the tournament record for the shortest match, Woods had to go the distance against Robert Allenby, squeaking by with a 7-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to advance into the third round of the Match Play Championship.

"I'm advancing," Woods said. "That's a good thing."

Ultimately, that's all that matters in this most fickle golf tournament, which was reduced to 16 players after another wild day of dramatic shots and unlikely rallies.

Woods knew that his 9-and-8 victory in the opening round against Stephen Ames meant nothing when he teed off against Allenby. That much was clear to everyone else when he bogeyed three of the first five holes.

"That's the beauty of match play," Woods said. "Start again. What you did yesterday is no consequence for what you're going to do today. Whether

it was a good day or a bad day, your opponent is right in front of you."

Allenby, the first player to sweep Australia's three majors, stayed in front of him all day. All square coming to the last hole, it turned into a battle of 3-woods from 246 yards away. Woods went left, away from the flag, into a bunker. Allenby went right, short-siding himself and catching a bad lie in trampled rough.

"At least I made it interesting," he said.

Even more interesting is how the Accenture Match Play Championship was shaping up after two days,

with six of the top eight seeds still alive for the \$1.3 million payoff Sunday. It's the first time in the eight-year history of this tournament that so many top seeds advanced through two rounds.

Vijay Singh is among them, a minor surprise even as the No. 2 seed. He had never advanced beyond the second round in seven previous attempts, overcoming a slow start to beat Miguel Angel Jimenez.

Third-seeded Retief Goosen also won, but not before Ben Crane made a hole-in-one on the 16th hole to make him sweat.

IN BRIEF

Soriano not yet ready to play outfield for Nationals

VIERA, Fla. — Alfonso Soriano still isn't ready to commit to playing outfield for the Washington Nationals, so a resolution will have to wait until after the World Baseball Classic.

A two-hour meeting with team officials Thursday failed to produce a breakthrough, and the parties essentially agreed to put off the problem.

"We've been pretty clear about being unclear," general manager Jim Bowden said.

Soriano will be allowed to work out at second base with the Nationals for the first few days of spring training because that is the position he will play for the Dominican Republic. Soriano reports to the Dominican team March 3.

"Let's not get ahead of ourselves," Nationals manager Frank Robinson said. "Is he going to play left field? Who knows? Those decisions will be made before we leave Florida."

Canada laments debacle in Olympic hockey games

TURIN, Italy — All that talent. All that money.

All that nothingness.

Canada, the land that invented hockey but somehow can't seem to win at it regularly, sent what it thought was its best-ever Olympic men's team to Turin.

Oh, it made history for sure, but in entirely the wrong way. O Canada? No, in these games the bottom line was: Russia 2, Canada 0.

The Canadians' third shutout loss in four games assured them of a 13th gold-less Olympics in the last 14 Winter Games. The defending gold medalists began returning to their NHL teams Thursday with only a nasty scar on captain Joe Sakic's right cheek for show for nine mostly miserable days in Italy.

Almost no goals. No medals. And, at least for now, no immediate answers.

Autistic teen scores 20 points in high school game

GREECE, N.Y. — Jason McElwain had done everything he was asked to do for the Greece Athena High School basketball team — keep the stats, run the clock, hand out water bottles.

That all changed last week for the team manager in the final home game of the season. The 17-year-old senior, who is autistic and usually sits on the bench in a white shirt and black tie, put on a uniform and entered the game with his team way ahead.

McElwain proceeded to hit six 3-point shots, finished with 20 points and was carried off the court on his teammates' shoulders.

"I ended my career on the right note," he told The Associated Press by phone Thursday. "I was really hotter than a pistol!"

In recent days, McElwain's phone has hardly stopped ringing.

ND SOFTBALL

Team looks to rebound in the Sunshine State

After falling to 2-3 in Las Vegas, a rejuvenated Irish squad travels to Miami for games against FIU and Memphis

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

The Irish head to Florida today to begin play in another weekend match up. Notre Dame will face off against the University of Buffalo at 2 p.m. The team also has a game slat-

ed with Memphis and two against the host squad, Florida International.

After starting a disappointing 2-3, the Irish will attempt to rebound at the Adidas/Golden Panther Tournament with two games on both Friday and Saturday to determine their seed for

Sunday's elimination games.

"We now know exactly what we need to improve on in order to be in Oklahoma in June. We have a lot to improve but are by no means deflated," said senior pitcher Heather Booth about Notre Dame's goal of making the NCAA tournament in Tulsa, Okla.

Head coach Deanna Gumpf will once again be unable to join her team on the road. Gumpf gave birth to her second child on Wednesday morning. The coach hopes to be back with her team when they return home to play over spring break. Until then, the team will be under the direction of assistant coaches Kris Ganef and Lizzie Lemire this weekend.

The team's first opponent, Buffalo, has yet to play this season and will only have one morning game under its belt when it faces off against the Irish on Friday afternoon. The Irish hope they will be able to use the experience gained from last weekend's trip to Las

Vegas in order to pull their record even with a victory over the Bulls.

Later in the day, Notre Dame will play its first of at least two contests with the Golden Panthers of Florida International.

The Panthers (4-6) started off slow this season, losing five of their first six. However, they have bounced back, winning three in the Dunkin' Donuts Classic last week. The team has momentum on its side as its last win was a thrilling come-from-behind victory in extra innings against Long Island.

Notre Dame continues the weekend with an early Saturday game against the high-powered offense of Memphis. The Lady Tigers have earned a 3-1 record by outscoring their opponents by a total of 41-13 — including a

19-0 season-opening win against Grambling State Feb. 11.

The fourth team joining Notre Dame in Memphis will be Big East foe St. John's. Although there are no games currently scheduled between the two teams, it's possible the Irish will see their first conference action in bracket play on Sunday.

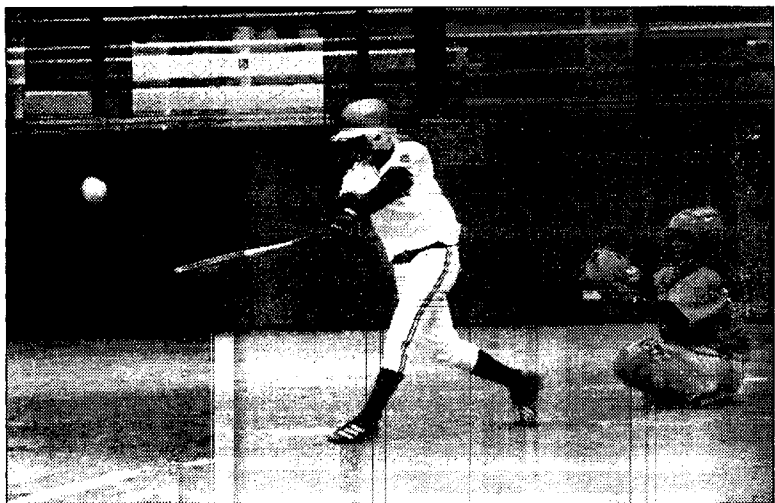
The team hopes to find the proper chemistry between

their experienced upperclassmen and talented freshmen such as pitcher Brittney Bargar and Linda Kohen, who leads the team with three home runs this season. For Notre Dame, the road to Oklahoma starts this weekend in Miami.

"We have a lot to improve but are by no means deflated."

Heather Booth
Irish pitcher

Contact Dan Murphy at
dmurphy6@nd.edu



BETH WERNET/The Observer

Middle infielder Katie Laing gets a base hit in an 8-0 win over St. John's on April 22, 2005.

FENCING

Irish to host Midwest Fencing Conference Championship

ND welcomes the nation's best teams to the JACC as the Irish attempt to win title for the first time since 2002

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will host the Midwest Fencing Conference Championship (MFCC) this Saturday and Sunday at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse, and the Irish will be looking to win the event for the first time in four years.

Sixteen teams will compete, including women's No. 6 Northwestern, Ohio State (men's No. 1, women's No. 10) and regional powerhouse Wayne State.

Notre Dame has not won the event since 2002, even though it has always been held at the Joyce Center.

"It's funny," Irish senior Jack Goetz said. "We used to win it every year, through most of the '90s and early 2000s, and 2003 was the first time we lost in like a decade."

The Irish won the national championship in 2003, so losing the MFCC that year was not exactly a death blow.

"I feel like we've been struggling to claim the title, but as far as an indicator as to whether we'll win the national championship ... it's hard to say," Goetz said.

The MFCC is more or less a tune-up for the midwest regional on March 4, though its name suggests otherwise.

"It's not really important as far as winning the national championship goes, but it is our last tournament before regionals," senior Craig Brede said.

Irish sophomore Rachel Cota is focused on reclaiming the crown, despite the MFCC being Notre Dame's immediate concern.

"I would say the women want the title of conference champi-

ons back and we want to make Ohio State nervous about NCAAs," Cota said.

The Ohio State men defeated Notre Dame at NYU earlier this year in the only contest between the two. The Buckeyes came to the Notre Dame Duals in late January, but did not compete against the Irish.

"To have Ohio State there and to beat them, would be very big for us, and to carry that momentum into Regionals would be good as well as to qualify as many people for the NCAAs," Bedre said.

The conference championship will also be the last home meet for the team's seniors.

"I know in terms of getting to NCAAs it doesn't mean much, but still I get the feeling that people really want to win this because it's kinda like a home tournament and ... we want to show people that we can beat Ohio State and it means a lot to me," Goetz said.

The Notre Dame men's main focus is Ohio State. But the Irish women will be focused on another midwestern opponent — Northwestern.

"At the Northwestern Duals in November, we swept them 9-0 and I think we can do that again," Cota said.

"We lost the last time we fenced them, and let's just say I would not want to be Northwestern this weekend."

Despite Ohio State and Northwestern's presence, the tournament will be missing three of the biggest names in fencing. Wayne State's Marek Petraszek and Anna Garina will skip the event, as well as Notre Dame sophomore Mariel Zagunis. Zagunis is fresh off a

World Cup victory in Dourdan, France last weekend and is competing in Budapest, Hungary.

Goetz and Bedre are hoping for a solid showing from the students in Notre Dame's last home match of the season.

"I think it does help to have some people come out and cheer... I know it means a lot for me to have my friends come out and cheer, so it does help a bit," Goetz said.

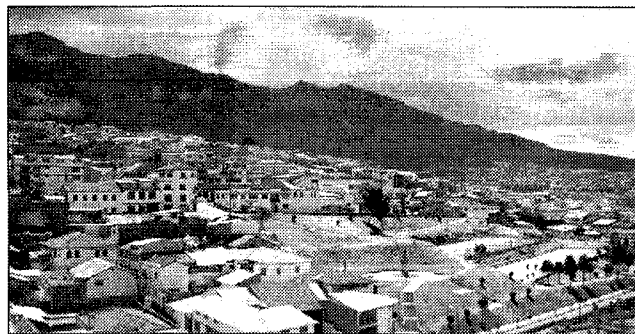
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MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish face test in first game

ND starts its season off in showdown with Penn State at Loftus

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

No. 10 Notre Dame opens the season this weekend by welcoming No. 11 Penn State to the Loftus Center Sunday at 1 pm.

In the first test of a 2006 loaded with high expectations, the Irish are antsy to get started after competing against each other in practice.

"You can look at it in everyone's eyes," Irish co-captain defenseman D.J. Driscoll said. "We're ready to beat up on someone else."

Though the game against the Nittany Lions offers new opposition, they are a familiar foe for the Irish. Notre Dame has opened up indoors against Penn State the last eight years, which Irish coach Kevin Corrigan says has been by design. Though South Bend and State College, Penn., offer frigid lacrosse weather in February, Corrigan says that both teams are the only in the country to have indoor fields with guaranteed availability this early in the season.

In that time span, Notre Dame has taken six of eight contests against Penn State, including a 14-6 victory in State College last season when the Irish finished 7-4 and narrowly missed an invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

As the Irish start their run to end a four-year tournament drought, Corrigan looks at the 2006 Penn State team apart from that of 2005.

"We certainly know some of their personnel, but there are a lot that we don't know," Corrigan said. "It's their first game, too, and there's a lot we'll have to learn about them ourselves."

Since a Feb. 11 doubleheader against Bucknell and defending national champion Duke, Driscoll said Corrigan has had the team concentrate on its own game — devoting time to hammer in fundamentals in practice and keeping



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish midfielder Lucius Polk moves the ball upfield in a 14-13 overtime win against Air Force on April 10, 2005.

last year's Penn State film to a minimum. He said Thursday was the team's first exposure to the coach's limited preseason scouting report on the Nittany Lions.

"There's no film on them for this year," said Driscoll, who led the team with six groundballs in last season's contest. "As long as [we] know our game plan, which coach has been drilling into our heads this past week and a half, we will be fine."

The most important off-season developments for Corrigan was the lack thereof.

"The good news is that it was a pretty uneventful preseason," he said. "There was no drama to speak of in the preseason and — knock on wood — there have been no injuries so far."

Though Corrigan said he was pleased with Notre Dame's ability to compete with No. 1

Duke in preseason scrimmages he knows the Nittany Lions also played well in a preseason scrimmage against No. 2 Johns Hopkins.

As a senior leader on the team, Driscoll has taken a more active role in making sure the Irish are prepared to open the season — especially against the No. 11 team in the country — and he is excited for Sunday.

"It's the first game and everyone's pumped," he said. "We're ready for this."

Co-captain Drew Peters shares Driscoll's confidence, thanks to the Irish game plan the past two weeks.

"We know we're going to play fundamentally sound," Peters said. "We know how we can play and that should take care of it."

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougher@nd.edu

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Talented squad gets ready for tough year

After training hard, Irish will compete on national stage

By CHRIS WILLIAMS
Sports Writer

"Risk everything, regret nothing."

That is the team motto for the Irish as they get ready to begin the 2006 season. Assistant coach Kateri Linville said No. 18 Notre Dame is optimistic for a breakout campaign.

"Based on our off-season training, our team is in very good shape," Linville said. "Our stellar matches against Pennsylvania, George Mason and Georgetown are indicators that our hard work is paying off."

Armed with a talented recruiting class and a core of experienced veterans, the Notre Dame women's lacrosse team is ready to erase bitter memories of last year's 3-12 campaign.

"Winning the national championship is definitely our ultimate goal, as is establishing ourselves as a perennial powerhouse in the Big East," Linville said.

Since last season, the Irish have upgraded their team in almost every aspect of the game.

Led by seniors Crysti Foote and Carol Dickson, Notre Dame hopes to erase the bitter memories of a season gone awry. It also needs to compete favorably with some of the nation's top women's lacrosse programs.

Foote is a major force in the midfield and is a huge leader for the attack position,

while Dickson's leadership and dexterity help her to anchor the team through her superior goalkeeping.

A core of standout returnees, including one All-American and three All-Big East award winners, along with the nation's best recruiting class, has women's lacrosse fans everywhere excited. The Irish's intense schedule includes eight teams that finished the 2005 season ranked No. 20 or better including national champion Northwestern, is a testament to Notre Dame's firm belief that it is an elite women's lacrosse program.

While the losses of defensive players, Jess Mikula and Lindsay Shaffer will certainly be felt, a spectacular recruiting

class, ranked No. 1 by "Inside Lacrosse Magazine," gives the Irish a much-needed boost in every facet of the game. Freshmen midfielder Alicia Billings, midfielder Jane Stoeckert, attack Mary Veith and blue-chip midfielder Jill Byers are expected to be important parts in the Irish's newly revamped offense. Erin Goodman gives Notre Dame depth at the goalie position.

"We're excited to get Notre Dame back on the map as a lacrosse powerhouse," Veith said. "We're just going to do our part to establish a foundation for a dynasty."

Irish head coach Tracy Coyne has made the most of the off-season, implementing rigorous practices and grueling conditioning sessions. Coyne's coaching experience of nine years at Notre Dame, along with her international prowess as a two-time Canadian women's lacrosse head coach, make her among the nation's elite NCAA women's lacrosse head coaches.

Contact Chris Williams at cwilli11@nd.edu

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MEN'S TENNIS

Buckeyes come to Eck for golden showdown

A win against No. 11 Ohio State at home this weekend would likely give Notre Dame a berth in the top 25

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

The Irish are hungry for a big win, and Ohio State's visit to the Eck Tennis Pavilion tonight presents a golden opportunity for an upset.

No. 26 Notre Dame will take on the Buckeyes, who are No. 11 in the ITA national team standings, this afternoon at 4 p.m. in their designated "Gold Game" and last home match until April.

"We need a big win and this certainly would qualify as one," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "This would really help us get over the hump and feel like we're heading in the right direction."

The Irish are on a five-match winning streak, including four wins over Big Ten opponents.

The team stands at 7-4 on the season, with losses to Virginia, Illinois, Duke and UNC.

"If you're going to try to play the best teams in the country, which we do, you have to make it work, so we had to play more matches early than I would have liked," Bayliss said. "But we certainly had our opportunities — we've had a chance to win every match we've played except one."

The Irish are coming off a 5-2 win at Michigan on Feb. 18, giving them six days off — one of their longest breaks of the season.

"It's long in the sense that we had probably been playing too much, but we had to play some of the teams we played at times that we could simply because of the different conference schedules," Bayliss

said.

Bayliss said the Buckeyes are traditionally one of the Big Ten's strongest teams.

"We have lost consecutive 4-3 matches to Ohio State at least the last two years," Bayliss said.

In 2004, the team lost without co-captain Luis Haddock playing at the Eck Tennis Pavilion, and lost again in Ohio in 2005. Both matches were decided in the final match on the courts.

"We played a great match and just came up a little bit short," Bayliss said of the 2005 matchup.

The recent ascension of Ohio State in the national rankings means that this is an important match for improving Notre Dame's national recognition. The team is 9-0 in its best start since the 1988-89 season.

"It's a great rivalry," Bayliss said. "I have the utmost regard for their coach, who does a terrific job with his players and they always play hard."

Ohio State is 3-0 against teams ranked in the Top 20. The Irish are 0-4.

The Buckeyes return five starters from last year's team, which finished the season in the Top 25. Scott Green and Ross Wilson are ranked No. 1 nationally in doubles.

"They're significantly better than they were a year ago," Bayliss said.

In fall tournament play, Sheeva Parbhu — No. 28 in the national singles rankings — beat Devin Mullings at the ITA Midwest Championships. Mullings had defeated Brett Helgeson earlier in the tournament.

Joining Parbhu in the most

recent singles rankings are Stephen Bass at No. 17 and Helgeson, who debuted at No. 60.

Notes:

♦ Bayliss said the team will be giving away a PlayStation 2 and a football autographed by Charlie Weis at their match at 4 p.m.

"I think the players will be fired up no matter what," Bayliss said. "It's a great rivalry, there's a lot of mutual respect and I don't think it would be hard to get up for Ohio State playing in Alaska. But to have it be the Gold Game with, hopefully, an enthusiastic crowd will make a big difference."

Contact Kate Gales at
kgales@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish seek revenge against BYU, Wisconsin this weekend

One year after then-No. 7 Notre Dame suffered two upset losses, the team will get a chance to redeem itself

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

Last season, No. 7 Notre Dame suffered losses to both BYU and Wisconsin. But the Irish are out for redemption this weekend as the No. 20 Cougars and No. 51 Badgers visit the Eck Tennis Pavilion with matches at 11 a.m. Saturday (BYU) and 11 a.m. Sunday (Wisconsin).

"Last season we were ranked higher and lost," senior Kelly Nelson said. "So now we are taking every match seriously [despite a team's ranking] and hoping it'll help us to keep on winning."

One advantage the Irish didn't have last season is the con-

fidence that goes along with being undefeated seven matches into the season.

"We have worked really hard," freshman Kelcy Tefft said. "But we are also don't want to get overconfident."

Six of the victories have come over top-30 teams, including then-No. 9 North Carolina and then-No. 9 Harvard.

"Not only have we beaten top 10-teams, but we have also played well every match," Tefft said.

Part of this success stems

from the Irish being the only program to have three nationally-ranked doubles teams.

No. 2 duo of sophomores Catrina and Christian Thompson lead the Irish. The former No. 1 pairing have defeated five teams in the current top 10, including No. 1 duo Alice Barnes and Anne Yelsey of Stanford last fall.

Following the Thompsons is the No. 29 team of sophomore Brook Buck and Tefft. The third doubles duo in

the top-50 is the No. 49 duo of seniors Kiki Stastny and captain Lauren Connelly.

"They both have great instincts around the net and compliment each other perfectly," Christian Thompson said.

In addition, to its talent in doubles, the team has also proven its strength in singles this season.

No. 27 Catrina Thompson leads the team with 16 wins, including last weekend's victory over Harvard's Eva Wang.

Following Thompson at No.

2 is Christian Thompson who is currently No. 32, a 12-position jump from last week's rankings. Thompson has defeated several ranked players this spring, including No. 56 Caitlin Collins from North Carolina.

Following Thompson in the singles lineup are Buck, Stastny, Tefft and freshman Katie Potts.

Despite the success the Irish have found this season, the team is aware of the challenges that lay ahead.

"I'm excited for what we have done, but I'm looking forward to how well we do for the rest of the season," Tefft said. "But we are excited to play teams like BYU because they always play well."

Kelcy Tefft
Irish freshman

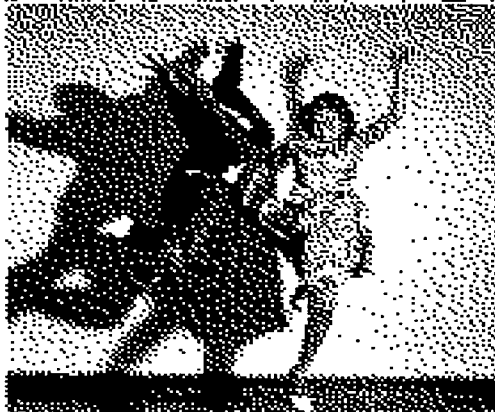
"I'm looking forward to how well we do for the rest of the season."

"We are taking every match seriously and hoping it'll help us to keep on winning."

Kelly Nelson
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Analysis

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ly. Seton Hall (7-6), Syracuse (7-6) and Cincinnati (7-7) could slide in a worst-case scenario, but their schedules are not daunting enough to encourage possible fallout.

So that leaves the Big East with six teams competing for its final three spots.

South Florida cannot qualify, being 0-13 with just three remaining games.

But Louisville, Providence, St. John's, Rutgers, Notre Dame and DePaul all have feasible chances of qualifying for the conference tournament at Madison Square Garden.

"I don't know if there's ever been a league where so much attention has been paid [to] the bottom seven [teams] the last week of the season," Irish coach Mike Brey said Monday.

There hasn't. Here's the attention:

In control ... sort of

Notre Dame needs wins, and that's up to them. It doesn't get much simpler. The Irish are in control of their own, hanging destiny.

They are No. 14 in the Big East heading into Saturday's home game against Marquette. The current seed would make them ineligible for the conference tournament if the regular season ended today.

But it doesn't, and if Notre Dame (4-9) can win at least two of its final three regular season games, it could be in good shape.

The magic number is seven. Most likely, any team that finishes with seven or more wins will make the tournament. The Irish play Marquette (home) Saturday, Providence (away) Wednesday and DePaul (home) on March 4. To reach the magic number, the Irish would have to win out.

But winning only two still could slide Notre Dame past competing teams with brutal remaining schedules.

Louisville and Providence sit ahead of Notre Dame at No. 10 and 11. Both teams are 5-8 in the conference with three games to go, and the Cardinals win a tiebreaker with the Friars because they beat them, 72-67, on Jan. 2. But each team has arguably its most difficult schedule stretch remaining.

Louisville must face West

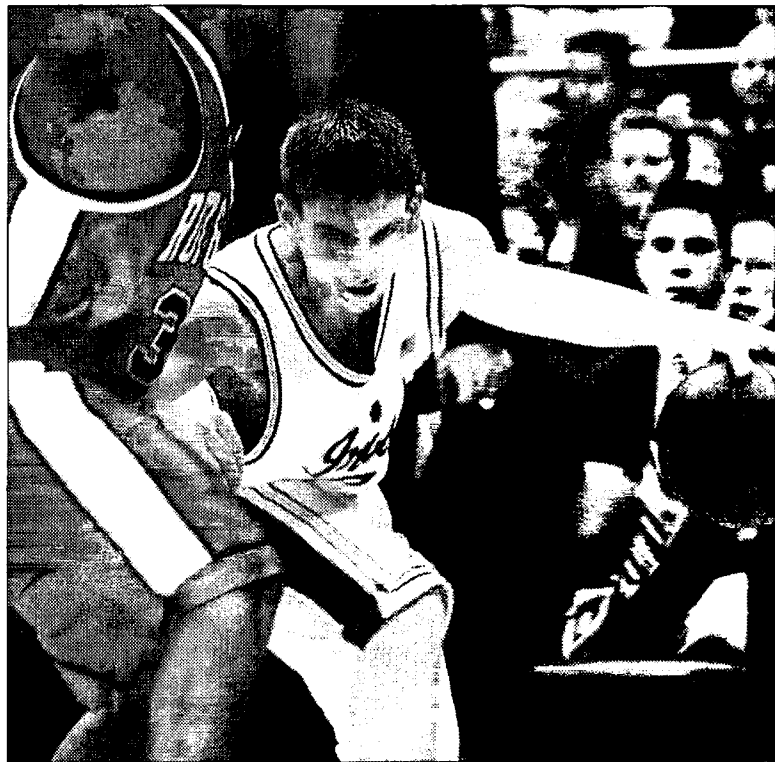
Virginia, Marquette and Connecticut to close its inaugural Big East season. Providence must go on the road at Pittsburgh and Marquette and sandwich a home game with Notre Dame.

And that's only the beginning. Though the Cardinals and Friars are ahead of Notre Dame and could win their big games to remain there, Rutgers has a comparable record (5-9) and a more promising future.

The Scarlet Knights (No. 13 Big East) face winless South Florida on Sunday and then finish their regular season against St. John's March 5. The Johnnies are one spot ahead of Rutgers by tiebreaker because of a 54-51 victory on Feb. 15, but the next meeting of these two teams could bump one in and eliminate the other.

Rutgers has the edge there, since St. John's also has a date with Villanova Wednesday.

And that leaves DePaul, which is 3-10 with remaining games against Seton Hall (Saturday), Syracuse (Thursday) and Notre Dame (March 4). With that schedule, the only way the Blue Demons could catch the Irish is by beating them head-to-head,



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Irish guard Chris Quinn handles the ball during Notre Dame's 90-63 win over Rutgers Feb. 8.

which they already did once, 73-67, on Jan. 7.

But DePaul is in trouble with fewer wins than Notre Dame and a tough schedule. Louisville is playing well but running smack into a brick wall of opponents at the worst possible time. And St. John's and Providence both have daunting tasks in their remaining games.

That leaves Rutgers and Notre Dame. The first has the easiest upcoming games of all seven teams and five wins. The second has four wins but less imposing games ahead.

So does that mean since

Notre Dame has won three of its last four, nearly defeated Connecticut and has a better remaining schedule, that the Irish will make the Big East tournament?

No, but it does mean they have complete control of their own destiny. Four and five wins won't get them in. Six could. Seven would.

"This is gonna get interesting," Brey said Monday of the furious race for 10 through 12. There's no doubt about it.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

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SENIOR NIGHT

Nanooks

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opening round home ice in the 12-team league.

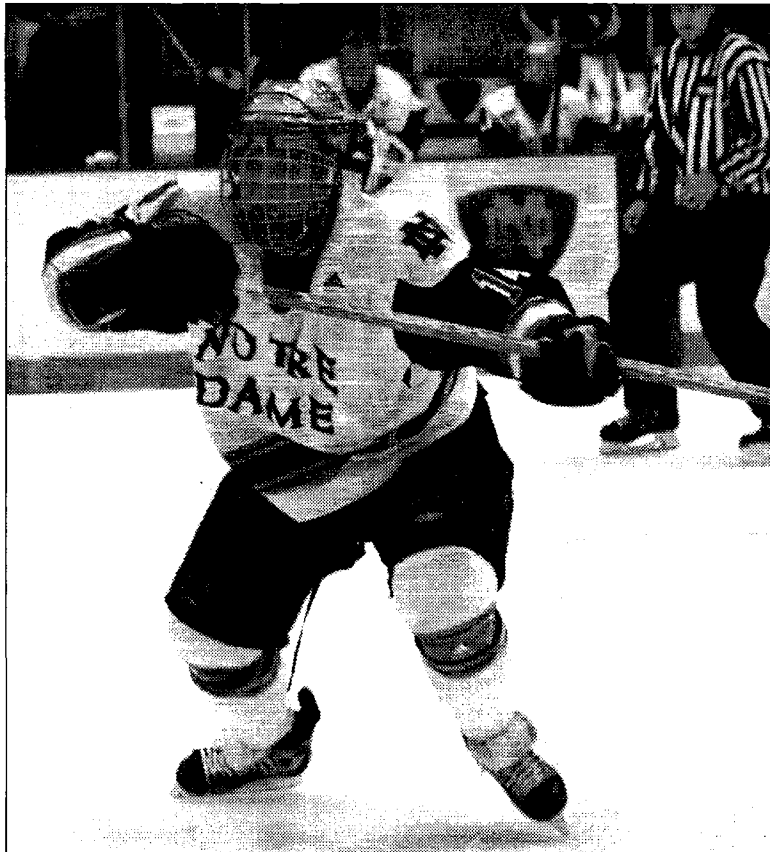
"I'm trying to make sure that everyone understands it's not just about tomorrow," Irish head coach Jeff Jackson said of the playoff picture's impact on his team. "It's about Saturday. It's about next week. If we are fortunate enough to be at home next week that's great, but we've been a really good road team in the second half."

Although the Irish control their own destiny regarding home ice, other action around the league will significantly impact the final standings.

In its best-case scenario, Notre Dame could finish the season in fifth place and have the top spot in the first round. For that to happen, the Irish must sweep the Nanooks, while Northern Michigan and Ohio State, currently sixth and seventh places, must split their weekend series with a tie apiece. Fifth-place Lake Superior State must lose its two games to second-place Michigan State. A Ferris State sweep of its weekend opponent, No. 3 Michigan, would propel the Bulldogs into a tie with the Irish, but Notre Dame would break the tie with a greater number of league wins.

"We are in control of our own destiny," Jackson said. "With the teams that are playing each other, not everybody can win this weekend. It's going to be an interesting Friday and Saturday night for sure."

In its worst-case scenario, Notre Dame could sink to 10th



Notre Dame forward Brock Sheahan skates up the ice in a 3-2 win over Ferris State Feb. 10. The Irish play Alaska-Fairbanks this weekend.

place by the end of the weekend. This would result from a combination of a sweep at the hands of the Nanooks and at least a tie from Ferris State in its two games against Michigan.

"Whatever happens, will happen," Jackson said. "We need to play well and to me that's the most important factor."

Alaska-Fairbanks is a tough opponent for an Irish team that has rediscovered its scoring touch in the last few weeks. The Nanooks are 4-1-2 in their last

seven games, with a win over No. 1 Miami and a sweep of Bowling Green.

Forwards Kyle Greentree and Curtis Fraser will provide trouble for the Irish on defense with their scoring touch and size.

"They're a tough team to play against and it's going to be a challenge for us to score goal," Jackson said. "It's going to be a battle of the wills, and it's going to be a battle of patience."

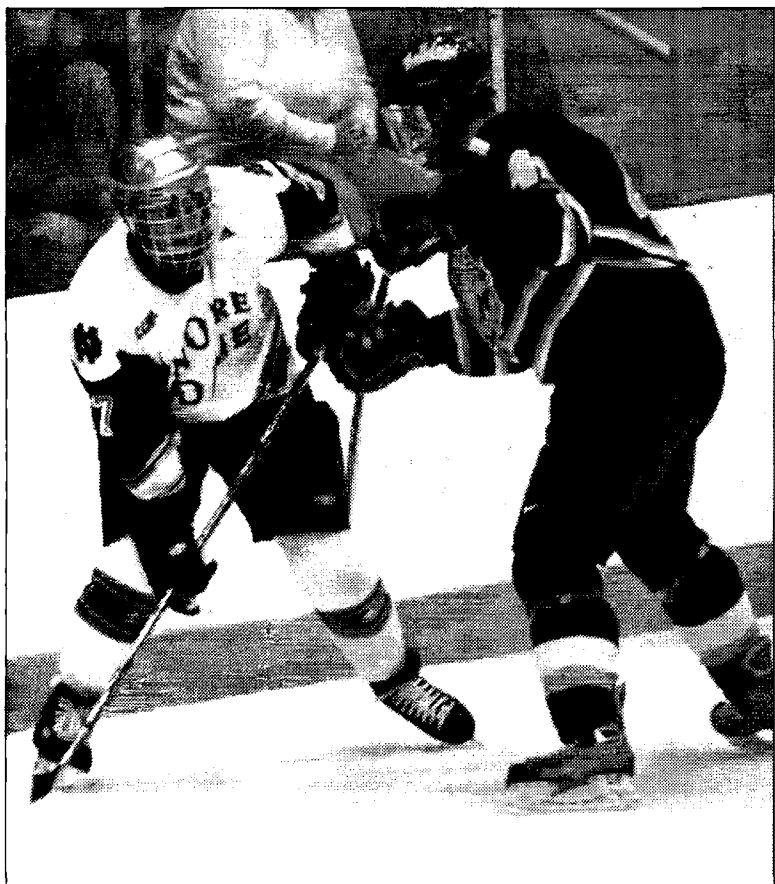
The Irish will honor their seniors and their parents in a pre-game ceremony before Saturday night's 7:05 p.m. game at the Joyce Center. The class has compiled a 54-64-20 record in their three-plus seasons wearing a Notre Dame sweater.

"They're all great kids and I would like to see them go out on a positive note," Jackson said. "I'd like to see them have the opportunity to feel good about themselves when they leave here. Regardless of how things pan out over the next couple of weeks, three weeks, four weeks whatever, I just want it to be a positive finish to their careers."

Notes:

♦ The Hobey Baker award, given to college hockey's most valuable player by a combination of fan votes and the Hobey Baker selection committee, is currently in the preliminary process of accepting fan votes. One hundred ninety-three players from around Division I were selected to the preliminary fan ballot on Jan. 16. No Irish players were nominated for selection. In order for a player to reach this ballot the player must receive 25 fan nominations on www.hobeybaker.com.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu



Irish forward Michael Bartlett fights for the puck against Ferris State Feb. 10. Notre Dame finishes the regular season this weekend.

Bearcats

continued from page 24

elevate its game.

"I think we've got to go into every game and be aggressive because everybody's fighting at this point," she said.

The Irish will be led by senior All-American Megan Duffy, who currently averages team highs in points and assists with 15.6 and 4.2, respectively. Against Pittsburgh on Wednesday, Duffy shot 5-9 from 3-point range on her way to scoring 22 points.

Surging freshman guard Shelly Bellman, who was co-Big East player of the week last week, will help lead the Bearcat offense on Wednesday.

"We're going to look at a couple of different things again at practice [Friday] and see what looks best [to shut her down]," McGraw said.

Heading into Saturday's game, Duffy and the Irish certainly don't feel any less

pressure heading into the next-to-last regular season game.

"Well, I think we've felt like we have to finish strong. We want to win all our games, so I don't think there's any less pressure," McGraw said. "But I think there's definitely a feeling of confidence, knowing we played really well in the second half [against West Virginia]."

The Irish, like every team in the conference, are hoping a strong finish will improve their chances for postseason opportunities.

"I think everybody's gonna look at the postseason now,

the league's gonna get a lot of teams into the tournament plus the NIT," McGraw said. "There's a lot of postseason hopes for everybody, so everybody's really gotta elevate their game."

body's really gotta elevate their game."

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

"I think we've felt like we have to finish strong. We want to win all our games, so I don't think there's any less pressure."

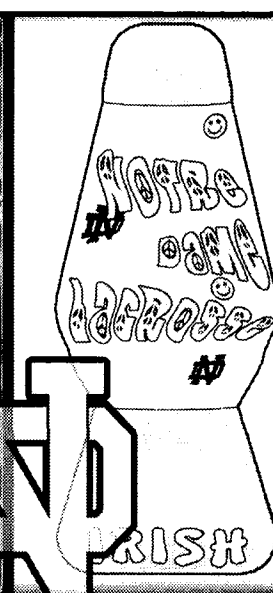
Muffet McGraw
Irish head coach

"There's definitely a feeling of confidence, knowing we played really well in the second half [against West Virginia]."

Muffet McGraw
Irish head coach

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Baseball

continued from page 24

said, "You've got your senior pitcher, the leader of your staff, and then he goes out there and pitches a dominating game like he did."

Bransfield's home run came one batter after designated hitter Steve Andres led off with a double in the second inning. After the home run, senior center-fielder Alex Netty doubled and senior Cody Rizzo slapped an RBI single into right field to extend the lead to 3-0.

"It's always fun to win the opening game of the year," Mainieri said. "You always preach to your kids that if they do certain things during your preparation they will end up being successful, and when they actually go out there and do them it gives you a lot of credibility with your own players and they get to see

the success."

Notre Dame had a chance to extend its lead in the sixth inning after catcher Sean Gaston walked to lead off and was moved to third on Andres' one-out single, but the Irish were unable to push any runs across.

Indiana State never seriously threatened. In his first inning of action, Weiland allowed a leadoff single, but the eighth frame ended with a double play and a strikeout.

"[Weiland] came in and did a tremendous job," Mainieri said. "He showed why I have so much confidence in him — he was really outstanding."

Mainieri also praised the defensive play of Greg Lopez at shortstop and Rizzo in right field.

Today's game will feature two-sport standout Jeff Samardzija on the mound as the Irish take on Air Force at 10 a.m. in the first game of the Service Academies

Classic. The start is the first for Samardzija since his All-American season as a wide receiver on the Irish football team.

"I enjoy watching him play football, but I enjoy watching him pitch even more," Mainieri said of the righthander. "If he could do half for us what he did for the football team this year, I'll be happy."

Game two will feature sophomore lefty Wade Korpi, who will face Memphis at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Game three is set for noon Sunday and junior righthander Jeff Manship is slated to start for Notre Dame as it faces Oklahoma.

For Manship, the 2006 season marks the first season he will play at full strength after undergoing "Tommy John" elbow surgery in 2004 and throwing just 22 innings last season. Manship is the highest-rated pitching prospect to ever sign with the Irish, and Mainieri is looking forward to the junior's first start.

"Jeff Manship has the capability to be a No. 1 starter," Mainieri said. "For me to say that after watching the way Tom Thornton pitched today



Photo Courtesy ND Sports Information
Irish leftfielder Matt Bransfield flies out to left field in Notre Dame's 3-0 win Thursday over Indiana State in Millington, Tenn.

and knowing what Jeff Samardzija can do is saying a lot. We're all hoping we can see Manship pitch the way we thought he'd be able to pitch when we recruited him a couple years ago. He's ready and

able and hopefully he's going to go out and pitch a great game."

Notes:

♦ Gaston batted second, Cooper third, Andres fourth and Lopez fifth, a new look for the Irish. Andres and Cooper were expected to bat third and fourth respectively.

♦ Thornton's victory was his 21st career win at Notre Dame, tying him for 12th all time with former teammate Chris Niesel.

♦ Notre Dame sophomore Tony Langford will miss this season after undergoing "Tommy John" elbow surgery on Feb. 22. Langford had figured to be in the mix as a righthanded reliever as well as in the mix as a designated hitter.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

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Marquette

continued from page 24

great win, because Marquette is a top-30 RPI team, too," head coach Mike Brey said. "And a Marquette win, as they go ahead and win [more this season], that could come back to being a tiebreaker."

At 4-9, the Irish remain one win behind Louisville (5-8), Providence (5-8), St. John's (5-9) and Rutgers (5-9). And Notre Dame knows in order to reach the Big East tourna-

ment, it has to play each remaining game with the intensity of a postseason contest.

"We've talked about [how] it's a huge week for us, and really in a lot of ways, our tournament starts Saturday with Marquette," Brey said.

Marquette (18-8, 8-5 in the Big East) offers a unique challenge for Notre Dame because it plays a very similar style of basketball to the Irish. Both teams like to shoot 3s and both are among the leaders in the conference in points scored.

Marquette and Notre Dame

are tied for first in the conference in 3-point shooting, each shooting 40-percent from 3-point range. The Golden Eagles enter Saturday averaging 75.1 points per game (fourth in the league). The Irish rank second with 76.9 points per game.

"They're shooting the 3-point shot as good or better than us," Brey said. "They use it like we use it."

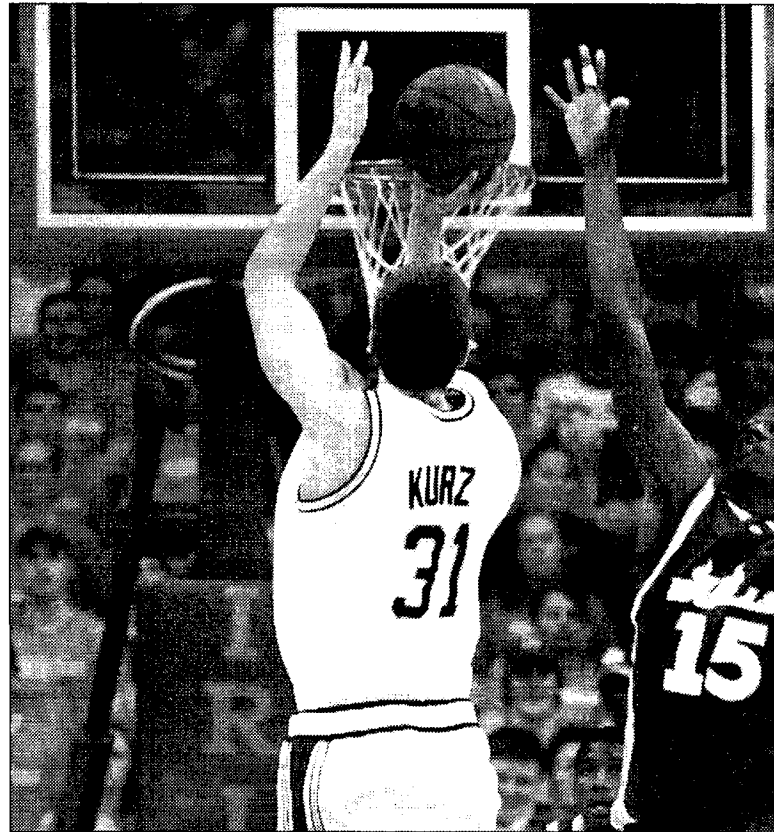
Both teams have also struggled defensively this season and are among the Big East's worst in points allowed. Notre Dame gives up 70.1 points per game (14th in the league out of 16 teams) and Marquette allows 68.5 points per game (12th in the league).

But what separates the two teams is simple. Notre Dame is struggling to earn a post season berth with four league wins while Marquette is sixth in the conference with an 8-5 record. The Golden Eagles also have a very good chance at making the NCAA tournament if they remain in the top part of the conference.

Novak is a major reason why. The 6-foot-11 senior is a candidate for Big East player of the year and is averaging 17.1 points per game (sixth in the league) on 47.1 percent shooting from the field. What's more impressive is Novak's free throw percentage. The forward has missed only one free throw all season (66-of-67).

His 45-percent shooting from 3-point range trails only Irish guard Chris Quinn for the best in the league.

"Novak gives them certainly an amazing weapon as a second big guy who's out on the



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish forward Rob Kurz takes a shot in Notre Dame's 62-55 win over South Florida Feb. 15.



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish guard Russell Carter puts in a layup in a 62-55 win over South Florida Feb. 15.

floor all the time," Brey said. "So it's a tough matchup."

Novak is not the only Marquette player who concerns Brey. Freshman point guard Dominic James is one of the most talented first-year players in the league, averaging 15.5 points per game and 5.4 assists per game. James' assist average is third in the conference behind Quinn and Syracuse guard Gerry McNamara.

"He is a tough kid physically and mentally," Brey said. "It's certainly shown in how he's

played this year — he's had a great year."

Notre Dame did a good job shutting down Connecticut's perimeter offense during its huge second half run Tuesday. Brey said for Notre Dame to win it has to continue its strong perimeter defense against a team that likes to shoot 3-pointers.

Notre Dame and Marquette tip off at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Joyce Center.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu

friday

2/24

10pm

elevation

the U2 tribute

the ultimate
U2
Tribute
Band

LEGENDS
OF NOTRE DAME

No Cover ND/SMC/HCC ID Req'd | legends.nd.edu

ALSO THIS WEEKEND...

**Friday
Midnight:**
Reggaeton
Nightclub

**Saturday
10pm:**
Bajawalla
in
Concert

**Saturday
Midnight**
MARDI
GRAS
PARTY

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Golden opportunity










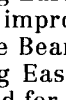






Irish return to Joyce Center to take on Marquette Saturday

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

All that separated Notre Dame from a road win in Marquette on Jan. 20 was a Steve Novak corner jump shot with less than two seconds remaining. But when the Irish host the Golden Eagles this Saturday, they will have more on their minds than getting even.

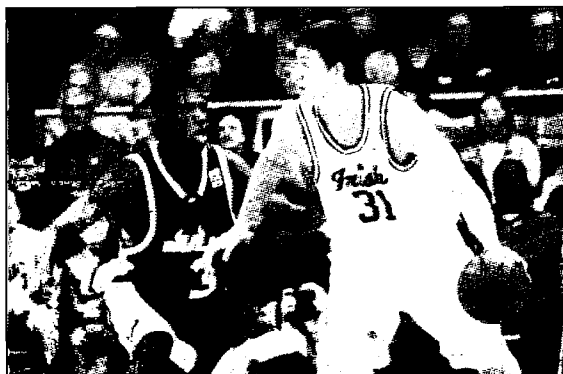
Notre Dame (13-10, and 4-9 in the Big East) has three games left to secure a spot in the conference tournament and it can't afford to lose any games given the current logjam at the bottom of the league standings.

"Marquette would just be a
see MARQUETTE/page 22

BIG EAST CONFERENCE				
	Villanova	12	1	.923
	Connecticut	11	2	.846
	Pittsburgh	9	4	.692
	West Virginia	9	4	.692
	Georgetown	9	5	.643
	Marquette	8	5	.615
	Seton Hall	7	6	.538
	Syracuse	7	6	.538
	Cincinnati	7	7	.500
	Louisville	5	8	.385
	Providence	5	8	.385
	Rutgers	5	9	.357
	St. John's	5	9	.357
	Notre Dame	4	9	.308
	DePaul	3	10	.231
	USF	0	13	.000

MATT HUDSON/Observer Graphic

Above right, Irish forward Rob Kurz dribbles in a 62-55 win over South Florida Feb. 15. Below right, guard Chris Quinn drives in 90-63 win over Rutgers Feb. 8.



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Notre Dame controls destiny; three wins should be enough

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

When Big East Commissioner Mike Traghese expanded the league from 12 to 16 teams prior to this season, he envisioned parity down the stretch within the nation's largest conference.

But he couldn't have seen this coming.

The Big East tournament begins in fewer than two weeks on March 8. Twelve teams will make the tournament, and right now, nine are all but in.

Villanova (12-1), Connecticut (11-2), Pittsburgh (9-4), West Virginia (9-4), Georgetown (9-5) and Marquette (8-5) are guaranteed births, respective-

see ANALYSIS/page 19

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Game with Cincy has tourney implications

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's game against Cincinnati Saturday will be all about Big East Tournament seeding.

Almost.

The Irish (15-10, 6-8 in the

Big East) who are currently in 11th place in the conference and have virtually locked up their spot in the Big East Tournament, will try to improve their seed against the Bearcats (17-8, 7-7 in the Big East), who are currently tied for 8th place.

"Cincinnati's fighting to get

a better position and so are we," Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw said.

The Irish, however, could still potentially face the unlikely scenario of missing out on the postseason, as a two-game Notre Dame losing streak and two and three-game win streaks by West

Virginia and Seton Hall, respectively, would throw the three teams into a three-way tie for two postseason slots.

That being said, Notre Dame could end all speculation with a win, and McGraw anticipates that her team will

see BEARCATS/page 20

BASEBALL

ND beats Indiana St. in opener

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame seniors Tom Thornton and Matt Bransfield started their final season with a bang on Thursday afternoon.

Thornton tossed seven shutout innings and Bransfield slugged a two-run home run to lead No. 22 Notre Dame to a 3-0 win over Indiana State in Millington, Tenn., at USA Baseball Stadium, a precursor to the Service Academies Classic beginning today.

"Most of the seniors stepped up today in a big way," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said in an interview with The Observer Thursday. "We're going to need our senior class to lead the way and they certainly did today."

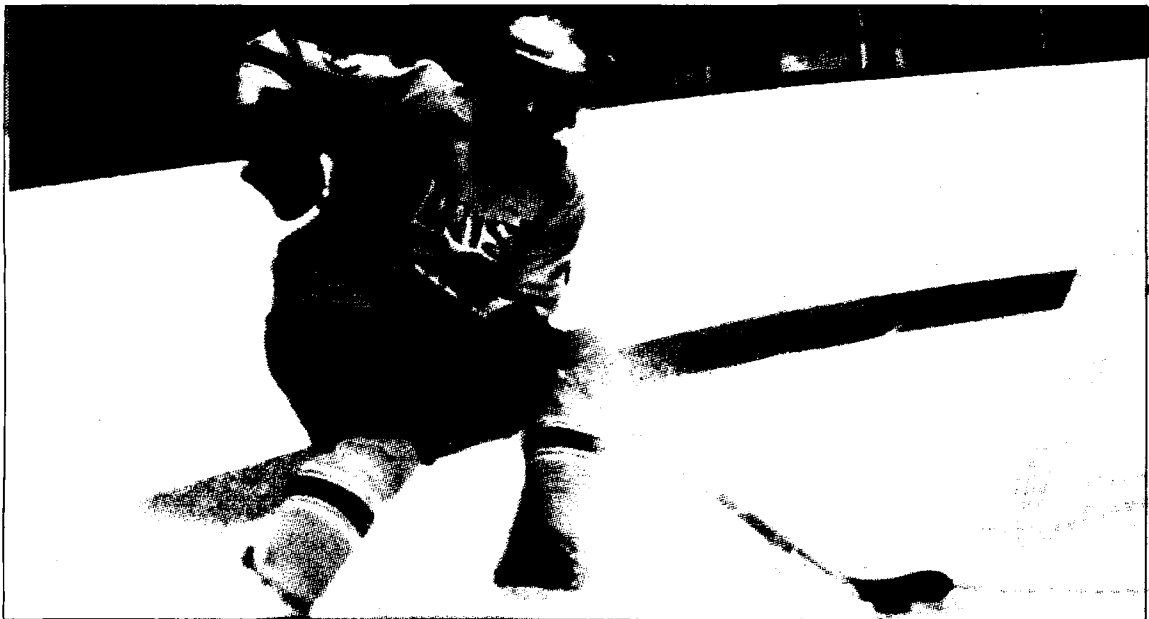
The 6-foot-6 lefty scattered seven hits in seven innings and freshman righthander Kyle Weiland picked up the save for the Irish.

"The key to the game for us was Tom Thornton," Mainieri

see BASEBALL/page 21

HOCKEY

Irish end regular season against UAF



JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Irish defenseman Wes O'Neill stops the puck in an 8-5 loss to Michigan Nov. 4. Notre Dame faces Alaska-Fairbanks Friday and Saturday at the Joyce Center.

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

It's a showdown for playoff position in the CCHA's last regular season weekend and no team is thicker in the hunt than the Irish.

Notre Dame (12-16-4, 10-12-4 in the CCHA) is set to battle Alaska-Fairbanks (14-13-5, 10-12-4 in the CCHA) for the last home playoff spot this weekend in a two-game series at the Joyce Center.

The Irish and the Nanooks, along with Ferris State, are currently deadlocked for eighth-place in the CCHA at 24 points apiece. In the CCHA playoff system, the first four teams gain a bye past the first round, while places five through eight secure

see NANOOKS/page 20

SPORTS
AT A GLANCE

MEN'S TENNIS

The No. 26 Irish will host No. 11 Ohio State at Eck Pavillion Saturday at 4 p.m.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Irish will play BYU Saturday at 11 a.m. and Wisconsin Sunday at 11 a.m. at Eck Pavillion.

page 18

MEN'S LACROSSE

The Irish will host Penn State at Loftus Saturday to open the season.

page 17

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

After a disastrous 3-12 season in 2005, Notre Dame looks to return to national prominence in 2006.

page 17

FENCING

Notre Dame welcomes 16 teams to the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships Saturday and Sunday.

page 16

ND SOFTBALL

The Irish will travel to Miami for the Golden Panther Tournament this weekend.

page 16