



Free as a bird
Britain ruled that former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet was unfit to stand trial for human rights abuses.
 News ♦ page 7

'Waterboy' gets wave of complaints
The Notre Dame community responds to a student's actions during Wednesday's basketball game against Syracuse.
 Viewpoint ♦ page 10-11

Friday
MARCH 3,
2000

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOL XXXIII NO. 96

HTTP://OBSERVER.ND.EDU

Gernerd to lead class of 2001, Moscona wins 2003 race

By JASON McFARLEY
 News Writer

Although the 2001 and 2003 tickets of Rachel Gernerd and Brian Moscona both earned wins with 57 percent of the vote in Thursday's class council run-off elections, voter turnout from each class varied significantly.

In the 2001 election, Gernerd defeated the Elliot Nelson ticket 57.5 to 41.2 percent. Gernerd will serve as president for the 2000-01 term, while running mates vice president Jen Caswell, secretary Judson Penton and treasurer B.J. Kloska complete the elected council.

Earning 57.2 percent of the class of 2003 vote, Moscona emerged the victor over the Trip Foley ticket, which garnered 42.0 percent of the

vote. Completing the Moscona ticket are vice president Libby Bishop, secretary Alison Troy and treasurer Nick Mastronardi.

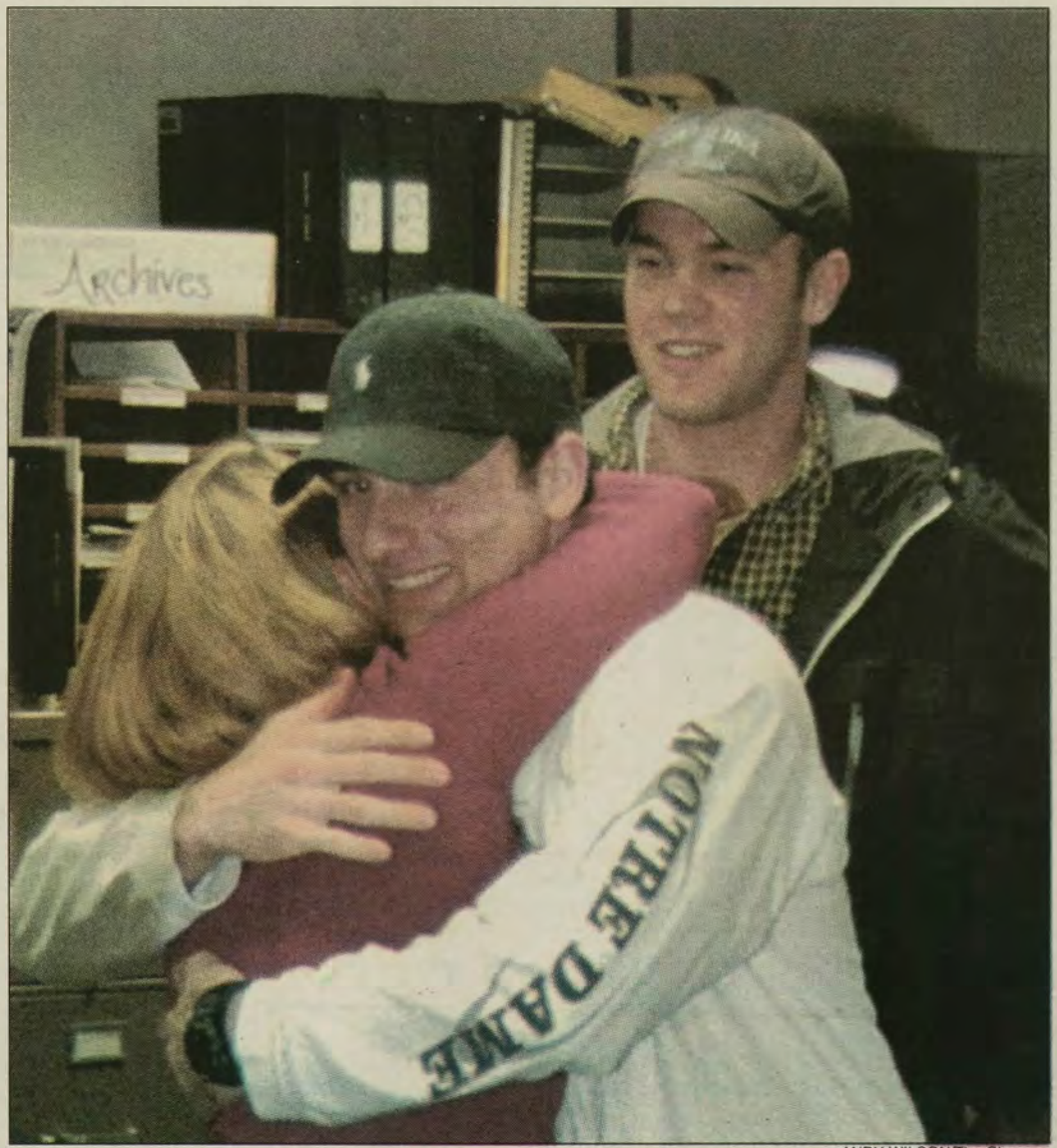
But while both races featured similar winning percentages, nearly twice as many freshman as juniors voted.

According to official run-off results, 59.5 percent of all freshmen voted in the 2003 election Thursday, representing a total turnout of 1155 first-year students. Just 38.4 percent of the class of 2001 voted, a total of 718 juniors.

Amanda Dovidio, election committee member, was pleased with Thursday's turnout.

"Overall, turnout was good, especially for the freshman class. The juniors were a little behind, but

see ELECTION/page 6



ANDY WILSON/The Observer

Rachel Gernerd, president, Judson Penton, secretary and B.J. Kloska, treasurer, celebrate their victory in the class of 2001 elections.

ELECTION RESULTS

CLASS OF 2001	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rachel Gernerd 58%
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elliot Nelson 42%
CLASS OF 2003	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Moscona 58%
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trip Foley 42%

JOE MUELLER/The Observer

Former ND hockey player to bike across the nation

By COLLEEN McCARTHY
 Associate News Editor

When the hockey season ends for the East Coast hockey league, Mobile Mysticks player, former Notre Dame hockey player and 1999 Notre Dame graduate Benoit Cotnoir will be taking the road less traveled.

During his hiatus from hockey, Cotnoir was deciding how to spend his summer and found that spending it working in a traditional summer job in an office was not for him. Instead, Cotnoir will jump on a bike and embark on a 3,600 mile journey across the United States from Seattle to Washington, D.C. as a participant in Bike Aid.

Cotnoir, a native of Quebec, Canada, said his family was initially surprised by his summer plans.

"My dad was like, 'What? You aren't going to be earning money this summer?'" Cotnoir said.

His father worried about Cotnoir's future.

"I want to go to graduate school eventually and need to earn money for that," Cotnoir said. "My mom was

more concerned with the safety aspect because initially she thought I was going to be doing this alone."

"I explained to her that I will be with a group of people and now she is OK with the idea. Though one of the challenges of this for me is quieting my dad."

Cotnoir will join a group of over 50 individuals from around the world who will

leave from either Seattle, Portland or San Francisco to travel to Washington, D.C.

The trip will take over nine weeks. Cotnoir will leave from Seattle in a group of 15.

Designed to raise awareness about social issues in the U.S. and abroad, Bike Aid participants must raise \$3600 to participate. The money goes toward logistics

of the trip, community service projects the cyclists will take part in throughout the trip and international organizations and national grassroots projects supported by JustAct — the organization sponsoring Bike Aid and the cyclists.

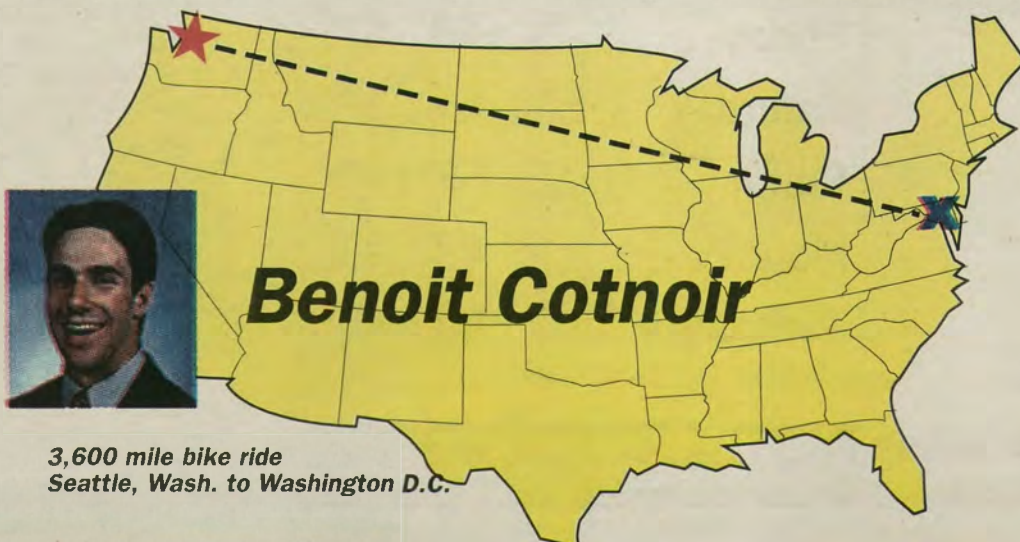
The community service aspect of the endeavor is what initially interested him, said Cotnoir. During the trip, the cyclists ride six days a week averaging 75 miles a day and perform community service in various locations on the seventh day of the week.

"Well, on the seventh day, God rested so on the seventh day of the week there will be a community service project set up for the group," Cotnoir said.

"What we will be doing will depend on the needs of the community. It may be painting a barn or helping at a food bank."

An economics major while at Notre Dame, Cotnoir became interested in service work following the summer after his junior year at Notre Dame.

"The NDCIB [now SIBC] offered internships abroad to students and I



3,600 mile bike ride
 Seattle, Wash. to Washington D.C.

see COTNOIR/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

A Proud Parent

Standing outside the Juniper Road doors of Knott Hall, I said goodbye to my parents in August 1996. I cried, they cried. I thought I knew why the tears were falling: We wouldn't share a house anymore, or meals or the car. That was sad. And scary.

To me, a bouncy freshman still reveling in high school memories, living on my own was as new as the crisp, sky blue sheets I toted in white plastic stacking blocks. For the first time ever, I'd live without my parents. I'd survive because Notre Dame would step in as surrogate parent — complete with rules and regulations.



Michelle Krupa

editor in chief

That September, I began giving my Thursday nights to The Observer. A 17-year-old freshman, I didn't sacrifice Coach's or The Backer like the editors who oversaw my work did. Those die-hards — who slept on Diet Coke-stained carpets and survived on quarter dogs — welcomed me regardless of my age.

As I worked through The Observer's ranks, these editors treated me like an adult, capable of taking care of myself and their beloved paper. Tossed into a cesspool of responsibility, I was expected to act like an adult — to behave professionally, to ask questions when they arose; in return, I could expect answers in any situation, for any reason, at any time.

With lots of guidance, I faced tough assignments, Diet Coke and horrible hot dogs. I traded school for work. When my fellow employees thought I was ready, I got promoted. I thought I needed more time, more experience. They believed in me.

In the mean time, Notre Dame administrators acted like stodgy parents, treating me and other students like children incapable of maturing. Time after time, they refused to listen to rational arguments strong enough to force changes in University policies. Somehow, students recognized intelligence and maturity in each other while Notre Dame remained a blind parent. Somehow, my friends and co-workers acknowledged my personal growth as the University ignored it.

My mom and dad have said that when they left me at school, they cried because they recognized that I'd grown up. They cried tears of pride and joy, knowing I finally could be treated like an adult. I didn't think I'd understand that feeling until my child packed for college. I was wrong.

Today is "unofficially" my last day as editor of The Observer, and I'm sure I'll cry. Months ago, I thought tears of sadness would fall, reminding me of all I leave at 024 South Dining Hall. If I do shed a tear, though, it will be because I am so proud of those of you who will answer the 3 a.m. phone calls in coming years.

To the University, you are students and, thus, are children. But you know better. You see that in reality, students are adults, professionals and compassionate people. If you continue to recognize this in everyone who walks through the door, you will be like the best kind of mom or dad — the one who, like mine, guides a child, embraces his or her accomplishments and is overwhelmed with emotion when that child finally is ready to face life's challenges as an adult.

And when you leave, you will feel like a proud parent, too.

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

TODAY'S STAFF

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THIS WEEK IN NOTRE DAME/SAINT MARY'S HISTORY

Student government seeks co-education

Friday, March 6, 1970

The Notre Dame student government prepared to initiate co-education by meeting with the administration. Student Body President Tom Thrasher identified the "establishment of an all girls dorm on campus by the Fall of 1971 as reasonable and attainable. If this plan is a success, the establishment of a coed dorm, possibly Flanner or Grace, would occur the following Fall," said Thrasher.

Attractiveness survey reportedly a rumor

Thursday, March 3, 1988

The notion that Notre Dame is the second-best campus in America to find good-looking men was only popular opinion. "There's no truth to that rumor as far as I know," said Kevin Loud, editor of Playgirl magazine. Playboy also denied the rumor, but male students still hoped that the rumor was true. A resident of Grace Hall hung a banner thanking Playboy for the supposed ranking.

OUTSIDE THE DOME

Compiled from U-Wire reports

Yale murder suspect appears on TV

Former Yale lecturer James Van de Velde, the only publicly identified suspect in the Dec. 4, 1998 murder of Yale student Suzanne Jovin, maintained his innocence during his first interview on network television Wednesday night.

Van de Velde, who was Jovin's thesis advisor, said police have found no evidence to incriminate him. "Nothing has been revealed to link me to this crime, and nothing ever will," said Van de Velde, who has granted few interviews since Jovin's death.

Jovin's murder is one of only two out of the 15 murders committed in New Haven in 1998 that remain unsolved, according to the New Haven Police Department.

In a December press conference marking the one-year anniversary of her death, Police Chief Melvin Wearing said the list of suspects, ini-



tially numbering 15, had dropped to "more than five" or "more than ten." According to the report aired Thursday night, New Haven Police have significantly narrowed the pool of suspects since then.

Van de Velde is the only named suspect in the crime. But Van de Velde's attorney, David Grudberg, said Wednesday Van de Velde should be regarded as innocent until proven guilty.

"Jim told the police right from the beginning that he was home alone watching TV," Grudberg said. "In 15 months the police have not found one shred of evidence to dispute that."

ABC reported that Jovin had been frustrated by Van de Velde's treatment of her senior thesis in the weeks leading up to her death. Family and friends characterized her as being "angry" and "near tears" because Van de Velde had not responded to her first draft.

But on "20/20," Van de Velde denied any negligence in the matter, saying only that she might have been anxiety-ridden due to the impending deadline.

Regardless, he said it would not make sense for him to murder her simply because she was angry with him. "I don't understand how it translates into a motive for me to murder her," he said.

U. Wisconsin groups respond to racist fliers

MADISON, Wis.

Two different sets of racist fliers have appeared in several University of Wisconsin-Madison campus buildings this past week. One flier details an incident ignored by the media, the authors of the flier claim, concerning a "beautiful, innocent young boy" who was dragged to death by a black male on Feb. 22 in Independence, Mo. The flier also claims U.S. Justice Department crime statistics say that "blacks are 2,500 percent more likely to commit interracial crimes." According to the Independence Police Department, Jake Robel was killed during the hijacking of his mother's car by Kim Davis, who is black. However, officials said this incident was a random hijacking not based on race. The other flier made claims that slavery was a legitimate resource for plantations, while promoting several other racist ideas. "I felt frustrated and disheartened when I saw these fliers," said the diversity chair of the Associated Students of Madison, David Muhammad. "I am really concerned. [This] campus is becoming a scary place."

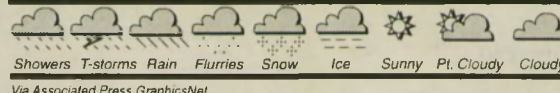
Student develops mutant strain of bacteria in U. Texas lab

AUSTIN, Texas

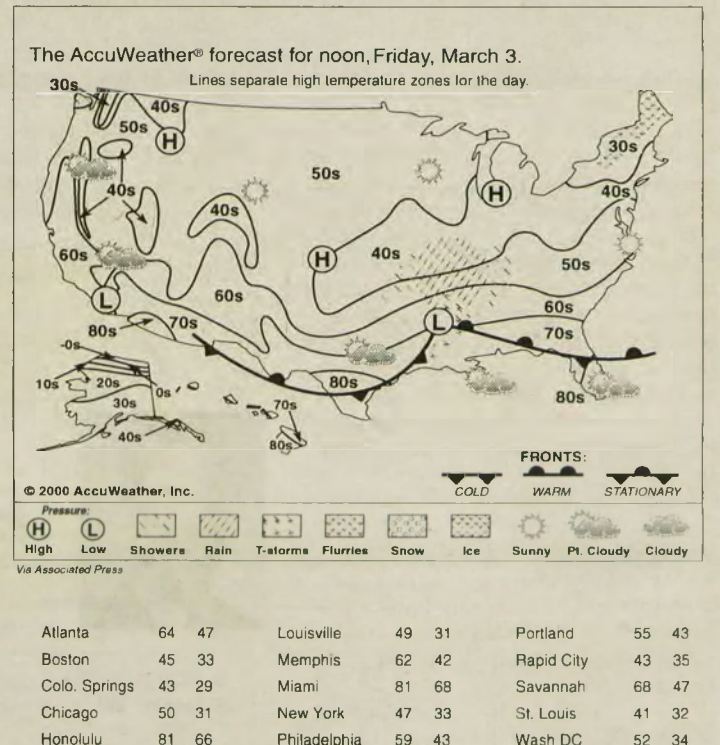
New gene research could validate a University of Texas at Austin graduate student's claim to the development of mutant bacteria that lives off of a deadly amino acid. Jamie Bacher, a molecular biology graduate student, is conducting gene research to prove that E. coli bacteria he developed in a UT laboratory in 1998 is a mutant living off of a diet that should have killed it. "I think I'm finally onto something and will hopefully be able to prove it once and for all," said Bacher, a researcher working under Andrew Ellington, associate professor of chemical and biochemistry. Bacher began to examine E. coli's genes for mutations that would prove the bacteria was truly living off of the deadly amino acid. "I chose genes that I thought for one reason or the other were likely to have changed if the organism evolved," Bacher said. Bacher said he has examined eight E. coli genes so far, and mutations appeared in two genes of the E. coli that were fed the harmful amino acid.

LOCAL WEATHER

5 Day South Bend Forecast			
AccuWeather™ forecast for daytime conditions and high temperatures			
		H	L
Friday		48	27
Saturday		55	37
Sunday		59	42
Monday		62	44
Tuesday		62	45



NATIONAL WEATHER



Schutte defends death row prisoner, criticizes penalty



ANDY WILSON/The Observer

Steven Schutte, public defender, holds a picture of his client Obadyah ben Yisrael who has been sentenced to death. Schutte believes ben Yisrael is innocent.

By SARAH RYKOWSKI
News Writer

Steven Schutte, chief public defender for the State of Indiana, believes his client, Obadyah ben Yisrael may be the victim of racial discrimination by the Indiana judicial system.

"I represent an innocent man who is condemned to die," Schutte said at the beginning of his presentation, titled, "Innocent on Indiana's Death Row: The Case of Obadyah ben Yisrael."

Ben Yisrael is now in prison and will stay there until his conviction is overturned or he is executed under Indiana's current death penalty laws.

Schutte concentrated not only on the specifics of the ben Yisrael case, but also on the death penalty itself.

"Comprehensive study done on wrongful convictions [states that] as high as 5 percent of all people convicted are not guilty of the crimes they are convicted of," Schutte said. "It is my opinion that the rate [of error] may be higher in death penalty cases. The courts have elevated procedural regularity over fairness."

According to Schutte, the House of Representatives and the Senate of Indiana have made a resolution to explore the possibility of racial discrimination in seeking the death penalty. They are also researching the possibility of innocent people on death row and the clear proclivity of prosecutors to seek the death penalty in re-election years.

"The convictional wisdom [of county prosecutors] is that 80 percent of the people of Indiana support the death penalty. Nobody ever lost a vote by being hard on crime

because no one has ever said otherwise," he said.

Schutte expressed concern about error in the justice system.

"I believe that the death penalty is wrong," Schutte said. "I hope you leave here thinking we're not perfect. We are an imperfect people and we have imperfect systems. The system has never worked. If we have this perfect penalty but imperfect people we're going to kill innocent people."

Schutte believes the justice system was not fair to ben Yisrael.

Ben Yisrael was brought to trial four times for shooting 10 people. The first trial for two murders and two attempted murders resulted in an acquittal. The second, for one murder and one attempted murder, also resulted in acquittal.

He was convicted in the third trial for two more murders before being tried and convicted a fourth time for two separate murders.

The 10 shootings took place between Halloween and mid-December of 1990, Schutte said.

According to Schutte, an eyewitness in the first trial was able to help police draw up a composite sketch of the suspect, a "shaggy-haired, light-skinned" man. Ben Yisrael, also known as Christopher Peterson, is black.

"[At the first trial] the woman said [Peterson] wasn't the guy," Schutte said.

Ben Yisrael was originally arrested for a robbery after his accomplice told police that ben Yisrael was the "Shotgun Slayer" that police sought in connection with the 10 shootings.

When a gun was found in ben Yisrael's closet that matched shell casings from the crime scenes, ben Yisrael was questioned, arrested and confessed.

At his first two trials, the witness assisting police with the composite did not believe

that ben Yisrael was the man she saw.

After three days of questioning, ben Yisrael decided to confess to end the interrogation process. Despite his confession, he was acquitted in those trials.

"The state's case [was identical in both trials]," Schutte said. "What he said he did didn't match the statements. It is true that when the police came to question him, [ben Yisrael said he had committed the crimes], but he was a scared 22-year-old kid. The simple fact is people, all the time, for a variety of reasons, say things they didn't do."

Schutte believes that new evidence, overlooked by the public defenders in the second two trials, will help him obtain an acquittal in ben Yisrael's case.

Schutte has found a new witness

that places the suspect in the composite sketch at the scene of the last two murders. The suspect, according to the witness, sat in a car outside of the shop where the shootings occurred. The suspect was

holding a "cylindrical object" that was identified in at least one of the trials as a gun.

"There are innocent men on death row now," Schutte said. "I want you to leave tonight knowing that Obadyah ben Yisrael never shot anybody and doesn't know who did."

He encouraged his listeners to write to their legislators and join organizations in order to further investigations the "innocent men on death row in Indiana."

The presentation was sponsored by the Justice Education Program and the Northern Indiana Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

"This is part of an overall effort to raise many of the issues about the death penalty through our community," said Jan Pilarski, coordinator of the justice education program.

"We are an imperfect people and we have imperfect systems. The system has never worked"

Steven Schutte
public defender
State of Indiana

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Cotnoir

continued from page 1

took an internship teaching marketing in Benin, Africa," Cotnoir said. "That was my first service experience and it was just awesome. It opened my eyes to service work. I thought that it was an incredible experience and it really changed me."

Initially, Cotnoir hoped to devote the summer after he graduated to service work. However, after talking to Andrea Smith Shappell, director of the senior transition program at Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns, Cotnoir began to research his options.

"I wanted to do something different to replace taking a job," he said. "I went in and researched different options and found Bike Aid. I'm not a cyclist, I play hockey and that's what I do for a living, but I thought this would be a good learning experience."

In addition, Cotnoir believes this experience will compliment what he has done in the hockey rink and diversify his resume for when he eventually applies to graduate schools.

Shappell agreed with Cotnoir. "I met Benoit when he was a senior, coming back from his experience in Africa and he told me he wanted to incorporate service work into his life," Shappell said.

"Even though it wasn't possible for him to do the summer service work last summer, I was impressed that he continued to seek out service opportunities while working on his hockey career."

Of the graduating class at Notre Dame, nearly 10 percent choose to do service after graduation, said Shappell. Cotnoir was not unusual in seeking guidance from Shappell for service options after he graduated.

She said she receives at least 75 requests a year from graduates looking for long- or short-term service projects.

"There have been a lot of creative ideas that people have come up with for service work," said Shappell.

"Incorporating hockey and his athletic gift with a desire to do service work to help others is what Benoit has chosen to do."

"Many people choose to incorporate skills they already have into their service work. We have a number of graduates who are doctors, nurses, or lawyers who

choose to use their professional backgrounds to aid them in service work."

Cotnoir's task at hand is preparing financially and physically for the cross-country trek. He is currently focusing on the fundraising aspect.

"One of the challenges is to raise the \$3,600," Cotnoir said. "I have three main fundraising schemes. I'm hosting a fundraising dinner on March 26 here in Mobile, printing up T-shirts to sell for which I collected sponsors names to put on the back. I built a hockey stick coffee table made of broken hockey sticks that I will be selling raffle tickets for at Mysticks games."

He is currently halfway to raising the goal amount. Cotnoir hopes to have most of the fundraising done by the end of March.

As for training for the trip, Bike Aid does not provide participants with a training program. They have, however, given Cotnoir the names of past participants to seek advice. Cotnoir has also sought out others.

"I've tried to talk a lot to people who have experience in cycling," said Cotnoir. "I've started reading bicycling magazines to learn how to ride in a

back and learn about the different kinds of bikes there are. People have given me a lot of hints and tips and I'm learning a lot from others."

"There is a bike shop here that has been very helpful and the people there said they will ride with me a few times before I leave. I'm not worried about the physical aspect. It should be hard and physically demanding but I think I will adjust over the nine weeks."

Cotnoir's priority right now is playing hockey for the Mysticks.

"Right now, that is my No. 1 priority," Cotnoir said. "The season ends in April and then the play-offs begin but as soon as the season is over, I'll start training."

"Most of the people who do this ride are not tri-athletes or super-athletes. I don't think you have to be in super shape to do

this. Although, I do think you have to be physically fit and not just Joe Blow off the street."

Jill-Anne Fowler, a 25-year-old graduate student at Bowling Green State University took part in the trip last summer and has been talking frequently to Cotnoir, giving him advice and sharing her experiences from the trip with him.

"It was one of the best experiences of my life," Fowler said. "Physically and mentally it was so challenging. You find out how strong you really are. There were many parts of the trip where we would just stop and cry in sheer joy."

"You are seeing things you have never seen, experiencing things you have never experienced, and traversing the country on your own power."

Before the participants begin their bike trip, they will take part in a three-day orientation in Seattle.

Throughout the trip, the group will discuss various social issues, such as racism and incorporate what they learn into their community service projects in the towns they stop in along the way. The educational aspect of the trip is what makes it different from other distance rides.

The group will stay in YMCAs, churches, and private homes; eat meals with people in the communities they stop in and meet with grassroots organizations.

"We refer to it as a community on wheels," he said. "We'll be

working together to make it across the country and to improve the country. Besides getting to know more about the people we are riding with, we'll be learning more about global and local issues."

The group becomes very close throughout the ride and she could "barely stand to part from the members of her group on the last day," said Fowler.

"Your individual mental strength only goes so far, you need the encouragement of the people around you to help you make it," she said.

Fowler said, however, the overwhelming joy she felt as the group rode into Washington, D.C. on the last day to the steps of the Capitol made it all worth it.

"We were about a mile away from the Capitol and we all just started screaming," she said. "People along the street started clapping as we rode by. It was an incredible sense of accomplishment and unreality. We were like, 'Oh my God, we really did this!'"

Cotnoir's biggest fear embarking on the trip is the weather.

"I chose to start from Seattle because I thought the weather would be cooler along that route, making it more comfortable to ride," Cotnoir said. "I'm especially worried about crossing the Rocky Mountains and things like that."

Fowler confirmed that traversing the mountains on a bike was one of the most challenging parts of the trip.

"On the second day of the trip we were climbing our first mountain and I thought I was going to die," she said. "It was 25 miles up the hill, but coast-

ing down the hill for 20 miles and taking in all the scenery made it worth it."

Besides being physically challenging, Cotnoir will face other obstacles.

"I think that it will be a challenge to live with 15 to 20 people who you have never met in your life for nine weeks and to try to get along, but I think this will be a very important experience for me to have," he said.

Cotnoir will finish the trip in the middle of August and have three to four weeks to spare before it will be time for him to return to his professional minor league hockey team.

"The timing should be outstanding," said Cotnoir. "I should be in good shape. The team has been very supportive of me and this trip, which helps me a lot."

"Every physical and mental challenge the trip provides is worth it in the end," said Fowler. "This was a transforming and life-changing experience."

"You meet so many people as you go through these towns and you have the chance to make an impact on their lives," she continued.

"Whenever people like Benoit ask me about the trip, I tell them to do whatever they can to go on the trip. You will never again have the chance to experience the freedom that you do during those nine weeks until you are out on a bike, on the open road, with no material possessions to weigh you down. You are so in control of yourself. You only have your bike, a bit of food and water, the clothes on your back and you are living day to day and destination to destination."

Cotnoir will have Bike Aid T-shirts for sale at the CSC to benefit his trip starting next week.

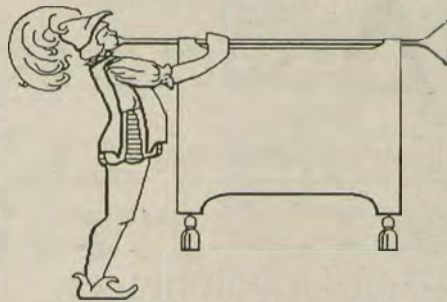
To get in touch with Cotnoir or to make a personal pledge or contribution for his trip, send e-mail to: benoitcotnoir@hotmail.com.

"We refer to it as a community on wheels. We'll be working together to make it across the country and to improve the country."

Benoit Cotnoir
Bike Aid participant

"Every physical and mental challenge the trip provides is worth it in the end."

Jill-Anne Fowler
former Bike Aid participant



Announcing the Year 2000 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2000 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed \$3,500, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:

- 1) an explanation of how the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame
- 2) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals
- 3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow
- 4) a budget indicating the costs involved
- 5) the names of two references.

Application Deadline: Friday, March 10th, 2000
Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship
Program in Italian Studies
343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
University of Notre Dame

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*Monday/Wednesday
Mornings
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Iraq spurns new U.N. arms inspector

UNITED NATIONS
Iraq spurned calls by the chief U.N. weapons inspector to allow arms searches to resume after more than a year, saying Baghdad had no plans to cooperate with a U.N. policy that doesn't call for sanctions to be lifted. "The issue is not whether the inspectors go to Iraq or not," Iraqi Ambassador Saeed Hasan said in an interview. "The real issue is the thousands of Iraqis dying every day. The issue is the aggression Iraq is subject to since 1991." Iraq contends that sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait have led to thousands of Iraqi deaths — a claim disputed by the United States, which blames Iraq's President Saddam Hussein. Hasan was responding to the new chief U.N. weapons inspector for Iraq, Hans Blix, who told a press conference on Wednesday that Iraq should allow inspections to prove its contention that it has destroyed all of its weapons of mass destruction.

Michigan seeks manslaughter charge against James

MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, Mich.
Prosecutors brought an involuntary manslaughter charge against a man they believe possessed the stolen gun later used by a 6-year-old boy to kill a classmate. "We were not looking for scapegoats in this case; we're looking for justice for Kayla," said Genesee County Prosecutor Arthur Busch. Busch said investigators believe the .32-caliber semiautomatic gun used Tuesday to shoot 6-year-old Kayla Rolland had been left, apparently loaded, under Jamelle James' blankets in a bedroom at the house where the boy stayed. Investigators also found a stolen 12-gauge shotgun and drugs at the house, the prosecutor said. James, 19, was arraigned Thursday on the manslaughter charge, which carries a possible 15-year prison sentence.

Vergara not in favor of U.S. dollars

QUITO, Ecuador
Dario Vergara's eyes aren't lighting up with dollar signs at the prospect of making the U.S. greenback this nation's official currency. "It's only going to favor the rich and be a disaster for poor people," said the middle-aged barber as he clipped away at a customer's hair. "You do not have to be a fortune teller to know that when we adopt the dollar the country's situation will get worse." Congress passed a reform package to usher in the controversial currency switch, which new President Gustavo Noboa's government describes as Ecuador's only hope to stabilize its shattered economy.

CUBA

Ousted diplomat returns home

Associated Press

HAVANA

A Cuban diplomat who hid out in the Cuban Embassy in Canada after being expelled from the United States over espionage suspicions received a hero's welcome when he returned home Thursday after five days of uncertainty.

President Fidel Castro embraced Jose Imperatori as he stepped onto the tarmac late Thursday afternoon. Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque and Ricardo Alarcon were also in the high-level delegation there to welcome him.

"I am very happy to be back in my homeland again," said Imperatori, who tried unsuccessfully to be returned to the United States to defend himself against accusations that he was the contact for a U.S. immigration agent accused of spying for Cuba.

"There is no proof ... it doesn't exist," Castro told a group of reporters. The communist government has maintained in recent days that its mission in the United States has never engaged in intelligence gathering.

Imperatori was accompanied on the flight by his wife, Raquel Fundora, who went with a group of about 50 well-known Cubans to Canada to pick him up.

Instead of returning to the United States as he wished, Imperatori boarded a Cubana Airline plane Thursday. According to a Cuban government statement, Imperatori ended his four-day hunger strike earlier in the day.

Imperatori was declared persona non grata by Washington last week for allegedly helping Mariano Faget, a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service worker accused of spying for Cuba.

Imperatori resigned as vice-consul of Cuba's Interests Section in Washington but refused to leave the country. U.S. officials flew him to Canada on Saturday, but he took refuge in the Cuban Embassy instead of continuing to Havana.

In a statement released after the departure of his plane, Imperatori said anti-Castro Cubans in the United States concocted the spy accusations to discredit the immigration agency because it ruled that the Cuban boy Elian Gonzalez should be returned to his homeland.

Gonzalez was rescued off the



Cuban diplomat Jose Imperatori was received by his mother and his daughter at the Jose Marti airport in Havana, Cuba, after arriving from Canada. Imperatori was expelled by the U.S. and sent to Canada.

Florida coast after a boat from Cuba sank, killing his mother, her boyfriend and others. His relatives in Miami are trying to keep him in the United States, while Cuba demands his return to his natural father.

U.S. officials have denied any link between the espionage accusations and the Gonzalez case.

In a letter to a group of disabled Cubans who rallied late Thursday afternoon to press for Elian's return, Castro said he had to leave so he could receive Imperatori "who has done so much for the return of the boy Elian."

After the letter was read, the sever-

al hundred demonstrators gave a standing ovation in Imperatori's honor.

"I did not intend to come to Canada," Imperatori's statement said. "I wanted to remain in the United States facing up to the lies and the slanders and defending the rights of the child whatever the consequences."

But "a reasonable solution was found with honor and dignity for my homeland and for me," it said, without elaborating.

Canadian officials have said Imperatori was in the country illegally because the transit visa he received upon arrival Saturday had expired.

U.S. troops headed to Mozambique

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

As many as six U.S. Air Force special operations helicopters will be transported to southern Africa beginning this weekend to attempt to rescue flood victims in Mozambique, the Pentagon announced Thursday.

The Pentagon also will send a team of medical and communications specialists to the area this weekend from Europe aboard C-130 aircraft. They are being diverted from an exercise planned in the central African nation of Cameroon.

Meanwhile, President Clinton authorized up to

\$37.6 million in emergency disaster assistance for southern Africa "for the purpose of providing international disaster assistance."

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said two or three MH-53 helicopters will be loaded aboard C-5 transport planes at Mildenhall Air Base in England this weekend for the 20-hour flight to southern Africa. They will have Navy SEAL commandos and others ready to begin operating early next week, he said.

The medical team will include 200 to 400 troops and the helicopter support will total 400 to 600 troops,

Bacon said.

The U.S. relief effort, coordinated by the U.S. European Command, is code-named Operation Silent Promise. It will be commanded by Air Force Maj. Gen. Joseph Wherle Jr., commander of the 3rd Air Force.

The United Nations estimates that between 800,000 and 1 million people have lost their homes in Mozambique and are in urgent need of help following the worst floods in decades to strike the poverty-stricken country.

Thousands are feared dead.

The MH-53 helicopters are specially equipped to

extract people. Each can carry 38 passengers and lift up to 20,000 pounds. Some may be used to move inflatable boats for use in rescuing stranded people in the flood areas, Bacon said.

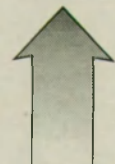
The United States already has pledged \$12.8 million in emergency relief and military assistance. President Clinton said Wednesday that one U.S. military plane delivered relief supplies to Mozambique on Wednesday, and a second was to arrive shortly in South Africa.

"But we can do more to address the needs of the nearly 1 million people who have been displaced," Clinton said.

Market Watch: 3/2

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DELL COMPUTER	DELL	+4.47	+1.924	53.192
PALM INC	PALM	+150.16	+57.060	38.026
LUCENT TECH INC	LU	+4.55	+3.125	34.349
COMPAQ COMPUTER	CPQ	+2.65	+0.690	31.873
GLOBAL CROSSING	GRSX	+6.76	+3.442	28.777
QUEST COMMUNICA	Q	+3.45	+2.000	28.752
AT&T CORP	T	+13.19	+6.315	28.342
ORACLE CORP	ORCL	-4.20	-3.000	26.155

ND to build new arts center

By HELENA RAYAM
News Writer

Plans are in progress to foster the University's performers and their audiences in a new performing arts center.

"It's something the University needed to round out its availability of space in the performing arts," said Jim Lypouth, associate vice president of business operations who oversees the planning of the center.

The Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts will house five venues for performances, according to Lypouth.

In addition to some offices and smaller rooms, the building will include a 900-seat concert hall, a 200-seat cinema, a 100-seat student theater, a 350-seat main stage theater and a 100-seat choral

hall. "It's going to be a very sophisticated building," said Lypouth.

The center will incorporate state-of-the-art technology, stadium seating and equipment to handle the sound disruptions that could occur from the various theaters.

The location of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts will be south of the College of Business Administration and the Hesburgh Center at the far end of the DeBartolo quad.

The University recognized the need for a performing arts building several years ago when it reevaluated its colloquy.

Since then, the University has raised funds and started to plan the construction of the building, a \$51 million project.

"It's a very difficult task. We have a wide array of consultants on this project," said Lypouth.

"It's going to be a very sophisticated building."

Jim Lypouth
associate vice president
of business operations

The University is working with Hardy, Holzman, Pfeiffer Associates, an architecture company with offices in Los Angeles and New York. The main architect on the project is Norman Pfeiffer of the Los Angeles office.

This spring fences will surround the construction site. Construction will continue for several years, but according to Lypouth, "We're well underway."

Election

continued from page 1

their numbers are pretty comparable to those from earlier in the week," Dovidio said.

Moscona, however, was discouraged by his class' turnout.

"I think it was disappointing. The scheduling and location of the vote make it very difficult to turn out," Moscona said.

In a week that saw the voiding of Monday's 2003 primary vote and a subsequent revote on Tuesday, both Dovidio and Moscona are glad to see the elections end. The elections were a long, frustrating process, Dovidio said.

"I think a lot of students are disheartened with student government and tired of elections, but I hope they see that this election ended fairly and by the rules," he said.

With the elections finished, the winning tickets are primed to set to work on their platforms.

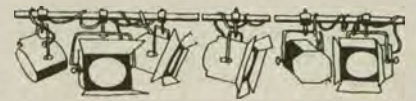
Gerner's ticket plans to increase class unity through a charity golf tournament, a senior week and a senior talent show. Among the ticket's other goals are to develop a class webpage and a post-graduation webpage.

"Our ticket features a lot of experience, which we will need in coordinating all of next year's events. The class of 2001 can count on a very fun year to come," Gerner said.

Moscona's ticket also has fun in mind.

"We want to increase the number of social events. We'd like to plan a class trip to an amusement park," Moscona said.

His other ideas include developing a class webpage and providing more service opportunities for his classmates.



Ladies of Notre Dame and St. Mary's Scholarship Fund Benefit

- 1:00 pm** Presentation by the Irish Dancers of Notre Dame / St. Mary's
- 2:00 pm** Meet the Leprechaun: Michael Brown reads St. Patrick's Day Stories!
- 3:00 pm** Fr. Ted Hesburgh signs *God, Country, Notre Dame*
- 4:00 pm** Professor William O'Rourke discusses and signs his newly updated *Campaign America '96*
- 8:00 pm** Café Music by Josie Vodica

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The Next Best Thing (PG-13)	Digital	Boiler Room (R)	Digital
[12:00 2:45] 5:10 7:40 10:10		[1:45] 4:35 7:50 10:25	
Boys Don't Cry (R)	Digital	Hanging Up (R)	Digital
[1:30] 4:15 7:00 10:00		[12:15 2:25] 4:45 7:30 9:45	
My Dog Skip (PG)	Digital	Pitch Black (R)	Digital
[1:50] 4:10 6:45 9:10		[2:15] 5:20 8:05 10:30	
Drowning Mona (PG-13)	Digital	American Beauty (R)	Digital
[12:20 2:30] 4:50 7:10 9:30		[1:20] 4:30 7:15 10:05	
What Planet Are You From? (R)	Digital	Scream 3 (R)	Digital
[2:10] 4:40 7:20 9:50		[12:10 2:55] 5:30 8:10 10:40	
Reindeer Games (R)	Digital	Snow Day (PG)	Digital
[12:25 2:50] 5:15 7:45 10:15		[12:30 2:40] 5:00 7:25 9:40	
Wonder Boys (R)	Digital	The Tigger Movie (G)	Digital
[1:40] 4:20 6:50 9:55		[12:05 2:00] 4:00 6:30	
Cider House Rules (PG-13)	Digital	The Beach (R)	Digital
[1:00] 3:45 6:40 9:25		9:00	
The Whole Nine Yards (R)	Digital		
[2:20] 5:05 8:00 10:35			

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Man on the Moon (R)	Deuce Bigalo: Male Gigolo (PG-13)
[1:20] 4:00 7:00 9:50	[1:50] 4:20 7:20 9:30
Play It To The Bone (R)	Anna and the King (PG-13)
[1:40] 4:30 7:10 10:00	[1:30] 4:50 8:00
Any Given Sunday (R)	End of Days (PG-13)
[1:00] 4:40 8:15	[1:10] 4:10 6:50 9:40

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YEMEN

Polish ambassador kidnapped

Associated Press

SAN'A
The Polish ambassador has been kidnapped in Yemen, the latest act of lawlessness by tribesmen who abduct foreigners in hopes of forcing the government to release detainees or build hospitals and better roads. Krzysztof Suprowicz was abducted in San'a on Wednesday evening by members of the Yamaneyatain tribe, who are demanding the release of a fellow tribesman arrested last week, security officials said. They did not say why the tribesman was

detained.

Nina Suprowicz, the ambassador's wife, told private Polish Radio RMF that the kidnapers called her Thursday to say that her husband is "OK."

The kidnapers first took Suprowicz to a remote area 30 miles north of San'a and then moved him to a mountainous area of Khawlan, southeast of the capital.

Soldiers on Thursday encircled the area while government officials appealed to tribal leaders to mediate a peaceful end to the standoff, the security officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

BRITAIN

Pinochet leaves for Chile a free man

Associated Press

LONDON

Former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet departed Britain a free man Thursday, ending a 16-month legal saga heralded for establishing that

former leaders accused of human rights abuses are not immune from prosecution abroad.



Pinochet

"This has been an unprecedented case. Both I and the courts have had to navigate in uncharted territory," Home Secretary Jack Straw told the House of Commons after ruling that the 84-year-old general was mentally unfit to be extradited to Spain for trial on torture charges.

Straw also dismissed extradition requests from three other nations that contended their citizens were victims of Pinochet's regime — Belgium, France and Switzerland.

Pinochet, who doctors say suffered brain damage when he experienced two small strokes last fall, left Britain on Thursday afternoon and was expected to arrive in Santiago on Friday after an undisclosed stopover en route.

The former dictator issued no comment as his detention in Britain came to an end, but his eldest son, Augusto Marco Antonio, said in the Chilean capital that his father received the news of his freedom "very calmly, the way he usually is, without showing his feelings and emotions."

While human rights groups

expressed dismay at Straw's ruling, they also applauded the British and Spanish courts for decisions that strengthened the reach of an international law against torture that had been little known, despite ratification by dozens of countries.

Under the law, which Britain adopted in 1988, torture became an international crime that any nation may prosecute and from which no one enjoys immunity.

Britain's top court of appeals, the House of Lords, cited the law in issuing its precedent-setting decision to strip Pinochet of his immunity.

"This ruling was a landmark judgment in human rights law, whose impact has been felt far beyond our shores," Straw said.

Others took note: Indonesia's former President Suharto, for example, decided last year not to seek medical care abroad for fear of being arrested.

"It has been a major victory for human rights," said Reed Brody, of the New York-based group Human Rights Watch.

"The very fact that Pinochet was arrested, that four countries sought his extradition and that his claim of immunity was rejected has made the world a smaller place for people who commit atrocities."

Pinochet was arrested under a Spanish warrant Oct. 16, 1998,

while recuperating from back surgery in a London hospital. A Spanish judge accused him of orchestrating a systematic campaign of torture against political opponents throughout his 17-year dictatorship.

An official Chilean government report says 3,197 people died or disappeared at the hands of Pinochet's secret police after he toppled the country's elected Marxist president in a 1973 coup.

Straw freed Pinochet, who for most of his detention stayed in a rented mansion outside London under 24-hour guard, after an independent medical examination found the former dictator's diminished mental capacity would make it impossible for him to participate in his own trial.

Straw said he rejected submissions from the four nations that questioned the findings, calling their criticisms "medically unjustified."

"The principle that an accused person should be mentally capable of following the proceedings, instructing his lawyers and giving coherent evidence is fundamental to the idea of a fair trial," the Home Office said in a statement.

The European nations that pursued Pinochet through the British courts expressed disappointment at Straw's ruling, but none launched a last-minute appeal in an attempt to prevent the general's departure.

Belgium pledged to pursue Pinochet through the Chilean courts, while Spain — which kicked off the legal fight with its arrest warrant — called his detention "a warning signal for all those who don't respect human rights."

Straw acknowledged that he was "all too well aware" that his decision — capping a case that will cost British taxpayers millions of dollars — means Pinochet is unlikely to be tried anywhere in the world.

"The very fact that Pinochet was arrested, that four countries sought his extradition and that his claim of immunity was rejected has made the world a smaller place for people who commit atrocities."

Reed Brody
Human Rights Watch

Department of Art, Art History and Design

The Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism

The Department of Art, Art History and Design is pleased to announce its annual competition for the Riley Prize in Art History & Criticism. Current Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit essays on any topic in the history of art or art criticism for consideration in the competition. Essays must deal with the visual arts. They may have been written in conjunction with a course taken at the University, but need not have been.

Rules governing the competition are available in the Art Department Office. Two copies of the submission must be delivered to the Art Department Office, 132 O'Shaughnessy Hall, by 3:00 PM, Friday, March 31, to be eligible. A student may only submit ONE entry.

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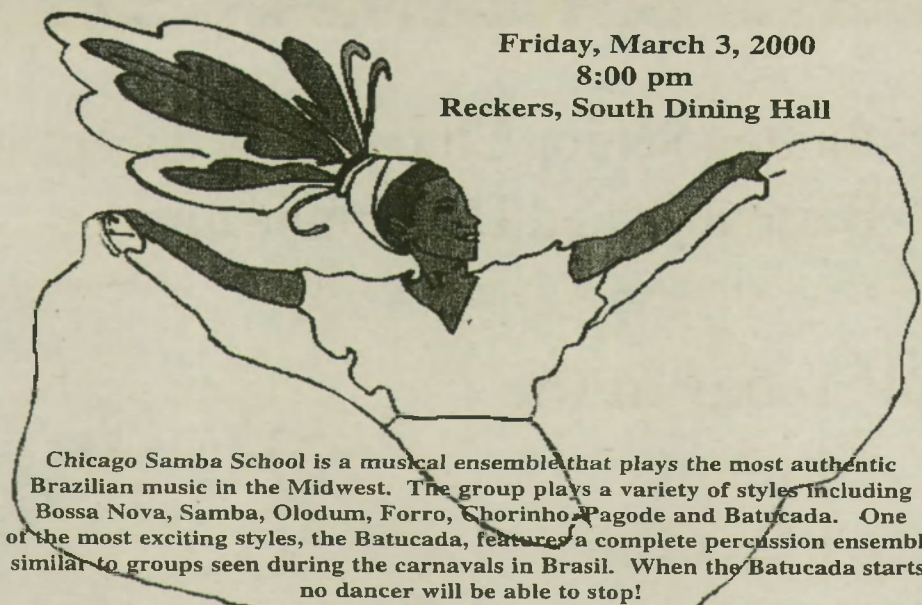
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Jason Koransky, Centerstage Media

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Penelope Baker, La Raza Newsweekly.

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FBI seizes computer after internet attacks

Associated Press

Federal agents investigating last month's Internet attacks have seized a computer from a 17-year-old New Hampshire boy and are considering whether he should be charged with computer crimes unrelated to those disruptions, a federal law enforcement official said Thursday.

The youth uses the screen name "coolio," one of the aliases the FBI suspects may have been involved in last month's sensational attacks against popular Web sites, this official said, requesting anonymity. But federal investigators believe he is only one of a number of people who have used "coolio" as a screen name.

The charges that federal prosecutors are weighing do not stem from the so-called denial-of-service attacks that shut down Yahoo!, eBay, Amazon.com and other Internet sites for hours at a time, but rather from evidence of other, unrelated hacking found on the seized computer, this official said.

The 17-year-old, who lives in New Hampshire, claimed to FBI agents that he had hacked into 100 Web sites, including one based in Los Angeles, Officer Joe Buscaino of the Los Angeles Police Department said Thursday.

Los Angeles police became involved while investigating an attack on Dare.com, an anti-drug abuse site they founded. The Los Angeles police computer crimes unit traced that attack to the youth, Buscaino said.

WMUR-TV in Manchester, N.H., said the suspect was a dropout of Kingswood Regional High School in Wolfeboro, N.H.

A federal official said he could not confirm the report.

After the youth's residence was searched Wednesday, he told investigators he has been using computers since he was 3 years old, and spends about 16 hours a day on the Internet, Buscaino said.

The boy claimed he had attacked a Commerce Department site that outlines rules for exporting chemicals

that could be used to produce chemical weapons, Buscaino said.

The teen also acknowledged disrupting Rsa.com, operated by RSA Security Inc., one of the nation's most prominent Internet security companies, Buscaino said.

On Feb. 13, a hacker calling himself "coolio" redirected visitors to RSA's Web site — which proclaims itself "the most trusted name in e-security" — to another hacked computer at a university in South America. There, a nearly duplicate hoax site proclaimed: "Trust us with your data! Praise Allah!"

The hacker left a message, "owned by coolio," and also derided RSA's earlier announcement that it had developed a countermeasure to the types of attacks suffered a week earlier at major commercial Web sites.

Last month, Justice Department officials identified "coolio" as one of three hackers, known only by their monikers, sought for questioning in the string of attacks on popular Web sites.

The federal law enforcement official said the youth has not been arrested by federal agents and no arrest of him is imminent.

Federal prosecutors planned to meet with New Hampshire prosecutors Friday to discuss charges, Buscaino said.

In computer crime cases involving juveniles, federal prosecutors usually defer to state prosecutors and only bring federal charges if the state declines to do so.

In New Hampshire, Attorney General Philip McLaughlin would not identify the boy or give his age or hometown. "My office and prosecutors have been cooperating with the Department of Justice and FBI since shortly after events of couple weeks ago," McLaughlin said.

Assistant New Hampshire Attorney General Mark Zuckerman said, "We do believe there's a New Hampshire connection to some of that activity," he said, referring to the spate of Web attacks in February.

Diallo family seeks civil charges

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Black activists and the parents of Amadou Diallo met Thursday with the No. 2 official at the Justice Department and urged him to file civil rights charges against four New York City police officers acquitted in the shooting death of the West African immigrant.

After the meeting, nearly 2,000 demonstrators marched around the Justice Department building chanting, "No justice! No peace!" and waving placards and flags. Many protesters were bused in from New York and New Jersey.

Diallo's parents, along with the Rev. Al Sharpton, former New York City Mayor David Dinkens, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People leader Kwesi Mfume and others, expressed optimism following the two-hour meeting with Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder.

"The meeting was very great and fruitful and we have very high hopes," said Saiko Diallo, the victim's father.

Holder said the Diallo case is a priority, but he made no guarantee the Justice Department would pursue civil rights charges against Sean Carroll, Edward McMellon, Kenneth Boss and Richard Murphy.

"These are difficult cases to prosecute. The standard that we have to meet on the federal side is a high one, but we will look at the case," Holder told reporters in a news conference before the meeting.

To obtain a conviction, federal prosecutors would have to show the officers intended to deny Diallo his civil rights.

The officers fired 41 shots at Diallo in the early hours of Feb. 4, 1999, in the narrow vestibule of his Bronx apartment building. The officers testified they were looking for a rape suspect and fired when Diallo reached for what they thought was a gun. It was his wallet.

The officers were acquitted last week of charges ranging from second-degree murder to

"These are difficult cases to prosecute. The standard that we have to meet on the federal side is a high one, but we will look at the case."

Eric Holder
deputy attorney general

reckless endangerment by a racially mixed jury.

After the verdict, some jurors laid blame for the acquittals on a lackluster prosecution by Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson's office. One juror said she was

surprised when prosecutor Eric Warner declined to cross examine the final witness, an expert on police practices. Some activists have called for Johnson, who is black, to resign.

Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., said Diallo supporters raised questions with Holder over whether the case was vigorously prosecuted and whether the judge was too supportive of the defendants.

Among the factors that can be considered in reviewing the trial with an eye to civil rights charges are incompetence, corruption, intimidation or undue influence, according to Justice Department guidelines.

The Justice Department has an ongoing investigation into the patterns and practices of the New York Police Department. That probe was expanded to include the Street Crimes Unit after Diallo's shooting.

All four police officers in the Diallo shooting were members of the unit, a roving group of plainclothes officers.

The Notre Dame Music Department Guest Lecture Series presents

Robert Kendrick

Associate Professor at the University of Chicago

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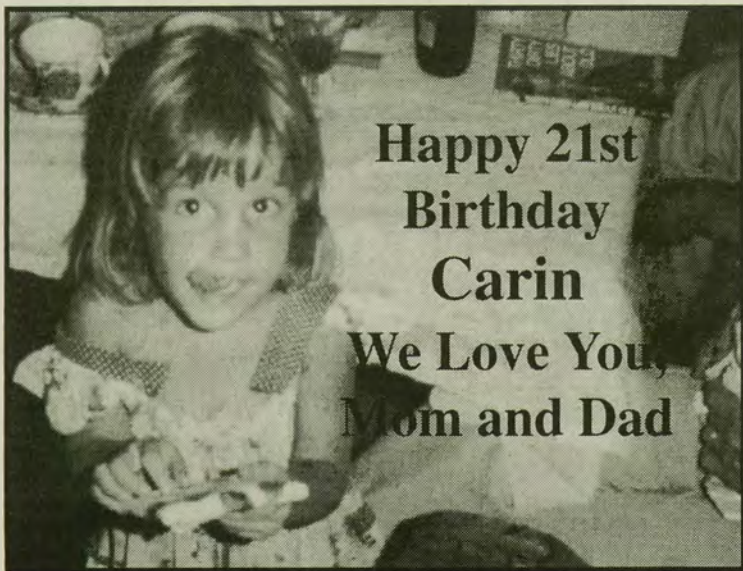
Applications Deadline: March 24

Buchanan seeks Reform Party bid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON
Pat Buchanan says he is ready to catch the "reform candidate" banner on campaign finance and other issues if the White House bids of John McCain and Bill Bradley falter in Tuesday's primaries. "There's only one Reform Party," Buchanan said Thursday. "We will have an agenda of reform that is broader and deeper than any we've seen this year." "I think when Bradley and McCain fade away, there's only one reform candidate in the race," said Buchanan, who switched from the GOP in October and has campaigned cross-country in pursuit of the third party's nomination.

More than a dozen states hold Republican and Democratic primaries on "Super Tuesday," making it a day of major importance for those parties' candidates. And voters' choices will also be giving direction to hopefuls in the Reform Party founded by Texas billionaire Ross Perot — whose supporters, meanwhile, have begun pushing hard for him to challenge Buchanan. A petition drive is underway to encourage Perot, and supporters plan to increase their efforts. But for now, Buchanan is the main candidate. McCain and Bradley have staked their candidacies on messages of campaign finance and other reforms, and if their presidential efforts perish, Buchanan said, the mantle of reform goes to him.



McCain criticizes Bush's ads

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Fighting anew over negative ads, Republicans George W. Bush and John McCain struggled for a late advantage Thursday heading into their final debate before next week's multi-state "Super Tuesday" presidential primaries.



McCain

McCain protested an ad suggesting he opposes breast cancer research and called on Bush to "get out of the gutter."

Bush said the ad only described a proposal on McCain's own Web page, and he said, "It sounds like Senator McCain is becoming increasingly angry as the campaign goes on."

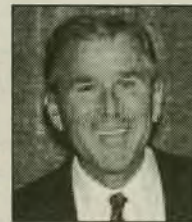
Joined by conservative commentator Alan Keyes, the two presidential contenders were meeting for an hourlong debate sponsored by CNN and the Los Angeles Times. It was being broadcast nationally by the cable network.

For the second time this primary season, McCain was appearing by satellite, this time from St. Louis as he headed east from California for campaign stops in New York.

He made a similar remote appearance in a December debate in Phoenix, each time

blaming Bush for accepting a debate invitation after McCain had already made other campaign plans.

With Bush sweeping McCain this week in Virginia, North Dakota and Washington state, the stakes are high entering the 13-state "Super Tuesday" voting, when 613 delegates — almost 60 percent of those needed for the Republican presidential nomination — will be awarded.



Bush

The debate was perhaps most important for McCain, who was battling back from the criticism that followed his denunciation of two conservative religious leaders in Virginia.

While the senator said he stood by that speech, he expressed regret Wednesday for a "flip remark" on his campaign bus that suggested Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson were among "the forces of evil." He said it was a misguided attempt at humor.

On Thursday, it was his turn to criticize Bush for the negative ads that were showing up, including one in which a breast cancer survivor says McCain opposed funding for "vital breast cancer programs" in New York.

"My message is 'Governor Bush get out of the gutter,'" McCain said. "I have strongly supported breast cancer

research." In response, Bush said that McCain's own Web site includes the programs in question on a list of "everyday, garden-variety pork."

McCain also complained about ads in New York, Ohio and California that portray him as opposed to environmental cleanup. They were aired by a group identified only as Republicans for Clean Air, and McCain suggested the ads were coordinated with the Bush campaign, although he had no evidence.

McCain said he was worried about the negative tenor of the campaign because "there is the potential of hurting the Republican party."

Despite the tone, McCain said he would support Bush in the fall if he were the nominee.

"I've been saying all along I will," McCain said, arriving in St. Louis. "He's a good man, from a good family. I'll support him in the fall if he's the nominee and do everything I can to help him be the next president of the United States."

In the run-up to the debate, the Texas governor said Thursday that McCain had only vague education ideas while "I have a plan, therein lies the contrast." Bush spoke with reporters after reading to students at the Clearview Elementary School in Chula Vista, Calif.

McCain criticized Bush for advocating a \$483 billion tax cut that he said would leave the Social Security system in jeopardy.

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VIEWPOINT

THE
OBSERVER

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Friday, March 3, 2000

THE OBSERVER

The Independent, Daily Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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POLICIES

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame du Lac and Saint Mary's College. Editorial content, including advertisements, is not governed by policies of the administration of either institution. The Observer reserves the right to refuse advertisements based on content.

The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editor and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Michelle Krupa.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

B-ball 'waterboy' angers community

School still a 'cut above'?

Since graduating from Notre Dame 38 years ago, I have always been proud to have been associated with the University. Throughout the years it always stood a "cut above" the others. It has been a shining light in the great moral wasteland we live in today.

I never had to apologize for my school. That is, not until last night. What is wrong here? Is the mantle too much to bear? Yes, I know it was only one or two individuals who caused the problem, but what about those around them? Why this year? This incident only served to highlight and confirm the overall decline symbolized in the NCAA probation.

Yes, mediocrity is always easier than excellence. Yes, we can say we are like everybody else and we can even blame someone else.

If you think I am out of touch, you are wrong. I sent two children through Notre Dame in '87 and '93. It has changed since then. Wake up and take responsibility. This was a special institution. Don't let it be ruined!

Lee Taddonio, '62
Murrysville, Pa.
March 2, 2000

Classy sportsmanship needed

In March 1977, in a televised basketball game between Notre Dame and San Francisco, NBC selected the Notre Dame student body as the game's MVP.

How times have changed. Win or lose, Notre Dame has always been synonymous with class and sportsmanship.

Based on the actions demonstrated at the UConn and Syracuse basketball games, the University should be embarrassed.

The alumni are.

Paul McDonnell
Class of 1977
March 2, 2000

Students' behavior televised

What has happened to the Notre Dame student body? After being known for decades as an intelligent, classy group of individuals, the norm seems to have turned to entirely classless behavior whenever sports are involved.

Last fall, I witnessed the pelting of the USC band after the halftime show of a football game. A few weeks ago, we had the UConn taunting incident and now our NCAA bid may have been destroyed by some idiots throwing things on the court.

The fact that all of these events have happened on national TV certainly does little to help the image of the University.

Please put a little thought into your future actions and stop tarnishing the reputation of the entire University.

Sheila O'Connor
Class of 1987
March 2, 2000



Alumnus sees 'idiocy'

To the student who threw the object onto the floor of the Joyce Center causing a technical foul and costing Notre Dame the basketball game last night and very likely an NCAA berth:

On behalf of all Notre Dame alumni, I would like to thank you so much for your idiocy and immaturity. As a young alum (law school Class of 1994), I, as many of my fellow alums from the early to mid-1990s, have seen Notre Dame athletics (with certain notable exceptions) go from top-caliber to the laughingstock of the college sports world. From the so-called "resignation" of Coach Holtz, to the Dunbar episode, to the NCAA inquiry and probation, to the absolute lack of intelligent decision-making on and off the football field by coaches and players alike, to persistent mediocrity in the men's basketball program, we have endured the march from first to worst in humiliating fashion. We have handled the perpetual barbs and abuses heaped upon us by the many non-alums and Notre Dame-haters of the world.

And now this. Just when the athletic department delivers to us desperate alumni a rare treat — a winning men's basketball program and a coach with real fire and personality, top-notch players with high levels of talent — Mr. Waterboy (and I really want to emphasize the word BOY) decides he is not happy with the call of the officials after having been warned by the coach and those same officials on two prior occasions, and throws his "wittle water bottle onto the floor in pwo-test." Big move, little man, make a statement! You da man!

So today, when you get up in your paid-for living accommodations at one of the most prestigious universities in the world, put on your little Abercrombie & Fitch outfit that Mommy and Daddy in Wilmette bought for you last Christmas and walk to class, think about this — think about all the alums who had to put on a suit and tie and walk into their law firms, brokerage houses, medical offices and accounting firms and hear the jeers from the Michigan, Northwestern and Purdue alums who live and die for moments like this when the Irish really blow it.

Because you blew it for all of us. You blew it for the seniors on Senior Night, you blew it for Matt Doherty, you blew it for the entire men's basketball program, you blew it for all of your fellow students and you blew it for all us alumni who sat at home last night with the fight song CD in our CD players, waiting, hoping and praying for an upset victory and an improbable NCAA berth.

Thanks again, Waterboy!

Mark Laughman
Chicago, Ill.
March 2, 2000

DILBERT

SCOTT ADAMS



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I hate sports as rabidly as a person who likes sports hates common sense."

H.L. Menken
author

VIEWPOINT

THE
OBSERVER

Friday, March 3, 2000

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Beware of scary taxi adventures

Last Friday, my friend Mary Anne had her 19th birthday. To celebrate, her friends and I decided to leave the pleasures of the South Dining Hall and eat dinner with her in a restaurant where klutzes bearing trays less frequently appear.

Overjoyed by the prospect of having dinner without first having a gauntlet for food, we utilized the mode of off-campus transportation most readily available to freshmen: a cab.

At 7 p.m., the familiar yellow mini-vans arrived. I piled into the first one with seven of my friends. Our friendly but mathematically challenged driver insisted that he could transport nine of our group, despite the conspicuous presence of only seven seats. As other members of our group expressed their desire not to sit on their friends' laps while noting the presence of two more vans, our driver grew visibly annoyed. I thought that he might physically grasp at the \$2 walking away in the form of Mary Anne's roommate, Angela.

As our driver confirmed our T.G.I. Friday destination, he placed his foot on the gas and sped down Notre Dame Ave. I clutched the back seat. My knuckles turned white. My heart jumped as he barely avoided rear-ending another car. Obviously annoyed that his speedometer read only 40 miles per hour, he lamented the grandpa-like pace of the Buick in front of us but seized the opportunity to impart the wisdom of taxi drivers.

"Have you ever been to New York?" he asked with his head fully facing the back of the van. A few of us softly replied affirmatively. "Well, you know those cabbies there drive crazy."

As we turned left onto Angela Ave., we left the slow Buick behind. Inspired by an apparent subconscious wish to be Mario Andretti, our driver slammed on the gas pedal and flew through the light at Juniper. "That light must have been orange or pink," I thought, as we raced along Edison. Beth, who sat directly in front of me, turned around wide-eyed and pale-faced.

"Let's see if I can get in front of these people," our driver exclaimed as he crossed two lanes of traffic and left four enraged drivers in his wake. "Has he no fear?" I thought. "Hasn't he ever watched '20/20'?" Road rage is real today.

Refuge, disguised as T.G.I. Friday's, appeared on our right. At the door to the restaurant, we each paid our \$2 fee and vowed to call another company for the ride back to campus. Dinner

passed enjoyably but uneventfully compared to our adventurous journey there. After paying the bill, we searched the phone book for another taxi company, called in our request and waited outside. A half-hour later, an eerily similar van appeared. We climbed in. Our new driver greeted us and asked our destination. "McGlenn Hall," Beth answered.

As he pulled out of the parking lot, he forgot that Americans drive on the right side of the road and proceeded to guide the van along the left side of the avenue between Meijer and the restaurants. Those of us in the cab were unable to speak during the terrifying 15-yard drive to the light at Grape Road. Our driver recognized his error as we turned left onto Grape. He redeemed himself by returning us safely to campus with his eyes and his cab on the right side of the road.

My Friday night experience may have marked an extreme encounter with the incompetence of the local cab companies. But travel in taxis usually leaves me with an increased pulse and a greater appreciation for the green mini-van that I drove at home. It may not have had air-conditioning or properly working windshield wipers, but at least I controlled it, for better or worse.

However, the generally dangerous, reckless driving of the local taxi drivers, as illustrated by our recent experience, should concern the University and inspire strong support within the administration for the success of an improved and expanded SafeRide program. Student drivers, not motivated by profit, have fewer reasons to speed or to drive carelessly. The driving tactics of some cab drivers in pursuit of the greatest volume of passengers possible may result in tragedies as terrible as those caused by inebriated students behind the wheel.

Responsibility also falls on the shoulders of the students to demand safe transportation. Piling 10, 11 or 15 people into a mini-van may afford an adrenaline rush to some on a Friday or Saturday night, but this abets the irresponsible conduct of some taxi drivers.

The crazy ones are not confined to New York.

Joanna Mikulski is a freshman from McGlenn Hall. Her column appears every other Friday.

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



Joanna Mikulski

Tuesday Voice on Friday

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students' behavior unacceptable

When Notre Dame's men's basketball team recorded a homecourt win over top-ranked San Francisco in 1977, NBC Sports named the Notre Dame student body as the MVP of the game. That's the sort of positive reputation our students have earned over the years.

Unfortunately, the actions of a small number of students in recent home basketball games have tainted that reputation. These incidents have been embarrassing for the University and have received extensive national media exposure.

There's a fine line between what's appropriate and what's not appropriate when it comes to fans supporting their team. In these instances, a few Notre Dame students have crossed the line and conducted themselves in a manner that cannot and will not be tolerated.

The athletic department and everyone associated with the men's basketball program have worked to encourage attendance and interest

from students, who can play a key role in helping to create the kind of atmosphere everyone wants to see in the Joyce Center. But there are standards of behavior that must be adhered to, and the behavior of this small number of students is simply unacceptable.

As the season winds down and we hope our team qualifies for postseason play, please help us encourage the sort of behavior that we must come to expect from our students and fans. There's no reason that those in attendance at games cannot enjoy themselves, make noise and support the team without engaging in the sort of conduct that gives all of us a black eye and can even penalize our team.

We must insist on nothing less.

Father Mark Poorman
Vice President for Student Affairs
March 2, 2000

Health conversations must continue on campus

In response to an anonymous letter to the editor, entitled "Get with it, Health Services" (Feb. 28), addressing a lost lab sample, I'd like to say a sincere "thank you" to the writer. This person has given me the opportunity to respond to an unfortunate incident and to invite students to be more involved with their health care and issues of wellness on campus.

I regret that your blood sample was misplaced by the South Bend Medical Foundation (SBMF), an independent satellite provider of laboratory services at University Health Center. This is truly a RARE occurrence.

The laboratory technician and registered nurse on duty recognized and understood your concern and anxiety while waiting for the results to return. When the results had not arrived in 24 hours, the SBF laboratory technician at the Health Center took it upon herself to call the Medical Foundation's main processing lab on your behalf. It was at this time that SBF realized they had not begun to process your sample and could not track it. They assured her they would immediately begin the search. At 4:45 p.m. that afternoon, Health Services was notified that your lab sample was not located. You were immediately notified that if you came to the Health Center, the lab technician would immediately draw another sample before the weekend. The results would be available on Monday. You refused because of the inconvenient time and decided to wait until Monday for the repeat test. There were no additional charges. While this is a very

disconcerting event in your life, the professional nurse and laboratory technician did everything possible to support you and to address the problem.

You asked the question, "Am I just overreacting?" No one would ever judge your feelings or reactions in this disturbing and anxiety-producing situation. However, one should

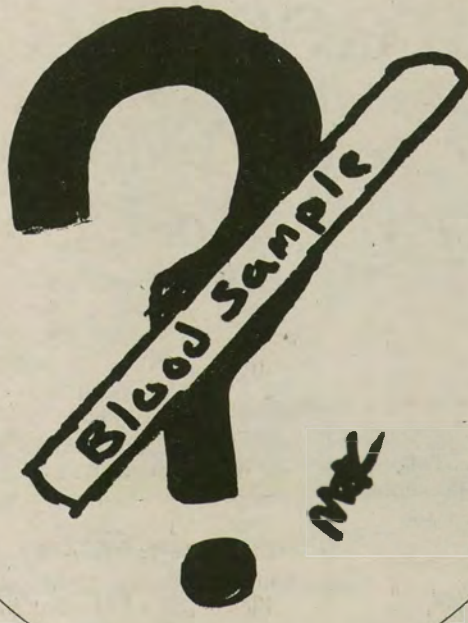
acknowledge that life isn't always

perfect, and one will be involved in situations or circumstances out of one's control. How one addresses and handles those times will either cause an inappropriate response with further frustration and inner turmoil or allow for the opportunity for reflection — "There must be a lesson in here someplace!"

I invite all students on campus to become involved in health care and wellness issues. Open communication allows for active dialogue that furthers education and constructive changes. Our student advisory board is in the process of broadening

its scope of responsibilities and activities. Its goal is to engage more students in participating in health care issues on campus by unifying and directly linking health and wellness issues addressed by University Health Services with student concerns. As "anonymous" has suggested, "let your problems be known" so that appropriate attention and response can be provided.

Ann Thompson
Director, University Health Services
March 2, 2000



write to us.

(you know you want to.)

viewpoint.1@nd.edu



CAROL ROSEGG/Anita Dloniak & Associates

The six-time Tony award winning Broadway smash "Chicago — the Razzle Dazzle Broadway Musical" is packed with sex appeal, humor and murders. Guaranteed to thrill and enrapt all audiences, the show can be seen this weekend at The Morris Performing Arts Center in South Bend.

Sex, murder and the ol' song and dance

Scene takes a look at 'Chicago — the Razzle Dazzle Broadway Musical,' playing in downtown South Bend this weekend

By BRIAN SEAMAN
Scene Theater Writer

It's got the makings of an evening the Catholic Church would condemn. It's got voluptuous women in costumes akin to late-night lingerie. It's got a simulated orgy combining these women and ultra-muscular men. It's got seven murders, an execution and a ton of sex.

Oh yeah, and it's a musical. Combining all the elements of pure show biz flash, "Chicago — the Razzle Dazzle Broadway Musical" slinks its way onto the stage of the Morris Civic Auditorium in South Bend for three performances this weekend.

Originally written in 1975 by the master Broadway songwriting team of John Kander and Fred Ebb, "Chicago" tells the cynical tale of Roxie Hart, a nightclub dancer who kills her lover in a jealous rage. She then dupes the public and media by hiring Chicago's shrewdest lawyer, who ultimately turns her crime into celebrity headlines and gets her acquitted.

The plot line, seemingly ripped from today's headlines, appears to be more timely and fitting to a media-obsessed society than it was when originally produced in 1975.

Riding the coattails of celebrity criminals such as O.J. Simpson, the revival of "Chicago" on Broadway has tightened the plot to fit these modern precedents with hilarity.

This shift in public attention seems to have benefited the Broadway production and touring companies of "Chicago," now in their fourth year and still playing to enthusiastic packed audiences.

Roxanne Carrasco and Tracy Shayne, the stars of the touring company arriving in South Bend this weekend, hope the reaction will be similar here.

"This show is exactly what an audience is looking for,"

said Carrasco, who plays Velma Kelly, Roxie's murderous competitor for headlines. "It is witty, exciting and most of all, very sexy. It isn't like anything on Broadway right now."

When revived in 1996, "Chicago" was staged as a concert of sorts, a three-night event with high profile stars and minimal distractions from elaborate sets or costumes.

While this concert was fully staged and choreographed, the physical set was little more than a rectangular band shell center stage, a small staircase and a dozen or so black chairs. The orchestra was in full view of the audience, thus adding to the theatricality of the evening.

The costumes, while stunning in their own way, were once again minimal. Women wore an amalgamation of black negligee, slips and bikinis, all spiced together with fishnet stockings and black high heels. The men were substantially more clothed but still, little was left to the imagination.

Even though the concert was conceived to run for only a weekend, the response was so tremendous that the musical transferred to Broadway for an extended run in nearly the exact form as the concert version.

The touring company of "Chicago," arriving in South Bend this weekend, is fundamentally identical to its Broadway sister yet with several unique elements added for this production.

Shayne, who plays Roxie Hart, the murderous main character, suggests this uniqueness is what makes "Chicago" so engrossing.

"This company is truly a big family, and with us traveling around and living together everywhere we go, that comes out on stage," she said. "We are all playing

"It ['Chicago'] is witty, exciting and most of all, very sexy. It isn't like anything on Broadway right now."

Roxane Carrasco
actress

pumped up versions of ourselves."

Relatively new to the show, after playing leading roles in "Les Miserables," "The Phantom of the Opera" and "A Chorus Line," Shayne speaks of the electric camaraderie between her and co-star Carrasco, despite the war-

ring and conniving ways of the characters they play.

"It is like we are sisters; we call each other 'sister girlfriend' and have the times of our lives out there on stage," she said. "Acting with great friends while playing a dream role ... what more could you ask for."

Besides the extremely tight-fitting and revealing costumes, the actresses recommend college students to attend for many other reasons.

"College students who have come to 'Chicago' before can tell you that this show is fun, fast paced and very adult," said Shayne. "This musical involves the audience the whole way through and is filled with that sexy Fosse choreography which is so hot today."

Hot is definitely one way to describe "Chicago," and it is a rare opportunity that South Bend receives a production of this caliber and popularity. Tickets are as cheap as \$20 (before student discount) and the show promises to provide the same evening of "drop-dead" entertainment as the Broadway production.

The leading actresses recommend the show using a scene from the opening number. The stage is filled with a very sexy chorus of dancers inviting the audience to listen up, singing "Come on, babe, why don't we paint the town? And all that jazz."

Following that opening number and the evening of high gloss and adult entertainment that follows, it seems the question should rather be "Why not?" "Chicago — the Musical" is a rare theater treat for South Bend, and if its worldwide sensation is any judge for this town, the show is sure to be an evening well spent.

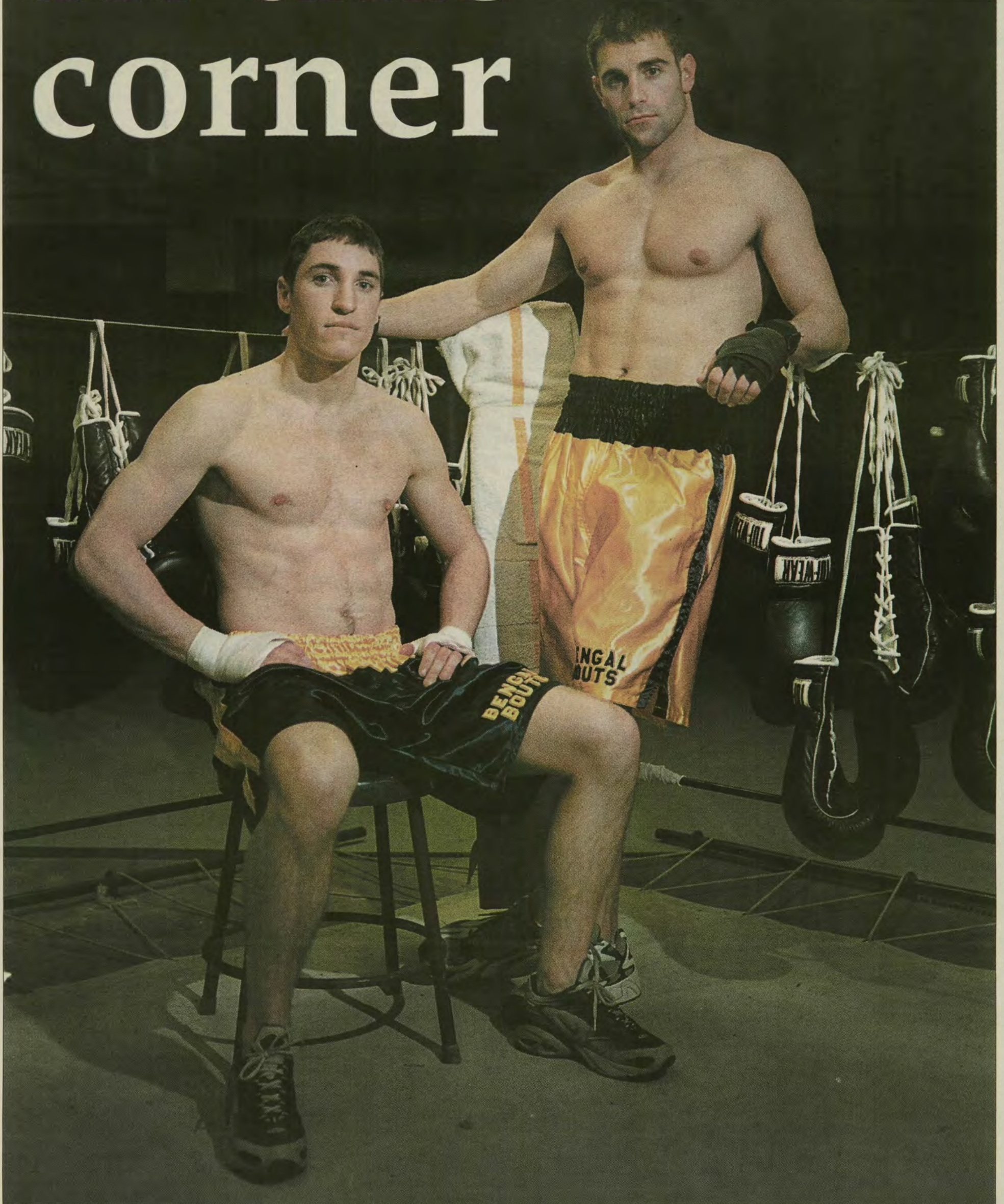
BENGAL BOUTS

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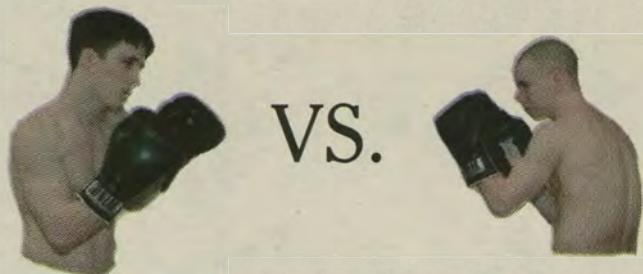
In this corner



JOHN DAILY/The Observer

Senior captains J.R. Mellin (seated) and Tom Biolchini return to the ring tonight in search of repeat Bengal Bouts titles. See page 4 of the insert and page 16 of The Observer for more on these hard-hitting captains.

120 LB.



SHAWN NEWBERG JIMMY FISHBURNE

PICKS

KEVIN BERCHOU
Fishburne
BRIAN BURKE
Fishburne
BILL HART
Fishburne
KERRY SMITH
Fishburne

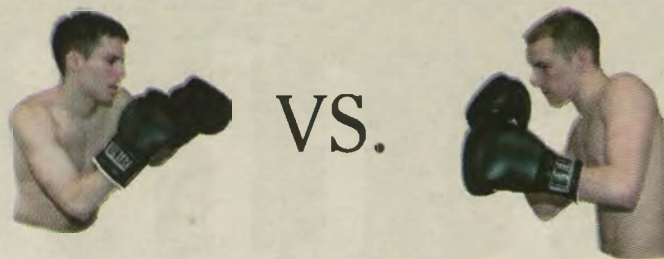
Both James "Pirahna" Fishburne and Shawn "Knockout The Old And Bring In The" Newberg are making just their second appearance at Bengal Bouts, although Newberg has faced a tougher opponent.

Fishburne was hardly tested against an over-matched foe in the semifinals, but is the top seed and rightfully so. He has the best power in the division and will try to employ it in the finals.

Newberg knows how to beat a fighter who comes out swinging and should not be counted out if he takes some shots early.

-Brian Burke

130 LB.



CAMILO RUEDA MATT FUMAGALLI

PICKS

KEVIN BERCHOU
Fumagalli
BRIAN BURKE
Fumagalli
BILL HART
Rueda
KERRY SMITH
Rueda

Second seed Camilo "Rollin'" Rueda could have his hands full with Matt "The Don" Fumagalli when the two meet tonight.

Rueda worked his way inside, landing just a few more jabs than his opponent to win a split decision in the semifinals. Not one to slug it out, Rueda's plan likely will be to capitalize on mistakes.

Fumagalli comes off an all-out battle in the semifinals and has proven he can take a fighter's best shot. If it comes down to trading punches, Fumagalli should have the edge.

Rueda and Fumagalli have distinctly different styles, and whichever one dictates the tempo of the fight should take the title.

-Brian Burke

155 LB.



JEFF DOBOSH PAUL MEHAN

PICKS

KEVIN BERCHOU
Mehan
BRIAN BURKE
Mehan
BILL HART
Mehan
KERRY SMITH
Dobosh

In what should be one of the night's best bouts Paul "He-Man" Mehan has the slightest of edges over Jeff "The Pittsburgh Kid" Dobosh.

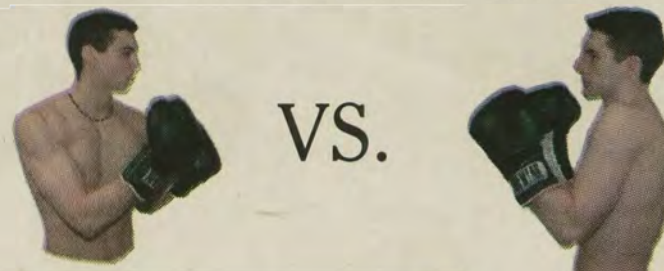
Mehan's advantage lies in his power. The bruiser advanced to tonight's final by way of a spectacular TKO of Robert "The Skinny Ginnea" Vuolo. Mehan will come out firing just as he has in earlier rounds. His offensive charges will be met head on by a feisty Dobosh.

Dobosh gained a finals bid on the strength of a hard-fought split decision over Tom "The Pretender" Pierce.

Both fighters will make this one a slugfest.

-Kevin Berchou

160 LB.



CHRIS MATASSA P.J. DUWORS

PICKS

KEVIN BERCHOU
DuWors
BRIAN BURKE
Matassa
BILL HART
DuWors
KERRY SMITH
DuWors

P.J. "Downtown" DuWors seems to get better each time he enters the ring. He has followed each spectacular performance with an even better one. DuWors will look to go to town on Chris Matassa in what is shaping up as terrific tustle.

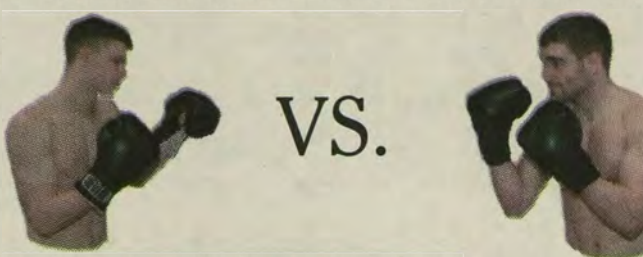
DuWors advanced to the bouts' ultimate fight after knocking off Joseph "The Polygamist" Smith in a close split decision.

DuWors will work predominantly with his jab, a strategy that has served him well.

Matassa will likely give DuWors all he can handle, but DuWors' speed and stamina figure to carry him to a close win.

-Kevin Berchou

175 LB.



JOSH THOMPSON TOM BIOLCHINI

PICKS

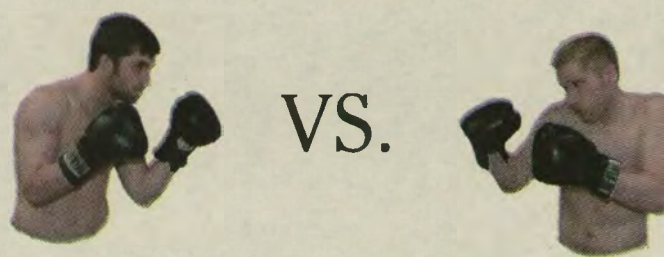
KEVIN BERCHOU
Thompson
BRIAN BURKE
Biolchini
BILL HART
Thompson
KERRY SMITH
Biolchini

The two-time champ takes to the finals again, this time sporting an assaulting boxing style that has earned him two lopsided victories this year. Whether Biolchini gets a third title depends on his ability to keep his opponent off guard with the same steady deluge of combinations.

Josh Thompson's caution in the semifinals belies a certain degree of calmness, but he can not afford to stay on the defensive for too long against Biolchini's aggressive style. If Thompson stays with the flurry of combinations he used throughout the third round, it could mean curtains for the top seed.

-Bill Hart

180 LB.



MARK CRINITI JOEY LENISKI

PICKS

KEVIN BERCHOU
Leniski
BRIAN BURKE
Leniski
BILL HART
Leniski
KERRY SMITH
Criniti

Mark Criniti earned respect by upsetting the second seed in a unanimous decision on Tuesday. His deftly timed punches showed patience and composure against one of the most heavily respected fighters in the competition.

Even more impressive, though, was his use of combinations to score a knockout against his quarterfinal opponent. Joey Leniski faced two difficult opponents with varied fighting styles, but his reactions proved why experience can be such a critical factor in the later bouts.

While a heavy dependence on his hook might be his weakness, his opponents have yet to find a way to beat it.

-Bill Hart

140 LB.



VS.



MICHAEL WALDO

KURT WILSON

PICKS

KEVIN BERCHOU
Waldo
BRIAN BURKE
Wilson
BILL HART
Wilson
KERRY SMITH
Waldo

Kurt Wilson against Mike "The Motor City Madman" Waldo is power against power.

Wilson has been especially effective when he gets his opponent backed into the ropes and uses a good jab and tough uppercut. In prior contests he had to worry about getting after fighters that danced in and out.

That will not be the case in the finals, as Waldo will let the fists fly early and often. He has made a surprising run to the championship bout with the simple strategy of fighting rather than boxing.

This should be one of the night's most exciting fights. Expect plenty of fireworks, and the man who hits harder will win.

-Brian Burke

150 LB.



VS.



DENNIS ABDELNOUR

J.R. MELLIN

PICKS

KEVIN BERCHOU
Mellin
BRIAN BURKE
Mellin
BILL HART
Mellin
KERRY SMITH
Mellin

J.R. "Maddog" Mellin and Dennis "The Natural Disaster" Abdelnour have both advanced with relative ease into the finals, yet in very different ways.

Mellin has relied on sound technique, landing effective combinations and never getting into trouble en route to the title bout. The senior captain goes for his second championship tonight, and his experience will be a significant factor.

Abdelnour is a pure puncher, and he has the knockouts to prove it. Being such a hard hitter, he has a great shot to at the title if he can land enough hooks. Also, as a left-handed fighter, Abdelnour gives Mellin an added dimension to prepare for.

-Brian Burke

165 LB.



VS.



DON PENN

SEAN NOWAK

PICKS

KEVIN BERCHOU
Nowak
BRIAN BURKE
Penn
BILL HART
Nowak
KERRY SMITH
Penn

Many believe the 165-pound division is the Bouts' deepest, making this clash one of the night's most anticipated fights. Sean "The Erie Kid" Nowak demonstrated himself as perhaps the favorite with an emotional decision over Tim "Rock" O'Rourke. With the outcome in doubt heading into the final round, Nowak mounted a charge that proved just enough to turn the bout in his favor. "The Erie Kid," however, will face the toughest of tests when he meets Don "The Destroyer" Penn tonight.

"The Destroyer" has lived up to his monicker, quickly dispatching his opponents, but the pick here is Nowak, who seems to get stronger as the fight goes on.

-Kevin Berchou

170 LB.

Photo not available

VS.



ROB JOYCE

BRIAN HOBBS

PICKS

KEVIN BERCHOU
Hobbins
BRIAN BURKE
Hobbins
BILL HART
Joyce
KERRY SMITH
Hobbins

Something will have to give when Brian "Hoppe" Hobbins meets Rob "Golden Schlager" Joyce. Both fighters have rolled through their respective halves of the brackets with brutal efficiency, making this bout the first real test for both fighters.

Though both fighters are of comparable ability, Hobbins gets the edge on the basis of heart. "Hoppe" has shown the ability to dig deep and pull out all the stops late in his fights for convincing victories.

Joyce is a dazzling inside fighter, and his uppercuts connect with brutal force. Still, it's Hobbins in a close one.

-Kevin Berchou

190 LB.



VS.



MIKE HAMMES

KEVIN BRANDL

PICKS

KEVIN BERCHOU
Hammes
BRIAN BURKE
Brandl
BILL HART
Hammes
KERRY SMITH
Hammes

Hammes looked a little shaky in the semifinals, but he still managed to get the "W" and move on. With the butterflies quenched, he should look much more confident and prepared. While he may not have the reach, Hammes' varied offensive weapons and tactics will keep his opponent guessing. Brandl's defeat of Jason Rodriguez on Tuesday was one of the most shocking upsets of the night. His strategy has been simple: Be aggressive early and prevent movement. In order to win, the Dillon sophomore must be able to effectively contain his opponent to one corner like he has in the last two fights. At the same time, he can't let Hammes to mount a late-round comeback.

-Bill Hart

HEAVY WEIGHT



VS.



DAN ADAM

PETER RYAN

PICKS

KEVIN BERCHOU
Adam
BRIAN BURKE
Ryan
BILL HART
Ryan
KERRY SMITH
Ryan

With only two fights between them in this year's tourney, both fighters should be well-rested and composed heading into tonight. Ryan's experience as a captain gives him a bit of an advantage in the later bouts, but his agility and reach have proved to be his best assets. The lack of fighting hasn't made Ryan complacent; in Tuesday's semifinal, his opponent hit the canvas twice in the third round.

No one should dismiss Adam's power, however, as it was shown when he knocked down his semifinal opponent twice within a 30-second span. If Ryan lets his guard down for even a moment, it could be the opportunity Adam needs.

-Bill Hart

BENGAL BOUTS

THE
OBSERVER

page 4

Friday, March 3, 2000

Biolchini carries on family tradition

By SHANNON RYAN
Sports Writer

Gluing broken furniture together has been a part of Fran Biolchini's life for more than two decades.

When her four boys sparred in the living room, the mother of six figured finding a collapsed end table was better than fixing a son's cracked nose.

Boxing gloves were always in a nearby corner in the Biolchini's Tulsa, Okla., home. The punching bag was in the basement. And couches in the living room became ringside seats for the boys' matches.

Especially when mom left the house.

"When their mother would go out of town, I'd get the gloves right on them," Bob Biolchini remembered. "I taught them early on about boxing. I'd hoped they'd learn to defend themselves and appreciate the sport."

Forty years ago, Dwight Eisenhower was in office, the Beatles' "Hey Jude" topped the charts, Irish football had finished 2-8 under Coach Joe Kuharich and Bob Biolchini began a legacy.

Bob trained his sons Bob Jr., Doug, Toby and Tom to follow his footsteps that led to the ring in the center of the JACC at Notre Dame.

He earned the first of his two Bengal Bouts championships in 1960. Since then, his sons have helped Notre Dame equate boxing with Biolchini.

Bob and Fran have sent four sons and one daughter, Frannie, a 1993 graduate, to Notre Dame. Not surprisingly Christi, the youngest Biolchini and a high school freshman, has expressed interest in attending Notre Dame.

Since Bob's days in the Bouts, every Biolchini son has jumped ropes in the JACC's training rooms, raised money for the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh and traded punches in the ring. They have served as club presidents, captains, undefeated champs and coaches. The family is even planning a summer trip to Bangladesh.

Friday night, the final chapter of the Biolchini boxing story, which spans four decades, will end as the youngest Biolchini son fights in the finals.

Tom, a senior captain, four-year veteran and youngest male Biolchini, will face junior Josh Thompson for his third straight title. Bumped up 10 pounds into the 175-pound class to spread out the competition, "The Tulsa Bomber" has successfully challenged fighters who outweigh him by nearly 20 pounds.

After losing as a freshman in the semifinals to an experienced graduate student, Rich Malloy, Tom won his next two championship bouts.

As a sophomore, he defeated Chip Farrell in a split decision for the 160-pound title. In his junior season, known as "Polly Prissy Pants," Tom beat Don Penn in the 165-pound class, with his three brothers coaching and cheering from his corner.

"It's my senior year, so this is



JOHN DAILY/The Observer

Toby Biolchini coaches his brother between rounds in Tom's semifinal victory Tuesday. Tom continues his family's 40-year commitment to Bengal Bouts.

huge," Tom said after Tuesday's semifinal win over senior Tom Dietrich. "It's my last time so I hope this last fight's going to be a good one. I used to think about my fights. Now, I think about the end of the season. Now, I think, 'God, this is it for me.'"

"Baby Tommy," as his family called him, became the Biolchini main attraction when he dared to go up against his big brother. As young as 5, Tom practiced his jabs on Toby, who is three years older and loomed at what seemed a foot taller.

"My dad always sided with him," said Toby, now a Bengal Bouts' coach. "He thought he'd have to protect him ... I think now my dad would have to be protecting me."

Sometimes, the family still is stunned to see Tom on the attack.

He was the family peacemaker. He was the boy who went to bed on time without mom's nagging, earning him the nickname "Farmer."

"The surprising part is how aggressive Tom can be for being as gentle as he is," his mom Fran said. "He was just a big, gentle, caring person."

A teddy bear with the instincts of a grizzly.

Tom was the leading high school tackler in Oklahoma as a linebacker, but helped up every guy he had just crushed. He still apologizes to Toby after landing an exceptionally solid jab.

On Tuesday, Tom even thanked the guy who had clocked him hard enough in the first round of the semis to threaten Tom's claim on the finals.

"God, hell of a fight," Tom said, shaking hands with Dietrich after the fight. "Thanks for the wake-up call, dude."

He was more appreciative for another chance in the ring. Awaiting his final fight Friday, Tom is wide-eyed now.

"[Being a senior] does add pressure, but sometimes it's the pressure that helps you in a fight," said Tom, who participated in soccer, football and wrestling in high school.

"I [want] to go out there and have fun."

Notre Dame wasn't Tom's only choice. Another decision, however, probably

wouldn't have been quite as popular in the Biolchini household.

"I knew that if I came here, I'd box," Tom said. "That wasn't even really a question. For like two seconds, I was like, 'Oh, I'm going to try other schools.' But down deep, I knew I had always wanted to come here. Not that I felt pressure by any means, but I knew I'd have such a great experience [here]."

Even though winning isn't guaranteed, Biolchini likes the chances.

"If I lose on Friday, that won't take away a single thing," he

said. "I'm going out there with the attitude to win."

One of the many lessons he learned from his dad, who lost his final fight as a senior.

"I came up under [Dominic] 'Nappy' Napolitano," said Bob, referring to the former boxing coach of 55 years, who revitalized the program. "He made sure to teach you lessons in life along with coaching you in boxing."

Tom and his brothers grew up listening to stories of Bob's Bengal Bouts' battles.

Bob displayed his old captain's jacket for his sons. He told them about watching Muhammed Ali's red gloves pound a southpaw in Germany. He taught them his 1-2-3 combination and how easy it is to walk into the punches of a lefty.

He also passed along the parables he learned from Nappy.

A family favorite is the one where Nappy tells Bob to get in the ring against the football team's guard Nick Buoniconti. At that time, all of the football players were required to box and Bob had to spar against one of the biggest.

Outweighed by almost 50 pounds, Bob fearlessly laid into his opponent and split his nose.

"My dad went crazy after him," Tom recalled, his eyes getting bigger as he retells his dad's story. "And all this blood was coming down from his mouth. He said he went over to the corner in the ring and he looked over and saw the meanest look he's ever seen."

The next two rounds weren't so kind to Bob. The next day his forearms were lined with bruises

from trying to protect himself from the heavy blows.

"Nappy wanted to teach me about humility," Bob said. Lesson learned.

"What I love about it the most is ... that you're giving it your entire all," Tom said. "You go out there with so much to lose or so much at risk. There's the embarrassment of getting knocked out and the fear that you're not going to throw the right type of punches. It's very humbling."

"No matter how hard-ass someone is, everyone is scared to really get in there," he continued. "I have butterflies before every fight because I know anything can happen. ... I could go against the worst boxer in the world and he could get one lucky punch and I'm done."

But not before Friday when his family flies into South Bend to sit in his corner.

For the first time, Fran will watch her youngest son fight — a tradition in the Biolchini family is that she watches each son fight once. During preliminaries and semifinals, she sits by the phone and prays.

"Actually, when I'm there I get caught up in the spirit of it," she said. "But it's my job to stay here in Tulsa and say the rosary until I hear they're OK."

"It's hard to care for someone and see them box," she added.

If Tom wins the final Biolchini bout of this generation, he, his brothers and dad will celebrate with victory cigars.

His mom said she can be found at the Grotto, thanking Mary for giving her sons who break furniture but keep their bones intact.

"What I like most about this sport ... is that you're giving it your all. You go out there with so much to lose ... It's very humbling."

Tom Biolchini

See page 16 in the sports section for a feature on Bengals Bouts senior captain J.R. Mellin.

HA's show is weird, funny and all for you

By MARY ANNE LEWIS
Scene Writer

"All right, we decided who'd go first backstage, and, Tony, I believe you had the fattest girlfriend. You're in control of the board."
- from "Let's Get Personal"

Somewhere, sometime, somebody decided it might be fun to pretend to be other people. And, voila!, the actor was born!

Somewhere in Indiana, in a little town called South Bend, about eight years ago, somebody started the group called Humor Artists, better known as HA. And now, while you are sleeping or studying or eating, they are pretending to be other people in strange, but often familiar situations. Creepy? No. It's quite funny, actually.

Improvisation: 1.) the act or art of improvising; 2.) something (as a musical or dramatic composition) improvised, or arranged offhand

Picture this: 25 people — 19 men and six women — in the Hesburgh Library Auditorium. They sit on the stage and read over sketch comedy skits a few of them have written. Someone makes a suggestion: "Change that. Have the guy come in on the left and THEN bump into her ...". Somebody else affirms the modification.

Suddenly, out of the blue, two guys jump onto their feet and begin acting out the skit. It, too, jumps to its feet and comes alive. A Notre Dame biology student has become a highschool teacher, and her real-life classmate is now, in this world that they've created, a janitor who will soon discover the teacher is actually an impostor. She is really the infamous mop-thief, wanted by campus security divisions everywhere. These worlds are crazy ones, but you may be surprised to see just how real it can all appear.

*"I guess I'll just throw in the towel
Stop sending choc-lates and candy
And she'll never again
At 3 a.m.
Get phone calls when I'm feeling randy."
-from "The Song of Stalking"*

This is the group that calls itself HA. And this is what they're doing on Sundays and Thursdays during their practices. They do sketch comedy as well as improvisational work, and you can see it all on Friday or Saturday night at 8 p.m. in the Library Auditorium. The group has approximately 25 members, both men and women, who range from bio-chem to English majors. Andrew McDonnell, known as the "King," and Holly Hoffmann, the "Queen," organize and direct the meetings and try to keep the chaos somewhat manageable. It never seems to work, though. "It's a pretty chaotic group, really," McDonnell said, laughing.

When asked to state his favorite thing about HA, McDonnell answered, "Hmm ... The free drugs ... NO, no! The people are amazing. You grow to love them."

McDonnell has spent three and a half years with HA and has loved his experiences with the group. He has a great deal of respect for previous "King," Denis Hurley. McDonnell calls Hurley the driving force behind HA, because Hurley kept the group together during a very dry period. McDonnell recalls Hurley's nickname, a certain anatomical feature exclusively male, also a word that happens to be one letter away from his first name.

Somehow, this chaotic group has managed to pull together an incredible show brought to you for only \$1.

Hours of practice, months of editing and rewriting and endless jokes are what this group does. It's a group with



MARY CALASH/The Observer

The "Humor Artists" go over ideas for their improvisational skits. After months of practice, they're ready to make you laugh.

spunk, personality and charm. Individual HA members bring a montage of interests and ideas to the spirit of the group. Some members may become doctors, others actors in L.A., others writers. But for now, they'll stick with bringing you ludicrous scenarios for your laughing pleasures.

*"And those are the disturbing details of a night in a girls' dorm. The FCC will not allow us to show the brutal assault on James Van der Beek that took place here subsequently. Notre Dame security was alerted by an anonymous tip but ... they arrived too late. If you know the whereabouts of James Van der Beek, please call us toll-free at 1-800-Unsolved. Good night."
-from "Unsolved Feminine Mysteries"*

Play shows endurance of spirit

By LAURA KELLY
Scene Writer

"I was born in a small town, and I live in a small town ... Prob'ly die in a small town, that's prob'ly where they'll bury me."

Washington Hall lab theatre's newest production, "Between Daylight and Boonville," opens with the sounds of John Cougar Mellencamp's "Small Town." The song's simple lyrics are a fitting beginning for the drama about life in a trailer park in southern Indiana's strip mining country.

Showing tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the lab theater, "Between Daylight and Boonville" tells the stories of three women — Carla (Elizabeth Van Westen), Marlene (Rose Cassey) and Lorette (Kathy Koch) — all wives of poor, itinerant coal miners. Seated on a simple stage between the two screen doors of their trailers, the three friends struggle to understand the

heartaches and disappointments life has thrown their way. While each woman copes differently with her despairs and frustrations, the three are ultimately brought together by a mining accident that irrevocably changes their lives.

Directed by senior Christina Kolski, a psychology and film, television and theater (FTT) major, "Between Daylight and Boonville" is one of the earliest and most successful plays by Matt Williams, the creator of TV sitcoms "Roseanne" and "Home Improvement." In keeping with Williams's comic traditions, the show's irrepressible humor found in dark moments is one of its highlights.

"[It's] a play that makes you laugh and cry at the same time," Kolski said.

The laughing games of Marlene's and Carla's children and the antics of Cyril (John Schmiederer), a lovable prankster, add much comic relief and keep the action flowing. Another source of dark humor is the spiteful feuding between hot-tempered Carla and the town flirt, Wanda (Colleen Slusser).

Roles like Carla's and Wanda's attracted Kolski to choose "Between Daylight and Boonville" for her FTT Advanced Directing Project back in August. "I liked this show because it has a lot of strong female leads, which is rare," she said. "It is a great opportunity for women to come out and really show their talents."

Her enthusiasm for the play reveals her personal connection: "I chose this show because I was in it when I was 7 years old, as one of the play's three children."

Kolski's previous acting and directing experience is evident in the polished, professional performances of her actors. The leads are impeccably cast and well rehearsed, while the show's three children set an eager and light-hearted contrast to their mothers' distresses and torments.

The cast creates a world of believable characters, centered on Carla, a young wife torn between the only life she knows and a restless desire for something more, something greater. Certainly any college student tormented by the nagging questions of what to do with one's life can sympathize with Carla's longings: "I could be good at something, if I knew what it was, if I could just find it ... But there's nothing here."

'Between Daylight and Boonville'

- ◆ Where: Washington Hall
- ◆ When: Today & Saturday
- ◆ Time: 7:30 p.m.



MARY CALASH/The Observer

"Between Daylight and Boonville" presents a strong, female-dominated cast showcasing talent in expressing emotion.



MARY CALASH/The Observer

The cast comes together to create a believable world and provide a window to the human condition.

In contrast with the desolation found in the trailer court, "Between Daylight and Boonville" is blessed with a well-written script and a talented cast. When asked about the most satisfying aspect of directing her first full production, a two-hour show, Kolski replied, "My favorite part of directing is watching the whole process unfold from beginning to end. A lot of actors get the rush of opening night and the rush of performances, but I really love the day-to-day stuff, even rehearsals! It is an amazing rush when you are probing an actor to convey a certain emotion and they finally get it. It's a very big high for me."

It is clear Kolski has succeeded in reaching her actors. From the opening scene, the audience easily slips into the characters' small world of complicated relationships lightened by easy-going banter. As the drama progresses, the simple life of this small town becomes anything but simple, entangled with affairs and secrets and shattered dreams.

"['Between Daylight and Boonville' is] a play about life, how people deal with stressful times and traumatic events," Kolski said.

For the audiences lucky enough to experience this sliver of Americana this weekend, this treasure of a production will leave them with a deeper appreciation of human resiliency and the strength of hope.

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish head to sunny California

By RACHEL BIBER
Sports Writer

The Irish hope to get more than a nice tan when they travel to sunny

California this weekend. Notre Dame's men's tennis squad is headed to La Jolla, California, for the 104th Pacific Coast Doubles Championships, which will be played from Friday to Sunday. The Irish will be represented by five doubles teams, who will enter the draw against professional, collegiate, and top junior players from all over the world. "We're really excited," Irish coach Bob Bayliss said. "It's a premiere event. We'll be very challenged and it will be great for our players."

Sophomores Aaron Talarico and Javier Taborga, currently ranked a

season-high 31st, stand as the top duo for the Irish, and will

seek to

improve their 12-5 season record. With their recent victory over the 44th-ranked Northwestern doubles team of Joost Hol and Brad Erickson, Taborga and Talarico brought their record against ranked foes to 6-0 on the year. The formidable Irish pairing has won six of eight matches in 2000, including an 8-5 win over the 14th-ranked team of Matt Amgwerd and Nic Dubey from New Mexico in January. A five-match win streak is on the line for Taborga and Talarico as they face-off against an elite field this weekend.

Irish captain and All-American Ryan Sachire is paired up with Trent Miller to form another team for the Irish. The all-senior doubles duo has been rock solid at the No. 2 position throughout the season, notching two dominating wins against the doubles teams of Purdue and Northwestern in

last weekend's dual matches. The Irish will also be represented by sophomores Casey Smith and James Malhame, who have teamed up at No. 3 doubles in eight of ten dual matches in 2000. Smith and Malhame have a 4-3 mark on the year, including a crucial 8-5 win over Kentucky's Edo Bawono and Johan Grunditz, which clinched the doubles point in the dual-match victory.

Matt Daly and Ashok Raju will also team up for the Irish this weekend in California, along with the pairing of Andrew Laffin and Brian Farrell. Although Notre Dame sends the bulk of its squad to the event, the outcome holds no bearing on team rankings or records. Coach Bayliss is looking forward to the California sun and sees the opportunity to play outside as advantageous to his team's progress. "It's a great way to break in and adjust to playing outdoors," Bayliss said.

Women

continued from page 24

54 victory and then beat the Hurricanes in a rematch at the Joyce Center 83-68.

Seton Hall also posed little threat to Notre Dame early in the season, as the Irish handed the Pirates a 80-52 loss.

But those games were played under different circumstances with not as much on the line. With the NCAA tournament just around the corner, mediocre Big East teams now have more incentive to take down

the Irish in the Big East tournament to gain a last-minute edge with the NCAA tournament selection committee.

If the Irish make it past the first round, they will still face a challenge in probable opponent Rutgers — a team that gave them all they could handle in regular season play.

"It's hard preparing for the tournament because we won't know who we are going to face," Green said. "But we played Miami two times and won and beat Seton Hall early in the season, so we are just going to stick to our game plan."

That game plan consists of tight defense and balanced play under the basket and behind the arc. Entering into the tournament, junior center Ruth Riley — the go-to player for the Irish — is averaging just over 17 points in conference action. Riley has struggled this season with fouls — the All-American candidate will need to stay out of foul trouble for the Irish to make a serious run at the title.

Freshman shooting guard

Alicia Ratay is nipping at Riley's heels, averaging almost 15 points an outing. Not only has Ratay's point production been key for the Irish, the timing of her shots has been the most effective part of her game. Ratay has pulled the Irish out of scrapes all season with her deadly three-point shot.

Irish head coach Muffet McGraw will also be looking for a strong outing by point guard Niele Ivey. The team's vocal leader on the court,

"The bench is going to be key. Every single player has to be focused and prepared to find some way to contribute."

Danielle Green
Irish guard

Ivey plays a pivotal role in the Irish offense. The senior leads the Irish in steals and assists.

Green will also play a major role in the tournament. Enjoying an outstanding second half of the season, Green is the third-leading scorer for the Irish and has proved to be a menace to opponents on the fast-break.

But, with the possibility of three games in three days, the Irish will need more than stellar performances by their starters to earn the title. Notre Dame's bench will be a crucial factor this week.

"The bench is going to be key," said Green. "Every single player has to be focused and prepared to find some way to contribute."

After spending a record six weeks at the No. 5 spot in the AP and ESPN/USA Today polls, the Irish fell to sixth after their loss to Connecticut. The Irish are looking at the Big East Tournament as a way to gain some ground before the NCAA tournament and bolster their confidence before the big dance. The Irish know the Big East title is just within their reach and don't plan on leaving Connecticut empty-handed again this season.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

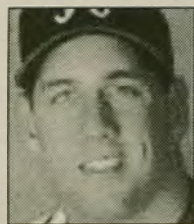
Rocker arrives at spring training

Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla.

John Rocker stood alone in the middle of the Atlanta Braves clubhouse, his eyes revealing a hint of tears.

It's one thing to be heckled by 55,000 fans in New York, it's quite another to face the harsh scrutiny of your teammates and coaches. Especially when you've called one of them a "fat mon-



Rocker

key" in a magazine interview, and disparaged gays, foreigners and minorities, too.

Third-base coach Ned Yost angrily asked Rocker to explain how he could offend so many people.

Outfielder Reggie Sanders demanded remorse and accountability.

Reserve first baseman Randall Simon wanted to know Rocker's true feelings about his Latin teammates.

When it was over, Rocker was hardly the cocky reliever who saved 38 games for the Atlanta Braves a year ago. Instead, he pleaded with his teammates, "Please, guys, let me play."

Rocker put on a Braves uni-

form for the first time since the World Series on Thursday after an independent arbitrator cut his suspension in half, reduced his fine and allowed him to report to spring training.

Commissioner Bud Selig originally suspended Rocker for all of spring training and the first 28 days of the regular season, fined him \$20,000 and ordered him to get sensitivity training after the divisive comments appeared in December's Sports Illustrated. The fine was cut to \$500.

Shortly after arriving at the ballpark, Rocker addressed Manager Bobby Cox, the coaching staff and his teammates in a private meeting.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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Then little miss Kelly, still blonde and a babe, shows up at Dylan's with a list on a page.

People on the plane, from first class to coach, no Jack McKay, but still no lost hope.

Eddie Waitkus, an old baseball player, better known as Roy Hobbs in movie nature.

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BENGAL BOUTS

page 16

"Strong bodies fight, that weak bodies may be nourished."

Friday, March 3, 2000

Senior captain Mellin completes stellar career

By TIM CASEY
Sports Writer

He's sitting in Section 107, row five of a nearly empty Joyce Center on Wednesday afternoon, talking about his upcoming Bengal Bouts fight, the last of senior captain J.R. Mellin's career.

Down below on the court several members of the women's basketball team are running windsprints, preparing for this weekend's Big East tournament.

The conversation shifts to his freshman year, when he fought then-senior captain Doug Polina in Mellin's first Bengal Bouts final.

When asked about that fight, Mellin's eyes briefly look away and stare down at the court, the same place where he fought Polina three years ago. Seemingly ignoring the women's practice, an image suddenly appears in his mind.

"I remember sitting in the ring in between the second and third round [of that fight]," Mellin said about his loss to Polina. "I think my nose was broke at that point — it was bleeding but wasn't too bad. I remember looking up at those lights above the ring. I was having the time of my life."

"I was watching the tape of the fight afterwards and it's hilarious," Mellin added. "You see me swinging around in the third round and you can see I have this huge grin on my face. I have my mouthpiece in but there's this big grin. I think I took a shot right after that. I was a freshman and didn't know what was going on. But just to be a part of that with all those guys that I really looked up to was pretty neat."

One thing in the past three years that hasn't changed with Mellin is that grin. Mention anything to do with boxing and you're sure to see the whites of his teeth.

Whether it be reflecting on a previous fight, on the charitable aspect of the boxing program, on his growth as a person in his four years here or talking about the friendships he's made through the sport, Mellin is a total advocate for the program.

"In my four years here, it [boxing] has been my defining experience," Mellin said.

The experience began at the beginning of his second semester freshman year. His assistant rector at Keenan Hall, Jeevan Subbiah, a law student involved with the boxing program, suggested that Mellin try it out. Before leaving for winter break, Subbiah gave Mellin a few training tips.

"He said to do a lot of pushups and sit-ups," Mellin said. "I went home and was doing sets of 100. I didn't know what we did. Thank God we didn't do sets of 100, though it's not too far off."

The naive freshman quickly learned about boxing when he came back to school in January, 1997. Growing up in San Francisco, Mellin ran track and cross-country in high school, but boxing never played a role in his life prior to enrolling at Notre Dame.

"I hadn't even see 'Rocky' when I was a freshman," Mellin said. "I didn't know what to expect. Coming in I didn't know

anything about boxing."

Now, Mellin was thrust into two- to three-hour workouts, six days a week, consisting of 500 sit-ups, 250 pushups, 300 jumping jacks — not to mention sparring and hitting the heavy bag.

And arm circles. "They just grind you because they want to reduce the numbers," Mellin recalled of his first practice. "They had us doing arm circles with our arms out to the side until I couldn't lift my arms anymore."

Fortunately for Mellin the pain only lasted a few days. He quickly made a name for himself in the ring, impressing the upperclassmen. One person Mellin met his freshman year was senior captain John Christoforetti.

Christoforetti, a three-time champion and holder of four black belts in karate, was an idol for the young Mellin and remains a close friend.

As is the tradition at the Bengal Bouts, Mellin needed to come up with a catchy nickname, or moniker, to use while competing.

He got input from Christoforetti and other boxers and thought of names himself. But it was a woman who helped out with the administrative side of the Bengal Bouts that encouraged Mellin to pick a particular name.

Her choice was "Maddog", her father's flight name in the Air Force. The woman's father happened to be an ex-Bengal Bouts champion as well as an aviator.

Thus began the career of the "Maddog."

"I'm not the big Maddog," Mellin said. "I'm more of a quieter guy most of the time. But I've got to give them [the opponents] that whole psychological thing, where they're thinking I'm the Maddog. That's the thought, at least."

As a freshman, the "Maddog" advanced all the way to the finals of the 150-pound division before facing Polina.

"He was a machine. He could throw and he was in great condition," Mellin recalled about Polina. "He had broken my nose three weeks earlier. When we met in the finals, he did me the pleasure of re-breaking it for me."

Mellin came back his sophomore year a few pounds lighter, competing in the 145-pound division. This time, he advanced to the finals again, where he beat Dave Murphy, capturing his first Bengal Bouts title.

Last year, Mellin moved back up to the 150-pound division. As the top seed, Mellin rolled through to the finals, defeating Babu Kazu and Matt Lynn before facing his toughest challenge to date. In the championship round, Mellin squared off against freshman Edward Hernandez, the most experienced boxer he'd ever faced.

The anticipation of Mellin-Hernandez began several months before the actual fight.

"Everyone was whispering about him [Hernandez] early in the season," Mellin said. "By the time our match came around I had sparred him twice so I knew how good he was."

The bout lived up to its hype, as Mellin and Hernandez traded blows for three rounds before Hernandez won by decision.



JOHN DAILY/The Observer

Senior Bengal Bouts captain J.R. Mellin, left, lands a punch in a recent match. Mellin wraps up his impressive career tonight as he competes in the Bengal Bouts finals in the Joyce Center.

Mellin started aggressively, almost knocking Hernandez down in the first round.

Come the second round, though, Hernandez had a surprise for his opponent.

"He came out in the second round left-handed," Mellin said. "Midway through the round I was thinking, 'what the hell is going on here'. He sparred me both times as a right-hander and he fought the first round as a right-hander. But he's ambidextrous. Finally, I'm like, 'he's left-handed. He wasn't left-handed before.'"

"The thing about Edward is that he makes you fight that much better of a fight because he's so well protected," Mellin said. "Where other fights would get sloppy, we threw, threw and threw but none of it was sloppy. It was probably the best fight I've had."

The two fighters were looking forward to a rematch tonight. But the plans were scratched before the bouts even began when Hernandez was declared ineligible to fight because of his experience. The powers-to-be likened him to a professional fighting, against novices, so they decided to prevent him from competing.

The decision was not met with approval by the majority of the boxing program. Two separate letters by fellow boxers published in the Feb. 24 edition of The Observer challenged the removal of Hernandez.

Though he said he would have liked to get a second chance at Hernandez, Mellin would not elaborate on his views of the decision.

Nevertheless, Mellin has lived up to his top ranking this year, recording consecutive unanimous decision victories over Brock Heckmann and Tom Owens en route to tonight's title bout. He'll be facing junior Dennis "The Natural Disaster"

Abdelnour, who's already knocked out his two opponents.

"He was training in London [where he went to school] all last semester," Mellin said of Abdelnour. "He's so vastly improved and he's another left-hander. Left-handers should be banned from boxing. You can tell the effort he's put in has paid off. He's going to give me a run for it."

Win or lose, Mellin has cherished this year the most, mainly because as a captain he's able to give back to the program and try to instill in the underclassmen the same pride he feels for the Bengal Bouts.

"It's a blast coming in and helping those guys [the underclassmen] out," Mellin said. "For me, I always like to say put your pride in the process and not in the product. That's what I tell a lot of the freshman. If you do that, 130 guys walk away with a great experience, win or lose. Even if you're the worst boxer in the world, you know you're part of something bigger. I think a lot of guys really feel like they left with something special."

From a naive freshman to a senior captain, Mellin has experienced it all here at Notre Dame. He's a four-time finalist. He's been an integral part of a program that raised over \$51,000 last year for the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

He's been a champion and been on the losing side.

And he's even changed his name. Sort of.

All throughout his childhood and continuing through high school, Mellin was referred to as Jeff, his real first name. But on his first weekend here at Notre Dame, during Freshman Orientation, Mellin reinvented himself.

In one of the dorm activities that weekend, all the freshman in Keenan were asked to tell their names. As a joke, Mellin

said his name was J.R., his initials. Little did he know at the time, but four years later that name has stuck.

"I thought it would be funny because those were my initials," Mellin said. "About a day later I realized that I wasn't going back from this. Forty people thought I was J.R. now."

Tonight, Mellin will head to the ring for the last time. His parents [who still refer to him as Jeff] will be in town from California, his sister is flying in from Philadelphia. Even Subbiah, his mentor, and still one of his best friends will be coming back to see Mellin's final fight.

In Mellin's corner will be his old friend Christoforetti and Mike Maguire, his roommate and fellow boxing captain, known to Mellin as "the team motivator."

Immediately prior to his bout with Abdelnour, Mellin plans on following the same routine he's been using for the past three years. He'll put on his blue trunks, listen to Pearl Jam's "Alive", then walk down the aisle, his final march into the ring.

There will be mixed chants of "Maddog!", "Go Jeff" and "Go J.R." echoing through the Joyce Center.

The final chapter of a storied champion.

His career may be over tonight. But his memories will linger on forever.

"I'm going to miss this a lot. I really will, more than probably anything else here," Mellin said of his final fight. "I'm going to try to suck it all in."

"Notre Dame has been awesome and we'll move on to other things and it'll be great," Mellin said. "But this'll be one thing that'll be hard to replace. You'll always have friends wherever you go and there'll be a lot of neat things going on but this is sort of irreplaceable. I'm going to miss it a lot."

NBA

Jackson's Lakers prove defense makes difference

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

While they're not yet into Eastern mysticism, the Los Angeles Lakers are beginning to look like Phil Jackson's team.

Kobe Bryant, a natural on offense, is playing tenacious defense. Shaquille O'Neal, who in the past tried to do most

everything himself, is kicking the ball back out to the open man. All the role players, including the reserves, are fitting seamlessly into the flow of games.

In their first season under Jackson, the Lakers are playing with a sort of confident harmony, something their coach — a bit of a guru — can appreciate.

"We've really taken on this personality of composure and calm and being poised regardless of the situation," guard Derek Fisher said.

The Lakers also happen to be playing the best basketball in the NBA with a record of 47-11 and are on a 13-game winning streak after an earlier run of 16 in a row.

Bryant believes the team is beginning to reflect Jackson's personality, "as far as being real cerebral and being very mindful of the game."

"That's the type of personality that Phil has brought to the team and we kind of bought into it. We have belief in the system," Bryant said.

Said Jackson: "They are really

growing and learning."

The Lakers' most significant progress this season is on defense, where they rank fourth in the league, holding opponents to 90.6 points a game. Last season, they ranked 25th, allowing 96 points a game.

"I think a lot of our improvement is just getting a better understanding that it takes defense to win, and not just our skills," Fisher said. "I think some of it is the respect that we all have for Phil, coming in here and taking this job. At the same time, it's growth and maturity by us."

The Lakers also are playing better offense than they were in the early days of Jackson's triangle offense.

O'Neal, averaging 27.7 points and 14.2 rebounds, and Bryant, averaging 22.3 points and six rebounds, are still the go-to guys. But both have averaged about six assists each during the current winning streak, and their unselfishness seems to be rubbing off on their teammates. In a recent 109-96 win over Boston, the Lakers had 41 baskets — and 35 assists, topped by Ron Harper with seven.

While the Lakers have the league's best record, they believe they still have a way to go.

"Back then, we felt confident we were going to win every night and that was how it was," Green recalled, talking of his with championship Lakers teams in the '80s. "Hopefully this team will get to that point; it's what we're trying to do."

Jackson feels that, rather than taking on his personality, the Lakers are developing their own.

"A team has to have their own heads, so to speak, in many ways," he said. "A coach needs to monitor until they find their own way together as a unit. Until they do, they're not going to be that championship-caliber team they want to be."

Los Angeles, which had its 16-game win streak end in a 111-102 loss at Indiana, tries to extend its current string to 14 against the Pacers on Friday night at Staples Center.

"I look forward to Indiana; they're a very deep team," Jackson said. "We're going to need our bench."

Los Angeles faces another good team after the Pacers, meeting the Miami Heat on Sunday at home.

If the Lakers win those two, they'll try to equal their 16-game streak, the league's longest this year and second-longest in team history, against the lowly Clippers on Tuesday night. After the Clippers, the Lakers have a run of five games in which they also will be heavily favored.

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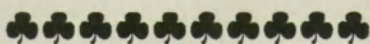
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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Coyne raises standards in 2000

By **MIKE CONNOLLY**
Associate Sports Editor

After three winning seasons in three years of existence, one might believe women's lacrosse head coach Tracey Coyne would be satisfied with the progress her team has made.

She's not. Following a 9-6 '99 campaign, Coyne is ready for the Irish to transform themselves from a solid Midwest lacrosse program into a competitive national program.

"We want to peak this year," she said. "We are not waiting around. Last year we talked about things we wanted to accomplish and they didn't happen. Not to take anything away from the 9-6 season but we have higher expectations this year."

The Irish get their first chance to live up to those expectations Sunday when they travel to Colorado to take on the University of Denver Pioneers.

The Irish showed that this might be the year that they live up to Coyne's expectations last weekend when they traveled to Loyola (Md.) and defeated No. 3 Virginia in an exhibition game.

The 2000 Irish squad is the most experienced and talented team that Coyne has ever had. Led by 50-goal scorer Lael O'Shaughnessy, the young Irish team returns nine starters — none of which are seniors.

"We are another year older," Coyne said. "We just have so many more people with experience in big games."

Winning the big games is the primary goal of this year's team, according to Coyne. Last year's team picked up nine wins, but never upset a top team. With a tough schedule this year, Coyne expects the Irish to surprise some of the top teams in the country.

"We have a much more competitive schedule but I think

we are more prepared," Coyne said. "Last year was kind of disappointing because we only beat the teams that we should beat. We had some big wins but we really didn't knock anyone off. I think we have learned a lot about ourselves as a team."

The Irish face stiff tests from nation powers Duke, ranked second in the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association preseason poll and Georgetown, ranked sixth in the IWLCA preseason poll. In addition the Irish face four other preseason top 25 teams in Vanderbilt, Rutgers, Syracuse and Rutgers.

Last season, the Irish goaltending concerned Coyne. To strengthen her team between the pipes, Coyne recruited freshman Jen White and accepted transfer Tara Durkin from the University of Massachusetts.

Durkin impressed Coyne in the win over Virginia and earned the starting nod against Denver. The competition for the starting goaltender is far from over, however.

"Obviously strength in the goal is a key component to winning," Coyne said. "There is a lot of competition at that position. But we are expecting Carrie Marshal and Jen White to push her in practice and play a role in the rest of the season."

Coyne believes that with Durkin in net, the Irish can compete with any program.

Without any senior starters, the Irish will rely on a core of juniors for leadership. The juniors, who were the first class recruited by Coyne, have always been leaders.

"I think the juniors have done a great job," Coyne said. "Last year, when they were sophomores, they had to step up. So they've always had to step up. They are a determined group and they understand what the goals of the program are."

Those goals are just a little bit higher this year.

NBA

Starks looks for a release

Associated Press

NEW YORK

John Starks to the Knicks? John Starks to the Heat? Either could happen by the end of the weekend.

An arbitrator will hear arguments Friday on whether Starks can forfeit the remainder of his salary and be released by the Chicago Bulls so he can become a free agent and join a playoff contender for the rest of the season.

"If this team was in the playoff race, I'd love to be here. No question," Starks said. "But that's not the case. ... Every player that plays the game wants to win a championship. I'm no different."

Starks, who was traded from Golden State to Chicago last month, has offered to give up the remainder of his \$4 million salary for this season if the Bulls agree to release him. He then would be free to sign with any team.

"I'm taking a big chance," Starks said. "I'm not sure if another team is going to want to pick me up."

Players released after 11:59 p.m. on March 1 who then sign with another team are not eligible to compete in the playoffs, but Starks is seeking to have his release made retroactive to Wednesday night so he can compete in the postseason.

Arbitrator Kenneth Dam will hear the case

by conference call Friday afternoon. A decision is expected no later than Saturday.

If Starks wins, both the New York Knicks and Miami Heat would be interested in adding him, several league sources said.

"It would be interesting to see which one he'd pick," said Allan Houston of the Knicks, who remains friends with Starks. "He'd have to choose which one he thought had a better chance of winning a championship. He wants a ring."

Starks spent eight seasons with the Knicks until being traded to the Warriors before last season as part of the Latrell Sprewell deal.

Starks also remains fond of Miami coach Pat Riley, who coached him in New York

from 1991-95.

The players' union will argue on Starks' behalf that, if he is willing to forfeit roughly \$1 million in salary, no one should stand in the way of him joining another team with a shot at winning a championship.

The league will argue that because Starks was not released prior to Jan. 10, his salary is fully guaranteed for the entire season. And since there is no provision in the collective bargaining agreement that allows for this kind of move — even when a player and a team have agreed to amend a contract — it should not be allowed.

"I have to be optimistic. You never know what happens in this league," Starks said. "None of you guys ever thought I'd be a Bull."

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FENCING

Seniors prepare for final career home meet

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Associate Sports Editor

Senior foil captain Jim Harris can vividly recall his first fencing match at Notre Dame.

As a freshman walk-on with just two prior years of training, Harris rarely got a chance to fence during the competitions. But for the last bout of the match against Cleveland State, Harris finally got to take the strip for the Irish.

With every other fencer finished for the day, Harris' bout

became the center of attention.

With veteran Irish fencers like Stephane Auriol and Jeremy Siek cheering him on, Harris picked up his first win as an Irish fencer.

"I felt a little bit like Rudy with everybody cheering," Harris said about his first meet.

This weekend, Harris, along with the Irish seniors will take

the home strips for the last time at the Midwest championships.

While this weekend will be emotional for the seniors, Harris said the Irish are focusing more on winning the championship and not on the close of their

home careers.

"It is going to be very difficult Sunday when the individual tournament comes to a close because I know I won't be moving on to the qualifier [for the NCAA tournament]," Harris said. "But I am looking forward to it. I think it is going to be a lot of fun and I think I will worry about it when it is all over."

When the tournament is all over, the Irish hope to walk away with Midwest championships for both the men and women overall and in all three weapons. The men should have an easy road to the title as they are ranked first and cruised to easy wins against conference opponents in the regular season.

Despite not fencing in a competition for two weeks, the Irish said that they will not be rusty this weekend.

"I think we will be ready," senior epeeist Dominic Guarnaschelli. "We always gear back up at the end of the season so we will be ready to charge on in there."

The women, however, face a stiff test from Northwestern, who beat the Irish during the regular season. Because of that loss, the Irish are seeded an unfamiliar second behind the Wildcats.

"I felt a little bit like Rudy with everybody cheering."

Jim Harris
senior foil captain

"For the first time all the girls are seeded second as opposed to first but that is because of our loss to Northwestern," epee captain Kim DeMaio said. "But I think we are ready for the challenge. We are not concerned with that happening again."

If the Irish upset the Wildcats and win the Midwest Championship, DeMaio will play a key role. With No. 3 epee-starter Kiersten Ferguson out with an injury, DeMaio moves into a starting role.

Northwestern should be the only test for the women as a team, although there are several individuals who can challenge the Irish.

"There are a couple of schools with one really good fencer," DeMaio said. "There will be some tough competitors in the individuals but it is good to fence tough competition before the qualifier. There are a couple of stands outs but no one that is unbeatable."

The Irish women should be favored to win individual titles in every weapon.

At epee, freshmen Anna Carnick and Meagan Call should challenge for the individual title. Carnick led the Irish with 41 wins while Call was not far behind with 39 wins.

At foil, senior captain Magda Krol made a successful transition from epee to foil and won 33 bouts for the Irish. Freshman Liza Boutsikaris, however, led the Irish in foil victories with 36. It is possible that Boutsikaris and Krol will be seeded 1-2 in the individual tournament, setting up an all-Irish final.

At women's sabre, freshman Natalia Mazur has been practically flawless en route to a 49-4 regular season record. Not

even the strong Northwestern sabrewomen should be able to stop Mazur from winning the title.

On the men's side, the biggest questions won't be if a Notre Dame fencer wins an individual title, but which Irish fencer will take home the title.

At sabre, four different Irish fencers could take first. While sophomore Gabor Szelle is the favorite, sophomore Andrej Bednarski and freshman Matt Fabricant will all give the 1999 champion a tough bout. An all-Irish semifinal would not be a surprise.

At foil, a pair of Irish freshmen are the class of the Midwest. Ozren Debic has not lost since the first weekend en

route to a 42-3 record but his classmate Forest Walton could challenge him for the title.

At epee, 1999

Midwest Champion James Gaither faces a strong challenge from his teammates — sophomore All-American Brian Casas and freshman Jan Viviani. Casas and Viviani had better regular seasons than Gaither but the senior captain always seems to fence at the top of his game in pressure situations.

At the end of the weekend, the seniors hope that they will walk away with their fourth Midwest overall title. But more importantly, they will walk away with friendships that will last a lifetime.

"The best part has been the team bonding that has gone on," Guarnaschelli said. "Whether we have been traveling or at home, everyone comes together. You can especially see it at the end of the year."

"The best part has been the team bonding that has gone on."

Dominic Guarnaschelli
senior epeeist

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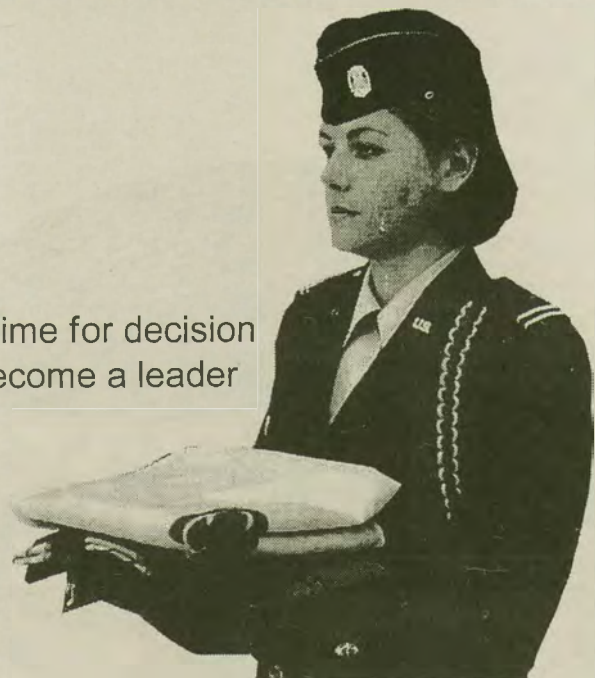
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HOCKEY

Michigan State series to decide home ice for Irish

By **MATT OLIVA**
Sports Writer

The Irish head into the final weekend of the regular season looking to secure the fifth and final home playoff spot.

"It's essential for us to get four points this weekend," senior defenseman Tyson Fraser said. "We want momentum heading into the playoffs and playing at home eliminates the need for travel."

The home and away series against Michigan State could determine whether or not the Irish (11-9-6 in the CCHA) maintain their two-point lead over Ferris State for the fifth spot. No matter the outcome, the Irish can finish no lower than sixth place overall in the standings.

"Home ice is so important and we want to play as many more games in the JACC as we can," said defenseman Sean Molina. "It is just a matter of going out and getting on a roll.



Carlson

We need to establish ourselves as a team that no one wants to face. Right now in college hockey if you get on a hot streak anything is possible. There are going to be a lot of upsets and we want to continue to do well."

The second meeting between the Irish and Spartans comes at a crucial point in the Notre Dame schedule. Michigan State leads the overall series 44-28-5, and has gone 17-2-3 against Notre Dame since the Irish rejoined the CCHA in 1992.

The Irish offense has suffered against the Spartans scoring only six goals in their last six games. The home team, however, has not lost during this stretch, going 5-0-1. Home ice advantage will come into play, as each team will have a home game this weekend.

In the first meeting between the two teams the Irish prevailed with a 1-0 victory. Junior Ryan Dolder put back a rebound to beat the MSU goaltender for the game-winner

with less than five minutes remaining.

Irish goaltender Tony Zasowski recorded 15 of his 24 saves in the third period to post Notre Dame's first shutout of the Spartans since 1978, a span of 41 games.

In the second game of the series the Irish were not as fortunate, dropping the road game to MSU 4-1. The Spartans scored in every period and benefited from strong goaltending by Joe Blackburn.

Junior Kopischke scored the lone Irish goal, but it came after the Spartans had already built a 3-0 lead.

The Irish are wracked with injuries going into the weekend. Sophomore David Inman will miss the entire series with

mononucleosis and might not be cleared before the end of the season. Inman is Notre Dame's fifth leading scorer, with 15 goals and seven assists in 32 games this season.

Junior leftwing Chad Chipchase will also miss the remainder of the season after undergoing reconstructive knee surgery in mid-February. He is expected to make a full recovery for his senior season.

The key to the series for the Irish will be their offense. Notre Dame holds a 12-8-4 record when scoring at least one powerplay goal, and a 8-1-1 record when scoring two or more powerplay goals.

In addition, the Irish have not lost in their last 39 games

when holding a lead heading into the 2nd intermission. During this span, Notre Dame has posted a 33-0-6 record, including 10 wins and three ties this season.

Top Irish scorer Dan Carlson has benefited tremendously from the powerplay. Nine of his team leading 15 goals have come with the man advantage. He has found the net five times in the last six games and eight times in the last 10 games.

The junior also leads the team in game-winning goals, shots on goal, and has either scored or assisted on five of Notre Dame's game-winning goals this season.

The Irish will host the first game of the series tonight at 7:05 p.m. in the Joyce Center. Following the game the two teams will head to East Lansing where they will conclude the series and season at Michigan State's Munn Ice Arena on Saturday.

"Home ice is so important and we want to play as many more games in the JACC as we can."

Sean Molina
Irish defenseman

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9:30			
Drowning Mona	PG13	New	
12:45 3:00 5:15 7:35 10:05			
Hanging Up	PG13		
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:40 10:00			
My Dog Skip	PG	New	
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:45 9:55			
Pitch Black	R		
2:05 4:30 7:05 9:50			
Reindeer Games	R	SS	
12:50 3:15 5:35 8:00 10:25			
Scream 3	R		
7:50 10:25			
Snow Day	PG		
1:10 3:25 5:40 7:55 10:10			
The Beach	R		
2:00 4:40			
The Next Best Thing	PG13	SS-New	
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:35			
The Tigger Movie	G		
12:55 2:50 4:45 7:20			
The Whole Nine Yards	R	SS	
12:45 3:05 5:30 7:55 10:20			
Three Strikes	R	New	
1:05 3:20 5:25 7:30 9:40			
What Planet Are You From	R	SS-New	
1:55 4:35 7:25 10:15			
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The Huddle - LaFortune Student Center

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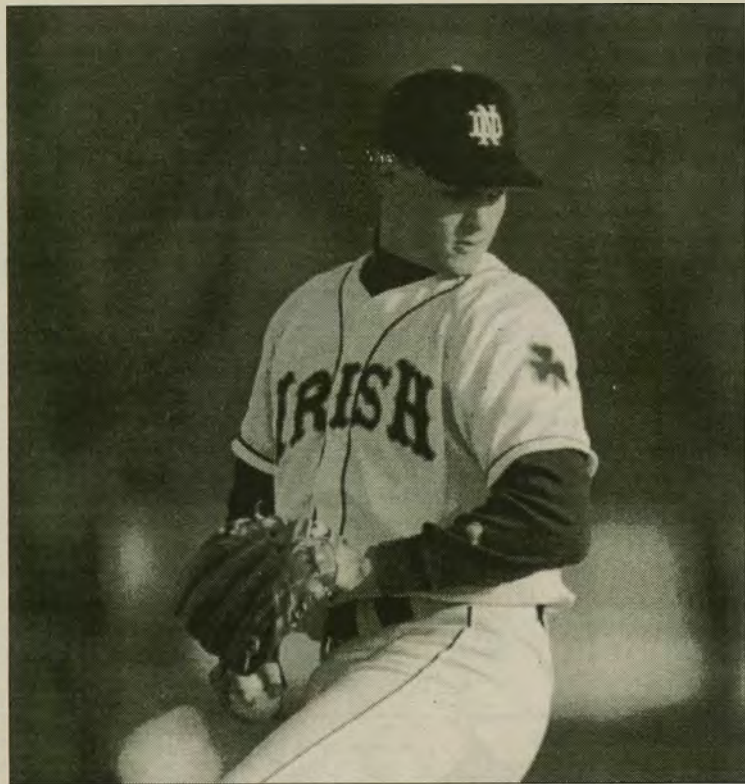
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BASEBALL

Domers compete in Metrodome tournament



Irish righthander Scott Cavey starts today versus Wake Forest. Cavey allowed only one hit in his last start.

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Sports Writer

After winning two of three games in last weekend, the Irish baseball team heads into the Hormel Foods Classic hungry for another opportunity to prove themselves as one of the top teams in the country.

The four-team tournament at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, pits Notre Dame against three challenging ballclubs: host Minnesota, Wake Forest and Georgia.

Today, the Irish take on an 8-2 Wake Forest team that hasn't lost since its opening two games. Irish head coach Paul Mainieri looks forward to the challenge.

"This game is a tremendous opportunity for our team," Mainieri said. "You look at all the great schools in the ACC, and Wake Forest is the two-time defending champions."

Senior Scott Cavey gets the start for the Irish. Cavey is coming off a dominating performance against Air Force that earned him co-Big East pitcher of the

week honors. In that game Cavey allowed just one hit to go along with six strikeouts.

"It was a very dominating performance, which was something we needed in our first game," Mainieri said. "We were a little uptight. He kept us in the game and let us improve on offense as the game went on."

One of the surprise contributors last weekend was freshman Brian Stavisky. In the tournament, the right fielder went three for 10 with a home run, a triple, a double and three runs scored. After starting lower in the lineup, Mainieri has moved Stavisky up to the cleanup spot.

"My intention was not to put too much pressure on him," Mainieri said. "The last game we thought we'd juggle the lineup, and he played well."

On Saturday, Notre Dame takes on 3-6 Minnesota. The two teams have not met since 1991, when the Irish won 9-5 at the Metrodome. Notre Dame has yet to decide on a pitcher for this game.

On Sunday, preseason All-American pitcher Aaron Heilman goes for his first win of

the season against Georgia. Heilman was a tough luck loser last Saturday when the Irish fell to the Buckeyes of Ohio State, 5-4.

Heilman allowed just two hits over the first four innings, but committed a costly throwing error in the fifth that allowed Ohio State to tie the game at four.

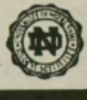
In the sixth, the Buckeyes' Trent McIlvain hit a game-winning blast over the fence to send Heilman and the Irish to the showers.

Georgia, 8-0 this season, come off an exhibition game against the Atlanta Braves. The Bulldogs are annually one of the top teams in the South.

Sophomore catcher Paul O'Toole also exceeded Irish expectations last weekend.

O'Toole, who recently moved to the leadoff spot, went 5-11 in the series, driving in five while adding a triple. Shortstop Alec Porzel hit the game-winning homer against Memphis on Sunday.

All games this weekend can be heard on WJVA 1580 AM as well as on the Internet at www.und.com.



Student Leadership Awards

The Student Activities Office is looking for nominees for the 14th Annual Student Leadership Awards!

If you wish to nominate a student please submit the following information to the Student Activities Office, 315 LaFortune Student Center, by March 8, 2000:

The name of person doing the nominating & their relationship to the nominee.

The name and year in school of the nominee.

All major activities, number of years involved, and leadership positions held while at Notre Dame, and the year of participation.

Explain on the leadership positions held and the student's quality of involvement. Be explicit in explaining.

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TRACK AND FIELD

Athletes prepare for NCAAs at Alex Wilson Invite

By KATHLEEN O'BRIEN
Assistant Sports Editor

Leading members of the Irish track and field squad look to the home crowd at this weekend's Alex Wilson Invitational to propel them in their efforts to qualify for the NCAA Indoors Championships.



King

High jumper Jennifer Engelhardt and long jumper Marshaun West and Tameisha King have put themselves into strong position to earn NCAA berths, but will need slight improvements to make it into the top echelon of the nation's athletes.

West, a senior All-American, has leapt 25-foot-4 this season, but likely needs a jump of at least 25-foot-6 to send him to nationals in Fayetteville, Ark., next week.

"I'm not going to try to barely sneak in," West said. "I want to jump over 26 feet this weekend. I've been working really hard in practice trying to make sure I have enough practice time because I've been hurt. I believe

I'm back at 100 percent, and I'm ready to go full-speed."

King is a freshman who has hit marks of 20-foot-4 1/2 this season. A three-inch improvement will probably be enough to secure her a spot at the NCAA Championships.

"Considering that I'm No. 19 nationally and I'm trying to qualify for nationals, and they take the top 15, I have to improve my jump right now," King said. "My goal is 21 feet. I believe I was capable of it last week, but there were a couple of things I needed to correct technically."

Engelhardt, also a senior All-American, finished second at the Big East Indoors Championships for the third straight season. Currently 22nd in the nation, she needs about an inch-and-a-half improvement to ensure her a qualifying spot.

"We're kind of training through this meet in preparation for the outdoors season," field events coach Scott Winsor said. "Except for those three who need to improve on their jumps to get to the NCAAs. They're at a very high caliber right now; it's just that you have to be in the top 15."

Notre Dame's distance medley relay squad of Phil Mishka, Chris Cochran, Tim Kober and Luke Watson is holding strong at sev-

enth or eighth in the nation. Only 10 relay squads make the cut for nationals, however, so the four are looking to shave a couple seconds off their time.

"We're sitting at seventh or eighth in the country right now, and they're going to take 10 teams into nationals," Mishka

said, who will run the lead-off 1200-meter leg. "We want to make sure that we're still in the top 10 after this weekend. If we all improved as much as we're capable of, we'd probably be leading the country."

Following Mishka will be Cochran on the 400-meter leg, who won that event at the Big East Championships. Kober will run the 800-meter leg, while Watson will close out the relay with a mile run.

"Our primary goal is basically to get into nationals," Watson said. "To do that we'll need to win and we'll need to probably run a faster time than we've ever run before. That's not being too ambitious."

Junior Ryan Shay will take his aim at a nationals berth with a

race in the 5,000-meter run, as will senior Sean McManus and sophomore Marc Striowski.

"I'd like to think so, but I have my doubts," Shay said on his chances of qualifying. "I still haven't been training that much since coming off my injuries. It's going to take tolerating a lot of pain for me, because my body's just not used to running that hard. We have a really good field coming in for the Alex Wilson, as far as the 5000 goes."

In the women's 5,000-meter run, senior Alison Klemmer hopes to hold court.

"I just want to get out there and really enjoy myself and enjoy the last home meet,"

Klemmer said. "I think that's going to lead to a really good race."

In other distance events for the Irish are Bridget O'Brien in the 3,000-meter run, Patty Rice, Jen Handley and Erin Olson in the mile; and Leanne Brady and Cara Motter in the 800-meter run. Antonio Arce will take the line for the men in the mile.

Sprints coach John Millar is focusing in on a few events with shots at NCAA berths — Cochran in the 200-meter run, junior Terry Wray, Liz Grow and Kymia Love in the 400-meter run.

"We're trying to get her qualified for the NCAAs as well," Millar said of Grow. "She's met the standard, but she needs to improve her time if she wants to get into the top 16."

The meet begins on the Loftus track and field this evening, and continues tomorrow.

"I just want to get out there and really enjoy myself and enjoy the last home meet."

Allison Klemmer
distance runner

The Observer - your source for Irish track and field news.



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Student Activities is hiring Sound Techs & LaFortune Building Managers for the 2000-2001 academic year. Applications available in the Student Activities Office, 315 LaFortune.

Deadline for applying Friday, March 10.

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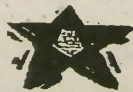
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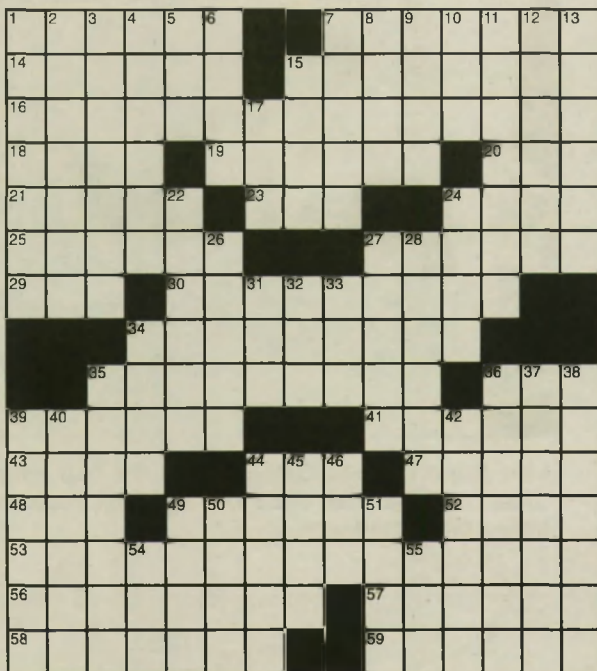
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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Moseyed
 - 7 Specious argument
 - 14 Let out, in a way
 - 15 Get totally involved with
 - 16 Listen
 - 18 Thrill-seeker's love
 - 19 Like a D. W. Griffith film
 - 20 "___ a chance"
 - 21 Like contracts
 - 23 Mint
 - 24 Come together
 - 25 Be sore
 - 27 "The X-Files" agent
 - 29 Abbr. on a business sign
 - 30 Doctor's write-up
 - 34 It gets stuck in bars
 - 35 Tootsy-wootsies
 - 36 Machine rotator
 - 39 Newscast part
 - 41 Give a black eye
 - 43 Winston Churchill, e.g.
 - 44 Pop Art pioneer Lichtenstein
 - 47 Fuselage fastener
 - 48 Professional org. since 1847
 - 49 Amateurish artist
- DOWN**
- 1 Notify
 - 2 Early beach arrivals?
 - 3 Meat cut
 - 4 Meat site
 - 5 American ___
 - 6 Jupiter, e.g.
 - 7 Strength
 - 8 Place for a timer
 - 9 Pain in the neck
 - 10 Tear
 - 11 Foolishly
 - 12 Boardwalk diversion
 - 13 In the main
 - 15 Share
 - 17 Ring ending
 - 22 Draw off
 - 24 Actress Ashley
 - 26 Steps over the line
 - 27 Handle
 - 28 Foul-mouth
 - 31 Dump
 - 52 Crown wearer
 - 53 Cut loose
 - 56 Put off
 - 57 Like some winds
 - 58 Black-footed albatrosses
 - 59 The Ponderosa, e.g.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	R	C	H	O	W	E	S	A	C	U	T	E
S	O	L	I	T	A	X	I	W	I	S	E	R
A	S	I	N	T	R	I	M	A	R	E	N	A
P	H	O	E	B	E	T	O	P	I	C		
	S			S		N	A	T				
F	A	S	T	S	D	U	E	S	M	E	M	E
I	T	T	O	S	I	N	G	S	N	E	O	N
S	T	A	N	P	A	D	R	E	A	L	U	G
C	I	T	E	E	M	E	E	R	V	E	N	T
A	L	E	C	C	O	R	E	W	I	D	T	H
L	A	N	O	L	I	N		D	O	G		
	W	E	E	D	S	R	E	A	C	T	S	
A	R	U	B	A	M	A	L	I	T	H	O	R
M	A	S	O	N	I	V	A	N	I	O	W	A
S	W	A	Y	S	N	E	C	K	O	W	N	S



Puzzle by John Wolting

- 32 Drop
 - 33 Tiny amount
 - 34 Open boat
 - 35 Friend of Hamlet
 - 36 Hors d'oeuvres bit: Var.
 - 37 Statute of Liberty's home
 - 38 Like some mail
 - 39 Place of confinement
 - 40 Large citrus fruit
 - 42 Pole carrier
 - 44 Small fry
 - 45 Snake charmer, in musician's slang
 - 46 Itch
 - 49 Wrapped up
 - 50 Kind of game
 - 51 Zebras
 - 54 Bear necessity
 - 55 Mere taste
- Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2000

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jean Harlow, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Mary Page Keller, David Faustino, Nicolas Freeling, Fatima Whitbread, Herschel Walker

Happy Birthday: You have to do what's best for you this year. Be confident and optimistic about your goals, and you will get the support you need. You will be open and receptive to new ways of doing things, and the more you can learn this year, the better. You will have a greater desire to delve into subjects that never interested you in the past. Your numbers: 15, 18, 25, 28, 33, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Helping a friend or relative will bring rewards that you least expect. You can enlighten those you talk to with your positive vision and thought. ○○○○

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will attract members of the opposite sex with your intensity and magnetic stare. Organizations you believe in will place you in a position of leadership. ○○

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Escapist tendencies will only get you into trouble. Your colorful stories will bring you attention, but you may hurt someone's feelings if your exaggerations cause them embarrassment. ○○○○

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can learn a lot if you listen. Seminars will enlighten in more ways than one. You can find yourself hopelessly in love if someone you meet captures you with his or her finesse. ○○○

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can add some unique features to your living quarters today. Don't be too shy to put some of your own works of art up on your walls. ○○○

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may find yourself trapped between unfinished business and family affairs. Get up early and rid yourself of those odd jobs left hanging over your head. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy. ○○○

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can accomplish more than you thought possible if you mix business with pleasure. Extend an invitation to clients for dinner and entertainment. ○○○○

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can turn things around if you do a little soul-searching and look into some self-help literature. A physical-fitness club will give you an outlet and promote romance. ○○

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't allow others to force you into doing things that are not your cup of tea. Relatives may not be that accommodating and could start a family feud if you aren't careful. ○○○

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will want to spend time with friends or family. Your outgoing nature will surprise others today. You can open up to your mate about what you expect out of the union. ○○○

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can clear up problems at work and look good in the eyes of superiors. Advancements should be coming your way. Don't let your mate's jealousy stand in the way of your celebration. ○○○

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Travel will bring you into contact with close friends or relatives. Soak up the fresh air, converse with those who offer mental stimulation, and enjoy the good food provided. ○○○

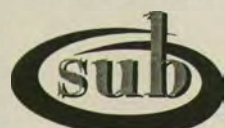
Birthdays: You will always want to do it all. You must learn to set priorities in order to reach higher levels. You will have plenty to offer, but will tend to spread yourself too thin. Discipline will be required to focus on what's truly important to you throughout life.

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

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Notre Dame
WEEKEND FORECAST



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TODAY



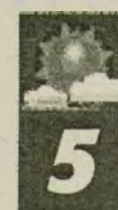
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SUNDAY



French Film Fest
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SPORTS

Finishing Strong

The Irish track and field team hosts the Alex Wilson Invitational this weekend in Loftus.

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page 24

THE OBSERVER

Friday, March 3, 2000

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Big East tourney provides test for McGraw's squad

By KERRY SMITH
Assistant Sports Editor

After Notre Dame's regular season loss to top-ranked Connecticut, college basketball analysts remarked that the No. 6 squad in the nation had stubbed its toe.

But ask any Irish player and they'll tell you it hurt more than that.

That loss will be on the minds of every Irish player as she steps on the court at Gampel Pavilion during the Big East tournament in Storrs, Conn. this weekend.

With Connecticut occupying the top spot in the bracket and Notre Dame seeded second, the two teams are destined to meet in the finals.

While the Huskies walked away with the regular season Big East title, the Irish aren't about to let them take the tournament crown as well.

"We're excited for the tournament and this team has got a lot of heart," senior guard Danielle Green said. "We know we can make it to the finals and can compete with Connecticut."

The Irish, who finished with only one conference loss during a 24-3 regular season, matched Connecticut for the better part of the game, but stumbled in the opening and closing minutes, dropping an 18-point decision to the Huskies.

The Irish don't plan to make the same mistakes twice.

"That is the sort of game where you can't spot them eight points like we did," Green said. "We played well in the middle, but we know the beginning and end will be key for us."

As much as they are anticipating a rematch with the Huskies, the Irish have learned the importance of not looking past the next game on their schedule. With near losses to cellar-dwelling teams in the Big East during the regular season because of looking forward on the schedule, the Irish aren't focusing on the Huskies until they make it to the finals Tuesday night.

"We have to have the one-game-at-a-time mentality," said Green. "We can't just look forward to Connecticut and forget about the other rounds of the tournament."

The road to meet the Huskies in the finals, while short, is not easy.

The Irish earned a bye in the tournament's first round on Saturday and will take to the court Sunday to face off against the winner of the Miami-Seton Hall opening-round game.

The Irish met both teams in the regular season and know what to expect. The Irish downed Miami twice in the regular season.

Playing in Coral Gables, Fla., the Irish took home a 76-



JOB TURNER/The Observer

Irish guard Danielle Green moves the ball around a defender in a recent game against Miami. Green and the Irish open the Big East tournament Sunday as they take on the winner of the Miami-Seton Hall game.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish look to stop the bleeding at Georgetown

By BRIAN KESSLER
Sports Editor

Head coach Matt Doherty isn't into trends, especially when it comes to losing.

But the first-year coach finds himself in exactly that situation as Notre Dame (16-13, 7-8) travels to Washington D.C. to take on Georgetown (15-12, 5-9) at the MCI Center Saturday.

"Two is a trend," Doherty said. "Three is unacceptable."

The Irish have dropped three straight and six of their last 10 games heading into Saturday's season finale.

"You talk about our backs being against the wall," Doherty said. "Our backs are through the wall right now. We have no time to feel sorry for

ourselves."

Notre Dame has played its way out of the NCAA Tournament and looks to get back on track before heading to New York for the Big East Tournament.

"Georgetown is a tough team," senior point guard Jimmy Dillon said. "We need to take care of business there and see where we get seeded in the Big East Tournament and make some noise there. Hopefully we can get into a rhythm and get something going."

"We have no choice," Doherty said following Wednesday's 73-71 loss to Syracuse. "We need to be thinking positive thoughts."

Georgetown is coming off a 72-54 victory over West Virginia. The Hoyas are led by

guard Kevin Braswell, who averages 14.5 points per game, and 7-foot center Ruben Boumtje Boumtje, who averages 13.6 points per game and 8.2 boards per contest. Center Lee Scruggs has also come on strong in recent weeks and will play a key role in Georgetown's offensive scheme.

The Irish, on the other hand, will go to battle with the Big East's leading scorer and leading rebounder, sophomore Troy Murphy. Murphy is averaging 23.1 points and 10.5 rebounds per game.

The All-American candidate is the only player in the country in the top 10 of both those categories. Notre Dame will also need a lift from David Graves (13.6 ppg) and Matt Carroll, who has struggled

shooting the ball in recent weeks. Carroll, who averages nearly 10 points per contest, was held scoreless against the Orangemen.

"We need to stop taking basketball for granted and come out and play," Dillon said. "We aren't good enough to just play one half of basketball. We need to leave it all out on the floor Saturday."

Dillon has had the hot hand from three-point land and is among the conference's leaders in assists.

In Wednesday's loss to Syracuse, Doherty may have found an effective lineup. The Irish head coach went with a smaller group in the second half of that contest, playing freshman small forward Jere Macura in place of a true center. With four good perimeter

shooters on the floor for the Irish, the Orangemen were unable to cheat on Murphy down low.

The formation also opened up the outside for Notre Dame, as it drained several big 3-pointers in the closing minutes of that contest. The Irish outscored the Orangemen by 12 points in the final 20 minutes.

Doherty hopes his troops are fresh as the Irish close out the regular season on the road.

"I've been trying to save their legs, but maybe I've saved them too much," Doherty said. "There is no manual that tells you to go hard one day and light the next."

The Irish, who sport just a 3-9 road record, will be sure to lay it on the line Saturday.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

Baseball
vs. Wake Forest
at Minneapolis, Minn.
Today, 12:15 p.m.

vs. Iowa
Today, 1 p.m.

at Pacific Coast Doubles
La Jolla, Calif.
Today-Sunday

at Pennsylvania
Saturday, 1 p.m.

vs. Georgetown
Saturday, Noon

vs. Michigan State
Today, 7:05 p.m.

Softball
vs. Tennessee
Saturday, noon

at Big East Tournament
Storrs, Conn.
Sunday-Tuesday, TBA