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STUDENT SENATE

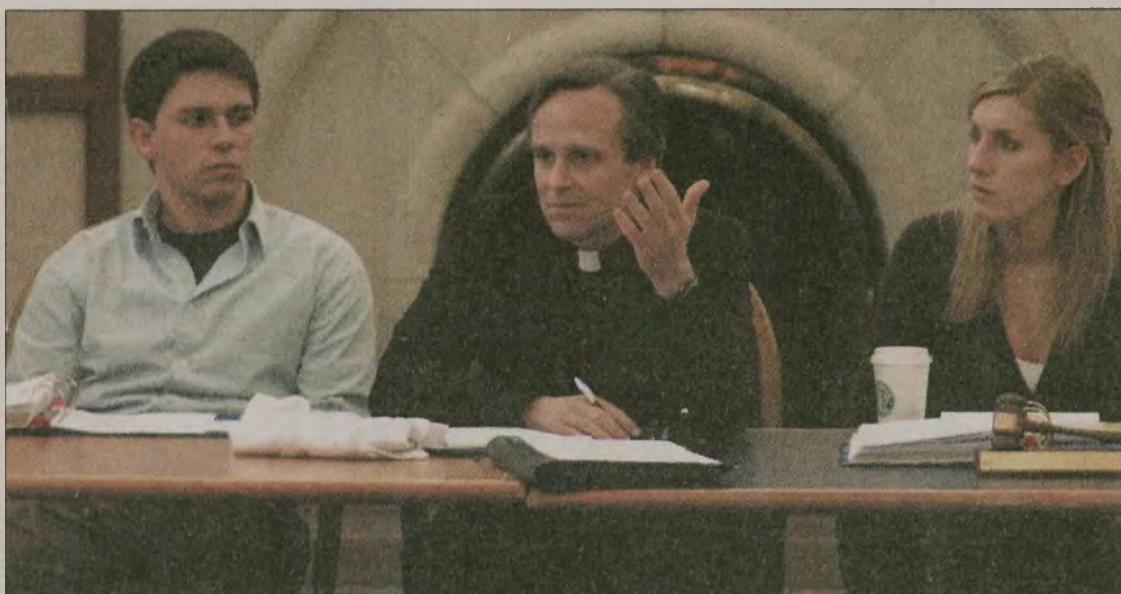
Jenkins fields academic freedom questions

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

University President Father John Jenkins discussed "The Vagina Monologues" and broader issues of gender and sexuality with senators at a special session of Student Senate Friday afternoon in the Gold Room of North Dining Hall — another chapter in the unresolved campus debate over academic freedom and Notre Dame's Catholic character.

Jenkins, accompanied by Executive Assistant to the President Frances Shavers, delivered brief preliminary remarks before telling senators he was "all ears."

see SENATE/page 6



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Student Body President Dave Baron and Student Body Vice President Lizzi Shappell listen to University President Father John Jenkins respond to senators' questions Friday in North Dining Hall.

Kindt wins SMC class election

Goeppinger's ticket loses by seven votes

By KELLY MEEHAN
Assistant News Editor

The Saint Mary's class of 2007 executive board election, marked by intense campaigns and a rare runoff vote, came to an end Friday in similar dramatic fashion.

President-elect Kat Kindt and her ticket of vice-president-elect Meghan Mackinnon, secretary-elect Erica Antonucci and treasurer-elect Laura Baumgartner won by a mere seven votes.

Neither Kindt nor the opposing Heidi Goeppinger had secured the 51 percent majority required for victory during the Feb. 27 primary election. Goeppinger's ticket received 50.23 percent of the votes, while Kindt's ticket received 46.12 percent. As a result, both tickets were permitted to re-campaign Tuesday for Wednesday's run-off election.

Goeppinger, who currently serves as junior class president, said campaigning for the runoff election was difficult since it coincided with the class' pride week.

"My primary responsibility was to our junior board and to our class, to make sure the events during the week were successful," she said. "Also, due to the fact the other ticket was on board, it was difficult for me to campaign against them and work with them at the same time."

see KINDT/page 4

White encourages leadership, diversity at SMC



CHELSEA GULLING/The Observer

Saint Mary's students gather in the basement of the student center Saturday to discuss the issue of diversity on campus.

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

At the closing dinner of the Saint Mary's Student Diversity Board (SDB) Diverse Students Leadership Conference (DSLCL), Vice President and Dean of Faculty Pat White encouraged attendees to turn to people such as Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King as examples of strong leaders.

White said he did not invoke their names simply because they were black women, although that fact played an important role in shaping their leadership styles.

"I call our attention to Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King as American leaders and American heroes because all of us, whatever our race, gender

or ethnicity — even this gray-haired white guy — must study their way of leadership and learn from their example," White said.

According to White, Parks is remembered in national folklore as a tired seamstress who refused to give up her bus seat to a white man and was subsequently arrested. However, she was not just physically weary, White said, and it is important to note exactly what Parks was really tired of — oppression.

King, though emblazoned in the public mind as the grieving widow at her famous husband's funeral, was also a strong leader in her own right, White said.

"Coretta Scott King's opposition to the war in Vietnam

see DSLCL/page 4

Donors recognized over weekend

University benefactors gather on campus, interact with students

By MARY KATE MALONE
Assistant News Editor

This weekend's Scholarship Fellowship Weekend welcomed more than 250 University benefactors to campus from around the nation for two days of exclusive tours, speeches by high-ranking University officials and student testimonials.

The recognition weekend honored donors who together have given more than \$16.5 million to University scholarships, fellowships and grants in aid.

"The big highlight of the recognition weekend for our guests is always the chance for them to get to know some of the

students studying under their benefaction," said Vice President for University Relations Louis Nanni in a press release. "I'm not sure who enjoys these meetings more, our students or our donors."

On Saturday the University invited benefactors to a panel discussion featuring University Provost Thomas Burish and Associate Provost Dennis Jacobs.

Two undergraduates and one graduate student sat on the panel as well, sharing their vastly different academic experiences at Notre Dame to a full audience in McKenna auditorium.

Seniors Peter Quaranto and

Alicia Lachiondo spoke about the role experiential and service learning played in their Notre Dame education.

"We want all of our students to engage in service," Burish said. "Almost all are engaged in giving back to the community in some way. By service learning we take those experiences and bring them back into the classroom to learn from them and learn how to influence the world."

Burish told donors their contributions gave two gifts — monetary aid and "a lifelong bond" between the donor, the scholarship and the person who

see DONORS/page 4

Big East bid gives Irish hoops fans more hope

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

After a frustrating regular season, Notre Dame fans found another reason to support their men's basketball team after Saturday's win against DePaul propelled the Irish into the Big East Tournament. On campus, students lauded the outcome to the team's precipitous journey towards a Big East bid, but predictions of the team's success in the tournament remain mixed.

Freshman Chase Smerdzinski contrasted Saturday's game to

many others throughout the season.

"I'm definitely excited," he said. "It's definitely nice to win a close game after so many tough losses."

Smerdzinski applauded the student fans who attended the DePaul game, saying he was "pumped" to see so many students enthusiastic about the game.

Sophomore Amelia Ulmer, a member of the basketball band, was also glad to see a win after witnessing so many nailbiting losses.

"It was nice to see them

see BIG EAST/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Following my dad's advice

It was Christmas break freshman year when all of this started.

I had written for The Observer during the fall — covering interhall football — but didn't feel like doing any writing after that finished. I was more interested in hanging around the dorm during my first semester at ND — doing a little homework, eating quarter dogs and heading over to TC with my buddies on the weekends. College was relaxing and free ... but I wasn't doing much.



Mike Gilloon
Editor in Chief

It was on a run with my dad during that Christmas vacation that he gave me some of the best advice I've ever received — get involved.

I'd waited my whole life to go to Notre Dame, he reminded me, and it would be a shame if I didn't at least do something with my time there.

I went back to South Bend that January and signed up to work layout at the paper once a week. Today, after two years that sailed by in what feels like two minutes, I'm taking over as Editor in Chief of The Observer.

My dad never told me during that December jog that I should spend 30 hours a week below South Dining Hall checking pages and calling writers — he just recommended I do more with my four years at ND than simply play DDR and drink beer.

If I had known that this paper would take up more of my time than I would like, I might never have signed up to work in the first place.

But I'm lucky I did.

I am lucky to have made friends that I never would have known were it not for The Observer.

Some I see for 10 minutes a week. Some I say hi to every morning when I walk into the office with my lunch to work on a story. And some I talk to every day and spend Saturday nights in April with chatting at Nick's Patio over eggs benedict.

I am also lucky to work with a staff of about 150 people who give at least a part of themselves to this paper.

Some work for just an hour or two writing one short article a week. Some dream up a new cartoon every day. Some sit in the back of The Observer's office reading stories until two in the morning. Some go to Debartolo 101 on a Wednesday night to photograph a lecture.

No matter who they are, I know that everybody at The 'O' is proud when they walk into LaFortune on a Friday afternoon and see the paper in everyone's hands.

The Observer has become a large part of Notre Dame since its beginning 40 years ago — and my biggest challenge over the next year will be to make sure it remains an integral piece of Notre Dame/Saint Mary's campus life.

But with the people working here right now, I have no doubt the paper will be fine.

Growing up with two little sisters and no brother, I spent a lot of time with my dad — if for no other reason than we were the only people in my house who didn't watch E.R.

The two of us talked about a lot over the last 21 years — with topics ranging from who should have won the 1995 Heisman Trophy (Tommie Frazer) to when I had to be home on New Year's Eve as a high school sophomore (too early) to whether Paul Simon was better solo or with Garfunkel (solo).

But I never learned more from a conversation than I did on that jog over Christmas break.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR SPRING BREAK?

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | | | |
| Ted Somers | Matt Williams-Kovacs | Tommy Forr | Dennise Bayona | Marissa Najera | Kerri Dugan |
| senior Keough | junior Morrissey | junior O'Neill | freshman Walsh | sophomore Lyons | freshman Lyons |
| "Checking out law schools." | "I don't have any plans. I'll be here." | "Home sweet home." | "I'm going home — and it happens to be Miami, Florida." | "I'm going home to Minnesota, even though it's probably even colder than here." | "I'm visiting friends at other colleges, even though Saint Patrick's Day there won't be half as good as it would be here." |



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

This bus was the first in a long line outside South Dining Hall Saturday to provide tours for the participants of the Scholarship Fellowship Weekend. The event honored those who have donated money for scholarships to Notre Dame students.

OFFBEAT

Bicyclist fakes blindness

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. — A motorist accused of blinding a bicyclist in a hit-and-run accident was cleared of charges after a doctor determined the victim was faking his injury.

James Arrigoni, 45, of San Anselmo, had been accused of swerving his pickup truck into a cyclist who made an obscene gesture with his finger a year ago.

Torrin Arnold, 26, of San Anselmo claimed he hit his head on the pavement and lost his vision.

He appeared at Arrigoni's court hearings wearing dark glasses and using a cane, and attended Braille school and

was given a guide dog by a San Rafael nonprofit group, said defense attorney Jim Collins.

Prosecutor Paul Haaken-son told a Marin County Superior Court judge on Thursday that he decided to drop the charges after reviewing medical records from an ophthalmologist who determined Arnold was pretending to be blind.

Park to play the classics

HARTFORD, Conn. — Residents of one Hartford neighborhood hope Beethoven and Mozart will help drive drug dealers and prostitutes out of a local

park.

Activists propose playing recordings of classical music in Barnard Park in hopes of annoying petty criminals so much that they'll leave. They also hope the music will make the park more pleasant for other people once it is cleaned up.

Resident Carol Coburn said she came up with the idea after reading about similar efforts in West Palm Beach, Fla., where she said crime decreased as much as 40 percent in parks where classical music was played.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A conference titled "Reading Between the Lines: Scripture and Community in the Dead Sea Scrolls" will take place at 10:30 a.m. today in the McKenna Hall auditorium.

A special Mass sponsored by Best Buddies will be held today from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The Mass will be dedicated to honoring people in the community with disabilities and is part of Notre Dame Disability Awareness Month.

Best Buddies will sponsor a perspectives discussion panel at Reckers from 8 p.m. to 9:30 tonight as part of Notre Dame Disability Awareness Month. Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students are invited to enjoy a free smoothie while listening to the panel.

The Swing Club will host an open swing dance tonight from 8 p.m. to 10 in the LaFortune Ballroom. The event is free to all students.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs will host speaker Margaret Montoya Tuesday from 12 p.m. to 2 in the Vander Vennet Theater in the Student Center.

John Carr, Director of the Department of Social Development & World Peace, will speak on "Political Responsibility and Religion: Faithful Citizenship in the 2006 Elections" on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Eck Visitors Center Auditorium.

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

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|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | TODAY | TONIGHT | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| LOCAL WEATHER | | | | | | |
| | HIGH 34 LOW 28 | HIGH 26 LOW 22 | HIGH 40 LOW 32 | HIGH 41 LOW 35 | HIGH 50 LOW 46 | HIGH 54 LOW 44 |

Atlanta 65 / 37 Boston 37 / 26 Chicago 36 / 26 Denver 68 / 43 Houston 81 / 61 Los Angeles 63 / 48 Minneapolis 38 / 26 New York 41 / 28 Philadelphia 44 / 27 Phoenix 79 / 54 Seattle 50 / 42 St. Louis 54 / 29 Tampa 74 / 60 Washington 47 / 31

ND groups hold fair to promote 'Safe Spring Break'

By RYAN SYDLIK
News Writer

Spring break might be a long midterm exam week away, but various campus groups and offices are getting a jump on the break by giving information to students about how to enjoy it safely.

Friday's Safe Spring Break Fair in LaFortune Ballroom was part of week-long program hosted by Student Government, Pillars and the Office of Drug and Alcohol Education. Gina Firth, the Director of Alcohol and Drug Education, said other events earlier in the week included distributing blood alcohol concentration awareness cards in the dining halls and giving away safe spring break T-shirts.

Firth also said speaker Randy Haveson addressed students as part of safe spring break week Wednesday on how to party with a plan and "how to decrease your risk if you choose to use alcohol."

The Safe Spring Break Fair was the final event of the week. Firth said its purpose was to give students harm reduction information to stay safe over break.

Many campus offices were present at the fair to provide information about safety,

including University Health Services, the University Counseling Center, gender relations, security, transportation and even international student services.

Firth said aspects of spring break addressed at the fair included advice to students traveling abroad to Latin American countries, preventing "Montezuma's revenge," sexual assault and rape prevention, what to do during car-jacking attempts and "the realities of hooking up."

The fair also addressed issues in relation to alcohol, such as drinking and driving with impaired vision goggles, a pledge not to drink and drive and blood alcohol intoxication awareness information.

In addition to information tables, the fair had fun attractions such as "mocktails" (fruit drinks sans alcohol), popcorn, a basketball toss with beer goggles, music and tropical scenery.

Unlike spring break send-offs at other colleges, however, Firth said the Spring Break Fair did not provide condoms.

"Notre Dame is a Catholic University and we do not pro-

mote that," she said.

This was the second year for the fair. Firth said this year's fair was an "absolute success," citing the large amount of people that arrived as soon as it started.

Sophomore Sarah Waller, the tobacco prevention committee prevention chair for Pillars, said she was surprised to see the number of people at the event.

"It's hard to tell if you are making a difference, but even if it only makes a difference with one person, it is better than no effect at all," Waller said.

University staff psychologist Carl Williams said his role at the fair was to promote healthy decision-making about sexual activity and drinking.

"We are helping people to slow down and give it more thought," he said. "[The] University values this [fair] and is putting in a large number of resources to help students make decisions."

Sophomore Jessica Nelson took part in the fair as a Pillars member.

"We are not here to make judgments," Nelson said. "We are here to give people information so that they can make good judgments."

"We are here to give people information so that they can make good judgments."

Jessica Nelson
Pillars member

"Sometimes people get bogged down by people [merely] saying don't drink, but this is a nice way to get the point [of safety] across."

Erin Robertson
freshman



Students grab freebies, above, and 'mocktails,' right, at the Safe Spring Break Fair.

♦
PHOTOS BY
ALLISON
AMBROSE



Senior Laurel Thomsen said she was attracted to the event because of the posters and free giveaways. However, Thomsen also said she "thought it would be valuable because I will be heading down south and the Mexico stuff interested me."

Freshman Erin Robertson also attended the event.

"My friend mentioned she had heard about the event, and I was coming through LaFortune and heard noise," she said.

Robertson said she enjoyed the fair and felt the presenters put forth their information in a positive way.

"I think this is a really neat way to make this informational as well as fun," she said. "Sometimes people get bogged down by people [merely] saying don't drink, but this is a nice way to get the point [of safety] across."

Contact Ryan Sydlik at
rsydlik@nd.edu



Apply for 2006-2007

Judicial Council

President

Vice-President of Elections

Vice-President of Peer Advocacy

Parliamentarian



Descriptions of the positions can be found on the Judicial Council website at
www.nd.edu/~jcouncil.

Applications can be picked up in the Student Government Office (203 LaFortune) or downloaded from the Judicial Council website. Applications are due Thursday, March 9.

If you have any questions about the positions please email the Judicial Council at
jcouncil@nd.edu.

Kindt

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Kindt clinched the presidency when her ticket received 113 votes compared to Goeppinger's 106 votes during the runoff election. Goeppinger's ticket — comprised of vice-presidential candidate Christin Molnar, secretarial candidate Bridget Gorman and treasurer candidate Maggie Wickstrom — had received 109 votes, but three votes were deducted by the elections committee due to a violation of the College's "active campaigning" clause.

"One of my ticket mates fell asleep with her away message up reminding women to vote for our ticket starting at midnight," Goeppinger said. "We contested it due to the fact that [the message] was not sent to anyone and it was an honest mistake made in exhaustion."

They attempted to repeal the decision, but it was not appealed since the away message was printed off and turned in as evidence of the violation, Goeppinger said.

Kindt said her ticket also was found in violation for sending instant messages after midnight, but they were able to appeal this decision since the messages were actually sent before midnight and not viewed by the receiver until after the deadline.

All members of both Kindt's and Goeppinger's tickets are current members of the junior class board, and election results may generate issues

that strengthen and divide class unity.

Kindt said she plans to address these issues at an open discussion forum in April where students can address their concerns.

"I feel that our class may be split in some aspects, but overall that this will pass," she said. "Both candidate groups had great representation for leadership and ability."

Goeppinger said she along with her ticket mates are looking into ways to help the class and the College community during their senior year.

"The women on my ticket are amazing and strong leaders and I am very proud of them for their integrity and class," she said. "We are disappointed, but will be holding our heads high on knowing we won the first election and we will continue to work this year to provide our classmates with a fantastic [year]."

Kindt's ticket said they look forward to planning Senior Dad's weekend, an ovarian cancer walk and the senior class formal.

Mackinnon, the vice-president elect, said she wants to hear what her classmates want the class board do during their final year at the College.

"Next year is all about them, and we want to hear exactly what activities and events they want to make it and excellent senior year at Saint Mary's," she said.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

Donors

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receives it, anonymously or otherwise.

"Tuition doesn't cover the cost of an education," Burish said. "It might cover the cost of 60 or 70 percent of education but philanthropy provides most of the rest. All of us have a scholarship, if you will. Someone else, someone we may have never met, gave us the opportunity to have an education."

Quaranto told donors about his work in Uganda — sharing photos and explaining the role that Notre Dame played in providing the opportunity for him to work there.

"Nowhere else but Notre Dame," Quaranto said. "Without

your support, none of this would have been possible. These experiences are not static ... they are relationships that have ripple effects that are changing our world one step at a time."

Quaranto has worked to promote awareness of the devastation in Uganda by co-founding the Uganda Conflict Action Network.

Lachiondo spoke about her undergraduate research on incidences of breast cancer screening among African American women — and her love of the University despite "stumbling onto the idea" of going to school at Notre Dame during her junior year of high school.

"My ultimate decision to attend Notre Dame had nothing to do with geography, prestige or academics — my decision

came down to extracurricular opportunities I had here. The sheer presence of the CSC on campus swayed my decision."

Karrie Anna Kubatko, who received her doctorate from Notre Dame in environmental mineralogy in May 2005, shared her experiences working alongside undergraduates in research projects.

On Saturday afternoon benefactors were allowed to tour the Notre Dame stadium and the Jordan Hall of Science — slated to open in fall 2006. At 8 p.m. Saturday, University President Father John Jenkins spoke at a recognition dinner honoring 35 benefactors who have given a total of \$5.5 million to Notre Dame financial aid.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at Mmalone3@nd.edu

DSLC

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came early and strong, earlier than [Martin Luther King's]," White said. "In a speech at a rally in November 1966 she compared the bombings in Alabama and the bombing of Vietnam and she served as a delegate to international disarmament conferences and international peace associations."

In what White described as one of the "happiest moments" of his life he spotted Parks in a corridor while attending a conference. Despite being a self-proclaimed "shy guy," he grabbed his two daughters and

approached her. Parks stopped and briefly chatted with them.

"I'm surprised at my courage, but I am also amazed at the generosity of her spirit," White said.

White then gave his own definition of a leader — saying a leader is a student, someone who possesses imaginative courage and someone who leaves a living legacy of them self.

"[Parks and King] were students," White said. "They spent their entire lives studying justice, as we must do."

The two women also had imaginative courage that enabled them to move forward despite knowing what their actions might cost them. Further, they were builders of

institutions that spread their work to others, White said.

"As I look around this room I see many women and a few men who are taking up the legacy of these two great leaders," White said. "I see in this College a new commitment to diversity in every aspect of our lives, but I also have enough imagination to know that things could go differently."

It is the leaders of today who have to take responsibility to live up to Parks and King and find a way of carrying on their missions, White said.

"This is our challenge, this is our sweet burden, this is our responsibility," he said.

Contact Megan O'Neil at onei0907@saintmarys.edu



The Notre Dame Club of New York's
90th Anniversary

and
St. Patrick's Day Weekend in
New York City

The Notre Dame Club of New York invites
Notre Dame and St. Mary's Alumni,
Faculty, Family, Students and Friends
to our

90th Anniversary Celebration
March 16th and 17th 2006!

All the details are on www.ndnyc.org

- Universal Notre Dame 90th Anniversary Gala - March 16th 6:30PM (with Fr. Jenkins!)
- NDNY 90th Anniversary After Party at McFadden's Saloon - March 16th 9:30PM til ???
- NDNY 90th Anniversary St. Patrick's Day Parade - March 17th 3PM

What better way to spend the end of Spring Break than celebrating with NDNY! Join us for our Anniversary Dinner, meet us at the after-party, or march with NDNY up 5th Avenue in the traditional St. Patrick's Day Parade! All the details are on our website — sign up today!

WORLD & NATION

Monday, March 6, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Scientists struggle to save chimps

MBIHE-MOKELE, Congo — Scientists are struggling to save the fast-disappearing bonobo, the gentle "hippie chimp" known for resolving squabbles through sex rather than violence.

Unfortunately, bonobos are prized by Congolese for their tasty meat, and many villagers who are illegally hunting the wiry, wizen-faced apes don't realize how close their prey is to extinction.

"Bonobos are an icon for peace and love, the world's 'hippie chimps,'" said Sally Coxo of the Washington-based Bonobo Conservation Initiative. "To let them die off would be a catastrophe."

The animals are known for greeting rival groups with genital handshakes and sensual body rubs. Bonobo spats are swiftly settled — often with a French kiss and a quick round of sex.

Militants threaten oil facility attack

LAGOS, Nigeria — Militants threatened more attacks on Nigeria's oil facilities and vowed Sunday to cut daily oil exports by 1 million barrels, adding to concerns for OPEC as it prepares for a strategy meeting this week.

Oil is already more \$60 a barrel, and the markets are nervous about potential disruptions to the supply from this OPEC member, which is Africa's largest producer of crude oil.

A.E. Alhaji, an energy analyst in the United States, said the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries was unlikely to trim the cartel's overall output when it meets Wednesday because of worries about the unrest in Nigeria's oil region and Iraq's crippled production.

NATIONAL NEWS

Children killed, police charge father

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The bodies of a 5-year-old boy and his 8-year-old sister were found shot to death in their burning home, and police charged their father Saturday with the slayings.

The father was found a couple of miles from the house with critical injuries, police Sgt. Lisa Mangum said. She would not describe his injuries.

The case is the third in less than two months in which a Charlotte-area parent has been charged with killing two children.

Shaken and tearful, Olga Miranda picked through the debris of their home in northeast Charlotte and declined to talk about her husband, Gilberto Miranda Cuellar.

Twins Hall of Famer suffers stroke

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett had a stroke at his Arizona home Sunday and was taken to a hospital for surgery, the Minnesota Twins announced from their spring training camp.

The 44-year-old Puckett, who led the Twins to World Series titles in 1987 and 1991, was taken to a Scottsdale hospital.

"The Minnesota Twins and major league baseball ask fans to keep Kirby and his family in their thoughts and prayers," the team said in a statement.

LOCAL NEWS

Governor's approval rating drops

INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Mitch Daniels' approval rating has dropped to 37 percent as many Indiana residents object to the pace of change in state government during his first 14 months in office, an Indianapolis Star poll published Sunday shows.

Respondents to the statewide telephone poll of 501 residents taken last week also show overwhelming disapproval of one of the changes Daniels has sought since becoming governor: the \$3.85 billion lease of the Indiana Toll Road.

IRAQ

Politicians call for a new leader

Shiite prime minister al-Jaafari faces pressure to recall his bid for a new term

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Sunni Arab and Kurdish politicians increased pressure Sunday on Shiite Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari to abandon his bid for a new term, while leaders of Iraq's Shiite majority struggled to overcome growing internal divisions.

Despite the squabbling, there were reports the new parliament would be called into session for the first time as early as the end of the week, starting the clock on a 60-day period during which it would have to elect a president and approve a prime minister and Cabinet.

The struggle to form a broad-based governing coalition acceptable to all the country's main groups has been further hampered by the surge in sectarian conflict.

Targeted sectarian violence killed at least five people Sunday. Three men died in a gunfight at a Sunni mosque in Baghdad and two relatives of a top Sunni cleric were slain in a drive-by shooting. Sunnis accused deaths squads allied to the interim government, allegations denied by the Shiite-dominated Interior Ministry.

U.N. envoy to Iraq Ashraf Jehangir Qazi expressed serious concern Sunday about human rights in the country, citing reports of excessive use of force, illegal detention centers and disappearances — many of them the responsibility of insurgents.

The political turmoil has left a dangerous leadership vacuum as Iraq's armed forces, backed by the U.S. military, battle to contain sectarian violence that has pushed Iraq toward civil war.

The Pentagon's top general said Sunday he did not think a full-blown civil conflict would break out, although he acknowledged "anything can happen."



Supporters of Iraqi prime minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari's Dawa party, shout pro al-Jaafari slogans Saturday, as key political groups mount a campaign to deny al-Jaafari another term.

"I do not believe it has deep roots. I do not believe that they're on the verge of civil war," Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

A day earlier, the commander of the U.S. military's Central Command, Gen. John Abizaid, said sectarian divisiveness had been worsened by the bombing of a revered Shiite shrine in Samarra last month and was a threat to Iraq's stability.

During a meeting with Iraqi leaders Saturday, Abizaid urged them to resolve the differences stalling the formation of a government.

"The shrine bombing

exposed a lot of sectarian fissures that have been apparent for a while, but it was the first time I've seen it move in a direction that was unhelpful to the political process," Abizaid said afterward.

The U.S. government sees a government with participation across Iraq's communities as a key step toward improving security and weakening support for insurgents, which would allow Washington and its allies to lower troop numbers.

Under the constitution, the Shiites' United Iraqi Alliance, the largest bloc in parliament, has the first crack at forming a government and chose al-Jaafari

as its nominee for prime minister.

But the Alliance has too few seats to act alone. And it is facing a drive by Sunni, Kurdish and some secular parties that want to prevent al-Jaafari from continuing at the end of the government, favoring instead current Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi.

Abdul-Mahdi lost in the Shiite caucus by one vote to al-Jaafari, who won with the support of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Abdul-Mahdi is backed by Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, a powerful Shiite leader who is frequently at odds politically with al-Sadr. Both have strong militias behind them.

ENGLAND

Childhood obesity slated to rise

Associated Press

LONDON — The number of overweight children worldwide will increase significantly by the end of the decade, and scientists expect profound impacts on everything from public health care to economies, a study published Monday said.

Nearly half of the children in North and South America will be overweight by 2010, up from what

recent studies say is about one-third, according to a report published by the International Journal of Pediatric Obesity.

In the European Union, about 38 percent of all children will be overweight if present trends continue — up from about 25 percent in recent surveys, the study said.

"We have truly a global epidemic which appears to be affecting most countries in the world," said Dr. Philip James, chairman of the

International Obesity Task Force and author of an editorial in the journal warning of the trend.

The percentages of overweight children also are expected to increase significantly in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Mexico, Chile, Brazil and Egypt have rates comparable to fully industrialized nations, James said.

He estimated that, for example, one in five children in China will be overweight by 2010.

Senate

continued from page 1

"I think one of the great challenges of this discussion [is] it touches on issues around which there's a great deal of energy [and] strong views," Jenkins said. "The challenge is when you speak on those issues, there can be a tendency to simplify ... that makes discussion difficult."

He said two-sided "for or against" questions — such as "Are you for or against academic freedom?" — were overly simplistic and dangerous when applied to such a nuanced subject matter.

Senators took turns expressing their views and feedback from their constituents as well as questioning Jenkins on a variety of subtopics, including fundraising, violence against women, the Keenan Revue and sponsorship.

The depth of Jenkins' responses to the questions varied.

Listening attentively, Jenkins nodded and occasionally took notes while murmuring "thank you." Many times his gaze was directed upwards, and he seemed deeply engaged in personal deliberation.

"I'm curious what sort of events you think could take the place of 'The Vagina Monologues,'" Morrissey senator Brian Klein asked Jenkins.

Jenkins said he thought a production "to compare our own reflections ... our stories,

in a certain way" would better serve the Notre Dame community than the "Monologues."

University Affairs committee chair Matt Walsh said he felt the campus culture was "male dominated" and events like the Keenan Revue and Dillon Pep Rally were "pretty chauvinistic."

"I'm not saying these events don't belong at Notre Dame ... [but] there's a huge void on this campus where females get overshadowed,"

Walsh said. "How, as a Catholic University, can we address the issues of gender, sexuality and sexual orientation ... without compromising our Catholic [character]? Do you think it's important to allow these events to exist?"

While Jenkins' answer was firm, it lacked specifics.

"[Issues of gender and sexuality] need to be addressed, and we need to find ways to address them," Jenkins said. "And we need to be creative in finding ways to address them ... Look. I do think we can."

Jenkins said he was "100 percent behind discussing these issues" but told senators the creativity was required on their parts.

Welsh Family senator Brenna Doyle asked Jenkins about sponsorship and endorsement

"If we really want our students to be honest and open about their sexuality, how can we limit the ways in which they express themselves?"

Rhea Boyd
minority affairs
committee chair

— specifically, if he would feel the same about "The Vagina Monologues" if they were sponsored by a dorm rather than an academic department or the University.

Jenkins said he would have "some concerns."

"The same goes with the Keenan Revue," he said. "Is that appropriate? We have to talk about that."

Regarding the frequency of "The Vagina Monologues" performances, Jenkins said he was concerned about having the production at Notre Dame year after year.

"Suppose that we have George Bush come to speak five years in a row and we didn't have a prominent Democrat," he said.

But Walsh senator Erin Hankins compared repeat performances of the "Monologues" to watching a movie multiple times.

"You pick up different ideas," she said. "I was struck by how different the 'Monologues' were this year than last year. [This year's production] was wonderful in a different way ... It's priceless, basically."

Keough senator Rob Lindley said he was concerned the campus discussion had become too limited, overly focused on "The Vagina Monologues" and the former Queer Film Festival — a statement similar to an earlier comment made by Jenkins.

"This is much more than that," Lindley said. "This [discussion] definitely should not be restricted to just the two events."

He said Keough residents dis-

cussed the issue of fundraising for women's organizations — an option previously associated with the "Monologues," which last year raised \$15,000 for the S-O-S and YWCA organizations of St. Joseph County.

This year's productions in DeBartolo Hall, however, were not able to charge for tickets.

"This restriction can only hurt us in the long run," Lindley said.

He also said he hoped debate would continue to promote year-round awareness of problems confronting women.

"The discussion in certain places seems to get polarized," Lindley said. "If it's stagnant and only rises around

Valentine's Day [when the 'Monologues' are traditionally performed] ... it makes the polarizing surface."

Like Lindley, Community Relations committee chair Nick Guzman stressed the importance of the discussion

— a discussion he believes would suffer if the "Monologues" were not held annually.

"If I was trying to create a balance, I would try to do it with more instead of less," he said. "Seeing [the 'Monologues'] more than one time — I think that's important."

Jenkins paused before responding to Guzman.

"Well, let me just ask you a question," he said. "It does take some energy and time to put on something like that ... That's kind of the start of the answer. We can't have a performance [to balance the anti-Catholic themes of the 'Monologues'] every week."

But Siegfried senator Ben Guntz said the testimony of other senators to a certain polarization within the student body means there are "enough differing opinions on campus to put together different performances or discussions."

He said it was important students have "the ability to reason through opposition" — a theme he called central to the intellectual history of the Catholic Church and a "unique opportunity" for Notre Dame.

For Minority Affairs committee chair Rhea Boyd, the question is what Notre Dame wishes to teach students.

"If we really want our students to be honest and open about their sexuality," Boyd said, "how can we limit the ways in which they express themselves? ...

"It's our responsibility and privilege to ask difficult questions. To me, that's our mission."

Student body president Dave Baron acknowledged the difficulty of Jenkins' situa-

tion. "One of the things I've learned this year [is] you can't pick your issue. It kind of picks you," he said. "... We don't really want to deal [with certain issues], but conscience impels you."

Jenkins concluded the meeting by thanking senators and urging them to keep the discussion going.

"You need to help us," he said. "You understand the position better than I do ... I appreciate the seriousness with which the whole student body has taken this issue, and I'm proud."

Contact Maddie Hanna at
mhanna1@nd.edu

"How, as a Catholic University, can we address the issues of gender, sexuality and sexual orientation without compromising our Catholic [character]?"

Matt Walsh
University affairs
committee chair

Big East

continued from page 1

pull off a win and not lose it in the last second or overtime," she said. "[The games] are all exciting, but it's definitely better when you win."

Junior Brian Kelly said the Irish earning a tournament bid is especially impressive in the context of the conference's quality this season.

"It was a tough Big East," he said. "Just making it [to the tournament] was good."

Kelly projected the Irish might go on to win at least a few games.

"I think they have a chance to do well," he said.

Smerdzniski also said he has high hopes for the tournament.

"We're capable of beating every team in the Big East," Smerdzniski said. "You can see throughout the season we didn't really get blown away by any teams in the Big East."

Noting the need for consistency from the players, Smerdzniski suggested the team has a substantial mental battle ahead of them.

"As long as the guys on the

team think we have a chance, I think we can do it," he said.

Sophomore Nick Gergen dissented.

"It's delaying the inevitable," he said. "Obviously, they haven't been able to win [throughout the season]."

While his loyalty remains, Gergen said the team's performance thus far has prevented him from holding on to any high expectations for the postseason.

"I'm hoping they do well, but I'd be surprised if they advanced very far," he said.

Freshman Diva Hira also remained unconvinced the team would proceed far in the tournament.

"I think they will go into [the tournament] a little bit and then fall out," she said,

adding that throughout the season, "every good team they'd play, they would come close to winning and then lose."

But even if Hira's enthusiasm has not prevented her from writing off the tournament, she said students should not give up hope.

"There's always next year," she said.

Contact Karen Langley at
klangley@nd.edu

"I'm hoping they do well, but I'd be surprised if they advanced very far."

Nick Gergen
sophomore

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IN BRIEF

Auto parts maker files bankruptcy

TOLEDO, Ohio — Auto parts maker Dana Corp. filed for bankruptcy protection for its U.S. operations on Friday, joining a growing list of suppliers forced to make major restructuring moves because of the slumping U.S. auto industry.

Dana, which sells brakes, axles and other parts to most major automakers, has been facing increasing pressure from big car makers to sell them parts at lower prices.

That coupled with rising energy costs that are driving up the costs of raw materials and driving down demand for gas guzzling sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks have put auto parts suppliers in a financial bind.

BlackBerry settles patent dispute

NEW YORK — Research In Motion Ltd., the maker of the BlackBerry e-mail device, Friday announced it has settled its long-running patent dispute with a small Virginia-based firm, averting a possible court-ordered shutdown of the BlackBerry system.

RIM has paid NTP \$612.5 million in a "full and final settlement of all claims," the companies said.

The settlement ends a period of anxiety for BlackBerry users. At a hearing last week, NTP had asked a federal court in Richmond, Va., for an injunction blocking the continued use of key technologies underpinning BlackBerry's wireless e-mail service.

Northwest pilots make pay-cut deal

MINNEAPOLIS — Pilots reached a tentative pay-cut deal with Northwest Airlines Corp. on Friday, a major step toward ending a showdown that put the bankrupt airline's future in doubt.

The Northwest branch of the Air Line Pilots Association announced the agreement but didn't release details. The nation's fourth-largest airline said it got the \$358 million in savings it sought.

The deal would still have to be approved by the union's leadership and members. The union said its leaders would meet Friday night to consider the agreement.

Pilots were the last Northwest union without a deal.

Mittal Steel Co. plans merger

Executives cater to European reporters in effort to promote bid for Arcelor SA

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A rival's gibe comparing its product to cheap cologne sent Mittal Steel Co. executives to the southern end of Lake Michigan with foreign journalists in tow last week to show off the expensive stuff.

If the Dutch steelmaker's charm offensive succeeds, the high-end "perfume" manufactured at its plant in Burns Harbor, Ind., will smell sweet enough to skeptics to ease resistance to its hostile takeover bid for European competitor Arcelor SA.

But even if it fails and the largest-ever proposed steel merger goes sour, experts say that won't stop Mittal's relentless global buying spree — or further consolidation of the fragmented steel industry.

"They're not done by any means," said steel industry analyst Scott Burns of Morningstar Inc.

Combining Mittal and Luxembourg-based Arcelor, the two biggest steel manufacturers, would create a company with production capacity of nearly 130 million tons a year, 3 1/2 times the output of the nearest competitor. India-born businessman Lakshmi Mittal already has his company over 70 million tons after more than a dozen acquisitions, including the 2005 purchase of International Steel Group Inc. that made it No. 1.

Without tipping their hand specifically, Mittal executives talked extensively during a two-day press tour of the need for more consolidation in order to reduce price volatility and create more growth opportunities.

"Whether he gets Arcelor or not, he will continue to acquire and will be in excess of 100 million tons five years from now," said Tony Taccone, a steel industry consultant in Pittsburgh with First River Consulting.

For now, Rotterdam-based Mittal is plowing its



Mittal Chief Financial Officer Aditya Mittal predicted Sunday, Feb. 26, 2006, that the proposal to combine Mittal and rival Arcelor SA will close by the end of June.

resources into a high-powered public relations and lobbying campaign to ensure the biggest deal yet gets done.

European regulators are expected to rule on the acquisition by early April, then Arcelor shareholders will have up to two months to vote on it. The governments of France, Luxembourg and Belgium — home to thousands of Arcelor workers — have voiced concern about corporate governance since the Mittal family would retain majority control of the merged company.

Arcelor itself is putting up one of the biggest roadblocks, campaigning to thwart the unsolicited offer. CEO Guy Dolle said the bid

undervalues his company and complained that Mittal's strengths are in low-end steel, unlike Arcelor's high-end products. "There are those who specialize in perfume, such as Arcelor, and others who are more in commodities — one could say in eau de cologne."

Mittal's response: Fly dozens of Europe-based reporters to Chicago, its new U.S. headquarters city, to see slick video presentations and grill its top executives. Then bus them to Burns Harbor, the most modern integrated steel plant in the United States and former flagship of Bethlehem Steel, where high-end products are made for the automotive industry. Mittal also operates a mill in

nearby East Chicago, Ind.

Aditya Mittal, Lakshmi's 30-year-old son and the company's president and chief financial officer, couldn't resist a playful rebuttal to Dolle's dig without mentioning it. "Clearly our developed markets' assets are what some might say the perfume of our business, and our developing markets — this is more the cologne of our business," he said.

While the PR blitz could risk turning off Arcelor shareholders, analysts in the United States and Europe say Mittal's straightforward and relatively open approach during the merger process appears to have shortened the odds of it going through in some form.

AT&T close to deal with BellSouth

Associated Press

NEW YORK — AT&T Inc. is nearing a deal to acquire BellSouth Corp. for around \$65 billion, according to reports published Sunday.

The companies were expected to announce the terms of the deal as soon as today, according to reports in the New York Times and on the Web sites of the Wall Street Journal, Atlanta Journal-Constitution and USA Today.

The papers cited unidentified sources, due to the sensitivity of the negotiations.

Larry Solomon, vice president of corporate communications for AT&T, declined to comment Sunday to The Associated Press. Messages left for

BellSouth spokesman Jeff Battcher were not immediately returned.

AT&T Inc. would pay around \$37 per BellSouth share, according to the Journal, about an 18 percent premium to Friday's closing price of \$31.46 on the New York Stock Exchange. BellSouth shares have already risen 16 percent in 2006.

According to USA Today, AT&T would be paying for the acquisition with its own stock, which closed Friday at \$27.99 on the NYSE, up 15 percent since the start of the year.

Atlanta-based BellSouth is the dominant local telephone provider in nine Southeastern states, while San Antonio-based AT&T's local-service customers are concentrated in 13 states, including

Texas, California, and the Midwest.

Together, AT&T and BellSouth could have combined market capitalization of nearly \$160 billion, dwarfing rival Verizon Communications Inc.

The merged company would have 70 million local-line phone customers and nearly 10 million broadband subscribers. The two companies also own Cingular Wireless LLC, the largest wireless carrier in the United States, and Yellowpages.com, an online directory.

The Cingular brand would be phased out in favor of the AT&T brand, according to the Journal and USA Today. The name will be familiar to wireless customers: AT&T Wireless Inc., a spin-off of AT&T, was acquired by Cingular in October 2004.

West Nile virus does not increase defects

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Pregnant women who get West Nile virus likely will have normal babies, although a small risk of birth defects can't be completely ruled out, according to the first published report from a multistate registry.

Researchers at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called their report "somewhat reassuring" but said pregnant women still should be especially careful to follow precautions, including staying indoors when mosquito activity is high and wearing repellent during mosquito season.

Of 72 infants in 16 states whose mothers had West Nile during pregnancy, only three had problems that might have been linked with exposure to the virus before birth, according to 2003-2004 data from the registry.

Two had abnormally small heads and one was born with an extra toe. In all three cases, the mothers had fevers but otherwise relatively mild cases of West Nile.

One of the small-headed infants had severe birth defects and died three days after birth, but the other appeared to grow out of the problem and was developing normally by age 1.

None of the infants studied "had conclusive laboratory evidence" of developing West Nile virus infection from their mothers, although scientists are uncertain how effective current tests are at detecting West Nile infection at birth, according to the report, being published Monday in the March edition of Pediatrics.

Because of circumstantial evidence, "we couldn't say with confidence they (birth problems) were not caused by West Nile virus," said CDC researcher and co-author Daniel O'Leary.

That evidence includes timing of the mothers' infections. The mother of the extra-toe baby had West Nile fever

early in pregnancy, when development of fingers and toes occurs. The other two mothers got sick during mid-pregnancy.

Seven, or 10 percent of the infants, had major birth defects including Down syndrome and cleft palate, about double the rate in the general population, but prevalence of miscarriages and premature births was lower than in the general population. However, the researchers believe only the three cases might be linked to the virus.

CDC-funded research is investigating whether any of the women had other factors that might have increased their risks for having children with birth defects, O'Leary said.

The CDC collects nationwide data on pregnant women infected with West Nile disease, the mosquito-borne virus that has been reported in humans in at least 42 states.

The states involved in the new report are Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.

Most infected people never get sick, but up to about 20 percent develop mostly mild flu-like symptoms. Severe symptoms, including sometimes fatal brain inflammation, are rare. Since 1999, when the virus first appeared in this country, 782 West Nile deaths have been reported nationwide.

Dr. Shari Goldman, an obstetrician affiliated with Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital, said none of her pregnant patients have developed West Nile though some have asked how they can avoid the disease.

"I raise it as a concern that they should think about, however I do not want to alarm my patients because the risk of them contracting West Nile virus is low," Goldman said.

High tuition troubles the poor

Programs make college more affordable for low, middle income students

Associated Press

The signs are everywhere, from the BMWs parked on campus, to the students' designer cell phones, to the number of families paying full price even as tuition and fees climb past \$40,000. The most prestigious colleges are overwhelmingly attended by the wealthy.

It's a problem colleges are speaking about more frankly and have tried to address with more financial aid, but with only mixed success. At the most selective schools, a 2003 study found, just 3 percent of students came from the poorest socio-economic quarter of families, while 74 percent came from the richest.

Now, a small group of selective colleges is turning its attention to what may be an untapped reservoir of able, low-income students: the 6.5 million people who attend community colleges. Historically, those students have been ignored by elite colleges, which recruit mostly at high schools and often accept few or no transfers because they want to offer a distinctive four-year experience.

Five well-known private colleges and three highly selective public schools — the flagship campuses of the Universities of Michigan, California and North Carolina — were to announce plans Monday to accommodate a total of about 1,100 more community college transfer students from low- to moderate-income families over the next four years. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation will contribute about \$7 million for



Kurt Thiede, vice president for enrollment management at Bucknell University, walks across campus Friday.

support programs, while the colleges will spend more than \$20 million of their own money on support programs and financial aid.

The private colleges participating are Amherst, Mount Holyoke, Bucknell, Cornell and the University of Southern California.

Though the numbers amount to a relative handful — with Cal taking by far the most transfers — the hope is that the variety and prestige of the schools involved will persuade others to take a chance on students who have started at two-year schools for financial or family reasons.

"There's a lot of focus at Harvard and lots of other places on the fact that there are no low-income students at those schools, or very few," said Joshua Wyner, the Cooke Foundation's vice president for programs. "The place where a lot of them are that nobody

seems to be looking is community colleges."

A 2005 Department of Education study found more than one-third of 12th graders in 1992 who went first to community college and earned more than 10 credits eventually transferred to a four-year college. But few go to the most selective schools. On those campuses, typically only about one in 1,000 students transferred from a two-year school, Wyner said.

Some of the participating colleges, like Cal and Mount Holyoke, already have close ties with "feeder" community colleges and will expand existing programs. Mount Holyoke, a women's college in Massachusetts, will provide a full-time academic counselor inside nearby Holyoke Community College to identify transfer candidates and help them prepare. It hopes to add about 10 slots per year.

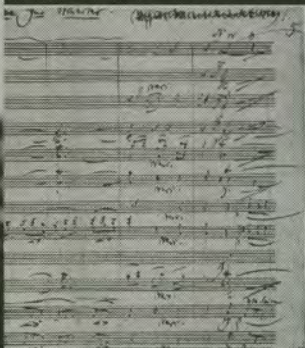
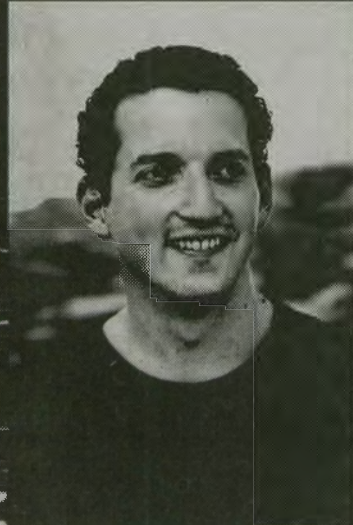
Ryan de Ryke Daniel Schlosberg

March 7, 2006

Sponsored by the University of Notre Dame Department of Music

Daniel Schlosberg focuses his time on collaborative performance as well as on solo recitals.

He appears regularly on the Embassy Series (Washington, D.C.), and on live radio broadcast recitals from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Other performances include a recital at the Israeli Embassy, presented in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution. Currently, he is the artist-in-residence on the faculty of the Notre Dame Department of Music.

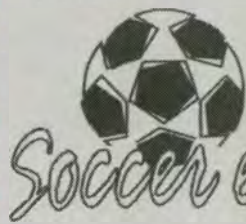


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Ryan de Ryke is quickly emerging as one of the most exciting singers of his generation. He will be making his Wigmore Hall debut later this year, and will appear at the prestigious Aldeburgh and Aix-en-Provence festivals.



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Channel One's ads pack more punch than news features

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Students remember more of the advertising than they do the news stories shown on Channel One, the daily public affairs program shown in 12,000 U.S. schools, a study has found.

Students reported buying — or having their parents buy — teen-oriented products advertised on the show, including fast food and video games, researchers said.

Schools that agree to show Channel One on 90 percent of school days receive free televisions and satellite dishes, a deal critics say turns students into a captive audience for advertisers. Nearly 8 million students see the program, according to Channel One's parent company, Primedia.

"The benefits of having Channel One in schools seem to have some real costs that should

create an ethical dilemma for schools," said study co-author Erica Austin of Washington State University. The study appears Monday in the journal Pediatrics.

Channel One CEO Judy Harris questioned whether the students' purchases were influenced exclusively by Channel One ads or by other advertising and the preferences of their peers.

"These children weren't in an isolation box," Harris said.

Advertising pays for Channel One's news, health and fitness content, Harris said. Advertisers don't influence the news content, and the company has high standards that keep ads appropriate for students, she said.

The show won a Peabody Award for reporting on Sudan's civil war last year. The 12-minute daily broadcast has 10

minutes of news and two minutes of either ads or public service announcements.

Channel One produces some of its own news programming, but it also airs Associated Press Television News video. Associated Press news service stories appear on Channel One's Web site.

Researchers surveyed 240 seventh and eighth-graders at a school in Washington state. The students reported that during the previous three months they bought an average of 2.5 products advertised on Channel One.

The students remembered, on average, 3.5 ads compared to 2.7 news stories. However, they didn't remember much about either, retaining only 13 percent of the news stories and 11 percent of the ads shown during one week.



Students operate media equipment provided by Channel One at Maria High School in Chicago Friday.

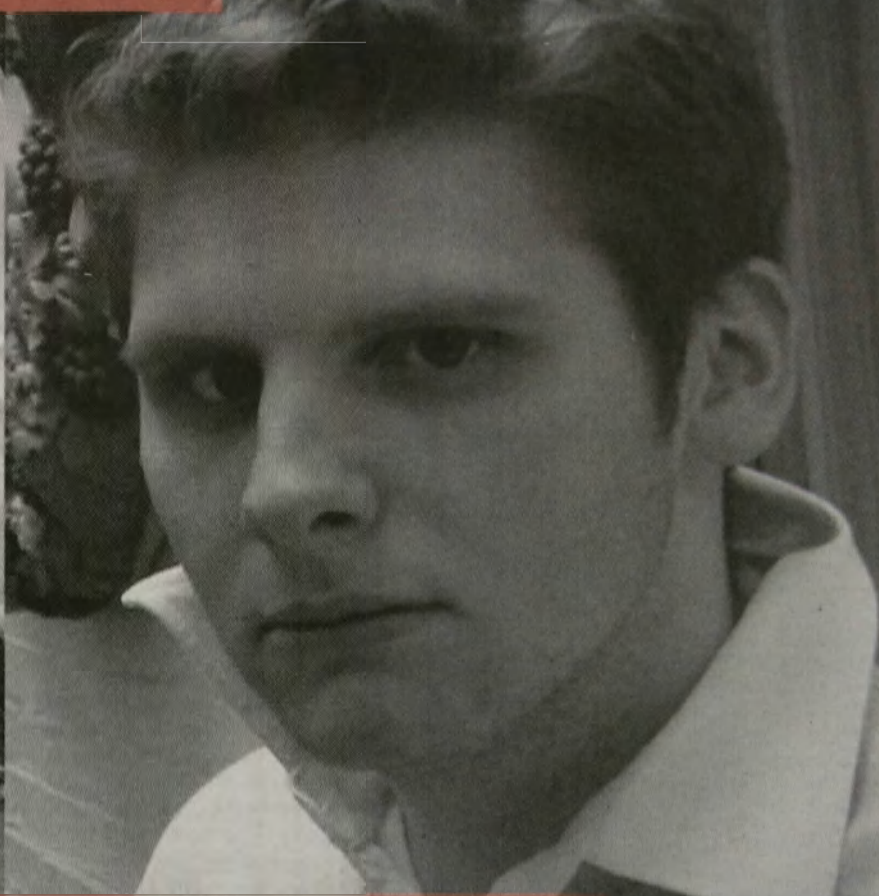
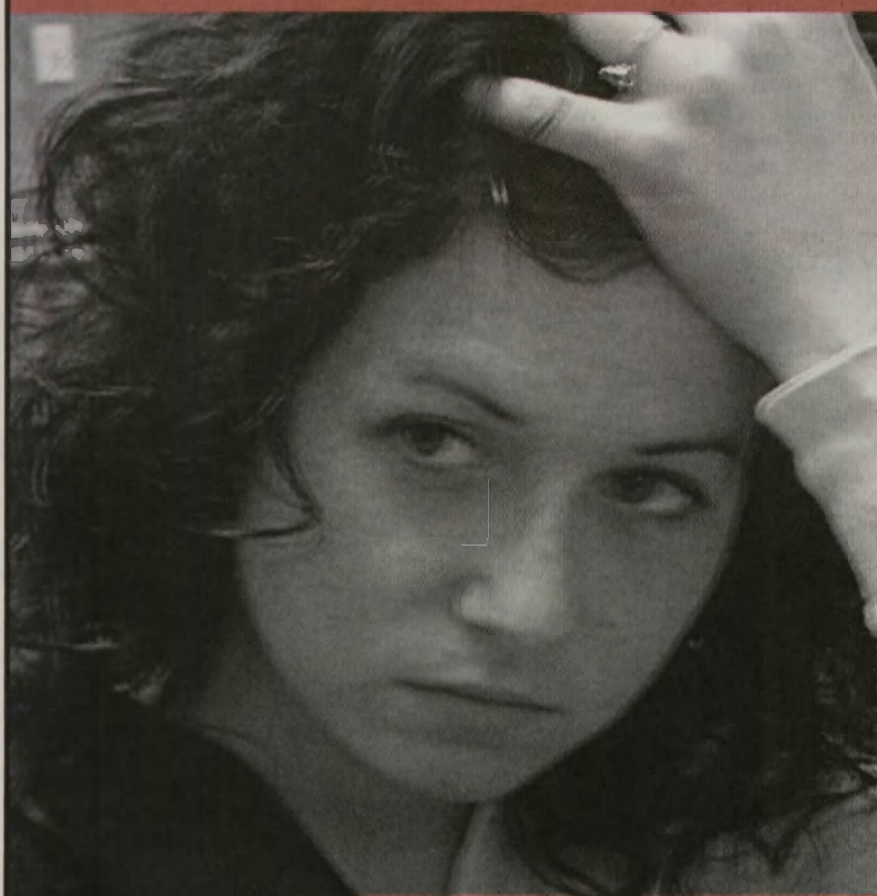
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TODAY'S STAFF

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Black Republicans to the rescue

Just when it looked as though fierce partisanship and violent faction were going to leave America's democracy in shambles, two vastly different groups arose from the political mire and took the first steps toward ensuring that the States of America stay United well into the future.

Who were they? Black Republicans (no, it's not an oxymoron) and Catholic Democrats.

It's no secret that GOP Chairman Ken Mehlman has been fighting hard to rally African-American voters back into "the party of Lincoln" since the realization that President George W. Bush's share of the black vote climbed from 9 to 11 percent in 2004. In the tumultuous aftermath of Hurricane Katrina — in which 59 percent of the victims were black — he has had to work extra hard, speaking in 46 minority communities and publicly schmoozing with influential black leaders like boxing promoter Don King.

While the fruits of his labors will go largely unnoticed until November, the emergence of several African-American candidates for major political seats this year is the first sign that the black vote may no longer necessarily be a lock for the Democrats.

In Pennsylvania, for instance, former Pittsburgh Steeler Lynn Swann is attempting to become only the second black governor in U.S. history — and the first ever from the Republican Party. He is currently neck and neck with incumbent Ed Rendell, according to most polls, and the implications of a black Republican governor in a major swing state could certainly throw a wrench into Democrats' plans to take back the White House in 2008.

The same situation goes for neighboring Ohio, where the African-American Secretary of State Ken Blackwell is seeking the governorship in a state

where Bush's black support soared from 9 percent to an estimated 16 percent in 2004.

While some Democrats might be shivering in their boots at the thought of losing their most reliable voting bloc, the reality is that this shift in party loyalty could work wonders for America's minority populations. After years of "entrenchment" in the Democratic Party — a period in which many argue that Democrats only paid lip service to black causes and never really legislated in their favor — African Americans have finally decided to make their vote mean something by giving up their status as single-issue (racial politics) voters and shifting toward a moderate independent position.

Of course, the memory of the implicit racism of the GOP's "southern strategy" will be hard to shake. (Who can forget Republican Senator Trent Lott's foolish decision to declare in 2003 that America "wouldn't have had all these problems over these years" if the segregationist Strom Thurmond had been elected president in 1948?) Still, if black voters are willing to put the past behind them and instead focus on real issues — like the fact that black unemployment has actually fallen under Bush's leadership — it will only force both parties to fight harder to receive their support.

On the other side of the aisle, Catholic Democrats made a similar move toward moderation last week when they released a "Statement of Principles by Fifty-Five Catholic Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives." In an effort to fight back against being labeled "good Catholics" or "bad Catholics" based on the single issue of abortion, these 55 Representatives (who included some of the staunchest pro-lifers in Congress) tried to emphasize the importance of other issues — like social justice, poverty, war and the death penalty — to their Catholic faith.

While still admitting that they sought "policies that encourage pregnancies to be carried to term" because of "the undesirability of abortion," these Democrats seemed to be imploring the

Catholic electorate to expand its voting decisions beyond the single issue of abortion in order to elect representatives who will fight for a variety of faith-based issues in Congress. Not only does this send a strong signal to the Catholic bishops who unnecessarily campaigned from their altars in 2004 by claiming that John Kerry's pro-choice stance meant that he should not receive communion, but it also suggests to Catholic voters — who have been slowly shifting their loyalties toward the Republican Party since 1952 — that their political influence can be dramatically increased if they are not seen as a single-issue, "sure-thing" voting bloc.

These shifts toward independence, moderation and multiple-issue voting represent an extremely positive move for both African Americans and Catholics. After all, history has shown that when a particular group becomes too entrenched in one political party, the issues that are most important to them are often ignored by legislators who no longer have to fight for their votes.

Beyond these two groups, though, the significance of these tiny political realignments could suggest a coming end to the single-issue divisiveness that has made political conversations impossible and bipartisan agreement unimaginable over the past decade. Only when African Americans can step outside the sphere of racial politics, Catholics can step outside the box of right-to-life politics and neoconservatives can step outside the brave new world of global democratization politics will a majority of Americans be able to agree with the political direction of their democracy.

Unless someone thinks that 34 percent of the public supporting the president constitutes a democratic majority.

Joey Falco is a junior American Studies major. His column appears every other Monday. He can be contacted at jfalco@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mendoza policy offends transfer student

When I received my letter of acceptance into the University this past summer, I thought it meant that I was a Notre Dame student. Like all the freshman "star students" that were privileged enough to be accepted into such a prestigious school, I was issued an ID card, assigned to a dorm room and was helped when scheduling my classes. The only difference between my experience and that of Notre Dame's other future alumni was that I was a transfer. No problem, right? I didn't think so. I fit right into the "Notre Dame family" but, apparently, the joke was on me.

According to the recent Observer article "Mendoza rejects 'gates,' external transfers," (March 3) the Mendoza School of Business does not see stu-

dents from "external schools" as Notre Dame students. The article failed to mention, however, that transfer students cannot declare business as a major until completing a full year at the University. I cannot help but feel a bit offended by Dean Carolyn Woo's claim, "We're not obligated to take external transfers." What I fail to understand is why it should even be seen as an obligation to admit an intelligent, hard-working transfer student into a certain major. Woo continues saying, "We should serve Notre Dame students before external students." I am now enrolled in the University, which means that I am now a Notre Dame student. I wasn't a Notre Dame student last year, but last year I wasn't

trying to take classes at Notre Dame. Should I have a transfer sticker on my ID card so that both faculty and students know that I am an "external student?"

I understand that Mendoza has to cut their numbers down. I do not understand why the incredibly diverse transfer class that I was fortunate enough to be a part of was offended. Don't get me wrong, I am happy reading my Aristotle and Shakespeare as I study the liberal arts, but please at least recognize me as a Notre Dame student.

Meghan Lueck
sophomore
Howard Hall
March 5

OBSERVER POLL

What are you doing for
Spring Break?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m.
at www.ndsmcobserver.com

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A lie never lives to be old."

Sophocles
Greek tragic poet

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

Monday, March 6, 2006

page 11

U-WIRE

Music isn't what it used to be, but change is on the way

It is often said that music is the universal language. That or math, I can't remember which one. Or maybe it's both. Whatever.

Anyway, universal language or not, music has found a way to transcend geographic, cultural, ethnic and linguistic boundaries.

This can be seen everywhere you look, such as kids singing "The Macarena" at a high school homecoming dance or the Mexican guys I've worked with the past two summers singing along to "My Heart Will Go On" during their lunch break.

As beautiful a phenomenon as music is, it, along with pretty much everything in this world (except for Chipotle), has a dark side.

I'm not talking about rap music that critics say cause misogyny among youth (it doesn't) or industrial metal that others say cause teenagers to shoot up their schools (it doesn't). I'm talking about bad music.

Really bad music.

What is really bad music, you ask? The stock answer from most music elitists would be to simply turn on MTV, and they would be right.

However, unless you tune your television to the "music" channel early in the morning, you will not see any music videos, and "Meet the Barkers" doesn't serve as a good case study for the state of modern pop music. But if you've ever eaten a meal in Commons, you know what I'm talking about.

Two years ago, when I lived in Blanding II, I was often subjected

to the sonic filth that poured fourth from televisions around the dining hall. As if "I Love the Way You Move" wasn't annoying enough already, it can truly drive a person mad when they hear it at least six times a day.

But this column isn't meant to pick on OutKast, a group that I believe has good intentions at heart. I'm here to address the other senseless pap that most of you uncultured swine on campus listen to.

I'm talking about bands like Nickelback, Creed, My Chemical Romance, Simple Plan, Evanescence, Toby Keith, Ashley Simpson, Gretchen Wilson, Bright Eyes ... I could go on, but I don't think I need to.

Whether it's prepackaged pop music or some random guy who plays guitar and only writes songs about ex-girlfriends, the standard by which music is judged today has been lowered dramatically from where it once stood in the past.

Although some of this has to do with the democratization of music and the availability of recording equipment, this sort of development should be a good thing.

However, this revolution, along with giving many musicians the opportunity to make and distribute music in an environment where they previously were unwelcome, also gives many unsavory musicians the opportunity to ravage your eardrums with what they will constantly refer to as their "art."

For example, I'm sure at one point in your time at UK you've seen a poor soul playing guitar and singing outside White Hall, the Student Center or even your dorm on a sunny day. These people must be stopped.

Don't think that by any means I'm advocating a return to listening to "oldies" or what have you. Some of music's greatest travesties were committed before any of us were even born (think The Eagles, John Denver, post-Genesis Phil Collins).

What I am proposing, however, is a return to what makes music music, such as, I don't know, playing your own instruments. Or, egad, writing your own songs. Or ... wait wait wait ... doing something original for once.

The John Mayer Trio may be superior to most live acts in the field of musicianship, but I've already heard their act before when it was called Stevie Ray Vaughn. In much the same fashion, The Killers sounded a lot better when they were called 1980-1989 and rap only sounds good under the names De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest, and the Sugarhill Gang.

The Barenaked Ladies once said in a song as equally moronic as their name, "It's all been done before." They're right. If I have to hear another band trying to be the next Incubus, Limp Bizkit, O.A.R. or Dashboard Confessional, I am going to gouge my ears with a skewer.

There is a musical revolution on the horizon, and it doesn't involve guys wearing girls' jeans, cowboy hats, hemp necklaces or oversized black jeans with chains. Prepare thyself.

This column first appeared in the March 3 edition of the Kentucky Kernel, the daily publication of University of Kentucky.

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

Doug Scott

The Kentucky Kernel
University of Kentucky

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Basketball response

I am writing in response to the recent letter to the editor concerning Mike Brey, the men's basketball coach, written by John F. Chute, class of 1976 ("Higher standards for men's basketball" March 1).

Before I begin, let it be known that I work at DeMatha Catholic High School, Brey's alma mater. I also attended DeMatha with Brey so I make no bones about being an avid supporter of the basketball team.

What surprises me is that the student newspaper would print such an error-filled, arrogant letter by an angry alum who clearly has an agenda.

Permit me if you will as I would like to dispute a few of Chute's points.

1. This is Notre Dame's 11th season in The Big East (not 14th). Without question, The Big East is the best basketball conference in the nation. Without taking anything away from Digger Phelps, but Coach Phelps's teams played a much easier independent schedule.

2. The author's contention that he is not qualified to analyze basketball and then proceeding to give his lengthy error-filled analysis. I thought Notre Dame grads were smarter than that.

3. His assertion that a "prima donna" brought down the squads of '05 and '04 without recognizing what that same "prima donna" did in his first two years at Notre Dame.

4. His absurd comparison of the recent Marquette-Notre Dame game to that of a matchup of the Harlem Globetrotters-Washington Generals. If you recall, Notre Dame was leading in the Marquette game in the second half and finally lost by eight points, thanks to the efforts of a gifted opposing player. Having attended numerous Harlem Globetrotter games as a youth, I can assure you that the games I saw were never close to being competitive, as we all know.

5. His criticism of Brey's coaching against Arizona in the Sweet 16 a few years back. Perhaps the author should understand that there is a shot clock in college basketball! Furthermore, the last time I checked, the purpose of the game is to outscore your opponent!

6. His criticism of Athletic Director Kevin White's hiring of Brey despite the tremendous success Brey achieved as a head coach at the University of Delaware and as an assistant at Duke.

7. His comment that Duke University had an inferior history of achievement in men's basketball prior to 1982. I ask the author to go do his research and see that Duke had Final Four appearances in both the 1960s and 1970s.

8. His comment that the program is in a "vegetative state." Excuse me? Three NCAA appearances and two NIT appearances, a vegetative state? What color is the sky in your universe?

9. His criteria for the contract of a head basketball coach. I can assure you that no coach in America, including Coach K of Duke, would ever sign a contract saying that he must finish in the Top 10 of the national rankings each year.

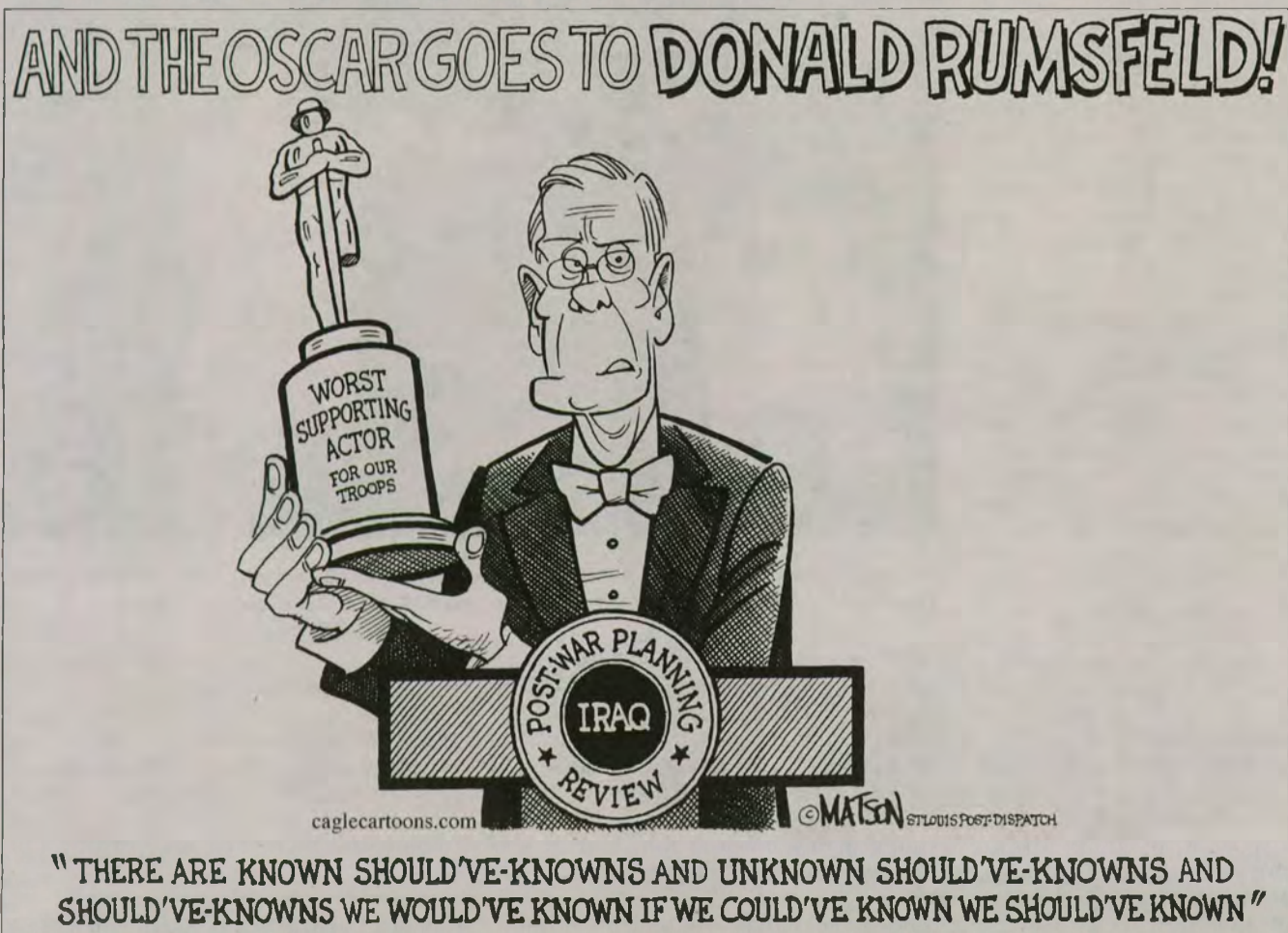
10. His conclusion that Notre Dame was not going to make The Big East Tournament. Way to jump ship and support your alma mater.

As I said before, I am a Brey apologist. I understand the losses have been very tough this year and home attendance is down a fraction. But let's face it, Notre Dame has been competing very well at the highest of levels and has missed success by the narrowest of margins. And I have to believe that the Irish are getting good TV ratings. Go Irish!

Thomas Ponton

Director of Development
DeMatha Catholic High School
March 5

EDITORIAL CARTOON



"THERE ARE KNOWN SHOULD'VE-KNOWN AND UNKNOWN SHOULD'VE-KNOWN AND SHOULD'VE-KNOWN WE WOULD'VE KNOWN IF WE COULD'VE KNOWN WE SHOULD'VE KNOWN"

CONCERT REVIEW

Chieftains' powerful music energizes campus

By SEAN SWEANY
Scene Writer

Young and old celebrated together when The Chieftains visited the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC) Thursday night. The four decade old group understands the power of collaborative effort in music and included other musicians, dancers and even the audience to create a night of wonderful music and memories.

The Chieftains, under the lead of the energetic uilleann pipes and tin whistle player Paddy Moloney, combined their legendary talent with Irish harpist Triona Marshall, guitarist Jeff White and fiddle player/Irish dancer Jon Pilatzke. They were also joined by The Cottars, two young brother-sister pairs from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and the Notre Dame Symphony Orchestra. This diverse group was led by Moloney, who was in his element performing and leading the toe tapping songs.

The concert began with The Chieftains playing some of their traditional songs from various albums. The group is renowned for its unique ability to combine Irish music with other forms of folk music and this was showcased when they performed the bluegrass song "Country Blues" with guitarist Jeff White. The group also played a lively song combining Oriental and Irish melodies called "Full of Joy" from The Chieftains' tour of China.

When The Chieftains were joined by The Cottars, Moloney began telling jokes and the energy in the theater rose to a new level. The teenage group from

Canada held their own sharing the stage with The Chieftains and won the audience with their remarkable talent for singing, dancing and playing their respective instruments at the same time. The most memorable song the two groups played was the Irish classic "The Rocky Road to Dublin," complete with rock concert-like spotlights sweeping the theater.

After an intermission, The Chieftains were joined by the Notre Dame Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Daniel Stowe. Together, the groups performed several pieces written by Paddy Moloney. First was "Long Journey Home" a song about the Great Famine composed by Moloney for a television series about the Irish in America. The musicians were joined by the Notre Dame choral group Collegium Musicum, who added renditions of "Shenandoah" and "Anthem" to the moving song. Afterwards, Moloney listed this as one of the best performances of "Long Journey Home" ever.

Another of Moloney's arrangements called "Planxty Mozart" was a humorous song where a French horn player, backed by the Orchestra, played a Mozart tune in a musical duel with an Irish jig performed by The Chieftains. After several minutes of back and forth competition, the two sides found a harmonium and were joined by Irish dancers to finish the rousing song.

After the main program, which will be performed again by all parties at New York City's Carnegie Hall on St. Patrick's Day, The Chieftains left the stage to thunderous applause. For an encore, Moloney asked that the house lights be brought up so that the audi-



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

The Chieftains, led by Paddy Moloney (center), delighted the audience Thursday with a selection of Irish music, joined by the Notre Dame Orchestra.

ence could join in an Irish jig performed by the entire ensemble. Before long, nearly the entire audience, both young and old, was in the aisles of the theater, dancing to the driving rhythm of the Irish song. Perhaps no one enjoyed the festivity more than Paddy Moloney, who was grinning from ear to ear while playing his tin whistle. After the song ended and the musicians departed, the entire audience gave The

Chieftains a standing ovation long after the band left the stage. As the audience filed out of the Leighton Concert Hall Thursday night, the energetic music of The Chieftains had performed its expected magic by bringing the same youthful enthusiasm to every spectator in a night that will not be forgotten for a long time.

Contact Sean Sweany at ssweany@nd.edu

SHOW REVIEW

Martin's 'new-age' comedy delights, appeals to young crowds

By CASSIE BELEK
Scene Writer

Demetri Martin has some jokes and he tells them well. In addition to telling these jokes, Martin also plays instruments. He did both Saturday night at Legends to a room so packed that people were even sitting on the floor.

Martin, who is well on his way to becoming an established comic, excels in the lost art of telling jokes. While other comedians present lengthy scenarios with the punch line at the end, Martin, an observational comedian, presents a series of unrelated jokes like "I think the worst time to have a heart attack is during a game of charades," and "Sometimes I wonder what would Jesus do for a Klondike bar."

As a graduate of Yale University, he dropped out of NYU Law School after only a few months because he thought it was boring. He became an intern for "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and later worked as a sketch writer for "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." Recently he has made comic appearances on "Comedy Central Presents," "The Late Show with David Letterman" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." Martin is currently the resident trendspotter for "The Daily Show," which he has mixed feelings on because he said now he actually has to pay attention to trends.

Martin's performance began with a short animated film he created highlighting "Lesser Known Mythical Creatures." Then Martin emerged from behind the curtains and interacted with

the audience before beginning his actual set. He thrives on spontaneity and improvisation, which was apparent as he pointed out audience members and made fun of them, even though he said he hates it when comics do that. Martin can take anything in the room and make a joke of it instantly, from a green exit sign to the name "Legends."

Martin is among a new crop of alternative comedians who rely on a more aware audience to understand their type of humor. They break tradition by including short films, musical instruments and various props to create comedy that makes the audience think rather than just listen and laugh. They are breaking the rules of traditional comedy and younger audiences are there to embrace them.

On Saturday night, Martin played the keyboard and the guitar while delivering some of his jokes. During his keyboard segment, however, he seemed to lose his connection with the audience. One could almost picture him performing alone in his bedroom rather than in front of a large crowd. Martin seemed bored and tired, but revived the show later with his guitar playing in which he shouted at and called up an annoying audience member named James. It was a moment of intense awkwardness, but Martin turned it into one of the funniest parts of the evening.

After his set, Martin took audience questions, increasing the intimacy between him and the crowd. He spoke of run-ins with other comedians, including the recently passed away Mitch Hedburg, and he called Conan O'Brien and Jon Stewart two of the



KATIE RIVARD/The Observer

Demetri Martin came to Legends with a new style of comedy that utilizes sharp one-liners and music to gear towards a younger and more aware audience.

best bosses someone could have. After answering questions, he took pictures and signed autographs.

Martin displayed his comedic talents to an eager and thankful audience. When he questioned why one audience member was recording his set, the young man answered that Martin was the best thing to come to Legends this year.

A joke seldom failed, and when it did,

Martin was as self-deprecating as Conan O'Brien, displaying his laid-back attitude but also great confidence that the audience wouldn't reject him. Students don't often get the chance to see professional comedians in person, and Martin provided his brand of humor and increased his growing fan base.

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MOVIE REVIEW

'Pépé Le Moko' is a stepping stone for entire genre

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Scene Critic

"Pépé le Moko," the famed 1937 film, was recently screened as part of the DPAC's "Film Noir Weekend." The film provides a prime example of French cinema's Poetic Realism movement which occurred in the 1930s. "Pépé le Moko" is also a marvelous paradigm of the inspiration behind the "Film Noir" genre and is considered by many to be one the genre's most influential films.

Jean Gabin stars as the suave gangster Pépé le Moko. The plot revolves around the French police force in Algiers as they attempt to capture Pépé le Moko, who has evaded them by hiding out in the winding and narrow alleys of Algiers's Casbah. Informants, loyal friends and women all surround Pépé as he plays his game of cat and mouse with the police. Most of the film is dominated by the love affair between Pépé and the beautiful Gaby Gould played by Mireille Balin. She is a Parisian who has traveled to Algiers. While there, she and her friends go into the Casbah wherein she encounters Pépé. They fall in love immediately and the conflict revolves around the jealousy that Pépé's current lover, Inès, has for Gould and Pépé's attempts to see Gould outside of the Casbah. The only catch is the police have the Casbah surrounded

and he will surely be captured upon leaving and entering the other sections of the city.

This film is not considered Film Noir per se, but it does contain many of the elements that would come to provide the icons by which the Noir genre is now known. The characters give off an air of nostalgia for past days and bitterness for their current situations. There is one scene in particular when Pépé discusses Paris with Gould. Gabin infuses his character with the proper hopeless nostalgia for his former home, which leads perfectly into a bitterness



Director: Julien Duvivier
Writer: Henri La Barthe
Starring: Jean Gabin, Line Noro, Mireille Balin and Lucas Gridoux

for being confined in the Casbah. Pépé has money, women and friends in the Casbah but Paris still calls his name. This interplay between nostalgia and bitterness would provide a basis for

the nihilistic feelings that would come to typify the characters of Film Noir.

The aesthetic of the film is also of note. The cinematography shines through in certain instances of heightened emotion providing an artistic impact to the emotional impact coming through the actors. The final shots of the film are of particular note as the camera placement and movement correspond to and heighten the emotional impact of the conclusion. This artistic flair influenced many Italian Neo-Realism filmmakers and, perhaps better-known movement, the French New Wave. Directors such as Jean-Luc



Photo courtesy of picpusdan6.free.fr

"Pépé Le Moko" is a prime example of the Poetic Realism movement and is also considered to be one of the the primary influences of the "Film Noir" genre.

Godard and François Truffaut, French New Wave directors, pointed to this artistic flair as an influence on their filmmaking. The French New Wave then would go on to influence the revered American directors such as Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola.

"Pépé le Moko" contains many of the elements that we have come to recognize in our own cinema. It's influence on Film Noir can be seen through the latter's use of people who are outside the law and on the edge of society and the aesthetic nature would go on to

influence the golden age of post World War II film directors. If in search of a highly entertaining and artistically excellent film, one could do much worse than watch "Pépé le Moko." Gangsters, love, crime and police all converge in the Casbah of Algiers. This mixture is beautifully put together and even more pleasure can be derived today in noting the influence this film and others like it have had on the constant development of cinema.

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MOVIE REVIEW

'Flores de Otro Mundo' goes beyond typical foreign fare

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Scene Writer

"Flores de Otro Mundo", or "Flowers From Another World," addresses racism, the difficulties in the search for companionship and the meaning of family through the lens of a small rural village in Spain. Despite these heavy underlying themes, director and writer Iciar Bollain still allows the film a realistic balance with a little humor, sweetness and hope.

As the opening credits roll, a bus packed with laughing and talkative women travels across the Spanish countryside towards a secluded village. What are they looking for? Men, of course. A rural town with a disproportionate number of eligible bachelors is hosting a get-together in the hopes of ceasing their sexual frustration and loneliness by finding themselves companions among the women who have just arrived. By the end of the first dance, several couples have paired off.

Rich middle-age construction worker Carmelo has brought a beautiful Cuban girl Milady primarily in the hopes that she will meet his physical needs. Milady sees Carmelo as a way out of Cuba and into a life of more luxury, but her social personality and emotions make her reluctant to finally commit to a life that is better, but not necessarily the one she wants. Dominican Patricia veers away

from the men who see her primarily as a sex object and comes to Damián, an unassuming and quiet man, whom she hopes can become a father to her two children. But Patricia is haunted by both her past and her struggles with Damián's domineering and disapproving mother. Finally, Marirosi and Alfonso begin a sweet courtship, but the long distance nature of their relationship and Marirosi's ties back to the city prevent them from taking further steps.

From the first lines of dialogue to the final moments of the movie, strains of racism prevent any chances of "Flores de Otro Mundo" from becoming a simple romance. The women on the bus are not there simply because they are hoping for a romantic fling, but rather because they need Spanish husbands who will protect them from the constant demand for identification papers that relentlessly debilitates their lives. However, these women are often seen as sex objects because of both their gender and their ethnicity.

"Flores de Otro Mundo" is also a statement about the human need for companionship, particularly the relationship between a husband and wife. "Flores de Otro Mundo" often does this by painting all the wrong ways relationships can exist, but also through the great celebration that occurs when each bus full of women arrives — a band follows them



Photo courtesy of leedsfilm.com

"Flores de Otro Mundo" follows the path of a group of young women seeking protection from their harsh environments through the safety of companionship.

as they are paraded through the streets and children look on them with amazement.

"Flores de Otro Mundo" also approaches the subject of family. The audience watches as

Patricia takes great risks for the sake of her children after their father left them and struggles with Damián's mother, Milady longs for the family she tore herself away from for the chance of a better life and as people band together to make their own families, even if they aren't actually related.

Despite its depressing themes, "Flores de otro mundo" does not devolve into melodrama and manages to remain a buoyant and enjoyable film. It is spiced

with jokes (some dirty, some sweet) and an upbeat soundtrack. One cannot help but laugh at Milady's interesting choice of fashion or the two old men that wander the village, watching the escapades of all the movie's central couples, just waiting for something interesting to happen. Finally, "Flores de Otro Mundo" does not end without hope. Some things are left unfinished and some things are broken, but love has not disappeared.

Don't let the subtitles and foreign setting scare you, the themes of "Flores de Otro Mundo" and facets of life it reveals are universal.

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ND TRACK

Irish make statement at Alex Wilson Invite

Seven individuals and one relay team ran well enough to qualify for the NCAA Championships in Fayetteville, Ark.

By JASON GALVAN
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men's and women's track and field teams put on stellar performances this past weekend at the Alex Wilson Invitational, with seven individual Irish athletes qualifying for the NCAA championships to be held Friday in Fayetteville, Ark.

The men's distance medley relay team also met the standard at Loftus Sports Center. In addition, an old school record fell, as sophomore Jacqueline Carter broke a 13-year old mark in the 800-meter run. Carter's time of 2:08.75 was enough to surpass Erica Peterson's mark of 2:10.13 set in 1993.

Maryann Erigha (women's 60-meter and 200-meter), Jacqueline Carter (women's 800-meter), Thomas Chamney (men's 800-meter), Amy Kohlmeier (women's 3,000-

meter), Tim Moore (men's 3,000-meter) and A.J. Andrassy (men's 3,000-meter) all met the provisional qualifying standards.

Senior distance runner Stephanie Madia (women's 5,000-meter) earned an automatic bid to the NCAA championships. In addition, her time of 16:02.14 was enough to break the old record in the women's 5,000-meter of 16:15.06, set by

Wake Forest's Anne Bersagel in 2003.

"It was just a matter of getting into the right race and running at the level I've been training at," Madia said. "I'm also really proud of our girls, step-

ping up to the competition and taking ownership of the meet with their fast times."

Madia was also thankful for the support of her teammates in her own performance. Senior distance runner Molly Huddle set the pace during the 5,000-meter race and helped take some of the burden off of

Madia.

"The plan that coach and I talked about just worked, and I was really confident getting the auto bid was a doable goal," Madia said. "I was very fortunate my teammate Molly Huddle set the pace during the race and took some of the pressure off. Leading takes a lot of energy, and it was great having her there to do it."

Thomas Chamney ran in the signature event of the Alex Wilson, the men's 800-meter run. Coming off a dominant first place performance at the Big East meet, Chamney had another solid outing with a second place finish at the Invitational. Despite what he described as a "messy" race, with runners jostling for position, the Irish junior was still able to step up at the end of the race and make a strong finish.

"I had wanted to win it, in front of the home crowd and all, and I was disappointed not getting the auto-bid," Chamney

said. "The way it got messy and how I was boxed in, I was frustrated, but that's the way racing goes sometimes. I'm still going to the NCAA's, and in hindsight, it all worked out O.K."

Chamney's mark of 1:48.62, which he posted at the Mayo Invitational, still stands as the No. 14 time in the nation for the 800-meter run and will be enough for him to make the championship meet. This will be the first time he will be running in an individual event at nationals and, in addition, he also will be competing as a part of the men's distance medley relay team with Kurt Benninger, Ryan Postel and Adam Currie.

The Irish relay team and squads from Illinois, Villanova, Oral Roberts, Alabama and Washington all met the NCAA provisional standard at the Invitational.

"The Alex Wilson is the premiere setting for the distance medley relay," Chamney said.

"The four of the fastest times in the nation were set here, and after running against some of the best teams, we know where we stand in relation to the others, and have an idea of what we need to do going into nationals."

The Irish men's and women's teams now turn their attention toward the NCAA meet coming up this week and the preparation which goes along with it. But unlike the early season high-intensity training sessions, athletes participating this week at nationals are looking to rest up and stay fresh for the biggest run of the indoor season.

"This week you have to be relaxed as possible," Chamney said. "Our workouts won't be tough, I'm just going to stay relaxed, do a tune-up workout, and take it easy."

"I have a full week to recover, I just want to do the little things that help any athlete feel great, like getting enough sleep and staying stretched. Things like that will help keep me ready to go for Friday."

Contact Jason Galvan at jgalvan@nd.edu

FENCING

Ten fencers qualify for national tournament in Houston

ND places well in the Midwest Regionals at home during weekend

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame finished Saturday's Midwest Regionals with ten fencers in automatic qualifying spots and an additional two in solid position to pick up at-large bids for the NCAA Championship March 16-19 in Houston, Texas.

"We have a very young team, and I think they did their best," assistant coach Zoltan Dudas said. "They were much more nervous than last year's team, since they are mostly freshmen fighting and they don't know the qualification system." d

Sophomore women's sabreist Mariel Zagunis led the team by winning all nine of her bouts to take first place. Taking second

place Saturday were men's epeeist Aaron Adjemian and women's foilist Addi Nott, while Patrick Ghattas and Valerie Providenza took third place in men's and women's sabre, respectively.

"[The most exciting part was] I think coming out of pools undefeated, because I normally have a hard time in preliminary bouts," Adjemian said.

In the epee, Karol Kostka and Madeleine Stephan grabbed third place to qualify for Nationals. Foilists Mark Kubik (4th) and Melanie Bautista (5th) and sabreist Matt Stearns (6th) also finished high enough to qualify.

The squad is confident regarding the chances of foilist Jakub Jedrkowiak (5th) and sabreist Amy Orlando (7th) to earn the two at-large bids for the NCAA's. Sixty percent of the qualification is based on an individual's performance in the Regionals, with the other 40 percent coming from performance throughout the season.

"I think we'll get them both in, because they both fenced really well this year," Bautista said.

"Amy had a very good season and the at-large will be with her," Dudas said. "I think that both of them will be in, so I think we'll have a full team — a young team — but a vicious team, hungry for success."

Ohio State, widely considered Notre Dame's biggest rival throughout the season, qualified the maximum of six fencers on the men's side, but managed only three from their women's team.

"Ohio State ... qualified nine directly and they're waiting for one at large, but the women's foil was able to knock out anyone from Ohio State from making it, so they can only get 10 at max while a full team requires 12," Bautista said.

The weekend also featured several intense match-ups on the women's side between Notre Dame and Northwestern.

"I think the most exciting

part was knowing that I was one bout away from qualifying, and essentially for women's foil, it was a Northwestern and Notre Dame showdown," Bautista said. "For each qualifying spot, Notre Dame was fencing against Northwestern, so that was really exciting, and it was really exciting to see the guys fence well against Ohio State."

With only nine Buckeyes currently qualified, Ohio State's quest for a National Championship just got slimmer. Notre Dame can't breathe just yet, though. Penn State has become the greatest threat, as the Nittany Lions managed to qualify the maximum of 12 fencers.

"Overall, the team we have to worry about is Penn State, because they qualified a full team at the Regionals, and they've always been big contenders," Bautista said.

Penn State is currently ranked No. 2 among women's squads and is tied for the No. 2

spot with Notre Dame for men.

"I think OSU is kind of out of the running, but now Penn State will be a big challenge, because they qualified all twelve," Adjemian said.

The official qualifying list will be made public on Tuesday.

"I think we have a really good team... we have a lot of freshman but we have a lot of talent and I think we have a good chance," Adjemian said.

The team will practice together over the next week before heading to Texas for the tournament, which begins the Thursday during Spring Break.

"I think we will have a close fight with Penn State and we will see if they can beat us or we can beat them," Dudas said. "I am very confident, because maybe we do not have the best talent, but the attitude and the work ethic is better than I can ever remember."

Contact Jack Thornton at jthornt4@nd.edu

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AROUND THE NATION

Monday, March 6, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

| team | record | OTL | points |
|--------------|--------|-----|--------|
| NY Rangers | 36-16 | 8 | 80 |
| Philadelphia | 33-18 | 10 | 76 |
| New Jersey | 32-22 | 7 | 71 |
| NY Islanders | 27-28 | 4 | 58 |
| Pittsburgh | 14-36 | 11 | 39 |

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

| team | record | OTL | points |
|----------|--------|-----|--------|
| Ottawa | 40-14 | 5 | 85 |
| Buffalo | 38-16 | 5 | 81 |
| Montreal | 29-22 | 8 | 66 |
| Boston | 25-26 | 10 | 60 |
| Toronto | 27-28 | 5 | 59 |

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

| team | record | OTL | points |
|------------|--------|-----|--------|
| Carolina | 42-14 | 4 | 88 |
| Tampa Bay | 32-14 | 4 | 68 |
| Atlanta | 28-27 | 6 | 62 |
| Florida | 23-29 | 8 | 54 |
| Washington | 20-33 | 6 | 46 |

Western Conference, Central Division

| team | record | OTL | points |
|-----------|--------|-----|--------|
| Detroit | 41-14 | 5 | 87 |
| Nashville | 35-19 | 7 | 77 |
| Columbus | 24-35 | 2 | 50 |
| Chicago | 19-31 | 9 | 47 |
| St. Louis | 17-32 | 9 | 43 |

Western Conference, Northwest Division

| team | record | OTL | points |
|-----------|--------|-----|--------|
| Calgary | 35-18 | 7 | 77 |
| Vancouver | 35-22 | 5 | 75 |
| Colorado | 34-22 | 6 | 74 |
| Edmonton | 32-21 | 8 | 72 |
| Minnesota | 29-28 | 5 | 63 |

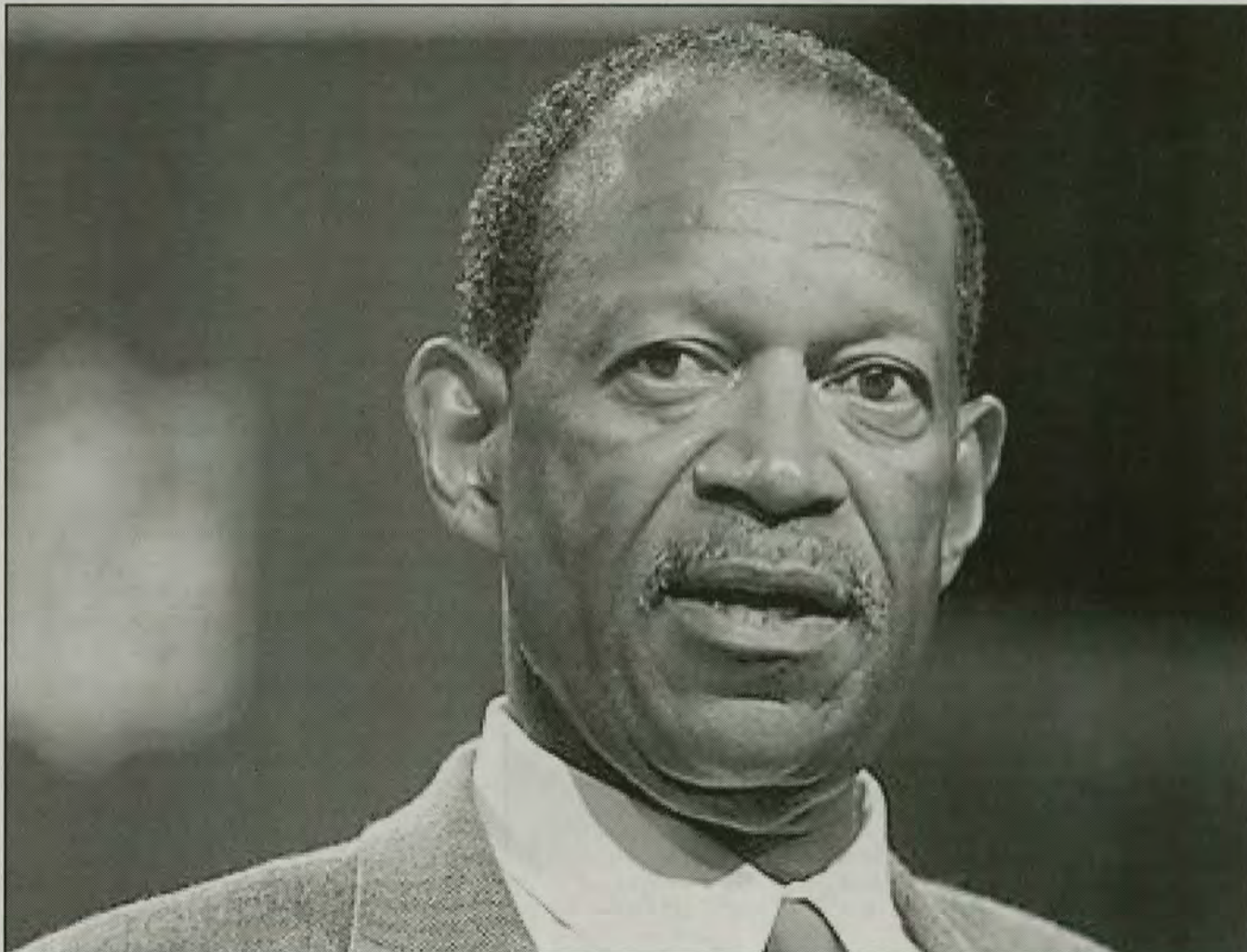
Western Conference, Pacific Division

| team | record | OTL | points |
|-------------|--------|-----|--------|
| Dallas | 39-18 | 3 | 81 |
| Los Angeles | 34-23 | 5 | 73 |
| Anaheim | 28-20 | 12 | 68 |
| San Jose | 28-23 | 8 | 64 |
| Phoenix | 28-29 | 4 | 60 |

Big East Basketball

| | team | conf. | overall |
|----|---------------|-------|---------|
| 1 | Connecticut | 14-2 | 27-2 |
| 2 | Villanova | 14-2 | 24-3 |
| 3 | West Virginia | 11-5 | 20-9 |
| 4 | Pittsburgh | 10-6 | 21-6 |
| 4 | Georgetown | 10-6 | 19-8 |
| 6 | Marquette | 10-6 | 20-9 |
| 6 | Seton Hall | 9-7 | 18-10 |
| 8 | Cincinnati | 8-8 | 19-11 |
| 8 | Syracuse | 7-9 | 19-11 |
| 10 | Rutgers | 7-9 | 17-12 |
| 11 | Louisville | 6-10 | 18-11 |
| 12 | NOTRE DAME | 6-10 | 15-12 |

NFL



NFL Players Association Executive Director Gene Upshaw talks with reporters on Feb. 3. Talks between the NFL and its players' union have been at a standstill for over a month, and discussions once again stalled Sunday.

NFL labor talks break off once again

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL and its players' union broke off talks Sunday evening, leaving dozens of veterans in danger of becoming salary-cap casualties before free agency begins a minute after midnight Monday.

The breakdown, though surprising, was typical of the topsy-turvy negotiations, so far: Just when things seemed darkest, they got back on track; and when it appeared a deal could be struck, talks broke down. As they did when the union called off

the talks.

"The talks ended after the NFL gave us a proposal which provided a percentage of revenues for the players which would be less than they received over the last 12 years," said Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association. "After suggesting we extend the waiver deadline from six o'clock to 10 this evening, they gave us a new proposal which was worse than their prior offer. Quite naturally, we rejected that proposal and saw no need to continue meeting."

But Harold Henderson, the NFL's executive vice

president for labor relations, said the union rejected a proposal that would have added \$577 million for players in 2006 compared to 2005 and \$1.5 billion in the six years of the extension. "It's an unfortunate situation for the players, the fans and the league," Henderson said. The cuts started almost immediately.

Oakland cut quarterback Kerry Collins, saving \$9.2 million in cap space. Center Kevin Mawae was cut by the New York Jets, although he probably would have been gone anyway because he is 35 and missed the final 10 games of last sea-

son with a triceps injury.

Other big names could go as teams try to squeeze under a salary cap of \$94.5 million. If a deal had been negotiated, the cap might have been \$10 million higher — in other words, allowing teams to keep some of the players.

These negotiations were by far the most difficult since the NFL and the union first agreed to free agency and a salary cap in 1992, ending years of labor unrest that included player strikes in 1982 and 1987. The contract has been extended several times since then, most of the time with ease.

around the dial

MEN'S NCAA BASKETBALL

Colonial Athletic Conference
Championship, 7 p.m., ESPN2

Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
Championship, 9 p.m., ESPN2

West Coast Conference Championship,
9 p.m., ESPN

WOMEN'S NCAA BASKETBALL

Big Ten Conference Championship,
7 p.m., ESPN2

NHL

New York Islanders at Washington,
7 p.m., OLN

IN BRIEF

Cole to miss 6-to-8 weeks

PITTSBURGH — Carolina left wing Erik Cole will miss at least the rest of the regular season with a compression fracture in a vertebra in his neck caused when he was driven headfirst into the boards by Pittsburgh's Brooks Orpik during a 7-5 Hurricanes victory Saturday night.

Cole, tied for second on the team in scoring, will be out at least 6-to-8 weeks — a major loss for what currently is the team with the NHL's best record. The Hurricanes have not ruled out Cole returning for the playoffs, which begin in mid-April.

Cole had scored two goals for the second night in a row before he was rammed into the boards from behind by Orpik as the Hurricanes were trying to hold off the Penguins, who trailed 5-0 and 6-1 before rallying.

Cole was slammed into the boards near the right circle after he appeared to lose his footing just before Orpik hit him.

Hall of Famer Puckett hospitalized after stroke

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett had a stroke at his Arizona home Sunday and was taken to a hospital for surgery, the Minnesota Twins announced from their spring training camp.

The 44-year-old Puckett, who led the Twins to two World Series titles was taken to a Scottsdale hospital.

"The Minnesota Twins and major league baseball ask fans to keep Kirby and his family in their thoughts and prayers," the team said in a statement.

Ron Shapiro, who was Puckett's agent, said he had been in contact with Puckett's family Sunday but would not confirm his whereabouts. "We're all praying for his recovery," Shapiro said.

Twins center fielder Torii Hunter sat out Minnesota's exhibition game against the Red Sox after learning of Puckett's stroke.

Bryant will be centerpiece of revamped U.S. team

Kobe Bryant will be the centerpiece of the new-look USA Basketball team that is expected to improve upon a disappointing bronze medal at the 2004 Olympics.

Bryant brings NBA championship credentials and high-powered scoring, joining 20 other players selected Sunday for a possible spot on the world championship and 2008 Beijing Olympic teams.

"It's his time," USA Basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski said of Bryant. "He's 27 years old now. He should try to assume a position of leadership in the team. I would think he's very hungry to do this. I see him fitting in very, very well."

Bryant will be making his Olympic debut. He was supposed to play in Athens, but withdrew because of his sexual assault trial. Criminal charges eventually were dropped, and he settled a civil suit with his accuser.

BASEBALL

Offense struggles in the Metrodome

By KEN FOWLER and
HEATHER
VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writers

Notre Dame suffered two shutouts and scored just one run in this weekend's Dairy Queen Classic at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minn., ending a streak of 215 games in which the Irish had scored at least once.

After Nebraska blew out Notre Dame 11-1 Friday, the Irish surrendered eight runs to host Minnesota Saturday and lost an extra-innings affair with Arizona Sunday, leaving the team on a five-game losing streak.

"Confidence is a very fragile thing," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "Obviously, it's frustrating when we only score one run in three games — it's hard to win."

Arizona 2, Notre Dame 0 (10)

Notre Dame found its pitching groove Sunday behind Jeff Manship's 10 strikeouts and Jeff Williamson's perfect inning in relief, but the bats failed to produce for the Irish as they fell 2-0 to Arizona in 10 innings to drop their fifth straight.

The Wildcats used a hit batsmen, a triple and a sacrifice fly in the tenth to score their two runs in the final contests for the two teams in the Dairy Queen Classic.

With no outs in the extra frame, second baseman Brad Boyer tripled home third baseman Colt Sedbrook off Irish reliever Kyle Weiland, and Arizona's Jason Donald drove in Boyer with a sacrifice fly to center.

"Kyle Weiland was really good," Mainieri said. "But sooner or later, something has to break."

Notre Dame looked like it would get on the board early, but a strong defensive play kept the game scoreless.

On a 2-2 count, Irish freshman first-baseman Jeremy Barnes lined a two-out single to right field in the first, but Arizona's John Gaston threw Brett Lilley out at the plate, ending the bottom of the inning.

Barnes' single was the first Irish hit with a runner on base since Friday but failed to get Lilley across. Barnes finished 3-4 on the afternoon.

"Unfortunately, the runner got thrown out at the plate, but that was a big hit," Mainieri said. "If he doesn't get thrown out at the plate, maybe when we get that first run, we relax a little bit more and pull through."

Manship gave up just three hits and two walks in six innings before handing the ball over to Williamson in the seventh. Manship's 10 strikeouts were a career high and the most by an Irish mound-dweller since Tom Thornton struck out 12 Golden Flashes in a 2004 NCAA elimination game.

"Jeff Manship today was absolutely phenomenal," Mainieri said. "Joey Williamson was great when he came in for an inning."

Minnesota 8, Notre Dame 0

The host team not only defeated but shutout Notre Dame on Saturday, as Minnesota (1-4) righthander Cole DeVries threw six shutout innings, giving up

four hits and striking out three.

"Even though we got shut out, I think we showed good signs at the plate," Mainieri said of his team's seven-hit performance. "We really hit the ball hard, so we've got to remain positive."

The Irish were unable to convert on multiple scoring opportunities, going 0-for-7 at the plate with runners on base. The shutout marked the first time the Irish have been held scoreless since the 2002 season.

"Things just didn't go well for us," Mainieri said. "We had a couple chances early in the game but didn't take advantage of them."

Notre Dame righthander Jeff Samardzija got the loss after allowing five runs in four innings of work, evening his record to 1-1. The Golden Gophers got on the board in the bottom of the second, pushing three runs across after a two-run double by freshman Nate Hanson, followed by an RBI single by Tony Leseman. In the fifth, the Golden Gophers added two more after two RBI doubles by Dan Lyons and Mike Mee. Minnesota finished off the scoring in the sixth when it scored three more runs.

Meanwhile, the Irish offense struggled, registering only seven hits, two of which were by shortstop Greg Lopez.

"I have all the confidence in the world that things will be all right," Mainieri said. "This is so normal for us, to start slow. The important thing is that we keep our chins up and keep battling."

No. 4 Nebraska 11, Notre Dame 1

Nebraska rode the arm of its ace Joba Chamberlain on Friday, as he struck out 11 of the 25 batters he faced in seven shutout innings. Chamberlain, rated by Baseball American as the nation's No. 12 pro prospect, gave up just three hits — all singles — and one walk for Nebraska.

Nebraska got on the scoreboard early, pushing one run across in the first, two in the second and four in the third against Notre Dame starter Tom Thornton. Thornton, who pitched seven scoreless innings last week against Indiana State, gave up seven runs on 10 hits in 2.1 innings, picking up the loss.

Nebraska cleanup hitter Luke Gorsett hit for the cycle, going 4-for-5 with a single in the first, a homer in the third and a double in the fourth and a triple in the eighth. He had a part in five of his team's runs.

"When we have a tough game like we did against Nebraska and have to turn around and play the next day, you hope that they can put it behind them," Mainieri said.

Notre Dame avoided the shutout in the eighth when left-fielder Danny Dressman hit a one-out triple and centerfielder Alex Netty knocked him in with an RBI single.

Notes:

♦ Irish standout catcher Sean Gaston injured his arm in Saturday's game and sat out Sunday against Arizona.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu and Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu



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BENGAL BOUTS — FINALS

McGill wins in nailbiter

*"The mail never stops" Shapot delivers in the 150-pound division*By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

Under the lights of the Joyce Center Sunday, the Notre Dame Glee Club belted out the national anthem, just in time for the 76th annual Bengal Bouts finalists to belt each other in pursuit of the coveted championship.

125: Matthew Gelchion v. Will Marra

Freshman Matthew Gelchion outlasted Will Marra in a split decision victory in the 125-pound division.

Gelchion stayed lower than Marra, dodging and then exploding with strong left and right headshots to an exposed Marra, resulting in an early standing eight count. Marra rallied in the second round, jarring Gelchion's headgear loose with a hit and eventually hitting him into his own corner after a facial blow that sent spit flying.

The third round turned into a playground slugfest, as both fighters traded punches to exposed heads — including an uppercut that knocked Gelchion into a standing eight. With strong crowd support from the men of Fisher Hall, an exhausted Gelchion hung in for the win.

132: Kris "El Azteca" Perez v. Chris Izaguirre

The 132-pound fight lasted just more than a minute, after the referee stopped freshman Kristopher Perez's mauling of sophomore Chris Izaguirre. From the bell, a fiery Perez threw hard left and rights to Izaguirre's head as if he were looking for lunch money to add to his trophy.

140: Michael "My real name is Merc" Hennig v. Lawrence "The Boston Massacre" Sullivan

In the 140-pound class, junior Michael "My real name is Merc" Hennig unanimously downed Lawrence "The Boston Massacre" Sullivan. At the bell, Merc, last year's runner-up, gained the upper hand as his fists flew at Sullivan with robotic tenacity. Merc's quick lateral movement and boundless energy set the tone for the match, ducking away from attacks and countering with crushing blows that twice knocked out Sullivan's mouthpiece — silencing a Fisher Hall contingent's chants of "Sully."

Sullivan had a chance to pin Merc against the ropes, but again Merc slid away from a punch and delivered his own to take the fight.

145: Andrew McGill v. Tommy "Fightin' for milk" Forr

The 145-pound match pitted power versus speed, as junior Andrew McGill narrowly defeated junior Tommy "Fightin' for Milk" Forr.

McGill, whose hair stood up to an Ivan Drago-like spike, reared back and launched powerful punches into big first-round points. A taller, trimmer Forr countered, taking the second-round edge by throwing quick jabs and dancing away from a frustrated McGill, whose fists could only hit the air once occupied by Forr.

McGill responded in the final round with a sudden barrage of blows that put Forr in the corner early. Forr could not keep up his earlier pace, and one of McGill's fierce right hooks connected with Forr's face, the smack reverberating throughout the audience before dying into the typically vacant plush seats of the basketball arena. McGill's clout proved just too much for Forr's agility in the split decision.

150: Bret "The Mail Never Stops" Shapot v. John "The Highlighter" O'Connell**Highlighter" O'Connell**

At the 150-pound level, sophomore Bret "The Mail Never Stops" Shapot, even on Sunday, delivered a split-decision victory against freshman John "The Highlighter" O'Connell.

Though the fight was close, Shapot — evidently gone postal — was the fight's aggressor throughout. Shapot connected on several big left hooks from the lefty's inverted address, taking the edge in round two with a left-right package that put O'Connell against the ropes, before a big blow to the head at the bell.

O'Connell recovered strongly in the third round, until Shapot again backed him against the ropes. O'Connell fought him off and returned to sender a crushing punch at the final bell, but the highlight of his match was not enough to stop the bleeding, or The Mail.

155: Chris "The People's Champ" Calderone v. Zachary "Zach Attack" Jara

For the 155-pound title, junior Chris "The People's Champ" Calderone also became the official champ, knocking off Zachary "Zach Attack" Jara by unanimous decision.

In a test of two technically sound boxers, successful punches were hard to land. Though many fists flew, they connected with the fists of the opposing fighter.

In the second round, Calderone was able to penetrate Jara's arms, landing a couple shots to the face that put Jara on defense. The final round remained a stalemate of blocked blows and tie-ups, until Calderone forced in a couple of hooks, to take the point lead over Jara in a match closer than the decision implied.

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougher@nd.edu

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish comeback is not enough to beat Cornell



PHIL HULDESON/The Observer

Irish attackman Duncan Swezey blows past a Penn State defender in an 8-4 win on Feb. 26.

*Big Red score three late goals to hold off ND in Saturday's loss*By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

In a battle of top-15 teams, No. 12 Notre Dame (1-1) rallied but could not overcome its slow start in a 9-6 loss to No. 8 Cornell (2-0) Saturday. The game, played on the campus of Benedictine University, was the first ever Division I lacrosse game played in the Chicago area, according to und.com, and was attended by 3,523 fans.

Trailing 6-4 entering the fourth quarter, Notre Dame gave up three unanswered goals, pushing Cornell's lead to 9-4 with only 1:44 remaining in the game. Cornell senior All-American midfielder Joe Boulukos scored two of the three goals and finished the game with a hat trick.

"[Boulukos] is an All-American, and he played like one," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said after the game.

"He was very assertive, and he made a number plays when he had the chance to."

The Irish fought back as senior attack Pat Walsh and senior midfielder Matt Ryan scored goals 18 seconds apart to cut the deficit to 9-6 with just over one minute left to play. But that was as close as Notre Dame would come.

"It just seemed like we were in a funk out there," senior co-captain DJ Driscoll said. "When they jumped out to a three goal lead, it got in our heads, and we overreacted. We were only down by two at halftime, but the look in the guys' eyes was like we were down by five or six."

The Irish played from behind the entire game.

Cornell jumped out to an early 3-0 lead, as the Big Red tallied the first of their two runs of three straight goals on the day.

"We didn't come out the way we wanted to," Corrigan said. "We didn't execute our game plan, and we didn't play with the intensity that we needed to."

Notre Dame recovered from its shaky start to cut the Big Red lead to 3-2 in the second quarter, but a controversial goal from Cornell's Eric Pittard, scored with no time left on the clock, pushed the Big Red's lead to 4-2 at halftime.

Less than a minute into the second half, senior midfielder Matt Karweck scored an unassisted goal to bring the Irish within two. The goal extended Karweck's point streak to ten straight games.

Saturday's loss evens Notre Dame's record at 1-1, and the Irish will have little time to dwell on their game with Cornell as they face North Carolina, another top 25 opponent, next weekend.

"We need to start preparing ourselves for that game right from the beginning on Monday," Corrigan said. "We have to start doing the little things that prepare us for the game, and that's something you have to do every week. We didn't do it last week, but it's something we're very capable of."

Notre Dame takes the field against North Carolina Saturday at 1 p.m. at home.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbog@nd.edu

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish beat Illini in third shutout of the season

ND stays undefeated on the year by beating Illinois in another dominating performance at the Eck Tennis Pavillion

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The No. 5 Irish (11-0) kept their undefeated record in tact as they shut out the No. 49 Illini — their third shutout this season. The win extends Notre Dame's streak to five straight matches against Big Ten Conference opponents.

"We don't look at it as a shut out as much as a big victory," sophomore Brook Buck said. "It took a lot of fighting from us." The Irish began this hard-fought contest by claiming two of the three doubles matches to earn the doubles point.

However, the No. 2 team of juniors Christian and Catrina Thompson suffered their second loss this season.

"[The contest was difficult at first] because everyone is out to get us since we're undefeated," senior Lauren Connelly said. "We started off slow, but after the doubles point, it went pretty smoothly." The first to walk off the courts for the Irish was the No. 49 pairing of Connelly and senior Kiki Stastny with an 8-3

triumph over the Illini's Momei Qu and Shivani Dave' at No. 3. The Irish duo now stands at 10-1 this season.

Next off the courts were Notre Dame's No. 29 senior twosome of Buck and freshman Kelcy Tefft, who topped Illinois' Brianna Knue and Alejandra Meza Cuadra 8-4 at No. 2, securing the doubles points.

However, the Irish pairing of Christian and Catrina Thompson could not overcome Illinois' Macall

Harkins and Emily Wang, losing 8-3.

"Christian and I weren't at our best today and that really hurt us," Catrina Thompson said. "We are just going to have to rebound for next week and keep practicing hard and not overlooking any of our opponents." In singles, No. 27 Catrina Thompson recorded a 6-4, 6-3 win over Harkins at No. 1. The win improved Thompson's record to 15-6 on the season.

Playing at No. 2 for the Irish was Christian Thompson, who downed Qu 6-0, 6-3.

Following at No. 3 was Buck with a 6-0, 6-2 win over Knue and now stands at 13-6 on the

season.

The win at No. 4 came from Tefft as she defeated Wang 6-2, 6-4.

Stastny's win at No. 5 continued the streak after topping Meza Cuadra 6-1, 6-0.

Irish freshman Katie Potts completed the sweep in singles as she defeated Dave' 6-4, 6-1.

"Everyone is on top of their game," Connelly said. "Illinois is really energetic, so it was a good win for us."

The Irish return to play on Friday when they face Western Michigan at the Eck Tennis Pavilion at 3:30 p.m.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at
jtapetil@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Two extra innings losses lower team's record to even 7-7

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

The Irish continued their season with a disappointing performance in Tulsa, Okla., this weekend, losing three of five games played in the Best Western Airport Festival and dropping their record to 7-7.

Notre Dame lost its first game against No. 17 Nebraska, 5-3, in eight innings Friday. Despite leading into the seventh inning, the Irish, behind pitcher Heather Booth, gave up a crucial sacrifice fly to pinch hitter Brittany Pascale in the top of the seventh. Notre Dame was unable to post the winning run in the bottom of the seventh, and the game moved to extra innings.

Although Booth was able to get the first two outs of the inning, a misplayed ground ball by third baseman Linda Kohan extended the Huskers' eighth, giving them the one extra out needed to start a

rally. Nebraska tacked on three unearned runs in the inning, and Notre Dame could not respond in the bottom half, adding only one run.

Notre Dame's second game, a 2-1 loss to Tulsa, showed more frustration at the plate for the Irish. The squad was only 4-for-26 as a team and failed to record an extra base hit. Notre Dame's only run came in the fourth, on an RBI single by shortstop Sara Schoonaert. But the Golden Hurricanes responded in the bottom of the fourth with RBIs by left fielder Brook Smart and catcher Leanne Pepper.

After the rally by Tulsa in the fourth, the Irish could not muster any offense, despite pitcher Brittany Bargar — now 3-2 on the year — holding Tulsa to only the two runs with nine strikeouts in the game.

The Irish bats awoke in the third game of the tournament, a 10-1 win over Northern Iowa in five innings. The

pitching duties for the Irish were split by Bargar, who picked up the win, and Kenya Fuemmeler, who gave up the only run.

But Notre Dame's real strength in this game was at the plate. The Irish hit .444 as a team, scoring 10 runs on eight hits. Cleanup hitter Meagan Ruthrauff led the offense with a three-run home run in the first to start the scoring.

Booth improved her record to 3-4 in Notre Dame's fourth game, a 5-2 win against

Kansas. Booth continued to pitch well, giving up five hits and striking out 10 batters in a complete game win.

The Irish opened the scoring in the fifth inning with a two-out rally that lead to four unearned runs. Although Notre Dame did provide its own hitting throughout the game, the team was able to take full advantage of the poorly-timed Jayhawk miscues, especially in the fifth.

The final game of the tournament for the Irish was a disappointing 2-1 loss to S.F.

Austin in eight innings. The Irish hit the ball well throughout the game, but could never find that last hit to drive in any runs en route to stranding 12 runners on base. ohan, as the Irish dropped their second extra inning game over t

Although the three weekend losses are disappointing, the Irish are still 7-7 overall. Due to travel delays no members of the team could be reached for comment following the games.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick
at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

12th Annual Mini-Medical School Lecture Series

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Session 1, Wednesday, March 8, 2006
"From the Fallen Officer to the Toll Road Pile Up: What it Takes to Run a Trauma Center"
Scott Thomas, M.D.
South Bend, IN

Session 2, Wednesday, March 15, 2006
"Plastic Surgery: Beyond 'Nip and Tuck'"
Thomas Biggs, M.D.
Houston, TX

Session 3, Wednesday, March 22, 2006
"Looking at the Heart Without Going Inside: Non-Invasive Cardiac Catheterization – A Glimpse of the Future"
Christopher Kramer, M.D.
Charlottesville, VA

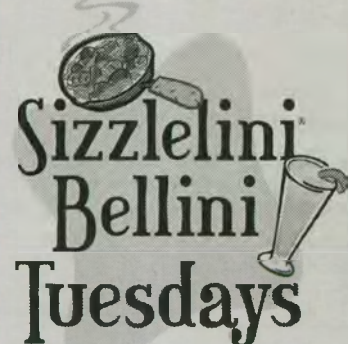
Session 4, Wednesday, March 29, 2006
"Adult Stem Cell Transplantation: Hope for the Future for Patients with Neurological Injuries and Spinal Cord Injuries"
Steven Hinderer, M.D.
Ann Arbor, MI

Session 5, Wednesday, April 5, 2006
"Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits: What the Government Will and Will Not Do For You"
Rudy Navari, M.D.
South Bend, IN

Session 6, Wednesday, April 12, 2006
"Surgical Treatment of Obesity: More Than a Clip and Cure"
Greg Credi, M.D.
South Bend, IN

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (E.S.T.)
Place: Indiana University School of Medicine-South Bend
Raelin-Carmichael Hall
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Bengals

continued from page 24

-ed itself, landed a few solid punches.

Hausfeld came out strong in the first round, landing a number of solid punches on the more experienced Schaefer.

Except for a few jabs at the end of the round, it appeared Hausfeld was on his way to the championship.

But in the second round, Schaefer's experience showed as he landed a nice punch combination early in the round. After the fighters traded jabs, the momentum turned. Schaefer backed Hausfeld into the corner and landed a few right hooks combined with a couple of jabs. Schaefer's combination cut the skin above Hausfeld's eye, which bled and covered his face with blood by the end of the round.

While the intermission gave Hausfeld time to stop the bleeding, he could do nothing to stop the momentum. In the third round, Hausfeld came out swinging, knowing he had to win the round in order to win the championship. But again, Schaefer remained patient and picked his spots.

Neither boxer dominated the third round, but Schaefer was able to connect on just enough of his punches to secure the victory.

165: Charlie Gough v. Billy Hederman

Senior Charlie Gough stopped the fight three times with devastating blows to win a unanimous decision over Billy Hederman in the 165-pound championship bout.

In the first round, Gough landed a number of punches and cut Hederman's face. In a sign of things to come, the

referee was forced to pause the fight so the trainers could tend to his cut. Gough emerged from the timeout with good defense and a few interspersed jabs to take control of the fight.

In the second round, both boxers came out swinging but neither was able to land any solid shots. Gough looked tired and in need of a break, so he created one — by hooking Hederman in the face and reopening the facial cut. The referee stopped the fight again.

Gough used this quick break to regain his energy and momentum that seemed to be slipping away. Out of the timeout, both fighters still looked tired and neither landed many punches.

In the third round, Gough once again used a time out to his advantage. With the momentum seemingly on Hederman's side, Gough connected once again with a jab to Hederman's face, causing a stoppage of the fight. After the time out, Gough regained the momentum, landed a number of jabs and came away with the unanimous decision.

170: Brian "You Can't Handle the Truth" Nicholson v. Andrew Breslin

In one of the more exciting fights of the championship round, Brian "You Can't Handle the Truth" Nicholson won a surprising split decision over senior captain Andrew Breslin. Nicholson used his severe height advantage to win the bout.

In the first round, Breslin used his quickness to get underneath the much taller Nicholson. Breslin landed a few punches early in the round, while Nicholson used his height to get in a few late shots right before the bell. Neither boxer did a whole lot

in the first round, but the crowd — very much biased towards Breslin — was on its feet.

In the second round, Breslin came out with two quick punches in an attempt to gain control of the fight. Again, however, Nicholson used his long reach to keep the smaller Breslin at a distance. Nicholson landed a number of jabs and then, backing Breslin into the corner, landed the first solid combo of the fight.

Breslin struck right back, however, landing his own combo just a few seconds later.

Toward the end of the round, Breslin got underneath Nicholson and landed a number of hooks, including one to the face the got the crowd in an uproar.

With the momentum — and the crowd — in Breslin's favor, Nicholson again used his reach to take control of the fight. Nicholson landed a very solid hook about midway through the third round, and then the fighters traded punches until the bell.

180: Dan "Poundtown" Ward v. Jeff Golen

In the 180-pound championship bout, Dan Ward was unable to capitalize on his height advantage while Jeff Golen used his quickness to capture the championship in a split decision.

Fighting conservatively in the first round, neither boxer took control of the fight early, although

Ward, who won the 170 pound division in last year's tournament, was able to land a few early punches. Throughout the first round, Ward attempted to use his height advantage to keep the smaller Golen at a distance.

Golen was able to get in close on a couple of occa-

sions, but for the most part, Ward was successful.

In the second round, both fighters seemed to abandon their conservative plan as both Golen and Ward came out swinging. Golen landed a few punches, but it was Ward who had the hit of the round when he connected to the face, sending Golen stumbling backwards. This sent the crowd into a frenzy, but Golen, using his quickness, was able to get back some momentum as the round ended.

The third round was much of the same as both fighters came out swinging. Golen was able to get underneath Ward a number of times, landing a string of solid punches early. The fighters traded punches for much of the third round and neither fighter really separated himself.

In the closing seconds, however, Golen again landed a few punches to close out the bout and secure the split decision victory.

Cruiserweight: Johnny Griffin v. Patrick K. Ryan

In a disappointing turn of events, sophomore Patrick Ryan was unable to fight. He was not medically cleared to compete, according to the fight announcer. Griffin was declared the winner in a walkover.

Heavyweight: Nathan Schroeder v. John "You can't beat around this" Bush

In the Heavyweight bracket championship, John Bush wanted to use his extreme height advantage to keep Schroeder from getting underneath him. Unfortunately for Bush, senior co-president Schroeder was the one who dictated the action. Using surprising quickness and unmatched aggression, Schroeder was able to secure the Heavyweight championship in a unanimous decision.

In the first round, Schroeder used his quickness to get underneath the taller Bush, and once he was underneath, just kept punching. In what looked like wild, uncontrolled punches, Schroeder connected on a number of swings, including a few to Bush's face.

No matter how hard Bush tried, Schroeder seemed determined to take away his height advantage.

In the second round, Bush landed a few early punches on Schroeder, successfully

keeping him at a distance. Unfortunately for Bush, this newfound success was short-lived, as Schroeder connected with a very strong right hook and then stayed in close the rest of the round. Bush again was unable to get separation, and Schroeder landed a number of wild right hooks and then a strong jab at the bell.

In the third round of this championship bout, it was more of the same. Schroeder once again was able to get underneath Bush, landing a number of solid combos to the stomach and face.

Bush was finally able to get separation and landed a few punches, himself, but it was too little too late. Schroeder closed out the fight with a series of right hooks late in the third round and came away with the championship in the unanimous decision.

Super Heavyweight: Tony Cunningham v. Brian Koenan

In the final fight of the 2006 Bengal Bouts, junior Tony Cunningham was able to overpower fellow junior Brian Koenan on his way to a TKO for the Super Heavyweight championship.

In this Super Heavyweight championship bout, both fighters came out very wild and seemingly out of control. Almost immediately, Cunningham was able to back Koenan into the corner and landed a number of shots to the head. It was the first of a number of combos to the head that Koenan would suffer.

In the second and final round, Koenan came out swinging again, but it was only Cunningham that seemed to be landing any punches. Similar to the first round, Koenan was backed into the corner and suffered a number of shots to the head. The referee separated the two boxers, only for it to happen again.

Almost immediately after they were separated, Cunningham again forced Koenan into the corner and landed a number of strong punches to the head.

One minute and one second into the second round, the referee stopped the fight to administer a standing eight-count. Seeing that Koenan was in no shape to continue, the referee called the fight in favor of the Mishawaka native, Cunningham.

Contact Joe Quinn at jquinn6@nd.edu

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

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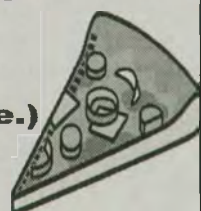
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Big East

continued from page 24

No. 10-seed Notre Dame avenged a 68-64 Jan. 28 overtime loss Saturday, topping the No. 7-seed Bulls in a game that McGraw feels should cement Notre Dame's position in the NCAA tournament.

"I think this [win] is enough," McGraw said. "We're playing well right now. We've got four [wins] in a row."

Despite Duffy's early struggles, the Irish offense did not share in her troubles as it had for much of the season, scoring 31 points and shooting 41.4% from the field in the first half. In the final 47 seconds of the half, Notre Dame erased a seven-point deficit, and junior Crystal Erwin's lay up as time expired — set up by a long pass from senior Courtney LaVere — tied the contest heading into the break, 31-31.

"I think that we've perfected the play very well," LaVere said. "They just brought two players to me and I saw Crystal [Erwin] open and it was just a replay of Cincinnati [when we won at the buzzer on a similar play]," LaVere said.

McGraw was pleased after the game with the way her team played during Duffy's funk.

"I thought to go in [to half-time] with a tie without Megan [Duffy] scoreless was really a great job by the rest of the team," she said. "I think in the last 4:18 we scored a lot of points, more than we normally do, just by attacking the basket, so I think the rest of the team is starting to kind of rise to the occasion."

For the second time this season, the Irish had five players in double figures, as Duffy, LaVere, junior Tulyah Gaines, sophomore Charel Allen and freshman Lindsay Schrader all scored at least ten points.

Schrader, who has shot just 50 percent from the free throw line this season, added two crucial foul shouts with 5:13 to play that cut the USF lead to 62-59 and helped add to her total of 14.

"I just didn't think about, I just shot it," Schrader said. "I've been thinking about [my free throws] too much so I just shot."

The Irish did an excellent job containing South Florida forward Jessica Dickson, the nation's leading scorer. While Dickson managed to score 16 points, the Notre Dame defense held her to just 6-of-21 shooting.

"Dickson's one of the best players in the nation," McGraw said. "She didn't shoot the ball particularly well, but she still had a great game with a double-double."

While the Irish focused their primary efforts on shutting down forward Jessica Dickson, freshman guard Shanita Grace stepped up in a big way for the Bulls, scoring a game-high 24 points and shooting 4-of-5 from beyond the arc.

"I thought she just played a great game," McGraw said. "I think maybe [she was] trying to prove that she belonged on the all-rookie team."

Courtney LaVere loves playing at Connecticut and elevates her game whenever she plays in front of the Husky crowd, one of the most hostile in college basketball.

The rest of her team, however, did not share her enthusiasm Sunday, as the No. 2-seed Huskies eliminated Notre Dame 71-60 in the quarterfinals of the Big East Tournament in front of the largest crowd of the tournament's first two days. Given the location, the game amounted to a Connecticut home game at the Hartford Civic Center.

LaVere scored 15 points on Sunday, well over her average of 8.8 points per game this season. Last season, in Notre Dame's 65-59 upset at Connecticut on Jan. 30, 2005, LaVere scored 14 in just 23 minutes off the bench.

"I really just enjoy playing UConn. We have a great rivalry," LaVere said. "When I come when we've played them, I try to bring my best game, because I know it's going to be a fight the whole time. I feel as long as I

can play as hard as I can, we'll have a good chance."

But for as well as LaVere played, the Irish never had a chance down the stretch, unable to significantly slice into the double-digit Husky advantage. Trailing by 14 at the break, Notre Dame waited until the game's final minutes to make the score respectable.

Early in the game, LaVere gave the Irish a chance. The team jumped out to an early 8-5 lead as the senior forward scored six of Notre Dame's first eight points.

Once LaVere sat down after getting her second foul just 9:07 into the game, the Huskies started to dominate the game. Behind strong performances from their three seniors, Ann Strother, Barbara Turner and Willnett Crockett — who combined for 26 first-half points off 11-of-13 shooting — the Huskies took a commanding 36-18 lead with 2:19 to play in the half before the Irish eventually fought back to make it a 38-24 margin. In large part because of its seniors, Connecticut shot 62 percent from the floor in the first

half.

"Connecticut's a great team," McGraw said afterwards. "They were just on."

Despite already having two fouls, LaVere reentered the game with 3:59 to play and picked up her third foul 1:40 later before she could take a shot.

"We weren't getting enough offense [out of our other players]," McGraw said, explaining the LaVere's first half re-entry. "We felt like she was scoring, we weren't getting any production out of the other posts, so we needed to come back with her. She's smart enough to play with two fouls."

Duffy was held to just three points in the first half — her second consecutive sub-par first half of the tournament. But much like she did during Notre Dame's 73-66 win over South Florida, she exploded in the second half, shooting 5-of-7 from the floor and scoring a game-high 20 points. Duffy, a 5-foot-7 guard, also pulled down a team-high six rebounds.

"I tried to be a little more aggressive in the second half, but really, I've got to learn to put two halves together," Duffy said. "Especially at this point in the

season, I've got to be able to carry a load offensively in the first half as well as the second half."

Although it trailed by as many as 21 points in the second half, Notre Dame continued to play hard until the final buzzer.

"We fought hard. I don't think we ever put our heads down and quit," McGraw said. "[We] brought it back to 11, and really, it should have been a little closer if we had just gotten a couple of little things, so, I was really proud of their effort."

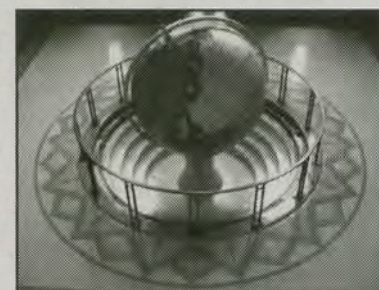
McGraw was especially pleased with her team's performance given the setting, which, though officially a neutral site, was a de-facto home game for Connecticut.

"I was really proud of the seniors, I thought they really fought hard," she said. "I think it's a tough environment for our players to come in here and experience that kind of crowd, and then play well."

The Irish, who anticipate an NCAA tournament bid, will now wait until Selection Monday on March 13 to see who and where they will next play.

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

2006-2007 Center for Applied Mathematics Graduate Fellowship Poster Session



Wednesday, March 8, 2006

10:00AM – 12:00PM

Hurley Building Foyer (with the globe)

Presenters:

Ashraf Al-Khateeb

Andrea Asztalos

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Duminda Dewasurendra

Radha Krishna Ganti

RaviKiran Gopalan

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Neal Patel

Charles Penninger

Srinath Sundaravaradhan

Ali Pusane

Shyam Ranganathan

Matthew Rissler

Jagadish Venkataraman

Wenlong Zhang

Ronghui Zhou

Zachary Zikoski

For further information, please contact Andrew Sommese, Director of the Center for Applied Mathematics.

Notes:

♦ The last time Notre Dame had five players in double figures was on Dec. 18 against Utah in the Dual in the Desert. The Irish won that game 68-55.

Connecticut 71
Notre Dame 60

HOCKEY

Despite the loss, Irish team still on the rise

Right now, it hurts.

Right now, after such high hopes heading into the CCHA playoffs, it hurts to see the Irish handed two straight defeats by Alaska-Fairbanks and see their season end so abruptly.

It really hurts that Notre Dame will be sitting out the rest of the playoffs after controlling play Saturday night and peppering Nanook goalie Wylie Rogers with 39 shots.

Junior goalie Dave Brown's leg literally hurts, after a hit Saturday night put him on crutches and sidelined him for most of the contest.

But in a few days, after the Irish look back at their season and at the vast improvements over last year, it won't hurt as much. Because coach Jeff Jackson has this program headed in the right direction.

Jackson came to Notre Dame with an impressive resume, including two national championships as head coach of Lake Superior State. He inherited a program that was 5-27-6 last year, was riding a 19-game winless streak and whose leading returning scorer, defenseman Wes O'Neill, had accumulated just 20 points.

The new coach immediately took steps to reshape the programs image, first outfitting his squad with new golden helmets and then overhauling their attitude from scratch.

Notre Dame finished this season 13-19-4 and eighth in the CCHA, not a great record by any means, but much better than last year. The two playoff games against Fairbanks notwithstanding, the Irish finished their season on a strong note, ending the regular season with wins in four of their last six games.

Jackson instilled a new confidence in his team, which became

more and more evident as the season moved along. From freshman Erik Condra scoring with nine seconds left against Minnesota State Dec. 6 to the team erasing a 4-1 deficit to beat Northern Michigan Jan. 21 to O'Neill and senior Tim Wallace struggling for one last shot as time expired against Fairbanks Saturday, the Irish showed a fight that had been missing for too long.

Scoring was way up, too, as the Irish had five players — junior Josh Sciba, sophomore Mark Van Guilder, Condra, Wallace, and O'Neill — produced over 20 points. Condra put up 34 points, including 28 assists. As a team, the Irish scored four or more goals eight times, including a nine-goal outburst against Bowling Green Nov. 11.

Jackson's coaching also made an immediate impact on special teams. The Irish power play ranked at the top of the CCHA for most of the season. Notre Dame scored on 16.6 percent of its power plays, up from only 9.8 percent a year ago. The penalty kill also improved, bringing opposing power play scoring down from 20.7 percent to 18.9 percent.

The Irish also improved their consistency. Gone were the 10-1 defeats to Michigan and the seemingly endless losing streaks. Instead, Notre Dame was in every game it played. Their biggest margin of defeat was just three goals. Their longest winless streak was only five games, and that came very early in the season.

Brown was solid all season, giving up just 2.47 goals per game after stepping in for graduating starter Morgan Cey. Freshman Jordan Pearce proved a capable backup, appearing in nine games and earning his first career shutout against Princeton Oct. 28.

Do the Irish have a long way to go? Of course. This is still a sub-.500 team that finished in the bottom half of the CCHA and bowed out in the first round of the playoffs. But it is an improving team, and with young talent like Condra and Pearce coming through the pipeline and veterans like Brown, Sciba, and O'Neill returning for another year.

Even further into the future, Jackson is recruiting well and rumors of renovations to the Joyce Center may finally become concrete plans.

So, while the losses to Fairbanks hurt now, they will soon be a distant memory as Jackson leads Notre Dame hockey to national prominence. It may not happen next year or the year after, but the Irish program, which was in total disarray just a year ago, is in good hands.

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



Chris Khorey

Sports Writer

Nanooks

continued from page 24

Saturday night's shutout.

Notre Dame continued to struggle with the power-play after going 0-for-16 in man advantage situations. The Irish have failed to convert on their last 30 chances, a streak dating back five games to a series with Bowling Green.

Both teams combined for 72 minutes in the penalty box, creating numerous man advantage and four-on-four situations.

"The power play is the combination of players, and if those players all go into a slump at the same time, then you're going to have problems," Irish head coach Jeff Jackson said. "It's not the time of the year to make adjustments and change personnel. It's been a staple of ours all year long, and I don't think people recognized how important it was to our team until these last four games."

The Irish penalty kill negated 11 out of 12 Nanook chances in the two games (a 91.6-percent success rate) — the lone power-play goal proving to be the decisive one in the 1-0 shutout.

Alaska-Fairbanks 3 Notre Dame 1

The Nanooks secured the game-winning goal Friday night midway through the third period in a game characterized by physical play and dump-and-chase battles for puck possession.

Fairbanks' Kelly Czuy scored a garbage goal to give the Nanooks the 2-1 lead at 11:55 of the third period. Defenseman T.J. Campbell released a slap shot from the high left slot on Irish goalie Dave Brown that rebounded off Brown's left pad to just above the crease.

Czuy roofed the puck over a scrambling Brown for the game-winner.

"In the third, it boils down to the discipline of our hockey team," Jackson said. "We had a long shift and ended up with the winning goal in our net."

Notre Dame got on the board first with VeNard's goal at 13:31 in the first frame. Christian Hanson won the faceoff in the Nanooks' zone and drew the puck back to Tim Wallace on top of the left circle. Wallace quickly redirected the puck to VeNard along the left boards, who stepped in low and dodged a Nanook defender below the circle.

VeNard let go a wrist shot that deflected off a Fairbanks' player and Rogers left leg pad into the far side of the net.

"You take them any way you can get them," VeNard said. "It was nice. I would have liked it to be a little bit prettier, but anything to get the team on the board and get us going."

The goal would prove to be the only one that Rogers allowed to pass the goal line in the two games. He made 22 saves in the opening game.

"Obviously we have a hot goaltender on our hands," VeNard said after Friday's game. "There's evidence to my goal that we have to keep trying to throw stuff towards the net."

Fairbanks tied the game at 1-1 at 5:51 into the second stanza on a Curtis Fraser one-timer.

A turnover in the corner of Notre Dame's zone allowed Kyle Jones to feed the puck to Fraser on the right point. Fraser one-timed the puck at Brown, who attempted to fight through a screen to make the



ERIN VRANISH/The Observer

Irish winger Josh Sciba, right, prepares to battle for a faceoff during Notre Dame's 4-1 victory over Ferris State Feb. 10.

save. Nathan Fornataro redirected the puck on its way to the net to notch the goal.

The Nanooks sealed the game at 19:23 of the third to make it 3-1 when Lucas Burnett scored an empty netter.

Notre Dame came out firing through the first period and prevented the Nanooks from enforcing their physical, defensive style. However the second period found the Irish deadlocked yet again in smash mouth battles along the boards.

"That's their game," Jackson said. "Their average age is about 23, ours is probably about 19. It's men against boys in some situations."

The Nanooks struggled to set up in the Irish zone and relied on a dump-and-chase strategy to work the puck past the Notre Dame defense stacked four-wide in the neutral zone.

"You have to get the puck behind their team. I don't care how you do it," Nanooks head coach Tavis MacMillan said. "You can skate it, you can pass it, you can chip it. You can do anything want — throw it for all I care. It's just got to get behind their defensemen."

The Irish went 0-for-6 on the power play with four shots in those situations on Rogers for the game.

Alaska-Fairbanks 1 Notre Dame 0

Saturday night's game could simply be labeled the Wylie Rogers Show for the Fairbanks' goalie's 39 save performance. But that would be to ignore a gritty special teams battle — whose lone goal came off a fluke play — and a serious injury to goaltender Brown.

Midway through the first period on a Notre Dame power play, Brown rushed out of his crease to just halfway between the blue line and the top of the left circle to clear the puck away from a guaranteed Fairbanks breakaway.

Right winger Braden Walls — who had been charging for the puck — took Brown out at the knees and was whistled for a charging minor. Brown was unable to stand under his own power and was helped off the ice after several minutes.

Freshman Jordan Pearce quickly warmed up and entered his first game since Feb. 17. He had 15 saves on the night. It was the sixth career shutout for the sophomore.

"It's a cheap shot," Pearce said of the hit. "I'm sure the guy wasn't intending to hurt him, but at the same time, when a goalie gets hit it's really an intentional thing."

Jackson was angered by the referee's call on the infraction, while MacMillan was confused

at handing out a charge call to a player sliding into a goalie out of the protected zone, which ends at the top of the circles.

"Two-minute penalty for running a goaltender," Jackson said of the call. "He deliberately slid into him and took his legs out from underneath him. Two minutes for eliminating a goalie from a series."

Fornataro broke his stick — and the scoreless deadlock — with his power-play goal at 19:04 of the second period. Freshman defenseman Tyler Eckford corralled the puck along the left side of the Irish zone and sent a cross ice pass to Fornataro just below the center of the right circle.

Fornataro wound up and released a slap shot that broke his stick blade upon contact with the ice. The black blade — wrapped in black friction tape — skidded along the ice to the right side of the net while the puck trickled through Pearce's five-hole.

"I was actually screened on the shot," Pearce said. "The guy broke his stick, and all I could see was the blade coming across. I thought that was the puck, so I followed the blade. When I saw that it wasn't really the puck it was already too late."

The Irish countered in the third with continuous pressure in the Nanook zone, but Rogers shut the door on any and all chances with 17 saves in the last 20 minutes. The Irish had 4:16 of man advantage play in the period.

Rogers allowed only three goals in 11 periods against the Irish since entering in relief of Chad Johnson in a 4-1 loss on Feb. 24.

"For the most part we were rotating well, reading what they were doing," MacMillan said of the penalty kill. "When we did screw up, Wylie was there to bail us out. Your best penalty killer is your goaltender."

Notre Dame created several mass scrambles in front of Rogers where, at some points, all 10 skaters became bunched up in front of the net. In a scramble at the 10:00 mark, several Irish players raised their hands in celebration of a goal, only to be waved off by the referees. All the scoring chances proved futile and a last ditch effort with Pearce pulled from the net was unsuccessful.

"I think they thought one of them was in," Rogers said. "It was clearly not, but that's just the emotion of the game and that's part of hockey and that's why it's the greatest game."

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

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DePaul

continued from page 24

St. John's Sunday afternoon, the Irish became the No. 12-seed in the upcoming conference tournament held in New York City. Notre Dame now is scheduled for a first-round match up with No. 5-seed Georgetown at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Madison Square Garden.

"It's been an up-and-down season, not exactly the way we wanted it to go," Irish forward Torin Francis said after the game, his final at home in a Notre Dame uniform. "But early on in the season, we talked about [how] our main goal was to go to the Big East tournament. And even though we had to fight down to our last game to get in, we're still in it."

Francis (10 points, eight rebounds) nearly cost Notre Dame a late-game lead with 40.4 seconds remaining and the Irish up a possession, 62-59. The senior forward missed the front end of a one-and-one after Notre Dame coach Mike Brey elected to inbound to Francis (62.3 percent foul shooting) and leave Kyle McAlarney (90.9 percent) on the bench in a foul situation.

Blue Demons center Marlon

Brumfield made a put back of a Sammy Mejia miss on the ensuing possession to cut the Notre Dame lead to 62-61. But Falls then sank two free throws, and Carter hit two more after a DePaul miss to seal the victory.

Carter scored eight straight points during a stretch in the middle of the second half. The run began with two free throws at the 16:34 mark and ended on a 3-pointer at 13:19, which gave Notre Dame a 47-39 lead.

The junior, who has been referenced several times as a possible candidate for Most Improved Player in the Big East this season, also locked down Mejia (23 points, 3-of-5 3-pointers) when he guarded him for the game's final 20-to-25 minutes, holding DePaul's main scoring threat to seven second half points.

"Rus waited to sign late his senior year ... because he thought he was better than who was recruiting him at the time," Brey said afterwards. "He was very right ... And we're fortunate enough to have him."

Carter's second half output maintained a lead the Irish grabbed and never relinquished following Francis' basket with just over five minutes remaining in the first half (23-21).

DePaul threatened in the second

half, forcing Quinn and Falls out of their individual offensive rhythms.

The Blue Demons closed the gap to two on a Wilson Chandler jumper to make the score 59-57 with 2:09 to go. But after an Irish miss, Quinn took a charge on Mejia, and then Falls hit the shot of the game — a deep 3-pointer to extend the lead to 62-57.

"He's been hitting big shots for us his whole career," Cornett said, "so it wasn't a shock to me."

The Blue Demons scored again before Brumfield's put back but could not prevent Falls and Carter from sinking foul shots to hang on.

"If you would have told me [after losing 89-86 to Louisville Feb. 4 and falling to 1-8 in the Big East] that we'd put ourselves in a position to play on senior day to get to New York, I would have thrown a parade," Brey said. "Are you kidding me?"

Brey said he thought Quinn did a masterful job Wednesday of being patient and controlling the game's tempo, assisting on three straight possessions at one point and having the poise to defer to his teammates. Quinn was guarded the entire game by the 6-foot-6 Mejia.

Notre Dame started out hot, making 7-of-8 field goals to open the game and led 17-12 with 11:53 remaining in the first half.



SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

Irish guard Russell Carter looks to pass against DePaul Saturday afternoon at the Joyce Center.

Mejia scored DePaul's first seven points and 11 of its first 14 as the teams exchanged early leads. The Blue Demons used Mejia's fifth basket to spark a 9-2 run. Chandler then scored two baskets and Mejia followed with a 3-pointer to send the Irish into a television timeout at 7:03 down 21-19.

But the Irish went on a 9-2 run of their own out of the timeout.

Quinn, Francis and forward Rob

Kurz all scored to give Notre Dame a five-point lead, 28-23, at the 3:23 mark.

And each team traded scores, with the Irish getting a backdoor Quinn lay up and a last-second Carter follow-up tip-in at the buzzer to send Notre Dame into halftime with a 35-27 lead.

Contact Pat Leonard at
pleonard@nd.edu

Dream

continued from page 24

indulge their imaginations — and that means looking beyond Georgetown. If Notre Dame can somehow win four consecutive games, a feat the team has not accomplished all season in league play, the Irish will receive an automatic NCAA Tournament berth.

And there is a chance Notre Dame can get a spot even if it doesn't win out. If the Irish win three games, they have nine conference victories. That should be enough to give them some deserved consideration.

In order to get those three

wins, Notre Dame will have to beat Georgetown and Marquette. And if it does advance, Connecticut will likely be waiting (the No. 1-seed Huskies play the winner of No. 8 seed Cincinnati and No. 9-seed Syracuse).

That would give Notre Dame three wins against teams that rank No. 3 (Connecticut), No. 18 (Marquette) and No. 22 (Georgetown) according to the NCAA men's basketball RPI (Ratings Percentage Index).

It's a daunting challenge for Notre Dame. The Irish have struggled getting wins all season against the top teams in the league. Brey must know how difficult it will be to get to the NCAA Tournament. But that

doesn't mean his team can't dream.

Plus, Notre Dame has dealt with worse. The Irish have had their backs against the wall all season, especially in the last week. But they emerged from it as one of the biggest success stories in the Big East (Notre Dame was 1-8 following a loss at Louisville and won five of its last seven to end the season).

And they know anything that happens in New York is icing on the cake. Notre Dame wasn't expecting to get here, evident by Mike Brey's post game interview Saturday when he said he would have been surprised to be in this position following the loss at Louisville.

Of course the coach had confi-

dence in his team, but numbers are numbers. Eight losses in nine games to start the league schedule aren't conducive to playing in a tournament where the bottom four teams do not qualify.

But Notre Dame bounced back. And because of that, the team has certain intangibles in its favor.

The Irish are more relaxed knowing that they are not currently on the bubble. The pressure will be on the shoulders of the higher seeds fighting for Tournament position.

And after Saturday's win, the locker room attitudes reflected that laid back attitude. Irish guard Russell Carter said Colin Falls' 3-pointer to give Notre

Dame a five-point lead reminded him of Mario Elie (retired NBA guard who played with the Houston Rockets in the 1990s).

Notre Dame guard Chris Quinn was relieved, just happy to end his career at home with a win and be playing in New York.

This team has been through a lot this season. Nothing fazes the Irish anymore, which could be the team's asset. And with an attitude where Notre Dame will hope for the best and dream of bigger things, the Irish could be in a very good position to turn some heads later this week.

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

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish improve to 4-0 on year

By CHRIS WILLIAMS
Sports Writer

The No. 17 Notre Dame women knocked off No. 18 Cornell, 17-15, Sunday afternoon at Loftus Sports Center, winning another close match-up against a top-ranked team.

As the season continues to unfold, the 4-0 Irish have continued to live up to their hype.

Attack Crysti Foote once again led Notre Dame's offensive onslaught, with five goals and three assists.

Sophomores Caitlin McKinney and Mary Carpenter also had outstanding games with five and three goals, respectively. It was Carpenter's first hat trick.

The Irish exploded out of the gates, netting four goals in the contest's first nine minutes as Foote, McKinney and a pair of freshmen — Jill

Byers and Alicia Billings — all beat Cornell goalie Maggie Fava.

Trailing 4-1, Cornell's Courtney Farrell knotted the score at 4-4 with three goals in a 1:03 minute span. Having lost their three-goal cushion, the Irish went right back to work, scoring five of the game's next six goals to build a 9-5 advantage.

Leading 11-8 at the break, Notre Dame would build a 17-11 lead before allowing the Big Red to score the last four tallies of the game.

Foote said perhaps the secret to the team's vigor is its intense, new team workout, an exercise for both the body and spirit.

"Coming off such a bad season last year, we all re-committed ourselves to working hard," she said. "We have 6 a.m. runs and lifts and continue to work hard everyday."

Another reason for the Irish's early success could be the immediate impact of the talented freshman class. Notre Dame's freshmen, most notably Jillian Byers, have continued to perform.

Dubbed "mouth" by her teammates, Byers has quickly adapted to the college game and will give the Irish offensive dominance for years to come.

"Well, [the transition to college lacrosse is] tough," Byers said. "It is a totally different game. It is much quicker and more physical. It is not like there are just a few good girls playing on each team," Byers said.

In their second game this week, the Irish will face Lehigh University at home on Wednesday.

"We have a hard week coming up," Foote said. "We are definitely excited to see how we do. I know if we continue to play we've been playing, that we'll come away with a win."

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JOCKULAR

Best Improvisation of a homily

Today's Gospel is definitely from Mark. And it's about... love... love and peace. In moderation. But mostly about being Christ-like. So it's important we remember: do what Jesus would do. Or else I'll send you to ResLife. Now let us pray. Or something or other.

Best excuse for missing a deadline

Professor, I'm sorry I Haven't finished the paper. I had an appendectomy.

Oh, take your time then.

It's going to be another week before I can glue it back together.

Biggest sacrifice by a wingman

I think I can get with this girl. But someone's gotta go home with that bitch.

Lady Macbeth Cleans 'Out Damned Spot'

CROISSANTWORLD

BUILDING MONKS LIBRARY...

I DON'T KNOW MAN, THIS IS A PRETTY NUTTY LOOKING MURAL

LISTEN, JUST BUIL-

HEY! IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE YOU?

HEY, HEY, HEY. I'M NOT PAYING YOU TO QUESTION THE MURAL. "THE GLORY OF MONK MALLOY" MUST BE BUILT.

ARE THOSE THE MUPPETS AROUND YOU?

SOME OF THEM.

TUNE IN TOMORROW FOR THE HEARTWARMING ENDING OF THIS EXCESSIVELY LONG SERIES...

WHAT.

ADAM FAIRHOLM

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BOINS

HIWSS

TANNIE

GLUBIN

Let's go! I can't do everything myself!

Slave driver

WHEN THE KITCHEN HELP FELL BEHIND, THE CHEF WAS---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " " " " " " " " " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: JULEP PATIO BUSHEL TOUCHY
Answer: How she felt when her cobbler recipe won the blue ribbon — JUST "PEACHY"

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Martini garnish

6 Mrs. Dithers in "Blondie"

10 Colonel or captain

14 1976 Olympic gymnastics gold medalist

15 Assert

16 Away from the wind

17 OVALS

20 Words before roll or whim

21 Murder

22 "You're talk!"

23 Affix one's John Hancock

24 On one's rocker?

26 K

32 Ship's crane

33 Needle parts

34 Évian, par exemple

35 Pizazz

36 Jazz instruments

38 Strauss jeans

39 Be sick

40 Elisabeth of "Leaving Las Vegas"

41 Add a lane to, perhaps

42 STORY

46 "Lovely" Beatles girl

47 Bad news for a dieter

48 Assassinated

51 Atlantic Coast area, with "the"

52 Thrilla in Manila victor

55 X

59 Reverse, as an action

DOWN

1 Aware of

2 Croquet area

3 Conception

4 Beaujolais, e.g.

5 Grovel

6 Checking out, as a joint

7 Kitchen hot spot

8 Gun, as an engine

9 " you kidding?"

10 Gilda of the early "S.N.L."

11 Soothing agent

12 Brilliantly colored salamander

13 Gambling game with numbers

18 Indian mystic

19 They're taboo

23 "Wheel of Fortune" turn

24 Eye sore

25 11's in blackjack

26 Actress Shire

27 Picture frames lacking corners

28 Under a spell

29 Must-haves

30 Icicle holders

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ETTU SEAMOS
DIRTS CASTANET
INUIT MONTAIGNE
TESLA AFTERNOON
HASITINFOR MIRO
RESURGENCE HANES
RETILE ZINGS
ONESHOT
TERRA LARSEN
DALEY TERRINES
EREV JOEMONTANA
TAKELEAVE GATOS
ENTRUSTED LINOS
STRESSES ELIZA
TOASTEESKED

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16

17 18 19

20 21 22

23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33 34

35 36 37 38

39 40 41

42 43 44 45

46 47

48 49 50 51 52 53 54

55 56 57 58

59 60 61

62 63 64

Puzzle by Mark T. Milhet

31 Destroy

32 It may be new, raw or big

36 Gun blast

37 Mystique

38 Circus animal with a tamer

40 Hogs

41 Novelists

43 Son of Poseidon

44 Playing marbles

45 Alternative to check or charge

48 Pond gunk

49 Jay of late-night

50 Wing prayer

51 Young 12-Downs

52 Jason's ship

53 Fibber

54 Without doing anything

56 Ewe's mate

57 Mine find

58 " lost!"

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jake Lloyd, 17; Kevin Connolly, 32; Michael Warren, 60; Samantha Eggar, 67

Happy Birthday: Travel, learning and expanding your friendships, knowledge and spiritual direction should be on your to-do list. Don't miss out on the chance to do something that could lead to a brighter future. Rid yourself of the people and things that are standing in your way -- it's time to put yourself first. Your numbers are 7, 14, 28, 33, 37, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will have added discipline that will allow you to follow through with your self-improvement plans. Your dedication to doing something wholeheartedly will impress the people you meet along the way. A trip should be considered. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Charm and diplomacy will help you get what you want. You can make a tremendous difference to the people around you by being open about the way you see things unfolding. Personal changes should be considered. An older relative may worry about your plans. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be feeling restless and in need of change. Don't consider trying to get away with something today. You will be caught in your own trap if you do. A chance to do something creative will help to calm your nerves.***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Mix business with pleasure if at all possible. Romance is in the stars but avoid people who are already involved with someone else. Travel arrangements will be disrupted or not go according to plan. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Going somewhere exotic should be your plan today. You will feel greater commitment to the people you care about as well as to the endeavors you wish to pursue. Love should be a top priority. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Show your worth and stand up for your beliefs. You are likely to face opposition but, if you back down now, you will regret it in the future. It may be time to move on or take a different approach. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your mind will be on distant lands or on doing something unusual, entertaining and playful. You can make things happen if you share your ideas and coax others to help you with your plans. A romantic encounter is apparent. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep your wits about you. Someone may have something interesting to say but it may not be as functional an idea when put into play. Protect yourself and your assets and focus on your own creative ideas. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think about the future. You are up for plenty of change and now is as good a time as any to start making plans. Arguments are likely to develop if you discuss your intentions with loved ones. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It may be the weekend but your mind will probably be fixated on ways to get ahead professionally. Step outside the normal and consider unusual options. You need a change that will shake your foundation and teach you something new. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Love interests will mount. Make plans to do something with someone you really care about. You won't agree with someone in your family or someone you live with. Avoid confrontations by taking action, not with verbal abuse. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone may try to derail your belief system. Don't get frazzled. You don't have to defend what you stand for or push your beliefs on others. Be thankful you have such solid convictions. Take care of personal financial matters. ****

Birthday Baby: You are intense in all that you do. You take a different approach and relish the fact you are unique. You are clear about your likes and dislikes and about what you want to do with your life. You are passionate and very persuasive.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Shrugging off the Demons

ND defeats DePaul, earns No. 12-seed in Big East Tournament

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

It might as well have been Junior Night.

Notre Dame junior guards Russell Carter and Colin Falls made key baskets down the stretch on Senior Night — and combined to score their team's final 10 points — as the Irish downed DePaul 66-61 Saturday at the Joyce Center.

The win clinched Notre Dame a Big East tournament berth.

On a night when seniors Chris Quinn, Torin Francis and Rick Cornett remained quiet in the scoring column, Carter led the Irish with 22 points, including 15 in the second half, to earn a victory he said his senior captains deserved.

"We want to keep these seniors playing as long as possible," Carter said after the game. "If we could have them play until next year and give them another year of eligibility, [we] would do that."

Quinn scored just 11 points, but dished 10 assists to two turnovers, and the seniors went out with a win despite a grueling regular season.

Following Rutgers' victory over

see DEPAUL/page 22



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer
Irish forward Rick Cornett rises for a layup during Notre Dame's 66-61 win over DePaul Saturday at the Joyce Center.

Irish free to dream of bigger, better things

Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said it best in his press conference Saturday after the Irish beat DePaul and grabbed the final spot in the Big East tournament. He wants his team to dream.

How quickly things change. Notre Dame's focus all season has been making the Big East tournament. It was the team's prerogative before the season started, and it continued to be with every league game.

But now that the Irish have accomplished the goal they set out for, things are different.

Sure, No. 12-seed Notre Dame is concentrating on beating No. 5-seed Georgetown Wednesday. The Irish want to prove to any remaining doubters they belong in New York and are better than their 6-10 conference record. And the seniors don't want the season to end.

But now that they have locked up a spot, the Irish are free to

see DREAM/page 22



Bobby Griffin

Associate
Sports Editor

HOCKEY

Nanooks sweep the host Irish

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

The lack of power-play success in a series chock full of special teams action — and a red-hot Nanooks goaltender — sounded the death knell for the Irish as the

Irish as the l c e r s dropped t w o straight games in a best-of-three, first-round CCHA playoff series to Alaska-Fairbanks over the weekend.

Alaska-Fairbanks (17-14-5) swept the Irish out of the playoffs with 3-1 and 1-0 victories and advanced to the second round to face Michigan State this Friday.

Notre Dame (13-19-4) moved to 13-25 all-time in CCHA playoff games after the series.

Dan VeNard notched the lone Irish goal in the series and Fairbanks goalie Wylie Rogers made 61 saves in the two games, including 39 in

see NANOOKS/page 21

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn knocks squad from Big East tourney

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

HARTFORD, CONN. — Megan Duffy had one shot at halftime of Notre Dame's first round Big East Tournament game with South Florida Saturday, and she didn't score a point until almost nine minutes into the second half.

But that didn't stop the senior captain from taking control of the game's latter stages and ending the game as the team's leading scorer.

Duffy, whose three-pointer with 11:05 left in the game finally got her on the board, finished with 16 points, and her free throw shooting down

the stretch (7-of-7 overall) helped the Irish take a late lead and hold on for a 73-66 victory over the Bulls in the first round of the 2006 Big East Tournament.

"At the end of the game is when she seems to just play her best," Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw said. "No matter how tired she is, no matter how many minutes she's played, no matter how many times she's been on the floor, you know that she's going to step up, get to the line, and make free throws ... I think she's a really smart player, and that's something that doesn't really show up on the stat sheet."

see BIG EAST/page 20

BENGAL BOUTS — FINALS

Captain Schaefer prevails

Cunningham, Golen, Gough, Nicholson also win their weight classes

By JOE QUINN
Sports Writer

Senior captain Greg Schaefer used patience and precise punches to gain a split decision over sophomore Jeffery Hausfeld in the 160-pound championship. Schaefer sat back and withstood Hausfeld's sometimes-wild punches, and when the opportunity present-

See Also
"McGill wins in nailbiter"
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see BENGALS/page 19



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Dan Ward, left, throws a punch as Jeff Golen throws one of his own during Golen's split decision victory in the 180-pound class.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

FENCING

The Irish qualified ten fencers for the NCAA Championships at the Midwest Regionals Saturday.

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TRACK

Seven Irish athletes and the men's 4x400-meter relay team qualified for the NCAA meet at the Alex Wilson Invite Saturday at Loftus Sports Center.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

**Notre Dame 7
Illinois 0**

The Irish remained undefeated at 11-0 with a sweep of the Illini Sunday.

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BENGAL BOUTS

Captain Andrew McGill edged Tommy Furr in the 145-pound weight class final Sunday at the Joyce Center.

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MEN'S LACROSSE

**Cornell 9
Notre Dame 6**

Senior Pat Walsh's two goals weren't enough as the Irish fell to the Big Red Saturday.

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BASEBALL

**Arizona 2
Notre Dame 0**

Pitcher Jeff Manship's 10 strikeouts were wasted as the Wildcats shut out the Irish.

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