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Affleck-Graves on loan company board

Executive vice president made \$58,984 in eight months, but says position is not ethical conflict

By KEN FOWLER and
KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writers

Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves became the 12th college official nationwide identified as receiving compensation from a student loan company on the preferred lender list of the official's college — and while ethical questions have been raised, Affleck-Graves said Sunday his case is different from the cases being investigated by New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo.

Cuomo is investigating

whether student loan companies illegally offered bribes or kickbacks to financial aid directors at schools in order to remain on the school's preferred lender list or to earn a spot on the coveted directory.

Affleck-Graves received \$58,984 in salary for eight months as a director for Student Loan Corporation, a lender affiliated with Notre Dame-preferred



Affleck-Graves

lender Citigroup, according to a report this weekend from Bloomberg News.

Student Loan Corp. sought out Notre Dame and Affleck-Graves for the position, the executive vice president said. He said he communicated with University President Father John Jenkins, Director of Student Financial Strategies Joseph Russo and Vice President for Finance John Sejdinaj before accepting the position.

"I spoke with Father John about it and went through the Financial Aid office and decided that it would probably be a good thing for us to do,"

Affleck-Graves said.

Affleck-Graves said he is not on the board of any other loan corporations and maintained that his situation is different than the positions college administrators under investigation have held.

Unlike financial aid directors at other colleges under investigation, Affleck-Graves is not in the chain-of-command on student loan decisions.

He noted that all decisions about financial aid and student loans are sent through Sejdinaj's office.

"The key thing is what inter-

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LGBTQ awareness week starts

Students will observe national day of silence

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Stand Against Hate, a week designed to spread awareness about issues faced by the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community — including harassment and discrimination against LGBTQ individuals — begins today with the hope of bringing the issue back to the center of campus consciousness.

The message against discrimination of members of the LGBTQ community is something that week co-organizer Casey Scott feels is very important, especially for Notre Dame.

"I think it's important because I think this issue often is overlooked and kind of just pushed to the side," she said.

Scott said that the issues of hate and discrimination, and at Notre Dame they are especially significant for LGBTQ students because of the tension between the Catholic doctrine and homosexuality.

"I think there are a lot of misconceptions between the two groups," she said.

Fellow co-organizer Andy Magee said shedding light on discrimination is essential because many people do not know about it.

"The best thing we can do to

see WEEK/page 3

Matt Phipps chosen as new leprechaun

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

There's a new leprechaun in town.

Senior Kevin Braun, who served as the mascot for the Irish football team this past season, handed over the title to junior Matt Phipps, who on Friday won the competition to become the University's mascot. Phipps has also served on the varsity cheerleading squad for the past three years.

Seven male students performed stunts, led cheers at mock pep rallies and conducted media interviews in front of more than 100 students and a panel of judges Friday at the Joyce Athletics and Convention Center to compete for the gig of varsity leprechaun for 2007-08 school year.

The leprechaun has been the

official mascot of Notre Dame since 1965.

Before tryouts began, Phipps said that he was excited but nervous "because of the tough competition." But he was glad that he was at least assured a slot on the cheerleading team for the fall football season.

"Even if it still doesn't work out," he said before the competition. "I'll still be wearing polyester on the field."

He, however, won't have to worry about that anymore.

Also returning as the leprechaun on the blue squad next year will be sophomore Juan Muldoon.

Coincidentally, Phipps and Muldoon attended rival high schools in Dallas and have enjoyed their partnership on the cheerleading squad for the past two years.

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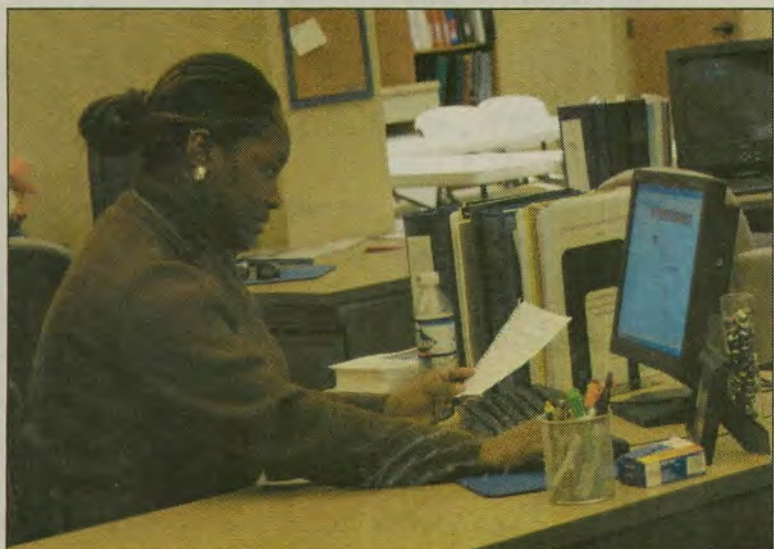


Observer file photo

The leprechaun and cheerleaders run across the field of Notre Dame Stadium in 2005. Junior Matt Phipps will wear the green next year.

Hodges assumes new role

Saint Mary's president, vice president take on duties as term starts



KATE FENLON/The Observer

Kim Hodges, above, and Kelly Payne have assumed their positions as Saint Mary's student body president and vice president.

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Since the Saint Mary's student government turnover occurred April 1, student body president Kim Hodges and vice president Kelly Payne have smoothly transitioned into their new roles.

Hodges became the first black woman in the school's 152-year history ever to hold the position when she took office. She said she anticipates the upcoming year.

"As a leader, I pray that I

see HODGES/page 6

Right to Life club hosts collegiate conference

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, Holy Cross and a host of other colleges convened at Notre Dame this weekend for the second annual Pro-Life Collegiate Conference, hosted by the Notre Dame Right to Life club.

Starting on Friday, nationally recognized speakers spoke about "various issues dealing with life from conception to natural death" at venues across campus, said club president Mary Liz Walter, a junior.

Walter said the conference — focused on the theme "I came that they might have life" — is

the second of four planned conferences targeted at college students. Each conference centers around one of four points of Pope John Paul II's encyclical "Evangelium Vitae."

"The response was extremely, overwhelmingly positive," Walter said. "The speakers gave many [students] insights that they hadn't thought of."

Students from Midwestern colleges including Purdue, Loyola (Chicago) and DePaul traveled to campus to join the strong contingent of pro-life students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross. Walter said attendance from students outside the area was greatly improved this year with and overall attendance

see PRO-LIFE/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

This could get awkward

I don't remember what I was doing on May 5 last year, but somehow I managed to miss National Make Out Day. Never having heard of such a holiday, I was surprised as I scrolled down my Facebook newsfeed the other day to see that 25 or so of my friends plan on attending this event.

Bridget Gilloon

Photographer

Since I haven't been invited yet (my fingers are still crossed), I clicked to find out where I could go to crash the party. Apparently, it is taking place everywhere in the world from midnight on May 5 to noon on May 6, with a break from 2 to 9 in the morning for most participants at Notre Dame, of course.

Personally, this holiday could not come at a better time. I have just recovered from mono, which gives me lifelong immunity to the disease. Also, I will be fleeing the country next semester, which could help prevent awkward situations.

However, I can't help but think that National Make Out Day might be a scam created to spread diseases and encourage Notre Dame's infamous hook-up culture. Wait, never mind, I was just on the phone with my mom.

But then again, is making-out really that dangerous? Aren't we in college to experience new things and learn from our mistakes? After all, we're only going to get older and wiser ... hopefully. Maybe someone will meet their future spouse on May 5 or at the very least walk away with some fond memories of when they were young, stupid and unattached. If you happen to be attached, this could be great holiday to spend with your significant other, because they will find out if you "celebrate" it with someone else. If you're newly single take this as an opportunity to return to the dating scene with thousands of willing participants, but remember that you will have to live with the consequences of your choices, and the pictures that your friends will show you the next day.

For the 147,501 people who have already RSVP'd for the event, I have some advice. Since this holiday coincides with the more popular Cinco de Mayo, remember to brush your teeth or pop an Altoid after you enjoy some burritos, enchiladas or those delicious South Dining Hall churros. Also, just because you are anxious to celebrate the holiday doesn't mean everyone else will share your enthusiasm. Already over 30,000 people have declined their invitations. Some more tips would be to check a prospective partner for wedding or engagement rings and symptoms of mono, both of which could lead to a trip to Health Services.

Well, I think I need to go spread the news that National Make Out Day is not for a few more weeks, especially to the couple on the couch across from me right now in Lafun.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Bridget Gilloon at bgilloon@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE RECESS ACTIVITY?



Sandy McShea
freshman
O'Neill

"I was a fat kid, so I engaged in minimal physical activity."



Betsy Dilla
freshman
Lyons

"Red rover, endlessly without doubt."



Marisa Villano
freshman
Lyons

"Gossip on the monkey bars."



Eleanor Huntington
freshman
Cavanaugh

"Four-square fo' sho."



Courtney Ball
freshman
Cavanaugh

"Tag, because I liked chasing the boys."



Juliana Hoffelder
freshman
Cavanaugh

"I liked to race the boys."



BRIDGET GILLOON/The Observer

Junior Stephen Barbera, left, and junior Kevin Crowley race through the inflatable "Rat Race" on Friday. This obstacle course was one of several inflatable games that filled South Quad in celebration of Alumni Hall's annual Wake Week.

OFFBEAT

Friday the 13th is lucky for woman

LA CROSSE, Wis. — Friday the 13th turned out to be lucky for one Wisconsin woman.

Sara Wrobel narrowly missed a 15-to-20 ton piece of construction equipment that became unhinged from a dump truck and fell in front of her as she backed out of her driveway.

She said she walked out of her house a few minutes early Friday and pulled out of her driveway, and as she waited for her garage door to close the equipment — a rock screener — fell.

"I heard this weird noise,

and the thing crashed right in front of me," said Wrobel, who is pregnant and due any day.

The screen became unhinged from the dump truck, hit a telephone pole, flipped over the embankment and landed on the driveway, she said.

Restaurant that sold snake closes

STOCKTON, Calif. — Local diners with adventurous palates have less than two months to try rattlesnake, alligator and other exotic meats.

The restaurant Taboo by the Delta is closing its doors

June 1 when its owner retires after 10 years in business.

Along with gators and rattlesnake, Taboo served shark, frog legs and turtle.

The name of the restaurant reflects the hidden allure of "things that are forbidden. Things that would hurt you," owner Jesse "Boo" Burkett said. "People just buy into it."

Burkett said he stopped serving kangaroo and black bear in 2004 after the California Department of Fish and Game told him it was illegal.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Notre Dame Bands Chamber Ensembles concert will take place tonight at 7 p.m. in Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. It is a free event, but tickets are required. The Brass Ensemble explores a wide range of musical genres including Renaissance, Baroque and orchestral transcriptions.

There will be cholesterol screenings tomorrow from 7:30 to 10 a.m. in 234 Grace Hall. No appointment necessary.

Notre Dame women's softball will play a doubleheader against Western Michigan tomorrow at 3 p.m. at Ivy Field. Admission is free.

Notre Dame baseball will play Toledo tomorrow at 6:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium.

Notre Dame women's softball will play Ball State Wednesday at 5 p.m. at Ivy Field. Admission is free.

The Ballroom Dance Club will host "Merengue with Ramzi Bualuan" Wednesday from 8 to 10:30 p.m. at 205 Rockne. Dancers of all skill levels are invited. Beginners are asked to come from 8 to 9, social dance from 9 to 9:30, and advanced from 9:30 to 10:30. The cost is \$4 for the night or \$35 for the semester. The club is open to all Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students, faculty and staff.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 53 LOW 32	HIGH 45 LOW 26	HIGH 59 LOW 36	HIGH 53 LOW 35	HIGH 56 LOW 38	HIGH 63 LOW 47

Tryouts

continued from page 1

"I'm thrilled for Phipps. He's a fabulous guy, a great leader for the team and has the energy to do it," Muldoon said. "I'm also really excited about the turnout; I couldn't be happier. We're both looking forward to working together next year."

The remaining five men who competed included junior Tyler Elson, sophomores Rob Carroll and Brian DeSplinter and freshmen Dan Collins and Craig Bentzen.

Each contestant had his own unique reasons for wanting to be elected.

For DeSplinter, the position has been his dream for over a decade. His inspiration came 15 years ago when his brother brought him to his first football game. "I feel like it's all coming together," he said. "Ever since I came here, I've wanted to be the Leprechaun. I was going to try out last year, but my beard wasn't fully grown out."

DeSplinter's passion for the position wasn't ignored by his fans. Like the other contenders, he amassed a base that came out to support his efforts. Students came dressed as leprechauns, bearing posters and taking pictures of their friends.

"I rooted for Brian because he's so enthusiastic and always bouncing off the walls," freshman Cathy Bowers said. "I think he would have been one of the best Leprechauns ever."

Still, all seven were aware of the tough competition. At about 6 p.m., head coach of the cheerleading squad, Jo Minton, welcomed fans and introduced the panel of judges.

"We felt that because the Leprechaun is so important, we need to have representatives from all across campus judge for us," she said.

The first challenge was to conduct "mock pep rallies," as if it were in preparation for the Irish's first home game — against Georgia Tech this coming season.

The next task was the media interview to see how each Leprechaun would speak on behalf of the Irish in public. First, the contestants had to introduce head football coach Charlie Weis, followed by Heisman Trophy winner Paul Hornung at a Pep Rally. All seven contenders impressed crowds with their knowledge about both individuals, seeming to intensify the competition.

Next, they had to speak as if they were on Good Morning America wanting to wish the country "Happy St. Patrick's Day" from Spokane, Wash., at the NCAA basketball tournament.

"I like how they did a variety of scenarios because it gives us an idea of who's ready to fill the shoes of an already great Leprechaun," sophomore Erin Brennan said.

Though Braun has set high standards for Phipps and Muldoon, both feel that they are ready for the challenge.

"I'll definitely be flipping and doing acrobatics all over the field next year,

and be a little bit more involved in the stunts that cheerleaders do," Phipps said. "I think it will be a lot more fun for the crowd to see these things."

For the rest of the men who tried out, Phipps encouraged them to keep trying at it to achieve the dream, since it is a position worth pursuing.

"Even if I hadn't make it, I loved the experience of trying out, and that one experience was nothing less than amazing," he said. "Everybody did a great job, and I hope the younger guys will try out again because it's an experience that definitely helps them."

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

"I'm thrilled for Phipps. He's a fabulous guy, a great leader for the team and has the energy to do it."

Juan Muldoon
blue squad leprechaun

Week

continued from page 1

help change discrimination that is apparent on our campus and in our society is to bring attention to some of the discrimination that does exist," he said. "Because a lot of times, discrimination happens and people aren't aware of it. ... Specifically, LGBTQ communities are called silent minorities because people can't look at them and identify them."

Magee said many members of the LGBTQ community feel marginalized. "It's easy to think 'we don't discriminate here' or 'I personally don't discriminate, but sometimes that is in fact not the case,'" Magee said. "I think it's important to raise awareness that these are issues that still do affect people today."

The week will have three components to address LGBTQ awareness in different ways. The Stand Against Hate campaign is a poster and T-shirt campaign "spearheaded" by student government, Scott said. Posters will be placed around campus and T-shirts will be distributed on Tuesday at the Fieldhouse Mall.

The poster and T-shirt campaign is intended to be "visible" all around campus. "We can get [it] to every corner on cam-

pus," Magee said.

In order to expand Student Government's plans for the Stand Against Hate campaign into a week-long effort toward awareness, Scott said that the Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students added a Holocaust memorial and included the Day of Silence — a nationwide, student-led protest held every April 18 to increase awareness about harassment, discrimination and bullying that LGBTQ students face in schools and the silence that they experience as a result, according to its Web site.

The Day of Silence is an "interesting movement in and of itself in the way that it uses silence to speak very loudly," Magee said.

The silence serves as a "symbolic action to represent all of those who were silenced by harassment, specifically lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people and their allies," Scott said.

Those who choose to participate in the Day of Silence can carry a card and wear a button to explain why they are not speaking. The items will be distributed today and tomorrow in both dining halls and LaFortune from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Holocaust memorial will be set up on South Quad Tuesday and will display symbols used by Nazis during the

Holocaust to label and identify their victims, Scott said.

Since one of the Core Council's goals this year was to "reach out and include as many groups as possible in some of our events," the Holocaust memorial "is a way to bring attention to discrimination against a large number of classes of people all at once," Magee said.

There are various campus groups contributing to the week. The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students, AllianceND, the History Department, the Sociology Department, Student Government, the Gender Relations Center, the Jewish Club of Notre Dame, the Graduate Student Union, Feminist Voice and the Progressive Student Alliance are contributing, Scott said.

"So many people are getting behind this issue and taking up this cause. ... This isn't something that can be pushed aside," she said.

Ultimately, Scott hopes that the message of awareness of the existence of discrimination reaches people.

"I'm just hoping to bring people's attention to it," Scott said. "I know you can't change people's minds, but it plants a seed. That's a good first step."

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscoll@nd.edu

The Observer is now accepting applications for
Controller, Web Designer and Systems Manager for
2007-08.

The Controller position, which provides great accounting experience, is open to rising juniors. It is a two-year position; the 2007-08 Controller will become the 2008-09 Business Manager.

The Web Designer position is open to any student with advanced scripting skills. Systems Manager applicants should be highly adept at computer troubleshooting.

Please contact Maddie Hanna at 631-4542 or mhanna1@nd.edu if interested.

Loans

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ests I would have over any decision that got taken, so I basically recused myself from all of those decisions," Affleck-Graves said. "I'll review this with Father John. To the extent that when we went on, we thought that we could influence things in a positive way, as long as we can continue to do that, then, yes, we'll stay on the board."

Affleck-Graves is not the first Notre Dame administrator to sit on the board of a student loan company. University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh was a director of the Chase Manhattan Bank prior to and after the creation of Notre Dame's preferred lender list in the early 1980s, Russo said Sunday. Chase was one of the lenders on Notre Dame's original preferred lender list, developed in 1981. Russo, who helped create the list soon after he arrived at Notre Dame in 1978, said he was not aware that Hesburgh was a director at Chase when he was surveying the top lenders for the list.

Chase was picked, Russo said, because it offered some of the best services in the country.

A conflict of interest?

Russo said Affleck-Graves has no influence on Notre Dame's preferred lender list. The preferred lender list was created, Russo said, more than 25 years ago, long before Affleck-Graves was at the University. The six lenders Notre Dame lists as its preferred lenders were chosen because they had the best services, he said. The University does not receive any "monetary revenue" from any of the lenders, including Citibank.

Russo said Citibank is the "single largest provider" of student loans at Notre Dame.

"It is our responsibility to find the very best for our students, and Citibank does that," he said.

Affleck-Graves' position since last May has not changed the Financial Aid offices' services "one iota," he said.

But Notre Dame professor Father Oliver Williams, who teaches courses in business ethics, said he would advise that Affleck-Graves resign from the board because his status as a member leads to the appearance of wrongdoing, even though he doesn't believe Affleck-Graves is guilty of any unethical behavior.

"John Affleck-Graves, as [well as] anyone in the administration, is paid to have the best interest of our students at heart. The conflict of interest is when someone gives you \$50,000, you're interested in getting \$50,000 next year, perhaps," he said. "In theory, that's why there is a conflict of interest."

Williams said he advises people in big corporations to avoid not only wrongdoing but also the appearance of it.

"The reason for that is, the problem is you are trying to have an ethic, corporate culture in any organization, particularly an organization like Notre Dame," he said. "So you don't want anyone to even have the idea that there might be wrongdoing."

Affleck-Graves said he does not plan to resign from his position with Student Loan Corp. He will, however, continue to discuss the overall student loan investigation with Jenkins, he said. The two will

re-evaluate the position and its benefit to Notre Dame as Cuomo's investigation continues and Congress considers legislation that would restrict — or even abolish — private lending or preferred lender lists.

University spokesman Don Wycliff said senior officers in the administration are required to fill out a conflict of interest statement once a year, detailing "any business associations or other things that they or even their close family members have that may pose a conflict of interests."

Wycliff said the statements go to the Audit and Advisory Services Office, which reports to Jenkins and the audit committee of the Board of Trustees. He said any remediation the Audit and Advisory Services Office suggests is sent to Jenkins and the audit committee. Wycliff said he was unsure who held ultimate authority to require an officer to release a business holding because of conflict-of-interest concerns.

And while Affleck-Graves said he sees no conflict of interest in his directorship with Student Loan Corp., other considerations led him to prevent a similar relationship with another financial institution.

On March 30, 1st Source Corporation announced that Affleck-Graves removed his name from consideration as one of five candidates for the company's board of directors. 1st Source offers student loans but is not on Notre Dame's list of six preferred lenders.

"That was a completely different situation," Affleck-Graves says.

Affleck-Graves said the University's "direct banking" with 1st Source — while it does not use Student Loan Corp. as its bank for capital — caused his withdrawal from consideration. He said 1st Source's offering of student loans did not factor into the decision.

Lender relationships

A spokesman for Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) told Bloomberg News that the senator would introduce legislation barring any employee of a college from participating on the board of a student loan company.

As the debate continues, however, Affleck-Graves said he questioned government intervention in the lending industry.

"I'm a little concerned with where the legislation is going to go because if we deal with 80 or 90 banks, it's very difficult to get any of those banks to give you a preferred rate for your students," Affleck-Graves said. "As long as the students are looked after, I think that's fair."

Affleck-Graves said his position on the board allows Notre Dame an influence on the corporation's decision-making process for setting rates, offering new products and restructuring loan policies.

"On all of those, I can give them some insight on what students need, what students want," he said.

Affleck-Graves said several employees in the Financial Aid Office serve on advisory board for student loan corporations — but all in non-paying positions.

"If the industry's not allowed to talk to financial aid officers about what students need when they come into a loan office, that seems a little strange to me," he said. "And I trust the people in our Financial Aid office in those advisory council positions that

they're on that they represent the University's students in those fully."

Affleck-Graves reiterated the University's support for the existence of preferred lender lists.

"With these six companies,

because we work regularly with them, if a student has a problem, if an issue arises regarding payment, we have a strong relationship with them. I think that's a tremendous service," he said. "Some of our relationships with our pre-

ferred lenders guarantee us that we'll have the lowest rate in the country — or at least match it."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu and Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu


Spirituality and Culture

**Saint Mary's College
Center for Spirituality**

2007 Endowed Spring Lecture Series

Tuesday, March 6, 2007
4:00 P.M., Stapleton Lounge, Le Mans Hall
Spirituality for a Globalizing World
Vincent Miller, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Theology, Georgetown University,
Washington, D.C.

Thursday, March 29, 2007
7:00 P.M., Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall
Spirituality and Sexuality: The Marriage of Eros and Grace
James D. Whitehead, Ph.D., and Evelyn Eaton Whitehead, Ph.D.
Faculty at Loyola University Chicago and at
Fudan University, Shanghai


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Arts and Letters Students Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors

Graduate School Information Night

Thursday, April 19, 2007
6:00 p.m.
Hammes Student Lounge – CoMo
Dinner will be provided

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ecuador votes for strong executive

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador — Leftist President Rafael Correa scored a major victory Sunday as Ecuadoreans voted overwhelmingly to support his ambitious plan to remake the nation's system of government and weaken its discredited Congress, an exit poll showed.

Voters across this small Andean nation, from highland Indians in ponchos to fishermen in villages along its Pacific coast, turned out to cast ballots on the need for a special assembly to rewrite the constitution — a measure many hope will bring economic improvement to their lives.

An exit poll by CEDATOS-Gallup showed that 78.1 percent of voters approved the election of a constitutional assembly while 11.5 percent rejected the proposal and 10.4 spoiled their ballots or cast blank ones.

Correa enjoys a 70 percent approval rating and pollsters predicted a majority would vote in favor of the referendum in a country long plagued by political instability and poverty.

Anti-Putin protestors routed by police

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — Riot police beat and detained dozens of anti-Kremlin demonstrators Sunday on a second day of protests that tested the weak opposition's ability to challenge widely popular President Vladimir Putin.

As in Moscow a day earlier, only a few thousand people turned out in St. Petersburg to criticize the government. Opposition leaders called that a heartening response in the face of the huge police forces massed against both rallies.

Putin's foes said the harsh handling of demonstrators, who included many elderly people, would fuel a growing sense that the leader is strangling democracy.

NATIONAL NEWS

Gonzales claims 'nothing to hide'

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, fighting to save his job, said in prepared Senate testimony Sunday he has "nothing to hide" in the firings of eight federal prosecutors but claimed a hazy memory about his involvement in them.

Vice President Dick Cheney reaffirmed White House support for the attorney general — but left it to Gonzales to defend himself to lawmakers who have called for his resignation.

In his 25-page statement, Gonzales apologized for embarrassing the eight U.S. attorneys and their families by letting their ousters erupt into a political firestorm that has engulfed the Justice Department since January. He maintained the firings were not improper, but said he remembers having only an indirect role in the plans beyond approving them.

"I am sorry for my missteps that have helped to fuel the controversy," he said.

Illinois man charged with kids' deaths

QUINCY, Ill. — A man was charged with setting a house on fire in western Illinois early Sunday and killing five children, police said.

Four other people, including a fire fighter burned on his face, were injured in the blaze. The bodies of four boys and a girl — ages 8 months to 10 years — were found on the second story and were likely family members, officials said.

LOCAL NEWS

High-speed chase leaves one dead

CHESTERTON — An accident following a high-speed police chase killed a person early Sunday morning.

Indiana State Police were notified by the Porter County Sheriff's Department dispatch center that an officer was pursuing a suspect driving eastbound on Interstate 94 from the Burns Harbor exit just after 6:30 a.m., according to an ISP release.

According to a preliminary ISP investigation, a Burns Harbor, Ind. officer had located a person allegedly involved in a disturbance call, and the person took off in their vehicle.

JORDAN

IAEA chief tours Arab countries

Middle East nations pledge to consider peaceful nuclear programs in future

Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — The chief U.N. nuclear watchdog on Sunday wrapped up a tour of the Middle East to offer support to nations interested in developing peaceful atomic energy programs despite the international faceoff with Iran over suspicions it is pursuing nuclear weapons.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and the smaller Arab states around the Persian Gulf all have said they will study the feasibility of building civilian programs for generating electricity with nuclear reactors.

During a meeting Sunday, Jordan's King Abdullah II told Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, that his kingdom needs to diversify its sources of energy, especially with oil prices rising.

The king promised that Jordan, which imports nearly all of its oil, would be a model in the peaceful development of nuclear energy if it decided to go ahead.

The official Petra news agency quoted ElBaradei as saying his "agency was ready to help Jordan to benefit from nuclear energy for peaceful purposes." He said the IAEA would dispatch a team to Jordan next week to look into its plans.

Earlier in his trip, ElBaradei offered similar support to the oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman — which said in November that they would consider starting a joint nuclear program for peaceful purposes.

ElBaradei said Thursday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, that he recognized "the necessity of the Gulf Cooperation Council to own this (nuclear) energy at the current time despite owning other energy sources like oil and gas."



International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei met with King Abdullah II of Jordan Sunday. Several nations pledged to study peaceful nuclear technology.

While none of the Mideast nations expressing an interest in nuclear power has publicly cited Iran's alleged ambition to acquire atomic weapons — a charge Tehran denies — some analysts think the announcements are intended as a warning to the Iranians about the dangers of a regional arms race.

Energy experts say any significant Arab nuclear program would probably take years, and some are skeptical that cash-strapped countries like Egypt and Jordan have the resources for such facilities.

The U.S. government opposes the spread of nuclear weapons in the region, but officials in Washington have said any

country that strictly follows the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is free to develop a civilian power program. The U.S. offered to help Egypt with nuclear technology after it announced plans in September to revive a mothballed nuclear program.

Jordan's king announced his plan to study a nuclear program in January in an interview with the Israeli newspaper Haaretz. It was assumed he chose an Israeli newspaper to make clear the program was not directed at the Jewish state.

Israel is widely believed to have nuclear weapons of its own, but has never officially confirmed that it does.

"The rules have changed," Abdullah told Haaretz.

"Everybody's going for nuclear programs."

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev declined to comment Sunday about the interest expressed by Jordan, Egypt and others in acquiring nuclear programs.

But, he added, "Israel is concerned that Iranian nuclear program is not only a direct threat to regional security, but will also lead to a larger nuclear proliferation in the region, which would be to no one's benefit."

Key Arab countries such as Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt also are concerned by Iran's nuclear ambitions, although Tehran insists its program is peaceful.

IRAQ

Sadr followers threaten withdrawal

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Cars, minibuses and roadside bombs exploded in Shiite Muslim enclaves across the city Sunday, killing at least 45 people in sectarian violence that defied the Baghdad security crackdown, while a radical anti-U.S. cleric raised a new threat to Iraq's government.

Two officials close to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said his followers would quit their six Cabinet posts Monday — a move that could leave Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's already weak administration without enough support to stay in power.

And in a rare gesture of dissent from America's partners in Baghdad, dozens of Iraqi policemen demonstrated in front of their station, accusing U.S. troops of treating them like "animals" and "slaves."

The U.S. military command announced the combat deaths of three more Americans. Two British service members died when their helicopters crashed in midair north of Baghdad, and hours later a U.S. helicopter was hit by ground fire near Mosul but landed safely with no injuries.

Six powerful bombs, gunfire and artillery blasts enveloped Baghdad in

a near-constant din that seemed a setback for the 9-week-old U.S.-Iraqi military campaign to pacify the capital.

U.S. commanders previously cited a slight decrease in violence since the crackdown began Feb. 14, but urged patience for what they warned would be a long, tough fight.

"Although we're making steady progress ... we have a long way to go," Rear Adm. Mark Fox, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad, told reporters Sunday. "We will continue to face attacks from those who attempt to tear down what the Iraqi people have worked so hard to build."

Pro-life

continued from page 1

throughout the weekend was strong.

The event's first speaker, Father Tom Euteneuer, was a favorite, Walter said. Euteneuer, a Notre Dame alumnus and current president of Human Life International, recently gained attention after appearing on radio personality Sean Hannity's conservative talk show. Walter said he was well received by all in attendance.

Another speaker, Daniel McConchie, executive director of Americans United for Life, posed interesting questions about the legalities of abortion, Walter said. He told the audience that the pro-life movement would have significant challenges ahead of it even if there was an overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court case that struck down state laws criminalizing abortion. He said the challenge then would be to force all 50 states to pass laws outlawing abortion.

Other speakers included a representative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the director of Students For Life of Americas and a local oncologist who spoke to the bioethical issues.

"Bella," a movie about the

issues facing a fictional single woman who becomes pregnant, was also screened Saturday evening.

Walter said it is extremely important for Notre Dame to host such a conference as many other colleges see Notre Dame as leader in pro-life issues.

"I had some friends from Franciscan University passing through the area this weekend on their way to another event," Walter said. "They couldn't stay but said, 'We wish we could — we're so proud that Notre

Dame is doing this, because Notre Dame is a great Catholic university.'"

Walter said that as a whole, the conference gave participants a stimulating look at pro-life issues and gave audiences new thoughts and

perspectives. It was important to bring in these new points of view, especially to Notre Dame, she said.

"We don't know everything," Walter said.

Walter said ideas are already being tossed around about next year's conference, focused on the third part of the encyclical, "Thou shalt not kill."

Notre Dame Right to Life has over 100 dues-paying members, Walter said, and organizes numerous pro-life initiatives throughout the year.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

"The response was extremely, overwhelmingly positive. The speakers gave many [students] insights that they hadn't thought of."

Mary Liz Walter
president
Notre Dame Right to Life

Hodges

continued from page 1

am the best leader that I can be and in my capacity I will lead student government better than I came in," Hodges said. "I've already sent out an e-mail to the Board for next year saying 'I'm ready to make history.'"

Hodges, a social work major from South Holland, Ill. said her administration is off to a busy start.

She has already begun meeting with members of the South Bend community to work toward her goal of reaching out to the community and making a connection between Saint Mary's and South Bend.

"I just got done meeting with the South Bend Tribune about setting up a Web site about

events and sights around town — especially to highlight Saint Mary's events," Hodges said.

The Web site is a joint initiative undertaken by the College, Notre Dame and Holy Cross College to connect with the larger South Bend community.

Hodges has also met with the Saint Mary's administration to discuss the upcoming beatification of Father Moreau in October. And she sat on a committee to discuss the recipient of the Lumen Christi award that will be given to one senior on graduation day.

Hodges spoke to high school students during the College's annual Spring Day on campus Sunday, an event she has participated in as a tour guide for the past three years.

"[The day] felt different because I'm in a different capacity as student body presi-

dent," Hodges said.

Hodges said she would like to change the format of Board of Governance (BOG) meetings for next year. Although she has not sat on the Board of Governance in any capacity in the past, she said she does not see her lack of experience as a hindrance to her leadership.

Hodges believes that not being on BOG in the past is actually a benefit to next year's board.

"We'll bring more of a fresh perspective to the table and switch things up a little bit," she said. "We will make it a little more interesting and active in the meetings so that meetings can feel a little more enjoyable and to enhance feel of being on BOG."

Contact Liz Harter at eharte01@saintmarys.com

Jury to decide abuse suit

Long Island church sex scandal nearing closure, most settled out of court

Associated Press

MINEOLA, N.Y. — The nation's sixth-largest Roman Catholic diocese is headed to trial this week in a \$150 million lawsuit accusing church officials of recklessness for employing a youth minister who raped and sodomized teenagers.

But despite its familiar scenario of youths abused by religious leaders, this case is unique: It could be one of the few decided by a jury, rather than a quiet, out-of-court settle-

ment.

The U.S. Conference of Bishops estimates abuse-related costs from lawsuits have exceeded \$1.5 billion, the majority out-of-court settlements. Many of the alleged acts took place so long ago their statutes of limitations have expired.

Many cases are settled out of court, in part to prevent details of the alleged abuse from going public, said Steve Rubino, a New Jersey lawyer who has handled hundreds of church sex abuse cases.

"There is a tendency not to want to run that risk," Rubino said.

On Long Island, a grand jury found nearly two dozen cases of abuse going back decades in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the nation's sixth largest with 1.3 million Catholics in 134 parishes.

The case with opening statements set for Monday involves Matthew Maiello, who pleaded guilty to rape and sodomy in 2003 and served more than two years in prison.



Keynote Speaker

Shirin Ebadi,
Nobel Peace Prize-Winning
Iranian Activist/Lawyer

An Iranian lawyer and human rights activist, Ebadi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her significant and pioneering efforts in democracy and human rights, especially for the rights of women and children. She is the first Iranian and the first Muslim woman to receive the prize.

Thursday, April 26, 7:00 P.M.
Angela Athletic Facility
Free and open to the public

Since 2001, the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership (CWIL) at Saint Mary's College has been promoting transformative intercultural engagement to foster the intercultural competence critical for the next generation of women leaders. This interactive conference will bring together theorists, scholars, professionals, educators, community activists, practitioners, and students.

Participants will have opportunities for networking, sharing best practices, and joining a national conversation about cutting-edge work on:

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- internationalizing and interculturalizing the curriculum and co-curriculum
- building collaborative relationships between colleges and communities across disciplines



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NASDAQ	2,491.94	+11.62
NYSE	9,522.86	+45.10
S&P 500	1,452.85	+5.05
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,363.95	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	6,462.40	+46.00

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	-1.69	-0.10	5.80
INTEL CP (INTC)	-0.20	-0.04	20.46
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	+0.20	+0.09	44.65
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+2.73	+0.71	26.68
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.46	+0.66	145.32

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13-WEEK BILL	-0.31	-0.015	4.870
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5-YEAR NOTE	+0.64	+0.030	4.683

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IN BRIEF

American volunteering up since 9/11

WASHINGTON — People in this country have been volunteering at record levels in the years following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, but that voluntary service dipped slightly in 2006, a study found.

More than a fourth of the population, 26.7 percent, did volunteer work in 2006, down from 28.8 percent the previous year, according to a new report by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"We can't expect every year to be a new high so we're not really concerned moving from '05 to '06 with a small decrease," said David Eisner, chief executive officer of the corporation. "We would get concerned if that repeated itself year after year."

An increase in volunteerism from 20.4 percent in 1989 to 26.7 percent in 2006 was heavily influenced by a sharp increase — almost doubling — in the volunteer rates of young people ages 16-19, according to the report, released at the start of National Volunteer Week.

"Out of the tragedy of 9/11 and the devastation of hurricanes has come an unmistakable good: a strong interest in volunteering and community involvement," said Eisner. But he said there's plenty to be done to expand the country's service to others.

Stocks up amid new inflation data

NEW YORK — Wall Street closed out a bumpy week with a moderate gain Friday as investors, heartened by new inflation data, bought optimistically ahead of next week's rush of earnings releases. The Dow Jones industrials had their 11th advance in 12 sessions, and all the major indexes closed out the week higher.

After some wavering early in the day, investors ultimately decided to extend the climb Friday, encouraged by the Labor Department's Producer Price Index coming in flat for March, once volatile prices for energy and food were stripped out. Including energy and food, wholesale prices rose 1 percent, a smaller rise than the 1.3 percent jump in February.

The stock market's advance was dampened only slightly by the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index, which was weak.

Wolfowitz remains at World Bank

President will focus on 'important work' despite criticism for alleged impropriety

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Embattled World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz said Sunday he will continue to lead bank efforts to reduce global poverty, resisting calls to step down over his involvement in securing a huge pay increase for a close female friend.

"The bank has important work to do and I will continue to do it," he said at a news conference winding up a meeting of the steering committee for the bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The committee said in its closing communique the Wolfowitz issue was "of great concern to us all" and called on the bank board looking into the matter to complete its work.

"We have to ensure that the bank can effectively carry out its mandate and maintain its credibility and reputation as well as the motivation of its staff," the committee said.

In answering questions from reporters about whether he should resign, Wolfowitz referred several times to the committee's communique and said he did not want any comments he made to get in the way of the board's work.

"I believe in the mission of this organization, I intend to carry it out. I have had many expressions of support," he said.

Several times he was asked how he could continue as head of the 185-nation lending organization leading the fight against corruption after acknowledging a direct role in the pay increase, Wolfowitz referred to the communique.

After the news conference, Alison Cave, head of the World Bank Staff Association, which represents 7,000 of the bank's Washington employees, said the group believes Wolfowitz should resign.

"We do not see how he can possibly regain the trust



World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz, shown at a news conference in Washington Sunday, has been accused of securing a pay increase for a friend.

of the staff," she said.

Eric Guitierrez, a policy coordinator for ActionAid, an advocacy group, also said, "It's time for the board to show Wolfowitz the door."

Wolfowitz appeared alongside Development Committee Chairman Agustin Carstens, Mexico's finance minister, and Rodrigo de Rato, the head of the IMF, the bank's sister institution.

Opening remarks focused on the World Bank's efforts to help poor countries meet goals for reducing poverty, broadening access to health care and education and economic development.

Carstens and Wolfowitz talked about the need for wealthy governments to

deliver on promises for increasing spending on development aid.

"The donors are now unfortunately in a position of not fulfilling their promises," Wolfowitz said.

Large donor countries are meeting throughout this year to decide how much funding they will provide to a fund that provides interest free loans and grants to poor countries, the International Development Association.

Last week Wolfowitz told reporters donors would need to provide at least \$28 billion if they are to fulfill promises to compensate IDA for income lost because of debt relief granted to poor countries.

Earlier Wolfowitz said misleading information has been circulating over his involvement in the pay increase.

In an e-mail to bank staff Saturday night, some of whom have called for his resignation, Wolfowitz said he had remained largely silent as the bank's board of directors considered his future.

"I feel, however, that this has left a vacuum, which has largely been filled by misleading information" and conceded the 109 pages of documents about the controversy released by the board are "a lot to wade through for significant facts so I would like to call your attention to a number of them."

China cracks down on pirated music

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese authorities destroyed 42 million pieces of pirated digital videodiscs, compact discs, computer software and illegal publications in the government's latest campaign to curtail rampant theft of intellectual property, state media reported.

The Saturday campaign follows a pair of complaints filed Tuesday by the U.S. against Beijing in the World Trade Organization over product piracy and market access.

Workers across the country set fire to 30 million pieces of smuggled and pirated audio and video materials, software and 11 million

copies of pirated and illegally published books and magazines, the official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday.

"Through the act of destruction, we wish to show to the world the firm determination of the Chinese Government in protecting intellectual property," Long Xinmin, chief of the State Press and Publication Administration, was quoted as saying in the report.

Long added the campaign was also meant to "improve the awareness of the general public in fighting against pornography and illegal publications."

Xinhua said a quarter of the contraband material were

destroyed in Guangdong, the economically dynamic southern province that abuts Hong Kong.

Local enforcement officers in the provincial capital of Guangzhou used shredding machines to get rid of 10 million pirated discs and 500,000 illegal publications, the report said.

China on Wednesday warned that the U.S. complaints against Beijing in the WTO could damage commercial relations between the two countries. The complaints accuse China of violating its trade commitments by failing to stop product piracy and of blocking market access for U.S.-produced books, movies and music.

GOD IS DEUS CARITAS EST LOVE

I wish in my first Encyclical to speak of the love which God lavishes upon us and which we in turn must share with others

—Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est Encyclical Letter

CONFERENCE ITINERARY

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

- ... 4:00 p.m. Opening Mass at Alumni Hall Chapel (Fr. Jenkins presiding)
- ... 5:15 p.m. Reception in the Grand Hall of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies
- ... 6:15 p.m. Opening remarks from Fr. Jenkins
- ... 6:30 p.m. Keynote speech from Ms. Brosnahan followed by panel discussion

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

- ... 9:00 a.m. Breakfast buffet in the Grand Hall of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies
- ... 9:45 a.m. Keynote speech from Fr. Anderson followed by panel discussion
- ... 11:00 a.m. Concurrent presentations of student papers (including roundtable discussions with faculty and students)
- ... Noon Lunch in the Grand Hall of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies
- ... 1:00 p.m. Continue with concurrent presentations of student papers

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- ... Ms. Mary Brosnahan, director of the Coalition for the Homeless in New York City and a 1983 graduate of Notre Dame
- ... The Very Reverend Philip Anderson, O.S.B., Prior of Our Lady of the Annunciation of Clear Creek Monastery

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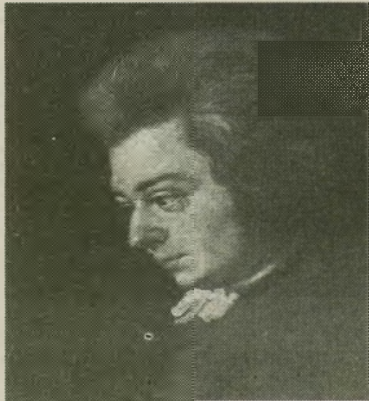


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Grand Forks vicinity touts flood recovery

Associated Press

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Heavy rain and snow still make people nervous along the Red River of the North, which devastated North Dakota's third-largest city 10 years ago and forced thousands to flee in one of the costliest and largest U.S. flood evacuations before Hurricane Katrina.

Eleven people died in three states.

Today, however, a nearly finished \$400 million dike system brings some comfort, and people believe they have learned some things to share with other disaster victims around the country.

"We like to call ourselves the poster child of flood recovery because we think we showed how different governments working together could make it happen," said Lynn Stauss, the mayor of neighboring East Grand Forks, Minn., both during the flood and today.

Still, "so many people I talk to yet are still struggling," said Pat Owens, the mayor of Grand Forks during the 1997 flood.

As the record 101 inches of snow delivered by a winter of blizzards began to melt that spring, the Red River rose out of its banks and spread out across the prairie farmland. As the flood crest flowed north on its way to Canada's Lake Winnipeg, Grand Forks and East Grand Forks were hit the hardest.

Most of the 60,000 residents were forced to flee after a futile fight involving 3.5 million sandbags.

Stauss recalls the pain of telling an exhausted family that there was no use adding more sandbags around their house to fight the rising water.

"I remember telling them 'I'm sorry, you're going to have to give up. There's no way you're going to be able to save your house. It's done, it's over.'"

Four feet of water in the streets hindered firefighters when flames broke out in downtown Grand Forks on April 19, 1997. Eleven buildings, including 60 apartments, were destroyed.

"There was no downtown left, period," said Sandra Korsmoe, who lost her advertising business in the downtown Security Building.

Many residents are still only halfway to financial recovery, Stauss said.

The National Climatic Data Center rates the 1997 disaster as the nation's second-costliest non-hurricane flood disaster from 1980 to 2006, with the 11 deaths in the Dakotas and Minnesota and damage estimated at \$4.1 billion. The costliest was the 1993 flood along the Mississippi that started in the upper Midwest, with damage estimated at more than \$26 billion.

Damage totaled nearly \$2 billion in the greater Grand Forks area, including \$74 million to Grand Forks public schools and \$48 million to the University of North Dakota.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency gave nearly \$210 million in public

assistance to North Dakota and \$173 million to Minnesota to repair infrastructure, plus \$9.8 million for travel trailers and mobile homes, and \$10 million in individual and family grants. The late Joan Kroc, the widow of McDonald's Corp. founder Ray Kroc, gave \$15 million to flood victims.

Grand Forks has written a brochure to share with other disaster-stricken areas. It includes advice on planning and leadership. It also says: "Understand that the new normal will never mirror the pre-disaster image," and "Practice patience. Some things just take time."

The flood invites comparisons to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, where FEMA drew sharp criticism for its efforts, but the agency notes there were significant differences between the two disasters.

"I think the big thing that went right for us was the partnership we had with the state of North Dakota," said Doug Gore, deputy regional director for FEMA, who said his office had worked with North Dakota on several disasters before the flood.

"Katrina was a catastrophic event in every capacity," Gore said. "Even though Grand Forks was a major event and it affected all the individuals, the city was still able to function and deliver certain services."

The National Weather Service took the brunt of the criticism aimed at government, with homeowners outraged over forecasts that started with a prediction of a 49-foot crest. That prediction held for weeks, until the weather service bumped it up to 50 feet on April 14. The river didn't crest until it hit 54 feet.

The weather service says it has changed its forecast methods since then.

"Our science, modeling and communication are better," said Dan Luna, hydrologist in charge at the weather service office in Chanhassen, Minn. "We learned a lot in 1997."

Among other things, meteorologists now stress the uncertainties of their predictions in stronger terms, said Edward Johnson, the weather service's director of strategic planning and policy in Silver Spring, Md.

Downtown has now been rebuilt, and the city is growing past its pre-flood population.

The only obvious sign of the flood at the Sacred Heart Catholic School campus is a bleached out water spot, about 2 feet high, on an interior door. The school lost six of its eight buildings but rebuilt in 14 months.

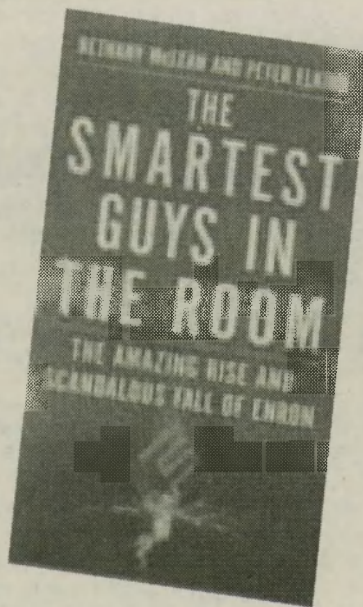
"We sanded it down and refinished it and blended it in," Punky Beauchamp, the campus facilities director, said of the door. "But you'll never get that water mark out of there."

"A lot of communities have faced disasters before us and since our tragedy," Beauchamp said. "It was a shock to the community and a lot of people were hurt financially and mentally for a long time. But we came together."

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE ENRON SCANDAL

Bethany McLean

Co-author of
The Smartest Guys in The Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron and
editor-at-large for *Fortune*



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POLICIES

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

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Maddie Hanna.

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No children left behind

Kurt Vonnegut, a great purveyor of truth and champion of humanism, died this past week. So it goes. Kurt is up in heaven now, but his stories and gruff quips about our humanity, and inhumanity, remain, as relevant now as they were forty years ago. His legendary "Slaughterhouse Five" is partly a recollection of his own experiences as a POW in World War II during the firebombing of Dresden when he was 22 years old. Vonnegut's original, and now alternate, title for the work was "The Children's Crusade," a commentary on the absurdity of our country's — and other countries' — young people being sent to kill and die.

Matthew Zeimer was eighteen years old when he died in Iraq this past month. He was only a few hours into his first combat post, and he was eighteen years old when he died. So it goes, in Iraq.

Major media attention has been brought to his specific case as his unit was one of the first to arrive in Iraq with reduced training time in order to meet the 'surge' personnel demands. The possibility that he was killed by friendly fire

simply fuels the frustration felt by those who criticized the surge as folly to begin with.

As I'm not running for political office anytime soon, I'll go ahead and say what every single candidate (sans savvy Baghdad market-shopping McCain) is thinking: It was a waste of his life. In addition to Matthew Zeimer, 31 other lives of just 18 years have been wasted. One hundred ninety-three 19-year-old lives have been wasted alongside three hundred fifty-four 20-year-olds and four hundred thirty-five 21-year-olds. Wasted. Additionally, over 60,000 Iraqi civilians have died as a result of direct military intervention, and countless more have died and will die due to an obliterated infrastructure, devoid of adequate healthcare or sanitation. All these lives, too, wasted.

I stopped my American military fatality count well short of the 3301 total U.S. military fatalities for a reason. You see, this past week I turned 22, and by doing so, I outlived another four hundred thirty-five young American men and women who will never see their 22nd birthday. They signed up to serve the country and got a raw deal. The blame game will go on, but they will never see their 22nd birthday.

The children growing up in Iraq have been robbed of their childhood just as the young Americans fighting and dying for a

lost cause have been robbed of theirs. They will return with amputations, wounds and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Those who have been physically and psychologically scarred by experiences in Iraq have been robbed of their youth and will likely never fully recover from the paranoia cultivated on the streets of Iraq.

As graduation quickly approaches, I've been doing lots of reflecting on the past four years. A lot has happened since my 18th birthday. Successes, failures, firsts, lasts, friends and love gained and lost; all have been written in this wonderful chapter of my life.

But I'm not content with my life yet and I certainly doubt that the fallen in Iraq were with theirs.

I have, we all have, lots of work left to do, and lots of life left to live. Yet, these men and women, younger than I, have no life left to give or to live. They signed up to give their lives for our country but, in the end, gave their lives for a myopic, overzealous administration — an abuse that should never be overlooked or forgotten.

Will McAuliffe is a senior Political Science major who welcomes all comments and criticisms at mcauliffe.4@nd.edu

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



Will McAuliffe

Strategy Analyst

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rethink ticket deadline

The University's new ticket policy requires current students to buy their tickets before May 3 of this year. This policy ignores the financial realities of many current students and should be changed. The ticket office needs to realize that students who are not supported by their parents do not have very much money. Many, like myself, rely on summer jobs for their entire year's funds, and budget accordingly. That fixed amount of money has to make it through the year. Clearly not everyone keeps to a budget strictly, but we spend according to what we have left, and try to extend it until the end of the year, when the summer to starts again. Many of us cannot sustain a \$220 hit at this point in the semester, and the University's decision to change the policy without warning makes it impossible to buy tickets for next year. The University should also consider the fact that this will disparately impact those who are unable to turn to their parents for financial support. There are some

questionable aspects to the University ticket policy more generally. The price of tickets has gone up 100 percent since my freshman year (2001), and demanding that students make a commitment this far in advance could create considerable confusion. While I think these are important issues, I recognize the University could have good reasons for dealing with the process in advance, and I confine my objection to the deadline. I merely propose that the deadline be extended to the fall for this first year, so that students who are low on money can still buy tickets, and in the future they can plan on the expense when budgeting for the semester.

Mike Roaldi
law student
South Bend, Ind.
April 12

Quote misleads

A recent quote from Cindy Sheehan appeared on the front page of the South Bend Tribune. The statement was made by Sheehan at a talk given at St. Mary's College, and it read, "When I started to speak out against George Bush, they started to disown me. They said, 'But Cindy, he's pro-life.' And I said, 'If he's pro-life, how come my son is dead?'" I can only hope that the men and women in attendance, possibly many of them still young and impressionable, are intellectually capable of drawing the distinction between the person who signs up for the military with the full understanding that he is potentially putting his life in harm's way, and a child in her mother's womb whose life is taken before she has a chance to take her first breath. May God bless the 3,222 soldiers killed (as of March 21, 2007) in Iraq since March 19, 2003, and may God also bless the 126,000 babies killed each day and the 46 million killed each year.

Ginger Krueger
South Bend, Ind.
April 13

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Who will be the starting quarterback this fall?

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

"The collection of any taxes which are not absolutely required, which do not beyond reasonable doubt contribute to the public welfare, is only a species of legalized larceny."

Calvin Coolidge
former U.S. president

Calling all humans: A greener ND

As one of my best friends put it, I'm something of a human robot. I'm not particularly fond of children, the outdoors, racy fiction, major holidays, physical affection or politics. The only topics I regard with interest usually involve celebrity hijinks. So why am I writing a Viewpoint column that has nothing to do with Fergie's striking resemblance to Bret Michaels? I blame the CSC. Not only did the Washington Seminar make me spend my spring break discussing global climate change and debating the viability of a sustainable energy model, but it also made one of the last great human robots care about the environment and Notre Dame's role in building a greener future. Upon returning to campus, I wanted to find ways to advance green initiatives on campus, but I wasn't completely sure if such avenues existed. Worse, I wondered whether progressive student groups would be open to help from a bumbling, slightly frigid novice.

Alana Stelton
Guest Columnist

Prior to my post-seminar sleuthing, I doubted that the administration had any real interest in promoting conservation. Although the proposed changes are not radical, the administration is slowly beginning to address sustainability. For example, Notre Dame is considering LEED certification for all future campus buildings and debating the installation of solar panels on the roof of the new engineering hall. If the plans are approved, photovoltaic panels could provide 100 kilovolts of power for the building, which is enough energy for three average-sized homes. Moreover, the administration is exploring ways to educate incoming freshmen about energy conservation without adding to an already crowded Frosh-O schedule. The

administration's Energy and Environmental Issues Committee, which advises Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves, assembles the University's sustainability practices and forges collaborations with other offices. They have already worked with Food Services to offer sustainable seafood. The Committee is currently instituting a pilot Calories to Kilowatts (C2K) program in a few dorm gyms so that the energy produced by our frantic peddling can charge our cell phones and iPods. Notre Dame also sponsors the new Energy Center Student Advisory Board, a new organization which coordinates the student dimensions of the Energy Center. They advertise energy-related courses on the web and seek to sponsor tours of the Notre Dame Power Plant and other energy-generating facilities. Unfortunately, these facts are rarely advertised, perhaps because those promoting these efforts feel that most students will not care. By showing interest in their ideas and by advocating for greater transparency and further change, we can prompt the administration to continue efforts to increase Notre Dame's sustainability.

Fortunately, several student groups can help concerned students interact with the administration. Students for Environmental Action will be sponsoring a week of ecological awareness in anticipation of Earth Day, Sunday, April 22. This past Saturday, they participated in Step It Up!, the first-ever National Day of Climate Action. As part of the rally, which called for cuts in carbon emissions, local environmental groups were speaking and sponsoring fun, educational activities. Other 100-percent-organic events for the week include a renewable energy demonstration on South Quad, a tree planting and neighborhood cleanup in South Bend and a Mass for the environment said at the

Grotto by Father Paul Kollman. The Biology Club recently sponsored a forum on An Inconvenient Truth and is now designing an energy consumption survey for the student body. The Arts and Letters environmental committee is pushing for an ECO Plunge, the energy-concerns equivalent of Urban Plunge. The Center for Social Concerns plans to offer a paid position for an in-house sustainability coordinator so that all CSC events are eco-friendly. The Washington Seminar on Energy and the Environment, which may become a permanent CSC seminar, will conduct forums with administrative leaders and student activists in order to present recommendations based on their experiences with senators, lobbyists, researchers and interest groups in D.C. They are also launching a campaign to unite representatives from student groups into a task force committed to energy and environmental concerns. All of these groups want our help, our input and our passion. Most of all, they want our creative solutions.

Here's where you come in. Despite my newfound interest in sustainability, I'm still overcoming my robotic tendencies. I haven't spoken to a child in three years, and I've only recently learned how to properly administer a hug. I may care slightly more about the environment post-CSC seminar, but I'm still deeply suspicious of jaywalkers and those who prefer Chicago standards to MLA. Student groups need the innovative ideas and out-of-the-box solutions that only the fully human can provide.

Alana Stelton is a junior English and Philosophy major. She can be contacted at astelton@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gremlin manifesto

I don't read The Observer because I'm excited about the riveting front page articles or the "accurate" movie reviews (the re-release of Disney's Robin Hood... anyone?). I read it because I like to do the Word Jumble, read my horoscope, and laugh at the only funny comic — Kaleidoscope McDaniels. Yes, I am a woman, and yes, even I think the comic's portrayal of Notre Dame girls is funny — nay, hilarious. Sure, portraying Notre Dame girls as ugly, subhuman creatures is an exhausted joke, but Moran has remained so dedicated to the stereotype that you have to applaud him. I don't think there has been one Kaleidoscope strip portraying a Notre Dame girl as anything but a gremlin. That's commitment. No girl wants to actually be called a gremlin, but please don't make excuses for it; it only justifies the stereotype.

News flash: It takes less time to shower, brush your hair, put together a decent outfit and swipe on some mascara, than it takes to whine about one guy. Try not to accept the stereotype and run off a shopping list of why you don't have time to look presentable or, as some say, "sexy." I am surrounded by some of the smartest women I will ever know, yet they still love shoes. Having intelligence and absolutely adoring footwear aren't mutually exclusive.

Remember, Moran is trying to make people laugh, and he does a good job. Besides, if Notre Dame girls were gremlins, the dining hall wouldn't be open after dark and girls wouldn't be allowed in the swimming pool. (Thank god that isn't true, because I like to binge on FroYo and then swim off the calories while furiously weeping.) If you have to complain, why not make fun of the Notre Dame male with his hoodie, khakis and shell-toed Adidas shoes that make him look like a pre-teen?

Notre Dame is an all-boys club, and probably always will be. You're only confirming a stereotype when you provide excuses for it. Instead, go against type, have pride in yourself and strive to be a smart AND attractive Notre Dame girl. All it takes is twenty minutes, some mascara and a wonder-bra.

So I'll take my "big words and integrals" along with my eyeliner and stilettoes and attempt to create a happy medium. (Just kidding, I have no clue how to do an integral.)

Laura Hattrup
sophomore
Lyons Hall
April 12

BFA/MFA art 'says' too much

If you have not yet had a chance to visit this year's BFA/MFA exhibit at the Snite Museum of Art, you're missing out on a proper sermon from the artist's pulpit. As you enter the gallery, you will be called upon to consider and assess, not so much the artistic merit of the work of art — line, color, composition and craftsmanship — but rather its socio-political message: worker's rights, homosexuality, multiculturalism, greenhouse gases, etc. Now, it is all very well to make art that is "about" something — indeed, what is form without an attendant content? And certainly art has advanced beyond the stale objectivity of Kantian formalist aesthetics. But it appears that the artists of Riley Hall are so eager to suffuse their artworks with a fist-pounding social critique clarity that the art itself becomes but dispensable medium, subordinate to the "issues" at hand. And judging by the overwhelming consistency of issue-oriented art in this year's exhibit, it appears that the pressure to take a stance in one's art is coming from the top down. Either way, the role of art is marginalized. Why not write a manifesto instead? Or picket up and down South Quad? My point in writing this, of course, is not to trivialize the issues addressed by these works of art. I think such issues should be addressed, and in fact I rather agree with the progressive, socially-conscious tone in which these concerns are voiced. My point is rather that, by reducing a work of art to a single, self-contained "message," these artists trivialize the role of art itself. What I find lacking in the artists' mentality is an appreciation of the extent to which

art is by its very nature political. The power of art lies in its elusiveness; it is the one thing we cannot put our conceptual finger on. Art is that wonderfully paradoxical thing which Kant describes as purposefully purposeless. For this very reason, it is the one thing in our society that cannot be commodified, instrumentalized or appropriated for political ends. Insofar as art escapes the clutches of ideology, its mere existence is a vehicle for social reform. That is why art should never become propagandistic, even if we agree with its objectives. An intelligent viewer wants to be provoked and challenged, not slapped in the face by the hand of moralistic evangelizing. The viewer wants a reason to linger, to ponder both form and content. But if the artwork is reducible to a single, univocal message, there is no longer any need for the viewer to confront the work on either an intellectual or aesthetic level. Far from provoking thought or engaging discourse, such heavy-handed sloganeering gives the viewer good reason not to linger and ponder; the explicit aboutness of the art leaves no room for appreciating it as a work of art. If the aim of art is to awaken a particular form of social or political consciousness in the minds of an audience, art must be made to speak more than politically correct platitudes.

Jay Miller
philosophy graduate student
South Bend, Ind.
April 12

'Kaleidoscope' not what we need

I am personally indebted to The Observer for their now-published written justification of, in general, the publication of potentially offensive comic strips and, in particular, Kaleidoscope McDaniels.

No one would argue that this particular comic strip has not crossed the line on several occasions; however, what some do argue is that the line should never be crossed, while others argue that "crossing the line" is simply an opportunity for a different kind of humor and possibly more of it. Regrettably and with sincere apologies to those offended, I admit I have laughed on occasion at Kaleidoscope McDaniels, but with every due respect to Liam Moran, nothing can be more distasteful than my giggling at others' expense.

Since I am a fan of analogies, here is one that should illustrate my point: It is quite easy to make food taste good if you add a lot of butter and other fatty things to the mix. So on one hand, your brownie fudge creation and dining hall waffles with chocolate chips and whipped cream — yes, they taste like heaven. Certainly, we realize these things are bad for us, but when something tastes so good, we tend to justify and rationalize our desire for them. ("I just had a really tough week; I deserve that brownie.")

On the other hand, it takes so much skill and talent to prepare a dish using vegetables, fruit and all those things that we normally find to be boring and make it more delicious even than those fatty deserts. Not only that, but we find that our knowledge of all its health benefits makes the meal that much more appetizing; we desire to eat it again and soon.

Kaleidoscope McDaniels tends to be a fatty, puffed-up pastry with nothing to offer except a few thousand calories and a sore tummy. Much of the time, I find that this pastry isn't even that good. CroissantWorld, on its good days, can be a quite satisfying meal and, indeed, I look forward to seeing it again.

Let us not be fooled with amateurish cookery; let us enjoy our comedy.

Dan Amiri
sophomore
Alumni Hall
April 13

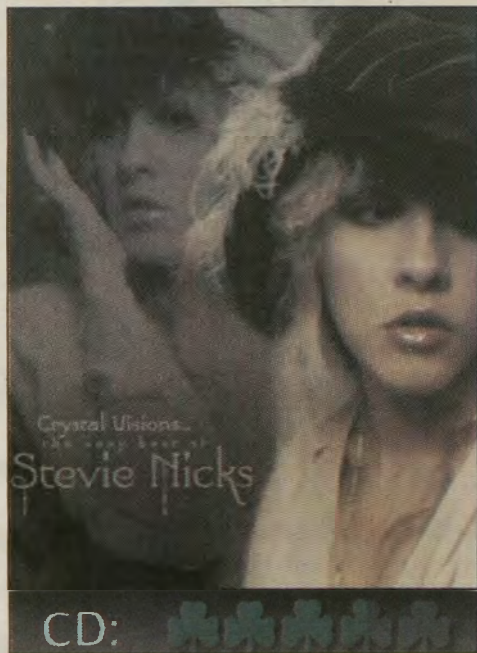
Recycle The
Observer.

CD REVIEW

Nicks croons '80s best with 'Crystal Visions'

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

Self-billed as the most successful woman in rock 'n' roll history, Stevie Nicks has roller-coastered through a career with rock legends Fleetwood Mac and ventured out on her own to a very successful solo career. With the recently released "Crystal Visions," Nicks comprises the highs — and lows — of her musical history. She joins with musical greats Tom Petty, Don Henley and former bandmates Fleetwood Mac on this mostly stellar, sometimes mediocre album.



Opening with the hit "Edge of Seventeen," Nicks holds nothing back with her most famous of songs. Crooning in perfect '80s rock style about the white wing dove, Nicks realizes what teenagedom was about. Remade famously by Joan Cusack's impromptu signing in "School of Rock," this '80s ballad will always remain iconic.

The heavy chords of "I Can't Wait" keep the rock juices pumping with some edgy and flamboyant guitars that match perfectly to the techno beats in the background. The '80s are encapsulated in this rock/techno jam that will make any child of that blessed decade yearn for a comeback of John Hughes, Bon Jovi and Van Halen. Nicks roughs up her voice and weaves through the guitar solos showing why this song was an instant classic.

Following the one-two punch that "Edge of Seventeen" and "I Can't Wait" make up, she brings in rock legend Tom Petty to help on "Stop Draggin' My Heart Around." This is one of the weaker songs on the album because it can't decide if it wants to be a Petty or Nicks song. It tries to be both, but doesn't do either very well. Petty's guitar is prominent and it tunes up a fairly decent rhythm. But the chorus transitions into an '80s riff more akin to Nicks. The dichotomy between the two parts doesn't fit and brings down a song that could have been great.

What didn't work with Tom Petty works marvelously well with Don Henley on one of the closing tracks, "Leather and Lace." This track delves into Nicks's folk side while not ignoring her rock side. Nicks sings in a very competent country style that listens to country greats before the pop revolution that is now overtaking the genre came into effect.



Photo courtesy of nicksfix.com

Stevie Nicks gained star power as a member of Fleetwood Mac and had a very successful career as a solo artist with a blend of '80s rock and '70s folk.

Don Henley's calm yet moving guitars complement Nicks perfectly. As do the sections when Henley exercises his soothingly edgy voice that wouldn't normally seem at home amongst a folk song.

The album closes with a live version of "Edge of Seventeen" that rocks harder than the studio version. The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra plays alongside Nicks that is far more a successful combination that it would seem. The orchestra sound next to the electric guitar brings memories of Metallica's foray into orchestra rock. Obviously not the same, this version still brings some rock power next to a equally

powerful strings section.

All in all, this album is for any Nicks fan — her career is very well summed up in this good compilation. Eighties rock is still alive and well with the edgy Nicks, and as long as people still remember what "The Breakfast Club" was all about, Nicks will still have a relevant place in the American music scene. Where more music has gone the way of the pop talent eraser, Nicks holds nothing back and puts violins next to her big hair.

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COMIC REVIEW

Re-buffed 'Buffy' continues in comic book series

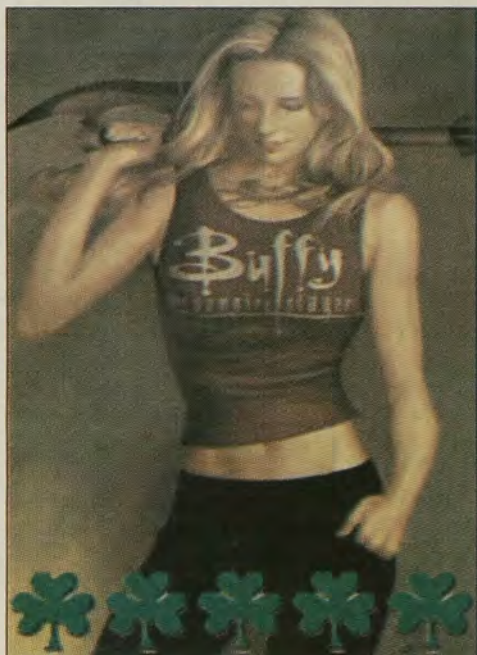
By MARCELA BERRIOS
Scene Critic

Buffy the vampire slayer is slaying vampires again.

The television series may have ended in 2003, but the blonde heroine with the arsenal of stakes and sharp punch lines returned in 2007 with more adventures — but this time, on comic book stands.

Series creator Joss Whedon launched the anticipated eighth season of the series in print last March, enlisting the help of Dark Horse Comics to pick up the storyline where the television finale had left it.

"When you create a universe, you don't stop living in that universe. I know a lot of the fans didn't," Whedon told the Chicago



Tribune. "But I was surprised to find myself back in it so firmly as well."

He certainly made a firm comeback.

For people who memorize Buffy dialogue and dissected the characters' psyches throughout the series' seven-year run, the first two installments of the paperback eighth season are absolutely delightful.

Comic book Buffy sounds like Sarah Michelle Gellar's Buffy, talking about hairstyles as she teaches her apprentice slayers about martial arts.

"One slayer fighting alone is formidable. Two is formidabler," she tells them. "Three? Mega-formidable. And after mega, it goes to mondo, then super, hyper, beaucoup d', crazy, stupid. ... It gets exponentially prefixy."

Fans of the series will cry after reading those lines because that tone and diction epitomize Buffy dialogue, and after a four-year hiatus, it's back in full force.

Buffy's steadfast sidekick, Xander Harris, is also back, sporting commando gear by day, duckling pajamas by night and the eye patch he began wearing in the TV series.

The eye patch and his role as the commander of Buffy's legion of clandestine slayers have Xander asking his subordinates to call him Sergeant Fury, alluding to Marvel Comics super spy Nick Fury.

"Buffy" buffs' happiness could only be completed now by the appearance of Buffy's former vampire flames, Angel and Spike, in the near future, which Whedon has promised. In fact, as Buffy falls into a spell that can only be broken by the kiss of true love toward the end of the second issue, Whedon may get the opportunity to keep his promise in next month's book.

But there are other storylines that can keep readers busy before Buffy's romantics take center stage again. For example, the federal government has branded the slayer



Photo courtesy of new-dream.de

Starring Sarah Michelle Gellar, third from right, the television series "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" has been adapted into a comic book series issued by Dark Horse.

and her followers terrorists operating in cells scattered across the globe, blaming them for the destruction of Buffy's hometown, Sunnydale, Calif., in the last television episode.

Up until this point fans might have settled for the comic books as a satisfactory form of continuation for the Buffy universe but most are probably convinced the television series would always be Buffy's optimal avenue.

After re-reading the first two issues, however, fans might find themselves warming up to the comic books more than they thought they would.

Budget and technology restraints would've made a giant-sized Dawn impossible for the television series, and the monsters Buffy has battled in the comic books

already surpass the ones Gellar's stunt double fought. In print, Buffy can jump out of helicopters and battle dragon-like creatures at no extra cost and without resorting to costly digital effects that would have obsolete when the show aired.

In the third issue, readers can expect to see a witch-against-witch duel and the slayers battle against a legion of zombies. The pencils alone will determine the scale of these melees.

The script is well written, the graphics are eye candy and the wit and characters that made the television series No. 41 in TV Guide's "50 Greatest TV Shows of All Time" are all present.

Contact Marcela Berrios at aberrios@nd.edu



Delusions of Bookstore Basketball grandeur

Preparation is the key to success. So going into this year's Bookstore basketball campaign, myself and the other members of Team 528 (name censored by the Bookstore commission and probably unprintable here) decided to do our homework and scout out the competition for our first-round matchup.

In other words, we Facebook-stalked the opposing team's captain, who turned out to be a female student. All right, we thought. Girls team. Easy win. So we did the chivalrous thing and invited the opposing team over for a pre-game get-together to get warmed up for the big event in the spirit of friendly competition.

Unfortunately for us, little did we expect said team to arrive with a female captain and friend, but also packing three guys in tow. We had been Trojan horsed! Team morale was low as we trudged out to Stepan Courts for our play-in game.

On a cold, blustery April night (only in South Bend), the Stepan basketball courts witnessed the first and probably only Bookstore victory by the members of Team 528. After braving the elements and under the protective and loving gaze of an NDSP patrol car, we eked out a hard-fought 21-8 victory. By packing it in and creating an impregnable 2-3 zone defense, which combined with the swirling snow and frostbitten fingers to make outside shooting a virtual impossibility. It wasn't pretty, it wasn't



Tae Andrews

Scene Editor

flashy, but a win's a win and we finally broke through to the exalted promised land of the second round of Bookstore.

Team morale was high. And then we ran into a brick wall. After checking out the bracket, we noticed that Team 528 was slated to play the 16th-seeded team in the tournament. Needless to say, we got a bad draw. Obviously, this didn't bode well for our chances, but hey, if George Mason could make it to the Final Four of last year's NCAA Tournament, anything's possible right?

Wrong. From the moment we arrived at the Bookstore courts, things went from bad to worse. Our opponents arrived with a lot of fanfare, complete with an intimidating cheering section, a team coach, guys dressed in suits, a bunch of hangers-on and even a clown or two. Even worse, they packed a boom box blaring Jock Jams. Talk about intimidating.

And then there were our opponents themselves, who were approximately eight feet tall each and were decked out in '90s-era NBA jerseys. In other words, they looked like the MonStars from the hit kids film "Space Jam." Unfortunately for us, Michael Jordan didn't arrive to save the day, although the end result was certainly comical.

We laid an egg. Literally. As in a goose egg. As in, when the final buzzer sounded there were zeros across the scoreboard on our side. As in, a complete-game shutout. The game basically consisted of a glorified game of Whack-a-Mole.

We tried everything: the pick-and-roll, the give-and-go and even a basketball version of "the Flying V." To make things even worse, we all seemed to suffer from a sud-



CHRIS WILLIAMS/Observer Photo

Bookstore Basketball brings out zany costumes, cheering fans and competition. Some teams seek to win while others merely play to have fun.

den and near-total loss of hand-eye coordination, and we coughed up more turnovers than a baker being mugged.

But Team Hobbit (as I dubbed our squad) took solace in two things — first, one of my teammates managed to reject one of the MonStars despite his being eight feet tall; and second, none of the MonStars dunked on us, despite being eight feet tall. So all things considered, it didn't go too badly. Actually, that's incorrect. I would say that things could have gone worse, but given that we didn't score any points, that probably isn't true.

Anyways, hope springs eternal and fortunately we have one remaining year left of Bookstore eligibility (we've all decided to stay in school and not leave early to declare for the NBA draft), so with a little practice and some luck, we'll be back. There's always next year (at least until you graduate).

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

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Best films often dispelled to cinematic obscurity

All careers have peaks and valleys, and even our best movie directors are no exception.

There are a lot of movies that we can all agree on — Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan," Martin Scorsese's "The Departed" and The Coen Brothers' "Fargo." But there are also a lot of overrated and underrated films in those directors' oeuvre. Here's my take on a few of the more over and underrated films from some of the top American directors.



Brian Duxtader

Senior Staff Writer

Steven Spielberg

The over: "Schindler's List" (1993)

I hesitated to talk about "Schindler's List," but it's important to separate the film as cinema from its content. I have issues with "Schindler's List" — it's a bit too long and (most pressingly) everyone speaks English. I understand that Spielberg wanted the film to reach as wide an audience as possible, but I think viewers would have dealt with subtitles for the sake of authenticity. I'm also not crazy about the ending because (like many Spielberg films) it dips into over-written sentimentality, where silent understatement would have worked equally well.

The under: "Minority Report" (2002)

"Minority Report" isn't just a great film, it's a ripping good yarn with an entertaining and thought-provoking plot. This is perhaps Spielberg's best marriage of ideas and action, preserving the core of Philip K. Dick's story while attaching it to an incredibly well-made action piece. It's also one of his strangest and

quirkiest films, which makes it as endearing as any of his most beloved pieces. Plus, Spielberg milks a surprisingly great performance from Colin Farrell that alone makes it one of the director's most accomplished works.

Martin Scorsese

The over: "Taxi Driver" (1976)

I've mentioned before that I think "Taxi Driver" is overrated. Not to say it's not a great film (it is), but parts of it feel terribly outdated, and the film meanders more than any other Scorsese piece (including "Mean Streets"). Unlike his other films, "Taxi Driver" feels like the time period it's from — the film seeps the 1970s, when it was clearly trying to achieve something more timeless. Robert DeNiro's fantastic performance is what holds "Taxi Driver" together, but it's almost novelistic in nature, which hurts it cinematically.

The under: "The Last Temptation of Christ" (1988)

For some reason, this film gets left out of conversations involving the great Scorsese films, but it's his most personal and passionate work. The controversy surrounding "Last Temptation" might have hurt its reputation, but anyone who can see through that will see that it's one of Scorsese's most consistently thought-provoking works. It's also filled with underrated performances, especially Willem Dafoe's tortured Christ, which remains one of the strangest and most emotionally effective portrayals of Jesus ever committed to celluloid.

The Coen Brothers

The over: "The Big Lebowski" (1998)

The Coens' follow-up to "Fargo" was received with ambivalence upon its original release, but the film's reputation has grown,



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Jeff Bridges, left, and John Goodman star in "The Big Lebowski." While flopping at the box office, it has since become a Coen brothers cult classic.

and it's now considered one of their classics. Unfortunately, it's not quite as good as everyone says it is.

It's funny, sure, but it meanders badly and its "cooler-than-cool" post-"Pulp Fiction" attitude means that it's a grand statement of style over substance.

The under: "Miller's Crossing" (1990)

What a spectacular and underrated film this is. Stylish to an extreme, "Miller's Crossing" isn't a film about gangsters, it's a gangster film. The Coens aren't interested in authenticity and they come off as guys who saw a bunch of old mafia films and decided to try their hand ... and strangely enough, it

works.

It's got all the trademarks of the Coens' best work, with quirky characters and odd-ball dialogue, but attached to a darkly serious undertone. It also has some of their best setpieces, including a famous scene set in the forest that features some excellent acting from Gabriel Byrne and John Turturro, set against gorgeous cinematography by Barry Sonnenfeld.

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

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NHL

Detroit uses power-play goals to beat Calgary

Alfredsson scores two second-period goals to help Senators beat Penguins 4-2, regain control of tight series

Associated Press

DETROIT — The Calgary Flames dug a hole early with penalties and Detroit kept them in it.

Pavel Datsyuk and Nicklas Lidstrom scored within the first 4 minutes Sunday and Detroit went on to beat Calgary 3-1, taking a 2-0 lead in their first-round series.

Calgary had five penalties — two of which led to Lidstrom's goal — in the first 8:13 of the game.

"Getting the power plays early let us get momentum," Lidstrom said. "It helped tremendously."

The Flames seemed to unravel in the opening period, getting penalized twice for cross-checking in a two-minute span.

"Our game plan was to be more disciplined and be harder on the puck and not take unnecessary penalties," Calgary coach Jim Playfair said. "Obviously, that was a problem."

Game 3 is Tuesday night at Calgary.

The Flames can only hope returning home — where they won an NHL-high 30 games during the regular season — will help them slow the Western Conference's top-seeded team.

"They're very good in their building," Detroit coach Mike Babcock said. "We really wanted to take care of our business at home."

Detroit led 2-0 early in the first period for the second straight game, scoring two goals even quicker than the 8 1/2 minutes it took Thursday night.

"Both games off the start, we spotted them two because of our lack of control," Flames star Jarome Iginla said.

Unlike in the previous game, Detroit didn't add two unanswered goals in the second period en route to a 4-1 victory.

Calgary's Dion Phaneuf scored a power-play goal early in the second period on a shot that was deflected and fluttered past Dominik Hasek's glove.

The Flames went into the third within a goal because of that key score and Miikka Kiprusoff's 33 saves through two periods.

Even though Calgary closed in on Detroit, Hasek wasn't worried.

"We were a better team in the second period," he said.

Senators 4, Penguins 2

The Ottawa Senators could live with giving away one game



Ottawa winger Chris Neil checks Pittsburgh winger Sidney Crosby after his shot attempt on goaltender Ray Emery. The Senators won the game 4-2 Sunday to take a 2-1 series lead.

to Pittsburgh. What they were determined not to do was give away another playoff series.

Daniel Alfredsson scored twice during a second dominating Ottawa second period in as many days. The Senators made this lead stand, taking Pittsburgh's stars and its crowd out of the game for a victory Sunday in Game 3 of their first-round series.

The Senators seized back home-ice advantage — they have as many as two home games remaining in the series — by slowing Pittsburgh's stars and getting two key goals from one of their own in Alfredsson.

Ottawa, rebounding from a 4-3 loss at home barely 24 hours before in which it twice squandered third-period leads, takes a 2-1 lead into Game 4 on Tuesday night. Game 5 follows in Ottawa on Thursday.

"We can't afford to get down 3-1," the Penguins' Gary Roberts said. "We know that. We've got to come out with a much better effort Tuesday."

The Senators have been in control for all but 1 1/2 periods of the series, winning 6-3 in Game 1. Only this time — unlike Saturday, when the Penguins came back with three goals in the third period — they have the victory and the series

lead to prove it.

"We should have probably buried them the other night and we didn't, but we put it behind us and did tonight," said Jason Spezza, who is well-versed in the lengthy list of Senators playoff failures over the last 10 years.

Ducks 2, Wild 1

All seven games between the Anaheim Ducks and Minnesota Wild this season have been decided by one goal.

The Ducks sure have the edge, though, after using a dominant, smothering defense and superior special teams to take a 3-0 lead over the Wild in this Western Conference quarterfinal.

Andy McDonald scored early, Rob Niedermayer scored late, and goalie Ilya Bryzgalov stopped 19 shots to lead Anaheim past Minnesota on Sunday night.

"We didn't give them much," said Niedermayer, whose goal was his first since Feb. 6. "We didn't have many turnovers and didn't give up any odd-man rushes and cycled the puck down low. That's our game, that's our strength, and that's what we have to play to."

Game 4 will be played here Tuesday night, giving the Wild

one last chance to get their power play going. Frustrated all week by Ducks star defenseman Scott Niedermayer and Chris Pronger and their lesser-known teammates, they went 1-for-5 on the power play and are 1-for-15 in the series.

And that goal, by Petteri Nummelin, didn't come until 38.2 seconds remained — the only blemish on another strong game by Bryzgalov.

"It's a credit to our guys who have spent a lot of time working on it, studying them and what they do," McDonald said. "They've been good for us all year, and they showed again tonight we are able to be successful on the penalty kill."

Anaheim just kept clogging the lanes, Minnesota made questionable decisions and rarely found space to make crisp, clean passes — let alone attempt clear shots. But the Wild, who always stress a defensively sound approach, wished they would have put more pucks on the net.

"Everyone was saying, 'Shoot the puck! Shoot the puck!' on the bench and then they went back on the ice and they didn't shoot it," coach Jacques Lemaire said. "The guys recognized the mistakes we were making and couldn't adjust."



Red Wings center Robert Lang crashes into the boards after being checked by Calgary defenseman Brad Stuart in Detroit's 3-1 win Sunday.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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AROUND THE NATION

Monday, April 16, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Toronto	46-33	32-17	8-2
New Jersey	39-41	29-21	7-3
Philadelphia	33-46	22-27	6-4
New York	32-47	21-28	2-8
Boston	23-56	15-34	3-7

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Detroit	51-28	34-15	7-3
Chicago	49-32	36-15	8-2
Cleveland	48-32	29-21	6-4
Indiana	35-45	25-25	4-6
Milwaukee	27-53	14-36	2-8

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Miami	44-36	27-23	6-4
Washington	40-40	26-24	2-8
Orlando	37-42	23-26	6-4
Charlotte	33-48	24-27	7-3
Atlanta	29-51	16-24	2-8

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Utah	49-31	30-20	3-7
Denver	43-37	25-25	8-2
Portland	32-48	19-31	3-7
Minnesota	32-48	18-32	2-8
Seattle	31-49	18-32	3-7

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Phoenix	61-19	36-14	8-2
L.A. Lakers	40-40	26-24	2-8
Golden State	40-40	26-24	7-3
L.A. Clippers	39-41	22-28	5-5
Sacramento	33-47	18-32	3-7

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Dallas	66-14	39-11	7-3
San Antonio	58-22	38-12	8-2
Houston	51-29	27-23	7-3
New Orleans	37-43	21-29	5-5
Memphis	20-60	12-38	3-7

NCAA Women's Lacrosse IWLCA Top 20

	team	points	prev.
1	Northwestern	300	1
2	Maryland	281	3
3	North Carolina	259	2
4	Duke	254	4
5	Virginia	240	5
6	Penn	238	11
7	James Madison	206	6
8	Penn State	199	10
9	Georgetown	180	7
10	Syracuse	159	8
11	NOTRE DAME	149	12
12	Yale	135	15
13	Princeton	120	9
14	Dartmouth	106	16
15	Vanderbilt	90	17
16	Johns Hopkins	82	13
17	Denver	58	14
18	Rutgers	44	18
19	UConn	27	19
20	Deleware	12	20

OLYMPICS



Former Olympian Michael Conley, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, and Chicago 2016 Exploratory Committee Chairmand Patrick Ryan talk shortly before Chicago won the U.S. nomination to host the 2016 Summer Games.

USOC picks Chicago for Olympic bid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Now Chicago takes on the rest of the world.

The Windy City's bid to hold a Summer Games for the first time moved to the international stage Saturday when the U.S. Olympic Committee capped a yearlong search for an American candidate for 2016 by picking Chicago over two-time host Los Angeles.

"It's just beginning," said Patrick Ryan, Chicago's bid committee chairman. "It's a long road."

Having won over the USOC despite lacking

venues ready for an Olympics, Chicago's task is to persuade the International Olympic Committee that it deserves to be the host, joining a group of bidders expected to include Madrid, Prague, Rome, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo.

The IOC will award the 2016 Games in October 2009.

"This contest ultimately is not about the economics, it's not about the surplus, it's about the magic that can be created through the Olympic and Paralympic games, and how that by itself can transform a city, can

transform a nation, can transform the world," USOC chief executive officer Jim Scherr said. "And so we look forward to trying to earn that prize."

The USOC had said beforehand it would not release Saturday's vote count and stuck to that policy.

"It was a very tough decision," USOC chairman Peter Ueberroth said before opening a sealed envelope and revealing the winning city. "If I had all the power — and sometimes people accuse me of that — I would take the map and merge the two cities,

because I'll tell you what: If you could take the mayors of these two communities and have them run our country, we would all be better off."

Chicago, meanwhile, offered a bid that hinges on new facilities, mostly situated around the downtown lakefront and nearby parks. The centerpiece would be an 80,000-seat, \$366 million temporary Olympic stadium that would be built in historic Washington Park. Chicago's plans also call for a \$1.1 billion lakefront village that would be built near the convention center just south of downtown.

IN BRIEF

Yankees lose Mussina, Pavano to 15-day DL

OAKLAND, Calif. — Mike Mussina and Carl Pavano joined fellow Yankees starter Chien Ming-Wang on the disabled list Sunday, further depleting New York's already taxed pitching staff.

"Nobody wants that," Mussina said after cutting short his throwing session because of pain in his injured left hamstring. "We don't have a choice. You just find a way to get through it and deal with it. It's unfortunate. ... Nobody's having surgery. A couple of muscle pulls, a strain, we'll be fine."

After a pair of extra-inning games Friday and Saturday against Oakland, the Yankees called up right-hander Chris Britton from Triple-A Scranton to give them a fresh arm in the bullpen for Sunday's series finale against the reigning AL West champion.

Vikings cornerback arrested on disorderly conduct charge

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Vikings cornerback Cedric Griffin was freed on \$50 bail after being arrested early Sunday in downtown Minneapolis and charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct, authorities said.

Griffin, 24, was released from the Hennepin County jail at 4:45 a.m.

Two witnesses told KSTP-TV that the Vikings cornerback was thrown out of the Spin nightclub for not pulling up his pants. The club has a dress code requiring that pants not sag below the waist.

The witnesses said Griffin then had a dustup with bouncers and police before being taken away in handcuffs.

A court appearance for Griffin is scheduled Friday.

A Vikings team spokesman declined comment.

King pushes for undisputed boxing world champ

STUTTGART, Germany — Promoter Don King wants to restore the magic of heavyweight boxing through a series of fights that will crown one undisputed world champion, and he believes it can be done before the end of 2008.

"I think the title should be unified. To have one undisputed, identifiable world champion would make everything better," King told Reuters in an exclusive interview.

"It would restore the magic," he said. "Within 18 months," he said, when asked how long it would take before one boxer holds the World Boxing Association (WBA), World Boxing Organization (WBO), World Boxing Council (WBC) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight titles.

Mike Tyson of the United States was the last undisputed heavyweight world champion in 1989-1990.

around the dial

MLB

Mets at Phillies
7:00 p.m., ESPN

MLB — NATIONAL LEAGUE

Clark leads D'backs over Rockies 6-4

Pujols busts out of slump, Reds shut out Cubs in Chicago

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Tony Clark is a graybeard among all the youngsters in the Arizona Diamondbacks' lineup, and he gave the kids a lesson in power hitting on Sunday.

Clark drove in three runs with two homers and the Diamondbacks beat Colorado 6-4 to take two of three from the Rockies.

It was the 22nd multi-homer game for the 34-year-old Clark, one of many major leaguers who wore a No. 42 jersey to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's major league debut.

Orlando Hudson, another who wore No. 42, went 2-for-3 for Arizona for his eighth multiple-hit game this season, pushing his average to .412. Todd Helton hit his first home run of the season for the Rockies, a solo shot in the fourth.

After getting the first two outs in the ninth, Jose Valverde walked Helton and Matt Holliday. Valverde then struck out Jeff Baker looking for his sixth save in seven chances.

The Diamondbacks jumped on Colorado's Byung-Hyun Kim for four runs in the first inning after the Rockies had scored a pair off Doug Davis. Kim, the former Diamondback, was on the mound because scheduled starter Rodrigo Lopez was pushed back to Wednesday because of right elbow inflammation.

Arizona loaded the bases without an out on a walk to Stephen Drew and singles by Alberto Callaspo and Orlando Hudson. Two scored on sacrifice flies by Chad Tracy and Eric Brynes, then Clark hit a 2-0 pitch 420 feet onto the walkway in center field, a two-run homer that made it 4-2.

Willie Taveras' suicide squeeze bunt brought Troy Tulowitzki in from third to make it 4-3 in the second inning, then Helton — who had singled in a run in the first — lined one into the left-center seats to tie it at 4.

Clark's second homer, leading off the fourth, put Arizona ahead 5-4. Kim (1-2) left after that with a bruised right thumb. The ex-Diamondback closer pitched three-plus innings, allowing five runs on five hits.

Davis (1-1), acquired in the off-season in a trade that sent catcher Johnny Estrada to Milwaukee, struggled to the victory, throwing 112 pitches in five innings, giving up four runs on nine hits and walking four.

Cardinals 10, Brewers 2

Now that his April drought is over, Albert Pujols says he was never worried about the unsightly numbers next to his name.

Pujols homered twice and had five RBIs, leading a 13-hit attack that helped the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday. Afterward, he chided reporters for writing about his early woes.

"Obviously, this year hasn't been working out early," Pujols said. "But just because I haven't

found myself at the plate I don't want to go crazy."

Converted reliever Braden Looper was effective in his third straight start for the Cardinals, who scored four runs during an 0-4 start at Busch Stadium. Their first home victory since beating the Tigers in Game 5 of the World Series came against Brewers ace Ben Sheets (1-2), who fell to 4-14 in 22 career starts against St. Louis.

"I don't think I always struggle," said Sheets, who has a 4.36 career ERA against the Cardinals. "I don't come out on the winning end all the time, but I've had plenty of good games against these guys and I've had plenty of games like today against these guys."

Pujols, who hit a major league-record 14 homers last April, has three this month after lining a 2-0 Sheets fastball into the Brewers' bullpen to give the Cardinals a 3-2 lead in the first inning and then connecting off Elmer Dessens leading off the eighth. Pujols entered the game batting .158 with two RBIs and left it with a .186 average after his 17th career multihomer game.

"It's a good day," teammate Preston Wilson said. "Anytime you have a day where the superstar in your lineup kind of starts heating up, it makes the whole team feel good."

Reds 1, Cubs 0

There were runners on first and third with the middle of the order coming up, but Kyle Lohse didn't flinch.

Instead, he struck out Jacques Jones lunging at an outside changeup. He caught Derrek Lee looking. And then, he got Michael Barrett on a fly to right to end the sixth inning.

What could have been a game-turning rally was instead a defining moment for Lohse.

The right-hander struck out a career-high 12 in eight innings, outpitching Ted Lilly to lead the Cincinnati Reds to a victory over the Chicago Cubs on Sunday.

"That's a big confidence boost when you can face that part of the lineup with men on first and third and no outs and get the two strike outs," Lohse said. "That's what we need right there to come through in that situation."

Lohse (1-0) allowed four hits and one walk. Three of those hits were by Ryan Theriot, but the Cubs couldn't muster much else against Lohse. So Jeff Conine's RBI single in the fourth was enough for the Reds.

Chicago wasted another solid outing by Lilly (1-1), who allowed a run and two hits while striking out 10 and walking one in six innings. It was his ninth game with 10 or more strikeouts and his first since June 10 with Toronto.

David Weathers got two outs for his fifth save in five chances. With one out and a man on, Barrett hit Weathers' 3-2 pitch deep down the left-field line, but it just hooked foul. Barrett flied out to right on the next pitch.

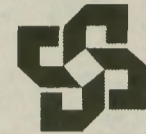
Lilly, who held Cincinnati to a run in seven innings in a win on April 4, walked Brandon Phillips leading off the fourth. And after Phillips stole second and Josh Hamilton struck out, Conine drove Phillips in with a single to left.

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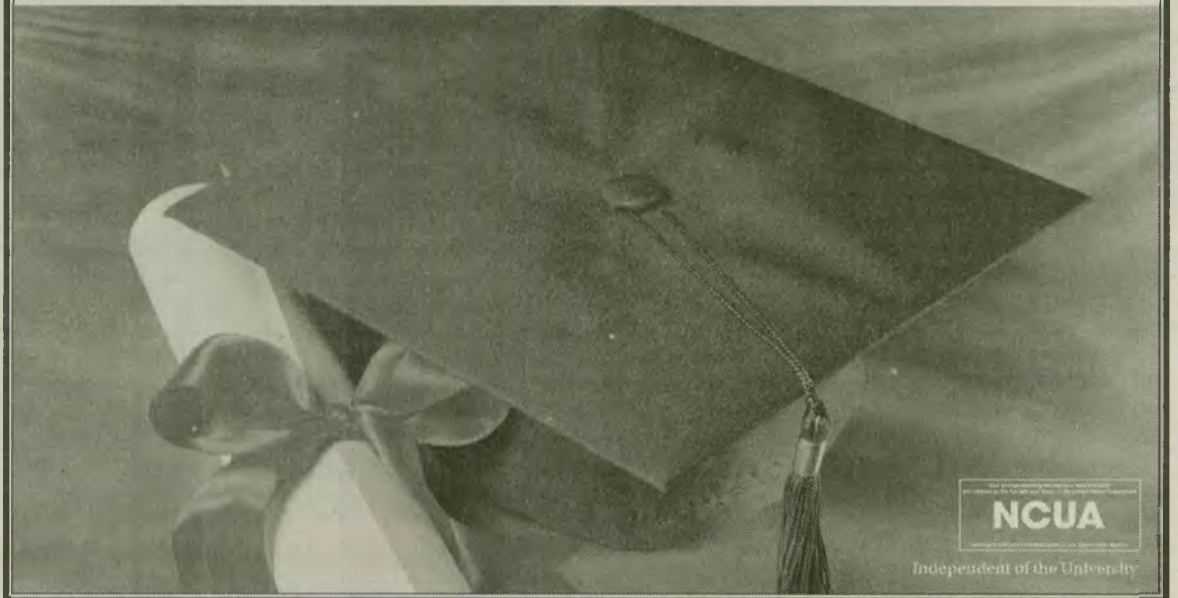
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MLB — AMERICAN LEAGUE

Scotaro homers off Rivera to lift A's over Yanks

Towers shuts down Detroit as Jays gets win, Vidro whacks two dingers in Mariners' victory

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — With one stunning swing against Mariano Rivera, Marco Scutaro gave the Oakland Athletics their first series victory of the season.

Scutaro hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning, sending the A's to a 5-4 win over the New York Yankees on Sunday.

Scutaro drove an 0-2 pitch from Rivera off the screen just inside the left-field foul pole for the second game-ending homer of his career. The other came on Aug. 25, 2004, against Baltimore.

It spoiled a strong start by Andy Pettitte, who gave the Yankees the quality outing they desperately needed. Before the game, New York put starting pitchers Mike Mussina and Carl Pavano on the disabled list.

Rivera, who blew his first save chance of the season, got two quick outs in the ninth before Todd Walker singled for Oakland's first hit since the third inning. Jason Kendall then walked, bringing up Scutaro.

The super-sub was only in the lineup as a last-minute fill-in for injured second baseman Mark Ellis.

Oakland took two of three from the Yankees after going winless in its first three series.

The first two games went to extra innings, taxing both bullpens.

Pettitte overcame a rough first inning to pitch seven innings, outlasting Oakland right-hander Rich Harden.

Jorge Posada hit an RBI double in New York's three-run seventh, when the Yankees also got consecutive sacrifice flies from Robinson Cano and Melky Cabrera.

Alex Rodriguez added a sacrifice fly in the eighth to make it 4-2.

Pettitte allowed five hits and two runs — one earned. He struck out four and walked one. He gave up a first-inning run for the first time in 16 starts, which was the longest current streak among active pitchers.

Harden decided at the last minute to honor Jackie Robinson and wear No. 42 on the 60th anniversary of Robinson breaking baseball's color barrier, then dazzled through six innings with seven strikeouts before leaving with tightness in his throwing shoulder.

Cano, named after Robinson, wore No. 42 along with manager Joe Torre and shortstop Derek Jeter. Rivera already wears No. 42 on his jersey.

Blue Jays 2, Tigers 1

Josh Towers turned a chorus

of boos into a standing ovation.

Towers allowed one unearned run over 7 2-3 solid innings, John McDonald drove in the go-ahead run with a seventh-inning single and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Detroit Tigers on Sunday.

"He was outstanding today against a good lineup," said Blue Jays manager John Gibbons. "Tip your hat to the kid. He needed that and we needed that."

Towers (1-1) posted his first win as a starter since last May 14 at Tampa Bay. He began last season 0-9, finishing 2-10 with an 8.42 ERA.

"It's been a long road for him the last year," Gibbons said. "He did it the right way today. That should go a long way to improving his confidence."

On Sunday, the 30-year-old right-hander allowed one unearned run, walked one, struck out four and retired 12 straight batters between the second and seventh innings. He was booed twice by Toronto fans in the first two innings but walked off to a cheers from the crowd of 25,983.

"I haven't done much here lately to get cheered, especially last year," said Towers, adding that he won without his best stuff.

"Truthfully, I didn't really feel that good with my stuff today,"

he said. "We shied away from the change-up and the curveball because it really wasn't doing anything, kind of just stayed with the fastball and slider. Zaunie (catcher Gregg Zaun) did a great job of mixing it up and calling the right game when he knew my game wasn't really there."

Mariners 14, Rangers 6

Jose Vidro homered into the right field seats in his first two at-bats, and Ichiro Suzuki had four hits in the Seattle Mariners' win over the Texas Rangers on Sunday.

Suzuki led off with his 21st career home run and one out later Vidro connected for a solo shot, quickly erasing a 2-0 deficit and setting the tone for the afternoon. Vidro then hit a three-run homer in the second inning, the first of Seattle's two four-run innings. It was Vidro's sixth career two-homer game, the last coming in 2003 while with Montreal.

It was the 26th career four-hit game for Suzuki, who snapped an 0-for-13 slump on Saturday. Adrian Beltre lined a three-run homer high off the left field foul pole in the seventh inning, and had four RBIs.

The top three hitters in Seattle's order — Suzuki, Beltre and Vidro — were 9-for-14 with 10 RBIs and nine runs scored.

That was more than enough offense for Horacio Ramirez, who made his first official start for Seattle, 14 days into the season. Ramirez started on April 6 at Cleveland, but a snow storm forced the game to be called one strike short of being official. Ramirez trailed that game 4-0, but his slate was wiped clean.

Ramirez (1-0) allowed Sammy Sosa's two-out, two-run single off the left field wall in the first, then held the Rangers mostly in check. He pitched six innings, giving up seven hits and one earned run, picking up his first win since July 17 of last year while with Atlanta.

Texas starter Brandon McCarthy (1-2) lasted two innings, giving up six runs and six hits including a trio of homers. It was the shortest outing in McCarthy's 15 career starts.

Suzuki started Seattle's second four-run inning with a one-out bunt single in the fourth. Beltre walked and Vidro's infield single loaded the bases.

Raul Ibanez then lined a shot past pitcher Kameron Loe into center field, scoring two.

After a groundout, Texas third baseman Matt Kata made his second error of the day, misplaying the hop on Jose Guillen's chopper, allowing Vidro to score.

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TRACK AND FIELD

Irish earn qualifying times in seven events

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Seven seems to be the lucky number for Notre Dame track and field.

The Irish achieved new or improved NCAA Mideast regional qualifying times in seven different events this weekend and garnered 18 new Big East qualifying times. The team split up, sending some athletes to the Mount San Antonio College (SAC) Relays in Walnut, Calif., others to the Azusa Pacific Invitational in Azusa, Calif., and still others to East Lansing, Mich., for the Michigan State Spartan Invitational.

Two Irish athletes, sophomore pole vaulter Mary Saxer and sophomore high jumper Blair Majcina, earned their first regional berth this weekend. Majcina finished third at Mount SAC, clearing 6

feet, 10.75 inches.

"It's definitely a step toward something else I'm going for, it's nice to at least get to regionals," Majcina said. "My goal is to get to the NCAAs."

At the regionals, Majcina has the opportunity to do so. The top five finishers in each event from each of the four regions advance to the NCAA Championships.

That height tied Majcina with his collegiate career best, set in 2006 at the Hillsdale Gina Relays. Majcina, who had suffered a rare leg muscle affliction called compartment syndrome that required surgery and hampered him for over a year, was happy to be back so quickly and was pleased with his performance in practice.

"I was able to relax because I had done so well in practice," he said. "I could trust myself and relax, and it all came together."

Saxer won the pole vault at the

Spartan Invitational with a cleared height of 12 feet, 5.5 inches.

Senior Molly Huddle ran the second-fastest time in the country this year in the 5,000 meters. Her finish of 15:32.83 was also the second-quickest in school history, behind her own previous record of 15:32.55, set at the 2004 Mount SAC Relays. Huddle has won the 5,000 meters at the regionals each of the past three years.

With her time, Huddle also qualified for the USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Huddle finished ninth (first among collegiate athletes) at the USATF Outdoor Championship meet in 2005 and seventh (again, best of the collegiate athletes) at the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials.

Going into the meet, Huddle was already qualified for both the regional and USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships and could focus solely on this race.

"It was nice to have no pressure and just focus on running a fast time and trying to place in the top half of the field, which was my goal going into the race," she said.

Despite her experience against top competition, Huddle said this year's Mount SAC was the toughest race of her career.

"The competition was the deepest field I've ever raced in my entire life," she said. "I knew it would be really fast from the gun. I was just trying not to be intimidated and to not race over my head yet still take advantage of the great competition."

Four other Irish athletes improved their regional qualifying positions. Freshmen Balazs Molnar finished second in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 51.87 seconds. Molnar's time was the second-best in the history of

Notre Dame track and field and the fastest since 1957.

Junior Kyle Annen placed seventh at Mount SAC in the hammer throw, registering a throw of 189 feet, seven inches. That throw was Annen's best on the season.

Senior Maryann Erigha finished third in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.68 seconds, which qualified her for both the 100 and 200-meter dashes for the third consecutive year. Senior Okechi

Okbuokiri won the 400-meter dash in 54.25 seconds, her best time of the season.

Notre Dame now has 18 regional qualifiers. In light of such success, Majcina was happy with the team's performance and expected good things in the future.

"I see no reason why we shouldn't do well at the NCAAs," he said. "We're doing very well."

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VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Notre Dame senior Molly Huddle runs at the Alex Wilson Invitational March 2 at the Loftus Center.

SMC TENNIS

Belles move into tie for second after win

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

After beating Alma 8-1 Saturday for its fourth league victory, Saint Mary's is now tied for second place in the MIAA.

"I feel like we were really able to come together as a team and get a win," senior captain Kelly McDavitt said.

The Belles dominated in singles play, defeating every Alma player in straight sets. In the No. 1 singles spot, McDavitt defeated Scots senior Laura Kendrick 6-0, 6-1. Standout freshman Camille Gebert had a closer match but beat Scots junior Kelly Schwartzkopf 6-3, 7-5.

Belles freshman Lisa Rubino defeated Scots sophomore Laura McKendry 6-4 and 6-1 in the No. 3 singles spot. In the fourth spot, senior Tara O'Brien defeated junior Lindsay Wagner 7-6 (7-2), 6-2. Belles junior Cassie Quaglia defeated Scots sophomore Emily Noss in the fifth singles spot 6-4, 6-4. In the final singles match of the day, senior Grace Gordon dominated, defeating Scots senior Betsy

Bulthuis 6-4, 6-1.

In the day's doubles play, McDavitt and Gebert shut out the duo of Wagner and Schwartzkopf 8-0. Gordon and O'Brien had less luck in the No. 1 spot, and narrowly lost 9-7 to the Scots doubles pairing of Noss and Kendrick. Finally, in the No. 3 spot, the freshman duo of Erin Kaplan and Rubino defeated Bulthuis and McKendry 8-3.

The Belles now boast an MIAA conference record of 4-1 with overall record of 8-10. Next the Belles will face the MIAA's top team, Kalamazoo. The Hornets hold a perfect conference record of 5-0. The two teams did not play in 2006.

"Kalamazoo is a great team. We're going to have to work hard, but I think we can pull through," McDavitt said. "We were able to beat Calvin, which is also one of the top teams in the conference, so I feel confident that we should be able to work hard and get a win."

The Belles will travel to Kalamazoo to play the Hornets this Tuesday. First serve is scheduled for 3 p.m.

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MEN'S TENNIS

Irish avenge 2006 loss with win over Louisville

By JAY WADE
Sports Writer

No. 6 Notre Dame wrapped up the regular season Saturday by beating No. 58 Louisville 6-1, avenging its loss to the Cardinals in last year's Big East championship.

The win brought the Irish record to 21-3, while Louisville dropped to 8-14.

"We never spoke about it,

but I think it was on everyone's mind that they had beaten us in the final last year," Notre Dame coach Bobby Bayliss said.

Three matches ago, Bayliss reorganized the Irish doubles pairings — a move that has paid off to the tune of three straight doubles point victories. Notre Dame is 14-0 this year when earning the doubles point.

Senior Barry King and jun-

ior Andrew Roth won the No. 3 doubles match 8-1, improving their record together to 4-0, 3-0 in dual play. Seniors Stephen Bass and Ryan Keckley won their match 8-4, and junior Sheeva Parbhu and sophomore Brett Helgeson won 8-6 at No. 2 doubles.

Singles play faired similarly, with only No. 51 Parbhu losing 6-3, 4-6 (10-8) to Louisville's Damar Johnson.

Helgeson defeated Kenneth Nordheim 6-3, 6-1, and King beat Robert Rotaru 6-3, 6-4. Keckley topped David Simon

6-2, 7-5, and Roth upended James McArthur 6-3, 6-2. At No. 1 singles, Bass started out slowly against rival No. 60 Slavko Radman, but quickly adapted his play to win 3-6, 6-3, 10-8.

"Bass lost to him in the finals of the Big East last year and [Radman] has a 130 mile-per-hour serve when he gets it cranking, but we had a little discussion at the end of the first set and he really started attacking more and began to control the play and really ran out the rest of the match," Bayliss said.

With the win, the Irish wrapped up their regular season and move on toward the postseason, beginning play at the Big East tournament in Tampa Fla., Friday.

"Our confidence is high, but there are a lot of things that we have left to do and everyone knows that," Byliss said. "I expect everyone's focus to be on improving our doubles, getting better outdoors and each player trying to improve their weaknesses."

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CREW

ND tops two ranked squads

Irish knock off No. 5 California, No. 7 Stanford at Windemere race

By DANIELLE KELLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame defeated two ranked teams this weekend at the Windemere Real Estate Rowing Classic in Redwood Shores, Calif.

During the first day of competition, the varsity-eight crew knocked off No. 5 and two-time defending national champion California and No. 7 Stanford.

The No. 16 Irish varsity-eight boat of Maria Roman, Lauren Buck, Meghan Boyle, Christine Trezza, Allison Marsh, Laura Person, Mary Quinn, Amanda Polk and Julie Sobolewski, finished nearly six seconds ahead of the Golden Bears and seven sec-

onds ahead of the Cardinal.

The second varsity-eight and varsity-four crew also raced against California, each finishing second in their respective events.

The second varsity-eight crew of Eileen Froehle, Sarah Kate Hafner, Casey Fairbanks, Kristan Madison, Lindsay McQuaid, Ankica Jedry, Elli Greybar, Brittney Kelly and Jessica Guzik completed their race with a time of 7:28:07 following the Bear's winning time of 7:13:25.

In its afternoon race, the second varsity-eight rebounded from its loss and beat Stanford by a considerable margin. Notre Dame led from start to finish, achieving a five-second lead in the first 500 meters.

The varsity-four crew of Sarah Keithelym Laura Petnuch, Anni Nonwhitney, Shannon Cassel and Mary Kate McNamara also finished ahead of the Cardinal, winning by about 25 seconds.

Notre Dame's novice-eight crew of AZ Tice, Lisa Bunn, Casey Sullivan, Emily Backer, Melissa Miller, Kathleen Donahue, Dana Gates, Casey Robinson and Kellyn Nestor continued their remark-

able season by remaining undefeated. The novice-eight crew posted a victory over UCLA Friday night, bringing their season record to 7-0.

On Sunday the varsity-eight, second varsity-eight, and varsity-four competed against No. 9 UCLA. Notre Dame's varsity-eight boat defeated the Bruins for its third win of the meet.

The Irish varsity-four crew continued to dominate with a win over UCLA by a convincing 25 seconds. In their race, the second varsity-eight crew fell to the Bruins, coming in 13 seconds behind the winning boat.

"I was very, very happy with today's results," Irish head coach Martin Stone said. "I think we did a great job. The team performed well given that we have battled rough weather conditions [during practice times] for the past two weeks."

The next challenge for the Irish comes April 28 when they travel to New Jersey to compete against Princeton and George Washington.

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SMC SOFTBALL

Games rearranged by cold, wet conditions

By REBECCA SLINGER
Sports Writer

Unusually cold temperatures this spring has led to some shakeups in the Saint Mary's schedule.

The Belles (14-4) could not face the Tri-State Thunder (19-5) Saturday in Angola, Ind., because of inclement weather conditions. Further, the Belles game against local rival Bethel, to be played at Notre Dame's Ivy Field Monday, was cancelled because the field will not be

ready for action.

Because Bethel is not a league opponent, the game will not be rescheduled.

The Belles matchup against league No. 3 Tri-State (3-1 MIAA) has been rescheduled for this Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in Angola, Ind.

The Belles, who are 1-3 in conference play this season, need a win to crawl out of the bottom of the league standings.

Contact Rebecca Slinger at
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Loss

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No members of the team were available for comment following the game due to travel.

Senior Kenya Fuemmeler started the game for Notre Dame, but did not make it out of the second inning as freshman Jenna Garcia roped another three-run round-tripper with one out.

Sophomore Brittney Bargar came in to replace Fuemmeler and was able to

keep the Friars' bats at bay for three innings. However, they eventually caught up to her as well when another freshman, Christy Becker, put the final nail in the coffin with a home run of her own. The blast gave Providence a nine-run advantage and the game was called at that point due to the mercy rule.

Notre Dame 10, Providence 1

The first game was a completely different story as the Irish came up with their own five-inning mercy rule win. Bargar threw all five, hold-

ing the Friars to one earned run on only four hits. The sophomore ace also picked up four more strikeouts in the contest.

Her battery mate, senior catcher Gessica Hufnagle stole the show with a run scored and six RBIs - three of the six came on a home run in the top of the fourth inning. The inning started with two infield hits from sophomore Beth Norway and senior Stephanie Brown. Norway led off the inning with a bunt down the third base line and moved to third on Brown's single. The blast

gave the Irish a 6-0 lead and they never looked back from there

Notre Dame tacked on four more in the next frame, and, once again, Hufnagle led the way. The senior came to the plate with the bases loaded and ripped a bases-clearing double into the gap to bring the margin to double digits.

Providence was able to put a small dent in the lead in the bottom half of the fifth when they scratched across one run, but it was too little, too late for the Friars. Garcia picked up the RBI on a single to right field which

scored senior outfielder Katie Ross.

Notre Dame was scheduled to play another Big East doubleheader against Connecticut Sunday afternoon but both games were postponed due to inclement weather in the Constitution State. The extra day off may be beneficial for the Irish, who will play four games in a three-day stretch starting next Tuesday when they take on Western Michigan in a doubleheader at home.

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame makes history

Irish defeat Hoyas for first time in Big East history 13-8

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

No. 11 Notre Dame accomplished something never done before in the seven-year history of the Big East Saturday — the Irish defeated Georgetown.

The 13-8 loss for the No. 9 Hoyas (7-6) snapped a 37-game win streak that dated back to the foundation of the conference. The win at home was the sixth of the season over a ranked opponent for the Irish (11-3).

"I think it was one of the biggest wins in the history of the program," Notre Dame coach Tracy Coyne said. "We knew we needed to play a complete game, and we were able to."

Under a minute into the game Notre Dame opened up the scoring with a goal by sophomore Jane Stoeckert. But Georgetown quickly responded, with freshman Ashby Kaestner scoring three straight goals to take a 3-1 lead.

After cutting the lead to 4-3, the Irish scored three straight goals to take a 6-4 lead at halftime. As Notre Dame continued its strong play in the second half, the Irish took an 11-6 lead on a goal from junior Heather Ferguson. The Irish continued to counter every Georgetown goal and win by a comfortable margin.

Nine different players scored for the Irish, with sophomore Jillian Byers leading the way with three goals. Junior Caitlin McKinney added a goal and three assists.

The Notre Dame defense held Hoyas star Coco Stanwick to just one goal on the afternoon. Kaestner led Georgetown with her three goals, all in the first half.

"Coco is one of the best, I would say not only in the Big East, but in the country," Coyne said. "Meaghan Fitzpatrick had the assignment and did an amazing job."

With the win, the Irish vaulted into a tie for first in the Big East with Georgetown and Syracuse.

All three teams have a 3-1 record with one conference match left to play.

The Irish out-shot the Hoyas 30-22 for the game.

Sophomore goalkeeper Erin Goodman tallied five saves for the Irish, and senior Margaret

Farland saved nine for Georgetown.

Coyne said the Irish were able to break down the Georgetown defense through a balanced offensive attack.

"With so many players scoring and eight assists, it's really hard to slow down our team attack with different players stepping up at different times," she said.

In the win, several Irish players closed in on team records. With two draw controls on the game, senior Kaki Orr tied the Notre Dame record with 44 on the season, matching the mark set by then-Irish senior Crysti Foote last season.

Notre Dame will close out its regular season this week with matches against No. 15 Vanderbilt on the road Wednesday and at home against No. 18 Rutgers Saturday.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

"Coco is one of the best, I would say not only in the Big East, but in the country."

Tracy Coyne
Irish coach

"I think it was one of the biggest wins in the history of the program."

Tracy Coyne
Irish coach



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish midfielder Caitlin McKinney fires a shot home during Notre Dame's 15-7 win over Duquesne April 1 at Moose Krause Stadium. The Irish defeated Georgetown 13-8 Saturday.

MEN'S GOLF

Linksters finish 11th out of 16 in Columbus

Team shoots 60-over-par in rain shortened tournament at OSU

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

For the second week in a row, Notre Dame saw a tournament shortened due to inclement weather.

The Kepler Intercollegiate at the Scarlet Course of the Ohio State Golf Club in Columbus was originally scheduled to consist of two rounds on Saturday and a third on Sunday, but rain in the area led to a cancellation of Saturday's second round.

The decision to cut the tournament to 36 holes was made to accommodate travel plans for the 16 teams in the field. A two-round score of a 60-over-par 628 was good enough for an 11th-place finish for the Irish in a field of 16, placing them ahead of notables such as No. 32 Southern Methodist and No. 33 Wisconsin.

The high scores posted by each team were a result of the tough conditions over the weekend. The tournament winner, No. 20 Louisville, carded a 20-over-par 591. Only one player out of 90 in the field — Michigan State's Matt Harmon — stayed out of the red.

Senior co-captain and All-America candidate Cole Isban led the way for the Irish, finishing in a tie for 32nd with a 13-over-par 155. Isban's second-round score of five-over was only one stroke behind the lowest score on Sunday.

Sophomore Josh Sandman and junior Greg Rodgers post-

ed identical scores Saturday and Sunday, finishing just two strokes behind Isban in a tie for 40th at 15-over-par (257). The third-lowest score for the Irish belonged to senior co-captain Adam Gifford, who posted a 19-over-par 261, putting him in a tie for 53rd on the individual leader board.

Rounding out the team scoring for the Irish was freshman Doug Fortner, who finished with a 24-over-par 166. Junior Mike King competed as an individual and shot a 25-over-par 167.

Next week, the Irish head to the Cardinal Club in Louisville for the Big East conference championship. With warm, sunny weather expected, the Irish will hope to use the improved conditions to keep better pace with Louisville, one of the strongest teams in the conference, than they could in Columbus.

The Irish have won the conference event three years in a row, and they will be looking to extend that streak to four.

The Observer was unable to reach team members for comment.

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Record

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Hubschmann, and junior attack Alex Wharton to decimate Air Force (2-7, 1-2). Freshman attack Will Yeatman added two goals and two assists while sophomore attack Ryan Hoff netted two tallies.

Polk also had three helpers. Junior goaltender Joey Kemp manned the defensive end by making 12 saves and giving up only four goals in over 50 minutes of play.

Air Force was led by senior midfielder Justin Kuchta, who had one goal and an assist. Senior attack Conrad

Lochocki added a score and an assist. Sophomore goaltender Dan Gnazzo picked up the loss with 13 stops, allowing 10 goals in 44 minutes of work.

The game against Denver started out on a bit of a different note. The Pioneers (7-6, 2-1) started the game red hot as they jumped to an early 3-1 advantage. Notre Dame tied up the game 3-3 in the second quarter before Denver added two more goals to take a 5-3 lead.

The Irish, however, would not be denied their fifth win in a row this season. Notre Dame closed the first half with two quick goals en route to an 11-1 run to finish the

game.

"Our scoring has been spread out, not done by just one guy," Kemp said. "Our defense also held their own. You have a good chance to win if you only give up four, five or six goals."

The Irish were led by Hoff and Polk, who netted four goals each. Podgajny added two goals and an assist while Wharton scored twice.

"I got the opportunities to score," Polk said. "It was a product of the environment. The way [Denver's] defense played forced me to the goal."

Hubschmann had another solid performance with one goal and four assists. Yeatman also aided with three helpers.

Kemp was credited with the win in goal as he made 11 saves in a complete 60 minutes of work.

"I played OK in goal," Kemp said. "I was slow in the first half against Denver, but I had a stronger game against Air Force."

The Pioneers were led by sophomore midfielder Joey Murray, who scored twice and added an assist. Freshman midfielder Ilija Gajic added two goals, while freshman midfielder Charley Dickenson had one goal and two assists. Senior goalie Jeb Hollingsworth picked up the loss in a complete game. He gave up 14 goals and made 12 stops.

The two wins place the Irish at 3-0 in the Great Western Lacrosse League, a position they have not been in since 2002.

"Now we just have to defeat Quinnipiac and Ohio State," Kemp said. "We have a better standing in the GWLL."

Notre Dame takes on non-

conference foe, Lehigh Saturday at Moose Krause Stadium. The Irish will then travel to Ohio State and Quinnipiac following the Lehigh game to close out the season.

"We are looking for an automatic qualifier for the [NCAA] tournament, but hopefully, by the end of the season, we won't even need it," Polk said.

Notes:

◆ Notre Dame held the edge in shots and face-offs for both games. The Irish ousted the Falcons 50-23 on attempts on goal while besting the Pioneers 36-28 on the draw. The Irish claimed 18-of-23 face-offs against Air Force and 13-of-24 against Denver.

◆ Yeatman leads the Irish in scoring with 36 points on 18 goals and 18 assists this season. Hoff has netted a team-high 28 goals.

Contact Pat O'Brien at pobrien2@nd.edu

"Our scoring has been spread out, not done by just one guy. Our defense also held their own. You have a good chance to win if you only give up four, five, or six goals"

Joey Kemp
Irish goaltender

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PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish sophomore Kecly Tefft slams a backhand during Notre Dame's 4-3 win over Vanderbilt January 28 at the Eck Tennis Center. The Irish lost 5-2 to No. 9 Northwestern this weekend.

Wildcats

continued from page 24

Thompson 8-1.

"Yeah, they got killed. They just didn't play well. It was pretty ugly," Louderback said. "We were down 4-0 in a short amount of time, and it didn't get any better."

Both Buck and Ciobanu were in the doubles lineup against Northwestern back in February, but today the Irish sent out a revised lineup at No. 2 and No. 3.

Sophomore Kelcy Tefft and freshman Kali Krisik grabbed the No. 2 doubles match for Notre Dame with an 8-6 win over Lauren Lui and Keri Robinson, but Samantha Murray and Alexis Conill clinched the doubles point for the Wildcats by defeating Irish freshman Colleen Rielley and sophomore Katie Potts 8-4.

"At No. 3 doubles, that made a big difference," Louderback said.

The Thompsons' struggles carried over into singles play. At No. 1 singles, No. 11 Rose managed to get a key break against No. 26 with the score

tied 3-3 in the first set. Rose then cruised to a 6-3, 6-2 victory. No. 29 Murray made quick work of Christian Thompson at No. 2 with a 6-3, 6-1 victory.

No. 113 Lui clinched the match for Northwestern with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Tefft. Nazlie Ghazal made it 5-0 Northwestern by defeating Krisik 6-4, 6-2.

The Irish then staved off a sweep with a pair of three-set tiebreaking wins. Rielley picked up a 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 1-0 (11-9) win over Alexis Prousis and Potts downed Robinson 3-6, 6-4, 1-0 (10-7).

Louderback rested Catrina Thompson against DePaul Saturday because she had to sit out one more match this season in order to play in the Big East and NCAA Tournaments, and the Blue Demons only carried five singles players. This meant DePaul forfeited at No. 6.

"They're No. 1 and 3 players are out. Tore their ACLs early in the year," Louderback said. "I felt bad for them. They're struggling, but they beat Marquette the day before, so they're capable of being a good team."

Ciobanu returned to the court Sunday against Marquette and competed with Rielley in No. 2

doubles, winning 8-1 over Francina Bonnelly and Margaret Wilson.

In their matches against both Marquette and DePaul, the Irish did not lose a set in singles or double play.

The two matches also marked the dual match debut of junior Bailey Louderback, daughter of coach Jay Louderback. Bailey won at No. 3 doubles in both matches with Christian Thompson Saturday and Krisik Sunday.

"She played really well [Saturday] in the doubles. So, it was fun to see her get her first two doubles matches in," Louderback said.

With dual match play over, the Irish will play in the Big East tournament beginning Friday. Louderback said he hopes his team will be fully recovered by then.

"We're trying to get as healthy as we can for that match on Friday," Louderback said. "We don't play until Friday. We can only turn in eight players for our roster so the eight healthiest kids we got will be on the roster."

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dunking prowess.

Hallelujah Holla Back 21, Eatin' Cheeseburgers 4

A more athletic and experienced Hallelujah Holla Back team defeated Eatin' Cheeseburgers 21-4. Led by inside scoring and tough perimeter defense, Hallelujah took an 11-1 lead going into

the half.

Hallelujah players Jon Brewis, Greg Naylor, Matt Verhamme, Mike Bednarczyk and Lindsay Ruhling provided more of the same in the second half for the Holla Backs, letting up only a few outside shots in the win.

"We had to pick up two of our players right before the game, but we responded well to the pressure," Brewis said. "They played well as a team and were great sports."

Hallelujah controlled the

interior throughout the game, scoring most of their points off layups inside and forcing Cheeseburgers to play almost exclusively on the outside.

There's a 30 percent Chance We're Already Playing 21, Flippin' Awesome 9

Chance defeated Awesome 21-9 in an entertaining matchup on the Lyons courts Sunday.

Despite giving up a huge height advantage, Awesome,

an all-girls squad, shot well enough from the outside to keep the contest reasonably close.

The athleticism of Chance was too much, however, as the team scored many times on fast breaks, including several dunks.

Awesome, made up of teams members Andrew Parnell, Warren Scott, Brian Sarnacki, Zander Stachniak, and Justine Stremick, took a 9-3 lead into the half.

While Awesome made six

long jumpers in the second half, Chance continued to score off steals and on fast breaks for the win. Stremick, a member of the Irish volleyball team, was able to impose her will inside on girls with her height advantage.

"We owe it all to our coaches," Parnell said. "They were our keys, and we got lucky — those girls were flippin' awesome."

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

Hoyas

continued from page 24

every Irish starter had a hit as the Irish routed Georgetown to take the rubber game of the weekend series at Frank Eck Stadium Sunday.

"Today was a must-win," Schrage said. "If we don't win today, we've got a long haul to get back."

With the help of several costly Georgetown errors, the Irish offense took it to Hoyas starter Jimmy Saris early.

In the bottom of the first, Notre Dame took advantage of several misplays by Georgetown rightfielder Kelly Muir to take the early lead. With two outs, Irish left fielder Ross Brezovsky hit a single to right and took second on an error by Muir.

Designated hitter Matt Weglarz then looped a pop-up into short right that Muir misjudged, allowing Brezovsky to put the Irish up 1-0.

In the second inning, senior centerfielder Danny Dressman led off with a first-pitch single to center. Jeremy Barnes then lined his sixth double of the season down the right field line to knock in Dressman. Barnes eventually scored from second on a passed ball that Georgetown catcher Matt Iannetta could not locate until Barnes had slid across the plate safely.

After Ryan Connolly continued the rally with a walk and Brett Lilley singled to center, another Georgetown defensive miscue put the Irish up 4-0. Saris caught Connolly off second but instead of throwing to pick off the runner, he charged off of the mound and attempted to tag Connolly. Connolly avoided the tag before heading to third. Saris finally got rid of the ball but threw it away, allowing Connolly to come in to score.

The Irish offense opened the flood gates with seven more runs in the third. After Weglarz led off with a walk and Mike Dury pulled a double over first base, Dressman plated both runners with his second single up the middle of the game. Barnes followed with a single to left and Dressman came in to score. Barnes then stole second before Ryan Connolly walked, putting runners on first and second for Lilley. Lilley followed with his 50th hit of the season to knock in Barnes and chase Saris.

Freshman reliever Cary Piligian did not fare much better than Saris. Piligian surrendered an RBI double to Pollock, the first batter he faced. Brezovsky then grounded out to second to plate

another run, before Weglarz capped off the inning with the double to right to make it 11-0.

"We were finally able to string together a big inning in the fourth and get some extra base hits, which we haven't been doing," Schrage said.

Sophomore righthander Kyle Weiland gave up just one unearned run in five innings while striking out six to get the win for Notre Dame.

"The offense did a great job and gave me a lot of confidence," said Weiland, who got his first win of the season as a starter and improved to 3-0 overall.

Weiland had appeared mainly in relief for the Irish this year and added that he was happy about his new role.

"It's a little nicer being a starter," Weiland said. "It gives you more time to get control over all your pitches."

Georgetown 6, Notre Dame 1

Georgetown pitcher Michael Gaggioli allowed just one run in eight innings and the Hoyas banged out 12 hits in a 6-1 win over Notre Dame Saturday at Frank Eck Stadium.

"This was supposed to be a big weekend for us," Irish coach Schrage said. "I was disappointed in our effort today."

The inning was capped when Matt Harrigan blasted a double to score left fielder Derek DeGrijs and Bouchard and drive Korpi to the bench. Irish reliever Joey Williamson came in and got right fielder Kelly Muir to pop up to end the inning.

Notre Dame got a run back in the bottom of the sixth, when Weglarz reached on an error by Muir and later scored on a sacrifice fly by Dury.

Georgetown responded in the eighth with another three runs. After the first two batters of the inning reached base, Silvestri squared to bunt. Notre Dame's infield rushed in expecting a sacrifice, but Silvestri pulled the bat back and slapped a single right past them to put the Hoyas up 4-1. A sacrifice fly by McLaughlin then put the Hoyas up by four and two straight hits by DeGrijs and Bouchard added another run.

Pollock and Lilley, who hit in the top two spots in Notre Dame's batting order, accounted for all six of the Irish hits.

Schrage said the lack of hitting was due to too many fly balls, which the cold wind blowing in at Frank Eck Stadium knocked down and turned into easy outs.

"Today was not the kind of day to hit that way," Schrage said. "It's very disappointing."

Korpi threw 4.2 innings, giving up three runs in on seven hits with four strikeouts and three walks. The junior's record dropped to 1-5 on the season.

"I don't think he has confidence in his stuff right now," Schrage said.

Right hander Dan Kapala was scheduled to start Saturday, but had to miss the start due to tendonitis.

Notre Dame 10, Georgetown 0

Sophomore David Phelps proved how reliable he is for Notre Dame again, capturing his third straight win Friday night with a 10-0 shutout of Georgetown.

The right-hander, who entered the series No. 11 in the nation in ERA, lowered his from 1.51 to 1.34, adding eight strikeouts in seven innings of work to boot.

The middle of the lineup provided strong support for Phelps and Notre Dame as Brezovsky, Weglarz and Dressman, the three, four, and five batters, each reached base four times. The trio combined to go 7-10 at the plate

with five RBIs and seven runs.

Note Dame took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning and never looked back.

Lilley started the inning on base for Notre Dame after getting hit by a pitch. Georgetown's Erick Chandler proceeded to walk Pollock and Brezovsky to load the bases. Weglarz drove in the first run, sending Lilley home off a sacrifice fly. Dressman advanced the lead to two by reaching first off a throwing error and sending Pollock home.

"You get confidence scoring runs, getting the lead and we just kind of took with that," Weglarz said.

Phelps gave the Hoyas a glimmer of hope in the second as he allowed Muir to advance to third off two failed pick-off attempts. Phelps was able to hold on to his shutout as he rounded out the inning with a strikeout and pop-up.

The Irish followed with another two-run inning in the bottom of the third to expand their lead to four. The inning proceeded in similar fashion to the first for Notre Dame as it scored two runs off one hit.

The middle of lineup came

up strong for the Irish in the seventh inning.

"Our three, four and five hitters, that's been kind of our Achilles heel all year, and they really stepped up," Schrage said.

Weglarz started off the inning for Notre Dame with a single and eventually crossed home on a throwing error. Dressman added an RBI and scored on a dropped fly ball to finish the inning.

The middle of the lineup powered Notre Dame again in the eighth. Brezovsky, Weglarz and Dressman combined for three hits. Dressman's line drive down the left field line drove in the fifth run for Notre Dame. Weglarz and Dressman scored off Georgetown errors to pick up the last two more runs of the game for Notre Dame.

Phelps noted that the Irish would have struggled without the combination of strong bats at the middle of the lineup and a strong defensive game.

"When the team puts up ten runs for me, they're going to pick me up nine times out of ten," he said.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu, Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu and Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

"If we don't win today, we've got a long haul to get back."

Dave Schrage
Irish coach

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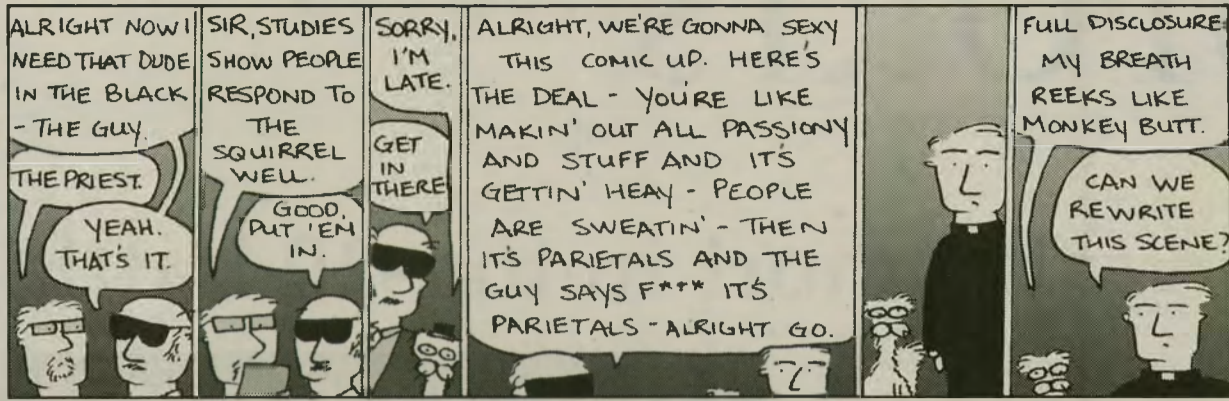
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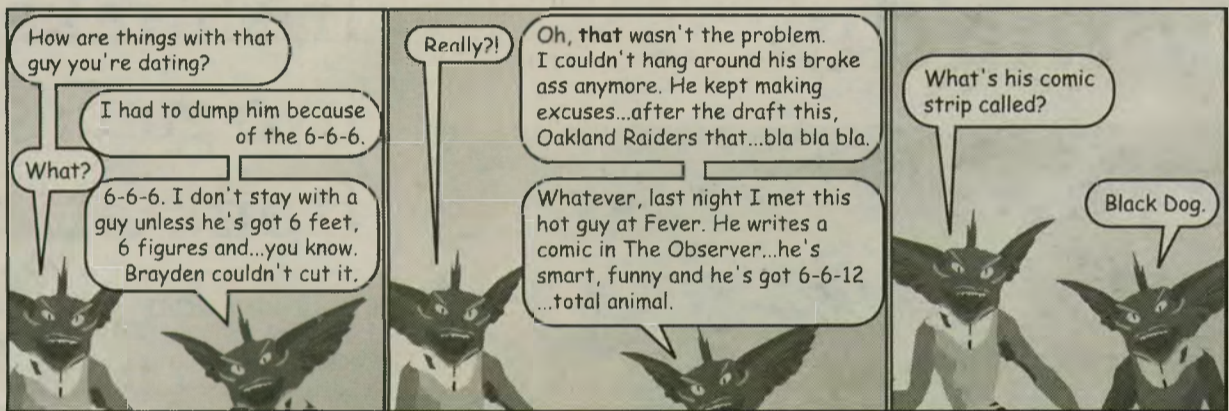
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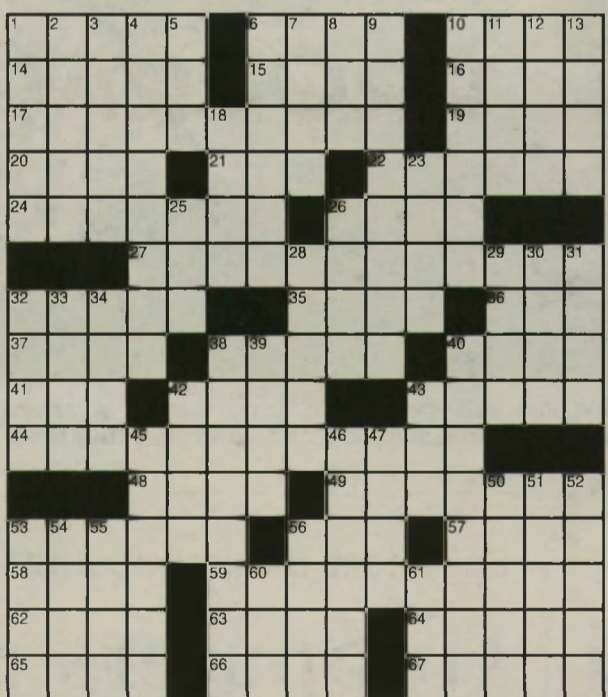
LIAM MORAN



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Digging tool
 - 6 ___ McAn shoes
 - 10 Felt remorse
 - 14 Israel's Sharon
 - 15 Lira's replacement
 - 16 "Don't Tread ___" (old flag warning)
 - 17 Planter without hired hands
 - 19 Game-stopping call
 - 20 "Zip-___-Doo-Dah"
 - 21 "I didn't know that!"
 - 22 Nervous giggle
 - 24 Fabrics for towels, robes, etc.
 - 26 Sukiyaki side dish
 - 27 Auto mechanic
 - 32 Nests, for birds
 - 35 Fall site in Genesis
 - 36 Eco-friendly org.
 - 37 ___ Brothers, who sang "Rag Mop"
 - 38 Fur tycoon John Jacob
 - 40 Trickle out
 - 41 A Bobbey twin
 - 42 Leave off
 - 43 Storied engineer Casey
 - 44 Any member of Nirvana or Pearl Jam
 - 48 Java dispensers
 - 49 Take back
 - 53 Popular drink mix
 - 56 Extra-wide, on a shoebox
 - 57 Fitzgerald who knew how to scat
 - 58 Eurasia's ___ Mountains
 - 59 Smear campaigner
 - 62 Race that once had a four-minute barrier
- DOWN**
- 1 Begin's co-Nobelist
 - 2 Family of lions
 - 3 Broadcaster
 - 4 Cleanses
 - 5 Keebler baker, in ads
 - 6 Humanitarian Mother ___
 - 7 Actor Cronyn
 - 8 Smelter input
 - 9 Edgar Bergen dummy ___ Snerd
 - 10 Way past ripe
 - 11 Condo or apartment
 - 12 Noted plus-size model
 - 13 ___ Xing (sign)
 - 18 "The Morning Watch" writer James
 - 23 Clickable screen symbol
 - 25 E-file receiver
 - 26 Change the décor of
 - 28 Brief tussle
 - 29 Like an eagle's vision
 - 30 Blunted sword
 - 31 Big fat mouths
 - 32 Nail to the wall
 - 33 Epps of TV's "House"
 - 63 Give off
 - 64 Knight's mount
 - 65 Borscht vegetable
 - 66 D.C. nine, for short
 - 67 Pig voiced by Mel Blanc



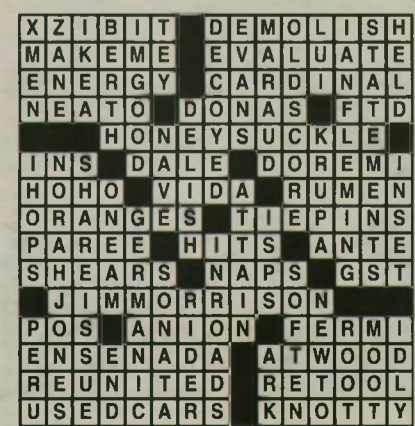
Puzzle by Fred Piscop

- 34 Chalkboard writing at a cafe
- 38 Emphatic words of agreement
- 39 Knighted ones
- 40 Bay of Naples tourist city
- 42 Hideous sort
- 43 Namath, for most of his career
- 45 Small seed
- 46 Blue jay toppers
- 47 It runs from stem to stern
- 50 "Ragged Dick" writer Horatio
- 51 One iron, in old golf lingo
- 52 Late, on a report card
- 53 Under the effects of Novocain
- 54 Lake named after an Indian tribe
- 55 Red-tag event
- 56 Trim, as text
- 60 Actress Thurman
- 61 AOL, e.g.: Abbr.

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

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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

LULBY
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

DEBIA
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

NILUKE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

WROFUR
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

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www.jumble.com

WHAT THE ZOO-KEEPER WAS ATTRACTED TO IN THE CITY.

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

Answer: THE "□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □" □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: TASTY QUAKE HERALD FUTILE
Answer: When the maid got a better offer, the matron was — LEFT IN THE "DUST"

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emma Watson, 17; Emma Thompson, 48; Claudia Cardinale, 69; Roy Clark, 74

Happy Birthday: Be careful not to take on or promise too much this year. Your problems will stem from running out of time and facing delays and opposition. Be smart and consider that keeping things small and simple will be what leads to your success this year. You can't let your life spin out of control. Your numbers are 7, 18, 26, 29, 33, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Interacting with others either on the phone, in person or over the Internet will bring about some interesting information that sparks a new idea. You are a pioneer and it's time to break ground in areas that other people have not even considered. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Somehow you have to make some changes in your life. You will feel so much better once you can see you are making progress, especially with children or people who are demanding too much of you. 4 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you try to implement change, you are likely to take a backwards step. Everything will cost more and take up more time than you first thought. Someone will try to take advantage of you, so be on guard. 2 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): With a little luck and a whole lot of talent and insight, you will get ahead and gain respect and popularity today. Make changes that will enhance what you have to offer and will enable you to make a profit in the future. 5 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may want to take a trip or attend a conference but consider the cost involved. Instead, do your research over the Internet. Invite friends over to help you with a few changes you want to make around the house. Don't miss out on an opportunity for romance. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let changes taking place around you cause alarm. Money can be made through real estate, investments, winnings, inheritance or collecting an old debt. Stay calm and in control. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be quick to respond. Travel will help you out where love and romance are concerned. A serious talk with someone you really want to spend more time with will lead to a better understanding of what's to come. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you haven't taken the time to let your family and close friends know how you feel or what you expect, perhaps today is the day. A little honesty will go a long way. Deal with emotional issues now. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Forget about outsiders when it comes to your plans. Go right to the source and you'll find out where you stand and how far you can go. Love looks very promising so let your feelings be known. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your mind will be racing and your ideas flowing freely. Money-making opportunities are apparent and making changes that will lead to a more suitable position or direction will be yours. Put your skills to work for you. 4 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's what you do for others that will count today. Your motives must be valid. You will only be fooling yourself if you aren't honest about your activities, habits and intentions. Instead of giving lip service, prepare to follow through. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be fooled by what you are being told. Someone is probably trying to lead you in the wrong direction. Find out what you need to know from a reliable source before you make a decision that could be potentially costly. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, emotional and original. You are charming and candid. You are full of surprises, making snap decisions and unexpected choices.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

No. 2 Notre Dame falls short in top-10 battle

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

Irish freshman Cosmina Ciobanu woke up Friday morning with the flu.

As a result, she could not play in No. 2 Notre Dame's match against No. 9 Northwestern.

Without Ciobanu, who holds a 22-0 dual match record, and junior Brook Buck, who has been sidelined the last month with an injury, the Irish fell to the Wildcats 5-2 Friday.

"We still had some other chances. We had chance to win some other matches, but we played OK," Irish coach Jay

Louderback said.

Notre Dame won its other two weekend matches against DePaul and Marquette 7-0 to close out the regular season, but its 16-match winning streak ended at the hands of Northwestern.

The defeat was the first for the No. 2 Irish (23-2) since their 4-2 loss to No. 4 Georgia Tech in the finals of the ITA National Indoor Tournament Feb. 4.

The Irish previously defeated the No. 9 Wildcats 4-3 in the semifinals of the National Indoor Feb. 3.

"I'm sure they were probably really fired up when they saw

that [Buck and Ciobanu] weren't going to play. I'm sure that made them even more fired up," Louderback said. "But they just played well. The top of their singles played very, very, well [this time]."

One of the keys to Notre Dame's victory in February was its ability to get the doubles point and take an early 1-0 lead. But this time, the Wildcats pounced out of the gate.

The No. 13 nationally-ranked tandem of Georgia Rose and Alexis Prousis soundly defeated Notre Dame's No. 8 duo of seniors Christian and Catrina

see WILDCATS/page21



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer
Irish senior Catrina Thompson nails a forehand during Notre Dame's 7-0 win over Wake Forest Feb 18.

MEN'S LACROSSE

History made

Wins over Air Force and Denver help ND set record for victories

By PAT O'BRIEN
Sports Writer

The Irish beat league rivals Air Force 16-4 Friday and Denver 14-6 Sunday to set the school record of consecutive home victories at 12.

Notre Dame claimed both victories in similar fashion with major second half surges. The Irish were electric after halftime, outscoring the Falcons and the Pioneers by a combined total of 21-4.

"[The wins] are great," Irish senior midfielder Lucius Polk said. "It was a little pay-back from the road trip last year."

Notre Dame (8-3, 3-0 Great Western Lacrosse League) used hat tricks from junior midfielder Michael Podgajny, senior attack Brian

see RECORD/page 21



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer
Irish junior attack Alex Wharton lines up a shot against Denver Sunday. Wharton had two goals to help No. 11 Notre Dame defeat Denver 14-6 and win their 12th consecutive home game.

BASEBALL

Irish take two games from GU

By CHRIS KHOREY, FRAN TOLAN AND DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writers

Notre Dame's inconsistency continued this weekend as the Irish recorded two blowout victories sandwiched around an ugly loss in a three-game series against Georgetown at Frank Eck Stadium.

By winning two of three, the Irish ran their record to 17-17 overall and 4-7 in the Big East.

"We needed to [win a conference series] to get back in the race," Irish coach Dave Schrage said.

Notre Dame 11, Georgetown 2

Notre Dame scored 11 runs in the first three innings and

see HOYAS/page 22

ND SOFTBALL

Perfect league record gone with loss to Friars

By DAN MURPHY
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame's perfect Big East record is history.

The Irish received their first blemish of the conference season Saturday when they split a road doubleheader at Providence College.

Notre Dame (20-14, 9-1 Big East) had run off nine straight victories before falling 9-0 to the Friars in the second half of the double

dip this weekend.

After dropping the first game 10-1, the Friars jumped out to an early lead in the second game and never looked back.

Senior catcher Rachel Bartholomew got things started when she clubbed a pitch over the right field wall with runners on first and second. Bartholomew's blast was the first of three home runs given up by the Irish pitching staff in the game.

see LOSS/page 20

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL XXXVI

Hoopsters pound asphalt

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Bookstore basketball returned to action Sunday afternoon with a full slate of games across campus. Amid the action, a group of Christian, Gwen Stefani-enthusiasts were able to soundly defeat a squad that would have made Jimmy Buffett proud all the way from Margaritaville. And some distant female relatives of Napoleon Dynamite toppled under its opponents

see BOOKSTORE/page 22



CHRIS WILLIAMS/The Observer
Freshman David Fairburn puts up a shot during a game held at the Bookstore Courts April 3.