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Reish, Grant to lead student body

Junior, sophomore presidential ticket win runoff election with over 65 percent of Thursday vote

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

Bob Reish and Grant Schmidt defeated Maris Braun and George Chamberlain to win student body president and vice president in Thursday's runoff election.

Junior class president Reish and sophomore class president Schmidt received over 2,000 votes, 65.06 percent of the total 3,569 votes cast.

"We're glad to see that the student body's support was behind us, and we're excited to take over office and execute some of our ideas that we've been working on for a

while," Reish said.

Current student body vice president Braun and Sorin senator Chamberlain received 28.94 percent of the total. Their ticket forced a runoff election after Monday's primary when Reish and Schmidt won 48.43 percent of the total.

"To speak frankly, we gave it our all and did everything that we thought we could do," Braun said. "We had a lot of faith in our platform and a lot of faith in our experience and our leadership styles. I don't know if we would have done anything differently because we really

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Bob Reish, left, and Grant Schmidt speak at the runoff debate Wednesday. The pair won the student body runoff elections Thursday.

DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

ND upset by NIU shooting

Students ask question, "Could it happen here?"

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

Notre Dame students expressed sadness and shock Thursday night at yesterday's shooting at Northern Illinois. The tragedy, in which at least six people, including the gunman, were killed and 17 were injured, occurred in a lecture hall less than three hours away from Notre Dame's campus.

Although this generation of Notre Dame students has grown up with school shootings ranging from Columbine in 1999 to Virginia Tech last year, students haven't become immune to the tragedy of school massacres.

"It was very tragic and scary. You have to wonder what's going on with those kids. It makes you wonder if something like that could happen at Notre Dame," sophomore Tim Nelson said.

Many students had not heard of the shooting by Thursday evening, including a group of seniors who stood speechless after being informed of the news.

Student body president Liz Brown noted that school shootings are becoming

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SMC to host own version of 'Monologues'

Students, professor, alumnae will perform in annual event to stop violence against women



KATIE FENLON/The Observer

Sophomore Anjali Kanwar gestures while rehearsing for the SMC Monologues on Tuesday.

By KATIE KOHLER
Saint Mary's Editor

Coming on the heels of "V-Day" — the global movement to stop violence against women sparked by Eve Ensler's Vagina Monologues — the Saint Mary's community will gather for the fourth consecutive year to perform the SMC Monologues tomorrow at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium.

The Monologues were written by students, faculty, staff, Sisters and alumnae, producer Becki Faunce said.

"All writers are anonymous to protect their identities around potentially sensitive subject areas and to promote the fact that these could be anyone's stories," she said.

This year, there are eight students, one faculty member and one alumnae performing the Monologues.

While they were inspired by Ensler's Vagina Monologues, they are distinctly different, Faunce said.

"They are similar in that women discuss their experiences of sexuality, relation-

see SMC/page 6

Parents arrive at University for JPW

By ELLYN MICHALAK
News Writer

This weekend, for the 56th consecutive year, the parents of Notre Dame juniors will visit campus to get a glimpse of what their child's life is like while they are away from home during the annual Junior Parents' Weekend (JPW).

JPW began in 1952 when University president emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh decided parents should become more involved in their students' lives at Notre Dame before the following year's graduation ceremony.

Every year, attendance for the

event has grown and this year's JPW committee expects approximately 1,750 parents to visit the campus this weekend.

"Though the scale has changed, the core purpose of JPW has remain unchanged — that is, giving parents an opportunity to share the social, academic, spiritual and residential life of University with their students," JPW co-chair Brian Freneau said.

He and fellow co-chair Leah Miller have been working hard to plan the event since April of last year. After months of preparation, Miller said she is looking forward to the event with feel-

see JPW/page 9

Lecture fights Muslim stereotypes

Professor, international student talk about religious aspect of hijab, burqa

By NIKKI TAYLOR
News Writer

Dr. Fozia S. Qazi, a Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) Fellow and professor of mathematics, spoke along with Razia Stanikzai, a Saint Mary's senior international student from Afghanistan, about the western world's thoughts on Muslim women Thursday in the Student Center.

The lecture, entitled "The 'Other' Veil: Muslim Women in the Western Mind," was a part of the Diverse Students' Leadership Conference (DSLCL) hosted by the Student Diversity Board which has taken place at the College this week.

The lecture's main focus addressed the way Muslim women are portrayed to the Western world. Qazi began by showing pictures of Muslim women who break the stereotypes.

"The prevalent stereotype of Muslim women is homogeneity, but there is a great deal of diversity," Qazi said.

The Muslim practice of veiling is often associated with the oppression of women in the Western mindset, Qazi said. She first showed how veiling is a fairly common practice and is not associated with oppression in other settings.

Most religions have some sort of veiling, Qazi said. Jewish women are often depicted wearing veils, as is the Virgin Mary in Christian art.

Veiling goes back to the days of colonization in the Middle East. Before the Europeans could colonize they had to see the natives as inferior and uncivilized as a rationalization of their taking over, Qazi said.

Stanikzai spoke about hijab, which is the Afghani practice of wearing a veil. Hijab literally translates "to hide from view," but it also means separation from something negative between you and your spiritual goal.

A part of hijab is the burqa, which is traditionally associated with Afghan women. Many women in Afghanistan were forced to wear a burqa by the Taliban regime, which is part of

see LECTURE/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

A St. Patrick's suggestion

Valentine's Day — the day of same-side sitters in the dining hall, girls receiving chocolates and flowers and happy couples strolling hand in hand as they circle the lakes at Notre Dame or cross the bridge on Lake Marion at Saint Mary's — is over.

Liz Harter

Assistant News Editor

Thankfully. Now we have all the time in the world to focus on the next religious and commercial holiday that will be celebrated on campus. And celebrate we will.

Bring on St. Patrick's Day. This year marks the first year that the holiday does not fall during the time allotted by the University for spring break since 2005. Originally, this year's spring break was not scheduled for March 1-9, but the University changed the dates because they were in conflict with Holy Week and the Easter holiday.

Therefore, students will be able to celebrate the traditionally Irish holiday with their fellow Irish-faithful at both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's.

Now, this inside column is not going to turn into the places and ways you can celebrate that one day, but rather, I am here to let you know of the incredible idea that our Irish brethren have adopted for this year, and this year only, of celebrating for TWO days.

The Irish Bishops announced in July of 2007 — see how late I am in letting you all know about this opportunity! — that because March 17 is the second day of Holy Week, the most holy week in the Catholic calendar, they are shifting religious celebrations for St. Patrick's Day to March 15.

If you can do quick math in your head I know that you are already smiling. If you can't and had to check your cell phone calendar like I did, let me save you the trouble.

The Irish Bishops have moved St. Patrick's Day to March 15 — Saturday, March 15.

The Council of Bishops in the United States have not made a similar declaration of shifting the feast day to the previous Saturday, and I'm not sure if they are planning on doing so. Therefore I don't think that we should exclusively celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 15.

Instead, I propose that we students spend two days celebrating the patron saint of Ireland who introduced the concept of the Trinity to the Irish people using the three leaves of a clover in whatever way you deem fitting.

Whether you plan to wear a bit of green, speak with an Irish brogue, attend a St. Patrick's Day parade or partake in some green beverages, I hope that you enjoy yourselves on the upcoming holiday.

Afterall, who is more entitled to celebrate St. Patrick's Day than those who call themselves the Fighting Irish.

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

Contact Liz Harter at eharte01@saintmarys.edu

CORRECTIONS

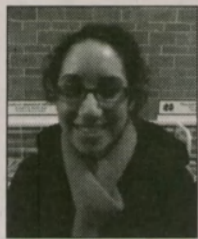
Due to a production error, student body vice president Maris Braun's name appeared as Maris Brown in a photo cutline in the Thursday, Feb. 14 edition of The Observer. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: ARE YOU GOING TO THE SPICE GIRLS' CONCERT IN CHICAGO TOMORROW NIGHT?



Brittan Mawby
freshman Walsh

"They asked me to go, but I already have plans."



Christina Karam
sophomore McGlenn

"I think it would be fun to rock out to some fourth grade classics."



Teddy Schaefer
freshman Fisher

"Hell yes! I 'wannabe' their lover."



Claire Kiernan
freshman Lyons

"I would, but my mini-skirt and platform shoes are at the cleaners."



Lauren Kopsky
junior Farley

"Do you have an extra ticket?"



QUENTIN STENGER/The Observer

Sophomore Matt Hopke leaves Irish Gardens with a bouquet of flowers for his girlfriend on Valentine's Day. Irish Gardens is the florist's shop located in the basement of LaFortune. Shockingly, it was busy throughout the day there.

OFFBEAT

Pregnant woman accused of assault

ROCHESTER, Pa. — A woman who is seven months pregnant is accused of smashing a beer bottle against a bartender's head after she was refused another drink. Police said Keisharra Abercrombie, 30, assaulted the female bartender on Saturday after being told she shouldn't be drinking alcohol.

Police say Abercrombie also smashed a glass over the bartender's ear and head.

Authorities said the bar-

tender's ear was partially detached. A surgeon in Pittsburgh used two staples and 28 stitches to reattach the top of the ear.

Abercrombie was arraigned Wednesday on charges of aggravated assault, simple assault, harassment and reckless endangerment. She was in the Beaver County Jail on \$25,000 bail.

Ohio couples have White (Castle) wedding

COLUMBUS — Three couples got the Valentine's Day wedding they craved on Thursday, marrying at

a White Castle in the restaurant chain's home city.

The morning ceremony at the burger joint, which features the slogan "What You Crave," involved a flower girl who threw salt and pepper packets instead of rice, and employee name tags on the grooms' lapels.

The cake resembled a White Castle tray holding three "slyder" burgers, fries and a drink — all made of cake and frosting.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Ken Hackett, president of Catholic Relief Services, will lead a roundtable discussion about the accomplishments of the Millennium Challenge Corporation and its plans for the future, especially in Africa, today at 10:30 a.m. in C-103 in the Hesburgh Center.

There will be Stations of the Cross tonight at 7:15 in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

The Notre Dame women's lacrosse team will play Canisius tonight at 5 in the Loftus Center. Admission is free.

The Black Cultural Arts Council is hosting its annual Black Coffeehouse tonight at 7 in the LaFortune Ballroom. Tickets cost \$6.

The Pasquerilla East Music Company (PEMCo) will perform "Kiss Me, Kate" tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Student tickets are \$6.

Pasquerilla West is showing the movie 'A Time to Kill' (1996) Monday at 9 p.m. in the dorm party lounge in honor of Black History Month. Admission is free and snacks will be provided.

The Notre Dame Jazz Band, Symphonic Winds and Symphonic Band will play a concert for Junior Parents Weekend Saturday at 2 p.m. in Leighton Concert Hall. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$8 for faculty/staff, \$5 for seniors, and \$3 for students.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 32 LOW 5	HIGH 22 LOW -5	HIGH 22 LOW 20	HIGH 30 LOW 10	HIGH 17 LOW 7	HIGH 22 LOW 13

SMC parents come to campus

Sophomore student board holds events for parents' weekend

By SARAH MAYER
News Writer

While most Saint Mary's students had the all-school formal and Diverse Students' Leadership Conference to break the monotony of winter, the sophomore class has an additional activity to keep things interesting

Sophomore Parents' Weekend, which starts today and lasts through Sunday.

The sophomore board has planned the weekend for about two months and some of the events have been booked for a year, sophomore class president Camille Gebert said.

"It has been a lot of hard work, but it will definitely be a fun weekend," Gebert said.

About 200 parents will come to campus this weekend, Gebert said.

There will be a few scheduled events, Gebert said, but she didn't want parents and students to run from place to place.

"It's important to have a parent's weekend because it's nice to be able to show your parent's what your life is like at school," she said. "It's nice to share a

"It's important to have a parent's weekend because it's nice to be able to show your parent's what your life is like at school."

Camille Gebert
sophomore class president

week-end of events with your parents and show off your school to them. They get to see where your home is."

The first planned event is a meet and greet with professors taking place this afternoon. Parents will be able to purchase t-shirts and visit the bookstore, while they meet professors and listen to a performance from Saint Mary's a cappella group, Bellacappella.

For Saint Mary's women whose mothers also attend-

ed Saint Mary's, there are two legacy receptions Friday and Saturday. The weekend's signature event, mass at the Church of Loretto, and a formal dinner at the Century Center will take place on Saturday night.

"This is by far the weekend's biggest event," Gebert said

The dinner will include a silent auction and a raffle for baskets made by the sophomore board, parents and friends of the College.

The weekend is about strengthening the relationships of Saint Mary's sophomores and their parents, Gebert said.

"I hope that this weekend brings a sense of unity and bonding between the daughters and their parents," Gebert said. "As we are growing up fast, and maturing into women, it's important that our parents be witnesses to this growth."

Sophomore Kate Ortigara is excited for her parents to see the campus.

"I hope my parents get a better sense of my lifestyle here and see the Saint Mary's atmosphere," Ortigara said.

Contact Sarah Mayer at smayer01@saintmarys.edu

BCAC readies to host 'Black Coffee House'

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Students will gather to appreciate the power of words at tonight's Black Coffee House, hosted by the Black Cultural Arts Council (BCAC) in the LaFortune Ballroom.

"It's a talent show of sorts, more focused on spoken words, poetry, song and dance," said Tristan VanVoorhis, president of the BCAC.

The show's theme this year is "Freedom of Espresso." It will "celebrate the power of words," according to the BCAC website and will take place at 7 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom and will run for two hours, VanVoorhis said.

Attendees can expect a show similar to those in the past.

"Traditionally, [it will be the] same sort of show, same type of acts," VanVoorhis said.

Individual students as well as student groups, including Voices of Faith Gospel Choir, will perform at the event, VanVoorhis said. He also said dance acts are more oriented to interpretive dance style.

About 40 to 50 students will perform in 13 different acts, VanVoorhis said.

In order to be part of the show,

performers had to audition after Christmas break.

Event proceeds help the BCAC reach out to the Notre Dame community.

"We do it every year near Junior Parents weekend as an annual fundraiser for our Thurgood Marshall Scholarship," he said.

The \$500 scholarship is awarded to two freshmen students who are active in the Notre Dame community and usually goes to students from a financially-disadvantaged background, he said.

VanVoorhis expects around 200 people to view the event. He said the Coffee House is a unique way for students to express themselves.

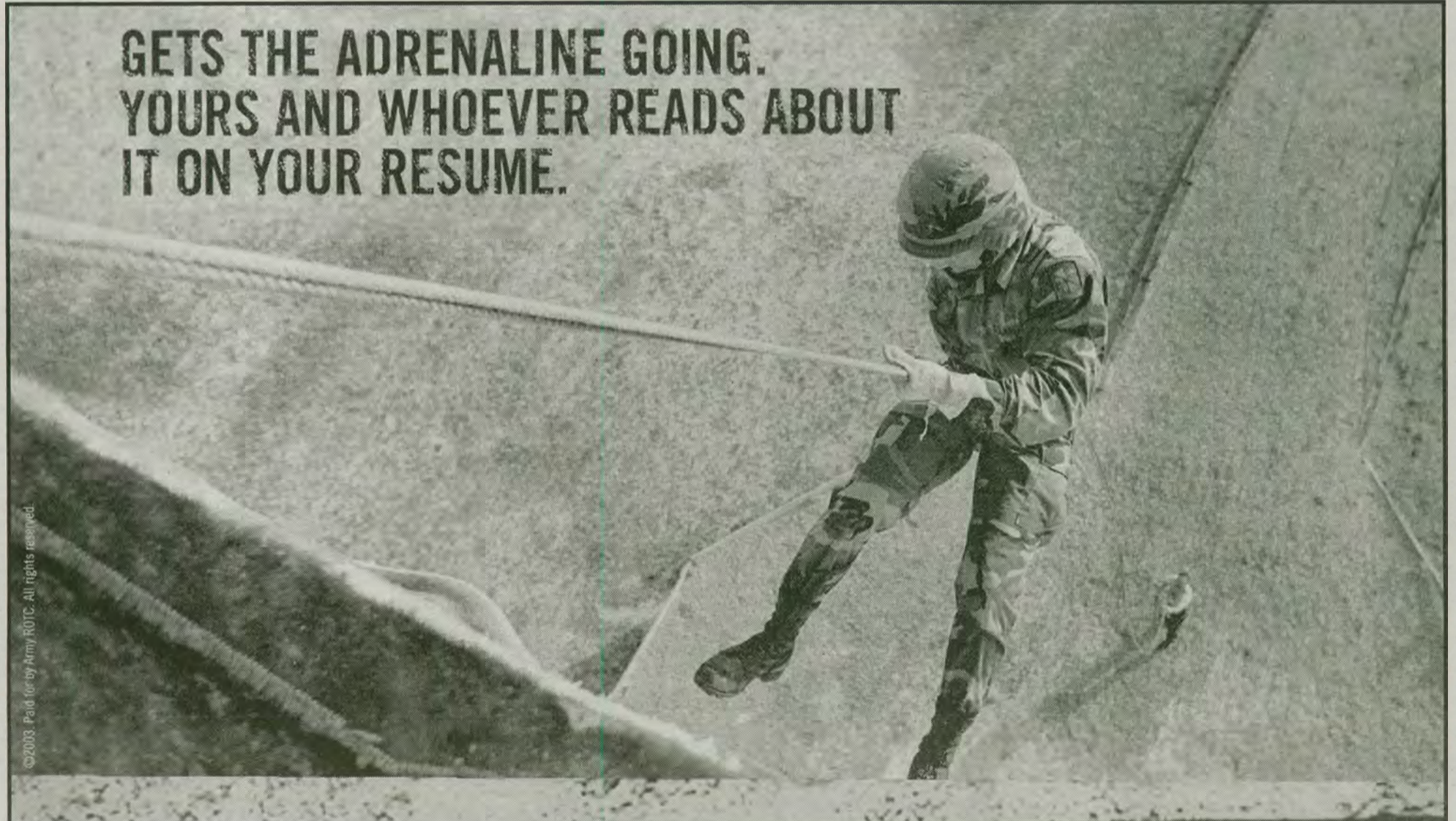
"[The Black Coffee House] recognizes different students and their talents here on campus," VanVoorhis said. "[Students] may not have another outlet to share [their talents] with the community. We have the Coffee House as a venue for them to perform."

Tickets cost \$6 for general admission, and beverages and light refreshments will be served.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscol@nd.edu

"It's a talent show of sorts, more focused on spoken words, poetry, song and dance."

Tristan VanVoorhis
BCAC president



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Lecture

continued from page 1

the reason why it is seen as oppressive to women, but many women wore the burqa anyway.

When they remove the burqa it is a sign of new political order, not women's liberation. The real oppression was the women's struggle for educational and economic opportunities, which were also banned by the Taliban, Stanikzai said.

"We believe that liberation comes from within. It is not passively received," Stanikzai said.

There has been a recent resurgence of hijab in the Muslim world. Women are making the informed choice to veil. They see it as a sign of piety and also it gives them liberation from a preoccupation with beauty, Stanikzai said.

The burqa is also an important tool for Muslim women because it gives them anonymity and safety, she said.

The DSLC will continue today with workshops in the morning and will conclude with the keynote speech by Dr. Johnetta Cole, the first female president of Spelman College, at 12:30 p.m. in the Little Theater.

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Reish

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put it all out on the table and let the chips fall where they may."

Reish and Schmidt launched their campaign in September and have spent much of the year campaigning.

"I think this is something that we've been planning for and that we were ready for to happen," Schmidt said. "We both didn't know what the results would be and we are looking forward to April 1 [when we take office]."

According to Reish and Schmidt, they were able to attract voters with a platform filled with well-researched ideas and a comprehensive campaign that included the Web site, bobandgrant.com.

"Part of the campaign was connecting to the students and trying to make sure that we're not any better than anyone else," Schmidt said. "The bobandgrant.com thing, a lot of people laughed at it, but it was something different — an informal way of presenting our ideas that was appealing."

Once they take office, Reish and Schmidt say they will immediately begin to implement their platform, as well as accept student feedback.

"Day one we want to start connecting more to the student body," Reish said. "Gather our team and staff together and day one start with our initiatives and also connect to our student body to see what initiatives they want to see done."

One of those initiatives they hope to accomplish soon is making DVD rentals in the Huddle free. But the pair also hopes that, over their year in office, they can significantly improve the overall life of the student body.

"All of our ideas are researched and most of them can be implemented pretty quick. I think the free DVDs is going to happen quickly," Schmidt said. "Now that it's all said and done, I hope students realize that we truly do want to make a difference."

After learning of their defeat, Braun and Chamberlain gave a lot of credit to their opponents for the strong campaign they ran.

"[Reish and Schmidt] definitely ran a great campaign," Chamberlain said. "We just focused on running our campaign throughout the process. The student body made their choice, and looking back on it, even before we knew the final result, I think the student body is going to be in pretty good shape."

After Monday's election, the pair realized that they needed to change their strategy. "What we did is took a look at our platform and looked at areas of weakness and prepared for the debate on Wednesday," Braun said. "By no means did we resign ourselves to the fact that it was over but we did realize that there were better ways to handle it. Hopefully we demonstrated that."

Reish and Schmidt's victory also marked a change in a trend in student government dating back through the past four administrations in which either the student body vice president or the executive assistant to the president had won the top office the following year.

When asked how he felt about being the person to finally break this trend, Reish responded he thinks

the student body needed a fresh perspective and hopes to be part of the team that will accomplish that.

Braun said she knew her current position as student body vice president did not guarantee her victory in this year's election.

"We came in here approaching the campaign with the sense that nothing is guaranteed," she said. "The fact that it didn't work out for us proves that legacy is not the end-all-be-all. That's probably the way it should be. In this case I'm a firm believer in the idea that things have a way of working themselves out, and it's for the best of the student body."

Both Braun and Chamberlain said they do not know what they plan to do next, although Chamberlain said that right now he is just focused on getting through Junior Parents' Weekend.

"I think that when God closes one door he opens a new window, and what that is, I don't know yet, but I'm excited to find out," Braun said.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel, U.S. prepare for possible attacks

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Israel ordered its embassies on high alert and the FBI put U.S. terror squads on guard to protect Jewish institutions after Hezbollah's leader vowed Thursday to retaliate anywhere in the world for the assassination of one of its top commanders.

"Zionists, if you want this kind of open war, let the whole world listen: Let this war be open," Hassan Nasrallah told a throng of fist-waving mourners who attended the funeral of Imad Mugniyeh, the mastermind of terror spectacles that claimed hundreds of American lives.

Thousands of black-clad mourners raised their fists in the air, chanting, "At your orders, Nasrallah" in response to Nasrallah, who appeared via video. He has been in hiding since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war in Lebanon.

Iran bans 5 websites before elections

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian authorities banned five Web sites that comment on current events for "poisoning" public opinion ahead of the crucial mid-March parliamentary elections, the state radio reported on Thursday.

The move is the latest in an election period which has seen the Interior Ministry, run by hard-liners close to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, disqualify more than 2,000 prospective candidates — most of them reformers.

About 280 of those candidates were reinstated Tuesday by the Guardian Council, Iran's hard-line constitutional watchdog. But reformists have complained the reversal was insufficient to ensure a fair election.

NATIONAL NEWS

Romney endorses McCain in GOP race

BOSTON — Republican campaign dropout Mitt Romney endorsed John McCain for the party's presidential nomination and asked his national convention delegates to swing behind the likely nominee.

"Even when the contest was close and our disagreements were debated, the caliber of the man was apparent," the former Massachusetts governor said, standing alongside his one-time rival at his now-defunct campaign's headquarters. "This is a man capable of leading our country at a dangerous hour."

"Primaries are tough," said McCain, referring to their earlier rancor. "We know it was a hard campaign and now we move forward, we move forward together for the good of our party and the nation."

The two met privately before appearing together at a news conference. McCain had campaigned in Vermont and Rhode Island but added a flight to Boston to accept the endorsement.

Bush orders Navy to down satellite

WASHINGTON — President Bush has ordered the Pentagon to use a Navy missile to attempt to destroy a broken U.S. spy satellite — and thereby minimize the risk to humans from its toxic fuel — by intercepting it just before it re-enters the atmosphere, officials said Thursday.

The effort — the first of its kind — will be undertaken because of the potential that people in the area where the satellite would otherwise crash could be harmed, the officials said.

LOCAL NEWS

Water deal could face renegotiation

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Legislative leaders in Ohio and Wisconsin proposed changes Thursday in a Great Lakes water compact that could force renegotiation of the deal, which has been ratified by two states and is moving toward approval in four others.

The compact, signed by the governors of the eight Great Lakes states in 2005, would prohibit most diversions of water from the region's drainage basin and require each state to regulate water use.

It needs approval from the states' legislatures and Congress to take effect. Minnesota and Illinois have ratified the compact, which supporters describe as essential to prevent Great Lakes water from someday being sent to thirsty Sun Belt states.

Clinton's black supporters waver

"You've got to represent the wishes of your constituency," says defecting superdelegate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a fresh sign of trouble for Hillary Rodham Clinton, one of the former first lady's congressional black supporters intends to vote for Barack Obama at the Democratic National Convention, and a second, more prominent lawmaker is openly discussing a possible switch.

Rep. David Scott's defection and Rep. John Lewis' remarks highlight one of the challenges confronting Clinton in a campaign that pits a black man against a woman for a nomination that historically has been the exclusive property of white men.

"You've got to represent the wishes of your constituency," Scott said in an interview Wednesday in the Capitol. "My proper position would be to vote the wishes of my constituents." The third-term lawmaker represents a district that gave more than 80 percent of its vote to Obama in the Feb. 5 Georgia primary.

Lewis, whose Atlanta-area district voted 3-to-1 for Obama, said he is not ready to abandon his backing for the former first lady. But several associates said the nationally known civil rights figure has become increasingly torn about his early endorsement of Clinton. They spoke on condition of anonymity, citing private conversations.

In an interview, Lewis likened Obama to Robert F. Kennedy in his ability to generate campaign excitement, and left open the possibility he might swing behind the Illinois senator. "It could (happen). There's no question about it. It could happen with a lot of people ... we can count and we see the clock," he said.

Clinton's recent string of eight primary and caucus defeats coincides with an evident shift in momentum in the contest for support from party officials who



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Rep. John Lewis meet during a campaign stop on October 12, 2007, during which he endorsed her presidential bid.

will attend the convention. The former first lady still holds a sizable lead among the roughly 800 so-called superdelegates, who are chosen outside the primary and caucus system.

But Christine Samuels, until this week a Clinton superdelegate from New Jersey, said during the day she is now supporting Obama.

Two other superdelegates, Sophie Masloff of Pennsylvania and Nancy Larson of Minnesota, are uncommitted, having dropped their earlier endorsements of Clinton.

On Wednesday, David Wilhelm, a longtime ally of the Clintons who had been neutral in the presidential race, endorsed Obama.

The comments by Scott

and Lewis reflect pressure on Clinton's black supporters, particularly elected officials, not to stand in the way of what is plainly the best chance in history to have an African-American president.

"Nobody could see this" in advance, Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, the highest-ranking black in Congress, said of Obama's emergence. He is officially neutral in the race, but expressed his irritation earlier in the year with remarks that Clinton and her husband had made about civil rights history.

One black supporter of Clinton, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri, said he remains committed to her.

"There's nothing going on right now that would cause me to" change, he said.

He said any suggestion that elected leaders should follow their voters "raises the age old political question. Are we elected to monitor where our constituents are ... or are we to use our best judgment to do what's in the best interests of our constituents."

In an interview, Cleaver offered a glimpse of private conversations.

He said Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. of Illinois had recently asked him "if it comes down to the last day and you're the only superdelegate. ... Do you want to go down in history as the one to prevent a black from winning the White House?"

UNITED KINGDOM

New study suggests cancer, obesity link

Associated Press

LONDON — Being obese or even overweight may increase a person's risk of developing up to a dozen different types of cancer, European researchers report in a new study.

Doctors have long suspected a link between weight gain and certain cancers, including colon and breast cancers. But the new study, published Friday in the journal *Lancet*, suggests it could also increase chances for cancer of the esophagus, thyroid, kidney, uterus and gall bladder, among others.

While the study suggests a link, there is no definitive proof that being fat in itself causes cancer.

"To make the link between cause and effect, we need to tick several boxes," said Dr. Andrew Renehan, the study's lead author and senior lecturer at the School of Cancer Studies at the University of Manchester. "This study begins to tick the first two or three boxes, but more research is needed to confirm it."

The researchers compiled data from 141 studies and considered more types of cancers and more diverse populations than had been done previously. The research covered more than 280,000 cases from North America, Europe, Australia and Asia.

The subjects, both overweight and normal weight, were followed for about nine to 15 years, with

researchers tracking their body mass index, or BMI — a calculation based on weight and height — and correlating it with incidents of cancer.

In men, an average weight gain of 33 pounds increased the risk of esophageal cancer by 52 percent, thyroid cancer by 33 percent, and colon and kidney cancers each by 24 percent, the research found in Washington "if it will help them complete their work on this critical bill."

On Capitol Hill, House Republicans stormed out of the House chamber to boycott a vote to hold two presidential confidants in contempt for failing to cooperate with an inquiry into whether federal prosecutors were ousted for political reasons.

SMC

continued from page 1

ences of sexuality, relationships, among many other elements that shaped their lives," she said. "The SMC Monologues provide a safe place for women to give a voice to these experiences — both positive and negative —

but always empowering. "The most important difference is that the SMC Monologues has a very local focus — these are the stories of Saint Mary's — the voices of Saint Mary's. The Vagina Monologues is a great play, however we feel that the SMC Monologues are a better fit for Saint Mary's as they reflect the stories of our women."

The Monologues have been successful over the past few

years, attracting more than 300 people last year, Faunce said.

Associate professor of psychology Catherine Pittman, and faculty advisor to the Monologues, recognizes that what sets the SMC Monologues apart from the Vagina Monologues is its local focus.

"The Monologues follow the same tradition [of Enslers], allowing a variety of women's

voices to be heard," she said. "The difference here is that all of the stories, all of the experiences, are those of members of the Saint Mary's Community. The stories have happened in a place that we are familiar with and in the lives of those people who we may know. These are our stories, reflecting our experiences."

Saint Mary's first pioneered the idea of writing their own monologues four years ago to characterize the unheard voices of the community, Pittman said.

"This reflects the comfort and competency with writing that characterizes our campus."

This year, IUSB is following Saint Mary's model as it debuts the first-annual Michiana Monologues.

"We are excited to see this idea catch on," Pittman said.

Pittman recognizes the importance of the Monologues to create a venue for discussion and a place to further the College's mission.

"As a college that is very concerned with promoting women's leadership, Saint Mary's continually encourages our women to find their voices, and to speak out, even when the topic is controversial. Women's sexuality is a sensitive topic, but it is also a critically important one that should not be neglected," she said. "These monologues facilitate greater openness about women's sexuality, and encourage students to think critically about their attitudes toward their bodies, their sexuality, and their relationships. The SMC Monologues is an attempt to provoke more thought and discussion about

a topic that is often taboo." While the subject matter is "taboo," Pittman has not sensed any opposition from college administrators about performing them on campus and does not expect any in the future.

"Our administration would not prevent students from performing the Vagina Monologues, and if we wanted to do them, we are sure that we could," she said. "We do the SMC Monologues because we feel that they are more relevant and meaningful to our community, and even though it takes more effort to write, review, and select

"Women's voices should not and cannot be silenced. We need to use each change to recognize and celebrate our experiences as women."

Becki Faunce
SMC Monologues producer

monologues, we feel it is worth the effort."

Faunce echoed her sentiments, noting that the Monologues are a critical opportunity to both unite the College and voice the unheard.

"Women's voices should not and cannot be silenced. We need to use each change to recognize and celebrate our experiences as women," she said. "If our experiences are played down and neglected, we cannot move forward." The dates of the performance coincide with V-Day, Feb. 14, to further cement the message of empowering women and hearing their stories, Pittman said.

"We are following the tradition of V-Day, choosing a similar time," she said. "Also, in the same tradition, we will be giving all the proceeds to a rape crisis center in South Bend."

There is a \$3 suggested donation to S.O.S., which is the only sexual assault crisis helpline in St. Joseph County.

Contact Katie Kohler
at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

40th Anniversary COMMUNITY of SANT'EGIDIO



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751	67	2,590	3,654,373,246
AMEX	2,263.10	-11.14	
NASDAQ	2,332.54	-41.39	
NYSE	8,968.41	-105.07	
S&P 500	1,348.86	-18.35	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,452.45	-174.00	
FTSE 100 (London)	5,879.30	-0.80	

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY)	-0.88	-1.20	135.17
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-1.81	-0.81	43.97
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-2.73	-0.74	26.41
ISHARE RUS 2000 (IWM)	-2.32	-1.67	70.18

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+3.36	+0.124	3.818
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EURO	0.6832
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IN BRIEF

Bernanke calls economy "sluggish"

NEW YORK — Wall Street retreated Thursday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke predicted a "sluggish" economy until later in the year and more mortgage-related losses at banks. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 175 points.

Though the Fed chairman's comments suggested the central bank is still open to further interest rate reductions, the tone was, as expected, somber. Bernanke said the housing and credit crises have weighed on the economy and curbed hiring. If the job market deteriorates, consumer spending, which is crucial for economic growth, will keep dwindling.

The Labor Department said Thursday the number of workers filing unemployment claims fell 9,000 to 348,000 last week. But after the January jobs report that showed the first net jobs loss in more than four years, Wall Street remains worried that businesses are becoming cautious about hiring and that unemployment will compound the debt problems that have been slamming the markets and the greater economy.

After three strong days on Wall Street, investors found scant encouragement in Bernanke's testimony and cashed in their gains.

Swiss develop underwater convertible

GENEVA — OK, so the Swiss have invented a car that runs on land and underwater. But did they REALLY have to make it a convertible?

It's called the "sQuba," and conjures up memories of James Bond's amphibious Lotus Esprit from "The Spy Who Loved Me." That fictional vehicle traveled on land and, when chased by bad guys in a helicopter, plunged into the water and became an airtight submarine — complete with "torpedoes" and "depth charges."

But "Q" isn't responsible for this one. The concept car — which unlike Bond's is not armed — was developed by Swiss designer Rinspeed Inc. and is set to make a splash at the Geneva Auto Show next month.

Company CEO Frank Rinderknecht, a self-professed Bond fan, said he has been waiting 30 years to recreate the car he saw Roger Moore use to drive off of a dock.

FEMA trailers fail safety tests

Agency to rush Katrina victims out of 35,000 units and into temporary housing

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — After downplaying the risks for months, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said Thursday it will rush to move Gulf Coast hurricane victims out of roughly 35,000 government-issued trailers because tests found dangerous levels of formaldehyde fumes.

FEMA Administrator R. David Paulison said the agency hopes to get everyone out and into hotels, motels, apartments and other temporary housing by the summer, when the heat and stuffy air could worsen the problem inside the trailers.

"The real issue is not what it will cost but how fast we can move people out," he said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said fumes from 519 tested trailers and mobile homes in Louisiana and Mississippi were, on average, about five times what people are exposed to in most modern homes. Formaldehyde, a preservative commonly used in construction materials, can lead to breathing problems and is also believed to cause cancer.

The findings stirred worry and anger across the Gulf Coast, where FEMA is already a dirty word and housing has been scarce since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck in 2005.

"Am I angry at FEMA? Of course I am. They should have started moving people out of these trailers once they first started finding problems," said Lynette Hooks, 48. She said that since she began living in her trailer outside her damaged New Orleans home in October 2006, she



The head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Julie Gerberding, right, and FEMA Administrator David Paulison, background, speak at a news conference on Thursday.

has suffered headaches and sinus problems, in addition to the asthma she had before.

The CDC findings could also have disturbing implications for the safety of other trailers and mobile homes across the country, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said on Capitol Hill on Thursday. But the CDC study did not look beyond the FEMA housing.

Paulison vowed that the agency will never again use the flimsy, cramped travel trailers to shelter

victims of disasters. Mobile homes are generally roomier than trailers and considered less susceptible to buildups of fumes.

FEMA will press ahead with plans to supply leftover, never-used mobile homes from the twin disasters to victims of last week's tornadoes in the South, Paulison said. But the mobile homes will be opened up, aired out and tested first, he said.

The formaldehyde levels in some trailers were found to be high enough to cause breathing problems

in children, the elderly or people who already have respiratory trouble, CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding said. About 5 percent had levels high enough to cause breathing problems even in people who do not ordinarily have respiratory trouble, she said.

Gerberding said the tests could not draw a direct link between formaldehyde levels and the wide range of ailments reported by trailer occupants. But the CDC urged people to move out as quickly as possible.

Export growth shrinks trade deficit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite a soaring foreign oil bill and another record deficit with China, the overall U.S. trade deficit declined in 2007 after setting records for five consecutive years.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that the deficit dropped to \$711.6 billion last year, a decline of 6.2 percent. The trade deficit with China continued to rise, jumping by 10.2 percent to \$256.3 billion. That was the largest gap ever recorded with a single country, as Chinese imports surged despite a string of high-profile recalls of tainted products.

The Bush administration credited its free trade policies for spurring strong growth in exports while critics contended that even with the lower overall deficit, the imbalance is still nearly double what it was in 2001, the year Bush took office.

For December, the deficit fell by 6.9 percent to \$58.8 billion, a bigger-than-expected improvement to close out the

year.

Analysts said the decline in the dollar over the past two years has helped spur strong increases in U.S. exports, with American goods now cheaper and thus more competitive in many overseas markets.

Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, said that the smaller December trade deficit will help to boost overall economic growth from the final three months of last year from the initial estimate of a mere 0.6 percent expansion. He predicted trade and a better reading on inventory stockpiles would boost growth in the gross domestic product to 1.1 percent when the figure gets revised later this month.

In other economic news, the Labor Department reported that the number of newly laid off workers filing claims for unemployment benefits fell by 9,000 to 348,000 last week. That was larger than the 6,000 decline that analysts had been expecting.

The country's trade performance is

expected to be a major issue in the upcoming presidential campaign, with Democrats arguing that the huge deficits have contributed to the loss of more than 3 million manufacturing jobs since 2000 as U.S. companies moved production to low-wage countries such as China.

"These numbers provide further evidence of China's consistent and deliberate efforts to violate our trade laws by doing everything from placing tariffs on our auto parts to misaligning their currency," said Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich. "There is no doubt, this unfair trade hurts American businesses and hurts middle-class families."

Lawmakers have introduced a variety of bills to impose economic sanctions on China for what they contend are unfair practices such as manipulating its currency to keep its value low against the dollar, which makes Chinese goods cheaper in U.S. markets and American products more expensive overseas.

Students

continued from page 1

more common. "Unfortunately, this is kind of becoming an occurrence on college campuses across the nation. Hopefully, this trend will stop," she said.

Brown also expressed a sense of grief at the NIU tragedy.

"This is a hard thing to react to," she said. "This sort of thing has become all too common at schools in the United States."

Senior Meghan Jebb, who was studying in Dublin at the time of the Virginia Tech tragedy, questioned the universality of school shootings.

"I don't know if this kind of thing happens in other countries. After the Va. Tech shootings, the kids in Ireland were like, 'why do they have guns?'" she asked.

Colleen Fleshman, who is from Illinois, said that her first reaction after hearing the news was to call her friends who attend NIU to make sure of their safety. She said she was relieved to find that all her friends were alright.

Although the shooter's motivations are not yet known, some students have wondered about the timing of his attack.

"He probably picked Valentine's Day for a reason," junior Ryan Simmons said.

Sophomore Kyle Hagelskamp agreed.

"It's too bad that people don't feel the love and support of the world and resort to doing something like this," he said. "We need to work on providing a loving and supportive environment to try to prevent this sort of tragedy."

Brown stressed that while she obviously hopes that no similar situation would happen at Notre Dame, the University has precautions in place designed to manage a tragedy.

"Certainly we hope it would never happen at Notre Dame,"

she said. "We think our campus is very safe. But if it were to ever happen, I'm thankful that we do have the correct measures in place to adequately inform the student body and react quickly."

These measures include the Emergency Networking System that will alert students to any emergency situations through text messages, phone calls and emails. These emergency situations include shootings.

Contact John Tierney at tierney.16@nd.edu

"This sort of thing has become all too common at schools in the United States."

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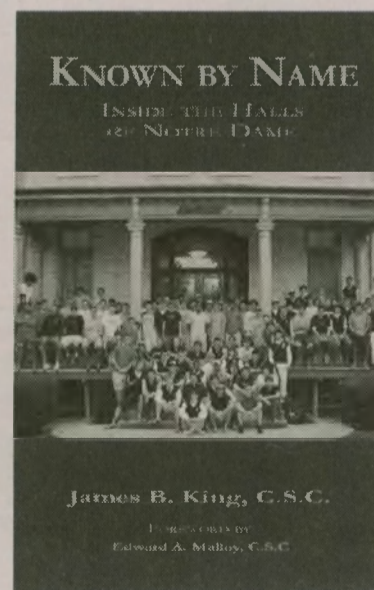
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5 killed, 16 injured in university shooting

Gunman dressed in black opened fire in Northern Illinois lecture hall with shotgun, handguns; four died on scene

Associated Press

DEKALB — A former student dressed in black opened fire with a shotgun and two handguns from the stage of a lecture hall at Northern Illinois University on Thursday, killing five students and injuring 16 others before committing suicide, authorities said.

The gunman fatally shot four women and a man in a "brief, rapid-fire assault" that sent terrified students running for cover, university President John Peters said. Four died at the scene, including the gunman, and the other two died at a hospital, he said. Two victims were in critical condition.

Investigators did not know what led the gunman, a former NIU graduate student in sociology, to spray bullets at the geology class instructor and dozens of students in the large hall around 3 p.m.

"I kept thinking, 'Oh God, he's going to shoot me. Oh God, I'm dead. I'm dead. I'm dead,'" said Desiree Smith, a senior journalism major who dropped to the floor near the back of the auditorium.

"People were crawling on each other, trampling each other," she said. "As I got near the door, I got up and I started running."

Officials said 162 students were registered for the class but it was unknown how many were there

Thursday.

Lauren Carr said she was sitting in the third row when she saw the shooter walk through a door on the right-hand side of the stage, pointing a gun straight ahead.

"I personally Army-crawled halfway up the aisle," said Carr, a 20-year-old sophomore. "I said I could get up and run or I could die here."

She said a student in front of her was bleeding, "but he just kept running."

"I heard this girl scream, 'Run, he's reloading the gun.'"

Student Jerry Santoni was in a back row when he saw the gunman enter a service door to the stage.

"I saw him shoot one round at the teacher," he said. "After that, I proceeded to get down as fast as I could."

Santoni dived down, hitting his head the seat in front of him, leaving a knot about half the size of a pingpong ball on his forehead.

The teacher, a graduate student, was wounded but was expected to recover, the school president said. He did not give details of the injuries.

Peters said the gunman was not currently enrolled at the 25,000-student campus about 65 miles west of Chicago.

"It appears he may have been a

student somewhere else," University Police Chief Donald Grady said.

Seventeen victims were brought to nearby Kishwaukee Community Hospital, where one died, according to spokeswoman Theresa Komitas. School officials said four people, including the gunman, died at the lecture hall and two later died at hospitals.

Michael Gentile was meeting with two of his students directly beneath the lecture hall when the shootings happened. He could hear the chaos a few feet above his head.

"The shotgun blast must have been so loud," said Gentile, a 27-year-old media studies instructor. "It sounded like something was dropping down the stairs... We had no idea what this was."

Then, shorter, sharper noises he recognized as handgun shots.

"There was a pretty quick succession ... just pow, pow, pow," said Gentile, who didn't leave his office for about 90 minutes. He used a surveillance camera just outside his office to confirm that the people knocking on his door were police.

George Gaynor, a senior geography student, who was in Cole Hall when the shooting happened, told the student newspaper the Northern Star that the shooter was "a skinny white guy with a stocking cap on."



Northern Illinois students are tended to by rescue workers after a gunman shot several students before killing himself Thursday.

JPW

continued from page 1

ings similar to those in her class.

"I am really excited about having my parents come to experience what my life is like here," Miller said. "They will be able to see where my friends come from by examining their parents and be able to understand what makes Notre Dame so special."

The weekend's events will commence tonight with an opening gala in the Joyce Center for all juniors and their parents. The ceremony is the most formal event of the weekend and is a chance for the students and their families to become

acquainted with one another over appetizers, dessert and dancing.

Saturday morning's events are designed to be more specific to each individual student. Juniors will begin the morning participating in a college specific "collegiate workshop" in order to offer their parents insight into their academic life at Notre Dame. For lunch, the families will return to the student's residence hall to socialize with friends and families of the other residents.

Following Saturday's luncheon is the JPW mass, beginning at 5:30. University president Father John Jenkins, will preside. Saturday's events will conclude with the President's Dinner where Father Jenkins and junior class president Bob Reish will speak in addition to

live entertainment.

The weekend will conclude with a Sunday brunch in the Joyce Center.

Many students study abroad during the spring semester of their junior year and, therefore, cannot participate in JPW. The committee has created a way for the parents of these students to experience the Notre Dame community by opening the event to seniors who studied abroad in the spring of 2007. Approximately 50 seniors and their parents will participate in the weekend this year.

Fremau offers an explanation for the reasoning behind the timing of the event.

"Along with first-year orientation and Commencement, JPW is the only other major event focused on parents as official guests of the University," he

said. "The study-abroad programs have grown in popularity at Notre Dame, especially over the last fifteen years or so, impacting JPW somewhat, but the weekend still draws a major percentage of the class each year."

Senior architecture majors, who are all abroad during their junior year, host their own parents' weekend every spring. The program, called Expo Roma, showcases all of the senior's work from their previous year in Rome. The students decorate the lobby of Bond Hall to look like Rome, fly in a professor from Rome as a guest speaker and present a slide show of their time abroad to their parents.

"I really liked [Expo Roma] last year because it was a really personalized Junior Parents' Weekend for us archies," Caitlin

Shannon, a fifth-year architecture major said. "It's a weekend organized by us, and it's all about our experiences in Rome our junior year. It's a very personal way to show our experience at Notre Dame to our parents."

The University's juniors are looking forward to this weekend with anticipation. For Miller, she sees it as a chance for her parents to be able to understand her life at Notre Dame.

"With my parents coming here, a lot of stories will be shared between my family and my friends and their families," Miller said. "Having those memories will serve as a reminder to why we love this place so much."

Contact Ellyn Michalak at emichela@nd.edu

Attention First-Year MBA's

Would you like to earn an \$18,000 fellowship for your second year?

The William G. McGowan Charitable Fund has just awarded the MBA Program a grant that covers \$18,000 for the second year for an MBA student!

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All First-Year MBA's are eligible, excluding those that are already receiving a full tuition scholarship.

Deadline: Applications are due to Rachel Gerkey in the MBA Office by Thursday, March 20, 2008.

The winner will be announced in early May
Contact information: Gerkey.2@nd.edu

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Friday, February 15, 2008

THE OBSERVER

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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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Bishop conference relocation a bad idea

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) relocated its two-day "The Eloquence of Teaching" seminar because it didn't want to be associated with an anticipated March performance of "The Vagina Monologues" on campus.

Given that the conference was not open to the public, theology department chair and seminar organizer John Cavadini said the USCCB did not intend to make a public statement by moving the seminar off campus, but that's exactly what they did.

While neither Cavadini nor the Conference may have intended the relocation as a public statement, it nonetheless delivers an implicit message that Notre Dame's campus has somehow become tainted or rendered unfit for the conference because it allows students to perform "The Vagina Monologues" on campus.

To equate the USCCB's holding a conference on Notre Dame's campus with endorsing the "Monologues" seems as far-fetched and irrational as suggesting that the University is endorsing the show by simply allowing its performance. We see an important distinction between the two.

Regardless of one's opinion of the "Monologues" themselves, there can be no denying that the show represents one end of the deliberative spectrum on faith and sexuality, however strong. How can the University and its students even begin to discuss issues of sexuality and Catholicism at Notre Dame if we don't allow all voices to be heard in the conversation?

It should be noted that allowing for a presentation of the show on campus entails no involuntary participation on behalf of any student or faculty. The performance is part of no curriculum and no student is required to watch the performance. Those who do participate as both actors and audience do so out of their own free will.

If nothing else, "The Vagina Monologues" continues to incite deliberation and debate. Every year around this time our Viewpoint section is flooded with Letters to the Editor flashing back and forth, espousing different opinions on the matter. To our minds, that discourse alone is a good thing in and of itself.

As both a premier academic university and a premier Catholic university, Notre Dame has always had the complex dynamic of trying to maintain the University's Catholic character while still allowing for academic freedom. The two forces exist in creative tension and nowhere is this more evident than in the annual controversy surrounding "The Vagina Monologues." However complicated this dynamic may be, we see no reason to view the Catholic character-academic freedom debate as a zero sum game, where gains on one side entail loss on the other. There can and should be some give and take between the two.

Notre Dame can be Catholic and still host "The Vagina Monologues." If the USCCB could appreciate that, relocation might not have been an issue.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Batman's superiority evident

The Batman vs. Superman debate is the hottest thing to hit The Observer since the Vagina Monologues, and I commend The Scene for their bravery in printing Berrios' and Fitzpatrick's articles ("Superman more than mere mortal," "Batman's humanity is key," Feb. 12) — needless to say this is this year's version of "SMC Girls are Parasites" and a precursor to next year's "Waffles vs. Pancakes," but I digress.

Bruce Wayne is often discredited as a superhero because people argue that the large sum of money he inherited has enabled him to become the Batman. Money, these heathens argue, is his only superpower. However, Bruce Wayne is not merely a billionaire playboy, as he might come across in Batman Begins. We cannot forget that although there are many billionaires in the world, it is not every day that Bill Gates hits the streets to fight crime. It takes bravery, courage, dedication, strong moral fiber and a life-long commitment to physical training to become a self-made superhero, and money cannot buy these things.

Moreover, where does Batman shop for Batman gear? I must once again beg readers to forget what they have seen in Batman Begins and remember that Batman's secret identity is a closely

guarded secret. He cannot simply hire a scientist to create his gadgets, or a mechanic to build a Batmobile, lest he rouse their suspicions. Furthermore, last time I checked there are no local superhero gear shops ... anywhere — as if Bruce Wayne or Batman could simply waltz into one and make a purchase anyway. No, it is Bruce Wayne's brilliance, (something else that money cannot buy), which not only helps him solve mysteries and talk his way out of sticky situations, but invent and build the many gadgets that make Batman the hero he is.

Another important facet of the argument that Berrios and Fitzpatrick left out of their own articles is which superhero would win in a fight. The answer, of course, is Batman. In the comics, Superman recognized his potential to be a threat to humanity and entrusted Batman with a kryptonite ring to use against him should the need arise. Although this ring was destroyed (probably to Batman's benefit, because kryptonite proved to be a carcinogen) he did continue to keep kryptonite in his belt (presumably in a pouch lined with lead) and in the Batcave.

Some would argue that Superman could easily vaporize Batman from space with heat vision, to which I respond, try

it. Preparedness is Bruce Wayne's motto, and I am certain that in addition to his hip flask of kryptonite, he has outfitted his home, his vehicles and his suit to withstand at least preliminary blows from Superman's most outrageous abilities. Constant readiness proves that should a fight between the two occur, Batman would be the surviving superhero.

In closing, I would like to loosely quote a classic 1995 film, *Angus*. *Angus* is a film about an overweight high school kid struggling to fit in. This movie best explains why Batman is undoubtedly superior to Superman in every way. Superman may stand for "truth, justice and the American way" but that does not make him brave or courageous. As *Angus*' grandfather explains to him, "Superman is indestructible, and you can't be brave if you're indestructible." Instead, it's people like Batman, people who "are different, and can be crushed and know it. Yet they keep on going out there every time" that are admirable. Don't be a Superman, he warns his grandson. *Be brave, be a Batman.*

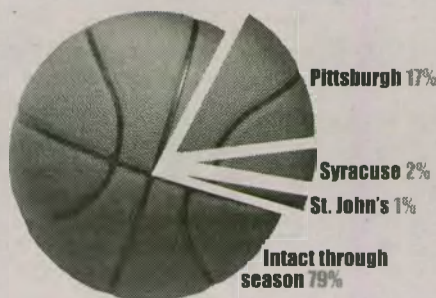
J.J. Cappa
senior
Keenan Hall
Feb. 12

Tired of U-Wire?
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Observer Poll

How long will the Notre Dame Men's Basketball home win streak last?

	Votes	Percentage
Intact through season	344	79%
Pittsburgh (Feb. 21)	75	17%
Syracuse (Feb. 24)	10	2%
St. John's (Mar. 5)	4	1%



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you hate a person, you hate something in him that is part of yourself. What isn't part of ourselves doesn't disturb us."

Hermann Hesse
German author

A tribute to our tainted water supply

Before I begin, I would like to thank my parents for reading during this JPW weekend. Thanks, Mom and Dad.

A couple of weeks ago (before I contracted the black plague and was quarantined to my side room) I was over at The Rock doing some lifting when I realized that I had forgotten to bring bottled water with me. My choice: Risk my life drinking from the possibly contaminated drinking fountains outside the second floor gymnasium, or simply go without water. While my mouth was desperate for some liquid goodness, I attempted to persevere. I could not go without a swig, however, and I was forced to drink from the ancient spouts on floor two. Even though I can't assume that the sickness I got soon after can't be traced back to my unsafe workout hydration practices, I think my subjugation could have been prevented if we would simply follow the example of one Easter Heathman.

Late last month, Easter Heathman passed away. In the weeks that followed his death, I read several obituaries describing how he was one of the first people to arrive at the scene of Knute Rockne's plane crash. In the years since this fateful event, Mr. Heathman maintained the site, and led people on offi-

cial tours of it. He even organized for a memorial to be built in our former coach's honor.

Here on campus, while we refer to the football stadium as the House that Rockne Built, the building that was actually built to honor the coach is the Rockne Memorial, or, The Rock. For those of you who don't know, (the approximately seven fat people on campus) The Rock is where many students go to work out. While I sometimes swim or lift weights (the smaller ones), other people play basketball, racquetball, or run on treadmills. The facility is also used for freshman physical education classes, as well as fitness and dance classes throughout the year. Since countless students have come through the building to meet for Coach O'Sullivan's golf class, and so many have used The Rock over the years, it is almost shameful to our great coach that we honor him with such a downtrodden facility.

Knute Rockne was a coach who undoubtedly cared a lot about fitness. I'm certain his teams were a hard-working, intelligent, nasty groups of men that were feared by teams across the country (a far cry from our current situation). These athletes undoubtedly went through tough practices under the summer sun, and probably took many water breaks drinking from the best sources that north-central Indiana has to offer.

Are we really honoring him with this workout facility where students are afraid of contracting diseases from the water? I don't know if my recent plight with a flu-like virus is a direct cause of drinking Rockne-water, but it certainly would not shock me if the water in the facility is brought through lead pipes to get to the students who are counting on it. I could be wrong, but I even think one of the campus presidential tickets ran on a clean water campaign. I sure hope they won because we all know the student body president has enough power to get this done.

Anyways, what we really ought to do to raise awareness about our water situation is bring in a celebrity who has experience cleaning up water. I'm thinking we bring in Erin Brockovich herself. She sure knows enough about cleaning tainted water, and I would think Notre Dame students are just the group of people that a justice seeking woman like Ms. Brokovich would be willing to help out.

Actually, on second thought, nobody really knows who she is. It might be better if we just get her cinematic counterpart Julia Roberts to come to campus and speak on our behalf. I'm sure that could be fun. We could have her screen some mediocre romantic comedies like Notting Hill and My Best Friend's Wedding, and she could talk about that scene in Ocean's 12 where she acted as a woman pretend-

ing to be Julia Roberts.

Seeing as that probably wouldn't help, we should probably just fix the pipes. If we can spend the money to upgrade the house that Rockne built, we should at least be able to find some really rich alumnus to throw a couple million at us and fix up The Rock. I'm sure Fr. Jenkins would love to have another fence built across campus and spread the construction to South Quad. It's the least we can do not only to stop the fear that is spreading across campus about the drinking water in the Rock, but also to honor the memory of our greatest football coach.

If Easter Heathman can single handedly honor Coach Rockne at the place of his death, our administration should certainly be able to find a way to rightfully honor him at the place where he made a name for himself, and it would not take too much effort to fix the Rock into a healthy facility.

Or, we could just get water bottles.

Bob Kessler is a junior majoring in political science and economics. He is a supporter of free speech and the fair tax, and you can read more of his work at saltystix.com. He can be contacted at rkessler@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unity crucial in big games

During the past two weeks, we have had the privilege of seeing three outstanding basketball games against Providence, DePaul and Marquette. We've solidified our place in the Big East, and Mike Brey has distinguished himself as one of the game's best (and one of the classiest head coaches I have ever seen). Best of all, the excellence of our team and our coach has been provided to the national audience through ESPN. There's been only one downside.

The Leprechaun Legion has also had many opportunities to display its spirit. However, I've noticed that the cameras love to watch us during the Celtic Chant (read: Uppercut Song). Now, many dedicated Zahmbies have had excellent, front-row seats during these games. We're all familiar with the Zahm House tradition of forming an X with their forearms during the Chant. This gesture is totally inappropriate during a nationally televised basketball game. When the game is Zahm versus Dillon or Cavanaugh versus Howard, dorm loyalty is encouraged. But when it's Notre Dame versus Marquette, the most important loyalty is to the Irish.

The national audience has no concept of PE or O'Neill; when they see some students not following the rest, it's a sign of division and disunity. By making the X, Zahmbies are sending the message that they are more loyal to something besides Notre Dame. They are saying they're more loyal to Zahm House than Our Lady's University. So Zahmbies, please, don't do that when the nation is watching. At pep rallies or interhall games or whatever, go ahead. Be proud of your dorm. But when we come together as a university, be loyal to your university. Be Zahmbies when you should be Zahmbies, and be Loyal Sons when you should be Loyal Sons. Then you can go back to your cheeky (when's the Bun Run?) shenanigans that the rest of us find so annoyingly charming.

Just remember: it's not God, Country, Stanford Hall, Notre Dame; it's God, Country, Notre Dame. We are ND; let's act like it.

Kyle Tennant
freshman
Stanford Hall
Feb. 10

'Monologues' ineffective

Dear Notre Dame students,
As an alumnus from Our Lady's esteemed University, I have a suggestion to you: Don't limit yourself. You are some of the absolute best and brightest students that America has to offer. I have spent countless hours analyzing Notre Dame's academic freedom debates throughout the years, especially with regard to the Vagina Monologues.

I have to admit that I was pretty ignorant regarding the Monologues back in 2002, so in 2005 I started to read them. Then, with the wonderful invention of "YouTube," I have been able to watch almost every skit. Not only is this play inappropriate for Notre Dame, its performances are not suitable for any university, even the secular.

Religion really has nothing to do with it. The play is vulgar, tasteless and destroys the spirit of womanhood. My question to so many universities is, "why do so many believe the Monologues are the answer to end violence against women?" I do not see it as an answer but as an additional problem!

We will not end violence against women until we appreciate women physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. I am trying to be as open-minded as possible, but I cannot see how the Vagina Monologues could ever achieve this task. Wake up Notre Dame and use the gifts God has given you. Stand up for women and women's rights. There are countless ways to cooperatively work together as a university to end violence against women.

The Vagina Monologues, which are unarguably antithetical to Catholic teaching, do not allow the University to work together to fight this battle. The Vagina Monologues turns off a majority of students and alumni due to its graphic nature and inappropriate language and actions. Let's work together. Let's really make a difference to end violence of all kinds, as a university united in Christ. You are all intelligent enough to find solutions to the world's problems in which all members of the Notre Dame community can take part. There are better ways to fight these battles, ways that are in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church. Your job is to think of these ways. Don't ever sell yourself short!

Dump the Monologues and begin fresh, and by the way, kudos to those students who have worked so hard over the years to develop the "Edith Stein Project." What a hero and role model to help shape the world's view of feminism.

Greg Bergman
alumnus
Class of 1997
Feb. 13

PERSPECTIVE: 2001

The following extracts are from Letters to the Editor that appeared in The Observer in 2001 in response to Saint Mary's cancelling a production of "The Vagina Monologues."

Surprised by censorship

Censorship is an ugly word. Vagina, apparently, is an even uglier one. Saint Mary's has decided to ban this year's performances of "The Vagina Monologues." Such a clear act of censorship should by no means be surprising, but it should also not go unquestioned.

The decision to ban by itself would not be wholly shocking. After all, we are talking about a Catholic campus. The problem here lies in the fact that the play was performed last year on the same campus.

... Last year's presentation generated an immense amount of discussion about sex on both campuses. Notre Dame's campus has been labeled rape-prone by more than one lecturer, and one of the main factors in that label is the repression of any open talk about sexuality.

... I hope some sort of agreement can be reached by discussing this and I hope people participate in this discussion. Nothing sends a more powerful message about us than apathy, after all.

Jeff Eyerman
O'Neil Hall
Jan. 24, 2001

Women's empowerment not expressed in 'Monologues'

The last time I checked, rape and child molestation were not women's empowerment issues. They were considered violence against women issues.

... One of the central messages of the show is that "great sex is possible between people who have absolutely no emotional commitment to each other."

... The show's final result is that it has condoned and glorified rape, child molestation, pornography and prostitution.

In a world where feminists and all those who fight for women's justice have worked so hard over the years to gain respect and admiration for the way we manage our lives, I find it hard to see how this show could further that cause at all, other than giving someone untold opportunities to say the word "vagina."

... This play, in its language and its subject matter, is not women's empowerment, it is a cheap way of getting attention and an excuse to act immature. Thank you, Saint Mary's, for not giving in!

Katherine Hoppe
sophomore
Lyons Hall
Jan. 31, 2001



FTT THESES Blend Classics, Culture and Modernism

MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

Grams draws inspiration from Noh and Kabuki theater

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Editor

For his FTT Honors Thesis project, senior Nate Grams decided to try something new and mix things up — literally.

In writing and directing “The Flight,” he crossed the texts of Henrik Ibsen’s “A Doll House” and Kinoshita Junji’s “The Twilight Crane,” creating an original work that is an amalgamation of both plays.

The two plays make for an interesting marriage, which is fitting considering that “The Flight” follows two couples and deals with the issue of the sacrifice women often-times make for the sake of their marriages.

“My inspiration for creating this project was the opportunity to do something completely original,” he said. “I started with research: research into plays, into Suzuki Method, into the Japanese Theatre styles, scholarship on the works, everything. And from all this, I’ve created a synthesis that I can actually call my own, and that feels really cool.”

Some might say taking on such an ambitious enterprise is for the birds, and Grams might agree, but for a different reason — he titled his play “The Flight” because it employs the image of women as birds.

“Birds are these beautiful creatures with the power of flight, but the act of keeping one represents a tremendous loss of freedom,” he said.

In writing the play, Grams said he cut the plays in what he calls “dialogic manner,”

where the narrative goes back and forth between one world and the other until the final scene, where the story arcs overlap and draw together.

By his estimation, Grams said he took about sixty percent of the lines in “The Flight” from the two texts, with the remainder coming from his own hand. In addition to writing and directing the show, Grams also designed the choreography, music, set and costumes — doing everything, in other words, short of taking the stage himself.

“I’ve gotten my chance to try a little bit of everything this show,” he said. “Just about the only thing I haven’t done for this show is act, which is fortunate because I have a fantastic cast, and I don’t know if I could do what they do.”

“The Flight” features Jennifer Betancourt as Nora, Luke Cieslewicz as Torvald, Huyen Nguyen as Tsu, Devin Preston as Yohyo, Tashi Thomas as the Narrator and Kenneth Hamilton as the Drummer. His crew includes Shay Thorton as Stage Manager and James Miller-Marquez as light designer.

“Everyone in this show has been so awe-

some to work with and truly generous with their time in helping to bring this show together,” Grams said. “There’s no way I could ever repay them, but I think their work speaks for itself.”

“The Flight” has a strong Japanese influence, which Grams says dates back to his years in high school, where he studied Japanese and traveled to Japan, which in turn introduced him to Noh and Kabuki Theater. He also said that his exposure to Suzuki Method came from one of his professors here at Notre Dame Jay Skelton.

Suzuki Method is a movement technique and acting which combines traditional forms of Japanese theater including Noh, Kabuki and Kyogen.

“Suzuki is based on the principle of forms, kind of like ballet,” he said. “The biggest obstacle to this is the fact that much of Suzuki is very physically strenuous, but you must always fight to appear calm and relaxed at all times, ready to do anything, at any speed, in a moment’s notice. [...] I think it instantly creates this incredible dynamic tension on stage.”

Noh is a traditional, ancient form of Japanese theatre which dates back to the

1300s. Half of Grams’ source material, “The Twilight Crane” was originally written in this style.

“I think what I love about Japanese Theatre in general is the specificity, how one tiny movement, executed precisely, can communicate so much,” he said. “I love that kind of power and subtlety.”

Grams began working on this project in the spring of last year. His proposal for the Honors Project was due in April 2007 and he began his research at that time. “Since then it’s been a long process of reading, taking classes on Suzuki, writing, editing and now rehearsing,” he said.

He said “The Flight” represents the culmination of the skills he’s learned during his four years at Notre Dame.

“At some point or another, I’ve found myself applying what I’ve learned from every class and every show I’ve ever done here,” he said. “I couldn’t have even begun to imagine doing this without what the major has given me.”

As far as his future goes, Grams said he has already auditioned with several graduate schools for acting and is currently waiting to hear back from them. Regardless of the outcome, Grams said he remains committed to his craft and he is prepared to go the “starving artist” route.

“If [he’s not accepted], then I think I plan on moving to Chicago next year and just trying to act and direct professionally,” he said. “And be poor. Professionally.”

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O’Shea utilizes Ophelia archetype in one-woman show

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Editor

When senior Erin O’Shea takes the Philbin Studio Theatre stage tonight, all eyes will be on her and only her, which fits considering that “Watch Me” is a one-woman show.

In preparation for her FTT Honors Thesis Project, O’Shea spent the last year and half conducting research into the character of Ophelia from Shakespeare’s “Hamlet.” To this extent, she examined paintings, read scholarly articles and listened to music inspired by the story of Ophelia, and read plays and poetry which parallel the Ophelia story. Over the course of Shakespeare’s play, Ophelia goes mad and is later found dead.

The plot of “Watch Me” traces a young woman named Sammy Union who tries to deal with a stalker through therapy. For the purposes of “Watch Me,” O’Shea said she tried to adapt the Ophelia archetype onto a modern woman in her character Sammy Union.

“They are not the same person, but they may share many similar emotions,” she said. “The Ophelia archetype, in my opinion, is one of a victim. In ‘Hamlet,’ she is more of a pretty object than an actual person. The male characters display great amounts control over her. Ultimately, the various pressures and anxieties become too much.

“Granted, not all women share these circumstances,” she said, “but most of us understand what it is like to feel helpless or objectified at times. Some fill the role of victims, while some refuse to be victims and find the strength to persevere.”

“Watch Me” represents O’Shea’s inaugural effort at writing for the stage.

“It’s definitely been an interesting experience,” she said. “One thing I found repeatedly was that just because something looks good in print does not ensure it will sound equally good when read aloud. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve gone back and edited to make things more ‘actable.’”

Although her “all things Ophelia” approach gave her inspiration into the character, O’Shea said she still suffered from writer’s block, a common malady of freshman playwrights.

“I found a lot of quality material, but I had no real story,” O’Shea said. “I just had blocks of material.”

A discussion with a professor led her to ask herself, “Who’s telling the story and why?”

“From there, things really started to progress quickly,” she said.

She also said that one of her most inspirational source materials was a

book she read entitled “Reviving Ophelia” by Mary Pipher.

“Pipher is a psychiatrist, and in the book, she tells about the many experiences she has had with patients,” O’Shea said. “Essentially, she tries to explain that all girls share the same, or at least similar, issues — we’re all modern-day Ophelias in our own ways.”

“Reviving Ophelia,” combined with O’Shea’s discovery of a Marlene Dietrich picture, led her to think of a woman in therapy, which led to the therapy angle in her show.

O’Shea chose the name Samantha — Sammy for short — because one of the meanings of the name is “listener,” and in “Watch Me,” the character receives phone calls from her stalker daily. “I chose the last name of Union because I felt that it would be another way to symbolically show the union between my modern character and Ophelia. Since a stalker is primarily known for stalking, or watching, I felt that ‘Watch Me’ was a fitting title.”

O’Shea also said she enjoyed the challenge of acting solo on stage, although she did find rehearsals “a bit lonely.”

“It is a totally different experience doing a one-person show than being in a cast with other actors,” she said.

“However, the performances are just as exciting as they are in a typical multi-person show. One thing that I find tricky, though, is remembering what line comes next. When it’s just you up there, there’s no one to give you a cue.”

“Watch Me” is but the latest performance on a resume which paints a picture of an actress unwilling to stay away from the stage. Prior to “Watch Me,” O’Shea performed in the PEMCo Musical Revue during her sophomore and junior years, in addition to taking roles in “Oregon Trail,” “Family Entertainment” and “Rage for the Stage” with the St. Edward’s Hall Players. Last fall, O’Shea performed “A Bright Room Called Day” and has a role in the upcoming production of “Dr. Faustus” at the DPAC. She also participated in Summer Shakespeare at Notre Dame during this past summer.

Like her friend and fellow senior Nate Grams, whose show “The Flight” fills out the other half of tonight’s twin bill, O’Shea intends on pursuing a career in theater and has applied and auditioned for graduate schools, although she will not know if she has been admitted until mid-March.

“Whatever happens will definitely be interesting,” she said, “but I trust that everything will work out for the best.”

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In writing the play, Grams said he cut the plays in what he calls “dialogic manner,” where the narrative goes back and forth between one world and the other until the final scene, where the story arcs overlap and draw together.

“Watch Me” is but the latest performance on a resume which paints a picture of an actress unwilling to stay away from the stage.



St. Ed's Players' 'The Pillowman' Thrives in Intimate Setting

MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

By MARK WITTE
Assistant Scene Editor

There is a show running on the third floor in the back of Washington Hall that you might not know about.

It's a play about stories: dark, violent stories. It's a play about truth, lies, torture, little green pigs, slow-motion smack-downs and vehicular beheadings. Most importantly, it's a play that you don't want to miss.

The St. Ed's Players have undergone a courageous endeavor with "The Pillow Man," which opened yesterday in Washington Hall's Lab Theater. The play is a work by the young and famous Irish playwright, Martin McDonagh. When it first opened in London at the Royal National Theatre in November 2003, it was to wide acclaim, eventually winning the prestigious Olivier Award for "Best New Play" in 2004.

It's in these giant footsteps that the St. Ed's Players are treading.

Director Megan O'Donoghue described the production of the play as having been a "really ambitious challenge," partly due to the show's venue.

Unlike a regular theater, where the audience directly faces the performers, the Lab Theater is a "Theater in the Round." This type of venue places the actors in the center of a stage which is surrounded by the viewing audience. It's tough for performers because they must constantly shift their position, so as not to have their back facing any side of the audience for too long.

However, the Lab Theater suits this production well.

"Given the scale of this space, the show becomes a lot more intimate," assistant director Eddie Velazquez said. "It sets the mood for the style of the show."

The style is stunning, hilarious and horrifying, but also one that psychologically challenges the audience from start to finish.

The story is set in a totalitarian dictatorship, a place similar to East Germany before the fall of the Wall, only more painfully humorous. It follows a few hours in the life of Katurian K. Katurian (Stephen Iwanski). Katurian writes hundreds of disturbing short stories but has only managed publish one in his career.

His parents are dead and his only remaining family member is his mentally-handicapped sister Michala (Katie Manfred), with whom he shares all the gruesome tales he writes. Katurian has a deep affinity with his stories, one that he'll sacrifice anything to protect.

The play picks up with Katurian being interrogated by two police officers for a pair of child-murders that bear strange resemblance to matching death sequences in Katurian's stories. One of the officers, Tupolski (Joe Edmunds), is a fast-talking detective whose chief interrogation method is to "disconcert and destabilize the prisoner with asinine nonsense."

It's a method that works well, and he starts out by convincing Katurian that the totalitarian dictatorship is not about restrictions, but rather, about guidelines. He also claims he's the good cop.

The bad cop, Ariel (Joe Vittoria), had a rough childhood — a fact that will get you beaten to a pulp if you bring it up — and he operates on a very short fuse, dealing Katurian beat-downs on a whim. While Tupolski tries to befuddle a confession out of Katurian, Ariel just complains, "Why don't we just start torturing him and cut out all this s***?"

The play takes a disturbing twist when Katurian finds out that his stories have influenced someone in a profound way. That is, a profoundly sadistic way. But I won't spoil it for you.

O'Donoghue and Velazquez have done an incredible job with the play's direction and the actors all spit off



DUSTY MENNELLA | The Observer
Joe Edmunds, left, barrages Stephen Iwanski with "asinine nonsense."

their lines with impeccable timing. The interactions between the two cops and Katurian are an absolute riot and constantly tread between the hilarious and the shocking.

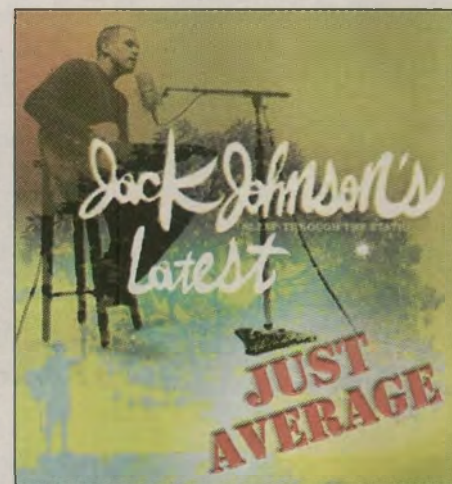
Iwanski does an excellent job evoking our sympathy for his character's imprisonment and feelings for his sister, while at the same time bringing out laughs with the occasional hot-headed outburst. Manfred convincingly pulls off Katurian's mentally-damaged sister.

The show ironically opened on Valentine's Day. You won't find much in the form of materialistic, cutsie-tootsie love, but there's no lack of beauty.

O'Donoghue said one of the reasons she felt so attracted to the script of "The Pillow Man" was because, "It's a grotesque story, it's horrific, but it's beautiful in the end."

When you see Katurian recite the full story of the Pillowman to Michala, you'll know why.

Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu



MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

By CHRIS McGRADY
Assistant Scene Editor

Warning: Do not operate heavy machinery while listening to this album.

Jack Johnson's latest, "Sleep Through the Static," is more of what we have come to expect from the island pop-rocker. It's filled with the same syrupy sweet, slow, smooth rhythms that drip from his guitar, and lull us into a gentle and tranquil state.

This album features the same signature sound that permeates the bulk of Johnson's work. Full of bar chords that wax Caribbean and the silky-voice that is clearly meant for the beach, "Sleep Through the Static" will appeal to the average fan of the Hawaiian native.

This album sounds remarkably like his previous efforts (don't they all?). The CD appears to be the kind you pop in for some good background music, something that doesn't require your full attention. Maybe this is a good thing — but maybe it's not?

The album lacks a signature song. There is no "Better Together" or "Banana Pancakes," or even a "Flake" or "Bubble Toes." These songs are the type of songs that seemed to make up the "filler" in Johnson's other efforts.

Before all you island hoppers get your coconuts in a jumble, this isn't to say the album is bad. Actually, it's far from it. It's a decent album for what it is — a soothing mix of love songs and island tunes.

Just don't expect for any of these songs to be catchy in the way that "Banana Pancakes" was. It's just not going to happen. Altogether the album is just plain forgettable. Not bad, not great — just there.

There are a few songs that assert themselves, albeit not impressively. If there is a "hit" on this album, it is "If I Had Eyes." This is the sixth track on the album and has a borderline catchy piano-influenced sound. Like many songs on the album, Johnson swaps his acoustic guitar for an electric model. For this song, at least, it works.

The title song, "Sleep Through the Static" is probably the second-best effort on the album but just doesn't have much going on. The song takes a political tone saying, "Who needs sleep when we've got love? Who needs keys when we've got clubs? Who needs please when we've got guns?" The song, however, is just not powerful enough to carry the anti-militarism message.

The song "Angel" is just in time for the season of love surrounding Valentine's Day and is a nice little acoustic ditty. This song will likely find its way onto "Love Mixes" around the country, and rightfully so — Johnson seems to do his best work when writing lyrics about love.

Overall, the album is decent, but underwhelming. If only it had a few signature tracks, it would probably be a big seller. It's good — just not good for Jack Johnson. But if background music is what you are after, this album is for you.

Contact Chris McGrady at cmcgrad1@nd.edu



DUSTY MENNELLA | The Observer
Ariel, played by Joe Vittoria, winds up to beat a confession out of Katurian, played by Stephen Iwanski.



DUSTY MENNELLA | The Observer
Katurian (Iwanski) deflects questions from Ariel (Vittoria) and Tupolski (Edmunds) during an interrogation scene.

NHL

Islanders edge Maple Leafs, stay in playoff race

Hurricanes' three power-play goals key win over Penguins, Martin St. Louis tallies three points as Lightning defeat Flyers

Associated Press

TORONTO — After a seven-game winless slide damaged their playoff hopes, the New York Islanders are once again counting on a late-season run to get back to the postseason.

"We saw the improbable last year when we were left for dead," goalie Rick DiPietro said after the Islanders slipped past the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-4 on Thursday night. "There's still a lot of hockey left."

The Isles won their last four games of the season last year to sneak into the playoffs and are hoping to do the same with 24 games left in the regular season.

Ruslan Fedotenko scored two of his team's four power-play goals and the Islanders pulled within four points of the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

"This is a big win for us," Fedotenko said. "Everyone is fighting for a playoff spot and we need these points."

Mike Comrie and Bryan Berard also had power-play goals while Freddy Meyer added an empty-netter for the Islanders, who have won two games in a row following a seven-game winless streak.

"There's still belief in this

room," Comrie said. "Ted (Nolan) and the coaching staff have us focused on the game at hand. We're not looking too far ahead."

Alex Ponikarovsky, Matt Stajan, Mats Sundin and Darcy Tucker scored for the Leafs, who dropped to 29th overall in the 30-team NHL after Tampa Bay beat Philadelphia on Thursday night.

The Leafs are eight points out of a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with 23 games to play in the regular season and have five games left before the Feb. 26 trade deadline.

"Basically, that's what's going on right now," Ponikarovsky said. "But we can't feel sorry for ourselves. We still have to play. You can't just give up and do nothing."

Rick DiPietro made 27 saves for the Islanders while Vesa Toskala stopped 24 of 28 shots.

"We should've won that hockey game, but we didn't play well," Stajan said. "We can't come in here and say we played as well as we could, because we didn't."

Berard opened the scoring on a power play with 3:48 to go in the first period, busting into the slot and redirecting a Miroslav Satan pass past Toskala.

Tucker got credit for the tying

goal at 7:51 of the second period. Stajan's pass toward the slot deflected off both Tucker and Isles defenseman Aaron Johnson and skidded between DiPietro's legs.

Sundin later slid in a rebound to give Toronto its only lead of the game.

But then the Isles' power play went to work as the Leafs took three consecutive penalties, Fedotenko tied it 2-2 at 14:36 when he banged in a puck that was sitting on the goal line after Josef Vasicek hit the post.

Comrie, with his 17th of the season, put the Isles back in front 3-2 with a power-play goal at 17:25 when he took Satan's nifty pass across the slot and slid it an inch past the goal line under Toskala.

Hurricanes 4, Penguins 2

The Carolina Hurricanes are missing three key defensemen against a Pittsburgh offense that ranks among the NHL's best. Then they discovered an effective way to slow the Penguins' goal-scorers: Turn up the pressure at the other end of the ice.

Ray Whitney had a goal and two assists and quick-shooting Carolina scored three power-play goals in its win against Pittsburgh on Thursday night, vaulting the Hurricanes back into first place in the Southeast Division.

Erik Cole and Eric Staal snapped long scoring droughts with goals and Ryan Bayda added his first goal for the depleted Hurricanes, who also lost captain and leading scorer Rod Brind'Amour in the game's opening moments with a torn ligament in his left knee.

"We can't afford to sit back and say, 'Oh well, close was good enough tonight, with the personnel we had,'" Whitney said. "We had to go out and try to get a win."

Whitney, who entered with no goals in his previous 10 games, broke a 2-all tie with 16:15 left when he took a feed from Staal while slipping into the slot and beat Dany Sabourin with a low wrist shot to his glove side.

"They kept it simple with traffic in front," Sabourin said. "I had a tough time against them."

Cam Ward stopped 20 shots



Hurricanes center Eric Staal celebrates his fourth period goal Thursday during Carolina's 4-2 win over Pittsburgh.

for Carolina, which held an overwhelming 46-22 shots advantage in winning its second straight and moving back into the division lead ahead of idle Atlanta and Washington.

Evgeni Malkin scored for the fifth straight game, defenseman Brooks Orpik added his first goal of the season and Sabourin made 42 saves for Atlantic Division-leading Pittsburgh, which dropped its second in a row and fell to 6-4-2 in their 12 games since star center Sidney Crosby sprained his ankle.

"We're missing a lot of players and you know on the road it is eventually going to catch up with you," Pittsburgh coach Michel Therrien said. "I think the last two games have been tough. We just have to regroup."

Lightning 5, Flyers 3

With each road victory, the Tampa Bay Lightning are desperately trying to make a late run at a playoff berth.

Once division leaders, the Philadelphia Flyers can only hope their postseason spot isn't slipping away.

Martin St. Louis had a goal and two assists to lead the Lightning to a victory over Philadelphia on Thursday night, the Flyers' fifth straight loss.

"I think we're realizing that we've got to win some games," defenseman Dan Boyle said. "If

we lose a couple we're going to be finding ourselves in the back seat here. With so few games to go it's no secret. We have to win games."

Tampa Bay, which got out of last place in the Eastern Conference, has won four of five overall. The Lightning also won their eighth straight game in Philadelphia going back to the 2002-03 season and have not lost a road game in regulation since Jan. 3.

"We play hard against these guys," said Boyle, who scored a goal. "They seem to get the best of us so we get excited to play here."

Vaclav Prospal scored his 26th goal, and Jan Hlavac and Jason Ward also scored for the Lightning, who had to look good to their new management. Johan Holmqvist made 27 saves.

The Lightning, owned by Michigan-based Palace Sports & Entertainment since 1999, announced Wednesday that it has been sold to OK Hockey LLC, a group controlled by Los Angeles TV and movie producer Oren Koules. The NHL still has to approve the deal, which is expected to be completed in 3? months.

Steve Downie, Joffrey Lupul and Jeff Carter each scored for the Flyers, who are on their longest losing streak since a six-game skid in late December.



Islanders center Mike Comrie skates past Maple Leafs defenseman Carlo Colaiacovo during New York's 5-4 win Thursday.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, February 15, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Men's Hockey USCHO.com/CSTV Division I Poll

	team	record	last poll
1	Michigan	23-3-4	2
2	Miami	25-4-1	1
3	North Dakota	17-8-2	3
4	New Hampshire	18-7-1	5
5	Colorado College	21-8-1	4
6	Denver	19-8-1	7
7	Boston College	14-6-7	9
8	Michigan State	18-8-5	6
9	NOTRE DAME	20-10-2	8
10	Wisconsin	13-11-6	11
11	Clarkson	16-9-3	13
12	Minnesota-Duluth	11-9-6	10
13	Minnesota State	15-10-4	15
14	Providence	13-10-3	12
15	Northeastern	13-9-3	14
16	Quinnipiac	17-7-4	16
17	Princeton	14-9-0	19
18	Mass.-Lowell	12-10-4	17
19	St. Cloud State	12-13-3	NR
20	Niagara	16-8-3	NR

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Pittsburgh	32-20-5	69	5-3-2
New Jersey	32-21-4	68	5-4-1
Philadelphia	30-21-5	65	4-6-0
NY Rangers	28-24-7	63	6-3-1
NY Islanders	25-25-7	57	2-6-2

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Ottawa	34-19-5	73	4-5-1
Montreal	30-19-9	69	5-4-1
Buffalo	28-21-8	64	8-0-2
Boston	29-23-5	63	5-5-0
Toronto	23-26-9	55	4-5-1

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Washington	27-25-6	60	5-4-1
Carolina	28-27-4	60	6-4-0
Atlanta	28-27-4	60	5-4-1
Florida	26-27-6	58	5-3-2
Tampa Bay	24-27-6	54	6-3-1

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Detroit	41-13-5	87	6-3-1
Nashville	30-22-6	66	6-2-2
Columbus	26-24-9	61	3-4-3
St. Louis	25-22-8	58	3-5-2
Chicago	25-25-6	56	4-4-2

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Minnesota	32-21-4	68	6-3-1
Calgary	29-20-8	66	7-3-0
Colorado	30-22-5	65	5-4-1
Vancouver	28-22-7	63	3-5-2
Edmonton	26-27-5	57	5-5-0

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Dallas	35-20-5	75	8-2-0
Anaheim	32-22-7	71	5-4-1
San Jose	31-17-8	70	6-3-1
Phoenix	28-25-4	60	4-4-2
Los Angeles	24-32-3	51	5-4-1

MLB



Roger Clemens, right, and Brian McNamee, left, swear in before a congressional hearing about McNamee's testimony in the Mitchell Report on steroid use in baseball that implicated the former New York pitcher.

McNamee's lawyer expects executive pardon

Associated Press

One of Brian McNamee's lawyers predicted Roger Clemens will be pardoned by President Bush, saying some Republicans treated his client harshly because of the pitcher's friendship with the Bush family.

Richard Emery made the claims Thursday, a day after a congressional hearing broke down along party lines. Many Democrats were skeptical of Clemens' denials he used performance-enhancing drugs and Republicans questioned the character of McNamee, the personal trainer who made the accusations against the seven-time Cy Young Award winner.

"It would be the easiest thing in the world for George W. Bush, given the corrupt proclivities of his administration, to say Roger Clemens is an American hero, Roger Clemens helped children," Emery said in a telephone interview. "It's my belief they have some reason to believe they can get a pardon."

During Wednesday's session before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Clemens repeated his denials under oath, which could lead to criminal charges if federal prosecutors conclude he made false statements or obstructed Congress.

"I'm not aware of Mr.

Clemens having been charged with anything," White House deputy press secretary Tony Fratto said after being told of Emery's remarks.

Emery cited Bush's decision last year to commute the 2-year prison sentence of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, his vice president's former top aide. Libby was convicted in the case of the leaked identity of a CIA operative.

In addition, Emery said he thinks Bush would pardon Clemens even before an indictment or conviction, as President Ford did with President Nixon.

During the hearing, Clemens cited his friendship with Bush's father, President George H.W.

Bush, a baseball fan who regularly attends Houston Astros' games. Clemens said he was on a recent hunting trip when the elder Bush called with words of support.

"When all this happened, the former president of the United States found me in a deer blind in south Texas and expressed his concerns that this was unbelievable, and stay strong and hold your head up high," Clemens testified.

Emery said as he thought about the testimony overnight, Clemens' reference to the call from the elder Bush convinced him the questioning by Republicans was a concerted effort.

IN BRIEF

Qualifying races set stage for Hendrick-Gibbs showdown

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—They showed up as favorites, endured their share of failures and found a way to stay at the front of the Daytona 500.

There's a reason Hendrick Motorsports and Joe Gibbs Racing are the ones to beat in NASCAR. Now, they'll try to beat each other in a super showdown in the biggest race of the year.

"It's going to be the epic battle, and it should be the battle of a lifetime and the century," Gibbs driver Tony Stewart quipped. "There may not be another battle of this proportion for the rest of my life, my career, for the century."

Stewart was of course overplaying the magnitude of Sunday's season-opener. But when Hendrick driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Gibbs driver Denny Hamlin each won a qualifying race Thursday, it set the stage for a fabulous battle.

Dolphins release veteran linebacker

MIAMI — If Zach Thomas decides to play a 13th NFL season, it will almost certainly not be with the Miami Dolphins.

Thomas, a seven-time Pro Bowl linebacker and one of the most popular and productive players ever to wear a Dolphins uniform, was released Thursday, the biggest move yet in Miami's massive rebuilding project.

"I have a tremendous appreciation and admiration not only for the Dolphins organization, but for the fans as well, for all of the support that they have given me," Thomas said in a statement, in which he thanked owner Wayne Huizenga, new football operations head Bill Parcells and general manager Jeff Ireland.

The 34-year-old linebacker said he plans to play with another team next season. There's always a chance he

could re-sign with Miami, although that seems, at best, doubtful.

"I am healthy and look forward to playing in 2008, but will always consider myself a Miami Dolphin," Thomas said.

Bryant chooses rest over surgery for injured finger

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Kobe Bryant was diagnosed with a torn ligament in his right pinkie finger Thursday and the Lakers All-Star has decided not to undergo surgery that could sideline him for six weeks. The damage occurred when Bryant dislocated the finger at New Jersey on Feb. 5, and was aggravated in Wednesday night's game at Minnesota.

The team said Thursday that the damage was more extensive than first believed. There is a complete tear of the radial collateral ligament and avulsion fracture, in which a small bone fragment had been pulled off by a tendon.

around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL
Pittsburgh at Marquette
9 p.m., ESPN

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish face tough field in first spring tourney

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

After a three-month break in competitive play, No. 20 Notre Dame tees off the second half of its season at the Central District Invitational tournament in Parrish, Fla., on Monday.

Held at the River Wilderness Golf Club and hosted by Michigan State, the tournament should prove to be the toughest contest yet for the Irish, who started the season strong last fall with three first-place finishes in five tournaments.

Notre Dame will compete against stiff competition this weekend, including No. 7 Arkansas, No. 21 Michigan State and No. 25 Texas A&M. Head coach Susan Holt said the young Irish golfers, led by freshman So-Hyun Park, will be tested.

"We'll be right on our heels a lot of the time on this one," Holt said. "This is tough competition. These are tough teams. We'll be at a little bit of a disadvantage because of the recent weather [in South Bend]."

Although the team has been able to practice at its indoor facilities, Notre Dame has not played in a competitive tournament since October's Ann Rhodes Intercollegiate in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Holt said it is difficult to prepare mentally for tournament play after the extended break.

"Golf is basically hitting

shots and playing holes and managing our game," Holt said. "We're able to work on our short game indoors at our new practice facility and work on our driving outdoors. I want to look to get us back into our mode, that thought process that comes with managing the game."

As a result, the focus for the Irish this weekend is to ease themselves back into competitive play.

"I'd like them to get comfortable again out on the course," Holt said. "If they can really hone in on managing the game and managing the course, we can save some strokes. I don't expect them to be spot on, I just want them to focus on managing the course and

themselves."

The River Wilderness Golf Club is a par 72, 6,100-yard course, featuring winding water hazards and tricky approach shots. It has hosted the Central District Invitational since 2002.

"It's a playable, scorable [course]," Holt said. "[It's] a good course to get back into it. The greens are large and undulating and can be fast depending on the weather.

That's the real trick to scoring well, to play the greens well."

After a practice round on Sunday, the tournament rounds will be played on Monday and Tuesday.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

"We'll be right on our heels a lot of the time on this one."

Susan Holt
Irish coach

"Golf is basically hitting shots and playing holes and managing our game"

Susan Holt
Irish coach

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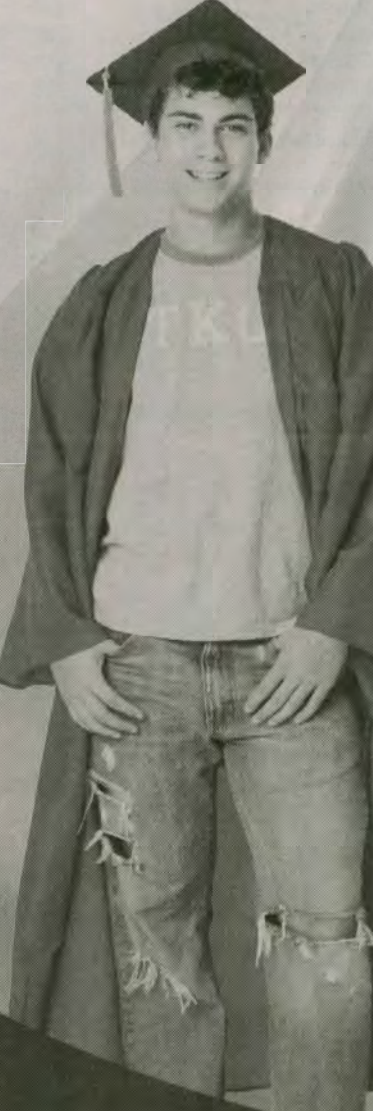
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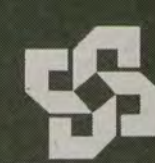
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ND SOFTBALL

Irish open season at ASU tourney

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

The Irish will escape for the weekend from the South Bend cold to compete in Arizona State's season-opening Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz., this weekend.

The team will run a gauntlet of five games in the course of the three-day weekend. The tournament starts Friday and will include two of the top teams in the nation — No. 1 Arizona and No. 3 Texas A&M.

"We are going into a hot-bed of competition right off the bat," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "These are five very good teams we are going to play."

Notre Dame is coming off a 32-24 finish in the 2007 season and its ninth consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance. The Irish hope that their tough early schedule will help them prepare for the remainder of their spring schedule.

"These first couple of games will give us an idea of where

we are at as a team," Gumpf said. "We have to believe that we are good enough to beat anyone."

The Irish return only five starters, two of which are seniors. Despite being a young team, Notre Dame will look to play a balanced game this weekend and in the upcoming season. The experienced trio of senior second-baseman Katie Laing, junior pitcher Brittney Barger, and junior infielder Linda Kohan will lead the new Irish players.

"We are going into a hot bed of competition right off the bat."

Deanna Gumpf
Irish coach

"Katie [Laing] will be very important for us this year, especially since she is only one of two seniors," Gumpf said.

Freshman pitcher Jody Valdivia is expected to make an immediate impact. It will be up to Valdivia and her fellow freshmen to step up and fill in the gaps in the Irish lineup.

"I would have to say youth is our only real concern right now," Gumpf said. "But I like a lot of what our young players bring to the table."

The Irish will kick off a tough

Friday morning with a game against Utah (5-0). The Utes are off to their best start since 1985 and are a tough opening match for the Irish.

Friday afternoon won't be any easier for the Irish as they are set to take on two-time defending NCAA champion Arizona. The Wildcats went 50-14-1 last year and will return six position starters along with All-America pitcher Taryne Mowatt. The Wildcats ranked No. 1 in almost every preseason poll.

"I think that if we don't get the jitters, we will be able to play very well," Gumpf said.

The Irish face Western Kentucky and No. 3 Texas A&M on Saturday. The second game will likely prove more trying for Notre Dame as Texas A&M is 5-1 on the season. But Gumpf said the Aggies are only one team of many in the competitive pool.

"There are no easy teams in the field," Gumpf said. "Cal is the only team below .500, and they won't be for very long."

The Irish wrap things up Sunday morning against California (2-4) before returning home.

Contact Jared Jedick at
jjedick@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Belles optimistic about MIAA meet

By PETE REISENAUR
Sports Writer

A season of preparation has led up to this weekend for the Belles, who travel to Michigan to compete in the MIAA championship meet over the weekend.

The meet started Thursday at the Holland Aquatic Center in Holland, Mich., and continues until Sunday.

Although the Belles have dropped four meets in a row, the season's performances caused the Belles to have high hopes for the weekend.

Saint Mary's coach Ryan Dombkowski said he's excited to see how the all-freshman 400 medley team of Maggie Williams, Casey Niezer, Caroline Arness and Lauren Hartman perform after they crushed the school record time by over three seconds in their last meet.

"This combination could look to

put ten seconds between them and our previous school record at our conference championship meet, something that is almost unheard of in swimming," Dombkowski said.

Junior captain Melissa Gerbeth will attempt to defend her title in the 1,650 meter this weekend; Gerbeth won the event last season.

The Belles' major competition includes Hope, who will host the meet and is undefeated in conference meets this season, and Calvin, whose only loss came against Hope earlier in the season.

Dombkowski said having a couple weeks of rest was crucial to helping his team succeed this weekend. He said the team was injured at the end of the season and the rest provided by the two weeks off would allow his team to heal and get ready for its biggest match of the year.

"This combination could look to put ten seconds between them and our previous school record. ..."

Ryan Dombkowski
Belles coach

Contact Pete Reisenaur at
preisena@nd.edu

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Firing Sampson could be costly for Indiana

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Getting rid of coach Kelvin Sampson might not be the solution to Indiana's problems. It's a move that might just create a bigger mess.

When Sampson was accused Wednesday of five major NCAA infractions, it immediately set off a widespread debate over what the university should do next and whether Sampson should continue coaching at Indiana, which hasn't had a major NCAA rules

violation in nearly half a century.

"The thing I'm disappointed with is that the allegations have come out, and I feel we have to react in some way that's in the best interests of the team and the best interests of the university," trustee Philip Eskew Jr. said. "I think there are options."

There's no guarantee the NCAA would reduce Indiana's potential penalties, and the university, which has spent the past decade paying millions of dollars to fired coaches and athletic directors,

could wind up in another costly split-up.

According to the contract signed in April 2006, Indiana pays Sampson an annual base salary of \$500,000. With five years left on the deal, the cost could reach at least \$2.5 million.

Sampson's deal includes termination clauses for violations of university or NCAA rules that eliminate the payments. Attorneys, however, have differing views on whether the accusations, which include providing false or

misleading information to investigators, would allow Indiana to fire Sampson with cause and get off the financial hook.

Athletic director Rick Greenspan acknowledged Wednesday these are only allegations since the NCAA has not yet made a ruling, and the distinction could be important.

"It [the contract] talks about significant, intentional or repetitive violations, so the question becomes when does it become a violation?" said Indianapolis

attorney Stephen Backer, a former trustee at Indiana who works in contractual law. "That's the issue. I'm sure that's what they're meeting about today."

The university has until May 8 to respond to the NCAA's report. Sampson and university officials are scheduled to appear before the infractions committee June 14, with a final ruling expected within a month.

University spokesman Larry MacIntyre confirmed Thursday that president Michael McRobbie was still consulting with the school's lawyers, trustees and administrators. MacIntyre would not provide details on those discussions but acknowledged both sides have to abide by the rules set forth in the contract.

MacIntyre said Dorothy Frapwell, the university's counsel, declined to discuss Sampson's contract.

Milton Thompson, also an Indianapolis attorney, believes there's another caveat, too.

While he contends Indiana's report and Sampson's acceptance of the school's penalties in October amount to an admission of significant and repetitive violations, the coach may still have legal protection because he wasn't fired four months ago.

"There can always be a liability issue," Thompson said. "If they accepted the sanctions and didn't fire him then, that may be an area he could pursue."

Other potential clauses that could absolve the university of a hefty payout include those for moral turpitude and conduct seriously prejudicial to the university.

Both attorneys believe they are broad enough provisions that the university could use either one to make its case for firing Sampson with cause.

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MEN'S GOLF

ND begins spring with Florida invite

By PETE REISENAUR
Sports Writer

Notre Dame starts its second season this weekend when they travel to Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., to compete in the John Hayt Collegiate Invitational.

North Florida will host the invitational at the Sawgrass Country Club, where national powers No. 2 Alabama and No. 5 UCLA loom.

The Irish fared well during the fall despite not winning any tournaments. They have finished no worse than ninth and as high as second on a number of occasions.

This season continues the team's resurgence under head coach Jim Kubinski. Until the start of this year, Notre Dame's play against national-

ly-ranked opponents has helped its rebirth. Since Kubinski arrived, the Irish have defeated 13 top-25 teams and posted 12 top-five tournament finishes.

The underclassmen have performed well for the Irish this season. Four of the top five scorers for the Irish are underclassmen, and the two lowest scores have come from freshmen or sophomores. Sophomore Doug Fortner leads the team with a 73.72 stroke average, followed by freshman Tyler Hock, who has a 73.20 average.

Freshman Jeff Chen (73.33), senior Greg Rodgers (73.62) and junior Josh Sandman (74.00) round out the top five leading scorers.

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MEN'S TRACK

Irish use week off to prepare for Big East



COLEMAN COLLINS/The Observer

Irish freshman Justin Schneider prepares to jump in the pole vault at the Blue/Gold Invitational on Dec. 7.

By EUGENIA ALFONZO
Sports Writer

Just because the Irish have the weekend off doesn't mean they won't be working.

"We don't have a meet this weekend so we're going to be training very hard," head coach Joe Piane said. "Especially on Saturday, we'll be working hard and then see what happens a week from then."

The Irish nabbed over 45 Big East qualifications during the indoor season, but are now focusing on the Big East conference championships, which take place at the Armory in New York, N.Y., on Feb. 23 and 24.

Notre Dame had some setbacks to their performance, Piane said.

"Actually a lot of people have been sick with the flu, but they have gotten better and are expecting to do well," he said.

It's not going to just be the flu that the Irish will be battling in a week. The Irish face many top teams at the Big East invitational.

"University of Connecticut, Georgetown and Louisville [and Notre Dame] round out the top four teams," Piane said. "In fact, Georgetown might be the most improved team of the Big East, while Louisville won the outdoor Big East meet last year."

The strong showing at the Mayo Invitational last weekend helped

give the Irish momentum before heading to New York next week.

"It was a great meet overall," Piane said. "There were over thirty teams here and times were terrific, jumps and throws were very good as well."

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles face last-place Kalamazoo

Squad looks for second win of season over Hornets after Albion loss

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will look to bounce back after a 78-70 loss to second-place Albion last weekend. The seventh-place Belles head back to the court Saturday to take on last-place Kalamazoo at home.

When Saint Mary's (5-8 MIAA, 9-12) and Kalamazoo (1-12 MIAA, 4-17) last faced off in January, Alison Kessler scored a layup and two free throws in the last minute of the game to give the Belles the 72-69 win — bringing her game total to a school record 41 points.

"I think our game on Saturday against Kalamazoo will be a big challenge for us," head coach Jenn Henley said.

The Hornets kept the game close the entire 40 minutes of their last meeting, leading at the half and up until the last minute of the game.

Since that game, the Belles have gone 2-5, defeating Tri-State and Adrian 74-71 and 61-51, respectively. However, the Belles have continued to post impressive numbers, offensively and defensively. In addition, Kessler set a new Saint Mary's career three-point record in last week's loss to Albion. The senior has made 133 shots from outside the arc in her career.

But there is always room for improvement — especially on the defensive end.

"Our focus continues to be on the defensive side of the ball," Henley said. "We have to find a way to play forty minutes of team defense in order to be successful down the stretch."

The Belles have shown improvements on defense as of late, but were outrebounded 35-28 against Albion.

Despite defensive struggles, the Belles' offense has been a consistent strong point this season. The team has aver-

aged 67.2 points per game under the guidance of leading scorers Kessler and Erin Newsom, averaging 19.8 and 11 points per game, respectively. Kessler leads with 415 points this season, 61 from the school's record and 34

points from the record for most career points. Newsom leads Saint Mary's in rebounds with a total of 179 this season.

Going into their last three regular season

games, Henley's expectations for her team hasn't changed. "We are at a point in the season when we should be playing our best basketball," Henley said. "We don't have many opportunities left in the regular season. The post-season is just around the corner and we look forward to it."

Saint Mary's takes on Kalamazoo on Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Angela Athletic Center.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at
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"We have to find a way to play forty minutes of team defense in order to be successful down the stretch."

Jenn Henley
Belles coach

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Laxers begin season with Canisius, Duquesne

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

Coming off an 11-6 year (3-2 Big East), No. 12 Notre Dame will host Canisius at 5 p.m. tonight before taking on Duquesne at noon Sunday. Both games will be played in the Loftus Sports Center.

Despite losing five starters from last year's squad, including a pair of all-Big East performers, the Irish will enter tonight's season opener with both experience and confidence, thanks in part to senior captains Caitlin McKinney and Becky Ranck.

"We did lose some starters, but we've traditionally had a good bench and I think that's the case again this year," said McKinney, a two-time All-American midfielder who scored 44 goals and recorded 21 assists a year ago. "With those

positions opening up, you do kind of hold your breath, but the people who have been in there have been doing awesome. It's nice to see new faces and fresh people in there."

A highly-touted freshman class joins the returning cast of McKinney, Ranck, junior attacker Jillian Byers — a two-time All-American who scored 58 goals last season — and junior midfielder Erin Stoeckert (21 goals, 15 assists) to provide the Irish with a balance of youth and experience.

Coach Tracy Coyne said the ups and downs the senior class has undergone — from three wins as freshmen to a Final Four appearance as sophomores to missing the NCAA tournament last year — are a positive heading into another campaign.

"Now, here this group is as seniors with a good perspective

and a good vision," said Coyne, who is entering her 12th year at the helm of the Notre Dame program. "The younger players on this team have definitely felt the unity of the senior class, and the seniors have done a great job outlining what we want to accomplish this season and then demonstrating that in practice."

Between Ranck's ability to lead the defense by example and McKinney's light-hearted, more vocal leadership style on offense, the Irish seem to have just the right recipe for success.

"The older girls on the team have really been able to welcome the freshmen and teach them how we do things," Coyne said. "Because of that, the burden really isn't on the younger players to have to do things other than follow the things the older players do."

Coyne also said the athleticism of freshman midfielders Kaitlin

Keena and Shaylyn Blaney will have them starting soon.

Though Notre Dame seems to have the leadership aspect of the game down, much is yet to be determined as far as playing strategy goes. The Irish have yet to even scrimmage heading into tonight's opening contest, a first in Coyne's tenure here.

"I guess we'll find out [tonight] what our style's going to be," Coyne said. "Generally, we like to be an up-tempo, aggressive-on-defense type of team."

"There are a lot of unknowns, but we know what we do well. We'll go out with a game plan, but we'll be ready in-game to make any adjustments that are necessary."

While the Irish are still unsure of how their returners and newcomers will mesh during live games, one thing they aren't lacking is confidence.

"It's not just about winning

the Big East or making the NCAA Tournament — it's about winning every game and doing everything right, not having any regrets," Ranck said. "I don't think having the national championship as a goal is outlandish at all because we have so much potential."

Quick to catch themselves before looking too far ahead, Ranck and McKinney both said the Irish will "take one game at a time", but clearly, the long-term bar has been set — high.


That being said, the long road begins tonight.

"The most important thing is that we have a lot of respect for Canisius and Duquesne," Coyne said. "So we're going to go out and bring what we need to get it done — which is win. Bottom line: 2-0 after the weekend."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Write Sports. Call Chris Khorey. 631-4543

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish take down OSU to even their record

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

After participating in three matches in as many days at the ITA National Team Indoors, No. 14 Notre Dame has a lot on its plate this weekend as the pace of this season begins to pick up.

The Irish started their three-game weekend home stand with a 5-2 victory over No. 47 Ohio State on Thursday bringing their record up to an even 4-4 this season.

Irish coach Jay Louderback commented on the overall fatigue of his squad heading into the match.

"Maybe they were a little tired," Louderback said. "This is the part of the season when we start to play a lot of matches grouped together. We have three this week and three the next. After the ITA [National Team Indoors], we went a little shorter in practice on Tuesday and Wednesday. One thing we really wanted to focus on was our doubles play over practice."

The extra work paid off. Notre Dame secured the first two doubles matches against the Buckeyes to take the 1-0 lead.

The national No. 3 tandem of senior Brook Buck and junior Kelcy Tefft took the first match 8-2 over Buckeyes junior Angela DiPastina and sophomore Christina Keesey.

Sophomore duo Cosmina Ciobanu and Colleen Rielley ensured the Irish would start the match 1-0 with their 8-3 ousting of freshman Paloma Escobedo and senior Caitlin O'Keefe. Sophomore Kali Krisik and freshman Kristen Rafael completed the doubles sweep with an 8-6 win over Julie Blackmore and Cami Hubbs.

"It was exciting to see our doubles play well," Louderback said. "We won all three and it signaled a great start to the weekend."

The Irish carried the momentum from their doubles win into singles play.

"It definitely set the tempo for the rest of the afternoon," he said. "We've started our last three or four down 1-0, and our players got tired of it. It's always tougher to play from behind, and I'm really excited we won all three."

Keeping the momentum rolling, the Irish won the first

three singles matches, claiming the victory in convincing fashion.

Krisik took O'Keefe in two quick sets 6-1, 6-3 followed by junior Katie Potts' 6-1, 6-1 victory from the No. 5 spot over Hubbs.

Tefft played from the No. 1 spot for the first time all season and didn't cave under the pressure. Tefft's 6-4, 6-2 win over DiPastina clinched the win over the Buckeyes with the 4-0 lead. The junior improved her dual action record this season to an unbeaten mark of 8-0.

Ohio State gained its first point once Buck came to face Escobedo. However, it was not the senior's play that gave the point away, but a rolled ankle instead. Buck was in position to take the match until she was forced to retire because of the injury.

Notre Dame went on to pick up one more point as Ciobanu took care of Keesey in three sets for the 6-0, 3-6, 6-2 win.

The Irish won't have time to rest as Wisconsin comes to town for a 3 p.m. match at the Eck Tennis Pavilion today. The squad will get one day's rest before they continue their home stand against South Florida at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Knowing that his squad would face several tiring stretches throughout the season, Louderback focused on conditioning in the fall.

"We worked real hard on conditioning last fall," he said. "Now we'll see how we did and it pays off."

With the injured ankle, Buck will sit today's action, but may be back for South Florida, depending on her progress. Louderback had already been prepared to sit one of his players because of an NCAA violation that will force Buck, Ciobanu and Tefft each to sit one team dual match.

"The players are scheduled to play in 25 matches in a season," Louderback said. "So we'll schedule 25 total matches in the season to cover those. Sometimes though, when our players qualify for the ITA Championships, they'll go over the 25 mark. With Brook [Buck] hurt now we can let her rest her ankle and get one of those suspensions out of the way."

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Depth

continued from page 24

Loyola's depth and style will challenge Notre Dame.

"They're a very good defensive team, and they like to control the tempo of the game," Corrigan said. "They're very disciplined on offense and have a lot of sustained possessions."

Senior captain Shane Koppens will likely lead the Greyhounds offense after leading the team in goals (20) and points (46) last season.

The Irish begin the new season looking to build on a strong 2007 campaign that featured an NCAA Tournament appearance and the team's 10th Great Western Lacrosse League title. The team returns eight of 11

starters, including the core of the defense that allowed a record-low 6.66 goals per game.

Returning in net for the Irish defense is Kemp, a pre-season All-American selection and the 2007 GWLL player of the year. A four-year starter for Notre Dame, Kemp has a 26-11 record and 7.43 goals-against average for his career.

Senior Sean Dougherty, another pre-season All-American, anchors the Irish defense.

The high-powered Irish offense, which averaged 11.65 goals per game last season, will attempt to replace the production of sophomore Will Yeatman, who was suspended indefinitely from the team. The South Bend Tribune reported Yeatman, who led

the Irish in points as a freshman and was named the LaxPower rookie of the year, was pulled over for DWI on Holy Cross Drive.

Corrigan was confident the offense would still be effective despite the loss of Yeatman. "We practiced and played without Will this fall and last fall as well during football season," Corrigan said. "We have guys who have been playing together and used to running the offense in place."

The contest with Loyola is just the first step in a tough opening stretch for Notre Dame. Four of the first five Irish opponents are ranked in the preseason top 25.

"We look forward to playing a high level of competition," Corrigan said. "We have to prepare knowing we can't relax and have to start right away."

The Irish and Greyhounds will face off at 1 p.m. at Diane Geppi-Akens Field.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

"We have to prepare knowing we can't relax and have to start right away."

Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach

Parbhu

continued from page 24

"[Senior] Sheeva Parbhu was a big key to our two wins last weekend," coach Bobby Bayliss said. "When you have a senior who has been there you feel more confident. He won a match like he did on Saturday as a freshman over Florida State."

Bayliss said the doubles teams played well last weekend after struggling in the previous matches.

"Both of our opponent's coaches were impressed by the doubles play last weekend," Bayliss said. "Whenever you lose there is a greater sense of urgency to play well. We came out with more energy and were able to keep the momentum going against Wisconsin and SMU."

In the win over Wisconsin,

Parbhu pulled out a four-hour match that clinched the win for the Irish. Junior Brett Helgeson also won in three sets.

The team's six freshmen have stepped up this season, Bayliss said.

"The freshman are living up to or better than our expectations for them," Bayliss said. "They have each taken turns being in the spotlight. Tyler Davis is a very poised doubles player."

The team is mostly healthy heading into Seattle. Bayliss said his squad has a few bumps and bruises, but no major issues. Bayliss also said strength and conditioning intern Eric Overland has emphasized stretching and cool downs after each practice.

Although Bayliss wants to perform well, he said he won't be disappointed with a subpar performance because the Irish have not played some of the teams in

the competition.

"We want to continue our good play," Bayliss said. "It is a wide open event, but we want to play well. I will be happy with any result since we haven't seen some of these teams before."

Another freshman who impressed Bayliss this spring season was David Anderson.

"Anderson has come through against Duke," Bayliss said. "The doubles teams are really gelling and that will be key for our success in the close matches."

Bayliss said junior Santiago Montoya, Davis' doubles partner, has also played well, but still has work to do.

"Montoya has really improved his serve but it is an ongoing process," Bayliss said. "He is very coachable, and has worked well with Davis."

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgraba01@saintmarys.edu



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish senior Sheeva Parbhu lunges to return a shot during Notre Dame's 4-3 win over Wisconsin on Feb. 9. Parbhu won his match, which lasted four hours, in three sets.

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Big East

continued from page 24

gushed in the cellar of the conference for most of the season. The Scarlet Knights are 2-11 against Big East foes last in the conference.

But despite the teams' dissimilar fortunes, Brey said Rutgers will not be an easy test for the Irish.

"Really, records in the league don't mean anything right now," Brey said. "We have to be as ready to play Rutgers as we were Connecticut, or we'll be in trouble."

Irish junior forward Zach Hillesland said Notre Dame will not make any drastic adjustments for the contest with Rutgers.

"There's something to build on [after Wednesday's loss] but not a whole lot to change from our game plan," he said.

Even though the loss to Connecticut knocked the Irish from the second-place slot in the Big East standings that they had occupied for several weeks, junior forward Ryan Ayers said the team is more concerned with simply playing well every game.

"That [drop in the standings] is not really a big issue," Ayers said. "Connecticut's a really good team. We lost to a really good team so we shouldn't even worry about that."

Irish sophomore Luke Harangody's 32 points and 16 rebounds against Connecticut raised his overall averages in those categories to 20.8 and

10.4, respectively. In conference play, Harangody's 24.3 points and 12.1 rebounds per contest lead the Big East.

Rutgers, meanwhile, lacks a superstar but has a very balanced offensive attack. The Scarlet Knights feature three players — J.R. Inman, Corey Chandler and Anthony Farmer — who have double-figure scoring averages for the season. In addition, Rutgers freshman guard Mike Coburn averages 10.9 points per game during Big East play.

Hillesland said the Irish are happy they do not have a long layoff and are hungry to get back on the right track.

"We really thought we could have won that [Connecticut] game and it kind of leaves a bad taste in your mouth," Hillesland said. "So we're definitely eager to get back on the road and try it out against Rutgers."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

Nanooks

continued from page 24

practices [this week], both high energy and intense, so I think we're ready to get things going."

The Irish will attempt to overcome potential symptoms of jet lag following a journey that began with the team's bus ride to Chicago on Wednesday, continued with Thursday's flight from Chicago to Seattle, and ended with the drive to Fairbanks from Anchorage, where the Irish landed via a flight from Seattle.

"The travel is more of a frame of mind. It's really not an issue unless you make one out of it," Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said. "As long as we follow the proper procedures as far as rest and hydration, we should be OK."

While most of the Irish spent the early part of this week preparing for a trek into unfamiliar territory, Pearce, an Anchorage native, was focused on a return to his childhood roots.

"[Fairbanks] is about a six-hour drive from Anchorage, but Alaska's Alaska. It's all where I grew up and played a lot of my youth hockey," Pearce said. "For my parents and a lot of the extended family all planning on making the trip up there, it'll be a neat experience."

Alaska's Olympic rink, which is 15 feet wider than an NHL or NCAA rink, will force the Irish to be wary of straying too far outside, Jackson said.

"When you play in the Olympic sheet, you really have to make sure you don't get caught playing outside the dots offensively or defensively," Jackson said. "If you do on the offensive side of the puck, you're not going to generate much offense and you'll be stuck playing perimeter hockey. If you're drawn outside the dots defensively, that's when they may find opportunities we shouldn't normally give up because of the additional ice."

The wider ice surface will change up the passing and shooting lanes, and it gives an advantage to the quicker skaters. Defenders will be less conservative, and there will be less hitting because if the man with the puck gets loose, there may be no catching him.

Between the long travel and the changes in rink size, this weekend might not look like the most ideal for the Irish to snap out of their winter doldrums. Notre Dame won all six of its meetings with Alaska a year ago, but after a slow start under first-year coach Doc DelCastillo, the Nanooks have won three of four and beat Ferris State earlier in the season — a team that beat the

Irish 5-3 last Friday before the teams played to a 2-2 tie on Saturday.

"They've had some big wins in the second half here, and they'll play very tenacious," Jackson said. "They'll be aggressive in and around the net ... I'm sure they'll be quick to the puck and try to use the additional ice of the Olympic sheet."

With only four conference games after this weekend, the Irish, who currently hold a four-point advantage over Nebraska-Omaha for fourth place in the CCHA, are looking to regain the early-season form that helped them win 10 of their first 12 conference match-ups.

"We need to let last weekend [against Ferris State] go, let the last couple games get out of our minds, and not be stressed or worried about the NCAA [tournament] or being on the bubble," Pearce said. "It's definitely just about being focused on the game at hand ... and not letting the past or future dictate how you play in the present."

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Orange

continued from page 24

guards Fantasia Goodwin and Nicole Michael at 13.0 each and guard Erica Morrow at 12.4.

McGraw said that what makes the Orange scoring threats even more dangerous is that their offense is so versatile.

"They're just all really good at driving the ball and shooting the ball," she said. "It's a nightmare matchup for us."

McGraw said Syracuse presents her team with a lot of tough matchups especially because senior guard Tulyah Gaines — who has been the team's best defender all season — can only guard one player at a time.

"Obviously there's a lot of mismatches. We're going to work to do a y [Thursday] on containing the ball, just see if we can guard them," McGraw said.

Notre Dame will also look to continue improving its rebounding Saturday. The Orange have three players (Goodwin at 9.5, Michael at 7.9 and Jones at 7.8) who all average more rebounds per game than anyone on Notre Dame's roster.

Guard Lindsay Schrader leads the team with 5.8 boards per contest.

"They're more athletic, they're better," McGraw said. "Again we're working on boxing out and containing the ball... We've got to get in and get a body on them, because we aren't going to be out-jumping people."

Gaines has played exceptionally well on both ends of the court of late, scoring in double figures four times in a row — the longest streak of her four years at Notre Dame.

"She's playing like a senior," McGraw said. "She's just trying to do everything she can to put us in a good position."

Wednesday's 99-76 win over Marquette was a good sign for the Irish that they could win without freshman forward Devereaux Peters, who tore her left ACL Sunday against Pittsburgh.

"I really feel like the injury to Devereaux has given the motivation or inspiration to do more," McGraw said.

"And it's a great feeling when your team feels that way because everyone plays a little bit harder defensively, everyone is thinking 'How can I contribute to the team?'"

McGraw said she thinks Gaines and sophomore guard Melissa Lechlitter have both had a great stretch of games over the last week.

Peters sat on the Irish bench during the game and kept the shot chart.

The Marquette win also showcased Notre Dame's two best offensive facets, McGraw said: free throws and layups.

Notre Dame hit 26-of-28 from the line against the Golden Eagles and had 54 points in the paint. Over its last five games, Notre Dame has shot 117-of-137 at the charity stripe for an 85.4 percentage.

The Irish were also able to rack up 99 points with only one made 3-point shot.

"That's amazing to me that we can score 99 points with only one 3," McGraw said. "I think it's because we're driving to the lane better. We had quite a few three-point plays last night. I thought that was good to see that we're finishing with contact and we're running well."

The game will start Saturday night at 7.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

"They're all really good at driving the ball. It's a nightmare matchup for us."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

"They're more athletic, they're better. Again we're working on boxing out and containing the ball. ... We've got to get in and get a body on them, because we aren't going to be out-jumping people."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

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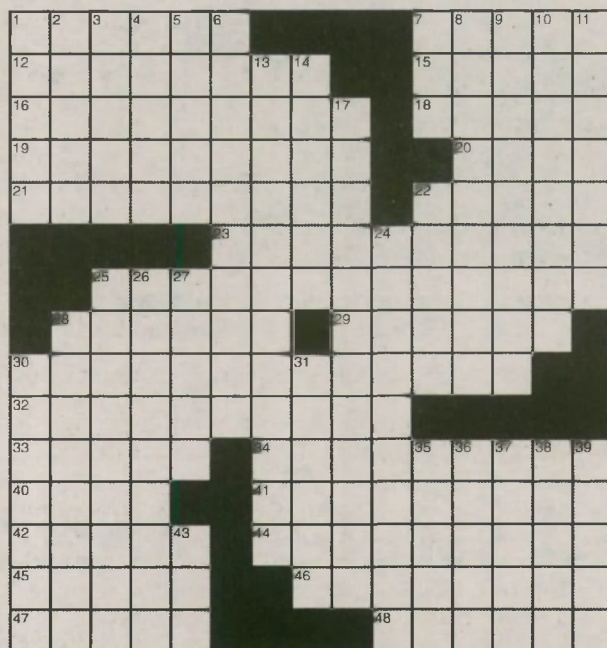
CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across: 1 Like the reading on a thermometer, 7 Molly who wrote 'Bushwhacked', 12 Facility, 15 Camp sight, 16 Relations of Homer?, 18 river, 19 Service for filmgoers, 20 'I almost forgot ...!', 21 Unwavering, 22 Candelmas dessert, 23 Private, 25 'In a hurry, are we?', 28 Puts down, in a way, 29 Forensic indicators of the presence of blood, 30 Makes a fraidy-cat (out of), 32 Cause, 33 Put two and two together, 34 Modern marketing aid, 40 Deborah who starred in 'Tea and Sympathy', 41 Decorate, 42 Give praise, 44 Observatory doings, 45 Strength of a chemical solution, 46 Parts of mountaineering trips, 47 Grippers, 48 Having the most social anxiety, Down: 1 Could be

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

Grid containing the answer to the previous crossword puzzle: ATOP APSE ALMS, ROUE NICE REAP, MORTONSALT GIRL, SHIATSU YEW, ARCHIE TEEPEE, WAHOO JAR ATONE, ASAP FIRETRAP, YAM PENGUIN PAW, BLUENOSE TILE, GREER INE MONET, BERGEN HOUSES, SAL ANXIOUS, CARRYUMBRELLAS, TINE DAIS EAST, SNAG ESSE SOSA



Puzzle by Raymond C. Young

- 28 Part of Act IV where Marc Antony resolves to kill Cleopatra, 30 'The first network for men' slogan, once, 31 Overplayed?, 35 Claudia, 1984 Olympic gold medalist in shot put, 36 Tigres del, Dominican team that has won the Caribbean World Series nine times, 37 'What have I done?', 38 Fall times: Abbr., 39 Meet away from prying eyes, 43 -80 (classic computer)

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

FRIDAYS WITH FRAN

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Listen to Pharell and ask 'Far real?'. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Double stamp it but beware of the all-powerful triple stamp. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't color outside the lines or you won't get a gold star. CANCER (May 21-June 20): We have figured out the input on the DVD player. Go home and praise Fred Claus. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Call (845)729-1043 and say, 'Hi Mom!!!!'. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are Marshall. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Remember the golden age when pencil meant weiner and eraser meant butt? SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I'll sharpen your pencil with my eraser. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): JPW equals 'Johncandy Punching Willywonka.' CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Overdose on Tylenol this weekend. But be careful not to overoverdose. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Did you ever wonder how they build suspension bridges? My theory is that glaciers did it during the Ice Age. Nature sure is amazing, huh? PISCES: (Feb. 19-March 20): Il up the inbox of Poohgas Woman at kkarlix@nd.edu. It doesn't even matter what you say. Just make sure to address it to Poohgas Woman.

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Road redemption?

Squad travels east to face Scarlet Knights

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

After an 84-78 loss to Connecticut on Wednesday night, Notre Dame will again head east to play Rutgers on Sunday. And despite the tough loss to the Huskies, the Irish had an upbeat attitude before practice Thursday.

"I think our confidence is still sky high," senior captain Rob Kurz said. "We've been playing great and one loss is not gonna derail our confidence in any way."

The defeat at Connecticut dropped Notre Dame's Big East road record to 2-3, but coach Mike Brey said his team is excited to play away from the Joyce Center.

"I love that we have another road game in an on-campus facility," Brey said. "That fan base is on us always — it's a tough place to play."

While the Irish fell to 8-3 and a tie for third place in the Big East with the loss to Connecticut, Rutgers has lan-

see BIG EAST/page 22



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish senior forward Rob Kurz guards Bearcats senior forward Marcus Sikes during Notre Dame's 91-74 win over Cincinnati on Jan. 15. Kurz had 17 points and 10 rebounds in the game.

HOCKEY

Nanooks await, 5,000 miles away

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

Believe it or not, the No. 9 Irish have traveled 4,880 miles to arrive at this weekend's series — just to play a conference game.

Notre Dame begins a two-game set with Alaska (8-16-4, 8-13-3 CCHA) tonight at 11. South Bend time in Fairbanks, Alaska, and the teams will meet at the same time tomorrow night.

While Alaska will attempt to exact revenge on the Irish for ending its season in the first round of the CCHA playoffs a year ago, Notre Dame (20-10-2, 13-7-2) must focus yet again on escaping a 4-6-2 skid that dates back to a Dec. 29 loss to Massachusetts.

"We all know we've got to get back on track," junior goalie Jordan Pearce said. "I wouldn't say we're worried or desperate, but everyone's putting in the extra effort in practice. We've had two great

see NANOOKS/page 22

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team's 3-game road stretch starts with Syracuse

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame begins a three-game conference road trip — the only one this season for any team in the Big East — on Saturday against Syracuse in the Carrier Dome.

Syracuse coach Quinten Hillsman has turned his program completely around after last season's debacle. The

Orange finished 15th in the 16-team Big East last season at 3-13 and were 9-20 overall. But this year, they have been one of the biggest surprises of the season at 19-4 and 7-3 in the conference.

"I think he's up for coach of the year," said Irish coach Muffet McGraw of Hillsman. "He's done a great job. He has a really good group."

One reason for Syracuse's success this season is its ability

to take care of its home court. The Orange have fallen only once in the Carrier Dome — a 65-59 loss to then-No. 1 Connecticut.

The Carrier Dome presents a unique problem for the Irish. So far this season, the Irish have played in front of an average of 5,367 fans per game, including three games of over 10,000 people. But at Syracuse, where the maximum capacity for basketball is

33,000, the Orange only average 1,463 fans in their 11 home contests.

"They're just getting going, so it's a good start for them," McGraw said.

McGraw said she wants to make sure her team gets plenty of time in its shootaround to prepare for playing in that kind of environment.

"It's just a vast, empty back-drop," McGraw said. "And it's just apparently, not being a

shooter myself, hard to shoot at places like that."

Syracuse is also able to get help offensively from a wide variety of players this season, including four who average double-digit scoring. Guard Chandraea Jones, who transferred from Odessa College (a junior college) after last season, leads the team with 15.9 points per game, followed by

see ORANGE/page 22

MEN'S LACROSSE

Record-setting defense back for season opener

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Two teams with postseason expectations will face their first tests Saturday as Notre Dame travels to Maryland to play ranked Loyola-Maryland to open the season.

The Irish, ranked No. 10 in the Inside Lacrosse preseason poll, will travel to Baltimore to face the No. 17 Greyhounds

The same two teams met in last year's season opener, a close match in South Bend.

The Irish trailed late but rallied for a 9-7 win thanks in large part to goalkeeper Joey Kemp, who held Loyola scoreless over the last 22 minutes.

Despite the win in last season's opener, the Irish are 3-13 all-time against Loyola. The Greyhounds are 13-1 in home openers in the program's history.

Even though Loyola lost several starters from last year's NCAA Tournament team, Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said

see DEPTH/page 21

MEN'S TENNIS

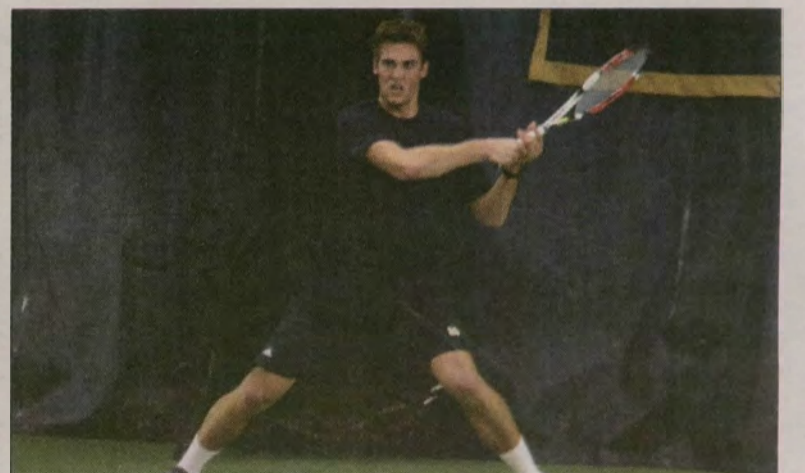
ND carries streak to Seattle

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame carries a five-match winning streak to Seattle this weekend for the National Team Indoor competition, which begins today. The Irish have not lost since falling 5-2 to No. 1 Virginia on Jan. 27 and will face No. 8 UCLA in the first round of the tournament.

The No. 9 Irish (7-1) won two matches last weekend over Southwestern Midwest University and Wisconsin.

see PARBHU/page 21



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish junior Brett Helgeson returns a volley during Notre Dame's 4-3 win over Southern Methodist on Feb. 10.