



CLOUDY

HIGH 50°
LOW 37°

Congratulations

The Observer congratulates all Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students who will graduate this weekend and wishes them the best of luck in the future.

Friday

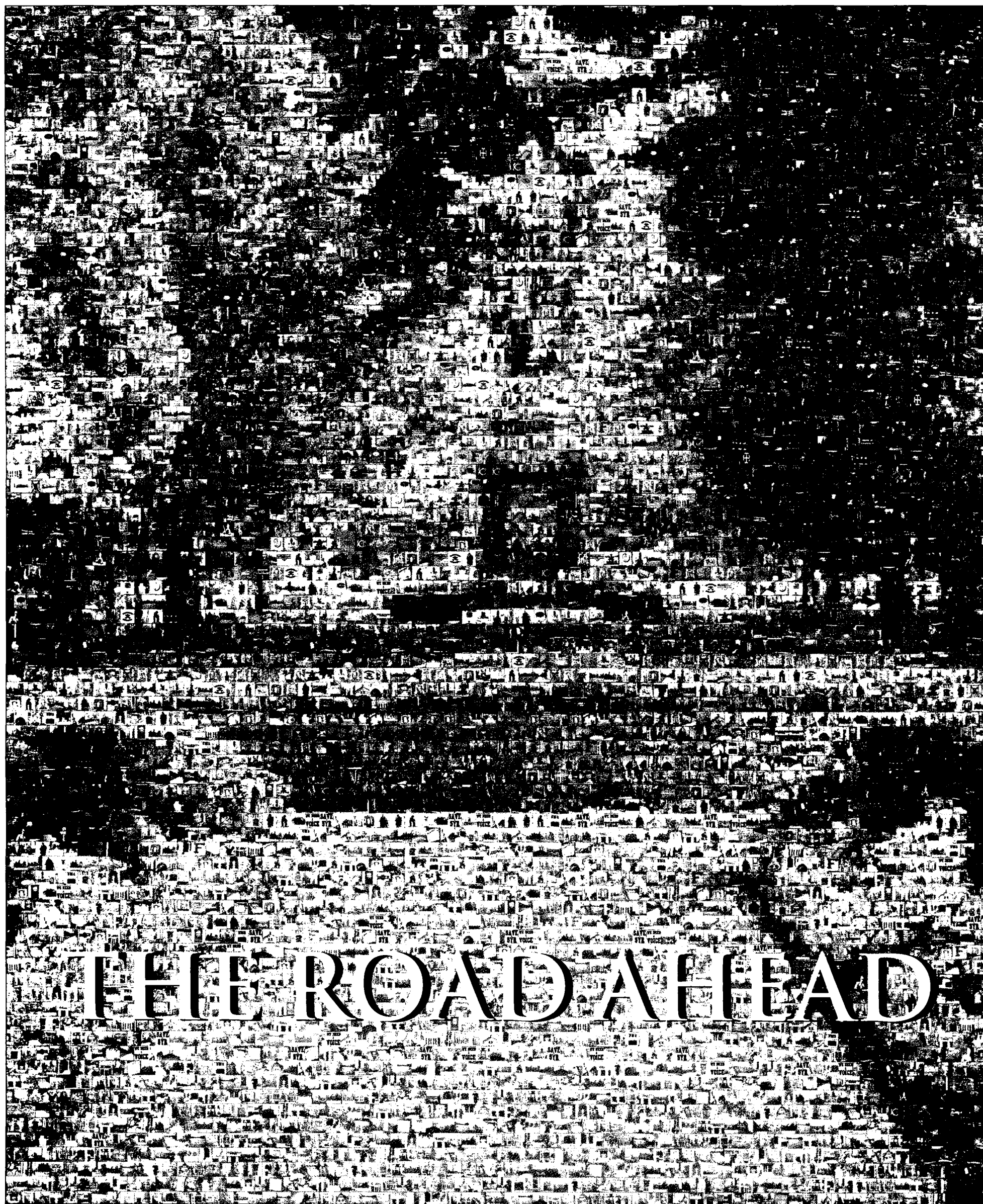
MAY 17,
2002

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOL. XXXVI NO. 135

[HTTP://OBSERVER.ND.EDU](http://observer.nd.edu)



INSIDE COLUMN

A common bond

Four weeks ago, I gathered at the South Bend Marriott with 100 other current and former Observer staff workers to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the founding of the paper.

Although many of us had never met before, we shared a common bond. The problems of the paper 30 years ago were very similar to the problems of the paper today. The war stories were all different but everyone understood them.

There was a connection between us all.

Ten days later, a smaller group of Observer editors from around the country gathered again in Sacred Heart Basilica. Ryan Ver Berkmoes, one of the managing editors from the early 1980s, had lost his mother to a stroke. Two editors and I arrived at the Basilica a little after 9:30 a.m. for the funeral. A few other faces from the reunion were there as well. We didn't really know Ryan very well. Other than a few short conversations before and during the reunion, I didn't really have a connection to him.

But for some reason, we knew we had to be at the funeral.

When I told people I would be attending a funeral that morning, many expressed sorrow for my loss. When I explained to them that I didn't know the deceased at all and only barely knew one of her family members, no one questioned why I was attending the funeral. They understood that somehow there was a connection that obligated me to be at the funeral.

As I walk away from this school with my degree in hand, I take with me much more than a sheet of paper. There is a strong bond I have between those who graduate with me, those who will graduate after me and those who have graduated before me.

I am not going to throw out clichés and pre-packaged Go Irish sappiness. I don't believe in the Notre Dame Family and I could fill this entire issue with bitter, spite-filled prose about this school and the administration that runs it.

But as I graduate I get to leave that all behind. Now, I get to treasure the connections that I have made and the experiences I have shared.

When I call The Observer's phone number in 15 years, I know that I will be speaking to an editor who has not slept more than five hours in the last four days, whose professors wonder if he is brain dead and who has listened to countless complaints about the crossword puzzle from angry history TAs.

There will be a shared experience that will somehow bond us together. Any way he can help me, he will. Any way I can give him assistance, I will offer it.

The same guys that I lost Bookstore Basketball games with will somehow still be there for me when we are all 20 years old, 30 pounds heavier and hoping to God that our kids never do the same things we did in college.

So as I transition from tuition-generating entity into donation-generating entity in the eyes of the University, I will hold fast to the connections that really matter. I will bind my checkbook to Notre Dame because if I don't, I won't get any football tickets. But my heart will remain connected to those common experiences, those shared memories and those in the future who will feel the same way.

None of us will be able to explain it or justify it, but we all understand the bond.

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

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

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



Mike Connolly

Senior Staff Writer

Events of the Weekend

Friday, May 17

2-4 p.m.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS
HONORS CONVOCATION
Washington Hall

4 p.m.

BACCALAUREATE MASS
Angela Athletic Facility

9 p.m.-1 a.m.

GRADUATION MASS
Joyce Center - North Dome

7:30-10:30 p.m.

SENIOR RECEPTION
Century Center

Saturday, May 18

9 a.m.

ROTC COMMISSIONING
Joyce Center - South Dome

10 a.m.

SERVICE SEND-OFF CEREMONY
Washington Hall

12:00 noon

COMMENCEMENT
Court of LeMans Hall

5-6:30 p.m.

COMMENCEMENT MASS
Joyce Center - South Dome

6:45-8 p.m.

GRADUATION DINNER
Joyce Center and North Dining Hall

Sunday, May 19

9:45 and 11:45 a.m.

COMMENCEMENT LITURGY
Church of Loretto

12:15 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION OF BACHELOR AND
MASTER DIPLOMAS
Joyce Center - North Dome
Guests may begin entering Gate 10

2-4 p.m.

COMMENCEMENT AND CONFERRING
OF DEGREES
Joyce Center - South Dome

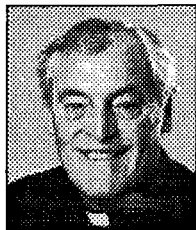
4:30 p.m.

LAW SCHOOL DIPLOMA CEREMONY
Hesburgh library Reflecting Pool

Smyth wins Laetare Medal

By ANDREW THAGARD
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame alumnus Father John Smyth will receive this year's Laetare Medal at the 2002 Commencement exercises. The Chicago priest has spent the last 40 years working at Maryville Academy, a residence for orphaned and homeless children.



Smyth

"Father Smyth is a man who has spent his entire adult life in ministry to vulnerable, disadvantaged children," said University spokesman Dennis Moore. "Maryville Academy has been one of the most successful institutions in the country."

Smyth, who graduated from Notre Dame in 1957, was a standout athletically. He served as basketball team captain and was recognized as an honorable mention All-American player. After graduation, Smyth was selected by the St. Louis Hawks in the third round NBA draft pick. He turned down

the offer, however, to enter the priesthood.

Since his ordination in 1962, Smyth has worked at Maryville Academy in the Chicago archdiocese. He entered into service at the academy in 1962 and assumed the job of executive director in 1970.

"The Notre Dame family has been proud of Father John Smyth since his days as a student here 50 years ago," said University President Edward Malloy. "[T]his year we particularly wish to celebrate the exemplary manner in which he has served Christ in the children who are victims of neglect, prostitution, sexual abuse and family violence."

Smyth was selected to receive Catholic America's oldest honor in March. A committee of Notre Dame staff, faculty, and administrators made the recommendation, which was approved by the Officer's Group. The medal, established in 1883, is named after Laetare Sunday, because the recipient is announced on the fourth Sunday of Lent on the Church calendar.

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ND, SMC award honorary degrees

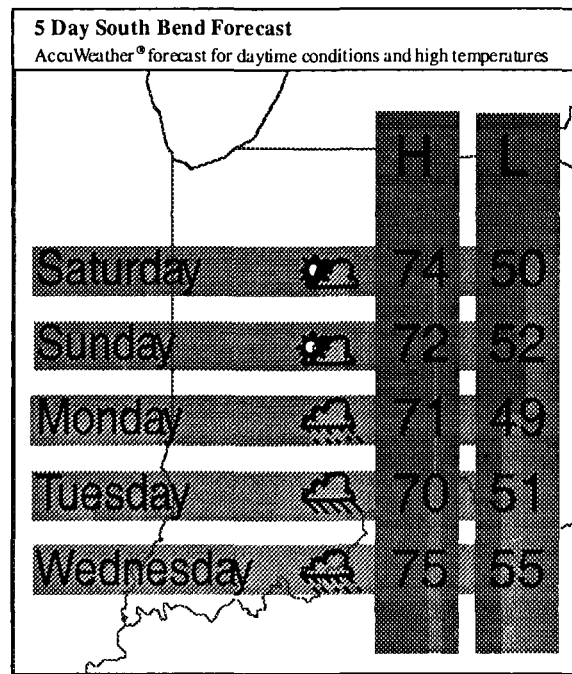
Notre Dame will present 11 honorary degrees at its Commencement exercises on Sunday, and Saint Mary's will award three on Saturday.

Notre Dame recipients include: journalist and principal Commencement speaker Tim Russert; Margaret Bent, the first female senior research fellow at All Souls College in Oxford; Lord John Browne, group chief executive of BP Amoco; Alfred DeCrane, retired chief executive officer of Texaco; Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Commission for Promoting Christian Unity; Helen Lieberman, founder of a nonprofit organization serving the needy of South Africa; Sydney Pollack, an actor, director and producer; Helen Quinn, a renowned physicist; Diarmuid O'Scannlain, a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; William Sexton, outgoing vice president for University Relations; Patrick Toole, a developer at IBM; and Cicely Tyson, an actress, activist and humanitarian.

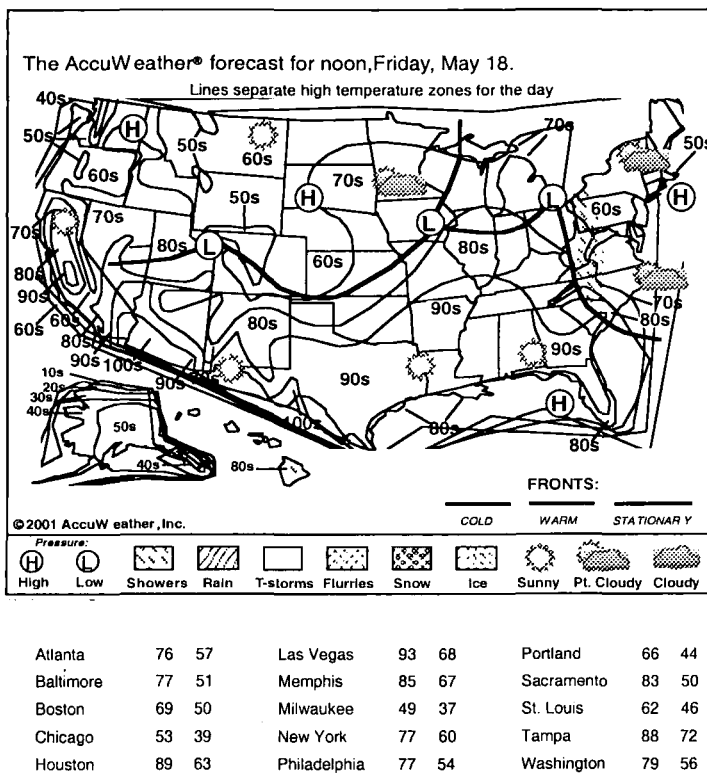
The College is honoring James Jack, executive vice president and chief financial officer of Medallion Financial Corp.; Marjorie Hamel, an alumnus and former national chair of the Madeleva Steering Committee; and Sister M. O'Flynn, a Holy Cross Sister and adviser to former College presidents.

Saint Mary's will also award the President's Medal to Dorene Hammes, a College donor and confidant to College President Mary Lou Eldred.

LOCAL WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER



Notre Dame class of 2002 leaves its mark

By HELENA PAYNE
News Editor

The 1,872 members of the Notre Dame undergraduate class of 2002 will enter a new phase of their lives, leaving four years of memories filled with academics and service, along with tragedy and hope.

Since the day they stepped foot on the 1,250-acre Notre Dame campus in August 1998, prepared or unprepared to attend their freshmen orientation graffiti dance

or the Sunday mass for students and families, the class of 2002 has seen many changes at the University. They entered a campus with a new South Quad restaurant, Recker's, a recently opened Eck Visitors' Center and a renovated Morrissey Hall. The same class is leaving the campus with the one-year-old Coleman-Morse Center, Malloy Hall, Hayes-Healy and a renovated Fisher Hall.

While witnessing the construction of the University, the class of 2002 has also left its own marks. Included in the class of 2002 was the first female student body president and the first African-American drum major among other firsts and students who added new things to the University.

"I'm really glad that I decided to run for student body president," said Brooke Norton, the first female student body president during the 2001-2002 academic year. "It's an amazing experience to be able to meet so many different people," said Norton of her four years at Notre Dame.

Norton, a graduating senior, said her

election as well as the accomplishments of fellow classmates, has made the class of 2002 stand out.

"It just seemed like the turn of the century, the turn of the millennium equals a new phase, a new destination for Notre Dame," senior Tambre Paster said.

Paster, who was the first African-American head drum major in the Notre Dame marching band, said she believes her accomplishment was significant but one that began with members of the previous class of 2001, such as the first African-

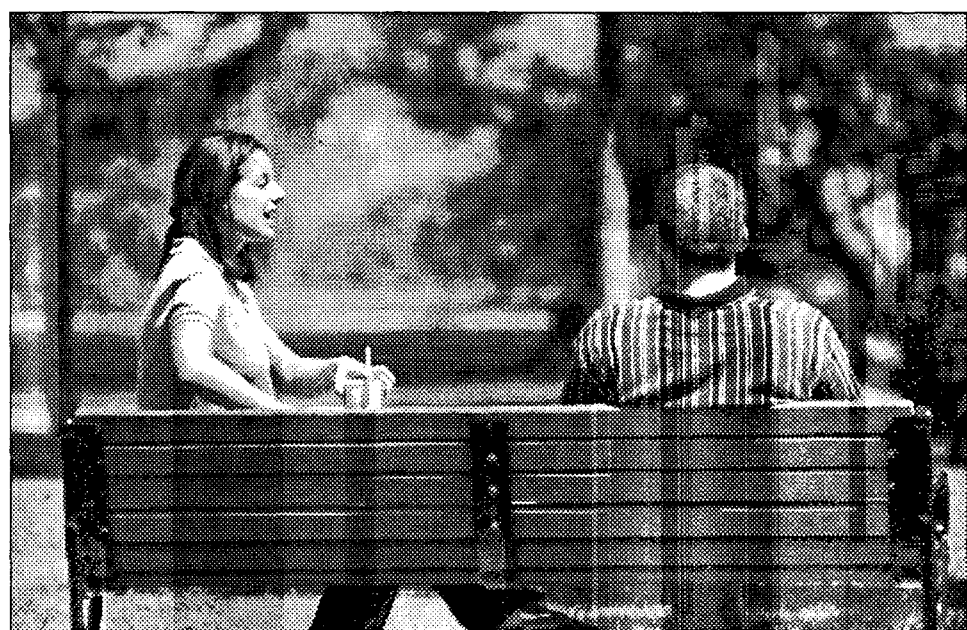
American Leprechaun Mike Brown or the first female Irish Guard Molly Kinder. Paster identified these individuals as representatives of a trend toward increasing diversity in the University as well as discovering new types of leadership.

"With our class in particular, we're just carrying on that trend," Paster said. "We're carrying on the torch and hopefully this will be something continues on for years to come."

In addition to sprinkling new flavor to the leadership roles of the University, the students of the class of 2002 banded together during times of heightened tragedy in the nation and on campus. The death of three students in the class of 2002 inspired bone marrow drives, cancer walks and runs, scholarships and masses to deal with the losses.

"I think that is one of the most difficult things our class had to deal with," said Norton, referring to the deaths of Brionne Clary, Conor Murphy and Miranda Thomas.

Senior Drew Gawrych said that the class of 2002 has shown resilience as they have



AMANDA HUGHES/The Observer

Many of Notre Dame's Class of 2002's 1,872 seniors will have their final conversations during this 2002 Commencement Week, while others will remain in touch years beyond graduation.

broken traditions, as well as coped with tragedy.

"We've dealt with the loss of three classmates," said Gawrych. "We're also the graduating class in the year of one of the greatest tragedies in our history."

Gawrych said the events of Sept. 11 challenged the class and also bonded them together to help the world.

He added that social activism was a way that students addressed the issues of poverty and inequality in the world. Gawrych, who conceived the idea for the University's first Blessing Unto Others Week to fight poverty and promote social service, said the class of 2002 has made a

conscious effort to get involved with communities outside of Notre Dame.

"Being so blessed at the University, we need to share those blessings with other people and help make this world a better place," said Gawrych.

As Gawrych prepares for the candidate program at the Moreau Seminary, he said he is excited to hear about the future accomplishments of the class of 2002.

"We're ready to make a big impact on the world outside of Notre Dame," said Gawrych.

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◆ CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2002 OBSERVER GRADUATING CLASS ◆

THE OBSERVER

BETH AMER
NOAH AMSTADTER
DUFFY-MARIE ARNOULT
ANGELA CAMPOS
KYLIE CARTER
RICO CASARES
PAHVEL CHIN
MIKE CONNOLLY
RYAN CUNNINGHAM
STEVE CURASCO
SAM DERHEIMER
BROOKES EBETSCH
COLLEEN FAHERTY
VAN GILES
NOREEN GILLESPIE
CHRISTINE KAAI
TOM KEELEY

ERNESTO LACAYO
MYRA MCGRIF
ALEX MENZE
MATT NANIA
KENT NELSON
MATT ORENCHUK
LIZ OVERLAN
PAT PETERS
PETER RICHARDSON
LAURA ROMPF
SARAH RYKOWSKI
CHRIS SCOTT
CHAD SILKER
KERRY SMITH
MAUREEN SMITHE
KIMBERLY SPRINGER
ADAM TURNER

Thank you for years of friendship, hard work and commitment to the pursuit of quality journalism. Your contributions will be missed. Best wishes in all that you do in the future. From the 2001-02 staff.

Dolezal, Furman to be honored as valedictorians

♦ Furman achieves highest GPA while working as baseball manager

By SCOTT BRODFUEHRER
Assistant News Editor

In addition to having the highest grade point average of all of her classmates, Saint Mary's valedictorian Katie Furman also serves as the head manager of Notre Dame's baseball team, the equivalent of a full-time job.

Furman has a 3.98 grade point average and is double majoring in marketing and management with a minor in mathematics, but she said she was very surprised to be named valedictorian.

"I obviously don't think about that kind of stuff because I am [at the baseball field] all the time, so I would never really have thought about being valedictorian," said Furman.

Since her freshman year, Furman has been a manager. During her freshman and sophomore years, she worked with many sports but for the past two years she worked solely with the baseball team.

The baseball team was her main extracurricular activity, requiring her to work almost 10 hours a day during the season and travel extensively for the first part of the season, when the team is on the road for the first 22 games because South Bend weather is not conducive to base-

ball games.

Furman said that she spends a great deal of time studying when she is not traveling and said that being busy helps her be more productive.

"I take a computer on the road and I do a lot of work before I am on the road and I spend a lot of hours in the library. I also think that when your time is filled up with other activities like [baseball], I get more stuff done. I think if I sat at home and didn't really do anything, I wouldn't be motivated. In a way being really, really, really busy has been a benefit to make me do my work," she said.

Furman said that her speech at Saturday's commencement exercises will be a fun one.

"The main focus is on the memories that we have had over the past four years. It will be kind of light-hearted; there will be sad parts, but not a whole lot."

Furman, an Akron, Ohio native, attended Our Lady of the Elms High School and knew Saint Mary's was her first choice after visiting the campus.

"I liked the atmosphere, I liked how friendly everyone is and I like how challenging Saint Mary's is," said Furman.

Following graduation, Furman will work with the baseball team through the end of their season, which could last until late-June if the team reaches the College World Series.

Furman said she has aspirations to work in the management of a professional baseball team.

"I would actually like to work for a baseball team in the front office. I would like to own my own baseball team someday, but that's a really, really long time away and a lot of money away from me right now," she said.

The Saint Mary's valedictorian is the student with the highest grade point average in the graduating class.

Contact Scott Brodfuehrer at brodfuehrer.1@nd.edu.



Furman

"The main focus [of the speech] is on the memories that we have had over the past four years. It will be kind of light-hearted; there will be sad parts, but not a whole lot."

Katie Furman
Saint Mary's valedictorian

♦ Dolezal balances academics, service and spirituality

By SCOTT BRODFUEHRER
Assistant News Editor

Valedictorian Tim Dolezal has lived in Carroll all his life.

In fact, he's lived in two communities named Carroll — a small Iowa town and Notre Dame's smallest residence hall. Both have helped Dolezal become the member of the senior class who will deliver Sunday's valedictory address.

Dolezal, a finance and business economics major with a 3.97 grade-point average, said his address will highlight the significance of the Notre Dame experience and discuss the responsibilities that are connected with earning a Notre Dame degree.

Dolezal said he is very humbled to be named valedictorian.

"I don't think anybody with their feet on the ground can look at the mirror and feel worthy of being the valedictorian in the class of so many wonderfully talented people, so it's a very humbling feeling," he said.

A third-generation Notre Dame student, Dolezal knew that he wanted to come to Notre Dame at a very young

age. His father, Fred, graduated in 1965 and his grandfather, Robert, graduated in 1926.

"My only dream my whole life was to come to Notre Dame. It was the only school I applied to, it was the only school I wanted to go to," he said. "[Being valedictorian] is definitely a storybook ending to my dream come true."

While at Notre Dame, Dolezal served as Carroll Hall president during his sophomore year and as hall liturgical commissioner this year. He was involved with Campus Ministry, where he led a team at a Notre Dame Encounter retreat, coordinated a senior retreat and served as an elementary school catechist for two years. He also participated in the Appalachia Seminar this spring, helping a family in Dungannon, Va., to improve their home.

Dolezal said that he is extremely satisfied with his four years at Notre Dame and said the only thing he gave up on during the last four years was sleep.

"What we all strive for is to really just milk the Notre Dame experience for all it's worth — in every facet, starting with dorm life, socializing, spiritually and with service and student government," he said. "If you want to look at what a successful Notre Dame career is, you have to look at all those elements and all those have an equal weight."

After graduation, Dolezal will stay at Notre Dame and work in the University's Investment Office where he will help manage the University endowment and analyze the market. Dolezal

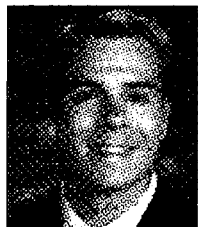
was hired after speaking to his applied investment management professor, Scott Malpass, who is also the University's chief investment officer.

"I started thinking about the idea of working for the mission of Notre Dame and using what Notre Dame has given me to help put the University in a position where it will be able to achieve its dreams and that was all I needed," Dolezal said. "I was so excited and I told Mr. Malpass that if he offered the job that I'd take it on the spot and a few weeks later I was able to talk him into hiring me."


Eventually, Dolezal said he plans to attend graduate school to obtain his master's of business administration and said one day he hopes to manage an endowment fund or a pension fund.

The selection of the Notre Dame valedictorian begins in February, when the registrar's office generates a list of the two students with the highest grade point average in each college. These candidates then submit recommendations from the dean of their college, a peer and a draft of a 3-minute speech. The valedictory selection committee then anonymously ranks the candidates and the committee interviews the final two or three students. From these finalists, the committee selects the valedictorian and the second place candidate is asked to give the invocation at graduation.

Contact Scott Brodfuehrer at brodfuehrer.1@nd.edu.



Dolezal



Congratulations Past and Present Lewisites!

YOU WILL BE MISSED



Congratulations Seniors!
From the Notre Dame Club of Minnesota

Be proud! Years of hard work have finally paid off.

For those of you heading to Minnesota, the Notre Dame Club of Minnesota would like to welcome you to the area. On July 12th and 13th we will have an alumni tent at the Cities 97 Basilica Block Party in Minneapolis and you are invited.

This yearly event is a great time, with 12 bands playing during the two days. Some of this year's bands include Big Head Todd and The Monsters, Dishwalla, and Midnight Oil. Tickets are available at a discounted price for alumni.

For more information, please contact the Club's Young Alumni Coordinator, Brian Matzek, at (612) 825-1077 or checkout our website at <http://www.ndmn.org>.

FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

Friday, May 17, 2002

The Top 10 Observer news stories from the 1998-2002 academic years

page 5

1



Campuses react to terrorist attacks

September 11, 2002

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's responded in a dramatic fashion to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and rural Pennsylvania.

Classes were cancelled mid-session as representatives from the registrar's office visited individual classrooms. Seven-thousand students and faculty attended a mass on South Quad at 3 p.m. on the day of the attacks, which was concelebrated by all campus priests and Auxiliary Bishop John D'Arcy. Throughout the day, students streamed to the grotto and took advantage of free cab service to donate blood.

Phone lines and Internet connections at both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's were overwhelmed as students called home to check on their family and friends.

Like all athletic events nationwide, Notre Dame's football game against Purdue on the following Saturday was cancelled as the nation mourned the loss of thousands of citizens. At the Sept. 22 home football game against Michigan State, the entire stadium paused as University President Father Edward Malloy said a prayer and fans raised printed American flags into the sky in an

event televised nationwide by NBC Sports.

Four alumni were killed in the attacks: Robert Ferris, class of 1962, who worked on the 102nd floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center; Army Lieutenant Colonel S. Neil Hyland Jr., class of 1977, who worked at the Pentagon; and Peter Batacan, class of 1983, and Dora Marie Menchaca, class of 1977, who were killed on American Airlines Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon. Suzanne Kondratenko, a 1996 Saint Mary's graduate who worked in the World Trade Center, was also killed in the attack.

2

New alcohol policy unveiled



Father Mark Poorman introduced sweeping changes to the alcohol policy including a ban on hard liquor, a cancellation of in-hall dances and a revision of the tailgating policy to allow of-age students to host tailgate parties in specified lots. The new policy will take effect in August.

March 18, 2002

3

Trustees reject Big Ten



Fearing the loss of a unique identity as a university, the Notre Dame Board of Trustees voted against joining the Big Ten conference. If Notre Dame had joined the Big Ten it would have been one of only two private universities and the only member with a religious affiliation.

February 8, 1999

4

NCAA sanctions ND for violations



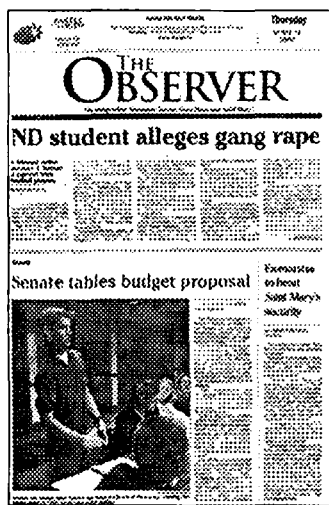
The NCAA handed Notre Dame its first ever major violation in connection with Kimberley Dunbar's gifts to a number of Irish football players. Dunbar's membership in the Quarterback Club made her official University representative, said the NCAA.

The University lost two scholarships and received a two-year probation.

Jan. 19, 2000

5

Student alleges gang rape



A 20-year-old Notre Dame student alleged that four football players gang-raped her at an off-campus house. The University expelled the students and University President Father Edward Malloy denied their appeals. The prosecutor's office is still deciding whether to press charges.

April 11, 2002

6

Bush speaks at Commencement



President George W. Bush spoke at Class of 2001 Commencement, becoming the fifth President to speak at a Notre Dame commencement. House representatives and Notre Dame alumni helped to court Bush, whose visit was generally welcomed but protested by some who objected to his policies.

May 20, 2001

7

Norton elected first female pres.



Last spring Brooke Norton accepted a position no female before her had held — student body president. Norton and her vice president Brian Moscona won 56 percent of the votes.

Norton is also the first incumbent vice president to win the role of president since 1973.

Feb. 15, 2001

8

'Monologues' spark controversy



This year, Notre Dame held a performance of the "Vagina Monologues" under protest from various groups, including the Knights of Columbus. Last year, Saint Mary's President Marilou Eldred cancelled "The Vagina Monologues" but it was performed despite her decision.

2001 - 2002

9

Class loses three to leukemia

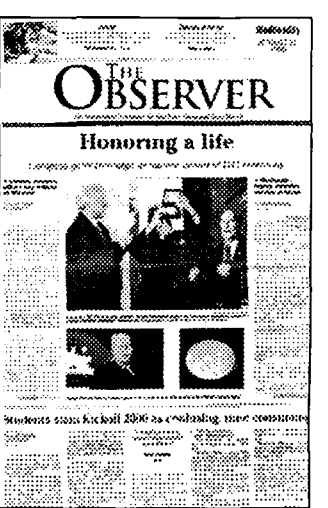


Three members of the Class of 2002 — Brionne Clary, Conor Murphy and Miranda Thomas — died of leukemia during the class' four years at Notre Dame. Memorial services were held for all three and the class has worked to establish an annual bone marrow drive that will be held in their memory.

1999 - 2001

10

Hesburgh receives medal



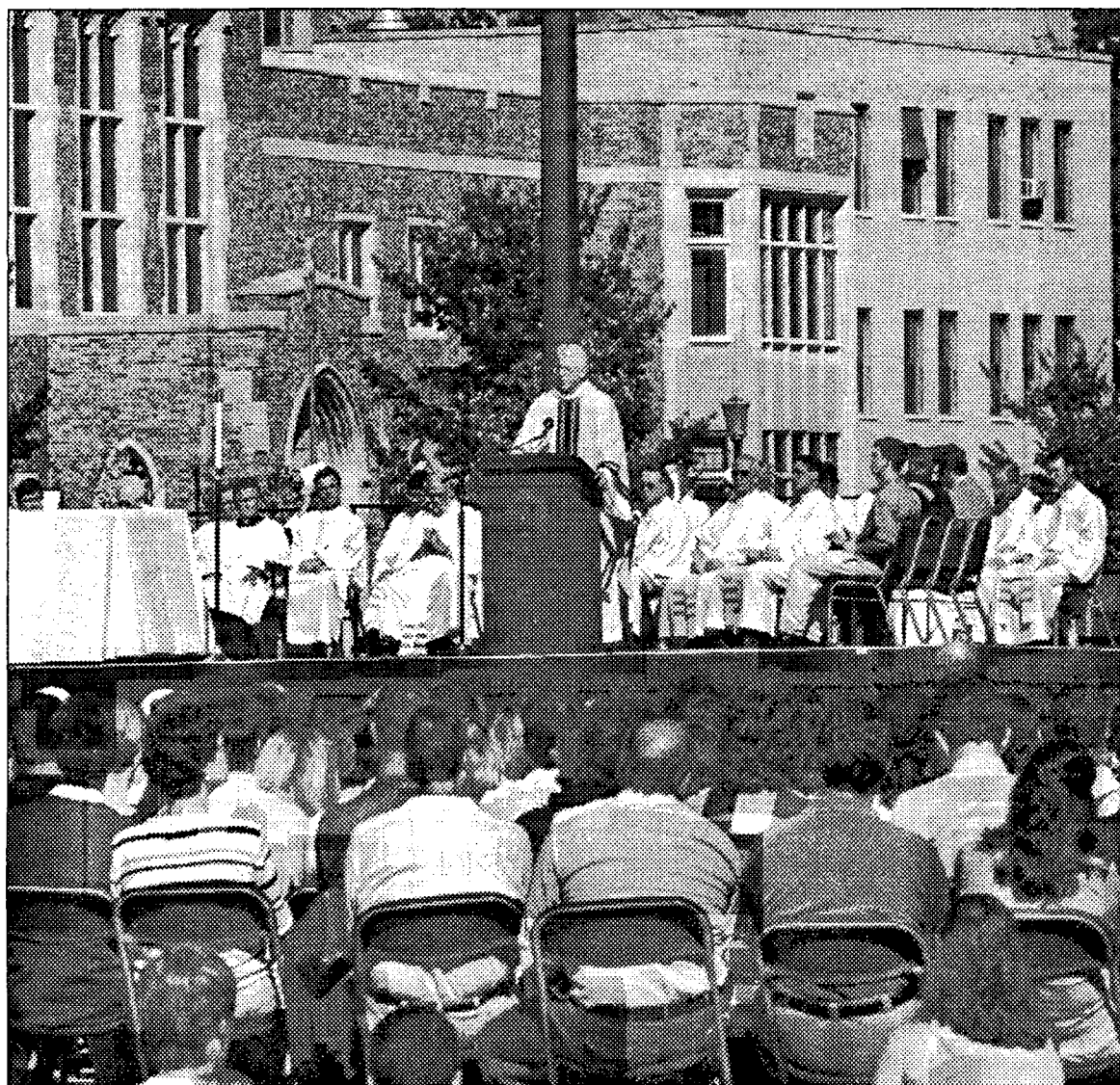
University officials, Congressmen and former President Bill Clinton gathered in the U.S. capitol rotunda July 13, 2000 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Father Theodore Hesburgh, Notre Dame emeritus, for a lifetime of public service.

Aug. 23, 2000

Campuses respond to Sept. 11. University completes construction. Coaching fiasco. U2 plays at the Joyce.

The Year

2001 ♦



KYLIE CARTER/The Observer

University President Father Edward Malloy presides over the campus-wide Mass on Sept. 11, 2001 on South Quad. Over 7,000 students and faculty attended the Mass.



PETER RICHARDSON/The Observer

Bono and his group U2 performed at the Joyce Center this fall, playing classic hits to those present.

By KATE NAGENGAST
News Writer

Sept. 11 Attacks

By far the most shocking and memorable event of 2001, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington canceled classes for one day, but traumatized Americans forever. Notre Dame and Saint Mary's initial response to the tragedy was prayer as approximately 7,000 people gathered for Mass on South Quad and an additional 400 filled Regina Hall's chapel that unforgettable Tuesday afternoon.

In the months that followed, as airport security tightened and White House press conferences revealed information about the hunt for Osama bin Laden in the caves of Afghanistan, the campuses continued to pray and started to act.

A series of panel discussions, prayer vigils and fundraisers filled the fall semester — including one such effort during the Notre Dame-Michigan State game that raised \$270,981 for the families of firefighters and police killed when the towers crumbled. In the spring, a number of classes were created across academic departments to focus on the history and aftermath of the attacks and America's relationship with the global community.

Now, more than eight months later, soon-to-be graduates searching for jobs continue to feel the economic effects of the attacks on the American economy.

Campus Construction

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's also continued campus expansions and renovations this year. Notre Dame completed construction on Malloy Hall, renovations on Hurley Hall and the Hayes-Healy Center and broke ground for the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. The University also began additions to the Hesburgh Center for International Studies and the Stepan Chemistry Building. The Stepan and Hesburgh centers' renovations are scheduled to be complete in the fall. The DeBartolo Center will not be ready until summer 2004.

Saint Mary's broke ground for the Student Center/Noble Family Dining Hall April 19.

The three-level, 80,000-square-foot, \$17 million structure will be built in two phases. Phase I is construction of the new Noble Family Dining Hall, which is scheduled for completion in June 2003. Phase II, which includes demolition of the old dining hall and construction of the student center, should be finished by December 2004. Saint Mary's student government donated \$12,000 to the project.

U2 Elevation Tour

After months of anticipation and another chaotic ticket distribution, U2 kicked off the third leg of their Elevation Tour on Oct. 10 at Notre Dame's Joyce Center. The crowd of 11,000 with the most fortunate packed inside a heart-shaped catwalk that lead singer Bono and guitarist The Edge strutted across throughout the show, was awed by hits from U2's most recent album All That You Can't Leave Behind as well as their classics.

In their typically politically sensitive manner, the band paid tribute to the heroes of Sept. 11 by bringing New York police and firefighters on stage when they performed a verse of "Peace on Earth" as an introduction to their closing number, "Walk On." Bono also honored students who participate in service programs such as the Alliance for Catholic Education and "change the world" with their dedication to teaching.

Senior Tim Collins was reunited with Bono after first meeting the legend while visiting his girlfriend who studied abroad in Dublin during the spring of 2000. In Dublin with Collins Bono had said of Notre Dame, "It's a place with a lot of soul."

Coach Fiasco

If any chapter in Notre Dame history could be erased, the athletic department would probably pick the coaching search that rocked the University in December.

The torrid month began when Bob Davie was fired less than 12 hours after coaching the final game of his five-year career at Notre Dame. Davie had led the Irish to a BCS berth in the Fiesta Bowl a year before, but after a 5-6 season last fall — the second losing season in three years — fans clamored for his head.

After Athletic Director Kevin White fired Davie, he launched a

Aug. 30: SMC responds to DOE complaint about sexual assault reporting procedure



Sept. 6: Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts groundbreaking

Oct. 12: Rego banned from campus despite Notre Dame-West Virginia game for alleged rape of ND alumna



Dec. 2: Bob Davie fired

Dec. 9: ND hires O'Leary



Dec. 14: O'Leary resigns

Sept. 11: World Trade Center attacked by terrorists

Sept. 21: State and local police begin tailgating crackdown at ND-MSU game

Aug. 31: SMC student reports alleged rape in Keough Hall

Oct. 10: U2 performs at ND



Vagina Monologues performed. Officials introduce new alcohol policy. Campus deals with sexual assault.

in Review

♦ 2002

nationwide search for his replacement. A week later, White returned with former Georgia Tech head coach George O'Leary. At a public press conference where O'Leary was introduced, the University distributed T-shirts that read "By George, it's O'Leary."

But while Davie's reign lasted five years, O'Leary's lasted only five days.

After a reporter discovered that O'Leary's biography contained false information about his college playing career and academic credentials, O'Leary resigned in disgrace after he admitted to Notre Dame he had lied about earning a master's degree and playing football for New Hampshire.

White then resumed the coaching search. In December, White had said he had seven candidates on his list and he had interviewed five face-to-face. He offered the job to two. The first was O'Leary, the second was Stanford head coach Tyrone Willingham.

White actually interviewed Willingham during the first phase of the coaching search, but didn't feel he had a strong love for Notre Dame. When the two talked in late December, Willingham opened up about his love for the Irish, and White had found his man.

Willingham was formally introduced as Irish head coach on New Year's Day, finally ending the month-long nightmarish coaching search that publicly embarrassed Notre Dame.

Monologues strike back

When Saint Mary's banned the performance of Eve Ensler's controversial play "The Vagina Monologues" on campus in winter 2001, students protested with a speak-out, a sit-in and a petition. Although 20 women eventually gathered to read the play before approximately 150 students in the lobby of Regina Hall, the show never received any official recognition from the College.

In February, however, Notre Dame welcomed to its campus the show sponsored by the departments of Film, Television and Theatre Department and Gender Studies as part of a nationwide initiative also developed by Ensler called, "V-Day: Until the Violence Stops."

Directed by senior Kerry Walsh, 35 women performed Ensler's work in DeBartolo Hall before standing-room-only audiences two nights in a row.

This year's performance, too, was not without controversy. Representatives from the Pro-Life Action League of Chicago distributed fliers to play-goes as they entered the theater, describing their belief that the "Monologues" is steeped in vile sexual language, denigrates heterosexual love and marriage and is verbal pornography that donates its proceeds to pro-abortion groups. Members of the Knights of Columbus also wrote letters to The Observer's Viewpoint section and prayed in DeBartolo's upstairs chapel before performances of the play.

Alcohol policy

For a student body typically criticized for its apathy, Notre Dame students responded viciously to alcohol policy changes. Father Mark Poorman, vice president for Student Affairs, announced March 19. The new policy targets drinking among undergraduate students by banning "hard" liquor in residence halls, eliminating in-hall dances and rewriting the tailgating policy to permit students of legal age to drink in designated parking lots on football weekends.

More than 600 students marched to the Main Building chanting, "We need a voice" March 21 and lit copies of the student handbook, du Lac, on fire. This initial rally was followed by student speeches at a Campus Life Council meeting with Poorman present, a petition with more 4,000 student signatures and Student Senate resolutions proposing alterations to the proposed policy, none of which inspired any change to date. The policy is to be formally written this summer and take effect next fall.

The spring policy changes were foreshadowed, however, by tailgating crackdowns this fall when state and local police cited hundreds of students for violating du Lac's rule banning students from organizing tailgaters where alcohol is served. In a full-page letter published in The Observer in November, Poorman said alcohol use and abuse has become the most serious health and safety issue at Notre Dame and that tailgaters had become "an opportunity to engage in behavior that would not be tolerated at any other time on our campus or anywhere else."

Sexual Assault

Campus sexual assault also was

a divisive issue.

Since September, four cases of alleged rape and sexual misconduct have fueled debate at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's and prompted some tough stands from administrators.

It began in September with the alleged rape of a Saint Mary's student in Keough Hall. Saint Mary's security officials indicated that the woman may have ingested a date rape drug while at an Aug. 31 party in the 4A section of Keough. The student also reported the alleged assault to Notre Dame Security/Police, whose crime log made no mention of a drugging.

The incident prompted scores of letters to The Observer from students, many upset about the paper publishing the hall room numbers where the alleged rape occurred. The allegation eventually was referred to the St. Joseph County Prosecutor, and NDSP closed the case after the prosecutor declined to move forward with criminal charges.

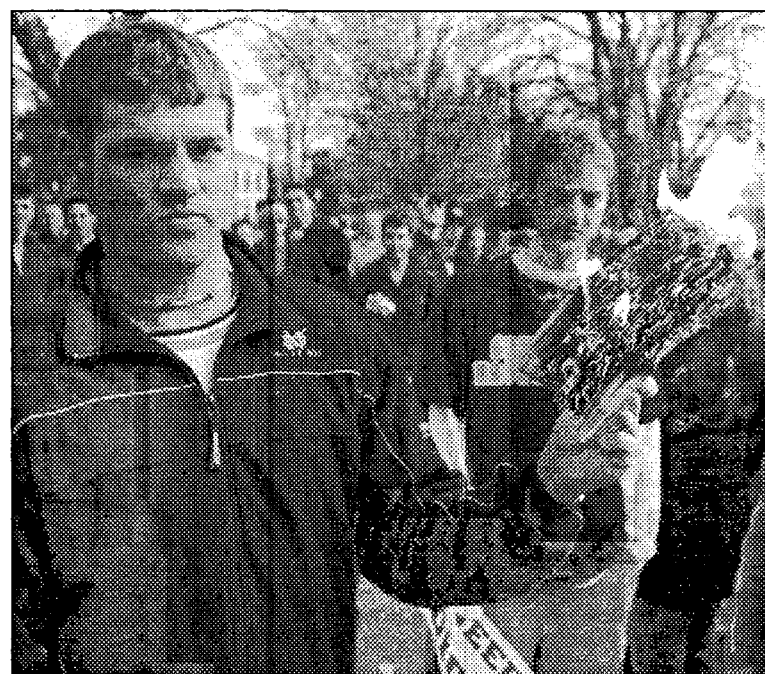
Controversy also swelled in October, when a former Notre Dame football player planned to visit campus as a member of another school's team, despite his alleged expulsion and permanent ban from campus in 1998.

Kori Pienovi, a 2001 University graduate, brought to light Cooper Rego's possible return to campus for the Oct. 13 Notre Dame-West Virginia football game. She called for administrators to uphold the punishment they imposed on Rego following a campus disciplinary hearing for the athlete's alleged rape of Pienovi.

After three days of public outcry, Notre Dame officials released a thinly veiled threat that didn't mention Rego by name but implied he would be arrested if he traveled to campus with his West Virginia teammates. Rego did not come to South Bend.

In November, a Notre Dame student who allegedly fondled and sexually assaulted another student turned the tables on the University by suing the school following his October expulsion and ban from campus.

Former student Ryan Hoadley appealed Notre Dame officials' decision in late October to University President Father Edward Malloy, who reduced the punishment in to a two-year suspension without guarantee of readmission. Hoadley's ongoing suit seeks a court order to bar the University from enforcing the



JASON McFARLEY/The Observer

Jesse Hensley holds a flaming copy of duLac as Ryan Schildkraut looks on during the alcohol town hall meeting.

suspension.

In December, a St. Joseph County Superior Court judge denied Hoadley's request for a preliminary injunction that would have temporarily lifted his punishment.

Hoadley was expelled on grounds of sexual misconduct. The allegation stems from a female Notre Dame student who accused him of touching her in an inappropriate manner and subjecting her to a 30-minute sexual assault at Hoadley's Turtle Creek apartment following a night of drinking in September.

Meanwhile, four former members of the Notre Dame football are awaiting word of whether the county prosecutor will file criminal charges against them in connection with a March 28 alleged gang rape of a female Notre Dame student.

The men were expelled following an April 25 campus disciplinary hearing. Officials on Tuesday upheld the decision on appeal.

A 20-year-old woman claim the men took turns raping her after luring her under false pretenses to a house east of campus. Expelled were former sophomores Lorenzo Crawford and Abram Elam, senior Donald Dykes and Justin Smith, a 2001 graduate who was taking graduate courses while finishing a fifth year of athletic eligibility.

As allegations of sexual assault

surfaced at Notre Dame during the year, the U.S. Department of Education's investigation into crime reporting procedures continued at Saint Mary's.

The DOE completed an on-site investigation into the way the College compiles and reports crime statistics. The review came in response to a complaint filed by a Saint Mary's student who claimed the school wasn't in compliance with the Cleary Act. The act mandates that schools update crime statistics annually, give students timely warning about crimes that have occurred on campus and educate students about sexual assault.

The Saint Mary's student claimed she reported to Saint Mary's security officials in 1999 that she was raped but that the College's crime statistics listed no incidents of rape for that year.

Saint Mary's and the DOE exchanged correspondence for several months prior to the agency's on-campus investigation. While the DOE said in December that results of the investigation wouldn't come for at least 30 days, officials to date have released no results.

Jason McFarley and Andrew Soukup contributed to this report.

Contact Kate Nagengast at nagengast.3@nd.edu.

Jan. 1: ND hires Willingham



Feb. 25: ND performs "Vagina Monologues"

March 28: ND student allegedly gang raped by four ND football players

April 19: SMC groundbreaking for Student Center/ Noble Family Dining Hall

May 3: Four ND football players accused of rape expelled

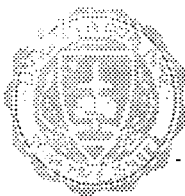
January

February

March

April

May



March 19: Poorman announces alcohol policy changes

March 21: Students hold alcohol policy protest

May 14: Malloy denies all four alleged rapists' appeals to overturn their expulsion

Notable ND seniors will tie the knot

By MAUREEN SMITHE
Senior Staff Writer

At last count, graduating seniors Alison Lasseter and Jess Donnelly figured 25 couples from the Class of 2002 are engaged. Like many Notre Dame women, they've been keeping the count since the first day of senior year.

"We were talking about it one night over a few drinks, and we realized that there were a lot of people getting engaged," Lasseter said.

Their unofficial grapevine calculation provides insight into this unsurprising trend.

Each spring, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students await to hear which couples will be among a different rank — engaged. Popular estimates among the student body suggest that up to 60 percent of Domers marry a fellow Domer, although exact figures remain elusive.

According to a study published by Notre Dame Magazine, however, co-education at Notre Dame caused a drop from 1 in 4 Saint Mary's students marrying a Notre Dame man to 1 in 10 by the late 1980s.

Without a doubt, the sacrament of marriage is an important one in the Catholic Church. Campus Ministry offers five retreats a year for both married and engaged couples. Most of the retreats fill up quickly.

The student body president

When former student body president Brooke Norton met her fiancé Andrew Lais for the first time, she wasn't necessarily dressed to the nines. Out on an Appalachian house-building trip, the two were living under less-than-desirable conditions.

"We were both wearing old, ratty clothes that we cared nothing about. I was wearing no make-up. When you showered, you smelled worse [the showers had a putrid sulfur odor]," Norton said.

Lais, a 2001 graduate, said the sloppy appearances turned out for the best.

"We were both able to be ourselves when we first met, and that made all the difference," Lais said.

The two hit it off and began dating shortly after their return to campus, despite some major differences.

"He's from South Dakota, I'm from southern California. He's a Republican, I'm a Democrat," Norton said.

Lais said his family's impression

of Norton is what made him realize that she was "the one." The two planned a trip to South Dakota to visit his family. Norton's flight got there 10 hours before his, and she had to make herself comfortable — without him.

Norton said she knew Lais was "the one" for her during a big millennium celebration with her family.

"It was a great time, and he really hit it off with all of my family," Norton said.

Just two years later, they shared another important New Year's celebration — their engagement. Lais proposed to Norton on New Year's Eve at a hotel party in Chicago. The two were dancing with a few of his good friends, but when the 10-second countdown came, Lais prepared to pop the question. At the stroke of midnight, he asked Norton to be his wife.

The two plan their wedding for June 28, 2003, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The Leprechaun

Notre Dame Leprechaun Adam Urra usually never has a problem voicing his excitement. The spirited voice of the student body, Urra is known for doing pushups on the crowd at football games and peping up fans at basketball games.

The person who would initially silence this vocal titan, however, turned out to be his future wife the night they met at an in-hall dance.

"She was only there for two seconds, but I saw her smile and just was blown away," Urra said.

His fiancée, graduating senior Sarah Affleck-Graves, also noticed the instant attraction even though she attended the dorm dance with someone else. Initially attracted by his good looks and personality, Affleck-Graves soon learned that there was more to this green-tuxedoed mascot.

"[My favorite thing about Adam] is his sense of humor and laid-back attitude. I'm the exact opposite, and he helps me relax and have fun," she said.

Three months after they started dating, Affleck-Graves said she knew Urra was "the one" for her. Urra knew for sure that summer when he told his sister in confidence that Affleck-Graves was "the one" for him.

"My sister laughed at me then, but I proved her wrong," Urra said.

The two dated for a year and a half before getting engaged in last fall. Urra planned the big moment with their faith in mind.

"Sarah and I always go to the

Grotto before Mass at Siegfried ... Well, one night we went down and said the rosary and at the end I just asked Mary to pray for our marriage and gave her the ring, and she said yes," Urra said.

Urra and Affleck-Graves said that Notre Dame's focus on faith and community enabled them to envision married life in a special way.

"Notre Dame has definitely impacted us and will impact our married life. Religion has become such a part of our relationship, and that is due to the role it plays here on campus. It has definitely brought us closer together," Affleck-Graves said.

The two have planned a wedding for Aug. 10 at Notre Dame's Basilica of the Sacred Heart. A reception at the South Dining Hall will follow.

"Apparently I didn't get enough of the SDH on campus," Affleck-Graves joked.

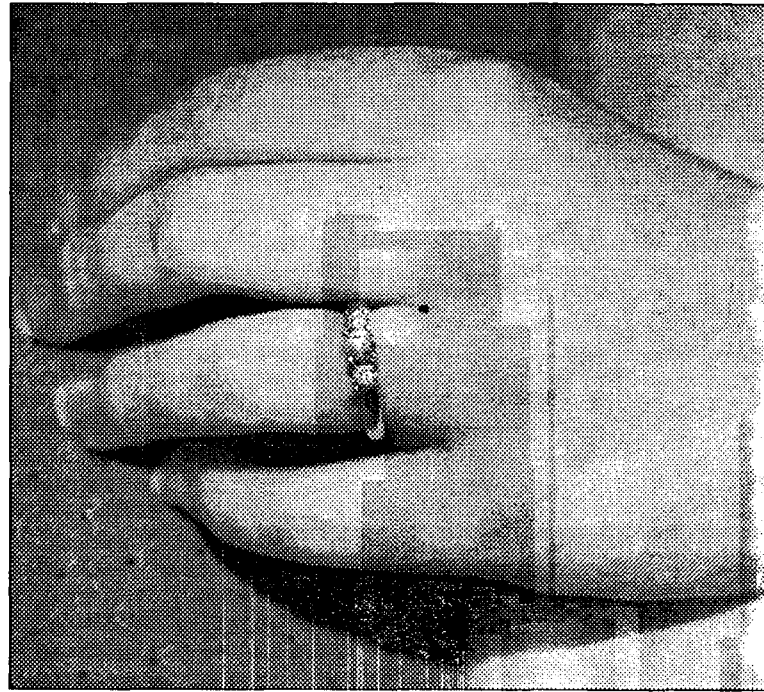
The 'Double Domers'

When Chad Silker met Beth Sheehan in a history class sophomore year, he knew she was "the one" immediately.

"She'd never believe me, but the first time I felt she could be 'the one' was long before we were dating. She finished up an exam before me, and after I finally finished up sometime later I walked out of the classroom, and she was waiting there for me. It would be much longer before we finally started dating, but I somehow knew that day that Beth was different from other girls," Silker said.

The two remained friends for another year before they started dating in March of their junior year.

A year later, Silker knew he wanted to ask Sheehan to marry



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Notre Dame student Margaret Soulen shows off her engagement ring. So far, it is estimated that 25 student couples will tie the knot.

him, but he also knew he'd have to ask her father first. An opportunity to drive to her hometown of St. Louis seemed unlikely — until a stray cat came into the picture.

"No one had claimed the cat so I was going to keep him. Since he was only 6 months old and not declawed he couldn't really stay at my house here," Sheehan said. "We got home to St. Louis in time for dinner and left early the next morning, but after dinner my mom and I went to check on the cat and while we were gone Chad asked my dad."

A week after that fateful trip to Missouri, Silker popped the question at Sheehan's favorite place on campus, the Grotto. It had always been a special place for them, so after his last time as a campus tour guide, they walked down

together, sat on her regular bench and began talking about their relationship. Before she knew it, Silker was down on one knee with a ring in his hand.

Sheehan and Silker agree that the Notre Dame experience prepared them for marriage.

"Once I came to ND and grew to love it and everything special about it, I hoped that I would marry someone who also had the Notre Dame experience," Sheehan said.

In fact, Notre Dame's impact on the couple will continue this fall when they both start law school here. Notre Dame was a perfect fit — just like them.

Contact Maureen Smithe at msmithe@nd.edu.

From sundown to sunrise...



you were always there.

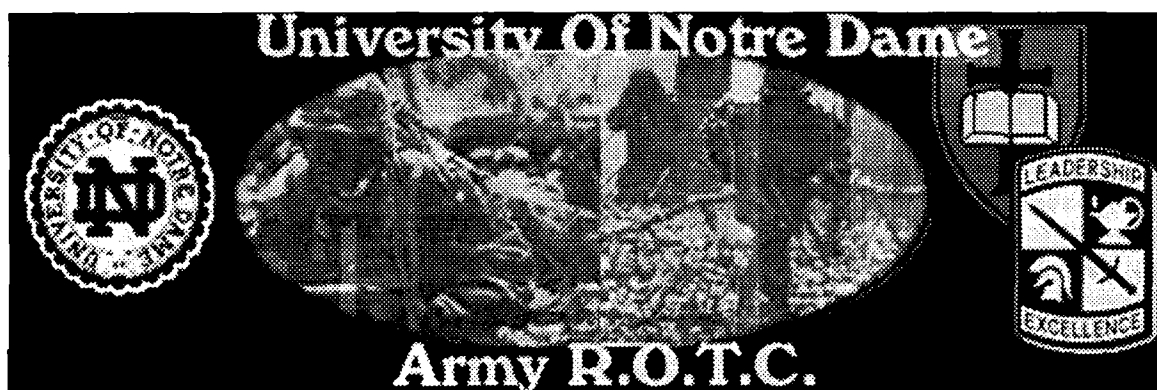
Late nights ... early mornings ... San Francisco ... Newspaper of the Year ... worn arm on the office chair ... the 'Backer ... Survivor cups ... Bookstore Basketball ... Shameless activity ... So, guys, want to plan a reunion? ... Desk of Shame ... Did we really lose the fishbowl contest? ... Los Angeles ... Becoming regulars at 'Backer lunch ... The printer broke again? ... I wouldn't have done it with anyone else...

Love, Noreen

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Senior Army cadet earns national distinction



♦ Cadet enters Transportation Corps of Army as No. 1 cadet in U.S.

By JUSTIN KRIVICKAS
News Writer

Graduating Notre Dame senior Nathaniel Hicks has been ranked nationwide as the No. 1 cadet entering the Army's Transportation Corps.

Notre Dame professor of military studies Lt. Col. David Mosinski contacted Hicks and told him about the award.

"I was really surprised," said Hicks. "My parents were very proud of me, and they are really excited for me both for the award and for my opportunities with the Army."

The Office of the Chief of the Transportation Corps, in Fort Eustis, Va., will present the award to Hicks at the Association of the United States Army Logistics Transformation Symposium, held May 20-22 in Richmond, Va.

Hicks has also received other awards through the ROTC program this year.

"At our own Army ROTC

Awards Ceremony ... Nate received the Society of American Military Engineers Award, and he received the Distinguished Military Graduate Certificate," said Mosinski.

"I feel like Notre Dame's ROTC program prepared me extremely well for the Army," said Hicks. "One of the many good things about the program here at Notre Dame is that the combined academic rigors and demands of ROTC force cadets to develop time management skills and grow to be very balanced individuals."

Hicks will be graduating from Notre Dame with a chemical engineering degree, and although his position in the Army will not make use of this education directly, Hicks plans to use the degree after he leaves the service.

"The management training I will receive in the army will help me with job opportunities in the future," said Hicks.

On July 17, Hicks will begin training at Ft. Eustis and afterwards will be stationed in Germany as a Second Lieutenant.

The Army transportation officer works with logistics and is in charge of the management and movement of people and goods with air, rail and truck. This officer procures, provides, arranges or

manages all surface transportation assets required to support and sustain the armed forces in peace and war.

Branch assignments in the military are determined during the cadets' senior year of college after they have completed Advanced Camp. This exercise is the culmination of ROTC training and takes place at Ft. Lewis in Washington the summer after each cadet's junior year of college. These cadets are evaluated numerous times while at Advanced Camp on various leadership roles and training exercises, and these scores are then added to all the other evaluations that each cadet receives throughout their four years of ROTC.

All these evaluations, physical fitness test scores, ROTC class performance, ROTC activities and academic performance are included in a packet that is sent to Cadet Command in Washington, D.C. Included in the packet is each senior's requests for branch assignments and duty locations. Cadet Command then ranks all the cadets nationwide into an Order of Merit List. There are 16 different branches in the Army, and based on this order of merit list, cadets are branched into their choices until the needs of the Army are satisfied.



Hicks

"One of the many good things about the program here at Notre Dame is that the combined academic rigors and demands of ROTC force cadets to develop time management skills and grow to be very balanced individuals."

Nathaniel Hicks
senior
2002 top cadet in nation to enter Transportation Corps of U.S. Army

Commencement 2002

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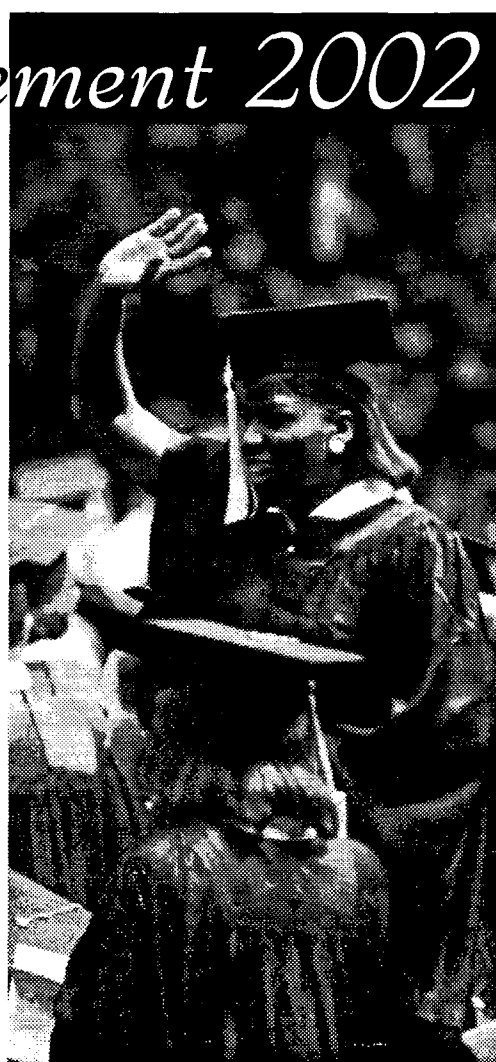
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Contact Justin Krivickas at
krivickas.3@nd.edu.

Hesburgh to receive his 150th honorary degree

♦ President emeritus holds record for most honorary degrees

By HELENA PAYNE
News Editor

Just one day before his 85th birthday, University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh will receive his 150th honorary degree from the University of San Diego during May 26 Commencement exercises.

Hesburgh, who received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the school in 1980, will receive a doctor of humane letters degree and deliver the principal address during graduation.

Hesburgh currently holds the record for having the most honorary degrees, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

"I think the reason he's received so many honorary degrees is he's had a distinguished career in public service as well as education," said Richard Conklin,

former associate vice president for University Relations, who worked under Hesburgh from 1967 to 1987. Conklin cited Hesburgh's national and academic work as reasons why he has stood out among other university leaders.

"There is hardly a university president, and certainly none alive, who can match that double career of [higher education] as well as public service," said Conklin.

Hesburgh, who still works for Notre Dame in several capacities, spends many of his days presiding over Masses, writing or autographing books and traveling for various international and national committee meetings.

Although Hesburgh sits high in his campus office on the 13th floor of the library named for him, he said he tries to remain humble. With 16 presidential appointments under his belt, and soon, 150 honorary degrees, he even commented sarcastically, "I think it's time to quit."

But Hesburgh was referring to receiving honorary degrees, not to the work that he has done to earn the distinctions. He said he was most proud of his role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"I think that legislation changed the face of this country," he said.

Through that act, a civil rights commission was established. Hesburgh, who chaired the commission, said most of the credit goes to President Lyndon Johnson's leadership during the process of passing the act.

"I think no president before or after him could have done it," Hesburgh said.

In addition to working on the civil rights legislation of the 1960s, Hesburgh has also helped lower the number of nuclear arms in the world as well as reduce world hunger.

"He's an optimistic person at heart," said Conklin. "No matter what the issue, be it a civil rights issue or whether it be the proliferation of nuclear weapons, he's always been a person who would believe that you can make things better."

At the University level, Hesburgh was an instrumental force in elevating the national status of Notre Dame and overseeing its many changes. Under his 35-year tenure from 1953 to 1987, the University went from an all-male undergraduate liberal arts college governed by the Congregation of Holy Cross to a major co-educational research university governed by a lay board of trustees.

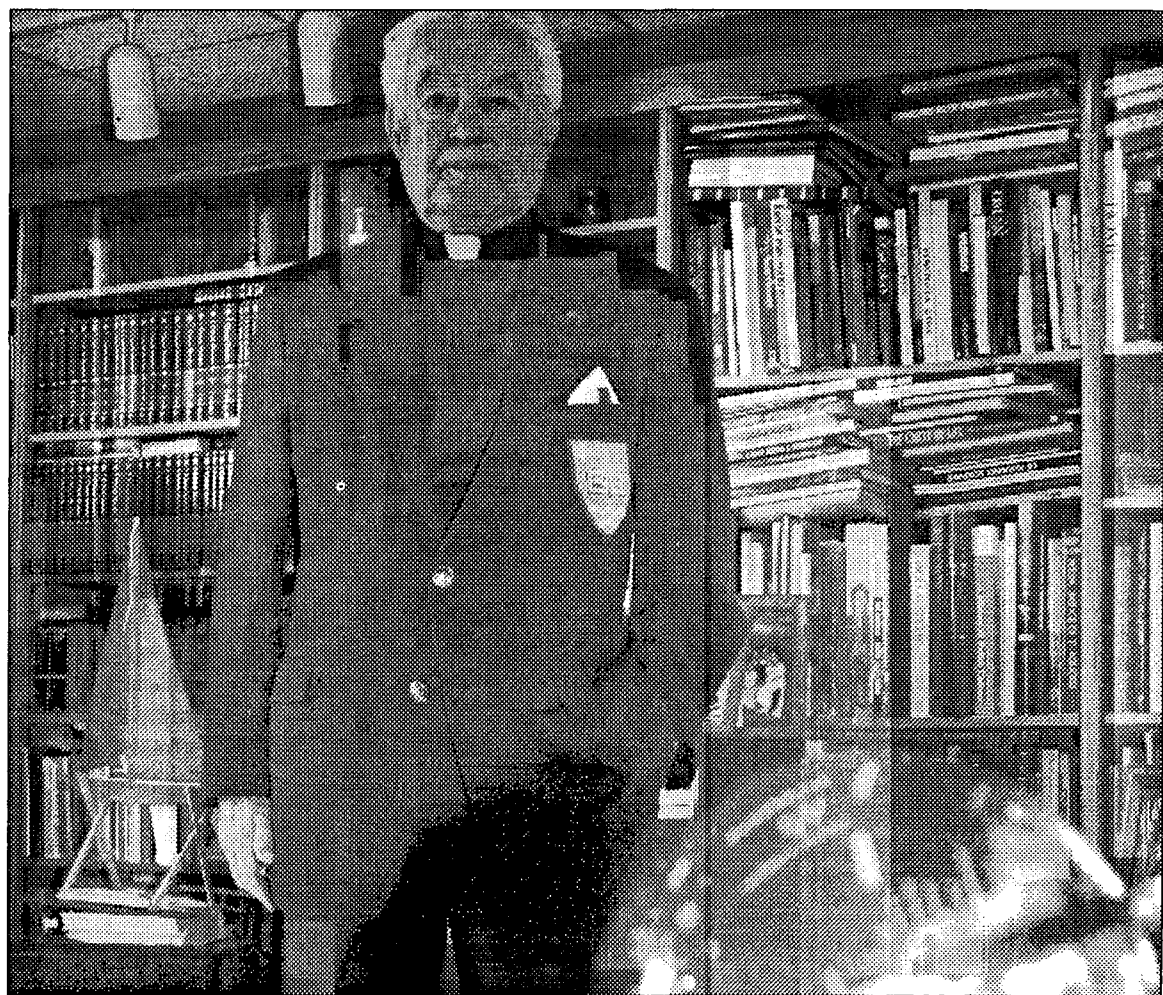
"His presidency saw the transition of Notre Dame from an undergraduate school to a university in the proper sense with a graduate and research component, and he's managed to do that without losing the Catholic character of the place," said Conklin.

"There is hardly a university president, and certainly none alive, who can match that double career of [higher education] as well as public service."

Richard Conklin
former associate vice president
for University relations

"I think the reason he's received so many honorary degrees is he's a distinguished career in public service as well as education."

Richard Conklin
former associate vice president
for University relations



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Father Theodore Hesburgh, 84 years old, stands in his office on the 13th floor of the library named in his honor.

He added that Hesburgh has garnered respect because of his willingness to take a public stance on moral issues.

"He was unafraid to speak out on moral issues," said Conklin.

Hesburgh's involvement in public issues has received much attention. In addition to his honorary degrees, Hesburgh was also awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in July 2000 and the Medal of Freedom in 1964.

Contact Helena Payne at
payne.30@nd.edu.

*To Katie, Justtini, Kat, Jana, Paul,
Nathan, Jenn and Raul*

*Thanks for everything. You are
amazing managers, co-workers, but most
of all, wonderful friends. We'll keep your
legacy alive. Congratulations, and best
of luck in all your future endeavors.*

*Love, Adrienné, Sisco, Bianca, Lucy, Jen, Christina,
Travis, John, Cole, Meghan, Marlayna, Anna, and Bronx*

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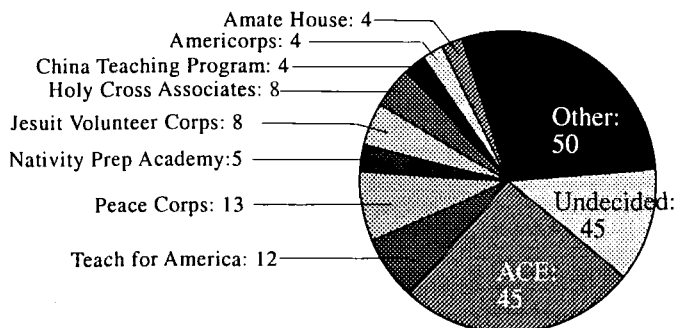
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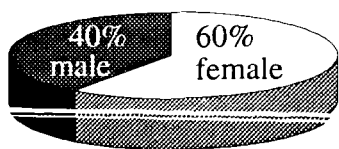
ND, SMC seniors respond to call to serve

Notre Dame Service by the Numbers

What students are doing



Men vs. women



Ten percent of Notre Dame students choose to pursue service after they graduate.

Information courtesy of Andrea Smith Shappell, Director of Senior Transition Programs at the Center for Social Concerns

ANDY DEVOTO/The Observer

By ANDREW THAGARD
Assistant News Editor

Not long after Nick Fonte receives his diploma, the upcoming Notre Dame graduate will pack his bags and head to Honduras to work 27 months in an orphanage that serves 60 children.

Fonte was accepted into the Farm of the Child program, named for the site's farm where participants grow food. The program also operates a Catholic school and health clinic serving surrounding villages.

"We're doing all kinds of things," Fonte said of the service program. "I know I have gifts and I want to share them with poor children."

But Fonte is just one of many Notre Dame and Saint Mary's graduates who choose to pursue service after their time in South Bend. This year, graduates are continuing a long-standing trend of giving back after they graduate — about 180 seniors at Notre Dame, 10 percent of the graduating class, have committed to do

service in the coming months, according to Andrea Smith Shappell, director of Senior Transition Programs at the Center for Social Concerns.

"It's pretty amazing. It's one of the best things about Notre Dame," Shappell said.

Saint Mary's also boasts a post-graduate volunteer rate of about 10 percent. This year between 25 and 30 graduating seniors are planning to volunteer, according to Sister Linda Kors, director of Volunteer Services and the S.U.R.V. Center, a volunteer resource center.

"Some said they hadn't had a lot of time in their college years and now is the time," Kors said of those who are pursuing service.

This year's Notre Dame group, which is 60 percent female and 40 percent male will volunteer through 40 different programs in 20 nations. Aside from big-name programs like the Alliance for Catholic Education, Americorps, Peace Corps and Teach for America, graduates from both institutions are also pursuing ser-

vice through Catholic Charities, Jesuit Volunteer Corps and Dominican Volunteers.

Indeed, many seniors cite their experiences volunteering at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's as a reason for considering post-graduate service.

Fonte, for example, has worked with the Center for Social Concerns since his sophomore year.

The PLS major has also spent summers performing service, volunteering in Chile and living in a house for disabled homeless people not far from his home in Orange County, Calif.

"It was absolutely insane," Fonte said of his experience in California. "There were over 40 people who lived in the house and yard. I've grown up in a fairly affluent family and this was right in my back yard."

Saint Mary's senior Katrina Weibel agreed that time spent doing service through the College influenced her decision to travel to China in August to teach English with the Maryknoll Mission. The psychology and MIS double major attended an Appalachia service trip one summer and worked at Pet Refuge, a no-kill animal shelter in South Bend.

Students were also motivated to pursue post-graduate service for social and religious reasons.

Elizabeth Willkom is participating in a 2 1/2-year service program through the Holy Cross Associates in Chile. Willkom will be working with children in orphanages and grade schools built and run by the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

Willkom, who studied abroad in Chile, chose the program partially because of its religious ties and her experiences in the country.

"I kind of knew I wanted to go the service route at the beginning of my senior year," she said. "It seems like an awesome way to go back to Chile and work with people. They have a strong sense of faith, and I really wanted a faith-based program."

The most popular service program for this year's graduating class was ACE. Forty-five outgoing Notre Dame seniors are enrolled in the teaching program in addition to students from Saint Mary's. The program places young adults in schools across the nation and awards a master's degree in education at its completion.

"It's a great opportunity," said Jared Marx, who is participating in the program in Oklahoma City. "I looked at Peace Corps and Holy Cross Associates. They do great work, but I wanted to do something domestic."

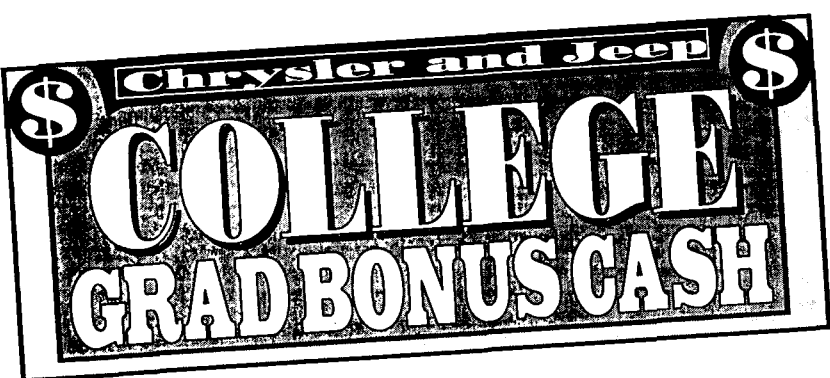
Although a slow economy is keeping some graduates from finding a job, Shappell dismissed the idea that leaner times are forcing more students into service.

"There is no increase [due to the economy]," she said. "We're holding right at 10 percent. One young woman had three job offers and is turning them down for service. It's a deeper motivation."

Indeed, many students going into service after graduation made their decision long before the economic downturn and most plan to eventually enter graduate school or the job market after their initial commitment.

Many, however, anticipate that their service experiences will affect their future plans.

"I feel like this experience will shape who I am and give me a new outlook," Willkom said.



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Contact Andrew Thagard at
athagard@nd.edu.



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Please join us in congratulating
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the University of Notre Dame.

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Colleen Clarke	Mobile, AL
James Cummings	Birmingham, AL
Meg Daday	Tucson, AZ
Gretchen Danysh	Baton Rouge, LA
Mark Delgado	Austin, TX
Samuel Fragomeni	Fort Worth, TX
Megan Griffin	Pensacola, FL
Sara Gunderson	Kansas City, KS
Otis Hill	Dallas, TX
David Horak	Biloxi, MS
Angela Hurley	Lake Charles, LA
Timothy Jarotkiewicz	Baton Rouge, LA
Kari Jenkins	Charlotte, NC
Edward Johnston	Los Angeles, CA
Kelly Keegan	Phoenix, AZ
Adrian Kirby	Birmingham, AL
Mark Kirzeder	Charlotte, NC
Matthew Kloser	Birmingham, AL
Kristin Kramer	Jacksonville, FL
Michael Mansour	Tulsa, OK
Jared Marx	Oklahoma City, OK
Patrick McMahon	Tulsa, OK

Matthew McMerty	Montgomery, AL
Courtney Mercer	Biloxi, MS
Colleen Moak	Austin, TX
Lauren O'Neil	Los Angeles, CA
Matthew Panzer	Los Angeles, CA
Brian Pawloski	Mobile, AL
Kelly Perry	Tucson, AZ
Elizabeth Rodriguez	Los Angeles, CA
Tiffany Roman	Dallas, TX
Laura Rompf	Oklahoma City, OK
Monica Rowinski	Atlanta, GA
Tim Ryan	Nashville, TN
Jennifer Sirola	Los Angeles, CA
Babs Smith	Biloxi, MS
Daniel Soldato	Austin, TX
Jeffrey Steedle	Baton Rouge, LA
Elizabeth Stroude	Charlotte, NC
Nathaniel Trimner	Montgomery, AL
Erin Weldon	Jacksonville, FL
Timothy Welsh	Lake Charles, LA
Jennifer Wolfe	Kansas City, KS
Paul Ybarra	Phoenix, AZ
Colleen Ziemba	Phoenix, AZ

Fox cancels Commencement speech

By SCOTT BRODFUEHRER
Assistant News Editor

Two months after Notre Dame announced Mexican President Vicente Fox would be the principal speaker at Sunday's Commencement exercises, Fox became the first speaker in recent history to cancel his speaking appointment. In late April, Mexican embassy officials told the University Fox would be unable to speak due to political circumstances in Mexico.

According to Joan Bradley, officer assistant to University President Father Edward Malloy, the Chicago Consul General and the Mexican Ambassador to the United States informed Malloy that Fox would be unable to speak. Fox also called Malloy personally to apologize for being unable to speak and said he hoped that he would be able to speak in the future.

Fox, a candidate from the National Action Party (PAN), took office Dec. 1, 2000, to end the 71-year rule of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which still has a small majority in Mexico's Congress. On April 9, the Mexican Senate

prohibited Fox from making a scheduled visit to the United States and Canada, using for the first time its power to control the President's travel in a 71-41 vote along party lines. PRI senators have said that Fox is spending more time on trips to seek foreign investment than working on domestic issues.

Officials have speculated that Fox canceled his speech at Notre Dame because he would not be granted permission to travel to the United States.

"We don't know what made the United States leg of [his] trip untenable."

Dennis Moore
University spokesman

Albert LeMay, a Kellogg Institute Fellow, outlined three reasons for the Congress' frustration with both the United States and Fox. LeMay said Mexicans are

frustrated with the United States because President Bush made Mexico and Latin America a high priority before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Now that U.S. attention has been diverted to the war on terrorism, Afghanistan and the Middle East, Mexicans feel neglected.

"A great deal was promised but has not been delivered. The Mexicans feel slighted by the fact that the United States has not paid too much attention to them," said LeMay.

LeMay also said that there are increasing tensions between Cuba and Mexico. Cuba and

Mexico have traditionally been strong allies, but two events have strained that relationship. On Feb. 27, during a visit to Cuba, Mexico's Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda, who is backed by Fox, reportedly said that the gates of the Mexican embassy were "open to all Cuban citizens." Following that comment, a number of Cubans stormed the embassy, seeking political asylum in an action that angered the Cuban government and members of the PRI.

In March, a United Nations meeting was held in Monterrey, Mexico, and LeMay said prior to the conference Fox held a private phone call with Cuban leader Fidel Castro. During that conversation, Fox said Castro should not spend too much time in Mexico and told him not to complain about Bush. After one day at the conference, Castro left, saying that the Mexicans were not very welcoming. In late April, Castro released a tape of the conversation, embarrassing Fox.

LeMay said these incidents, combined with problems with Uruguay, have added to the conflict between Fox and the rival PRI congress, which is using the country's domestic problems to ensure Fox does not travel to other North American nations.

"There is no question that Mexico has domestic problems. What the Congress is saying is that 'we need you here to deal with these problems.' While the



Mexican President Vicente Fox shakes hands with Cuban leader Fidel Castro at a United Nations meeting in March. Castro's release of a private conversation with Fox prior to that meeting has been cited as one of the reasons that the Congress has limited Fox's travel outside of Mexico.

decision is certainly politically motivated, these votes serve as a wake-up call to tell Fox that he has to pay attention to domestic issues," said LeMay.

According to University spokesman Dennis Moore, Fox was scheduled to speak at Notre Dame immediately after traveling May 14-18 on a European tour.

"[Fox] was to come here directly from Spain, an official state visit, which is why we

thought we would have been in good shape. We don't know what made the United States leg of that trip untenable," said Moore.

Officials from the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., did not return phone calls seeking comment on Fox's cancellation.

Contact Scott Brodfuehrer at
brodfuehrer.1@nd.edu.

Congratulations to the following Citation of Merit winners:

Joseph Jarvis	Alumni Hall
Kristie Gleason	Badin Hall
Kathleen O'Connor	Breen-Phillips Hall
Dominic Angiollo	Carroll Hall
Anne McGrath	Cavanaugh Hall
John McKiernan	Dillon Hall
Robyn Harridge	Farley Hall
Neil Ruddock	Fisher Hall
Rachael Rothrauff	Howard Hall
Michael Collins	Keenan Hall
Jeff Steedle	Keough Hall
David Wainman	Knott Hall
Lisa Jansen	Lewis Hall
Elizabeth Emerson	Lyons Hall

Christa Gray	McGlinn Hall
Mathew Wohlberg	Morrissey Hall
Bill Ferreira	O'Neill Hall
Jennifer Roberts	Pangborn Hall
Emily Rhyner	Pasquerilla East
Amy Heckel	Pasquerilla West
Nick Sciola	St. Edward's Hall
Christopher Lux	Siegfried Hall
Brent Smith	Sorin Hall
Matthew McMerty	Stanford Hall
Angela Hurley	Walsh Hall
Kendahl Lund	Welsh Family Hall
Ryan Becker &	Zahm Hall
Brian Clemency	

Have You Had a Professor Who Has Changed Your Life?

For many students at this university, Laura Crago is this professor. She accepts nothing less than the best from her students and works tirelessly to bring out their excellence.



"I fully credit Professor Crago with making me the student I am today." -
Andrzej Bednarski

"In a university with many impressive teachers who have taught and touched me in so many ways, I have never had a professor with as much brilliance, dedication, and concern for her undergraduate students." - Christopher Ruper

"Professor Crago embodies the ideals for which all Notre Dame professors should strive." - Bridget G. O'Brien

Professor Crago has written 73 letters of recommendation for her students in this year alone, she has helped 6 students win Fulbrights in the past six years, 19 of her students have received various grants and research awards in the past eight years, and more than half of the senior history award recipients in the past nine years have been students of Professor Crago.

Despite all of this, Professor Laura Crago was denied tenure. To be denied tenure is to be essentially fired; Professor Crago must leave Notre Dame after next year.

Notre Dame has prided itself and often boasts that it is committed to undergraduate teaching. In fact, the May 2002 Provost's newsletter remarks, "a distinguished team of external reviewers - including faculty members from Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Berkeley - emphasized that...Notre Dame...must not neglect the crown jewel, the University's traditional strength in undergraduate education."

The present situation leaves us with the following questions for the Dean, the Provost, and the President:

- Do you truly care about undergraduate education, "the crown jewel" of Notre Dame?
- Do you seek to recognize and reward the selfless dedication of this University's faculty?
- Do you want the University's students to achieve success beyond the classroom through the acquisition of grants and fellowships and admission to prestigious post-undergraduate institutions?
- Do you believe in the Catholic character of this university, one that is committed to service, concern, and generosity of spirit?

If your answer to the above questions is "yes," why did you deny tenure to Professor Laura Crago?

As students, parents, alumni, and faculty members, please voice your concern that the university has compromised its commitment to its undergraduates and proved false its rhetoric with this decision to the administration.

Journalist, Labor secretary speak at Commencements



Photo courtesy of Kevin Burke
Russert visited campus last November to discuss the 2000 presidential election.

♦ Tim Russert to address Notre Dame 2002 graduates Sunday

Observer staff report

Tim Russert, moderator of NBC's "Meet the Press" will address the Notre Dame Class of 2002 as the keynote speaker for Notre Dame's 157th Commencement on Sunday.

During the graduation ceremony, Russert will receive an honorary doctor of law degree along with 11 other honorary degree recipients. A graduate of John Carroll University, Russert also has a law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and is a member of the bar in New York and Washington.

His career with NBC News began in 1984. Seven years later, he joined "Meet the Press," the longest running program in television history, currently in its 53rd year. He also serves as a political analyst for NBC news programs, including "Nightly News with Tom Brokaw" and "Today."

Russert is the senior vice president and Washington bureau chief for NBC News, as well as a contributing anchor for MSNBC. He also analyzes the media's role in American society every week on CNBC's "The Tim Russert Show."

Before his journalism career with NBC, Russert worked as a special counsel in the U.S. Senate and in New York state government.

Notre Dame spokesman Denny Moore said the University contacted Russert, who had been on the list of potential Commencement speakers, soon after the previously scheduled speaker, Mexican President Vicente Fox, changed plans.

Russert's last visit to campus was in November 2000, one week after the controversial presidential election. He spoke to a standing room-only audience in McKenna Hall for the first Jack Kelly and Gail Weiss Lecture Series on Journalism and Politics.

♦ Sec. of Labor Chao to speak at Saint Mary's

Observer staff report

U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao will deliver the commencement address at Saint Mary's on Saturday.

Chao,

a

native

of Tai-

wan, is

the first

Asian-

Amer-

ican

woman

a p -

ointed

to a president's cabinet in

United States history. She

was confirmed by the U.S.

Senate in January 2001.

According to Susan

Dampeer, assistant to Saint

Mary's President Marilou

Eldred, Chao was an

appropriate choice for

Saint Mary's because she

received her undergraduate

degree in economics

from Mount Holyoke

College, an all-women's

college. Dampeer will host

Chao on campus and hopes

that the selection for the

speaker will be welcomed

by students.

Dampeer said she will

suggest



Chao

Commencement planning committee that a Saint Mary's student accompany Chao for the day to represent the College.

Chao will also deliver the Commencement address at Depauw University in Greencastle, Ind., following her visit to Saint Mary's.

As the head of the Department of Labor, Chao manages issues such as wages and work hours, workplace safety and pension and health benefits.

Before coming to the Department of Labor, Chao was a distinguished fellow at The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy think tank.

Previously she served as president and chief executive officer of United Way of America (UWA), where she restored public trust and confidence in the nation's largest charitable-giving institution after it was tarnished by mismanagement.

Prior to joining UWA, Chao was director of the Peace Corps, the world's largest international volunteer organization.

She also served as deputy secretary of transportation under former President George Bush.

University of Notre Dame Department of Music presents

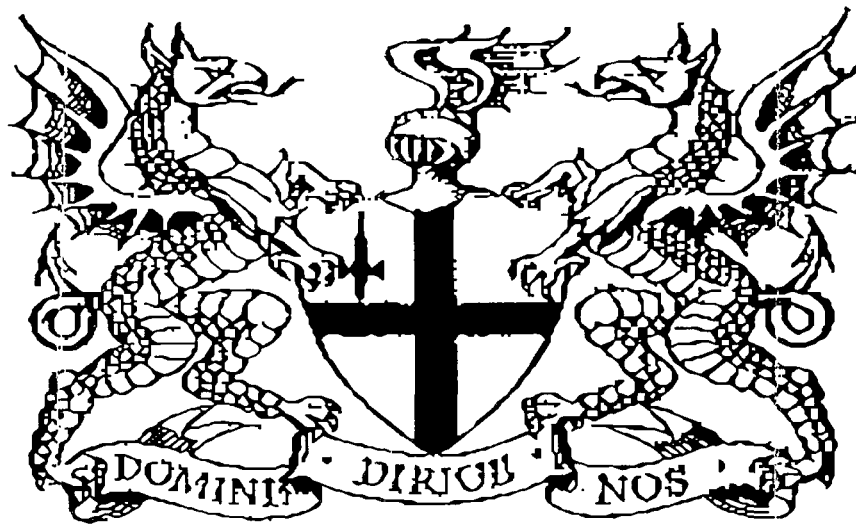
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Nanni to assume new VP position

♦ **Current vice president of Public Affairs replaces retiring William Sexton**

By HELENA PAYNE
News Editor

Lou Nanni, vice president for Public Affairs and communication, will replace retiring Vice President for University Relations William Sexton July 1.

"I am both excited and humbled by the new responsibilities," said Nanni, who was recently elected by the Board of Trustees.

After 19 years in the position, Sexton will return to teaching full-time as a management professor in the Mendoza College of Business.

"It's an understatement to say that [Sexton] leaves a big pair of shoes to fill," Nanni said.

Nanni's position will involve the direction of four general areas in University relations: Development, Alumni Relations, Internal

Advancement and Special Events.

Last July, Public Affairs and Communication and University Relations were split into two separate divisions, and since then, Nanni has been involved in developing the four departments that emerged out of the restructuring. The University has not yet decided on the person to replace Nanni in public affairs and communication.

"Change is never as smooth and easy as you'd like it, but I believe that it's been in the University's best interest," said Nanni. "I think that in the long run that we're going to be much stronger."

"Change is never as smooth or easy as you'd like it, but I believe it's in the University's best interest. I think that in the long run that we're going to be much stronger."

Lou Nanni
vice president for Public Affairs

Nanni is a 1984 Notre Dame graduate and has been affiliated with Notre Dame over the years as a Holy Cross Associate in Santiago, Chile, a University Trustee and the executive director of the Center for the Homeless.

He resides in South Bend with his wife, Carmen, the assistant director of International Study Programs and a 1993 graduate.

Contact Helena Payne at
payne.30@nd.edu.

ND expels alleged rapists

By HELENA PAYNE
News Editor

Notre Dame expelled four former football players allegedly involved in a March 28 rape, University spokesman Dennis Moore confirmed Wednesday.

Senior Donald Dykes, sophomores Lorenzo Crawford and Abram Elam, and Justin Smith, who was taking graduate-level classes while finishing a fifth year of athletic eligibility, were all teammates at one point on the Notre Dame football team.

The University's latest decision is final and came one week after University President Father Edward Malloy reviewed the appeals submitted by the four students after Notre Dame initially expelled the men following an April 25 closed disciplinary hearing with Notre Dame's Office of Residence Life and Housing.

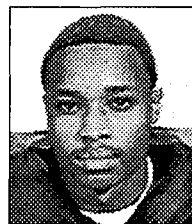
According to Smith's lawyer, Tony Zappia, the University reported the decision to his client Tuesday night.

"I confirmed with him last night that he did receive a telephone call from the University that his appeal has been denied," said Zappia Wednesday.

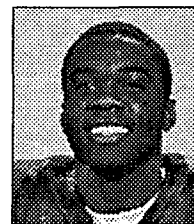
Smith, who already received a bachelor's degree from the University in 2001, said the decision will affect him the least because he had planned to leave Notre Dame at the end of the year.

"Notre Dame has to do what it has to do," Smith said, adding that he would "still

support Notre Dame" and "encourage people to come to school here."



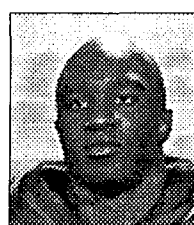
Dykes



Crawford



Elam



Smith

Responding to the rumor about offers made to his teammates from other schools, Smith said that the other three students still have options to attend other schools despite the expulsion from Notre Dame.

"They can go anywhere in the country. They have their choice," Smith said.

Still pending, however, is the county decision of whether or not to file charges in response to a 20-year-old female student's claim that the four students gang raped her March 28 at a house on Warrick Street. The case has been under investigation in the prosecutor's office since April 19.

Prosecutor Chris Toth is still interviewing people related to the case, which could delay his decision another week, said Toth's spokesman Randy DeCleene.

"Chris Toth is not going to make a decision on whether or not to charge the individuals until all his questions are answered," DeCleene said.

Crawford's attorney, Ken

Cotter, said the evidence will show that his client is not guilty of raping the female student.

"We're hoping the prosecutor will recognize that and not charge in the first place," said Cotter.

Cotter said Crawford returned home immediately after he took his final exams, which will no longer count due to the expulsion. Cotter added that Crawford's mother received a phone call from the University notifying Crawford that his appeal was rejected.

Dykes, who would have graduated this weekend, had a prior incident with the police last summer when he was arrested last July for criminal trespassing. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge last August and was placed on probation for six months.

DeCleene maintained that the prosecutor's investigation was separate from the Notre Dame disciplinary process.

Dykes' and Elam's attorneys did not return phone calls made by The Observer.

Contact Helena Payne at
payne.30@nd.edu.

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Linebacker bouncer to launch new Web site

By V. VAN GILES
News Writer

Jaime Grayson is a fixture at the Linebacker Lounge, the famous Notre Dame bar that sports the best Long Island iced teas and plays the fight song at the end of every night. Grayson is 37 years old and stands at a towering 6 feet, 7 3/4 inches tall. He has lived in South Bend his whole life and is known throughout the Notre Dame community as having worked as a bouncer at the Linebacker for the past 11 years.

Grayson graduated from LaSalle High

school, and much to the disbelief of his many friends and co-workers, he has never played sports.

"People always ask me if I played football, and I tell them, No. They can't get over this," he said. "My friends and family are used to it by now, but people who frequent the bar always feel a need to hit me on the shoulder and tell me about their glory days on the athletic field."

Grayson has three children and has had the same girlfriend for the past 18 years.

"I like being characterized as a family man," he said. "People see me as a big brute, but I am very much the same way at work as I am with my kids, Rachel, Jaime and Taylor."

Grayson has many other interests besides his night-

time security work. He not only works at the Linebacker, but also as a short-order cook at the Olive Garden restaurant on Grape Road. He has worked there for 16 years.

The main joy in his life is writing and trying to get his publishing company off the ground. "I wrote a few things as a young child; plays, scripts and so on," Grayson said. "I would never show it to anyone, but now I feel a need to get my work out there as well as advance the work of anyone who might need help."

The name of his company is Writing Unlimited Publications. His Web site will be

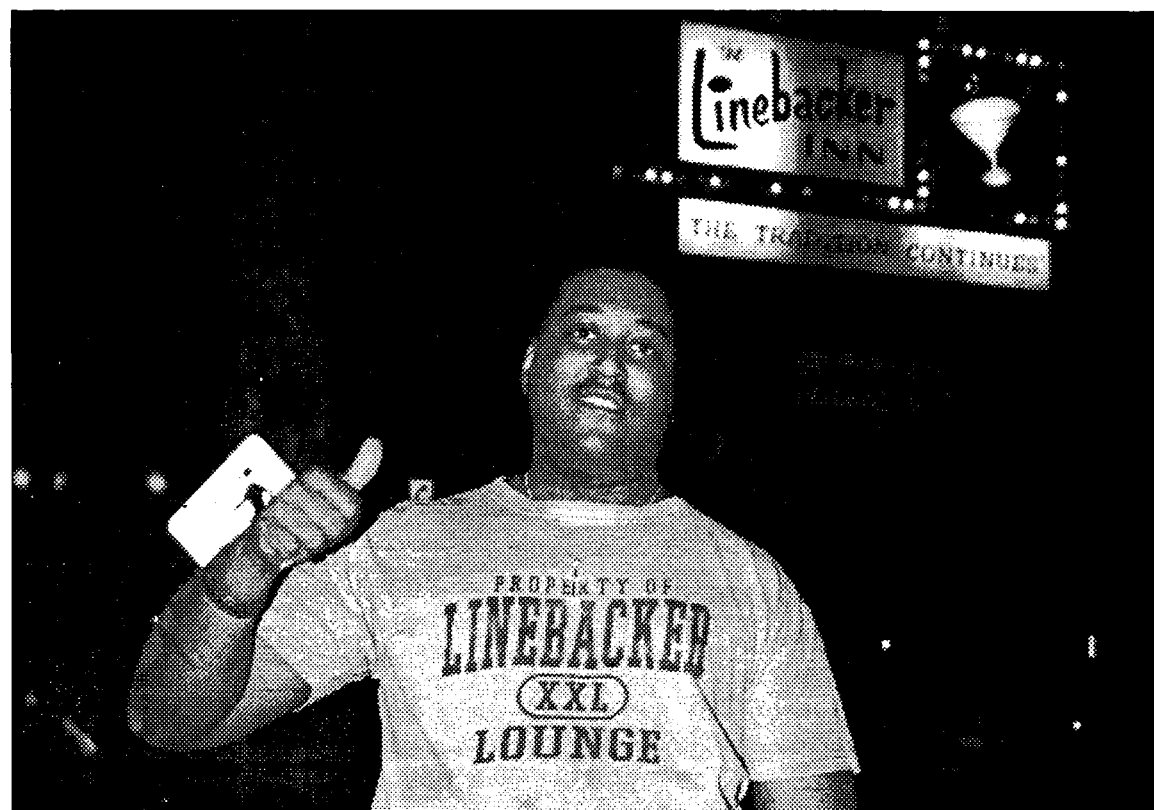
launched in the near future.

"I am really excited about this project. It has been a long time in the making and I expect it to be a great success," said Grayson.

Grayson only enjoys serious writers who want to produce quality work and make money. "Much like the name of the company, the writing is unlimited, I only want to publish quality and interesting work," he said.

Grayson has enjoyed his time at the Linebacker. He views it as a learning experience. He admits that he has met many interesting and intelligent people along with a great many loudmouths and drunks.

"It has been a hassle dealing with inebriated students as well as older bar patrons. I enjoy the students who



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Jaime Grayson, a bouncer at the Linebacker Lounge, is starting a new Web site called Writing Unlimited Publications. Grayson is well-known to many students by his job at the Linebacker as well as a neighbor to students living in Turtle Creek Apartments.

come in, they are curious about me, and though I am a private person, I am more than willing to share myself with those who are willing to listen with an open mind," Grayson said.

The Linebacker Lounge is one of - if not the most - popular public house in South Bend. "I love the 'Backer, no weekend is complete without a late night visit. My friends and I always see Jaime there. Walking over and saying hello is part of the experience just like buying a beer and sweating on the dance floor," said senior Patrick Coan.

"Living at Turtle Creek, the Linebacker is so close, so my friends and I always walk over and immediately say, 'Hi' to Jaime upon entering. There is definitely a great deal more to him than just the immense figure standing in the back with the flashlight. He has many intelligent views on philosophy, politics and social issues," said senior Ryan Keegan.

Though Grayson works at a loud and crowded bar that often hosts many supportive and discouraged Notre Dame fans, he detests violence.

"I have never thrown a

punch at anyone while working here. I don't want people to be afraid of me. I want them to know I'm cool, but I don't like being referred to as a friendly giant. A lot of people know me as, 'The Chief,' or 'The Big Samoan Dude.' I would like to be known simply as Jaime."

Grayson plans to continue working at the Linebacker until he can support himself completely on his writing enterprise.

Contact V. Van Giles at
vgiles@nd.edu.



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Natalie Hallett
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Alison Lasseter
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Melissa Vincent

Best wishes to our Orange County graduate students receiving degrees too!

Please plan on joining us for our "Class of 2002 Graduation Celebration" beach party and BBQ to be held on June 22nd. Check our website at www.ndcoc.com for more details on this and all of our other exciting activities, including happy hours, community service opportunities, and athletic events.

Moving to Southern California after graduation? Let us know - send an e-mail to mike@ndcoc.com. We look forward to meeting you!

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Thank you for helping out at
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VIEWPOINT

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Friday, May 17, 2002

THE OBSERVER

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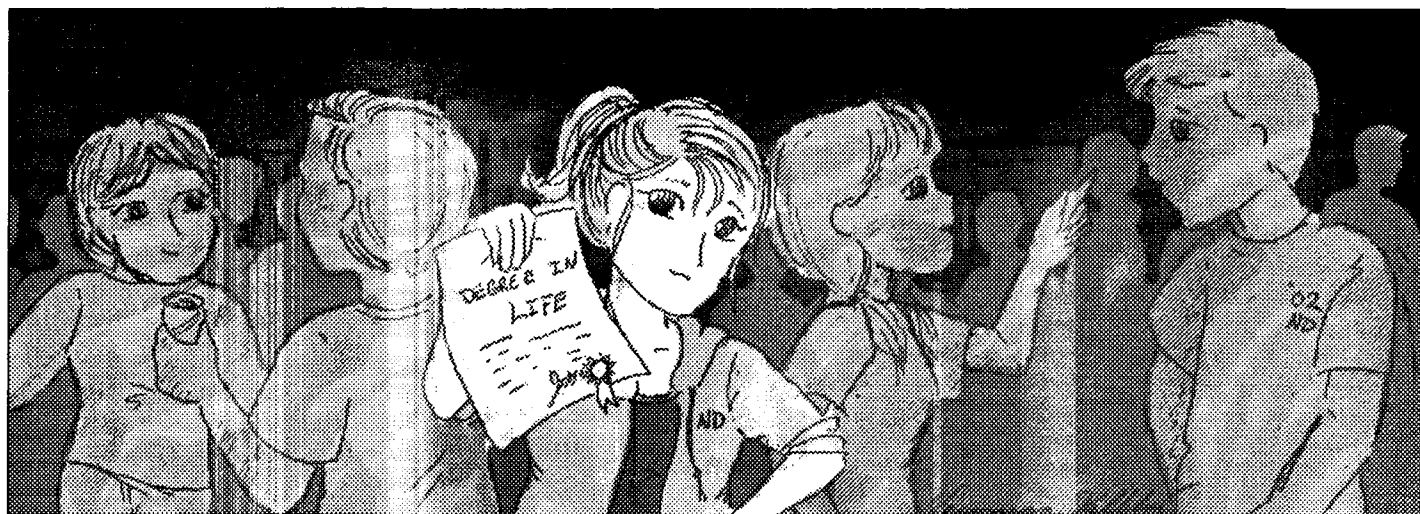
POLICIES

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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 Jason McFarley.



Jump in, dance and be yourself

Sometimes you just have to dance to the music. You have to take what you're given and roll with it. You have to let loose, forget people are looking at you and just have fun.

Those who frequent the Linebacker Lounge more than once a semester when their exams are done know that.

But it was a lesson that took me a long time to learn.

The 'Backer creates no apathy: either you love it or you don't. If you love it, you're addicted, and if you're addicted, chances are you've got things pretty well figured out, even if you haven't realized it yet.

Unlike other student-favorite hangouts, the 'Backer doesn't call for women to dress up in their tightest pairs of black pants and skimpiest tops; it doesn't ask men to tuck their shirts into their freshly-ironed khakis and comb their hair. It simply asks them to come and have a good time. There is no viewing deck and there is no stage; people don't come to watch, they come to live.

I spent half of my college experience watching.

My best friends were the ones geographically closest to me, not the ones I had the most in common with or those who challenged or intrigued me the most. I had friendships of convenience, not those of substance.

I did what Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students were supposed to do. I did what everyone else did.

I put on my cutest outfit and hit the random dorm party on Friday night, looking for the ice-cold trash can of Natty Light.

I wore my pajamas to the dining hall and turned a meal into a social event, gossiping with section mates and chatting with the random guy I met during freshman orientation.



Kerry Smith

Senior Staff
Writer

I studied with friends on the second floor of the library, not because I was worried about passing my Philosophy 101 exam, but because the spot served dually as a place to read over my notes and whisper about the girl at the next table or the guy that kept walking past, glancing in our general direction.

My roommate taught me how to use Instant Messenger and all of a sudden I had 38 Buddies, 17 of whom I wouldn't dare call on the telephone.

I bought too many dorm-colored shirts and attended hall events like it was my duty, not my choice.

I had so many friends, but so few who were as close as I would have liked or was used to.

College was fun, but it left something to be desired.

Then I learned how to live.

I didn't even notice it occurring. I'm not even sure its catalyst; maybe I just grew tired of the unconscious acting, the dancing out of sync with the music in my head.

The inevitable process of growing apart with my instant freshman friends occurred during my sophomore year, leaving me with two choices: I could continue to be the person I had thought I should be, or I could be the person I wanted to be.

I chose to be myself.

And in that moment it happened.

I realized true friends were the ones who liked me in jeans and a sweatshirt, not those who thought black pants and high heels should be typical Monday night attire. They weren't the ones who I hung out with because I was looking for someone to talk to, but the ones who I couldn't stop talking to — the ones who call for a second and stay on the line for hours.

I learned I didn't need my roommates' approval of or participation in the activities I took part in or the groups I joined; real friends needn't be attached at the hip.

I found studying didn't have to be a social event. In fact, if it wasn't it went a lot faster. I accepted that pleasing everyone was impossible and the only people worth pleasing

were those who cared about me the most.

I discarded everyone else's expectations and tried to live up to my own.

The change was gradual. I didn't even think about it or fully realize it had occurred until I started going to the 'Backer.

I went once and thought it was fun. I went again and I was hooked.

At first, I couldn't figure out what the bar offered that was so captivating; there were lots of places around campus to drink and dance.

But after a few weeks I realized it was the atmosphere that set it apart from the rest.

The 'Backer is the perfect place for individuals. Women in formal dresses, men in cowboy hats, couples in jeans and sneakers, girls with boas and guys in shorts mix together having fun without worrying what the man across the room thinks. The dance floor is usually so packed, you can't see beyond the person in front of you, even if you tried. There are no expectations, no stares, no judgments. People come to be themselves and be with their friends. They don't come to show off or put on an act.

And that's how life should be.

The things I have learned in college have been priceless.

My academic pursuits have been more than rewarding and my degree is invaluable.

But the one lesson I will walk away with in my heart is that living doesn't occur in the quest to be accepted.

It doesn't thrive in the attempt to do things the way others would.

And it doesn't happen when you think about it too much.

Living is being yourself, jumping into the crowd and letting loose.

It is having the courage to seek out or happen upon true friends.

And it is dancing no matter who is looking.

Kerry Smith is a graduating senior and former Assistant Managing Editor.

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

TODAY'S STAFF

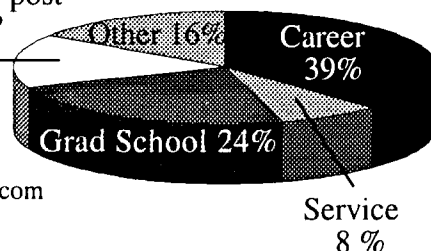
News
Helena Payne
Scott
Brodfuehrer
Andrew Thagard
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Viewpoint
Lauren Beck
Scene
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Lab Tech
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NDTODAY/OBSERVER POLL RESULTS

Seniors: What are your post-graduation plans?

Military 16%



*Poll courtesy of NDToday.com and based on 26 votes.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are but tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Ralph Waldo Emerson
writer

VIEWPOINT

Friday, May 17, 2002

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Saying the hardest goodbye

Wrapped in a dark gray hooded sweatshirt, chin-length brown hair swinging back and forth around my face and tears sticking to my cheeks in wet trails, I held my stepbrother tightly when I said goodbye to him four years ago. I wouldn't let go as I began to sob harder, suddenly not wanting to leave home.

"Come on, now," he said to me, trying to get me to stop my tears. My vision was becoming blurry puddles of tears, impossible to see through. I didn't want to cry. I was the girl who was leaving home and never coming back, who was going places no one had ever been and no one would dare to go. That girl, I told myself, never cried. But right then, in the pre-dawn hours of my first day of college, with bags packed and waiting downstairs, I would do anything not to leave home.

I cried that morning because I was scared about what came next. I cried because I was afraid of leaving the friends who knew me best, leaving the family that had raised me and leaving everything I knew. I spent my life working toward the next step, and now that it had come, I didn't want to be there. In the 18 years I had spent constructing that girl who was going to leave home and never come back, I had forgotten to consider what happened when she actually existed.

We spend our lives working toward the next step. In grade school we dream of high school, wearing a varsity jacket, going to prom. In high school we dream of college, living in a dorm, going to classes,

taking long walks around a tree-lined campus. In college we dream of the future, sometimes boldly, other times tentatively, picturing ourselves working a dream job in a dream location.

But when we actually get to the next step, the next step we've spent our lives working toward, that transition is never comfortable, never easy. When we arrive, we wish we could stay at the step we've completed, because it's always easy to stay in what we've mastered.

I learned quickly when I came to college that scared or not, life will keep going. I could either hang on or hang back, lamenting the phase I'd left, or grabbing the new one head on. I went to classes and parties, met friends and boyfriends and dedicated my time to writing stories in a basement with an obsessed passion for the newspaper. And one day, I woke up and realized that I was in the next step, that I had completely left the last one and I loved where I was.

Saturday, I will walk away from college with a degree under one arm and a car packed full of dorm remnants. I will leave with volumes of photo albums and CD mixes, books from classes and a supply of college T-shirts to last the rest of my life. I will leave with boxes full of artifacts from this step in my life, doomed to a fate of a storage box in my attic at home, fabled years from now under clouds of dust bunnies.

I hope I leave with more. I am terrified, even more than in high school, about leaving this step. I am terrified of not having my best friends within a five-

minute car ride. I am terrified of leaving the place where I constructed who I've become. But if I can put aside that fear, throw away that apprehension, I know that college will have been about more than just a step. I want to walk away from college knowing not to be scared of life and embrace the next step rather than mourn the one I've left behind.

I don't know if that's happened. I guess I'll know when I look my best friend in the eye to say the hardest goodbye. I will know when the tears start puddling in my eyes, causing my vision to blur and tear tracks to run paths down my cheeks. I will know when I'm told not to cry and I won't be able to stop, letting four years of this last step cascade in a waterfall of tears. I know I'm going to do it. But if I can stop by the time I pull my car onto I-80 east to begin the car ride to the next phase in my life, I'll know I've cried because it's over, not because I want to stay.

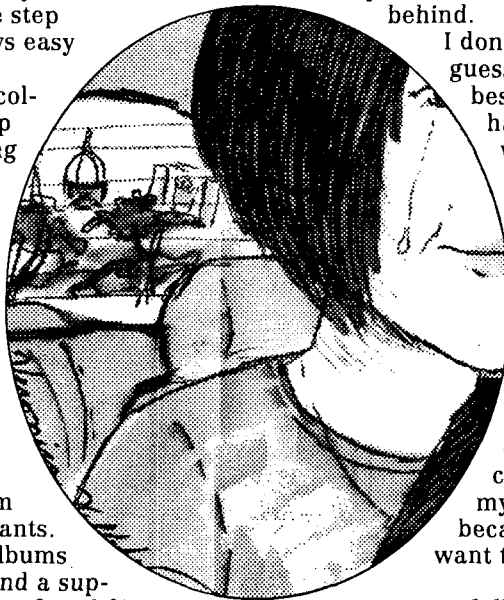
Noreen Gillespie is a graduating senior at Saint Mary's College and former Managing Editor. She will return to Connecticut to work for The Associated Press following graduation, and plans to make the best time ever on the 712-mile road trip back east, hopefully avoiding speeding tickets.

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



Noreen Gillespie

Senior Staff Writer



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Graduation brings freedom to choose

I think I slipped through the cracks. I transferred into Notre Dame as a confirmed, believing Catholic. I expected challenges that encourage intellectual growth, spiritual progression and maturation. What I found proved to be disheartening.

Coming from the University of Michigan, I looked for conservatism, Catholicism and intelligence. Before thinking of the Wolverines as your mortal enemy, consider the idea that the students of that university are just as eager and driven as Notre Dame students, despite a conflict that involves football of all useless scenarios for comparison.

In spite of U.S. News and World Report rankings that judge Notre Dame among the top-20 universities in the country (above Michigan), I will submit to you that Notre Dame is losing in its pursuit of becoming more academically challenging. Ever heard that while the hardest grade to achieve at Notre Dame is an A, an F ranks as the second-hardest? Believe it.

Why do we bother to fill out TCEs? Look at NDToday.com and see how many incompetent professors remain available for classes next semester. Why would it be necessary for students to have their own outlet for teacher evaluations if the administration were concerned with student input on teacher performance and education? It makes sense that our school has recently introduced an increased dedication toward research while employing those with publishing credentials. The actual learning and feedback of the students is overlooked.

"You had better come to class, Mike, or you will face the penalty of losing 3 points for an unexcused absence." Sound familiar? I am not sure about you, but I considered unexcused absences ridiculous in high school. If a relative dies, I am required to get a note from the Office of

Student Affairs in order to be excused while I am away at the funeral? I was required. I guess there is a possibility that I could've been lying because I hadn't done my homework. Student Affairs was there to check on me and keep me in line. Give me a break.

Furthermore, one might imagine that Notre Dame would be an ideal place for a practicing Catholic to pursue an education, but I submit to you that this is not the case. Instead of deciding for ourselves the way in which our Catholic faith may shape our lives, we are forced from the moment we arrive to accept the Catholic teaching imposed by the administration. Deciding that non-Catholics may attend Notre Dame, the administration sets the table for diversity and discussion, but the sad fact remains that we are left hungry at the table — literally.

Whether or not red meat appeals to the student body, we should have a right to eat it on any day we please, regardless of liturgical season. Why not offer Catholic teaching but, at the same time, offer a choice? If the University intends to offer multiple points of view by admitting culturally and religiously diverse students, then Notre

Dame must accept the idea that some of its students can and will choose to follow their own beliefs as far as their overpriced meal plans and faith journeys are concerned. Those of us who have received the sacrament of Confirmation are seen as adults in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church, but are we really left to make decisions that reflect such a status?

Parietals suck. They suck because they continue to deprive students of the right to make sound, adult decisions. Catholics should know by the time they enter college that premarital sex goes against traditional teaching, so why is there a rule? Arguing that parietals increase comfort for some students by offering a single-sex living environment is ludicrous. All of the dorms do not have to be co-ed. Those students who favor parietals and a single-sex environment should be allowed to choose their housing restrictions just as those who want a realistic setting may opt for co-educational living arrangements. There comes a point in a parent's life when one must rely on nurture and virtue to guide offspring through a course of dif-

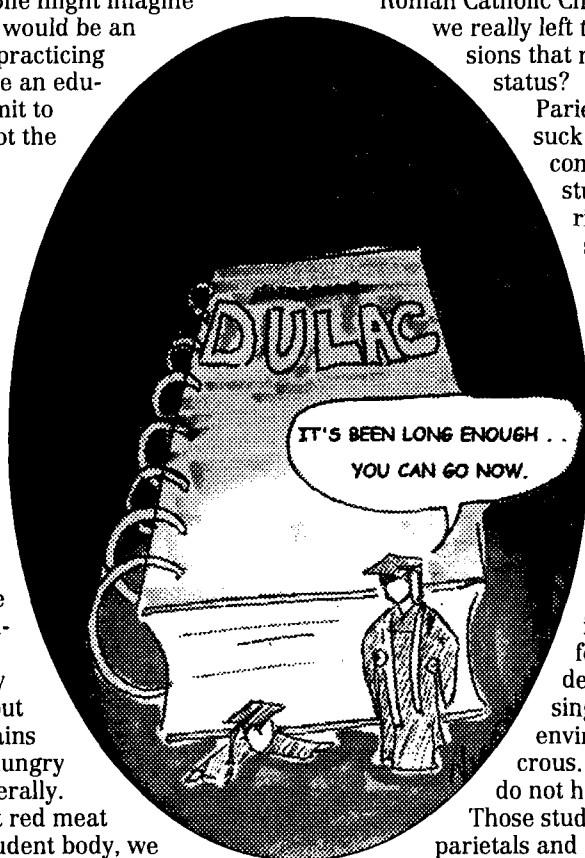
ficult, yet independent, decisions. Notre Dame fails to recognize the maturity of its student body as well as its independence, seeking to institutionalize its students in a cave that doesn't even reflect the real world.

Thanks, Notre Dame. Thank you for holding my hand through my academic career. You were always there to make sure I went to class. The comfort of TCEs allows me to sleep at night. Thank you for making the holes in Catholic teaching far more evident. Thanks for imposing your beliefs and ideals into my life while I am left stranded without a choice. What will I do after graduation when I am confronted with an issue and du Lac no longer applies? How will all of the Catholics who are graduating keep themselves from eating meat on Fridays during Lent without the help of the dining halls?

I guess now that we are graduating we are mature enough to handle these choices. Too late. The last several years here have made me realize that I do not want to be a Catholic. I want the freedom to make my own choices about the way in which I will live my life. Life, after all, is our most precious asset; treat it as such because, no matter what your faith, this life is all that we are guaranteed.

I leave you with words of Bob Marley: "Most people think great God will come from the sky, take away everything, and make everybody feel high. But if you know what life is worth, you would look for yours on earth. And now you see the light, you stand up for your right, yeah." I implore you to ask questions, be yourself and live for what you are — not for what you hope. One love.

Nick Linstroth
senior
Alumni Hall
May 14, 2002



VIEWPOINT

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Friday, May 17, 2002

Notre Dame defines memories

In my swan song, (final exam here at Notre Dame), I was asked to read an article from a magazine called "The Commonwheel" by a writer named Bob Greene and to discuss how writers like Henry David Thoreau and Walt Whitman would perceive the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Joe Larson

Senior Columnist

In this article, a recap of 2001, Greene reminds us that the year 2001 in America will be marked by personal experience, not by the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York or the Pentagon in Washington. Greene asserts that babies were born, family members passed away, career changes happened and that all these are the memories that will most likely stand out to the majority of Americans when they reminisce about the year 2001.

This by no means belittles the loss and pain that our country felt on Sept. 11, no matter if you knew someone or were far removed from anyone who experienced the attacks at all. The point is that each personal experience is different, and there will be a lot of people who will remember 2001 as the year they met their husband or wife or bought their first house or went to their first baseball game. And these are things that will matter the most. Even in the midst of such a horrifying and harrowing disaster as Sept. 11, life con-

tinues to progress, similar to, but different from the way it did before. But, the progression ensues and people move forward.

For me, I'll remember 2001 and subsequently the start of 2002 as my senior year at Notre Dame. I'll remember time spent with friends accumulated over four years. I'll remember tailgating in the rain before the West Virginia football game. I'll remember a hodge-podge group of guys who, in no way affiliated with this University, wiped the floor with Bowling Green's men's club hockey team. I'll remember driving 22 hours from South Bend to Sanibel, Fla. and I'll especially remember the 26-hour drive from the southern-most point in the United States back here one week after that.

I'll remember walking down stairs in my apartment on Sept. 11 on my way to class and seeing my roommates huddled around the television watching one of the Twin Towers collapse. I'll remember that same afternoon when my University banded together in prayer and reflection on the

day that petrified the most powerful nation in the world. These and 100 other memories will line my mind when I think back on my senior year of college at Notre Dame.

The truth is that for the graduating class of 2002, our last four years have been most succinctly defined by this University.

When we think about the things that have happened in the last four years, most likely, those things have occurred in the context of Notre Dame. We've laughed, cried, celebrated and mourned as part of a community. And now, by graduating, we remain a part of the community, but a level removed. There's a hint of apprehension that accompanies no longer being at the heart of this community. Although it has its problems and its overprotective tendencies, some of those feelings add a hint of security to a world that may not always feel or even turn out to be that way. As graduating seniors, we

leave a place that has most definitely nurtured us, and the rude awakening that looms ahead is scary.

In the outside world, there aren't people who will care deeply for your well being. There certainly won't be a community to join together in an attempt to make sense of such an unprecedented turn of events as Sept. 11.

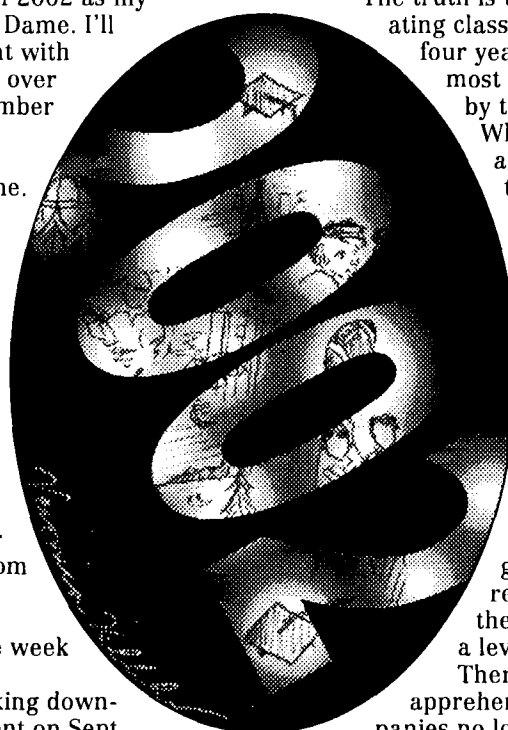
This year was my senior year of college and it will be marked by many things, but the most important mark will be left by the place I've spent the last four years. That place has been the University of Notre Dame, and for that indelible mark I'll be forever grateful. The things I've learned both in the classroom and out have shaped me into a better person than I would have otherwise been able to become.

My goal here is not to sound sappy, but to try to express my gratitude for a place I dreamed about attending, and then was able to attend. For this, I consider myself lucky. I hope that my fellow graduates will acknowledge the mark of this place and also carry its tradition with them wherever they go.

Congratulations, class of 2002, and God love thee, Notre Dame.

Joe Larson is a senior English and history major. He will be pursuing his master of fine arts in fiction writing next year at Bowling Green State University.

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



Following a feminist path

My four years at Notre Dame have taught me more than I could ever squeeze into a final column. From the immigrant experience of the Irish to the philosophies of ancient Chinese scholars, I've gained a worldly experience worth more than the hefty tuition. With the best friends of my life and the boyfriend of my dreams, I know I'll never be alone thanks to Notre Dame. I am so grateful for these four years.

The most important thing I learned at Notre Dame, however, is that I am a feminist and I never even knew it. One professor in particular, Heidi Ardizzone, encouraged me to recognize who I am and what my capabilities are. To me, being a feminist means that I have the right and obligation to create a life's path in whatever direction my spirit moves me. I shouldn't have to feel trapped.

I remember when I was little — no older than five or six — and my dad was watching the nightly news. Playing with my Barbies or my kitchen set, I was oblivious to the forces changing the world that night. Looking back, I assume a story about women in the priesthood came on. All I remember, however, is my dad asking me if I thought women should be allowed to be priests. And I said no.

My young mind at the time had never even thought of having a woman as a priest; I had never been exposed to that idea. Our weekly trips to church consisted of my sisters and I trying our best to behave ourselves while some man talked

for an hour or so.

As soon as I told my dad that I didn't think women should be priests, he questioned why. Stuck in my 5-year-old Barbie haze, I don't think I gave him a satisfactory answer. But the fact that I still remember that brief exchange today means that he really got me thinking.

Once I arrived at Notre Dame, I revisited my dad's question time and time again. Why can't women be priests? What about our "nature" makes us unsuitable for the job? What about a man's character makes him the only potential candidate? Even though Notre Dame is a strictly Catholic campus, I still found the opportunity to rigorously question the doctrine of my faith. In such questioning I found the solace I never knew I longed for.

I hope that someday women like me will feel fully welcome in the Catholic Church. Yes, I do believe that general differences between the sexes exist, but that doesn't mean one is better suited for the task than the other. All people should find appropriate and fair representation and leadership in the Church. By welcoming women into the priesthood, many wandering feminists such as myself could find resolution to their questions.

When I have daughters of my own someday, I'll be sure to ask them the same question my dad asked me when I was little. I want them to question the norms and fight for what they know is right.

And I want them to come to Notre Dame.

Maureen Smithe is a graduating senior and a former Associate News Editor. She will work as a buyer for Abercrombie & Fitch after graduation.

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



Maureen Smithe

Senior Staff Writer

EXCERPTS FROM PAST ISSUES

Campus reacts to Sept. 11 attacks

A sense of horrifying dread set in. People had been injured and killed: people just like me with problems and dreams and families. The casualties of the attack were not soldiers sent with an understanding of combat and a willingness to die. The casualties were people who had rolled out of bed, maybe hit the snooze button a couple times and traveled to work under a blue sky like they had every day ...

I realized the broad implications of the attack when I heard commentators discussing America's precious balance of civil liberties and security — as though the price of freedom had just increased exponentially.

Eric Long
seniorViewpoint columnist
Sept. 12, 2001

As the whole campus sang the Alma Mater with arms around their neighbors, the sense of community radiated out and blew me away.

This is what Notre Dame is all about. The togetherness and unity in our University cannot be matched anywhere else ...

All that I thought was safe and a constant in my life has suddenly been questioned. The only thing I can do is to turn to my Lord. In this time of trouble and turmoil, the Lord is the one we must turn to. He is that one that can shine light into the darkness. He did not cause this destruction — humans did through free choice, but He can bring great things out of it.

Paul Sifuentes
freshman
Alumni Hall
Sept. 13, 2001

Military force is the only viable response available to us.

I'm no warmonger. A war is horrible for everyone involved. But sometimes the cause of peace can only be advanced by war.

This is not about revenge; it's about bringing criminals to justice and preventing further crimes.

Mike Zodda
sophomore
Alumni Hall
Sept. 18, 2001

VIEWPOINT

Friday, May 17, 2002

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EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Four years in review: Students comment on campus controversies

Should a Catholic university host ROTC?

ROTC students, as well as pre-med students, will most likely face decisions with life-or-death consequences someday. While moral education is important for all students, it seems clear to me that it is absolutely crucial for these students, who will hold so many lives in their hands. Any university would be negligent in not providing a moral education for ROTC students, and a Catholic university would be negligent in not providing a Catholic moral education, especially since just-war theory is so clearly defined and so tailored to ROTC students' future careers.

Sheila Payne
junior
Cavanaugh Hall
April 28, 2002

In our society there exist many injustices that will go unchecked without the power of a just military ...

That is the very reason we need ROTC at this school. We need to have people with morals who will give those orders and have the will to disobey unjust ones ...

ROTC at Notre Dame is essential to ensure that the future leaders of our military will conduct war in a just manner with Christian values guiding their decisions.

John Dues
freshman
Dillon Hall
April 25, 2000

Tragedy confirms Notre Dame family exists

New students are bombarded with somewhat cheesy talk about the "Notre Dame family" and the "spirit of Notre Dame." To me, this talk seemed rather hollow ... I had not yet been enveloped in the "spirit," as it was called. I would not be for almost two years, until three weeks ago, when we learned that my good friend Conor Murphy, a Zahm Hall resident, has leukemia.

Although my realization of the Notre Dame family is just one of many latent effects of this horrible news, it is an important and a comforting one. At home in Cleveland over spring break, I was able to visit Conor in the hospital and witness firsthand the strength he draws from his connection to Notre Dame.

Letters and cards, many of them from people somehow connected with Notre Dame, brighten the walls of Conor's room ...

There is a sense of community and family at our school that is hard to find elsewhere. I hope you don't have to go through hard times to appreciate it. Maybe you will never find it. But know it's out there if you ever need it.

Katie Sanders
sophomore
Farley Hall
March 29, 2000

I have never been so proud to be a part of the Notre Dame community as I am today.

The way that students have responded to one of our own in need is overwhelming. I stood today in LaFortune and felt tears sting my eyes as I saw how many students came to show their support for Conor Murphy.

I want to thank everyone who came today to show their love and support for a fellow Notre Dame student. I thank God that I am here among so many wonderful people. We should all be proud of the Notre Dame family today.

Amber Holleman
sophomore
Lyons Hall
March 29, 2000

Administration must reach out to homosexual students

When we learned of the policy implemented by the administration of systematic discrimination against any advertisements from GALA, our hearts were deeply saddened and angered ...

Where is the justice in censoring an ad that congratulated gay and lesbian students upon their graduation? What is it that makes this university scared to allow free inquiry of ideas? And why can a group of gay students not assemble while non-Catholic religious groups are invited to gather? We beg to know what differentiates us from any other student group on campus ...

Besides being a censorious act of questionable nature, this is a concrete example of why the administration refused to guarantee the legal protection of the rights of gay, lesbian and bisexual people here at Notre Dame. It is clear that this university is not one which is prepared to stand up for the rights of its gay people.

We, yet again, feel out of place and awkward being active in an institution which proscribes ads from the alumni club which will one day likely be our own. This is a clear violation of the Spirit of Inclusion's promises. We are excluded.

L. Matthew Blancett
sophomore
Morrissey Manor
Sept. 10, 1999

Let students choose

Allow 21-year-old students to drink alcohol while tailgating, no matter the tailgating "sponsor." On the whole, Notre Dame students are pretty responsible. Allow those of us who are legal to support our storied football program and have a good time doing it. After all, in less than a year we will be in the real world, and I think we would benefit from learning for ourselves to make wise decisions regarding alcohol ...

Without our student body, what would Notre Dame be? ... The University needs to grant us the courtesy and leniency needed for us to develop as members of society during the course of our four years here. To be ready for the real world, students make choices, and sometimes make mistakes. Above all, most schools recognize that part of college life is in being free to explore who we are ...

The Notre Dame traditions of family and faith will never die, but unless we make our voices heard, the independent spirit of our student body may soon fade away.

Matthew Smith
senior
off campus
Nov. 26, 2001

Students beg: 'Dump Davie'

In light of the recent losses by the Notre Dame football team, I felt compelled to rewrite the lyrics to a Blink 182 song called "What's My Age Again?"

I ran 'em out, it was a Saturday, I wore headphones, so I could call the plays. We started playing well, we had almost scored, but then I called the last time out ...

And that's about the time we lost because of me. Nobody loves you when you're Bob Davie. And you still coach like it's your first year here.

Where the hell's my passing game, the crowd says I should lose my job ...

Where's my job again? Where's my job again?

And later on, on the bus home, I called Scholastic from a cell phone. I said it was Bob and we had lost again, but this time only by a yard ...

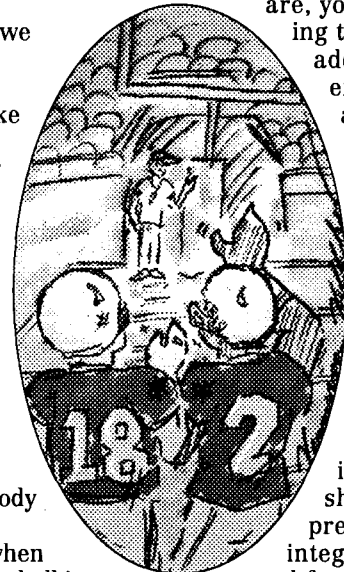
And that's about the time they all gave up on me. Nobody loves you when you're Bob Davie. You choose to punt when you have one to go, What the hell is special teams? The crowd says I should lose my job ...

Where's my job again? Where's my job again?

My point is that whenever someone is hired for a job, they were hired to do a job. I am not saying that ethics, integrity and morality mean nothing; they are important for every job, especially in the accounting and medical industries, and Notre Dame football. However, no matter how ethical,

moral and good of a person you are, you should not be holding those jobs if you can't add numbers, can't properly diagnose diseases and can't be eligible for and can't win bowl games.

Some have said that Notre Dame preaches and should preach that character and integrity are more important than wins and losses. No, they don't preach that, and no, they shouldn't preach that ideal. Rather, they should preach and do preach that character and integrity are integral, vital and fundamental parts of winning and success. By firing Mr. Davie they only supported these fundamental ideals that are foundational to this institution.



Danica Skeoch
sophomore
Breen-Phillips Hall
Sept. 19, 1999

Edward Prusiecki
senior
Alumni Hall
Dec. 6, 2001

SCENE
seniors

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Friday, May 17, 2002

This is the cl

Scene Staff Report

This Sunday as Notre Dame graduates its 1,872 seniors, it will scatter a group who have shared an experience. Though each has understood, dealt, come to terms with and loved the University in a different way, for a moment, they all will share a piece of their lives with each other. And even though they will all walk different paths, they can all say that they are the class of 2002. This is who the class of 2002 was. This is who the class of 2002 will be. And this is the class of 2002.

Devout

This is what defines dedication to faith: every morning of his undergraduate career, Tom Prall rose early to attend a prayer service at 7:15 a.m. At least once each day of his college life, Prall attended Mass. His days at Notre Dame were unlike those of most students.

As a member of Old College, Notre Dame's program for undergraduate men considering a vocation as a Holy Cross priest or brother, Prall lived his faith to the fullest.

"My college experience was very different than other undergrads," Prall said. "I followed a different path where God was calling me at such an early age and I'm glad to have had that seriousness in my life."

While many students filled their free time with parties and socializing, Prall spent his time helping out with various community programs and forming close bonds with other members of the seminary and the Holy Cross Congregation.

Prall helped out at the Circle K soup kitchen and frequently visited retired Brothers at the Dujarie house. Since November he has spent two evenings per week with an ailing patient as a Hospice volunteer. Two evenings per week were also devoted to dinners with other seminarians, brothers and fathers.

Not only was Prall's undergraduate experience unique, his future plans are equally out of the ordinary. In July, Prall will leave for Hong Kong where

he will spend one week at the Mary Knoll priest house attending a tutorial for teaching English. Prall will then be assigned to a post either near North Korea or in southern China where he will spend four weeks administering an intensive teaching course to grade school and high school students, before returning to the novitiate in Cascade, Co., to take his first vows.

Though Prall is aware that his life as a student varied greatly from that of most of the people he will be graduating with on Sunday, he is proud of his choice and the path he has followed.

"I've never had any doubts," Prall said.

Dedicated

This is why Lauren Zajac doesn't regret not spending her freshman year spring break on the beaches of Florida like so many of her classmates: she went instead to a poor rural town in eastern Kentucky and ended up falling in love with a place called the David School, where she'll now be spending a year of service after graduation.

As one of the experiential service seminars run by the Center for Social Concerns, the Appalachian Seminar program sends hundreds of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students each fall and spring break to sites throughout the impoverished Appalachian region. The students volunteer in various ways, from building homes to visiting the elderly, and some like Zajac even find that the experience changes them forever.

Since her first trip to David School in 1999, Zajac has returned to the site at least once a year and even joined the Appalachian Task Force to become even more actively involved in the program. "I felt a special connection with the David School," Zajac said. "I believed strongly in what they were doing."

"I've become committed to social justice because the University has made it hard for me, as an activist, to justify my beliefs and my convictions and through that opposition they've made me more of an activist."

Krista Schoening
senior

What makes the David School stand out in Zajac's eyes is its approach to education. Founded over 20 years ago, the David School provides an alternative for disadvantaged youths who have fallen through the cracks of the public education system. The private school runs on donations and volunteer labor and provides a close, family-like atmosphere for its students from grades 8 to 12.

"It's a non-traditional approach to education, but it works," Zajac said.

Volunteers from Notre Dame spend their time at the David School working one-on-one with the students and pitching in on maintenance projects around the school. Over her many visits Zajac has formed friendships with the students, and it was this sense community that made Zajac want to give more in service to the David School.

"I always knew I wanted to do service [post-graduation]. After my first time at David School, I just knew it was right," Zajac said. "I fell in love with the place, and I kept coming back to make sure."

Eventually she decided to return to the school as a full-time volunteer. Zajac will begin as the school's science teacher this fall and hopes to stay on for two academic years. She will also be working with the female students in a women's studies class and supervising

college volunteers groups like those from Notre Dame who come to the school throughout the year.

Volunteers like Zajac are essential to the David School. "It's important for the kids to have role models and mentors close to their age, so they can see that they can succeed," Zajac said.

Zajac will be part of one of the largest groups of full-time volunteers the school has seen in recent years. After her time at the David School, Zajac hopes to work in the field of environmental justice, drawing on what she has seen and experienced throughout her time in Appalachia.

"The Appalachia program and other CSC programs were an absolutely integral part of my time at Notre Dame," said Zajac. "The emphasis on service is one of the best things about ND. When I talk to my friends at bigger state schools, I realize that opportunities for service just aren't fostered there."

Zajac is not alone in her sentiments or in her plans for next year. Each year, approximately 10 percent of Notre Dame's graduating class commits to one or more years of full-time service in the United States or abroad. Programs like the Alliance for Catholic Education and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps attract many seniors considering service, but some like Zajac strike out on their own and find the service opportunity which is right for them.

"I can't wait to get back to the David School this fall," said Zajac. "It's just such a special place."

Reminiscent

This is who the class of 2002 will remember. Miranda Thomas, Brionne Clary and Conor Murphy, all members of the class of 2002, died of leukemia during their undergraduate years.

Thomas lived in Walsh Hall during her freshman year at Notre Dame, but remained at the University only one month before discovering that she was sick. She returned home to Sturgis, Ky., for treatment, but passed away during the summer of 1999. Residents of Walsh say they clearly remember her friendly nature and smile.

Clary, an "enthusiastic" mechanical engineering student from Tyler, Texas, and an active participant in interhall basketball was re-diagnosed with leukemia approximately one week before the beginning of the fall 2000 semester after going into remission during high school. She passed away Sept. 20, 2000.



Photo courtesy of Krista Schoening

Senior Krista Schoening (left) and junior Jenny Stahl at Schoening's first attendance of the Dhra' pre-pottery Neolithic-A excavation in Jordan. In late July, Schoening will travel to Israel and Palestine to work for a human rights organization.

SCENE
seniors

Friday, May 17, 2002

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Mass of 2002...

After his condition inspired 610 people to join the National Marrow Donor Program in an on-campus drive during March 2000, Murphy developed pneumonia that compromised his immune system. Murphy was remembered as a "fun loving guy with strong faith" after he died on Jan. 31, 2001.

All three students are honored in an annual Clary-Murphy-Thomas Run. In 2001 the race raised more than \$5,000 for leukemia research. On-campus marrow drives and memorial masses have also continued in their honor.

Creative

This is a day that is long overdue for Rachel Jones. The 24-year-old Department of Film, Television and Theatre major (theatre concentration) has completed her degree six years after matriculating at the University. The South Bend native will be joining the Detroit touring chapter of the improvisational comedy group Second City as an understudy.

When Jones entered the University she never dreamed she would be joining Second City. In fact, she had never had any stage or acting experience. She originally wanted to be a pharmacist. But when a friend asked her to audition for a play, "The Colored Museum," during her sophomore year, Jones was hooked and dropped her troubled and floundering pre-medical program.

Jones took a year and a half off from the University to regroup after troubled grades. Living close to home had made it easy for Jones to shirk her responsibilities. But the time away gave Jones the perspective she needed to return and complete her education.

"I wish I would have known that having fun all the time shouldn't have been my main goal," Jones said. "I wish I didn't have to take that year and a half off, but it made me realize how much the education really meant to me."

Jones hopes to eventually act on "Saturday Night Live" or work behind the scenes at a movie or music production company. She is glad that FTT has given her the opportunity to express herself and feels that she is more mature leaving the University than when she came in.

"I think the whole experience at Notre Dame with the people and culture and lack of diversity sometimes is a real eye-opener," Jones said.

Committed

This is why Casey O'Neill is glad she went to Farley's Freshman "Disorientation" in Keough Hall during her first week at Notre Dame: she met her future husband.

When asked if she ever thought she'd end up with the typical Notre Dame romance, O'Neill laughs and says no, remembering back to that first week of freshman year when she told one of her friends that there was no way she was looking for a boyfriend. But things soon began to change after the fateful "Dis-O" party where she met Kevin Friedman, then a junior pre-med major from New Milford, Conn.

The two began hanging out and attending Mass together. O'Neill credits Father Poorman's daily Masses in Keough with, not only bring she and Kevin closer, but ultimately giving them the priest who will celebrate their wedding. The couple dated throughout Friedman's time at Notre Dame and stayed together when he headed to Harvard Medical School after graduating in 2000.

Friedman's unexpected visit to campus this November brought more than just the surprise of sharing another football weekend together. On Sunday afternoon the couple strolled around the lake, as was their habit, and eventually came to the bench in front of Carroll Hall; it was O'Neill's

favorite place on campus. They sat and casually discussed plans for an upcoming ski trip. Just when O'Neill got up to continue walking, Friedman told her to wait and got down on one knee.

Following a time-honored Notre Dame tradition, he pulled out the ring and asked O'Neill to marry him. Although the couple had talked about marriage, O'Neill hadn't been expecting a proposal so soon and her speechlessness eventually provoked a worried "Are you going to answer me?" But the ring that now shines on her finger proves that the rest is history.

The couple will be married in the Basilica on Oct. 19. It will be a true Domer wedding; O'Neill's father and grandfather both attended Notre Dame, as did Friedman's twin brother Scott, his younger brother and many other relatives.

After the wedding, they will live in Boston where Friedman will finish medical school and O'Neill looks to begin graduate studies. What she won't be doing is returning home to Midland, Texas, thus fulfilling a prophecy from long ago: when O'Neill was just five, her mother's childhood friend admonished her, "No matter what you do, do not let her go to Notre Dame. She will meet a boy from Connecticut and never come back to Texas."

In the world of Notre Dame romances, things sometimes just work out that way.

Conscientious

This is not what Krista Schoening imagined she would become when she stepped onto the Notre Dame campus four years ago. The 22-year-old, who double-majored in anthropology and Spanish, entered the University a confused freshman hoping she had made the right decision and will leave a confident woman hoping she can make a difference.

In July, after she participates in the Dhra' pre-pottery Neolithic-A excavation in Jordan she will

attempt to join human rights workers for a year in Israel and Palestine. Though Schoening loves the scientific side of anthropology in archeology, Schoening feels that her experience at Notre Dame has given her a larger passion: cultural anthropology.

"I've become committed to social justice because the University has made it hard for me, as an activist, to justify my beliefs and my convictions and through that opposition they've made me more of an activist," said Schoening.

But Schoening doesn't feel that her interest in human rights work is merely a reaction to University doctrine. Schoening, a four-year member of the University's Amnesty International chapter and a participant in other campus activist groups such as the Progressive Student Alliance and the Peace Coalition, feels that her views are also in synthesis with a campus that strongly supports the ideals she works for, in spirit at least.

Schoening plans to arrive in the Middle East in late July, but has no definite program to work with yet because communication with human rights organizations in the area has been disrupted by the war. Schoening believes that she can help the situation by spreading her experience of commitment to social justice by interacting with and listening to the victims of the war.

Schoening plans to stay for a year and eventually would like to get her physical doctorate in anthropology. She admits that she is a bit scared of her upcoming work in Israel and Palestine, but she is more afraid that she will be unable to handle a new or tense situation than of becoming a casualty of the war herself.

"I don't know how I can hurt the situation," Schoening said. "It's so bad I don't think I can make a difference [as an individual] positive or negative. I don't kid myself."

C. Spencer Beggs, Amanda Greco, Laura Kelly and Kate Nagengast contributed to the article. Contact C. Spencer Beggs at beggs.3@nd.edu, Amanda Greco at amanda_k_greco@hotmail.com, Laura Kelly at kelly@nd.edu and Kate Nagengast at nagengast.3@nd.edu.



Photo courtesy of Casey O'Neill

Kevin Friedman '00 (left) and Casey O'Neill are engaged and will be married in the Basilica on Oct. 19. The couple met at Farley Hall's freshman "Disorientation" four years ago. Friedman proposed to O'Neill by Saint Mary's Lake.

FOOTBALL

Secondary weakened as Malloy upholds decision

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

What was one of the strongest and deepest positions on the Irish football team heading into the spring could become one of the weakest and thinnest after University President Father Edward Malloy upheld a University decision to expel three football players accused of rape.

Entering the spring, the secondary was seen as one of the strengths of the Irish. But after the expulsions of projected starter Donald Dykes and key backup Abe Elam, the Irish only have two scholarship safeties on roster.

Dykes and Elam, along with Gerome Sapp and Glenn Earl, were expected to be major contributors on defense. Dykes had started at safety eight games last year for the Irish and Elam was a key backup who had a knack for being at the right place on the field at the right time.

Now, Sapp and Earl are the only scholarship safeties on the roster. Walk-on Matt Sarb, who has significant special teams experience but never played a down, is the lone backup.

While coaches refuse to discuss anything related to the expelled football players, it is clear that the Irish have a depth problem. Since the Irish return both starting cornerbacks and have six scholarship backups, Lionel Bolen, the lowest player on the depth chart, could move to safety. Incoming recruit Jake Carney could also fill the gap.

The third player expelled, wide receiver Lorenzo Crawford, wasn't expected to make significant contributions next season, but his departure hurts a woefully thin wide receiver corps. Crawford had yet to catch a pass and didn't have an impressive spring.

But the Irish lack a quality stand-out wide receiver. Arnaz Battle looked the most impressive in the spring game and Omar Jenkins and Ronnie Rodamer both have some game experience. But Jenkins has the most receptions of any returning receiver — and he has just seven.

In the fall, the Irish will benefit from highly touted recruits Maurice Stovall and Rhema McKnight, who will be expected to contribute immediately.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Peterkin selects Irish

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Omari Peterkin was hoping to walk-on to Miami's basketball team. Or he was, until someone sent a two-minute videotape of the Virgin Islands high school senior to several college basketball programs in the United States.

Including Notre Dame. After visiting Indiana, Connecticut and Notre Dame, Peterkin officially signed a letter-of-intent last week to play for the Irish. The 6-foot-8, 250-pound Peterkin joins Torin Francis, Rick Cornett and Chris Quinn as freshmen in the fall.

"Our players who played with him felt great about him as a player. But even more importantly, they felt like he was our kind of guy," said Irish head coach Mike Brey. "He's got the total package."

Brey didn't expect to land another recruit this late in the year. While the Irish had scholarships to spare and were looking to add a high school senior or college transfer to the team by April, they had pretty much given up on adding another player so late in the recruiting season.

That is, until assistant coach Anthony Solomon heard rumors about an overlooked player from the small island of St. Thomas.

"Recruiting is a day to day thing, you

never know what's going to happen," Brey said. "This is a great example of a guy coming out of the woodwork, and you can't analyze him. In recruiting, you're forced to make a decision quick, and we made a quick one."

What made Peterkin pick the Irish over Indiana and Connecticut was Notre Dame's strong academic program. He hopes to major in biology and was impressed that Notre Dame had a solid combination of athletics and academics.

Brey compared Peterkin to graduating senior Harold Swanagan. He praised his size and the way he could catch and handle the ball.

But he added that the forward still has a lot of work to do. Peterkin only started playing basketball five years ago, and Brey said he needs to physically prepare for the pace of the college game and get used to the competition level.

"One of the things we've discussed was putting him on a five-year program," Brey said. "We have to be patient with his development. But he's got the summer to get ready and he'll have a month of practice. It probably won't even be decided until the night before the first game."

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FOOTBALL

Devine remembered as fine man and coach

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

The Notre Dame community suffered a great loss on May 9, when former football coach Dan Devine died after suffering from a prolonged illness. He was 77.

Devine spent six years with the Irish from 1975-80, winning a national championship and three bowl games. Assuming the position of head coach at Notre Dame following the ever-popular Ara Parseghian was a daunting task for Devine. Despite his success on the football field — a 56-13-1 record and three top ten finishes in six years — he didn't have the undisputed support of the fans.

"He was a great football

coach, and he had a marvelous record at Notre Dame," said Father Edmund Joyce, Notre Dame vice president emeritus who hired Devine in 1975. "People seem to forget that. Some of the subway alumni, maybe even regular alumni, didn't accept him immediately. Maybe the only explanation for that is the fact that Ara Parseghian, his predecessor, was such a charismatic figure and so exciting, while Dan was rather low key."

Unlike expressive figures such as Parseghian, Gerry Faust and Lou Holtz, Devine had a quiet way about him. He often kept to himself, staying out of the public spotlight. To those that knew him, however, Devine was friendly and caring.

"He was a very personable,

very friendly man," said former Irish running back Vagas Ferguson, who played under Devine from 1976-79. "He recruited me out of high school, and my family got to meet him and they fell in love."

Despite Devine's less-than-flattering portrayal in the movie "Rudy," those who knew him best remember a different Devine than the man that sat behind the desk in the film. The movie portrayed Devine as a mean-spirited coach who reluctantly gave Rudy his one shot.

"Coach Devine cared a great deal that people worked hard to make themselves better," Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger said. "He valued hard work and determination, and I think that's some of what he saw in me. Actually, he wanted me to

play in that game we portrayed in the movie, and he even tried to get me in when the offense had the ball, but it just didn't work because I was a defensive player."

During his tenure, Devine coached some of the biggest names and most important games in Notre Dame history. He led the Irish to a national championship season in 1977 that ended with a Cotton Bowl victory against undefeated, top-ranked Texas.

Devine also coached arguably one of the greatest comebacks in college football history in the 1979 Cotton Bowl. The Irish trailed Houston 34-12 with 7:37 remaining in the game. After missing the entire third quarter with the flu, quarterback Joe Montana returned to the game

and led the Irish to 23 unanswered points and a 35-34 win.

"[Devine] was a great leader, and I think that shows through some of the people around him like his assistant coaches and players that went on to such great things," Ruettiger said.

Devine left this world respected by many as a football coach and a man.

"He was a splendid man - a fine family man," Joyce said. "I admired him very much both as a gentleman and as a coach - he was a great football coach."

Devine spent 14 months in the hospital before he asked the hospital staff for permission to die at home.

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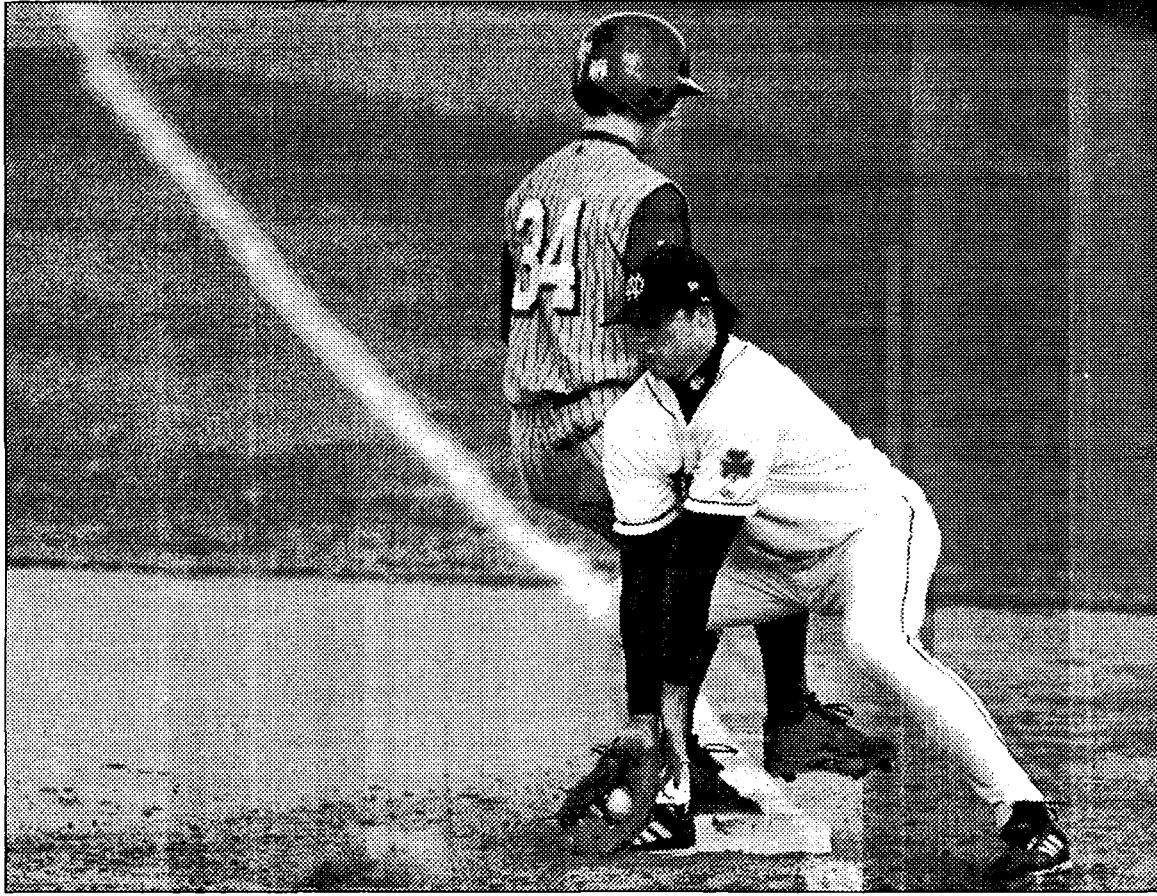
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BASEBALL

Three-way tie for first leaves Irish in control



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Sophomore first baseman Joe Thaman receives a pickoff attempt in a game earlier this season against Valparaiso. Thaman hit a pair of home runs last weekend against Villanova.

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

Heading into the final Big East weekend of the regular season, the Notre Dame baseball team is in complete control of its own destiny regarding the postseason.

The Irish currently stand in a three-way tie for the Big East lead with Virginia Tech and this weekend's opponent, Boston College. The Irish can take care of the Eagles by winning the weekend series. They also hold the tie-breaker advantage over the Hokies if the two teams finish the season with the same conference record.

"It's nice to be in that situation at the end of the year," centerfielder Steve Stanley said. "I think these will be the three biggest games of the year for us like we've said all along."

The Irish only need to win one of the three games against Boston College this weekend to be assured of a spot in the four-team conference tournament. A three-game sweep would guarantee them the regular season Big East title and the No. 1 seed in the tournament.

Winning the regular season title and the Big East Tournament could be very important for Notre Dame's hopes of hosting its second consecutive NCAA Regional at Frank Eck Stadium.

"For us to host a regional, we have to win the regular season Big East title," Stanley said. "That's a prerequisite — we have to do that. I think this year we even have to win the Big East Tournament, so there are some things we haven't accomplished yet. But right now we can't even think about hosting a regional because we don't even know if we're in one."

In their last Big East matchup, the Irish traveled to Villanova and came away with two wins from the three-game series.

The Irish stumbled a little in the opening game Saturday, blowing a 7-5 lead in the bottom of the seventh to allow the Wildcats to tie. In the next inning, pitcher J. P. Gagne gave up three straight singles to Villanova batters to allow the go-ahead run to cross the plate in the Wildcat 8-7 victory.

In the doubleheader Sunday, Irish bats exploded for five home runs, including two from sophomore first baseman Joe Thaman, as Notre Dame knocked off the Wildcats 8-1 and 9-5.

The first game saw dominant pitching performances from freshmen John Axford, who picked up the win going 4.2 innings and allowing one run, and Chris Niesel, who contributed 2.1 innings of hitless relief. Niesel made his return to the mound after a month-long absence due to mononucleosis.

"Niesel was outstanding," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "During the week we let him do some side work, and he looked very good and felt good. The ideal situation would have been to put him in for two innings with a nice lead. But Axford ran into a bit of trouble

in the fifth inning and loaded the bases. So we had to bring in Chris with bases loaded and two outs in his first game back. But he did very well, and I think he struck out four in a row at one point."

In the concluding game, second baseman Steve Sollmann went 3-for-5 with four RBIs and two runs scored in leading the nine-run Irish attack.

Junior Peter Ogilvie started the game and gave a solid 6.2 inning, four-run outing before yielding to relief help. After a stint by junior Brandon Vilorio, Gagne was called upon from the bullpen after the difficult outing the previous day. The junior right-hander entered the game with runners on first and third and two out, but got the first batter to strike out to escape from the inning.

Gagne stayed in the game and pitched two scoreless innings with four strikeouts to earn the save.

"J.P. [Gagne] has as much courage as any player I have ever coached," Mainieri said. "After that game Saturday, there was no one more upset than him. But I told him that if that same situation came up the next day, he would be getting the ball again. That's exactly what happened, and he came in and did a great job. He's been outstanding for us this year, and I wasn't going to let one unfortunate outing affect what he does for us."

In midweek action Wednesday, the Irish outplayed a much smaller 13-man Rochester College squad for a 10-3 victory. With many reserves getting a chance to start, Notre Dame committed four errors but made up for the defensive struggles with 17 hits, led by the efforts of designated hitter Mike Holba's 3-for-4 day.

Freshman Martin Vergara pitched six innings and allowed one run on three hits for the win.

In the second game of the day, the Irish erupted against Detroit, defeating the Titans 23-1 in a game that was called after seven innings. The 22-run difference was the largest margin of victory for the Irish since 1922.

Senior third baseman Andy Bushey set a Notre Dame record by driving in seven runs in the game. Right fielder Brian Stavisky was 5-for-5 with five runs scored in the contest.


The two wins move the Irish to 38-14 on the season.

The first game of Notre Dame's series with Boston College is slated for 6 p.m. Friday evening. The doubleheader is set to begin at noon Saturday.

Note:

♦ Senior centerfielder and co-captain Steve Stanley set two more Irish records Wednesday. In the first game against Rochester, he surpassed J.J. Brock on the career games started list with 239. In the nightcap against Detroit, Stanley appeared in his 240th career game to pass former teammate Alec Porzel and move into first place on that list as well.

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FOOTBALL

Tumultuous season brings coaching change

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Everybody knew Bob Davie would be fired. Few people knew who would be hired.

But nobody expected what happened in December.

When Notre Dame started the season with losses to Nebraska, Michigan State and Texas A&M — the worst start in school history — Davie's fate seemed sealed. Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White met with Davie shortly after the Irish were embarrassed by Texas A&M 24-3 and essentially told Davie his job status would be evaluated at the end of the season.

News of the impending evaluation leaked to the media, and the Davie Watch was on. Irish fans printed T-shirts with "Dump Davie" written across the back. He was booed during the 1812 Overture. Reporters grilled him at weekly press conferences. He stopped speaking at pep rallies.

But Davie didn't quit coaching and the Irish didn't quit playing. Notre Dame won its next three games against Pittsburgh, West Virginia and USC to even their record at 3-3 but dropped three of the final five games, beating only lowly Navy and Purdue and losing to Boston College, Tennessee and Stanford to finish the season 5-6, the second time in three years the Irish failed to break .500.

Players quickly pointed out that the losses weren't the coaches' fault. Quarterback Matt LoVecchio started the first two games of the season, but Carlyle Holiday took over as starter at the Texas A&M game. However, Holiday tended to win more games with his feet than his arm. By the end of the season, opposing defenses were focused on shutting down the option and daring the Irish to beat them in the air.

They couldn't. The offense couldn't execute the most basic plays and killed themselves with turnovers. After an atrocious game at Stanford where Holiday completed just 1-of-16 passes, offensive coordinator Kevin Rogers angrily said, "The kid couldn't throw the damn ball."

So when Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White announced Davie's firing less than 12 hours after the Irish beat Purdue, it was a remarkable turnaround for Davie, who's job seemed secure after White gave him a five-year contract extension in 2000.

But the extension was a mistake, White said.

"A year ago at this time, I believed that we had turned the corner under Bob and that we were prepared to reclaim our traditional standing among the nation's elite college programs," White said. "Today I can no longer say that."

White fired Davie on a Sunday, and by Monday he disappeared from view as he launched a massive coaching search. A week later, White returned to South Bend with former Georgia Tech head coach George O'Leary.

"I'm very happy to be at Notre Dame," O'Leary said. "I think the two best jobs in America are the head football coach of Notre Dame and the manager of the New York Yankees."

The fiery O'Leary was introduced at a public press conference where hundreds of T-shirts were printed with "By George, it's O'Leary" emblazoned on the front.

But his reign only lasted five days. A reporter from New Hampshire writing a story about O'Leary's college football days started a chain reaction of events that caused O'Leary's resignation after he admitted that he lied about obtaining a master's degree and playing football at New Hampshire. The shirts printed five days before stopped appearing on student's backs and started showing up on eBay.

The nightmarish resignation shocked the nation and sent White scurrying around the country again. This time, the search was slower and more cautious. While it took White only a week to hire O'Leary, it took him 16 days to hire Tyrone Willingham, the former Stanford head coach.

"This is an exciting moment," Willingham said on New Year's Day, the day he was formally announced as Irish head coach. "It is a moment that you often go back in your life and you try to figure out what has brought you to this moment."

Now Willingham faces the challenge of trying to resurrect an Irish program that hasn't won a national championship since 1988. But his straightforward, no-nonsense attitude and West Coast offense already has Irish fans excited.

However, Willingham doesn't spend too much time thinking about what could happen. He's too busy trying to make things happen.

"I don't think," he said after one spring practice. "I just go."

Contact Andrew Soukup at
asoukup@nd.edu.



PETER RICHARDSON/The Observer

Graduating senior running back Terrance Howard is tackled by a Stanford defender as former Irish head coach Bob Davie looks on in the background.

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Blair

continued from page 44

Although Blair was named to the all-MIAA first team for her play during the 2001-2002 basketball season, it's more than her skill on the court that has impressed coaches and teammates.

Blair became a much-needed confidant for players and coaches alike.

"She's a very unselfish person, just very caring about those around her and she puts a lot of pressure on herself to do things right," said head coach Suzanne Smith, who has worked with Blair for the past two seasons. "That just makes a great example."

At the end of the 1999-2000 season, Roeder resigned and Smith stepped in. With a new coach and another young team, Blair found herself in a leadership position that she wasn't used to.

With mediocre retention rates, keeping seniors — especially seniors who could be leaders — may have been

problematic for the Belles. But this year, Blair surprised everyone, including herself, and became the leader the team really needed.

"I never was the strong leader or able to be outgoing; now I'm able to take care of anything," Blair said.

Blair has become the go-to person on the court and off. Her openness has made her the perfect person for teammates to go to with problems and she's Smith's No. 1 choice for discussing possible problems with the team.

As one of three seniors, Blair was the one who took the leadership role. As a captain, she proved to be the missing link between players and coach.

"She has done fantastic both seasons I've been here as far as being that link between the players and myself," Smith said. "She's never been afraid of conveying their needs to me."

"I never was the strong leader or able to be outgoing; now I'm able to take care of anything."

Anne Blair
forward

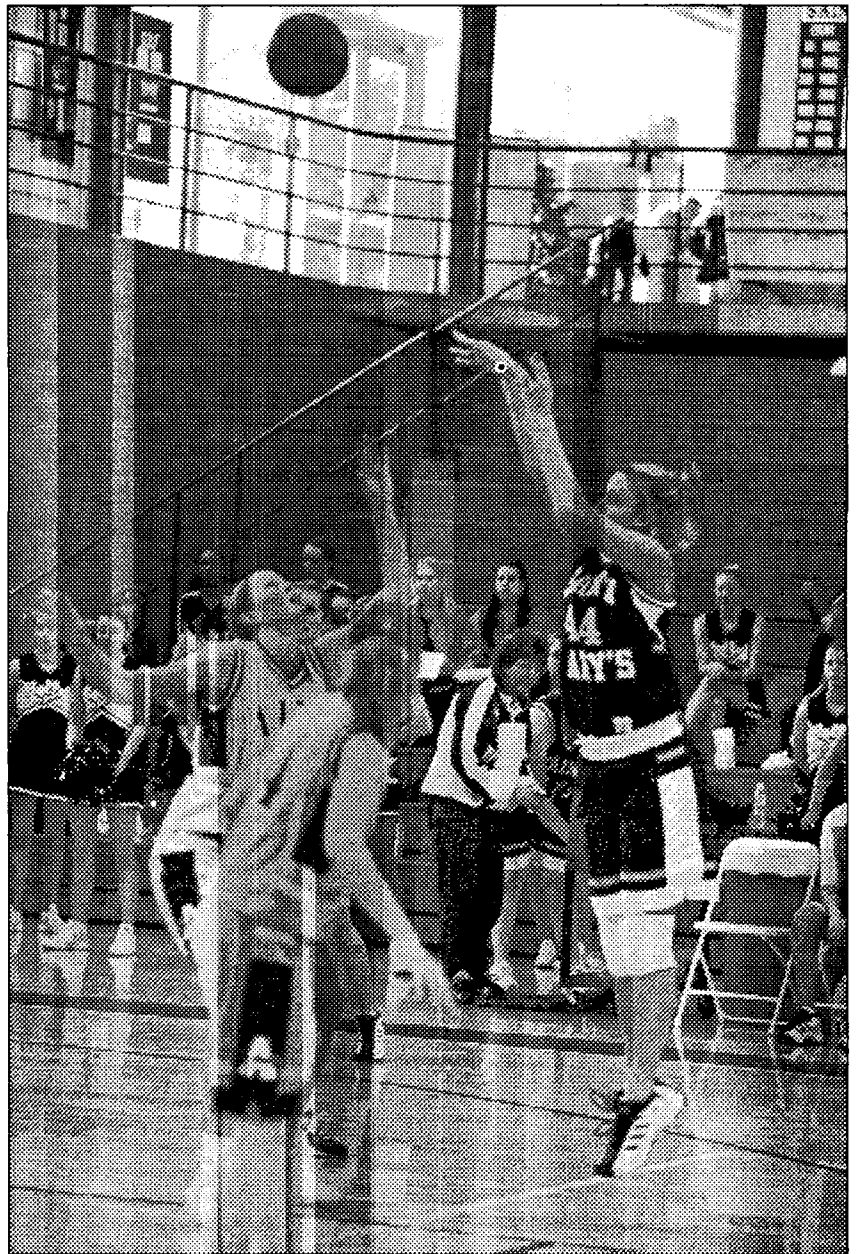
At the end of last season, Blair was a consistent contributor to the Belles, but she wasn't MIAA first-team quality. However, a summer's worth of work paid off and when Blair returned

for fall camp, she was an improved player. Blair was the Belles second-leading scorer, averaging 12.6 points-per-game and grabbing six rebounds a game. Her .464 shooting percentage was third on the team and Blair was in almost every minute of the game.

"I was blown away at the beginning of this year at how hard she had worked on her skills, around the basket and post moves," Smith said.

Although Blair has no definite plans to play or coach in the future, her love for basketball is something the Californian turned South Bend fan will never lose.

"I'll always love [basketball] but I don't see it as the most important part of my future," Blair said. "But the love for it will go on."

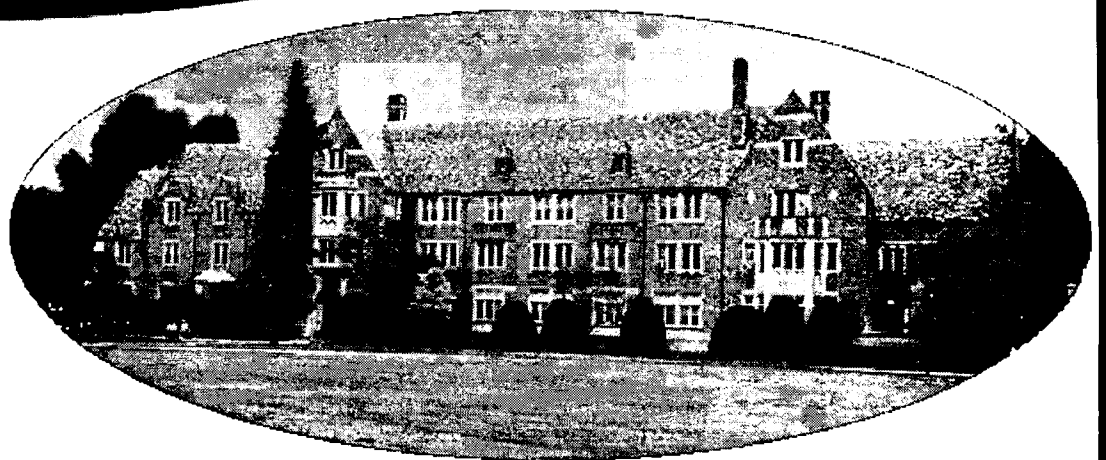


CHRISTINA REITANO/The Observer

Senior Anne Blair combined her love for basketball with her love for teaching by coaching a fifth grade basketball team.

DILLON HALL 2002

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tourney appearance lands Irish back on map

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

The year started with a question. It ended with a statement. And as a charter plane flew a basketball team that fell in the second round of the NCAA Tournament back to Notre Dame, the Irish basketball team definitively told the nation it was back on the map.

Nobody thought that after former Irish All-American Troy Murphy declared for the NBA draft, skipping his final year of college, that the Irish would return to the NCAA Tournament. And this was a team that, before head coach Mike Brey arrived two years ago, hadn't been to the NCAA Tournament since 1990.

"I think the theme since last spring has been, 'Is there life after Troy?'" Brey said a few days before the Irish started practice. "We really feel there is."

Brey and the Irish might have been the only ones who felt that way. National publications left the Irish out of their preseason tournament projections. Coaches picked Notre Dame to finish third in the Big East. And fans across the country thought Notre Dame's one-year resurgence was a fluke and that Murphy had carried the Irish.

But those so-called experts couldn't sit in on Irish practices and watch seniors Ryan

Humphrey, David Graves and Harold Swanagan and junior Matt Carroll more than replace Murphy's leadership. With Murphy, the Irish deferred to their All-American. Without him, they challenged themselves to produce on their own.

The Murphy-less Irish were a different team, indeed.

Part of the reason they were so successful was the emergence of highly touted freshman Chris Thomas. Thomas arrived at Notre Dame with the highest expectations on his shoulders. At times, it seemed he wasn't asked to replace departed point guard Martin Inglesby, but Murphy.

But if anyone buckles under pressure, it's not Thomas. The flashy freshman easily surpassed every prediction and every expectation. In his first college game, Thomas merely recorded the first triple-double in Notre Dame history. By the end of the season, Thomas earned multiple Freshman of the Year honors.

"I think what helped Chris Thomas was those four guys up front," Brey often said during the season. "He's playing with four men."

Thomas and the Irish started out red-hot. They won nine of their first 10 games and appeared poised to break into the Top 25.

Then, the Irish started struggling. They dropped five of their next eight games, including embarrassing defeats against Syracuse, Kentucky and

Georgetown. Brey even shuffled the starting lineup around, replacing Graves with Torrian Jones.

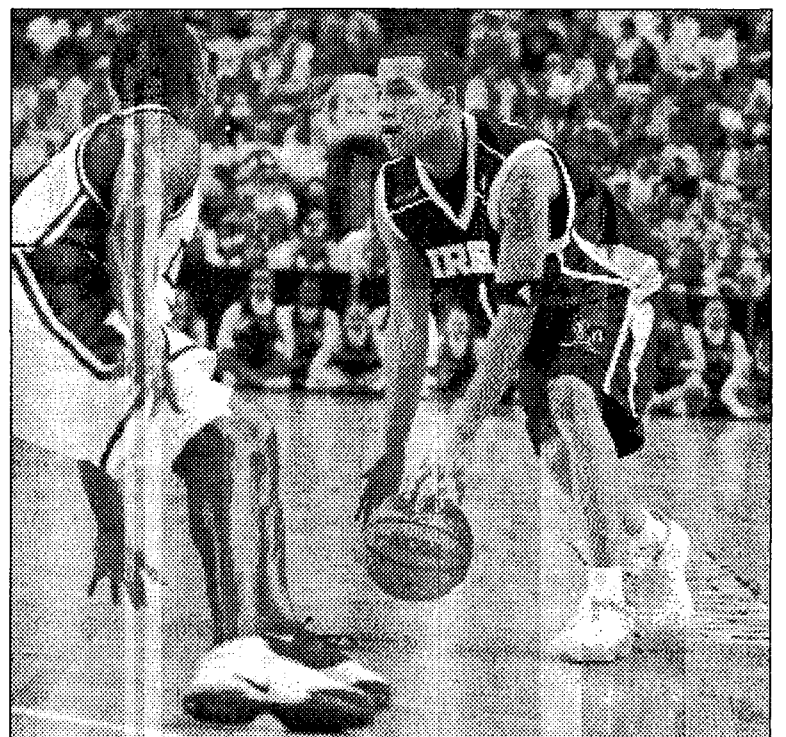
The switch worked. Brey always keys his teams to make a strong run in February, and the Irish won eight of their final 11 games of the regular season, including a marathon four-over-time victory over Georgetown.

Thomas made the Irish flashy and quick. He energized the offense and played inspired defense. But Thomas couldn't do it all, and Graves, Humphrey, Swanagan and Carroll helped him realize that. By the end of the year, Thomas was winning games not with his shot but with his decision-making skills.

The Irish finished second in Big East West Division and easily handled St. John's in the quarterfinals of the Big East Tournament. But they fell to Connecticut in the semi-finals and anxiously awaited news about whether or not they would be back in the NCAA Tournament.

Players were disappointed with the No. 8 seed in the South Region that the Irish received, matching them up against Charlotte in the first round in Duke in the second round. All season long, the Irish had claimed they were underrated.

But they didn't dwell on the low seed or feel sorry for themselves. The Irish blew out Charlotte in the first round and turned in a scrappy performance



DUFFY-MARIE ARNOULT/The Observer

Freshman point guard Chris Thomas attempts to elude Duke guard Chris Duhon in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

against the top-seeded Blue Devils — even leading by seven points late in the second half — before falling for the second-straight year in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

One of the goals the Irish established for the season was to put themselves "back on the map." More than anything else, Notre Dame's strong showing against Duke laid the foundation for a surging basketball program

and showed how much the Irish had improved from the day Graves and Swanagan first arrived on campus as freshmen.

"This is pride," Graves said, pointing to the word 'Irish' on his uniform minutes after Notre Dame lost to Duke. "This means something now. It didn't before."

Contact Andrew Soukup at
asoukup@nd.edu.



"I hope you come to find that which gives life a deep meaning for you. Something worth living for... something that energizes you, enthuses you, enables you to keep moving ahead. I can't tell you what it might be - I can just encourage you to start (and/or continue!) looking, and support you in the search."

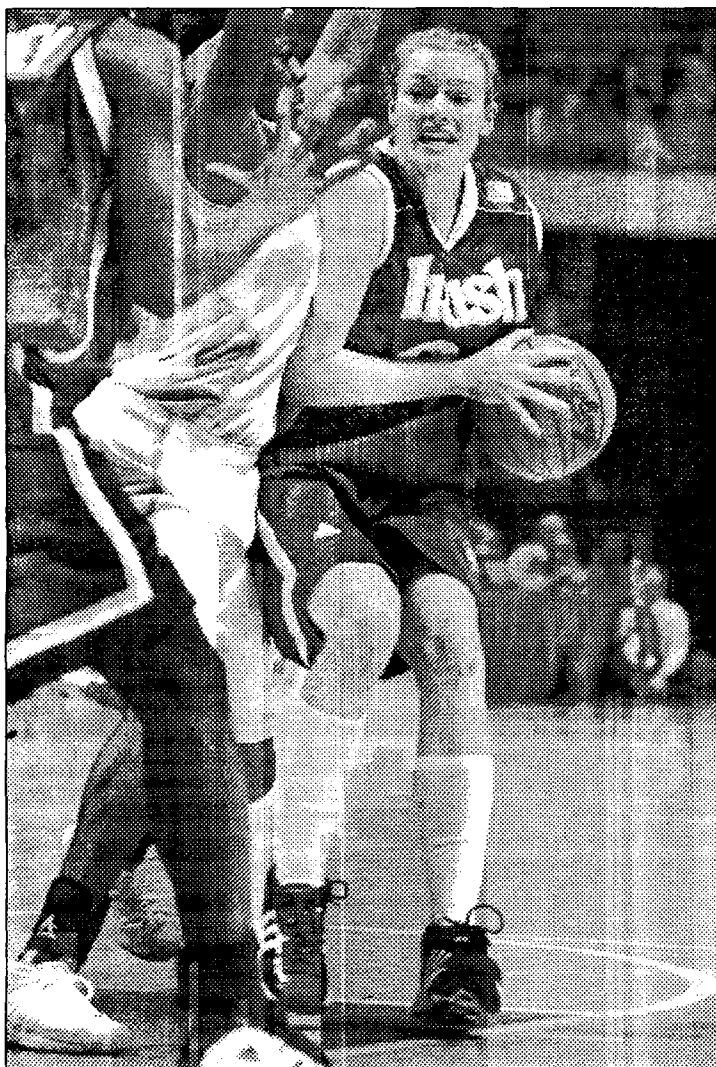
-Ita Ford, M.M.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Inexperience leads to disappointing season



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Freshman forward Kelsey Wicks attempts to get around a Tennessee defender during Notre Dame's second-round loss in the NCAA Tournament.

By KATIE McVOY

Associate Sports Editor

The uniforms Notre Dame wore during their final loss of the season in round two of the NCAA tournament told the tale of the 2001-2002 Irish.

They were green.

For the Irish, who took home a national championship last year, this season was anything but a replay. It was a transition year. It was a year for a young team. It was a challenge.

With six freshmen and only one returning senior, the Irish knew they would have their work cut out for them heading into the 2001 season. Head coach Muffet McGraw, who knew she could count on her veterans last year, didn't know who or what she could count on this season.

"Because nothing is expected, when something good happens everybody gets excited about it because it's not like last year where we expected to win by 20," McGraw said at the beginning of the season. "This year we just have to play hard and see what happens."

It was a whole new Irish team that took the court in November. There was no Ruth Riley, no Kelly Siemon, no Niele Ivey. Instead, there was Jackie Batteast, who was named Big East Rookie of the Year, Kelsey Wicks, Alison Bustamante, Teresa Borton. It was a young

group of women led by sophomore guards, a non-vocal Alicia Ratay and senior Ericka Haney who struggled with her own game in the first months of the season.

The beginning of the season was less than perfect. On Dec. 28, Notre Dame fell 72-61 to Rice, a school the 2000-2001 Irish had destroyed. The Irish were barely at .500. A game that was supposed to be a warm-up after Christmas break left the Irish cold. McGraw left the press conference in tears. Her young team just didn't seem to be getting the job done.

Just five days later, however, things began to turn around. With a 69-65 victory against Big East opponent Miami, the Irish had their first road win and found their groove.

If they weren't dominant in the Big East, the Irish were at least holding their own. After decisive victories against Virginia Tech, Syracuse and Boston College, the Irish managed to move to second place in the conference, hanging behind the Huskies, the undisputed best team in the country.

By Feb. 26 the Irish clinched a first-round bye in the Big East Tournament and were riding a nine-game winning streak. They had won 51 home games in a row, the longest active home win streak in the NCAA. But once they hit that peak, the young team found themselves at the bottom again. The win streak came to an end with a three

point loss to Villanova as the regular season concluded.

Post-season play was less than a storybook ending. Notre Dame fell in the first round of the Big East tournament to Syracuse, after working its way up to second place in the Big East. The team fell in round two of the NCAA tournament, losing to Tennessee by the biggest margin in McGraw's career.

The season was over, but the transition had made serious progress and even the unsettling loss to Tennessee had its place in the learning process.

"Our team is young, this is a learning experience for us," McGraw said after the game. "This is how you grow as a team, to go through something like this. You go back, watch the film and figure out what you have to do to get better and how to get to where we want to be. That's what we're going to work on."

As the Irish look ahead to next year, they will find themselves feeling more like a team than they did at the beginning of this season. Haney graduated, and junior center Amanda Barksdale transferred, but the Irish are returning the rest of the team.

Notre Dame may be returning the green uniforms to celebrate St. Patrick's Day next year, but the team won't be quite as green.

Contact Katie McVoy at
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!!!THANK YOU!!!

To all the students who are giving their summer to service-learning. Your dedication to compassion and social justice is evident. We hope the relationships you will form with members of your daycamps, shools, AIDS programs, shelters, children's homes, outreach centers, clinics, women's care programs and hospitals, etc., will be valuable life experiences.

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HAVE A
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TRACK AND FIELD

Runners hope to tune-up at Georgia Tech

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Senior Staff Writer

The Notre Dame track and field team is sending a number of athletes to Georgia Tech this weekend for a final tune-up before the NCAA Championships. But head coach Joe Piane made one thing clear when the weekend's lineup was compiled — graduating seniors Liz Grow, Luke Watson and Ryan Shay will be staying put in Indiana.

"I tell these kids all the time, the graduation isn't for them, it's for their parents," Piane said. "The parents want to be there for this and this is something the parents have been dreaming about longer than [the students] have. I'm not going to try to snatch that away from any parent."

Without Grow, who has already automatically qualified for the NCAA meet in the 400 meters and is a key member of the Irish 4x100 and 4x400 teams, the other members of Notre Dame's sprint group will concentrate on their individual events.

That includes sophomore Ayesha Boyd, who reached the NCAA provisionally qualifying time in the 200 meters in late March. Boyd, whose time of 23.6 seconds ranks her 31st in the country heading into the weekend, likely needs to improve upon that mark to sneak into the NCAA meet.

"I want to give her another shot at improving her time," said sprints coach John Millar.

Without Grow, the 4x400-meter

relay team, currently ranked eighth in the country, will have to sit on its May 11 provisionally qualifying time of 3 minutes, 34.46 seconds. Two other members of that team, juniors Kymia Love and Kristen Dodd, will compete in the 400 meters.

Millar is also confident that his women's 4x100 meter team will make the cut without a final competition. That team, comprised of Grow, Boyd, Love and junior Tameisha King, is currently ranked eighth.

King, who already provisionally qualified for the NCAA meet in the long jump with a leap of 6.31 meters on March 30, is looking to end the regular season on a high note. After competing in the hurdles and relay events at the Big East Championships, King can use this meet in her hometown of Atlanta to concentrate on one event.

"She's been struggling on her approach a little bit, hitting the board," said sprints coach Scott Windsor. "She's been jumping far, but she's either fouled it or she's been missing the board. This weekend, we're just looking for improvement."

Another woman, freshman Lauren King, looks to use the Georgia Tech meet as a springboard for the NCAA Championships in the 1,500 meters. King currently sits on the bubble with the 4:21.10 time she posted at the Big East Championships on May 5. But King won that race with little competi-

tion, leading women's distance coach Tim Connelly to believe she can go even faster.

"I can see her making the [NCAA] final and scoring," Connelly said. "She's still learning how to race."

Junior Jennifer Handley and sophomore Megan Johnson will compete in the 5,000 meters. Handley already has reached the NCAA provisional mark, and is ranked 27th in the country with her March 29 time of 16:28.55.

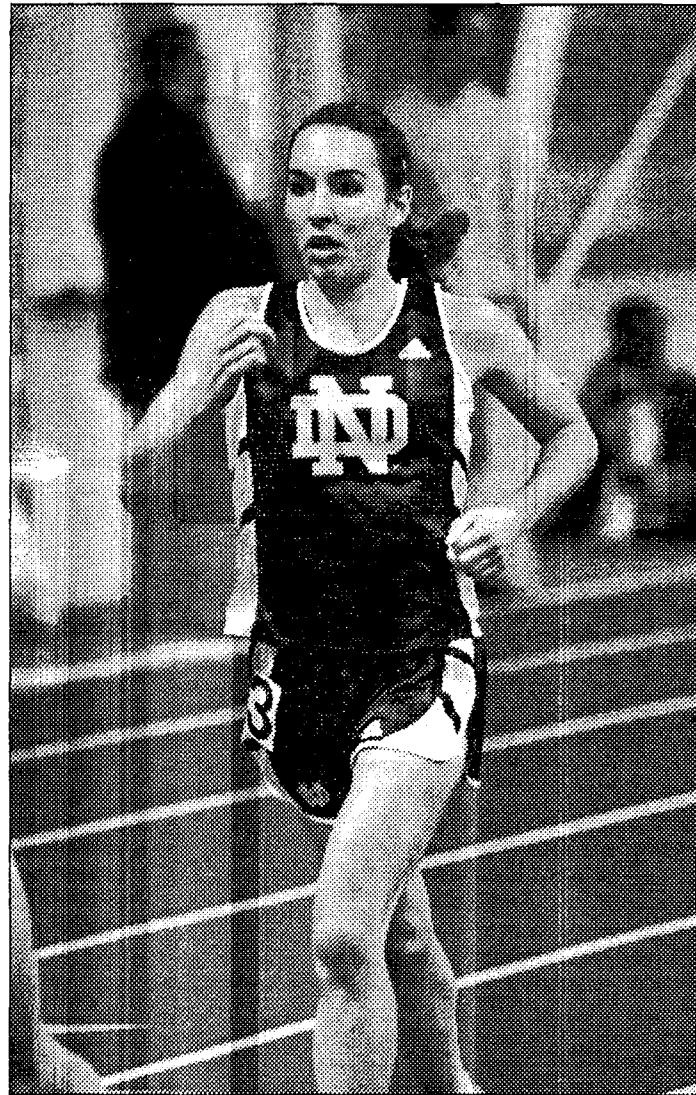
"Right now, Jen's going to have to run a little bit faster," Connelly said.

On the men's side, sophomore Kevin Somok and freshman Eric Morrison will compete in the 1,500 meters. Neither has reached an NCAA qualifying standard yet this year, so the Georgia Tech meet is meant as a sort of capstone to their seasons.

"What are their chances of qualifying for the NCAA's? To be candid, I don't think they're great," Piane said. "That's not our reason for going down there. Our reason for going down there is to try to get them to run faster."

Sophomore Todd Mobley also reached the provisionally qualifying standard in the 10,000 meters earlier this season at Stanford, but Mobley is ranked so low that neither he nor Piane anticipate he will making the cut. Mobley has already returned home to Michigan.

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BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Julie Schmidt runs at a recent Irish track meet. Members of the Notre Dame team will compete this weekend at Georgia Tech in order to earn NCAA qualifying times.



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Shay

continued from page 44

Central Lake High School in Northern Michigan. While he placed first at the state cross-country meet all four years and won seven state titles in track, Shay — whose graduating class numbered 26 — only competed against other small Class D schools.

"I think he felt that he had a lot to prove coming in as a freshman," said Irish head coach Joe Piane.

Something to prove

The first time Luke Watson and Pat Conway saw Shay run, the didn't exactly see a runner they would expect to become a captain by his junior season.

It was the 1997 National Catholic Invitational, Shay's first home meet of his collegiate career. Shay took it out hard from the start, leading the race by a wide margin from end to end. That was the way Shay always ran in high school, so he thought nothing of doing the same in college.

But some of the older Irish runners who weren't competing that day thought Shay should have stayed back and run with the other Notre Dame runners. And they yelled at him to do so throughout the race. Finally around the two-mile mark, Shay had had enough.

"I got upset and I just flipped them off," Shay explained. "It just happened that Pat Conway and Luke Watson were on their recruit visits that day standing next to those guys."

While Shay, who trained for the

10,000-meters in high school, was more than physically prepared for Notre Dame when he arrived that fall, his mental expectations were different.

"I thought as a runner, if you're running at the NCAA I level, you're there to run because you want to try to become like the elite," Shay said.

But not all of the Irish runners shared Shay's enthusiasm. They didn't go out as hard in practice. And some didn't seem to regard track and cross-country as priority No. 1, which irked Shay at first but he later came to understand.

"I realized that that's not the goal of everyone out there running, especially at a school like Notre Dame where athletes are coming here to get an education and their passion is maybe in their major, to get a job or whatever," Shay said.

Shay's frustration continued into his sophomore year. By that time the senior leaders from the cross-country team had graduated, and the team performed below Shay's expectations. Whereas Shay advanced to the NCAA Championship race with his team as a freshman, he had to qualify individually as a sophomore.

"We had no leadership on the team," Shay said. "The guys who were the leaders were seniors who already graduated and the seniors that year weren't really leadership material. I was still just a sophomore, I was still in that state where I was really individually focused."

By Shay's junior season, he knew that if the team was to perform at the level he expected, he had to take some of the leadership role upon himself.

"I realized that if I really want

to make a difference in this program, I can't just do it by example," Shay said. "You have to motivate other people, communicate with them, help them out. Let them feel like this is a team, like everyone counts."

It was a decision that helped the team, which returned to the NCAA Championships with the same core of runners as the previous year. And it was a change that ultimately helped Shay.

"When you're just thinking about what you need to do individually, you can get caught up in that too much," Shay said. "It's almost like you're putting too much pressure on yourself. When you spread that out amongst some of your teammates, it's less stress on you."

These days, Shay shares an apartment with teammates Watson, Nate Androlonis and Sean Zanderson. And he regards their friendship as one of his most important memories of Notre Dame.

"We feel comfortable communicating with each other, letting each other know what's going on in our lives," Shay said. "I'm always going to be there for them and they're always going to be there for me."

Leaving a legacy

When Shay started looking for a place to run in college, he looked for a mix of academics and athletics. Wake Forest, Tulane and Stanford were among the schools on his list. But Shay, who grew up with his friends and family cheering for Michigan and Michigan State, never thought about Notre Dame.

"I probably wouldn't have even considered Notre Dame if Coach Piane hadn't called me because I

wasn't a Notre Dame fan growing up," Shay said.

But when he arrived, Shay, who was coached by his father in high school, found that Piane's coaching philosophy differed greatly from that of his father, who had already helped four of Shay's older siblings earn college scholarships.

Shay wanted to go out hard and treat every lap in practice like it was the final turn at the Olympics. Piane was more cautious.

But working with Piane, whose athletes have earned All-America status 40 times in his 27 years at Notre Dame, soon began to pay off for Shay.

At the Big East Cross Country Championship in New York City during Shay's junior season, Keith Kelly of Providence took a dominating lead from the start. Shay wanted to catch up with him, but Piane kept urging Shay to stay back, counting on Kelly falling behind later.

On the final hill, Kelly — who won the NCAA Championship in cross-country a year later — did drop back, and Shay caught and passed him for his first and only first-place Big East finish.

"I think Coach Piane taught me that in my racing to be patient, that some races are tactical and its not always the best strategy to go right to the front as hard as you can from the start to finish," Shay said.

Junior year was also around the time when Shay started to become a student of the sport. He read books by various experts in distance running and soon was suggesting different workouts to Piane.

"At first he'd be like, 'Well okay, we'll do this workout, we'll see how you feel and if you want

to do more you can do more,'" Shay said.

As time went on, Piane began to work with Shay to adapt the team's workouts to those Shay designed for himself. Shay also began spending more and more time in Piane's office suggesting practices.

"Sometimes I have a hard time getting Ryan to leave the office," Piane said. "He's here as a lot. That's good, I would rather have that as a problem than trying to pull kids in."

"I think that's great to have a coach that will work with you like that and listen," Shay added. "A lot of coaches will be like, 'It's my way or no way, you have no input.' I'm just not that type of athlete, I like to have a hand in everything I do."

Piane also points out the difference Shay has made for the program in setting the bar for the team's younger athletes.

"I think it'll have a positive effect for years to come because the new kids are going to learn from the old kids, who learned from Ryan," Piane said.

After the NCAA Championships, Shay plans on pursuing a professional running career — hiring an agent and signing on with a shoe company to sponsor him. Whoever he signs with, he plans on heading to Chula Vista, Calif., and working out at the ARCO Olympic training center.

Piane, for one, is excited to see Shay compete at the next level, be in the 10,000-meters, or the marathon.

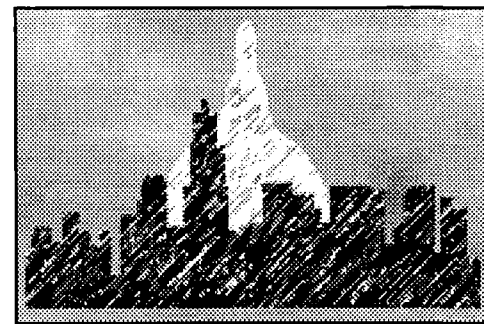
"Notre Dame should take great pride in this kid when he makes the Olympic team," Piane said.

Contact Noah Amstadter at amstadter.1@nd.edu.

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Miracle season concludes in Elite Eight loss

By CHRIS COLEMAN
Sports Writer

It was a miracle season for the Notre Dame women's lacrosse team. The Irish started the season ranked 17th and finished as one of the Elite Eight teams in the country at 13-5 and second in the Big East. In their first-ever NCAA tournament appearance, the seventh-ranked Irish defeated Ohio State 11-7 and then went on to face top-seeded Princeton.

While Princeton won the national quarterfinal contest it did not lessen the sense of pride that the senior led squad had.

"Our seniors have been the heart and soul of this team," head coach Trace Coyne told UND.com. "They've played a lot over the past four seasons and have gotten the program where it is today. ... They took a chance on us four years ago and along with the support the university has given us are responsible for getting us here today."

The seven seniors on this year's team — Maureen Henwood, Kate Scarola, Natalie Loftus, Maureen Whitaker, Tina Fedarcyk, Kathryn Lam and Alissa Moser — came into a program four years ago which had left club status only two years before. Since their arrival, the team has gone 36-25. They have proven they were the backbone of a team which would go on to a team best 13 victories.

Moser was a tri-captain and finished this year second in scoring with 27, moving up to fifth on the all-time scorers list. Loftus also had a career year,

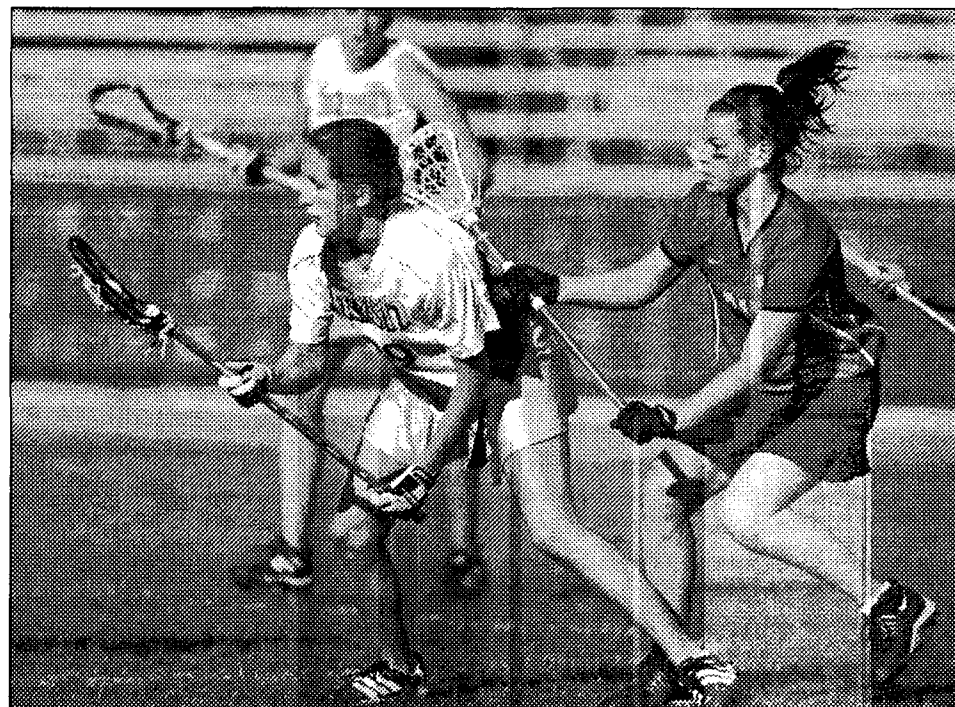
finishing second and third in points and goals.

The Irish defense was the team's strength and was consistently one of the best nationally thanks to captains Lam and Fedarcyk, along with Henwood. This threesome has started every game since arriving their freshman year and holds the 1-2-3 spots all time in groundballs. This year they only allowed an average of 7.3 goals per game.

The team rolled through the early part of the season, superbly regrouping after a sub par preseason weekend in Loyola. The women opened up by defeating Ohio 15-3 and then traveled to California and beat rival Stanford 10-5. After beating George Mason 10-8 the women opened up a five game homestand which started with a 14-5 smacking of Big East opponent Boston College.

Cornell had come in ready for 4-0 Notre Dame and opened up to a quick lead. The Irish struggled back but time ran out before the comeback was finished and the Irish lost by one goal, 10-9. It would not be the only heartbreak of the year. Delaware provided a bit of a challenge 9-7, but the Irish found their shot against Virginia Tech and sent the Hokies home losing 15-4.

At 6-1, Notre Dame faced the Syracuse Orangewomen, a Big East team they had never beaten. But Syracuse, picked to finish second in the division, looked a bit flat, and the Irish came out strong and finished the same to win 12-7. After beating Connecticut on the road, the team began the toughest part of the schedule — four ranked



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Defender Kassen Delano scoops up the ball during a first-round NCAA Tournament victory over Ohio State. The Irish lost to Princeton in the second round.

teams in 11 days.

The women lost another heartbreaker to Ohio State 12-11, and then had to come home to face the then sixth-seed Duke. In the tightest game of the year the girls again came from behind to push the game into overtime with 20 seconds left. In the third overtime, Duke snuck in a goal after Loftus' last attempt rang off the post. Pumped up after their third one goal loss the Irish came out and defeated Yale 11-8.

Georgetown, then ranked No. 2, proved to be too much for the Irish and for the first time, they lost a game by a large margin, 17-8. The 9-4 Irish picked up and destroyed Northwestern and Rutgers and beat Vanderbilt in overtime to finish the regular season 12-4 and second in the Big East.

Contact Chris Coleman at
ccolema1@nd.edu.

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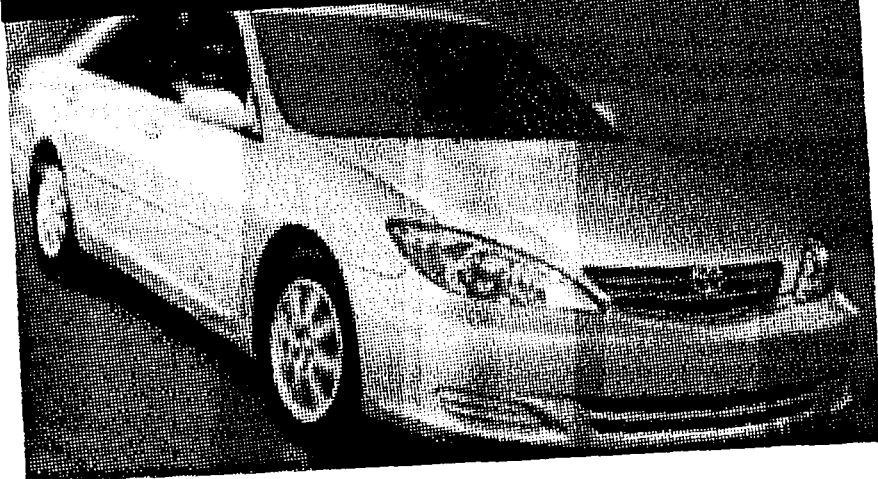


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ND SOFTBALL

Irish storm through end of regular season

♦ Irish rally to win Big East Tournament after losing first game

By CHRIS FEDERICO
Sports Editor

After a disappointing start to its 2002 season, the Notre Dame softball team has come on strong down the stretch of Big East play.

The Irish got off to a rocky start while facing one of the toughest slate of opponents they had ever seen. In the first 20 games, the Irish faced eight ranked opponents and went 8-12.

Since beginning Big East play, however, the Irish have been on fire, going 34-3 and pushing their season record up to 42-15.

During Big East play, Notre Dame knocked off fourth-ranked Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb., and captured the Big East regular season title by going 18-2 in conference play.

Last weekend, at the Big East tournament, the Irish again encountered some early troubles by dropping their first game to fourth-seeded Virginia Tech 8-3.

The usually solid Irish pitching struggled in that first game. Freshman Steffany Stenglein gave up three home runs in three innings before being replaced by classmate Carrie Wisen, who allowed another four runs over her four innings pitched.

"My pitches really weren't moving that day, so that allowed their hitters to be more effective," Stenglein said. "I don't know what my problem was that day. I just couldn't get the movement I usually do."

With the first-game loss, the Irish realized they would have to win the next four games to avoid elimination and win the tournament.

"Losing that first game wasn't exactly the path we wanted to take, but we knew we had the ability to win four straight," catcher Jarrah Myers said.

The Irish warded off elimination by Syracuse in the second day of play on the strength of three home runs from third baseman Andrea Loman, Myers and right fielder Megan Ciolli. Ciolli's long ball came in the last inning with a tie score to put the Irish on top.

In their next game that day the Irish again stood on the brink of elimination. Down 4-3 in the last inning against Villanova, Notre Dame rallied with an RBI single from Loman and an insurance RBI double from shortstop Andria

Bledsoe.

On the last day of the tournament, the Irish again faced Virginia Tech, and had to defeat the Hokies twice to win the title. In the doubleheader, the pair of freshman Irish pitchers demonstrated the command on the mound they had shown most of the season. Stenglein pitched 10.2 innings in the doubleheader and allowed two runs while picking up the two wins. Wisen came in to earn the saves in both games, contributing 3.1 innings of scoreless work.

"Coach Gumpf and [catcher] Jarrah [Myers] really helped me out," Stenglein said. "They

"Coach Gumpf and Jarrah [Myers] really helped me out. They helped me to be more mentally and physically prepared. I mixed my pitches up more in those games to keep their hitters more confused and off-balance."

Steffanie Stenglein
pitcher

helped me to be more mentally and physically prepared. I mixed my pitches up more in those games to keep their hitters more confused and off-balance."

The victory earned the Irish an automatic bid to the N C A A T o u r n a -

ment. Notre Dame was awarded a third seed in the Region VII bracket in Iowa City, Iowa.

The Irish faced regional-host Iowa in their first game. The Hawkeyes defeated the Irish twice last year in the same venue to knock them out of the tournament.

"[Playing Iowa again] worked out very nicely," Myers said. "I think we just need to show up, relax and

play. We are very capable of beating them because I think that we are a better team. We also have the revenge factor which doesn't hurt."

Other teams in that bracket included three previous Irish opponents: top-seeded and No. 7 Nebraska, second-seeded and No. 15 Oregon State, fourth-seeded and No. 22 Iowa and sixth-seeded Illinois-Chicago. Wisconsin is the fifth seed in the bracket.

The first day of play at Iowa was Thursday.

The games were completed after The Observer went to press.

Notes:

♦ Senior catcher Jarrah Myers became the fourth Irish player to earn the Big East Player of the Year award during the Big East Tournament weekend. She led the conference in batting average, home runs, runs scored, RBI, on-base percentage and slugging percentage.

Myers also was the only unanimous pick for the all-Big East first team.

♦ First-year Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf and her staff — Charmelle Green, Kris McCleary and Bill Roggeman — claimed the second consecutive coaching staff of the year award for the Notre Dame.

♦ The Irish dominated the all-Big East first-team list, landing seven players on the squad. Myers joined teammates Bledsoe, Loman, Lisa Mattison, Jenny Kriech, Ciolli and Stenglein in earning the honors. Ciolli, Stenglein and Wisen also were named to the all-rookie team.



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Third baseman Andrea Loman makes a throw during a recent Irish game against Oakland. After losing their first game, the Irish rallied to win the Big East Tournament.

Contact Chris Federico at
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Myers

continued from page 44

dropped both games to Iowa and saw their chance at earning the school's first trip to the College World Series vanish.

Myers knows the team under-achieved in the postseason.

"There was no reason why we shouldn't have won last year," Myers said. "It's not always talent. There are a lot of other things when it came down to it. We just couldn't get it done as a team."

After former head coach Liz Miller retired after eight seasons at Notre Dame, Myers and fellow captains Jenny Kriech and Kas Hoag knew they needed to make the transition as easy as possible for new head coach Deanna Gumpf.

"I think the other two senior

captains and I really tried to go out there and lead through actions and creating an intense, but fun environment," Myers said. "That was pretty easy with the freshmen. It's been easy to lead this year since we haven't had any problems."

Smooth Transition

Gumpf was the Irish pitching coach for four seasons before taking over as head coach on July 3, 2001. With a leader like Myers on the team, Gumpf's job was easier.

"Having Jarrah as one of my seniors is like a dream come true with this being my first year," Gumpf said. "The seniors, including Jarrah, made the transition very easy."

Showing confidence in her catcher, Gumpf lets Myers call her own pitches.

"I don't think it's much different from what Deanna

would do since I learned the strategy from her," Myers said. "This [past] summer I called my own games. I think it helps out my coach to make her job easier. I still look over at her to get some suggestions."

Myers is having the best season of her career. Starting every one of Notre Dame's 52 regular season games, Myers led the team with 45 runs scored, 11 home runs and 28 walks. She was second on the team with a .384 batting average and 14 stolen bases.

"Offensively, I haven't seen a better catcher than her. She is unbelievable," Irish pitcher Steffany Stenglein said. "Defensively, there is no college player I would have rather as my catcher. I have total complete confidence. She'll block everything I throw up there."

Myers has also helped make the transition to the college game much easier for Stenglein.

"Jarrah has helped me out tremendously," the freshman pitcher said. "Anything there is to know about pitching, Jarrah knows. She's helped me with my fundamentals, what to

pitch, like anything there is, whatever she tells me I try to figure out and make it work."

Enjoy the Ride

Playing four full seasons for the Irish, Myers has also made her mark on the career records.

Against Virginia Tech on April 20, Myers hit three home runs and broke the Notre Dame record for career home-runs. After the regular season, Myers had 34 homers, but she doesn't think that mark will stand for long.

"I look at the girls younger than me and they are going to crush it, and I hope they do," Myers said. "They should be better than me when they get to my age. I think it is kind of neat to be in the record books."

For her career, Myers is the Notre Dame all-time leader in RBIs, walks and putouts. And

she will almost assuredly break the most games played record in postseason action.

Myers is second on the all-time list in runs scored, third in batting average and stolen bases, fourth in at-bats and fifth in hits.

But despite all of her on-field statistical records, Myers takes the most pride in an accomplishment she earned off the field.

"[My favorite is the] first-team Academic All-American. That just shows [the reason] I came here was for the academics," Myers said about the award she won in 2001. "To be able to achieve a little bit in softball and achieve even greater in academics, that's really what matters. That's what I will remember in 20 years. I won't remember any of the other personal awards."

After playing softball for more than 15 years, Myers has enjoyed the numerous parts of her journey.

"It's been a ride. I have come in contact with many great people who have each shaped my life in a weird way that I probably don't even know," Myers said. "From being a little kid playing, to having bad coaches, to having awesome coaches at the collegiate level, and then at the USA camp and the players I have come in contact with."

Myers intends to pursue a graduate degree in forensic science and possibly work in the FBI. She is looking to take a year off and do some research at Yale before hitting the books again.

For the second consecutive summer, Myers has been selected to participate in a team camp for USA softball. However, her original dream of playing in the Olympics has changed.

"It always used to be a goal [to play in the Olympics]. I don't even know if I want to go back to the camp, but I probably will," Myers said. "I am at the point of my life where I am ready to have a real life — have spare time, meet new people, go off to grad school or get a job."

Like her nearly 2000 classmates, the senior appears ready to move on. But she still doesn't want to pass up the opportunity for an experience of a lifetime.


"I don't need softball anymore to go where I need to go. It's something I still really love, to play. To turn down a shot to make an Olympic team, I am afraid I would regret it if I didn't do it. I will probably end up going to camp and trying."

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu.

"I think the other two senior captains and I really tried to go out there and lead ..."

Jarrah Myers
catcher

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Wisconsin badgers its way to a victory

By COLIN BOYLAN
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's tennis team saw its turbulent season come to an end last Saturday with a 4-2 loss to the Wisconsin Badgers in the first round of the NCAA playoffs.

The loss dropped the team's final record to 14-14, and while the .500 winning percentage may have been mediocre by Irish standards, their gritty performances in most matches this season were anything but average.

"I'm really proud of how hard this team has fought this year," Irish coach Jay Louderback said prior to the NCAA tourneys. "We've had some key injuries this season, but we've always played through them."

Indeed, the season started out on a disappointing note when starter Caylan Leslie saw herself sidelined for the year by shoulder problems. The injury robbed the team of its No. 4 singles player and forced freshman Sarah Jane



Louderback

Connelly into a starting role for the duration of the year.

Connelly handled the move in stride, and the team jumped out to a couple of early wins. Most notable among these early season performances was the team's 5-2 victory against top-ten opponent USC in the USTA National Team Indoors Championships.

Senior Nina Vaughan and sophomore Alicia Salas provided fuel for the victory by winning their doubles match and proceeding to score impressive singles wins against Luana Magnani and Tiffany Brymer.

Unfortunately for the Irish, that match would stand as the high-water mark of the season rather than an indication of things to come.

In their next three matches, all against top 10 opponents, the Irish were defeated convincingly by Vanderbilt, North Carolina and Tennessee. The lone bright spot during this stretch was Salas, who continued her torrid streak, winning her singles matches in all three of the contests and extending her winning streak to eleven.

At this point in the season, the Irish sat at 4-5 and were looking for a spark to turn things around. Seniors Becky Varnum, Lindsey Green and Vaughan provided that spark

by stepping up their games and combining to go 13-2 in singles matches against the next five opponents.

Their performances were enough to ignite a six-match winning streak and turn around a season that looked to be on the brink of collapse.

However, the most difficult part of the schedule still loomed on the horizon with a three-match road stretch against top ten teams Duke, North Carolina and Wake Forest.

At 10-5, the Irish may have found themselves looking ahead to those teams, as they dropped the ball in a couple of surprising losses to San Diego State and Purdue.

"I don't think we were looking ahead, we just didn't come prepared to play against those teams," Louderback said at the time.

After briefly righting the ship with a 4-3 win against Illinois, the team traveled to North Carolina for an Easter weekend showdown against its top opponents.

Louderback juggled the dou-

bles lineups in hopes of increased doubles success and the move almost paid off. Even though the Irish lost the crucial doubles point, they stormed back in singles to tie the match 3-3 before the Demons' Karin Coetzee topped junior Katie Cunha in the deciding singles contest.

The Irish could not translate this close call into success later in the weekend, however. Both the Tar Heels and Blue Devils handed the Irish 6-1 losses.

A large home crowd and the emotional advantage allowed

the Irish to score an important Big East victory against Miami only days later. The match was designated "Ace for the Cure," in honor of Cunha's

mother who has been afflicted with colon cancer for almost a year.

As hundreds of fans came to support the event, Cunha fittingly won the clinching match to assure the team a No. 1 seed in the Big East tournament.

At the end of the regular

season, the Irish had attained a 13-12 record and were setting their sights on the Big East Championships.

Under the intense sun in Coral Gables, Fla., the team easily disposed of Boston College before running into a brick wall against Miami. Aside from winning the doubles point, the team looked flat and failed to capture a singles match in the 4-1 loss.

Louderback suggested that the low 90s heat may have had a negative impact on the Irish players, but was quick to point out that Miami was a very tough opponent.

Seniors Varnum, Green and Vaughan played tough all season and withstood the pressure of playing in the 1-3 singles spots.

Moreover, the play of underclassmen gives hope for an improved showing next year. Salas' spectacular year saw her easily top 20 wins, while Cunha and Connelly proved capable of handling the pressure in tough match situations.

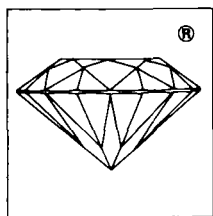
And the expected return of Leslie next season combined with a solid recruiting class makes the future pretty bright for the Irish.

Contact Colin Boylan at
cboylan@nd.edu.

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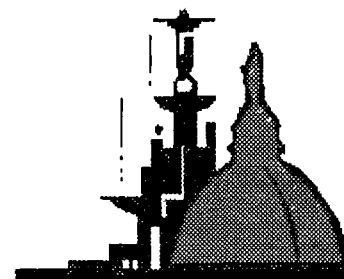
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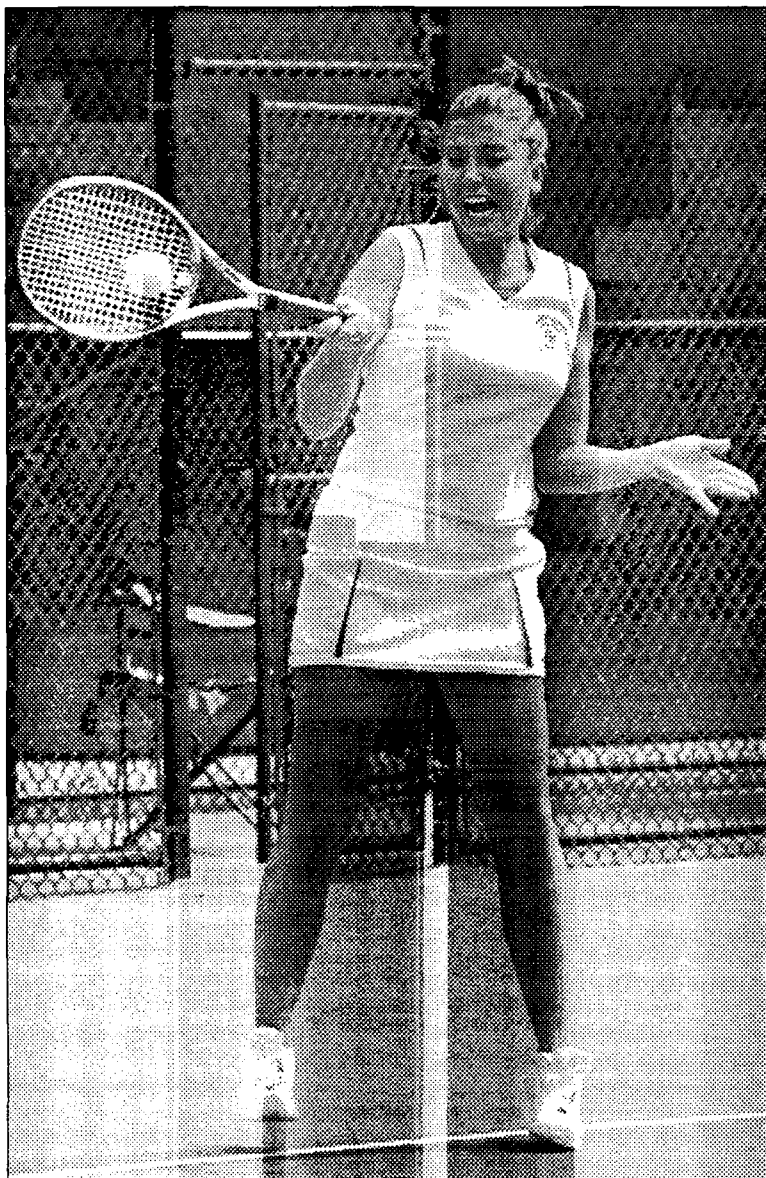
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SMC TENNIS

Serving up a new chapter in history



Sophomore Jeannie Knish bats back a ball during the first round of the NCAA Tournament. The Belles first trip to the tournament ended in a first-round loss.

NOREEN GILLESPIE/The Observer

◆ Belles make first trip to NCAA tournament, but fall in first round

By NOREEN GILLESPIE
Senior Staff Writer

ST. LOUIS

The national stage proved harder than conference competition for the Belles tennis team, which fell in the first round of the NCAA Division III Tennis tournament last weekend.

Saint Mary's earned its bid for the national tournament after clinching its second consecutive MIAA title earlier this month. The team, which won the first conference title in school history in 2001, is also the first team from Saint Mary's to qualify for any NCAA tournament.

But the national tournament wasn't as kind to the Belles as the conference championship, as they struggled from the onset of competition, losing to Denison University 7-2.

"Obviously, I'm not pleased," said Saint Mary's head coach Dee Stevenson. "I like to win. We didn't come here to lose."

The No. 2 doubles team of Kaitlin Cutler and Elisa Ryan won the first match of the day for Saint Mary's, defeating Allison Lesnett and Kristen Hanto 8-1. Ryan also walked away with a victory in the singles competition, when Hanto deferred after the third

set.

"We would have liked to walk away with a 'W,'" said senior Annie Knish, who dropped both No. 1 singles and doubles matches in the competition. "I think we all wanted to advance to the second round."

Denison, ranked 19th nationally, fell 7-2 in the second round of the tournament Saturday to Washington University, who will advance to the final round of national competition this weekend.

But while the Belles left the court without a victory, they couldn't erase the euphoria of being the first team from the school to compete in the national tournament.

For senior Knish, she remembered laughing at Stevenson three years ago when he said making it to the tournament was his goal. At his first practice, Stevenson took out a list and read to the team three goals: beat Hope, win conference, and make it to the NCAA tournament. For a team that hadn't yet beat MIAA powerhouse Hope, those goals seemed far off.

The Belles secured the nomination following the second conference title, but a berth in the tournament was never a guarantee during the season.

The Belles defeated two Division I schools at the Midwest Invitational earlier in the season, and that may have propelled them into the national spotlight.

"We got in there and proved

we really belonged," Stevenson said. "I think we caught a few people's eyes."

Still, there is no exact science to the nominations, and the Belles could only sit back and wait after winning the MIAA crown.

Stevenson found out one day after the MIAA tournament, and the team announced their nomination at a school pep rally last Monday.

"I knew we had a chance," Stevenson said. "It's a political decision, so you can never be quite sure. But I knew we had a shot to get the invite before I got the call."

"Obviously I'm not pleased. I like to win. We didn't come here to lose."

Dee Stevenson
head coach

"I'm thrilled with the way the team has progressed," Knish said. "Coming in my freshman year, we had an okay team, but didn't place that high in conference. This is a great note to end on."

While Knish will graduate Saturday, sister Jeannie Knish, Kaitlin Cutler, Kris Spriggle, Elise Ryan and Angela Sander and hope to make a return trip to the tournament next year, and Stevenson will work on recruiting Division I-caliber players well into the summer, he said.

"We're happy to be here, to represent the school," Stevenson said. "It's something to build on for the future."

Contact Noreen Gillespie at
gill0843@saintmarys.edu.

The Notre Dame chapter of Phi Beta Kappa congratulates and welcomes its new members of the class of 2002

Mr. Dominic Steven Angiollo
Mr. Alejandro Aquino
Mr. Anthony John Baldea
Mr. Matthew Leonard Barron
Ms. Jennifer Ann Betz
Ms. Rachel Anne Biber
Ms. Kristen Aileen Bitterly
Ms. Kimberly Ann Blackwell
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2001 IN REVIEW

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The Observer looks back on Notre Dame and Saint Mary's fall sports seasons

Friday, May 17, 2002

Observer Staff Report

Men's Soccer

With a new coach and one of its best incoming freshman classes in recent history, the Irish set out to reach the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1996.

And they delivered. After starting the season 1-2, the Irish cruised through the regular season by winning 11 of its last 14 games en route to a 12-5 regular season. Notre Dame concluded its Big East season with a 7-3 record, qualifying them for second place in the Big East — its highest finish ever — and earning a first-round bye in the postseason tournament.

A 1-0 win over Georgetown in the Big East quarterfinals earned the Irish its first spot in the Big East semifinals in four years. Unfortunately, the Irish fell in the semifinals to St. John's.

That same week, new Irish coach Bobby Clark was named Big East Coach of the Year.

After the Big East tournament, it was announced that the Irish qualified for the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1996. In a hard-fought defensive battle with Maryland in the first round, the Irish succumbed to a Terrapin goal with 1:41 left in regulation, dealing the Irish a heartbreaking 1-0 loss.

- Bryan Kronk

ND Women's Soccer

The 2001 season was a difficult year for the Notre Dame women's soccer team as the Irish failed to duplicate the success of the 2000 squad that reached the Final Four.

The underdog Cincinnati Bearcats upset this year's edition of the Irish in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Head coach Randy Waldrum's team finished 17-3-1 on the season.

Defense was the trademark of the 2001 campaign as the Irish gave up only 18 goals in 21 games. Offensively, sophomore Amanda Guertin led the Irish in scoring with 14 goals and 6 assists. Defender Candace Chapman was named to the freshman All-American team, while junior Vanessa Pruzinsky was

named an Academic All-American for the second straight year.

- Joe Licandro

SMC Soccer

It was a season that was promising. It was a season that offered hope for improvement. It was a season that could have been the first step on the ladder to national prominence. But ultimately, it was a season that ended in near-despair.

In February, the Belles soccer team, a team that was hopeful that it would finally move from the bottom of the MIAA to national prominence, watched its hopes fly away on the same plane head coach Bobby Johnston to his new job in Tampa, Fla.

Johnston had led his team to the best finish in recent history, even if that finish only included six wins.

The first-year head coach led his team to a seventh place finish in the MIAA, just one game behind league rival Hope.

But then he left.

"I do have to make a living in this profession," he said.

Due to financial reasons, Johnston accepted a full-time head-coaching position at the University of Tampa.

- Katie McVoy

ND Volleyball

It was a season of personal accolades and conference success for the Notre Dame volleyball team before head coach Debbie Brown's team fell to Michigan State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Irish ended the season with an impressive 22-7 record, which included an undefeated Big East regular season and the team's seventh Big East Tournament Championship. The Irish, however, struggled against ranked opponents throughout the season, falling to Florida, Northern Iowa, UCLA, Nebraska and Pepperdine.

Senior middle blocker Malinda Goralski was named Big East Player of the year. Before the season, senior Kristy Kreher was named Preseason Big East Player of the Year.

The team's undefeated conference record earned Brown Big

East Coach of the Year honors, while sophomore setter Kristen Kinder was named Big East Setter of the Year.

- Noah Amstadter

SMC Volleyball

Last year, the Belles managed a seventh place finish, and they finished as high as third in 1997. But with only one victory this year, eighth was where the Belles found themselves.

It was a tough end to a tough season for the Belles volleyball team. After a season of hard-fought, losing battles, Saint Mary's found itself in the basement of the MIAA — a place they hadn't been since they joined the MIAA. In their last game of the year — a first-round playoff game against the Alma Scots — the Belles finally came together as a team, but it happened too late.

"We played better as a team than we have played probably all season," said head coach Julie Schroeder-Biek. "Alma was good competition for us and I felt like we finished the season with our heads held high."

- Katie McVoy

Men's Cross Country

After the Irish took home the Big East title on Oct. 26 by narrowly beating out Villanova, 52-49, senior Ryan Shay, referring to his teammates, said, "Those guys definitely know how to step it up ... and [they] weren't going to let anything deter them from winning." All season the Irish asserted their individual strength and combined depth.

Ranked No. 4 going into the national meet, the Irish had hoped the return of Ryan Shay, who had been suffering from an injured Achilles, and senior Pat Conway, who had been battling a chest cold, would be enough to upset Colorado and Stanford.

Luke Watson and Shay's finishes in the NCAA meet earned them All-America Honors. It marked the second straight All-America honor in cross country for Watson, who finished seventh individually in 2000. It also was Shay's second All-America recognition, after he finished 12th in 1999. Watson's NCAA finish marked the highest by an Irish runner since Bill Clark took second in 1964.

- Katie Hughes

ND Women's Cross Country

The Irish started the season missing four seniors, but freshman Lauren King, juniors Jen Handley and Jen Fibuch and sophomore Megan Johnson stepped up and led the team to exceed early expectations.

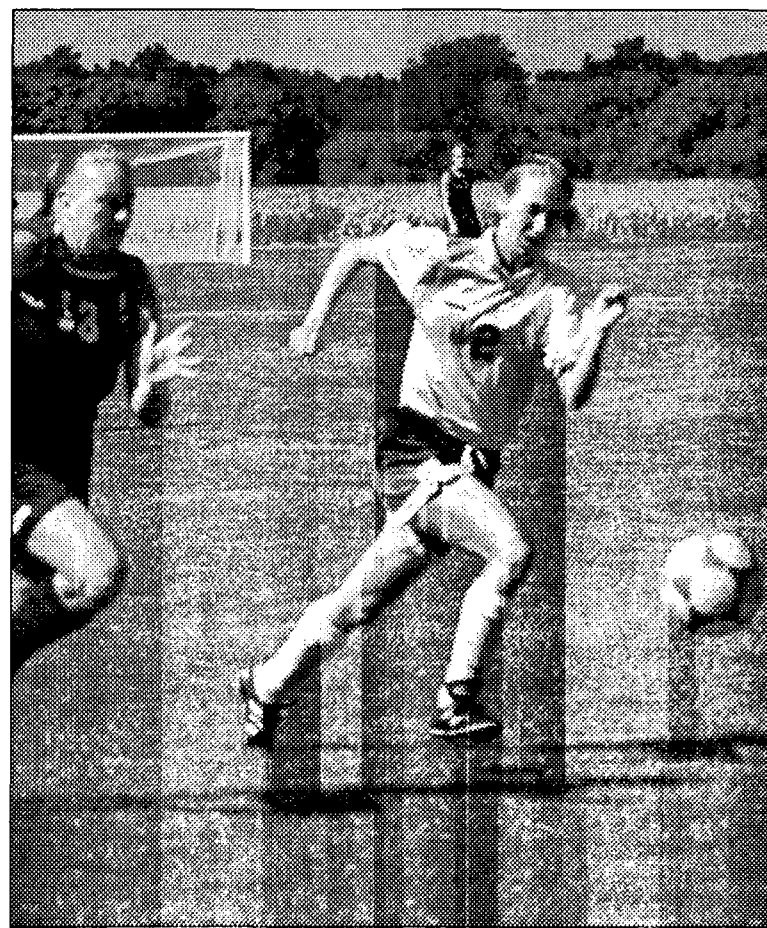
King, Handley, junior Jen Fibuch and sophomore Megan Johnson were the consistent core at the head of the pack for the Irish, though they didn't start competing in the first few meets.

The Irish went on to qualify for the NCAA National Championship, which they had failed to do the year before. They had started the season unranked, and finished a respectable 19th in the national meet in Greenville, S.C. King took home All-American honors after finishing 23rd. Handley finished in 101st place and Johnson finished right behind her. Jennifer Fibuch and Christi Arnerich wrapped up the top five Irish runners.

- Katie McVoy

SMC Cross Country

The Saint Mary's cross country team got stuck in the mud. After finishing in seventh place in the



CHRISTINA REITANO/The Observer

Head soccer coach Bobby Johnston resigned following his first season. The Belles doubled their number of wins under him.

MIAA Jamboree, they had their hopes set high for the MIAA Tournament. But conditions were cold, wet and muddy and the Belles found themselves without three of their top runners. Despite the fact that their seventh place finish was a far cry from victory, they were still proud of the season-ending performance.

"Considering we were missing three of our top seven [runners], I think we did really well," head coach David Barstis said. "I think we could have beat [sixth place finisher Adrian and fourth place finisher Alma] had it been a good day weather-wise and if we had our top seven. We were prepared."

- Katie McVoy

Men's Golf

The 2001-2002 golf season was an educational one for the Notre Dame men. With an inexperienced squad consisting in part of three freshmen and first year head coach John Jasinski, the team had low expectations and treated the spring as a learning process, preparing for future successes while forsaking present glories.

While the team's inconsistent play generally reflected its lack of experience, senior captain Steve Ratay quietly put together the best single season in school history, shooting a glittering 73.03 average.

While Ratay was consistently great, his young teammates were consistently inconsistent. At their best, freshmen K.C. Wiseman, Ryan Marshall and Steve Colnitis demonstrated that they could compete with almost anyone. However, when off their games, the talented trio couldn't compete at all. Too often, bad rounds would become atrocious rounds and scores would spiral into the 80s, an unacceptable level in college golf.

- Kevin Berchou

ND Women's Golf

A season that began last fall with great expectations ended in late April with a rainout and disappointment.

But the Notre Dame women's golf team has minimal regrets from its first season under head coach Debby King, the program's first full-time coach.

In one particular tournament, everyone on the team seemed to be able to play well at once. The Irish finished second at the Snowbird Invitational in Florida over Spring Break, with Lotta finishing fifth after shooting rounds of 77 and 73 on the par 72, 5,940-yard Pebblecreek Golf Course. McMurtrie, junior Terri Taibl and Byrne each finished tied for eighth, 13th and 25th, respectively.

Notre Dame's last tournament was rained out, leaving the Irish tied for 9th place.

- Joe Lindsley

SMC Golf

It was a bittersweet end to two successful seasons. At the end of their fall season, the Belles took home a disappointing third place finish on their home course in the MIAA Championship tournament. But worse than that, at the end of their spring season the Belles had to say goodbye to their coach.

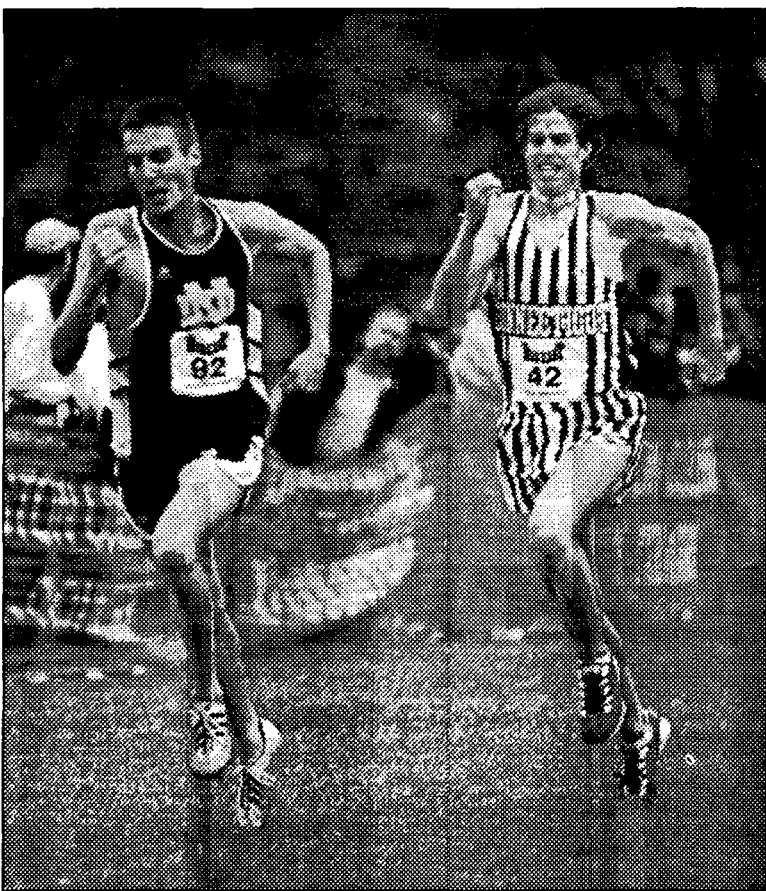
"I wasn't expecting it," said freshman Stefanie Simmerman. "I thought it would be a given that she would be here for all four years, but I realize family priorities came up."

Under Teresa Pekarek's leadership, the Belles took home a third place finish in the MIAA following a championship tournament at Brookwood golf course on Sept. 28. They began the season by taking home a first-place finish at an MIAA tournament at Hope. But at the end of the fall season, despite the disappointment, Saint Mary's had high hopes.

But they'll have to carry those threats without Pekarek, the coach who launched Saint Mary's golf program.

On March 28, Pekarek announced that she would not be returning for the fall season, citing family reasons and the fact that she just didn't have enough time to give to a team that was moving forward.

- Katie McVoy



ERNESTO LACAYO/The Observer

The Irish cross country team took home a Big East title and finished sixth at the national meet.

2002 IN REVIEW

Friday, May 17, 2002

The Observer looks back on Notre Dame and Saint Mary's winter and spring seasons

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Observer Staff Report

Men's Swimming

They didn't get the second-place finish they were hoping for at the Big East Championships, but the men's swimming and diving team was satisfied with its performance.

Rallying from sixth place during the three-day competition, the Irish wrapped up their season in Uniondale, N.Y., with a fourth place overall finish.

"We got faster and scored more points, we just stayed in the same place. It's clearly a sign of how much improvement is taking place throughout the Big East Conference," said Irish head coach Tim Welsh after the competition. "We are getting better and so is the meet."

Irish senior co-captain Jonathan Pierce set a Notre Dame school record in the 400-yard individual medley at the meet, lowering the mark to 3 minutes, 56.34 seconds. Pierce also placed high in the distance events at the meet, earning a fifth place finish in both the 1,650-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle.

"It will be hard to replace great swimmers like Jonathan Pierce, but we have a lot of youth in this team," said sophomore distance swimmer J.R. Teddy at the meet. "This was a growing experience for us."

- Noreen Gillespie

ND Women's Swimming

The Irish again established their dominance in the Big East in February, collecting their sixth consecutive conference championship.

The team, which graduates eight seniors this weekend, secured the championship by more than 275 points ahead of second-place Rutgers.

"It feels pretty good," said Irish head coach Bailey Weathers after the meet. Weathers also won his fifth Big East Coach of the Year award at the championship.

It was the stroke specialists who propelled the Irish to the top of the podium at the Goodwill Games Aquatic Center in Uniondale, N.Y. The backstrokers were the powerhouses of the weekend, with senior Kelly Hecking, sophomore Danielle Hulick and freshman Kristen Peterson capturing the top three places in both the 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke.

Notre Dame, also undefeated in the dual meet season, sent seven athletes to the NCAA Championships in Austin, Texas, in March. Senior diver Heather Mattingly and senior sprinter Carrie Nixon earned individual All-America accolades at the meet, where the team placed 19th overall.

- Noreen Gillespie

SMC Swimming

The Belles made a major move this season, a move from being a nameless team into a team that is a real threat to the MIAA. Last season, the Belles finished at the bottom of the pack — last place in the MIAA. This season they moved up to fifth and are looking to finish next season in the top three.

"I think a few more divers and a few more swimmers next year and we'll be right there with everyone else," said junior Lauren Smith. "... Anything can happen next year. Everyone's working really hard and I think our team will prove [that we can compete]."

Saint Mary's ended the three-day MIAA conference meet with eight top 12 finishers, four who finished in the top six. The strong third-day finish left an impression on the MIAA.

"Especially on the third day, I had so many coaches come up and say, 'Wow, what a day you had,'" said head coach Greg Petcoff.

- Katie McVoy

Fencing

Despite a strong start by the women's side, the Notre Dame fencing team finished third at the NCAA Championships for the second straight year. The third-place finish marked head coach Yves Auriol's seventh — and last — top five finish since taking over as head coach of both the women and men in 1996. The Irish coach retired after the tournament.

Although the third place finish was disappointing for a team that expected to win the national championship, several individuals turned in strong finishes. The women's foil team won 45 of 46 bouts. The only loss came when undefeated freshman Alicja Kryczalo beat her teammate, freshman Andrea Ament. Kryczalo beat Ament again in the finals to win the individual foil championship.

Sophomore Kerry Walton also

won an individual title as she won the women's epee title.

Senior Carianne McCullough closed her career by earning third team All-American honors for the first time in her career.

On the men's side, only junior Ozren Debic was named a first team All-American. Junior Jan Viviani, freshman Derek Snyder and senior Andre Crompton earned second team honors.

- Mike Connolly

Hockey

After starting out the season a disastrous 1-5-2, the Notre Dame men's hockey team finally found its groove with a productive December and January and a five-game winning streak to end the regular season.

The turning point of the season came after a two-game sweep by Alaska-Fairbanks in early February. The Irish lost consecutive games, 7-5 and 6-5. Irish head coach Dave Poulin was not happy with the defensive effort.

The week after the Fairbanks sweep, the Irish changed up their defensive scheme. The scheme worked and Notre Dame ended up finishing eighth in the CCHA and qualifying for the CCHA post-season.

In the first round of the best-of-three series, the Irish were paired up against the Nebraska-Omaha Mavericks.

The Irish drew Northern Michigan in the semifinals. Although they lost that game 3-1 to end their season, it didn't take away from a great season.

- Matt Orenchuk

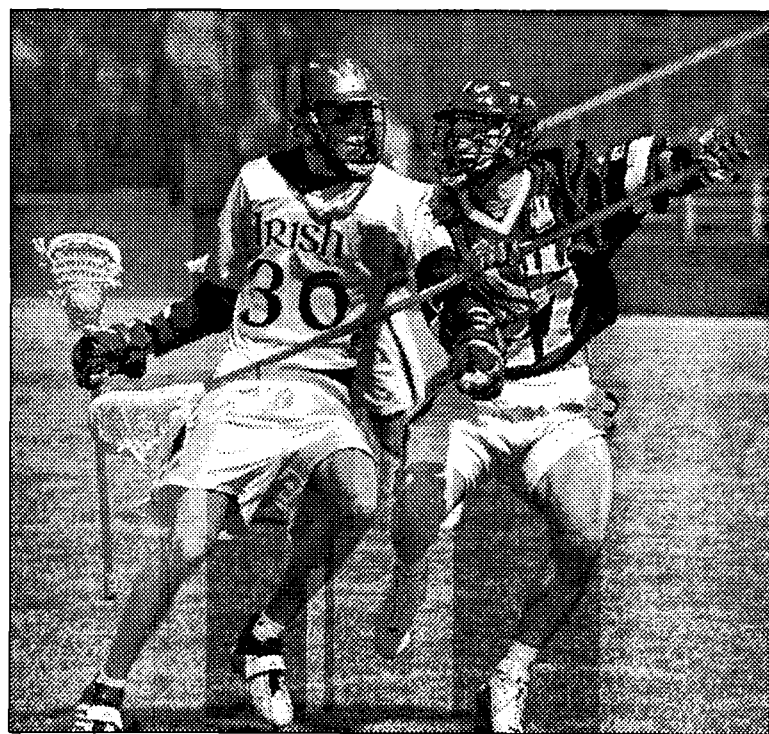
SMC Basketball

The last two games of the 2001-2002 season summed up the kind of team that the Saint Mary's basketball team had become over the year.

After losing by 23 points to rival Kalamazoo two weeks earlier, the Belles used a 37-24 second half scoring advantage to pull off the stunning 66-53 upset in their last regular season game at home. Two days later Saint Mary's nearly upended another opponent, before losing 62-54 in the first round of the MIAA tournament against Adrian College.

The Belles battled through injuries to key players, players quitting the team and a tough MIAA schedule to play their best basketball at the end of the year.

"We went through a lot of obstacles, team issues with differ-



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

The Notre Dame men's lacrosse team, which reached the Final Four last season, finished 6-8 during a rebuilding year.

ent things and just basketball in general, but I think we overcame it all and came together well as a team," three-year captain Anne Blair said. "We kept on building on the ladder that Saint Mary's basketball is trying to reach."

- Joe Hettler

Rowing

A strong spring season for the Notre Dame women's rowing team should provide a springboard at this weekend's Central Region Championships at Milton Hill Lake in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

The meet is one of the most important of the year for Notre Dame as some of the best teams in the nation compete with the 14th-ranked Irish to earn an invitation to the NCAA Championships, held from May 31 to June 2 in Indianapolis.

The spring season began with a bang for the Irish in Knoxville, Tenn., where Notre Dame took four of five races from the Volunteers.

Later in the season, the Irish first varsity eight competed in the San Diego Crew Classic and held their own against some of the best squads in the nation.

Notre Dame ended the two-day meet in fifth place behind top-ranked Washington, No. 3 Ohio State, No. 11 California and No. 13 Stanford. The weekend included race victories over No. 6 Virginia, No. 9 USC, No. 14 Texas and No. 19 Oregon State.

In the Big East Rowing Challenge over the last weekend of April, the Irish fell just short of then 13th-ranked Syracuse to take second place in the meet. Notre Dame won one event as the varsity four crew of coxswain Kathryn Long, Sarah Keefer, Kati Sedun, Elizabeth Specht and Maureen Carr finished five and a half seconds ahead of Syracuse's first boat.

The field at the Central Region Championships this weekend will be another tough competition for the Irish as it includes five teams in the national top 20 — No. 3 Ohio State, No. 5 Michigan, No. 11 Michigan State, No. 20 Duke and No. 14 Notre Dame. In total, 19 teams are competing this weekend including, Texas, Wisconsin, Clemson, Cincinnati, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kansas State, Miami, Minnesota, Murray State, North Carolina, SMU, Tennessee and Tulsa.

Racing begins Saturday at 9:15 a.m.

- Chris Federico

Men's Lacrosse

The 2002 season for the men's lacrosse team was a rebuilding campaign as the squad struggled to replace the departure of eight starters from a team that reached the NCAA Final Four only a year ago.

This year's team, comprised predominantly of freshmen and sophomores, finished with a modest 6-8 record. Four of Notre Dame's losses were heartbreaking one-goal setbacks.

Sophomore Dan Berger led the team in scoring with 20 goals while senior captain John Flandina paced the Irish with a team-high 14 assists. Both players tied for the team lead in points with 24.

Although the Irish failed to recapture the Great Western Lacrosse League title and return to the NCAA Tournament, the future looks bright with the Irish losing only four starters from this year's team. Next season will mark the first year that Notre Dame will offer scholarships in men's lacrosse.

- Joe Licandro

SMC Softball

The Belles softball season may have looked like it was canceled. In a one-week period during which the Belles were supposed to play six games, all six were either canceled or rescheduled.

Despite the cancellations, the Belles managed an 8-15 overall record, although their 3-11 MIAA record left them in seventh place in the league.

The Belles won their final game of the season, defeating Ancilla 6-2.

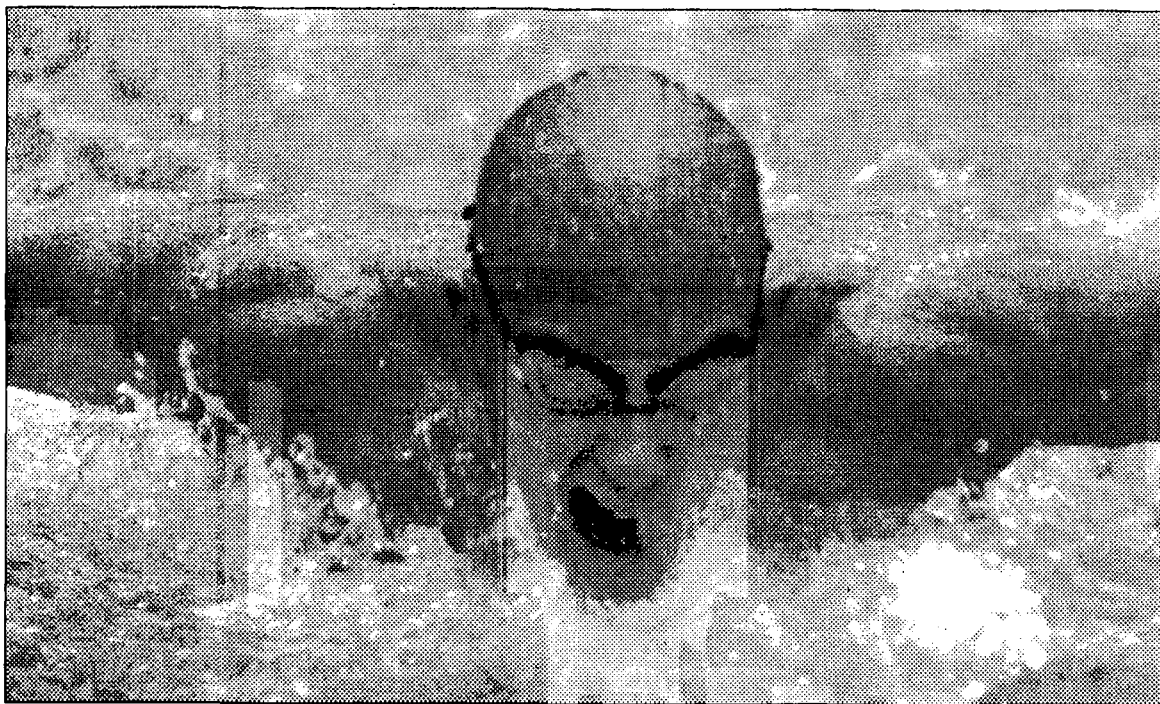
"The season ended really well," senior Kristin Martin said. "In the last game, we all played really well. I am happy with the way it all ended."

The game was the last one that head coach John Ganeff coached. With two weeks in the season left, Ganeff resigned, effective the end of the season, citing a mix of financial reasons and a need for time to further personal goals.

"Part of it is financial," said Saint Mary's athletic director Lynn Kachmarik. "But he's going back to college and that's a big part of his goal and he'll lose his flexibility when it comes to class time."

Ganeff's resignation prompted three softball players to request releases in order to transfer.

- Katie McVoy



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

The Notre Dame men's swimming team rallied from sixth place on the first day of the Big East Swimming and Diving Championships to finish fourth overall.

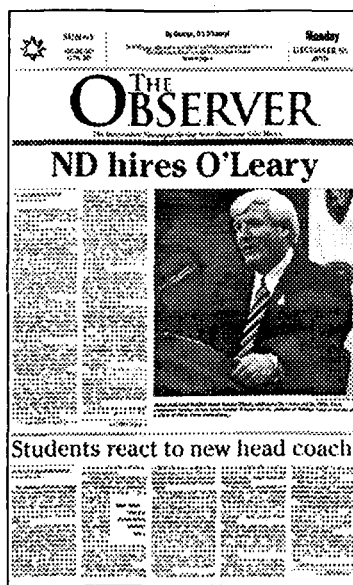
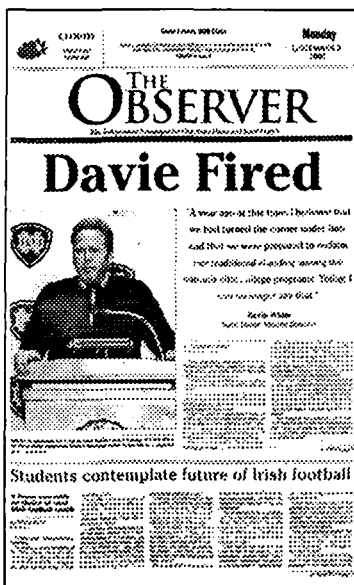
FOUR YEARS IN REVIEW

page 40

The Top 10 Observer sports stories from the 1998-2002 academic years

Friday, May 17, 2002

1



Humiliating coaching search follows Davie firing

December 2001

On Dec. 2, 2001, following a 5-6 season, athletic director Kevin White fired football coach Bob Davie and the search began for a new coach to lead the Irish back to prominence.

At a public press conference on Dec. 9, over 1,500 fans welcomed new football coach George O'Leary, a man who found his dream job at Notre Dame.

However, O'Leary's tenure with the fighting Irish lasted just five days before he was forced to resign for lying on his resume.

After over two weeks of national embarrassment, another 16-day coaching search finally led White to Stanford and Tyrone Willingham, who White announced as head coach on New Year's Day.

2 Irish win national championship



With 5.8 seconds remaining and the NCAA Championship game tied at 66, Ruth Riley calmly hit two free throws that left Notre Dame the 2001 women's basketball national champions.

1,500 fans showed up to welcome the team back and President George W. Bush honored the team two weeks later at the White House.

April 2, 2001

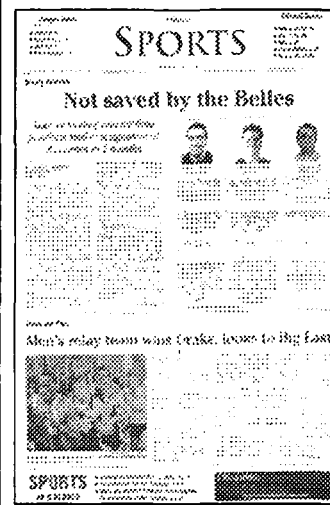
3 Brey returns Irish to prominence



Since taking over as men's basketball coach two years ago, Brey has led a resurgence in the Irish basketball program. During his tenure, the Irish recorded back-to-back 20-win seasons, two straight NCAA Tournament appearances, a Big East West Division title and a near upset of top-seeded Duke in the NCAA tournament.

2000-2002

4 Coaches exit SMC revolving door



In a two and a half month period, three Saint Mary's coaches resigned.

The athletic department, which can barely pay its head coaches \$6,000 a year has been unable to attract and retain quality coaches. Bobby Johnston, John Ganef and Theresa Pekarek all left Saint Mary's during the spring.

Spring 2002

5 Football earns Fiesta Bowl bid



After a horrendous 1999 season, it looked like the end of the road for Bob Davie. However, behind freshman quarterback Matt LeMay, the Irish earned the first BCS bid at Notre Dame.

However, against Oregon State in the Fiesta Bowl, the Irish suffered a humiliating 41-9 loss to finish the season 9-3.

Jan. 1, 2001

6 Irish teams earn No. 1 rankings

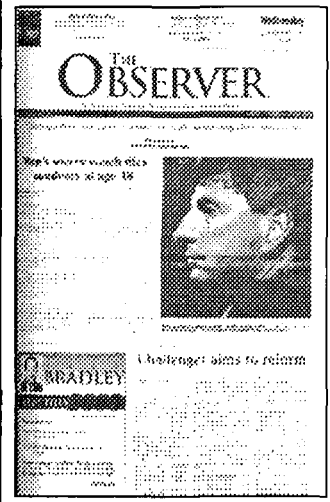


When the Irish baseball squad ascended to the top of the College Baseball poll, it became the fourth team to reach a No. 1 ranking in the 2000-01 academic year.

In mid-October, women's soccer was the first team. During the winter it was joined by women's basketball and men's fencing.

2000-2001

7 Berticelli dies of heart attack



Irish men's soccer head coach Mike Berticelli died suddenly of a heart attack.

Berticelli, 48, coached the Irish for 10 of his 23 years as head coach and compiled a 104-80-19 overall record. Berticelli led his team to the 1996 Big East Championship title and three NCAA tournament appearances.

Jan. 26, 2000

8 Wadsworth resigns as AD



When Michael Wadsworth resigned as athletic director, University President Edward Malloy announced a restructuring of the athletic department.

Later that year, Malloy named Kevin White the new athletic director and said White would report directly to him.

Feb. 8, 2000

9 Men's lacrosse makes history

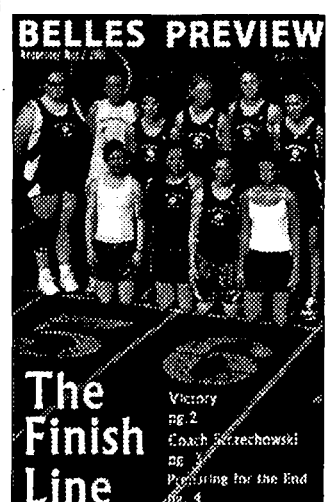


The Irish recorded their best finish in school history, reaching the Final Four for the first time in school history before falling to Syracuse.

The feat was even more remarkable considering the Irish, who didn't have a single scholarship athlete, defeated several powerhouse squads filled with scholarship players.

May 2001

10 Saint Mary's cuts track program



Under the recommendation of athletic director Lynn Kachmarik, Saint Mary's President Marilou Eldred decided to discontinue the track and field program following the 2001 season.

Kachmarik made the decision, in part, to keep two full-time coaches.

Feb. 1, 2001

The Year in Sports

2001



Sept. 11 Notre Dame cancels all athletic events through Sept. 16 in light of the terrorist attacks.

Sept. 17 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its first game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Sept. 29 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its second game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Oct. 3 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its third game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Oct. 8 Monica Gonzales is suspended from the women's soccer team for being involved in a marijuana incident over the summer, receives an injunction to keep playing for the Irish.

Oct. 17 The men's soccer team knocks out Indiana for the first time since 1987.

Oct. 27 Men's cross country wins the Big East title for the third time in seven years.

Nov. 7 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its fourth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Nov. 15 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its fifth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Nov. 23 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its sixth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Dec. 2 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its seventh game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Dec. 5 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its eighth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Aug. 13 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its first game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Aug. 17 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its second game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Aug. 29 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its third game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Aug. 3 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its fourth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Aug. 8 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its fifth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Aug. 17 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its sixth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Aug. 27 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its seventh game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Aug. 30 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its eighth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Aug. 15 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its ninth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Aug. 23 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its tenth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Aug. 31 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its eleventh game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Sept. 7 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its twelfth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Sept. 17 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its thirteenth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Sept. 29 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its fourteenth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Sept. 30 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its fifteenth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Oct. 3 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its sixteenth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Oct. 8 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its seventeenth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Oct. 17 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its eighteenth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Oct. 27 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its nineteenth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Oct. 30 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its twentieth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Oct. 15 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its twenty-first game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Oct. 23 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its twenty-second game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Oct. 31 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its twenty-third game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Nov. 7 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its twenty-fourth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Feb. 7 Willingham signs first contract as head coach of the Irish.

Feb. 10 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its twenty-fifth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Feb. 15 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its twenty-sixth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Feb. 20 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its twenty-seventh game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Feb. 25 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its twenty-eighth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Feb. 28 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its twenty-ninth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Mar. 5 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its thirtieth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Mar. 10 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its thirty-first game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Mar. 15 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its thirty-second game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Mar. 20 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its thirty-third game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Mar. 25 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its thirty-fourth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Mar. 30 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its thirty-fifth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Mar. 31 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its thirty-sixth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Apr. 5 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its thirty-seventh game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Apr. 10 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its thirty-eighth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Apr. 15 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its thirty-ninth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Apr. 20 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its fortieth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Apr. 25 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its forty-first game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

Apr. 30 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its forty-second game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

May 5 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its forty-third game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

May 10 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its forty-fourth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

May 15 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its forty-fifth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

May 20 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its forty-sixth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

May 25 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its forty-seventh game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

May 30 Notre Dame's basketball team wins its forty-eighth game since Sept. 11, defeating Indiana State 77-65.

2002

MEN'S TENNIS

No. 14 Irish hope to eliminate Illini in rematch

By JOE LINDSLEY
Sports Writer

After beating Michigan and Purdue last weekend, the 14th-ranked Notre Dame men's tennis team partakes in the Round of 16 at the NCAA Championships at Texas A&M this weekend in College Station, Texas.

Consequently, the Irish are making their third encounter this season with Illinois, currently ranked third nationally.

For seniors Javier Taborga, Casey Smith, Aaron Talarico and Andrew Laflin, Saturday will be the last time they take on Illinois, with the match taking place on the same day as Notre Dame's commencement.

"We're really excited," Irish coach Bob Bayliss said. "[Illinois is] obviously one of the two or three best teams in the country, but we feel we can win. We'd like to prove that it wasn't a fluke beating them earlier."

Notre Dame split with Illinois during the regular season, with the Irish winning an outdoor match and the Illini winning indoors.

When Notre Dame defeated Illinois on March 7, the triumph was narrow, with the Irish snatching the victory because they won the tiebreaker for the doubles points. The singles matches were split evenly, and four of them were decided in three sets.

Just over a week later, the Illini sought and won revenge, striking the Irish, who were without the services of senior Talarico, with a 4-2 victory at the Blue-Gray Classic.

The Illini pose a challenge that partly

stems from the momentum of their 13-match winning streak. That streak might have included their win over Notre Dame had the Illini not lost to No. 1 Georgia on March 22.

"I think we can win [on Saturday]," said Bayliss. "We'll have to play very well for the doubles point, [having] won it on a tie-breaker last time."

But Bayliss said losing the doubles point will not kill Notre Dame's hopes. Taborga, ranked 15th nationally, has never lost to Illinois' No. 1 player, Amer Delic, whom he will play on Saturday.

In addition, Bayliss believes Laflin, Smith, Talarico and sophomore Matt Scott will be able to avenge their earlier losses to Illinois players.

It is fitting that Notre Dame has the opportunity to play Illinois in the NCAA tournament, given that Bayliss considered the win over the Illini the proudest moment of a season in which Notre Dame tennis achieved its highest ranking since 1994.

A win on Saturday, allowing the Irish to move one step closer towards the national title, would probably surpass that March 7 victory as Notre Dame's best memory of the season.

Bayliss is confident in his players, calling this squad one of the better teams he has ever coached.

"In most teams, by the end of the season, you will have one or two dead spots in the lineup, where you know that that guy is not going to step up," he said. "We really don't have that."

A lack of holes in the lineup, along with the leadership and tenacity of seniors, has enabled the Irish to have a championship-caliber season, with only a few



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

Senior Aaron Talarico returns a serve during the first round of the NCAA Championships. The Irish will face the Illini this weekend in Texas.

setbacks, the major one being the upset loss to No. 46 Michigan.

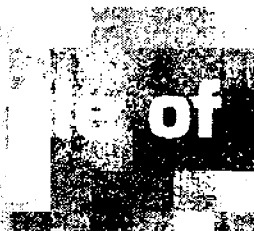
"I think dealing with the expectations that come from high rankings was our toughest challenge," Bayliss said. "We played pretty darn well in almost all of the matches with highly ranked teams. ...

With the exception of Michigan, we were really able to keep our nose above the water and keep floating," Bayliss said.

Contact Joe Lindsley at jlindsle@nd.edu.

Who's happy to have a few more Fighting Irish on their team?

The answer is



We would like to congratulate each and every one of these Notre Dame students on their full-time positions and internships with our growing organization:

Full-Time

Joseph Benyo
Jaclyn Bonaguro
Anna Costello
Katherine Deane
Zachary Dworkis
Kelly Gallagher
Derek Gipson
Sharon Handoyo

John Heyl
Christopher Jackson
Shaun Kane
Brian Kornmann
Jean LaBrucherie
Enjuelle Livingston
Steven McCullough
David Ngata

Marianne O'Brien
Jordan Raniszkeski
Patrick Ruder
Joseph Rutledge
Katie Schwerdtmann
Nina Vaughan
Michael Vossen
Brooke Wagner

Interns

Preston Benson
Laura Brandenburg
Paul Buser
Kerrie Cleveland
Jennifer Dobosh
Brett Gansen
John Gibbons
Christine Grimmer

Kelly Harris
Margot Howard
Valerie Kruse
Steven Lickus
Brian MacKinnon
Allan McDonald
Jackie Nesson

Janelle Picciano
Erin Riopko
Kevin Schumm
Sapan Singh
Daniel Sirken
Rene Sopiarsz
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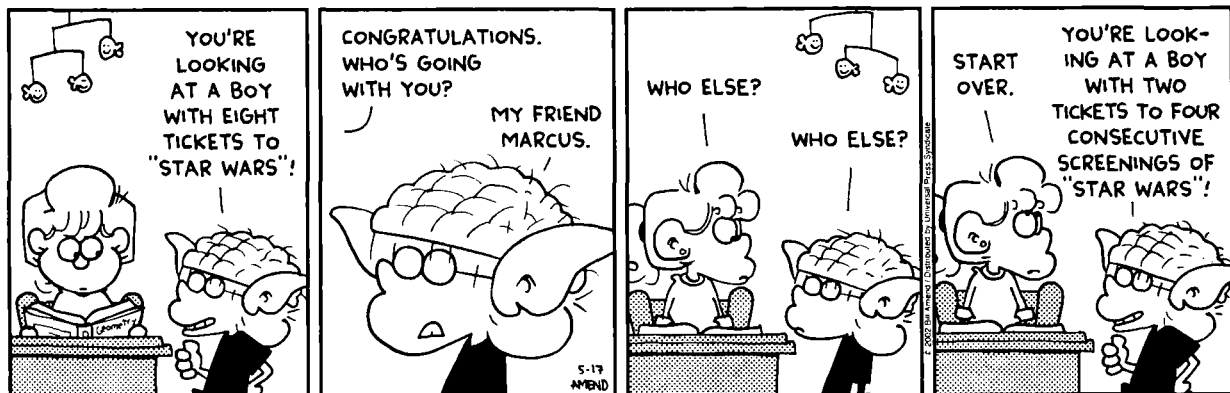
FOURTH AND INCHES

TOM KEELEY



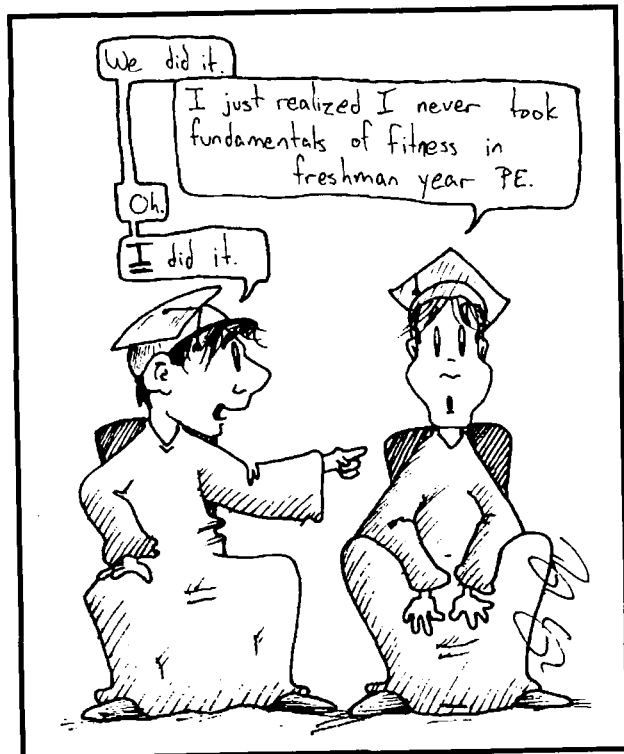
FOXTROT

BILL AMEND



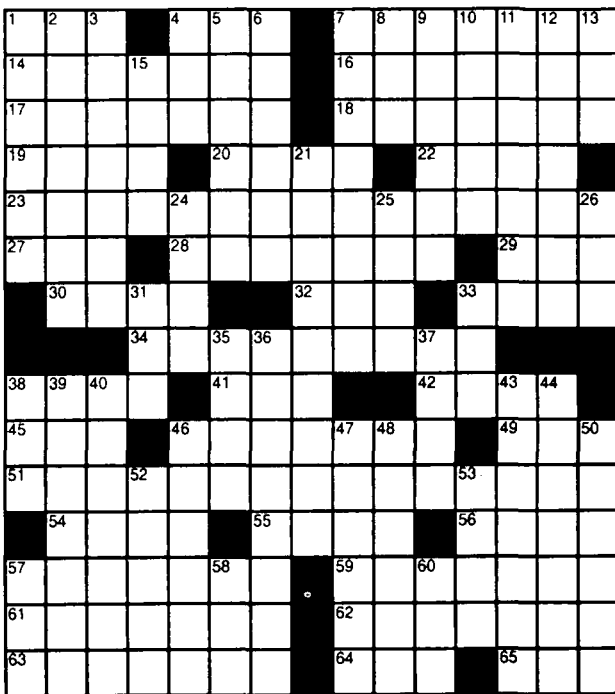
BEFUDDLED AND BEMUSED

RYAN CUNNINGHAM



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Patriot's grp.
 - 4 Delt neighbor
 - 7 Sunning sites
 - 14 1983 Randy Newman song
 - 16 New York and San Diego, e.g.
 - 17 Neon, for one
 - 18 "Anything for You" singer, 1988
 - 19 Uttar Pradesh city
 - 20 Engine sound
 - 22 Lukas of "Witness"
 - 23 Unlikely to crack
 - 27 Wind up
 - 28 Dwell on
 - 29 Ruth's was 2.28
 - 30 Barker
 - 32 Kick
 - 33 Gds.
 - 34 Beverage originally called Brad's Drink
 - 38 Last word of Missouri's motto
 - 41 Mail Boxes ____
 - 42 Sleipnir's rider
 - 45 "Little" car of song
 - 46 Ark welder?
 - 49 Symbols for neutrinos
 - 51 Encounters trouble
 - 54 Intimates
 - 55 Della's creator
 - 56 1990 N.C.A.A. basketball champions
 - 57 Fail
 - 59 Historian Stephen
 - 61 Feeler
 - 62 Man of many words
 - 63 Junk
 - 64 "Monsters, ____"
 - 65 Abbr. in many Québec names
- DOWN**
- 1 Sky king
 - 2 Wine bottles
 - 3 Damage
 - 4 Hard throw, in baseball
 - 5 Go
 - 6 Dress option
 - 7 Innocent-looking
 - 8 Takes in
 - 9 Garfield's vice president
 - 10 Construction site sight
 - 11 Convertible
 - 12 Classroom supplies
 - 13 W-2 info: Abbr.
 - 15 Saltimbocca ingredient
 - 21 Nipper's "master"
 - 24 Competent
 - 25 Singer with the first gold record single
 - 26 Union activist Norma ____ Webster
 - 31 Destination of some mail: Abbr.



Puzzle by Peter Gordon

- 33 It has a cover price of "\$2.99 CHEAP"
- 35 Drudge
- 36 It helps pay for roads and schools
- 37 Actress Anderson
- 38 Item graded AA, A or B
- 39 Starting place
- 40 As you like it
- 43 Tangled
- 44 It's empty
- 46 Buffalo's AAA baseball team
- 47 Nyasaland, today
- 48 Brawny fellers
- 50 Demanding
- 52 "The sweetest gift of heaven": Virgil
- 53 Strays, perhaps
- 57 Bucko
- 58 Prefix with sex
- 60 Big media inits.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



Note: T = top, B = bottom, L = left, R = right

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dennis Hopper, Sugar Ray Leonard, Bob Saget

Happy Birthday: Yours will be a role of leadership in personal financial affairs this year, so take a serious look at your insurance policies, investments and wills. You will make friends and acquaintances as quickly as you will lose them. You must learn what you can from those you encounter and move on. Your numbers are 9, 11, 15, 26, 39, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on what's important today and forget about trying to please everyone else. Don't get involved in fast-cash schemes that are too good to be true.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A new relationship will unfold through friends or family. If there is someone from your past that you still think about, this would be an ideal time to get in touch with them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will want to get involved in some sort of new venture or enterprise. Don't be too willing to invest your own money just yet. Do your research before you get in so deep that you can't turn back.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Romantic opportunities will flourish through group or organizational activities. Your attitude is changing with regard to your personal life and your direction. You should welcome trying something new today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Hidden assets will be discovered. Private discussions regarding money or ideas will be favored today. You can put money in long-term investments for future use or to ensure security in years to come.

Birthday Baby: You will surround yourself with people who can help you get ahead. You will always be looking and listening for new ideas that will help you achieve the power you desire. You are a thinker and a doer.

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

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VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Opportunities will unfold if you give a little of your time to a worthy cause. You will meet distinguished individuals who will be able to help you make vital connections to get ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Changes at home may be unavoidable. You must listen to the concerns and try to do what-ever is possible to make amends. Make sure you finish what you start so you can enjoy the week-end worry-free.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take the day off if you can. An early start on a weekend jaunt will put you in the right frame of mind. Travel and communication will be the highlight today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take heed of a good lead that someone gives you. You may find something interesting if you are observant. You must be honest with yourself regarding your feelings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be able to make amends with someone you haven't seen for a long time. Make the first move and you won't be sorry. Partnerships will lead to all sorts of new possibilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You should expand your interests. If you take the initiative to learn more about your job and the possibilities that are present you will be able to advance. The more you put into what you do the better the results will be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you really want to make changes, now is the time. Social events will lead to newfound friends. Whatever you do, it must be enlightening, creative and bring about change.

Visit The Observer on the web at <http://observer.nd.edu/>

Friday, May 17 6 pm and Saturday, May 18 12 pm (DH)

#17 Notre Dame



Boston College

Friday

"PACK THE ECK"

Free Tickets available at Meijer, Blimpie's, and Between the Buns!!

Mini ND Baseball Bat (First 250)

Saturday

Boy Scouts "Scout-O-Rama"

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. outside Eck Stadium

ND Leprechaun Bobble Head (First 100)



South Bend Tribune



Irish Sports Report

Notre Dame Baseball

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OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETES

Best of the class

◆ All-American Shay is most decorated runner in Irish history

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Senior Staff Writer

One look at his résumé quickly makes it obvious why the Michigan license plate on Ryan Shay's car reads "U.S. SHAY".

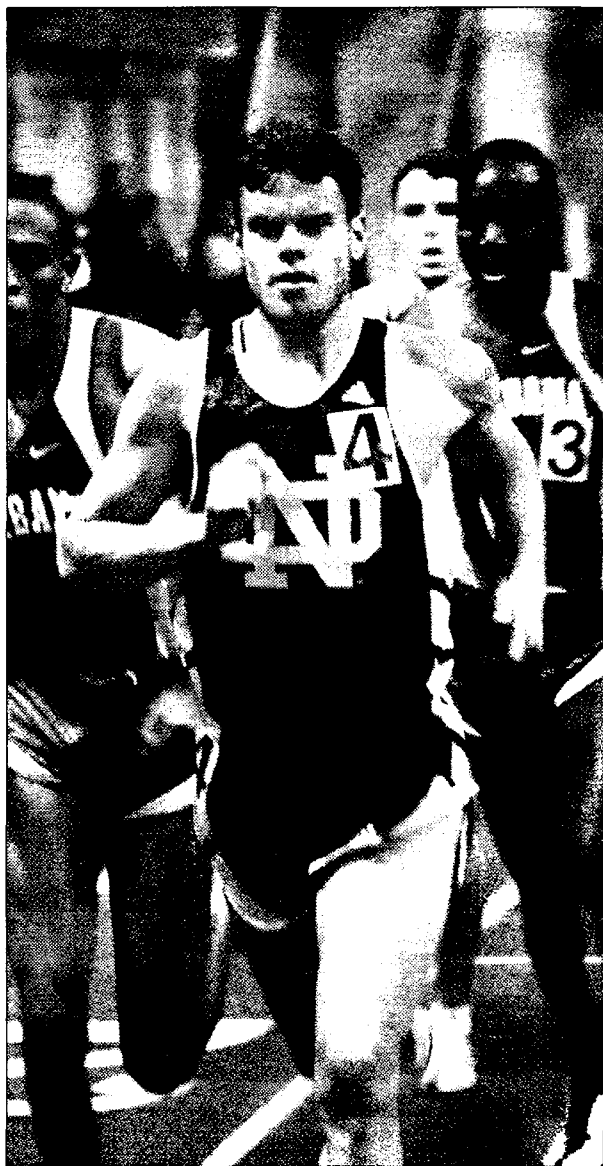
With eight All-American finishes under his belt already and a chance to add two more later this month, Shay is the most decorated runner in the history of an Irish track and field program that was once coached by Knute Rockne.

Shay, who competed in the 2000 Olympic Trials in the 10,000 meters, won that event at last year's NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Notre Dame's first individual national championship outdoors since 1954. He earned All-America honors in the 5,000 meters during both the indoor and outdoor seasons as well as two All-America finishes in cross country.

With that list of accomplishments, it was not difficult to select Shay as The Observer's 2001-2002 Outstanding Notre Dame Senior Male Athlete. Not as simple, though, is telling Shay's story.

Shay was not one of the nation's top recruits following four successful seasons at

see SHAY/page 30



Ryan Shay (left), The Observer's Outstanding Notre Dame Male Senior Athlete, will graduate from Notre Dame as the most decorated runner in Irish history, with eight All-American finishes and a trip to the Olympic Trials. Despite the overwhelming number of records she broke, Jarrah Myers (right), the Outstanding Notre Dame Female Senior Athlete, is still looking for a trip to the College World Series.



BRIAN PUCEVICH/The Observer

◆ Myers leaves name all over the Notre Dame record books

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

As she prepares to leave the Irish, Jarrah Myers left her name all over the softball record book. At the end of the regular season, the senior captain's season statistics in walks, home runs and RBI were in the top 5 in Irish history and Myers was just out of the top 5 in batting average and stolen bases.

But the records mean nothing to Myers. The Observer's 2001-2002 Outstanding Notre Dame Senior Female Athlete wants her name left in Notre Dame softball history for only one reason — qualifying for the College World Series.

"World Series. That's all I want," Myers said. "I don't care if I go 0-for the rest of the year. I just want to go to the World Series; that's fine with me. I just want to be there."

An Ending to Forget

After the most successful season in school history last season, Notre Dame, with a 51-3 regular season record, earned the top seed at the NCAA Regional. The Irish

see MEYERS/page 35

Staying home and taking the lead

◆ Blair became a leader on a team in transition

By KATIE McVOY
Associate Sports Editor

Compared to California, South Bend doesn't seem to have much to offer. It's cold half of the year and rainy or humid the other half. On the other hand, a Californian may not seem to have much to offer South Bend. But for one West Coast resident, coming to South Bend was right on target.

Anne Blair moved to South Bend after seventh grade and found the weath-

er didn't quite agree with her. By the time she was a senior, her brother and sister had moved back to the West Coast. South Bend doesn't hold any long-term prospects for the 6-foot-1 graduating Saint Mary's senior, but it gave her something she will always be grateful for — four years of learning how to lead and live.

"I think I grew a lot throughout the four years," said Blair, The Observer's 2001-2002 Outstanding Saint Mary's Senior Athlete. "Senior year we really needed someone to be a leader. I needed to have that leadership."

Blair came to Saint Mary's in the fall of 1998 after former head coach

Dave Roeder asked the South Bend local to think about joining the Belles. Four years of playing for St. Joseph High School had indoctrinated Blair into the South Bend community and staying at Saint Mary's offered her an opportunity to keep that feeling of community alive.

Not to mention that being just minutes away from free laundry service is a perk any local would list in her reasons to stay close to home.

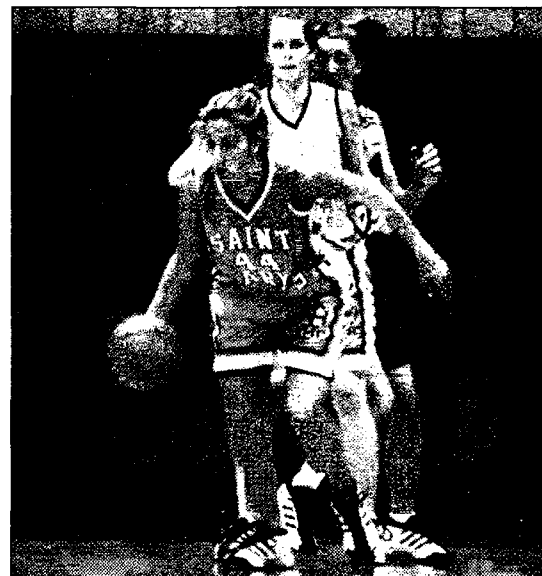
"I just wanted to stay close to home and it was kind of an easy decision," Blair said. "The coach wanted me to play and I figured it would be good to be close to home. My parents are really big support-

ers and it would be good if they were close."

In addition, staying near home Blair made the connection between the two great loves in her life — basketball and teaching. As an education major, Blair began her student teaching at McKinley grade school, helping teach the first grade. But her teaching didn't end in the classroom. She also began coaching the fifth grade basketball team.

"I've student taught and I was able to bring a lot of community kids in," Blair said. "I helped coach a team and a lot of those kids were interested in coming [to support the team]."

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NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Outstanding Saint Mary's Senior Athlete, Anne Blair, graduated as team captain and the link between coach and players.