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Campus prepares for Junior Parents Weekend

Committee chair outlines activities for 3-day event

By CLAIRE HEININGER
Assistant News Editor

When 2004 Junior Parents Weekend chairperson Meg Harty's father was a junior at Notre Dame in 1961, JPW was nothing like the extravaganza it is today — in fact, he "barely remembers it," Harty said.

That didn't stop him, though, from telling his daughter about the 52-year-old tradition. Since her freshman year, Harty and her parents have been planning and thinking about their own JPW experience.

But the more they talked,

see JPW/page 4



Employees at Catering by Design finalize last-minute plans for Junior Parents Weekend.

DAVE ROONEY/The Observer

| JUNIOR PARENTS WEEKEND | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Friday | |
| 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. | |
| "Star-Studded Premiere" | |
| Gala | Joyce Center |
| Saturday | |
| Various Times | |
| Collegiate Workshops & Hall Luncheons | |
| 5:30 p.m. | |
| JPW Mass | Joyce Center |
| 9:00 p.m. | |
| "Walk of Fame" President's Dinner | Joyce Center |
| Sunday | |
| 11:30 a.m. | |
| "Roll the Credits" Closing Brunch | Joyce Center |

MIKE HARKINS/Observer Graphic

Non-juniors consider limited options for campus activities

By MATT BRAMANTI
News Writer

Junior Parents Weekend begins today, launching three days of events aimed at Notre Dame's juniors and their parents.

But what about the other 6,000 undergraduates?

Although she's a senior, Ana Farach can't escape the weekend, which draws thousands of parents from around the country.

"My boyfriend is a junior, so I'll be eating dinner with his parents at some point," Farach said.

see PLAN/page 6

ND students launch Operation Rice Bowl



DAVE ROONEY/The Observer

Brin Anderson, second from left, and Julia Miller-Lemon pose with rice bowls with University president Edward Malloy, far right, and University vice president Mark Poorman.

By ANNA GELHAUS
News Writer

Operation Rice Bowl is coming to Notre Dame this Lent, giving students a chance to donate to the work of Catholic Relief Services.

Sponsored primarily by the Sophomore Class Council, it is the first time in recent memory that the program will be held on campus, according to Brin Anderson and Julia Miller-Lemon, co-chairs of the program.

Operation Rice Bowl is a program of donation throughout Lent. Participants receive a small box and are encouraged to donate change to the bowl throughout the season.

"It is so easy," Miller-Lemon said. "At this campus, especially, we don't realize how much we have. With the rice bowls, students can make an impact every day."

Seventy-five percent of the donations will go to Catholic Relief Services projects in

see BOWL/page 4

Trustees finish campus visit

By NATALIE BAILEY
News Writer

With a new president and several new buildings, change is the buzz for the Board of Trustees on the Saint Mary's campus through Friday night.

As part of the Board's visit, student trustee Sarah Mahoney sat in on the Facilities and Grounds and Student Life committee meetings Thursday.

Facilities and Grounds focused on updating the trustees on the several construction projects.

"All projects are looking great, and the student apartments are becoming a

reality," Mahoney said.

After witnessing the visible progress of the student center and apartments, the trustees are excited to see students enjoy them, she said.

"I think the students are going to love the new buildings, and they will be a great recruiting tool for prospective students," Mahoney said. "These buildings represent the Board of Trustees' commitment to student life and success."

"These buildings represent the Board of Trustees' commitment to student life and success."

Sarah Mahoney
student trustee

The committee was also glad to hear that all the apartments are filled for next year and that the selection process went so smoothly, she said. The Student Life Committee jointly met with the Mission committee to explore the topic of promoting and experiencing diversity while maintaining community and staying true to the Mission Statement.

Twelve students shared

see TRUSTEES/page 6

ND students study education

Education majors make trek to SMC for classes

By STEPHANIE YAHN
News Writer

Riding his bike over snow-covered train tracks wasn't exactly what Nick Kheriaty had in mind when he envisioned traveling to class. But in order to get his teaching credentials, the Notre Dame senior had to take his interests across the street to study in the Education Program at Saint Mary's College.

It has been over 40 years since Notre Dame dissolved its own education school, but few remember a time before stu-

dents studied education at Saint Mary's. In order to continue serving undergraduate students who wanted to obtain teacher certification, the University worked with Saint Mary's to allow students to participate in the College's program.

At that time, Notre Dame was an all-male university and students mainly went into secondary education rather than elementary education.

"That has all changed now," said Julie Turner of Notre Dame's Institute for Educational Initiatives.

Currently, 28 Notre Dame stu-

dents are enrolled in the Education Program at Saint Mary's. An additional 25 are taking introductory courses that will help them determine if and how they want to proceed in the program. Should they decide to continue, the students will submit applications for acceptance into the program. Eleven of the 28 students presently admitted are males and a majority of the students share a common focus in secondary education. A handful focus on elementary education.

Notre Dame students are quick

see TEACHERS/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Identity crisis

It's only normal for the college student to be caught in some sort of identity crisis. But I wonder, is the same degree of self uncertainty permissible for the administration of a university?

Initially, you may ask, "Can an institution even have an identity crisis?" I propose two key words that will clear the matter up immensely: "academic freedom."

Lauren Galgano

*Viewpoint
Copy Editor*

"Academic freedom" is a 50 cent phrase that will buy you a better ranking in U.S. News. Want to compete with Ivy League schools? You had better be hosting sexually explicit theatre presentations, selling the most controversial books written by pro-abortion activists in your bookstore and denying any accordance with Catholicism other than some unfortunate traditions due the circumstances of the University's founding. Otherwise, there goes your respect in academia.

Given these criteria, our administration seems caught in a very tight spot.

To be clear, I honestly believe that our great administrators want to maintain the uniquely Catholic atmosphere that generally permeates the grounds of this beautiful campus.

However, the question now becomes, "Why are we so determined to sell ourselves short?" Trying to conform to the mold of a secular society only diminishes what Notre Dame stands for, leading to inherent contradiction.

Let me provide some concrete examples.

In one breath, we are told that certain politically charged events — I don't believe I have to name the two most recent — will be allowed on campus in the name of "academic freedom."

Shortly before one of the productions, however, the administration was forced to remove a provocative "advertising" display for the production from LaFortune. I suppose if we can't have Notre Dame women parading around in bikini tops in a public forum, we should just put them on stage and sell tickets. (I think you get my point ...)

Likewise, the Queer Film Festival slipped in under the guise of "academic freedom," as well. Never mind the fact that these films presented propaganda explicitly contrary to Catholic teaching.

So what is my point? Am I advocating that we should neither be "academic" nor "free" at this University? Not in the least.

In fact, by denying conformity to the culturally accepted relativist secularism, I suggest that we could be freer to embrace our true identity through a sincerely introspective look at our definitively Catholic heritage.

Want to discuss homosexual issues during this current wave of unrest in our nation? Attend the symposium panel discussion examining the government's regulation of traditional and same-sex marriage unions to be held Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. in the Eck Visitor's Center Auditorium. This panel will feature three speakers presenting three different approaches to the issue.

Surely such a dialogue requires a strong adherence to "academics" as well as to "freedom of speech."

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

CLARIFICATION

A Feb. 19 article that reported on Student Senate said that student body president-elect and vice president-elect Adam Istvan and Karla Bell did not attend the Wednesday meeting. Istvan said that he and Bell showed up after the end of the Senate meeting, and that they missed the rest of the meeting because they were meeting with athletic department officials regarding the distribution of student basketball tickets.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ABOUT JPW?



Amy Kern
Junior
Lewis

"Going shopping with mom."



Hillary Schwarb
Junior
Lewis

"Paul Freeman, yeah that's Jessica's dad."



Justin Tuck
Junior
Siegfried

"My mom is bringing me her pound cake."



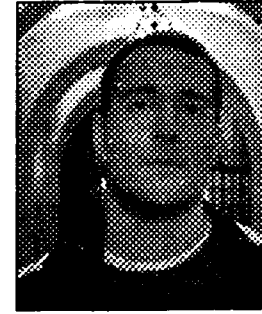
Rachel Polinski
Junior
Lewis

"The father-daughter erg race challenge."



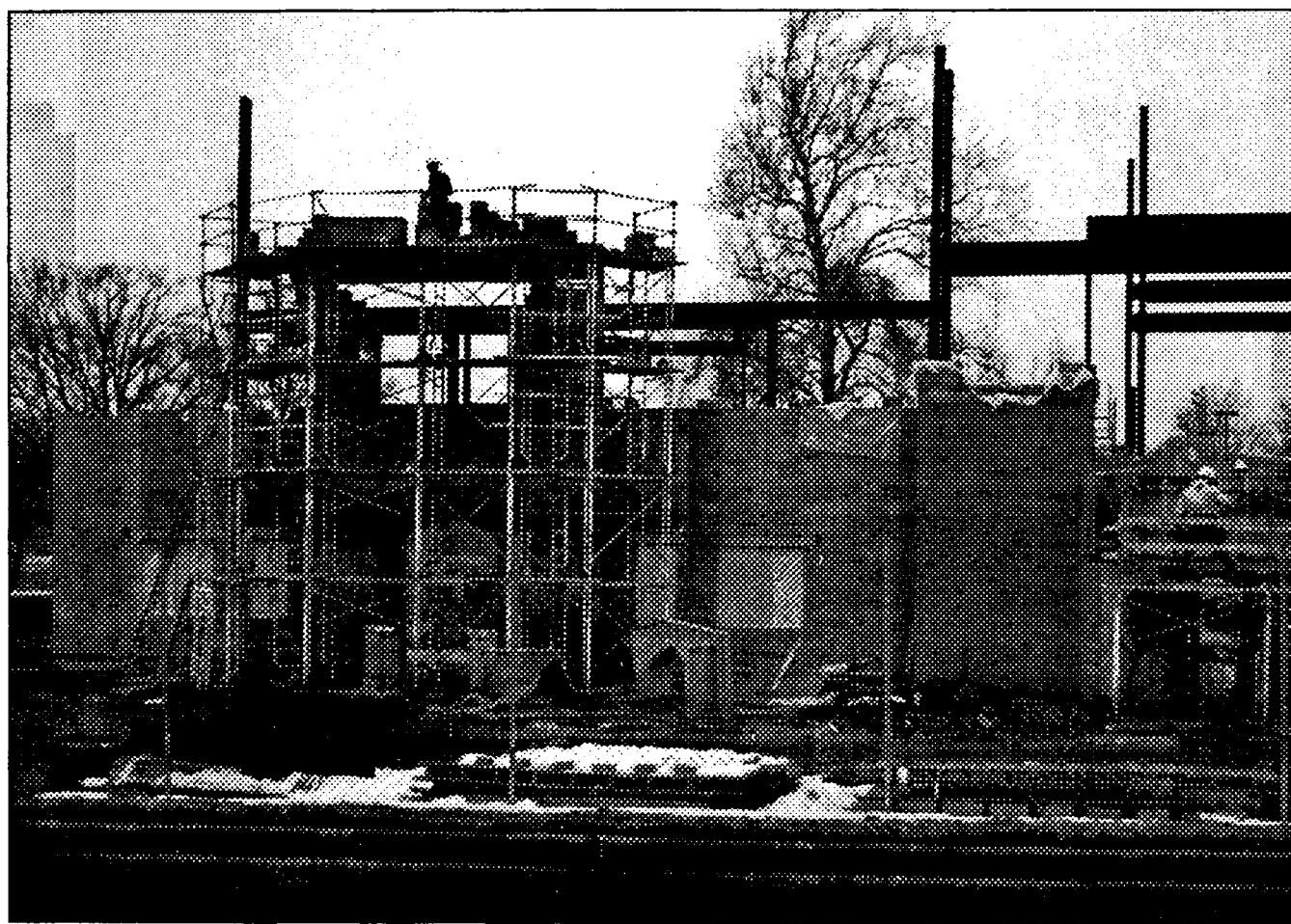
Stefanle DiHert
Junior
Walsh

"Your mom."



Tommy Bramanti
Junior
Dillon

"To spending time with my parents who I love so much."



DAVE ROONEY/The Observer

Rising temperatures bring increased construction work to campus. Workers above continue the construction of a building adjacent to Stephen Center that, when completed, will house the post office and Notre Dame Security/Police. Construction picked up at other sites on Juniper Road and DeBartolo Quad as well.

OFFBEAT

Woman fined for registering cows to vote

LONDON — Brenda Gould is in trouble again for registering her cows as voters.

For the second year running, the woman from Newmarket, near Cambridge in eastern England, has listed two names on the registration form who turned out to be cows, East Cambridgeshire District Council said Thursday.

The previous year, in addition to registering two cows as "Henry and Sophie Bull," she listed "Jake Woofles," later

found to be a dog, as eligible to vote in local government elections, the council said.

This year she indicated that her address had been split into two properties, that she resided in one part and that two other persons lived in the second, a council spokesman said. The persons she claimed lived in the second property were, in fact, her cows.

Man plans topless coffee shop in Maine

MADISON — Tired of the same old Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts? The

Madison Planning Board tonight takes up a man's application to open a topless coffee shop on Main Street.

Normand St. Michel says his plan to employ partially nude waitresses is intended to boost the establishment's chances of success. He says the idea is to do something different to attract coffee drinkers.

St. Michel says he also wants to run a clean business in which no alcohol will be sold.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Give the gift of life by **donating blood** today from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Rolfs. The event is sponsored by RecSports, University Health Services, IrisHealth and the South Bend Medical Foundation. Reserve a spot by calling 631-6100.

The **Thomas Aquinas Symposium** will take place today from 4-8 p.m. at the Moreau Center's Little Theatre at Saint Mary's. Attend presentations by Cathleen Kaveny, a Notre Dame professor, and Father David Hollenbach, a professor from Boston College.

FlipSide presents **Movie Night**. The fun starts at 6:15 p.m. tonight with pickups at various campus locations.

ND Express will host open billiards. Take on your friends from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Bryan McCree, a comedian from Mad TV and Comedy Central, will perform tonight at Legends at 10 p.m.

Station One will perform tonight at Reckers at 11 p.m.

Enjoy **night club dancing** at Legends. The fun starts at midnight and continues until 4 a.m.

The class of 2004 is sponsoring a **trip to Chicago** for seniors. Enjoy sightseeing and a Bulls game in the windy city. The bus departs Saturday at noon and returns at 1 a.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the LaFortune Box Office.

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

| LOCAL WEATHER | TODAY | | TONIGHT | | SATURDAY | | SUNDAY | | MONDAY | | TUESDAY | |
|---------------|-------|----|---------|----|----------|----|--------|----|--------|----|---------|----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | HIGH | 42 | HIGH | 42 | HIGH | 40 | HIGH | 34 | HIGH | 30 | HIGH | 33 |
| | LOW | 40 | LOW | 41 | LOW | 20 | LOW | 17 | LOW | 20 | LOW | 18 |

Atlanta 64 / 48 Boston 42 / 30 Chicago 44 / 28 Denver 42 / 18 Houston 74 / 48 Los Angeles 64 / 49 Minneapolis 34 / 20 New York 41 / 37 Philadelphia 46 / 38 Phoenix 65 / 47 Seattle 52 / 38 St. Louis 55 / 32 Tampa 74 / 61 Washington 50 / 42

Students attend conference

SMC RHA wins school of the year award

By TERESA NOWAKOWSKI
News Writer

Saint Mary's students traveled to the University of Indianapolis to participate in the Indiana Residence Hall Organization Conference with 12 other schools from the state.

Twelve of 13 women went to learn about campus venues offered at other colleges and universities, and hopefully implement them at Saint Mary's in the future. Francis Bruder, a national communicator coordinator for the Residence Hall Association and a Saint Mary's student, sat on a board and judged presentations or bids that reflect each school's accomplishments.

"[It gives us a] chance to network with other RHAs, to form bonds and connections with other students who could have an idea with what we're going through," Saint Mary's RHA president Shay Jolly said of the conference.

This year, Saint Mary's won the bid against one other school for school of the year.

In this competition, five Saint Mary's women presented a 20-page bid that included all of the activities the College has done for its women in the areas of academics, athletics, student life, service and student government.

Each woman described what has happened in the past year with each category. Many topics were discussed including tutoring, Reading Day, layout of student government, the newly-made fight song, classes being offered, new apartments and programming for campus clubs and events. The bid was presented to the representatives from the schools that attended the conference.

"The title of school of the year could not have been earned without every single person's help," Jolly said.

Saint Mary's also captured

third in the spirit bid and third for the banner bid.

Jackie Wright, the new assistant director of the Indiana Residence Hall Organization also received this position through presenting her bid. She will be in

charge of taking roll and minutes and relaying information to and from delegates in each college and university in Indiana. Wright hopes to establish an effective system of communication and implement programs from other colleges.

Through these awards, Jolly hopes that the student body will recognize the organization's hard work.

"We've jumped over so many bounds this past year; it's amazing," she said. "We are doing things to better the school."

"The title of school of the year could not have been earned without every single person's help."

Shay Jolly
president of
Saint Mary's RHA

Contact Teresa Nowakowski at
nowa9294@saintmarys.edu

SMC gears up for winter benefit walk

By TERESA NOWAKOWSKI
News Writer

Students from Saint Mary's and members of the South Bend community will join together for a walk-a-thon Sunday in support of a local day center.

The Winter Walk will raise funds for Saint Margaret's House, which aims to foster a safe environment for women and children. The center helps female victims of addiction, homelessness and domestic abuse to find jobs and create more stable lives for themselves. It also provides education for these women and their children.

"[This will] be a fun way to support Saint Margaret's House, which I know is a good cause," said Jacqueline Cuisinier, spirituality chair of the junior board at Saint Mary's.

The walk covers 1.5 miles and begins at St. James Cathedral at 2:30 p.m. Saint Mary's students will meet at 1:30 p.m. in LeMans circle in order to carpool to the cathedral together, Cuisinier said.

After the walk, there will be a reception offering refreshments to celebrate the accomplishment of the walk's completion.

The Winter Walk has been

an annual event for many years in the South Bend community, and Saint Mary's has a tradition of participation. This year, Beth Bennett, student director of the Surv Center who serves as a liaison between students on campus and community service organizations around South Bend, said she wanted to get the entire section of her hall involved.

"As a campus, Saint Mary's is very involved in Saint Margaret's," Bennett said.

This, she said, can be seen in the fact that several clubs have signed up to participate in this walk, including BOG and the cross country team.

"[The walk lets] people experience what it is like to walk in the shoes of those who don't have transportation, especially in the winter," Bennett said. "Another big point is to get people involved, meet [the women at the center] and see what they are all about."

Jill Vlasek, a resident assistant in Holy Cross Hall, said the walk sounds like a good service opportunity.

"It seemed like a fun way I could give back to the community," she said. "[It's a] fun way to do service and get some fresh air."

Contact Teresa Nowakowski at
nowa9294@saintmarys.edu

Write for News. Call 1-5323

**What's
next for our
relationship
after
graduation?**

*What
are some
challenges involved
in long-distance
dating?*

*What's
involved in
making healthy
decisions about a
relationship?*



"What's the Future of this Relationship?"
Workshop

Please join us for an afternoon of reflection and discussion designed for dating couples who are discerning the next stage of a relationship commitment.

Sunday, Feb 29, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
in room 330 of the Coleman-Morse Center

—Pre-registration is required by Friday, Feb 27, at noon.
—Applications are available in 114 Coleman-Morse Center or 319 Coleman-Morse at the Reception Desk
(there is no cost for this program)

Questions: call John or Sylvia Dillon at 1-7163

CM
Campus Ministry

Bowl

continued from page 1

countries across the globe. The remaining 25 percent go to the local diocese.

Students are encouraged to place their bowls somewhere that will create a daily reminder to give. The money will be collected from April 5 to April 7.

"Having boxes on [the students'] desks during Lent serves as a daily reminder that we have so much during this reflective season," Anderson said. "We have so much and so much to give."

Five thousand bowls will be distributed this Monday from 8 to 11 a.m. outside of DeBartolo and O'Shaughnessy and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon. They will also be passed out both days at the dining halls during lunch and dinner, and at the LaFortune Student Center from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will also be free Krispy Kreme donuts for the first 500 students at DeBartolo and O'Shaughnessy who participate.

"My hope would be to get the entire campus to make an impact," Miller-Lemon said.

Contact Anna Gelhaus at agelhaus@nd.edu

JPW

continued from page 1

the more Harty realized she wanted to go farther than simply prepare for her own chance at JPW — she wanted to enhance the weekend for all of her classmates, as well. So she responded to an ad, earned the top position on the JPW committee and got her opportunity to influence tradition from the inside out.

"I wanted to take an active role to make this JPW 10 times better," Harty said. "I saw the opportunity to have a hands-on effect to make it a wonderful experience." Harty said her hands-on efforts began a little late, as this year's JPW committee switched advisors in

October, and therefore had a "lot of catching up to do" compared to the committees that typically begin in April.

However, she said she felt confident that the creativity and dedication of her fellow members had added up to a weekend that would please students and parents alike.

The 2004 JPW theme is "And The Nominees Are," a title that gives a nod to "the Oscars, movies, everything Hollywood," Harty said.

"We wanted to show that everyone is a winner ... we should all look at what we have at Notre Dame and appreciate it," she said.

Beginning today, the more than 3,200 parents and juniors who purchased tickets to the weekend's events will have the chance to share the

academic, spiritual, social and residential aspects of the University. The weekend kicks off with the "Star-Studded Premiere" Gala in the Joyce Center at 7 p.m. tonight, a semi-formal celebration to welcome all guests and emphasize family, Harty said.

Saturday, each of the University's four colleges — the College of Arts and Letters, the College of Science, the Mendoza College of Business and the College of Engineering — will each host workshops to expose parents to their sons' and daughters' academic experiences.

Residence life will also be highlighted on Saturday, when each dorm will host a luncheon.

The official JPW Mass and the "Walk of Fame" president's dinner, both with University President Father

Edward Malloy, will be held Saturday night in the Joyce Center. JPW 2004 will conclude with a "Roll the Credits" closing brunch, an activity Harty hopes will draw a fitting close to the weekend while still emphasizing that "it's not the end yet."

"JPW is not necessarily the midpoint, but it is a significant turning point," she said, adding that for many juniors, the year ahead will be a hectic one of job searches and graduation plans.

"For now, it's a chance to all get together with our families, to enjoy the weekend and to celebrate this wonderful University," she said.

Contact Claire Heininger at cheining@nd.edu

FBI logo appears on CDs

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The FBI said Thursday it is giving Hollywood film studios, music companies and software makers permission to use its name and logo on their DVDs, CDs and other digital media in hopes the labels will deter consumers from making illegal copies.

FBI officials said the idea was conceived jointly by the agency's cyber crime division and representatives of the entertainment and software industries, who claim they've lost billions of dollars due to digital piracy.

"This anti-piracy seal should serve as a warning to those who contemplate the theft of intellectual property, that the FBI will actively investigate cyber crimes and will bring the perpetrators of these criminal acts to justice," said Jana Monroe, assistant director of the FBI's cyber division.

Like the warning messages that have appeared on VHS tapes and DVDs for years, the new labels spell out that unauthorized copying and distribution of digital content is punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

It will be up to the individual entertainment companies and software manufacturers to decide whether to display the new FBI warnings.

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WORLD & NATION

Friday, February 20, 2004

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Two suspects arrested in murder

DOHA, Qatar — Qatar said Thursday it has arrested two suspects in the assassination of former Chechen President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

Yandarbiyev, 51, was killed Feb. 13 when a bomb ripped through his car. His teenage son was wounded.

The Interior Ministry said two suspects are being questioned in his death. No further details were available in the ministry statement, carried by the Gulf state's national news agency, QNA.

Yandarbiyev, Chechnya's acting president in 1996-1997, had lived in Qatar since 2000 and was wanted by Russian authorities for suspected terrorism and links to al-Qaida. Moscow had been seeking his extradition.

His assassination occurred one week after a bombing in a Moscow subway killed 41 people and wounded more than 100. President Vladimir Putin blamed Chechen rebels for the bombing.

Russia boasts of future weapons

MOSCOW — Russia successfully tested a space vehicle that could lead to weapons capable of penetrating missile defenses, a senior general said Thursday. He insisted the device was not meant to counter U.S. efforts to develop an anti-missile shield.

Analysts said the device may be part of a campaign to bolster Russia's global clout and burnish President Vladimir Putin's image ahead of March elections he is expected to win. It could also be an effort to restore prestige to the country's military, which has suffered near collapse since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Col.-Gen. Yuri Baluyevsky, first deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces, gave few details about the device tested Wednesday, but said it was a hypersonic vehicle — one that moves at more than five times the speed of sound — that could maneuver in orbit.

NATIONAL NEWS

Astronomers spy solar system

LOS ANGELES — Astronomers said Thursday they have found a frozen object 4.4 billion miles from Earth that appears to be more than half the size of Pluto and larger than the planet's moon.

If confirmed, the so-called planetoid would become the largest object found in our solar system since the ninth planet was first spied in 1930.

Preliminary observations suggest the frozen celestial body is 10 percent larger than Quaoar, an 800-mile-diameter object found in 2002.

Diocese details abuse claims

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — A bishop who led the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield sexually abused two boys while he was a parish priest and asked them to keep quiet years later when he was made auxiliary bishop, a lawyer for the two alleged victims said Thursday.

Attorney Roderick MacLeish Jr. said Bishop Thomas Dupre, who stepped down as head of the diocese last week, abused the two altar boys beginning in the 1970s, when one of his clients was 12 and the other was an adolescent.

LOCAL NEWS

Kernan's proposals blasted

INDIANAPOLIS — Republicans blasted Gov. Joe Kernan's proposals to increase security at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Thursday, saying the investigation Kernan ordered ignored the agency's problems.

"They really didn't look to expose the wrongs that are occurring," said Rep. Jeff Espich of Uniondale, the fiscal leader for House Republicans. "It essentially becomes a whitewash."

IRAQ

U.S. troops happy to leave Iraq

Soldiers reflect on service in Iraq, excited to be headed back home

Associated Press

ON A C-130 OVER IRAQ — The throb of the engines of the C-130 Hercules is deafening, but the soldiers laugh and joke. A few nap. One soldier totes her unit's banner, a sure sign this is more than a temporary jaunt.

After almost a year in Iraq, these members of the Army's 32nd Signal Battalion are going home. More than 100,000 other weary Americans and their battered equipment are doing the same, being replaced by fresh forces in a massive rotation — the biggest since World War II — playing out until May.

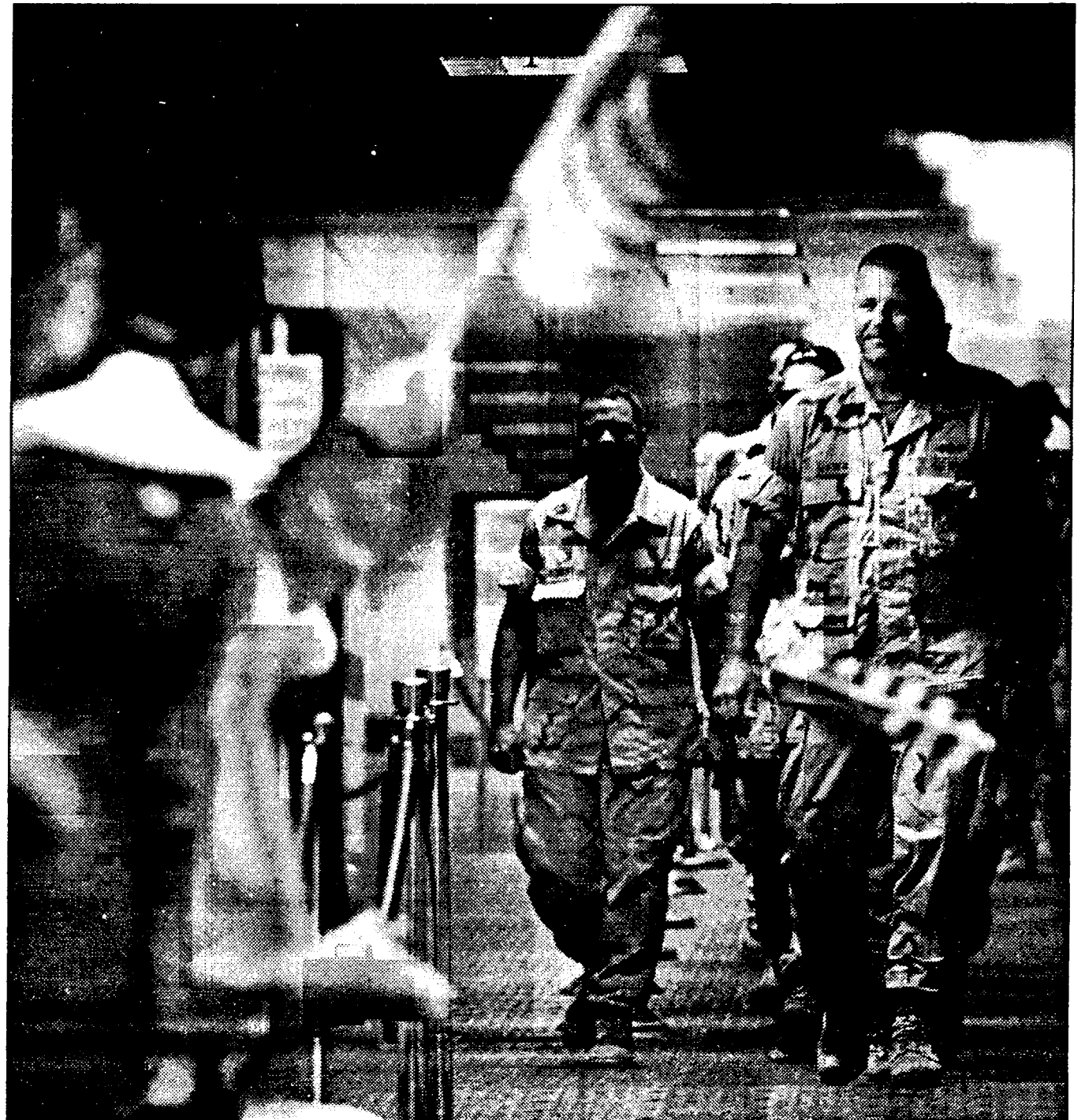
"I'm floating on cloud nine," said 25-year-old Staff Sgt. Joe Luna of Visalia, Calif.

The moment a U.S. soldier pines for is saying goodbye to Iraq, where a brutal insurgency has confounded troops who thought they'd be hailed as liberators. On bases across Iraq, stores cater to that longing by selling coffee mugs emblazoned with the words "Happiness is seeing Iraq in my rearview mirror."

The units trickling out of the country are many of those who joined the March invasion. Some have seen combat and lost members. All faced tough living conditions.

The Darmstadt, Germany-based 32nd Signal Battalion hit the ground in Kuwait on March 5, setting up communications networks as the invasion force rolled into Iraq, Luna said. The group was sent south when mortar fire killed a soldier.

"It was rough. It seemed like a race to get to



Arriving troops descend the jetway to a terminal full of greeters welcoming them back from Operation Iraqi Freedom, July 30. The Bangor, Maine airport is the gateway to the U.S. for servicemen and women returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Baghdad, then we ended up going backward," Luna said as his unit piled green duffel bags near a tent at the Army's Camp Anaconda near Balad, Iraq.

Now, Luna said, going backward — to home base in Germany — sounds just fine.

It's been a long wait. Soldiers spoke of the frustration of counting the days to an expected departure

only to be told they would have to stay on. All said they wanted to hug parents and children, sleep without being woken by explosions, or stroll without a rifle.

"I want to get drunk," blurted out 26-year-old Spc. Yvette Inocencio of Miami, waiting with friends from her unit, the 864th Engineer Battalion, for their flight.

The weeks before depar-

ture are rife with fears, especially about being killed.

Camp Anaconda is regularly pounded by rebel mortars. Since June, dozens of U.S. soldiers on the base have been wounded and a few have been killed by the shrapnel-spewing blasts.

Overall in Iraq, 545 U.S. troops have been killed and 2,700 injured since combat began March 20.

San Francisco to sue over gay marriage

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — After sanctioning more than 2,800 gay marriages in the past week, the city sued the state of California on Thursday, challenging its ban on same-sex marriages on constitutional grounds.

Two judges already are considering challenges from conservative groups seeking to halt the marriage spree that began last Thursday. The city's lawsuit, filed late Thursday afternoon, asks that those cases be consolidated into one.

"The city and county of San Francisco is going on the offensive today to protect the mayor's action" allowing gay marriage, City Attorney Dennis Herrera said.

Mayor Gavin Newsom said he doesn't regret giving out marriage licenses before the city filed a legal challenge to the state's marriage laws, but added that he's glad the question is now in the courts.

"I think what we have done is affirm marriage here in San Francisco," Newsom said. "We affirmed it because we are celebrating people coming together in their unions. I feel affirmed as a married man by what's happened here in San Francisco."

A lawyer for a group trying to halt the gay marriages described the city's move as a delaying tactic.

"This is as much a maneuver to keep this in court and keep the issue alive as it is anything else," said Benjamin Bull, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said San Francisco's same-sex marriage licenses "fail to meet legal standards."

"The attorney general has assured me that he will vigorously defend the constitutionality of the law" barring gay marriage, Schwarzenegger said.

The city is asking Superior Court Judge James Warren to declare

unconstitutional three sections of the California Family Code that define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

City officials want the judge to determine if barring same-sex couples from marrying violates the equal protection and due process clauses of the state constitution.

On Tuesday, Warren gave the city the choice of ending the same-sex wedding march or returning to court in late March to show why the process has not been halted. The city said it would continue issuing such licenses until forced to stop.

Judge Ronald Quidachay is considering a lawsuit filed by another conservative group, the Campaign for California Families. He said Tuesday he was not prepared to issue a ruling, and scheduled another hearing for Friday.

Like the city, conservatives want the two cases consolidated into one, but they want Quidachay to hear it instead of Warren.

Teachers

continued from page 1

to point out there are common misperceptions about studying at Saint Mary's. Kheriaty admitted it was intimidating to be the only male in his classes.

"The stereotypical perception of the program is that it is easier in comparison, but [the classes] are still very demanding," said senior Brian South, pointing out that 11 courses are required for the concentration — one course more than his English major.

Both Kheriaty and South's focus is in secondary education. The requirements are even more rigorous for elementary education students. In addition to taking required education courses, these students must also balance their course load with requirements for their majors.

Such demands put pressure on a student's class load and could hinder opportunities to study abroad.

"It is completely viable as long as you're able to schedule your courses around the major," said South, who studied in Australia during his junior year.

Despite the demands, there is a large network of support and advisors meant to help students. In addition to advisors in their majors and through the Saint Mary's program, Turner advises the Arts & Letters education students, and Sister Kathleen Cannon assists students in the College of Science.

In spite of the levels of interest in the Education Program, Turner said she does not believe Notre Dame will implement its own education program anytime soon.

"I feel that we are well served by the program at Saint Mary's," she said. "To have our own program would be somewhat of a duplication. ... [The faculty and staff] are very easy to work with, ... very cooperative and supportive of our students."

In spite of the inconveniences, students spoke highly of the benefits and rewards that they have experienced.

"I've really enjoyed the classes," South said. "They are taught by very capable professors."

Kheriaty likewise praised the program.

"Student teaching has been a great opportunity," he said. "In a lot of other schools you have to go a fifth year to student teach. I am glad that I will be certified when I graduate."

Both students are also busy student teaching at local high schools to fulfill their final requirement. South is a 10th grade English teacher, while Kheriaty teaches physics and physical science. Following a successful completion of the semester, each will need to take two tests before receiving their Indiana teaching credentials, which Kheriaty said are also applicable in 37 states.

While occasionally the road has been bumpy, they said, advisers such as Cannon and Turner work to help make the transition smoother. Turner said she has spent a lot of time talking with the First Year of Studies and the College of Arts & Letters to facilitate the transition.

"I hope that I can help provide information and support to the students and be an advocate for them," she said.

Contact Stephanie Yahn at syahn@nd.edu

Plans

continued from page 1

Other students' plans weren't so concrete. For freshman Jeremy Klein, it's going to be just another weekend.

"We usually make plans at the last minute," Klein said. "We're probably going out to dinner or a movie."

Entertainment options in the dorms will be even more limited than usual, as many rectors are keeping a lid on dorm parties. Knott Hall rector Brother Jerome Meyer sent an e-mail to residents Tuesday asking them to treat visitors "with the customary Knott Hall friendship and courtesy."

The e-mail also asked residents to refrain from large social gatherings, especially those involving alcohol, over the weekend.

Some students, like senior Lauren Fowler, were downright pessimistic about the weekend.

"Other than studying and

playing in the band concert, I'm a sad loser who's not doing anything else," Fowler said.

However, there are still options.

Saturday night, Legends will host The Singles, a Detroit band billed as "Beatle-esque power pop."

Also on Saturday, the Sophomore Class Council will sponsor a free Casino Night in the LaFortune Ballroom. Class president James Leito said prizes will include about \$1,000 in electronics from Best Buy, including a DVD player, a MP3 player, a television and more.

The Class of 2004 will sponsor a trip to Chicago on Saturday to watch the Bulls take on the Memphis Grizzlies at United Center. Buses will leave around noon

and return to campus at about 1 a.m. Sunday morning, leaving time for the game and sightseeing in Chicago said senior class president Jazmin Garcia.

Garcia said the trip will give seniors an entertaining getaway this weekend.

"It's a good opportunity for seniors to get out of town, go to Chicago and see the Bulls," Garcia said. "It's also a chance to see Ryan Humphrey, a Notre Dame graduate."

The Orlando Magic drafted Humphrey, a 6-foot-8 forward, in the first round of the 2002 NBA draft, but he was traded later in that season to Memphis.

Tickets for the trip are available in the LaFortune box office for \$25.

"It's a good opportunity for seniors to get out of town, go to Chicago and see the Bulls."

Jazmin Garcia
senior class president

Contact Matt Bramanti at mbramant@nd.edu

Trustees

continued from page 1

their thoughts in a round table discussion with the trustees.

"Students did a great job in articulating their honest experiences relating to diversity, mission and com-

munity," Mahoney said. Mahoney will serve as the student trustee through the final meeting of the year in April.

"I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve the Saint Mary's women as their student trustee, and this has been a very enjoyable experience for me," Mahoney said. "It has allowed me to see how policies are made

within the College as well as to understand the complexity of providing for the entire student's well being. We have great role models on the Board, and it has been my pleasure to work with them and serve the students at the same time."

Contact Natalie Bailey at bail1407@saintmarys.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 10,664.73 -7.26

Up: 1,214 Same: 185 Down: 1,037 Composite Volume: 1,516,499,072

AMEX 1,243.57 -0.86
NASDAQ 2,045.96 -30.51
NYSE 6,715.29 -3.85
S&P 500 1,147.06 -4.76
NIKKEI(Tokyo) 10,753.80 0.00
FTSE 100(London) 4,515.60 +72.70

| COMPANY | %CHANGE | \$GAIN | PRICE |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| APPLIED MATL (AMAT) | -0.81 | -0.18 | 22.13 |
| MICROSOFT CORP (MSFT) | -1.16 | -0.31 | 26.46 |
| INTEL CORP (INTC) | -2.32 | -0.71 | 29.89 |
| CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO) | -1.70 | -0.41 | 23.68 |
| ADC TELECOMM (ADCT) | -10.62 | +0.36 | 3.03 |

| Treasures | | | |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 30-YEAR BOND | -0.12 | -0.06 | 49.09 |
| 10-YEAR NOTE | +0.07 | +0.03 | 40.52 |
| 5-YEAR NOTE | -0.17 | -0.05 | 30.15 |
| 3-MONTH BILL | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.12 |

| Commodities | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|--|
| LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.) | +0.16 | 34.64 | |
| GOLD (\$/Troy oz.) | -2.50 | 410.30 | |
| PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.) | +1.50 | 95.675 | |

| Exchange Rates | | | |
|----------------|--|--|--------|
| YEN | | | 107.1 |
| EURO | | | 0.787 |
| POUND | | | 0.5281 |

IN BRIEF

Stocks mixed on bad report

NEW YORK — A drop in housing starts and a rally in the U.S. dollar on currency markets sent stocks lower Wednesday as the news gave investors an incentive to collect profits.

Rough winter weather was to blame for the 7.9 percent drop in residential building construction last month from December levels, the largest tumble in a year. However, the pace of residential construction in January was up 4.1 percent from the same month a year ago, giving investors a little good news to go with the bad.

In addition, gains by the dollar, coming off all-time lows against the euro, sank large-cap stocks that had benefited from the low dollar in overseas sales.

"Large-caps will take the hit for the dollar rising," said Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist at Spencer Clarke LLC. "That's sparked the selling you're seeing here."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 42.89, or 0.40 percent, to 10,671.99.

Enron's Skilling takes his walk

NEW YORK — Adelphia's John Rigas did it, so did Tyco's L. Dennis Kozlowski, as well as countless other corporate executives. But this was the perp walk that so many have been waiting for — a former Enron CEO being led in handcuffs.

Sure, it took some time to get here — it has been more than two years since the collapse of the energy giant once considered one of the most innovative companies in the world.

But to many people whose lives were badly damaged by the Enron fraud, that matters little now that Jeffrey Skilling has taken the first steps in what could be a long walk of shame. He might finally have to face his day in court.

The 50-year-old Skilling became the highest-profile former Enron executive to face criminal charges when he was indicted Thursday for participating in widespread schemes to mislead government regulators and investors.

He resigned from Enron in August 2001, a surprise move that came four months before the company filed for bankruptcy amid disclosures that officials had hidden billions of dollars in debt and inflated profits to boost the stock price.

Bank CEO lectures on corporate fraud

By MATT BRAMNTI
News Writer

Few executives would envy Steve Watts. He's the president and CEO of Sobieski Bank, which became embroiled in a fraudulent loan scandal when a former loan officer distributed nearly \$10 million in unauthorized loans in 2001 and 2002.

Watts gave the final lecture Thursday in the Mendoza College of Business annual Ethics Week series. Scores of students and professors filled the Giovanini Commons to hear the executive discuss his work to repair serious ethical problems at one of South Bend's oldest companies.

The fraud apparently took place when Andrew Ujdak, then director of loan operations for Sobieski, approved about \$9.5 million in fraudulent loans, crippling the South Bend-based bank and drawing the attention of federal regulators.

Until his guilty plea in August 2002, he was a member of the South Bend Common Council, the governing body of the city. Watts said Ujdak's amicable personality and charm made him well-liked at the bank.

"He was a very popular person, a publicly-elected official in South Bend and he made friends easily," Watts said. "He was welcomed into our group of employees."

However, that welcome helped Ujdak carry out a fraud that has had a tremendous impact on the 30-person bank.

Much of the unauthorized money went to James Nekvasil, Jr., who has a considerable criminal record, including convictions for arson, car theft and a previous instance of bank fraud in the 1990s. Nekvasil allegedly used some of the money to buy land and start building houses. However, the construction business was just a front, prosecutors said. They alleged Nekvasil left the homes unfinished and skimmed money from the project to finance a life of excess, including gambling jaunts to Las Vegas, sports cars and a \$300,000 speedboat.

Watts started at the 111-year-old bank in January 2003, and immediately began to clean up the mess. He was faced with nervous employees, picky bank examiners and furious shareholders, all demanding answers.

Watts said the fraud case exposed procedural weaknesses at the bank.

"Things that were lacking [included] dual control and internal control practices," Watts said. "There did not appear to be a need for a lot of close dual control."

In addition, Watts said the bank's longstanding culture was not conducive to whistleblowers.

"The culture there was very autocratic, ... very top-down," he said. "If an



DAVE ROONEY/The Observer

Steve Watts, CEO of Sobieski Bank, lectured students on corporate fraud as part of the Mendoza College of Business' Ethics Week.

employee observed a practice that was against procedure or an unethical practice, they were not encouraged to report it."

However, he said when the fraud began to surface, employees were cooperative.

"Once it was discovered, a lot of information was broken down and a lot of people came forward," he said. "Some of them, I expect, will testify in the upcoming trials."

Watts said one of his key duties upon rebuilding the bank was to rebuild morale among the remaining employees.

"They were embarrassed for themselves and the organization," Watts said. "They were faced with the realization that someone they were friends with, worked with and worked for had done something wrong. Once that trust is breached, it's very difficult to get back."

Furthermore, employees were worried the bank might not survive the ordeal.

"All employees are shareholders; a part of their retirement is based on the overall value of the stock," Watts said.

In order to improve flagging spirits among employees, Watts invited their input when making high-level decisions.

"We had a much larger group in our strategic planning session," he said. "We brought it down to the lowest entry-level positions in the company and asked them what their opinions were."

The executive also worked to establish new procedures to ensure such a devastating lapse in integrity would never happen again.

"We had to re-evaluate

what our own expectations were for ethical standards," he said. "We also needed to reinforce what we said our expectations were."

Those expectations came down to a commitment to honest customer service, backed up by effective controls behind the scenes.

"The primary aspect of our business is service," he said. "People expect their bankers to act a certain way."

Watts borrowed a line from former president Ronald Reagan used in discussing arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union — "trust, but verify."

"We always wanted to trust the employees that we worked with, but we also had to verify [their work]," Watts said.

Not all employees bought into the new ethical standards at Sobieski. Watts said he fired about six employees who didn't support the new ethics practices.

"If you find your value system and ethical standards are different from your employers, you won't be very happy there," Watts said.

While rebuilding confidence among his employees, Watts had to cooperate with federal bank regulators, who were sent in to investigate the financial controls at the bank.

He said before the scandal broke, regulators routinely gave Sobieski a clean bill of health, but that changed after an internal audit discovered the fraud.

"If things are going along just fine on the surface, [regulators] don't spend a lot of time," he said. "Once a problem is discovered, they dig down really deeply."

That digging led to signifi-

cant restrictions on the bank's operations. In May, the Office of Thrift Supervision, a Treasury Department agency that regulates savings and loan institutions, issued a supervisory agreement effectively banning the bank from making commercial loans. In addition, the bank had to sell off certain assets in order to boost its capital, including the houses left unfinished by Nekvasil.

"I've got a couple of nice homes for sale, and I'd be happy to take offers," Watts joked.

Watts said that since the OTS agreement, Sobieski has put more emphasis on lending to individuals.

"There was a perception that we were out of the loan business entirely," Watts said. "We've had to focus on mortgages and consumer loans."

However, the consumer business might not be enough to save the struggling bank. Sobieski released its earnings Tuesday for the last quarter of 2003, posting a \$2.8 million net loss, compared to a \$738,000 profit for the same period of 2002.

The news got worse Thursday, when the OTS imposed further regulations on the company and downgraded its condition to "undercapitalized."

Watts remained guardedly optimistic about the future of the company. The bank will open a new facility Monday, replacing an older branch.

Watts said many customers have stayed with the bank, despite negative media attention.

Contact Matt Bramanti at mbramant@nd.edu

CYPRUS

Cypriot leaders meet in airport

Associated Press

NICOSIA — Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders held a dramatic meeting Thursday at a rusty, abandoned airport that was once Cyprus' gateway to the world, opening talks seen as the best chance in decades to reunify this Mediterranean island divided by war.

Fears that extremists could try to disrupt the talks, held under high security in a U.N. buffer zone, grew with the explosion of a small bomb in front of a senior Turkish Cypriot official's home Thursday. The blast wounded one person.

Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash indicated they staked out tough positions as they began negotiating.

"It is too early to talk of satisfaction," Papadopoulos said later. "One issue may not be resolved and this may destroy everything."

But the two leaders are under a strict U.N. timetable and face intense European Union pressure to reunite the island before it enters the EU on May 1. If the island remains divided, EU laws will apply only in its internationally recognized south — and Turkish troops in the north could be considered to be occupying EU land.

"The situation is now better than ever and is a real opportunity that should not be missed,"

EU Expansion Commissioner Guenter Verheugen said, adding that the EU was ready to spend \$330 million to help integrate Cyprus if it is unified.

Denktash and Papadopoulos earlier agreed upon a March 22 deadline to reach an accord. If they fail to do so, Greek and Turkish officials will join the talks. If their involvement fall short, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan will fill in the blanks.

The arrangement has raised hopes of a settlement, which would be put to a referendum on each side of the island on April 21.

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher praised both sides "for the political will they have demonstrated in returning to the talks, and we encourage them to continue their work in a positive vein."

"The historic process is beginning today," was the headline of Kibris, the largest newspaper on the Turkish side.

Greek Cypriot housewife Mari Georgious said she is "praying for a settlement so that the people of Cyprus can live in peace and harmony in a reunited Cyprus again."

Greek Foreign Minister Tassos Giannitsis said: "I think we are close to a solution no matter

how difficult the road is."

The two sides are deeply divided on such issues as the number of Greek Cypriot refugees who can return to the north, how many Turkish soldiers would remain and the amount of power the central government would have.

"We presented our views to make the plan more compatible with EU laws for the benefit of both the Greek and Turkish Cypriots," Papadopoulos said.

"The Turkish side raised issues which are outside the framework of the plan."

Greek Cypriot leaders say all 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees should have the right to return to the north.

The refugees left after Turkey's 1974 invasion, which followed a short-lived coup by supporters of union with Greece.

Denktash fears that large numbers of returning refugees would change the character of the Turkish north and says the 100,000 called for in a plan outlined by Annan is already too much.

"By making Greeks come and live with us you cannot maintain bi-zonality," Denktash said after the talks. "We insisted that bi-zonality is strengthened."

"I think we are close to a solution no matter how difficult the road is."

Tassos Giannitsis
Greek foreign minister

ENGLAND

Five prisoners will return from Cuba

Associated Press

LONDON — Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Thursday that five Britons jailed at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, will be returned home in several weeks. But they could be arrested again upon arrival.

Straw told reporters at a news conference that discussion were continuing on the fate of the remaining four British citizens being held.

"Once the detainees are back in the U.K., I understand that the police will consider whether to arrest them under the Terrorism Act 2000 for questioning in connection with possible terrorist activity," he said.

Earlier Thursday, Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen told his parliament that a Dane held at Guantanamo Bay will soon be released.

Danish media have identified him as Slimane Hadj Abderrahmane. He was transferred to the U.S. Naval Base in Cuba in February 2001 after being captured in Afghanistan.

"Under Danish law it is not possible to put him on trial. He will come to Denmark as a free man," Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller said during a debate in parliament.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the detainee would be released soon. He did not provide a more specific time frame.

He said Secretary of State Colin Powell had spoken with the Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller about the situation.

At the White House, spokesman Scott McClellan said the United States has received assurances from Denmark and Britain that the detainees being released will not pose "any future threat to America or our friends and allies."

Five other Guantanamo prisoners — a Spaniard and four Saudi Arabians — were recently released and returned to their countries for detention or prosecution.

"These detainees who are at Guantanamo Bay are people who are a threat to our country. That's why they were detained there, they are a danger to America and our friends and allies," McClellan told reporters.

"We have been provided assurances from those countries that we are returning those detainees to that they will make sure that they do not pose any future threat to America or our friends and allies," he said.

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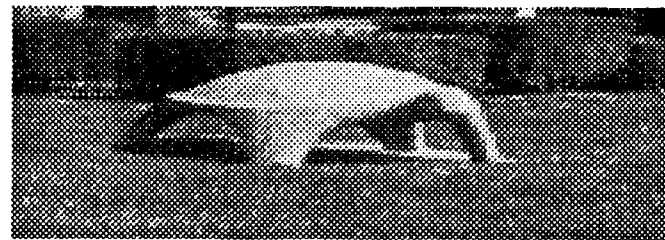
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First lady defends education plan

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Laura Bush on Thursday defended "No Child Left Behind," the centerpiece of her husband's education policy, from critics who say it's underfunded and overemphasizes the importance of testing.

"The testing that a lot of people object to is not punitive," the first lady said while visiting a magnet school that mixes academic studies with technology coursework to prepare students for jobs in the 21st century. "You are giving a test so you'll know what you need to do. You can't solve the problem unless you can diagnose it."

Leading Democratic presidential candidates have criticized the education plan for holding schools accountable for big improvements without giving them enough money to succeed.

"I know that there are some states that are not happy with it, but I will say that critics say that there's

not enough money appropriated with it but there's more money in the No Child Left Behind Act than there's been in any previous federal law ever before," Mrs. Bush said.

In a brief news conference Thursday, Mrs. Bush also said she's confident the president will be re-elected but hopes it's not a dirty campaign.

She said the Democrats' claims that Bush did not report for National Guard duty in Alabama are an attempt to "divert attention" from her husband's successes.

"We've just been through a Democratic primary where the candidates themselves have spent more than \$100 million running against the president," she said.

Mrs. Bush, a former librarian, said she thought the Patriot Act should be renewed, despite opposition from civil rights groups that argue it violates privacy rights and constitutional free speech.

"I think it's very important in the fight against terrorism," she said, adding that she understands the concerns of librarians who have rallied against the act as an infringement on First Amendment rights. "I also know that no part of that act has been acted upon in a library."

Las Vegas was the last stop on a three-day trip by Mrs. Bush that involved education and fund-raising events in Arkansas, California and Nevada. President Bush won Nevada in 2000 with 49.5 percent of the vote. The Las Vegas area was the only part of the state that he lost to Al Gore.

The first lady went to Advanced Technologies Academy, a school in the Clark County School District where students have regular coursework, including advanced placement classes. The school also offers programs in graphic design, computer science, business, information technology and other fast-growing fields.

Remains found buried at fake doctor's house

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Police believe the same day a Manhattan financial analyst vanished last year, a phony physician treated her for a growth on her tongue — with deadly results.

Authorities were awaiting the outcome of an autopsy Thursday to confirm that a decomposed body discovered entombed in cement at the medical impostor's Newark, N.J., mansion was that of the analyst, Maria Cruz. The fake doctor, Dean Faiello, remains a fugitive.

Detectives were "working on the hypothesis that she may have received treatment for a condition called black tongue, from which she may not have survived," said police spokesman Paul Browne. He offered no information on the type of treatment.

The decomposing body, found Wednesday inside a suitcase buried in a floor slab in the Newark house, matched a description of the 35-year-old Cruz, including the fact she had breast implants, police

said.

Faiello, 44, was arrested in 2002 for practicing without a license and illegally possessing medical drugs but apparently continued to see patients at a Manhattan apartment, authorities said. He pleaded guilty in June 2003 but allegedly fled to Costa Rica before his scheduled December sentencing.

Cruz was last seen April 13, 2003. Using automatic teller and credit card records, investigators determined that Cruz left her own apartment that day and went shopping at a department store near Faiello's apartment, where she may have died.

The woman's family reported her missing April 18 after she failed to pick up visiting relatives at the airport.

Around the time of the disappearance, Faiello had several bags of cement delivered to his Newark mansion, authorities said. The cement was used to build a raised platform in the house before Faiello sold the building in May and fled the country in September, they said.

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Dana Pham

SMC Student Activities Board is holding auditions for amateur comedians.

Two Winners will be chosen to open for DAT PHAN, Winner of NBC's Last Comic Standing, on March 19th at 7pm in O'Laughlin Aud.

Auditions will be Friday February 27th, starting at 6:30pm. Space is Limited. Please sign up early to reserve YOUR audition spot, by contacting SAB@saintmarys.edu.

If you get an audition, you will be notified by SAB on Feb. 20.



NASA to prepare rescue shuttle

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA said Thursday that the shuttle will remain grounded until early next year, and once launches do resume, a second spaceship will be on standby to rescue the astronauts if their craft is damaged in flight.

Because of the Columbia disaster one year ago, NASA decided last month that all shuttles from now on will be devoted to completing the international space station. That way, the astronauts can inspect and repair their ships at the orbiting outpost and await rescue there if the damage is too grave.

The rescue shuttle will not necessarily be on the launch pad, but will be ready to fly to the space station within 45 to 90 days, shuttle program manager Bill Parsons said. That is how long seven additional astronauts could remain

aboard the space station before food, oxygen and other supplies ran out.

NASA had been aiming for its first post-Columbia launch as early as next fall, but Administrator Sean O'Keefe said it would now be no earlier than January 2005. Because of a new safety requirement for daylight launches in order to photograph the liftoff from multiple angles, the space agency is limited in the number of days it can send a shuttle to the station.

O'Keefe said five or six potential launch dates are available in January. "If that looks like it's forcing anybody to do anything in a way that pressures that schedule at all, we'll defer it to March if need be," he said during a visit to Orlando, Fla.

The space agency has yet to decide which shuttle — Atlantis or Discovery — will make the first post-Columbia flight and which

one will be the standby. The fleet has been grounded since Columbia shattered over Texas on Feb. 1, 2003.

This will be the first time the space agency has had a rescue ship waiting in the wings since the days of NASA's first space station, Skylab, in the 1970s.

NASA deputy associate administrator Michael Kostelnik said it is too soon to say whether a shuttle will be on standby for succeeding missions as well.

"I don't believe that there's an awful lot of extra training or extra things that we have to do for a rescue mission," Parsons said. "It would just be going to the international space station, docking, picking up crew, making sure that we had the appropriate hardware and different things that we needed to bring that crew on board and then return safely."

In the case of Columbia, such a rescue would have been impossible. The shuttle did not visit the space station; it was in an entirely different orbit than the station and lacked the fuel to get there.

Any shuttle sent to Columbia's aid would have had to fly in formation, and spacewalks would have been needed to transfer Columbia's seven astronauts over to the rescue ship.

The shuttle that lifts off on the first flight since Columbia will incorporate numerous changes, including improvements to the external fuel tank and the leading edges of the wings. The changes were prompted by the Columbia accident, in which a piece of foam broke off from the external tank during launch and damaged the wing, dooming the spacecraft during re-entry.

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Welcome Parents

Junior parents, welcome to campus. For many of you, other than the start and end of your child's career at Notre Dame and the occasional football weekend, this is the only time that you will spend time on campus that you pay over \$30,000 a year for your child to attend.

But lest you think this is just a normal weekend at Notre Dame, we want to clue you in to some of the preparations for your arrival.

The seniors have been shipped off to Chicago and the underclassmen have gone to Windsor to avoid the wrath of rectors who have moved parietals two hours earlier. The University has dispatched front loaders to move piles of snow. The janitors have been hard at work to make sure that even the bathrooms don't smell. And your sons and daughters have been hard at work, too. They have done their laundry for the first time in weeks and washed their sheets for the first time all year. The custody of alcohol — the forbidden hard variety and beer alike — has been appropriated to a friend who won't have the watchful eye of parents in the room. The scantily-clad pictures have been removed from the walls.

(Juniors who haven't yet completed these tasks, please use this as a checklist so a disapproving scowl isn't the first thing you get when you see your parents.)

So welcome to this clean and sanitized Notre Dame. We are sure that you will enjoy it as much as we do in the 12 hours that it stays this way after you leave.

But in all seriousness, this weekend is for you and your children. It is the only time that a weekend on campus does not involve separation anxiety, as it does for the parents at freshman orientation and for the students leaving Notre Dame at commencement. It is a

wonderful opportunity to see what your child has been doing for the last three years and to make up for all of those phone calls that your child never made. We truly hope that all juniors and parents cherish this opportunity to meet friends, meet professors and also meet other parents. Once you get over the initial anxiety of parents and students spending an evening together, it will be a great weekend, the last until May 15, 2005 — and no one wants to think about that date just yet.

The Observer Editorial

Shopping wisely

Most of the food I eat is organic. Despite this fact, contrary to what many might think, I am far from chic. I would also make the claim that I am not what New York Times columnist David Brooks would classify as a "bobo." I make too little money, I dress too poorly and my car can claim well over 100,000 miles. I am a poor graduate student willing to pay what others might think is a ridiculous amount of money for food grown without the use of fertilizers and pesticides. And while I honestly feel most of this food tastes noticeably better — compare Annie's Organic Macaroni and Cheese with Kraft and you will clearly see what I mean — I also feel this decision is one grounded in social justice.

Rather than a "bobo," I place myself among those simple-living quasi-hippies from the Pacific Northwest who eschew giant corporate grocers and prefer small "natural food stores" or local coops owned by a collective of people. Perhaps we are the communists of the food chain, but our numbers are growing. It was not always this way. I grew up on a subtle combination of home cooked Italian-American meals and Stouffers TV Dinners, packed with the preservatives without which any American childhood would seem incomplete. I thought nothing of this.

Then I started to learn about the genetically modified organisms placed in most non-organic food, about the unsustainable agricultural practices often used to produce such food and about the chemical residues left on the produce I ate. The food I found in most supermarkets simply did not seem like food anymore, more a product of science than a product of the Earth.

Making the switch to organic food was easy when I lived in Portland, Ore., a

place where old Volkswagen vans are resurrected and where more people probably know where to find a good veggie burger than could point you in the direction of a decent hamburger. I found an organic diet more difficult when I arrived in South Bend. That is, until I happened upon a tiny place known as the Garden Patch, tucked away a few blocks off Grape Road. Its nondescript sign is unlikely to attract attention from anyone not intending to find it.

When you walk in the door, it might feel like you have stepped back in time. The doors do not open automatically, no one greets you, there is one checkout station and the whole place is smaller than most homes. Since 1956, the Garden Patch has survived under the ownership of the same family and is run today by Jay Freterickson, the original owner's son. Ironically enough, the Garden Patch sells few fruits and vegetables, a sad concession to the fact that, as the owner remarks, "few people eat produce today," but also because many of its customers buy their produce at South Bend's nearby Farmer's Market. Instead it provides a wide variety of organic or naturally grown packaged and bulk products.

One of the store's greatest virtues, contrary to the common suspicion of natural food stores, is its prices. The Garden Patch offers many products at prices below those of larger supermarket chains. This is in part because of a conscious effort to buy large amounts of products from distributors during sale periods and pass those savings on to customers. Over the years the Garden Patch's business has stayed steady, despite competition from two new natural food stores in the area and the addition of such products in the

aisles of the larger markets.

Strolling the aisles of the Garden Patch, I am led to conclude that part of the reason for this continued success is the sheer civility of the shopping experience. It lacks the frenzy of crazed shoppers in every aisle, the long lines at checkout, the feeling that your senses are being barraged at every moment by a display trying to sell you something you really do not need. But I think the deeper reason, and one which I share, is the desire of many shoppers to support a local business in an age when such places are quickly disappearing. The Garden Patch boasts a character sorely missing from the chains of every sort that spread like a virus across our country. Shopping there is a way to support the kind of independent local businesses whose existence prevents America from

losing any sense of local and regional charm. It also provides a way to buy foods that are good for the Earth, often better for the people who produce them, and most important better for one's own body.

The prices might seem high the first time one steps into such a store, but the fact is that Americans pay far less for their food, as a percentage of income, than citizens of any other industrial nation. This perspective reveals places like the Garden Patch provide wholesome food at a reasonable price. And frankly, the taste can't be beat.

John Infranca is a theology graduate student. His column appears every other Friday. He can be reached at jinfranc1@nd.edu.

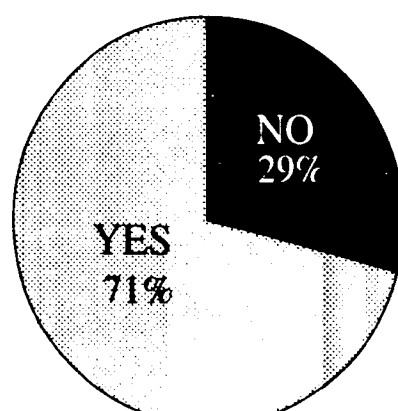
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



OBSERVER POLL

Should the student government constitution be amended so that, in the future, the Senate will not decide an election in which a candidate does not achieve a majority??

*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 113 responses.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Don't ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up."

Robert Frost
poet

GUEST COLUMN

The other minority

Every day the Viewpoint articles seem to be about how someone on campus is offended and underrepresented. Here is a little about the most underrepresented group on campus — an “alternate lifestyle” group that ought to be offended. Although a larger group than any racial minority, no popular presidential candidate ever adopts a plank in their favor, no Notre Dame media writes about them and no one seems to acknowledge their existence.

Ryan
Iafigliola

*Just Keepin’
It Real*

They are a minority of a different kind — a minority by choice, no doubt. In fact, they are an interesting bunch because they have the ability to disappear on weekends, or so it seems to those who are a part of the “popular” social scene. You guessed it — I am talking about the alcohol-free student.

The first question you must be thinking is, “Why?” Undoubtedly there are many reasons a person may choose not to drink. I could fill the rest of this column with reasons why I do not. Instead, I will summarize some of them in one paragraph.

Have you ever eaten at a homeless shelter? Talk to the people there. See what they tell you. Have you ever read the Bible or even read about the philosophy of Socrates? Examine what they say about drunkenness — stating that it is frowned upon is a gross understatement. Have you ever considered what drinking says about yourself? I will tell you — it says that you are not good enough as you are, so take this substance to change you — to make you do things that, if you were thinking straight, you would never be doing. And where does the fun part come in between the getting fat, puking, poor decision making and increased chance of physical or sexual assault? I tend to think I can have a much better time while sober. And, personally, I realize that once I decide to

do something, I do it all-out and never halfway, so I would be especially at risk if I started. Perhaps others use rationale similar to mine.

Now, if you were not convinced before you read that, I will bet my No. 1 dime that you still are not. My goal is not to change you — it is to demonstrate from where nondrinkers may be coming. With that in mind, consider this issue from my viewpoint.

This school encourages drinking, while doing little to offer opportunities for those who wish to abstain from it. As a university supposedly adamant in its Christian fervor, I think this is a bold statement, yet true.

Even regarding the transportation of alcohol, du Lac says, “Students must ensure that the containers are closed and in suitable packaging such that the contents of the package are not readily identifiable as alcoholic beverages.” In other words, “Go ahead and bring beer in, but please do not hurt the school’s precious image by showing that side to any chance visitors.” In addition, do not forget Frosh-O, which in men’s halls, anyway, mainly consists of upperclassmen telling the new students how to avoid getting in trouble when they drink. Lastly, even the gym and Huddle close earlier on weekends — heck, what are kids doing here? Go out and drink off your week.

Want further proof? Eighty-five percent of students here are reported as drinkers as compared to only 80 percent of students nationally. In addition, 27 percent of last year’s freshmen were nondrinkers as compared to only 12 percent of the entire student body. Students are subtly pressured and, by and large, they give in over time.

The students themselves are more ridiculous than the administration. I am convinced that the average student spends 50 hours a week studying and none thinking. Students cheered when smoking was banned from buildings, and many now support banning it at entrance ways, and perhaps entirely from

campus. Nevertheless, when it comes to alcohol — which is at least as large an annoyance to the innocent — drunken students do not hesitate to fill dorm hallways, puke in the sinks or invade rooms. You call yourselves my Notre Dame family, but I can tell you this — no one in my family has ever acted like that.

So what is my point? To students who drink, stop acting like non-drinkers have some sort of social defect. To students who have chosen not to drink, be proud and unafraid to let people know that yours is the high ground, and it shows character and integrity.

As for the administration, I have a special request. Please consider bringing Notre Dame’s dorm system up to date with the rest of the country. Of course, I do not mean with respect to parietals, but rather by giving housing options to those who do not want to drink. Nearly every major school in the nation offers students the option of signing up for a designated substance-free hall or floor — or at least asks questions about it when assigning freshmen roommates. This place currently does nothing and ignores the problem. The two new residence halls proposed in the master plan offer the perfect opportunity, and randomly selected dry hallways would be sufficient until then.

Although I expect to hear quite a bit of negative responses about this article, both in the newspaper and personally, realize that my requests do not in any way prevent current drinkers from continuing, so calm down. As for fellow nondrinkers, I would love to receive letters of support and to hear your thoughts because, contrary to popular belief, we do not hang out with each other in the library every Saturday night.

Ryan Iafigliola is a freshman engineering major. He can be reached at riafigli@nd.edu.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Request for apology is reverse discrimination

While scanning The Observer for grammatical errors to mock with my friends as usual, I came across yesterday’s story about The Observer’s editors defending the paper at the Student Senate.

Shocked that The Observer did, in fact, have editors, I read the article with bemusement, and I was rewarded with the latest nugget of absurdity from the Politically Correct Police.

In a frighteningly Orwellian twist of language, the Diversity Council, enraged by the multiple perspectives being expressed in the recent Viewpoint debate on affirmative action, asked the offending editors for an apology. Apparently, tolerance for the views of others applies only when those beliefs fall within the officially sanctioned orthodoxy of multiculturalism.

This incident highlights the contradictions behind the diversity craze that has swept across America’s campuses. Advocates of diversity presumably support the free exchange of ideas among students with varying beliefs and backgrounds. Proponents of affirmative action and the Supreme Court’s decision upholding preferential policies at universities specifically invoke this educational benefit of a classroom charged with multiple viewpoints as a rationale for the pursuit of a diverse student population.

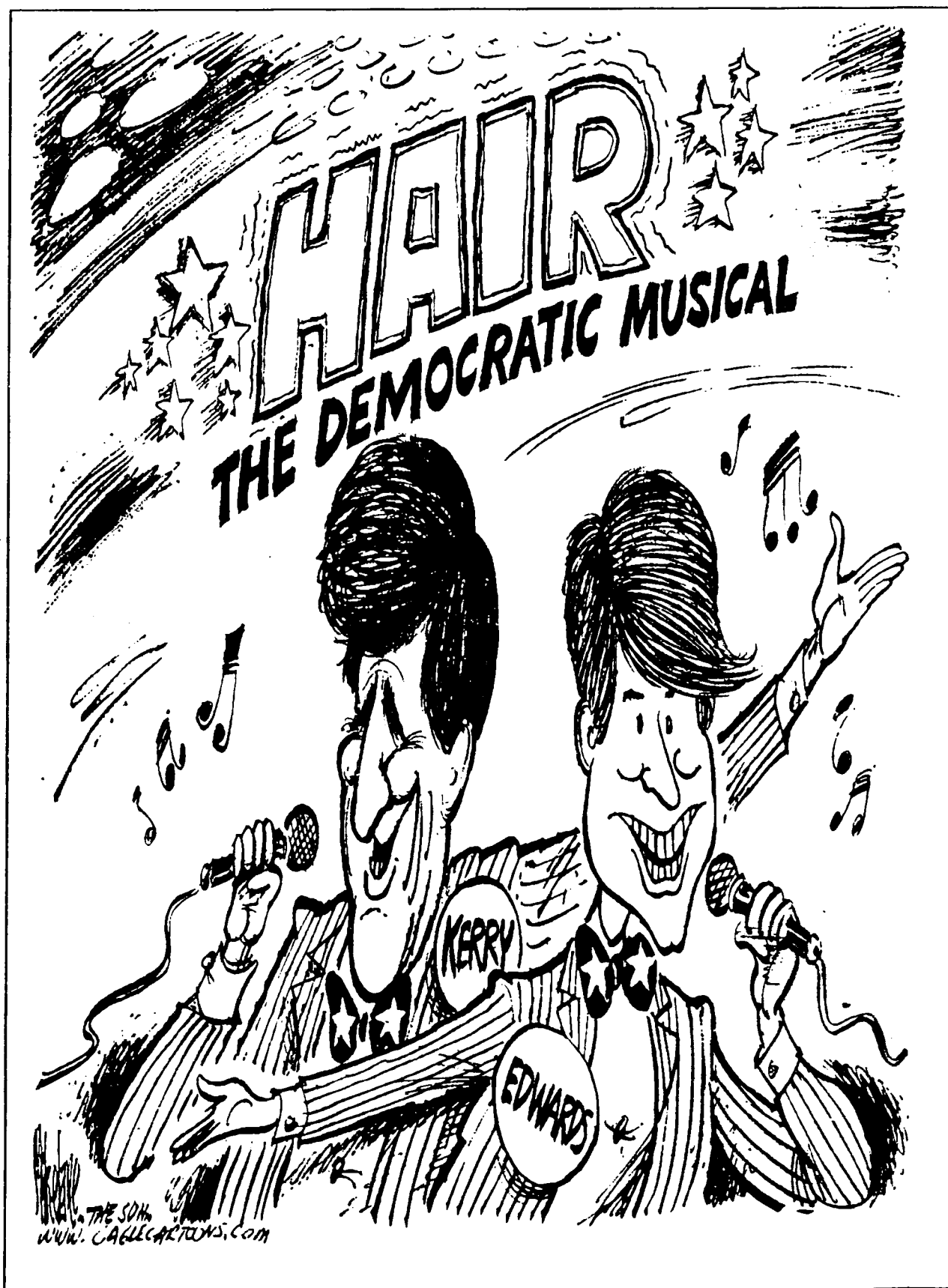
Unfortunately, diversity as it is currently enacted in higher education rarely means actual, spirited debate among competing beliefs and arguments. Instead, a superficial diversity is practiced, where ethnicity is seen as the predominant influence on a person’s belief system. The faces of such a diversified classroom may accurately reflect the ethnic composition of the country, but the entire goal of such diversity is defeated when everyone agrees or when an opinion deemed potentially offensive is stifled, as the Diversity Council requested.

As the ideology of diversity becomes increasingly institutionalized and entrenched in academia, actions to quiet dissenters, like those of the Diversity Council, will become increasingly common. Under the guise of sensitivity and tolerance, those who question the logic of diversity and multiculturalism will continue to be attacked as ignorant and racist troglodytes.

The Diversity Council fails to realize that its hypersensitivity and/or eagerness to condemn and dismiss opposing perspectives undermine its ostensible purpose, and its request for an apology dilutes and perverts the true meanings of the terms diversity and tolerance. In the future, please don’t continue to proselytize from your Gospel of Diversity while threatening excommunication to those heretics who dare to disagree.

Patrick Carney
junior
Fisher Hall
Feb. 19

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Laughs at Legends

Humor Artists present their first all stand up show of the semester

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

Putting yourself on stage in front of a crowd is never easy. Putting yourself up there with no lines, no props and no idea what situation you're going to have to deal with is even harder. Yet this is what the Humor Artists love to do, and it is a challenge they take on every time they put on a show.

"It's a blast for the performers because we constantly get fresh material, and the comedy is live," club co-president Bob Masters said. "We're out there without a net."

In Thursday night's all stand-up show at Legends, the group tried out its talents in a series of unscripted games that forced performers to think on their feet and to quickly come up with lines. Some of the group's favorite games include World's Worst, in which the performers impersonate the world's worst gynecologist, Elvis impersonator or other categories, Sound Like a Song, in which the performers have to improvise songs based on their lines and Two Lines, in which characters have to act out a scene using only the two lines that have been chosen for them. The show resembled a local version of ABC's "Whose Line is it Anyway?" with a Notre Dame twist.

Thursday night's performance was the first test of the type of show the Humor Artists hope to establish more regularly on campus. By setting up weekly or bi-weekly performances, the group hopes to pull in a more regular audience.

The Humor Artists is a mixed bag of talents and personality, with about 20 members who participate more or less depending on time and inclination. Group members Peter Wicks and Mike Bradt

have done semi-professional stand-up comedy, while others simply enjoy the challenge of being asked to play an obsessive-compulsive auto mechanic or a drunken Kermit the Frog on a moment's notice.

Besides the 12 members of the improvisational group and the five members of the Stand-Up Club, the group has a few other members who participate in the larger shows. Last semester's Night at the HApéra featured the whole group in improvisational as well as scripted skits.

Some of the group's alums go on in comedy, trying to establish themselves in groups like Second City in Chicago and the Groundlings in L.A. For others it's just a hobby.

The group is open to all students but tends to be self-selecting.

"We don't cut people, because it's really sink or swim," club co-president Ernie Grigg said. "After the first show, when you're up there in front of an audience people usually leave on their own if it's not their thing."

"Some kids have it and some kids don't, but you can work on it."

That is exactly what the group does every Wednesday and Sunday when they get together to run practice skits, play improvisational games and build group rapport.

"At first you tend to be reserved; you don't want to jump up. The biggest thing is just to practice and be willing to throw yourself out there," Masters said. "What makes improv comedy special is it is entirely dependent upon up audience. It works best when it's live and we have a responsive, excited crowd."

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of Bob Masters

Bob Masters, right, and Justin Smith, members of the Humor Artists, demonstrate the physical side of unscripted and impromptu comedy.

The Singles

One of Detroit's garage rock bands comes to Legends on Saturday night

By PATRICK VASSEL
Scene Writer

Just a few years ago, MTV and a variety of rock critics hailed the return of "garage rock" bands. With little studio assistance and relying mainly on scratchy voices and crunching guitars, bands such as The White Stripes, The Strokes and The Hives found their niche and fame. The Detroit-based genre was quickly spun into a popular phenomenon allowing hundreds of bands to come out of the garages and onto radio stations.

The Singles is a band from the suburbs of Detroit that has managed to rise above the hype and emerge as a group with a distinct sound and catchy songs. Formed in 2001 behind lead vocalist and guitarist Vince Frederick, the band is comprised of Will Yates on lead guitar, Dave Lawson on bass and Dave Knapp on drums.

Frederick, who doubles as the lead singer and songwriter, describes the band's sound as "Just straightforward rock 'n' roll, obviously with the influence of the old school bands but with the energy of today." Frederick became lost in the music of the '1950s and '60s in high school after being introduced to his parents' Beatles and Chuck Berry records at an early age. The influence is obvious listening to any track off their debut album, "Better than Before."

Songs such as the single "He Can Go, You Can't Stay" open with catchy riffs and a driving sound reminiscent of the early days of rock, but The Singles blend their energy perfectly with this sound to create songs that are both pop and powerful. This sound is so different from any other band out there that it is difficult to draw comparisons. Though often grouped with bands like The White Stripes, The Singles are almost in a genre by themselves.

The Singles hold high expectations for Saturday's show at Legends.

"Touring has gone just as good or better than we expected," Frederick said. "This is our first album and we didn't really know what to expect, but we've had some amazing turnouts at these shows. We're young, not road-weary or anything, and still ready to go."

Following this current tour around the country, the band is looking forward to heading to Germany in May.

With a song currently sitting at No. 4 on the German college charts, The Singles are eager to play for their growing European fan base. Frederick said the band, after playing in Germany, hopes to do a sweep through Europe, starting in Holland and France and finishing up in the United Kingdom and Spain.

Later this year, after the European tour, the band is planning to work on its second album.



Photo courtesy of www.rainbowquartz.com

From left to right, Dave Knapp, Dave Lawson, Will Yates, and Vince Frederick are the members of The Singles.

The band will collaborate with producer Tony Hoffer, whose credits include a Beck album, and most recently the new Supergrass disc.

The Singles are a young band with a new sound and explosive energy, and they aren't wasting any time. Frederick said one of the band's most important goals is to make sure their sound doesn't ever become stale. Their album "Better than Before" has received solid reviews and still sounds great after a few listens, but The Singles want to keep moving and keep progressing as a band.

"Right now, success is being able to keep making records, and just to have

people listen to it," Frederick said. "You know, there's a lot of acts out there, but everyone wouldn't be able to do it if people didn't listen. When we're all done, we want to be able to look back and see a natural progression of our music. We don't want to just keep putting the same record out there."

And The Singles are already progressing toward success beyond

Detroit — and beyond the garage. The Singles perform Saturday at Legends at 8:45 p.m.

Contact Patrick Vassel at pvassel@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of www.amazon.com

The Singles released their album "Better Than Before" under the Rainbow Quartz label during late August in 2003.

Station One

After four years, the band continues to play together

By MARIA SMITH
Scene Editor

Plenty of people talk about starting college bands. But when twins Pete and David Miller met Lawrence Santiago during a spring visitation before their freshman year and said they should start a band if they all ended up at Notre Dame, they meant it.

The next fall the trio found themselves in school together, and true to their word began playing with Pete Miller on drums, David Miller on guitar and Santiago as lead singer.

Keyboard player Mike Maimone joined the band after meeting Santiago in Zahm Hall.

At first, the musicians played under the name The Island Boys and were later known as Housebound. During their sophomore year, Santiago came up with the name Station One, and they stuck with it. The group has also switched bassists a few times, recruiting sophomore Bobby Seus to play with the group at the beginning of this year.

The group may have gone through a few changes, but four years later the Millers, Santiago and Maimone are still playing together.

Tonight from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Reckers, fans of the Notre Dame music scene will have a chance to hear the band debut several new songs and play their old favorites.

Classifying Station One into a genre is difficult. The musicians come from a wide variety of musical tastes and backgrounds, and everyone has their say in what they play. The Millers played in a punk band in high school, while Maimone played classical piano.

Santiago, not limited to band vocals, also played Bernardo in the Pasquerilla East Musical Company's production of West Side Story last weekend.

"It was very different playing in a band than in piano recitals, and it was a difficult transition," Maimone said. "But it's a lot of fun and a lot more rewarding."

Pete Miller said the band has a "very diverse style" and has been described as a "hybrid between Sublime and Maroon 5."

The band covers a lot of current hits but also enjoys writing its own music.

Sometimes they work alone, but most of the compositions are a collaborative effort.

"Lawrence has us covering Señorita by Justin Timberlake, but we also play a lot of Nirvana type stuff," Maimone said. "At first we weren't sure about covering Timberlake, but it's fun."

Over the past four years the band has played at many bars, parties and competitions in the area. During their freshman year, the group won third place in NAZZ,

the SUB-sponsored battle of the bands, and the following year they won first place.

The band tapered off during their jun-



Pete Miller, Dave Miller, Lawrence Santiago and Mike Maimone formed their first band together during their freshman year.

Photo courtesy of Station One

"We have a very diverse style. We're sometimes described as a hybrid between Sublime and Maroon 5."

Pete Miller
drummer



Photo courtesy of Station One

Station One has performed at competitions, parties and bars, including Notre Dame's former Senior Bar (now renamed Legends).

ior year when the lead singer and keyboard players both went abroad, though the Miller twins and a new set of musicians still took third place in the competition.

While the group enjoys performing on campus, they have found the Notre Dame music scene to be somewhat constricting.

"There are a few really good bands. It's just people don't know about them, and there's not enough places to play," Maimone said. "We've been trying to play at Legends this semester, but there aren't enough slots for all the bands, so we're starting to look at bars."

"The music scene could be good. There are a lot of talented musicians here, but it also doesn't seem like people are incredibly interested in campus bands."

With the group members probably parting ways after graduation, tonight's show at Reckers could be the beginning of the end for the band.

"Obviously we don't want to give it up, but everybody wants to be a rock star," Maimone said. "We're going to do the best we can to get a demo recorded and send it to labels."

"We all have pretty set plans, but we'd all prefer to do a tour or something this summer if we could."

Station One is currently working on their website, www.stationonenation.com, where the group will soon have posted biographies of the band members and pictures of the band.

Tonight's show will also feature Layden, a local band including the Millers' younger brother James. The younger Miller plans to attend Notre Dame next year and hopes to continue to play with his band after starting school.

The chance to hear one of Notre Dame's few but proud campus bands will be free and open to all students.

Contact Maria Smith at msmith4@nd.edu

FENCING

Irish hope to end season with win

By MATT MOONEY
Sports Writer

Season finales are rarely more anticlimactic than this one.

The Notre Dame men's and women's fencing team will cruise into West Lafayette on Saturday as the only ranked team in the West vs. Central Dual meet. The Irish will face teams all hailing from the Midwest, including Michigan, Michigan State, University of Chicago, Wisconsin, Detroit-Mercy and host Purdue.

Notre Dame will have a relatively easy fencing weekend for the first time all year. After weathering all but one of the tempests brought on by numerous top 10 opponents (six for the women, seven for the men), the absence of a top school gives coach Janusz Bednarski plenty of room to breathe.

"We are expecting a bit weaker teams," he said. "We went through the giants

already [so] I don't expect that we'll lose."

Matches that the Irish expect to win allows for many of the backups to get the bout experience necessary for them to earn a monogram. While the starters may begin the matches, the subs will likely enter as soon as the clinching 14th victory has been secured. Senior foilist Derek Snyder feels that this is the chance for the walk-ons to get some deserved recognition.

"They are as much a part of the team as anyone else," he said. "They can definitely take care of their own business this weekend and do really well."

The West vs. Central meet equates to the calm before the storm of the impending post-season. However, Bednarski feels any competition whether strong or weak serves as valuable experience.

"I expect tough bouting and confirmation that the team is strong enough to be one of the top teams in the Midwest," he said.

The freshmen can already feel the sense of urgency to begin the defense of the team's national title.

"I'm nervous that I might not qualify for the NCAA's because I know that we need to qualify 12 to win, and I don't like that pressure," freshman epeeist Amy Orlando said.

However, she feels prepared, pressure or no pressure.

"I've been in training and going to individual competitions, but I'm ready," she said. "Purdue is also just a good warm up for Penn State."

Saturday will close another successful regular season as the Irish fencing teams combined for only one dual loss all year. The top-ranked women's team will look to clinch their first undefeated regular season since the 1994-95 season. Adding to the record books, the women will also try and stretch their streak of consecutive dual match victories. Their current mark stands at 34 matches which is good

enough for fifth best all time in school history.

Despite suffering only one loss all season, Snyder says the men's team still has a bitter taste left in their mouths.

"I'm disappointed still about dropping that one match to ruin our streak, but everybody buckled down and started working harder," he said.

St. John's dethroned Notre Dame from the top spot in the polls and Snyder is already looking to the post-season for redemption.

"When I lose to someone before I go into the NCAA's it just makes me want to beat them more. I want to get revenge. The whole team is looking forward to upsetting St. John's," Snyder said.

After their season ending dual meet, the Irish will not fence again until the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships beginning March 6 at the Joyce Center.

Contact Matt Mooney at
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Big East

continued from page 24

second.

The men's squad (169.5) currently sits in third place behind No. 16 Pittsburgh (234) and Virginia Tech (191.5) and ahead of Rutgers (152).

A pair of third- and a trio of fourth-place finishes put the Irish in the hunt at the of the meet's first day.

Freshmen Tim Kegelman (200-yard individual medley) and Ted Brown (500-yard freestyle) each took third and sophomore Jaime Lutkus (200-yard individual medley), freshman Scott Coyle (3-meter board) and the 500-yard freestyle relay team (Kegelman, freshman Tim Randolph, sophomore Doug Bauman and junior Frank Krakowski) all placed fourth.

In addition, senior co-captains Matt Obringer (500-yard freestyle) and Josh Dermott (200-yard individual medley) contributed sixth- and seventh-place finishes, respectively.

The meet continues today and concludes Saturday, with preliminaries at 10:30 a.m. and event finals at 6 p.m.

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Team faces final preseason game against Dennison

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

Sunday will be the last opportunity for the Irish to test their skills before the training wheels must come off.

After two impressive wins over Mercyhurst (22-4) and Boston Cannons (14-11), Notre Dame will play in its final exhibition game against Dennison before the start of the regular season.

Although exhibition games are often dismissed as unimportant, they are a chance for team to practice their newly developed skills. Moreover, exhibition games are a tool for determining the team's expectations for the rest of the season.

"It is our last time to play against another opponent and see where we are at," sophomore Pat Walsh said. "It is also

another step to where we want to be at the end of the season ... the NCAA tournament."

The Irish have failed to qualify for the tournament in the past two years and barely missed the 16-team field after finishing No. 18 in the nation last season.

Several returning seniors will be leading the preseason No. 11 Irish into their final exhibition game, in hopes of getting the team on the right foot on their way to the tournament. Under the leadership of veteran attackers Matt Howell and Dan Berger and goalie Steward Crosland, Walsh expects the team will see much success. Already, Crosland have lead by example, registering 14 saves against Boston Cannons last weekend.

These three seniors, in addition to 10 returning starters, have made the preseason learning experience easier for new-

comers. In addition, the veterans bring stories of last season's successes and failures, giving the Irish a starting point for this season.

"We met after the Maryland game last season and talked about what we wanted to do this year," Walsh said. "The guys are hungry and determined to do a lot better than last year because we were so young."

In this final tune-up match, the Irish are presented with the opportunity of finishing 3-0 during exhibition play. This has boosted the team's confidence, and showed how the Irish have matured since last season. This will be the last match before the Irish face No. 17 Penn State during their first match of the regular season.

"I think it'll be good for us to get a lot of work in. It will let us work out things in game situa-

tions," Walsh said. "You get a good feel for where you are when the season starts."

Despite having their sights set upon post-season action already, the Irish are fully aware of the importance of every game. With each game, the team will not only focus upon their opponent's strengths and weaknesses, but also the basic fundamentals of the game.

Although Sunday's match against Dennison marks the final exhibition game, the end result could have a significant impact on the first games of the season. However, the team feels confident that experience can overcome any apprehension.

"We just want to go out and



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

The men's lacrosse team takes on Air Force last April.

play hard and do the basics like get ground balls," Walsh said. "I think that'll make us come out on top at the end."

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ND SOFTBALL

Irish travel to Palm Springs

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

Fresh off a 4-1 start to their season, Notre Dame stays on the road to visit the warm climates of Palm Springs, Calif., for the Palm Springs Classic this weekend.

The Irish kick off tournament play against Utah and Pacific today and then face No. 8 Stanford on Saturday. Notre Dame completes play Saturday with an exhibition against the U.S. Olympic Team.

The team then faces their fourth ranked opponent in 10 games when it completes tournament play against No. 12 Tennessee Sunday morning.

Notre Dame's 4-1 start, which includes a win over then-No. 8 Nebraska, is the best start for the Irish since 2001 when the team won its first eight games.

The Irish played well in last weekend's UNLV Classic, defeating every team they played at the tournament except for No. 2 California. Notre Dame played the Bruins tough, outhitting their opponent 7-4, but still lost 2-1.

The Irish face their second ranked team from California this weekend in Stanford, who is a near-flawless 8-1 so far this year. The Cardinal's only loss was to then-No. 6 Alabama in extra innings Feb. 7.

Tennessee, like Notre Dame, has been a bit of a surprise so far this season. Left out of the USA Today/National Fastpitch



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Megan Ciolli swings against St. John's April 11 of last year. The Irish face Utah and Pacific today in the Palm Springs Classic.

Coaches Association preseason poll, the Lady Vols have gone 11-1 to move to No. 12 in the national rankings.

The Lady Vols' lone loss this year came at the hands of then-No. 23 Oregon State, who defeated Tennessee 2-0 on Feb. 7.

The Irish were carried offensively last weekend by juniors Liz Hartmann and Megan Ciolli. Hartmann hit .500 at the UNLV Classic with seven RBI and three home runs, including a game-winning shot against Nebraska.

Ciolli, one of 40 players selected to USA Softball's player of the year watch list, hit .625 in the tournament.

Notre Dame's pitching, a strength last season, has continued to be impressive this year. Despite allowing 15 runs com-

bined in the tournament, only seven of those were earned runs.

Junior Carrie Wisen picked up two wins in relief, and sophomore Heather Booth and junior Steffany Stenglein each collected wins. The team's ERA for the tournament was 1.44 and Irish pitchers struck out 29 batters in 34 innings.

This weekend's tournament will be a bit of a homecoming for that pitching trio, as all three players are from California. In addition, Notre Dame has four position players (Hartmann, Carissa Jaquish, Mallorie Lenn and Meghann Ruthrauff) who hail from the Golden State.

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Stanford remains unbeaten with win

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Stanford survived another threat to its perfect season.

Josh Childress scored a career-high 36 points and the top-ranked Cardinal rallied from a 13-point first-half deficit to beat Southern California 76-67 Thursday night for its school-record 22nd consecutive victory.

Stanford (13-0) clinched a share of its fourth Pac-10 title in six years with three weeks remaining in the regular season.

But perfection has been harder to maintain recently. The Cardinal came from 19 points down and won at Oregon on Jan. 31, then Nick Robinson hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to hold off Arizona on Feb. 7.

USC (10-13, 5-9) threatened until the final minutes after Stanford blew an 11-point lead in the second half. The Trojans tied it for the final time at 65 on a basket by Jeff McMillan.

But Childress hit a 3-pointer and scored another basket for a 70-65 lead. The Trojans, who had been solid from the free-throw line earlier in the game, made just 2-of-5 in the final 1:15 when they trailed by three.

After that, Stanford scored the game's final six points to end USC's upset hopes.

Rob Little added 20 points for Stanford.

McMillan led USC with 21 points — one off his career high. Rory O'Neil added 14, and Desmond Farmer scored 11, all in the first half when he carried the Trojans.

The Trojans (10-13, 5-9) have lost seven of their last nine games.

USC started the game strongly, playing aggressive defense and getting hands in the faces of Stanford's shooters. Childress was the Cardinal's only offensive threat in the first half, when he had 18 points.

Stanford trailed 36-28 at halftime, a virtual repeat of the teams' Jan. 24 meeting, when the Trojans led by six at the break in Palo Alto.

Just like in that game, the Cardinal dominated the start of the second half. Stanford outscored USC 27-8 to take a 55-44 lead with 10:48 remaining. Matt Lottich had 12 points and Stanford twice scored off consecutive USC turnovers.

But the Trojans weren't done yet.

They used a 16-5 spurt to tie the game at 60 with 5:16 left. O'Neil scored nine points and had two big blocks.

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SMC SWIMMING

Belles make presence felt at Championships

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

What a difference a year makes.

After the first day of competition and only five races, the Saint Mary's swimming team is already making its presence known at the MIAA Championships.

Despite finishing the first day of the meet in sixth place, Saint Mary's has already swam away with noteworthy performances and are ahead of their seventh-place finish last year.

Saint Mary's swimming coach Gregg Petcoff wanted an energized Petcoff beginning to the meet, and the Belles responded to his call Thursday night.

During the first individual race, senior and team captain Megan Ramsey came away with a second-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle finals with a time of 5 minutes, 14.22 seconds.

"She got out there and swam," Petcoff said.

The exceptional performances did not end in the 500-yard

freestyle. Sophomore Sarah Nowak continued her remarkable season by finishing eighth in the 200-yard individual medley finals with a school-record time in 2:17.16.

"This is her first conference meet and it can be a little intimidating, but she handled it like a pro," Petcoff said. "Like Sarah, people are going out there and swimming."

The team also placed fourth in the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:44.31.

Saint Mary's is now looking towards the second day of competition, hoping to perform as well as they did in the first five events. The early leaders at the championships are Hope with a team score of 185 points and Calvin with 119 points. Saint Mary's has 55 points in sixth place, closely followed by Albion with 50 points.

"It is truly individualized, but we are having so many people stepping up to help the team," Petcoff said.

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish finish preseason play

By MATT MOONEY
Sports Writer

One way to gauge a team heading into a new season is by comparing them to the best.

The Notre Dame women's lacrosse team will do just that as they continue their preseason

play by traveling to New Jersey this weekend. There, the team will participate in the Princeton Invitational where the No. 17 Irish will meet the preseason No. 1 and two-time defending national champion Princeton Tigers.

The match against Princeton follows Notre Dame's 17-9 exhibition victory over Team Canada last weekend. Notre Dame dominated the team's first preseason match of the spring, jumping out to a 12-4 halftime lead and never looking back.

Princeton, however, will be a

much different team than Team Canada. Against the Tigers, the Irish will face one of the lacrosse giants of the northeast. However, junior attack Jackie Bowers feels that experience against the nation's premier lacrosse school will serve as a measuring stick for her team.

"We have nothing to lose," Bowers said. "They're the champions the past two years and that's the level we want to be at. If we don't do as well, that will show what we have to work on to reach that [level]."

The lacrosse team can expect a similar caliber opponent once the regular season begins. Notre Dame's schedule is chock full of ranked teams, with nine teams appearing in the preseason top 25. Four of those nine are in the top 10, including Big East rival No. 6 Georgetown.

"A lot of people don't know how good we are with most of

the top teams being out on the East Coast," Bowers said. "Our expectations are to prove to other top 10 teams that we are a force to reckon with."

Bowers feels that some teammates have a lot to prove individually.

"We have a lot of older players who haven't been given the opportunity to really contribute and they've waited a long time for that," she said. "A couple juniors have been in the program for three years and their turn is finally up to show everyone what they have."

Some of the newcomers also have to step into roles.

"We do have a couple freshmen we'll look to have contribute, mostly [midfielder] Megan Murphy, she's been playing very well," Bowers said.

Notre Dame will kick off their regular season a week later on Feb. 27 when they battle California.

Contact Matt Mooney at
mmooney@nd.edu

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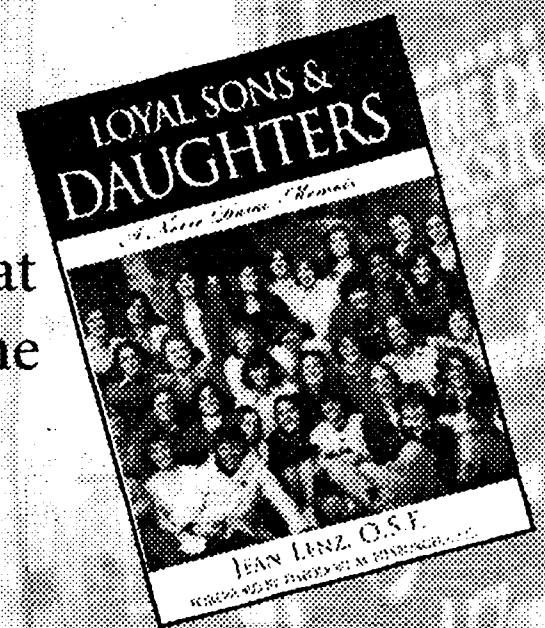
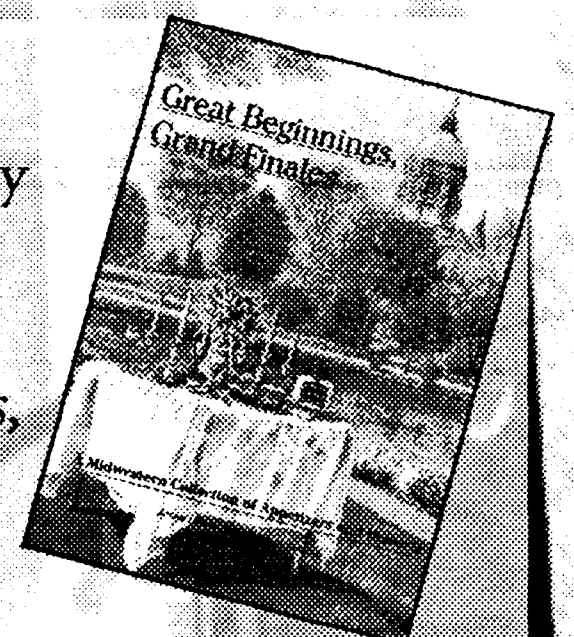
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MEN'S TENNIS

Irish travel to Chicago to face No. 37 Northwestern

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

The No. 50 men's tennis team joins the JPW-induced exodus from campus this weekend, traveling to Chicago for a match at No. 37 Northwestern before returning to host No. 40 Southern Methodist University.

"All we've done is to hold serve," head coach Bobby Bayliss said, reflecting on his team's performance through the dual-match season. "We haven't done anything exceptional, but we haven't stumbled, either."

This weekend and the coming weeks will be telling for the Irish and their postseason destiny.

"It will certainly be a challenge," Bayliss said, calling his team "guardedly optimistic."

"Our next six matches are extremely important for our postseason plans, as far as where we finish and where we might be seeded [in the NCAA Tournament]," he said.

The Irish face a quick turnaround, playing at Northwestern at 4 p.m. and returning to face SMU here at noon the next day.

"Our guys will have a limited social life that evening, hopefully," Bayliss said, but he remained optimistic despite the tight schedule.

"Sometimes you play your best tennis when you're in a screwy situation," he said.

The 8-3 Wildcats are 5-1 at home, with four of those wins against ranked opponents. Junior Chuck Perrin has been a key factor for Northwestern this year as they claw their way up

the rankings.

"Northwestern has beaten teams in the top 25, and Arkansas, who was No. 25 last week," Bayliss said. "We know they're playing at a pretty good level."

"Notre Dame is a better team than its ranking indicates," Wildcats head coach Paul Torricelli said in a Northwestern press release. "They always are one of the strongest teams in the region. I think we bring out the best in each other every year."

The Southern Methodist Mustangs are 2-3 this season

after dropping a close match last weekend to No. 20 Texas. Led by senior Gwinyai Chingoka, a 2003 All-WAC selection, the Mustangs will be a challenge for the Irish. The noon match on

Sunday comes only hours after the team returns from Chicago.

"SMU hasn't played as extensive of a schedule yet," Bayliss said. "Both teams beat us 4-3 last year, both

matches were close, and we'd like to reverse those scores this year."

A key point of the match will be doubles, an area that has plagued the Irish through the dual-match season. Freshman Ryan Keckley and senior Luis Haddock have comprised the No. 1 doubles team ranked No. 18 nationally, and senior Matthew Scott and junior Brent D'Amico have played consistent-

ly at No. 2. In last weekend's match against Wisconsin, Bayliss switched Keckley and Scott, giving the team a quick win at No. 2 but losing close matches at No. 1 and No. 3 with the duo of Eric Langenkamp and Paul Hidaka.

"No. 3 has been our question mark," Bayliss said. "They're all sort of competing for the ability to play in that third doubles slot."

Bayliss is leaving the option of breaking up the top two teams open to debate.

"Our switched teams [at No. 1 and 2 against Wisconsin] stayed in the nucleus of four people," he said. "If we have to break up one of the teams and split them in order to strengthen us at the bottom, it may be something we'll consider." The Irish face Northwestern at the Combe Tennis Center in Evanston, Ill., 4 p.m. Saturday and Southern Methodist at 12 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Kate Gales at
kgales@nd.edu

Bobby Bayliss
Irish coach

"Our guys will have a limited social life that evening, hopefully."

WILLIAM MERRITT CHASE

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to end season positively

By STEVE COYER
Sports Writer

After a long regular season, the Belles hope to end on a high note.

Saint Mary's (7-17) has fallen short of its high expectations set at the beginning of the year, but the team has the chance to accomplish one of its goals on Saturday against Olivet College.

Olivet (9-15) currently shares last place in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) with the Belles, as both teams have a 2-11 conference record. With a victory, the Belles would avoid a last place finish and gain momentum going into the league tournament.

On Wednesday, the Belles prevailed 64-59 over Kalamazoo (13-11) to record their first victory of the season against a team

with a winning record.

After a string of disappointing losses, the critical win against Kalamazoo has given the Belles renewed confidence as they look towards the playoffs.

In their first league win of the season, the Belles decisively defeated Olivet 77-69 in a game where the bench accounted for 33 of Saint Mary's points.

Since then, the Belles have relied less on their bench and more on forward Emily Creachbaum, who scored 18 points in Wednesday's victory and 26 points in a loss last Saturday to Alma.

Creachbaum, who received a nomination for MIAA player of the week, only managed 10 points in a previous matchup against Olivet due to foul trouble and the defense of center Amanda Johnston.

Johnston scored 32 points and grabbed 12 rebounds last time against the Belles and looks to be the biggest weapon for Olivet, both on offense and defense.

While the Belles will carry momentum into Saturday's game, Olivet likewise will come in confident after a 102-72 victory over Tri-State.

In the shootout against Tri-State, Olivet had five players score in double figures and the team shot 12-for-28 from 3-point range.

Every year from the 1999 to 2003 season, either Saint Mary's or Olivet has held last place in the MIAA.

The two teams have alternated years of last place finishes. Last year Saint Mary's was in last, so if the pattern holds Olivet will take last this year.

The Belles play their final of the regular season Saturday at 3 p.m. at Olivet.

Contact Steve Coyer at
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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Doubles key for Irish today against BYU

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

Inconsistent doubles matches may be No. 20 Brigham Young University's Achilles heel as they face Notre Dame today at 4 p.m.

"They had some impressive wins against William and Mary and Southern California, but they've been up and down in doubles," coach Jay Louderback said.

The Cougars (7-2) bested Kansas 7-0 and are fresh off a 5-2 win over Denver last weekend.

No. 26 Notre Dame (5-1) collected a trio of wins last weekend against Virginia Commonwealth 4-3, Boston College 6-1 and Virginia Tech 5-2. Doubles matches were Notre Dame's forte this weekend, as they swept doubles in each meet.

"Those three matches on the road really boosted the kids' confidence, especially since we did so well in doubles," Louderback said. "We've been concentrating

on doubles in practice, so it was good for the kids to see their hard work pay off."

The primary difficulty the Irish must cope with this weekend will be the speed at which the Cougars serve and return the ball. Louderback said that preparing the team to overcome this obstacle has been of utmost importance this week.

"We've been getting the kids ready for balls to come at them hard," Louderback said. "We see this meet as a good opportunity to play someone ranked ahead of us."

At BYU last year, the Cougars fell to the Irish in a close 4-3 decision. Notre Dame posted four wins in singles, but failed to capture the doubles point.

"We'll go in wanting to win, but every match is going to be tough," Louderback said. "But the more matches we play, the better we'll play."

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ND TRACK AND FIELD

Big East Championships await Irish

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame indoor track and field teams go into this weekend's Big East Championships looking to add to their trophy cases. The men are the defending champions and a repeat title is on their minds. The women won two years ago and, after a second place finish last year, they are in position to reclaim their title.

However, winning the meet, to be held in the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, N.Y., will be no easy task for either squad.

The women, currently ranked No. 17 by Trackwire.com, will see their main competition coming from No. 12 and defending conference champion Miami Hurricanes.

Sprinter Ayesha Boyd expects the Irish to give Miami a run for their money this weekend.

"They are dominant in every event, and we would love to go out and beat them," Boyd said.

Among the favorites expected to contend for an individual title is sophomore distance runner Molly Huddle. Her 3,000-meter time of 9:08.60 is second in the conference to Providence's Kim Smith.

Huddle is also a member of the women's distance medley relay team along with Lauren King, Kristen Dodd and Kerry Meagher. Huddle and King were members of last year's team that won the conference title. They are poised to repeat this year if they can knock off Georgetown. The Hoyas defeated the Irish at the Mevo Invitational two weeks ago by 0.67 seconds. King, a junior, is the defending conference champ in the mile and is expected to contend again this year.

Senior Boyd and junior Tiffany Gunn lead a strong pack of Irish sprinters set to score big team points. Gunn, out of Little Rock, Ark., has qualified for the meet in the 60-meter hurdles as well as the 200, 400 and 500 meters.

Boyd is qualified in the 60-meter dash along with the 200 and 400 meters. She took third place in the 60-meter dash in last year's conference meet.

The men's team should see its stiffest competition from Connecticut and Georgetown. Those squads finished second and third respectively in last year's meet and both return numerous placers.

The men will use the experi-

ence of veterans like senior Godwin Mbagwu and juniors Selim Nurudeen and Trevor McClain-Duer to keep their hold on the conference championship. Nurudeen, a Friendswood, Tex. native, placed second in the 60-meter hurdles at last year's Big East meet. Presently he has the top time in the Big East in that event at 7.79 seconds.


Mbagwu is the defending conference outdoor champ in the long jump. Presently, he is fourth in the Big East in that category while he is ranked first in the triple jump with a distance of 15.31 meters.

McClain-Duer will join sophomore Ryan Postel as the favorites to win the 400-meters. Postel ranks third in the conference with a time of 47.33 seconds while McClain-Duer is in eighth place at 48.00 seconds.

The Irish men have won every conference indoor 5,000-meter championship since Notre Dame joined the Big East in 1996. Senior Todd Mobley and sophomore Kaleb Van Ort will try to keep the tradition alive as they currently rank third and fourth in the conference respectively.

Sophomore Thomas Chamney and junior Eric Morrison will compete in the 800 meters. Both are in the top ten of the conference in that category.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu



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AROUND THE NATION

page 20

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Friday, February 20, 2004

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

| team | record | pts. | last 10 |
|--------------|------------|------|---------|
| Philadelphia | 31-14-11-5 | 78 | 6-3-1-0 |
| New Jersey | 30-16-11-1 | 72 | 5-4-1-0 |
| NY Islanders | 28-21-8-2 | 66 | 4-1-4-1 |
| NY Rangers | 21-27-7-4 | 53 | 3-7-0-0 |
| Pittsburgh | 11-40-5-4 | 31 | 0-9-0-1 |

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

| team | record | pts. | last 10 |
|----------|------------|------|---------|
| Toronto | 32-16-9-3 | 76 | 5-4-1-0 |
| Ottawa | 32-15-8-4 | 76 | 5-3-1-1 |
| Boston | 29-14-11-6 | 75 | 7-0-1-2 |
| Montreal | 28-24-6-2 | 64 | 4-6-0-0 |
| Buffalo | 27-26-6-1 | 61 | 8-1-1-0 |

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

| team | record | pts. | last 10 |
|------------|------------|------|---------|
| Tampa Bay | 31-17-7-3 | 72 | 8-1-1-0 |
| Florida | 20-25-12-3 | 55 | 3-5-2-0 |
| Atlanta | 23-30-6-2 | 54 | 2-7-1-0 |
| Carolina | 18-27-11-2 | 49 | 2-6-2-0 |
| Washington | 18-32-7-2 | 45 | 4-4-2-0 |

Western Conference, Central Division

| team | record | pts. | last 10 |
|-----------|-----------|------|---------|
| Detroit | 34-16-8-2 | 78 | 6-2-2-0 |
| Nashville | 28-22-7-2 | 65 | 4-5-1-0 |
| St. Louis | 28-22-7-1 | 54 | 3-6-1-0 |
| Columbus | 17-30-8-4 | 46 | 3-5-1-1 |
| Chicago | 16-30-7-5 | 44 | 5-5-0-0 |

Western Conference, Northwest Division

| team | record | pts. | last 10 |
|-----------|------------|------|---------|
| Colorado | 32-13-10-4 | 78 | 4-2-2-2 |
| Vancouver | 32-18-7-3 | 74 | 5-4-0-1 |
| Calgary | 30-20-5-3 | 68 | 6-3-1-0 |
| Edmonton | 24-26-9-1 | 58 | 5-4-1-0 |
| Minnesota | 20-22-16-2 | 58 | 3-3-2-2 |

Western Conference, Pacific Division

| team | record | pts. | last 10 |
|-------------|------------|------|---------|
| San Jose | 28-16-11-5 | 72 | 5-4-0-1 |
| Dallas | 28-22-10-0 | 66 | 6-2-2-0 |
| Los Angeles | 22-17-14-7 | 65 | 3-2-3-2 |
| Anaheim | 21-24-8-7 | 57 | 5-2-0-2 |
| Phoenix | 19-23-14-3 | 55 | 1-7-1-1 |

Mens College Basketball Big East Conference

| team | conf. | overall |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| Pittsburgh | 9-2 | 23-2 |
| Providence | 8-3 | 17-5 |
| Connecticut | 8-3 | 20-5 |
| NOTRE DAME | 7-5 | 13-9 |
| Syracuse | 6-6 | 16-6 |
| Seton Hall | 6-5 | 16-7 |
| West Virginia | 6-5 | 14-8 |
| Villanova | 6-5 | 14-10 |
| Boston College | 6-6 | 17-8 |
| Rutgers | 6-6 | 15-8 |
| Georgetown | 4-7 | 13-9 |
| Virginia Tech | 3-8 | 10-12 |
| Miami | 3-9 | 13-13 |
| St. John's | 1-10 | 6-16 |

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SATURDAY

Villanova at Seton Hall, Noon, NBC
NOTRE DAME at Connecticut, 2 p.m., CBS
Ohio State at Indiana, 8 p.m., WHME

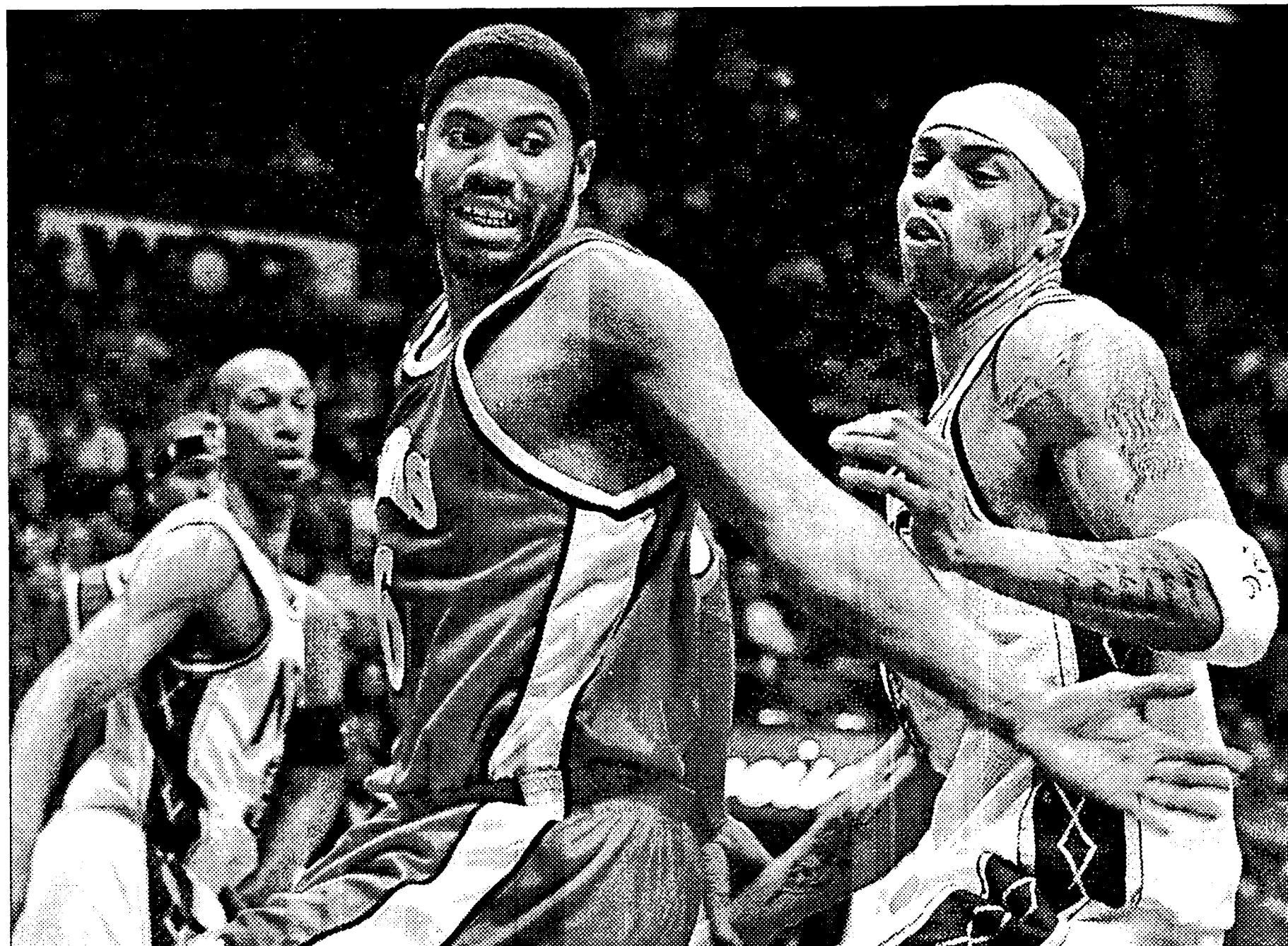
NBA

Timberwolves at Pistons, 8 p.m., TNT
Cavaliers at Knicks, 1 p.m. Sun., ABC

NHL

Avalanche at Wild, 7 p.m. Sun., ESPN2

NBA



Rasheed Wallace, left, of the Atlanta Hawks and Kenyon Martin of the New Jersey Nets battle for a loose ball. Wallace was traded to Detroit Thursday in a multi-team deal.

Pistons get Rasheed Wallace in 3-team deal

Associated Press

DETROIT — Rasheed Wallace is headed to the Detroit Pistons, who only had to give up reserves and draft picks to land the frontcourt scorer they coveted.

Wallace was moved to Detroit in a three-team trade Thursday after playing only one game for the Atlanta Hawks, who acquired the temperamental player from Portland last week.

The two-time All-Star has averaged 16.1 points and 6.7 rebounds during nine NBA years and 17.1 points and 6.6 rebounds this season.

"It gives us a real shot to compete at the highest level in the NBA right now," Dumars said.

In a deal put together shortly before the NBA trading deadline, the Pistons sent center Zeljko Rebraca, guard Bob Sura and a first-round draft pick to the Hawks. That pick will come from Milwaukee this year if the Bucks make the playoffs.

Detroit also sent guards Lindsey Hunter, Chucky Atkins, its first round pick this year and cash to Boston, while the Celtics shipped forward Chris Mills to the Hawks and guard Mike James to the Pistons.

"That fact that we didn't have to break up our team and we were able to add the guy we did, it made it a no-brainer move for us," Dumars said. "It created cap space and we didn't mess with our core, so it was a great deal for us."

Besides adding Wallace, the deal will put Detroit about \$10 million under the salary cap this summer.

Atlanta acquired Wallace from Portland to clear cap space and will now could be about \$20 million under the salary cap after the season.

Sura has averaged 8.1 points and 3.5 assists during his nine-year career

and Rebraca has averaged 6.2 points and 3.4 rebounds in three NBA seasons.

"I think this is what's best for the Hawks," Hawks general manager Billy Knight said. "I'm trying to build a team for the long haul in the best way possible. Rasheed's a heck of a player, but I think this is best for us and best for him."

Cleveland coach Paul Silas said he couldn't understand why the Hawks made the deal.

"That's going to make the Pistons awfully tough," Silas said. "I just don't know what some people are thinking about."

IN BRIEF

Pacers' Artest injured

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers forward Ron Artest will be out indefinitely after having surgery Thursday to repair torn ligaments in his left thumb.

The Pacers had no immediate timetable for his return, but seemed to be bracing for an extended stint without their best perimeter defender and second-leading scorer.

"The good news is it's not his shooting hand, the bad news is it's a surgery," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "Surgeries take a while to recover from."

The All-Star first injured the thumb when it got caught in the jersey of New Jersey forward Richard Jefferson during a game against the Nets on Jan. 17. He aggravated it Tuesday night against the New Orleans Hornets when he fell in the third quarter.

Artest clutched his thumb for several possessions, but played the rest of the game. He missed practice to

have the thumb examined Wednesday, when it was determined he has a torn ligament. He had surgery for a similar injury when he was a sophomore at St. John's.

Artest flew to New York on Thursday to have the surgery performed by the same doctor who operated on his hand while he was in college.

Al Harrington will start in Artest's place.

LSU secures Saban

BATON ROUGE, La. — LSU's Nick Saban has signed a seven-year contract that guarantees at least \$2.3 million this year, making him the highest paid college football coach.

The deal was approved Thursday by a panel of the LSU governing board and was expected to easily receive final approval from the full board Friday.

Saban can earn an extra \$400,000 based on postseason game appearances and team graduation rates,

similar to the incentives included in his previous contract. Under the incentives built into the contract, Saban could make up to \$2.7 million this year and up to \$3.4 million in 2010, the final year of the contract.

The coach signed his new contract a few weeks after ending speculation that he would leave for an NFL team after leading the Tigers to the Bowl Championship Series title, their first national championship in more than four decades.

"Nick Saban is the finest coach in America, and we were committed to paying him accordingly," LSU athletic director Skip Bertman said. "He has brought unprecedented success to this university and has built a program of championship caliber both on and off the field."

The new contract grows from the \$1.6 million he earned in 2003, which had a stipulation that required him to make at least \$1 million more than the highest-paid coach.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish to face sold-out arena crowd against 6-17 Pittsburgh

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

Muffet McGraw has 12,000 reasons to be concerned about Saturday's game against Pittsburgh, and none of them include the actual Panthers basketball team.

As part of its "Pack the Peterson" promotion, Pittsburgh sold tickets to the game against Notre Dame for \$1. The tickets are sold out.

"You're always concerned when you go into a setting like

that," McGraw said. "We haven't played that many games this year in that type of environment. Purdue and Tennessee were about as close as we could get to simulating that. Hopefully, some of those people at the game will be Irish fans."

Notre Dame (16-8, 9-3 in the Big East) looks to win its second straight road game for only the second time this season against a Pittsburgh (6-17, 2-11 Big East) team that lost 97-42 to Connecticut Tuesday night. The Panthers are in second-to-last place in the Big East and have

lost nine straight games dating back to Jan. 14.

Notre Dame is in sole position of second-place in the conference, two games behind Connecticut. Notre Dame has two difficult games against Miami and Rutgers next week before ending the season with Syracuse. The Irish beat Miami earlier this year on the road and have not faced Rutgers.

"We still have four tough games to go, starting with Pittsburgh on Saturday," McGraw said. "We've got back up to the No. 2 seed, but now we

have to protect it by doing our part and winning these last four games."

The Irish beat St. John's on the road Tuesday 69-56 behind a double-double from Le'Tania Severe and 15 points from Jeneka Joyce. The Irish are 13-4 in their last 17 games and continue to build an impressive NCAA Tournament resume. Six of Notre Dame's wins have come against top-25 opponents.

LaToya Kincaid and her 14.5 points and 7.6 rebounds per game lead Pittsburgh. Besides Kincaid, no other Panther player

averages more than eight points per game. Pittsburgh's offense has struggled all season, tallying just 57.2 points per game.

Pittsburgh is led by first-year coach Agnus Berenato who joined the Panthers in 2003 after 15 seasons as head coach at Georgia Tech. She was 223-209 for the Yellow Jackets during her tenure as coach. Her first season at Pittsburgh has been a difficult one, as the Panthers have struggled in Big East play.

Contact Joe Hettler at
jhettler@nd.edu



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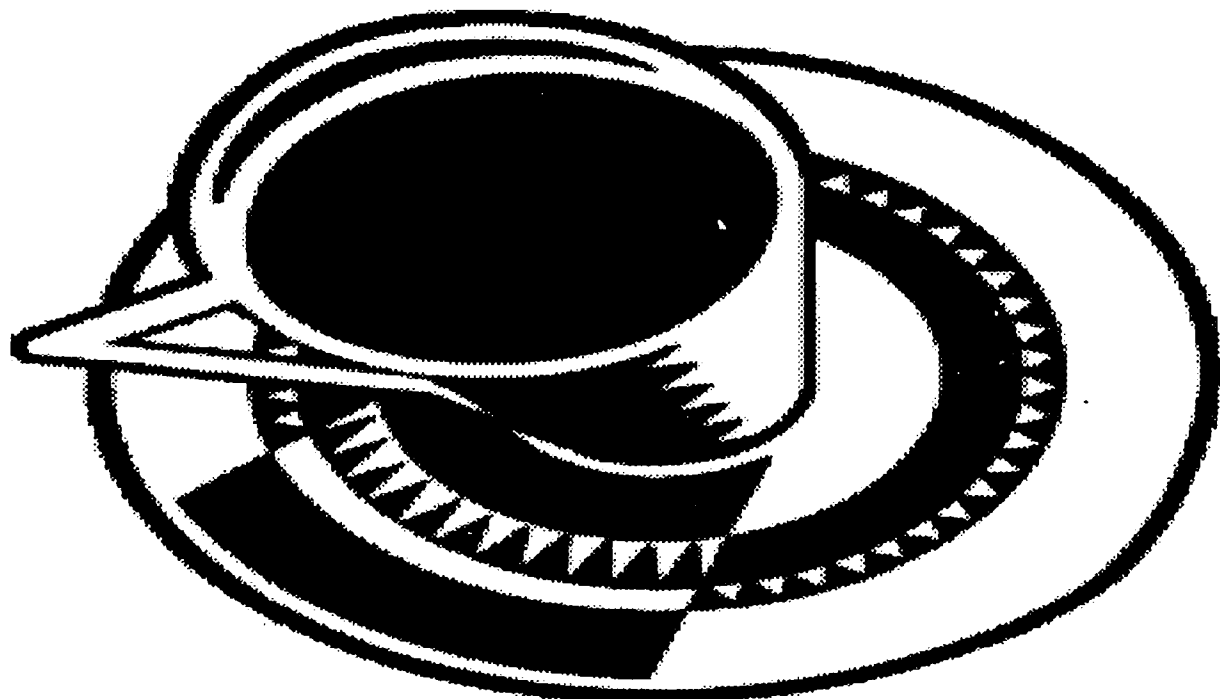
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Offense

continued from page 24

perimeter players to carry the bulk of the Irish offensive load. When Francis was in the game, his presence in the post made it difficult for guards Chris Thomas, Torrian Jones and Chris Quinn to penetrate the lane.

That changed just two days later against Connecticut. Although the Irish had shown signs of using big men to screen perimeter players, Notre Dame unleashed a full-fledged attack called "five-out," where all five players move around the perimeter setting. That left lanes in the paint for guards to drive and shoot easy lay-ups or pass the ball to the perimeter for a 3-pointer. It also helped that Tom Timmermans and Jordan Cornette, the two big men who played the bulk of the minutes with Francis out, were excellent passers and had the shooting range of a guard.

"It's tough to guard, especially when everyone is hitting their shots," Cornette said.

The player who has arguably benefited the most from the open-floor approach is Jones, who is nearly averaging a double-double in the last three Irish wins. As the team's best penetrator, Jones has taken advantage of the open lanes

he's found when driving to the basket. He'll either score (he's averaging 13 points in the last three games) or pass the ball to the perimeter (he had a team-high six assists in a win against Seton Hall). But he's also capitalized on his ability to rebound at will. For instance, in Notre Dame's wins against Connecticut and Syracuse, the 6-foot-4 guard was grabbed a team-high 12 rebounds.

"For someone who slashes as much as me," Jones said, "this has opened up a lot of opportunities."

Thomas and Quinn have also benefited from the open lanes. When one drives, defenses either collapse and free up a 3-point shooter or defend the perimeter and give up a short-range jumper. And with the way the Irish are shooting lately — Notre Dame has made 43 percent of its 3-point shots — the Irish have shown they can take apart either a man-to-man defense (like Connecticut or Seton Hall played) or a zone (like the one Syracuse occasionally slipped into Monday).

"Coach Brey said it best, he said 'that sometimes it takes certain teams longer to find their niche,'" Jones said. "Unfortunately, we had to lose Torin to find it. We realized that opening the floor up and running five-out is the best way for us to run our offense."

Contact Andrew Soukup at
asoukup@nd.edu

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Thomas

continued from page 24

After struggling early in the year, Thomas is playing arguably his best basketball in a Notre Dame uniform. Over the last four games — a loss to Pittsburgh and wins against Connecticut, Seton Hall and Syracuse — Thomas is averaging 26.5 points, the first time in his career he has scored 20 points in four straight games, while shooting an astonishing 50 percent from 3-point range.

"The kid has been fearless for us," Brey said. "I want him to play daring because he has to play daring."

Brey believes Thomas, whom the head coach called the team's best player in January, faced an unwarranted amount of criticism when he struggled early on. But much of those struggles came because Thomas was drawing the opposing team's top defender. In the past, teams had to worry about shutting down prolific threats like Matt Carroll, David Graves and Dan Miller. This year, however, teams ran body after body at Thomas, who in turn shouldered more of the responsibility for carrying Notre Dame.

The result was a wave of criticism directed at a hard-working player NBA scouts said was more mature but had yet to demonstrate it in a game.

"I think people were unfair," classmate Jordan Cornette said. "I think the fans here have been unfair and too hard on him. We've got great fans, and the one thing I never understood is why they are so hard on Chris. He pours his heart out there everyday, on the floor and in the locker room."

Brey made several adjustments to take some of the pressure off Thomas, who at one point in the season was shooting career lows in terms of percentages from the field and from 3-point range. He increasingly split point guard responsibilities with Chris Quinn, enabling him to rest more while on the court. And

the Irish starting driving to the basket more, which freed up the rest of the Irish offense to get rolling just as Thomas was poised to explode.

"He comes off a screen and he has two to three guys following him trying to make

"We've got great fans, and the one thing I never understood is why they are so hard on Chris."

Jordan Cornette
Irish junior

up opportunities for all of us." With the way Thomas is playing now, Brey just dismisses the criticism his point guard received early in the year.

Thomas, who tested the NBA Draft waters last summer, will face a similar choice this year. However, if he

"I'm fully expecting to coach Chris Thomas again next year."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

declares for the draft, rules say that he cannot withdraw his name and return to college. And while Brey said he doesn't want to discuss Thomas' NBA prospects during the season, he has an inkling as to what the Irish guard might do.

"I'm fully expecting," Brey proclaimed, "to coach Chris Thomas again next year."

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Defense

continued from page 24

Notre Dame has a three-game win streak heading into Saturday's rematch against the Huskies.

During a spurt in which Notre Dame lost six of eight games, the Irish had difficulty preventing opposing teams from going on big runs that always seemed to steal the momentum away from the Irish.

"It's an awareness thing," Cornette said, "We weren't very attentive and teams were getting easy lay-ups. Those are momentum plays. But I think we've been very aware and getting back on defense and haven't been given up those plays."

So after a heartbreaking loss against Pittsburgh, Brey wanted the Irish to focus more on preventing the speedy Huskies

from running circles around the Irish. The formula Notre Dame employed two weeks ago was effective Monday once again against Syracuse.

The Irish defense starts with guards Chris Thomas and Chris Quinn, whom Brey had to encourage not to cheat toward the basket to get rebounds. When they cheated toward the basket, other teams ran their fast break more effectively.

"We'd have one or two guys out of position, and that was making all the difference," Cornette said.

It continued with Torrian Jones finding a balance between knowing when to crash the boards and when to get back on defense. And finally, taking better shots meant the difference between having rebounders around the basket. In general, the longer the shot attempt, the more likely the Irish were to fall back on defense because unpredictable caroms off the backboard on

long shots gave teams opportunities to score in transition.

And while this approach meant that the Irish might be conceding offensive rebounds, that hasn't been the case. The Irish are averaging just over 11 offensive rebounds in its last three wins, one less than their season average.

Brey believes this Notre Dame team is the most defensive-minded team in his four years at the helm of the Irish. But Notre Dame's recent success comes in part because of its improved transition defense.

And Brey plans to run the drill at the start of every practice.

"It's the first thing we do when we're done with pre-practice shooting," Brey said. "It gets us in the right frame of mind. We have a high basketball IQ, we just had to put in something more to work on it."

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Award

continued from page 24

one of the hardest working players he has coached.

"You coach so long, and you have a few players that stand-out that go through your programs, and you always remember that they set a standard for your program and [Pruzinsky] is one of those kids," Waldrum said. "Her work ethic is tremendous."

Before her senior year she was named preseason Big East Defender of the Year. She was

named to the Big East first-team as a junior, Big East second-team as a sophomore and Big Rookie of the Year during her freshman season.

Waldrum said watching Pruzinsky develop over the past five years has been a pleasure.

"I always related her to what I think of as a true professional athlete," Waldrum said. "She was one of those kind of play-

ers that came in everyday and did her job. You didn't know if she was having a good day or a bad day."

Pruzinsky is the sixth Notre Dame athlete in nine years to receive the award, which is awarded to one male and one female athlete each year.

Contact Joe Hettler at
jhettler@nd.edu



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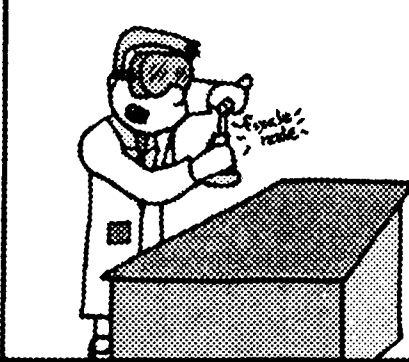
STATEMENT ONE: I SHOULD BE PAID 400 TIMES MORE THAN YOU BECAUSE I HAVE TO LOOK AT YOUR FACES.



FIVES

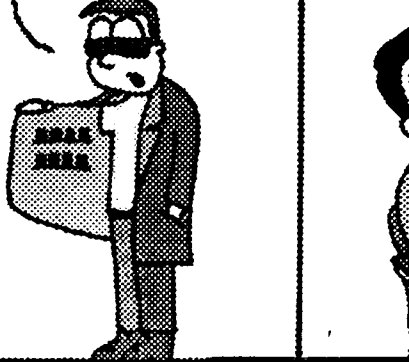
BRETT CAMPBELL & DAN ZYCHINSKI

Even if you can't get a legitimate job following graduation, there's always a place for every major in the underground drug industry.....



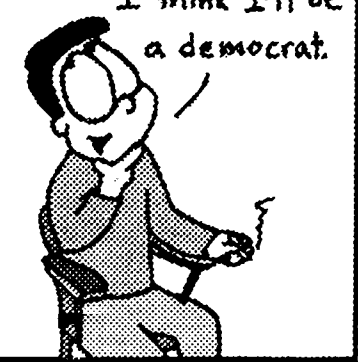
Chemistry: Narcotics Production

psst....hey buddy...



Business: Distribution

Hmm.... I think I'll be a democrat.



Political Science: Consumption

JUMBLE

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

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MACIOT

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Ans: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: MERCY MIRTH DULCET GALAXY
Answer: How Grandpa felt when the kids listened to rap music — "EAR-ITATED"

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

- ACROSS
- 1 Antediluvian

16 What "they" have been saying

17 Helter-skelter

18 Jazzman Adderley

19 "Flashdance" director Adrian

20 Some records, for short

21 Rusedski of tennis

23 Break

25 "Adventures in Good Music" host Karl

29 Mideast map abbr.

32 Little bit

35 Melt alternative

36 Present for a picky person?

41 Hangover sufferer's lament
- 42 It often has islands

43 N.Y. neighbor

44 List keeper

45 Tip of one's tongue?

46 Big name in foreign news

48 Good source of antioxidants

50 Indian improvisation

54 Little bit

57 Sommer of Berlin

60 Three in a season: Abbr.

61 Biblical battlers

66 Extremely rare

67 Holistic health remedies
- DOWN
- 1 Blowing away

2 Whale spotter

3 Captivate a crowd, perhaps

4 Carrier of "bad" cholesterol, briefly

5 Sugar

6 "Only the Paranoid Survive" author

7 A criminal may be caught in one

8 Successfully navigate a narrow passage

9 Part of a bray

10 Suffix with opal

11 Modern address starter

12 Dander

13 Regulus is in it

14 Gridiron great Ford

15 City planning concerns: Abbr.

22 Beginn'

24 Goes where one shouldn't, maybe

26 Basic counters

27 E'en if

28 A Dutch master

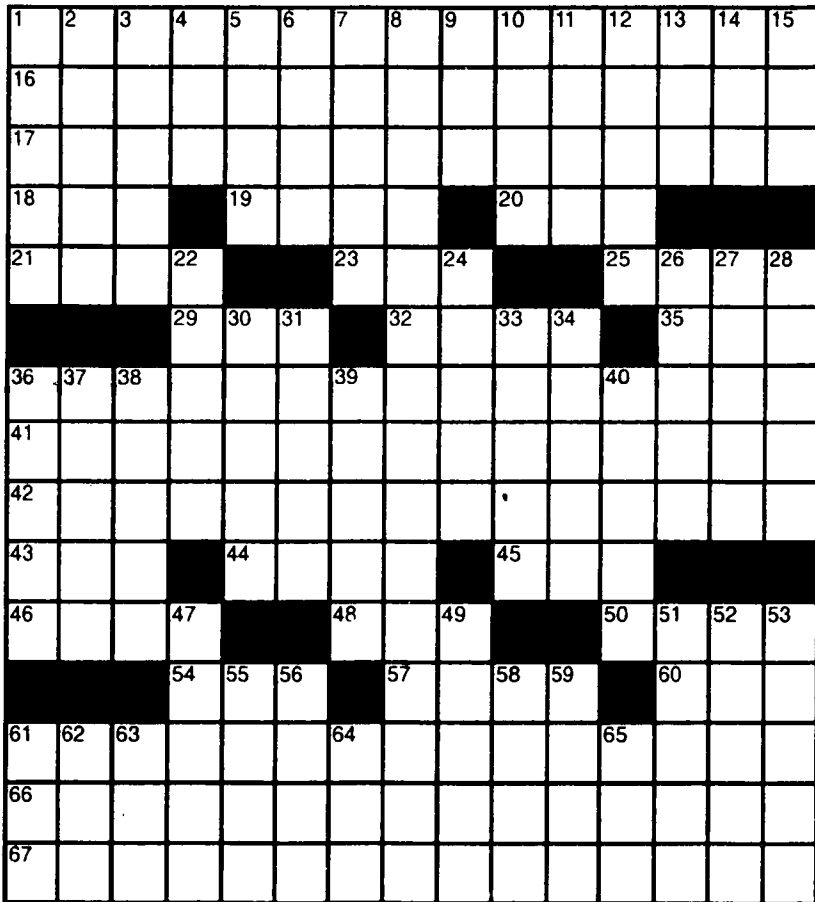
30 Give what for

31 Make more secure

33 "___ worse than death"

34 One with a special touch

36 Leg of lamb



- Puzzle by Bob Peoples
- 37 ___ Zelnicek (celebrity's maiden name)

38 Fun or song followers

39 Charged

40 Do the dishes?

47 Moundsman Dave

49 Cold

51 At full throttle

52 Perplexed pronouncement

53 Some remains

55 1998 Sarah McLachlan hit

56 Mark Twain's jumping frog

58 First name in diplomacy

59 A.C., e.g.

61 Schnook's cry

62 Chemical suffix

63 TV/___

64 Vet's service spot

65 "Lord, is ___?"

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Celebrities born on this day: Gloria Vanderbilt, Cindy Crawford, Ivana Trump, Robert Altman, Sidney Poitier, Patricia Hearst, Jennifer O'Neill, Andrew Shue, Bobby Unser

Happy Birthday: You are changing so fast that even you are having trouble keeping up to the pace you've set. Gauge yourself carefully and write down all those great ideas you have. This is an exciting period in your life, so gear up and get ready. If you are quick to put your plans in motion, you will find yourself moving in a positive direction that will ensure success, prosperity and good will. Your numbers: 18, 21, 27, 32, 39, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Out with the old and in with the new. You can make career changes today if you so desire. Believe in yourself, and you will convince others to believe in you as well. Go after your goals. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't disagree with loved ones if you want to keep the peace. It is best to focus on your hobbies or children and avoid the trivial differences you may be experiencing with your mate. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your involvement in institutions or large corporations will result in beneficial changes. You can make residential moves successfully. Money-making opportunities are present. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can expand your circle of friends if you are willing to join clubs or groups of interest. Your sensitive ways will charm potential mates. Avoid overindulgences. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Expect friction from your mate if you have been flirtatious with others. You may want to put your efforts into making your surroundings more pleasing. Home renovations should cheer up the whole family. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have a greater interest in travel and foreign cultures. Take time to look into the possibilities of taking a trip or acquiring knowledge about different cultural backgrounds. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Money-making ventures will be profitable. Setbacks may occur, but they won't put a damper on the deal. You can make residential changes conducive to a more comfortable lifestyle. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Love connections may develop quite quickly. Don't be afraid to follow your heart. You will be willing to bend in order to make this connection work. Friends and relatives may not approve. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your work ethic will be most honorable. Greater respect and admiration will be yours. Co-workers will be willing to lend you a helping hand. You can get recognition for a job well done. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look into philosophy courses. You'll want to change your direction in life. You can make alterations to your appearance that will make you feel more at ease. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll have problems getting those you live with to pitch in and help. Your ideas may be good, but talking others into helping you pay for the changes will be another story. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll impress others with your insight and empathy. You can help friends and relatives with personal problems that they can't face alone. Your selflessness will result in lasting connections.***

Birthday Baby: You will be able to influence those you encounter throughout your life. Your ability to make sense out of whatever you are confronted with will enable you to make the changes necessary in order to continue down a positive path. You were born with an ability to land on your feet.

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THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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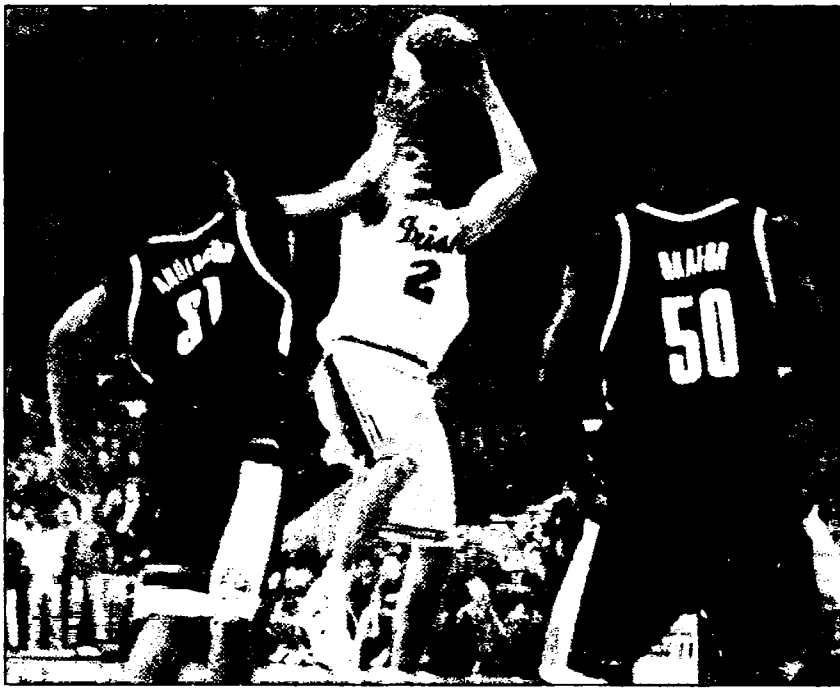
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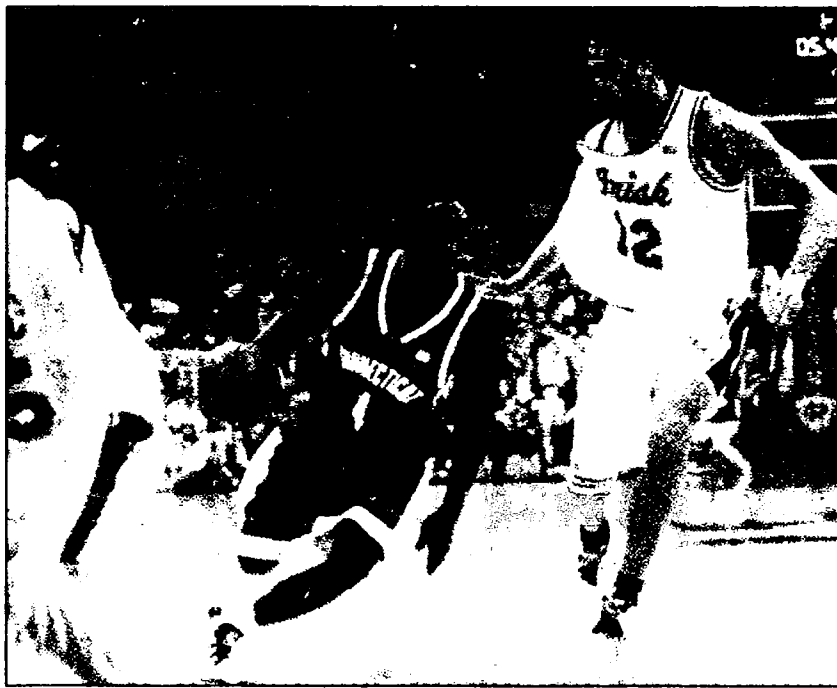
MEN'S BASKETBALL

What saved the season

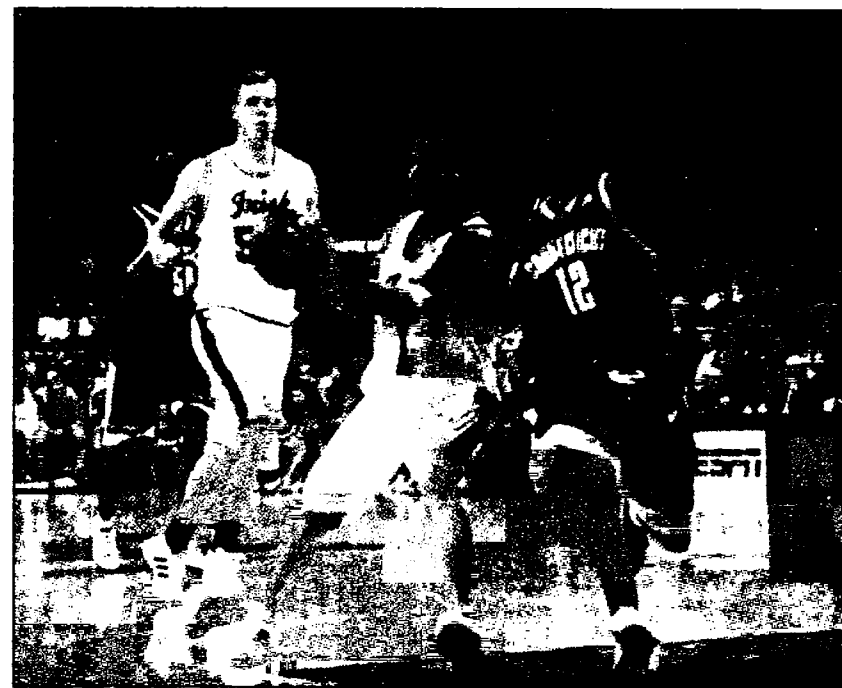
The Irish carry a 3-game win streak into Saturday's rematch at Connecticut



Chris Quinn, who stepped up scoring with Francis sidelined, shoots against Seton Hall on Saturday.



Jordan Cornette demonstrates Notre Dame's improved transition defense against Ben Gordon.



Big East Player of the Week Chris Thomas eludes Connecticut's Tallek Brown on Feb. 14.

STORIES BY ANDREW SOUKUP

Loss of Francis opened up the floor for hot-shooting Irish offense

Torin Francis lay behind the Notre Dame bench two weeks ago as trainers worked feverishly on his back to alleviate the back spasms, and teammates tried to knock off Pittsburgh. It would be another several days before an MRI revealed Francis was sidelined indefinitely with a bulging disc.

But when Francis didn't return in the loss to Pittsburgh, the Irish were staring at a tough February schedule without their most reliable low-post presence. The road to the NCAA Tournament appeared to run off a cliff.

Then, the Irish got rolling.

"That's what so great about sports," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "You're always trying to work it as an exact science, when sometimes, things just happen."

With Francis out of the lineup, Notre Dame turned to its

Tighter defense has keyed a trio of high-profile Irish victories

The drill was simple in its execution, yet its results were spectacular.

Irish coach Mike Brey devised a way to open practice two Sundays ago where the five Irish starters would take the ball down the court without any defense and score. As soon as the ball went through the hoop, Notre Dame's five backups took off down the court to simulate a fast-break situation. The idea was for the starters to get used to getting down the court quickly to prevent quick baskets.

"You have to get back and communicate right away," Jordan Cornette said.

The day after Brey had the Irish run the drill for the first time, Notre Dame beat Connecticut. Since then, they Irish haven't stopped running it — and

Thomas's potent play helped the Irish fight back into the spotlight

A giddy Mike Brey stood next to a smiling Chris Thomas while waiting for ESPN's camera crew to get set up for a post-game interview after Notre Dame beat Connecticut 80-74 Feb. 9.

And as a mass of students swarmed behind the pair — many of whom booed Thomas when he struggled in a home win against Miami — Brey looked at Thomas and boldly told a national television audience, "He is our program."

The way Thomas has been playing lately, Brey's statement seems fairly obvious.

Sure, Notre Dame has a plethora of other talent that can generate points. But when Thomas plays well, so do the Irish. When he struggles, Notre Dame struggles.

see OFFENSE/page 21

see DEFENSE/page 22

see THOMAS/page 22

ND SWIMMING AND DIVING

Men and women start solid in Big East meet

By MATT PUGLISI
Sports Writer

After the first day of the Big East Championships in New York, the women's swimming and diving team is neck and neck with Rutgers in an effort to claim its eighth consecutive Big East title. The men's squad finds itself locked in a four-way race for the title.

Led by event victories from the 200-yard freestyle relay team (freshmen Katie Carroll and Rebecca Grove, junior Katie Eckholt and senior Danielle Hulick), senior Meghan Perry Eaton (1-meter diving) and Carroll (200-yard individual

medley), the No. 20 Irish recorded 199 points on Thursday, good for second behind Rutgers (199.5) and in front of third place Virginia Tech (180.5).

Including Carroll, the Irish took four of the top eight spots in the 200-yard individual medley as senior Lisa Garcia took second, freshman Ann Barton placed fifth and senior Marie Labosky finished eighth.

Hulick and Grove chipped in second- and third-place finishes, respectively, in the 50-yard freestyle and the 400-yard medley relay (Hulick, Carroll and sophomores Christel Bouvron and Courtney Choura) placed

see BIG EAST/page 14

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Pruzinsky wins Big East honor

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Editor

Vanessa Pruzinsky's reaction told the story.

Asked how she felt about being named the 2003-04 Big East Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Pruzinsky simply said, "I had no idea I won that."

Anyone that knows Pruzinsky shouldn't be surprised she was too busy to notice her recent award. During her time at Notre Dame, Pruzinsky stayed very active, playing defender on the women's soccer team and graduating as one of the best to ever play under coach Randy Waldrum. In her "free time", she managed to earn a perfect 4.0 grade point aver-

age as a chemical engineering major.

After graduating in May with an undergraduate degree, Pruzinsky took graduate classes last fall. She recently accepted a job in New Jersey and is in the process of moving there right now.

"It feels great to be named that after putting in a lot of hard work at Notre Dame, both academically and on the soccer field," Pruzinsky said. "I had to manage my time well and any free time I did have, I had to make sure I was studying and putting in the work off the field."

Pruzinsky returned for a fifth-year after injuring her ankle and missing her senior season. She helped lead the Irish to a 20-3-1 record and a No. 2 national ranking before



CHIP MARKS/The Observer
Vanessa Pruzinsky carries the ball in the NCAA tournament.

the Irish fell to Michigan in the NCAA tournament 1-0.

Wladrum said Pruzinsky was

see AWARD/page 22

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

ND WOMENS BBALL

Notre Dame vs. Pittsburgh
Saturday, 2 p.m.

The Irish travel to Pittsburgh to take on the Panthers who are 2-11 in the Big East.

page 21

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame vs. BYU

Friday, 4 p.m.

Doubles will be the key for the Irish against BYU.

page 19

ND TRACK AND FIELD

The Irish travel to the Carrier Dome for the Big East Championships.

page 19

BASEBALL

USC Public Storage Classic
Notre Dame vs. San Diego State

The season is under-way for the Irish.

page 18

MEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame vs. Northwestern

Saturday, 4 p.m.

The Irish travel to Chicago to face the No. 37 Wildcats.

page 17

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame vs. Princeton

Preseason play concludes as the Irish face No. 1 Princeton.

page 16

UNIVERSITY of NOTRE DAME

THE OBSERVER

The Future

Diversity is a catch-all word administrators, faculty and students use to describe something that many believe doesn't exist on Notre Dame's predominantly white, upper-middle class, Catholic, heterosexual campus. The present landscape is the most diverse in history, and Notre Dame has reached a crucial point in evolution as an academic institution.

Too frequently, discussion about diversity-related issues revolves around numbers and quotas, stereotypes and doctrines. Often

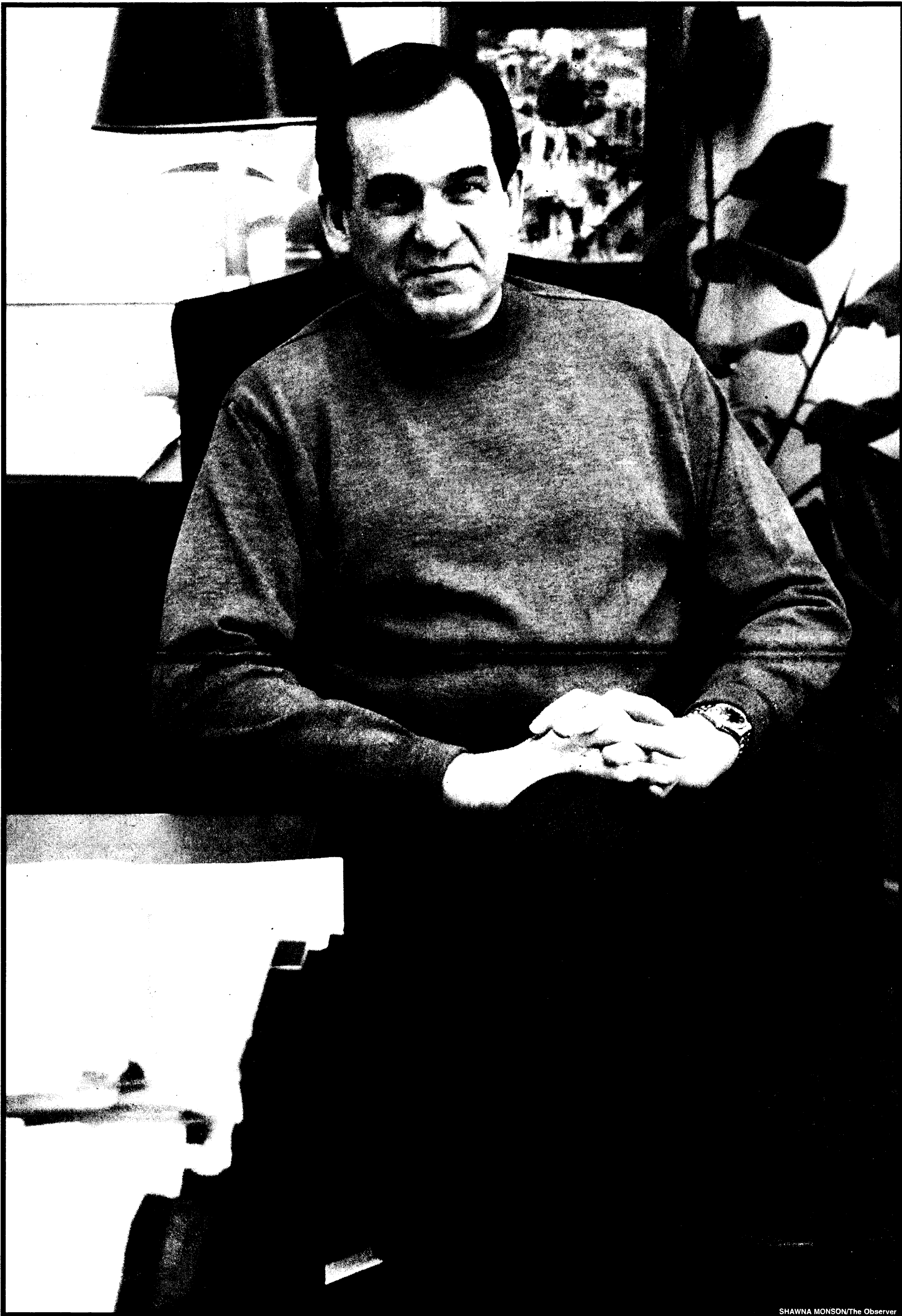
ignored are the tangible examples of those who try to carve a niche in Notre Dame's largely homogeneous culture.

In this three-part series, which began Wednesday and continues today, The Observer illuminates the experiences of a few who struggle daily to assert themselves in the face of actual and theoretical obstacles.

Today, The Observer profiles the administrators responsible for charting the course of Notre Dame's future and the students who could symbolize the future of Notre Dame.

Photo illustration by MIKE HARKINS/The Observer

THE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS



SHAWNA MONSON/The Observer

THE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

"I want to make Notre Dame a better Notre Dame, and diversity, in its broadest sense, will make Notre Dame better."

Dan Saracino

STORY BY MEGHANNE DOWNS

He wants to make Notre Dame a better Notre Dame.

As a student in the '60s and a father in the '90s, he believed Notre Dame lacked something key to making it better. Now, as an administrator in 2004, he is committed to filling this void by making Notre Dame more diverse.

Dan Saracino, associate provost and the director of admissions, graduated from the University in 1969 able to count on one hand the number of blacks in his class.

Through enhanced recruiting, the University once known as a haven for white European Catholics is a far cry from the dire situation it was in during the pre-civil rights era. Today, it boasts a freshman class of which 21 percent are minorities, the most diverse in history.

However, Saracino believes more can be done.

"The primary goal I have is to improve diversity," Saracino said. "I want to make Notre Dame a better Notre Dame, and diversity, in its broadest sense, will make Notre Dame better."

For Saracino, improving diversity is not a narrow endeavor. It expands beyond the typical definers such as race to more personal characteristics, such as whether the applicant's parents are educators or whether the applicant would be a first-generation college student.

The man who makes diversifying Notre Dame his mission took an indirect route into the field of higher-education admissions. Upon graduating from Notre Dame, he had planned to attend law school but opted to defer for a year to work in the admissions office. A year later, his request for another deferment was denied, and he remained an admissions counselor.

"It was the first time I thought I was in a profession," Saracino said. "I just thought I was doing service for Notre Dame."

Saracino's service focused on building minority recruitment, and Notre Dame implemented a program designed to increase this. Today, that program boasts its own department within the Office of Admissions, with individual counselors who specifically recruit black, Asian and Hispanic minorities. The program also relies on its minority alumni board to recruit area students who would be a good fit at Notre Dame.

"What we are doing is still the same as back then — trying to reach those young men and women who should be hearing the story of Notre Dame and are not," Saracino said.

In 1977, he left Notre Dame to become the director of admissions at Santa Clara University in California. During his 20-year absence from Notre Dame, the University saw its minority numbers steadily rise coupled with the closing gap between the percentage of men and women who were admitted. Though Notre Dame's numbers might have increased relative to diversity, there was still something missing.

His daughters, who attended Notre Dame in the '90s, often returned home telling him that Notre

Dame provided a quality education but was lacking something due to the absence of diversity.

"My daughters didn't realize they had diversity [in California] until it was taken away from them," Saracino said.

In 1997, Saracino returned to Notre Dame as director of admissions with a mission to continue to improve Notre Dame and to make it more diverse.

But that word is not limited to race for Saracino. He believes that Notre Dame needs to construct its incoming classes so they are more ethnically, socio-economically and geographically diverse.

Saracino denies claims that the University's desire to become more diverse is an attempt to become more like Stanford or institutions in the Ivy League.

"We are not trying to be something we are not," Saracino said. "We respect them but we don't want to emulate them. If it means it does get more comparable, so be it."

He said he frequently hears from alumni who complain that their children have not been accepted at Notre Dame. His response is that Notre Dame has become more difficult and the admissions office will uphold this standard and not sacrifice the overall quality of the class.

Preferential aid packages are offered to ethnic minorities, Notre Dame Scholars, children of educators, first-generation college students and other students who are desirable for Notre Dame.

Though Notre Dame usually can recruit these desirable students from elite college prep schools, Saracino believes this limits the dynamic of the class.

The University needs to reach out to the smaller schools that are scattered across the country, he said, to create a more diverse applicant pool that is still committed to academics, service and faith. This includes reaching out to first-generation college students to increase the socio-economic diversity of Notre Dame's undergraduates. The admissions office originally believed that it would find first-generation students through its minority recruitment program, but Saracino said they soon

discovered that many parents of minorities had attended college due to changes in the civil rights era.

To even further diversify the applicant pool, Saracino said, Notre Dame is now a gender- and religious-blind institution.

He linked the religious and ethnic diversity to the expansion of the varsity athletics program and said recruiters are after the best student-athlete — not the best Catholics.

Though the percentage of Catholics in recent incoming classes usually hovers around 83 percent, Saracino said religious affiliation does not affect an applicant's chances and that the percentage of non-Catholic admitted students reflects the applicant pool. "I'd rather have a Jewish or Methodist student who believes strongly in his faith than just an applicant who checks the Catholic box," Saracino said.

Saracino believes Notre Dame would not have been a top-20 academic institution when he attended as a student because it was too limited as only a white, Catholic university. He said this is not necessarily a bad thing, as a passion for Notre Dame and community service existed but the University needed to evolve.

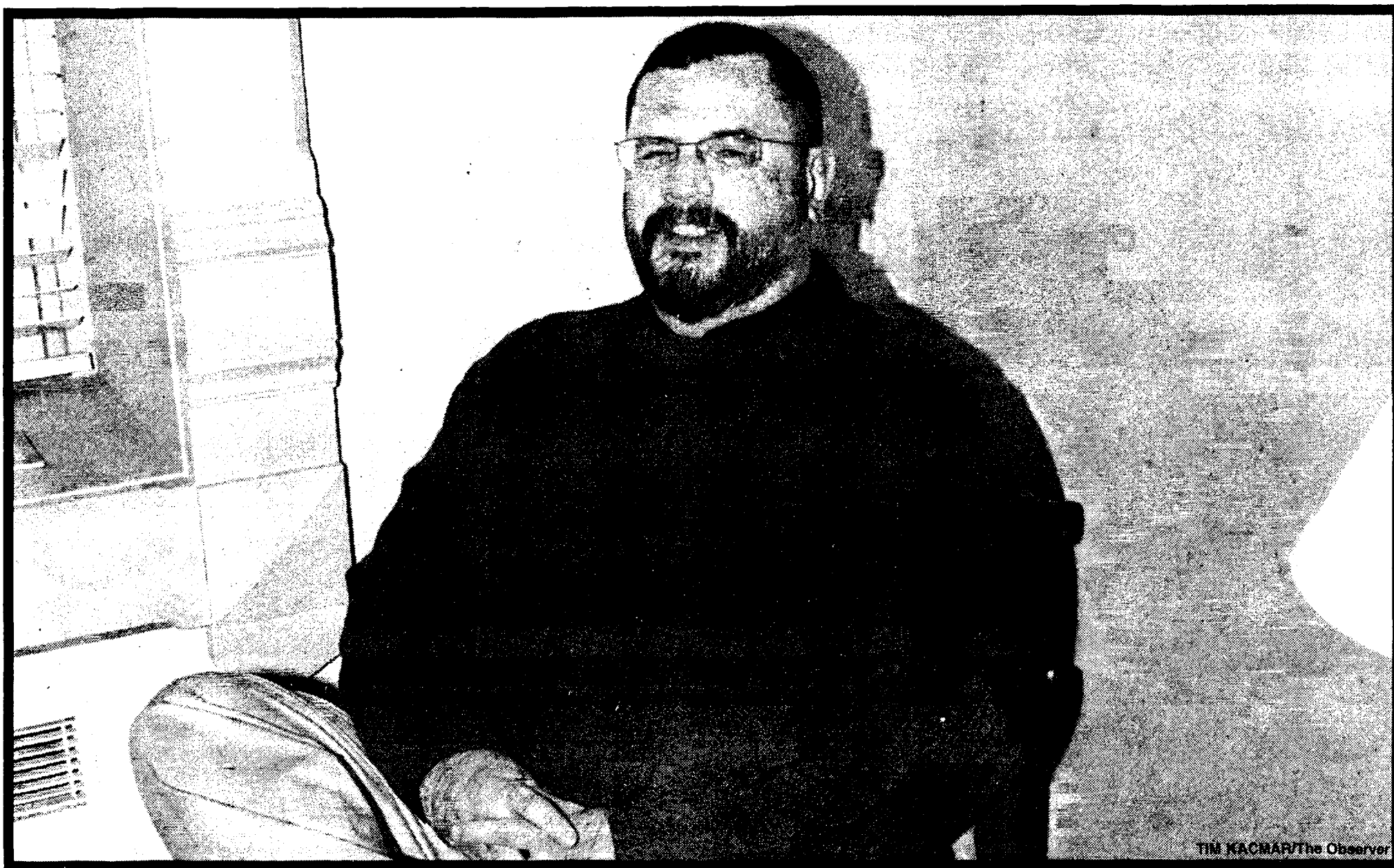
Since his early days in the admissions office Saracino said his mission has been the same — to make Notre Dame a better Notre Dame by diversifying it. Though he would never trade his '60s education, he said the best thing he saw a decade after graduation was co-education. Since the '70s, he said he has whole-heartedly believed that Notre Dame is a better institution because of its commitment to increase the amount of ethnically diverse and international students.

Saracino returned to Notre Dame to help diversity evolve even further and believes that the future Notre Dame student will have a face that is a mosaic.

"The future is a student who is a mosaic in the truest sense," he said. "You couldn't say it was male or female or white, black, brown or Asian. It would be a true mosaic with a hundred different experiences."

THE COORDINATOR OF SPRING VISITATION

"The reality is the form might be special and unique, but the students that these prospectives are meeting ... that is what Notre Dame is about."



Gil Martinez

STORY BY SHEILA FLYNN

When Gil Martinez hears people criticize Spring Visitation Weekend, he laughs. "I always kind of chuckle a little bit when I hear criticism — people saying, 'You know, this isn't really what Notre Dame is about,'" said Martinez, the coordinator of Spring Visitation Weekend. "The reality is the form might be special and unique, but the students that these prospectives are meeting ... that is what Notre Dame is about."

Martinez, a 1984 Notre Dame graduate, worked for University admissions from 1988 to 1993. He returned in the summer of 2003 and now specializes in Hispanic recruitment. When the former Spring Visitation Weekend coordinator took another job, Martinez was asked to replace him.

"It's something that I feel, personally, very committed to," Martinez said of the diversity recruitment event. "This place is so special in terms of opportunities that it grants people."

He knows firsthand. When Martinez entered Notre Dame in the fall of 1980, he was the first person in his entire family to attend college — much less to leave his hometown or home state of New Mexico.

"It was just great — a great experience, in terms of the support, not only from friends, but from the University, as well — especially making the transition from basically a non-college family background," Martinez said. "I found that it was really helpful in just helping me to maneuver through the bureaucracy, through the administrative tasks that I needed to do in order to graduate."

It is his own experience and subsequent confidence in the welcoming atmosphere of Notre Dame, Martinez said, that he carries with him when he speaks to Hispanic and other minority students.

"They want to be in a place where they are going to feel supported, whether it be by peers, administration or faculty, and I believe that this place does it," Martinez said. "There is a stability here, and it's a stability based on a very good philosophy."

The point of Spring Visitation is to show students this stability and environment, Martinez said. The University flies in approximately 160 competitive minority students — black, Asian, Hispanic and Native American — who have never visited campus before. They are hosted by current Notre Dame students, and the weekend, at the end of March, includes presentations by speakers — football head coach Tyrone Willingham, for example, spoke last year — and sessions with faculty and administrators. The various cultural events concentrated during the weekend are celebratory and entertaining for prospectives, he said, but they are not the sole focus of the visit.

"Our students, just in being who they are ... those seniors in high school are really observant about that," Martinez said. "They get a sense the tone of the student body is one that's caring — a group that cares for each other, a group that is success-oriented, a group that is not so much going to be stealing your biology notes before a major exam."

Martinez said that, every year, the visiting

students comment most on their time in the dorms, in the dining halls and with Notre Dame students, in general. He said they realize the presentations and ethnic events are not typical of everyday life at the University; while they appreciate the entertainment, Martinez said the prospectives are more concerned about what their personal experiences will be like.

"It is a special weekend and, in a way, it is unique relative to what a student will experience every other weekend, but it's not different, say, than a student that would come on a football weekend, where their impression of Notre Dame is that football weekend," Martinez said.

Martinez said he hopes this year's Spring Visitation Weekend will prove as successful as those in previous years. Last year, approximately 74 percent of the visiting students chose to attend Notre Dame, he said.

"The Spring Visitation Weekend is a key component, though not the only one, for the increase of the number of [diverse] students willing to bring themselves here," Martinez said.

"People are, more and more, coming to an understanding that this is who we are, this is what we're about, in terms of helping all students that are academically competitive."

MINORITY ADMINISTRATOR

"By the experiences that I've had and that I've done and what I've brought, I think it adds to that puzzle, if you will, of creating that total picture of a diverse campus and a diverse community."

Roberto Gutierrez



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

STORY BY SHEILA FLYNN

Immediately after picking up his 93-year-old mother-in-law from the airport last year, Roberto Gutierrez decided against giving her a South Bend tour or even a tour of her new room in the family's recently-purchased home.

Instead, he brought her to campus.

"She, of all people, always had a good sense of the pulse of a community," Gutierrez said. "She said, 'You know, this feels like home.'"

Gutierrez agreed. It was that same sense of family and home that led him to leave South Texas for South Bend and accept the position of vice president for public affairs and communication at the University.

Gutierrez has dedicated his life to serving the Latino community through media and communications. He helped promote the first national Latino newspaper for Catholics

in the United States, co-founded the Hispanic Telecommunications Network in 1982 (which produced the only national Catholic evangelization series televised for U.S. Latinos) and received an honorary doctorate from Notre Dame in 1999.

"That has really been a hallmark, if you will, of my career, my life and the aspirations that I've had over the years," he said. "To help promote the values — the best values — that the Latino community brings to the table in this country."

"We do bring values of family, values of faith, values of language," he said.

A first-generation Mexican-American, Gutierrez grew up, attended college and established his career in San Antonio. But he left that city to respond "to a call to be of service."

"Being able to do storytelling on television is probably the best job that any person could

have in the world," Gutierrez said. "When I had done that for 20 years, I realized that God is calling me in a direction at this time in my life."

Gutierrez said he feels that University President Father Edward Malloy has set Notre Dame in the right direction, and this belief led him to enthusiastically accept the post.

"I think he saw the need to try to diversify the campus and continues to do so in many ways, adding faculty and staff that represent, really, what the Church is in America," Gutierrez said.

"Do we have a long way to go? Absolutely. But I think my coming here was really a response to an invitation and ... by the experiences that I've had and that I've done and what I've brought, I think it adds to that puzzle, if you will, of creating that total picture of a diverse campus and a diverse community."

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

"People are a lot more comfortable with each other [in Nicaragua]. Back home there is no difference if you're white or black."

Elena Lacayo

STORY BY TERESA FRALISH

Elena Lacayo may blend easily into the Notre Dame landscape, may have been born in the United States and may appear to be white. But this sophomore from Managua, Nicaragua surprises many when they discover she is both a minority and international student.

"People don't know anything about me and they automatically assume I'm white," said Lacayo. "I consider myself bicultural."

Because of her background, however, Lacayo's perspective on minorities, diversity and student life at Notre Dame remains unique.

Though childhood experiences prepared her in some sense for student life at an American university, Lacayo said she found it difficult to understand the social atmosphere at Notre Dame, where

gender relations often seemed strained and barriers appeared to exist between campus minority groups and the general student body.

"People are a lot more comfortable with each other [in Nicaragua]," she said. "Back home there is no difference if you're white or black."

Compared to Central American culture, Lacayo said specific terms used in the United States to describe race and ethnicity didn't make sense either.

"I asked these girls in my dorm if it bothered them if I described them as black. ... Both were African-American and I started talking to them about the term African-American," said Lacayo.

In this small group, discussing whether "African-American" or "black" accurately described some minority groups in the

United States feels safe, Lacayo said.

"I asked them if they spoke with me because I was asking or because I wasn't white ... but they admitted that they were open with me because I was a minority," she said.

But Lacayo said she enjoys talking with other minority and international students about race and culture, and feels like she can fit in well with a wide range of ethnic groups on campus. Among white students however, she finds this willingness to talk sometimes lacking at Notre Dame.

"A person has to be forced to step out of their bubble [and] the minorities are the ones that concede. They're the ones that have to adjust," Lacayo said. "They have to live in a foreign world. I understand why [this] happens — I just wish people were more aware of it."



SHAWNA MONSON/The Observer

THE MAJORITY MINORITY



THE MAJORITY MINORITY

"I guess I was nervous because it was different and I was white. Looking back it seems kind of silly."

Will Herbert

STORY BY MEGHANNE DOWNS

Will Herbert loves to dance and so does the first friend he made at Notre Dame, Mark Tupas. Through their mutual love of dancing and friendship, Herbert discovered a new culture and formed a group of friends in which he found himself — a white male — to be ironically a minority.

Though Herbert was used to only dancing at parties, Tupas drew upon his heritage and took his dancing to the stage. After much convincing, Herbert joined the Filipino American Student Organization and soon found himself performing traditional Filipino dances for the club's spring show, Fiestang.

Herbert said going to dance practices was easy because he was there to dance; yet he was still nervous. "I guess I was nervous because it was different and I was white," Herbert said. "Looking back it seems kind of silly."

Herbert said he did not want to be the "big dumb white kid" who looked out of place during performances. However, he knew he would stand out and had to be perfect with his dancing.

The more he danced, the more friendships he developed and Herbert realized that it made sense to become more involved with FASO because of whom he became friends with.

He admitted that every once in a while he and his friends will joke about how he, a white student, is in an active participant in an ethnic club, but he said he always feels welcome and his presence has never been an issue.

However, people outside of FASO have questioned his presence. Herbert thinks these are rather natural questions as it is unusual on this campus for students to do what is not expected of them.

"I think sometimes I get that resistance," Herbert said. "It will be a real anonymous thing like Spring [Visitation]. I have always been a host and well the prospectives seem a little surprised. Though they are my peers, they are younger, so they don't say anything."

However, not everyone conceals their suspicions or suppresses their opinions.

At activities fair night and other programming events he participates in, he said there are always students, including Asian students, who give him puzzled looks and are reluctant to listen to his pitches to become involved in FASO because it seems awkward to them that the face of an Asian ethnic club would not be Asian.

Herbert learned to overlook the bewildered glances and became more involved in the organization. He helped plan In Focus and danced

traditional dances such as the Maglalatik and Tinikling at Asian Allure, Fiestang and various other MSPS events.

Though Herbert may not be Asian, he does rely upon his own experience to successfully draw students into the club.

"It's the quietest ones who are on the edge that you bring into the fold and try to make them feel as welcome as much I was — particularly for a lot of mixed race students," Herbert said.

Herbert said there are not many other non-Asian students like himself who are involved with FASO; however, this ethnic boundary does not simply exist between Asians and non-Asians, but on a more micro-level amongst Asians.

Though there are several non-Filipino Asian students who participate, Herbert said this is a rather significant step for these students, as their heritages and ethnicities are distinct.

Herbert said that one of the problems at Notre Dame is that students do not realize that diversity is not something that is a given but that requires being open minded and seeking out this diversity.

"One of the most common complaints is 'why do all the black kids sit together in the dining hall?'" Herbert said, "They probably ask the same thing. You have to be willing to put yourself in the situation where you are the minority in order to learn."

He said Notre Dame is an interesting place for

diversity due to its small concentrated community, which creates much solidarity amongst minority ethnic groups as opposed to larger state schools, which are more culturally diverse, where ethnic clubs are not as predominant or strong.

"In terms of diversity here, Notre Dame isn't the place to go if you want to walk around and see a rainbow of faces," Herbert said.

"If you are really into something, you can find people of similar interests who are of different color."

For Herbert, his interest in dancing acted as the bridge.

Herbert said this is the mentality he tries to spread amongst his white friends. Though his white friends, who do attend events, usually do not take an active interest in joining FASO, Herbert said he believes the socializing aspect between his two groups of friends is beneficial because it at least brings them together so they can start to see life from a different perspective and to begin to talk about issues.

"My opinion is [diversity] is something that has got to be worked on. People shouldn't avoid the school. I think it's a contribution we can make. I didn't come here because of the football but because it was a good school. A lot of people come here looking for a specific type of environment — I expected to come here finding good academics and to find myself — something that I have done."

THE QUEER STUDENT ATHLETE

"I'm tired of being a marginalized voice. I'm tired of being alienated. I'm a part of the community too."

Jeneka Joyce

STORY BY CLAIRE HEININGER

As a scholarship athlete, Jeneka Joyce is already part of a select crowd on campus. But it's another group that she belongs to that truly sets her apart — students who don't hesitate to talk about their homosexuality.

"It's not a big deal, it's not some crisis," Joyce said simply, confident that her own choices and her own life are resolutely balanced. "I speak up. If people are mute about it, there is no way that change can come about."

Speaking up wasn't always that easy. When Joyce began questioning her sexuality during her first two years at Notre Dame, she felt as if she was the only one who didn't fit the straight-laced image the University's identity prescribes. It didn't help that all homosexual students seemed to be classified under the same don't-ask-don't-tell heading, since Joyce firmly disagrees that sexuality can fit into a neat little box.

A clear-cut sexuality, she said, "is not necessarily the case — I think it's more on some kind of continuum." But while the senior now openly describes herself as "queer," a term she said is "pretty much all-encompassing of sexualities that are different from heterosexuality," memories of confusion and isolation still linger.

"Now it's different because I'm involved in the gay/lesbian/bisexual community," she said. "I know a lot of people. But when I wasn't involved and I didn't know any other gays on campus, I didn't think anyone else was — it definitely seems like there are no gays at Notre Dame."

However, several conversations at the end of Joyce's sophomore year revealed just the opposite. Talking with her close friends, she realized that although gays on campus were still a mostly silent minority, she was anything but alone.

"In college, you're growing, your self-identity is becoming more solidified, you're going through lots of changes and coming into yourself," she said, recalling the talks that opened her eyes and strengthened her resolve. "It turned out that some people I was already friends with were bi, and when we started talking about things, I kind of opened up."

It was this support system that gave her the confidence to seek out other students facing the same struggle. Now the co-chair of OutreachND, Joyce helps provide a forum for what she calls a "tight-knit circle" of about 40 non-heterosexual students to relax, socialize and voice their frustrations about everyday life on a conservative campus. Strength in numbers, she said, has become a powerful asset.

"I think we're finally making enough noise—we have enough people who aren't afraid to wear 'Gay Irish' or 'Gay's Fine by Me' shirts" around campus, she said. "We have enough people willing to push the envelope and to take a stand."

Despite the courage displayed by her peers, Joyce admits that pushing towards acceptance at Notre Dame is a slow and painful process. And while she is excited about the recent public strides that the University has made in the direction of tolerance — listing off the Notre Dame Queer Film Festival, OutreachND and the Gay/Straight Alliance as powerful indicators — she is concerned that students' casually snide remarks still cause a lot of private pain.

Joyce said she defends herself and other less vocal victims of such stereotypes — albeit with a more politically correct retort than she sometimes wishes.

"I say that there's a lot of variability within our society and I feel it's unfair to stereotype someone because of how they look or how you perceive their behavior," Joyce said.

"What else can you say, 'Shut the hell up?'"

No matter how civil the response, the important thing is that Joyce responds. Unlike those who suffer in silence — a circumstance to which she can relate — she now refuses to

remain hidden in the campus background. And she knows that just because she might not fit any mold, and definitely does not fit the Notre Dame mold, it doesn't mean that she doesn't belong.

"I'm tired of being a marginalized voice. I'm tired of being alienated," Joyce said. "I'm a part of the community too."

In the public eye, she is also a part of the basketball team. But team life, she said, is something she keeps completely separate from her sexuality, and asked The Observer not to speak with her teammates.

"When it comes to personal things, I keep some things to myself," she said. "I go about my business and go to school like everyone else ... [sexuality] is not an issue."

Mindful of these separate spheres, Joyce believes there is a time and a place for vocally pushing acceptance to the forefront.

"Publicity is very good," she said, addressing the controversy that arose when Notre Dame chose to host the Queer Film Festival this month. "These are issues Notre Dame needs to recognize — we're everywhere. A little acknowledgment would be nice so we don't feel like outcasts in the community here."

She characterized the acknowledgment earned on campus thus far as minimal, but still highly significant. Although she called steps like the Festival "baby steps" toward recognizing and accepting alternative lifestyles, she said that the strength of voices like her own is still a vast improvement from years past.

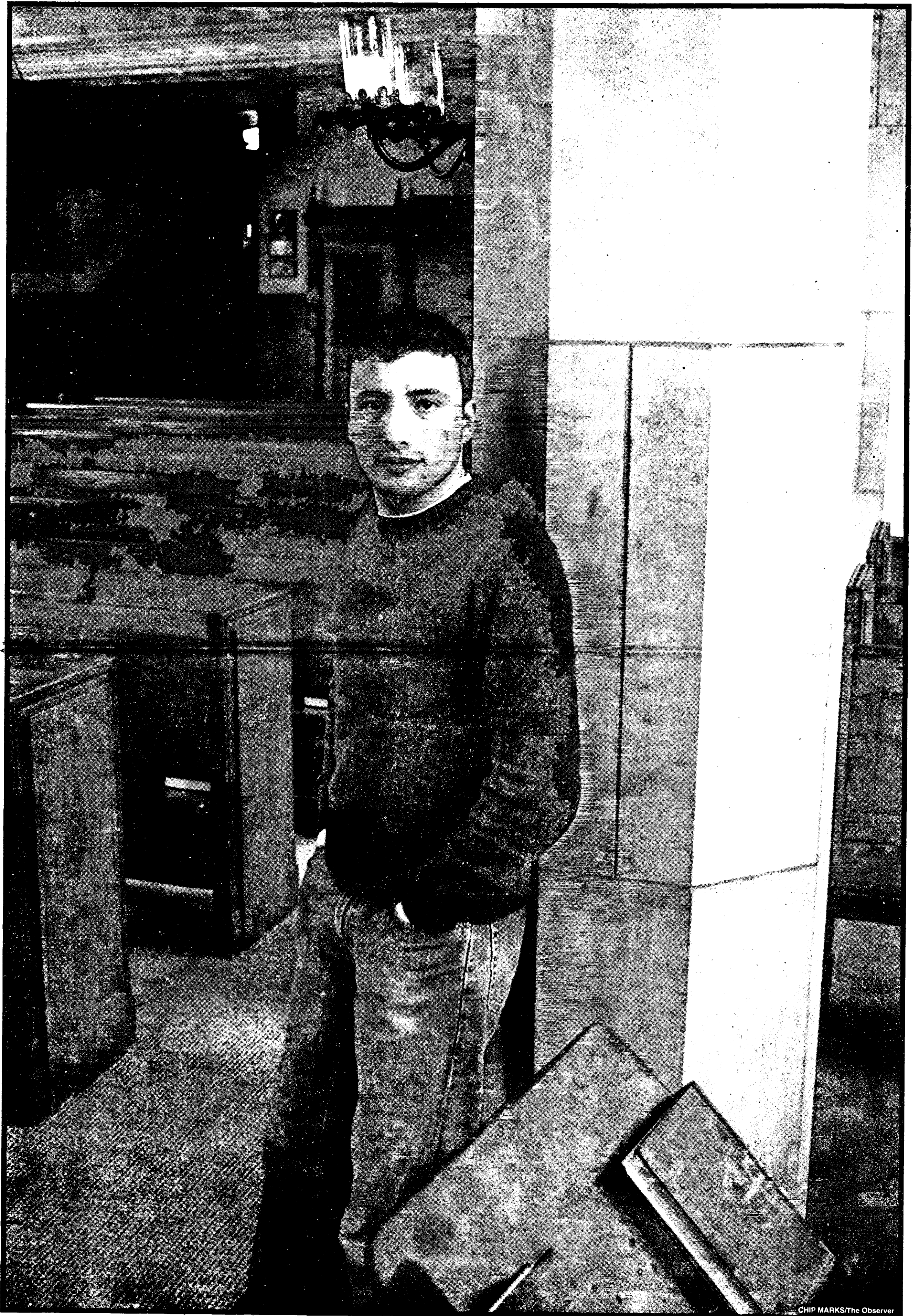
"I think it's good to have voices of dissent [that] are not in line," Joyce said, adding realistically, "And any step forward at Notre Dame is tremendous."

THE QUEER STUDENT ATHLETE



SHILPA MONSON/The Observer

AN ATHEIST



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

AN ATHEIST

"I no longer needed a god or needed the faith in my life, so it just kind of fell out of its traditional place."

Adam Loverro

STORY BY SHEILA FLYNN

When Adam Loverro's friends and family visit Notre Dame, he brings them to Mass at the Basilica. He takes them on the usual campus tour, highlighting the University's trademark spots, such as the Grotto. But to him, personally, the religious locations hold no special meaning. At one of the most vocally religious institutions in the country, Loverro is an atheist.

"I know it means something to them, and so if they're visiting or if they'd like to go, then I have no problem going," Loverro said of Basilica Mass.

"The Grotto's a really nice place, and it's one of the places people come to see," he said. "If I'm giving someone a tour, I'll bring them down there if there's time. I won't avoid it."

But the senior has only been to the Grotto on about four or five occasions, mostly when giving such tours. He feels no need to go there and pray, because, after he began high school, he decided there was no need for God in his life.

"After taking a history course and learning all about the Protestant Reformation ... all of that stuff, the history of the Catholic Church, the history of every church ... I was no longer enticed by the whole idea," Loverro said, also explaining that he believes "the Bible is wrought with inconsistencies."

"I no longer needed a god or needed the faith in my life, so it just kind of fell out of its traditional place."

Loverro was baptized a Roman Catholic, and he attended church regularly until about fifth grade, when his family moved and their routine became disrupted.

"I didn't go for the next three or four years," Loverro said.

And then he entered high school and rethought his religion, and his entire Catholic identity fell by the wayside. He expressed no interest in being confirmed, and his family did not pressure him.

"I don't think that my belief is a reaction to the Church's failure, but more of a [view that] there's nothing in God, himself or herself or itself, that is strictly what I need to determine my own set of moral values and ethics," Loverro said. "I didn't see the purpose of devoting myself to one or any of the faiths."

"I took what I agreed with and what I believe in morally and ethically from the teachings, but ... I don't use God as a basis for those practices."

Despite his disregard for faith and religion, however, Loverro chose to attend college at Notre Dame. After visiting campus during his senior year of high school, Loverro said he was struck by "the way I was welcomed and the beauty of the campus."

"I just really liked the feeling of the place," he said. "It's the community here and not the faith ... that I was attracted to."

And it is that same "community aspect" which occasionally draws him to Sunday Mass in his dorm, Zahm Hall, Loverro said.

"I really enjoy Mass at Zahm," he said.

"During the homily, I'd say I always listen to what the priest says, and usually it's a message that can be taken without the context of faith," Loverro said.

He said while the priest "usually refers to examples of Jesus, I can associate the examples without needing to believe that Jesus is God's son."

And Loverro said that, regardless of Notre Dame's strong commitment to religion and the overwhelmingly Catholic identity of the student body, he has never encountered hos-

tility or negative responses to his atheistic principles.

"I haven't gotten any negative response at all," Loverro said. "I've gotten curious looks, but nothing more than that."

He and his friends — most of whom do have faith in a higher power, Loverro said — will tease each other about believing or not believing, but none of the banter is ever mean-spirited or derogatory, he said.

"With my closest of friends, when it just happens to come up, they're like, 'Oh,'" Loverro said, or, "Wow, I didn't know that — that's interesting."

"The typical questions follow," he said, but the subject of his atheism has always been dropped or accepted "once those questions were answered."

Loverro attributed that acceptance and tolerance to learning and knowledge, citing a friend in high school who, uneducated about her own faith and the beliefs of others, had difficulties discussing his atheism.

"She had more of a problem talking about it, not dealing with it," he said.

At Notre Dame, though, where students are living and studying in a highly exploratory University environment, he has found everyone more open to discussion and acceptance.

THE FIRST BLACK HEAD COACH

"... I run a program that none of those things matter. The color of a guy's skin makes no difference. His religion makes no difference. Only his ability to perform and help the team matters."

Tyrone Willingham

STORY BY ANDREW SOUKUP

The phrase remains Tyrone Willingham's most basic mantra. He says it so often that the words are cliché when they pour out of his mouth, and the writers who spend day after day around the football coach smirk and discard the quote.

But if they knew where it came from, what Willingham endured both as a child and a professional, then they would know the 50-year-old's favorite expression, "the best player will play," isn't just a trite sports phrase.

Willingham says it because he believes he was once the best player. And he didn't play.

That day has long passed, and Notre Dame's first black head coach in any sport refuses to discuss specific instances of the racial battles of his past. But the sting on his face is evident when he talks about segregation in his hometown, when he talks about watching coaches start white players over black players and when he talks about the sorry fact that only five of the 117 Division I-A football coaches are black.

"You know there's a better way," Willingham said. "You know life doesn't have to exist that way."

But for the longest time, it did.

Willingham grew up in Jacksonville, N.C., a city filled with hostile race relations and segregated schools. Every morning, he rode the bus to the minority school, more than a mile past the white school that was within walking distance of his house.

His family lived in a mostly black neighborhood, and in the early years of his life, Willingham rarely felt segregation's effects. But as he grew older, he began to ask questions. Why are their books better? Why do we have to go into separate bathrooms? Why are their schools in better shape? Why do we have to eat at different tables?

His parents' responses helped shape Willingham the boy into Willingham the man.

"They believed there were two kinds of people — good people and bad people," Willingham said. "There were good Caucasians and bad Caucasians, and good African-Americans and bad African-Americans. Which kind of person you wanted to become was up to you."

Fittingly for Willingham, the most integrated aspect of Jacksonville was its athletic fields, where Willingham had been playing sports for most of his life. There, he said, kids from all ethnicities played together without racial prejudices, and the teams Willingham were on won virtually every athletic title in Jacksonville.

But parents were often the ones who ensured those boundaries stayed in place. And even though Jacksonville's school system integrated in 1966, the future Irish coach never wondered if coaches could still play white kids over black kids. "[It wasn't that] somebody could," Willingham said with steel in his voice. "Somebody did."

The closest Willingham will come to giving a concrete example of his past struggles comes when he was in high school. With the team's

white starting quarterback sidelined by injury, the head coach turned to Willingham. He made the most of his opportunity, playing well enough to catch the eye of Michigan State and eventually walk-on to the Spartan football team.

But ask him if there were other circumstances behind his second-string ranking in the first place, and Willingham grimly smiles and says, "That is partially correct."

What is the other part?

"We won't go into that."

Why not?

"Those are feelings that don't need to be rehashed," the coach says after an extended pause. "Do you have to have an awareness of the past? Yes. But it's what you do in the future that makes all the difference."

"I make sure that as a head coach that I run a program that none of those things matter. The color of a guy's skin makes no difference. His religion makes no difference. Only his ability to perform and help the team matters. To create a world where there is true equality based solely on your playing, that is the future."

That mentality is classic Willingham — a forward-looking coach who refuses to dwell on the past. But the very fact that Willingham refers to his hopes for a future quality and not his analysis of a present one implies that the Irish coach believes society still has much to accomplish.

Willingham points to the fact that nobody brought up race when he decided to replace black quarterback Carlyle Holiday with white quarterback Brady Quinn midway through Notre Dame's 2003 season — a situation that shows remarkable progress to Willingham's own high school experiences. And while Willingham generally avoids discussing specific instances of racial problems, he's not afraid to criticize the fact that only four percent of all Division I-A football coaches are minorities. To that, he attributes a mentality against hiring minority coaches that exists in some athletic offices around the country. He felt that mindset when he was an assistant coach and his opinions were ignored — he won't say at which school — and believes that attitude still persists.

"You have to look at the numbers, and that's what I've said for years and years," Willingham said. "It's an easy thing to adjust. You gotta hire the best people. That's how simple it is. Whether they are Asian, African-American, it doesn't matter."

Willingham disagrees with those who claim that Notre Dame's decision to hire a black coach was largely a public-relations move in the wake of the George O'Leary fiasco. On the contrary, the third-year Irish coach said, Notre Dame took a risk in hiring a minority when hiring a white coach would have been the safer move.

"I think it might worked the other way, that [race] was more of a detriment," Willingham said. "It creates more of a split among those who might have an interest in the issue. ... If there is a decision to be made, it's easier to go with the safe decision than one that involves a diversity of interests."

But as to why it took 162 years for Notre Dame to hire its first black head coach, Willingham declines to answer. "Only the people who have been here and been in a position to hire are able to speak on that issue," he said.

The black Methodist is grateful for the warm reception he has received from the white Catholic Notre Dame community. But as one of just five minority coaches — UCLA's Karl Dorrell, San Jose State's Fitz Hill, New Mexico State's Tony Samuel and Mississippi State's Sylvester Croom are the others — Willingham argues that he is in a group of coaches who are held to a higher level of scrutiny. Where the pressure comes from — other hopeful minority candidates, high-level administrators, fans — he doesn't say. He only says the pressure exists.

"As a minority, you're held to a much higher standard than anyone else in terms of your transition," Willingham said. "Even though, in many situations, you may be as qualified as other coaches. Everybody would say that's not fair."

But what would Willingham say?

"I would say that's not fair."

Then again, few things in life have been fair for Willingham. Faced with racial oppression his entire life, the Irish coach simply met the challenges directly. And instead of trying to get others to change via speeches and pontificating about the state of race in college athletics, Willingham prefers to show his beliefs in the way he runs his football program.

"There's a saying on our football team that a man with a backbone is more valuable than a thousand with a wishbone," the coach said. "You don't convince anybody. It's not a matter of who follows, it's how you value yourself. Do you really stand up for what is right?"

THE FIRST BLACK HEAD COACH

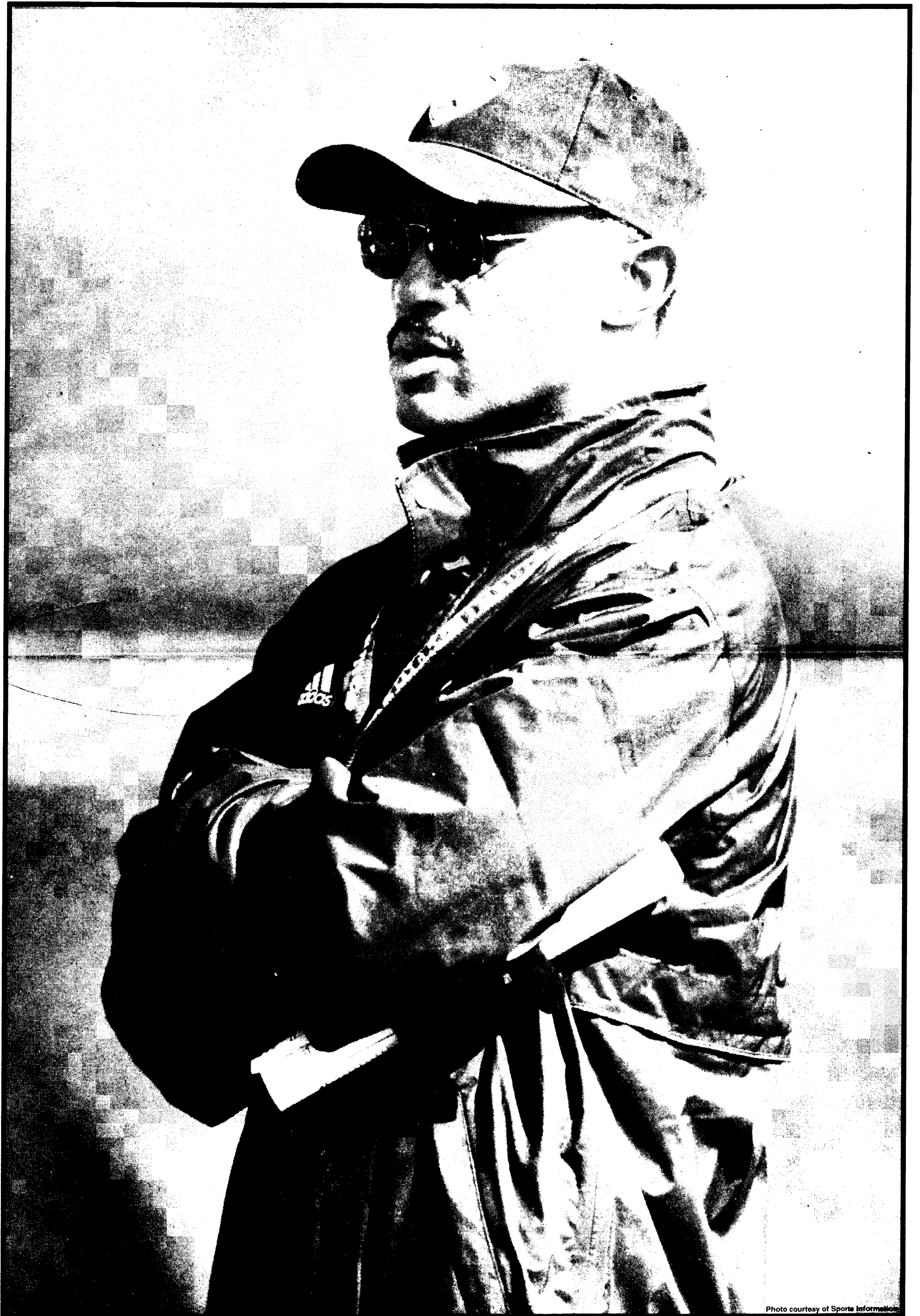
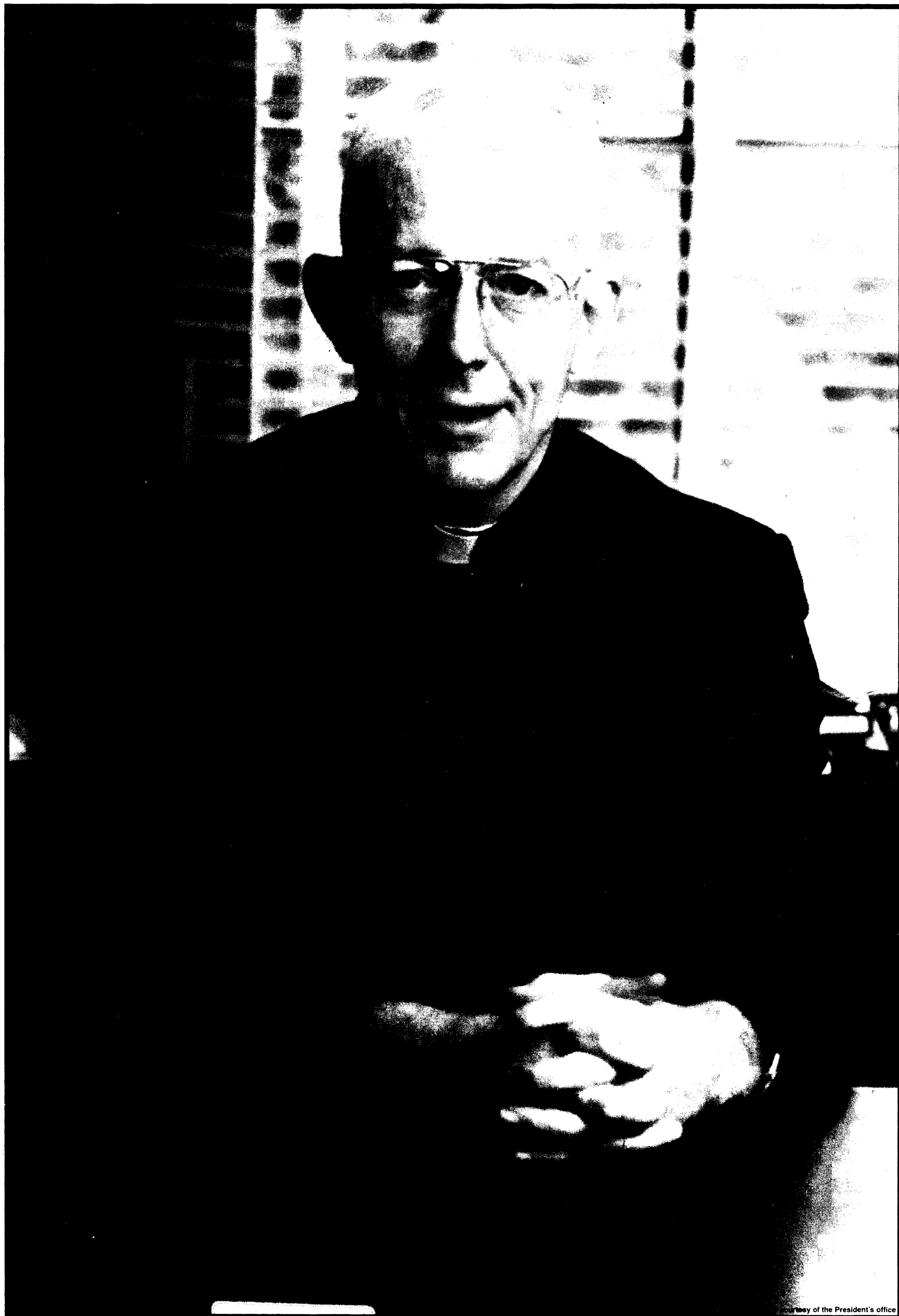


Photo courtesy of Sports Information

THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



Photograph by the President's office

THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

"We don't project precise numbers but we set targets and goals for ourselves, and we try to get as close as we can. We will continue to try to closely monitor the demographics of the United States."

Edward Malloy

STORY BY ANDREW THAGARD

When Father Edward Malloy reflects on Notre Dame and his time here, he does so through a variety of perspectives — as a former undergraduate student in the 1960's, as a professor in the Department of Theology since 1974 and as the University president since 1986.

Malloy's years at Notre Dame have allowed him to become intimately familiar with many aspects of the University, including the concept of diversity at Notre Dame — a central tenet of his administration. Since Malloy took the helm of the University 17 years ago, the percentage of underrepresented minorities at Notre Dame has increased from 7.5 to more than 20 percent.

"That's a big change," he says with an obvious sense of pride. "In that span of time, that's a big change."

It's also a change that hasn't come easily, according to Malloy, who must balance Notre Dame's unique identity as a Catholic institution with a rapidly evolving concept of diversity.

Indeed, when he was an undergraduate student, the number of underrepresented minorities in attendance was "miniscule" and diversity existed mainly in the socioeconomic sense as applicants were lured to the University by lower tuition rates and its Catholic identity.

Today, the University continues to attract a unique blend of students from different economic classes, including minority students. These efforts, Malloy said, have been facilitated in part by an increased commitment to financial aid.

"We've been able to say in recent years, 'If you get into Notre Dame, we can put together a [financial aid] package that will allow you to attend,'" he said.

In addition to an increased presence of minority students, Notre Dame also boasts diversity on the intellectual and political levels and increasingly in representation of students who choose to study here from international locales, he said.

In other areas including the religious and philosophical sense, Malloy said, the Notre Dame is less diverse — something that the University president doesn't necessarily believe is bad.

In this regard, Notre Dame must also honor the commitment to its Catholic identity — and in doing so, Malloy said, it contributes to the diversity among institutions of higher learning in the United States.

"What I like is that we're remaining faithful to our mission and sense of purpose," he said. "I

believe that we have put a huge amount of effort into exploring what it means to be a Catholic university and looking at dimensions of that and trying to foster it over time."

While Malloy is pleased with the progress in promoting diversity that has occurred during his tenure, he's quick to point out that Notre Dame still has a lot of work to do in this regard, especially in hiring minority administrators and faculty members — an effort that must begin at the departmental level, he said.

"We still have a long way to go," he said. "It takes a University-wide effort to diversify the faculty."

Malloy said that he believes that his work in making increased diversity a "team" effort and emphasis on opportunities to learn about different perspectives outside the classroom, has simultaneously eased the adjustment that minority students face and increased the promotion of diversity among the general student body.

"I encourage people with common backgrounds to get together socially in an informal way," he said. "I think the social networks of support are really helpful for diversity here."

In the future, Malloy said that he wants Notre Dame to reflect the different aspects of diversity he highlighted in its undergraduate student population. While his future goals do not include specific quotas, he believes that the University's direction should be shaped in part by the changing demographics of the nation and the U.S. Catholic Church.

"We don't project precise numbers but we set targets and goals for ourselves, and we try to get as close as we can," he said. "We will continue to try to closely monitor the demographics of the United States."

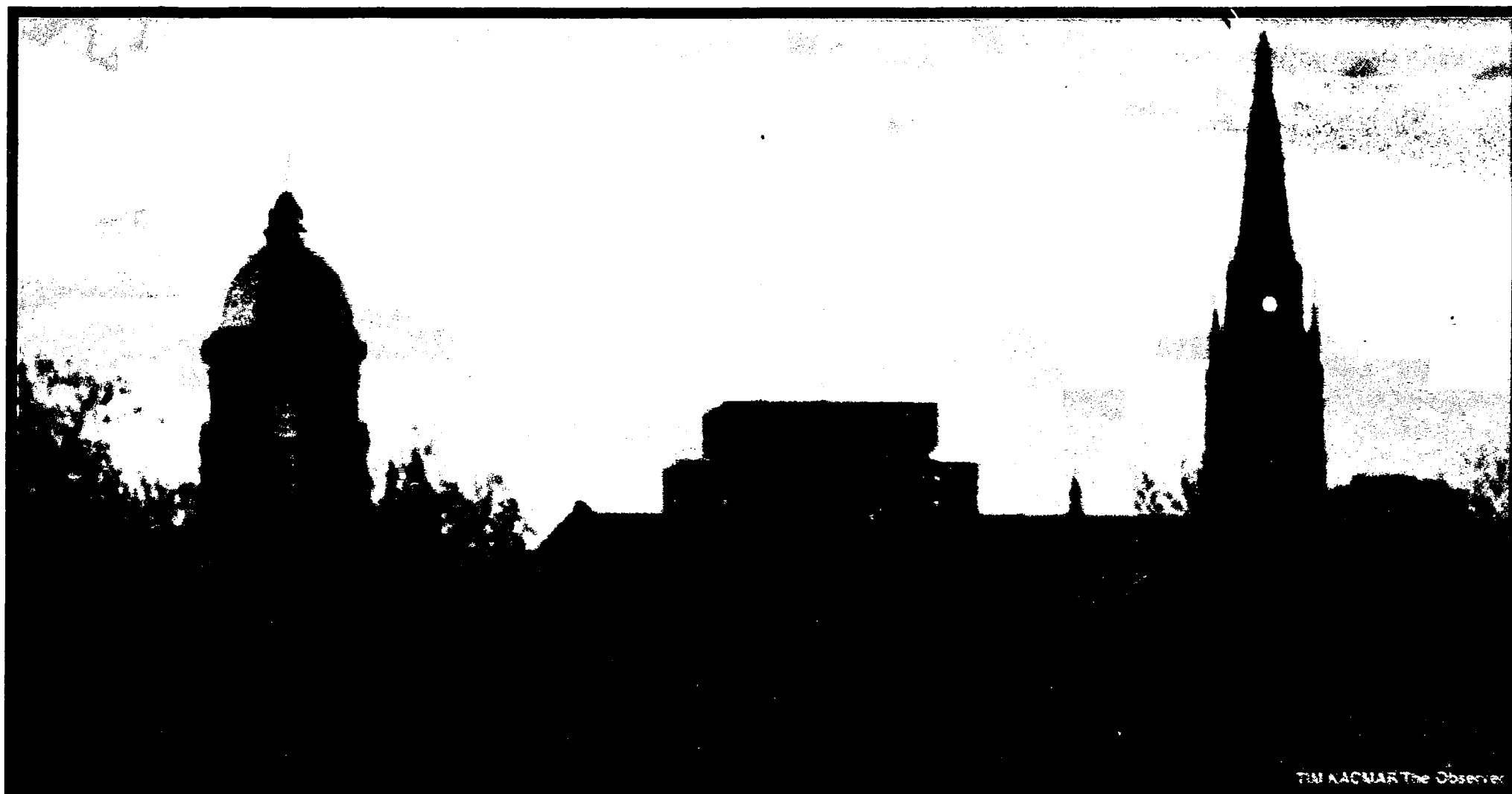
Malloy doesn't know what exactly the country or Catholic Church will look like in the future from a demographic perspective, but he believes that it will be shaped by an increased Latino presence, particularly Mexican-Americans. This and other national trends should be reflected in Notre Dame's student population, he said.

At the same time, however, he believes that certain University traditions — including priority given to children of alumni — should be maintained and will serve as an asset in increasing minority recruitment as alumni choose to send their children here.

"That's a variable that I expect to be kept up and that will have an influence as well," he said.

Diversity, Malloy said, isn't a definitive goal to be reached but a never-ending process that requires a degree of flexibility and adaptability. He's confident, however, that the University is up to the challenge.

"We want to consistently re-evaluate ourselves on the basis of factoring information [to achieve] a combination making the most sense as a Catholic institution and as a national institution," he said. "We've been very fortunate because the people connected to Notre Dame ... pride Notre Dame's distinctive mission and identity."



Breaking Ground

STORY BY CLAIRE HEININGER

When Father Edward Sorin founded the University in 1842, diversity at Notre Dame was not yet a catchphrase, a controversy or an aspiration — it was an oxymoron. The students of the early years were male. They were white. They were straight. They were Catholic. And there was no question about it.

Questions, as we all know, arrived. Questions persist. Questions arose about who belongs here and to what extent. Questions now arise about diversity itself. One thing is certain — diversity means more than these categories. Narrowing its definition to sex, race, religion and sexual preference, though clearly the most glaring sources of discrimination, is only a starting point. While this series has largely focused on these four areas, diversity as a term and as a goal is more far-reaching. Unlike the uniformity that characterized our campus at the beginning, it cannot be nailed down.

The University's mission dictated a specific reputation, and attracted a specific kind of student. But while its foundation — and much of its formation — was characterized by homogeneity, several individuals along the way provided ripples of change.

President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh was one of those individuals, as he became a vocal supporter of both civil rights legislation and coeducation during his tenure. Deeply aware of the difference between the appearance of diversity on the surface and true interaction, he encouraged students and faculty, then and now, to ground their beliefs about equal rights in Catholic values.

Influential figures were not all as visible as Hesburgh, but often they needed to share in his resolve. Wayne Edmonds, the first minority to broach another sphere inseparable from the Notre Dame name — football — endured racial epithets from fans and segregation during Southern road trips. Josephine Ford, the first woman faculty member to receive tenure, watched priests get promoted and eventually

filed a sexual discrimination suit against the University. David Garrick, the most well-known priest to publicize his homosexuality at Notre Dame, felt so ostracized that he resigned in protest.

As lines began to blur and barriers began to topple, standing up for diversity became less about standing alone. Current University President Edward Malloy and Director of Admissions Dan Saracino are united in their emphasis of economic diversity, as evidenced by an increased emphasis on financial aid. Both also insist that minority recruitment does not have an adverse effect on Notre Dame traditions — and that the future mosaic of students will reflect both the University's consistent character and the United States' changing demographics.

The stories of unique students of today reflect a similar theme of solidarity and strength. Nahyan Fancy can afford to speak out for Muslims because of the United Muslim Association standing behind him. Rick Friedman can feel comfortable discussing his

sexuality because of the OutreachND support system that offers him refuge. The Notre Dame community of today is the most diverse in University history — not only in its breadth, but also, tellingly, in its depth.

Despite these strides, cynicism and disillusionment remain — often because the University has not done enough to diminish them. It is easy to identify clusters in the dining hall that are grouped by race. The University's anti-discrimination clause still does not explicitly include homosexuals. We cannot narrow diversity to four areas, yet the "norms," as we perceive them, are still firmly entrenched. In large part, Notre Dame admits that it still has a long way to go to accomplish its goals.

However, to dismiss the exceptional individuals showcased in this series as blips on the uniformity radar would be selling them short. Just like in 1842, diversity at Notre Dame is not a catchphrase. It has been, is now and will be about tangible experiences, authentic stories, and above all, real people.