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ND restructures GLBTQ group

Existing Standing Committee renamed the Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

The University Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs will soon become the Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students — a restructured group with increased student membership to better meet campus needs, University officials said Friday.

"It's exciting — I think it's a step forward in terms of service to our gay, lesbian and bisexual students and making sure we

create a welcoming environment at Notre Dame, and all within the parameters of Catholic teaching," Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman told The Observer Friday.

The Standing Committee serves as an advisory board that helps Poorman and the Office of Student Affairs identify the needs of gay, lesbian and bisexual students as well as coordinate programming, and Poorman said the Core Council will continue to fulfill this role.

What's really changing, he said, is the group's composition.

The Core Council will have 12 members total, eight of them students — the majority of whom are gay or lesbian, Poorman said. There will also be four administrators representing the Counseling Center, the Gender Relations Center, Campus Ministry and the Office of Student Affairs.

A student and a representative from the Office of Student Affairs — possibly Sister Susan Dunn, who was recently appointed to Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs — will serve as the Core Council's co-chairs,

Poorman said.

The eight students and student co-chair position mark a significant increase from the Standing Committee's current six student members, said Sister Mary Louise Gude, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and current chair of the Standing Committee.

Gude has served as chair since fall 1998 and believes the expansion of the Standing Committee into the Core Council — an expansion that includes regularly

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University tuition hits \$33,407

Increase is fifth in five years at Notre Dame

By AMANDA MICHAELS
Assistant News Editor

A Notre Dame diploma just got a little more valuable — that is, in terms of how much it costs.

The University announced Friday that tuition for undergraduates will increase 5.8 percent for the 2006-07 school year — up \$1,865 from the current academic year's bill.

Decided at the winter Board of Trustees meetings in Rome, the total cost for a year of undergraduate education will be \$42,137, including \$33,407 for tuition and \$8,730 for average room and board rates. Tuition increases for the other schools connected with Notre Dame are 5.8 percent as well, bringing costs for the Graduate School to \$32,800 and both the Law School and Master's of Business Administration Program to \$33,670.

Though any tuition hike is painful for bill-payers, this year's increase signals a leveling out in comparison to the last five increases. The 2005-06 academic year saw a 7 percent rise, slightly higher than 2004-05's 6.9 percent and 2003-04's 6.5 percent increases. The 2001-02 and 2002-03

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Fewer Holy Cross transfers accepted by ND

Number of applications submitted steady

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

In one of the most legendary tales of a college transfer student, Rudy Ruettiger makes the switch from Holy Cross College to Notre Dame. But stories like the one portrayed in "Rudy" are becoming less common as the University has accepted fewer Holy Cross transfer applicants in recent years.

Of the 85 students from Holy Cross who applied as transfers to Notre Dame in 2005, 40 percent were admitted, according to the Holy Cross Web site. This semester, four out of the 15 applicants from Holy Cross were accepted to Notre Dame — the lowest acceptance rate for a

spring semester in the last eight years. About 80 Holy Cross students apply for transfer to Notre Dame each year.

Susan Joyce, associate director of admissions for Notre Dame, said the deans who read transfer applications advise anyone who hopes to transfer to Notre Dame to go to the most competitive four-year school possible — a recommendation that makes it automatically more difficult to transfer from Holy Cross, which converted to a four-year college in the fall of 2003 after 36 years as a junior college.

Joyce said the credit requirements for transfers to Notre Dame's School of Engineering

see TRANSFERS/page 4



LAURIE HUNT and KATIE RIVARD/The Observer

Students walk to class at Holy Cross College. Transferring from the College to Notre Dame has become increasingly difficult.

Ordinance changes focus of proposal

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

Six Notre Dame student government representatives will speak at tonight's South Bend Common Council meeting about an issue associated this year with rumors and reality, evictions and emotions — community relations.

Despite student government's opposition to the July 25, 2005 amendment of the South Bend Public Nuisance Ordinance — a change that has resulted in several student evictions as well as multiple fines and notices to abate and — student body president Dave Baron said tonight's presentation would not be delivered in a "combative, conflictual or even

complaining" tone.

The main focus, he said, will be to present the student perspective on the amendment and appeal for the Council's consideration of a resolution passed in Student Senate on Nov. 30, 2005.

The Senate resolution recommends changing South Bend's system from the current notice to abate and fine after the tenant's first violation, a response that Baron believes encourages landlords to evict tenants before they have had a chance to abate the activity.

Instead, the resolution recommends one of two options — after the second violation, fining both the landlord and tenant an amount based on

see RELATIONS/page 6

Robinson celebrates anniversary

Jenkins and Luecke in attendance at event

By KELLY MEEHAN
Assistant News Editor

The sometimes-strained ties between Notre Dame and the greater South Bend community disappeared at the Robinson Community Learning Center's fifth anniversary celebration Friday evening.

The event brought out many members of the community, including University President Father John Jenkins and South Bend Mayor Steven Luecke, to commemorate the work of the Center's volunteers and reflect upon how the Robinson Center has strengthened the University-community bond.

The Center opened in

see ROBINSON/page 4



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

South Bend community members gather in the Robinson Community Learning Center for its fifth anniversary Friday.

INSIDE COLUMN

Lessons learned

After three and a half years of class presentations and journalism interviews, a room full of elementary school kids shouldn't have fazed me, right?

Nevertheless, I found myself quite nervous Thursday as I drove toward Nuner Primary Center in Mishawaka. My friend Becky, student teacher in a fourth grade classroom there, thought I would be a good addition to her lesson on newspapers. In other words, I was the guest expert.



Megan O'Neil

Saint Mary's Editor

Now, I would like you to stretch your memory back to your own elementary school days when there was a classroom visitor. Remember how wise that classroom visitor seemed? How professional? How ... old?

I felt compelled to do my best to live up to this image. I even wore my most adult outfit: button-down shirt, wool slacks and heels, but I still felt I embodied none of the aforementioned characteristics. Instead, I felt like a stage actress with a tape recorder and notebook as props.

What I was most concerned about, however, was not seeming grown-up or impressive. I was terrified of being boring. I had an image of glazed-over eyes staring back at me, or worse yet, heads resting on desks. I didn't want to be yet another reason why kids tell their parents their day at school was "fine."

After the students filed in from lunch, settled in their chairs and turned expectantly to me, I launched into my "journalism is exciting" spiel. I told them all about working for The Observer, stalking sources around campus and laying out pages until God-awful hours of the morning.

After a few minutes I felt myself relax. Maybe I could teach them something interesting about the newspaper business. I certainly believed everything I was saying. Journalism is exciting, and the hard work is rewarding.

Further, I had forgotten about the hyperactive energy and the overactive curiosity of the average fourth-grader. After every sentence I uttered, hands shot up in response. Many of the questions were quite smart and made me consider things that I had not thought about in a long time.

Once or twice I called on students only to have them forget what they were going to say because they were so excited. Other times the response had absolutely nothing to do with the topic of conversation. A couple of the students had started their own newspaper and they provided me with a copy.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable afternoon. I got the chance to see my friend operate in her professional environment and to admire how hard she is working to engage her students every day. But the afternoon also served to remind why I am pursuing my chosen career path and gave me the opportunity to get excited about my future.

Contact Megan O'Neil at onei0907@saintmarys.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW CHARACTER AND WHY?



Ben Solomon
sophomore
Keough

"Mr. Eko and his beat stick."



Christine Clark
freshman
McGlinn

"Phoebe from 'Friends,' because she's just so funny, out there and not afraid to do anything. Also, I admire her style."



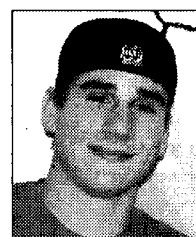
Danny Saad
sophomore
Keough

"Chuck Norris — he's the reason Waldo is hiding."



Grace Shen
sophomore
Howard

"The Brain, because we have the same aspirations — to take over the world!"



Pete Gargula
sophomore
Keough

"Lock from 'Lost,' because his wisdom knows no bounds."



Tony Salpino
sophomore
Keough

"The Count from Sesame Street, because I'm a math major."



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Lecturer Pope Davis speaks to sophomores at the Sophomore Intellectual Initiative meeting titled "What Really Happens in Graduate School and How Do I Get There?" on Feb. 16 in the Coleman-Morse Center.

OFFBEAT

Poll aims to find the best-kept bathrooms

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Call it the Toilet Bowl. A bathroom supply company sponsoring an online poll aimed at finding America's best bathroom has narrowed the field to five sparkling-clean, sweet-smelling potties.

A Michigan bistro, a Rhode Island seafood house, a New Jersey casino, an Illinois airport and an Ohio restaurant are the finalists in the contest, which will name a winner in April based on the number each receives in admittedly nonscientific online voting.

"It's a big compliment, surprisingly," said contest organizer Jessica Bensten. "People get really excited."

Sponsored by Cincinnati-based Cintas Corp., manufacturer of Sanis restroom supplies, the America's Best Restroom contest was started in 2001 to spotlight businesses that maintain "exceptional hygiene, with style" in their potties. Nominations can be made by anyone, and about 30 are received annually, she said.

Conn. man tries to sell holy hardware on eBay

MANCHESTER, Conn. — Thomas Haley was unload-

ing supplies for his job at Hardy's Hardware when he said something odd caught his eye: the face of Jesus Christ on a piece of sheet metal.

Now, Haley and a co-worker are hawking the holy hardware on eBay, hoping potential bidders will agree that the blurry oil stain on the sheet metal does, indeed, resemble Jesus.

"I mean, it hasn't done anything miraculous as of yet, but seeing it is kind of groovy," said Haley, 23. "Just seeing it brightens people's day."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A "Discussion on Academic Freedom" will occur tonight at 7 p.m. in the basement of Keenan Hall.

A campus and community conversation about "Understanding Juvenile Justice in South Bend" will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Robinson Community Learning Center on Eddy Street.

Jim Towey, Director of the White House Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, will speak about "Compassion for America's Poor: What Happens When God and Government Mix" Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium.

There will be a Jazz Coffeehouse at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the LaFortune Ballroom.

The Asian American Association will sponsor a "Grotto Walk" on Wednesday. They will meet in front of Bond Hall at 11 p.m.

The opening meeting of the Diverse Student Leadership Conference will take place in O'Laughlin Auditorium on Thursday at 8 p.m.

AcousticCafe will take place at 10 p.m. on Thursday in the LaFortune basement.

The Safe Spring Breakdown Festival will occur from 12 p.m. to 4 on Friday in the LaFortune Ballroom.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 38 LOW 23	HIGH 26 LOW 23	HIGH 39 LOW 30	HIGH 52 LOW 34	HIGH 38 LOW 22	HIGH 39 LOW 28

Atlanta 58 / 38 Boston 29 / 18 Chicago 43 / 29 Denver 66 / 41 Houston 73 / 57 Los Angeles 62 / 54 Minneapolis 31 / 20 New York 34 / 25 Philadelphia 37 / 26 Phoenix 82 / 60 Seattle 53 / 43 St. Louis 63 / 42 Tampa 67 / 49 Washington 40 / 34

Saint Mary's alumnae share service experience in Ghana

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

When a classmate approached Leah Gillock at lunch one day during their senior year at Saint Mary's to ask if she was interested in doing service work in Ghana, Gillock expressed interest, never expecting the trip would actually take place.

But Claire Higgins, who proposed the idea, had already started using her connections from the College's "Friends with Sisters" program to explore options for the two women.

"Prior to my junior year of college, I felt this calling to go to Africa and ever since, I was thinking there has to be a way for me to go to Africa after graduation," Higgins said at an slideshow presentation at St. Joseph's House on campus Saturday.

Higgins originally intended to travel to Uganda, but after working with Sr. Madeline Theresa, coordinator of the international service office for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, "everything fell into place" and she and Gillock decided they would finance their own trip to live and work with Sisters of the Holy Cross in Kasoa, Ghana.

After graduating in May 2005, the pair began to read up on Ghanaian history and to research social and political issues. They made ambitious goals for the trip and collected

"loads and loads" of school supplies to distribute, Gillock said.

"Claire and I had gotten together and talked about things we could possibly do when we got there," Gillock said.

When Higgins and Gillock arrived at St. Martha's Catholic Church and Basic School in September and saw how bad the situation was for Ghanaian children seeking an education, they found themselves modifying their "radical notions," Gillock said.

The two women spent their three-month trip living in community with the Sisters and teaching English at St. Martha's. Higgins said her class of 90 students was noisy and often difficult to control. Ages and abilities within the class varied widely because financial constraints often required children to leave school for varying periods of time.

Physical discipline was the norm at St. Martha's, Higgins and Gillock said.

Higgins described how she tried to quiet her class by asking for their attention, with little success.

"One of the little girls came up to me and was like, 'They're not going to respect you unless you cane them,'" Higgins said.

Another time students were told to bring machetes — a household item in Ghana — to school to help weed, Gillock said. Those who didn't were lined up outside of the building and caned



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Saint Mary's alumnae Claire Higgins, left, and Leah Gillock describe their three-month experience teaching English at St. Martha's School in Kasoa, Ghana.

on both sides of their hands.

All students in Ghana, those attending both religious and government-run schools, wear uniforms and are also required to shave their heads.

"There were times [at the beginning] unless they were wearing earrings I couldn't tell if they were girls or boys because when they were sitting down you couldn't tell if they were wearing skirts or pants," Higgins said.

Higgins and Gillock also traveled to different regions in Ghana and visited various schools, many of which were in much better shape than St.

Martha's. Despite rich natural resources, the country's infrastructure remains very poor, Gillock said. Roads are in disrepair and there are few economic opportunities even for the educated.

One of the most powerful images Higgins and Gillock showed was of a mountainous garbage heap called the "bulla."

"It is very sad," Gillock said. "It is this huge land fill that cows walk on and defecate on ... and there are also children playing on it and [trying to collect things]."

The pair said their fair skin

and light hair often attracted attention.

"[Ghanaians] would come up to us and touch us, touch our skin and touch our hair because it was something new, something different," Gillock said.

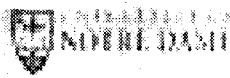
Higgins called the trip a "humbling experience" and said she came to realize that before one can change the world they first must change themselves.

"It was just an awesome, incredibly wonderful experience," Gillock said.

Contact Megan O'Neil at onei0907@saintmarys.edu



Center for Social Concerns

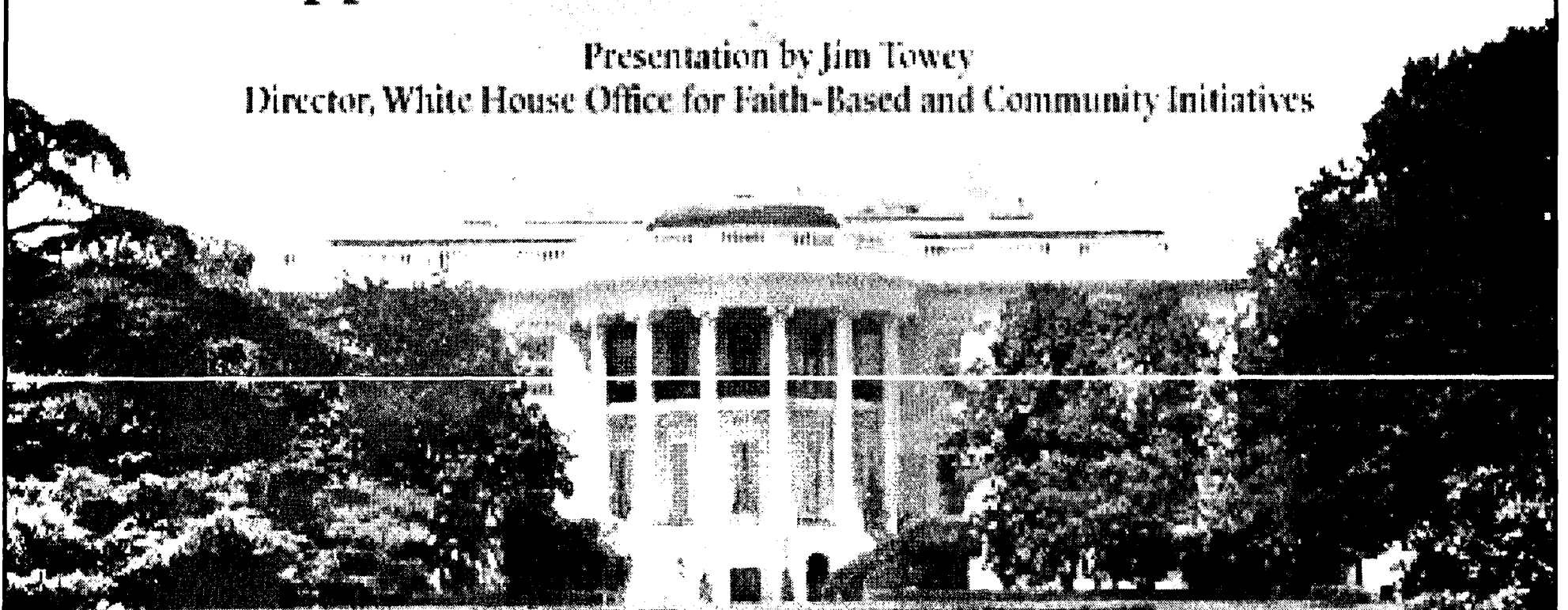


Office of Catholic Education



Compassion for America's Poor: What Happens When God and Government Mix?

Presentation by Jim Towey
Director, White House Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives



Tuesday, February 28, 2006

7:07

Increase

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risers, however, were the lowest the University had seen in 40 years at 4.5 percent.

University spokesman Dennis Brown attributed the comparatively smaller increase from the past two years to a strong performance by the University's endowment, as well as greater income from its auxiliary enterprises, including the Hammes Bookstore, athletics, licensed merchandise and laundry.

"Because we can draw more from the University endow-

ment, there is less of a need to significantly raise tuition," Brown said.

University President Father John Jenkins announced the tuition hike to parents and guardians of students returning next year in a letter mailed last week. In the letter, he explained that Notre Dame needed the revenue from higher educational costs "to attract and sustain a superb faculty, administer and maintain a large and complex physical plant, and secure a peaceful, hopeful and pleasant environment for our students."

In the letter, Jenkins also affirmed that the University

"remains firmly committed to being affordable and accessible to a talented and diverse student body," indicating Notre Dame's total student charges continue to remain below the average of its peer institutions, as determined by the U.S. News & World Report survey of America's best colleges. In that survey, Notre Dame is listed as the 18th best college in America in 2006, and the 19th best value in education.

Brown said the University will not only continue to meet all students' demonstrated financial needs, but plans to reduce the proportion of need-based aid constituted by loans, lean-

ing more heavily on monetary scholarships.

"Over the past 15 years or so, our University scholarship aid has grown from \$5.4 million to more than \$60 million per year, and that's been the highest priority in the University's fundraising and budgeting and continues to be so," Brown said. "So, while the tuition number does grow, financial aid grows even more."

The funds from the tuition increase will go into the General Operating Budget, which allocates money for a wide range of University functions, including the salaries for the faculty and staff and the

daily costs of running an academic institution.

"There is a continuing need to balance the fiscal realities of operating the University while maintaining some constraint [on tuition increases] while needing to improve upon the educational experience we provide," Brown said. "It's a balancing act, like everything else in our world. The costs of operating any sort of organization continually increase, and at the University, tuition helps to drive in a significant way our overall budget."

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

Robinson

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February 2001 to strengthen interaction between South Bend's Northeast Neighborhood and Notre Dame. The partnership was built through interaction and opportunities that revitalized the community. The Robinson Center offers a variety of educational, health and leadership programs aimed to enrich the lives of volunteers and participants.

Jenkins said he — along with fellow key community leaders — remains committed to the Center, which has seen its number of volunteers and employees more than triple in the last five years.

"[The Robinson Center] is instrumental with forging and sponsoring relationships within the community. I hope to continue to foster this strong relationship," Jenkins said. "The Center brings people together and makes great contribution to this neighborhood."

As a researcher of town-gown relations, Duquesne University professor and former Northeast Neighborhood resident Peter Miller returned to his former neighborhood to share the results of his Notre Dame-Robinson Center study.

He said universities generally control the development of their outside neighborhood. However, Notre Dame has managed to foster an equal partnership of dialogue and decisions.

"Notre Dame has come together with [Northeast-side] residents to decide what to do," Miller said.

Miller shared Northeast-side residents' quotes with the audience about the impact of the Center on the community-University relationship. Many said prior to the development of the Robinson Center they were not pleased with relations, but upon its 2001 opening, they noticed an immediate change.

"Togetherness — that is what [the Robinson Center has] done. The community and the Center work so well together," assistant to the mayor Jack Reed said. "They complement each other and it is a wonderful place for young people."

Miller said the three things that allowed for this relation-

ship are humility, faith in the neighborhood and hope for the future by both partners.

"[Robinson Center] increases horizontal relationships, and allows for a continued healing and evolution of [residents'] relationship with Notre Dame," Miller said.

South Bend resident Marva Williams said the Center's volunteers work hard to keep the Center on track.

"Everyone does a beautiful job. They really give the youth something to look forward to."

South Bend Mayor Steven Luecke said he "loved the spirit of [the Center] and the volunteers are the lifeblood of the community."

"I am grateful for the many relationships that have been developed here at Robinson Center," Luecke said. "There are some strains between the community and University, but Robinson Center has allowed people to come together to implement their vision."

Notre Dame junior and Robinson Center volunteer Shelly Williams was honored with the Fr. Don McNeill, CSC Award for her volunteer work as a tutor and after-school program aid.

"There is something special about a child when he or she is able to understand the material being presented to them," Shelly Williams said. "Everyone at the Robinson Center is unique and incredible in their own way. I'm simply blessed with the ability to walk into the Robinson [Center] and help children learn."

Shelly Williams also said she sees the center as a place where the community and University merge into one.

"The Robinson Center is crucial to the communication between the South Bend community and Notre Dame community because it is a place of fresh ideas, a place where the community can voice [its] concerns, and the University can help provide solutions," she said.

Luecke said he appreciated the event's large turnout and looks forward to the Center's future.

"[The Robinson Community Learning Center] anchors the Northeast Neighborhood as a place of grace, blessing, community and family," he said.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

Transfers

continued from page 1

and the College of Science are sometimes more rigorous than the classes made available to Holy Cross students, making them less competitive within the transfer applicant pool.

For sophomore transfer student Colin Ethier, who began classes at Notre Dame in January, getting to Notre Dame certainly wasn't easy.

He was originally declined admission to the University during his senior year of high school and opted to reapply after a year attending Holy Cross.

"It was kind of hard to transition in the middle of the school year, but I have good classes and everyone has been really helpful," Ethier said. "I don't know if [Holy Cross] really helped with my acceptance, but it helped me to prepare [for Notre Dame]. I definitely felt prepared."

Ethier — who transferred into the College of Arts and

Letters — said the largest challenge he faced when trying to transfer to Notre Dame was figuring out which classes he should take at Holy Cross to secure his acceptance at Notre Dame.

"The hardest part was making sure that I had the right classes [to transfer]. Everyone tells you something different," he said.

Sophomore Danyal Kareem transferred to Notre Dame last fall and had to take the highest-level science classes available at Holy Cross in order to get into Notre Dame's College of Science.

While Kareem said he was glad to have made the switch to Notre Dame because Holy Cross lacked science courses for him to take after his first year, he noted differences between courses at the College and the University — differences that may have ultimately helped him transfer.

"The classes [at Holy Cross] were smaller and the professors were able to be more involved in the courses," he said.

Kareem said he feels he may not have had the grades to get into Notre Dame if he had tried

to transfer from a school with larger class sizes.

And for Kareem, the hardest part of the transition was not getting used to Notre Dame classes — it was making new friends.

"A lot of sophomores and juniors have already made their group of friends, which makes it harder for transfer students," he said.

Holy Cross freshman Anthony Garcia, who was previously denied admittance to the University, hopes to reapply in the spring of 2007 to the College of Arts and Letters.

In the meantime, however, he said he feels that attending Holy Cross allows him to go to school away from home while at the same time learning about Notre Dame's environment.

"I've heard of many people who have had the opportunity of getting into Notre Dame [after attending Holy Cross], but I also wanted to experience the Notre Dame community altogether," he said.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

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AN ARMY OF ONE



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Hamas looks for truce with Israel

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The Palestinians' incoming prime minister said Sunday that Hamas is interested in a long-term truce with Israel but has no intention of seeking a formal peace agreement that would recognize the Jewish state.

Also on Sunday, Israel's acting foreign minister said Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas is "not relevant" because of the election victory by the militant group Hamas.

Israel and the U.S. consider Hamas, winner of January's Palestinian elections, a terror group. Hamas does not recognize the existence of a Jewish state in the Middle East and has sent dozens of suicide bombers into Israel, killing hundreds.

65 missing miners considered dead

SAN JUAN DE SABINAS, Mexico — With no hope of finding 65 missing miners alive, a few dozen relatives waited outside a collapsed coal mine in northern Mexico on Sunday, hoping efforts to recover remains of their kin will begin soon.

Maria Cantu said she's come to terms with the fact that her 32-year-old son, Raul Villasana, will never emerge from the mine alive, but insisted his remains must be brought out.

"They have obligation to get them out of there so they can have Christian burials," she said. "The mine is no kind of tomb for them."

A gas explosion Feb. 19 raised the temperature inside the Pasta de Conchos mine to 1,110 degrees and released toxic methane and carbon monoxide that gobbled up nearly all of the oxygen.

NATIONAL NEWS

Woman killed in church shooting

DETROIT — A suspected gunman who opened fire with a shotgun during a church service Sunday morning killed a woman and wounded two people before he shot himself a mile away, police said.

Investigators believe a domestic dispute led to the shooting at Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church about 11 a.m., said Second Deputy Police Chief James Tate.

A 9-year-old child, sitting near the unidentified woman who died, was hit in the hand by a buckshot pellet, Tate said. Police didn't know the relationship of the pair.

As the gunman fled the church, he critically shot a man trying to protect his wife from a carjacking attempt, officials said.

FBI tests: UT substance not ricin

AUSTIN — The FBI determined a powdery substance found in a roll of quarters at a University of Texas dormitory was not ricin after initial state tests had indicated it was the potentially deadly poison, a spokesman said Sunday.

The FBI tests did not identify the substance, but they came back negative for the poison that is extracted from castor beans, said San Antonio FBI spokesman Rene Salinas.

"There were no proteins in there to indicate it was in fact ricin," Salinas said. He said was unlikely further testing would be done.

LOCAL NEWS

Bass Pro Shops draws more retailers

PORTAGE — Bass Pro Shops, which is receiving \$20 million in state and local incentives to locate one of its megastores in a Porter County business park, is wasting little time in drawing other retailers to the site.

Cracker Barrel and LongHorn Steakhouse restaurants have been the first two spinoff developers to follow the Springfield, Mo.-based retailer's lead and sign on to build stores at AmeriPlex at the Port business park, said Tim Healy, senior vice president of Holladay Properties, which owns the park.

AFGHANISTAN

Rioting prisoners seize control

Al-Qaida and Taliban loyalists accused of inciting common criminal inmates

Associated Press

KABUL — Summary executions of prisoners took place at the Policharki prison during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the Taliban rule of the country. On Sunday, it was the inmates who were in charge.

Hundreds of Afghan soldiers with tanks and grenade-launchers surrounded Kabul's main prison Sunday after rioting inmates seized control of much of the facility in an uprising that officials blamed on al-Qaida and Taliban militants.

Local media reported several people were killed and dozens injured. But it appeared security forces had yet to gain access to parts of the jail under prisoners' control, so officials could not confirm reports of casualties. One official said at least four inmates were injured.

Gunshots occasionally rang out as troops tried to keep the prisoners bottled up. Officials said the rioters did not have any firearms but had armed themselves with small knives and clubs fashioned from wrecked furniture.

Smoke could be seen curling out of some cell windows, where inmates apparently set fire to bedding and furniture.

Government negotiators late Sunday suspended talks to end the standoff at the notorious Policharki jail, which later this year is slated to receive dozens of Afghans currently in U.S. military's Guantanamo prison.

The riot broke out late Saturday in Block Two of the prison, which houses about 1,300 of the 2,000 inmates. Officials said the violence began when inmates refused to put on new uniforms, which were ordered after seven Taliban prisoners escaped last month by disguising themselves as visitors.



Hundreds of inmates, including terrorism convicts, clashed with guards Sunday in a failed attempt to break out of a prison in Kabul, taking control of parts of the facility.

Officials said some 350 al-Qaida and Taliban loyalists were among the inmates in that block. Abdul Salaam Bakshi, chief of prisons in Afghanistan, accused them of inciting the other prisoners, mostly common criminals.

He said no inmates escaped from the prison block but guards had been forced out.

The Afghan army said it deployed 800 soldiers around the prison. Along with NATO peacekeepers, they parked at least 10 tanks and armored personnel carriers outside the gates.

"We have surrounded the jail. There's no way to

escape," Mohammed Qasim Hashimzai, deputy justice minister, said.

Hashimzai, who was part of a government delegation that came to negotiate with the prisoners, said at least four inmates had been hurt.

He said about 100 of the rioters from Block Two had taken control of the neighboring wing of the jail housing about 70 women.

Another senior government official, who would speak only on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said prisoners had dug a tunnel to the women's wing — explaining how they had managed to infiltrate it.

Hashimzai said attempts to negotiate the release of the women from the rioters' control floundered because of disunity among the inmates and confusion over their various demands. Prisoners also backtracked on an agreement to hand over their injured to the International Red Cross, he said.

"Unfortunately, the prisoners have no unity and have different demands. There's no one leader who can talk to us," Hashimzai said as he left the prison around dusk, adding that officials would try to resume negotiations Monday.

He gave no details about the prisoners' demands.

NETHERLANDS

UN to consider genocide charges

Associated Press

THE HAGUE — Generals and politicians have been convicted of genocide, but the U.N.'s highest court will consider today whether a nation — in this case Serbia — can be guilty of humanity's worst crime.

The stakes potentially include billions of dollars and history's judgment.

Thirteen years after Bosnia filed the case with the International Court

of Justice, its lawyers will lay out their lawsuit against Serbia and Montenegro — the successor state for the defunct Yugoslavia — charging it with a premeditated attempt to destroy Bosnia's Muslim population, in whole or part.

"Not since the end of the Second World War and the revelations of the horrors of Nazi Germany's 'Final Solution' has Europe witnessed the utter destruction of a people, for no other reason than they belong to a

particular national ethnical, racial, and religious group as such," said the lawsuit's opening paragraph, drafted for the Bosnian government by American lawyer Francis A. Boyle.

It is one of the most complex and far-reaching rulings ever sought from the tribunal, also known as the world court. Arguments are scheduled to take six weeks, and it likely will be a year before the 16 judges deliver their verdict.

Core

continued from page 1

reserved space in LaFortune as well as a partnership with a new coalition of students drawn from student government — will help bring “more voices” into the discussion.

“The push for student involvement grew organically, if you will, and was shared by all of us,” Gude told The Observer in an e-mail Sunday.

In 2001, the Standing Committee's student membership grew from four to six students — a jump accompanied by an increased workload, she said.

“The Committee became heavily involved in educational programming and had little time for anything else,” Gude said. “There was no breathing space for the creative energy that had marked the Committee's work in its earlier years. Yet there was such energy elsewhere on campus — it just seemed like a good idea to reach out and create a mechanism for connecting with more students who support our gay and lesbian students.”

Poorman, who sits on the committee along with Gude, Director of Campus Ministry Father Richard Warner and St. Edward's rector Father Tom Eckert, said he has attended most of the group's meetings this academic year.

He said while the “serious considerations” to restructure were discussed during the past four to five weeks, the idea is not completely new.

“Elements of the discussion have been in the works for a while,” Poorman said.

Poorman said University President Father John Jenkins, who attended a Standing Committee meeting last semester, was briefed on the restructuring and was “comfortable” with the changes.

“Since the creation of the Standing Committee in 1996 and the adoption of our ‘Spirit of Inclusion’ [statement] a year later, Notre Dame has sought to better address the needs of our gay, lesbian and bisexual students within the parameters of Catholic teaching,” Jenkins said in a statement Friday. “I am grateful for the dedicated work of committee members the past 10 years, and, with the evolution of this new council, I am excited about this important step forward.”

Gude said it was “hard to say” what the long-term impact of the change would be.

“Better communication, certainly, among those interested in issues facing the gay community, and a chance to work together on given events,” she said.

The Standing Committee was created in 1996, emerging from a hotbed of campus debate. In January 1995, the Office of Student Affairs banned the unofficial student group Gay and Lesbian Students of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's (GLND/SMC) from meeting on campus.

The decision sparked clamor across and beyond campus, receiving national media attention. Then-Vice President of Student Affairs Patricia O'Hara released an open letter on March 6, 1995 establishing the Ad Hoc Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs in order to “move beyond the painful polemics that have characterized the discussion in recent weeks.” The committee

was given standing status the following year.

Since the Committee's formation, Poorman said the group has directed educational programs on issues affecting gay, lesbian and bisexual students, hall staff programs, CommUnity sessions for freshmen, the Network program to help staff members promote “safe spaces,” coffee hours and events surrounding Solidarity Sunday and National Coming Out Day.

“Part of the impetus for this [restructuring] is we really would like to broaden our sources for this [programming],” Poorman said.

Tiffany Thompson, a senior who has served on the Standing Committee for three years, said she has seen “a greater desire” for change build among students during the past few years.

But she said there has always been a need for greater student involvement on and with the Standing Committee.

“[Students] are the ones that really touch what needs to be done,” she said.

Thompson said she hoped the restructuring would result in greater communication between campus groups, students and the administration.

“I'm very excited about the changes,” she said. “I think it will lead to a more efficient group and help connect the Standing Committee to the rest of the campus.”

Andy Magee, a senior who has sat on the Standing Committee for two years, said recent campus discussions surrounding topics such as the former Queer Film Festival and the unrecognized gay/lesbian student group AllianceND made restructuring necessary.

“There's a lot that's happened on campus in the past few years regarding gay and lesbian students, and a lot of times it seems the Committee has been behind a bit,” Magee said.

While Magee said he did not think the idea behind the restructuring to increase student involvement with the Committee substituted for AllianceND's efforts to win official club recognition from the University administration, he believes it will provide an outlet for the unofficial group.

“Ideally under this new system they'll be able to say, ‘Hey, can you help us with this?’ ... The idea is that a student group that wants to do programming [can work through the Core Council],” he said.

Magee, who is pursuing a dual degree, will maintain his position with the Core Council next year as a fifth-year senior. Members who will be leaving the Committee include Thompson, who will graduate, and Gude, who will retire after the spring semester.

Eckert said he planned to keep his seat on the Council. Warner was not available for comment Sunday.

While there is not a specific timeframe for the restructuring, Poorman said he hopes to accept applications this spring from students interested in sitting on the Council. The next step is to elect a student co-chair.

Claire Heininger contributed to this report.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

Relations

continued from page 1

what measures were taken to stop the problem after it first occurred, or allowing landlords to pass their fine onto tenants.

The tension between students and South Bend has been represented in the back-and-forth debate between Baron and Assistant City Attorney Ann-Carol Nash since the summer. While neither side has shifted positions, Baron said student government's appearance at today's Common Council meeting will be important in continuing to push for a student voice.

“Our attendance at the Council over the summer was important,” Baron said, referring to his, off-campus president Matt Wormington and several senators' presence at June and July meetings discussing the proposed amendment. “It was a learning experience for us as student leaders, to see how they went about discussing these matters. This seems like a natural step to take ... to give our perspective on the way it has played out for students.”

The six presenters will be student body vice president Lizzi Shappell, Community Relations committee member Shawn Finlen, Community Relations committee chair Nick Guzman, Judicial Council president James Leito, Wormington and Baron.

“Hopefully, they [Common Council members] will engage us beyond the meeting,” Baron said. “That's, I think, the best-case sce-

nario.”

But Baron also hopes the presentation will help a new tradition take root — to have student government play a “participatory role” in South Bend.

“This would be the beginning of student participation at Common Council meetings, which I think is a more feasible goal,” he said.

And the fight won't end if the Common Council doesn't consider Senate's resolution, Baron said.

“It would not be the end step at all,” Baron said. “At the same time we've been reaching out to the Council, we've reached out to landlords as well ... to let them know they don't have to

evict [student tenants].”

Baron said the presentation would also emphasize the efforts student government has taken to promote a healthier relationship between the Notre Dame and South Bend communities, such as the partnership with Transpo and community relations letter to the student body passed by Senate on Nov. 9 that “addressed frankly there are some elitist attitudes” among Notre Dame students.

“[We want] to show them we're taking some initiative in our own ranks,” Baron said.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

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For a list of candidates, please see the Judicial Council Website at www.nd.edu/~jcouncil

If you have any election questions, please email jcouncil@nd.edu

MARKET RECAP

Stocks
Dow Jones 11,061.85 -7.37

Up: 1,425 Same: 158 Down: 1,860 Composite Volume: 2,104,246,830

AMEX 1,840.53 +11.69
NASDAQ 2,287.04 +7.72
NYSE 8,126.03 +18.27
S&P 500 1,289.43 +0.13
NIKKEI(Tokyo) 16,101.91 0.00
FTSE 100(London) 5,860.50 +24.50

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
INTEL CP (INTC)	+0.34	+0.07	20.36
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	+0.27	+0.11	41.26
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.11	-0.03	26.63
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+0.66	+0.13	19.85
SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI)	-0.77	-0.04	5.18

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	0.00	0.00	45.67
13-WEEK BILL	+0.11	+0.05	44.82
30-YEAR BOND	+0.07	+0.03	45.15
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.11	+0.05	46.25

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+2.37	62.91	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+10.30	561.20	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+2.20	89.13	

Exchange Rates			
YEN		116.775	
EURO		0.841	
POUND		0.573	
CANADIAN \$		1.149	

IN BRIEF

Foiled attack increases oil futures

WASHINGTON — Crude oil futures jumped 4 percent Friday after a thwarted attack on a massive oil facility in Saudi Arabia rattled a market already jittery about supply disruptions in Nigeria and Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil producer, with output of about 9.5 million barrels per day, or 11 percent of global consumption. The target of the attack, the Abqaiq oil complex in eastern Saudi Arabia, processes about two-thirds of the country's oil before it is exported.

Suicide bombers in explosives-packed cars attacked the heavily guarded facility but were foiled when guards opened fire, detonating the vehicles and killing the attackers, Interior Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Mansour al-Turki told The Associated Press. The vehicles exploded outside the first of three fences around the sprawling complex, al-Turki said.

Saudi oil minister Ali Naimi said the attack caused "a small fire" that was brought under control and that operations were not affected. But the incident heightened supply fears on world oil markets.

BlackBerry suit remains undecided

RICHMOND, Va. — BlackBerry owners will have to wait longer to learn the fate of their wireless e-mail devices: A federal judge ended a hearing Friday without making a ruling on an injunction request.

Shares of BlackBerry's maker, Research In Motion Ltd. of Waterloo, Ontario, got a lift in afternoon trading following the court news as well as the second favorable decision this week from the U.S. patent office.

NTP Inc., a small patent-holding firm that successfully sued RIM for patent infringement, asked U.S. District Judge James R. Spencer to impose an injunction on the service with a 30-day grace period for the parties to work out the details.

The Arlington company also recommended that the judge immediately enjoin sales of new BlackBerry devices and award it an initial \$126 million in damages. RIM has deposited at least \$250 million in escrow, and NTP says that pot of money should be reserved just in case newer BlackBerry models infringe on its patents.

Mine safety laws scrutinized

Recent tragedies raise questions on lack of attention and action in the past

Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — The number remains astonishing — 16 West Virginia coal miners dead in a month, 13 of them trapped underground by an explosion, awaiting rescuers who came too late for all but one.

The string of back-to-back, highly publicized tragedies has shaken the No. 2 coal-producing state and the No. 2 coal-producing nation to the core. Anguished families are wondering what went wrong, politicians are demanding new laws, and labor leaders are asking why technology has largely passed them by.

But coal mine accidents in China, the world's top producer, kill an average of 16 workers a day.

"Overall, U.S. mine health and safety — it's still the envy of the world," says Raja Ramani, a professor of mining engineering at Penn State University.

In many ways, experts say the U.S. coal industry is the model to emulate, with safety laws on the books, a federal agency charged with enforcing them and well-funded, health-oriented research. But a false sense of security may have set in as deaths plummeted — from 260 in 1970 to just 22 last year.

With fewer people dying, coal companies had little reason to change what they were doing, says Larry Grayson, mining engineering professor at the University of Missouri-Rolla. With no financial incentive, manufacturers of safety equipment had no motivation to modernize. And with little proof that emerging technology would work as promised, most companies were reluctant to invest.

Opportunities to take advantage of the latest in safety technology were lost, from emerging under-



Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., on Feb. 21 discusses adding federal incentives for technology industries to develop better wireless communications in underground mines.

ground communications systems and tracking devices to chambers where miners with no hope of escape could hunker down and await rescue.

"I truly believe that as an institution, we were lulled into thinking that we were improving," Grayson says. "Then all of a sudden, this sequence of events in January said, 'Wait a minute, you've got a problem.' It slammed everyone right between the eyes."

The wake-up call could have come Sept. 23, 2001, when 13 men died in an underground explosion at the Jim Walter Resources No. 5 mine in Alabama, but then, attention was still focused on the terrorist attacks that had claimed

thousands of lives in New York and at the Pentagon.

"The headline wasn't buried this time," says Grayson, chairman of a newly formed National Mining Association committee charged with making safety-technology recommendations for the industry.

Until Jan. 2, few people thought about the 42,000 U.S. miners who toil underground, digging coal to produce half the nation's electricity. But that day, an explosion at International Coal Group's Sago Mine trapped a crew of 13 hundreds of feet underground. Twelve men died, and the one survivor must learn to walk and talk again.

The television satellite trucks had barely left West Virginia when a second accident killed two miners in a conveyor belt fire at Aracoma Coal's Alma No. 1 mine. Days later, two more men died in separate accidents.

Now, for the third time in a century, tragedy in West Virginia could reshape regulations.

The deadliest accident in U.S. mining history occurred Dec. 6, 1907 in Monongah, when an explosion killed 361 men. It was one of several that year and helped prompt Congress to act on President Theodore Roosevelt's call for creation of the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

Alternative remedies questioned

Associated Press

CHICAGO — For years, millions of Americans have spent billions of dollars on alternative remedies with unproven effects. Now, rigorous science is starting to test those treatments and mostly finds them lacking.

Last week, major government-funded research indicated that two wildly popular arthritis pills, glucosamine and chondroitin, did no better than dummy pills at relieving mild arthritis pain.

Earlier this month a study revealed negative results for saw palmetto to treat prostate problems; last July, ditto for echinacea and the common cold.

Those followed similar disappointments for St. John's wort to treat major depression, and powdered shark cartilage for some cancers.

Yet despite the U.S. government's multimillion-dollar investment to scientifically scrutinize a little regulated \$20 billion-a-year industry, the big question is, do the results really matter when so many consumers swear by these remedies?

"I'll wrestle anybody who says it's no good," Carl Haupt, 79, says of glucosamine and chondroitin, pills he credits with helping him resume mountain hiking, a hobby he quit seven years ago because of arthritis pain.

Haupt spends about \$25 monthly on the pills. Debilitating pain returned when he quit taking them once, and he said the government's results won't change his mind.

"I wouldn't quit taking it again. I learned my lesson," Haupt said.

Even the researchers themselves, funded by the National Institutes of Health, say their results don't necessarily mean consumers are pouring their money down the drain.

"If someone tells me this is working for them, I'm not going to tell them not to take it," said Dr. Thomas Schnitzer, a Northwestern University arthritis specialist and co-author of the glucosamine/chondroitin study.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

Monday, February 27, 2006

THE OBSERVER

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Claire Heininger.

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Lil' Jon Bon Jovi

I think we've all had this thought at one point or another. You're at a dorm dance and all of a sudden you hear the sweet serenade of an '80s hair band. You can easily imagine a true fan of this genre, playing some righteous licks on his air guitar, mullet flapping in the breeze while his black Quiet Riot T-Shirt and acid-washed jeans declare his lifelong dedication to all things rock. Then you ask yourself, "How could anybody take this stuff seriously?"

It's easier than you would think, and it's happening again right now. After spending the past weekend in St. Louis, home of Nelly and Chingy, I made a startling realization: hip-hop is the modern hair band. I think at this point I need to make an important distinction. When I say "hip-hop," I don't mean all hip-hop, but rather a distinct brand of it. Just as all the rock bands in the '80s were not hair bands, so too not all hip-hop acts today are the type of hip-hop I'm talking about. From now on, I'll be referring to this specific brand of hip-hop as "bling-hop" to avoid confusion. Think "My Humps" by the Black Eyed Peas, and you'll catch my drift.

Right, back to my assertion that bling-hop is the modern-day hair band. Initially, they don't seem to have a lot in common. One set wore the tightest leather and cheetah-print Spandex pants that money could buy, and the other opts for all of Subway Jared's old Dockers. One belted like

banshees, and the other prefers the smooth flow of their rhymes. The Damn Yankees were wondering, "Can You Take Me High Enough?" On the other hand, Lil' Jon just wants you to "Get Low." Aquanet and cornrows. If I placed the Black Eyed Peas and White Snake next to each other, you'd never believe that these groups are, at heart, the same. Trust me, the similarities are there.

First, let's start with the spelling. For some reason, both hair bands and bling-hop artists decide to give Webster the finger and spell their names like they're cheating at Scrabble. The '80s were a Motley Crue infested with Ratt. In fact, they rocked so hard, they could probably even make a Leppard Def. On the other hand, the spelling of some bling-hop acts today is far from Fabolous. I bet that many people would even declare that these spelling atrocities are Ludacris. The similarities between these two groups are numerous, and poor spelling is just the tip of the iceberg. Iceberg? No, it's iceberg.

Furthermore, there's the issue of superfluous facial accessories. Hair bands bucked the system by taking to the Avon counters and covering themselves in rouge and eyeliner. Also, each member of a hair band (even the keyboardist) had to have a personal hole in the O-Zone above their head from copious hairspray usage. But bling-hop doesn't get a free pass here. Some of these acts decide to coat their mouths with grills made of platinum or gold. In fact, our old friend Nelly just wrote a song about these grills. It's called "Grillz." So we've moved on from spelling, but the similarities persist.

But lastly and most importantly, the key similarity between these two

groups is that the emphasis on their work is the lifestyle rather than the music. Style over substance, crunk over content. Hair bands were about living fast, partying hard, and rocking out. We've all seen the "Behind the Music" specials; it truly was sex, drugs and rock n' roll. It was more important that they lived like a rock star, even if they didn't necessarily sound like one. Likewise, a modern bling-hop artist needs to portray a certain lifestyle. He needs to have the Escalade rolling on 22's, the house payment hanging around his neck and diamonds crammed wherever there is room for cramming. Just watch music videos from either era to catch these lifestyles. A hair band video consists of lots of hot chicks, driving a fast car or a crazy party. A bling-hop video shows lots of hot chicks (again), riding on some spinners (they don't stop) and popping the Cristal. This is where the heart of their similarities lies; the lifestyle you present is as, if not more, important than the music you create.

As you can see, the mullet may have faded, but its spirit lives on. It's not that either genre is bad, but it's important to recognize that they exist as a simple pleasure, not serious artistic expression. I fully anticipate that in 20 years, kids will be at a virtual SYR or jetpack-dancing at the bar, and they'll hear some "It's Getting Hot In Herre," and wonder how we ever bought into this stuff.

Peter Schroeder is a senior English major. As for plans after graduation, he is open to suggestions. He can be contacted at pschroed@nd.edu

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

Peter Schroeder

Will Write for Food

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Supporting Readership in a different way

I am writing in response to a letter submitted by Joe Brutto ("Supporting readership," Feb. 24) about supporting the College Readership Program. In it, he attacks the Club Coordination Council for not supporting the College Readership Program and for providing "funds to a plethora of student run organizations, the majority of which no one cares about." First of all, I want Joe to tell the 1,088 student leaders of these organizations that no one cares about their organizations. Also, I want him to say that to the over 7,000 students that are involved in these organizations. The College Readership Program only provides newspapers for one in four students on this campus. The Club Coordination Council provides funding that three fourths of the students on this campus will use.

In addition, biased reporting has led many members of campus to believe that the Club Coordination Council is against the College Readership Program. This is completely false. Dave Baron, Student Body President, and Beth

O'Shaughnessy, Club Coordination Council President, have been working closely together in an effort to find a new way to fund the College Readership Program.

The Club Coordination Council supports the College Readership Program. It is a great way to keep the student body informed of issues outside of the Notre Dame world. The Council is opposed to the cut in the money that will go toward campus clubs and organizations.

Every year, students put their passion into creating new clubs and expanding existing ones. These clubs allow students to do many things they normally would not be able to do. They give students opportunities to compete in sports in college, perform plays and musicals, complete community service projects, increase awareness of world issues, learn about new cultures and increase their academic knowledge outside of the classroom.

In addition to improving life on campus, these clubs give students leadership and economic experience for the real

world. Cutting the hard line percentage that the Club Coordination Council receives from student activities fees will affect the future of campus clubs and organizations. It will be harder for new clubs to be introduced to our campus and for existing ones to continue. The Club Coordination Council is looking for ways to fund the College Readership Program that will not take away from three of every four students. With the amount of money that comes through this University, there has to be an alternative.

In closing, I would like to encourage Joe to join just one of the campus clubs that may remotely interest him. Since his money is already going toward the club, maybe he will see the benefit that over 7,000 students at Notre Dame are already taking advantage of.

Mary Ann Jentz
Club Coordination Council
Service Division Representative
senior
Feb. 24

OBSERVER POLL

What do you think about the tuition hike?

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

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The necessity of pursuing true happiness is the foundation of our liberty."

John Locke
English philosopher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Problems with living wage

There seems to be an emerging campus discussion on the proposition of a "living wage" at Notre Dame, an idea with a long pedigree of class resentment and rhetoric lacking in support from peer-reviewed economic research. I feel compelled to offer here a few reasons not to adopt such a policy. Let me first say that I do not write to question the motivations of its supporters; I have yet to come across anyone on either side of the issue without the best interest of campus workers sincerely at heart. However, supporters of the policy have in my experience demonstrated an ambiguous understanding of the economic repercussions of a "living wage" and surprisingly little more than anecdotal evidence to support it.

Recent letters published in support of the policy stated that the University pays a starting wage of \$6.45 to \$10.17 per hour. That is exactly correct — it is a range of starting wages meant to be increased as employees gain experience, take on greater responsibility and prove their reliability in the workplace. It is a range significantly higher than the national minimum, which is a reality for most entry-level workers. Furthermore, these letters neglected to mention that the average income of minimum wage employees nationwide increases 30 percent within one year of employment.

Neither have I seen any discussion of tax credits based on annual income — a more reliable indicator of poverty than wages — which are tremendously more effective at reducing poverty than wage floors. Between the Earned Income Tax Credit and the per-child tax credit, which Congress raised from \$600 to \$1,000 in 2003, a family of four can expect to receive a benefit as high as \$4,536 for income earned in 2006.

Wage floors, on the other hand, do very little to contribute to the financial well-being of workers living near or below the poverty level. They in fact price the lowest-skilled workers out of the job market and take a wage boost away from workers who would have otherwise seen a

performance-based increase. Those most hurt by wage floors are high school dropouts aged 20-54; the intended beneficiaries of such policies. A wage in itself is meaningless if it does not fairly represent the skills that one has to offer. Low wage-earners would be far better served by initiatives to increase the level of their marketable skills than those who would artificially price their skills higher than they are worth to employers.

These include manual skills, technical expertise, interpersonal skills and even adopting a more professional appearance — all of which are significantly valued in the marketplace. An affordable child-care service for nonprofessional employees would also be of far greater benefit than a wage floor which could potentially trigger a reduction in one's healthcare, child tuition or retirement benefits.

Finally, supporters of a wage floor do not seem to understand that the role of the University is to provide a service to students, not to act as a welfare agency. If wages are increased across the board, where exactly is that money supposed to come from? It could only be either a tuition hike or cuts in other areas. Given the uproar over something as insignificant as moving funds into the College Readership Program, I find the latter scenario involving a far greater amount of money unlikely.

With all the hard economic facts laid out on the table, I highly doubt that there would be a majority of tuition-paying students willing to take on debt and redistribute it in a manner that would hurt campus workers — many of whom would find themselves unemployed once they fail to merit their inflated rate of compensation. Job skills and economic reality are the issue here, not guilt-laden emotional pleas and certainly not "helping" some campus workers at the cost of taking away the livelihood of others.

Matthew Smith
sophomore
St. Edward's Hall
Feb. 26

Gratuitous exaggeration

According to the Feb. 24 Observer article, "Presidential visit conjures emotion," Notre Dame College Republicans co-president Jonathan Klingler said something that is most probably a gratuitous exaggeration. Klingler does not need to make wild claims to defend his position. It is essential to Notre Dame's mission that its students learn to properly engage in rational debates over public issues.

Klingler was responding to a statement by Notre Dame's Progressive Student Alliance that said President George W. Bush's Bethel College visit was very costly to the local community's tax base. It is true that many local police and firefighters prepared for Bush's visit for two weeks and spent much of the day dedicated to security around Bush's route and Bethel College.

Klingler defends this significant expenditure of local tax revenues when he states, "The event [brought in] hundreds of thousands of dollars to the community — not only to Mishawaka and South Bend — but to Roseland and Niles as well, through hotel bookings and entertainment for the hundreds of extra people that [were] in the community for the event."

But the \$500-a-plate fundraiser for our local congressman was attended by only 560 people, the vast majority of which come from the local area around his small congressional district. No one who lives in this area would need a hotel, and lunch was provided at Bethel. Those who went out later that night would probably not add much to the local economy, since local people who can afford a \$500 lunch (or the optional \$4000 photo) often go out for food and entertainment regardless of an afternoon event.

Even if 100 extra people came from out of town (non-local journal-

ists, etc.), each stayed in his or her own hotel room (e.g., husbands and wives attending the fundraiser stayed in separate rooms) costing \$100 a day and hotels made a massive 50 percent profit from each room, hotels would receive only \$5,000 in profits. Since most hotels (not to mention restaurants) are not locally owned, much of that money would go outside the local area.

Klingler's claim that the local community reaped hundreds of thousands of dollars from hundreds of outside visitors is likely a significant exaggeration. Most local communities lose money from such presidential visits. However, everything need not be defended on financial terms. We do not need to argue for something's value by saying that it makes money. Klingler does add that the visit is valuable as a "tremendous honor" that "will be remembered for years come," but this is an empty cliché. Surely there are more substantial justifications for presidential visits.

Notre Dame students should think before they speak. Klingler is not alone. Many otherwise intelligent students at Notre Dame exaggerate the facts and use clichés to defend their views. This can be seen in Observer articles from every side of the debates over the Queer Film Festival and "The Vagina Monologues." One of the most basic missions of Notre Dame is to make its students into effective Catholic citizens. This requires that students bring the Catholic tradition into fruitful, rational dialogue with others in public debate. Bad habits of mind are all too common and undermine the Notre Dame mission to bring the Catholic ethos into the public sphere.

Sean Walsh
graduate student
Feb. 24

Chance to set example

In response to Alex Forshaw's letter ("Fair wages" not fair at all," Feb. 23) regarding the living wage debate, I feel that it is necessary to step back and take a look at the purpose of Notre Dame as a university and as a Catholic institution. Mr. Forshaw said, "The University's main purpose is to serve its students with the best learning environment possible." This statement is true, but incomplete. The University must serve its students with the best learning environment possible — in terms of the Christian community in which it strives to be a leader. A necessary way of doing this is to be an example of Catholic behavior to the students whom the University is teaching. Paying our employees living wage is one way to be such an example.

Many people opposed to the living wage, including Forshaw, have mentioned market-based factors as reasons for keeping employees' wages at current levels, and they are correct in terms of the large-scale economy. Companies in free-market societies are motivated by the need to make a profit, and thus raise their employees' pay only when market forces dictate. Many of

these opponents fear that a mandatory increase of the minimum wage would cause such companies to "find ways to replace many of them [the employees] with machinery that can get the job done more cheaply," in the words of Forshaw. As I said before, this is correct when one looks at the nationwide, large-scale market economy.

However, Notre Dame is not a profit-based company. Notre Dame is an educational, privately-funded institution that is not at the mercy of market forces. This means that its Christian values, not the market, should dictate wages and consequently compel it to raise its employees' wages without reducing their numbers. Considering the size of its endowment (\$3 billion) and its rapidly-inflating tuition, which will almost certainly rise again next year (with or without a living wage policy). If the University cannot or will not pay a living wage to its staff, its Catholic character in this respect would be, at best, dubious.

Michael Wodarczyk
freshman
Alumni Hall
Feb. 24

ND homogeneity a 'crisis'

"The Vagina Monologues" as performed here looked like a rhetorical attempt to win over Notre Dame from implicitly fearing all sexuality to celebrating female sexuality while demonizing male sexuality. This is progress of sorts. Within the wider debate about how Notre Dame is to retain its Catholic character, I'd like to raise the following concerns. It's hard to be an inclusive community when the judgment of objective disorder plants poison in our heads before we even start talking.

There's a danger that our community will drift further from the conversation of the present age. We are closing doors and putting up signs that tighten the concentric circles of the normative around us like a cliché until those drawn here will be more like us. And indeed we may one day look around and realize that we have built right here a union of individuals in a community that treats on earth but has its heart in heaven, but at what price?

The crisis of Notre Dame's homogeneity isn't that we fail to represent — like some perfectly proportioned stained glass window — the ethnic map of the United States. It's that it suggests the signals we're sending out are dissuading the different from joining us at the discussion table.

When sending out a message, it's understandable that Notre Dame should feel accountable to its alumni; the alumni themselves serve as a conservative ballast to remind us that ideologically, we're accountable to a great deal more. And it would be fatal to the University's sense of self if it were

to try to deny its allegiance to the palimpsest doctrine of Catholic tradition; but let's also remember that part of the audience for these messages we're sending out is prospective students.

This may be the thin end of the wedge. Some members of the administration who went to see the 1932 Noel Coward play "Design for Living" at the DPAC last semester reportedly came away with the opinion that its themes rendered the play too mature for undergraduates to perform. Good art is heteroglossic, and I don't envy the committee that would be entrusted to articulate defensible judgment calls on which theatrical performances should and should not be sponsored by a true Catholic university.

Having an explicit and consistent procedure would at least endow assessments with the semblance of legitimacy — and an appeals process ought to be instated for the same reason. But this path will impact diversity (of people and of ideas), contestation and our participation in the richness of contemporary life.

It's good to be in conversation with people who are different than us. Our neurotic public hand-wringing about our Catholic identity in the academic context jeopardizes the universality of our conversations. In the short term it may do this by polarizing the field of discourse around the right answer. In the longer-term it may do this by its effect on admissions.

Douglas Ayling
graduate student
Feb. 24

DPAC REVIEW

Simply Shakespeare

AFTLS downplays staging, highlights acting for 'The Merchant of Venice'



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

The Actors From the London Stage performed "The Merchant of Venice" this past weekend. The group has performed several other plays at Notre Dame.

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Assistant Scene Editor

Actors From the London Stage (AFTLS) performed William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" this weekend in the Decio Mainstage of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts (DPAC). The performance was a part of the Spring ArtsFest and also their regular appearance for the semester.

The play, which is one of Shakespeare's most controversial comedies, began with a brief prologue that introduced each character and how each actor was going to play him or her. This was an absolute necessity because each actor portrayed multiple characters, sometimes in the same scene. Using costuming or inflected mannerisms, the actors established how they were going to differentiate between each character.

Often, the changes were subtle, especially in the costuming. At times, a sash or sunglasses were the only notable indicators. In previous plays presented by the AFTLS, this sometimes led to confusion as it became difficult to follow who was who. But this particular group of actors' impressive talent made the play easy to understand throughout.

"The Merchant of Venice" follows

Bassanio (Christopher Staines), who needs a loan of 3,000 ducats to properly woo Portia (Isabel Pollen). He approaches his friend Antonio (Gregory Cox), whose fortune is invested in several merchant ships at sea. Antonio gets the loan from the Jewish moneylender Shylock (Tim Hardy).

Shylock bitterly hates Antonio, whom he feels has insulted him for being a Jew. Shylock agrees to the loan on the condition that if it is not fully paid within three months, the penalty is a pound of Antonio's flesh. Meanwhile, Jessica (Louise Yates) has eloped with Lorenzo (Tim Hardy), much to Shylock's chagrin.

For a comedy, "The Merchant of Venice" is often quite dark. While it has its share of funny moments, Shylock is a particularly unmerciful character, and his ultimate comeuppance still isn't fully deserved. Hardy's portrayal emphasizes the villain dimension, particularly in his powerful rendition of the "If you prick us, do we not bleed?" monologue. But the monologue's placement right before the intermission cast a surprisingly dark pall over the rest of the proceedings.

Additionally, the Actors From the London Stage version of the play ends



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," while classified as a comedy, has a frequently dark tone due its subject matter and the play's villain, Shylock.

on a disquieting note, as Shylock's daughter Jessica (Louise Yates), who has eloped with Lorenzo (Tim Hardy) learns of her father's fate. Though Shakespeare probably intended the play to end happily, the ending presented by AFTLS is darkly indefinite. While certainly affecting, this ending seems oddly inappropriate — "The Merchant of Venice" is, after all, a comedy, and an ambiguous ending is thus problematic.

Still, all of the acting was quite good and the play was entertaining and swiftly paced throughout. Hardy's affected portrayal of Shylock was a standout, as was Cox's ability to shift between characters at will. On occasion, he even carried out entire conversations with himself while playing two characters.

Staines had a hilarious scene as Arragon, whose comical misfortune was much deserved, and Pollen and Yates seemed to have a great time switching between male and female characters. The use of singing — the actors were excellent singers, especially Hardy, who has a background in opera — and brief musical interludes gave the play a welcome added dimension.

The Decio Mainstage was a good loca-

tion for the performance. None of the actors used microphones but were still easily audible, even in the balcony. This gave the show a warm, personal feel, and the actors took full advantage of the stage. Most of the time, they sat on stage (even in scenes they were not in), which allowed them to "enter" and "exit" on cue.

Costuming and staging was minimal, as per the AFTLS standard. Most of the cast wore contemporary clothes (button down shirts and pants), but this wasn't necessarily a deterrent. Never once is "The Merchant of Venice" presented as a period piece, which instead allows the audience to concentrate on the poetics of Shakespeare's writing and the skill of the actors. While the performance did rely on some key props, most of them were actually used to help differentiate between characters.

The Actors From the London Stage almost always put on a great show, and "The Merchant of Venice" was no exception. Though only Staines has toured with the group before (as part of 2004's "A Midsummer's Night Dream"), they almost always manage to pull together a great show, despite — or perhaps because of — the performance's artsy minimalism.

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The Actors From the London Stage almost always put on a good show and "The Merchant of Venice" was no exception.



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Tim Hardy, left, and Gregory Cox interact during "The Merchant of Venice." The performance featured props, such as hats, to differentiate between characters.



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

A scene with Louise Yates, left, and Isabel Pollen reveals the minimal staging used by AFTIS. Each actor also plays multiple characters throughout the play.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Gentleman's Agreement' powerful but dated

By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Critic

The world in which director Elia Kazan's "Gentleman's Agreement" takes place is strikingly different from the one we know today. The film's subject matter deals with the issue of anti-Semitism in American and world cultural ideas or beliefs. Kazan attempts, using the ever-gentlemanly Gregory Peck, to tackle this issue head-on with strength and subtlety, but the film suffers from being dated by its subject matter.

Peck stars as Skylar Green, a subdued but passionate magazine writer who has recently moved to California with his young son and mother. Green's latest assignment is to write a piece on anti-Semitism in America, and decides to live undercover as a Jew in order to get a fresh new angle on what he sees as a tired subject riddled with statistics. He tries to use the experiences he gains firsthand by claiming his name is "Greenberg," and the results are rather striking.

What hurts the film as it ages is the subject matter itself. While for a modern audience the subject feels somewhat tired, it was certainly more relevant to Peck and his costars. The issue of anti-Semitism is less prevalent today, and this lack of relevancy hurts the film's potency. The issue was undoubt-

edly important when it came out, since it was chosen as Best Picture at the 1948 Oscars.

The film is to be commended, however, for its tackling of a complex and deeply felt issue at such a time in American history. Examining prejudice acutely and on multiple levels is the film's true strength. Peck's episodes of encountering anti-Semitism, however subtle or overt, prove to be the emotional pull and strength of the picture. It is during the smaller incidences of prejudice that the depth of the issue comes to light, and Kazan directed these moments beautifully.

One of the film's strongest moments is when Green's young son Tommy (Dean Stockwell) comes home from school after having been taunted for "being" Jewish by

his classmates. The immediate reaction of Kathy (Dorothy McGuire), Green's love interest, insists that it's simply a dirty trick, insisting that he isn't really Jewish.

For Peck's character, this is more appalling than the actions towards his son, as it displays her own subtle prejudices. The widespread influence of Green's experiment, impacting even his child, is an understated way for Kazan to characterize the depth of the issue's multifaceted nature.

"The movie even touches on Jewish self-hate," critic Pam Grady said in an article from Reel.com, "when Phil's sec-



Photo courtesy of allocine.fr

Skylar Green (Gregory Peck) assumes a Jewish identity while researching a magazine article on the effects of anti-Semitism in "Gentleman's Agreement."

retary, Miss Wales (Havoc), who has been passing as a gentile, finds out that Phil has gotten management to bar discrimination on the basis of religion at the magazine, telling him, "It's no fun being the fall guy for the kikey type."

The film suffers from choppy editing in several spots, unnecessarily jarring the viewer's perception from time to time. Technical issues aside, the subject matter of the story overshadows smaller faults in the filmmaking.

The film's final moments, especially the exchange between Green and his mother about the nature of the constitution and their shared belief that "freedom for all" includes the Jews, is arguably overplayed but, again, is pow-

erful in essentials. It again proves that the quiet necessity of the subject matter keeps the film relevant for its time and a potent learning experience for the modern film viewer.

The standout, however, is John Garfield as Peck's childhood friend — and Jew — Dave Goldman. Garfield proves the strongest performer, portraying the life of the victim of a most subdued form of prejudice with genuine emotion and a delicate sense of realism.

The film ultimately proves to be an interesting albeit somewhat dated look at a hotly-debated issue in American society.

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SHOW REVIEW

Fiestang mixes modern, traditional in entertaining way

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Writer

Taking a cue from the comedic film "Dude, Where's My Car?," Notre Dame's Filipino American Student Organization put on the 12th performance of its annual Fiestang show this past Saturday. Dubbed "Hoy! Where's My Jeepney?," Fiestang XII featured a highly entertaining program including song, dance and comedy, all with a delicious traditional Filipino dinner.

The plot of "Hoy! Where's My Jeepney?" revolves around Alexis (played by Marissa Buck), who just broke up with her boyfriend Ryan (Jon Robinson). After encountering Dante (Vinh Nguyen), a smooth customer with less-than-reputable interests, Alexis is completely oblivious to the affections of Justin (Angelo Gacad), a genuinely good guy who is not-so-secretly in love with her. Camille Gabriel takes a great turn as Theresa, Alexis' best friend. In addition, Jon Park rounds out the cast as Quentin, Dante's best friend. Huyen Nguyen plays Eva, Quentin's girlfriend.

As the play progresses, Justin and Dante both vie for Alexis' heart. In the vein of "Dude, Where's My Car?," the two of them clown as a slapstick duo rivaling that of Ashton Kutcher and Seann William-Scott.

After a heated exchange, the two face off in an epic round of fisticuffs matched only by the Bengal Bouts held

across campus in the JACC. Although Justin loses the fight — in hilarious fashion — Dante is the one who gets "punk'd," as Justin gets the girl and disproves the age-old saying that "nice guys finish last."

The evening wasn't all fun and games, however. As FASO club president Johanna Sioson said, "the purpose of Fiestang is to create interest in Filipino culture and share different aspects that you can't get from a book." To this extent, the show did a great deal to introduce the audience to all things Filipino, from the onstage performance to the decadent cuisine, catered by the Sari Sari Corporation.

As is its custom, Fiestang balances a combination of traditional dance routines with some more modern numbers. Through the show's mix of dances, Fiestang addresses the social dynamic of Filipino-American students who struggle to balance their cultural roots with their lives as contemporary American teenagers.

The first act of the two-hour show featured three traditional performances. The Ballet Folklorico performance was a prime example of the strong Spanish influence on Filipino culture, as the dance featured three ladies decked out in flowing traditional dresses in addition to their sombrero-sporting partners.

Next on the program was a sakuting performance, choreographed by

Covington Doan. Sakuting is an all-male dance mimicking the heroic feats of Ilokano warriors from the province of Abra. The signature clashing sticks of sakuting are based on an ancient combat training technique.

Following sakuting was singkil, a dance influenced by Muslim culture, which acts out the epic tale of a princess caught in a forest during an earthquake. Followed by her loyal maid, the princess (Sioson) is eventually rescued by a prince. Choreographed by Sioson and Gacad, with musical accompaniment by Elizabeth Sullivan and Josh Stagni, the singkil dance was a tremendous success.

The show's intermission featured a stirring inaugural rendition of the FASO Anthem. Performed by David Ladao on the guitar, Jane Lee, Zyra Cortez and Sharon Lam, the song is an acoustic tribute to the friendship and sense of family shared by the many members of FASO.

Combining lyrics such as, "What club knows how to put on a show/FASO, FASO/What club can melt, South Bend snow/FASO, FASO" with a brief rap interlude, the only thing missing from the heartwarming performance was lights being waved by the multitudes occupying the darkened Stepan Center. As the song gains increased recognition, the performing of the FASO Anthem figures to become a perennial staple of the annual Fiestang show.

The second act warmed up with a traditional tinkling performance, choreographed by Davin Costa. Literally meaning "bamboo dance," tinkling involves long bamboo poles being clapped together in rhythm. Inspired by the natural movement of tikling birds as they pick their way over rough terrain, tinkling dancers skillfully navigate between the booming cadence of the bamboo poles. The traditional tinkling was followed by a modern tinkling sequence, jointly choreographed by Sioson and Gacad.

After the conclusion of the traditional segment, the show took a turn for the modern — and became more risqué — with a modern couples dance. Choreographed by Nguyen, Park, and Lam, the performance was scintillating enough to steam up even the normally drafty Stepan Center.

Much to the delight of the many ladies in the audience, the couples sequence was followed by a guys' dance, choreographed by Chris Ulad. The show concluded with a modern girls dance, choreographed by Ashley Congjuico and performed to the Cassie song, "You and Me".

With over 350 people in attendance, Fiestang XII was a smashing success. For those who didn't make it out to the Stepan Center, there's always a chance to catch next year's Fiestang.

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Fiestang XII featured a highly entertaining program including song, dance and comedy, all with a delicious Filipino dinner.

As is its custom, Fiestang balances a combination of traditional dance routines with some more modern numbers.

FENCING

Irish finish behind Buckeyes on home turf

Sterns pulls off upset over defending sabre national champion

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

If Sesame Street had sponsored this weekend's Midwest Conference Fencing Championship, the number would be "two." The Irish took second place out of a field of 16 teams in all six team categories, earning second place for women's overall, men's overall and combined overall.

"We did well, but [Sunday] I think we could've done better," women's epeeist Kim Montoya said. "Not that we sucked, but we weren't at the top of our game."

Coming in with the No. 1 ranked men's team and the No. 10 women's team, the Ohio State Buckeyes made a powerful statement by winning Sunday's team portion with 1,325 points to Notre Dame's 1,260. The Buckeyes took first overall in every category besides women's foil, which Northwestern won.

"Earlier this year we beat [Ohio State] in women's, and today they took revenge," head coach Janusz Bednarski said. "It's not a shame to lose against such good fencers, but it is a sign that you have to work to be better."

The weekend was structured with individual competitions Saturday and the team competition Sunday.

While placing second to the Buckeyes was disappointing, the weekend was still full of exciting moments. During Saturday's

Individual Competition, Matthew Sterns pulled off a convincing 15-8 upset of last year's men's sabre National Champion Jason Rogers in the quarterfinals. Moments later in the men's sabre final, Notre Dame's Patrick Ghattas fell 15-12 to Ohio State's Adam Crompton in one of the most memorable bouts of the weekend.

On the women's side, freshman Emilie Prot improved her already stellar season by taking first in the women's foil, earning the only gold medal for any Irish fencer.

"The highlight of the match to me is the gold medal won by Emilie Prot," Bednarski said. "She gives us this feeling of potential of a young team."

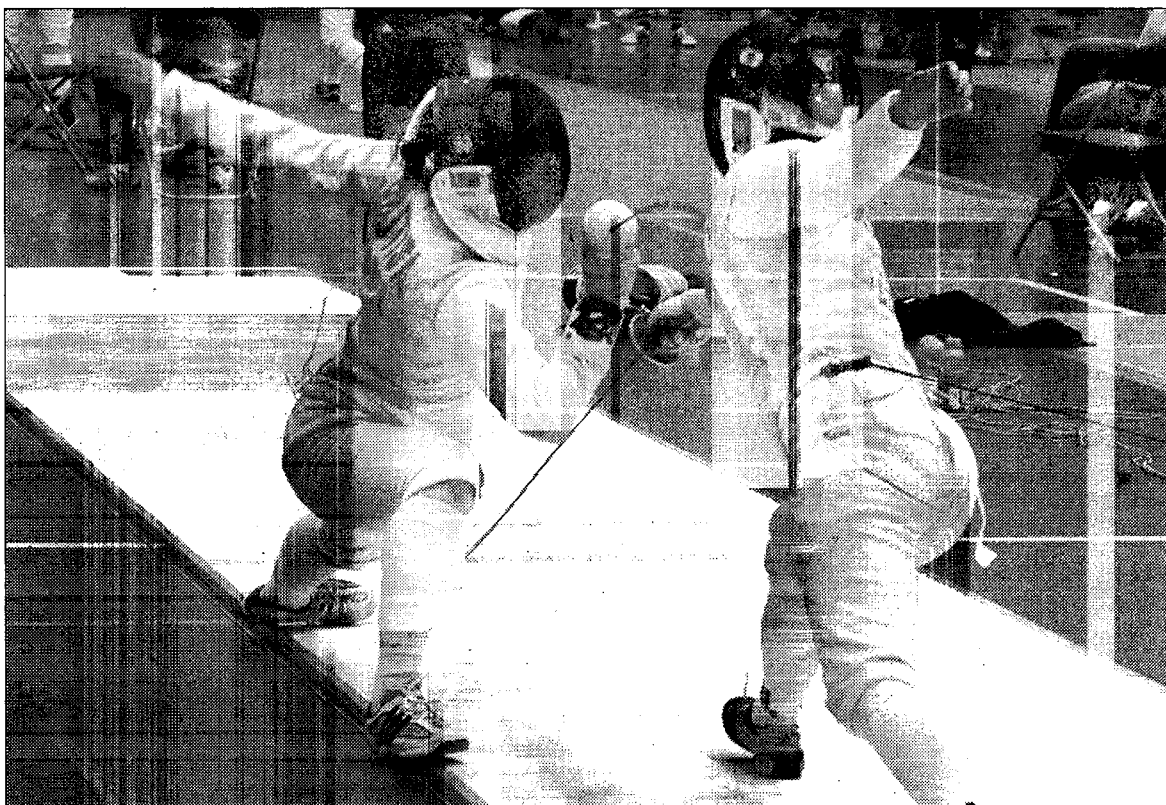
Overall, Notre Dame fencers won eight medals in the individual session. Four of them were bronze medals — Madeline Stephan (women's epee), Addi Nott (women's foil), Jakub Jedrkowiak (men's foil) and Sterns (men's sabre) — and three were silver medals won by Valeri Providenza (women's sabre), Greg Howard (men's epee) and Ghattas (men's sabre).

Bednarski said that perhaps his young team needed a wakeup call.

"I will say it will bring us to reality ... perhaps this will teach the kids that good talent doesn't explain that good teams will come out and work hard. The kids, maybe, were too confident," he said.

Shortly after the Championship concluded, the Irish were already looking to the future.

"This is kind of our chance to scope out the competition and next week we'll be better prepared, and I think we'll do a lot



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Foilest Melanie Bautista, left, duels with an opponent during this weekend's Midwest Conference Fencing Championship at the Joyce Center. The Irish placed second out of 16 teams.

better," Montoya said.

"We're going to be facing the same people next weekend, so it's good to fence them now so we can adjust how we practice for them and prepare for next weekend," Ghattas said.

Though the Buckeyes' clutch performance might make them the favorites next weekend at Regionals, the Irish know the Midwest Fencing Conference Championship is not a script for postseason play.

"It's different at the NCAAs because you can only qualify two

for each event, so it's a totally different tournament," Ghattas said. "And from this season, we're much better off than we were last year with 11 fencers qualified, and Ohio State will struggle to get 10."

When these two powerhouses do collide again next weekend, Notre Dame can count on current World Cup Champion Mariel Zagunis to be fencing for the blue and gold. Zagunis missed this weekend's event because she was competing in a World Cup event in Budapest, Hungary, where she

— quite appropriately — placed second overall.

"There is a lot of work to be done — get new actions, get ready with new tactics against each other," Bednarski said. "We have a very young team, but young people are very ambitious and want more than they can have, which makes this team very unpredictable. Give them time to mature and they will be very good in the future."

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MEN'S GOLF

Golfers ready to swing away at Lexus Naples Intercollegiate

By JOE QUINN
News Writer

Four months ago, the Notre Dame men's golf team was disqualified from the CordeValle Collegiate. But today, the Irish kick off the spring season when they travel to Naples, Fla. to take part in the Lexus Naples Intercollegiate.

The Irish, ranked No. 46 in the country according to Golfweek/Sagarin Performance Index, are excited to get back to competition.

"We've been hitting balls in Loftus since January, but I think the guys are excited to get back out there," Irish coach Jim Kubinski said, who is entering his second full year as Irish head

coach. While some might worry about rust after such a long lay-off, Kubinski feels his team is ready to go.

"We had a few guys spend some time out in Arizona [over Christmas break], and we also had the Alumni match down in Sarasota, Fla. which helped a lot," Kubinski said.

If the Irish can knock off the rust from this four-month hiatus, it should bode well for the 2006 spring season.

Although they're ranked just No. 46 in the country, Kubinski feels they have Top 20 potential.

"We played B-golf during the fall season and still finished in the top six in all our tournaments," he said. "If we can get up to our A-game, I think we can beat anyone in the country."

"We just want to get out there and compete and come back with a victory."

Jim Kubinski
Irish head coach

September.

While Notre Dame has been able to best some of the higher ranked teams this year, Kubinski wants to get the team playing at

a more consistent level.

"[We need] a forth consistent player that can supplement Cole [Isban], Mark [Baldwin] and Scott [Gustafson]," he said.

The opportunity to become that fourth consistent scorer will be given to sophomores Mike King and Greg Rodgers, and if they can step up, Kubinski feels the Irish will go far this year.

"I feel that Cole, Mark [Baldwin] and Scott are all playing really solid, and I would put them against any other players in the country," Kubinski said. "If King and Rodgers can step up and post a really good score, we can come back on Tuesday with a victory."

While Kubinski said the overall level of competition in this tournament is not as strong com-

pared to the teams Notre Dame faced in the fall season, he feels it will show where the Irish are in relation to other top teams.

"While it's not the strongest field we've faced this year, playing teams like Wake Forest (No. 21), Florida State (No. 38) and Baylor (No. 20) — there's enough good competition that we can see where we are relative to some of the best in the country," he said.

And while individual members may have personal goals for this tournament, Kubinski says the team as a whole has just one.

"We just want to get out there and compete and come back with a victory," he said.

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AROUND THE NATION

Monday, February 27, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	OT	points
NY Rangers	35-15	8	78
Philadelphia	33-16	9	75
New Jersey	30-22	6	66
NY Islanders	25-27	4	54
Pittsburgh	14-34	11	39

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	OT	points
Ottawa	37-14	5	79
Buffalo	36-15	5	77
Montreal	26-22	8	60
Toronto	27-25	5	59
Boston	24-24	10	58

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	OT	points
Carolina	39-14	4	82
Tampa Bay	32-22	4	68
Atlanta	26-26	6	58
Florida	22-27	8	52
Washington	19-32	5	43

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	OT	points
Detroit	39-13	5	83
Nashville	34-18	6	74
Columbus	23-33	2	48
Chicago	18-31	8	44
St. Louis	16-31	9	41

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	OT	points
Calgary	33-17	7	73
Vancouver	33-21	5	71
Colorado	32-21	6	70
Edmonton	30-20	8	68
Minnesota	29-25	5	63

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	OT	points
Dallas	38-17	3	79
Los Angeles	32-23	5	69
Anaheim	27-19	11	65
San Jose	27-21	8	62
Phoenix	27-28	4	58

CCHA Hockey

	team	conf.	ovr.
1	Miami	20-6-2	23-7-4
2	Michigan State	14-7-7	20-10-8
3	Michigan	13-10-5	18-13-5
4	Northern Michigan	14-12-2	20-14-2
4	Nebraska-Omaha	12-10-6	18-12-6
6	Lake Superior	11-12-5	15-12-7
6	Ferris State	10-11-7	15-13-8
8	Alaska-Fairbanks	11-13-4	15-14-5
8	NOTRE DAME	11-13-4	13-17-4
10	Ohio State	11-14-3	15-17-5
11	Western Michigan	7-16-5	8-22-6
12	Bowling Green	8-18-2	13-21-2

WINTER OLYMPICS — TURIN



Fireworks explode during the circus-themed closing ceremony of the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy, Sunday, Feb. 26. The next winter Olympics will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 2010.

Turin Olympics close with celebration

Associated Press

TURIN, Italy — Turin's Olympics, a topsy-turvy mix of marvels and misadventures, ended appropriately with a closing-ceremony Carnevale — a circus-like celebration full of clowns and acrobats, vibrant and often dream-like.

Fireworks, confetti and pulsating ballads filled the air. At one point, a winged snowboarder hovered high above ground, as if by magic.

Some athletes wore red clown noses Sunday night as they swarmed across the huge stage of Olympic

Stadium, waving jubilantly to a backdrop of bouncy Italian songs. Many of the 35,000 spectators donned devil and angel masks in a closing ceremony doubling as the annual Carnevale festival celebrated across Italy this weekend.

Italy had an extra reason to celebrate — a brand-new national hero as headliner of the first-ever medal ceremony included in a Winter Games' closing festivities. After an Olympics that often lacked star power, Italy's Giorgio di Centa filled the void with a final-day victory in the 50-kilometer cross-country race.

The crowd erupted in cheers and waved a sea of tiny Italian flags as di Centa and his fellow medalists strode to the podium. Helping bestow the medals was di Centa's sister, Manuela, an International Olympic Committee member and former cross-country medalist herself.

Before the games closed, IOC president Jacques Rogge described the Turin Olympics as "truly magnificent."

"You have succeeded brilliantly in meeting your challenge," he told organizers. "Grazie, Torino."

"We've done it," exulted Valentino Castellani, the organizing committee chief.

While Castellani spoke, an intruder approached the microphone and shouted, "Passion lives in Torino" before being whisked away by security officers. Police said the man was Spanish; he was taken into custody for questioning.

The spotlight then shifted to Vancouver, host of the 2010 Games, with the raising of Canada's Maple Leaf flag and a sonorous rendition of "O, Canada" by British Columbia-born opera star Ben Heppner.

around the dial

NBA

Washington at Memphis, 8 p.m., Comcast
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:30 p.m., Comcast

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Pittsburgh at West Virginia, 7 p.m., ESPN
Oklahoma State at Oklahoma, 9 p.m., ESPN
Boise State at Fresno State, 12 p.m., ESPNU

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Connecticut at Rutgers, 7:30 p.m., ESPN2

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Stanford at LSU, 1 p.m., ESPNU
UCLA at Oklahoma, 3 p.m., ESPNU
Arizona at Texas, 5 p.m., ESPNU

IN BRIEF

Clemens to prepare for WBC at Astros' complex

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens will take to the mound Monday at Houston's spring training camp, facing minor league batters even though he's not part of the Astros.

The 43-year-old Clemens wants to pitch in the World Baseball Classic, then decide whether to retire or play a 23rd season, said Koby Clemens, his oldest son and a third baseman in the Astros' farm system.

Koby Clemens said his father was due to arrive in Florida on Sunday night and planned to pitch to minor leaguers in a simulated game Monday morning.

Clemens, a free agent, wasn't offered salary arbitration by the Astros and cannot re-sign with them until May 1. He could join another team before that, and Texas, Boston and the New York Yankees are reportedly interested.

Houston general manager Tim

Purpura said the Astros got permission from Major League Baseball to allow the Rocket to pitch at their spring training complex.

Triplett wins first PGA Tour event in three seasons

TUCSON, Ariz. — Kirk Triplett was nowhere near the leaderboard through two rounds at the Chrysler Classic of Tucson. Yet when it was over, it was Triplett hoisting the golden conquistador helmet and celebrating his first PGA Tour victory in three seasons.

Triplett opened his final round Sunday with five straight birdies and added another four in a row over the back nine, shooting a 63 to earn his third PGA Tour victory and first since the 2003 Reno-Tahoe Open.

With a 22-under 266, Triplett finished a shot ahead of Jerry Kelly. Duffy Waldorf, the second- and third-round leader who seemed poised for his first victory in six years, shot 72 and tied for third at 19 under with

Bubba Watson (70) and Heath Slocum (68).

Trammell wins hurdles at indoor championships

BOSTON — Terrence Trammell came so close to becoming the first athlete to win two national indoor championships. Instead, he settled for making the world championships roster in two events.

Trammell won his third U.S. indoor title in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.46 seconds at the U.S. Indoor Track & Field Championships on Sunday. Dominique Arnold finished second in 7.51.

Twenty minutes after winning the hurdles title, Trammell finished second in the 60 in 6.53. Leonard Scott won his first national title in 6.52.

The top two finishers in each event — excluding Friday's weight throws qualify for the 2006 world championships in Moscow on March 10-12.

"I'm just glad to be on the team," said Trammell.

ND SOFTBALL

Irish pitch way to a 3-1 record in Invitational

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame made an impressive turnaround this weekend, posting a 3-1 record en route to winning the Golden Panther Invitational at Florida International University.

The Irish saw the rise of a definite No. 2 starter in freshman Brittney Bargar. Bargar, who had pitched some in the Desert Classic in Las Vegas the previous weekend, flashed signs of brilliance this weekend, most notably in Notre Dame's first game against Buffalo, a 1-0 win for the Irish.

Although the Bulls stymied Irish hitters, allowing only three hits and five walks, Bargar was dominant against Buffalo. The only run of the day came in the bottom of the third, with two runners on base and two outs, when Brittany

Glynn faked a break for home on a dropped ball, sparking a pick-off attempt from Bulls catcher Lacy Schneider. Schneider's throw was off the bag, and Glynn scored easily from third.

That one run would prove to be all that was needed for Bargar, who allowed only four hits and three walks against eight strikeouts in the complete game victory. In fact, after a double by Lauren Picciano in the first inning, no Buffalo runner made it to second base against Bargar.

The Irish also boasted the tournament's MVP, pitcher Heather Booth. Booth won the two middle games of the tournament with an ERA of 0.58 and 19 strikeouts while surrendering only eight total hits. Booth, a two-time first team All-Big East pitcher, showed a return to form in Miami this weekend, most notably in her first start against the host team, FIU.

In a rain-shortened game that lasted only five innings, Booth was perfect in three of them, retiring FIU batters in order in the first (in which she struck out the side), third and fifth innings. While Booth was baffling opposing batters, the Irish offense gave her more than enough run support for the win. Despite having only one extra base hit — a double by second baseman Katie Laing — Notre Dame's aggressive base running led to a 5-0 victory. The Irish played small ball to perfection, using five sacrifices, taking extra bases at the right time and working counts to their favor by striking out only twice.

The Irish continued winning on Saturday morning against Memphis 4-1, again featuring Booth's arm and Notre Dame's bats. Booth surrendered only one run on six hits while also striking out 10 in her second complete

game victory of the tournament. The win also demonstrated Notre Dame's ability to get runners on base and move them over when needed. Irish hitters capitalized on mistakes and created their own opportunities against the Tigers, using bunts, hit and runs, steals and errors to keep innings alive and put runners into scoring position.

The last game the Irish played was their only loss in Miami, falling 6-5 in a rematch against FIU. This was also the only game in which Irish pitching and fielding were not stellar, as Bargar allowed five runs — only two of which were earned — in three innings of work. The Irish opened scoring in the first with an RBI single from Laing, but the Golden Panthers responded in the second inning with a two-run double by third baseman Samantha Card. FIU added three unearned runs in

the third against Bargar, all of which resulted from a fielding error she committed.

The Irish had a comeback rally in the fifth, pushing the score to 5-4 behind a solo home run by right fielder Stephanie Brown — who, along with Booth and shortstop Sara Schoonaert, were named to the all-tournament team — and an RBI single by catcher Malorie Lenn. But the rally ended two batters later, leaving the Irish one run short of the Golden Panthers.

The championship game of the tournament against either St. John's or FIU was cancelled due to rain, and the Irish were named the tournament champions, improving their record to 5-4 on the season. The Irish hope to carry this victory into next weekend's tournament at Tulsa, Okla.

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Nittany Lions overpowered by Kemp, tenacious defense

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

In the preseason, co-captain and senior defenseman D.J. Driscoll said the difference between playing in the 2006 NCAA Tournament or watching it on TV would be the performance of the Irish defense. In its first test of the season on Sunday, Notre Dame responded to that challenge with an 8-4 triumph over Penn State at the Loftus Center, allowing the fewest goals in over a year, since April 9, 2004 — a 12-2 victory at Air Force.

Sophomore goalie Joey Kemp recorded 13 saves, including several screaming shots from short distance, to lead a stubborn Irish resistance.

"It all starts with our defense and Joey Kemp," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "He played very well. Overall we didn't give anything away. We made them earn what they got, and Joey probably stole a couple away that they earned."

Both teams pitched first quarter shutouts until freshman attackman Peter Christman scored 40 seconds into the second frame on an assist by senior attackman Brian Hubschmann. The Irish capitalized on an errant Penn State pass that sophomore midfielder Taylor Claggett picked up — one of his four groundballs — to spark the score en route to a 3-2 half-time lead.

Christman's goal was the first of two critical goals he scored in his first collegiate game on his only shots, an accomplishment matched by fellow freshman attackman Ryan Hoff, who scored two goals on four shots.

Another tough defensive holdout in the third quarter saw only one goal scored. With under two minutes left in the period, Penn State senior attackman — and honorable mention All-American — Nate Whitaker scored the second of three goals for the elusive offensive sparkplug of the Nittany Lions. Whitaker extended his scoring streak to 43 games, encompassing every

college game of his career.

With the game tied 3-3 in the fourth quarter, the Irish freshmen busted the game open, each scoring consecutive goals to fuel a 5-3 lead the Irish never relinquished.

"When you get four goals from freshmen, you got to be excited about that," Corrigan said. "They played within the game. They got opportunities, and they made them count."

Christman and Hoff benefited from a Penn State defense that keyed on star Irish attackman senior Pat Walsh, who had limited opportunities to attack the net throughout most of the game. Walsh, who days earlier was named to the Tewaaraton Trophy watch list for the nation's top player, scored the Irish's eighth goal with 1:55 left in the game — avoiding the first pointless performance of his collegiate career.

Driscoll led the Irish with five groundballs, pacing the team's 30-27 advantage overall.

"D.J. Driscoll played just an outstanding game all around," Corrigan said. "He was very active, played all over the place. He didn't take any bad chances and get himself in trouble."

Although the Irish needed a fourth-quarter offensive onslaught to secure a win Sunday, Corrigan was pleased with the first three quarters of mistake-free lacrosse that set up the fourth frame outburst.

"We did have the ball a lot," he said. "In time of possession we were in control. Claggett did a great job of facing off. We wore [Penn State] down a little bit, and [we took] advantage of that in the fourth quarter."

Corrigan hopes the team's fundamentally sound performance, led by Driscoll and Kemp's defense and Claggett's 10-for-16 face-off performance, will resonate with the team as it turns its attention to No. 9 Cornell next Saturday, whom they will face in Chicago at a neutral site at 1 p.m.

"If you play a sound fundamental game and don't make mistakes to give away goals, you can put yourself in position to win a lot of games," Corrigan said. "There's still a lot of things we can do better. Hopefully we can keep working hard and improve, and we'll have a chance to become a really good team."

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PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Freshman attacker Duncan Swezey cradles the ball during Sunday's 8-4 win at home over Penn State.



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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish remain unbeaten after weekend sweep

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The Irish established themselves as a powerhouse this weekend with wins over No. 20 BYU and No. 51 Wisconsin at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

No. 7 Notre Dame remained undefeated and improved its record to 9-0 this year — one win short of the all-time school record. Not only did the Irish defeat tough opponents, but they also avenged their losses to both of the programs from last season.

"I'm really excited, because we have never been a Top 10 team [since my freshman year]," senior Kiki Stastny said. "I'm thrilled with this experience. It is a whole new confidence, and we feel like we can beat anybody."

In their 6-1 win over the Badgers, the Irish began the contest by capturing the doubles point with wins at Nos. 2 and 3. However, the original line-up for the Irish was altered when junior Catrina Thompson had to pull out

before the match due to a wrist injury.

"We had to play a little short-handed today, because Catrina had some wrist problems," coach Jay Louderback said. "But everybody stepped up."

Playing at No. 2 for Notre Dame were seniors Stastny and captain Lauren Connelly, who topped Wisconsin's duo of Elizabeth Carpenter and Chelsea Nusslock 8-3. The pairing stands at 9-0 in dual action play.

Following at No. 3 for the Irish was the new pairing of freshman Katie Potts and junior Christian Thompson. The duo downed the Badger's Morgan Tuttle and Lexi Goldin 8-1.

"It was a tough deal, because Christian has never played with anyone [except for her sister]," Louderback said. "But it gave [Potts] good experience to play with Christian, because [Thompson] is such a good doubles player."

The only loss in doubles for the Irish came at No. 1 from the No. 29 duo of sophomore Brook Buck

and freshman Kelcy Tefft. Wisconsin's No. 30 team of Caitlin Burke and Nicole Beck defeated the Irish pair 8-7 (7-1).

In singles, No. 32 Christian Thompson fell to Wisconsin's No. 28 Caitlin Burke 6-4, 6-4 in her debut at No. 1.

Following at No. 2 was Buck, who topped Beck 6-1, 6-1. The win improved Buck's season record to 11-6.

Tefft played at No. 3 for the Irish with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Nusslock. Stastny played at No. 5 for Notre Dame against the Badger's Carpenter and rallied to a 6-3, 4-6, 1-0 (11-9) win at No. 4.

"It was a rollercoaster, because she would be on a roll with four amazing winners," Stastny said. "So it was hard to stay in control, because you didn't know what to expect."

Following Stastny at No. 5 was Potts, who defeated Wisconsin's Erin Jobe 6-1, 6-1.

Competing at No. 6 for the Irish was Connelly, who downed Tuttle 6-1, 6-0.

After Sunday's win over Wisconsin, Louderback was impressed with the team's performance in singles play this season.

"Our doubles has been good, but it is our singles that [have gotten the job done] in every match all season," Louderback said.

No. 7 Notre Dame 5, No. 20 BYU 1

The Irish got out to a strong start against the Cougars, sweeping the doubles matches.

"It was a huge boost," Stastny said. "Once you have the [doubles point], you have a lot more momentum. Our goal this season is to be undefeated in doubles."

The Thompson twins played at No. 1 for the team and finished first as they topped BYU's Anastasia Sourkova and Jennifer Miccoli 8-3.

Following at No. 2 were Buck and Tefft, who defeated the Cougars' Olga Boulytcheva and Sofia Holden 6-1, 6-4.

Playing in the third position for

Notre Dame were Connelly and Stastny, who downed BYU's Dolly Chang and Luren Jones 8-3.

"We are all really steady [in doubles], and we all have the experience and confidence," Stastny said. "[Our teams] are good and deep."

In singles, No. 27 Catrina Thompson was first off the court with a 6-1, 6-1 loss to No. 17 Boulytcheva at No. 1.

Playing at No. 2 was Catrina Thompson, who topped Jones 6-4, 6-2.

Buck followed Thompson with a 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-5) loss to Sourkova at No. 3.

The bottom half of the line-up closed out the match in two-set wins at Nos. 4, 5 and 6.

Tefft, playing fourth in the line-up, defeated Holden 6-1, 6-4. Stastny followed with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Chang at No. 5.

The final victory came from Potts at No. 6 as she downed Miccoli 6-3, 6-4.

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BASEBALL

Service Academies Classic proves tough test for ND nine

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame lost two of three games in the Service Academies Classic in Millington, Tenn. this weekend.

After beating Indiana State in a non-tournament game Thursday, the Irish (2-2) topped Air Force Friday but fell to Memphis Saturday and Oklahoma Sunday, losing late-inning leads in both games.

"I think we played really good baseball," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "It's a shame we were only able to come away with a 2-2 record. We played well enough to win all four games."

Oklahoma 4, Notre Dame 3

Junior righthander Jeff Manship took the mound for the

Irish and gave up just two runs in five innings, but the Sooners scored two in the seventh after a throwing error by first baseman Mike Dury opened the door for Oklahoma.

Dury hit a three-run homer in the fifth to give Notre Dame a 3-2 lead over the Sooners after Chuckie Caulfield's two-run blast off Manship in the third put Oklahoma ahead 2-0.

But after Irish southpaw relief pitcher Sam Elam hit fellow Kevin Smith on a 3-2 count in the seventh, Mainieri brought in the right-handed Jess Stewart to face the Sooners' Joseph Hughes.

"When we had to take Jeff Manship out of the game, we didn't have many options," Mainieri said.

Hughes dropped down a routine sacrifice bunt along the first-base line but stopped halfway to

the bag. Dury hesitated to tag, and the speedy centerfielder sprinted down the line. Dury then overthrew Aaron Reza, who was covering from second base, and Oklahoma had first and third with nobody out.

Stewart retired the next two batters on a strikeout and flyout, but surrendered a two-out, two-run double to Kevin Williams that put the Sooners on top 4-3.

"When your pitchers only make two mistakes in the game, it's pretty good," Mainieri said.

The Irish pitchers struck out 13 Oklahoma batters but made the two big mistakes — the two-out double and the two-run homer.

"When you strike out 13 batters, normally you're going to win the game, because you're dominant," Mainieri said. "The difference was, two of them were

extra-base hits."

Memphis 7, Notre Dame 6 (10 innings)

Pinch hitter Joey Lieberman sent a two-run homer over the fence for the hometown Memphis Tigers in the top of the tenth Saturday, and Notre Dame lost a game in which it had a 5-0 lead through five innings.

Southpaw sophomore Wade Korpi allowed just three hits and no runs in five innings, but the Tigers chipped away at the Irish lead in the final four frames to force extra innings.

"Our starting pitching was out of this world," Mainieri said. "Because they were all on strict pitch counts, we had to pull them early in the games."

Will Petersen led the Memphis comeback, getting three hits, including the game-tying two-out

double in the top of the ninth off freshman reliever Kyle Weiland.

"It's tough to lose any game, whether you're winning or losing it, any loss hurts," Mainieri said. "We've always prided ourselves on winning the close ones."

Senior Matt Bransfield and third baseman Brett Lilley accounted for five of Notre Dame's seven hits in the game. Bransfield had three hits and two RBI in a rare start in left field for the 6-foot-1 righty from Englewood, Colo., while Lilley went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and a walk out of the No. 2 hole.

Mainieri said the inconsistent hitting for the Irish could be expected this early in the season.

"The only negative was they didn't swing the bat well," he said. "It's the result of not having a lot of at-bats under our belt."

Notre Dame 8, Air Force 2

Behind the arm of 6-foot-5 righthander Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame grounded Air Force 8-2 Friday in the opening game of the Service Academies Classic.

"I thought Jeff pitched exceptionally well," Mainieri said.

Samardzija allowed just one run on four hits in six innings of work, and the Irish bullpen held on for the victory thanks to a six-run eighth that extended the Irish lead from 2-1 to 8-1.

Eight Irish batters collected hits, including two for second baseman Ross Brezovsky, whose three-run homer in the eighth put the game out of reach.

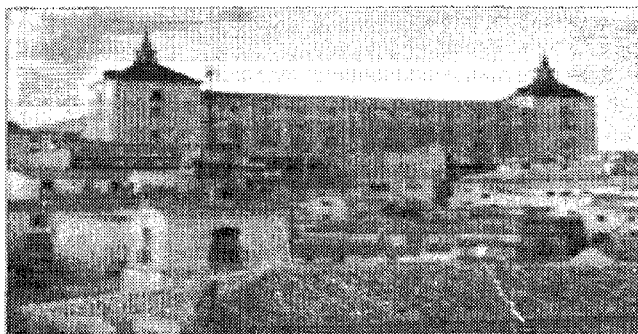
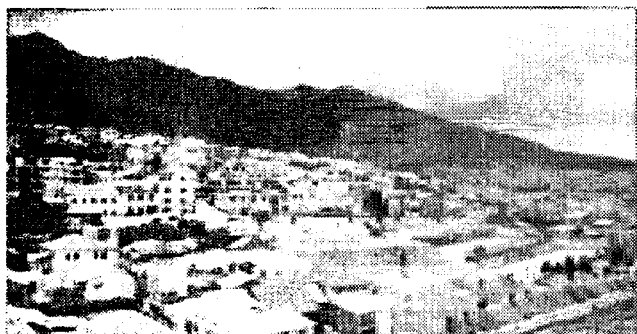
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WINGS

Buckeyes

continued from page 20

said. "We had to stick to our guns and keep doing what we're doing. It wasn't a case of the level being inadequate, it was a case of winning a close match. And we did."

The match outcome looked bleak after the doubles point, when the Irish (8-4) were swept by Ohio State.

"That's about as badly as we can play," Bayliss said. "There was no energy, and they just took it to us. I'm glad [Ohio State] didn't charge us for the lesson."

In the top spot, Ryan Keckley and Barry King fell first in an 8-2 decision to Scott Green and Ross Wilson. Green and Wilson hold the

nation's No. 1 doubles ranking, while Keckley and King weigh in at No. 51.

Eric Langenkamp and Sheeva Parbhu also lost 8-2 in the No. 2 spot, as Ohio State's Drew Eberly and Bryan Koniecko clinched the point for the Buckeyes.

Brett Helgeson and Andrew Roth fought to avoid the sweep at No. 3, but ultimately fell 8-6.

"I had a few comments for them that weren't very flattering," Bayliss said of his team's break inbetween doubles and singles. "I think they realized it was put up or shut up."

No. 17 Stephen Bass was the first to put up a win in singles, tying the match at 1-1 by defeating No. 42 Devin Mullings in No. 1 singles. Bayliss called his 6-2, 6-3 victory a "signature win" for the jun-

ior, who has now won six straight matches and 13 in a row at home.

"Stephen Bass deserves a ton of credit," Bayliss said. "Mullings is a tough little street fighter and Stephen just out-toughed him."

Helgeson, who stands at No. 60 in the national rankings, was next off with a 6-3, 6-4 win at No. 3. The win was more impressive because the freshman — who is 11-0 at home — was still recovering from illness.

When Langenkamp won 6-3, 6-4 at No. 6, the Irish were one match away from clinching the win.

"Eric did an amazing job at not making many mistakes, but also being willing to step up in the court and take advantage of short balls," associate head coach Todd Doebler said. "Our team got a lot of momentum because he was able

to get off the court."

Sophomore Parbhu would clinch the match before raucous fans in a 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 win at No. 2 singles.

The crowd had gravitated towards Parbhu and Keckley, both playing their third sets on adjacent courts in the Eck Pavilion.

"[Parbhu] got a little tight once he knew the match was on the line, but he got more aggressive and regained his composure," Doebler said.

The crowd remained to see Keckley, one of the team's most consistent wins in singles, post a win over Chris Klingemann 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

"I think the pressures off [after the match is clinched] but its harder to play because all the guys fight so hard for the team," Doebler said. "Ryan still wanted to close

out that match, just because in the past we've had some really tough matches with Ohio State."

Keckley played at No. 4 for the first time with all the starters in the Irish lineup.

"[It was] a big step moving him up to four," Bayliss said. "But, he's got a 10-1 record."

The Eck drew a strong crowd from both local residents and students, as this was the tennis team's designated Gold Game.

"It's nice to see that our guys can respond to the support we got," Bayliss said.

The Irish return to action March 3 as the team travels to the Pacific Coast Doubles Tournament in La Jolla, Ca.

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Bearcats

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as the buzzer sounded.

"I thought we really showed our poise at the end, because we could have put our heads down and thought the game was over, but we came over, executed the play perfectly and sowed a lot of character to come back from that with two seconds left," McGraw said. "And that's why I think we had the momentum going into overtime."

In overtime, Schrader opened the scoring with 1-of-2 free throws to give the Irish a 58-57 lead. She finished with 11 points in the game.

After Cincinnati's Michelle Jones made a layup to give the Bearcats the lead, Schrader scored again on a feed from Gaines to give the Irish a one-point lead.

With 2:04 left in overtime and the game tied at 62, LaVere converted on a three-point play thanks to Schrader's assist.

"We wanted to get the ball inside, and Courtney did a great job down low," McGraw said.

Schrader hit a jumper with 1:26 remaining to extend the Irish lead to five, and Duffy connected on eight straight free throws in the final 42 seconds to seal the win for Notre Dame and finish with 17 points in the game.

"Megan at the free-throw line really iced the game for us," McGraw said.

Humphries was the star of the game for Cincinnati, shutting down Duffy on the defensive end most of the afternoon and putting up 14 points of her own. Humphries played the final six minutes with four fouls but held the senior All-American to just seven field goal attempts in regulation.

The Bearcats' deadliest threat from outside, freshman Shelly Bellman, made just 4-of-14 field goals, including 1-of-5 from three-point range. Cincinnati entered as the second best team in the conference from long range but hit just 5-of-20 from behind the arc against an oft-porous Irish zone.

Gaines finished with 14 points on 3-of-7 shooting from the floor and 8-of-9 from the line.

LaVere joined Duffy as the high-point scorer in the game, connecting on 8-of-11 field goals en route to her 17 points.

McGraw said a key in getting LaVere involved was the high-low passing the Irish utilized throughout the game to extend the Cincinnati defense.

"That's out of the Princeton offense, and we've run that pretty successfully throughout year," she said. "Courtney's really good at the high post."

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Nanooks

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combined goal advantage over the two-game set gave them the tiebreaker, the No. 8 seed in the CCHA Tournament, and, most importantly, home-ice advantage in the first round next weekend.

The Irish and ninth-seeded Nanooks will meet again in a best-of-three series Friday, Saturday and Sunday — if necessary — at the Joyce Center. The winner will advance to the second round of the tournament to take on one of the top seeds — Miami of Ohio, Michigan State, Michigan or Northern Michigan — who all earned opening round byes in the 12-team tournament.

The Irish scored three first-period goals Friday and were in control for most of the game. Notre Dame head coach Jeff Jackson said he was pleased with his team's focus after a long school day.

"I've been a little concerned about our Friday night home games," Jackson said. "Sometimes, it's a little hard for them to refocus from school. Most of our guys have a pretty intense class schedule on Fridays."

The Irish scored just 4:43 into the game as right wing Michael

Bartlett found the back of the net for the second time this season. Defenseman Chris Trick broke his stick and skated toward the Irish bench. Bartlett jumped over the boards to replace him and found himself in perfect position to play the puck. The junior flipped a pass to center Erik Condra and cut to the goal, where Condra found him for the 1-0 lead.

A few minutes later, the Nanooks struck back. A turnover at center ice lead to a Fairbanks breakaway and defenseman Steve Vanoosten blasted the puck past Irish goalie Dave Brown from the left face-off circle.

Notre Dame answered at 13:06 and again at 17:55 with goals from its fourth line of Evan Rankin, Tony Gill and Garrett Regan. Jackson said he was pleasantly surprised by the three players, who usually see less ice time than the first three lines.

"I've had those guys together before," Jackson said. "Garrett Regan skates really well, Evan Rankin is a tenacious player who plays physical, and Tony Gill is pretty smart, so they work well together."

Rankin scored the first goal, flipping the puck from a severe angle behind and to the left of Nanook goalie Chad Johnson. The shot hit Johnson in the back and then rico-

cheted off the post and into the net to give Notre Dame the lead.

Regan, a freshman, added his third career goal a little under five minutes later when he punched a rebound of a Wes O'Neill shot past Johnson.

That was all the action Johnson would see, as he was pulled in favor of sophomore Wylie Rogers for the remainder of the game. Rogers held the Irish scoreless until the third period, when right wing Tim Wallace scored at the 3:49 mark to put Notre Dame up 4-1.

As the game was winding down, a scuffle took place near the Nanook net which resulted in several penalties, including a game misconduct for Trick. Jackson said after the game he couldn't see what was going on but was surprised that the senior would be involved in an after-the-whistle melee.

"That's out of his nature," Jackson said. "He's not taken a penalty like that while I've been here."

Alaska-Fairbanks 2, Notre Dame 1

The Irish struggled to a 2-1 loss to the Nanooks on Saturday night with heavy playoff implications on the line.

Defenseman Tom Sawatske got the Irish an early lead with his goal

only 1:24 into the first period. Notre Dame worked the puck into Alaska-Fairbanks' zone with a strong forecheck. The puck was sent to Bartlett on top of the left circle, who dished the puck over to Sawatske on the right point. Sawatske stepped towards the net and sent a low wrist shot into the net past Nanook goaltender Wylie Rogers just inside the right post for the 1-0 Irish lead.

Alaska-Fairbanks struck less than five minutes later, and scored twice in a 48-second span, starting with a goal by left wing Aaron Lee at 6:10 of the first frame.

A neutral zone turnover by the Irish allowed Curtis Fraser to split through the Notre Dame defense. Fraser — with the Irish defense close behind — came down alone on Brown and attacked to the left side of the net. Brown came out aggressive with a poke check and made the initial save, but the puck trickled through his pads to the middle of the crease. Lee batted the puck from underneath the legs of Irish forward Josh Sciba into an open net to tie the game at 1-1.

"I assume it must have trickled through my body and went through the other side of the net, because I overcommitted with the poke check, and I thought I recovered," Brown said. "It's really frustrating, you replay it in your mind,

maybe what would have happened if I just played him one-on-one."

Fairbanks' Kyle Greentree scored the game-winning goal only seconds later on an assist from Kelly Czuy. Greentree got the puck at the bottom of the left circle and went opposite side with his shot. The wrist shot found the back of the net just underneath the crossbar on Brown's glove side for the eventual 2-1 final.

"I thought last night was going to be like tonight, not that we'd win 2-1, but just the way the game went," Alaska-Fairbanks head coach Tavis MacMillan said.

The remaining two-and-a-half periods remained a scoreless, defensive battle between the two teams. The teams found themselves at each others' throats in many post-whistle skirmishes.

"[The Nanooks] gave us some problems in their defensive zone because of their reach and their strength," Jackson said of Notre Dame's inability to score.

Brown stood on his head to keep the Irish within striking distance throughout the late periods. He stopped 34 out of the 36 shots he faced, including 14 saves in the third period alone.

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Neal

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rushing specialist. I think that's what they're looking for when they go after a guy like Kerry Neal."

The only other school that offered Neal a scholarship was Wake Forest. Neal said Duke and East Carolina were the only other schools to show substantial interest in him.

Frank said the limited number of offers does not mean Neal is a mediocre recruit.

"He didn't have a lot of big-name offers, but he just started sending out a lot of film," Frank said.

"There are a lot of big-name players that are out there that Coach Weis hasn't offered yet, and he's being picky with who he's offering. And yet he watches

[Neal's] film and feels compelled to call him first thing in the morning. That gives a large indication of how much potential he has."

Frank said he expects Neal to stay firm in his commitment and call other recruits to influence them to come to Notre Dame.

"I don't think he's the type of kid who will just commit and then start looking around again," Frank said. "I think he will be the kind of guy who will stick with his commitment."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish fall flat in game they needed the most

It's time to stop making excuses and start examining what's wrong with Notre Dame.

The Irish needed to beat Marquette, plain and simple.

They needed to win their remaining three games to ensure a spot in the Big East tournament and they couldn't do it. Notre Dame still has a

chance, but it will have to win its last two games and deal with potential tiebreaker situations.

That's not even the worst part. Given Marquette's intensity and Notre Dame's willingness to allow its opponent to control the tempo, a casual fan would not have known which team was playing for its postseason life.

The Irish should have taken charge of this game and played with the sense of urgency a team playing for its postseason life possesses. But instead, the Irish allowed Marquette to play its own style of basketball, and eliminate Notre Dame's major weapon — its 3-point shooting.

And when the Irish did make a comeback in the second half, all Marquette needed to regain control was a quick 30-second timeout when down five points. From there, forward Steve Novak hit two 3-pointers and Marquette went on a 12-2 run the Irish could not recover from.

This leads to another issue. Where was Notre Dame's defensive intensity in its biggest game of the season? Sure, the Irish neutralized their opponent's best player for the most part (Steve Novak), but they also allowed career days from lesser-known freshmen and sophomores (Dan Fitzgerald and Jerel McNeal).

It is no secret Notre Dame struggles on the defensive end. The Irish have the second-worst scoring defense in the Big East behind Providence, giving up 70.5 points per game. This is not going to change. But there are ways to work around specific team weaknesses.

While Notre Dame gives up a lot of points, the Irish score more than just about anyone. The Irish have the second-best scoring offense in the Big East behind Villanova and outscore their opponents by 6.2 points per game (seventh in the league).

But when Marquette shut down Irish guards Colin Falls and Chris Quinn (who shot a combined 3-of-12 from the field), Notre Dame failed to make the necessary offensive adjustments that could have neutralized its lack of defensive stops.

Well, almost. Notre Dame did begin feeding the ball inside to senior forward Torin Francis, who had his best game of the season, scoring 16 points and grabbing 15 rebounds. Francis was a force in the paint and continued to show improvement in his ability to create for himself and his teammates.

But once Marquette retook the lead in the second half, the Irish panicked on the offensive end. They went away from working through Francis (besides guard Kyle McAlarney, who looked inside all game) and settled on quick shots, even though Marquette was smothering Notre Dame's perimeter shooters (the Golden Eagles had the 6-foot-10 Novak on the 6-foot-1 Quinn during spurts).

This begs a question, too. Why did Notre Dame get away from what was working (feeding the ball inside to Francis) when it was trying to save its season?

As difficult as it is to say given his high character and leadership, some of this blame has to rest on Quinn's shoulders. When a team is winning, the best player gets much of the credit. Likewise, when a team is losing, the same player bears much of the responsibility.

Quinn was pressing against Marquette, desperate to get a necessary conference win and fight the demons that must be present in his mind. Quinn has missed the big shot on several occasions this season and it has to weigh on him mentally.

But this issue extends far past this season alone. If Quinn had been the starting point guard before his senior year, he would not be in the position of having to lead a team while trying to figure out how to handle the daily pressure of being the main guy on and off the court.

Is it head coach Mike Brey's fault? Maybe a little, but it is way more complex than blaming a coach who after a Sweet 16 appearance in 2003 was one of the hottest names in the country. Maybe the Irish coach places too much faith in his players and takes a backseat once the game begins. But that's not necessarily a bad thing either — he has confidence in his team and knows ultimately his team's performance will come down to execution.

There's also another way to look at it. Maybe this is not the right approach with this specific group. Maybe Brey needs to take charge and not defer to his captains in game situations.

Either way, it is too early to call for the coach's head. Let this season play out and see how he develops a new crop of underclassmen that will not be burdened by the lasting impact of an underachieving point guard who is now playing in Europe.

But time is running out, and Notre Dame's season now comes down to two remaining games. It's too late for the Irish to control their own destiny — they will need help from other teams at the bottom of the conference.

But at the end of the day, Notre Dame's loss to Marquette was just another chapter in a season full of confusion and disappointment. A season that unless something changes in the next week, someone has to begin taking responsibility for.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu



Bobby Griffin

Associate Sports Editor

Eagles

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points from forward Steve Novak and 18 from freshman point guard Dominic James.

The Irish (13-12, 4-10 Big East) fell to No. 15 the in conference standings and must win their remaining two games to have a chance at qualifying for the Big East tournament March 8. The Golden Eagles (19-8, 9-5) improved their conference record and remain No. 5 in the conference.

Marquette won the first meeting between the two teams in Milwaukee, Wisc., 67-65, on a contested last-second shot by Novak Jan. 20. But on Saturday, the Golden Eagles played their game and were shooting foul shots at the end instead of sinking game-winners.

"I'd rather get blown out by 20 than [have] a team just take it from us," freshman point guard Kyle McAlarney said after playing the most productive game of his young Notre Dame career (14 points, 6-of-12 shooting, eight assists, two turnovers).

Marquette permanently regained momentum with a 9-0 second half run behind three straight 3-pointers — one from Dan Fitzgerald (10 points), two from Novak. The Golden Eagles led 60-56 after Novak's second three fell with 5:57 remaining, despite Notre Dame having built a 56-51 advantage coming out of a 49-49 tie at the 10:58 television timeout.

"We just had some possessions there — both defensively and offensively — after we were up five, [in which] we didn't get the job done," Irish point guard Chris Quinn said. "And to beat a team like Marquette, you've got to be good in those situations."

Notre Dame never recovered, though it had a chance. Guard Russell Carter sank two free throws with 3:31 left to cut the Golden Eagles lead to 63-60, and Marquette guard Jerel McNeal missed a shot to give the Irish the ball and a chance to draw closer or tie.

But one shot clock violation and a turnover later, the Irish saw McNeal follow a Novak miss to send Marquette back up five and out of South Bend with a victory.

"It hurts," Quinn said of the loss, "but a lot of them hurt."

Notre Dame lost despite receiving a double-double from forward Torin Francis by halftime, the first time the senior has accomplished the feat before the half. Francis had 10 points and 12 rebounds at the break but finished with 16 points and 15 rebounds, the most boards by an Irish player in one game this season.

Notre Dame got away from the inside game down the stretch. Forward Rick Cornett also played only six minutes after making major contributions in a near-upset of No. 3/4 Connecticut Tuesday. And despite McAlarney's performance, the guards struggled as a group, and Notre Dame's offense paid for it.

Marquette held Quinn (12 points, two assists, four turnovers) to 3-of-12 shooting, and Irish sharpshooter Colin Falls — who averaged 14.6 points before Saturday — did not score until he made two inconsequential foul shots with 34.1 seconds remaining in the entire game.

"We subbed [Quinn and Falls] a little bit, tried to loosen them up, rotated them out, just tried anything to change the atmosphere," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "We need their legs back under them [for the next two games]."

"I was very matter-of-fact

with them in the locker room. Obviously we need some help [to qualify for the Big East tournament] now, but we're staring at having to win a tiebreaker with Providence on Wednesday."

Marquette opened a 14-9 lead with 15:16 remaining in the first half by pushing the tempo and keeping Notre Dame on their heels, as Brey said afterwards, on defense. Notre Dame then scored four straight to cut the lead to one, but the Golden Eagles pulled away and maintained a lead that fluctuated between two and seven points until McAlarney hit a three with 5:25 left in the half to cut the lead to 27-26.

Carter made a three to take a 29-27 Irish lead out of a Marquette timeout, and the Irish led with 3:21 remaining. But the Golden Eagles went on a 9-6 run to end the half, including a last-second lay up from Fitzgerald to send the Irish into halftime down 38-35.

"If we would have limited transition, I think we would have been in better shape at halftime," Brey said. "We eventually adjusted to that, but it kind of punched you first."

Notre Dame players now face the reality of possibly seeing no postseason action at all.

"You want to say, 'Don't worry about that. We just gotta get ready for Providence again,'" McAlarney said. "But it's really hard not to focus on that because this is what we've been playing for, [what] we've been working for all season, and now it's almost like our chances are going down."

"But we've just got to keep working, keep bouncing back, because after all the stuff we've been through, I think we can bounce back better than anybody."

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FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Neal becomes first 2011 commitment

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame got its first verbal commitment of the class of 2011 Feb. 23 when 6-foot-2, 225-pound defensive end Kerry Neal told Irish coach Charlie Weiss he would accept a scholarship offer.

"I always wanted to go to Notre Dame," Neal said in a telephone

interview with The Observer Sunday. "I plan on coming up [to visit] during spring practice."

Neal, a junior at Bunn High School in Bunn, N.C., said he has never visited Notre Dame or any other schools in the Midwest, but accepted Weiss' offer after returning a call Weiss left on his high school coach's voicemail early Thursday morning. He said he was speechless when Weiss made

the offer.

Neal said Weiss was confident he could succeed at Notre Dame.

"He was like, 'I've been around athletes, and I know one when I see one. And you're one,'" Neal said.

Along with his admiration for the school, Neal said his family supports his choice of Notre Dame.

"My family, they're behind me

100 percent," he said.

Mike Frank of IrishEyes.com said Neal has not been rated by most recruiting services yet but will bring a definite edge to the Irish defensive line.

"He's a tremendous prospect," Frank said. "Notre Dame has a lot of defensive ends, but I don't know if they have that true pass

see NEAL/page 17

MEN'S TENNIS

Buckeyes stumble vs. squad

Irish knock off Ohio State in front of big Gold Game crowd

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Despite a lopsided loss in doubles, the Irish rebounded to saddle Ohio State with its first loss this season in a 5-2 match at the Eck Tennis Pavilion Friday.

Before an enthusiastic home crowd, the No. 26 Irish reeled off four straight singles wins at Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 6 to clinch the match over the No. 11 Buckeyes.

"I'm really excited about beating a team this good," head coach Bobby Bayliss said. "And the thing that is especially gratifying is the number of tough matches we had to play."

The Buckeyes came into the match 9-0 after an upset of then-Top 10 LSU. The team was 3-0 against Top 20 teams, while the Irish were 0-4.

"I felt that we were playing at a high enough level to beat teams in the Top 10, and we just didn't get it done, and that the wins would come," Bayliss

see BUCKEYES/page 16

HOCKEY

Northern exposure

Squad secures eighth spot, home ice in first round of the playoffs

By KYLE CASSILY and
CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writers

Notre Dame and Alaska-Fairbanks left the last regular-season weekend as they entered it — deadlocked for the eighth spot in the CCHA — after the two teams split their series with a 4-1 Irish win and a 2-1 Nanooks victory.

Notre Dame (13-17-4, 11-13-4 in the CCHA) however, had reason to smile Sunday morning as their 5-3

see NANOOKS/page 17



ERIN VRANISH/The Observer

Defenseman Tom Sawatske heads up the ice during Notre Dame's 4-1 victory over Ferris State Feb. 10 at the Joyce Center. The Irish split two games with Alaska-Fairbanks this weekend.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Gaines, Duffy lift the Irish to 75-66 OT win

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Decked out in its new green away jerseys, Notre Dame used a little luck of the Irish Saturday to pull off a dramatic win over Cincinnati in a crucial conference contest on the Bearcats' senior day.

Irish guard Tulyah Gaines hit a running layup from the right side off an inbound play to tie the game as time expired in regulation, and Megan Duffy's 10 points in the extra session led Notre Dame (16-10, 7-8 Big East) to a 75-66 overtime victory.

"That's a play we practice a lot

when we go through game situations a lot," Gaines said of the buzzer beater. "They weren't on me, and Lindsay did a great job of finding me [after] Courtney threw a great pass."

After Bearcats guard Treasure Humphries broke a 55-55 tie by hitting a jump shot from 12 feet with 2.4 seconds remaining in regulation, Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw called a timeout to set up her offense against Cincinnati (17-9, 7-8).

Gaines took a Lindsay Schrader tip courtesy of Courtney LaVere's inbound pass, drove to the lane, elevated and hit the leaning layup

see BEARCATS/page 16

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Postseason hopes take hit

No Novak necessary for Eagles to come out on top of ND

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Marquette completed a season series sweep of Notre Dame Saturday night with an 80-72 win at the Joyce Center behind 21

See Also

"Irish fall flat in game they needed the most" page 18

see EAGLES/page 18



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer

Irish guard Chris Quinn handles the ball as Golden Eagles guard Wesley Matthews defends during Marquette's 80-72 win Saturday.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

BASEBALL

Oklahoma 4
Notre Dame 3

Jeff Manship's eight strikeouts weren't enough as the Irish fell to the Sooners Sunday.

page 15

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame 6
Wisconsin 1

The Irish downed the Badgers Sunday to improve to 9-0 for the first time since 1984-85.

page 15

MEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame 8
Penn State 4

Freshmen Peter Christman and Ryan Hoff both scored a pair of goals in the victory Sunday.

page 14

ND SOFTBALL

Fla. International 5
Notre Dame 4

Freshmen pitcher Brittney Bargar paid for a costly error as the Irish fell Saturday.

page 14

FENCING

The Irish finished second in the 16-team field during the Midwest Conference Championships this weekend at the Joyce Center.

page 12

MEN'S GOLF

The Irish kick off spring competition at the Lexus Naples Intercollegiate Invitational in Florida today.

page 12