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Campus empties as spring break nears

ND, SMC travelers cruise to sunnier destinations

By MAUREEN MULLEN
News Writer

On the last day before spring break, Notre Dame students are packing their bags, jumping in cars, trains and planes and heading en masse, it seems, to warm weather.

Anthony Travel, which arranged spring break plans for over 500 ND/SMC students, has had an especially busy past few weeks, said President and CEO John Anthony.

The travel agency's leisure manager, Kayleen Carr, said cruises were popular among upperclassmen this year.

Mexico is also a common destination, and Anthony Travel helped students arrange to spend the

see BREAK/page 6



Students board a bus Thursday as they leave for their respective spring break destinations a day early.
GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Students to volunteer on week away from school

By MAUREEN MULLEN
News Writer

While many Notre Dame students will be spending their spring break enjoying a sunny beach vacation, others plan to dedicate their week to service.

Students will take part in a variety of service projects through several different campus organizations.

The Center for Social Concerns has offered students the opportunity to participate in the usual seminars organized annually for the week of spring break. Twelve students will attend the Washington Seminar which "examines ethical and public policy issues in science and technology," a CSC press release read.

The very popular CSC Appalachia

see SERVICE/page 6

Students advised to take safety precautions, protect their property while away

By PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

While students anticipate spring break, there are still concerns of safety and security looming over their carefree plans.

Over winter break, several off-campus student houses were burglarized and vandalized. Damage ranged from graffiti to stolen DVDs and PlayStation consoles, The Observer reported on Jan. 18.

Mark Kramer, owner of Kramer Properties, said houses are monitored while students are away on break, but not all day.

"We can't watch the houses 24 hours a day, but we do try to keep an eye on the houses ourselves," he said.

Kramer said that the best thing students can do to help keep their property safe is call the South Bend Police Department (SBPD) and ask them to watch their house.

At an informational meeting

in February about a program similar to a neighborhood watch — which reportedly no students attended except for representatives from the Student Senate's Committee for Community Relations — with morning, afternoon and evening patrols, one house may get three to six visits in a day, Sergeant Lee D. Ross of SBPD said.

Kramer also emphasized removing "tell-tale signs on porches and lawns that indicate that the house is student

housing [as well as those that signal the students are on break]."

"If they can blend in with the neighborhood, that will decrease burglaries," Kramer said.

He said beer kegs should not be left out, and "outdoor lighting is key."

"We do all the outdoor lighting which we've always done, but the students need to make sure they lock all their doors and windows, turn on their alarms and

leave on lights," he said.

Kramer said for those students who have activated their alarm systems but forget to turn them on over break, the alarms will be turned on for them.

Brian Ferguson, an off-campus senior, dealt with vandalism issues when his house was broken into over winter break.

"[This time,] all my roommates and I are taking our

see SAFETY/page 4

NDSP issues surveys to Zahm

Several residents questioned about January incident with Keenan



Several students from Zahm Hall, pictured above, said they were approached by NDSP officers with an investigative survey.
Courtesy of orlh.nd.edu

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame Security/Police distributed a written survey last month to several Zahm Hall residents in order to investigate a Jan. 28 incident involving a group of the dorm's residents who threw fruit and vomited on Keenan Hall — a move that left some respondents both puzzled and angered.

The questionnaire, an electronic copy of which was obtained by The Observer, asked several questions — some broad, others specific — about the incident. According to a Jan. 28 e-mail sent to the dorm by Zahm rector Father Dan Parrish, "a group of [approximately 10] Zahm men, wearing red shirts, threw fruit at Keenan Hall and vomited on and near Keenan's southern wall."

see ZAHM/page 4

Spellings to address ACE graduates in July

By KELLY MEEHAN
Assistant News Editor

In its almost 13-year history, Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) has proven itself a program worthy of praise from many organizations — and now it can now add the White House to this prestigious list.

Presidential cabinet member and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has accepted University President Father John Jenkins' invitation to be the speaker at ACE's 11th graduation ceremony on July 15.

Eighty-eight ACE graduates



Spellings

will reconvene on Notre Dame's campus for the ceremony after being apart while teaching at various schools across the nation. Commencement will conclude their participation in the two-year service program that allowed them to serve as full-time teachers in under-resourced Catholic schools throughout the southern United States.

ACE director John Staud said he is thrilled and believes ACE is fortunate to have Spellings come to Notre Dame.

"We had obviously wanted to try to get more national exposure at the highest levels to the ACE program," Staud said. "[Spellings] is someone who is responsible for all education in the country."

Staud said although Spellings is primarily responsible for

see ACE/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

March Madness

Madness: defined as the quality or condition of being insane. Seems like a pretty apt description of the three-week rollercoaster ride set to begin with next Thursday's NCAA basketball games.

Greg Arbogast

When else does the entire male population either call in sick or simply take two days off so they can plop in front of the television for 36 hours straight?

Sports Writer

When else could you ever see a grown man reduced to tears because Hampton just upset Iowa State in ... anything.

When else would you ever hear the following exchange: "Why are you so happy?" ... "Because T.J. Sorrentine just sent the Vermont Catamounts into the round of 32."

In fact, last year I helped my high school soccer team win a playoff-clinching game the same night that the aforementioned Vermont team defeated Syracuse. Guess which one I was more excited about? If that's not madness, what is?

My point is basically this: There's no better sporting event in America than March Madness.

In a country chock-full of quality sporting entertainment, that's a pretty bold statement. I've heard the arguments for college football's bowl week, the NFL's playoffs and Major League Baseball's World Series.

None of these, however, combine the unpredictability, the excitement from watching kids with no NBA future take down the big boys (No. 14 Weber State over No. 3 North Carolina, anyone?), or the sheer joy from predicting that 13 over 4-seed upset that March Madness brings to the table.

Put these elements together, and you have some of the most unforgettable moments in sporting history.

Who doesn't remember Valparaiso's Bryce Drew being mauled by his teammates after his buzzer-beater sunk Ole Miss? Or the disbelieving look on the Kentucky players' faces after Christian Laettner broke their hearts?

What about everybody's then-favorite Cinderella, Gonzaga, coming out of nowhere with consecutive runs to the Elite 8 and Sweet 16? (Don't worry — if you can't recall any of these moments, CBS will make sure they remind you about 200 times over the next three weeks).

Combine all the virtues of March Madness with the fact that it comes immediately after the worst oh-my-God-I've-resorted-to-watching-golf-and-bowling four-week stretch of sports for the entire year, and you've got yourself a little piece of heaven on earth.

So after suffering through the doldrums of February, it's time for me, along with many others, to lose my head for the best three-week stretch of the year.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.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: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR SPRING BREAK?



Caitlin Schaefer

freshman
off-campus

"I'm visiting my friends in Florida."



James Gower

junior
Keenan

"Going home."



AJ Radman

senior
Zahm

"Wait out the storms in Utah."



Tom Bodart

senior
Zahm

"Riding horses, skiing and generally makin' a ruckus."



Amelia Kirk

fifth-year
Fischer Grad

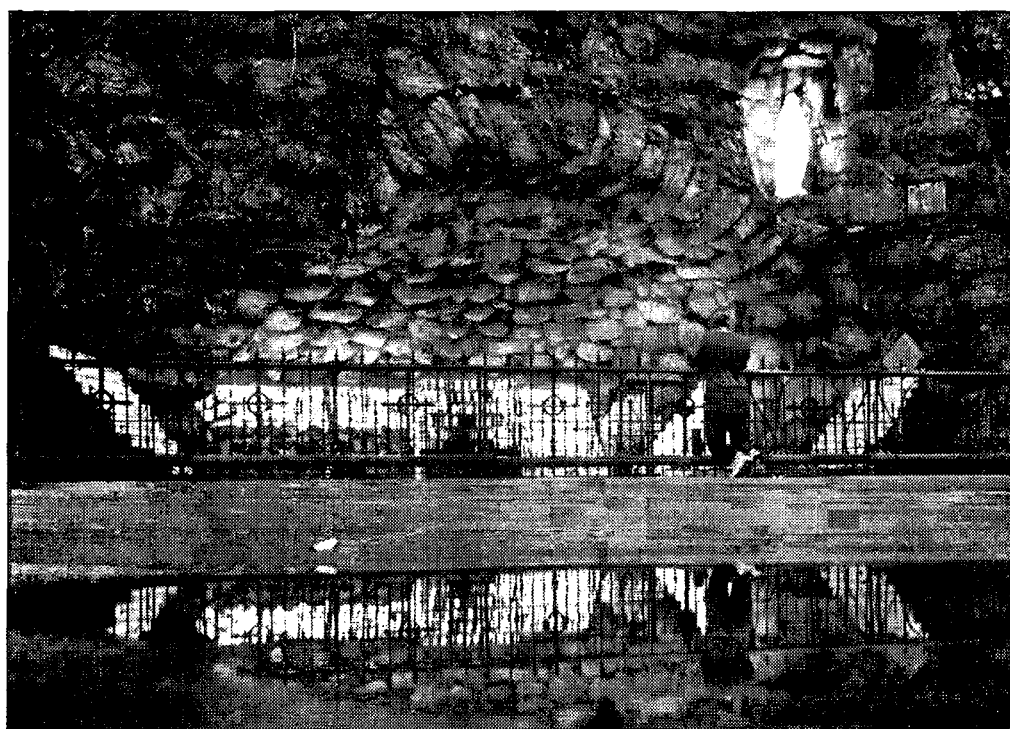
"Going to an island in Alabama."



Talia Bearce

fifth-year
Fischer Grad

"Going to St. Louis to visit family."



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

A visitor pauses for reflection at the Grotto Thursday.

OFFBEAT

Dog survives after fall into icy channel

GRAND HAVEN, Mich. — A dog that was presumed drowned after falling into an icy river channel that feeds Lake Michigan was found alive hours later and returned to its grateful owner.

Robert Chavez was walking two of his dogs alongside the Grand River around 10:30 a.m. Tuesday when his German shepherd fell into the channel and broke through the ice.

The ice prevented Chavez from getting the dog out of the water, so he ran to a nearby home and called 911. When he returned to the river, he

could not find the dog.

Officers from the Public Safety Department and the Coast Guard station searched, but they also could not find the animal.

Around 9:45 p.m., a woman reported that she and her friends had heard a dog barking as they walked along the channel's south pier.

Cat comforts grieving orangutan at zoo

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. — Tondalayo, a 45-year-old Sumatran orangutan, and T.J., a stray tabby cat, became an inseparable duo after a zoo employee introduced them late last year.

Stephanie Willard,

Education Director at Zoo World in Panama City Beach, said Tondalayo was depressed since losing her mate two years ago.

Her age prevented her from moving to another zoo or taking another mate. The ducks and turtles swimming in a moat around her island were not enough, Willard told the Panama City News Herald for Thursday's editions.

When the sweet-natured orange cat wandered into Willard's life, the solution became clear.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Spring break begins March 11 and ends March 19.

The film "Pride and Prejudice" will be shown at 7 and 10 p.m. today in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Call 1-2800 for tickets.

The conference "Health Care in an Increasingly Health-Obsessed Culture" continues today and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in McKenna Hall.

Dr. Paul McHugh of Johns Hopkins University will deliver the keynote address for the conference "Health Care in an Increasingly Health-Obsessed Culture" tonight from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. in McKenna Hall Auditorium. McHugh will speak on "How a Psychiatrist Approaches the Illusion of Technique in Health Care Delivery Today."

The women's tennis team will face Western Michigan at 3:30 p.m. today at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The film "Nashville" is showing Saturday at 3 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. It is playing as part of the PAC Classic 100. Tickets are \$3 for students.

The film "Ushpizin" is showing Saturday at 7 and 10 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$3 for students.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 49	HIGH 46	HIGH 63	HIGH 55	HIGH 50	HIGH 46
	LOW 45	LOW 45	LOW 45	LOW 38	LOW 40	LOW 30

Atlanta 71 / 51 Boston 43 / 42 Chicago 49 / 35 Denver 49 / 25 Houston 83 / 54 Los Angeles 63 / 46 Minneapolis 42 / 30 New York 52 / 46 Philadelphia 54 / 48 Phoenix 72 / 50 Seattle 44 / 32 St. Louis 63 / 43 Tampa 77 / 62 Washington 62 / 48

'Bookstore' registration begins



A student goes up for a shot in last year's Bookstore Basketball Tournament. Registration for this year's tournament began this week and ends on March 19.

By RYAN SYDLIK
News Writer

March Madness isn't reserved for just the NCAA tournament.

Bookstore Basketball, the world's largest outdoor five-on-five basketball tournament, is only weeks away.

Registration began this week for the five-on-five tournament, which will kick-off April 4 and end with Championship Day April 30. Teams can sign-up online at <http://nd.edu/~bkstr> until 11:59 p.m. on March 19.

Senior Luke Maher, Bookstore Basketball commissioner, said he has high hopes for the level of participation.

"We have ambitious goals for the tournament," Maher said. "We would like to see 700 teams sign up, which

amounts to 3,500 people."

Maher said during the past few years between 600 and 650 teams have registered.

He is "hoping that we can get the campus to come out in even greater force this year."

Though the organizers of Bookstore Basketball do not discuss the monetary figures from past tournaments or the upcoming tournament in detail, Maher said the group is "able to donate a good amount of money to the Jumpball organization."

Jumpball is a charity that organizes free basketball camps for underprivileged Jamaican youth to provide an alternative to drugs and violence in their neighborhoods. Jumpball camps are also important because they focus on teaching kids life skills such as leadership, communication, teamwork and dedication, Maher said.

The Jumpball organization was started in 1995 when volunteers from the Notre Dame Alumni Club in Jamaica recognized the need for youth development through sports within inner-city Kingston.

Bookstore Basketball began asking its participants to give to Jumpball in 2002, but didn't make an official donation until 2005.

And though the tournament raises money for a good cause, it is still a time for students to enjoy sports and the spring.

Maher said he and the rest of the Bookstore Basketball staff are very excited for the 2006 session of the tournament.

"We're all ready to get into action out at the courts," he said.

Contact Ryan Sydlík at rsydlík@nd.edu

SMC juniors consider housing opportunities

By LAURA BAUMGARTNER
News Writer

Senior year is a time for many students to start preparing for life in the real world as most begin searching for jobs and seek more independence by moving off-campus. For some seniors, however, off-campus housing is not an option, and Saint Mary's accommodates these students with unique living opportunities in Opus Apartments and Annunciata Hall.

Apartments in Opus are limited and now that the room selection process for the residence halls is beginning, seniors who were not selected in the lottery for Opus are assessing other options — like living in Annunciata.

Annunciata is the fourth floor of Holy Cross Hall, which is exclusively open to members of the senior class.

The floor was established the fall semester of 1995 after Augusta Hall — a dorm that was traditionally open solely to seniors — was closed.

"[Augusta] Hall, which is part of the convent, used to house all seniors," Michelle Russell, director of Residence Life, said. "After it closed, the College still wanted to offer seniors a unique living opportunity. Therefore the fourth floor of Holy Cross was opened to just seniors and it was called Annunciata."

The floor is named after Mother M. Annunciata McSheffery, who was the Directress of the Academy at Saint Mary's in 1872 and the Superior General of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1892. A picture of McSheffery and a plaque hang on the wall of the Annunciata lounge mark the dedication of the floor on Feb. 4, 1996.

"The purpose of having a floor like Annunciata is the same as having an apartment building just for seniors," Russell said. "You want to offer them something unique and give them the privilege of living with only members of their class. It creates a special community on the floor that I believe seniors have been very happy with."

Many students view living in Annunciata as an opportunity to form stronger bonds with members of their class during their last year at Saint Mary's.

"I think that if I were to live off-campus or even in Opus that I would feel too disconnected from campus," junior Katie Osmack said.

The unique environment Annunciata presents Saint Mary's students also offers a very different experience for the resident assistants (RAs) who serve the floor.

"I served as RA on the second floor of Holy Cross last year and really valued the experience and knowledge gained from the position," senior Shannon Culbertson said. "My section last year was mostly juniors and sophomores, so it is a change to have only seniors."

"Generally, the seniors in my section need less day to day guidance, but we all rely on each other for community and sharing experiences," she said.

More freedom and less guid-

ance is something many seniors look for when considering their options for housing. However, the independence of moving off-campus offers is not an option for all students.

"I applied for Opus Hall and did not get in, which was very hard for my friend and I who had hoped to live there for some time," junior Lauren Knisley said. "Related to finances and financial aid taking a significant amount of money away from my grants if I move off campus, I am considering Annunciata."

Knisley said while she enjoyed living in Holy Cross her freshman year, she is not as excited about living in the dorm as a senior, especially since many of her friends will be moving off-campus.

"I was really looking forward to living in an off-campus like environment because it allowed me to have that sense of independence that all seniors need and deserve. I am ready to grow up and pay utility bills, cook my own meals, and go my own way, but I suppose that will have to wait for another year," she said.

While Annunciata does not offer as much freedom as some seniors would prefer, it does have other advantages, including a reputation for being a quieter environment than other residence hall floors. Many members of the senior class are required to wake up early for student teaching, nursing or other jobs, making a quieter living space more desirable.

"Generally, the hallway is similar to the other floors in Holy Cross. At times it is quieter because there are many people living in singles who are on different schedules with student teaching, internships and field placements," Culbertson said.

The floor's other attractions include access to a lounge featuring couches and a big screen television, another lounge equipped with a microwave and refrigerator and unlike the limited access granted to other Holy Cross residents, Annunciata residents are able to enter the dorm through the side door 24 hours a day.

Having a floor with only seniors also offers another unique social factor.

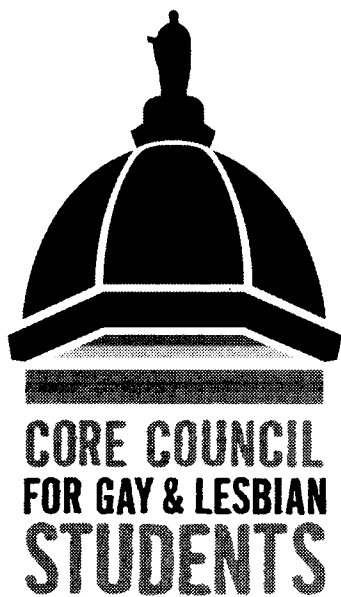
"After all of the residents turn 21, there is the opportunity for section events with alcohol, monitored closely by the RAs," Culbertson said.

While some students view living in Annunciata as a senior privilege, others do not find the environment desirable.

"When I didn't get into Opus my friend and I went to look at Annunciata with high expectations, because many of our friends had told us that it was the best place for seniors to live on campus," junior Kelly McDavitt said. "After evaluating the floor we were very disappointed. It was dark, the rooms were smaller than we had expected, everyone had their doors closed and we didn't see anyone in the hallway."

"Overall we just didn't feel there were many advantages to living up there," she said.

Contact Laura Baumgartner at lbaumg01@saintmarys.edu



The former "Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs" is expanding and seeking new undergraduate student members, regardless of sexual orientation. The newly structured council, the

Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students
is now accepting applications.

Applications are available in the Office of Student Affairs (316 Main Building)

or on the Core Council web site

<http://corecouncil.nd.edu/>

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday,
March 28, 2006, and can be submitted to the
Office of Student Affairs.

Please visit our web site for more information.

Safety

continued from page 1

valuables and locking them up on campus and at other sites," Ferguson said. "I don't know how well the security system actually works. There was no physical evidence of any broken windows or anything. It's kind of a mystery."

On campus, Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) is responsible for keeping residence halls safe.

"We continue to maintain patrols of the campus and recognize that during the period of break there will be fewer students on campus so we'll be particularly watchful," said Phil Johnson, associate director of NDSP. "But we also realize that some students will be staying on campus and we encourage them and hall staff to be vigilant."

Johnson also recommended that students should try not to leave valuables in their rooms over break and should lock the doors and windows before they leave. Johnson cited windows as an especially big concern.

Johnson also gave advice to students who were going to "typical spring break extravaganzas."

"You certainly have to be mindful about what measures are appropriate for your destination. Some students go on service trips, but for those who go to places like Florida and Texas, don't leave anybody behind, make sure you know where your friends are, take care of each other, monitor your alcohol and follow the law," Johnson said.

"Students will meet people they don't know, and they need to be careful about leaving their valuables out on the beach if they're distracted by someone."

"Students will meet people they don't know, and they need to be careful about leaving their valuables out on the beach if they're distracted by someone."

Phil Johnson
NDSP associate director

looks at student conduct, no matter where the student is." "Our expectation of students to be good citizens follows them wherever they go," Johnson said.

Contact Peter Ninneman at pninnema@nd.edu

ACE

continued from page 1

public schooling, she is very supportive of private and Catholic education.

Spellings was born in Michigan and moved to Houston, Texas at a young age. She graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in political science and previously worked as then-Governor George W. Bush's senior advisor, expanding and implementing Bush's education policy.

ACE faculty, teachers and graduates will be present for her speech at the 2 p.m. ceremony in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

Staud said he hopes Spellings will not only "inspire graduates to devote their energies directly

to children," but also become increasingly familiarized with the program and give advice to ACE faculty.

According to Staud, ACE graduation is held in July to allow the teachers to complete their classroom work and return to Notre Dame to commemorate their two years of service work across the nation with their families.

"This ceremony will celebrate the achievement of the 88 graduates," Staud said. "Spellings' address will better emphasize the value and importance of this profession."

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

Zahm

continued from page 1

Most of the fruit and vomit fell in the vicinity of Keenan rector Father Mark Thesing's windows, he said in the email, a copy of which was obtained by The Observer.

Parrish declined comment for this story, and NDSP associate director Phil Johnson told The Observer he would not talk about any "ongoing investigation."

A Zahm resident — who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of repercussions related to the survey — said he received the document "about Feb. 3."

"I was just coming back from the gym and an NDSP detective came to my room and handed [the survey] to me," he said. "She explained that I had to answer the questions and that she was doing an investigation. That is all she would really tell me — not why or for what purpose."

The source said he was given the survey because his name was "randomly mentioned by someone," and knew of about six other people who were also given the survey. It was collected "about Feb. 10," he said.

"[NDSP] wants scapegoats and they will find them," the resident said.

The Observer obtained a copy of the eight-page survey, which had the business card for NDSP investigator Laurie L. Steffen stapled to its front. Steffen would not comment on the survey and referred to Johnson.

The first page of the document outlined explicit instructions for respondents to follow while taking the survey and asked them to "realize" a list of statements before they began answering questions.

"Every word is important and each one might be checked later on," the survey stated. "This is not a draft and you have only one chance to write down the answers. So, before you write we would like you to think as to how you are going to phrase your answers."

The final item on the list of preliminary instructions admonished respondents against "making corrections on the questionnaire" in spaces other than those "provided for that purpose." Corrections would be taken into consideration, the survey read.

"It said, 'Would I like to change my answers?'" the Zahm resi-

dent said. "That question doesn't even make sense. Why would I go about filling out the whole survey and then change my answers saying that I lied?"

The questionnaire asked residents to share any knowledge they might have pertaining to the "Fruit and Vomit incident" and write in details "ideas that would account for it."

"Tell us what happened on Jan. 28 covering from the time you woke up until the time you ended the day," the questionnaire read, leaving nearly an entire page blank for response.

Directly addressing the issue, the survey asked if respondents knew who was involved in the incident, what the causes were and if they had any part in the fruit and vomit found on Keenan Hall.

The survey also asked respondents to "list the five most important causes that could have created this situation" and how they might go about conducting the investigation.

"I think [the survey] was the right way [to conduct the investigation] if they were on a witch hunt looking for specific people to get in trouble," the Zahm resident said.

"However, I feel like most people didn't have much information because it was like two weeks after [the incident]. Most answers were probably vague."

The final page of the questionnaire included eight questions — some of which asked respondents to assess their own psychological states.

"How do you feel now that you have completed this form?" the survey read. "While filling out this form what were your emotions? ... Were you afraid while completing this form?"

The Zahm resident said such questions about emotional states made the investigation of the incident "seem like a murder case."

"To tell you the truth, it didn't change my emotions," he said.

The survey also asked NDSP should believe the answers provided and imagine what they

would say "if it was later determined that [they] lied on the form."

The Zahm resident who received the document maintained he "didn't actually do anything to Keenan" and said NDSP blew the situation "beyond out of proportion."

"This is college," he said. "It should be noted that no one had malicious intentions. It was a simple prank. I think that NDSP and ResLife should learn the good old saying, 'Boys will be boys.'"

In a Feb. 6 letter to the editor submitted to The Observer, Zahm Hall publicly apologized for the incident with the intent to "call attention to a group that dissents from [the Zahm] family."

"It's time to set the record straight," said the letter signed by the "Men of Zahm Hall."

The letter listed the positive aspects of the hall's reputation, but firmly said such things have

been made obsolete "in light of what [the dorm's] reputation has become."

"It doesn't matter how many activities we participate in or how well we do in competitions," the letter stated. "What matters is our biggest cause for pride, our reputation,

has slowly digressed into a cause for other dorms to hate us and ridicule us and for this wonderful University to look down on us and discipline us."

Discipline Zahm's damaged image on a minority of residents, the letter said a silent majority "has done little to stop" incidents like the one on Jan. 28.

"We ... want to express our deepest apologies for our continued disrespectful behavior. We're sorry for giving you all the reasons you need to hate Zahm," the letter said, promising to "move forward in a positive way."

National Association for Police Organizations communications director Gene Deere said she was "not aware" of any overseeing institutions or guidelines regarding such investigative surveys on college campuses.

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu



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WORLD & NATION

Friday, March 10, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Armed man seizes student hostages

LE MANS, France — A former teacher armed with a handgun and reportedly suffering from depression took up to 22 hostages Thursday, most of them students, in a high school classroom, police said.

A school receptionist said the former teacher had promised not to harm the students, ages 16 to 18, who were held in an upper-floor study hall.

The receptionist, Bernadette Mercier, told The Associated Press that the former teacher had been "very, very depressed" two years ago because of personal problems and now was apparently seeking work.

Authorities gave conflicting accounts of how many hostages were taken. The local governing body said 20 students and two school employees had been taken, while police in Le Mans said 18 of the hostages were students.

Women's rights activists suppressed

TEHRAN, Iran — Police armed with batons charged into about 200 mostly female demonstrators demanding equal rights for women in a Tehran park, beating protesters, witnesses said Thursday.

An international rights group accused Iran of using violence to suppress peaceful protest.

"The attack on women's rights activists highlights the Iranian government's consistent policy of suppressing freedom of association and assembly," Human Rights Watch said in a statement issued by its head office in New York.

The protest Wednesday afternoon in Daneshjoo Park was largely ignored by Thursday's media, and the two reports that did appear — one on a Web site and the other in a small-circulation paper — did not mention the police charge.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush signs renewal of Patriot Act

WASHINGTON — After a long battle with Congress that went down to the wire, President Bush signed a renewal of the USA Patriot Act on Thursday, a day before 16 major provisions of the old law expire.

Bush said the Patriot Act is vital to win the war on terror and protect Americans. He recalled the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and said the country is still at war.

"We saw the terrorists' destructive vision for us when they killed nearly 3,000 men, women and children," Bush said. "In the face of this ruthless threat, our nation has made a clear choice — we will confront this mortal danger, we will stay on the offensive and we're not going to wait to be attacked again."

Iraq must use own security forces

WASHINGTON — Dealing with a civil war in Iraq would be the responsibility of Iraq's own security forces, at least initially, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told Congress on Thursday.

Testifying alongside senior military leaders and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Rumsfeld said he did not believe Iraq would descend into all-out civil war, though he acknowledged that sectarian strife had worsened.

Gen. John Abizaid, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East, said the situation in Iraq had evolved to the point where Sunni-Shiite violence was more of a threat to U.S. success there than the insurgency.

LOCAL NEWS

Two charged with killing women

MARION — Prosecutors charged two men in a grisly shooting last month that killed two women in their Westside apartment and sent their bloodied children running into the night for help.

Royal Amos, 26, and Howard Harris, 22, are charged with murder in the women's deaths and four counts of attempted murder in the injuries of four children, ages 2 to 10, who were in the apartment.

Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi said Wednesday that investigators found blood from one of the victims on Amos' jacket.

Dubai company to give up stake

Opposition in Congress causes firm to rethink quest to control U.S. ports

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bowing to ferocious opposition in Congress, a Dubai-owned company signaled surrender Thursday in its quest to take over operations at U.S. ports.

"DP World will transfer fully the U.S. operations ... to a United States entity," the firm's top executive, H. Edward Bilkey, said in an announcement that capped weeks of controversy.

Relieved Republicans in Congress said the firm had pledged full divestiture, a decision that one senator said had been approved personally by the prime minister of the United Arab Emirates.

"The devil is in the details," said Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, reflecting a sentiment expressed by numerous critics of the deal.

The announcement appeared to indicate an end to a politically tinged controversy that brought President Bush and Republicans in Congress to the brink of an election-year veto battle on a terrorism-related issue. The White House expressed satisfaction with the outcome.

"It does provide a way forward and resolve the matter," presidential spokesman Scott McClellan said.

"We have a strong relationship with the UAE and a good partnership in the global war on terrorism and I think their decision reflects the importance of our broader relationship," he said.

A leading congressional critic of the ports deal, Rep. Peter King, applauded the decision but said he and others would wait to see the details. "It would have to be an American company with no links to DP World, and that would be a tremendous victory and very gratifying," said the New York Republican, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee.

"This should make the



In the midst of questions about U.S. port controls, Longshoreman unload wood pulp from a cargo ship Thursday at the Tioga Marine Terminal Port in Philadelphia.

issue go away," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. The Tennessee Republican was one of several GOP leaders to tell President Bush earlier in the day that Congress was ready to ignore his veto threat and scuttle the deal.

Several Republican officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Frist and Sen. John Warner, R-Va., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, had been privately urging the firm to give up its plans.

After weeks of controversy — and White House veto threats that spokesman Scott McClellan renewed at midmorning Thursday — the end came unexpectedly.

The House Appropriations

Committee voted 62-2 on Wednesday to block the deal, and GOP congressional leaders privately informed the president Thursday morning that the Senate would inevitably follow suit. Senate Democrats clamored for a vote, increasing pressure on Senate Republicans to abandon the president.

The firm finalized its \$6.8 billion purchase Thursday of Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co., the British firm that through a U.S. subsidiary runs important port operations in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia. It also plays a lesser role in dockside activities at 16 other American ports.

Despite the furor, the company's U.S. operations were never the most prized part of the global transaction. DP World valued its rival's American operations at less than 10 percent of the nearly \$7 billion total purchase.

But that portion of the deal set off a political chain of events unlike any other in Bush's five years in office. Republicans denounced the deal, saying they were worried about the effects it would have on efforts to make ports safer from terrorist threats. Democrats did likewise, and capitalized on the issue as well as a way to narrow the polling gap with the GOP on issues of national security.

IRAQ

U.S. to transfer prisoners to Iraqis

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military said Thursday it would begin moving thousands of prisoners out of Abu Ghraib prison to a new lockup near Baghdad's airport within three months and hand the notorious facility over to Iraqi authorities as soon as possible.

Abu Ghraib has become perhaps the most infamous prison in the world, known as the site where U.S. soldiers abused some Iraqi detainees and, earlier, for its torture chambers during Saddam Hussein's rule.

The sprawling facility on the western outskirts of Baghdad will be turned over to Iraqi authorities once the prisoner transfer to Camp Cropper and other U.S. military prisons in the country is finished. The process will take several months, said Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad.

Abu Ghraib currently houses 4,537 out of the 14,589 detainees held by the U.S. military in the country. Iraqi authorities also hold prisoners at Abu Ghraib, though it is not known how many.

The U.S. government initially spoke

of tearing down Abu Ghraib after it became a symbol of the scandal. Widely publicized photographs of prisoner abuse by American military guards and interrogators led to intense global criticism of the U.S. war in Iraq and helped fuel the Sunni Arab insurgency.

But Abu Ghraib was kept in service after the Iraqi government objected. Planning for the new facility at Camp Cropper began in 2004, Johnson said.

Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the U.S. wants to turn Abu Ghraib over to the Iraqis as fast as possible.

Break

continued from page 1

week in Cozumel, Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, Acapulco and Cancun. Some students worked with Anthony Travel and booked reservations at resort in the Bahamas and Jamaica, Carr said.

However, he said Mexico is the most popular location, since it is usually less expensive than the Caribbean, and Mexican resorts and hotels often offer a variety of all-inclusive packages.

Anthony, who has been running the travel agency since 1991, said he finds the change in spring break trends over the years interesting.

"What used to be bus trips to Florida became charter flights to Cancun which has now become cruises," Anthony said.

Senior Katie Hanafin made plans through Anthony Travel to go on a week-long Carnival Cruise to the Caribbean with

three of her friends. They plan to spend Saturday night in Miami, Hanafin said, and then leave on the ship Sunday.

Hanafin said she was told Anthony Travel reserved a group of cabins on the ship, so a large group of Notre Dame students is expected to be aboard. The ship makes three stops

at Costa M a y a , G r a n d Cayman and Ochos Rios.

"This will be my first spring break that I've taken with a large group of friends," she said. "I can't wait to get by the pool and relax in the sun. I might even splurge and get a massage ... why not?"

Many students, however,

"This will be my first spring break that I've taken with a large group of friends. I can't wait to get by the pool and relax in the sun. I might even splurge and get a massage ... why not?"

Katie Hanafin
senior

arranged their own break plans and are using the time to travel and visit with friends. Sophomore Corey Collins is from Vero Beach, Florida, a small beach town on the coast. She said she plans to go home for the break and bring her roommates along.

"The weather at home is predicted to be 75 or 80 [degrees] — [a] perfect time for people to come visit Florida," Collins said.

Other students intend to visit relatives during the break. Junior Emily Weisbecker will be flying to Green Valley, Ariz. to visit her grandmother, she said.

"I've gone on more exciting spring break trips before and I usually end up needing a

break from the break by the end," Weisbecker said of her relatively low-key plans. "So, I'm looking forward to the chance to sleep and see the sun."

There are yet other students who have made some rather unconventional spring break plans. Instead of the usual Mexico experience, senior James Fink will go on an adventure of another type. He said he plans to go camping in the lower Appalachians in Ga. with a group of friends.

Fink describes himself as an "avid camper" and said, "I've been camping on the last four or five mid-semester breaks. I've been itching to get into the woods since it first started thawing."

Like Fink, sophomore Kevin Faist also has plans for a dif-

ferent type of spring break trip. He said he, along with eight members of the Notre Dame Climbing Club, will fly to Smith Rock, Ore. to rock climb.

Though they welcome the break from classes and routine, some students will be remaining on campus next week. Senior Luke Hoover, a manager for the women's basketball team, will be staying on campus in order to fulfill his responsibilities to the squad.

"I'll be spending my spring break like a real man ... writing poetry and doing laundry for 10 women," Hoover said.

Emily Weisbecker
junior

"I've gone on more exciting spring break trips before and I usually end up needing a break from the break by the end."

Contact Maureen Mullen at
mmullen1@nd.edu

Service

continued from page 1

Seminar has attracted 150 participants who "will serve and learn at 16 sites in the Appalachian regions of Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and Tennessee," according to the press release.

The L'Arche Community Seminar allows students to live amongst the disabled for the week. The CSC's Migrant Experiences Seminar similarly exposes students to the lifestyle of migrant workers by having them live and work among migrants in Florida.

The Holy Cross Mission Seminar in Coachella is a program co-sponsored with Campus Ministry and "will explore ministries of the Congregation of the Holy Cross in the Coachella region of California," according to CSC's press release.

The Children and Poverty Seminar will expose 13 students to the issues of youth, risk and poverty in New York City, visiting UNICEF and other agencies, said the release.

New to the CSC's spring break service learning agenda is a trip entitled "Environmental Justice and Human Rights in the Aftermath of Katrina." This seminar was designed by Najarian Peters, a graduate student from New Orleans, and is supported by the CSC and the Department of Africana Studies as well as a donor, said Angela Miller McGraw, director of the Appalachia Seminar and educational immersions for the CSC.

Peters, along with nine other students, will explore environmental and human rights issues prominent in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

All CSC seminars are programs not only about service, but also about learning, McGraw said.

"They are immersion experiences that require preparatory work and study and function in a way that makes the world our classroom," McGraw said.

Though the CSC provides interested students with a diverse mix of several projects to choose from, other individual students and student groups have taken the initiative to organize their own spring break service projects.

Notre Dame College Democrats have, like Peters, coordinated a group trip to the Gulf Coast taking them to New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Their trip will join with "Opportunity Rocks 2006: Rebuilding the Gulf Coast" —

a program for college students from across the country to travel to the New Orleans area and join former Senator John Edwards in helping to clean up and rebuild in the aftermath of Katrina, said the ND College Democrat's press release.

Another New Orleans trip has been organized by sophomore Caity Schneeman. Schneeman

traveled to New Orleans over winter break with a group of friends and did reconstruction service work. Stirred by her experience there, she decided to return and continue to volunteer, teaming up with Catholic Charities in the rebuilding effort. This time, she's joined by an even larger group of students than before.

Schneeman said this spring break trip has been made possible by grants from the University and support from the Notre Dame alumni club of New Orleans.

"When we left [after the winter break trip] I felt like I was abandoning [New Orleans]," Schneeman said. "I needed to bring the story of New Orleans to Notre Dame because it seems that we forget what happened there so quickly."

"Now that we're returning with more volunteers than before, I do see how important it was for me to tell people here about my experience in New Orleans and then bring help back."

Contact Maureen Mullen at
mmullen1@nd.edu

ECDC 2006-07 Registration


The Early Childhood Development Center at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame (ECDC) is currently registering for the 2006 Summer program and the 2006-07 School Year.

Registration Due Dates:

2/15/06	2006-07 Kindergarten Registration
3/1/06	2006 Summer Program
4/3/06	2006-07 School Year

For more information please call ECDC-SMC: 284-4693 or ECDC-ND: 631-3344.






MEN'S LACROSSE
Saturday, March 11
vs. North Carolina
at 1:00pm

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GAMES

SCOUT DAY
WE'RE CALLING OUT ALL BOY SCOUTS TO COME TO THE GAME!

The first 200 fans will receive a Notre Dame Lacrosse glass sponsored by



WOMEN'S LACROSSE
Sunday, March 11
vs. James Madison at Noon

SUMMER CAMP REUNION/ SCOUT DAY

We're calling out all former campers and girl scouts to come out to the game!

ALL GAMES WILL BE HELD AT THE LOFTUS SPORTS CENTER

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,972.28	-33.46	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
1,453	165	1,769	2,110,181,890

AMEX	1,869.69	+12.75
NASDAQ	2,249.72	-17.74
NYSE	8,007.83	-18.26
S&P 500	1,272.23	-6.24
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	16,036.91	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	5,855.90	+43.00

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	-0.86	-0.35	40.52
JDS UNIPHASE CP (JDSU)	+1.33	+0.05	3.80
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	+3.68	+0.16	4.51
INTEL CP (INTC)	-1.30	-0.26	19.75
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	-0.16	-0.02	12.84

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.08	-0.04	47.30
13-WEEK BILL	-0.22	-0.10	44.75
30-YEAR BOND	-0.13	-0.06	47.17
5-YEAR NOTE	0.00	0.00	47.46

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.45		60.47
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+2.70		547.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.70		85.88

Exchange Rates			
YEN			118.1750
EURO			0.8392
POUND			0.5759
CANADIAN \$			1.1608

IN BRIEF

Knight Ridder auction winds down

NEW YORK — The auction process for Knight Ridder Inc., which winds down this week, is a moment of reckoning for the newspaper industry, a time when one of their biggest players will find out just what others are willing to pay for it.

However, the bidding also presents a thorny dilemma for newspaper companies themselves as they prepare their final offers, which are due on Thursday, for the publisher whose 32 daily newspapers include the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Miami Herald and the San Jose Mercury News.

If big newspaper owners such as Gannett Co. don't step up and make what investors believe to be a strong bid, pessimists might take it as a sign of waning confidence in the future prospects of an industry that many already believe to be in decline. On the other hand, paying a rich price could also lead investors to punish the acquiring company. "It's a Catch-22," says Merrill Lynch newspaper analyst Lauren Rich Fine.

Americans not working as late in life

WASHINGTON — Fifty years ago, nearly half of American men 65 and older were still working. Today, only about one in five remains in the work force.

Some of the reasons, according to a government report Thursday: the growth in private pensions, Social Security and Medicare benefits. As benefits for older Americans grew in the last half of the 20th century, fewer saw the need to work beyond 65.

"Not too long ago, people, particularly men, worked until they were physically unable to work," said Robert Friedland, director of the Center on an Aging Society at Georgetown University. "Now, people have a period of time to which they are looking forward."

Women in general are working in much larger numbers than they used to, but among those 65 and older, those staying on the job has remained steady at around 10 percent since 1950.

The findings are part of a report thick with statistics on America's elderly, called "65+ in the United States: 2005." It was commissioned by the National Institute on Aging and compiled by the Census Bureau.

Stocks surrender early gains

Wall Street closes lower despite Japan's central bank move; unemployment fears rise

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street surrendered early gains and closed lower Thursday as a higher U.S. trade deficit and questions about the labor market squelched enthusiasm over a policy change at the Bank of Japan.

The market was cheered after the Japanese central bank signaled an end to its current interest rate policy, set in place five years ago to fight inflation and also lift a sagging economy. The new policy, focused less on rising prices and more on Japan's growing economic strength, encouraged U.S. investors worried about the Federal Reserve's stance on interest rates and inflation.

"Now you have the Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank and the Federal Reserve all with the same interest rate policy, and that's very positive," said Peter Cardillo, chief strategist, and senior vice president at S.W. Bach & Co. "It's a strong indication that global central bankers will contain inflation and not necessarily choke off economic activity, which has been a big concern here."

However, the session's gains slipped away by early afternoon as investors focused on increasing unemployment claims, which climbed above the 300,000 mark for the first time in eight weeks, and awaited the Labor Department's monthly job creation report, due Friday. A new record for the nation's trade gap also darkened investors' mood, which has soured in recent days amid continued uncertainty over the economy and the Fed's interest rate policy.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 33.46, or 0.3 percent, to 10,972.28.

Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 6.24, or 0.49 percent, to 1,272.23, and the Nasdaq composite index dropped



Japanese businessmen walk by the Bank of Japan headquarters Thursday after an announcement that the central bank was moving.

17.74, or 0.78 percent, to 2,249.72.

In the bond market, prices moderated as the yields on long-term Treasuries began to outpace shorter-term notes. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note was steady at 4.73 percent from late Wednesday. The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices rose.

Crude oil futures moved higher, but remain more than \$2 per barrel lower from last Friday's trading. A barrel of light crude settled at \$60.47, up 45 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Investors were somewhat uneasy as they awaited the

monthly job creation report, due Friday. The state of the labor market could give Wall Street insight into wage inflation — a key component of the Fed's interest rate policy.

"The market is preparing for a pretty good bounce in employment," said Michael Strauss, chief economist for Commonfund. "What that means, though, is some more concern about inflation as demand increases."

The Fed doesn't meet until the end of the month, giving investors time to worry about individual economic reports and likely preventing a sharp move higher in stocks until then.

Dow industrial General Motors Corp. added 92

cents to \$21.34 as The Wall Street Journal reported that GM and bankrupt auto parts maker Delphi Corp. are close to a cost-cutting labor agreement. Such an agreement would avoid a possible strike at Delphi that could cripple GM's production. The UAW strongly disputed the report, however.

Google Inc. said it will pay up to \$90 million to settle a lawsuit that claimed the company overcharged advertising customers for Internet sales referrals, a "click-fraud" that involved Google's ad service users clicking on other companies' ads simply to drive up their own revenues. Google fell \$10.88 to \$343.

Biotech launches huge drug trial

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — It's tragedy enough that Pat Williams' mother has Alzheimer's disease. But Williams is also terrified because her chances of inheriting the disease are much better than average.

So Williams eagerly enrolled her 90-year-old mother last year in a massive, 1,600-patient, 18-month clinical trial testing an experimental drug made by the biotechnology company Myriad Genetics Inc. The drug, called Flurizan, slowed the mind-robbing disease in some of the 128 patients with mild Alzheimer's participating in a smaller test.

Based on those results, the company

has gambled millions of research dollars on the largest-ever Alzheimer's drug trial. It aims to win an intense, international race among several biotech companies to find the first effective treatment to at least slow the disease's progression in the 4.5 million Americans who suffer from it.

Analysts predict the market for such a drug could reach \$4 billion annually by 2013 and success for Myriad would lift the company's fortunes considerably. The Salt Lake City company is now best known for drilling deep into the Mormon community's detailed genetic history to develop a popular breast cancer test.

Myriad's Alzheimer's drug wasn't effective for patients with moderate

forms of the disease, so the company is targeting patients who have just been diagnosed. Scientists are also using the latest in brain imaging and genetic technology to develop tests to find people like Williams who have above-average chances of coming down the disease.

"I'm hoping they will have a miracle pill so that I won't contract it," said Williams, who lives in Boston.

At least two other companies are hot on Myriad's tail.

Neurochem Inc., a Quebec company, has enrolled about 1,000 patients in its late-stage human test; and Ireland-based Elan Pharmaceuticals is almost as far in development with its own candidate.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

Friday, March 10, 2006

THE OBSERVER

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Gilloon.

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Spring break a service to the community

With midterms behind them and anticipation building for a week filled with fun in the sun — or on the couch at home — students are leaving in droves for spring break. But this year, a greater number are leaving the University with a different purpose in mind from the spring break norm — service around the nation and the world.

The Center for Social Concerns has led the charge, offering students the opportunity to participate in various seminars around the country — including New Orleans, still recovering from hurricane damage. The CSC Appalachia Seminar, one of the most popular opportunities, has drawn 150 participants this year. All of these CSC seminars are touted as programs devoted to learning as well as service. Organizers even referred to their primary goal to “make the world a classroom.”

College is a stepping point to the real world, offering lessons in how to live as well as how to learn. With all the papers, tests and presentations that consume our everyday lives, it becomes all the more important to consider another Notre Dame responsibility, one that falls outside the borders of DeBartolo Hall and the Hesburgh Library — a life of service.

Notre Dame students are certainly no strangers to serv-

ice projects or helping local communities. They've poured in hours of time and effort in high school and college, balancing a full courseload while generously giving their time.

The phrase “Catholic character” has been used in academic forums and campus discussions countless times this semester. The University's commitment to service opportunities continues to be a defining characteristic of this phrase. As one of the world's leading Catholic universities, Notre Dame has always expected its graduates to give generously of their time and resources — and continues to do so.

After a long eight weeks of school, you can't fault students for wanting to return home to family members or travel with friends. They've earned the rest. But those who have chosen to devote what little vacation time they have in service to others should be commended. It's a reflection of the University's high goals for its students. By fostering a social responsibility that tempers all the talents our students show every day in the classroom, the Notre Dame community continues to abundantly display the “Catholic character” that we have all heard so much about.

The Observer Editorial

A great day for the Irish

Here at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame we celebrate the Irish all year long. Still, St. Patrick's Day remains one of the most anticipated holidays on the calendar for many students. Typically, St. Paddy's Day conjures up notions of shamrocks, green beer, corned beef and cabbage, bagpipes and a little bit of luck. Today, virtually every American city with a sizeable Irish population is preparing for some sort of festivities in honor of Ireland's patron saint. Typically, this will include a parade, and it will likely be accompanied by traditional music, plenty of Guinness specials at local pubs and hangovers that last well into St. Joseph's Day.

While America's St. Patrick's Day tends to have more in common with a college football tailgate than a religious holiday, people in Ireland still manage to celebrate the holiday with an eye toward its spiritual significance. Across the pond, St. Patrick's day is a national holiday. Traditionally, it is a day for prayers, spiritual renewal and an examination of faith. Before the first drop of Jameson's finds its way into a glass, many Irish have already begun their day with a trip to Mass. But make no mistake about it: the Irish have their fun too.

Although we all know people who count down the days to St. Paddy's Day on their calendars, many people probably don't know why we choose to remember St. Patrick and why we celebrate his life on March 17th. What is known about Ireland's patron saint and national apostle comes from his two major works: “Confessio,” his autobiography, and “Epistola,” his denunciation of the British mistreatment of the Irish. Patrick best described himself as a “most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to his Maker

for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshiped idols and unclean things had become the people of God.”

Patrick was born in Scotland in 387 A.D. and was the son of two Romans who were in charge of colonies in Britain. At the age of 14 he was captured in a raiding party and taken to Ireland, where he was enslaved to herd and tend sheep. During his captivity, he turned to God. When Patrick was 20, he managed to escape and return to Britain. He was ordained a priest and later a bishop, and he returned to Ireland to preach the Gospel in 433 A.D. He and his disciples preached Christianity, converted thousands of pagans and built churches all over the country. Kings, their families and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity upon hearing Patrick's message.

Of course, legend has it that St. Patrick drove all of the snakes out of Ireland. Although many share this story, it is likely that this tale is symbolic of the fact that St. Patrick helped to bring an end to the pagan practice of worshipping serpent symbols. He is also remembered for using the three-leaf clover to explain the Holy Trinity. This story happens to be true, and it marks the origins of the association between the shamrock, himself and the Irish.

One account of Patrick's life says that he died in Saul, Donqupatrick, Ireland on March 17, 461 A.D. While I am not sure if the name “Downpatrick” is derived from Patrick being laid to rest in the town, his death is nevertheless the reason that March 17 is designated as his feast day. As patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick has come to be associated with all things Irish — leprechauns and their pots of gold, the color green and the bibulous nature of the people. When immigrants from Ireland settled around the world, they took with them their history and their traditions. This is why so many cities in the United States have large celebrations to honor the Irish and St. Patrick.

In my own home town of Chicago, the celebration spans two days. Traditionally, the city's downtown St. Patrick's Day parade falls on the Saturday before the actual holiday (for those of you visiting the Windy City this weekend, that would be tomorrow). Highlights of the day typically include the Chicago River being dyed green, a capacity crowd at nearly every Irish pub on Division Street or in Lincoln Park and even a few Pakistani cab drivers who claim to have come to the United States by way of County Cork (as the old saying goes, “Everybody's Irish on St. Patrick's Day.”).

Practically speaking, Saturday's parade is merely the undercard for the main event of the St. Patrick's Day festivities: Sunday's South Side Irish Parade. While this year's parade is likely to be as much a celebration of the World Champion White Sox as it is a celebration of St. Patrick and the Irish, the festivities on the South Side bear more of a resemblance to those in Ireland. Most members of this largely Irish Catholic community begin their day by going to Mass at one of the many local parishes. After Mass, the green beer flows like water and the bars along Western Avenue become filled with familiar faces as the sounds of songs such “Danny Boy,” “South Side Irish” and “It's a Great Day for the Irish” permeate the neighborhood.

Though the “luck of the Irish” was not on our side inasmuch as we can't be on campus for the big day this year, I'm sure that students will be celebrating on the beaches of Florida, on cruise ships in the Caribbean or in the comfort of their homes. No matter where you find yourself next Friday, say an Irish blessing toast one up to Paddy. Slainte!

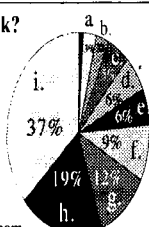
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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

OBSERVER POLL

What are you doing for Spring Break?

a. Skiing
b. Cruise
c. Europe
d. Las Vegas
e. Service Trip
f. Staying on Campus
g. Other
h. Beach
i. Going Home



*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 307 responses.

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Under democracy one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule — and both commonly succeed, and are right.”

H. L. Mencken
newspaper editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Academic freedom: problem?

Perhaps the ongoing discussion of academic freedom and Catholic character has reached the point where we should make an effort to ask, "What is really at stake in this dispute?"

Some of us agree that the basic question is simply, "To what extent and why must (or should) recognized student organizations, at Notre Dame or any Catholic university, refrain from discussions and performances of materials which question or challenge standard Catholic teaching concerning sexual morality?"

I have yet to hear a strong Catholic voice explain why, or discuss whether, a Catholic university fully tolerant of student freedoms on such matters is on the slippery slope to secularization. Perhaps there are arguments of that kind, but no one, neither our President, Father John Jenkins, nor the Chancellor of the University of Dayton, Father James Heft, has produced such an argument in this discussion so far.

Edward Manier
professor
Department of Philosophy
March 9

EDITORIAL CARTOON



U-WIRE

China's great firewall

In recent months, American tech giants have had to grapple with their response to the economic and technological boom in China. Early this year, Microsoft agreed to censor blog content on its MSN Spaces service. Google agreed to block Web sites that the Chinese government considers illegal, including those of human rights groups, Tibetan independence movements and religious organizations.

Yahoo! provided information that led to the conviction of dissident journalist Shi Tao, who is currently serving a 10-year sentence for leaking information about government propaganda to the press; due to its actions, Yahoo! is being reviewed by a human rights subcommittee of Congress.

It's one thing to refrain from imposing American ideals of democracy and free speech onto the Chinese people, but it is quite another to aid the Chinese government in its attempts to clamp down on free speech.

Yet these Internet companies argue that it's necessary to cooperate with the Chinese government in order to provide the country's people with access to more information than they've ever had before. Also, Yahoo! points out that the United States and the international community need to regulate the high-tech industry in China instead of pointing fingers at alleged violations.

As socially conscious students poised to enter the governmental, non-governmental and corporate spheres, we are faced with two questions. First, is the infringement of free speech and human rights ever justified, even with the benefit of Chinese people with greater access to information? Second, should companies wait for government regulation before doing the right thing?

Should Yahoo! be providing the Chinese government with information regarding its dissidents, helping the Chinese to implement laws that the international community recognizes as human rights violations? Should Microsoft be shutting down its bloggers to appease the government, restricting freedom of speech? Should Google comply with the restrictive rules blocking "illegal sites"?

Actions like these call into question our legitimacy as a nation. Just how committed is America to freedom of speech and information? Is it justified to consider such censorship to be a short-term sacrifice on the path to a

more democratic China?

To the outraged, disappointed or perturbed American consumer, there is a more personal betrayal: Google has made its reputation as a magnanimous and socially-conscious corporation. It has made its millions by appealing to the social consciousness of its clients with its motto "Don't be evil." To these consumers, Google's compliance with the Chinese government's undemocratic regulations amounts to a serious breach of confidence. This betrayal strikes especially close to home not only because Stanford is a socially-conscious campus, but also because a significant number of Stanford graduates go on to work at Google right here in the Bay Area.

The crisis of high-tech censorship in China was inevitable with the growth of the Internet and the opening of the communist country's borders to international capitalism. The actions of Google, Yahoo! and Microsoft represent a moment of reckoning for the international community and for the United States. These actions bring up the question: Are our democratic values flexible when corporate profit is at stake?

We believe that Yahoo!'s demand for regulation in China's high-tech industry is timely and sound. We want to see this area addressed by our elected representatives in a way that recognizes the moral dilemma therein and accords with our democratic values. Nevertheless, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo! need to make good-faith efforts to address this dilemma even without government intervention. These companies must be honest with consumers.

But above all, they should use their commercial and economic leverage to pressure China to reviewing their current practices of Internet censorship. As much as these companies want to gain access to hundreds of millions of Internet users, China needs to court these companies for the investments and technology transfer that accompany them. There is room for significant leverage and a space for business to exert a social influence for good. Google, Microsoft and Yahoo! should seize this opportunity — we, the consumers, demand it.

This column originally appeared in the March 9 edition of the Stanford Daily, the daily publication at Stanford University.

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

Enforcing abortion ban

In light of South Dakota's recent passing of a law banning almost all abortions, even in cases of rape and incest, I have a question for abortion rights opponents.

How much time should a woman who gets an abortion spend in jail?

South Dakota's answer is "none." Its law punishes only the doctors who perform abortions.

But if all abortion really is murder — if a days-old, unconscious, one-cell zygote deserves all of the legal protections that you and I have — why are we going so light on the women? After all, someone who hires a hitman doesn't get off scot-free, so why should a woman who solicits the service of an abortion doctor?

It's time for us to think long and hard about how to punish women who have abortions. If one of the left-leaning Supreme Court justices retires or dies and President George W. Bush gets another chance to make a nomination, the high court will almost certainly have a five-justice majority in favor of overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

At that point, we'll be seeing state legislatures passing a lot more laws like South Dakota's. Making abortion illegal means, of course, coming up with a punishment for the women who get them. But many abortion-rights opponents seem not to have considered that the logical conclusion of "Abortion is murder" is "Imprison the women who have abortions."

It was a video I saw online (available at <http://www.atcenternetwork.com/?p=64>) that got me thinking that few people truly think abortion is murder. Perhaps it's not representative, but if it is, it casts a lot of doubt on the rhetoric of the anti-abortion movement.

The video shows an interviewer talking to anti-abortion protesters outside an abortion clinic. He interviews about ten, all of whom say (unsurprisingly) that abortion should be illegal. The interesting part is when he asks what punishment women who get abortions should receive: Only one respondent recommends jail time; the rest say the women should pray, or get counseling, or (gasp!) think about what they've done. Do these protesters think people who kill post-partum humans ought to suffer the same horrid fate — prayer and counseling?

Or is it that, deep down, beyond the rhetoric about murder (or genocide, as the lovely signs on our campus last semester put it), even the most strident abortion opponents — the ones who

spend their days holding up pictures of dead fetuses and intimidating women outside clinics — recognize that there's a substantive difference between "murder" of a first-trimester fetus and murder of a born human? I think this is more likely the answer — and it's why anti-choice policies are ultimately unsustainable.

Americans are generally uncomfortable with abortion — a CBS/New York Times poll in January found 60 percent of respondents in favor of imposing stricter limits on or banning abortion. But my guess (I couldn't find any polling data on the specific topic) is that the majority of Americans are also uncomfortable with jailing women and doctors.

Much of the debate over abortion in recent years has obscured what the actual consequences would be when states pass wide-reaching abortion bans in the wake of *Roe v. Wade* being overturned.

Normal women — people "we" know, not the heartless, godless sluts that women who get abortions are often portrayed as — who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy would end up in jail, as well as the doctors who try to help them. Figuring out who's had an abortion will also entail state bureaucrats poring through the health records of most women between the ages of 15 and 45, which I doubt would win a lot of support. (Imagine you or your future wife going through the pain of a miscarriage and then being investigated by prosecutors to make sure the pregnancy was terminated by natural causes.)

Illegalizing abortion would entail all of this and more. I understand that many people want fewer fetuses to be killed, but will they still think it's worth it once they see the costs of enforcing an abortion ban?

Instead on embarking on a draconian campaign of privacy invasion and imprisonment to stop abortion, we should work on the root of the problem — unplanned pregnancies. Rather than spending their time looking up when and why women are going to the doctor, state health officials could develop comprehensive sex-education programs that show students how to obtain and use contraception. Funds that would be spent prosecuting women and doctors could instead go toward making birth control available to those who cannot otherwise afford it.

This column originally appeared in the March 9 edition of the Kentucky Kernel, the daily publication at the University of Kentucky.

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

DPAC REVIEW

Schola Musicorum presents Gregorian chant



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

The Schola Musicorum presented "Abend-Musique" on Wednesday in the Reyes Organ Hall. The performance featured Gregorian chant in both Latin and Greek.



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Founded in 1993, the Schola Musicorum was started by the music department in order to study and perform Gregorian chant directly from manuscripts.

By MARTY SCHROEDER

Scene Critic

On Wednesday the Schola Musicorum presented "Abend-Musique," a concert of Gregorian chant — named after Pope Gregory the Great — from the Middle Ages. The performance was held in the Reyes Organ Hall of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts (DPAC).

Music professor Alexander Blachly, Paul Appleby, a production assistant at the DPAC, Daniel Stowe, music department professional specialist and theology professor Michael Driscoll were the featured performers. They were also accompanied by a group of students for one of the pieces.

The Schola Musicorum was founded in 1993 by music department faculty for the purpose of studying and performing Gregorian chant directly from manuscripts dating from the Medieval period. The directors of the program are professor

Calvin M. Bower and Blachly, who also performed at the event.

The Gregorian chant featured in the performance originates in England and was written in the 15th and 16th centuries. It was also the music used on the first Sunday of Lent. This type of music is of note because it predates the use of the modern harmonic system. As a result, it does not follow a metrical rhythm but instead relies on the rhythm of the chanted words.

All the pieces featured by the Schola Musicorum were in Latin — as is the case with the vast majority of Gregorian chant — although a small portion of the chant corpus was written in Greek. This style of chant is also sung in unison with no instrumental accompaniment.

The four featured singers gave incredi-

ble performances that moved the audience. With a style and rhythm that is no longer used in contemporary liturgy, the show offered a truly unique experience.

With a style and rhythm that is no longer used in contemporary liturgy, the show offered a truly unique experience.

At times, an individual would sing, at other intervals two and at other points, all four. The movement of voices in and out of the performance added a complexity that would not have been present otherwise.

The section of the performance featuring the students was also notable. Most of the students that performed were female, which added even greater depth to the four male voices that were heard throughout most of the show. The layering of the different ranges was also skillfully performed.

The Reyes Organ Hall provided the perfect space for this type of performance. The crossbeams of the ceiling and the massive organ with its beautiful woodwork made the audience members feel almost as if they were in a medieval church themselves. The smaller size of the venue also provided an intimacy that would not have been present had the performance taken place elsewhere. The acoustics in the Organ Hall were fantastic and allowed the music to flow with a balance of power and delicate beauty.

Medieval chant isn't your typical DPAC fare, but it was an exceptional display Wednesday and captivated the audience throughout the performance. The Schola Musicorum performs every fall and spring, so the next chance to catch the show will be in the fall. It is definitely not a performance to be missed.

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BOOK REVIEW

'Kite Runner' presents life, journey of Afghani man

By MARTY SCHROEDER

Scene Critic

"The Kite Runner" is a story about a man experiencing his home country of Afghanistan, inspecting his emotional journey through the lens of Afghani history. This story chronicles the story of one man and his travel through childhood and into adulthood within the unique context of Afghanistan's history.

Written by Khaled Hosseini, "The Kite Runner" was published in 2003. It follows the life of Amir, the son of a wealthy businessman of Kabul, Afghanistan in the 1960s. When the novel opens in 2001, he is living in California and receives a fateful call from one of his late father's friends concerning the child of Amir's childhood playmate and son of his father's servant.

This playmate is named Hassan and the emotional journey that Amir experiences through the book involves an incident of crime against Hassan he witnessed in his childhood during a kite-flying tournament. As he boards the plane traveling back to the now war-torn Afghanistan, he recounts his childhood and all that is involved therein, from his birthday parties to his tumultuous relationship with Hassan.

The kite-flying that gives the novel its title is a type that is practiced in Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan. It involves a "kite fighter" who uses his/her

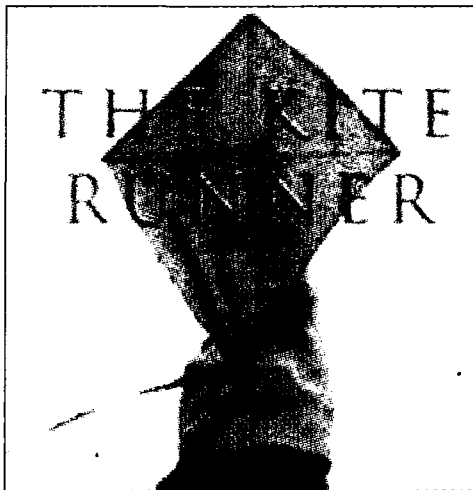
kite's string to sever the strings of other "kite fighters."

Kite fighters accomplish their tasks by coating the string in a mixture of glass powder and glue, which allows them to cut other kite strings. But the mixture is also very abrasive on the hands and can cause serious damage. It also involves a "kite runner" who runs to find the severed kites, which then become the trophy of the victorious kite fighter.

This novel is not only about Amir and his emotional journey, but also traces the emotional journey of Afghanistan through the peaceful years of the 1960s, the political turmoil of the 1970s, which culminated with the Soviet invasion in 1978, and the almost complete takeover of the country by the Taliban by 1998.

Hosseini breaks the novel up into three parts. The first involves Amir's childhood in Kabul, the second is his life after he immigrates to California with his father after violence overtakes Kabul, and the third deals with his return to the war torn Afghanistan in 2001 to redeem himself for past sins. The sections are fairly monolithic stylistically and a better transition could have been used to connect the three. However, the emotional portrayal of Amir does a fine job connecting these episodes of the character's life.

This emotional buildup is the novel's real strength. A few of the minor characters are archetypal, such as the sadistic Assef and his gang that terrorizes Amir and Hassan in their childhood. They



Photos courtesy of bloomsbury.com

"The Kite Runner" relates the emotional journey of Amir through an incident with his childhood playmate Hassan. The book was written by Khaled Hosseini, right.

eventually make a surprising, if slightly unbelievable, return later in the book.

However, the central characters are developed with quite an emotional complexity. There are sins that are committed and relationships that are destroyed, but Hosseini does not give his character's quick and easy avenues out of these emotional hardships. He instead moves them around each other in a dance of laughter and happiness, but also tears, pain and death. But hope is never completely lost and none of the main characters are ever completely incapable of redemption, even if they do have to face the sometimes

searing fires of their past to find it.

The climax of the book is a very moving moment but even in the end, the problems are not completely solved. The characters do find that they are essentially good people, even if they are ashamed of skeletons in their closet. This is not a groundbreaking work of literary complexity or structure, but it is certainly a gratifying journey through the life of Amir and his changing relationship to Afghanistan.

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DVD REVIEW

'Potter' a chalice of malice



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Hermione (Emma Watson), left, Ron (Rupert Grint), center, and Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) talk at Hogwarts during "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Critic

Dust off those spellbooks and pick up those wands — school is back in session. Returning to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for a fourth year, the DVD release of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" marks the latest installment of the boy wizard's adventures.

Just as each year at Hogwarts opens with a new Defense Against the Dark Arts instructor, as of late the directing chore on the Harry Potter franchise has become a game of musical chairs.

Not to be confused with the trans-Atlantic explorer by the same name, director Chris Columbus helmed the first two films in the series, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets." Columbus proved himself a wizard in his ability to translate the literary magic of J.K. Rowling to the silver screen.

Director Alfonso Cuarón was brought in to direct the third film, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," as the series took a turn for the darker. While "Azkaban" met with critical and commercial success, newcomer Mike Newell was given the keys to direct "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." With so much turnover at the position, each new "Harry Potter" director was faced with the opportunity to leave his indelible mark on the series — or drive it into the ground.

Not to worry, Potter-heads — Newell doesn't drop the Quaffle here. "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" sees Hogwarts host the Tri-Wizard Tournament, a competition between champions from Hogwarts and the rival magic schools of Beauxbatons and Durmstrang.

After all of the students enter their names for a chance to compete in the Tournament, the Goblet of Fire selects three names for the Tournament — Cedric Diggory, Fleur Delacoeur and Viktor Krum. However, the Goblet of Fire turns out to be a chalice of malice, as it spits out an unprecedented fourth name for the Tournament — Harry Potter. Questions of magical foul play notwithstanding, Potter enters the Tri-Wizard Tournament.

The competition is fierce. In the first challenge, Harry is required to steal a golden egg from the nest of a dragon, with a Hungarian Horntail quite literally breathing fire down his neck. Harry also faces stiff competition from his rival champions in the tournaments, especially Viktor Krum.

Described as "the best Seeker in the world," Krum looks and plays a lot like Irish safety Tom Zbikowski — if he had taken up Quidditch

instead of football. Fortunately for both the health of Quidditch players everywhere and Notre Dame's secondary, Zbikowski was kept away from broomsticks as a child and gravitated towards the pigskin instead.

Already the star player of the Bulgarian national team in the Quidditch World Cup, Krum gives new meaning to the term "player in the major leagues" when he succeeds in asking Hermione out to an inter-school dance.

As the fourth film in the series, the kids of "Goblet of Fire" are definitely starting to grow up. In fact, Harry, Ron and Hermione fall under a spell no amount of wand-waving can cure — the magic of love. After seeing the dazzling Hermione with Krum at the dance, Ron is struck with jealousy, starting turbulent times and rocky romance between Ron and the bookworm-turned-bombshell. Given that actress Emma Watson is only 15 years old, many of the over-18 wizards in the audience would do well to utter "Wingardium Leviosa!" and levitate their jaws off the floor, or else run the risk of ending up in the wizard prison of Azkaban.

In addition to Watson, Daniel Radcliffe again turns in a fine performance as the lightning-scarred Harry Potter, and Rupert Grint is similarly good as Ron. Also, Ralph Fiennes is excellent as the evil Lord Voldemort. Despite playing a character who goes by the moniker He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named, Fiennes deserves some recognition for his portrayal of the Dark Lord.

"The Goblet of Fire" DVD is available as a one-disc option with just the movie or as a two-disc set with special features. Special features include additional scenes, conversations with the actors and features focusing on each part of the Tri-Wizard Tournament.

Mike Newell does a good job as the film's director. While it has an episodic feel, and some of the transitions between scenes are weak, Newell was faced with the unenviable task of dropping J.K. Rowling's 752-page tome into a witch's cauldron and distilling a film out of it.

Although "Goblet" still runs a butt-numbing 157 minutes, the movie doesn't drag due to Newell's use of computer-generated imagery, which creates a visual experience that can only be described as spellbinding.

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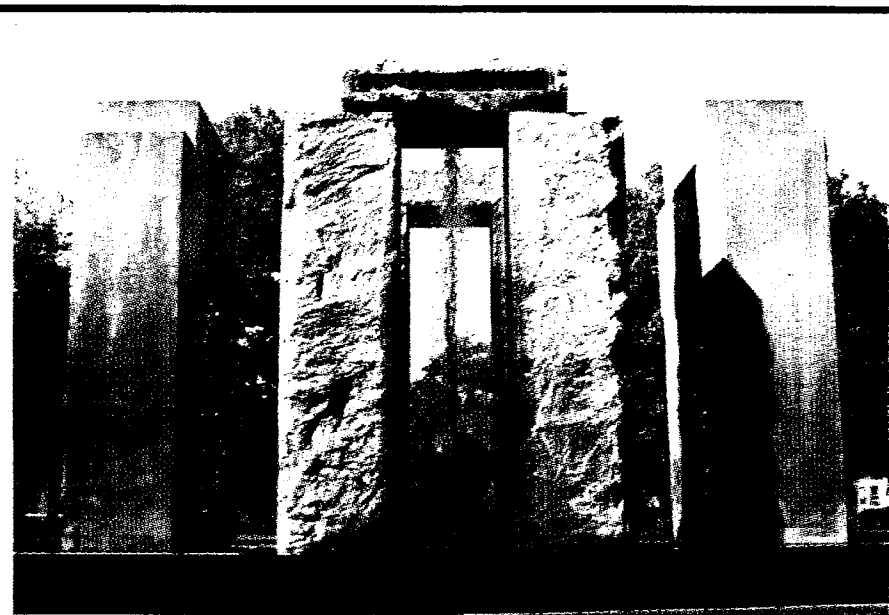
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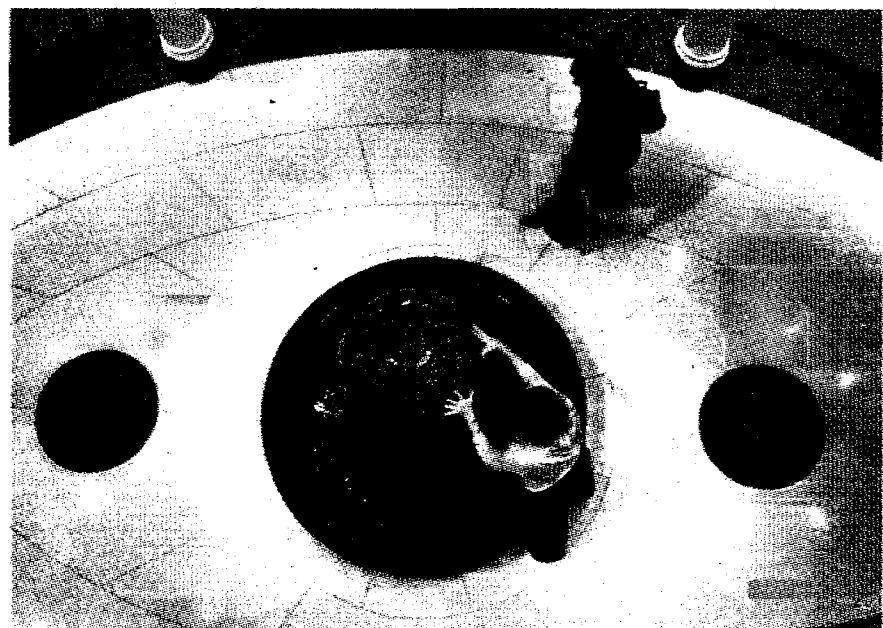


NOTRE DAME'S BEST... *Fountains*

BY OBSERVER PHOTO STAFF



They say it was built to be an astronomical observatory, or perhaps as a memorial to the honored dead. But we all know that celebrations after football victories are Stonehenge's real purpose.



It's awe-inspiring, though you don't quite know why at first glance. Then it hits you: there's about a ton of speckled granite calmly spinning, floating, waiting for you to reach out and touch it.



Sometimes a Belle — or a Domer — needs a place to retreat to, an island with a moat around it for protection and a fountain to help you clear your head.

For next week: What are the best bikes on campus?
Send your suggestions to obsphoto@nd.edu.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Bowman helps Hoyas ground late Golden Eagle threat

Georgetown forward's free throws in final minute stave off Marquette, punch ticket to Big East Championship semifinals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After struggling offensively for 30 minutes, Brandon Bowman came through for Georgetown in the end.

Bowman went 6-for-6 from the free-throw line in the final minute to help No. 23 Georgetown hold off Marquette 62-59 on Thursday in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament.

"People have a tendency to look at points, but Brandon did all the things we needed to win," Georgetown coach John Thompson III said.

Bowman scored 12 of his 14 points in the final 10 minutes and had seven rebounds for the Hoyas (21-8).

Steve Novak hit his sixth 3-pointer with 5.6 seconds left to bring Marquette within 60-59. But Bowman restored the three-point lead with two free throws with 5.1 seconds left. Jerel McNeal missed a 30-footer at the buzzer that would have tied the game.

"He got a good look at the basket," Novak said. "Unfortunately, it just didn't go in."

Georgetown will face Syracuse on Friday night in the semifinals. Syracuse shocked top-ranked Connecticut 86-84 in overtime earlier Thursday. It will be the 12th time the schools have met in the tournament, with Georgetown leading 6-5. Five of the meetings came in championship games, with Georgetown winning four.

"It's Georgetown-Syracuse at the Garden, that says it all," Thompson said.

Georgetown led Marquette 49-48 with 5 minutes left before using a 9-2 run to take a 58-50 advantage with 37.7 seconds remaining. Bowman had six during that stretch.

Marquette (20-10) then scored the next six points, capped by Dominic James' layup with 12.9 seconds left to close to 58-56.

"It's very hard to come back on this team," Marquette coach Tom Crean said.

James, who was the conference's freshman of the year, was 2-of-15 from the field.

"Shots weren't falling for me but I just tried to maintain my aggressiveness," James said.

Bowman then ended the run with two free throws with 11.5 seconds left before Novak's last 3-pointer.

It was the second straight day

that Bowman came up big for the Hoyas. He hit the key basket on a driving left-handed layup in the Hoyas' 67-63 opening round win over Notre Dame.

Jeff Green had 16 points, nine rebounds and five assists to lead Georgetown. Ashanti Cook added 16 points.

Novak finished with 18 points and Wesley Matthews scored 14 points for Marquette, which had a first-round bye.

For the second straight game, Georgetown got off to a slow start. The Hoyas, who missed their first 12 shots on Wednesday, found themselves down 20-9 with 9:03 left in the first half. Georgetown closed the half on a 13-2 run to go into the break tied at 22.

"Any win in March is good, we hung in there," Thompson said.

No. 2 Villanova 87, Rutgers 55

The Villanova Wildcats sat in their hotel rooms and watched while top-ranked Connecticut's run in the Big East tournament ended with one stunning loss.

The nation's No. 2 team was determined to avoid a similar fate, not with a top overall seed in the NCAA tournament a very real possibility.

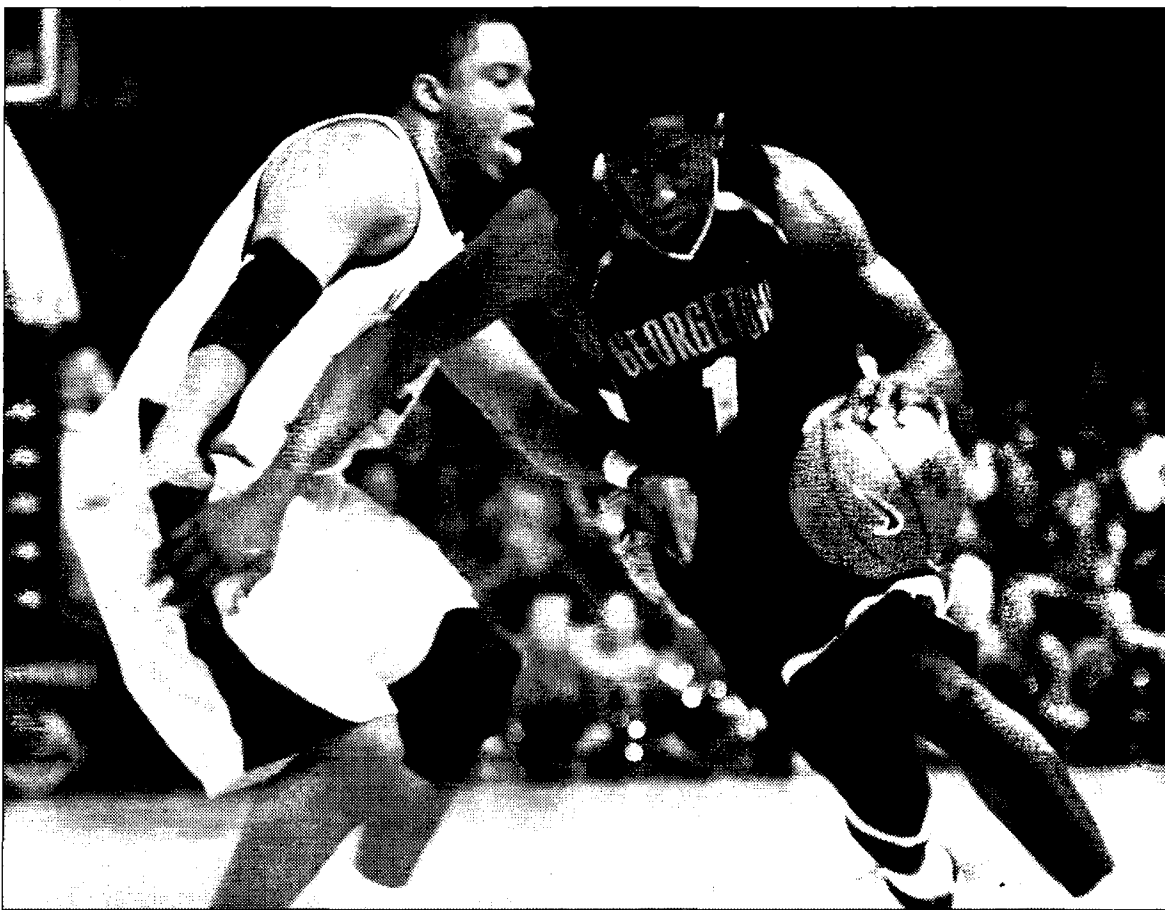
"After we watched UConn lose, everyone realized that anything can happen in these tournaments," Allan Ray said. "And you've got to come out ready to play."

Ray scored 19 of his 26 points in the second half as Villanova went on a decisive run and pulled away from Rutgers for an 87-55 victory Thursday night to advance to the semifinals of the Big East tournament.

Villanova, the Big East's regular-season co-champion with No. 1 Connecticut, trailed by one early in the second half but avoided the type of upset that eliminated the Huskies earlier in the day. Connecticut was stunned by ninth-seeded Syracuse 86-84 in overtime.

"We all came down to eat dinner together and I just got up in front of them and said, 'Hey, we just saw what happened,'" coach Jay Wright said. "I said, 'Everyone's been talking about a matchup with UConn, and it's not going to happen now for them. If we don't beat Rutgers, it's not going to happen (for us).'"

Will Sheridan added 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Wildcats (25-3), who will play the winner of the late Pittsburgh-



Georgetown forward Brandon Bowman, right, drives past Marquette's Joe Chapman in the quarterfinal game of the Big East Championship Thursday in the Hoyas' 67-63 victory at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

West Virginia game on Friday night.

"We were just like, 'Man, listen, the No. 1 team is out and it could easily happen to us,'" Ray said. "We don't want to be the ones going home. We worked too hard for it."

Quincy Douby scored 31 points — 24 in the first half — to lead 10th-seeded Rutgers (18-13), which will wait for the NIT announcement to see if it plays another game under coach Gary Waters. The Scarlet Knights' coach announced March 1 he would resign at the end of the season.

"I think the phone will ring," Waters said. "I mean, they have to be pretty smart about that. They want people here at Madison Square Garden. I think these kids deserve it — they deserve a call."

No. 15 Pittsburgh 68, No. 19 West Virginia 57

Freshman Sam Young, making his first start of the season, had 14 points and 11 rebounds to lead Pittsburgh to victory over West Virginia on Thursday night in the quarterfinals of the Big

East tournament.

The sixth-seeded Panthers (23-6) will face No. 2 Villanova (25-3), which beat Rutgers 87-55, in the semifinals on Friday night. The Wildcats were the only one of the top four seeds to advance to the semifinals.

Top-ranked Connecticut lost 86-82 to ninth-seeded Syracuse in overtime and fifth-seeded Georgetown beat fourth-seeded Marquette 62-59, meaning three of the four teams that received first-round byes lost in the quarterfinals.

Young, a 6-foot-6 forward who came in averaging 7.7 points and 4.2 rebounds, started in place of junior forward Levon Kendall, who missed the game because of lower back spasms. Young finished 7-for-8 from the field and blocked two shots for the Panthers, who beat Louisville 61-56 in the opening round.

Aaron Gray had 19 points and 15 rebounds for Pittsburgh, while Carl Krauser had 10 points, six assists and six rebounds.

Kevin Pittsnogle had 22 points for the third-seeded Mountaineers (20-10), while

Mike Gansey had 10 points despite missing the final 10 minutes of the games because of an abdominal muscle strain.

West Virginia took a 31-24 halftime lead as the Panthers struggled against the Mountaineers' 1-3-1 zone. Pittsburgh did a better job of attacking the zone in the second half and Young scored on an offensive rebound to tie the game at 38 with 14:11 to play.

That was the first of four ties the rest of the way and there were five lead changes. Pittsburgh took the lead for good at 51-49 on a drive by freshman Levanice Fields, who finished with 10 points, with 6:41 to go.

Pittsnogle, who was 5-for-11 from 3-point range, hit a 3 with 1:35 to go to bring West Virginia within 57-54. Krauser made two free throws with 1:21 left for a five-point lead and Patrick Beilein's 3, his only points of the game, got the Mountaineers within 59-57 with 1:09 left.

Pittsburgh then closed the game with a 9-0 run, the first seven points on free throws and the last two on a dunk by Gray with 8 seconds left.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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would have two different locks.
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box" would be kept by the
President; the other key would be
sealed in a small, metal container
and placed under the bumper of the
Senate Majority Leader's car.

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, March 10, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

NCAA Women's Basketball RPI Rankings

	team	record	previous
1	North Carolina	29-1	1
2	Tennessee	28-4	2
3	Duke	26-3	3
4	Connecticut	28-4	4
5	LSU	27-3	5
6	Oklahoma	26-4	6
7	Ohio State	28-2	8
8	Maryland	28-4	9
9	Rutgers	25-4	7
10	Baylor	22-5	11
11	North Carolina State	19-11	10
12	Arizona State	24-6	12
13	Georgia	21-8	16
14	DePaul	25-6	14
15	Western Kentucky	24-5	18
16	Virginia Tech	20-9	13
17	Michigan State	22-9	20
18	Stanford	23-7	17
19	Old Dominion	19-8	15
20	Brigham Young	23-4	19
21	UCLA	20-10	37
22	Kentucky	21-8	24
23	Purdue	24-6	29
24	Utah	21-6	23
25	New Mexico	21-8	28

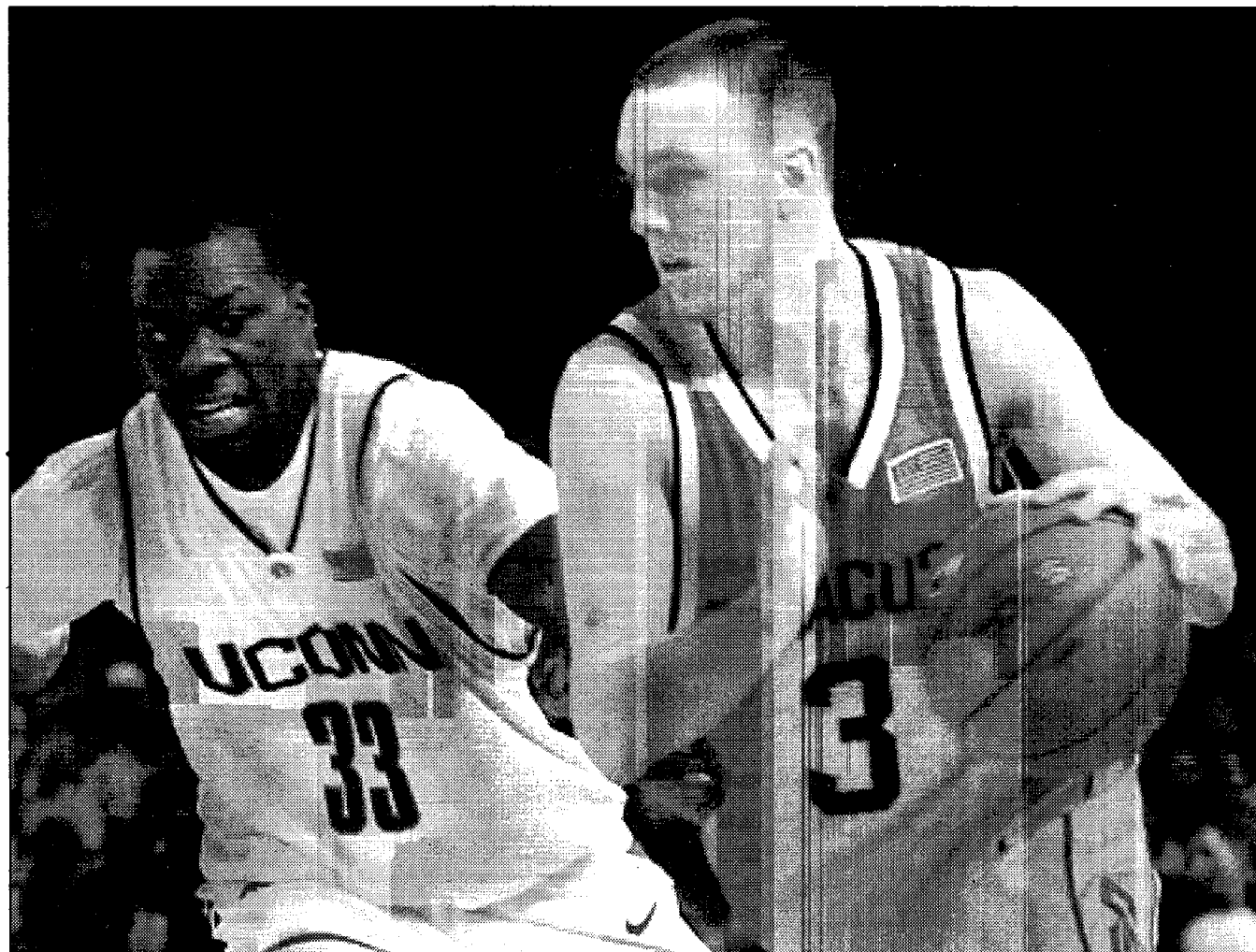
NCAA Men's Baseball Rankings

	team	record	previous
1	Georgia Tech	13-0	2
2	Clemson	7-2	1
3	Rice	13-3	4
4	North Carolina	10-1	3
5	Tennessee	11-2	6
6	Mississippi State	6-0	8
7	Cal State Fullerton	10-6	7
8	Florida State	14-1	10
9	South Carolina	9-2	9
10	Arkansas	13-1	11
11	Oregon State	9-4	13
12	Tulane	10-4	15
13	LSU	13-2	17
14	Nebraska	8-2	23
15	Florida	9-6	5
16	Stanford	10-5	19
17	Arizona State	14-5	NR
18	Missouri	8-5	20
19	Mississippi	8-3	22
20	Texas A&M	13-2	NR
21	Texas	10-8	14
22	Long Beach State	10-7	16
23	Pepperdine	9-9	12
24	Cal Poly	12-6	NR
25	Kansas	13-4	NR

NCAA Women's Tennis ITA Rankings

	team	previous
1	Stanford	1
2	NOTRE DAME	5
3	North Carolina	6
4	Northwestern	9
5	USC	2
6	Florida	4
7	Duke	7
8	Cal	8
9	Harvard	14
10	Texas	11
11	Baylor	16
12	Vanderbilt	15
13	Miami	10
14	Wake Forest	20
15	Georgia Tech	3
16	UCLA	12
17	Pepperdine	21
18	VCU	25
19	South Carolina	24
20	William & Mary	18

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL



Orange point guard Gerry McNamara, right, drives past Connecticut's Denham Brown during the first half of Syracuse's 86-84 overtime victory against the Hoyas in the second round of the Big East Tournament in New York.

McNamara's heroics save 'Cuse again

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gerry McNamara waited one day to one-up himself.

The senior guard hit a 3-pointer with less than a second to play to give Syracuse a win over Connecticut in the opening round of the Big East tournament.

On Thursday, his 3 with 5.5 seconds left in regulation tied the game and the ninth-seeded Orange went on to beat No. 1 Connecticut 86-84 in overtime.

"I said yesterday's shot was the best under the circumstances," an exhausted McNamara said Thursday.

"I'd have to change that to today's. We needed it."

The win should help the Orange (21-11) end any talk about whether they deserve an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

"Obviously they're a tournament team," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said. "I thought they were a tournament team yesterday."

That was a McNamara highlight show ago.

On Wednesday, his running 3 with less than a second to play meant a 74-73 victory over Cincinnati.

He topped that performance in the quarterfinals by scoring 17 points and handing out 13 assists, one

short of the tournament record.

"He amazes me every time I see him play. He has more guts than anybody I've ever coached," said Syracuse's Jim Boeheim, who apologized for using profanity in defending McNamara on Wednesday after local media reported the player was overrated. "As soon as he released it, there was never a doubt. There was nothing but net."

"I'd say it's one of the best wins, if not the best, Syracuse has ever had."

The loss shouldn't affect the No. 1 seed expected to go to Connecticut (27-3), but it ended a 10-game winning streak in the Big

East quarterfinals for the Huskies, the regular-season co-champions with Villanova.

"It certainly was one of the most disappointing losses we've had in an awful long time," Calhoun said. "We came out flat as heck. Just as we thought, that shot (yesterday) carried their momentum right into today."

Syracuse, the defending champions in this tournament, will play No. 23 Georgetown, which beat Marquette 62-59, in Friday night's semifinals. It will be the 12th time the schools have met in the tournament with Georgetown leading 6-5.

IN BRIEF

Northwestern's NIT hopes diminish after loss to PSU

INDIANAPOLIS — Penn State might have knocked Northwestern out of contention for a National Invitation Tournament bid Thursday in the first round of the Big Ten tournament.

Penn State defeated the Wildcats 60-42 to advance to a conference quarterfinal matchup with top-seeded Ohio State.

Penn State improved to 15-13 and boosted its chances of making the NIT field. Northwestern fell to 14-15 with the loss. In the past, teams were required to have a record of .500 or better to make the tournament. A recent rule change allows teams with losing records into the 40-team field, but having a winning record definitely helps.

"I'm not worried about that right now," Northwestern coach Bill Carmody said. "I just wanted to play every game and play well, and see where the chips fall."

Colts undecided about RB James's future

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis will take a close look at budget figures under the NFL's new \$102 million salary cap before making offers to Edgerrin James and other players who will become unrestricted free agents Saturday, team president Bill Polian said Thursday.

James, the Colts' all-time rushing leader, linebacker David Thornton and kicker Mike Vanderjagt, the team's all-time scoring leader and are among the Colts who would become free agents at 12:01 a.m. Saturday.

Polian said he didn't anticipate making an offer to James or Thornton before they get the opportunity to test the market.

The Colts could declare James a franchise player like they did last year, although that move would cost them an estimated \$11 million against the cap.

Hurricanes acquire Recchi from Penguins

The Carolina Hurricanes added another important offensive piece Thursday, acquiring veteran forward Mark Recchi from Pittsburgh less than an hour before the NHL's trade deadline.

Recchi gives the NHL's top team a replacement for injured forward Erik Cole, who will miss the rest of the regular season after fracturing a vertebra in his neck less than a week ago against the Penguins. Cole already had a career-high 60 points in 60 games before the injury.

"I didn't feel pressure to do it, it wasn't an absolute necessity," Carolina general manager Jim Rutherford said. "It's not like we were out looking at several players. While the loss of Erik hurts our team, if we weren't able to get Mark Recchi, we weren't going to get anyone else."

around the dial

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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles head south to start season

New coach brings reason for hope to improve upon last year's record

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

After a tough year, the Belles just want a promising start.

Saint Mary's begins its season this weekend with hope of rising toward the top of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) standings. The Belles leave for their 10-game spring break trip to Ft. Meyers, Fla. this week in search of improving their 7-23 overall record from the 2005 season, which included a 2-14 finish in MIAA play.

The Belles will play 10 games in five days, including matchups against Montclair State and Heidelberg Monday.

First-year Belles coach Erin Sullivan, who played for Saint Mary's as a student and led the team to its first ever MIAA Tournament Championship in

2004, said she will turn to veteran players like co-captains Audrey Gajor and Bridget Grall to lead the team both on and off the field.

"What I am looking for most from the juniors and seniors is the knowledge they possess on how to win the big game," Sullivan said.

Gajor started all 16 conference games in 2005, hitting a team best .340, and she will also have the help of Grall on the mound. The Belles will look to Grall as one of their top pitchers as she pitched a team-high 62 innings last season.

Besides her co-captains, Sullivan has other leaders to turn to. Junior Laura Helene returns, giving the Belles' defensive depth and strength in the infield. Helene was an all-MIAA selection last year at third base and the second highest batting average on the team

(.327). Helene, Gajor, and Grall are accompanied by four other returning players who have the knowledge and experience to bring the team back to the success they experienced only two years ago in winning the conference title.

The seven returning members are joined by seven freshmen.

Sullivan was the 2004 MIAA batting champion and Offensive Player of the Year and returns to Saint Mary's after completing one season as assistant coach at Bethel College.

The Irish face Edgewood and Massachusetts-Boston Monday and Cazenovia and North Park Tuesday. The team takes on Defiance and Mount Ida Wednesday and Dickinson and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Thursday.

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NFL

Mara helps reach labor compromise

Associated Press

During a low point of the marathon NFL owners' meetings, the labor-deal deadlock looked so hopeless that one owner suggested they needed help from beyond.

"We need the ghost of St. Wellington to appear with some of the forefathers," Indianapolis' Jimmy Irsay said — "St. Wellington" being the Giants' Wellington Mara, the last remaining member of the league's founding generation, who died last October.

Irsay's plea was right on.

As it turned out, Mara's son John — who has been running the New York Giants for the past few years — helped broker the settlement among the 32 contentment gentlemen who own NFL franchises.

In fact, the key moment in the meeting probably came at the meeting's lunch break on Wednesday when Mara, Denver's Pat Bowlen and Carolina's Jerry Richardson were escorted to an elevator by Milt Ahlerich, the NFL's security chief. Ahlerich made sure they were the only ones on the lift as they soared from the basement of the hotel to Paul Tagliabue's suite.

About six hours later, there was a deal, avoiding the unknown territory of a 2007 season without a salary cap and the potential for serious labor problem down the line.

By all appearances, the union won this round by getting an extra \$850 million to \$900 million allocated to players over the next six years in the form of revenue sharing.

FENCING

Irish grab two more bids, send 12 to Houston

Full team prepared to defend national title

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will attempt to defend its national title starting Thursday, March 16 at the NCAA Championship meet in Houston, Texas.

The young squad received some good news this week when junior epeeist Amy Orlando and sophomore foilist Jakub Jedrkowiak received the two national at-large bids, giving the Irish the maximum qualifying number of 12.

But Notre Dame isn't the only school headed to Texas with a big squad. Penn State and Harvard also qualified the full 12, while St. John's and Columbia are sending 11.

"The chances are we [will] have a very tough tournament — we have at least four or five teams who contend to fight for the National Championship, for three medals," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said.

Harvard presents one of the strongest challenges as the Crimson men are No. 4 and the No. 3 women's team is anchored by 2005 foilist national champion Emily Cross.

Ohio State, who won the championship in 2004, qualified the

maximum six fencers on the men's side, but only three for the women.

"Even [Ohio State], with nine opponents, can be very dangerous," Bednarski said.

Notre Dame's biggest obstacle might not be any of the national powerhouses, but inexperience. Five of the team's fencers will be first-timers.

"We're a young team, very young, younger than the others, which makes us unpredictable," Bednarski said. "But last year's championship team was a bit more experienced because we had at least five more seniors, but these fencers, they will fight."

The Irish roster boasts six All-Americans, a national champion (Providenza, 2004 sabre) and three national runners-up (Zagunis, 2005 sabre; Ghattas, sabre; Orlando, 2005 epee). Bednarski has confidence that his upperclassmen can help carry the load.

"All [of the] team has to step up ... of course our kids who are experienced — we have an Olympic Champion, we have a National Champion, we have runners-up, I believe they will step up to take those freshmen [on all ride [off] excellence," Bednarski said.

Notre Dame earned 10 automatic bids at last week's Midwest Regional in Cleveland, but Jedrkowiak and Orlando placed just outside the berth cutoff, fin-

ishing fifth and seventh, respectively. Both Orlando and Jedrkowiak had strong seasons and performed well at last year's NCAA meet, factors that likely helped them earn the bids.

Filling out the roster are junior sabers Valerie Providenza, Patrick Ghattas and Matt Stearns, sophomore sabre Mariel Zagunis, junior epeeist Aaron Adjemian, sophomore foilist Melanie Bautista, freshman foilists Mark

Kubik and Adrienne Nott, and freshman epeeists Karol Kosika and Madeleine Stephan.

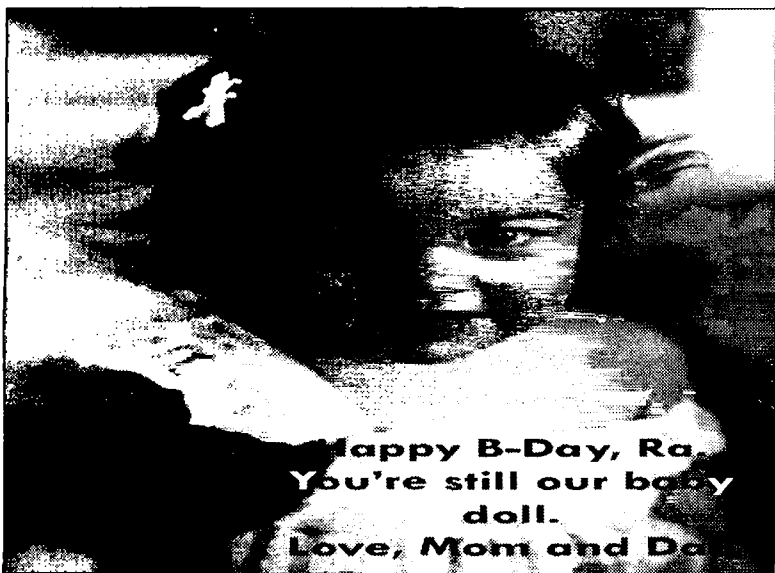
Heading to Houston as alternates are sophomore epeeist Greg Howard, junior foilist Frank Bontempo, freshman sabre Bill Thanhouer and freshman foilist Emilie Prot.

The competition will begin Thursday with women's pool bouts and proceed through the women's finals on Friday.

Fencers will endure a 24-person round robin of 5-touch bouts, with the top four seeds competing in direct elimination for the top prize. The direct elimination fights will not count toward the team score.

The men will fence Saturday and Sunday. There will be a total of 144 fencers at the tournament.

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WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Final lap begins Thursday

Three swimmers, one diver ripe for NCAA Championship meet

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

After focusing all year on qualifying and succeeding in the NCAA tournament, Notre Dame head coach Carrie Nixon said her team has only achieved the first part of its season goal and will look to achieve the second part starting Thursday at the NCAA Championships in Athens, Ga.

Three Irish swimmers — juniors Katie Carroll and Julia Quinn and freshman Claire Hutchinson — and one diver — sophomore Tara Hyer — qualified for the event. While Nixon was slightly disappointed that several other Irish swimmers failed to qualify for the meet, she said she was happy to send four team members to Athens.

"We qualified more girls than we did last year, and that shows we're headed in the right direction," Nixon said. "At the end of every season, though, you're always humbled by how difficult it is to qualify for the NCAA meet and how special it is for the kids who do qualify."

The team has had nearly a

month off since it won the Big East Championship, which concluded Feb. 18. Since then, Nixon has put the athletes who qualified for the NCAAAs on a "double-taper" training schedule. For the first two weeks after the conference championship meet, Nixon put the girls through rigorous training equivalent to mid-season workouts. After that point, she eased up to let the swimmers rest before the NCAAAs.

"The first two weeks are a bit of a system shock because you're all rested at that point," Nixon said. "But after the first two weeks, the girls get to rest up and get ready for the meet."

Leading the way for the Irish is Carroll, who will be swimming in the 200 IM, 400 IM, and 200 butterfly events. Carroll is making her

third consecutive appearance at the NCAA championships and hopes to draw from her experiences the past couple of years.

"The last two years helped me learn about the competition," she said. "I've researched my opponents this time. I don't just go in and swim."

Carroll's best event is clearly the 400 IM, as she finished in sixth place, earning her All-America honors at last year's NCAA meet. This year, she is currently No. 7 nation-

ally in the event with a time of 4:14.37.

Carroll is not the only Irish swimmer with NCAA experience. Quinn is making her second consecutive appearance. Quinn qualified for the 100-meter breaststroke last season with the University of Minnesota. This year, along with a 100-meter championship appearance for the Irish, she also qualified in the 200 — in which she currently ranks No. 17 nationally with a time of 2:14.27.

Although this is Hutchinson's first NCAA meet, she joins elite company by becoming only the fifth freshman in Notre Dame women's swimming history to qualify for three NCAA events.

One of the other four swimmers in the select group is Carroll, who accomplished the feat in 2004. Nixon also did so as an Irish swimmer in 1998.

"It's quite an honor for her," Nixon said. "What's so exciting about her is that she had some good swims at the Big East, but she's definitely capable of more."

The final member of the team to qualify for the NCAAAs was Hyer. This is Hyer's first NCAA championship, and she qualified by earning All-Big East honors in last month's meet.

Hyer will compete in this Friday's NCAA Zone C Diving Meet in Columbus, Ohio, and she will need to finish in the top four in order to qualify for a trip to Athens later in the week.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

TRACK AND FIELD

Irish run into nation's fastest at NCAA finals

By JASON GALVAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is looking for one last meet of strong finishes.

The Irish will have seven athletes competing at the last winter track event of the year — this weekend's NCAA Championships in Fayetteville, Ark. at the University of Arkansas' Randall Tyson Track Center.

One of Notre Dame's best chances to place on the men's side comes in the distance relay. Senior Ryan Postel, junior Thomas Chamney, junior All-American Kurt Benninger and sophomore Adam Currie will be running in the event. Benninger will also compete in the 3,000-meter run, and Thomas Chamney will be running the 800-meter dash. Sophomore John Cavanaugh will serve as an alternate.

On the women's side, senior All-American distance runner Stephanie Madia will compete in the 5,000-meter run, while freshman Ramsey Kavan will participate in the mile.

A year ago, Madia found out only two days before the meet that she would be competing. Now, with a little more time to rest up and focus mentally, she has another opportunity to add to an already outstanding track career.

Madia is in the competition based on the strength of her time at the Alex Wilson Invitational of

16:02.14. It was the seventh-fastest time in the nation and earned an automatic invitation to the finals. Kavan improved her time at the Alex Wilson as well by posting a time of 4:38.78 and taking the 15th fastest time in the nation.

"It's a relief to me to be able to go in and not have to prepare last minute again," Madia said. "I just think that the level of competition is so high, it's just an awesome experience to be able to compete at the biggest indoor meet of the year."

Thomas Chamney, expected to be a strong contender in the men's 800-meter dash, remembers his first taste of the NCAA championships well.

"When I was a freshman, I didn't have a clue," Chamney said. "I was on the [distance medley relay] that year, and I remember being [awed] by the size of the meet. I had never experienced anything like it, with four- to fi

Benninger is coming off his best season, posting his second sub-four minute mile at the Notre Dame Invitational in January. He holds the fourth fastest time in the nation this year for the 3,000-meter run — his 7:52.28 at the Mevo Invitational.

"I think we all get along really well," Benninger said. "We have a good group of guys and we're all really excited to finally run at nationals."

Contact Jason Galvan at jgalvan@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Florida sun promises Belles heated contests

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

After posting an 8-9 record and finishing fifth at the MIAA tournament last year, the Belles hope more experience will carry them to the top of the league in 2006.

Their first test comes this week with seven matches over six days during the team's annual spring trip to Orlando.

The Belles face Urainas Sunday at 2 p.m. to kick off their season and follow that contest with a matchup against Minnesota State-Mankato 8 a.m. Monday.

"We're hoping to win the conference this year," sophomore Tara O'Brien said. "I think we have a good shot. Everyone's been playing really well."

Saint Mary's returns four of its top six players. The only losses are No. 2 singles/No. 2 doubles Miranda Mikulyuk and No. 6 singles/No. 3 doubles Mary Beth Pavela.

O'Brien said team practices have been more intense than last season.

"We've done more conditioning this year than we have in past years," she said.

The Belles ran hot and cold last season sustaining a four game losing streak in mid-season then ending the year with four straight wins. Saint Mary's beat the teams it was supposed

to — sweeping every match against MIAA bottom-feeders Alma, Olivet, and Tri-State — but was unable to keep pace with the conference's top squads. The Belles lost to Calvin, Hope and Kalamazoo by a combined score of 25-2.

In 2006, Saint Mary's will feed off its returning experience. No. 1 singles/No. 1 doubles Kristen Palombo returns for her senior year after compiling a 9-8 singles record last season. Palombo won the MIAA individual title at No. 2 singles her freshman and sophomore years and took third in No. 1 singles last year.

No. 3 singles/No. 2 doubles Caile Mulcahy and No. 4 singles/No. 2 doubles Kelly McDavitt joins O'Brien (No. 5 singles/No. 3 doubles) in returning for the Belles.

Perhaps the most important returnee for the Belles is coach Dee Stevenson. Stevenson has coached at Saint Mary's since 2001, compiling a 64-19 record, two undefeated conference schedules and the Belles' only NCAA tournament appearance in 2002.

"He's a great coach and a great guy," O'Brien said. "He knows a lot about tennis, and he wants us to think and plan our shots rather than hitting it as hard as we can."

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ND SOFTBALL

Competition out west will be a test

Judi Garman Classic follows two games at home with Cal Poly

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will have no rest this spring break, as the Irish travel west to take on the highest-ranked competition they will see all season long. The action kicks off Sunday with a double-header against the Cal Poly Mustangs.

The Mustangs (9-14) thrive on defensive play and the occasional long ball (16 homers this season). With tough losses to No. 3 UCLA and Oklahoma, Cal Poly has proven it can play with the best teams in the country.

"We are very similar teams at this point in the season," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "We both have some good wins and some bad losses. I know if we bring our 'A' game we should beat them."

Gumpf returns to the team full time this weekend after giving birth to her daughter a little more than two weeks ago. Players said the team is excited to have Gumpf back on the bench and is confident that her presence will give the team the boost it needs to take on the daunting schedule.

"I think it will make a big difference with Coach Gumpf here — it will really be able to help us out," freshman infielder Linda Kohan said.

After the two games against Cal Poly, the Irish will take all the extra help they can get this week as they enter the inaugural Judi Garman Classic in Fullerton, Calif. The tournament, formerly known as the Kia Classic, is considered to be the premier mid-season tournament for all of collegiate softball. The field of 16 teams is chock-full of talent with 10 schools ranked in the top 25.

Notre Dame starts the tournament in a round robin, playing

games against No. 10 Arizona State, Florida State, and Cal State-Fullerton. The Titans, who beat the Irish 9-3 on Feb. 19, will have home field advantage as the hosts of the classic.

"I think we are a whole different team now," said Kohan, who went 3-for-4 with a home run in the loss to Fullerton. "I think we are going to surprise them this weekend."

The Sun Devils are the favorite in the pool, entering with a 21-1 record. The team's only loss came in extra innings against Virginia Tech March 4. If the Irish are to hand Arizona State its second loss Thursday, they will need to find a way to score more runs than most have against the Sun Devils. The stingy Sun Devil pitching staff has allowed less than 1.4 runs a game this season.

The Irish finish pool play with the Seminoles Friday. Florida State was quick out of the gate this year, getting off to a 13-6 start. Senior leadoff hitter Natasha Jacob has led the way offensively, setting the table with a .349 batting average. The Irish pitchers will have to keep the speedy Seminoles off the bases for Notre Dame to be successful.

"We will be facing some tough competition where our character will be tested," Gumpf said. Following the round robin games, brackets will be set for the weekend and the competition will once again toughen. Depending on how they fare in their pool, the Irish could face the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the nation (Arizona and Texas) — along with last year's NCAA champion Michigan.

Gumpf said a couple of big wins during the break could help bring Notre Dame into the nation's elite after a sluggish 7-7 start.

"At this point in the season we hoped to have a higher winning percentage," Gumpf said. "By the end of season we should be well above .500."

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Lacrosse

continued from page 20

making offensively has not been as good as it needs to be," he said. "And we have to shoot the ball better when we get opportunities. ... We've got to be better on our end with our decision making and putting the ball in the cage."

If the Irish are to light up the scoreboard Saturday, they must do so against a North Carolina defense featuring senior preseason first-team All-America Stephen McElduff. McElduff, a nominee for the Tewaaraton Trophy for the country's best lacrosse player, is tough to attack because of his versatility, Corrigan said.

"We've faced him every year of his career," Corrigan said. "He's an excellent defenseman — very solid. He's able to guard different kinds of players."

As Corrigan expects North

Carolina to bring a sense of urgency to Saturday's game, he said the Irish need to match that same aggressive attitude.

"We've been too willing to settle," he said. "If we play with a little more determination, everything will fall into place."

Other than a need for intensity, Corrigan's game plan and confidence is unchanged.

"We're not going to try to reinvent the wheel," he said. "We've been a good offensive team for a number of years. We're going to keep working hard and I think it will fall into place. We've had a good hard week in practice and we're very focused."

After Saturday's game against the boys from Tobacco Road, the Irish hit the road for their next two contests. Notre Dame travels to Philadelphia to take on Villanova Tuesday and visits Louisville Saturday to face Bellarmine.

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ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Team will fire for birdies in Texas

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame travels to Bryan, Texas this weekend to compete in Texas A&M's 13th Annual "Mo"-Morial Tournament at the Championship Tees Traditions Golf Club.

The 54-hole event is named after former A&M golfer Monica Welsh, who died in an automobile accident in the early 1990s. It will include a field of 18 teams from across the country, including No. 9 Arkansas and No. 23 Kent State.

The Irish are coming off of an 11th-place finish in the Central District Classic — their first tournament of this spring — and are hoping for a better finish this weekend.

"We didn't play as well as we expected that weekend," Irish coach Debby King said of the Feb. 19-20 tournament. "We're going up against the same class of teams in this field and we're hoping for a stronger finish."

Despite the disappointing finish in the team's first tournament, King is optimistic about this weekend because of the team's ability to practice during this week's mild weather.

"We got out [to the course] a couple times this week," she said. "So we're hoping we can continue to improve our level of play."

King said she hopes for a top-six finish in Bryan.

This competition is crucial for Notre Dame because it pits the team against several others from the NCAA central region

— teams the Irish will face in the second round of postseason play. What's more, the par-72, 6,307-yard course is the same one that will play host to the NCAA Central Regional in May.

During the fall, the Irish had a team scoring average of 301.5 per round. King said that her players should be aiming for that figure throughout the tournament.

"I'd feel really good if we could stay at or under that mark for each round," she said.

After the "Mo"-Morial, Notre Dame will have only two more tournaments to prove itself before the Big East Championship in Dade City, Fla. April 23-25.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Divers vie for championship bids

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will send two divers to this weekend's NCCA Zone-C Diving meet in Columbus, Ohio.

Sophomore Sam Stoner and freshman Michael Bulfin will compete in two diving events each — the three-meter dive Friday and the one-meter dive Saturday.

Competing at the meet will be every school from Zone C, which covers a large portion of the Midwest and includes most of the Big Ten schools.

The divers must finish in the

top-four in an event to qualify for the national championship meet, the final collegiate diving event of the season. Stoner and Bulfin are hoping to score high enough on their dives to make it into that elite group.

Notre Dame head coach Tim Welsh put the divers' goals very simply.

"They want to place as high as they can in our zone, so that they can advance to the national championships," Welsh said. "We've never sent any divers before. At least in recent memory, [no Notre Dame players] have advanced."

But regardless of how they finish in the Zone Meet, Stoner

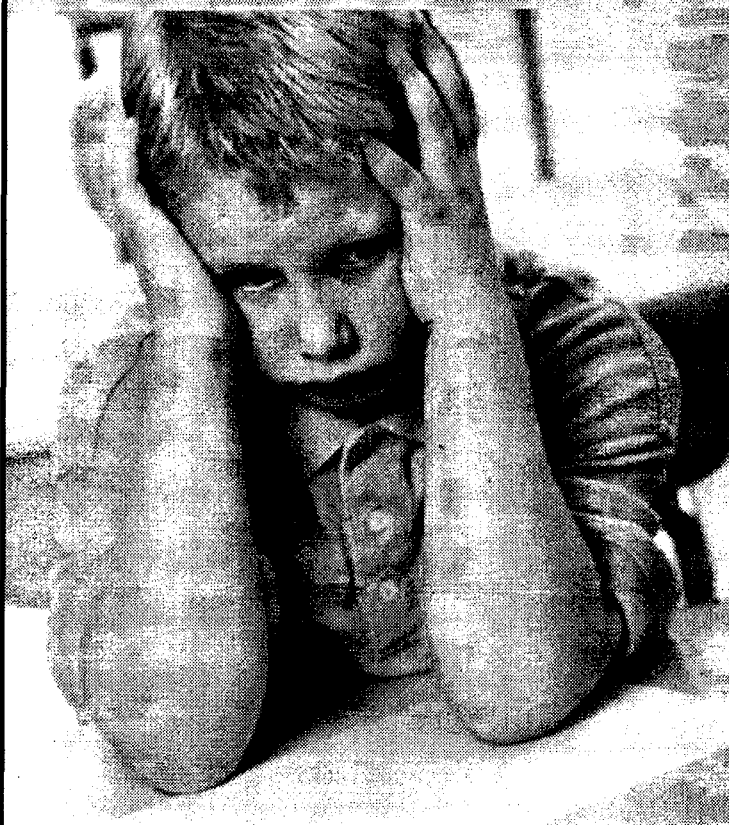
and Bulfin have won the admiration of their coaches and teammates, Welsh said. He said the impression that their work ethics and performance have made on their fellow swimmers, including the team's veterans, is evident every day.

"For Sam, he was also a very good high school diver, but he has improved quite a bit [at Notre Dame]," said senior swimmer Steve Shomberger, who competes in backstroke and butterfly events.

The NCAA Championships begin Thursday in Athens, Ga.

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Friends

continued from page 20

He said the key to Iowa's improvement this year was to look at each game as its own entity, rather than looking at a big picture — especially when the team faces an opponent several times, like it will Notre Dame.

"That's our goal as a program — not look too far ahead. We take it one game at a time and keep it as simple as possible," he said. "We're trying to get the program turned around. We've been down for a while."

Southpaw Jeff Maitland will lead Iowa's pitching rotation in its eight games over break. The senior is 1-0 with an ERA of 4.82 in his first full season after elbow surgery in 2004. In Maitland's last appearance, he allowed only two hits in six shutout innings against Northwestern.

"Jeff doesn't have overpower-

ing stuff by any means, but he just knows how to pitch [and] work both sides of the plate," Dahm said. "He just continues to get stronger each time out. He took some time off over the summer and got some arm strength back."

Maitland will be followed by righties Austin Seard and David Conroy in the rotation. Seward is 1-1 with a 5.23 ERA, while Conroy has yet to earn a decision after starting two games but throwing only six innings with a 4.50 ERA.

Notre Dame cannot bank on a ninth-inning comeback in any of its games against the Hawkeyes. Iowa closer Tim Gudex has thrown five perfect innings this year, with only four batters even putting the ball in play against him. He has struck out 10 and induced one double play.

"Having Tim on the back side, for our ninth inning, gives our guys a lot of confidence," Dahm said.

At the plate, center fielder

Nathan Price will lead off for Iowa. Price is batting .308 with five RBIs and three stolen bases. Utility infielder Travis Sweet bats in the No. 3 hole and has done a tremendous job scoring Price, hitting .600 with runners in scoring position this season.

"A lot of kids put a lot of pressure on themselves when it's time to drive in runs, but he excels in that situation," Dahm said. "He's the guy that's going to be able to drive in runs."

But before the Irish face Iowa, they must square off against No. 15 Texas A&M in their first game of the BECC.

Notre Dame looks to snap a five-game losing streak at 7 p.m. tonight against the Aggies (13-3).

Texas A&M is coming off a 6-4 loss at home to Texas State Tuesday but took two of three games from No. 5 Florida last weekend in a series in Gainesville.

Utility infielder Jose Salazar is Texas A&M's top hitter this year, batting .348 with an on-base per-

centage of .389. Catcher Josh Stinson provides the power for the Aggies with a .452 slugging percentage and 10 RBIs in 14 games played.

Junior Austin Creps and freshman Kyle Thebeau lead the Aggie pitching rotation, and while neither are expected to take the mound for Texas A&M, the Irish will nonetheless have their hands full at the plate.

Junior righty Kyle Nicholson carries a 3-0 record and 2.08 ERA into his start against Notre Dame. Nicholson has struck out 20 batters while surrendering just three walks in 21.2 innings.

If the past five games are any indication, the Irish may have trouble getting on the board against Nicholson. Notre Dame was shut out in its last two contests, an 8-0 drubbing at the hands of Minnesota March 4 and a 2-0 loss to Arizona in extra innings March 5. After the loss to Arizona, Mainieri attributed some of the team's batting woes to an early-season funk typical of

his Notre Dame teams.

"We've hit the ball hard, but it's frustrating," Mainieri said. "We've had some bad breaks go against us."

One advantage for the Irish will be the return of catcher Sean Gaston. The junior missed the team's loss to Arizona after hurting his arm in the Minnesota contest. He is expected to start for the Irish tonight.

Notre Dame's two games against Iowa in the BECC will be at 11 a.m. Saturday and 7 p.m. Monday. The Irish meet Illinois (3-3) at 7 p.m. Sunday in their other game in the BECC.


Notre Dame will stay in San Antonio to host the Irish Classic, with its two remaining games against Iowa (March 16 at noon and March 17 at 5:30 p.m.), and two more against Southern Illinois (11-4) on March 17 at 1:30 p.m. and March 18 at 1:30 p.m.

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Big East

continued from page 20

"It was a relief," McGraw said. "It was an amazing run for them and it's great to see, but I think it was good for the conference that Connecticut won."

After defeating South Florida 73-66 in the first round of the Big East tournament, McGraw was confident that the win had sealed their NCAA berth.

"I think this [win] is enough," McGraw said Saturday after the game. "I think we've got some good wins over good teams. We're playing well right now — we've got four [wins] in a row. I think everything's positive for us."

But as West Virginia marched through the tournament, upsetting No. 1-seed Rutgers — which was previously unbeaten in the conference — to get to the finals and play for the automatic invitation, Notre Dame had cause for concern.

Now that the Mountaineers' threat to steal the automatic bid is over, McGraw again feels secure.

"I feel like our resume is good — we've certainly played the tough schedule that [the tournament selection committee members] like to see," McGraw said.

While Connecticut's victory meant relief for numerous Big East schools, the win also gave the Huskies reason to be hopeful, as they now have the possi-

bility of being a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

"It would be unusual, but it is possible that a team could be a No. 1 seed without winning their [conference] tournament or regular-season [title]," said Joni Comstock, the NCAA Division I women's basketball committee chair, in a conference call Tuesday.

As the decision goes to the committee, the Irish stack up well against the other Big East bubble teams — Louisville, Pittsburgh, Villanova, South Florida and Marquette. Though Notre Dame finished behind all of them in the Big East regular season standings and compiled a 3-3 record against them, the team's ratings percentage index (RPI) of 28 is fourth in the conference. The Irish are trailing only Connecticut, Rutgers and DePaul, and they are far ahead of St. John's and Villanova, their closest competitors at Nos. 45 and 37, respectively.

"We've beaten some good teams," McGraw said. "I feel good about our chances."

Now that the time to prove themselves has ended, the Irish will have to wait and see if they did enough to earn the at-large bid.

"It's tough being on [spring] break and having to stay here and wait and see. That I think is the toughest part for the girls, not being able to go home," McGraw said.

Ultimately, Notre Dame may not even have to prove itself better than the rest of the Big

East bubble teams, just equal to them. Because of the strength and size of the Big East, eight invitations to Big East schools may not be an unreasonable possibility.

"I think we'll get a lot of teams in," McGraw said Sunday.

Notes:

♦ Irish senior point guard Megan Duffy was named the 2006 recipient of the Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award Thursday. The honor is given annually to the nation's top senior who is 5-foot-8 or shorter.

"I am thrilled and humbled to receive this prestigious award," Duffy said in a statement released by the Notre Dame athletics department Thursday. "Nothing like this is possible without a wonderful group of teammates and coaches, and I share this trophy with them — it's truly a team effort."

♦ Irish senior forward Courtney LaVere was chosen Thursday to receive the Robin Roberts/WBCA Broadcasting Scholarship Award. The double major in computer applications and film, television and theatre interned at WNDU-TV in the summer of 2004 and will receive the \$4,500 award at the WBCA Awards Luncheon April 2.

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Tough tasks await Irish during break

Reigning champion Northwestern, James Madison to face ND

By CHRIS WILLIAMS
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is on a roll.

With a dominating 20-4 win over Lehigh Wednesday, the No. 14 Irish take a spotless 5-0 record into a crucial matchup against No. 19 James Madison Sunday at noon at the Loftus Center.

The game will be a matchup of two unbeaten programs, as the Dukes enter with a 3-0 record on the season.

Notre Dame's victory over Lehigh was the latest in a series of strong performances for the Irish, who continue to play at a level far surpassing the team's play last season, when it finished 3-12.

The biggest difference in the Irish this year might be the addition of Jill Byers, a versatile freshman who plays both mid-field and attack, to the threat of senior attack Crysti Foote. Byers has 20 goals and 10 assists, including a freshman record nine-point (five-goal, four-assist) performance against the Mountain Hawks Wednesday. Foote had seven points (three goals, four assists) Wednesday to climb to 24 goals and 14 assists on the season.

The strong performances and jump in the polls have left the team much more confident than it was a year ago.

"JMU will be a tough team, and they have good coaching on the defensive end, but I don't think it's anything we can't handle," Byers said. "[Our] record is a great accomplishment, but it is a lot more important to keep on winning."

Both teams are coming off disappointing seasons, with the Irish reeling from their dreary 3-12 2005 campaign and the Dukes coming off a mediocre 7-9 mark last season. With two acclaimed freshman classes for Notre Dame and JMU, No. 1 and No. 10 respectively according to Inside Lacrosse Magazine's recruiting rankings, the teams both feature young players injecting new life into their programs.

The Dukes have a returning star player analogous to Foote in the form of junior midfielder Kelly Berger. Berger led James Madison in goals (41) and assists (16) last season for a total of 57 points.

After Sunday's matchup, the Irish will face Loyola-Md. March 16 in Wellington, Fla. and Northwestern in Evanston, Ill. March 19.

Northwestern is the defending NCAA champion and will serve as a barometer of the Irish turnaround.

"I'm excited to play Northwestern because we are definitely rivals," Foote said. "It's always a challenge. Our team is ready for the competition. If we play our game we can definitely come away victorious."

Crysti Foote
Irish attack

Contact Chris Williams at cwilli11@nd.edu

Tennis

continued from page 20

every match all season."

Despite the dominance the Irish had against the Illini, the doubles pairing of Christian and Catrina Thompson suffered its second loss of the season against the unranked duo of Macall Harkins and Emily Wang.

But the team's other two doubles teams won their matches, and Notre Dame is now 11-for-11 in claiming the doubles point this season.

"Catrina and I had difficulties communicating, and the loss was more mental than anything," Christian Thompson said. "But we are hoping we have learned from the loss and pull out a win against [Western

Michigan]."

The Irish are the only program in the nation to post three teams ranked in the top-50. The No. 4 pairing of Catrina and Christian Thompson has led the Irish at No. 1 for most of the season and currently stand at 8-2 this season. Following at No. 2 is the No. 39 twosome of sophomore Brook Buck and freshman Kelcy Tefft. The last ranked team for the Irish at No. 3 is the No. 46 duo of seniors Kiki Stastny and captain Lauren Connelly.

"We are hoping to always head into singles with the doubles point because it really helps out the team mentally," Nelson said. "It also causes the other teams to feel like they are at a disadvantage heading into the singles matches."

In their match against the Broncos, the Irish are hoping to

continue their winning streak.

Western Michigan is led by senior Rattiya Hiranrat, who is heading into the match after breaking a school record with her 100th doubles win. Hiranrat is also currently 14 wins away from passing Frederika Girsang's school record for total wins at 196.

Other Broncos who stand at 100 wins or more are seniors Malena Remynse, Reedhina Parekh, junior Carrie Jeanmaire and sophomore Noriko Saruta.

"They definitely have a great record and are moving up in the rankings, but we just feel like we are heading into the match with so much momentum," Christian Thompson said. "All we need to do is concentrate and play hard."

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Kubinski

continued from page 20

ments this year, but Kubinski said they have a lot of room for improvement.

"We still haven't played our A-game yet. We're the most consistent team, but we're not consistently at the top," he said. "If we can start playing like we know we can, we can get in that top-three or four, which is where we should be."

If the Irish want to finish in the top three this weekend, they will have to beat some of the top teams from around the country.

"This is an excellent field [of teams]," Kubinski said. "You have district teams like Michigan State and Illinois and then a conference team like Louisville — teams that are consistently in the Top-25."

But Kubinski is not scared of the competition. In fact, he's looking forward to seeing where the Irish stack up.

"This tournament should give

us a very good feel of where we are compared to the Top-25 and also in comparison to other Big East schools," said Kubinski, whose Irish finished first in last year's Big East Championship.

After completion of the General Jim Hackler Invitational on Monday, the Irish will get a short three-day break before the start of the Border Olympics in Laredo. While the level of competition there isn't as high as that of Hackler Invitational, Kubinski said there's one team he is very excited about facing.

"We get to rematch Baylor, who is in the Top-10 and [beat us earlier this year]," Kubinski said. "We beat them in the NCAA [Regional tournament] last year, so this will be the rubber match and hopefully we come out on top."

Kubinski said if the Irish are able to come out on top in Laredo, it will depend on their ability to sink birdie putts.

"This is a different golf course [than Myrtle Beach]," he said. "There are going to be a lot of

low scores, so if we want to win we're going to have to sink a number of birdies."


Kubinski will change up the lineup a bit to utilize the experience of some of his seniors, including Eric Deutsch.

"He has played there a number of times, so he will bring some much needed experience to our team," Kubinski said of Deutsch.

While Kubinski is hopeful that inserting Deutsch in the lineup will give the Irish the bump they need, he is also counting on the improved play of two of his other players — senior Scott Gustafson and sophomore Mike King.

"Scott has just had a great week of practice," Kubinski said. "You just get that feeling that he is ready to play fantastic golf. And Mike seems to be getting closer and closer to taking that next step to being the consistent golfer both he and I know he is capable of being."

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MEN'S LACROSSE

On their Heels

ND faces Carolina to kick off a series of games over next week

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

Coming off a disappointing 9-6 loss to No. 6 Cornell last weekend, No. 13 Notre Dame looks to rebound against No. 20 North Carolina Saturday at the Loftus Center.

Though the game will be Notre Dame's third consecutive against a ranked opponent, North Carolina (2-3) barely hangs onto the last spot in Inside Lacrosse's Top-20 media poll. Pennsylvania knocked off the sliding Tar Heels 13-4

Tuesday in Chapel Hill, handing the Heels their third loss in a row after a 2-0 start.

In light of Carolina's eye-opening home defeat, Irish head coach Kevin Corrigan expects to face a spirited squad Saturday.

"They are a very talented team that's off to a rough start to their season," Corrigan said. "We've going to get them at a tough time. We're going to get them wounded and fighting. We're going to see the best that they have."

The Irish hope to increase an offensive output that has scored eight or fewer goals in both contests this year — a number they failed to exceed just once all of last season.

Though Corrigan acknowledged that stingy goaltenders



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer
Irish defenseman James Severin handles the ball during Notre Dame's 8-4 loss to Penn State at Loftus Feb. 26.

like Cornell's All-American Matt McMonagle have given the Irish offense a hard time, Notre Dame must demand a higher

scoring output.
"Part of it is our decision

see LACROSSE/page 16

MEN'S GOLF

Team heads south and west for tournaments

By JOE QUINN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will spend its spring break in Myrtle Beach, S.C. and Laredo, Texas, where the team will partake in two

tournaments over the weeklong break.

The Irish will play in the General Jim Hackler Invitational Sunday and Monday and then head west to Laredo to participate in the Border Olympics March 17 and 18.

With one tournament under its belt this spring, Irish coach Jim Kubinski feels good about his team's chances.

"I'm expecting the guys to play very improved golf down in Myrtle Beach," Kubinski said. "This is a good course for us —

it really suits our game. You have to drive well and putt well, and I think that should play in our favor."

The Irish have finished in the top-6 in five of their six tourna-

see KUBINSKI/page 18

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Big East hopes for tourney bids

McGraw thinks Irish will make field of 64

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Joining a conference-wide chorus, the Irish (18-11, 8-8 Big East) finally exhaled Tuesday, comforted by the fact that No. 9 Connecticut — the No. 2 seed in the conference tournament and a lock for the NCAA Tournament — defeated No. 12-seed West Virginia in the Big East Championship.

The Mountaineers (15-15, 4-12) limped into the conference tournament with an eight-game losing streak and the belief that they needed to win it all and take the Big East's automatic bid in order to make it into the field of 64.

"I think we [need to] win the tournament to [even] go to the NIT right now," Mountaineers head coach Mike Carey said



KIRSTEN HOELMER/The Observer
Irish forward Breona Gray, right, drives to the hoop during Notre Dame's 79-64 loss to Connecticut Feb. 19.

after West Virginia upset fourth-seeded St. John's March 5 to advance to the tournament semifinals.

During their four-day run, the Mountaineers had become the first No. 12-seed ever to advance to the conference final, win a quarterfinal game or even make it out of the first round.

After West Virginia's remarkable run ended, Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw echoed the sentiments of the half-dozen or so Big East bubble teams hoping for an at-large invitation to the Big Dance when the brackets are announced Monday afternoon.

see BIG EAST/page 18

BASEBALL

Duel in San Antonio for Hawks and Irish

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Even though Notre Dame sunk to 2-5 after consecutive shutout losses last weekend, Iowa coach Jack Dahm isn't too happy about facing the Irish four times during the next eight days.

The third-year Hawkeyes head coach — and good friend of Irish head coach Paul Mainieri — said he was glad to be spending much of spring break around the Notre Dame baseball program but wished so much of that time wasn't in head-to-head competition.

"We're going down there because of my relationship with Coach Mainieri, but neither one of us wanted to play four times," Dahm said in a telephone interview with The Observer Thursday. "It's [difficult] when

you're playing a good friend ... We'd much rather be playing other people than each other."

Dahm said a schedule snafu caused the odd situation. Both Notre Dame and Iowa (5-1) were late entrants in this weekend's Baseball Express Collegiate Classic (BECC) in San Antonio's Wolff Stadium, which forced them to square off twice in that tournament. When a team dropped out of the March 16-18 Irish Classic — also at Wolff Stadium — Iowa and Notre Dame were forced to play each other twice in that tournament as well.

The Hawkeyes are off to their best start in over a decade, as Dahm has made strides in recruiting and pitching since coming to Iowa from Creighton.

see FRIENDS/page 17

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

James Madison at Notre Dame

The No. 13 Irish take their spotless record into a home matchup against the No. 19 Dukes Sunday.

page 18

MEN'S DIVING

Zone C Championships

Notre Dame will send two divers to the national qualifying meet in Columbus, Ohio.

page 18

ND SOFTBALL

The Irish begin their spring break schedule with two games against Cal Poly and then travel to the west coast for the Judi Garman Classic.

page 16

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Notre Dame will tee off in the annual "Mo"-Morial Tournament at the Championship Tees Traditions Golf Club in Bryan, Tex.

page 16

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Syracuse 86 Connecticut 84

Gerry McNamara hit a 3-pointer to send the game to overtime and the Orange knocked off the No. 1 Huskies.

page 13

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Georgetown 62 Marquette 59

Brandon Bowman's six free throws in the final minute led the Hoyas past the Golden Eagles.

page 12