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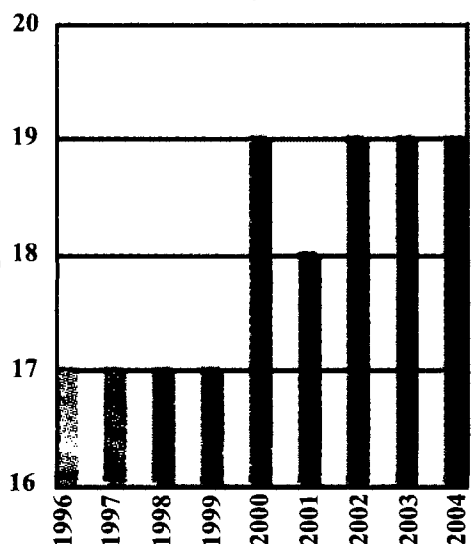
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Domers defend dorm life at Notre Dame

Students offer praise for residence hall system, but admit drawbacks to all-inclusive living

Are Students Satisfied with ND's Residence Hall System?

Nearly one-fifth of all undergraduate students opt to live in off-campus apartments or houses — a percentage that has risen slowly over time. Despite a 2 percent increase, numbers have remained more or less constant in recent years.



Information compiled from the 2005 University of Notre Dame Fact Book. Data was recorded during the fall semester of each year.

MATT HUDSON/Observer Graphic

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

Editor's Note: This is the last of a three-part series examining the absence of fraternities and sororities at Notre Dame.

At a Nov. 16 Student Senate meeting, Zahm Hall's representative proposed a resolution that would formally recognize the dorm as "Zahm House" — a move that invoked laughter before its failure to garner enough support among voters.

Zahm senator Pat Knapp alluded to other dorms — like Morrissey Manor and Sorin College — that have dropped the "Hall" in their names, asserting that "such names and cultures build community among the student body."

Student body president Dave Baron supported the resolution. Praising Zahm's uniqueness on campus, he said he had no problem with the proposal because it "foster[ed] dorm

identity."

But Dillon senator Dan Bowen opposed the resolution and said Zahm was "trying to leave the impression they're a fraternity." Such a claim would be "very contrary" to Notre Dame tradition and policy, he said.

A chance for change?

Zahm residents may or may not have intended to blur the lines of distinction between residence hall and fraternity, but their motion demonstrated the desire some students have for an officially recognized Greek system at Notre Dame.

Keough freshman E.J. Alston expressed dissatisfaction with the current residence hall system and said he wished University policy permitted fraternities and sororities.

"I think having a Greek life would boost the social scene on campus and make it more fun," Alston said. "If there was a Greek

see DORMS/page 8



Top: Courtesy of www.nd.edu/~alumh. Bottom: Observer file photo

Above, Alumni Hall displays a "Delta-Omega-Gamma" sign in the manner of frats as a symbol of unity. Below, teams compete for dorm pride in the Keough Chariot Race.



Changes to CWIL funding policy spark student reaction

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

After studying abroad in Seville, Spain, Saint Mary's juniors Natalie Kachurek and Megan Fricano wanted nothing more than a chance to return to their new "home." The two were overjoyed at the thought of receiving a grant to complete a project centered on teaching English to Hispanic immigrants to the United States after teaching in

Seville this summer.

They intended to use funds acquired through Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) grants to complete the abroad portion. But their plans fell through after they did not receive enough money to make the trip possible.

Each year, Saint Mary's CWIL offers "mini grants" to students to support intercultural leaning and study on campus. The types of student grants are Individual Student Intercultural Learning

Grants and grants for study abroad programs. This year, CWIL awarded a little more than \$70,000 in individual student grants, thanks to the Lilly Endowment Fund.

But there has been a dispute over how this year's funds were allotted. This controversy has led some students — like Kachurek and Fricano — to abandon their projects completely.

Kachurek knew CWIL would not fund the project completely, but said after meetings with ad-

sors and the application process, she was given the impression that almost 75 percent of the funding would be covered by the organization.

"I don't know how [CWIL] analyze[s] the numbers, but it is pretty much impossible for me or my family to magically come up with multiple thousands of dollars to spare," Kachurek said. "We thought that CWIL would help make this doable for us."

The dispute, however, has left both students and CWIL adminis-

trators confused. CWIL coordinator Elaine Meyer-Lee expressed concern for the dissatisfaction of the students receiving the money. She said she was surprised by their disappointment.

"CWIL at Saint Mary's donates more money than another other school," she said. "CWIL bends over backwards to be fair with the funds."

Students on the receiving end of the funding expressed their

see CWIL/page 9

SMC ceremony honors professor

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary's Editor

More than one hundred Saint Mary's students, faculty and administrators came together Thursday night to honor an educator who displays immense loyalty and dedication to the College's community — accounting professor Mary Ann Merryman.

"There are so many amazing women on this campus," Merryman said. "And I am so humbled to receive this award, especially from students who I hold so dear to my heart."

Merryman was one of three nominees honored at the fourth annual

see AWARD/page 4



CHELSEA GULLING/The Observer

Mary Ann Merryman, left, is given the "Women Honoring Women" award by last year's winner Mary Connolly, right, and Student Government Association treasurer Jillian Waters.

Event promotes Asian American awareness

By MAUREEN MULLEN
News Writer

A full slate of lectures and discussions focusing on the theme "Voices of Modern Asian America" will attempt to draw students together at Notre Dame's 2006 InFocus conference today and Saturday.

The keynote speakers for this year's conference include Emily Liu, a 1994 Notre Dame graduate and successful actress who recently formed her own production company, Roger D. Huang, chairperson of the department of

finance at the Mendoza College of Business, and Eric Liu, an Asian American author who served as a speechwriter for President Clinton and who was named in 2002 as one of the 100 Global Leaders of Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum.

Along with Emily Liu, Huang and Eric Liu, a number of other invited guests as well as Notre Dame faculty members will participate in the conference, said John Paul Lichon, student chair for the hospitality committee.

While promoting an apprecia-

see INFOCUS/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Beast of burden

What would happen if nothing mattered? What if, like Peter Gibbons from Office Space, we all just stopped caring? Let me put it this way. Imagine life without work: days gone just lying on the beach, or watching television, or simply doing nothing. How beautiful would that be, just to relax all the time, eating when hungry and sleeping whenever you feel like it ... Well, I've been thinking about it for a while now, and I've decided I don't think I would really like that. Like the satisfied feeling you get after a good workout, relaxation is made better by all the effort we put into everyday life, be it homework, jobs, activities — anything really.

So imagine it was true: nothing matters. That test you're worried about or homework you're doing—no worries. It won't matter in the long run. We all end up the same, so why care? I realized that if I start thinking that way now, all that I have done with my life up to this point will mean nothing as well. And I've spent a lot of energy throughout my life to get to where I am now, it would be a shame to think none of it was ever worth anything. It's as if I've carried a huge rock down a road so far that if I were to put it down before I get to where I'm going, then why did I pick it up in the first place? All I have now when I reach my destination is a sore back and no rock to show for it. Why I wanted a rock in the first place is a whole other issue ... Maybe I was going to see a geologist, who knows?

What got me started thinking about this topic was a passage from a strange philosophy book I have, describing a fictional conversation God has with himself. In the passage, God ponders the fact that he sent a message to free humankind, yet they chose to ignore this message and continue shouldering their burdens.

My first reaction was to wonder what message could God be sending to free us from something so universal as burden? And also, how did burdens get such a bad reputation in the first place? Adaptation is one of the greatest abilities of human beings, and without hardship we wouldn't have anything to adapt to.

The rocks we carry around make life interesting — without any troubles, there can be no victories. An old swim coach of mine often said, "Winners are only as great as the competitors they defeat," and the same applies to burdens. A person's greatness is measured by the magnitude of the burdens they overcome.



Dusty Mennella

Photo Editor

Contact Dusty Mennella at dmennell@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: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GETTING ENGAGED WHILE STILL IN COLLEGE?



Juan Carlos Rivera
freshman
Zahn

"All I have to say is Ichiro!"



John Park
senior
Zahn

"I'm engaged on the Facebook. Does that count?"



Megan LaDriere
freshman
Cavanaugh

"Only if it's not her!"



Sarah Van Mill
freshman
Cavanaugh

"Only if it's one of these two!"



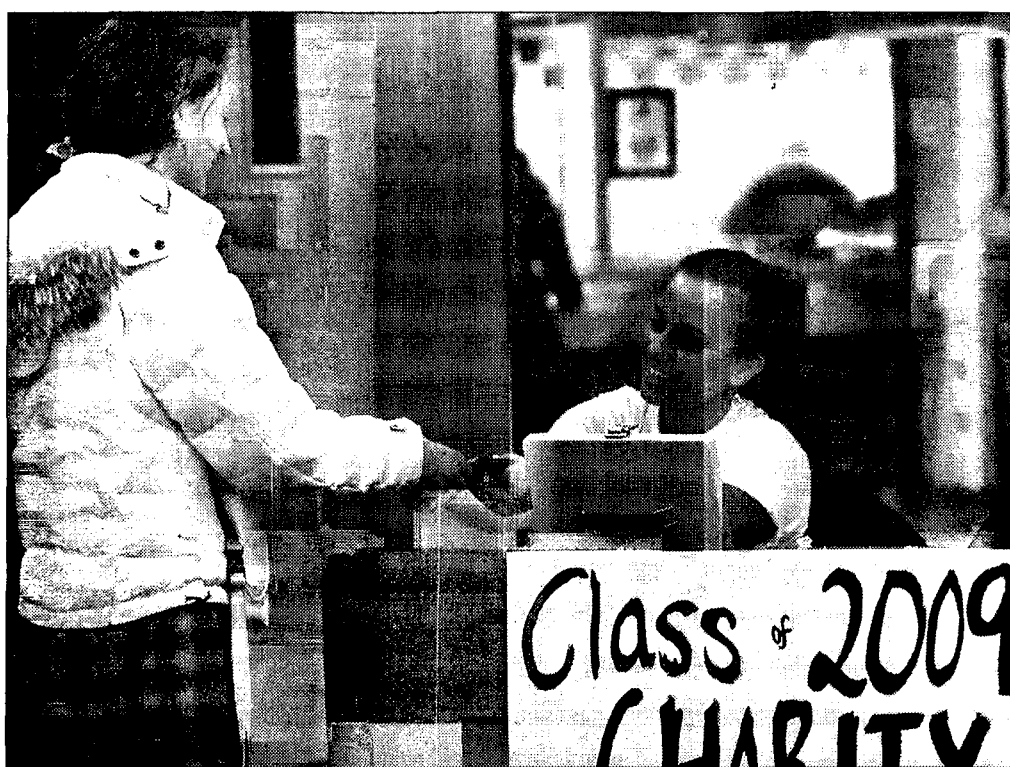
Catherine Martinez
freshman
Cavanaugh

"Only if it's not her!"



Mark Langhans
freshman
Dillon

"Engagement is a pretty serious commitment. I'd probably wait until I was more certain of what I wanted to do with my life."



JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

At the entrance of North Dining Hall, freshman Lauren Wickel sells a ticket Thursday to the Class of 2009 Charity Ball, sponsored by Freshman Class Council.

OFFBEAT

Alligator knocks on Fla. woman's door

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. — So now the alligators are going door to door. When Lori Pachelli heard someone knocking at the door of her home in a gated community in this southwest Florida community earlier this week, she looked out to see an unwelcome visitor on her front stoop: an 8-foot alligator.

The bull gator, which had wandered up from the pond behind the house, had a bloody lip from banging its head against the door.

"He was pretty big, pret-

ty aggressive," Pachelli said, adding that the gator may have followed her home from walking her cocker spaniel, Trooper.

Man catches train, forgets baby in car

WASHINGTON— Commuters racing to catch the train typically forget things in the car — keys, wallets, briefcases. But a baby daughter?

That's what happened Thursday just north of Washington, police say.

"Dad forgot baby in the car, parked the car, got on the Metro," said Lucille Baur, a spokeswoman for

the Montgomery County, Md., Police Department.

"I don't know exactly when he got the memory flash, but he was in D.C. when it was the horrible defining moment, 'Oh my goodness, I think I've left my child back in my car,'" Baur said.

At that point, she said, Jonathan Sander got off the southbound train and onto a northbound one, returning to the Shady Grove Metrorail station about 12 miles north of Washington.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Dinner at both North Dining Hall and South Dining Hall will be "lights out" tonight from 4:30-7 p.m. to raise awareness of energy usage issues. The candlelit dinners are hosted by Students for Environmental Action.

The Glee Club will present its annual spring concert tonight at 8 p.m. at the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$3 for students.

The Chicago-based country band Strait Southern will perform tonight at 10 p.m. in Legends. Admission is free with a ND, SMC or HCC student ID.

The Northern Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair will take place Saturday at Stepan Center. The event is open to the public at 1:30 p.m. and parking is available in the D-2 lot on the north side of campus.

Anglo-Irish band Flook will perform tonight at 8 p.m. at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

The Notre Dame Ultimate Club will host its annual tournament this Saturday and Sunday. Games on both days start at 9 a.m. Saturday games will be played on McGlinn and Stepan fields. Sunday games will be held at Stepan fields.

The No. 11 Irish men's lacrosse team will face off with Dartmouth 12 p.m. Sunday at Moose Krause Stadium at Notre Dame.

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	40	31		31		22		46		53		42
				27				30		35		30

Atlanta 50 / 35 Boston 43 / 34 Chicago 39 / 27 Denver 47 / 21 Houston 63 / 36 Los Angeles 74 / 52 Minneapolis 35 / 24 New York 44 / 37 Philadelphia 50 / 34 Phoenix 84 / 55 Seattle 54 / 45 St. Louis 44 / 28 Tampa 68 / 55 Washington 49 / 38

College to be possessed with 'Midnight Madness'

By COLLEEN KIELTY
News Writer

One night each year, the Angela Athletic Facility becomes a madhouse. In 2006, that night is tonight.

Saint Mary's will host its annual Midnight Madness event — themed "Oh, What a Mid-Night Madness!" — tonight with winter intramurals championship games kicking off at 8 p.m. with the main event scheduled from 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The event, which is organized by the athletic department and a committee of students, will feature Vice President of Student Affairs Linda Timm as its host. There will also be performances by the Saint Mary's cheerleading squad and the senior class board. Free food will be served throughout the night thanks to donations from Panera Bread, Jimmy John's and Domino's Pizza.

Participating students can win prizes donated from Saint Mary's and the local community, including an Apple iPod, the number one room pick on campus, Saint Mary's rings from Jostens and Balfour and many others. The grand prize is a one-night stay at the Millennium Knickerbocker hotel in downtown Chicago, with complimentary breakfast and a \$1,000 shopping spree.

According to Athletic Director Lynn Kachmarik — who started the annual event six years ago — Midnight Madness is held to help bring members of the Saint Mary's community together in a fun way.

"I wanted to start something here that would be all about Saint Mary's spirit and pride ... an event that would

keep our women on our campus on a weekend night, not involving alcohol," Kachmarik said.

The Midnight Madness committee is expecting about 1,000 students to attend the event open to all Saint Mary's, Notre Dame and Holy Cross students.

"The students are ready and excited, especially the first years, talking up the event among their classmates as well as organizing and preparing decorations in their designated class color," student committee coordinator Ashley Enright said.

Students are anticipating a night of fun with friends and classmates.

"I didn't go last year, but I heard from a lot of people that it's a good experience to bond with your class and have fun," sophomore Mary Esler said.

Class bonding through competitions is an important part of the night. Students compete in class competitions and receive points for decorations, spirit and participation in games. Each class is assigned a different color for competitions. This year, freshmen are orange, sophomores are red and juniors are purple. The senior class always wears Saint Mary's blue. The first 50 students who arrive from each class will receive a free shirt in their class color.

The plan for the night is full of fun, spirit and surprises, Kachmarik said.

"There is even going to be a great surprise that the planning committee does not know about," she said. "Just come, have a blast and share in your love for Saint Mary's."

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ND symposium examines problem of white privilege

By MARCELA BERRIOS
News Writer

Discussions about white privilege as a form of racism in the Catholic Church will draw theologians, psychologists and sociologists to Notre Dame for a three-day conference starting Sunday.

The interdisciplinary symposium "White Privilege: Implications for the Catholic Church, the Church, and Theology" will feature speakers from Duke University, Loyola University-Chicago, Marquette University, Wellesley College, Boston College, Xavier College and the University of Hawaii, among others.

Bishop Dale Melczek from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gary, Indiana will also speak at the symposium.

Conference speaker Peggy McIntosh from the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women described the subtle effects of this socially-ingrained discrimination in her article "White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies," published in the book Critical White Studies.

"As a white person, I realized I had been taught about racism as something that puts others at disadvantage, but had been taught not to see one of its corollary aspects, white privilege, which puts me at an advantage," she wrote.

The conference's speakers have backgrounds in theology, women's studies, black studies, peace studies, psychology, sociology and law.

"By organizing the symposium in an interdisciplinary fashion, we hope to generate more theological discourse through the process of exchange across disci-

plines," conference organizer and theology professor Margaret Pfeil said.

Pfeil said she hopes this large pool of opinions will contribute to the unmasking of the elusive white privilege phenomenon.

"As a discipline, theology lags far behind the social sciences in addressing white privilege as a form of racism," Pfeil said.

While most other social sciences and disciplines have challenged for decades their own embedded stereotypes and power structures of race, Catholic theologians have remained quiet about their approaches to diversifying the frameworks of their research and academia.

Noting that most of the world's Catholics are non-white, Pfeil stressed the need for the symposium.

"As the nation's preeminent Catholic university, [Notre Dame] is in a powerful position to make a substantial contribution to critical thought and transformative action with regard to white privilege," she said.

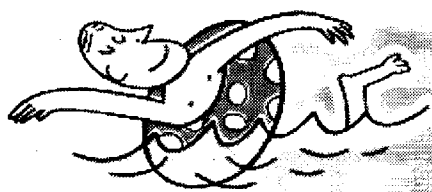
In an effort to confront white supremacy within the Church, in theological journals and in society, the Symposium will provide an intellectual forum where scholars and students may discuss the causes of the insidiousness of white privilege, the phenomenon's shaping of the context in which prominent theologians approach Catholicism, and the indirect effects of these events on the Catholic population, Pfeil said.

The symposium is sponsored by the department of theology, in conjunction with other University departments and organizations.

Contact Marcela Berrios at
aberrios@nd.edu

FARLEY FEIS SATURDAY MARCH 25

ND's first ever
**INTERHALL
SWIMMING**
event



Saturday 10am – 12 noon
Rockne memorial pool

Come cheer on
your dorm!



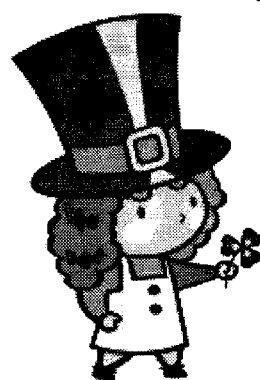
This event is brought to you by Farley Hall

Come join the celebration of
Farley Hall's 60th Anniversary
A fundraiser for St. Luke's Tutoring Program

7:00pm – 10:30pm
NDH Gold Room

Irish food,
Irish dance,
& Irish music

\$2 at the door for
food and performance



Performances include
Big Yellow Taxi, the ND Bagpipe Band,
and other student groups

Award

continued from page 1

"Women Honoring Women" award ceremony and dinner. Communications disorders professor Susan Latham and biology professor and pre-professional studies advisor Nancy Nekvasil were also nominated.

All three nominees possess a deep passion for their work and for Saint Mary's students, student body vice president Susan McIllduff said.

This year, students nominated more than 70 faculty members to be the next recipient of the award. From those submissions, a selection committee then chose the top three nominees. The winner was chosen by the Student Academic Council (SAC), which includes student representatives from each academic major.

With only one vote difference between each nominee, Merryman was named the winner of this year's award.

"Professor Merryman is truly an example of what faculty should be," SAC business and economics representative Anna Gilsinger said. "She goes the extra mile to see her students succeed and takes a personal interest in each student she teaches."

Merryman won the award for the tremendous care she provides for her students outside of the classroom by attending their extracurricular events and incorporating real life concepts into the classroom, Gilsinger said.

McIllduff said the nominees are just a sampling of the many faculty members who contribute so much of themselves to the bet-

terment of the students.

"The nominees here tonight inspire students, faculty and staff to expand upon their gifts in ways they never thought possible," McIllduff said.

Both Nekvasil and Latham have helped students accomplish their post-graduation dreams by serving as support beams within the graduate and medical school testing and application process.

Latham, a Saint Mary's graduate, has overseen the extensive growth of a communication disorders minor at the College, a program that has led to a 100 percent graduate school acceptance rate of seniors who wish to pursue a career in the field, SAC communications disorders representative Dana Christiano said.

Nekvasil has also gone above and beyond to support students, SAC biology representative Amy Oliva said. During the past two years, 100 percent of College graduates who applied to medical school were accepted.

Students from each academic department, Board of Governance members, College faculty and top administrators — including College President Carol Ann Mooney — were in attendance to honor the work of Merryman and the other nominees.

The annual award ceremony is an important yearly opportunity that allows the College to come together to honor a faculty member for their dedication to the Saint Mary's community, McIllduff said.

"The passion of these nominees is definitely to be admired," she said.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

InFocus

continued from page 1

tion of and desire for diversity is a goal of Notre Dame's Asian American Association, Lichon said it is not the most featured aspect of the InFocus conference.

"Our title this year is 'Voices of Modern Asian America,' and we wanted to discuss ways in which Asian Americans could find their voice and being comfortable in expressing themselves," he said. "The key to this year's conference is promoting ways in which Asian Americans can make a difference in the world, starting with gaining understanding of themselves and others, helping them to follow their dreams and passions and then focusing on ways in which to express themselves most fully within the world."

But while the program is hosted by the Asian American Association and centers on issues of Asian heritage, identity and culture, it is Lichon's hope that non-Asian students elect to attend conference events as well.

"The audience has been in past years, mostly Asian," he said. "We definitely would like students who are not Asian [to] attend. I've found though that it's hard to market to all students. Even some of my own friends find it difficult to attend to attend the conference because it is an Asian American Association event."

With this in mind, the organizers of InFocus 2006 made an attempt to spread a welcoming

word across campus.

"We made a better effort this year to spread news about the conference by word of mouth," he said. "We thought personal invitations would be the best way to get other students to attend the conference. This is actually one of the specific ways we tried to target the non-Asian American population."

InFocus began in 2002 as a medium for Asian American awareness, said Paul Nguyen and Linh Tu, co-chairs of the organizing committee for the event. Each year, the conference invites a select group of Asian Americans accomplished in a variety of professional fields to deliver lectures and participate in panel discussions on campus.

InFocus, organized by student members of Notre Dame's Asian American Association, also provides student involvement opportunities through the workshops, all of which are conducted by student planning committees. The conference presents a forum for Notre Dame students to interact with and listen to these featured guests and gives the Notre Dame student community an opportunity to come together in striving for diversity, Nguyen and Tu said.

"I think one of the best features of the InFocus Conference is that it's a conference run by students for students," Lichon said. "Students are involved in every step of the way. All of our workshops are actually run and facilitated by students."

The conference begins with a student panel and dinner tonight but will continue Saturday with featured events including an address by each of

"The key to this year's conference is promoting ways in which Asian Americans can make a difference in the world, starting with gaining understanding of themselves and others ..."

John Paul Lichon
hospitality committee chair

the keynote speakers, a workshop that will address issues of identity formation and racial stereotypes, a workshop that discusses business and science careers and a workshop that centers on issues of activism and social service.

The conference will conclude with a banquet Saturday evening.

Past conferences have featured distinguished speakers including University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy, Daren Rikio Mooko, director of the Asian American Resource Center at Pomona College and a widely recognized public mentor to Asian Americans, and Parry Shen, a successful television and film actor, Lichon said.

Contact Maureen Mullen at mmullen1@nd.edu

Siegfried Hall proudly presents: 2006 RAMBLER SCRAMBLER Mini-Golf Extravaganza Benefiting ALS Research



**March 25, 2006
9:30pm to 12:30am
Stepan Center**

***Free pizza and subs**

***TVs available for the NCAA games**

***Win a video iPod, digital camera, iPod Shuffle, and more!**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. and British forces free hostages

BAGHDAD — U.S. and British forces stormed a house and freed three Christian peace activists Thursday without firing a shot, ending a four-month hostage ordeal that saw an American in the group killed and dumped along a railroad track.

The U.S. ambassador and the top American military spokesman held out hope the operation on the outskirts of Baghdad could lead to a break in the captivity of American reporter Jill Carroll, a freelance writer for The Christian Science Monitor who was abducted Jan. 7.

The military spokesman, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, said the 8 a.m. rescue of the Briton and two Canadians from a "kidnapping cell" was based on information divulged by a man during interrogation only three hours earlier. The man was captured by U.S. forces on Wednesday night.

Chilean bus found to be unlicensed

ARICA, Chile — The Chilean government and a Miami-based cruise line distanced themselves Thursday from the operator of a tour bus that plunged down an Andean cliff, killing 12 elderly tourists from New Jersey and Connecticut.

Celebrity Cruises said Andino Tours, whose white bus tumbled more than 300 feet Wednesday afternoon, wasn't among the agencies it authorizes to run side trips for passengers during port stops. It also said the victims made their own arrangements to visit a national park.

Chilean officials said Andino Tours had not yet received official approval and the bus, which had a capacity of 16 passengers, wasn't registered to carry tourists.

NATIONAL NEWS

Prosecutors close Moussaoui case

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Prosecutors wrapped up their case for executing Zacarias Moussaoui with a former FBI agent's testimony Thursday that the bureau could have identified 11 of the Sept. 11 hijackers if the al-Qaida conspirator had confessed when he was arrested a month before the suicide attacks.

Before court-appointed defense attorneys could begin their case, Moussaoui announced loudly as he left for a recess that he would testify in his own behalf.

"I will testify, Zerkin, whether you want it or not," he said, referring to one of his lawyers, Gerald Zerkin. The 37-year-old Frenchman, who is the only person charged in this country in connection with the 2001 attacks, has refused to cooperate with his lawyers.

Activist under fire for Wal-Mart job

DECATUR, Ga. — At the grand opening of a Wal-Mart in a black suburb of Atlanta, civil rights leader Andrew Young danced with store clerks, bouncing to the song "We Are Family."

Young took part in the pep rally in his new position as a paid corporate cheerleader for Wal-Mart — a role that has perplexed some of his longtime civil rights colleagues, who have all but accused him of going over to the enemy.

Activists for the poor have long complained that Wal-Mart skimps on wages and health benefits, forces employees to work off the clock, and kills off mom-and-pop businesses.

LOCAL NEWS

Gary mayor resigning after 11 years

GARY — Scott King, who left the Democratic Party in April 2005 and declared himself an independent, announced today he is resigning as mayor of Gary after 11 years in office.

King's resignation comes three days after he appointed former Calumet Township Trustee Dozier Allen Jr. as deputy mayor, spurring speculation that King would resign.

The move leaves Allen, who ran for mayor in the Democratic primary in 1975 against Richard Hatcher, as interim mayor.

JAMAICA

Deadly fire strikes cruise ship

Cigarette starts tragedy in the Caribbean, leaves one dead and eleven injured

Associated Press

MONTEGO BAY — A fire apparently started by a cigarette spread smoke through a cruise ship in the Caribbean early Thursday, killing an American, injuring 11 other people and damaging about 150 cabins, officials said.

The Star Princess was en route from Grand Cayman to Jamaica when the blaze started at about 3 a.m., according to a statement from Princess Cruises, which is owned by Miami-based Carnival Corp.

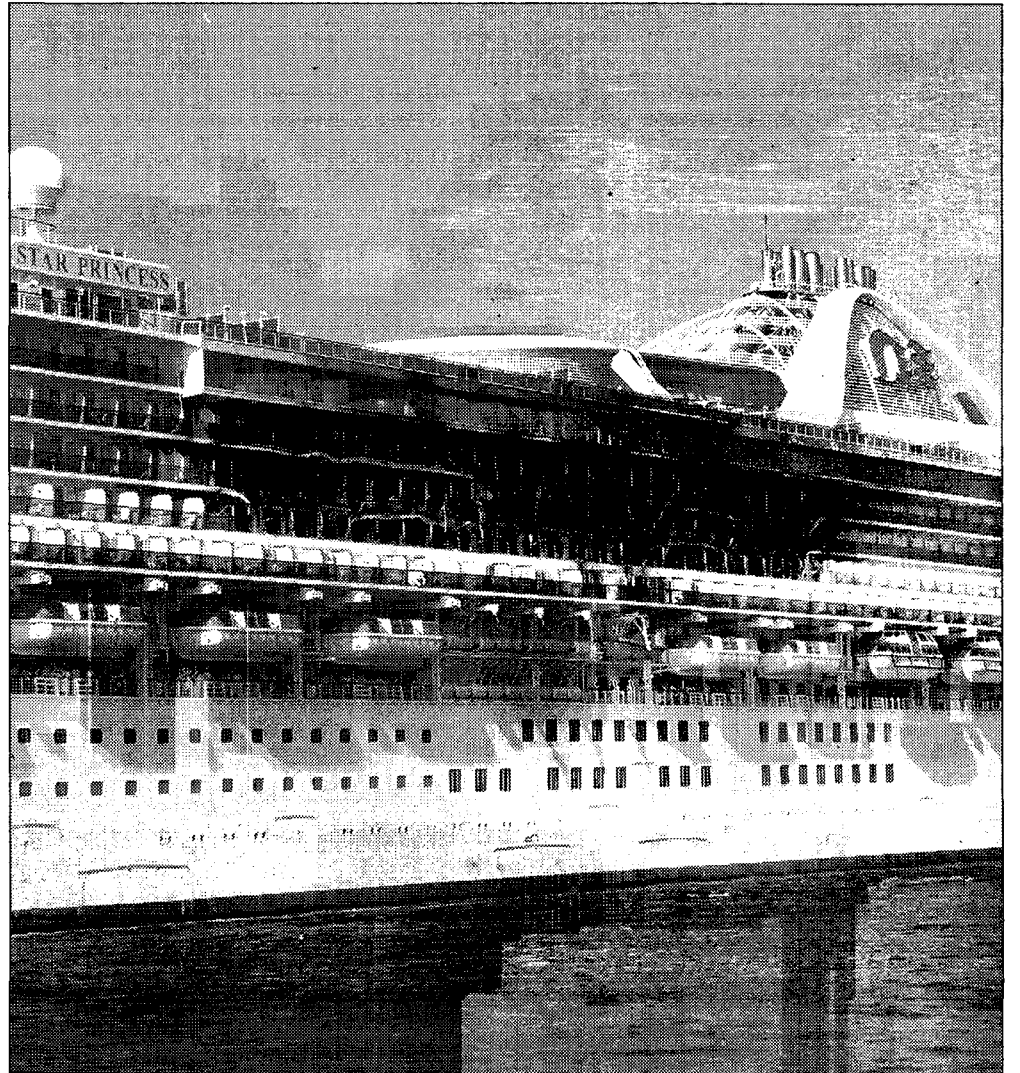
Richard Liffidge, 75, of Georgia, collapsed and died on deck, said Karl Angell, communications director for the Jamaica Constabulary Force. The victim's wife was taken to a hospital in Montego Bay.

Two passengers suffered "significant smoke inhalation injuries" and nine others had "minor complications," the cruise company said in a statement. Two people were hospitalized in Montego Bay and two others were being treated in the ship's clinic, Jamaica's disaster office said.

Horace Peterkin, president of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association, toured the scorched ship after it docked in Jamaica and said crew members told him the fire apparently started on a cabin balcony. A cigarette was suspected of causing the fire, which damaged about 150 cabins, Peterkin told The Associated Press.

The ship was carrying 2,690 passengers and 1,123 crew members. The Princess Cruises Web site said the Star Princess has more than 700 balcony staterooms and four pools.

Peterkin said 550 passengers whose cabins were damaged will be



The Star Princess cruise ship, with some clearly scorched cabins, is pictured while approaching the port of Montego Bay, in the northern coast of Jamaica, Thursday after a cigarette started a deadly fire on board.

moved to two hotels in nearby Negril and Ocho Rios. The cruise ship company was arranging to fly other passengers home, he said.

The ship was not seriously damaged and will sail back to Fort Lauderdale on Friday, Peterkin said. There was no immediate confirmation from cruise line officials.

Star Princess sailed from Fort Lauderdale on March 19.

"The ship is seaworthy," Peterkin said. "They'll sail out tomorrow."

The fire-blackened Star Princess docked in

Montego Bay just before noon. No smoke was seen coming from the vessel as rescue personnel boarded. All passengers remained on the ship and some were seen milling on the decks.

The starboard side of the ship, which faced dockside, showed no damage. But dozens of cabins on the other side appeared to be charred.

The U.S. Coast Guard dispatched investigators and fire engineers to help in the probe, Coast Guard Petty Officer James Judge said in Miami.

"Our No. 1 concern right now is safety," Judge said.

Because the Star Princess carries a Bermuda flag, the lead investigative agency will be Britain's Marine Accident Investigation Branch, but the Coast Guard will "participate as a substantially interested state," Judge said.

The Coast Guard regularly inspects all cruise ships that embark U.S. passengers. The Star Princess was last inspected on Oct. 25, 2005, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and had "no outstanding discrepancies," Judge said. That included a successful fire drill and abandon-ship drill.

U.S. seeks help in scanning nukes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the aftermath of the Dubai ports dispute, the Bush administration is hiring a Hong Kong conglomerate to help detect nuclear materials inside cargo passing through the Bahamas to the United States and elsewhere.

The administration acknowledges the no-bid contract with Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. represents the first time a foreign company will be involved in running a sophisticated U.S. radiation detector at an overseas port without American customs agents present.

Freeport in the Bahamas is 65 miles

from the U.S. coast, where cargo would be likely to be inspected again. The contract is currently being finalized.

The administration is negotiating a second no-bid contract for a Philippine company to install radiation detectors in its home country, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press. At dozens of other overseas ports, foreign governments are primarily responsible for scanning cargo.

While George W. Bush recently reassured Congress that foreigners would not manage security at U.S. ports, the Hutchison deal in the Bahamas illustrates how the administration is relying on foreign companies at overseas

ports to safeguard cargo headed to the United States.

Hutchison Whampoa is the world's largest ports operator and among the industry's most-respected companies. It was an early adopter of U.S. anti-terrorism measures. But its billionaire chairman, Li Ka-Shing, also has substantial business ties to China's government that have raised U.S. concerns over the years.

"Li Ka-Shing is pretty close to a lot of senior leaders of the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party," said Larry M. Wortzel, head of a U.S. government commission that studies China security and economic issues.

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks
Dow Jones 11,260.36 -57.07

Up: 1378 Same: 152 Down: 1,835 Composite Volume: 1,546,574,540

AMEX 1,901.97 -2.16
NASDAQ 2,298.82 -4.53
NYSE 8,224.81 -31.07
S&P 500 1,301.65 -3.39
NIKKEI(Tokyo) 16,489.37 -6.11
FTSE 100(London) 5,990.10 -17.40

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
LEVEL 3 COMM INC (LVLT)	+16.57	+0.57	4.01
JDS UNIPHASE CP (JDSU)	-1.52	-0.06	3.90
NTEL CP (INTC)	-1.25	-0.25	19.73
SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI)	+4.94	+0.24	5.10
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	-0.39	-0.16	41.05

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+0.77	+0.36	47.39
13-WEEK BILL	-0.44	-0.20	45.47
30-YEAR BOND	+0.61	+0.29	47.55
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.81	+0.38	47.29

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+2.14	63.91
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-0.90	550.80
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+2.13	86.80

Exchange Rates

YEN	117.9100
EURO	0.8355
POUND	0.5763
CANADIAN \$	1.1653

IN BRIEF

Companies refuse to split CEO posts

NEW YORK — Appointing someone other than the CEO to chair a board of directors is hardly a cure-all for corporate mismanagement, but it's disappointing to see companies' stubborn resistance to a logical improvement in checks and balances.

The latest big name to reject a practice that's commonplace in other countries is Citigroup Inc., whose board has chosen chief executive Charles Prince to succeed the retiring Sanford I. Weill as chairman of the financial services conglomerate.

While Prince is well-regarded for his steady stewardship the past two years, such qualities have limited relevance to the added benefit of a truly independent voice who can ask tough questions of the CEO from a vantage point that's not so intertwined with day-to-day operations.

This is particularly true for Citigroup, a vast organization that's working to move beyond a series of costly ethical fumbles during Weill's tenure as CEO and chairman. These have included billions of dollars in settlements regarding Citigroup's connections to the Enron and WorldCom scandals, as well as revelations of biased stock recommendations favoring investment banking clients.

Home sales post unexpected gain

WASHINGTON — Sales of existing homes had fallen for five straight months before an unexpected increase in February, helped by unusually warm weather. But slack demand in some formally red-hot housing markets produced what one analyst called a "tale of two cities."

The National Association of Realtors reported Thursday that sales of existing single-family homes rose by 5.2 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.91 million units.

The biggest increase in two years took economists by surprise. They had expected a drop of about 1 percent after five months of declines.

One of the economy's standout performers over the past five years, housing has been slowing in recent months.

Analysts cautioned against reading too much into the February increase, saying it primarily reflected an unusually mild winter, which boosted buyer traffic.

Stocks slide on oil price jump

Worries about inflation and strong economic news contribute to Wall Street fall

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street had a renewed case of interest rate anxiety Thursday, with stocks falling on strong economic news and a jump in oil prices that heightened worries about inflation.

A 5.2 percent upswing in monthly sales of existing homes eased worries about a slowdown in the housing market but fed fears that the Federal Reserve will continue boosting interest rates to stave off price inflation. The Fed's Open Market Committee meets next week.

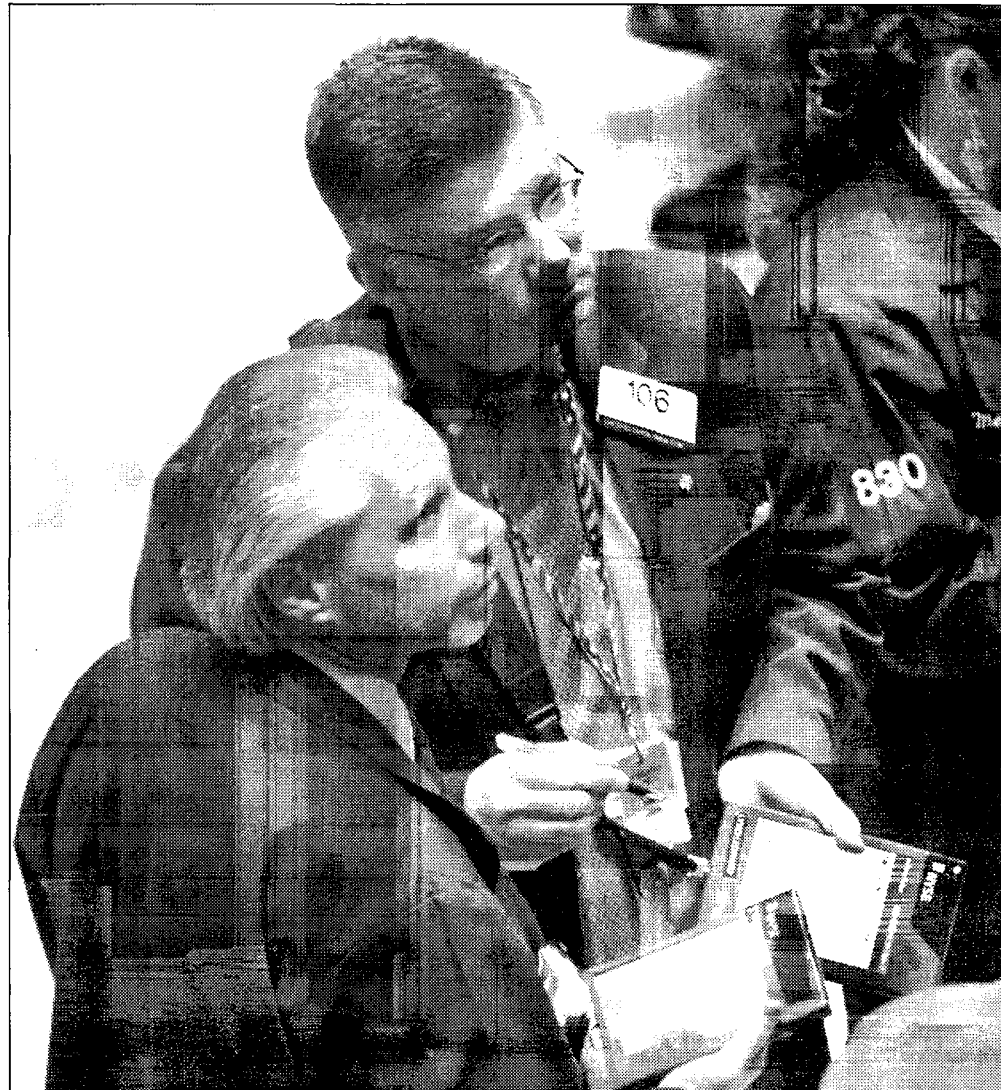
Investors also fretted about a Labor Department report that 302,000 workers applied for jobless benefits last week, down 11,000 from the week before and marking the first decline in a month. The implied job growth added to Wall Street's inflation and interest rate concerns.

The unemployment numbers "increase the probability the Fed will make its way back to 5 percent," said Robert Tipp, chief investment strategist for Prudential Fixed Income. The nation's benchmark interest rate currently stands at 4.5 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 47.14, or 0.42 percent, to 11,270.29. On Wednesday, the Dow added 81.96 to reach 11,317.43, its highest level since May 21, 2001.

Broader stock indicators also fell Thursday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 3.37, or 0.26 percent, to 1,301.67, and the Nasdaq composite index dropped 3.20, or 0.14 percent, to 2,300.15.

Bonds slipped, with the



Traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange observe the falling stocks caused by a jump in oil prices Thursday.

yield on the 10-year Treasury note rising to 4.74 percent from 4.70 percent late Wednesday. The U.S. dollar was higher against other major currencies in European trading, and gold prices were lower.

The National Association of Realtors said sales of existing homes totaled 6.9 million in February, even as mortgage rates recover from all-time lows. Economists were expecting 6.5 million homes sold.

Crude oil futures surged to near \$64 per barrel on news that U.S. oil and gas reserves decreased last week. A barrel of light crude was quoted at \$63.91, up \$2.14, on the New York Mercantile Exchange — 19 percent higher than a year ago.

"You've got good home sales figures showing some decent economic growth, and you've got crude oil prices up. You put those together, and that creates worries that

the Fed is going to keep going on rates," said Stuart Freeman, chief equity strategist for A.G. Edwards & Sons.

However, it's also common for stocks to see modest losses after large gains. The major indexes were up for four straight days last week in addition to Wednesday's record session. Combined with the upcoming Fed meeting, a pause in the recent rally is to be expected, analysts said.

Windows delay causes shake-up

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Microsoft Corp. announced a shake-up Thursday of the unit that includes its flagship Windows operating system, two days after the company admitted it won't have its new consumer version of Windows ready for the holiday season as planned.

Under the changes, Microsoft said Steven Sinofsky, a high-ranking executive currently in charge of developing many of the company's Office business products, will be tasked with leading a new group that includes the Windows operating system and Windows Live, a key effort to provide more Web-based offerings.

Microsoft said Sinofsky will focus on planning future versions of Windows, while outgoing Windows executive Jim Allchin will work closely with another Microsoft

executive, Brian Valentine, to finish the long-delayed Windows Vista.

Microsoft also said Ben Fathi, a Windows executive currently working on storage and file systems, will replace Mike Nash as head of its Security Technology Unit. Nash will take on another, as-yet-unannounced role.

Security issues were among the reasons for the delay in Windows Vista. But Kevin Johnson, co-president of the unit that is being reorganized, said Nash's planned departure is unrelated.

The Redmond-based software maker said the overall restructuring is aimed at helping Microsoft improve its online strategy, make quicker decisions without going through layers of executive approval and respond more nimbly to growing threats from online competitors.

Companies such as Google Inc. and Yahoo Inc. are fast developing

Internet-based products for things like sending e-mail or storing photos, and these free services threaten Microsoft's desktop-bound Windows and other products. Microsoft has responded with a beefed-up online effort of its own, dubbed "Windows Live," which is being given even more prominence in this shake-up.

The reorganization also will create a new group to focus on the engineering of new online products, and one tasked with business functions such as marketing and advertising sales for those products.

Other groups will work on the core operating system and the business for servers and software tools.

As previously announced, Allchin, co-president of the Platforms and Services division, will retire next year. Until then, he and Johnson, formerly a Microsoft sales and marketing executive, will continue to lead the division.

Dorms

continued from page 1

life, I would pledge for the experience because I have heard good things about [the Greek system]."

Director of Admissions Dan Saracino said the University's housing system "definitely" attracts prospective students and that students interested in attending Notre Dame never express concern over the absence of a Greek life on campus.

"The lack of frats and sororities makes Notre Dame a special place and — instead of being a drawback — gives the University an edge over other top colleges," Saracino said. "We're proud of this. It makes us unique."

Students said despite any support Greek organizations might have among undergraduates, the University will likely maintain the tradition-based policy.

"I do not think Notre Dame will ever include a Greek system

because of one thing — they haven't yet," Alston said. "Also, they have yet to get rid of parietals or institute multi-sex dorms, which would have to come first and appear to be difficult to have changed."

Keenan junior Brendan Hanehan said he "can't envision a scenario" in which Notre Dame would ever implement a Greek system.

"I think the University prizes its own unique form of residentiality too much," he said.

Alumni freshman Michael Angulo said he does not think Notre Dame "will or should ever allow" fraternities and sororities on campus.

"I would never pledge in a frat — I don't think they are the best places for me to find my college social life," Angulo said. "I think dorms at ND are cool [because] you can be as involved or [not] involved as you want."

Community and character

Alston said halls are like fraternities and sororities in that there is a strong bond between residents. But there are "obvious" differences between the two systems, he said, such as the presence of RAs and the enforcement of dorm rules.

"I don't think dorms become as crazy as a fraternity would," he said.

Hanehan said University dorms successfully create a "community feeling without being elitist," as students are randomly

placed into residence halls at the beginning of freshman year. You never have to "pledge" to enter dorm communities, he said.

"Hazing is much less of a problem in Notre Dame's dorms," Hanehan said. "Our dorm system keeps the best aspects of Greek life — community feeling, athletic competition [and] spirituality —

and eliminates the worst aspects, [like] elitism and excessive hazing as a requirement for membership."

Many students cited the socially unifying nature of Notre Dame's residence hall system as a positive aspect that parallels Greek social societies at other institutions of higher learning.

"Notre Dame's dorms promote a feeling of community among residents that I think is very similar to what I've observed of the Greek system," Hanehan said. "I also think that each dorm develops a unique character, much like frats and sororities do."

Angulo said each dorm at the University has a "very strong communal feel."

"To a certain degree, I think

that such a dorm set-up is a bad thing," he said. "It sometimes takes away from the university community feel of the campus. [But] at the same time, Notre Dame is a relatively big school and it helps

to have your own set group, while still being able to branch out."

Room for improvement

Some students said the current system restricts undergraduates from "branching out" in terms of social interactions with the opposite sex. Notre Dame's single-sex residence

hall tradition "easily inhibits good relationships between guys and girls," Angulo said.

"I really think that all-guy and all-girl dorms are not as bad as frats and sororities, but they are not as good as a gender-integrated dorm life,

[like having] guys and girls floors in dorms," he said.

Alston said despite the obvious advantages of Notre Dame's dorm system — "the bonds and friends you make" — there is "no intermingling of the sexes in the dorm."

"I am satisfied by the system in place at [the University], although I think we could use some sort of voluntary co-ed apartment arrangement for at least some of the seniors," Hanehan said.

Welsh Family rector Candace Carson said the residence hall system as it exists is an "attractive thing," though she is not surprised to hear students calling for co-ed dorms.

"There's always the big issue of parietals [and] same sex halls, but when students are not in front of a group people they say they like it ... They like the privacy," Carson said. "I think because of who we are, we're always going to have something to question. For us to all be happy all the time would make me wonder what's going on."

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

"To a certain degree, I think that such a dorm set-up is a bad thing. It sometimes takes away from the university community feel of the campus. [But] at the same time, Notre Dame is a relatively big school and it helps to have your own set group, while still being able to branch out."

Michael Angulo
Alumni freshman

Happy 22nd Birthday Jon Mack!

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-Susie



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CWIL

continued from page 1

concerns over CWIL's method of monetary distribution. To Kachurek, it seemed as though CWIL awarded grants to more students in smaller monetary amounts, rather than more completely fulfilling the requests of just a few student requests.

Meyer-Lee emphasized that no project could be funded 100 percent.

"With more applicants, there is less money to go around," she said. "This year there had to be over 50 applicants."

Linda Biggins, the CWIL administrative assistant, agreed with Meyer-Lee that it is better to make the money go farther.

"I think it is better that CWIL help more students have a study abroad experience by awarding even a partial amount of the program cost, than to help fewer students by awarding larger grant amounts," Biggins said.

Kachurek and Fricano opted to abort their project, despite the extensive research and hard work they contributed to it.

"After laboring over the proposal, making contacts here in town and internationally, getting recommendations and setting up and independent study, I know there is no way we can do it now," Kachurek said.

Kachurek, however, did not discredit CWIL as an organization.

"I don't want to sound ungrateful, but I would have rather seen CWIL approve a smaller amount of projects and make them possible for students financially," she said.

Other students have had much more positive experiences with

CWIL.

Junior Sara Otto received a CWIL Study Abroad Grant last year and was able to travel to Lourdes, France for three weeks this past summer, where she studied French in the morning and volunteered at the Lourdes Sanctuary in the afternoon to help sick grotto pilgrims. Otto was awarded roughly 65 percent of the money she needed to complete her project (\$2,308 of \$3,555) — unlike this year's applicants.

CWIL left the logistics of housing, transportation and the school system up to Otto but gave her a strong financial foundation for her trip.

"This was not a school-related program, so CWIL just sent the check," Otto said. "I did the rest."

Upon her return, Otto was responsible to educate this year's applicants on the process and her experience.

"My trip wouldn't have been possible without CWIL," she said. "As a nursing major, I would not have had the opportunity to go abroad if it was not over the summer. It was an amazing experience and I envy the girls who get to go this year."

Otto's experience, however, has not been a common trend among this year's applicants.

Senior Katie Kelly, student representative to the Advisory Committee for International Intercultural Learning, was also able to take advantage of the abroad program through CWIL. While Kelly said she, like other applicants, always hoped for the most money, she said sometimes CWIL cannot accommodate everyone.

"I know how frustrating the lack of funding can be, but CWIL is just trying to ensure that every-

one can have this opportunity," she said.

Kelly was happy with her chance to go abroad, but said she only received about 25 percent of the funding needed for her trip to Honduras.

Prepared to pay a large amount of her own money to finance the trip, Kelly took a second job to do so.

"It takes sacrifice," she said. "It is a hard process, but the grants aren't meant to fully fund trips. They are meant to be awards."

Kelly had been involved with CWIL prior to applying for a grant and now helps the abroad committee with approving student proposals for grants. She said the amount of money awarded depends on the merit of the applicants and the effort they put into their proposals.

Saint Mary's Study Abroad Advisor Sarah DeMott supervises the CWIL grants. She explained that the purpose of the CWIL organization is to acknowledge what learning and skills are necessary for Saint Mary's women to be leaders in today's world.

DeMott emphasized the importance of intercultural leadership skills in the everyday world.

"Intercultural competency has been identified as a distinct and essential dimension for leadership," she said.

DeMott also said she has seen unparalleled success with the grant program over the past few years.

"I see the CWIL Student Travel Grants as fostering the mission of CWIL in two ways," she said. "First, as a basic utilitarian tool to financially encourage studying abroad and second, as a brilliant signet in students' portfolios and résumés to indicate intercultural awareness."



Photo courtesy of Sarah Otto
Sarah Otto, former CWIL grant recipient, stands in the Piscines at the Our Lady of Lourdes Sanctuary in Lourdes, France. Otto used the grant money to fund her Lourdes trip, during which she volunteered with women from around the world and served grotto pilgrims.

Tracy Robison, Director of Intercultural Living at Saint Mary's, has been involved in the grant program for the past three years and said that each year, the quality of the grant proposals improve.

"The student proposals are innovative and are good examples of students taking the knowledge they have gained at Saint Mary's one step further," Robison said.

Robison stressed that grants are based on the merit of the proposal as well as financial need. She also said that, despite the accusations, there is not truth

behind spreading the money over more proposals.

"The efforts of Dr. Meyer-Lee and Sarah DeMott increased the number of Saint Mary's students studying abroad by increasing the knowledge and advantage of the student travel grants," she said.

Meyer-Lee said she is very proud of the students able to go abroad through CWIL.

"The students who have taken advantage of this opportunity have found their additional investment well rewarded by life-changing learning," she said.

Although there have been recent discrepancies over the amount of money given in the grants, DeMott said she hopes that CWIL will still be considered a positive asset for students wanting to study abroad.

"I would hope that all recipients appreciate the recognition and prestige of being awarded grant funding for intercultural pursuit," DeMott said.

Contact Katie Kohler at
kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

Take a Break!

"It is no unusual thing for a businessman to say casually, 'Well, let's go and get a cup of coffee,' as a visitor in his office is making ready to depart. It is a little thing perhaps, this drinking of coffee at odd times, but it is very characteristic of the city itself!"

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Fabulous New Orleans, 1928



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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 10

Friday, March 24, 2006

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

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Dorm life helps define Notre Dame

Notre Dame's residence life system is much more than a way to house students. A University trademark, dorm life is steeped in years of tradition and is a defining characteristic of the Notre Dame lifestyle.

Not all that unlike fraternities and sororities — in the eyes of the Office of Admissions, at least.

Prospective students on campus tours are often told that dorm placement is like automatic inclusion in a fraternity or sorority, only without the hassles of a lengthy and involved pledge-and-rush system.

After glancing through an Admissions guide, the statement seems valid. From semi-formals to service projects to interhall sports, each residence hall has its own customs and activities that encourage unity and foster pride among its residents.

But are residence halls really substitutes for fraternities and sororities?

While Zahm "House" might leave visitors with that impression, the answer is clearly no.

It's true that dorm spirit creates a sense of belonging, something especially important for freshmen struggling to find a niche in the Notre Dame community. However, it's not parallel to being offered admission to a fraternity. Admission to Greek life is often based on one's physical appearance, race and income level — creating a community that encourages exclusivity and distances itself from the main campus. Notre Dame's all-inclusive mentality is the refreshing opposite of Greek life's exclusivity. Students in all of Notre Dame's residence halls feel a connection to the University as a whole — a sentiment that would likely weaken if

fraternities were allowed.

Inclusion in a fraternity or sorority connects students to members of their chapters across the country, and some Notre Dame students argue bonds between fraternity and sorority members are stronger than those between dorm-mates. But these are differences and not disadvantages. Devotion to a fraternity or sorority can often come at the expense of something greater — love for one's school. Notre Dame may not be the place to forge fraternity chapter connections across the country, but Notre Dame's alumni network is indisputably national.

The positives to not having fraternities and sororities are extensive — and the fact that approximately 80 percent of undergraduates live on campus is a telling statistic. For incoming freshmen, it's certainly a relief to have housing arranged a month in advance with no need to worry about rushing a fraternity just days after arriving on campus. And that spirit of inclusion is exactly what's needed at a school so often criticized for a lack of diversity and intolerance of alternative lifestyles.

The concept of the "Notre Dame family" may have lost some of its force after being used so heavily as marketing slogan for the school. But that family does exist and is stronger without students pledging absolute allegiance to a Greek house, belonging more to an organization than to a university.

Students coming to campus in hopes of finding a clear substitute for Greek life will be disappointed. But Domers, whether they've been here for just six months or graduated more than 60 years ago, will always belong to a unique and meaningful family.

The Observer Editorial

U-WIRE

The fine line between stupid and clever

Satire has always been a necessary part of popular culture, keeping the establishment on its toes since the days of the ancient Greeks. Its proud tradition includes such authors as Jonathan Swift and Mark Twain, who made careers out of exposing idiocy and mass

hypocrisy. Recently, the most notable additions to the long line of talented satirists are South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone, who have truly developed a "modest proposal" for our generation. Every Wednesday night at 10 p.m., the pair becomes America's foremost social watchdogs, lampooning everything and everyone in the public eye, all with a wit and cynicism that are nothing short of brilliant.

But there are many who do not share my affection for Parker and Stone. Tom Cruise, for example, recently made room in his busy schedule of feigning sanity to squelch a scheduled rerun of South Park that targeted his beloved Church of Scientology. It has been reported that the Dianetics poster boy threatened not to promote the upcoming release of "Mission: Impossible 3," which was produced by Comedy Central's parent company Viacom, if the episode re-aired on March 15. Of course, the network folded and pulled the episode from its rotation, leaving fans to wonder how the man responsible for Days of Thunder was allowed to judge what passes for acceptable cable television programming.

No matter what critics say about South Park, they cannot change the fact that the series has been an equal opportunity offender since its inception, taking shots at

everything from the Virgin Mary to Paris Hilton. In addition to the Cruise controversy, Isaac Hayes, voice of the character Chef, left the show citing the cartoon's "intolerance and bigotry towards the religious beliefs of others."

The episode that brought about the most recent controversy, titled "Trapped in the Closet," made repeated jokes about Cruise's faith, so I absolutely expected a backlash. But given that the star has been so defensive of his religion in the past, I did not expect his retaliation to be a mere flexing of his Hollywood muscle. If South Park was really that off-base in its portrayal of Scientology, Cruise could have easily spoken out against it, deflating any mischaracterizations the cartoon made in a single press conference. But since we are never given any official declaration of the true tenets of Scientology, we have to rely on the observations of characters like Stan Marsh and Eric Cartman to draw our own conclusions. And frighteningly enough, the fourth graders are usually right.

While looking on the Scientology website, hoping to learn real facts about the religion, I found a bunch of broad generalizations about spirituality and the afterlife, as well as background information about Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard's creative process, but nothing really concrete in regard to his teachings. What's more, these isolated pieces of philosophy seem to take a back seat to the real focus of the website: the celebrity testimonials. In this section, prepared statements from various actors are presented alongside their headshots. It's reminiscent of the title sequence to Family Matters, only everyone's Urkel.

All of the statements attest to how successful Scientology has made these celebrities. John Travolta attributes his involve-

ment with the religion to his landing the role of Vinnie Barbarino on Welcome Back, Kotter; Kelly Preston claims that all her dreams are becoming realities with the help of the church; and Kirstie Alley says she'd be dead if it weren't for the guidance of L. Ron Hubbard. The celebrities never actually say how the program brought them success, just that it works. -- though I'm not sure it's as beneficial as they claim. We should keep in mind that after joining the Church of Scientology, Travolta still made Battlefield Earth.

The principal beef South Park had with Scientology was that its secrets are only available to members who pay for them. When Stan, a little boy who has been proclaimed a reincarnation of L. Ron Hubbard, decides to make all the information free of charge, representatives from the church threaten to sue him for defamation. Of course it's an exaggerated caricature of the organization, but it may not be all that ridiculous.

As a child, I was always told that it was rude to discuss religion and politics, as you never know whom you might offend. Fortunately, we now have South Park to take on the burden of these taboo topics for us. Someone needs to keep the self-obsessed, delusional Tom Cruises of this world in line and out of the closet. I know I don't have the power to, but Trey Parker and Matt Stone certainly do. It's a responsibility they seem more than happy to fulfill, and we should all be grateful.

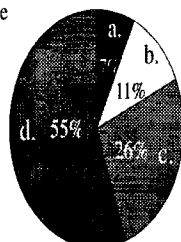
This column originally appeared in the March 23 edition of The Daily Free Press, the daily publication at Boston University.

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

OBSERVER POLL

How do you feel about the absence of Greek life on campus?

- a) I don't care.
- b) I wish Notre Dame and Saint Mary's had Greek life.
- c) I think dorm life is a good substitute.
- d) I think Notre Dame and Saint Mary's are better off without it.



*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 368 responses.

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life is like playing a violin in public and learning the instrument as one goes on."

Samuel Butler
English writer

Examining the decline of support for President Bush

This week marked the third anniversary of the Iraqi invasion and conjured the obvious question, "How is it going?" President George W. Bush claims that great progress is not reported by American reporters, thus Iraq is not as bad as the average American may believe. Yet in the same breath, he concludes that American soldiers will remain in Iraq beyond his term ending in Jan., 2009. But with the British drawing down their troop level to 17 percent of their total, the new question is, "Are the British and Americans in the same war?"



Gary Caruso

Capital Comments

The Iraqi quality of life belies the president's contention. Today, fewer families have electricity in Iraq than before the invasion. Less oil is produced than three years ago. Fewer have running water or sewage treatment. In fact, earlier this week ABC News aired a spontaneous poll of Iraqi police standing at roll call. Asked for a show of hands of those who believe that they are worse off now than under Saddam's rule, nearly two-thirds raised their hands for the camera in a less than resounding hearts and minds moment from the local front-line defenders of Iraqi democracy.

A president generally loses support

when the public perceives distrust, deceit, disgust, disappointment or disgrace. The president surely becomes paralyzed if the public assigns him one of the dreaded five "D" grades. With Iraq and domestic spying, Bush has firmly planted his feet in the quicksand of distrust and disappointment.

Bush's popularity peaked after the 9/11 attacks at 90 percent approval. Patriotic Democrats like this writer set aside political affiliation to make an American statement and support our commander-in-chief. Even French newspapers caught world sentiment when headlines read, "We are all Americans."

Bush's handling of Iraq steadily declined to 72 percent at the start of the invasion to 59 percent when he declared "mission accomplished" on the aircraft carrier. He slipped to 42 percent approval after disgusting revelations of American soldiers' treatment of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison. He further suffered declines last month to 39 percent and now at only 31 percent approval.

Bush disappointed many by squandering that moment of world unity after 9/11 through miscalculations and strong-headed denials. Americans began to distrust Bush when he attempted to appear steady and strong while never adjusting for changing conditions. Only now Bush hints that some changes are needed. What he views as weakness and called "flip-flopping" in his last campaign now rhetorically pro-

hibits him from making lifesaving adjustments.

Even Ronald Reagan, after cutting taxes, supported eleven "revenue enhancements" (tax increases) to help control budget deficits by portraying them as adjustments. Bush would do well to use the Reagan model.

Foremost, Bush should recognize that the National Guard and reservists are not suitable for long-term combat. On Wednesday, 24-year-old Sergeant Michael Smith, the tenth soldier at Abu Ghraib to be convicted for dereliction of duty and maltreating prisoners, testified that, "Soldiers are not supposed to be soft and cuddly." While the court found that he conspired with another dog handler in a contest to make detainees soil themselves, the details of degradation is not the point of the Abu Ghraib failure.

The virtue of the United States is that it is the beacon of freedom and shining envy of democracy. It must always exemplify those values. When the president objects to Senator John McCain's anti-torture language against the CIA, the president loses credibility. When part-time soldiers are forced to serve in a permanent war zone — beyond 2009 according to Bush — the quality of our mission suffers.

The Notre Dame ROTC community, of which I was a member, must take note of the graduate who cannot leave the Army reserve despite completing his eight-year commitment. Even with no "stop loss" order in effect, the Army will

not release him. It seems that the unwritten rule is that unless reservists tour Iraq, they are not released despite serving a full commitment.

Early this year, the Notre Dame graduate filed suit against the Army. In what appears to be retaliation, the Army reassigned him to Iraq in April. He now has filed for an injunction. Enforcement of the unwritten tour requirement may keep boots on the ground for now, but it fosters feelings of deceit and distrust which are eroding the president's military support.

Long ago, Democrats and most Independents abandoned this president. Bush only has himself to blame for the Republicans who are currently drifting away. As a rule, if at least 80 percent of Republicans support Bush, his overall approval breaks 40 percent or higher. While history kindly treated Harry Truman after he left office, few compare Bush to Truman. Ironically, they look at the last president to find himself in such turmoil and who left his war for his successor to remedy — fellow Texan Lyndon Johnson.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a political strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotline@aol.com

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defending Greek life

I am a transfer student who was very active in Chi Omega at my previous school.

Leaving my sisters was extremely difficult, but we've managed to remain in contact thanks to the strong bonds we formed through our sorority.

It's true that Greek life promotes social participation; however, it's demeaning to equate this to academic indifference. Most Greek organizations won't even allow their pledges to initiate unless they have at least a 'B' average. That's one of the only requirements of pledges. The others are more along the lines of being trustworthy and considerate than being alcoholic and promiscuous.

Instead of portraying this truth, the media makes every incident involving a fraternity or sorority member into an attack on the entire Greek system. Because a small percentage make a bad decision, the entire system must be flawed? The Greek system has become intolerant of such behavior, and any offender is subject to immediate expulsion from their organization and the school. In many cases, students affiliated with Greek life are prone to harsher punishments and held to higher standards because of their choice to go Greek.

We also do not accept discrimination. It is my opinion that Greek life actually promotes diversity. Every ethnicity was largely represented in the Greek life on my old campus. Not only were the organizations diverse in ethnicity, but every fraternity and sorority had members active in everything from athletics to theatre. We also had a variety of majors that I would have never met without Greek life. Most of the girls I became closest to were in that category.

We weren't restricted to members of our sorority either. All the Greek life would band together for service projects and campus-wide activities. But no one hears about fraternities raising money for Make a Wish Foundation or sororities visiting nursing homes. People maintain the image of John Belushi and Jack Daniel's without realizing there's more to fraternities. The only hint of reality in "Animal House" was the participation of the Greeks in the homecoming parade. Sadly, ours has never involved a Death-mobile. We do not steal each other's cars or kill people's horses or paddle our pledges by candle light. In fact, my initiation did not involve alcohol, nudity or physical abuse. Every person involved in Greek life has gone through the "hazing" that everyone is so afraid of, so how bad can you believe it to be? If anything, initiation is a reflection of the type of people at the university. With that in mind, I have no doubt that here, the greatest university in the world, would likewise have the greatest Greeks in the world.

Alicia Burtner
sophomore
Lyons Hall
March 22

Hazing common

I think it is a great concept to question the need for fraternities and sororities on campus and to underline the fact that Notre Dame has none of these kind of groups. However, hazing which is often associated with Greek life, exists on athletic teams, in the band and in all kinds of other clubs.

Therefore, I challenge you to investigate hazing in Notre Dame, despite the lack of Greeks.

Dr. Susan Lipkins
psychologist
Port Washington, New York
March 22

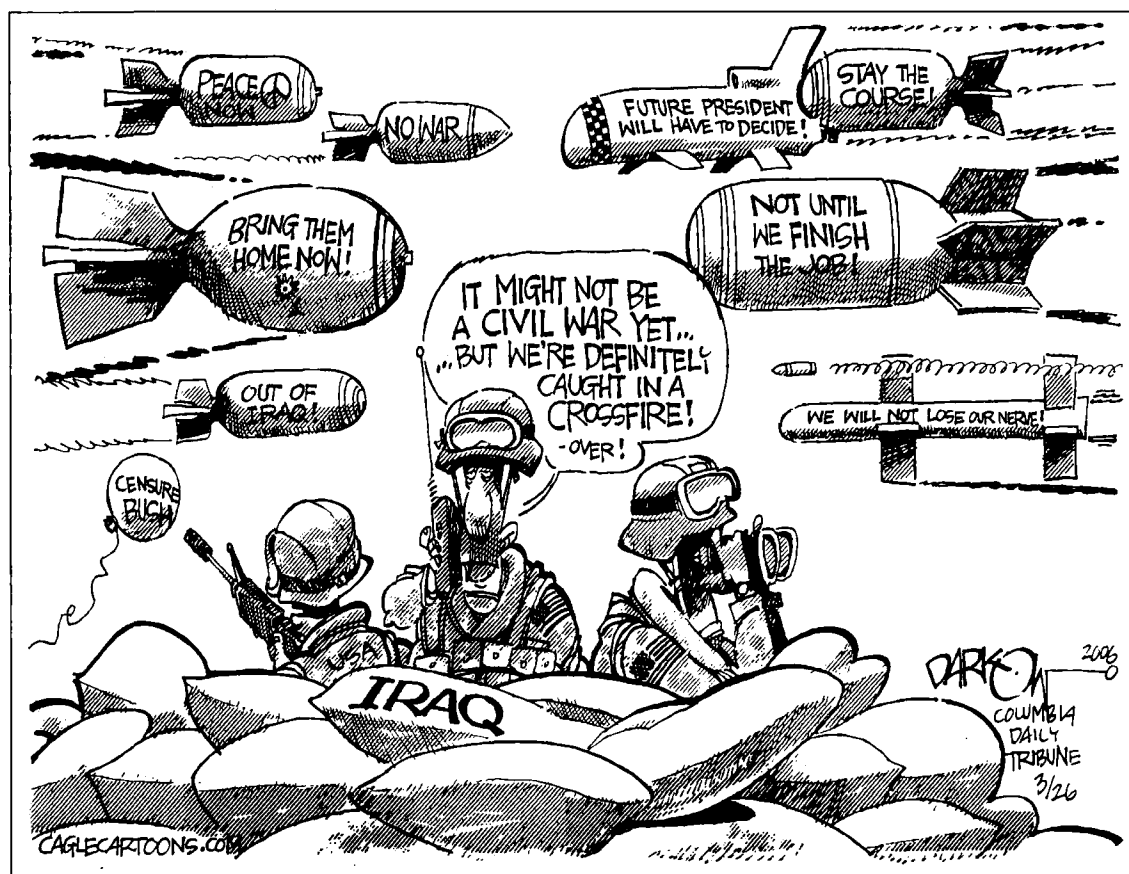
Correction

In a recent essay ("Absent at ND, Greek system thrives elsewhere," March 22) about fraternities, I was mis-cited. The essay claims I criticized Delta Phi Epsilon, a service fraternity. In fact, I criticized Sigma Phi Epsilon, a social fraternity.

As my original essay makes clear, I am not concerned about club and groups that have a professional, religious or service focus, only those that are exclusively social.

Fr. Christopher Steck, S.J.
professor
Georgetown University
March 23

EDITORIAL CARTOON



DVD REVIEW

Disney disaster 'Chicken Little' lays an egg

By MARY SQUILLACE
Scene Critic

Back in the day, Disney movies meant classic tales punctuated with catchy songs that offered even college students a fun nostalgic retreat. "Chicken Little" is not one of those movies.

While it has lured audience members in with its seemingly cute and cuddly 3-D characters, Disney's latest release fails to live up to the brand's legacy.

"Chicken Little" takes place in a bizarre contemporary animal world, where Chicken Little has been ostracized for claiming that the sky is falling when a piece of the sky appears to land on his head. Feeling rejected by his community, classmates and even his father, Chicken Little vows to prove himself by joining the baseball team. Miraculously, after not having been allowed to play in any prior games, he manages to score the winning run in the championship.

Although his victory on the baseball field earns Chicken Little the approval he

desires from his father, he is instantly faced with a new challenge when aliens invade his town. Alongside his wacky friends, Chicken Little manages to muster the courage and self-confidence to save the day.

Okay, sure it's the standard kids' film — predictable and riddled with corny, feel-good messages — but when compared against the likes of "Shrek" and "Finding Nemo," "Chicken Little" only appears more pathetic. Animated films have previously overcome the age barrier by appealing to an adult audience through sly parodies and PG jokes that go over younger audience members' heads.

"Chicken Little," on the other hand, tries for this effect but fails. It packs in too many cheesy gimmicks that are strung together and stretched over an extremely thin plot. With a story that switches gears so many times, the audience gets the feeling that the filmmakers were frantically trying to compensate for a story that simply did not provide enough substance for an entertaining film. In fact, despite its feature-length film status at 81 minutes, this film feels more like an animated short. The allusions to pop-culture that do exist fall short in delivering laughs. One especially cringe-worthy attempt at parody features one of the characters constructing an Empire State Building replica and imitating King Kong.

Another way the filmmakers try to tap into an



Photo courtesy of fmedia.igm.com

Disney's "Chicken Little" is a feature-length film about a socially unaccepted chicken. The movie features the voices of Joan Cusack and Zach Braff.

older audience is with one of the characters, the overweight Runt of the Litter, who frequently bursts into popular songs. Unfortunately, this character's effect is more nerve-grating than laugh-generating.

Armed with their wacky traits that we've seen embodied by a dozen other far more endearing individuals, the film's characters are equally painful to watch. Even big-name actors who supplied voices to the characters — Zach Braff as Chicken Little, Joan Cusack as Abby Mallard, and the talented Amy Sedaris as Chicken Little's nemesis, Foxy Loxy — fail to breathe life or humor into the film.

Another disappointing aspect of

"Chicken Little" is its song selection. Sitting through the overdramatic tunes is enough to make anyone pity the soccer moms and dads who will endure playing the soundtrack on repeat to entertain four-year-olds.

The film is released on DVD today and includes deleted scenes, alternate openings and games, as well as a variety of other bonus features. But not even a diamond encrusted DVD case could make it a worthwhile investment.

Instead of wasting money on Chicken Little, the \$19.99 would be better spent on a whole lot of poultry.

Contact Mary Squillace at
msquilla@nd.edu

Chicken Little

Walt Disney Video



PLAY REVIEW

'A Few Good Men' clashes with contemporary issues

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Scene Critic

Guantánamo Bay, Cuba has become one of the most controversial topics of modern times. It is the only American military installation on the soil of a Communist country and has come to represent certain aspects of the "war on terror" that some find absolutely necessary and others absolutely reprehensible.

This naval base is at the focus of "A Few Good Men," a play written by Aaron Sorkin and presented by the St. Edward's Hall Players. Performed in Washington Hall and directed by Patrick Vassel, the production takes on a unique perspective due to the events surrounding the current U.S. foreign policy.

The play centers around two Marines, Lance Corporal Harold Dawson and Private First Class (PFC) Loudon Downey, who are stationed at Guantánamo Bay Naval Base. The pair are charged with the murder of PFC William Santiago and brought to Washington, D.C. for trial. The lawyers assigned to the case are Lieutenants Daniel Kaffee and Sam Weinberg and Lieutenant Commander Joanne Galloway. They begin an investigation that starts with the Private First Class on trial and rises up the ranks to Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Jessep, the commanding officer of Guantánamo Bay.

One of the issues in performing this play is that it will inevitably draw comparisons to the well-known 1992 film directed by Rob Reiner. This particular production was based on the stage play,

written by Sorkin before he penned the screenplay. However, the performance was able to stand on its own and brought its own flavor and unique characteristics, separating it from the film.

Drew McElligott put on an excellent performance as the deadly serious Jessep. In a role that garnered Jack Nicholson an Oscar nomination for the film, McElligott brought his own style and feel to the character, one that is much more than a rehash of Nicholson's performance.

Equally intimidating is the role of Lieutenant Jonathan James Kendrick, played by Jeff Eyerman. Eyerman effectively brings out the religious fervor and devotion to the Marines of this character. Matt Goodrich was also very good as Kaffee and Kathleen Ryan and Brandon McGirr provide notable supporting roles as Galloway and Weinberg, respectively. Overall, the cast manifests their characters memorably.

The most noteworthy aspect of this particular production is the method of scene transition. In much the same way a film will have dialogue from a scene before a cut to that scene occurs, this performance ends some scenes as others are beginning. Lighting is used to notify a scene change and this provides connections to scenes that may not otherwise be considered connected as such.

Also, the setting will change based on lighting and props used. A table that is in Kaffee's apartment will quickly become a table in the courtroom as the props used by the characters will change, the lighting will be altered, and characters will take positions that notifies the audience that the action is now in the courtroom. It is a highly effective



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

"A Few Good Men," put on by the St. Edward's Hall Players, was written by Aaron Sorkin. The play focuses on the trial of two soldiers accused of murder.

method that provides connections not only on the artistic level, but showcases a very practical use of the space.

This play takes on a different tone due to recent events. The prisoner scandals associated with Guantánamo Bay come to mind while watching this performance.

In a memorable line, Jessep states, "I have neither the time nor the inclination to explain myself to a man who rises and sleeps under the blanket of the very freedom that I provide, and then questions the manner in which I provide it."

This bold statement sums up the question that arises from the current situation at the Naval Base — do audiences assume that the government is protecting our interests and should be able to do whatever they need to make

us safe, or should we know what goes on even if it means that we may be less secure? The answer to this question is not an easy one.

"A Few Good Men" is not an anti-military play nor is it pro-military. It is a play that raises very important questions about the nature of the law and what is permissible to provide national security. Vassel directs a very effective version of this play that showcases some of the best talent that Notre Dame has to offer in student-theater.

While the film is very good, this play provides a new medium for which to enjoy this story and does a noteworthy job providing quality theater at Notre Dame.

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VIDEO GAME REVIEW

'Pursuit' chases perfection



Photo courtesy of playfrance.com

Pursuit Force, released only for the Sony Playstation Portable, or PSP, focuses on a team of tactical enforcers defined by their lack of fear and discretion.

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Assistant Scene Editor

Video games and Hollywood are often closely intertwined. Blockbuster releases frequently have a corresponding game release, such as "King Kong" and "Narnia." Other games draw obvious influences from Hollywood, such as the "Resident Evil" franchise.

"Pursuit Force," released for the PSP, draws heavily from the Hollywood action film genre. Filled with literal high-octane action, "Pursuit Force" features all the car, boat and helicopter chases audiences expect from a summer blockbuster.

The premise is simple. Crime has skyrocketed, so a new branch of the police has been formed to combat this growing menace. This new branch is referred to as the Pursuit Force. Designed to chase the criminals down using highly reckless actions, the formation of this branch sets the stage for the rest of the game.

Many games feature all of the aforementioned Hollywood elements. But the unique part of "Pursuit Force" is the ability to leap from vehicle to vehicle while traveling at incredible speeds.

Not content to simply follow the suspects, the hero will leap from his car to the criminals at the touch of a button, all while traveling in speeds of excess of 100 miles per hour.

This leads to some truly interesting scenarios, as players will find themselves leapfrogging down a highway, jumping from car to car after the bad guys. There are also moments where the player will leap from a car to a boat, and then back again, all without interruption in the game play.

Unfortunately, the combat helicopter moments are not as seamless or smooth when compared to their motor vehicle counterparts. Instead, a short cinematic shows the player leaping into the helicopter's cockpit. These seg-

ments are some of the worst in the game, as player control is reduced to merely manning a gun. Aiming is difficult as small targets appear in the form of cars. Adding to this annoyance, the helicopter and the cars continuously move.

Rounding out the action segments are some on-foot scenes where the game turns into a simple third-person shooter. Control is simplified for these parts, and they are by far some of the easiest parts of the game.

However, all of the different game modes wouldn't mean much if they were not backed by solid game play. Fortunately, the controls are sufficient, with the driver-

ing sections reminiscent of "Burnout." The boat segments, as well as the on-foot parts, are equally easy to control, with the one dark spot being the aforementioned helicopter scenarios.

Gamers will find plenty of reasons to play "Pursuit Force," even after completing the missions.

Every mission is given a letter grade, with the higher grades being particularly difficult to obtain. The higher grades reward players with cheats, movies and new modes of play, providing added motivation to jump back in and replay the missions.

It should be noted, however, that this game is difficult. It's not as hard as the initial European release, which lacked checkpoints, but it is still an ordeal for the casual gamer. None of the mis-

sions are impossible, but they can seem that way at first. Easily daunted gamers might be better off looking for their action fix elsewhere.

"Pursuit Force" is one of the definitive action experiences for Sony's portable system.

Featuring a variety of modes, furious action and even a little humor, this game should provide plenty of hours of entertainment.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at
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Pursuit Force (PSP)

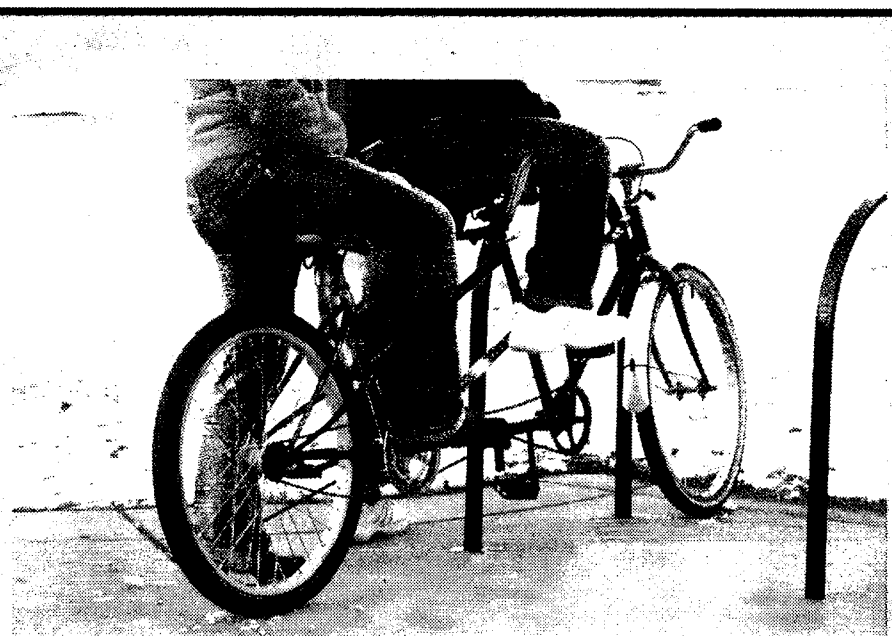


Release: March 7, 2006
Produced by: SCEA and Bigbig Studios
Genre: Car combat
Players: One
System: PSP only

The unique part of "Pursuit Force" is the ability to leap from vehicle to vehicle while traveling at incredible speeds.

NOTRE DAME'S BEST... *Bikes*

BY OBSERVER PHOTO STAFF



Oh, what joy! There's nothing better than a bicycle built for two, they say!



The uses of bikes are numerous — one being to make that class you are about to be late for. But it appears the owner of this bike is going nowhere fast today.



Perhaps the only thing better than two people on two wheels is one person on one wheel — if you can keep the wheel beneath you, that is!

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

NCAA TOURNAMENT

LSU knocks off No. 1 Duke to reach Elite Eight

UCLA rallies to edge Morrison, Gonzaga

Associated Press

ATLANTA — No need for LSU and Big Baby to cry in this NCAA tournament. The Tigers left the tears for J.J. Redick.

Glen "Big Baby" Davis and a pair of defensive-minded freshmen have LSU just one win away from the Final Four, stifling Redick and sending top-seeded Duke to yet another loss in the round of 16.

Davis scored 14 points despite foul trouble, freshman Tyrus Thomas swatted away five shots and another freshman, Garrett Temple, shut down Redick to lead No. 4 seed LSU to a 62-54 upset Thursday night in the Atlanta Regional.

"It feels good, but it's over," Davis said. "There's another task at hand."

That comes Saturday, when the Tigers (26-8) will face Texas in their first regional final since 1987. The winner of that one can book a flight to Indianapolis.

Duke (32-4) is heading home, having flickered out at a familiar point in the tournament. The Blue Devils lost in the regional semifinals for the third time in four years.

"This definitely hurts," said a red-eyed Redick, who had one of his worst games in the finale of his brilliant college career. "The last four years have been pretty amazing and I didn't want that to end."

Redick hardly looked like a favorite for player of the year, making only 3-of-18 shots and finishing with 11 points — more than 16 points below his season average and equaling his lowest-scoring game of the season.

Duke's other star senior, Shelden Williams, went out with 23 points and 13 rebounds but his team wasn't nearly as balanced as LSU, which won the Southeastern Conference regular-season championship and has its sights on an even bigger title.

Texas 74, West Virginia 71

ATLANTA — When Texas needed a 3-point shot, it turned to the right shooter.

Kenton Paulino, a senior who ranks second in school history in career 3-point percentage, hit a 3-pointer as time expired Thursday night and Texas outlasted West Virginia in the third round of the NCAA tournament.

Paulino's shot saved Texas from an overtime period after Kevin Pittsnogle's fifth 3-pointer for West Virginia tied it with 5 seconds left.

Paulino took a pass from A.J. Abrams before launching his winner just before time expired. Officials quickly huddled to confirm Paulino's shot was good.

"The whole thing was to get it down the floor and see what happens," Paulino said, adding he had specific instructions from coach Rick Barnes.

"Coach said if they fake the screen, which they did, get out quick and just run it down the floor and start up. So that's what I did, I just ran down the floor. A.J. got the ball to me and I was ready to go."

The senior said he had never made a similar shot, though he has made 40.9 percent of his career 3-pointers. He led the team by making 41.6 percent of his 3-pointers this season, but in Thursday night's game, Texas was not the team depending on 3-pointers.

West Virginia, second in the nation in 3-pointers made this season, made 15 of 33 3-point shots in the game. Texas was 4-for-19 from 3-point range.

"We thought we had a pretty good shot to go into overtime," Pittsnogle said. "(Paulino) just tossed it up and it went in."

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 26 points for second-seeded Texas (30-6), and Pittsnogle led the sixth-seeded Mountaineers (22-11) with 19.

Texas beat West Virginia 76-75 on Nov. 21 and couldn't avoid another close finish, even after leading 39-27 at halftime.

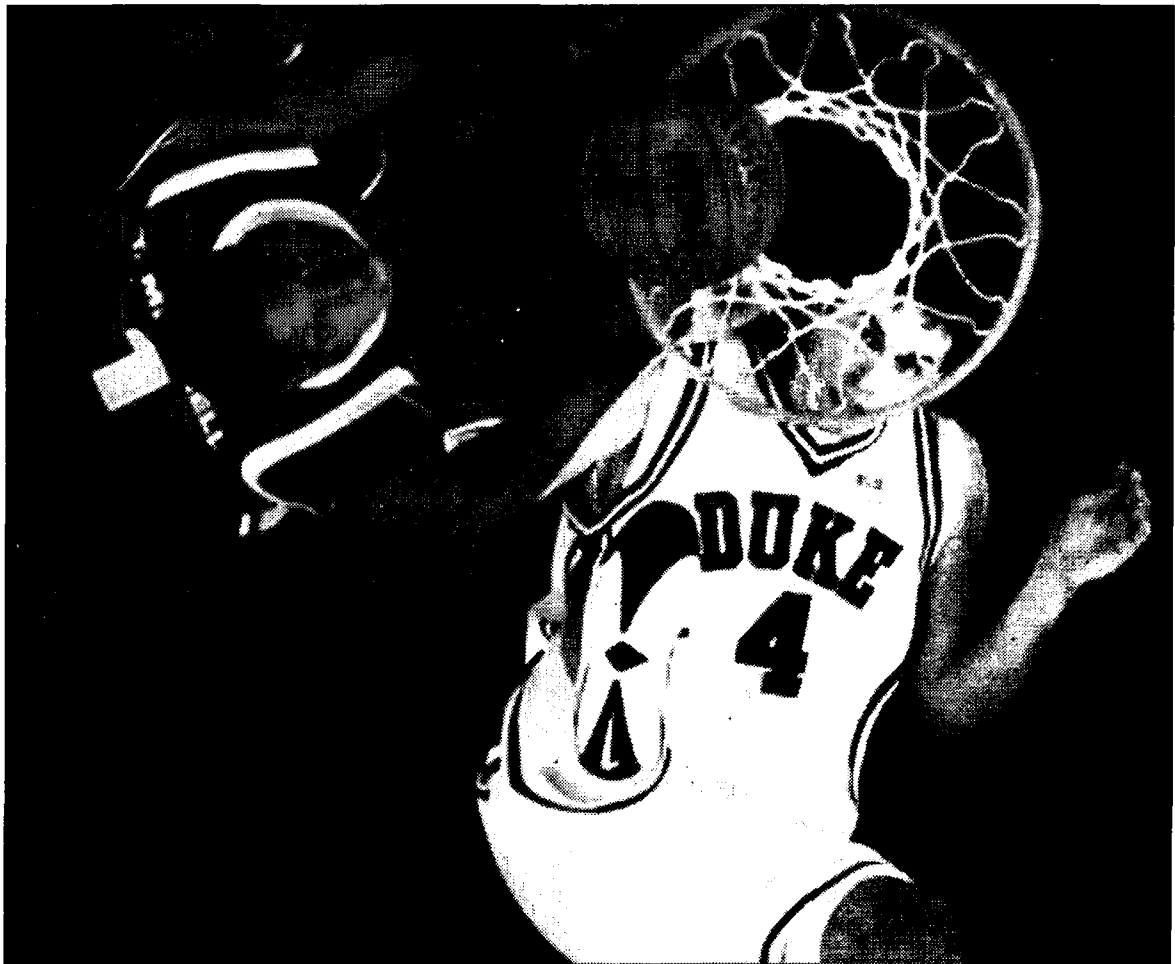
"I was worried coming in because it was a team we know," Barnes said. "I am not sure what happened on that last play because we were switching everything. It was a great day. Wow!"

Memphis 80, Bradley 64

OAKLAND, Calif. — Rodney Carney counts on his first dunk of a game igniting his teammates' intensity.

He dunked all right, he jumped in the passing lanes on defense, and Carney kept top-seeded Memphis from becoming another victim of Bradley's surprising NCAA run.

Carney contributed on both ends of the floor Thursday, scoring 23 points and leading a stingy defense that gave Memphis a victory and put the Tigers in the regional final for the first time since 1992 — back when Anfernee Hardaway



Duke star J.J. Redick lies on his back as Louisiana State's Tasmin Mitchell drains a shot in LSU's 62-54 victory over No. 1-seed Duke in the NCAA Tournament Thursday.

was their star.

"That's what my dunks do," said Carney, who added three steals. "I spark the team with run-through dunks. It gives the team intensity. I want to dunk on 7-foot guys."

Darius Washington Jr. added 18 points and Shawne Williams had 12 points, eight rebounds and four blocks as Memphis won the third round of the Oakland Regional for its seventh straight victory.

Carney raised his arms in the air in celebration after a two-handed jam midway through the second half, one of several emphatic dunks by the 6-foot-7 forward who was virtually unknown when he first arrived at Memphis. Now, he is one win from finishing his stellar collegiate career in his hometown of Indianapolis for the Final Four.

UCLA 73, Gonzaga 71

OAKLAND, Calif. — Luc Richard Mbah a Moute provided a shocking ending to Adam Morrison's amazing season.

Mbah a Moute scored underneath with 10 seconds left and the second-seeded Bruins scored the final 11 points of the game to

knock out Morrison and third-seeded Gonzaga Thursday night to advance to the regional final.

Morrison, Gonzaga's shaggy-haired star, made two free throws with 3:26 to go, giving him 24 on the night and the Bulldogs (29-4) a 71-62 lead. But the Bruins (30-6) didn't wilt.

Mbah a Moute scored six of the final 11 points and got a key steal in the final seconds to seal the win and send UCLA to its first regional final since 1997.

The Bruins will play Saturday against Memphis (33-3), which beat Bradley 80-64 in the first semifinal of the Oakland regional. The Tigers beat the Bruins 88-80 in November.

After Mbah a Moute stole the ball from Derek Raivio with 2.6 seconds left, Morrison put his hands on his head and bent down, overcome with emotion, fighting tears in what was probably his final game in a Gonzaga uniform. He is expected to turn pro after the season.

J.P. Batista missed a desperation 15-footer at the buzzer and fell into the Zags' bench, where coach

Mark Few helped him up.

When the buzzer sounded, UCLA senior Cedric Bozeman ran around the court with the ball in his hands — Ryan Hollins right with him. Hollins and Affalo went to help up Morrison, who was spread on the floor at midcourt. Few then came to hug the crying Morrison.

UCLA never led until the final seconds, staging a thrilling late-game rally that will be remembered for years at the tradition-rich school with 11 national titles.

Mbah a Moute started the comeback with two free throws and then scored on a putback with 2:09 to go to make it 71-66. Morrison, who shot 10-for-17 but missed his last four from the field, missed a jumper with about a minute left and Jordan Farmar scored quickly on the other end to make it a three-point game.

Morrison missed the next time down and Batista fouled Hollins going for the rebound. Hollins made both free throws to make it 71-70 and the Bruins then stole the ball in the backcourt from Batista, setting up Mbah a Moute's go-ahead score.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, March 24, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pct.	GB
New Jersey	38-28	.566	-
Philadelphia	32-35	.478	6.5
Boston	29-40	.420	10.5
Toronto	25-43	.368	14
New York	19-48	.284	19.5

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Detroit	54-13	.806	-
Cleveland	39-29	.574	15.5
Indiana	34-32	.515	19.5
Milwaukee	34-34	.500	20.5
Chicago	29-39	.426	25.5

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Miami	45-23	.662	-
Washington	34-32	.515	10
Orlando	25-43	.368	20
Atlanta	21-45	.318	23
Charlotte	19-50	.275	26.5

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Denver	39-30	.565	-
Utah	32-35	.478	6
Minnesota	28-39	.418	10
Seattle	27-40	.403	11
Portland	20-47	.275	18

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Phoenix	45-21	.682	-
LA Clippers	39-27	.591	6
LA Lakers	36-34	.514	11
Sacramento	34-34	.500	12
Golden State	28-38	.424	17

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
San Antonio	53-15	.779	-
Dallas	53-15	.779	-
Memphis	38-29	.567	14.5
New Orleans	32-33	.492	19.5
Houston	29-39	.426	24

USILA/STX Men's Lacrosse Coaches' Poll

	team	record	previous
1	Virginia	8-0	2
2	Duke	6-1	3
3	Cornell	4-0	5
4	Maryland	4-1	1
5	Hofstra	4-1	9
6	Georgetown	4-1	8
7	Princeton	2-2	6
8	Navy	5-1	4
9	Johns Hopkins	3-2	13
10	Massachusetts	4-1	7
11	NOTRE DAME	4-1	11
12	Denver	4-1	14
13	Delaware	8-1	12
14	Pennsylvania	5-0	15
15	Syracuse	1-3	10
16	Binghamton	4-1	NR
17	Albany	3-2	NR
18	Colgate	5-1	NR
19	Loyola	3-2	18
20	Bucknell	3-3	NR

MLB



Giants left fielder Barry Bonds singles during a spring training game against the Cubs last Friday. Bonds says he plans to sue the authors of "Game of Shadows," the new book which accuses Bonds of using performance enhancing drugs.

Giants' Bonds to sue authors of book

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds plans to sue the authors and publisher of a book that alleges the San Francisco Giants' slugger used steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds' attorneys sent a letter Thursday to an agent for the authors of "Game of Shadows," alerting them of plans to sue the writers, publisher Gotham Books, the San Francisco Chronicle and Sports Illustrated, which published excerpts this month.

The letter, signed by Alison Berry Wilkinson, an associate of Bonds' lead

attorney, Michael Rains, was posted on the Chronicle's Web Site. A hearing was tentatively scheduled for Friday in San Francisco Superior Court.

The book by Chronicle reporters Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams was released Thursday. It claims Bonds used steroids, human growth hormone, insulin and other banned substances for at least five seasons beginning in 1998.

"We certainly stand by our reporters and the reporting they did for us," Chronicle executive vice president and editor Phil Bronstein said. "Nothing that's happened will change that."

Bonds' legal team will ask a judge Friday to issue a temporary restraining order forfeiting all profits from publication and distribution, according to the letter. The lawyers plan to file the suit under California's unfair competition law.

The Chronicle reported that the attorneys will ask a federal judge to initiate contempt proceedings "for the use of illegally obtained" grand jury transcripts the authors used in writing the book. The paper also reported that Rains said profits should be forfeited because of that.

Williams and Fainaru-Wada said the book will stand up to a court chal-

lenge.

"I don't know what the legal action they contemplate is," Williams said. "Gotham can speak to the legal issues but the facts in our book are true and they will stand up to scrutiny."

"We fully stand behind our reporting of the book," Fainaru-Wada added.

Lisa Johnson, a spokeswoman for publisher Gotham Books, said the publisher supports both authors. "We at Gotham Books are shocked that Barry Bonds would take such a foolish step," she said. "Any respected First Amendment lawyer in America knows that his claim is nonsense."

IN BRIEF

Vanderjagt signs with Dallas

DALLAS — Mike Vanderjagt, the NFL's most accurate kicker who was no longer needed in Indianapolis, signed Thursday with the Dallas Cowboys.

Vanderjagt became dispensable in Indianapolis after the Colts signed Adam Vinatieri this week. Vinatieri twice hit winning kicks in the Super Bowl for New England, but the Patriots allowed him to test free agency.

After depending so long on inexperienced or inexpensive kickers, the Cowboys didn't pass on Vanderjagt, a former Pro Bowl kicker and unrestricted free agent.

Vanderjagt has the highest field goal accuracy rate in NFL history (87.5 percent) and holds the record for making 42 straight. But on his last attempt for the Colts during the AFC divisional playoffs in January, he badly missed a 46-yarder that would have forced overtime against Pittsburgh.

Two Cincinnati players ruled ineligible for NIT

CINCINNATI — Two Cincinnati starters were ruled ineligible hours before the Bearcats' NIT quarterfinal Thursday night, the latest setback for a team that lost its coach before the season began and has been plagued with injuries.

The university cited an NCAA ruling in the case but did not say why seniors James White and Jihad Muhammad were ineligible.

"We have suspended the players indefinitely for failure to meet the standards set forth by the NCAA and the men's basketball program at the University of Cincinnati," interim head coach Andy Kennedy said in a statement released by the university.

"Our team will continue in its attempt to represent this university in the manner with which it deserves to be represented."

Vinatieri officially an Indianapolis Colt

INDIANAPOLIS — Adam Vinatieri arrived in Indianapolis with the usual expectations — kicking game-winners and winning championships.

After spending the last five years helping the New England Patriots win three Super Bowl titles, Vinatieri wants to do the same with the Colts.

"Hopefully many of those kicks are still with me," he said Thursday after he was introduced as the Colts' new kicker. "But those kicks are in the rearview mirror now, and I'm looking through the windshield."

The signing allows the Colts to switch from having the league's most accurate kicker, Mike Vanderjagt, to having the league's most dependable when it matters most — in the playoffs.

The Colts brought in Vinatieri to make sure there wouldn't be a repeat.

around the dial

MLB SPRING TRAINING

Yankees vs. Twins, 1 p.m., ESPN2

GOLF

The Players Championship, 12 p.m., ESPN

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Regional semi-finals, 7 p.m., CBS

TRACK

Irish travel to compete in two Arizona meets

By JASON GALVAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame travels to Tucson, Ariz. to take part in the Wildcat Combined Events meet today and the Jim Click Shootout on Saturday.

Both meets are sponsored by the University of Arizona, with the first meet taking place on campus and the Saturday meet slated to occur at Drachman Stadium in Tucson.

The Irish will be taking a limited number of athletes to Tucson.

The competition, much like other early meets, is designed to let several athletes attempt to get qualifying times out of the way early in the season for the Big East Conference meet and the NCAA Mid-east Regional meet.

This allows the Irish to focus on more intense training during the early part of the outdoor season and build strength for the later meets.

"You really want to get qualifications early," senior sprinter Ryan Postel said. "It can be a struggle to miss qualifiers early on and try to get it late. I want to get qual-

ifications out of the way to focus on training."

The Irish men and women will have an excellent opportunity to meet their qualifying standards for the conference and NCAA meets this weekend if the weather conditions prove to be as favorable as predicted.

The Irish are expected to be competing in 80-degree temperatures with no signs of bad weather.

The situation is unlike last week at the Cal Poly Invitational, where the Irish faced colder temperatures and a 25-mph head wind that slowed down times for many of the athletes who may have otherwise gotten their qualifiers out of the way there.

"To go to an outdoor meet with great weather, I'm just excited and feeling good," Postel said. "This weekend in Arizona will be 82 and sunny. You should see some good marks from us."

While the unpredictability of the weather adds a degree of difficulty to the outdoor season, many of the athletes are still enthusiastic.

There are a number of other small differences, such as a longer track length and an increased number of

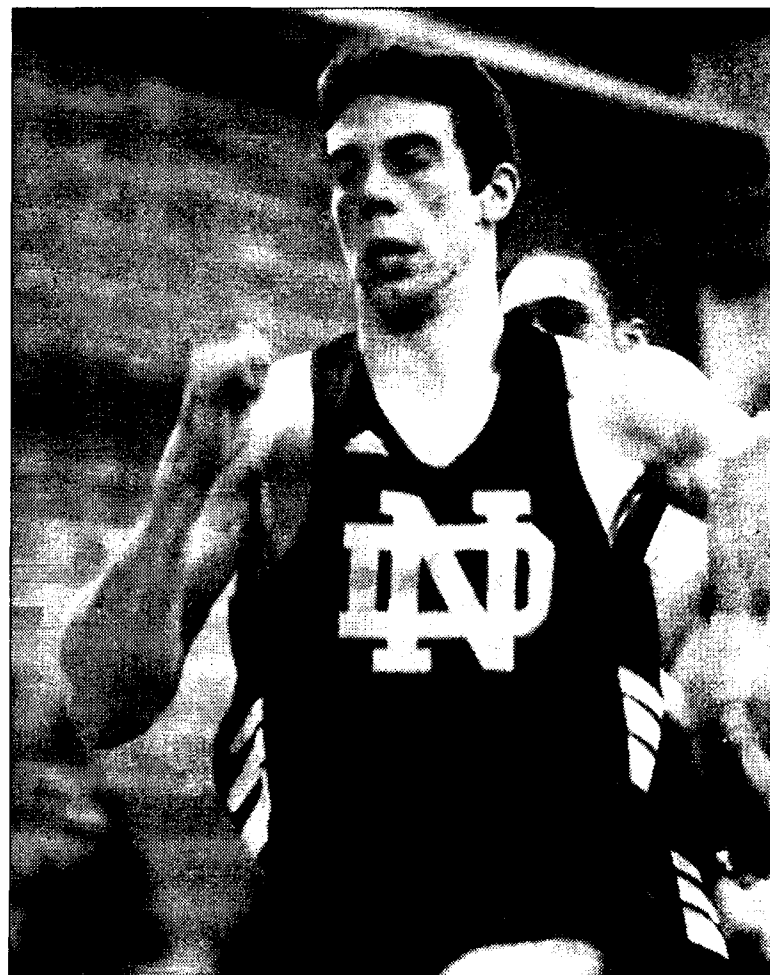
events that can potentially have a sizeable impact on meets.

"The thing with outdoor meets is you always have to adjust for the weather conditions," junior sprinter Okechi Ogbukiri said. "You have to adjust for when it'll be cold or windy, whether you have the wind at your back or not, if it's raining, that sort of thing."

"With the transition into the outdoor season, you generally see people's times improve," Ogbukiri said. "The track is longer, so you have bigger turns and a longer straightaway, which makes people with longer strides more comfortable."

While Postel (200-, 400-meter runs) and Ogbukiri (200-, 400-meter runs) look to meet their qualifying times, several other members of the Irish squad heading to Tucson are looking to meet their qualifying marks or improve their times, including junior sprinter Maryann Erigha in the 100-meter run, Laura Huarte in the pole vault and Austin Wechter in the 400-meter hurdles.

Contact Jason Galvan at
jgalvan@nd.edu



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Senior sprinter Ryan Postel competes in the Alex Wilson Invitational at Loftus Sports Complex March 3.

SMC GOLF

Belles to challenge Northern Kentucky in first dual meet

By BECKI DORNER
Sports Writer

The Belles look to build on a 13th place finish at the Shamrock Invitational when they lock horns with Northern Kentucky in a dual meet this coming weekend at the Perry Park Golf Course, a long par-72.

Their scores evenly matched with Northern Kentucky, the Belles will need to be on top of their game. In

their most recent contest at the Lady Moc golf classic at the Cleveland Heights Golf Club in Lakefield, Fla., Northern Kentucky tallied a final round total of 323 on the 5,997-yard, par-72 course to finish in 11th place.

Their top scorer, Alicia Lawrence, tied for 18th with a final round score of 76, while their next top performer was Kelsey Gauthier, who tied in 39th with her final round score of 81.

The Belles, on the other

hand, recorded a 339 in their last round at the Shamrock Invitational at the Tega Cay Country Club (par-72, 5,842 yards) hosted by Winthrop University in South Carolina.

The Belles were led by Megan Mattia's 20th place finish and low score of 74, while

senior captain Nicole Bellino delivered an 81 to earn 50th place.

Mattia, the MVP of the MIAA League during the fall season of this year, said the team has high expectations for the spring season.

"We have a great team this year with four graduating seniors who all

high note by getting a bid to the national tournament in May for the fourth year in a row," she said.

Bellino and fellow senior captain Kirsten Fantom will fight alongside Mattia and senior Erin McQueen to try to help the team reach its potential.

According to Golfstat.com, that potential places the Belles No. 4 nationally among the top Division III teams in their annual ranking. The National Golf Coaches Association places them at a lower, but still competitive, No. 13 rank.

But Belles coach Mark Hamilton said the Belles must sharpen their short game after a long winter season that made practicing those skills difficult.

Although the winter might have made practice difficult, Mattia stressed that improvements made over break were obvious during last week's Shamrock Invitational.

Contact Becki Dörner at
rdörner1@nd.edu

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SMC TENNIS

Belles host a pair of conference foes Saturday

Team looks to extend four-game win streak

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Coming off its 6-3 victory over Olivet College, Saint Mary's looks to extend its winning streak against Aquinas College and Adrian College at home this Saturday.

Last Tuesday's win over Olivet was the fourth in a row for the Belles, who have also defeated Minnesota State — Moorhead, Bentley and Milsaps during their current

winning streak. All three of those victories occurred during the team's annual trip to Orlando over spring break.

After losing three of four matches to open the season, Saint Mary's recent win streak has come at a good time.

"We had some sick players and some injured players who got better towards the end of our time in Florida," Belles coach Dee Stevenson said. "That played in a big role starting our win-

ning streak."

Defeating Olivet also gave Saint Mary's its first conference win of the season as the

"One of our biggest goals every year is winning the conference, so keeping the girls focused won't be a big problem."

Dee Stevenson
Belles coach

Belles look to improve on last year's fifth place finish in the MIAA. While last Tuesday's victory gets the team off to a good start in conference play, the real test still awaits as last year's Saint Mary's team swept its matches against Olivet.

That first real conference test will take place next

Wednesday when the Belles compete against a Hope team that finished second in conference last year.

But right now, all of the team's focus is on Adrian and Aquinas.

Of the two, the Belles expect to receive a tougher challenge from Aquinas, a team that boasts a 5-2 record coming into this weekend's match.

Although Aquinas is coming off a loss to Temple University, the Saints won five matches in a row before falling to Temple.

"If we want to beat Aquinas, we're really going to have to keep our concentration levels up," Stevenson said.

Before the Belles take on Aquinas Saturday evening, they will play conference foe Adrian earlier in the afternoon.

Adrian is coming off a 9-0 loss to last year's conference champion, Albion.

The loss drops the Bulldogs to 0-4 on the season, but Stevenson doesn't expect his players to take their conference rival lightly.

"One of our biggest goals every year is winning the conference, so keeping the girls focused won't be a big problem," he said.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

ROWING

Irish journey to Michigan for Lubbers Cup Rowing Regatta

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's rowing team is set to compete in this Saturday's Lubbers Cup Rowing Regatta held at Grand Valley State in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Irish will take on a number of club teams as well as the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan, the only other varsity squads competing in the event.

Schools sending club teams include the University of Dayton, Michigan State,

Northern Michigan, Grand Valley State, Western Michigan and the University of Western Ontario.

Notre Dame will compete in both the four- and eight-person boat races and will enter three varsity boats in the four-person races, two varsity boats in the eight-person races and two novice boats in the eight-person races.

"We spent ... our spring training very hard in terms of

volume and intensity," coach Martin Stone said after last weekend's races. "We were very productive and efficient ... and got a lot of things accomplished."

"We spent ... our spring training very hard in terms of volume and intensity."

Martin Stone
Irish coach

The teams will score points for finishing in the top three in each race, with the team finishing first winning the "Don"

Lubbers Cup, named after Arend D. "Don" Lubbers, president of Grand Valley

State from 1969 to 2001. Contrary to popular belief, the meet has nothing to do with the seafaring insult "landlubber."

The Irish are competing to get ready for next weekend's San Diego Classic, where they will compete against schools including the Naval Academy, the University of Washington, Long Beach State, San Diego State, UC-San Diego, UCLA, UC-Santa Barbara, Harvard, Yale, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, Duke and the University of Virginia.

Notre Dame is coming off of a solid performance in last

weekend's meet against Minnesota and Tennessee. The team's varsity eight-person boat, made up of Eileen Froehkle, Julie Sobolewski, Amanda Polk, Mary Quinn, Laura Pearson, Allison Marsh, Melissa Felker, Andrea Doud and Sarah Palandech, finished third, third and second in three rounds of racing.

The Irish had their best time in the third race, finishing in 4:48.09, a time that they hope to improve on at the Lubbers Cup.

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu

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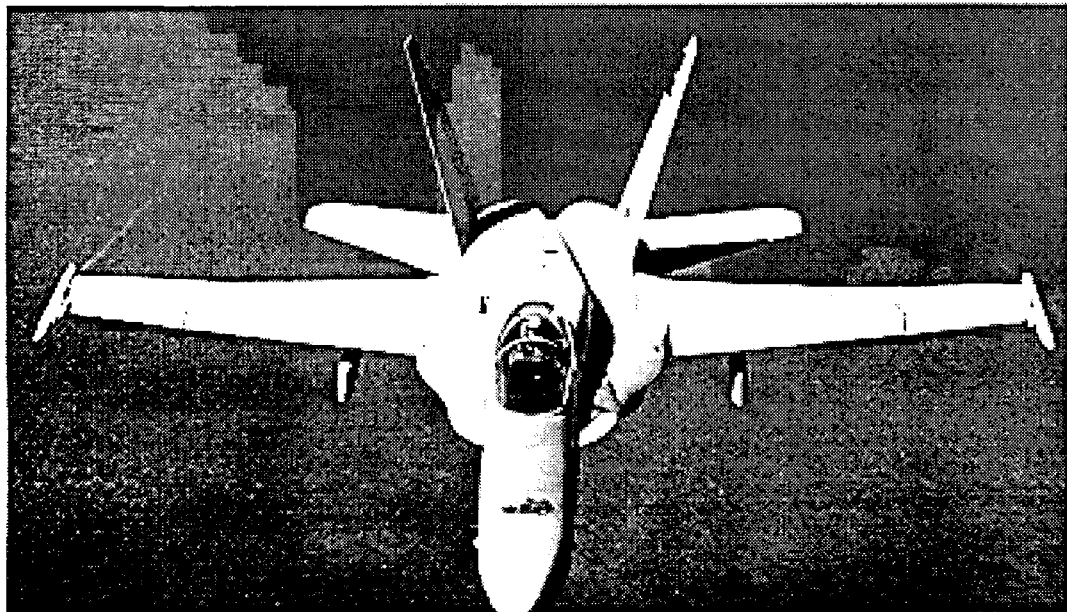
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MEN'S TENNIS

Texas roundup: Squad to play Horns, Aggies

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Some say everything's bigger in Texas — and that includes challenges on the tennis court.

This weekend, the Irish travel to Austin to face No. 5 Texas on Saturday and then to College Station to take on No. 22 Texas A&M.

"I think I know them both very well," coach Bobby Bayliss said. "[Texas] beat us 4-3 here last year, and they have pretty much the same team back. They added one new player who's playing in the lower half of the lineup, and they're very talented."

In addition, Texas' Travis Helgeson, ranked No. 20 nationally, is the older brother of Irish freshman Brett Helgeson, who stands at No. 106 in the country.

Both the Longhorns and the Aggies beat No. 3 Illinois, which defeated the Irish 7-0 on Feb. 7.

The Irish are ranked No. 15 nationally and take a 15-4 record into Texas. They most recently played five matches over six days, which included an appearance in the finals of the Blue-Gray National Tennis Classic.

First on this week's agenda was recovering from their grueling spring break. After taking Monday off, the team focused on fundamentals and doubles.

"Tuesday we actually focused really on just fundamentals off the ground — really driving the ball with our legs, hitting a lot of cross courts, getting back into a groove," Bayliss said. "When you compete that much, little cracks and fissures start to show up in your game ... you need that solid time to get

the fundamentals back."

The Irish will be forced to adjust to playing outdoors. Although spring break matches were all played outside, the team was unable to practice outdoors in South Bend.

"Hopefully, we'll get to hit tomorrow evening in Austin when we get in and a little bit Saturday morning before the match, so it won't be a difficult adjustment outdoors," Bayliss said. "At least, I hope it won't."

Irish players have been gaining recognition in singles. In addition to Helgeson, Stephen Bass is No. 14, Sheeva Parbhu is No. 34 and Ryan Keckley is No. 115.

In doubles, Keckley is ranked with Eric Langenkamp at No. 36 and at No. 44 with Barry King. He is now paired with Parbhu, but the duo is unranked.

"He and Sheeva give us a good chance to win at No. 1," said Bayliss, noting that it is unusual — but not unheard of — for one player to have multiple doubles rankings.

This weekend's matches will be a good test for the Irish as they begin to close out their season. The team has three matches remaining before the Big East Tournament begins on April 20.

However, no one is overlooking the pair of Texas matches.

"Texas is for real — they're a legit team," Bayliss said. "They beat Virginia and Duke. They're very good, and they beat Illinois, and A&M beat Illinois."

The Irish take on the Longhorns at 1 p.m. in Austin and face the Aggies at 1:30 p.m. in College Station.

Contact Kate Gales at
kgales@nd.edu

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish hit road to face Pride

Team ready to battle
No. 5 Hofstra group

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

The No. 11 Irish, tournament hungry and standing 4-1 on the season, are always playing for more than pride. This weekend, Notre Dame will take that mentality to Hempstead, NY, where the team will face the No. 5 Hofstra Pride Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Notre Dame enters the contest carrying a three-game winning streak, including a 9-7 victory over then-No. 20 North Carolina. During that span, the Irish have lost the groundball battle in all three games, but their defense has out-cleared their opponents — a feat they have achieved in every game this year, with an .830 clear percentage compared to the .654 mark to which they have held their opponents.

This is also their third straight game away from home.

"It's always tough going on the road," senior co-captain and midfielder Drew Peters said. "Going on the road to Hofstra to play a top-five team will be a challenge."

Hofstra (4-1) enters the game on a four-game roll, most recently defeating then-No. 6 Princeton last Saturday to vault the Pride from No. 9 to their current spot in the top five. They also beat defending NCAA champions

and current No. 9 Johns Hopkins 11-6 earlier in the year.

The Irish have narrowly missed a tournament invitation each of the past three years. In order to make it back to postseason play for the first time since 2001, the team realizes that a win against a top-ranked team is crucial.

"We need to win a big game," Peters said. "If we get a big win over them, that'll get some momentum and set things up for the rest of the season. Everyone realizes how big of a game this is."

Last year, Notre Dame went on the road and defeated Hofstra 9-8 in double overtime.

Senior attackman Pat Walsh was the hero of last season's game, assisting one goal and scoring six of his own, including the decisive tally with 1:55 left in the second overtime. If the Tewaaraton Trophy "Watch List" attackman is to post similar numbers Saturday, he must get past first-team All-American senior defenseman Brett Moyer, a fellow Tewaaraton nominee.

Walsh will have help this year with the return of senior attackman Brian Hubschmann, who missed all of last year due to injury but has been dominating this year. Hubschmann leads the Irish in scoring with 10 goals and seven assists.

Walsh and Hubschmann are two of 11 Irish players returning for the only time this year to play in their

home state and lacrosse hotbed of New York.

After playing at Hofstra last year, Peters expects an ideal environment for lacrosse fans.

"A lot of the guys have a lot of family that shows up," he said. "Hofstra is always a great place to play. They have a big stadium that draws 8,000 people for a big game. The whole place erupts when you score a goal."

Though the Irish controlled most of last year's contest, they almost let it slip away, allowing a late three-goal Pride run to send the game into its first overtime. Similar late game let-ups last week enabled North Carolina and Villanova to make 4-0 and 4-1 runs, respectively, to allow them back into those games.

Hofstra's only common opponent with the Irish this year has been North Carolina.

The Pride erased a 5-1 deficit against the Tarheels to win 6-5 in the last two minutes of the game.

The Irish entered last year's game in a similar position with Notre Dame 3-1, but following the win, they closed out the season 3-3 and barely missed a tournament invitation.

"We had a good week at practice," Peters said. "Everyone is feeling confident. We're going to play our game of lacrosse, and hopefully, it will take care of itself."

Contact Tim Dougherty at
tdougher@nd.edu



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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles set for season opener vs. Engineers



Observer File Photo

Junior Laura Helne scores a run during Saint Mary's 10-5 loss to Albion College last April.

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

The cold weather has kept the Belles inside for many practices this week, but it has not deterred them in preparing for their regular season opener Saturday at Rose-Hulman. Saint Mary's coach Elizabeth Sullivan, along with leading seniors Audrey Gajor and Bridget Grall, have kept the team working hard in the gym.

"We have been trying to keep up with everything, continuing what we have been preparing all season," Gajor said.

The Belles have focused on forming a strong all-around squad.

"We are looking to build off how we did in Florida," Grall said. "A strong defense, a strong offense — both sides."

Proving that they are a force to be reckoned with both at the plate and on the mound, the Belles will turn to offensive and defensive stalwarts like Laura Helne and Kristin Amram to better their odds against the Engineers. Helne went 3-3, hitting two home runs and driving in five runs during the Belles' 7-1 victory over Edgewood on

March 13. Amram hurled a no-hitter against Defiance on March 15.

Saint Mary's will have to turn in strong performances on both offense and defense at Rose Hulman, located in Terre Haute, Ind.

The Engineers are 6-6 and currently No. 1 in fielding percentage at .976 in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC).

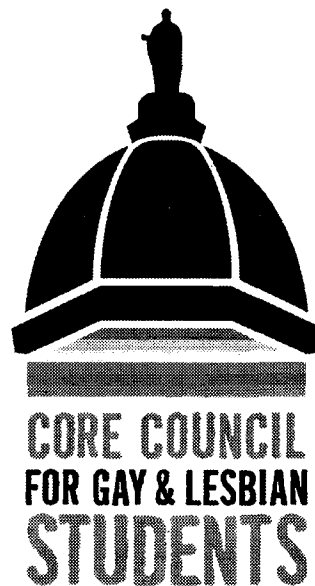
Rose-Hulman's sophomore trio of Katie Frey, Katie Yiznitsky and Katie Maggard head the Engineers on both fronts. Frey is hitting .400 with 17 RBIs, Yiznitsky is batting .410 with 12 RBIs and pitcher Maggard has 45 strikeouts in 63.2 innings.

The Belles last met the Engineers in 2004 for a double-header. They dropped both games, 4-1 and 4-3.

However, the Belles are not concerned with their past performances.

"That was two years ago," said Gajor of the 2004 meeting. "We have a completely different team. We are prepared this time."

Contact Deirdre Krasula at
dkrasula@nd.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
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Applications are available in the Office of Student Affairs (316 Main Building)

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Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday,

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Please visit our web site for more information.



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Coyne

continued from page 24

that after watching game film, the poor performances that hurt Notre Dame the most were squandered second-half scoring opportunities.

"The game film showed the players what they could have done in the second half," Coyne said. "They saw that there are a lot of opportunities they didn't take because they didn't know they were there."

So far this week, the Irish have been focused on fixing these mistakes in vision on the field — not on Canisius, their upcoming opponent.

Starting defense man Meaghan Fitzpatrick said Coyne has kept practices related to mistakes from previous games and has tried to fix as many mental and physical errors as possible.

"Northwestern left us a lot of things to work on," Fitzpatrick said. "Coach Coyne has worked on tackling all of those things all over the field — defense, midfield, different kinds of attack — to help us improve from last game."

This theory of practice has worked well so far this season, leading the Irish to a top

ranking in the Big East and a No. 17 ranking in the NCAA. Coyne's focus on her team has also helped them gain confidence.

"Focusing on ourselves has been a very important aspect of our success this season," Fitzpatrick said. "We would mess things up that we might not have messed up otherwise if we focus too much on what the other team is going to do and not enough on what we need to do."

But as much as Coyne and the Irish would like to stay focused on their own team, the Canisius game looms Saturday as the first test for Notre Dame after its only loss this season.

"It's very important to play really well in this game after a disappointing loss [to Northwestern]," Fitzpatrick said.

"Hopefully, we can rebound in the best possible way with a win."

And Coyne has even bigger plans for this season, including a trip deep into the post-season.

"We are halfway through the season at this point and have fifteen good halves in eight games," she said. "We are moving forward — hopefully to the NCAA tournament."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer
Junior midfielder Kaki Orr patrols the field during an 18-6 win over Ohio University on Mar. 2.

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Iowa

continued from page 24

mean anything if you're not playing great tennis. If you're having an off day, any team you play will take advantage."

Although the Hawkeyes currently stand at 9-2 for the season, Iowa is coming off a pair of 4-3 wins against Kansas March 11 and Kansas State the following day.

Leading the Hoosiers this season are the No. 40 doubles pair of junior Meg Racette and sophomore Jacqueline Lee.

In addition to being ranked in doubles, Racette is currently No. 33 in singles. Following Racette is Mili Veselinovic, No. 104.

"They are capable of giving us difficult matches," junior Catrina Thompson said. "So we know that we just have to focus on the match and not worry about rankings or winning streaks."

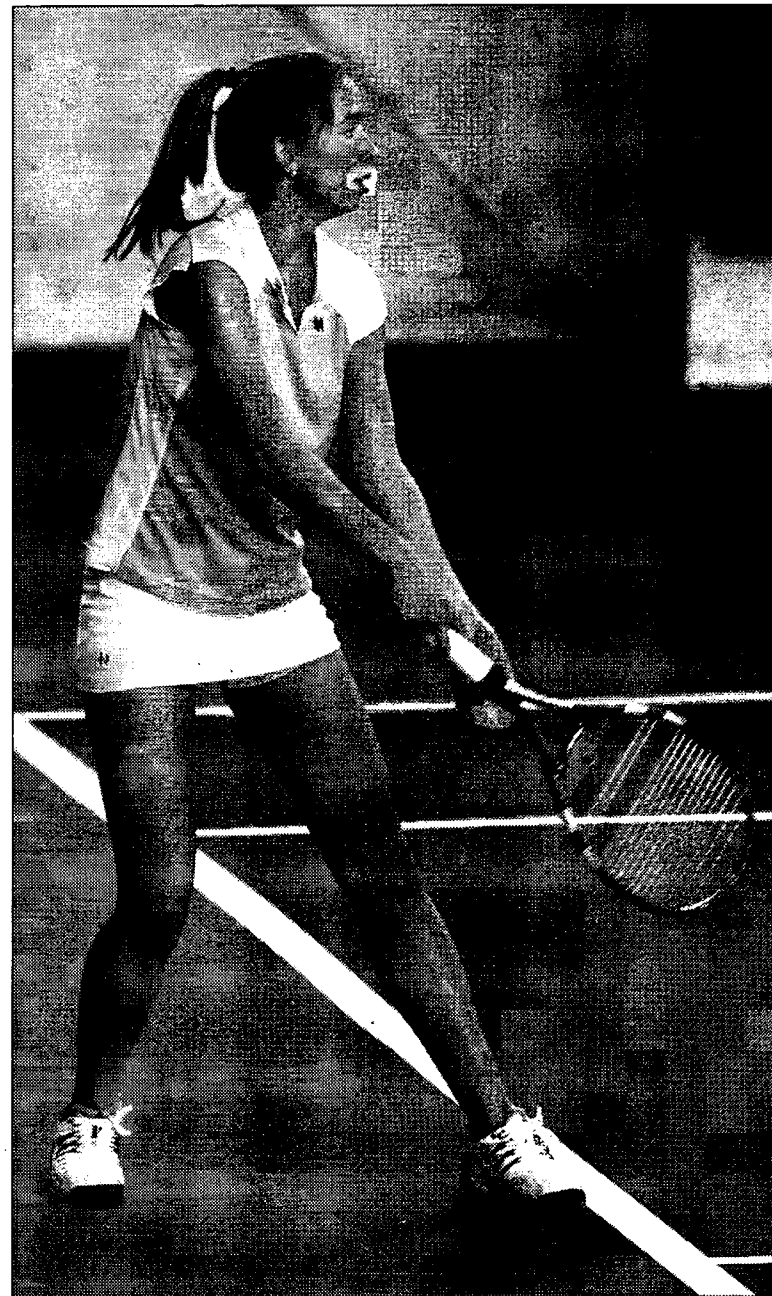
Thompson has led the Irish this season in both singles and doubles.

She is currently No. 30 in singles and No. 3 in doubles with her teammate and sister Christian Thompson. Christian Thompson is the only other player from Notre Dame to be ranked in singles at No. 74.

"We have done pretty well in doubles this season," Catrina Thompson said. "But we are focusing on every match and hope to continue to play well."

In addition to the Thompson sisters, the pairing of sophomore Brook Buck and freshman Kelcy Tefft is nationally ranked at No. 29.

"Brook and Kelcy have played really well for us this season," Catrina Thompson said. "If we're having an off



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Freshman Katie Potts readies to serve in a match against Indiana on Feb. 28. Notre Dame swept the Hoosiers 7-0.

day, we can always count on [Buck and Tefft] to pull through and help our team win the doubles point."

Following the match against Iowa, Notre Dame will head

to Nashville, Tenn. to face Vanderbilt on March 29.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

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Hoyas

continued from page 24

Thornton, a senior left-hander, was named the Big East pitcher of the week on Monday for his complete game, five-hit shutout of Southern Illinois in the championship of the Irish Baseball Classic last week in San Antonio. It was the fifth time — the second this season — that Thornton has received the award, placing him second all-time in most Big East pitcher of the week honors.

Thornton threw only 84 pitches — 64 of them for

strikes — and didn't walk a batter in the nine-inning blanking against the Salukis on Mar. 18.

"I'd take a few more of Tom Thornton's 84-pitch shutouts," Mainieri said of his hopes for his starters' workload this weekend. "If any of them want to give us one of those, I'd be happy to accept it."

Georgetown first baseman and designated hitter Ryan Craft brings the big stick off the bench in the Hoyas' lineup. Craft has three home

runs and 15 RBIs with a .453 batting average on the season and was named to the preseason all-Big East team.

Manship, a junior right hander, Samardzija, a junior right hander, and Thornton must also deal with junior catcher Brandon Davis, who has been a strong plate presence for the Hoyas this season. He is batting .403 with

one home run and 17 RBIs.

"First of all, anytime you go on the road, it is tough in-conference," Mainieri said. "Second of all, Georgetown

got our attention last year by beating us here. I think they're going to be tough games, and hopefully we'll play well in all our phases and get off to a good start."

Getting off to a good start against the Hoyas is only the beginning of a tough 27-game Big East schedule.

Mainieri and his Irish nine have plans not only to make the newly-expanded eight-team Big East tournament, but to win the regular sea-

son. "If you win the regular season championship, it gives you an inside track to a NCAA bid," Mainieri said.

A fifth straight Big East title and seventh straight NCAA tournament bid are Notre Dame's long terms goals, but for this weekend, only the Hoyas are in the sights of Manship, Samardzija, Thornton and the rest of the Irish bats.

"First of all, anytime you go on the road, it is tough in-conference."

Paul Mainieri
Irish head coach

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

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Broncos

continued from page 24

Tricia VanDerSilk, another Bronco starter, has also been making headlines with her MAC West Pitcher of the Week award earlier this month.

The Irish offense will have to try to find a way to produce runs against these tough pitchers. Five of the team's 10 losses have come when held to fewer than three runs.

"You have to go into every game with confidence thinking that you will hit each pitcher hard," said Linda Kohan, who leads Notre Dame in home runs with four. "We are going to be just fine and do well this weekend."

The team will look to its own powerful pitching staff to combat the Broncos and hold them in check as long as possible.

Both Heather Booth and

freshman Brittany Bargar were at the top of their games in the Judi Garman Classic. Booth allowed only one earned run in last week's 4-3 loss to No. 6 Alabama.

The Irish hope that they can turn those close losses from last week into wins in the regional and conference schedule that they start this weekend by playing close to home against competition.

At this point in the season, Notre Dame is only 3-8 in contests decided by one run, including 0-3 in extra innings.

"We are going to get down to business just like in any other game, and we should come away with the win," Kohan said.

After its trip to Kalamazoo, the team will head home to open up Big East play next week at Ivy Field.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

"You have to go into every game with confidence thinking that you will hit each pitcher hard."

Linda Kohan
Irish infielder



Mahler's Resurrection Symphony

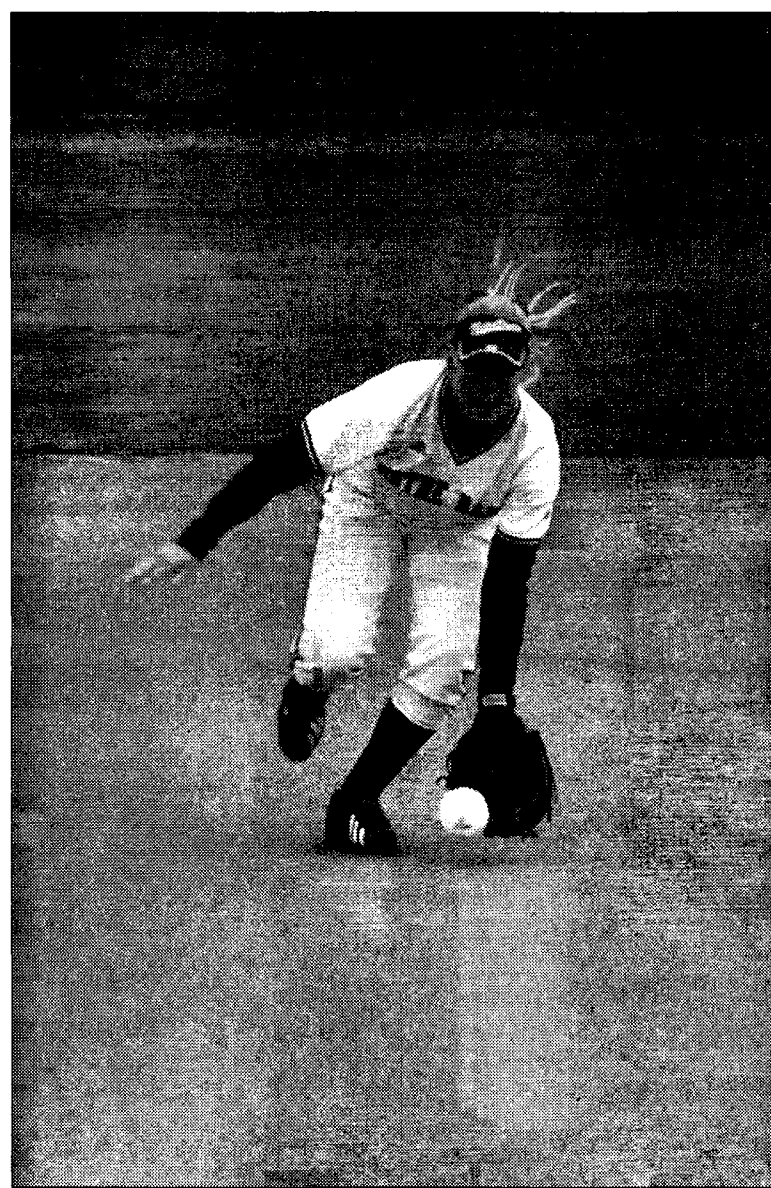
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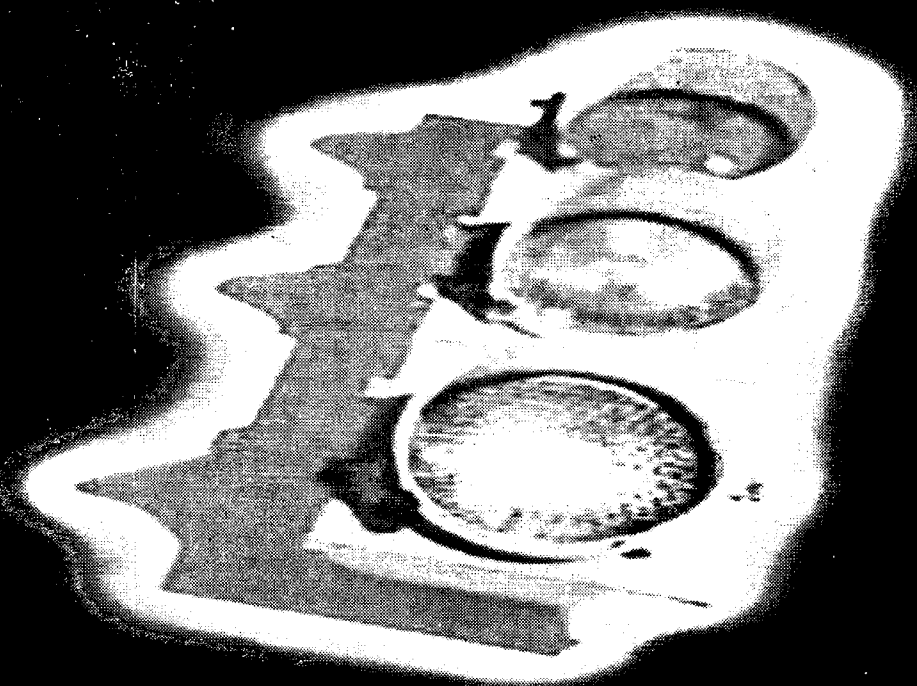
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Sophomore infielder Katie Laing fields a groundball on April 22, 2005 against St. John's. The Irish won both games of the doubleheader 8-0 in five innings.

BETH WERNET/The Observer



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During an unusually intense game of Scrabble, Phil McNicholas unwittingly stumbles upon secrets of Our Lady's University

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Alternatives for Zahm Hall

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D A T E
M E N

Business Students

M E
N O T
R E A D

Dining Halls during Lent

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M E A T

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ADAM FAIRHOLM

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AND ON FROSH O' YOU CAN PLEDGE TO THE DORM AND GET DRUNK INSTEAD OF SPRAYING EACH OTHER WITH SILLY STRING FOR AN ENTIRE WEEKEND. DEAL?

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HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

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LEBIE
GRONTS
EURUFT

A: A _____ OF " _____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SCARY BRINY PAUPER THRASH
Answer: When the robber was caught on the steps, the cops said it was – A STAIR "CASE"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Tell them to go back to sleep

WHAT THE KING EXPERIENCED WHEN HE WAS AWAKENED BY THE PROTESTERS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Big maker of metal products
6 "The Fox and the Grapes" author
11 The "it" in "Step on it!"
14 Imam's declaration
15 Shelley's "Cheers" role
16 Prov. on Niagara Falls
17 Egg-shaped
18 E
20 London's Big
21 "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria
23 Actor Bruce
24 Good-for-nothing
26 Some Baltic residents
29 Jazz's Fitzgerald

DOWN

1 "This is ____ for Superman!"
2 Worms or grubs
3 Setting of the movie "Eight Crazy Nights"
4 Stable bit?
5 Drinks stirred in pitchers
6 Title subject of a 1975 Truffaut film
7 E = mc² (first presented 9/27/1905)
8 Mediterranean isl.
9 Yoko ____
10 One of the Ilys
11 Modern means of search
12 "Measure for Measure" villain
13 Minnesota college
19 Place
22 PC key
25 "Get ____ the Church on Time"
27 30-second spot, e.g.
28 Exam with a perfect score of 2400
30 Part of a chorus line?
31 Lizard: Prefix

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

LOFTS CAPE BRAG
TULIP ALEX LETO
DRAMA LOCH ALOE
STEREO BARTAB
COD SPASTIC ELY
IOUS GROTTTO
PAPERTRAILS
DINEAT DOLL
GAP PRESETS AYE
OROMEOR RASPED
SCISSORSKICKS
SAND TOWN HATES
INTO ELIE ETATS
PAYS DOME TERSE

67 Elton John, e.g.
68 Flip out
69 Michelins or Pirellis

30 Equals
33 Rodeo rope
34 "Must be something ____"
35 M
42 Massage deeply
43 Hotmail alternative
44 C
50 Classmate
51 Challenged
52 Get an ____ (ace)
53 Prenatal test, for short
55 Halloween wear
57 Morse Tony-winning role
59 Squared
62 Like a game in which batters bat .000
64 6 on a phone
65 Many an ex-dictator
66 Not just fat

32 Actress Lotte
36 Auctioneer's shout
37 Italian sports car, briefly
38 ____ avis
39 "Nuts!"
40 Event on the horizon
41 Ages and ages
44 Jerks
45 Sana'a native
46 Yoda, to Luke Skywalker
47 Elton John, e.g.
48 Collected
49 Nonvinyl records, briefly
54 Designer Cassini
56 Granny ____
58 Salt Lake City collegians
60 Prefix with skeleton
61 Darken
63 Formal Japanese wear

Puzzle by Kevan Choset

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keri Russell, 30; Chaka Khan, 53; Roger Bannister, 77; Rachel E. Stevens, 23

Happy Birthday: If you act too fast this year, you may lose ground. Make sure everything is in place before you present your idea. Money is in the picture but don't waste it on lottery tickets. Trust in your own abilities and your finances will improve. A business idea you have considered in the past can now be implemented. Your numbers are 11, 13, 18, 26, 34, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get emotional about something that might happen. Focus on the here and now. If you are professional and do your job to the best of your ability, you will get ahead. Perseverance will pay off. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Position yourself so that you can get what concerns you dealt with and out of the way. You will impress everyone around you but expect someone to feel threatened or jealous of your strong controlling efforts. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be able to accomplish a lot today. Look at all your options and prepare to make a change that will satisfy you professionally and financially. An opportunity will arise through someone you impressed in the past. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may have trouble with personal judgment. There is a good chance you may take things the wrong way or give the wrong impression, so keep things out in the open. You'll feel so much better once you clear the air. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be honest with yourself if you want to get anything accomplished today. Someone who is serious-minded will be entertaining and will spark some ideas you never considered before. Add your opinions to the mix and a partnership is likely. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you get out and socialize, you will make a connection with someone who interests you personally and professionally. A pleasure trip should be in the works. This is an excellent time for love and romance. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Forget about your worries and get out with friends. You can't change the dynamics of the relationships at home right now, so avoid getting into deep discussions. Do something that will make you feel good about yourself and the way you look. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You should be considering what you can do to put your creative ideas and talents to the test. A relationship or creative partnership you have been considering should be discussed in detail. Draw up an agreement. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be considering changing your professional direction but, before you do, consider whether or not you need to pick up more skills. Don't limit yourself because someone is not in favor of your making changes. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be so hard on yourself. Work if you feel like doing so and, if someone doesn't like your decision, that is his or her problem, not yours. Stand up for what you want if you want to be successful. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have to be discreet if you want to avoid trouble. Being secretive will enable you to follow through with your plans with fewer obstacles. Authority figures may pose a problem for you so abide by the rules. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get moving if you want to take advantage of a financial opportunity. A great idea may not pan out because the timing is wrong. You will have more than one choice and each will lead in a different direction. ****

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THE OBSERVER

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BASEBALL

Capitol cuts

Manship, Thornton and Samardzija set to pitch in three-game series against Georgetown

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

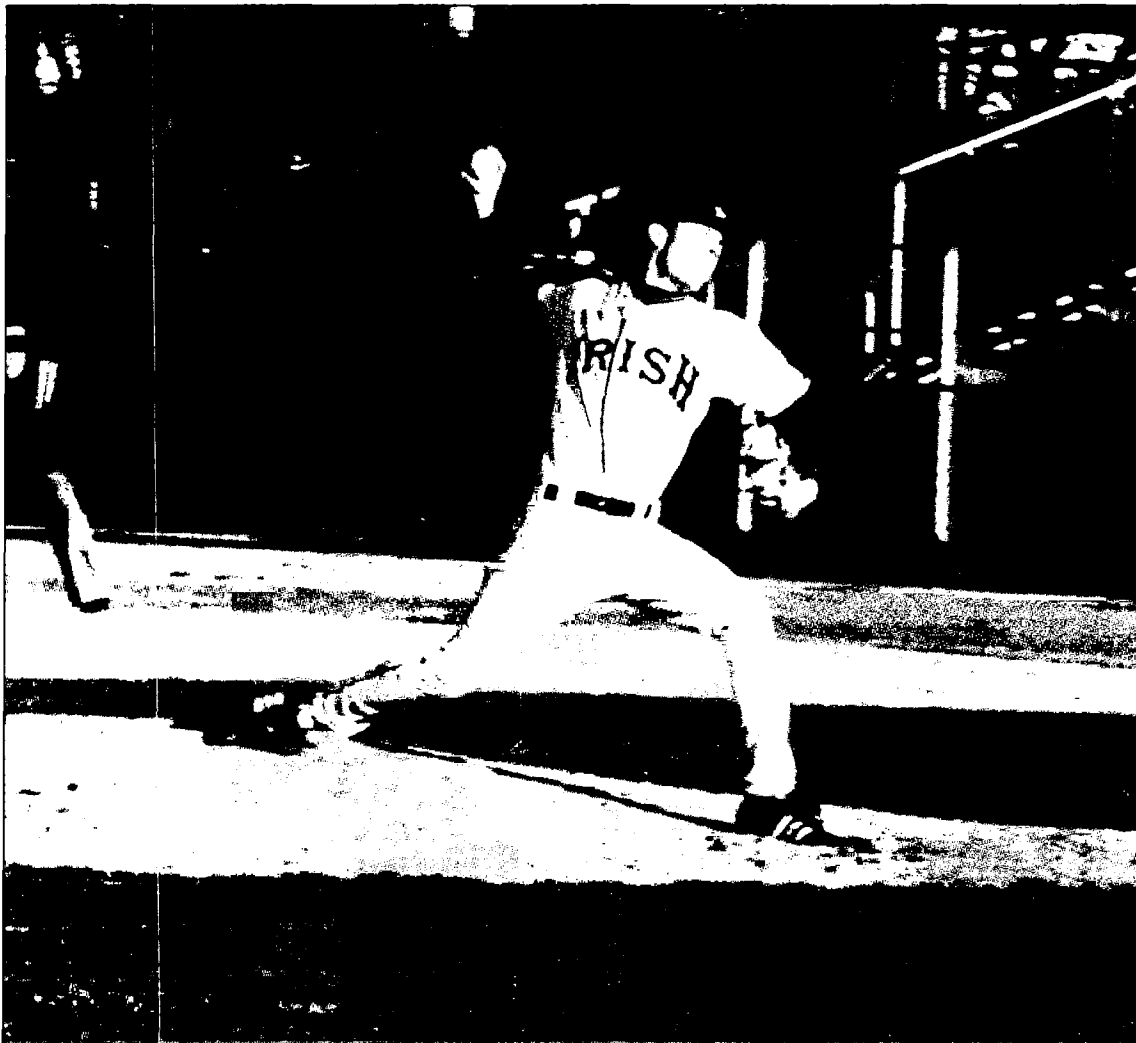
The big three in the Notre Dame pitching rotation — Jeff Manship, Jeff Samardzija and Tom Thornton — will hoist the resin bag in a three-game series with Georgetown this weekend in Bethesda, Md.

The weekend series marks the opening of 2006 Big East conference play for the Irish, who boast a 10-7 record on the year, all in non-conference games. Georgetown holds a 10-12 record and will host the series — as well as all of its home games — at Povich Field. Povich Field is the home of the Bethesda Big Train, a Cal Ripken, Sr. Collegiate Baseball League team.

Irish head coach Paul Mainieri said he will not limit the workload of any of his three starters, other than the 110-pitch ceiling he rarely allows any of his pitchers to exceed.

"They're in midseason form, and their endurance is good," he said. "Within reason, we're going to let them go. We would watch pitcher's counts closely, anyway."

see HOYAS/page 21



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Freshman righthander David Phelps delivers a pitch in his first home start on Wednesday against Central Michigan. Phelps lasted three and two-thirds innings, and the Irish won 11-9.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish host Hawkeyes at the Eck

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

The undefeated No. 2 Irish return to the Eck Tennis Pavilion today to face the No. 39 Hawkeyes at 3 p.m. Notre Dame is heading back to the courts a week after going 4-0 over top 50 teams during spring break, including a win over then-No. 11 Texas on March 20.

Last week, the Irish topped the Longhorns 7-0 and extended their winning streak against top-30 teams to nine. The Longhorns were runners-up in last year's NCAA Championship and the highest-ranked team ever to lose 7-0 to the Irish.

However, despite its successful week against top competition and a 15-0 record to match the program's best start, Notre Dame is not looking past any teams.

"We have gotten off to an incredible start this season. Everyone has been playing great tennis, especially against the top teams in the country like Duke and Texas," senior Kelly Nelson said. "But rankings don't

see IOWA/page 20

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Laxers enter home stretch

No. 10 Irish ready to take on Canisius after loss to No. 1 Northwestern



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Senior midfielder Crystl Foote cradles the ball and moves upfield in a March 2 game against Ohio.

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

With the season half over, No. 10 Notre Dame (7-1) hopes to stay successful against Canisius (5-3) at home Saturday.

The team played the biggest game of the season over spring break, a 21-12 loss to unanimous No. 1 Northwestern (6-0). Although the Irish lost the game by a wide margin, they still showed promise against a strong team, holding a 9-8 lead going into halftime. But poor performances in the second half — in which the Wildcats outscored Notre Dame 13-3 — cost the game for the Irish.

Irish coach Tracy Coyne said

see COYNE/page 20

ND SOFTBALL

Irish try to buck the Broncos in away game

Team looks to recover from consecutive losses

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will take a short trip up to Kalamazoo, Mich. this weekend to take on the Broncos of Western Michigan. After consecutive one-run losses to top-10 teams, the Irish will look to pick up some momentum at Fran Ebert Field.

"We really aren't too intimidated by [Western Michigan]," freshman outfielder Alexandra Kotcheff said. "We aren't too worried about the game — we just need to play the way we can."

The Broncos, although not quite the caliber of team Notre Dame has been playing during the past few weeks, will certainly force the team to play at its best if the Irish want to win. Western Michigan comes into Saturday's contests with a record of 10-5 after a pair of shutout victories over Loyola Chicago earlier this week.

The Ramblers managed only three hits against Western Michigan in the two games, thanks to pitcher Krysten Shumaker's no-hitter in the second game. Shumaker (5-1) has been lights out all season on the mound, holding her opponents to a batting average of .133.

see BRONCOS/page 21

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles at Engineers

Saturday, 1 p.m.

Laura Helene leads Saint Mary's against Rose-Hulman.

page 19

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish at Pride

Saturday, 1:30 p.m.

The Irish look for fourth win in a row.

page 19

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish at Longhorns

Saturday, 1 p.m.

Notre Dame also set to play Texas A&M.

page 19

SMC TENNIS

Adrian at Saint Mary's

Saturday, 9 p.m.

The Belles look to build on four straight conference wins.

page 19

ROWING

The Irish travel to Grand Rapids, Mich. to compete in the Lubbers' Cup Rowing Regatta on Saturday at Grand Valley State.

page 17

TRACK AND FIELD

Notre Dame journeys to Arizona to take part in the Wildcat Combined Events today and the Jim Click Shootout on Saturday.

page 17