

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 41: ISSUE 96

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2007

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Play faces constant changes at ND

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

As this year's production of "The Vagina Monologues" — which is being staged off campus for the first time in the event's six-year history at Notre Dame — draws to a close, it's unclear how the performance will play out next year.

This year marked the second time the College V-Day Campaign made an exception for Notre Dame.

For the more than 600 American colleges and universities performing Eve Ensler's "Vagina Monologues" as part of the Campaign, two requirements are asked: that the play be performed on campus, and that proceeds from ticket sales go to local charities. Notre Dame's production had

followed those two guidelines and was even one of the leading schools in its fundraising efforts, according to V-Day's Media and Communications Advisor, Susan Swan — until last year.

Following last spring's maelstrom over academic freedom and Catholic character at Notre Dame, University President Father John Jenkins determined the "Monologues" deserved a place on campus, but solely as an academic event. He said the play could be performed in an academic setting — for example, a classroom — if it refrained from selling tickets.

Swan said V-Day made an exception last year and allowed students to perform the play without charging the audience because the organi-

see PLAY/page 6



Junior Stacey Williams acts during a performance of "The Vagina Monologues" Wednesday night.

Students question new rule

College defends on campus requirement

By KELLY MEEHAN and
KATIE KOHLER
News Writers

Last week's announcement that Saint Mary's would institute a six-semester residency requirement for all students beginning with the Class of 2011 has left the campus community questioning the College's decision.

Vice President of Student Affairs Karen Johnson told the Board of Governance on Feb. 20 the decision was made after several meetings of the President's cabinet — an advisory council of eight high-ranking members of the administration, including College President Carol Ann Mooney and Acting Vice President Jill Vihtelic.

Johnson told The Observer Thursday the decision "is a clarification of the residency requirement and [is] consistent with the mission statement of the College."

While according to the Saint Mary's Web site, 81 percent of the College's 1,500 students currently live on campus, Johnson said the new requirement would further advance the "residential" objectives outlined in the College's mission statement, which says "Saint Mary's College is a Catholic, residential, women's college in the liberal arts tradition."

Johnson also pointed "to a large body of national research that shows that students living on campus are more engaged in academic

see REACTION/page 4

Saint Mary's chooses 2007-08 class boards

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

After the Saint Mary's class elections experienced multiple delays due to technical difficulties, the votes were cast Wednesday and the results announced Thursday.

Sophomores Jenny Antonelli, Taryn Pabst, Jessica Kusak and Katie Putz will lead the Class of 2009, the only class with more than one ticket running. Antonelli-Pabst picked up 58.6 percent of the votes.

The other ticket, led by sophomore Sarah Voss, received 40.5 percent of votes.

The Class of 2010 will be led by

freshmen Camille Gebert, Emily Young, Jennie Hiatt and Caitlin O'Brien, who received 72 percent of their peers' votes. Juniors Colleen Kielty, Erin Hogan, Elizabeth Bush and Shawn Redington, who received 68.2 percent of the votes, will head the senior class next year.

A full 31.8 percent of juniors voted "abstain," however. Among freshmen, 28 percent of students voted abstain. However, the two-ticket sophomore race saw just 0.9 percent of the class choose the abstain option.

All the winning tickets expressed their happiness with the high degree of student participation in this year's elections as well as their anticipation for the

coming year.

"We are very excited to be able to represent and serve our junior class," said Antonelli, the new junior class president. "We're looking forward to planning events and activities that will not only benefit the junior class but also the rest of the students."

Putz, the new junior class secretary, echoed Antonelli's words and said the technical difficulties that delayed the elections two days weren't as discouraging as Saint Mary's students may have initially thought.

"I'm really excited about it," Putz said. "It's going to be a lot of fun year next year. Even though there were delays in voting it allowed us to work together as an

executive board and showed us that we can work with the Class of 2009 when unexpected situations arise."

The rest of Antonelli's cabinet also shared this enthusiasm and confidence as they prepared to settle into their new roles.

"I think that our entire ticket was very excited to get the opportunity to work for our class," said Pabst, the new junior class vice president. "I'm very happy that all hard work paid off. ... We'd like to bring our class closer together and create more class unity next year."

Even the other ticket running for junior board said they enjoyed the race.

see ELECTIONS/page 4

Class council elections decided

Schmidt-Lakusta ticket to lead Class of 2010 in sophomore year

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

The Class of 2010 voted Thursday in a run-off election between two tickets competing for the class council and elected freshman Grant Schmidt to be the next sophomore class president.

The Schmidt-Lakusta-Kyrrouac-Huang ticket won 576 — or 56.3 percent — of the electorate's votes. Its competing ticket, Mathews-Adsit-McDonald-Rose, fell short with 385 votes, or 37.6 percent of the votes. The remaining six percent of the voters abstained.

Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow was pleased with voter turnout among the freshman class, which was "comparable to the primary [election]."



JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Winners Grant Schmidt, Joy Hwang, Jeff Lakusta and Kim Kyrrouac study the Sophomore Class Council election results Thursday.

see SCHMIDT/page 6

Mooney kicks off SMC diversity conference

By MAGGIE DUNN
News Writer

College President Carol Ann Mooney helped kick off the Student Diversity Board's (SDB) second annual Diverse Students' Leadership Conference (DSLCL) Thursday night with an address outlining her vision for diversity at Saint Mary's and the challenges students will have to face before it becomes a reality.

"When I became president three years ago," Mooney said, "I knew that diversity was one



Mooney

of the areas I wanted to address immediately."

She said she wanted to tackle the theme for four basic reasons, including the fact that "diversity is absolutely necessary to the academic excellence which Saint Mary's is committed to."

Mooney said diversity is academically important because it gives way to a variety of viewpoints in the classroom and everyday discussions, "and that variety helps each of us grow to a better understanding of ourselves and of our world."

Her second reason for trying to lead Saint Mary's in the direction of ethnic diversity, she said, is that it's the right thing to do.

"Saint Mary's as a Catholic institution is committed to social jus-

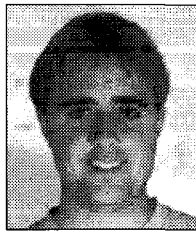
see MOONEY/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

I'll miss it

I'll miss college.

Wherever I am next year, I won't have season football tickets, I won't spend Friday nights at The Backer and I won't get away with sleeping until 11 a.m. on a Wednesday. But of everything about my four years at Notre Dame, the thing I'll miss most ends today, when I turn over the reins of The Observer.



Mike Gilloon

For me, college was this paper. It's where I learned to write, where I learned to ask questions and where I learned that spending hours in the office is all worth it when you see the finished product.

It's gratifying to walk through Stanford Hall and see an Interhall story I wrote taped on someone's door, or see a kid reading my football prediction on a sunny autumn Friday.

It's exciting to have your work — good or bad — distributed to 10,000 people, five days a week.

It's amazing when dozens of people sacrifice to get that story — and so many others — into print.

From our secretary/office manager/caretaker Shirley, to our driver Jack, to the students who work every night, nothing could have happened over the last 12 months without their dedication.

I never thought I'd be in charge of these 200 or so kids that work at The Observer when I came to Notre Dame.

The reason I walked over to South Dining Hall and laid out a few pages during the spring of 2004 was simple — I wanted to get in the press box. I didn't care about the paper itself. I just wanted to weasel my way onto the Notre Dame football beat and follow the team whose logo peppered the margins of my seventh grade math notebook.

But after four years at The Observer, I leave with much more than memories of Michigan Stadium's press box and its meager halftime spread.

I've stayed up all night listening to the Stones with my best friends, all the while editing articles about student government, business lectures and Board of Trustees meetings. I've walked into the office at 10 a.m. and heard angry voicemails about a comic strip. I've spent Sunday afternoons critiquing story budgets.

And I don't regret one thing.

One of the most satisfying parts of my job was reading the occasional e-mail from some guy from the Class of '79 who wants to know how the Dillon Interhall team will play this fall. I have no idea if the Big Red will be any good, but I do know that The Observer connects Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and everyone who cares about our schools.

It's the medium where our opinions are voiced, our thoughts are heard and our stories are told. That's why it matters. And that's why I'll miss it.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The article "Hurley learned to fence at 'dinner'" in the Feb. 28 edition of The Observer inaccurately stated that Irish freshman fencer Kelley Hurley reached the No. 2 spot in the world rankings last year. In fact, she reached No. 2 in the nation, not the world.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT T.V. SHOW DO YOU WATCH EVERY WEEK?



Jonathan Lee
freshman
Keenan

"My own secret T.V. show."



Jean Nguyen
junior
McGlinn

"College Gameday — does that count as a T.V. show? Because it should."



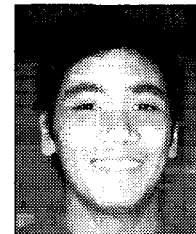
Claire Maulit
junior
Welsh Family

"Naruto."



Sharon Lam
sophomore
Pasquerilla East

"Everyday Italian on the Food Network."



Aldrich Anderson
freshman
Stanford

"If only the Special Report with Brit Hume was 24/7, I'd never come to class."



ERIC SALES/The Observer

Junior Jane Lee, right, president of the Korean Student Association, serves food to sophomore Hajime Sargent at a benefit dinner in the Coleman Morse Center Thursday. Proceeds will go to North Korean children.

OFFBEAT

Italian teacher allegedly cuts boy's tongue

ROME — A novice teacher in Milan is under criminal investigation for allegedly using scissors to cut the tongue of a second-grader for talking in class, Italian news agencies said Thursday. The 7-year-old boy, who has not been publicly identified, needed six stitches in his tongue from the Feb. 20 incident, said Piero Porciani, a lawyer for the child's parents, a Tunisian couple.

The teacher, 22, was being investigated for suspected voluntary harm of the boy, the ANSA news agency said.

The office of Milan prosecutor Marco Ghezzi said he wasn't there and couldn't give out any information about an investigation.

Porciani told The Associated Press by telephone from Milan that the teacher has been suspended from the school while the incident is investigated.

U-Haul full of dogs and cats seized

GARBERVILLE, Calif. — A woman found driving a U-Haul truck with 33 cats and three dogs inside claimed she was rescuing the animals. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Department found

the animals living in an inhumane environment after serving a warrant Wednesday to search the truck following complaints about the condition the pets were living in.

A veterinarian determined the overall health of the animals was good, but most needed some sort of medical treatment. Four of the cats were in late-term pregnancy.

Charges against the woman, who was not immediately identified, were being sought through the district attorney's office.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Mendoza School of Business will host the lecture "Climate Change, an Uncertain Future" today at 10:40 a.m. in the Jordan Auditorium. Dr. Patrick Minnis from the NASA Langley Research Center will speak about global warming as part of the Ten Years Hence Lecture Series.

Stations of the Cross will be held at 7:15 tonight in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will continue every Friday evening during Lent.

The Department of Film, Television and Theatre presents Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" on the Decio Mainstage Theatre at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 7:30 tonight. The show will continue until Sunday. Evening performances are at 7:30 and the Sunday matinee is at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$12 for the general public, \$10 for senior citizens, ND faculty and staff and \$8 for students.

The Notre Dame Symphony Orchestra will perform tonight at 8 p.m. in the Leighton Concert, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Ticket are \$6 for the general public, \$5 for faculty and staff, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for students.

Finals for Bengal Bouts will be held Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena. Proceeds will go to the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 35 LOW 23	HIGH 30 LOW 18	HIGH 30 LOW 22	HIGH 33 LOW 20	HIGH 40 LOW 33	HIGH 40 LOW 35

Atlanta 60 / 46 Boston 39 / 29 Chicago 33 / 28 Denver 32 / 14 Houston 74 / 45 Los Angeles 69 / 45 Minneapolis 27 / 23 New York 50 / 39 Philadelphia 55 / 40 Phoenix 68 / 40 Seattle 47 / 37 St. Louis 43 / 30 Tampa 78 / 67 Washington 65 / 42

McIntosh to speak at diversity conference

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

Peggy McIntosh, associate director of Wellesley College's Center for Women, will deliver two different lectures Saturday before the Diverse Students' Leadership Conference at Saint Mary's draws to an end, tackling questions of racial dialogue and white supremacy.

Kim Hodges, student body president-elect, vice president of the Student Diversity Board and chair of the Diverse Students' Leadership Conference, said organizers chose McIntosh because she "really exemplifies what it means to be culturally competent."

McIntosh is very personable and willing to work with students, Hodges said, and her talks will help propel the conference toward its goal of "trying to supply people with the tools to operate in the real world after college."

McIntosh has taught at colleges and universities across the country, as well as at Durham University in England, according to Wellesley's Web site. She is the co-director and founder of the Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (S.E.E.D.) Project, an initiative that strives to help teachers provide their students with a

more culturally balanced curriculum.

McIntosh is also the co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Woman's Institute, a consulting editor to Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women and has received the Klingenstein Award for Distinguished Educational Leadership from Columbia Teacher's College, according to the S.E.E.D. Web site.

Hodges said she hoped McIntosh would instill some of her expertise and social consciousness in the minds of Saint Mary's students.

"It's really important to notice the skin you live in and the difference between you and someone who is nothing like you," Hodges said. "I have a dream about the way campus should be, how it should look, and how students should be educated. I'm proud to be a Saint Mary's woman."

McIntosh will speak at the Carroll Auditorium Saturday. She will start at 1:30 p.m. with a talk entitled "Deriving Racial Understanding From Our Own Experiences," and then she will deliver the conference's keynote address, "How I Came to See I Had White Privilege and What I'm Learning I Can Do With It," at 4:15 p.m.

Contact Mandi Stirone at
astiro01@saintmarys.edu

Reps to participate in city summit

By KATHLEEN McDONNELL
News Writer

Members of Notre Dame's student government will drive to downtown South Bend today to discuss community relations with student representatives from four other institutions, city leaders and business owners.

The conference is the first of its kind, bringing together more than 40 confirmed participants who have never had an opportunity to meet in a single venue, student body president Lizzi Shappell said.

Shappell said she hopes the event will lead to more positive discussions and strides that could change the reactive relationship between students and community members to a proactive one.

"Coming in the last month of my administration, I'm pleased to leave this," Shappell said. "I'm hoping it builds momentum for the future of community relations. [I hope to see] less of a relationship of tension and focus more on building and strengthening ties."

Like Shappell, Senate Community Relations committee chair and event coordinator Josh Pasquesi said he hopes today's summit spurs changes in the University's approach toward the community — which is currently focuses solely on protection of student interests, he said.

The creation of the Community Relations committee two years ago, Pasquesi said, stemmed from student leaders' concerns regarding the effects of the city's amended disorderly house ordinance on students residing off campus.

This year, he said, the Notre Dame representatives were seeking dia-

logue unselfishly.

"We come here with no issue or agenda," Pasquesi said. "This is just to build relationships — it's not because of a law we don't like."

The Notre Dame delegation will include a few members from the current administration — including Shappell, vice president Bill Andrichik and Pasquesi — and members from the recently elected administration, including next year's student body president Liz Brown and chief executive assistant Sheena Plamootil. Representatives from student governments at Saint Mary's, Holy Cross, Indiana University South Bend and Bethel College will also attend the summit.

The dialogue — which will include small break out sessions, a large group discussion and a networking lunch — is scheduled to address four areas of discussion, Shappell said.

Building on last fall's successful freshman bus tour of South Bend, one subject for brainstorming will be how to better present the city to newly arrived freshmen, as well as ways in which this initial introduction could potentially improve student attitudes toward the community.

The conference will also continue to develop the concept of a good neighbor and member of the community, instead of a temporary resident. It will also try to generate ideas to improve general communication between local communities and universities.

The final initiative will deal with increasing student involvement in the community beyond the traditional community service aspects to show students what else South Bend

has to offer.

"It's a stereotype we fight here," Pasquesi said, "that South Bend is just a good place to go tutor kids in impoverished schools."

Instead, the spotlight will be on the possibilities of increasing student involvement in internships and professional opportunities.

The response from the community has been "very positive," Pasquesi said. The number of people slated to attend is higher than he initially anticipated.

Representatives from the mayor's office in South Bend and Mishawaka, the community development office of the city of Mishawaka, the South Bend Common Council and the South Bend Legal Department will be present.

Mikki Dobski Shidler, director of communications and special projects for the mayor's office of South Bend, said she wants to show students that there is more to the area than Grape Road.

Her goals for the discussion include promoting better community relations and asking college students about actions they can take to help them become engaged in the community more easily.

A number of representatives from Young People Against Poverty — a group of professionals in South Bend who will add the perspective of socially conscious business professionals to the table — will also attend.

"We think they'll make a bridge between the college students and more traditional leaders," Shappell said.

Contact Kathleen McDonnell at
kmcaddon3@nd.edu

Attention Seniors!

Notre Dame's Office of Undergraduate Admissions anticipates hiring Admissions Counselors this spring!

As part of the Undergraduate Admissions staff, the counselor is expected to make an important contribution to the recruitment and selection of the first-year class by managing relations with the prospective applicants, their parents, high school personnel and alumni in an assigned geographic area.

Responsibilities include extensive planning, travel and communication within the geographic area, assessment and evaluation of applications and conducting group/individual information sessions on campus.

Among our candidates, we will seek a **Latino Recruitment Coordinator** (Fluency in Spanish will be strongly preferred.)

We will also seek an **Asian Recruitment Coordinator**

Additional responsibilities will be assigned by the Assistant Provost for Enrollment.

Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree and strong familiarity with all aspects of student life at Notre Dame.

Essential qualities include strong communication and organizational skills, enthusiasm, diplomacy and the willingness to work long hours, including many evenings and Saturday mornings.

Please Note: Interviews will not be held until late March.

Preferred start date is July 1, 2007.

Please complete the on-line application at <http://jobs.nd.edu> to be considered. Requisition # 020070065

Reaction

continued from page 1

life."

This theory is supported by the National Survey of Student Engagement, Johnson said, and not rooted in her opinions.

And while she stressed the decision will not affect current students, many members of the Saint Mary's community immediately worried about the regulation's effects on the College's future.

Junior Castle Point resident Becca Rosswurm said living off campus allowed her to separate school from residence life.

"School feels like a job," Rosswurm said. "Going home makes you feel like you relax."

She chose to live off campus as a

junior because she thought separating her personal life from her academic life would help her organize her time and workload more effectively.

"It takes a lot of freedom," she said. "Living off campus is a better lifestyle for some people."

Rosswurm said she thinks living off campus brings new experiences and said she believes prospective students should have the choice to live off campus whenever they choose — a loss of personal liberty she believes will deter incoming students from choosing Saint Mary's before a state school.

"I think a lot of prospectives will choose the state school because they can live off campus with friends," she said.

Johnson said she did not believe this decision would have any adverse effects on College enroll-

ment, and said the admissions staff reviewed and supports the requirement.

The Admissions office did not return Observer phone calls Thursday.

As Saint Mary's begins to prepare for the new requirement, the department of Residence Life will ready to handle the demands of a potential increase in the campus population.

Director of Residence Life Michelle Russell said her office "won't need to make any changes in room selection because of the new residency requirement," but said it may need to open the previously closed floors in McCandless and Regina Halls to accommodate additional residents. Russell also said the residency requirement will not alter the clause in the Student Handbook that stipulates, "If students are found to be a significant disruption to the commu-

nity or disciplinary problem they may be dismissed from the residence halls."

The only foreseeable impact of the new regulation, Russell said, is an increased number of students living in residence halls — fostering a "larger community and an opportunity for students to get to know more people and build stronger relationships by living together for three years."

Junior Sarah D'Angelo decided to move off because she teaches at a local high school for her secondary education minor, and residing closer to the school fit her needs and her schedule more appropriately.

"I think it's just more convenient and it's nice to have my own time," she said. "It also feels more like home."

She does not support the change and said she would have been upset

if the decision had tied her to the campus for three years against her will.

"I personally don't agree with it," D'Angelo said. "Students should have a choice of what they want to do. Some people just don't like the dorms and choose to live off campus to get a break from that."

Prior to this decision, there weren't any residency requirements at Saint Mary's.

The new residency program will make exceptions for transfer, abroad and local students. Those who permanently reside within a 30-mile radius and choose to live at home will not be subjected to the requirements.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeeha01@saintmarys.edu and Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

Elections

continued from page 1

"I think that the other ticket worked extremely hard and they did a great job and they really deserve it," said Voss, who was running for junior class president. Her running mate, sophomore Sarah Dalton, declined to comment Thursday.

The freshman ticket, however, openly celebrated its victory. Gebert, next year's sophomore class president, said she looked forward to collaborating with her running mates and peers.

"I'm really excited to be leading our class next year," Gebert said. "We have a bunch of new ideas to bring the Class of 2010 closer together and a bunch of new things to bring to campus, and I'm just looking forward to

starting the year off with getting everyone involved."

The rising sophomores said they will work to increase student involvement in class activities.

"What I'm looking forward to most is more class participation from everyone and more exciting events and stuff like that," said Hiatt, Gebert's running mate.

Similarly, the new senior class officers said they were ready for a fun year to end their time at Saint Mary's.

"The elections went smoothly and the four of us are excited for another year, for plans we are putting together plans for Senior Dads Weekend, Senior Week and several other events to take place next year," said Bush, the next senior class secretary.

Contact Mandi Stirone at astiro01@saintmarys.edu

Mooney

continued from page 1

tion," she said, and in a country that has a history of inequality and repression, "one of the most effective ways to change that is through education."

On a pragmatic level, Mooney said U.S. demographics are changing at an incredible pace. Not long from now, she said, the percentage of Caucasian students graduating from high school in all areas of the country will be the minority, as other ethnicities become increasingly active in the educational and cultural arenas.

"If Saint Mary's is not already serving a large spectrum of the population, we will be left in the dust," she said.

In order to get Saint Mary's closer to its goal of ethnic integration

throughout the College, Mooney said the College adopted a new hiring policy last year.

The policy's ultimate goal is to create a diverse pool of qualified job applicants. A search committee is appointed the task of finding these diverse candidates and documenting its recruiting efforts.

Mooney said the College is searching for a coordinator for multicultural recruitment, whose job "will be the coordination of our various efforts, bringing greater diversity to our student body, making sure we are working as effectively and efficiently as possible."

In line with Mooney's goals for diversity on campus, the Board of Trustees met last week and gave the College approval to move forward with its attempt to become a Posse Partner school.

She said the Posse Partner foundation, which was founded in 1989, recruits students from inner

city public high schools who exhibit great leadership skills.

Out of thousands of students, the foundation uses a dynamic assessment process to determine the top 20 "leaders." The partner school and foundation then collaborate to select 10 students to attend as a group, or a "posse," to one of the partner schools. Mooney said the high schools these students come from have graduation rates above 90 percent.

"It would be yet another effort to help advance the diversity at Saint Mary's and a culture that recognizes how important and valuable every member in this community is, the multiple contributions that everyone has to make to the education of everyone else," she said.

Contact Maggie Dunn at mdunn01@saintmarys.edu

The 21st Annual Student Leadership Awards

The Student Activities Office is seeking nominations for the

Student Leadership Awards



Students are recognized who best exemplify the spirit of Notre Dame in social, recreational, residential, service, and religious activities that promote the welfare of the University and extended communities

If you wish to nominate a student, please complete the form at:

<http://sao.nd.edu>

The deadline for submissions is Monday, March 5, 2007

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Rager at prager16@nd.edu



WORLD & NATION

Friday, March 2, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bomb targets Shiite cleric in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — A roadside bomb exploded Thursday alongside the convoy of a prominent Shiite cleric whose high-level political ties have made him the target of past assassination attempts. The imam was not injured, but several bodyguards were wounded.

The attack against Jalal Eddin al-Sagheer came on one of Baghdad's quietest days in months — with one reported car bombing and one fatality.

U.S. and Iraqi forces also neared agreement to expand the Baghdad security sweep into the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City. Such a move would test the willingness of the powerful Mahdi Army militia to grant its American foes access to all parts of Baghdad under its control.

The relative lull in violence offered authorities a rare breather after periods of almost hour-by-hour bombings and mortar strikes by suspected Sunni insurgents.

U.S. plans anti-missile radar base

BRUSSELS — The director of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency said Thursday that Washington wants to base an anti-missile radar in the Caucasus, a move that could provoke a further rift with Russia.

Lt. Gen. Henry A. Obering declined to specify which country the long-range radar could be installed in, but noted that "it would be very useful for the anti-missile system."

Speaking on a stop at NATO headquarters in Brussels, he said "we would like to place a radar in ... the Caucasus."

The United States has said the planned defenses would not be aimed at Russia, and are intended to defend against missile attacks from countries such as Iran.

NATIONAL NEWS

Tornadoes in Alabama kill 18

ENTERPRISE, Ala. — Apparent tornadoes ripped through Alabama and killed at least 18 people Thursday, including 15 at a high school where students became pinned under debris when a roof collapsed, state officials said.

As night fell, crews dug through piles of rubble beneath portable lights at Enterprise High School, looking for other victims.

"The number could very well increase as the search effort continues through the night," state emergency management spokeswoman Yasamie Richardson said.

Army fires Walter Reed general

WASHINGTON — The Army on Thursday fired the general in charge of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, saying he was the wrong person to fix embarrassing failures in the treatment of war-injured soldiers that have soiled the institution's reputation as a first-class hospital.

Less than a week after Defense Secretary Robert Gates visited Walter Reed and said those responsible would be "held accountable," the Army announced it had relieved Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman of command. He is a physician who had headed the hospital for only six months.

In a brief announcement, the Army said service leaders had "lost trust and confidence" in Weightman's leadership abilities "to address needed solutions for soldier outpatient care." It said the decision to fire him was made by Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey.

LOCAL NEWS

McRobbie named IU president

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana University's trustees turned to trusted administrator Michael McRobbie to become the school's new president, hoping he'll quiet the faculty unrest that troubled Adam Herbert's four years in office.

McRobbie's promotion from being the top academic officer of IU's Bloomington campus makes him the first university president hired from within in more than 30 years. The trustees voted unanimously Thursday to approve hiring McRobbie.

Trustee Sue Talbot, who led the presidential search committee, said finding a president with the background to manage the university's diverse programs was paramount.

CHINA

Farmer contracts bird flu in Fujian

WHO says Indonesia vaccine dispute unresolved; UN to help in Myanmar outbreak

Associated Press

BEIJING — China reported a new human case of bird flu on Thursday, and the World Health Organization disputed Indonesia's claim that the two were close to resolving a dispute over sharing virus samples that could be used to develop a commercial vaccine.

Also Thursday, officials in Myanmar said the United Nations has pledged assistance in coping with an outbreak discovered on a poultry farm on the outskirts of its largest city, Yangon.

The human infection in China occurred in the coastal province of Fujian, where a 44-year-old farmer surnamed Li was diagnosed on Feb. 18 after he developed a fever and began coughing, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

It was the mainland's first human case of bird flu since Jan. 10, when the government said a 37-year-old farmer in Anhui province in eastern China had contracted bird flu but had recovered.

Xinhua said tests by the provincial disease control and prevention center showed that Li had been infected with the H5N1 virus strain, and that the Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had confirmed the result on Feb. 27.

The report did not say whether the farmer worked with poultry, or whether infected birds were found, but said she had "made contact with dead fowl."

The virus remains essentially an animal disease, but experts fear it may mutate into a form easily spreadable between humans, triggering a pandemic.

In Indonesia, Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari said a guarantee letter from WHO Director General Margaret Chan



A chicken vendor waits for customers at a market in Beijing. The Chinese Centers for Disease Control announced the first case of bird flu since Jan. 10 Thursday.

was expected to arrive Thursday, after which "Indonesia will resume sending as soon as possible" samples of the bird flu virus to the U.N. health body.

However, WHO spokesman Dick Thompson told The Associated Press that no such deal had been cemented. He said that the letter was still under discussion.

It was hoped that such a deal would resolve a standoff between WHO and Indonesia, which triggered a storm of criticism last month by withholding virus samples

because it worried that large drug companies would use its H5N1 strain

to make vaccines too expensive for developing nations.

Several countries are developing vaccines to protect against H5N1, which has been responsible for at least 167 human deaths worldwide, more than one-third of them in Indonesia.

Meanwhile, Tang Zang Ping, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization representative in Myanmar, said the agency was assisting in isolation of poultry farms, disinfection and culling of birds after H5N1 was detected in a western suburb of Yangon.

Myanmar officials say the latest outbreak has affected chickens, ducks

and pullets, killing 68 birds. Another 1,292 birds were deemed susceptible to the disease and destroyed.

In Vietnam, officials said the avian flu has resurfaced in the southern Mekong Delta province of Vinh Long, just days after an outbreak was reported in the northern part of the country.

About 50 unvaccinated ducks died at a farm in Tra On District on February 25, and test results released Thursday showed they were infected with the H5N1 strain of bird flu, said Nguyen Ba Thanh, director of the Mekong regional animal health center.

Democrats form new plan for Iraq

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democratic leaders have coalesced around legislation that would require troops to come home from Iraq within six months if that country's leaders fail to meet promises to help reduce violence there, party officials said Thursday.

The plan would retain a Democratic proposal prohibiting the deployment to Iraq of troops with insufficient rest or training or who already have served there for more than a year. Under the plan, such troops could only be sent to Iraq if President Bush waives those

standards and reports to Congress each time.

The proposal is the latest attempt by Democrats to resolve deep divisions within the party on how far to go to scale back U.S. involvement in Iraq. Rep. James Moran said the latest version has the support of party leadership and said he believes it is final and has the best chance at attracting broad support.

"We're going to report out" a war spending bill "that's responsive to the will of the voters last November and brings our troops home as soon and safely as possible," Moran, D-Va., said

in an interview Thursday.

Moran, a member of the House committee that oversees military spending, said the plan was discussed in a closed-door meeting of committee Democrats on Thursday.

Brendan Daly, a spokesman for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., declined to confirm the details and or say whether Pelosi backs the plan. But he said: "We have said we want to make sure our troops have all the training and equipment they need and that the Iraqi government must meet the benchmarks President Bush endorsed."

Play

continued from page 1

zation appreciated the passion and "empowered" disposition of Notre Dame "Monologues" organizers.

But for the two charities to which Notre Dame's "Vagina Monologues" had been contributing, the South Bend YWCA and the S-O-S Rape Crisis Center, this came as unwelcome news.

"I would say we have a serious budget deficit in our domestic violence program, and yet we see the number of clients we're serving grow by leaps and bounds," said YWCA director Linda Baechle. "We have to scramble to cover the program ... we count on the revenue stream [from Notre Dame's "Vagina Monologues"] and then it's a challenge to find replacement money."

Organizers were able to charge for tickets again this year when they did not receive the sponsorship they needed from academic departments to perform on campus, again

prompting the V-Day officials to grant them an exception.

But off campus is just where the Cardinal Newman Society (CNS), a non-profit group dedicated to preserving the Catholic identity in Catholic institutions of higher education, says "The Vagina Monologues" belongs.

Each fall, the CNS targets Catholic schools where the play is scheduled to be performed, and sends them packages — complete with scripts of the play, excerpts from Catholic catechisms, Pope John Paul II's encyclical on "Love and Responsibility," statements from Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy and other Catholic documents to bring to light the contrasting nature of the play and the Catholic readings.

"Academic freedom, the way it was taught to me, is the freedom to teach what's right, not the freedom to teach what you want," said Marc Perrington, CNS outreach director. "And, academic freedom only realistically applies to the academic part of life, not the social part of life. If you bring academic

freedom into the social part of life, what's to stop Catholic schools from having pro-abortion groups on campus, that may be antithetical to Catholic teaching?"

Perrington was quick to note that of the about 12,000 lines of text in the copy of "The Vagina Monologues" he owns, only approximately 150 deal with violence against women.

"The base nature of the play, of the acts described in the play, really don't have any kind of academic basis. They're not improving academic life on campus," he said. "You hear from the V-Day organization and from the people that put it on, 'We're bringing awareness about violence against women ... but it's not.'"

This year's "Monologues" director, junior Sarah Muscarella, still believes the play educates the community — and in a way "Loyal Daughters" could not address.

"The Vagina Monologues" tackle issues that people at Notre Dame have never experienced," said Muscarella, who plays a Bosnian victim of gang rape in this year's production.

"It's just another perspective," she said. "I think it's important for Notre Dame kids to look at experiences of people that aren't like them. We're all so similar on this campus and have very similar experiences. ... I think it's important to explore other things."

But for the play to stick to the V-Day Campaign's objectives and two stipulations — execution in a venue on campus and the donation of ticket proceeds to charitable institutions — Assistant Vice President for News and Information Dennis Brown said Jenkins would have to be involved.

"I would think that if organizers presented a case to Father Jenkins — he's obviously a reasonable man who demonstrated last year that he listens — he would certainly listen," Brown said. "Whether that would change his position, I can't say."

While rumors have suggested Notre Dame was opposed to contributing to the local YWCA because the national YWCA identifies itself as pro-choice, Brown said those claims are

absolutely false.

Ticket sales are prohibited, Brown said, as a result of the administrators' decision to change the status of "Monologues" from a theatrical production to an academic event.

"When something is presented in an academic setting," he said, "there is not an admission charge, or pass-the-hat, however funds might be collected."

Gender Studies and history professor Gail Bederman agreed and said while she personally supports the YWCA, she would never bring in "so-and-so from Yale University" to raise funds.

"That's not what we do," she said. "It's not my job to raise money; it's my job to teach history."

The University's policy distressed Muscarella, however.

"It just confuses me," she said, "because I feel like giving charity is the one thing Notre Dame knows how to do."

Contact Eileen Duffy at eduffy1@nd.edu

Schmidt

continued from page 1

Approximately 1,024 freshmen voted Thursday in the run-off, while 1,053 participated in the original election.

Schmidt, who won 44.6 percent of votes in the first round of the elections, said he planned his involvement in Notre Dame's student government while he was still in high school.

"Before coming to Notre Dame, there were several areas that I really looked at — spiritual, academic, tradition, athletics," he said. "My [high school] counselor and I talked about the extracurricular activities I wanted to participate in — student government was one of them."

In order to give his classmates what they want from a class president, Schmidt said he plans to collect more feedback from his constituents and improve student involvement in the council's decision-making processes.

"Everyone here was a leader in high school," Schmidt said. "It's important to me to not make every single decision alone as president, but to make decisions together with the rest of the council and the class."

Schmidt also said he and his cabinet were developing an application and a system to better involve any students interested in formal council participation.

"The first thing we have to get going is getting people involved," he said. "There's formal ways of doing it. We're excited to get more specific feedback."

Schmidt thanked his peers for participating in the election and said he believes "it is an honor to represent all the people here at Notre Dame from such diverse backgrounds."

Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu

ERASMUS BOOKS

- Used Books bought and sold
- 25 Categories of Books
- 25,000 Hardback and Paperback books in stock
- Out-of-Print search service
- Appraisals large and small

OPEN noon to six
Tuesday through Sunday
1027 E. Wayne
South Bend, IN 46617
232-8444

Want to spend your summer living and working in the Hamptons?

You'll have a once in a lifetime opportunity to work in the Hamptons for two summers!
Earn a partial scholarship plus a weekly stipend.

Looking for a motivated, self-starter that enjoys working with people
Must be freshmen or sophomore that is able to do light manual labor and work outside

If interested, send a résumé and a brief composition to _____ explaining why you would be a great candidate for the internship by Thursday, March 9

Turtle Creek Apartment Homes

Join us at the Clubhouse on Wednesday, March 7th for a

"Break B4 Break" Open House

From 10 am to 6 pm!

All Current & Future Residents are
Invited to Dive into a BUFFET of

Delicious GOODIES & Treats

Enter Our Drawing for:

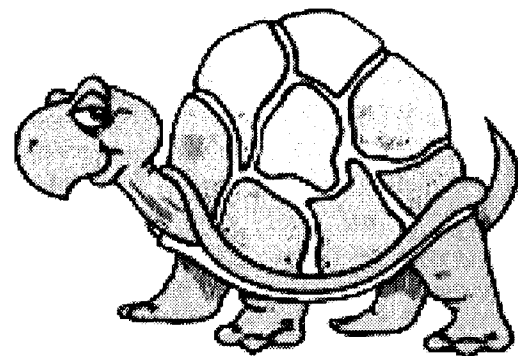
\$50 Gift Certificate to Houlihan's

I-Pod Shuffle

\$25 Gift Certificate for I-Tunes



1710 Turtle Creek Drive
South Bend, IN 46637
Ph 574-272-8124



MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 12,234.34 -34.29

Up: 1,312 Same: 132 Down: 1,931 Composite Volume: 3,874,912,414

AMEX	2,113.99	-2.57
NASDAQ	2,404.21	-11.94
NYSE	9,074.27	-50.27
S&P 500	1,403.17	-3.65
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,453.51	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	6,16.00	-55.50

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	-0.46	-0.20	43.13
ISHARE RUS 2000 (IWM)	+1.00	+0.78	78.83
INTEL CP (INTC)	-1.36	-0.27	19.59
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-1.30	-0.42	140.51

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+0.13	+0.006	4.556
13-WEEK BILL	-0.10	-0.005	4.990
30-YEAR BOND	+0.01	+0.010	4.679
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.07	-0.003	4.500

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.25	62.00
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-7.40	665.10
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.00	104.10

Exchange Rates

YEN	117.6400
EURO	0.7582
POUND	0.5106
CANADIAN \$	1.1722

IN BRIEF

Baltimore man arrested for fraud

BALTIMORE — A man who already served prison time for mail fraud has been indicted in a scheme that bilked more than 900 investors, including Hurricane Katrina victims, out of \$8 million, the U.S. attorney's office said Thursday.

David McDowell Robinson, 56, of Baltimore was arrested Thursday, a day after a federal grand jury indicted him on wire and mail fraud charges.

Robinson served nearly nine years in federal prison for mail fraud arising from three different schemes and was released in April 2003. Prosecutors allege that he launched a new company, Liberty Trade International Inc., the next year and began scamming investors again.

The company solicited investments of up to \$10,000 and promised returns of up to 30 percent, saying it would provide short-term "gap financing" to homebuyers or to people refinancing their homes to generate the returns.

Among his alleged victims were residents of the Mississippi Gulf Coast who endured Hurricane Katrina. The indictment says that he sent an employee to Gulfport, Miss., in January 2006, to make a presentation about Liberty Trade, and that the company received about \$80,000 in investments.

Stocks stage comeback after report

NEW YORK — A still skittish Wall Street staged a comeback Thursday, with the Dow Jones industrials erasing a 209-point drop after an upbeat assessment of manufacturing activity eased some worries about a flagging U.S. economy.

The blue chip index nudged into positive territory in midafternoon, then fluctuated in a narrow range. Several hours earlier, the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index made its first foray into the plus column.

Investors, relieved that manufacturing is still expanding, bought some of the stocks pummeled in Tuesday's drop that sliced 416 points off the Dow. Fears about the U.S. economy contributed to that plunge, and a halfhearted rebound on Wednesday followed soothing words from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke.

U.S. housing cooldown continues

Federal agency: Bellweather home costs rise at tempered rate during fourth quarter

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The rate of increase in U.S. home prices remained steady in the fourth quarter of 2006, extending the slowing trend that began earlier in the year, federal regulators reported Thursday.

The figures released by the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, the agency that oversees the big mortgage-finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, provided yet another indication of the slowdown in the once-booming housing market.

Average home prices rose 1.12 percent in the October-December period, compared with 3.03 percent in the fourth quarter of 2005, the report showed. Over the year, house prices increased by 5.9 percent — a marked slowdown from the 13.2 percent jump in 2005. Still, the report noted, home prices continued to grow faster than prices of other goods and services.

"These data show that, on the whole, (home) prices are still rising, albeit at a much slower pace," OFHEO Director James B. Lockhart said in a statement. "This suggests that house-price appreciation is, for now, more in line with historical norms."

The agency said that in the second half of 2006, continued strength in the economy and declining interest rates for borrowers prevented a more severe fall in the housing market. In the fourth quarter, though sharper price drops occurred locally, "no state had average price declines of as much as one percent," said OFHEO's chief economist, Patrick Lawler.

The fourth-quarter figure is derived from an average of home prices in October,



Workers continue to build framework in a new housing development in Arizona. Figures released Thursday revealed that housing-price appreciation remains steady for fourth quarter.

November and December.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that construction activity fell sharply in January as the housing industry continued to suffer. The weakness in construction was led by a 1.8 percent plunge in spending on home building — the 10th consecutive fall in residential construction.

Sales of new homes plummeted by 16.6 percent in January from the previous month, the steepest decline since January 1994. As sales cooled, so did home prices. The median sales price of a new home —

where half sell for more and half for less — dropped to \$239,800 in January, down 2.1 percent from January 2006, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

The OFHEO fourth-quarter report, based on data from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac on repeat sales and refinancings of single-family homes, also found that:

Home prices increased by the strongest rates from 2005's fourth quarter in Utah (17.6 percent), Wyoming (14.3 percent), Idaho (14 percent), Washington (13.7 percent)

and Oregon (13.5 percent). The states with the lowest rates were Michigan (-0.4 percent), Massachusetts (0.5 percent), Ohio (1 percent), Indiana (2.3 percent) and Minnesota (2.5 percent).

The metropolitan areas with the highest year-to-year rates of increase were Bend, Ore. (21.4 percent), Wenatchee, Wash. (20.9 percent) and Provo-Orem, Utah (19.9 percent). Those with the lowest were Kokomo, Ind. (-5.3 percent), Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Goleta, Calif. (-4.2 percent) and Jackson, Mich. (-3.9 percent).

Group recommends Medicare cuts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats looking for money to pay for health care priorities renewed their focus on insurers Thursday.

A commission that advises Congress told lawmakers that Medicare spends about 12 percent more for care administered through private insurers than when the same care is provided through traditional Medicare.

The commission recommended eliminating that gap, which would save about \$65 billion over five years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Democrats are looking to expand a program that offers health insurance to poor children. They will also need to find a way to avoid cutting payments to doctors, which are scheduled to drop by about 10 percent next year.

The commission is nonpartisan, but its report gives the Democrats a road map

for where they might find some of the money.

Rep. Frank Pallone, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health, said the report confirms his belief that the private insurers are overpaid. Pallone, D-N.J., said he wants to steer those overpayments into other health programs.

"The reason they were paid that extra amount is because of their relationship with the Republicans," Pallone said. "It's a special-interest advantage that was given to them because of their relationship with the Republican majority. There's no other rationale for it."

The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., has said he would look at payments to insurers for possible savings. "The report confirms that it's a place we need to look," said Carol Guthrie, his spokeswoman.

Republicans were prepared for the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission's recommendation, which mirrored a recommendation it made two years ago. But this time, Democrats are more inclined to go along with the recommendation than Republicans were.

The private insurance component of Medicare, known as Medicare Advantage, "is fast becoming the proverbial low-hanging fruit. As someone who has represented fruit growers let me warn you: low-hanging fruit tends to be the least ripe and the most sour," Rep. Dave Camp said during a congressional hearing Thursday.

Camp, R-Mich., said cutting the payments means older people and the disabled would lose benefits that are now subsidized by the federal government. In other cases, Medicare participants in rural areas would not have any access to a managed care program.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

Friday, March 2, 2007

THE OBSERVER

The Independent, Daily Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Mike Gilloon

MANAGING EDITOR BUSINESS MANAGER
Maddie Hanna Jim Kiriara

ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Rama Gottumukkala
ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Robert Griffin

NEWS EDITORS: Kate Antonacci

VIEWPOINT EDITOR: Joey King

SPORTS EDITOR: Ken Fowler

SCENE EDITOR: Brian Duxtader

SAINT MARY'S EDITOR: Kelly Meehan

PHOTO EDITOR: Dustin Mennella

GRAPHICS EDITOR: Jeff Albert

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Sharon Brown

AD DESIGN MANAGER: Nina Pressly

CONTROLLER: Kyle West

WEB ADMINISTRATOR: Rob Dugas

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR: Alejandro Gerbaud

OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF

(574) 631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 obsme@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4324

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.1@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports.1@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 scene.1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

smc.1@nd.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@nd.edu

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS

(574) 631-8839

THE
OBSERVER ONLINE
www.ndsmcobserver.com

POLICIES

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame du Lac and Saint Mary's College. Editorial content, including advertisements, is not governed by policies of the administration of either institution. The Observer reserves the right to refuse advertisements based on content.

The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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

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

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$100 for one academic year; \$55 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779
Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

The Observer is a member of the Associated Press. All reproduction rights are reserved.

TODAY'S STAFF

News	Sports
Marcela Berrios	Chris Khorey
Liz Harter	Greg Arbogast
Becky Hogan	Amy Dixon
Viewpoint	Scene
Kara King	Analise Lipari
Graphics	
Tom Hanculak	

New housing policy problematic

No one likes being told how to live his or her life — especially during the four fleeting college years geared largely toward self-discovery.

So the Saint Mary's administration's recent decision to require incoming students to live on campus for six semesters will undoubtedly create problems for the entire College community.

For an institution that boasts 81 percent of its 1,500 students living on campus, the need to implement such restrictions has confused much of the community.

Administrators said the requirement will help fulfill the College's mission statement as well as increase students' academic engagement.

But that logic is faulty. While students on campus are physically closer to academic resources, the decision to be motivated belongs to the student alone. There are pressures to procrastinate, party and skip class both in LeMans Hall and at Lafayette Apartments.

Furthermore, the College's decision to implement the requirement without student input threatens the relationship between students and administrators.

The Saint Mary's Board of Trustees includes a student member and places students on faculty hiring committees, but has failed to include valuable student input where it

counts.

College President Carol Ann Mooney said she wants to increase enrollment by 15 percent with the incoming Class of 2011. While Saint Mary's officials said this six-semester residency requirement will not affect the admissions yield, they might be in for a surprise.

When current students care enough to protest a decision that does not directly affect them, the uproar is a strong indication of problems on the horizon, and students are the strongest opponents or advocates of campus policy.

Most Saint Mary's students are highly satisfied with campus life, but that appreciation will dwindle when the new requirement becomes practice. Mandatory on-campus student residency may further fulfill Saint Mary's mission statement, but forcing housing choices will frustrate students and scare off some top applicants. The reasoning behind the requirement does not take into account the needs and wants of the student body, but erases one of the few elements of choice that remains in the College's already conservative residency rules.

Saint Mary's must further examine the potential implications of the residency requirement and consider who will really benefit from the change — students, or administrators.

The Observer Editorial

EDITORIAL CARTOON

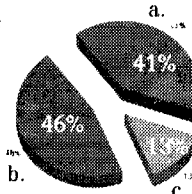


OBSERVER POLL

Which event interests you more?

a. Bengal Bouts	41%	197
b. Zbikowski's upcoming charity fight	46%	225
c. Indifferent	13%	63

% of votes # of votes



This poll is based on the result of 485 votes at <http://www.ndsmcobserver.com/>

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."

Charles Dickens
English novelist

Praying for religious temperance and peace

"For those who hate, that they may learn to love." What a perfect prayer that should be said not only at every Catholic Mass but also at every prayer service throughout the world. It judges not by how much a sinner may hate — from outright jihad rage to the soft bigotry of low expectations — but rather demands a dialogue from all humanity through the purest unconditional tolerance embodied by an even temperament. It simply instructs all of us to allow our Karma to run over dogma.



Gary Caruso

Capitol
Comments

Temperament walks hand-in-hand with tolerance and humor. Only the wisest can step back to listen to outlandish or even personally insulting propositions without automatically dismissing them. Recognizing our innate human imperfections, the wisest among us massage dogma to expose reality. What a wonderful discovery the newly found Gospel of Judas can become. Turning our stagnant doctrine into the most beloved loyalist is an exciting possibility that this writer, for one, is eager to embrace.

Religion rests not on the infallibility of prophets or leaders with roman numerals after their names who over the millennia chose their personal

interpretations, but on the tenets of truth, charity, acceptance and love. A Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson or Kenneth Tilton restrict us through their narrow interpretations of the word. Those who believe the verbatim interpretation of the written word rather than living the spirit of the word cheat themselves by restricting themselves through the literal word.

Nowhere was a more classic example of intemperance on display than at Notre Dame last week. The throng of irate Letters to the Editor of this newspaper expressed offense at the religious levity of a cartoon in the Feb. 23 edition of The Observer. The cartoon, "Black Dog," shows Jesus at the last supper instructing his disciples to eat his body and drink his blood. Peter mutters, "That's really gross" — exactly the sentiment any child or uneducated fisherman of 2,000 years ago would most likely utter. Jesus replies, "Listen, which one of us is God here?"

The silly outrage expressed supposedly over the sanctity of the Eucharist belies credulity. Protesters take the literal word (preciously what Peter does of Christ's words in the cartoon) as offense. Such accusations of blasphemy by this newspaper over this light hearted tongue-in-cheek cartoon ranks a notch below the fervor Muslims exhibit over perceived verbal blasphemies throughout the past few years. The sad fact remains that such forms of overreaction can become as indistinguishable as acts of evil.

This Sunday evening, at the height of

Lent, the next Christian outrage will begin. The Discovery Channel presents a controversial documentary entitled, "The Lost Tomb of Jesus." It purports to examine a tomb, originally found 27 years ago but dismissed by close-minded traditionalists, that contains the remains of several people thought to be an extended family. Sandra Scham, archeologist at the Catholic University of America, admitted recently that mainstream archeologists discounted the tomb's relationship to Jesus almost immediately after it was found decades ago.

Produced by Titanic filmmaker James Cameron and Simcha Jacobovici, the documentary examines one of nearly 900 tomb sites in the Talpiyot district of Jerusalem. In 1980, children playing in construction debris of their basement, found an opening and wiggled down into the space beneath where they found 10 ossuaries with bones in them. Six had inscriptions on them.

In 1st century Palestine it was customary to bury people of means in wrapped linen and spices, let the flesh decay, and eventually place the bones in a stone ossuary, which literally means "bone-box." When archeologists examined these 10 boxes, the debate began about the meaning of the find. The bones were subsequently buried, but today remaining fragments of the bones in the unwashed boxes have been reexamined using DNA testing.

The producers of the documentary

present the totality of the artifacts and inscriptions in a compelling way. Their theory rests on statistics to argue the likelihood that this exact set of names compared with the New Testament would only match Jesus — beginning with 50,000 possibilities and eliminating name combinations until only one remains.

It ties names like Jesus son of Joseph, Mary, Yose, Yehuda bar Yeshua and Mariamne e mara — "Miriamne the master" whom some say was Mary of Magdala's real name (Miriamne, the same term as Maranatha "Come, oh Lord [mara]" in 1 Corinthians 16:22).

Lent certainly resurrects personal lessons for Catholics. Does it matter if Jesus was married if we can step past that and live the spirit of his teachings? Does it matter if this tomb still contains the remains of Jesus of Nazareth if Christians loved rather than hated others? This writer would gladly tuck dogma in a back pocket to achieve that goal. How far are you willing to go? Now that is a Lenten meditation for the ages.

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

Withdrawing troops not solution

An immediate or rapid withdrawal of American troops from Iraq is not the answer to our nation's problems, contrary to the beliefs held by many politicians. Removing our troops from the embattled country would leave Iraq's fragile government and its people in shambles, empower our terrorist enemies, and ultimately compromise our national security. There has been a lot of one-sided political rhetoric about the immediate benefits of removing our troops from harms way. Yet, there has been little discussion about the consequences of withdrawal.

It is not the insurgents that will defeat our soldiers overseas; it is the degradation of our political will at home that endangers our chances for success. Losing the political willpower to continue the fight against terrorism absolutely endangers our security worldwide and domestically. By removing our troops, we endanger the fragile, two-year-old democratic government of Iraq, almost ensuring its eventual overthrow in the future. The terrorists will then have accomplished the one thing that has always eluded them, the creation of an Islamic state. This state would become the new terrorist safe haven. Iraq would be used as an instrument to recruit and train terrorist fighters for global operations. From there, terrorism would grow until we were no longer fighting it in foreign countries against a few, but rather in our own backyards against many.

Upon addressing our nations own insurgency almost 170 years ago, President Lincoln said, "If destruction be our lot, we must be its author and finisher." This threat from within is as real today as it was then and the costs of defeat are just as severe. We must acknowledge the consequences of defeat in Iraq, not run away from them in lieu of immediate, short term political gain. Adversity is the trial of principle. As Americans, we must let it be known that we will stand and fight for what is right. If we truly believe in the values our founding fathers died to give us, then we must fight against the repressive nature of terrorism no matter where it chooses to hide. Our principles are strong and if we can find an ounce of the conviction that our founding fathers had, we will win in Iraq.

James Matthew Hughey
senior
O'Neill Hall
Mar. 1

Sympathy for allergy sufferers

The article "Conflict arises over pets in dormitories" (Feb. 28) is outrageous. The idea that dormitories would value the option of getting a "dorm pet" over that of retaining their residents is not only appalling but against the very nature of the dorm system that Notre Dame promotes.

"The Notre Dame family" of dorms is supposed to be an answer to the fraternities and sororities common to campuses nationwide. This system is intended to nurture relationships between residents. By allowing students to live together for three or more years, dorm residents learn to live independent of their families while developing new lifelong bonds, expanding their extended family to include the Notre Dame community. However, it appears that when choosing between a pet and a son or daughter, the Notre Dame community is putting the child out in the yard.

This is the impression I got from Wednesday's article. While not quite as dramatic, this pet situation would be the equivalent of removing all the ramps from around the dorm and replacing them with stairs on the basis of aesthetic appeal. When a wheelchair-bound resident comes to the new stair and asks why he can't get in, he is turned away because the rector/rectress and the rest of the dorm like the stairs more than they like the handicapped person.

I am sad to admit that this happened on our campus and outraged that more wasn't done to help Catherine Wetten, Lauren Carr and Jacqueline Collins. Allergies are a significant issue, and while not necessarily as debilitating as a physical handicap, they have no cure and can make you miserable on a daily basis. The fact that this occurs in dorms specifically targeted for allergy sufferers is even worse. If having a dog is as large of a benefit as the Pasquerilla East rectress suggests it is, then there should be designated dorms with pets in which animal loving students can elect to live.

In my mind, there is no question that the dog should be removed from Pasquerilla Hall immediately. Even if the Office of Residence Life and Housing does not act (which it should), the rectress and residents of Pasquerilla East should do so of their own prerogative. Any faculty or student who feels differently is valuing the presence of an animal over that of a brother or sister in the Notre Dame family. That this is even an issue suggests that the University's commitment to the "Notre Dame Family" needs to be seriously reexamined.

Patrick Wolohan
senior
O'Neill Hall
Mar. 1

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

SCENE & HEARD

Perseverance is the key to campus courtship

Young love really can't be predicted. It might be a look, a word or even a touch that sets it off. Whatever it is, the love bug can strike at any time. In the aftermath following Valentine's Day, I've noticed that there seems to be more furious handholding, awkwardly shared dining hall meals and a rise in long-distance phone bills (for those of us nursing a long-distance relationship). Indeed, the Cupid-heavy holiday strikes us in very different ways. The recent love phenomenon has got me thinking about the different styles of courtship around campus and their effectiveness. This will be told as if the object of your desire is female, because that's where my "expertise" lies (word to the wise — take the term "expertise" very, very lightly).



Chris McGrady

Assistant
Scene Editor

Method 1: The "Stare Down"

Ordinarily this method is employed during classes or meetings, but it can also work in the dining hall or any other setting involving long periods of close proximity. First, find the object of your desire and sit within "striking distance" (a.k.a., line of sight). Then, begin the stare down. Focus your gaze directly on her eyes. Imagine dates, wedding bells, even marriage. Creepy? Yes. Will it work? Probably not. Hint: If he or she looks up at you, quickly dart your eyes away. This is key.

Continue this method until the object of your staring begins conversation, which is likely to go something like this.

The Crush: "Why are you staring at me?"

The Crushee: "Because you're nice to look at."

Crush: "You're crazy."

Initiating conversation is half the battle.

Method 2: The "Endearingly Awkward"

Usually, this takes a certain kind of person to pull off, but with the right practice, anyone can use this method effectively. Whenever you talk to the girl you are interested in, stumble on your words. Spill milk on your shirt. Walk with her to her dorm and trip while talking with her. If you are fortunate enough to be invited to her room, quickly scan the surroundings for something to break that won't be too expensive — a cheap desk lamp will work well — and break it. This does two things — one, it will be nearly impossible for her to be uncomfortable because you're apparently such a klutz, and two, it will give you the opportunity to buy her nice presents, like a new lamp. Double points!

Method 3: The "Sit Back and Wait"

This route is the most time consuming, with average returns seen in approximately a year. If you meet a girl you like, do nice things for her. Bring her coffee at work, help her with anything you can, and just generally try to be a nice guy. Write sappy away messages about her, and when she asks who they're for, tell her, "Um ... no one in particular." Never tell her that whenever she walks into a room, you freak



Photo courtesy of savvyinsider.com

College students are often at a loss when it comes to approaching the object of their affection. Patience, time and a little creativity, however, can help lonely guys find love.

out and start sweating. Try to think about her as much as possible without ever telling her how you feel, and under no circumstances should you tell her you like her. Over time, you'll like her so much you won't be able to stand it, and if and when she realizes you're crazy about her and reciprocates the feelings, it'll simply be awesome. If she doesn't like you, you can keep doing what you're doing and rename it friendship so you don't feel so pathetic.

Some people may find the above methods effective, and others may not. The truth is,

there really isn't one tried and true way to attract a lady-friend, so it's best to just forget the Valentine's Day fallout and let things go naturally.

And just so you know, Home Depot has a sale on desk lamps this week ... but no pressure.

Contact Chris McGrady at
cmcgrad1@nd.edu.

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

DVD REVIEW

He-Man, She-Ra shine in latest DVD releases

By ERIN MCGINN
Assistant Scene Editor

Everyone has their favorite 80s cartoon hero — whether it was the Ninja Turtles, the Thundercats, or even Voltron. It was also hard not to love the famed brother-sister team of He-Man and She-Ra.

Airing from 1983-86 (and for several years afterward in syndication), "He-Man and the Masters of the Universe" and "She-Ra: Princess of Power" were popular with kids due to their likeable characters and action sequences, and parents liked the morals at each episode's end. There were also toy lines developed for each show.

"He-Man and the Masters of the Universe" follows the adventures of Prince Adam on the planet of Eternia. Adam is able to turn into the superhero He-Man because of the magical powers of his sword, a legendary gift from the Sorceress. His foe is the notorious Skeletor, who repeatedly attempts to defeat He-Man and take control of the kingdom. He-Man is aided by his tiger, Battlecat, as well as a select group of others, like Man-At-Arms, who are aware of his dual identity.

"She-Ra: Princess of Power" is essentially a female version of "He-Man." Princess Adora is Adam's twin sister who was stolen at birth by the evil Hordak and taken to the planet Etheria. Adam/He-Man found her at the request of the Sorceress and she was given her magical sword, which allows her to turn into She-Ra, the Princess of Power. She fights on the side of the Rebellion that is trying to overthrow Hordak and his Horde forces that retain control of Etheria.

Currently, all but one season of the shows are out on DVD. All the DVD sets are in gorgeous packaging, and it is obvious that a great deal of time and care went into putting the sets together. When all of the sets are positioned next to each other on a shelf, the bindings depict He-Man scenes. Each box set includes over 30 episodes, and each is loaded with special features.

Each individual "He-Man" box set comes with two documentaries (created especially for each set), collectible "art cards," several episode commentary tracks and episode-length storyboards, as well as various smaller features like character profiles or trivia facts that differ with each set. They also include full scripts accessible by computer. The documentaries bring back many of the writers, actors and creators, and it is interesting, both for fans of the series as well as for fans of cartoons in general, to see how everything is brought together.

The "She-Ra" sets

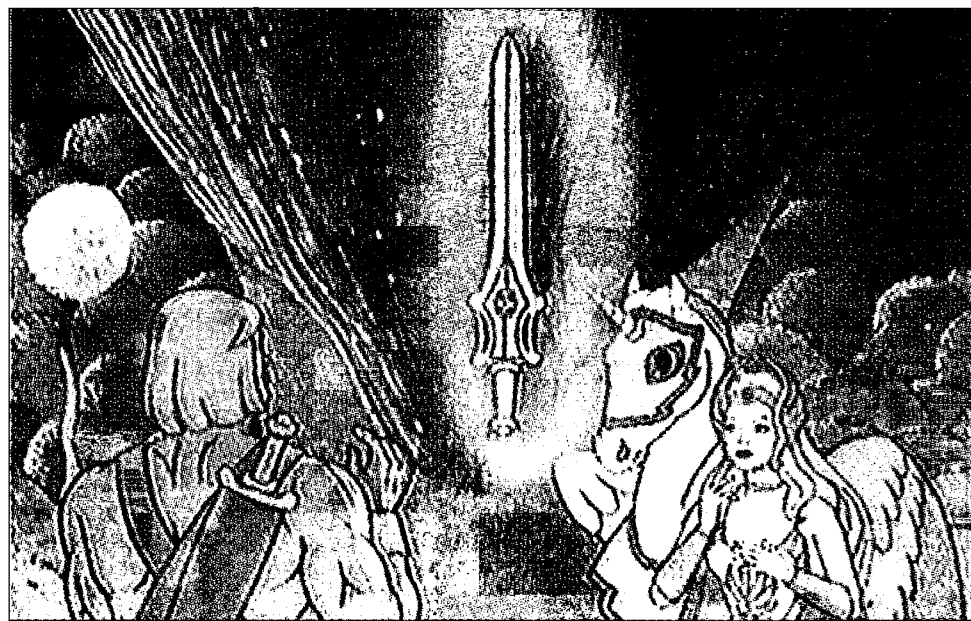


Photo courtesy of fortunecity.com

Popular cartoon characters He-Man, left, and his sister She-Ra find new life in an impressive new DVD collection. The two shows were popular in the 1980s.

each include much of the same as the "He-Man" sets, just with less in terms of numbers (for example, one documentary on each instead of two). Where the "She-Ra" sets have the most content is the DVD-ROM section, which includes items like editions of the original comic books, scripts and coloring books.

Both "She-Ra" and "He-Man" also each have a "Best of" title that gathers their top five to 10 episodes. This is great for casual fans, or even for those just introduced to the series. The "Best of She-Ra" title even contains the full-length movie, "The Secret of the Sword," which details the origin of

She-Ra.

Fans of the series will love the quality of the DVD sets, as they certainly do justice to any and all nostalgic memories. The cartoons have that sort of corny quality that most 80s shows had, but they are still enjoyable and often times quite funny. If anything, the transformation sequences alone are worth the purchase. What little kid growing up in the late 80s didn't run around holding up a plastic sword, yelling, "I have the power!"

Contact Erin McGinn at
emcginn@nd.edu

**He-Man and
She-Ra Seasons**
Brentwood Video



IRISH INSIDER

Friday, March 2, 2007

THE
OBSERVER



THE SILENT ASSASSIN

IRISH GUARD CHAREL ALLEN'S QUIET PERSONALITY ON AND OFF THE COURT HAS LED NOTRE DAME TO A 19-10 RECORD. THE IRISH WILL TRY TO MAKE A RUN IN THE BIG EAST TOURNAMENT THIS WEEKEND.

Cover by MADELINE NIES / The Observer

ND will face its Demons in Big East tourney

Irish have to improve three-point defense

With a week left in the regular season, the Irish controlled their own destiny.

They were securely set in second place in the conference,

with a two-game lead and two games to play. With contests against No. 21 Rutgers Feb. 24 and two days later at DePaul — a team the Irish had already beaten — it seemed like they would be a lock for one of four first-round byes in the Big East tournament.

Then things went very wrong, very fast. Notre Dame was dominated in the next two games — both losses — and slipped to seventh in the conference, adding an extra game in their quest for a Big East title.

So what happened?

The Irish couldn't defend. At least, they had a hard time of it. In the two losses, Notre Dame suffered back-to-back double-digit losses for the first time this season. More importantly, the Irish gave up an inordinate amount of 3-pointers during the season-ending skid.

"I think we lost the last two games because of our inability to guard the 3-point line," Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. "And the percentage that they're shooting is good because they're so open."

In their 76-60 loss to Rutgers, the Irish 3-point defense was completely ineffective, with the Scarlet Knights sinking more than half their attempts from long distance. The Irish were even worse in the second half against the Rutgers, which made 4-of-5 threes.

The Irish were just as bad against DePaul, which made half of its threes against Notre Dame's porous 3-point defense.

"We have to get our posts comfortable on the perimeter and that's our biggest problem right now."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

One of the most important factors in DePaul's performance Wednesday was the play of forward Caprice Smith, who scored 22 points on 8-of-12 shooting to go along with eight rebounds.

Smith presents a unique problem for the Irish because she can play strong in the post and out on the perimeter. In DePaul's win over the Irish, Smith was able to find her way outside to make 2-of-5 three-pointers, troubling Notre Dame's post players.

"She scored a lot of different ways when we played [at DePaul]," McGraw said. "We have to get our posts comfortable on the perimeter and that's our biggest problem right now."

So tomorrow when the Irish begin their tournament, they

will face none other than DePaul. With a season split already, a neutral court will decide the series between the two teams.

The Irish have been able to be successful in spite of their defense throughout the season because of the team's potent offense. The Irish averaged 71 points per game in the regular season and 71.4 against conference foes. The main reason Notre Dame has remained successful throughout the season has been the play of the team's leading scorer — Charel Allen. Allen has been crucial to the team's success this season, registering 17 points and 6.4 rebounds per game to keep the team competitive throughout Big East play.

But Notre Dame's late season struggles proved that when Charel struggles, the Irish follow. Against the Blue Demons, Allen became desperate from the floor, shooting only 33 per-

cent with a paltry 10 points. She also struggled during Notre Dame's only other multi-game losing streak, a three-game span from Jan. 23 to Jan. 31. The junior shot a combined 15-of-55 with just 14 points per game during the skid.

In order to win this weekend, the Irish must improve their defense.

All season McGraw has recognized the problem the 3-point defense faces, and has spent this week at practice trying to correct it.

"We're kind of hoping to give up more twos than threes," McGraw said. "I would rather have more twos than threes. [DePaul] scored eleven threes and if they were all twos it's a whole different game."

But even if the Irish do manage to step their defense and shut down the Blue Demons, they'll still have to face 2-seed Rutgers Sunday.

Still, no time will be better than Saturday for the Irish to confront their demons.

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

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu



Jay Fitzpatrick

Sports Writer

First round is rematch between Notre Dame, DePaul

Blue Demons won in final game Monday

By **BILL BRINK**
Sports Writer

Heading into the conference tournament was not the time the Irish wanted to lose two straight games by double figures. But the 7-seed Irish have a chance to make amends in the first round of the Big East, where they face 10-seed DePaul again Saturday at 6 p.m.

In its last game against DePaul Monday, Notre Dame was out-rebounded, got itself in early foul trouble and consistently gave up open looks from beyond the arc. In order to effectively counter the Blue Demon offensive attack, Notre

Dame is looking to find a way to slow DePaul's outside shooting.

"We're going to fix [our 3-point defense] today," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said before practice Wednesday.

DePaul had success shooting over Notre Dame's defense, sinking 11-of-22 from 3-point land. In response, Notre Dame hopes to find a way to put better pressure on DePaul's perimeter players. Forward Caprice Smith and guards Jenna Rubino and Missy Mitidiero had success from three-point range against Notre Dame. Smith hit 2-of-5 attempts from behind the arc, Rubino was 3-of-5, and Mitidiero made 3-of-7.

McGraw said the inside-outside versatility of Smith threw the biggest wrench into the Irish defense during their last meeting.

"She was a problem whether she was screening or stepping back," she said. "Whoever guarded her couldn't guard her on the perimeter."

Irish freshman center Erica Williamson, one of the players charged with guarding Smith, agreed with McGraw's assessment.

"Being a post player, our girl that we're guarding, she's going to be setting all the screens," she said.

The players also hope to improve communication and see it as vital if the Irish are going to slow DePaul's outside shot.

"We have a lot of switch-offs where we left someone open," Williamson said. "We were going to switch, but we didn't."

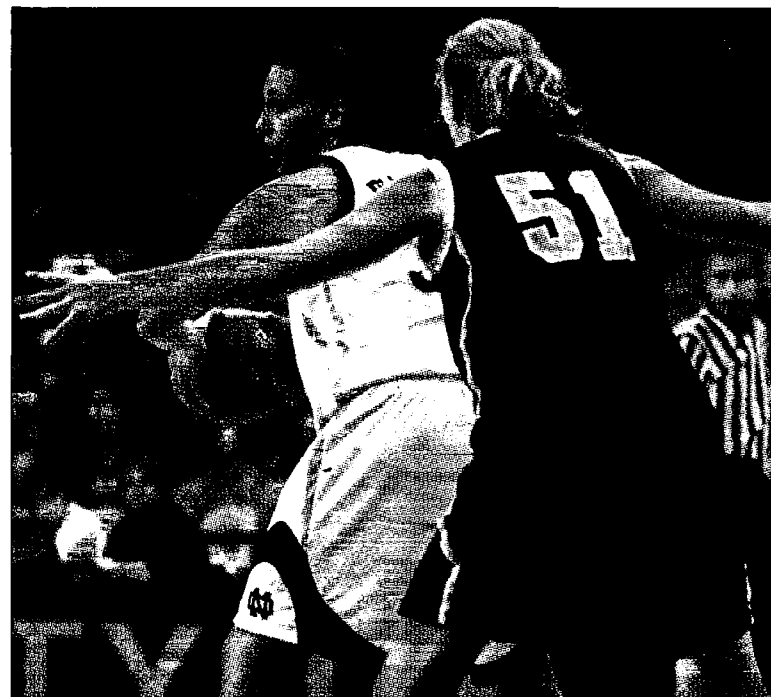
Because the DePaul game unveiled the team's weakness in dramatic fashion, Notre Dame has watched extensive film on that one contest. The defensive struggles, however, have plagued the Irish all season.

"We've been working on defensive concepts that we've been working on all season but have just been a major problem for us," guard Melissa Lechlitner said.

DePaul enters the contest connecting on 34.5 percent of its 3-point shots. To limit the Blue Demon effectiveness, Notre Dame looks to put more pressure on their shooters and keep them from getting open looks at the basket.

"Our zone is really good; our man-to-man needs a lot of work," McGraw said. "We didn't play a lot of zone against DePaul — it was a lot of man-to-man, so that was more of a communication problem."

DePaul out-rebounded Notre Dame 44-33 in their last meeting. With Williamson, center Melissa D'Amico and forward Crystal Erwin in the



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish center Melissa D'Amico posts up against Lakers center Alyssa Vanderwall during Notre Dame's 82-55 win over LSU Oct. 31.



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Tulyah Gaines drives past during Notre Dame's 76-60 loss to Rutgers Saturday at the Joyce Center.

paint, rebounding hasn't hampered the Irish in the second half of the season but caused them problems against the Blue Demons. Williamson in particular felt she needed improvement.

"I didn't have a very good rebounding game against DePaul, so for me that's going to be a big thing," Williamson said.

Notre Dame hopes to hinder DePaul's offense and allow its own offense to get rolling. Guard Ashley Barlow scored 21 points, sank three 3-pointers and had eight rebounds Monday. Guard Charel Allen scored only 10 points on and was hampered by early foul trouble Monday, but has been consistent on offense all season, averaging 17 points per game.

Notre Dame's free-throw shooting, which has been stellar all season, suffered in the

second half of the game. The Irish shot 77.8 percent from the line in the first half but only made 10-of-18 attempts in the second half.

If Notre Dame beats 10-seed DePaul Saturday, they go on to face 2-seed Rutgers, who earned a first-round bye. Last season, the 10-seed Irish defeated South Florida 73-66 to start the tournament but lost in the second round to eventual conference champion Connecticut.

They have their work cut out for them, but the Irish know what they need to fix and how to fix it.

"We've just got to be out there talking," Williamson said. "Communication and rebounding. That's what we gotta do, and come home with a 'W.'"

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Freshman contributions crucial to Irish success

By **BILL BRINK**
Sports Writer

Still in their practice gear, guard Melissa Lechlitner and center Erica Williamson left a film session and headed to lift. But this film study was far from ordinary.

The team was required to watch a cautionary video about gambling in preparation for the upcoming NCAA Tournament. The video advised against participating in bracket pools for fear of violating NCAA regulations and losing eligibility.

Things sure have changed since high school for the freshmen.

"It was lovely," Lechlitner said, laughing. "Very informative."

The loss of that popular pas-time isn't the only change. Lechlitner, Williamson and guard Ashley Barlow gave the Irish a significant jump-start this season and played with a great deal of maturity. Playing against top competition in the athletic Big East, all three adjusted well to the collegiate level of play.

"It's a lot what I expected," Lechlitner said. "The game is faster, people are stronger, and coming in as a point guard means specifically there's a lot to learn."

Williamson agreed that the pace of play increased.

"In high school you walk it up the court every time," she said. "I didn't get challenged as much in a lot of regular-season games. It's hard going in an out every day every single game

there's someone who's either as tall as you or bigger than you or probably stronger than you."

Irish coach Muffet McGraw made no secret of the fact that the three would see a lot of playing time this season. The players were made aware of their roles early, as well as the high expectations they needed to live up to.

"You don't get better sitting on the bench," McGraw said. "So they got a lot of valuable playing time right off the bat."

The freshmen have made great use of their time. Barlow is second on the team in scoring and third in rebounding, averaging 10.8 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. Lechlitner averages 6.3 points per game, and Williamson scores 6.1 points and, is second on the team with 5.5 boards per game.

"At the beginning of the season, she told us, 'OK, you're really good at this, do this,'" Williamson said of McGraw. "I've always been more of a defensive player, even throughout high school. That's my role and my job is to rebound and play defense."

Lechlitner finds herself in a new situation this season. A starter her entire life, she has never come off the bench before. Although a new experience, Lechlitner works with it as best she can.

"I wasn't really used to it, so it was hard to be seventh, eighth man," she said. "It definitely makes you work harder. You have to focus a little more, because when you come in you can't make any mistakes."

"You've got to be aware of what's going on to the game. You have to be a spark out there and make a contribution."

All three contributed right from the start, averaging at least 15 minutes per game in the first half of the season and were often in the game for more than 20. Barlow made the most immediate impact on offense, scoring 19 points in Notre Dame's 85-81 overtime win over Bowling Green Nov. 13.

Even with the strong start, the freshmen have consistently improved in both their physical play and sense of the game as the season wore on. Barlow developed a knack for finding the ball, be it on a rebound, loose ball or steal. Lechlitner has grown into the point guard position well and understands the schemes that the team employs.

Lechlitner said the most improved aspect of her play is her mental awareness — "running the offense, knowing where all your teammates are supposed to be, knowing every position."

Williamson had the aid of an upperclassmen center, junior Melissa D'Amico, to tutor her in collegiate post play.

"Mel pulled me under her wing at the beginning of the year; she's definitely been a big guidance," Williamson said. "She tells me what to do, and how to help out my game."

The steady improvement was attributed to the tolerant attitude of the coaching staff and the learning environment they



Guard Ashley Barlow, center, is part of Notre Dame's freshman trio with guard Melissa Lechlitner and center Erica Williamson.

created.

"Our coaches have been really great at just pulling us aside," Williamson said. "When we're running something on offense and we do it wrong, they pull us aside and instead of saying, 'OK, you're wrong,' they say, 'This is what you did wrong, this is what you've needed to do.' It's so much more of a learning process."

After Williamson said she could not pinpoint her most improved feature, she turned to bystanders for help. After some second opinions from teammates, she settled on her conditioning.

"Over the summer, it wasn't where it needed to be," she said. "Then Tony [Rolinski], our strength and conditioning coach, really busted me into shape."

Barlow, Williamson and Lechlitner will face another new experience in the form of the Big East tournament, which starts for the Irish on Saturday. McGraw and the rest of the team hope the young guns can continue their productivity and help drive the Irish deep into the postseason.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

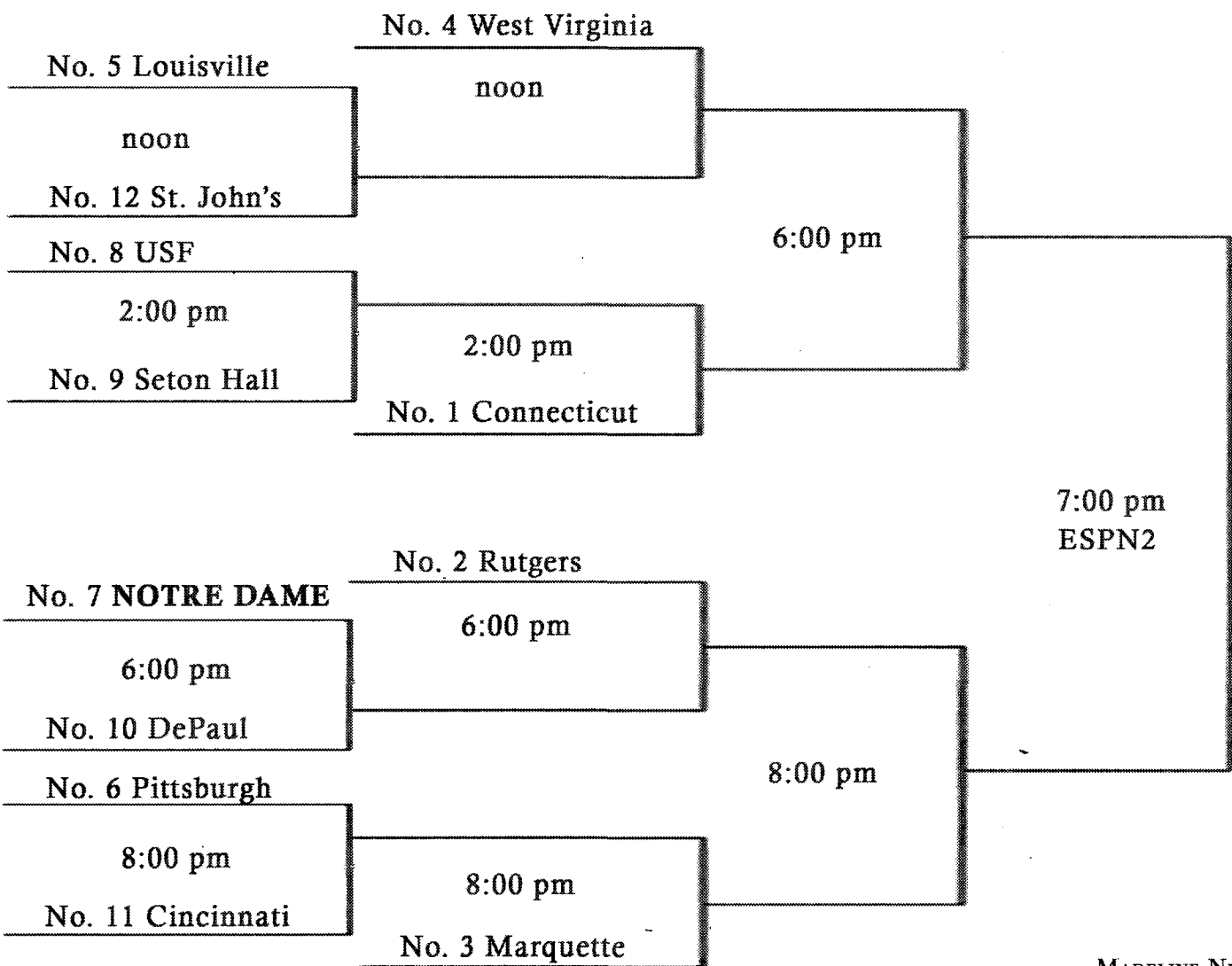
2007 BIG EAST WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

FIRST ROUND
SAT. MARCH 3

QUARTERFINALS
SUN. MARCH 4

SEMIFINALS
MON. MARCH 5

CHAMPIONSHIP
TUES. MARCH 6



Allen leads Notre Dame with focused demeanor

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Whenever Irish guard Charel Allen steps on the court, she's always focused.

She calmly exudes confidence, and she is never rattled by the score, the fans or any other aspect of the game.

But that's just because of how she was brought up.

"I was always taught to be humble. I guess talking, like communicating, that's nothing," she said. "But I was always taught to be humble during the games. The games will speak for themselves."

So far this season Allen's calm personality has been an integral part of the team's unexpected success. On a team that was picked to finish 11th in the conference and lost one of its top returning players — guard Lindsay Schrader to injury — Allen has been able to keep the team afloat en route to a 19-win season.

But Allen's clutch basketball play began long before her junior campaign with the Irish. She's been playing this way her entire life.

Home grown talent

Allen grew up in Monessen, a small town in western Pennsylvania, where she began playing basketball during the third grade in the Monessen midget league.

The midget league was a way to teach young athletes in the town about basketball, preparing them for playing in the more competitive middle school and eventually high school teams.

Allen had little experience before entering the league.

"I didn't know much about basketball at the time," she said. "I'm from a small town,

so we all know each other."

Growing up without any real basketball idols at home, Allen said that her first basketball role models were the older players in the league and her teams' coaches.

Despite her humble beginnings in Monessen, she soon began to thrive in high school basketball. She finished with 3,110 points in her high school career — the fifth highest in Pennsylvania women's basketball history. Allen also averaged 6.1 points, 10.5 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 6.4 steals per game during her four years at Monessen High School.

"I loved high school," she said. "I was a point guard. I did a lot. I did jump balls. My senior year, we only lost three games total. We won the section and the regional."

But Allen was not the only one who loved her high school career. Allen was consistently rewarded for her abilities throughout her career, and was named Associated Press Player of the Year twice (2003, 2004) and was three-time Associated Press first team All-state from 2002-04.

With Allen leading the team, Monessen had an incredibly successful four-year stretch, compiling a 100-19 record during her four years. But the most important win for Allen during high school was in her freshman season when her team won the state championship — a game in which she set a freshman postseason record with 39 points in the final game.

Toward the her stellar high school career, Irish coach

Muffet McGraw began recruiting Allen.

"I liked that she was crafty — she could do things with the ball, just really read the defense well," McGraw said. "She could score a lot of different ways, she could handle the ball, she could pass. She was, I thought, a very talented player coming out of high school."

Charel Allen signed a letter of intent to play at Notre Dame because of its strengths both on the court and in the classroom. In fact, Allen said that this combination was more important than purely the school's basketball program.

"I don't really remember watching them that much because I didn't watch college basketball that much until my senior year, and by that time I had committed," she said. "But what drew me to Notre Dame was the balance between academics and athletics. You have the best of both worlds."

South Bend bound

Allen joined the Irish in 2004 as a true freshman and made an immediate impact on the squad off the bench. In her collegiate debut against Illinois State, Allen came off the bench, adding 14 points and a team-high six rebounds against the Redbird.

During her freshman season, Allen continued to excel in her transition from high school to college, scoring 8.5 a night and averaging 4.8 rebounds in conference play on her way to being named to the Big East All-freshman team.

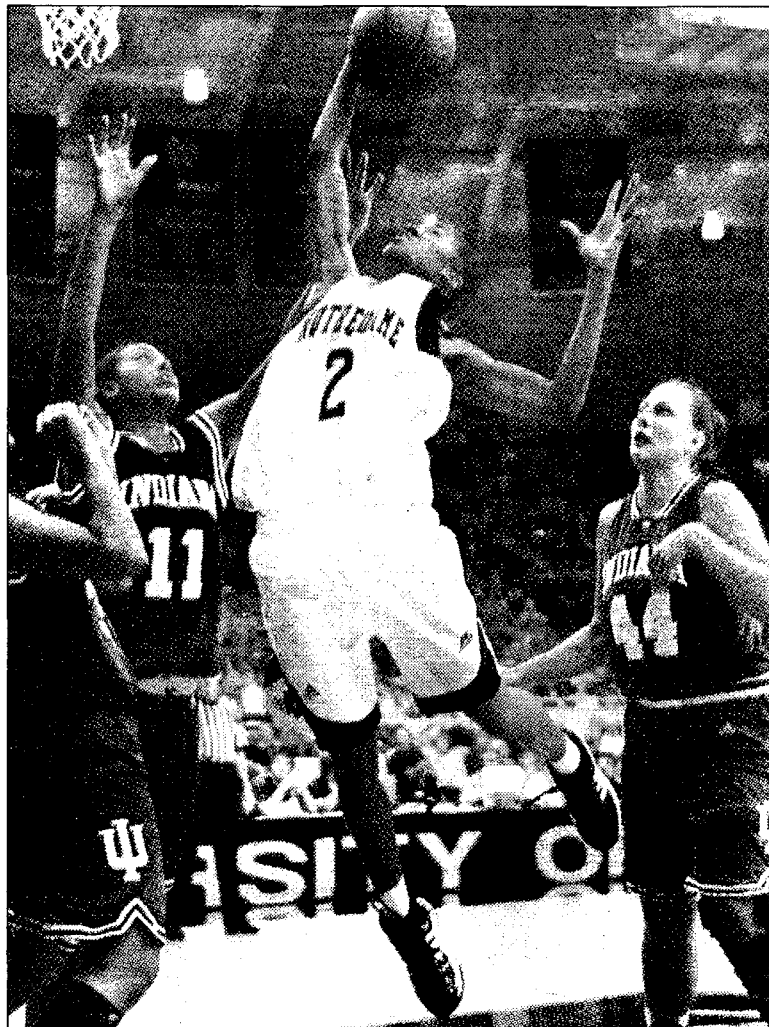
"I didn't think I was going to play, so whenever I stepped on the floor my freshman year I was just like in awe because I never thought I could play as a freshmen," Allen said.

"But I was always taught to be humble during the games. The games will speak for themselves."

Charel Allen
Irish guard

"I liked that she was crafty — she could do things with the ball, just really read the defense well."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Charel Allen, center, fights for a rebound against Indiana during Notre Dame's 54-51 loss to the Hoosiers Dec. 3.

Unfortunately for Allen, she experienced a devastating knee injury in the final game of her freshman year in the NCAA Tournament during a second-round loss to Arizona State.

"I thought [Charel] had a great freshmen year ... and the injury really set her back," McGraw said. "It took her a whole year to recover from that."

Last season for the Irish, Allen was unable to take a major part in the offense because of the lasting effects of her knee injury. Allen continued to come off the bench for Notre Dame, contributing 8.5 points and 4.3 rebounds per game as the Irish sixth man.

Allen slowly worked her way up through the lineup and made the first start of her career Jan. 17, 2006, against DePaul, scoring five points in the 78-75 Irish win.

Even though DePaul was her first start, it was by no means her best game, as Allen notched 14 performances in double-digits. On Jan. 10, Allen played a career-high 38 minutes against Marquette, including a game-saving three-pointer with 2:23 remaining that sent the game into overtime en route to a 67-65 Irish win.

After her sophomore year, Notre Dame program experienced a major shakeup, with multiple players — including guard Meghan Duffy and forward — graduating. Even more problems arose when guard Lindsey Schrader tore her ACL during a practice weeks before the 2006-07 season tipped off, leaving the Irish without a dominant presence. Allen stood up to the challenge.

"I just had to step up and be ready to play like I did in high school."

A star is born

Allen became the full-time starter at the beginning of this

season, and immediately demonstrated the impact she could have when given free range to play.

Allen has been an almost constant presence on the court for the Irish this season, playing 33 minutes per game while scoring a team-high 17 points overall and 19.3 points an outing in the Big East.

Allen was instrumental in the team's offense during the regular season, leading Notre Dame in scoring in 18 of its 29 games. But her importance to the team have come not only in her own level of play, but also in the way in which she is able to help lead the team by example.

"I don't say much on the court, and hopefully the underclassmen would look at me and think that I lead by example," Allen said.

Even though Allen is such a quiet player on the court, McGraw feels that it is important to have a balance of emotional and steady personalities on a roster in order to keep composure.

"Players can have a lot of emotion, and players can have that steady demeanor, and she's more on that steady demeanor side," McGraw said. "It's great at the end of games because she never gets rattled."

But Allen refuses to let this recent success inflate her ego. On the inside, she is still the same humble person just playing the game she loves.

Throughout the game, Allen maintains a constant level of focus, keeping her composed throughout the game.

"That's how I play from the start of the game," she said. "I mean it's the same way I try not to get nervous before the game because it's just a game. I just have a different jersey on."

"It's just a game I've been playing all my life."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at
jfitzpa5@nd.edu



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Charel Allen drives the lane against Rutgers guard Epiphanny Prince during Notre Dame's 76-60 loss to Rutgers Saturday. Allen leads the Irish in scoring with 17 points per game.

SCENE *in perspective*

BAFTAs, Césars question Oscar omissions

Increased internationalism highlights Academy's shortcomings

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

The Oscars are over and the red carpet has been rolled up. The stars have gone home to polish the statuettes they've won, or possibly to drown their sorrows.

To many people, Oscar night is the only night that matters when it comes to awards for film. Sure, TNT may show the Screen Actors Guild (or SAG) awards — actors voting for actors — and it's a quaint practice, but it doesn't offer the grandeur or the splendor of Oscar night and thus doesn't really matter.

What about the Golden Globes, for that matter? Many have heard of them, but who votes on them? And what makes them different than the Oscars? Do they even matter?

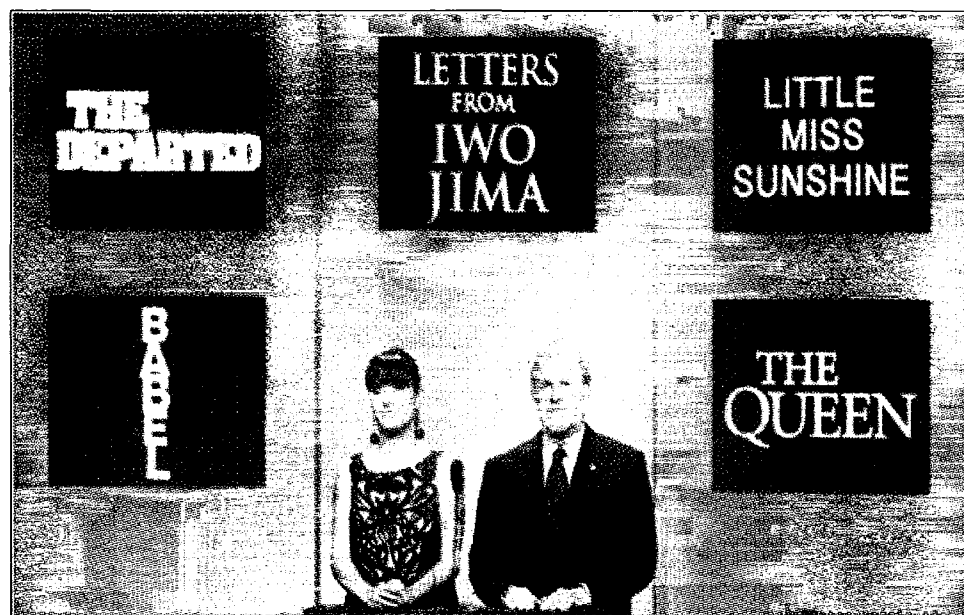
Hollywood may only have one night with Oscar, but it sure gets around when it comes to awards shows — and this isn't even getting into the European (and other North American) film festivals that rarely influence what goes on in Hollywood.

There are awards determined by academies, such as the Academy for Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), which organizes the Golden Globes, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), and the Académie des Arts et Techniques du Cinéma of France.

These groups include film professionals and journalists who vote on the various awards. The granddaddy of them all is arguably the Oscars, the ceremony organized by AMPAS. However, other awards tend to get overlooked in the face of such stiff competition for attention.

This year's British Academy Film Awards, presented by BAFTA, looked similar to the Oscars in terms of nominees. However, the winners were somewhat different. While "The Departed" — an American film not only in financing but also in theme — won the Oscar for Best Picture, "The Queen" found such success at the BAFTAs.

It doesn't take a Panavision camera



Salma Hayek, left, and Academy president Sid Ganis announce the 2007 Best Picture nominees. The Oscars can be criticized for their lack of international films.

technician to figure out that British audiences, and more importantly, British film professionals, will like "The Queen" more. Perhaps "like" is the wrong word here — what I mean to say is that a film like "The Departed" strikes a chord with American audiences, with its tale of immigrant communities and gangsters, two icons of American cultural lore.

Other awards tend to get overlooked in the face of such stiff competition for attention.

Granted, the British have their share of gangster pictures, but a film about the current monarch at one of the lowest points of her career is something that Americans just don't quite understand.

My point, then, is that without the BAFTA Awards, "The Queen" may have gone down as that movie where Helen Mirren did a fine job portraying some monarch across the ocean. However, it got the recognition it deserved.

Did I think it was the best picture of the year? No — but then again, I'm not British either.

The national academy mentioned above is the Académie des Arts et Techniques du Cinéma — the French equivalent to the AMPAS. The César Awards occur every year and award the best of not only French cinema, but

that of the EU as well. The Best Picture winner this year was the film "Lady Chatterley," directed by Pascale Ferran and based on a D.H. Lawrence novel. I doubt that many people have heard of this film in the U.S., but it is garnering recognition of the national cinema academy in a country that takes its films more seriously than maybe any other.

What makes this festival so important is its insistence on the recognition of up-and-coming filmmakers. Director Géla Babluani, who visited Notre Dame last weekend with his debut film "13 Tzmeti," was nominated for the Best First Work César, and his brother, the lead actor, was nominated for the Most Promising Actor César. This film may not have even gotten recognition from the U.S. were it not for this award ceremony. Babluani is now remaking the film in the States, and it is slated for a 2008 release.

What is most interesting about the César Awards for Americans is the placement of American films into the foreign film award category. American cinema is so used to dominating the world film industry that placement in a foreign film category seems alien.

However, the French do seem to love

American movies, as an American film has taken this award for the last six years — the most recent being this year's "Little Miss Sunshine," which beat the Mexican film "Babel," the Spanish "Volver," the British "The Queen," and, due to its late release in Europe, "Brokeback Mountain." I think American and French audiences might get along better if they simply sat down and watched some movies together.

All in all, while a broader audience might watch the Oscars, the other national academies and film festivals still take pride in the films that they both award and represent.

It may be quite some time before a film in a non-English language will be awarded the Best Picture Oscar, and, in a way, this is fair — the Oscars represent an American Academy. However, if the AMPAS holds itself up as the gold standard in film awards, it should recognize that perhaps the best film if the year may not be in English.

The largest film festival in Africa just opened Sunday in the capitol of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou. Called the Panafrican Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou, this festival promises to bring many African films to the fore — but only in Africa. The winners in this festival may find some recognition in the Francophone world, as many of the films are in French; however, they garner little support even in the

American art-house circuits.

Notably, last year's Foreign Language Oscar winner was from South Africa — it's about time that America and Europe took their stranglehold off of cinema.

Until audiences and critics alike can sit down, watch movies together and realize that cinema has a power to communicate unlike any other artistic medium, the awards ceremonies will mean little more than industry self-congratulation.

The ceremonies have their place, but more international recognition would be a welcome change in the Oscars race.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroe1@nd.edu

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



Helen Mirren stars in Stephen Frears' 2006 film, "The Queen," which recently won top honors at the BAFTA awards over Martin Scorsese's "The Departed."



Director Pascale Ferran's little-known "Lady Chatterley," an adaptation of the D. H. Lawrence novel, claimed the grand prize at France's 2007 César awards.

NHL

Crosby nets only shootout goal to beat Rangers

Upshall scores with 9.9 seconds left in overtime to lift Flyers to victory, dampen playoff prospects for Bruins

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Rangers' potent power play is suddenly producing goals for and against the desperate team.

Pittsburgh erased a two-goal deficit with back-to-back short-handed goals by NHL leader Jordan Staal and Colby Armstrong, and forced overtime with defenseman Sergei Gonchar's goal with six minutes left in regulation.

That set the stage for Sidney Crosby to give the Penguins a 4-3 shootout victory over the Rangers on Thursday night.

"We got some big plays, especially in the penalty kills," Crosby said of the Penguins, who killed three of four power plays and netted two goals of their own.

Crosby won it with just his second shootout goal in 10 tries. The 19-year-old phenom was the last of six shooters and he squeezed a drive between Henrik Lundqvist's pads.

Lundqvist was sharp for the first two periods, making 18 saves after a shutout in his last outing. But he was touched for three goals on 13 shots in the final frame of regulation in his 19th consecutive start.

Marc-Andre Fleury made 32

saves in his second straight strong outing following a benching. He then turned aside Michael Nylander, Jaromir Jagr and Petr Prucha in the shootout. Nylander and Jagr had both scored in regulation for the Rangers, 2-3-2 in their past seven, as they try to stay in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

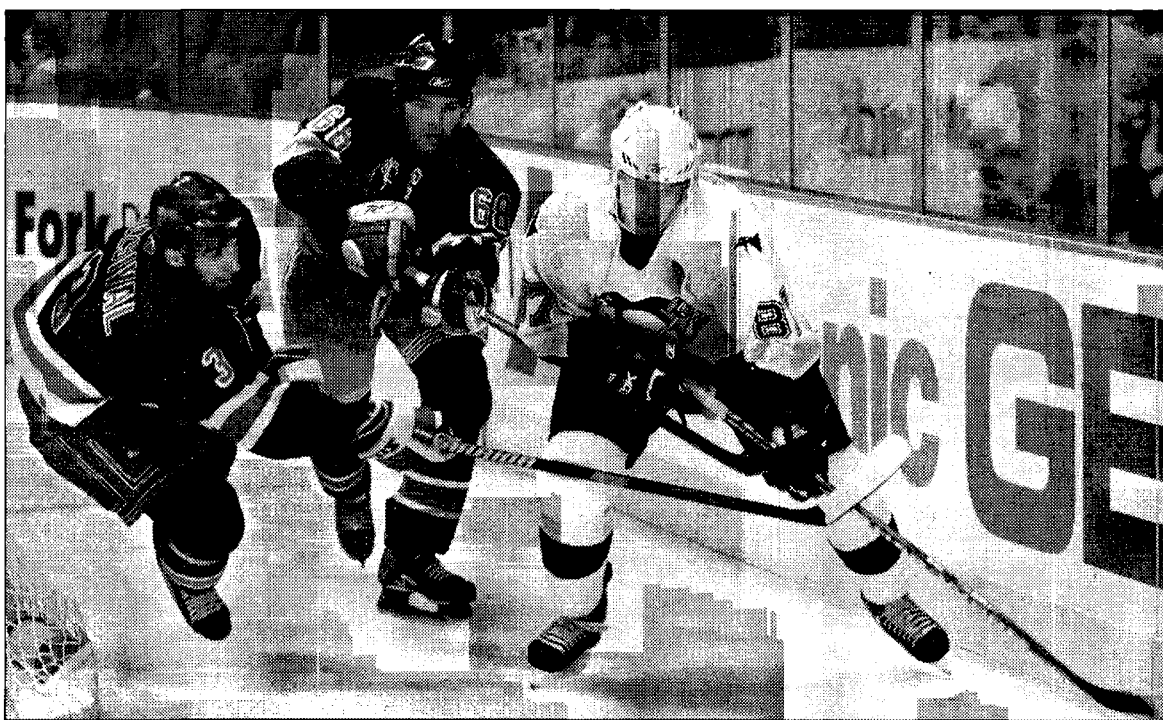
Jagr nearly scored in the shootout, but fell to 0-for-4 this season when Fleury stopped him with his pads. The Rangers captain was roundly criticized for declining to take part in the tiebreaker against New Jersey on Feb. 22 when New York lost.

With injuries to Brendan Shanahan and Martin Straka, Jagr needed to be in the Rangers' first three shooters.

"I would do anything for this team to win," Jagr said. "I didn't feel very comfortable doing that ... I knew other guys were better than me. Now I had no choice to go. I wanted to go. I knew I was going to go."

Blair Betts scored his first power-play goal since Oct. 14, 2003, to give the Rangers a 3-2 lead, but Lundqvist — who made 30 saves — couldn't protect it.

He made a key error when he left the crease to block a dump-in by Pittsburgh. Armstrong got to the loose puck and banked it



Rangers defenseman Michal Rozsival, left, and winger Jaromir Jagr, center, battle for the puck against Penguin's center Sidney Crosby Thursday. The Penguins beat the Rangers 4-3.

off Lundqvist.

"Mine was just lucky," Armstrong said.

Betts appeared to bail out the Rangers after they blew the lead. He pinballed a shot through traffic past Fleury at 4:43, 58 seconds after Armstrong tied it during teammate Evgeni Malkin's penalty.

Flyers 4, Bruins 3

With a few more performances like this, the Bruins will be in the same mode as the Flyers — winding down the season.

Scottie Upshall scored with 9.9 seconds left in overtime Thursday night to lift the Philadelphia Flyers to a win over the Boston Bruins, who got 51 saves from Tim Thomas.

"Totally ridiculous. Unacceptable," Boston coach Dave Lewis said. "It's something that drives you nuts as a coach, knowing the situation, the standings and who we're playing."

The Bruins, 13th in the Eastern Conference — seven points behind eighth-place Montreal for the final playoff spot — looked like a team that's about to complete its second straight season without a post-season appearance.

"We're still in the hunt and we've got to play a lot harder to get ourselves in that position," Lewis said.

Joni Pitkanen, R.J. Umberger and Mike Richards had the Flyers' goals. Philadelphia snapped a five-game losing streak.

Mark Mowers ended his stretch of 27 games without a

goal by scoring a pair for Boston, and defenseman Zdeno Chara had his 10th of the season.

Martin Biron, acquired from Buffalo on Tuesday for a second-round pick in the 2007 draft, made 34 saves in his Flyers' debut. He made a right pad save on Petr Tenkrat's clean breakaway bid with just under 15 minutes to play.

"We have a young team that makes a lot of mistakes, but we're learning," Biron said. "It was a big step for this team."

Upshall, sent in on a partial breakaway on a pass from Sami Kapanen, slipped around defenseman Andrew Ference before shifting to his backhand and putting the puck behind Thomas for the game-winner.

"It was a highlight-reel play," Flyers coach John Stevens said of the goal for a team that's had few great moments.

Blues 3, Islanders 2

The Blues were less than perfect guests as the Islanders began the Ryan Smyth era.

Lee Stempniak's power-play goal 25 seconds into overtime gave St. Louis a come-from-behind victory over New York on Thursday night in Smyth's debut on Long Island.

Stempniak had an open shot from the left circle off a pass from Eric Brewer and beat Rick DiPietro to the far corner to give the Blues their sixth win in seven games (6-1-0).

"It's a really good win for us," Stempniak said. "Eric made a great fake and drew the goalie out, and slid it over to me."

DiPietro had too much room to cover to get back in time."

The Islanders were cruising to a 2-0 victory with less than 3 minutes left in the game when Jay McClement and Petr Cajanek scored in a 38-second span to force overtime. Curtis Sanford picked up the win by stopping 25 shots.

Smyth, acquired from Edmonton on Tuesday, assisted on Mike Sillinger's first-period goal, and played a key role in Marc-Andre Bergeron's second-period score. After the goal was knocked off its moorings, Smyth used his skate to put it back in place just before Bergeron's shot deflected in.

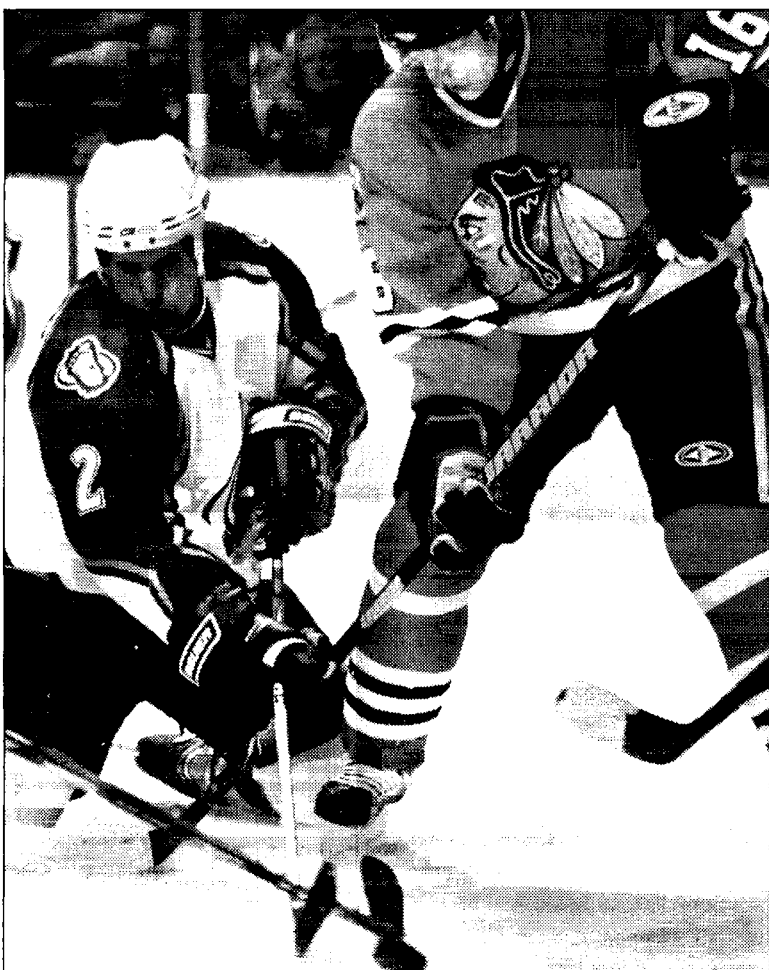
"I was nervous and excited in the same breath," Smyth said. "I was waiting for the Canadian anthem to be played."

DiPietro stopped 36 shots, but took the penalty at the end of regulation that led to the overtime goal.

DiPietro leads all NHL goalies with 22 penalty minutes. He chose not to meet with the media after the game.

The overtime point leaves the Islanders in sole possession of seventh place in the Eastern Conference, one point behind Atlanta and one point ahead of Montreal. New York ended a seven-game home stand with a 5-2-0 mark, with the last five of those games decided by one goal.

"It's a valuable point," Sillinger said. "But for the last few games, we've had a two-goal lead and let other teams tie it up. We have to correct that, and do it quickly."



Avalanche defenseman Ken Klee, left, battles for the puck with Blackhawk winger Radim Vrbata in Colorado's 6-1 win Thursday.

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.

FOR SALE

SOUTH BEND - \$124,900 1715 Sunnymede Avenue OPEN HOUSE March 4, 2-4:00 p.m. Minutes to ND! 3 BR-2 BA; whirlpool tub; built-in microwave, dishwasher, finished bsmt FR, fireplace; HW floors; AC, gas heat; wtr softener. Great family neighborhood! 574-288-9655.

FOR RENT

andersonNDrentals.com

BETTER HOMES, BETTER AREAS, BETTER DEALS. BlueGoldRentals.com

Now leasing for 2007/8. Great houses close to campus. Anlanproperties@comcast.net

PERSONAL

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, at 1-7819. For more information, visit our web site at <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/pregnant.shtml> or see our bi-weekly ad in The Observer.

PREGNANT OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS? You do not have to be alone. We want to help. Call our 24 hour confidential hotline at 1-800-NO-ABORT or visit our website at www.lifecall.org

Helena: Tempt not 2 much the hatred of my spirit. D.

ND basketball will be a 5 seed in the NCAA tournament

Mulan: Great Disney movie or greatest Disney movie?

Predicted number of people who will read my swimming article: 0

Great Couples in History:

- 1) Sonny and Cher
- 2) Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky
- 3) Chris Gill and Courtney Rains

Opening Day = 1 month away

Five Guaranteed Season Predictions:

- 1) The Cubs will not win the World Series
- 2) Barry Bonds will spontaneously combust
- 3) I will not learn how to pronounce Daisuke Matsuzaka
- 4) The Cubs will not win the World Series
- 5) David Eckstein will be caught for doing steroids

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, March 2, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Toronto	32-26	.552	-
New Jersey	28-30	.483	4
New York	26-33	.441	6.5
Philadelphia	20-38	.345	12
Boston	15-42	.263	16.5

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Detroit	36-19	.655	-
Cleveland	33-24	.579	4
Chicago	33-27	.550	5.5
Indiana	29-27	.518	7.5
Milwaukee	21-37	.362	16.5

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Washington	31-25	.554	-
Miami	28-29	.491	3.5
Orlando	28-31	.475	4.5
Charlotte	22-36	.379	10
Atlanta	22-36	.379	10

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Utah	38-19	.667	-
Denver	28-28	.500	9.5
Minnesota	26-31	.456	12
Portland	24-34	.414	14.5
Seattle	22-35	.386	16

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Dallas	48-9	.842	-
San Antonio	39-18	.684	9
Houston	35-22	.614	13
NO/Oklahoma City	28-30	.483	20.5
Memphis	15-44	.254	34

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Phoenix	44-14	.759	-
LA Lakers	33-25	.569	11
LA Clippers	28-29	.491	15.5
Golden State	26-33	.441	18.5
Sacramento	25-32	.439	18.5

NCAA Tennis Fila/ITA Rankings

Men's

team		team
Georgia	1	Stanford
Ohio State	2	NOTRE DAME
Virginia	3	Georgia Tech
Mississippi	4	Florida
Baylor	5	North Carolina
UCLA	6	Northwestern
Illinois	7	California
Pepperdine	8	USC
NOTRE DAME	9	Miami
Florida State	10	William & Mary
Oklahoma State	11	Duke
Florida	12	Clemson
USC	13	Baylor
Duke	14	VCU
Washington	15	UCLA

NHL

Blackhawks at Redwings
7:30 p.m., CSN

NBA

Pistons at Heat
8 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Chicago head coach Lovie Smith, right, speaks with the media after his contract agreement was announced Thursday. Smith, who led the Bears to the Super Bowl, received a four-year extension on his contract that had one year remaining.

Bears give Smith contract extension

Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Lovie Smith walked into the conference room and took a seat at the center of the dais, which seemed fitting, considering he was in the middle of a storm the past few weeks.

To his left was team president Ted Phillips. To his right, general manager Jerry Angelo. And in front of Smith was the security he craved.

Less than a month after reaching the Super Bowl, the Chicago Bears resolved a major issue Wednesday night when they agreed on an extension with Smith that runs through 2011.

They also locked in Angelo through 2013.

Smith said Thursday he had no doubts the Chicago Bears would give him the contract extension he wanted, so he never envisioned himself coaching elsewhere despite numerous reports to the contrary, including one from his agent.

"As late as down at the combine (last week) I thought I made it clear that I thought it would get done, that I hoped it would get done," Smith said.

The lowest paid coach in the NFL last season at \$1.35 million, Smith would have earned \$1.45 million in the final season of a

four-year contract. Instead, he'll earn \$23.45 million over the next five years an average of about \$4.7 million per season, the Chicago Tribune reported.

The process wasn't easy.

Smith and team president Phillips met Wednesday at Halas Hall and the deal was announced that night. It was a sharp turnaround, considering Smith's agent Frank Bauer said a week earlier the talks had stalled and that his client would likely leave when his contract expired after the 2007 season. And the negotiations did little to boost the image of a fran-

chise that is perceived to be stingy.

"We did take a beating," Phillips said. "Maybe short term we took a little damage. I don't think long term we did because I know how we operate, internally. ... There's no leftover hard feelings, whatsoever."

Phillips said he made an offer to Smith before the playoffs that was rejected, and the sides agreed to wait until afterward. Phillips came back with "a substantially increased offer" two days after the Super Bowl.

"I never thought it was contentious," Phillips said.

IN BRIEF

San Diego to honor Gwynn with statue

SAN DIEGO — Tony Gwynn already has a street named in his honor outside Petco Park, and on July 21 the Padres plan to unveil a statue of the Hall of Famer-elect.

The unveiling will be part of "Tribute to Tony Weekend," the final home weekend before Gwynn is inducted into the Hall of Fame on July 29. The statue will most likely be placed in the "Park at the Park," a grassy area beyond the center field fence that's open year-round.

"It's fitting that the first statue at Petco Park bear his likeness," chief executive officer Sandy Alderson said. "He represents everything that is positive about the San Diego Padres and Major League Baseball."

The Padres moved to Petco Park in 2004, three seasons after Gwynn retired. His No. 19 was retired in 2004 and is displayed atop the batter's eye in center field.

Los Angeles makes bid for 2016 Olympics

LOS ANGELES — A sunny winter day and a slickly produced film welcomed the U.S. Olympic Committee's evaluation committee Thursday during a two-day visit to decide whether Los Angeles will be the U.S. candidate to host the 2016 Summer Games.

The group spent its first day cloistered inside a meeting room on the UCLA campus watching presentations from the local organizing committee on 14 themes involved in the bid.

Later, the evaluators went on a walking tour of the campus, which would be home to the athletes' village, and watched a 3 1/2-minute Disney-produced film promoting Los Angeles' virtues that featured Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Hollywood celebrities and the city's landmarks.

"I ordered another sunny day in the middle of winter," Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa boasted to reporters before previewing the film.

Ex-Dallas Cowboy helps out teammate, donates kidney

DALLAS — Ron Springs and Everson Walls will always share a bond forged over their years as teammates on the Dallas Cowboys. That's nothing compared to their newest link the kidney Walls donated to Springs.

Springs and Walls were recovering at Medical City Hospital on Thursday, a day after the transplant operation — the first between two former U.S. professional athletes.

"That's brotherly love," Springs told The Associated Press in December. "It's something you can't explain, but something that I will always think about every day for the rest of my life."

The former football stars and their doctors are scheduled to hold a news conference Friday. The players hope they can inspire others to become organ donors by sharing their story.

around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL

Virginia moves into first in ACC with victory

Drake tops Evansville 101-96 in opening round of MVC tourney; Ingram scores 20 as Toledo beats Ball State

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Revenge was sweet for Virginia in its rematch against No. 21 Virginia Tech, and if the weekend goes well, it could lead to a championship, too.

Sean Singletary scored 17 points and the Cavaliers beat the Hokies 69-56 on Thursday night to move into first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference with one game left in the regular season.

The Cavaliers (20-8, 11-4), picked to finish eighth in the preseason, finished 8-0 in league play at their new John Paul Jones Arena and moved a half-game ahead of No. 8 North Carolina.

The Tar Heels played later at Georgia Tech, and four teams could go into the weekend with a chance to emerge the champion. The Hokies and Boston College are both 10-5 and play on Sunday, after Virginia has a quick turnaround game, finishing a Wake Forest on Saturday afternoon.

"It means we've come a long way," Singletary said of the opportunity few thought Virginia could achieve. "If we can get this win Saturday, it will just be icing on the cake."

This one might have been the cake, coming just 18 days after the Hokies manhandled Virginia for 40 minutes in Blacksburg, winning 84-57 behind stout defense and exceptional shooting.

But the Hokies (20-9, 10-5), who host Clemson on Sunday, "just didn't play well, plain

and simple," an angry coach Seth Greenberg said. Even after a 13-0 run gave them a brief first-half lead, they let Virginia answer with a 16-3 burst and never got closer than five again.

"They didn't compete at the level you need to compete at," Greenberg said of his team.

J.R. Reynolds and Mamadi Diane added 13 points each for the Cavaliers. Jason Cain had eight points and nine rebounds and helped on one of the Cavaliers best defensive games this year.

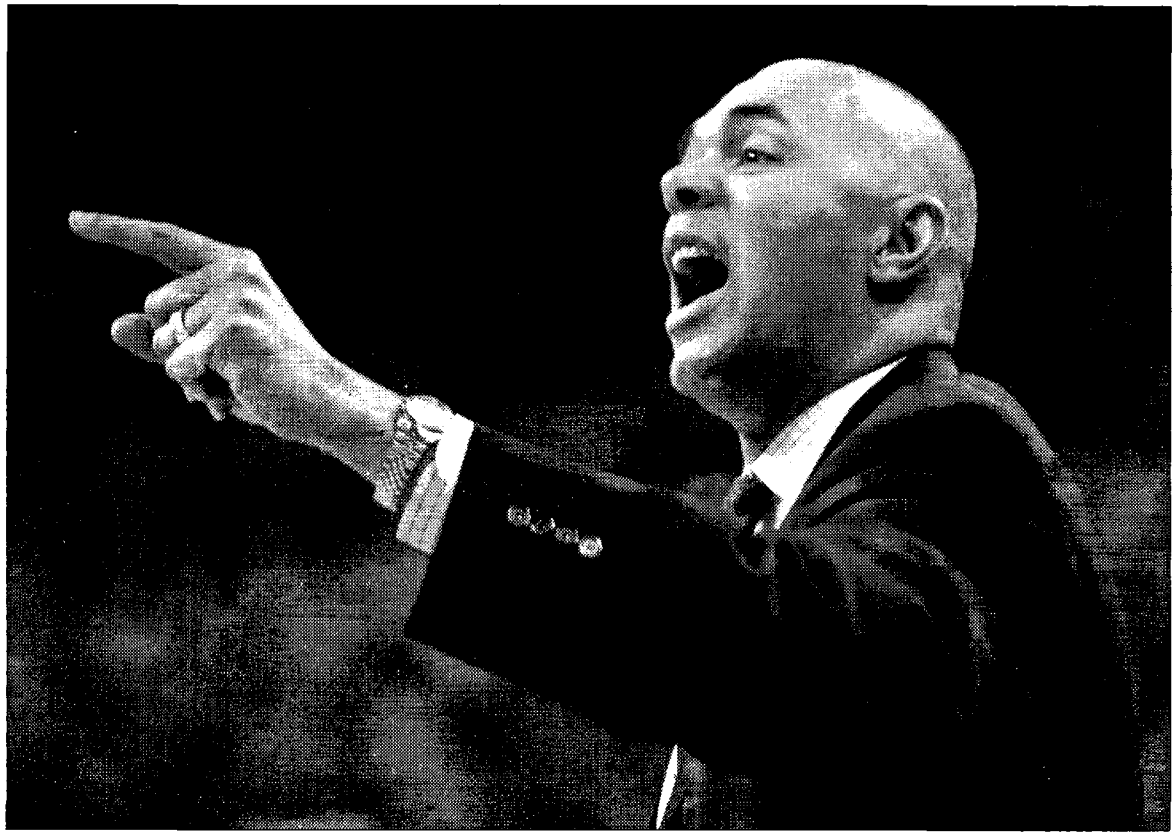
"Today the key was just playing hard and playing defense more than anything," said Diane, who had managed just 10 points total in his last three games. "The offense just came."

Coach Dave Leitao said he shied away from the revenge angle in talking to his team and anyone else that would listen this week, but "obviously it lived in their mindset, it lived in their spirit and they brought in a very workmanlike atmosphere today," he said.

Zabian Dowdell led the Hokies with 17 points, while Deron Washington and A.D. Vassallo, who each had 22 in Blacksburg, finished with 9 and 3, respectively. The Hokies shot 36 percent.

Virginia Tech got as close as 59-52 with 4:25 to play, but Diane hit an 18-footer and Singletary added two free throws with 3:51 to play, rebuilding the Cavaliers comfortable zone.

The Hokies had scored seven straight early in the second



Virginia coach Dave Leitao directs his troops in the Cavaliers' 69-56 victory over Virginia Tech Thursday. Virginia moved into first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference with the win.

half to close to within 43-38, but Singletary scored on a drive and Diane hit the first of his two 3-pointers in a span of 55 seconds. The second helped offset four quick points by the Hokies, and when Singletary followed it with his own 3-pointer and two free throws, Virginia led 56-42 with 11 minutes remaining.

The Hokies got no closer than seven thereafter.

Greenberg bristled when it

was suggested the contributions from Diane and others were a surprise, even though Singletary and Reynolds are always the focus of other teams on defense.

"Those guys are ACC players. You guys want to trash them all the time like it's a two-headed monster. It's not a two-headed monster. Those other guys contribute and put them in position to win game. We wanted to guard those guys; we didn't do a good job. That's just the way it is."

Virginia led 36-28 after a first half that was essentially three runs.

The Cavaliers led 19-8 after hitting four 3-pointers in the first seven minutes, then made only 2 of their next 13 shots. Dowdell scored six in a 13-0 run that gave the Hokies a 21-19 lead with 6:48 left. Virginia then got it back together and used a 16-3 burst to regain control.

Drake 101, Evansville 96

Klayton Korver hit a 3-pointer with 47 seconds left in overtime to lead Drake past Evansville in the opening round of the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament on Thursday.

Ninth-seeded Drake (17-14) advances to face top-seeded Southern Illinois (25-5) in a quarterfinal-round game Friday at noon.

The Bulldogs set a tournament record by making 15 3-pointers. Wichita State held the previous mark of 14 set on March 3, 2003. Drake sank 15-of-27 from beyond the arc.

The combined 197 points were the most scored in MVC Tournament play since the tournament moved to St. Louis in 1991.

Freshman Josh Young led Drake with 23 points.

Matt Webster paced eighth-seeded Evansville (14-17) with a game-high 29 points.

Drake hit nine of its first 10 three-pointers on the way to a 51-47 lead at half. Evansville rallied from an eight-point second-half deficit and had a chance to win the game in reg-

ulation. But Webster, a 73.5 percent free-throw shooter, missed two foul shots with 5 seconds left in the second half and the game tied 88-88.

The Bulldogs scored the first four points of the extra period and never trailed. Korver, who finished with 18 points, also sank two foul shots with 9 seconds left to put Drake up 101-96.

Six different Drake players hit 3-pointers and five players scored in double figures. Nick Grant had 16 points, Al Stewart had 15 points and Ajay Calvin added 14 for the Bulldogs.

Jason Holsinger scored 26 points for Evansville.

The Bulldogs built an 80-72 lead with 6:45 left on a 3-pointer by Stewart. But Evansville charged back to take an 88-86 lead on a basket by Shy Ely with 1:20 to go. Grant tied the game for Drake on a slam dunk with 37 seconds left.

Drake, in the middle of its first winning season since the 1986-87 team went 17-14, lost twice to Southern Illinois, 59-54 and 72-62, during the regular season.

Toledo 71, Ball State 61

Justin Ingram scored 20 points to lead hot-shooting Toledo to a win over Ball State Thursday night.

The Rockets (17-11, 13-2 Mid-American Conference) shot 22-for-40 — 55 percent — from the floor, but only 62 percent on free throws, hitting 18 of 28 attempts.

Anthony Newell's jumper pulled the Cardinals (9-20, 5-10) to 48-45 with 11:33 to play, but Ingram responded with two 3-pointers to start a 13-2 run that gave the Rockets a 61-47 lead with 6:03 to play. Ball State got no closer than eight points the rest of the way.

Skip Mills had 21 points for Ball State and Newell added 17 points and 10 rebounds. Kashif Payne and Florentino Valencia each scored 12 points for Toledo and Keonta Howell had 10.

Is God Calling You?

Come Explore the

Congregation of Holy Cross .

Priests and Brothers

With an evening of prayer and conversation
with Holy Cross religious and other discerning men

**Blessed Brother Andre, C.S.C.
Dinners**

5:30-7:30pm

Begins at Log Chapel, Dinner to Follow

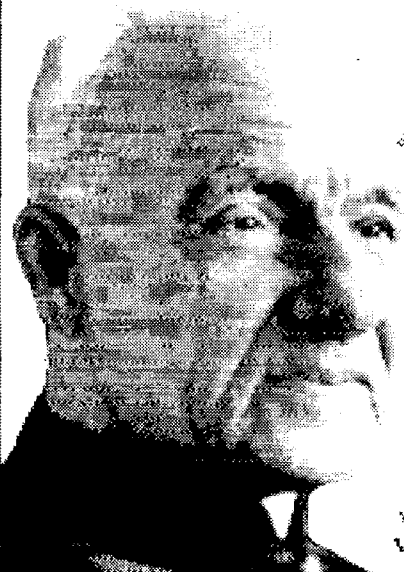
**Friday
March 2nd**

with Fr. Mark Porman, CSC
and Don. Pete McCormick, CSC

Presenting Our
Discerning a
Vocation

?

(574) 631-6385
vocation@nd.edu
vocation.nd.edu



Make a Difference Summer Camp 2007

One summer of your time can change the life of an underprivileged child. Christian Appalachian Project is recruiting people to volunteer at their eastern Kentucky summer camps as:

**Camp counselors • Medical personnel
Lifeguards • Arts & crafts instructors**

**For more information, or to volunteer, contact us
at volunteer@chrisapp.org or 1-800-755-5322.***

Orientation begins May 29 and camps run through July 27.
Must be 18 years of age or older. No prior volunteer experience required.



**Christian Appalachian Project
Volunteer Program**

4192 North Wilderness Road • Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

www.christianapp.org

*application process required

Amateur Boxing

Benefit for the TommyZ9 Foundation, Hannah and Friends, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and Cystic Fibrosis.

All proceeds go to these organizations.

10 BOUTS

Tommy

**TUESDAY
March 6**

7:30 P.M.

SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

Doors open at 6:30

For Ticket Info Call

574-532-0206

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish take on two top-25 opponents

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

No. 2 Notre Dame will face two more top-25 teams this weekend as the Irish take on No. 23 Texas A&M and No. 19 Texas at the Eck Tennis Center.

Notre Dame (10-1) enters the weekend riding a five-match winning streak and has a chance to extend its 25-match home winning streak today against the Aggies. Texas A&M (10-1) rolls into South Bend playing its best tennis in recent memory.

The Aggies broke into the top-25 for the first time in two years this week and carry an eight-match winning streak into today's match. Last season, the Irish barely nipped Texas A&M, 4-3, in College Station, Texas.

"They're a group that competes really well," Notre Dame coach Jay Louderback said. "They have a feisty team. It'll be a tough match."

Louderback said he expects to see some familiar faces from last year's close game.

"They have mostly everyone back from last year, plus they have a freshman [No. 35 Elze Potgieter] that's playing in their top three," he said. "They're a little better than they were last year."

The Aggies also feature No. 65 senior Anna Lubinsky and senior Sarah Foster, who owns a 10-1 dual match record to lead Texas

A&M.

The Longhorns will try their luck against the Irish Saturday. Last week, Texas dropped two tight matches against No. 9 Miami (4-3) and No. 3 Florida (5-2).

"They're a talented team," Louderback said. "They have very good doubles teams, too. I think winning doubles is going to be really important."

Since Notre Dame lost the doubles point against No. 4 North Carolina two weeks ago, Louderback shifted the emphasis in practice from singles to doubles work.

"We've been working on the kids doing a little more poaching, crossing, and being a little more aggressive than we have been the past couple of weeks," he said.

No. 5 Christian and Catrina Thompson lead the Irish on the doubles side, while No. 16 Catrina Thompson and freshman Cosmina Ciobanu lead the Irish in singles. Ciobanu will try to keep her perfect 11-0 dual match record alive. Sophomore Kelcy Tefft, who is 7-1 in dual match play, has won her last six matches.

"I've been really happy," Louderback said. "We've played great singles all year long. I think we'll keep it up because we've been competing really well."

Contact Chris Hine at
chine@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

ND looks to bounce back in Jacksonville

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Defending Big East champion Notre Dame will look to return to its winning form in Florida this weekend, playing five games in the Jacksonville Tournament after a tough start to the season.

The Irish (4-6) will begin the tournament today with a matchup against Virginia. The Cavaliers have a 7-9 record after going 2-4 in the Palm Springs Classic last weekend. Notre Dame has never lost to Virginia in four all-time meetings.

On Saturday the Irish will face off against host Jacksonville (3-12) in a doubleheader. The Dolphins enter the tournament with losses in 10 of their last 11 games.

Notre Dame will end the tournament Sunday with a doubleheader against No. 13 Michigan. The Wolverines (14-1) have put together a 12-game winning streak, the last of those wins giving coach Carol Hutchins her 1,000th career victory.

The Irish will have to find a way to hit Michigan pitchers Lorilyn Wilson and Nikki Nemitz. Wilson enters the tournament with an 8-1 record and 0.70 ERA, and Nemitz is 6-0 this season with a 1.51 ERA.

The Irish played in the Palm Beach Classic last weekend,

going 2-3. The team played two very competitive games early, but lost 7-3 to No. 9 Oklahoma and 7-5 to No. 19 California. The loss to California was Notre Dame's fourth in a row to the Golden Bears.

Against UNLV, the Irish rallied with two outs in the seventh to tie the game on a single from Linda Kohan. Junior Katie Laing singled home Carissa Jaquish in extra innings to give Notre Dame a much needed 4-3 win.

In the next game against Cal-State Fullerton, the Irish fell 2-0 despite a complete game four-hitter by senior Kenya Fuemmeler. Titans' pitcher Candice Baker threw a three-hit shutout for the win.

The Irish wrapped up the tournament with a 3-1 win over Ole Miss. Kohan had another stellar performance in the game, hitting a two-RBI single in the fifth for the decisive runs.

Senior Stephanie Brown has led the Irish offensively this season, hitting .455 and leading the Big East in hits. The captain went 11-for-18 with five runs scored and three stolen bases in the Palm Springs tournament.

The other Irish standout so far has been sophomore pitcher Brittney Bargar. Bargar picked up the win in both Notre Dame wins in Palm Springs.

Contact Michael Bryan at
mbryan@nd.edu

Recycle The Observer.

TRACK AND FIELD

Squad looks to qualify for NCAAs at Loftus

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

After delivering one of the top performances in the country during the Big East conference meets, the Irish still have work left to do this season as they head into the Alex Wilson Invitational today at the Loftus Center.

The tournament, which begins tonight at 5 and resumes Saturday at 10 a.m., will feature some of the best competition in the country.

"You have to be approved by the NCAA, so there's only about four or five meets worth their salt," Irish coach Joe Piane said. "It's going to be a fantastic meet and we have people coming in from across the globe."

Piane said the ultimate goal of the Alex Wilson Invitational is to qualify as many people as possible in the NCAA Championship in Fayetteville, Ark., March 9 and 10. In order to qualify for the NCAA Tournament, a competitor must be in the top-15 finishers in his event.

"But just to get someone to the NCAAs is amazing," Piane said. "You're in the top one percent of your event in the country."

After the Big East tournament Notre Dame has six athletes qualified for the NCAA Tournament — all of whom run in distance events. Currently, Notre Dame has two qualifiers in the men's mile, one in the men's half-mile, one in the men's 5,000-meter and two in the women's

5,000.

But even with six runners qualified, Piane wants more.

"The purpose of this meet is a last chance opportunity to get people qualified for the NCAAs," Piane said. "So we're not running a lot of people. We're running people we feel that they have an opportunity."

Notre Dame will be running more distance runners on the men's side, including junior Adam Currie in the 800-meter and sophomore Patrick Smyth in the 3,000-meter. The Irish men will also run a distance medley, a race done in four parts with a 1,200-meter portion followed by 400 meters, 800 meters, and then 1,600 meters.

Senior sprinters Maryann Erigha and Okechi Ogbuokiri highlight the women's side. Sophomore Molly Huddle and senior Amy Kohlmeier will also run this weekend in the 5,000-meter race.

Despite the emphasis on the distance events for Notre Dame this season, Piane still feels that his team is well balanced between distance, sprints and field events.

"We've historically had pretty good distance — anywhere from the 800 on upward — for decades, and we'll continue," Piane said. "But it's not as if we're just a distance school. We have Maryann and Okechi running, and some very good quarter-milers and we have a chance at the mile relay."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at
jfitzpa5@nd.edu

FENCING

After finishing second in 2006, Irish want win

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Even though Notre Dame isn't in a fencing conference, the Irish will host the prestigious Midwest Fencing Conference Championships Saturday and Sunday.

The annual event is a team and individual competition, with the varsity fencers competing in five-touch bouts in the team competition and preliminary rounds of the individual action, and 15-touch bouts as they approach the finals.

Though there is no Midwest Conference, the event is open to varsity teams, club teams and top private schools and fencers in the region.

"It's prestigious and it's a little bit different because it's open not only to collegiate fencers," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "This is tougher, a little bit, because we are competing against those who we have never met."

For the varsity teams, there will be a nine-bout title match in each weapon for

each gender. In 2006, Ohio State took first in every category except women's foil, which Northwestern won.

Notre Dame finished second in all six disciplines.

On the individual side, then-freshman Emilie Prot captured the women's foil title, while current senior sabreists Valerie Providenza and Patrick Ghattas and junior epeeist Greg Howard took second in their events.

Prot's victory was just the sixth Irish championship at the annual event for a freshman.

A new face is hoping to earn Notre Dame its seventh victory for newcomers at the event.

Irish freshman epeeist Kelley Hurley brings her 51-4 record and extremely competitive nature into the competition.

"I really, really don't want to lose a bout," Hurley said. "And I don't want any of my teammates to lose a bout."

The action starts at 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

Contact Ken Fowler at
kfowler1@nd.edu

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS

Ahens=MUSIQUE

none adit fructu su in in tempore suo. nunc. Augustus me
 in pectore in re admirabile. O. Agnes in is munda in
 it et ut autodidit in in omnibus vixit in
 in in manu peccata bnt et

GRIGORIAN CHANT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

SCHOLA MUSICORUM

8:30 & 9:30 P.M.
 WEDNESDAY MARCH 7, 2007
 REYNOLDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
 14535 STATE ROAD 23, GRANGER, IN 46030

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
 DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

DEBARTOLO

HIGHER COSTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION?

Notre Dame Federal Credit Union offers many options to assist you with the financing of your educational goals.

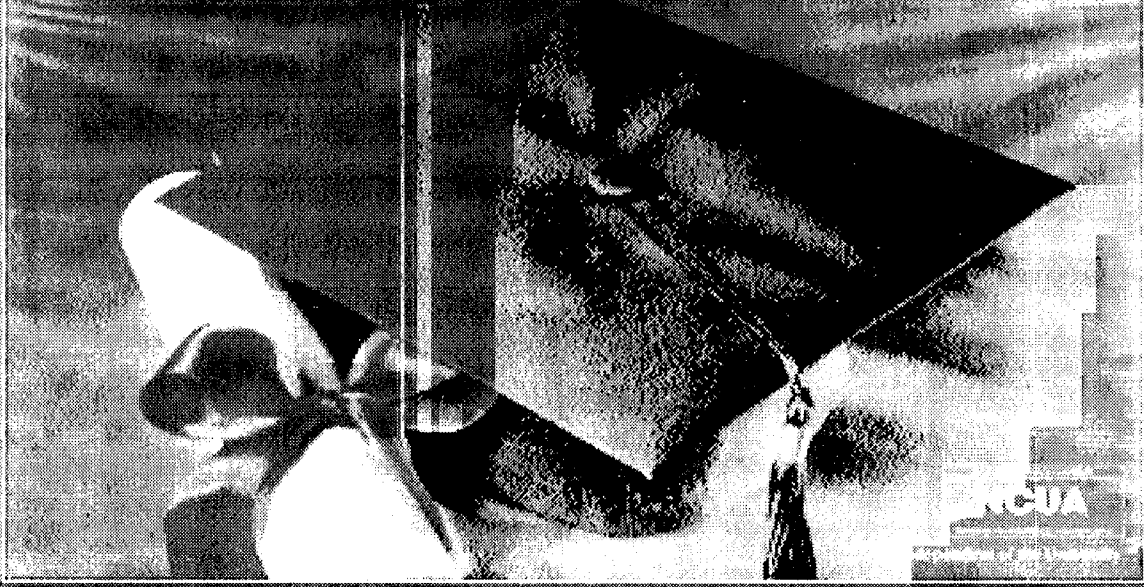
We offer Federal Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Loans, and Federal Consolidation Loans. Plus, we offer discounts for automatic payment, as well as for good payment history on all of our student loan products!

Contact us today, and find out how we can help!

Join us for a College Planning Open House!
 Tuesday, March 6, 2007
 Granger Branch
 14535 State Road 23

NOTRE DAME
 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

574-631-8222 • 800-522-6611
 www.ndfcu.org • studentloans@ndfcu.org



Recycle The Observer.



Coffee at the Como

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Tuesday, March 6
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

The Core Council invites gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the Notre Dame family, their friends, and supporters to an informal gathering at the Co-Mo.

Everyone is welcome and confidentiality is assured.



The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

Denny Moore Award For Excellence in Journalism

Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.

Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff, or fellow students.

For a nomination form, please visit our website at:

<http://osa.nd.edu>

Nominations are due by Friday, March 2, 2007.

Recycle The Observer

Top Ten

continued from page 20

and a 16-6 victory over Colgate. The Irish dropped the last two matches to the Big Red by an 11-10 tally in 2005 and a 9-6 score last season.

Irish junior goaltender Joey Kemp is particularly excited about his third time playing the Big Red.

"It has been close the last couple of years," Kemp said. "[Cornell] is a really good team. They are good all over the field — they have a great offense, defense and goalie. This year we hope to finally close the gap and come out on top."

Cornell attack David Mitchell is one of the returning senior stars that Notre Dame needs to guard well when he is trying to score.

"He is a great crease guy and finisher," Kemp said of Mitchell. "He is one guy that is hard to stop, but our defense is doing well. We have played well altogether the last couple games."

Along with Mitchell, the Big Red also return three other

All-America honorees from last season — goaltender Matt McMonagle, midfielder Max Seibald and defenseman Mitch Belisle.

The Big Red scoring this year has been led by two players who have an impressive 11 points each after two games. Cornell's Eric Pittard has netted seven goals to go along with four assists while John Glynn has six goals and a team-high five assists.

Notre Dame senior midfielder Lucius Polk said the Irish wasted no time in preparing for their opponent.

"We watched film [of Cornell] on the bus ride back from the Penn State game," Polk said. "A lot of top teams that were above Cornell lost last week, so that will place [the Big Red] at a higher ranking."

Senior attack Brian Hubschmann and junior midfielder Michael Podgajny lead Notre Dame with five goals apiece. Freshman attack Will Yeatman leads the Irish in assists; he has three feeds to compliment his three goals for

Contact Pat O'Brien at pobrien2@nd.edu

Wildcats

continued from page 20

Northwestern senior Kristen Kjellman, last year's Tewaaron Trophy winner as the best player in women's lacrosse, notched a game-high six goals. Sophomore Hilary Bowen also added three goals and three assists in the win.

The Irish were led by sophomore Jillian Byers, who netted three goals. Irish junior Caitlin McKinney and senior Lena Zentgraf also contributed two goals each.

The Wildcats out-shot the Irish 21-11 in the first half, 34-21 for the game.

"When we play a team like Northwestern you have to bring it for sixty minutes," Coyne said. "Especially defensively, we weren't ready to go, and we didn't have twelve people bringing

it for sixty minutes."

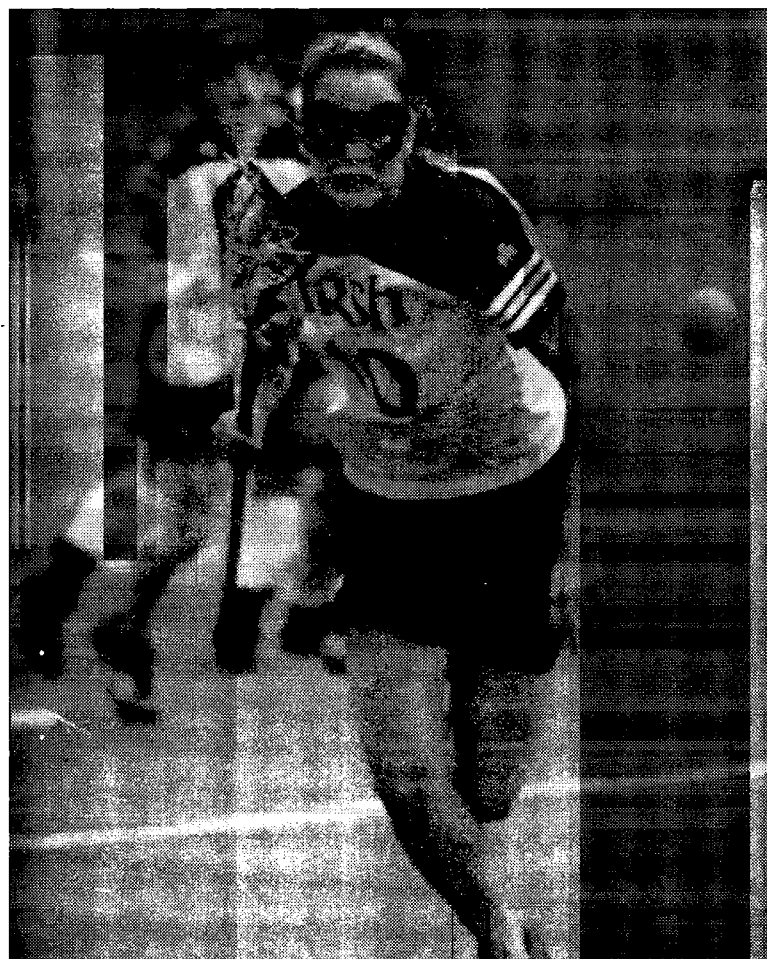
The Irish will look to rebound Sunday with a match on the road against No. 16 Cornell (1-1). The Big Red will be looking for revenge from last year's NCAA Tournament, when Notre Dame eliminated the team in the first round with a 16-8 thumping.

Cornell started its season with a tough 11-10 overtime loss to Rutgers, and quickly recovered with a 19-7 win over Colgate.

"We just have to go into the Cornell game putting this loss behind us," Coyne said. "We know they're coming off a loss as well and looking to beat a highly ranked team."

The Irish will look to stop Cornell junior Courtney Farrell, an All-Ivy League player who led the Big Red in points last year with 52.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu



Irish midfielder Alicia Billings charges forward during Notre Dame's 18-10 loss to Northwestern on Thursday.

JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Rutgers

continued from page 20

Saturday's outcome, the game represents their final shot at a big victory.

"Their fans always support them whether they're up or down," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "I'm surprised that their record is their record given their personnel. They can guard you — they've just had trouble scoring."

"This is their Big East tournament, NCAA Tournament all in one. It's a [nationally televised] game, senior day. We're certainly going to get a great effort out of them."

Brey said he will not shield his players from the score of the Syracuse game, which begins two hours before Notre Dame's.

"I think I'd let them know. They're going to announce it probably at the arena anyway,"

he said. "But for us, it's going to be: Continue to play well and show some Big East tournament habits before it starts."

Rutgers dropped its last three games to St. John's, Connecticut and Villanova. The Irish own a four-game winning streak and have held their opponents to 67.3 points per game during the stretch.

"We've changed up and played a little bit of man, little bit of zone. We've been really good in our half-court man-to-man, especially at keeping people out the lane the last couple of games and I think that's important against Rutgers," Brey said. "They are a driving, slashing, get to the offensive board team. They're not the best shooting team. So if we can make them take jump shots over us that would be good."

Offensively, Notre Dame is clicking on all cylinders. The Irish shot a combined 58 percent from three-point range in

their wins over Cincinnati (Feb. 18) and DePaul (Feb. 20), respectively, while freshman big man Luke Harangody netted 22 points against Marquette last Saturday.

"Certainly always want to involve Luke Harangody and get him low-post touches, that's good for us," Brey said. "We want to run and just have that attack frame of mind we've had the last four games."

Despite its recent performances, Notre Dame still wears the albatross of a 2-5 road conference record.

"You can't sleep on them. ... We're going to treat them like they're the No. 1 team in the conference. It's a road game. We're going to go at them hard. It's a big game for them, so it's going to be tough," Irish guard Tory Jackson said. "They call [the Louis Brown Rutgers Athletic Center] 'The RAC.' A lot of upperclassmen talk about it being a tough place to play."



CHRISTIAN SAGARDIA/The Observer

Irish forward Zach Hillesland drives around Marquette forward Dwight Burke during Notre Dame's 85-73 win Feb. 24.

Forward J.R. Inman leads Rutgers with 12.1 points and 7.3 rebounds per game. Guard Marquis Webb (10 points per game) is the only other Scarlet Knight averaging double figures.

Tip-off is scheduled for 4. ESPN will televise the game.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Offense

continued from page 20

guys start doing it, it'll spread to everyone."

One of the reasons for Notre Dame's problems this year is the schedule. All of the teams the Irish have faced so far are from warm climates, which means they've had more outdoor practice and, in some cases, many more games.

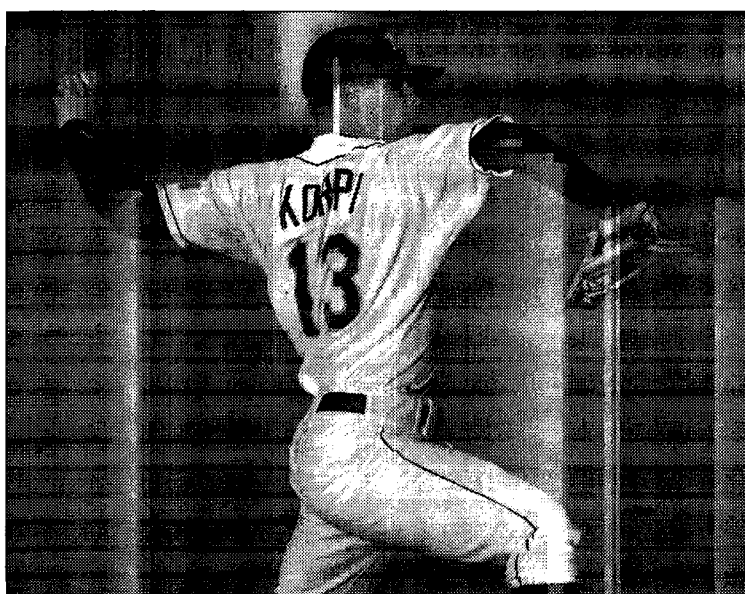
That won't be the case this weekend as Notre Dame takes on Iowa and Nebraska, two northern schools facing similar limitations on their outdoor practice time.

The Cornhuskers, who face Notre Dame Saturday, are 5-2 this season. They are led by shortstop Thad Weber, who is hitting .389 this year.

The Hawkeyes, who the Irish play Sunday, are 1-1 after splitting a pair of games with Arkansas-Pine Bluff to open their season last Friday and Saturday. Iowa was led by shortstop Jason White, who went 3-for-6 at the plate and scored two runs in the series.

But before the Irish can play their northern brethren, they have a final tough southern game to play today — against Stetson, the host of this weekend's round-robin.

The Hatters are 9-3, including two wins over former Notre Dame



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish left-hander Wade Korpi delivers to the plate during Notre Dame's 2-1 win over Purdue on April 25, 2006.

coach Paul Mainieri and LSU. Despite Stetson's success this year, Schrage said if the Irish can put the ball in play, they should be able to score some runs.

"Stetson is not a good fielding team," he said. "They kick the ball around a little bit."

Even if this isn't the weekend his squad gets its season on track, Schrage is still confident it will start playing well before the Big East season begins after spring break.

"Once we start playing midweek

games along with the Friday, Saturday, Sunday games, we'll get in a little bit of a groove," he said.

Notre Dame will head to Florida over the break for seven games in seven days, and then move into a five-games-a-week routine for the rest of the season. The Irish open their conference slate March 23 against South Florida at Eck Stadium.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Diving

continued from page 20

pate in the NCAA Championships.

Much of the credit for the recent success of Bulfin, Stoner and the entire diving program is due to Caiming Xie. After last month's Big East championship, Xie, who coaches both the men and women, was named the Men's Big East diving coach of the year for the second consecutive season.

"He's a phenomenal diving coach, and he is one of the best in the country — if not the best," Irish women's coach Carrie Nixon said. "The thing he does best is to take a diver with good fundamentals and turn them into a great diver."

On the women's side, there will be nine NCAA spots available — the top three finishers in the one-meter diving, the top four in the three-meter diving and the top two in platform diving. Nixon said Notre Dame will send junior Tara Hyer and freshmen Natalie Stitt and Tiffany Robak to attempt to obtain one of the nine NCAA bids.

Both Hyer and Stitt are coming off of all-Big East performances at the conference championships. Hyer finished third in the three-meter diving with 247.80 points, and Stitt also picked up a third-place finish with 246.50 points in one-meter diving. Robak just missed achieving All-Big East status as she placed fourth and seventh, respectively, in three and one-meter diving.

Of the three Irish divers, only Hyer enters this weekend's meet with any prior experience. In 2006, Hyer was the only Notre Dame diver to compete in the Zone C diving meet, failing to qualify for the NCAA Championships in any event.

"Zone C is a very strong zone," Nixon said. "The Big Ten teams are very talented, and the upper-tier divers are phenomenal. Still, if our divers do their best and have a magical moment, they have a shot at making it."

The number of NCAA spots up for grabs is based upon Zone C divers' performances at the 2006 NCAA Championships.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

Recycle
The
Observer.

IRISH ATHLETICS

TRACK

ALEX WILSON INVITATIONAL
FRI, MARCH 2ND @ 5:00PM
SAT, MARCH 3RD @ 10:00AM

#2 WOMEN'S TENNIS

FRIDAY, MARCH 2ND @ 3:00PM
VS. TEXAS A&M
SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD @ 10:00AM
VS. TEXAS

FENCING

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD & 4TH - STARTS @ 8:00AM
MIDWEST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

#8 MEN'S TENNIS

MONDAY, MARCH 5TH @ 4:00PM
VS. WASHINGTON

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL ND, SMC, AND HCC STUDENTS

CROISSANTWORLD

ADAM FAIRHOLM



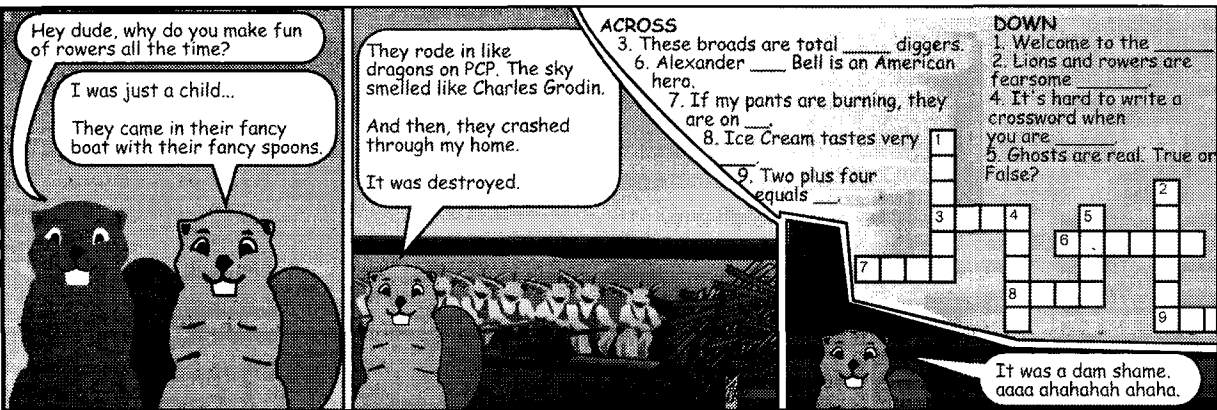
BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



KALEIDOSCOPE McDANIELS

LIAM MORAN



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**

1 Plot device in some science fiction

9 Expedient

15 Saint born in Newark, N.J.

16 Modern site of an ancient Egyptian capital

17 Fictional character who says "I have measured out my life with coffee spoons"

19 _____ Nuevo

20 Cardio choice

21 _____ Lacs, Minn.

22 Discoveries in Al Hirschfeld drawings

24 Off the market

26 Whammy

27 Rack holder

28 Merry
- 30 Spawn

31 It's a free country

33 Descend, in mountaineering

35 Movie buff: Var.

38 1993 Peace co-Nobelist

39 Night sticks?

40 Western party

41 Computer key

42 Homer's home

44 One of the Bush brothers

48 Word with legal or lower

50 Home of the Hmong

51 Part of a French toast

52 Pan

54 Thomas of the N.B.A.

56 Flagstaff-to-Tucson dir.

57 Early Jesuit
- DOWN**

1 Music style that often includes an accordion

2 "Terrible" czar

3 Longtime TV role for Danson

4 Generator output: Abbr.

5 Partner of all

6 Specialty

7 Weathers

8 National car care chain

9 _____ particle

10 Switch letters

11 Trinidadian, e.g.

12 The Barsetshire novels novelist

13 Doing very well moneywise

14 Sure thing

18 Popular caramel candy

23 Dealers' requests

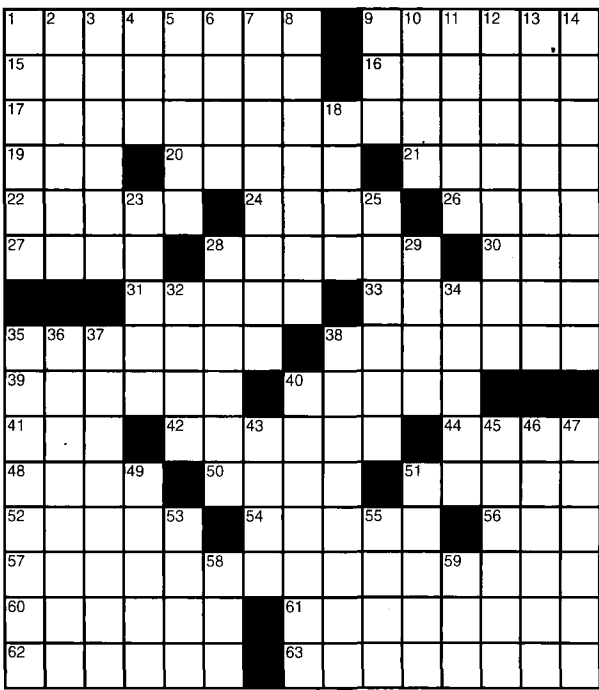
25 Browbeating

28 George of old vaudeville

29 "Mame" director of stage and screen

32 Biblical verb

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



Puzzle by Karen M. Tracey

- 34 Joint assemblies

35 Busts a gut

36 First opera to premiere at London's Savoy Theatre, 1882

37 Rather close

38 Parent's stern order
- 40 Like some consonant stops

43 Flock member

45 Store, in a way

46 Word of emphasis

47 Eye libidiously

49 Some lampshade shades
- 51 Abbas I, II and III

53 Wife of Shiva, in Hinduism

55 Toll unit

58 "The Puzzle Palace" org.

59 One of the Ewings on "Dallas"

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$34.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

KNACS

GAUVE

RYSLIG

PHARIS

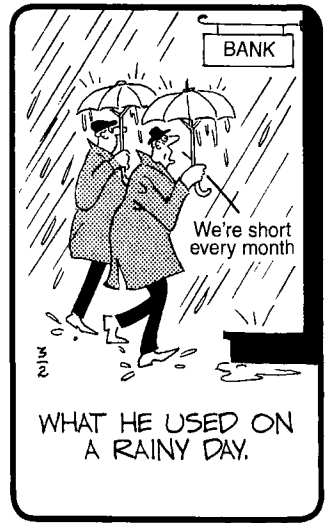
Answer: _____

Yesterdays

Jumbles: PANIC SLANT GEYSER WIZARD

Answer: At the end of the day, the plumber's new helper said the work was — "DRAINING"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jensen Ackles, 29; Nik Kershaw, 49; Ron Howard, 53; Harry Belafonte, 80

Happy Birthday: Avoid exaggeration in all aspects of your life. This is a year to stick to the facts and take on what you know you are capable of doing. It's not a risk-taking year but you can certainly get ahead if you are cautious. Your numbers are 2, 17, 20, 23, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Travel or be prepared to make a move if it will benefit you financially, professionally or personally. Romance is on the rise so make your current relationship better, connect with someone from your past or meet someone new. 5 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't trust what others tell you. Find out for yourself and follow what you feel is best for you. Children or elders in your family may lead you down the wrong path. Consider your own interests first. 2 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make some new rules or alterations at home that will make your life easier and bring greater comfort. A real estate deal is looking good. An idea you once had can be put into play now. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may feel restricted by the people you have to deal with today. Do your own research if you aren't getting enough information from others. An older relative will shed some light on a dilemma. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be in a passionate, creative mood, so whether you spend your time romancing someone or working on a project you thoroughly enjoy, the outcome should be to your liking. Don't let someone less enthusiastic burst your bubble. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone may be keeping a secret from you that could affect your future. Don't take time off or slow down when there is so much on the line. The more you can do to secure your position or to simplify your life, the better. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Just when you think you know what you want, you will be tempted by what someone else has or does. So, go for it. Put on a smile and forge into new territory. Your charm will be all it takes. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone will stand in your way or you will take a route that will lead to delays. Resign yourself to the fact you can only do so much. Keep things simple and, at the end of the day, you will have achieved what you set out to do. 2 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be tempted to take off for an adventure. You will feel trapped if you aren't allowed to do as you please. Don't exaggerate a situation or your capabilities. A romantic evening should be scheduled in. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may want to restructure some of your relationships. It may be time to turn the tables and stop doing for those who aren't capable of giving back in return. You have to make changes in order to move ahead. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's time to tidy up. Anything that is no longer of any use should be thrown out or given away. You need to make room for more knowledge, possessions and friends if you want to grow and prosper. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your energy where it counts. Work and money should be your prime target. This is a great day to go for an interview, apply for a job or talk to your boss about a raise or a project you want to pursue. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are passionate about whatever you do and a humanitarian, delving into what will help the world around you. You are aggressive, intuitive and an ideas person.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

THE OBSERVER

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

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please go to www.ndsmcobserver.com/subscriptions and sign up to receive The Observer in your home.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Playing for a day off

Irish seek to end road troubles, secure first-round bye in Big East

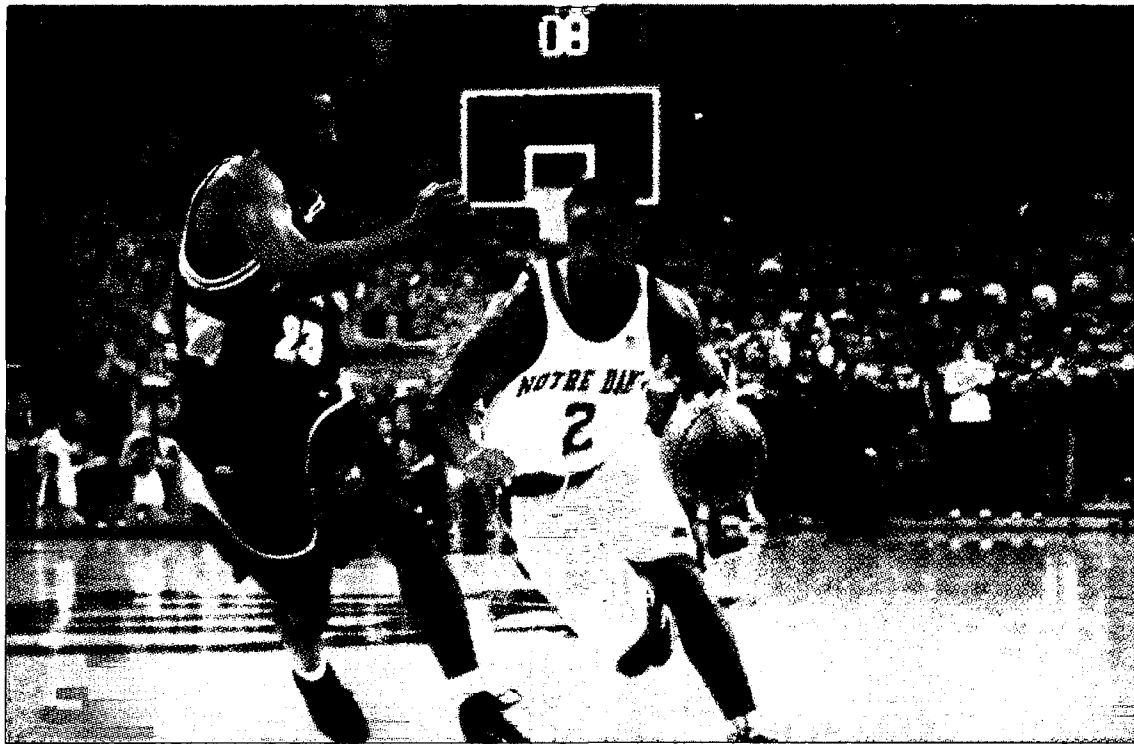
By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

No. 17/21 Notre Dame can clinch a bye in the first round of the Big East tournament with a win in its final regular season game at Rutgers Saturday.

The Irish (22-6, 10-5 Big East) own the tiebreaker over Syracuse (21-8, 10-5) thanks to their 103-91 victory over the Orange Jan. 30. A Notre Dame win or a Syracuse loss to Villanova Saturday ensures the Irish a Thursday tip-off at Madison Square Garden.

For the Scarlet Knights (10-18, 3-12), who will miss the 12-team cutoff for the Big East tournament regardless of

see RUTGERS/page 18



Irish guard Tory Jackson drives around Providence guard Brian McKenzie during Notre Dame's 81-78 win on Feb. 15. The Irish will look for their fifth consecutive win Saturday at Rutgers.

CHRISTIAN SAGARDIA/The Observer

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Offensive onslaught downs ND

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Northwestern proved why it is the top-ranked team in the nation Thursday, defeating No. 5 Notre Dame 18-10 at the Loftus Center.

The two-time defending national champion Wildcats (2-1) struck early and often, taking a 12-4 lead into the half. The Irish (2-1) were unable to slow down Northwestern's offensive attack, especially fast-break opportunities.

"Northwestern has a lot of speed in transition," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "They have a lot of offensive threats, and those people capitalized on our defense."

Notre Dame looked to be gaining momentum late in the second half, scoring three straight goals to decrease the Wildcat lead to 15-9. But Northwestern put together two long possessions that ended in goals that crushed any hope of a comeback.

Offensively, the Irish were hounded by a fast and determined Wildcat defense. Notre Dame established many opportunities on offense, but it seemed every time the Irish scored and were gaining momentum, the Wildcats responded with quick goals. Northwestern goalie Abby Bangser had several key saves, preventing any hope for an Irish run.

see WILDCATS/page 17

ND SWIMMING

NCAA Championship slots at stake for ND

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

With the NCAA spots for swimming events already filled, Notre Dame will send both its men and women divers to Ann Arbor this weekend to compete in the Zone C Diving Championships with a chance to qualify for the national meet.

The Zone C meet will span

the course of the weekend with the one-meter competition on Friday, the three-meter on Saturday and platform diving on Sunday.

On the men's side, 41 divers will compete for seven available NCAA slots — the top three finishers in the one-meter diving, the top three finishers in the three-meter diving, and the first-place finisher in platform diving. If a single diver occupies more than one of

these spots, then the next-place finisher will qualify for the NCAA Championships.

Vying for one of the seven available slots will be sophomore Michael Bulfin, junior Sam Stoner and junior Steven Crowe.

In 2006, both Bulfin and Stoner competed in the Zone C diving meet with successful results. Stoner finished 10th in the one-meter diving, while Bulfin

placed ninth and fourth in the one and three-meter diving, respectively.

Bulfin's fourth-place finish in the three-meter dive qualified him for the NCAA Championships. At the championships, Bulfin finished 18th and 27th in the three and one-meter diving, respectively, and he became only the third member of the Irish program to partici-

see DIVING/page 18

BASEBALL

Irish return to Florida for Stetson Invitational

Schrage and Co. look to improve struggling offense this weekend

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

After starting 2-4 against a slate of purely southern opponents, Notre Dame will face two northern schools, Nebraska and Iowa, as well as the hosts in the Stetson Invitational this weekend in Deland, Fla.

The Irish have struggled out of the gate this season, winning just one game in each of the previous two weekends. Notre Dame has scored just 24 runs in six games this season, with 15 of those coming in the season opener against

Texas State.

"We're going through some growing pains, but we're trying to keep the guys positive," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "We're just going to keep teaching and trying not to let them get discouraged."

Notre Dame is hitting just .228 as a team this season and has stranded 48 runners on base. One of the few bright spots this season at the plate has been pitcher/first baseman Mike Dury. Dury is hitting .364 so far this season and is yet to allow a run in three innings on the mound.

But Schrage said he feels that success like Dury's will get the Irish back on track as the season progresses.

"I've always believed hitting is contagious," he said. "Once a few

see OFFENSE/page 18

MEN'S LACROSSE

Top-10 teams to clash in NY

Cornell and its 35-10 goal differential await Notre Dame

By PAT O'BRIEN
Sports Writer

No. 8 Notre Dame takes on its toughest challenge of the year when it travels to Hewlett, N.Y., to play powerhouse No. 4 Cornell Saturday.

The Irish (2-0) are fresh off of an 11-8 victory against Penn State and look to start 3-0 for the first time since 2003. Cornell (2-0) dominated its first two matches of the year with a 19-4 win over Binghamton



JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Irish attack Will Yeatman sprints up the field during Notre Dame's 9-7 win over Loyola (Md.) Feb. 17.

see TOP TEN/page 17