THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 41 : ISSUE 106 | MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2007 | NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Fans supportive despite hockey loss

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

From Legends to the Stepan Center to Grand Rapids, Mich., hundreds of Irish fans returned home Saturday evening discouraged by the Notre Dame hockey team's 2-1 loss to Michigan State in the Midwest regional championships — but were supportive nonetheless.

Two busloads of about 150 students headed out to Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids for the game, along with many students and fans who drove up independently. The entire hockey band and Juan Muldoon, the Leprechaun, also attended to help get the crowds riled up.

The game started off fairly slow for the Irish, who didn't score a goal until the third period of the game. But freshman Tom Porrazzo, who played the baritone in the hockey band, said he thought the hockey team literally "played two games on Friday night."

"We really should have had an easier game versus University of Alabama-Huntsville, so that we had energy for Saturday's game," he said.

see HOCKEY/page 6

LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Members of the Irish hockey team raise their sticks at center ice for the last time this season after Saturday's loss to Michigan State.

SMC goes virtual for career fair

New event connects students, employers

By KATIE KOHLER
Saint Mary's Editor

Starting today and continuing through April 5, the Center for Career Opportunities at Saint Mary's will host the first-annual electronic career fair entitled "Opportunity Knocks 2007."

The fair is powered by MonsterTRAK, a resource for college students seeking their first job. It will feature entry-level, full-time professional and summer internship positions, according to Jeff Roberts, director of the Center for Career Opportunities.

"We are trying to make finding a job as easy and convenient for students to respect their busy schedules," he said. "We understand that being a full-time student is hard enough, so we are doing something contemporary to facilitate that process."

Over the next two weeks, more employers will have the opportunity to join the fair, and Roberts said he is hoping to have 50 to 60 organizations in virtual attendance by the time it ends.

"What you don't see today, may be in the fair tomorrow," he said. "We are waiting for more to come aboard."

"Opportunity Knocks" is an entirely Web-based event exclusively for students. It will cost employers $200 to participate, but offers unlimited postings throughout the fair — a rate

see CAREERS/page 4

College alumna braves front lines in Iraq

Photo courtesy of Jessica Millanes

First Lieutenant communications officer Jessica Millanes, a Saint Mary's alumna, stands in front of an Iraqi landscape during her tour of duty there.

Class of 2004 graduate felt call to serve her country, landed in desert war zone

By KELLY MEEHAN
Senior Staff Writer

When Saint Mary's alumna Jessica Millanes graduated in 2004, she landed an office with a view.

A view of the Iraqi desert, that is.

Millanes bypassed the entry-level job standard for most new graduates and was posted as a first lieutenant communications officer of the first Marine Logistics Group.

Like her grandfather who served in Korea, Millanes said she felt a strong draw to "do something" to serve her country, especially after the Sept. 11 attacks.

A Marines display in the Noble Family Dining Hall caught her eye during her freshman year, and she said she immediately felt a call to serve. Just a few years later, she found herself in the heart of conflict.

As a Data Platoon Commander, Millanes served on the front lines in Iraq, in charge of all data-related aspects of her base and the surrounding environment — responsibilities that spanned from helping a user log onto a computer to obtaining data from satellites.

"I was in charge of an extremely proficient and loyal group of Marines — they made my job easy," she said.

There were certainly challenges, however.

see MARINE/page 3

Group hosts Spring Fling for local kids

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

The Silver Wings Club of Notre Dame helped underprivileged children from the South Bend community celebrate the beginning of spring with its annual "Spring Fling" event at Stepan Center Saturday.

The club provided fun and games for more than one hundred children from the Logan Center's "Super Sibs" program, the Robinson Center, St. Margaret's House and the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

"We just wanted to be able to give these kids who really deserve it a fun day to celebrate," event coordinator Brittany Shelton said. "It was really fun to put it on and spend the day with them."

Sophomore Annalise Loehr, who was in charge of entertainment and public relations for the event, said Silver Wings' Spring Fling included a variety of activities, including an Easter egg hunt, arts and crafts, cookie decorating and several inflatables. Silver Wings provided lunch for the young participants, who ranged in age from 2 to 14, and Notre Dame's Pom Squad also performed.

"Just to see [the kids] running around having a great time was really exciting," Shelton said.

Shelton said approximately 30 Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students helped organ-

see SPRING/page 6

Runners raise funds for Katrina

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

On Sunday morning, more than 350 racers showed up prepared run the distance — 13.1 miles, to be exact —to raise money for victims of Hurricane Katrina in this year's Holy Half Marathon.

The race drew between 360 and 375 participants in its third year — an increase from last year's race that had "just over 300" runners, marathon director Kathleen Coverick said. The past two years have seen a significant swell in the number of participants from the first Holy Half held in 2005, which "had probably 80 people" and made a little over $2000, Coverick said.

Coverick attributed the rise in participation to both talk among interested students and the distinctiveness of the race as a half marathon.

"It just definitely spread through word of mouth," she said. "It's just a pretty unique race in that it's the only half

see HOLY HALF/page 4

JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Brendan Kiley, right, and Adam Hansman run past South Dining Hall during the Holy Half Marathon Sunday.

INSIDE COLUMN

Longing for Raftery

Chris Hine
Sports Editor

Essentially, Ohio State's 92-76 victory over Memphis Saturday was complete. Memphis delayed the inevitable by fouling throughout the final two minutes, but I did not move away from the television or change the channel as I usually do when a game is not close to the end. Why did I do this? Because of Bill Raftery.

For the first time ever, I actually wanted to watch a game because of who was announcing it, more than I wanted to watch it because of who was playing. You will never agree with everything commentators say during a game (though with Raftery I often do), so what you look for most in announcers is to bring you the excitement of being there. It enhances the drama of the game and gives you a better viewing experience if the announcers get into the game as much as you do.

Most importantly, you want someone who conveys the element of fun when you are watching. Sports are supposed to be fun. Bill Raftery (and Dick Vitale) match all of the above criteria, Billy Packer (who will be commentating during the entire Final Four) does not. Packer has done every Final Four game on television for the past 32 years and every one I've heard him do, it sounds as though he would rather be somewhere else. In a cruel twist of fate, Raftery and Vitale, who would be excited to announce my brother's fifth-grade league games, have never done one on television.

So when I kept the end of the Ohio State game on Saturday, I treasured the final minutes I had to listen to Raftery until next winter. "Send it in," "Onions" and "With the kiss," will all have to wait for another year. I mean, the guy gets excited when somebody properly boxes out or sets a perfect off the ball screen. How can you not love that in an announcer?

As for Vitale, as much as some people think he is annoying, you have to respect his love for college basketball. Vitale's inspired lunacy exemplifies everything that is good about college sports and you cannot help but become enthralled in the action when he loses control on air after someone dunks or hits a big shot.

Some snobbish and arrogant writers feel Vitale, who is a finalist to enter the Basketball Hall of Fame, should not make the final cut because he rarely has anything negative to say. So what if he only wants to focus on the good in the sport? Since when is this a bad thing? These people need to find more important things to worry about and need to re-evaluate their moral compass when they criticize a man because he does not want to criticize players who are not making millions of dollars. This is sports, not life or death. Vitale has been good for the game of basketball all his life and has promoted the game through his personality, celebrity and work.

But alas, Billy Packer, who adds no sense of excitement whatsoever to anything he covers, will once again announce the final three games of the college hoops season. Just once, I would love CBS to get Vitale away from ESPN, and throw him with Raftery and Gus Johnson (who goes as nuts as Vitale does when doing the play-by-play of a game) for the Final Four.

You would get top-notch analysis, first-class entertainment, and a lot of fun. Oh yeah, and the games might be good too.

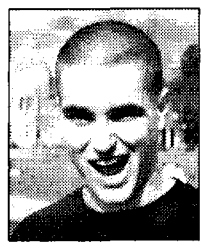
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: *WHERE ARE YOU GOING?*

Adam Frisch
senior
St. Ed's
"Lauren."



Bruce Hill
junior
Fisher
"Far."

Greg Bassett
senior
Morrissey
"Iraq."

Jamie Blanke
senior
Keough
"Tipperary. Because it's the long way."

Jim Pearl
freshman
Carroll
"Your Mom's house."

KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

The Saint Mary's cheerleading squad performs during "Midnight Madness" at the Angela Athletic Facility Friday night. In its eighth year, Midnight Madness featured four hours of games, food and prizes.

OFFBEAT

Mouse absconds with Maine man's dentures

WATERVILLE, Maine — Never underestimate a mouse's determination. There's a mouse in Bill Exner's house that he says he has captured three times. Each time, the mouse escaped, and the last time the rodent made off with his lower dentures.

Exner, 68, said he and his wife Shirley scoured his bedroom after the dentures disappeared from his night stand.

"We moved the bed, moved the dressers and the night stand and tore the closet apart," he said. "I said, 'I knew that little stinker stole my teeth' — I just knew it."

They found a small opening in a wall where they suspected the mouse was coming and going, and their daughter's fiance, Eric Holt, stepped in to help.

They retrieved the dentures, and Holt suggested his future father-in-law boil them in peroxide and whatever else he could find for to disinfect it.

Sununu named N.H. town's hog wrangler

HAMPTON FALLS, N.H. — Former White House Chief of Staff John H. Sununu has a new title — hog wrangler.

Sununu and his wife, Nancy, recently were named to the honorary post of Hampton Falls' hog reeve, complete with a swearing-in ceremony and a badge. The post, which dates back to the 1700s, means the couple are responsible for rounding up any loose pigs in town.

The title is usually given to an unsuspecting newcomer each year.

He was New Hampshire governor for three terms in the 1980s and chief of staff to President George H.W. Bush from 1989 to 1991, and now he's taking his new job in stride.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

As part of the **Labor History Film Series**, the film **"Farmingville"** will be shown **today** at **4:30 p.m.** in the **Hesburgh Center Auditorium**, followed by a **lecture** from **Karen Richman, director of Border and InterAmerican Affairs.**

Dr. Johnson Nkuuhe, country coordinator for the Millennium Villages Project in Uganda, and **Dr. David Siriri**, science coordinator for Millennium Villages Project in Uganda, will speak **tonight** at **7 p.m.** about **"The Millennium Villages Project: Grassroots Development?"** The event will be held in the **Coleman-Morse Center Student Lounge.**

As part of Notre Dame's commemoration of the **27th-anniversary of Archbishop Oscar Romero's assassination**, there will be a panel discussion **Tuesday** at **12:30 p.m.** in **Hesburgh Center C-103** about **"Human Rights in El Salvador Today."** The panel features **Victoria Marina de Aviles**, Supreme Court Justice, El Salvador; **Neris Gonzales**, a Salvadoran Catholic Church worker; **Douglass Cassel**, director of Notre Dame's Center for Civil and Human Rights; and **John D. French**, associate professor of history at Duke University and visiting fellow at the Kellogg Institute.

There will be a **Ghana Reggae Coffee House Tuesday night** from **8 to 9 p.m.** in the **Center for Social Concerns Coffee House.** The event features **Don Savoie** from the department of music and students **Francis Insaidoo** and **Theo Ossei-Anto.**

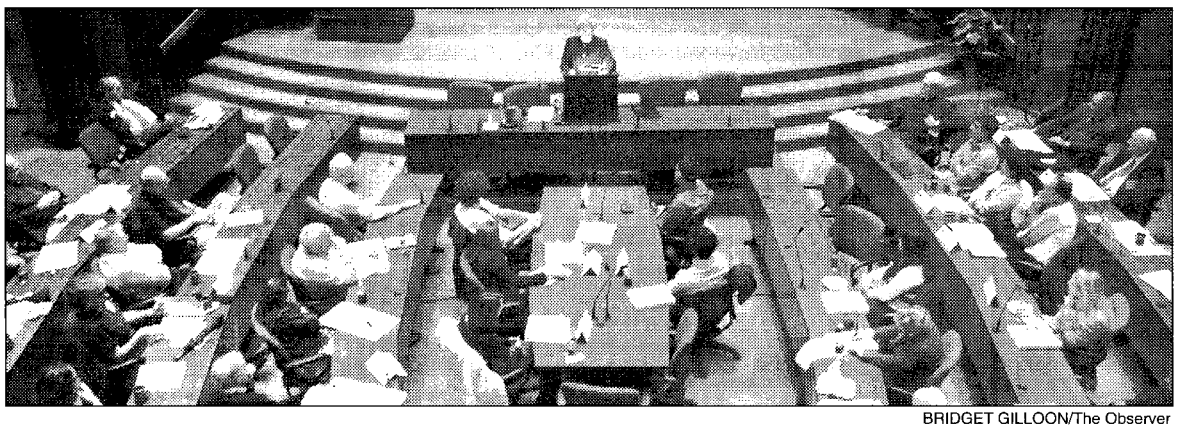
To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HIGH 75	HIGH 65	HIGH 57	HIGH 60	HIGH 63	HIGH 67
LOW 53	LOW 53	LOW 45	LOW 38	LOW 42	LOW 50

Atlanta 81 / 57 **Boston** 52 / 42 **Chicago** 77 / 56 **Denver** 67 / 47 **Houston** 78 / 64 **Los Angeles** 64 / 52 **Minneapolis** 76 / 52
New York 50 / 47 **Philadelphia** 56 / 52 **Phoenix** 84 / 61 **Seattle** 56 / 40 **St. Louis** 78 / 59 **Tampa** 86 / 64 **Washington** 64 / 58

Professor examines abortion ethics



BRIDGET GILLOON/The Observer

Margaret Hogan, center, speaks about the medical ethics of abortion Friday in the McKenna Hall Auditorium as part of the J. Philip Clarke Family Lecture in Medical Ethics series.

By AMANDA GONZALES
News Writer

Margaret Hogan, a McNerney-Hanson professor of ethics at the University of Portland, took on the hot-button issue of elective abortion during her lecture Friday on "Bioethics Ethics and Its Gordian Knot."

Hogan, who called abortion a "bloody battle that has taken many lives and left many scars," said it is a subject on which "everyone has taken a stance, but no decision has been made."

Hogan said she considers elective abortion the "Gordian knot" of medical ethics. The idea of a "Gordian knot" stems from Gordius, ancient king of Phrygia, who tied a knot that was to be undone only by the person who was to rule Asia. That knot was cut, rather than untied, by Alexander the Great.

Hogan said four ideas have "tied" the Gordian knot around the practice of abortion, including a particular philosophy, a particular legal theory, the split of feminism and the form of ignorance that she said pervades American society.

Hogan said she believes by changing the ways in which our society views abortion — primarily by working to change these four ideas — the Gordian knot can be untied.

Hogan also spoke about the ideals of motherhood, and how the relationship of a woman to her unborn child is a human union, both physically and morally. Because it is such a union, "the task of the woman is for her to speak for the unborn and its rights," Hogan said.

She said humans are dependent creatures — not only on God but also on each other — and it is our duty to help those that are helpless, including unborn children.

Hogan said Catholics are not doing enough to stop the practice of abortion.

"Catholic intellectuals have sat on the side," she said, stressing the need for greater participation in this heated controversy. Catholics must be willing to take a risk in today's society and can make a change, even though they are small in number, she said.

Hogan was the 18th lecturer to speak at the 22nd-annual J. Philip Clarke Family Lecture in Medical Ethics series and is also a fellow of Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture.

The Philip Clarke Family Lecture, hosted by the Center for Ethics and Culture as well as the Notre Dame Alumni Association's Alumni Continuing Education Office, brings 100 practicing physicians and health care workers from around the country to Notre Dame to speak about the issues currently facing the medical community.

Contact Amanda Gonzales at agonzal8@nd.edu

Marine

continued from page 1

Millanes said being away from loved ones was the most difficult aspect of the seven months she spent in Iraq.

She said the perks of her job with the Communications Company, including constant access to a telephone and computer, eased the strains on her relationships.

"I was able to e-mail every day and phone home whenever I wanted," she said. "We were on opposite time zones so I often had to wake up early to catch my boyfriend as he was going to sleep — a small price to pay to stay connected. "

"I'd rather see the job in Iraq be complete and not have all of our hard work go to waste because we pulled out too soon."

Jessica Millanes
Marine, SMC alumna

Millanes spent three summers during college training to become a Marines officer, and an additional year of school in Virginia before her final phase of training in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"I had spent a decent amount of time preparing for Iraq, and I was excited to go," she said. "After all, it was the reason I joined."

And while controversy surrounds the conflict in Iraq, Millanes said she strongly supports President Bush's war-related decisions.

"Marines are the ones feeling the effects of the president's decisions," she said. "I'd rather see the job in Iraq be complete and not have all of our hard work go to waste because we pulled out too soon."

Millanes said predicting an end date to U.S. involvement in Iraq is not reasonable.

"The situation in Iraq seems to be ever changing and fluid," she said. "I'm not sure a set-end date is a responsible thing to do."

She said she wishes that those who yearn to see an end to the war could see the good things many young Marines do each day.

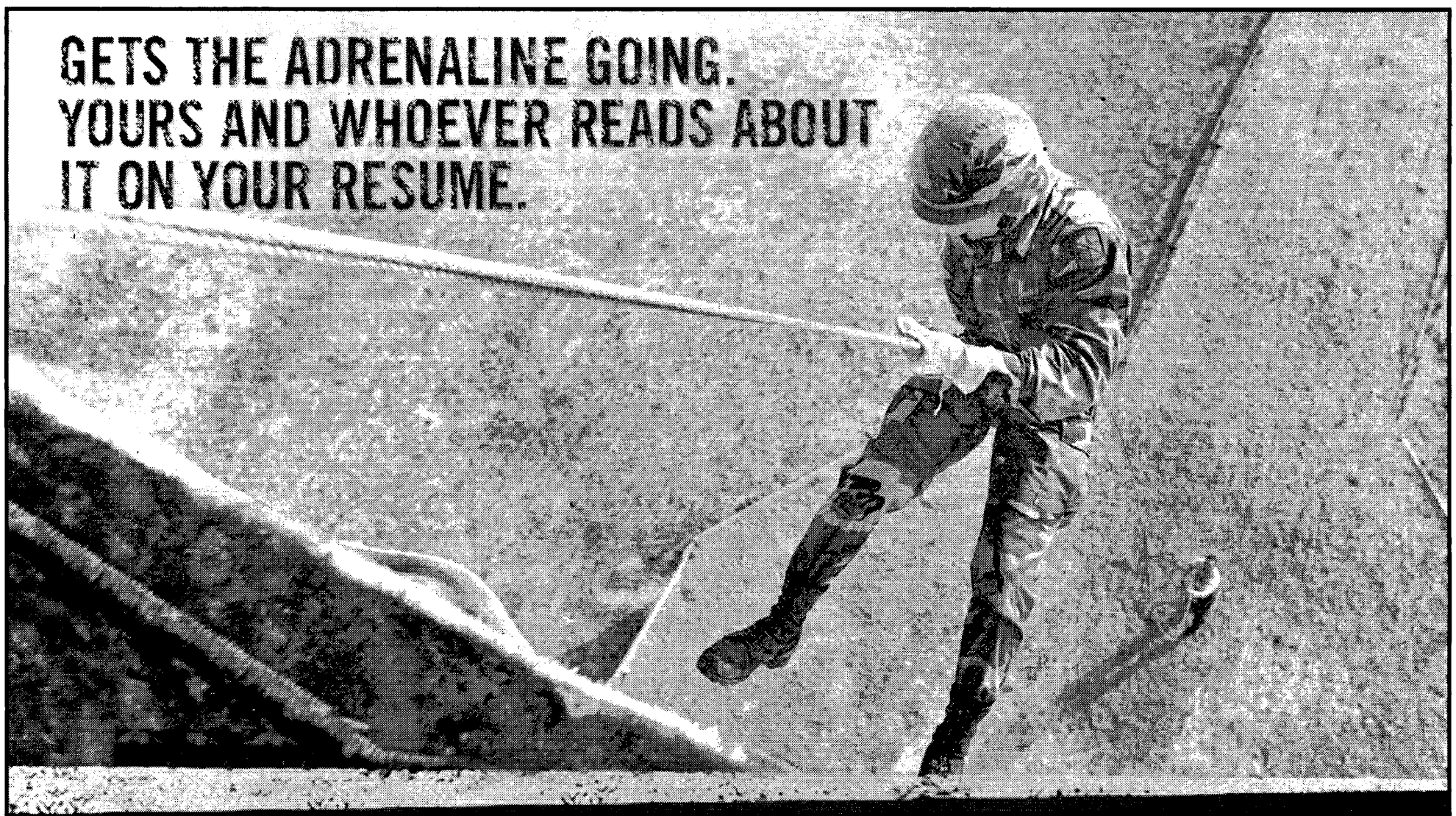
"Young men and women are making difficult decisions and taking responsibility for them," she said. "Whenever there are stories on the news of young people in America doing drugs or committing crimes, I wish they could meet my Marines — young men and women who decided they wanted more out of life and show up every day to put in an honest days work with diligence."

Millanes recently ended her tour in Iraq and said she looks forward to readjusting to the Southern California lifestyle.

The foundation of her experience in Iraq, she said, was the strong sense of self she developed while at Saint Mary's.

"Saint Mary's gave me a solid foundation for being a strong woman that can thrive in any situation," she said. "I will always be grateful for that."

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeeha01@saintmarys.edu



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Holy Half

continued from page 1

marathon [on campus]. There are 5Ks and 10Ks more often, and I think that kind of helped with the big turn out."

Participation was not affected by students who pre-registered for the race online but did not show up for the race, due to large number of people who signed up on the day of the race. Coverick said the nearly 100 walk-ups showed up Sunday morning.

Law student Dan McGrath finished first with a time of 1:11.03. While he said he was happy to have done so well, he enjoyed the whole experience of the run.

"It was fun to get the win, but I didn't really take too much out of it," he said. "It was a campus run, it was a charity thing. It was fun."

McGrath has been training to run in the Boston Marathon in three weeks. He said he does a specific workout each week, along with a progressively longer run. McGrath said the Holy Half was just like another workout to him.

"This was what I was going to do this weekend anyway," he said.

McGrath said there were people all over campus cheering for the runners.

"I was really impressed with how many people showed up and how many people were out there cheering," he said.

The race raised around $6,000 — about the same as last year — to be donated to Operation Helping Hands, according to Coverick. She said Helping Hands is the project of Catholic Charities in New Orleans that helps victims of Hurricane Katrina.

"I've done service with them before and a lot of Notre Dame students, when they do service in New Orleans, that's the organization they work through," Coverick said.

Funds from last year's race were also donated to Helping Hands.

Runners could load up on carbohydrates at a dinner catered by Olive Garden on Saturday night, which raised $250 of the $6000, Coverick said. Senior Alli DeJong spoke during the dinner about the situation in New Orleans, according to Coverick.

Runners paid a $15 dollar entrance fee that Coverick said will "go right to the charity," because campus organizations covered the costs of the race.

Sunday's warm weather might have proved to be an unexpected obstacle for runners, because many participants had become used to running in cold weather during the winter months, Coverick said.

Fortunately, 20 people from First Aid Services Team (FAST) were there to help runners.

"There were three major first aid incidents — all of which happened within ninety seconds of one another — but all are OK now," Coverick said via e-mail. "The [FAST] team member I spoke with attributed it to a mid-race heat wave. Most cases were ones of exhaustion rather than acute leg injuries, but I'm sure lots of people will be icing over the next few days."

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscol@nd.edu

Careers

continued from page 1

Roberts said is "far below that of internet and newspaper listings."

Students participating will be provided a link to register, allowing them to view the openings and submit a resume.

"Students spend an average of three to four hours on the internet a day," Roberts said. "We are hoping that when they're online, they jump around our site and utilize the programs."

The career fair is targeted at Saint Mary's students, but Notre Dame undergraduates are also invited to participate. While some positions are in higher demand than others, the Center for Career Opportunities is willing to make arrangements to ensure a strong turnout, according to Roberts.

"To fill postings in such 'high need' areas, such as special education teachers or nursing, we may also invite additional guests from select programs at area colleges and universities," Roberts said.

Alumnae are also invited to participate if they are interested in any of the jobs.

"As the fair is designed to feature internships and entry-level professional positions for current students, alumnae seeking this level of work are definitely invited as guests," Roberts said.

In the past, Saint Mary's has hosted an annual career fair in the fall called the "Showcase of Careers," which was suspended this year to prepare for this event.

"The 'Showcase of Careers' is undergoing an overhaul and should reappear on our programming schedule in the fall," Roberts said. "'Opportunity Knocks' is a new offering to build strong relationships with high quality employers."

This new program, however, was not intended to replace "Showcase of Careers."

"We are always trying to do things better," Roberts said. "Making it virtual will allow more employers to participate without having to make the trip."

Roberts said the Center for Career Opportunities is using this experience to "re-tune" the "Showcase for Careers" for next year.

They are also hoping student turnout will be higher due to the timing.

"Now that we are holding it in the spring, more people are looking into the job market for the summer," he said. "A different mix of students will be present, but the strongest group to participate will probably be liberal-arts sophomores and juniors looking for internships."

The advantages of the new career fair, Roberts said, is different for each participating group.

"From an employer's perspective, it is the lowest cost and most convenient may to meet high-quality candidates," he said. "From a student's perspective, they get direct access to nationwide opportunities with high quality organizations."

The College, Roberts said, may be benefiting the most.

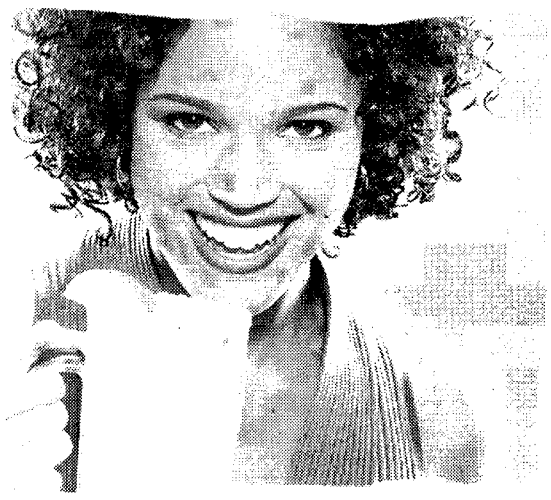
"Building effective personal-recruiting relationships with top organizations creates benefits in new student recruitment, fundraising, collaboration with the faculty and career programming," he said. "It is a positive step in moving Saint Mary's College toward the upper echelon in national liberal arts colleges."

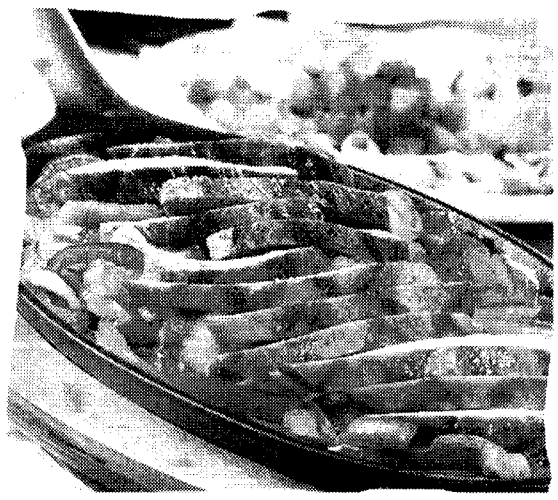
The Center for Career Opportunities will work with the participating organizations to arrange interview schedules to screen candidates either over the phone or in the campus offices.

"At this first shot, I would be ecstatic if 500 students participate. That would be overwhelming," Roberts said.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

Fajita 'Rita Mondays
If it's Monday You've got to do Chili's!





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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EU leaders call for Sudan sanctions

Britain and Germany called Sunday for tougher action against Sudan to end four years of bloodshed in Darfur, where the new U.N. humanitarian chief warned of a possible collapse in the massive effort to aid refugees from the violence.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair called the actions of Sudan's government "unacceptable" and German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the Darfur region's suffering "unbearable."

Experts say the few economic sanctions imposed on Sudan by the United States and European Union have done little, and U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon recently voiced his frustration at Sudan's government for refusing to let a 22,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force into Darfur.

Sudan has angered the West by repeatedly rejecting the U.N. peacekeepers. And prosecutors at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, linked Sudan's government to atrocities in Darfur, naming a junior minister as a war-crimes suspect.

Britain backs N. Ireland government

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Britain said Sunday it intends to try to hand power immediately to a new Catholic-Protestant administration for Northern Ireland — but is open to Protestant demands for an extension to May.

Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Hain said Saturday's decision by the major Protestant party, the Democratic Unionists, to reject his Monday deadline would not spell the end of Britain's decade-old effort to forge a stable power-sharing administration.

Hain noted that the Democratic Unionists have pledged for the first time to forge a coalition with Sinn Fein, the major Catholic-backed party, by an unspecified date in May. Britain would do what it could to make sure this happened, he said.

NATIONAL NEWS

Both parties criticize Gonzales

WASHINGTON — Republican support for Attorney General Alberto Gonzales eroded Sunday as three key senators sharply questioned his truthfulness and a Democrat joined the list of lawmakers who want him to resign over the firing of eight federal prosecutors.

"We have to have an attorney general who is candid and truthful. And if we find out he's not been candid and truthful, that's a very compelling reason for him not to stay on," said Sen. Arlen Specter, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which oversees the Justice Department.

Specter, R-Pa., said he would wait until Gonzales' scheduled April 17 testimony to the committee on the dismissals before deciding whether he could continue to support the attorney general. He called it a "make or break" appearance.

Teen killed at friend's memorial

WEST WARWICK, R.I. — A teenager was killed by a hit-and-run driver at the same spot where his 14-year-old friend had died in a car crash just hours earlier.

Andrew Coit, 18, was hit by a car after 4 a.m. Saturday as he played a guitar at a makeshift memorial to Darien Plass, 14, on West Warwick's Main Street. Plass died after driving his mother's minivan into a utility pole late Friday, friends of both teenagers told the Providence Journal.

LOCAL NEWS

Rugby coach accused of molestation

ELKHART, Ind. — A high school girls rugby coach faces a preliminary charge of felony sexual misconduct with a minor, accused of having an inappropriate relationship with a 15-year-old girl.

Steven Collins, 25, of Elkhart, was arrested Wednesday and was being held Friday in the Elkhart County Jail on $100,000 bond, jail records showed.

Formal charges were expected to be filed Monday, said Bill Wargo, chief investigator with the Elkhart County prosecutor's office. An initial court hearing was scheduled for March 29.

ENGLAND

Iran still holding 15 U.K. marines

Blair calls capture of sailors a 'serious, fundamental issue' for British government

Associated Press

LONDON — British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Sunday that 15 British sailors and marines captured by Iran as they searched for smugglers off the Iraqi coast had been outside Iranian waters, and warned that Britain viewed their situation as "very serious."

The group was seized at gunpoint on Friday, and the Foreign Office in London said British officials do not know where Iran is holding them.

Speaking at an EU summit in Berlin, Blair said Iran's claim that the sailors had crossed into Iranian territorial waters "is simply not true."

"I want to get (the situation) resolved in as easy and diplomatic a way as possible," Blair said, but added he hoped the Iranians "understood how fundamental an issue this is for the British government."

Britain said its diplomats met with Iranian officials in Tehran on Sunday, and their demand for access to the group was denied after Iran refused to say where they were being held.

"This is a very serious situation," Blair said.

In New York, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said British Foreign Minister Margaret Beckett had asked to speak with him directly, likely later Sunday.

"The Iranian authorities intercepted these sailors and marines in Iranian waters. and detained them in Iranian waters. This has happened in the past, as well," Mottaki said in Persian through a translator.

"The charge against them is illegal entrance into Iranian waters," Mottaki said. "In terms of legal issues, it's under investigation."

Mottaki declined to provide the exact coordinates of where the Britons were seized, saying this "very detailed information has been submitted to the representatives of the United Kingdom."

The British Defense Ministry declined to provide the information.

Britain and the United States have said the sailors and marines had just completed a search of a civilian vessel in the Iraqi part of the Shatt al-Arab waterway when they were intercepted by the Iranian navy.

Iranian state news agency IRNA said British Ambassador Geoffrey Adams had spoken in Tehran with Ibrahim Rahimpour, the foreign ministry official in charge of western Europe, and asked about the condition of the British sailors and marines.

He was told by Rahimpour that they were "well and sound" and that "legal proceedings" were under way in their case. No other details were provided.

According to IRNA's English-language Web site, Adams said during the meeting that the British service members had been deployed in Iraq to establish security, and had no hostile intention toward Iran.

"Tehran has always exercised self-restraint in the face of border violations by the British troops," Rahimpour was quoted as saying. But after the "contradictory statements" in the seizure of the British, the case "required an inquiry into such suspicious events."

Lord Triesman, a Foreign Office undersecretary who had held talks with Iran's ambassador on Saturday, told Sky News there was good evidence the men were in Iraqi waters, but that the issue of whether the sailors had strayed into Iranian waters was only a technical one.

"I've been very clear throughout that the British forces do not ever intentionally enter into Iranian waters," he said. "There's no reason for them to do so, we don't intend to do so and I think people should accept there's good faith in those assertions."

AP

British marines from 539th Assault Squadron Royal Marines conduct operations Sunday on waterways in the Basra region of southern Iraq as part of Operation Troy.

Lawmakers discuss impeachment

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With his go-it-alone approach on Iraq, President Bush is flouting Congress and the public, so angering lawmakers that some consider impeachment an option over his war policy, a senator from Bush's own party said Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Senate's No. 2 Republican leader harshly criticized House Democrats for setting an "artificial date" for withdrawing troops from Iraq and said he believes Republicans have enough votes to prevent passage of a similar bill in the Senate.

"We need to put that kind of decision in the hands of our commanders who are there on the ground with the men and women," said Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss. "For Congress to impose an artificial date of any kind is totally irresponsible."

GOP Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a frequent critic of the war, stopped short of calling for Bush's impeachment. But he made clear that some lawmakers viewed that as an option should Bush choose to push ahead despite public sentiment against the war.

"Any president who says, I don't care, or I will not respond to what the people of this country are saying about Iraq or anything else, or I don't care what the Congress does, I am going to proceed — if a president really believes that, then there are — what I was pointing out, there are ways to deal with that," said Hagel, who is considering a 2008 presidential run.

The White House had no immediate reaction Sunday to Hagel's comments.

The Senate planned to begin debate Monday on a war spending bill that would set a nonbinding goal of March 31, 2008, for the removal of combat troops.

That comes after the House narrowly passed a bill Friday that would pay for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan this year but would require that combat troops come home before September 2008.

Lawyer in Duke rape case dies

AP

Kirk Osborn, a lead defense attorney in the Duke lacrosse sexual assault case, died Sunday.

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Kirk Osborn, a lead defense attorney in the Duke lacrosse sexual assault case, died early Sunday, a fellow defense attorney in the case said. He was 64.

Osborn had a massive heart attack on Friday and died shortly before 1 a.m. Sunday, attorney Joe Cheshire said.

Osborn represented Reade Seligmann, one of three Duke lacrosse players charged in the case stemming from a dancer's allegation she was sexually assaulted at a team party. The players were originally indicted on charges of rape, sexual offense and kidnapping, but Durham District Attorney Mike Nifong dropped the rape charges in December after the accuser changed a key detail in her story.

All three have steadfastly maintained their innocence.

"We will never forget Kirk and his sacrifices for Reade and for justice," Seligmann's family said in a statement. "Kirk's fight for the truth and for justice in this case met the highest standards of ethics and professionalism and stand in stark contrast to those who condemned Reade.

He is an example of what a lawyer should be."

Actions by Osborn in the case included a motion with phone records and security camera images showing Seligmann would have been nearly a mile away from the Durham house at the time the woman said he was taking part in the attack.

Osborn also filed a motion to have Nifong removed from the case, arguing that Nifong went after the lacrosse players to win votes.

In January, Nifong asked the state attorney general's office to take over the investigation after the state bar charged Nifong with several ethics violations tied to his conduct in the lacrosse case. If convicted of the ethics violations, Nifong could be disbarred.

Hockey

continued from page 1

Porrazzo said he thought Notre Dame was at a disadvantage when they lined up against the Spartans on Saturday, especially since Michigan State had defeated Boston University 5-1 in the NCAA first round.

"MSU came off a huge advantage after beating BU, and they obviously had the momentum at the beginning of that game to beat us," he said.

Muldoon, however, said he was very pleased that the fans still showed incredible support for the team.

"The hockey band was incredible, helping everybody stay rowdy even after the [Spartans] had a two-point lead," he said. "I was scared that the crowd is going to go flat."

Still, Muldoon said both he and the hockey band were there to keep that from happening. "The greatest things are that we have an incredible coach and fan base," he said.

Senior Joe Dosch said the high turnout of fans kept the game intense.

"We were expecting to be outnumbered by the Michigan State fans, but when we got that first goal, we were so into the game that it didn't feel that way," he said.

And despite the fact the hockey team came so close to victory, the fact that they had made it that far was still exciting for students like freshman Jordan Carey.

"A 32-7-3 record isn't bad," Carey said. "Though I was disappointed, it's always good to see a Notre Dame team exceed expectations."

And, as Dosch pointed out, there's always next year.

"I've been following the hockey team since I was a freshman, and it's pretty exciting to see where the hockey team is going," he said. "And it definitely seems like the program is going in the right direction."

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

Spring

continued from page 1

ize the event, which involved two months of preparation and planning. Members of the Arnold Air Society and cadets from Air Force ROTC also volunteered during Saturday's festivities.

"We had a staff of six people and each of them was in charge of a different aspect of the event," Shelton said. The staff members were in charge of organizing food, transportation and the egg hunt, as well as contacting various community centers in South Bend.

"We just wanted to be able to give these kids who really deserve it a fun day to celebrate."

Brittany Shelton
Spring Fling organizer

Spring Fling staff also organized transportation for five of the seven groups attending the event through charter buses.

The group started contacting the children's groups one month prior to the event.

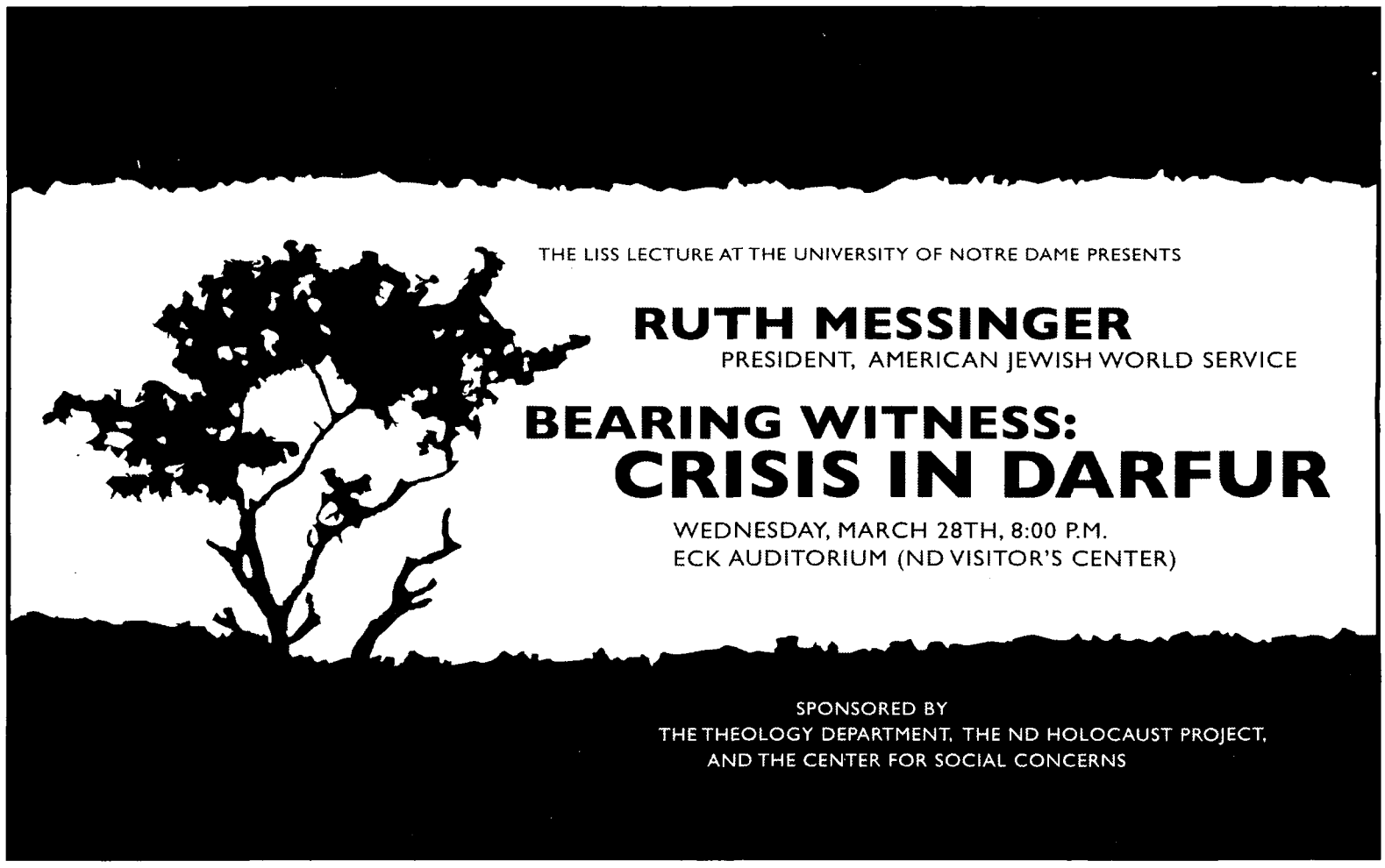
"Everyone on staff has put in a lot of hard work and time in preparation for the big day — it's really been a team effort," Shelton said. "We couldn't have done it without each person's contributions."

Silver Wings was able to use the money raised from its concession stand in the fall as well as an allotment from the Student Activities Organization (SAO) to fund the event.

"We received a collaboration fund from the Club Coordination Council for $500, which turned out to be crucial as we needed to rent a second bus in order to get all the kids to and from the event," Shelton said.

Silver Wings is a student group that serves as the civilian counterpart to the Arnold Air Society, which focuses its efforts on service in the community as well as personal and professional development for students.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu



MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones	**12,481.01**	+19.87

Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
1,843	155	1,362	2,625,093,983

AMEX	2,150.21	-5.80
NASDAQ	2,448.93	-2.81
NYSE	9,338.40	+24.58
S&P 500	1,436.11	+1.57
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,480.61	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	6,339.40	0.00

COMPANY	%CHANGE	$GAIN	PRICE
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	-1.35	-0.25	18.24
SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI)	+0.30	+0.01	3.35
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.88	-0.25	28.02
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	-0.32	-0.14	44.12
INTEL CP (INTC)	+0.57	+0.11	19.27
Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.52	+0.024	4.613
13-WEEK BILL	+0.10	+0.005	4.925
30-YEAR BOND	+0.36	+0.017	4.799
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.62	+0.028	4.510
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.)		+0.59	62.28
GOLD ($/Troy oz.)		-6.90	657.30
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)		-0.98	103.23
Exchange Rates			
YEN			118.0800
EURO			0.7538
POUND			0.5102
CANADIAN $			1.1612

IN BRIEF

Eli Lilly challenged on cancer drug

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Eli Lilly and Co. has fended off patent challenges from generic drug makers who want to copy star seller Zyprexa. But now rivals want a piece of No. 2 seller Gemzar.

The Indianapolis drug maker has filed three lawsuits against companies that want to make generic versions of Gemzar, an injectible chemotherapy that treats several forms of cancer and rang up $1.4 billion in sales last year.

The challengers say their versions of the Lilly drug will help lower health care costs. Lilly argues that its patent is legitimate, and it needs the billions of dollars from future drug sales to fund more research.

The company also has launched a patent defense for the osteoporosis drug Evista, which brought in $1 billion last year.

"I would say it's critically important that they maintain the intellectual property for (Gemzar) and for Evista," said Seamus Fernandez, an analyst who covers Lilly for Leerink Swann.

Lilly has a mixed record on patents so far. In December, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit upheld a 2005 ruling that backed the company's patent protecting the antipyschotic drug Zyprexa.

Stocks rise amid jump in home sales

NEW YORK — Stocks closed mostly higher Friday, sending the Dow Jones industrials' to their best week in four years after a surprise jump in home sales eased concern that frailty in the housing market will hurt economic growth.

Existing home sales rose by the biggest amount in nearly three years in February amid a sharp increase in sales in the Northeast, the National Association of Realtors said. The 3.9 percent increase was the largest since a similar jump in March 2004; analysts had been expecting a decrease.

Still, the report did have some downbeat aspects — the median price of a home fell year-over-year for the seventh straight month and inventories rose.

The Federal Reserve this week said an "adjustment" in the housing sector was continuing, offering some relief for investors left unnerved by the woes among so-called subprime mortgage lenders.

Labor unions plan for '08 election

Polls say unionized workers more than twice as likely to vote Democrat

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — After a taste of victory in the last national elections, union leaders are hungry for the chance to elect a pro-labor president.

"We're charged up, and anxious to lay the groundwork for the 2008 elections," said Karen Ackerman, political director of the AFL-CIO.

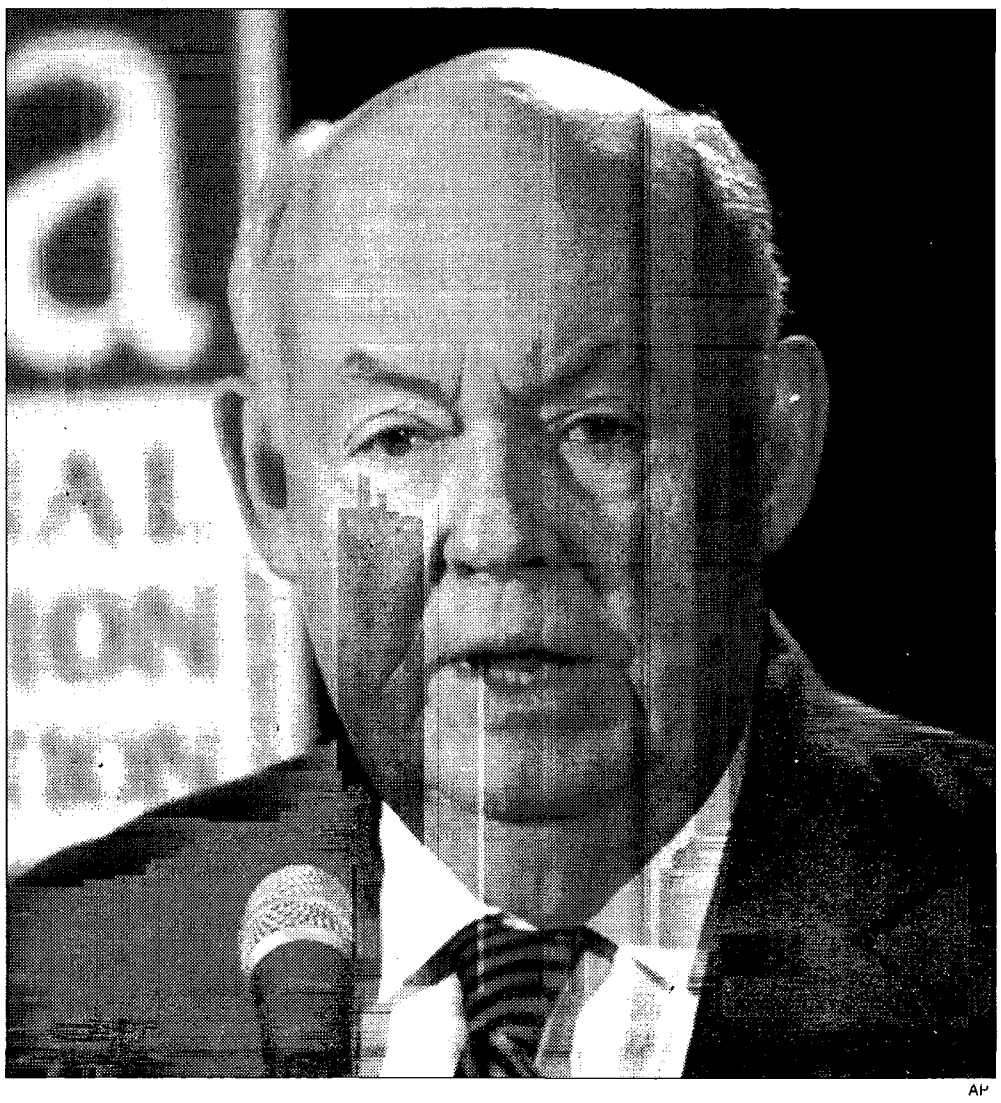
Leaders of the federation of unions huddled this month in Las Vegas to work on presidential race plans. They call for a myriad candidate and issues forums, culminating with a presidential candidate gathering in Chicago in August.

"The level of activity by union members early in the process will lay the groundwork for the greatest involvement by working people ever in electing the president of the United States," John Sweeney, AFL-CIO president, said at the meeting.

Organized labor spent some $100 million on get-out-the-vote efforts last year, and reached tens of millions of voters by phone calls, mail and door-to-door canvassing on behalf of labor-backed candidates. Labor political action committees contributed $59.5 million for federal candidates, up 11 percent from the previous election cycle and higher than any other industry grouping, federal filings show.

Exit polls indicated union voters chose Democrats by more than a 2-1 ratio, and labor says its supporters made the difference in many of the races that put Democrats back in the majority in Congress.

"Unions retain significantly greater political clout than their numbers indicate," said Harley Shaiken, a professor at the University of California-Berkeley specializing in labor issues. He said there are still significant concentrations of union voters in key electoral states that can swing results.



AP

AFL-CIO president John J. Sweeney speaks at a news conference in Coronado, Calif., Feb. 26. Unions could play a significant role in the 2008 presidential election.

Some observers say Democrats were helped more by President Bush's sagging approval ratings, voter discontent with the war in Iraq and congressional scandals such as the lobbying corruption case that help oust six-term Rep. Bob Ney, an Ohio Republican. In Ohio, the state that clinched re-election for Bush in 2004, candidates Ted Strickland (governor) and Sherrod Brown (senator) led a Democratic return to prominence with strong labor backing. Exit polls indicated four of five votes from union households supported them.

However, Democrats were also helped by Ohio Republican ethics scandals and by an ineffective GOP gubernatorial campaign.

Herb Asher, an Ohio State University political analyst, said that although unions are now getting a sympathetic airing in Washington for key issues such as legislation to make it easier to organize, it's "very, very important" to them to elect a pro-labor president to help avoid presidential vetoes. He said labor would be comfortable with most of the current Democratic contenders, including the front-runners — Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina.

But, Asher added, it's become more difficult for organized labor to present a united political front. As its traditional industrial base declines, new members come from the public sector and jobs such as janitors, and a breakaway union coalition includes the Service Employees International Union, which claims 1.8 million members.

Bush to inspect alternative fuel autos

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is getting at look at U.S. automakers' latest advances in alternative fuel vehicles as the companies press the case that ethanol and biodiesel blends can help reduce the nation's reliance on foreign oil.

Bush scheduled a White House meeting Monday with General Motors Corp. chairman and chief executive Rick Wagoner, Ford Motor Co. chief executive Alan Mulally and DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group chief executive Tom LaSorda.

The focus is on Bush's support for flexible-fuel vehicles, which are capable of using gasoline and ethanol blends, and his administration's plan to cut gas consumption by 20 percent in 10 years.

The three auto leaders have pledged to double their production of flexible fuel vehicles to about 2 million a year by 2010.

Automakers intended to stress that they could make half of their cars and trucks capable of running on alternative fuels by 2012 if there is enough availability and distribution of E85, an ethanol blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline.

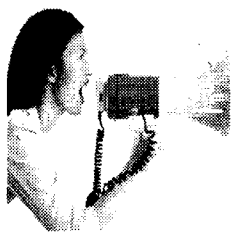
"If the production and distribution of ethanol can match the volumes that we've committed to building, there's an opportunity to significantly reduce gasoline consumption within our grasp," GM spokesman Greg Martin said.

Industry officials note that only 1,100 of the nation's 170,000 fueling stations offer E85 and have argued that the distribution system is critical to getting more vehicles running on alternatives.

Bush planned to inspect some flex-fuel vehicles on the South Lawn following the meeting: GM's flex-fuel Chevrolet Impala running on E85; Ford's Edge HySeries, a concept plug-in hydrogen fuel cell; and DaimlerChrysler's Jeep Grand Cherokee diesel filled with B5, a biodiesel blend.

The president toured a GM plant in Kansas City, Kan., and a Ford plant in Claycomo, Mo., last week, promoting the benefits of hybrid vehicles and other alternatives. Bush has sought higher fuel efficiency standards for cars, but auto industry officials said they did not expect to raise their concerns about the proposal.

Wagoner, Mulally and LaSorda told a House committee this month that raising fuel economy standards by 4 percent a year, under a White House plan, would be expensive and challenging.



Library Users Speak Up!

You told us — we are listening.

Our response to the '06 LibQUAL+ survey — Part II

Students want longer opening hours and maybe even 24/7 access.

- ✓ The Library introduced 24 hour access during the 2006 Spring Semester Study Days.
- ✓ We will provide 24 hour access during the 2007 Spring Semester Study Days.

Users expressed concern about mis-shelved or otherwise missing materials.

- ✓ The Library has an ongoing shelf reading project to identify mis-shelved or missing material.
- ✓ We conduct carrel checks to identify non-checked out or missing material that is then returned to the shelves.
- ✓ We have more intensive training, with increased quality control, for our shelvers.

Students want a relaxation of the library policy on food and drink and/or a special designated place where eating is allowed, such as a café.

- ✓ Renovation plans for the Hesburgh Library include plans for a café.
- ✓ The vending area on Level One near the east entrance is available for drink and snack breaks.
- ✓ The Library allows a variety of pre-packaged snacks, including chips, granola bars, nuts, pretzels, and cookies.
- ✓ Beverages in bottles that can be re-closed or other spill-resistant containers are permitted.

For more results, see: http://www.library.nd.edu/libqual/

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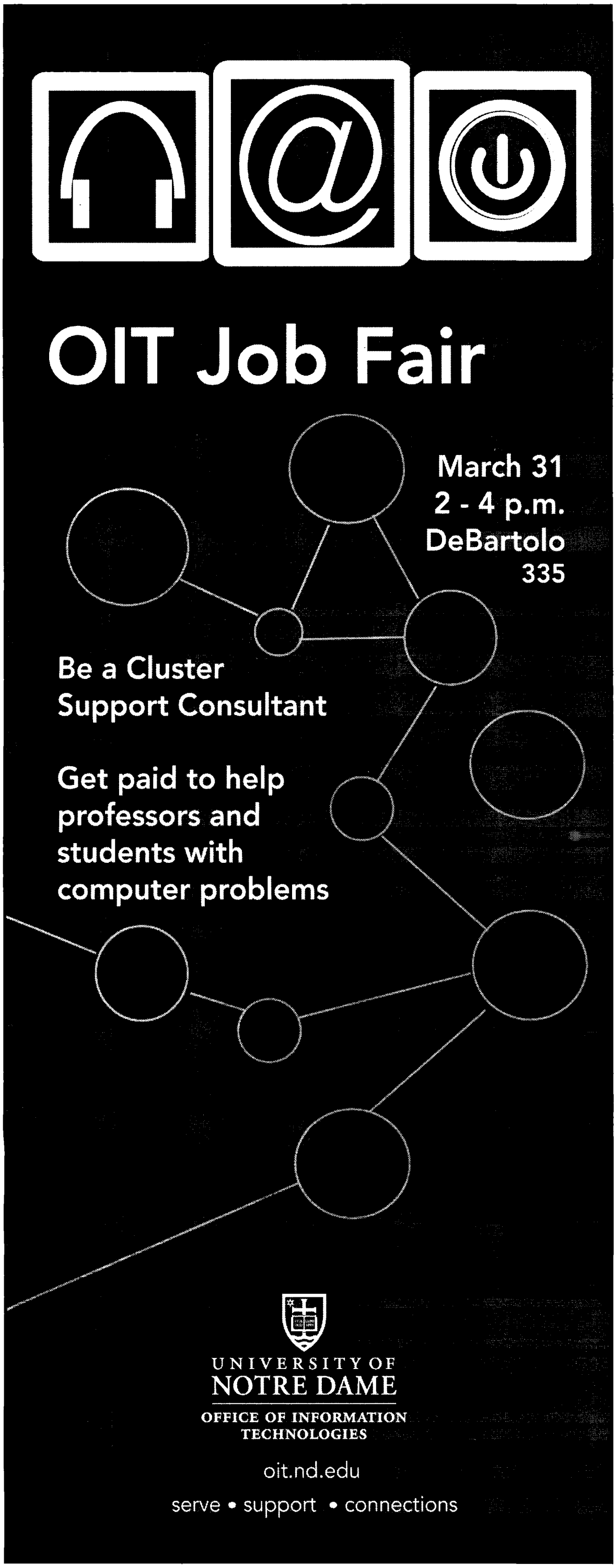

Pizza boxes turned into wanted posters

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Customers at some suburban pizza parlors are getting something extra with their pepperoni and mushrooms — wanted posters for parents accused of failing to pay child support.

The idea came to Cynthia Brown, executive director of the Butler County Child Enforcement Agency, while she was ordering pizza.

"It suddenly dawned on me that most people running from the law don't eat out, they order pizza," said Brown, whose county is north of Cincinnati.

Enforcement agencies across the country use a variety of methods to locate support scofflaws and collect past-due payments. Virginia has issued subpoenas to cellular phone companies seeking addresses and phone numbers. California's Kern County seizes and auctions parents' vehicles, with proceeds going to the children, said Kay Cullen, a spokeswoman for the National Child Support Enforcement Association.

State child support agencies collected more than $23 billion in child support for 17.2 million children in 2005, but the cumulative past-due child support since the agencies were first formed more than 30 years ago is $106 billion, Cullen said.

"While we have made progress, putting the wanted posters on pizza boxes is an example of the innovation and commitment that we need," she said.

Other Ohio counties put posters on their Web sites and work with local Crime Stoppers programs, and a few contract with companies that can track people through rental and cell phone records, according to the Ohio Child Support Directors Association. Some include fliers in water and sewer bills.

Butler County has printed posters with mug shots of its 10 most-wanted parents, placing them in post offices and other government buildings and sending them to Ohio's 87 other counties. The lineup, chosen by prosecutors, is changed twice a year.

The Butler County sheriff's office served 1,224 nonsupport warrants last year, said sheriff's Sgt. Todd Langmeyer. The county has about 350,000 residents.

Brown approached several restaurants and chains with her idea of affixing the posters to pizza boxes, but so far only three pizzerias are participating.

Since the first pizza posters appeared in August, they have led to one arrest, Langmeyer said. "It's a good idea any time you can put the faces out there," he said.

The owner of Karen's Pizzeria hasn't heard any complaints about her participation in the poster program.

"Some customers joke about it and say they're glad they aren't on it," Karen Willis said. "Most seem to think it's a good idea."

An attorney who focuses on fathers' rights cases called the tactic "horrible."

"It's just a way of shaming people," said Maury Beaulier, whose firm is in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Debate on interspecies cloning sees new life

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — It was nearly a decade ago that Jose Cibelli plugged his own DNA into a cow's egg in a novel cloning attempt that was condemned as unethical by President Clinton and landed the Michigan State University researcher in a mess of controversy.

Even though Cibelli and his colleagues patented the so-called interspecies cloning technique, they soon abandoned the research as a failure and the uproar subsided. Now the tempest is brewing all over again.

At least three respected teams of British scientists have reignited the moral debate over inserting human genes into animal eggs by proposing experiments similar to Cibelli's.

Their goal is to eliminate the need for women to donate eggs for the cloning of human embryos, a research goal they say will enable them to better understand the genetic causes of many diseases and design personalized medicines.

Currently, the few scientists actively pursuing human cloning are hobbled by a nearly nonexistent human egg supply. And each researcher will need thousands of them.

"Getting eggs from women is the bottleneck to cloning," Cibelli said. "An alternative would be welcomed."

All three U.K. teams aim to get around that bottleneck by taking DNA from patients sick with a disease like Alzheimer's and fuse it with cow eggs that have had all their genetic material removed. The hope is that the human DNA will trick the eggs into thinking they're pregnant, beginning development.

After about five days of growth, the cloned embryos would be destroyed and the stem cells extracted. The stem cells would be grown in their labs and the researchers could look for the onset of diseases, study their development and test experimental drugs on the cells.

"You can model Alzheimer's disease or Parkinson's disease in a dish," said Stephen Minger, director of the Stem Cell Laboratory at King's College in London.

Minger's request for a government license to use cow eggs instead of women's eggs to generate human embryonic stem cells stirred significant controversy in the United Kingdom last year. His application with the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority — along with another from Lyle Armstrong of the North East England Stem Cell Institute — is expected to be ruled on later this year.

THE OBSERVER

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

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POLICIES

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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

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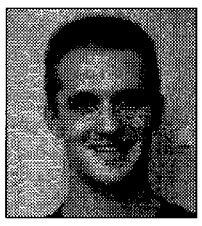
A modest campaign proposal



Joey Falco

Forty Ounces to Falco

Today, I am announcing my future intention to possibly form an exploratory committee which could potentially uncover the chance that I may or may not declare my unofficial candidacy for the nomination of a particular party for the presidency of the United States of America. (Technically, I have to wait until I am 35 to do this, but if the current primary season has proven anything, it's that it is never too early to start running for president. Consequently, all of my campaign promises will apply to the 2020 elections.)

My fellow Americans, this nation stands at a crossroads. We can merely sit back and allow the numerous problems facing the world to pile up like a stack of greasy dishes that were stolen from the dining hall and now sit in the rancid compost heap that is your off-campus kitchen sink. Or, we can put down our Nintendo Wii remotes, march into that kitchen, scrub the hell out of those dishes and get to work fixing the rest of America's troubles.

If I am elected president of the United States (in 2020), America will begin tackling those problems which have festered in its kitchen sink for far too long. The time has come to ask not what you can do for your country, but what your country can sack up and start doing for you. When I am finished with this place, America will be so much more than the shining city on a hill promised by Ronald Reagan — it will be a scintillating casino standing like a beacon of hope in the middle of an Indian reservation.

My first act as president (in 2020) will be to solve America's growing dependency on foreign oil. Others have suggested developing new fuels like ethanol, some have advocated building hybrid cars and a few more have encouraged tapping into the oil supplies of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I, however, offer an entirely new possibility: whale oil.

Throughout much of the 18th and 19th centuries, the United States dominated the global market in this most lucrative of hunting expeditions. Heroic whalers departing from New England sailed the seven seas in the hopes of bringing glory, money and vast supplies of wonderful whale oil back to the shores of America. For much of this era, nearly all of America's oil needs were satisfied by the burning of whale spermaceti, and I see no reason why this great nation cannot return to those glory days when men were men and whales were merely fat wads of blubber meant to be incinerated into vats of hot oil. It's called manifest destiny, people. So let's quit whining about saving the whales and start hurling enormous barbed harpoons into their eyes until they helplessly bleed to death for the sake of our V8 engines.

My second act as president (in 2020) will be to eradicate the global warming that Al Gore has recently been so bold as to inconvenience us all with. Sure, we could take the easy way out and reduce our carbon dioxide emissions to Kyoto Protocol standards, but what's the fun in that? We're America — the land of the free and the home of the Cadillac Escalade. Let's solve global warming the American way.

I hereby propose that we compensate for the dwindling ozone layer by constructing a new atmospheric layer of insulation out of one of this country's greatest heat protectors — asbestos. Yes, my fellow Americans, for decades we insulated our homes, schools and offices with this magnificent substance, and at what risk? A little lung cancer?

Ladies and gentlemen, let me be the first to say that I would much rather protect our polar ice caps and our coastlines while contracting asbestosis than have Miami Beach and its topless women sink into the Atlantic with a bunch of drowning polar bears while I come down with melanoma. This nation was built upon sacrifice, and now we must follow in the footsteps of other American martyrs — like Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr. and Anna Nicole Smith — by sacrificing ourselves for the greater good of this country.

Finally, the problem of illegal immigration has long burdened lawmakers who must attempt to balance the rights of diligent immigrant families with those of American citizens whose way of life is often risked by this influx of illegal workers. Everything from massive deportations to Great Walls of China to complete amnesty has been proposed, but none of these plans truly protect the American people.

As your president (in 13 years), I will solve this problem for good by using a simple protective measure that I picked up from some of my favorite medieval knight movies. I'm talking, of course, about moats. In a matter of months, the entire U.S.-Mexican border will be trenched out like a World War I battlefield. We will then fill this ditch with billions of gallons of the murkiest water in the country — derived mostly from Lake Erie and the north Jersey shore. Finally, we will load this moat with the most ferocious animals known to man, including crocodiles, hippopotamuses, stingrays, the University of Miami football team, piranhas and, of course, the Loch Ness Monster.

The only way into America from Mexico will eventually be an enormous wooden drawbridge that spans between San Diego and Tijuana in southern California. Unfortunately for all of those illegal immigrants hoping to cross it, I'm not going to tell them the password. That's classified … although I'm tentatively considering the phrase "Taco, burrito, what's coming out of your Speedo?"

Yes, my fellow Americans, I know you're thinking that my future candidacy is too good to be true. More importantly, you're probably wondering what political party would support such practical and astute policies. Well, after unsuccessfully petitioning the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, Green and Know-Nothing Parties, I was forced to branch off and start the Dance Party for the sake of this great nation.

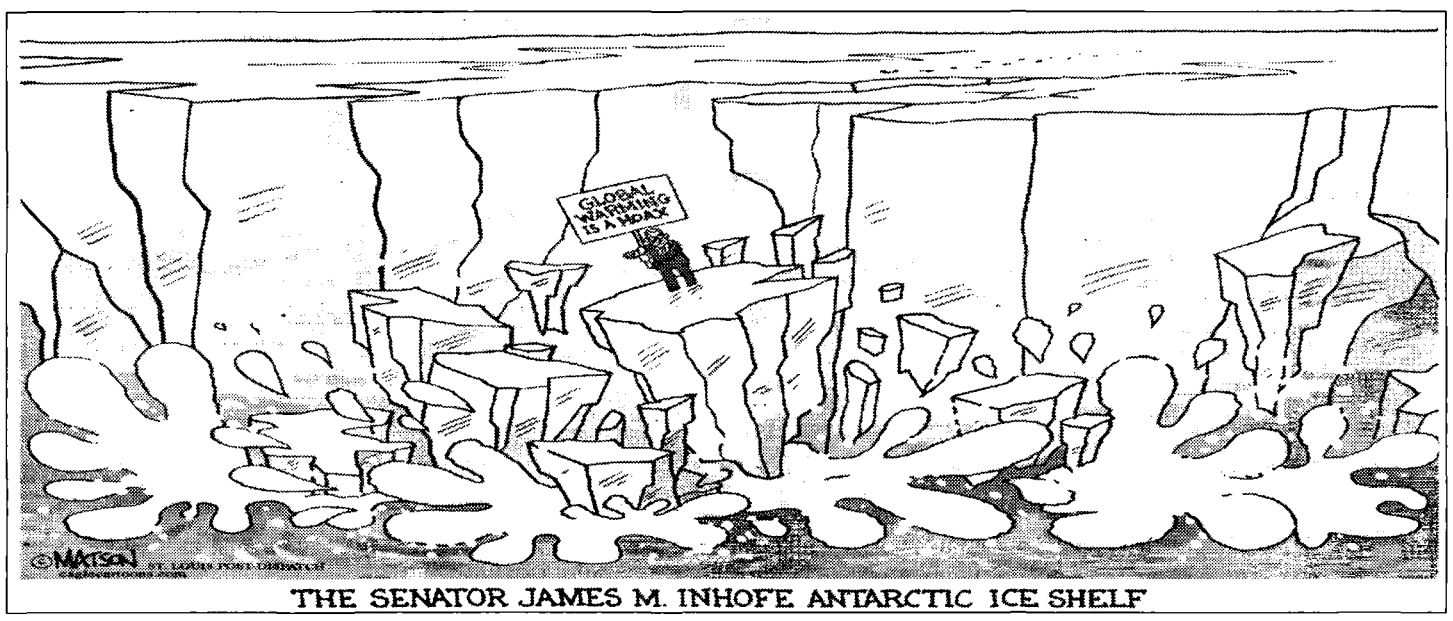
So in 13 years, with these policies at my side, the Dance Party and I will be on to Iowa, on to New Hampshire, on to South Carolina and on to the White House! Yeaaaaaaaaah!

Oh, and God bless the United States of America.

Joey Falco is a senior American Studies major and Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy minor. He can be reached at jfalco@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



THE SENATOR JAMES M. INHOFE ANTARCTIC ICE SHELF

OBSERVER POLL

What is your take on activism at Notre Dame?

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

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is a common experience that a problem difficult at night is resolved in the morning after the committee of sleep has worked on it."

John Steinbeck
author

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Logo conflict embarrassing

As a graduate of Cathedral High School and a current student at Notre Dame, I am both frustrated and saddened by the recent events occurring between both schools regarding Cathedral's use of the Leprechaun as its mascot. When Cathedral was founded in 1918 by the Congregation of Holy Cross, the same order as the founding priests of Notre Dame, the school took the nickname of the Fighting Irish. It is interesting to note what Notre Dame's football team was called before Cathedral opened in 1918. Notre Dame was the "Ramblers" and Rockne changed the nickname after hearing about the Indiana high school's nickname through the brothers at Holy Cross who ran both institutions at the time. There were strong connections between the two schools, both Irish Catholic, and Cathedral was seen as a sort of stepping stone to Notre Dame.

It seems that many do not realize that Cathedral actually designed the Leprechaun logo. When Cathedral developed this logo, Notre Dame liked it and asked to use it, then proceeded to go ahead and trademark the logo. Furthermore, it is not as if Cathedral is stealing from the Notre Dame market by using the Leprechaun. The revenue Cathedral generates by the use of this logo is miniscule to the amount of money Notre Dame is able to generate. Does Notre Dame truly feel threatened by a high school? And honestly, if Notre Dame is banning Cathedral from using the Leprechaun due to revenue issues, then the University has its priorities way out of line.

I am sure that many of my current classmates at Notre Dame are saying "Get over it and stop worrying about a high school mascot." But I say to them, if you have not been part of the Cathedral tradition, then you just won't understand, just as someone who has not been part of the Notre Dame tradition will not understand the strong love for our university. However, I am ashamed to say I am part of a school that turns their back on family.

Charles Cossell
freshman
Alumni Hall
Mar. 23

Thanks for a successful hockey season

Thank you Noah, Mike, Brett, David, Stewart, Erik, Brian, Kevin, Christian, T.J., Dan, Kyle, Christiaan, Tom, Wes, Jason, Jordan, Evan, Garrett, Tom, Josh, Brock, Ryan, Mark, Dan, Justin and Coaches Jackson, Pooley and Slaggert for being the greatest hockey team in Notre Dame history. You guys accomplished a lot this season and set the bar high for future teams. You were the first Notre Dame team to win the regular season CCHA title, the CCHA tournament championship and an NCAA Tournament game. You more than doubled your wins from last season. You lit up the big number one on top of Grace Hall for two months.

We remember how last year we were able to roam freely in the nearly empty stands, and Mike's "Get in the box!" could be heard anywhere in the North Dome of the JACC. Today it is a little harder to hear Mike since there are now thousands of cheering fans every game. You have drawn sellout crowds to the JACC for more games than we can remember. You were the guys who brought people to wait two hours in line for tickets that were not even guaranteed. You reinvigorated a fan base, created an aura of confidence and gave fans a mindset for victory.

When you look back at the season, just remember that among the many things you accomplished, you decimated then-No. 1 Boston College (though only by six goals) and sent the Wolverines scampering back to Ann Arbor three times. You guys deserve to play in a new arena (to whomever it may concern: build it soon please), and you showed Notre Dame how fun hockey can be. Thank you for this season.

Every fan should cheer as loudly as Mrs. Thang. Go Irish.

Mike Sullivan, Andy Kocab
sophomores
Knott Hall
Mar. 25

U-WIRE

Facebook not real campaigning

Jackie Stark
Northern Michigan University
The North Wind

With the future presidential election looming, students normally would have to do research in order to make a good decision regarding who will receive their vote. However, in this election, students won't have to look any further than their Facebook accounts; that is, if they want to know which candidate likes the same kind of music they do.

Presidential hopefuls have actually begun to create their own Facebook profiles.

This sort of campaigning, if it can even be called that, has made me question how elections are run. Sure, going on Facebook is a good way to get your name out to college-age students, but do we really need to know that one of former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney's favorite singers is Roy Orbison, or that Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" is among his favorite books?

If these candidates want to use Facebook as a means of reaching out to the younger generations, they should at least be informing them on their political views and positions on issues such as education, health care or the Iraq war.

Yet instead of useful information, which citizens should be basing their votes on, we learn that Senator John McCain's favorite book is Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and that one of his interests is baseball.

And some of these presidential hopefuls even leave out some of the basic information that can be found at the top of their profiles. For example, Hillary Clinton lets everyone on Facebook know that her hometown is Chappaqua, New York, but her "relationship status" is not mentioned. I wonder what Bill thinks about that.

Senator McCain and Governor Romney don't even state what their political views are. It seems as though they are hesitant to let the world know that, yes, they belong to the Republican Party.

If I were to use these candidates' Facebook profiles as deciding factors in my vote, then I would have to say that Senator John McCain would be receiving it, because he listed "Seinfeld" as one of his favorite TV shows. How bad could he be if he loves this classic sitcom? Governor Romney would definitely be out, as his taste in music is severely lacking. (I just can't bring myself to vote for someone who enjoys Alan Jackson.) Clinton and Barack Obama wouldn't even stand a chance, as they have no personal information on their profiles at all. Their lack of candor makes me wonder what they don't want the rest of us to know.

The truth is that in today's world of online everything, these candidates are using the best possible medium to reach people in the younger generations. Our generation is partly to blame, as more of us voted for the next American Idol than for George Bush in the previous election. In last year's season of the show, 63.4 million votes were cast, according to washingtonpost.com. This is more than the amount of votes cast in the entire presidential election, and much more than were actually cast for President Bush.

Anyone looking at the walls of these candidates can also see our lack of seriousness when it comes to choosing our next president.

Clinton was called "a goddess" by a supporter. However, looking two wall posts down reveals an Obama supporter who befriended Clinton only to let all of her supporters know, "Life's a bitch, so don't vote for one."

One Facebooker expressed his love for McCain on McCain's wall, while another called him an "insult to true Republicans."

Obama has received over 100 gifts, 79 of which are the foam fingers saying super on them. Another of his many wall posts is a chain letter in which he is named as one of the sender's 15 prettiest girls on his friends list.

This infiltration of Facebook by presidential candidates was a bad idea to begin with. Favorite movies and witty quotes should not factor into anyone's decision on who to vote for in any presidential election. However, now that they are on there, perhaps Facebookers can use their profiles for something a little more constructive than sending the candidates gifts of toilet paper and soap to help them clean up the country.

This column originally appeared in the March 23 edition of The North Wind, the daily publication at Northern Michigan University.

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

MySpace usage may lower grades

Johnna Scrabis
Pennsylvania State University
Daily Collegian

Social networking sites such as MySpace might seem like an easy way to stay in touch with friends; however, a new study has shown that the use of these sites can seriously impact grades.

A survey of more than 500 students from three Fresno, Calif., area high schools has shown that 72 percent of students who use MySpace have reported a significant drop in their grades.

The study began when Roberto Vaca, a guidance learning specialist at Sanger High School, noticed that students with lower grades were spending a lot of time on MySpace.

According to the study, 42 percent of students with MySpace accounts frequently have MySpace open while doing homework.

Vaca called Tamyra Pierce, assistant professor of communications and journalism at California State University, Fresno. Pierce became involved and began contacting local high schools to see if there was a link between MySpace and lower grades.

The survey specifically targeted high school students, but Pierce said the results could be similar for college students.

"In talking to a lot of my students, I have seen that they too spend a lot of hours on MySpace," she said.

Pierce said many students reported spending an upward of four to five hours a day on MySpace, which would detract from homework time. Even more alarming in Pierce's opinion was the amount of pornography she found on the MySpace accounts of young teenagers. 59 percent of the sites included sexual poses and nine percent included direct links to pornography, she said.

"There are just so many risks associated with that," Pierce said.

The survey said 34 percent of students will delay homework to spend time on social networking sites.

Rob Dunlap, a sophomore communications major, said for him, MySpace is a distraction from doing recreational activities outside.

"I keep getting rid of it and then getting it back again because I'm addicted," he said. "It's like cocaine."

This column originally appeared in the March 23 edition of the Daily Collegian, the daily publication at Pennsylvania State University.

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

DPAC REVIEW

Met's rousing 'Barber of Seville' comes to ND

By ANALISE LIPARI
Assistant Scene Editor

The Metropolitan Opera House in New York City isn't exactly easy walking distance from the Notre Dame campus. The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC), however, bridged that gap this Saturday in the first of its ongoing series of live opera broadcasts from the Met with "Il Barbiere di Seviglia," or "The Barber of Seville."

In an effort to bring opera to a wider audience than those close to an opera house, the Met will, via satellite, bring its latest operas to movie theaters around the world, including the DPAC's THX-certified Browning Cinema. With its talented performers, ingenious design and Gioachino Rossini's gorgeous music, "Il Barbiere di Seviglia" was a wonderful start to the series.

The Met, which was the site of the opera's original premiere nearly a century earlier, seemed an appropriate location for this latest incarnation of the work. This production of the "Barber of Seville" featured famed Juan Diego Flores as the dashing Count Almaviva, Joyce DiDonato as the feisty heroine Rosina and Peter Mattei as the incomparable barber, Figaro. Rounding out the cast were John Del Carlo as Rosina's curmudgeonly guardian, Doctor Bartolo and John Relyea as his sinister assistant Don Basilio. The production was directed by Bartlett Sher and designed by Michael Yeargan, both of whom worked on the Tony award-winning musical "The Light in the Piazza."

The story of "The Barber of Seville" is often less familiar to audiences than its music. The ubiquitous line "Figaro, Figaro, Figaro" often comes to mind, and music from the opera has been widely featured in popular culture, ranging anywhere from Robin Williams singing Figaro's "Largo al Factotum" in the 1990s film "Mrs. Doubtfire" to Chuck Jones's Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd in Looney Tunes' "Rabbit of Seville." The audience's inevitable familiarity with key melodies added a different layer of enjoyment to what is often an infrequently viewed type of performance.

Rossini's opera opens with Almaviva singing to the empty balcony of his love, Rosina, while disguising himself as "Lindoro," a humble servant. Rosina begins to fall in love with the Count's beautiful music, but is held captive by her guardian, the elder Doctor Bartolo, who wants nothing more than to marry Rosina himself. In near despair, Almaviva finds the help he needs in the skillful hands of the traveling town barber (and part-time matchmaker), Figaro. Through an intricate series of plot twists, disguises and schemes, the two lovers escape the clutches of Bartolo and find love in one another's arms, with Figaro watching and laughing over all of Seville.

A medium often unfamiliar to most college students, opera is a blend of powerful music and impeccable vocal talent. In this production of "The Barber of Seville," neither was in short order. Flores and Mattei were both delightful; each gave their well-known roles a different and personal touch, with Mattei in particular making Figaro his own with flavor and good-natured humor.

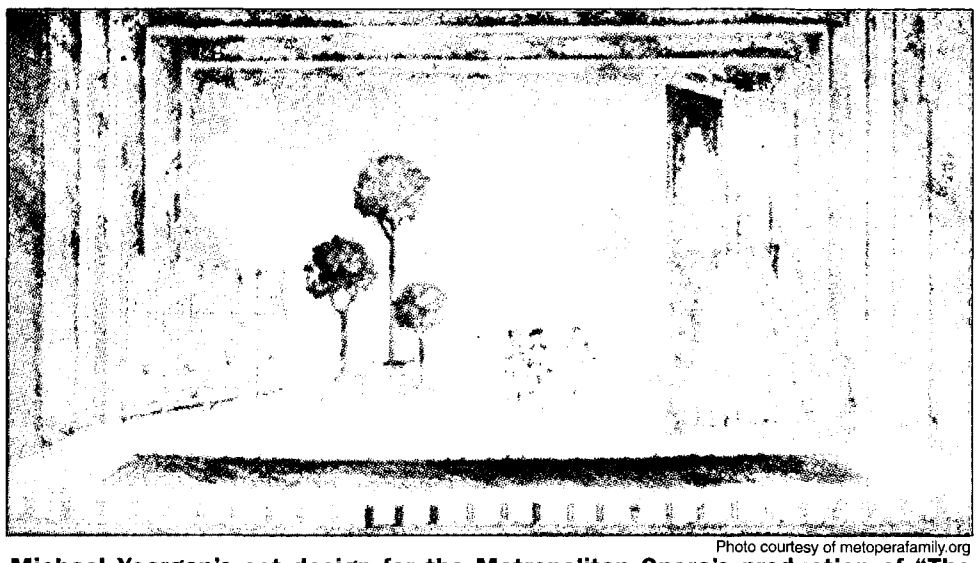


Photo courtesy of metoperafamily.org

Michael Yeargan's set design for the Metropolitan Opera's production of "The Barber of Seville" is meant to evoke both comedy and emotional pain.

Other highlights included Claudia Waite as Berta, Bartolo's beleaguered servant, and her performance of "Il vecchiotto cerca moglie;" the ingeniously designed set, which featured a number of oversized doors on wheels that gave the set a fluidity and energy; and the effective use of an extended platform in front of the orchestra pit, which allowed for each performer to literally get in touch with their audience.

The High Definition technology used in the broadcast also added to the appeal, as the camerawork highlighted the performers with remarkable clarity.

With both this impressive performance and a broadcast of Puccini's "Il Trittico" to be featured at the Browning on April 28 (with others to follow during the next academic year), the DPAC's showcasing of live opera from the Met can only grow in bringing new audiences to a timeless art form.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

MOVIE REVIEW

Penélope Cruz illuminates Almodóvar's 'Volver'

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Senior Staff Writer

No film by writer-director Pedro Almodóvar is ultimately what it seems to be about, and "Volver," his latest, is no exception. His pictures, which are usually sensitive and perceptive melodramas, start simplistically, but gradually reveal their thematic complexity — often, as in the case of the critically acclaimed "Hable con ella" ("Talk to Her"), things are not all that they seem. "Volver" is the work of the director at the height of his cinematic powers, a film that is simultaneously funny, touching and sad.

The film follows two sisters, Raimunda (Penélope Cruz) and Sole (Lola Dueñas). Raimunda is a janitor who lives with her unemployed husband Paco (Antonio de la Torre) and daughter Paula (Yohana Cobo) in Madrid. At the beginning of the film, the sisters visit their Aunt Paula (Chus Lampreave), who is being cared for by the neighbor Agustina (Blanca Portillo).

After Paula (Raimunda's daughter) accidentally kills Paco when he tries to sexually assault her, Raimunda takes a job catering for a film crew at the nearby restaurant. Meanwhile, Aunt Paula dies and Sole goes to the funeral, where she believes she sees the surprisingly corporeal spirit of her dead mother Irene (Carmen Maura). From there, "Volver" takes on an almost mythical quality, but Almodóvar has the good sense to ground the film and resolve its issues in ways that are logical and narratively sound.

As funny and engaging as it is affecting, "Volver" is one of those rare seriocomedies that actually works. There are hints of tragedy, and its revelations are slowly introduced, which gives the film strong emotional undercurrents — the audience never feels lost as Almodóvar takes it through various plot twists and turns.

"Volver" is not as brash as some of Almodóvar's other films, and the director reeled in some of his more excessive tendencies, though he still has a penchant for odd camera angles and colorful compositions. The cinematography by Jose Luis Alcaine (who also worked with Almodóvar on his previous film, "La mala educacion" ["Bad Education"]), is gorgeous, especially in its elegant camera movement. Yet the film is clearly the brainchild of Almodóvar, whose writing and directing is in top form — his impeccable filmmaking sense really gives "Volver" a lot of character, which ultimately anchors it emotionally.

The acting is across-the-board excellent, though it's Cruz who commands the picture. More at home with her native Spanish, the actress is absolutely brilliant here, doing the best work of her career as Raimunda, a character whose emotional depth ranges from shallow and funny to deep and heartfelt — although, to be honest, her looks are a little distracting. It's hard to imagine Raimunda as part of the same gene pool that produced the frumpy Sole or the matronly Irene (though Almodóvar winkingly acknowledges this throughout this film with various comments about Raimunda's cleavage).

Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Raimunda (Penélope Cruz) smells mint leaves to calm her nerves in Almodóvar's "Volver." The film is typical of Almodóvar, able to be both humorous and moving.

"Volver" may not be Almodóvar's best work — it doesn't have the same visceral impact of "Hable con ella" — but it indicates that the director is reaching a zenith. His storytelling is in top form, and he balances all the story threads with aplomb and elegance. "Volver" was criminally overlooked upon its initial American release, but its reputation will surely grow as viewers discover Almodóvar's gem of a film.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu

Volver

Director: Pedro Almodóvar
Writers: Pedro Almodóvar
Starring: Penélope Cruz, Yohana Cobo, Carmen Maura, Lola Dueñas, Blanca Portillo

SCENE in perspective

ONCE MORE, FOR THE LAST TIME?

LUCAS HIJACKS 'EMPIRE,' 'JEDI' WITH DVD, 3-D RELEASES

MADELINE NIES/Observer Graphic

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

When George Lucas released the "Star Wars: Special Edition" films in the late 1990s, he promised that we could see these epic films "again, for the first time." A new generation was able to see perhaps the most famous trilogy in film history in theaters for the first time. Once more, for the first time, was enough.

However, this was only the beginning of Lucas's OCD in regard to the films. With the plethora of DVD releases — each with their own new changes — and the upcoming 3-D theatrical releases, we'll be able to see them again, and again and again. When is enough enough?

I recently purchased the original trilogy Limited Edition DVDs, which include not only the 2004 re-mastered transfers but also the original theatrical releases from 1977, 1980 and 1983 of "A New Hope," "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi" DVDs. When I first played the discs, I was confused. The original releases — the primary reason I waited to purchase these editions — are included in the Bonus Features of the second disc. The first disc, containing the version from the 2004 DVD "Star Wars" box set, is the one that has the "definitive" version of the film. I put "definitive" in quotation marks because on each of the three films, Lucas made all of the changes himself. This brings up some very important issues in regards to film authorship and what the roles of the director and the producer are after a film has been released. In other words, who "owns" the movie?

In 1977, Lucas wrote and directed the first installment in the 'Star Wars" saga. Called "A New Hope," it quickly became one of the most popular films in history and spawned two sequels, three prequels and a host of books, toys and fanatic fans. No one, including myself, questions Lucas' claim to "A New Hope" — he both wrote and directed the screenplay. However, he did not direct either "The Empire Strikes Back" or "Return of the Jedi." Irvin Kershner and Richard Marquand can claim that credit on these films, respectively. Lucas didn't even write the two films that complete the original trilogy. The credit he claims in regard to these films is that of the executive producer. He fronted the money, and the basic story of the entire "Star Wars" narrative did come from his imagination. However, the creative force behind both "Empire" and "Jedi" came from different people. The story goes that Lucas showed up on the set of "Empire" one day and was irate over the direction Kershner was taking the film. Kershner had the final say (in 1980) and did what he wanted — in opposition to Lucas at the time. Does Lucas then have the right to go back to these films and make changes to decisions that he never had any part in?

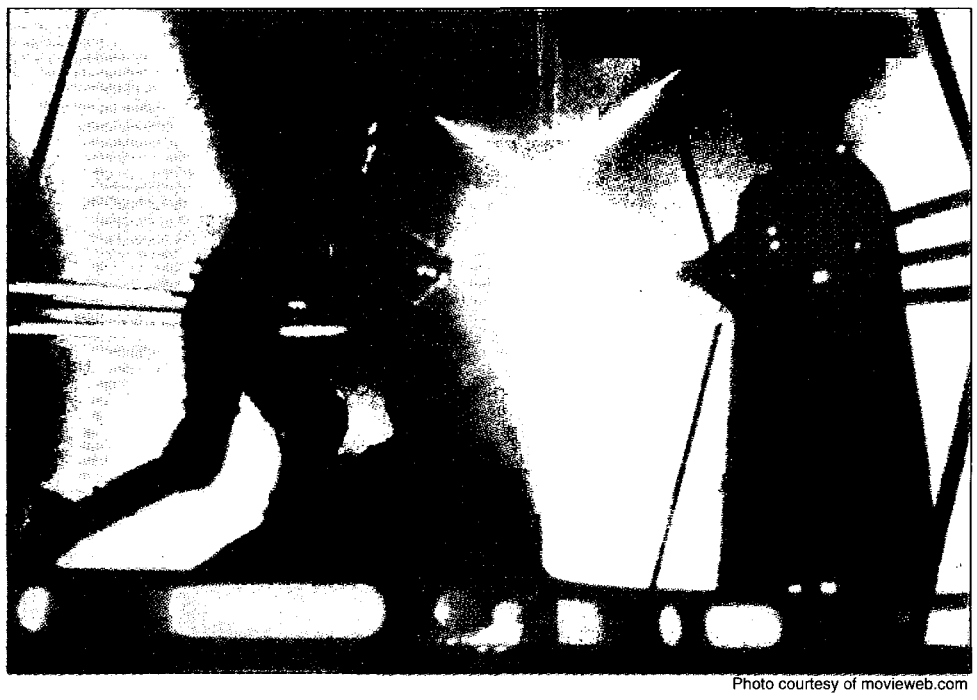


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Luke Skywalker, left, faces off against Darth Vader in "The Empire Strikes Back." Directed by Irvin Kershner, it is considered the best of the original trilogy.

Does Lucas then have the right to go back to these films and make changes to decisions that he never had any part in?

The answer is a resounding no. Consider famed American director Martin Scorsese. What if, 30 years from now, the executive producers from "The Departed" decide that Leonardo DiCaprio's character isn't really needed, and they are going to release a new "definitive" version that fits more in line with their vision of the film — completely disregarding the wishes of Scorsese? Granted, this is an extreme situation that isn't going to happen, and the situation with "Star Wars" is slightly different since Lucas is the imagination behind all of the films. However, the point is that Lucas is hijacking two films that are not his to hijack. He is disrespecting Kershner and Marquand's role in the creation of the "Star Wars" mythos and the influence the creative and technical teams of these two films had on a generation of moviegoers and their children. I am certainly one of those in our generation that grew up with the "Star Wars" many of our parents loved dearly.

I am not trying to argue the ownership issues that arise between the creator of art versus the audience that consumes it, for art is just another commodity at its most basic level. I am merely arguing that the creator of a work of art should be respected in our time. I may hire someone to paint a mountain. I may pick the mountain that is to be painted and pay for the painter's supplies. But unless I paint the mountain myself, I am not an artist; I cant put my name down in the corner of the finished result. So too with "Empire" and "Jedi." The end credits of "Empire" do not say "Directed by Irvin Kershner (and George Lucas too! ... but for only a few scenes which he thought were necessary to change, and other than that it's all Kershner)."

And the release of the Limited Edition DVDs, with their 2004 and original versions, is not the end of the battle. A theatrical release of all six of the "Star Wars" films in 3-D is slated to begin this year. Lucas directed and wrote all three of the prequels and the first of the Original Trilogy. I have no problem with him doing whatever he wants to these films — even though I think showing films in 3-D is one of the worst decisions anyone could make. He has the creative control; the films are his. But to release "Empire" and "Jedi" in 3-D is taking these excellent films and pandering to a fad. Some may call me backwards, and I'm sure if 3-D becomes the standard, the voices crying foul will sound akin to those looking for blood when silent film became the talkie and when Dorothy walked into Oz and color took the reins from black and white.

However, "Empire" is considered the best film in the "Star Wars" franchise and one of the finest pieces of American cinema in the latter half of the 20th century. To take a respected American film and pander to the way a 10-year-old would want to watch movies is a gross foul in regard to cinema as an art form and any notion of authorship needed to protect credibility.

I may be a dinosaur, but I'll be reveling in the un-mastered, stereo sound, non-anamorphic widescreen of the original trilogy. Lucas isn't giving us museum relics the filet — we get the scraps from the "master's" table. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroe1@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Darth Vader pleads with an off-screen character. Executive Producer George Lucas made many changes to the films with theatrical and DVD re-releases.

Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Han Solo, left, speaks with Jabba the Hutt. This scene was not in the 1977 original version of "Star Wars: A New Hope" but was featured in the 1997 theatrical release.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Hoyas take out top-seeded North Carolina

Ohio State, Florida and UCLA also advance to Final Four

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Twenty-five years later, Georgetown got even for a coach named Thompson and a player named Ewing.

In an NCAA tournament full of tremendous rallies, it was the Hoyas' turn — against North Carolina, of all teams.

Georgetown overcame an 11-point deficit in the second half, then ripped off 14 straight points in overtime to stun the top-seeded Tar Heels 96-84 in the East Regional final Sunday for their first trip to the Final Four since 1985, when the coach was John Thompson Jr. and the star player was Patrick Ewing.

The Hoyas (30-6) did it this time with coach John Thompson III calling the back-door plays he learned at Princeton and Patrick Ewing Jr. making key contributions.

They were helped by an amazing collapse from Carolina (31-7), which made only one of 23 field goal attempts, including its first 12 in overtime, over a 15 minute-span.

The Tar Heels actually had a chance to win in regulation, but freshman Wayne Ellington missed an open jumper from the wing right before the buzzer.

This time, there would be no game-winning shot for the Tar Heels as there was in 1982, when freshman Michael Jordan's jumper ended one of the most thrilling games in college basketball history and lifted Carolina over Georgetown, coached by Thompson Jr. and led by Ewing Sr., for the national championship.

The Hoyas waited a long time to avenge that defeat. When they did, they celebrated: The Thompsons became the first father-son duo to reach the Final Four, much less at the same school, and they enjoyed a huge embrace at courtside.

Florida 85, Oregon 77

Go ahead, hate Florida all you want. But you can't beat these Gators. Not in the NCAA tournament.

Not yet, anyway.

Inside, outside, early, late — the Gators find a way to get it done when there's a title at stake.

Joakim Noah and his buddies are heading back to the Final Four, looking for a second straight national championship that was worth more to them than NBA millions.

"It's so great because we were under a microscope," Noah said after Florida's victory over third-seeded Oregon in the Midwest Regional final on Sunday afternoon.

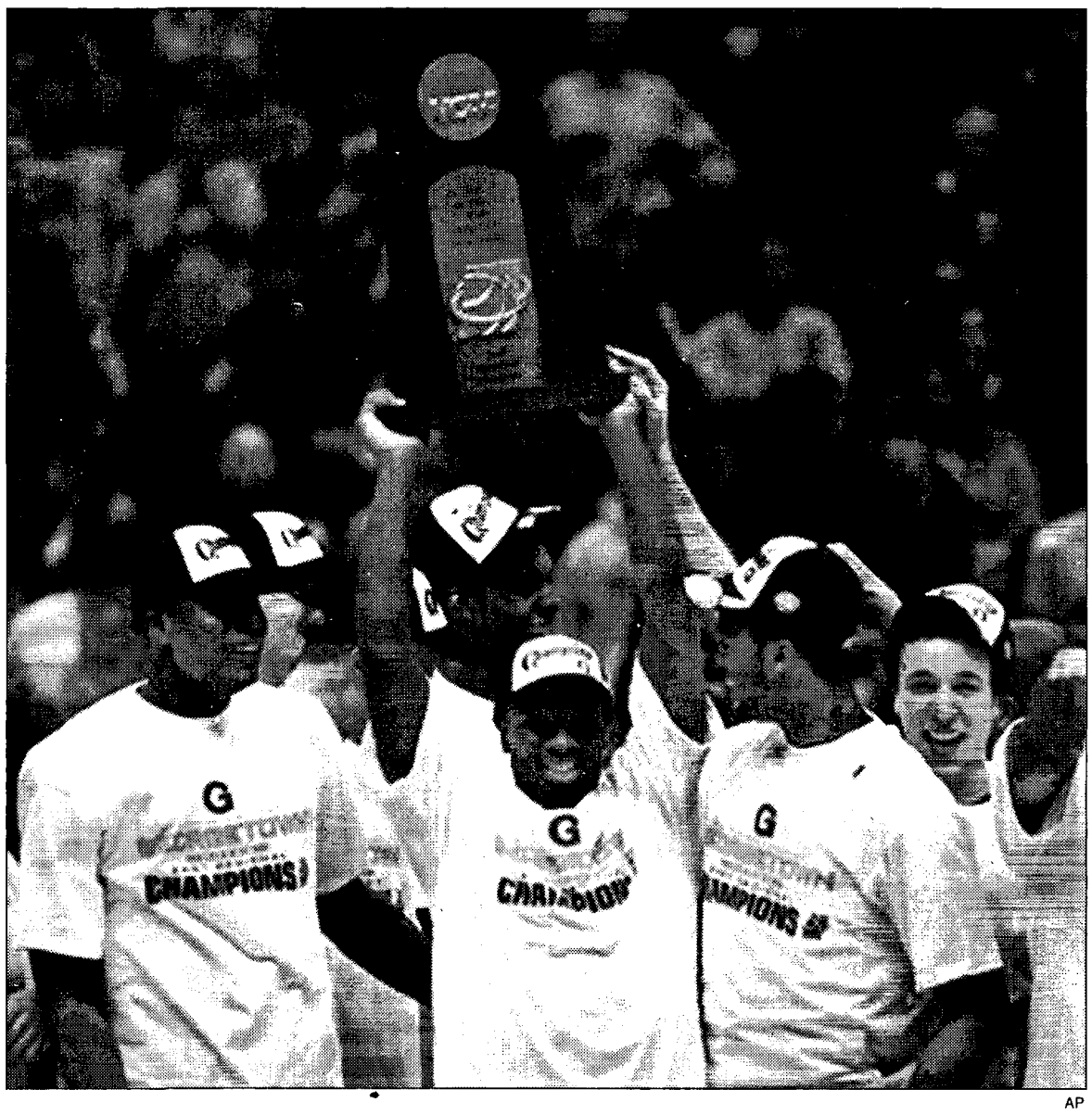
"There was so much hate. But we know that what matters is what's going on here."

Lee Humphrey made seven 3-pointers and finished with 23 points, and Taurean Green added 21. Noah had 14 points and 14 rebounds. It was Florida's 16th straight postseason victory, a stretch that includes one national championship and two Southeastern Conference titles.

Next stop for the top-seeded Gators: Atlanta, where they'll play UCLA in the national semifinals in a rematch of last year's championship Game.

"The ultimate goal is to do it again," Chris Richard said. "We're one step away from the championship."

Florida beat UCLA last year in a rout, 73-57, for its first national championship — and the first half of what would turn out to be the Gator Slam. When Florida beat Ohio State for the national football title in January, the Gators became the first school to be champs in both sports at the same time.



AP

Georgetown players celebrate after defeating North Carolina 96-84 in East Rutherford, N.J., Sunday in the Elite Eight. The Hoyas advance to the Final Four in Atlanta to play Ohio State Saturday.

UCLA 68, Kansas 55

With good-natured shoves and claps, the UCLA Bruins formed a circle around Arron Afflalo — the rightful center of attention.

In an exceptional second half that should help erase memories of his past mediocrity in big games, Afflalo scored 15 of his 24 points and the Bruins held off the top-seeded Jayhawks for a victory in the West Regional final Saturday night.

Afflalo, hiding behind the souvenir hat and T-shirt from the biggest game of his career, tried to be just one of the guys — even though he was clearly the best guy on this night.

"I don't really think about it during the game, but when you're making shots, you're gaining confidence," said Afflalo, who made all six of his shots after halftime. "My teammates showed a lot of confidence in me. If I'm fortunate enough to make shots — just keep shooting, keep playing. That has to be a scorer's mentality."

Darren Collison added 14 points and four big free throws in the final seconds while leading the Bruins' stellar defensive effort — but whenever the Bruins faced offensive trouble, Afflalo seemed to solve it, hitting a big shot or drawing the defense to set up a teammate.

Ohio State 92, Memphis 76

Ohio State coach Thad Matta looked down the bench and locked eyes with Greg Oden.

The big man, sitting out with three fouls, nodded.

"Let's go," Matta told him, adding his usual advice in such situations: "Play real hard and don't foul anybody."

Oden followed orders perfectly, dominating like only a 7-footer can over the decisive stretch in the second half to carry the top-seeded Buckeyes past Memphis and into the Final Four.

Oden's numbers in Saturday's South Regional championship weren't huge: 17 points, nine rebounds.

His presence was.

While Oden was on the bench with his third foul, Ohio State (34-3) went from five points up to five points down. Then the fabulous freshman went back in and everything changed again.

Controlling the paint on offense and defense, he triggered a 20-8 surge that put the Buckeyes back in charge. The second-seeded Tigers (33-4) tried hanging in by fouling, but Ohio State foiled that plan by making 20 straight free throws. The Buckeyes' 21st straight win takes them to Atlanta next weekend for a national semifinal matchup with the winner of Sunday's North Carolina-Georgetown game.

In only 30 college games, Oden has taken over plenty of them. None, however, was as impressive as this one, mainly because it was so important.

"This would probably be No. 1 on the impact meter," Matta said. "I thought his rebounding, his challenging shots, finishing at the other end was tremendous."

Muttered Memphis coach John Calipari: "He's huge, he's huge."

In only 24 minutes, Oden made 7-of-8 shots and was 3-of-6 from the line with a block that came on the first defensive stand after he returned with three fouls. Two of his dunks were so powerful it looked like he was doing chin-ups on the rim.

Yet his larger-than-life presence was best exhibited on a crucial sequence midway through the second half.

Oden was wide open under the basket when caught a pass that arrived at the same time as Memphis' Chris Douglas-Roberts. The defender threw both arms around Oden's waist and shoved him for an intentional foul. Oden still made the shot, then one of two free throws, tying the game at 60. Ohio State got to keep the ball and went ahead 62-60.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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NBA Standings

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Toronto	38-31	25-15	6-4
New Jersey	32-38	22-18	4-6
New York	30-39	19-23	4-6
Philadelphia	28-42	17-23	6-4
Boston	20-49	12-27	3-7

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Detroit	44-25	28-12	7-3
Cleveland	42-27	24-17	8-2
Chicago	41-30	29-13	7-3
Indiana	31-38	22-18	2-8
Milwaukee	25-43	12-29	4-6

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Washington	37-31	23-16	4-6
Miami	37-32	21-19	7-3
Orlando	32-38	19-23	4-6
Atlanta	27-44	14-27	5-5
Charlotte	26-45	17-24	4-6

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Utah	45-24	27-13	5-5
Denver	34-33	17-22	6-4
Minnesota	30-39	18-26	4-6
Portland	29-41	16-25	4-6
Seattle	27-41	14-24	4-6

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Phoenix	52-17	27-12	7-3
L.A. Lakers	37-32	23-16	4-6
Golden State	33-37	19-21	5-5
L.A. Clippers	34-36	17-23	7-3
Sacramento	30-40	15-25	2-8

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	conf.	last 10
Dallas	58-11	33-8	8-2
San Antonio	48-20	28-11	8-2
Houston	44-25	21-19	8-2
New Orleans	31-38	17-24	3-7
Memphis	17-53	9-32	2-8

NCAA Women's Lacrosse IWLCA Top 20

	team	points	prev.
1	North Carolina	300	1
2	Northwestern	285	2
3	Virginia	265	5
4	Maryland	256	3
5	Duke	244	4
6	Penn State	206	14
7	James Madison	198	7
8	Dartmouth	196	9
9	Georgetown	172	10
10	Princeton	171	6
11	Syracuse	162	12
12	NOTRE DAME	143	8
13	Johns Hopkins	116	11
14	Richmond	96	13
15	Denver	90	15
16	Penn	76	17
17	Yale	48	18
18	Vanderbilt	43	16
18	Rutgers	43	19
20	UConn	16	NR

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NBA
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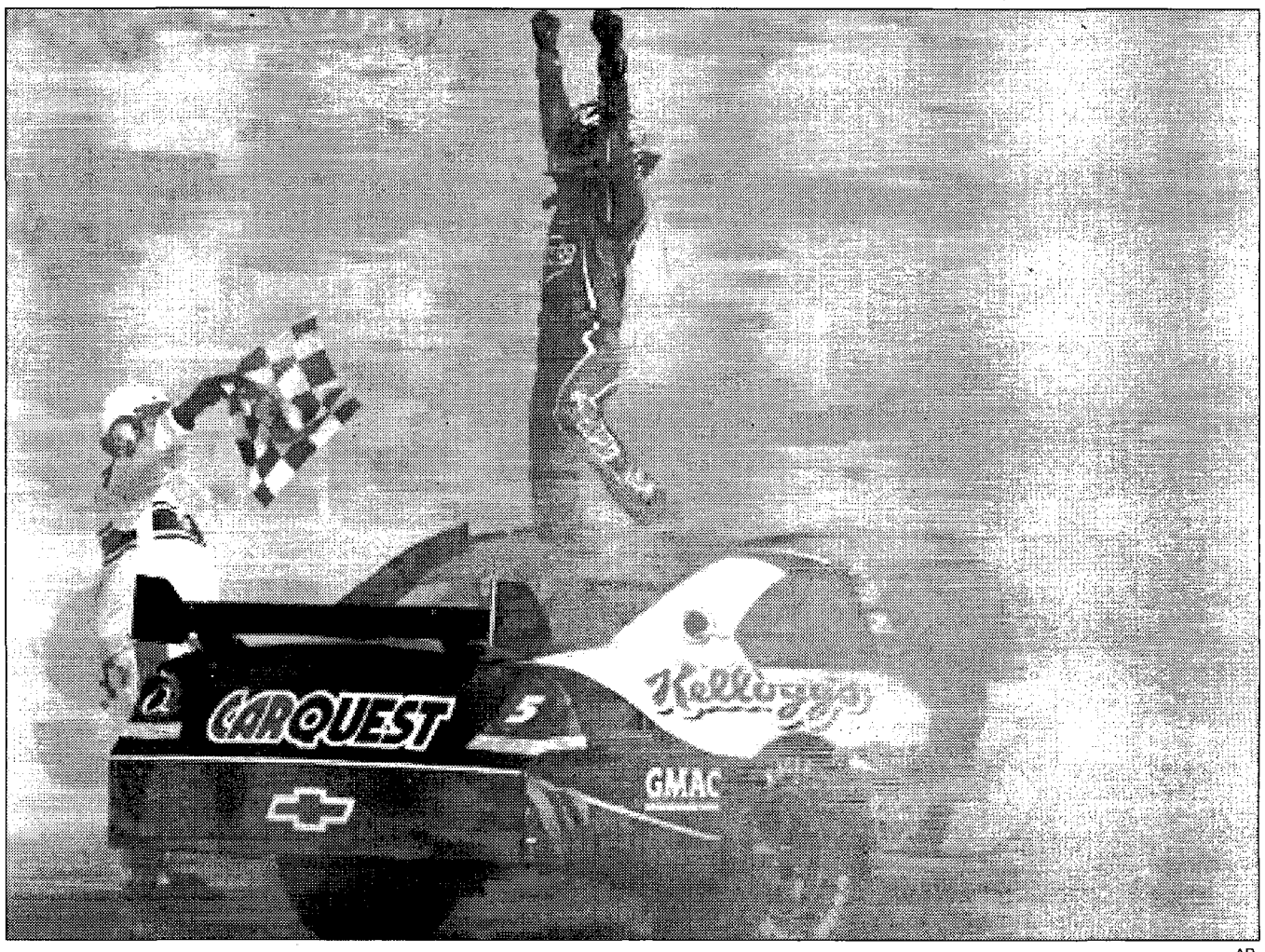
NASCAR



AP

Kyle Busch celebrates after winning the NASCAR Nextel Cup Food City 500 auto race in Bristol Sunday. Busch held off Jeff Burton in the final laps to clinch the victory.

Busch wins thanks to Golden Rule

Associated Press

BRISTOL — As Jeff Burton considered how to beat Kyle Busch in the closing laps at Bristol Motor Speedway, he couldn't shake the lessons his mother taught him as a child.

"My mother always told me to do onto other people the way you want them to do you," Burton remembered. "That's the only thing I know to do. I've always tried to let the guy I am racing with set the rules. ... Kyle drives hard. He drives really hard. But he's always raced me with respect."

And with that, Burton refused to bump Busch out of the way Sunday, instead pulling alongside of him before Busch beat him in a drag race to the finish line to win the first Car of Tomorrow race.

The two have battled in the Busch Series this season, and had a stirring door-to-door duel in Las Vegas two weeks ago that Burton won as Busch spun backward across the finish line.

Burton credited Busch with racing clean that day, and both drivers had it fresh in their memories on the final three laps Sunday.

"Jeff Burton easily could have dumped me there in three and four, but I think our Vegas finish helped me out a little bit with that," Busch said. "I think I had some brownie points to use up."

Busch took the lead with 16 laps to go on a smooth pass around Denny Hamlin in thick traffic and stayed there through a pair of cautions. He had driven away from the competition when the 15th and final caution set up a three-lap overtime.

With Busch and teammate Jeff Gordon running 1-2 at the restart, the two plotted their own strategy with their respective crew chiefs.

"Well, good job guys," Busch sighed at the final caution. "We'll do what we can. I can't promise you anything."

"He'll be nice," crew chief Alan Gustafson said. "He'll play nice."

It didn't sound that way on Gordon's channel.

"Tell that 5, if I get a fender underneath him, he better think about the fact that we're teammates," Gordon said. "If I don't get a fender underneath him, I won't move him out of the way."

It never mattered, though, as Burton jumped past Gordon on the restart and quickly pulled onto Busch's rear bumper. Burton looked low and Busch threw a block, then he went high and Busch blocked that, too.

IN BRIEF

Donovan learns to be leader from marriage

TAMPA — Newly-wed Landon Donovan thinks he finally understands what it takes to be a leader on the U.S. soccer team.

"I got married this offseason and that's helped me grow up," the 25-year-old forward said Sunday after scoring three goals to lead the Americans over Ecuador 3-1 in an exhibition game Sunday.

"I'm now embracing a leadership role. I used to say:

'I'd love to be a leader. I want to be a leader.' But it's not good enough to say it. You have to show it."

And that's exactly what Donovan did in his first game as U.S. captain since last May 28. Following an 18-game, 1 1/2-year scoreless streak in international play, he has five goals in three matches this year, helping the Americans to a 3-0 record.

Pettersen benefits from Ochoa's mistakes in tourney

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN — Lorena Ochoa blew a four-stroke lead to Suzann Pettersen, then birdied four of the last five holes for a two-stroke victory in the Safeway International on Sunday.

Ochoa shot a 4-under 68 to rally past Pettersen (66).

Ochoa blew a four-shot lead in the final round for the second time in three years at Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club. But this time she survived, overtaking Norway's Pettersen with birdies on the 14th, 15th, 17th and 18th holes.

Ochoa, the tour's reigning player of the year, earned $225,000 for her 10th LPGA Tour victory. She finished at 18 under.

The Mexican star opened the day with a four-stroke lead. But it disappeared as Pettersen then added another birdie on the seventh.

Youngest Keller makes family proud

MELBOURNE — The baby of the Keller family had bragging rights at the world swimming championships Sunday after big brother Klete surprisingly failed to qualify in the 400-meter freestyle.

Kalyn Keller, the youngest of three swimming siblings, gave the U.S. its second medal of the meet, earning a silver in the grueling 25-km open water race off St. Kilda Beach.

Back at Rod Laver Arena, Klete Keller fared much worse.

He finished 10th, missing the final by 0.31 seconds in a swim about 5 seconds off his best time.

"I don't know what the heck happened," Keller said.

"Maybe that's what's wrong. I didn't think about it enough."

His sister's race finished 24 hours after it began in the treacherous waters of Port Phillip Bay.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Laxers earn first conference victory

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

No. 12 Notre Dame picked up its first Big East win of the season Sunday, defeating Loyola 11-1 in Baltimore.

In giving up only one score, goalkeeper Erin Goodman and the Irish defense set a Notre Dame record for fewest goals allowed in a game. Goodman, a sophomore, recorded 14 saves on the game and allowed the only goal on a free-position shot in the second half.

The Irish took a 7-0 lead over the Greyhounds heading into halftime, led offensively by junior Caitlin McKinney's three early goals. After Notre Dame picked up a Lena Zentgraf goal 55 seconds into the second half, Loyola finally got on the board with the free-position goal from Kate McHarg.

Goodman and the Notre Dame defense stifled the Greyhounds the rest of the game, however, and piled on three more second-half goals for the victory.

The Irish offense was led by McKinney, who finished with four goals on the game. Sophomore Jillian Byers also contributed two goals and an assist, and the senior Zentgraf also turned in a strong performance with two goals and two assists.

With the goals, Byers and McKinney went over the 30-goal mark on the season — the second year in a row both players have reached that mark.

Both teams had 23 shots on goal for the game. Loyola goalkeeper Karen Nicolaus had six saves to Goodman's 14.

Goodman, in her first season as starting goalkeeper, has elevated her play since giving up 18 goals to defending NCAA champion Northwestern March 1. Since that loss, the sophomore is 5-1 with an 8.33 goals against average and a .550 save percentage.

With the win, Notre Dame improved to 7-2 overall, 1-1 in Big East play. Loyola fell to 1-6 and 0-2 in conference.

The 10-goal margin of victory tied for the largest Notre Dame win of the season. The Irish drubbed Canisius 18-8 in Buffalo earlier in the season.

Looking ahead, the Irish play four of their last five regular season games at home before the inaugural Big East championship, beginning next weekend with games Friday against Connecticut and Sunday against Duquesne.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

ROWING

Novice eight squad remains undefeated

By DANIELLE KELLER
Sports Writer

No. 11 Notre Dame performed impressively at Saturday's regatta in Belleville, Mich.

The Irish won both the varsity four and novice eight races, while the varsity eight and second novice eight boats both finished in second place.

Saturday's regatta against No. 15 Michigan, No. 14 Michigan State and Clemson was the third outing of the season. The Irish opened their season with two regattas in Tennessee last weekend.

The novice eight boat, consisting of coxswain AZ Tice, Lisa Bunn, Casey Sullivan, Emily Backer, Melissa Miller, Kathleen Donahue, Dana Gates, Casey Robinson and Kellyn Nestor, remained undefeated, winning all five of their races this season.

This weekend, they obliterated their competition with a time of 7:09:87, nine seconds ahead of second-place Michigan and over a minute and a half over third-place Michigan State.

The varsity four of coxswain Sharon Keithley, Laura Petnuch, Anni Nowhitney, Shannon Cassel and Mary Kate McNamara also won their race, beating second-place Michigan State by nearly 10 seconds.

The second varsity eight finished fourth in its race and the second varsity four crew finished third in its four-boat race.

"We're weak in some areas and strong in others. Now we know what areas to work harder on."

AZ Tice
Rower

Tice said that the Irish's performance was expected.

"We're weak in some areas and strong in others," she said. "Now we know what areas to work harder on."

The next challenge for the Irish is the Indiana Invite April 4, where they will compete against No. 16 Wisconsin, Indiana and Purdue.

Notes:

◆The US Rowing/Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association will release their first poll of the regular season Wednesday.

Contact Danielle Keller at dkeller@nd.edu

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
SUMMER SESSION
JUNE 18–AUGUST 3, 2007

Course schedule information is available online at **nd.edu/~sumsess** or in the *Summer Session Bulletin* (available at the Summer Session Office, 111 Earth Sciences Building). Some courses—primarily in sciences and languages—will begin and end before or after the dates indicated above.

Notre Dame continuing students who are eligible to return in the fall must use Web Registration to register for summer courses or to make schedule changes. The Web Registration PIN (personal identification number) for summer is available on *inside*ND for all continuing students. Instructions for course registration are available at **registrar.nd.edu**. Course reference numbers (CRNs) are published in the *Bulletin* and at the Summer Session website.

Summer Web registration will be available from Wednesday, March 21, through the add and drop dates specific to each course. Students may register or make schedule changes whenever they choose during this period; no appointment times are necessary.

Air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned housing and (optional) summer meal plans will be available. Forms for meal plans may be obtained at the Summer Session Office at any time during the spring semester. Students may apply for summer housing online at **orlh.nd.edu**.

Tuition for the summer session of 2007 will be $688 per credit hour for undergraduate students and $331 per credit hour for graduate students, plus a $50 general fee.

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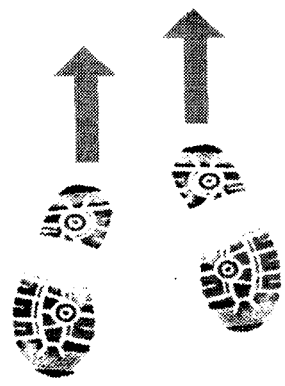

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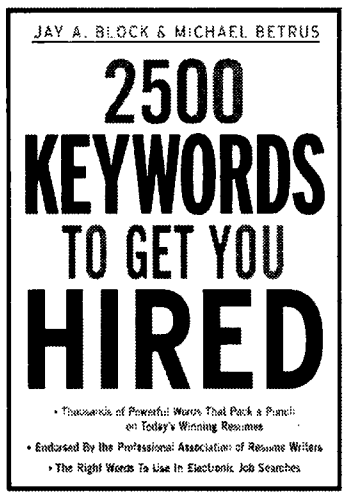

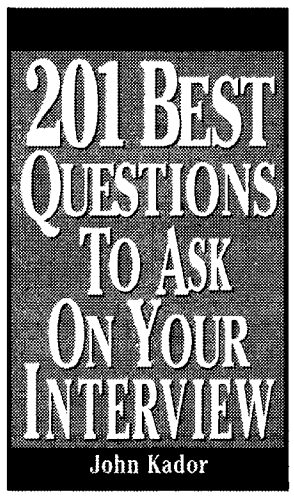

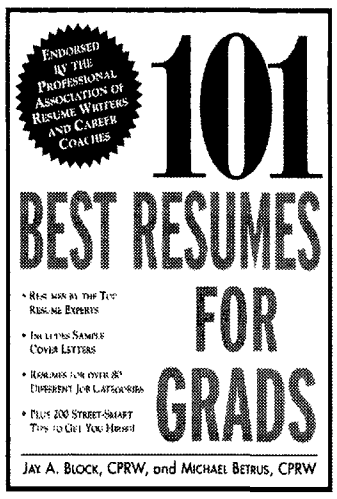

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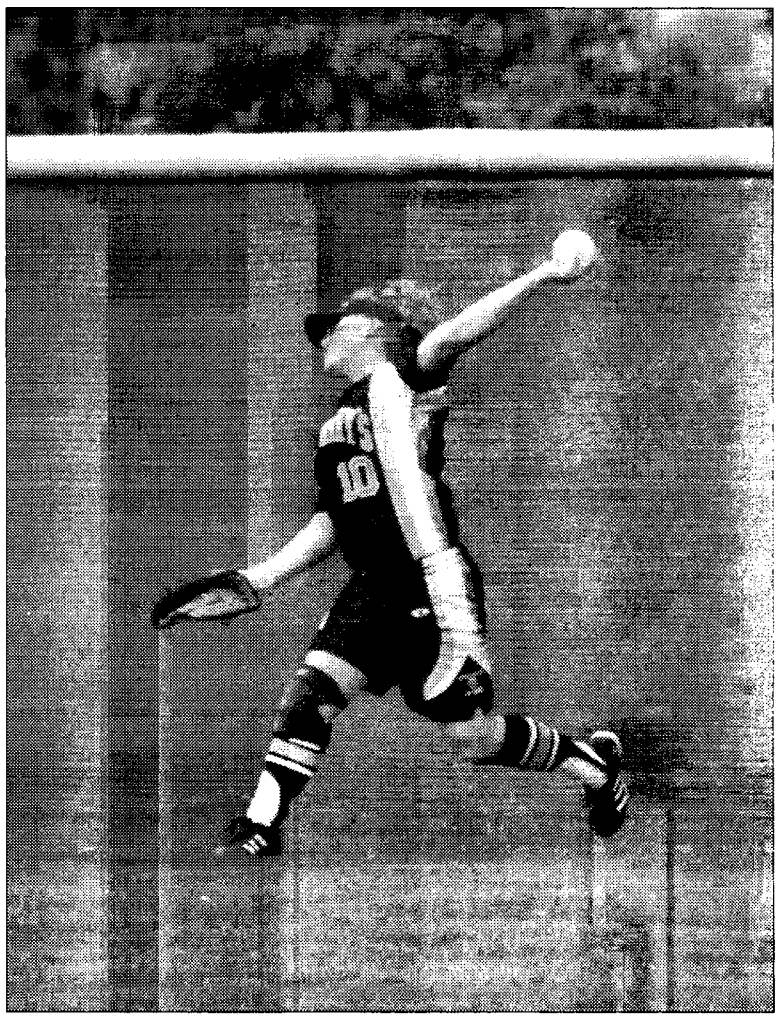
Belles slaughter Rose-Hulman 10-1



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Saint Mary's outfielder Ashley Peterson throws the ball toward the infield during the Belles' 10-1 win over Rose-Hulman Sunday.

By REBECCA SLINGER
Sports Writer

The slaughter rule may have ended the first game early, but it didn't end the Belles' slaughter of Rose-Hulman Sunday afternoon.

The Belles took the first game 10-1 in five innings and the second 5-0, improving their record to 11-1 — 2-0 at home — and dropping the Engineers to 7-9.

"[Rose-Hulman] played pretty much as expected," Belles coach Erin Sullivan said. "They hit the ball well, made some good adjustments, good improvements throughout the game. The pitchers were great as always."

Sophomore Calli Davison pitched the first game, shutting down the Engineers' best hitters and allowing just one run.

In an action-packed third inning, the Belles broke the game open with six hits and five homers, including a grand slam by sophomore catcher Ashley Fusaro.

After the offensive outburst, the Belles closed out the game quickly with the mercy rule. In Rose-Hulman's last chance to keep the game going, Davison got an out on a pop-up to freshman second baseman Mo Healy and struck out the next two hitters to end the game.

In the second contest of the doubleheader, Kristen Amram blew away the Engineer hitters, giving up no runs on three hits and lowering her ERA from an already miniscule 0.44 to 0.33.

Shortstop Sarah Miesle drove in four of Saint Mary's five runs on a grand slam in the bottom of the first inning.

"She did an all-around amazing job," Sullivan said of Miesle. "She just hit the ball great."

Miesle was more humble.

"I just played like I normally play," Miesle said. "I try and play hard every pitch. I just happened to have a good day today."

Last season, Saint Mary's set a school record with 28 wins and was 9-3 after 12 games. This year, the team is already two games ahead of that pace.

The Belles will travel this weekend to face Alma College at 2 p.m. Saturday and Manchester at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Contact Rebecca Slinger at rsling01@saintmarys.edu

ND TRACK

Irish athletes post 19 Big East qualifying marks

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame posted Mideast regional qualifying times in seven events this weekend at the Arizona State Clif Bar Invitational in Tempe, Ariz.

In addition, the team posted 19 Big East championship qualifying marks in both the relay events and the individual races.

Leading the Irish was senior Maryann Erigha, who qualified for the regional in three events. Erigha won the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.91 seconds and qualified in the event for the fourth year in a row.

She also ran in the 4x100 meter relay with senior Okechi Oqbuokiri, freshman Joanna Schultz and junior Domenique Manning. The team won the race with a time of 45.46 seconds. Finally, she ran the anchor leg of the 4x400 meter relay along with Oqbuokiri, Schultz and senior Crysta Swayzer. The team finished fourth in 3:41.12.

Freshmen Balazs Molnar had a strong meet, finishing fourth in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 52.36 seconds. That mark gave Molnar the third-fastest time in school history.

The meet was Molnar's first of the year since the 400-meter hurdles is not run during the indoor season. Molnar also ran in the 4x400 meter relay with senior Ryan Postel, senior Jordan Powell and junior Austin Wechter. The team ran the second-fastest time in school history, finishing in 3:09.38, and finished in second place.

Postel, in addition to the relay, won the 400-meter dash outright in 47.20 seconds. He has qualified for the Mideast regionals in the 400-meter dash in three of the last four years.

Junior hammer thrower Kyle Annen posted a throw of 57.36 meters, setting the eighth-highest mark in school history and qualifying in the event for the third year in a row.

Erigha also won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.77 seconds. That put her two-hundreths of a second away from a fourth regional qualifying time. Schultz and Oqbuokiri finished second and third, respectively, behind Erigha in the 200 meter dash. Schultz had a time of 24.51 seconds; Oqbuokiri crossed the line in 24.60 seconds.

Senior Christopher Jacques placed third in the long jump, leaping 7.00 meters. Sophomore Lauren Biscardi and senior Cassie Gullickson both finished in the top five in the high jump. Biscardi placed second, clearing 1.70 meters, and Gullickson cleared 1.65 meters to finish fifth. She also placed fifth in the triple jump, finishing with a distance of 11.63 meters.

The Irish also had a top-five finisher in the men's high jump. Sophomore Blair Majcina cleared 2.05 meters and finished third.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Belles rained out, remain 5-4 on season

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

Still 5-4 on the season, Saint Mary's was unable to add another win to its record this weekend due to unfortunate weather circumstances.

The Belles' match Saturday against Indiana Wesleyan University was cancelled because of forecasted rain and a lack of indoor tennis courts.

Today, the Belles will hit the road again to face a tough conference opponent — the Knights of Calvin College.

Last year, the Belles lost 8-1 to Calvin.

Despite last year's defeat, Belles' coach Dee Stevenson still has faith in his team, which is currently 1-0 in the MIAA conference.

"Calvin College is not as strong this year," Stevenson said, "And we are a bit stronger than we were last year. It should definitely be an interesting match."

The Belles' regular lineup will be ready to take on Calvin College with senior captain Kelly McDavitt playing number-one singles and standout freshman Camille Gebert taking the number-two spot. Together the duo will also compete in the number-one doubles spot.

The match will take place today in Grand Rapids, Mich., at 3 p.m.

Contact Ellyn Michalak at emichala@nd.edu

PGA TOUR

Tiger wins his last event before Masters

Associated Press

MIAMI — They can move this World Golf Championship around country and continents, change its name and stick it in a different spot on the calendar. Tiger Woods still seems to wind up with the trophy.

Woods made sure the outcome was never in doubt Sunday, making enough key putts to keep everyone at a distance and playing it safe at the end for a 1-over 73 to capture the CA Championship by two shots over Brett Wetterich in his final tournament before the Masters.

"Very pleased," Woods said about his game heading into the first major.

He is believed to be the first player to win a PGA Tour event six times on six courses. Woods also won this tournament, previously known as the American Express Championship, in Spain, Ireland, Atlanta, San Francisco and London. And it was his third straight victory at Doral.

"He's good on Bermuda, good in wind, good in no wind, he's good on bent grass. He's just a good player," U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy said. "What do you say?"

Woods never let anyone closer to him than four shots for most of the warm, blustery afternoon on the Blue Monster until Wetterich made birdie on the 16th to get within three. Equipped with that margin, Woods played iron off the tee on the tough 18th, laid up, and hit a wedge 50 feet beyond the flag. He lapped to tap-in range for bogey.

Wetterich had an 8-foot birdie putt to make it interesting, but left it short and settled for a 71.

Woods finished at 10-under 278 to continue his dominance in these World Golf Championships. It was his 13th title in 24 tries, and he is 11-of-16 when the tournaments are stroke play.

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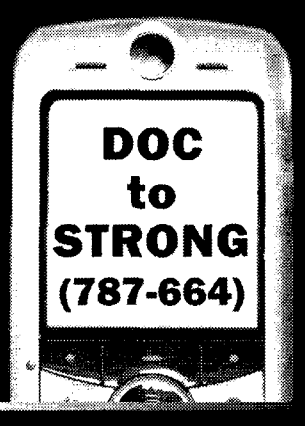

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Sweeps

continued from page 24

on a bases loaded walk, sophomore Beth Northway smacked a line drive to right field for two more runs.

Notre Dame scored two more in the sixth inning, but the early offensive production was more than enough for Bargar to claim another victory.

Notre Dame 3, St. John's 0

The second game of the doubleheader featured less offense than the first and turned into a pitcher's duel. After freshman Heather Johnson started the fourth inning with a single, a series of pinch running and small ball ensued, including a sacrifice bunt. It lead to an RBI sacrifice fly from Lux, giving Notre Dame a one-run lead.

The fifth inning saw sophomore Linda Kohan hit a sacrifice fly to bring senior Stephanie Brown home.

In the sixth, the Irish added another run, which was more than enough support for Fuemmeler as the Irish bats came through again.

Notre Dame 2, Seton Hall 1

On Sunday, Notre Dame faced off in another doubleheader against Big East rival Seton Hall.

In the first game, Bargar continued her impressive play with a complete-game one-hitter, allowing one unearned run. Fuemmeler started the second game of the day, giving up four hits and one run with four strikeouts.

In the second inning, Laing doubled and then stole third, before advancing home on a throwing error for the first run of the game. In the fourth inning, the Irish retired the first two batters, but after a walk and a single, Seton Hall was on the board.

For the second time in the game, Laing started a rally with a double, breaking the tie in the bottom of the fourth with a two-out RBI single from Lux. Although the Irish threatened to score another insurance run in the sixth, Bargar had enough support to close out the game, improving to 9-7 on the season.

Notre Dame 9, Seton Hall 1

The Irish bats came out strong again on the way to a 9-1 win, sealing the sweep on the day and their fifth win in a row. Fuemmeler improved to 5-5 on the season with her complete-game four-hit gem. After Kohan got on base with a hit, a wild pitch advanced her, before she scored on a double from Johnson.

Seton Hall quickly tied the game up in the second, making things interesting. The stalemate, however, did not last when Notre Dame made yet another two-out rally in the third inning — this time for three runs. The Irish then dropped a four-spot in the fourth frame, but in the end, it was Irish pitching and consistency from the plate that gave Notre Dame the edge.

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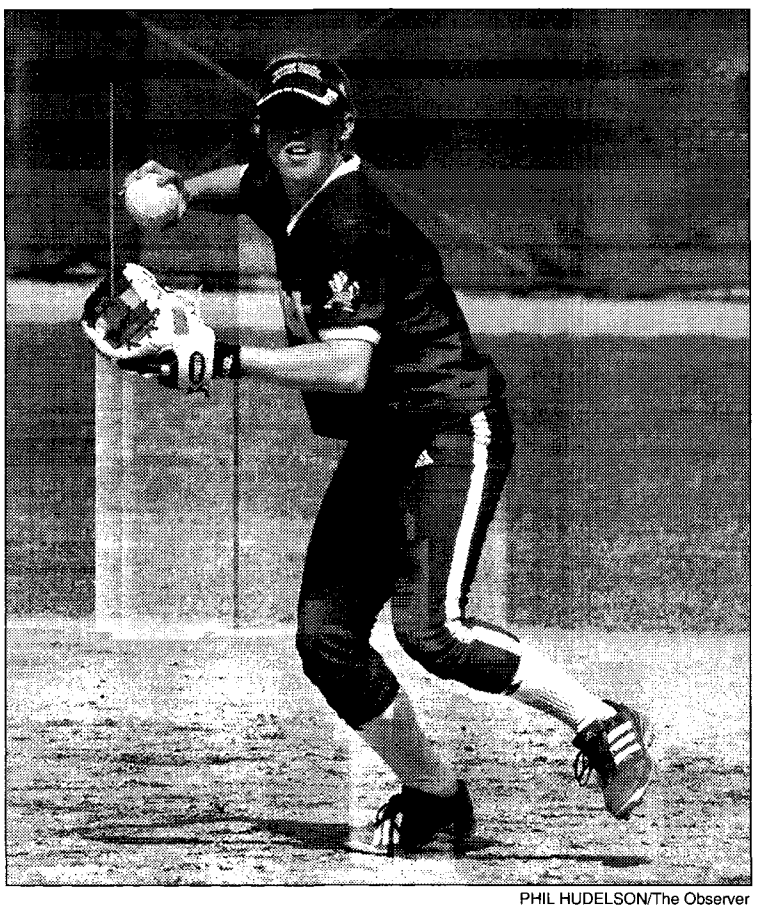

PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish junior shortstop Katie Laing throws to first in Notre Dame's 9-1 victory Sunday over Seton Hall at Ivy Field.

Men's Tennis

ND beats Boilers, keeps streak alive

By JAY WADE
Sports Writer

No. 5 Notre Dame, enjoying its highest rank since 2002, followed its victory at the Blue Gray Classic March 18 with a resounding 7-0 win Sunday against Purdue.

The Irish extended their winning streak to 10 matches and improved their overall record to 16-2 while Purdue fell to 8-5, 1-2 in the Big Ten.

Notre Dame's streak is its longest since the 1989-90 team won 15 consecutive games.

"I think the rankings indicated that we were a heavy favorite, but that does not always play out. ... I was happy with how we took care of all the things we needed to in a professional manner," Notre Dame coach Bobby Bayliss said.

The Irish had to adjust to new conditions while playing in West Lafayette. After a recent outdoor tournament, the team was forced to readjust to an indoor setting because Purdue's new outdoor courts are not yet finished.

Also, senior Irish standout No. 8 Stephen Bass — who has won nine of his last 10 matches — had to play freshman Branko Kuzmanovic, who he was not prepared to face. Bass adjusted well to his unknown opponent, defeating Kuzmanovic 6-2, 6-2. The Irish senior now has a record of 26-8.

"Bass did a good job of attacking his second serve, which was the key to winning that match," Bayliss said.

Like Bass, the rest of the Irish made short work of their opponents, with only junior Sheeva Parbhu dropping a set before his 6-3, 4-6, 10-4 victory. The win put Parbhu's overall record at 23-9.

"Sheeva let the second set go from him, but he came back and played a very good match," Bayliss said.

In singles play, Brett Helgeson defeated Eric Hodgman 6-1, 6-4, Barry King defeated Kurt Zaske 6-4, 6-2, Andrew Roth defeated Scott Warner 6-1, 6-2, and Ryan Keckley defeated Paul Foley 6-1, 6-2.

Keckley, who clinched the victory for Notre Dame, got his 60th career win.

Bayliss was particularly impressed with both King's and Helgeson's victories.

"They both beat strong players with their physical and aggressive ground strokes," he said.

In doubles, Keckley and Parbhu defeated Kuzmanovic and Rose 8-6, King and Helgeson defeated Hodgman and Zaske 8-2, and Bass and Roth defeated Foley and Griffin Neinberg 8-5. The victory for seventh-ranked Keckley and Parbhu put their record at 21-10, 7-9 in dual action.

Overall, it was a dominant victory for the Irish.

"Once we got a couple on the board quickly, it put a lot of pressure on the Purdue boys," Bayliss said.

The Irish play again Wednesday at Michigan State.

Contact Jay Wade at jwade@nd.edu

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SMC Golf

Belles improve scores in Kentucky tourney

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Junior Katie O'Brien posted a team-low, two-day total of 167 to lead Saint Mary's to a 20th-place finish in the Northern Kentucky Invitational over the weekend.

O'Brien shot an 83 in the first round and an 84 in the second during this weekend's tournament.

"[She] played well both rounds. She struck the ball very well," Belles coach Mark Hamilton said. "She struggled somewhat in putting, but still managed to shoot good scores."

Sophomore Meredith Fantam shot a 91 in her first round and an 87 in her second, totaling 178. Sophomore Meaghan Fontein shot a 110 during her first round, but significantly lowered her score, posting a 91 in her second round, to finish at 201.

"[She] improved twenty strokes over her first score, so she really played well for us today," Hamilton said.

The team was more comfortable after having played their first tournament of the year, and it showed. O'Brien beat her previous score by 24 strokes and Fantam lowered hers by 19.

"Everybody was a little more relaxed," Hamilton said. "We just played slightly closer to our potential."

As drastic as the improvements were, however, there are still kinks to be worked out.

"We still struggled on the greens this week, so we're still looking for an answer for that," he said.

Hamilton said the field of 22 teams was stronger than the competition faced during the previous tournament. He also said that the course was very conducive to lower scores and expressed relief the weather had improved since the team's last tournament.

"The conditions were benign, the weather was perfect," he said. "There was almost no wind."

The dip in scores was partially indicative of fine-tuning, but also had to do with the experience of playing in a tournament the week before, Hamilton said.

"We made some adjustments as far as strategy, as far as understanding how to play the course a little bit better," he said. "After having a tournament under your belt, you're a little more relaxed when you go out and play. We kind of lost our deer-in-the-headlights look a little bit from our first tournament of the year and played closer to our potential."

Perri Hamma and Theresa Tonyan rounded out Saint Mary's competitors at the Invitational. Hamma shot 93 and 101 to total 194 and Tonyan shot 114 and 110 to post a score of 224.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Bulls

continued from page 24

Big East opener.

Phelps scattered three hits, struck out 10 and allowed just six Bulls base runners to earn the win and improve his record to 4-1.

"David pitched exactly how we scripted it and hit his spots," Irish head coach Dave Schrage said.

The outing was Phelps' first career complete game.

"It's a little surreal," he said.

South Florida starter Danny Otero gave up just one run on seven hits in seven and two-thirds innings, but took the loss and fell to 4-4.

The Irish threatened in the first, putting shortstop Brett Lilley on third and third baseman A. J. Pollock on first with nobody out, but centerfielder Danny Dressman hit a tailor-made double-play ball to third. After the Bulls got the out at second, second baseman Dexter Butler threw the ball home, catching Lilley for the second out of the inning.

Dressman, thinking the inning was over, jogged off first base and was tagged out to retire the side.

The next inning, Notre Dame didn't bother with base running, as first baseman Mike Dury blasted his fifth home run of the season over the right field fence to give the Irish a 1-0 lead.

South Florida threatened to the tie the game in the ninth, getting a single from shortstop Walter Diaz to open the inning. After a strikeout, a blooper by third baseman Addison Maruszak would have scored Diaz, but the ball landed just foul.

"We were playing at home," Schrage said. "It was the luck of the Irish."

Instead, Phelps struck out Maruszak and Butler looking to end the game. Notre Dame's last 1-0 win came against BYU with J.P. Gagne on the hill in 2002.

South Florida 13, Notre Dame 10

South Florida capitalized off Notre Dame's mistakes Saturday, and there were a lot of them.

The Irish gave up eight walks, two hit batsmen, four passed balls and three errors in their 13-10 loss to the Bulls.

Notre Dame's starting pitcher, junior left-hander Wade Korpi, left the mound in the top of the sixth with a 5-2 lead and two runners on base. Two Irish pitchers would come to the mound — junior Joey Williamson and senior Jess Stewart — and allow a combined five runs off four hits in the rest of the sixth inning.

"The bullpen has done a good job all year," Schrage said. "[Stewart and Williamson] have been solid for us all season and today they weren't. I would do that again and those guys have pitched well for us all year, and we thought they'd come in a do a good job, but they didn't."

Notre Dame took the 5-2 lead in the bottom of the second. Jeremy Barnes started off a four-run burst for the Irish with an RBI down the third-base line.

The Bulls shut out the Irish in the bottom of the sixth before taking to their bats again. Stewart allowed two more runs in the seventh before Notre Dame brought in freshman left-hander David Mills from the bullpen. Mills walked the only three batters he faced, allowing two runs to score before junior right-hander Tony Langford took the mound. Langford allowed one more run to close out the inning.

Langford gave the Irish a fighting chance when he allowed no runs in the top of the eighth. With a 13-6 deficit, Notre Dame scored four in the bottom of the eighth.

The Bulls brought in freshman right-hander Shawn Sanford to close out the rest of the inning. Sanford allowed one run off an error before finishing the inning. Those four runs would be the end of the offensive charge for the Irish. Both Southern Florida and Notre Dame posted scoreless ninths to leave the final score at 13-10.

Notre Dame struggled defensively the entire game and despite making strong drives in the second and eighth, it was not able to rally.

"It's tough to shut any team down when you give them that many free bases," Schrage said. "I was proud of how our kids bounced back with the bats and kept battling, but we just gave up way too many runs."

South Florida 9, Notre Dame 1

Notre Dame left 14 runners on base and fell 9-1 to South Florida Sunday.

The Irish banged out 13 hits, but only mustered one run. In contrast, South Florida needed just nine hits to knock in its nine runs.

Notre Dame got a hit in every inning and put at least two runners on base from the third through the eighth frames, but couldn't drive any of them in. The only Irish run came on a lead-off home run by shortstop Brett Lilley in the first.

"It was one of the most frustrating games I've experienced," Schrage said. "People were getting hits with no one on base, but then they'd come up with a chance to knock some in, and they wouldn't do it."

The best chance to score for the Irish came in the third, when Lilley and Pollock got back-to-back hits. With two outs, a line drive by Dury seemed about to score them, but Maruszak leaped to his left and made a diving catch to retire the side.

The Bulls put two runs on the board in the first without getting a hit. Shortstop Walter Diaz walked, advanced to second on an error by Pollock, took third on a sacrifice by leftfielder Ty Taborelli and scored on a wild pitch. Maruszak, who reached on the error, scored one batter later on a ground out to third by Butler.

Notre Dame responded in the bottom of the inning with Lilley's home run, but would not score again.

After five scoreless innings, the Bulls got four more runs in the top of the eighth, loading the bases with one out and scoring when Notre Dame reliever Kyle Weiland walked Butler to force in a run and another run on a sacrifice fly by first baseman Brandin Daniel.

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish pitcher Wade Korpi delivers a pitch in Notre Dame's 13-10 loss Saturday to South Florida at Frank Eck Stadium.

The next batter, designated hitter Nick Cardieri, knocked in two more with a double.

South Florida scored three more in the ninth, with Maruszak knocking in right fielder Josh LeRoy, Taborelli scoring Diaz with a sacrifice fly, and Butler getting an RBI single to drive in Maruszak.

All in all, the Notre Dame bullpen of Weiland, sophomore Brett Graffy and freshman Eric Maust allowed seven runs on five hits in four innings relieving Kapala.

"Every time we made a move to the bullpen, nobody did the job," Schrage said. "That's frustrating because that was one of our strengths coming into this weekend."

Bulls junior Chris Delaney allowed just one run in 6.1 innings to earn the win and improve to 5-0 this season. Freshman Shawn Sanford recorded his fifth save of the season. Kapala took the loss to fall to 0-2.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu and Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

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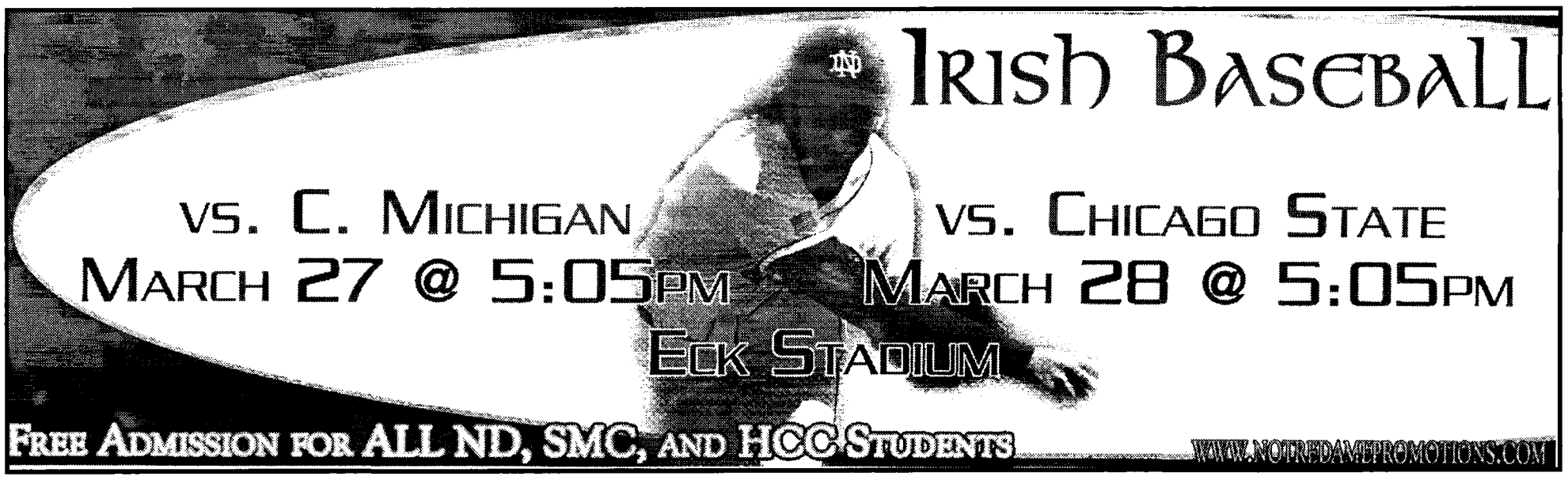

NCAAs

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ry, finishing second to Harvard's Timothy Hagaman by a single touch. It marked the third straight season that Ghattas lost in the championship bout, a fact that the captain said eats at him.

"It's hard," Ghattas said. "It's like the same feeling three years in a row."

Still, Ghattas contributed a point to the team score with each of his 18 victories in pool play. He and sophomore Bill Thanhouser, whose 17 wins tied him for fourth most, accounted for 35 of Notre Dame's 160 points.

"It's nice to see [Thanhouser] fencing so well," Ghattas said. "We were solid. ... We did our job."

But Thanhouser's performance was only the second-best among the team's sophomores. Classmate Nott captured third place with a 9-8 win in sudden death over Penn State's Tamara Najm. Nott finished sixth in 2006.

Nott, whose hometown coach was friends with first-year Irish assistant Gia Kvaratskhelia, said Kvaratskhelia's instruction on her footwork was especially important this season.

"I just hope I have two more chances to do this," Nott said.

If Nott does reach the national competition again, it likely will be with Hurley, who took second in women's epee. The freshman earned 18 pool victories before beating Reka Szele of St. John's to advance to the finals.

There, she traded touches in a fast-paced first period with Wayne State's Anna Garina, a 30-year-old southpaw senior from Kiev, Ukraine. Garina took a quick 2-0 lead, but Hurley battled back to tie the score at 6-6. After Garina took the next touch, the two traded two double-touches and two single scores to end the period with Garina up 11-10. The senior claimed a 13-11 lead early in second, but the San Antonio product tied the score at 13-13. But that was as close as Hurley got, and Garina took the bout 15-13.

After the bout, Hurley said she was upset with missed opportunities that could have put away the three-time national champion.

"Maybe in a little while I can look at it as a positive, but right now I'm just so angry I missed those chances," Hurley said.

On the other end of the spectrum, Providenza's career ended in frustrating style.

With her semifinal bout knotted at 14-14, Providenza deflected an advance by Columbia's Daria Schneider and hit Schneider's lamee. But Providenza didn't score the touch because of new timing rules. Schneider counterattacked to beat the senior and overcame Penn State's Caitlin Thompson in a thrilling final for the individual crown.

Still visibly upset with the semifinal loss, Providenza tried to battle back after falling behind 8-3 in the third-place bout but fell short with a 15-13 defeat at the hands of Columbia's Emily Jacobson.

In men's epee, junior Greg Howard earned eighth place with a 13-10 record in his first competition at the NCAAs. Sophomore teammate Karol Kostka finished three spots behind Howard with 12 wins.

Howard, who came to the NCAAs as a spectator last season, said he was less nervous competing than he was watching because he "had some control" this time. That, combined with his laid-back personality, produced a relaxed attitude that propelled him to several key wins, including a 5-2 victory over fourth-place finisher Dwight Smith of Columbia.

"I feel like I got a lot better this year," Howard said. "I definitely became a little bit more focused."

In men's foil, Notre Dame sophomore Mark Kubik took seventh with 13 wins, and Irish junior Jakub Jedrkowiak finished ninth with 12 victories.

On the women's side of the foil, Notre Dame sophomore Emilie Prot went 6-3 Sunday after posting a 5-9 record in Saturday's first four rounds.

Irish sophomore and Orange, N.J. native Ashley Serrette finished 9-14 in the women's sabre competition but was only minus-10 in total touches.

In all, Irish non-seniors earned 77 percent of the squad's points.

"We should be glad they fenced well," Bednarski said. "They showed fury. They showed ambition."

Notes:

◆ With Garina's win against Hurley for the women's epee crown, the Ukraine native earned her third title with a championship victory over a Notre Dame fencer. Garina topped then-sophomore Amy Orlando 15-6 in 2005 and former Irish national champion Kerry Walton for the crown in 2004.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

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Spartans

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soon.

"They're all in there crying," he said. "A year ago, some [cried], but probably a lot of the same ones. It means a lot more to play for Notre Dame now."

The No. 1 Irish, two years removed from a five-win season, came up one victory short of a berth into the Frozen Four when the third-seeded Spartans scored two power-play goals and surrendered only 20 shots to capture the Midwest regional championship. The Irish loss came one night after they took a marathon 3-2 double-overtime win over Alabama-Huntsville in the regional's opening game – the first Tournament win for the Irish in school history.

"Yeah ... yeah, they're a great team," said Jackson, who had refrained all season from calling the Irish 'great'. "Being the pioneers to take this program to places it's never seen or known before, yeah, they're a great team.

"As far as what it takes, the price to pay, they're right up there at the very top."

The Irish (32-7-3) encountered a Michigan State team that was a day removed from a 5-1 crushing of second-seeded Boston University in its opening round Tournament game. And the Spartans continued to execute immaculately on the defensive side of the puck for two and a half periods against the Irish.

Notre Dame did not score until 14:52 into the third period when right wing Evan Rankin redirected a shot from the point into the net from defenseman Brett Blatchford to cut the Spartans lead to 2-1. From there, the Irish began to generate consecutive scoring chances for nearly the first time all game on Michigan State goalie Jeff Lerg (19 saves).

"They're a never-quit group, and that's why they're taking it hard right now" Jackson said of his team's late-game surge.

Then came Notre Dame's last-ditch attempt to tie the game and force an overtime period.

Irish left wing Garrett Regan barreled down the right side of the ice at full speed with less than three minutes remaining in the game, when he burned his defenseman and cut in toward Lerg, getting a shot off at the same moment he crashed into the goalie. One of Regan's linemates then buried the puck into the net for the tying goal off his rebound – until the referee's hand shot up and Regan was sent to the box for goaltender interference with 2:23 remaining and no goal was awarded.

"This late in the playoffs, you have to have heart to take the puck to the net, obviously Garrett had a lot of drive," Rankin said. "I thought it should've been called a goal. I thought it was a pretty questionable call."

Notre Dame never recovered, despite spending the last two minutes of the game in a 5-on-4 situation after Spartans defenseman Ethan Graham was called for tripping and Irish goalie Dave Brown was pulled from the net for the extra attacker.

The Irish defense blocked three shots on the empty net, but the offense could not beat Lerg before the buzzer.

"Obviously our best player was our best player when he had to be, that's Jeff," Michigan State captain Chris Lawrence said of Lerg.

The Spartans (24-13-3) took a 2-0 lead on the power play 5:59 into the third period after Irish right wing Ryan Thang was whistled for checking from behind. Thang's penalty was called eight seconds after the Irish were back at full strength following a high-sticking call on center Christian Hanson.

Spartans left wing Tim Kennedy capitalized on the man-advantage situation and beat Brown to his five-hole on a wraparound for the eventual game-winner.

LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Irish freshman right wing Ryan Thang tries to get around a Michigan State defender in Notre Dame's 2-1 loss to the Spartans Saturday at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Irish were whistled for 10 penalties on the game and had to kill off seven Spartan power plays, allowing two goals. The Irish power play went 0-for-5, unable to penetrate the Spartans defense and allowing several short-handed scoring chances for Michigan State.

"We took a few extra penalties than we usually take that might not be characteristic," Brown said. "But you know, that's just how the game goes. We fought hard [Friday] night [against Alabama-Huntsville] for five periods, and if there were any side effects were not using that as an excuse."

The Spartans scored their first goal 6:04 into the second period for the 1-0 lead when center Chris Mueller banged home an open rebound past Brown on the power play. The goal came less than two minutes after the Spartans had a goal waived off.

Right wing Jim McKenzie beat Brown on his blocker side from the slot, but it was recalled after a video review determined that center Justin Abdelkader was in the crease when the goal was scored, interfering with Brown. Less than 15 seconds later, the Irish were whistled for tripping on Rankin and Michigan State was able to take the permanent lead.

"The first one [the ref] cancelled, he just gave them a power play right away anyways," Brown said. "It was frustrating because within ten seconds he gave them the power play. That was frustrating, and the shot kind of got deflected, and it deflected right off me to their guy."

Notre Dame was beat 35-46 on faceoffs by the Spartans — a strong point for the Irish all season.

"I knew [faceoffs] were going to be a concern coming in — puck possession off of faceoffs," Jackson said. "We're a pretty good faceoff team, but one team we had a real problem with this year was against Michigan State. ... Both goals were direct results of faceoffs, one on the [second-period] power play and one five-on-five that drew the penalty."

Irish center Kevin Deeth had an opportunity to give Notre Dame the first lead 10 minutes into the first period with the team's best scoring chance of the game. Deeth got the puck alone in the slot in front of Lerg, deked out the goalie and went left side, but Lerg stretched across the crease and gloved it out of mid-air.

Lerg and the rest of the Spartans will now play Maine in the Frozen Four in St. Louis April 5.

Brown, who made 23 saves on the game and didn't surrender an even-strength goal, is still a front-runner to be one of the three candidates named Wednesday as finalists for the Hobey Baker Memorial Award to be awarded April 6 in St. Louis.

"We changed the culture within the program, in the locker room," Brown said of this season. "Everyone is dying every night to play. We want to win so bad that to have it end like this is just heartbreaking. Hopefully the nation will see how we elevated Notre Dame hockey to national prominence."

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

Marathon

continued from page 24

a 2-0 hole against the No. 1 team in the country and proceeded to deny the Irish for over 90 minutes before finally surrendering a goal. Narduzzi stood on his head for the Chargers, making 49 saves before freshman Ryan Thang finally found a chink in the armor for a 3-2 double overtime win — more than four hours after the opening faceoff.

Notre Dame avoided the monumental upset, but the victory was a Pyrrhic one. The Irish had less than 24 hours to recover physically and mentally from the marathon matchup, and it was clear they were a step slower than Michigan State during their 2-1 loss in Saturday's regional championship game.

The lack of steam was most evident during the second period when Michigan State goalie Jeff Lerg faced only three shots and the Spartans got off nine, including a Chris Mueller put-back that gave them their first lead of the game.

The Spartans frustrated the exhausted Notre Dame team by feeding it a dose of its own medicine. A pestering forecheck, a solid team defense and an impenetrable penalty-kill unit kept Notre Dame from even sniffing a scoring chance on its five power plays. All season Notre Dame has controlled the puck from start to finish, but Saturday Michigan State won the faceoff battle (45-36) and seemed to control the pace for much of the contest.

In order to keep up with their opponents, the Irish were forced to take a lot of penalties.

"I think that is where a little bit of last night showed up," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said after Saturday's game. "They weren't discipline penalties — they were a little bit a-step-behind penalties."

The team was whistled for 10 penalties on the night. Two of those led to Michigan State's goals, and another took away an Irish goal that would have tied the game at two apiece with less than three minutes left.

Sophomore left wing Garrett Regan was called for goaltender interference when he crashed the net hard and collided with Lerg in the crease. The Irish put the loose puck in the net, but referee Peter Feolay waved off the goal due to the contact.

"I felt that he was funneled in to net. The goalie was still eligible to play the puck after the initial contact," said junior linemate Evan Rankin. "I thought it was a very questionable call,"

It seems a bit cliché to dwell on officiating after the final loss of a season, but the crucial call could have gone either way down the stretch.

The call extinguished the last bit of spark the Irish had in them and all but ended what was arguably the greatest season in the history of Notre Dame hockey.

The team and its fans were clearly disappointed to fall short of reaching the Frozen Four in St. Louis, but the humongous strides taken this season will go a long way toward reaching what Jackson has referred to as "the ultimate prize" — a national championship.

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

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Irish junior right wing Evan Rankin struggles with an Alabama-Huntsville defender in Notre Dame's 3-2 double overtime victory Friday

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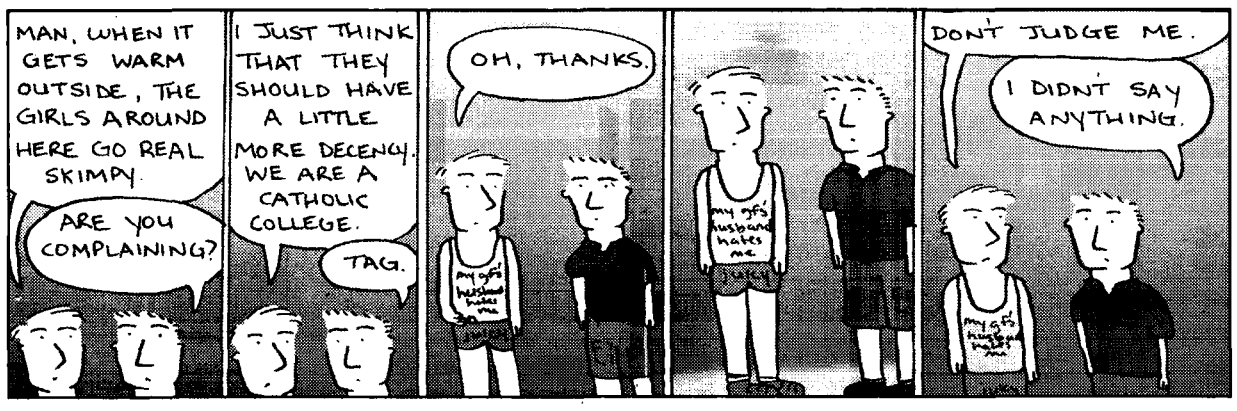
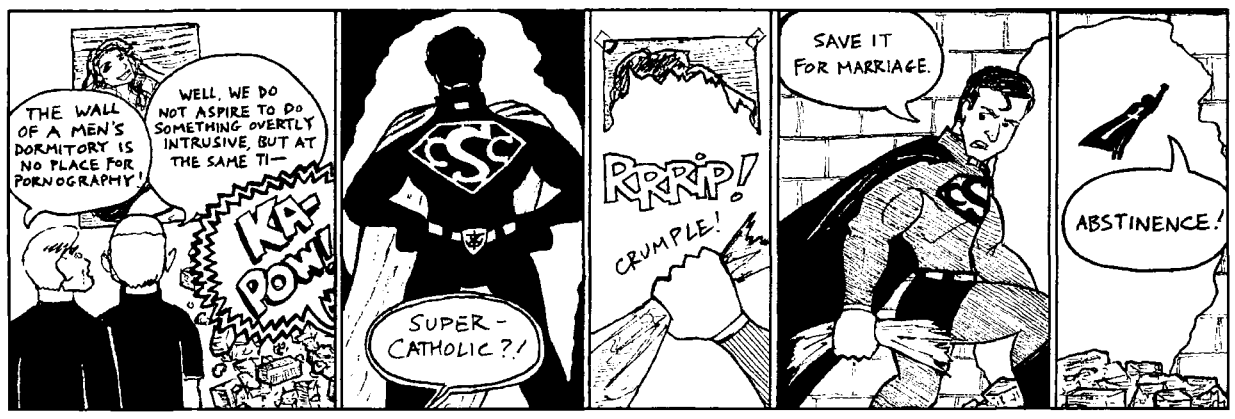


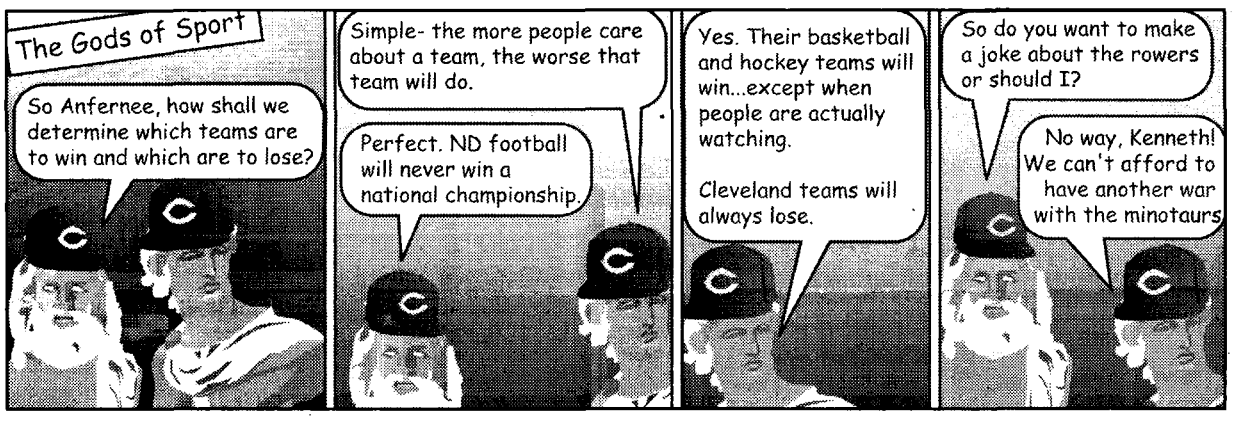
Black Dog

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



Kaleidoscope McDaniels

LIAM MORAN



Crossword

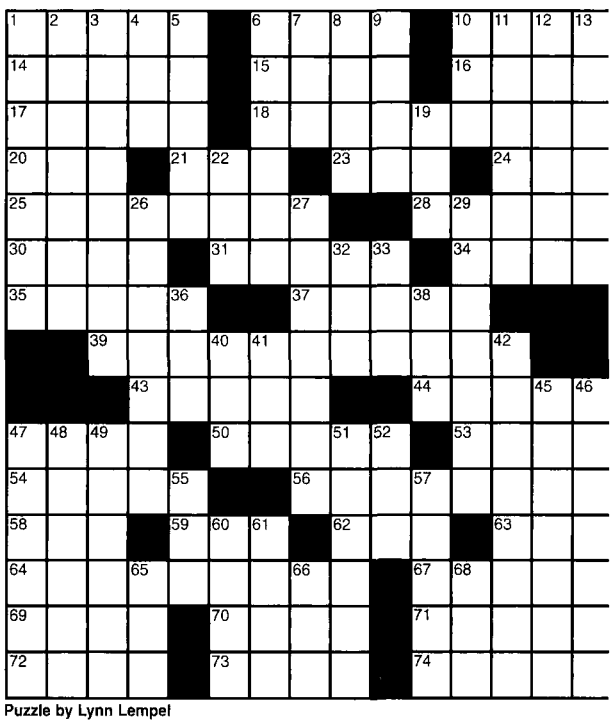
WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 "My Fair Lady" horse race
6 Wrigley Field team
10 Hinged fastener
14 Tiresome task
15 "Got it"
16 Germany's von Bismarck
17 Film director Frank
18 Sharp-toothed Atlantic swimmer
20 Ron of Tarzan fame
21 Record-setting miler Sebastian
23 Diner's bill
24 Actress Gardner
25 Overabundance
28 Washing site
30 Fuss
31 Toyota rival
34 Must-have
35 Holey cheese
37 Entice
39 Doohickey
43 Sir ___ Newton
44 Skin woes
47 Total flop
50 Evening up, as a score
53 Ice cream purchase
54 About 71% of the earth's surface
56 All-time winningest N.F.L. coach
58 The "I" in T.G.I.F.
59 Acorn producer
62 ___ and Coke
63 Seize
64 1978 Donna Summer hit ... or a hint to 18-, 25-, 39- and 56-Across
67 Tennis's Agassi
69 Nights before holidays
70 Wines like Merlot
71 Prolonged attack
72 Office furniture
73 Annoyer
74 Jackrabbits, actually

DOWN

1 Takes, as an offer
2 Not deep
3 Tweak, as magazine text
4 Hockey legend Bobby
5 Class instructor, informally
6 Roman orator
7 Grp. putting on shows for troops
8 Not straight
9 Big video game maker
10 Opposite of vert.
11 Relaxed
12 Musical Wonder
13 Pope John Paul II's homeland
19 Diminish
22 Cry of wonder
26 Tokyo electronics giant
27 Heartburn reliever
29 Ohio college named for a biblical city
32 Rep.'s foe
33 Dr.'s advocate
36 Lisa, to Bart Simpson
38 Bedwear, briefly
40 ___ King Cole
41 Not straight
42 Alternative to a fly ball
45 Expand
46 Navy building crew
47 Heated, as water
48 "Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do" range
49 Slobs' creations
51 What the weary get, in a saying
52 Horned beast
55 Silent O.K.
57 Huge hit
60 Org. for those 50+
61 Thigh/shin separator
65 "For shame!"
66 PC inserts
68 Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"



Puzzle by Lynn Lempel

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

W	E	T	T	S	H	I	R	T		L	E	W	I	S
A	Y	E	A	Y	E	S	I	R		O	M	A	H	A
S	E	R	E	N	G	E	T	I		M	O	R	E	L
H	E	M		C	O	R		R	I	A		R	A	T
E	X	I	M		T	E	L	E	G		T	O	R	T
R	A	N	O	U	T		I	M	O		H	O	Y	A
S	M	I	R	C	H		P	E	T	E	R	M	A	X
			I	L	E	T		S	T	L	O			
B	O	N	S	A	M	I	S		H	E	W	I	T	T
R	H	E	O		I	M	P		E	M	I	N	O	R
A	C	C	T		N	E	R	O	S		N	A	N	A
P	A	K		E	E	L		T	H	O		S	T	N
A	R	T	I	E		A	N	T	A	R	C	T	I	C
D	O	I	N	G		G	O	O	F	F	L	I	N	E
S	L	E	D	S		S	P	I	T	F	I	R	E	S

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, $1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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Jumble

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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

NOLFE

NAGIT

GAROUC

DEKOOH

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www.jumble.com

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

A: TO ( ) " ( ) "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: POWER DUNCE BUSHEL SURETY
Answer: What the running back did as time was running out — "RUSHED" TO SCORE

Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sheryl Swoopes, 36; Sarah Jessica Parker, 42; Elton John, 60; Aretha Franklin, 65

Happy Birthday: You may be torn between what you should do and what you want to do this year. Don't let this hold you back. No matter how old or young you are, it is a great time to throw away your fears and give in to a dream that will shape the rest of your life. Your numbers are 6, 16, 28, 35, 37, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be positive and take action and you will find that some people like your ideas and what you are trying to do. You can make a difference to children or seniors today. Your vision, suggestions and hands-on help will build a stronger relationship. 2 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pamper, relax, spend a day at a spa or entertain someone you absolutely adore today. No matter what you do, work should not be on your agenda. Remember all the good times you've had. 4 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put in some solid working hours at home. You can make some good changes to your surroundings or you can get a jump on your upcoming work week. You will have some interesting ideas. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be moody if things go wrong and very loving and passionate when things go your way, so keep things light and spend time with the people you are most compatible with. A short trip will be enlightening. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your plans in motion. Your dedication will impress the people you encounter. Talk to people who may be interested in what you are trying to do. What you may have been uncertain about in the past should now be clear. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You should sign up for a course or attend a tradeshow or a reunion that will bring you in contact with other people. Love is in the stars and the more time you spend with someone you are totally into, the better your relationship will become. 4 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you are negative or stressed out because you face uncertainties regarding your work, taking it home will only cause more problems for you in your personal life. Busy yourself with something you really enjoy doing. Forget about the things you can't change today. 2 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can profit through real estate, winnings, gifts, investments, settlements or even collecting old debts. This is a great day to make some changes to your residence or to spend time with the one you love. 5 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's not the best day for travel or conversations that could have an impact on your future. Don't exaggerate or get involved in gossip. Spend time fixing things around your home or learning something new. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may feel a bit of a push-pull going on in your head. If you are well-organized, you can probably fit in both responsibilities and a good time. Someone you love will be willing to help and will offer you lots of affection. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do what you can for your community. If you get involved in something meaningful, you will hook up with some interesting people. You can stabilize your life by making a decision about your next step. 5 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are in position to institute some of the changes you've been contemplating. Make sure, however, that you aren't trying to do the impossible. Simplicity will be the key. 5 stars

Birthday Baby: You are enchanting, magical and sensitive to the needs of others. You are changeable and forgiving but also one who never forgets.

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

THE OBSERVER

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FENCING

Irish finish fourth at NCAA Championships

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

MADISON, N.J. — It just wasn't Notre Dame's year.

But this weekend's NCAA Championships at Drew University might be a sign of better things to come for the Irish.

Notre Dame finished fourth in the team competition to conclude a season that included a surgery and lengthy absence for head coach Janusz Bednarski, the hiring of a new assistant coach for the foilists and the departure of Olympic gold medalist Mariel Zagunis.

The Irish beat regional rival Ohio State but fell short of St. John's, Columbia and champion Penn State. Notre Dame also finished fourth last year.

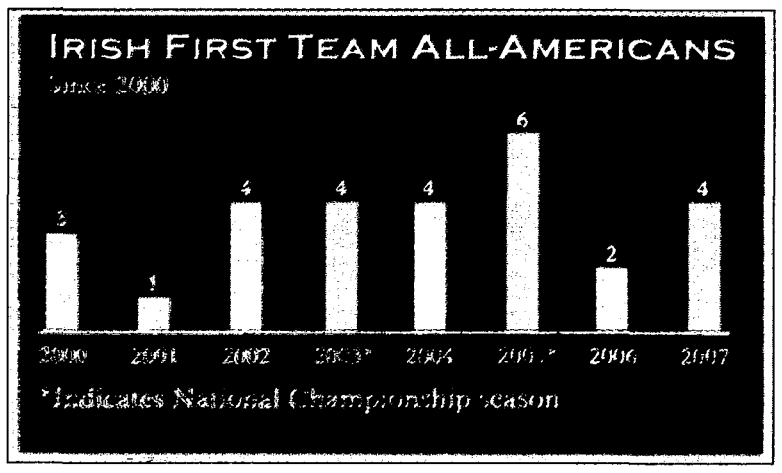
Still, four Irish fencers garnered first-team All-American status with top-four showings — freshman epeeist Kelley Hurley, sophomore foilist Adi Nott and senior sabreists Patrick Ghattas and Valerie Providenza.

In all, nine of Notre Dame's 11 qualifiers earned at least honorable mention All-American status with top-12 finishes in their weapon, and seven of those nine will return to the squad next season.

"Happy — we are not. We always want more," Bednarski said as the Championships closed inside the Simon Forum and Athletic Center. "[But] I am very proud of the kids, who kept going. We have new fencers who are showing good skill."

Ghattas became the 25th three-time first-team All-American in Notre Dame histo-

see NCAAS/page 21



Madeline Nies/Obersver Graphic

HOCKEY

Frozen fallout

Icers fall to Spartans in NCAA Midwest regional final, 2-1

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Irish coach Jeff Jackson sat alone at the post-game press conference table minutes after Notre Dame fell 2-1 to Michigan State in a loss that put a premature period to the end of a season no one expected, and after it was over, no one wanted to see end.

Jackson looked at the empty seats to his left where his players usually sat and told those assembled in Grand Rapids for No. 1 Notre Dame's second NCAA Tournament appearance Saturday that none would be leaving the locker room anytime

see SPARTANS/page 24

LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Irish defenseman Tom Sawatske skates around Alabama-Huntsville right wing Steve Canter in Notre Dame's 3-2 win over the Chargers at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Double overtime first-round contest put ND a step behind MSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich, — Chances are 99 percent of the hockey world has never heard his name before — and will likely never hear it inside a rink again — but Alabama-Huntsville goaltender Marc Narduzzi may have single-handedly put a halt to Notre Dame's dream of a national championship.

Dan Murphy
Sports Writer

The senior netminder came off the bench Friday with his team in

see MARATHON/page 22

BASEBALL

Bulls take conference series

By CHRIS KHOREY and DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writers

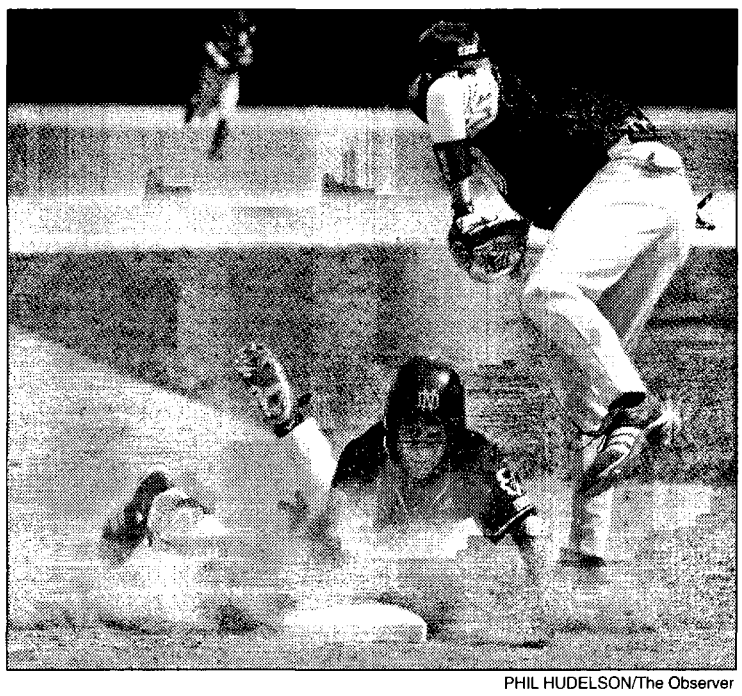
Notre Dame dropped two of three games to South Florida over the weekend at Frank Eck Stadium in its opening Big East series.

The games were the first outside of Florida for the Bulls (18-8, 4-2 Big East), who looked cold in a 1-0 loss in the rain Friday, but heated up once the weather got warmer to earn a 13-10 win Saturday and a 9-1 decision Sunday over the Irish (11-11, 1-2).

Notre Dame 1, South Florida 0

Sophomore David Phelps pitched a complete-game shutout and first baseman Mike Dury hit a home run as Notre Dame won its

see BULLS/page 20



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish designated hitter Ross Brezovsky slides into third in Notre Dame's 9-1 loss to South Florida Sunday.

ND SOFTBALL

Team sweeps Big East foes Red Storm, Pirates

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Notre Dame started Big East play with a perfect record after a doubleheader sweep Saturday of St. John's and another twin-killing, this time Sunday over Seton Hall.

Lux

The Irish were carried by hot hitting, most notably from freshman Christine Lux, who had three hits and four RBIs over the weekend.

Notre Dame pitchers threw two shutouts — the first two of the season. Sophomore Brittney Bargar allowed only two hits with eight strikeouts for an 8-0 victory in the first game. Senior Kenya Fuemmeler also pitched a complete-game gem, conceding four hits and striking out seven.

Notre Dame 8, St. John's 0

The third inning saw Notre Dame make a three-run rally with two retired already in the frame. Junior Katie Laing produced some offense with a two-run double. After advancing to third base on an attempted throw home, Laing crossed the plate on a single to right field by Lux.

The Irish also exploded with a three-run fifth inning. After Lux was credited with an RBI

see SWEEPS/page19