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Jenkins, Mooney attend papal speech in Washington

Pope discusses faith and education in talk at Catholic University

By BILL BRINK
News Editor

In an address to Catholic educators from across the country at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., Pope Benedict XVI discussed education and faith in the university setting.

Academic freedom is an important part of Catholic education, but is subservient to the teachings of the Catholic Church, the pope said Thursday. Notre Dame President Father John Jenkins and Saint Mary's president Carol Ann Mooney were in attendance.

The pope said Catholic institutions must be consistent with the faith and teachings of the Church both inside and outside of the classroom.

"Any appeal to the principle of academic freedom in order to justify positions that contradict the faith and the teaching of the Church would obstruct or even betray the university's identity

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Pope Benedict XVI addressed an audience of Catholic educators during his speech at Catholic University in Washington D.C. Thursday.

University and College presidents react to Benedict's address

By LIZ HARTER, BILL BRINK, and
CHRIS HINE
News Writers

When Pope Benedict XVI addressed over 200 Catholic university presidents and educators, including the presidents of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College, Saint Mary's president Carol Ann Mooney did not know what he would say when he entered the room.

"There was all this speculation like, 'Would he scold us?' There was none of that. I didn't expect that, but I guess I didn't expect it to be quite [as much of] an uplifting experience as it really was," Mooney said in a press release Thursday.

Instead, Benedict's speech was not a scolding but an "affirmation of the importance of Catholic education," Notre Dame president Fr.

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Finish on the 50 to benefit Hannah and Friends

Inaugural 5K race and one-mile walk will take students around campus, finish on Notre Dame Stadium's 50-yard line

By KATIE PERALTA
Assistant News Editor

This Saturday will be a bustling day on the Notre Dame campus, from the annual Blue-Gold game to the first ever Finish on the 50, a 5K race that will finish on the 50-yard line of the Notre Dame stadium.

Sponsored by Alumni Hall, the event will benefit Hannah and Friends, the charity founded by Charlie

and Maura Weis to help special needs children.

The 3.1 mile race will take participants around the Stadium, through the Notre Dame campus around South Quad, around the Stepan Center and back to the Stadium to finish on the 50-yard line after running through the tunnel.

The event also features a one-mile walk for those not wishing to run.

Race coordinator senior Clint Bergstrom said the

idea for the event arose last spring.

"We seriously started taking a look [at planning the event] at the beginning of this semester once we got the approval of SAO [Student Activities Office]," Bergstrom said.

Six Alumni race committees were responsible for various planning aspects of the race. Bergstrom's fellow Alumni residents chose him to head the effort once it was underway.

"I used to do a lot of running [in high school]. I thought this would be a cool opportunity for a good cause," Bergstrom said.

Although race coordinators initially entertained the idea of inviting the entire South Bend community, they eventually decided to keep it open to only Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross College students.

Bergstrom said the event, although only in its first year, has seen an impressive

number of registrants so far.

"As of Wednesday night, we had 300 signed up already," Bergstrom said.

The event, Bergstrom said, has received a great deal of support throughout its planning stages.

Adidas donated T-shirts, which each participant will receive with his or her registration fee, while collegiate service organization Circle K provided volunteers

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Scam seeks personal information of students

By BILL BRINK
News Editor

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) recently informed students of an e-mail scam that has attempted to obtain students' personal information.

The scam, known as "phishing," works by sending out an e-mail designed to replicate an e-mail from OIT asking for students to enter their passwords, said Gary Dobbins, OIT Director of Information Security.

"The latest round has changed to asking for passwords under the guise of deleting [the student] e-mail account if you don't supply it to them," Dobbins said.

Once the creators of the false

e-mails get a student's password, Dobbins said, they use the account to send out massive amounts of spam.

"As organizations get better at fighting sources of spam, spammers get better at using legitimate sources," Dobbins said.

Formerly, it was possible for spammers to send such e-mails from home PCs, Dobbins said. Now, however, internet access companies are enacting stricter rules about usage so spammers have to resort to using other people's accounts.

Dobbins said OIT did not know specific information about whether Notre Dame students had fallen victim to the false e-mails. Students at other colleges have had their

see OIT/page 4

Faith-science link examined

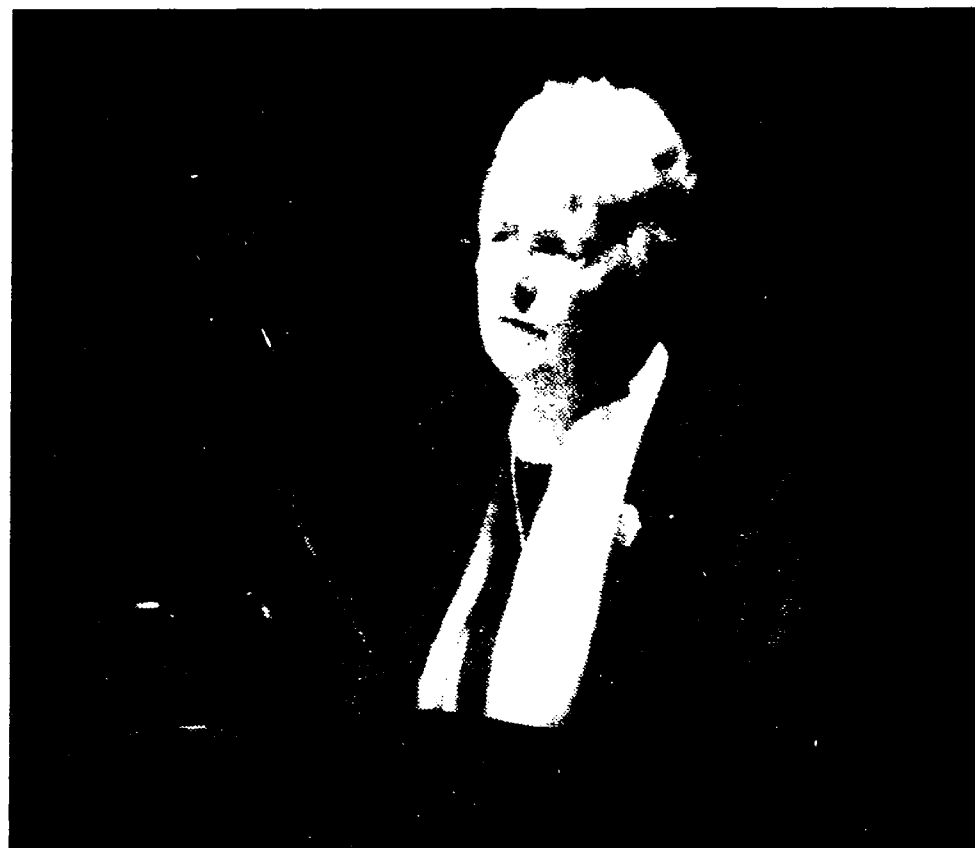
Lecturer Barbara Fiand discusses scientific discovery and spirituality

By KATLYN SMITH
News Writer

Lecturer and author Barbara Fiand explored the relationship between scientific discoveries, particularly in quantum physics, and spiritual views Thursday at Saint Mary's 23rd annual Madeleva Lecture.

In her lecture, entitled "Awe-filled Wonder: The Interface of Science and Spirituality," at the College's Little Theatre, Fiand said humans interpret their place in reality through a worldview, a perception currently being transformed by scientific discoveries.

Traditional perceptions, such as dualism, Fiand said, stress the division of spirit and science.



Author and lecturer Barbara Fiand focused on science and spirituality in her talk at the Little Theater on Thursday.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Bye bye, Bubble

"Well, Katie, you will only be living on the Notre Dame campus for only another month," my mom said a few weeks ago. I had not really stopped to consider this phenomenon. No more parietals, no more lofted beds, no more Sunday morning recaps, no more communal bathrooms. I have long taken these little things for granted. Leaving the Bubble seems all the more daunting.

Katie Peralta
Assistant
News Editor

While studying abroad for the next academic year, I won't see the girls from my dorm with whom I have become such great friends these two years. The good news is we will all be living in a house together senior year. 7.6.1.

While I am initially excited about the prospect of a complete change of scenery, I realize how much I will truly miss being on this campus.

I know we all complain about the parietals, the despot that is DuLac, the smell of the ethanol plant on those cool Indiana mornings and the hard water that strips your hair of any luster.

But there also are those Saturday mornings on home football weekends. And there are those all-nighters when it seems like everyone has big tests the next day. And there are those enormous group trips to the dining hall. And walking home at night under the light of the Dome. And we cannot forget the ease of rolling out of bed 15 minutes before classes start.

I am starting to sound like a nostalgic high school senior again.

The fact of the matter is, though, that with the prospect of not being here for a year looming over my head like the University's in loco parentis, I am forced to start realizing the relative luxury we have here of living on campus.

I am not going to start a tirade about urging people to stay on campus as long as possible — trust me, I am as ready to move on as any other sophomore. I guess I am just starting to realize what seniors are going through.

Seniors are not only thinking about moving away from all their friends to different parts of the country, but also about moving onto their respective big-kid jobs, maybe about getting married, maybe about being broke and completely self-reliant for the first time.

To be honest, the prospect of being totally independent is terrifying at this point in time.

There is something about this place that makes us feel so safe and comfortable. There is definite truth to the reference of The Notre Dame Family, and even more, the Notre Dame Bubble.

As much as it is easy to get comfortable in this, it obviously is the natural progression to be booted away from here, ready or not.

As my Nana always said, "Healthy birds fly."

That is not to say you're done with this place forever, or even that you should forget anything that happened here that took you to where you are now.

I think we're all pretty lucky to have called this comfy nest our home for a time.

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

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

In an April 16 article about the Council of Representative, The Observer reported that last year's student government budget allocation was \$659,439.39. That was incorrect. The budget allocation was \$479,383.56. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SONG TO SING IN THE SHOWER AND WHY?



Emily Norrs

freshman
Badin

"Livin' on a Prayer' because Bon Jovi is my hero."



Meredith Thornburgh

grad student
off campus

"I can see clearly now the rain is gone."



Colin Fisher

freshman
Fisher

"The Rubberducky' song by Ernie from Sesame Street."



Brandon Reichardt

senior
off-campus

"Bleeding Love because I keep bleeding ... love."



Conor McNamara

senior
Carroll

"Circle of Life' because of Mufasa."



Sophomore Ellen Pfister attempts to walk a straight line while wearing "drunk goggles" at the Saint Mary's Fire and Safety Fair.

KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

OFFBEAT

Mayor finds cat inside of own wall

NORTH ARLINGTON, N.J. — Mayor Peter Massa put out a citywide cat call when his Maine Coon disappeared. Massa had an automatic call sent to 8,500 voters on Wednesday asking for help finding Max.

Turns out he didn't have to look that far. Massa's wife, Val, says 14-year-old Max was found inside a wall of their house Thursday morning. He had been missing since Tuesday.

Val Massa says she doesn't

know how the 20-pound cat got in the 5-inch hole under the stairs. Max was dehydrated and hungry, but otherwise fine. The Massas had also offered a \$500 reward.

Man rears lion in backyard until neighbors complain

BUCHAREST, Romania - Romanian media say a man was rearing a lion in his back garden until neighbors decided they had heard enough roaring and called police.

Rompres state news agency said police found a

caged 3-year-old lioness, as well as two deer, a stag and two peacocks roaming the garden of the man's home in the southern village of Pietrosita.

The agency's report Wednesday said the 28-year-old man is being charged with illegal possession of wild animals and could be sentenced to up to a year in jail.

The daily Evenimentul Zilei newspaper says the lioness will be taken to the Bucharest zoo.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

"The Shirt" will be unveiled Friday at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore. Co-host of Mike and Mike in the Morning Mike Golic will be the guest speaker. Festivities begin at 4:30 p.m. and "The Shirt" itself will be revealed at 6 p.m.

College Democrats and College Republicans will put on "Crossfire Debates" today at 6:30 p.m. on South Quad.

Flipside will host "The Office" Trivia Night tonight from 9:30 until midnight at the Hesburgh Library Auditorium. Teams of up to 5 can register together together.

Alumni Hall will sponsor the first annual Finish on the 50 5K race Saturday at 8 a.m. Race registration is \$15 and the event is open to all ND, SMC and HCC students.

The African Student Association will sponsor Africa Night Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are available at the door and from LaFortune ticket office for \$3.

Keenan Hall will sponsor its 4th annual Muddy Sunday from 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Field. Proceeds benefit Notre Dame Habitat for Humanity.

The Notre Dame Department of Music will host a Spring Concert of the ND Brass Ensemble and University Band on Sunday night at 7 in the Leighton Concert Hall. The event is free but ticketed.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 73 LOW 63	HIGH 63 LOW 51	HIGH 62 LOW 46	HIGH 65 LOW 49	HIGH 71 LOW 53	HIGH 74 LOW 47

Atlanta 75 / 49 Boston 70 / 43 Chicago 59 / 48 Denver 64 / 26 Houston 71 / 62 Los Angeles 77 / 53 Minneapolis 57 / 39 New York 77 / 50 Philadelphia 78 / 47 Phoenix 89 / 57 Seattle 48 / 39 St. Louis 63 / 56 Tampa 82 / 59 Washington 79 / 53

Pope

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John Jenkins said in a telephone interview with The Observer Thursday.

Jenkins said the reaffirmation of the importance of Catholic education was the central point of the pope's address.

"I think the pope gave a great affirmation and inspiration," Jenkins said. "It's a chance to refocus on our central mission and I think that's what it will bring."

Mooney said the experience of being addressed by Benedict was a thrilling one.

"We were in the room a long time before he came in for security reasons so we were all anxiously awaiting him," she said. "When he came into the room it was just electric."

The speech he gave was uplifting and personable, she said.

"It was sort of a pep talk," she said. "He's been a university professor and in one sense it was as if he was speaking to us as his fellow academics."

Jenkins said the pope's message about the role of the Church in Catholic education was crucial and must continue to be a central commitment of the Church.

Mooney said she was surprised with Benedict's message concerning the definition of a Catholic institution.

"At one point he said that being a Catholic institution isn't dependent upon statistics. It isn't even dependent on the orthodoxy and the content of the courses [offered at the institution]," Mooney said. "It's more about the spirit of the place. It's more about it being a place where people encounter the living God."

Mooney said she agreed with Benedict's statement that being a Catholic institution is about the optimism that faith brings and the hope that can be communicated to others because of the Catholic faith.

"I think he's absolutely right," she said. "It's not a list of things that makes a place Catholic in its character, it's the spirit that infuses it and leads people to hopefulness and leads people to live different kinds of lives [that makes it Catholic]."

Mooney said the Pope reaffirmed academic freedom even at Catholic institutions.

"He said faculty at universities have the freedom to pursue the truth wherever their careful analysis leads them to find it," she said. "He also emphasized that if we're Catholic institutions we have particular missions and

certainly an obligation to provide our students with teaching Catholic doctrine and practices."

Jenkins said the pope's speech was reenergizing to the Catholic educational community.

"He began the speech and ended the speech by thanking and affirming the work of Catholic education," Jenkins said. "That kind of affirmation was, I think, everyone's

favorite part."

Mooney said he also called upon the Priests, Brothers and Sisters in the audience to continue their educational ministries.

"He's a quiet speaker and at times it was a little difficult to follow what he was saying, but when he said that, everyone knew what he was saying and responded very positively," she said. "The place just erupted in applause."

Mooney said she wanted to emphasize how pastoral the Pope was in speaking to the educators.

"He treated everyone in the room as sort of a coworker in a vineyard," she said. "It was very pastoral, very encouraging and very eloquent."

Contact Liz Harter at charte01@saintmarys.edu, Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu, Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu.

"It's a chance to refocus on our central mission and I think that's what it will bring."

**Father John Jenkins
Notre Dame president**

"It was very pastoral, very encouraging and very eloquent."

**Carol Ann Mooney
Saint Mary's president**

Author

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"[Dualism] has been responsible for dividing the worlds of spirituality and science," Fiand said.

According to Fiand, the two concepts stem from very different beliefs, Fiand said, are rooted in a materialistic view of society, whereas religion has a spiritual world-view.

"The dogmas for science and religion are rooted in dualism," Fiand said.

But Fiand said the significance of science for religion is a new phenomenon and a concept powerful for human growth.

To illustrate her point, Fiand provided an example of a significant interface of science and spirituality.

In 1914, "Einstein heard the universe whisper to him that it was expanding in all directions," Fiand said.

Rather than thinking of the universe as a "celestial center," Fiand said, the center of the universe is everywhere.

In relation to Christianity, this discovery of a growing universe alters traditional images of God and metaphors of faith, such as the heaven above and the hell below.

"The God of today can no longer be seen as external to the world," Fiand said.

She also said this discovery challenges the finalization of Christian dogma.

"Creation is an ongoing, evolutionary event bursting from the center of the universe," Fiand said.

The Christian imagery of a heaven above and a hell below also does not agree with the emerging world perspective.

Rather, humans inhabit an omniscient universe in which God flows in each of us, Fiand said.

In addition, quantum discoveries refute religious interpretations of a static universe with linear and spatial time frames of a beginning and end, Fiand said.

"The quantum perspective tells us that separation is an illusion, communion is our essence, where the outside and the inside intertwine," Fiand said.

Fiand suggested an ultimate collaboration between science and religion.

"The meeting point of science and religion is humility and a common passion for the unknown," Fiand said.

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Contact Katlyn Smith at ksmith01@saintmarys.edu

"The meeting point of science and religion is humility and a common passion for the unknown."

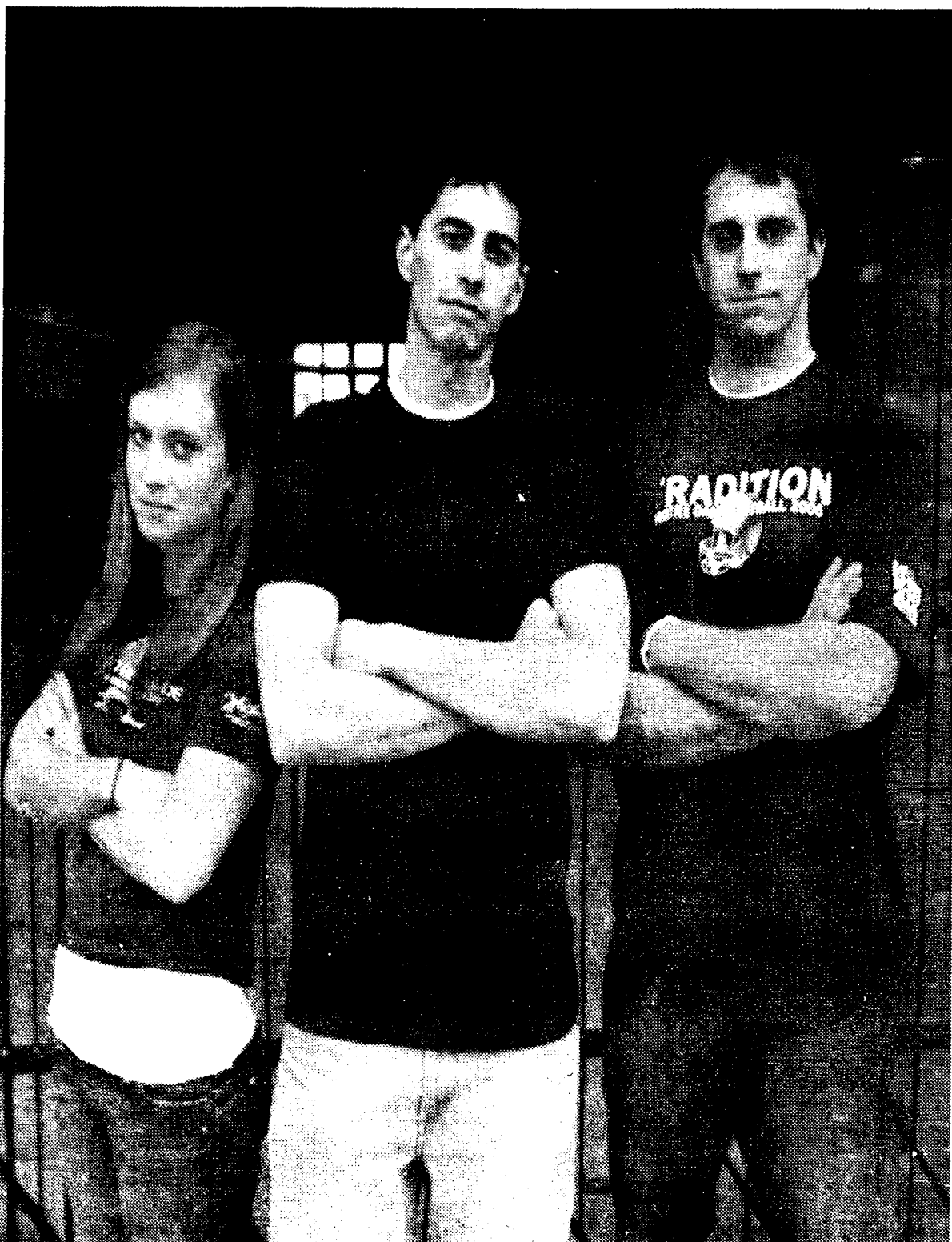
**Barbara Fiand
author and lecturer**

The Shirt 2008

theshirt.nd.edu

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

\$15.00



The Shirt To Be Revealed

Friday, April 18, 2008, The Shirt 2008 will be officially unveiled at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore. Highlights of the event are listed below. In the event of rain, the Unveiling Ceremony will be held inside of the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore.

FREE BRATS & VitaminWater @ 4:30 PM
free food before the ceremony, while supplies last

UNVEILING CEREMONY @ 6:00 PM
featuring speech by Mike Golic and official unveiling

STUDENT DISCOUNT WITH ND ID
pay just \$11.00 for The Shirt when you show your valid Notre Dame Student ID. Friday only, limit 2.

OIT

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accounts used for spam, he said.

"As soon as a student [at another school] would send credentials back believing mail, the account sends out large amounts of spam mail," Dobbins said. "We can tell that someone has responded to a phishing attack in some cases, but can't tell what they said. A anecdotal reports sometimes say responses aren't the response [the spammers] wanted."

Dobbins said there are three telltale signs students can use to distinguish between real e-mail from OIT and an imposter.

The first, he said, is the fact that OIT will never ask students for personal information through e-mail, a fact proclaimed on Webmail's home page.

"It wouldn't make any sense," he said. "We have it. We don't need it for anything. We're running the systems their password opens for them."

The second sign, Dobbins said, is the presence of an unrealistic threat.

"We would never come out and just delete hundreds of thousand of e-mails with harsh warnings and little advance notice."

Gary Dobbins
OIT director of
information security

"We would never come out and just delete hundreds of thousand of e-mails with harsh warnings and little advance notice," Dobbins said. "Scare tactics, for example, if you don't do this right now, bad things will happen to you. We try to give them plenty of advance notice and a phone number and other contact info."

The third sign is the lack of contact information, Dobbins said. Authentic OIT emails, he said, will provide students ways to contact OIT if they have questions, while the imposter e-mails do not.

Dobbins said the spammers are getting smarter, and it is becoming harder and harder to distinguish

between real and fake e-mails.

"By the end of this calendar year I expect it will be really difficult to tell a real one from a fake," he said.

Spammers, he said, will add contact information similar to that which OIT now provides.

"We're going to have to go down to two earmarks," he said. "A dire threat, or asking for something that if student thinks about it, we should already have or shouldn't need."

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Address

continued from page 1

and mission, a mission at the heart of the Church's munus docendi and not somehow autonomous or independent of it," he said.

The Church is the body that is to uphold moral and ethical teachings, he said, and will continue to uphold those doctrines.

"Similarly, the Church never tires of upholding the essential moral categories of right and wrong, without which hope could only wither, giving way to cold pragmatic calculations of utility which render the person little more than a pawn on some ideological chess-board," he said.

The pope said there was devaluation in the teaching of sexual relations and was concerned with the direction sexual education had gone.

"Particularly disturbing is the reduction of the precious and delicate area of education in sexuality to management of 'risk,' bereft of any reference to the beauty of conjugal love," he said.

Regardless of the view of academic freedom, Pope Benedict said Universities are an important place for students to interact with Jesus.

"First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth," he said.

The Pope considered Catholic education a way for the Church to

bear the message which originated with God. God revealed himself to the people, he said, which correlates with the human wish to know.

"God's desire to make Himself known, and the innate desire of all human beings to know the truth, provide the context for human inquiry into the meaning of life," he said.

The pope urged religious leaders not to abandon their apostolates and to continue to improve the Church's presence in underprivileged areas.

"In places where there are many hollow promises which lure young people away from the path of truth and genuine freedom, the consecrated person's witness to the evangelical counsels is an irreplaceable gift," he said.

The pope focused much of his speech on the nature of 'truth' as defined in Catholicism and as a way to include oneself in the Church. He said faith was the way to do that, but acknowledged that the Church was in a crisis of faith.

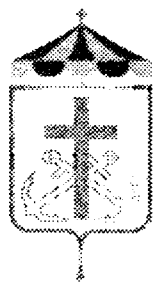
"Only through faith can we freely give our assent to God's testimony and acknowledge him as the transcendent guarantor of the truth he reveals," he said.

The Catholic identity of a university, he said, does not depend on statistics or course content, but on the devotion to the church exercised by students and faculty.

"Only in faith can truth become incarnate and reason truly human, capable of directing the will along the path of freedom," he said.

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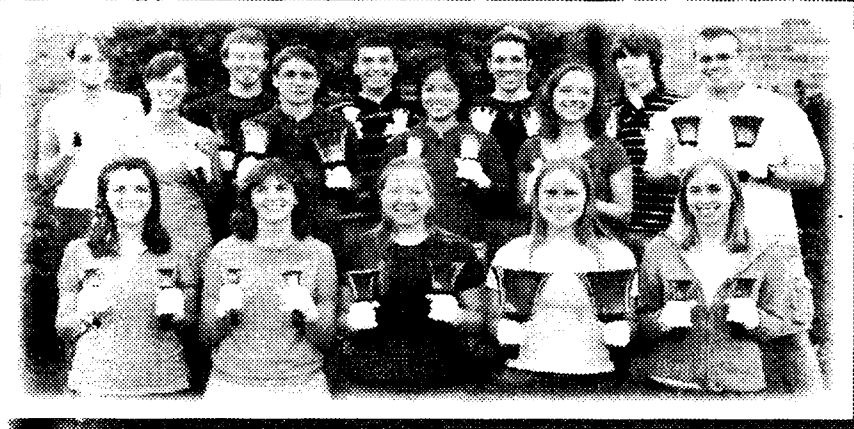
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BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

CONCERT OF
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and
Celebration Choirs



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8:00 PM

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WORLD & NATION

Friday, April 18, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bush, Brown showcase cooperation

WASHINGTON — President Bush and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown tried to dispel doubts about their relationship Thursday, showcasing personal bonhomie as well as common ground on vexing issues such as the Iraq war, a showdown with Iran, global trade and the crises in Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Brown, particularly, appeared to make an effort to move beyond the leaders' frosty first meeting in July.

The prime minister, then only a month in office as successor to top Bush ally Tony Blair, was given a coveted invitation to the presidential retreat at Camp David. But he displayed stiff formality that raised questions about whether he would work as closely as Blair had — or much at all — with Bush.

That didn't seem in doubt in the Rose Garden after Thursday's nearly 90-minute Oval Office meeting.

Europeans move to ban cells on trains

VIENNA, Austria — The world has never been more connected, but in some corners, it's developing a real hang-up over the ubiquitous cell phone.

Taking a cue from France's national railway, which offers phone-free "zen zones" on high-speed trains, Austria's second-largest city this week began ordering public transit commuters to keep their phones on silent mode.

The crackdown in the southern city of Graz has triggered a noisy debate between advocates of free speech and people who say they're simply fed up with having to listen to annoying ring tones and intrusive cell phone chatter.

NATIONAL NEWS

CDC says flu vaccine was a poor match

ATLANTA — The current flu season has shaped up to be the worst in four years, partly because the vaccine didn't work well against the viruses that made most people sick, health officials said Thursday.

This season's vaccine was the worst match since 1997-1998, when the vaccine didn't work at all against the circulating virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The 2007-2008 season started slowly, peaked in mid-February and seems to be declining, although cases are still being reported, CDC officials said.

Pope meets with sex abuse victims

WASHINGTON — Pope Benedict XVI, after urging bishops, priests and parishioners to heal the wounds caused by the clergy sex abuse scandal, talked and prayed privately with survivors Thursday in what was believed to be a first-ever meeting between a pontiff and abuse victims.

The Rev. Federico Lombardi, a papal spokesman, said that Benedict and Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley met with a group of five or six victims for about 25 minutes in the chapel of the papal embassy, offering them encouragement and hope.

LOCAL NEWS

Ind. strains to register primary voters

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana counties inundated with voter registrations thanks to the hotly contested Democratic presidential primary are struggling to process the applications in time to send their poll books to printers, and some say a state system designed to clean up voter rolls is hindering their progress.

Some 160,000 voter registrations were processed in Indiana since January, bringing the number of registered voters up to nearly 4.28 million, the Secretary of State's office said. In the week before the April 7 registration deadline for the May 6 primary, nearly 86,000 forms were submitted.

The crush caused voter registration offices around Indiana to hire additional staff, extend hours and work through weekends to process the forms.

Troops risk depression, study says

One in five U.S. troops are facing post-combat ailments, states project co-leader

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Roughly one in every five U.S. troops who have survived the bombs and other dangers of Iraq and Afghanistan now suffers from major depression or post-traumatic stress, an independent study said Thursday. It estimated the toll at 300,000 or more.

As many or more report possible brain injuries from explosions, or other head wounds, said the study, the first major survey from outside the government.

Only about half of those with mental health problems have sought treatment. Even fewer of those with head injuries have seen doctors.

Army Surgeon General Eric Schoomaker said the report, from the Rand Corp., was welcome.

"They're helping us to raise the visibility and the attention that's needed by the American public at large," said Schoomaker, a lieutenant general. "They are making this a national debate."

The researchers said 18.5 percent of current and former service members contacted in a recent survey reported symptoms of depression or post-traumatic stress. Based on Pentagon data that more than 1.6 million have deployed to the two wars, the researchers calculated that about 300,000 are suffering mental health problems.

Nineteen percent — or an estimated 320,000 — may have suffered head injuries, the study calculated. Those range from mild concussions to severe, penetrating head wounds.

"There is a major health crisis facing those men and women who have served our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Terri Tanielian, the project's co-leader and a researcher at Rand. "Unless they receive



Wendy Barranco, an Iraq war veteran and college student, is overwhelmed as she looking at photographs of the Iraq conflict on Tuesday.

appropriate and effective care for these mental health conditions, there will be long-term consequences for them and for the nation."

The study, the first large-scale, private assessment of its kind, includes a survey of 1,965 service members across the country, from all branches of the armed forces and including those still in the military as well as veterans who have completed their service. The Iraq war has been notable for the repeat tours required of many troops, sometimes for longer than a year at a time.

The results of the study appear consistent with mental health reports from within the government,

though the Defense Department has not released the number of people it has diagnosed or who are being treated for mental problems.

The Department of Veterans Affairs said this month that its records show about 120,000 who served in the two wars and are no longer in the military have been diagnosed with mental health problems. Of those, about 60,000 are suffering from post-traumatic stress, and depression runs a close second.

Veterans Affairs is responsible for care of service members after they have left the military. The Defense Department covers active duty and reservist needs.

The lack of numbers from the Pentagon was one motivation for the Rand study, Tanielian said in an interview.

The most prominent and detailed Pentagon study on the military's mental health that is released regularly to the public is the Army's survey of soldiers, taken annually at the battle zones since 2003.

The most recent one, last fall, found 18.2 percent of Army soldiers suffered mental health problems such as depression, anxiety or acute stress in 2007, compared with 20.5 percent the previous year.

Other studies have variously estimated that 10 percent to 20 percent of troops had symptoms of mental health problems.

Carter meets with Hamas one more time

Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Jimmy Carter held another meeting with officials from the Islamic militant group Hamas on Thursday, arguing it is necessary to talk to all parties to achieve peace between the Palestinians and Israel.

The former U.S. president said he urged Hamas leaders from the Gaza Strip to stop militants from firing rockets into southern Israel. The Cairo meeting came a day after Carter talked with Hamas officials in the West Bank, further angering Israelis when he embraced one of them.

Making what he calls a private peace mission, Carter was scheduled to be in Syria on Friday for talks with

Hamas' exiled political chief, Khaled Mashaal, and Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Carter's meetings with Hamas, which Washington lists as a terrorist group, have drawn sharp criticism from Israelis, U.S. officials and some of Carter's fellow Democrats, including presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Carter again strongly defended his efforts to reach out to Hamas, which won Palestinian parliament elections in 2006.

"You can't have an agreement that must involve certain parties, unless you talk to those parties to conclude the agreement," he said in a speech at the American University in Cairo. "You have to involve Hamas ... They

have to be involved in some way."

Carter said he told Hamas leaders from Gaza that they should stop rocket attacks on Israel, which have prompted deadly Israeli military assaults on the crowded Mediterranean coastal territory. Any "killings of civilians is an act of terrorism," he said.

He said that during his visit to Israel, the first stop on his trip, he saw rockets that had been fired by Hamas and "met with people who lost loved ones."

"At the same time, if you live in Gaza, you know that for every Israeli killed in any kind of combat, between 30 to 40 Palestinians are killed because of the extreme military capability of Israel," Carter added.

UNITED NATIONS

U.N. takes action to bring peace to Darfur

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations and the African Union said Thursday they want their 26,000-strong peacekeeping force on the ground in Darfur quickly.

The U.N. Security Council and the African Union's Peace and Security Council met behind closed doors, a day after the U.N. chief expressed extreme disappointment at the lack of progress in ending the five-year conflict in Darfur.

South Africa's U.N. Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo, the current Security Council president, told reporters afterwards that both organizations want the AU-U.N. peacekeeping operation in Darfur known as UNAMID "fully staffed as soon as possible."

"The message was very clear from both councils that we would want UNAMID to succeed in Sudan," he said.

Only about 9,000 troops and police from the joint AU-U.N. force are currently deployed in Darfur. The United States is urging the U.N. to get 3,600 new peacekeepers on the ground by June.

In a report to the council Wednesday, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he was "extremely disappointed at

the lack of progress on all fronts in the efforts to address the situation in Darfur," he said.

"The parties appear determined to pursue a military solution; the political process stalled; the deployment of UNAMID is progressing very slowly and continues to face many challenges; and the humanitarian situation is not improving," Ban said.

More than 200,000 people have been killed and more than 2 million have fled their homes since ethnic African tribesmen took up arms in early 2003, complaining of decades of neglect and discrimination by the Sudanese Arab-dominated government.

On Somalia, Ethiopia's ambassador to the African Union, Sahle Work Zewde, reiterated that the AU wants the U.N. to take over peacekeeping quickly from the 2,600 AU troops from Uganda and Burundi currently deployed in the country.

"We really believe there is a peace to keep," Zewde said, stressing that the AU troops have been there for a year and are doing "a good job."

"So we don't understand why the full-fledged troops could not come. The main problem is funding, and we hope that the U.N. would be able to have an interim arrangement," he said.

Finish

continued from page 1

for the event, Bergstrom said.

"The women's running club has also been involved with the race," Bergstrom said.

Because of the annual Blue-Gold game later in the afternoon, Bergstrom said

race organizers must be out of the Stadium by 10 a.m.

"It was a small block of time we had to work with. It is special, though. The only other race to finish in the Notre Dame stadium is the Sunburst race [in June]," Bergstrom said.

The race will take place Saturday morning at 8 a.m., and race registration is \$15.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

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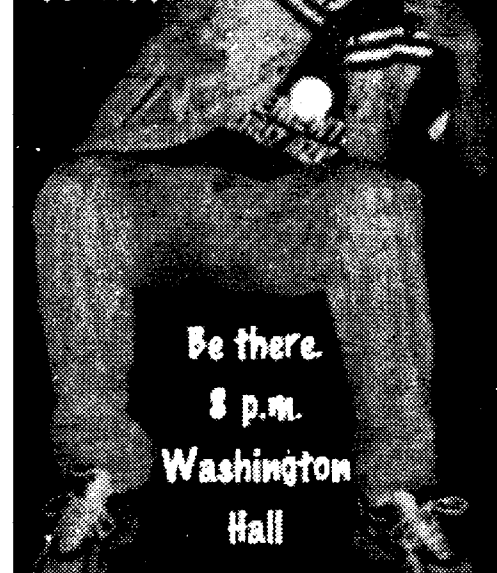
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Stocks				
Dow Jones	12,620.49	+1.22		
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:	
1,659	102	1,683	3,715,606,409	
AMEX	2,342.25	-3.58		
NASDAQ	2,341.83	-8.28		
NYSE	9,173.81	-29.95		
S&P 500	1,365.56	+0.85		
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,398.30	0.00		
FTSE 100 (London)	5,980.40	-65.80		
COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE	
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.15	+0.20	137.05	
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	+1.73	+0.44	25.90	
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-0.22	-0.10	45.27	
NOKIA CP ADS (NOK)	-14.07	-4.74	28.95	
Treasuries				
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.89	+0.033	3.729	
13-WEEK BILL	+8.52	+0.095	1.210	
30-YEAR BOND	-0.02	-0.001	4.524	
5-YEAR NOTE	+2.73	+0.077	2.897	
Commodities				
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.07	114.86		
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-5.40	942.90		
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.40	76.75		
Exchange Rates				
YEN				102.4550
EURO				0.6291
CANADIAN DOLLAR				1.0096
BRITISH POUND				0.5025

IN BRIEF

U.S. public corruption is growing

WASHINGTON — The FBI is grappling with growing numbers of public corruption cases and a surge in mortgage fraud investigations, FBI Director Robert Mueller said Thursday, wondering aloud whether Americans are "becoming more crooked."

In a speech to the American Bar Association, Mueller asked the assembled defense lawyers for help in "creating a culture of integrity" by reporting evidence of wrongdoing by politicians and corporate executives alike.

"Anyone who follows the news these days and sees repeated references to corporate fraud and public corruption might think the nation is in the midst of a moral crisis," Mueller told the defense attorneys. "Have we as a society become more corrupt? Or have we in the FBI simply become more adept at rooting out fraud and corruption?"

Currently, the FBI has 2,500 cases of public corruption under investigation, an increase of 50 percent from five years ago, Mueller said. He called public corruption the FBI's top criminal priority.

At the same time, corporate fraud cases have increased by more than 80 percent, Mueller said, pointing to the recent surge in mortgage fraud investigations. The FBI is investigating an estimated 1,300 mortgage fraud cases — including 19 into subprime lending practices by U.S. financial institutions.

Democrats avoid Iraq funding vote

WASHINGTON — Democrats in Congress, seeking to avoid a vote on funding the Iraq war during the fall campaign season, are considering combining President Bush's two pending requests into a single bill to be voted on this spring.

House Democratic aides said Thursday that Bush's \$108 billion request to finance military and diplomatic operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through Sept. 30, the end of the 2008 budget year, may be combined with his \$70 billion request to continue the war into the next president's term.

"You vote one time and get the money out of the way," said Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., chairman of the House panel responsible for the Pentagon budget. He cautioned that House leaders have not officially endorsed the idea.

Airline strike reaches a climax

US Airways pilots oust their union in an attempt to reject an unfavorable arbitrated

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Three years after their companies joined forces, pilots from America West Airlines and the former Virginia-based US Airways remain locked in a bitter seniority dispute that's become a cautionary tale as other carriers ponder a new wave of consolidation.

The internal fight at Tempe, Ariz.-based US Airways Group Inc. reached a climax Thursday when pilots ousted their union of 59 years and replaced it with another group. The new union, the US Airline Pilots Association, is dominated by pilots from the former US Airways. It will try to throw out an arbitrated seniority ruling that isn't favorable to them.

"It's going to be extremely difficult for me personally and professionally to watch what happens to this pilot group now," Capt. Jack Stephan, chairman of the ousted Air Line Pilots Association for US Airways, said in a statement after the vote was announced.

"Industry consolidation is inevitable, and the economy is slowing. I believe that these challenges will be too much to ask of an untested, underfunded union."

The struggles of US Airways pilots have become a highly visible example of the problems with consolidation.

Pilots at Delta Air Lines helped management fight off a hostile bid from US Airways last year. At the time, some Delta pilots said they wished US Airways would finish its



Don Smith, left, and Paul Kidzus protest against American Airlines on Tuesday in Irving, Tex. 3,300 flights were cancelled last week for safety-related reasons.

current combination before looking to join with another company.

This year, Northwest Airlines Corp. and Delta Air Lines Inc. gave their pilots time to work out seniority issues before announcing plans to join forces earlier this week. However, Northwest pilots refused to go along and the companies moved ahead without a pilot agreement.

Pilot problems have "made almost every merger in the past messy, expensive and time con-

suming for management," said Calyon Securities analyst Ray Neidl. "If you can get them in the boat and paddle with you, mergers would go so much smoother."

Although US Airways' profit surged the first year after the companies combined, problems among its pilots have festered.

Pilots have said that disagreements over seniority have led to shouting matches in airport terminals. Supporters of rival pilot unions have sent each other threatening e-

mails, engaged in at least one shoving match and called each other to the parking lot to settle their arguments.

Seniority is extremely important for pilots. Their place in the company pecking order decides what planes they can fly, what routes they'll take, and when they can go on vacation.

The US Airline Pilots Association was created last year by a disgruntled group of pilots who were unhappy with their seniority.

Poor job numbers fan recession fears

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Higher unemployment claims and weak readings from two economic indexes reinforced recession worries Thursday.

The Labor Department said Thursday that applications for unemployment benefits rose to 372,000, an increase of 17,000 from the previous week.

Separately, the New York-based Conference Board's gauge of future economic activity rose 0.1 percent for March, reversing five months of decline. But the private business group's indicator has shown a 3.3 percent annual rate of decline since March 2007.

That's "the kind of result, that whenever we've seen it in the past, the U.S. economy has been heading into a recession," Michael Gregory, senior economist for BMO Nesbitt Burns, a Toronto investment bank. "The recession signal here is clear and unequivocal."

Stocks drooped following a rally Wednesday, with the Dow Jones industrial average down 30.78, or 0.24 percent, to 12,588.49, in afternoon trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 5.41, or 0.40 percent, to 1,359.30, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 18.80, or 0.80 percent, to 2,331.31.

The Conference Board index is designed to forecast economic activity in the next three to six months based on 10 economic components, including stock prices, building permits and initial claims for unemployment benefits.

The Conference Board said another of its indexes, which measures current economic activity, has also deteriorated in recent months, with weakness becoming more widespread among the components of both.

The readings suggest "economic weakness is likely to continue in the near term," Ken Goldstein, labor economist at the Conference Board, said in

a statement accompanying the report.

The jobless numbers told the same story. The four-week average for jobless claims was 376,000, down only slightly from 376,750, the previous week. Aside from the period in the fall of 2005 after Hurricane Katrina, the four-week average for claims has risen to levels last seen in 2003 when the country was mired in a long jobless recovery after the 2001 recession.

Claims have been unusually volatile in recent weeks, falling by 51,000 two weeks ago after having risen by 35,000 the week before that. Analysts said that claims have been difficult to read because of trouble the government is having adjusting the figures for seasonal changes to reflect this year's unusually early Easter and because of the impact of a strike at a key parts supplier for General Motors.

While the weekly unemployment claims were in line with economists' expectations, those expectations, overall, are grim.

Court hearing decides custody of 416 children

Associated Press

SAN ANGELO, Texas — A court hearing to decide the fate of the 416 children swept up in a raid on a West Texas polygamist sect descended into farce Thursday, with hundreds of lawyers in two packed buildings shouting objections and the judge struggling to maintain order.

The case — clearly one of the biggest, most convoluted child-custody hearings in U.S. history — presented an extraordinary spectacle: big-city lawyers in suits and mothers in 19th-century, pioneer-style dresses, all packed into a courtroom and a nearby auditorium connected by video.

At issue was an attempt by the state of Texas to strip the parents of custody and place the children in foster homes because of evidence they were being physically and sexually abused by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a renegade Mormon splinter group suspected of forcing underage girls into marriage with older men.

As many feared, the proceedings turned into something of a circus — and a painfully slow one.

By midafternoon only two witnesses had testified, and both only to lay the foundation for documents to be admitted. One witness, a state trooper, was cross-examined by dozens of attorneys, each of them asking the same question on behalf of a child or parent.

As the afternoon dragged on, no decisions had been made on the fate of any of the youngsters.

Texas District Judge Barbara Walther struggled to keep order

as she faced 100 lawyers in her 80-year-old Tom Green County courtroom and several hundred more participating over a grainy video feed from an ornate City Hall auditorium two blocks away.

The hearing disintegrated quickly into a barrage of shouted objections and attempts to file motions, with lawyers for the children objecting to objections made by the parents' attorneys. When the judge sustained an objection to the prolonged questioning the state trooper, the lawyers cheered.

Upon another objection about the proper admission of medical records of the children, the judge threw up her hands.

"I assume most of you want to make the same objection. Can I have a universal, 'Yes, Judge'?" she said.

In both buildings, the hundreds of lawyers stood and responded in unison: "Yes, Judge."

But she added to the chaos as well.

Walther refused to put medical records and other evidence in electronic form, which could be e-mailed among the lawyers, because it contained personal information. A courier had to run from the courthouse to the auditorium delivering one document at a time.

"We're going to handle this the best we can, one client at a time," Walther said.

Little evidence had been admitted by midafternoon. The first attempt to admit evidence resulted in an hourlong recess while all the lawyers examined it. The rest of the morning was spent in arguments about whether to admit the medical records of three girls, two 17-year-olds and one 18-year-old.

SOUTH AFRICA

President refuses to resign

Political leader claims to have won election, accused of treason

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Protests are fizzling at home, and his efforts to rally the world to the cause of democracy in Zimbabwe are being stymied by fellow Africans.

Morgan Tsvangirai — who has been beaten, accused of treason and nearly killed since founding Zimbabwe's main opposition movement in 1999 — wouldn't hazard a guess as to when the crisis over an election he says he won will be resolved.

If he knew who could persuade Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to step down, he said in an interview with The Associated Press, "certainly that person should be contacted immediately."

Tsvangirai was relaxed, even able to joke about reports from his homeland Thursday that Mugabe's regime considers him a traitor. But he is a man under considerable pressure.

Nearly three weeks have passed since the presidential vote. No official results have been released, and the opposition, which says Tsvangirai won, accuses Mugabe of withholding the results to stay in power after a campaign that focused on Zimbabwe's shell-shocked economy.

There has been talk of a recount or a runoff. But Mugabe could well simply continue to suppress the results and cling to power.

Human rights groups report increasing violence against Tsvangirai's supporters. Zimbabwe Doctors for Human Rights said Tuesday its members had treated more than 150 cases of injuries consistent with assault and torture since the March 29

poll, including a rash of recent ones linked to a crackdown sparked by the opposition's call for a stay-away from work protest.

The stay-away call was little heeded, both because few Zimbabweans can afford to miss even a day of work, and because police and militants loyal to Mugabe cracked down.

Tsvangirai said the stay-away "may have been an exhausted strategy." But he wasn't home to help his aides plot tactics. He has been traveling outside Zimbabwe for most of the period since the election, and acknowledged his homeland was a dangerous place for him.

"There are rogue elements there who might take the law into their own hands," he said.

The former trade union leader said diplomacy, not fear, was the main reason he was abroad. He would not say when he would return, saying his priority now is mobilizing international pressure on Mugabe.

Tsvangirai's comments came the same day Zimbabwean state media reported allegations the opposition leader was plotting an "illegal regime change" with former colonial ruler Britain.

The opposition leader dismissed the treason charges and said accusations that he was plotting to overthrow the Mugabe regime were "outrageous."

"We are determined to have democratic change through democratic means," not through violence, Tsvangirai said. "The people themselves are the ones that will change the government."

In Washington, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters Thursday that Mugabe's

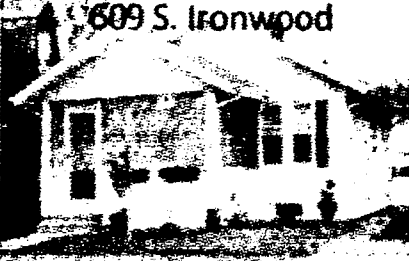
recent rule has been an "abomination" and urged Zimbabwe to release election results.

"It's time for Africa to step up" and denounce the government campaign of arrests and intimidation that followed the vote, she said. "Where is the concern from the African Union and from Zimbabwe's neighbors about what is going on in Zimbabwe?"

But African leaders rarely criticize one of their own. And Mugabe, for his part, regards the U.S. as the enemy and is unlikely to be influenced by such denunciations.

On Thursday, South Africa issued its strongest call yet for Zimbabwe's government to release the election results. "When elections are held and results are not released two weeks after, it is obviously of great concern. The situation is dire," government spokesman Themba Maseko said.

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Archbishop to give lecture on solidarity

Special to The Observer

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin, Ireland, will speak on social solidarity today at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall.

Archbishop Martin's lecture, "Solidarity: Past, Present, Future: Reflections On Social Concerns," is one of several events celebrating the 25th anniversary of Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns.

The former secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Archbishop Martin was appointed Archbishop of Dublin in 2003. Prior to that appointment, he represented the Vatican at the major United Nations international conferences on social questions in the 1990s. He also took part in activities of the World Bank and the International

Monetary Fund, especially those concerning international debt and poverty reduction.

Earlier on Friday, at 2 p.m. in the LaFortune Student Center ballroom, Notre Dame alumni and students will attend "Stories of Faith and Service."

A groundbreaking ceremony for Geddes Hall, the new building for the Institute for Church Life and the Center for Social Concerns, will be held tomorrow at 9 a.m. at the construction site on the west side of Notre Dame's Hesburgh Library.

A special Mass marking the 25th anniversary will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday in Notre Dame's Basilica of the Sacred Heart. University President Father John I. Jenkins, and Archbishop Martin will be concelebrants.

KENYA

Opposition leader elected into office

Gang backs down at request of new prime minister, call to stop terror

Associated Press

NAIROBI — Kenya's opposition leader was sworn into office as the country's prime minister Thursday, fulfilling a key step in a power-sharing deal aimed at ending a deadly political crisis in the East African nation.

Within hours, a feared gang promised to heed new Prime Minister Raila Odinga's call to stop its campaign of terror in the capital — one small sign that resolving Kenya's political crisis could help return peace and stability to the fragile nation.

More than 1,000 people were killed and 300,000 displaced following the December elections that both Odinga and President Mwai Kibaki claimed to win. With the violence escalating, the rivals agreed in February to share power — but then wrangled for weeks over how to divide up their coalition Cabinet.

On Thursday, ministers finally took up their positions, 20 each from Kibaki's and Odinga's camps. Kibaki's party retained the key finance and internal security ministries and Raila's allies will head up agriculture and oversee local government.

The entire government, including Odinga, swore an

oath of loyalty to the president.

"Kenyans will be watching your performance and they'll judge you by the services you deliver," Kibaki said at the inauguration ceremony.

Odinga said Kenya was embarking on a new era of unity.

"We have been to hell and back. Never in our history will we return to this time," he said. "We are not creating two governments in one: It is one government."

He used his inauguration to address the Mungiki gang that has been terrorizing the capital. At least 14 people have died since the banned gang launched a protest against police Monday that has paralyzed parts of Nairobi.

"I want to tell our brothers the Mungiki we shall talk to them. We should stop beating each other. We should stop killing each other," Odinga said in Swahili. "We should speak together as Kenyans."

Later, he told local Citizen TV he was expressing a personal view that had yet to be decided as policy.

But the Mungiki responded by promising to call off their violent protests at Odinga's request.

"We have waited for Raila to be prime minister for 20

years," senior gang leader Stephen Njenga said, adding that gang leader Maina Njenga prophesied Odinga's rise two decades ago. "Raila has asked us to call off the strike and because we respect him, we will honor his request."

"We will give him time to look into our issues."

Kenya is a key U.S. ally and regional economic and military powerhouse that for years was one of the most stable nations in East Africa. But the disputed December elections laid bare frustrations over poverty and corruption — and ethnic rivalries in a country where Kikuyus, the tribe Kibaki belongs to, are perceived to dominate others, including the Luo, Odinga's ethnic group.

The apparent olive branch offered to the Mungiki, a gang dedicated to spreading Kikuyu culture, by Odinga, a Luo, is another strange strand in Kenya's web of politics, ethnicity and violence.

Many Mungiki say they were approached during the violence by Kikuyu politicians to act as an ethnic militia but refused to get heavily involved because the gang was angered by the extrajudicial killings of more than 450 Kikuyu youths last year.

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Chris Hine.

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SMC security needs examination

When a Saint Mary's student in Regina Hall reported a trespasser on the roof of Regina Hall on April 5, it took the College's security department two phone calls and approximately 15 minutes to send a security guard to the scene and investigate the reported suspicious activity.

For a department that is on campus to maintain the safety and security of its students, the fact that it took two phone calls for Security to arrive on the scene is unsettling. There are too many things that could have happened, too many things that could have gone wrong between the time of the first phone call to Saint Mary's Security and the time an officer arrived at the scene. In this instance, Security dropped the ball and left the safety of the College's campus in jeopardy.

Saint Mary's Security needs to look into this problem, ask how it could have occurred in the first place and make sure this slow response doesn't happen again.

Saint Mary's mission states, "Safety and security on campus is of paramount importance to the College and is a major focus of certain departments."

If this is the case, why are student needs not being met with immediate response and concern? Security personnel are employed by the schools to keep them safe. Any failure to respond to even the most minor threat undermines the confidence that students have in Security.

Saint Mary's security should have sent multiple officers quickly to Regina Hall when it was reported that an unknown man was on the roof. If more than one officer had responded to the student's phone call, the man may have been apprehended, for he was still on the roof when Security finally arrived, according to the student who placed the phone call to Security. But since it took two phone calls for Security and only one officer responded, the man had time to escape.

Last year's tragic shootings at Virginia Tech and February's shootings at Northern Illinois highlighted the importance of having an on-campus security force that reacts quickly to any call it receives.

Even though an event of that magnitude is unlikely to happen, the failure to quickly react to the event at Regina Hall shows that Saint Mary's security needs to treat every threat equally.

The inability for Saint Mary's security to respond to an unarmed, unidentified trespasser on a seemingly uneventful night casts doubts about their ability to respond to a crisis of a larger magnitude — be it a shooter, assault or robbery.

While Saint Mary's is a much smaller institution than Tech, Northern Illinois and Notre Dame, basic principles of security should remain. Saint Mary's should be well-equipped to handle such incidents because being properly prepared is the first step in crisis reaction.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The rules of rugby

Come support the Notre Dame Rugby Football Club as they take on the No. 25 team in the nation, Ohio State. The match is at 12 p.m. on the new rugby pitch, next to the Bookstore Basketball courts. Don't know the rules you say? Be not afraid, for I come before you with this basic guide to rugby.

A rugby match is played over two 40-minute, running-clock halves. Each side has 15 players; eight players make up the forwards or 'pack' (similar to linemen and linebackers in American football) and seven players make up the backs (similar roles to the backs and receivers in American football).

The ball can be moved by carrying it, passing it laterally or backwards, or kicking it at any time during play. A "knock on" is called if the ball is hit or passed forward accidentally, resulting in a scrum to the opposition.

When a tackled player goes to the ground, they must release the ball immediately. As soon as that happens, the opposition will want to get their hands on the ball, and the team in possession will not want to give it away. So to gain possession, both sides must try to drive over the ball to make it available for their teammates, this is called "rucking."

A scrum is used to restart in a number of situations and involves each teams' forwards coming together, binding together by the shoulders over the 'mark' and trying to hook the ball back to their team's side once the ball is placed in the channel. If a ball is kicked or taken out of bounds, the ball is restarted by a lineout, similar to a soccer throw-in. A try, worth five points, is awarded when a player touches the ball down in the opponent's try zone. A conversion kick, worth two points, is attempted after a try is scored.

Well I hoped that we all learned a little something here. So before you watch the Blue-Gold game, and before you go and enjoy some roasted pig on St. Pete's Street, come support the Notre Dame Rugby Football Club.

Bob Huguelet
sophomore
Stanford Hall
April 16

Fight the crime, not the cause

I must disagree with Andrew Dreyfuss's letter entitled "The pragmatically pro-life party" (April 17) for two reasons.

First, he claims that the free-market economic policies of someone like McCain would be bad for the poor, and, therefore, would cause abortion rates to increase. His evidence is that abortion rates decreased in the 1990s while education was being well-funded and interest rates on student loans were low. Well, as long as we're going to start throwing around dubious correlations, I could point out that the 1990s was also the decade of NAFTA, welfare-reform, and conservative fiscal policy. Perhaps that era's emphasis on economic growth, personal responsibility and increased economic opportunity were the real reason for the improved abortion statistics. Sorry, but when making an empirical argument you should give us something a little more rigorous than a mildly plausible story.

Secondly, I must point out that pro-lifers see abortion as a human rights issue. Sure, when making policies we should look at consequences, not just intentions. But would you really want to be the one arguing that: "I don't want to outlaw slavery, but I do want to make the world such a wonderful place that no one would ever want to own a slave?" Or, "We shouldn't outlaw rape, rather we should encourage men to find more constructive things to do with their time."

If the government does not even protect the right to life, then it is failing on a most fundamental level.

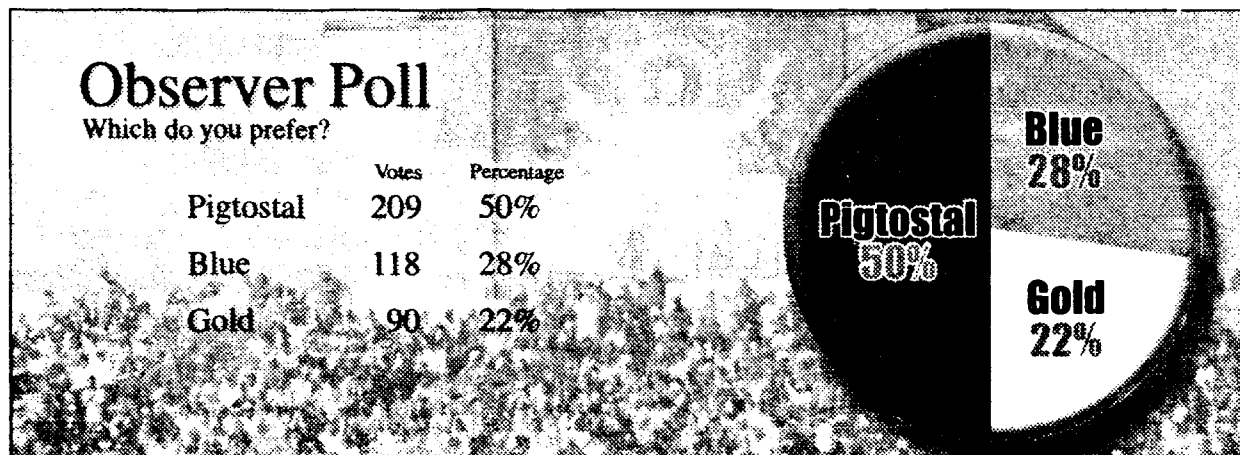
Dreyfuss's emphasis on getting at the root causes of abortion is admirable, but such a task may be more tricky than he thinks. It should be noted that attempts to fight the root causes of crime during the 1960s and 70s proved to be disastrous for the most part. Nonetheless, I do have some hopes that the "carrot" of increased social welfare spending could potentially be effective, but any serious plan to end abortion would also include the "stick" of punishing abortion doctors. Any candidates that refuse to protect the lives of the unborn with the force of law are, ultimately, not very good friends of the pro-life movement.

Gregory Barr
junior
Knott Hall
April 17

TODAY'S STAFF

News
Katie Peralta
Ashley Chamley
Brian McKenzie
Graphics
Mary Jesse
Viewpoint
Kara King

Sports
Lorenzo Reyes
Jared Jedick
Pat Stynes
Scene
Mark Witte



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's kind of fun to do the impossible."

Walt Disney
U.S. cartoonist

Extend parietals, save your soul

The other weekend, while preparing for a delicious dining hall dinner and pretending to try to do homework, I overheard a conversation between a student of the University of Michigan and the student with which he was staying.

Lenny Meehan

Guest columnist

While I wasn't listening very intently, I couldn't help but catch some commentary on the difference in policies between the two schools. "Wait, you mean to tell me that you can't have girls in your dorm past 2 a.m.?" the Michigan student inquired. "That's so [insert derogatory adjective here]. How the hell do you get laid?"

Now, I have come to expect such remarks from visitors; I receive them all the time from my friends back home. What I did not expect, however, was the response from the Notre Dame student: "Yeah, we all hate [parietals]. It's by far the worst part of going to school here."

People ask me all the time why I chose Notre Dame out of all of the possible University choices. There are various reasons I give, all of which are true: the emphasis on academics, the sense of community, the strength of the athletic programs.

One of the biggest reasons for me, though, is the conservative Catholic

background. The fact that religion is integrated into every part of this university makes students kinder to one another and provides a greater atmosphere of trust and understanding. No one is criticized for going to Mass because half the student population goes to Mass. There is very rarely any crime on campus; I feel as though I can safely leave my bookbag in the cubby holes outside the dining hall without risk of theft.

However, one cannot pick and choose Catholic values to follow. I know several people who consider themselves devout Catholics, yet have openly admitted to being sexually active. Any true Catholic knows that premarital sex is very much against religious teachings, but it seems that religion is consistently cast aside in favor of convenience and lust. Enter the University of Notre Dame.

Here, the institution has the ability to regulate the actions of its students, and to a certain extent, it does. We all know that premarital sex is prohibited by duLac, and that parietals prevent members of the opposite sex in any dorm past midnight, or 2 a.m. on weekends. Their policies have reduced the amount of debauchery compared to other schools, and I applaud them for that.

But is enough being done? It is no secret that casual sex is abundant on campus, despite the University guide-

lines. Students either ignore parietals, or they merely work around them, committing the sin earlier in the evening instead.

By contrast, examine the service academies such as Navy and Air Force, which practice the strictest of disciplines with regards to cross-gender interaction. In order to prevent any "extra-social" behavior, guys and girls are never allowed to be in the same dorm room if the door is closed. Extreme? A bit, but it gets the job done.

Now, I'm not saying that duLac should adopt a policy like the service academies. However, the University does have a Catholic identity to maintain, and it cannot be denied that the current rules in place don't completely fulfill their purpose. Something needs to be done to show the world that Notre Dame is a true Catholic institution that does not simply look the other way when it comes to premarital sex.

My proposal: extend the restricted hours of parietals. Parietals are an excellent way to prevent sexual relations, particularly after events such as dorm parties where inebriation is inevitable. If parietals were to begin two hours earlier (10 p.m. on weekdays, midnight on Friday and Saturday), this would serve to further reduce overly intimate situations. Unless a couple has

intentions of having sex, there is no reason why they can't hang out in a public place.

Every dorm has a 24-hour space, and there are plenty of other places to be past parietals such as Reckers or LaFortune. Not only that, but this change only adds two hours to the system already in place and wouldn't change much as far as gender relations are concerned. Sure, it would be inconvenient, but what is a minor hassle compared to our students' immortal souls?

Now, I realize that the extension of parietals will probably never happen. Many people think that Notre Dame "imposes" its Catholic viewpoints too much as it is, and of course students that are sexually active will be adamantly against my proposal. However, something needs to be done to prevent the casual sex on this campus, regardless of how inopportune it seems at first for the students.

In a world full of sin, it is essential for a Catholic university to promote its values, and that includes abstinence.

Lenny Meehan is a junior computer science major. He can be contacted at jmeehan@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Catholic crossroad

While there has been much discussion of late concerning the "Vagina Monologues" and the proportion of Catholic faculty, these two issues have largely been treated as separate and isolated. Of course, they are not unrelated, but are part of the larger question of the identity and future of the University.

Is Notre Dame at a crossroad? Is it turning away from its tradition? If it is true that we become the sum of our choices, then the decisions made on these and a host of seemingly less than seismic matters could eventually change the very character of the University.

The fact that, from a humble start, Notre Dame became arguably the pre-eminent Catholic college known in every corner of the globe, was no surprise to Fr. Hesburgh who often placed it in the context of the original great universities, which were Catholic. But is that legacy assured? Many recent comments and editorials seem to think that it is.

They echo the advertising slogan "We can have it all," implying that since our

Catholic tradition is a given, in cases of conflict, our focus should be on greater academic freedom. I do not believe that Fr. Hesburgh would be so cavalier with our moral tradition. Point one, for example, he would not have permitted the Vagina Monologues on campus.

The future of Notre Dame as a beacon of Catholic truth will require courageous leadership by President John Jenkins. But it will also require the commitment of the rest of the Notre Dame faculty. More than a few alumni have indicated concern that their alma mater not become another Georgetown (i.e., faux Catholic).

It bears remembering that most of the Ivies, including Harvard, Yale and Princeton began as church affiliated schools. Something happened along the way. Is Notre Dame the next Georgetown? It is up to us.

John Moore
Wilbraham, Mass.
April 13

Importance of high school

In the April 15 column titled "Let's talk about alcohol, baby," Greg Yatarola stated that binge drinking and related behaviors are more associated with high school students. This is probably true. It is not about the topic of his column that I have concern.

Rather, he wrote: "High school's largely a waste anyway, needlessly long and hardly challenging (I say this as a high school teacher)." I find such a statement not only degrading to the profession of teaching but also to Greg himself.

As a former high school teacher I know that high school can be made very challenging for every student. It can be the place where a student develops a vision of the world and his/her place in it. It can be the opening of minds to conflicting ideas. It is a time to learn to read with criticism, write with persuasion and

participate in the visual and performing arts. It is where the initial knowledge base for a scientific career is acquired. It is the place to find one's passion.

Who sets the expectations and tasks for the students? This is the job of the teacher! If Greg finds high school needlessly long and hardly challenging for his students, may I suggest that he look for a different profession, or at least get some assistance from someone in the field.

Not only high school students but all students at every level need to be challenged. They need teachers who are willing and able to do it.

Mary Lou Derwent
alumna
Class of 1962
April 16

Olympics symbolize peace

Recently, there have been protests in the U. S. against the Chinese government for its human rights and Tibet issues. That's fine by us. We are willing to listen to different voices.

Unfortunately, things are turning in an ugly direction. Some demonstrations became overly exaggerated, some media coverage was seriously distorted and some organizations have even started to advocate boycotting the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

This is not acceptable. As Chinese students here, we feel deeply hurt by this situation, and it hurts even more for millions of hospitable Chinese people who have been working very hard to prepare for the games.

We do not intend to stop your protests, but we hope you leave the Olympics alone. Studying at Notre Dame, a school with a strong sports tradition, we all understand that the Olympics, from the beginning of their history, have always been a celebrated opportunity for the whole world to set aside their

differences; to take a break from the wars; to gather together with people with different backgrounds; to cheer for the victories; and to witness the realization of dreams.

The Olympics are not about politics, and should never be sacrificed for any political purpose. We are here to ask you to step away from boycotting the Olympics. Let's make the Beijing Olympics an event to bring people closer, instead of to separate people from each other.

For those who still want to boycott the Beijing Olympic, give it a second thought — Beijing's hosting of the Olympics is a move on China's part to open up its mind and its mind to different people and voices. If you boycott it, you are actually closing the door from your side. It will be a pity, and not only for the Chinese people.

Yue Li
Lili Ji
graduate students
off campus
April 17



MINUS THE BEAR BRINGS SOPHISTICATED SOUND TO LEGENDS



MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

By RYAN RAFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

The eclectic and unique indie rock of Minus the Bear, which has been unparalleled since their formation in 2001, is coming Saturday to Legends.

Though the most often-noted feature of their sound is guitarist Dave Knudson's finger-tapping, their originality stretches far beyond fretboard innovation. Their music can take the form of laid-back, nine-minute jams or dance-pop, yet they never sound uncomfortable with what they play. Even when playing in sophisticated time signatures, everything is executed with precision and grace. Possessing the musical maturity of a more experienced group, their experimentation always satisfies, leaving listeners awed that such a relatively young group could be so accomplished.

The band's most recent release, 2007's "Planet of Ice," marked a fur-

Minus the Bear
Legends
Saturday
9:00 pm
Admission is
free with
Student ID

ther refinement of their sound. The album received widespread critical accolades, receiving high marks from Pitchfork, the Onion A.V. Club, Kerrang magazine and Alternative Press. Its fine balance between pop and progressive-rock guitar wizardry, with tasteful incorporation of electronics raised eyebrows not only in critical circles, but expanded their fan base even further. From the quick, upbeat "Knights" to the extended, yet never boring, "Lotus" and "Dr. L'ling," the group showed that progression and accessibility are not mutually exclusive. The dichotomy between the futuristic and the traditional is what sets them apart, music that you can both dance to and think about. When added to an already stellar back catalogue, including their 2002 debut "Highly Refined Pirates" and 2005 follow-up "Menos el Oso," it is clear Minus the Bear is one of the best indie rock outfits playing music today.

Possessing the musical maturity of a more experienced group, their experimentation always satisfies, leaving listeners awed that such a relatively young group could be so accomplished.

Often bands of this sort are cripplingly self-serious, but yet again, Minus the Bear is atypical. Song titles range from nonsensical ("Dr. L'ling"), to tongue in cheek ("The Game Needed Me"), to Starship Troopers quotes ("You're Some Sort of Big, Fat, Smart-Bug, Aren't You?"). In fact, the name "Minus the Bear" itself is derived from a lewd in-joke between band members. This light-hearted nature keeps things in balance, because having fun is vital to both the band's longevity and the enjoyment people derive from listening to them.

All these things combine to make Minus the Bear's music perfect for the summer. The laidback songs serve as a perfect soundtrack to those lazy afternoons in the sun. Lead vocalist Jake Snider sings of driving and beaches, of girls and bars. Whether it's the hip-hop inspired dance beats of "The Game Needed Me" or the slow jam of "I Lost All My Money at the Cockfights," each song seems like it

was made to soundtrack your summer.

So their live appearance at Legends Saturday will act as a perfect way to usher in the summer months. Appearing with like-minded opening bands Portugal. The Man and the Big Sleep on an off-date of their spring 2008 tour, this is sure to be one of the best concerts Notre Dame has ever seen. Although the openers may on first listening, recall the classic rock acts of yesteryear in their heavier, more blues-oriented approaches, all three bands on the bill share a forward-looking mindset. Taken together, this show is certain to be a guitar player's dream, with all three acts sporting impressively talented guitarists. With the semester coming to a close, make sure you're in attendance tomorrow night at Legends for an intimate look at three of the most original acts in music.

The show begins at 9 p.m. Saturday at Legends, and doors open at 8:30. Admission is free for all Notre Dame, Holy Cross and Saint Mary's students. For more information see <http://www.legendsofnotredame.org/club>.

Contact Ryan Raffin at rraffin@nd.edu

PEMCO's Revue Packed with Talent

MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Editor

The theme of this year's PEMCo. Revue — "Why We Tell the Story" — comes from a song from the musical "Once on This Island," which fits, considering that the Pasquerilla East Musical Company's production offers a once-in-a-semester chance to take in some show tunes.

As the second of PEMCo.'s two annual shows, the Revue offers a slate of musical numbers from musicals, including all manner of solos, duets, ballads, comic songs and even large scale dance numbers.

"It's a series of songs from a variety of musicals showing all different characters and ranges of emotion," producer Connor Nowalk said. "The performers choose the numbers that they would like to be in the show, and it's up to the director to not only choose the best numbers, but to choose the numbers

which will fit together as a cohesive whole loosely joined by a common theme of the show."

Revue performers will belt out some fan-favorite show tunes, including "Good Morning" from Singin' in the Rain, "Nicest Kids In Town" from Hairspray, "For Now" from Avenue Q and of course, "Why We Tell the Story" from Once on This Island to close the show.

Apart from the name-brand numbers, Nowalk's co-producer Mary Elizabeth McLaughlin also promises a variety of songs from several lesser-known musicals.

"The Revue provides a very nice variety of Broadway show tunes — there is something for everyone," she said. "A common thread in a good portion of the songs is that they will make you laugh until you cry. This is a very funny show. Still, the numbers that aren't comedic will give you chills. I think the show this year provides a really nice balance."

McLaughlin also promised a repeat

performance from what she terms 'Notre Dame's favorite boy band,' the Altar Boyz, who will perform "Church Rules."

"The Revue is at its very core a way for PEMCo. to reach out to the campus and share what we love about musical theatre," McLaughlin said. "I think the song does a really nice job explaining why we do what we do. As I said before, the show encompasses so many different emotions, and it explains that we have found a way, through song, to show this to people."

McLaughlin said the most challenging part of putting on the production wasn't recruiting talent to the stage, but rather cutting down the number of acts to a manageable amount. "We have so many incredibly gifted people on this campus, and it's very difficult to keep a show down to 20-25 numbers when you're so inspired by everything you see. Our director, Martha Calcutt, has done such an amazing job putting together just a phenomenal show. I guess in that sense, the challenge became the reward when we saw the show come together so beautifully. These kids just work so well together. I could watch the Revue over and over and over again."

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

"The Revue is at its very core a way for PEMCo. to reach out to the campus and share what we love about musical theatre."

Mary Elizabeth McLaughlin
Revue co-producer

PEMCO.
Pasquerilla East Musical Company
Presents:
2008 Broadway Musical Revue
Why We Tell the Story
April 17, 18 & 19
8:00 pm
Lafortune Ballroom
MATT MENDHAM
Music Director
MARITHA CALCUTT
Director
AMERICA LAMMAN
Choreographer
WHITNEY YOUNG
Assistant Music Director
MATT TOWNSEND & JARA PHILLIPS
Assistant Choreographers
MARY McLAUGHLIN & CONNOR NOWALK
Producers
Tickets on sale at the Lafortune Box Office: \$5 for Students, \$7 for Adults



AWARD-WINNING JUNO HITS DVD

MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

"Juno" entranced audiences spanning the country and generations during Oscar season, and now, the witty and sarcastic title character with an affinity for blue slushies has made her way to DVD. Juno, Bleeker, Leah, Mark, Vanessa, Bren and Mac are the characters who comprise the quirky, orange Tic-Tac-filled world that shows us the journey of a young girl dealing with adult problems and the loss of her innocence.

The indie comedy follows Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page), a wise-cracking pregnant teen who decides to give up her baby for adoption. Enter perfect couple Mark and Vanessa Loring (Jason Bateman and Jennifer Garner), who decide to take in Juno and Bleeker's (Michael Cera) offspring. Helping Juno through her nine months of pregnancy are best friend Leah (Olivia Thirlby), father Mac (J.K. Simmons) and step-mother Bren (Allison Janney).

"Juno" was a critical and box office success and it even garnered an Oscar nomination for Best Picture. It was the "Little Miss Sunshine" of 2007, but its appeal and popularity may have even extended beyond Steve Carell and Abigail Breslin's indie hit. Something miraculous happens when Diablo Cody's Oscar-winning screenplay, Jason Reitman's Oscar-nominated directing, Kimya Dawson's music and the cast's acting meet in "Juno." Yes, all those elements together produce a truly great film, but they

also create a cinematic experience that allows the audience to identify with and participate in the story. We feel what each character feels, and regardless of their flaws, we cannot help but like and understand every one of them because their characters are complex, well-developed and of course, funny. It's a comedy after all, but it's a comedy with a bigger heart than most of last year's films.

Page's performance earned her an Oscar nomination for Best Actress, but two other outstanding performers who were overlooked in awards season are Jennifer Garner and Allison Janney. Garner slowly unveils the character of the initially icy Vanessa and shows us the pain of a woman who longs to be a mother. Meanwhile, Janney is a scene-stealer every chance she can get as Juno's nail technician step-mother, Bren. The crucial scene where Bren tells off the ultrasound technician is one of the film and Janney's best.

The DVD's special features are comprised mostly of behind-the-scenes featurettes, that offer some insight into the making of "Juno" and how everyone involved in the film came together to work on the project. We are reminded more than once that screenwriter Diablo Cody is an ex-stripper and that Ellen Page is so much like the title character in real life. Other extras include a gag reel, a gag take in which director Reitman blows up at Rainn Wilson (convenience store clerk Rollo) and a cast and crew "jam" and dance party.

The deleted scenes are worth a look in order to understand how any one of those scenes were not particularly relevant to the advancement of the plot or character development and would have slowed down the pace of the film. Also included in the special features are screen tests with Page, Cera, Simmons and Thirlby, which show the progression of scenes from such a raw form to the final cut that we see in the film.

The best feature on the DVD is the commentary by Reitman and Cody. All too often in film, the screenwriter



Photo courtesy of kylesmithonline.com

Diablo Cody shares her commentary on the film in the DVD's special features.

is pushed aside once production begins and is no where to be found on DVD commentaries or featurettes. Cody, however, held a unique position in the making of "Juno." Her script had barely been touched from its original form when shooting began, and she had the freedom to be on set and work with Reitman in making sure that the final product was the "Juno" that both of them envisioned. The commentary shows the ease of their relationship and offers insight into all production aspects of "Juno" — not just the directing.

The only criticism of the DVD is that "Juno" loses some of its magic when transferred to the DVD format. Films are made to be viewed on giant screens in darkened theaters in order to totally immerse audiences in the worlds of those films. It's harder to recapture that immersion into the "Juno" universe when watching from home. However, that is no fault of the screenwriter, director, cast or crew. "Juno" remains one of the best films of 2007 for all its humor, intelligence and warmth. There's no getting around its brilliance.

Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu

Opera a truly rewarding experience

I never honestly contemplated the thought that I might one day be in an opera. Like most folks of the artsy persuasion, I did theatre in high school, which meant plays and musicals. I loved singing and dancing on stage, especially musical comedy and I considered Broadway to be the end-all of singing entertainment.

I came to Notre Dame as an intended music major, having not the slightest idea of what I was getting myself into. Suddenly, the choirgirl music theory that had been my saving grace while singing for years was incompetent in the face of Music Theory I, as I was asked to analyze classical pieces in a fashion I had never heard of. I began to understand what it meant to be a true music major here at Notre Dame. And, on a bit of a whim, I tried out for the opera.

Stephanie DePrez

Assistant Scene Editor

I was elated when I got into the opera, but I hadn't the slightest clue what I was going to be doing. I'd never heard of Faust, not the opera, the man, or anything. I figured it would be a hard-core version of musical theatre, because instead of doing individual songs, we would be singing the whole time. I also had this idea in the back of my head of this archaic art form; of fat ladies in Siegfried horns singing in a language I couldn't understand.

Rehearsals began in January, as members of the double cast (two people playing each principle role on alternating nights) learned all the individual music. It was quite intimidating to be standing next to seniors who had done this for years, to listen to their golden voices and watch them work. They knew what they were doing, but to me it still sounded like lots of classical music with some English (thank God) words thrown on top. I didn't believe in it.

Rehearsals with the complete chorus began and the story started taking shape. The classical music began to make more sense in its different settings. An aria was no longer a random song showing off a voice — it had a purpose, it was advancing the story. And what a story it was. I began to realize the complexity of the story of Faust, his deal with the devil, his love for Marguerite and their journey. There is love. There is drama. There is damnation, and the Devil might win.

Last Saturday, during our final rehearsal, before moving into the theatre, I leaned over to the man playing Faust and said, "I really like this music." He gave me the look of, isn't-that-obvious? I then said, "No, you see I don't like classical music ... it's not my thing ... and I LOVE this." The opera was clicking into place and the passion that it radiated was overwhelming. By the end of our final run-through, I was in tears. The music and the story had hit me that hard.

I have never been a part of something so moving, so graceful, or so intrinsically satisfying. "Faust 1859" has everything. There is a love story, a knife fight, temptation, comedy, a grand chorus and the Devil himself. I have spent every rehearsal transfixed backstage, watching in the wings and waiting with bated breath for each new scene. And it only gets more moving as the days go by. I came in as a sworn Broadway baby, but right now, I couldn't be happier. Opera rocks.

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu.

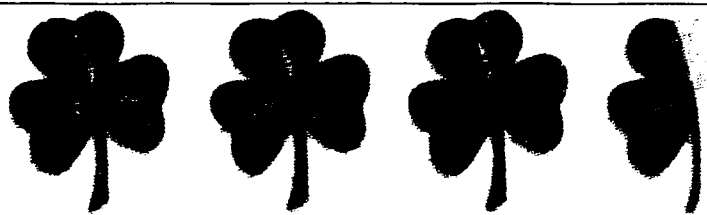
Juno

20th Century Fox

Director: Jason Reitman

Written by: Diablo Cody

Starring: Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman and Allison Janney



Saturday, April 19, 2008
at 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Browning Cinema

FREE but ticketed event.
Call the Ticket Office at
574.631.2800 for reservations.

FTT Talks presents

CSNY Déjà Vu

with Co-Writer Mike Cerre (ND '69)

A film investigating
the anti-war music
of Crosby, Stills,
Nash and Young

MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

MLB

Griffey's home run powers Reds over Cubs

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Hey, man — as Dusty Baker likes to say — the Reds were relieved to get out of Wrigley Field with a victory and end a five-game losing streak.

"It's been a tough five days. We needed this game badly," Baker said Thursday after Joey Votto and Ken Griffey Jr. led Cincinnati over Chicago Cubs 9-2.

Baker's return to Chicago, where he managed the Cubs from 2003-06, started with two losses, right after the Reds had been swept three games in Pittsburgh.

"We didn't want to have back-to-back sweeps. Five in a row felt like it was a month," Baker said.

Votto doubled with the bases loaded, homered, drove in five runs and made a nice defensive play, while Griffey hit his 596th career homer.

"The most important thing is the win. The home run is irrelevant. I hit one the other day and what happened? We lost," said Griffey, who also homered in Tuesday's series opener.

He's not even thinking about No. 600 or where he might hit it. But would he like to do it in Cincinnati?

"Why is that such a big deal? Do you think I will?" he said. "100 was at home, 200 was in Boston, 300 was in Cleveland, 400 was in Colorado and 500 was St. Louis. What do you think the odds are going to be?"

Edinson Volquez (2-0) gave up four hits and a run in five innings. In three starts now, he's allowed only 12 hits and has an ERA of 1.17.

"I feel more comfortable now. I have more confidence, too," said Volquez, who joined the Reds in a trade from Texas in the offseason. "I'm getting older and I'm learning from the last two years. I'm getting pretty comfortable."

Ted Lilly (0-3) remained winless in four starts after going 15-8 last season. He was tagged for six hits and five runs in six innings.

"I'm just losing patience at this point," Lilly said. "I want to go out there and give us a solid outing and give us a chance to win. I feel I owe that to my teammates."



Reds' outfielder Ken Griffey Jr., right, and Cubs' catcher Henry Blanco watch Griffey's three-run homerun on Thursday at Wrigley Field in the Reds' win. The homer was the 596th of his career.

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

No. 7 Mathletes' Dan Crisman sinks game-winning shot

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

No. 7 Mathletes 21, No. 10 Delivery Boys 19

The Delivery Boys hit a number of great shots. However, Dan Crisman of the Mathletes hit the greatest shot of all. It was the game-winner.

"I'm not going to lie, it felt great," the freshman said of his shot. "My team had the confidence in me to take it and I made it."

In a tightly contested game in which neither team held greater than a two-point lead, the Mathletes, behind Crisman's shot, outlasted the Delivery Boys to advance to

the elite eight.

With the game tied at 18, Mathlete freshman Sean Reed took the game into his hands and set his team up for the victory. Reed drove down on two consecutive possessions and converted on two spectacular, acrobatic layups to give the Mathletes a 20-19 lead.

After a key defensive stop, Reed once again drove down the court undoubtedly poised to convert a third consecutive attempt, but instead drew a double team

and kicked the ball out to Crisman who sank the shot.

"It felt really good. I'm glad I could help send us to the Elite

8." Reed said about his game-changing performance.

The Delivery Boys came out and controlled the pace of the game early grinding out an 11-10 halftime lead.

At the half, the Mathletes seemed to be physically exhausted and were clearly more fatigued than the Delivery Boys.

However, Crisman refused to let that get in the way of a victory for his team. "DC", as it read on the back of his jersey, shot lights out in the second half shooting his team back into the game. At one point in the second half, Crisman had scored three baskets on three consecutive possessions to regain the lead for the Mathletes.

The Delivery Boys did not bow out and kept it close until the end.

"It is a disappointing loss obviously," freshman Mike "Large Garlic" Garcia said. "We needed to take care of the ball more. But I have to give credit to them, they played well."

No 11. Monstars 21, No. 6 Get your weight up 16

Like in the movie "Space Jam", these Monstars jumped out to an early lead and looked to be the class of the competition. However, unlike the movie, they held onto the lead and cruised to a well-deserved victory.

The Monstars stormed out to a 5-1 lead and Get Your Weight Up was unable to get any closer as the Monstars took the game and advanced into the elite eight.

"It was a well-played game," Monstar sophomore Ryan Hornacek said. "They are all great guys and great players."

Hornacek led his team's great overall shooting performance that sparked the Monstars to an 11-6 halftime lead.

After a brief momentum swing at the beginning of the second half, the Monstars once again regained control of the game and pulled ahead 16-10. Although Get Your Weight Up did not give in on the final possessions, they were unable to hold off the Monstars from emerging as the victors.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu

"It was a well-played game. They are all great guys and great players."

Ryan Hornacek
Monstars team member

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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If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/rape.shtml>

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, April 18, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

MLB

American League, East Division

team	record	perc.	RF	RA
NY Yankees	9-7	.563	71	71
Boston	9-7	.563	75	81
Baltimore	8-7	.533	63	70
Toronto	8-8	.500	82	63
Tampa Bay	6-9	.400	78	68

American League, Central Division

team	record	perc.	RF	RA
Chicago Sox	9-5	.643	78	53
Kansas City	9-6	.600	52	46
Minnesota	7-8	.467	63	66
Detroit	5-10	.333	63	94
Cleveland	5-10	.333	63	84

American League, West Division

team	record	perc.	RF	RA
LA Angels	9-7	.563	81	75
Oakland	8-8	.563	64	59
Seattle	8-8	.500	77	73
Texas	7-9	.438	68	75

National League, East Division

team	record	perc.	RF	RA
Florida	9-5	.643	66	75
NY Mets	7-6	.538	69	49
Philadelphia	8-8	.500	74	69
Atlanta	5-9	.257	72	62
Washington	4-11	.267	53	81

National League, Central Division

team	record	perc.	RF	RA
St Louis	11-5	.688	74	56
Milwaukee	9-6	.600	74	65
Chicago Cubs	9-6	.600	82	77
Pittsburgh	7-8	.467	72	88
Cincinnati	7-9	.438	69	74
Houston	6-10	.375	60	70

National League, West Division

team	record	perc.	RF	RA
Arizona	11-4	.733	93	53
San Diego	8-7	.533	49	57
LA Dodgers	7-8	.467	70	52
Colorado	6-8	.429	56	73
San Francisco	6-10	.375	49	81

Golfweek Men's Golf Rankings

team	record	events
1 Georgia	98-19	8
2 Alabama	106-11-1	9
3 UCLA	76-13	7
4 Charlotte	85-14-1	7
5 Southern California	94-17-1	8
6 Oklahoma State	100-24	9
7 Florida	89-39-1	9
8 Georgia Tech	83-35-2	8
9 Tennessee	99-32-3	9
10 Florida State	90-32-1	9
11 Stanford	71-27	8
12 Chattanooga	130-30-4	11
13 UNLV	113-32-2	10
14 South Carolina	101-39-2	9
15 Duke	75-35-3	9
16 Auburn	90-36-2	9
17 Texas A&M	86-51-1	10
18 Clemson	87-39-1	9
19 UCF	79-45-3	9
20 Arizona State	65-47-2	8
21 Louisville	103-48-3	11
22 East Tennessee	72-57-2	9
23 Michigan State	75-33-2	10
24 Indiana	100-33-2	10
25 Wake Forest	84-44-5	10

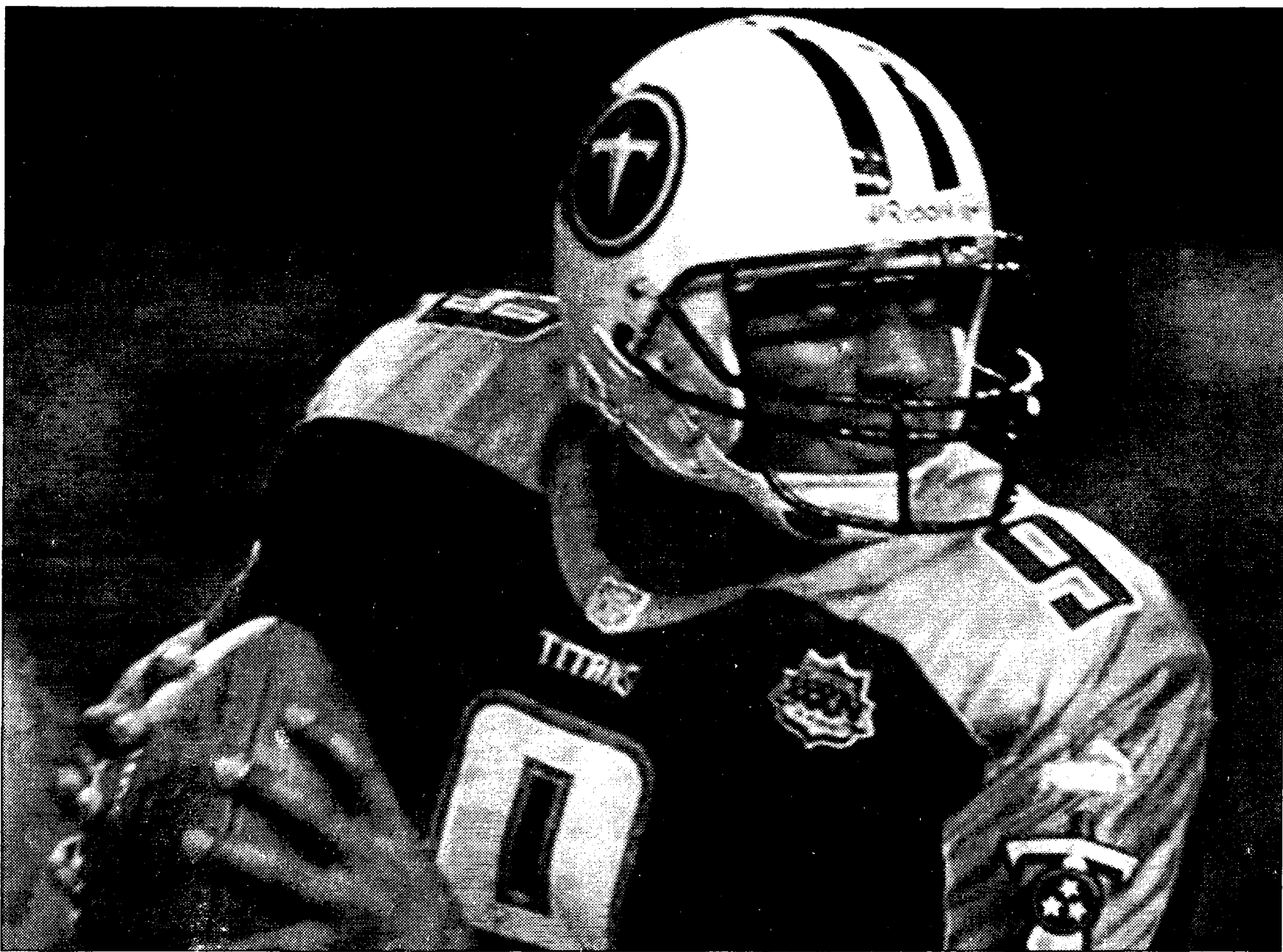
around the dial

NHL

Predators at Red Wings
7:30 p.m., Versus

Stars at Ducks
10:00 p.m., Versus

NFL



Steve McNair, the 13-year NFL veteran quarterback, announced his retirement at a press conference Thursday. McNair spent 11 years playing for the Tennessee Titans; his last two spent with the Baltimore Ravens.

'Air McNair' hangs it up after 13 years

Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Steve McNair intended to complete the final three years of his contract with the Baltimore Ravens. He worked hard during the offseason and arrived at minicamp ready to assume his role as the starting quarterback.

His body had other plans.

McNair announced his retirement Thursday, ending a 13-year career in which he was selected co-MVP, led the Tennessee Titans to the Super Bowl and orchestrated the most successful regular season in the

Ravens history. He received a standing ovation from his teammates after revealing his decision, then contained his emotions during a hastily arranged news conference.

"Coming out and making this decision, it was hard," he said. "In your mind, you feel like you can play, that you can still compete. But when your mind and your body are not in accord, it's not going to work in the National Football League."

"My mind was there. Mentally, I could go out and play. But physically, I couldn't do it anymore."

Not to the capacity that I need to help my teammates win a football game."

The 35-year-old McNair guided the Ravens to a franchise-best 13-3 record in 2006, his first season in Baltimore. But he injured his groin during the season opener last season and never regained the form that enabled him to earn a berth in four Pro Bowls.

McNair developed back and shoulder injuries and played in only six games in 2007. He threw only two touchdown passes, was intercepted four times and lost seven

fumbles before being placed on injured reserve in December, ending his most frustrating season in the NFL.

He underwent surgery on his non-throwing shoulder in December and spent much of the past three months getting ready for his 14th NFL season. But McNair had an inkling that all the running and weightlifting might be for naught.

"My mind was telling me, 'Yes,' and my body was like, 'No, what are you doing?' I came up with (the idea of retiring) two or three days ago, but it's been lingering ever since December."

IN BRIEF

UCLA star Kevin Love decides to go pro

LOS ANGELES — UCLA's Kevin Love is NBA-bound.

Less than two weeks after leading the Bruins to the Final Four, the All-American freshman announced Thursday that he'll skip his final three college seasons and enter the NBA draft.

"I feel like I'm in the right spot to take my game to the next level," Love said Thursday. "Since I was 5 years old this has been a dream of mine."

Love made his announcement at a news conference while sitting between his father, former NBA player Stan Love, and UCLA coach Ben Howland.

The 6-foot-10 Love said he did not immediately plan to hire an agent, which would temporarily allow to keep playing for UCLA.

"I want to maintain my eligibility in case something happens," Love said. He later added that it's "definitely a possibility" that something could prompt him to change his mind.

Bulls coach fired after disappointing season

DEERFIELD, Ill. — John Paxson used words like "disappointing" and "disturbing" while describing the Chicago Bulls' nightmare of a season. The general manager talked about pride and accountability, too.

"I'm most accountable," he said.

But Jim Boylan took the fall. The Bulls fired their interim coach on Thursday, likely the first of several changes after a disappointing season in which individual agendas wrecked whatever chance the team had at getting back to the playoffs.

While Paxson went out of his way to praise Boylan and said there was no "defining moment" that led to his dismissal, it was clear a change was coming. That happened during a morning meeting at the team's practice facility, and Boylan left without commenting.

Krystkowiak fired after first season as Bucks coach

MILWAUKEE — Larry Krystkowiak showed up at the Milwaukee Bucks' practice facility early Thursday morning, sweating through his T-shirt during a rigorous workout as Neil Young music blared in the background.

A few hours later, he was gone for good.

Krystkowiak might indeed have a heart of gold, as his choice of workout music would suggest. But as new Bucks general manager John Hammond attempts to make a championship contender out of an organization seemingly happy just to sneak into the playoffs every few years, that wasn't enough.

"The bottom line on this decision is that this is a results-driven league," Hammond said. "Sometimes it comes down to wins and losses. Once again, the man that Larry was and the effort he put forth had little to do with the decision."

MEN'S GOLF

Golfers head to Ky. for Big East tournament this weekend

By PETE REISENHAUER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame hopes to carry momentum from its top finish two weeks ago to help them end strong at the Big East Tournament starting this Sunday in Hebron, Ky.

The Irish believe that they can continue on a path that

they started at the Irish Invitational two weeks ago, and feel that they have a good chance at the Championship's this weekend.

The team is going to have to continue to drive the ball well and keep all of their players in play, but felt that this is very possible after the last solid performance. They are still cautiously optimistic,

however, because their last performance was done on their home course, but they still feel that they can carry that momentum with them to Kentucky.

They will once again need strong performances by Josh Sandman, who got his fourth consecutive top-10 finish in the last tournament. They will also need a solid performance

by freshman Dustin Zhang who was also able to finish tied with Sandman for fourth at the Invitational. These two were just two of the six Irish golfers that finished in the top-10 for the tournament.

The seeding for the tournament is completely random and goes as follows: Seton Hall, USF, Marquette, Connecticut, Cincinnati,

Louisville, Villanova, Notre Dame, Georgetown, St John's.

Although the tournament is being held in Kentucky, not far from Louisville, it will be hosted by the University of Cincinnati and will run from the 20th to the 22nd at the Traditions Golf Club.

Contact Pete Reisenhauer at preisena@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

No. 25 Irish head to Elk Run with high hopes

Squad has won a program-record four first-place finishes this season, including three-tournament streak

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

"It feels like all the pieces are coming together."

Head Coach Susan Holt's words on the eve of the Big East tournament encapsulate No. 25 Notre Dame's season so far — one of unprecedented success fueled by youth and mental toughness. The Irish hold the No. 1 seed heading into their penultimate tournament — the Big East Championship — at the Elk Run Golf Club in Batavia, Ohio. The tournament will be composed of three rounds played at the par-71, 5,724-yard course, from April 20-22.

Coach Holt, whose squad has earned eight top-five finishes this year, is optimistic of the team's chances.

"Our goal all year has been winning the Big East

Championship," Holt said. "That's what we expect to do, and we deserve to have that happen. We've been playing good golf lately and it seems like our time."

Although Notre Dame has been set firmly in the crosshairs with the No. 1 seed, Holt is confident in her team.

"We've been in this position a number of times because of the successes we've had. We're used to it. The team is tough."

This season has been marked by historic successes for the Irish. The squad has had a program-record four first-place finishes this season, including a program-first three consecutive tournament victories. Notre Dame also collected honors at Golf World Magazine's mid-season awards banquet, being named the most surprising women's team, while Irish freshman So-Hyun Park was named

most surprising women's player. Park is on pace to shatter the program's single-season scoring record of 74.12 with a season average of 73.26, and has carded eight consecutive top-10 finishes, including two first-place finishes.

Junior captain Lisa Maunu has also performed strongly, second behind Park with a 75.35 scoring average and two podium finishes. In addition, every Notre Dame golfer has carded at least one top-10 finish this year.

The Elk Run Golf Club is foreign ground to the Irish, but Coach Holt feels her team will perform well regardless.

"It's a neutral site, and we've never played it," Holt said. "But we've had success this year on new courses so we're not too worried. We haven't changed our preparation, and it's been nice this week so we've been able to play every day. We made

a commitment to do exactly what we're doing. We're on track."

The tournament will be the final of the year for Notre Dame

before the NCAA tournament next month.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

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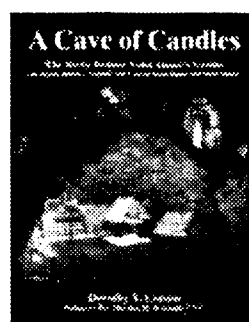
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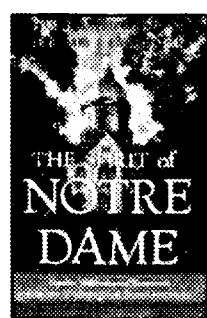
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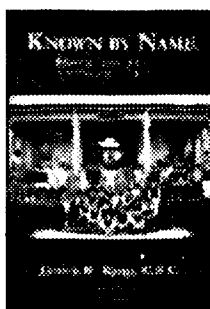
Dorothy Corson
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Jim Langford
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Fr. James King CSC
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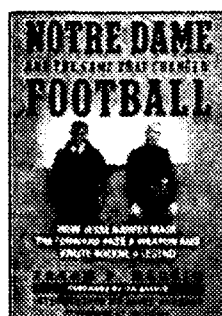
11:30AM- 1:30PM



Maura Weis
Miles From The Sideline




Bill Schmitt
Football Weekends At Notre Dame



Frank Maggio
Notre Dame And The Game That Changed Football
(accompanied with local sports writer Joe Doyle)



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MEN'S LACROSSE

Laxers preparing for two-game weekend

By GRIFFIN DASSATTI
Sports Writer

In the spirit of baseball season, Notre Dame is making this a double-header weekend.

Coming off a heart-breaking 9-8 loss to No. 19 Denver two weeks ago in Chicago, the Irish will look to bounce back with two games this weekend. They begin Friday, taking on the Quinnipiac Bobcats at the School Field in South Bend at 4 p.m. Then the team will travel to Bethlehem, Pa. to play the Mountain Hawks of Lehigh Sunday at 1 p.m.

The Irish have never lost in five total games against Quinnipiac and Lehigh.

With the April 5 loss to Denver, the Irish, who are currently tied for the No. 10 ranking in the USILA coaches' poll, fell to 7-2 overall and 1-1 in the Great Western Lacrosse League. Quinnipiac (7-2, 1-2 GWLL) is coming off an 11-10 overtime win over Air Force and will undoubtedly be looking to pull off a late-game comeback of their own against the Irish.

After resting up Saturday, the team will take the field against a 6-8 Lehigh team that is averaging 6.36 goals per game this season, compared to a goals-against average of 8.29 per game.

Notre Dame will look once again to its solid crop of upperclassmen to lead it this weekend. Junior attackman Ryan Hoff, who scored six goals in last year's contest against Quinnipiac, leads the team with 22 goals this season. He is followed by fellow junior attackman Duncan Swezey, who has scored 16 this season and led the team with four goals in last year's 14-2 win over Lehigh. Senior midfielder Michael Podgajny rounds out the top three scorers with 15 goals.

In net for the Irish will be senior Joey Kemp, a two-time All-American whose 6.75 goals-against average ranks him seventh in the nation. Kemp didn't allow a goal in 37 minutes in last year's win over the Mountain Hawks, and he will undoubtedly look to do the same come Sunday.

Contact Griffin Dassatti at
gdassatt@nd.edu

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish fall again to Vanderbilt squad

By ANDY ZICCARELLI
Sports Writer

For the second straight year, the Notre Dame women's lacrosse team entered its showdown with Vanderbilt with momentum, coming off of a win over Big East rival Georgetown.

And for a second straight year, the Irish walked away on the losing end, this time falling to the Commodores 9-6. It was the lowest offensive output of the year for Notre Dame.

"We weren't on our game. I don't know why," coach Tracy Coyne said. "If I did, I would have fixed it."

Junior attack Jillian Byers led the Irish in scoring with three goals, two of which came in the second half. However, it would prove to be too little to late for Notre Dame, which fell to 10-5 on the season.

"We just couldn't find an answer," said Coyne.

The Irish have very little time, however, to recover from the loss. On Saturday, the Irish will travel to Piscataway, N.J. to take on Rutgers. The Scarlet Knights are 2-2 in the Big East Conference and 7-8 overall.

While each game has been important for Notre Dame, this game could have extra significance on the season. The Irish were riding high after a 4-1 road trip that saw them defeat two top ten

teams, but the loss to Vanderbilt has taken away considerable momentum. How coach Tracy Coyne's team responds on Saturday could determine Notre Dame's fate for the rest of the season. The game will be the final regular season game to take place before the Big East tournament, which will be held at home in Notre Dame, and the Irish are looking to come in on the right foot.

"We want to solidify our number two seed in the [Big East] tournament," Coyne said.

The game at Rutgers caps off an eventful week for the team. In addition to the numerous awards and honors that each have received already earlier in the season, Byers and senior midfielder Caitlin McKinney have each been selected as nominees for the Tewaarton Award, given annually to the top lacrosse player in the nation. Out of the 18 nominees, 5 will be named finalists later in the year.

As for Saturday's game, do not expect another slow start from the Irish. Coyne called the game, "a way to get back on track," and went further.

"We didn't capitalize on our opportunity [Wednesday]," she said. "But I'm happy we have another chance to go out and be the team that we want to be in 2008."

Contact Andy Zicarelli at
azicare@nd.edu

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ROWING

Rowers sweep field in Indianapolis

Observer staff report

Notre Dame won all six races it entered in the 2008 Indiana Invite at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis, Ind. The Irish were victorious in the varsity eight, second varsity eight, varsity four, second varsity four, novice eight and second novice eight races.

The No. 16 varsity eight crew posted a time of 6:25.0, followed by Indiana (6:31.0) and Purdue (6:39.4). In the second varsity eight race, the Irish boats took first and fourth with times of 6:32.5 and 6:52.0. Notre Dame took the top two spots in the varsity four race with times of 7:17.3 and

7:33.5. They also took the top two spots in the second Varsity Four race with times of 7:29.2 and 7:37.5. In the novice eight race the Irish had a winning time of 6:48.3. The second novice eight crew came in with another victory with a time of 7:19.5.

SMC TENNIS

Belles extend win streak to three

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's attained its third consecutive win Thursday as the Belles crushed conference rival Adrian in a 9-0 sweep. The Belles lift their record to 8-9, 3-3 MIAA as the Bulldogs fall to 5-12, 2-6 MIAA.

"It was nice to get another win, especially our third in a row," Belles coach Chuck Rubino said.

Thursday's win is the Belles second conference win in a row, the first being their 8-1 win over Tri-State on April 12.

Saint Mary's started off strong in the doubles division and made winning all three doubles matches look easy.

The Belles No. 1 duo of sophomore co-captain Camille Gebert and freshman Jillian Hurley took out Adrian's Robyn Bahr and Katelyn Simcina 8-4 for their ninth win of the season. Gebert and Hurley move to 9-8, 5-1 MIAA as Saint Mary's No. 1 doubles pair.

Sophomore co-captain Lisa Rubino and freshman Betsy Reed easily knocked out Katie MacFarlan and Leeann Brooks 8-0 in the No. 2 doubles match, putting them at 7-8, 3-3 MIAA. Freshmen Franca Peluso and Jessica Camp stepped up for the second time this week in No. 3 doubles for Saint Mary's, winning 8-0 over Emily Brede and Chrissy Kuss for their third match as a pair, moving Peluso and Camp to 2-1, 1-0 MIAA.

"We stepped up our doubles game," sophomore co-captain Lisa Rubino said. "We played really well today."

Saint Mary's continued its momentum into the singles division, a trend they started against Tri-State Saturday and have carried over into

the match against Bethel Tuesday and versus Adrian Thursday.

At No. 1 singles, Gebert went up against the Bulldog's Simcina in a tough match that eventually led to Gebert asking for a line judge when she was up 4-3 in her second game. Gebert managed to come out successfully, winning 6-3, 6-3.

At No. 2 singles Hurley took out Bahr 6-0, 6-1 for her fifteenth win of the season, putting her at 15-2. Saint Mary's energy continued on the courts as No. 3 Reed defeated Brooks 6-1, 6-2, moving her to 8-8, 3-3 MIAA.

No. 4 Jessica Kosinski won her seventh match as she beat MacFarlan 6-2, 6-1, lifting her to 7-9, 3-3 MIAA. No. 5 Rubino quickly took out Brede 6-1, 6-0 for her eighth singles win, moving her to 8-8, 3-3 MIAA.

Freshman Laura Arnold played at No. 6 singles for the Belles for the second time this week, defeating Kuss 6-1, 6-0.

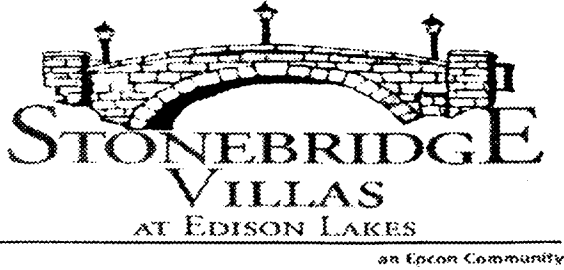
"This win will hopefully give us confidence going into Kalamazoo," coach Rubino said. "I expected Adrian to be a stronger team, but a win's a win. Kalamazoo is going to be tough competition."

Saint Mary's will take on Kalamazoo Saturday at 1 p.m. for their fourth home match this week. Kalamazoo is currently fourth in the MIAA with a 4-2 conference record, and 10-7 overall. Luckily for the Belles, the Hornets' No. 1 singles player Mary Atallah has been injured lately and not performing at her regular level.

"Kalamazoo is a big conference competitor," Lisa Rubino said. "We just hope to keep our success going."

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

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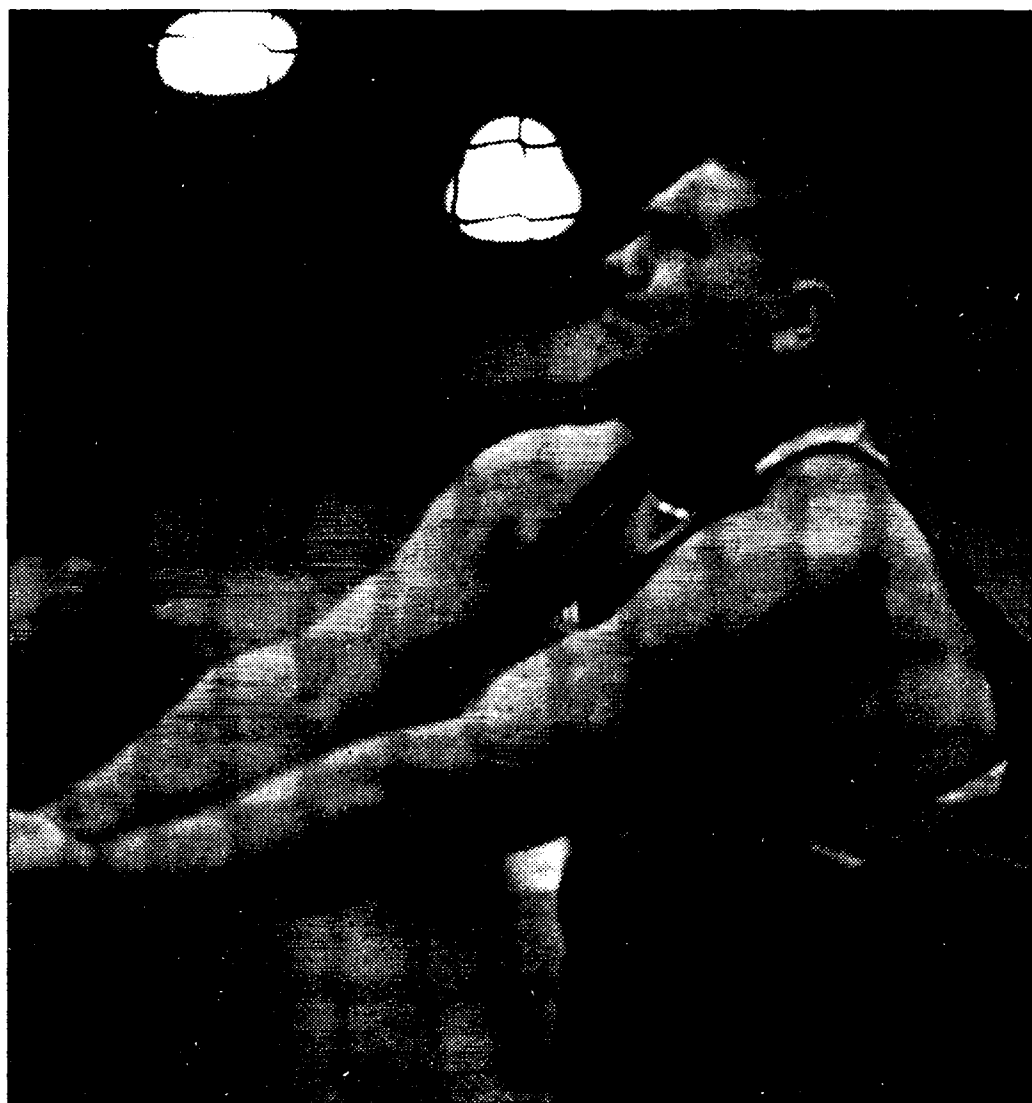
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TRACK AND FIELD

Irish gearing up for two more big events



Freshman thrower Denes Veres winds up to toss the hammer down the range in a meet on Jan. 25th at the Notre Dame Invitational. AP

By ALEX BARKER and
EUGENIA ALFONSO
Sports Writers

Just two weeks shy of the Big East Outdoor championships, Notre Dame will compete at both the Central Collegiate championships and at the Mount SAC Relays.

The Irish will send eight of their top runners to the prestigious Mount SAC relays in Walnut, Calif. There, they will compete against some of the toughest competition in the nation.

During last weekend's meets, the Irish had success from their middle distance runners.

Freshmen Natalie Johnson and Kelly Langhans had a wonderful meet last week competing at the Mississippi Invitational taking first and second, respectively, in the 800-meter race. Sophomore Lindsey Ferguson also ran well taking first place in the 3000-steeplechase.

Notre Dame will send the field athletes and the rest of the runners to the Central Collegiate championships in West Lafayette, Ind.

Last week, the Irish also had great results in the field events.

Junior Anna Weber led the Irish in the throws events posting a landslide first-place finish in the shot put and a second-place finish in the hammer throw.

Behind Freshmen Jessica Sullivan and Jasmine Williams, the Irish took second in the pole vault and fourth in the long jump.

Each of these three-day meets will prove grueling for the ath-

letes, but they will need every chance they get to improve before the Big East championship and to qualify for the NCAA meet in May.

Notre Dame prepares once again to get some qualifying marks for the upcoming Big East Outdoor Championship meet during the weekend of May 3 and 4. The team again will be split between to meets to get the best possible competition for their event. Some of the team members will be heading to the Mount SAC Relays in Walnut, California while others will head for the Central Collegiate Championships in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Freshman thrower Greg Davis will be participating in the Central Collegiate Championship meet. He has been working on his technique this past week and is optimistic about the results this weekend.

"My technique is getting closer to where I would like it to be," he said. "I feel that if I continue to work on my technique in practice I will be able to let loose and just go after some throws in the meet."

The Irish can expect some good competition at Mount SAC.

"Mount SAC is an awesome meet and there is always great competition," senior Austin Wechter said.

The next meet after this weekend for the Irish will be the Drake Relays at Des Moines, Iowa and the Hillsdale Relays at Hillsdale, Mich.

Contact Alex Barker and
Eugenia Alfonso at
abarker1@nd.edu and
ealfonso@nd.edu

SMC GOLF

Belles play in Spring Fling

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will compete in Illinois-Wesleyan's Spring Fling this weekend, the last tournament before the NCAA qualifiers are set to conclude.

"We need to get some karma going for us before the qualifiers," coach Mark Hamilton said.

The Spring Fling will be a very competitive field for the No. 28 ranked Belles. However, competing with and beating tough teams is nothing new for them.

"There are going to be four of the top-10 teams in the country at the tournament this weekend," said Hamilton. "Last weekend we were able to beat five different teams that were ranked ahead of us so I'm not worried."

Peaking at the right time this spring has been

Freshman Rosie O'Connor. She has led the Belles in the past three tournaments including a second-place

overall individual performance last week at the Vassar Invitational.

"She [Rosie O'Connor] has worked really hard this spring and now it is really starting to pay off for her," Hamilton said. "She has finally made the adjustment to playing on the collegiate level."

The final two rounds of the NCAA qualifiers will take place a week after the Spring Fling and the Belles

have their eyes set on one goal — qualifying for the national tournament.

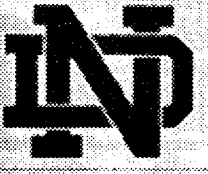
Currently the Belles are in second place just 18 strokes behind No. 12 Olivet after the first round of the qualifiers. If the Belles are unable to clinch the automatic bid by overtaking Olivet in the MIAA conference qualifying tournament, they may still be able to receive an

at-large bid based on their performance in tournaments like the Spring Fling.

Contact Alex Barker at
abarker1@nd.edu

"There are going to be four of the top-10 teams in the country at the tournament this weekend. Last weekend we were able to beat five different teams that were ranked ahead of us so I'm not worried."

Mark Hamilton
Belles coach



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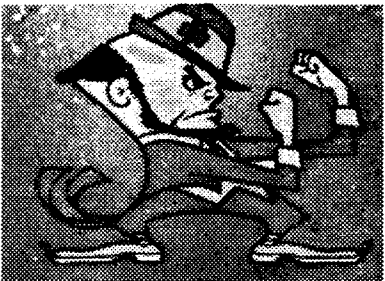
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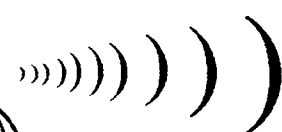
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WVU

continued from page 24

Senior Tyler Kuhn leads the team and has been one of the top hitters in the conference this season. Kuhn leads the Big East in batting with a .447 average and has seven home runs and 42 RBI on the year.

West Virginia has averaged 8.71 runs per game, and the Irish have a team ERA of 3.95. Irish starters David

Phelps, Wade Korpi, and Eric Maust will have their work cut out for them on the road.

The Irish offense is second in the Big East, batting at a .364 clip. Notre Dame coach Dave Schrage said he was very impressed with his team's batting lately.

"Everybody's hitting well and picking their teammates up," Schrage said. "We really like our lineup all the way one through nine."

Notre Dame picked up the latest win in their streak Wednesday with a 5-4 vic-

tory over Northern Illinois at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago. The game against the Huskies benefited the Northern Illinois February 14 Scholarship Fund, which will establish scholarships in the names of the students that died in the shooting tragedy at the school this year.

"There weren't any losers [Wednesday]," said Schrage, who coached for four years at Northern Illinois. 4,600 were in attendance at U.S. Cellular, the home of the Chicago White Sox.

First pitch today is scheduled for 7:05 p.m. at Hawley Field in Morgantown.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

"Everybody's hitting well and picking their teammates up."

Dave Schrage
Irish coach

SOFTBALL

Squad set to face Big East leaders

Irish to play South Florida and Louisville for pair of road games

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

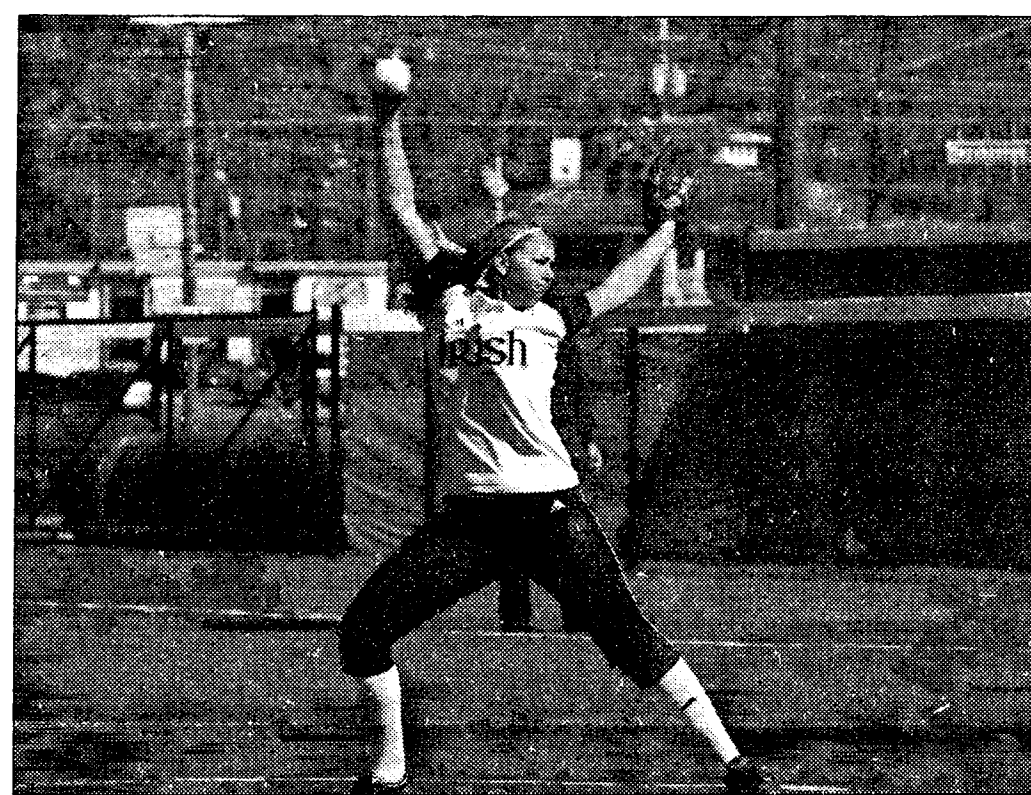
Notre Dame will enter into its most important weekend of the year, taking on Big East leaders South Florida and Louisville in a bid to gain the advantage in the regular season race to win the Big East.

The Irish (27-13, 7-3 Big East) are coming off of a 5-0 loss to No. 13 Northwestern Tuesday in which they only managed one hit and an 11-5 win over Wisconsin on Wednesday in which they rediscovered their bats.

The win over the Badgers was highlighted by a team record three-home run inning which included bombs from junior third baseman Linda Kohan, freshman shortstop Katie Fleury, and sophomore first baseman Christine Lux. Kohan also added another three-run homer later in the game.

Freshman catcher/outfielder Sadie Pitzenberger leads the Irish with a .343 batting average, while senior second baseman Katie Laing adds some pop to the lineup, hitting .341 with six home runs and 41 RBIs.

Junior Brittney Bargar (20-



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Junior pitcher Brittney Bargar goes through her wind-up prior to releasing a pitch in an 11-5 Irish win over Wisconsin Wednesday.

7) leads the league in wins and strikeouts with 157.

Freshman Jody Valdivia has been regaining much of her dominant form from earlier in the season, giving two solid innings in relief in the loss to Northwestern.

The Cardinals (23-15; 9-3 Big East) will go into Saturday's games second in the Big East standings, giving the Irish a chance to grab the advantage with a sweep.

Louisville is coming off a doubleheader split with Big East opponent Pittsburgh on Sunday. The Cards overcame a 4-0 deficit to win the first game 11-4 and lost the second 8-0. The loss snapped an eight-game home winning streak for the Cardinals.

Louisville's offense has been impressive this season, with a .275 team average and five players over the .300 mark. Sophomore catcher Melissa Roth (.377 average) and freshman third baseman Chelsea Bemis (.324 average) are leading the way for Louisville's hitters.

The Louisville pitching staff has also been solid this season. Sophomore Kristen Wadwell (12-9) brings a 2.20 ERA with 108 strikeouts to the table and junior Kassie Stanfill (9-5) comes in with a 3.01 ERA with 110 strikeouts.

The University of South Florida (36-13; 11-1 Big East) earned the No. 25 spot in the Ultimate College Softball Coaches Poll this week. The Bulls currently lead the Big East and will provide a stiff test for the Irish.

South Florida is coming off a perfect weekend of Big East play at home with sweeps of conference foes Pittsburgh, 1-0 and 2-1, on Friday and Syracuse, 5-4 and 1-0, on Sunday.

Bull's freshman pitcher Capri Catalano has a perfect 11-0 record on the season.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu

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continued from page 24

the underdogs a 1-0 lead.

Pat Nolan's squad took control quickly though. The Waivers were just too strong down low, forcing their opponents to settle for outside shots.

"We had a little bit of a size advantage," Waivers captain Matt Gibson said. "And we tried to use it."

Wakim'ole's Pat Richel said that his team was used to playing against a bigger squad.

"Every game we've had a disadvantage in side," he said. "They were good, though."

To compensate, his team was forced to take outside jumpers, and made enough to stay competi-

tive for most of the game.

"You've just got to take what they give you," Richel said.

Wakim'ole kept it close for most of the game, until The Waivers went on a 4-1 run to start the second half. Gibson attributed to the strong second half to his team's improved outside shooting. Robert Heroman, one of those guards, was ice cold in the first half. In the second stanza, though, he caught fire and began draining long-range bombs. His final shot, a jumper from the quarter, ended the game and sent the Waivers on to victory.

"Our guards shot decently well in the second half," he said. "And we just stepped up and played good defense."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

Miller

continued from page 24

field.

Corrigan said Miller loved to throw batting practice, and wouldn't stop regardless of whether his arm was tired or if a ball hit him.

"He would always race out there," she said. "He loved to throw us trick pitches, even though they weren't really tricks. He had a lot of fun trying to get us."

Miller served as the faculty advisor for the team, helping them to keep up with their majors, grades and other scholastic matters. When he was unable to fulfill this role in the fall following his diagnosis, the players noticed the difference.

"For some of us, academics slipped a bit, and we realized that coach Miller was always on top of it. He knew if you weren't doing well, and he always got on you about education," said Corrigan.

Sullivan agreed that Miller always made sure the girls had their priorities straight, pushing "academics first, athletics second."

Miller showed his fun side during Christmas, when he

regularly dressed up like Santa Claus, not only for the team but also for community events.

"He did this in like eight different places. He lived in this costume," Sullivan said.

Miller was unable to attend games and practices regularly in the spring due to his illness. Rashid said this gave a little extra motivation to the team, because they wanted to live up to his expectations.

"I think he really cared for us, like we were his granddaughters or something."

Sarah Montelongo
Belles sophomore

"There's at least one time every practice when I think, 'Oh, this is what he used to do,'" she said.

Sophomore Sarah Montelongo summed up the love Miller had for his team.

"I think he really cared for us, like we were his granddaughters or something," she said. "I don't know — there was just that certain something."

The Belles play three double-headers this weekend beginning today, against Hope College, Adrian College, and North Central College. They plan to play well for Miller.

"He still expects the best out of us, and we have extra motivation knowing he's watching up there," sophomore Ashley Peterson said.

Contact Laura Myers at lmeyers2@nd.edu

Recruits

continued from page 24

ing for."

"A couple of Stocktons each year, and you're going to have a heck of a football team. He's a guy Notre Dame would love to land early because it is a big need position," Frank said.

Stockton is not near the top of any recruiting boards at defensive tackle, including scout.com, but Frank said he would be a solid pickup for the Irish.

"I think that he's definitely not the top target that they have at defensive tackle, but he's right up there with anybody," he said.

Craig Roh

Roh is a 6-foot-5, 225-pound defensive end out of Chaparral High School in Scottsdale, Ariz. — and one of the most sought-after recruits in the country for next year.

"Tons of offers, everybody under the sun has offered this kid," Frank said of Roh.

Roh had 99 tackles and 15.5 sacks as a junior last season, en route to being named all-state. Frank called Roh a good, physical pass rusher who loves to pursue the quarterback.

"I think Notre Dame would like to get a couple [defensive ends] and they have been zeroing in on him," Frank said.

Frank said that, despite the amount of schools offering Roh, Notre Dame has a good chance of landing him, but that this weekend could decide that.

"If he likes the visit up here, I think Notre Dame will have a real good shot to land him, but it's all going to come down to the visit. He seems like a Notre Dame kid, like a kid that will fit in really well at Notre Dame," he said.

E.J. Banks

Banks is a cornerback out of Montour High School in McKees Rock, Penn.

Banks plays offense and defense in high school, as quarterback and a defensive back. Last season,

Banks had 2,155 yards from scrimmage and 16 touchdowns on offense in addition to three interceptions on defense.

Frank said what Notre Dame likes about Banks is his physicality.

"He is a Corwin Brown type of corner. A big physical guy, and plays press coverage at the line of scrimmage as well."

Frank said Banks has the speed to play cornerback, but is also a lot stronger than most corners. Banks' physicality will be a big asset in Notre Dame's defense, Frank said, because of the style of play that both defensive coordinator Corwin Brown and assistant head coach-defense Jon Tenuta like.

"That's why you see Notre Dame going after bigger guys at corner, like E.J.," Frank said.

Jake Golic

Golic is the only verbal commitment Notre Dame has this recruiting cycle, just as his brother, center Mike Golic, Jr., was one of the first commits to the Irish last season.

The younger Golic is a 6-foot-5, 212-pound tight end out of Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford, Conn.

Golic was the only tight end Notre Dame offered, and Frank said he thinks Golic was the Irish's top guy.

"Jake's got a little growing to do, but he's got that nastiness that Charlie Weis is looking for," Frank said.

Frank said Golic has nice hands, but that he could use a year or so on the bench to develop.

"But once he does [develop], you're going to have a pretty darn good football player," Frank said. "I think that's why they offered him."

Golic's father, Mike Golic, Sr., played defensive line at Notre Dame and his uncle Bob Golic was an All-American linebacker.

Devonte Holloman

Holloman is one of the top safety recruits this season, coming out of Independence High School in Charlotte, N.C.

Frank said Independence is one of the top high school football powers. Like Roh, he said a lot of

schools have already offered Holloman.

Frank said Holloman, who stands at 6-foot-2, 200 pounds, "has a college body already" and that this gives him an opportunity to play right away.

"I think we'll know a little bit more about him and his interests after this weekend," Frank said. "But I think he's developed a pretty good relationship with Corwin Brown and I think he wants to come up here and check it out."

Jordan Barrett

Barrett is a former teammate of current Notre Dame commits Dayne Crist and Anthony McDonald at Notre Dame High school. Barrett is a 6-foot-2, 225-pound linebacker.

Frank said the Irish coaches noticed Barrett when they were watching film on McDonald during last season's recruiting cycle.

Frank said what really stood out about Barrett was his work ethic.

"I think they are looking for guys that can go 100 percent all of the time, and I think he fits that bill," Frank said.

D.J. Adams

Frank said Adams is comparable to 2008 Notre Dame recruit Jonas Gray and has scholarship offers from schools such as Maryland, Clemson, Boston College, and Michigan State. Notre Dame hasn't offered scholarships to many running backs in this class, Frank said.

Adams, who stands 5-foot-10 and weighs 212-pounds, is a resident of Norcross, Ga., which means this visit could make or break whether Adams commits to the Irish.

"With all kind of southern kids, you can't really say how they're going to react to Notre Dame because a lot of them haven't been up in this part of the country before," Frank said. "It's either a home run visit or it's kind of the nail in the coffin for southern kids. They either really love Notre Dame or they cross it off."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu and Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

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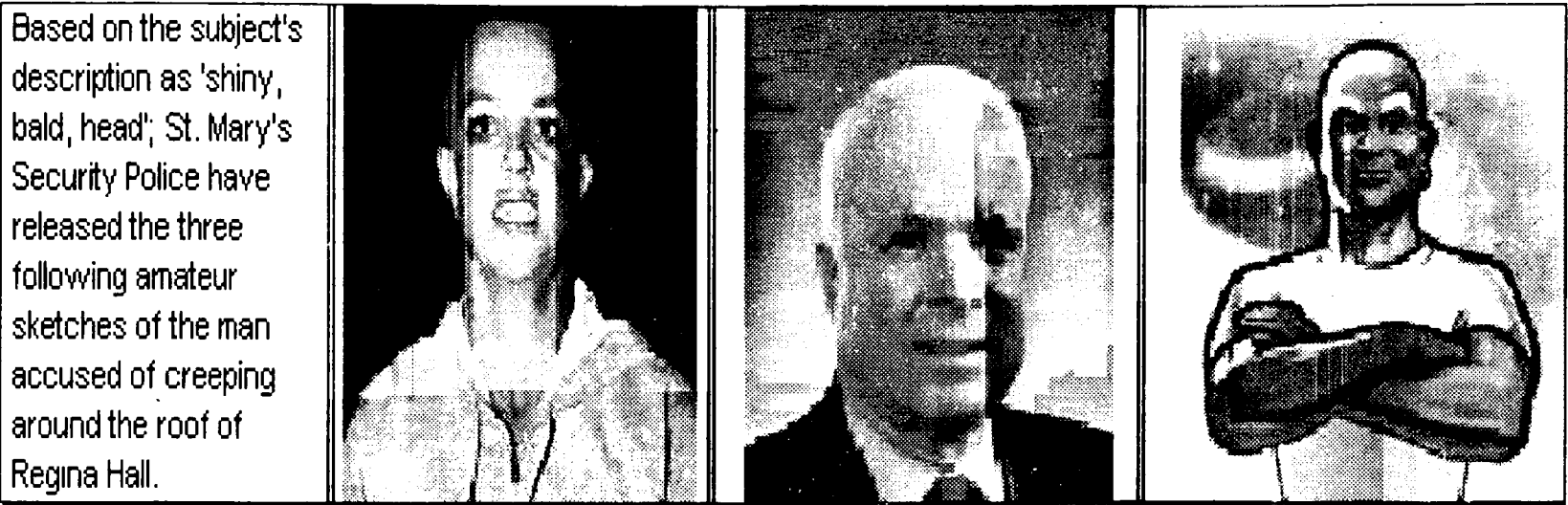
BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



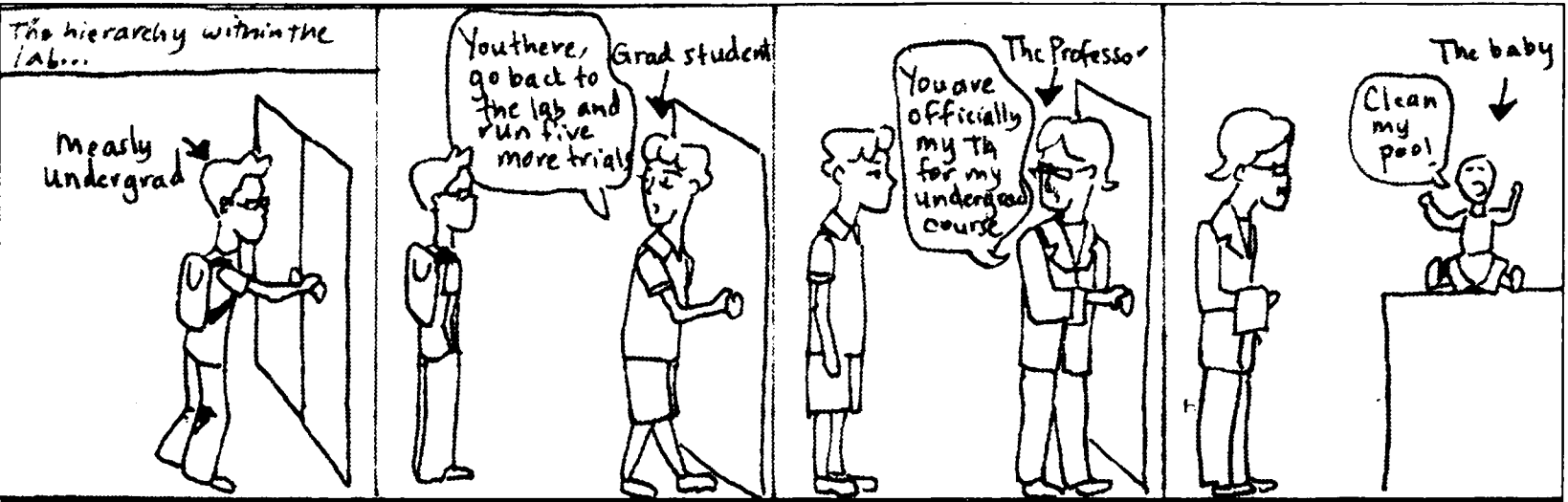
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- Across

1 Climbing Mt. Everest, for Sir Edmund Hillary

12 1937 Paul Muni drama

14 Art, metaphorically

16 History

17 Probe

18 Manfred ____ Earth Band

19 Roman well

20 Basic verse option

21 Whacked

22 Drum containers

23 Site of the siege of Candia

24 Feaster on frogs

25 Legato indicator
- 26 Coast Guard boat

27 It's hard to recall

29 Cowboys, but not Indians

32 Fitting decision?

33 Clued in, once

36 Stains

37 Delicate

38 Singer who is part owner of Forbes magazine

39 First name in fragrances

40 "In that area"

41 Cousin in a Balzac title

42 Cut across

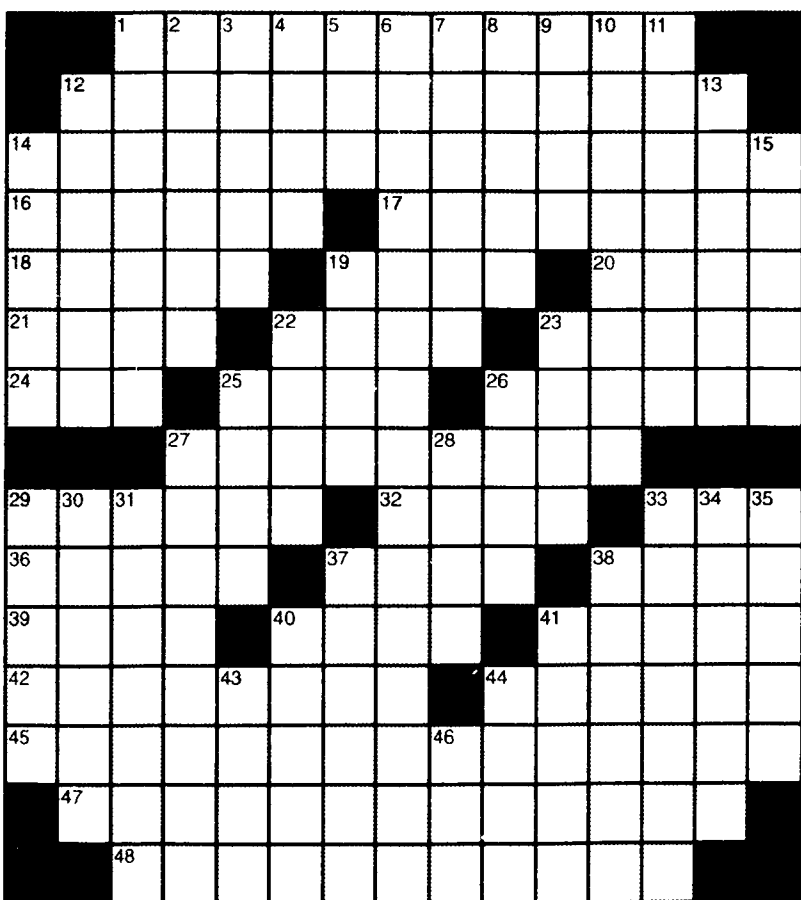
44 Reminiscent of the 1890s

45 Census Bureau data
- 47 Only if it's worth the trade-off

48 London Zoo locale

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EGAD	AIN	THETA	
ESSE	ORGY	SUSAN	



Puzzle by Paula Gamache

- 26 Under a quilt, say

27 Set off

28 "Blue II" painter, 1961

29 It's headquartered in the G.E. Building

30 Sacramento suburb
- 31 Global positioning system, e.g.

33 Bit of jazz improvisation

34 Bait

35 Meter makers

37 Certain inverse function

38 Get going
- 40 Honduras-to-Guatemala direcci3n

41 City bombed in the gulf war

43 Waste

44 Rockne protég3

46 Country singers England and Herndon

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JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

LIWLT
□ □ □ □ □ □
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CHARP
□ □ □ □ □ □

DEECES
□ □ □ □ □ □
www.jumble.com

TEAZOL
□ □ □ □ □ □

Ans: IT □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Yesterday's Jumbles: MINER BAGGY GUITAR UPHELD
Answer: What the couple got in the lighting store — A "BRIGHT" IDEA



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Victoria Beckham, 34; Jennifer Garner, 36; Liz Phair, 41; Olivia Hussey, 57

Happy Birthday: Strive for perfection this year and you will get much more than you expect in return. Your ability to cover every detail and to stay on top of what everyone is doing will put you in a strong position. Your numbers are 5, 18, 21, 27, 37, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Business will help you keep things in perspective today. As soon as you bring personal or emotional matters into the picture, you will probably make poor choices. Don't overspend, overreact or take on others' responsibilities. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Give whatever you do to your all and you will reap the rewards. There is money to be made, advancements to be gained and plenty of opportunity as long as you stick to what's being asked of you. 5 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Problems with a friend, relative or child will cause worry and will take up your time. You will have to make some fast assessments and adjustments in order to balance everything. 2 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put in a little extra time and effort at home. It will make a difference to someone you care about. An emotional matter can be dealt with and the changes made will help you realize what you have and how much you want to restore or maintain it. 4 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your ears open for any change in plans that people around you make. It will make a difference to your game plan if you are prepared for what others do. Money can be made but don't spend frivolously. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will find it hard to keep your emotions in check, especially when dealing with partnership or personal matters. An opening in a group you wish to join looks promising. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Taking a strong position will have an impact on those around you and may stifle what you are trying to accomplish. Any crucial changes made at home may put you in a demanding position. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An interest from someone you least expect may appear to be a compliment at first. However, be careful -- this person may want something you don't want to give up. A change at home will not turn out as planned. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep things fair and you will excel. Try to take advantage and someone will call your bluff. A trip will pay off in the deals you make. Love and romance are skyrocketing. 4 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Changes will be pushed at you if you are difficult to get along with. You will have to compromise if you don't want to ruin a deal you've been working on. Someone you love may agree with you for the wrong reason. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may not be totally sure of what others might do but, if you follow your heart and act on your feelings, you will come out on top. When it comes to business, don't get involved socially with your colleagues or authority figures. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An emotional deal can be reached if you are forthright about the way you feel and what you expect from those with whom you are dealing. A firm offer, commitment and partnership can result in greater prosperity and a brighter future. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You have vision, persistence and the ability to make things

THE OBSERVER

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FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Spring recruiting

Highly-touted recruits visit campus for 79th annual spring game

By JAY FITZPATRICK and
CHRIS HINE
Sports Writers

Most of Notre Dame's freshmen recruits for next season haven't graduated high school, let alone participate in a single practice for the Irish so far.

But the recruiting cycle for next year has already started, and the Irish welcome eight of the best recruits in the country to campus this week for the annual Blue-Gold Spring Game.

Notre Dame has offered scholarships to all eight players.

Cierre Wood

Wood is the No. 3 running back for next year, and a five-star recruit according to the recruiting Web site scout.com.

Wood was a dominant force for his high school, Santa Clara High School, carrying the ball 178 times for 2,612 yards last season.

Mike Frank, who covers Notre Dame recruiting for scout.com, said part of Wood's appeal is that he can also play special teams.

"He's a guy who is electrifying on special teams, a great return man, very explosive player, and can hit the home run," he said.

Frank added that the Oxnard, Calif., native has a chance to make an impact for Notre Dame immediately.

"He's a difference maker. Notre Dame has a lot of great players, but they don't have a lot of differ-



Illustration by MARY JESSE/The Observer

ence makers. And he's a good size at 6-foot, 205 pounds. He averages over 14 yards a carry, the guy is tremendous," he said.

Anthony LaLota

LaLota is a defensive end who only recently began playing football. The 6-foot-6, 260-pounder from Princeton, N.J., played his first full season of football last year, when he had 40 tackles and 10 sacks for the Hun School.

Frank said LaLota's experience may force him to sit a season, but that he has the athleticism and potential to be a good player.

"When you watch him, he's just an extremely athletic kid that just runs real well, plays aggressively, pretty big kid that just plays very well," he said.

Frank said the most important thing for LaLota is to work on technique between now and when he starts playing college ball.

"I think he's one of those 'projectable guys,' a guy who's not ready to play from day one because I think he might need a little work on technique. But he's a guy that's got so much athletic ability that you think that it'll be a short time before you see him on

the field," Frank said.

Frank also called LaLota "an ideal candidate defensively."

Tyler Stockton

Stockton is LaLota's teammate at the Hun School in Princeton, N.J., and was also a strong presence on the defensive line.

Frank said Stockton could play nose guard or defensive tackle and that Stockton has attended Notre Dame's football camps a few times. He also said Stockton is "exactly what Notre Dame is look-

see RECRUITS/page 22

BASEBALL

Irish set for 3-game set in Big East

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will try to protect its lead in the Big East and keep its 10-game winning streak intact this weekend facing off against conference rival West Virginia.

The Irish (23-9-1, 10-2 Big East) travel to Morgantown atop the Big East standings, one game ahead of Cincinnati and St. John's. Notre Dame's winning streak is highlighted by six straight wins in conference play.

Irish junior second baseman Jeremy Barnes said the streak helps motivate the team. "With a 10-game winning streak you have a target on your back," said Barnes. "Notre Dame is all about pride and every day we're coming out trying to keep it going."

The Mountaineers enter the series following a tough series against Seton Hall. The Pirates took two of three of from visiting West Virginia, dropping the Mountaineers to fifth in the Big East with a record of 7-5.

West Virginia will face the Irish with an explosive offense currently tops in the Big East. The Mountaineers are averaging a .364 average as a team, with four starters batting over .400.

see WVU/page 21

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

Mean Girls take down Anthony Travel 21-12

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

No. 8 Mean Girls 21, No. 9 Anthony Travel 12

Mean Girls advanced to the round of eight Thursday night with a victory over Anthony Travel.

The Girls led the whole way, using their size advantage to cruise to a 17-10 lead late in the game. All it took was a few buckets from Mean Girl Alex Klupchak to put the game away.

"They were a good team," Klupchak said. "But we were bigger, we were able to get rebounds and get a lot of quick outlet passes for lay-ups."

Klupchak also pointed to his team's ability to shut down Anthony Travel's offense, but, in the end, size made the difference.

"We played some tough man-to-man," he said. "Even if they beat us off the dribble, we were just too big

on the inside."

Travel captain Mike Henry saw the loss a different way, though, playing down the Girls' height advantage.

"We looked tired," he said. "They pushed it more than we did. They came out ready to play, and we weren't ready."

Mean Girls moves on to play the winner of Kramer Properties and To Catch a Predator. Klupchak was confident, despite the possibility that they could be going up against the No. 1 overall seed in the next round.

"If we play the number one team, we'll have our work cut out for us," he said. "We'll have a chance. They're very good, but we'll have a chance."

No. 4 Pat Nolan Presents The Insurance Waivers 21, No. 13 Wakim'ole 14

Unranked Wakim'ole's cinderella run came to an end Thursday night, as it fell to The Insurance Waivers.

Things started out well enough for Wakim'ole when Michael Wakim stole the ball and made an easy lay-up on the game's first play to give

see BOOKSTORE/page 22

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles mourn loss of coach

Assistant coach Don Miller died after six-month battle with cancer

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's lost a colleague, teacher, and coach Sunday night when assistant coach Don Miller died after a six-month battle with cancer.

Miller, 67, a mathematics professor who had been at the College since 1967, began working with the softball team during the 2000-2001 academic year. Current head coach Erin Sullivan was a freshman on the team at the time.

"I knew him as a player and then as a coach, and it was fantastic," she said.

Sullivan said he spent his early years with the team as a first-base coach and statistician.

Junior Katie Rashid said that Miller was a man of few words, but that the words he did say were powerful.

"He demanded perfection. He expected the best of us all the time," Rashid said.

The players all agreed that Miller seemed intimidating at times.



Photos courtesy of McKenna Corrigan

Don Miller, right, who died on Sunday, watches the action during a game in the spring of 2006.

"He didn't just dish out compliments," senior McKenna Corrigan said. "You really appreciated when he would compliment you, because you knew ... that it was something you did that was really good."

Sullivan pointed out that this exterior masked the caring man beneath.

"He was a little gruff when you first got to know him, but he cared more than anyone," Sullivan said. "If you asked him for anything, he would always help you."

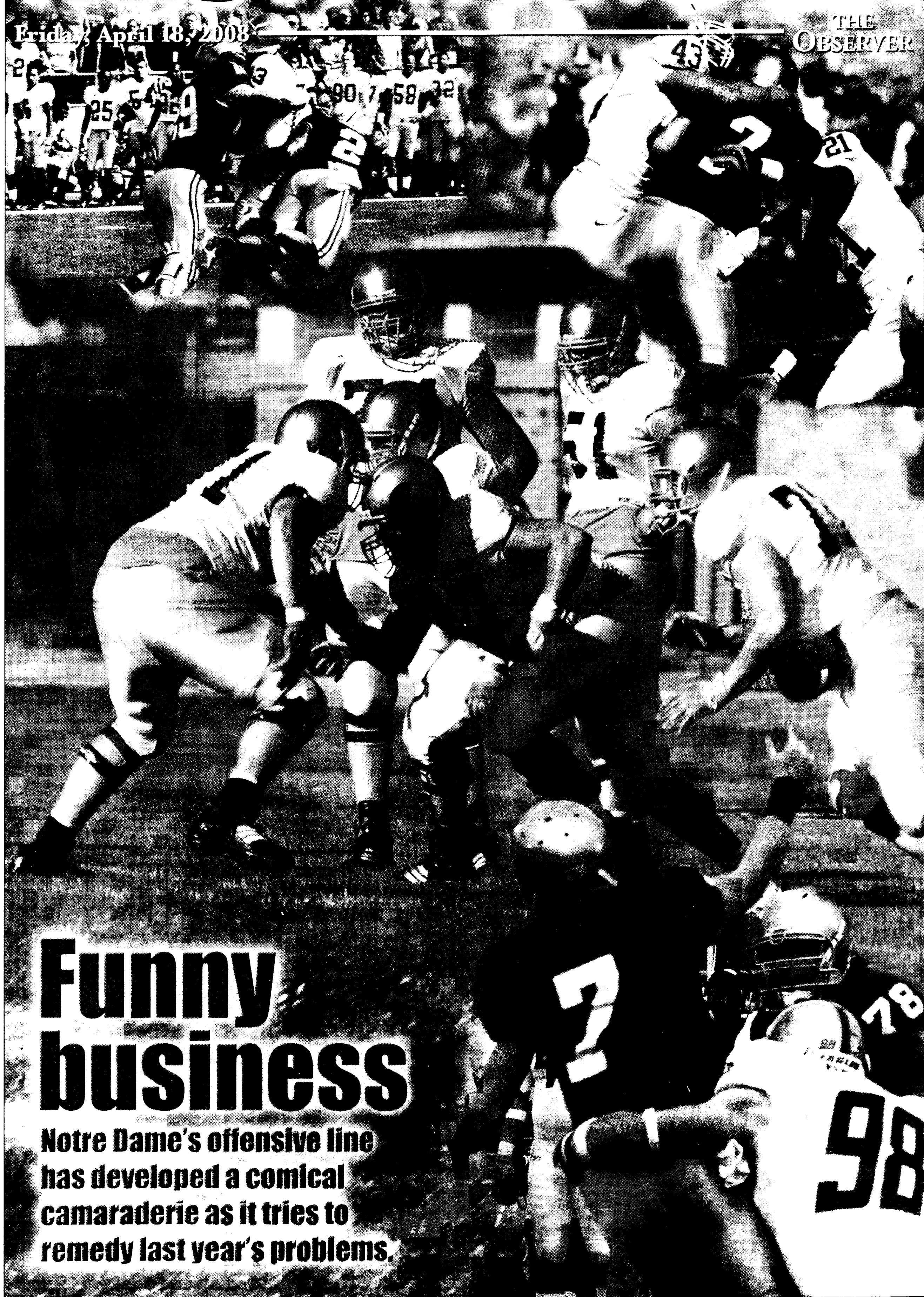
His care was evident through his actions both on and off the

see MILLER/page 22

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, April 18, 2008

THE
OBSERVER



Funny business

Notre Dame's offensive line
has developed a comical
camaraderie as it tries to
remedy last year's problems.

COMMENTARY

Selective memory necessary for Irish success

An essential part of becoming a man in today's society is developing an effective selective memory. Every man has it and every woman complains about it.

For example, a guy sits down to watch his favorite TV show or some sporting event. His wife (or, in some cases, the girl whom he settled for) is in the other room barking at him. He knows she's talking and that what she's saying is very important to her. He doesn't want to listen to her because what's on TV is so captivating, but he doesn't want to get caught ignoring her either.

So he pulls a trick on his significant other. Every now and then, he'll chime in with a "Huh-uh," "sure" or "OK," but he never takes his eyes — or his attention — away from the TV. His selective memory has kicked in. He selected not to pay attention to his wife. He has no clue what his wife just said, though she thinks he memorized every word and will do everything she tells him.

Then, the next day, when his wife complains about the vacuum not being run, he responds with a casual, "Oh, I didn't know

you wanted me to do it." His wife, now infuriated says, "Well, I told you yesterday, don't you remember?" He just says, "Nope, sorry. I'll do it now," and then proceeds to perform a (likely mediocre) running of the vacuum cleaner.

Selective memory is a part of every marriage and a sitcom cliché, but it's just what Notre Dame needs. Last season requires selective memory. It's simply too painful to remember. But that doesn't mean Notre Dame should forget everything about last season. The Irish should erase completely disasters like the 38-0 loss to Michigan from their memories. Nothing good can come from remembering what happened in that game. But they shouldn't forget how they felt after that game was over — and should resolve to never have that feeling again.

The offensive line should put the nine sacks it allowed against Georgia Tech in the past, and remember how they began to improve toward the end of last year, when the Irish protected the quarterback better and began to develop a running game.

The defense needs to put the Navy and Air Force losses behind it, and focus on the potential it showed during the Boston College and Stanford games.

Developing a selective memory

doesn't mean forgetting everything that went wrong. After all, that's how you get better as a team, improving on what went wrong. But you can't let the memory haunt you, or it'll affect you at the most inopportune time, like late in a close game.

As with any disaster, you have to be able to put the worst of it behind you while still learning from the experience. For the Irish, they have to strike that fine line between learning from

last season and being overwhelmed by last season. That's where selective memory helps. It can separate the bad from the truly awful and enable them to move on and become better for having gone through such a bad experience.

Let's face it, last season, a lot of people shut off Notre Dame games early. Husbands everywhere sat down to watch four hours worth of football, which meant they thought they had

four hours to selectively listen to their wives. But nobody wants to sit through a blowout, so a lot of men were forced to turn off the games and lend an extra ear to their wives — almost as bad as going 3-9.

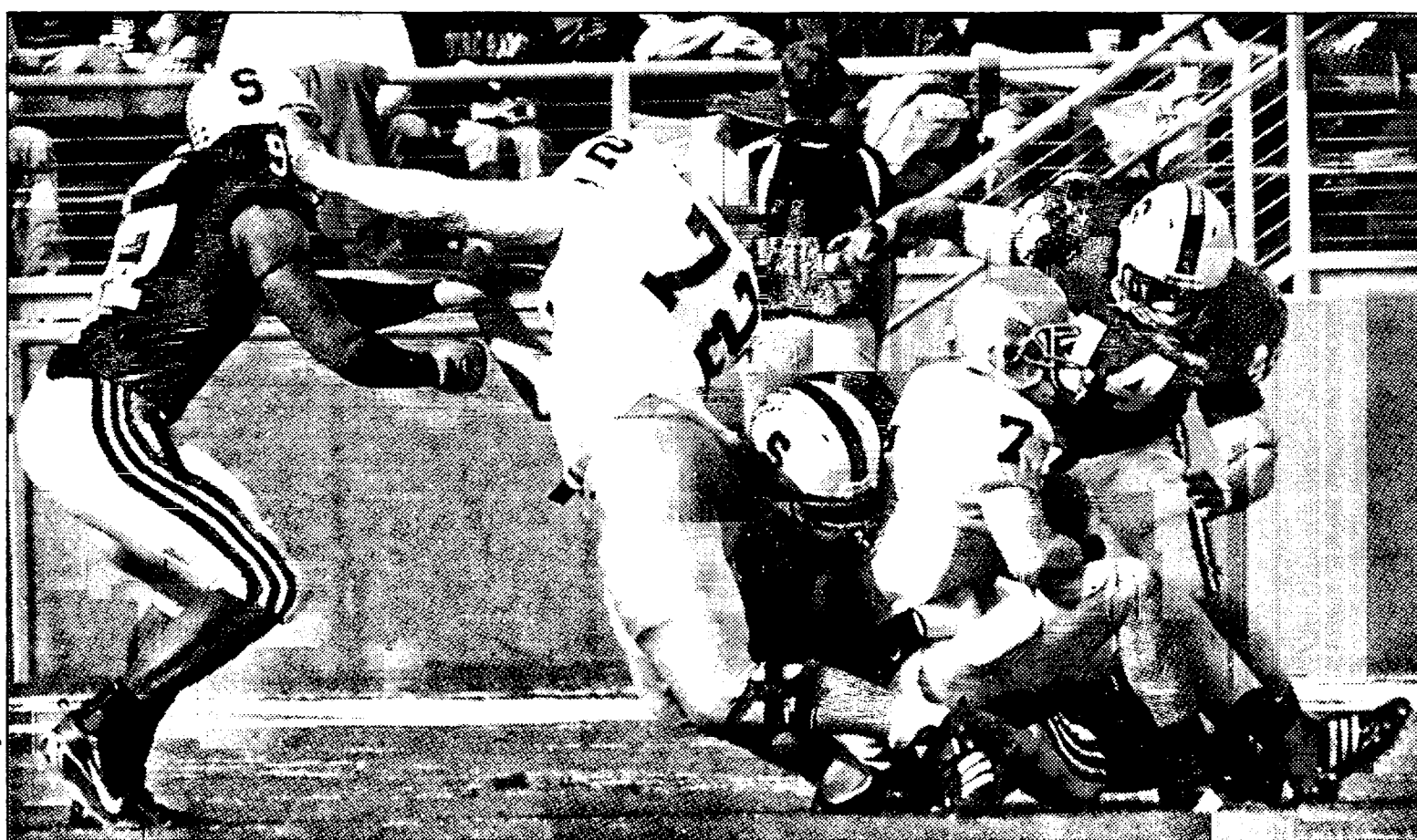
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu



Chris Hine

Sports Writer



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish quarterback Jimmy Clausen gets sacked while left tackle Paul Duncan tries to hold off another defender in Notre Dame's 21-14 win over Stanford on Nov. 24 in Palo Alto, Calif.



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Six pieces of the puzzle

After a season under intense scrutiny, Irish O-line bonds over fitness, fights and food

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

When Notre Dame football players walk into the Isban Auditorium in the Guglielmino Athletics Complex for interviews, they normally walk in individually, one at a time. When the offensive line came through the door Wednesday night, all six arrived at once, and sat in a row awaiting reporters.

This is all part of Irish coach Charlie Weis' plan: The linemen are a unit on the field and are treated like one off of it. But Weis didn't have to institute this plan; the linemen already do everything together anyways.

Together as one

The offensive linemen are a self-proclaimed tight-knit group, on and off the field.

Guard Mike Turkovich said they hang out together outside of practice and go out to eat together. They even have their lockers close together in the Irish locker room.

Center Dan Wenger said playing and fraternizing with his linemates has been great so far this spring.

"We're having a lot more fun, we're understanding what each other is doing, we're playing as a unit," he said.

This camaraderie mostly manifests itself when the team travels as a group to Bruno's Pizza after most practices. Wenger said the topic of conversation is always the same.

"The food on the table, pretty much just 'Pass it here,'" he said.

Guard Eric Olsen agreed. "There's no talking because everyone's so hungry that we pretty much just chow down,"

he said.

These dinners are not a tradition for Irish linemen; in fact, it's just six close friends enjoying a meal together. The only difference is the amount of food they eat.

Olsen said the group has killed a good number of buffets in their time there. Wenger said the six of them could handle two or three pizzas, but when he learned right tackle Sam Young said guard Chris Stewart eats two or three 20-inch pizzas on his own even on a diet, Wenger changed his story.

"Oh, I didn't realize Chris was coming," Wenger joked.

Jokes like these are near constant among the linemen, and no one is spared. Stewart's thing is that he eats too much.

Wenger gets picked on for his "love handles," Young said. Olsen looks either like a sheepdog or Barf, the half-man, half-dog from "Spaceballs." Turkovich mumbles when he talks. Tackle Paul Duncan has a thick Southern accent.

And Young himself? "I look like Big Bird. Or Larry Bird. Or a bird," he said.

Irish eyes are smiling

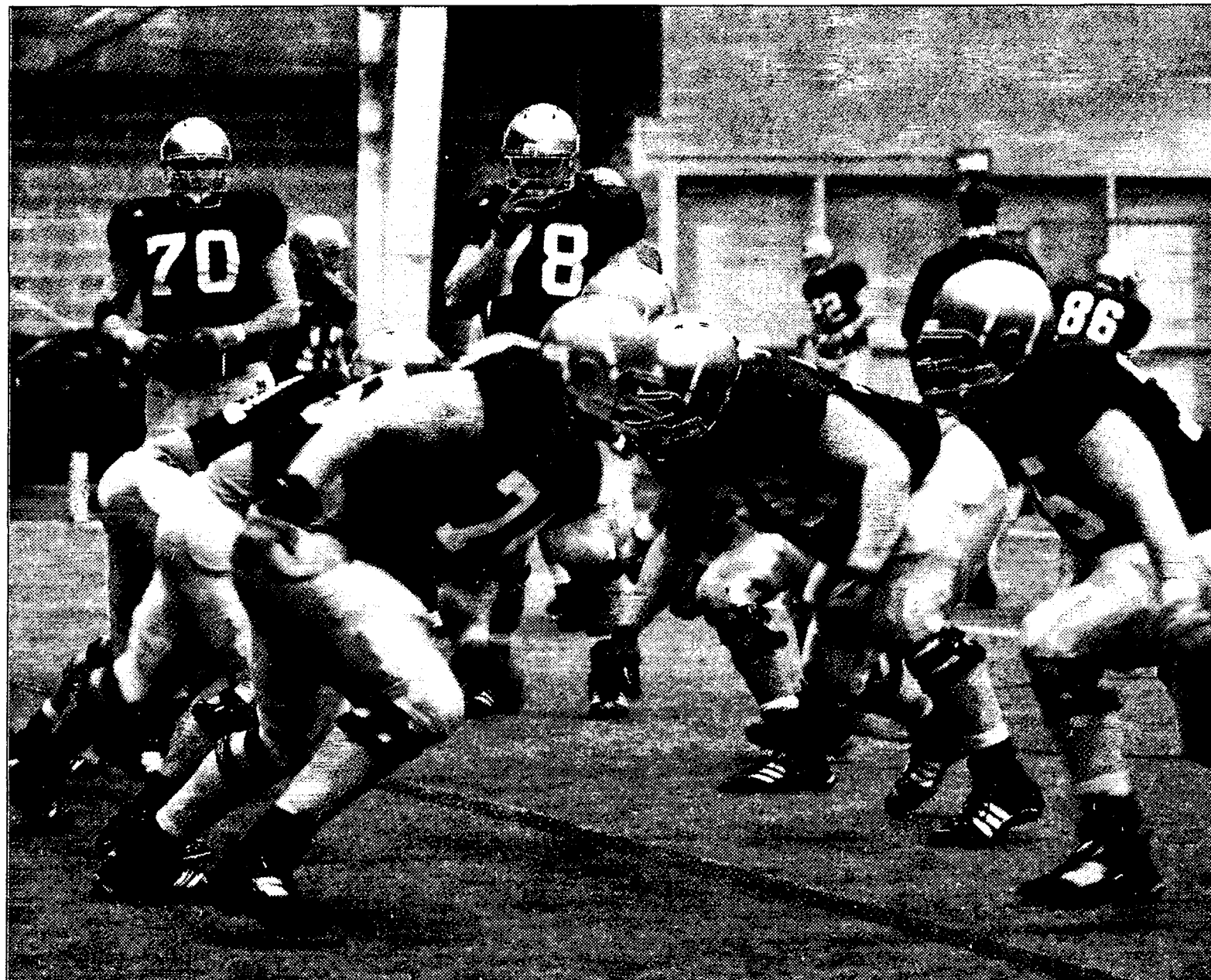
For the linemen, their closeness off the field has only strengthened their performance so far in practice.

One of the most intense parts of the Irish spring practice has been the Irish Eyes drill, a modified Oklahoma pitting one offensive lineman with a running back against one defensive lineman or line-

backer. The drill has sparked some fights in practice, mostly involving the offensive line.

Turkovich said it is important to do well during Irish Eyes because everyone is watching one person at a time.

"All eyes are on you. If you



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

The Irish offensive line runs through drills during practice on March 31. The line allowed 58 sacks last season, when Notre Dame finished 3-9.

don't win, everybody sees you getting your butt beat. If you win, it's great, it's intense," he said.

Turkovich took credit for starting a fight earlier in the spring during this drill, saying it felt great to be in that kind of environment.

Fights are not the norm in the drill, but they are not uncommon. Young said Duncan gets into the most fights during practice, but that most of them are 15 yards away from the ball.

"That's how far I push them," Duncan said in his defense.

Olsen picked on Duncan's response to most fights, claiming he tries to avoid them by running from the fight because he "forgot his helmet."

Young agreed, saying that, even though Duncan fights often, they consist of just a single shove.

"Sometimes he just comes over and says, 'Hey man, I'm gonna start a fight,'" said Young, imitating Duncan's Southern drawl.

But the linemen said they enjoyed the new intense practices, especially the fights.

"I personally think it's fun," Stewart said. "It's kind of nice. It's an aggressive sport, so to get out aggression with a guy we're always playing with an having fun with, so I think it's fine."

Pumping iron

During the offseason, Weis said one of the goals for most of the team was to build muscle – and especially with the offensive line.

The line got to work immediately in the weight room with strength and conditioning coach Reuben Mendoza to get stronger – and the results were apparent when the football

team announced their new weights earlier this spring.

Young bulked up from 315 lbs. to 330 lbs., Wenger added 18 pounds to move up to 300 and Duncan moved from 292 to 308.

Even though Olsen only added three pounds since last fall (up to

303 lbs.), Wenger said he was impressed with Olsen's performance in the weight room.

"Pretty much Olsen was a beast," said Wenger, after some coaching from Olsen himself.

Even though these workouts are a normal part of the winter for the team, Weis said he thought the linemen felt some accountability from last season's debacle.

"It all starts with the fact that this is a prideful group that is embarrassed by how we played last year. If you're not embarrassed, you're not going to get any better," Weis said. "First of all you have to identify if you are part of the problem. Then you have to decide what you are going to do to go about fixing it."

The players themselves agreed, saying they took accountability for working to

improve in the weight room.

"We're on a mission. We got embarrassed last year and nobody wants that to happen again," Olsen said.

Weis said the players need to take control of the team, and Olsen said the lifting is just one example of how this is true with the linemen.

"This is our O-line now. This is our offense," Olsen said. "That kind of pride really pushes us to be the best we can be."

Olsen said this attitude kicked in early in the season, but that everyone realized what improvement would take.

Stewart said the line did mostly "strength and power specific drills" during the off-season under Mendoza's plan.

"Some of had to do a little more cardio than others," said Stewart, referencing the diet Mendoza put him on.

♦♦♦

Even though building team chemistry is important, winning is always the most important metric for a football team. And the offensive line is an integral part of that.

So what do the linemen see themselves blocking like next year?

"Eric Olsen's clogged arteries," Stewart said.

"Animals," Turkovich said.

"Chris Stewart when someone goes after his food," Wenger said.

But Olsen had a more serious shot.

"Tough, nasty, mean offensive line we've always been," he said.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Sophomore tackle Sam Young rests during practice Wednesday. Coach Charlie Weis said Young will play right tackle this season.

Notre Dame

Class represents current year in school

WR
18 Kamara
19 West

TE
83 Ragone
32 Schmidt

RB
34 Aldridge
34 Allen

RB
55 Olsen
59 Stewart

LT
72 Duncan
70 Duncan

LT
72 Smith
42 Robinson

LDE
53 Richardson
90 Ryan

LCB
2 Walls
4 Gray

FS
27 Brumfield
29 Garret

OLD 2008

starters

Defense Roster

Players to watch

QB
1
Griphey

FB
44
Schwapp

WR
11 Grimes
82 Parris

RT
74 Young
75 Dever

ILB
Crum
Quinn

RDE
94 Brown
91 Nwankwo

SS
28 McCarthy
31 Brown

WR
11 Grimes
82 Parris

OLB
56 Neal
97 Wade

RCB
20 Lambert
8 McNeil

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
2	Darrin Walls	DB	6-1	180	SO
4	Gary Gray	DB	5-11	180	FR
6	Ray Herring	DB	5-10	197	SO
8	Raeshon McNeil	DB	6-0	187	FR
20	Terrail Lambert	DB	5-11	191	SR
24	Leonard Gordon	DB	5-11	194	SO
27	David Bruton	DB	6-2	207	JR
28	Kyle McCarthy	DB	6-1	207	SO
29	Jashaad Gaines	DB	6-0	203	SO
30	Harrison Smith	DB	6-2	205	FR
31	Sergio Brown	DB	6-2	196	SO
35	Kevin Smith	DB	6-0	180	SR
38	Chris Bathon	DB	5-10	181	SO
40	Maurice Crum, Jr.	LB	6-0	230	SR
41	Scott Smith	LB	6-4	235	JR
42	Kevin Washington	LB	6-1	241	JR
43	Eric Maust	P	5-10	177	SO
43	John Leonis	DB	5-9	169	JR
45	Mike Anello	DB	5-10	180	SO
47	Aaron Nagel	LB	6-1	229	FR
48	Steve Quinn	LB	6-2	231	JR
49	Toryan Smith	LB	6-1	245	SO
50	Steve Paskorz	LB	6-2	235	FR
53	Morrice Richardson	LB	6-2	244	SO
56	Kerry Neal	LB	6-2	245	FR
61	Martin Quintanta	DL	6-1	242	JR
64	Tom Burke	LB	5-10	242	JR
69	Dorian Inzunza	DL	5-9	255	SR
76	Andrew Nuss	DL	6-5	292	FR
90	John Ryan	DL	6-5	260	SO
91	Emeka Nwankwo	DL	6-4	283	FR
93	Paddy Mullen	DL	6-5	290	SO
94	Justin Brown	DL	6-3	261	SR
95	Ian Williams	DL	6-2	300	FR
97	Kallen Wade	DL	6-5	257	SO

As a freshman last year, Williams played in all 12 games at nose guard and made 45 tackles. This season, he will need to play even better to fill the void left by departed defensive end Trevor Laws.

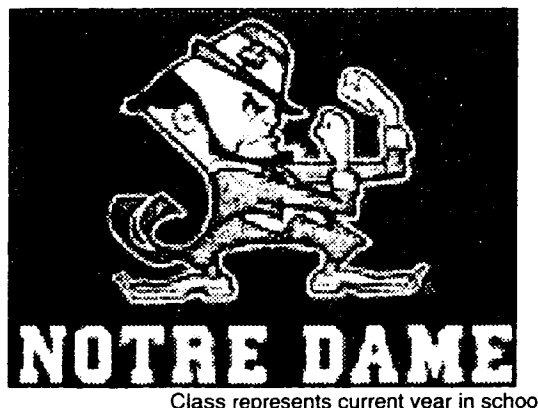
With Tom Zbikowski, who held down the strong safety position for the last four years, gone, McCarthy is the front runner to take his place. The rising senior made 20 tackles and had an interception last fall.

Smith stepped into a starting role late last season as a freshman and made 25 tackles at outside linebacker. This spring, he has worked outside and inside to give the Irish defense flexibility.

Ian Williams
No. 95 DL

Kyle McCarthy
No. 28 DB

Brian Smith
No. 58 LB



ADJUSTED GAME FORMAT & SCORING FOR

2008 BLUE-GOLD GAME

79th Annual Spring Game Will Feature the Offense Against the Defense

GAME FORMAT

GAME CLOCK

Two 30-minute halves with a running clock.
Clock stoppages only due to injuries or timeouts.
Normal clock rules apply to the last two minutes of each half.

TIMEOUTS

Each team is allowed three timeouts per half.

HALFTIME

Halftime will last 20 minutes.

COIN TOSS

A preliminary coin toss (Wednesday, April 16) determines jersey color, sidelines and locker room for the offense and defense.
A ceremonial coin toss at the beginning of the Blue-Gold game determines which end zone the defense will defend.

OTHER RULES

Players in red jerseys must be tagged off with two hands to be down.
All other players are live.
Each possession starting a half, following a score or after a defensive stop will begin on the 35-yard line. If the ball is punted, then the drive will begin from the spot of the return.
There will not be any kickoffs.
A scoring point system (right) will determine the winner of the game.

POINT SYSTEM

	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1	Extra Point First Down	Missed Extra Point
2	2-Point Conversion Explosive Play (10-yard rush/20-yard pass)	Missed 2-Point Conversion Defensive Stop Sack
3	Field Goal Blocked Punt	Missed/Blocked Field Goal 3 and Out
6	Touchdown	Turnover
10		Turnover for Touchdown

Laws' departure leaves void on D-line

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

It's going to take more than one player to fill the shoes that last year's leading tackler Trevor Laws left behind, but the Irish defensive line said it's up to the challenge.

Having already played a season together, and despite its final record, the defensive line boasts a little bit more experience and little bit more confidence. But that hasn't stopped second-year defensive coordinator Corwin Brown from throwing new things at his players.

"I'm happy. I like our kids, I like what we're doing," he said. "Once our guys really start to hone in and get comfortable, because every-

thing is still new to them right now, it's new to me, some of it, so I know it's new to them, and the more comfortable they get, the better they'll get and the better we'll play."

Throwing new schemes at the defensive line is something Brown has learned from assistant head coach (defense) Jon Tenuta's aggressive style.

"[I've learned] how to gang up on the run, how to constantly pressure the other side, constantly," Brown said of Tenuta. "And sometimes

even when you aren't pressuring there's a feeling that your being pressured, or those guys have the mindset that they're being pressured."

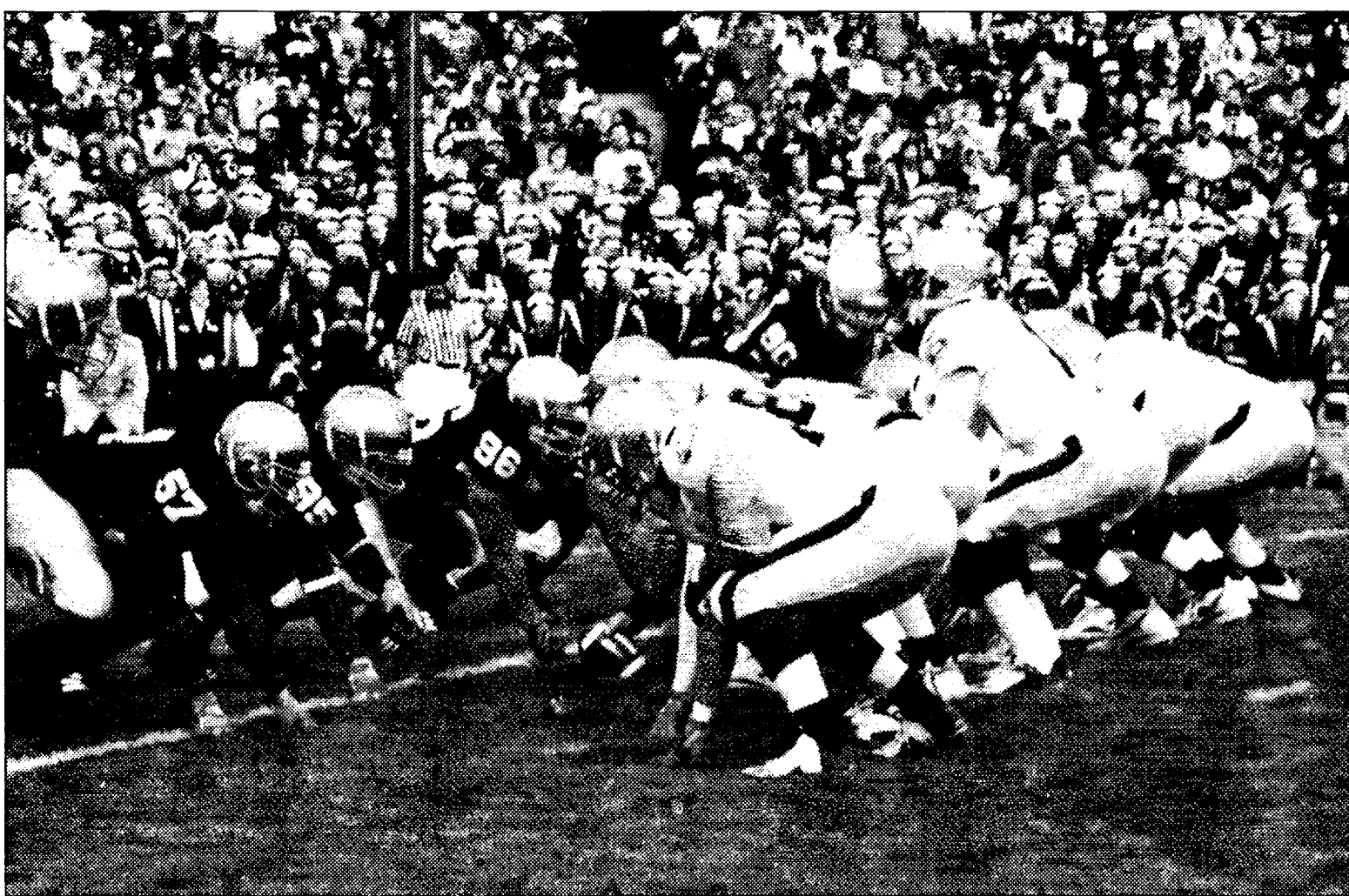
Tenuta's aggressive style has helped to fill the hole that Laws left in the defensive line. Laws brought an energy to the team that is mirrored by Tenuta's forceful style.

"Trevor's personality was a really big contributor to practice and the atmosphere we had on defense cause he's a real fun guy, energizer kind of guy," defensive end Justin

Brown said. "As far as coach Tenuta comes, he brings that aggressive mentality, aggressive style of play, just full out coming off the ball, getting in the gaps and playing ball."

But Tenuta's aggression comes from the sideline and not on the field. The defensive line has stepped up as a whole to take on the energy Laws left behind.

"He really brought a lot of passion, a lot of leadership to the position and to the [defensive line], and we're really going to miss that, but you gotta step up and replace him," tackle Ian Williams said. "The team as a whole has stepped up, we're playing a lot better, more aggressive and I just feel a better year is



CHRIS MASSAD/The Observer

The Notre Dame defensive line readies itself for a goal line play against Boston College during the Eagles' 27-14 win over the Irish on Oct. 13. The Irish defense gave up 195.4 rushing yards per game last season.

coming this year."

In addition to having a little more fire, the defensive line has gained versatility with experience.

"The thing about our system is it really doesn't matter where you align, everything is just like something else, and the only thing we were doing was just tinkering, moving things around to get different looks," Corwin Brown said.

With Notre Dame's 3-4

package, Brown and Tenuta have the option to play to the team's size or speed, while playing down the field is one thing Tenuta and Brown have been stressing at practice.

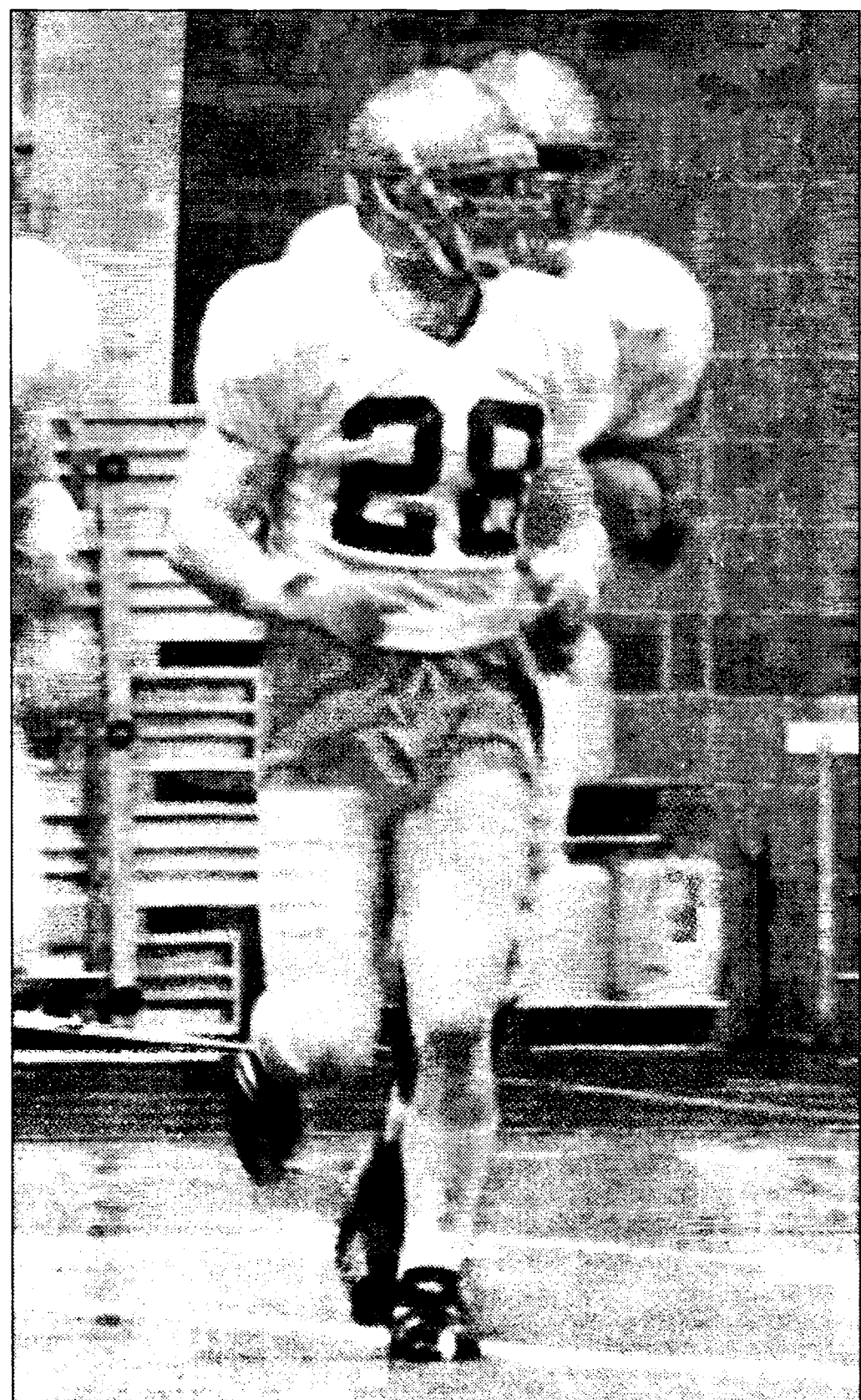
"As a whole we're a lot more aggressive and everybody's playing down," Justin Brown said. "That's one thing coach Tenuta stresses is playing downhill and that's one thing I see everybody doing is playing downhill, just coming

and playing on the other side of the line of scrimmage."

With the ability to play downhill, the Irish defensive line will likely be able to attack the line of scrimmage with some of Tenuta's aggressiveness, in a way that will include the defense as a whole, and not just one player.

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No shoes to fill: McCarthy has own style



HALEY BEAUPRE/The Observer

Irish safety Kyle McCarthy jogs during practice Monday. McCarthy is first on the depth chart at strong safety.

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

It's a question most people would get annoyed with if they heard it ad nauseum — "How are you going to replace Tom Zbikowski?" But if Kyle McCarthy is bothered by it, he doesn't show it. Instead, McCarthy turns the question into a guiding force to get through the doldrums of spring practice.

"It's a pretty big challenge," McCarthy said of taking over Zbikowski's strong safety position. "Anytime you're replacing an All-American candidate and a fan-favorite, there's definitely going to be a little bit of pressure, but I'm taking that as a way to motivate myself and just get better."

Free safety David Bruton, who had breakout season in 2007 with three interceptions and 85 tackles, said McCarthy is going to put his own unique stamp on Notre Dame football and not simply try to be a replica of Zbikowski.

"He never takes anything for granted. He's business-like," Bruton said. "He might not be Zibby, but he's Kyle McCarthy and you shouldn't want to be like someone. You should want to be better or find yourself, and obviously, Kyle is doing that."

Last season, McCarthy had 20 tackles and one interception. While he wants to create his own identity at strong safety, he'll still try to maintain Zbikowski's tough style of play.

"I definitely have my own personality," McCarthy said. "There are a lot of similarities between me and him, but I'm definitely my own player my own person. After people watch me play I hope they see me kind of as a tough hard-nosed kid who has a nose for the ball and a good all around player."

With Zbikowski, who was one of Notre Dame's captains last year, gone McCarthy, along with Bruton, has stepped into more of a leadership role. Irish coach Charlie Weiss said McCarthy's confidence has improved this spring.

"It's one thing when you're filling in for Zibby, but it's another thing when it's your job to lose. And he's playing like it's his job, not like he's trying to lose it," Weiss said in a

press conference on April 11.

Part of any secondary's success is communication among the defensive backs, and developing a rapport can be difficult with someone new tossed into the mix. But Bruton said the transition this spring has been smooth.

"He knows his calls. It's not me trying to get everybody on the same page, it's him working one side, I'm working the other," Bruton said. "If he's uncertain about something,

I'll blurt it out because he'll do the same things. There are no question marks about whether we're right or wrong on a call because we're always on the same page."

Weiss has monitored the defense more this spring than in past years, and said he notices a good chemistry between Bruton and McCarthy.

"Now, he has been here for four years and the confidence is as much mental as it is

"Any time you're replacing an All-American candidate and a fan favorite, there's definitely going to be a lot of pressure, but I'm taking that as a way to motivate myself and just get better."

Kyle McCarthy
Irish safety

physical because there's a great line of communication between him and [Bruton]," Weiss said. "It's not like Kyle has to turn around and count on David. They're communicating very well between the two of them which has made everything flow a lot better than I was anticipating."

Though Bruton said McCarthy is "all business" on the field, McCarthy will add a different dimension to the secondary this season.

"He's a fool. He's a funny man, always joking, always laughing," Bruton said. "He brings a different personality to the secondary. He's a comedian and he's a real cool guy."

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Tenuta brings tenacity, aggression to defense



Irish assistant head coach (defense) Jon Tenuta oversees a drill during practice Wednesday. Tenuta was known for his blitz packages while defensive coordinator at Georgia Tech.

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

You only need one word to sum up coach Jon Tenuta: aggression. That's what he's brought to Notre Dame's defense this spring.

The former defensive coordinator from Georgia Tech has brought his blitzing scheme to the Irish, and thinks it's just what the Irish

need to become an intimidating force. Tenuta wants to make sure it's the Irish calling the shots on defense next season and not the other way around.

"All I want to do is dictate to the offense, I never want the offense to dictate to me," he said.

It's a coaching style that he has developed over the years, one that has grown out of a wealth of experience. But he

claims that his aggression has mellowed with age.

"I was probably more aggressive when I was younger and learned from my mistakes in being overboard in some aspects ... and learning situations tapered, when not to be that aggressive," he said. "But I believe in 75 to 85 percent of the time we're coming after them."

As for the defense and the coaching staff, it's a style of

play everyone is getting used to.

"[The aggression is] like multiplied, cause that's all [Tenuta] thinks about," coach Corwin Brown said. "Now you see how or why other people view him in that light because he's constantly talking about pressuring the ball, making the quarterback not set his feet, making the running back run sideways."

It's been an adjustment for Brown, one that's kept him on his toes.

"I've been more of 'OK we're going to pressure sometimes' and all of a sudden we'll change it up, give 'em a curve ball, give 'em a little bit of coverage, all of a sudden we're gonna change it up and give them this, where as he's more got his foot on the gas," Brown said.

And from Tenuta's experience, he's been able to help Brown develop his coaching skills — reminding him to think back to his former days as a player and draw off what he did then while adjusting it to the college hash marks.

"Obviously I've known about [Brown] for a long time ... the things we go over and over every day, well he did that. I say, 'Corwin think back when you were at Michigan when you ran slant and

angle, think when you were at the Patriots when you ran this blitz, think about when you played at the jets and you guys did this, so and an so forth.' He has it, and he's been around it, its just fitting it all together and just do it."

Tenuta's also has an ability to use personnel in different ways. This spring, rising sophomore Harrison Smith has played at both safety and linebacker.

"[Smith] can play on the front level, on the second level ... and he does a heck of

a job at the third level so his multi talents allow him to do a lot," Tenuta said. "And really it helps our package."

Having a versatile player like Smith at safety gives the

Irish defense more room to maneuver. With his speed and skill, Smith can cover the third wide receiver or can adjust back and play as a linebacker. It's that type of aggression and flexibility that Tenuta can teach with his experience.

"There is no substitution for experience ... [Brown] has it, lets just keep going."

But only time will tell if aggression turns into wins.

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Clausen improves 'everything' in offseason

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

The improvement was there, but it wasn't evident until the end of a dismal season.

The so-called prodigy who hadn't lost a game in high school suffered through a 38-0 loss to Michigan and was sacked 34 times. But after a bone spur in his elbow healed and he recovered from a sore hip after a particularly nasty crunch against Purdue, Jimmy Clausen perked up. And now, a year after his first spring game, Clausen's coaches agree on what he's improved: everything.

"Everything," Irish coach Charlie Weis said. "Mentally, leadership, physically, every category the arrow has been pointing up."

Quarterbacks coach Ron Powlus agreed.

"It's everything," Powlus said. "Managing the offense, the run game, going through the reads in the pass game, you can see the quarterback's mind working."

His improvement can be traced like an exponential equation throughout last season. The improvement poked out of the shadows briefly against Purdue, when he completed 19-of-26 passes with a touchdown and an interception before he left the game because of an injury. He played in 10 games, starting nine, and completed 56.3 percent of his passes. He threw for 1,254 yards, seven touchdowns and six interceptions. Not quite earth-shattering, but his last three games sang a different tune.

Clausen had his best game of last season in a loss to Air Force, when he threw for 246 yards and three touchdowns. He then had 194 yards and three more touchdowns against Duke and went 19-for-32 for 196 yards in the finale against Stanford.

Adjusting to campus life, along with the sheer number of plays he was required to learn, threw Clausen for a loop, but he said this year is different.

"Coming in last spring, I was new to everything, the college experience and being a college student; getting thrown in with everything, not knowing the plays," Clausen said. "Now, this spring, it's pretty much night and day."

Weis compared Clausen's learning curve to college class levels. Clausen, he said, jumped from 100-level classes to 300-level classes, bypassing the 200 level entirely. He's not quite at the 400 or graduate level yet, Weis said, but made a "quantum leap" in knowledge.

To avoid a repeat of last season, Clausen took the initiative to improve upon himself. For starters, he packed on 18 pounds of muscle, mostly, Weis said on March 26, to his upper body. His extra mass, along with the fact that his throwing elbow has healed, makes him healthier than ever.

"Jimmy's throwing the ball with a lot more zip, he's a lot stronger," wide receiver David Grimes said.

The voluminous playbook that troubled Clausen last year is coming into focus for him, he said. Rather than concerning himself with the routes of the receivers, he said, Clausen now

looks for the offensive line's blocking schemes.

"Mentally, I've progressed a lot," he said. "I'm starting to get the little pieces of the playbook, last year I was trying to get the big picture."

The mental aspect of Clausen's transition encompasses, as Weis and Powlus said, everything. Powlus said Clausen was a perfectionist, and that his perfectionism and work ethic has transformed him into a leader.

"He's a hard-working guy, he wants to know, he wants to do it right," Powlus said. "He strives to make every throw perfect and strives to know exactly what's happening on every play with everybody. When you do that you put yourself in a leadership position."

Clausen said his increased grasp of the playbook helped him become a leader.

"You can't be a leader until you know what you're doing," he said. "Last year I was just getting my feet wet real fast, picking up everything as quick as I can. Now I have a better grasp of the offense. I know what we're supposed to do and what we're capable of doing."

A final factor in Clausen's apparent leaps-and-bounds improvement is the absence of junior quarterback Evan Sharpley, who is currently playing first base for the Irish baseball team. This means Clausen is getting the majority of the reps in practice, drilling the playbook into his head even deeper. On the flip side, too many reps could hurt an arm which already had trouble, but Weis said he is taking care to keep Clausen healthy. "Between the coaching staff

and Jimmy, we've been able to manage getting through the spring with giving him a heavy dose," Weis said.

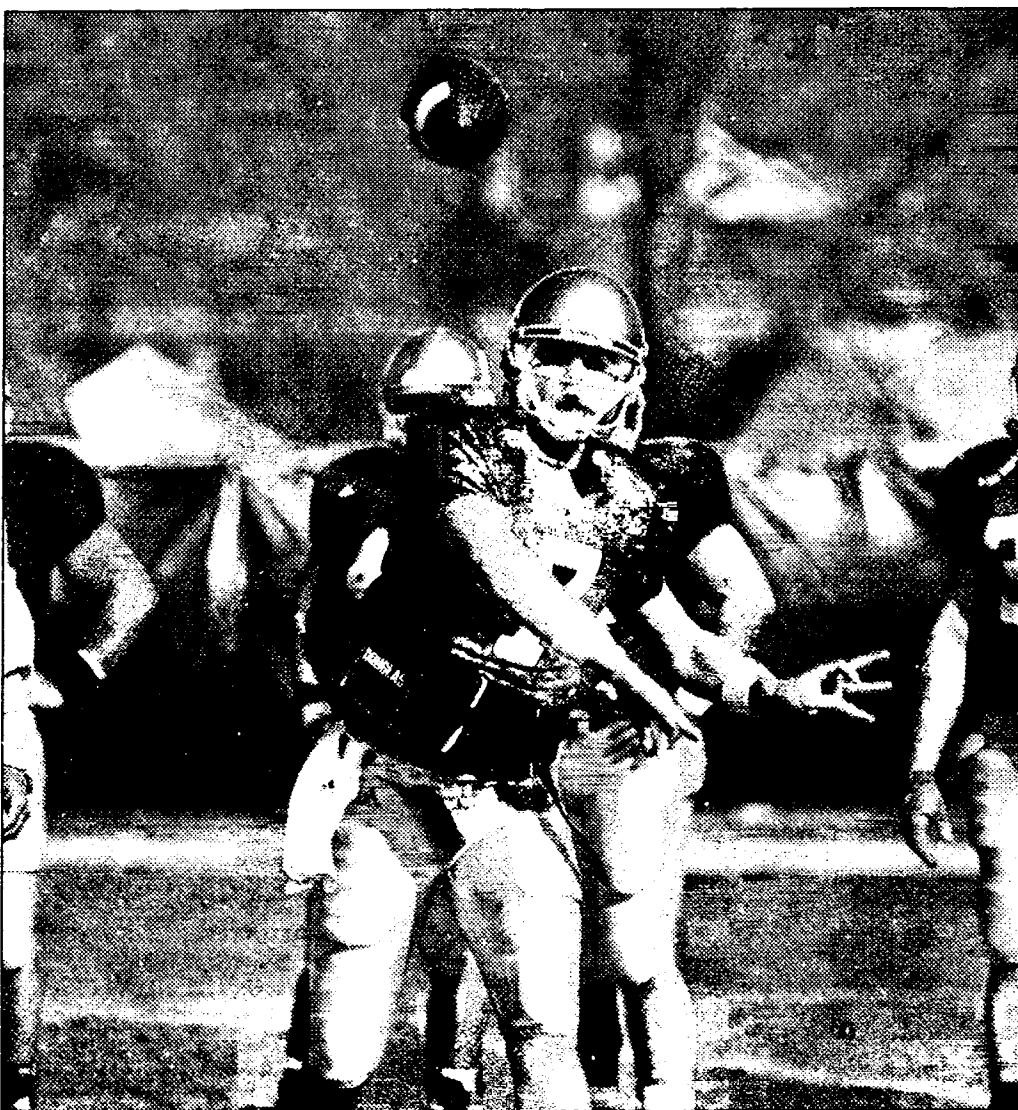
Weis flirted with hyperbole when asked about how Clausen compared to former Irish quarterback Brady Quinn, he of 36 broken Notre Dame passing records, who led the Irish to two BCS bowls in his junior and senior year.

"At the start of his junior year, I would expect [Clausen] to be way ahead of where Brady was

his junior year," Weis said.

High praise for a sophomore with three career wins. But with Clausen's increased practice time this off-season, added muscle and better grasp of the playbook, anything is possible this season. That goes for the team as well as Clausen, who said himself of spring practice: "We've got a fire burning right now."

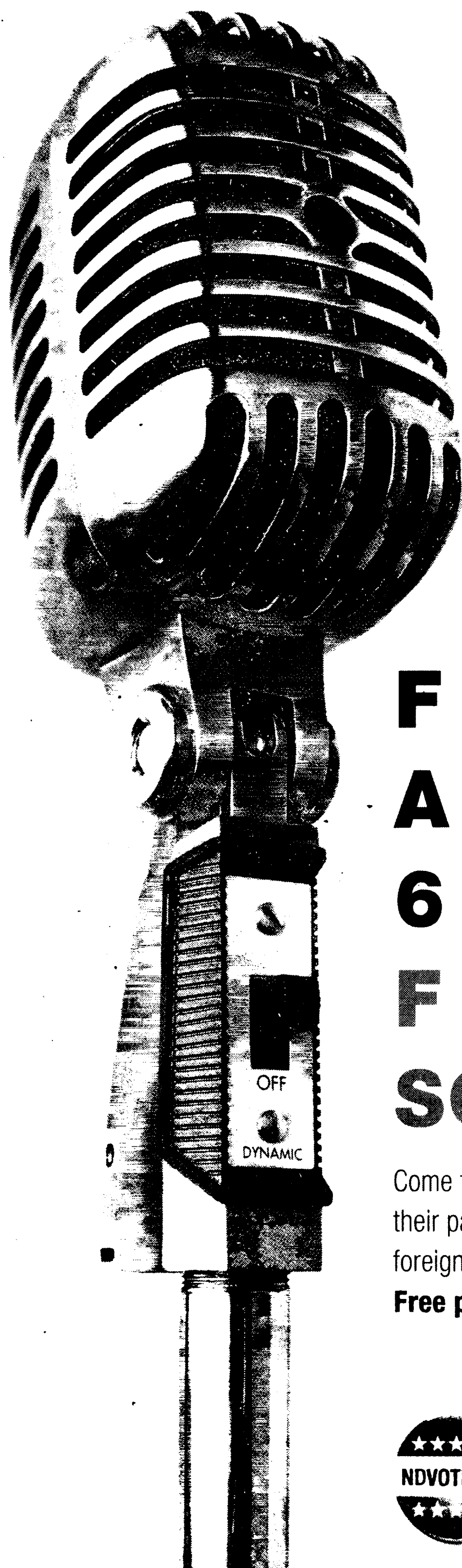
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Irish quarterback Jimmy Clausen throws a pass during practice Wednesday. Clausen played in 10 games and started nine last year.

CAMPUS CROSSFIRE

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