



CLOUDY

HIGH 48°
LOW 25°

'Monologues' review

The Observer reviews a dress rehearsal of "The Vagina Monologues" before the play's scheduled opening tonight at Notre Dame.

Scene ♦ pages 10-11

Monday

FEBRUARY 25,
2002

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Alumnae share experiences as lesbians

By SARAH NESTOR
News Writer

Students and faculty gathered in Moreau Center Sunday evening for the panel discussion "Boundaries Past and Present: Sharing Experiences with Alumnae." The discussion allowed lesbian alumnae to share with the Saint Mary's community their experiences about being a lesbian college student.

"This [is] Saint Mary's chance to welcome and honor lesbian alumnae," professor Ann Clark said.

The panel, part of Saint Mary's Sisterhood Week, consisted of five alumnae: Claudia Traudt '73, Vivien Strasky '85, Kelly Harrison '98, Jennifer Warner '98 and Ann Dromino '01, and was moderated by professor Catherine Pittman.

The women discussed how their experiences at Saint Mary's varied through the decades, but noted that many of the same problems persist.

"I wasn't very out, but didn't have to hide. I was running from my hometown ... but I cannot live a lie and hide what I am."

Claudia Traudt
1973 Saint Mary's alumna

They also said the administration does not recognize the needs of lesbian students.

"The fact that 'The Courier' [a Saint Mary's alumnae magazine] is not here is annoying to me," Harrison said. "This is the second year that we have held the panel and they have been invited."

The panelists shared their thoughts on what their boundaries and obstacles were while attending Saint Mary's and how they reacted to them.

"I wasn't very out, but I didn't have to hide," Traudt said. "I was running from my hometown which was very suffocating, but I cannot live a lie and hide what I am."

But Strasky did not share these feelings. While at Saint Mary's, she shared her sexuality with only two people.

In recent years Harrison, Warner and Dromino said they were open with their sexuality

see PANEL/page 4



SARAH NESTOR/The Observer

At a five-member panel discussion Sunday, Saint Mary's graduates discussed their experiences as lesbians attending the College. The discussion, "Boundaries Past and Present: Sharing Experiences with Alumnae," was part of Sisterhood Week at Saint Mary's.

AND THE WINNER IS ...



LISA VELTE/The Observer

Jacob Cusack wins a preliminary match Friday against fellow sophomore Matt Welsh in the 135-pound division of the annual Bengal Bouts.

Campout begins today

♦ Students hold demonstration to show solidarity with refugees

By ERIN LaRUFFA
Associate News Editor

Students in the Notre Dame Peace Coalition will set up tents on South Quad this morning for a two-day campout to demonstrate solidarity with refugees in Afghanistan.

"Our main purpose is to educate people about the situation," said Megan Renner, a member of the Coalition and planner of the campout. "It is true that the Americans and the United Nations and some other organizations are sending a lot of aid, but many obstacles need to be cleared before that will be effective."

Following a 24-hour prayer vigil, the event will conclude Tuesday evening with a Mass at the campsite at 5 p.m. After the

Mass, the Peace Coalition will hold an Afghan dinner in Pasquerilla East Hall. All events are open to the public.

Although organizers hope to raise awareness on the plight of Afghan refugees, they added their campout will not reflect what life is really like in refugee camps.

"We do not intend to re-create the conditions of a refugee camp, because it would be impossible to re-create either the physical conditions or the mental stress refugees have to endure," said Krista Schoening, a campout organizer and member of the Peace Coalition. "We simply want

to call attention to the situation of the Afghanistan refugees so that they will not be forgotten. They, too, are victims in this war on terrorism."

In fact, organizers were motivated by a belief that the U.S. media has forgotten about refugees in their reporting on the war in Afghanistan, according to Renner.

"We're really not hearing much about the refugees anymore," she said. "We wanted

to make sure the refugees stay in the thoughts and prayers of other people as well."

Some 4 million refugees have fled Afghanistan and more than 1.3 million peo-

see CAMPOUT/page 4

"We do not intend to re-create the conditions of a refugee camp because it would be impossible to recreate either the physical conditions or the mental stress refugees have to endure."

Krista Schoening
Peace Coalition member

INSIDE COLUMN

Not Afraid

Tonight, women will unite to tell stories of courage and strength; women of different orientations will join together to defend female sexuality; women of different backgrounds will join together to end violence.

Tonight, women of different sexual histories will join together to fight sexual assault; women of all colors will join together to celebrate diversity; women of all ages will join together to celebrate tradition.

Tonight, women of all majors will join together to celebrate academic freedom.

Most importantly, tonight, women will gather together to celebrate women.

Many people are opposed to "The Vagina Monologues." Whether discussed publicly or privately, there seems to be an ongoing battle between those who support it and those who oppose it. It seems like the argument, and those involved, will never settle on common ground. And, it will never settle completely until one thing is realized: Everyone is different. Every person has their own personal views regarding "The Vagina Monologues," just like everyone roots for their own sports team for to their own reasons. There is however, one thing that unites us all — we are all students. Students want to learn.

With this in mind, schools encourage students to seek knowledge in and out of the classroom. Students, as citizens, are guaranteed the right of petition, freedom of speech and peaceful assembly. With these freedoms, a student is able to make his or her own personal choice to attend lectures and events that they deem educational. It is this freedom of choice that empowers each student to pursue his or her individual passion. By discouraging students to attend any event that centers on controversial material, people not only prevent this academic exploration, but also commit a disservice to anyone seeking knowledge. For that reason, school administration encourages students to get involved with their education and take interest in issues that inspire them.

The same academic freedom which allows a student to speak freely in a classroom also ensures that a student has the ability to make his or her own decisions regarding his or her education outside the classroom. Students have the right, without fear of penalty, to engage in academic inquiry concerning attitudes, doctrines, or facts about which they desire to learn.

To those who constantly bash the Monologues, I urge you to find another topic out of respect for your peers. Petty bickering is neither thought stimulating or necessary. Hurl your stones elsewhere. Eve Ensler and all the other women whose stories have been immortalized through the Monologues are way out of your league.

Tonight, I will speak to other women about sexuality. I will speak to other women exclaiming the beauty and importance of diversity and support those who have been sexually assaulted. I will speak to other women with hopes of inspiring them to find their special place in the world.

Tonight, I will speak in celebration of women in support of all the women who shared their most intimate fears to make the Monologues possible. I will find strength in knowing I have the support of other women who have gone before me.

Tonight, I will speak to other women through the gift of academic freedom.

I urge you to respect this freedom, and turn your ears accordingly.

My name is Kelly Hager, and I am not afraid.

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

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

An article that appeared in Thursday's Observer incorrectly stated the time and location of "The Vagina Monologues" at Saint Mary's. The performance will take place today at 9 p.m. in the Regina North Lounge.

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

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THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

Monday

◆ Exhibit: "Djavid C.

Borower: Portraits of Money," Snite Museum of Art, all day.

◆ Lecture: "Cybercrime: Challenges and Controversies," DeBartolo Hall, 4 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday

◆ Exhibit: "Masks and

Fidgures, Form and Style: The Christensen Family collects African Art," Snite Museum of Art, all day.

Wednesday

◆ Event: Bengal Bouts,

semifinals. Joyce Center, 7 to 9 p.m.
◆ Event: "The History of Henry IV, Part I," Hesburgh Auditorium, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Thursday

◆ Lecture: "Alcohol use and Policies on the Notre Dame Campus: How do they impact student athletes?" Rolfs, 8 to 9:30 a.m.

BEYOND CAMPUS

Compiled from U-Wire reports

Colorado State U. granted \$350,000 for drug court

FORT COLLINS, Colo.

Students who have violated Colorado State University's drug and alcohol policy now have a choice. The Department of Education granted CSU \$350,000 to institute the nation's first collegiate drug court this semester.

"Day IV: Drugs, Alcohol and You" will offer students who have violated the university's drug or alcohol policy an alternative option to disciplinary probation or dismissal from CSU, but students must first qualify to participate in the program.

"The program is totally voluntary and works with our judicial system in order to deal with drug and alcohol issues," said Lisa Miller, interim assistant director of Judicial Affairs.

For example, a student may qualify if he or she has been charged with

more than two alcohol or drug residence hall violations or has multiple minor in possessions, Miller said.

The program was in the pilot stage during the fall 2001 semester and had a success rate of 86 percent. Until now, a college campus has never

attempted to implement a drug court.

Day IV begins when a student facing disciplinary probation or dismissal from the university for substance abuse accepts responsibility for breaking the student rights and responsibilities agreement. The student can then apply to participate in the program, and if accepted, he or she would meet with a case manager and create an individual contract. "There is no way you can use and not get caught," said project director Cheryl Asmus.

In previous years, every student with serious charges of alcohol or drug-related instances has been dismissed from the university, Asmus said. This has resulted in an estimated loss of \$1 million tuition money over the past five years.

Rocky Mountain Collegian



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Gov't probe of professor confirmed

The U.S. Department of Justice on Thursday acknowledged that the federal government is conducting an ongoing investigation into the actions of controversial USF professor Sami Al-Arian. The information came in the form of a news release from Mac Cauley, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida. Cauley said in the release that although the government is typically prohibited from disclosing the information on the status of investigations, "there are exceptions to this policy, such as when the community needs to be reassured that the appropriate law enforcement agency is investigating the matter." The FBI has investigated Al-Arian before but never produced enough evidence to warrant charging the tenured professor with a crime. Al-Arian said he wasn't surprised by the announcement of the "ongoing and active investigation." "My understanding is that the FBI will always have an investigation and will very rarely close one," Al-Arian said.

The Oracle

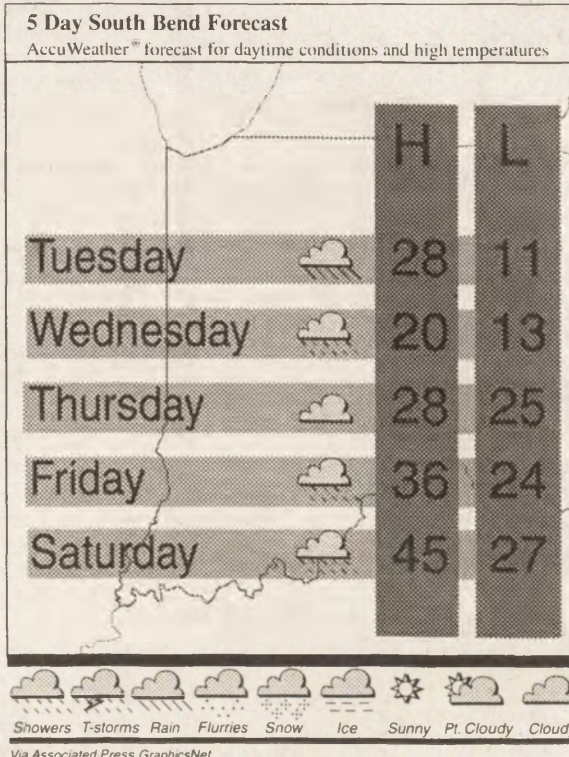
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - AUSTIN

Student sold fake IDs nationally

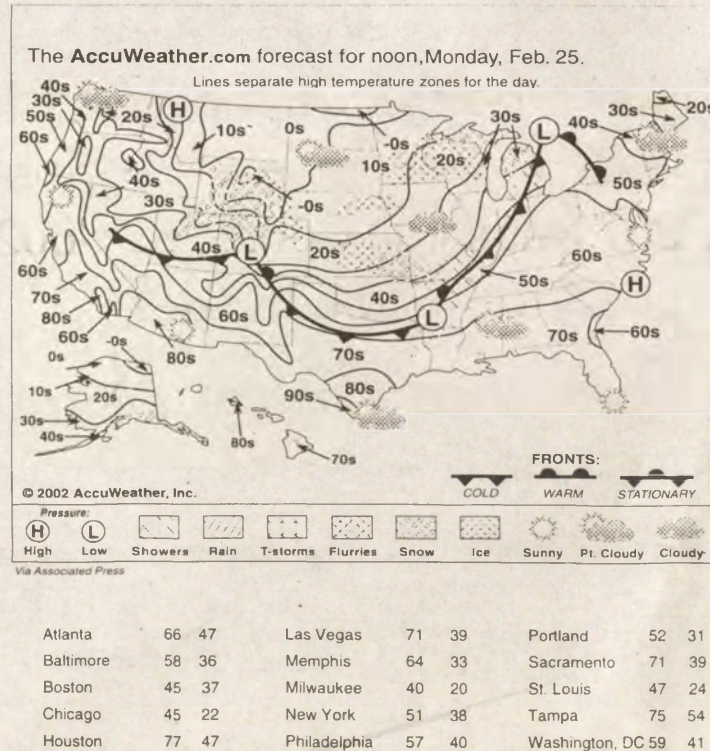
Police arrested a University of Texas student Wednesday for allegedly selling hundreds of fake driver's licenses to people around the country. DPS officials said Thursday. The arrest was part of DPS' ongoing investigation to prosecute those who produce fraudulent driver's licenses. Imran Ali Karim, an economics sophomore, faces the charge of tampering with a government document, is a second-degree felony punishable by a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The IDs were the best fake documents the DPS has seen so far, said Jerald Sams, a DPS officer. "I took them down to Polaroid, where they actually make the actual driver's licenses for DPS, and they thought they were excellent," Sams said. "They were of good, good quality." The department detected the fake IDs through security features absent from the driver's licenses, on which they would not elaborate.

Daily Texan

LOCAL WEATHER



NATIONAL WEATHER



Are You Listening?

Activities that speak to the mind and body.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Monday, February 25 7pm Sorin Room, LaFayette
CAREfrontation - How can I help someone with an eating disorder?

Tuesday, February 26 7:30pm Reckers, SDAH
Join Mark Sties for this message of hope as he shares his story of recovery from anorexia and obsessive exercise through words and music.

Wednesday, February 27 7-9pm Test Kitchen, NDH
Learn to create Pasta Perfect dishes with Chef Ellis. Register by calling 1-7253

Wednesday, February 27 7:30pm DeBartolo 102
I am Beautiful. Join Dana Carpenter of Sole Sisters, Inc. and discover what it means to be beautiful! An engaging seminar to inspire women to celebrate their unique strengths, accomplishments and worth.

Sponsored by the Counseling Center, Food Services, Health Services, IRISHealth, the Physical Education Department, RecSports, Student Activities and the Women's Resource Center.

SMC sponsors week to celebrate women

By EMILY FORD
News Writer

Saint Mary's is educating its students outside the classroom this week with the series "Celebrating Women — Mind, Body and Soul." It features a variety of events sponsored by various departments and aims to increase awareness of intellectual, physical and spiritual issues.

The week begins with tonight's presentation by Rebecca Walker, writer, editor and cofounder of the Third Wave Foundation, the only national philanthropic activist organization for young women. Her latest book, "Black, White & Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self" provides material for her speech, "Growing Up Multiracial & Changing the Face of Feminism."

Walker's presentation and book signing will begin at 7 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium.

"She's considered one of the most audible voices of young women," said Marie Willis, assistant director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs. "Basically, we want to be able to acknowledge the needs of students, bringing diversity on campus and bringing diversity into the community."

The week continues with its holistic approach to women's well-being with the services provided by the Counseling and Career Development Center. In addition to the Center's normal hours, there will be counselors available Tuesday from 12 to 1:30 p.m. and Thursday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. to talk with students who are concerned about their eating patterns and body images.

"We work with individual students on a daily basis who have difficulty with body image and food issues," said Kristina Pendley, assistant director of Counseling and Career Development Center.

As another part of the series, the Athletic Department and Student Activities Board are sponsoring "Food For Thought: What to Eat, When to Eat, And How to Talk About Food," a lecture given by registered dietitian Dawn Fulmer.

Athletic director Lynn Kachmarik hopes that students will come away with a new attitude about food and exercise.

"I hope they walk away realizing that some of the dietary issues that they may be struggling with are also society issues at large ... I hope that the speaker will also help our women to see that they can eat healthy in our dining hall," Kachmarik said.

This series also explores women's attitudes towards God. Campus Ministry is sponsoring "Seasonal Preparation for Lent and Easter: An Evening of Reflection" and "Communal Praise and Gospel Worship." Beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, students will be able to take part in discussion about Lent.

"This is an evening of relaxed prayer and conversation that will focus on several symbols that are central to the Church's celebration of Lent, Triduum, and the whole 50 days of the Easter Season," campus minister Sr. Elizabeth Smoyer said.

The "Communal Praise and Gospel Worship" will take place Thursday at 9:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart Chapel in Holy Cross Hall. Smoyer hopes it will be a chance for all members of the community to unite.

"This is a student-led prayer celebration that honors the faith, devotion, strength and challenge of African American men and women," said Smoyer. "This is an opportunity for the racial majority members of our community to stand in solidarity with women of color on our campus and to learn from an experience that is not their own."

In addition to exploring the Catholic faith, this week students will also be able to exhibit Catholic charity. Health Services is coordinating the clothing drive "Don't fight your genes. Just change your jeans." Blue jean collection boxes are located in each residence hall to be donated to St. Margaret House. Nurse Cyndie Cavanaugh hopes that this drive will benefit the recipients as well as the donors.

"It's kind of a fun awareness concept that we're all given a set of genes and instead of worrying about body genes ... it's easier to change your jeans than to fret about your genes," Cavanaugh said.

With each pair donated, students place a raffle ticket in the pocket for prizes from local salons, Saint Mary's Inn and movie theaters. The drive ends with the raffle drawing on March 1.

Contact Emily Ford at
ford6504@saintmarys.edu

KELLOGG INTERNSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE!

Summer 2002

Internships with NGOs in Washington, DC.

If you have studied Spanish, are interested in public policy, are motivated to work hard and want a great experience—contact Jean Olson, 207 Hesburgh Center, 631-6023 or see our website at www.nd.edu/~kellogg.

Applications accepted until March 9 or until positions are filled—whichever comes first!

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<http://www.nd.edu/~observer>

Happy 21st Steph!



And stick to the beautiful beach babe bitters!

Campout

continued from page 1

ple are displaced within its borders. Most observers agree that at least 4,000 Afghan civilians were killed in the bombing between Oct. 7 and Dec. 29.

Despite the end of the bombing campaign, the routing of the Taliban regime, and some \$35 million in emergency humanitarian aid from the United States, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that more than 50,000 people have sought safety in Pakistan since Dec. 31.

The idea for the campout originated with the Peace Coalition's Nonviolent Social Change committee last semester, Renner said. Plans for the event have been in progress since January.

Contact Erin LaRuffa at elaruffa@nd.edu

Panel

continued from page 1

and that everyone on campus knew.

"It was a strange dynamic for me," Harrison said.

"Jennifer and I were a couple, still are, but at one point we were the only out couple on campus. People related to me as 'the lesbian' or as the other half of 'the couple.'"

The panelists also discussed the image of Saint Mary's and the lack of acknowledgement by the administration of not only lesbian issues but also women's issues in general.

"Saint Mary's is like a dysfunctional family. It is an all-women's college that is

afraid to say the word 'feminist,'" Warner said. "What is Saint Mary's about if we don't know our own identity?"

The discussion then led to what current students at Saint Mary's can do to fight politically and intellectually

"Saint Mary's is like a dysfunctional family. It is an all-women's college that is afraid to say the word 'feminist.'"

Jennifer Warner
1998 Saint Mary's alumna

for what they believe is right and wrong. Issues that students brought up are gay and lesbian curriculum, diversity on campus that includes lesbians and

general sexuality.

"You need to look at what battles there are to be fought and then pick what your battle is going to be," Harrison said. "The battles are everyone's battles."

Contact Sarah Nestor at nest9877@saintmarys.edu

'Queen' reigns over box office

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

Audiences went vampire hunting as "Queen of the Damned," featuring the late pop singer Aaliyah as an ancient bloodsucker, debuted as the top weekend movie with \$15.2 million.

"John Q," last weekend's No. 1 film, dropped to second place with \$12.5 million, pushing its 10-day total to \$39.9 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. Kevin Costner's supernatural love story "Dragonfly" opened in third place with \$10.4 million.

Though generally trashed by critics, "Queen of the Damned" got a big boost from young fans of Aaliyah, who was killed in a plane crash last summer. Women under 25 made up 30 to 40 percent of the film's audience, said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., which released "Queen of the Damned."

"Her fans liked the movie," Fellman said. "I think they were drawn by their loyalty and curiosity and desire to see Aaliyah on the big screen."

Based on Anne Rice's "Vampire Chronicles," the movie stars Aaliyah as the mother of all bloodsuckers and Stuart Townsend as the vampire Lestat.

Playing in 2,511 locations, "Queen of the Damned" averaged a healthy \$6,035 a theater, compared with a \$5,000 average in 2,505 theaters for "John Q" and \$4,148 in 2,507 cinemas for "Dragonfly."

Director Mira Nair's "Monsoon Wedding" had an impressive debut in limited release, grossing \$66,000 at

two New York City theaters. The ensemble comedy follows the clash of tradition and modern times during frenzied preparations for a wedding in Delhi, India.

Distributor USA Films plans to expand the film to more cities over the next two weekends.

Overall, the top 12 films grossed \$85.5 million, up 14 percent from the same weekend last year. For the first two months of the year, Hollywood's revenues are running virtually even with the pace of last year, when the industry grossed a record \$8.35 billion.

Q: WHAT HAS FREE FOOD, WNDU PERSONALITIES, ND ATHLETES, AND 10 SPORTS GENIUSES COMPETING FOR A PLAYSTATION2?

A: THE WVFI SPORTS QUIZ!



TUESDAY, FEB. 26
LAFORTUNE BALLROOM
7-8:30 PM

"CYBERCRIME: Challenges and Controversies"

a lecture by

SCOTT CHARNEY

- FORMER CHIEF FEDERAL PROSECUTOR FOR COMPUTER CRIME & ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE
- INCOMING CHIEF OF SECURITY STRATEGY FOR MICROSOFT

Scott Charney will detail the history and current state of cybercrime, and talk about the challenges governments, industry and the public face as they attempt to prevent and respond to computer abuse.

FEBRUARY 25, 2002 (Monday)

4:15 - 5:45 p.m.

102 DeBartolo

(reception to follow)

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Scott Brodfuehrer

Covering the campus construction beat ... even on crutches.



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DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
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WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. may advise Afghanistan: The United States may send military advisers to try to rein in feuding Afghan warlords, the U.S. envoy to Afghanistan said Sunday. Zalmay Khalilzad told reporters that conflicts between rival Afghan militias are a concern for the United States, which supports the administration of interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai.

U.S. pressures U.N. on Khmer Rouge: The United States and other nations are pressing the United Nations to reverse its decision to withdraw from a planned genocide tribunal for former Khmer Rouge leaders. U.S. Ambassador Kent Wiedemann told The Associated Press that Washington would aggressively lobby the U.N. because the proposed U.N.-assisted Cambodian tribunal provides "the best possible chance that Khmer Rouge leaders will face justice."

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Senator wants aid for '93 WTC dead: Relatives of six people killed in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing should be compensated along with people who lost loved ones on Sept. 11, Sen. Charles Schumer said Sunday. "The conditions that made the events of Sept. 11 possible are a result of our failure as a nation to take the 1993 bombing seriously," Schumer, a Democrat, said at a news conference. Families of Sept. 11 victims could get \$1.6 million on average in federal compensation.

Senate considers energy bill: The Senate is ready to take up broad energy legislation that has caused splits over automobile gas mileage, drilling in an Arctic refuge and electricity competition in the shadow of Enron Corp.'s collapse. The House passed its version, but in the Senate, majority Democrats have offered legislation that relies more heavily on conservation.

INDIANA NEWS BRIEFS

Baby-sitter charged in porn case: A Porter County woman offered to baby-sit a friend's 2-year-old daughter so her 51-year-old boyfriend could have sex with the child and photograph the experience, State Police said. Carl Smith was being held Sunday on charges of child molesting and child exploitation. Doreen Soohy also was charged with aiding in child molesting, child exploitation and neglect.

Jury selection set for officer: Jurors will be picked in South Bend this week to decide whether a former Fort Wayne policeman shot two men — one fatally — over a November 1997 drug dispute. Gentry Mosley is accused of killing Martin Sheffield and wounding Jermaine Lewis.

PAKISTAN



AFP Photo

Pakistani policemen surround a masked Fahad Naseem, a suspect in U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl's kidnapping, as Naseem is led out of a court in Karachi, Pakistan, on Friday.

Investigators hunt for Pearl killers

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The hunt for the killers of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl is targeting three Arab nationals — an indication, investigators say, that the perpetrators may be linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Authorities offered little information Sunday about the Arabs' identity or what role they may have played. But their alleged involvement — combined with investigators' revelation that a key suspect now in custody said he met personally with bin Laden in

Afghanistan — suggested an al-Qaida link.

Police believe a dozen or more people were involved in Pearl's abduction and murder, and that most of them have spent time in Afghanistan as supporters of that country's ousted Taliban regime. Their links to al-Qaida — the group believed responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States — are being studied, investigators said.

Four key suspects were already in police custody when U.S. and Pakistani authorities revealed the contents of a videotape Friday that showed images

of the 38-year-old journalist getting his throat slit.

Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, the British-born Islamic militant who police believe masterminded Pearl's abduction, has been in police custody since early February. At one point he told interrogators that he met with bin Laden in Afghanistan after the Sept. 11 attacks, a senior police investigator said on condition of anonymity.

Saeed also told investigators that his group wanted to teach the United States a lesson and Pearl's murder was just a first step, intelligence officials said.

On Monday, prosecutors will formally charge Saeed and three co-defendants with kidnapping and murder, a senior government official said.

The three others are accused of having sent e-mails announcing Pearl's abduction, including one showing the journalist with a gun pointed to his head.

Fearing the slaying may signal a wider plan to thwart the government's drive against terrorism, Pakistani authorities have warned U.S. and other foreign diplomatic missions and businesses to boost their security.

Case questions fingerprint evidence

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Ninety-one years after fingerprint evidence was first presented in an American courtroom, its reputation as an infallible forensic tool is under attack in a court challenge that could change how criminal cases are tried.

On Monday, federal prosecutors will try to persuade U.S. District Judge Louis H. Pollak to reverse his recent decision barring experts from testifying about whether a fingerprint taken from a crime scene matches a defendant. If the judge

doesn't change his mind, the decision could change the way forensic evidence is gathered and presented in court.

While prosecutors and some forensic experts say Pollak's ruling could have grave consequences, critics of fingerprint analysis say it's about time the process was reviewed.

"There are a lot of emperors out there testifying who have no clothes," said David L. Faigman of University of California's Hastings College of Law. "Where's the science behind it? Where's the data?"

The ruling, believed to be the first

of its kind, involves a death penalty case in which three men are charged with operating a multimillion-dollar drug ring and are linked to four killings.

Lawyers for Carlos Llera-Plaza, Wilfredo Acosta and Victor Rodriguez asked the judge to bar fingerprint evidence. Under Pollak's ruling, experts can testify about and show illustrations of similarities or dissimilarities between "latent" fingerprints from a crime scene and "rolled" fingerprints on file, but they cannot testify that crime scene prints match a defendant's fingerprints.

Market Watch February 15

Dow Jones 9,968.15 +133.47

Up: 1,958 Same: 202 Down: 1,152 Composite Volume: 1,388,514,048

AMEX:	856.31	+8.34
NASDAQ:	1,724.54	+8.30
NYSE:	568.28	+4.70
S&P 500:	1,089.84	+8.89

TOP 5 VOLUME LEADERS

COMPANY/SECURITY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CISCO SYSTEMS	+0.85	+0.13	15.24
NASDAQ-100 INDEX	+0.51	+0.17	35.65
INTEL CORP	+0.17	+0.05	29.53
SUN MICROSYSTEM	-1.10	-0.09	8.07
WORLDCOM INC-WO	+5.51	+0.37	7.09

Enron projects used government loans

Associated Press

As Enron Corp. reached for markets overseas, power plants it helped build from Guatemala to India received \$1.2 billion in government-backed loans from two U.S. agencies.

The Overseas Private Investment Corp. still is owed \$453 million from the Enron-related projects while the Export-Import Bank is due \$512 million.

"They're definitely among our top 10 borrowers," OPIC spokesman Larry Spinelli said.

Though Enron is now bankrupt, four of its projects financed by OPIC are making its payments on time. Regarding a fifth project, Enron and two other U.S. corporations are seeking to have OPIC pay off a huge insurance claim.

When it filed for bankruptcy in December, Enron was pursuing OPIC help on two more projects in Brazil. Those applications have been abandoned.

Enron's relationship with the government is part of a two-pronged business strategy. Inside the United States, Enron has sought to free energy companies from government regulation. Internationally, Enron has embraced Washington's help in the form of federally backed loans and insurance protection.

The irony is not lost on congressional critics.

OPIC "gave hundreds of millions of dollars in loans and other support to Enron-related projects during the Clinton administration," said Sen. Charles Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee who recently obtained records showing Enron-related projects received \$544 million in loans from OPIC.

Separately, the Ex-Im Bank made more than \$650 million in loans to Enron-related projects overseas.

"These projects obviously were a tremendous benefit to Enron's operation. The disclosure of this information sheds light on the government's actions in support of Enron over the years," Grassley added.

Enron's bankruptcy does not place the loans in jeopardy. Separately created corporations handled the overseas projects for Enron and other U.S. companies.

OPIC and Ex-Im loans are backed with the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

Though it has just 200 employees, OPIC has deep pockets — a \$4 billion reserve that comes from the user fees U.S. businesses pay for its loans and insurance. OPIC operates at no net cost to U.S. taxpayers — the business fees cover its costs — and earned \$215 million last year.

OPIC's loan and insurance portfolio

totals \$14 billion; the Ex-Im Bank's portfolio exposure is \$62 billion.

A financially troubled Enron plant in India, — financed in part with OPIC loans — is cited by congressional critics who say the company got too much government help.

OPIC provided \$160 million to Enron and two other corporations to help build the \$2.9

billion Dabhol plant. It now stands idle because prospective customers do not want the power.

The Ex-Im bank says it is still owed \$203 million on the India project, but that it can call on guarantees from five Indian financial institutions for repayment if necessary.

Enron and the other two companies filed an insurance claim in December asking OPIC to pay \$200 million. The claim is based on "political risk insurance" bought at the outset of the Dabhol project.

The companies say the Indian government has broken promises to stand behind the project, in effect denying the U.S. corporations their asset and therefore requiring OPIC to pay the insurance policy.

The claims process will take months to resolve.

The other four Enron projects that got OPIC money are operating successfully and are paying back their loans in a timely fashion. The payback comes from the revenue coming into the operating power plants.

Those power plants are in the Philippines, Turkey, Venezuela and Guatemala.

The Ex-Im Banks Enron-related projects are in Colombia and at the same plants that OPIC is helping in Turkey and Venezuela.

Enron's bankruptcy stopped two OPIC applications in their tracks: two power projects in Brazil that would have received \$390 million in OPIC loans.

"The disclosure of this information sheds light on the government's actions in support of Enron over the years."

Charles Grassley
United States Senator

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Businesses continue to leave Manhattan

Associated Press

Five months after the Sept. 11 attack, more than one in

four jobs in lower Manhattan has been lost, and half of the businesses whose buildings were destroyed or damaged were not plan to return to the

neighborhood, surveys have found.

The surveys solidify the growing sense that the world's financial capital will

not be same even as the buildings are repaired or rebuilt.

About 100,000 of the 370,000 jobs that were once in downtown Manhattan have been lost entirely or have been moved to midtown, out of town or out of state, according to the Alliance for Downtown New York.

M. Myers Mermel, chief executive of TenantWise.com, an online commercial real estate firm, said 49 percent of the tenants in destroyed or damaged office buildings say they are leaving downtown for good. Those tenants once occupied 17 million square feet.

Many companies that are not leaving outright are decentralizing — or spreading out their employees at different offices — for fear of suffering a devastating loss in another terrorist attack.

"The trend once upon a time was to have the corporate campus, to have everyone in one place," said Valerie Lewis, a spokeswoman for the Alliance for Downtown, a business improvement organization. "9-11 has flipped that around. Now dispersal is in."

Citywide, 94,000 jobs have been lost permanently since the Sept. 11 attack, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said this week as he delivered a budget address that called for spending cuts and heavy borrowing.

Companies displaced by the attacks include financial giants American

Express and Lehman Brothers, joint owners of 3 World Financial Center, a 51-story tower directly across the street from the World Trade Center.

Lehman Brothers spokesman Jason Farrago said the lower floors occupied by the investment bank were severely damaged by flying girders. "We have a hole where some of the offices used to be," he said.

Unwilling to wait for the Cesar Pelli-designed tower to be repaired, Lehman Brothers bought a new headquarters at Seventh Avenue and 49th Street and is moving in gradually. The investment bank plans to lease or sell the floors it occupied at the World Financial Center.

American Express will move back, beginning in April. It had about 3,000 employees at 3 World Financial Center and 1,000 at other downtown sites.

Dow Jones & Co. had about 800 employees at

1 World Financial Center. It plans to move about half that number back in once asbestos removal has been completed, spokesman Steven Goldstein said. Other departments, including The Wall Street Journal's copy desk and graphics department, will work out of South Brunswick, N.J., where they have been located since the attacks.

Lewis, of the Downtown Alliance, said an incentive plan announced by Gov. George Pataki last month should help keep businesses in lower Manhattan. She said there is \$80 million in state money for small-business grants and \$170 million in loans and grants for large businesses that stay in lower Manhattan or seek to locate there.

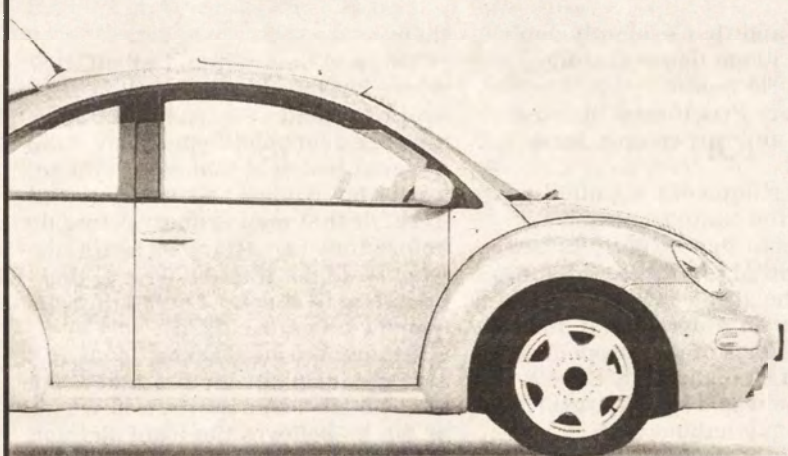
"Where it's leading is that there is risk of continuing loss of jobs in lower Manhattan"

M. Myers Mermel
CEO of tenantwise.com

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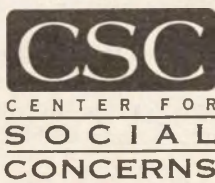
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"...Finally, I realized that "service" is not so much about what you do; it is where you are. While my soccer game and my Spanish eventually improved, I learned that my most important job in Pilsen, was just living there. The act of "being present" for others necessarily begins with sharing a home...."

-Miguel Vieyra (ND '03)

Participated in the HLIP last year in the Chicago Pilsen neighborhood



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VIEWPOINT

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Monday, February 25, 2002

THE OBSERVER

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POLICIES

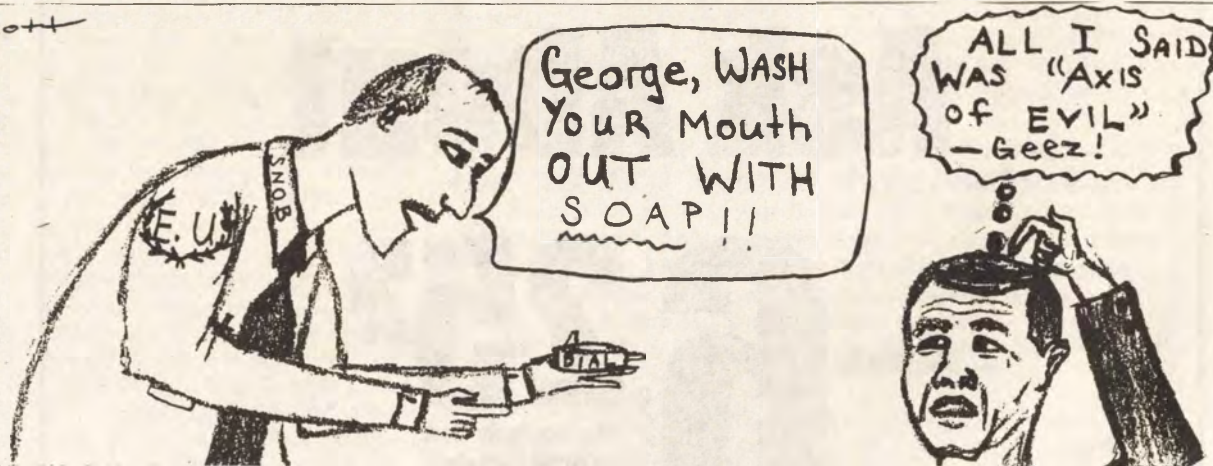
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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Connolly.

Darrell Scott



The absurdity of international anti-Americanism

*Author's note: This column is a parody. All names have been changed, or made up entirely.*Washington
President George V.F.W. Bush is confused.

Mike Marchand

"Maybe I'm just stupid or something," the President said

Undistinguished
Alumnus

after returning from a trip to Japan, South Korea and China. "I don't know how so many people could be so confused about what we're trying to accomplish in the war on 'tera.' I don't get it."

Since his State Of The Union Address on Jan. 29, Bush has been the recipient of mostly high praise in America, but mostly condescending criticism from abroad. Most of the response centers on a snippet of the speech in which he labeled the countries of Iraq, Iran, North Korea and other terrorism-sponsoring countries, as an "axis of evil."

Some European diplomats, who have never thought highly of the Texan President, scoffed at that characterization. German Foreign Minister Poschka Wischer said such a viewpoint "gets us nowhere." European Union External Affairs Commissioner Priss Ratten called the comments "absolutist" and in "unilateralist overdrive." And French Foreign Minister Pubert Vedrasinine clamored that Bush's speech was "absurd" and "simplistic."

Asked to elaborate on the comments that American foreign policy under President Bush was too naive and unsophisticated, French Undersecretary of Snootiness E. Letist Prix noted, "Ignorant Americans and their practicality. Everyone who's anyone knows that the only good foreign policy is a complicated one, indecipherable to friend and foe alike. Who cares if America's allies and enemies know where America stands against terrorism? It's overrated, I tell you." When confronted by the fact that he

was French, and they evidently don't know how to judge figure skating, much less world politics,

Undersecretary Prix turned his nose up in the air and turned on a Jerry Lewis movie.

As for the critique of the United States being too "unilateralist," European Union Deputy of Stiffassed Condescension Arrow Gant Parvenu declared, "The greatest threat the world faces is an America that doesn't respect the efforts of its European allies." When challenged by Bush's belief that the world's greatest threat is actually rogue nations with weapons of mass destruction, like Iraq, Iran and North Korea, Parvenu said, "What? Who?" Then, after being questioned about what exactly the efforts of Europe in the war on terror actually were, he stuck his fingers in his ears and said, "I'm not listening, la la la la la la la la."

However, Bush has also been challenged stateside. Senate Majority Leader Bom Weasle said, "we've got to be very careful with rhetoric of that kind," and further asserted that the case had not yet been made for going after Iraq. Bush's challenger in the election, former Vice President Hal Bore, warned that the United States ran the risk of alienating its allies. And former President Ninny Farter called the "axis of evil" label "counter-productive ... I think it will take years before we can repair the damage done by that statement."

Faced with a situation where it seems that the world, even his allies, are against him, Bush responded to the criticism that his new policy is too simple: "Of course it's simple," the President continued. "That's the whole idea. I want every American, every American ally and every American enemy to know that we will eliminate the threat of terrorism against us. What's wrong with that? We've never won wars by being complicated. We've won them by standing up to the evil we face. And when I tried to say that, I was attacked, not

them.

"Oh, and then to top it all off, this whole 'unilateralist' thing. I never said we wouldn't consult with our allies and include them in any military action. I just said that we would no longer let evildoers threaten us with 'tera.' If that means neutralizing them before they can attack us again, that's what we'll do. If that's wrong, then I'll be wrong, if it means defending our country and our citizens."

Meanwhile, we tracked down an average Iraqi citizen and asked him about Bush's comments, and whether or not he believes the Iraqi dictator, Sodamn Inssein, is "evil." "Hell yes, he's evil. He gassed Kurds and Iranians, and launched Scud missiles at Tel Aviv. He's holding chemical and biological weapons, is trying to get a nuke, and is using us, his starving subjects, as human shields so America doesn't bomb them." He would have continued, but he was interrupted by government agents who dragged him into the street and shot him.

So, evidently it's official: if regimes are evil, that's one thing, but actually stepping out and calling them evil is far worse. This is a theory lost on President Bush, who is wondering why so many people were left confused by his speech. "I tried to say that there are brutal leaders who want to destroy us with weapons of mass destruction," Bush said, "and they're quibbling over how I said it. Did they miss it entirely?"

Vice President Chick Deney leaned into the Oval Office and said, "Big time."

*Mike Marchand, class of 2001, an analyst for RealClearPolitics and a contributor to The Politix Group, is no stranger to being made fun of. If you'd like to take your best shot, e-mail him at Marchand.3@nd.edu. "Undistinguished Alumnus" appears every other Monday.**The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.*

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NDTODAY/OBSERVER POLL QUESTION

Should the dining halls serve meat on Fridays during Lent?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"The American is a new man, who acts upon new principles; he must therefore entertain new ideas, and form new opinions."*J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur
French-American explorer, writer

VIEWPOINT

Monday, February 25, 2002

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Free speech is not always positive

Paul Schofield's letter printed Feb. 21 is a lamentable and all too common manifestation of the benevolent but ultimately noxious overextension of what is essentially a positive principle, i.e., free speech. Mr. Schofield advocates free speech. He is to be applauded for such advocacy. Mr. Schofield advocates welcoming "The Vagina Monologues" to Notre Dame. He is to be rebuked for such advocacy.

Mr. Schofield's essential mistake is to promote "The Vagina Monologues" on the ground that even if they be trash, they ought to be welcomed for the sake of "open discussion" and the "discourse that follows [them]." Some discussion is worthless. Some discourse is valueless.

Ponder the following hypothetical situation. An intelligent young rustic from the foothills of Arkansas has written "The Fist Monologues." In a witty and shocking series of soliloquies, our rustic (let's call him Adam) declaims the utterly wonderful and empowering fist, a feature of his anatomy which he has discovered is a source of incredible delight and independence. He can strike his wife with it. He can beat his children with it. He can even knock that annoying Cletus next door right on the kisser with it! It enables him to

control his destiny — it is a veritable font of power and confidence.

Will Adam be invited to Notre Dame to put on "The Fist Monologues?" It would be unprofitable to make a wager on it, big or small. He advocates violence. He is an enemy of justice. It is of no consequence that what he is preaching may actually empower him. People of intelligence simply do not countenance such things. People of education do not entertain the notion that domestic violence wrought by a fist might be good. And this is right — people should not think that domestic violence perpetrated by some-

one's fists is a positive thing, even if it is empowering. Right?

Ponder the following historical situation. A young artist of above average intelligence from the land of Austria (let's call him Adolf) has written "Nation and Race," the 11th chapter of the first volume of some book which I can't remember. In passionate and arresting prose, our Austrian speaks at length of the glory and pride of being Aryan. He speaks of Aryan nobility, of Aryan puissance, of Aryan superiority. His ideas are bold. His words are energetic. There is a shocking and yet deeply moving quality to his work. And people are listening to him.

Should we listen to him, too? Should our young Austrian be invited to Notre Dame to present his ideas? Shall we discourse over the merit of his thoughts?



After all, we believe in free speech, and its resultant environment (the one replete with open discourse) is always a good thing, always a desirable thing, always a positive thing. People couldn't possibly get the wrong idea or embrace what isn't the truth or be corrupted by lies. Right?

And just so with "The Vagina Monologues," a sensationalistic and neurotic garbage which degrades those unlucky enough to be touched by it. Whether one reads or hears it, and whether or not it may empower individual women (though to what end who can venture to divine?), it categorically reduces women to a portion of their anatomy. A dear friend of mine who is virtuous and well-liked informed me that for a time after reading the monologues, all he could think when he saw a woman was "vagina."

The monologues objectify women as vaginas in a sort of perverse synecdoche. So let's not clutter our minds and souls with the tripe of "The Vagina Monologues."

Nicholas Salazar
junior
Fisher Hall
Feb. 21, 2002

Showing solidarity with refugees

On Monday, Feb. 25 and Tuesday, Feb. 26 the Notre Dame/Saint Mary's Peace Coalition will be holding a campout on South Quad in solidarity with the Afghanistan refugees. Tents will be set up in front of O'Shaughnessy today at 9 a.m. at which time a small ceremony will also initiate a 32-hour prayer vigil. Both campout and vigil will conclude with a mass by the tents Tuesday at 5 p.m., immediately followed by an authentic Afghan dinner in Pasquerilla East Hall.

This event has been organized to raise campus and local awareness on behalf of the refugees, whose plight has been downplayed, if not often ignored, in media coverage of the "war on terrorism."

In the words of Krista Schoening, "We do not intend to recreate or dramatize the conditions of a refugee camp — it would be impossible to recreate either the physical conditions or the mental stress refugees have to endure. We simply want to call attention to the situation of the Afghanistan refugees, so that they will not be forgotten. They, too, are victims in this war on terrorism."

The campout stems from our desire, not only to highlight the dire situation of the refugees, but also to stress the inadequacy of current solutions to the problem. Currently there are four million refugees who have fled outside Afghanistan and more than 1.3 million displaced inside their homeland. However, despite the end of massive U.S.-led bombing and the defeat of the Taliban regime, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees reported last week that more than 50,000 persons have sought safety in Pakistan even since Dec. 31.

Although the United States, United Nations and others have pledged substantial financial assistance and humanitarian aid, it is just not that simple. Many obstacles must be crossed and issues resolved within Afghanistan before this aid can be effectively put to use. The "war" against the Taliban and al Qaeda may be over, but for the refugees true peace remains a distant dream. On that note, this will be a time of education, reflection, and prayer for us. All are invited to stop by the tents to learn more or to join us for any part of these events. Above all, we hope the refugees will remain in the minds, hearts and prayers of our entire community.

Megan Renner
ND/SMC Peace Coalition
Feb. 24, 2002

Success of 'Monologues' is in the issues they raise

The student participants in the upcoming production of "The Vagina Monologues" have already accomplished something important by sparking a lively and intelligent discussion on the value and limits of free speech here at a national Catholic research university and in the culture as a whole. The Viewpoint page in The Observer has been the most public forum in which that debate has taken place, but it is also going on in dorms, classrooms and in the homes of parents, alumni and others across the country.

Those in favor of the "Monologues," those who dislike them but support free speech and intellectual and cultural debate, and those who want the performance stopped — all have participated in the debate, and I'd venture to say that in the long run all have benefitted from it. This kind of discussion is what being at a university — and, for that matter, living in a democracy — is all about.

I do want to clarify one point made in the wonderfully supportive editorial in Friday's Observer. The editorial said that "Notre Dame will host an official production" of the play. As far as I know, the University isn't in the business of hosting "official" productions of any theatrical performances, films or other works of art, nor does the University as a whole "officially host" most of the speakers on various topics that departments and student groups bring to campus.

"The Vagina Monologues" is a student-initiated performance co-sponsored by the Department of Film, Television and Theater and the program in Gender Studies because the play is a serious theatrical examination of important gender issues. The V-Day observance as a whole includes a service project at a domestic violence shelter, a poetry reading, an art exhibit and a "talkback" on Wednesday night after the two performances. It is thus precisely the kind of thoughtful and practical engagement with social concerns — violence against women, gender identity, etc. — that a Gender Studies program at a Catholic university should be encouraging.

But again, the University does not and should not be asked to lend its "official" endorsement to every event that takes place on campus. To put it in political terms: Notre Dame is by no means a pure democracy, but it's also not a totalitarian state. For any kind of academic freedom to exist, there has to be a "public sphere" or "civil society" in which discussions and cultural events take place, an area where speech and other acts take place without "official" approval or disapproval from the University as a whole. Thus, there's nothing "official" about this production — nor should there be.

All that said, we should turn to the important issues that the play itself raises. I hope that those who actually see the performances on Monday and Tuesday nights go back to their friends at their dorms and apartments, call their parents and whatever alumni they know and have discussions about the political meanings of violence against women, the cultural construction of women's bodies and sexuality and the other major questions addressed by "The Vagina Monologues."

Even the hostile letters we have received about the play agree that these are important issues. I hope that those who don't believe this play is the best way to approach those issues are willing to put aside their differences with those of us who see great value in the performance, and will join in the efforts of Kerry Walsh and the other sincere, dedicated and talented students who have put so much time and energy into organizing this week's V-Day activities. They deserve praise and commendation for their hard work, and the causes they are working for deserve support from all of us.

Glenn Hendler
associate professor of English
acting director of the program in gender studies
Feb. 22, 2002

SCENE
theatre

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Monday, February 25, 2002

'Vagina warriors' come

Scene reviews "The Vagina Monologues" c

By C. SPENCER BEGGS
Scene Editor

Vagina, vagina, vagina.

The word often shocks, surprises and, in the case of Notre Dame's Department of Film, Television and Theatre and Gender Studies Program's production of "The Vagina Monologues," it may enlighten.

The controversial production is part of Notre Dame's V-Day activities. The V-Day movement began in New York City in 1998 to help bring awareness to women's issues such as violence, rape, female slave trading, genital mutilation, subjugation, sexual abuse and harassment as well as the recognition of women's roles as sexual beings.

Since its inception, the staged reading of Eve Ensler's play, "The Vagina Monologues," has served as the centerpiece of V-Day. Ensler began writing the play after she had a conversation with a woman about menopause; Ensler realized that she didn't understand how women conceived of their vaginas. "The Vagina Monologues" is a compilation of women's testimonies about their vaginas; Ensler interviewed hundreds of women from around the world about their experiences. Some of the monologues are taken almost verbatim from a single woman's account; others are composed from many women's interviews.

Although the V-Day launch was a successful fundraiser for women's charities, the event's organizers wanted to extend

the message to women across the nation and around the world, especially young women who they see as being the progressive leaders of the future. The organizers chose Ensler's Obie award-winning show to help spread that message.

"The Vagina Monologues" on college campuses and in communities and everywhere it has been brought is an unusual vehicle for putting forward the message that violence against women and girls around the world is a tremendous problem that touches all our lives and has to be brought to an end," said Karen Obel, V-Day's director of the college campaign.

Obel thinks that "The Vagina Monologues" are particularly pertinent to college campuses because of the prevalence of date rape. She believes that because many young women have never been informed of their rights or understand their own sexual nature they are not equipped to stand up for themselves. "The Vagina Monologues," in her opinion, is meant to break the secretive nature of female sexuality and empower women.

"[Young women] need to know that their bodies are their own, how they operate and to be able to not give away things they don't want to give away," Obel said.

In the four years since V-Day launched its college campaign, it has grown from 65 schools in the United States and Canada to 550 schools worldwide. Obel notes that of those schools, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's have had the most resistance to the production.

After "The Vagina Monologues" was performed on Saint Mary's campus and sponsored by the Feminist Collective in 2000, College president Marilou Eldred banned officially-recognized campus groups from sponsoring the show and subsequently sanctioned participants in an individual production in 2001.

This year, the College will allow the show to go on, but it has not been officially recognized by Saint Mary's or any of its departments. Notre Dame's show is recognized by the University and is sponsored by two departments, although many students and campus organizations have organized to protest the University's consent in the matter.

"It's not surprising to me that a rape-prone zone is having the hardest time with V-Day ... of all the colleges that we work with [the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's communities] have had the most difficulty ... When people have something to protect and have something to cover, they don't want anything to come in and change the status of things ... it's not surprising to me that [there's an attempt to have it] kept out," Ensler said.

The message of "The Vagina Monologues" has been hotly disputed. Critics have called the show immoral, desensitizing and offensive because they believe it encourages and depicts behavior that violates something they believe should be held sacred. But Ensler doesn't think those criticisms are valid.

"I'm always surprised when people are afraid of vaginas ... when they're not afraid of words like anthrax, smallpox and nuclear weapons. They can put those on the headlines, but they're suddenly

terrified about vaginas," Ensler said. "Vagina is not a slang word, it is not a dirty word, it's actually a part of the body. And I think, that people's fear of vaginas really stems from their profound fear of being alive and being connected and being intimate and being fully present in the world. And I think that's a scary thing to be."

Often, criticism has been religious in nature. Some feel that "The Vagina Monologues" contradicts religious teachings, specifically Christian religious teachings. Ensler, however, feels that the show is in keeping with Christianity. She believes that Christ would not have wanted anyone to be ashamed of anything that God gave him or her. She points out that many devout Christians are and have been involved with V-Day and "The Vagina Monologues," but there is a brand of Christianity that shames women and often mistakes sexual purity with silence in regard to women's sexuality.

Ensler thinks that people who find her play shocking or profane have issues in themselves that they need to investigate. In her eyes, the play is describing something entirely natural and normal; she sees the vagina as being both metaphorical and literal in her play. For Ensler, the interplay between those two ways of looking at vaginas is what her play is all about.

"I want women to think about their vaginas. I want women and men to love vaginas and hold them sacred. I want women to know what gives them pleasure so they can know how to get pleasure. And mainly I want women to be safe and protected and I want the vio-



"The Vagina Monologues" author Eve Ensler performing a monologue at V-Day 2002 in New York City.

EVAN AGOSTINI/ImageDirect



The cast of "The Vagina Monologues;" from left to right they are: (back row) Mary Becky Walter, Elizabeth Kinnier, Megan Zolman, Katherine Boyle, Jenny Perry, Chris Manske, Crystal Prentice, Liz Bell, (front row) Nicole Tutin, Laura Kelly, Corine Neg Horvath, (not pictured) Michaela Murray-Nolan, Molly McShane, Mary Beth Asmusse

SCENE
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... to Notre Dame stage

and interviews the show's author, Eve Ensler

lence — which is absolutely pervasive on this planet — to end toward vaginas," Ensler said.

But Ensler welcomes discussion from critics and fans alike. She thinks that the dialogue "The Vagina Monologues" generates is productive. In the end, she thinks that the show does exactly the opposite of desensitizing people to women's issues.

"So many women and men that I interview have no idea what to do with vaginas, they don't know how to pleasure vaginas ... they don't have any idea of their own bodies because they've been taught to be so ashamed of it, so shut down and isolated and invisible and secretive about it. I think that secretive reality really damages everyone because we can no longer communicate what is most essential in our lives," Ensler said. "So, I think the opposite happens: I think that when people talk about vaginas it stops being shameful and jaded and contemptuous and in can becomes normal and part of an ongoing daily dialogue as opposed to prurient and scary and perverse."

The Notre Dame production of "The Vagina Monologues" features 35 female actors from the University and one from Saint Mary's as well as a number of people of both sexes involved in the production but not on stage. All involved affectionately refer to themselves as "vagina warriors."

Senior Kerry Walsh, who directs the show, decided to get involved with V-Day after reading about the controversy over the show last year while she was abroad in France. Walsh, who has always been

active in women's issues and wants to go to law school to become a lawyer specializing in gender law, solicited the University to put on the production and found surprisingly little objection.

"I've been tickled pink that the administration has been so open-minded about putting on the production; I've probably had the least resistance from them. I wouldn't say that they've supported, because that's not the right terminology, but they have been extremely open-minded about the production and having it on campus," Walsh said.

Walsh rehearsed with her cast two nights a week for five weeks to produce the show. Most of the women involved are not particularly experienced in theatre. In fact, part of the relevance of "The Vagina Monologues" is that it does not feature actors, but rather uses real women to pass its message. Most of the show is reader's theatre: the women carry note cards with their lines on them.

The stage is bare except for three microphones that the actors step to when they are performing. Behind the microphones, the rest of the cast sits patiently in chairs.

Walsh had the actors dress in red and black; two colors that have symbolic meaning. They represent things such as love, violence, women and (of course) vaginas.

The monologues range from humorous, such as junior Mary Beth Asmussen's rendition of the different types of pleasurable moans in "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," to intensely dramatic, such as senior Maura Malloy's portrayal of female genital mutilation of Bosnian women in "My Vagina Was My Village." Each story is the story of real women; some are more disconcerting than others.

But "The Vagina Monologues" are meant to be a little rough around the edges. It's what makes the show meaningful: it's real. Even the members of the cast are not always in agreement about the show.

"For me [being in "The Vagina Monologues"] has been an opportunity to meet more like-minded women and women who want to discuss these issues whether we agree on them or not," senior Molly Morin said.

The show is supposed to be dialectic. "People tell me: 'Oh Kerry, you've done such a great thing for this campus.' I really don't see it as me doing a great thing for this campus, I see it as a group of women who have come together to do a great thing for this campus," Walsh said.

Some audience members may find the content offensive. The play uses very

frank language and describes things that are often not spoken about freely in public. But the cast of the show is not being edgy for the sake of being edgy; it's really important to the meaning they are trying to convey.

People uninterested in the message of "The Vagina Monologues" will most likely find the show dull. But those who are interested in discussion of the issues in the show will be pleased with the thought-provoking delivery of the Notre Dame cast.

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. in 101 DeBartolo Hall. General admission is \$7, \$5 for Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students. Call or visit the LaFortune Student Center box office at (574) 631-8128 to purchase tickets. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the women's rights group SOS.

Contact C. Spencer Beggs at beggs.3@nd.edu.



Photo courtesy of LESHA ZIELINSKI

by Anne Lewis, Katy Hall, Lauren Wilson, Rosa Garcia, Mary Beth Radley, Maura Malloy, Christine Carey, (middle row) Molly Janicki, Kerry Walsh, Thandi Gordon, Amy Sellers, Jessica Trelli, Melinda Redding, Jessie Potish, Molly Morin, Nicole Kenny, Linda Malchor, Lindsey and Michelle Bruno.



AMANDA GRECO/The Observer

"The Vagina Monologues" director and actor Kerry Walsh performing "Reclaiming Cunt," a monologue meant to reclaim a now derogatory word.

BENGAL BOUTS 125 POUNDS - 160 POUNDS

Bravo scores unanimous decision with experience

By KEVIN BERCHOU AND PAUL CAMARATA
Sports Writers

St. Edward's Hall senior Derrick Bravo knew experience would play a significant role in his bout with freshman Mike Feduska. His prediction came true as he scored a unanimous decision over his inexperienced foe.

Bravo combined his experience with a quick jab and powerful left hook to carefully pick apart Feduska. Holding Feduska at bay for much of the fight, Bravo picked his spots with precision.

Lance Hendron, a junior from Las Vegas, gambled a bit in gaining a unanimous verdict over Sung Hoon Kim. Coming out hard in the first round, Hendron set the early pace then held on in the later rounds for a relatively easy win.

In other 125-pound action, Jason McMahon defeated Mark Burdick when the referee brought the fight to an early end 1:05 into the third round.

135-pounds

In perhaps the most thrilling match of the afternoon, off-campus senior Matt Fumagalli nipped Zahm Hall sophomore Luke Dillon in the narrowest of split decisions.

After a stunning early-round loss last year, Fumagalli is back this year looking to recapture the glory of his sophomore year when he took home a title. Dillon, supported by a rowdy contingent of fellow Zahm residents, almost sent the senior co-captain home early again.

In a fight that turned into a brutal slugfest, the opponents used aggressive strategies trying to win the decision. Fumagalli, having the longer reach, dictated the pace for much of the fight, coming fiercely at Dillon, who stood his ground and fired right back.

After making an impressive run to the finals as a freshman last year, Tony Hallowell is back this year, intent on win-

ning a title. Sunday afternoon he took his first step toward doing that, dominating Jon Valenzuela in a unanimous decision.

Strongest in the second round, Hallowell battered the first-year boxer from Dillon before the referee stepped in to administer a standing 8-count.

Sophomore T.J. D'Agostino earned the right to lock horns with Hallowell after notching a TKO victory over junior Chris Hoffman.

Fumagalli will next tangle with fellow off-campus student, senior Rich Redina who earned a unanimous decision in his bout with Jacob Cusack.

145-pounds

O'Neill Hall freshman Sam Fuller might still be a bit dazed, but he'll live with it.

After being knocked down — but not out — in the opening round of his match with Alumni's Jon Pribaz, Fuller rallied to win a split decision with a fierce third-round flurry over a fellow southpaw.

Summoning the last of his energies, he outgunned Pribaz, who had the fight won in the third.

Senior Jemar Tisby, fighting with a severe reach disadvantage, overcame his short stature to stand tall in a unanimous decision over Sorin freshman Ryan Rodgers.

Throwing a myriad of combinations, Tisby worked to offset Rodger's reach, a tactic that demonstrated an advantage he did have — experience.

In battles of freshmen, Nathan Lohmayer outdueled Andy Callan in a split decision, while Andrew Harms bested Keough's Timothy Huml.

Though Harms was impressive, he feels his best fights are ahead of him.

155-pounds

Brock Heckmann began his quest for a second consecutive Bengal Bouts title in the preliminaries Friday night by scoring a unanimous decision over Dan McCoy. Throughout, Heckmann used a quick left jab

and threw smooth overhand rights. With straight punches and fluid footwork, Heckmann maintained tight control of the ring space against McCoy, and then again on Sunday versus Mike McCabe.

McCabe had strong technique on Friday night, using his entire lower body to pack power into his punches. It was enough to defeat Paul Robinson in a unanimous decision in the preliminaries, but fell short against Heckmann. Against McCabe, Heckmann dictated the tempo of the fighting to move on to the semifinals.

Wednesday night, he'll take on Chris Pettit, who used the same formula for success in both of his early round fights. Mixing an aggressive left hand with his ability to move in and out of space, Pettit won a unanimous decision in the preliminary round against Andy Baum. On Sunday, Pettit again utilized his strong left hook to win another unanimous decision over sophomore Julian DeVoe.

A long jab and combinations of punches helped DeVoe win a split decision over freshman Colin Kerrigan on Friday night, but against Pettit he could never establish a rhythm.

In the lower half of the 155-pound bracket, Siegfried sophomore John Nowak won two unanimous decisions over the weekend to advance to the semifinals. A southpaw and the second seed, Nowak established a sturdy posture against senior Mike Messina on Friday night, enabling him to keep landing his left hand. Nowak's third round combinations clinched the victory, and he picked up with the same intensity on Sunday against freshman Jesse Shallcross.

After his preliminary opponent defaulted, Shallcross fought with resolve in his first ever Bengal Bout on Sunday. But Nowak used his left to cause three standing 8-counts during the fight, and will now fight Mike Melby on Wednesday night.

A junior from Dillon Hall,

Melby advanced to the quarterfinals after scoring a technical knockout over sophomore Chris Henry on Friday night. Melby stayed aggressive by fighting from the center of the ring and controlling the angles of his attacks. He started snapping a long and steady jab shortly after the Henry fight began and kept working the punch until he had won his second fight, a unanimous decision in the quarterfinals over sophomore Brandon Gasser.

In the preliminaries Gasser used an active step and a series of combinations to win a unanimous decision over sophomore Christopher Solis. It was not enough on Sunday, however, as Gasser was forced to fight uphill against Melby's long reach.

160-pounds

Top-seeded Chris Kitalong opened the action in the 160-pound division on Friday night by showing off his fiery speed and agility against Ethan McKinney. Kitalong's bouncing feet, hair trigger attacks and huge right hook helped him dominate the first round. It was a left hook that dazed McKinney and prompted the referee to stop the contest 18 seconds into the second round.

Showing similar skills on Sunday, Kitalong advanced to the semifinals after a unanimous decision over freshman Mike Panzica. After using his jab to earn a split decision in an evenly fought preliminary bout versus Galen Loughrey, Panzica was unable to deter the unflappable Kitalong in the quarterfinals.

Next for Kitalong is relentless third year law student John Murphy, who brawled his way into the semifinals with two decisions over the weekend. Shorter than both of his first two opponents and less than a technician in the ring, Murphy used a dogged, bullrushing style to keep his opponents off balance.

It earned him a unanimous decision over senior Dan Probst in the preliminaries, and then

helped Murphy outlast junior Jason Voss for a split decision on Sunday.

Voss, owner of a powerful left hook and polished footwork, won a convincing unanimous decision over sophomore Dusty Segretto on Friday night. Against Murphy, however, he could never maintain the strategic distance and angles that worked so well in the preliminaries and lost on the judges' cards by failing to win a narrow battle inside.

Hometown sophomore Pat Dillon is the second seed in the 160-pound weight class, and fought as such in two unanimous decisions that moved him to the semifinals. On Friday night he was undaunted by the reach advantage and straight punching of sophomore Brent Burish. Dillon's strong right hand got faster as the fight went on, causing a standing eight count in the third round en route to the victory.

In the quarterfinals, Dillon faced Matt McDonald, a junior who scored a split decision in the preliminaries over Pat Hobbins. Dillon combined his quick feet and flurries of punches to gain control in the first round against McDonald. After getting a standing 8-count in the first round, McDonald came out fighting in the second and remained aggressive for the remainder of the fight, but never had enough to slow Dillon, whose unrelenting combinations attacked both the head and body in the third round.

Freshman Mark DeSplinter, the youngest 160-pound semifinalist, will challenge Dillon on Wednesday night. In his first ever Bengal Bout, the tenacious DeSplinter used repeated combinations in a unanimous decision over senior Eric Saul. On Sunday, DeSplinter showed his stamina by outlasting sophomore John Enterline for a split decision victory.

Contact Kevin Berchou at kberchou@nd.edu and Paul Camarata at pcamarat@nd.edu

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 3 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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Men

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All five Notre Dame seniors swam on Saturday night and all five posted lifetime best times in their events, leaving a legacy for the underclassmen.

"It will be hard to replace great swimmers like Jonathan Pierce, but we have a lot of youth in this team," said sophomore distance swimmer J.R. Teddy. "This was a growing experience for us."

According to Welsh, the only disappointments stemmed from a misplaced focus on the meet. The Irish focused on a team place that they could not control instead of on team improvement that they could control.

"It's frustrating not to see progress. But if you look at total points scored and how much the conference has improved, we've made a tremendous jump," said senior co-captain Mike Koss. "We got some great recruits coming in next year. I'm really excited for the guys. In the future, I think we can take second and even first."

Notre Dame finished with 390 points, but hoped to eventually conquer Pittsburgh, who won the conference championship with 807 points.

"Today was two days for our team," said Welsh. "It was a strong last day of this season, and a strong first day for next season."

Contact Sheila Egts at
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NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Irish swimmers cheer on their teammate, Jonathan Pierce, as he swims in the Big East Championships. Pierce set a Notre Dame record in the 400-yard individual medley.

BIG EAST SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pierce finishes fourth, fails to qualify for NCAA games

By SHEILA EGTS
Sports Writer

UNIONDALE, N.Y.

Seven Irish swimmers lined the poolside with "Go Irish" painted on their bare chests Saturday, waving green shirts and yelling for senior Jonathan Pierce as he launched off the starting block for the 1,650-yard freestyle.

Pierce passed that group of seven a total of 66 times, tearing back and forth through the water at a pace faster than he had swum in his entire life.

But when he pulled himself out of the water, Pierce stared up at a scoreboard that showed a fourth-place finishing time of 15 minutes, 32.37 seconds, less than four short seconds shy of the NCAA qualifying time.

Pierce was a two-year champion in the 1,650-yard freestyle

until Pittsburgh sophomore Eric Limkemann stripped him of the title last year. He was positioned in second place behind Limkemann for the majority of the race, but he swam the first half too fast and could not maintain the pace. The growing gap between first and second became impossible to close.

In the last few laps, St. John's Michal Szapiel and Virginia Tech's Greg Kubovcik picked up the pace and pushed Pierce all the way back to fourth place.

"I saw them approaching, but there was really nothing I could do. I knew I had gone out fast because I had to go for the win, but then I just hit a wall," said Pierce about his racing strategy. "When you go 1,500 yards as hard as you can, it kinda catches up with you. I didn't have what I needed, but I'll always know that I gave it everything I had."

As captain of the team, Pierce has received constant praise from his coaches and his fellow swimmers for his positive attitude and team-oriented focus. He lived up to that praise on Saturday.

Where spectators saw a disappointing drop from second to fourth in the last few laps, Pierce saw a finishing time that improved on his personal best by three seconds. He saw the points he had scored for the team as the Irish's top performer at Big East. He saw memories of team support that pushed him to top his season off with the best swim of his career.

"I saw them the whole time standing there cheering and waving shirts for fifteen minutes," said Pierce. "I probably would have fallen off sooner if not for those guys. I was working as hard as I could to come through for the team, but it just didn't pan

out as I hoped."

According to Pierce, he was concerned that he had not fulfilled his obligation to the team when he placed fifth in the 500-freestyle on Thursday. But for the effort he made as leader and role model, Pierce means more to his teammates than points on the scoreboard.

"I don't know how we are going to cope without him swimming with us next year, without him encouraging us and pacing us in the distance lane," said sophomore J.R. Teddy, who swam alongside Pierce in the 1,650-yard freestyle Saturday.

Pierce was especially close to his fellow distance swimmers, a close-knit group within the team. Pierce and the other distance swimmers printed shirts for the season that read "Welcome to the D-House," a name they give themselves as a cohesive unit.

"I've really enjoyed coming in as a freshman and having guys like Jonathan to train with," said fellow distance swimmer Matt Bertke. "By his actions and the way he swims, he has definitely been a leader."

Pierce will swim in his final meet next week at Rolfs Aquatic Center. Even with only one meet left in the season, Pierce is again focusing at the positive aspects of his college career.

"I love swimming. I love racing. I'm even a pretty big fan of practice at times," said Pierce. "I'm disappointed that I'm nearly done swimming, but I'm also looking forward to just being a normal college student for the last two or three months. It's a disappointment and yet little bit of relief."

Contact Sheila Egts at
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BENGAL BOUTS 165 POUNDS - 170 POUNDS

Quarterfinal rounds produce no surprise victories

By BRIAN BURKE
Sports Writer

The quarterfinal round in the 165-pound division held few surprises on Sunday as the favorites advanced with relatively one-sided victories. Both fighters with preliminary round byes, Clay Cosse and Chris Matassa earned unanimous decision wins and controlled their fights throughout. Matassa defeated Justin Myers, while Cosse stopped Mike MacRitchie to move on to the semifinals.

Matassa went into the fight with the strategy of countering Myers and avoiding a brawl. Myers, who advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating Wyatt Shiflett, tried to set the pace of the fight by moving in close and working inside on Matassa with jabs and hooks. Matassa, a much more polished fighter, was able to answer any type of combination thrown by Myers and consistently punished him for opening up his guard inside.

"I heard that was his style [to brawl]," Matassa said. "I just tried to sit back, use my jab and make him pay."

Myers was able to land some jabs working inside, but in the second round Matassa took control of the fight, landing five and six clean shots at a time to the Myers' head. The precision punching of Matassa resulted in standing-8 counts for Myers in both rounds two and three.

"My corner told me I was ahead

[after the second round], but that I still needed to watch out because he would keep coming after me," Matassa said. "He wore out some towards the end. I think my experience paid off, you know, this is my fourth year."

Cosse did not dominate his fight to quite the extent of Matassa, but nevertheless turned in a solid performance in defeating MacRitchie. Cosse was content to stay low and work the body in the first round, moving in and out and allowing MacRitchie to come at him with left jabs and right hooks. When the two stood toe to toe, they both landed their share, but Cosse won most of the exchanges. In the second round he became more aggressive, standing toe to toe more often with MacRitchie. By the third round, Cosse had broken through, scoring a standing 8 and sealing the decision.

The closest fight in the division was between Mark Yost and Mathew Klobucher. Yost defeated Will Holley in the preliminaries while Klobucher bested David Cannon. Both fighters took a more conservative approach, especially early on, feeling each other out with jabs and crosses. After one close exchange in the first round, the referee issued a standing 8 count on Yost, although it appeared Yost simply slipped while backing away.

In the second round both fighters let down their guards more, taking more chances, but neither took full advantage of the oppor-

tunities to score points. In the end Yost landed a few more jabs and hooks to pull out a split decision victory.

The bout between Matt and Nick Nanovic was one of changing momentum. Seidler defeated Michael McDonald to advance to the quarterfinals. Nanovic, who advanced with a win over Patrick Muehr, was the taller and lankier of the two fighters, and took advantage of a longer reach early on.

After struggling in the first round, Seidler turned the tide in the second, getting inside more often, working the body with a good left hook. The third round was more of a brawl with very little defense on the part of either boxer. Seidler, the stronger of the two fighters was able to negate the reach advantage of Nanovic and landed a punishing hook to the head of Nanovic that knocked him to the canvas. As a result the fight was stopped and Seidler won by technical knockout.

170-pounds

The four quarterfinal bouts in the 170-pound bracket were all one-sided contests where it was apparent who the eventual winner would be by the end of the first round. Ryan Hernandez earned a unanimous decision win over Eric Barroso in a sloppy match where technique seldom came into play. Hernandez, who advanced with a win over James Ward, was able to overpower Barroso and back him into the

ropes, where he did the most damage. The fight never seemed to stay in one place for very long, with both boxers off balance and punching wildly.

"He was moving around a lot more than I expected," Hernandez said. "I had to try and cut down on the distance between us, since that's more of the type of fighter I am. I love a good brawl."

Barroso did somewhat better in the last two rounds avoiding the charge from Hernandez, but Hernandez was simply more athletic and overwhelmed Barroso when the two stood toe to toe. Barroso had advanced with a win over Patrick McGarry.

Another fighter with more of a brawling style was Domingo Maynes, who came after William Phillip with a strong jab that he worked both to the head and body in the first round. Maynes chased Phillip around for much of the fight, capitalizing on an advantage in strength. Phillip was given standing eighth counts in both the second and third rounds, and his lack of offense did little to deter Maynes from backing him into the ropes. Maynes emerged with the win by unanimous decision. Maynes defeated T.J. Strachota Friday in the preliminaries while Phillip won over Geoff Dennie.

In much the same way, Evan Oliver realized early on in his bout with Matt Padilla that working inside was most effective. Oliver defeated Kraigh Kottelman, and Padilla came out on top over

Nate Scheid on Friday. Oliver did a good job of moving his head and landing hooks, and Padilla was unable to capitalize anytime Oliver exposed himself to counter punches. Padilla received a standing 8 count in the second round, and while he was never in major trouble, the fight was stopped in the third round because Padilla's corner could not stop him from bleeding. Oliver emerged with the TKO win.

Matt Knust employed a different strategy than his fellow winners in the 170 pound bracket, making Craig Oliver chase after him, and effectively countering with a strong jab to the head.

"Both guys had gotten tired in their last fight [preliminaries]," Knust said. "My corner told me to make sure to move around, throw my punches and get out of there. I knew he was a bigger fighter, I just had to move around, tire him out, and get my shots in."

Oliver often looked as if he were blindly throwing hooks and was especially hurt by Knust's countering style because he put his head down. He often seemed out of control and got spun around on several occasions. Oliver was knocked down and received a standing 8 in the second round, and the fight was eventually stopped in the third, giving Knust the win. Knust defeated Chris Milliron in the preliminaries, while Oliver beat Shaun Iversen.

Contact Brian Burke at
bburke1@nd.edu.

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Women

continued from page 20

stroke events. Hecking won the 100 title for the fourth time in her career, and the 200 for the third.

Hecking and Peterson guaranteed trips to Austin, Texas for the NCAA Championships with finishes in the 200-yard backstroke, with Hecking finishing in 1 minute, 57.70 seconds and Peterson following in 1:58.41, both automatic qualifying times. All three backstrokers made the consideration times for NCAAs in the 100-yard backstroke and Hulick also made a consideration time in the 200-yard backstroke.

Peterson and Hecking traded the lead in the 200-yard backstroke twice during the race before Hecking pulled slightly ahead during the last 75 yards.

"Kristen was out fast during the 200, and we were just trying to pace each other," Hecking said. "I was so excited. Especially with Kristen and Danielle right behind me, and their times close to NCAAs, too."

Senior Alison Lloyd also earned an individual title, closing out her Big East career with a win in the 200-yard breaststroke Saturday. She won the event in 2:15.60, just a second shy of the automatic cut for NCAAs. Lloyd was second in the 100-yard breaststroke Friday, clipped at the finish by Ryan Redmann of Pittsburgh.

Senior diver Heather Mattingly overcame a difficult performance on the 1-meter board Thursday to take home the runner-up position on the 3-meter board Friday.

"That was definitely the worst I've ever done at the meet," Mattingly said about her fourth-place finish on the 1-meter board Thursday. "Tonight, I just thought, 'This is the last time, I just want to go out and have fun and do what I do in practice.'"

Sophomore Lisa Garcia also had a solid meet, earning an NCAA automatic cut in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:57.79 and placing second in the event. Garcia also won second in the 100-yard butterfly.

But in a meet where 11 records were broken by teams across the conference and point margins separating teams were closer than in the past, the Irish struggled through inconsistent performances during much of the weekend.

One struggle was the 400-yard freestyle relay, where the Irish team of Hecking, senior Carrie Nixon, freshman Katie Eckholt and Hulick were passed by University of Miami in the final five yards.

The anchor on the relay, Miami's Manon Van Rooijen, earned the meet's top honors of Most Outstanding Swimmer after winning four individual events.

Both relay teams made the NCAA consideration time for the event, but the Irish loss was evidence the conference has gotten faster during Notre Dame's tenure on top.

"If the Miami relay hadn't been right there with us, we probably wouldn't have gone that fast if there wasn't somebody to race," said co-captain Tara Riggs after the meet. "There was better competition... I think it caught us off guard because we didn't expect people to be fast."

Nixon struggled in her two final individual races of the weekend after winning the 50-yard freestyle Thursday. Unable

to defend her 1999 titles in both events, Nixon placed second in the 100-yard freestyle and fifth in the 100-yard butterfly and saw her meet records in both events get broken.

Sophomore Marie Labosky, who qualified for NCAAs in the 400-yard individual medley in January and won the 200-yard individual medley at last year's Big East Championships also struggled through the weekend. Labosky placed sixth in the 400 IM in a field that included Sydney Olympian and Villanova swimmer Maddy Crippen, could not defend her 200 IM title and placed 12th in the 1,650-yard freestyle.

"I think they're both awfully tired," Weathers said about Labosky and Nixon, neither of whom fully tapered for the meet to focus more seriously on NCAAs. "They're pretty incredible athletes, and neither of them likes to get beat. Even if they were run over with a truck in the parking lot before the meet, they'd still be upset about it."

The Irish did have success in qualifying swimmers for NCAAs, however. Hecking, Peterson, Nixon and Labosky all have guaranteed trips to the national meet after the championship this weekend. The 200-yard and 400-yard medley relays, freshmen Kelli Barton, Georgia Healey, Hannah Pawlewicz, Brooke Taylor, sophomores Hulick and Lisa D'Olier, junior Nicole Kohrt, and Lloyd have all earned NCAA consideration times, and will find out by the end of the week if they will swim at the meet.

"We won't be completely satisfied until we send a full squad," said co-captain Tara Riggs. "We could send up to 13 — that's just a handful away from a full squad."

But with plaques in hand as they jumped into the water with coaches to celebrate their victory Saturday, the best team in the Big East conference cheerfully celebrated a victory that they had to work a little bit harder to earn.

"Talking to Tara after the first day, I was a little bit discouraged," said co-captain Maureen Hillenmeyer. "This is surreal. I think we've come a long way."

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BIG EAST SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Despite loss, Nixon remains a champion

UNIONDALE, N.Y.

Carrie Nixon stood behind the block before the 100-yard freestyle, and everything around her was different.

She tried to make it the same as her record-setting swim in the event two years ago. Tried to make it the same as it was before she had to sit out a season for shoulder surgery. Tried to make it the same as it was before, when she won the title. Even tried to make it the same as it was Thursday night, when she won the 50-yard freestyle title.

She snapped on her goggles, sucking the rubber sockets to her eyes until they were precisely glued. She leaned over into the pool and splashed water on her arms and back. She shook out her legs one at a time, making sure the muscles were limber and ready to race.

It was the same routine she does before every race — and every race here at the Big East Championships where she's won the event three times. But this time, it was different. Nixon stood behind lane five, the consequence of a second-place preliminary swim. As the defending title-holder and record holder in the event, second place isn't a place where Nixon is used to standing.

But at night, on the evening when her team would win its sixth consecutive Big East Championship, in one of the last races of her senior season, the preliminary swim didn't matter. She could turn it around. She could win it, take it back.

So she took her mark, and dove into the pool as she'd done before. Took the first stroke. Hit the first turn. But in the lane next to her, a fiery sophomore from Miami surged ahead, after splitting a dangerously fast first lap and leaving Nixon in a place that was also different — in the wake.



Noreen Gillespie

Sports Writer

Ten yards from the finish, the race was decided when Miami sophomore Manon Van Rooijen surged ahead and touched the wall almost a full second ahead of the former champion.

And then, everything really was different.

In that touch, Van Rooijen took everything that used to belong to Nixon. She took her title, took her record and at the end of the meet, took the honor that was once Nixon's: Big East Swimmer of the Year.

She also took what can never be replaced: a win in Nixon's senior season, at the conference championship, in one of her signature events.

"I really wanted to win it," Nixon said, trying hard to hold back tears as her eyes reddened and welled after the meet. "I just wanted to go out on a good note. It's hard ... to be in the heat where a girl breaks your record."

In the water though, neither Van Rooijen nor her teammates would see those tears. After touching the wall and letting the clock confirm what she already knew, Nixon turned and hugged the swimmers in the lanes next to her, pausing even longer in the embrace of the athlete who took what was hers.

She knew she could never have it back, knew that it was different now. But she also knew that this is how the game works. She knew there were good days and bad days, days that belong to her and days that belong to others. She knew that today wasn't her day.

And even through tears, she knew Van Rooijen deserved her due.

"It's always been my thing to congratulate people," Nixon said. "I always do. You wanted to win, and you were out there, but it's an everyone-did-their-best type of thing."

Atop the medal stand, Nixon stood a step below Van Rooijen, descended from her usual stance at the top. Things were different than they were in 1999. Things had changed.

But Nixon didn't.

She walks away with the same determined attitude she brought to the pool this weekend, looking ahead to the next race, ready to try again.

"It's hard being here knowing that I'm faster than that but I just can't go," Nixon said, through a raspy voice worn thin from cheering for teammates during the three-day meet. "It's hard being at this meet and not doing as well as I wanted to do. But I know I can do well [at NCAAs]. Now it's just coming myself down and telling myself I belong with those girls."

She may not walk away from this year's Big East Championships with the normal additions to her résumé, and she may walk away a title short of her expectations. But she won't walk away bitter or angry. She may walk away disappointed, but she won't walk away discouraged.

And atop the medal stand Saturday night, from a descended step one level away from the winner, Nixon gave Van Rooijen one more hug, perhaps to cement her congratulations for the athlete who took her crown.

It couldn't have been easy. After sitting out from the championships for a year for shoulder surgery and rehabilitation, Nixon came back wanting, for one more time, to stand on top of the medal stand. She didn't want to lose to a sophomore, didn't want to lose her records when she had a chance to keep them, didn't want to be second best.

But when she turned to Van Rooijen, when she offered her congratulations, when she smiled and put her performance behind her to cheer for her teammates, she proved something.

Even without the title, she walks away a champion.

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

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BENGAL BOUTS 180 POUNDS - HEAVYWEIGHTS

Callahan begins quest for third title with prelim victory

By MIKE CONNOLLY
Sports Writer

After receiving a bye in Friday's preliminary 180-pound bouts, two-time champion Mark Criniti opened his quest for a third title with a unanimous decision against sophomore Eric Callahan.

Callahan's wild brawling style that defeated Alex Wood in a split decision in the prelims was no match for Criniti's experienced controlled boxing.

Criniti dominated back and pummeled Callahan with 1-2 combinations and straight right hands. Callahan tried to charge Criniti but the veteran's jabs kept Callahan at bay.

At the very end of both the second and third rounds, Criniti crushed Callahan with a series of jabs before hitting him with a hard right that stunned Callahan. Callahan received standing 8 counts at the end of both rounds.

"I try to pace myself at the beginning of the round," Criniti said. "I just really try to work on my footwork and my technique and use the whole ring. The last 30 seconds, I really try to throw hard punches and work really hard in the last 30 seconds."

Criniti will face one of the hardest punchers in his division in the next round as Keith Arnold beat Kevin Conoscenti.

The referee stopped the bout 46 seconds into the third.

Conoscenti had a height advantage against Arnold but the off-campus senior moved inside on the taller fighter and threw a flurry of punches.

"Everyone I've fought pretty much has a reach advantage on me," Arnold said. "I just try to throw flurries and hopefully that keeps the jab away."

In the bottom half of the bracket, walk-on football player Matt Sarb abused Jim Christoforetti's midsection as he won a unanimous decision.

Christoforetti had a height advantage on Sarb but he charged right through Christoforetti's jabs and pounded his ribs.

"It's what I am more comfortable with because guys have a height advantage on me," Sarb said about his body blows. "I just get low and stick them in the stomach because everyone forgets about that."

Sarb will face another tall fighter in the semifinals as Tommy Demko picked up a unanimous decision against Doug Lawrence.

Lawrence tried to move inside and get into Demko's body but Demko effectively used his jab to punch his way out of trouble and score points. Lawrence threw more punches but Demko landed more of his.

Demko admitted it was tough

staying disciplined against Lawrence's wild style and resisting the urge to stand toe to toe and throw punches.

"That's how I fought last year and I lost," the senior said. "I am trying not to do that too much this year. It just wears you down. If you throw controlled punches, you are going to do much better. A straight punch gets there much quicker than a looping punch."

190-pounds

All the fighters in the 190-pound weight class advanced to the semifinals each either with the referee stopping the bout or unanimous decisions.

Both of John Lynk's fights during the weekend ended before the final bell rang. He beat Shane Cooper when the referee stopped the contest 1 minute into the second round while Douglas Pope lasted just 50 seconds into the second round of the quarterfinals.

Sophomore William Zizic need just 3 minutes and 24 seconds to finish off Jason Mayes in the quarterfinals. Zizic hit Mayes with a series of jabs that bloodied him. When trainers were unable to stop the bleeding, the referee called the fight in the second round.

At the bottom of the bracket, Kevin Brandl kept Eddy Vulin at bay for most of the bout with a combination of right and left

crosses. Late in the third round, however, Brandl got tired and Vulin took advantage of some holes in his defenses to land a series of hard shots to Brandl's face. The late rally was not enough, however, as Brandl won a unanimous decision.

Brandl said he let the shorter Vulin slip inside on him late in the bout which led to the breakdowns in Brandl's defense.

"Once you left someone slip inside on a tall person, you lost a lot of your leverage and some of your strength," Brandl said.

The fighter with the quickest hands in the division slipped inside the defenses of a taller fighter to win a unanimous decision in the last 190-pound fight.

Joshua Kaakua slipped quick jabs and combinations into the midsection of Jose Ronchetta to win his fight.

Although Kaakua is a first time fighter, he has a controlled, mature style that doesn't fit with his inexperience. Unlike most new fighters who mostly brawl in the ring, Kaakua is very controlled and uses his quick moves to his advantage.

"I just try to stay inside and under control," Kaakua said. "I try not to throw too many hooks."

Heavyweight

Two walk-on football players advanced to the semifinals of the heavyweight division in the

only two heavyweight bouts this weekend.

Jeffrey Campbell held off the wild attacks of Kevin Herrity to score two standing-8 counts with a good jab in the first round.

After a series of jabs and crosses stunned Herrity for a third time in the first round, the referee stopped the bout 1:28 into the first round.

"I thought I did pretty good," Campbell said. "I just tried to keep my punches straight so I could reach a little more."

Fellow walk-on Eric Nelson went the full three rounds with John Hinchman before scoring a unanimous decision win.

The taller Hinchman charged Nelson several times but Nelson scored points off quick jabs while Hinchman's looping punches didn't score any points.

Nelson said he tried to counter attack against Hinchman's charges since Hinchman was much taller than he was.

"You kind of have to move off their punches first," said Nelson, who is the shortest heavyweight. "You don't want to stick yours out first. If we both throw jabs at the same time, his is going to reach me first."

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B-ball

continued from page 20

an injury sustained Wednesday against West Virginia.

But they didn't have to worry about who would replace him. Jones surpassed his previous scoring high of seven points and limited Miami's second-leading scorer, John Salmons, to just three points.

"Somebody had to step up tonight," Jones said. "It was a night where I was in the right place at the right time. My drives were open and I was taking what the defense was giving me. They were leaving me open

because I was the least known player, and I just took advantage of it."

If Jones hadn't played so well, the game probably would have turned out differently, especially when Miami's Darius Rice came out red-hot at the start of the second half.

Rice, who scored 20 of his 23 points in the second half, quickly erased a 39-34 Miami half-time deficit by connective on two straight 3-pointers, putting the Hurricanes ahead by a point.

Jones responded by scoring six of Notre Dame's next nine points in a one-minute span that killed the Miami run. He hit a 15-foot jumper, made a steal that resulted in a fast break lay-up, and scored on a hard, slashing drive to give the Irish a 48-42 lead.

"Torrian Jones was just amazing," Brey said. "They were making a run, and he had some big time drives to hold them off and keep us in a safe position with the lead."

The Hurricanes, frustrated by Notre Dame's zone defense, had trouble finding the basket after that. They settled for long perimeter shots and only connected on 7-of-20 3-pointers in the second half.

Notre Dame used a 13-4 spurt midway through the second half to break the game wide open, with all 13 Irish points coming from David Graves and Thomas. By the time Thomas hit a 3-pointer with 4:13 left in the game, the Irish had built a 14-point lead, their largest of the night.

Miami mounted one last charge, drawing to 81-73 with 2:03 left, but the Irish made 9-of-11 free throws in the final two minutes to seal the game.

Despite their size, Miami is

the second-worst team in the Big East in rebounding, and the Irish exploited that advantage. Notre Dame dominated Miami on the boards 44-31, led by Ryan Humphrey, who finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

"Coach Brey has been pounding rebounding into our minds, that's been our Achilles heel at some points this season," Jones said. "But since we've got into the second half of the Big East season, it's been our strong point."

Notre Dame has two more games remaining in the regular season. The Irish travel to St. John's on Wednesday and host Providence Saturday.

"This kind of sets the tone for the rest of the season," Thomas said. "We showed the selection committee what we're capable of."

Notes:

♦Brey said he thought Matt Carroll would be able to play Wednesday against St. John's.

"It's the same philosophy I told Harold Swanagan," Brey said. "We've got to get him healthy. Tonight was a game where if you won, it was a huge deposit in the postseason game. If you lost it, it wasn't the end of the world."

Prior to Saturday night, Carroll had played in all 93 games of his collegiate career and had started the last 64 games.

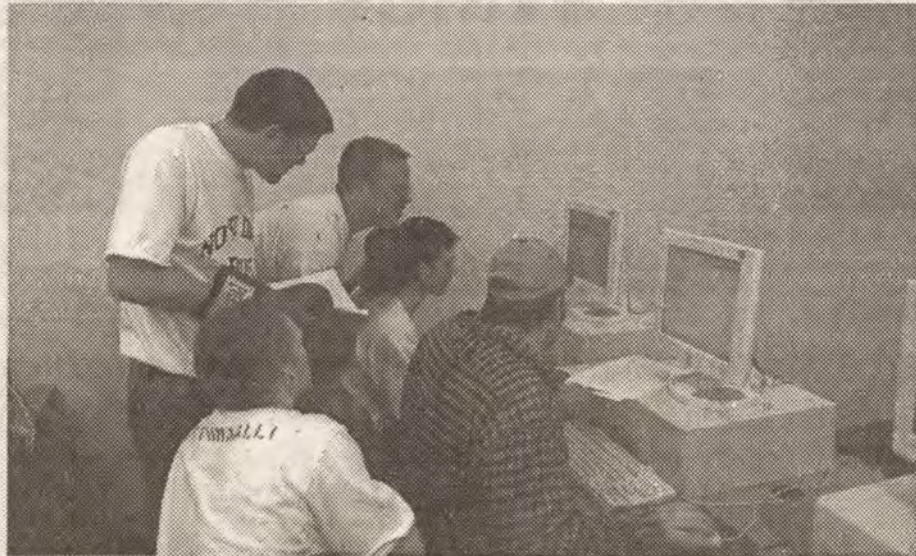
♦Former Notre Dame All-American Ruth Riley was in attendance at Saturday's game.

Riley, who plays for the WNBA's Miami Sol, wore Notre Dame shorts when she participated in a celebrity 2-Ball competition at halftime.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish come back from halftime deficit for 86-66 victory

By NOAH AMSTADTER
Sports Editor

For a while Saturday afternoon at Georgetown, it looked like the Hoyas were going to give the Irish a challenge — then Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw took her team into the locker room.

The Hoyas held a 38-37 lead heading into halftime, but McGraw found her team's weaknesses and gave a pep talk that resulted in a 49-point second-half output and an 86-66 victory for the Irish.

The win is the ninth in a row for No. 22 Notre Dame, which owns a 19-7 overall and 13-2 Big East record.

"Coach McGraw said we needed to work on our zone a lot more," said freshman guard

Allison Bustamante, who contributed 14 points off the bench for the Irish. "She gave us a little bit of a pep talk in the locker room, saying that a couple of people had to step up. A bunch of people stepped up."

One of those people was junior guard Alicia Ratay, who has stepped up as Notre Dame's go-to player in the three games since freshman Jacqueline Batteast went down with a knee injury. Ratay led the Irish with 24 points, 20 in the second half. Ratay pushed her total career points to 1,301, moving her to 10th place on Notre Dame's all-time scoring list. Freshman forward Katy Flecky, starting in Batteast's place, added 14 points and seven rebounds in 38 minutes while senior Ericka Haney put out another solid performance with 13 points in 22 min-

utes.

Sophomore point guard Le'Tania Severe played 37 minutes, scoring seven points while dishing out eight assists and grabbing six rebounds.

"We're really looking for different things with Jackie [Batteast] out and it's going to make us that much better when she comes back," McGraw told the Associated Press after the game.

One of the keys Saturday was getting the ball to Bustamante with Ratay on the floor. When the freshman, who was scoreless in Notre Dame's last two games, saw that Georgetown played a zone defense, she knew she had a chance to have a good game.

"Whenever any team plays the zone, my eyes widen," Bustamante said. "I love playing against zones. I love finding the

open spots. After getting the scouting report and seeing the tapes of Georgetown, seeing that they played the 2-3 zone, I stayed after in the gym and kept shooting around."

It was Notre Dame's third win in a row without Batteast, who is expected to return for the team's first Big East Tournament game Sunday. With the win, the Irish clinched second place in the Big East regular-season standings, a major turnaround for a team that began the season 2-4.

"It just took a while for all of us to come together and find a rhythm playing with each other," Bustamante said. "I think we've actually started to do that, somewhat. I still don't think we've really gelled perfectly together yet. But there's still a little bit more of the season left for that to happen."

As the second-seeded team in the Big East Tournament, Notre Dame is on course for a rematch of last year's conference championship game against No. 1-ranked Connecticut. The Irish have gone undefeated since a 27-point loss to the Huskies in Hartford, Conn., on Jan. 21.

"Whenever you get to play UConn it's a great challenge," Bustamante said. "It's a game that you can look forward to and improve your overall game no matter what the outcome is. Just playing them and coming off that game you learn a lot about your weaknesses and your strengths, and you can build on that after you've played them."

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SMC SWIMMING

Belles finish strong for fifth place in MIAA tournaments

By KATIE McVOY
Associate Sports Editor

Amidst the confusion of choreographed dances, men laden with construction gear and a bagpiper, the Belles simply made a statement with a strong third-day performance and a fifth-place MIAA tournament finish.

As Hope, Calvin, Kalamazoo and Alma announced the arrival of their teams in costumes and with live music, Saint Mary's watched from the side of the pool wondering how to make its presence known. Their choice: through action.

After a slow start in days one and two of MIAA Tournament competition, the Belles had eight top-12 finishers and four who finished in the top six on day three and they left with everyone knowing that they would be back to compete next year.

"Especially on the third day, I had so many coaches come up and say, 'Wow, what a day you had,'" said head coach Greg Petcoff. "Other people noticed and I think that means that they'll keep working hard to try and stay ahead of us."

"Getting fifth was a huge statement for us," added junior co-captain Lane Herrington. "Since we usually finish sixth, it's kind of like we're climbing up the rungs of the ladder. To have such a great third day let [the MIAA] know we'll be back."

In addition to the fifth place finish after the three-day competition, Saint Mary's took home three top-three finishes. Petcoff had expected close competition between Saint Mary's, Albion, Kalamazoo and Alma and was not surprised that those four teams were the closest. In the end, the Belles finished just under 30 points behind the Albion Britons.

"I think we didn't get off to as strong of a start as we needed to on the first day or day and a half to make it a tight four-team race," Petcoff said. "So I think if we had started a little stronger, I think we would have been a little closer and put a little more

worry into Kalamazoo and Albion."

However, that 30-point difference had nothing to do with the way Saint Mary's competed on day three. They averaged nearly three points more per event and had three place finishers in both the 200-yard breaststroke and the 200-yard butterfly. In addition, six women took home their career-best times.

"Physically, we were ready and when it came to mental toughness they were ready and they put everything out there," Petcoff said. "And it kind of snowballed into one person and the next person and the next, and those are the kind of snowballs you like to see."

The snowball effect started off in the finals when Herrington grabbed her personal-best time of two minutes, 19.54 seconds in the 200-yard backstroke.

"It was a run race. It was the last session," Herrington said. "Greg [Petcoff] has been working us hard all year and it finally paid off."

Herrington's time was good enough for her to win the consolation heat she was swimming in and bring home a seventh place finish for her team.

From that seventh place finish in the second event of the evening, the Belles took off.

Sophomore Maureen Palchak had a career-best time in the 100-yard freestyle, using her 55.05 to win her heat and take home a seventh place finish.

But it was the next two events that really showcased the Belles' talent. In morning preliminaries, three women qualified to swim for a place in both the 200-yard breaststroke and the 200-yard butterfly. When awards rolled around for the 200-yard breaststroke, Petcoff (who handled the awards for that event) was glad to meet two of his swimmers in the top six finishers.

Junior Lauren Smith had the highest finish, taking third in the event with a career high time of 2:32.65.

"I was just really focused and relaxed and just happy to be there," Smith said. "Everyone

was just having a good meet. It was fun, it just kind of clicked, kind of came together."

Smith was joined on the awards stage by teammate Katy Lebeidz, who had a career best of 2:35.79. And teammate Michelle Stanforth watched, happy with her 10th place finish with a career best of 2:37.83.

The Belles also had three top-12 finishers in the 200-yard butterfly. Sophomore Meg Ramsey took home a third place finish

and teammates Julie McGranahan, who finished fifth and Amy Nicholson, who finished 12th, both had their career bests.

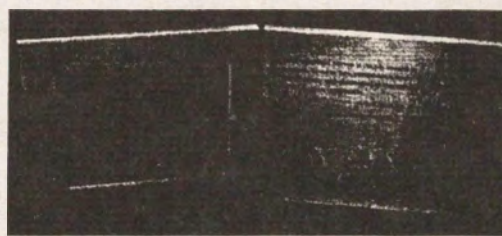
On day two, Herrington took home sixth place in the 100-yard backstroke. Smith finished sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke while Lebeidz finished 10th. Palchak finished sixth in the 100-yard freestyle and Ramsey and McGranahan finished third and 10th respectively in the 100-yard butterfly.

But with a finish like the Belles had on day three, they're ready to come back next season.

"I think a few more divers and a few more swimmers next year and we'll be right there with everyone else," Smith said. "... Anything can happen next year. Everyone's working really hard and I think our team will prove [that we can compete]."

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mcvo5695@saintmarys.edu.

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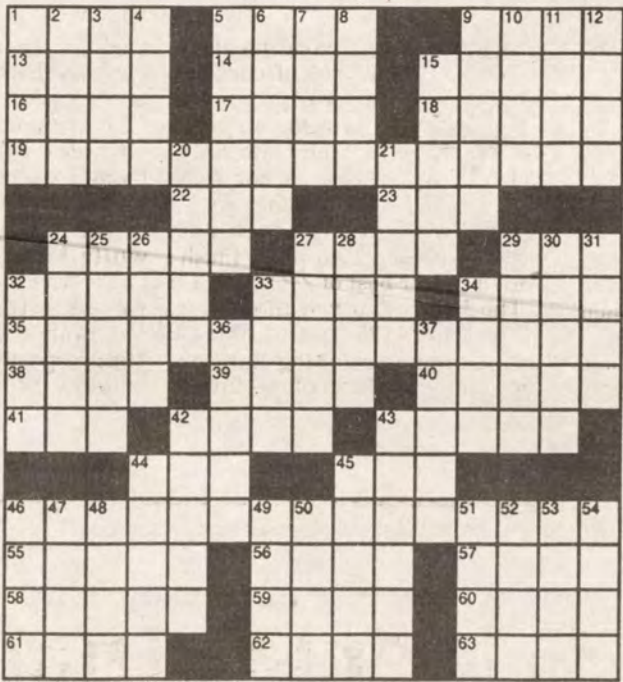
RYAN CUNNINGHAM



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Little lies
 - 5 "er up!"
 - 9 Yuri's love, in a Pasternak book
 - 13 Fit of fever
 - 14 Most qualified to serve?
 - 15 Wind-borne toys
 - 16 Nick's wife in "The Thin Man"
 - 17 2002 Olympics locale
 - 18 W.W. II sub
 - 19 Response to a vet, maybe
 - 22 Motorist's org.
 - 23 "This ___ test"
 - 24 Sacred song
 - 27 Phone hook-up
 - 29 Mischievous
 - 32 B.M.I. alternative
- DOWN**
- 33 Designer Chanel
 - 34 McGwire's onetime home-run rival
 - 35 "Quiet, please!"
 - 38 Weapons in shootdowns, for short
 - 39 "___ kleine Nachtmusik"
 - 40 New coins
 - 41 Couple
 - 42 Grain holders
 - 43 Artist Max
 - 44 Long time
 - 45 Suffix with absorb
 - 46 Hive output?
 - 55 Children's song refrain
 - 56 Mysterious: Var.
 - 57 Woodwind
 - 58 Gyrate
- DOWN**
- 1 Cobra's weapon
 - 2 Frankenstein's assistant
 - 3 Extrashort haircut
 - 4 Burn
 - 5 Early time to arise
 - 6 Prefix with venous
 - 7 Shakespearean king
 - 8 Bert of "The Wizard of Oz"
 - 9 Person born October 1
 - 10 Suffix with origin
 - 11 Bring up
 - 12 Study of the stars: Abbr.
 - 15 Ill-fated Russian sub of 8/12/00
 - 20 Designer Lauren
 - 21 Big copier company
 - 24 "I don't believe it!"
 - 25 Jerk
 - 26 Satisfied sounds
 - 27 ___ Hopkins University
 - 28 Fluish feeling
 - 29 Father-and-son Nobel Prize winners in physics

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



Puzzle by Michael Shteyman

- 30 Like ___ in the dark
- 31 Partners of dits
- 32 Aide: Abbr.
- 33 Where a sock goes?
- 34 Stay away from
- 36 Ketchup brand
- 37 Avis rival
- 42 Clowns
- 43 Pepsin, e.g.
- 44 Online publication
- 45 Poet Pound and others
- 46 Tops
- 47 "___-Dee-Doo-Dah"
- 48 Time: Ger.
- 49 Ardor
- 50 Nil
- 51 Writer Émile
- 52 Letter-shaped construction piece
- 53 Part of DMZ
- 54 Sleep symbols

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: George Harrison, Sally Jessy Raphael, Sean Astin, Justin Jefferson

Happy Birthday: You will be creative in your approach to work this year. You will come into secret information that will make a difference to your plans, that will influence your future and that will help you get ahead with financial investments. You'll likely inherit property or possessions. Your numbers are 13, 16, 28, 33, 35, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be in a creative mood today. Being aggressive in your actions will result in getting what you want, when you want it. You will be lucky in your pursuits. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful what you wish for. You may not get the response expected if you are trying to coerce family members to do what you want. Stay calm and bide your time for now. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll feel like stepping into the limelight. Your thoughts will hold the attention of those you speak with. Take the initiative and start something that will raise your profile and bring you acclaim. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put your efforts into making money. The more time spent dealing with your financial plan for the future, the better you'll do. Don't overreact just because you don't have as much in the bank as you would like. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may want to think before you take action. Your emotions will be a little close to the surface and that could spell trouble. Take it nice and slow today. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You

Birthday Baby: You express yourself dramatically. You have great insight into what is hot and what is not. You aren't likely to tolerate anyone curtailing your freedom. You need to be allowed to follow the small voice within you.

(Need advice? Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com, eugenialast.com, astromate.com.)

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may have to dig deep in order to find out exactly what's going on today. If someone isn't giving you the information you need, don't hesitate to go above his or her head. But be positive. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will have a lot on your mind. Your intuition will lead you in the right direction. Your desire to learn will probably lead you to your local library. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be careful not to let your emotions take over today. You could easily give the wrong impression. Focus on listening, learning and observing. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be in the mood to take a trip. Visit your travel agent or look through your most recent travel magazine. Dreaming about distant lands will be almost as enjoyable as traveling to these places. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your mind will be on money matters. Don't hesitate to make changes to your personal investments. Luck is with you today especially where real estate, winnings and taking care of other people's money are concerned. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your versatile nature and your need to experience all sorts of unusual activities may lead to emotional banter with people you are close to. Explain your actions instead of being secretive and you won't have as much to contend with. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on your future direction. You can make career changes if you are bored with your present work situation. This is a great time to go for an interview or put some effort into self-improvement. ****

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THE OBSERVER

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- ◆ SMC Swimming, p. 18
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SPORTS

Monday, February 25, 2002

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BIG EAST SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Irish dominate in title win

◆ Notre Dame collects its sixth consecutive Big East Championship

By NOREEN GILLESPIE
Sports Writer

UNIONDALE, N.Y.

As they climbed onto the podium to collect their sixth consecutive Big East Championship, the Irish acted like seasoned champions, throwing their hands up in the air, holding their plaques high and erupting into cheers.

Irish head coach Bailey Weathers knew the routine, too — before the team award was announced, he unlaced his shoes, knowing he'd inevitably end up getting thrown into the pool by his exuberant swimmers.

Saturday, the Irish proved they had winning down to a concise routine as they collected their sixth consecutive conference title at the Goodwill Games Aquatic Center.

The meet belonged to the Irish from day one, when they jumped to a 100-plus point lead after only six events. They held on throughout the three-day competition, securing the title with 727 points, 275 points ahead of closest competitor Rutgers.

"It feels pretty good," said Weathers, who earned the Big East Coach of the Year award for the second consecutive year. "We were pretty confident going in, but you never want to take it for granted."

The standouts of the weekend were the backstroke trio of senior Kelly Hecking, freshman Kristen Peterson and sophomore Danielle Hulick, who took the top three positions on the medal stand in both the 100-yard and 200-yard back-

see WOMEN/page 16



NELLIE WILLIAMS/The Observer

Irish swimmers celebrate their sixth consecutive Big East Championship by pushing coach Bailey Weathers into the pool.

Notre Dame rallies to place fourth

By SHEILA EGTS
Sports Writer

UNIONDALE, N.Y.

The Irish did not claim the second-place finish they hoped for entering the Big East Championships, but Saturday was a night of celebration nonetheless.

"We got faster and scored more points, we just stayed in the same place. It's clearly a sign of how much improvement is taking place throughout the Big East Conference," said Irish head coach Tim Welsh. "We are getting better and so is the meet."

The men rebounded from a rough set of races on Thursday and moved up from sixth place to fourth by the end of Friday's events. Matt Beitke, Jonathan Pierce, and J.R. Teddy swam personal bests in the 1650-yard freestyle on Saturday, finishing fourth, fifth and seventh respectively. Pierce also set a Notre Dame record in the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 3:56.34, finishing second for the Irish.

Notre Dame's top diver, Andy Maggio, placed sixth in the three-meter diving and fifth in the one-meter diving.

Top eight finishes from Jason Colettis in the 200-yard backstroke and Jason Fitzpatrick in the 200-yard breaststroke on Saturday helped the team maintain their fourth-place standing while trying to close the gap on Virginia Tech in third.

see MEN/page 14

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish upset No. 13 Hurricanes for 90-77 win

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Associate Sports Editor

MIAMI

No matter how close No. 13 Miami pulled to Notre Dame, the Irish made sure the Hurricanes never had a chance to take over the game.

Chris Thomas tied his career-high with 32 points and Torrian Jones scored a career-high 17 points as Notre Dame knocked off Miami, 90-77.

"When a team makes a run on us, we don't sit back," Jones said. "We kept attacking no matter what kind of run they went on and focused on playing our game and kept them from getting back in their defense and stopping us."

Notre Dame's three perimeter players — Jones, Thomas and

David Graves — combined for 62 of Notre Dame's 90 points and frustrated the Hurricanes on defense. Whenever the Irish forced a turnover, it seemed as if Thomas was throwing a long pass for an easy fast-break lay-up.

Thomas connected on 6-of-12 3-pointers and finished a perfect 10-for-10 from the free-throw line. He also added 12 assists.

Graves had trouble getting open in the first half, but he shot 4-for-5 from 3-point range in the second half and finished with 18 points.

"They were shocked to see us going up and down the court that fast," Thomas said. "Coach said that teams watch it on tape, but they really don't know how fast we get up and down the court until they see us in per-

son."

Saturday's win should propel the Irish into the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year. The Hurricanes had an RPI of 17 — Notre Dame's was 41 — and prior to Saturday night, had only lost one game at home.

Meanwhile, Notre Dame improved to 11-4 on the road this season and earned their third win this season over a ranked team. At 19-8 overall and 9-5 in the Big East, the Irish have won six of their last eight games and are tied with Syracuse for second place in the West Division.

The Irish received some bad news before the game when they learned Carroll would have to sit out the entire game with

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TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Ryan Humphrey passes the ball away during Notre Dame's 90-77 victory against No. 13 Miami

SPORTS
AT A GLANCE

- ◆ Women's Basketball vs. Villanova, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Men's Basketball at St. John's, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Fencing, Midwest Conference Championships, Saturday - Sunday

OBSERVER
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